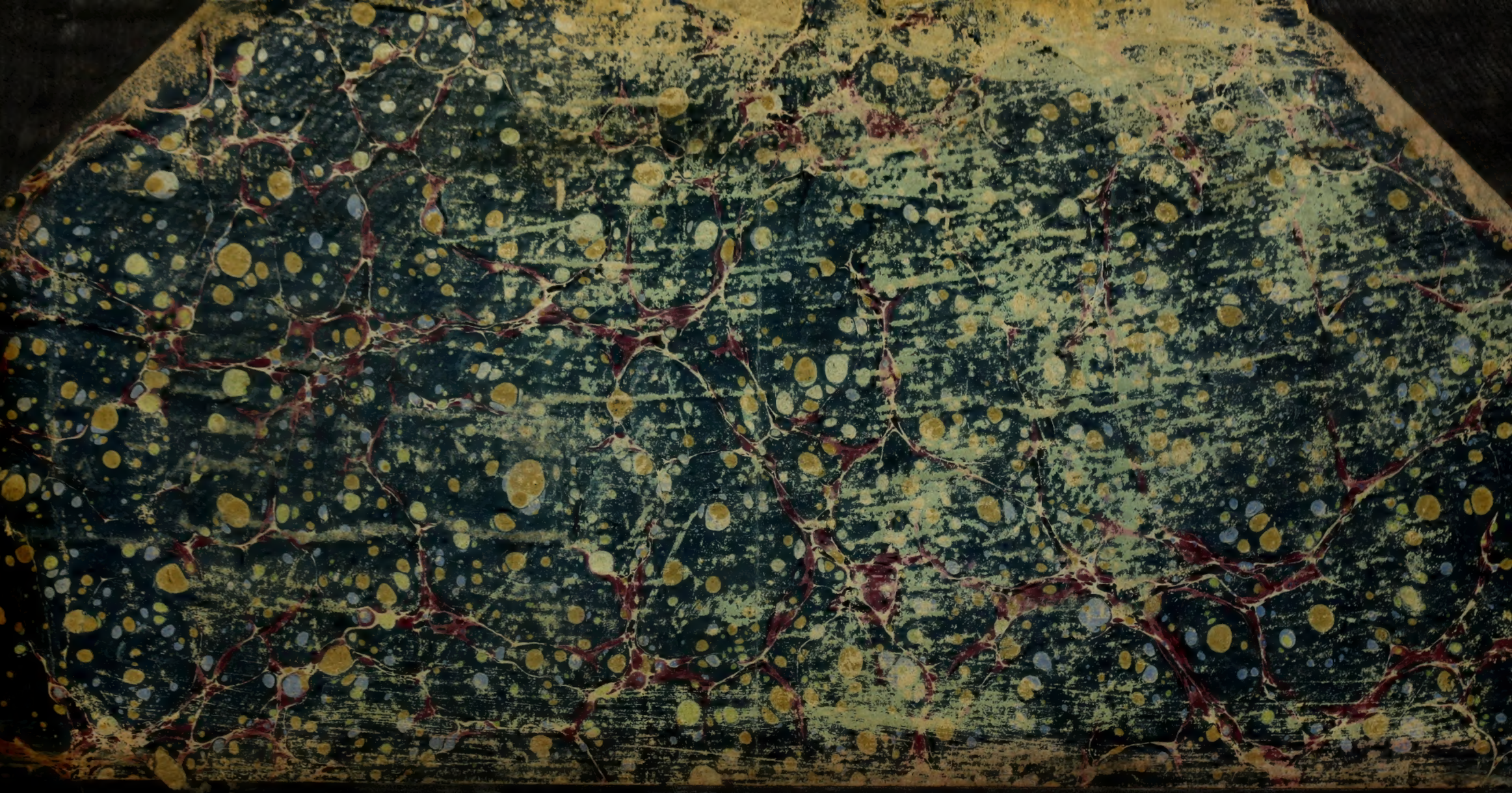

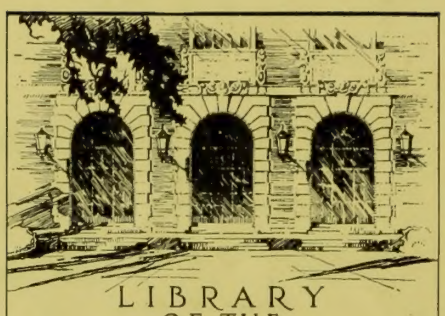

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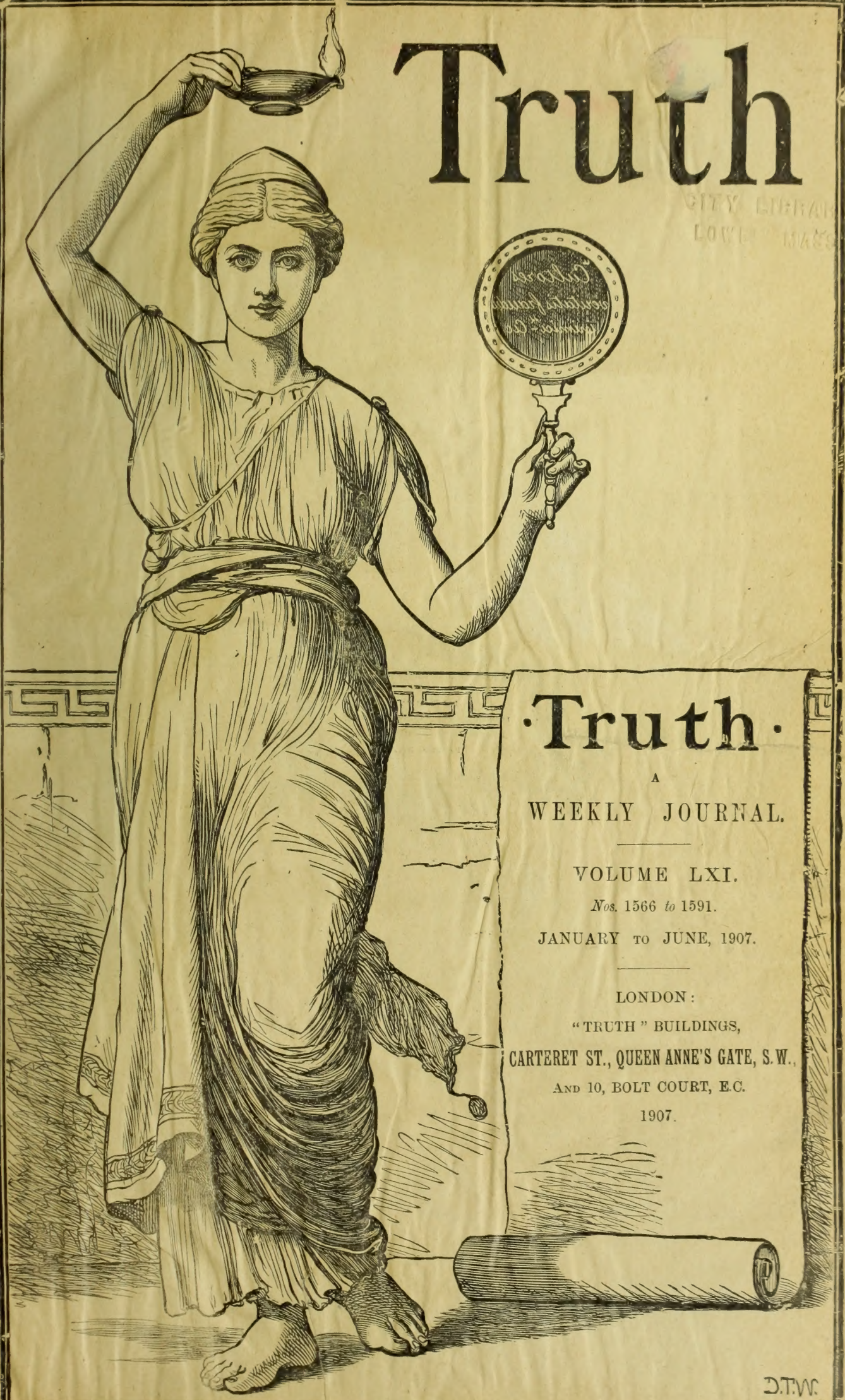

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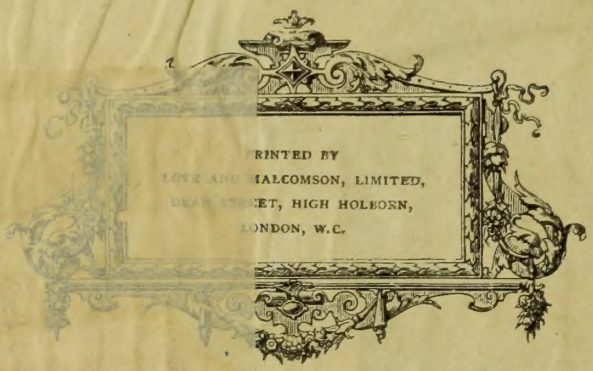

052
TRU
V.61

INDEX TO VOLUME LXI.

ARTICLES, POLITICAL :—
Colonies; Business, Sentiment and the 882
Conservative Liberal Finance ... 1006
Control of the Purse-strings, The 1454
Education Difficulty, The only way in the 75
Foreign Affairs, The King and ... 1069
Germany and Socialism 318
Government Bill of Fare, The ... 445
Journalism and Politics 1327
L.C.C. Question, The 489
Mediæval Bill, A 1385
Peace and Private Opinions ... 138
Peace, Retrenchment and—The Hague 629
Peacemaking at The Hague ... 1518
Pensions and Taxes 945
Shipping and War 1583
Teuton, The Terrible 1134
Transvaal, Black and White in the 1453
Victory—and After, A Precious 18

MILITARY AND NAVAL :—
Army Reform Again 564
Army, The Boy and the 1520
Cadet, The Territorial 825
Cadet and the Grandmother, The 1384
Cape Town Court Martial, A ... 141
Compulsory Service Craze, The... 883
Conscription Without an Army 1268
Fisher, The Attack on Sir John 319
Indian Family Pension Schemes, The 204
"Khaki" in Germany 257
Mind, Matter and "Middies" ... 258
Pensions and Military Service ... 446

GENERAL :—
Anglo-German Gretna Green, The 206
Atomizer and the Solicitor, The 1136
Bankruptcy, The Alien in 384
Bishop Brindle and His Clergy ... 696
Botanic Gardens, The Trouble in the 1386
Bowden Green and Street Noises 566, 698
Cabman of the Future 321
Cash-on-Credit-Terms Trick, The 1330
Catechist, The Complete 701, 769, 827, 884, 951, 1013, 1076, 1141, 1208, 1271, 1332, 1389, 1460, 1524, 1587
Catholic Trusts 320, 504, 696, 767, 826
Catholic Trusts and the Charity Commissioners 320
Catholic Trusts; A Lesson from History 504
Catholic Bishop Question, The ... 767
Catholicism and Mammon ... 826
Charing Cross Usury Shop, The 506
Charity, An Unwanted 1387
Dakyl *v.* Labouchere 694
Davis Newspaper Trick, The ... 1071
Debt-collector, A Dangerous ... 1204
Divorce and Army Reform ... 946
Domestics, Does "the Act" Cover 1584
Earls Court, Near and Far East at 1138
Edalji Case, The 139, 209, 259, 378, 5[illegible] 696, 1267, 1328, 1455, 1[illegible]
Englishman, The Greatest ... [illegible]
Gambling Scandal at Calcutta, A [illegible]
Graveney Church Scandal, The... 1[illegible]
Intestacy and Next-of-Kin ... [illegible]
Killing no Murder ... ... [illegible]
Matrimony for the Middle-Aged [illegible]
Manitoba, A Judicial "Saw-off" in 1457
Medicine, The Priestcraft of ... [illegible]
Medical Trade Unionism, The Abuses of 447
Motoring Tale of Woe, A ... 143
Mutual of New York and its Manager, The 382
Newspaper Swindle, The Second-hand 1008, 1071
Parish and the Tithe-owner, The 1203
Peer on the House of Lords, A ... 449
Peer on the "Progs," A 510
Peer among the Pressmen, A ... 568
Peer among the Pushers, A ... 637
Peer on Popularity, A 705
Peer on the Channel Tunnel, A 772
Peer among the Peris, A 831
Peer among the Housemaids, A 889
Peer among the Reformers, A ... 953
Peer among the Proletariat, A ... 1016
Peer among the Patriots, A ... 1079
Peer among the Players, A ... 1144
Peer among the Plotters, A ... 1211
Peer among the Plutocrats, A ... 1274
Peer among the Politicians, A ... 1335
Peer among the Promoters, A ... 1392
Peer among the Publicists, A ... 1463
Peer among the Privileged, A ... 1527
Peer among the Politicians, A ... 1590
Physician *Malgré Lui*, A ... 631
Portsmouth and his Tenant, Lord 1070
Portsmouth and the Ground Game Act, Lord 1135
Press and the Advertiser, The ... 764
Stock Exchange Dealer, A [illegible] vertising ... ... [illegible]
Street Noises Finance, Light on ... ... [illegible]
Tallyman and the County Court, The ... ... [illegible]
Taverner Again, Mr. ... [illegible]
Times and its Critics, The [illegible]
Times Gets Books, How [illegible]
TRUTH Office, Thirty Ye[illegible]
Tucker's Atomiser, Dr. [illegible]
Uppingham School, Mr. Rhodes and ... ... [illegible]
Wanted—Eleven thousand pences 1202
White Solicitors and Black ... 19

QUEER STORIES :—
A Runaway Ring 39
Uncle Sandy's Christmas Tip ... 102
The Other Woman 160
A Peculiar Person 224
Over the Garden Wall 281
Linda's Valentine 341
Trinder's Knighthood 405
The Kenwig Street Murder ... 468
Lenten Observance 524
The Disappearance of Richard Smethwick 587
How McTavish got his "Blue" 654
An Unlucky Lincoln 720
The Key of the Situation ... 786
A Pimlico Mystery 844
Uncle Peter's Pouch 903
A Smuggling Operation 967
[illegible] 1030
[illegible] ... 1095
[illegible] gnes ... 1157
[illegible] ... 1225
[illegible] ... 1288
[illegible] ... 1350
[illegible] ... 1408
[illegible] ne Jef-fays 1479
Aurelia's Ascot 1543
A Claim for Compensation ... 1603

ENTRE NOUS :—1, 62, 125, 187, 245, 305, 365, 429, 489, 549, 613, 681, 749, 813, 869, 929, 993, 1057, 1122, 1189, 1253, 1313, 1373, 1437, 1505, 1569

FABLES :—17, 75, 137, 200, 257, 318, 377, 444, 502, 563, 629, 764, 881, 824, 945, 1006, 1069, 1133, 1201, 1266, 1327, 1453, 1518, 1582

SCRUTATOR :—18, 75, 138, 200, 257, 318, 378, 445, 502, 564, 629, 697, 764, 825, 882, 945, 1006, 1069, 1134, 1202, 1266, 1327, 1384, 1453, 1518, 1583

THE THEATRES :—22, 83, 144, 210, 263, 323, 387, 450, 506, 570, 632, 701, 769, 828, 885, 949, 1011, 1074, 1139, 1206, 1270, 1332, 1388, 1458, 1522, 1586

NOTES FROM PARIS :—25, 85, 146, 211, 265, 325, 388, 451, 508, 571, 634, 703, 770, 828, 887, 951, 1013, 1076, 1142, 1208, 1272, 1333, 1390, 1461, 1525, 1587

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN :—27, 88, 148, 213, 267, 327, 390, 454, 511, 573, 638, 706, 773, 832, 890, 954, 1017, 1080, 1145, 1212, 1275, 1336, 1393, 1464, 1528, 1591

SPORTING NOTES :—28, 88, 149, 213, 268, [illegible]

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No. 1566. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, January 2, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE accounts of the Toy Fund for the past year are now being made up, and will be published in due course. But I am tempted to defer the publication, first, by the fact that as matters stand at present the balance is still very much on the wrong side, and secondly, by the hope that there are still many readers of Truth who intend to contribute, but for one reason or another have not yet done so. I earnestly trust that they will avail themselves of the few days of grace still remaining, and that the Fund may be cleared of all debts for the past year before the accounts are finally published. The award of prizes in connection with the Albert Hall Show has been delayed by the Christmas holidays, but I hope that it will be issued next week.

Among the contributions to the Toy Fund acknowledged last week there was one of £2 15s. from the gun-room officers of H.M.S. *Russell*. With this remittance came a letter informing me that the money was originally subscribed for the Poor Children's Society, of Trinity-street, Borough; but after reading the observations on the society that appeared in Truth a few weeks ago, the officers decided instead to send the money to the Truth Toy Fund. I have also been informed that a remittance is being forwarded to me under similar circumstances from another of H.M. ships. I gather that it is Breton's custom to send out forms of subscription lists to Service messes at Christmas time, and I only wish I could have frustrated his intentions in a few more cases. I mention these incidents because in the course of a year many hundreds of people must be saved from wasting their money on undesirable charitable objects by reading Truth; and I do not know how they can show their gratitude better than by following the example of the two naval messes mentioned above.

I have to acknowledge the following contributions towards the Toy Fund:—

E. P., 2s. 6d.; Bombay, £1; J. R. O., £1 1s.; Miss Mayne, 2s.; Francis A. Crittall, £1 1s.; C. A. R. S., £5; J. M. S., £10; Adolph Hirsch, £5; C. H. B., £1; Antelope, £1 1s.; M. A. and D., £1 1s.; S. W. S., £1 1s.; Herbert A. Crichmer, 2s. 9d.; Durbanite, 10s.; Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., £1 1s.; A. K. W., 7s 6d.; A. L., £1 1s.; Ralph and John Philipson, £2 2s.; In Memory of my Darling, 5s; J. E. C. Eaton, £2; C. H., 3s.; C. N. T.-C.-W., 10s. 6d.; F. A. W., 5s.; Judge Russell, £3 3s.; Tangku, £1 10s.; Mrs. W. W. Simpson, £5; M. D., £2 2s.; In Loving Memory of A. D. B., £2; Arthur Sassoon, £5; J. G. P., £3 3s.; The Hon Claud Lambton, £2 2s.; Good Luck, 5s.; J. McGrigor Allan, 2s. 6d.; J. D., 5s.; Major Walter Campbell, £5 5s.; J. W. W., 5s.; Surplus New Sixpences, 19s.; Sylvia, 5s.; E. M. W., 5s.; J. H. N., £1; Anon, 3s. 9d.; Shemeh, £5 5s.; Elm Lodge Billiard Room, supplementary, £1 15s.; F. Ironmonger, £1 1s.; Helen and Margaret, 2s. 6d.; Y. Z., 5s.; Stupid Officer, £1 1s.

Further acknowledgments appear under "Mammon" and on the Puzzle Pages.

The King and Queen, who are this week on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth, will spend the latter part of this month at Windsor Castle, and it is expected that their Majesties will arrive at Buckingham Palace for the season about Wednesday, the 30th. The King is to be accompanied by the Queen when he opens Parliament on Tuesday, February 12, with a full State ceremonial. His Majesty will hold the first Levee of the season in the Throne Room of St. James's Palace a few days after the opening of Parliament, probably on Monday, February 18. The first Court of the season, which will be a diplomatic and official function, is to be held by their Majesties in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace a few days later, probably on Friday, February 22. There will be a second Levee and a second Court a week or ten days

afterwards, and these will be the only State ceremonials before Easter.

The King intends to spend the month of March at Biarritz, where he will occupy the Villa Bellefontaine, which is also known as the Château Boulard. This residence is surrounded by gardens, which are well laid out, and extensive grounds. It is probable that during the first week in April the King will pay a three days' visit to the Spanish Court at Madrid, proceeding afterwards to Cadiz, where his Majesty will join the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* for a cruise in the Mediterranean, which will most likely extend to Naples, Corfu, Athens, and Venice, but, of course, nothing can be definitely settled for some time to come.

The King and Queen will receive only one more house party at Sandringham during the present winter, and there will be four days of shooting, one of which will be devoted to a battue in Wolferton Wood, the best pheasant preserve on the Royal estates, and another to the wild fowl on the marshes between Lynn and Hunstanton and the Wash. The battues which had been arranged for last week were stopped by snow, and the King and the Prince of Wales and the guests at the Hall (Count Benckendorff and Lord Howe) were out only on Thursday and Saturday for a few hours in the home preserves.

I hear that the King and Queen of Denmark will probably arrive in England, on their State visit to the Court, either on Monday, May 6, or on Monday, May 13, and it is very likely (if the later date is chosen) that they will remain in England over Whitsuntide, in which case they are to spend the holidays at Sandringham. The State visit at Buckingham Palace will extend from Monday until Saturday. On leaving England King Frederick will proceed on official visits to Paris and Brussels, rejoining Queen Louise afterwards at The Hague.

Last year only one of the Extra (*i.e.*, Royal) Knights of the Garter died, and that was King Christian of Denmark, the doyen of the Order. He dated from 1865. There were two creations, the King of Norway and the Grand Duke of Baden. There was one death among the Knights on the statutory foundation of the Order—the late Duke of Rutland, who was replaced by Lord Carrington. Lord Spencer (1865) is now the doyen of the Order of the Garter. There was also one vacancy among the Knights of the Thistle, which was caused by the death of the late Lord Leven and Melville, who was succeeded by Lord Aberdeen. The Duke of Atholl, who received his green ribbon from Lord Beaconsfield in 1868, is the doyen of the Order of the Thistle. No vacancy occurred in the Order of St. Patrick, of which Lord Gosford is the senior Knight.

For NEW YEAR APPEALS, see page 54.
For SPECIAL FOR LADIES, see page 55.
For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 52.
For Selected FOREIGN HOTELS, see pages 52, 53.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 49.
For OUR PUZZLES, see pages 57, 58.

It was announced in the last number of TRUTH that the Duchess of Buccleuch contemplates resigning the office of Mistress of the Robes, which she has held altogether for a period of over eighteen years. A weekly journal, repeating this news, adds, on its own account, that the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe is the only ex-Mistress of the Robes. As a matter of fact, the present Duchess of Devonshire held the office of Mistress of the Robes (as Duchess of Manchester) in Lord Derby's second Government, from February, 1858, until June, 1859. The Duchess of Manchester was the youngest peeress that had ever held the post, and there was some carping at the appointment because she is a German by birth. At that time, however, most of the Dukes were either Whigs or unmarried, and Lord Derby found a difficulty in filling the post, as it was refused for private reasons by both the late Duchess of Buccleuch, who had been Mistress of the Robes from 1841 to 1846 under Sir Robert Peel, and by the late Duchess of Atholl, who had held the office under Lord Derby in 1852. The Duchess of Manchester's appointment was a complete success in the end, and her retirement was much regretted by the Court set.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, who have been spending the holidays at Bagshot Park, are to leave London for Marseilles on their way to China on Thursday, the 10th. The statement that the Royal party will return home from the East by way of Canada is incorrect, as they are coming back through Egypt. It is probable that the Duke and Duchess of Connaught will spend part of next winter in Canada.

Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein are to be the guests next week of Lord and Lady Exeter at Burghley House, Northamptonshire, where there will be a large party to meet the Royal guests, who are to arrive from Windsor on Monday. There is to be a dance at Burghley on Friday, the 11th, which will be the night after the county ball at Stamford. Burghley is a stately house of immense size, which was built during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. There is a long succession of handsome rooms, which contain superb old furniture and fine tapestry and china. There is a most interesting and valuable collection of portraits of great historical interest, including some noble works. The best pictures in the gallery of Old Masters were sold at Christie's many years ago, and many of the works of this school which are now on the walls are either copies or absurdly misnamed. The grounds were laid out by Capability Brown, who formed a lake of over thirty acres. The park is extensive and beautifully wooded, the numerous avenues of elm, lime, and chestnut being remarkably fine. The park is seven miles in circumference, and pleasantly varied.

A weekly contemporary announces that Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg are residing at Jugenheim, "their delightful villa between Darmstadt and Homburg." Jugenheim is a small town on the Bergstrasse, between Darmstadt and Heidelberg. The country residence of Prince Louis of Battenberg in this district is the château of Heiligenberg, which was purchased by the Empress Marie of Russia (wife of the Emperor Alexander II.), and when she died, in 1880, she left the estate to her brother, Prince Alexander of Hesse, and it now belongs to his eldest son, Prince Louis of Battenberg. My contemporary is dolefully astray in its knowledge of German geography, as it refers to Prince Louis of Battenberg's "home in the Taunus." Heiligenberg might just as well be described as in the Ardennes or on the Italian lakes, for it is far removed from "the Taunus."

Count Gleichen, late Grenadier Guards, is vacating the appointment of Military Attaché to the Embassy at Washington, in order that he may return to England and take up the duties of his new post at the War Office. Count Gleichen is the son of the late Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, who was married in 1861 to Lady Laura Seymour, sister of the late Lord Hertford. He is a great-grandson of the Duchess of Kent, through her first marriage with the Prince of Leiningen.

Mr. Balfour, having recovered from his attack of influenza, is expected to join the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire's party at Chatsworth (to meet their Majesties), and early next week he will proceed to Scotland, intending to reside for between four and five weeks at Whittingehame House, after which he will return to town for the session. During the Easter recess (which will occur a fortnight earlier than last year) Mr. Balfour is to be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Wyndham at Clouds, their place on the borders of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, near Shaftesbury.

Lady Burdett-Coutts deserves to be remembered in history, not only for her boundless charity, but for her wisdom. When a mere girl she came into the possession of wealth which might have turned the strongest head. Every temptation to use her fortune for the gratification of selfish desires or ambitions she put away from her from the first. It is evident that she must have formed, while still a child, the resolution of devoting her life and wealth to the benefit of the poor and suffering, and from this resolution she never wavered. A young heiress openly entering on such a course might only too easily have fallen a prey to a legion of parasites in the shape of philanthropic cranks and self-seeking humbugs, but her native good sense carried her through that danger as it carried her through others. That her money was never spent in vain would be too much to say, or to expect; but that in the main it was devoted to worthy objects and with excellent results is undeniable. Only once in her long life was a censorious world disposed to say that she had done a foolish thing, and that was when she married; but the result proved in this case that she was right and the world was wrong.

For APPROVED CHARITIES, see page 59.

There have been few men who inspired more hostility by their opinions and gained more goodwill by their personal character than the late Mr. Samuel Smith. I can say this from my heart, for, outside mere questions of party politics, his strongest convictions inspired me with horror, while even when most irritated by them I could not have said a hard word about him, still less to him. He was a typical Puritan in all respects but one, namely, that his Puritanism never soured in him the milk of human kindness. If it were not profane, I should like to say of him that he hated the sin but loved the sinner. He was a man of considerable business ability, and he showed it in the sphere of philanthropy as well as in trade. He did a great deal of excellent public work, both in Parliament and outside, and many will have reason to regret that his life has been cut short so unexpectedly.

The sudden death of Mr. Blenkinsopp, of Rokeby Close, is much regretted in the North Riding of Yorkshire and in South Durham. He had farmed with great success on a very extensive scale for many years past, and he was widely known and much esteemed. Mr. Blenkinsopp, who was an active magistrate, took a leading part in all local affairs, and he had frequently officiated as judge at agricultural shows. He was a devoted Roman Catholic.

Mr. John Tod, of Lasswade, who died last week, was a celebrated paper maker, and he was widely known in Scotland as a most zealous Liberal. Mr. Tod was one of Mr. Gladstone's most active supporters during the Midlothian campaigns, and he was chairman of many of the Liberal meetings, and worked hard for the party at several elections.

St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, which was founded by Mr. Gladstone, has been enlarged by the addition of a new wing, affording accommodation for two wardens and twenty students, which is to be opened to-morrow by the Bishop of St. Asaph. This wing has been built by the Gladstone family, as their joint memorial of the great Minister, at a cost of £10,000. Mr. Gladstone himself expended £40,000 on St. Deiniol's, and £10,000 was obtained by subscription for housing the library, which consists of over 37,000 volumes. Board and lodging are provided for clergymen and students at the rate of 27s. 6d. per week.

After reading the English edition of the Hohenlohe Memoirs I am more than ever unable to understand how the family of the late Prince Hohenlohe can have regarded the publication of his Memoirs as legitimate.

With us it is deemed as improper as it is illegal for the heirs of any person to publish after his death letters of a confidential character written to him, without the consent of the writer. But here we have the most confidential conversations between the German Emperor and his Chancellor made public, in which opinions are expressed by the former in regard to other Sovereigns and to State matters. Be this, however, as it may, the Memoirs are most interesting reading. The first volume refers to a period which has become history, and probably will not be read with so much interest as the second, as it deals mainly with Prince Hohenlohe's action as Prime Minister of Bavaria, and the discussions which took place as to the position of that country as a German State, after the withdrawal of Austria from the German Confederation. In the second volume we are introduced behind the scenes during the reign of the late Emperor Frederick, and the first years of that of the present Emperor. There is much fresh information concerning the dispute between him and Prince Bismarck, and the attitude of all concerned in it, and a vast amount of new light thrown upon the real views of all these august personages. The English translation of the Memoirs, which has been issued by Mr. Heinemann, is an admirable one.

No one who reads Mr. Reginald Blunt's fascinating "Paradise Row" (Macmillan) will fail to regret with him that such an historically interesting bit of old Chelsea should have been pulled down to make way for modern residences. But there is one compensation to be found in the fact that the knowledge that Paradise-row was doomed to the housebreaker, inspired Mr. Blunt to tell the story of the Row and of the famous and interesting folk associated with its old time houses, now no more. When the old landmarks are swept away it is well to have a printed record of them in the pleasant fashion in which they are recorded in this volume.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons send me the following letter in defence of their "postcard chain":—

TUCK'S POSTCARD CHAIN.

SIR,—We would not have troubled you in reference to your article of December 19 re our postcard chains now running in connection with hospitals and other philanthropic institutions as to which you have taken up an antagonistic attitude, were it not for its concluding paragraph. In this you say, that the special instructions given by us that the postcards were only to be addressed to ladies were not given out of any regard for the feelings of wives, but because not one man in a thousand would lend himself to such transparent humbug.

We can but regret this assumption that our instructions were given for reasons other than consideration for the fair sex, but that the term in which you thus qualify the promotion of these chains is anything but obvious to the stronger vessel we are fortunately able to prove by figures, which show a very different proportion of male as against female interest in their respective endeavours to benefit hospitals by means of this competition.

These postcard chains, as you are aware, are opened by friends of these institutions and not by us. Of the three hundred chains that have been so originated, sixty-eight have been opened by gentlemen, among whom are governors, treasurers, secretaries, doctors, registrars, and superintendents of hospitals, besides rectors, vicars, and ministers of various denominations. These figures, showing a percentage of upwards of 20 per cent., as against the improbable 1-10th per cent. you suggest, as to the likelihood of men identifying themselves with these postcard chains, clearly demonstrate two things: Firstly, that the name of this Company, which has been running competitions connected with its various art departments for nearly thirty years, during which periods sums aggregating to a very large amount have been paid to the prize winners, whose names and addresses have always been published, stands sufficiently high to assure these men of the world, and the many other thousands of men who have since supported these chains, that the bona fides of this Company is above suspicion. And secondly, that these postcard chains which, apart from the fifty prizes offered, must bring the respective institutions in touch with a very large number of new people who may ultimately be induced to become subscribers, are likely to prove beneficial to these institutions, your contrary opinion on this point notwithstanding.

In your other comment on the scheme you say that this combination of business and philanthropy is very objectionable, and that it is amazing that so many thousands of people should be found who are ready to spend their money in this way for the benefit of a business firm merely on the off-chance of thereby securing a certain proportion of the profit to the hospital. The first proposition is surely a matter of opinion, for it will be conceded that many thousands of pounds would be lost to charities in the course of every year but for some such combination of business and philanthropy. As to the second, we may mention that of the two hospitals which have so far secured the longest chains (the number of albums which we supply gratuitously for the housing of the postcards sent to the institutions, supplying us with this information), both are situated in small provincial towns, the energy of their originators, ladies in both cases, having carried them at present to the front against the many competing London and large provincial hospitals.

Finally, we can give you the assurance that any benefit to our business can only accrue to us in an indirect form, viz., from the additional popularity to be gained for our postcards, owing to the wide field covered by these chains, and not from any purchases for this special purpose by even hundreds of thousands of contributors, the considerable value of our prizes, and the very considerable expense of advertising and working these chains, far more than balancing any direct profit. . .—Yours truly,

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS, LTD.
ADOLPH TUCK,
Managing Director.

I understand Messrs. Tuck and Sons to assert in the last paragraph that the whole profit on the thousands of cards that must have been sold by means of their scheme is absorbed by the prizes, and advertising and working expenses, and that the only value the thing has to them is the indirect one of serving as an advertisement of their goods. I confess I am astonished to hear it, and I wonder they did not say as much when advertising the scheme, for many people must have shared my opinion that the firm would make a very big profit out of it. But I have never questioned the right of Messrs. Tuck or anybody else to run such a competition for trade purposes. The fundamental objection to the scheme, which nothing in the above letter touches, is that every penny spent on buying and distributing those cards is contributed by people whose object is to benefit some particular charitable institution; that the greater part of this money is divided between Messrs. Tuck and Sons and the General Post Office; and that from the nature of the case only a limited number of institutions will receive any cash benefit, and the majority of them only an album of postcards. From the point of view of charity, the scheme involves a huge expenditure of labour and money for an insignificant result. From that point of view, therefore, it is wholly delusive.

FOR MOSQUITO BITES, WASP or BEE STINGS, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., who has adopted Dr. Alabone's method of treatment, writes: "A patient of mine I placed under his treatment has so rapidly improved, I think he will get quite well again. His case was '*hopeless*.' I never before saw one at this stage recover. Certainly Dr. Alabone's remedies have opened up new views of treatment to me."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, London, N.

The only people who are assured of a profit out of it, whether direct or indirect, are the Post Office and the firm promoting it. As to the part played in the movement by male sympathisers, if the percentage of male contributors is higher than I estimated, all I can say is that I am sorry for my sex.

ON A FALL OF SNOW.

Oh! a beautiful thing is snow—
  Except, of course, in town,
Where dingy and sooty it 'gins to grow,
  From the moment it cometh down.

But on country-side it is fair to see,
  As the meadows it carpets white,
And decketh each naked hedge and tree
  In robes of pure delight;

When blood-red Phœbus wintry gleams
  The frosty welkin through,
Reflects it with such fire his beams
  As opal never knew;

Or when Diana, chaste and fair,
  With pale, cold face doth rise,
Ten thousand diamonds everywhere
  Entrance our dazzled eyes.

Yes! A beautiful, beautiful thing is snow,
  When on dale and down 'tis seen,
Transforming this commonplace earth in a mo'
  To the realm of a fairy queen.

But ugh! When arrives its time to go,
  Why then, say I, Oh lor!
The wet and oozy and draggled snow
  Is a beautiful thing no more.

For the roads are ankle-deep in slush,
  And the by-lanes words defy;
And the gutters in pea-soup torrents gush,
  And the fields are all mud-pie.

And it's nothing but mire and sludge and mess,
  It's nothing but soak and drip,
And the general air of sloppiness
  Might give Mark Tapley the pip.

Yes, a hideous, hideous thing is snow,
  When the sloppy thaw begins,
Transforming our earth to those regions below,
  Where naughty folks go for their sins.

So since, though snow is a beautiful thing
  When it falleth upon us first,
Its subsequent slushy vanishing,
  With all these horrors is cursed,

Towards that self-same beautiful snow
  This is my mental frame,
That, as by coming *it's got to go,*
  I 'd sooner it never came.

This advertisement appeared the other day in the columns of a weekly contemporary:—

REQUIRED, Lady-Cook-General. Sleep out, 3s. 6d. weekly. Small flat. Adults. 7—10.30 and 5.30—9; one morning till 12. Call before eleven, 11, Stamford Brook Mansions, Chiswick.

It has sometimes been suggested that the servant difficulty may be surmounted by the introduction of "ladies" into domestic service; but as far as I can make out those employers who try this remedy seem to do so because they consider that ladies can be sweated to a degree which non-ladies refuse to stand. At any rate, that is the case with the "lady-cook-general" who is to work over fifty hours per week for 3s. 6d., without lodging, and presumably with only "partial board." Ladies in search of such jobs would do better to turn their attention to charing, in which line I understand that 2s. a day, plus dinner and beer, is the standard "living wage."

The following circular has been addressed to parties doing business with the well-known establishment from which it emanates:—

The assistants at Messrs. Parkins and Gotto's (London Western District Printing Company, Ltd.) respectfully solicit your donation to their Christmas-box fund for general division among the staff, and beg to inform you that this application is *sanctioned by the firm*, who are strongly averse to gratuities in any other form.

Donations will be received in the counting-house by Mr. J. F. Penny, to whom all remittances by letter may be addressed.

It is rather surprising to find a firm of the standing of Messrs. Parkins and Gotto sanctioning an application of this kind—if, indeed, it is true that they have sanctioned it. The fact that they are strongly averse to gratuities in any other form makes such a proceeding all the more remarkable, for really it is difficult to conceive any appeal more undignified than this. This is, indeed, so obvious that I imagine it will turn out that the circular has been issued under some misapprehension as to the wishes of the principals of the firm.

It is becoming a regular feature of Christmas time for one or two slate-club secretaries to abscond with all the cash entrusted to them, and in view of the magnitude of the defalcations in the latest instance, it seems about time that something was done to surround slate clubs with the same sort of restrictions and safeguards as savings banks, friendly societies, and other concerns to which poor people entrust their savings. I do not know that these clubs represent a very admirable form of thrift. Their main object is to enable people to accumulate funds for Christmas festivities, which is not much better than saving up your money for a "spree," and not saving at all from the point of view of thrift. The probability is that if the money were put into a regular savings bank much of it would be really saved, and that to that extent slate clubs are hindrances to thrift. Mr. Landfear Lucas contends in a letter published the other day that they owe their vogue to the fact that the Post Office savings banks

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

close too early in the evening for the convenience of working-class depositors. It is well worth consideration whether arrangements could not be made to keep a certain number of Post Office banks open till eight or nine p.m. on one or two nights a week—Friday is the most important day from this point of view—and if this incidentally diminished the slate club business it would be a good thing for everybody.

The Christmas of quite a number of minor poets must have been spoilt by a disappointment that they suffered on December 21. That was the appointed date for the announcement of the results of a competition for four-line verses in praise of a boot polish. In itself this was not exactly a soul-inspiring theme, but the promoters of the competition provided another sort of spur to Pegasus by the apparent offer of a first prize of £1,000, a second of £500, a third of £250, and fifty prizes of £5 each—I say the apparent offer, because a close perusal of the rules and regulations revealed the fact that the amount to be awarded in prizes would after all be entirely dependent upon the amount received from the competitors, every verse sent in having to be "qualified" by a payment of sixpence for two tins of the polish.

It would now seem, however, that the proprietors of the article in question, Polishes, Limited, are dissatisfied with the quality of the rhymes (or the quantity of the business) that they have secured by this advertisement—at any rate, instead of giving the results, as they definitely undertook to do, on December 21, they have coolly announced that the competition will remain open till March 14. It is difficult to see how this departure from the original conditions can be justified. As is pointed out by one of the aggrieved competitors from whom I have heard, it is obviously unfair that those who forwarded their verses by the stipulated date in December should now have to encounter the rivalry of those who have another two or three months in which to exercise their muse on the subject of the boot polish.

The new Professorship of Naval Architecture, in the Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. J. J. Welch, who has been for seven years manager of the shipbuilding department of Messrs. Cammell, Laird, and Co., Birkenhead. The Chair is worth £1,100 a year. Mr. Welch has had a large experience of both Admiralty and commercial designing, and he is the author of a valuable text book on naval architecture, written for the use of naval officers.

Dean Randall, who has died in his eighty-third year, was long one of the most active, influential, and popular leaders of the more advanced section of the High Church party. He was a great admirer of Dr. Pusey, and was supposed to represent the traditions of the Oxford Movement, but he loved an elaborate ritual, and there were bitter complaints against many of the usages at All Saints', Clifton, during his long incumbency. His prolonged controversies with Bishop Ellicott excited general attention. Dean Randall was a very able organiser and administrator, and he established a remarkably complete parochial machinery at Clifton, which soon made his church conspicuous throughout the country. His operations were much facilitated by the fact that he was possessed of large private means. It was said that over £5,000 a year regularly passed through his hands for distribution.

Dean Randall succeeded Archdeacon (afterwards Cardinal) Manning as Vicar of Lavington, Sussex, in 1851, on the presentation of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, with whom he was on terms of intimate friendship. In 1868 he was transferred to the new church of All Saints', Clifton, which was intended to become a leading centre of High Church teaching and ritual. Early in 1892 Lord Salisbury appointed him to the Deanery of Chichester, where he succeeded the present Dean of Bristol, and he remained there for ten years, and then resigned, in consequence of failing health. After Dean Pigou had accepted Bristol the Deanery of Chichester had been conferred upon the late Archdeacon Norris, but he died a few days afterwards. Dean Randall was a most effective preacher and platform speaker, and he was celebrated as a successful conductor of retreats. He laboured incessantly for the Church, with distinguished ability and zeal, for upwards of fifty-five years.

Principal Rainy, who has died at Melbourne at the age of eighty-one, had been for many years the leader of the Free Church of Scotland, and, in his way, he was a great ecclesiastical statesman, but he belonged to the more bigoted and intolerant section of the Presbyterians. He was a zealous advocate of Scotch Disestablishment. He was a consummate organiser, and few men have ever managed their fellows with more dexterity, his success in this department of affairs being the more remarkable when one considers the conceited and obstinate characters with whom he had largely to deal. Principal Rainy succeeded in bringing about the union of the Free Church and the United Presbyterians. He carried through the union of the two sects with complete success, but he had ignored hostile legal opinion as to the result of the amalgamation, and he was severely blamed in 1904 when the House of Lords decided that the property of the old Free Church belonged to the protesting remnant.

If there had been any approach to a tactful compromise between the two parties this crash would have been avoided, but Principal Rainy had carried through the whole affair in a very high-handed fashion, and his opponents had good reason to complain of the arrogance with which they were treated. The situation

was saved for the Church by the Act of 1905, but overwork, disappointment, and anxiety entirely broke down Principal Rainy's health, although he had received the hearty support from first to last of both his clerical and lay brethren. He left Scotland a few months ago for Australia in the hope of being benefited by the sea voyage and a long rest.

Principal Rainy first attracted general attention early in the seventies, when he delivered a series of most uncompromising lectures in answer to Dean Stanley, whose exceedingly Broad Church views, as set forth in his lectures on the Scottish Churches, had considerably fluttered orthodox Presbyterians, and in Edinburgh they excited a great sensation among the Pharisees. Both lecturers were described by an acute critic as "shallow, inaccurate, prejudiced, and narrow."

The early death of Professor Maitland is profoundly regretted by a very wide circle of friends, and he will be greatly missed at Cambridge, his loss being a most serious one to the University He had filled the Downing Chair of English Law with brilliant success eighteen years. He was a perfect reservoir of precious and peculiar learning, and an admirable writer, his works being eagerly read by students in all parts of the world. He was always kind and encouraging to those who consulted him. Professor Maitland was an ardent Liberal, both in party politics and in University affairs. His last work was the excellent biography of his intimate friend Leslie Stephen.

Canon Henry Scott-Holland has replaced Chancellor Newbolt as the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral. Dean Gregory, who is in his eighty-eighth year, is in a precarious state of health. In the event of a vacancy in the Deanery of St. Paul's (which is worth £2,000 a year, with house), it is generally expected that Canon Henry Scott-Holland would be promoted to this office. He was appointed to his stall by Mr. Gladstone in 1884, when Canon Stubbs was promoted to the See of Chester, and it is understood that in 1893 he refused a bishopric which was offered to him by that Minister. Dean Gregory was appointed to a canonry in the Cathedral in 1868 by Lord Beaconsfield, and in January, 1891, he was promoted by Lord Salisbury to his present office, in succession to Dean Church.

Owing to last week's TRUTH having to be published on the Monday morning before Christmas the following letter with reference to recent incidents in the Roman Catholic diocese of Nottingham unfortunately reached me too late for publication in it:—

SIR,—As the Very Rev. Canon Hawkins has of late been the subject of several uncomplimentary references in the columns of TRUTH, perhaps you will allow me to make a few remarks. I would premise that when a layman undertakes to write on Canon Law, or any subject connected therewith, he almost always falls into some inaccuracies. Thus, your correspondent last week asserted that Bishop Brindle had bestowed a canonry on Father Hawkins. This is not correct. Canons in England are chosen in regular turns by the Pope, the Bishop of the diocese, and the Chapter. When Canon Hawkins received his promotion it was the turn of the Chapter to elect, and therefore the reverend gentleman owes his promotion to his brother Canons, and not to the Bishop.

Much has been made of the fact that Canon Hawkins was indicted for slander a few years ago. I fancy that if either you or your correspondents knew the facts of the case your view of the matter might be altered. . . . None of your correspondents seemed to have recognised that for twelve years Father Hawkins lived and worked in the poorest quarter of Leicester, that he enlarged his schools, renovated his church, and won the respect not of Catholics alone but of Protestants also. It is strange that a correspondence which began with the object of exposing Bishop Brindle's treatment of Father Hays cannot be carried on without casting slurs and innuendos on one of the most popular priests in the Diocese of Nottingham. SACERDOS.

Beyond the fact that a verdict was obtained against Father Hawkins in an action for slander, I am not aware that any particular slur or innuendo has been cast upon him by any of my previous corrrespondents. The passage which I have omitted from the above letter gives certain facts in regard to the slander action which I do not feel at liberty to publish, as other parties are concerned, and the facts may possibly be disputed. But I may mention, in case others have forgotten it, that the action in question arose out of a report made to the N.S.P.C.C. which was found to be inaccurate. No doubt, however, it was made in good faith, and I agree that after the case has been closed the mistake which he made ought not to be used to the prejudice of Canon Hawkins. My correspondent who first referred to the case did so, obviously, for the purpose of drawing a contrast between the Bishop's treatment of two priests. He may have been ignorant, as is above suggested, of the circumstances under which the Canon obtained his preferment; but, anyhow, it would seem that the facts justify the inference that was drawn from them.

With reference to what a correspondent said last week about Father Hays delivering a temperance lecture in Mr. Aked's chapel at Liverpool—long after the termination of the dispute between him and the Bishop of Nottingham—another Roman Catholic writes:—

It might be pointed out to your correspondent that Father Hays has never questioned the canonical authority of his Bishop. He has simply resisted the Bishop's uncanonical tyranny. There is nothing in Roman Catholic Canon Law to prevent Father Hays, or any other priest, delivering a temperance lecture in a Baptist chapel, provided such lecture did not form part of a religious service. Whatever Bishop Brindle's motive may have been in depriving Father Hays of his mission, the Holy See has very properly condemned the Bishop's actions, and intelligent Roman Catholics in general, both clerical and lay, rejoice at the fact.

The humble industry pursued by the "Schnorrers" of Jerusalem seems to be in a very flourishing condition. Two or three proofs of this have reached me during the Christmas season in the shape of appeals accompanied by dried flowers from the Holy Land and similar articles, which have been sent out haphazard to people in England. The most remarkable of the goods is a little album in an inlaid olive-wood cover, containing pressed flowers and views of the Holy Places of Palestine. As these bear inscriptions in French, German, English, Russian, and Hebrew, it is obvious that they are got up for the Christian markets of Europe

at large without regard to nationality; and the fact of such articles, which I suppose would fetch a shilling or two in the market, being sent out broadcast to strangers on the chance of getting a postal order in return, proves very clearly that the industry is conducted on a very large scale.

As a good many people must be quite ignorant of the nature of this business, I subjoin a sample of these "Schnorrer's" epistles, which are all in more or less "common form":—

Jerusalem, 7, Dizember, 1906.

Honoured Sir,—You will excuse the liberty I take in addressing these few lines to you; it is only the very miserable condition that I am in that forces me to make an appeal to your generosity. My state is indescribable, my need is great, my misery is torrible. My poor children and I get a living from the making of flower cards.

The flowers we collect from Jerusalem's Holy Places, and mount them. From this work me must get a living, but alas, there is very small demand for such articles from this town, and consequently we are in a very poor state, and even dry bread is often denied us poor. Sad and pitiable indeed is my condition, we are naked and foodless. All my furniture has been sold to procure the needful daily bread, and now that I have nothing else to sell I am forced to call your attention, and ask for he'p. Oh, have pity upon us, and aid a poor family; our misery is great indeed.

I take the liberty of sending you a nice flower album as a remembrane of Jerusalem's Holy Places, and as a specimen of my hande-caft, with tho sincere desire that same will be acceptable and that you will help my innocent ones and myself, so that all least we have dry bread during the time.

And the Lord God Almighty will help you, and shower down His blessing upon you for this act of kindness to a suffering co-religionist. . . .—Yours most respectfully,

E. B. Mazrachi.

P.S.—I kindly beg of you to send answer per registered letter or per postal order, otherwise it may get lost.

I do not wish to do an injustice to a suffering co-religionist, but the wood-work of the aforesaid album bears a strong resemblance to that turned out at Sorrento and that neighbourhood, and I shall be surprised if the printing was not done in Germany.

With reference to the remarks in last week's Truth on an advertisement in the *Guardian* of a pocket Communion service in solid silver, published by Mr. Hurcomb, of Devonshire-street, Islington, I have received letters from Mr. Hurcomb himself and also from the manager of the *Guardian*, and from clergymen who have had dealings with Mr. Hurcomb. From these communications I am quite satisfied that Mr. Hurcomb's advertisement—though I am bound to say that it is open to such an inference on the face of it—does not belong to "the same order as all the offers of cheap plated goods that are to be found in the press with the suggestion that they emanate from private persons disposing of goods second-hand." Mr. Hurcomb also states that his advertisements only appear once in three weeks, and only in the *Guardian*, the manager of which paper informs me that he is personally satisfied of the general accuracy of Mr. Hurcomb's statements. I gather that Mr. Hurcomb is a dealer on a large scale, with a wide and honourable reputation in his trade, and that when he said that the article which he was offering at 27s. 6d. "cost 63s.," he did not mean that it cost him that sum, but that this was its original price new. The bargain offered was therefore a genuine one, and the inference suggested by the advertisement that it might be something else was altogether erroneous.

Without having any desire to add myself to the embarrassing number of inspired army reformers, I have always maintained since the conclusion of the Boer War that the most important military problem requiring solution is the formation of some sort of coherent and efficient secondary army out of our mass of amorphous and half-baked auxiliaries. I rejoice, therefore, to see that the recognised instructors of the public, professional and amateur, seem to be arriving at the same conclusion. In all his recent speeches, down to that which he delivered on Saturday last, Mr. Haldane has been careful to indicate that this is the task to which he is specially addressing himself, though he has been equally careful not to drop the slightest hint of the plan by which he hopes to accomplish it. I gather generally that what he desires to impress on the public mind is that our most pressing military need is an organised and efficient auxiliary army of a quasi-civilian nature, available both for home defence and in some measure as a reinforcement of the regular army for service abroad in time of emergency; and that the Militia, Volunteers, and Yeomanry must be prepared as patriots to sacrifice their individuality in some degree, and merge themselves in such a force.

That this general idea is sound is hardly open to question. Whether the means proposed for giving effect to it will be at once adequate and acceptable remains to be seen. Meanwhile, on Christmas Eve the Military Correspondent of the *Times*—one of the most confident and not the least persuasive of our military evangelists—gave us some useful points for consideration in relation to "the future of the Militia" in the impending reorganisation. He has settled the amalgamation of Militia, Volunteers, and Yeomanry entirely to his own satisfaction, and he is particularly desirous of impressing on the Militia that only by such a process can it be rescued from the process of decay; but incidentally he reveals many of the difficulties which lie in Mr. Haldane's path.

The two difficulties which chiefly impress me are those of training and service abroad in time of war. The *Times* correspondent treats it as accepted that the old system of using the Militia to reinforce the Army in the field by means of voluntary drafts is to be abandoned; and clearly Mr. Haldane has conceded this up to a point by his proposal that a certain portion of the Artillery, Army Medical Corps, and Army Service Corps shall be maintained in time of peace as militia, but be mobilised with the regulars for war. It seems only logical to extend this principle to the Militia infantry, and this must be done if they are only to serve abroad as complete units, which is what representative Militia officers contend for. But it is out of the question that this principle can be applied to the Volunteers; they are, and always must be,

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner, and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

enlisted for home service only. At the outset, therefore, we are met with the fact that one fundamental distinction between the Volunteers and Militia must be maintained, in spite of any formal amalgamation of the two into one territorial army.

Then in regard to training. Volunteers, unlike militiamen, are not paid individually when training, though Government grants are made to units collectively. As long as Volunteers serve without reward, they must train more or less on "go as you please" principles; and even if you decided to pay them, it does not follow that you could then get them to conform to definite regulations as to training, because the pay is no consideration to them, as it is to the militiamen, and if they cannot give their service at their own convenience they will not give it at all, pay or no pay, as experience has already shown. And the more you labour to improve the efficiency of the militia troops (*e.g.*, by giving them six months' training on enlistment), the more you differentiate between them and the casually trained voluntary troops.

I do not say that these difficulties are insuperable, but until the means of overcoming them are formulated, I fail to see how the desired "national army" can be anything like a homogeneous force, or how the amalgamation of the Militia and the Volunteers can be effected except in name and form. And I have a profound horror of that class of reform which consists in giving old things new names. Being modest, I am sincerely anxious to learn; but it seems to me at present that however desirable it may be to rehabilitate the Militia and convert it into an efficient territorial army, if its principal function is to be that of a second line for service abroad in war—and perhaps even to some extent a first line, as Mr. Haldane contemplates—it has far more in common with the Army than with the Volunteers, and if "amalgamated" at all, would be better amalgamated with the former than the latter.

One of the most singular features in the revived controversy over the Channel Tunnel is the alarm with which representatives of the Army view the project. The average civilian fails to see that the security of this country against invasion would be appreciably weakened by the construction of a narrow subterranean passage from the Continent twenty-four miles in length. The soldier—I do not mean every one of them, but many in positions which lend authority to their views—considers the tunnel would to all intents and purposes destroy our insular position. He has no confidence in the ability of the Army to hold our end of the "tube" against surprise, or to recover it when once lost. This frame of mind is no doubt due in a large measure to the natural modesty of soldiers, and I suppose it may also in part be attributed to their experience of the aptitude of military arrangements to prove themselves defective at the moment when they are most needed.

It is not clear to my mind that military opinion alone should be allowed to determine this question. What about the Navy? The British end of the tunnel must be within a mile or so of the sea-coast. Assuming, as the alarmists do, that a forlorn hope from the other side of the Channel succeeded in capturing the British end of the tunnel, and that all arrangements previously made for guarding against such a contingency failed at the critical moment, of what use would the position be for the purpose of an invasion of England in force, so long as we held command of the sea? The foreign force holding the mouth of the tunnel will be under the fire of all the ships in the Channel that we can bring to bear on it, as well as of all land forts which may be constructed for the defence of the opening. To my untutored mind it appears that an invasion of England under such circumstances must be a degree more difficult than an invasion by sea in that "temporary absence of the Fleet" which is the principal stock-in-trade of panic-mongers. I should very much like to hear what the naval men say as to their own ability to prevent the British end of the tunnel being used virtually as a landing-place for a hostile force.

At the same time there is beyond question an element of danger in constructing a tunnel so long as any respectable body of military opinion regards the work as likely to facilitate invasion. If eminent soldiers are to go about preaching that we are liable to have an irresistible French army pouring through the tunnel at any moment, our civilian panicmongers will have an argument such as they have never yet possessed. Considering how difficult it is now to persuade nervous people that millions of German soldiers cannot be landed on our shores at any well-chosen moment, it is quite conceivable that a Channel Tunnel may bring conscription in its wake, kill the "blue-water school," and lead to the abandonment of naval defence. Judging from recent utterances of the two leading Service journals, the views of military experts which killed the tunnel scheme in the early 'eighties still flourish. Military notions have undergone so many changes since that date that one cannot help hoping that if the question were reconsidered to-day by a competent body of military and naval experts, with the authority of the Committee of Defence behind them, less nervous views would prevail. But at any rate the promoters of the Channel Tunnel Bill should make it their first business to convert the Army, and give us some security that the conversion will be permanent.

Surely the custom does not still prevail in the Army of expecting an officer who is about to commit matrimony to make a cash donation to the mess? A naval correspondent asks me to enlighten him on this point,

An Eminent Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate, especially on the chest, should have a gas fire in the bedroom. Not one atom less healthy than coal."

and says that he has heard of as much as £50 being donated under such circumstances. I have heard of such a custom in a long bygone era, but if it is still kept up, I imagine it can only be in very few and very select regiments. I know a good many men who have married in the Army, and it would surprise me to learn that some of them ever gave the mess £5, let alone £50, to celebrate the occasion. Perhaps some of my Service readers can enlighten me on the subject.

One of the things in the British Army which no outsider can understand is the possibility of a commanding officer having under his command an officer of higher rank than his own. I believe such a thing has happened in a regiment before now, and there is a story of a second-in-command who took advantage of his superior army rank to publicly reprove his commanding officer for the lack of smartness in his battalion; to which the C.O. retorted by ordering the battalion to parade every afternoon under the second-in-command until further orders. I heard the other day of a case in India where it is alleged that a brevet lieutenant-colonel, holding only major's rank in his regiment, and drawing major's pay, loses no opportunity of giving orders to the commanding officer of another corps, and is even said to have done the same to his own. Is there any other army in the world where this absurdity prevails?

There is much growling in the non-commissioned ranks of the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots over the fact that a man promoted to quartermaster-sergeant in January last without a first-class certificate of education has been allowed to continue in his appointment up to the present date, although he has twice failed to pass his examination in the interval. It seems to be quite clearly laid down that a man shall not hold his rank more than six months under such circumstances, and it is impossible to understand why regulations are laid down on such points if they are not to be strictly enforced, seeing that the breach of them necessarily creates a widespread sense of injustice. In this particular battalion the N.C.O.s have been strenuously exhorted to educate themselves and improve their professional qualifications, and have been assured that their promotion will depend on the result. Numbers of them have energetically complied, but only to find that the prescribed qualifications for promotion are set aside unceremoniously when the time comes.

From a letter recently received from a colonial station I gather that one effect of the recent change in the pay regulations has been that numbers of men, who have extended their service on certain terms in regard to service pay, now find that these terms have been altered to their detriment. They were liable to reduction on failing to reach the prescribed standard in musketry, or for other reasons, but they were not to have their service pay reduced below 3d. Under the new regulations, however, they are liable to lose it altogether. One of the aggrieved writes:—

> Those who extended their service to complete eight years with the colours, consider this a great shame, as the Government induced us to extend on these conditions, and now after we have extended at once alters them. If an employer did the same thing in civil life he could be sued for breach of contract, but all we can do is to complain to the press, and we are liable to be punished for doing that.

It seems to me that the War Office ought to congratulate itself that men can ease their minds by writing to the press, regardless of regulations, when they have been treated in this fashion. I do not suppose that there was an intentional breach of faith, but if the terms of the contract made with such men have been merely overlooked by accident, that does not help the men, or diminish the discontent created. It is to be hoped that the Army Council will speedily arrive at some fixed and permanent principles in regard to Army pay, for the incessant changes that have gone on during the last four or five years have produced nothing but confusion, dissatisfaction, and incalculable administrative trouble.

I have received the following from an eminent naval officer with reference to the disturbances among the stokers at Portsmouth:—

> Sir,—Referring to your notice of the mutiny at Portsmouth, it may not be generally known that Moody, the stoker, was a notoriously bad character. He headed two mutinies on board the *Ophir* when the stokers struck, he then being in the merchant service, and he joined the Navy subsequently, so he earned all he got.
>
> With reference to Commodore Stopford, of whom you speak kindly, his fault was in being too lenient. In this he only followed his illustrious kinsman, the hero of Acre, in allowing Sir Charles Napier to have all the credit, instead of trying him by court martial, as he deserved. As you truly say, Lieutenant Collard was chiefly responsible for the trouble, and got off very easily.—Yours faithfully, Admiral.

If the above statement in regard to Moody is correct, it is difficult to understand how the man could have got into the Navy at all, and some means ought to be found of preventing men who have gained bad characters in the merchant service from transferring themselves to that of the Admiralty. Apparently Moody was not the only bad bargain in his branch of the Service, for during the last few days it has been stated in the daily papers that several other undesirables have been summarily dismissed at Portsmouth. It is pretty evident that the maintenance of discipline in naval barracks requires, among other things, that a good deal more care should be exercised in getting rid of troublesome individuals than is necessary on board ship; and I take it that the authorities are learning this lesson. I suppose that stokers are naturally a rougher lot than the average seaman, and they must be looked after with proportionate care. The new com-

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mander at Portsmouth Barracks seems to have begun with a judicious combination of the *fortiter in re* and the *suaviter in modo*, and one may hope that he will have no difficulty in restoring a proper spirit among his men.

There was a little incident on board H.M.S. *Cæsar*, while the Channel Fleet was at Portland on the eve of departure for Spain, which is worth attention at this juncture. A contractor's steamer came alongside with canteen stores, and two parties of sixteen men each were told off to transfer the goods to the warship. The men had a strong idea that the contractor was bound by his contract to deliver and stow the goods himself, and the first party before going to work deputed one of their number to convey to an officer their objection to undertake the job on this ground. The officer endeavoured to refer to the contract, but, as it could not be found at the moment, he ordered the men to start work. They hesitated for a moment; he gave them five minutes to think it over, and they then went to work. Next day they were brought before the Commander, who read them the Articles of War applicable to mutineers, and they were then passed on to the Captain, who told them that after stating their objection they were bound to comply with the order, and I understand that they received some punishment.

Up to a point, the Captain's view may be sound; but granting that the correct procedure is to state your objections, and then obey orders, this implies an obligation on the other side to consider the grievance afterwards and put matters right as justice may require. It does not appear that this has been done in the foregoing case. The point which the men raised, and were entitled to raise, namely, that the contractor was bound to find the labour for his own job, remains undetermined. The men are left under the impression that they have been wrongfully put on to work which was not properly part of their duty; that they have been lectured, and punished, and threatened for the future, where they ought to have had a sympathetic consideration of a legitimate grievance; and that they have no security against the same thing happening again to-morrow.

It is all very well to insist upon prompt and unquestioning obedience to orders; but you have got to remember in these days that men are not unreasoning machines. They have well-developed ideas of their own on the subject of justice; and if you require, on grounds of expediency, that unjust or illegitimate orders shall be obeyed, you can only ask for such obedience provisionally, and on the understanding that strict justice will be done at the earliest opportunity. The fault of naval discipline seems to be that it worships the letter and thinks far too little about the spirit.

At the request of the Committee of Management of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Lord George Hamilton held an inquiry at Deal on Monday with reference to the grievances of the crew of the Walmer lifeboat. The evidence that was given fully established the justice of the men's claim to the usual payment for the launch "on service" on April 3—a payment which was recommended at the time by the local committee but refused by the authorities at the headquarters of the Institution. No doubt Lord George Hamilton's decision will be acted upon by the Committee of Management in London, and so an end will be put to this unfortunate dispute. It is to be hoped that alterations will also be made in the regulations concerning launches with a view to the prevention of any further incidents of the same kind.

I hope, too, that the Committee of Management will see that in future representations on behalf of lifeboat crews are treated with more courtesy and consideration than the Walmer men received from the officials of the Institution. They were curtly refused a hearing when they appealed against the decision which has now been reversed, and it was not until after public attention had been drawn to the matter in Truth that the inquiry was ordered. Of course, all's well that ends well. But if the matter had been properly handled, this dispute could have been amicably settled months ago, and the Institution would thereby have been saved from what developed at last into an ugly scandal.

A growl reaches me from the Burma Public Works Department in reference to the non-enforcement of "the law of the fifty-and-five" in the case of various subordinate officers. In the higher grades of the department officers are compulsorily retired when they attain the age-limit, but among the subordinate staff extensions of service are more or less freely allowed, with the result, of course, that the men so retained in their berths block the promotion of all below them. At the best the prospects of the subordinates are none too bright, and a practice which has the effect of penalising the whole body for the benefit of a few favoured individuals ought not to be permitted.

Dr. Branthwaite's recently issued report as Inspector under the Inebriates Acts is of considerably more than passing value. Dealing but briefly with the details of the work of the year under review, he makes an exhaustive study of the reasons which have been responsible for bringing inebriates within the purview of the Acts. He arrives at the conclusion that the majority of persons who have been sent to reformatories are suffering from obvious mental defect, mainly due to congenital weakness, and accentuated by improper treatment.

Brooklands Automobile Racing Club.—Nomination circulars, entry forms, and racing rules can be obtained on application from the Secretary of the Brooklands Automobile Racing Club, Carlton House, Regent-street, London, S.W.

He further declares that the committal of habitual drunkards to prison is both useless and inhumane, and that the only chance of reformation depends upon their early committal to special medical treatment. A new and valuable feature of the report is an appendix containing sketches and photographs of habitual drunkards committed to reformatories, and altogether, the Blue-book should prove of extreme interest to the scientific temperance reformer.

A serious indictment of the management of the Waterford District Lunatic Asylum is set forth in some letters that have recently been published in a local newspaper. Various incidents that have come to light during the past few months have aroused misgivings as to the efficiency of the administration of this establishment, and if the further statements made in this correspondence are correct, sweeping reforms are urgently needed in the interests both of the unfortunate patients and the public at large. It is suggested that so much work is thrown on to the shoulders of the medical superintendent that it is practically impossible for him to exercise the necessary close supervision over the attendants, male and female, with the result that much laxity prevails, and the treatment of the patients is far from satisfactory. The diet is said to be very inferior in quality, and in the case of many inmates so deficient in quantity that they are more or less continually in a state of semi-starvation. These matters obviously demand the serious attention of the Governors of the Asylum, and if—as seems to be thought—they are too self-satisfied to look into the complaints themselves, it is to be hoped that the authorities at Dublin Castle will direct an inspector to hold an inquiry into the condition of affairs in this asylum.

Some time ago the Longtown Board of Guardians were sharply criticised on account of their callous treatment of an applicant for out-relief, and they have since endeavoured to evade criticism by conducting their business as far as possible in secret. This course was adopted at a recent meeting, when a discussion arose concerning the treatment of two little boys from the workhouse who attend a local public elementary school. One boy, aged eight years, was sent to the school "with the measles full out upon him," and both he and a younger lad were insufficiently clothed, while the mid-day meal with which they were provided—the only food they get between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.—consisted of chunks of dry bread and a small bottle of milk each. After discussing the matter "in committee" the Guardians communicated to the press a resolution severely censuring the master of the workhouse for his neglect, and ordering that children attending school should be properly clad and have a more liberal diet. But such a disgraceful state of things ought not to be disposed of in this hole and corner manner. There is evidently something seriously wrong with the administration of a workhouse where little children (who really ought not to be kept in a workhouse at all) can be so cruelly treated, and a Local Government Board Inspector might be usefully employed in holding a public inquiry.

My attention has been directed to a discussion by the Windsor Guardians concerning the case of a man named Brooks, who was employed for over twenty years in the Royal Gardens at Frogmore. It seems that after keeping him on sick pay for some time the Board of Green Cloth granted Brooks a pension of £20 a year. Though dating from October 1, however, the first payment of the pension did not become due till January 1, and meanwhile, Brooks, being destitute, sought refuge in the workhouse. The Guardians at first thought of calling upon him to repay them for his maintenance, but on learning the facts they appear to have recognised that it would be unreasonable to do this, considering the meagre amount he will have to live upon on leaving the workhouse, and the matter was accordingly adjourned for a month.

One of the members expressed the opinion that the Board of Green Cloth were to blame for leaving the man in the lurch for three months, and this seems to be a justifiable criticism. How was the man to live in the interval between the cessation of his sick pay and the payment of his first quarter's pension? The practice of paying small pensions quarterly is open to serious objections, for, as everyone knows, it results in thoughtless and improvident recipients getting into difficulties which they would avoid if the money came in once a fortnight or even once a month. In the case of workmen living in the place where the pension has been earned it would be an easy matter to arrange for the payments to be made every fortnight, or even every week, and it is hard to understand why the Board of Green Cloth does not carry out this simple reform.

A pauper named Walker was haled before the Ramsgate County Bench the other day for the crime of taking into the workhouse a quantity of spirituous liquor (to wit, a very small bottle of rum) without the consent in writing of the master. It appeared that he procured the rum for a man who was lying ill in the workhouse infirmary. No previous complaint had been made against Walker, and the master of the workhouse stated that he was a well-behaved man and a good worker, who had given satisfaction by his conduct as a wardsman in the infirmary. In spite of this testimonial, however, the Bench, remarking that "discipline must be enforced," committed Walker to gaol for fourteen days in default of payment of a fine of 20s. The magistrates were Mr. H. B. Hammond (in the chair), Colonel Curling, Captain Vaile, Captain Higgins, and Mr.

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Tomlin. I do not know whether the predominance of military men on the Bench was in any way accountable for the harshness with which this pauper was punished, but, in any event, it is monstrous that such an offence against the workhouse regulations should be visited with a fortnight's imprisonment. The necessity for the maintenance of discipline is made the excuse for many severe sentences in the Army and Navy. Even in a workhouse it is doubtless requisite that rules shall be enforced, but this object could surely be achieved without subjecting an offending pauper—a first offender, too—to the terrors of court-martial justice.

A stalwart Radical Lord Chancellor at issue with many of his own followers and overwhelmed with praises from his life-long opponents, is an object, I think, for respectful sympathy. It is easy to understand Lord Loreburn's difficulty over the magistracy. Ten years of the Halsbury régime have resulted in the complete Toryfication of the Commission of the Peace. To what an extent the process has been carried may be best seen by the full information on this point which has been published in the *Tribune*. There is one county, at least, in which there is not a single Liberal J.P., and none in which the Liberals are not in a hopeless minority. All who know Lord Loreburn must know also that nobody can appreciate the scandal of this state of things more keenly than the Lord Chancellor.

But to recognise the scandal is one thing, and to put it right is another. The thing can only be done by appointing hundreds, if not thousands, of magistrates off-hand for no other reason than that they are professed Liberals. A Liberal Chancellor who does this reduces himself at once to the level of Lord Halsbury, and rivets on the country permanently the rule that the appointments are to be purely political, for it is not to be expected that the next Tory Chancellor will depart from a practice instituted by Lord Halsbury and ratified by Lord Loreburn. If politics are not to be accepted as the sole qualification, then the Chancellor must ascertain what other qualifications a candidate possesses. Here he is met by two difficulties. The Lords-Lieutenant are the official channel of recommendation. The majority of Lords-Lieutenant, being Conservatives, will have no difficulty in certifying the all-round eligibility of the Conservative nominees, but are highly likely to discover fatal shortcomings in the Liberals. If the Lord Chancellor is not disposed to take a Lord-Lieutenant's opinion as final, he must institute his own independent inquiries respecting the parties. For this purpose he has no official machinery, and when some hundreds of names are in question, it must neccessarily be a difficult and lengthy business.

It seems to be impossible, therefore, for Lord Loreburn to redress the balance quickly, if he is to reject the principle of making the appointments on purely political grounds, and to perform conscientiously what he conceives to be his duty in ascertaining that candidates have suitable qualifications before he appoints them. It is alleged against him that he has accepted the recommendations of Lords-Lieutenant in the case of Unionist nominees while insisting on further inquiry respecting Liberals. But it is evident from the nature of the case that a Lord-Lieutenant may state circumstances in regard to a candidate whom he fancies which would justify the Lord Chancellor in making the appointment, while doubts may be suggested in the case of other men which make further inquiry necessary.

The moral of all this is that the present system is radically bad, unless political appointments are to be accepted as the universal rule; and as Lord Loreburn seems to be fully conscious of the difficulty, it may be hoped that he will attempt such a reform of the system as would relieve him of it. In my opinion, the best solution of the whole question is to establish stipendiary magistrates all round. The only objection to that reform worth considering is that of expense, and it is not certain that even that is worth considering. That stalwart Radical body, the West Riding County Council, some months ago arrived at the conclusion that stipendiaries would not cost much more than the present system.

Mr. Justice Stephen, of the Calcutta High Court, seems to be a Draco even among Indian judges. The *Statesman* of Calcutta pillories a few of his lordship's sentences at the last Criminal Sessions. For attempting to steal an oil canister from a courtyard a man of seventy-five was condemned to ten years' imprisonment—an utterly outrageous punishment, even though he was an old offender. Four years' imprisonment was inflicted for the theft of two pairs of shoes which had been exposed for sale in the street. In a case in which a young fellow of twenty-four was convicted of a theft from his employer, the Judge observed that, taking into consideration his age, he would be let off with "a comparatively lenient sentence, to enable him to pull himself together." This "comparatively lenient" sentence was actually six years' imprisonment! It is not surprising to learn that public opinion in Calcutta has been shocked by these exhibitions of judicial ferocity, and it is to be hoped that the Government will reduce the sentences in question to reasonable limits.

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The Chichester Shallows whose names are inscribed in my Legal Pillory this week are seemingly ignorant of the existence of the First Offenders Act and destitute of the compassion which—quite apart from the special statutory provision for such cases—magistrates might be expected to display towards a youthful delinquent like the boy McEwen. It was essentially a case in which the defendant ought to have been bound over to come up for judgment if called upon, and the sentence of four months' hard labour is an outrage on justice which will be, I hope, at once corrected by the Home Secretary. The matter, however, demands the attention of the Lord Chancellor as well as of the Home Secretary, for magistrates capable of passing such a sentence on a youthful first offender are manifestly unfit to be trusted with the administration of the law. Further examples of magisterial severity in dealing with charges of petty larceny and poaching are given on the same side of the following list, while in the opposite column are some instructive illustrations of the leniency with which offences of brutality and cruelty are treated. Conspicuous among the latter is a decision of Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Walker at Dunfermline. I would point out to this functionary that though he may, as he says, lack language strong enough to express his abhorrence of a wife beater, that is no reason—rather the contrary—why he should let the ruffian off with a ridiculously inadequate fine instead of awarding him a well-deserved term of imprisonment.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. Eaton White and other magistrates. Lewis Lockwood, butcher, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it whilst in an unfit condition. The animal, which was very old, had a large wound on the back, and both its fetlocks were overshot. Fined 20s. and costs.

King's Heath Police-court. Frederick Collins, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a policeman. While defendant's wife was making a complaint to the policeman defendant came up and struck the officer in the mouth, knocking him down. He afterwards kicked the policeman in the back, and assistance was required to convey him to the police station. Fined 25s. and costs.

East Dereham Police-court. Before Messrs. W. D. E. Bulmer and A. G. Copeman. Walter Henry Bowman, charged with assaulting Mary Abel. He went up to the woman in the street, and, without any provocation, struck her on the head and kicked her. Fined 5s.

Derby County Police-court. Before Messrs. G. W. Peach, R. Sale, W. B. Woodford, and other justices. Joseph Swindell, a football player, charged with assaulting Edward Arthur Jolley, a referee. During a match defendant rushed up to the referee and struck him a violent blow in the mouth, knocking him down and loosening several of his teeth. Fined £5 and costs.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. W. Hunt and other magistrates. George Smith, charged with poaching. One month.

Ayr Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff Lockhart. Michael Long, charged with stealing two hens. Thirty days.

Colchester Police-court. Golden Gardener, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act, with being found in possession of eight pheasants. Fined £5 11s.; in default, two months.

Oswestry Police-court. Before Dr. W. A. Lewis and Mr. W. H. Plimmer. Patrick McDonough, charged with stealing two fowls. One month.

Brierley Hill Police-court Before Messrs. P. Harris, W. F. Taylor, and H. F. Williams. Joseph Bradley and Frederick Palmer, charged with trespassing in search of game. They had with them a dog, which caught a rabbit. Palmer fined 20s. and costs; Bradley, 30s. and costs.

Swaffham Police-court. Before Messrs. J. C. Martin, H. Lee Warner, A. Dodman, G. W. Taylor, and J. G. Culling. Charles Smith, charged with poaching. Fourteen days.

Boston Borough Police-court. Before Dr. A. Tuxford and Mr. H. B. Clark. George Revill and John Joseph Brown, fishermen, charged with refusing to go to sea when ordered by their employers. Fourteen days each.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Walker. Andrew Young, convicted of assaulting his wife, who was in delicate health, by striking her on the face, knocking her down, dragging her about, and kicking her on the head and body, to the effusion of blood. The Hon. Sheriff-Substitute said the accused was not worthy the name of a man; he had not language strong enough to express his feelings. Fined 40s.

Dudley Police-court. Joseph Stibbs, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting a constable and a man who came to the officer's assistance. On being arrested for causing a disturbance, kicked and bit the officer, and he also bit the other complainant. Fined 20s. and costs.

Greenock Police-court. Before Bailie Bailey. Catherine McLaughlin, charged with assaulting a youth named Jamieson by throwing at him an earthenware plate. Jamieson received a severe wound in the face, and had to be taken to the infirmary. Fined 30s.

Glasgow Police-court. Before Bailie Russell. Michael Gallacher, charged with assaulting his wife. He dragged her about by the hair of her head, and struck her repeatedly about the face and body. Bound over for three months.

Chichester City Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Smith, E. E. Street, and G. M. Turnbull. Herbert McEwen, a stable boy, 16 years of age, charged with stealing £5 16s. 2d. The coachman at the house where the boy was employed sent him into Chichester to cash a cheque. He did not return with the money, and when arrested at Guildford he had only £5 11s. 6½d. in his possession, having spent the balance on toys. There was no previous conviction. Four months' hard labour.

Wolverhampton Police-court. Before Messrs. F. D. Gibbons and R. E. W. Berrington. Wm. Burt, charged with stealing a pair of trousers from outside a shop. Two months.

Gainsborough Police-court. Walter Gobitass, charged with stealing a box of biscuits. One month.

Perth Police-court. Before Bailie Isaac. Margaret Rolland, servant, charged with stealing a door mat, a clothes line, and other articles. Thirty days.

Perth Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Sym. James Halley, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a number of rabbits. Fined £2 10s.; in default, one month.

Wokingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. H. C. Mylne and E. M. Sturges. Stephen Callaghan, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month.

Hove Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Jonathan Field, charged with cruelty by working a horse whilst it was in an unfit state; and William Alfred Field, charged with causing the animal to be so worked. The horse was in a shockingly poor and weak condition, being "simply skin and bone," and the Mayor described the case as the worst of the kind that he had ever had before him. Fined 20s., including costs.

Though I have not thought it worth while to make any allusion to the Spanish Prisoner for some time past, it must not be supposed that he has ceased to prey upon the credulity and cupidity of the public at home and abroad. The inquiries that I receive show that he is still carrying on the same old game, and it appears from a recent issue of the *Egyptian Gazette* that he is just now devoting special attention to residents in that country. Perhaps, therefore, another word of warning may be useful in saving some innocents from being victimised, though I have long since come to the conclusion that no amount of exposure in the press will ever put a stop to this venerable confidence trick.

An individual named A. Newman, of 6, Ingate-terrace, S.W., professes that he has a well-tried and practical betting system—so well-tried and so practical that it has not lost in any year since 1869. Even then the loss, which occurred in July, was recovered before the end of the season, and owing to the further improvements since made in the system, it is "now believed to

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be perfect." During the past season, for instance, there was a gain from the first week and the capital was never touched. Yet, instead of selfishly exploiting this gold mine for his own benefit, the philanthropic Newman is spending money on advertising in the sporting press in order to find strangers whom he can enrich by means of the system. Those who entrust him with capital for the purpose of working it will certainly deserve any loss that may befall them.

Through the recommendation of a writer in a weekly sporting journal a gentleman some time ago began sending his betting commissions to A. J. Bee and Co., Craven House, Kingsway, W.C. For a time he was a loser, and altogether he paid the firm some hundreds of pounds in settlement of his accounts. Once or twice a comparatively small sum was due to him on settling day and on these occasions he received cheques. Presently a week arrived in which he came out a winner of about £80. This time, however, no cheque was forthcoming from A. J. Bee and Co., and in reply to a request for payment the backer was favoured with a letter from their solicitor saying that he was instructed to accept service of any proceedings that might be commenced against them. In view of the provisions of the Gaming Act it is, of course, futile to take proceedings for the recovery of such a debt from a firm of this character, and so after giving them plenty of time in which to pay up the backer has placed the facts before me for the purpose of a warning to other possible victims. In their book of rules A. J. Bee and Co. append to their name the words "member (sic) of the Beaufort Club." It will not surprise me to learn from the secretary of the club that this statement, designed to inspire confidence in the firm, is incorrect.

All touting usurers are noxious vermin, but some are more noxious than others, and in this category I place those who make a practice of directing their seductively worded offers of cash advances to persons in positions of trust and responsibility. Railway stationmasters, for instance, are continually being tempted in this way, and among the moneylenders now circularising them are H. T. Lewein and Co., 160, Regent-street, W., and L. Phillips, 31, Gower-street, W.C. When a man in such a situation as that of a stationmaster falls into the toils of harpies of this character, he is, of course, practically at their mercy, being obliged to submit to their extortions or else run the risk of getting into trouble with his employers through an exposure. One railway manager has, I know, specially warned his staff against the bloodsuckers, and it might be useful if this step were taken on other lines.

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SCIENCE IN HYSTERICS.

[*Vide* Professor Lombroso's recent article in the *Grand Magazine*.]

The *Grand Magazine*
Most surely, I ween,
Its title of "Grand" should recall,
And—in view of its last—
Henceforth should be classed
No more as the "Grand" but the "Tall."

And why I thus speak
In the stuff you may seek
Which Professor Lombroso there prints,
At whose fairy tales glib
E'en De Rougemont might jib,
Or Baron Munchausen's self wince.

Aye, the story's a pearl.
It relates to a girl—
A pretty, hysterical dear—
Who, her eyesight once gone,
Refused to be "done,"
But saw with the lobe of her ear.

Nor that, Sir, is all;
But, when later 't must fall
That the taste from her palate did flee,
In versatile mood
And resourceful, her food
She tastes, and enjoys, with her knee.

Eke—astounding to tell—
When the keen sense of smell
Departed awhile from her nose,
Still not to be beat,
She enlisted her feet,
And smelt with the tips of her toes.

Now, I'm fain to confess
That I think the Profess-
Or (ourselves, Sir, entirely betwixt)
Must have been, like the gal,
Rather hysterical,
And got his own senses all mixed.

In short, that the sense
Of his brain most immense—
Whose capacity boundless we note—
Must by similar change
Of locality strange
Have been somehow transferred to his—*throat*.

The Municipal Councillors of Quimperlé, in Brittany, have devised a way of expressing their disapproval of a proposal of the Legislature which appears to me to be in every way a striking improvement on passive resistance. Their cause of complaint is that the French Deputies, propose to raise their own salaries, a share of which, as the Councillors very justly point out, will have to be paid in part by the taxpayers of Quimperlé. The way in which they have decided to manifest their displeasure at this proposal is by voting an allowance of three francs for every sitting to the Mayor—of Quimperlé, of course—two francs to aldermen, and one franc to councillors. The necessary funds will have to be found, needless to say, by the taxpayers of Quimperlé, who will then have the disgraceful behaviour of the Chamber of Deputies impressed upon their memories. I imagine that, in future, whenever a new

Government measure displeases them, the Councillors will, in revenge, immediately double their own salaries. I should not be at all surprised if this new idea were welcomed by some of our own city fathers, for whose consideration I am delighted to offer it.

When Lord Randolph Churchill was Leader of the House of Commons, he was very desirous to bring about a change in the time when the House is in session, and he frequently explained to me how he would effect his object. The Session was to commence in the middle of October, to adjourn for six weeks over Christmas, and to terminate about the middle of June. The financial year was to end on December 31 instead of March 31. Before Christmas the Address was to be voted. Bills were to be brought in and some progress was to be made with them if possible, and Supplementary Estimates were to be passed. On the House meeting in February, the Estimates for the year were at once to be presented.

It certainly would be a change for the good, were each financial year to end on December 31. What happens at present? If the debate on the Address is lengthy, Ministers urge that it must be brought to a close (much to their regret) because so much has to be done before March 31. For the same reason the discussions on the Supplementary Estimates are scamped. No sooner are the Estimates presented than the House is told that the vote for men in the Army and Navy must at once be passed. Everything is scamped up to Easter, and all is confusion. In its present condition the House of Commons is an object lesson in the way *not* to do things. A good deal is due, no doubt, to the "outs" always wanting to show how little useful work is done by the "ins." But the mode laid down for getting through the work is largely responsible for it.

One of the most necessary changes in the rules is that which is often advocated by Sir Carne Rasch, *i.e.*, a time limit on speeches. When a Member has managed to catch the Speaker's eye, he can prose on so long as he likes. Some Members seem to imagine that the subject under discussion has never been debated, although the debate has lasted hours, and often days. They have before them a big manuscript, and they steadily work it off, ignoring everything that has been said by the speakers who have preceded them. Few listen to them, no one has the chance to read their eloquence in the newspapers. Others, who really are able to debate, or who have to state the intentions of the Government, or of the Opposition, do so at such length, and with such weary iteration, that they take an hour to say what might be better said in a quarter of that time.

There may be rare occasions when a long speech is necessary, but I do not think that I ever heard any speech in the House lasting above half an hour which would not have been more effective if it had been compressed into half that time. Half an hour should be the extreme limit for a speech of a Minister who has to carry a Bill or defend a policy. Half an hour might be allowed to three Members selected by the Speaker who speak in opposition to it, and half an hour to the Minister who winds up the debate. All other speeches should be limited to ten minutes, and, *mutatis mutandis*, this rule should be applied to the Bills of private Members. Until some such rule is passed, the House of Commons will be a talking shop, and a shop where the talking is, taking it all round, not of a very practical character.

Something must be done to convince a few silly women that they cannot be permitted to make themselves nuisances by defying the law, and rioting within the precincts of the House of Commons, unless that august assembly is to become ridiculous by submitting to such nonsense. There are both women and men who are ready to do anything to become notorious, and if they do not violate the law, none cares whether they do so by standing on their feet or on their heads. But what would not be allowed in the case of men cannot be allowed in the case of women. When first the little gang of suffragettes rioted in the lobby of the House of Commons, they scratched and snapped, and seemed to consider that, no matter what they did, a policeman was a cruel minion of arbitrary power if he laid his hands on any one of them. The magistrate before whom they were charged fined them, with the option of going to prison for a short term, where they were to be treated as is usual under such cases. At once the would-be martyrs fell to blubbering and denouncing men for not recognising their sex. I was sorry that Mr. Gladstone allowed them exceptional treatment in prison, for eventually they went their way defiant and rejoicing.

Personally, I do not regret the antics of these suffragettes. It is an object lesson in what we are to expect of them if they get their way. They are furnishing arguments of the most convincing kind against women having votes. Give woman an inch and she will generally take an ell. Nothing is more pleasing than a woman who is a real woman; nothing more offensive to all right-minded men than these howling and whimpering viragos.

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I remember a little incident connected with female suffrage in which Sir William Harcourt did not score. He was a strong opponent of the movement, and we had had a whip to secure the defeat of some motion in connection with the matter. One gentleman had promised to vote against the motion, but failed to turn up at the division. The next day I was standing before one of the fires in the inner lobby with Sir William, when we saw this gentleman approaching us. "You are not the man," said Sir William, "to go with on a tiger hunt; if all had acted like you, the motion would have been carried." "No, Harcourt," he answered "that was not the danger. The fact is that you went about saying that if women got votes you would retire from Parliament, and that brought an unexpected number of men up to vote for it."

The truth is that if voting in Parliament were secret, women's suffrage would never secure above about fifty votes; indeed, most of those who have supported it conscientiously have always seemed to me to be men under female influence, or with feminine minds in men's bodies. But many Members are so pestered by women at an election to vote for their fad that they comply, under the impression that it will be defeated by the more strong-minded. These gentlemen consider that they must stand to their promise if a vote be taken, but they do so with the greatest regret. M.P.s should have more backbone. The electors in the main are opposed to female suffrage; whilst as for the women, almost all are. It is the case of a few sexless persons, who, although born women, find themselves failures in all that makes women charming, shouting and bawling until it is supposed that they have a large following behind them.

Mr. E. D. Morrel's "Red Rubber" does not, I think, exaggerate the hideous cruelties of the rule of King Leopold of Belgium in the Congo State, nor of the methods by which that disreputable monarch manages to fill his pockets. Mr. Morel's indictment would, however, have been more effective had he limited himself to facts instead of rhetorically commenting on their enormity, and left it to his readers to form their own conclusions. He has now issued a new introduction to a fresh edition of his work. In this he strongly advocates the appointment throughout the State of British Consular Courts, not merely, as I understand him, to have jurisdiction in cases where a British citizen is concerned, but to act as protectors to the natives. These courts are to "reinstate the native in the right enjoyed by all black men under European over-lordship to buy and sell with the Europeans, which necessitates the restoration of his rights of land tenure and the disposal of his labour." But do they all possess these in all such lands, and do they all possess them even in those which form part of the British Empire?

If we have the right under the Berlin Conference to establish such courts, then every one of the fourteen contracting Powers which brought the State into existence enjoys the same right. According to Mr. Morel, all the signatories to the Berlin Conference would benefit by our action, and therefore not oppose it. Consequently, "the fear of foreign complications" is a bogey, which would only become a substance if England developed territorial ambitions." But supposing that Germany acted in this fashion, would there not be a protest against it on our part, and should we not think that this was a step towards the development of territorial ambitions?

The cruelties must be stopped. All the signatories of the Berlin Conference are responsible for them, and I have no reason to suppose that all are not prepared to act unitedly in the matter. How precisely to do so is the difficulty, but for us to endeavour to cut the Gordian knot, and to establish in the Congo State what to all intents and purposes would be a British Protectorate, would hardly conduce to the peace of the world. We might be actuated by the noblest of motives. But the Congo State seems to be a valuable asset. France, too, by the Berlin Conference, was given special rights should King Leopold withdraw from the State, and it is not probable that she would carry the *entente* so far as to renounce them.

TOM AND TURKEY.

'Twas Christmas Time, and Tom—a Lad
Who played a Knife and Fork not bad—
Hailed the good Fare of every sort
The festive Yuletide Season brought.
The way he made the Turkey shrink—
Troth, 'twas a Sight to make you think.
The Zest wherewith he gorged Mince Pies
Had oped e'en Aldermanic Eyes;
And Pudding—well, as much ate that Boy
As e'er did Pickwick's famous Fat Boy.
"For oh!" cried Tom, and rubbed his Hands,
While more and more his Waist expands,
"I do *love* Turkey. Ma, I say!
I'd like to have it every Day."
His Mother smiled. "My dear," said she,
"Our Friends have sent us Turkeys three;
So, for the next ten Days, at least,
Turkey *will* be your daily Feast."
Glowing with deep, expectant Joy,
"Good Biz," exclaimed th' enraptured Boy.
But long ere those ten Days expired,
Tom of perpetual Turkey tired.
So when to Table came the Third—
A plump and juicy Norfolk Bird—
He groaned, his Face with Chagrin murky,
"*What Ma!—Good Lord!*—ANOTHER TURKEY?"

Moral.

If you your friends would keep as such,
Don't of each other see too much.

B

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SCRUTATOR.

A PRECIOUS VICTORY—AND AFTER.

THE Clericals and Unionists do not seem particularly happy over their "most precious victory." "A most precious victory" is Lord Hugh Cecil's estimate of the defeat of the Education Bill, his view apparently being that it will somehow result in the overthrow of Cowper-Templeism, which he regards as a damnable heresy. Immediately after the "precious victory" we had the estimable Lord Cross suggesting that Churchmen should forthwith show their magnanimity by subscribing to pay for the cost of Church teaching in non-provided schools, thereby relieving the passive resisters of their grievance. The suggestion has led to a great deal of wrangling, but to no evidence of any widespread desire to put down the money. Sir Henry Howorth has fired off a column of tasty gibes at "the saints"—meaning the Dissenters—and the Bishop of Manchester has fallen foul of him—not out of love of "the saints," but as a protest against anyone else expecting the Church to do anything more than the Bishop thinks she ought to do. The whole faction seem to have an uneasy consciousness that things cannot remain as they are, and that it behoves them to offer some solution of existing difficulties lest a worse thing than Mr. Birrell's Bill happen to them. But as soon as they come to consider what they should do, they are all at loggerheads. Not the least edifying incident is the appeal of the Bishops of London and Southwark for the immediate raising of £50,000 to save those Church schools in London which have been condemned by the Education Committee of the County Council. It is interesting, from many points of view, to see this appeal accompanied by an admission that the County Council has been "patient and considerate" towards the Church. Undoubtedly it has; indeed, it has carried its patience with the Church to a length which has exhausted the patience of many of the more enthusiastic educationists of the Progressive Party. But what are we to think of all the outcry about the rights of the Church in "our schools" by the light of the episcopal admission that dozens of Church schools in London are in a condition which the local education authority is not justified in allowing to continue? The case of London is not unique. There are plenty of similar Church schools in every county which the education authorities have an equal right, and duty, to condemn, unless the Church is prepared to put them into proper order. When we are bidden to remember the rights of the Church in its property, and incidentally to respect the rights of parents, it is important to bear in mind that much of the property in question, from the point of view of public elementary education, is not worth a year's purchase if the education authorities do their duty, and that the right of parents to receive denominational teaching for their children at the public expense is assumed to carry with it a right, or to over-ride any objection, to have their children educated in buildings fit for the purpose. I could instance from my own knowledge a case where this "right" of the parent—a right which the parents have never asserted, and for which nobody else has expressed any solicitude till the last few months—carries with it the privilege, also assumed to be highly valued by the parent, of having the children kept day by day in a building destitute of proper water supply, and with sanitary accommodation which has been condemned by local surveyors and Government Inspectors year after year. If the opinions of parents are to carry the day, let us at least have them at first hand, and on the whole question. Again, let this be remembered, that if the £50,000 required by the Bishops of London and Southwark is contributed under existing political conditions, it will be contributed with full knowledge that the future of the schools in question is a matter on which the State has full liberty to decide. The argument in defence of the non-provided schools is largely an appeal to vested interests, based on the cash contributions of Church people in time past for the erection and maintenance of the buildings. Such vested interests cannot be created or extended under existing circumstances. Everyone who contributes in response to the appeal of the Bishops of London and Southwark will do so at his own risk, and with knowledge that the State is now seeking to renounce the further maintenance of these schools, unless it can do so on terms acceptable to the whole of the public which has to pay for them.

When the inner history of the "precious victory" comes to be written, I think it will be found that the Unionist leaders were divided in opinion as to the wisdom of not accepting the concessions of the Government. Mr. Balfour seems all along to have looked at the matter from the party standpoint, and to have deemed that his party would be the gainers by throwing out the Bill. In his determination to throw out the Bill he was supported by some of the Bishops and opposed by others. The Duke of Devonshire and Lord St. Aldwyn were opposed to the glove being thrown down to the Commons, and the issue of this domestic dispute depended upon the attitude of Lord Lansdowne. He was for conciliation, but finally knocked under to Mr. Balfour, and without him it would have been impossible to induce the Lords to accept the Bill. Lord Lansdowne is to me a puzzle. He is an able man by no means wanting in that invaluable quality—common sense. But he seems to be hypnotised by Mr. Balfour. He followed him in all his twistings and windings on the Chamberlain fiscal proposals, although, judging by his speeches, he is a Free Trader. He was a prime mover in the appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell as Irish Under-Secretary, and he lost no opportunity indirectly to approve of his action. But when it came to siding with him against Mr. Balfour, he left his protégé in the lurch. So it has been with the Education Bill. He was all for an arrangement. He knew that Mr. Balfour was not, and in the end he stood by him in rejecting it.

It is all very well to say that Mr. Balfour is an amiable man. This does not hinder his being the very worst leader of a party that ever occupied that position. What has been his custom during the Session that has just come to a close? His speeches have been little more than doleful and yet defiant protests against

SOUTHAMPTON.—SOUTH-WESTERN HOTEL.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

everything proposed by the Government. To speak honestly, they have been beneath contempt. He appears to have come to the conclusion that to throw out the Education Bill in the Lords would rally Churchmen to his standard, and place the Government in a difficulty. He anticipated that it would be forced into a dissolution, at which, if the Unionists did not obtain a majority, they would at least better their position. In any case, his position as their leader would be strengthened. From the party standpoint, this has been a fatal error. It has provoked a struggle in which, sooner or later, the Lords must go to the wall; in fact, one in which this Unionist fortress must be levelled to the ground, unless, whenever the Liberals are in office, no matter with what majority in the Commons, they are only to carry measures which find favour with the Unionist party—a position obviously impossible. What surprises me is not that Mr. Balfour should have sought to use the Lords for his own purposes, but that so many hard-headed Unionist Peers should have allowed themselves to be made his instruments. I should have thought that their experience of Mr. Balfour's tactics during the last few years would have convinced them of the folly of obeying him.

One thing I do not think has been sufficiently noted. The Lords themselves were not left to decide what their course should be. There were meetings at which the Unionist leaders in the House of Commons were called in. One was actually held in Mr. Balfour's room in the House of Commons. What more convincing evidence is needed to show that when the Conservatives have been routed in the country, and have become a small and insignificant gang in the People's House, they fall back on the Hereditary House, where there is a permanent Unionist majority, to defeat the people's will? No one questions that if there were a General Election to-morrow a majority in favour of the Education Bill would be returned to Parliament. It is not, therefore, a case of the Lords stepping in to prevent a mere chance majority in the Commons from acting against the nation's will, but a determination on the part of their Lordships to defy that will, whenever they received orders from the party leaders to do so. "Thank God," say the Unionists, "we still have a House of Lords." Liberals can only reply, "Thank God, we shall not have one long."

So long as the House of Lords possesses the unrestricted power to throw out a Bill passed by the House of Commons, even those that it does pass will only get through the ordeal by the sacrifice of the best intentions of a Liberal Executive and a Liberal House of Commons. What is the usual course of a Bill brought in by a Liberal Government, in accordance with Liberal principles? If it is an important one, the lines of it are sketched out either by a Minister or by a Committee of the Cabinet. When, after being drafted, it is submitted to the Cabinet, the more advanced Ministers complain that it does not go far enough. The answer is, if it did the Lords would alter it out of shape. The same reason is at the bottom of every refusal by the Government to accept Liberal amendments moved in Committee of the House, although the reason may not be openly stated. Thus the House of Lords—or rather, the permanent Tory majority in the Lords—has already had most material concessions in the shaping of a Bill long before it reaches their august House. Nevertheless, on its reaching the Committee stage in the House, a number of anti-Liberal amendments are incorporated in it, and it is returned in a more or less mutilated shape to the House of Commons. A compromise is then arrived at; some of the amendments are accepted, on the understanding that the Lords will not insist on others. Thus every Liberal Bill is conceived in fear of the Lords, brought forth in fear of them, and is finally more or less re-shaped in fear of them. Who can wonder, under such conditions, that the child shows little evidence of its parentage, and bears in maturity few of those Liberal features which the country, the Ministry, and the Legislature have sought to impress upon it? Naturally, Liberals throughout the country complain that electoral professions and promises have not been fairly kept, and they show their anger by deserting Liberal candidates at the next General Election. It is on this that the Tories count. Often, indeed, provisions which have not, owing to the necessities of the case, found a place in a Liberal Bill are incorporated in a Tory Bill when a Tory Government succeeds to office, in order to show that they are the true friends of progress, and the Liberals its enemies. That Liberals should have allowed this state of things to go on when they have the power to end it can only lead to the conviction that there are a good many persons who call themselves Liberals, and make large promises when Parliamentary candidates, but are in reality thorough-paced humbugs, who secretly rely on the House of Lords to prevent their promises ever being translated into facts.

WHITE SOLICITORS AND BLACK.

A good many people have been astonished by the statement attributed to one of the speakers at the recent meeting of the Incorporated Law Society, that only fifty solicitors have been proved to be thieves during the last ten years. I have already said that I do not believe the statement, and as no authentic reports of the meeting have been published, it is possible that no such statement was ever made. But it would be interesting to know exactly what the facts are in regard to the defalcations of solicitors in comparatively recent times. A member of the profession, one of those who feel very strongly the discredit cast on the whole flock by the misdeeds of its black sheep, tells me that he kept a record of all the cases that appeared in the papers between 1893 and 1898, when he seems to have given it up in disgust—like Byron's Recording Angel after the battle of Waterloo. He sends me a *précis* of his record for the years 1893-5, and though it does not specify the precise nature of the offences, it throws some interesting light on the extent to which professional irregularities prevail. In these three years there were fifty-seven cases against solicitors recorded in the press. The majority of them, of course, were merely proceedings before the High Court on the report of the Incorporated Law Society. Seven

of them, however, were criminal proceedings resulting in sentences of hard labour or penal servitude. In the remaining cases ten solicitors were suspended, and the other forty were struck off the rolls altogether. I think it may be safely assumed that of the forty men struck off the majority had been proved guilty of dishonesty in one shape or another, for it is not usual to strike a solicitor off the rolls for mere technical professional irregularities. On that view of the matter, upwards of forty solicitors must have been "proved to be thieves" in these three years. There is, unfortunately, no reason whatever to suppose that things have improved since 1895, as they must have done if only fifty solicitors have been "proved to be thieves" since 1896. I presume that the Incorporated Law Society has a complete record of all the men struck off, and the nature of their offences; and it would greatly assist the discussion of this question, and probably do the profession more good than harm, if this record could be published.

A learned friend in the Temple, for whose opinion I have the highest respect, has reproved me for failing to do justice to those solicitors who oppose the current proposals for some compulsory regulation of solicitors' bookkeeping and banking accounts. His view is that honest men may reasonably resent being placed under some form of professional discipline designed to prevent them becoming dishonest. Doubtless there are plenty of honest solicitors who have that feeling. One or two of them have expressed it during the last week or two in letters to the daily papers. But in my humble judgment it is altogether a wrong-headed view, and ought not to be encouraged. There is a much larger body of solicitors who consider that the honour of the profession at large is tarnished by the continual exposure of roguery among its members, and that honest men are far more dishonoured by this state of things than they would be by any professional regulations designed to keep the whole profession in the straight path. This seems to me the correct view, and the one which ought to prevail. Of course, no one supposes that there are more born thieves in the law than in any other walk of life. I have never suggested such a thing; on the contrary, I have disclaimed such a suggestion again and again. But that the proportion of solicitors who are found guilty of robbing their clients is far higher than the corresponding proportion among any other class of men who have the handling of other people's money is, I believe, incontestable. Granting then that solicitors are born, on the average, as honest as the rest of the world, what is the reason for this abnormal development of dishonesty among them later in life? Simply that it is opportunity that makes the thief. The opportunity comes to solicitors more than to anybody else, first, because from their confidential relations with their clients an unusual degree of trust is reposed in them; secondly, because in too many solicitors' offices the routine of business necessary where other people's money is handled is not systematically followed. A solicitor who values the honour of his profession, and his own, ought to desire that the opportunities of dishonesty should be limited as far as possible. If he says, "I decline to submit to any restrictions on my business which imply that I might be dishonest if I got the chance," it can only mean that he is so deeply impressed with his own virtue that he cares not how many of his professional brethren are shown to be rogues. He may comfort himself in this way; but there is no such comfort for his clients, who cannot be expected to know the impregnability of his virtue as well as he knows it himself.

Moreover, it is futile for the virtuous solicitor to suppose that he can long escape the restrictions which his virtue resents. The public will not permanently tolerate a state of things which exposes everybody who trusts a solicitor to risk, and a large proportion to serious loss. If, therefore, the majority of solicitors, for one reason or another, decline to set their own house in order, they may take it for granted that sooner or later it will be set in order by outside authority, whether they like it or not. No outside power, of course, can prevent a man who finds somebody else's money for the moment at his own disposal from misappropriating that money. But it is a very simple matter to lay down and enforce regulations which will relieve men who are constitutionally honest from the temptation to which they expose themselves by dealing with other people's money in an unbusinesslike manner, and this is the most that anybody has proposed to do in the case of solicitors. A very short Act of Parliament would suffice for the purpose, and when the necessary Bill is introduced, no one is likely to oppose it. Two solicitors, who are also Members of Parliament, pointed this out to the assembled profession at its recent meeting. The only question, therefore, which the profession has really to decide is whether it will make rules for itself voluntarily, or whether it will refuse to do so until it is compelled by superior authority. There cannot, I should have thought, be much question as to which of these courses is the more creditable to the honour of the profession.

INTESTACY AND NEXT-OF-KIN.

Mr. R. Ballard, of 2, Clifford's Inn, has written to me at some length in reference to the article "The Pedigree Specialist," published in last week's Truth. He, however, marks his letter as "private and not for publication," and explains that he only desires to make a few observations for my information. Had these observations not been confided to me in this confidential manner, I should have been pleased to publish them, and discuss their bearing on my criticism of Mr. Ballard's proceedings in the case of Mr. William Newman, deceased. But Mr. Ballard does not appear to desire any further public discussion of this matter, and that being so, my criticism must stand where I left it last week. But there is another matter arising out of the Newman case which I think deserves public notice. I refer to the ease with which anybody can obtain a grant of administration to an intestate estate under the existing practice. This matter was discussed in Truth a few months ago in connection with a case in which a gross fraud had been perpetrated on the nearest relatives of a dead man. I am returning to that case presently, but before doing so it is worth while to look at the circumstances under which the grant of adminis-

tration was made in the Newman case to an aunt of the deceased in the United States, through Mr. Ballard, holding a power of attorney from that lady.

As mentioned last week, Mr. William Newman died at the beginning of 1906, leaving property valued at upwards of £6,000, and apparently in complete ignorance that he had any blood relations living. In point of fact, he was the grandson of a labourer or gardener at Bath, who had been twice married, and had a very large family; and owing to the spontaneous exertions of Mr. Ballard, numerous cousins speedily came to light in different parts of England—mostly people in humble circumstances, who were as ignorant of the existence of their comparatively affluent relative as he was of theirs. Some of them instructed Mr. Ballard to take up their cases on his own terms, others refused. Mr. Ballard—whether or not stimulated thereto by the fact that his object is to secure one-third of the estate for himself, which he would not do unless he could persuade all the next-of-kin of equal degree to agree to his terms—pursued his researches, and eventually discovered, at Richmond, Indiana, a lady claiming to be the aunt of the deceased—a daughter of the common grandfather by his second marriage. This lady's claim, of course, put all the cousins out of court; letters of administration were granted to her; and unless others equally near, or nearer, of kin come to light within the prescribed time in response to Mr. Ballard's advertisements, the aunt will take the property, subject to Mr. Ballard's claim to one-third of it.

Now bearing in mind that this lady, Mrs. Littleton by name, dropped from the clouds, as it were, after she had been for about forty years lost to the rest of the family, few of whom remember her, it is important to observe how her identity is established. From the documents filed at Somerset House it appears that the register of the parish church of Walcot, Somerset, records the baptism of Jane, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Newman, in August, 1830, and the previous marriage of her parents, Thomas Newman and Sarah Childes, in 1824. Jane, therefore, if living, is upwards of seventy-six years of age. On the 27th of June, 1866, William Littleton, aged thirty-seven years, miller, father Baptist minister, was married at the Registry Office, Bath, to Jane Elizabeth Newman, aged thirty-five years, domestic servant, daughter of Thomas Newman, deceased. Now what is there to identify Mrs. Littleton, of Richmond, Indiana, with the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Newman baptised at Walcot in 1830? There is a letter from Jane Littleton to Mr. Ballard written on April 30 last, in which she states that her mother's name was Sarah Childs. There is a second letter dated May 26, in which she states that her father, when her mother married him, was a widower with a family of girls and boys, that she does not know anything concerning them, that her father died when she was a very little girl, but she can just remember him, that she was married in Bath, Somerset, and was baptised Jane, not Elizabeth, and was "just called Jane Elizabeth after her godmother." She adds "I am sorry I cannot tell you more of the family." This is the evidence, supported by her own affidavit, and by the birth and marriage certificates, on the strength of which Mrs. Littleton takes the whole of this estate. It will be readily seen that there is nothing in it which the lady could not easily have learned from England. Since she appeared on the scene other members of the family have written to her, but she has not answered their letters. One member of the family got a friend in America to visit her. Mrs. Littleton declined to answer any questions about her past life, and referred the visitor to her lawyer, who, she said, knew all about the case. As this interview only took place in October, three or four months after the order of the Court had been made in her favour, there was no reason then, even if there might have been at an earlier date, why she should refuse to communicate with her relatives, or to answer questions about her life in England.

Now, it is true that there was practically no opposition to this lady's claim. The other parties had not the means to contest it, even if they had the opportunity, and, in point of fact, they seem to have known nothing about it until after the grant of administration was made to Mr. Ballard, which was done apparently on an application in chambers. But it seems to me rather a loose procedure that the Court should decide such a matter off-hand on no better evidence of the identity of the claimant than is mentioned above, and with the knowledge that there are many other relatives living in England. I should have thought that in any case of this kind where there is a matter of £5,000 or £6,000 at issue, a claimant in America ought to be required to come to this country and submit to cross-examination in support of his, or her, claim. Any other procedure must necessarily open the door to imposture. It has been mentioned in TRUTH before now that a lucrative business is done in the United States in manufacturing bogus claims on behalf of persons in this country to the property of people who have emigrated to America and died there intestate. It is just as easy to manufacture in America, or any other distant country, claims to property in England. I do not for a moment suggest that anything of the kind has been done in this instance, I have no reason to doubt the *bona fides* of Mrs. Littleton's claim. All I say, or suggest, is that the evidence which has been accepted as proof of it is extremely meagre, and quite inconclusive; and that if this is the procedure generally followed, it requires amendment, both in the interests of private individuals who may possibly be entitled, and of the Crown which is entitled in default of private claims.

Reference has been made above to a case bearing on this point which has already been described in TRUTH. Full particulars of it were given in an article published on May 4, 1905. In this case an intestate's estate was pounced upon by a relative, who was not the next-of-kin, and had no sufficient reason for supposing that she was. The intestate was a pensioner of the Royal Engineers, employed at the Royal Military College, Camberley, and his estate was eventually sworn as worth £190 odd. He left a brother, but the first information of his death was conveyed to an aunt, who eventually obtained letters of adminis-

tration, after swearing that she believed herself to be the next-of-kin. By the time that the surviving brother had learned what had happened, only about £30 of the estate remained in existence. The danger of the summary procedure by which administration can be obtained was aggravated in this instance by the absence of all precautions to verify the account of themselves given by the sureties, and this in turn by the attitude of the authorities when the fraud was brought to their notice. The two sureties to the bond given by the administratrix were her son and son-in-law, one of them a porter and the other a carman. They had sworn in that character that they were each of them worth £380—double the amount of the estate—though in point of fact they were neither of them worth more than the weekly wages which they were earning. The brother, who had been defrauded by this procedure, a Mr. Farrer, protested to Somerset House against the course which had been taken in accepting these sureties without any inquiry as to the truth of their affidavits; but he got no reply. He then laid the facts before the Public Prosecutor, with a view to proceedings for perjury against the sureties, but after a long delay he was informed that the Public Prosecutor did not see his way to take proceedings. This was the state of the case at the time when I commented upon it in TRUTH. It furnishes up to that point a striking example of the slipshod procedure upon applications for grants of administration, and the dangerous opening thus offered for making false claims, and leaving the victim without any redress.

I refer to the case again now, not only because it illustrates forcibly the point which I have called attention to in the Newman case, but also because a further piece of evidence has just been brought under my notice by Mr. Farrer, which seems to me to furnish the authorities with the most conclusive proof they can require for the purpose of a prosecution if they have any genuine disposition to move in the matter. It appears that Mr. Farrer did not allow the case to rest at the point which it had reached when last dealt with in TRUTH. He laid the matter before his representative in Parliament, with the result that he was again seen by the Treasury Solicitor, as well as by representatives of Scotland Yard. He was at first told that one witness to an important interview must be found. After some months he found this witness. But after a further lapse of time the Public Prosecutor wrote, on August 4, 1906, that he did not propose to take any proceedings against the administratrix. I assume that he had good reasons for that decision, but I am utterly at a loss to understand why no proceedings were taken against the two sureties, for it is impossible to say that there was not a primâ facie case against them. However, the fresh evidence alluded to above justifies a suggestion that Lord Desart should reconsider the case all round. It now appears that Mr. Farrer and his deceased brother had a sister living in Banstead Lunatic Asylum. That sister died two or three months ago. Official notice of the fact was sent to Mr. Farrer. He states that a similar notice was sent to the aunt, who had obtained administration of the brother's estate by swearing that she was next-of-kin. The sending of this notice to the aunt would prove that she knew that the deceased man had a sister in a lunatic asylum, whether or not she knew that his brother was also alive. This fact can be ascertained in a moment by reference to the authorities at Banstead Asylum, and if the fact proves to be as above stated, the Public Prosecutor will be relieved of all his previous difficulties in regard to dealing with this very gross case. If the asylum authorities even knew of the existence of the aunt, it follows that the aunt must have known of the existence of her lunatic niece, and in that case she could not possibly have honestly believed herself to be next-of-kin to that niece's deceased brother.

The procedure in regard to the grant of letters of administration being what it is, it is obviously of the greatest public importance that when the authorities have the slightest reason to suppose that they have been imposed upon by false affidavits, they should use every effort to vindicate the law. For that reason I again call Lord Desart's attention to the Farrer case. But the mere prosecution of the guilty parties when frauds can be proved to have been committed is not in itself a sufficient protection against bogus claims to the property of intestates. It ought not to be possible for a person living out of the jurisdiction of the Court to establish a claim to property in England, in the face of other claims, without coming before the Court and facing cross-examination, and without some better proof of identity than his own written statement that he is a certain individual who has not been heard of by any of his relations for thirty or forty years. Again it ought not to be possible for any person to obtain administration on the security of a bond the sureties to which are persons of no substance; the sureties' statements as to their means ought to be verified by official inquiry before an estate, whatever its value, is handed over to a party who possibly may not prove to be entitled to it. In these respects, and possibly in others, the present procedure is dangerously lax, and ought to be amended without delay.

THE THEATRES.

DRURY LANE PANTOMIME: "SINDBAD."

Mr. Arthur Collins has done well to go this year to the East for inspiration. All said and done, "The Arabian Nights" are the greatest stories that the world has ever produced, and even a few grains of their gold-dust will make sterling metal of much dross. The story, as Mr. Arthur Collins and Mr. Hickory Wood tell it, varies, it need hardly be said, very greatly, alike from the version that delighted my childhood and from the more complete translations that are the solace of manhood. I may remark, in passing, that the much-talked-of version by Sir Richard Burton is now generally admitted to be inferior to the less-known one by Payne, from which it is proved that Burton borrowed very largely. The version by Payne has the special advantages of completeness, without that revelling in the more objectionable features of Oriental life which characterises the work of Burton, and the verse translations are greatly superior, for Payne is a poet. It has become a rather uncommon book, as this fact has been

more generally recognised among Arabists, and I see that the version by Burton has become less expensive than formerly. I trust this digression may be of some service to those who think of purchasing the complete "Nights," and hold Burton's to be the best translation, by common report.

But to return to the Lane of Many Turnings, one of which leads to that Persian garden where we make better acquaintance with the adventurers; see the hen-pecked Sindbad in the arms of his formidable spouse, to the depths of whose objectionable existence Mr. Arthur Conquest penetrated in three days' study. No longer than that, it is said, did Mr. Arthur Conquest need to achieve an excellence which owes a good deal to memories of Dan Leno, but is all hall-marked with the stamp of his own personality. Mrs. Sindbad clings to her husband not less pertinaciously than "The Old Man of the Sea," when they search the Valley of Diamonds, and a word of praise is meet to Mr. Edward Morgan, who played this rather oppressive oldest inhabitant realistically at short notice. Aboard ship we see some first-rate rough-and-tumble fooling by those two British tars, Drew and Alders, who contributed, I believe, next to Messrs. Passmore and Conquest, the most to the children's amusement. And it may be said here that all the boys with whom I had the opportunity of exchanging criticisms expressed themselves in warm terms as to this scene on board ship, which they held to be equalled only by that stirring flight and fight in which the adventurers above-mentioned took part with the baboons in the Forest of Cocoanuts. One small boy said he preferred the clown's methods in the harlequinade; but his opinion was judged prejudiced, as the other small boys had not been allowed to stay for the harlequinade, from which—coming as it does at the end of so lengthy a performance—one has to be either more than mortal, a small boy from school, or a dramatic critic to sip much of pleasure.

But again I have digressed, and return to the most realistic tableau I remember upon this or any other stage: "The Wreck." The heaving of the waves ("are they all men?" said a small voice at my side), the gradual subsidence of the ship as it tossed amid the howling tempest, all combined to make an unforgettable illusion. Our harrowed feelings are soon comforted by finding the crew gradually gathering upon the back of the whale, Mr. Walter Passmore (omnipresent and invaluable throughout) having a more than passable flirtation with a mermaid before his discovery by Mrs. Sindbad—and the charms of the many devices for merriment, such as telephoning to the wreck which one sees spitted upon a peak that juts up from the waves. Ocean powers conspire to carry the entire party safe and sound to the entrance of the Valley, through the Reptiles' Retreat (the dragons in great form, brief in deed, but of a sweetness long drawn out), by the Lagoon, to the Valley of Diamonds.

> And all with pearl and ruby glowing,
> Was the fair valley's floor,
> Through which came flowing, flowing, flowing,
> And sparkling evermore,
> A troop of beauties.

I venture to quote, with the alteration of a word or two, these lines of Poe's beautiful poem, which kept running in my head as I watched troop after troop of fair feminine forms pass across the starry bridge in the middle distance, jewel succeeding jewel, in emerald, azure, carmine, and sparkling white; an orderly procession of beauty. I saw them descend, as it were, into the arena of the valley, there to execute with measured precision their admirable movements, and rapidly, yet without confusion, yield place to others never less exquisitely equipped. In the far background the hills kept blinking, thick with yellow diamonds, but on the bridge, and strewn with artful profusion on the fair bodies of many passing nymphs, the white brilliant diamond, King of Jewels, showed that we were indeed in the valley of its name. This was a genuine triumph of colour and form, on which Mr. Arthur Collins and the many heads and hands that have worked so well with him are heartily to be congratulated.

I preferred this scene in the Valley of Diamonds to the final tableau of the Durbar, for all its splendours. The fact is that with the second part we largely emerge from the enchantments of the old fairy tale, and have to rely upon the sometimes rather trivial and tiresome efforts of such entertainers as Mr. Fragson, who plays the part of an envoy from the Empress of the Saharas. Mr. Fragson does not seem to form part of the quaint company which has been making us laugh, though he works hard with his tiny piano, and secures many a plaudit for his topical songs. This second part is full of such vocal efforts, not the least pleasing of which are those of Miss Marie George, daughter of Sindbad, wooed and won by Hindbad, whom Miss Queenie Leighton represents as a gallant youthful figure. Mr. Fred Emney gets his chance as the Empress of the Saharas, and takes it with much success in his corkscrew curls and his capital "gossip" with Mrs. Sindbad, which ends so disastrously. The Slave Market serves to introduce a dancer whom I thought but moderate and a deal more joke-cracking, until the principal girl and boy mount the runaway motor 'bus, which, on its moving platform, with the trembling would-be passengers whirled away into the wings, moved these around me to many side-splits. Then came the head-cracking in the Forest of Cocoanuts, of which I have spoken, and, finally, the splendours of the Durbar. Throughout the performance Mr. James Glover conducted his well-chosen and well-arranged music with that energy which is habitual to him and counts for so much in the enjoyment of the public.

"Fairy Roma" will not have to wave her wand to charm success for this pantomime. Success has been attained by no wizardry, save hard work and liberal expenditure. Without a combination of these you cannot get much worth having, for they are a faithful couple, and do not like to live apart.

"ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA," AT HIS MAJESTY'S.

Antony and Cleopatra! Names, indeed, to conjure with; and Mr. Tree, the great poem of Shakespeare in his hand and head, may definitely be said to have conjured up a Rome, an Egypt, that "never was on sea

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or land," save, as Wordsworth suggests, in the brain of the poet. The result is a great achievement, and should prove of immense pleasure-giving value to that great majority which can only see beauty when expressed in spatial dimensions. To criticise this production of "Antony and Cleopatra" in terms of the Elizabethan Stage Society would be useless. Mr. Tree's aims are other than those of Mr. Poel. But I would here beg Mr. Tree to give, as far as possible, its full value to the magnificent language which pours in such torrent from the lips of Antony whenever he speaks. Mr. Tree, when he comes to a passage which he considers effective, is well able clearly to enunciate, but he is only too apt to slur over whole passages, or even to leave them to the interpretation of a gesture. No gesture ever actor made can equal in interpretative force the words of Shakespeare. With this, and with the regret that candour obliges me to state that I did not hear more than two-thirds of what Antony said, and should not have heard as much save for the aid of my memory, I pass to the pleasant task of praise.

Antony himself formed a grand central figure round which the subtle courtesan queen is weaving her deadly toils all through the play. Habited in blue and golden armour, with his golden and red-crested helmet, he it is, and not Octavius Cæsar, who strikes one as having the greater personality, as the triumvirate sits round that little table in Cæsar's house, and the destinies of nations tremble in the balance with every word said. And yet the Octavius Cæsar of Mr. Basil Gill is a noble and an imposing figure, the silver helmet sitting well upon his comely head and glinting through the play like the crescent moon. This helmet is the last thing upon which the eyes rest as the Emperor of the world looks upon the greatest of the world's lovers lying dead before him within the monument.

Much has been done to bring the story within feasible compass for the modern stage, and the rapid comings and goings of the great protagonists arranged in as logical sequence as compatible with time. Thus, in order to make the action clear, the return of Antony to Egypt and to Cleopatra is expressed in a scene of surpassing Oriental splendour, rather than left to the speech of Octavius Cæsar, as in the text. Deserter of his beautiful wife, sister to Octavius, mad with the passion of love, the great Roman ascends through serried ranks of priests and slaves gorgeously attired, to the steps of the throne where Cleopatra, habited in a robe of silver sheen, like the magic veil described by Flaubert in "Salambo," waits to receive the conqueror, her slave. And Cleopatra, how wonderful she is! Miss Constance Collier was cast by Shakespeare for the part. Græco-Egyptian reptile, born of "reeds and Nilotic mud," a true Ptolemy, she writhes and winds herself through the piece like the "serpent of old Nile" that she is. Her elocution, I am glad to say, was quite clear, the voice ringing like a bell through the theatre. Cleopatra's pride, her love of luxury, her love of beauty inherited from her Greek ancestor, all these we saw before our eyes. Her physical passion and its correlative cruelty were also magnificently portrayed in the scene with the messenger where she shows herself utterly incapable of gauging the situation, but gives herself over to whatever extreme of mood is evoked by the words of Mr. Charles Quartermain.

The scene where Cleopatra does not appear that most strikes one is that on board the galley of Pompey. Here Antony, Octavius, and their host revel uproariously, and Mr. Norman Forbes furnishes, with his fine study of the weak and inebriate Lepidus, a noble butt for their ferocious horseplay. The lighting of the galley and the scenic effects generally throughout the play have high pictorial value, and the eye runs no risk of falling upon incongruities—the only danger is that of being cloyed with too much sweet. The dances and the exit of Antony and Cæsar carrying the helpless Lepidus with the aid of Pompey and Enobarbus, furnishes the only bit of comedy of the evening. The rest is all tragedy, or shot through with the beauty of the Shakespearian Muse.

Mr. Tree has devised a happy method of concluding the play, for he makes his Antony stab himself outside the monument, in which a window is suddenly opened and Cleopatra proceeds to hoist him up with the help of Iras and Charmian. The curtain drops for a moment and then rises to show the interior of the monument. A triumph of stage management.

The beautiful and appropriate music of Mr. Raymond Röze accompanied the action, and if I approved of any music, save the most simple for the accompaniment of songs, I should approve of this. I feel that in so far as I enjoyed it I was away from Shakespeare's creation of beauty enjoying that of Mr. Raymond Röze. On the whole, then, an evening to be remembered as among the brightest and most beautiful that we have had at His Majesty's Theatre.

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Mr. Hicks has migrated with his Beauties of Bath to the theatre which he has immortalised with his name; or is it the other way about? No matter, both alike will survive, as will the Bath Buns and other delicacies there provided, or their descendants, but there will be a delicacy in replacing Mr. Hicks.

The new Hicks' playhouse is brilliant in white and gold decorations, with an oval steel and brass railing running round the first, or rather second floor lounge, and a pendant lustre of Venetian diamond glass, flanked with the "Rose du Barry" curtains and hangings. These latter are rather magenta than "Rose du Barry" in colour, but the whole effect is pleasing. The auditorium is all that modern thought has made of old-fashioned discomfort. My only regret in these new and improved seating arrangements is that they make the boxes and those occupying them almost part of the stalls and dress-circle. I like to speculate from the stalls on the mystery of the box, which conceals at least half its occupants, and the *loge grillée* of Paris shall certainly be among the importations when I build my theatre.

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At the Vaudeville the crisp freshness of "The Belle of Mayfair's" skirt has had another flounce—or, rather,

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a longer train—added to it, in the shape of the amusing harlequinade, which now comes at the end of the second act. The Bishop gives the Belle a soothing pill, for the best of reasons, since it sends her into a sleep, from which she almost immediately awakes as Columbine by divesting herself of her pale pink opera cloak. To her come presently Mr. Farren Soutar as Harlequin, Mr. Angelo "The Swell" (full of quaint pranks and such jokes about the talk of the town as "Mr. Tree is playing with Shakespeare at His Majesty's"), and Mr. Arthur Williams as Clown, also replete with the unexpected. His imitation of the thought-reader and the infant prodigy, among much else, made every one laugh. Miss Billie Burke trips to and fro with piquant effect, and as a last *bonne bouche* the public is delighted with a glimpse of Miss Camille Clifford behind a transparency from which seclusion she emerges to dance a minuet with Cupid's self, a very tiny person. "The Belle of Mayfair" seems likely to be the fare at the Vaudeville all the year round, to judge from the enthusiasm of the audience last week. It has been said of the Gaiety that the same people go there over and over again. The imagination positively boggles at the number of times some must have witnessed "The Belle of Mayfair." I have heard one person admit to twenty visits, but I believe this to be by no means a record.

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Next week I hope to say something of the Hippodrome and of the Palace, both of which places of entertainment provide, I believe, themes for the athlete and the æsthete.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE NEW YEAR'S FAIR.

THAT realm of illusion, the New Year's Fair, is in full swing, and scarcely conscious of Separation, of Briand, Combes, and Clemenceau, save to find in them subjects for jibes and jests, in which there is more *gros sel* than Attic salt. The Pope himself is a subject for the witticisms of the season—the first time he has been so for a hundred and three years. So long as France had an ambassador at the Vatican the Papacy ranked as a foreign and a friendly Power. This protected its head from the French lampoonist, caricaturist, or maker of those puzzle toys which are at once rebus, and on the face of them amusingly topical. The aeroplane has the foremost place in the Realm of Illusion, but more as a *joujou de luxe* than as a toy of the child who can only spend a few halfpence on his pleasures. The *plus lourd que l'air* aeroplane simply hops. Its forward motion is regulated by a mainspring and cogs and wheels, and is that of a flying fish, which is pretty nearly the flight of a grasshopper. In the booths near the far end of the Boulevard St. Germain, where Russian students and studentesses congregate, some tea booths have been run up. A flaunting signboard says, "The hot cup of tea. The drink of the future, the drink of the Japanese soldier," forgetting to say, "and also of the Russian soldier." This is the first time that tea has been sold in a New Year's Fair booth. Is this circumstance symptomatic of a yellow invasion? It coincides with the campaign of the Marine Minister against the opium-houses of Toulon. May not the Chinese passion for opium be a reaction against the nervous wide-awakeness caused by constant tea-drinking?

Toy manufacturers who do not entirely devote themselves to the *joujou de luxe*—an article in which the French defy competition—complain of the Germans pressing too hard upon them. Germany has this year furnished £3,000,000's worth of cheap toys to Great Britain, Belgium, and France. They are exported by the ton. The German settlements in South America, and notably in Brazil, are the greatest over-sea importers of toys made in the Fatherland, where there are now in every toy manufacturing district technical schools for future toy makers. There are also technical schools for doll dressing. The Germans know how to follow up any advantage they have gained. To gain advantages without following them up is to bring upon ourselves competitors too strong to be resisted, who will besides gain by the experience for which we have dearly paid. The power behind human life is as the London policeman, who keeps all the while saying "Move on." He "runs in" those who want to be stationary.

One must cross the Seine to find the fruits of separation in the realm of illusion. But on Christmas Day I looked in vain for booths in the church squares there, in which, as I had read in some of the papers, crèches, small *articles de religion* and pictorial Christmas cards in the Anglo-Belgic style could be bought cheap. The only crèche of consequence the season has brought forth comes from Naples, and is an offering from the fishing world of Santa Lucia to the Archbishop of Paris. It is "a Bethl'eem." The Holy Family, shepherds, angels, three Oriental kings, their guards, attendants, and the sbirri of Herod are seen with the eye of faith. The artist did not trouble his head to throw local colour into his work or attempt to Tissot-ise the Nativity country. He gave the rein to his imagination, and found what realism he wanted in the Campagna below Vesuvius.

The religious press here talks of the Pope selling the jewellery heaped up in the pontifical treasury. It is said to comprise the largest collection of "fishers' rings," tiaras, gold and silver altar furniture and miniatures of Royal and illustrious personages, and jewelled settings. There are also those unset rubies and other gems which the tactile fingers of the late Pope so often caressed. The proceeds of this wealth are to go, we hear, to the relief of the parochial French clergy. It can only be a temporary palliative. So also would be the 100,000,000 fr. (£4,000,000 sterling) left by Leo XIII. as a reserve fund to his successor.

There is also talk of those priests who are on the brink of famine breaking away from Rome and making friends with the Mammon of Unrighteousness as personated by Briand, Clemenceau, Combes, *et tutti quanti*. Hunger knows no law. Were this not so I should be sceptical. The seminary training and the terrible severity of the bishops, who were themselves under the severest occult government, have reduced

or exalted the parochial priests to the Jesuit ideal of "devoid of will as a corpse." It is the *will* to revolt that fails the French clergy. The desire is strong enough. See how the Abbé Loisy struck his colours, though he could have easily found Jewish publishers to secure him pecuniary independence, as in the case of Renan and Michel Lévy. The Breton obstinacy of the former and the income guaranteed by the latter carried Renan through all his difficulties. And then he had, when he decided to strike out, the savings, the strong counsel, and the courage of his sister behind him. She, too, had Breton obstinacy. The ministry cannot propose a Bill for the benefit of the parochial clergy without bringing down upon themselves the Protestants and Jews. They have quietly accepted separation, though it had many drawbacks which they keenly felt. "Because the Catholics revolted," the others will naturally ask, "are they to be placed on a more favoured footing than those religious bodies who obeyed the law?"

Nothing is more significant of general indifference than the revelry of the Christmas vigil. It was, indeed, "Big supper night." The Midnight Mass strike ordered by the bishops threw no cold water on the revellers, so far as I can learn, whether in private houses or restaurants. The restaurants in the Champs Elysées gained by the cessation of the Midnight Mass at the Madeleine, but Durand and the other boulevard restaurateurs lost nothing, as they had not, any more than in years past, places enough at their tables for those who wanted them.

The Gargantuan guzzling cannot this time be laid at the door of Christianity, as it must be taken as an evidence of religious indifference. Just imagine what proportions it took when I mention that on the morning of December 24, 200,000 dozen oysters were sold at the wholesale auction at the Halles, thirteen dozen counting for twelve, and that about 50,000 arrived at private houses from Rochefort, Cancale, and other places. As oysters are but a whet to appetite, judge of the quantities that were devoured of *andouilles, andouillettes, boudins,* turkeys truffled or stuffed with chestnuts, and truffled capons and *poulards.*

The only part of Paris that has suffered financially from the Waldeck-Rousseau, Combes, and Briand legislation is the Faubourg St. Germain. The goodwill of a house of business there has not now half the market value at which it could be quoted seven years ago. The prospect of this depreciation frightened Waldeck-Rousseau, who lived in the Rue de l'Université, and made him stay his hand in warring against the religious orders. All the convents save the Poor Clares, Carmelites, St. Vincentists, and most of the monasteries, had schools and boarding houses attached to them. The families of children sent to them took, when they lived in Paris, flats in the neighbourhood and spent there all the money they had to spend. The First Communion celebrations brought crowds of relatives to the hotels and boarding-houses.

The vast convent gardens which are now being offered for sale by the yard secured fresh air and nocturnal silence to the neighbourhood. You could enjoy as much quiet in the Faubourg St. Germain as in the forest of Compiègne. The wonder is that in a time of rapid change, as the last century was, all this lasted so long. All that is bright must fade.

Should M. Clemenceau choose, he can, I am assured, amuse the Chamber by revealing the "finds" of the Juge d'Instruction Ducasse in the postbag of Monsignor Montagnini. The quartet of Cardinals who direct French affairs at the Vatican against that fifth wheel in the coach, Cardinal Mathieu, are, and his Holiness as well, more up-to-date than we imagined. The Bourse is, and has been for some time, their battlefield. Berlin helps them, as it is in gratitude bound. A present of 500,000 marks sent to Leo XIII. in 1893 saved the military Bill which the Emperor had at heart. The proportion between the gracious gift and the immense service left room for further acts of gratitude. Who can now say that the "Morocco Campaign," which scared some of us, was not part of a Vatican-Bourse combination to defeat the Law of Separation? The Pope, as do most of us, defends himself as best he can when attacked. The Sermon on the Mount order to turn the unslapped cheek towards the aggressor does for an ideal world, but hardly for this sad earth of ours. Pius cannot mobilise armies, but he can set Bourse outside-brokers to work, and some of the great inside ones. It appears that the "Bear" campaign that was to have been talked over at the déjeuner which M. Ducasse prevented was to have been on a grand scale. Orders for sale to enlist the "haute banque" on the "Bear" side were to have been given through the Rothschilds.

Monsignor Mirabello di Montagnini did not for nothing work for many years under Prince Granito of Belmonte, now Nuncio in Brussels. The names, by the way, of Mirabello and Granito afford culinary suggestion. Granates now come in at the middle of a *trente-cinq plats* repast. We all appreciate the Mirabelle plum. The concierges at the ex-Nunciature spend their time in tears. Monsignor Montagnini was, they say, "so kind."

I have the pleasure of knowing M. Henri Cochin, the temporary host of Cardinal Richard, and, by his own desire, his honorary concierge. Could Christian humility and gentlemanly feeling go further than this? M. Cochin is intensely Parisian. Could he be otherwise, seeing that he is descended from a Cochin who served as burgess (*échevin*) of Paris when Jouvenel des Ursins was Provost of the City by the appointment of Charles VI.? The pedigree rolled on up to the time of the Revolution on the same civic lines. All that I wonder at is M. Henri Cochin allowing himself to figure as "Baron" on his visiting cards. He is a man of the very highest and most healthy culture, and a charming speaker. He speaks best when the spirit moves him to pick holes, or to inflict pin-pricks. His small, shrewd, and laughing eyes prevent his somewhat roughly blocked-out face from being expressionless. I never saw a more amusing pair of eyes. To look at them is to catch the arch spirit that lurks in ambush behind them. M. Cochin has a time-out-of-mind heredity of good sense, practical benevolence, administrative talent,

artistic taste, and in short, of every form of civilised activity. His father, a close friend of Thiers, held under that statesman the office of Prefect of the Seine. His grandfather founded the Cochin Hospital. M. Henri Cochin differs greatly from most of the moneyed men of our time, and in none more than in trusting entirely to his own taste in buying pictures. He prefers modern to ancient, and sees merit in every style between Corot and Cazin. It vastly interests him to be on the look out for artistic talent in its early bloom, and he is by no means a hard bargainer when he wants to buy. His gallery is for his own enjoyment and that of his personal friends. The few amateurs who know it think it one of the best formed since the sale of Secrétan's collection. This gallery serves as an ante-room to the visitors of Cardinal Richard. It opens on a wide, long garden, bounded on one side partly by the garden of the poet Coppée, who cannot get over the break in his habits due to the Midnight Mass strike.

M. Cochin is proud to think that he never delivered a sensational speech when even dealing with sensational events such as the massacre by the Turks of Armenian Catholics. He is convinced that the nation which almost deifies as stylists Pascal and Voltaire wants sensational fireworks, either in the journal, book, or tribune. He cultivates in the field of controversy the flowers of courtesy and politeness. If often ready to poke fun, he does so with a light hand and *en artiste de la parole.*

I incline to look with an optimistic eye on many horrors. My feeling is, "que tout bien ou mal dépend du milieu." A cobra is a being to be admired in a forest opening in Ceylon. But set him down in a bungalow bedroom and he will take another aspect. A crocodile in a tropical marsh is in its proper place, and harmonising with its surroundings has a kind of beauty that it could not have in crawling about the alleys of some Northland Zoo. In this connection a Swiss traveller who has just come to see me has given me encouragement to continue to look at nature's "horrors" in this light. He described a visit to a crocodile farm in the swamps of the Hooghly. No sort of farming pays so well as this. But it must be carried on near a great city for the sake of the offal, which in the particular case he mentioned is taken from Calcutta in hermetically closed box trains, such as those used at Baku for the transport of petroleum. A crocodile is not nicer than, if so nice as, a vulture. What is offence to our nostrils is the promise of a feast to his. The offal which at Calcutta breeds fever and cholera is rapidly transmuted by him into living substance and into those hides which are now the glory of trunk and valise makers at the top of their trade. What aspirant to fashionable style is there who does not long for portmanteaux, satchels, and purses in the skins of adult and baby crocodiles? The leather of the Hooghly crocodile is, it appears, better than that of the Florida alligator. French enterprise will soon run in this direction in West Africa in the valley of the Mekong and in the tepid swamp over which King Sisowath still nominally reigns. The Niger is alive with crocodiles, but they disappear before the river steamer as in Egypt, where I had the disappointment not to see a single one before the Third Cataract.

My Swiss friend assures me that it is a mistake to suppose Dame Crocodile is indifferent to the fate of her eggs. The spot where she drops them is always well chosen, and she remains beating about it on land and in water until the sun has done the hatching work. Directly they break the shell she and they part company for ever. They possess the whole science of their lives on rising to life, and know as well as she can tell them what they ought to do. It appears that they do evolve. Says my Swiss informant:—"One can imagine a race of improved crocodiles thousands of years hence taking the place of human beings degraded with war, absinthe, and other ardent spirituous liquors."

The announcement that M. Leduc solved life's mystery was premature. The so-called vegetables that he produces chemically in glass tubes no more vegetate than the shapes we see on a frosted pane of glass. The miracles worked by Jaunes and Jambres, the Egyptian magicians, were of a piece with the Leduc phenomena. There is not a living cell in any creation of M. Leduc.

The Church of Scotland has reason to cry, "What have I been saying for 300 years?" Her Shorter Catechism teaches that in six days the world and all that therein is were made out of nothing. This no longer seems unreasonable. It did when we believed matter could never be destroyed. In view of the lectures of Mme. Curie, and the lessons of M. Gustave Le Bon, matter really matters very little. It is fast wearing itself out, and human agency precipitates the fall into nothingness—or ether. The latter becomes the vast puzzle. It is not matter as we understand matter. Still, it transmits light and heat. In this way it is the general post office of the universe. The more we learn the less we seem to know. We are like children in wanting to walk or to ride their ponies to the horizon.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE New Englishwoman, dear Lady Betty, is well able to take care of herself; unfortunately, she is altogether unable to take care of her family.

. . . . .

"I was single," said the widower, "and had a dog's life; I married, and had a cat and dog's!"

. . . . .

The New Love is like a *soufflé*; both cool and subside rapidly.

. . . . .

The husband is business; the admirer pleasure.

. . . . .

In England you seldom make friends; you buy them.

. . . . .

America is the New England; England is to be the New America.

. . . . .

"In for a penny, in for a pound"; in for a Tory, in for a Tax.

. . . . .

"Gentleman" is not a word now that describes a character, but a financial condition.

* * * * *

The Christmas Smile should have a foremost place in "The Studies in Smiles" which so many satirists have threatened to write. For a week before Christmas Day almost every woman in the land had the Christmas

smile which seemed to invite even the stranger to give a present! Those who have studied seriously this annually recurring phenomenon predicted that it would be altered even early on Christmas morning into the Christmas scowl; an expression caused by disappointment at the value of the gifts received. Unfortunately, the accounts which have as yet reached London from all parts of the country confirm this view; the prediction appears to have been generally fulfilled in the towns and the country alike.

* * * * *

The Co-operative Heart is no longer despised by the generality of Englishwomen as it was until recently; many of them possess it now.

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The death of Lady Burdett-Coutts should remind all in this country and the Colonies that the Grand Old Woman of England is still alive—Miss Florence Nightingale. Not only did Miss Nightingale distinguish herself in the Crimea—and so greatly that her contemporaries presented to her a sum of £50,000 to establish an institution for the training of hospital attendants—but she is the foundress of the admirable nursing system which we now possess. Lady Burdett-Coutts was created a Baroness in her own right as a slight acknowledgment of her great and intelligent generosity to the poor. Why has no title of the same or greater value been conferred upon Miss Florence Nightingale? That reflection opens another matter which cannot be ignored for long now. Why should women who greatly distinguish themselves in the various activities of life not be rewarded by the State as the latter does men who attain eminence? A great authoress should have as much right to receive the Order of Merit as has an author of the same importance; a woman who benefits her fellow men or women deserves a peerage equally with the millionaire who achieves the same end.

One day it may happen that the "leader-writers" in the newspapers will gravely tell their readers that "Miss Florence Nightingale has outlived her contemporaries"! That stock phrase is capable of being slightly altered; it would read more correctly that "Miss Florence Nightingale has outlived the gratitude of her fellow-countrymen and women"—a deplorable circumstance.

* * * * *

This is the age of short memories in this country; movement is a new feature in England, and it has altered for the moment many of our characteristics. The English, even of the immediate past, were not bombarded with interests and incidents as we are. News falls about us so fast and thick that the memory retains little for more than a few days. The scandal which is a year old has generally long since been forgotten; the triumph which is a month past is already dead. "The Man of the Year" was formerly the customary outline; it was altered later to "The Man of the Week," then to "The Man of the Day," and last to "The Man of the Moment." It will be "The Man of the Second" shortly, or "The Man of the Millionth of a Second"! Money alone has some stability in this country now.

* * * * *

Even the physical characteristics of the English are altering rapidly in the new conditions. The tall, graceful woman with the finely-shaped head, well-chiselled nose, kindly eyes, sweet smile, small feet and hands, and light tread, is almost extinct; she is being replaced by big-made women, with a firm chin, hard-looking, and taking long, decisive strides. The man with the aquiline nose and amiable expression, and delicately framed, appears to have perished altogether; there is in his stead the bullet-headed man, with beady, cunning eyes, the bulbous nose, thick necked, vast waisted, and a voice that apparently struggles through a *salmis* of money. It might be said that it is always easy to know an Englishman or woman on the Continent now; both are bad imitations of the American of the same sex.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

SPORTING NOTES.

Dr. Barr, a well-known Presbyterian minister, delivered an address last week at Glasgow on the subject of "Betting and Gambling," in which he denounced "the blackguardism and corruption of the racecourse," and described "the drugging and pulling of horses"; the Turf being so vile a welter that the Duke of Portland had given as his reason for retiring from ownership, "that he could trust nobody, trainer, jockey, attendant, or public." As a matter of fact, the Duke of Portland has never expressed any such views, nor has he retired from the Turf, for at the present time he has a considerable number of horses in training at Kingsclere. It is hard that the Duke should be credited with having talked or written such extravagant nonsense, and his trainer and jockey might justly complain of their characters being so grossly attacked by this reckless ecclesiastic. His statement is stupidly false and grossly absurd. Dr. Barr evidently knows nothing whatever about Turf affairs, as he informed his audience that "horse deterioration" was being brought about by "the number of yearling races." Nearly forty years have elapsed since yearling races were absolutely prohibited, and they were only allowed for a short time.

The Keele Park Meeting, which was started a few years ago with a prodigious flourish of trumpets, has ceased to exist. It is stated that every fixture held there has resulted in a deficit, in spite of the support of the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch, who is the tenant of Mr. Sneyd at Keele Hall. It is announced that the directors of the undertaking propose to start a new meeting at Uttoxeter. They must be a set of mooncalves if they are so infatuated to indulge in any such folly. There are far too many meetings already of this class, at which the prizes are paltry in value, so that the races are contested by a lot of wretched crocks, and are of no interest whatever, except to those who have a pecuniary interest in the events.

Sir R. Waldie Griffith has fourteen horses in training at Newmarket, the older ones being Shilfa and Charis, with three three-year-olds and nine two-year-olds. Shilfa stays well, and should win a long-distance race next season, if he gets through another preparation. The three-year-olds are not of much account, as Simon Square went altogether to the bad, after having shown very fair form. Asian, by Ladas out of St. Ia, is likely to turn out a very useful colt, if judiciously placed. The two-year-olds include colts by Isinglass out of St. Ia and out of Merle, by Ian out of Vain Duchess, and by Cyllene out of Bettyfield, and fillies by Persimmon out of Princess Anne, and by Veles out of Sweet Duchess and out of Vain Duchess. Mr. Baird Thorneycroft's lot of six includes some two-year-olds which cost large sums as yearlings, notably Game Lass, by St. Simon out of Game Chick, a filly bred at Sledmere by Sir Tatton Sykes, for which 1,600 gs. was paid at Doncaster, and Mosedale, own sister to The White Knight, which cost 1,050 gs. One of the two-year-old failures in this stud last season was Camlary, filly by Cyllene out of Sweet Duchess, for which 880 gs. had been paid as a yearling.

The retirement of Thrush from the Turf at the end of his four-year-old season is to be regretted, as he appeared to be perfectly sound when he last ran, and every one would have liked to see him racing for another year. Thrush was not only the best T.Y.C. horse in training, but he was a great "miler." He is a son of Missel Thrush, who is a grandly bred horse, being by Orme out of Throstle, winner of the St. Leger, and half-sister to Common. The late Duke of Westminster held a very high opinion of Missel Thrush when a yearling. He was cheaply purchased at the sale of the late Duke's stud for the present Duke of Westminster, the price being 900 gs. Missel Thrush, however, did not

stand training, and a few months afterwards he was sold to Mr. Lort Phillips for only 410 gs. Missel Thrush sired Thrush in his first season at the stud, and he is also the sire of several other good winners, although at first he had not much chance of distinguishing himself as a stallion.

Lord Derby's mare Victorious, who was at one time expected to win last year's One Thousand and Oaks, has proved a direful failure, and she has been returned to her breeder, Lady Meux, from whom she was leased for her racing career, and she is going at once to the stud. Victorious, who is own sister to Volodyovski, was a very beautiful yearling, and she then threw all who beheld her into paroxysms of enthusiasm. What a number of animals turn out utter and hopeless failures which as yearlings were praised as quite perfect!

Mr. L. de Rothschild will commence the New Year with a stud of thirty horses in training at Palace House, Newmarket, of which four are four-year-olds, six are three-year-olds, and the remainder are two-year-olds. Radium is the most promising of the old horses, but the three-year-olds are an exceedingly moderate lot, and the popular Rothschild colours are not likely to be dangerous in any of the classic races. Of the two-year-olds five are sired by St. Frusquin and four by Galeazzo, while one colt (Louis Quatorze) is a son of Le Roi Soleil.

I observe that Baron de Forest's filly, Bellatrix, is mentioned as likely to be a dangerous candidate for the Oaks, if all goes well with her. Bellatrix (as was mentioned in TRUTH some weeks ago) was withdrawn from the Oaks by her breeder, Mr. Musker, when the minor forfeit for that stake was declared on March 27.

Lord Howard de Walden's four-year-old, His Eminence, is a great tip at Newmarket for the Lincolnshire Handicap or the City and Suburban, whichever of the two races he may "go for." His Eminence ran well in the Cambridgeshire for nearly a mile, and he showed good speed in the Derby. He is believed to be an uncertain horse, as he has done better in his home gallops than in his races. I do not believe that His Eminence can really stay one inch beyond a mile, but the City and Suburban is run over a very easy course. He is reported to have improved considerably during the last two months.

Lord Howard de Walden may also win some T.Y.C. races with Certosa, who is a very fast horse, but he is no use over any distance beyond an easy six furlongs. Poussin has not been seen out since he defeated a contemptible field for the Ascot Derby, and he is not likely ever to do much good on the Turf. Indeed, all the animals in this stud which have been seen out are exceedingly moderate, with the possible exception of His Eminence, who may justifiably be expected to improve with age. Lord Howard de Walden has twenty-nine horses in training, of which fourteen are two-year-olds, and this lot includes a colt by St. Maclou out of Kitty Grey and a filly by St. Maclou out of Glass Jug. The running of these animals will be watched with interest, because their sire was sold in 1905 to go to Germany, and the stock of a horse which has thus been disposed of frequently run so well after he has left the country that his exportation is loudly bewailed. Lord Howard de Walden does not keep as much as possible to any particular sire, as is too often the calf-headed custom of breeders, for he has two-year-olds by Cyllene, Orme, Isinglass, Gallinule, Carbine, St. Serf, Florizel II., and Ayrshire. One of his two-year-olds is Catskill, own brother to Kilglass, whose career has been a disappointment, as in his early days great things were expected of him.

Gingal was one of the disappointments of last season, and he had previously failed as a two-year-old. He is by Carbine out of Pindi, and is said to have made a considerable improvement during the winter. He ought to be able to win a good handicap next season. He is entered for the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, and for the Atlantic Stakes at the Liverpool July Meeting. The final forfeit for both these races is to be declared this week. The original entry for the Liverpool race included Spearmint and Keystone II., but both animals were long ago withdrawn from this event, while Troutbeck is a notable scratching out of the Sandown Park race, from which M. E. Blanc's Ouadi Halfa, who was one of the best two-year-olds in France last season, was also taken in October, 1905.

Linacre is the best three-year-old in the stable in which Gingal is trained, and both horses were bred at Worksop Manor by Sir John Robinson. Linacre, who is by Wolf's Crag out of Lismaine, is a very nice colt, and he evidently wanted time last season, while the hard ground was much against him. He had been well galloped before he defeated Varra Weel and Tui at Derby early in September. He is decidedly promising, and as he has no fewer than twenty-four engagements in the future he ought to be placed to advantage, even if he does not prove up to Derby form. Linacre's first engagement next season is in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket, and a fortnight later he is entered for the Two Thousand. His owners, however, might very likely be disposed to reserve this colt for the Newmarket Stakes, as the public form of the animals engaged in that race is very moderate indeed, putting aside Traquair, and Lord Rosebery's colt is not likely to be of any use whatever next season over such a course as A.F. Traquair is badly touched in his wind, and he has no earthly chance of winning the Derby, for which Bezonian will be the best from this stable, as was predicted several months ago in TRUTH, at a time when Traquair was being praised to the skies.

Entries close next Tuesday for the Grand National Steeplechase, the value of which race has been raised to £3,000, of which the winner will receive £2,300 (besides a "trophy" value £125), while £300 goes to the second horse, £200 to the third, and £75 to the fourth. The race is to be run over the Aintree course on Friday, March 22. The conditions as to penalties have been altered, and very sensibly. In future, no extra weight is to be carried by any horse handicapped at 11 st. or over. The only penalty for the lightly weighted horses is 4 lb., and that is only for winners of a handicap steeplechase of three miles and a half or over.

Malua, who was a terrible failure last season, is quite expected to retrieve his reputation as a four-year-old by winning a good handicap. He was a baby of a horse during the spring and summer of last year, and did not show any approach to respectable form until he ran prominently in the Cambridgeshire with 8 st. on his back.

In the early part of last year I mentioned The White Knight (an animal of whom very little was at that time known) as a three-year-old certain to distinguish himself, and his subsequent career fully justified the good opinion which I then expressed of him. The White Knight's performance at the Newbury November Meeting, when he won the Autumn Cup, was an excellent one, as among the beaten lot was Spate, who afterwards won the Manchester November Handicap, and the Irish colt was giving him 11 lb. The White Knight has good speed, and also plenty of stamina, as he showed when he won the Ascot Vase last year. I expect this horse will distinguish himself as a four-year-old in some of the Cup races, and it is much to be regretted that so few engagements were made for him when a yearling.

The Duke of Portland's horse, Greendale, by St. Simon out of Ismay, has been sold to go to South America. A very high opinion was entertained of Greendale in 1904, when he was a yearling, and he was then entered for no fewer than thirty-nine races, but he proved a shocking failure on the Turf. Greendale has been by no means so successful as his own brothers, Darley Dale and Simondale, as the former was so lucky as to win the Eclipse Stakes, while the latter finished second to Diamond Jubilee for the Derby of 1900.

Meddler is at the head of the list of winning sires in the United States. This horse represents one of the very best strains of the late Lord Falmouth's blood, his dam being Busybody, winner of the Oaks in 1884,

while her dam was Spinaway, who won the same stakes in 1875. Meddler is by St. Gatien, who ran a dead heat with Harvester for the Derby in the same year that Busybody won the Oaks. St. Gatien ought to have won easily. In the spring of 1884 Busybody was purchased at Lord Falmouth's sale by Mr. G. A. Baird ("Mr. Abington"), and she ran in his colours at Epsom. He bred Meddler in 1890, and the colt won all his races as a two-year-old with extreme ease. Many sound judges have always believed that Meddler would have beaten Isinglass for the Derby of 1893 if he had started, but he was disqualified by the death of his nominator, and was sold to go to the United States for 14,000 gs. His disappearance from the Turf was very much regretted, and he was an enormous loss to this country as a sire.

Mr. A. Bailey's beautiful filly, Orwell, by Matchmaker out of Queen of the Rivers, will presumably undergo a special preparation for the One Thousand and the Oaks, which are her only engagements of any importance next season. Orwell started as a two-year-old for six races, and she won five of them. She was unquestionably one of the best two-year-olds of last season, and she appeared quite likely to train on all right. She was bred in Yorkshire by Mr. J. S. Harrison, and her present owner purchased her as a yearling at Doncaster in September, 1905, for 590 guineas.

The Duke of Westminster had nine yearlings at Eaton this season, including own brothers to Flying Fox and Cupbearer, filly by Orme out of Rydal Mount (dam of Troutbeck), colt by St. Simon out of Princess May, filly by Flying Fox out of Miss Unicorn, and two animals sired by William the Third, colt out of Profit, and filly out of Gay Rose. The three-year-old brother to Flying Fox (Pipistrello) and the three-year-old sister to Sceptre (Crown Gem) both proved failures, and the managers of the Eaton Stud must surely by this time have been brought to recognise the bottomless and boundless imbecility of the policy of mating a mare season after season with the same horse. The tragical results of the blunder have been seen in the cases of Lily Agnes and Vampire, but the same course has not been followed with Ornament (own sister to Ormonde), the dam of Sceptre. She went to Orme this year, which is exceedingly close in-breeding.

I hear that Weathercock will undergo a special preparation for the Two Thousand, his stable companion, Galvani, not being engaged in that race. Weathercock went off considerably after Goodwood, as he did not like the hard ground, so he was altogether out of form when he ran so badly for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, which was his last public appearance as a two-year-old, but he is said to have been much benefited by a long rest, and to have considerably improved. He is entered for the Newmarket Biennial. Baltinglass might ultimately turn out to be Major Loder's best candidate for the Two Thousand. This colt was exceedingly backward during the autumn, as it had been impossible to gallop him on the hard ground. He is finely bred, being by Isinglass out of Sibola.

Laudatory notices of Perambulator, the King's most promising two-year-old, have appeared in one or two romancing journals. Nothing whatever is known about this colt's merit as a racer, or is likely to be known for several months to come, and after he has won a really good trial it will be quite time enough to indulge in florid gushings over his Majesty's hopeful prospect of winning the Derby again.

It is at once ludicrous and instructive to come across again a paragraph which regularly appears in the press every winter about the King's "splendid lot of two-year-olds." Season after season this same eulogy, obviously founded on the most utter ignorance, goes round many of the non-sporting papers. As the Royal two-year-olds have turned out abject failures season after season, it is evident that no attention need be paid to these laudatory outbursts. Untried two-year-olds often prove mere whited sepulchres—having good looks in abundance, but without any capacity (or taste) for racing.

I hear that it is hoped that the King will be present on one day at the Newbury Steeplechases (February 22 and 23), in order that he may see Nulli Secundus run for the Spring Hurdle Race. His Majesty's horse will probably be reserved for this event.

I hear that Sagamore is expected to turn out the best of Mr. Raphael's three-year-olds, and it is very unlucky that this smart colt has no engagements, being disqualified for the Derby and many other important stakes by the death of his breeder, Sir James Miller. I expect that Sagamore will be entered this week for the Coronation Cup at Epsom and the Gold Cup at Ascot. As to My Pet II., scarcely a week passes but one sees it announced somewhere or other that this colt will be withdrawn from the Two Thousand, in order that he may meet all his French engagements in the best possible trim. It is perfectly harebrained to write of the French three-year-olds as if they were a lot of platers, and that this nonsensical idea prevails extensively is proved by the fact that it has over and over again been stated that if all goes well with My Pet II. he ought to sweep the board in France next season. From all one has heard about this colt, I am disposed to fancy that we shall find that he has been overrated.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild has sold Bass Rock to go to South Africa, where this horse is very likely to succeed as a stallion. Bass Rock, who is half-brother, by Grey Leg, to Gingal, was a very speedy horse, but he cannot be regarded as a Turf success. He several times disappointed his stable in important races.

Orme's subscription for this season is announced to be full, which is something of a surprise, as he has not been doing particularly well of late, and his name stands low in last year's list of winning sires, for it is not to be found in the first dozen. Pipistrello, the three-year-old own brother to Flying Fox, left the Turf without having won a penny, and Flying Leap, the two-year-old own brother to M. E. Blanc's horse, has done nothing, nor does one hear of him as being at all likely to distinguish himself in the future. Probably Orme's most hopeful three-year-old is Lord Derby's filly out of St. Victorine, who is expected to develop into a racer of high class.

Bachelor's Button has been full for a long time past, and so also is St. Denis, who leaves England at the end of the season. Other horses which are full are Count Schomberg, Desmond, John o' Gaunt (full also for 1908), Missel Thrush, Persimmon, and Robert le Diable.

THE BETTING ACT AND ATHLETIC SPORTS.

A few men have achieved immortality by having their names associated with a Parliamentary statute. The Act is known by their names, and not by its legal style or title. But such popularity is confined to the legal fraternity and for the most part to Chancery men. The achievement of democratic popularity is reserved for the creators of clauses. There is the Cowper-Temple Clause and Kenyon-Slaney Amendment. These legislative efforts are writ large in such of the history of this country as tells how the pious folk furiously raged together over Education Bills. In the new Betting Act there is an amendment, introduced by the Government, but conceived by Mr. Montague Shearman, K.C., and ex-President of the O.U.A.C. The effect of the Shearman Amendment, for as such it should be known, is to prohibit betting at athletic meetings held under Amateur Athletic Association rules. The Act makes it an offence for any person to loiter or frequent any street or public place for the purpose of betting. The word place includes an enclosed place not being a public park or garden to which the public have a restricted right of access, whether on payment or otherwise, if at or near every public entrance there is con-

SAVOY HOTEL & RESTAURANT, LONDON.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

spicuously exhibited by the owner or persons having the control of the place a notice prohibiting betting therein. The Amateur Athletic Association already forbids betting at its meetings, and compels those organising meetings to exhibit notices forbidding betting. The power of expelling betting men has also been reserved at such meetings. But in the absence of statutory authority this power has been difficult to enforce. I seem to have seen in some paper that originally all that was asked for in the new statute was the power to compulsorily remove such offenders. But as the Act now stands they will fall under the general law and be liable to be arrested forthwith, and the police will have the power to detain all papers relating to betting found on the persons betting. If under these circumstances either bookmakers or public are foolish enough to transgress they will find themselves liable to severe penalties.

I am very glad that this enactment has been put on the statute roll. It will enable the Amateur Athletic Association to deal drastically with betting men at athletic meetings. There is absolutely no doubt that betting is the curse of amateur running. It is a direct incentive to crooked sport. Men win their heats for a bet, and they lose the final in order to make money out of the winner, because they can get longer odds about him than about themselves. I suppose few straight runners of every position in society have not had overtures made to them with regard to their running. I know of the case of a youngster who subsequently ran for his University. It was his first open meeting. He ran second in his heat for the quarter. He could certainly have run first. But he did not see the good of running himself out before the final, for which he qualified. Some men from his neighbourhood who had seen him training came and rated him right soundly for not winning his heat. He said he would do his best to get home in the final. "That is no good," they said. "We shall get no price about you; run second if so-and-so can win, and we shall have a good day out." He still said he would run to win, and he was in such a social position that they dared not offer him anything to lose. He did win. But he always doubts if he would have finished first if he had run himself out in the preliminary heat. At the same time, if he had known he was carrying his friends' money I am certain he would have done so. Now, I can give chapter and verse for this incident. It was an unwarrantable position in which to place a youngster not yet nineteen years old, absolutely ignorant of betting and its ways. Any handicapper will tell of the difficulties he has to deal with in respect of in-and-out running. He will ascribe practically all his troubles to betting. The majority of athletes competing at these meetings are men of small means. If they can save their entrance fee and pay their railway fares they have had a good day out. I do not blame them if they do this by a little harmless betting amongst their friends and themselves. I am not condemning betting in itself, and within bounds. But give these runners the market that the bookmaker creates, and then their opportunities for making money by not running straight are too much for the ordinary weakness of average human nature. Professional running and sculling have gone under simply because of the inherent weakness of human nature. The men who backed the sport and provided the funds found that they could not get a straight run for their money. In horse-racing there is the man as well as the horse to be taken into consideration. In foot-racing there is only the man. It is because betting in foot-racing begets roguery and rascality that it has to be suppressed. If you could get racing such as there is on the track at the Oxford and Cambridge sports at the Queen's Club, or rowing such as there is in the University boatrace from Putney to Mortlake, or at Henley, where the betting never affects the event, then it might be possible not to worry about the presence or absence of the bookmaker. For instance, I can imagine no finer a race and no more glorious medium for a bet than a race for a quarter between runners like Tindall, Bredin, Jordan, and Fitz-Herbert, all in their prime, and all at their best. But these things can never be. In spite of all teaching, denominational and otherwise, human nature is the same on the track, be the racers horses or men. And that is why I rejoice at the power that has been given to the Amateur Athletic Association.

As I write it looks like thawing. But by the time these lines are in print it may be freezing again. Therefore a hint about a cheap toboggan may be useful. Take a piece of corrugated iron sheeting (*vide* Mrs. Beeton *passim*), cut as desired, bolt on a piece of wood for a foot rest, turn up end, and at the rear bolt on a flat board for a seat, with sacking nailed on for comfort. It makes a splendid goer for very little money.

Considering the weather quite a number of football matches took place on Saturday. That people should be willing to look on at a match under such circumstances indicates a genuine love for the game. In the First Division of the League Woolwich Arsenal are making great efforts for betterment. They are only three points behind the leaders and they have a couple of matches in hand. In the Second Division Chelsea are by no means out of the running. They are third on the list; they are only divided by two points from top place, and they have two games more to play than either West Bromwich or Leicester Fosse. In the Southern League Portsmouth are treading on the toes of the leaders, Fulham.

Judging by what took place at the recent meeting at Lord's, there is likely to be an extension of the time for qualifying for county cricket. The whole trend of modern movement is for each county to play men county bred and born.

MAMMON.

STOCKS QUIET—CHRISTMAS INFLUENCES.

DURING the past week the Stock Markets were idle, as might have been expected from the season of the year. But conditions as a whole were quite against dealings, and business was poor. Home Railways have continued tolerably firm, but Canadians are rather a weak market. South African Mines should be stronger than they are, but one lives on hope.

MONEY DEAR—YEAR END PRESSURE—POSITION IMPROVED—STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY.

The prospect of a relaxation of the monetary situation generally within the next few weeks is already reflected in a decline in discount quotations. The removal of the uncertainty attaching to a higher Bank rate, too, has served to exert a further weakening influence. This, despite the natural pressure incidental to the turn of the year, the market preferring to take a long view of the position, and in this respect they are emboldened by the receipt of more gold from Paris and the disinclination on the part of New York to jeopardise the position generally by aggressively competing for gold against the Bank of England. The Bank return, too, made a better showing than had been expected, the loss to reserve being £993,000, and the total of £18,719,000 compares with £17,629,000 this time last year, so that the measures of precaution have been attended with some success. It would be too sanguine to say that all the uncertainty attaching to the situation has been removed, but, generally speaking, there is not much cause for apprehension, and,

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY, LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

untoward developments excepted, it hardly seems probable that any further measures of precaution by the Bank will become necessary, especially if France continues to render assistance. The Egyptian demand is at an end, according to the general impression, but more gold may be required for South America within the next few weeks, and already £500,000 has been "earmarked" at the Bank for the purposes of the Indian Currency Reserve, which process will no doubt be continued, especially if Lombard Street sails too close to the wind.

Consols Marking Time—Money and Holiday Influences—Attractive Stocks—Russians Supported.

The monetary position and the lack of public interest are between them dominating the market in gilt-edged stocks, but though the tone is somewhat sensitive, this is not reflected in any significant alteration in values. It may be said, indeed, that the market is marking time pending some material improvement in the monetary prospects, so that on the whole there is not much ground for apprehension. It would not be too sanguine in these circumstances to expect that as the international monetary pressure gradually relaxes, as it probably will do within the next few weeks, and the situation generally becomes more settled, gilt-edged stocks will before long be established on a higher basis, especially if the public interest in them expands as the holiday influences lose their power. The market, therefore, may be considered attractive to the investor who desires security of the highest class and the possibility of additional profit arising from an appreciation in capital values. For the benefit of those readers who have a predilection towards Colonial stocks I have prepared the following table:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Cape 3 p.c.	85½	£3 10 6
Natal 3 p.c.	84	3 11 6
New South Wales 3½ p.c.	103	3 10 0
Do. 3 p.c.	88	3 8 0
Queensland 3½ p.c.	97½	3 12 0
South Australia 3 p.c.	86	3 10 0
Rand Water	93	4 6 0

In the Foreign market Russians remain most prominent, "wobbling" somewhat erratically, though it is worth while mentioning that the reported famine and the serious outlook in this respct is quite ignored, which would seem to imply that the support forthcoming from the Continent, and especially Paris, is of the usual inspired sort, and, everything considered, I would not be surprised if it is the preliminary to a further loan. As regards Japanese, the satisfactory character of the recent trade returns of the country is not without some sustaining influence upon values, and the investor who requires a good yield coupled with respectable security could with advantage consider these bonds, more especially those that have a long currency, as distinct from the purely war loans.

Home Rails Firm—Pooling of Liverpool Goods Traffic—An Important "Bull" Point—The Holiday Traffic Returns—The Forthcoming Dividends.

Helped by splendid holiday traffics and by the approach of the dividend season, the Home Railway market during the past few days has displayed a good deal of strength, in spite of the fact that the amount of business transacted in this department continues very small. The Heavy stocks have led the upward movement, a good deal of interest being shown by the dealers in the agreement that has been arrived at amongst the railways serving Liverpool to pool the whole of the receipts for freight. During the last few years a growing desire to co-operate with the object of avoiding needless expenditure has been shown by our leading railways, and the latest arrangement is an important step in the same direction, affecting as it does most of the principal lines, including the North-Western, Midland, Great Northern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Western, and Great Central. The object of the scheme is to dispense with the rivalry that has existed amongst the companies for the carrying trade from the docks, resulting in light trainloads and cross canvassing. Under the old system, for instance, goods could be consigned by either of these companies from Liverpool to Leeds, and if each obtained a portion of the day's trade each would despatch a train, though the separate loads would not cover the cost to each railway; while now, under the new system, these three separate light loads would make up one heavy train of freight. It is arranged that the rule shall apply to unmanufactured grain and timber, machinery, other than complete machines, and railway materials. There will be no raising of rates from the level to which they were reduced a couple of years back, the intention being to make the traffic profitable by reducing working expenses. Regarding the traffic returns published last week, it will be observed that some of the companies show moderate decreases. The explanation is that a good deal of the holiday passenger traffic has not yet come into the returns because many people delayed going away until Monday of last week, whereas the figures of a year ago, when Christmas Eve fell upon a Sunday, included the whole of the long distance traffic. Accordingly, declines shown in the returns sent out last week, which are given below, should be amply compensated for by the figures now due:—

	Last Week. £	A Year Ago. £
Caledonian	− 1,200	+ 6,0 0
Central London	− 500	− 350
Great Central	+ 1,680	+ 11,400
Great Eastern	− 7,000	+ 8,700
Great Northern	+ 3,300	+ 14,100
Great Western	+ 1,900	+ 24,700
Hull and Barnsley	+ 80	+ 2,300
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 1,800	+ 14 500
North-Western	+ 7,000	+ 29,000
South-Western	− 1,700	+ 7,300
Metropolitan	− 2,500	+ 500
,, District	− 90	+ 750
Midland	− 5,700	+ 37,400
North British	+ 2,700	+ 1,200
North-Eastern	+ 4,800	+ 14,8 0
S. E. and Chatham	+ 70	+ 7,600
Brighton	− 1300	+ 4,800

There is now positive evidence that all the trunk railways will wind up the half-year with more or less substantial increases; in fact, the only group that has not joined in the chorus of traffic advances is the London Underground section, where the competition waged between the various lines and the rivalry of the motor-omnibuses has prevented that expansion in the traffic of the individual companies that might have been looked for as the outcome of the constant growth of the population of London. The dividend season usually begins about the second week in January, and in order to give an idea of when the individual declarations may be expected it will be useful to set out the dates on which the dividends were made known at the beginning of 1906, in respect of the six months to December 31, 1905. These dates were:—January 16, Metropolitan; 17, Brighton, and Great Eastern; 18, Tilbury; 22, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Chatham, and South Eastern; 23, North Staffordshire; 24, Great Central; 25, South-Western, and North-Eastern; 26, Great Northern; February 1, District, and North London; 2, Midland; 7, North-Western; 8, Great Western. The first two declarations are likely to be indifferent, particularly the Metropolitan, which has been suffering severely from the diversion of traffic to the new Great Central and Great Western joint line. The Brighton, too, in common with the other lines that rely mainly upon passenger business, has only done moderately in the matter of gross receipts, but it must remembered that in the case of the "A" stock the full year's dividend will come off the price. The dividends should be specially satisfactory in the case of the North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, North-Western, Great Northern, Hull and Barnsley, North Staffordshire, and Great Central. As prices of all railway stocks are still at a very low level, there is reason to hope that the dividends will

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd., 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

bring about a revival in public interest towards Home Rails, and prove a useful lever to raise values. Here is my usual table:—

Home Rails.	A Year Ago.	Make up, Dec. 24.	Closing Price, Dec. 19.	Closing Price, Dec. 29.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79½	74½	74½	74½	—
Do. Def.	41½	30½	30¼	30	- ¼
City and S. London	45	42	42	42½	+ ½
Central London	94	83	84	83	-1
Great Central 94 Pref.	73	—	74½	73½	-1
Do. "B"	37½	34½	34½	34½	—
Do. "A"	18¾	16	16½	16½	—
Great Eastern	88½	81⅞	81½	82½	+1½
Great Northern Pref.	103	100½	100½	100½	—
Do. Def.	45⅝	45½	44⅝	45⅝	+ ⅛
Great Western	143	132½	131½	132½	+1½
Hull and Barnsley	45½	48⅜	48½	49½	+1½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	109	103	102½	103½	+1
London and Brighton "A"	127½	121½	120½	122½	+2
London, Chatham, and Dover	16	14½	13⅜	14⅜	+ ½
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	97	89	89	90	+1
Do. 2nd Pref.	63	54½	54	54	—
London and North-Western	160¾	153	151½	152½	+1½
London and South-Western Def.	56½	50½	49½	52½	+2½
Metropolitan Consolidated	87	60	61	60	-1
Metropolitan District	35½	19	19½	19	- ½
Midland Pref.	99	66	65½	66	+ ½
Do. Def.	74	67	65½	66½	+1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78½	74½	74½	74½	+ ½
Do. Def.	46¾	41	40½	40½	- ½
North-Eastern Consolidated	145½	141⅜	141½	143½	+1½
South-Eastern "A"	53⅜	45	45½	46⅜	+1

AMERICAN RAILWAYS—"PENN'S"—HEAVY FOREIGN BORROWINGS—MORE LIQUIDATION—TRADE CONDITIONS—ATCHISON REPORT.

In Americans during the last few days the dealings have been greatly restricted, and as a rule the movements are not in favour of holders. The death of Mr. Cossatt did not exercise much influence upon Pennsylvanias, and the notification of Mr. J. J. Hill's impending retirement left Great Northern (U.S.A.) stocks pretty much as they were. Business has been left almost entirely in the hands of the professionals, the outsiders leaving the market alone, and from no quarter do I hear of activity. There has been a resumption of liquidation, and the week's record is unsatisfactory. My table below shows movements on balance on the week:—

—	1905. Highest.	1905. Lowest.	Closing Price, Dec. 15, 1906.	Closing Price, Dec. 19, 1906.	Closing Price, Dec. 29, 1906.
Atchison	96	80½	108⅜	106½	107⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109	102	106	106	103
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	120½	101⅞	122⅜	124½	124
Chesapeake and Ohio	61½	46⅜	58⅜	58	57¾
Denver	40½	27⅜	44½	44	43½
Do. Pref.	93¾	85½	89	88⅜	86 xd
Erie	54½	38⅝	46⅜	45½	44⅜
Do. First Pref.	87½	77⅜	78	78	77½
Louisville	161¼	140½	153½	150	148
Milwaukee	193½	173½	203⅜	194	155 x rts
Mo., Kan., and Texas	39¾	24⅛	43¾	41¾	41⅜
Norfolk Pref.	96½	94	93	93	93 x rts
Do. Common	90⅞	77⅜	94¾	93⅜	94½ x rts
New York Central	169⅜	140½	138½	135	135 xd
Ontario	65½	41⅜	49⅜	48½	48⅜
Pennsylvania	76⅜	67½	71½	70⅜	71½
Reading	73⅜	40⅞	76½	74½	70½
Do. First Pref.	49⅜	46	44½	44½	44½
Southern Common	39⅞	28⅜	35⅜	34	33⅜
Do. Pref.	104½	97½	99⅜	99½	98
Southern Pacific	74	59⅜	98½	96⅜	96
Union Pacific	155⅜	116⅞	192⅜	188½	187½
Do. Pref.	102⅜	98½	96	96	96
Wabash Pref.	49⅜	37⅞	44	43	41
Do. "B" Debentures	86⅜	60½	82	81	78
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	44⅛	26	50⅜	49⅝	49⅞
Do. Do. Pref.	110⅛	93⅜	108⅜	107⅜	108½

Trade conditions in the United States continue satisfactory. According to the *Iron Age* the November output was:—

2,187,665 tons, compared with the record figures of 2,196,808 tons for October. This shows apparently a trifling falling off, but it should be remembered that November contained only thirty days. The rate of production in November was actually larger than that for October, being 72,982 tons per day, as against 70,865 tons. The steel companies as a rule did not equal their production in October, the Pittsburg district in particular showing a falling off, but the so-called merchant furnaces made more iron in the shorter month of November than in October, their total being 776,515 tons, against 744,608 tons. The weekly capacity of the active furnaces, which on November 1 for the first time reached half a million tons (500,580 tons per week) is now up to 514,160 tons. Adding 8,000 tons a month for the charcoal furnaces, which are not included in these figures, the weekly rate of production represents a yearly output in the prodigious amount of 27,250,000 tons. Nevertheless, iron in considerable quantities is coming in from abroad.

Further details have been received of the purpose of the meeting called by the Atchison Company for January 30 to sanction an increase of capital. The proposal is:

to increase the limit of the issue of common stock by $98,000,000, namely, from $152,000,000 (with $101,955,500 outstanding) to $250,000,000, and also to create an issue of bonds for amount of $98,000,000, with the privilege of conversion into common stock. When these propositions shall have been approved by the shareholders, it is contemplated to offer to the shareholders for subscription approximately $25,000,000 of the new stock or convertible bonds. The Norfolk and Western Railway Company is another company that is arranging to raise a large amount of new capital. Shareholders are offered at par $14,576,000 of an authorised issue of $34,000,000 convertible gold bonds. The bonds will carry the right of conversion into common stock at par for ten years from June 1, 1907. The Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Company, one of the properties in the New York Central system of roads, proposes to increase its stock from $10,000,000 to $30,000,000. This Company at the same time announces an increase in its dividend distribution, a semi-annual payment of 6 per cent. having just been declared, as against previous semi-annual payments of 5 per cent. In other words, the rate of the dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. per annum. Two of the Pennsylvania properties have also announced enlarged dividends.

CANADIAN RAILWAYS—GRAND TRUNK'S NOVEMBER STATEMENT—"CANADAS"—FOREIGN RAILWAYS—MEXICAN RAILWAYS' POSITION—ARGENTINES.

The Grand Trunk revenue statement for November did not please the market. It showed a net gain of £7,800, which was better relatively than the experience of some previous months, but operators had looked for at least twice as much, and as a consequence they were grievously disappointed. The main system and the Western and Detroit branches both show net increases, but, as usual, the Canada Atlantic has to tell of a decrease, this time of £3,700, which increases the fall for the half-year to £24,000. As to Grand Trunks for investment, there is just now little fresh to add. The guaranteed stock has become excellent; the First and Second Preference are very well covered; and as lock-ups the Third Preference and Ordinary issues are among the pick of the basket. It would appear as though the run of Canadian Pacific increases was broken, although the earnings are on a great scale. For the past week the receipts exhibited a shrinkage of £5,000. This can hardly be regarded as in any way significant, and that the position of the Company is good enough is quite clear from the knowledge that for the half-year to date it has a gross expansion of more than £1,137,000. Twelve months ago there was a gross increase of more than £670,000, so that in reality there is little cause for apprehension over the trivial decrease of last week, which, it may be remarked, is generally attributed to bad weather conditions in the west. My table below shows the measure of movements on the week:—

—	A Year Ago.	Make-up, Dec. 24.	Closing Price, Dec. 29.
Canadian Pacific	189½	199	200⅜
Grand Trunks	25⅜	28¾	28⅝
" 4 per cent. Guaranteed	102½	102⅜	102⅜
" 1st Preference	114⅜	118¼	118½
" 2nd "	105⅜	111¼	111
" 3rd "	60⅜	68⅜	68
Bengal and North-West	147	146½	146
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	124	125	122 xd
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	129½	112	112½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	133½	121½	123½
" " 2nd "	107½	102½	102½
" Great Southern	141	125	125½
" Western	134⅜	124	125½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	96	85½	86
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	115⅜	111½	112½
Cent. Uruguay Ordinary	88½	91½	91½
Costa Rica Railway	—	27½	27
Mashonaland Railway Debentures, 2nd iss.	—	92½	92½
Mexican Railway	24½	48⅜	47⅜
" 1st Preference	119	140½	140½
" 2nd "	43½	90½	89½
Nitrate Rails	15⅜	15⅞	15½

ROMANO'S RESTAURANT, STRAND.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire, and this opinion is evidently shared by many, for the restaurant was packed, as it deserves to be."

Below will be found a table of Canadian securities which might be purchased:—

	Price	Yield per Cent.
Alberta 4 per Cent. Prior	99	£4 4 3
Do. 5 per Cent. Debentures	96	5 4 3
Atlantic & North Western	121	3 15 0
Buffalo & Hur.	13½	3 17 9
Do. First Mortgage	138	4 0 0
Do. Second Mortgage	138	4 0 0
Calgary & Ed.	107	3 15 3
Canada Atlantic	103	3 18 9
Canadian Pacific	187½	3 6 0
Do. Preference	109	3 13 6
Do. Sterling	110	3 13 0
Do. 50-year	108	3 8 0
Do. Ins.	103	3 8 3
Do. Consolidated Debenture	112	3 12 0
Do. Algoma	121	3 16 6
Grand Trunk Pacific	89	3 8 0
Do. Ser. "A"	103	3 17 9
Do. Super.	103	3 17 9
Grand Trunk	99½	—
Do. Guaranteed	103	3 18 0
Do. First Preference	119	4 4 0
Do. Second Preference	112	4 9 3
Do. Third Preference	69½	2 17 6
Do. 2nd Equi.	122	3 13 0

The holidays have interfered with dealings in the Foreign as in other Railway markets, and movements have not been material. Mexican Railway Seconds are good to buy, as I have before said, to put away for a substantial advance; and discerning individuals continue to pick up Interoceanic Preference shares. Argentines are rather out of favour save with the investing group, the rise of the past couple of years having discounted most of the prosperity of which the country has been able to boast. I append a small list of stocks which might be bought:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Argentine G. W.	114	£5 5 3
Do. Preference	121	4 19 3
Argentine Trans. "A" Debenture	96	4 5 3
Do. "B" Debenture	89	5 19 0
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	123	5 13 9
Do. First Preference	113	4 8 6
Do. Second Preference	107	4 13 6
Do. First Debenture	105	3 17 0
Do. Second Debenture	106	4 6 9
Do. Five per Cent. Debenture	105	4 16 3
Buenos Ayres and Rosario	115½	5 4 0
Do. Deferred	111	5 8 3
Do. Preferred	104	4 5 0
Do. Preferred	180	4 8 0
Do. Debenture	105	3 17 0
Buenos Ayres G.S.	127	5 10 3
Do. Ex. 1910	111½	—
Do. Preference	127	3 18 9
Do. Debenture	107	3 15 6
Buenos Ayres West	127	5 10 3
Do. Preference	123	3 18 6
Do. Debenture	105	3 16 3

WESTRALIANS FIRM—FINGALLS' DIVIDEND—SONS OF GWALIA—SOUTH KALGURLIS.

Although by no means surfeited with business, the Westralian market, on the whole, is by no means uninteresting, and, collectively, I think that the shares are deserving of more consideration. In point of interest, the reduction in the quarterly dividend of the Great Fingall is worthy of reference at the outset. In discussing the position of the property, I have frequently alluded to the possibility of such a reduction following the lowering in the monthly statement, so that the change can hardly come as a surprise to my readers. The development, it may be pointed out, has been pretty liberally discounted in advance by the depreciation in the shares, and it is worth noting that even on the basis of quarterly distributions of 3s. per share, they would give over 20 per cent. at the ruling quotation. There is, too, always the possibility of the mine opening up in a more promising fashion. As regards Sons of Gwalia, to which shares I drew attention on the recent dividend declaration, it is opportune to mention that development in the lowest level shows considerable improvement, the south reef—for the last 10 ft. driven—giving an assay value of £4 19s. per ton over a width of 9 ft. This augurs well, and I may repeat that the shares appear to make a very respectable holding. There is nothing of exceptional interest divulged in the report of the South Kalgurli, but in regard to ore reserves it is pointed out that some portions of the ore bodies exposed have not been sufficiently developed to warrant their inclusion in the estimate, but as stoping proceeds the tonnage is likely to prove larger. At the No. 6 level a new ore body has been located. The main shaft is down below 1,500 ft., and cross cuts are being put in to open the lode in depth, while arrangements have also been made with the Hainault Company whereby a lode 18 ft. wide and assaying 9 dwts., which enters the South Kalgurli, will be developed from the other property. Deep leads are quiescent and devoid of any feature of interest. Here is my usual table:—

—	1906. High.	1905. High.	1905. Lowest.	Make-up Dec. 21, 1906.	Closing Price, Dec. 19, 1906.	Closing Price, Dec. 29, 1906.
Associated G.M.	7/8	8/8	1/8	1/1	1/3	1/2
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	2/3	1/15	1/2	1/1	1/2	1/2
Brownhill Ext.	3/4	1/16	7/6	7/-	6/9	6/3
Cosmopolitan	30/3	1/2	4/3	4/-	4/6	4/3
Golden Horseshoe	15	8/16	5/1	5/3	5/3	5/xd
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	25/6	27/6	26/3	26/-	27/6x1
Do. Perseverance	18/1	10/6	10/3	8/3	8/6	8/3
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6/3	8/8	3/1	2/3	2/15	2/15
Hainault	1/3	1/4	1/3	1/3	1/3	1/3
Ivanhoe (£5)	15/1	8/16	6/16	7	7/6	7/6
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4/3	1/2	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8
Kalgurli	9/3	9/1	11/8	12/3	12/16	12/1
Lake View Consols	5/3	1/7	1/2	16/3	1/1	1/2
L. & W. A. Exploration	1/3	15/6	9/-	19/3	1/3	1/1
Oroya Brownhill	—	3/32	2/3	2/1	2/1	2/xd
Sons of Gwalia	6/3	2/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/6
South Kalgurli	6/1	2	1/8	1/1	1/1	1/1

RHODESIANS OUT OF FAVOUR—LITTLE INTEREST ANYWHERE—EXPLORATION ACHIEVEMENT.

The Rhodesian market is quite out in the cold and utterly neglected. Indeed, it could scarcely be more uninteresting, for which condition of affairs no doubt the season is to a certain extent responsible. Before long, perhaps, a greater degree of interest will be evinced in the market following the progress made by the country, not only in respect of the development of its mineral wealth, but also agriculture. This is important in relation to the position of the Chartered Company, and, as I have said before, the report, which is due in about a month's time, ought to make a relatively good showing. To expect that the era of deficits is past would be too sanguine, but an improved showing ought to be made. As regards Bankets, there is still no confirmation of the rumours of good developments, which seems not a little strange in view of the persistency of the whispers. The report of the Rhodesian Exploration Company does not make a very brilliant showing. The profit is under £10,000 for the twelve months, while £110,000—practically the whole amount standing at credit of profit and loss account—has been written off for depreciation. In view of the depression existing in South Africa, it is considered that the operations of the Company could with advantage be extended out of the country, and the shareholders are to be asked to endorse this idea. No hint is given, it may be remarked, as to any scheme contemplated. My usual table follows:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1905	Closing Price, Dec. 19, 1906	Closing Price, Dec. 29, 1906.
	£		£				
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	1½	5/8	5/8
British S. Africa	6,000,000	4,999,958	1	f.p.	1½	1½	1½
Chicago Gaika	250,000	201,600	1	f.p.	2¾	4/-	4/-
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	250,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	228,700	1	f.p.	2⅛	1	1
Mashon. Agency	400,000	398,976	1	f.p.	1⅝	1/1	7/6
N rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,100	1	f.p.	3½	1⅝	1⅝
Rhodesia, Ltd. (New)	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	¼	¼
Rhodesia Expl.	225,000	227,777	1	f.p.	4¾	2⅛	2⅛
Rhodesia Glds.	1,000,000	500,677	1	f.p.	⅝	-/6	-/6
Rice Hamilton	175,000	50,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	⅛	¼
Selukwe	350,000	321,000	1	f.p.	1⅞	6/6	6/6
Tanganyika Conc.	264,600	234,000	1	f.p.	6¾	5½	5⅝
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	11/3	1 9	2/3
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	⅛	8/-	1/-
Zambesia Explor.	300,000	288,615	1	f.p.	2⅜	1¼	1⅜

WEST AFRICANS STAGNANT—COPPER SHARES BOOMING—ANACONDAS' ENHANCED DIVIDEND—ESPERANZAS.

Despite the significance of the reduction in railway charges in relation to the industry, the Jungle continues its customary appearance of stagnation. Of course, it might be argued that the season is against any sustained improvement in the general condition of the market, but for my part I am still convinced that until the industry shows some palpable indications of progress, it is hopeless to expect any

LOWELL, MASS.

material change in the sentiment towards the market. The boom in Copper shares continues without abatement. Rio Tintos are now very near 100, after being about 64 at the beginning of the year, and 59 at one time in 1905. That the price is rather high is beyond question, but the significance of the sustained strength of the metal, and also the prospects, in relation to dividend possibilities, must, of course, be reckoned with, and, everything considered, there is ample justification for the high values ruling for Copper shares. As regards Arizonas, I still consider the shares a promising purchase. It may be noted that the Anaconda dividend is again larger, $1.75 being paid, as against $1.50 in October and 87½ cents a year ago. This in itself is eloquent testimony to the enlarged profit-earning capacity of copper-producing Companies, resulting from the high price ruling for the metal. Siberian descriptions would seem to be quietening down after the excitement of the past month or so, but there are few features that call for any comment. In the Mexican group, Esperanzas remain somewhat depressed, as a result of the uncertainty as to the position of the mine. As I remarked when dealing with the question before, it is not a little anomalous that the shares of a mine showing such large monthly profits and making handsome distributions (10s. 6d. per share being actually included in the existing price) should stand so low. This seems to add colour to the prevailing suspicion that the outlook is not promising, and that the supplies of high-grade ore will not last much longer. A cable has been received from the manager of the Utah Bingham Mining Company to the following effect:—"Have discovered new vein first-class ore two feet in width; assays following." Here is my usual table:—

—	Denomination of Shares.	Closing Price, Dec. 19.	Closing Price, Dec. 29.
	£		
Ashanti Goldfields	4/-	13/6	13 6
Akrokerri	1	⅞	15/16
Bibiani Goldfields	1	15/16	⅞
British Gold Coast	1	⅝	⅝
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	1	1¾	1⅝
Taquah and Abosso	1	2⅛	2⅛
Wassau (Gold Coast)	1	⅝	¾
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	1	3/6	3/6
Nile Valley	1	4/-	4/-
Anaconda Copper	$25	14⅞	15½
Balaghat Gold	1	26/6	27/-
Broken Hill Proprietary	8/-	5 7/32	5 7/32
Cape Copper	2	9¼	8¾
Champion Reef	2/6	14/-	14/-
Le Roi	5	1⅜xd	1⅝
Mysore Gold	10/-	5 15/16	5 15/16
Nundydroog	10/-	26/-	28/-
Ooregum	10/-	13 6	15/6
Rio Tinto	5	84¾	89⅝
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	2	8⅞	8⅞
Waihi Gold	1	8⅝xd	8 11/16

KAFFIRS BETTER—IMPROVED OUTLOOK—GOOD DIVIDENDS—DE BEERS SHARP RISE.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that a distinct improvement has set in in Kaffirs, and that prices, although leaving off rather below the best, exhibit an appreciable advance. There is no doubt that confidence is being inspired in the ability of the Rand mining industry to work out its own salvation as regards labour and other economic questions, and that the belief that prices have touched bottom is fast gaining ground amongst investors seeking bargains before any considerable forward movement takes place. The past year has been a disastrous one for Kaffir shareholders, but it is to be hoped that the more hopeful tendency which has been in evidence during the last week or two will prove to be the beginning of a brighter era for Transvaal mining. The gold output of that Colony is now at the rate of approximately £26,000,000 per annum, and for 1906 it will probably be found, when the figures are available on the 10th inst., that the production was not far short of £24,500,000. Other minerals, such as coal, diamonds, and silver, will probably add £2,250,000 to the total, so that, on the whole, the Transvaal's mineral production for the year just closed will reach a very high value. Some idea of the extent and importance of the industry may be gathered when it is stated that no less than £5,565,970 was paid in dividends by Rand Gold Companies in 1906, this being the largest sum distributed in any one year since the discovery of the field in 1886. Other Companies, including financial Corporations and diamond and coal mines, have paid out more than one and three-quarter millions in dividends, so that, on the whole, despite the serious commercial depression which has existed, and the difficulties with which the mines have had to contend, shareholders have received some return for their outlay, although they may not consider it adequate, or, at any rate, not so large as would be the case did more favourable conditions prevail. The total amount distributed, however, is enormous, and in the case of the Gold Companies represents not less than 25 per cent. of the production, which, all things considered, is by no means a return to be despised. The best prices touched were not maintained, there being fractional losses towards the close owing to profit-taking, which is not to be wondered at, considering that the Paris Bourse would not open from Saturday to Wednesday (January 2), and that as New Year's Day was a Stock Exchange holiday also, there was not the slightest disposition to enter into fresh commitments until after the reassembling of members for their first business session in 1907. But although quotations closed under the best, the advance has made no little progress, as is evidenced by the favourites, Rand Mines being 6 9-32, East Rand 4 9-32, and Goldfields 4 1-16. Shares of the Goerz group have been in request, and Modders, East Rand Mining Estates, Randfontein, Welgedacht, H.E. Props, Luipaard's Vlei, New Districts Development, Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, and numerous others have participated in the advance. A demand has sprung up for Middelburg Steam Coal and Coke shares on account of the strike on the farm, Vaalhoek, adjoining the Company's 250 gold claims at Pilgrims' Rest, of a gold reef giving an average assay value of 27 dwts. over a width of 5 ft.; while on the Clewer mine, in the incline shaft, at a depth of 340 ft., about 150 ft. vertical, the reef is 12 in. to 6 ft. wide, and assays from 4 dwts. to 70 dwts. In this connection mention may be made of the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, which owns Vaalhoek, and which can with confidence be recommended as a first-class investment at 36s., to pay 25 per cent. at least on its shares. Very little notice is taken by the public of this Lydenburg property, but it is one of the soundest mining propositions in South Africa. Among diamonds, De Beers shares have been a strong feature, as they had a sharp rise on Wednesday from 23 sellers to 24¼, and they finished the week at about that price, which is nearly £7 higher than a year ago. It was reported that Paris was a big buyer of De Beers owing to the expectation that the dividends for the year ending June 30 next will amount to 70 per cent. Jagersfonteins are also receiving French support, and New Vaal Rivers, after going to 6¼, fell back to 5¼, owing to forced liquidation. Mount Yagahongs have risen to 3s. 6d. and 4s. on quiet buying, due to a cabled report from the manager (Mr. Bawden) that the shaft put down on Barrell's Kopje (a portion of its claims on the Vaal River) is in excellent blue diamondiferous ground, and that on the present appearance and prospects he has every confidence in the mine. In addition to its diamond claims, the Company holds 55,000 shares in the Middelburg Coal Company, which will soon be in a position to declare a dividend, and has a most promising oil property in Inhambane, East Coast of Africa. Coronations have once more come to life and risen to 20s. on account of its prospects in connection with a diamond deal.

BROKEN HILL MINES.

It is possible to create a boom in Mining shares, no matter how flimsy be the pretext, provided the market is engineered properly and opportunely, and the whispered "prospects," a natural concomitant to such a contemplated movement, are exaggerated sufficiently to inspire something resembling confidence. But, as everybody is aware, there is a natural law whereby all things gravitate to their proper level, and, as a rule, manœuvred "booms" of such a nature, being based on

nothing substantial, subside even more rapidly than they developed. After digesting the significance of this one must allow that the boom in Broken Hill Mining shares, which has been one of the most conspicuous features of the Stock Exchange during the past year, and which continues with unabated strength, is based upon something solid. As a matter of fact, the shares have responded to the high price obtainable for the metal produced, and the enlargement of their profit-earning capacity thereby implied, and the consequent significance in relation to dividend possibilities. Very remunerative prices of silver and lead have naturally helped to bring the shares into greater prominence, but another important factor contributing has been the discovery of more than one process for the utilisation of what was once practically regarded as waste product. I refer to the methods devised for the profitable extraction of zinc from the enormous quantities of tailings. To give an adequate idea of the value represented by these tailings it is only necessary to mention that whereas between 25,000 and 30,000 tons of ore are treated by the Barrier Mines every week, upwards of 15,000 tons of residues, possessing zinc contents of approximately 17 to 19 per cent., are added to the dumps. These dumps accumulated enormously, and owing to the discovery alluded to now represent an additional source of profit to the mines. The Zinc Corporation, formed with the object of acquiring these tailings and treating them at a profit, has already purchased a large tonnage and contracted for more. It has, too, commenced operations, and as the scheme properly materialises seems to have great potentialities ahead. To return to the metals, it may be said in regard to silver that, owing to various causes, amongst them extensive purchases by the Indian Government necessitated by the prosperity of the country, a resumption of buying by the United States for coinage purposes, and also purchases by the Mexican Government because of its depleted stock of dollars, the price has been higher during 1906 than for about twelve years. The lowest price touched was only 29d. per ounce, so that the average price of the year must prove materially larger than for many years past. As regards lead, which is a more important factor in relation to the profit-earning capacity of the mines generally, it may be noted that it has attained a record high price and is still near the top. This may be ascribed to the fact that the world's production is not keeping pace with the current consumptive capacity. Here is a comparison of the prices of both metals during the past few years:—

	Lead.		Silver.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
1906	£20 5 0	£15 7 6	33½d.	29d.
1905	17 17 6	11 17 6	30⅛	30
1904	13 3 9	11 5 0	28⅞	24⅛
1903	13 17 6	10 17 6	28¼	21¼
1902	12 0 0	10 0 0	26¼	21⅛
1901	16 10 0	10 2 6	29⅞	24⅛
1900	18 0 0	15 17 6	30⅞	27
1899	17 15 0	13 0 0	29	26⅜
1898	14 12 6	12 5 0	28⅛	25
1897	14 15 6	11 10 0	29⅛	23¾

As to the Broken Hill lode itself, it is the most important mineral deposit of its class known, and is being exploited by ten Companies. Its value naturally varies at different points, and whereas the vein on the South mine is over 250 ft. wide at its deepest point, and gives excellent assay, the Block 14 has given rather poor results in depth so far. The leading venture of the group is the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, which is capitalised at £384,000, in 960,000 shares of 8s. each. During the half-year to May 31, 1906, the total profit was £232,332, or the equivalent of 20s. 2d. per ton treated. It is a substantial dividend-payer, and with the metals commanding anything like the ruling prices, it is quite obvious that on the basis of the earnings for the half-year alluded to, the ore reserves, estimated at 3,500,000 tons, represent an enormous profit. Indeed, it requires only a simple calculation to discover that, ignoring the odd pennies, the profit in sight on the basis of 20s. per ton would be £3,500,000. It must not be forgotten, of course, that all the metal produced fluctuates considerably in value, and the profit-earning capacity of the mine diminishes and rises accordingly; but it may be remarked that during the period in question the average price of lead was £16 7s. 8d. per ton, whereas it is now £20, and has been maintained near this figure for the past few months. The inference is, therefore, that the profits should show a material expansion. However, a profit in sight of £3,500,000 on a capital of £384,000 is significant enough to require no emphasis, especially as a further material profit from accumulated tailings may be reckoned with. The Block 14 has a capital of £155,000, in 100,000 Ordinary shares of 25s. each and 100,000 6s. Preference shares. In the half-year to September, 32,940 tons of ore were treated, and it is estimated that the ore in reserve amounts to 187,000 of sulphides and 3,000 tons of carbonates. The Broken Hill South has a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, upon which a dividend of 3s. 6d. was paid for the last quarter about a month ago, as against 2s. 6d. for the corresponding period of 1905. In some quarters the mine is believed to be the best in the field. In depth the mine is opening up in a most encouraging manner, the ore formation being particularly extensive, while the quality is excellent. This is an important point, and it may also be emphasised that above 825 ft. level alone the Company has seven years' requirements of ore in sight. The North Broken Hill is another promising property. Its capital is £140,000 in £1 shares, and since the last accounts were made up the remaining 10,000 unissued shares have been placed at £3 each, thus providing funds for duplication of the plant, etc. At the end of June the ore reserves were estimated at 500,000 tons, and when the work of doubling the plant's capacity to 400 tons weekly is finished, it is safe to assume that there will be a considerable expansion in profits, especially as the Company ought to be able to effect economies in working costs then. The Sulphide Corporation not only works the Central Mine at Broken Hill, but in addition, owns extensive smelting and zinc distilling works at Castle Creek, Lake Macquarie, to the south of Newcastle, N.S.W. The mine has been extensively developed, and possesses large ore reserves. According to the last report, the net profits for the six months ending June last amounted to £94,460, but owing to the serious interruption, to production resulting from a creep, it was not considered advisable to make any distribution on the Ordinary capital. A distribution was possible, but in regard to the future it may be borne in mind that the period of heavy expenditure has come to an end, and within a month or so, with the completion of the new mill, there will be no further necessity to pursue this policy, and materially larger profits will be available for the benefit of the Ordinary shareholders. To indicate the extent of the appreciation that has occurred in the value of Barrier shares within the past nine months, I have prepared the following table:—

	Price. April 24.	Present. Price.
British Broken Hill	34/-	47/-
Broken Hill Prop.	3⅞	5⅛
,, Block 10 (£10).....	4⅜	4¾
,, ,, 14	1½	1½
,, Junction North	¾	1⅛
,, North.....	2⅜	4½
,, South	4½	5⅞
,, South Blocks	1⅞	2½
Sulphide Corporation	15/-	19/6
Zinc Corporation.....	1⅜	3s/-

It will be observed that the advance in the majority of cases is very material, but in relation to this question the significance of the enhanced values of the metals must be considered.

Insurance Notes — The Year's Insurance History: Amalgamation, Legislation, Scandalisation, Conflagration.

Last year's insurance history can be appropriately written in four chapters, which might be headed Amalgamation, Legislation, Scandalisation, and Conflagration. The first of these is the most important, as likely to have the greatest and most enduring effect. The tendency for small Companies to be merged in large ones is becoming more and more strongly marked, while, especially in connection with fire insurance, the combination among the Companies is closer than before

and the helplessness of the public is more than ever apparent. In saying this, I am talking particularly of the fire offices and their association in the Tariff Committee. Following the absorption of the Hand-in-Hand came the compulsory retirement of the Westminster Fire and the County Fire. All three were established in the remote past, had a particularly select business in the United Kingdom, and offered exceptionally favourable terms to their policy-holders. It was convenient to the Fire Insurance Ring that they should disappear, and disappear they did. We are consequently face to face with a monopoly in fire insurance—with a Trust which dictates what terms it chooses. I do not pretend that the combined offices abuse their power to any great extent at the present time, but the fact has to be recognised that the Tariff has practically unlimited influence, that it works solely for the interests of the shareholders of the combined offices, that it boycotts remorselessly the few non-tariff fire Companies which hold aloof from the combination, and that for all practical purposes it is in a position to dictate its own terms to nearly every holder of a fire policy in the United Kingdom.

The fire insurance combination shows every indication of extending to that miscellaneous class of insurance commonly called Accident, which includes not only sickness and accident, but employers' liability, burglary, guarantee, and every other insurance liability other than fire, life, and marine business. The Royal, the Liverpool and London and Globe, the London and Lancashire Fire, and the Scottish Union and National have all started accident business in the course of the past year. There are, perhaps, legitimate reasons for this development. The new Workmen's Compensation Act will involve a vast extension of this class of insurance, and it is found by experience that an appreciable increase of business results from the agents of fire offices being able to sell accident policies, and from the agents of accident offices being able to sell fire policies. For the moment there is no tariff for workmen's compensation or other accident risks, and a convenient method of obtaining business is to issue a workmen's compensation policy at a low premium to an employer who is heavily insured against fire; the former policy can be issued at an unremunerative rate in view of the fact that the fire insurance premium is profitable. The tariff regulations are thus adhered to in form and departed from in fact.

With the entry of the big fire Companies into accident business the formation of a tariff for the most important accident risks, especially for workmen's compensation business, becomes highly probable, and there is thus every likelihood that all forms of insurance, with the exception of life and marine, will ultimately drift into the hands of a very few giant Companies possessing absolute control over the rates and conditions of the policies. It is becoming increasingly difficult for small Companies, however strong and however well managed, to hold their own against the modern leviathans, which are always ready to buy the smaller offices at a price which the shareholders would be foolish to refuse.

I suppose these developments are inevitable. There is little doubt that they are profitable to the shareholders, but I have a shrewd suspicion that they are very far from being good for the policy-holders. In this connection it is a significant fact that the big fire Companies, which have long transacted life assurance business, will not for a moment compare as life offices with the Companies which do life assurance business alone. Offices such as the Royal, the North British and Mercantile, and the Commercial Union, which transact a huge fire insurance business, would not be considered for one moment as possible Companies in which to take a life policy by anyone acquainted with the subject who wished to assure to the best advantage. If bigness as a fire Company conduces to inferiority as a life office it is not improbable that it will also conduce to inferiority for accident insurance.

These wholesale amalgamations, and this entry of all the fire offices into the accident field, are to some extent a result of the new Workmen's Compensation Act, which extends the liability of employers to an immensely increased number of servants. This extension is to be cordially welcomed, and was, indeed, inevitable so soon as the original Workmen's Compensation Act was passed. The new Act, however, not only provides compensation for many more people than the original one, but covers trivial accidents as well as serious accidents. Incapacity for seven days now calls for compensation, which is to be made from the date of the accident. There is cause to fear that these new conditions will prove expensive. They make malingering on the part of an injured workman a profitable financial occupation, which was not the case under the old regulations. Personally, I am not afraid of this, because whatever ill effects Acts of Parliament may introduce are usually nullified by the operation of Nature's laws. Workmen's compensation will probably be more costly than formerly, and, as it is a necessary factor in the price of manufactured articles, the wages of workmen will have to be reduced, or at any rate will have to be less than they might be if it is found that goods cannot be sold at a reasonable profit.

The inclusion of domestic servants under the new Workmen's Compensation Act is entirely good from every point of view; it is safe to say that the cost of insuring against the liabilities involved will not exceed 5s. a year for each servant.

I have referred quite recently to the Employers' Liability Assurance Companies Bill, the object of which was to bring such Companies under the same sort of provisions as those which apply to life assurance offices; this was one of the massacred innocents of last Session, and will doubtless be re-introduced in the near future, I hope, in an improved form. I have also referred to the Public Trustee Act, which, comparatively futile in itself, may ultimately do good by leading to the more extensive employment of insurance Companies as trustees.

A feature of last year which will not be readily forgotten was the scandals in the American life offices. Wholly deplorable as an example of methods of management, they were relatively insignificant in financial consequences to the policy-holders, and very distinctly beneficial, inasmuch as they were the direct cause of effective and far-reaching reforms. The searching enquiry which was held in New York had one extremely satisfactory result. It demonstrated in the most conclusive fashion imaginable the absolute soundness of life assurance principles, and showed that even gross mismanagement on the commercial side could not impair the stability of Companies working on recognised principles. Another welcome feature of the inquiry was that, while the business managers and lawyers were found guilty in many respects, the actuaries and the doctors were above reproach. Their salaries were not illegitimately increased, and they had no share in the unsavoury investment transactions in which other officials participated.

Another sensation of the year was the fire at San Francisco. The total loss is estimated at something like £60,000,000, of which £35,000,000 had to be provided by the insurance Companies. The loss to British Companies alone was fully £10,000,000. The American business of British offices has never been conspicuously satisfactory, and it is a sanguine estimate to suppose that it will take the profits of the American business for the next twenty years to recoup the San Francisco loss. The payment of these claims involves by far the biggest call upon the resources of fire insurance offices that has ever been made. All the British Companies, and most of the American offices, have been able to meet their liabilities in full, and to retain adequate funds for the future, unless some other great catastrophe should happen. Apart from San Francisco the year has been a good one for the fire Companies, and even the one big loss has been of benefit to them, since it has demonstrated their financial strength, and has caused them, especially in the United States, to be esteemed and trusted more than ever before. From this confidence a profitable business is likely to result.

"TRUTH" TOY FUND.

The following amount has reached me towards the Toy Fund:—

A. M. Mandeville, Esq. (London and Paris Exchange), £2 2s.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Railways.

Novice, Abergavenny.—1. Buy Brighton "A.," North Easterns, and North Westerns. 2. My best thanks for your contribution to the Toy Fund. *Prospector.*—Take your profit and be thankful. I do not understand how a man who has made so much out of Canadian Pacifics on my recommendation can write the kind of letter which you have sent to me. *Farway.*—Try Brighton Railway Deferred.

Mines.

Styx.—1. Hold New Africans. 2. Zinc Corporations and Consolidation Deep Leads are both excellent speculations. 3. I should not hold. *Dublin.*—Keep your Simmer and Jack shares. The explanation of the drop in the shares is to be found in the generally depressed condition of the Kaffir market. *Malay.*—Buy Arizona Coppers if you can get them at anything like 7¼s. per share. *W. F., Kensington Square.*—In the circumstances you have no right to hold speculative shares. Sell out and get into Chinese Fives, Mexican Fours, Japanese Four-and-a-Halfs, or Johannesburg Fours. *Appreciative.*—Your mine holdings are extremely speculative, and I think you had better realise. *B. and W., Arneham.*—Labour is rather short, but so far as my knowledge goes, work on the property is increasing. *Stuart.*—A bonus is probable, but it has not been declared yet, and if I were in your position I should not be too sanguine about receiving it. *J. G., Halifax.*—You would be well advised to sell out and buy Arizona Coppers. *C. J., Hereford.*—The three mining shares you hold are likely to give you a good profit on a more active market. *Union.*—The shares are a very fair speculation.

Mixed Securities.

Rag.—I think you might leave the investments where they stand at present. *A. M. F.*—1. You can do much better by taking the money out of the Post-Office Savings Bank. 2. Of the three I should prefer the National Bank of India. *Foreigner.*—1. The shares are a very doubtful speculation. 2. The Company did not suffer heavily through the San Francisco earthquake. 3. Grand Trunk Third Preferred and Ordinary stocks are both promising speculative investments. 4. Try Brighton Railway Ordinary. *Exon.*—1. You have no reason for fear in connection with either Central London stock or Furness Withy shares. 2. I believe the venture has collapsed; any way, it was about as wild a gamble as a man could go in for. 3. By preference I should select a Home Railway stock, say one of the Heavies or Brighton Preferred Ordinary, or South-Western Preferred Ordinary. *Old Lady.*—1. I think it would be advisable to sell the shares. 2. Eastman's are good enough to hold for a better profit. *Soldier.*—1. The shares of the Land Corporation of Canada Company are likely to appreciate. 2. I have for some time past recommended a purchase of Qu'Appelle and Long Lake and SasKatchewan bonds, provided you can hold them for some time. 3. Grand Trunk Second Preference stock and the Canada Company shares. *Novice, Kinghussie.*—1. It seems to me that you can take your profit on English Sewing Cotton shares. 2. Fine Spinners are a good industrial investment. 3. Choose Boksburgs, and leave the other alone. *Mond.*—1. The Company is a firm running special brands of tobacco, and has no connection whatever with the mine. 2. Keep the Mexican Railway Ordinary. *Porto.*—1. I believe both concerns are well reputed. 2. The investments you suggest are promising. *Colonel.*—1. I do not see any reason to recommend a sale of any of the holdings enumerated in your letter. 2. I am glad that you made a profit out of my advice. *York.*—1. Grand Trunk Second Preference, Brighton Railway Preferred Ordinary, Lyons Ordinary. 2. I think I should transfer into North Eastern Ordinary or North-Western Ordinary. *Guernsey.*—1. I am afraid that the top has been touched in Argentine Rails. 2. As a matter of speculative investment I should suggest Grand Trund Third Preference or Ordinary. 3. Buy more to average. *Sphynxalix.*—As you will see from above, I do not recommend brokers, but the concern you name is, so far as I know, quite reliable.

Miscellaneous.

F. F. M.—Your transaction with the one particular bucket-shop was a gambling one, and you have no redress—it serves you right. *F. R. J.*—You have been taken in by the old bucket-shop dodge, against which I have been protesting in Truth for many years past. *W. S. S. H.*—I have warned my readers against dealing with these bucket-shops, and it comes as a surprise to me that I should receive such a letter after all. *J. O. H.*—The man you name disappeared more than a year ago, and has now reappeared under another name If you will write me again and give me details, I may be able to put you in a position to consult a solicitor. *Moorhen.*—The concern has a good reputation. *W. H. H. B.*—If you want to buy Continental Lottery Bonds you can get fair value from Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle Street. *C. D. W.*—The concern is only a bucket-shop, and may very well be avoided. *C. B. R. G.*—The firm is quite unreliable. *Nitrates.*—1. I am greatly obliged for your contribution to the Truth Toy Fund. 2. I think you might average on your South Africans with advantage. *A. R. W.*—I am greatly obliged for your kindly remarks about the Truth Fund, and also for your contribution to it. I shall be always willing to give you the best advice in my power. Please give me the name of the outside brokers you mean, or I am afraid I cannot assist you. *S. S.*—The man is a low-down bucket-shopkeeper, and your client might have been well advised to leave him alone. *Wharfdale.*—In your case you could scarcely improve upon the Royal Exchange Assurance Company. *Ash.*—Letters addressed to "Vigilant" are invariably replied to promptly, provided they turn up. Yours appears to have gone astray. Please repeat the questions. *Fleury.*—The office is a sound one. *J. P. K., Carrick-on-Suir.*—You might with advantage leave the concern alone and transact your business through an inside broker. *Sandy.*—Dunderland Iron Ore shares are a very promising speculation at the current price. *Boz.*—1. I should not recommend a purchase. 2. Hold on. 3. The same. *Broome.*—It seems to me that the scheme is one which might with advantage be left alone. *Lakes.*—If there are people willing to give you much more than the market price of the shares, take my advice and hold on to them. *Gunner.*—Apply to the Royal Insurance Company, or the Royal Exchange Assurance Company, or the Scottish Widows, or the London Life Corporation. *Adami.*—The rate of interest promised is quite incompatible with decent security for your money. *H. J.*—The shares of the Imperial Bank of Persia are a very fair industrial holding. *Cedenullis.*—1. I believe the firm is reliable. 2. The prospects are dependent upon the progress of the motor 'bus industry. *P. J Nash.* I have a poor opinion of the concern, and would not recommend you to take up a bond. There are many more desirable institutions doing the same class of business. *Newark.*—As you can afford to do so, you had better hold for a possible recovery. Existing values, I think, are about zero. *B. P.*—Many thanks. I do not think you risk much by holding for a still higher figure within the next month or so. *Philips, Gravesend.*—The last dividend was 2s. per share, paid a couple of months ago. The next is due in about four months. *A. C. R.*—The rumoured bonus has been denied. *Anxious.*—Upon the nationalisation of the undertaking, National Telephone Preferred stock will be redeemed at a premium of 5 per cent., but the position of the Third Preference in regard to the disposal of the surplus assets has not yet been clearly defined. The Deferred participates in such a disbursement. *Dux, Leamington.*—It is a "blind pool" pure and simple, and is designed to fleece simpletons. Therefore you might burn the precious circular with advantage. *Coupon.*—Purely a price list, giving the current quotation and other similar details. You made a mistake in inferring that they were to be bought for a rise. Sell the shares. Do not fancy No. 4. There are dozens of shares that you could choose from. *J. D., Coyne.*—Would not recommend them. *Fife.*—Sell out. Norwich Union and Scottish Widows. *A. X.*—The concern named deals fairly by you, but I may mention that any banker would advance you money on the security. *Calabar.*—Kindly send me stamped addressed envelope. *Poseidon.*—You cannot expect gilt-edged security and a yield of anything like 6 per cent. Home Railways would give you 4 per cent, and possibilities of additional profit from capital appreciation within about a month. Save for Aux Classes, the shares named would make a decent selection. *F. R., Oldham.*—It is impossible to gauge the effect of the fire upon the dividend position, but on the strength of last year's achievement and the satisfactory outlook Humbers are not altogether unattractive. *Scottie.*—In the circumstances you might do best to cut the loss immediately, and put the proceeds into something more promising. *Retals, Derby.* The only drawback to Bank shares is the liability in respect of uncalled capital, the majority of the shares being only partly paid, but this risk is, of course, remote. African Banking and National Bank of South Africa shares would probably benefit from any improvement in the general condition of the country. *Zeut.*—Anglo "A" is a gamble pure and simple, and I do not consider it attractive at anything like the existing price. Hudson's Bays are talked higher in the New Year, but you must realise that they are a "heavyweight." *Jay Jay, Cardiff.*—Allsopps are unattractive, even as a gamble, but the other Brewery shares would make a respectable purchase. 2. This query is out of my scope altogether. *Bostonian.*—You would be well advised to leave Cunliffe Russell and Co., of Paris, alone. They charge exorbitantly for the bonds, many of which are undesirable. *Fides.*—A notorious bucket-shop. *Greenbrier, Plympton.*—Aërated Breads are worth holding as commercial investments on the strength of the last performance.

Industrials Fairly Active — Anglo "A" Gamble — Breweries' Yields—Lyon's Strong—Dock Stock—Canada Co.—Gas Stocks for Investment—Textiles Prominent—Barnum's Decline.

Notwithstanding the adverse influences of this season of the year quite a fair degree of interest is being evinced in the Industrial market. This is a healthy sign, and would, in fact, seem to imply that the full

significance of the recent satisfactory Board of Trade returns in relation to this market is being fully recognised. It augurs well for the New Year, when it is quite possible that a further broadening out of interest may occur unless something untoward develops to check the growth of confidence now in evidence, and with the general range of values still moderate I am inclined to believe that collectively Industrials are deserving of closer attention. One of the interesting features of the moment is the revival of the gamble in Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred stock, which may be ascribed to the approach of the dividend season. The declaration is due some time in February, and in interested quarters they profess to look for a much more substantial payment than that of 1905, when a modest 10s. per cent. was distributed. To justify the existing high price of the stock it would need be more substantial, but for my own part I am inclined to believe that these expectations will not be realised. It is true that the undertaking has enjoyed more prosperity, but, even so, it seems improbable that any substantial dividend on Anglo "A" will be practicable, and everything considered it appears to be very inflated at anything like 27. From the investment standpoint, however, Telegraphs as a group are worthy of consideration, such stocks as Anglo-American Preferred, Direct Spanish Preferred, Direct United States Cable, Easterns, and many others giving quite a respectable return, while at the same time affording good security. The better sentiment in regard to Brewery stocks which has been growing recently is still in evidence, though as a rule the recovery in values is not very material. The knowledge that the trade is participating in the greater prosperity of the country seems to make many of these stocks, especially those of the provincial group, rather attractive, and I have prepared the following table indicating the approximate yields obtainable:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Ashby's, Staines	7½	£9 12 0
Do. Preference	8	5 17 6
Bristol Georges	24	6 5 0
Dartford Preference	3¾	6 17 6
Lassalles, Tichener, Preference	4½	6 6 0
Nalder & Collyer	28	7 15 0
Newcastle Preference	9½	6 3 6
North Eastern	7¼	8 0 0

An interesting feature of the moment is the strength of Lyons shares, to the merits of which as a commercial investment I have frequently drawn attention. So far as "bunshop" shares go they make a very good holding in view of the good management and the progressive nature of the business, and it may be mentioned that the present upward movement is generally ascribed to the large Christmas trade done by the Company. I should imagine, however, that the prospective purchaser would be able to get in rather lower by looking on for a time. There is nothing fresh to add to what I have already said on the subject of Dock stocks, and particularly London and India Deferred. Having regard not only to the achievement of the first half of the year but the postponement of the Port Bill, the existing quotation seems rather inflated, especially as there does not seem to be any great chance of a material increase upon the 1¾ per cent. distribution of 1905. Apart from this, it is problematical what benefit would accrue to the stock by the materialisation of the Port Bill. Hudson's Bays continue to "hang fire," though, as I have pointed out before, the general impression is that early in the New Year there will be a recrudescence of the manipulative activities of the Anglo-American Canadian group who have been responsible for the establishment of the shares at the existing high figure. In view of this, it seems opportune to refer to the achievement of the Canada Company, which announces a dividend equal to 14s. per share for the half-year to January 10, or 3s. more than in 1905-6. It is shown that 5,400 acres were sold, or leased with an option of purchase, at an average of $17.30 per acre, and that 7,900 acres were leased at a rental of $2,400. This compares with 6,300 acres at an average of $13.64 per acre and 11,400 acres leased at $1,400, and represents a significant appreciation in land values. Despite the competition of electricity, gas is holding its own, not only as an illuminant, but for other industrial purposes, and the following table indicates the approximate yield obtainable upon securities of this class:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
British Gas Light	42	£3 15 0
Commercial 4 p.c.	112	4 12 0
Continental Union	129	5 2 0
Imperial	95	4 6 0
Gas Light and Coke	90	4 5 0
Imperial Continental	102	4 7 6
South Metropolitan	100	4 5 0

Considerable speculative interest is being evinced in Textile shares as a result of the statements that the industry continues to enjoy a fair degree of prosperity, and that the prospects generally are encouraging. Cycle and Motor shares remain quiet, with Humbers rather dullish in consequence of the conflagration at the Company's works. What cost this will involve it is, of course, impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy, but the fact that other premises have been obtained, thus enabling the output to be maintained while the original works are being rebuilt seems to be rather encouraging, and altogether the inopportune development is not regarded as being very serious. The uncertainty attaching to Show shares as a holding is testified by the passing of the Barnum and Bailey dividend. Gross receipts were only about £3,000 smaller at £301,548, but the net profit is only £16,500, as against £78,351, and the Ordinary shares, the dividend upon which has been gradually reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. a year ago, is now nothing at all.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A RUNAWAY RING.

IT was certainly rather rough on the Rev. Reginald Bisgood that by an act of the purest good-nature on his own part he should have been led into so awkward and distressing a complication.

If anything, he should have been rewarded for his kindness; but, in point of fact, he was severely penalised. However, such is not infrequently the case when we go out of our way to be kind to unworthy persons, and the person to whom the Rev. Reginald Bisgood went out of his way to be kind proved to be most unquestionably of that character.

A very small person it was, too. In fact, a little limb of a boy just five years old. And this is how it was.

The Rev. Reginald had just recently accepted the post of curate at St. Matthew's Church, Tootham, under the Rev. Jeremy Priggleswade, Vicar of that parish. Now a thoroughly typical specimen was this vicar of what may be called conventional piety. No man could have lived more strictly up to the smug standard of moral and social rectitude which obtains among the wealthy and respectable middle-classes of a prosperous country town—that standard which finds a royal road to Heaven, in black-coated and top-hatted propriety, a rigid observance of the letter of the ten commandments, and a righteous abhorrence of Bohemianism in any shape.

The Vicar of St. Matthew's expected to get to Heaven by this means. Incidentally, he also expected a more immediate reward—a desirable piece of worldly preferment, on the way. The very desirable living of St. Peter's, Tootham, the mother parish of the town, had just fallen vacant by the resignation of the Rector. The Rector, being a very old man, his reverend brother of St. Matthew's had for some time past taken the lead in ecclesiastical affairs in Tootham. The Vicar of St. Matthew's had, in fact, long looked upon himself as the future rector of Tootham, and when the old Rector resigned he lost no time in forwarding to the patron an application for the vacant living, accompanied by a sheaf of testimonials from several scores of influential parishioners.

That he should obtain his request he felt tolerably confident, since Mr. Jenkins, the patron of the living, although an absentee who never came near the place (being entirely given up to social life in London), had nevertheless always shown a laudable disposition to fall

in with the wishes of the parishioners. At the time when his new curate, Mr. Bisgood, arrived Mr. Priggleswade was still awaiting the answer to his application.

And now for the little episode at which I hinted at the outset.

The new Curate was strolling one morning down one of the residential streets in the town when he saw a very small boy making heroic but vain attempts to reach the big brass handle of one of the front-door bells. Our good-natured young parson at once went to the child's assistance.

"Hallo, my little fellow! Can't reach it, eh? Well, let me ring the bell for you." And, suiting the action to the word, he gave the handle a mighty tug, which set the bell clanging loudly within.

A smile of huge gratification expanded the chubby face of the graceless urchin.

"Now we must cut and run," he lisped. And he was off, like a rabbit scuttling to earth, leaving the astonished and dismayed Curate alone upon the doorstep. The imp had evidently been simply amusing himself with the small boys' favourite pastime of runaway rings.

Before the Curate had time to recover from the shock, the door was opened by a rather flustered-looking maid-servant.

"I—I—ahem! Does—does—Mrs.—Mrs. Robinson live here?" he stammered, mentioning the first name that came into his head, as the best way out of the embarrassing situation in which that mischievous little joker had landed him. But, alas! this device, so far from proving a way out, had the directly opposite result, for, to his intense amazement and dismay, the maid answered:

"Yes, sir. Will you please walk in, sir?"

The Curate was so taken aback, that he complied, and before he knew where he was, found himself standing in the hall.

"What name shall I say, sir?" inquired the maid.

The Curate stammered out his name; the maid showed him into a well-furnished drawing-room, and then went to fetch her mistress. While she was gone, Mr. Bisgood stood on the hearthrug feeling very embarrassed, and trying to evolve some plausible explanation of his visit.

If the house had been in St. Matthew's parish, he might have carried things off easily and naturally enough by pretending that he had called to see the lady in the ordinary course of his professional ministrations. But the house was not in St. Matthew's parish; it was in the parish of St. Peter's; so he could scarcely put forward that pretext. And yet he must say something—and, well, perhaps, after all, as a new arrival in the town he might not unreasonably plead ignorance of parochial boundaries, and——

At that moment the lady of the house appeared. She was youngish, and decidedly pretty and attractive, though perhaps somewhat over-dressed. She bowed to Mr. Bisgood with entire self-possession. He returned the bow.

"Mrs. Robinson?" he murmured, awkwardly.

She smiled and nodded, then looked at him interrogatively, as though inviting him to state the object of his visit.

"I'm the—the—new curate," he began, "and I thought that, as I was passing——"

"Quite so. Pray be seated," interposed the lady, taking a chair herself, and indicating an adjacent ottoman to her visitor. "Very kind of you to call, I'm sure. Do you know, I've been here three months, and you are the first clergyman who has been to see me?"

At this statement the Rev. Reginald expressed much surprise. He felt it, too. A rather susceptible young man himself, he knew that he should certainly not have neglected to call, with proper frequency, on so fair a parishioner, and he wondered why the other clergy in the town had been so backward.

"I don't know how it is," continued Mrs. Robinson, candidly, "but I'm afraid I can't be exactly *persona grata* in Tootham. Everybody seems to fight shy of me. I'm not aware of having done anything to offend the worthy denizens of this highly respectable place. But such is the fact. I seem to be regarded as a sort of social leper. However, we won't talk about that. Let's talk about something pleasanter and more interesting."

And she at once led the conversation into impersonal channels. She was a good talker in addition to being a very pretty woman, and the Rev. Reginald found her society so agreeable, that he prolonged his visit rather unduly. Indeed, when he took his leave, he was surprised to find that he had been there for more than an hour.

Now, as it happened, his visit to Mrs. Robinson, and the length of time he had remained there, had not escaped the lynx-eyes of a certain highly respectable maiden lady who lived just over the way. This was Miss Letitia Partlett, a veritable dragon of propriety and self-constituted guardian of the morals of Tootham. Before the day was out she put on her best cloak and bonnet—latest examples of the style of the year before last—and flew round to St. Matthew's Vicarage, where she had a long private interview with the Vicar. The result of this interview was, that when the Curate went next morning for his day's instructions, he found himself greeted by his superior in the sternest and most frigid of tones.

"Come in here, if you please, Mr. Bisgood" said the Vicar, leading the way into his study. "I have something very unpleasant to discuss with you."

The Curate, not conscious of any particular delinquency, wondered what on earth was up. He was soon enlightened.

"Be good enough to explain to me," demanded the Vicar, very stern, righteous, and scathing, "how it is that you were seen to go into the house of that bad woman yesterday, and to remain with her for an hour and sixteen minutes?"

"Eh? Bad woman? What on earth do you mean? To whom are you referring?" cried out the Curate, in unaffected astonishment and indignation.

"Don't pretend ignorance, sir. You know very well," retorted the Vicar, witheringly. "Whom should I mean but that abandoned creature who calls herself Mrs. Robinson—a woman whose name is a by-word in the town, and whose house no relf-respecting person would be seen to enter—much less a minister of the Gospel, like yourself?"

The Curate looked as he felt, very much taken aback. Mrs. Robinson a bad character? Impossible! That she was a vivacious little woman and prone to flirtation had been obvious enough to him during their one hour's agreeable *tête-à-tête*. But that there was anything seriously amiss with her he could scarcely believe. She had not struck him as at all that sort of person.

"I did happen to go and see a Mrs. Robinson yesterday, under rather peculiar circumstances——" he answered.

"Very peculiar, I have no doubt," interposed the Vicar, with biting sarcasm.

"My calling upon her, however, was the purest of accidents——"

"Oh! of course," said the Vicar, more and more sarcastic.

"I beg you will do me the justice of hearing me out," rejoined the Curate, his colour rising. "The circumstances which resulted in my visiting this Mrs. Robinson were as follows." And he told the Vicar the exact circumstances, not omitting any detail.

The Vicar listened with an air of offensive incredulity, now and then shrugging his shoulders as much as to say, "Do you really think it worth while taking the trouble to tell me all these lies?"

When the Curate had quite done, he retorted, scoffingly:—

"A very pretty and ingenious story, Mr. Bisgood. I really don't know which to commend the more—your ingenuity in concocting it, or your effrontery in telling it."

"Do you mean to say you don't believe me?" demanded the Curate, beginning to grow heated.

The Vicar laughed a peculiarly nasty laugh.

"I wasn't born yesterday," he said; "and even if I

had been, I should still have thought your story rather thin—especially your hitting on the woman's name accidentally, without any previous knowledge of her. That was so exceedingly likely, wasn't it?"

"Robinson is a common enough name. And, likely or not, it is precisely what happened," answered the Curate, now very indignant indeed.

"Oh! So that is all you have to say?" remarked the Vicar, dryly.

"No, it is not quite all," retorted the Curate, "I have also to say that—even assuming Mrs. Robinson's character to be what you imply—I could not possibly have known anything about it; for, until I saw her yesterday, I had never so much as heard of the woman."

Again the Vicar laughed his nasty scoffing laugh—a laugh that made it difficult for the Curate to refrain from kicking him.

"You must have heard of so notorious a person," he said. "A woman who is constantly visited on Sundays by flashy acquaintances—mostly men—in motor-cars, and who entertains them into the small hours with music and feasting and revelling. Why, Sir, the goings on in that Jezebel's house are the talk of the town. And you expect me to believe that you had never heard of her. No! no! Mr. Bisgood. Try that story on somebody a few years younger than I am."

The Curate was by this time—not unnaturally—in a white heat of passion.

"You're the first man who has ever dared to call me a liar; and by Heaven, I've a good mind to thrash you for the insult, you—you—smug Pharisee!" he cried, in a voice that trembled with perhaps excusable rage.

The Vicar, though endeavouring to sustain a calm, dignified, and contemptuous air, slipped rather hastily round to the other side of his study table, so as to interpose that solid piece of furniture between himself and his Curate. He was not a warrior, except linguistically, and he entertained a wholesome regard for his own skin. Thus entrenched behind four foot of mahogany, he said:—

"You are not improving your position by insolence and blasphemy, Mr. Bisgood. Had you been penitent and contrite, I might have given you another chance. But, in view of the outrageous manner in which you have taken my rebuke, the sooner you leave Tootham, the better."

"I'll go to-day," ejaculated the Curate.

"A wise resolve," rejoined the Vicar. "And—by the way—do not refer to me for a testimonial."

"I would not take a testimonial from you at a gift," answered the Curate.

"You will not have the chance," retorted the Vicar. "And, of course, it will be my duty to report your conduct to the Bishop."

"I hope you will," exclaimed the Curate. "The Bishop, by all accounts, has some Christian charity, and is not altogether destitute of the feelings of a gentleman." And with that Parthian shaft, steeped in venomous implication, he took his departure.

The pious Vicar was so much upset by the outrageous behaviour of his curate, that it was some days before he recovered his equanimity. However, an encouraging letter from the patron of the living of St. Peter's, which the Vicar received on the third day after the Curate's departure, did much to soothe his ruffled feelings. The letter ran as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—Your application for the living of Tootham has been sent on to me by Mr. Jenkins, the gentleman from whom I purchased the advowson some months ago.

Will you, if possible, make it convenient to call on me here the day after to-morrow—any time between two and six in the afternoon—and we can then discuss the matter.—I am, yours faithfully, M. DE BRACEY.

1,001, Eaton-square, S.W., Jan. 15, 19—.

You may be sure the Vicar lost no time in writing to say that he would, with pleasure, run up to London next day and see Mr. de Bracey, as requested. He saw himself already rector of Tootham. It seemed tolerably certain that the new patron would not have sent for him, unless he had serious thoughts of presenting him to the benefice.

When he arrived next afternoon at 1,001, Eaton-square, he asked the butler whether Mr. de Bracey was at home.

"*Mrs.* de Bracey, sir," the butler corrected him. "There is no Mr. de Bracey; my master has been dead some years. Yes, sir, the mistress is at home. She is expecting you, I think. Mr. Priggleswade, is it not? Will you walk in, please?"

The Vicar walked in, and was shown into the library, where the lady of the house, who was writing at her escritoire, rose to receive him.

The Vicar started. He turned pale. In the pretty woman who stood confronting him he recognised that depraved person, Mrs. Robinson.

"I—I—came to see Mrs. de Bracey," he stammered.

"And I *am* Mrs. de Bracey," she smiled. "You are surprised, eh?—because you have known me in another name. Well, the fact is this: When I purchased the advowson of Tootham with the knowledge that the late rector contemplated resigning at an early date, the idea struck me that I would come down to the place and live there awhile, in an assumed name, so that I might have a good opportunity of studying and sizing up the local clergy, with a view to seeing whether any of them were deserving to be appointed to the benefice, when it fell vacant."

She paused. The Vicar looked rather blank. He wished now that he had not been quite so hasty in his judgment of Mrs. "Robinson's" character. Further, he hoped, with all his heart, that she had not heard of that little row he had had with his Curate in connection with the latter's visit to her house.

The lady went on:—

"My rather Bohemian way of life appears to have shocked all the good people of Tootham immensely; and I won't deny that, when I saw that, I took something of a malicious pleasure in even going out of my way to shock them further. Still, I hardly think that they—least of all you clergy, who are supposed to be especially endowed with the virtue of Christian charity—need have jumped to the conclusion that I was a bad character."

"Oh, I never thought that—" began the Vicar, in obsequious deprecation.

"No?" she ejaculated, with a slight lift of her shapely shoulders. "Then I wonder why you dismissed that nice curate of yours for the iniquity of merely calling to see me."

"Oh, that was a mistake—an unfortunate mistake——"

"A *very* unfortunate mistake, Mr. Priggleswade, as you are now to learn. Had you behaved differently, and as a minister of the Gospel ought, I should probably have presented you to the benefice. But, as it is, I have decided to present your late curate, the Rev. Reginald Bisgood."

QUEER STORY PUZZLE.

(TRUTH, DEC. 19.)

NOTICE TO COMPETITORS.

By a regrettable accident, a misprint occurred in the Puzzle Story published in TRUTH *of Dec 19. The date of the letter from Amy Beadle to her mother given on page 1517 should have been "January 2, 190-," not "1906" as printed. That "1906" was a typographical error could be seen from internal evidence, and I find that all Competitors whose Solutions have been received up to the present time have assumed it to be so if they have noticed the mistake at all. The misprint does not, therefore, in any way affect the Competition.*

The correspondent signing himself "Puzzled," who writes to point out that "all the incidents surrounding the cashing of the cheque are impossible," because "January 1st is a Bank Holiday," is misinformed as to the dates of Bank Holidays in England.

SAVOY HOTEL, DRESDEN, has had ten years' reputation as the leading and favourite hotel of English visitors to Dresden. Pension terms.—F. MARGRAF.

MUSIC.

PARRY ON STRAUSS.

SIR HUBERT PARRY has been expressing his views on Richard Strauss, and the result was bound to be interesting. This was not the first time that the composer of "Job" had discussed the music, so different from his own, which finds shape in "Ein Heldenleben," "Don Juan," and the rest. In the last edition of his well-known manual of musical history, published by Messrs. Novello, there is, for instance, a gracefully phrased appreciation of his most remarkable contemporary. Now, it is in his capacity as Professor of Music at Oxford University that he has been, so to speak, dotting the i's and crossing the t's of his earlier estimate by dealing with Strauss's methods in a somewhat more critical spirit. Among other things Parry lays stress on the fact that Strauss, though commonly identified with music of the "programme" order, has really gone beyond this, and given us that of a different kind altogether. The phase in which the whirling fury of the recent advance has arrived (we are told) is that in which the composer discourses to the world of things which have deeply stirred his spirit. "The musician tried to present in a medium which far transcended the possibilities of words, and in phases of feeling which were different from their sphere, the arguments of mood and emotion, condensing, in fact, in a few musical subjects the mental and temperamental state which could only be presented otherwise by volumes of verbal discussion."

Unfortunately, it would appear that in Parry's judgment the attempt has not been attended so far with conspicuous success, and he dwells in particular upon the violence and eccentricity of the methods to which Strauss has recourse in order to achieve the objects of this "post-programme phase of art." Incidentally, by the way, he ascribes the rise of this particular school to the profusion of performances during recent years of Wagnerian excerpts in the concert room, whereby, he suggests, the amateur became familiarised with the notion of listening to music charged with specific meaning to a degree not previously attempted. It is an interesting suggestion, but not all will be prepared to accept it, I fancy, as a quite adequate explanation or true cause of the phenomenon in question. Surely such compositions as the "Faust" and "Dante" symphonies of Liszt, the "Symphonie Fantastique," and kindred works of Berlioz, taken in conjunction, of course, with the general extension of the expressive resources of instrumental music, had more to do with the matter than the mere performance of Wagnerian excerpts in the concert room? Does not Sir Hubert go astray, too, in laying quite so much stress upon what he doubtless regards as the polyphonic barbarities (though he is much too polite to term them such in public) of Strauss? Strauss's polyphony is of a different order, doubtless, but is it in the least degree more complex or involved than that which may be found, not only in the music of the Moors and the Siamese, to whom Sir Hubert drily refers in this connection, but also in the works of the most venerated masters at the head of whom stands Bach himself?

Then again, as to Strauss's melodies. Parry dwells on their awkwardness and lack of spontaneity. "In the first theme of 'Ein Heldenleben' the melodic figures jumped about to all the most startling and unlikely points of the scale in order to arrest attention and suggest exultation and vigour. Such devices were to be met with in every direction, and the extent to which they had permeated Strauss's terminology was shown by the fact that similar selections of extreme melodic progressions were manifested in his operatic works." Are not these criticisms, however, such as are invariably preferred in the case of all music really new and different from that which has been known before? Strauss's tunes often wear, no doubt, a rather unprepossessing aspect at first, but who has not realised with astonishment how their asperities disappear with closer acquaintance? Moreover, whenever the question of his powers as a melodist is under discussion the incontestable loveliness of many of his songs can never be overlooked.

One conclusion, at any rate, irresistibly suggests itself on any general survey of the work of Strauss considered as typical of the music of to-day; and this is the tremendous earnestness and intensity of purpose which it reveals. In this he is certainly the child of his age. Reger is another who immediately comes to mind in this connection. Concerning him that highly competent critic, Moritz Rosenthal, has, I notice, been expressing himself recently in outspoken fashion:—

> We don't mind the thorns if there are roses too, but to tear your fingers on the thorns and then find no roses—that's the way with Reger. In a piece of his music there is usally no settled tonality. Three or four times in a single measure the key may change. The result is like asking a question in Russian and answering it in Japanese. His music is a kind of harmonic lottery. Such a man I cannot regard as an influence, or otherwise than as an abnormal sideshoot of the great musical stem.

That is Rosenthal's opinion, and he is to be commended for expressing it. But it does not necessarily dispose of Reger. It merely goes to show that his music, like that of Strauss, is new and individual. Whether it is also a thing of beauty and of lasting worth time will tell. In any case this at least may be said with confidence, that it will be a sad day for music when composers who excite the animadversions of even their most enlightened contemporaries cease to exist.

The most interesting musical event of the near future will be the opening of the season of German opera at Covent Garden, which starts on Monday, January 14, with a performance of "Tristan," conducted by Herr Nikisch. It was reported some time ago that Herr Nikisch was not likely to come after all, but Mr. Van Dyck has since stated that he will positively appear. The interesting announcement has also been made that if the coming season succeeds it is the intention of those behind the venture to make it an annual affair, and in future years to extend the length of the season. It rests with the public, therefore, to bring this about and to ensure thereby virtually opera all the year round in London. In future years, too, it may be hoped that it may be possible to employ many more native singers than have been engaged for the forthcoming season. There seems no reason, indeed, why, in time, the bulk of the performers should not be English-speaking, with just a stiffening of imported "stars." This would not only encourage native talent, but materially reduce expenses. Also, it would mean, in most cases, infinitely more agreeable voices than Germany is usually able to send us, and incidentally might pave the way for the more liberal employment of native artists in the grand season. But this is looking ahead. At present the main thing is to make a success of the season shortly to be begun; and that this result will be attained there seems every reason to anticipate.

Great things are being done just now in New York with a burlesque of "Lohengrin," in which three performers, well known in London, Mme. Lilian Blauvelt, Miss Cissie Loftus, and Mr. Maurice Farkoa are taking part. From the accounts to hand it does not seem to be a particularly brilliant affair, but perhaps that is why it has proved such a success. A musical parody which would really appeal to the cultivated musician would be over the heads of the average audience. Yet there ought to be plenty of scope for clever productions managing to hit the happy mean. Attempts in this direction have, however, been curiously few. Musicians in general have strangely neglected the possibilities of parody and caricature. "Burning to Sing," which is one of the attractions of the Empire just now, is an amusing skit on opera in general, and most of the Gilbert and Sullivan series may be regarded, of course, in the same light; but works of this order by no means exhaust the possibilities of the case. Let one of our clever young musicians think the matter over, therefore, and give us a lively parody of Strauss or Debussy. Unfortunately most of those at present before the public seem to find the penning of dirges, odes to death, and the like, more congenial.

Recent allusion to what a writer, greatly daring, ventured to dub the "musical and intellectual snobbery" of the Joachim Quartet audiences, who flock to the Joachim concerts, but leave all others of equally high class severely alone, has called forth, I notice, various comments, some approving and some critical. One writer attempts a defence of the accused audiences, which I am afraid is not very convincing:—

Numbers of Joachim's admirers and friends (he has a great many in London) make a point of attending his concerts partly for the sake of "auld lang syne," partly because they feel that in spite of his diminished powers of execution he can still give them what no other violinist can. Many of them are those whose chief delight is in chamber-music, who have quartet parties at home, and who hear as much music as they want in that way. When professed concert-goers neglect concerts of the highest class, which would do their minds good, and flock to others merely to have their ears tickled—there have been instances of this—they may reasonably be blamed. But it is going too far when the rod is applied to such harmless folk as those who subscribe to the Joachim concerts.

This is all very well, but I confess I find it difficult to believe in so many hundreds of earnest amateurs all curiously enough wrapped up entirely in chamber music and finding all their normal wants supplied by performances in private. Certainly it affords an inspiring conception of the extent to which the art is cultivated in private nowadays, and I only wish I could believe that the theory bore any relation to the actual facts of the case.

I have vivid recollections of a particularly striking contrast afforded a few seasons back when, concurrently with the Joachim concerts, at which Beethoven's posthumous quartets were the chief attraction, a performance of Beethoven's Mass in D (under Weingartner) was given at Queen's Hall. The Joachim concerts were, of course, thronged, while that at which a superb performance of the Mass in D was given was half-empty. Is it really possible to believe in amateurs so curiously constituted that, whereas they revelled in the quartets, they with one accord found no attraction in the Mass? The real explanation was, I fancy, much simpler. Then, as still, it was the thing in certain circles to be seen at the Joachim concerts, whereas the performance of the Mass enjoyed no such adventitious help. In other words, Joachim was fashionable; mere Beethoven was not.

On the subject of Handel's borrowings, a correspondent (Mr. P. Robinson, Rusholme, Lancs.) writes:—

May I be permitted to point to the following facts:—

1. That of the larger borrowings which are certain, those from Muffat, Clari, and Habermann, seem to have been derived from printed and published works.

2. That if the organ canzona was contained in Kerl's original "Modulatio Organica," it also had been printed at Munich in 1686.

3. That Carissimi's "Plorate," used in "Samson," had, so it is said, been printed in Kircher's "Musurgia."

4. With regard to the other certain case of importance, the borrowings from Graun's "Brunswick Passion," it may be noted: (a) That Brunswick is only thirty miles from Hanover. (b) That George II. and his suite stayed at Hanover from May to October, 1735. (c) That Handel's use of Graun dates from the beginning of 1736. (d) That nearly all the first instances were in connection with music written to celebrate the wedding of Prince Frederick, Handel's old enemy.

5. That Bach's borrowings do not seem to have been recorded in his MSS., and may equally be said to have been unacknowledged.

Mr. Robinson's theory, as I understand him, is that Handel's borrowings were all perpetrated in an open and above-board fashion, because the works from which he borrowed were in print and available to the whole world at the time. I have not studied the matter sufficiently to be able to offer any opinion as to the accuracy of my correspondent's statements, but it would require very powerful argument to convince the average man that most of Handel's appropriations could conceivably be regarded as the legitimate adoption of other men's ideas in the sense that Mr. Robinson would appear to suggest.

The whirligig of time! In the account of a new composition recently produced at Paris one reads, "The work is rather reactionary, because the composer has not scrupled to use Wagnerian effects of strings, whereas the newest tendency here is anything but Wagnerian." Thus it is seen that the composer of "Tristan," who is still regarded as a dark and dangerous revolutionary by the members of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, is already outmoded and voted a fossilised old fogey on the banks of the Seine. But this is no new thing, of course. Do they not talk already in Germany of a post-Strauss school?

Mr. W. Wolstenholme, the well-known blind organist, has found it necessary, I note, to issue a formal contradiction of certain imaginative statements which have recently been issued concerning him. Thus he is *not* a Doctor of Music, Sir Edward Elgar did *not* hear him as "a poor Blackburn lad" play the organ, Sir Edward was *not* responsible for his education, and he did *not* make the arrangements with the Oxford authorities whereby Mr. Wolstenholme was enabled to take his University degree. On the contrary, he was educated at the College for Blind Sons of Gentlemen at Worcester, and it was the late Headmaster of the College, the Rev. S. T. Forster, M.A., who directed his studies and arranged matters at Oxford. Elgar at the time taught the violin at the college, and that was how he came to make Mr. Wolstenholme's acquaintance. Subsequently, also, he did act as has often been stated, as Mr. Wolstenholme's amanuensis at Oxford, and otherwise helped him, and Mr. Wolstenholme refers gratefully to his many acts of kindness; but not unnaturally he objects to such nonsensical statements about himself as have recently been circulated.

Mr. Algernon Ashton's latest—or one of his latest—is truly magnificent. It appeared in a recent issue of the *Star*, and must really be given in full.

SIR,—You say that I have "unkindly" omitted the name of "Shakespeare" from a list of the ten greatest Englishmen because I do not for one moment believe he wrote the great plays. You then go on to ask:—"Does it not occur to Algernon that somebody may one day propose to omit him from a list of the ten greatest letter-writers on the ground that he did not write the great letters?" No, this did not occur to me, for the simple reason that I know exactly what I am—not a "great" letter-writer, but merely a voluminous one. On the other hand, it is quite certain that if, long after I am dead and gone, a list of the ten greatest English composers should ever be drawn up, the name of Algernon Ashton could not possibly be omitted.—Yours, etc.,

ALGERNON ASHTON.

The world knows nothing of its greatest men, but Algernon is clearly of opinion that this is not a desirable state of affairs.

Concert-goers will read with something like consternation that an entirely new and original method of teaching the violin has been invented, whereby, one is given to understand, Kubeliks and Marie Halls will be turned out like shelling peas. A Mr. Ostrovsky accepts responsibility for this appalling discovery, his method being based, it seems, upon a careful preliminary diagnosis of the fingers, hands, wrists, and arms of each individual pupil, who is then set to correct his or her particular defects and disadvantages by special gymnastics. Afterwards, the most exacting passages of Ernst and Paganini become the merest child's play. The announcement opens up a fearsome prospect. If someone would only devise a means of making it more difficult to play the violin, he would be a real benefactor of his species.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM.—You have often noticed on the stage how a man's dress emphasises, and is probably meant to emphasise, the femininess of the figure of the girl who assumes it. Similarly, it seems to me, our Suffragettes in the hysterical clamour of their claims for masculine rights emphasise their feminine unfitness for the exercise of such rights. "A Revolutionary Princess" (1), e.g., an ardent advocate of the

(1) "A Revolutionary Princess." Christina Belgiojoso-Trivulzio, Her Life and Times, 1808-1871. By H. Remsen Whitehouse. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

(2) "Occasion's Forelock." By Violet A. Simpson. (London: Edward Arnold. 6s.)

(3) "The Heart That Knows." By Charles G. D. Roberts. (London: Duckworth & Co. 6s.)

(4) "The Modern Way." By Mrs. W. K. Clifford. (London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 6s.)

(5) "A Woman." (London: Greening & Co., Ltd. 6s.)

intellectual equality of the sexes, showed conspicuously in her masculine rôle of agitator for the freedom and unity of Italy, all the distinctive weaknesses of her sex. Certainly the impression this interesting memoir of the Princess leaves upon you is rather that of "Daniel Stern" than of Heine.

"Yours," hysterically writes Heine to the lady, "is the most complete personality I have found on earth. Yes! Before I knew you I imagined that persons like you, endowed with all the perfections of body and mind, existed only in fairy tales or in the dreams of poets. Now, I know that the Ideal is not mere chimera: That a Reality corresponds to our most sublime Imaginings. When thinking of you, Princess, I sometimes cease to doubt another Divinity, which I was also prone to relegate to the realm of my dreams."

That is the view of the lover and the poet, and, I might almost add, to complete the Shakespearean trio, of the lunatic lover and poet, "of imagination all compact." Now let us see how the Revolutionary Princess looks to a lady, not under the glamour of her sex, beauty, and rank, by the "dry light" of common sense.

"Never did a woman," writes Madame d'Agoult ("Daniel Stern") "more fully understand the art of effect than did the Princess Belgiojoso. She searched for and found it in everything; to-day in the form of a negro and the study of theology; to-morrow in the Arab whom she paraded in her carriage in order to intrigue the frequenters of the Bois. Yesterday she found it in conspiracy, in exile, in the very shells of the omelette she herself prepared over her fire at the time it suited her to feign ruin. Pale, thin to emaciation, with eyes of flame, she cultivated the aspect of a spectre or a phantom. Readily, also for the sake of effect, she gave credence to certain rumours which put into her hands the cup and dagger of the Borgia."

The Princess, in a word, was a consummate *poseuse*. It would, no doubt, be too much to say that her revolutionary principles were donned as an effective dress; but she certainly changed them like a garment, favouring whichever party of patriots it suited her best to favour. The frontispiece of the memoir represents the Princess as she appeared at the head of her Falstaffian regiment of Neapolitan volunteers, whom she described as belonging mainly "to the highest society of Naples," and to whom she distributed brevets of rank thus royally:—"We, Princess Christina di Belgiojoso, do hereby name and appoint, etc." But the end of these braves was also Falstaffian. "I have led my rascals," cried Falstaff, "where they have been peppered. Out of the one hundred and fifty but three are left alive, and they to beg at the town's end for the rest of their days." But Falstaff's ragamuffins at least met and fought the foe, whereas these Neapolitan gentry, according to Hübner, had to be exterminated, like wolves, by the side they had come to help!

These budding young heroes were put on the train at the Porta Tosca station and despatched to the seat of war. Three weeks later a score of poor devils in rags could be seen begging alms in the streets of Milan. This was all that remained of the Neapolitan braves. They never saw the enemy, but committed such depredations of all kinds that the exasperated peasantry more or less exterminated them.

Far from the least characteristic freak of the Princess was the embalming of the corpse of a consumptive young fellow who fell dead in her presence. Why, with her horror of death and her terror of ghosts, she should have kept the embalmed corpse in a bedroom cupboard. is a mystery; but that she did so is implicitly admitted, while being explicitly denied by her biographer.

Fantastic as were all her vagaries, the hypothesis that she caused the corpse to be concealed in a cupboard in her own house during all these weeks is too preposterous for serious consideration.

Yet on the preceding page you read —

For reasons unexplained, she took steps to have the body partially embalmed, although within three days the coffin (containing a log of wood) was interred with all religious rites.

Why embalm a body that was to be buried in three days? And if the body was embalmed by her order, it is to be presumed it was by her order a log of wood was substituted for it in the coffin. Probably many of the eccentric or irresponsible acts of the Princess were due to her ill-health as a confirmed epileptic. No doubt to it was due the icy coldness, underlying a seemingly sympathetic exterior, which Alfred de Musset ungratefully satirised in his poem upon her "Sur Une Morte." Ungratefully, for during the poet's illness she visited and ministered to him continually, guaranteeing life to him by her mere presence! "One day," writes the poet's brother and biographer, "when he was feeling particularly ill, the Princess remarked with the utmost assurance: 'Calm yourself. No one ever dies in my presence.' When she promised to return on the morrow it was in perfect sincerity that he whispered: 'Then I shall not die on the day.'" In reading Miss Simpson's "Occasion's Forelock" (2), I recalled Bacon's comparison of the way of fortune to the milky way—"a knot of a number of small stars, not seen asunder, but giving light together. So there are a number of little and scarce discerned virtues that make men fortunate." You do not quite know why the hero of "Occasion's Forelock" should be so fortunate, or indeed, for that matter, why he should be the hero instead of the chivalrous Hugh Harwich. However, the men of the book do not matter so much—in spite of its being a political novel—for the women are excellently imagined and described, especially the aunt of the heroine and the girls of the Oxford College. The main defect of the novel as a story is that your sympathies throughout grate against those of the author, whose hero, Eustace Gleig, blocks the course and wins the race against your hero, Hugh Harwich. Eustace's single Quixotic act of chivalry is, besides, too improbable for belief. "The Heart that Knows" (3) is a most interesting New Brunswick story of a girl left derelict by her sailor lover through the jealous and Machiavellian machinations of her rival. Her son (and his) resolves to avenge his mother's ruined life and all the insults her ruin brought on her and on himself, upon his own father; but when son and father meet, unconscious of their relationship, they become mutually devoted, while the discovery of their relationship is speedily followed by the discovery of the treachery to which the whole trouble was due. The village life and the persecution to which the derelict heroine and her fatherless boy are subjected are admirably described, and, indeed, the whole story grips you from the first page to the last. In Mrs. Clifford's collection of short stories, "The Modern Way" (4), you are more interested in the characters than in the incidents, since the author is a master of the art of making bricks with little straw and of any clay. Perhaps the grim "The Heart of the Wood" is the most original and fascinating tale in the collection, and "The Bread-snatchers" the most instructive. It certainly went straight home to my own business and bosom. The preface to "A Woman" (5) declares it to be "a record of actual experience," but it is the terrible experience "of a woman steeped in the poisonous juices that distil from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge—an abnormal, a decadent, a 'sport,' even." For my own part, to borrow the language of the grim record, I found in it "the fume of a sewer—the opening of a drain," mixed with a scent which tries to overpower it—of patchouli.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

Mr. B. L. Putnam Weale has written a book entitled "The Truce in the East and the Aftermath," which forms a sequel to "The Re-Shaping of the Far East," published a year ago. As the title indicates, the main point of the new book is to show that the present condition of affairs in Manchuria and Korea offers little prospect of permanent peace. Mr. Weale has travelled through the country a good deal since the war. His work, which will be illustrated from photographs, will be issued by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

Mr. Murray will have ready this month Lord Dunraven's book, "The Outlook in Ireland," in which he sets out "the case for devolution and conciliation."

"A new thrill of the supernatural" is promised in a novel by Mr. Arnold Bennett, entitled "The Ghost," which Messrs. Chatto and Windus are to publish. It deals with the operatic worlds of London and Paris, and is another of the series of fantasies on modern themes which the author began with "The Grand Babylon Hotel."

The new novels to be issued this month by Messrs. Methuen include "Temptation," a story of mediæval

Italy by Mr. Richard Bagot; "A Midsummer Day's Dream," by Mr. Marriott Watson; and "A Blind Bird's Nest," by Miss Mary Findlater.

The fifth volume of the late Sir Walter Besant's "Survey of London" has just been published by Messrs. Black. Entitled "Mediæval London: Ecclesiastical," it deals with the religious life of the period and the growth and domination of the vast number of monastic houses, now so wholly vanished that a name here and there, applied to a very different institution, such as St. Martin's-le-Grand, alone remains to remind us of their whereabouts.

Mr. Harry de Windt's new book, "Through Savage Europe," is an account of a tour in the Balkans and a study of the affairs and people of those parts. It will be published by Mr. Unwin.

Mr John Lane has taken over the publication of the *Independent Review*. It is stated that the proprietors, while maintaining the lofty ideals of cultured Liberalism that have always distinguished this magazine, will make every effort to increase its influence; and, as hitherto, articles of general appeal will be inserted, irrespective of political interest.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

A year ago the editors of the peerages and other books of reference were placed in an awkward fix through the change of Government and the accompanying bestowal of honours, at the very moment when the annual volumes were being published. However, they now have their reward, especially the editors of the peerages, inasmuch as the 1907 editions embrace so many new names and so much new information that previous issues are entirely obsolete. It is long since there has been such a profuse distribution of honours as has taken place during the past twelve months. The total number announced, including the "resignation" and "appointment" honours, was 640; and of these thirty-one were new peerages and thirty-two new baronetcies. Consequently an exceptionally large number of persons now for the first time enjoy the distinction of figuring in the stately volume of "Burke's Peerage and Baronetage" (Harrison and Sons, 42s. net), a work which under the skilful editorship of Mr. Ashworth P. Burke fully maintains its high reputation for the amplitude and accuracy of its genealogical and heraldic records. Burke still retains as one of its principal features that wonderful guide to relative precedence, in which every one with a title is classified and numbered according to his or her degree. The present is the sixty-ninth annual edition of Burke; but it is quite a youthful publication in comparison with "Debrett's Peerage" (Dean and Son, Limited, price 31s. 6d.) which is now in its 194th year. Not that there are any signs of old age about Debrett. On the contrary, it is a vigorous and flourishing publication, carefully compiled, conveniently arranged, handsomely turned out, and in every respect a model of what a "Peerage" should be. "Lodge's Peerage" (Kelly's Directories, Limited, price 21s.) has now reached its seventy-sixth annual edition. It is a thoroughly comprehensive work, particularly noteworthy for the fulness of its information with reference to collaterals. Henceforth, by the way, "Lodge's Peerage" will be under the editorship of Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster King of Arms.

For people who do not need the elaborate genealogies of the larger works, "Dod's Peerage" (Whittaker and Co., price 10s. 6d.) is an admirable handbook. It compresses a great amount of information about the titled classes into a volume of moderate size, and its arrangement makes references to it extremely easy. "Whitaker's Peerage" (12, Warwick-lane, E.C., price 3s. 6d.) is a smaller work, also remarkable for its facility of reference. The distinctive feature of "Walford's County Families" (Spottiswoode and Co., price 50s.), is, of course, its inclusion of the untitled as well as the titled aristocracy, so that for many purposes it is even more useful than a peerage. Another work of a wider scope than the peerages is "Kelly's Handbook to the Titled, Landed, and Official Classes" (Kelly's Directories, Limited, price 16s.).

To the vast majority of Londoners, at any rate, whether they belong to the classes or the masses, the most familiar and the most indispensable of all the books of reference is Kelly's "Post Office London Directory." The directory is now in its 108th annual edition, but old though it is, it remains absolutely unrivalled. Nobody ventures to challenge the supremacy of Kelly, whose work is as nearly perfect as it is possible for anything of the kind to be. Despite the adoption of many ingenious space-saving devices, the directory, including the suburban sections, now makes a prodigious volume (price 40s.) of no fewer than 4,680 pages, without counting advertisements. Any one who thinks it too big in this form—and certainly it is rather heavy to handle—can, however, purchase it in two volumes, while several different sections are also issued separately. "The Royal Blue Book" (price 5s.), another of Kelly's publications, gives, in addition to a great deal of Court and official information, the customary street and alphabetical directory of the names and addresses of those whom the preface describes as "the better-class private residents" in a district stretching to Hampstead in the north, the Chelsea reaches of the Thames in the south, Finsbury-circus in the east, and Hammersmith in the west.

As a biographical annual "Who's Who" (A. and C. Black, price 10s. net) still holds a unique position among books of reference. Everybody has a place in its pages; perhaps a captious critic might say that some are there who are nobodies, or who at least occupy more room than they are worth. One rather wonders, for instance, why an American meteorologist should be given as much space as the Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. John Burns put together. Still, "Who's Who" is an invaluable annual, and its offspring, "The Who's Who Year Book," also has the recommendation of containing much information that cannot be so readily procured elsewhere.

"Herbert Fry's Royal Guide to the London Charities" (Chatto and Windus, price 1s. 6d.) is a compendium of information collected for the guidance of the benevolent in the bestowal of their benefactions. It has the merit of setting out the names, addresses, and other particulars relating to the charitable institutions of London in a very handy form. "Whitaker's Almanac" (12, Warwick-lane) is such a well-established institution that it is scarcely necessary here to do more than mention the appearance of the issue for 1907. It retains all its familiar features, and in the way of new matter gives articles on Army reform and the growth of travelling facilities in London.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You can scarcely imagine, even with your vivid fancy, the beauty of the scene in the Palm Court of the Carlton Hotel on Christmas Eve. The floor was covered with a thick white carpet, resembling snow in its softness, into which the feet sank, as well as in its colour. In one corner stood a Swiss chalet, snow-covered and sparkling with ice. Round it were fir-trees, their branches laden with snow. The whole scene was carried out in the same illusory way, the admiration of the grown-ups who were present and the intense joy of the children. Crackers and other gifts were bestowed with a liberal hand. The whole thing was M. Jacques' idea, and created quite a sensation. It was amusing to hear the exclamations of joy and wonder as each fresh party entered. The Christmas tree proved sufficiently attractive to draw some 700 persons to tea, and the restaurant was packed for the later and more important meal, for which many visitors remained.

The beautiful presents in the Palm Court were dis-

"LA SAMOTHRACE."—Every corset of the LONDON CORSET CO., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

tributed by Father Christmas, who led a donkey whose burden of crackers did not seem to distress it much. The glee of the children ran mountains high, and it is nice to know that the children of the poor were not forgotten. Parcels of good things and toys were sent to several children's hospitals and institutions.

London has no use for snow! It is merely an incumbrance and a nuisance, and directly it arrives upon the scene it is the aim of everybody to get rid of it as quickly as possible. The exquisite white flakes falling so silently and gently are treated with scant civility as they accumulate. We so seldom have dry, thick snow that our chief apprehensions were of the black mud that would ensue. But the snow lay, and the silence that it spread was, perhaps, a relief to the nerves in one way, but a great strain on them in another. A motor-'bus would slide quietly out of the obscurity without so much as a cough, and, like Kipling's liner in a Channel fog, "hoot down the back of one's neck." A frightened squeal would be the first announcement that a lady found herself embracing a cab-horse. It was a commentary on all the complaints of "noisy London" that when not a sound could be heard the grumbles rose higher than ever! The authorities had cleared the deeper snow with only intermittent intelligence. For instance, at the corner of Upper Baker-street, where all the motor and horse omnibuses stop, there was a mound of snow nearly three feet deep between the roadway and the pavement, and this continued unbroken as far as the eye could see. There were some funny sights here. "Surely you cannot expect me to *jump?*" inquired a stately lady of a most amused conductor. "Just as you like, mum," said he. She preferred to walk. A man strode valiantly over the obstruction, unhampered by petticoats, and then turned to his wife with a "What are you waiting for?" "Help—or trousers!" said she, with some acidity. Then they both laughed, and he lifted her over. Nor was the "Irate Ratepayer" wanting. "In all the course of my experience," said he, looking at the mound from the step of the omnibus he was leaving, "it has never been my lot to observe anything so flagrantly neglectful of the comfort of the ratepayers. I shall take steps to lay it before the authorities. I pay £30 a year in rates, and here I cannot get off an omnibus!" The conductor was impatiently waiting to get rid of him and ring his bell. "Oh, yes you can!" he said. "It's a penny extra beyond this corner," he added, to the world in general; and the indignant gentleman made shift to leap across to the pavement. Further up the road, where a blank wall runs along for some distance, we noticed no fewer than three breaks left in the snow for foot-passengers! Such are the wonderful workings of municipal brains.

I have just spent twenty minutes over the fascinating pages of Liberty's Winter Sale catalogue. The feminine creature dearly loves a bargain, but I, for one, am not at all infatuated with it, when it means merely something cheap and nasty. Here, however, everything is but too tempting; the incomparable velveteens, silks, soft satins, cashmeres (ideal for winter wear, so warm and yet so fine and supple), all marked down to most tempting prices. Send at once for a catalogue and judge for yourself. Just look at the very first page with its list of silks at 1s. and 1s. 6d. per yard, and then muse over the remnants of the velveteen at eighteen pence a yard (usual price 3s. 11d.). But do not muse too long, for if you do you will be late with your order and all those thousands of yards will be already gone. The floral flannels, too, will tempt you. It is a lovely material with a pretty sheen on it. But even more than any of these is the double cashmere attractive in its exquisite softness. It is to be had in twenty colourings besides black and white.

Now is the time, too, to buy the dainty muslins and lawns for which this house is famous. There are linens, cotton voiles, and dress canvases, to say nothing of blouses at far less than half the usual prices in silk, washing or otherwise, floral flannel, linen, cotton velveteen, many of them beautifully embroidered. Do tea-gowns tempt you? Here you are, then. Some are in velvet richly embroidered in jewels and silk, others in crêpe-de-chine in a variety of delicate colourings with pearl and silver trimmings. The delightfully cosy wadded Japanese dressing gowns and jackets are not forgotten. What should we do without them on these wintry mornings?

I must skip the jewels, handkerchiefs and ties, scarves and fans, pincushions and lampshades, and get on to the very inexpensive tapestries, cretonnes, chintzes, curtains, carpets, wallpapers, and furniture. There are fascinating Kashmir embroideries, wool on white cotton for cushion squares, table covers, and curtains, and thousands of Indian palampores hand-coloured in characteristic native designs in finely harmonised colours, and suitable for bedspreads, sofa covers, and loose covers for arm chairs. Do you want a Turkey carpet? Here is your chance to get one for very little over half price. Many of them have medallion centres and the colours are of great beauty and variety. I shall never forget one I saw there once with red in the centre and a cream-coloured border. Many other sorts of carpets and rugs are in the list, including the English pile squares, ready for immediate use, thick and closely woven and at very little over half price. The feet sink into their luxurious softness and the word "cheap" seems anomalous in connection with them; a very agreeable anomaly!

Mim let her house furnished while she was on her voyage round the world, and took possession again just before Christmas. The tenants had been of the objectionable order, dealing destruction's devastating doom to almost everything in the place. There was not a fragment left of Mim's pet Imari tea service, and just three saucers of her breakfast service survived the drastic treatment of the apparently Cyclopian domestics. A handsome jardinière of Linthorpe pottery, particularly valuable as that sort of pottery is no longer made, had utterly disappeared. Tables were smashed, legs of chairs off, bedsteads broken, crockery broken, and not a key left in any door! Even the chimney-pieces were torn from their fastenings and left hanging loose, or else marked with a hammer or chopper. Mim calls that family the Gorillas. She declares that human beings could not possibly have wrought such havoc.

Worst of all, to her ideas, they allowed the moth to get in her velvet drawing-room curtains and in her beautiful Jaeger blankets, one of the joys of her life in winter weather. She was matching a scrap of them to wool to have them darned with when we met her in Robinson and Cleaver's—one of the best "matching" places in London, by the way.

We wanted to hear all about her adventures in going round the world, but her grievances about her house were in the foreground of her mind and likely to remain there for some time, I fancy. She was conspicuously unfortunate in her tenants. There is Naneen, who let her flat furnished for two whole years, and found it as perfect in every detail as on the day she had given up possession. Now that all the world lets its houses, from dukes downwards, it is as well to realise that tenants are as much a lottery as marriage.

A very great lady who let her splendid house many years ago to a foreign royalty has never got over their treatment of her property. Their carelessness was almost beyond belief. The fine library was almost ruined by them. Of books, rare and costly, in three volumes, one volume would be missing, perhaps two. Pages were gone from other books, and a catalogue that had been laboriously compiled was not to be found anywhere. This was worse than Jaeger blankets! But in this case, too, neglect had opened the door to the ravages of the silver-winged little moth—carpets, furniture, curtains of magnificent old brocade, and even bed-hangings were riddled with holes made by the small marauders. The lady whose property was allowed, in this way, to go to rack and ruin never calls the royalties in question by any other name than "those

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people." This is quite as severe from her as "The Gorillas" from Mim.

It was a happy thought of Mr. Carl Hentschel to organise a Savoyard celebration dinner by the O.P. on the revival of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, with Mr. W. S. Gilbert as the guest of the evening. We were pleased to receive invitations, and looked forward to seeing so many celebrated persons. There never was anywhere a more genial evening, and for once our expectations were far more than realised. The speeches were as excellent in quality as the food, which is saying everything, for the banquet was held at the Hotel Cecil. Fun and humour characterised whatever was said, as might be expected on such an occasion, but "there was rosemary" as well. Those who have gone were not forgotten. Though there was no set speech in memoriam, yet a word here and there showed that hearts were stirred, old memories awakened. As Mr. Sidney Dark, the President of the O.P. Club, remarked, it was a historic banquet, celebrating a combine that is unequalled in the history of music, and expressing gratitude for the many golden hours we owe to Gilbert and Sullivan. It was good to hear the fervent applause with which every word was received, and to see the enthusiasm with which the veteran dramatist's health was drunk. There were several of the old Savoy company present, and many of the new ones, and when Mr. Gilbert rose to speak the silence for which the toastmaster had asked was conspicuous by its absence. Never was a warmer reception, and when he spoke of his "dear old comrades of long ago," and his pleasure in meeting them, and recorded his joy in them as a zealous, conscientious, hardworking, and effective company, the audience showed its appreciation by shouts. He referred to the "rift" in his relations with Sir Arthur, but said he was glad to remember that their friendship for some years before his death had been of the most intimate and cordial description.

There was an entertainment consisting, most appropriately, of selections from the Savoy operas sung by members of the companies, new and old.

So many interesting people were at this banquet that our heads kept turning almost quite round on our shoulders in the effort to identify them. Near us was Miss Liza Lehmann, the composer, in a charming Empire gown of soft muslin, with long bands of pink silk. Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, a dark-haired lady with a rather foreign look, was an object of much interest as the author of so many delightful novels, and of the successful play, "Peter's Mother." Mr. Hayden Coffin joined lustily in the chorus of Mr. Rutland Barrington's song from "Pinafore," whence comes the world-known query, "What, never?" in response to the Captain's observation that he never says a big, big D. I believe Mr. Gilbert himself joined in this chorus. The programme is worth keeping. Beautifully got up, and containing portraits of the principal Savoyards, it gives a complete list not only of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, but also of Mr. Gilbert's works, about seventy in number, and the dates and theatres where they were produced. It was a delightful occasion, and the guest of the dinner remarked that it had been the happiest evening of his life.

Unfortunately, Mrs. D'Oyly Carte was prevented by indisposition from being present.

I have received the following from Mona:—

MY DEAR MADGE,—You ask about plants for brightening the conservatory when flowers are scarce. Among the most effective, I think, are those that bear ornamental fruits. The scarlet-berried solanum, of course, you know. It is grown in enormous quantities for Covent Garden, and at this season excellent specimens may be obtained very cheaply. The only objection to the solanum is the fact that it is very liable to be attacked by aphides, but such attacks may be prevented or cured by occasional vaporisation. When the berries begin to shrivel and drop off the plants should be pruned rather closely, and then placed in a warm moist atmosphere to induce them to make fresh growth. They are, however, often thrown away, new stock being raised every year, which may easily be done by sowing seeds in heat in March. Another attractive scarlet-berried plant, not so well known, is Rivina humilis, sometimes called the bloodberry or rouge plant. As the berries are borne on arching shoots, often two feet in length, it is excellent for grouping with dwarfer plants. A native of the Caribbee Islands, it requires rather a high temperature, but after the fruit is coloured it may be introduced into the conservatory. It may be propagated by seeds, like the solanum, or by cuttings.

But if I were asked to name the best of the class, I should certainly say Ardisia crenulata, though, strangely enough, it is comparatively rare. Its clusters of rose-coloured flowers, borne in June, are not unattractive, and when they have developed into coral-like berries, it is perfectly beautiful. They remain on the plant for many months—indeed, for nearly a whole year, until the appearance of the following crop, if it is not kept in too high a temperature. As a rule, it is grown in the stove, but that is a mistake; it does very much better in the greenhouse. If left to itself it will in time grow to five or six feet high; but it then is apt to straggle and lose its lower leaves, which spoils it for house or conservatory decoration, except where a tall plant for the back of a large group is wanted. When it is rather over two feet high, therefore, it is generally cut down almost to the level of the soil, and after new shoots have started from the base the roots are shortened and the plant is placed in a comparatively small pot. In this way it may be grown for many years and yet kept dwarf.

The orange is another plant largely grown for its decorative fruit. In its cultivation one important point to remember is that the fruit takes a long time to mature—nine or ten months—so if you want it in winter you must have flowers early in the year, not later than February. For this reason the plants are best grown in the stove. At any rate, the temperature should never fall below 50 degrees, and should rise to 60 degrees at the flowering season. If it should go higher no harm will be done. There are, unfortunately, many insects which attack the orange, but if you keep the foliage clean by syringing or sponging occasionally with soapy water, and afterwards with pure water, you are not likely to be troubled with them.

I think this nearly exhausts the list of the best fruit-bearing plants suitable for the conservatory. There are a few others, such as Callicarpa purpurea, with purple berries, and Psychotria, cyanococca with blue; but these are not very remarkable unless it be for their names. There are two things badly wanted in the horticultural world—a properly graduated colour card to serve as a standard for all nurserymen, so that mauve and magenta may not be called blue, and so forth, and a simple system of nomenclature which can be "understanded of the people." David has once or twice tried his hand at writing labels, and I shall never forget the trouble we had in attempting to decipher them. Some are mysteries to this day.

Of course, in any decorative scheme for winter you must make large use of foliage plants, and of these there are a large number suitable for the purpose. Among them I shall put the poinsettia first. You might perhaps call them flowering plants, but the flowers are comparatively insignificant; they owe their beauty entirely to the brilliantly-coloured bracts which surround the flowers. They require to be grown in a fairly high and even temperature, with even conditions of moisture. Any sudden change—any check, whether due to exposure to draughts, too much or too little water, or any other cause—is apt to make the bracts fall prematurely. Poinsettias are usually raised annually by means of cuttings, but the old plants may be grown into large specimens if desired. Why the bracts have usurped the functions of petals I do not know, but the purpose of their red colouring is evidently to attract insects to the flowers, which are so small and inconspicuous that they would otherwise be liable to escape notice.

Then there are the crotons, many of them extremely handsome, but requiring careful management and stove treatment to keep them in good condition. They might be used occasionally for a short time in the conservatory in winter, but it would not be safe to keep them there long. The same must be said of the dracænas, though they are perhaps a little hardier. Some of

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them are magnificent, notably D. Victoria, with its fine leaves edged with broad yellow bands. D. Sanderiana is rather similar, with white instead of yellow, and very much smaller in every way. The variegated form of Pandanus candelabrum is another extremely handsome plant, but it does not grow very rapidly. With these and palms, of which there are hundreds to choose from, it would not be difficult to make a conservatory as attractive without flowers as with them. I must tell you, however, that large plants of the kinds I have mentioned are expensive. The demand for them is comparatively small, so nurserymen, to remunerate themselves for the time and money spent in growing them, have to charge rather a large price.—Your affectionate cousin,

Mona.

This poulet à la Milanaise will make a nice change after Christmas fare:—

Chop a young chicken into neat pieces, and sautez them in a stewpan with salad oil and chopped shalot. When the chicken is a golden colour, dust it with flour, pour in a pint of stock, a gill of tomato purée, and a dozen chopped white mushrooms, from which the underpart has previously been scraped. Simmer the chicken for an hour, ascertain that it is nicely seasoned, dish it on a fried croûte, and garnish it with rings of fried bread.

Salmon salad:—

Have ready as much salmon as you require, nicely flaked. Form a heap of salad upon a dish that has been lightly soused in oil and vinegar sweetened, around the lettuce make a wall of nicely boiled green peas cold, but mix them while warm in heated butter. Take half lemons larded with cayenne, and squeeze the juice over the peas, place on the salmon flakes upon the lettuce over-lapping each other; send to table a French mayonnaise in small cups, allowing one for each guest.

Try this glace Nebraska:—

Dissolve 1 oz. of chocolate in half a pint of milk, and convert it into custard with 2 eggs and 1 oz. of sugar. Meanwhile, boil 4 oz. of sugar with a little water until it turns a pale caramel, add 2 oz. of chopped and browned almonds, turn it out on an oiled slab, and when it is cold pound it very fine and add it to the chocolate. Mix it with half a pint of whipped cream and freeze it. Line a plain mould with ratafias, using a little white icing to make them adhere to each other, and dry it well in the screen. Fill the mould with the ice, turn it at once out on a fancy paper, put a little whipped cream on the top, and sprinkle it with chopped and browned almonds.

Œufs en surprise:—

Boil six or eight eggs for ten minutes, immerse them in cold water, and remove the shells. Cut off each end and take out the yolks with an apple corer, chop the yolks, mix them with three or four ounces of finely-chopped cooked turbot or sole and a few chopped shrimps. Add sufficient sauce to bind it, and the yolk of a raw egg, fill the eggs with the preparation, roll them first in bread crumbs, then in beaten egg, and again in bread crumbs, fry them in a stewpan of hot lard. Dish them in an upright position in two straight rows on a thin layer of mashed potato, and pour nicely-flavoured white sauce round them.

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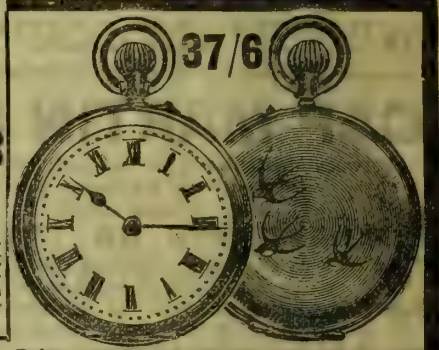

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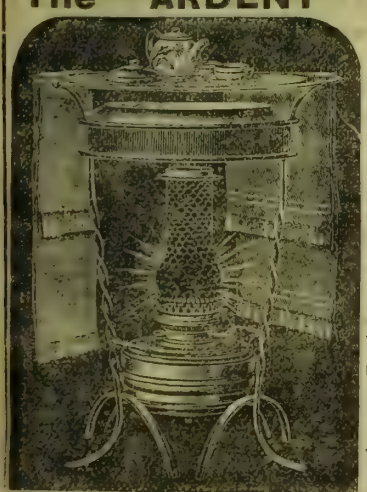

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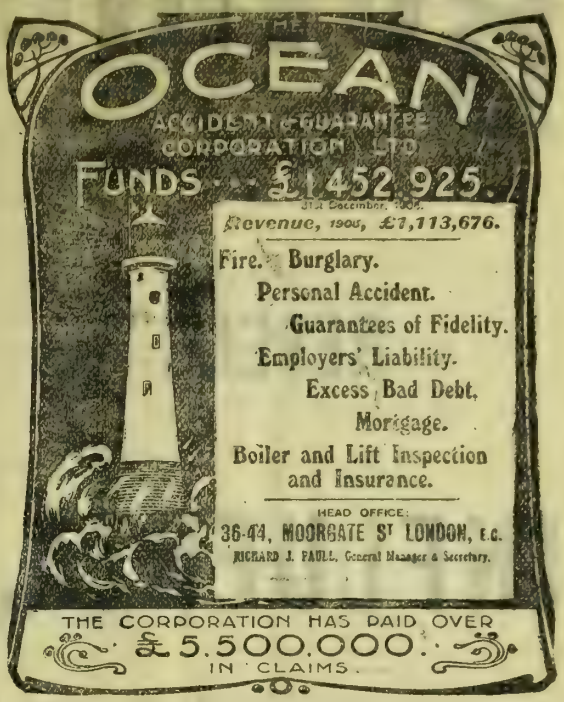

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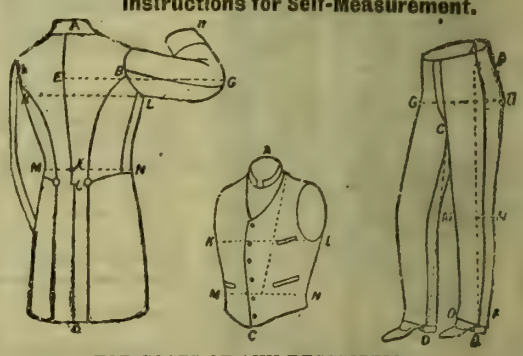

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A to C	Inches.	Breast, fairly tight, over waistcoat	Inches.
C " D	"		
E " B	"		
B " G	"	Waist, over waistcoat	"
G " H	"		
FOR WAISTCOATS: A to C			"

FOR TROUSERS AND BREECHES.

Side from A to N	Inches.	Round seat G H	Inches.
" " A " B	"	Round knee M to N	"
Leg seam C " D	"		
Round waist A	"	Round foot O " P	"

ADDITIONAL FOR KNICKERBOCKERS AND BREECHES.

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividingthe above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner'slear name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,458.

Exception has sometimes been taken by ultra-Puritans, on religious grounds, to the names of those months in the Calendar, which are called after Heathen Gods or Heathenish Roman Emperors; while certainly to the names of the last four months in the year, objection might, more reasonably, be raised on arithmetical grounds. It is not, of course, in the least likely that the names of the months will ever be altered, however obsolete or inappropriate. But supposing such a step were contemplated, it would certainly require some thought and ingenuity to devise appropriate substitutes. Now, I think it might be both interesting and amusing to invite readers of TRUTH to exercise their inventiveness in this direction, so, this week, I am offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that Competitor who shall:

SEND IN THE BEST LIST OF SUGGESTED NEW NAMES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS IN THE CALENDAR—EACH SUCH NAME TO BE IN SOME WAY DESCRIPTIVE OF THE MONTH TO WHICH IT IS APPLIED.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor should send in more than one list of twelve suggested names.

(ii) All lists must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, January 14, 1907, at latest.

QUEER STORY PUZZLE.

The attention of those who may be competing for the above is called to the correction of a printer's error, which will be found at the foot of the "Queer Story" in this issue.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** I have received the following amounts towards the Toy Fund:—Farway, 1s.; Redder, 2s. 6d.; Rhody and Spartan, 2s. 6d.

I may take this opportunity of thanking various Correspondents for their kind seasonable greetings, and of wishing them, as well as Competitors generally, the happiest of happy New Years.

HEMLOCK, MORIARTY, SOLMES.—Your *nom-de-plume* is quite in order. The "Queer Story" Puzzle is a special Competition, to which the ordinary rules governing our Puzzles do not apply. For the same reason, you were quite right in *not* sending your real name, thereby conforming to the special regulations laid down on p. 1517 of TRUTH, December 19 last, by which alone this particular competition is governed.

All further Answers to Correspondents are unavoidably held over to next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,455.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

BEST SUGGESTION FOR A REDUCED SENTENCE ON STOKER MOODY.

I beg to solve Puzzle No. 1,455 by suggesting that six days on a lightship (equivalent, in my opinion, to solitary confinement for life at Wormwood Scrubs or Dartmoor) should amply meet with the requirements of justice re Stoker Moody.—Yours truly, Heja.

When it became known that Stoker Moody had been sentenced to five years' penal servitude, the general feeling throughout the lower deck of the Navy, as well as of the public, was that he had been somewhat harshly dealt with. Whilst bearing in mind that Moody's crime is considered a very grievous one in the Navy, and not forgetting his former indifferent character, and putting the welfare of the Navy before public opinion, I suggest that two years' penal servitude, and to be discharged from his Majesty's Navy as undesirable, at the expiration of that term, would have been more fair and reasonable.—An Able Seaman.

A reasonable sentence for Stoker Moody would be seven and a half months' imprisonment.—Tony.

To reduce Stoker Moody's term of five years' imprisonment to twelve months, and his chance of promotion to be put back three years, with the understanding that at his next offence he will be dismissed from the Navy.—Bobbin.

Stoker Moody's insubordination having followed upon an order so misapplied as to be offensive to any member of a race whose cult is freedom, he should be immediately liberated and reinstated. Moody's recent record not having been satisfactory, however, any real breach of discipline committed by him in the future should be visited with the most rigorous punishment consistent with the offence.—Jean Qui Rit.

Eighty-eight days.—Corncrake.

The sentence on Stoker Moody to be reduced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. The sentences on the other offenders to be reduced also in proportion to that awarded Stoker Moody.—Zumerzet.

Stoker Moody need not have been sentenced to any penal servitude. A caution as to future conduct would have met the case in the opinion of "Klondyke."

I think six months would be fair.—Raspboy.

A year and a half.—Ox Short.

Six months' imprisonment (without hard labour).—"Never Despair."

Stoker Moody should be reprimanded only, the same as Lieut. Collard. Because not only was Moody "collared," but Collard has been "Moody" ever since."—Dullard.

Nine months' imprisonment.—Crank.

Six months' imprisonment.—Diana.

Six months' hard labour.—Thersites.

I should think that a sentence of twelve months would, under the circumstances, meet the case.—Verbum Sat.

Eighteen months.—Biscuits.

Fifteen months.—Wiltie.

Ten months.—Faulty.

One year.—Van Daub.

I consider that eighteen months would have been a fair sentence in the case of Stoker Moody.—Staffa.

That it be reduced to one year, and he begin again amongst the stokers of the Navy.—Bucks.

That the sentence be reduced to two years' penal servitude, and he be given a chance on its completion of regaining his character in the Navy.—Dorset.

In large bodies like the Navy, where discipline must be strictly enforced, a crime like Stoke Moody's must be punished, but still, I think six months' imprisonment would have amply met the case.—Porthos.

I beg to suggest that the sentence on Stoker Moody be reduced to fourteen months.—Blanche Howe.

Eight and three-quarter months.—V. Knowles.

Nine and a quarter months.—Balmoral.

The Lords of the Admiralty, knowing al the circumstances, have reduced the term of punishment from five to three years. The Premier has also stated that three years' penal servitude are less severe than two years' hard labour. And that there was a possibility of still more lenient treatment. I do not presume to differ from such authorities.—J. McGrigor Allan.

I consider Stoker Moody's sentence should have been one year instead of five years, as he was acquitted of endeavouring to make a mutinous assembly, and convicted only of inciting others to mutiny.—Game B.

My idea is that the case was never fully proven against Stoker Moody. Therefore, nine months would have been sufficient.—Mrs. Game B.

Taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, I think the sentence of five years' penal servitude passed by the Naval Court Martial on Stoker Moody might be reduced to eighteen months' penal servitude, which severe sentence would satisfy all the claims of justice, and be a salutary warning to all future offenders against strict Naval discipline, which must at all costs be maintained.—Puck.

In my opinion the fairest and most reasonable way of dealing with Stoker Moody—fairest and most reasonable for the man himself and in the interests of the British Navy—would be for the Admiralty to make no order of reduction of sentence for a period of twelve months. At the end of that time let the man be quietly released and the public informed by means of a simple minute of the Admiralty that the remainder of the sentence (five years' penal servitude) is remitted. In one year's time the whole affair will be practically forgotten, and the decision of the Admiralty to reduce the sentence after the lapse of that time would not have the bad effect upon discipline that it might possibly have if published now, while the matter is still fresh in the public mind.—Steam-Pipe.

Six months' imprisonment.—Etwall.

Stoker Moody's offence is not worth more than six months' hard.—Wurzel.

Let me suggest a sentence of six months' imprisonment with hard labour for Stoker Moody's indiscretion.—Northlander.

With reference to your Stoker Moody Competition, I beg to suggest that the sentence be reduced to one of thirteen months.—Henry Howe.

Considering the extreme provocation in addition to the (now proved) illegal order, which Stoker Moody received, I think one year's imprisonment an ample sentence, for his most human insubordination.—Keith.

Should be reduced to one year's imprisonment.—Neale.

Three years' penal servitude.—Renoops.

Two years' hard labour.—Lydd.

In view of the revised sentence on the above

man, viz., three years' penal servitude, and the subsequent punishment of the officers. I would suggest that Stoker Moody should be dealt with in the following manner. He should be offered a full and complete pardon and a fresh start if he agrees to the following:—To tender an ample apology for his conduct, to serve the first year of the three years on ships undergoing speed trials, and the subsequent two years on a despatch vessel on foreign service; each month of good conduct to reduce his sentence by a similar period. This form of sentence would return him to the Service instead of branding him for ever a criminal. Any dereliction of duty to be followed by a return to prison for the period of his unexpired sentence, and to be dismissed the Service.—Service.

When Stoker Moody's antecedents are taken into consideration, and the necessity for strict discipline in our Navy, as has been observed from time immemorial, and anything approaching a mutiny must be sternly dealt with, the punishment prima facie scarcely appears too severe, but the order, "On the knee," which ought to be expunged, being so objectionable, and the circumstances under which the order was given so aggravating, it is thought by many that some leniency might be shown, and perhaps the sentence might be reduced by half. Still, it is evident that such an unsatisfactory character as Moody should not only be removed from the Service, but should be rigorously punished by way of example, as a few pernicious members contaminate the whole body, and sharp diseases require sharp remedies. "Ense recidendum, ne pars sincera trahatur."—Simplex.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,456.—A FEW ASSORTED SPECIMENS.

BEST ORIGINAL PARODY OF CAMPBELL'S FAMOUS LINES ENTITLED, "A THOUGHT SUGGESTED BY THE NEW YEAR."

The more we live, more wild appear
The channels which we swim in;
The queerest tide of all the year
Was surely "Votes for Women."

If daily papers tell the truth
(Some steal across the borders),
I never heard in all my youth,
Of such unique disorders.

While men were fighting in the van,
Elections epoch-making,
Uprose a woman like a man,
And started "gingham"-shaking!

No trace of gin upon her breath,
And yet intoxicated
With thoughts of fighting to the death
For what was not debated.

'Twas all so strange, so out of range,
This female suffrage-pleading,
That out she went, all torn and rent,
Dishevelled, bruised, and bleeding!

Some say ejectors used their strength
With questionable neatness;
Perhaps they held her at a length (?)
Proportioned to her sweetness!

Walfred.

THE SUFFRAGETTES.

The more we live, more strange appear,
Woman's progressive stages,
By leaps and bounds more change each year
Than man in his "seven ages."

The heedless current of her youth,
Ere passion vet disorders,
In mimic sports of man uncouth,
On indecorum borders.

But as the care-worn cheek grows wan,
And as the waist grows thicker,
Ye stars! when measured still by man,
The pace becomes much quicker.

While man for votes will spend scant breath,
And deem their charm as vapid,
Will woman brave scorn, prison, death,
In direful sequence rapid.

It may be strange, yet who can change
Her course to slower speeding,
Our charming friends to gaol have gone,
And left policemen bleeding!

Heaven gives them in the place of strength
A (two-fold!) mental fleetness,
They hence "do time" of seeming length,
Proportioned to their sweetness.

Trebor Nitram.

THOUGHTS ON SUFFRAGETTES.

The more they try, more vain appear
The hopes of suffering "sisters."
The goal they seek, is distant far,
A "vote" still but for "Misters."

They'd weary struggles through this year,
When statesmen would not hearken,
And legislators made a vow,
Their doors they should not "darken."

Appeals were vain, policemen firm,
The "House," too, unrelenting;
Why, as they reached its portals stern,
Were they turned back lamenting?

Last week in prison they felt sad,
As Christmas fare was lacking,
The "powers that be" then set them free,
And soon they all were "packing."

It may be strange, but who would change
Our "Law of Manhood Suffrage?"
Yes, "suffragettes" may shout in vain,
Until they reach their dotage.

Heaven send them more of mental strength,
And less of wild self-seeking,
So let us have no more next year
Of their misguided shrieking.

Aralc.

The more we live it doth appear
That parliamentary sages,
From all important topics steer,—
Leave them to fate and ages.

The objects of our gilded youth
Are place, preferment, orders,
To swim with tide that's running smooth,
And shun its dangerous borders.

Let cranks and faddist's lead the van,
O'er trifles carp and bicker,
As "women's rights," "one vote, one man,"
"Pure beer," not doctored liquor.

When these have lost their bloom and breath
In disputation vapid,
Imperial needs of life and death
Will pass with comments rapid.

It may be strange—yet who would change
What new and old year teaches?
No member really cares a —— jot
To practise what he preaches!

Heaven grant as fades their youth strength
They may not rue, that heedless
They maundered through each session's length
In talk, obscure and needless.

Zumerzet.

When we have lived for many a year
(Which seemed, in passing, ages),
How thin and poor to us appear
Each morning's printed pages!

Oh! for the "good old times" of youth,
Ere papers went demented,
And with the good old *Times* and TRUTH
We all were quite contented.

Alas! the good old *Times* is doomed,
And bound in Yankee fetters.
Ye Stars and Stripes! By you 'tis boomed,
As well as "country" letters.

Its pars have lost their bloom and zest,
And each edition's vapid.
And as it nears its final rest,
Its downward course is rapid.

Ah! yes, 'tis strange! and such a change
O'er "Thunderer's" course impending,
Warns other powers (when thunder lowers)
Of "mending" or of "ending."

The House of Lords has many lives,
And doubtless feels their sweetness,
But when all peers have Yankee wives
It will expire with fleetness.

Sartor.

THE EDUCATION BILL KILLED BY CHRISTIANS.

"Direct war once more between Church and Chapel, over the bodies and souls of the children."—TRUTH, December 26.

Not long before the closing year,
The Bill passed through its stages;
The Commons found it just and clear,
The wisdom of the ages.

The Lords received with flout and jeer,
But trying to amend it,
They made it look so very queer
As if they'd rather rend it!

Prelates with Peers combined to mar
What might have made contention cease,
Thus stirring up religious war—
O wond'rous ministers of peace!*

Of Christ who said:—"I came to send
A sword—not peace—division, fire."
Foreseeing truth with falsehood blend,
And what He taught, and liv'd, expire.

Thus wrangling about "the letter,"
"The spirit" is quite mistaken;
Men fail to make the world better;
The faith of Christ is forsaken.

Until they drive the State to say:—
"About the Bible, Church and Creed,
Rave on among yourself you may,
Your feuds no longer we will feed."

J. McGrigor Allan.

* Honourable exceptions:—The Primate, and the Bishops of Chester, Hereford, and St. Asaph, voted with the Government.

DISPELLED DELUSIONS.

The more we get, more griefs appear,
However high our wages,
We find the task to live severe
In these high-pressure ages.

In the departed days of youth,
When all did seem in order,
We thought life's tide would be quite smooth,
While on its early border.

When maid and lover ere made one
Expenses will grow thicker,
And e'en one youngster only born.
Makes money go the quicker.

Then care emits a chilling breath,
And like a body wrapped
In leaden sheeting after death—
We're dismal, drear and vapid.

And yet we feel we would not change
Our life—for when unheeding
As boys and girls, we hoped to range
With pockets full, not bleeding.

Yet now this truth of greatest strength
Has dawned, with sudden fleetness.
"Grief has no days of endless length;
Nor riches lasting sweetness."

Dick Maisch.

The more we learn, more Truths appear,
For life's progressive pages
A day at Yuletide seems a year,
And years are mystics—ages.

Flash through those stinging times of youth.
The doll's hall, that embroiders
Gifts, slumbering in the heart of TRUTH
Light up those cheery borders.

Not as the care-worn cheek of Pan,
For dolls and toys grow thicker.
Ye children are life joys of man
Your need, makes pulses quicker.

When dolls have lost their bloom and health,
And dress itself is vapid,
Why, hands that clasp the toys of TRUTH
Feel they their life more rapid.

It may be strange, yet who would change
TRUTH'S course to slower spending,
When one by one dolls clothes have gone,
And left their dyes unblending.

The threshold of their feeble strength,
Indemnifying meekness,
And those of dressing dolls of length,
Proportioned to their sweetness.

Aconite.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

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ENTRE NOUS.

TWO State Balls will be given at Buckingham Palace next season—one in May, while the King and Queen of Denmark are in London; and the other early in July. I understand that the State Concerts have been permanently discontinued.

The King was out shooting on two days during his visit to Chatsworth. On Thursday the battues were in the Hare Park, Buston Paddocks and other preserves between Edensor and Baslow, and the bag was a record for Chatsworth, ten guns having killed nearly 2,000 head of game. On Friday his Majesty shot at Birchill, near Bakewell, but birds were not nearly so plentiful as they had been on Thursday, and about eleven hundred head were killed. On Saturday the King and Queen motored to Rangemore, Lord Burton's place in Staffordshire, near Burton-on-Trent, a distance of over forty miles. There were four motor-cars, and the Chatsworth party lunched at Rangemore, and afterwards went out into the famous gardens. Lord Burton drove sixteen miles to meet their Majesties at a point near Derby.

The King is expected to rejoin the Queen at Sandringham to-morrow or on Friday. His Majesty came to town from Chatsworth, instead of returning direct to Sandringham, in order that he might see the Duke and Duchess of Connaught before their departure for the East. There is to be pheasant and wild-duck shooting at Sandringham on three days next week to finish the season, the annual big battues in Wolferton Wood being intended to take place on Monday. The King and Queen will probably leave Sandringham on Friday, the 18th, for Windsor Castle, where they are to reside until the end of the month, and they will then come up to Buckingham Palace for the season.

His Majesty will not return to Sandringham again this winter after his departure for Windsor next week, but the Queen intends to make the Hall her principal residence during February and the early part of March. Her Majesty will merely come to town for a day or two when Parliament opens and for holding the two early Courts.

The King is not going to Plymouth for the opening of the Keyham Extension Works, but his Majesty will be represented by the Prince of Wales, who is to be accompanied by the Princess. The ceremony will probably take place on Thursday, February 21. It is now probable that the Prince and Princess of Wales will be conveyed from Portsmouth to Plymouth and back in the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, in which case it is expected that they will remain in the Sound for two days, and they will be entertained by Lord and Lady Mount Edgcumbe at Mount Edgcumbe, and by Sir Reginald and Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew at Antony.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to leave Sandringham for the season next week, when they will proceed to Windsor for a short residence at Frogmore Lodge, after which they are coming up to Marlborough House for the season. The Prince shot last week at Houghton with Colonel Vivian, and he had some good sport in the outlying preserves on the Royal estates, and at Hillington, between Sandringham and Lynn, where the shootings are rented by H.R.H. from Sir William Ffolkes.

The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha are expected to arrive in England early in May on a visit to the Duchess of Albany at Claremont Park, and

they will probably stay in this country for about a month. On their journey from Coburg to London the Duke and Duchess are to spend a few days in Holland with Queen Wilhelmina and the Prince Consort of the Netherlands, who will receive their visitors at The Hague.

Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck have been staying for some time at Claremont with the Duchess of Albany, who is this week on a visit to Lord and Lady Derby at Knowsley Park. The Duchess is going to Cannes about the middle of February, and she will reside until after Easter at the Villa Nevada.

Princess Henry of Battenberg will probably abandon her projected visit to the Riviera, in which case she will go direct to Biarritz on leaving London, in order to spend a few days with Princess Frederica of Hanover before proceeding to Madrid. Princess Henry is to reside in the Pardo Palace, near Madrid, until after the accouchement of the Queen of Spain, which is expected to take place about the middle of April. El Pardo is the favourite Royal country seat near Madrid, and it has fine gardens and an immense park. The house was built early in the seventeenth century by Philip III., and was enlarged by Charles III. There is some superb tapestry in this palace, and in the chapel is a copy of Ribalta's representation of Christ bearing the Cross, the original of which is at Oxford in the chapel of Magdalen College.

A correspondent writes:—

It is correctly stated in Truth that two ex-Mistresses of the Robes are living—the Duchess of Devonshire and the Duchess Dowager of Roxburghe. It might be added, however, that the Duchess Dowager of Northumberland refused to accept this office when it was offered to her by Lord Derby in March, 1852. The "Duchess Eleanour," who is a sister of the late Duke of Westminster, was married in 1842 to Lord Prudhoe, who succeeded his brother in the dukedom in 1847, and he died in 1865. This was "Duke Algernon," who was universally known in Northumberland as "the good Duke."

Lord and Lady Aberdeen return to Ireland shortly, and will take up their residence at Dublin Castle for the beginning of the season, which starts more than a week earlier than usual with the Castle seasons of late years. Their Excellencies will have many parties of visitors at the Castle, and many entertainments of various kinds will be given, balls and dances naturally predominating as the most universally popular. The first Levee of the season will take place on the 29th inst.; on the following Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Courts, practically like those of Buckingham Palace, will be held.

Mr. Bryce, though his tenure of office was so short, as Chief Secretary in Ireland, made many friends in the country, where his departure is much regretted. His personal charm and amiable manner made the Ascendancy party in society overlook the fact that he was a mere man of culture and literary genius, with high ideals of patriotism in no way associated with Jingoism.

Lord and Lady Grenfell were at the Royal Hospital for Christmas week. They afterwards went to Rockingham, and entertained their last shooting party previous to moving to Dublin for the Castle season. They take up their residence at the Royal Hospital during the month, and will give a large ball "to meet their Excellencies" on the 29th inst., the date of the Levee at Dublin Castle. The great hall at Kilmainham is one of the best ballrooms in Ireland. Curiously enough the chapel opens directly out of it, at one end. This chapel does not belong to the Irish Protestant Church, but to the Anglican, the case being otherwise with the Castle chapel.

In Memoriam:

ANGELA BURDETT-COUTTS.

'Tis only meet her dust should grace
The fane, 'neath whose historic shade
So many England's great are laid
In their last honoured resting-place.

'Tis meet, for though to her befell
No leading part in public life
Nor social glory's jealous strife—
She served her generation well,

By turning what has ever stood
For all a snare, for some a curse,
The plenty of a boundless purse,
To the rare use of perfect good.

'Tis easy, we may well believe,
To give with lavish hand and free,
But lavish still, yet wise, to be—
This needs true greatness to achieve.

She held—and sure, her view was just—
That what had been on her bestowed
Was not her own to spend, but owed
To One who'd lent—a sacred trust.

So made her aim, through life, to be
No random spender of her pelf,
Nor one who gave to please herself,
But Him for whom she stood trustee.

More splendid fame have others won,
Of those who there beside her rest;
But not the greatest and the best
Have more deserved their Lord's "Well done."

Mrs. Josephine Butler, who died last week, in her seventy-eighth year, was a very clever woman, with the highest ideals. She was a vigorous agitator at one time, but she was always thoroughly feminine, and escaped any touch of the "platform taint." She married in 1852 the late George Butler, then a tutor in Durham University, and afterwards, between 1852 and his death in 1890, a tutor at Oxford, Vice-Principal of Cheltenham College, Principal of Liverpool College, and canon residentiary of Winchester Cathedral. Butler was an intimate friend of J. A. Froude, who described him as "the most curiously gifted

For New Year Appeals, see page 123.
For Special for Ladies, see page 117.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 116.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 115, 116.
For Amusements, see page 113.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 121, 122.

man in body and mind that I ever knew." The Butlers were enthusiasts on all moral questions, and they headed the agitation against "the State regulation of Vice," which ended in the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, after a fight of fifteen years. Mrs. Butler was a woman of fine culture, both in literature and art, and she wrote several excellent biographies, besides a number of controversial works. She was a daughter of Mr. John Grey, of Dilston, Northumberland, who was well known in the north, both as an enterprising agriculturist and as a keen Liberal.

Mr. Thomas Lawrance, of Hacconby Hall, Lincolnshire, who died last week, was the oldest magistrate in his county, and he had entered upon his ninety-eighth year. He farmed on a large scale formerly, and with great success, his flocks and herds being among the finest in this part of England. He was a keen rider to hounds for more than half a century. Mr. Lawrance for a long time took an active part in county affairs and in all local business, and for nearly forty years he was chairman of the Bourne Guardians.

Mr. George Pitt-Lewis, K.C., who died last week, was a very able man, and he enjoyed a considerable practice at the Bar, until a breakdown in health a few years ago practically ended his professional career. Directly after he had been called to the Bar (in 1870) he obtained an extensive junior practice, both in London and on the Western Circuit. He was the author of several legal publications which acquired considerable popularity. Mr. Pitt-Lewis obtained some distinction at the General Election of 1885, when he won for the Liberals a seat in the House of Commons which had always been regarded as a safe Tory preserve. He represented the Barnstaple district of Devon until 1892, having been again returned in 1886, as a Liberal Unionist. If Mr. Pitt-Lewis had kept his health he would certainly have been made a judge.

Many people will learn with regret that Cavendish House, Clapham, with its grounds of nearly ten acres, has fallen a prey to building operations. This place was the residence of Henry Cavendish, who earned enduring fame by his experiment for ascertaining the earth's density. Henry Cavendish, the great chemist and philosopher, lived at Clapham for many years in complete seclusion. His cousin, the late Duke of Devonshire, wrote of him as having "buried his science and wealth in solitude and insignificance at Clapham." However, the result of this quiet system of life was satisfactory to his relatives in the long run, as he left a fortune of considerably over a million to be divided among them.

The long-standing dispute as to the ownership of the valuable tapestries and old furniture in the Hereditary Keeper's apartments at Holyrood House has just been terminated by a decision in favour of the Crown. This property was claimed by the trustees of the late Duke of Hamilton, the Hereditary Keeper of the Palace, and the case was ultimately referred to the arbitration of Sir Herbert Maxwell. There are ten pieces of tapestry, some being French and the others Flemish, and they are of considerable size and in good preservation. They represent State ceremonials and battle pieces. It has been suggested that these tapestries should be hung on the walls of the picture gallery at Holyrood, which are now covered with supposed portraits of the Kings of Scotland, which are either absolutely fictitious or copies. These pictures are known to have been painted by James de Witte, a Flemish artist, who resided at Edinburgh during the closing years of the seventeenth century. Every day during the summer hundreds of tourists waste their time in inspecting and discussing this immense collection of bogus portraits, which was bitterly criticised by Sir Walter Scott, who desired to know why these Kings "should each and every one be painted with a nose like a door knocker"!

A contemporary appears to suppose that the rooms of Mary Queen of Scots are still to be seen at Chatsworth. The old house was entirely swept away during the reign of William III., by the first Duke of Devonshire, who then built the present mansion, with the exception of the long wing which was added by the sixth Duke between 1836 and 1840. The addition of this wing detracted considerably from the simple and dignified appearance of the house before it was thus enlarged. Chatsworth House is crammed with pictures, tapestry, drawings, engravings, sculptures, carvings (the finest work of Grinling Gibbons in England), and all kinds of valuable and beautiful *objets d'art*. The library contains one of the finest private collections in the world, including many books of the most extreme rarity.

I suppose that as one grows older it is natural that the rest of the world should appear to grow younger; but I am amazed at the exhibition of youthful greenness in the columns of some of my contemporaries over Mr. and Mrs. Zancig. I have even wondered whether it would not be more creditable to the press to assume that the whole is simply "put up" for the purpose of advertising a showman's performance, rather than that a number of gifted journalists, who aspire to instruct the public on matters of vital importance—such as the fiscal question or the Channel Tunnel—are in the state of intellectual development which Mr. Verdant Green had reached when he first went up to Oxford. But I suppose we must take it that the last alternative is the correct one.

The Zancigs are a very clever pair of performers in their line, but they do nothing that those of us whose memories run back a few years have not seen done before, probably more than once. I am told, though I have not had the opportunity of verifying the fact,

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

that Mr. Devant is giving at the present moment an exhibition of conjurer's "telepathy" in some respects more puzzling. The Zancigs have been giving their performance in other places, but it does not seem to have struck the world as anything miraculous until the greenhorns of the London press began to make copy out of it; on the contrary, I read in the *Daily Chronicle*, which has been giving the public some useful information on the subject, that the two wonder-workers of the Alhambra went all through the United States without creating any particular sensation.

A few months ago, I saw at the Empire a thought-reading dog. His owner went round among the audience while this intelligent animal stood before a row of movable cards with numbers on them. The audience confided to the master their ages, or any number they liked to think of; I showed him the number of my watch. He then talked to the dog precisely as Mr. Zancig talks to Mrs. Zancig, and the dog walked to the cards and turned up the right figures. Although the dog only dealt in figures, considering the difference between his intelligence and that of a human being, the performance was far more wonderful than the Zancigs', but no dabbler in the occult pronounced the dog to be a "sensitive" possessed of mystic powers, nor did any journalist, either in or out of his teens, suggest that anything else was at work than a clever showman's trick.

Mr. Stead, as usually happens at these times, has made one of the most illuminating contributions to the controversy. While convinced by his own experiments that Mrs. Zancig is highly telepathetic, he does not question that a code of signals may be used in the Alhambra performances; and he defends the use of it because to rely on telepathy would involve too great a strain on Mrs. Zancig. In other words, Mrs. Zancig, though highly telepathetic, is not sufficiently so to do the Alhambra feats, which is all that concerns those who only know the lady through those feats. Apparently, if a performer professed to fly across the Alhambra, while in reality supported by an invisible wire, and if in Mr. Stead's private sanctum the man had jumped over the table, Mr. Stead would consider the use of a wire in the flying performance legitimate, because to jump across the Alhambra would involve too great a strain on the performer.

I do not mean that I fail to see Mr. Stead's argument, or that it has not some bearing on the case. Granting that the transference of ideas from one mind to another by a process of telepathy is possible, it is obviously a thing that can only be done under very special circumstances. For example, the learned in such mysteries have always told us that the mental impression that is to be conveyed must be a very deep one; or that the mind which is to be read by another must be deeply concentrated upon the subject which is to be read in it. There can be no pretence of anything of the sort in a performance at a big music-hall. Mr. Zancig goes about in the auditorium like a butterfly; objects are offered to him on all sides, watches, pencil-cases, notebooks, season tickets follow one another in rapid succession; he is generally chattering nearly all the time; and as soon as one article has been named by the lady, she is asked for the name of the next. I gather that Mr. Stead considers it impossible that telepathy could be performed under these conditions, and the process be repeated a dozen times in the course of a few minutes. And so do I.

The battle of the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos continues to be vigorously fought, and the manifestoes of both parties have been issued. The non-placets are led by Dr. Routh, and the placets by Sir George Darwin. It is now quite certain that the strongest opinions in Cambridge in every branch of education are in favour of the proposed reforms. The Bishops of Winchester and Ely (both of whom have been Presidents of Queens') support the placets, and so do eight Heads of Houses, all the Mathematical Professors and Lecturers, and nearly thirty Professors on other subjects.

In reference to last week's notes on the late Principal Rainy, I have received the following letter from "A Glasgow Graduate":—

Sir,—It is unusual, I admit, to find Truth guilty of ill-informed comment, but as a humble member of the United Free Church, I must protest against your editorial remarks in last week's issue on the late Principal Rainy and the "more bigoted and intolerant section" of Presbyterianism, of which he was the leader for so many years. It is surely unjust thus to stigmatise a Church, distinguished for its scholarship, which has incurred the odium of all the reactionaries on account of its advanced theology. No British denomination has fought better or longer for theological liberalism. I think it probable that more bigotry and obscurantism will be found in a single parish of the Church of England than in the whole of the United Free Church of Scotland.

In the second place, the union negotiations were not carried through "tactlessly." Formally and informally the question of union had been discussed for nearly forty years, and it was by a miracle of persuasiveness and tact that Dr. Rainy reduced the opposition from a considerable minority to a mere rump, the importance and composition of which has been vastly over-estimated south of the Border. Scottish criticisms of Dr. Rainy's policy have taken quite different grounds, for, as his adversaries sadly admitted, his name was synonymous with tact.

The Archbishop of York has appointed the Rev. T. E. Lindsay, who succeeded Bishop Blunt as Vicar of Scarborough in 1905, to the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, the stipend being £200 a year. The new Archdeacon has been working in the diocese since 1888, and from 1893 until 1905 he was Vicar of St. Paul's, Middlesbrough. The Archdeaconry became vacant by the resignation of Canon Hutchings, rector of Kirkby Misperton, who was lately collated to a residentiary stall in York Minster.

Glastonbury Abbey is for sale, and a Bishop proposes that the property should be purchased for a missionary college, the price (about £40,000) being raised by public subscription. It is quite inconceivable that this scheme will come to anything, for it is most improbable that any such sum will be contributed in order to buy this property at a fancy price, which has presumably been fixed in view of the historical and sentimental

value of the Abbey ruins. There are already an over-ample number of missionary colleges, which have a hard struggle to exist, and there is certainly no need whatever for another, as any further addition to those now working would mean a crash for one or two of them.

Canon Bailey, who has just died at the age of ninety-two, was best known as the very successful Warden of St. Augustine's Missionary College, Canterbury, an office which he filled with complete efficiency for twenty-six years, and he was really the creator of the system which is followed there. Canon Bailey was a fine scholar, a very able organiser, and a man of much tact and common sense, qualities which were eminently required at St. Augustine's, when High Churchmen were pulling hard in one direction while Evangelicals were dragging with equal vigour at the other end. Archbishop Tate entertained a high opinion of Canon Bailey, and in 1878 he presented him to the living of West Tarring, Sussex, which he held for fourteen years. He was a great favourite wherever he was known, as he was celebrated for his good talk, and he was the most genial and courteous of men, having the fine manners of the old school. Canon Bailey was collated to an unendowed prebendal stall in Canterbury Cathedral nearly forty-seven years ago by Archbishop Longley, who, as Bishop of Ripon, had ordained him in 1841.

Dr. Baring, who has died at the age of ninety, was a great-nephew of Mme. d'Arblay, of whom he had many interesting stories to relate, and he had known a remarkable number of notable people, including the celebrated President Routh. He was beneficed in Essex from 1845 until 1870, when Bishop Claughton presented him to the important living of St. Mark's, Surbiton, which he held until 1905, when he resigned. Bishop Thorold appointed him in 1879 to the Archdeaconry of Kingston-on-Thames, which office he resigned in 1904. Dr. Baring was an excellent parish clergyman, and he was beloved by all classes of his neighbours. He was frequent in visitation, most kind and generous to the poor, very hospitable, and munificent in his charities. He was emphatically a wide-minded man, and he carefully held aloof from Church politics, his own views being those of a High Churchman of the old school. His church extension schemes were sensible and practical, and were successfully carried out.

I publish the following letter with reference to the case of Canon Hawkins, in justice to my original correspondent, who seems to have good grounds for the view he took of the facts. As I said last week, I do not know that, so far as Canon Hawkins himself is concerned, the appointment is open to criticism, and my correspondent is apparently of the same opinion. But if the facts are correctly stated below, this seems certainly to be an instance in which the episcopal authority has been exercised without much regard to the opinions of other people than the bishop:—

SIR, Your correspondent, "Sacerdos," states that Father William Hawkins "owes his promotion to his brother Canons, and not to the Bishop." I am assured, on good authority, that the real facts of the case are as follows: Three names have to be selected by the Chapter. For this purpose three separate scrutinies or elections were made by the Chapter. Each name, by adding up the votes, must have a "complete majority of the votes of those present." That is to say, if eleven are present, the majority must be six. In the first scrutiny held, a priest of some thirty years' standing in the diocese received the majority of votes. In the second scrutiny the R.C. Rector of Grimsby (brother of the Rev. W. Hawkins) received the majority of votes. In the third scrutiny, after a deal of skirmishing and evident and prolonged reluctance on the part of the Canons, a majority was reached in favour of the Rev. William Hawkins, of Glossop. The result of the three scrutinies was as follows:—

Scrutiny I.—Rev. Frederick Kind.
" II.—Rev. Joseph Hawkins.
" III.—Rev. William Hawkins.

As required by Canon Law, the above names were then submitted to the Bishop. The Bishop passed over the evident feeling of the Chapter, as manifested in the order of the scrutinies, and took the third scrutiny. Thus again, as on a previous occasion in connection with the appointment of an administrator of the Johnson Fund, Bishop Brindle shows his extraordinary preference for the Rev. W. Hawkins.

I do not wish to cast any slur or innuendo upon Canon Hawkins. His case was introduced simply to show the contrast between Bishop Brindle's treatment of two of his priests. In Bishop Brindle's opinion Father William Hawkins was the best man available in the diocese for the vacant canonry. I am fully cognisant of all the facts of the slander action in which Canon Hawkins was involved, and I think "Sacerdos" would be extremely ill-advised in making that case the subject of a public correspondence.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A ROMAN CATHOLIC LAYMAN OF THE DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM.

Two or three more letters in reference to the affairs of Nottingham diocese have reached me, but I regret that I am unable to find room for them this week.

For many months past the Irish newspapers have been publishing a long and remarkably worded advertisement imploring Catholics to cast a sympathetic and pitying eye on the efforts of Father Gray, of Fakenham, Norfolk, "to establish an outpost of the Catholic faith in that —so far as the Catholic faith is concerned—barren region." Father Gray represents that his "struggling infant mission" has "no endowment except hope," and that mass is said in a garret rented at a shilling a week. The scale on which his begging campaign is conducted suggests, however, that in spite of the poverty of the mission the reverend gentleman is in a position to incur a considerable expenditure on newspaper advertising—indeed, a correspondent has estimated that his expenditure in this direction must amount to some hundreds of pounds a year—and for this and other reasons his appeals seem to have made a somewhat unfavourable impression on a good many Irish Catholics. It would be interesting to learn whether Father Gray's advertisements really have the approval of the Bishop of Northampton, whose name he uses, and whether he renders any account—and if so, to whom —of the money that he obtains.

I have to acknowledge the following contributions towards the Toy Fund:—

Cuthbert B. Camm, £5; John Reid, £1; Mrs. F. Green, £1; Captain St. Leger Glyn, £1 1s.; A Friend, £5; Tom Nissed, 2s. 6d.; Y. Z., the second 5s.; G. J., £1 1s. I have also received £1 from The Men's Canteen of H.M.S. *Argyll* for a Poor Children's Dinner Fund.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

I seem to have been about right in what I said last week about officers' messes and "marriage fines." A retired officer tells me that in his regiment—a famous cavalry regiment which, I suppose, would be called a "crack" one—the system was in full force down to 1901, but stopped then altogether. If this is true of such a regiment, I suppose it is true of all. The scale of "fines" in this particular case was pretty stiff, too—£100 for a subaltern and £50 for a captain. This ought to be enough to promote celibacy, but my informant, who incidentally mentions that he himself paid "costs on the higher scale," states that to his knowledge the mess had received £300 from this source in the four years before he succumbed to temptation. It is wonderful what men will do in their salad days when there is a lady in the case.

A Service friend, after reading my paragraph on this question last week, remarked to me that he did not see how the abolition of "marriage fines" tended to keep down officers' expenses. He thought it might be the other way about. I recognise that if you could keep officers out of matrimony altogether this would be true. But to gain that end your tariff must be "prohibitory." The example of the gallant—too gallant, possibly—regiment alluded to above shows that the most drastic efforts in that direction may be ineffectual. I fear the truth is that when a man, soldier or civilian, has once determined to take the plunge, a hundred pounds or so more or less will be no impediment to the rash act.

I would once more respectfully beg the Army Council to take into their consideration the grievance of those married officers who are unable to draw lodging allowance when there are quarters for unmarried men at their disposal in barracks, and who, furthermore, have to pay hire for furniture in such quarters, although both quarters and furniture are useless to them. I am beginning to feel this grievance personally, because so many men communicate with me on the subject. It really cannot be denied that the grievance is a legitimate one, and the War Office has no excuse for allowing it to continue if the professed anxiety to save officers unnecessary expense is really sincere. The last victim from whom I have heard reckons that the present regulations represent all round an unnecessary charge of £40 a year on married officers. I say "unnecessary," for though I am a taxpayer myself, I cannot see any justification for it.

A certain gallant commanding officer in India has added greatly to my weekly labours by a recent order requiring that, in view of numerous cases of soldiers being bitten, all dogs are to be destroyed except such as can be recommended by officers commanding companies as being valuable, or valuable companions to their owners. A limit of twelve dogs per company is fixed, and the C.O. expresses a hope that officers commanding companies will reduce the number as much lower as possible. The effect of this order on the doggy men of the regiment has been something like that of Mr. Long's muzzling orders on the dog owners of England. They assert that the number of bites is exaggerated, and that with one, or at the outside two, exceptions the regimental dogs stand acquitted on the evidence, the guilty parties being pariah dogs. I can understand that it is necessary to keep down the establishment of dogs in any military unit, and the limit of twelve per company does not look unreasonably small; but I should have thought that if men can manage to keep their dogs somewhere outside the regimental lines, there is no great necessity for interfering with them; and certainly no necessity for it in one regiment more than in any other.

We have heard a good deal, among the "lessons of the war," about the value of dogs as sentries. Could not any commanding officer who considers his regiment too doggy turn the evil to account by insisting on a certain proportion of the animals being put through a course of military training? I have not heard as yet that any attempt to utilise the "dogs of war" has been made in the British Army, although in Germany and other Continental countries the military value of the animals is practically recognised.

My humble desire for enlightenment as to how Volunteers and Militia can be amalgamated without altering fundamental distinctions between the two classes of troops, has brought me some information which, I confess, is both new to me and goes directly to the point. In regard to pay, it appears that while it may be true in theory that Volunteers are not paid individually for training, in practice the theory has been altogether abandoned in most regiments. This is proved by an official scale of daily pay in force in one battalion for any rank from lieutenant-colonel to boys, and a remarkable feature about it is that below the commissioned ranks a separation allowance for married men is provided for, ranging from 1s. 1d. to 2s. 1d. a day. Under this scale Volunteers must actually draw more than Army rates of pay, a married private getting 2s. 4d., and the highest non-commissioned rank 6s. 1d. daily. On inquiry of a gallant warrior on my own staff, I learn that though his battalion—being, I suppose, a "classy" one—did not actually draw pay while in camp, taking it out in superior rations instead, nearly all others encamped beside it did so. So I suppose the practice may be taken as pretty general.

As regards the other point, namely, liability to foreign service, my instructor observes that neither Militiamen nor Volunteers enlist for service abroad, but in the only serious war which we have had since the Volunteers were first raised they offered themselves in as large numbers as the Militia—70,000, to wit. It is one thing to accept men for foreign service when they volunteer for it, and another to impose liability to it, and we must remember that in 1900 the strength of the Volunteers was more than double that of the Militia. But in view of the scale on which the Volun-

teers offered themselves for service in South Africa, I suppose we may take it that the effect of removing exemption from foreign service, whatever it might amount to, would not be felt in the Volunteers more than in the Militia. At any rate, when one's knowledge is thus brought up to date, it must be confessed that the distinctions in point of pay and liabilities between the two forces do not amount to much, and that the Volunteers have practically come to be a sort of Militia, with easier terms of training. The problem of amalgamation is to that extent simplified. Of course, we can never afford to send all our troops abroad, and I suppose that in the projected "national" or "territorial" army there is no reason why there should not be two categories of troops, one enlisted for home service only and the other for service anywhere—I mean, of course, in time of war.

Some very high-handed proceedings on the part of the officer commanding the 3rd Battalion Jersey Militia—Lieutenant-Colonel T. Nock Bagnall—have just been the subject of an action in the Royal Court. The plaintiff, a private in the battalion, sued the officer commanding, and also a functionary styled the Vingtenier Militaire, and an N.C.O. for damages for wrongful arrest and imprisonment. It seemed that the plaintiff returned his rifle to the arsenal in a rusty condition, and the O.C. directed that he should pay 2s. 6d. for the cost of cleaning it. The Jersey Militia law provides that in such a case, in default of payment, the adjutant shall sue the militiaman for the amount in the Petty Debts Court. Lieutenant-Colonel Bagnall determined to take a more drastic course. Though the plaintiff was not at this time amenable to military law, he was ordered to attend at the arsenal in reference to the claim, and when he failed to do so he was illegally fined 5s. On his refusing to pay this fine, he was arrested and condemned by the O.C. to twenty-four hours' imprisonment. On his release he received yet another unlawful order, and for declining to comply with it he was re-arrested and sentenced by the O.C. to ninety-six hours' imprisonment.

For this series of illegalities the Court awarded the plaintiff £5 damages against Lieutenant-Colonel Bagnall, £1 against the Vingtenier Militaire, and 1s. against the N.C.O., the three defendants being also condemned in costs. No doubt it may be very irksome to a colonel of the Jersey Militia to discover that he cannot compel a private to pay for repairs to his rifle without having recourse to a civil tribunal. He must, however, find it far more humiliating and distressing to be cast in damages at the suit of the private for exceeding his lawful authority. The procedure that was adopted in this man's case was extremely arbitrary, and it suggests that the lesson which the Royal Court has administered was badly needed.

In Truth of December 26 some account was given of a case in which a lance-corporal serving at Bodmin Depot was alleged to have been unreasonably refused a furlough for the purpose of being medically examined for employment under the Midland Railway Company on discharge. I mentioned that I had not got the facts first-hand, but that I believed them to be correct. However, I find that this was not the case. The railway company did not require the man's immediate attendance for examination, but on the contrary had informed the Depot authorities that it would be sufficient for him to attend for that pupose on his discharge from the Army; and further, that they had not made any definite promise of employment, but were merely prepared to register his name for consideration if he appeared suitable for their service. As in addition to this it appears that the man would have received a furlough in the ordinary course in January, it is obvious that the authorities were perfectly right in refusing him a furlough under such circumstances, and I must apologise to all concerned for having suggested anything to the contrary.

Several interesting points in relation to the medical services of the Army and Navy are dealt with in an address of Sir Lambert Ormsby to the Meath Hospital Medical School, which has been reprinted in pamphlet form. I am interested to note that it refers to a number of grievances of the naval medical service which have been at different times noticed in Truth. For example, the naval doctors, like their army colleagues, complain of the capricious way in which foreign service is apportioned. No regular roster seems to be kept, and there is a complaint that the most desirable shore appointments are monopolised by a few men, who are less remarkable "for conspicuous ability than for conspicuous influence." Among other matters mentioned by Sir Lambert Ormsby are (1) the lack of control over the sick berth staff by medical officers; (2) that medical surveys, for purely medical purposes, are presided over by captains or commanders who can, and often do, overrule the views of their medical colleagues on professional questions; (3) that medical officers are not eligible to sit on courts-martial upon their own comrades; (4) that they do not get the consideration that is due to them in the allotment of cabins, and so on. It is quite time that the Navy followed the example of the Army in all matters relating to the status and authority of medical officers, and the efficiency of the Service will be served thereby quite as much as the professional *amour propre* of medical men.

The Walmer lifeboat crew, in a letter signed on their behalf by Messrs. Parker and Heard, coxswain and second coxswain, have expressed their thanks to me for the article relating to their grievances which had the effect of bringing about the inquiry held last week by Lord George Hamilton. I am very glad to have been of service to the men. Their case was taken up in Truth because it seemed to me that they had been treated unjustly by the Committee of Management of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and the accuracy of the statements I made was fully borne out by the evidence given at the inquiry. It was shown that the launch on April 3, with which the dispute

originated, was in the circumstances a perfectly justifiable launch, and in the report that they have now presented Lord George Hamilton and Captain Acton Blake, who assisted at the inquiry as nautical assessor, recommend that the crew shall receive the customary payment, hitherto refused by the authorities of the institution in spite of the advice of their local representatives. This vindication of their position in the matter is, of course, entirely satisfactory to the men. With regard to the local regulations under which launches of the lifeboats at Deal, Walmer, and Kingsdown are made, Lord George Hamilton and his colleague recommend the withdrawal of the impracticable condition as to the windward boat, a very important amendment in the direction desired by the men. It is proposed that the rule in which this condition appeared shall now read simply "in fine weather the boat in the most advantageous position having regard to the wind, tide, and distance from the casualty, is the only one to be launched;" and it is to be hoped that this will work out satisfactorily.

There ought to be some inquiry, independently of the coroner's court and the National Lifeboat Institution, into the capsizing of the Ryde lifeboat on the evening of New Year's Day. A good deal has been heard at different times about the liability of these boats to capsize, and the efficiency of their self-righting properties, and the matter was discussed some years ago in TRUTH without any very definite conclusion being arrived at. The Ryde lifeboat was admittedly not of the self-righting type, presumably because very heavy seas are not to be expected on the north side of the Isle of Wight; but that only makes it the more necessary that the boat should be sufficiently stable for such seas as are likely to be encountered off Ryde pier. According to the evidence the boat must have been close to the pier-head at the time when she capsized. It also seems rather extraordinary that an accident of this kind should have happened off Ryde pier at eight o'clock in the evening, and that no assistance should have been rendered to the crew clinging to the boat until she drifted ashore at Southsea six hours later.

The *Shipping Gazette* published the other day a statement which seems to require some explanation from the Elder Brethren of Trinity House. The Zeeland Steamship Company are said to have written to the Trinity House pointing out the value of submarine signals when fitted to lightships, and offering to instal such an apparatus on the Tongue lightship, and to keep it up at their own expense until Trinity House should be satisfied of its value, or the reverse, at the same time fitting two of their own ships with receiving apparatus, and reporting the result of the experiment to Trinity House. The offer was declined off-hand. It is pointed out by the *Shipping Gazette* that the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board have fitted a submarine signalling apparatus on one of their own lightships which has been of the greatest value to shipping in the Mersey, and there cannot be any reasonable doubt that it would be equally valuable at the entrance to the Thames. I have long had an impression that it is about time that the Elder Brethren made way for some of the younger brethren, and this impression is deepened by the foregoing incident.

An Engineer officer, R.N., argues that the admiral whose letter I published last week must have been mistaken as to Stoker Moody's connection with a strike of stokers on the *Ophir*, because, judging by the date when he joined the Navy and the age at which men are eligible for enlistment, he must have been too young to have taken any leading part in such a movement at the time of the *Ophir's* voyage. This would not be conclusive against direct evidence to the contrary. But I am more interested in my correspondent's observation that he quite agrees with me that more care should be exercised in excluding and getting rid of undesirable characters. He remarks that the desired result would be quickly attained if the same trouble were taken in obtaining stoker recruits as is taken in getting recruits for the marines. It was pointed out in TRUTH not long ago that twelve officers of Royal Marines are employed in recruiting duties and not a single Engineer officer.

The latest of the many growls in connection with the report of the Indian Police Commission comes from the inspectors of the Madras Presidency Police. These officers were among those recommended by the Commission for an increase of pay, and it is understood that the proposal was practically sanctioned by the Secretary of State a year or so ago, but up to the present it has not been carried out. The lower grades of the force have received an increase of pay from January 1, 1906, and two or three weeks back the superior officers were granted an increase with retrospective effect from April 1. It is not easy to perceive why the inspectors should thus have been left out in the cold while those ranking below and above them have been dealt with. Probably, however, the turn of the inspectors will come in time, and when it does their increase of pay, like that of their superiors, ought to be made retrospective.

There has been extraordinary dilatoriness on the part of the Board of Inland Revenue in announcing the results of an examination of assistant surveyors of taxes which was held on July 10 last year. They were examined on the law and practice relating to income-tax for the purpose of testing their fitness for appointment as surveyors of taxes when vacancies arise. Usually the results of such a departmental examination have been declared in less than three months, and the candidates on this occasion are naturally impatient and aggrieved at the delay in making known their fate.

The following story of a poor old pauper's death and burial reaches me from a resident at Great Chesterford, Essex. On the afternoon of December 24 William Turner, aged seventy-two, was discharged from the Linton Union Workhouse in order that he might spend

Christmas with his relatives at Great Chesterford. The old man started to walk there, but he appears to have lost his way. His dead body was eventually found in a field near Great Chesterford Common. The body was taken to the village, and, as none of the relatives of the deceased would give it shelter, it was placed in a barn belonging to one of the overseers of the parish. There it remained uncoffined for five days. Meanwhile the coroner had been communicated with, but he decided that an inquest was not necessary. The body was then dumped into a coffin, put on to a cart, and driven round to the undertaker's shed, where it was left till the funeral took place. No doubt it was very thoughtless of William Turner to die inopportunely during the festive season; still, the manner in which the old fellow's corpse was treated hardly appears creditable to those concerned. The coroner presumably was satisfied that the death was due to natural causes, but, considering the circumstances, it was clearly a case in which an inquest should have been held.

Not for the first time, the City of London Guardians have come in for a scathing censure from Alderman Alliston on account of their treatment of children taken to the workhouse by the police. In the most recent case a constable found a little boy of seven, hungry and shivering, searching for scraps of food in the gutter and the street orderly bins. The constable very properly took him to the workhouse, and next day he was brought before the Alderman at the Guildhall on a charge of vagrancy—the charge being made, of course, as a matter of form in order that it might be ascertained who was responsible for his miserable condition, and what should be done with him. When found in the street this wretched waif had neither hat nor boots nor stockings. On fetching him from the workhouse the constable asked that he should be supplied with boots and stockings, but the reply of the officials was that they had none for such a purpose, and so, as he was not fit to walk through the streets in the inclement weather, the boy was driven to the Guildhall in a cab.

It was stated that in other districts the Boards of Guardians provide clothing for children in cases of this kind. In spite, however, of the remonstrance of the magistrates, the City Bumbles refuse to do this, their excuse being that the parents may afterwards pawn the boots which are given to the child. As a matter of fact, the boots usually provided are scarcely worth pawning; but surely it would be better to run the risk of such things being occasionally misappropriated by the parents than to commit the cruelty of sending forth poor little children into the streets bare-legged and barefooted in the depths of winter. In the present instance it was eventually discovered that no blame for the boy's condition attached to the father and mother, who were in the direst distress. It is reported, however, that owing to their resentment of the magistrate's criticisms the City Guardians will now refuse to give shelter at all to juvenile vagrants arrested by the police, leaving the latter to make some other arrangement for dealing with them. Probably this would be better for the children, for the police are a good deal more humane in such cases than these Guardians of the Poor.

A LESSON IN LAW.

Bumble, as you remember will,
Once as a "hass" the Law described;
And, though a "hass" himself, yet still
'Twas with some truth the Beadle jibed.

For scarce goes by a single day
But some example plain it brings
Of how the Law still pegs away
At doing idiotic things.

The latest case occurred last week,
When we a half-starved woman saw
Brought up before a London "Beak"
To satisfy the outraged Law;

And all because (her husband sick,
Her children crying out for bread),
The woman's heart, to pity quick,
Had put it in the woman's head

To borrow from a friend some pence,
Therewith a few cheap toys to buy,
And, going where the traffic's dense,
A gutter merchant's trade to ply.

It didn't seem so very wrong
That she, in pressing need of pelf,
And moved by natural feeling strong,
Should thus essay to help herself;

And yet the Law, to paupers stern,
Esteemed her conduct shocking bad,
Because, when trying food to earn,
The wretch *no hawker's licence had.*

A constable majestic came,
Her little tray of toys to raid,
Demands, in threatening tones, her name,
And confiscates her stock-in-trade.

And this enough, you might have thought,
To vindicate our law sublime.
But no! The criminal to court
He haled, to answer for her crime.

The crime of having scarce a friend,
The crime of being abject poor,
The crime of struggling hard to fend
The wolf from her domestic door.

The wicked, monstrous crime—oh, fie!
Of daring through the streets to roam,
When she a licence couldn't buy,
A-selling toys to save her home.

The magistrate—a worthy chap,
Humane, no doubt, in private life—
Would lenient treat, you think, mayhap,
This brave, self-helpful, loving wife.

Not so. The feelings of the man
The magistrate mayn't override,
Nor claims of outraged justice can
In Justice's temple be denied.

"Five shillings fine you'll pay." Oh, what
Grim irony was here unfurled!
Five shillings! When she hadn't got—
He knew it—fivepence in the world.

And so, instead, to gaol she went,
To expiate her shameful crime,
And there, in durance seven days pent,
Learnt to respect our Law sublime.

Although the property qualification for county J.P.'s has now been abolished, those who are appointed to this coveted office very soon find that they are still regarded as persons of means. One newly-fledged magistrate tells me that he was called upon to pay £2 2s. for fees, £5 5s. as a subscription to the Justices' Wine Fund, and £1 1s. as a subscription to the Justices' Plate Fund. I do not know whether similar charges are levied in other counties, but wherever the practice prevails it will have sooner or later to be abandoned. Under the old order of things it could safely be assumed that every J.P. was in a position to put down his £8 8s. Under the new Act men may be appointed to whom—though they are well fitted to act as magistrates—such a payment as this would be a rather serious tax.

It is doubtful, I should think, whether fees to the amount of £2 2s. can be legally exacted; and the subscriptions to the wine fund and the plate fund are obviously optional. But the presentation of such an account by the Clerk of the Peace must have the effect of embarrassing the poor J.P., who does not care to signalise his elevation to the Bench by refusing to comply with one of its customs, and for this reason the system ought to be stopped. In other directions also, the J.P. discovers that he is expected to pay for the honour that has been conferred upon him, for he at once becomes a target at whom all sorts of organisations, public and private, shoot their appeals for financial assistance. This, however, is an inevitable penalty of his greatness, which he must meet as his inclination prompts him, or his resources will permit.

A correspondent writes as follows on the question of the appointment of J.P.s:—

> The letter of the Lord Chancellor, in reply to the Liberal M.P.'s is thoroughly sound reasoning. Nevertheless, if the Liberals are not to consider politics in such appointments, and the Conservatives when in office are to continue to do so, it is obvious that there will always be a great many more Conservative than Liberal magistrates. It seems to me that the proper solution would be to have some sort of Board of Inquiry, and for the Lord Chancellor only to appoint those who are recommended by this Board, due regard being paid to bringing about an equality of numbers between Liberals and Conservatives on each Bench. It is, however, more easy to find fault with the present system than to suggest a perfect remedy.

The last remark rather confirms me in the opinion given last week that the best way out of the difficulty is to get rid of the amateur magistracy altogether. No reader of Truth needs to be told that the Lord Chancellor's troubles are not the only reason for this course.

Apropos of what I said in favour of the universal employment of stipendiary magistrates, I have had a letter gravely arguing that the appointment of one of these functionaries in every borough and every petty sessional division would entail an enormous expenditure. No doubt it would; but who has ever proposed that we should have a stipendiary for every borough and every petty sessional division? Certainly I have never contemplated anything so extravagant. What I have more than once pointed out is that there might be police court circuits just as there are county court circuits. In the vast majority of county divisions the petty sessions are held only once a fortnight, and in a considerable number only once a month. There would not be the least difficulty in arranging for one stipendiary to cover several neighbouring county or small borough courts—indeed, this system is, to a certain extent, adopted already in the cases of two stipendiaries in Staffordshire. The Great Unpaid would still be required (as they are now in London) to perform various non-judicial duties of the office, and perhaps to dispose of minor cases. But with a properly qualified lawyer on the Bench to deal with all important matters, it ought not to be necessary to have another highly-salaried lawyer to act as clerk, and savings might be effected in this direction which would largely reduce the cost of the appointment of stipendiaries.

Another correspondent, in advocating the appointment of stipendiaries, alludes to the danger of local amateur magistrates being influenced by feelings of friendship or by business considerations, especially in such matters as the administration of the licensing laws. He asserts that in a borough with which he is acquainted about half a dozen of the magistrates do a good deal of business with the principal brewer, who is also a member of the Bench, though he does not, of course, adjudicate in licensing cases. One J.P. is a builder who is frequently engaged in putting up new public-houses or altering old ones for the brewer; another does all the printing for the brewery; a third supplies fodder for the brewery horses; and so on. All these worthy men may be desirous of acting on the Bench with perfect impartiality, but still, it is possible that even unconsciously their judgments may sometimes be biassed when they have before them a question affecting the interests of a very good customer; and it is clearly far better that this risk should be avoided by the employment of a paid magistrate independent of any kind of local associations and prepossessions and prejudices.

It is to be hoped that the Departmental Committee on Bankruptcy Administration will have furnished the President of the Board of Trade with materials for a radical bankruptcy reform during next session, and that among such reforms something will be done to provide for the cheaper administration of small estates. The grievances that arise under this last head are again illustrated by an indignant letter from a West-End firm, creditors of a Mr. Burkinshaw, whose estate has just been wound up in the Hanley County Court. The net realisations in this matter were £102 14s. 10d. What the liabilities were I cannot say, nor is it worth while inquiring, for the creditors do not get a halfpenny out of the estate, the trustee's final statement showing that the whole of the £102 has been swallowed up in costs. It is the sort of statement, scores of which have been given before now in Truth—Board of Trade and Court fees to the amount of £30 all but a few pence; law

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costs to more than £30; £20 for trustee's remuneration; and half-a-dozen smaller items to account for what is left.

When £80 out of £102 go to the Court, the Board of Trade, the lawyers, and the trustee, it necessarily follows that the creditors are "left in the cart"; and apparently this state of things is more or less inevitable under the present system. No one supposes that bankruptcy business can be done for nothing; and when a bankrupt is only worth £100 or less, creditors cannot possibly expect to get much. But what seems to me monstrous is that after the Board of Trade and the Court have levied toll on an estate to the extent of 33⅓ per cent., the creditors should still have to pay the trustee, the lawyers, the auctioneer, the "person appointed to assist debtor," and half-a-dozen other incidental expenses of administration. The first charge is presumably by way of payment for the official machinery. Why, having paid for the machinery, should the creditors then have to pay for doing all the work?

In a letter to a local newspaper the senior practising solicitor in High Wycombe makes a spirited and much-needed protest against the practice of appointing a son in the place of his father whenever a vacancy arises in certain public paid offices. Recently four public appointments in High Wycombe—namely, Registrar of the County Court, Clerk to the Borough Justices, Clerk to the Commissioners of Taxes, and Clerk to the Charity Governors—became vacant through the death of the holder, and each of these appointments has now been bestowed upon a son of the deceased. Nor is this an exceptional preceeding in High Wycombe, for during the past quarter of a century every other paid public office held by a solicitor in that town has become vacant, and (with one small exception) has been filled up by the election of a son of the former holder. There are not, perhaps, many places in which the principle of heredity in these matters has been observed so strictly as in High Wycombe, but the practice is undoubtedly much too prevalent.

It is not only unfair to those members of the legal profession who are outside the charmed circle of the favoured families, but distinctly injurious to the public service that such appointments should be passed on as a matter of course from father to son. Very likely the son is sometimes as good a man for the berth as any other applicant. It is notorious, however, that not unfrequently he is appointed solely because he is the son of his father, in preference to more experienced and better qualified candidates. One hears continually of cases in which competition for public offices of this description is only invited for the sake of appearances, the appointment of the son of the late official having been practically settled beforehand without regard to his merits in comparison with those of the rest of the competitors. The system of hereditary clerks to courts of justice or public bodies is as stupid and indefensible an anomaly as the system of hereditary legislators.

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Apropos of defaulting solicitors, one of my legal readers calls attention to a point which was made in TRUTH by a correspondent a few months ago—I think the same gentleman. It is that a great deal of dishonesty among solicitors has resulted from a clause in the Vendors and Purchasers Act, 1886, authorising any solicitor who can produce a deed executed by a client to receive the purchase money without further authority. I quite agree with my correspondent that it would be better to insist that the purchase money, if paid under such circumstances, should be paid by a cheque in favour of the vendor only, and crossed. But even if as many solicitors as my correspondent asserts have been led astray through non-observance of this precaution, I can hardly believe that they are any large proportion of the total number of wrong-doers, or that the scandals in the profession would be greatly diminished by an amendment of the practice on this point.

The jury at the Devon Quarter Sessions last week came to the conclusion that Miss Lake, the matron of a children's home at Exmouth, was not guilty of the charges of assaulting one child and neglecting and ill-treating others which were preferred against her. Miss Lake is to be congratulated upon her acquittal. At the same time, in view of the evidence which was given, I think many friends of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will expect to hear that the Society will not again entrust any children to Miss Lake's care. In the case of assault, it was shown that the child, a girl of thirteen, had thirteen or fourteen bruises on her body. The defence was that she had been properly punished, and that the punishment was not excessive; but though the jury endorsed this view, it is open to question whether the patronage of the N.S.P.C.C. should be bestowed on a home where such a method of dealing with a refractory child is adopted.

As to the charge of neglecting the children, a medical man and other witnesses deposed that they were badly nourished. Medical and other evidence to a contrary effect was given for the defence, and this seems to have made the deepest impression upon the jury. It was, however, admitted that the children's diet was purely vegetarian, with very little milk, and I very much doubt whether a purely vegetarian diet, with very little milk, is suited for children, particularly when it is remembered that the majority of those in this institution were weak and neglected children who had been rescued by the N.S.P.C.C. from cruel parents. I do not know whether the officials of the Society were aware of the nature of the diet the little ones received. If they were it seems to me that they were to blame. The vast majority of the subscribers certainly would not approve of the little ones being put on a vegetarian diet, and it is to be hoped that after this case no further experiment of the kind will be permitted.

Happy is the lot of the wife-beater at Gloucester, if the decision recorded in my Legal Pillory this week may be taken as a fair sample of the tenderness with which he is treated by the Solons of the City Bench. At a very trifling expense he can not only thrash his wife, but follow up this exercise by striking and kicking another woman. The Bench were constrained to remark that the conduct of the defendant was cowardly and brutal. Hard words, however, are not likely to make any impression on a ruffian of this type unless they are enforced by a term of hard labour, and it is perfectly preposterous that such an offender should be let off with a fine of ten shillings and costs. Some further noteworthy instances of misguided leniency in cases of violence and cruelty are given from Bootle, Lincoln, Southend, Glasgow, and the West Riding Quarter Sessions. But, as will be seen from the contrasted sentences, however absurdly indulgent the magistracy may be in dealing with offences against the person, they are always ready to inflict a severe punishment upon the petty thief, the poacher, or the homeless and penniless wanderer who is guilty of the enormity of sleeping out without having visible means of subsistence. It will be noticed that one of the poachers sent to prison at Worksop was a first offender:—

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Sheffield. Wm. Taylor, charged with unlawfully wounding William Meek. They were sitting in a public house when the prisoner, without any dispute arising, struck the prosecutor on the left temple and cheek with a pint pot, inflicting a serious injury. Fined 20s.; in default, one month.

Southend Police-court. Joseph W. Jones, charged with cruelty to a horse. The police found the horse lying on its side in an open space at the rear of the defendant's stables. Its hind legs were tied together, and it was evidently in a dying condition. In its struggles on the ground it had severely injured itself. The animal was subsequently shot. Fined 20s. and costs.

Bootle Police-court. James Lovatt, charged with assaulting a policeman. He butted the officer in the chest, struck him in the mouth, knocked him down, and knelt on him. This was the fourth time he had been charged with assaulting the police. Fined 20s. and costs.

Lincoln Police-court. Before Alderman Wallis and other magistrates. John Wilson and James Wilson, charged with assaulting Charles Martin. They made an unprovoked attack upon complainant, striking him, knocking him down, and kicking him so brutally that he was confined to his bed for four days. A constable said that he found complainant lying in the gutter and thought at first that he was dying. John Wilson fined 20s. and the other defendant 30s.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Sheffield. Harry Silvey, charged with stealing a woollen shirt. Twelve months.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Leeds. Herbert Heathcote, charged with stealing an overcoat. Three months.

Glamorgan Quarter Sessions. Julius Anderson, charged with stealing a pair of trousers, a shirt, and a pair of stockings. Five years.

Southend Police-court. Before Alderman Brightwell and other magistrates. Alfred Whitehead, charged with stealing two fowls. One month.

Southampton Borough police-court. Before Messrs. J. E. Le Feuvre, F. Beresford Turner, W. Wright, W. J. Atkins, and other magistrates. Thomas Costello, charged with wandering abroad and sleeping out, having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Sharnbrook Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. L. Stileman-Gibbard, W. Hipwell, M. Townley, H. B. O. St. John, and Colonel Jackson. Frederick Reynolds and Charles Westley, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 7s. 6d. each; in default, one month.

Dorchester County Police-court. Before Messrs. H. B. Middleton, H. J. Groves, A. Pope, E. W. Floyer, R. Hayne, A. R. Pope, H. P. Bond, and Lieut.-Colonel H. S. Williams. Owen Critchell, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found with three rabbits in his possession. Fined £5.

Weymouth County Police-court. Before Dr. Laurie and Messrs. J. Lane and O. Warner. Wm. Stone, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Samford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. C. H. Berners and Captain A. H. Morse. George Hazlewood, charged with assaulting Henry Jennings, an elderly man. Complainant, who had offered no provocation, was struck in the face, thrown down and kicked in a brutal manner. The police described defendant as a very quarrelsome man. Fined 10s. 6d. and costs.

Gloucester City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Bruton, H. K. Butt, and J. Ward. Samuel Knight, charged with assaulting Elizabeth Moseley. Defendant was beating his wife, who had a child in her arms, and who fell to the ground. Complainant went to pick her up, and defendant thereupon gave her a severe blow in the eye, knocked her down, and kicked her in the mouth, splitting her lip. The Bench said he had committed a cowardly and brutal assault. Fined 10s. and 9s. costs.

Glasgow Southern Police-court. John Dunlop, charged with assaulting a man in the street. The accused was one of a gang of four or five roughs who attacked the complainant without the slightest provocation, striking him on the face, knocking him down, and otherwise ill-treating him. Dunlop had been previously convicted. Fined 30s.

Isle of Ely Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. A. J. Bell and other magistrates. John Beales, charged with stealing two fowls. Three months.

Derby Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Frost and W. Richardson. James Sims, charged with wandering abroad and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

Worksop Police-court. Before Colonel G. Foljambe, and Messrs. H. V. Machin, J. Thornton, and S. A. Jowett. Thomas Wilkins, Thomas Spencer, and Reuben Elms, charged with poaching. None of the prisoners offered any violence to the keepers who captured them. Wilkins, three months; Spencer, two months; and Elms (not previously convicted), one month.

Wokingham Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor. Edward Fredk. Wise, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days

Dronfield Police-court. Before Dr. Rooth and Dr. Fletcher. Herbert Cutts and George Pell, charged with stealing two fowls. Two months each.

Scarborough Police-court. Herbert Nicholson, Charles Braithwaite and James Carlisle, charged with poaching. Braithwaite fined £5 or two months, and the other defendants £2 each, or one month.

Chesterfield County Police-court. Charles Newns, charged with assaulting Martha Ackville, a domestic servant, who said that he came up behind her and tried to throw her down. When she screamed he put his hand over her mouth, but after a struggle lasting five minutes she succeeded in getting away from him. The defence was that the accused was not sober at the time, and that he only attempted to kiss the girl. Fined 5s. and costs.

Not a few of the rural magistracy seem to think that the mere fact that a man is known as a poacher is in itself a sufficient reason for convicting him of any offence against the Game Laws with which he is charged. At Albrighton (Shropshire) Petty Sessions last week one Bryan was summoned under the Poaching Prevention Act. The only witness for the prosecution was a gamekeeper, who said that he followed the defendant and another man for some distance and that he saw the defendant "take off his coat and waistcoat and pull off his back a long rabbit net." From this it is a fair inference that Bryan was starting on a poaching expedition. But the Poaching Prevention Act, in spite of its title, does not apply to a case in which it may be reasonably suspected that a man is *going* poaching. It is limited to cases in which there are good grounds for believing that the accused, when found on the highway with game or poaching implements in his possession, was *coming from* land where he had been unlawfully in search of game. Judging from the report Bryan was entitled to an acquittal. The Chairman of the Bench, Mr. G. Butler Lloyd, seems to have been aware of the flaw in the evidence. "The case," he said, "had not been put before them very perfectly, but defendant had a bad record and he would be fined 10s." In other words, the defendant was not properly proved to have committed an offence this time, but he had been guilty on previous occasions, and so he was again convicted! Such is Justices' justice.

Some rather bitter comments are made by one or two correspondents on a case at Marlborough-street

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Police-court last week, in which a young woman from Winchester was charged with stealing silk blouses from a shop in Oxford-street. One newspaper report described the accused as a photographer's assistant, others suggested that she was a rich young lady moving in "the best society" in her native city. My correspondents make the latter statement the basis of an attack upon the magistrate for letting her off with a fine of £5 for unlawful possession of the stolen goods, instead of sending her to prison for theft. It is suggested that she would have been sent to prison if she had been a poor girl. Possibly she might have been, but in that case I should have held—and so, I presume, would my correspondents—that the sentence was harsh. It certainly would not have been less harsh because she happens to be rich, or at least well-to-do, and I therefore have no sympathy with these criticisms of the magistrate's decision. The prisoner was a first offender, and in the circumstances of the offence, whether she was rich or poor, it was only just and reasonable that she should receive lenient treatment.

In alluding last week to a welshing transaction by the betting agent trading as "A. J. Bee and Co.," Craven House, Kingsway, W.C., I anticipated that his description of himself as a member of the Beaufort Club would be contradicted. This proved to be the case, the secretary having written to tell me that no member of the Beaufort Club is connected with the firm of "A. J. Bee and Co." It might be worth the while of the police to consider whether the use of this false pretence as to his membership of the club does not bring "A. J. Bee and Co." within the reach of the criminal law.

The sharks of usury are, as usual, particularly busy just now, when an offer of financial assistance is exceptionally tempting to people embarrassed by the demands of the tax-gatherer and the rate-collector in combination with the Christmas aftermath of tradesmen's bills. Most of the circulars that have been sent on to me emanate from old acquaintances in this line, but there are one or two new names in the collection. I have not previously heard, for instance, of a philanthropist signing himself "L. Hignett," of 56, Cicada-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W., who intimates that he "immediately cashes I.O.U.s, promissory notes, cheques, etc., at long or short periods, quite privately." "I am not," he adds, "a loan bank (public or private) nor a moneylender. I warn you against such, however artfully disguised." If not a moneylender himself—and on this point at least I dare say he speaks the truth—"L. Hignett" must be one of those still more dangerous birds of prey, a moneylender's tout. He merits the attention of the police as an offender against the Moneylenders Act, for though his circular obviously brings him within its provisions, he is not registered at Somerset House.

"S. Turner," who begs respectfully to inform you that he has taken offices at 14, Dover-street, Piccadilly, is a provincial recruit to the ranks of the West End usurers. Saul Tumim is his real name, and he hails from Manchester, where he has an office at 2, Pall-mall and an abode at 385, Bury New-road. Formerly Tumim also carried on usury-shops in Rochdale and Halifax. Abraham Lazarus, alias "A. Masters," 33, Brook-street, W., is specially circularising the secretaries of commercial and other companies in the City and West End, whom he will wait upon "with the cash" if they are misguided enough to apply to him for an advance. For a usurer to make such overtures to persons in places of trust is a doubly reprehensible proceeding, but it is precisely what might be expected of this bloodsucker, Lazarus, who has over and over again shown himself to be utterly unprincipled. Other members of the same tribe whose pernicious activity is being daily brought under my notice are "H. Bowen" (alias Samuel), 18, Hart-street, Bloomsbury; "H. Passmore" (alias Henry Phillips), 8, Red Lion-square, W.C.; and S. Arons, 37, Stoke Newington-road, N., who, unlike most usurers of the same persuasion, sticks to his own name.

To the list of moneylenders whom I have gibbeted for circularising railway stationmasters I now have to add the name of Nathan Cohen, alias the "Yorkshire Advance Office," The Chambers, Park-square, Leeds, and 2, Westgate, Barnsley. It was at Barnsley that Cohen began his nefarious business, but some time ago he established his headquarters in Leeds, where he lives at Grove Lodge, Harehills-lane. By seeking to enmesh such persons as railway stationmasters, he writes himself down a rascal.

My ignorance in supposing that slate club savings are dissipated at Christmas is rebuked with contempt by a reader who professes to know all about such clubs. He informs me that they also assure to their members benefits in the event of sickness and death. Very likely some may do so, but certainly not all, for I have known more than one which offered nothing of the kind, and I believe I am right in saying that "sharing out" at Christmas is a feature common to all of them. I happen to know two young persons, male and female, who were subscribers to the Tooting Club, and both were disappointed of the money which they were reckoning upon for their Christmas festivities. They had subscribed for no other purpose. As to the business hours of the Post Office Savings Bank, I had forgotten when writing that a few years ago they were extended to 8 p.m. to meet the convenience of working-class depositors. But 8 p.m. is not late enough for everybody, as we know at election times, when working-class electors are frequently unable to get to the poll by that hour.

Anyhow, there can be no question that slate clubs need to be put under some sort of supervision which will protect the depositors; and the more they appeal to the thrifty by offering insurance benefits, the more necessary this becomes. What could show the necessity

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more clearly than the ingenuous confession of the mysterious Mr. Baker?—

> As the Slate Club funds came in they were used by me for the other branches of the Institute, I having in reserve investments which, I believed, would be sufficient to cover the money so used. When I went up to my brokers on the Friday before the break I confidently expected to receive £2,000. I found that the securities were practically worth nothing. The £2,000 was what was to be used for the share-out of the Slate Club.
>
> My own money was invested in the same securities, and I lost that at the same time. I did not know what to do, and I went away because I could not face it.

Apparently he found on reflection that he could face it, so he came back again. His proceedings and his story are absolutely incomprehensible, in view of the fact already known that the Governors have put down among them £7,000 to cover the deficit in the Institute funds generally. Did Mr. Baker put another £5,000 of the Institute funds into securities which suddenly proved to be valueless, besides the £2,000 mentioned in the above statement? Anyhow, here we have a slate club whose treasurer by his own account has expended £2,000 of the club money as it came in for purposes with which the club had nothing to do, relying on having the like amount invested in securities of such a class that when they have to be realised they are found to be worth nothing at all. What the stocks can have been Heaven only knows—something worse than Kaffirs evidently, for even a man whose Kaffirs were worth £2,000 a few months ago would not find them absolutely worthless to-day. Not less amazing than the fluctuations of these mercurial stocks, which Mr. Baker had selected as suitable for a trust investment, is the fact that these fluctuations should have gone on without his having the slightest suspicion of it. He had evidently looked upon the money as though it were in Consols, and he went up to his broker's to sell at a moment's notice, only to find that the stock had gone down to zero. I suppose the company is going to be reconstructed.

In this curious story, not the least curious feature is the behaviour of Mr. Baker's Bible class, who greeted their teacher with enthusiastic cheers on his return from his Continental trip, causing him to weep copiously. These disciples, I should guess, are not depositors in the slate club, and their enthusiasm for the master must have reference to his gifts of biblical exposition rather than his qualities as a financier or a trustee. Outside the Bible class, at any rate, it must be recognised by everybody that it should not be possible for any trust fund to be managed by such a man or by such methods; and means ought to be taken at once to put all these clubs on a more business-like footing.

While the Government legislation for the next Session is being planned out, Mr. Lloyd-George, or one of his colleagues, might with advantage turn his attention to the discussion that has been going on in the *Times*, namely, the unsatisfactory working of the present system of arbitration under the Lands Clauses Act, particularly in regard to the evidence of surveyors. As everybody with experience in such cases knows, when the value of property which is to be compulsorily acquired has to be assessed, the owner produces an array of experts in support of any fancy valuation that he puts on his property, while the would-be purchaser produces an opposition array of similar experts to testify with equal confidence that the market value is but a quarter, or a tenth, or even less, of the valuation on the other side. As the gentleman who first raised this question in the *Times* points out, the "experts" engaged in this line of business are a small ring, who understand all the tricks of the business, and when an arbitration takes place before two professional arbitrators and an umpire, the umpire, being an expert himself, is able to form a pretty accurate estimate of the true value by his own knowledge and experience.

But when, as very frequently happens, the arbitration is held before an under-sheriff and a jury, the case is very different. The jury are simply fogged by the contradictory evidence presented to them, and, being totally without knowledge of their own to guide them, can only adopt the happy-go-lucky process of "splitting the difference." In other words, they generally add the valuations on each side together and divide them by two. Justice cannot be done by this process. Mr. C. C. Macrae, writing from long professional experience, mentions a case in which the vendor valued his property at £100,000, while the intending purchaser valued it at practically nothing. The arbitrator awarded £100. Had this case gone before a jury, the probability is that the vendor would have got something like £50,000 for property which is found to be practically worthless. This is only an extreme example of what is always happening.

The remedy suggested for this state of things is that the trial of such questions before juries should be abolished altogether, and that the expert witnesses as to value should be limited to one on each side. It is also suggested that the representation of parties by counsel should be abolished, but that is a matter open to difference of opinion. The cost of counsel is a comparatively small matter, and it may be that experienced professional advocates assist between them in the elucidation of truth. What chiefly requires to be remedied is the opening for gross injustice which arises when the two sides appear before a jury with a long array of expert witnesses on each side to testify to hopelessly irreconcilable propositions, between which a jury have no personal qualifications for deciding. The cost of these experts is enormous; and whether or not the longest purse always gets the advantage, there must always be a costly competition between the two sides in presenting a mass of evidence which is intrinsically worthless, because it is notorious that all these witnesses simply swear what they are paid to swear. Public authorities, like the London County Council, suffer heavily by the system, the burden being borne in this case by the ratepayers.

The whole system of arbitration rests on the principle that the owner of land may be expropriated on payment of just compensation whenever his property is required for public purposes, whether by a public authority or a quasi-public corporation like a railway company; and it seems to me that the most sensible

way of assessing the compensation in such cases would be to transfer them to a special court or commission presided over by public functionaries. Even the plan of having an arbitrator appointed by each side, and an umpire chosen by these two, is clumsy and futile, for in all such cases the arbitrators are necessarily partisans, and therefore fill no function but that of advocates or witnesses, which means that the decision really rests with the umpire. It would be far better that this personage should be a public official than that he should be thus appointed "ad hoc" by a cumbrous process of indirect election.

At the head of a column of press extracts in the *Daily Mail* having reference to the Channel Tunnel, I was proud to see a quotation from Truth; but I feel bound to say that the passage selected for this distinguished honour by no means accurately indicates my general opinion on the question. I have always looked upon the opposition to a tunnel as essentially irrational. Among civilians it is founded on the nervousness, prejudice, and incapacity for seeing to the bottom of complex problems which are our national characteristics. Among military men it is much the same, the result being accentuated by that distrust of itself which is characteristic of the British Army—possibly not altogether without reason. The only practical objection that I see to making a tunnel is that while the civilian mind is in this unreasoning condition, and the military mind throws its weight on the same side, the existence of such a tunnel would furnish our panic-mongers, already too potent, with a new bogey, and possibly lead to increased armaments and profitless expenditure of public money.

The weakest part of the opposition to the proposal is that the tunnel would be of no practical use if made. If it is worth while to construct a bridge over the Tay or the Zambesi, or a tunnel under the Severn or the Alps, it must be infinitely more so to construct a railway between England and France. Seventy years ago plenty of people saw no good purpose in a railway between Manchester and Liverpool or London and Birmingham. If you have an objection to a railway on other grounds than those of utility, you can always persuade yourself that it will be of no use.

I wonder whether the opponents of the Channel Tunnel grasp the significance of the establishment of the White Star line at Southampton, and the probable adoption of the same course by the Cunard Company. What is the meaning of these steps? Simply that traffic between the Continents of Europe and America is vastly on the increase, and naturally tends towards the westernmost Continental ports. Hence the growth of trans-Atlantic services from Cherbourg and Havre. With a good service from such ports there is no reason why Continental passengers (or goods) should be shipped first to England, carried across England by rail, and reshipped from Liverpool. The French have taken advantage of this, and the Germans still more. The Liverpool lines are now seeking to compete with them on their own ground. But if there were a through line of rail from the Continent to Liverpool, Liverpool would compete for Continental traffic on equal terms with Cherbourg, if not better; and if the railway line could be carried through to Queenstown or Galway, a great part of such traffic would be transferred to those ports.

THE JEALOUS SURGEONS.

A Nobleman, of high Estate,
But Constitution delicate,
Had once—so cruel Fates betide—
A Tumour in his—hem!—Inside;
Which, to remove and save his Life,
Required forthwith the Surgeon's Knife.
Then called he in, without Delay,
The four chief Surgeons of the Day,
Who met, in solemn Consultation,
To carry out the Operation.
But though, consenting, all agreed
On the Operation's urgent Need,
They fell to Disputation warm
Re who that Office should perform;
Since, jealous, each chirurgic Elf
Demands the Honour for himself.
This Question, all-important rated,
So long those Surgeons four debated,
That, *ere they could the Point decide,*
The hapless Patient sank and died.

Moral.

The leading Powers are all agreed
That Congo's Natives must be freed
From Leopold's oppressive Greed;
Yet let Suspicion's jealous Bands
Still tie and paralyse their Hands,
Reckless that, lingering thus, they'll see
Ere long no Natives left to free.

SCRUTATOR.

THE ONLY WAY IN THE EDUCATION DIFFICULTY.

LIBERALS must keep steadily in mind that the real issue between the Lords and Commons is not so much the merits and demerits of the Education Bill, or of the Plural Voting Bill, as the question whether the Lords are to retain the power that they now possess to veto the decisions of the elected representatives of the entire country on important issues. The only justification for such a right is either that the Lords are endowed with some mysterious sixth sense which enables them to know better what is the real wish of the country than its elected representatives, or that they may forbid anything of which they do not approve, like despotic monarchs who reign by right divine. But if either of these dogmas be true, it is self-evident that we ought to do away with the House of Commons, and to look to these specially gifted beings to rule over us. To have an Executive selected from the majority of the Commons, and to subordinate their action to the good pleasure of the Lords, is a state of things which must necessarily render General Elections a waste of time, and reduce the Executive to ridicule and contempt.

I never particularly admired the Education Bill. In its general intention it was a vast improvement on Mr. Balfour's Act of 1902. But it extended to all schools except those coming under Clause 4 the system of official religious instruction provided

for Board schools under the Act of 1870, though supplemented by such special denominational teaching as the owners of Church schools might provide at their own expense on two days a week. For all but a few exceptional schools, therefore, an official religion was to be provided, subject only to the right of withdrawing children from all religious instruction under the conscience clause, which few parents have ever cared to exercise. This official religion has always seemed to me a mere vague hazy recognition of Christianity, without dogma and without any admission that it is a supernatural revelation to mankind, and it was to be taught by men who might or might not themselves be Christians. The absurdity of the play of "Hamlet" being acted with the part of Hamlet left out, is proverbial. But this would be wisdom compared to calling such teaching Christianity. With us there are many sects of Christians, and many who are not Christians. Attendance at school is rightly made obligatory during a certain number of hours in each week. The reason for this is that a certain measure of education is necessary if the rising generation is not to sink into barbarism, and if this country is to hold its own with others in the ever-increasing international competition. This secular education is provided by the State, and in it should be included the ethics which go to make good citizens. Here the duty of the State ends, and the teaching of the particular religion of the parents of the children should be left either to the parents or to the pastors of the sect to which they belong. This is a comprehensible scheme, as was the idea entertained by Philip II. of Spain and many others in his day, that the State religion in its entirety should be taught to all, and that any one who declined to accept it should be burnt at the stake.

It is often asserted that the country is determined that religion—or what passes for religion—shall always form part of the national scheme of education. I greatly doubt whether this be so. The working men are the majority of the electors, and every working-man's representative who sits in the House of Commons is opposed to any religion being taught at the public cost. The Conservatives, and the Bishops of the Church of England have declared that Cowper-Templeism is a mockery of Christianity, and that they would prefer the teaching of no religion to its being taught. They prefer this to being prevented from teaching their own particular views in regard to religion in State schools. If there were a General Election to-morrow, before which the present Government were to announce that they would, should they secure a majority, bring in a Bill which would secularize all public instruction by the State, the working men would vote for the Government candidates. What could the Nonconformists do? If there were no Liberal majority, the Conservatives would be able to keep alive the state of things established in 1902. Would Nonconformists not prefer Secularism in education to this state of things? In the main I believe that they would, and that, seeing that they cannot have exactly their own way, but have to choose between Secularism and Denominationalism, they would support the former, all the more as, were they not to do so, they would put in office a Conservative Administration with all its attendant evils. Nonconformists have done good service in the past in the cause of religious and civil liberty. But in matters of religion they are exceedingly narrow-minded—or, rather, perhaps it is more correct to say they allow themselves to be led by those amongst them who are narrow-minded.

Dr. Clifford has announced that the campaign of passive resistance is to recommence. He would have all Nonconformists refuse to pay the school rate until our entire educational system is put on the footing that finds favour with him. He seems to imagine that the imprisonment of a number of Nonconformists would arouse such a storm of indignation that the country would insist on the Nonconformist views being incorporated into the law of the land. My impression is that the contrary would be the result. This sort of cheap martyrdom, as a means to direct attention to some particular issue on which men differ, is silly nonsense. I have no more sympathy with an imprisoned Dissenter, because he will not obey the law, than with an imprisoned female Suffragist. Whether some saint of old was right or wrong as to his opinions, one cannot help admiring a man who allowed himself to be boiled in oil, or put to death in some equally unpleasant manner, rather than surrender them. But to prefer a short imprisonment as a first-class misdemeanant to paying legal rates because there is an objection to the manner in which the money thus obtained is in part spent, and to secure a little personal notoriety by so doing, is a very different matter. Moreover, I have never understood why Dr. Clifford and his friends should haggle over rates and swallow taxes, although both rates and taxes are employed in providing funds for our schools. Why, then, have a conscientious objection to pay the one and be ready without even a protest to pay the other? Nonconformists are always airing their consciences as though they had in some peculiar way a monopoly of this inner member. If they are to be judges of when they have the right to pay rates and taxes, I presume that they recognise the same right in others. Take for instance this question of education. I object to any public funds being expended on teaching religion in schools. I regard it as a gross injustice to many, and I believe that it is fatal to any sound scheme of education being possible. Does Dr. Clifford hold that I, and those who think with me, have a right to refuse to pay either rates or taxes, and that rather than do so we ought to allow ourselves to be sent to prison? Had I accepted imprisonment as the only conscientious alternative to paying, would he regard me as a martyr to conscience, even if I had paid the tax and refused to pay the rate? So, too, with the opponents to Mr. Birrell's Bill. Had it passed, does he consider that the Bishops of the Church of England ought to have accepted imprisonment? Their consciences disapprove of the teaching in schools which the law would have provided probably as strongly as Dr. Clifford approves

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of it. Where, indeed, is this right of an individual only to pay his share of the public burdens, when national or local funds levied by law are expended in what he regards a proper manner, to end? I regarded the Boer War as a crime. Ought I, then, to have declined to pay taxes because a portion of their proceeds was expended in this abominable war? This is, to my thinking, a denial of the primary idea of all self-governing communities. The decision of the mode in which taxes are to be spent must rest with the majority of citizens, unless each man is to obey only the laws of which he approves.

Dr. Clifford would, perhaps, say that on this education question the views of the majority have been set at naught by the action of the Lords. In this I agree with him. But the Lords have a constitutional right to throw out any Bill, and there are constitutional methods to put an end to this right. His right mode of procedure is, therefore, to insist on the House of Commons sweeping away the Lords' veto on any Bill that has passed the Commons. If the representatives of the nation elect to establish the scheme of education that he approves of, I, and those who think with me, would recognise the obligation to conform to the law, and we should endeavour to alter it in our sense by legitimate agitation. If the representatives of the nation should in their wisdom prefer the secular solution, we should expect him to act in the same fashion. I have no special prejudice for the views either of the Pope of Rome or of our Nonconformists. I leave sects to wrangle over matters which seem to me of very minor importance. I would give each sect the fullest liberty to teach what it pleases. But just as Dr. Clifford objects to a State Church supported with public funds, so do I object to State schools where any religion is taught, not because I think that religion should be ignored in education, but because there is no consensus of opinion as to what religion ought to be taught, and any attempt to smooth over differences by Cowper-Templeism or such-like "religions" will leave our schools the battle-ground of conflicting sects, or reduce religion to a mere official farce.

THIRTY YEARS IN "TRUTH" OFFICE.

With the present issue Truth enters on the thirty-first year of its existence. It seems only the other day that I endeavoured to entertain my readers with a *résumé* of "Twenty Years in Truth Office;" but, alas! ten years have elapsed since that article appeared, and in the general process of stock-taking that goes on with the beginning of a new year, I am tempted to reckon up what Truth has done during those ten years to justify its existence. Few mortals looking back over so long a period can discover nothing to regret in their conduct, and still fewer journalists. I find that since January, 1897, I have made one or two more or less serious mistakes, and have had to pay for them. Doubtless there have been many smaller mistakes, for which I may or may not have had to pay. But on the whole, when the balance is struck, I hope that it will be found well in my favour. Looking through the files of Truth for the time in question, I think I can easily show that the paper has done a great deal of good; and I doubt whether anybody can show that it has done any serious harm. Considering that it is published primarily with the intention of speaking its mind plainly, without regard to any interests which may be affected thereby, remembering also that no man living can form an opinion on any subject without liability to error, it is something to be able to say so much with a clear conscience.

I suppose that the part of the work of Truth Office which most interests the public, as well as the Editor, relates to the exposure of swindlers and imposters, and the ventilation of abuses of all sorts. In reviewing what has been done in these directions even during the last ten years, the difficulty is to know where to begin, and after that where to stop. If anybody desires to understand the magnitude of the aggregate result accomplished in these directions, he has only to look at those "Cautionary Lists" which I have made a practice of publishing annually for the last four or five years. In these has been given a summary of the names and doings of all individuals, firms, and associations that have come under notice in Truth within the previous twelve months. When it is remembered that such summaries do not profess to be exhaustive—there being a great many cases in which, while a passing criticism may be justifiable at the moment, to pillory a person subsequently may not be—the accumulation of them year by year affords a record which, I confess, quite astonishes me when I look back upon it. It is true that a certain number of the names re-appear year by year. But a great many more drop out, thereby showing the practical result of such inconvenient publicity; and, what is of more consequence from my point of view, so far as readers of Truth are concerned, all these birds of prey are, or ought to be, rendered innocuous. I am really not concerned about people who do not read Truth, and it is not my fault if everybody does not do so. I take the opportunity of remarking that another annual issue of the "Cautionary List" is now in course of preparation, and will make its appearance before the end of the month, and I recommend everybody to procure and preserve it. Readers will not find there, however, any record of many of the largest frauds and scandals that Truth has put an end to in recent years, and to these only I will refer on the present occasion.

Five-and-Twenty Libel Actions.

Necessarily this class of business brings with it a great deal of more or less troublesome litigation. When I was last reviewing my editorial experiences I was able to congratulate myself warmly upon the net results of such litigation up to that date. It is the same to-day, and I again lay stress upon the fact because it shows that the criticism of Truth upon particular persons and individuals has in the main been justified conclusively. In 1897 I was able to show that out of all the actions that I had fought in twenty years, only two had resulted in "substantial" damages, and one of these turned on a matter of no greater public or private interest than the precise posi-

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tion of a village pump, as to which I was misled by trusting to the evidence of two beneficed clergymen—a lesson which I have always remembered to my profit. Through placing the village pump upon the wrong side of the street, I had to pay £100 in damages, with a much larger sum in costs. In the ten years that have elapsed since I made that boast, though something like five-and-twenty aggrieved parties have gone so far as to issue writs, only nine have brought their cases into court, though two parties also made applications to commit Mr. Labouchere for contempt of court. Of these nine actions, four were decided in my favour either by the jury or judges, one was settled in court, each side paying its own costs, while one resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, but the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial on my application. I may incidentally remark that this is the only case in thirty years in which I have ever appealed against the verdict of a jury, but as a further appeal to the House of Lords by the plaintiff is still pending, I say nothing more about this case. This accounts for six out of the nine actions. Of the three verdicts which stand against Truth, one was an action brought by the Co-operative Union, and £1 damages were awarded to each of thirteen plaintiffs, and £2 to the Union collectively, which is sufficient to show that the alleged libel was not of a serious nature. In fact, I was never able myself to make out clearly what it was. There remain, therefore, only two cases in which substantial damages were awarded. In one of these a gentleman named Calev recovered £100 for an allegation in Truth that he had published in the *World* a story which was identical with a Queer Story previously published in Truth. The trial showed that both the Truth and *World* stories came independently from a more or less ancient source, and under these circumstances I certainly could not grudge the author what the jury gave him. In the last case of the lot, a Lancashire gentleman recovered a verdict at Manchester for £500 for a libel, due to an unfortunate mistake which was corrected and apologised for as soon as it was brought to my notice. The writer of the article had confused the gentleman in question with his brother in the transactions under notice. His mistake was detected before the article went to press, and was corrected in every instance but one where the names were mentioned, and it was this oversight that cost Truth £500. In the whole ten years, therefore, the only case in which a verdict has been recovered against Truth for a libel published intentionally is the case of Mr. Caley, who obtained £100 damages. I take a pride in this fact, which I think every one will admit to be legitimate. It must be remembered that during these ten years many hundreds of individuals, associations, companies, and institutions have been criticised in these columns more or less severely. I could easily point to dozens who have been accused of conduct unfitting them to associate with respectable men. Every journalist who does this does it, in the present state of the law, at grave risk to himself, however sure he may feel about his facts. When, therefore, it appears that in the course of ten years only one person whose conduct has been criticised in these column has succeeded in recovering damages for libel, and that only in consequence of a mistake as to the origin of a work of fiction, which a jury only assessed at £100 damages, I feel entitled to appeal to the result as showing that strong as is the criticism to which individuals are often subjected in Truth, exceptional care is taken that such criticism is never published except in the fullest assurance that it can be justified if challenged. I am not the only journalist who has ever made a practice of hitting hard, but I think I may claim to be the only one who, after the hardest hitting for thirty years, can say that during the whole of that time he has only been found guilty on about three occasions of hitting the wrong man.

Some Unsuccessful Plaintiffs.

Among the actions in this ten years' list, the majority relate to matters which are now of little public interest, but there are two or three which are worth recalling. One of them is the heavy litigation over the Article Club, in which Mr. Laurence Cowen was the plaintiff. Mr. Cowen was a very clever young man—too clever, unfortunately—who started a journal called *Commerce*. In connection with this journal, he founded an association of business men which was called the Article Club, because the qualification for membership was the publication in *Commerce* of an article descriptive of the member's business. For each such article the price was £300, besides the purchase of a certain number of copies for distribution; and the charge was, on the face of it, absurd, because the paper was quite unknown, and had no sale worth speaking of beyond its sale to the members of the club. All sorts of ingenious tricks were employed in order to get influential people into the club, either as honorary members for advertising purposes, or as £300-members for Mr. Cowen's purposes, and the club was blown up like a big bubble until it began to have the air of an important public institution, while Mr. Cowen waxed wealthy, became quite a personage, and contemplated entering Parliament. The humbug of the thing was exposed in Truth, but I treated it more or less as a joke, and Mr. Cowen allowed my observations to pass unnoticed for more than a year, when I suppose he found that they were injuring the concern, and he brought an action for libel. After a long and expensive trial the jury disagreed; but another long and expensive trial followed, the verdict was given in my favour, and the Article Club thereupon disappeared. On the whole, I think that its disappearance was an advantage to British trade and the public generally. But it was a somewhat expensive operation for Truth, as Mr. Cowen subsequently became bankrupt, and the costs have never been paid. How many thousands of pounds I have had the pleasure of disbursing in connection with cases in which I have been successful—not to mention the others—I find it difficult to reckon up precisely, but something like twelve thousand out of the total stand to the credit—or, perhaps, I should say the debit—of the Article Club and Mr. Cowen.

One of the motions above mentioned to commit Mr. Labouchere for contempt of court provided a case of considerable public interest. It was brought by the late Mr. John Kensit. For many years he had been

severely criticised in TRUTH on the ground of the indecency of many of his publications. I never concerned myself about his religious views. Whether a man is a Protestant, or a Roman Catholic, or a Mohammedan, or a Confucian is no affair of mine. But his manner of advocating his views may be; and in Mr. Kensit's case I always condemned the recourse he had to obscene libels on Roman Catholic institutions for the purpose of discrediting a religious creed and community of which he did not approve. Although I had more than once said that he had rendered himself liable to criminal prosecution, he took no notice of my remarks until it happened that he was involved in a libel action with another paper. The criticism of TRUTH having been repeated while this action was pending he, or his solicitors, alleged that this amounted, under the circumstances, to contempt of court. The Lord Chief Justice and two of his colleagues held that, under the circumstances, it was nothing of the kind, and adopted my view that Mr. Kensit was endeavouring to silence TRUTH by an indirect proceeding, when he had persistently refrained from answering directly. His abortive motion for contempt of court did his cause a great deal of harm, and I am glad it did, for whatever may have been the intrinsic merits of his cause, his method of advocating it was certainly immoral, and, I should hope, irreligious.

Another individual who has involved me in a vast amount of litigation during the last few years, though without ever bringing his grievances to trial, is Mr. F. W. Horner, late M.P. for North Lambeth. His case is so fresh in the public memory that it is scarcely necessary to do more than mention it. But I trust I may be forgiven for looking with pride on the part played by TRUTH in exposing and overthrowing him, for his career was nothing less than a national disgrace, using as he did his title of M.P. to perpetrate wholesale frauds on Continental bankers and hotel-keepers, who had up to that time treated membership of the British House of Commons as the hall-mark of perfect integrity and honour. His dealings with TRUTH were not the least remarkable feature in his career of imposture. When I first showed him up, at the end of 1902, I had against him a perfectly cast-iron case of swindling a banker at Marienbad by means of a worthless cheque. But he at once issued his writ, made a brave show of injured innocence, and kept me and the firm of Lewis and Lewis at arms' length for the best part of eight months, basing his defence on a cock-and-bull story that the fraud had really been perpetrated, not by him, but by some relative whom he desired to screen. He fought against the disclosure of the name of this relative with wonderful ingenuity and persistency, until the Court of Appeal ordered him to give it up or abandon the action, when he chose the latter alternative, and retired from the scene with a magnificent affectation that he was sacrificing himself heroically on the altar of friendship. What was not less remarkable, he immediately paid my costs, not by a cheque, but in hard cash. Thereupon I published particulars of a long series of frauds, similar to that at Marienbad, which he had perpetrated on Continental bankers and hotel-keepers. He talked of bringing another action, but did nothing. In October, 1905, I discovered that he had resumed these disgraceful practices, and gave some particulars of his recent doings, and once again he commenced an action for libel; and he managed to keep this action going until the last General Election, when he was ejected from Parliament, made bankrupt, and disappeared into obscurity, it is to be hoped for good. Considered merely as a Unionist M.P., his defeat at the election was not by itself a remarkable phenomenon; but the fact that he received the smallest number of votes recorded for any candidate in all the polls throughout the United Kingdom showed conclusively the opinion of his own constituents, regardless of party, upon his abuse of his Parliamentary position; and for this satisfactory result I claim the whole credit in the name of TRUTH.

As another example of the trouble and expense involved in tackling gentry of this kind, I may mention the case of a man named Cameron Hitch, who started a libel action about three years ago. Hitch was a shifty sort of adventurer, who, after being three times bankrupt, victimised a number of people by forming a "syndicate" for punting at Monte Carlo with an infallible system, and also by pretending to require capital for a club at Mentone. The man, in fact, had been engaged in a career of rascality which rendered it out of the question that he could ever show his face in court; but he issued a writ on the strength of warnings that were published in TRUTH against his advertisements, and kept the action going until the eve of trial, when he absconded, the fact being that he was then engaged in another swindle, and was "wanted" by the police. I take this opportunity of mentioning that if anybody knows his present whereabouts I shall be glad to have his address. For the satisfaction of ridding London of this undesirable I had to pay several hundred pounds in the shape of costs of preparing the case for trial, briefing counsel, and investigating the plaintiff's record. I suppose he thinks he had the best of it after all, and I am not sure but what he is right—so far as I am personally concerned.

One of the most remarkable stories that have ever been dealt with in TRUTH belongs to the period under notice. This is the story of Mr. Joshua Jones and the Mokau Estate in New Zealand. Unfortunately the last chapter of it has not yet been written, though I hope it may soon be. It would be impossible to tell the whole story here, but I cannot pass over my own share in it in reviewing the exploits of the past ten years. Mr. Jones came to London from New Zealand in 1893 for the purpose of realising an estate in New Zealand of some 50,000 acres, containing valuable coal and other mineral deposits. The estate was mortgaged for comparatively small amounts in the colony. The solicitor, the late Mr. Wickham Flower, whom Mr. Jones employed, managed to acquire the property in his own name at the sale under the mortgage in New Zealand, in conjunction with Mr. C. C. Hopkinson, then a banker in Regent-street, and, having acquired it, he called on Mr. Jones to redeem it from him within a stated period, and finally asserted his right to deal with it as he pleased. Mr. Jones was thus left helpless and

penniless in London, and for five years he tried in vain every remedy open to him. At the end of that time a friend introduced him to me. The story was published in Truth, with the result that Mr. Hopkinson's firm suspended payment and Mr. Flower retired from his firm. Nothing more definite happened until an attempt was made by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson to sell the Mokau property at the Mart. I then published an article warning intending purchasers of the doubtfulness of the title, and on this a Chancery action was commenced against me by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson, and an application made to stop the sale of that issue of Truth, which the Court refused to do. The property was consequently withdrawn from sale. The action against Truth was at my instance transferred for trial to the King's Bench Division, but when the trial drew near it was abandoned, and my costs were paid. On the order of the present Lord Chief Justice, while holding for a short time the office of Master of the Rolls, the Incorporated Law Society at last held an inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Flower. The Discipline Committee, while expressing a mild disapproval of his action, acquitted him of actual professional irregularity, but their report was taken before a Divisional Court, which found the solicitor guilty of unprofessional conduct, and ordered him to pay all the costs of the inquiry and the motion, amounting, I believe, to close on £2,000. So far as Truth was concerned, therefore, everything that had been said was conclusively vindicated, first by the abandonment of Mr. Flower's action, and secondly by the judgment of the Court against that gentleman; and so far as Truth was concerned the Mokau case ended there. None of these proceedings, unfortunately, sufficed to restore Mr. Jones to the possession of his property, but, as far as my knowledge goes, there is yet good hope that this result may be attained, Mr. Jones having subsequently brought an action which was settled on terms which gave him the right to be restored to possession on payment of an agreed amount within a certain time.

One abortive libel action recorded among my lawyers' bills is connected with the exposure of a series of frauds which attained considerable dimensions about four years ago, though they never came before the public except in the pages of Truth. The action in question was commenced by a man named Ashton. At one time he was in the bicycle trade, and engineered a small boom by means of trick advertisements. That business having fizzled out, he next turned up in connection with a widely advertised concern called the Armadale Company, in which he was associated with two brothers named Abraham. By means of seductive advertisements offering capital to business men in need of it, they induced people to entrust them with the conversion of their businesses into companies under agreements entitling the Armadale Company to considerable sums for preliminary expenses, which were payable whether the proposed companies were brought out or not. Needless to say, they never were, and tradesmen were victimised in shoals by this ingenious fraud. Exposure in Truth stopped the game, but Ashton and the Abrahams having parted company, the former started a new swindle of similar character on his own account, under the name of the Mercantile Syndicate, while the Abrahams tried their hands at another in the shape of a Tradesman's Legal Aid Society. Truth showed up Ashton once more, and he started an action for libel, which he kept on foot for a few months, in order to silence further criticism, but ultimately dropped it when it reached a stage likely to cost him money. The Mercantile Syndicate, by which people in all parts of the country had been swindled out of considerable sums, necessarily perished at the same time, and so did the Merchants' Legal Aid Society. In connection with these concerns, I made the acquaintance of a man named W. G. Smith, who had been associated in some way with the same parties, and claimed to have been the originator of the Legal Aid Society. He went down to Brighton, and there started a South Coast Tradesmen's Legal Aid Society. He was followed up by Truth, however, with the result that he was prosecuted by a tradesman from whom he had obtained goods on false pretences, and went to prison. After his release he speedily contrived to get back to the same place, and is still there. Thus all these closely allied swindles have one by one been rooted out.

Representative Gaol Birds.

The worthy Smith, just referred to, is one of a long list of evil-doers in whose case exposure in Truth has during the last ten years been followed by punishment of a still more unpleasant nature. I have traced no less than thirty of them, and probably there are many more whose fate has escaped my notice. When in 1897 I reviewed the work of "Twenty Years in Truth Office," I noted with pride among the rogues whom I had helped to bring to justice, the notorious "Wells of Monte Carlo," who had been sentenced to eight years' penal servitude for a series of frauds. by two alone of which he had netted £28,000. Towards the end of 1905 I discovered that another old acquaintance of mine was carrying on a system of wholesale swindling in London by means of a bogus "trawling syndicate," and on his being arrested it transpired that the partner in the business was none other than the ex-convict Wells, suitably disguised. Wells is now enjoying another three years' penal servitude. The other member of the "trawling syndicate" was the Rev. V. H. Moyle—an aged clergyman of the Church of England with a most extraordinary record. I first had the unpleasant duty of bringing the earlier part of it to the public notice in 1898, when the man was vicar of Ashampstead, in Berkshire. He had held that benefice for thirteen years, and during that time had been involved in a series of scandals, of which bankruptcy and imprisonment on a County Court committal order were not the worst. Finally, in defiance of the Bishop's admonition, he had deserted his parish for several months, making no provision for his duty, and leaving in his house, in the last extremity of neglect and want, a poor helpless old widow lady whom he had robbed of nearly everything she possessed. On the story being published in Truth, it came to my knowledge that in 1868, Moyle, being then vicar of a parish in Yorkshire, had been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for forgery. The Bishop of Oxford

(Dr. Macharness) had sanctioned his presentation to Ashampstead in 1885 by way of giving him a chance of retrieving his character! After the Truth exposure in 1898-9, the then Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Stubbs) took proceedings under the Benefices Act, and Moyle was deprived of his living. When the Stamford-street "trawling syndicate" made itself conspicuous in 1905 I was at once able to identify him; and he was soon afterwards arrested in company with the more notorious Wells, and on conviction was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour—a very lenient sentence. I regard these two men, Wells and Moyle, as two of the most audacious and incorrigible criminals that I have ever had through my hands.

On the list before me there is another man against whom I have a long and ugly *dossier*—like Moyle, a man who started with superior education and position—but as he has been released in the meantime, and may possibly have seen the error of his ways, I forbear from raking up his record now out of the files of Truth. Among the rest are representatives of all sorts and condition of rascality. Charity-mongering is represented by a man named Chubb-Jackson, who was hunted from place to place by the searchlight of Truth for years. He was one of those pestilent rogues who get hold of a few wretched, friendless children, and use them as the means of appealing to the public for subscriptions to a bogus "home." After playing this game in many places, he was ultimately prosecuted and sent to prison. Another detestable form of swindling is that perpetrated, generally at the expense of a class of people most deserving of sympathy, under the pretence of offering home employment. One of the most active representatives of this class, after incessant exposure in Truth under the names of "Paynter," "Smith," and other aliases, was ultimately prosecuted, and though he was unfortunately admitted to bail and took the opportunity of absconding, his business was effectually stopped. I wish I could say as much of a few more of the same class. Closely allied to them are the bogus employment agents and swindling registry offices for servants. Two acquaintances of this class are recorded on my list as having gone to prison. A different but highly profitable class of fraud is represented by a man named J. H. Johnson, who got fifteen months' hard labour in 1904, after I had been on his trail for several years. This man, a drunken, good-for-nothing scoundrel, had invented one swindle after another in the shape of associations for dealing with public evils or asserting public rights—"philosophical ideas," he facetiously called them when in the dock—and by means of them, and by fairly steady attention to the business of going about collecting subscriptions, he had earned a comfortable living for at least seven years. I think it must have been the periodical exposure of his doings in Truth which led him to give a new name to his "philosophical idea" about once in twelve months; anyhow, it was owing to a Truth paragraph about Johnson that a certain public-spirited peer who had given the man a subscription for an alleged ratepayers' association, was led to hand him over to the police and give the evidence necessary for his conviction. I specially refer to Johnson, because one of his most successful "philosophical ideas" was a society for the suppression of street noises, with which he collected any amount of money and duped, among others, the late Sir Walter Besant. No sooner was Johnson under lock and key than another philosopher of the same school—Mr. T. Bowden Green—pounced upon this derelict "idea," and soon got it into capital working order as the Betterment of London Association, which is still with us. But to return to our prisoners. There are still two whom I cannot pass over, both of them medical quacks, and long known to readers of Truth. The first is "Professor Richard," a Spanish-American impostor, who, after many years of impudent swindling in all parts of the world, and more than one experience of gaol, got a further sentence of twelve months' hard labour. The second is an equally notorious rascal of the same type, the "reverend" Mr. Hawkins, of Brighton, who has not yet completed his very easy sentence of three months' hard labour. So the list goes on down to the case of Mr. Bullard, the swindling scholastic agent, who was sentenced the other day to "twenty-one months' hard," as the immediate result of his exposure in Truth—in fact, I had the pleasure of getting together the evidence for his prosecution.

Legislative Achievements.

The records of the Law Courts, however, whether civil or criminal, touch but a small fraction of the work that is annually done by Truth in the way of exposing rascality, correcting abuses and scandals, and redressing injustice. I have had a list prepared of achievements under this head in the course of the last ten years only, and I find myself literally unable to deal with it, except generally, within the compass of a single article. There is no object in piling up a list of mere names when the circumstances have faded from the reader's memory; but I may pick out a few samples at random just to indicate the nature of the bulk. To begin with, there are the rapacious rascals of the usury trade, who are dealt with individually week by week in these columns. Apart from the public service that is done by putting people on their guard against these pests of society, I may say without exaggeration that the exposures of the trade in Truth, particularly in the case of the notorious Isaac Gordon, were a direct cause of the passing of the Moneylenders Act of 1900. The Act was founded on the recommendations of a Select Committee which sat in 1897 under the presidency of Mr. T. W. Russell, and some of the most instructive evidence laid before that Committee was obtained from Truth Office by Mr. Ascroft, one of the most active members of the Committee, who spent hours here studying the question. The Act is not perfect, as I have often had occasion to remark, but it has done an immense amount of good, and for its imperfections I am not responsible. I might add that it seems a rare thing for any solicitor to be retained on behalf of a moneylender's victim without coming to Truth for information and advice, and in this way I suppose that I have assisted to defeat the machinations of dozens of usurers in the Law Courts or outside since the Moneylenders Act was passed.

In passing I may remark that much the same thing might be said in regard to many obnoxious individuals besides moneylenders. A week rarely passes without bringing an inquiry from some solicitor on behalf of an injured client as to whether Truth knows anything of the wrong-doer, and the answer is more often in the affirmative than the negative. The mention of the Moneylenders Act reminds me of the service which Truth has more lately performed, so far as London is concerned, in connection with fraudulent employment agencies and registry offices. The repeated exposure of the mischief done by such concerns led the London County Council to promote a Bill bringing them all under its supervision. When this Bill was before a Parliamentary Committee one of my staff was called as a witness, and was able to furnish from the archives of Truth much valuable information as to the nature of the frauds prevalent. The Bill was passed, and all agencies and offices of this class are now subject to municipal supervision, as had been urged in Truth for years. This, of course, only applies to London, but it may be expected that provincial municipalities will all in course of time follow the example set by the L.C.C. I may here mention that besides two or three registry office keepers on my black list who have been convicted of fraud, Truth has also been instrumental within the last few years in putting a stop to a very delusive scheme for providing work for women, and in pricking a huge bubble with the magnificent title of the National Employment Agency, the promoter of which gave himself and his scheme away in an imprudent interview with the Editor of Truth.

Miscellaneous Exposures.

Turning to the sphere of charity and philanthropy, the sort of work that Truth is always doing may be illustrated by the case of the Royal Military Benevolent Fund, which a few years ago had fallen entirely into the hands of the lady who founded it, and had managed to convert it into a convenient means of providing herself and husband with board and lodging in a handsome mansion in Queen's Gate. The lady was ejected, and the charity restored to an efficient and useful condition in consequence of the exposure of these facts. I have also on my list the names of no less than five shady personages besides the above-mentioned Chubb-Jackson who have been hunted out of the "children's home" line of business through my humble exertions. That a good many more still remain in the trade is not my fault. There is an interesting record, too, of religious impostors whose pernicious operations Truth has done something to check. At the head of it stands the Rev. Otho Fitzmaurice, formerly Vicar of St. James's, Bolton, who deserves to be bracketed with Mr. Moyle, above-mentioned, as a representative clerical black sheep. He had been engaged for years in raising money fraudulently all over the kingdom by means of mendacious appeals on behalf of his parish and schools. After this had been demonstrated in Truth, the police took him in hand. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment; incidentally amused himself, pending an appeal, with a motion to commit Mr. Labouchere for contempt of court, which came to nothing; and was eventually deprived of his benefice, and betook himself to America. Next to him on my list come the two bogus "ex-monks," Ruthven and Widdowes, and the more magnificent scoundrel, Edward Rufane Donkin, the prince of bogus bishops; but the latter is now no more, and I have no desire to revive the story of his career.

Among the innumerable products of sham-medical knavery which have been effectually dealt with (I have already referred to two of them) the most conspicuous is the Drouet Institute for the Deaf. Some seven or eight years ago this swindle had by unstinted advertising of the most mendacious character developed into one of the biggest things of its kind ever known. After a good deal of criticism, the proprietors were so ill-advised as to invite me to come and interview the staff and inspect the *modus operandi* of the Institute. The report of the interview, at which absurdly futile attempts were made to gammon the representatives of Truth, established conclusively the fraudulent character of the business. The principal proprietor, a clever but unscrupulous Frenchman, made desperate efforts to keep the thing on its legs, but it gradually went down hill, assisted by further exposures in Truth, and though I believe it is still in existence, it has for the last two or three years ceased to call for serious notice. Another field in which some useful work has been accomplished is in the exposure of the tricks of shady patent agents. This began with a huge "patent competition" promoted by a Mr. Rayner in 1898, and has been continued in many other cases, especially in connection with what has been described as the "patent editor trick," to which numbers of newspapers and magazines which ought to know better have stupidly lent themselves. I believe that this class of business, by which thousands of pounds have been extracted from inexperienced amateur "inventors," has been practically killed by the criticism of Truth. Perhaps the biggest question that Truth has tackled during the whole of these ten years is the delusive system of industrial insurance in connection with the tea trade, which became notorious through the phenomenal success of Nelson's Pension Tea. It will be remembered that I fought this question persistently for upwards of a year in 1904 and 1905, and if the Truth demonstration of the utter rottenness of the whole scheme could only have been brought home to the ignorant people at whose expense the business was run, the number of victims would have been materially reduced. But other papers advertised the scheme while I denounced it, and the promoters managed to defer the inevitable crash till they had made huge sums of money out of it, and all I can say is that every word of my criticism was justified by the result. Another rotten financial scheme which at one time threatened to grow to vast dimensions, with corresponding loss to the deluded people who put their money into it, was the National Old Age Pension Trust, promoted by a Mr. Taverner. Truth was not the only paper which exposed the folly of this scheme, but Truth was the only paper of which Taverner took any notice, and it was in consequence of his coming to this office to defend his scheme and the conclusive demonstration

of incompetence which he then afforded, that proceedings were taken which resulted in the winding-up of the "Trust" by an order of the High Court.

"TRUTH" AND THE ARMY.

I find that this chapter of journalistic history is running to unconscionable length, and I must cut it short. I pass over, therefore, the case of Mr. Edalji, to which so much space was devoted in 1905, and in which the arguments of TRUTH induced the late Home Secretary to remit four years of the prisoner's sentence. I pass over, also, all that has been effected in the last ten years by exposures of abuses or injustice in the public service. But I must say a word or two as to certain practical results accomplished in connection with the Army. When first, towards the end of the 'eighties, the practice was first adopted of ventilating in these columns the grievances, individual or collective, of officers and men in the Army, there was a widespread conviction that TRUTH had become a more dangerous paper than ever before, and that military discipline was being sapped at its foundations. No such result has followed, and I believe the actual result has been the very opposite. For fifteen or twenty years past it has been a regular practice among soldiers of every rank, from generals down to drummer boys, to apply to the Editor of TRUTH whenever they have had anything to complain of. They have all had his respectful attention, and in the vast majority of cases they have secured the ventilation of their grievances. Occasionally the aggrieved party has himself proved to be in the wrong; but if I were to go into details and statistics, it would be very clearly seen that the percentage of cases in which TRUTH has not been right is even smaller in the case of military matters than in the civil proceedings that have been referred to above. On the other hand, a great many wrong things have been put right, and I am bound to say in this connection that so far as my experience goes, in no public department is there such a genuine desire to do the right thing as in the War Office. In many instances it is within my knowledge that officers with plenty of more important work to attend to have taken an immense amount of trouble to investigate comparatively small matters that have come to light in TRUTH. Not only in the cases of individuals has much good been effected in this way, but in questions affecting the welfare of the Service generally. Within the last ten or twelve years innumerable benefits have been conferred upon soldiers, and almost without exception they may be traced to suggestions or complaints first brought forward in these columns. I think, too, that the fact of the columns of TRUTH being open to all comers who have any genuine claim to a hearing has exercised a salutary effect upon persons of all ranks in authority throughout the Army. Certain it is that whereas ten or fifteen years ago I used to hear almost every week some moving tale of injustice committed either by an individual officer, or a court-martial, during the last few years such things have become rarer and rarer. Rightly or wrongly, I attribute this to the wholesome fear of publicity. I have never set up for an "Army reformer"; there are too many experts in that field already. But I cherish the belief that the Army is a much better managed institution in many respects to-day than it would have been if TRUTH had never taken its domestic affairs in hand.

I must now apologise for these reminiscences and moralisings. Probably they are more interesting to me than to the reader. But a man is entitled to congratulations on his birthday, and if no one else is likely to congratulate him, I do not know why he should not congratulate himself. I used to be told years ago by kind friends that TRUTH was going too strong, and would either have to bridle its tongue and restrict its energies, or would ultimately get into serious trouble and come to unutterable grief. The last fate has been escaped hitherto, but I have sometimes heard it said that TRUTH is not the paper it used to be, and that its readers no longer enjoy those wholesome exposures and scathing denunciations of evil-doers which they did of old. I suppose people who know little or nothing of the facts are apt to think that a paper which has been in existence for thirty years must necessarily be suffering from senile decay. I hardly think my regular readers will be under that delusion; but if anybody is, perhaps the foregoing recital of a few, and only a few, of the achievements of this aged journal in the last ten years of its existence—and a great part of it within the last four or five—will dispel such an idea. TRUTH has been more abused than any other paper ever published, and its Editor has never complained, for those who hit hard must expect to be hit back. But I doubt if any paper ever published could produce a better justification for its existence in the shape of practical results accomplished for the benefit of the community at large; and I am proud to think that at the end of thirty years the paper is more useful, more influential, and better appreciated by the public than it has ever been before. Now I have done patting myself on the back, and we will return to business for another ten years.

THE THEATRES.

THE PROGRAMME AT THE PALACE.

Looking in at the Palace the other evening, I came in for a feast of good things which did not overlap one another, but served the purpose of a variety entertainment by being really various.

Those who have not witnessed Mr. R. A. Roberts in his "story of quaint deception" should not miss seeing "Ringing the Changes." The little piece is the composition of this protean comedian, and if one do not pry into its mechanism over closely, it serves well enough as a peg for its author's changes of personality. An irresponsible solicitor with a tiresome old military uncle who has money and theories as to the correct behaviour of young men, though none as to his own; that old uncle himself; the barmaid suing the said uncle for breach of promise (I had to verify on the programme the denial of my eyes and ears that this could be so); an excitable Italian chef; a most familiar old housekeeper, who has a long monologue with the dummy figure made in the likeness of James Diddler, absent at Newmarket—these, and in addition a much-married cabdriver, a carter, and a typical sonorous actor of the

old school, did Mr. Roberts exhibit in really admirable caricature, and with an economy of time in his changes of costume which amounted merely to walking out of one door and in at another.

Variety! That is the charm of the Palace, and one can pass from the delicate mental deliberations of the fair Trixie to the truly cyclonic dancing of the Molasso without any difficulty. This turn is really a remarkable acrobatic feat, and pleases one rather by the sense of difficulties overcome than with that of voluptuous movement. They dance with a hurricane at their heels, and are a notable quartet.

I have never seen Little Tich in more uproariously good form than he was the other evening. He is a comedian *sui generis*, and, whether as a park-keeper, as an officer who lived to fight another day, or a light-toed fairy of the ballet, matters not. He is always a living caricature of the conventions.

"The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas," at the Hippodrome.

Here we are bidden to the deep seas, and may penetrate their secrets. With its stage at the back and its arena that can be flooded, the Hippodrome offers unique facilities for experiments in land and water. On this occasion the action begins with the diver's hut, and continues by way of the storm at sea to that moment when the ship sinks to the deeps from the aerial heights above our heads, at which it reposes during the early part of the performance. I am not quite sure which would be the best point of view to witness this complicated entertainment. Personally I was rather too near the gauzy curtain, which is dropped like an immense birdcage over the arena. Yet I enjoyed part of the adventures, and as much as any the grotesque divers in their helmets and the water sirens who court them. A beautiful background (or should it be backwater?) was afforded by the flying ballet of mermaids who have flown hither from Paris and Vienna; and the graceful evolutions of Miss Agnes Kellermann and the Misses Finney, champion lady swimmers of the world, also pleased me.

The chrono-megaphone gives an interesting exhibition of animated photography, and the remainder of the programme is filled largely with performing animals of various sorts, with the feats of jugglers and acrobats, and with the conjuring tricks of the clever Chung Ling Soo.

Hengler's.

The arena of Hengler's makes an altogether ideal place for the celebrated adventures of Red Riding Hood. This may sound hardly probable, but I maintain that to enjoy a fairy story you must work with your imagination as well as its author and as its contrivers, if it be a question of spectacle. Too much is often done for us by the stage carpenter and the painter of scenery, but this is not so at Hengler's, for behold Red Riding Hood walking with a delightful deliberation round and round her granny's house, which is placed in the very middle of the arena. But she has to start from home, so when the savage wolf has had time to arrange a very small bush in a flower-pot between himself and the red-hooded little one, she duly sets forth, scolded by her mother. Without making any more bones about it than the wolf professes to do of her, she advances to the flower-pot, and up jumps the wolf. Shrieks. Enter Prince Charming and chorus. A song from Prince Charming. Arena again darkened. Red Riding Hood again approaches the hut, and the wolf holds his immortal dialogue with her while we hold our breath. The fairy queen and her fairies have been walking round and round the arena for some time, so we know there is not much danger, but nevertheless it is exciting.

I have not space to enumerate all the many capital turns that filled the second part of the programme, such as the English football bulldog who pursues his ball with equal ardour in the stalls or in the arena, to the vociferous delight of the children. I think one reason why children love Hengler's is that the little boys can compare personal impressions with the clown, who is always walking about on his head or on his feet, and ready to converse with any one. They can also pat the ponies, as they trot round or dance round, and the little girls can enfold the tiny Maltese terrier in their arms before he runs back and shuts himself up in his basket and locks the door.

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The Playhouse is the name selected by Mr. Cyril Maude for his new theatre, which will be opened on the 28th of this month. It rises upon the ashes of the old Avenue, and, like the phœnix, comes resplendent from the fire of adversity. Mr. Maude begins with "Toddles," an adaptation from the French, which will be played for the hundred and seventieth time on the opening night. I hope he will soon be walking into some good British comedy (for he is a charming comedian), and some day we may see him running a British farce, and even trying a flight at Shakespeare, that imperial bird.

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Mention of Shakespeare reminds me that I have just been reading Count Tolstoi's violent attack on him of Avon in the *Fortnightly Review*. The septuagenarian Tolstoi is a kind of Nihilist or sham Buddhist. He dislikes action, unless directed in certain narrow channels. He dislikes, therefore, the world-wide outlook of Shakespeare, blaming the immorality of many of his heroes. He believes that the theatre should be devoted to religious teaching, and should shut its doors against the study of life for life's sake, as Shakespeare understood his art. The whole world would be about as cheerful a country as—Russia—if Count Tolstoi had his way. The attack, however, is interesting, as showing how far a remarkable mind such as that of the writer of "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina" can go off the lines when led by false ethical theory.

But, as the poet says, nothing makes people do more wrong things than religion wrongly conceived, and the Count finishes his article by condemning his own dramatic works of the past as well as those of a good many of his compatriots. He has a certain method in his reasoning.

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"The Bondman," transferred from Drury Lane to the Adelphi last Saturday evening, bids fair to enjoy

a prolonged lease of life. For there can be no doubt as to the popular verdict, if one is to judge by the applause of pit and gallery on the evening of the migration, and whatever may be one's opinion of Mr. Hall Caine as a writer of English, he has undeniably two qualities which stand him in good stead both as a novelist and as a writer for the stage. He has the power of constructing a plot and of telling a story in his own way, which way makes a direct appeal to the majority of readers and of those who witness his work for the stage. The changes in the cast are not numerous, apart from the absence of Mrs. Campbell and the playing of the part of Greeba by Miss Wynne-Matthison, which is no loss to the effectiveness of the whole performance. Mr. Hampden now plays Mr. Ainley's former part, and succeeds tolerably well as Michael.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE MOULIN ROUGE MARQUISE.

THE news is premature of the Historical Society having decided to thank the Marquise de Morny for having given Paris an approximate idea of the manners and morals of the Imperial Court to which she belongs by birth and up-bringing. Nor is it true that the Société de Blanqui mean to congratulate her on having avenged the victims of the Coup d'Etat by her appearance in "Rêve d'Egypte" at the Moulin Rouge, the fastest of our cafés-chantants. Not that she is not entitled to the warmest thanks of both bodies. The object lesson she gave, without meaning, possibly, to be a teacher, has done more to set the defunct Empire in an historically true light than all the volumes written against it, not excepting "Les Chatiments."

Mme. de Morny's appearance at the Moulin Rouge, and the police interdiction of the entertainment she prepared for that place of wild amusement, have been the events of the week. This lady is the youngest daughter of the late Duc and Duchesse de Morny, née Princess Troubetskoy, and was born in 1863 at the Petit Bourbon when her father filled the post of President of the Corps Législatif. On his death her mother moved with her four children, two sons and two daughters, to the sumptuous house in the Rue Panouse which he had prepared against the possible event of a rainy day. He left her and the quartet of little De Mornys a great fortune. She married, while still a young widow, the Duc de Sesto, Grand Chamberlain to Alfonso XII., as he had been to Queen Isabella, of whom he had been the favourite, against the competition of the Duchess of Alba and her sister, the Countess de Teba, who aspired to marry him before the Imperial crown came in the way. The eldest of the De Morny demoiselles, on growing up, married a great Spanish nobleman, and killed herself from excess in smoking cigarettes and calming her nerves with chloral. The eldest son, on growing up, had a taste for feminine belongings, and I remember him bringing down the house by wearing the *tutu* of a *danseuse* in a long-continued *pas seul*. The "house" was on this occasion composed of members of the Mirliton Club—*hommes de l'Empire* for the greater part—and their lady friends, and the stage that of the old Mirlitons Theatre in the Place Vendôme. Since he married the daughter of Gusman Blanco (at the time of the marriage ex-President of Venezula) we have not heard much about the eldest son. The second son, Sergius, the best of the family, has his father's passion for speculative ventures, without the hard, cold head and the cynical daring which enabled the latter to avoid ruinous scrapes and scandals. I saw Count Sergius on trial at the Palais de Justice on the charge of complicity in some too sharp practices. He struck me favourably in some respects, and appeared to me the dupe of a *chevalier d'industrie*, who might have found a match in Mme. Humbert. His judges had also this impression, and he got out of the mess, acquitted of fraudulent intent, but ruined in regard to fortune.

"Rêve d'Egypte" might have been Syrian or Assyrian in feeling. It needed no literary effort to produce it, only pantomimic and musical suggestion. An *homme du monde* composed the music which a Montmartrois feuilletonist described as enough to set all the felines of Nubia and those of the house-tops of Paris dancing. Society swallowed the newspaper *réclames*, which stated that the manager of the Moulin Rouge had agreed to pay the Marquise 1,500 francs a soirée, and Colette Willy 700 francs. Mme. de Morny had in the "Egyptian Dream" assigned to herself the rôle of a necromancer who revives a mummy of an Egyptian princess (Colette Willy). A Mlle. Dusson, who has rather special views of plastic art and of antique revivals, was to have the third rôle. Willy had, every one knew, taken steps to obtain a divorce. "Rêve d'Egypte" must ensure him a triumph in the divorce court. Willy is the best "card" going for a literary dinner. His chit-chat is dazzling, but not hurtful to the vanity of any confrère at table; he contrives to be so thoroughly *bon garçon*, apparently innocent of any wish to shine. As a writer he is nothing less than delicious—*très lettré*, natural as Nature herself when she covers mother earth with wild flowers. He plays with difficulties in turning out comedies, and excels in lending an iridescent glow to falsities. He discovered Polaire, and he threw a gauze of charming sentiment over the play, adapted from a very spiteful novel by Gyp, in which she made her first great hit. Mme. Colette Willy prepared for her début at Montmartre—with a host of boulevard writers behind her—by appearing at the Théâtre du Parc, Brussels, as Paninka in Lerberghe's "Pan." Her appearance there followed an altercation with the head of the Brussels police about the costume.

As much as 160 francs in advance was paid for box places at the Moulin Rouge to witness the first appearance there of the Marquise de Morny, Colette Willy, and Mlle. Dusson, who is aged seventeen. Her part was to help to unswathe the mummy which in its bandages became once more the delightful priestess of Isis and the princess of 3,000 years ago—a lithe, gracile creature, serpentine in its motions as the bandages fall away, and

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the very incarnation of at least one of the deadly sins. Gaillard, the Director of the Opera, had left "Ariane" to her fate to witness this début, Capus had come up from Touraine, Bataille from his château near Alençon, Jaluzot sought in a stall to forget his commercial mishaps, Henri Rochefort to find matter for a newspaper article red-hot with cayenne pepper, and the author, delightful "Claudine" Willy, had an *avant scène* which he shared with Meg and some members of his *dîner* club. The different *cercles* sent their contingents, which came prepared to make a row and to drive from the Moulin Rouge the daughter of the prime artificer of the Coup d'Etat. It has been the fashion latterly to idealise the Second Empire, its balloon petticoats and pegtop trousers. The Marquise de Morny threw on the survival of it that lives in herself a too fierce light. Hence the rage of *ces beaux messieurs.* Some of them may have wished to avenge outraged decency and morality, but there was more Tartufferie than virtue in their indignation.

I suppose that M. Lépine could not help putting a stop to the "Egyptian Dream." But from the historical standpoint it is a pity that he did. The *cocodettes* of the Second Empire were formed of the same clay and animated with exactly the same spirit as the Marquise de Morny. They had a foreign ambassadress in their midst who could have surpassed Colette Willy in her *genre*—and stage impudence. Mme. de Morny is one of those ladies who value the liberty of the ground floor. One can leave and re-enter one's ground-floor abode without troubling the nocturnal slumbers of the concierge simply by using a window as a street door. She was divorced young, got entangled in many scrapes, and was placed by her family under a *conseil judiciare.* An *avoué* paid the rent of her apartment in a handsome house close to the Musée des Religions, where I dare say she picked up the idea of her pantomime. She had also the use of an Italian villa in the Commune of St. Leonard, Les Bergeronettes, with poetic grounds bounded by the fast-flowing and fairly deep and wide Nonette, a stream dear to anglers. Her allowance in money was 5,000 fr., or in English, £200. Last year she was allowed to have the full enjoyment of her fortune, and was thus enabled to make good to some extent losses members of her family had sustained through the disturbed state of Venezuela. She still keeps up and passes her summers at Les Bergeronettes, so called from the quantities of song birds in the grounds and the forest beyond the Nonette. It is an Eden into which spirits masculine are rarely admitted. The architect, the gardeners, the man who bedded down the horses, and a costumier had glimpses of this Paradise of theatrical friends of the Marquise, *divettes* of opéra comique, bouffe operetta, and actresses, some talented and others only remarkable for their plastic points. The Marquise drove them about the country when they were with her on holiday visits, she holding the ribbons. She generally takes them out in an elegant wagonette and pair, smoking cigarettes as she drives, and wearing a velvet jacket and trousers not less tight than those of an Italian infantry soldier. This was also her studio costume, for she paints. It was meant to be masculine, but looked a third sex arrangement, and it gave her a droll appearance whenever she jumped down from the driver's seat. She has a plump but not exactly a fat figure, little plump feet and hands, wears high heels, and has her very fair hair tucked under a jaunty little hat. The profile is also extremely fair, with a song-bird outline. The face is paradoxical, in looking at once young and old, in being enigmatic and yet having in it something frank. It at once impresses one as the face of some mild chirruping creature, and one whose lot has been one of profound sadness. You might travel all Europe over without finding a similar countenance. Sometimes it presents a flickering likeness to the Comtesse de Paris, and not without a traceable cause. The Comtesse and the Marquise are both descended through ancestresses from Louis XV.

The peasants in the vicinity of Les Bergeronettes take philosophically the eccentricities of Mme. de Morny. "Dame! Why should we peer into her private life? Have we any right to stick our noses into her affairs? They eat a lot of our cherries, strawberries, and vegetables at her villa. Nobody pays good prices for them so ungrudgingly. Who else among the rich people of the country is kinder to the poor? She sends to the curé more *brioche* than anyone else, to be distributed as blessed bread on Sundays. She may have queer ideas, but what call have we to set them right? Well, then!" This reasoning in a country where the Maries of Magdala and Egypt are held to be great saints is very natural.

The storm that burst over the Moulin Rouge may have been got up. It may be the prelude to another suit to place the Marquise a second time under a *conseil judiciare.* Why Willy was threatened and assaulted passes my understanding. "He offended good taste in going to see his wife in the horrible 'Egyptian Dream,'" I hear. That will not do. One does not look for good taste at the Moulin Rouge, and he repudiated Colette directly she published her determination to co-operate in Mme. de Morny's pantomime. A suit for divorce immediately followed up his repudiation. Mlle. Noilhan, daughter of the Secretary-General of the Patrie Française, showed herself the most furious of the furies alike against the Marquise, Colette, and Willy. Was this because his scepticism prevented him seeing in the late M. Syveton the arch-angelic being which he appeared to the imagination of Mme. Lebaudy?

M. Caillaux is scarcely happy in his financial ideas. If he taxes titles at all he should do so heavily. What is a 3,000-fr. succession duty once and for all on ducal strawberry leaves? Just enough to irritate, and to bring no grist worth talking about to the treasury mill. A supporter of the government to whom I aired this opinion said: "That is so, but how prevent people bearing it?" Easily enough, it seems to me. Why not forbid the insertion of all untaxed titles in law papers, newspapers, or letters to be delivered by the Post Office to their bearers? This would not be more inquisitorial than the means taken in free England to ascertain the exact amount of income of any one suspected of wanting to hoodwink the Inland Revenue Department. *Annuaires* might be published and

supplied to the Post Office and to fiscal officers, giving the names and titles of those who had conformed with the law. They might even be supplied gratis to the latter, as are the *annuaires téléphoniques*. Shopkeepers would be glad to buy them. These publications would have reference merely to the fiscal side of the matter. The self-ennobled ought to stand in its columns on precisely the same footing as those setting up to have titled ancestors. For every person who now airs some nobiliary distinction I am sure we should have many dozens all agog to see their names in this *annuaire*.

Dr. Jean Charcot, son of the late eminent Dr. Charcot, and half-brother of Mme. Waldeck-Rousseau, fell in love on his return from his voyage of Antarctic exploration with Mlle. Meg Cléry and is now engaged to her. She is the daughter of the late M. Cléry, the witty and able advocate, and a niece-in-law of the late M. Gérome, the painter and sculptor. Look on her as one may, one sees in her an exceptional person. The features are shapely and well proportioned without approaching the classical type. The expression is agreeable and indicative of a smooth temper and an open, well-poised mind and amiable disposition. The manners are natural and easy. Were she forty instead of twenty she could not be more mistress of herself or know her own mind better. There is something reposeful in her which is very pleasing. Her father gave her every educational advantage, and she was brought up in one of the most artistic connections (and in the best sense of the term) that Paris could afford. Goupil, the picture gallery proprietor and art publisher, is her grandfather. The honeymoon, at her desire, is to be spent in the Savoy and Piedmont higher Alps as a preparation to the Antarctic expedition to which her future husband is this year to treat her. Mlle. Cléry accompanied her father in his annual visits to Venice, where he had a palazzo, and to Cairo, where he had a villa and a large legal practice. She has studied antiquity without knowing that she did so under his guidance, and the different schools of Italian painting.

Mlle. Cléry must be wealthy. But without any fortune, and unsupported by powerful connections, she would not fail, through the force of her remarkable individuality, and without giving umbrage to any, to rise to a first place.

I first met Dr. Jean Charcot at the Ministry of the Interior, when he was the husband of Mme. Jeanne Hugo, and seemingly as happy in her society as she appeared to be in his. She looked an amiable Juno, and so like Mme. Victor Hugo, her grandmother. Like his father, he strikingly resembled Napoleon, but had a bright and gay temper, and lost no time in vain ceremony, but at once broke ice.

The Bill to tax patent medicines is a subject of keen controversy. The vendors of these preparations have found unexpected allies in the press, and after reading certain articles one might well think that public feeling is hostile to the proposal, whereas it is probably the other way about. I have used the expression "patent medicines" rather loosely, as the nearest popular English equivalent for the French term *spécialités pharmaceutiques*. The Bill contemplates taxing them to the extent of 10 per cent. on the selling price. It has been carried through the Chamber of Deputies, and I have no doubt it will go through the Senate, notwithstanding the opposition of the vendors, whose allies, inside and outside the Chambers, are full of fight. The debate revealed some startling figures. A certain pill brings its vendor £24,000 a year, a tar capsule £32,000, a preparation called "phosphatine" brings a profit of £48,000 a year. I have no doubt that much larger figures could be quoted in England, the English nation being even more "physic-struck" than the French, and advertising being an older science.

I was interested in knowing the opinion of my chemist on the proposed tax. He is a graduate of the Paris School of Pharmacy, and is, as I consider, one of the best-informed chemists of Paris. What would be the effect of the tax on the public? He told me the public would pay the whole of it, because the vendors of patent medicines, who have formed a sort of trust, have just decided that way. They are the absolute masters of the situation in France, chemists, on account of extreme competition, being disunited. "When a customer asks me for a box of phosphatine and hands me 1 fr. 75 centimes, I say, 'Thank you,' because I am polite, but I would sooner do without his custom, and I send every halfpenny to the maker; but when he takes from me a pennyworth of dried violets, I rejoice on a profitable transaction." He went on to say that in a few years, after the number of chemists had become much reduced, it would be their turn to combine, and then they would refuse to sell specialties—which, by the way, are illegal in France, being merely tolerated.

No profession has become so overcrowded as that of chemist in France. This was a consequence of the inequalities of military service. Holders of certain degrees served but one year instead of three. One of the greatest evils of conscription was its inequality—three years for the masses, one year for the classes. Everybody sees it and admits it now that service has been made two years for everybody. The effect of the former inequality was to force into the scientific and liberal professions young men who ought to have been at the counter—or behind it. One result is that the bulk of chemists in France (Paris being, of course, excepted) are on the verge of starvation. In former years the Paris School of Pharmacy received 300 new students every year. Last year the number dropped to fifty. And this year, guess how many students joined that great school. *Two*. This is but one instance of the terrible effect of the past unequal military service on the distribution of professions in the country.

I showed my chemist the figures quoted in the Chamber of Deputies. He said they were correct. Talking of tar, he told me why certain famous tar capsules really do relieve coughs. The gelatine of the capsules contains opium. This is the real remedy, the tar is just a "moral remedy."

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LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE English have all a Tory on the shoulders, dear Lady Betty; the past restrains and oppresses us in every direction. Some call that prudence, others prejudice; it is absence of enterprise.

. . . . .

It is a New World, and there is a New England; the latter will prosper when there are the New English.

. . . . .

For the moment, we are in the grip of the alien who is new, whilst we dread to detach ourselves from the old.

. . . . .

It is the wisdom of our descendants that is necessary.

* * * * *

"Frame-Women" is an expression which should obtain a hold on the public of the moment. It appears that the halo-like arrangement which decorates the women of the time is formed by wrapping the hair round a "frame"! How much more of their general appearance is created by "frame" contrivances? The ordinary man is necessarily ignorant of the secrets of the modern woman's surface composition, and this circumstance has produced a new industry which is described in the following letter:—

"310, Maddox-street, London, W.

"SIR,—Woman is an expert in marrying; man is not. I propose to enlighten him. For that purpose I have founded 'The Bachelors' Information Bureau' at this address, and I should be much obliged to you if you would announce this circumstance in your 'Letter' in next week's issue of TRUTH.

"Having an exceptionally large and varied circle of acquaintances, both in London and the provinces, I have also secured the services of a well-chosen staff of women, whose advantages in this direction are almost on a level with my own. So well organised is the system that there is scarcely an unmarried woman of the prosperous classes in England with whom some member of my staff is not intimately acquainted. Should a bachelor apply to this office, on payment of £5 5s. he will receive accurate information as to how much of the lady of his choice is natural and how much is artificial.

"I feel sure that you will perceive at once the importance of the services which it is the object of 'The Bachelors' Information Bureau' to render, and will, therefore, lend us your valuable support.—Faithfully yours, "(Mrs.) ADELIZA TREWBODY."

Amateur-marrying is a survival of the primitive ages; it must be replaced in the immediate future by municipal marriage—the control of these contracts must be entrusted to the County Council. Jack and Jill married because they temporarily, and without sufficient information, approved of each other, and had the opportunity of being bound together. Of those proceedings innumerable misfortunes have arisen from time immemorial. Marrying is a science; its principles should be clearly defined, and alliances should not be permitted to be contracted in defiance of them, both in the interests of the individual and of the community. There are, for instance, characteristics that do not blend; it is to be hoped that "The Bachelors' Information Bureau" will supply information in this direction which will enable its clients to avoid terrible mistakes of the sort, for women generally conceal matters of the kind until it is too late for the ordinary man to escape. "Love is blind" is the old-world formula; many modern men have, too late, discovered that the more accurate rendering should be "Love is a blind."

* * * * *

Was Edmund Spenser an advocate in advance of the Suffragette cause? It is curious that the following lines in "The Faërie Queen" should have escaped the memory of the supporters of this movement:—

"Here have I cause in men just blame to find,
That in their proper praise too partial be,
And not impartial to woman-kind.

. . . . .

"But by recórd of ántique times I find
That women wont in wars to bear most sway,
And to all great exploits themselves inclin'd,
Of which they still the garland bore away;
Till envious men, fearing their rule's decay,
'Gan coin strict laws to curb their liberty:
Yet, since they warlike arms have laid away,
They have excelled in arts and policy,
That now we foolish men who praise 'gin also *(eke)*
t' envy."

* * * * *

There are now Treasure Ships; there are also Treasure Friendships! It is not possible for ordinary men and women to equip a vessel, and travel in her to some distant shore to dredge for specie. It is comparatively easy, however, to endeavour to extract valuable material of one kind or another from the rich men and women amongst us. There are few wealthy persons in the kingdom that have not some dozens of enterprising "treasure-seekers" industriously endeavouring to extract money or gifts from them! The millionaires who are "sunk" in Park-lane might be represented in a picture with thousands of little "society" craft moored above them, each of the latter lowering at intervals into these Treasure Ships a diving Duchess or some lesser social worker!

Nevertheless, in almost every novel, periodical, or newspaper, is to be found abuse of the millionaires, and descriptions of the injuries they have done or are doing to "society." It is peculiarly inconsistent to abuse them, as is generally done here, and lose no opportunity of associating with them and acquiring their friendship. There is a broad, bold streak of inconsistency that runs throughout the British character!—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

SOME of the sporting papers are urging either that the Totaliser shall be introduced on English racecourses, or that bookmakers should be licensed, and it is pointed out that either "reform" would provide the Jockey Club with a reserve fund. The moon will fall before Parliament favours any legislation which will facilitate popular betting, and the idea of a Government control of Turf speculation is the wildest chimera ever hatched in the brain of a Bedlamite. The Stewards of the Jockey Club are not likely to meddle with such matters, either directly or indirectly, as any such steps as have been recommended by their harebrained advisers in the press would lead them into collision with Parliament, and it would be a case of the earthen pot and the brazen vessel, for the Club would then come to direful and irreparable smash.

The King has at the present time twenty-four horses in training at Newmarket, thirteen of which are two-year-olds. Of the older horses the dark three-year-old Perambulator is the most promising, but most of the others might advantageously have been weeded out of the Royal stud, as they are never at all likely to distinguish themselves when running in tolerably good company. It is a great mistake to keep bad horses in training, and such sagacious and successful owners as the late Duke of Westminster and the late Lord Falmouth invariably got rid of animals which were not up to a certain standard of form. Now, however, one sees many owners who are content to go on paying training and racing expenses for beasts which never by any chance win a race. His Majesty's two-year-olds include Peredore, own brother to Zinfandel; Maid of Norway,

filly by St. Simon out of Nunsuch (dam of Nulli Secundus); Lady Wayward, filly by Ladas out of Vane (own sister to Flying Fox); Simpatica, own sister to Slim Lad; Golden Amber, filly by Diamond Jubilee out of Ambleside; Verrier, colt by Persimmon out of Amphora; Perspective, own brother to Perambulator; and Perdrigon, own sister to Mead and Chatsworth. His Majesty's colours are not likely to be seen out before the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, when Slim Lad has a chance of retrieving his reputation in the Hastings Plate, a race in which he will have the benefit of a maiden allowance of 7 lbs. Perambulator may make his début in the Two Thousand, but if this colt does turn out to be a racer of good class he will stand an excellent chance of winning the Newmarket Stakes at the Second Spring Meeting, as none of the flyers of last season are engaged in this race. It may be hoped that the King will have a two-year-old capable of winning either the Coventry Stakes or the New Stakes at Ascot, as his Majesty has subscribed most generously to those races (and to many other events at Ascot) for several seasons past, and it is certainly his turn to carry off either the one or the other of them again.

His Majesty's racehorses have now been doing very badly for six seasons, but he is not the only owner of a fine stud which has failed to turn out winners, as the Dukes of Portland and Westminster have also been exceedingly unfortunate. Troutbeck is the first animal out of the Eaton stud which has won a great race for its breeder since the death of the late Duke of Westminster. The King's racehorses must have cost him a large sum during the past year, as most of them were very heavily engaged, and the forfeit account alone must have run into thousands of pounds. However, the breeding stud will have paid for the horses in training, with a considerable balance over, as Persimmon, Diamond Jubilee, and Florizel II. all had full subscriptions, and the fee of each horse was 300 gs. There was no use keeping three sires which are own brothers, so the sale of Diamond Jubilee was a most judicious step, and the price of 30,000 gs. certainly represented fully double his intrinsic value.

When Andover won the Royal Hunt Cup in 1905, the favourite was Sir Daniel (three years, 6 st. 8 lb.), who started at 9 to 4 in a field of twenty-five. Sir Daniel did not finish in the first three, and he was afterwards beaten three times during that season. He was sold to go to South Africa, and the other day he won a valuable race, the Johannesburg Handicap. His legion of backers at Ascot must feel considerably exasperated by this news, for most of those who lost their money over this animal in the Hunt Cup again "went for" him two days later, when he started second favourite (price 9 to 2) in a field of fourteen for the Wokingham Handicap, and was again well beaten.

An evening paper announced the other day that Troutbeck has been turned out of training, so he will not be seen again on a racecourse. This is a pure fiction, for Troutbeck is to undergo a special preparation for the Ascot Cup, a race which the Duke of Westminster is very anxious to win. This horse is believed to be a really good stayer. A deplorable blunder was committed when Troutbeck was so prematurely withdrawn from the Eclipse Stakes, for he would have held all the older horses safe, and the best of the three-year-olds will be needing a rest by the middle of July.

It is a curious and melancholy fact that the winners of the classic races of 1905 all failed ignominiously at four years old. Cherry Lass could not be trained again, Cicero collapsed miserably in the Ascot Cup, when he ran his last race, Challacombe started once, and then finished last of three, although running in moderate company. As to Vedas, who was proclaimed to be a racer of the highest class after his victory in the Two Thousand, all he could achieve last season was to win a couple of paltry £100 plates.

Roseate Dawn will win the first hurdle race for which he starts. I hear that this horse has turned out a very fine jumper. He will probably also win a good handicap during the spring.

Lord Cadogan has ten horses in training at Newmarket, seven of which are two-year olds. The Sun, three years, by Sidus out of La Figlia, may win some good races next season if he is judiciously placed. Of the two-year-olds, three are sired by Sidus, one being an own sister to The Sun. There is a colt by St. Frusquin out of Star of Fortune.

Lord Londonderry has only five racehorses this season, one of them being Pearmain, half-sister, by Persimmon, to his Majesty's colt Cynosure, of whom great things were expected in May last, but he grievously disappointed his stable, and has never yet won a race. Lord Harewood has seven horses in training, but the four older ones are not of much account, not being above second-class handicap form. The two-year-olds are all sired by Minstead, who was a smart horse, and he would probably have won some of the great races of his year if he had kept all right.

There is a splendid entry for the Ascot Cup, no fewer than fifty horses having been engaged, as against thirty-four last year, and twenty-five in 1905. There are thirteen French horses, including Mr. Vanderbilt's Maintenon, who has never been beaten since he finished second to Spearmint for the Grand Prix de Paris, and it now appears impossible that he can have shown his true form in that race. He is a genuine stayer. The only French three-year-old is M. A. Aumont's Calomel, who was one of their best two-year-olds last season. Calomel, however, is scarcely likely to start for the Gold Cup, as he is engaged in the Grand Prix, which race is run this year on the Sunday in Ascot week. The Cup is really and truly an "International" race this season, for the Russian four-year-old Hammurabi and the Hungarian four-year-old Morpeth II are both entered. Mr. Bass has engaged Sancy and Gold Riach, and it was fully expected by the stable that the horse would have won the St. Leger if all had gone well with him. Sir E. Cassel has entered Killeagh. Lord Derby has Keystone II. and Bridge of Canny. Mr. Hill has engaged Mintagon, winner of the Cesarewitch, who will find himself hopelessly outclassed in this race. Mrs. Jackson has entered Velocity, and it will be interesting to see how this horse gets on over a Cup course. Mr. S. Joel has, of course, engaged Polymelus, and it is expected that next season this horse will discover himself to be a good stayer, but I shall be surprised if he does well over this severe course. Colonel Kirkwood has, of course, entered The White Knight, who may be trusted to stay the distance, which is more than can be said of many in the entry. Major Loder has Spearmint and Hammerkop, and if the Derby winner can be got to the post it will no doubt be the business of the mare to make running for him. I do not believe, however, there is the most remote chance of Spearmint getting through a preparation for such a race as the Ascot Cup. Sagamore has been entered, and I presume that Mr. Raphael is of the opinion that this colt will show his best form over a distance of ground, as he has not been engaged in the Coronation Cup at Epsom. I expect that in due time we shall find Sagamore entered for the Gold Vase, and that the colt will be reserved for these two events at Ascot. One of the French lot is Storm, who failed ignominiously in his English engagements last season. Llangibby is not likely to stand training again, but he has been entered for the Cup, presumably on the off-chance. Lord Rosebery has entered Ramrod and Bezonian, and one would have thought that the three-year-old already had a sufficient number of engagements next season. Mr. J. de Rothschild's Beppo can stay well, and he will be one of the best of the English lot for this race. Mr. L. de Rothschild's Radium is confidently expected to win some good races next season, but I shall be vastly surprised if this horse is up to Ascot Cup form. Challacombe is not likely to be dangerous, but I cannot understand why this horse has not been entered for the Alexandra Plate, as he escapes a penalty in that race, and it is a very much easier event to win than the Gold Cup. Mr. W. Hall Walker has Black Arrow and Polar Star, but I shall be surprised if either of these animals is included in the field. Troutbeck is, of course, engaged, and Lord Wolverton has entered the three-year-old Prince of

Orange. There is a great deal of absolute rubbish in the entry.

As to the Alexandra Plate, none of the cracks of the Gold Cup entry have been engaged, the most notable names among the thirty-five horses in that event being Radium, Beppo, and Velocity. Roseate Dawn is entered, and Lord Derby is represented by Gourd, and Major Loder by Hammerkop, who won this race in 1905.

There are thirty-two entries for the Coronation Cup at Epsom, the most notable names being Spearmint, Troutbeck, Black Arrow, Polar Star, Polymelus, Keystone II., Hammurabi, Velocity, The White Knight, Beppo, Radium, and Challacombe. I expect we shall find Polar Star among the starters for this race, and the meeting of this colt (over the Derby course) with Keystone II., Troutbeck, Polymelus, Velocity, and The White Knight would be most interesting. It is very strange that Sagamore should have been left out of the entry for the Coronation Cup.

Forty-five horses have been entered for the Lincolnshire Handicap, as against fifty last year, and fifty-one in 1905. The race will be run on Tuesday, March 19, a week earlier than usual. Ob, who won last year, has been engaged, and M. Euphrussi has a second candidate in Champ d'Or, who disappointed his owner at Kempton Park. Dean Swift, Roseate Dawn, Polymelus, Picton, Kaffir Chief, Velocity, Prince William, Earla Mor, Athi, His Eminence, Certosa, Catty Crag, and Sarcelle are the most notable names in the list, one striking feature being the absence of three-year-olds, of which there are only two—Fra Diavolo and Saxham. It will be interesting to see how Polymelus is handicapped with Velocity.

It is amazing that so valuable a handicap as the Queen's Prize at Kempton Park (run on Easter Monday) should have obtained only thirty-five entries, as the race is worth £1,000, with a minor forfeit of only £3. The most notable names in the list are Bridge of Canny, Radium, Gourd, Roseate Dawn, and Achilles.

The City and Suburban has done very badly, there being only forty-three entries, as compared with sixty-three last year, and fifty-five in 1905. This is a grievous and inexplicable failure, considering that the handicap is worth £2,000, with a minor forfeit of only £3. However, the class of the entry is fairly good, the list of older horses engaged including Polymelus, Ramrod, Ob, Champ d'Or, Achilles, Velocity, His Eminence, Gold Riach, Roseate Dawn, Dean Swift (who won last year), Prince William, and Ulalume. There are only six three-year-olds, the best of them being Prince of Orange.

The entry for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap of £3,000 (run May 11) has fallen from forty-six in 1905 and forty-four last year to forty. This race would probably do better if the date of closing the entries could be altered. It should be deferred until the middle of March. The class of the entry is very much the best of all the spring handicaps, as it includes Keystone II., Polymelus, Velocity, Polar Star, Gingal, Black Arrow, Malua, Sagamore, Ramrod, Orwell, Song Thrush, Hammurabi, Dean Swift, and Meadow Rue. Of last year's disappointments, Lally has not been entered for any of the handicaps, but the name of Malua appears in the Kempton Jubilee list. It is confidently expected that this horse will win a good handicap next season.

The weights for all these handicaps are to be published on the 24th, but the managers of the Kempton Park meeting would have been better advised if they had kept the weights for the Jubilee Handicap back until after the Liverpool Spring Meeting. It would have been quite early enough to have published these weights on March 28.

Ambition has been a strong tip for whichever of the spring handicaps he might go for, but this horse's name is not to be found in any of the lists. The name of Rocketter is also missing. Admirable Crichton is another animal which was jabbered about some time ago as likely to win a handicap during the early part of the season.

It is really amazing to look back upon the official Free Handicaps of the two-year-olds of 1905, in which Keystone II. was regarded as being unworthy to be included. Lally was top weight, and was estimated to be 15 lb. superior to Spearmint, who was placed on an equality with Picton. Flair, who was really the best three-year-old of 1906, was placed 11 lb. below Lally, which meant that (including the sex allowance) she was regarded as being a stone below that flagrant impostor. I never could believe in the superlative merits of Lally, and repeatedly expressed the opinion that his form had been preposterously overrated, at a time when he was being extolled to the skies. Gorgos, winner of the Two Thousand, was placed 29 lb. below Lally, who was estimated to be 34 lb. superior to Bridge of Canny. Troutbeck was also regarded with the extremest contempt.

Lord Falmouth's dark colt, St. Martin, own brother to Quintessence, is said to be progressing most favourably. He is very good-looking and racing-like, and most beautifully bred. Everyone would be pleased to see Lord Falmouth's very popular colours successful in the Derby. St. Martin is engaged in the Two Thousand, but I am told that if all goes well with him he is to make his début in the Newmarket Biennial, a race which he will win easily if he has any real pretensions to "classic" form, as he will be receiving weight from My Pet II. (who is not likely to start for this race), and from Weathercock, and Simon Square. St. Martin missed engagements at Ascot, Goodwood, Derby, and Doncaster last season owing to the hard ground, and when at last he was intended to start at the Newmarket First October Meeting for the rich Buckenham Post Stakes, he was withdrawn at the very last moment in consequence of the death of Lord Falmouth's sister. But for this event it is probable that St. Martin would have won both the Buckenham Stakes and the Rous Memorial Stakes.

Last Saturday the Frenchmen played their first Rugby football international match against England in this country. England won the first match of the series, which was played last year in Paris. Before many years are past I quite expect to see the Frenchmen meeting Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. The match at Richmond was a great success. Those who expected to see bumble-puppy and amusing incidents were mistaken in their anticipations. Early in the game Lee was hurt. He was playing full back. After twenty-five minutes' play he had to retire. He had broken a rib. Before half-time the Frenchmen had equalised England's score. They had put on a couple of goals and a penalty goal. England could not afford to play without a full back. Hill, the English captain, took Mills out of the pack and put him full back after the interval. He ought to have done so before. Personally, I was glad that he made this mistake. It showed that the Frenchmen were not to be trifled with. They took full advantage of a big blunder, and Maclos' place-kicking was splendid. In the second half things went well for England. The French forwards failed to stay, and all through the game they failed to combine. They were too individualistic in their work. That was where their fatal weakness lay. Isaac made a splendid full back, and he was carried off the field shoulder high at the finish. Truly, Rugby football has been planted on good soil in France, and I have no doubt that it will flourish exceedingly.

Under Association rules there were some remarkable results. In the First Division Woolwich Arsenal were beaten quite unexpectedly by Middlesbrough by five goals to three. The reason was that the veteran Bloomer was playing as well as he had ever done. He scored four goals himself, and gave the final pass for the fifth. In the Second Division Chelsea scored a win and are at the top of the list. They had a very good Saturday, as Leicester Fosse, Notts Forest, and West Bromwich Albion, who are nearest them in the table, all suffered defeat. With any luck they ought to be certain of going up into the First Division. Most of their dangerous engagements away from home have

been played. They have a large number of home fixtures to come, and, with promotion in prospect, they should mean big takings at the gate. In addition, they are not only leading by two clear points, but they have a match in hand over West Bromwich and Leicester Fosse, who are next on the list. In the Southern League Portsmouth went top of the tree, and so far as one can judge they are pretty likely to stay there. Millwall seem suddenly to have struck a scoring vein. They romped over Watford by ten goals to one.

The amateur clubs, the Corinthians and Casuals, went North on a Christmas tour. The Corinthians were not at full strength, and they won one match, drew two, and lost two. They scored nine goals, and had the same number scored against them. The Casuals had not such a strong card, and they did very well, winning four matches, drawing three, and losing one.

While congratulating Cardiff on their brilliant success against the South African footballers, I cannot help feeling a suspicion of regret that our visitors were not successful. To have gone through a tour of twenty-eight matches with one match drawn and only a couple of defeats is something of which they may well be proud. At the same time, the success of Cardiff indicates to many the desirability of there being more club matches in a visiting team's programme. The counties are but scratch teams, and so, as far as that goes, are international teams. At the same time, I cannot help feeling that both the New Zealand and South African teams have done a good deal to improve the condition of county football, and by such matches good players are taught to get together when playing with one another on only few occasions. The South Africans leave behind no record of slim tactics or wily strategy, They have shown that a team that plays good, clean, honest Rugby football can prevail. Their halves have not taken advantage of the blind side of the scrimmage to be up to clever dodges when the referee cannot see them. Their defence was perfect. Their halves and three-quarters were well together and fast. Their forwards were a bit disappointing; they never seemed able to come away with those tremendous rushes that are characteristic of the Irish teams. In bidding our visitors good-bye, we can only hope that it will not be long before another South African team comes to these shores.

It has indeed been fortunate that these two amateur teams from the Colonies of South Africa and New Zealand have visited our shores in consecutive seasons. The interest of the public in the game has been awakened at a critical time in England. It is reported that the affairs of the Northern Union, whose teams seceded from the parent body in order to form professional teams and to play, as it ultimately proved, a bastard sort of football, are in anything but a satisfactory state. Towns which were the centres of the game are no longer providing spectators. Bankruptcy is in many cases imminent. The village teams that used to flourish are practically extinct. Association football is taking advantage of the situation. The players who have played for the Northern Union are debarred from playing with Rugby Union teams. The question is whether the Rugby Union will take them back to the fold. I imagine that the attitude of the Union will depend to a great extent on the result of the inquiries now pending as to the alleged veiled professionalism prevalent in certain clubs. If there is found to be a system of secret payments prevailing, I apprehend that the Rugby Union will be unlikely either to forget or to forgive. It is, in my opinion, far better for the English Rugby Union to be composed of a few clubs playing on strictly amateur lines, than to consist of many clubs, some of whose practices are not above board. The visits of the Colonial teams have shown that there is a public ready and willing to see good football. The International English matches draw good gates. So far as the metropolis is concerned, I have come to the conclusion that something in the nature of a league is desirable, in order to centralise public interest in the game. In the provinces similar arrangements might be made. But I cannot see that the English Union is under any obligation to grant indulgence to those who wilfully cut themselves adrift, and who, finding that there is no money in the game, wish to be whitewashed. They are peculiarly the class of players who will revel in secret wages and payments for broken time.

It was very interesting to read the summarised report of an inquiry as to the rights and wrongs of two clubs with regard to the transfer of a professional and the transfer fee that was payable. The only person that was immaterial to the inquiry and who was not called was the player in question. One would think he was a material witness, as a point was raised that one club had used its best endeavours to get him to go somewhere. The way in which players are bought and sold is really most amusing. It is the sort of business in which amateurs are supposed to engage and to control. The Football Association is very angry because the amateurs think that all the business part of football as to wages, transfers, and so forth should be left to those who manage teams. It certainly seems high time that the professional players organised themselves in their own interests. They are not permitted to be represented on the Council of the Football Association, and yet, like other folk, they have their grievances.

Mr. Archdale Palmer has resigned the secretaryship of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. His resignation has been received with deep regret by the members, who realise all that he has done for their club. He has, however, done so much that his successor will find his task a comparatively light one. He may rely on receiving Mr. Palmer's advice and assistance if at any time he should require it. Through all the miserable dispute not one of the so-called reformers has been able to allege anything against Mr. Palmer's integrity and honour. The despicable attempt of Mr. MacFie and Mr. Griffiths to show that Mr. Palmer had misled the general meeting of the Lawn Tennis Association ended in a miserable fiasco so soon as the facts were threshed out. The upshot of the whole affair is that the All England Lawn Tennis Club is quite a negligible quantity in the affairs of the Association. Its members will be well advised to devote their whole attention to strengthening and improving their own position. A further attack is pretty certain to be made upon them. It is not likely that a set of reformers who consider that makers of lawn tennis balls should pay the Association for using their balls will permit for any length of time a club to exist that so far violates this proposition as to pay a full trade price for its balls. That was not the sort of reform that the anti-traders wanted. They hoped to finance not only tournaments but the Association itself at the expense of the trade. In other words, the private purchasers of lawn tennis balls were to pay the piper all round.

Probably few of those Cambridge undergraduates who attended the lectures of the late Professor F. W. Maitland knew that he was a long distance runner who had run as second string against Oxford, and who had rowed for Third Trinity. As a lecturer he would enliven the intricacies of real property or constitutional law with epigram and satire. He was as good a teacher as he was a scholar. Most men loved him; all liked him.

I was very sorry to read of the death of the old Oxford and Lancashire cricketer, G. R. Bardswell, at the early age of thirty-three. He went to Uppingham, and on going up to Oxford he got his Blue as a freshman. He played for Lancashire for several seasons. He first came out as a very successful slow-medium bowler. But after an accident to his hand in 1895, which prevented his playing in the University match he did little with the ball. His batting, however, improved rapidly, and he was always a brilliant fieldsman in the slips.

OVER-STOUTNESS is not difficult to permanently cure when the right remedy is found. Antipon is now in universal favour. The *Methodist Recorder* says:—"It is satisfactory to know that Antipon is the practical result of a specialist's researches and discoveries, so that reliance can be placed upon its efficacy." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of THE ANTIPON COMPANY, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

THE regulations for next year's Tourist Trophy race have now been issued and while no sensational changes have been made the alterations seem mostly to have been well conceived, though it would be sanguine to assume that even under the revised conditions only genuine touring cars will be enabled to compete. Obviously, however, the alterations have been designed with the hope of attaining this desirable end. Among other things, all manufacturers entering will be required to undertake to make and sell for a period of six months cars conforming in every particular to those which they run in the race. The makers will get round this, of course, in some way or another—it will be amusing to notice how—but the proviso is well meant. The only really effective way of ensuring the entry of genuine touring cars would be for the Club to reserve the right to choose the competing cars from the makers' stocks, and then run the race on a handicap basis; but such an arrangement would, of course, be impracticable.

As it is, the Club is doing the next best thing by making all the requirements that foresight can suggest and that experience has taught to be necessary. It is also possible that a second race for heavier cars may be organised. I cannot help thinking, however, that the Club would do better to consider the claims of smaller cars rather than larger ones in this connection. The further encouragement of monstrous touring cars is quite unnecessary. A race, or races, on Tourist Trophy lines, open to cars of from, say, 8-h.p. to 14-h.p. would, on the other hand, be really useful. One of the new regulations, by the way, is rather ill-judged, namely, that stipulating that no advertisements relating to the race and its results shall be subsequently issued without their having been viséd by the Club authorities. Not only is this likely to entail a vast amount of trouble and irritation, but it will also have the effect of making the Club responsible for all the advertisements bearing on the race—which is hardly desirable.

The effect of the new Secret Commissions Act will be interesting to note in connection with the motor business. There are few industries in which the practice at which the Act is aimed prevails more extensively, though he would be a rash man who ventured to hope that the new legislation will bring it forthwith to an end. It should, however, operate at least to strengthen the hands of those who, hitherto, have found it necessary to allow these illicit bonuses virtually in self-defence. Now that it is possible to point out to the wily chauffeur on the look-out for his "squeeze" that his acceptance of such would render him liable to serious pains and penalties, and that it is the truest kindness to save him from such unpleasant possibilities, his cupidity should be to some extent, at any rate, checked. Nor is the chauffeur the only one by any means to whom the same applies. People in good positions, whose expert friends kindly interest themselves in choosing cars for them, would often be surprised if they knew of the handsome commissions thereby pocketed.

Lively times may be expected if cyclists in general adopt the policy which seems to be favoured by the Cyclists' Touring Club of waging war on motorists by "having the law on them" whenever possible under one or other of the various Highways and Police Acts, of which the Club obligingly furnishes particulars. In commending the information to its readers, the *C.T.C. Gazette* observes:—

> If he be a motorist, and a considerate one, he will gladly "mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the code of offences of which he is never likely to be guilty; if he be an anti-motorist he will note with delight that when he witnesses a wilful infringement of the rights of other sections of the road using community, he has many remedies lying ready to his hand should he decide to put the law in motion.

This is not exactly "Don't nail his ears to the post," though rather in that vein. From a perusal of the said summary, it appears that under certain of the Acts cited any person witnessing an offence may arrest the offender—as, for instance, for leaving a carriage on the highway so as to obstruct the passage thereof, not keeping to the left or near side of the road, or driving any carriage furiously. I can only repeat that exciting times may be anticipated when cyclists proceed to attempt the arrest of motorists on their own account for these and like crimes.

Motorists insured in the Car and General Insurance Corporation, Ltd., which does a larger business, I believe, than any other office in this class of work, will be pleased to notice that the Corporation has recently decided on a considerable extension of the benefits conferred by their policies, without any increase of the premium rates. Thus all ordinary private motor-car policies will henceforward cover under the accidental damage section the first 20s. (hitherto excluded), as well as all risk while the car is in transit within the United Kingdom by road, rail, or inland waterway, and lamps. Further, under the Accidental Damage and Claims by Public sections any insured car will, in future, be protected, when it is being driven with the consent of the owner by any licensed driver. These are spirited concessions which will, no doubt, be widely appreciated. In regard to that last named, there is only one slight drawback. Hitherto the owner who has not felt disposed to entrust his car to other hands than his own has always been able to plead that if he consented his insurance would be invalidated. Henceforward this convenient excuse will be denied him.

Tempting advantages are offered, also, by the insurance company which has been formed in connection with the Motor Union—advantages which have probably had something to do with the move of the older corporation above named. Thus the Motor Union's policy also permits a car to be driven by any one holding a proper licence. Still more novel is the provision under which, in the case of accidents, the assured may have repairs done to the extent of £2 10s. without waiting for the company's sanction, the latter at the same time undertaking to pay special compensation of £1 per day if the required repairs have not been completed within fifteen working days by the company in the event of its having undertaken them. These terms are lavishly conceived, no doubt, but they do not alter the fact that the Motor Union is going right outside its proper province in embarking on an undertaking of this knd.

The report that Mr. Charles Jarrott, who has so long championed the cause of the four-cylinder engine against that of six cylinders, is about to take up the agency in this country of a famous French firm which has recently identified itself with the six-cylinder movement, will afford amusement to many. "Et tu, Brute!" will surely represent the reproachful attitude of the four-cylinderites, of whose cause Mr. Jarrott has hitherto been such a doughty champion. Doubtless Mr. Jarrott will now perceive merits in the six-cylinder engine to which he has hitherto been blind. But his opponents will not be too hard on him. "There is more joy," etc. Mr. Edge will doubtless be the first to welcome the prodigal into the fold.

Talking of Messrs. Edge and Jarrott, by the way, it will be quite like old times if these famous racing motorists of the past bring off that twenty-four hours race on the new Brooklands motor track, of which there is talk at present. Mr. Edge started the thing with his proposal to try to establish a twenty-four hours speed record on the track, and Mr. Jarrott was quick to pick up the gage. A race would at least be more interesting than an endurance trial, though neither seems strictly necessary to establish the tolerably obvious fact that a modern motor-car can travel a vast distance in a short time. The present twenty-four hours touring record is, it seems, held by Mr. C. J. Ridgeway, who, about sixteen months ago, in America, covered over eight hundred miles in that time. Mr. Edge hopes to do over fourteen hundred miles. Another well-known motorist has, it is said, wagered £100 to do fifty miles on the new track in half an hour.

The Roads Improvement Association have taken a good work in hand by offering prizes for the best tar-spreading apparatus, and it is to be hoped that a really

efficient and economical machine may be brought into being as a result. If all the roads in the kingdom were tarred nothing more would be heard about the dust nuisance. Unfortunately, the cost of the process, which ranges from £60 to £90 per mile, is at present almost prohibitive, and save for a few experimental stretches, little or nothing has been done in the matter throughout the country generally. Given a more economical method of applying the tar by some kind of mechanical sprayer, the cost might be materially reduced, and the county authorities might be more disposed, in view of the undoubted efficiency of this treatment, to utilise the process. If only a few of the principal high roads were so treated, the gain would be enormous—alike to motorists and to the general public.

That is a rather novel idea which has been suggested in one of the motoring papers—viz., the institution of boy guides to pilot motorists through unfamiliar towns. On approaching an ordinary town of any size, the author of the suggestion points out, the automobilist often finds himself at a loss. He has covered ground smartly on the open road, and is beginning to be proud of his average. Then through the tortuous suburbs he crawls half a dozen miles in an hour. There is a certain amount of truth in this—at least, to the extent that one's rate of progress is inevitably diminished when the traffic of a town has to be negotiated. The town has to be a very considerable one, however, if the motorist is to experience much difficulty in finding his way through it, and I fancy that, so far as most automobilists are concerned, the active and intelligent one on his beat will be found adequate to the supply of all the information that is necessary. At the same time, it is often astonishing what difficulty is experienced in the country districts in getting intelligible answers on the subject of routes and distances. The average rustic is amazingly ignorant of the country beyond his own immediate town or village.

MAMMON.

NEW YEAR STARTS WELL—REACTIONS LATER—PROFESSIONALS TOO EAGER—WHAT THE PUBLIC PREFERS.

The new year opened on the Stock Exchange with a burst of activity, but it was mostly of the professional order, and after a couple of days of vigorous bidding, there was a sharp reaction due to the desire to snatch profits, because the public did not come along in sufficient numbers. At the end of the week conditions improved again under the influence of easier money and the expectation of an early reduction in the Bank rate, but the outside interest continued small. The fact is that the large army of professionals is too eager to work the market, and those who have capital for investment or speculation have not very much reason to bless them. I do not think it necessary to discuss now the question whether there is or is not enough business to go round, but the public is shy after the drain of the Boer and Russo-Japanese wars, and has not too much superfluous cash to play with. It has developed a preference for safe 4 per cent. stocks, and probably for some time to come will continue in this course, with only a moderate diversion into other directions, and then only when the wares offered are very attractive.

MONEY EASY—ANTICIPATING A LOWER BANK RATE.

The Money Market is already discounting the probability of a reduction in the Bank rate within the immediate future, and this is reflected in the steady decline in bill rates. Despite this, however, the position is generally considered to possess some element of uncertainty, and though three months' fine bills are taken below 4⅞ per cent., there are not wanting expressions of disapproval at the recklessness of the market in sailing so dangerously close to the wind. The recovery in the American Exchange is certainly a promising sign, but here and there some scepticism exists as to its genuineness, and, in addition, the uncertainty as to the dimensions of the Argentine and Brazilian requirements of gold, not to mention the Indian Currency reservations, make the immediate future somewhat cloudy. It has to be noted, too, that Lombard street is being denuded of its superfluous supplies of money by reason of the loans falling due at the Bank, and though it is true that the dividend payments have been large, it must not be forgotten that the "Old Lady" holds a considerable number of bills maturing this month, which is calculated to preclude the possibility of any superabundance of money being experienced before January has turned. Nevertheless, untoward developments excepted, there will be no necessity for a 6 per cent. Bank rate much longer. A reduction within the next few weeks seems inevitable, but whether the market is discounting the event prematurely remains to be seen. The Bank continues to secure practically all the heavy arrivals of gold, and this, together with the infiltration of cash from circulation, is likely to make a good impression upon the reserve, so much so that a substantial recovery is more than probable within the next week or two. The total at £19,689,000 is an improvement of £970,000 on the week, due to the return of money from the country and the receipt of gold from abroad.

CONSOLS RESPONDING TO MONEY PROSPECTS — ATTRACTIVE STOCKS — JAPANESE FAVOURED BY INVESTORS — RIO'S EFFORTS.

The possibility of the Bank rate being reduced within a few weeks, and the significance thereof in relation to the monetary situation, is naturally making a favourable impression upon the gilt-edged stocks. Perhaps the market is a little premature in regard to the Bank rate possibilities, and it would not be at all surprising should any insignificant development in Lombard Street serve to check the prevailing enthusiasm somewhat. This seems not improbable, but at the same time the investor who is holding gilt-edged stocks has nothing to fear. Before many weeks have elapsed the necessity for a 6 per cent. Bank rate will have completely disappeared, and with the general monetary pressure relaxed, it is pretty certain that stocks will be established on a much higher basis. In these circumstances, any relapse that may occur is likely to be purely temporary in character. In the Foreign market monetary influences are also making a good impression upon values, and in point of interest the investment demand for Japanese bonds is most conspicuous. As I have said before, the New Fours, upon which a return of over 4⅝ per cent. is obtainable, appear to be worthy of consideration, while the Four and a Half per Cent. issues, giving about the same yield, also appear attractive, though it may be noted that they have a rather shorter currency. There is nothing fresh to chronicle in relation to Russian bonds, which continue to wobble somewhat erratically, according to the whim of the moment. Among South Americans it is interesting to refer to the reports that the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro is credited with the intention of raising a loan of £10,000,000. These reports are somewhat at variance as to details, but one thing is certain, and that is that the chances are much against the Municipality raising this large sum without the backing of the Brazilian Government. Such a security would put quite a different complexion on the matter.

INTERESTING MOVEMENTS IN HOME RAILS—SOUTHERN STOCKS STRONG—SOUTH WESTERN DEFERRED'S MYSTERIOUS RISE—SCOTTISH ISSUES AFFECTED BY THE ACCIDENT AND THE BLIZZARD—ENGLISH TRADE LINES AND DIVIDEND PROSPECTS.

The usually staid Home Railway market has had quite an exciting week. There has been a burst of activity and strength in the Southern passenger group,

"AMERICAN RAILWAY EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS," by D. O. CROAL, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—EFFINGHAM WILSON. Price 6d. net.

quite unconnected, it may be added, with the forthcoming dividends, and a sharp decline in Scottish Rails—a result of the serious accident to a North British express near Dundee, and of the blizzards in the north which have done much to spoil the revenue record for the half-year, both by reducing gross receipts and raising operating costs. The stocks of the trade lines, while influenced to a mild extent by the recent spell of severe weather, which upset the favourable estimates formed regarding traffic returns for the holiday fortnight, have on balance made a fair improvement. Now that the results for the twenty-six weeks of the half-year are known, it is demonstrated beyond doubt that several lines will be in a position to make respectable additions to their dividends on account of the past half-year, and with the dividend season almost upon us, the market is waking up to the opportunities offered to the bargain hunter. The better tendency has also been due in a measure to the sudden ease in Lombard-street, where conditions point to the possibility of a reduction in the Bank rate within the next few weeks. It is interesting to observe that the stocks to show special strength in the trade group were Great Northern Deferred, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Hull and Barnsley, North-Eastern, and North Staffordshire. There is no question to my mind that the speculative investor will get the best value for his money by selecting one or more of the foregoing five stocks; the immediate dividend outlook in each case is bright, and prices are low. At the same time, those who took my advice and got in several months ago will have still better reasons to feel satisfied, for each of the stocks mentioned, particularly York Deferred and Hulls, which I have recommended almost to the point of becoming wearisome, have already had a fair rise from the lowest depths reached last year. There is less to tempt the speculator in Midland, North-Western, and Great Western stocks, for dividends are only likely to be raised very moderately, and as regards Westerns, the heavy new capital charges that have to be faced in the current year renders the outlook somewhat dubious. At the same time, no one can deny the sterling worth of these three stocks as investments, and they are bound to share in the general levelling up that will occur in Home Railways with the advent of really cheap money. Reverting to the southern passenger group, the surprise of the week has been the sharp spurt in South-Western Deferred. The one thing that seems certain about this movement is that it is not due to anticipations formed regarding the forthcoming dividend. The South-Western, in consequence of the Salisbury accident, may have to reduce its dividend; indeed, stockholders can only hope for a maintenance of the previous year's payment by a transfer from the reserve fund. But in the immediate future the Company will derive great benefit from the transference of part of the White Star fleet from Liverpool to Southampton. Kent coal, combined with the prominence being given to the Channel Tunnel proposition, has undoubtedly stimulated buying of Chatham and South-Eastern stocks. A story got abroad the other day that the Kent collieries would begin sending coal from the Dover pits to London in March, and this seems to have started a fair amount of speculative bidding for Doras and Little Chathams, part of the support coming from France. This talk about a Channel Tunnel, and Kent being converted into a Black Country, is no doubt calculated to fire the imagination, but some more positive proof of a change in the fortunes of the Kentish railroads will be required before either Chatham Ordinary or South-Eastern Deferred can be called cheap. If my readers wish to take an interest in these lines, they can obtain sound merit with reasonably good prospects of a capital advance by buying either Chatham First Preference or South-Eastern Six per Cent. Preferred Ordinary. The latter looks particularly cheap, for, on the basis of the last two half-yearly dividends, averaging 5½ per cent., it offers a yield of 4⅜ per cent., with, of course, the promise of another ½ per cent. in dividend when earned. My table follows:—

Home Rails.	A Year Ago.	Make up, Dec 24.	Closing Price, Dec. 29.	Closing Price, Jan. 5.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79	74½	74½	74	– ½
Do. Def.	41¾	30½	30	30	—
City and S. London	45	42	42½	44	+1½
Central London	96	83	83	83	—
Great Central 94 Pref.	74	—	73½	73½	—
Do. "B"	37½	34½	31½	31½	+ ½
Do. "A"	18¾	16	16½	16¾	+ ⅜
Great Eastern	88	81⅞	82⅝	85¼	+ ⅛
Great Northern Pref.	103½	100½	100½	101	+ ½
Do. Def.	44⅞	45½	45½	46⅞	+1⅛
Great Western	142¼	132½	132⅝	134⅛	+1½
Hull and Barnsley	47	48¾	49½	49¾	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	109½	103	103½	105	+1½
London and Brighton "A"	127	121½	122½	122	– ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15⅛	14¼	14⅝	15⅝	+1⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	98	89	90	91	+ 1
Do. 2nd Pref.	64	54½	54	56	+2
London and North-Western	160½	153	152½	153½	+ ½
London and South-Western Def.	56¾	50½	52½	55	+2½
Metropolitan Consolidated	87	60	60	59½	– ½
Metropolitan District	36½	19	19	19	—
Midland Pref.	69¼	66	66	66¼	+ ¼
Do. Def.	73¼	67	66⅜	67⅜	+1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78	74½	74½	74½	– ½
Do. Def.	46½	41	40½	39⅝	– ⅞
North-Eastern Consolidated	144¾	141⅜	143¼	144¼	+1
South-Eastern "A"	53¼	46	46½	49 ½	+2½

Prior Charge Stocks.

In the active "Bull" movement which is confidently expected all round, Home Railway prior charge stocks, are certain to participate. Failing a cataclysm, it will be very good business to buy them. Of course, one is called upon to discriminate, but by so doing one can obtain 3½ to 4 per cent. with very excellent security—not quite gilt edged, of course, but next door to it, and good enough for most people. They do not possess the speculative possibilities that would develop among ordinary stocks in times of a boom, but they would certainly show an appreciable advance. There are many investors who prefer relative steadiness to a possibility of a sharp fall, such as has occurred during the last year in ordinary descriptions. There is plenty of scope for selection. Take debentures, for instance. Great Western Four and Three-quarter stock gives a yield of £3 8s. per cent. London and North-Western (one of the choicest investments obtainable) returns £3 3s. 6d. per cent.; Midlands £3 5s. 9d. per cent.; North Eastern £3 6s. per cent.; Brighton Fours £3 9s. per cent.; and Lancashire and Yorkshire £3 6s. 9d. per cent. South Western issues are also among the choice ones; and if you want more for your money, Central Londons will give you £3 14s. 9d. per cent.; Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead £4 12s. 6d. per cent.; Baker Street and Waterloo £4 4s. per cent.; Great Central Second £3 12s. 6d. There is a large selection of Guaranteed stocks which bring in more than Debentures, and are scarcely less desirable. I give below a table which shows at a glance what may be obtained from this class:—

Present Amount.	Name.	Price.	Yield per Cent.
£			£ s. d.
2,131,104	Caledonian Guar. Annuities	117	3 2 0
3,667,164	Do. Consolidated	115	3 9 6
935,450	Glasgow and South Western	115	3 9 6
1,325,000	Do. (St. Enoch Station)	114	3 10 3
2,000,000	Great Central and Midland Joint	101	3 9 9
478,031	Great Eastern Cons. Rentcharge	113	3 10 3
650,000	Do. G. E. Metropolitan	109	3 11 6
4,966,596	Do. Cons. Irredeemable	115	3 10 3
3,435,740	Great Northern Perpetual	117	3 8 9
7,610,378	Great Western Rentcharge	117	3 8 9
17,904,062	Do. Consolidated	145	3 9 6
809,493	G. W. Bristol and Exeter Rentcharge	126	3 11 9
2,596,012	Lancashire and Yorkshire Consd.	117	3 8 9
15,100,406	London and North Western Consd.	119	3 7 6
797,980	London and South Western Consd	117	3 8 9
1,955,860	London, Brighton and South Coast Consd.	142	3 11 0

I turn now to Preference issues, on which you can secure anything from about £3 8s. per cent. on North-Westerns, £3 11s. 6d. per cent. on Great-Eastern, £3 10s. per cent. on Great Westerns, £3 11s. 6d. per cent. on Midlands, £3 12s. 6d. per cent. on Brighton Seconds, and £3 19s. per cent.

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

on Great Central, 1874, which last, though not in the Trustee class, has become a very desirable security—there being already four stocks behind it receiving their dividends, whilst others will be added in due course. Stocks like District Preference and Chatham Second Preference will no doubt appeal to nobody; but the City and South London, 1896, issue seems worth attention, and you can obtain on it about £4 6s. 6d. per cent. Outside Home Railways there are many stocks which will repay investment. Bengal and North Western Preference, for instance, gives you almost 3¾ per cent., with most excellent security. East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Annuities are not very much in favour, because they are not well understood, but the return on the various classes ranges from £3 12s. 6d. per cent. to about £3 17s. 6d. per cent. Southern Punjaub Preference brings in £3 17s. 6d. per cent., and Nizam's State Railway Four per Cent. Debentures give £3 18s. 3d. per cent. In addition to the stocks named there are the issues of the Canadian railways. On Canadian Pacific Sterling First Mortgage bonds the yield is a good 4 per cent., but it is an objection to them that they are redeemable in 1915. It seems to me that the Preference shares would repay attention, and I give below a table showing what you may get on this and some other leading Canadians:—

Present Amount.	Name.	Price. Dec. 28	Yield Per Cent.
$1,231,692	Alberta Rly. & Irrigation Pr. Lien Deb.	96	4 2 6
£1 121,700	Calgary & Edmonton Deb.	105	3 15 6
£1,104 000	Canada Atlantic Mrt. Bds '55	102	3 19 0
£1,136,000	Canadian Northern Debenture, 1930	103	3 17 3
£2,240,000	Do. Perp. Cons. Deb.	100	3 19 3
£1,923,287	Do. 1st Mort. do. 1953	89	3 7 9
£2,020,500	Do. 1st Mort Cons. Deb.	103	3 17 3
£1,014,000	Canadian Pacific ($100 sh.)	201	2 19 6
£7,778 082	Do. Pref. (Non-Cum.)	107	3 15 3
£7,191,500	Do. Ster. 1st. Mort. 1915	108	4 0 3
£19.421,797	Do. Perp. Deb. Stock	109½	3 12 9
£3.004,000	Grand Trunk Pacific Stg, 1955	102	3 18 0
£8.129 315	Do. of Canada Guad. 4 p c. Stock	102¾	3 18 6
£3,420 000	Do. 1st Preference	118½	4 5 6
£2.530.000	Do. 2nd do.	110¾	4 11 3
£7,168,055	Do. 3rd do. 4 p.c.	68½	2 18 3
£4,270,375	Do. Perp. Deb. Stock	132	3 15 3
£15.136,981	Do. Do.	107	3 14 0
£2.723 080	Do. G. West Perp. Deb.	130	3 17 9
£347,930	Do. North of Canada Perp. Deb.	106	3 16 3
£1,116,500	Do. Mid. Can. 1 Mt. 1912	100	—
$2,250,000	Great Northern Canada Bonds	96	4 3 3
$2,544,000	Manitoba S.W. 1st Mt. 1934	117	3 17 9
£410,000	Mid. of W. Austral. Dbs. 1928	101	4 0 0
£600,000	N. Brunswick 1st Mort. 1934	118	3 18 3
£858,300	Do. Perp. Deb. Stock	103	3 17 0
£335,250	Quebec New Inc. Bds. 1/1/1922	118	4 12 6

NOTHING LIKE PHILANTHROPY.

The National Share Exchange, of 22, Great Winchester-street, E.C., assures everybody that it has not one dissatisfied client, and, "as far as investments go, no one has ever lost a single penny through depositing with us, whilst cheques for all speculating profits have been mailed the same day as the deal has been closed." Being interested parties, the concern does not like to furnish advice, but at the same time it is only too pleased, on receipt of wire, telephone, or letter, or on personal application, to furnish the fullest possible information, together with the highest and lowest prices during any number of years of any stock or share. There is nothing like philanthropy. The London Scottish Stock Exchange—the title is most misleading, by the way—announces one more success. It announces that Stock Union No. 29a closed at the end of November at a profit of 150 per cent., representing after deduction of its commission of 10 per cent., a net return of £13 10s. upon every £10 subscribed. This is really pretty, but where is the point of making money for absolute strangers when you can make it for yourself and retire on a competency within a few months?

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY, LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

DIRECTORS' FEES.

No dividend has been paid on Ind, Coope, and Co.'s Preference shares for or since the beginning of 1905, and in the circumstances the proposal of the Directors to increase their remuneration seems rather an imposition on the shareholders. They have recently registered new articles of association, making three of themselves Directors for life, and the following luxuries are to be thrown in:—(1) A pension of £1,000 per annum for ten years, from January, 1902, and after that £500 per annum for life to Mr. Murray Ind, now Chairman of the Directors; (2) £4,500 instead of £3,000 per annum for Directors' fees; (3) Pensions (as Directors please), for more Managing Directors and other officials. Mr. A. L. Normandy, of 15, Sydenham Hill, S.E., writes to protest against these proposals, and dissentient shareholders would do well to put themselves into communication with him.

AMERICAN POSITION—WHY THE ENGLISH PUBLIC IS SHY—HITTING OFF THE SITUATION—EARNINGS GOING OFF—SOUTHERN PACIFIC REPORT.

The turn of the year has witnessed a relaxation in the monetary conditions in the United States, and call money no longer commands 25 per cent. The outlook is, therefore, more bright, and trading may be expected to improve before long. But so far as the English public is concerned, the interest remains small, presumably because of the dangers of a speculation in Yankees (it being impossible to follow the moves of the game) and of the fact that more stable securities are to be found in other directions. The professionals play with the shares in Shooters'-court, but, taking it all round, the interest displayed is out of all proportion to the volume of business that is carried through even on professional account. A private letter to the *Times* seems to me to hit off the situation pretty accurately:—

> A dozen or fifteen men who have control of practically the entire surplus money market of the country, and as a corollary thereto to a certain extent of the rates of interest, are able, through the fact that the floating supply of stocks is comparatively small, to make prices almost at their will. The insurance episode was but an incident in the situation; the recent report of Union Pacific, with its enormous amount of cash and loans, gives indication how far this trust money has extended in other, and I may say almost all, directions. Of course, a large part of our public either does not know this or does not understand its meaning; they and others who, like myself, are afraid of it, are all fortified in their reluctance to sell their holdings by the tremendous crops and the great activity and apparent profits of business. Meanwhile these gamblers, perhaps the ablest the world has ever seen, churn the floating supply of securities over and over again, marking prices to suit themselves, thus catching the smaller try, if they like, both ways. It is all done to induce the great public to come into the game, and on this result depends whether we are to have one of the large panics of the age or a more ordinary, though exceedingly severe, readjustment.

If you want evidence of a close corporation worked by a handful of men who can pull the strings as they think fit, you can obtain it in the revelations into the operations of the Harriman combine. This shows that the Union Pacific holds $28,000,000 of Illinois Central stock, $10,000,000 Atchison Preferred, $32,000,000 Baltimore and Ohio, $3,500,000 Chicago North-Western, $3,500,000 Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul, and $14,000,000 New York Central. We are informed from New York that the extent to which the Company's holdings have been increased since last June came as a surprise, but it has for some time been well suspected none the less. On the Wall Street market the conditions, as already hinted, have shown an improvement, and during the week Readings, Union Pacifics, Southern Pacifics (these two last on the strength of excellent earnings), and Illinois Centrals, as well as Milwaukees and Atchisons, have made fair progress. It should be recognised, however, that Americans are a dangerous thing for the man in the street to handle. The "bosses" have failed in their efforts to bring about a boom, and must be heavily loaded up with stock, for which, it would appear, neither the British nor American publics have much use. Prices are high, and although it might pay to hold some of the principal stocks for a year or two, it would easily

be possible to go elsewhere and do better without anything like the same risk. It is a satisfaction to know that the English interest in Americans has become insignificant, holders having taken advantage of the advance in values to sell out to take up less exciting and not less attractive investments. My table will be found below:—

—	1905. Highest.	1905. Lowest.	Closing Price, Dec. 19, 1906.	Closing Price, Dec. 29, 1906.	Closing Price, Jan. 5, 1907.
Atchison	96	80⅛	106½	107⅝	109¼
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109	102	106	103	102½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	120¼	104⅛	124½	124	125⅝
Chesapeake and Ohio	61½	46⅜	58	57⅜	57½
Denver	40⅛	27⅜	44	43½	43½
Do. Pref.	93¾	85⅜	88⅜	86 xd	86½xd
Erie	54½	38⅝	45½	44⅜	44¼
Do First Pref.	87½	77⅜	78	77½	77½
Louisville	161¾	140½	150	148	149
Milwaukee	193½	173½	194	155 x rts	156½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	39¾	24⅛	41⅜	41½	42½
Norfolk Pref.	96½	94	93	93 x r ts	93xrts
Do. Common	90¾	77⅜	93⅜	94¾ x rts	94¼xrts
New York Central	169¾	140½	135	135 xd	136½
Ontario	65½	41¼	48½	48⅜	48½
Pennsylvania	76⅜	67½	70⅜	71½	71⅜
Reading	73⅜	40¼	74½	70½	70¾
Do. First Pref.	49⅜	46	44½	44½	44½
Southern Common	39⅝	28⅜	31	33⅜	34⅛
Do. Pref.	104½	97½	99½	98	98
Southern Pacific	74	59⅝	96½	96	96¾
Union Pacific	155⅜	116⅞	188½	187⅛	186¾
Do. Pref.	102⅜	98½	96	96	96
Wabash Pref.	49¾	37⅜	43	41	39
Do. "B" Debentures	86⅜	69½	81	78	78
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	44½	26	49⅜	49¼	51
Do. Do. Pref.	110¼	93⅜	107½	108½	109

It need not be denied that the prosperity of the United States is still great, though apparently waning. "Bradstreets" shows that gross earnings in October, the latest month for which conclusive returns have been made up, aggregated $139,418,717, a gain of $14,160,224, or 11.3 per cent., over October, 1905, when business was especially active. Net earnings, on the other hand, amounted to $50,717,844, the increase being $4,526,514, or 9.7 per cent., over October last year. Operating expenses aggregated $88,700,873, an advance of 12.1 per cent. over October, 1905. The early compilations of the *New York Chronicle* for November show that matters are not improving, for they tell of "a much smaller improvement, both in ratio and amount, than any recent return for some time past," and quite a number of lines actually report decreases. This unfavourable turn is attributed to the shrinkage in the grain movement—a matter of surprise, considering the bounteous harvests which have been gathered during the past season. It is pointed out that in one section—the South—the roads have had special advantages this year in addition to the benefits arising from the continued activity and prosperity of trade. The cotton movement has run considerably heavier than last year, and numbers of roads in that part of the country are comparing with heavily diminished earnings last year, the yellow fever quarantines at that time having served to curtail the traffic and revenues of such roads. This year there has been no impediment of that kind to railroad traffic, making it possible to regain the loss on that account sustained in 1905, provided general trade keeps good. The Southern Pacific Railroad has made much progress during the last few years, and its shares have more than doubled in value since 1900, being now about 96, as compared with a lowest of 31¼ and a highest of 47½ then. Its report for the past year is highly satisfactory. The Common stock has been raised from the plane of a non-dividend payer to the basis of a 5 per cent property. Gross transportation receipts were enlarged by as much as $10,117,391 (bringing the total considerably over 100 millions, that is, up to $105,632,549), and net earnings were enlarged to the extent of $5,505,638. There was at the same time some reduction in interest charges as a result of the retirement of certain bonds and their replacement by others bearing a lower interest rate. As a consequence, the surplus above fixed charges increased no less than $6,760,674, or fully 54 per cent., the amount of their surplus being raised from $12,431,973 to $19,192,647. With such an enormous increase in the amount available for dividends, the payment of dividends followed as a matter of course. The 5 per cent. dividends which the Company has undertaken to pay would call for no more than $9,892,463 out of $16,065,068 available. As a matter of fact, only 2½ per cent. on the Common stock is charged against the late year's accounts (the dividend for that amount in October having been the first and only dividend paid), leaving, therefore, a surplus on the year's operations of $11,118,837.

Canadian Pacifics Erratic—Good Traffics Resumed—Grand Trunk Dividend Prospects—2½ per Cent. Probable on "Thirds"—Better Possibilities for 1907—Mexican Firsts—A Likely Stock for the Speculative Investor—Cubans and Argentines—Guayaquil and Quito Bonds.

The past week has witnessed considerable fluctuations in Canadian Pacific shares at around the 200 level. Doubtless some nervous speculators were induced to sell upon the November revenue statement, which showed that the gross increase of $493,000 had been more than absorbed by extra operating costs, a decrease being registered in net earnings of $98,000. My own view, as expressed once or twice lately, was that the recent falling off in Canadian Pacific earnings was likely to prove of a temporary character, and might reasonably be attributed to the snowstorms in Western Canada, which would, of course, affect both gross receipts and working charges. This opinion is now borne out by the traffic return to December 31, which showed gross earnings of $2,068,000, an increase of $294,000 upon the corresponding period of 1905. Thus the Company appears to be getting back to its normal—or shall I say abnormal?—rate of progress. Seeing that from July 1 to end-November gross earnings amounted to $31,473,000, an increase of $5,710,000, and the net takings were $12,320,000, an advance of $2,479,000, shareholders can afford to ignore an occasionally poor statement. So far as the market outlook is concerned, I think the course of Canadas must depend in the near future almost entirely upon happenings in the American market. Seeing that a spell of liquidation in Yankees is badly wanted to restore healthy conditions, and the public so far shows little inclination to help the controlling groups out of their difficulty, purchases of Canadian Pacific shares to carry over can hardly be recommended for the present, although on any sharp break opportunities would arise for the speculator hunting for differences. The investor, however, who has paid for his shares has no need to worry over a temporary decline, brought about from external causes, for Canadas are intrinsically worth a higher price, and are almost bound to go ahead before very long. With regard to Grand Trunks, the market had a disappointment in the November revenue statement, the net increase of only £7,800 being half what many of the dealers had looked for. We are now in possession of all the figures we are likely to get regarding the Trunk half-year before the statement for the six months published next April—the Trunk not making a practice of giving a separate statement for December—and it is therefore timely to consider dividend prospects. The net receipts on the Grand Trunk system proper amounted for the five months to £910,000. On the basis of working for the last months of 1905 and 1904, December should yield £80,000 net, making £990,000 for the half-year. Sundry credits, on the basis of the corresponding half-year of 1905, should amount in round figures to £100,000, and there should be a surplus from the Detroit branch of £20,000, or £5,000 more than a year ago. On the other hand, the Canada-Atlantic will prove a burden upon the Trunk, its results involving probably a deficit of £34,000. Making allowance for these various items, and adding the balance brought in of £16,000, there should be a balance available of £1,092,000. Of this amount rents and interest on debentures and bonds should absorb £614,000, 4 per cent. on the Guaranteed stock £150,000, 5 per cent. on the First Preference £85,500, and 5 per cent. on the Second Preference £63,250, or, together, a total of £912,700. There would then be left a balance

of £179,000, or just sufficient to pay 2½ per cent. on the Third Preference. The estimated figures I have given may, of course, prove to be a little out here and there, but they are near enough to make it practically certain that the dividend on Thirds cannot be more than 2½ per cent. On the other hand, bearing in mind Sir Rivers Wilson's promise at the last half-yearly meeting, the dividend is unlikely to be less than 2½ per cent. Taking the present price as 67½ cum dividend, or 65 ex dividend, the yield would give £3 17s. per cent. This is certainly not a very generous return, but in view of the extremely heavy expenditure with which the past year has been burdened, the market is unlikely to be guided solely by yield considerations in assessing the value of the stock. During the current year the line will be freed from the incubus of Michigan taxation arrears, which it will be remembered were summarily wiped off last spring instead of being spread over three years, and while the Board is not likely to depart from its conservative policy in the matter of the upkeep of the road out of revenue, some lightening of the ratio of working costs may be looked for during the current twelvemonth. If, at the same time, gross earnings keep up to their present form—as, indeed, there is reason to hope they will—the outlook for 1907 may be considered distinctly hopeful. While not so rash as to pin myself down to a prophecy that Thirds will get their full 4 per cent., I may remark that there is nothing outrageous in such a suggestion, and under these circumstances, Trunks are unlikely to be allowed to go back very far. In the Foreign Railway group there has been little calling for special mention during the last few days. Mexican Rails have held their own in sturdy fashion, and I would repeat that those who buy the Eight per Cent. First Preference can secure a progressive stock that has very good prospects of a 20-point rise in the not very distant future. Cuban Rails, too, have been to the front, the traffic receipts showing up well now that the Companies have entered upon the "fat" season of the year, when the sugar crop is carried. Argentine Rails, which are now quite a sober investment section, have benefited from a little buying on the part of those wanting yields of 5 to 5½ per cent. with tolerably good security, while, of course, cheaper money has been a beneficial influence. Guayaquil and Quito bonds were affected by the fact that no announcement was made regarding the payment of the coupon due on the 1st inst. At the time of writing the market is waiting for an official announcement, and meanwhile a report is in circulation that the interest will be met during the present week. My usual table follows:—

—	A Year Ago.	Make-up, Dec. 24.	Closing Price, Jan. 5.
Canadian Pacific	178¾	199	201
Grand Trunks	26⅛	28¾	28⅝
,, 4 per cent. Guaranteed	102½	102¾	102⅝
,, 1st Preference	115	118¾	118⅝
,, 2nd ,,	106	111¼	110½
,, 3rd ,,	61	68½	68⅛
Bengal and North-West	148	146½	146
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	124½	125	122½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	129	112	114
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	133	121¼	123¾
,, ,, 2nd ,,	108	102½	103
,, Great Southern	144	125	128½
,, Western	136¾	124	127½
Entre Ritios Railway Preference	96¼	85½	87½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	115	111½	112¼
Cent. Uruguay Ordinary	90	91½	94
Costa Rica Railway	—	27½	27½
Mashonaland Railway Debentures, 2nd iss.	—	92½	90xrts
Mexican Railway	25½	48¾	48¾
,, 1st Preference	119½	140½	139¾
,, 2nd ,,	50¾	90½	91
Nitrate Rails	14¾	15⅞	16

KAFFIRS REVIVE—ADVANCE IN PRICES—SHARES TO BUY—MODDERS AND ROBINSON CENTRALS—OTAVI MINES.

There can be no doubt about it that the revival in the South African share market, which I have steadfastly predicted for some weeks past, has set in, and that Kaffirs have at length entered upon a long period of business activity. For some little time, as the result of the improving conditions of the Rand mining industry—increasing gold output, profits, and dividends, and generally a better economic outlook, more especially as regards the all important question of labour—there has been an undercurrent of strength in the Kaffir market, and all the indications have pointed to the marshalling of forces as a preliminary to a forward movement. When just before Christmas prices were at their lowest, and it really seemed as if bottom had been reached, there was considerable buying of certain of the most promising among the Rand dividend payers for investment purposes, and it is the recognition of the fact, that the great majority of the mines are on an excellent paying basis and are yielding handsome returns on their capital, that has had as much to do with bringing about the revival as has the more encouraging outlook for the industry. There are unquestionably a very large number of attractive investments among Transvaal mines, and purchasers of shares in these may confidently reckon not only on receiving a splendid return on their outlay, but on a considerable appreciation in the value of their holdings. Paris has given strong support to its favourite Kaffirs, and buying orders have come in appreciable numbers from other parts of the Continent. Here there is evidence that the public is once more in the market, and everything points to a continuance of activity. The advance has been general, and in many instances, as a perusal of the following list will show, very substantial:—

	Last Make-up Dec. 21.	January 5, 1907.	Increase.
Rand Mines	6 9/16	7 5/16	¾
East Rand	4 7/16	4 13/16	3/8
Gold Fields	4	4 5/16	5/16
Modders	5 3/16	6 5/16	1⅛
De Beers	23½	25 7/16	2⅛
Premiers	11¾	14 1/16	2⅜
Ferreira	19½	21	1½
Jagersfontein	9½	10½	1
Transvaal Cons. Land	2 7/16	3½	⅝
Johannesburg Cons. Invest.	1 5/16	1⅝	5/16
Randfontein	1 3/16	1½	5/16
New Vaal Rivers	6	6 7/16	7/16
New Primrose	3 5/16	3 5/8	⅜
East Rand Mining	1⅜	1 11/16	5/16
New Kleinfontein	1 15/16	2	1/16
Van Ryn	2 13/16	3 1/16	3/16
Geduld	2 2/16	2⅜	⅛
H. E. Props.	1½	2 1/16	1/16

This list embraces but a small section of the whole of the Kaffir Companies that are dealt in, but it may be regarded as representative and as fairly illustrating the favourable effect which the revival has had on prices. As business looks like broadening a further advance is inevitable, and those desirous of participating in the movement might do worse than make a selection from the foregoing list, although there are many other shares that might be chosen for a speedy and profitable turnover. Robinson Deep, for instance, offers a splendid mining investment, as also does its neighbour on the dip of the Robinson Mine, the Robinson Central Deep. This Company has a capital of £440,000, and it is paying dividends at the rate of 16s. per £1 share, which now stand at 5 13-16. The mine is doing remarkably well, with milling power equal to 120 stamps, on which basis it is estimated to have a life of fifteen years. It is in contemplation, however, to increase the milling capacity up to 205 stamps, in which case the life of the mine would be reduced to a little over nine years, but in that time an investor, if he gave £8 for his shares, would receive 7 per cent. per annum and have all his capital returned to him. There are few more promising mining investments to be had than the Robinson Central Deep, although investors can hardly go wrong in buying any of the shares of the deep level Companies included in the list of Rand Mines' subsidiaries. The Cinderella Deep is also a good deep level concern, and the New Modderfontein, on the dip of the Van Ryn, can be strongly recommended. The New Modderfontein, which recently declared its first dividend of 5 per cent., is one of the leading Kaffir favourites, and is always among the first of the Companies to feel the effects of an improvement in the market. It has about 4,000 claims, the largest area of any purely mining Company on the Rand, and when it is fully equipped, and is worked on an adequate scale, as it soon will be, its profits will be enormous. Modders now stand at about 6 5-16, but then they are £4 shares, and at the conclusion of the late war they were over 14.

They have a long way to go yet before they reach the latter figure, but in the event of one or more subsidiaries being floated by the Company, they might easily top all previous quotations, as the property is undoubtedly a valuable one. Considerable interest has been taken in the introduction of the shares of the Otavi Mines and Railway Company, in consequence of which South-West Africas have advanced to 25s. Some time ago I gave particulars about Otavi Mines and Railway Company, which has an authorised capital of £1,000,000 in 200,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each, all of which have been issued and fully paid up in cash. Now A. Goerz and Co., Ltd., invite offers for purchase of 30,000 fully-paid Ordinary shares of £5 each in the Otavi Mines at the price of £7 5s. per share. A similar offer in respect of 30,000 further Ordinary shares is being simultaneously made in Hamburg. The Tsumeb Copper Mine, one of the chief of the numerous assets belonging to the Company, has already been proved and developed, and, as it is connected with the coast by a railway, the shipment of ore for treatment will shortly begin. The value of this mine alone, apart from the railway and its other valuable properties, is estimated to exceed the market capitalisation of the Company, and therefore investors should have no hesitation in subscribing for the shares, which will doubtless attain a high figure. As a result of the absorption of the Vereeniging power scheme for the Rand by the Victoria Falls Company, the Vereeniging shares have been in request. It is probable that the absorbing Company will utilise the Vereeniging Estate for the carrying out of a portion of the scheme for the supply of power to the Rand.

Rhodesians Neglected — Chartered — Tanganyikas as a Gamble.

Owing to its close affinity with Kaffirs the Rhodesian market is showing to rather greater advantage, but when all is said and done it must be confessed that the improvement does not amount to much. There are, in fact, few features of any particular significance, nor are there as yet any palpable signs of a broadening out of business. It is still the general impression, however, that as a result of the progressive character of the mining industry and the headway made in other directions that this market will gain greater pre-eminence in the not far distant future. As regards Chartered there is nothing fresh to chronicle in relation to the hopes entertained on the subject of the forthcoming report, but, as I have said before, it would be surprising if this did not indicate a material improvement in the financial position. In connection with Tanganyikas I am still inclined to the opinion that these shares have about gravelled after the outburst resulting from the recent issue. It is, of course, likely that if the improvement in Kaffirs should not be sustained the shares may sag away to a still lower level, but on the other hand, they are likely to move upwards if domestic conditions become healthier. As regards Bankets, they remain more or less neglected in the absence of any confirmation of the rumoured satisfactory developments. Here again one may say that any improvements in domestic conditions would probably be followed by an upward movement. My usual table follows:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1905.	Closing Price, Dec. 29 1906.	Closing Price, Jan. 5, 1907
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	1 1/2	5/8	5/8
British S. Africa	6,000,000	4,999,038	1	f.p.	3/16	1 3/32	1 3/32
Chicago Gaika	250,000	201,000	1	f.p.	2 3/8	4/-	4/-
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	250,000	1	f.p.	1 7/8	1 7/8	1 1/4
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	228,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1 7/32	1 7/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	398,976	1	f.p.	1 3/8	7/6	9/-
N rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	3 1/2	1 3/8	1 3/4
Rhodesia, Ltd.(New)..	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	1/2	1/2
Rhodesia Expl.	225,000	227,777	1	f.p.	4 3/4	2 1/32	2 1/8
Rhodesia Glds.	1,000,000	500,677	1	f.p.	5/16	-/6	-/6
Rice Hamilton.....	175,000	50,000	1	f.p.	2 3/8	1/2	1/2
Selukwe	350,000	321,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	6/6	6/6
Tanganyika Conc.	264 600	234,000	1	f.p.	6 3/4	5 5/16	5 1/8
United Rhodesia.....	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	11/3	2/3	2/-
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	10/-	9/-
Zambesia Explor.	300,000	288,615	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1 3/8	1 1/16

West Africans Stagnant—Broken Hills—Tailings.

It is the custom to make an effort to start the New Year well by making something in the nature of an ephemeral fireworks display, but it can scarcely be said that such a convention has been adhered to in the case of the West African mining market. The most conspicuous characteristic is the general stagnation, and it would seem that all the alleged significance of the reduced railway charges in relation to the industry, which was made the pretext for an upward movement a short time ago, has been completely forgotten. Everything considered, I do not think this is remarkable. Broken Hill shares continue to absorb considerable interest, though there is less of the feverish excitement recently in evidence. The metals remain relatively high, and it seems opportune to briefly refer to the course of silver during 1906. The most important point is the increased consumption due in large measure to the prosperity of India and the demand for coinage purposes from the United States. Imports during the twelve months reached about 19,000,000 oz., in comparison with only 14,400,000 oz. in 1905, while exports approximated 19,200,000 oz. as against 14,600,000 oz. As regards the market price, the lowest was 29d. per oz., or 3 9-16d. above the minimum of 1905, while the highest was 33⅛d. or 2 13-16d. per oz. above that of 1905, the average being 30⅞d. as against 27 13-16d. per oz. These figures are not without significance. In connection with the Sulphide Corporation, it is said that when the plant on the Central mine is completed the weekly capacity will be over 12,000 tons. This ought to materialise within a month or so, and a resumption of dividend payments on the Ordinary shares seems probable in the early future. There are some interesting references to the additional source of revenue opened by the discovery to utilize tailings profitably in the report of the Block 10 Co. In the last report it was stated that 100,000 tons had been sold at 6s. per ton, the whole of the payment to be completed within ten months. Profit and loss account has therefore been credited with the sale, but as regards 520,000 tons sold at 5s., payment has been extended over a lengthy period, and the profits therefrom will only be credited to the accounts as they are actually received. Respecting the future, tailings will now accumulate at the rate of 60,000 tons each half-year, all of which should be of a marketable value. It would seem that the gamble in Siberian descriptions is fizzling out, which perhaps is not altogether surprising in view of the paucity of information divulged. In consequence of favourable reports as to developments on the Spassky Company's property, the shares have been in great demand, and have risen to 6 9-16. A cable from Mr. Nelson Fell, the manager of the Spassky Company, announces that development during the last two months has produced surprising results, and he believes that he is not exaggerating in stating that the ore reserves have been doubled. Latterly, the copper output of the Company, in consequence of equipment of the property having been carried out, has been increased. For instance, a railway has been constructed between the smelters and the coal mines, the Yuspenssky mine has been re-equipped, the Karagandy colliery opened up, and the new smelter erected. The shaft at the collieries has been sunk to 250 feet, and an excellent seam of coal 23 ft. wide is being worked. The copper output is expected to rise almost at once to 130 tons per month, and when all the equipment is running, a few months hence, 400 tons will be treated each month. The capital of the Company is £300,000, and on a conservative basis the profit in sight on the property is estimated at between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000. There have been considerable dealings in the shares of the Slough Creek, Ltd., at 4s. 6d. This Company has a capital of £200,000 in 1,000,000 shares of 4s. each, and its property, which extends over 13 miles, is situated between the Williams and Lightning Creeks in the heart of the richest gold district of Cariboo, British Columbia. A large amount of development work has been done, and while it is estimated that only £30,000 will be sufficient to fully open up the property, in the reorganisation of the Com-

pany provision is made for a working capital of £72,000. Mr. J. D. Kendall, the consulting engineer, under whose supervision the property has been developed, estimates that the profits from the mines when in thorough working order should give a return equal to fifteen times the capital. As a mining investment the property is favourably spoken of.

—	Denomination of Shares.	Closing Price, Dec. 29.	Closing Price, Jan. 5.
	£		
Ashanti Goldfields	4/-	13/6	13/6
Akrokerri	1	⅜	⅜
Bibiani Goldfields	1	⅛	⅛
British Gold Coast	1	1/16	1/16
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	1	1⅜	1⅜
Taquah and Abosso	1	2¼	2¼
Wassau (Gold Coast)	1	⅛	1/16
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	1	3/6	3/6
Nile Valley	1	4/-	3/6
Anaconda Copper	$25	15⅛	15⅜
Balaghat Gold	1	27/-	26/6
Broken Hill Proprietary	8/-	5⅛	5¼
Cape Copper	2	8¾	9⅛
Champion Reef	2/6	14/-	13/6
Le Roi	5	1⅝	1⅝
Mysore Gold	10/-	5⅛	5⅛
Nundydroog	10/-	28/-	27/6
Ooregum	10/-	13/6	13/-
Rio Tinto	5	89⅜	90½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	2	8⅜	9
Waihi Gold	1	8⅛	8⅜

WESTRALIANS CHEERFUL — KALGURLIS — FINGALLS — OROYA OUTLOOK.

Though there is no palpable expansion in the volume of business, the Westralian mining market has started the New Year in a tolerably cheerful humour, in accordance with the general convention, and naturally hopes are running high in regard to what the future has in store. Sentiment apart, however, I am still inclined to believe that Westralians collectively are deserving of more consideration. The leading mines pay substantial dividends regularly, and have large quantities of ore in reserve, while the general range of values is relatively moderate. In point of interest, the sustained strength of Kalgurlis is still most conspicuous, the shares being now at a record high level, but in this connection it may be noted that the existing price contains 12s. 6d. dividend and bonus, while, of course, the prospects are distinctly hopeful, and larger interim distributions are not improbable in the future. As regards Great Fingalls, there is nothing fresh to chronicle in relation to developments, and the shares continue at a rather low level as a consequence. While it cannot be denied that there is a large element of uncertainty in the position, and that, as a result of the ore shrinkage in the average grade, the profits have diminished to such an extent as to entail a lowering of the quarterly dividend from 5s. to 3s. per share, it is nevertheless clear that the ruling quotation discounts any further adverse contingencies. It may be pointed out that there is 3s. per share contained in the present price. As regards Oroyas, it is becoming more and more manifest that the mine has practically reached the end of its tether as a high-grade proposition, and though it may have a prolonged existence as a low-grade property and additional profit may be expected to be derived from the Oroya Black Range ultimately, a reduction in the dividend seems inevitable before long, so that there is not much chance of a recovery in the market price. Here is my usual table:—

—	1906 High.	1905. High.	1905. Lowest.	Make-up Dec. 21, 1906.	Closing Price, Dec. 29, 1906.	Closing Price, Jan 5, 1907.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	8⅜	1⅜	1½	1½	1⅝
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	2⅜	1 7/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	⅜	7/6	7/-	6/9	7/-
Cosmopolitan	30/3	½	4/3	4/-	4/3	4/3
Golden Horseshoe	15	8⅜	5⅛	5⅛	5 7/16 xd	6¼xd
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	25/6	27/6	26/3	27/6xd	25/6
Do. Perseverance	18½	16/6	10/3	8/3	8/3	8/9
Gt. Fingall Cons	6⅛	8⅜	3½	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Hainault	1⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	8⅛	6⅜	7	7⅛	7⅛
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅜	9⅜	11⅜	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜
Lake View Consols	5⅜	1¼	⅜	16/3	⅜	⅜
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅛	15/6	9/-	19/3	⅞	1⅛
Oroya Brownhill	—	3⅜	2⅜	2¼	2 3/16 xd	1⅞xd
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛
South Kalgurli	6½	2	1⅛	¾	¾	¾

INSURANCE NOTES—STAR LIFE OFFICE—REASONS FOR AMALGAMATION.

Last November I had something to say about the proposed amalgamation of the Star Life Assurance Society with the Norwich Union Life Office. This is a course which is advocated by an influential body of policy-holders and shareholders, who have requisitioned the Directors of the Star to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the proposal. The meeting has been fixed for January 16 at noon, at the Hall of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate-place. In sending out the notice, the Directors have issued a circular, which, I suppose, is intended as an argument for voting against the acceptance of the Norwich Union terms. In view of the fact that a few months ago the Directors of the Star strongly advocated amalgamation with the United Kingdom Temperance Institution, it is difficult to see why they are so adverse to the acceptance of the much better terms which are now obtainable from the Norwich Union.

The first argument of the Directors is that "no official communication desiring such amalgamation has been received from the Directors of the Norwich Union." It is scarcely to be expected that the Norwich Union would make a formal offer unless there were some reason to suppose that the Directors of the Star were prepared to negotiate. Quite clearly specified terms have, however, been obtained through influential shareholders or policy-holders of the Star, so that the preliminary stage is in quite regular order and in the usual form. Moreover, it is a fact that the Managers of the two Societies have been in communication on the subject.

The second argument of the Directors is that "no reason exists to render an amalgamation necessary for the Star." This point I will come to presently, merely remarking for the moment that amalgamation is more necessary now than it was when the Directors urged the acceptance of less favourable terms.

The third argument is that "the special circumstances which would have made a union with the United Kingdom Temperance advantageous to the Star do not appear in the proposal" to join the Norwich Union. The reason for this statement seems to be that the Star has its principal supporters amongst Wesleyans and other Nonconformists, who have taken policies of a moderate amount for the encouragement of thrift, and that the United Kingdom Temperance does a similar business and caters for the same class. A further point is that a large proportion of the assured in both Companies are total abstainers, and it is partly to secure special advantages for that class that the Directors negotiated with the United Kingdom Temperance. With all due deference to the Directors, this is pure nonsense. I have previously expressed the opinion that Nonconformists are a very excellent class of people from a life assurance point of view, and I fully recognise the great attractions of the temperance section of the United Kingdom Temperance Institution; but neither point has anything whatever to do with the existing policy-holders in the Star. Had the Star been taken over by the United Kingdom, the Star insurance fund would have been kept separate, would have been debited with 10 per cent. of the premiums for the expenses, and would have had to give one-tenth of the surplus to the proprietors, which would have been the United Kingdom Institution, instead of the present shareholders. The benefits of the temperance section would have been available only for new entrants who are entirely free to go to it at present, whether or not they have anything to do with the Star. The existing policy-holders would have been absolutely unaffected by the temperance section.

If the United Kingdom Institution was the only one considered appropriate for amalgamation with it would be interesting to know whether or not amalgamation with another Company was considered previously. It is commonly reported that it was so, and I have seen no denial of this statement.

The next point made by the Directors has, perhaps, a certain amount of force. The Norwich Union terms provide for a reversionary bonus at the rate of 30s. per cent. per annum, calculated only on the sum assured,

instead of on the sum assured together with the bonuses already added. The Star has previously given compound bonuses on this latter plan, which gives larger bonuses to policies of long duration than to those that have been effected recently. This seems to me a matter that could be adjusted without difficulty, if negotiations were entered into, and probably the Norwich Union would have no objection to guarantee a compound bonus equivalent to the simple bonus specified in the terms which the Norwich Union is prepared to give.

Finally, the Directors appeal to their constituents to vote against the proposed amalgamation, and to assist the Directors to maintain and increase the prestige of the Star, which such proposals are calculated to damage.

It seems to me that this damage has been done already in a particularly effective fashion by the Directors themselves, and especially by the Chairman of the Star in the speech which he made, when advocating amalgamation with the United Kingdom Institution. On that occasion he explained that the Star had a paid-up share capital of only £5,000, and that the returns to the shareholders have averaged nearly 100 per cent. per annum since the office was started more than fifty years ago. He went on to point out that this share capital constituted a serious stumbling-block to the prosperity of the Society, and that the strongest reason for the proposed amalgamation was that "we get rid of the shares entirely, as regards their adverse effect on future business." As regards new policy-holders joining the United Kingdom Institution, this was correct, but it had nothing to do with the present policy-holders of the Star, who would have continued to pay one-tenth of the surplus to the new shareholders, which would have been the United Kingdom Institution. The Norwich Union proposal does absolutely and finally get rid of the share capital, and definitely guarantees a fixed rate of bonus to the policy-holders, a rate of bonus in excess of what they could possibly hope to obtain were the Star to continue its separate existence.

In regard to the shareholders, the Chairman expressed the opinion that the price of about £56 offered by the United Kingdom Institution was much more than the shares were worth, but the Norwich are giving £65 per share, and it seems to me difficult to persuade the shareholders that they would have been wise to take £56, and extremely foolish to take £65. Thus, as far as the shareholders are concerned, the new offer is much better than the old. So far as the retention of the services of the staff is concerned, the Norwich proposals are distinctly more favourable than those of the United Kingdom Institution. The consideration which ought to settle the question is the welfare of the existing policy-holders. The Chairman of the Star stated that the formation of a temperance section was impossible, and was very emphatic in explaining the disadvantages of paying large dividends on a share capital of £5,000 when the assurance fund amounts to six millions. He further explained that the foreign business of the Star was in an unsatisfactory condition, and generally waxed eloquent on the impossibility of the Star continuing to work as a separate organisation. These difficulties, which must inevitably prove fatal to its success, have been greatly increased by the speech of the Chairman and the action of the Board, and the circumstances of the Star are such that it is unreasonable to expect that future bonuses will be at such a good rate as the Norwich Union offers. The Star did on one occasion declare a compound bonus at the rate of 31s., and on the strength of this many people assured in it; but in 1898 the bonus dropped to 15s., and in 1903 it fell to 10s. Since then there has been a slight improvement; but the outlook—as a whole—is most unpromising. There is no earthly object in the continued separate existence of this society since it has no single policy to offer which cannot be obtained to better advantage elsewhere, and from the point of view of sentiment, it seems more appropriate that a Nonconformist institution should amalgamate on favourable terms with a first-class office, in which the best possible use would be made of its valuable connections, rather than that it should continue as a standing witness to the failure of Nonconformity in the life assurance world. I am quite sure that I am giving policy-holders and the shareholders the best possible advice when I recommend them to communicate with the Star Policy-holders' Committee, at 5, Moorgate-street-Buildings, London, E.C.

New Issues.

The following prospectuses have been issued:—

Cape of Good Hope.—The London and Westminster Bank, Limited, are instructed by the Government of Cape of Good Hope to offer for subscription £994,350 of Three and a Half per Cent. stock at a price of 95 per cent. The stock will be in addition to, and will rank equally with, the £13,422,823 19s. 1d. already created, and will be inscribed in the books of the "Cape of Good Hope Consolidated Three and a Half per Cent. stock," kept by the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, and will be transferable without charge and free of stamp duty at that bank, either by the stockholders personally or by their attorneys.

Mexican National Packing Company.—Capital, $10,000,000, in common stock, with $2,000,000 in Five per Cent. Forty-year First Mortgage bonds authorised. Martin's Bank are commissioned by the purchasers and the Company to receive applications for $1,300,000 of the above Five per Cent. First Mortgage Convertible Gold Bonds. Each allottee of bonds will receive from the Company, when he has paid up in full, a bonus of $20 (twenty per cent.) in fully-paid common stock for every $100 par value of bonds allotted to him.—Issue price, 95 per cent. Out of the total $2,000,000 of bonds, $700,000 have been appropriated to retire $600,000 Six per Cent. bonds of the Company, of which about four-fifths have already been retired. The sums received by the Company from the purchasers of the $1,010,000 of bonds and the net proceeds of the $290,000 of bonds now offered for sale on behalf of the Company are required to pay certain liabilities of the Company, and to provide for installing the machinery in packing-house No. 1 at Uruapan, Michoacan; building and equipping packing-house No. 2 in the State of Vera Cruz; building and equipping packing-house No. 3 in the State of Nuevo Leon; purchasing and putting in service fifty refrigerator cars; building and equipping cold storage warehouse, refrigerating plant, and general offices in the city of Mexico. The balance, estimated by the President of the Company at nearly $400,000 (£82,083 6s. 8d.), will be available for the general purposes of the Company.

Nerchinsk Options, Limited.—Capital, £50,000, in shares of £1 each. There are now offered 40,000 shares at par. The Company has been formed to acquire the grant by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, of an exclusive licence to prospect and to lease any gold mines which this Company may select, the area of selection covering in the aggregate four square miles in the Maia Kondechi Valley. This area is situate in the eastern part of the Nerchinsk mining district of Siberia, in the neighbourhood of the property of the Kluchi Gold Mines, Limited. The concession held by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited (the territories covered by and including the above-mentioned area), was granted by the Private Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, and is held by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, as transferees for a term of twenty-four years, from January 1, 1904, with the right of renewal for a similar period.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government.

Fitzroy.—I should not disturb the investment, except for a transfer into North-Western Railway stock. This is the one which is likely to advance the most rapidly, although it looks dear.

Railways.

Hanover.—You might have got in on a lower level, but I think you will still find Antofagastas a desirable investment. *H. B.*—For a lock up for a year or so, you will find Grand Third Preference among the pick of the market. *Beira.*—Your best plan would be to work with the Debenture Holders' Committee. *Grantbridge.*—The explanation is that big financial interests in Montreal and London, as well as in New York, are behind Canadian

Pacifics; while the "bosses" control Americans to the greatest extent. The difference between prices here and on the Continent is that values are computed differently, and some allowance must also be made for exchange. I hope before long to deal with the matter in a popular manner, as free as possible from technicalities. *Primus.*—One of the best would be Grand Trunk Third Preference stock; another would be to purchase some Great Central 1894 stock, this Company's outlook being great. *Lavender.*—1. Mexican Central Railways "B" Debentures ought to harden within the next year or two. 2. Leopoldinas cannot be called a cheap stock, but the Company has made good progress, and its prospects are satisfactory. The yield, without taking count of possible increase in dividends, is already equal to 5½ per cent.

MINES.

G. W. G., Southampton.—The company is quite unknown in this country, and I regret that I am not in a position to advise you about a purchase of its shares. *H. L. G., St. Helena.*—The thing is a sheer gamble, and unless you are prepared to take risks the shares should be left alone. *A. B., Cape Town.*—I have no knowledge of the concern. *Ship.*—Simply a gamble. *M. S., Bridgwater.*—I understand that the company is in a very indifferent way. *Mascotte.*—1. Victoria Deep Leads are a hopeful speculation. 2. Grand Trunk Ordinary stock makes a good lock-up. *Zeta, Dundee.*—The general tendency of South Africans will be upwards, but only slowly, until (as I have pointed out a few score times) the labour question is finally fixed. It is satisfactory, however, to know that, with the exception of a handful of impossibles, all parties are now agreed upon the necessity of settling the question promptly; and it is significant, I think, that the Kaffir magnates are sailing one after another for South Africa. *M. H., Balham.*—1. You will be much more safe in buying one of the leading copper shares. 2. Utah Developments are speculative, of course, but they are promising in that light, and are not dear at the current price. *Salad.*—The two deep leads, Consolidated Deep Leads and Moorlorts, are excellent gambles, and developments to date are indicative of good results in the future. They are low-priced, and I think they might be paid for as "option" money—that is, if the speculation turns out well you will secure very large profits indeed; if it does not, then your nominal option money will have been lost. *Bath Oliver.*—1. On the basis of the 1906 dividend and the current value of the shares, they will, as I said, return 25 per cent. 2. At present a reliable estimate of the recent strike cannot be obtained. *N. M. S., Northwich.*—1. There are no prospects for any one of the three Companies named. 2. Buy a few Arizona Coppers, or Utah Developments, or Utah Consolidated, or Zinc Corporations with the proceeds of the sale of the other three. *Vad.*—Rand Mines, Goldfields Ordinary, and Witwatersrand Townships, and Jagersfontein Deferred.

MIXED SECURITIES.

Mexite.—1. You will find the traffics stated every week in the *Statist* and the *Economist*. 2. The South African might be held for a better market. *Lex.*—1 and 2. I should not be disposed to buy either of the shares. 3. There is no reason to sell Singer Cycle Debentures. 4. I should be disposed to sell out. The prospect of appreciation is not very immediate. 5. The shares are hopeless. 6. The prospects are poor. 7. I think you might hold for a recovery. 8. The prospects are reasonably fair. 9. Coronation Syndicate shares are worth buying. 10. Keep Gordon Hotel Preference Shares. *Unificar.*—1. Hold on to Canadian Pacific shares. I can say nothing about a rise during the current account, and please do not ask me unreasonable questions. 2. Buy Arizona Copper for preference. *Deputy.*—I recommend Chinese Fives, Brighton Railway Deferred, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario Ordinary for the yield you desire. *Artillery.*—I should sell the first-named, and keep the mines for better times. *Trouville.*—1. Both firms are reliable. 2. I should select Arizona Coppers. 3. Anacondas should also be good for a much higher figure. 4. I know nothing good of the Company. *Jacobus.*—1. Mexican National Railway Preference shares do not appeal to me as a lock-up for "an early date." 2. Both the textile shares are on the up grade, and you should hasten to take advantage of the movement. 3. I suggest Grand Trunk Thirds and North-Western Ordinary. *Snowball.*—1. The Alberta Company's Ordinary shares have good promise, but they were recommended in these columns at half the present prices and the Second Debentures. 2. The Cobalt Mine stock is quite a gamble, as this wonderful Canadian Company has only recently been floated, and the district is simply thick with "wild cats." The one named looks like such a beast. 3. Brewery shares have depreciated very considerably, but if you are careful in a selection of shares you will realise at much higher prices before long. 4. A good broker will advise you; a second-hand one will not. *Verax, Southport.*—The selection was quite a good one for 5 per cent., but you understand, of course, that the stocks are a little removed from the absolutely gilt-edged. *Carteret, Sydenham Hill.*—You will have to wait until the settlement of the labour question in the Transvaal, in all probability, for any substantial advance in the South Africans you name. 2. I do not anticipate much rise in the Westralians, though Sons of Gwalia has possibilities; but Oroyas at the present price (in view of the coming lowering of the grade of ore) are rather speculative. 3. U.S. Steels are being worked by the usual group in the usual way. The prospects are good. 4. The other two are not attractive, but the mine is to be preferred. *J. T., Glasgow.*—It would be advisable to select Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds, Mexican Gold Five per cent. bonds, and Brazil Four per Cent. bonds. The railways are good of their class, which is South American. *Frank.*—It is a pity you do not read your TRUTH a little more vigilantly. A reply was given to your questions three or four weeks ago. 1. Prospects are not bright, and I should transfer into something else. 2. As a gamble, a purchase may be recommended. 3. Do not average on either share. *Atholl.*—1. I think you might find better purchases than either of the industrials named. 2. The dividend covers the year 1903. 3. The shares are a hopeful gamble, but nothing more. They follow—at some distance—the course of the diamond-share market. *Norris, Birmingham.*—Cargo Fleets will probably recover with the improvement in the general trade of the country. 2. Briseis Tin shares ought to advance to 20s., or over. 3. If diamonds are found on the property the possibilities of expansion are incalculable; but you should recognise that the whole thing is a gamble.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Banker.—The suggestion is an old one, and I am afraid it is not easy to act upon save by Act of Parliament, and in any circumstances the procedure would be difficult. *Ash.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are quite good to hold. 3. Mysores are obviously speculative to a certain extent, but not unpromising. 4. I look for a substantial rise in National Telephone Deferred stock before Government acquisition. *Bramble.*—Your money is reasonably well secured. *R. M. Douglas.*—I have no information about the concern. *Kanaka.*—In the circumstances your suggestion would be for the best, especially in view of the recent disclosures. *Alabone.*—Thanks for communication. Such mutilation of the King's English is very amusing. *Queen Anne.*—As you say, the sum is so trifling that it is scarcely worth troubling about, and it would be best to let the matter drop at that, I think. The letter is obviously bluff. *Aisa.*—The value is 2s. 0½d. *D. L., Worcester.*—I think you might hold on to Bovril Deferred. There is just a chance of something being received by Linotype Preference in respect of the current financial year. *E. Novis.*—There is something suspicious about the way you have been treated by the so-called bankers, who are lottery touts, and in the circumstances you ought to let the matter drop at once, shouldering the small loss incurred. You will, I imagine, be more careful in future. *Elvira.*—You are entitled to the dividend, and might claim it through your broker. Associated Cement report is submitted about September. *E. Troughton.*—I am constantly uttering warnings against Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., of Paris, who charge exorbitantly for the bonds, many of which are undesirable. These are procurable at current market prices in London. *J. E. T.*—You might hold the brewery securities for a possible recovery in the future. I would not like to say whether the American oil concern named is still in existence. I have a suspicion that your money is hopelessly lost. *Kingstonian.*—Better cut your loss at once, and put the proceeds into something more hopeful. Of those named Apollinaris Preference are the most attractive. *Lieut.-Colonel.*—I would not care to vouch for the honesty of any of the Continental lottery touts, and your safest plan, I am sure, would be to ignore the precious literature. *Coltart.*—Ashby Staines Ordinary give about 9 per cent., and the Preference 5⅞ per cent., Newcastle Preference 6¼ per cent., and the Ordinary 5¾ per cent. Allsopps are best left alone, and the same, in my opinion, applies to the others. *Ernest.*—J. Lyons shares are worth buying. You might find what you want among shares of nitrate producing companies. Cammell Laird are attractive as a commercial investment. *Prescience.*—I would not recommend No. 3. Nos. 4 and 6 would probably respond to any improvement in South African conditions, but I know of no reason for anticipating any appreciation in the others. *R. R. L., Chester.*—As a commercial holding Hovis Bread, giving over 6½ per cent., are not unattractive. *Constant Reader, Waterford.*—Of the two Imperial Tobacco, Preferred Ordinary, not the Cumulative Preference, appear to be the most attractive. Hope Bros. Preference, which are cumulative, give about 5¾ per cent., and if the concern is to maintain the recent recovery they are not without some merit. *Prestonian.*—Either the Scottish Widows or the Norwich Union. *J. P.*—I regret my inability to advise you. *Fellowes.*—1. Both are undesirable bucket-shops. 2. Of those named I would prefer D. H. Evans and Santa Rita Nitrate. *Novice, Cardiff.*—Such high interest is not compatible with the security of your principal, and you might profitably avoid the so-called bank. *Amalgamation.*—The middle company is apparently the first, and (so far as published reports show) the first one bought out, or the principal persons connected with it, which has proved successful. The 10 per cent. commission to the middle company is outrageous. *Geologist.*—C. A. Pearson, Ltd., Preference shares are a good newspaper industrial, and give a yield of 6¾ per cent. *R. H. W., Bangor.*—1. Rotherham Ordinary shares are prominent among the retail drapery shares. 2. You might also consider D. H. Evans and Co.'s. Ordinary, which yield 6¾ per cent.; and then there are Harrods, Barkers, and the other stores to consider. *G. H.*—I have no faith in the concern. *W. H. T., Hounslow.*—The Company is a young one, and its expenses were abnormally high. If you can get a surrender value for your policy, take out a new one with one of the well-established and well-reputed offices—say the London Life Association or Scottish Widows. *Middy.*—1. The office is a good one, but you might consult the reply to the previous correspondent. 2. I am afraid a dividend is not very close. *Fife.*—My information goes to show that the two Scottish insurance offices named have good resources. The Nitrate Company is new, but its prospects are satisfactory, the Company having acquired good properties in Antofagasta, Chile. *Tommy Atkins, Stoke.*—The Norwich Union is the best office of the two. *Aust.*—You will have to take your chances on the production of tea and rubber on the estate, and until this proves profitable you will have no profits. *L. M. K.*—A bucket-shop which should be avoided. *Electric.*—1. The Company has, as the chairman frankly admitted at the meeting, to fight against much strong opposition, but its position is very well

established, and it has a reserve of about half a million, and its shares are at a premium of 165 per cent. I should hold in spite of the reduced dividend of last year, which was due to exceptional circumstances of probably short duration. 2. Hold for the present, and watch the tendency of values through their quoted figures, and if you see it downwards sell out. *Elmbank, Glasgow.* —Peruvian Corporation Six per Cent. Debentures are well secured, and the City of Mexico Municipal Five per Cent. Debs may be looked upon as a good investment—somewhat short, of course, of the gilt-edged. *Music.*—Leave the concern alone. You cannot secure a practically guaranteed business to realise the yield of 6 per cent. Besides, the concern has not much credit. Try Rand Water Board or Grand Trunk Second Preference or Brighton Railway Ordinary, and be content with 4—4½ per cent.

INDUSTRIALS STILL FAVOURED—BAYS RELAPSE—IRON SHARE YIELDS—ANGLO "A" GAMBLE—SPIERS AND DESPOND—COAL TRADE PROSPEROUS — BANK SHARES — CYCLES IN REQUEST.

Everything considered, there is not much cause for complaint in regard to the conditions prevailing in the Industrial market generally. There may be scope for a further expansion in the volume of business, perhaps, but in this connection dealings are still on a fairly good scale, while there are also indications of a gradual broadening out of public interest, which would seem to augur well, especially in the view of confidence being engendered by the activity of trade throughout the country and the satisfactory prospects. The outlook is generally regarded as bright, the consensus of opinion being that the trade revival has not yet reached its zenith, which, in relation to this market in particular is significant. In point of interest the relapse of interest in Hudson's Bays is deserving of reference at the outset. This is to be attributed to the character of the land sales statement for the nine months to December, which would seem to indicate that the rush for land is abating slightly. For the period in question the sales of farm lands and town lots amounted approximately to £250,000, payable over a term of years, and cash receipts to £241,900. These figures compare with £320,000 and £213,500 for the corresponding period of 1905. The increase in cash receipts would seem to reflect the greater prosperity of the Dominion, while it may be inferred from the decline in the quantity of land sales that the "rush" of agricultural immigration has slackened somewhat. Despite the knowledge that the trade continues to enjoy considerable prosperity, iron and steel shares are still more or less neglected, and I consider that in this group there are many opportunities offered to the investor to pick up shares on promising terms. Here is a table showing the approximate yields obtainable:—

	Price.		Yield per Cent.
Armstrong, Whitworth	61/-		£4 18 0
Babcock & Wilcox	4		4 17 0
John Brown & Co.	1¾		5 6 0
Cammell, Laird & Co.	9		5 10 0
Pease & Partners	14½		5 15 0
Pearson & Knowles	5		5 0 0
South Durham	22/-		10 0 0
Vickers Sons & Maxim	51/-		5 14 0

The gamble in Anglo "A" continues as the dividend season approaches, and a still higher level has been attained on the strength of the rumours concerning the distribution. The announcement is due next month, and, as I have said before, the gamblers profess to expect a relatively substantial payment. For 1905 the dividend was 10s. per cent., but in view of the prosperity reflected in the payments on the Ordinary stock, a larger distribution seems probable. It is doubtful, however, whether the actual payment will come anywhere near expectations. As regards refreshment shares, Lyons continue the centre of interest, and in my opinion would make a very respectable commercial investment upon any temporary decline in the market prices. Aerated Breads, too, are deserving of consideration, and Slaters, despite the decline in the last dividend, would not be an unattractive purchase at the low price ruling. In connection with Spiers and Ponds, the unattractiveness of which I have recently emphasised, it may be noted that the Investigation Committee's report has been postponed owing to the task being a greater one than had been imagined. At the same time, the directors report that the profits of the Company for the first six months of the current financial year show a considerable improvement, though they are unable to say whether this will be sustained, and in these circumstances do not think it expedient to make any payment on account of the Preference dividend. The £10 shares stand now at about 3½, and, being cumulative, are entitled to arrears of interest, but even at such a "rubbishy" figure they scarcely seem attractive. There are good reasons for believing that the coal trade has enjoyed a large degree of prosperity during the past year, and with prices still remunerative, profits ought still to be expanding. As evidence of the enlarged profit-earning capacity of the trade, it is interesting to refer to the higher interim distribution declared by Bromyeat, Brown, and Co. at the rate of 10 per cent., as against only 7½ per cent. a year ago, while the International Coal Company is in a position to distribute at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the half-year. Here is a table indicating the approximate yield obtainable upon Bank shares. The one drawback these possess is the liability in respect of uncalled capital, which, though it may be a somewhat remote risk, nevertheless exists:—

	Price.		Yield per Cent.
Barclay & Co. (£20—£8 paid)	26½		£4 9 6
Capital and Counties (£50—£10 paid)	40		4 9 0
Lloyds (£50—£8 paid)	32		4 10 0
London and County (£80—£20 paid)	94		4 5 0
London and Sth. Western (£50—£20 paid)	72½		4 8 0
London and Westminster (£100—£20 paid)	54		4 16 5
London City and Mid. (£60—£12½ paid)	50		4 9 0
London Joint Stock (£100—£15)	34		4 17 0

Cycle and Motor shares continue to absorb a considerable amount of interest, and, on the strength of the satisfactory outlook, values are rather well maintained. It seems probable, as I have remarked on a previous occasion, that prices may be established on a lower level before long, and the prospective purchaser does not stand to lose much by looking on for a while.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

UNCLE SANDY'S CHRISTMAS TIP.

ALEXANDER—commonly known among his acquaintances as Sandy—Flintinson, a stockbroker in a large way of business, was (unlike the generality of stockbrokers) about as stingy an individual as ever breathed. He was a bachelor; he was rich; and he had quite a number of struggling, and in most cases deserving, poor relations, whom it should have been the pleasure, as it was surely the duty, of such a man to help. But neither to them nor to any one else did he ever give anything away.

Stop, though! I am doing the man a wrong. Sandy Flintinson was once betrayed into an act of impulsive generosity—a circumstance so unique that it merits being placed on record. This is how it was.

Sandy had a nephew named Tom, his eldest brother's sole surviving son. Now Tom Flintinson was a good-hearted, easy-going, and somewhat improvident fellow, who had a berth in a mercantile house in the City at a salary of £300 a year. On this he had seen fit to marry, and, at the time of which I write, was the father of several healthy and hungry youngsters, whose large appetites and incurable habit of growing out of their clothes and boots made serious inroads on their father's slender purse.

Not that Tom grudged the cost of their maintenance. He was far from that sort. But he did find it difficult to make both ends meet, and was in a perpetual state of living from hand to mouth. Every now and then the financial question became positively acute. But Tom had somehow always managed to rub through these crises and to emerge from them smiling. Nothing ever damped his cheerfulness; and however black the future might loom, he never allowed himself to worry about

it. Like Mr. Micawber, he was a sanguine fellow, always feeling sure that something was going to turn up. And these expectations were centred, in particular, upon one James Ferriman, his wife's godfather, an Anglo-Australian, resident in Sydney (where he had large commercial interests), and generally reputed to be worth at least half a million.

Old Ferriman made occasional trips to England, and on these occasions always came to see his god-daughter, and, in addition to making her small money presents, used to throw out hints, in a vague sort of way, of what he meant to do for her by and by. But these half-promises of substantial aid never came to anything; and Tom's wife had long abandoned any expectation of their ever doing so. Tom, however, incorrigibly sanguine, continued to pin his faith on the old gentleman's good intentions, and, as regularly as the Australian mail came in, looked for a big cheque from his wife's god-father. The cheque never came. But Tom still persisted, week after week, month after month, year after year, in expecting it.

With his Uncle Sandy, Tom had always been on quite good terms, though not even his sanguine disposition ever looked for anything from that quarter. Still, partly out of sheer good nature and partly, also, for the sake of his children—whom he hoped Uncle Sandy might ultimately remember in his will—Tom did the civil to the old man as far as he could, and, in particular, always invited him to spend Christmas. This invitation Uncle Sandy regularly accepted. It saved him the cost of his own Christmas dinner. It also saved him the cost of his servants' (whom he considerately sent home for a week's holiday during his absence.) And, besides, it amused him, in a cynical, sardonic sort of way, to see what a fuss Tom, his wife, and all the family made with him, and how they pretended to be quite delighted with the cheap, trumpery little presents (he never spent more than 10s. on the whole lot) that he made them.

Indeed, it was characteristic of the old churl that he took a malicious enjoyment in getting what he could out of others by encouraging them to expect a reward and then invariably disappointing them.

But one Christmas, when he went, as usual, to spend the week with his nephew, circumstances occurred which worked a complete and wondrous change in his behaviour. The circumstances were these:

Tom's wife had a letter on Christmas morning, written on foreign paper, the perusal of which caused her some evident excitement. Few men had keener eyes than Sandy Flintinson, and very little ever escaped him. He noticed the suppressed excitement in his niece-in-law's face as she read the letter—how her eyes beamed with delighted astonishment, how her colour came and went, and how her bosom heaved beneath the faded black bodice, which she was wearing, as a mark of respect for her godfather, Mr. Ferriman, of whose death she had recently been apprised. She said nothing, however; but, with a transparent affectation of calm indifference, laid the letter down on the table with the rest of her morning's correspondence.

Uncle Sandy said nothing either. But he had remarked all this—though pretending not to have done so—and it set him thinking. By nature he was the most inquisitive of old ferrets, always agog to worm out other people's secrets, and, his curiosity once aroused, he could never rest until it was satisfied. What were the contents of this foreign letter that had caused Tom's wife to look as she had done when she read it? Perhaps she would say something presently to enlighten him. If not, he would take steps to find out for himself.

He kept his eyes and ears wide open, on the chance of picking up hints, and by-and-by his vigilance met with its due reward. This was after breakfast, when, having had occasion to go up to his bedroom, and being now just about to descend the staircase on his return journey, he observed Tom and his wife talking together in low voices in the hall beneath. He stopped, pricked his ears, and listened intently:

"By Jove!" exclaimed Tom, who held the open letter in his hand; "By Jove! I say, Mab, this *is* something like, eh?"

"It's glorious, isn't it?" she replied. "It far surpasses my wildest dreams. Oh, Tom, dear Tom, I can hardly realise my our supreme good fortune."

"I don't wonder, Mab. Such a sudden Golconda thrown at your head, so to speak. Well, you see, I was right, old girl, after all."

"But you never expected so much as this, Tom."

"Well, no, I confess I didn't. By Jove! You're a rich woman now, Mab."

"We are *all* rich, Tom. For it is as much yours and the children's as it is mine. But I say, dear ——"

"What, Mab?"

"Don't let's say anything about it till we get the money. You see, it is just possible there might be some mistake, and ——"

"No fear of that," chuckled Tom, "the letter doesn't leave much room for doubt, does it? However, as you like, Mab. It's your show; not mine."

"Well, I *would* rather nothing was said about it just at present, Tom. It seems, somehow, like counting one's chickens before they're hatched, and ——"

"They *are* hatched in this case, my dear," interposed Tom, genially, "and hatched with some effect, too. But, of course, if you prefer it so, I won't say a word about it until you give me leave."

Then he kissed her affectionately, and they came up to get ready for church.

Uncle Sandy slipped noiselessly into his bedroom.

He had heard enough, and more than enough, to give him a strong clue to the truth. But he didn't mean to rest satisfied until he had actually seen the letter and informed himself of its contents. Yet how was that to be done? Uncle Sandy began to devise expedients in his cunning old brain.

When the family assembled to start for church, he pleaded a headache, and said he should stop at home. Both Tom and his wife were much concerned; they proffered various remedies, and Tom, the good-natured, even proposed remaining behind to keep his uncle company. Old Sandy, however, would not hear of this. He would not have any one put out for him, on any account.

"I had really rather be left quiet," he said. "I shall just take a nap on the sofa while you're at church. And by the time you return I hope I shall be all right."

So they departed and left him.

No sooner were they safely off the premises than he arose from the sofa, and began to prospect around for his niece-in-law's hand-bag, in which he knew she always kept her keys. The only servant was in the kitchen, busily occupied with cooking the midday dinner, so there was no one to interrupt him.

He found the bag in its customary place on a side-table, took out the keys, selected that of Mabel Flintinson's escritoire (which he knew very well indeed, for this was far from the first occasion on which the prying old ferret had rummaged, on the sly, among the lady's private papers), unlocked and opened the escritoire, where he felt certain he should find the letter for which he was looking, and where, sure enough, it was, lying open upon the top of the blotting-pad.

Immediately he possessed himself of it, and read it carefully through. It was from a firm of lawyers in Sydney, and ran as follows:—

RE JAMES FERRIMAN, DECD.

DEAR MADAM,—On behalf of our clients, the executors of the estate of Mr. James Ferriman, of this city, who died on October 20th last, we have pleasure to inform you that he has bequeathed to you the sum of £75,000, free of duty. And we shall be glad to receive your instructions, in due course, as to how you would like the amount remitted, whether by bankers' draft or otherwise. —Congratulating you upon your good fortune, we are, dear Madam, yours faithfully, TOMPKINS AND KEEFE.

Mrs. Mabel Flintinson,
1,500 Acacia Road, Balham, S.W., England.

Old Sandy's eyes glistened as he read that letter. £75,000! The very mention of such a sum made his mouth water. Tom and Mabel were a rich couple now—

SAN REMO.—GRAND HOTEL ROYAL. The height of modern luxury. Standing in picturesque grounds overlooking sea. Auto. Garage. Officially certified sanitation.—M. BERTOLINI, Prop.

really worth cultivating. Besides, the money would want investing; and what more fitting than that *he* should be entrusted with that operation? Tom knew scarcely anything about business of this sort, and Mabel nothing at all. They would be entirely at his mercy. And there were all sorts of ways in which he might make pretty pickings. For one thing, he had some shares on his hands, just then, that he was particularly anxious to unload. And here was an admirable opportunity of getting rid of a thousand or two. Yes, yes (he told himself), he must certainly manage to get the investing of that legacy.

He replaced the letter in the escritoire, duly locked it up, then restored the keys to their bag. This done, he sat down to think.

One thing was certain. Now was the time—*now*, before he could be supposed to know anything of his niece-in-law's good fortune—to ingratiate himself with her and Tom.

If he deferred it, and in the meanwhile the fact of that legacy became known, then an unprecedented act of kindness, under such circumstances, would wear a horribly suspicious aspect. But such an act now, while he was still supposed to be in ignorance of Mabel's windfall, could not possibly be ascribed to any ulterior motive.

Yes, *now* was the time.

But exactly what to do and how to do it? After a few minutes thought he decided on his plan of action.

There was a custom in the Flintinson household—a custom for which, at this moment, Old Sandy felt devoutly thankful—that Chrstmas presents should not be opened until after the midday dinner; and so the trumpery little gifts—a cheap pocket-book and an equally cheap diary—which he had presented, respectively, to Tom and Mabel, still lay unopened on the sideboard in the drawing-room.

Here old Sandy saw his chance. He stole into the dining-room, took the two little parcels, opened them, wrote two cheques for £50 each, placed one in either parcel, carefully tied them up again, and restored them to their places on the sideboard.

This was the first time in his whole life that he had given away a hundred pounds, or, for that matter, a hundred shillings, to any of his relations. But he did it now, and did it even cheerfully, seeing therein a safe and immediate return of some hundreds *per cent.* sterling.

"There," he said, to himself. "After that, they'll be so pleased with me that they'll be sure to come to me about the investment of the money. And even if they don't—well, I know what Tom is: improvident, unbusinesslike, unsuspicious, open-handed young fool; and I'll get my money back, a good many times over, from him somehow. Oh, yes. I'll nurse him to my own profit, you bet. Tom will be as wax in my experienced hands."

And Old Sandy gave vent to an unpleasant chuckle.

Soon afterwards, Tom and Mabel, with the three youngsters, knowing nothing, of course, of Uncle Sandy's nefarious rummaging in the escritoire and his consequent deep-laid schemes, returned from church; and they all sat down to dinner, the company including two bachelor friends of Tom's, whom this incurably hospitable spendthrift had invited to join them.

After dinner came the opening of the presents. And then you should have seen Mabel's face when she found that £50 wrapped round her diary; and you should have seen Tom's face when he found the other £50 cheque wrapped round his pocket-book. Surprise, delight, gratitude—these words are only feeble indications of what their physiognomies showed.

Mabel rose from her seat, holding the precious blue slip of stamped paper above her head.

"Oh, Tom! Tom! See what dear uncle has given me!"

And she ran round to where the old gentleman sat, and throwing her arms round his neck, kissed him impulsively on both cheeks.

"You dear, good, kind Santa Claus," she exclaimed with eager gratitude.

Tom was equally delighted and scarcely less moved. He didn't kiss his uncle, of course, being an Englishman. But he grasped him warmly by the hand, thanking him again and again.

Uncle Sandy, who, though well pleased by the success of his opening move for ingratiating himself with his nephew and niece-in-law, yet found the novel *rôle* of philanthropic benefactor rather embarrassing, waved their repeated thanks aside with a modestly deprecating gesture.

"My dear boy—my dear girl—only too pleased to have the opportunity of giving you a pleasant little surprise this Christmas. Times have been so bad of late years that I really had to look at every shilling. But now that things have looked up a bit and I've a balance to the good—it delights me—I assure you it delights me—to be able to—to—give you some small practical proof of my—ahem!—regard—and—ahem!—affection. There! there! God bless you both, my dears. And no more thanks, please, else I shall really have to run away."

And he did his best to look the disinterestedly benevolent; and did not do it badly, either, considering what a scheming old skin-flint he really was.

At the end of his week, Uncle Sandy returned home. He calculated that it would take some three months for Mabel to get an answer from the Sydney lawyers, and that, therefore, he need not expect to be consulted by Tom about the investment of the money at least until the expiration of that period.

But when the beginning of April came and still Tom, though they had frequently met, had said nothing to him about the matter, he began to feel a little uneasy as to whether his nephew had not, perhaps, placed his business elsewhere. By the middle of May, this uneasy feeling had reached such a pitch that he decided to broach the subject on the first opportunity, by pretending that he had heard the news of James Ferriman's bequest from an independent source.

A few days later, he met Tom one morning in Cornhill and seized his chance.

"Tom, you lucky dog, what is this I hear about you?" he exclaimed, clapping his nephew playfully upon the shoulder, when cordial greetings had been exchanged.

"Eh! What's up now, uncle?" replied the young man, evidently surprised.

"Oh! I've heard all about it, my dear boy, from a man I know in business. I am indeed glad that Ferriman did the right thing by Mabel in his will, after all, and I do congratulate you both most heartily."

Tom looked more and more astonished and puzzled.

"Well now, this is a most extraordinary thing," he said. "The more so as Mabel *did* get a letter from some lawyers in Sydney several months ago informing her that she had come into £75,000 under her godfather's will; but she and I agreed to say nothing about it until she actually got the money. And I'm glad now that we did; for the whole thing, letter and all, have proved to be simply a hoax."

"A hoax?"

And Uncle Sandy turned at least two shades paler and there was an instant diminution of the previous cordiality of his manner.

"Yes," proceeded his nephew; "A stupid, spiteful hoax, perpetrated by some one who had a grudge against us, I suppose; though I can't think who or why. But what strikes me as the most extraordinary point about the whole affair is how your friend can possibly have heard of this imaginary legacy, when neither Mab nor I have breathed a word of it to a single soul."

"Oh, things do—do get about in a most—most astonishing manner," replied his Uncle Sandy, hastily; "and I'm rather in a hurry now. Good morning, Thomas."

And off he went, without even waiting to shake hands.

Never in all his life had he felt so angry with himself as he did at this moment, and bitterly did he curse his own premature generosity, which had betrayed him into throwing away, for nothing, a whole hundred pounds.

These bitter reflections were disturbed by the sound of his nephew's voice, Tom having run after him and caught him up.

"I say, uncle?"

"What?" demanded the old gentleman, curtly.

"You're quite sure you didn't see that spiteful practical joker's letter?"

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"Certainly not, Thomas. Certainly not," replied Uncle Sandy, very red in the face, and putting on an air of righteous indignation at the mere suggestion. "What the devil do you mean, sir, by accusing me of the low, sneaking behaviour of prying into other people's correspondence?"

"Oh, I don't accuse you, uncle," answered Tom, quietly, "only Mabel happened to detect that some one had been at her escritoire, and it did cross my mind that it was just possible—however, your denial is quite good enough for me, and extremely glad I am to hear you deny it, too, uncle; as otherwise people might have said ——"

"Well, what might they have said, sir?" demanded his uncle, irritably, as Tom paused in the middle of his sentence.

"Why, that I had laid a little trap, uncle, to stimulate your generosity. Of course, it was really nothing of the sort. Only you know how suspicious people are. But they won't be able to say that now, because, if you never saw the letter, of course the suggestion of such a thing falls to the ground. For you couldn't have been induced to give us that hundred pounds by a letter you never saw, could you, uncle?"

And Tom smiled at his miserly relative, genially.

Then Uncle Sandy saw how it was. Tom and Mabel had discovered his habit of prying in the latter's escritoire, and had purposely set a trap for him. And the worst of it was he couldn't say a word without giving himself away as a bare-faced liar and a mean old sneak.

No doubt they had taken this into consideration in laying their plans and were now chuckling over his discomfiture—and, well, if ever an elderly stockbroker was reduced to speechless and impotent madness, Sandy Flintinson was the stockbroker at that moment.

ART NOTES.

OLD MASTERS AT BURLINGTON HOUSE.

QUITE the most obvious reflection aroused by the Old Masters now being shown at the Academy's Winter Exhibition is of the enormous number of such pictures that are contained in private and public collections in this country. Year by year these exhibitions are held. I see by the catalogue that this is the thirty-eighth—and always new treasures are being brought forward—and will so continue, no doubt, for another thirty-eight years to come. How it shows up the disinterested hollowness of the cry which is always raised whenever a picture of importance is supposed to be in danger of being sold to a foreign purchaser—that it is a scandal to allow such masterpieces to leave England! I do not suppose there is another country in the world—not even Italy, for there the collections are almost entirely of "home-grown" pictures—which contains one-half of the art treasures, either in number, value, or catholicity, that are to be found in England in public or private ownership. And yet we profess to grudge that the poor Americans should try to advance themselves a little higher in the scale of civilisation by paying fantastically high prices for a few of our pictures.

The present exhibition serves to show us, too, like its predecessors, what a very long way we have gone since the days of these same so-called Old Masters. Indeed, you have only to look round the first room—on any other day but the Private View, be it said, when, as I can bear witness, nothing is to be seen but representatives of that great middle-class which is the bulwark of Britannia—you have only just to look round the first room, I say, to realise how hopelessly old-fashioned these same Old Masters have become. There is not a single one of them who would have the slightest chance of being elected a member of the New English Art Club to-day. I do not believe there is a single one of them who would have the slightest chance of getting any of his pictures hung at the International (which has just opened its doors at the New Gallery, by the way, and about which I hope to say something next week) unless he had some very powerful and influential friends indeed. The truth of the matter is, these Old Fashioned Masters did not have the slightest idea of the true meaning of the word Art as we know it. Without wishing to be too hard upon them, it is difficult to speak of them as anything but mean-spirited grovellers. They appear to have thought, judging from their performances, that to paint a fine picture you require to put yourself on the same plane with any ordinary workman and work at it as steadily and industriously as if it were a chair or table you were turning out! Artizans, indeed, they might deserve to be called; but Artists! Why, I do solemnly declare that it is little short of an insult to mention them in the same breath with some of the geniuses who turn out masterpieces for us to-day! And yet there are to be found people old-fashioned enough to value them—to pay high prices for them, to boot—while the great works of such New Masters as Mr. Squidge, say, or Mr. MacSmudge, are left to wither in their creators' studies! Why should this be?

I am very much afraid it is because the public have not yet learned to take the artist at his own valuation. They do not understand—though I am sure they have been told so often enough—that in Art cleverness is everything, and that the infinite capacity for taking pains is only a sign of mediocrity. They are absurd enough to expect that a picture shall look, to their purblind eyes, something like what it professes to represent. If you show them two strokes of burnt sienna, set off in a purple mist, and tell them that it is the only really artistic way of painting a young lady smelling a basket of roses—they simply will not believe you. You offer them a really masterly portrait—and they protest that they like flesh-tints that suggest flesh and features that bear some faint resemblance to human features. There is a little portrait in the first room at Burlington House just now. It is by a man called Holbein—that is to say, it is supposed to be, for, if I mistake not, it has only recently been re-discovered. And if it is not a Holbein, it certainly ought to be, for it is an excellent example of his work. It represents a woman with rather a long nose, and thin lips, but with an amiable expression notwithstanding, in three-quarter profile, looking out of the canvas. Her complexion is, by the way, rather pinker than is usually the case with Holbein. She is wearing a brown dress and an elaborate coif. The whole is painted as simply and unheroically as possible; yet I would not mind wagering any reasonable sum that there are thousands and thousands of people—so-called Christians, mark you—who would rather own that one little portrait than all the portraits that all the members of the New English Art Club and the International Society, taken together, have turned out between them in the last five years. So much for public taste!

Then, in the same room, there is another painting, by an Italian fellow called Botticelli, of a Virgin and Child. It only shows you how incomprehensibly ignorant of the real purpose of Art these old masters were, when I say that he has made the face of the Virgin absolutely beautiful, so that it does you good to look at it! As if that was not enough, both of them—Holbein and Botticelli, I mean—have gone about their work in the most mean-spirited, grovelling way it is possible to imagine. They have laid on their paint with a ridiculous care that is absolutely miserly. You cannot see a single bold, flowing, squishy brush-stroke in either picture. They might both have been photographers, so careful have they been to put in the various objects they delineate, so that the lowest and most unintelligent spectator can recognise them at once. All this playing down to the gallery, laying themselves out to attract the attention of the public, pandering to the popular taste, in order to fill their pockets, might have been well enough had they been haberdashers, but they are supposed, even now, to have been artists.

The same awful moral is driven home deeper and deeper in every room that you enter. The second one is full of Dutch paintings—so-called—and it is almost pathetic to see the way they have, in their unknowing boorishness, set all the canons of Art, as we have now come to know them, at defiance. Then, in the big room,

there are no end of portraits, by Reynolds and Gainsborough, and people like that. I give you my solemn word of honour that there is not a single portrait among them all that is hideous—those degraded painters have actually gone out of their way to produce portraits of pretty young women which shall show how pretty they are. They have given them complexions which are quite disgustingly human. There is not a single one among them all that is swathed in a purple, *or* a green, *or* a yellow, fog—there is not one of them that is at all deformed. It is a most depressing spectacle to one who really knows what Art is—nowadays. It has one comforting aspect, though—it does show us how very, very far our modern portraitists, of the really go-ahead, up-to-date schools, have gone away from the ideas which prevailed in the times of those Gainsboroughs, Reynolds, yes, and Holbeins, Franz Hals, and Rembrandts as well. There is, indeed, no comparison between them.

It is not difficult to see what was really the matter with all those Old-Fashioned Masters. They had not even begun to perceive what an artist really is. They had no idea that he is a man apart from other men, on an altogether higher level, one who must not be judged by mere human standpoints. They did not understand that as soon as a man slips his thumb through a palette he becomes, in one word, a genius; that knowledge and power all come to him without his having to work for them, that the slightest stroke of the brush, even if he do it with his eyes shut, is, and must be, a stroke of genius. They set about learning their trade just like any other tradesman; they painted their pictures as near as they could paint them to sordid, commonplace, human ideals. Can we wonder that sordid, commonplace humanity liked them, and continues to like them, and, very likely, will go on liking them to the end of the chapter, let the Neo-artists and the Neo-critics together do what they may to point out the error of their ways. It is all very distressing—and there really seems no way out of it. Because the worst of it is, no one has yet found a way of—shall I say—fooling all the people all the time, and until somebody does, it is very much to be feared that people will always be found to place a high value on the old-fashioned works of the Old-Fashioned Masters, and to turn their backs on the infinitely more up-to-date productions of the New!

MUSIC.

MUSICAL ENDS AND MEANS.

SIR EDWARD ELGAR'S recent comments, with special reference to Brahms's third symphony, on the relative merits of loud and soft endings to musical works stimulates thought on an interesting subject. In this, as in other respects, fashion and custom have greatly altered from time to time. How sublimely simple, for example, was the practice of Bach under this head. Having said what he has to say, he concludes without a single superfluous note. The way in which it is done would often be considered abrupt by modern writers, though it seldom or never seems so in the case of Bach. Even such a colossal work as the Matthew Passion is thus concluded. The last musical sentence is completed, and therewith the work is ended. Very different was the practice of Beethoven. In the case of some of his symphonies it seems to the hearer as though the final chords would never end. The necessity of each one was carefully considered, no doubt, by the composer, but to modern ears it is certain that they often seem more numerous than necessary, and modern practice has certainly tended in a different direction. How superb are some of Wagner's endings, for instance. Here there is no reiterated banging of final tonic chords—on the contrary, the musical interest is maintained down to the last note, with usually just one long drawn chord by way of a final full stop. A particularly beautiful instance is that afforded by the closing bars of "Tristan," with its curious inner part introduced, recalling, oddly enough, a passage from "Die Walküre." Another highly characteristic and enormously effective ending of an entirely different kind was that added to the "Walkürenritt" for concert purposes—an absolute inspiration in its way, contrasting strikingly with the "lame and impotent conclusions" distinguishing the ordinary Wagnerian excerpt when a concert ending has had to be provided by other hands. With what magical art also does Wagner utilise the harp upon occasion to heighten the effectiveness of his concluding bars. The overtures to "The Flying Dutchman" and "Parsifal," and the final pages of "Tristan" all supply familiar instances.

Later composers have been for the most part content to follow more or less on the Wagnerian lines in this matter, in the sense of making their endings an organic part of the composition as a whole, and not merely the rather tiresome and obvious repetition of the tonic chord which did duty in earlier times; but Richard Strauss here, as elsewhere, has shown himself daringly original. No one acquainted with his works will need to be reminded, for instance, of the unique effect which he resorts to in the case of "Also sprach Zarathustra," the philosophic content of which is illustrated by its ending on a discord formed by combination of the harmonies of C and B. A happier instance of Strauss's practice in this matter is supplied, perhaps, by the lovely little epilogue which brings "Till Eulenspiegel" so felicitously to an end. Till has been hanged to every accompaniment of horror, we have heard the death rattle in his throat, his last wild shriek of anguish, and the final thud which portends his dissolution, and then comes that delicious postlude to remind us that it is only a story after all, and that even for such a reprobate as Till there is hope of forgiveness. This particular passage is only one of many, by the way, in which Strauss has displayed his marvellous skill in what used to be called, when Liszt first brought the practice into prominence, thematic metamorphosis. The theme of the epilogue is note for note identical with that of Till himself (as it is also, of course, with that of the introduction of the work), but marvellously transformed in character by the alteration of its rhythm, harmonisation, and so on.

As regards the particular point raised by Sir Edward Elgar, not all will agree with him probably. "It was customary in Mozart's time," he observes, "to end up loudly, and, of course, nobody applauded nowadays unless a thing did end up loudly. That was the one reason why Brahms's third symphony was not so popular as the others." For one thing, is the suggestion quite accurate that Brahms's third symphony is less popular than its fellows? So far from this being so, a record of performances would show, I fancy, that, along with the second symphony, it is the most popular of the four. This is only a detail, however. Sir Edward's main contention that quiet endings make for less applause than loud ones is doubtless quite a sound one, though there is no need to assume that a custom dating from Mozart's time has anything to do with the matter. A more natural explanation is to be found in purely psychological reasons, in virtue of which a strepitous ending naturally acts more forcibly on the nervous system, and thereby provokes a more vigorous response. Tchaikowsky's Pathetic symphony supplies a good instance bearing on the point. Its last movement, though fine in its way as any, seldom provokes anything like the applause elicited by its more vigorous predecessors, simply because it is mournful in character and ends pianissimo. Sir Edward Elgar's own practice in the matter of endings has, by the way, before now been the subject of criticism—as in the case of his Enigma variations, many of which conclude with almost startling abruptness; the same remark applying to the work as a whole as it was originally conceived. Afterwards, it will be remembered, at the suggestion, as is it has been stated,

This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

of Dr. Richter, the composer reconsidered the matter, and wrote a new final section, which lacks nothing in respect of its brilliance and effectiveness. After all, it is not only the first step that counts. There is much virtue also in a happy ending

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The event of the coming week will be the opening of the German opera season at Covent Garden on Monday, when, according to the latest arrangements, "Die Meistersinger" is to be given (without cuts) under Herr Reichwein. "Tristan und Isolde" is now to be given, with Nikisch at the head of affairs, on Tuesday. Herr Reichwein is quite a young conductor, of whom, however, report speaks very favourably. He is at present engaged at Mannheim, but he is shortly going to the Imperial Opera at Vienna. Herr Ernst Kraus will be the Walther, and Herr Feinhals Hans Sachs in the case of the opening performance. On the second night Van Dyck will be the Tristan, Mme. Litvinne the Isolde, and Miss Marie Brema Brangäne. But the real "prima donna" of this particular performance will be Herr Nikisch, who has never conducted opera in London before.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. Neil Forsyth on the announcement of his betrothal. One who has resisted during so many years the matrimonial perils attendant upon the position of an operatic manager might well be regarded as proof against all assaults; but Mr. Forsyth has succumbed at last. This is a Covent Garden "engagement" of a kind whose periodical renewal will not be necessary.

Very widespread and genuine regret has been caused in musical circles by the painfully sudden death of Mr. E. F. Jacques, the well-known musical critic. Though he had practised the calling little over twenty years Mr. Jacques had come to be regarded as one of the veterans of the profession, but most of his friends will have been none the less shocked to hear of his unexpected and premature death. A man of the most genial temperament, he was a highly cultivated musician and a sound critic, whose judgments were none the less respected because they were invariably couched in kindly and considerate terms. Perhaps some of the very best work which Mr. Jacques did is contained in the admirable analytical notes which he wrote for the Promenade and other concerts. In earlier days Mr. Jacques was editor of the *Musical World*, and later of the *Musical Times*, while he was musical critic of the *Observer* for many years.

The proceedings of the Incorporated Society of Musicians last week seem to have been rather more interesting than usual, though this is, perhaps, not saying a very great deal. Prout on Bach is always stimulating, if only by reason of the pleasure to be derived from the contemplation of unstinted enthusiasm. Dealing with the church cantatas, Dr. Prout made a good point when he reminded his hearers of the hopelessly limited and inadequate nature of the resources at Bach's command for the interpretation of those masterly and often sublime creations. Dr. Prout is probably the greatest worshipper of Bach who has ever lived. Not a day of his life passes without his playing one or more of the "Forty-eight," to each of which, as many will be aware, he has given a special title, in accordance with its character—some of a very amusing description, for Dr. Prout is full of fun.

Among other musical *jeux d'esprit* which Dr. Prout has perpetrated may be named a comical hotch-potch, or *quodlibet*, working in motives and melodies of all sorts, ancient and modern, with humorous words to match, on the subject of Bach's fugues, copies of which, from their scarcity, now fetch a high figure among collectors of such trifles. One of the last was disposed of by auction by Dr. Prout himself a few years ago after one of the I.S.M. dinners, being knocked down, amid much amusement, at a very high figure, the proceeds going to charity. Dr. Prout, who is full of amusing anecdotes, tells a good story of a provincial concert programme, the annotation of which upon Gounod's popular perversion of Bach's first prelude ran as follows: "This beautiful melody was composed by Bach, who, on his dying bed, requested that the harmony might be entrusted to M. Gounod."

Another interesting paper heard at the Conference seems to have been that on vocal culture, by Dr. W. H. Cummings, who, though best known to-day as the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, was, of course, in earlier years one of the most popular tenors of his time. Characteristic was that story of Sims Reeves which he introduced. Reeves had refused to sing the recitatives in a performance of Bach's Matthew Passion at Exeter Hall, and suggested Dr. Cummings as a substitute, genially observing, "He is such a donkey, he will do anything." To-day there will hardly be two opinions as to who was the real donkey in this case.

The reports of these annual musical conferences in the daily papers are usually responsible for some amusing misprints. One which appeared last week was delicious. The cacophonous tendency of modern music, Mr. Carlowitz Ames was reported as saying, was exemplified by composers who deliberately allowed *overtures* to be played in conjunction with their harmony. Needless to say overtones, not overtures, was the word used. Another remark ascribed to the same speaker lacked nothing in point of vigour and picturesqueness:—

> They (British publishers) had other work to do than try to foster and engender a better taste in the purchasing public. They found it paid them better to produce the perpetrations of the royalty ballad-mongers, who poured forth the turgid flood of musical garbage that the British public still loved to batten on.

It is to be hoped that no royalty ballad-mongers were present.

This reminds me, by the way, of an amusing story which Mr. Cecil Sharp might have included, though he has not done so, in the entertaining reminiscences of a folk-song collector which he has been contributing to the *Musical Times*. In the course of one of his lectures on the folk-song he had been laying about him, much after the manner of Mr. Ames, in regard to the deplorable quality of the popular songs of the day, and on the conclusion of his address was about to take his departure, when a very pleasant-spoken gentleman came up and introduced himself. He had, he said, listened with the greatest delight to all of Mr. Sharp's remarks, and agreed with every word he said as to the superiority of the old songs over those of to-day. Unfortunately, he continued, he himself was one of the best-known and most popular composers of the latter. He wished he could do better, but he couldn't, and also he had his living to get. Exactly how Mr. Sharp extracted himself from this embarrassing situation I forget. But I am sure it gave him a better insight into the bearings of a somewhat complex problem than he possessed before. After all, even a royalty ballad-monger is a man and a brother.

Dr. Cowen has been discoursing on the subtle connection which has so long been observed to exist between long hair and musical genius, and under all the circumstances of the case ("not being himself addicted to the long hair habit," as one paper politely puts it), he must be complimented on the open-minded and impartial spirit in which he has handled a delicate and important subject. As to how it is done, Dr. Cowen confesses himself at a loss. "When I contemplate," he says, "the portraits of the most eminent of living players, be they pianists or violinists, I find heads of hair of such appalling luxuriance that I can only stand aghast and wonder how they do it." That irreverent humorist, Mr. Zangwill, once suggested that artists wear their hair long in many cases for the same reason that they wear their hats long—because it comes cheaper; but whether this is a really complete account of the matter I will not undertake to say.

A writer in the January *Musical Opinion*, discussing the subject of oratorio librettos, makes a curious slip. "Verses from the Bible," he says, "however beautiful they may be, seldom give the continuity which is required, and they contain much that is not required for music. . . . the Beatitudes—as arranged for César Franck's oratorio—make a good libretto; but best of all is the Requiem Mass. If you think of the wonderful

works written by Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, and Brahms you will admit the truth of this contention." Now the amusing thing is that the Requiem of Brahms is not a setting of the Mass at all, but is based on a libretto composed of just those verses from the Bible which the writer condemns as unsuitable. In the ordinary way, probably, the composer is safest who sticks to the Bible in the case of sacred works. Thereby one is spared, at least, such bathos and bad poetry as usually disfigure the products of the other kind, even in the case of such highly esteemed examples as, say, "The Golden Legend" and "The Dream of Gerontius."

The Grand Duke Michael of Russia, I read, while recently prostrated with an attack of influenza, passed the time away by composing a piece of music in the form of a march, which has proved so successful that it is being utilised by military bands in Germany. In recognition of its origin it has received the name of the "Influenza March." Its music ought obviously to be catchy.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"Some of your adventures are almost incredible," said the publisher of Colonel Robertson's "Personal Adventures and Anecdotes" (1) to the author, and not the least incredible is the charge of an army 30,000 strong outside Lucknow, during the Indian Mutiny, by the colonel at the head of a few hundred men. As in the charge of the Six Hundred at Balaclava, "some one had blundered" in giving the desperate order, but in this case it was a most fortunate blunder, since it routed an army without the loss of a man! As the colonel's account reads like a page out of Charles O'Malley, I cannot resist giving it to you in full:—

"Where are the guns?" I asked. "I will show you," he said. I replied, "Come on." We started off at once, first at a trot and then at a gallop, when suddenly to our great astonishment we found ourselves on the right flank of the rebel army, some 30,000 strong, drawn up in a perfect line, as if on parade. The officer who brought the order led us right along the front of the whole of this force and only about a hundred yards from them. A terrific running fire and a perfect hail of bullets streamed over our heads; but miraculously, I may say, throughout the whole of this gallop not a man or horse was hit, and the only casualty I could ascertain was a ball through the trumpet-major's trumpet. When we arrived at the other flank of the line the officer cried, "There are the guns," pointing to two guns which were in the act of being loaded, and were being supported by a strong party of rebel infantry. I gave the command, "Left wheel, charge!" and we rode right at them. I was leading in front of everybody in the hope of getting at the guns before they were loaded. The first man I encountered was a fat old native officer who evidently commanded the supports. As I came towards him he made a fierce cut at me with his tulwar, but missed his blow, and as I passed him at full gallop I drew my sword across his naked throat, and the blood spurted right up to the hilt of my sword. Instantly after this, a second man cut at me, but I caught the blow on my sword, dropped my point, and ran him through the throat, breaking six inches off the edge of my sword. At the same instant, a man at the other side hit at me, fortunately missing his blow, and I struck him fair over the head and dropped him. Just then, about 100 yards in front of me, I saw a sepoy with his finger on the trigger of his musket, aiming directly at my chest. I swerved my horse to the right and called out in Hindustani to the man, "Run away, and I won't hurt you." For an instant he hesitated with his finger on the trigger, then threw the musket on his shoulder, and went off like a greyhound. There was a short sharp fight, and not a man of the enemy was left alive, except those who saved themselves by flight. Fancy our astonishment when we saw almost the whole of this great army in full flight back to Lucknow!"

There! If you found this exploit ascribed by Lever or Conan Doyle to one of their heroes you would mutter "Baron Munchausen!" It is true that Outram in his dispatch credits Colonel Robertson only with "dashing into a flying enemy," instead of having actually put them to flight; but the Colonel makes out a good case for his own version of the affair. It is characteristic of our War Office that the military train, which did such yeoman's service during the Mutiny, that a salute was fired from the guns of Fort William upon the departure of the corps from India, was at once disbanded on its arrival in England, and had to sell all its mess property to repay a grateful Government a donation of £200 it had advanced twelve years before for the furnishing of the corps with mess utensils! Again, Sergeant Shields, who had enlisted into the cavalry for twenty-three years' service, and who had served all but a couple of months of that period with an absolutely unblemished record, was then dismissed against his will, and refused his full pension because of the dismissal—because he had not served the full term which he was not allowed to serve! Colonel Robertson's reminiscences seem to contain a more or less thrilling adventure in every page. In one page you find him waking up one morning to discover a large cobra coiled round his leg for warmth. In another he is woken up at midnight by an insane doctor, who is sitting on his chest, and is about to cut his throat. In another he wakes to find a gigantic negro groping for his throat to cut it. In another he lowers himself into a hyæna's den to find himself face to face, not with one, but with an entire pack of these brutes. In another he is being trampled upon by a rogue elephant, while in another he has a narrow escape from a man-eating tiger. In another he is sitting with a naked light in a ship's powder magazine, while in another a piece of shell strikes and staves in a keg of rum he holds between his knees (serving out the liquor to his men in the Crimea) without disconcerting him or causing the loss of much of the spirit. These and other like accidents and adventures, of course, extend over a life as long as it was eventful, since when the Colonel joined his regiment in India it was armed with flint-locks! Indeed, at the interesting Veteran's Parade held at Edinburgh by King Edward in May, 1903, Colonel Robertson was the only surviving officer or man who had been through the first great Sikh War under Sir Hugh Gough. Dr. Margaret Todd's "Growth" (2) is a little distracting, so many are its characters, and so minute are its details. It is, in fact, too long, too discursive, detailed, and also, perhaps, too well written for the ordinary novel reader to appreciate it at its full value, as an admirable psychological study of two or three characters. The fall and rising again of Dalgleish is excellently conceived and represented, while the development in the opposite direction of Thatcher, who finds a haven of rest in the Roman Communion, is no less naturally and sympathetically described. Over against them, and yet more excellently delineated than they, are the heroine and her sister, and these characters help you through some dull and distracting chapters and compensate you for the lack of a strong or striking plot. Nor is the late Nora Chesson's exquisitely conceived and written "Father Felix's Chronicles" (3) a work that will delight the ordinary novel reader. It is rather a prose poem than a novel, and a prose poem dealing with times and men and events that seem dim as a dream, in spite of the author's imaginative realisation of them. The chronicles are represented as having been written by an old Norwich monk, who can recall the days when Richard II. was dethroned, and what story there is has to do with a conspiracy to restore King Dickon. But there is little story, and the charm of the book lies chiefly in the power by which Mrs. Chesson realises, and helps you to realise, the point of view of the chronicler. "The Man Apart" (4) is a dismal, cynical story, whose characters are either repellent or uninteresting—chiefly repellent. Its hero, while loving the heroine, keeps an actress, whom he abandons heartlessly, and finally murders. After the murder he falls down a cliff into the sea, and you feel relieved to be done with him and his base and brutal life and love. "Richard Hawkwood" (5) is a tale of the turbulent and treacherous days of Lorenzo de Medici admirably told. From the first page to the last Mr. Neville Maugham keeps you breathlessly interested in the fortunes of his English hero, who steers a bold but safe course through

(1) "Personal Adventures and Anecdotes of an Old Officer." By Colonel James P. Robertson, C.B. With Portraits. (London: Edward Arnold. 12s. 6d. net.)

(2) "Growth." By Graham Travers (Margaret Todd, M.D.). (London: Archibald Constable and Co., Ltd 6s.)

(3) "Father Felix's Chronicles." By Nora Chesson. Edited by W. H. Chesson. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

(4) "The Man Apart." By Ralph Straus. (London: Chatto and Windus. 6s.)

(5) "Richard Hawkwood." A Romance. By H. Neville Maugham. London: William Blackwood and Sons. 6s.)

a stormy and treacherous sea, and reaches at last the haven where he would be—of a happy marriage.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

What a pity it is that the betterment of the physical condition of the rising generation does not excite some of the zeal which is expended so lavishly on sectarian squabbles over their spiritual welfare! This is the reflection which must occur to most people on reading Sir John Gorst's book, "The Children of the Nation" (Methuen and Co., price 7s. 6d. net). Of course, the facts on which it is based are not altogether new. Every one realises in a vague sort of way that there is a vast amount of preventable infant mortality, that numbers of children are underfed and overworked and improperly treated and trained through the negligence and ignorance, as well as through the poverty of their parents. Sir John Gorst, however, not only shows very vividly the extent of the evil and the danger it involves to the future of the race, but puts forward a series of proposals for remedying the present shocking state of things. No doubt his proposals will be denounced as rank Socialism. There are so many people who, though they insist that it is the duty of the State to concern itself with the saving of the souls of the children, are yet horrified at the idea of the State doing anything to improve their bodily health.

Mr. Putnam Weale's book, "Indiscreet Letters from Pekin," which is being issued by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, forms virtually a diary of the siege and its perils.

Under the title of "The Battle of Tsu-Shima," Mr. John Murray has published (price 3s. 6d. net) a translation of a book by Captain Vladimir Semenoff, a Russian naval officer who was on board the *Suvoroff* during that memorable engagement. Sir George S. Clarke contributes a preface in which he dwells upon the importance of the lessons naval experts may gather from the book. Captain Semenoff's account of the battle, however, is so vivid and thrilling that it will make an equally powerful appeal to readers who are not primarily interested in naval questions.

"Records of a Country Vicarage" (John Long, 6s.) is an entertaining anecdotal volume by the Rev. Robert Yates Whytehead, Rector of Lawford. With materials partly gathered from old family papers and partly furnished from his own experiences and recollections, Mr. Whytehead fully succeeds in his modest project of giving "a more or less interesting glimpse of the amusing side of country life." Of the country clergy particularly he tells not a few good stories. Here, for instance, is one of a sporting parson at Easington, a place on the coast which was a favourite landing-place for woodcocks at the time of their immigration to this country. When the birds arrived, exhausted by their long flight, everybody in the parish, including the parson, at once turned out to join in the sport of knocking them down with sticks:—

> One Sunday the people were in church and the parson in the pulpit when the church door was cautiously opened and a head appeared with a beckoning finger. . . . . "Well, what is it?" said the parson. "Cocks is coom!" The parson hurriedly shut up his sermon case. "Shut the door and lock it," he cried, to the clerk. "Keep the people in church till I've got my surplice off. Let's all have a fair chance."

Yet another posthumous novel by Miss Adeline Sergeant—at least half a dozen must have been published already—is announced by Messrs. Methuen and Co. It is entitled "The Quest of Geoffrey Darrell," and it will be issued in a few days.

"With Byron in Italy" (Fisher Unwin, price 5s.) is the first of a series of books intended to show on the one hand the influence of Italy on great English writers, and on the other the light which their works throw on Italian life, history, and art. The present volume contains a collection of those poems and letters of Lord Byron which are connected with his life in Italy from 1816 to 1823. Mrs. A. B. McMahan, who made the selection, furnishes an introduction and notes, and there are a number of illustrations of scenes made famous by Byron.

Mr. T. H. S. Escott's new book, "Society in the Country House: Anecdotal Records of Six Centuries," which was announced a considerable time since, is being published this week by Mr. Fisher Unwin.

Mr. Keighley Snowden's new novel, "Kate Bannister"—the romance of a great Yorkshire singer—will be published this month by Mr. Eveleigh Nash.

Apropos of the Ameer's visit to India, it may be mentioned that Messrs. Harper have nearly ready a book by Mr. Frank A. Martin, which is the outcome of eight years' residence in Afghanistan. It is entitled "Under the Absolute Ameer," and will be illustrated from the author's own drawings and from photographs.

In connection with the reports from Belgrade of a conspiracy for the removal of King Peter from the Servian throne, attention may be directed to a recently published book entitled "A Royal Tragedy" (Eveleigh Nash, price 7s. 6d. net), in which M. Mijatovich tells the story of the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga. M. Mijatovich, who is well known here as the former Servian Minister in London, has a thorough acquaintance with the facts of the plot and the crime in which it culminated, and his narrative is remarkably interesting.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Have you noticed in what favour "the lean man" is in the fiction of the moment? From every page of the novels one reads this gaunt creature peers out, wondering (and well he may) what readers think of him. Leanness is, to all appearance, his single characteristic, except, perhaps, that he is clean-shaven. Clean and lean. What fascination! But can you understand why the hero of a story should always be described as lean? The ideal man has enough flesh on his bones to save him from this suggestion of semi-starvation, and yet not so much as would allow him to be fat. Perhaps it is because there are so many portly persons in the world that the writer of romances flies to the other extreme and produces the attenuated hero.

Height, too. The woman novelist almost invariably depicts her hero as six foot two in his stockings. Why, by the way, this roundabout way of saying "without his boots"? Men's heroes of fiction are seldom so tall. Six foot seems inches enough for them, and occasionally one or two are "of medium height." This is a moderation that a woman novelist would regard as misplaced when dealing with the stature of the male being.

I read once in some book this question: "Did you ever yet meet a lovable woman with a perfect profile?" Have you any experience on the subject? I know two or three persons with perfect profiles. Perhaps I have never tried to love any of them. We were talking over this the other day, and Richard said that he had never yet seen anyone with a very short upper lip that he could really like. Here was a fresh idea. I suppose these notions go to prove that we are not yet educated up to perfection, and that it irritates us to observe symptoms of superlative excellence in anybody. A perfect profile and a short upper lip are admirable things. Why should there be an apparently prevalent idea that they do not often accompany amiability of character?

Do you know any one that you consider really perfect? Do tell me! I have one or two friends that

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I can scarcely see a fault in. Very, very rarely one of them loses her temper. It is over in a minute, and I just love her for not being quite, quite perfect. The other friend has a little fault of over-candour which overtakes her now and then, and chills one a little bit. Still, it is friendly and brave of her to tell me when she thinks I am wrong, and the effect of these outbreaks on her part, combined with her usual delightfully warm sympathy, is like one of those *soufflés en surprise* which are one half hot, the other half iced.

It is so very useful, Amy dear, to have a candid friend. But I never want one quite always in the house, do you? Nor always in the mood for excessive candour. A buffet of cold wind is good for us now and then, fortifying us and teaching us endurance. But oh, how such buffets increase our pleasure in warm and balmy summer airs! My nice, dear friend, who sometimes tells me horrid but salutary truths, is always welcome; but in her east-windy moments (and there is no meteorological prophet to tell when they may arise and warn me with a storm cone) my friendship for her has an attack of anæmia, and I say to myself, "I wonder if I really love this woman?"

Have you any parallel to this among your friendships? Some of us can see no faults in our friends; others of us can see the faults and love the friends just as warmly. To which list do you belong?

You remember that a week or two since I told you that I had incited Mary to open rebellion against John. He would not allow her to send away a dirty cook because the woman cooked his favourite dishes so very well. You may imagine my horror when John was shown in yesterday morning. I thought I was in for a scolding, and was (invisibly) buckling on my armour when I noticed his countenance. He was deeply moved about something, and could not speak for a while, whereupon I poked an excellent fire into friblets in order to give him time. At last he said, "Madge, my poor Mary is very ill with a sharp attack of influenza, and when delirious she talks of nothing but me; her devotion to me, and my—my—indifference to her."

"Delirious? Is she so ill as that? Poor Mary and poor you, John. What does the doctor say?"

"That she is very ill. Temperature 103 three nights running. We have two nurses. Oh, Madge! If I were to lose my dear, dear girl!" And his face quivered so that I almost began to cry.

"Are you afraid of the infection?" he asked. "If not, will you come round and see her, and try to get it out of her head that I am indifferent to her. She keeps harping on it so, and I really think this ridiculous idea gets in the way of her recovering."

"Why don't you tell her yourself?" I asked. To tell you the truth, Amy dear, I am very much afraid of the germ or microbe or whatever the horrid little thing is of the "flu," especially since I read that 2,600 of them could sit in a row straight across a shilling. So small as that? Then how easy to enter the human body! Oh, dear. I thought John could quite easily do the thing himself. But he begged me to go, and I went. We found Mary free from delirium, but most shockingly weak. Her face lighted up when she saw us. She does adore her John. He left us together, and I immediately (being in a desperate hurry to get out of the room) began to dilate on his anxiety about her, and gave her some idea of his state of mind. She looked enchanted, and then, almost frowning upon me, said, "And I actually sent away that cook! Oh, Madge!" in the weakest of voices.

I laughed and ran away. Next morning came John, beaming. "Temperature down to 100 last night. Pulse stronger, and she has taken more nourishment. Madge, we have saved her!"

When he had gone, I laughed again. What a happy, happy couple they will be, dear, *for awhile*! Still, it is worth while, even if it last but half a year.

I smelt the perfume musk to-day for the first time for many years. Is there anything that recalls old associations more quickly than perfume? Immediately on catching a whiff of it (it was in an omnibus) I was back in a schoolroom sitting next a girl whose face and name I had not thought of for years, but now recollected perfectly. She loved this horrid musk smell, and always had it about her. I did not think any one ever used it now. And there is another old-fashioned perfume called bergamot that one never hears of now. It always recalls to me an old drawing master who used to oil his hair with some stuff scented with this bergamot. I suppose we never really forget anything. The old memories could not start into life in this way if they were really dead and buried. They can be only hidden away, and are ready to be recalled at any moment. What do you think?

We are already looking forward to the show of thoroughbreds and hunters at the Agricultural Hall in March. It is so lovely watching the jumping. It is to be a big show this year, with twenty-nine classes and prizes amounting to over £5,000. The Polo Pony Show follows upon the other, the first occupying three days, the latter two, and there will be £476 in prizes offered for the ponies. This is the eighth year of the show, which is always such an attractive one, for not only are there polo ponies, but every other kind as well, from the little Shetland upwards, including mountain and moorland ponies. There are to be seven riding classes, and there is no better fun at the Agricultural Hall the whole year round than that provided by the judges' tests for these little animals. This year the amusing polo ball and the bending competition are to be supplemented by tests of handiness in turning, the conditions requiring competitors to start in pairs, go twice up and down the ring, making three complete circles in succession round two posts, one at either end. This will delight the huge audience that always assembles.

There is something special and particular and quite different from any other love in that one feels for horses. Do you not think so? One respects them for the high qualities of their character, their gentleness, their (usually) beautiful manners, and admires them for the reserved, yet unmistakable way in which they show affection for their human friends. One of the horses I used to ride loved to be whispered to. He would turn his great dark eyes on me when I was saying nice things to him in a very soft, low voice, and give me such a long look as though trying hard to understand. I often wondered if whispering might not have been a part of the man Rarey's great secret in horse-taming. My father told us wonderful things about him.

Do you remember what I wrote you a few weeks ago about all the benevolent institutions asking for money at once, instead of diplomatically spreading their appeals over the whole year? Since then I have heard of one which did not join the general chorus of "Help! help!" and yet is one of the most deserving in the world. It is the Royal Maternity Charity of London, whose offices are at 31, Finsbury-square, E.C. It provides medical attendance, medicine and nurses for poor married women in their own homes at times when they need these most. Over three thousand women are ministered to annually by this excellent charity which is now in its 150th year. The Royal patronage so kindly given to hospitals causes a certain amount of indifference to be displayed towards charities which do not share in the bright light that surrounds the throne, and this is one of the reasons that the Maternity Charity is in debt to the amount of £2,000. The other reason is the hard times which have thrown so many thousands out of work. Think what a difference it must make to a poor woman when a kind and certificated nurse comes into her poor home, bringing with her not only the comfort of experienced skill, but also relief from hunger. If a doctor should be needed the Charity provides one, and if medicine be ordered the Charity pays for it. It does not in any way compete with hospitals, but tends these

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poor women in their own homes, which they could not leave to enter a hospital because there are young children, and sometimes a sick husband, who could not be left.

This lessens expenses, too, for there is no costly establishment to keep up, no large staff to pay. There are seventy-two doctors, who nobly give their services gratuitously, twenty-seven certificated maternity nurses, who receive a small fee for each case, and twenty-four chemists, who purvey medicines at a fixed contract rate. The committee, composed of busy professional and commercial men, meet voluntarily once a month to conduct the affairs of the charity; and the salaried staff consists of a head physician, who is paid a nominal sum, a secretary, and a messenger boy. And for this the medical and nursing staff are a going concern in every part of London. Each case costs 10s. A donation of ten guineas makes the giver a member for life, with three "letters of recommendation" at his disposal annually, and four "letters" are given for each guinea annually subscribed; so that the numbers to be helped can be indefinitely increased by the number of additional subscribers.

We were trying to help some humble friends of ours out of a financial tangle into which they had worked their affairs, when a remark made by one of them gave us a curious glimpse into their ideas about banks. It would really seem that the uneducated fancy that the money they pay in remains there in a little heap in the actual coins or cheques in which it is handed in. One wonders how they think that such a state of affairs would enable bankers to keep their business going. Said the old mother to me, when we were talking matters over, "Last time I sent to bank I paid 'em my lucky half-suvrin in mistake. I'll be main glad to have 'un back, if we has to dror all out." She was reckoning, you see, on receiving the very coins she had paid in.

What marvellous patience the poor have under injustice about money. They seem to accept it as a part of their hard life. Educated people make a to-do and an outcry, and get matters righted, perhaps. But the humble folk, aware of their own impotence, accept the injustice or the fraud, and meekly endure it. It makes one rage all the more against the persons who wrong them. The landlords of the poor are often guilty of great injustice to their tenants, amounting to cruelty sometimes. One would love to start a brigade of good souls who would champion the hard-working poor in these cases. As if life were not difficult enough for them in any case, these greedy self-seekers must impose heavy burdens upon them.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Everyone, more or less, seems to turn thoughtful, when the Old Year is taking its departure, even those who, in the hurry of a strenuous life, have got out of the way of thinking. Looking back is the tradition of the period, writing up accounts, balancing books, stocktaking, "summarising." The world is sorted out, as it were, and everything in it checked off and set in an infinite variety of inventories, as if each one of us were an atlas, with the burthen of the whole world on his or her shoulders. To judge by the supply, the demand on the part of the public for statistics, inventories, and summings up of all kinds is inexhaustible. Information is poured forth in encyclopedian comprehensiveness to suit every taste, every occurrence of the past year is classified; we are informed of the number of peers who were created and the number of pigs that were turned into bacon. We are in especial credited with a sudden thirst—duly assuaged—for knowing who are the oldest and who the youngest amongst the monarchs of the world, the Dukes, and so on, even down to the Baronets. One wonders why we want to stuff our minds with so many facts at New Year's time, unless it may be to make up, by a mental "gorge," for the excesses, in another direction, of Christmas time.

The Old Year is forgotten now, however, and we are all in all to the New. We are concerning ourselves with beginnings, not with endings, any more. Here in our island we are always watching for the turning over of the new leaf. We are not shy of the New Year, as Elia was; perhaps because we have never had a good time yet, and are always hoping with each year that it may be coming at last. Up to this time the new leaf has never got further than a flutter; something or other has always happened, when it was on the turn, to send it back into the old position. Just like our own private and individual new leaves with which we are inevitably in such difficulties, for they do not seem to have the knack of quite turning over either. Perhaps a new leaf can no more be turned over than a blue rose can be gathered, but what would life be if we were not always aiming at the impossible and hoping against the teachings of experience.

Our white Christmas was a quiet one over here, absolutely without social gatherings such as used to be. The Viceregal Lodge was shut up, and at the Chief Secretary's Lodge preparations for a near flitting were being made. Mr. Bryce's household gods had never been regularly set up in the Phœnix Park, and certainly had not had time to domesticate themselves there. One suspects that they may possibly feel more at home on the far side of the wide ocean. Mr. Bryce is an old friend of many years' standing of the strenuous President of America. Of course, we have all been busy with surmise regarding Mr. Bryce's successor. Even the unpolitical of our sex take an interest in the Chief Secretary, who, however much of a "most potent, grave, and reverend seignior" is expected to have a society side to his character, and to take a leading part in dispensing official hospitality. This is as it ought to be, don't you think? Otherwise where would we women come in, who are excluded from the business haunts of officialdom. We ought to have playgrounds at least, if we are not to be allowed to work.

Lord Ashbourne came over to Ireland at Christmas to visit many members of his family and to join Lord Justice FitzGibbon's renowned Howth party, which took place, as usual, after Christmas, in the villa which Lord Randolph Churchill loved to visit. Under no roof in Ireland have so many of the makers of the history of their times, nor so much wit and wisdom been gathered together, as under that of Lord Justice FitzGibbon at Howth, where the silver jubilee of the Christmas parties was celebrated some years ago. Lord Rathmore and Sir Thomas Snagge also crossed the Channel for the Howth party. The Hill of Howth has always been historic, and is keeping up its past tradition as a present one also. Howth Castle, with its many legends, is one of the oldest habitable castles in Ireland. It will pass from the St. Lawrence family, who have lived there for centuries, with the present Lord Howth, who is unmarried, and has no male heir to inherit the title. His nephews are the sons of his sisters.

Lord and Lady Londonderry pay their usual visit to Mount Stewart in the County Down this month, but mourning will prevent the customary festivities of the visit. The great event in the county is the Hunt Ball, to be given at the Newcastle Hotel, for which all the houses in the country side will be filled with guests. The Dowager Lady Dufferin has spent a quiet Christmas at Clandeboye with some members of her family. Lord Dufferin joined her last week, and Lady Hermione Blackwood, who has just returned from South Africa. Lady Plunket is shortly expected in England; she is bringing her little daughters with her, and paying her first visit home since she and Lord Plunket went out to "reign" in very democratic New Zealand.—Yours ever, CLARE.

What kind of recipes would you like this week? Pain de perdreau is an ideal supper dish:—

Cut a plucked and cleansed partridge down the back and take out all the bones, which stew with herbs, vegetables, and stock. On the other hand, take the flesh of an older bird, or about 8 oz. of veal, and pound it thoroughly, adding the contents of a small terrine of foie grass, season it with salt and pepper, and work in 3 yolks of eggs and 1 white; when the farce is thoroughly blended, spread a layer on the inside of the bird, which garnish with fillets of truffle and foie grass, add another layer of the farce, and draw the skin of the bird together. Line a raised pie dish with slices of bacon, put a layer of the farce round, place the bird in the centre, and fill the interstices with any remaining farce, cover the dish with a paste made with

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flour and water, and bake it in a moderate oven for nearly three hours. Then remove the paste, put a press of about 2 lbs. on it, and fill up with strong gravy made from the bones. When it is cold, remove the surface grease and pour dissolved butter and lard on the top; garnish all nicely with parsley when serving.

Croûtes de gibier:—

Cut 6 or 8 pieces of bread an inch thick, with a cutter two and a half inches in diameter, make an incision with a cutter a size smaller, nearly through the bread, and fry them a nice colour in a bath of hot lard. Remove the loose piece and take out the soft interior. Mince the remains of a cold grouse or a couple of cold partridges, and pound it thoroughly in a mortar with a spoonful of white sauce, rub it through a wire sieve, and work it up in a stewpan on the stove with half a gill of thick cream, the yolk of an egg, and pepper and salt to taste. Fill the croûtes with the purée, and put a thick slice of cooked tomato on the top. Stir 2 eggs in a stewpan on the fire with 1 oz. of butter, a spoonful of thick cream and seasoning of salt, pepper, and a pinch of paprika, put a spoonful on each croûte, sprinkle them with shredded truffle, and serve them garnished with fried parsley.

Pheasant au gratin prepared as follows will be found very good:—

Truss a nice pheasant and lard it through the breast with thick strips of fat bacon, trimming them off close to the breast, fill the crop part with a farce made by pounding 2 oz. of lean veal, 2 oz. of cold braised sweetbread, the liver of the bird, previously fried with butter and herbs, 2 oz. of butter, and an egg, season with salt and pepper, and rub it through a wire sieve. Fry the bird with 2 oz. of butter and a minced onion, add stock to cover it, and braise it gently for an hour and a half, at which time remove the bird from the braise, dry the breast, brush it with beaten egg, sprinkle it thickly with bread crumbs, and a little chopped parsley; pour liquid butter over it, and place it in an oven to brown, basting it frequently with butter. Thicken the braise; rub it through a hair sieve. Re-heat the sauce, pour it round the bird, and garnish it with mushrooms.

Try these celery fritters:—

Trim, wash, and cut off the tops of as many roots of celery as you may require, without dividing them, then boil for a quarter of an hour. Remove them from the hot water, and put them in cold. Drain them and tie two and two together. Cover the bottom of a stewpan with slices of thinly-cut bacon, place in the celery, season with parsley, shalots, or green onions, a little salt, and moisten it with the fat taken off soup. Cover with slices of bacon and a well-buttered round of paper, watch them come to a boil, then let them simmer until done, drain and fry them in plenty of butter. Drain, dish, and glaze them with castor sugar, by holding a red-hot poker over them, just before sending them to table.

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P.S.—The Private View on Saturday at the Leicester Galleries of Mr. Charles Shannon's pictures and Miss Ruth Dollman's charming water-colours of the South Downs was a very smart function. I noticed in the crowd a duchess or two, Baron and Baroness de Meyer, always such a picturesque couple, Lord Weardale, Lady Trevelyan, Miss May Morris, Sir Aston Webb, R.A., Sir Ernest Waterlow, and many other interesting and well-known people. The pictures are delightful. M.

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WIESBADEN. HOTEL KAISERHOF, connected with Augusta Victoria Baths. First-class, open whole year.—Prop., O. HILLENGASS.

WIESBADEN.—FOUR SEASONS HOTEL and BATHS. Finest position, opposite Kurhaus and Opera. Own mineral spring.

WIESBADEN.—HOTEL NASSAU. Connected with a magnificent Bathing Establishment. Situated at the Curplace. "The English Home."

WIESBADEN.—PALAST HOTEL. Kochbrunnen Bath establishment. Rooms with private bath. First-class, up-to-date.

WIESBADEN.—HOTEL FURSTENHOF. Facing Kursaal and Kurpark. New and modern Building. Rooms with private bath.

R.M.S.P. THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY,

19, Moorgate-street, E.C., and 32, Cockspur-street, S.W.

SPECIAL TOURS: November—March.

WINTER IN THE WEST INDIES.

Yachting steamer for Special Cruises round the Islands, January and February. Sixty days, 80 guineas.

For Illustrated Guide and full particulars, apply as above.

JAMAICA, THE NEW RIVIERA.

IMPERIAL DIRECT Mail Service BRISTOL to KINGSTON (Jamaica).

Port Antonio ..... Jan. 12
Port Royal ..... Jan. 26

Magnificent accommodation for Saloon and Second Class passengers. Fares moderate.

Apply, ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO., Liverpool; 4, St. Mary-axe, London; Baldwin-street, Bristol.

CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

FASTEST TO CANADA.

For Sailings and Pamphlet re WORK and WAGES, Apply to C. P. Rly., 62-65, Charing Cross, S.W. (Facing Trafalgar Sq.), or 67, King William St., E.C.

THROUGH TICKETS via CANADA to JAPAN, 22½ days; CHINA, 27½ days; AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND.

FOREIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEAULIEU.—HOUSES AND ESTATES. E. KURZ. (Opposite Station.) Villas furnished, to be let or sold.

HYERES.—R. J. CORBETT & CO. The English Bank. Arrangements with Hotels. Villas and Apartments to let.

CANNES THE WELL-KNOWN **PARC HOTEL.**

Vacuum Cleaner. Late Villa Valombrosa (Chateau des Tours).

M. ELLMER, Proprietor.

TRUTH HOTEL LIST.

ABERYSTWITH.—The QUEEN'S HOTEL faces the sea, and is lighted by electricity. The late Sir Jas. Clarke, M.D., says: "A fortnight at Aberystwith is equal to a month at most watering-places." Soft Atlantic breezes. Pure water from Plinlimmon, and excellent drainage.—For tariffs, &c., apply to W. H. PALMER, Proprietor.

AYR.—STATION HOTEL, adjoining station. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards. For Business Gentlemen, Families, and Tourists to "The Land of 'Burns,'" and Ayrshire district. Within few minutes' walk of sea shore. Convenient Golf Courses. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Dumfries, and Turnberry.

BELFAST.—GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.—The Finest Hotel in Ireland. 200 rooms. Electric light throughout. Passenger lifts to all floors. Magnificent public rooms and suites of private apartments. Most central position. Very moderate tariff. Omnibuses from Hotel attend all steamers and trains. Telegrams, "Grand Central, Belfast."

BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL.
Finest position on front.
Splendid public rooms. Orchestra twice daily.
Tepid sea-water Swimming Bath. Garage communicating with the Hotel.
Private suites, with bathrooms. Write for Illustrated Brochure.

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms. Passenger lift to all the floors.
GEO. BECKFORD, Manager.

DUBLIN.—HOTEL METROPOLE, SACKVILLE-STREET (next General Post Office). Convenient for Railways, Steamers, and Amusements. Modern and luxurious. Electric Light and Passenger Lift. Sanitation officially certified. High-class Restaurant attached. Moderate Tariff. Descriptive matter on application to the Manager.

DUMFRIES.—STATION HOTEL, opposite station. Electric light. Lift. Billiards. Convenient for Firth of Solway, Castle Douglas, Sweetheart Abbey, Caerlaveroch Castle, &c. Lovely Drives. Splendid centre for motor and cycle tours. Shooting. Fishing. Golf. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Turnberry.

EASTBOURNE.—The HYDRO HOTEL, a Select Residential Hotel on Coast, 120ft. above sea-level. Due south. Large gardens. Croquet, tennis and bowling green. Large public rooms, 70 bed and sitting rooms, all luxuriously furnished. Electric light. Lift. Billiards, Turkish baths, 'bus.—For tariff (Illus.) and programme of amusements, O. F. BERGANN, Mgr.

GLASGOW.—ST. ENOCH STATION HOTEL. Best centre for business and pleasure. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (4 tables). Restaurant. Within shilling cab fare of all railway and steamboat termini in Glasgow. Near electric cars and opposite subway cable railways. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Ayr, Dumfries, and Turnberry.

GRAND CANARY.—The Newest and Best Hotel is The METROPOLE. Facing the sea. Delightful position. Terms most moderate.
Agents, ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO., 14, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 4, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.

MALVERN.—For the Xmas Holidays. The IMPERIAL HOTEL (only 2¼ hours from Paddington) facing due S., offers every comfort at moderate and inclusive charges. *A cheerful lounge, with electric light.* Central for Croome and Ledbury Hounds, loose boxes, hunters. Accommodation for Motors.—For tariff apply to Resid. Prop., F. MOERSCHELL.

SCARBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL. First-class. Situated on South Cliff. Magnificent view. Adjacent to the incline. Tramways leading to Spa and Sands, facing South. Billiard Room, two tables. Fireproof Staircase, Lift, Electric Light. Telegrams, "Princely." Illustrated Booklet post free.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
W. WORSTER, Manager.

TURNBERRY.—STATION HOTEL. "The most up-to-date Hotel in Scotland." Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (3 tables). Conservatory. Garage and stables. Sea Water Baths. Two fine golf courses for visitors. Lovely Climate. Charming district. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Dumfries.

LEAMINGTON SPA.—REGENT HOTEL. The most charming in the Provinces. Reconstructed and refurnished. Lift. Recherché cuisine. Large Garage. Unique Winter and Hunting Quarters.

HASTINGS.

QUEEN'S HOTEL.

Unsurpassed for Comfort. Luxurious Lounge facing Sea. Moderate Tariff. No Charge for Attendance. Motor Garage and Inspection Pit. Trams do ***NOT*** pass the Hotel.

A. RICKARDS, Manager (late of Queen's, Southsea).

ALEXANDRA HOTEL.

Best position on Sea Front.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.

Faces due South.

An Ideal Autumn and Winter Resort.
Patronised by the leading Families in the Kingdom.
Moderate Tariff; inclusive if desired.

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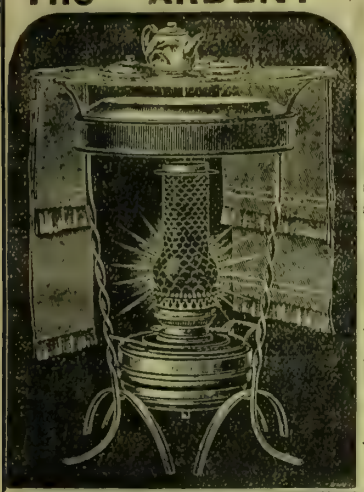
SPECIAL FOR LADIES.

The "ARDENT" OIL STOVE IS THE BEST.



"MADGE" writes: "Upon its value in bedrooms I am almost afraid to dilate, lest you should think I exaggerate."

To be obtained of all Ironmongers and Stores.

Wholesale only of—

The Sepulchre Heating and Lighting Co.,

YORK ST., WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

Winter Sale of Scotch Winceys
.. AT ..
COPLAND & LYE'S,

The Leading Specialists in Scotch Textiles, Caledonian House, Great Clearance of the Present Large Stock before Stocktaking at Substantial Reductions. **GLASGOW**

The famous "Caledonian" Winceys—
White and Cream, Single Widths, 11½d., 1/1½, 1/4½, 1/6½, 1/9½ per yard. White and Cream, Double Widths, 1/3½, 1/6½, 1/11, and 2/2 per yard. Self Colours, 1/2½ per yard in pale blue, pink, etc. Pretty Stripes, 1/1½ per yard.
"HEALTHFUL and NON-SHRINKING." Patterns Post Free on request.

Call at the Warehouse if you can. If you cannot call, write for the **SALE CATALOGUE** containing full particulars of the great sale of WINCEYS, TWEEDS, "HURRICANE" SERGES. Blankets, Linens, Hosiery, Yarns, etc., which will be sent post free to any address on receipt of a Postcard.

COPLAND & LYE, 165, 167, Sauchiehall St., GLASGOW.

OF ALL LEADING TAILORS.

Quality **MOTOFRIEZE**

Colour **GREYWETHER** (and 28 others).

The only truly Hygienic cloth for Motor Garments.

Descriptive Booklet (with patterns) from the **BALLYMENAGH WOOLLEN FACTORY, Ld.,**

Great Pulteney Street, Regent Street, London, W.

FRILLED BUTTER MUSLIN

WITH NEW HEMSTITCH FRILLS, 3 yds. long, 8/3 per pair. PLAIN FRILLS, 6/9 per pair. *Samples of Muslins on approval.* Tapestries, Cretonnes, Art Silks, Art Serges. Patterns on approval. *Book of Lace Curtains, Blinds, Carpets, Linoleum, Furniture, Bedsteads, Bedding, free.* GORRINGE & CO., 91A Dept., Nottingham.

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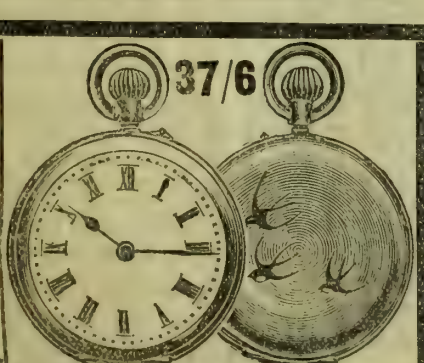
Send for the large illustrated Book containing many hundreds of suitable suggestions in Jewels, Watches, Silver Novelties, &c.



37/6

15/6 Solid Gold. Ruby or Pearl Centre. New Design.

Ladies' Charming Real Gold Keyless Watch. New Pattern. Enamelled design on back. A dainty gift, 37/6.

A postcard will bring the Catalogue *FREE* by return. *Send for it to-day.*

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PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED),
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. **2½ per cent. interest** allowed on Deposit Accounts. **2 per cent. interest** on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.—C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale houses.

Channel Crossing, Sea-Sickness.

Mr. LABOUCHERE, in *Truth*, writes: "The only remedy is my trusty 'YANATAS.' It absolutely prevents sea-sickness." On sale at all chemists', 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. (the latter a sufficient supply for yourself and a friend), or by post (3d. extra) from STARKIE, Chemist, Trafalgar Sq., London, S.W.

TO INVALIDS.—A LIST of MEDICAL MEN, in all parts, receiving RESIDENT PATIENTS, sent gratis, with full particulars. Schools also recommended. Medical, &c., Association, Ltd., 22, Craven-street, Trafalgar-sq., W.C. Tel. Add., "Triform, London." Telephone No. 1,854 Gerrard.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

To all Countries included in the Postal Union:—

THREE MONTHS	£0 7 8
SIX MONTHS	0 15 4
TWELVE MONTHS	1 10 8

And to any address in the United Kingdom—THREE MONTHS, 7s.; SIX MONTHS, 14s.; TWELVE MONTHS, 28s.

The Subscription List Opened on Tuesday, January 8, and will Close on or before Friday, January 11, 1907.

MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY

(Incorporated under the Laws of the State of New Jersey, U.S.A.)

Operating under special Concessions from the Supreme Government of the Republic of Mexico, and subject to its direct official inspection.

CAPITAL.

Authorised Common Stock	$10,000,000
Issued and Outstanding...	$7,500,000
Five per Cent. Forty-Year First Mortgage Gold Bonds authorised	$2,000,000

The above Bonds are appropriated as follows:—

1. For funding and retiring the outstanding Six per Cent. Bonds of the Company	$700,000
2. Present Issue...	$1,300,000

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, are authorised by the purchasers referred to below and the Company to receive applications for

$1,300,000 of the above 5% First Mortgage Convertible Gold Bonds.

Each Allottee of Bonds will receive from the Company, when he has paid up in full, a Bonus of $20 (twenty per cent.) in fully-paid Common Stock for every $100 par value of Bonds allotted to him.

ISSUE PRICE 95 PER CENT., payable as follows:—

£2	0s. 0d.	per $100 on	Application.
£2	0s. 0d.	" "	Allotment.
£4	0s. 0d.	" "	February 20, 1907.
£4	0s. 0d.	" "	March 20, 1907.
£7	9s. 11d.	" "	May 9, 1907.
£19	9s. 11d.	= 95 per cent. of £20 10s. 5d., the sterling equivalent of $100 at 4/1½ per $1.	

Out of the total $2,000 000 of Bonds, $700,000 have been appropriated to retire $600,000 6 per Cent Bonds of the Company, of which about four-fifths have already been retired. The sums received by the Company from the purchasers of the $1,010,000 of Bonds and the net proceeds of the $290,000 of Bonds now offered for sale on behalf of the Company are required to pay certain liabilities of the Company, and to provide for:

1. Installing the machinery in packing-house No. 1 at Uruapan, Michoacan.
2. Building and equipping packing-house No. 2 in the State of Vera Cruz.
3. Building and equipping packing-house No. 3 in the State of Nuevo Leon.
4. Purchasing and putting in service fifty refrigerator cars.
5. Building and equipping cold storage warehouse, refrigerating plant, and general offices in the City of Mexico.

The balance, estimated by the President of the Company at nearly $400,000 (£82,083 6s. 8d.), will be available for the general purposes of the Company.

The Bonds are secured by a Trust Deed in favour of the Knickerbocker Trust Company of New York, whereby the Bonds are constituted a first charge upon the lands, concessions, water rights, property, and franchises of the Company, present and future, situated in the Republic of Mexico, subject only to the above issue of 6 per Cent. Bonds which are to be retired.

The said Trust Deed provides for the redemption of the Bonds over a period of forty years, by means of a Cumulative Sinking Fund (commencing Jan. 1, 1913), which is to be applied in redeeming the Bonds either by purchase at or under 105 per cent., or by drawings at 105 per cent., liberty being reserved to the Company to redeem the whole or any part of the Bonds outstanding, at any time, at a premium of 10 per cent. upon six months' notice.

The Bonds will be to Bearer, but may be registered at the Office of the Knickerbocker Trust Company, New York, or at the Office of the Prudential Deposit Trust, Limited, in London. Coupons for Interest will be attached to the Bonds, whether registered or to Bearer, and will be payable half-yearly, on July 1 and Jan. 1, in New York or London.

The Bonds will be issued in sums of $1,000 (£205 4s. 2d.) and $100 (£20 10s. 5d.), and allotments will only be made in multiples of these sums.

The bondholders will have the option of converting their Bonds at any time into Common Stock, at the rate of $110 par value of Common Stock for each $100 par value of Bonds.

Principal and interest will be payable at the office of the Knickerbocker Trust Company in New York in U.S. gold coin of the present standard weight and fineness, or at the Financial Agency of the Company in London, at the fixed rate of exchange of four shillings, one penny farthing to the dollar, fractions of one penny being disregarded.

Definitive Bonds will be delivered on June 9, 1907, in exchange for Scrip Certificates to Bearer, which will be issued in exchange for Allotment Letters with Bankers' Receipts for payments made on application and allotment.

Attention is called to the enclosed statement of facts with reference to the Company and its prospects, made by Mr. John W. De Kay, the President of the Company, and to the letter from the Hon. Sebastian Camacho, President of the National Bank of Mexico and Vice-President of the Federal Senate of the Republic of Mexico, upon which this Prospectus is based. Mr. De Kay, it will be noticed, estimates that the profits from the first packing house already constructed of rock and brick should for the year 1907 amount to $869,505 gold (£178,429 13s. 5d.) and that when the Vera Cruz and the Nuevo Leon Plants are completed, which the Company intend to construct in the year 1907, the total profits should exceed $1,800,000 gold (£369,375).

The estimated profit of the Uruapan Packing House alone amounts to	$869,505	=£178,429 13s. 5d.
To pay the 5 per cent. interest on the $2,000,000 Bonds will require	100,000	= 20,520 16s. 8d
LEAVING A BALANCE OF	$769,505	=£157,908 16s. 9d.

for reserve, redemption, dividends on common stock, &c.

The Company has made arrangements with the London Central Markets Cold Storage Co., Limited, Smithfield, and the Imperial Food Supplies, Limited, 11, Snow-hill, and the General Produce Company, Limited, West Smithfield, London, under which it will enjoy the benefit of the established facilities afforded by those companies for the distribution of its products in London and other of the chief cities of Great Britain.

The Government of Mexico has granted to this Company until April 10, 1913, rebate to a large extent of the slaughtering taxes now prevailing, and under its Concessions the Company will pay as follows:—

Upon cattle, 5 cents gold per head, instead of $2.35 gold per head, the present average.

On hogs, 3 cents gold per head, instead of 90 cents gold per head.

Upon sheep, no tax, instead of 25 cents gold per head.

The Federal slaughter taxes at present paid in the City of Mexico alone amount approximately to $400,000 gold (£82,083 6s. 8d.) annually. The tax saving to the Company on this basis should be sufficient to pay the interest on the entire Bond issue of this Company of $2,000,000 three times over. Moreover, in conjunction with the other benefits conferred, the rebate of taxes should be the means of ensuring to the Company the dominant control of a large percentage of the meat business of Mexico.

The Mexican National Railway Company has built side tracks into the slaughter yards of the Company's plant at Uruapan. The Company has also acquired ample freehold grounds in the City of Mexico for a refrigerating plant in that city, and will shortly have its warehouse, cold storage plant, and general offices there completed.

The concessions and rights of the Company in Mexico have been vouched for by the Honourable Luis Mendez and the Honourable Francisco Alfaro, two of the leading lawyers in Mexico, and the organization of the Company and the trust deed and the validity of the present issue of Bonds, and the legal status of the Company generally have been examined and vouched for by the Honourable Charles W. Dayton, Judge of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and by Mr. Lafayette H. de Friese and the Honourable D. A. Holmes of the New York Bar.

Holders of Bonds, who so desire, can register their names and addresses with the London Advisory Board, at the offices of the Prudential Deposit Trust, Limited, 16 and 17, Broad-street-avenue, London, E.C., in order that periodical statements may be sent to them of the position and progress of the Company.

Applications for Bonds should be made upon the form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers with a cheque for the amount payable on application. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and when the number of bonds allotted is less than that applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture and the allotment liable to cancellation.

Application will be made in due course to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for a settlement in and quotation of the Bonds.

The official statistics as to live stock in Mexico and copies of the Concessions issued by the Federal Government of Mexico are filed at the CONSULATE of the UNITED STATES OF MEXICO, Broad-street House, New Broad-street, London, E.C., where they can be seen by intending applicants.

Certified copies of the Company's Concessions and of the trust deed securing the Bonds can be seen by intending applicants at the offices of the Company's Solicitors, Messrs. LINKLATER AND CO., 2, Bond-court, Walbrook, London, E.C., between the hours of 11 and 4, while the lists remain open.

A Brokerage of ½ per cent. will be paid on the amount of Bonds applied for and allotted on applications identified as coming through Brokers and Agents.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, and its branches, and from Messrs. BILLETT, CAMPBELL, AND GRENFELL, 3, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., and from Messrs. EMBERSON AND HUGHES, 4, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.

Dated January 8th, 1907.

Payment in full may be made on allotment or on the due dates of any subsequent instalments, under discount at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

A full Coupon will be payable on July 1, 1907.

Of the above Issue $1,010,000 of Bonds are offered for sale on behalf of persons who have agreed to purchase the same from the Company, the remaining $290,000 being offered for subscription on behalf of the Company.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

JOHN W. DE KAY ... ... New York.
PRESIDENT MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

HON. SEBASTIAN CAMACHO ... ... Mexico City.
PRESIDENT EL BANCO NACIONAL (THE NATIONAL BANK OF MEXICO); VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL SENATE; VICE-PRESIDENT MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

HON. JULIO M. LIMANTOUR ... ... Mexico City.
DIRECTOR NATIONAL BANK OF MEXICO; PRESIDENT AND OWNER OF THE CORDOBA AND HUATUSCO RAILWAY COMPANY.

HON. CARLOS LANDA Y ESCANDON... ... ... Mexico City.

HON. LUIS MENDEZ ... ... Mexico City.
PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAY COMMISSION.

HON. FRANCISCO ALFARO... ... ... Mexico City.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL OF MEXICO CITY.

HON. SERAPION FERNANDEZ ... ... Mexico City.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND LEADING SLAUGHTERER AND DEALER IN MEATS IN MEXICO.

HON. J. F. URIARTE ... ... Mexico City.
MEMBER OF FEDERAL SENATE; LATE CIVIL JUDGE OF MEXICO.

HON. CHAS. W. DAYTON ... ... New York.
JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

HON. DELAVAN A. HOLMES ... ... New York.
GENERAL COUNSEL MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

H. P. CHESLEY ... ... Mexico City.
LATE GENERAL MANAGER NATIONAL STOCK YARDS CO., ST. LOUIS AND SIOUX CITY STOCK YARDS CO., TREASURER AND GENERAL MANAGER MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

GEO. T. CLARK... ... ... Chicago.
VICE-PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CLARK CONSTRUCTION CO.; VICE-PRESIDENT MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

J. C. DENISON ... ... Chicago.
FORMERLY SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE UNION STOCK YARDS AND TRANSIT CO. OF CHICAGO.

A. F. McDONALD ... ... Pittsburg, Pa.
PRESIDENT PITTSBURG GALVANISING COMPANY.

HON. GEO. E. FOSTER ... ... Toronto, Can.
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE UNION TRUST CO. OF TORONTO; AND LATE MINISTER OF FINANCE, DOMINION OF CANADA.

GEO. B. LUPER ... ... New York.
VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER SECURITY TRUST AND LIFE INSURANCE CO.; LATE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SAMUEL H. BUCK ... ... Mexico City.
COMPTROLLER MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

T. K. SCOTT ... ... New York.
SECRETARY MEXICAN NATIONAL PACKING COMPANY.

FRANK H. HALL ... ... Chicago.
PRESIDENT ROGERS AND HALL CO.

KENNETH K. McLAREN ... ... Jersey City.
SECRETARY THE CORPORATION TRUST COMPANY.

DR. JOHN W. HANCHER ... ... Mount Pleasant, Iowa.
PRESIDENT IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

LONDON ADVISORY BOARD.

SIR WILLIAM F. HAYNES SMITH, K.C.M.G., Chairman Egyptian Lands and General Trust, Ltd.

SIR WILLIAM WISEMAN, Bart., London Manager Imperial Food Supplies, Ltd.

HON. ADOLFO BULLE, Consul of the United States of Mexico for London and its Dependencies.

JOSEPH MOORE, Esq., Chairman London Central Markets Cold Storage Company, Ltd.

*LAFAYETTE H. DE FRIESE, Director Borax Consolidated, Ltd.

The purchasers of the Bonds will nominate two additional members of the London Advisory Board after Allotment.

*Interested in the issue as Vendor of some of the Bonds and otherwise.

TRUSTEES FOR BONDHOLDERS UNDER THE MORTGAGE.
KNICKERBOCKER TRUST COMPANY, New York.

TELEGRAMS for Prospectuses: "PRUDETRUS, LONDON."

SIBERIA.

NOTICE to Shareholders in the

NERCHINSK GOLD COMPANY, LIMITED.

Nerchinsk Options, Limited.

(*Incorporated under the Companies Acts* 1862 *to* 1900).

A Prospectus (which has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies) is being issued.

The Capital of the Company is £50,000, divided into 50,000 Shares of £1 each, and 40,000 SHARES are being OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION at PAR, payable as follows:

2s. 6d. per share on Application; 2s. 6d. per share on Allotment; 5s. per share two months after Allotment; 5s. per share four months after Allotment; and 5s. per share six months after Allotment.

Shareholders in the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, will receive (rateably according to their applications on this Prospectus) preferential allotment as to one-half of the Shares now offered for subscription.

The Shares may be paid up in full on, or at any time after allotment, and Share Warrants to bearer will, subject to the provisions of the Articles of Association, be issued if required.

The Prospectus states that the Company has been formed to acquire the grant by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, of an exclusive licence to prospect and to lease, on terms set out in a Contract, dated 7th January, 1907 (being Contract No. 2 below), any Gold Mines which this Company may select, the area of selection covering in the aggregate four square miles in the Mala Koudechi Valley.

That this area is situate in the eastern part of the Nerchinsk mining district of Siberia, in the neighbourhood of the property of the Kluchi Gold Mines, Limited.

The concession held by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited (the territories covered by and including the above-mentioned area), was granted by the Private Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, and is held (as altered and amended by a supplementary agreement, which is dated 21st March, 1904, made by the Private Cabinet aforesaid with the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited) by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, as transferees for a term of twenty-four years from the 1st January, 1904, with the right of renewal for a similar period. Under the concession as altered and amended by the supplementary agreement, the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, has an exclusive gold prospecting licence up to the 1st January, 1908, over the concession area, and the right to call for mining leases of any mines located before the 1st January, 1908, within the free lands comprised in the concession area. The concession and supplementary agreement are subject to the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, performing and observing the stipulations and conditions therein contained, amongst which are the payment by that Company of (a) the gold royalties therein specified, but in no case less than a minimum of £4,000 per annum, and (b) a dessiatine tax of 2 roubles per dessiatine of ground occupied and taken on lease.

That the Company will not, according to the terms of the proposed prospecting licence, itself work any of the gold mines which it may select, but must promote separate companies for these purposes in conjunction with the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited.

That prospecting work has already been done by the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, on the area included in the licence to prospect under the superintendence of that Company's consulting engineers, Messrs. Pearse, Kingston, and Browne, and that the following is copy Report of Mr. A. L. Pearse on this area, and dated 21st November, 1903, addressed to the Directors of the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited:—

Mala Koudechi Camp is connected with Davenda and Mount Kluchi by a fairly good road, and can be reached from the former in two hours. It has been the headquarters for the prospecting carried out in that district (see plan) and controls the work on the "Growler" lode, the prospects named "Eisenhut," "Twin," "Discovery," "Anvil," and "Divide."

Rich quartz float found above the line of some of the richest placers on the Concession led to these discoveries.

"EISENHUT" LODE.—The Eisenhut lode was found by costeen trench on the west side of the Kostremyka Creek. Its outcrop is 10 ft wide of grey quartz, and worth half an ounce per ton. A tunnel has been started to endeavour to find this lode below the costeen.

"TWIN."—The Twin is an outcrop of quartz 3 ft wide, similar to the Eisenhut, further up the hill. A tunnel is being driven to try and find it in depth.

At the head of the Kostremyka Creek, and opposite to Mala Koudechi, almost on top of the hill or divide, a lode has been discovered named the "Victory," striking N. 75 degrees W., which is being opened on by the two shafts, Discovery and Anvil, situate 500 ft. apart.

"DISCOVERY" AND "ANVIL" SHAFTS.—The Discovery Shaft is down 30 ft. on the hanging-wall side, and exposes 4 ft. of the lode matter. The present value is half an ounce per ton. The lode is nearly vertical. In the "Anvil" shaft the lode has been cross-cut, it is 10 ft. wide, and worth 12 dwts. per ton. The shaft has been started at this cross-cut.

"DIVIDE" SHAFT.—The Divide Shaft is down 25 ft. It is situated a quarter of a mile west from the Anvil, and on the same line of strike, but it is questionable if the lode has any connection with the Victory. The formation in this shaft is not well defined, but as it pans well it is worth following.

"GROWLER" LODE.—The Growler is a lode 3 ft. to 7 ft. wide, two miles up the stream from Koudechi. A shaft is sunk 20 ft. on the hanging-wall. Its direction is N. 30 degrees W. It is a promising-looking lode of white quartz, carrying pyrites, chalcopyrite, and a little lead. Two assays made of samples from here gave 11 dwts and 5 dwts respectively.

That the Directors have also received the following Report from their Chief Engineer, Mr. H. G. L. Kenrick, M.I.M.M.:—

Worcester House, Walbrook,
London, E.C., January 5th, 1907.

Pearse, Kingston and Browne.

The Directors of NERCHINSK OPTIONS, LIMITED.

Gentlemen.—In answer to your request for an opinion on the large prospecting area you have acquired from the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, I beg to state that towards the end of May, 1902, I went out to Siberia to inspect and report on the Nerchinsk Company's property.

During the six months I was on this property I spent some time in the Kluchi and Koudechi Valleys, and laid out the first works undertaken in these valleys in search of quartz lodes.

The result of these works disclosed the large Kluchi lode, which was found immediately before my return to England. The prospecting work, which was continued by Mr. Harper (the present manager of Kluchi Gold Mines, Limited), has since disclosed several lodes in the Kluchi and Koudechi Valleys.

Very little prospecting work has at present been undertaken on your concession. The work has practically been confined to the sinking of two or three small shafts about 30 ft. in depth and the drifting of a few costeens. The result of this work must be considered very satisfactory, as the outcrops of four lodes have already been disclosed.

I understand you have a copy of a report made in 1903 by Mr. A. L. Pearse, which covers the work done on these lodes.

The rich placers in the Koudechi Valley have been worked for many years by the Private Cabinet, but no attention was given to quartz mining until the prospecting referred to above was undertaken by the Nerchinsk Company.

A considerable amount of rich float quartz has been found in these valleys, which should indicate that, with a little prospecting, the ore bodies from which it has been shed might be located.

I would strongly recommend that development work should be carried out on the lodes already disclosed, and systematic prospecting be undertaken on this valuable concession, which gives every promise of developing several large mines.

Yours faithfully,

H. G. L. KENRICK.

That, taking into account the result of the work already done, it is anticipated that by the further expenditure provided for by this Company, several mining propositions should be located suitable for formation into separate companies and the benefit of flotation of these will accrue to this Company and the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, as after providing out of the total capitalisation of each separate company one-third thereof for the working capital and formation expenses of each such company, the balance will be divided as to one-half to this Company and one-half to the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited.

A Sketch Map, showing the approximate position, etc., of the Mala Koudechi property, referred to in the reports, is enclosed with the prospectus. The purchase consideration payable to the N.P. Syndicate, of 62, London Wall, London, E.C., and the terms and conditions relating thereto, together with the various contracts and all other information required by the Companies Acts, are fully set out in the prospectus.

The Company will pay a brokerage of 6d. per Share on all Shares allotted on Application Forms bearing brokers' stamps.

The DIRECTORS are:—Viscount FRANKFORT DE MONTMORENCY, 56, Warwick Square, London, S.W. E. MEREWETHER BOVILL, Norcott Court, Berkhampstead (Director of the Kluchi Gold Mines, Limited, and of the Peel River Land and Minerals Company, Limited). Lieut.-Colonel GEORGE HARGREAVE, 18, Marloes Road, Kensington, London, W. LEO RAFFALOVICH, of 24, Palace Quay, St. Petersburg, and 23, Leinster Terrace, London, W. (Director of the Nerchinsk Gold Company, Limited, and of the Kluchi Gold Mines, Limited).

The Bankers are Parr's Bank, Limited, 77, Lombard Street, London, E.C., and Branches. The Solicitors are Steadman, Van Praagh and Gaylor, 4, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East, London, S.W. The Broker is Wilfred Stephenson, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. The Auditors are Hudson, Smith, Briggs, Smith and Taylor, 23, College Hill, London, E.C., and Exchange, Bristol. The Consulting Engineers are Pearse, Kingston and Browne, Worcester House, Walbrook, London, E.C. The Chief Engineer in Siberia will be H. G. L. Kenrick, M.I.M.M. The Secretaries are Steele, Lockhart and Co., and the Registered Office is 62, London Wall, London, E.C.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

This notice is not published as an invitation to apply for shares, but merely as a notification to shareholders in the Nerchinsk Gold Co., Limited, that a prospectus of the Nerchinsk Options, Limited, is being issued, and that Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company and of the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors. The list of applications will close on Thursday, the 10th January, 1907, at 4 p.m.

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Of all Spirit Merchants and Licensed Grocers. Wholesale:—
The Finsbury Distillery Co., London.

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 2.—SPECIAL FOREIGN.

OPEN ONLY TO THOSE RESIDING OUTSIDE EUROPE.

The first Quarterly Foreign Competition, which was set in TRUTH of September 26, 1906, has proved so successful, and I have had so many letters from readers of TRUTH in all parts of the world expressing their appreciation of the Special Puzzle facilities offered them, that I find every encouragement to continue these Quarterly Competitions, and am setting the second of them herewith. That is to say, I am offering, this quarter, the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that Competitor who shall send in:

THE BEST ORIGINAL PARODY OF TENNYSON'S FAMOUS LINES, BEGINNING "BREAK, BREAK, BREAK," ETC.

I suppose all Competitors will be familiar with these lines and many will know them by heart. But for the benefit of any who may not happen to have a Tennyson handy, I print them herewith.

Break, break, break
On thy cold, grey stones, O Sea;
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

Oh! well for the fishermen's boy
That he shouts with his sister at play.
Oh! well for the sailor lad
That he sings in his boat in the bay.

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill.
But oh! for the touch of a vanished hand
And the sound of a voice that is still.

Break, break, break
At the foot of thy stones, O Sea;
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

The parody should deal with some subject of immediate public, and, if possible, imperial, interest, and should, as far as may be, recall the sound of the original, while differing from it altogether in sense.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) Only Competitors residing *outside Europe* are eligible to send in parodies.
(ii) No Competitor should send in more than one parody.
(iii) All parodies must reach TRUTH Office on or before April 9, 1907.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,459.

A valued correspondent has suggested to me a subject for a Puzzle, which strikes me as altogether so interesting that I am making use of it this week, and am offering the usual Prize of TWO GUINEAS for

A LIST COMPRISING THE NAMES OF THE SIX MOST DELIGHTFUL SCAPEGRACES IN ENGLISH FICTION.

My correspondent mentions Falstaff as a good example of the sort of person meant. Dick Swiveller might also be quoted as a good illustration.

Competitors are quite at liberty to use either, or both, of these names, if they please, in the compilation of their lists.

The term "English" may be taken, in its widest sense, as referring to any work of fiction in the English language.

"Fiction," also, may be given a liberal interpretation; historical or semi-historical characters introduced into works of fiction being eligible for inclusion.

The Award, as is usual in these cases, will be determined by a collation of all lists sent in.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor must send in more than one list of six "delightful scapegraces."
(ii) All lists must reach TRUTH Offices by the *first post* on Monday, January 21, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of CAERWN, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,449, is Mrs. B. N. Wale, The Hyde, Brewood, Stafford.

*** The real name, with the address, of SPONGE, winner of half TRUTH Prize No. 1,446, is Miss J. E. Ball, 34, Anglesey-road, Ipswich.

SPONGE kindly requests me to deduct 1s. from the Prize for the benefit of the Toy Fund. Many thanks.

*** The real name, with the address, of BLOOMFIELD, half-winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,450, is Edmund Bloomfield, Esq., 69, Queen-street, Maidenhead.

*** The real name, with the address, of BRADLEY, half-winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,450, is J. Bradley, Esq., 90, High-street, Maidenhead.

DORIS.—Your solution of Puzzle No. 1,453 was duly received, and is included in the Competition.

VERBUM SAT.—Many thanks for your excellent suggestion, of which you will see I am availing myself.

PORTHOS.—Your solution of Puzzle 1,454, was, I regret to say, received too late for inclusion in the Competion.

ENOCH.—Your correction duly noted.

NORTHLANDER.—Many thanks for your good wishes; also for your kind suggestions, which I will consider.

RIMABEL.—Many thanks for your letter. I hope that I may soon have to congratulate you on becoming a Prize-winner.

D'ARTAGNAN and WHITE BOY.—From the addresses given by these Competitors, I fear that their solutions of the Special Foreign Puzzle No. 1 are ineligible. The Competition is limited to extra-European residents. If there has been any mistake, I should be glad to hear from the Competitors in question.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. I.—SPECIAL FOREIGN ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ANAGRAMS OF THE WORDS "THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND."

I did think Bannerman a good, true, fitting leader.—Lake Victoria.

A gifted trio-land to their kind guide, Bannerman.—Entebbe.

Grant kindred Home Rule! Fond abiding tie attain.—N. W. P.

A land of trite eating and dire drinking—but "home"!—Currabula.

King, bride, and nation united adore the trim flag.

Go at it, trodden female band, in turning! Aid Keir H.—Mynah.

(Mr. Keir Hardie is introducing a Bill in support of woman's franchise.—Reuter's telegram.)

Germany's idea as to what kind of man John Bull is:

Daring, kind, hated afleat, domineering, but inert.—Kook.

I would explain that "bride" is used in the Apostolic sense, and refers to the Church—in this instance the Church of England.—C. Ross.

John Bull, exploding with wrath at certain remarks from a candid friend, loquitur:—

Think of maddened Erin? I, a futile braggart? D——tion!—Makhila.

Tho' it be far, true to England and King did I remain.—N. S. W. Lancer.

United kin, eh! A trim dodge to grab fat land in Erin!—Swadeshi.

Getting a darned formidable trade union, I think.—Ferozy.

D(aily) T(elegraph).
KENT TRIED BRIGG.
HALDANE ON TOUR.
India Famine.

Rahtor.

Ale for tired men, but gin drinking an aid to death.—Chanhan.

Begad, it a national need, into drink, fight, murder.—Ikkim.

O, hark! I find trade in our dim land getting beaten.—Vere.

Admit! Both regret union alike and find it danger.—C. A. S. B. W. L.

Keir Hardie, loq.: Rid of tinned meat in Labour gang; I thank Teddie R.—Coyote.

I deem a true inhabitant of England 'd (would) drink or git (rise and go away).—Bhil.

Tut! Remainder it fagged, too kind Hibernian land.—Daleth.

Daring, and tough, and firmer knit. One let it abide.—Trial Ball.

A nation free trade remaining did think but gold.—Lenore.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,456.—FURTHER ASSORTED SPECIMENS.

ORIGINAL PARODIES OF CAMPBELL'S FAMOUS LINES ENTITLED "A THOUGHT SUGGESTED BY THE NEW YEAR."

The more we live, more mean appear
The *Times*' succeeding stages;
In childhood how I did revere
Its thick threepenny pages

The stately current of its youth—
Ere Pigott yet disordered—
Is stemmed (as well explained in TRUTH):
'Tis only sold when ordered.

Now that the *Mail* costs but a "brown,"
And yellow rags fly thicker,
Why! Trade upon your old renown,
And make your courses quicker.

O, Walter, when you've lost your breath,
And life itself seems vapid,
Don't patter 'neath the falls of death,
But make the pace more rapid.

It may be strange—yet try a change.
Let Hooper do your speeding;
He'll sell for cash your ancient trash—
The public are unheeding.

Heaven gave you thunder, breadth, and length,
But you lack Yankee deepness,
And book clubs of a seeming strength,
Proportioned to their cheapness.

The Count.

The more men talk, the worse appear
A Bill's successive stages;
The "Second Reading" seems a year,
"Committee" passing ages.

The nimble spirit of their youth
Runs wild in gay disorders;
They jest and sport with phrase uncouth,
Till wit on folly borders.

And now the cheek grows pale and wan
As weeks and months are wasted;
Ye gods, this power misused by man,
By woman must be tasted.

She has not lost her bloom and breath,
Her courage is not vapid;
E'en as she struggles unto death,
Her progress is more rapid.

It may seem strange—yet who would change
Their method of proceeding,
As one by one, to gaol they go
To emphasise their pleading?

In prison viewed their measured course
Of sadly threat'ning fleetness,
Shows what may yet be gained by force,
And what be won by sweetness.

Canute.

The more we know, the less we fear
Self-constituted sages;
A day comes fifty times a year,
When most men draw their wages.

The growing passion for the truth
Compels beyond the borders
All scheming rogues at length, forsooth,
Who know no law or "orders"!

For as their well-worn cheek grows wan—
Their victims getting "slicker"—
They all go under to a man—
The Veri-Forceful Kicker!

When "Soaps" was blown quite out of breath,
Its sure demise was rapid.
And trusty freemen hailed the death
Uproariously. Sap id!

It would be strange if all could range
Times' Book Clubs to their reading;
Then everyone might leave undone
Quite every sort of weeding!

Heaven knows what peers of fading wealth—
And abrogating "greetness"—
Bestow on go-betweens in stealth
Consorting to their meetness!

Rimabel.

Why do we think when Bills appear
That soon they'll pass all stages;
The "soon" to some may be a year,
While some don't pass for ages.

Poor Birrell thought his Bill in youth
Would pass debates' disorders;
It lingered while he strove to smooth
The feuds of Clerks in Orders.

But, when his careworn chief grew wan,
As Tory shafts fell thicker,
The Lords, whose measures Bills must ban
Despatched the clauses quicker.

But when the Lords, all out of breath
Returned the Bill quite vapid,
While yet it could be saved from death
The Commons' course was rapid.

"We will not change," they said, "though strange,"
All precedents unheeding,
"Since one by one each clause has gone,
What's left is not worth weeding."

The Lords replied with civil strength,
Indemnifying meekness.
C.-B. withdrew the Bill at length.
For "change," he said, "is weakness."

Creran.

The more he learns, the less a man
Is hoodwinked as he ages:
At first each goose appears a swan,
And simpletons seem sages.

He listens in his callow youth
To ranters and marauders;
Receives their silly tales as truth,
And sides with their applauders.

But as the after years come on,
And faction's fogs are lifting,
He cries—his old illusion gone—
Ye gods! where am I drifting?

When specious claims are waste of breath,
And shibboleths are vapid,
If a bad Bill is borne to death
He likes the current rapid.

It may seem strange that he should change,
To those whom folly's leading
Still by the nose, but on he goes,
For all their special pleading.

Heaven teaches him the truth at length,
And lends him light and sweetness,
While those who trust their seeming strength
Find out its incompleteness.

Ephemeron.

The more we live, more rash appears
Our country's laws and fashion:
A hat of cartwheel size one year,
This year, no hat the passion.

The crinoline of "early Vic.,"
Tho' common sense hath banned it,
Tries cunningly by many a trick
To enter fashion's mandate.

But as the haggard face grows wan,
The rouge and poudre must thicken,
Ye gods! when all the fakes are on,
Feel ye not conscience-stricken?

When polls, too, shed their youthful crop,
And cold ye thereby catch, oh!
Why, as ye rush towards Clarkson's shop,
Don't ye, instead, try Tatcho?

'Tis passing strange that Law don't change
Court martial's rotten system,
Where time on time verdicts unique
Prove the real culprit's missed 'em.

Heaven grant us laws in the New Year
Adjudged with truth and candour.
Sound legal sauce, served without fear,
Alike to goose and gander.

Korah.

The more we work, more brief appear
Our Bill's succeeding stages;
My Bill at Commons meant a year,
At Lords, a short day's wages.

The voyage of our Session's youth,
Which Balfour yet disorders,
Stole through the Labour Party smooth,
Along the Irish borders.

And as the statesman's cheek grew wan,
And women's wrongs grew thicker
O souls! that measure rights with man,
Why seems your course no quicker?

When Scots have lost their darling Greys,
And other corps grow vapid,
We honour Volunteers' ways,
And make our ships more rapid.

It may be greed, yet who would heed,
Time's course to market speeding,
When, one by one, all prints have gone
For lines that need no reading.

Fate gives our year of seeming strength
Lords' damnifying weakness;
And those of next a subtle length
Of Lords' and ladies' meekness.

Northlander.

If you would bright and young appear
Thro' life's succeeding stages;
Then, eat no meat throughout the year,
But live like modern sages.

The gladsome current of your youth,
Unhindered by disorders,
Would flow on, like a river smooth,
Along its grassy borders.

No careworn look, no visage wan,
No headache after dinner,
No star-gazing and calling one
"A miserable sinner."

Your joys would never lose their bloom,
Life never, then, seem vapid,
And when you near the falls of death,
And feel its tide more rapid.

You would not change your happy state,
Time's course to heaven speeding,
For all the world calls rich and great,
Earth's joys are all receding.

But, in exchange for fading strength
And life of incompleteness,
You'll find a life, in Heaven, at length,
Of never-ending sweetness.

Mary Field.

The more we live we realise
Our life's increasing dangers:
To-day some risks we recognise
That yesterday were strangers.

The horse 'bus of our safer days,
Ere motors were invented,
Went lingering on its placid ways,
Slow, shaky, but—non-scented.

But now the cheek with fear is white,
And still the 'bus flies faster;
Ye driver, strive with all your might,
And save us from disaster.

Rapidity of transit is
The mode. Each in a hurry
Goes flying; but a query 'tis,
What need for all this scurry?

It may be true the microbe crew
Haunts all we eat; infection
Lurks in a kiss, in laughter, too.
Oh, what a sad reflection!

Banana skins cause many slips,
Though limbs may soon be mended;
But now we're threatened with airships
Our risks will ne'er be ended.

Marnou.

The more we live more brief appear
The Bill's succeeding stages,
A day of Birrell seems a year,
And years like passing ages.

The sweet religion of our youth,
Ere Ministers disordered,
Steals, lingering like a blessed truth,
With heresies now bordered.

But as the Lib'ral cheek grows wan,
And Tory shafts fly thicker,
Ye gods, that measure life to man,
What means the unseemly bicker?

Now this year's nearing its last breath—
May 'ts end be very rapid,
Why as the Bill has met its death,
The year seems dull and vapid.

It may seem strange, but who would change
The Bill's course to slower speeding?
When, one by one, its friends have gone
And left it lone and bleeding.

Heaven give th' New Year renewed strength,
And pardon your elateness,
And give the Bill of life a length
Proportioned to its greatness.

Porthos.

The more we eat less does appear,
And indigestion rages—
A day? Not so! but year to year,
Attacks e'en learned sages.

The toothsome palates of our youth
Gets livers out of order;
While life we try to make more smooth,
Clogs with a rocky border.

So said the M.P. to his son,
As he finished his meat and liquor,
To the House I go, we'll man to man,
Amend the clauses quicker.

When boys like you draw life's sweet breath,
Have not e'en one bad habit;
Spout politics nigh unto death,
And eat less—never rapid.

It may seem strange, but could you change
Your course of life now speeding,
To matters of the Bill that's gone,
Its vital points still bleeding?

Help give the Bill its one-time strength,
For education's fleetness:
The Lords gave only a seeming length.
But we've to add its sweetness.

Ampo.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE CONSOLIDATED 3½% STOCK.

ISSUE OF £994,350.

Price of Issue, 95 per cent.

Interest payable 1st JANUARY and 1st JULY.
Six Months' Interest payable 1st JULY, 1907.

Principal repayable at par 1st JULY, 1949, the Government of the Cape of Good Hope having the option to redeem the Stock at par on or after the 1st JULY, 1929, on giving twelve calendar months' notice.

The Government of the Cape of Good Hope having complied with the requirements of the Colonial Stock Act, 1900, as announced in the *London Gazette* of the 23rd October, 1903, **Trustees are authorized to invest in this Stock** subject to the provisions set forth in the Trustee Act, 1893.

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED are instructed by the Government of the Cape of Good Hope to offer for subscription the above amount of Stock, to be raised under the provisions of the following Acts of the Cape of Good Hope Legislature, viz.:—

Act No. 43 of 1905	...	£658,822	for Local Works and other purposes
,, ,, 44 of 1905	...	191,228	,, Railway Works
,, ,, 50 of 1905	...	144,300	,, Harbour Works

and in accordance with the powers granted by the General Loans Acts of 1881, 1883, 1888, and 1892.

The Stock offered will be in addition to and rank *pari passu* with the £13,422,823 19s. 1d. already created, and will be inscribed in accordance with the provisions of "The Colonial Stock Act, 1877," 40 and 41 Vict., cap. 59, in the books of the "Cape of Good Hope Consolidated 3½ per cent. Stock," kept by the London and Westminster Bank Limited,—and will be transferable without charge and free of stamp duty at that Bank, either by the Stockholders personally or by their attorneys. The interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, will be payable on behalf of the Government of the Cape of Good Hope at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, on the 1st January and 1st July in each year, by Dividend Warrants, which can be sent by post at the Stockholder's risk. The principal will be payable at the same Bank on the 1st July, 1949, but the Government of the Cape of Good Hope have the option of redemption at par, in London, on or after the 1st July 1929, on giving twelve calendar months' notice by advertisement in the *London Gazette* and in the *Times* Newspaper, or by post to the then Stockholders at their registered addresses.

Stock Certificates to Bearer, of the denominations of £100, £500 and £1,000, with Coupons for the Half-yearly Dividends attached, will be obtainable in exchange for Inscribed Stock at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, on payment of the prescribed fees, and such Certificates can be re-inscribed as Stock at the will of the holder.

The revenues of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope alone are liable in respect of this Stock and the Dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are not directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the Stock or of the Dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.—40 and 41 Vict., cap. 59, sec 19.

Applications on the form prescribed will be received at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, and must be for even hundreds of Stock, and be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. on the nominal amount applied for.

The list will be closed on or before Friday, the 11th January, 1907.

In case of partial allotment, the surplus of the amount paid as deposit will be appropriated towards the payment of the instalment due on allotment.

Payment will be required as follows, viz:—

£5	per cent.	on application.	
£20	,, ,,	,,	15th January, 1907.
£20	,, ,,	,,	11th February, 1907.
£25	,, ,,	,,	11th March, 1907.
£25	,, ,,	,,	8th April, 1907.
£95			

Payment may be made in full on the 15th January, or any subsequent day, under discount at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

If default be made in payment of the instalments at their due dates, the previous payments will be liable to forfeiture.

Script Certificates will be issued after payment of the amount due on allotment, and such Certificates will be convertible into Inscribed Stock on presentation at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, as soon as they are paid in full.

Copies of the Acts creating the Loan can be seen at the London and Westminster Bank Limited; and Forms of Application can be obtained at that Bank, or at any of its Branches; and of Messrs. R. Nivison & Co., 76, Cornhill, E.C.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED,
LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.,
8th January, 1907.

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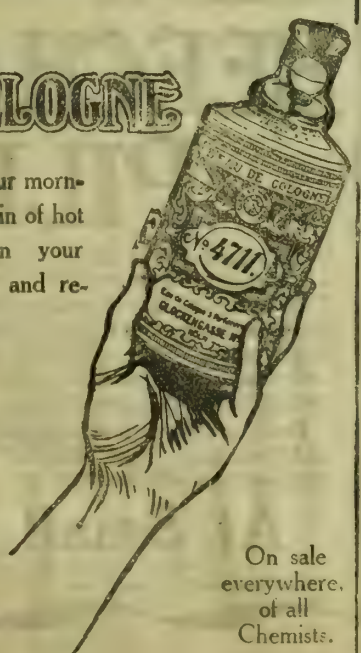

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Annual report will be forwarded on application to the Secretary.

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Entered as Second Class Matter at the New York, N.Y., Post Office, 1903.

· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1568. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, January 16, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

BELOW I give the account of receipts and expenditure in connection with the last Christmas distribution of Truth Dolls and Toys. As a matter of book-keeping convenience the account is made up for the year ending December 31. As, however, a good many subscriptions have been received since that date, the debt shown in the account is really reduced by about £30 at the present moment. Seeing the unsatisfactory position in which the Fund stood only two or three months ago, this result is gratifying, and the more so since the number of dolls and toys distributed, instead of being reduced, has been larger than ever. I must heartily thank all those readers of Truth who have contributed to this result, and I hope that those who have hitherto stood aloof will now feel inspired to send me the small amount required to wipe out the debt.

Truth Doll and Toy Fund, 1906.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To balance against fund, 1905	166	1	3½			
To cost of 85 large dolls and 3,500 small dolls, and carriage of same to dressers	115	10	2			
To unpaid carriage on dolls from dressers	1	5	0			
To cost of 26,000 small and large toys, packing and distributing same to the recipients	841	10	11½			
Carried forward	1,124	7	5			
Brought forward	1,124	7	5			
To renewals and repairs to boxes for delivery	7	7	6			
* Distributing the new sixpences	4	2	0			
				1,155	16	11
By total contributions to December 31, 1906				1,056	16	9
Debit balance against "Truth Toy Fund"				79	0	2

* This item appears as a matter of account. The donor of the new sixpences, as usual, kindly sent £5 to defray the cost of the distribution. This amount has been acknowledged as a donation and included in the receipts.

Meantime, I have to acknowledge the following contributions towards the Fund:—X. Y. Z., £5; Mgr. Goddard, £1 1s.; Frances, 2s. 6d.; R. G., £2; R. J. and M. M. G., $5; F. A. B., £2 2s.; the Officers of H.M.S. *Leander* and the Chatham Destroyer Flotilla, £2 14s. 6d.; Parrot, 1s.; Crescendo, 2s.; F. C. H., £5 5s.; A Subaltern, £1; R. R., £1.

Messrs. Love and Malcomson, Limited, of 4 and 5, Dean-street, High Holborn, who executed the whole of the printing in connection with the Toy Show and the distribution of the articles, have kindly informed me that they propose to make no charge for this work. This is equivalent to a donation of upwards of £12 towards the Toy Fund, and calls for my special thanks accordingly.

It was stated in Truth several weeks ago that the King intends to spend the greater part of March at Biarritz. His Majesty derived considerable benefit from his stay at Biarritz last year, and he was much pleased with the place and its surroundings. It was originally contemplated for the King to pay a visit to the Spanish Court at Madrid when he leaves Biarritz at the beginning of April, directly after Easter, when the King and Queen of Spain would have returned to their capital after spending Holy Week at Seville. All this, however, has been given up, owing to the delicate health of the Queen of Spain, whose accouchement is expected to take place towards the end of April.

According to present arrangements, the King will spend Easter at Biarritz, and will leave that place early in the first week of April for Marseilles, where he will join the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* for a cruise in the Mediterranean. The programme of the yacht's intended course will be kept strictly secret, but it is certain that a visit will be paid to Naples. It is probable that the King will terminate his cruise at Venice or

Genoa, and that he will return thence overland to England, arriving in London about Saturday, April 27.

According to present arrangements the first Court of the season will be held by the King and Queen in the ball room of Buckingham Palace on the night of Friday, February 22. This will be practically a diplomatic and official function, and the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission are to attend, accompanied by their secretaries and Attachés. There will be a large number of presentations from the Diplomatic Circle.

The first two Levees of the season are to be held by the King in the Throne Room of St. James's Palace on Thursday, February 14, and on Tuesday, February 19, each day at noon. The first Levee will be principally diplomatic and official, and the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission are to attend, with their secretaries and Attachés. It is possible that the Prince of Wales may hold the third Levee of the season about the middle of March for the King, as his Majesty will then be absent from England. In this case there will be a fourth Levee early in May, and a fifth (and last) will be held during the first fortnight of June.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace for three days during the second week in July. The Prince and Princess are to visit the show of the Highland Agricultural Society at Prestonfield on Wednesday, July 10, and on Thursday, the 11th. On Thursday, also, they are to drive into Edinburgh in order that the Prince may lay the foundation-stone of the new Municipal School of Art. When the King (then Prince of Wales) visited Edinburgh on the occasion of the centenary show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, in 1899, he was the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith, and the Palace was placed at the disposal of their Majesties in May, 1903, when they spent a week there, and fulfilled several public engagements at Edinburgh and at Glasgow. The Duke of Buccleuch is the President of the Highland Society this year.

I stated last week that the Prince of Wales will probably open the Keyham Extension Works, near Plymouth, on Thursday, February 21, as the representative of the King. I hear that it has now been decided that the Royal yacht is not to be used in connection with this ceremony. The Prince and Princess of Wales will travel from Paddington to Plymouth on Wednesday, February 20, and they are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Mount Edgcumbe at Mount Edgcumbe until the morning of February 22, when they will return to town in order to be in time for their Majesties' first Court, which is to be held at night. It is expected that the Prince and Princess will enter the closed basin at the north end of the extension works in the Admiralty yacht *Vivid*. The Lords of the Admiralty are to take part in the ceremonial, and they will be on board the *Vivid* with the Royal party.

Princess Henry of Battenberg and her son, Prince Alexander, were the guests last week for three days of Lord and Lady Exeter at Burghley House, Northamptonshire, where there was a very large party to meet them. The Royal guests attended the county ball at Stamford on Thursday night. On Friday there was a lawn meet at Burghley of the Fitzwilliam Foxhounds, and at night Lady Exeter gave a dance, which was attended by many of the guests who had been at the county ball.

Queen Marie of Hanover was greatly beloved and most highly esteemed by all who knew her. She was a noble and admirable woman, absolutely excellent in every relation of life. With a most kind and gracious manner she combined immense dignity, being a *très grande dame* of the school of the old Courts. When young she was celebrated for her beauty and accomplishments, and when over seventy she was still remarkably handsome. Queen Marie was a Princess of Saxe-Altenburg, and during the early years of her married life she was made very unhappy by the insolence and cruelty of her father-in-law, King Ernest, the notorious Duke of Cumberland. After his death she had a happy time for fifteen years, and then came the crash of 1866. King George died an exile in 1878, and Queen Marie had since divided her time between Gmunden and Vienna. Her great friends were the Emperor Francis Joseph and the late King Christian and Queen Louise of Denmark. There was unbounded confidence, sympathy, and affection between the two queens. The marriage of the Duke of Cumberland and Princess Thyra of Denmark delighted his mother, whose relations with her daughter-in-law have always been most cordial. Queen Marie was very charitable, and she regularly gave away a very large sum of money every year. She had a host of poor pensioners.

The story that Queen Marie had only recently become reconciled to her daughter, Princess Frederica, is untrue. The Queen did not approve of her daughter's marriage, which took place in 1880, but she soon became reconciled to her, and Princess Frederica has always since spent several weeks (or months) of the year with her mother at Gmunden. It was many years before the Duke of Cumberland would resume friendly relations with his sister, but they have now been on most amicable terms for a long time. The Princesses Marie and Frederica of Hanover vowed from childhood that they would marry only for love. It is an open secret that Princess Marie could have become Duchess of Connaught, and that the late Duke of Albany was eager to marry Princess Frederica, but neither of the sisters cared sufficiently for her English suitor.

It is probable that Queen Marie's death will lead to important changes. It is well known that the Duke of Cumberland had refused to come to any understanding with Prussia solely in deference to his mother's susceptibilities, and the uncompromising attitude which he assumed was regarded with sympathy by the Emperor

For APPEALS, see page 182.
For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 178.
For Selected FOREIGN HOTELS, see pages 177, 178.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 173.
For ESTATES, AUCTIONS, see page 176.
For OUR PUZZLES, see pages 181, 182.

Francis Joseph and by the late King Christian, both of whom respected his motives in making his mother's feelings his first consideration. The Emperor William will be rejoiced to establish a *modus vivendi* with the Duke of Cumberland.

The Empress Eugénie, who has been residing for several months at Farnborough Hill, leaves England to-morrow, and she will proceed to the Riviera after a short stay in Paris. The Empress intends to reside at the Villa Cyrnos until the end of April, when she will probably go for a cruise in the Mediterranean in her yacht *Thistle*. It is not expected that she will return to England until about the end of June. The Empress will stay at the Hotel Continental during her brief visit to Paris. The Duke of Alba and the Marquis of Villalobar (who is now in charge of the Spanish Embassy) have been staying at Farnborough Hill.

Last week was a busy one at Dublin Castle, in preparation for the coming season. The new Court arrangements have given much work in the department of the Chamberlain, Lord Hawkesbury. The Viceregal household officials are assembling this week in Dublin, where Lord and Lary Aberdeen are expected to arrive after spending some days in London on their return from Rome. There are many comfortable, if not very spacious, residences for the Viceregal household in the Castle yards. Captain and Lady Celia Coates will reside there. Captain and Lady Clementine Waring have been lent the Private Secretary's Lodge in the Phœnix Park, which was the residence of Lord Randolph Churchill during his father's Viceroyalty, and where Mr. Winston Churchill spent some years of his early youth.

The New Year has been one of expectation in Ireland with regard to many other new things, and in especial the new Chief Secretary. With a country "on the make," interest is naturally deeply engaged in its appointed, leading makers. No high official will want for advisers in the country just now, where every one, more or less, is ready to lend a helping hand in framing a Constitution which will bring peace with honour to distressful Ireland at last. The misfortune lies in the infinite variety of the nostrums recommended with a view to that end. No doubt there is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors, but then too many cooks spoil the broth. And it seems, somehow or other, very easy to spoil in Ireland.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who is now at Belmont Castle, is to visit Glasgow on Friday, the 25th, when he will be presented with the freedom of his native city. The ceremony is to take place at noon in St. Andrew's Hall, after which the Lord Provost and Corporation will entertain the Prime Minister to luncheon in the Banqueting Room of the City Chambers. Sir Henry's father—Sir James Campbell, of Strathcathro—was Lord Provost of Glasgow from 1840 until 1843. He had settled in Glasgow in 1805, when he founded the well-known firm of J. and W. Campbell. Sir Henry was born at Kelvinside House, a large and handsome mansion on the banks of the river Kelvin, which was pulled down some years ago, and the site is now covered with houses.

Lord Alexander Russell, who died on Thursday in his eighty-sixth year, was the youngest son of the sixth Duke of Bedford, by his second marriage with Lady Georgiana Gordon, daughter of the Duke of Gordon. He was a half-brother of the seventh Duke, of Lord William Russell (grandfather of the present Duke of Bedford), and of Lord John (Earl) Russell; and a brother of the late Duchess-Dowager of Abercorn and of Lord Wriothesley Russell, Canon of Windsor. Lord Alexander served in the Army for nearly half a century. He took part in the Kaffir War in South Africa, and in the Crimean War, and served in Canada (being then in command of a battalion of the Rifle Brigade) for about eight years. After that he was employed at home, but in 1883 he was appointed to the command of the troops in British North America, and he remained for five years at Halifax, where he was exceedingly popular among all classes.

Lord Alexander Russell retired from the Army in 1888, and he afterwards lived for many years at Ewhurst Park, near Basingstoke, a place which he rented from the Duke of Wellington, but for some time past he had resided at Woodeaton, near Oxford. He was an excellent commanding officer, and his genial manners, his fine courtesy, and his liberal and very pleasant hospitalities, made him a general favourite. He was much liked by his Hampshire neighbours, and his departure from Ewhurst was greatly regretted throughout the district.

Colonel Wenman Coke, who died on Thursday, was the youngest brother of Lord Leicester. He served for many years in the Scots Guards, and took part in the Crimean campaign. Colonel Coke was returned as member for East Norfolk in 1858, and his unexpected defeat in 1865 created a great sensation, as it was regarded as a serious blow to the supremacy of the territorial magnates, who were then in absolute command of most of the county seats. Colonel Coke was supported by the great landlords of the county, but the Norfolk farmers threw off the yoke and elected a candidate of their own.

Dr. Haig Brown was a very able and most successful headmaster, but he will be best remembered as the far-sighted and sagacious pioneer of the movement for removing the City schools either to the country or to the suburbs. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, and

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Some interesting remarks on the subject of MODERN LIFE AND NERVE STRAIN by DR. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., are found on page 180.

late in life he worked hard for the transfer of his old school from Newgate-street to West Horsham. He was headmaster of the Charterhouse from 1863 until 1897, when he retired on being appointed Master of the Charterhouse. His great achievement was the successful removal of the school from the centre of London to Godalming, and this was not carried out without strenuous opposition, but he conducted his campaign with consummate tact and indomitable resolution. The scheme, however, was sadly hampered by the fatuities of the governing body, arrangements being made to accommodate only 180 boys, whereas in less than four years room was urgently needed for over 500. Dr. Haig Brown was a fine classical scholar, and profoundly versed in English literature. He was a man of strong common sense, absolutely free from "side," and by no means favouring extreme views in religion or visionary ideals in the practice of life. He was ever most grateful to Christ's Hospital, and had made large donations to that foundation.

A considerable sensation was excited in West Cornwall last week by the announcement that the mineral rights of Mr. A. F. Basset's Tehidy estate have been privately sold to a foreign syndicate. These include the celebrated mines of Dolcoath, East Pool, and Carn Brea, and it is said that the royalties now amount to about £15,000 a year. Mr. Basset is the representative of the Baroness Basset, who inherited large and valuable estates in West Cornwall from her father, Lord de Dunstanville, who had made a large fortune out of successful speculations in Cornish mines.

RETURNING TO OUR MUTTON.
(With Many Thanks to the "Lancet.")

O *Lancet*, O *Lancet*,
I dance it, and prance it,
  And skip it, with pleasure to note
How the door you thus shut on
That beastly cold mutton
  As unfit for humanity's throat.

I always *have* thought so;
My wife, too, I've taught so;
  But in vain. She'd my lessons ignore;
Give me cold leg—aye, bolder,
At times, e'en cold shoulder—
  And hold up her hands if I swore;

Or, taking to task me,
Ironic she'd ask me
  Who *was* the cold mutton to eat?
Or if, when once tasted,
The joints I'd like wasted
  And thrown to the dogs in the street?

But now fortified O,
With *you* on my side O,
  Dear *Lancet*, I'll into her rub,
That if *she* likes to cut on,
Till finished, cold mutton,
  She may . . . *I* will dine at the Club.

By an oversight which I much regret the name of Dr. Burney, the late Archdeacon of Kingston, was printed in last week's Truth as "Baring." The penman, not the printer, was at fault in this instance, but as the Doctor's relationship to Madame D'Arblay was mentioned in the paragraph I admit that the fault does not end there.

The promotion of Dr. Kirkpatrick to the Deanery of Ely has vacated two important offices in the University of Cambridge. The election to the Lady Margaret Professorship of Divinity (which is the blue ribbon of such posts) is to take place on February 27. The electors are the Vice-Chancellor, and those Doctors and Bachelors in Divinity who are members of the Senate. Each candidate has to deliver a prelection before the electors on some branch of theology, such discourse not to exceed one hour in length. The Mastership of Selwyn College will not be an easy position to fill up. The Dean of Ely's successor must be a High Churchman, and the possession of adequate private means is an indispensable qualification.

Canon Knox Little has resigned the Vicarage of Hoar Cross, Staffordshire, to which he was presented many years ago by the late Mrs. Meynell Ingram. The living, which is of the net value of about £300 a year, with house, is now in the gift of the Meynell Ingram Trustees, who have presented it to the Rev. Frank Fuller, curate of St. Matthew's, Westminster, who was curate of Hoar Cross many years ago. The church, which is a very handsome one, is locally celebrated for its elaborate ritual. The large and valuable Hoar Cross estates were left by Mrs. Meynell Ingram to her brother, Mr. Frederick Wood, who has assumed the name of Meynell. Canon Knox Little will reside permanently at Worcester in future. He was appointed in 1881 by Mr. Gladstone to a stall in Worcester Cathedral, which is worth £800 a year, with house.

Mrs. Boyle, widow of the well-known Dean of Salisbury, who died last week, was celebrated for her munificent charities both at Salisbury and at Kidderminster, where her husband was vicar from 1867, when he replaced the late Bishop (Claughton) of St. Albans, until 1880, when Lord Beaconsfield appointed him to the Deanery of Salisbury. Mrs. Boyle was warmly interested in many philanthropic schemes, which she most generously supported. She was a daughter of Mr. Robins, of Stourbridge, then a leading banker in that district, and had resided at Salisbury since her husband's death, which took place in 1901.

As mentioned last week, I have received one or two further communications with reference to the case of Father Hays, but I really do not know that they are worth troubling my readers with. One is from a gentleman who, while admitting that Bishop Brindle "acted without prudence and discretion and failed to acquaint himself with the circumstances of a peculiarly delicate case," goes on to refer to the fact that "Father Hays devoted nearly all his life to philanthropic work among the people rather than priestly work in the sanctuary," also to his consorting with Protestants in temperance work, and his "broad and liberal" utterances, and so forth. We have heard all this in a letter published two or three weeks ago. To say that the priest worked too much among the poor, and was not sufficiently intolerant

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or arrogant towards non-Catholics, seems to me a poor sort of excuse to offer for proceedings on the part of the Bishop which are intrinsically indefensible. Neither does it seem to me to reflect much credit on the writer or the "Catholic" Church.

The following is a different point:—

From reading your article on Bishop Brindle and Father Hays, a non-Catholic reader might be led to infer that the strange incidents and promotions, etc., witnessed in the diocese of Nottingham are common to other Roman Catholic dioceses in England. As personally acquainted with five dioceses, permit me to say this is not so. Such things are unknown here in Lancashire. As a rule, our English Catholic bishops are men of ability and tact, having the entire confidence of a loyal and devoted clergy. A LANCASHIRE CATHOLIC.

In TRUTH of December 26 a paragraph appeared having reference to an appeal of the Duchess of Sutherland on behalf of the Potteries Cripples' Guild. The appeal stated that the Guild had obtained an order for the flowers used in the production of "Les Merveilleuses" at Daly's Theatre; and what I said was that the Duchess had apparently been incorrectly informed on this point by some one connected with the Guild, as the flowers in question were of German manufacture, and had been supplied by an agent in London to the agent of the Guild. I regret to find that I am the person who was misinformed. The statement as I gave it was certainly made by a gentleman who ought to have known the facts, and who supplied a few flowers which the League were unable to turn out. But on closer investigation it appears that this last fact is the sole foundation for the statement. The Potteries Cripples' Guild undoubtedly supplied all the flowers, with certain trifling exceptions. It has taken me some time to get at the whole truth, but now that I have done so I must apologise to all concerned for having been misled in the matter.

Both in London and in Glasgow last week there were interesting prosecutions under the Lotteries Act. In the London case the defendant was the promotor of a penny raffle in connection with a concert in aid of "The National League of the Blind," and at Glasgow a clergyman, his session clerk, and the hon. secretary of a bazaar committee were getting up an illegal guessing competition, in which the entrance fee was also a penny. For the latter event the prize was a gold watch, and the competition was to have taken the form of guesses as to the precise second at which the watch would stop after being wound up. The children attending the Sunday school were engaged in selling tickets, and this little gamble promised to be so extensively patronised that the clergyman and his colleagues counted upon netting a profit of £120 for the purpose of the church. In both cases convictions were recorded and small penalties imposed. The notion that the law relating to lotteries may be broken with impunity if it is only broken for some charitable or religious object is much too prevalent, and it is therefore satisfactory to see that something is being done to correct it.

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A lamentable letter appeared in the *Scotsman* the other day from a Lieutenant-Colonel Seton. The poor gentleman had been reading in the *Times* a letter on "Raids and Invasion," which had led him to believe that a landing of 80,000 German warriors on the coast of Scotland is an event to be anticipated at any moment. The Lieutenant-Colonel judges that compulsory service for youths under twenty is the only thing left for Scotland under these circumstances, and he implores the women of Great Britain to throw their weight into the scale, darkly hinting at what the female sex in particular have to apprehend in the event of 80,000 German savages once getting loose among our hearths and homes.

Now this just shows the consequences of the indiscriminate distribution of sensational literature among people of weak nerves. We talk of the effects of penny dreadfuls on boys, but what is it by comparison with the case of this old soldier, shaking in his shoes, and appealing to every one to shake likewise, all through some utterance of the "blue funk school" which he has read in his favourite newspaper? I presume he is only a retired lieutenant-colonel, and not quite the intrepid warrior that he was when his moustaches were first growing; but that is only an additional reason why his friends, and the friends of all old gentlemen of the same type, and old ladies too, should take care to keep alarming literature of this sort out of their reach. I hope that something will be done to calm the nerves of this gallant old officer, and to explain to him that we still have a Navy at least three times as strong relatively to the particular enemy he has in view as any that Nelson could muster in the days when "Boney" was waiting to pounce on our ancestors and ancestresses.

Not the least pathetic point in the letter is the poor gentleman's ludicrous idea that an invasion by 80,000 troops of the flower of the German army can be warded off by merely giving a little compulsory drill and musketry training to all our boys under twenty years of age. Either he supposes that the terrible Germans will be driven pell-mell into the sea by the lads of Scotland who happen to be under arms; or that the same result will be ensured by a *levée en masse* of this once-and-for-ever trained population, unorganised, undisciplined, and probably unarmed; or perhaps even that the mere probability of this event will deter the Kaiser and his staff from ever attempting the rash enterprise. The idea that a German invasion in such force, if possible at any moment, requires the maintenance in Scotland of a standing army of at least equal size and efficiency, does not seem to have occurred to him, in spite of his early martial education and experience.

In view of the appearance of letters like this in newspapers which ought to know better than to publish them, and the panic-stricken utterances of our field-marshals and generals on the subject of the Channel Tunnel, what I would propose is this. First of all let us get rid of our Navy, beyond a sufficiency of cruisers to guard our commerce in war. Next, let us bring home all our garrisons from South Africa and the Mediterranean. With the money saved on

our battle fleet let us build a good high wall all round our coast—something like the Great Wall of China. Behind the wall let us have a conscript army equal to the German in numbers and efficiency, that is to say, four millions strong on a war footing, with at least 600,000 constantly under arms close to the coast, in case of emergency. In front of the wall let sentries perambulate the beach day and night with their eyes always on the offing on the look-out for the enemy's fleet. Under this scheme of national defence, I think that the population at large might possibly go to bed at night with some sense of security. But I do not go so far as to say that this feeling would be justified. On the principle applied at present to naval defence, it is obvious that if we are to be really safe we must be prepared for a combination of two invaders against us. We ought, therefore, to have something like eight million troops behind our wall, and perhaps a little margin over to meet "the wastage of war." I think if we took these precautions the panic-mongers might be silenced—temporarily.

When Mr. Brodrick waved his wand and conjured into existence six army corps, it struck me as a pretty trick, but not much more. When Mr. Haldane waves the official wand again, and hey, presto! we have an imposing "expeditionary force," marshalled for immediate business into commands, divisions, and brigades, instead of army corps, my mind naturally runs back to Mr. Brodrick's conjuring. It looks very pretty on paper, and I do not question that it is highly scientific, though that is a question for experts. No doubt the business-like organisation of your materials in the way that will make them most effective for business purposes is a very important matter. But the materials come before the organisation. We know now where we are to look for all our units when they are wanted, and the places they are to fit into. The important question remains, however, whether they will be there when we come to look for them, and what condition they will be in.

A veterinary officer in India writes to me with some vehemence to protest against the order recently issued for the instruction of combatant officers in veterinary science. The question seems to have been dealt with at some length in the *Veterinary News* for November 3, in an article the general tenor of which is sufficiently indicated by its title, "Every man to his trade." The article criticised a recent memorandum of the Adjutant-General in India calling attention to the facilities afforded for the instruction of cavalry officers in veterinary hospitals, the objection to this being that veterinary officers have enough to do without imparting a smattering of scientific knowledge to cavalry men, and that these men are not serious students, but a "mob of sightseers," who have no hankering after serious knowledge, but merely obstruct and embarrass the man of science in the performance of his scientific duties. The writer asks what the R.A.M.C. would say if regimental officers were turned into the military hospitals to learn how to doctor soldiers, and so on, and so on.

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With all respect to the veterinary staff of the Army, this line of argument seems a trifle absurd. As a matter of fact, regimental officers are now being called upon to acquire some smattering of sanitary science, and if they are instructed at the same time in first aid to the injured, or in any other common knowledge that may be necessary on the battlefield or in a campaign, no one could object to it on any ground except that officers have too much to learn already. But whatever may be the case with regard to the treatment of human beings, there cannot be two opinions as to the desirability of cavalry officers—and, for the matter of that, cavalry soldiers also—knowing something about the proper treatment of horses. I always thought that the need for "horsemastership" in the cavalry was one of the most valuable among the many "lessons" of the Boer War, and all that the authorities seem to be doing at present is to enforce this lesson.

It really cannot be pretended that there is any great professional mystery about the doctoring of animals under ordinary circumstances. Every man who takes a personal interest in his stable knows pretty well how to doctor his horses himself. If he keeps a stable but does not interest himself in it, he trusts to a coachman or groom to do this job, and the occasions when it is necessary to call in a vet. are extremely rare. Every farmer who knows his trade knows how to doctor his own cattle in the ordinary ailments to which they are subject. And in the case of dogs, I should think that most of the people who find it necessary to consult vets. about the health of their pets are women.

When you come to the Army, you are in the position that your horses are for the most part in the charge of young men who have not had time to acquire the lore of the stable. This is true both of privates and junior officers. Even a horsey man who gets a commission in the cavalry has not the opportunities of frequenting stables and looking after horses personally that he would have, and utilise, if he were living in the country with a stable of his own. Common sense suggests that you should give both privates and officers some sort of instruction which will make them as competent to look after their horses in sickness and health as a coachman who has spent perhaps ten or twenty years in private service. I recommend the military section of the veterinary profession to sink professional pedantry and adopt this common sense view.

From information received, I gather that the War Office has just called for the names of non-commissioned officers on the permanent staff of the Volunteers with upwards of twenty-one years' service, presumably with a view to their discharge. I am sorry to disappoint those sergeant-instructors who have protested to me against this proceeding, but as it is entirely in accordance with suggestions that have frequently been made in Truth at the instance of the much more numerous body of non-commissioned officers who have not completed twenty-one years' service, and are very anxious about their prospects of promotion, I am estopped from questioning the wisdom of the War Office in this in-

stance. One man concerned candidly admits that there are sergeant-instructors above the twenty-one years' limit who have ceased to be efficient, and may properly be removed; but he goes on to contend that the proper course is to make a searching investigation of the abilities and attainments of the men during the annual course of instruction, which is now about to take place, and to deal with them upon their merits, irrespective of age. My own view, however, is that the "too old at forty" rule requires to be applied in the Army, if anywhere; and that if a non-commissioned officer is retained in a position which requires that he should be of the highest degree of smartness and efficiency all round beyond the twenty-one years' limit, it should only be because he is such an exceptional man that it is impossible to find a junior who could do his work equally well.

Many growls have appeared in TRUTH respecting the result of the abolition of the rank of regimental quartermaster-sergeant in the Field Artillery depots as regards the staff-sergeants, who are thereby excluded from any further promotion, unless to warrant rank. I have again been reminded that this grievance stands unchanged, and it sems to be a genuine one. The staff-sergeants concerned are precluded from earning any increase of pension beyond their 2s. 6d. a day, while they see men like farriers, wheelers, and saddlers rising to quartermaster-sergeant, and retiring on 2s. 9d., though possibly they have inferior education certificates. I have a notion, though I am unable to verify it at the moment, that in the Army Service Corps, or one of the departments, pension rises periodically by length of service, irrespective of classification by rank. Is not this a sound principle to apply all round?

Just after asking the last question, I hear a still louder and more comprehensive growl on the same subject from the Royal Engineers. It is alleged that there is now such a block in promotion in that corps that a non-com. has but the slightest chance of ever acquiring a pension of 2s. 6d., let alone improving upon it. The following are given as the average periods for each step in the non-commissioned ranks under present circumstances:—

Lance-corporal to 2nd corporal	3 to 4 years.
2nd corporal to full ditto	4 years.
Full-corporal to sergeant	5½ years.
Sergeant to coy. sergt.-major	7½ years.

Assuming that a man is made lance-corporal with three years' service, which seems as much as can be expected under the circumstances, he will barely be able to complete six years' service as sergeant at the above rates. I give the table for what it is worth, but if it represents anything like the true facts, the matter deserves consideration from every point of view, for the prospect of earning increased pension is the strongest inducement to good conduct, energy, and self-improvement. The present state of things in the Royal Engineers is said to have been largely brought about by the fact that immediately before the submarine mining branch was disbanded no less than thirteen comparatively junior sergeants were promoted to quartermaster-sergeant, only to become at once supernumerary to the establishment, while jumping over the heads of men in other branches who were years senior to them. This senseless proceeding has inflicted what is really life-long injury all through the non-commissioned ranks of the corps, and, in fact, beyond that limit.

A gentleman writing to me from Galway states that he had just seen a detachment of Connaught Rangers marching from barracks to the Town Hall, armed with brooms. His curiosity aroused, he followed them up, and found that their duty was to clean up and decorate the place in preparation for the Galway Hunt Ball, and that they strongly disapproved of it, one man going so far as to observe that if they had understood that soldiers had to do this sort of job for civilians as part of their duty they would none of them have enlisted. The witness mentions that it is not the first time he has seen soldiers thus employed, and that he believes it to have a bad effect on their military spirit, and to be a discouragement to recruiting. I should think there cannot be a doubt of it, and it is amazing that in these days such things should be allowed. In the abstract, all forms of labour may be equally honourable, but in the concrete they are not so regarded. Many lads, including some of the best soldiers, enlist with the idea that there is something honourable and glorious in military service. I do not know how that idea could be more effectually dissipated than by publicly compelling soldiers to do the work of charwomen, or supplying them in detachments to influential civilians who want labour without paying for it.

This reminds me of another hunt ball, to the success of which the sister Service seems to have contributed. This one was held at Monmouth, and, according to the *Western Mail*, a special feature in the decoration of the ball-room "was the utilisation of over 100 signalling flags from H.M.S. *Drake*." Very pretty they looked, no doubt, but why should public property be loaned in this way to private individuals? I dare say the flags were none the worse for it, but the principle is wrong. If I were giving a party, and sent round to the Admiralty to ask if they could lend me a little crockery or a few knives and forks, I suppose I should be referred—and quite properly—to Mr. John Barker or Harrods' Stores. But if flags are supplied for private entertainments, why not table furniture; and if to hunt balls, why not to a fashionable soirée at a newspaper office?

The Sleaford Guardians met with an unaccustomed check last week in an attempt to enforce an order which they had obtained against a farm labourer for the payment of a shilling a week towards his father's maintenance. The order was made in November, and the Guardians summoned the defendant before the Sleaford Bench for the amount due with costs up till the end of December. In cases of this description, unfortunate men have frequently been committed to prison on hearsay evidence by a poor law official as to their means. On the present occasion, however, a solicitor instructed by the National Agricultural Labourers' Union appeared for the defence, with the result that the facts were properly placed before the magistrates, and the

summons was eventually dismissed on the ground that during the period in question the defendant's earnings were insufficient to enable him to comply with the order. This might have been ascertained by the prosecution if inquiries had been made, but as a rule Bumble does not care to make such inquiries. His idea seems to be that when orders are made, any poor wretch out of whom money cannot be squeezed ought to be sent to gaol.

A FISCAL POSER.

Official figures show, I see,
The year whose course has lately run
Must take, for sheer prosperity,
The Sally Lunn.

In other words, that British Trade
A record boom, last year, has known;
And money in such sums has made
As stand alone.

It's very nice for you and me
To read this in the Books called "Blue,"
Whose facts, of course, are bound to be—
On paper—true.

But, quitting for awhile the proof
In figures thus so plain revealed;
I want to know where all this oof
Is now concealed.

None's come my way. Indeed, of tin
My stock is more than usual light;
And every one I meet is in
The self-same plight.

Yes, men of all professions, eke
Of every trade, alike confess—
If you their state financial seek—
Hard-uppishness.

Why, e'en the Bank of England's short—
Witness its tell-tale "Rate," which sticks
Full two points higher than it ought
To do) at six.

I don't the Blue-book's word mistrust.
The money's there. It *must* be true.
Some one has got it. But—that's just
The question—WHO?

The poll of the Incorporated Law Society, taken by way of appeal from the vote of the general meeting on December 14, has resulted in a decisive victory for the reforming party. The motion defeated on December 14 has now been carried by a majority of close on two to one, 1,169 votes to 609; and although the aggregate votes polled represent only a fraction of the membership of the Society, it must be taken that those who did not vote have no strong feeling on the subject one way or the other, and that the majority accurately represents the preponderance of feeling among those solicitors who appreciate the importance of the question at issue. Incidentally one may remark that the by-law which requires all votes on a poll of the Society to be recorded by personal attendance is a very stupid one. It must necessarily disfranchise large numbers of the busiest provincial solicitors, and would seem to have been framed for the purpose of defeating the only object of taking a poll, namely, to obtain the opinions of those members who are unable to attend a general meeting.

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The result, so far as it goes, is satisfactory to the public, and particularly so to me, because it endorses the views that have been repeatedly expressed in TRUTH. I have been told over and over again that it is hopeless to expect the profession to deal with this question, that the majority is dead against reform, and even that this attitude is justifiable. The last point was never to my mind arguable; the others have now been conclusively disproved. It has always been my opinion, knowing a great many solicitors personally, that the majority are ashamed of the long-standing scandals in the profession, and would even submit to personal inconvenience if it promised any hope of diminishing them, and this is now proved to be the true state of the case.

What effect the measures proposed will have in the desired direction remains to be seen, and, in point of fact, all that has been decided by the vote just taken is that a committee shall be appointed to consider and report upon these measures, which will remind the public that the Council of the Law Society has before now managed to burke the report of a reforming committee. Even when the report has been made and has been approved and put into force, it will not remove many of the opportunities which a solicitor necessarily has for committing breaches of trust. No professional definition of the proper and regular course of business, even backed by an official inspection and audit of books, can effect as much as that. But what it can do is to limit materially the opportunities for confusing *meum* and *tuum*, and to prevent weak but well-intentioned men from exposing themselves to irresistible temptation by handling other people's money in an unbusinesslike way.

An eminent anti-reformer, Mr. Sampson, spoke sympathetically not long ago of the "misfortunes" of Benjamin Lake—misfortunes which led him and his firm to make away with about £200,000 of their clients' money. So far as the defalcations of solicitors can be regarded, from their own point of view, as "misfortunes," the measures of which, in principle, the majority of the Law Society has expressed approval will put an end to them altogether. Beyond that point, I suppose clients will always have to trust chiefly to the influence of the police, the Old Bailey, and the assize courts. In the meantime, the profession has really done something at last to relieve itself of the reproach of conniving at all these regrettable incidents.

The resignation of Lord Kyllachy has caused the first vacancy in the Court of Session since the Liberals came into office. Six of the present Scotch judges were appointed by the late Government. Lord Kyllachy was raised to the Bench in 1889 at a time when he held the distinguished office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates. He was a remarkably strong judge, and his decisions were almost invariably affirmed by the Inner House of the Court of Session and the House of Lords. He will be a great loss to the Court, and his retirement is very much regretted in the Edinburgh Parliament House.

Apropos of some remarks last week upon local legal appointments, a correspondent mentions that at Banbury the clerk to the borough magistrates is likewise the coroner, and also holds several other public offices. This sort of pluralism is, of course, very common, especially in small country towns. In Banbury, however, comment has been evoked by the fact that the gentleman in question now employs his son, a very young solicitor, as deputy-coroner, and also by the fact that the same son frequently appears as an advocate in cases before the magistrates to whom his father acts as clerk. The latter arrangement is manifestly objectionable. Of course, there is not the least likelihood that the impartiality of the advice which it is the clerk's duty to give to the magistrates would be affected in any way whatever by the circumstance that his son represented one of the parties to a case. But, as has been found in the analogous case of barristers practising in County Courts in which their fathers sit as judges, ideas of that kind are sure to get abroad among ill-informed and suspicious-minded persons, with the result that a slur is cast upon the administration of justice, and as another consequence of such an arrangement the rest of the legal profession are subjected to what is virtually an unfair competition for the business before the court.

A Radical friend of mine writes deprecating any general substitution of stipendiaries for honorary magistrates. He is a county J.P. himself, and he recognises the faults of many of the Great Unpaid—their inclination to be unduly severe in dealing with poachers, and to regard any offences against property as more serious matters than offences against the person or acts of cruelty to animals. Still, my friend seems to think that with all its faults the present magisterial system has some considerable advantages, and that for one thing a J.P., knowing the ways and habits of the poor people of his neighbourhood and possessed of some amount of common sense, tact, and sympathy, can often dispose of petty matters more effectively and suitably than a stipendiary would do. I have no doubt that there are J.P.s who render good service in this way. But, on the other hand, there are many who, judging from their performances on the Bench, are as destitute of common sense and mercy as they are ignorant of law, and, with all respect to my correspondent, what he says certainly does not outweigh the very strong arguments that exist for the abolition of the Great Unpaid.

For the past few days I have been bombarded with newspaper reports of a case at Ayr Sheriff Court in which Major Ian Stewart, of the Scottish Rifles, was indicted for having (1) assaulted John White, farmer, by presenting at him a gun and threatening to shoot him, (2) assaulted Duncan McFarlane, gamekeeper, by striking him on the head with the gun "to the great effusion of blood, and to the serious injury of his person," and (3) assaulted James Ferguson, farm manager, in the same manner. These charges, to which the accused pleaded guilty, arose out of a remarkable affair on January 1. It seems that Major Stewart was the guest of a relative who is the shooting tenant at Montgomerie Castle. McFarlane is a gamekeeper on the estate, and on New Year's Day, finding that his services were not required by his employer, he invited some farmers to join him in rabbit shooting. He does not appear to have had any express authority to do this, but on the other hand, I am told that it is customary in the district for the tenantry to have such shooting parties on New Year's Day.

During the afternoon Major Stewart and his brother came across the party in the neighbourhood of the Castle. Though the gamekeeper was with them, the Major treated them as poachers. He obtained their names, and then took possession of two guns. White refused to give up his gun, whereupon the Major loaded one of the guns he had already seized and threatened to shoot White. The latter replied that two could play at that game, and the Major then walked away, carrying off the two guns. Ferguson followed, and asked for the return of his gun. The Major replied by hitting him on the head with it, inflicting a wound which bled profusely. McFarlane, who next came up and asked for his gun, was also struck, the blow rendering him unconscious for a couple of hours, and the wound having to be stitched up by a surgeon. While admitting the assaults, Major Stewart's solicitor suggested that they were committed under the apprehension that it would have been dangerous to give up the guns to "men with their tempers raised and with drink in them." It was, however, denied that the gamekeeper or any of his friends were drunk, and as to temper, the accused seems to have been the only person that was dangerous.

The Court was informed that both the injured men had received substantial pecuniary compensation from Major Stewart, and presumably Sheriff Shairp took this fact into consideration in deciding that a fine of £10 would meet the case. But I am not surprised to find that this very lenient decision has provoked a great amount of unfavourable criticism in the district. It is being asked whether a fine would have been deemed a sufficient punishment if one of the farmers or the gamekeeper had stunned Major Stewart by a blow on the head with a gun, and afterwards pleaded that this was done lest he should shoot somebody. The general idea that in that event the offender would have been sent to gaol is probably correct.

The failure of the prosecution under the Lottery Act against a concern styled the International Securities Syndicate is not surprising in view of the facts and the judicial decisions to which the magistrate, Mr. Curtis Bennett, referred. The prosecution was based on the issue by the defendants of advertisements, pamphlets, and circulars relating to various continental municipal and other bonds, which, besides being interest-bearing securities, offer the attraction of a gamble by means of periodical drawings for cash prizes or premiums. It is obvious that, though such bonds

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present one of the features of a lottery, they nevertheless stand in a different category to ordinary lottery tickets, which give the purchaser no return whatever for his money if he fails to win a prize. In spite, however, of the dismissal of the summons, I hope that the case will do something to put people on their guard against the International Securities Syndicate. In the course of his judgment, Mr. Curtis Bennett remarked that it was well that the public should know that "the prices charged by this syndicate were greatly in excess of those charged by members of the Stock Exchange for the same bonds"; and quite apart from the question of price, it would be very imprudent for persons desiring to buy such bonds to do their business through an outside firm of unknown individuals.

"What are prisoners charged for being shaved?" This curious question, asked by one of the magistrates at Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions last week, elicited the information that if a prisoner awaiting his trial desires to be shaved he has to pay eighteenpence for the attendance of a barber. The chief warder from Strangeways Gaol said that the services of a barber could not be obtained for a smaller fee, but probably it will be found that this is a mistake, seeing that there are plenty of penny or twopenny shaving shops close at hand, and not a few prisoners ready to pay a reasonable price. Eighteenpence is, of course, a prohibitive fee, and if a prisoner wishes to appear in court with a clean face he ought not to be debarred from doing so. A magistrate observed that a man's appearance in the dock unshaven might help to give the jury a bad impression of him, and though this is scarcely flattering to the intelligence of jurymen, it is not at all unlikely.

The Clerk to the Gloucester Magistrates has written to me as follows with reference to the appearance in my Legal Pillory last week of a case in which one Samuel Knight was fined 10s. and 9s. costs for assaulting Elizabeth Moseley:—

> Your report of the case is based entirely on the evidence given by the witnesses for the complainant, but three witnesses, one of whom was his wife, were called by the defendant, and swore that he did not assault his wife at all, that he and his wife and a friend had come home from a walk when the complainant came into their house and used very bad language, and broke some of the furniture, and they admitted that the defendant knocked the complainant down after great provocation. The magistrates had to determine which of the witnesses were telling the truth, and having seen and heard all the witnesses, they believed those for the defence.
>
> I may say that Mr. Ward did not take any part in the case, as he did not hear all the evidence.

Of course, if the version of the affair put forward for the defence was correct, an ample penalty was imposed. But if the magistrates were convinced of the correctness of that version, it is a little difficult to understand why the Chairman of the Bench should have stigmatised the man's conduct as "cowardly and brutal." The use of those strong epithets—a point on which the Clerk is silent—scarcely conveyed the idea that the defendant had only struck the woman under the extreme provocation suggested in the above letter.

Included in my Legal Pillory are half a dozen sentences of imprisonment for thefts of boots from shops—samples of scores of sentences that are being passed week after week for precisely similar thefts. Recorders and magistrates have frequently condemned the practice of exposing goods for sale in front of shops, where they are neither secured nor watched in any way; but protests and admonitions from the Bench do not seem to have any effect. The practice in question is a prolific cause of petty larceny, and it appears to be especially prevalent in connection with cheap boot shops, the result being that as boots displayed in this way are articles that can be easily taken and concealed, they offer a particularly strong temptation to men and women who have the slightest inclination to be dishonest. It is undoubtedly in consequence of this temptation being placed in their way in the streets that some at least of the offenders first become thieves; and it seems to me a shocking state of things that such a system of manufacturing criminals should be tolerated. With regard to the following list, it will be observed that the magistracy, while showing no lack of severity in the punishment of all kinds of trivial thefts, are full of the most tender consideration for ruffians convicted of violent and cruel assaults:—

Andover Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. Purcell Llewellin and other magistrates. David Williams, charged with assaulting two County Court bailiffs, who were levying an execution on his premises. He struck, kicked, and bit them, and both still bore the marks of his teeth. The chairman said he must be a bit of a savage. Fined 20s. and costs for each assault.

St. Helen's Police-court. Thos. Docherty, charged with assaulting a policeman. While conveying a prisoner to the police station the officer was attacked by the defendant, who struck him a severe blow in the face, and also kicked him. Fined 20s. and costs.

Halstead Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. Courtauld, R. Hunt, C. E. Brewster, M. Stephenson, F. A. Vaizey, G. Wier, R. L. Hughes, H. H. Portway, and A. Blomfield. Martin James Diss, charged with assaulting his wife, and also with being drunk and disorderly. His wife had obtained a separation order from him, but he persisted in annoying her, and on the occasion in question he assaulted her twice at the railway station. Fined 15s. and costs for the assault, and 5s. and costs for drunkenness.

Melksham Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Lopes and A. Stratton. Reginald Francis Phillips, charged with assaulting Rose Melinda Price by knocking her down and striking her several times. A woman said that she saw the complainant bleeding from the mouth and the nose, and when she told the defendant that he ought to be ashamed of himself he threatened "to serve her the same." Fined 20s., and bound over.

Lindsey Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. W. Embleton Fox and other magistrates. Henry Hasling, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Six months.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Whitehead, F. E. Crosse, and G. T. Brown. Wm. Westwell, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Faringdon Petty Sessions. Before Sir W. Throckmorton, Viscount Barrington, and Messrs. G. W. Habgood, W. J. Butler, and W. R. Shute-Barrington. Henry King, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month.

Rotherham Borough Police-court. John Swift, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Three weeks.

Brigg Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Cliff, J. Popple, H. G. Dent, and J. Spilman. Charlotte Hopkins, aged 13, charged with stealing coal, value 3d., and her mother, charged with receiving the coal. The child was bound over to be of good behaviour for six months, and the mother sentenced to a month's imprisonment.

Preston Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. R. B. Walmsley and other magistrates. Elizabeth Durkin, charged with stealing a shawl. Six months.

Grimsby Quarter Sessions. Before the Deputy Recorder. George Green, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Five months.

Grantham Police-court. Wm. Smith, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month.

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Barnsley West Riding Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Brady and W. Dutson and Dr. Horne. Henry Emmerson, convicted of assaulting Enoch Parry. He was knocked down and kicked in the face, and owing to his injuries was unable to work for eight days. Fined 10s. and costs.

St. Rollox Police-court, Glasgow. Before Bailie Maclay. A young man, named M'Lean, charged with assaulting his father. The latter, who was aged and feeble, was dragged out of his bed and knocked about in a brutal manner. Fined 21s.

Smethwick Police-court. Samuel Cooper, charged with assaulting his daughter, aged eleven years. He went home drunk and his wife left the house. He then intimated his intention of "giving it" to his daughter for an alleged theft of a penny. The child ran away to a relative's house, but defendant followed her and struck her a savage blow in the forehead with the buckled end of a belt. The girl's eye was cut and closed, and she also sustained a bad wound in the head. The Bench "considered defendant's conduct amounted to cruelty." Fined £2 14s. 6d.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Legge and R. W. Spriggs. James Conway and James Wilson, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. They pleaded guilty, saying that they were out of work and starving. Fourteen days each.

Paisley Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Darling Lyall. Joseph Black, Michael O'Neil, and Wm. Hannah, convicted under the Poaching Prevention Act of being found in possession of several rabbits and nets when searched on the highway. Fined £3 each.

Derbyshire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. E. W. Barnes and other magistrates. Ada Salt, aged 42, charged with stealing two fowls. Twelve months.

Oakham Petty Sessions. Before Sir A. J. Fludyer and Messrs. G. H. Finch, E. Worrall, and P. C. Evans Freke. Joseph W. Walker, labourer, charged with stealing a hare from outside a shop, and Ernest Needham, labourer, charged with receiving the hare. Three weeks each.

Nuneaton Police-court. Wm. Storer, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

One of the innumerable dissatisfied customers of Mr. H. J. Gasson, of Rye, sends me a little note that he has received from that gentleman apropos of a recent paragraph in TRUTH. He had been refusing for many months to pay Gasson's bill of 14s. for some rubbish purchased through an advertisement, but had offered half that amount in settlement. On receiving a further application for an immediate remittance "to save proceedings," he repeated his offer of 7s., and called Gasson's attention to the current issue of TRUTH. To this Gasson replies that he will accept the 7s. in settlement, but as regards TRUTH it would be well that I should note that "we have given you eight months' credit for 14s." The knowledge does not impress me much, now that I have it. On the contrary, all that it shows is that for eight months Gasson has been endeavouring—even to the extent of threatening legal proceedings—to obtain 14s. where he now accepts 7s. as an adequate payment.

Should this meet the eye of any one who has recently heard from the individual formerly known as G. R. Hatton, and more recently as Guy Rosslyn, I should be glad to be favoured with the man's address. As mentioned in TRUTH a few weeks ago, he has lately disappeared from his secluded retreat at Canvey Island, on the Essex coast, and I have no doubt that his removal was due to his having swindled so many people out of payments for "biographies," which he has no means, and probably no intention, of publishing, that his position was becoming a little dangerous. He will probably, however, be at the same game before long under a new name, for he has had no other visible means of subsistence of late, and I should be glad to trace him, because one or two cases of which I have particulars seem to offer a good opportunity of putting him out of the way of doing further mischief for some time to come.

I have often laughed at the victims of Hatton, or whatever his name is, as silly gulls who deserve to suffer for the childish vanity that leads them to pay money for the pleasure of seeing notices of themselves in publications only printed for private circulation. But I have somewhat modified my views after what I have heard from one of the latest of Hatton's victims, and after seeing a copy of one of the few of his publications that have made their appearance in recent years. The victim in question is a professional musician, and he observes that Hatton laid himself out specially to catch artists, musicians, actors, etc., to whom a personal advertisement is of business value. This is borne out by a copy of a publication which Hatton, under the name of Guy Rosslyn, brought out in June, 1905. There are some eighty "biographies" in it, mostly of people whose names can hardly be known outside their family circles, and among them a good many "professionals," including a pitiful array of young girls starting in the musical profession. It is, of course, very natural that such people should be willing to pay a few shillings for a notice in print, and buy copies for distribution, and they deserve nothing but sympathy when a rascal gets their money out of them and produces nothing in return.

In regard to one of the questions that have been raised by the Tooting Slate Club affair, I have had an interesting letter from Mr. Frank G. Harris, honorary secretary of the National Federation of Dividing Friendly Societies, who points out the great need on the part of large classes of the community of banking facilities late in the evening. The matter seems worth the attention of the joint stock banks. Mr. Harris observes that large numbers of tradesmen and other business people frequently have large sums of money on hand which they would like to bank after the usual bank closing hours, but he is more particularly concerned about the friendly and building societies, which collect in the aggregate tens of thousands of pounds in the evening, and are consequently compelled to leave large sums in the keeping of collectors or treasurers until the following day. "I was talking the other day," says Mr. Harris, "to a trustee of a building society, who frequently has to take charge in the evening of sums of money running into hundreds of pounds, and he assured me that on the nights when he has this money the knowledge that many other people know the cash to be in his charge makes it impossible for him to sleep for fear of what might happen."

There cannot be much doubt that there is a real need of increased banking facilities in these directions. In country towns on market days the banks generally keep open until six o'clock, but the ordinary tradesman can bank little of his cash before the bank closing hour of 4 p.m. In these days of competition, in banking as well as in other businesses, I wonder that no bank has ever tried the experiment of keeping its doors open until the rest of the world has finished its day's business—so far as it ever does finish it. If I were starting a bank I think I should ask myself the question whether the convenience of trade customers would not be better suited by my keeping open till six o'clock in the evening

than by my opening at nine o'clock in the morning. The chief reason why I feel reluctance in raising this question is that bank clerks are among the worst paid classes of the community, and no one would wish to see them working another hour or two per diem unless their pay were proportionately increased. But remembering the general scale of banking profits, it can hardly be said that banks generally could not afford to work longer hours.

At the same time it is out of the question that banks generally should keep their doors open late enough to suit the convenience of the officials of friendly and building societies, who collect large sums of money after ordinary working hours. In the letter above referred to Mr. Harris recognises this difficulty, and asks whether the Government could not make arrangements for entrusting money under such circumstances to the custody of the police during the night. This is rather a novel idea, but I do not know that there is anything impracticable in it, and probably many persons, like the one above mentioned, who are kept awake at night by the knowledge of the large sums of money in their possession, would cheerfully make a small payment for the purpose of having the money lodged at the police station until it can be banked. The only other alternative is that the Post Office should offer facilities for this purpose, and I really think it is worth consideration whether arrangements could not be made, at any rate in large towns, to keep a certain number of Post Office Savings Banks open until a later hour than even 8 p.m.

It was often said in Truth when the fiscal question was with us—and, indeed, long before—that the growth or diminution of foreign trade is not necessarily a conclusive test of the general trade prosperity of the country or the reverse. It is amusing to see this opinion making headway among the exponents of tariff reform after two years of unexampled growth in our foreign trade have knocked all the wind out of Mr. Chamberlain's arguments. 1905 was a record year in the Board of Trade returns, and particularly in regard to the export trade. 1906 makes a fresh record. The total volume of foreign trade has reached the amazing sum of 1,069 millions. Only two years ago we were congratulating ourselves on having for the first time exported British goods to the value of over 300 millions in the course of a year. Now the total has jumped up to 376 millions, not counting goods imported and re-exported to the value of 85 millions more. In all branches of our export trade there was an increase last year of over 50 millions upon the record figures of 1905.

What do the Protectionists say to this? One or two admit frankly enough that the Chamberlain cry about "dying industries" was absolutely unfounded, and a few of the more cautious spirits suggest that it may even be desirable to drop the tariff reform agitation until the ebbing of the wave of prosperity once again furnishes "facts" which have for the present proved to be fictions. For the rest, all they can say is that the value of trade is to be judged by its profits, not by its volume; that, owing to increased prices, the actual growth of our trade is exaggerated in the money valuation of it; that, after all, our sales and purchases abroad are no conclusive proof that our industries are in a flourishing condition; and that we really only participate in a general revival of trade throughout the world, which extends to all countries doing business with one another regardless of local tariff arrangements. All this is perfectly true, and no free trader would trouble to deny it. But it is a pity that the other side did not think of it before, and it would be well that they should remember it when the Board of Trade figures for a year or two appear to favour their views. The arguments cut both ways; and may be as applicable to times of depression as to times of inflation.

Possibly I shall be considered in some quarters a heretic if I confess that I am disposed to agree with the tariff reformer when he tells us that we are participating in a general revival of industry and commerce throughout the world, which local tariff conditions do not very materially affect. In other words, I suspect that as between nations the desire to exchange goods in one another's markets is too powerful to be controlled to any great extent by artificial restrictions. This was the view of Sir Robert Peel and the Manchester school of his day. As Sir Robert Peel put it, the best way to fight foreign tariffs is to open your own market. If foreigners come to you and sell their goods, they must accept your goods in exchange, regardless of any tariff that their Governments may impose for the purpose of preventing them doing so. If their tariffs are high enough to prevent them taking your goods, then they cannot sell their own goods to you. As long as they sell to you they must buy of you. We thus find that as soon as the nations which have fortified themselves with "tariff walls" produce any considerable quantity of goods for export, the tide of trade flows to and fro over the wall just as if it never existed. There are, of course, many incidental arguments in favour of protection which this view of the matter does not touch; but it seems to contain the common sense of the fiscal question, and if it does, the efficiency of tariffs, both for good and evil, is very much over-estimated both by protectionists and free traders. They are simply rather futile contrivances for interfering with the course of nature—very much of the same class as Mrs. Partington's broom.

Whether in time of inflation or depression, you must look elsewhere than to statistics of foreign trade for proof that you are prosperous or the reverse. One side of this argument was accentuated by free traders at the time when we were in the dumps about our foreign trade. Another side of it may be seen to-day in countries which are enjoying, like ourselves, the wave of prosperity. I read the other day in the *Daily Mail*—an unimpeachable source—that "according to the statistics published by *Bradstreet's*, the price of food, clothing, and building material in New York has risen 20 per cent. in the past year." Skilled labourers were earning from £8 to £12 per week, but the generous rise in wages was "inadequate to compensate for the unprecedented growth in the cost of living." "Everywhere," said the *Daily Mail* correspondent, "complaints are heard of the *pinch of prosperity*."

Just after this I found in another unimpeachable source, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, a similar tale from highly protected Austria. "It is hard to mention," said the Vienna correspondent of that paper, "any article of food, dress, or household necessity, which has not gone up in price during the past year." He went on to specify meat, which "has almost disappeared from the tables of the working classes," potatoes which have doubled in price, butter which is "continually going up," boots, shoes, and even "cheap German sausages," which have "become dear." In Germany itself we know that the food question has become acute, and that it may possibly play a bigger part than any other in the pending elections. Such is the condition of things in the principal protected countries of whose prosperity, according to the tariff reformers, our own increased trade is only an accidental accompaniment. The best justification of our own tariff-less condition seems to be that we feel less than our neighbours both the pinch of adversity and this new and remarkable phenomenon, "the pinch of prosperity."

It is something that we are beginning to discuss the question how to deal with the House of Lords, but the discussion seems in danger of becoming a little wild. Mr. Stead's scheme, under which the Crown, fortified by a general election, is to begin by withdrawing writs from "negligent and absentee peers," while the remainder are to be reduced to impotence by a creation of life peers, even verges on the absurd. Neither is Mr. Hobson's proposal, in the *Independent Review*, that Bills rejected or mutilated by the Lords should be submitted to a popular referendum, and on ratification thereby should receive the Royal assent, likely to find favour with the majority of Liberals. The Peers could have their referendum as often as they pleased, without any fear of the consequences, and under this arrangement might be more disposed to obstruct and mutilate Liberal legislation than they are at present—not effectually, perhaps, but still at a cost of endless expense, trouble, and delay.

The first thing to be done, in my opinion, is to get rid of the Lords' veto. For this purpose I would proceed by Bill, on which, when the Lords rejected it, the Government should appeal to the country. The details of the Bill I do not stop now to discuss, but I think the principle of it should be that any measure rejected by the Lords and passed a second time in the following session by the Commons should receive the Royal assent irrespective of the Lords. If the opinion of the country were frankly and squarely taken on such a Bill as this, and a decisive Government majority obtained on the issue at a general election, I doubt if the Lords would fight it further. But if they did there is the remedy of a creation of peers, and when the Sovereign had assented to this course, the Peers would, of course, give in, as they did in 1832. They would have no object in forcing the contest to the last extremity in such circumstances.

In this way the whole difficulty would be solved. The Lords would be disarmed once and for all, so long as a Bill can be passed through the Commons in two successive sessions. The ground would thus be cleared for the reform of the House of Lords itself. A Bill for this purpose would in due course be presented to the House of Commons, and on being passed, if necessary twice, by that assembly, would become law without regard to any objections of the Peers to it. Without being enthusiastic about second chambers, I recognise that they have advantages, especially in remedying oversights in drafting and legal and technical matters such as a popular assembly is apt to fall into. Moreover, I imagine that there is a preponderance of opinion in this country in favour of a revising chamber.

The constitution of the chamber is a matter requiring a good deal of consideration, and might possibly be considered by a Royal Commission. The great point to be aimed at is that the assembly should be independent of party politics, and have no interest in the coming in or going out of any Government. It should consist, therefore, of experienced men in all departments of public affairs, including a reasonable proportion of men who have been elected a certain number of times to the House of Commons, but should contain no one holding any paid post under the Crown. In short, it should be a "senate" in the best sense of the term, capable of giving real practical assistance in the business of legislation, without regard to party considerations, and without any temptation to exercise its suspensory veto capriciously or from indirect motives. But for the present this is an academic question, and should be treated as such until the preliminary question whether the Lords' veto is to continue to exist in its present shape has been decided by the country.

THE SAGACIOUS CARRION CROW.

Out in the far-off Hebrides,
Those Islands of the Western Seas,
There throve and bred, in wondrous Way,
Innumerable Birds of Prey:
Eagles, both "Sea" and "Golden" Sort,
And Ospreys feathery Plumes who sport,
Falcons and Ravens, Carrion Crows,
And what besides—well, Goodness knows.
These all, as just above, I've said,
In wondrous Manner throve and bred;
For there they found a constant Store
Of Sea-gulls' Eggs and Young galore,
Whereon, with little Toil of Pain,
A fat Existence they sustain.
Now, bred these Birds of Prey so fast,
A horrid Panic rose at last,
Lest, at this Rate, it soon be found
Their Food-supply would not go round.
So met the predatory Race,
And, anxious all, discussed the Case.
Then one said this, and one said that,
As they in solemn Conclave sat,
Till from his Perch at length arose
The eldest of the Carrion Crows:
"Unfounded, Friends, is this Disquiet,"
He cawed, "*in re* our future Diet.
For, breed as fast as e'er we will,
The Sea-gulls breed yet faster still."

Moral.

Sharpers may view, with placid Face,
The constant Increase of their Race;
Nor need they fear, whate'er befall,
There won't be still full Scope for all;
Since, though they multiply like Rats,
Still faster multiply the Flats.

SCRUTATOR.

PEACE AND PIOUS OPINIONS.

"PERHAPS," said Mr. Haldane, at the beginning of his weighty address to the students of Edinburgh, "perhaps the time is near when armaments will count for so much less than is the case to-day, that they will tend to diminish, and ultimately to become extinct." For months previously the speaker has talked of little but the improvement of our own armaments, so far as his own department of State is concerned. Having expressed the foregoing pious aspiration, he went on to discourse lengthily and learnedly on the armaments of the Germans and the Japanese, and to hold them up to admiration as triumphs of organising skill and individual devotion to practical ideas. Two days later he was able to announce a big scheme for the reorganisation of our military forces for war. All this somewhat discounts the reality of the vision which Mr. Haldane sees behind his "perhaps." In fact, what could be less convincing than a prediction of universal peace from a particularly active and wide-awake Secretary of State for War? It is much as if a physician should preface a lecture by suggesting that perhaps the time is coming when disease will be extinct and doctors be no more needed; or as if a judge should open the assizes by contemplating the time when theft and violence will disappear and criminal courts cease to sit. It brings out the contrast between pious opinions and ugly facts, and suggests that we have a long way to travel before disarmament will pass from the ideal to the practical stage.

The Hague Conference, which is before long to meet, may do some good to the cause of peace, and can do no harm. I doubt, however, whether it is possible for nations, under existing circumstances, to come to any agreement in regard to a general reduction of armaments, still less do I believe, as some enthusiasts have suggested, that any nation that goes to war with another instead of referring the issue in conflict to some third Power, or to all neutral Powers, will ever be put under a general ban, so that all neutrals will refuse to aid or countenance it commercially or financially. Let us take the case of reduction of armaments first. On what possible principle is this reduction to be based? Is it to be population, or wealth, or what? If population, Germany would be entitled to a larger army than France; if wealth, France might possibly be entitled to a larger army than Germany. But Germany has many frontiers open to invasion, whilst France has only two—that marching with Germany and that with Italy. Germany might plead that she might possibly have to defend her territories at the same moment against Russia, Austria, and France—all great Powers with formidable armies—to say nothing of a British attack through Denmark or the Netherlands. At present there is an alliance between France and Russia, and this has been met by a Triple Alliance between Germany, Italy, and Austria. The terms of both alliances are, however, somewhat vague, and it is quite conceivable that circumstances might arise in which France or Germany might find its ally either remaining neutral, or even joining the enemy. We have an *entente cordiale* with France. Only the other day we agreed to let France assume what is practically a protectorate over Morocco. The Sultan of the latter country was to become a mere dummy, and to all intents and purposes was to be replaced in all relations with foreign countries by France. With some point, as I thought, the German Emperor gave out that he had recognised Morocco as an independent Power with which Germany had relations, and that such a fundamental alteration in its international position could only be brought about by an international agreement. We, however, vowed that if it came to a fight we should join our forces with those of France, in order to prove the union of hearts between that country and us. Supposing that such a war had broken out, Germany would have had to defend itself against us and France, and it is to say the least doubtful whether she would have received any assistance from Austria or Italy, whilst it is well within the bounds of possibility that Russia might have sought to direct attention from its home troubles by declaring war against her. Considerations of this kind show the impossibility of arriving at any standard to which nations differently situated can agree to reduce their armaments.

A reduction of all navies is a still more difficult question. At present, when all nations have realised that industry supplies the real strength of a nation, and all are seeking an outlet for their manufactured goods, we claim that we ought to have a navy, which places the command of the high seas in our hands. We justify this on the ground that we are entitled to make ourselves secure against invasion, not only from any one foreign country, but from any two; that we have a larger commerce than any other nation; and that our territories are spread over the whole globe. But in the event of a war, this vast naval strength would enable us to sweep the flag of any enemy off the ocean, to blockade his ports, and to wage an offensive war without any risk to ourselves. Is it likely that foreign nations will agree to any general arrangement that would perpetuate this state of things for all time by international law? If we were to say, "We have a small army, we are an island, and we need a strong navy to hinder an invasion of our shores," this might be accepted. But even then, I doubt whether any foreign Power with a great over-sea commerce would agree ever to remain, so far as naval armaments are concerned, in a position of inferiority to us.

Europe is ruining itself by the immense armaments that it maintains. This is greatly to be regretted, but any plan of deciding what each Power is to spend on its armaments seems to me to be a counsel of perfection. Each Power will consider what armaments it needs for its protection, and will never consent to make this dependent upon an international arrangement. It would never be really kept. When Napoleon had overrun Prussia and forced her to become his ally, one of the

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stipulations was that she should only have an army of 42,000 men. But after his Russian campaign he found that she had evaded this stipulation by a system of short service, and when she became his enemy, he found that she really had a fairly drilled army of above 150,000 men.

The idea of obliging each country to refer to arbitration any dispute with another, and to put any country declining to do this under an international ban is even more difficult of realisation. In such cases each Power will look after its own interests, and will act upon its own view of them. The international ban would practically convert a local into a general war. Supposing that France and Germany were to fall out, and that France agreed to arbitration and Germany did not, and that the alliance between France and Germany had lapsed, does anyone suppose that Russia would refuse to sell its goods to Germany, and thus almost ruin itself in order to maintain a general principle? The first step to the acceptance of such a general principle would be to forbid all separate alliances involving the rendering of mutual aid by the allies in case of war. I never have thought that such alliances make for peace. But this certainly does not appear to be our opinion just now.

If an independent tribunal could be brought into existence to which all international disputes should be referred, it would sometimes have a useful effect. But the independence of the tribunal could only be secured, if at all, by limiting it to representatives of the smaller Powers exclusively, and by these representatives being lawyers or practical men outside politics rather than politicians. We profess to be heart and soul for arbitration. But I have always observed when the matter has been discussed that we assert that where the honour and fundamental interests of the Empire are concerned, we will never consent to arbitration. Other countries probably entertain the same view. But to what does this really amount? That we are to be the judges of what concerns our honour and our interests, and so long as this attitude is that of the Great Powers generally, it is idle to talk of a Court of Arbitration that will prevent wars.

No one can be more strongly opposed to wars than I am, no one more strongly opposed to an expenditure that converts nations into armed camps. I do not even favour the development of a martial spirit by drilling children and waving Union Jacks in schools. Our Jingoes seem to regard us as a herd of cowards, ready to accept defeat rather than fight. I have a better opinion of our citizens. I place my reliance for the maintenance of peace upon public opinion in all countries regarding war as the greatest of curses, and a peaceful spirit replacing the blood and thunder spirit which is deemed patriotic. Almost all wars have been due to statesmen. They have got their respective countries into some silly dispute which might easily be settled by the exercise of common sense. But a bellicose spirit has been aroused on both sides, and for the nonce all peaceful suggestions have been thrust aside. After thousands have been killed and millions have been spent, the war becomes unpopular, and people begin to perceive that lives and money have been recklessly wasted. This was the history of the Boer war. And we are now spending far more money on armaments than is necessary to secure us against dangers which do not exist, except in the minds of martial alarmists. The great sufferers from war are the working classes. This they are beginning to realise. In all countries they are the strongest opponents, not only of war, but of the maintenance of ruinous armaments in peace times. It is on them that I place my reliance. If the Hague Conference can do anything to prevent statesmen from dragging or fooling peaceful men into war I shall rejoice. But we must not exaggerate what the decisions of a conference can do, or imagine that any impossible and unpractical decision in regard to some new international law will help us to maintain peace. I believe that the most effectual preservative of peace would be, in the event of a war breaking out, to hang all the Ministers of the two belligerents. But I do not suggest this, simply because it is a counsel of perfection that never would be acted on.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES" ON EDALJI.

The review of the Edalji case by Sir Conan Doyle in the *Daily Telegraph* is very convincing, and may perhaps prove useful in furthering the ends of justice. But I cannot refrain from remarking that it contains scarcely a fact or an argument that was not put forward in TRUTH when I took the case up two years ago, and that if the *Daily Telegraph* had only looked into the matter at that time, and thrown its important weight into the scale, it is quite possible that the unfortunate prisoner would not have spent another twenty months in penal servitude. As it is, Mr. Edalji has been a free man since last October, solely owing to the exertions of TRUTH, and whatever may be done for him now can only be in the nature of reparation to him, possibly supplemented by measures for protecting other people against such misfortunes.

In this connection I may mention that there is one false point in Sir Conan Doyle's articles, which other writers have taken up. "At the end of his third year out of seven," says Sir Conan Doyle, "the young man, though in good health, was suddenly released without a pardon. Evidently the authorities were shaken, and compromised with their consciences in this fashion." This is described as "irregular and illogical." The point does not touch the real merits of the case; but it is a pity to give "the authorities" an opportunity of justifying themselves even on a side issue. The prisoner was by no means "suddenly released," and there was no secret about the reason for the release, which was quite intelligible. After the principal facts had been brought out in TRUTH in a series of articles, I made an application to the Home Secretary for permission to inspect the anonymous letters put in by the prosecution at the trial. The application was refused, and subsequently Mr. Akers Douglas explained privately to Mr. Labouchere in the House of Commons that official traditions precluded him from recognising officially any *locus standi* on the part of a journalist to intervene in a matter relating to the business of the Department; but he added that if Mr. Labouchere as an M.P. chose to lay a statement before him regarding the case of a prisoner he had a right to do so, and it would receive full consideration.

Either then or subsequently the Home Secretary explained that such a statement could only be considered so far as it related to new matter which had come to light since the previous petition to the Home Office—a point which is worth noting, because it shows that the Home Office declined to reconsider, even on the representations of a Member of Parliament, the facts on which it had previously made up its mind, except as far as new light might be thrown on them by fresh facts. In consequence of this negotiation a statement was prepared and transmitted by Mr. Labouchere to the Home Secretary. Owing to the limitation imposed, it was necessarily not in the nature of a presentation of the whole case, though a good deal of additional evidence bearing on the conviction had come to light since the first petition to the Home Office, including the conviction of the man Farrington for sheep maiming at Great Wyrley in March, 1904, and the disclosure of the anonymous letter-writing at Great Wyrley vicarage in 1888. Advantage was also taken of the fact that Farrington had only been sentenced to three years' penal servitude, as against the seven years imposed on Mr. Edalji for an offence of precisely the same character, to impress again upon the Home Secretary the monstrous severity of the sentence in the Edalji case, even if he really had been guilty of the crime of stabbing a pony. The result was that Mr. Akers-Douglas eventually informed Mr. Labouchere that his official advisers were unable to alter their previous decision upon the justice of the prisoner's conviction, but that he himself was strongly impressed with the argument as to the undue severity of the sentence, and he had therefore decided to order Mr. Edalji's release at the end of three years—the term imposed in Farrington's case. This was in August, 1905. The decision of the Home Secretary was subsequently announced in the press, and Mr. Edalji was duly released in accordance with it in October, 1906. It cannot be said, therefore, as Sir Conan Doyle will recognise, that he was released suddenly, or that his release indicated any attempt on the part of the Home Office to "compromise with their consciences." The attitude of the Home Office has been unyielding from first to last. All that was done was to release the prisoner at the end of three instead of seven years, on the ground that the sentence was excessive—as it most certainly was.

I recite these facts now, not only because it is important not to introduce any false points into the discussion of the case, but also because they show very plainly how futile is any ventilation of such a case in the press unless accompanied by other action which the Home Secretary is bound to respect. On this I shall have a word more to say presently. But it is worth while to add here that shortly after the change of Government, thinking that the new Home Secretary might be more open to reason than his predecessor, I submitted to him copies of the TRUTH articles, and invited his attention to the case. But all I got was the usual stereotyped answer that "The Home Secretary regrets," etc., etc. I do not say that Mr. Gladstone was personally to blame for this; having only just come into office it is fair to assume that his hands were too full to enable him to go personally into so complicated a case. But it all helps to show that in a case of this nature we have to fight not this or that Minister, but "the Office," with its sacred traditions, its corporate instincts of self-defence, and its immutable "quod scripsi scripsi."

I am glad, however, to have had the judgment which was so long ago pronounced in TRUTH on the Edalji case confirmed by the investigations of Sir Conan Doyle. As that gentleman has observed to an interviewer, there is a considerable difference between fiction and real life. But the inventor of "Sherlock Holmes" is something of an expert in the analysis of evidence, and his arguments and opinions will justly carry weight with a large section of the public which might not trust to its own judgment. Those who read his two articles in the *Daily Telegraph*—as I would wish every one to do, for every member of the public has an interest of his own in this case—should bear in mind that he started on his investigation without any preconceived opinion, having become interested in the problem it presents almost by accident. Starting in this frame of mind, he is led to the firmest conviction that Mr. Edalji was the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice, and I believe every one who approaches it in the same frame of mind must arrive at the same conclusion. My attention was first directed to the case by a gentleman who had started with something of a prejudice against the prisoner. He was in no way connected with the case or the parties, but he told me that he became interested in it in consequence of the reflections that were cast upon the conduct of the police, and that he proceeded to look into the facts with the view of showing that the police were free from all blame. He went to Great Wyrley for this purpose, and collected his information at first hand from all who had any to offer, including Mr. Edalji's family. He arrived at the conclusion that the prisoner had been grossly wronged, and he sent me the result of his investigations, begging that the case might be taken up in TRUTH. I candidly confess that I was reluctant to do so, for Mr. Edalji had then been in prison for over a year, public interest in the case had evaporated, and it did not tempt me from the journalistic point of view. But I looked into the statement that I had thus received, having then forgotten the little I ever knew about the facts, I made some further inquiries on my own account, and I arrived at the same conclusion as the other gentleman before me, and as Sir Conan Doyle after us. The TRUTH articles were the result, and as this fresh publicity led by degrees to the disclosure of fresh information, the case for the prisoner became stronger and stronger. The case was unfolded in TRUTH gradually. Sir Conan Doyle has the advantage of presenting it in one connected whole, with each point in its proper logical place. The effect is thereby concentrated and strengthened, and I do not understand the mental condition of anybody who does not find it irresistible.

In one instance Sir Conan Doyle has imported a new element into the case, namely, the question of Mr. Edalji's eyesight. This point was brought under my notice, but for two reasons I disregarded it. The point not having been raised at the trial, and Mr. Edalji being in prison, there was no direct

evidence available as to the real condition of his eyes; and if there had been, I am disposed to distrust all professional evidence, which can generally be answered by more or less plausible evidence of equal authority but to the opposite effect. As soon as Mr. Edalji came out of prison, I advised him to have his eyesight examined by a specialist, and he went to two, one in his own name, and one as an anonymous patient. The results were striking, but it is not necessary to go into them now in view of what Sir Conan Doyle has said. He is of opinion that this evidence alone is sufficient to prove that it would have been a physical impossibility for the prisoner to have made the midnight excursion which he was alleged to have performed for the perpetration of his crime. As a medical man himself, Sir Conan Doyle's opinion on the point must have great weight; but the pitfalls besetting all scientific evidence are already shown by the fact that another "expert" has come forward to correct or dispute some of his conclusions. It is really unnecessary to go into this matter. The central point in the case is that the evidence actually given against Mr. Edalji at his trial was inadequate, open to suspicion wherever it looked strongest, and utterly inconclusive in the face of the inherent improbabilities of the case for the prosecution, and the impregnable alibi established for the defence. A conviction upon such evidence would have been impossible before a judge of the High Court, and it is a disgrace to our judicial system that a conviction so arrived at should be allowed to stand.

Sir Conan Doyle urges that there ought to be an inquiry into this case on similar lines to those followed in the case of Mr. Beck. This is what I myself have repeatedly pressed for. Apart altogether from the question of justice to Mr. Edalji, there are features in the case which call for exhaustive investigation in the interest of the public. The whole conduct of the police is open to unfavourable reflection, from the first evidence of an inexplicable animus against the prisoner on the part of the Chief Constable nine years before the charge, down to the last evidence of the same thing in a letter written by the Chief Constable to the prisoner's counsel after his conviction. The bearing of this on the preparation of the case and the conduct of the prosecution at the trial—the arrest of the man without a particle of evidence beyond the accusations in anonymous letters, the subsequent compilation by policemen of evidence open to question at every step, the attempts to conceal material evidence at the trial—all these matters require to be cleared up, if any man within the jurisdiction of the Staffordshire police force is to be safe in future. The treatment of the appeal by the Home Office, the reference back to the police authorities, whose conduct the appeal impugned, and the determination of the appeal on the strength of some secret official *dossier*, concealed from the accused avowedly in accordance with "the practice of this Department," are matters of vital importance to every one of us, about which we are all entitled to know the full truth. The trial of the case before a lay magistrate, without even the assistance of the clerk of the peace, the course of procedure at the trial, and the general question of the propriety of trying such a difficult and perplexing case at Quarter Sessions, are also points calling urgently for consideration by some authority whose findings and recommendations will command respect. The only way of obtaining an investigation and report covering all this ground is that adopted in the Beck case. This, therefore, is the end for which those who feel strongly the scandals exposed in Sir Conan Doyle's articles should work. But it is no use to suppose that the walls of Jericho will fall down before a few blasts on the journalistic trumpet. The position is not the same as in the Beck case, where the iniquity of the proceedings burst on the public in a moment, and led to an agitation which the Home Secretary thought it prudent to bow to. In this case the Home Office has been resisting outside influences successfully for over three years. It has gradually got into a position from which it cannot retire voluntarily, and moreover, its experience in the Beck case was not of such a nature that it is likely to incur a repetition thereof if it can be avoided. Ministers being bound to their staffs by a sort of *esprit de corps*, and Mr. Gladstone having already repeated the *non possumus* of his predecessors, it may be taken as certain that he will do nothing whatever in the Edalji case except under *force majeure* applied in the House of Commons. I do not say all this by way of discouraging Sir Conan Doyle, the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, or anybody else who desires to take up the cudgels on behalf of Mr. Edalji and of the public at large. All I desire is that the situation should be properly appreciated by them, and efforts applied in the right direction if at all. By all means let public opinion express itself; but nothing will come of it until it is voiced by some one in Parliament, who will get the case up properly, and find an opportunity of enlightening the House adequately about it. Then the thing will be very quickly done.

A CAPE TOWN COURT-MARTIAL.

A court-martial was held last summer at Cape Town upon a sergeant of the Army Service Corps with what seems to me, after carefully studying all the proceedings, to have been a most unsatisfactory and indefensible result. The case was the subject of a question asked by Lord Turnour in Parliament a few weeks back, and the reply of Mr. Haldane was virtually that the Judge-Advocate-General had carefully reviewed the proceedings and approved the result, and that he (Mr. Haldane) saw no reason for interfering with the sentence. With all respect to the Judge-Advocate-General, I cannot understand his view.

The prisoner, Sergeant Pitt, had been caterer of the garrison sergeants' mess at Cape Town, and he was charged, first, with embezzling the sum of £33 13s. 2½d. belonging to the mess, and secondly, with negligence in supervising the business of the mess, whereby a loss of the above sum was occasioned. He pleaded not guilty to both charges. He was acquitted of embezzlement, but found guilty of negligence, and was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, and to be put under stoppages until the said amount of £33 odd was repaid. As regards the alleged embezzlement, there does not seem to have been a particle of evidence worthy of the name, and it is astonishing that the charge should

ever have been preferred. All that could be shown at the court-martial was that according to the amount of stock (principally beer) on hand at the stocktakings at the end of March and at the end of April, the caterer should have paid in during April £155 5s. 7½d., whereas he actually paid in £121 12s. 5d. The Court was invited to infer that the prisoner had embezzled cash to the value of the difference between these two figures. It very properly declined to do so. Not only was there nothing but vague and inconclusive evidence to connect the prisoner with the alleged deficiency of cash, but there was no definite proof that the alleged deficiency had arisen during the period alleged if at all. That being so, it is difficult to understand how the Court arrived at the conclusion that the prisoner had been guilty of negligence which caused the unproved loss. The evidence, as recorded in the minutes, is extremely vague, and the only thing clearly shown is that the mess had been managed very loosely and irregularly all round. The valuation of the stock on April 1 at £155 5s. 7½d. was based on the calculation that the prisoner had 305 gallons of beer in stock on that date, which would be over eleven barrels. But the evidence for the prosecution showed that the cellar would not hold more than eight barrels—the prisoner maintained that its capacity was less than eight. The figure 305 must therefore have been wrong. It further appeared that as the accounts were first made up at the stocktaking only 197 gallons were in stock at the end of March. The figures were so entered in the prisoner's writing, but had been subsequently altered in pencil. The N.C.O. who was president of the mess up to March 31 stated that he made this alteration in pencil, having found out on April 4 that 108 gallons of beer had been received during March, and not entered in the accounts. He stated that he had a conversation with the prisoner on this point when going through the stock book for March, and altered the figures in consequence of this conversation. The prisoner absolutely denied such a conversation, and maintained that the original figure 197 which he had entered was the correct figure, which is borne out by the fact that the cellar would not hold 305 gallons. Thus the fact which was the foundation of the whole case against the prisoner, namely, the amount of beer in stock on March 31, was in dispute, and the books showed that the original figures arrived at had been subsequently altered against the prisoner's entry, which is enough to discredit the whole case for the prosecution.

Other features in the case were these: Pitt, the prisoner, was a clerk in the office of the Staff Captain, Naval Base. During his absence the mess waiter had the handling of the cash. It was never proved what the prisoner's hours of duty were at the Staff Office. The Staff Captain, who was called for the prosecution, merely said that his duties would not take him more than about four hours a day. The prisoner states in his letter to Lord Turnour that he was on duty at the Staff Office daily from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m., and that he made this statement at the court-martial, but that it has not been recorded. Obviously this point ought to have been cleared up in the evidence; but whether it was settled or not, it is obvious that the man could not justly be held answerable for what happened to the cash during the time that he was absent from the mess on duty. It also appeared at the trial that certain pages of the stock book for the month of March had been gummed together, and could not be examined. The mess president who came into office on April 1 stated that he first noticed the gumming of the pages about May 9. The prisoner had been relieved of his duties on April 30, and in view of the fact that the new president had gone into the question of the March stock with him a month previously, it is incredible that the gumming together of the pages would not have been noticed before May 9 if it had been done during the prisoner's time. It is these incidents which make the Judge-Advocate-General's decision incomprehensible to my humble mind.

While there was no definite irregularity proved against the prisoner, beyond the fact that he had not been in the mess when his duty required him to be somewhere else, there were plenty of other irregularities proved against other people in the management of the concern. The Staff Captain, who helped to make out the case against the prisoner, admitted that it was the custom to pay all the mess money directly over to him, although he was not the treasurer, and other treasurers had been duly appointed. The rules for the management of such messes require that the money shall be handed to the treasurer. Again, Para. 994 of the King's Regulations expressly lays down that the mess caterer shall be "exempt from other duties." This regulation was obviously violated in this mess, and that fact should be noted in estimating the evidence of the Staff Captain that the man's office duties only occupied him for four hours a day, for the officer would naturally be disposed to minimise a breach of regulations. The prisoner's predecessor as caterer stated in his evidence for the prosecution that "the King's Regulations as regards the treasurer taking stock once a week were not carried out during my tour of caterer," and evidently they were equally ignored during the prisoner's time. We have thus a mess managed in defiance of the regulations, and irregularities resulting which are directly traceable to this breach of the regulations—particularly to the fact that the prisoner was not exempt from military duty. In the face of this it seems a most iniquitous thing that the man should have been convicted of causing a loss to the mess by his negligence, while that of the officers who were responsible for the regulations not being observed was not taken into account at all; and the injustice is aggravated by the fact that on the evidence there is no clear proof that the mess had incurred the specified loss at all, at any rate during the prisoner's time. I should have thought that on all these facts being brought to the notice of the Judge-Advocate-General, the sentence would have been annulled, if the whole of the proceedings had not been quashed; and, seeing that the unfortunate prisoner—a man with a wife and family—has not only been required to refund the £33 which was supposed to be in question, but loses heavily in pay by his loss of rank, as well as all his future prospect of pension, it seems to me that the case ought to

have received further attention at the War Office when Lord Turnour asked his question of the Secretary of State. I suggest that such attention should yet be given to it.

A MOTORING TALE OF WOE.

One might say tale of "whoa"—but this would be flippant. Enough that "woe" and "whoa" were both ingredients of this melancholy story, which tells of the hiring by an Englishman of a motor-car in Italy, with results anything but satisfactory. I give it, not only for the benefit of those more immediately concerned, but also as a warning to others who might elsewise be similarly victimised.

In April last, then, Mr. Alfred Farquhar, a member of the well-known banking firm, was travelling in Northern Italy with another Englishman, and being minded to take a short tour by motor-car, entered into an arrangement with one Strina, carrying on business at Milan under the name of the British Motor-car Company, to supply him with a vehicle suitable for the purpose. The price agreed for a tour of 1,000 kilomètres was £83 14s. a charge which, being at the rate of about £6 a day, was certainly a sufficiently high one (about £5 a day would be fully sufficient for a car of the first class); and, to make matters worse, Mr. Farquhar consented to pay the whole amount in advance. One can well believe that the latter arrangement was not one which commended itself to Mr. Farquhar, but Mr. Strina, who knew what he was about, held out, and Mr. Farquhar gave way. Events speedily showed the unwisdom of the proceeding. An affidavit made on the subject of their experiences by Mr. Farquhar and his friend lies before me. It is a painful record. Almost from the first the car, which was driven, of course, by a chauffeur supplied by Mr. Strina, revealed the perversity of its nature by coming to a halt and refusing to proceed on every possible occasion. Mr. Farquhar and his friend seem to have exercised extraordinary patience, but all to no avail. Breakdowns were of practically daily occurrence.

Lucca to Florence was one of the proposed stages. The car reached Pescia, and then came to grief. Mr. Farquhar and his friend continued their journey by rail to Florence, and there had to remain four days while the chauffeur at Pescia got the car going again. Between Bologna and Verona the same thing occurred. To quote from the affidavit:—

> April 19.—Started for Verona. Car broke down again about three kilos from Bologna. Returned to Bologna Railway Station on one cylinder, and, having engaged rooms at a Verona hotel, proceeded there by rail, thereby missing Modena and Mantua, which we had intended visiting en route.

Between Bruscia and Como it happened again, Mr. Farquhar and his companion being compelled to complete this stage on foot. A fly was sent back from Como to bring on the luggage, but returned with the report that the car was nowhere to be found. Eventually it was run to earth in a shed in a neighbouring village in charge of the unlucky chauffeur, who intimated that he could do nothing more. Under the circumstances there was, of course, nothing for it but to recognise the inevitable, and abandon the tour. In the meantime, it may be stated, the sum of 150 fr. over and above that originally paid had been advanced to the chauffeur in respect of the various repairs which had been effected on the road. As to the annoyance and inconvenience experienced by Mr. Farquhar and his friend, it is unnecessary to say anything.

Unfortunately, worse was to follow. Not content with palming off upon his clients an absolutely worthless car at a rate which would have been excessive in the case of the finest procurable, Mr. Strina seems to have added insult to injury by preferring an additional charge in respect of the whole transaction, while resisting, of course, Mr. Farquhar's claim for reparation in respect of his own breach of contract. The car having managed to reach its destination on six days in all, Mr. Farquhar suggested that Mr. Strina should retain six days' hire, or £36, and refund the balance. Finally it was agreed to settle the dispute by arbitration, a gentleman named Fabbro being nominated by the Automobile Club of Milan to act as arbitrator. Previously, Mr. Farquhar had had communication with the British Consul at Milan, and at the same time had learned from other sources that the so-called British Motor-car Company was merely an alias for the resourceful Strina, who, in his turn, was a man of straw. Under the circumstances, he would have saved himself much trouble if he had therewith dropped the matter altogether, rather than throw good money after bad in a vain attempt to recover what he had lost. In the public interest, however, he resolved to see the thing through, and with the assistance of a local solicitor prepared his case and submitted it to the so-called arbitrator. The result was, however, to put it mildly, disappointing. The parties to an arbitration are not seldom dissatisfied with the result, but it may be doubted if a more singular award has ever been delivered in any similar case than that which was in due course transmitted to Mr. Farquhar.

Mr. Farquhar himself seems to have been to some extent at fault in not ascertaining a little more clearly beforehand precisely what were the terms of reference upon which the arbitration was to be based. Unfortunately, he took it for granted that these would be satisfactorily determined by the British Consul, and having submitted his own sworn affidavit as to the facts, assumed that Mr. Strina would be required to do the like, and that an impartial award would follow. As it turned out, however, Signor Fabbre took a different view of his functions. Instead of requiring a sworn statement from Mr. Strina, he had that worthy before him, and lent a sympathetic ear to whatever he chose to tell him. Strina's regard for strict veracity may conceivably be such as would have put George Washington himself to shame; but one cannot be too careful in these matters, and one may certainly agree with Mr. Farquhar that, if only as a matter of form, it would have been desirable if he had at least been enabled to learn what were the statements upon which his opponent's case was based. The Italian arbitrator evidently thought otherwise, however, and having had his little friendly chat with Mr. Strina, proceeded on the strength thereof to deliver himself of the aforesaid remarkable judgment, in which, as Mr. Farquhar puts it, he "states that in his opinion the justice of the

case is on my side, but the verdict is to be in favour of the other."

Briefly, Signor Fabbre seems to have adopted Mr. Strina's suggestion that the various daily breakdowns and mishaps which Mr. Farquhar experienced were all in the nature of those little hitches and incidents which were to be looked for as a matter of course by any one rash enough to embark upon a motoring tour. As he puts it: "Considering that in carrying out the terms of a lease as regards motor-cars a strict adherence to the same is not possible, owing to circumstances generally beyond the control of the contracting parties, it is clearly evident that everything that was possible has been done on Mr. Strina's part to conform to the terms of the agreement." Yet on the other hand, "It is equally certain that Mr. Farquhar has been put to exceptional expense for railway fares, compulsory sojourn, etc., in consequence of repeated damages sustained by the machine," whereby "the breakdowns and interruptions were so frequent as to render the intended journey incomplete and unsatisfactory." Therefore, is the final conclusion, "I hold it to be fair and proper that liberal treatment should be extended to Mr. Farquhar, all the more so on account of his being a stranger, and that Mr. Strina should content himself with the £83 10s. already received from Mr. Farquhar."

Is it surprising that Mr. Farquhar was not precisely satisfied with this award? He hires a motor-car at a high rate, pays for it in advance, is subjected to the utmost annoyance, mortification, and expense through having been supplied with an absolutely worthless vehicle, and then is calmly told not only that he has no claim for indemnity, but that he must think himself lucky in not having to pay still more to the ingenious foreigner by whom he has been victimised! What additional claims Mr. Strina can have preferred against him Mr. Farquhar is utterly at a loss to conceive, and it is perfectly certain that no such claims could in point of fact possibly be substantiated. Yet the arbitrator's award is that set forth, and Mr. Farquhar having been abominably imposed upon in the first place, is invited to believe that he has really been treated with extraordinary consideration, in virtue of his being a stranger, inasmuch as he has only lost the amount which he originally paid, and no more!

The morals of this melancholy tale are sufficiently obvious. In the first place, it should serve as a caution to those who hire motor-cars, whether at home or abroad, to make sure that they are dealing with reputable firms who may be relied on not to treat them as Mr. Farquhar was treated by Mr. Strina. As Mr. Farquhar himself puts it, the custom prevailing of only letting out motor-cars on payment of the entire hire in advance is obviously a very one-sided one, and one greatly diminishing the chance of obtaining any compensation in the event of a breach of contract. Seeing, however, that these are the only conditions on which motor-cars are usually to be hired, it is obviously of the first importance to have dealings only with firms of the first repute, or in the case of foreign firms, through intermediaries in a position to insist on reparation being made should it so happen that the terms of the agreement are not honestly carried out.

Another conclusion to be drawn from this edifying narrative concerns more particularly the Automobile Club at Milan, which I assume to be an institution of good standing, corresponding to our own similar organisations. This being so, it certainly would seem desirable for such a body to re-consider the qualifications of the gentleman who has been named to conduct on its behalf any subsequent motor arbitration cases. Apart altogether from the question of the justice of his award in this particular case, it is manifest that either his knowledge of motoring matters must be seriously defective, or he must be capable of deliberate statements surprisingly at variance with the truth. Certainly it would be interesting to learn the opinion of Italian motorists in general regarding his assertion that such a series of mishaps and breakdowns as Mr. Farquhar experienced were to be regarded as the natural and inevitable incidents of modern motoring. In point of fact, such an assertion was preposterous, and one of a kind to cast the gravest suspicion upon the good faith of any one professing to know anything about motoring who could be capable of making it. It is to be hoped, therefore, that for its own credit the Milan Automobile Club may deem it advisable to give some attention to the matter.

THE THEATRES.

"Nelly Neil," at the Aldwych.

Mr. Frohman "presented" Miss Edna May last week in this new musical play. He presented also to our eyes a series of captivating costumes, much fine stage scenery, and a great deal of vivacious romping, both with words and legs. For the fact about the libretto of "Nelly Neil" is that the dialogue and the doings of those on the stage proceed, often zigzag, sometimes in a retrograde manner, but rarely take a straight line for more than a few minutes together. It is, in fact, a glorified variety entertainment, with Miss Edna May, always winsome, and graceful, and natural, as the most important turn. One good turn, however, deserves another, and we have many opportunities of admiring the fair socialist, Nelly, who executes with her eyes. A group of haughty hereditary legislators come to complain that she leads away their sons and daughters by the flowerless patter of socialism; but they remain to pray that she will lead them also. So it is with all her environments, whether they be Fripp's Fruit Shop in Regent-street, Simplicity Farm, or the Courtyard of the Savoy Hotel, Nelly Neil has but to appear to conquer anarchist and aristocrat alike. Vainly does Miss Kitty Gordon, as the wicked Russian Princess, plot against her. The very detectives love Nelly, and Mr. E. Dagnall, as the chief among them, proves this in and out of his disguises. Chief among her admiers, however, is the amusing and mercurial Mr. Joseph Coyne, as the rich young banker, full of quaint quips and quivers, alert of lip and limb. He courts Nelly, despite the vigorous attentions of the sisters Tizzle, who dog the rich young banker's steps; he follows her down to Simplicity Farm, where, as his sister, Lady Rokeby, Miss Mollie Lowell lives a dignified and simple life. Here comes also the wicked princess, Miss Kitty

Gordon, singing to us delightfully of the ephemeral life with a lighted cigarette to give a ruby point to her most successful song.

The original story of Mr. McLellan is, as I have said, so overgrown with his own lyrics and with the multitudinous chance happenings of the piece that to give a complete account of it would mean copying about three-quarters of the book. Suffice it, then, to say, that Miss Edna May passes through many trials on her way to triumph and marriage with the rich young banker, and passes through them all in picturesque costumes of an ascending scale of gorgeousness. The scene in the cornfields is a very beautiful tableau, arranged by Mr. Hugo Baruch, in which Miss Edna May occupies the central position, habited in cloth-of-gold, with a great wreath of dark blue cornflowers climbing over her left shoulder. Mr. Ivan Caryll's music follows the action in a very lively manner, but I did not carry away with me any particularly catching air.

Mr. Frohman has gone "Nap" on "Nelly Neil," and his rivals will probably prefer to "pass."

"THE REFORMER" AND "THE CAMPDEN WONDER" AT THE COURT THEATRE.

The former of these plays is by the actor, Mr. Cyril Harcourt, and is, as he describes it, a very light comedy, so light, indeed, as rather to surprise one in a theatre which one has of late found dedicated to more serious or at any rate more ambitious work. Being by an actor, none of the little stage devices which raise a laugh or a smile among the audience are neglected, the worst of this being, that having smiled, one realises the little trick that produced the smile.

A fair reformer, Miss Eva Moore, who is also a lady of social position, proposes to set the mad world to rights by excluding from her society all the social black sheep, or rather all those who seem to her to be black. Petulant and pretty, Miss Moore carries her rather heavy, because improbable, load lightly and gracefully, until she deposits it and herself in the arms of Mr. Allen Aynesworth, who plays one of those omniscient middle-aged gentleman whom one associates with the genius of Sir Charles Wyndham. But the plot does not stand analysis, for why, to give an instance, should Sybil Cardew, influenced to break off her engagement by Miss Eva Moore, not write and ask for her photograph back from the man to whom she had given it? Instead of doing so, she entrusts the omniscient Sir Rupert with the mission, which he executes so successfully as to drive out of England the foolishly emphatic Earl about to marry the beautiful reformer, whom he secures for himself in the last act. He has also arranged that Sybil Cardew should not be deprived of her young lover, and social reforms are laid aside by general consent in favour of matrimony.

Of "The Campden Wonder," by Mr. John Masefield, I can only say that I did wonder. The appalling miscarriage of justice, by which innocent son and mother are accused and executed on the evidence of the other son who hates them did, I believe, actually take place in Gloucestershire in the seventeenth century.

The admirable work put into it by Mr. Norman McKinnel as the accuser, and by Miss Carlotta Addison as the piteous old mother, to mention but two of a fine cast, did not, to my mind, save this long-winded tragedy from being wholly gruesome and painful to contemplate. One needs some redeeming element of beauty, either in the language or in the plot, to tolerate, or, indeed, to endure, this harrowing-up of the strongest feelings of one's nature—filial affection and the sense of justice. It is too nearly a pathological study to be suitable for dramatic performance. No moderately sane individual would have behaved as this elder son, and the moment you make the doings of a maniac your *main* theme, you are outside the domain of drama.

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A number of small societies are springing up for the purpose of performing plays that would not otherwise be likely to pass the managerial barriers which at most theatres stand between the new dramatist and the footlights. Among these is Mr. Herbert Dansey's society, "The Argonauts," which sprung into pulsating life on an afternoon of last week in the Victoria Hall, Bayswater. It turned out to have been well worth the trouble of a visit, for Mr. Whiteley's play, "A Point of View," has much in it to arouse and hold the attention.

On Saturday evening, at the Haymarket, Mr. Frederick Harrison gave us a new one act playlet by Mrs. Henry de La Pasture and a revival of Mr. Carton's "Lady Huntworth's Experiment."

"Her Grace the Reformer" is discovered lolling exquisitely upon sofa cushions of incredible softness, and holding forth to her butler, secretary, and lady's-maid on the equality of everybody, much in the way which I presume that the socialists, aristocratic and otherwise, hold converse with one another. With such aid to reflections as is afforded by the last French novel, the Duchess sends away her satellites and disposes herself to rest before dinner. Enter to her a burglar from under the toilet table. Having bound a scarf over the mouth of the Duchess, he pockets her pearl necklace and the articles on her toilet-table. Enter to him the secretary, a man of socialistic convictions strengthened by a recent inheritance, which makes him independent of the Duchess. He argues with the Duchess, swinging the burglar nonchalantly from side to side, a pigmy in his grasp. His main point is that the man has done no wrong, on her grace's own showing, and proceeds to quote her recent utterances as to the community of property. Meanwhile the burglar struggles loose, evades the butler, who seizes the secretary in his shirt-sleeves, laying down the law to the silly little Duchess, whose anxiety about her pearls shows that her belief in community of property does not extend to pearls.

A pretty trifle, well enacted. Every one regretted the absence, through illness, of Mr. Henry Kemble, whose humours as the Vicar of Stillford were among the gems of "Lady Huntworth's Experiment." But I must say a word in favour of Mr. Fred Lewis's careful study and competent playing at the last moment in Mr. Kemble's manner Mr. Kemble's

BLACKPOOL. SPLENDID WINTER CLIMATE. HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

part. I was pleased and surprised (I am always truthful) to find how well this revival stood the test of a second hearing. It is full of witty things, well placed, and now, with Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mrs. Calvert, and Miss Wiehe as the principal personages above-stairs, Mr. Holman Clark (admirable, amorous, seneschal Mr. Clark!) Miss Pollie Emery, and Miss Compton as the omniscient cook-countess below-stairs, jaded as Gandy's (the butler) palate must be his who does not enjoy "Lady Huntworth's Experiment."

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Managers, a word in your ears! I believe none of you have seen "The Naughty Little Princess," a fairy play by Miss Evelyn Sharp. I have, because I took the trouble to go all the way to Primrose Hill; in fact, I "scaled the heights" of that celebrated eminence, and descended again to its base ere I discovered the St. Mary's Church-room where this delectable entertainment was thrice given last week. "The Naughty Princess" lives in a country "several thousands of miles on the way to Fairy Land." Owing to an unpleasant enchantment, it is so cold in this land that even the strawberries are always strawberry ice. The little Princess, sweetly played by Miss Katherine Hannay, alone can remove the spell by meeting the Flame-haired Fire Boy at the gates of Fairyland. This she does, being very self-willed and very naughty, under the auspices of "a really nice dragon," and other delightful animals, quite the equal of Mr. Barrie's fairy folk. Lack of space precludes my telling all the story of the beautiful little Princess, but next Christmas I hope to see it unthawed and luxuriant in one of the West End theatres. Managers, I have said.

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My recommendation of Payne's "Arabian Nights" as a superior library edition to that of Burton, in the course of my remarks upon "Sindbad" at Drury Lane, has elicited a letter from a friend of the late traveller. His suggestion that, "like the *Times*," I bear ill-will to Burton, is quite unfounded, and arises from a confusion of thought, common to many. Burton, whom I greatly admire as a *distinguished traveller* and *student of Eastern manners*, was but a *mediocre writer* of English prose, and almost always turgid and strained in verse. But it is quite wrong to suppose that because, for instance, one does not admire a man's writing, that should imply bearing him ill-will. It is possible to admire the good and ignore the mediocre qualities of the same person. Proof of Burton having borrowed from Payne is to be found in the parallel passages adduced by Wright in his life of the former. He was often seen at work on his version, with Payne's by his side. Payne is always lucid in his prose, poetic and lucid in his verse renderings. I agree with my correspondent, though it has nothing to do with my former remarks, that no satisfactory life of Burton has appeared. Those he mentions have all something to be said against them, though the most illuminating is, perhaps, that of Wright.

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On Monday the Hippodrome had its exhibition of musical thought transference by "Trilby and Svengali." They "communicate thought at a vast distance without word or action." Trilby sits at a grand piano and plays anything suggested secretly to Svengali. Telepathy seems to be becoming so common that one wonders if it cannot be taught. I have myself hitherto failed to give accounts of theatrical performances held "at a vast distance" from the place at which I happened to be, but I have heard of its being done by others, though unfortunately the actual happening did not always coincide with the telepathic vision of the writer.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

SHAHS PAST AND PRESENT.

I HAVE seen three Shahs during this Third Republic. The original Shah, who led the way, appeared to me a terrible Kurd. His manners were of a piece with his methods of government. His successor, one of the most amiable of Orientals, and the handsomest when he came among us as heir apparent, became, for the sake of the Contrexéville waters, an annual visitor to France. The Shah now reigning attended with his father when the latter was only heir apparent, and passed almost unnoticed. The first appearance of Nasr-ed-Din was brought about by the Moral Order Government to reconcile Paris to monarchism. The Shah made his début amid public festivities and all the military and civic pomp the government could command. The receptions given in his honour were about the most brilliant that ever came off in Paris. To snub the principle of parliamentary institutions the semi-barbarous despot from the East was, with his endless suite, assigned the Petit Bourbon for a residence, and he made himself at home there. His title of King of Kings amused the multitude, and the magnificence of the diamonds which he wore gave it a semblance of reality. The white thoroughbred which he mounted at the Longchamps review, with its splendidly jewelled reins and saddle and its long pink tail, enhanced the master's prestige. It all made him seem a monarch in the "Arabian Nights'" *genre*. Nasr-ed-Din looked what nature made him, ferocious, cruel, crafty, and in short an awful "Tartar." If in company he wanted "forty winks," he said so. He was *le Shah sans gêne*, poked la Maréchale MacMahon in the ribs at dinner, felt her dairymaid arms, which he admired, and assured her, through the former dragoman of a French Embassy, that were she less old she would be entirely to his taste. The Maréchale had remained an *assez gentille petite femme, rondelette et fraiche*. At the Louvre, Nasr-ed-Din begged the dragoman in Turkish, which he spoke equally well with Persian, to tell the Fine Arts Minister, who took him round, that he detested European paintings and sculptured things, and wanted to go away. "The way out, the way out," he peremptorily added. Oriental monarchs seldom see company, and, their will being law, do not affect any grace or graciousness which nature has not bestowed on them.

The late Shah had for his gentleness and beauty

This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

been preferred to his elder brother, Prince Zil, as heir to the throne. Zil is a man of far higher ability and of an iron will—a reason, perhaps, why the despotic Nasr-ed-Din sent him off to Ispahan and kept him in that far distant place as Governor. The government of Azerbeidjan, which fell to the lot of the late Shah at the age of nine, is on the verge of Turkish Asia Minor and the Caucasian territory of Russia. It is the province nearest to European influence. The late Shah there learned to speak Russian, and to fear Russia. He spoke French fairly, but rather in the Ollendorff style, in brief, abrupt sentences which led to no others. His natural amiability (the most salient of his qualities) tempered his frankness, which also was remarkable. As the Director of the Jardin des Plantes took him round, he stopped before the cage of Hyder and Lallah, two Indian tigers. "Wretched beasts," said the Shah. "In my youth, when I liked tiger hunting, I should have scorned to chase such miserable things." There are still tigers in the Persian jungles along the Caspian, and they afford good sport to Imperial governors. The Shah, on being brought to the elephants' enclosure, said to the Director: "Is that all you can show me? I have three hundred elephants in my stables." On the terrace of Versailles, as the *grandes eaux* played, Muzaffr-ed-Din stopped his nose, and wanted to know why water that smelt so bad had been brought there? The playing of the *jets d'eaux* amused him, but he preferred Gulistan, with its wealth of roses and its pure waters in channels lined with bluish green porcelain, to any royal residence he had seen in Europe. On seeing the bed of the Fourteenth Louis, the Shah asked did that monarch often fall out in sleeping.

The late Shah had a soul alive to music, but peculiar taste. His numerous pianos, pianolas, and other instruments were "massed" to form a domestic orchestra. His sons and daughters received good musical training, and the present Shah is an accomplished pianist. Railway travelling upset the late Shah's nerves. By insisting on a twenty-four mile an hour pace, and taking with him a great retinue, he made his tours in the West incredibly expensive. He had not the same objection to the motor, and used those motors he imported, on the excellent road—the only good road in Persia—between Resht and Teheran. He proved an excellent customer to the Dion-Bouton Company, and paid it the compliment of attending an entertainment in his honour at the Automobile Club. Most of the members attended. The Shah asked Comte de Dion what they all did there. The Comte quite seriously answered: "Nous étudions, Majesté." "I admire," said the Shah, "the application of Europeans of fortune to their studies. That is why you make such wonderful improvements and discoveries." "Just so, sire." Had the Comte been as sincere and serious as he appeared he would have told the Shah that most of the members who often came to the club did so to indulge in games of chance, and that all the study went on at the Dion-Bouton factory.

It is a mistake, I have been told, to suppose that the late Shah admired the bazaar trash which he took back with him to Persia. He had different reasons, some benevolent and some patriotic, for importing great cargoes of *articles de Paris*. The road I have spoken of was made by a Russian company in return for a toll monopoly and the exclusion of European merchandise, save Russian at the Persian port in which it terminates, on the Caspian. The Shah has a personal privilege to import in his own baggage. The late Shah took advantage of this to bring back to his wives, concubines, eleven daughters, and to his courtiers, for their domestic use, all the pretty things that took his fancy. His keepsakes and souvenirs of Europe, the Lyons silks, gauzes, laces, muslins, and other Bon Marché things, brought joy into his own harem and the harems of the great lords about him. He placed many of the porcelain articles he brought back near those of Persian to show the æsthetic superiority of the latter. He took a just pride in Persian carpets and porcelains, and in his rose gardens, which a Frenchman named Simon directs. Another Frenchman, M. Lemaire, directs the Imperial Conservatoire at Teheran, from which, of course, young ladies are excluded, and M. Gaffery, the Minister of Public Works, which has been perhaps a rather sinecure appointment, is a Polytechnic Old Boy.

Mohammed Ali Mirza has no harem and lives on the footing of a comrade with his one wife, who has a Parisian *couturier* attached to her household and two aides. The new Shah kept at Tauris twelve Frenchmen—serving as blacksmith, vet., chemist, gardener, tailor, confectioner, artificer of fireworks, piano tuner, architect, civil engineer, chauffeur, and a maître d'hôtel, who had been an assistant at the Foreign Ministry. His new Majesty is a man of few words. Otherwise he could earn a name for speaking French fluently, as he possesses that tongue so thoroughly. I do not see why he should not gladly co-operate in the constitutional reforms which have been latterly called for in Persia. As things stand, he has no more power than the early Capets, beyond that of naming his sons governors of provinces under the tutelage, if they be mere boys, of sub-governors. The governors squeeze the governed in the Shah's name, but pocket most of the money they squeeze out of them. If the late Shah had a good time personally through his ten years' reign it was on borrowed money. "Après moi, le déluge" might have properly been his motto. None of his sons inherited his easy-going mansuetude. They all resemble the grandfather in disposition and character, and the three elders have as governors of provinces shown themselves as cruel. The third, Abou'l Fatz, is as much the desperado as any of the Kurds he governs and drives into revolt by his fiscal oppression.

I once asked the late Sir Robert Murdoch Smith, who passed twenty-three years in Persia and connected it, telegraphically speaking, what the limits of the Shah's power were. He said: "In fiscal matters he has hardly any power. But his name has great moral force in other things. He can cut off heads, or he can grant concessions, or tell his subjects what they ought to do, consistently, of course, with the teachings of the Mollahs. He generally exerted his power (except to decapitate) in conformity with the advice given him by his French doctor Theluson, one of the most just and obliging men it has ever been my good fortune to meet. He helped me to obtain a

decree to forbid the use of the new mineral dyes in carpets and other things. In many ways he helped me in my mission."

I am not surprised at the terrible fate which has befallen General Pavloff. His views of government were much like those of the Duke of Alva. I met him some years ago at St. Petersburg. At that time he had the rank of colonel. I found him an interesting, courteous man, though too inquisitive to be altogether pleasant. I gathered from him that he was entrusted with police arrangements for the safety of the Czar; in fact, that he was a sort of glorified detective. He was about to start for Warsaw, and I was struck by his hatred of the Poles. Colonel Pavloff envied the laurels of Muravieff the Hanger. Somebody remarked that the Poles were just as disaffected as they were half a century before, and that if Russia were ever busy anywhere else another insurrection might break out. "If the Poles revolted again," said Colonel Pavloff, "we would have to—how do you say in French *ausrotten?*" "Exterminate," I said. "That's right; we would have to exterminate them, and it would be a pity, because, after all, they are the most gifted of the Slavonic nationalities." The grim manner in which he said this gave me a shudder.

The Colonel was open-minded enough in some respects. Thus he spoke to me of a certain young Grand Duke as a "good-for-nothing young scoundrel." His feelings towards the Emperor were those of love and veneration. At any rate, he said so.

"Kitty" has been distinguishing herself. The opposition of the *grande couture* to the Minister of the Interior against "Kitty" and her misdeeds is too good. She has, at the Cercle Charras and other places of the kind, so cleaned out the pockets of the *grandes dames* who order their dresses at the Place Vendôme as to leave them without the means of paying for them. The *cagnotte* in these cercles is sweeping. But the business of all *cagnottes* is to sweep the money of the gamester into the pockets of those who run the tables. In principle it is always the same thing. In practice some brooms work faster than others, but in the end all make *décavés* of those who stake and winners of the others.

As a great Parisian interest is now bound up in *la haute couture*, the Minister of the Interior is inclined to put down hells, which are generally run by Belgians. As I never could get baccarat, "chemin de fer," "pontes," and "refaits" into my head, and think the subject uninteresting save for "those who win or lose," I do not go into details. Among the latter are the Marquise du Moulin Rouge, who bemoans her hard fate, and Otero, who now confesses the *richissime* Monsieur Webb to be a myth. She has had to liquidate her losses in selling her jewels, and goes to Rome, St. Petersburg being practically cut off.

The statute passed four years ago to authorise "open cercles constituted for lawful objects" has given us as many hells as there used to be not long since in Belgium, and directed, too, by Belgians. The Minister of the Interior has been taking legal advice as to the best way to put them down. His advisers assure him that he has the power to suppress all that are formed for the purpose of promoting gambling.

The Archbishop of Paris is still the guest of M. Henri—what did I say?—Denys Cochin, and will probably remain in his well-warmed house until the weather is milder. The telegraphic style is now so often applied to names colloquially that one's pen is liable to slip, as mine has just done, in writing those given at the christening font. We are getting into the way in speaking of men *hors texte* or simply eminent by their surnames only. We never dream of saying, when we talk about them, M. Aristide Briant, M. Armand Fallières, M. Georges Clemenceau, M. Raymond Poincaré, M. (I forget his baptismal name from dropping it for a number of years) Pichon. One still says M. Henri Brisson, because familiar with the "Henri" long before the telegraphic brevity infection passed into conversation. For the same reason one always said M. Emile Deschanel. In speaking now of his son we say Deschanel merely. I never thought of paying any heed to the baptismal name of the poet Coppée. Were he only a mere poetaster, I should learn it, to distinguish him from other Coppées. It is scarcely a compliment to remember well the given name of any one who has risen to eminence within the last quarter of a century. To address a letter to M. "Georges" Clemenceau would be like Lord Lyons addressing one to M. Victor Hugo, Senateur. The poet, on reading the address, felt nettled. This got back to Lord L. He spoke about it to me in a tone that showed him to be uncertain whether to laugh or feel angry, and asked what the address ought to have been. I replied, "Merely 'Victor Hugo, Paris,' or 'Victor Hugo dans son Avenue.'"

I am afraid that a fortnight or three weeks ago my pen slipped in speaking of the Archbishop's host as M. Henri instead of M. Denys Cochin. He, if he saw the little portrait I gave of him, would be too much *l'homme d'esprit* to trouble about so small a mistake when there was so much very complimentary truth.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

MONEY was not made for man, dear Lady Betty; man was made for money. All other considerations are superfluous, except insomuch as they facilitate the acquisition of pounds, shillings, and pence. The most perfect modern man is he who possesses the greatest ability for obtaining money; in him are overlooked all deficiencies in other directions, such as the disregard of moral and human laws, disfigurements of character, and disadvantages of appearance and behaviour.

It is a glorious victory of money over mind.

In those conditions, however, it is not surprising that virtue, manners, literature, and the arts are decaying in this country; there is but one poetry, the poetry of the Three per Cents.

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Our "upper class" is suffering from hemorrhage of the principles; it will die from loss of respect.

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The Tories are always now evolving emergency

policies, and contracting emergency alliances; sure signs of distress.

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The modern English brain is like a threshing-machine; it retains neither the grain nor the straw, only occasional scraps.

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Overheard at a county ball. *Girl in a tattered condition, innocently*: "Are we waltzing according to the Rugby Rules?"

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Marriage is very good for children; it keeps them out of mischief. Grown-up men and women of to-day have more important matters to attend to; the former making unnecessary money, the latter undesirable acquaintances.

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Home: a tiresome place over-rated by the Municipal Councils.

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"Marriages" may be "made in Heaven," but there is long accumulated evidence to show that many wives are made in another direction.

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A BALLROOM CONVERSATION.

FIRST DOWAGER: "My dear, is that skin her own?"

SECOND DOWAGER: "It must be, it is so coarse. Shop-made skin is much smoother and whiter."

* * * * *

In these days of labour-saving appliances and methods, it is not surprising that the proposal card has been invented. It is printed like an ordinary invitation:—

——— requests the honour of ———
Hand in Marriage.

R.S.V.P.

* * * * *

Self-made superiority is a matter that deserves more attention than it is receiving in our time. The neglect is regrettable. The number is growing rapidly of those curious men and women who assume the attitude of superiority without having earned by their qualities or achievements the sanction of their fellows to adopt the condition. Here is a politician who seldom opens his mouth in the House, or has little or no reputation in that assembly, who assumes a masterful attitude amongst his companions, and is accepted as a surpassing person in consequence by the less intelligent of them. There is the "poet" who writes books which the publisher cannot induce the public to buy. This self-constituted "genius" assumes a condescending attitude in his conversation with others; casts his eyes upwards as if he were communing with the Muses whom tradition has placed above; and is regarded by the weaker-minded as intelligent because he insists that he is. There are the would-be socially superior, men and women who have neither birth, wit, worth, nor wealth, but who affect the greatest contempt for the generality of their fellows, and attract respect because of the offensive attitude they assume. The mental condition of those people is obviously defective; they should be examined and reported upon by a specially appointed board of experts on diseases of the mind, and, if of impaired faculties, should be withdrawn from the social currency for the convenience of their fellow men and women and for their own benefit.

* * * * *

It has always been our boast that the English are the Apostles of Cleanliness. Perhaps it would now be advisable to reconsider that contention. The American has replaced our dingy, dirty-looking tramcars with clean, airy, and roomy vehicles; he has transformed our dismal and filthy underground railways into reasonably bright and well-ventilated systems; and he has substituted for our dreary private hotels the speckless palaces we have seen arise almost as if by magic. All those improvements we could have effected ourselves if we had really been so devoted to cleanliness as we imagine we are.

How surpassingly charming we English would be were we not so perfect—in our own estimation!

* * * * *

Sir Hubert Jerningham made a tour round the world in the winter of last year, and he has recorded his impressions of the places and peoples he visited in "From West to East," a book which has been published by Mr. John Murray this week. As is generally known, Sir Hubert has throughout life had exceptional opportunities of seeing the best that the many countries he has visited, officially and unofficially, possess, and has added to those opportunities an intelligence which enables him to form peculiarly correct views. For both reasons "From West to East" is a book which will attract widespread interest, an interest which will be kept alive, moreover, throughout, in consequence of the charm of style of the writer and the many anecdotes which the volume contains.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THERE has been a little skimble-skamble betting on the Derby, but the prices offered by the bookmakers are ridiculously short, and are certainly not calculated to stimulate speculation. It seems inconceivable that any one suffered to go at large could be so infatuated as to accept any such odds as 4 to 1 about either Slieve Gallion or Galvani. Both colts were beaten when last seen out, but there was a good excuse for the defeat of Slieve Gallion in the Middle Park Plate. I would be very sorry, however, to invest one penny on Captain Greer's colt until he has been well tried for stamina. Slieve Gallion did not impress good judges last season as likely to turn out a stayer. As to Galvani, he will not start before the Derby, and if he pleases the touts during the spring he is sure to keep at a short price, but the chances are that the odds now offered will be forthcoming on the day of the race, as the winner of the Two Thousand is tolerably certain to be the favourite at Epsom. Twelve months ago people were cackling about Major Loder winning some of the big races with Admirable Crichton, but nobody even mentioned Spearmint seriously in connection with the Derby until long after the Two Thousand had been run. History may repeat itself in this stable, and Galvani might ultimately turn out inferior to Baltinglass. It is quite certain that the son of Isinglass and Sibola was never within reasonable distance of being fit last season, and he is a rapidly improving and remarkably good-looking colt. At all events, I am told that Weathercock will want a lot of time, and that he is not at all likely to be fit and in form during the early part of the season, so that Baltinglass is certain to be Major Loder's best for the Two Thousand, and if he runs prominently for that race it will be easy for this stable to estimate correctly the Derby prospects of Galvani. Major Loder may have a dangerous candidate for the One Thousand and Oaks in Adora, own sister to Pretty Polly, who was not trained last season. She is a beautiful filly, and very racing-like, but nothing whatever is known about her capacity for racing.

A bet has been taken about M. E. Blanc's Ouadi Halfa at the more rational price of 25 to 1. The owner of this colt, however, moves in mysterious ways, and it will surely be better business to wait until the day, and then take very much shorter odds, with the certainty of a run. Ouadi Halfa is not M. E. Blanc's only Derby

FREE FROM FARROW'S BANK.—"Farrow's Bank: Its History Objects, and Work."—Chairman, Thomas Farrow, Author of "The Moneylender Unmasked," &c.—Write or call, 29, New Bridge-st., Ludgate-circus, E.C., and Brighton, Norwich, and Croydon.

WIESBADEN HOTEL, NASSAU.—Recognised as the Most Fashionable and Refined Home of English and American Society in Wiesbaden.—Telegraphic Address: "Nassauerhof, Wiesbaden."

candidate, as he has also accepted with Myram, own brother to Jardy. It is stated that Ouadi Halfa is really an Irish colt, his breeder being Lord Clonmell. This is true enough, but people must not be misguided by this announcement into supposing that Ouadi Halfa is therefore ineligible for most of the French big races, as this colt was foaled in France after his dam had been purchased by M. E. Blanc, and he is engaged in the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby), which race is run at Chantilly on the Sunday in Epsom week. Ouadi Halfa who is by Persimmon out of Yesterling, was backward last season, and it was the opinion of many who watched him closely that he will turn out a non-stayer. In any case it is desperate fatuity to back such a horse now for the Derby at any price whatever, as the odds are considerable enough even against his being sent to England next May.

The Duke of Westminster's colt Dusty Miller, own brother to Rydal Head, wanted time last season, and he is quite likely to train into a very useful three-year-old. This is quite the sort of colt to win one of the big stakes at Ascot, in which he would have an advantage in the weights. He is said to have come on during the winter in a very satisfactory manner. The Duke's colt, Vamose, the two-year-old brother of Flying Fox, is also reported to be a remarkably nice colt, but I have a dismally distinct recollection of the rhapsodies of which Pipistrello (own brother to Vamose) was the object during the spring of 1905, and yet, good-looking as he was, he retired from the Turf without having won one farthing. If Vamose turns out to be smart (and it is surely full time for Vampire to produce something again, which can win a race) I dare say we shall see him making his début at Ascot in the New Stakes, as he has been entered for that race. It was in the New Stakes that Flying Fox made such a brilliant début in 1898.

There is a splendid entry for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, 130 two-year-olds having been engaged in that race, which will be worth £2,300. The King is the largest subscriber with six, and next comes Lord Rosebery with five, and then Lord Derby, Sir R. B. Jardine, and Sir R. Waldie-Griffith with four each. M. E. Blanc, who has frequently patronised this race, has not entered anything this year. The most interesting items in the list are two colts nominated by Count Lehndorff, but which really belong to the German Emperor, Anklang, by Ard Patrick out of Alverle, and Kakadu, by Saraband out of Kari Kari. They were bred at the Prussian Government stud, and are now under the charge of S. Darling at Beckhampton, as well as a third colt in the same ownership, Golden Gulden, by Ard Patrick out of Girton Girl.

There are twenty-nine entries for the All-Aged Stakes, and notable names in the list are his Majesty's Cynosure, Mr. W. Hall-Walker's Colonia, Mr. S. Joel's Polymelus, and Lord Howard de Walden's His Eminence. I expect, however, that this race is merely a question of health for Captain Greer's speedy horse Rocketter.

It is remarkable that 104 two-year-olds should have been entered for the Windsor Castle Stakes, inasmuch as the added money to this race is only £300. His Majesty and Sir R. Waldie-Griffith are the largest subscribers, each with four. The two German colts engaged by Count Lehndorff in the Coventry Stakes have been entered for this race also.

There is an interesting entry for the Wood Ditton Stakes at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, which race is limited to three-year-olds that have not won £200. The most notable names are his Majesty's dark colt Perambulator, Major Loder's Adora and Baltinglass, and Lord Derby's St. Claire II.

A fine entry for the Ascot Cup has so often resulted in a melancholy and ludicrous collapse when the numbers came to be hoisted that it would be prudent if sporting writers refrained from indulging in florid gush about the grand prospects of this year's race. I read last week how we may anticipate a struggle between Spearmint, Keystone II., Maintenon, Troutbeck, and Sagamore, to say nothing of the Russian and Hungarian cracks which have been entered, and putting aside the other French horses in the list, several of which have shown excellent form. Spearmint has reappeared at exercise at Newmarket, after a long course of veterinary treatment, and it is asserted that he now seems to be quite sound, and that he is expected to stand another preparation. He may be at present perfectly sound, but it is in the greatest degree unlikely that he will stand the long and severe training which is absolutely necessary in order to get a horse fit for such a race as the Ascot Cup, and especially as the ground is tolerably certain to have become hard by the time that the critical period in his preparation for that race has arrived. Even supposing that Spearmint did get through his training, it seems pure gasconading to describe him as so good a horse that he may be relied upon to defeat all comers at Ascot if fit and well. He defeated a very poor field in the Derby, and he really had nothing to beat in the Grand Prix but Maintenon, and it has since been asserted that there was a good excuse for the collapse of Mr. Vanderbilt's horse at Longchamps. Moreover, how on earth can any one presume to write with such confidence about Spearmint's chance at Ascot, considering that we have yet to learn that he can stay the course? People are so hare-brained that the practical lesson to be derived from the defeat of Pretty Polly and Cicero at Ascot appear to be already forgotten. As to Keystone II., I do not for a moment believe that Lord Derby's mare has any pretensions to stay the Ascot Cup course, and I expect she will undergo a special preparation for the Coronation Cup at Epsom, when the distance will suit her admirably. Bridge of Canny has made a remarkable improvement during the winter, and, being a good stayer, I fancy he is likely to be his owner's best representative in long-distance races. Troutbeck will in all probability be defeated by The White Knight whenever they meet in a Cup race, and Buckminster will be hopelessly outclassed in such a race, and he is far more likely to distinguish himself by winning a good handicap.

Of all the Spring Handicaps the most successful, far and away, has been the Esher Plate of £1,000, a race for three-year-olds only. There are eighty-three entries, owners having been lavish in their patronage (as times go) because the minor forfeit is only one sovereign, but only a few years ago there would have been at least one hundred and fifty entries for such a handicap. The most notable names in the list are Baron de Forest's Bellatrix and Mr. Clarke's Linacre, and they will doubtless be the top weights.

Lord Rosebery has half a dozen horses at Beckhampton, these being animals which were owned last year by Lord Dalmeny, and Ramrod is included in the lot.

Lord Ilchester and Captain Greer are the joint owners of Rocketter, who is a very speedy horse, and probably there is nothing in training capable of beating him over a T.Y.C., now that Thrush has retired from the Turf. Captain Greer has only three horses of his own at Beckhampton—Slieve Gallion and a couple of two-year-olds.

Orwell appears to be generally expected to win the One Thousand, judging from some dissertations on that race which I have perused. It seems decidedly premature to discuss the prospects of such an event, but I hear that Lord Rosebery is quite likely to have a dangerous candidate in his dark filly Prunella, by Persimmon out of Tressure. She is also engaged in the Oaks and in the Coronation Stakes at Ascot.

Lord Ellesmere has been very unlucky with his racehorses for a long time past, as his winnings have never been large, and his colours have but seldom been successful in any important event. He will begin next season with twenty-two horses in training at Newmarket, twelve of which are two-year-olds, which were bred on his own farm at Stetchworth. Seven of these animals are sired by King's Courier, who has therefore been afforded an excellent chance of distinguishing himself. None the Wiser, a mare bred by the late Duchess-Dowager of Montrose, was expected to prove a great success at the stud, but she has been a sad failure. Her two-year-old

of this season is a filly by Proclamation or King's Courier.

Only thirty-five horses have been engaged in the Newbury Spring Cup of £1,250, a most miserable entry, considering that the minor forfeit is £3 only, and the distance is one mile. It is perfectly idiotic and ridiculous to close a handicap of this class on January 1, when the race is not run until April 13, and the blunder of publishing the weights on January 24 is a suitable consummation of the original folly. It would surely be more in accordance with common sense to have held these weights over until after the Liverpool Spring Meeting, *i.e.*, to have published them in the Calendar of March 28. Seven owners are doubly represented. There are four French entries, M. Ephrussi's Ob and Champ d'Or and M. Caillault's Tyrol and Camisard.

Seventy-five two-year-olds have been entered for the Beckhampton Plate of £200, and this event is not likely to cost the fund one penny.

The final forfeit has been declared for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £6,000, which race will be run at Newmarket on Thursday, July 4. There were 216 entries when this race closed in December, 1903, and twenty-seven horses are now left in. It is obvious that fully half of the animals which remain in for this race must have accepted by mistake. Spearmint has, of course, been left in by Major Loder on the off chance of his standing a preparation, and another doubtful candidate is Mr. Neumann's Llangibby. Mr. Hall Walker has accepted with Merry Moment (12 lb. allowed), and with Black Arrow (9 lb. allowed), and the latter bids fair to be the most dangerous of the four-year-olds. His Majesty's Nulli Secundus, Lord Howard de Walden's His Eminence, Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's Shilfa, Duke of Portland's Wombwell, and Mr. Belmont's Lord Hastings are all in the list, but it seems to me that the race is likely to prove a good thing for Polymelus if Mr. Joel's horse is then in his best form. It would be interesting to see a meeting over the Suffolk Stakes Course between Spearmint (9 st. 5 lb.), Polymelus (9 st. 7 lb.), and Black Arrow (8 st. 13 lb.). Nulli Secundus would carry 8 st. Spearmint is nominated for this race by his breeder, Sir Tatton Sykes.

Thirty horses are left in for the Eclipse Stakes of £10,000 at Sandown Park (to run on Friday, July 19), and the best-known of the four-year-olds are Mr. Bass's Sancy, Mr. Hall Walker's Colonia, Mr. Clarke's Gingal, and Mr. Purefoy's Lally. The list of three-year-olds, however, is much more interesting, and this includes Lord Rosebery's Traquair and Bezonian, Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite, Lord Wolverton's The Welkin, Lord Derby's Olympian (colt by Orme out of St. Victorine), and the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller. Two dark colts of which more is likely to be heard in the spring have accepted—His Majesty's Perambulator and Lord Falmouth's St. Martin. I note that M. E. Blanc has left in his mare Blue Fly, by Flying Fox out of Bluette. There are here the materials for a most interesting race, and it appears to be good odds on a three-year-old being the winner. There were originally 165 entries for the Eclipse Stakes, which closed in November, 1904.

The Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000, to be run at Newmarket on Thursday, October 3, closed in September, 1904, with 194 entries, and forty-two horses are now left in. The list of four-year-olds includes Sancy, Mr. J. de Rothschild's Beppo (12 lb. allowed), Black Arrow (9 lb. allowed), and Colonia. Among the three-year-olds are Perambulator, St. Martin, Lord Cadogan's The Sun (12 lb. allowed), Olympian, Hillsprite, Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's Simon Square, Major Loder's Adora (the dark own sister to Pretty Polly), Bezonian, and The Welkin.

There are thirty-four acceptances for the Atlantic Stakes of £2,000 at the Liverpool July Meeting, and among the four-year-olds are Gingal, Buckminster, His Eminence, and Black Arrow. The list of three-year-olds include The Welkin, Gnome, Knight of Tully, Silver Heeled, Linacre, and The Sun.

Two French horses are left in for the Princess of Wales' Stakes, M. Michel Ephrussi's Tralle, 4 years, and Comte H. de Pourtales' Narvaly, 4 years. There are also two in the Jockey Club Stakes, M. Caillault's Master Blink, 4 years, and M. de St. Alary's Korrigan, 3 years, who has a breeding allowance of 9 lb.

I have received the winter edition of "Ruff's Guide to the Turf" (139, Fleet Street, E.C., price 7s. 6d.). It contains, brought up to date, all the information which has so long made Ruff an indispensable book of reference for all who take an intelligent interest in racing.

THE FOOTBALL TRUST AND ITS CHATTELS.

Last week I said that professional Association players who had no representation on the Council, and who, by the laws of the Football Association, are not permitted to be represented, had their grievances. An apt illustration was given in the *Star* of the hardships of the transfer system. Briefly, a man who signs on for a league club team cannot play for another league club until his transfer has been arranged or the period for which he has signed on has expired. The case referred to shows how cruelly and selfishly this rule may work in practice. At Accrington a professional player was charged with stealing a pair of boots. He was driven to theft by poverty. He was penniless. His wife was about to be confined. Of course, there was the union or the workhouse or prison. The magistrate leniently fined him ten shillings or seven days. The money was paid by friends present in court. For it was no fault of the wretched man that he was not earning fifty shillings a week. The Burnley Club were willing to pay him that sum. But they found that he had signed on for Grimsby Town, whereupon they offered five pounds for a transfer, but Grimsby wanted fifty pounds. And so negotiations fell through, and the man's means meanwhile ran out. He hoped in Accrington to get an engagement with a non-league club. The bald facts, therefore, are that a man willing to work finds an employer ready to engage him at a good market wage, but he cannot be employed because another employer, who does not pay him a brass farthing, requires fifty sovereigns as a condition for letting him earn his livelihood. I have no doubt my learned and legal friends will say that such a contract is not enforceable in law, and that the man cannot be subject to any penalty if he breaks it. The politician will declare that it is contrary to public policy that a man should be prevented from earning his living because another requires to be paid before he will license him to do so. The Radical will call it a state of slavery. The Tory will dilate on the inviolability of contract. Both will find nothing to praise in the system, and the child of light will preach on the ways of the Philistine who makes sport a business. And yet there is no way out of the trouble at present. The Law Courts are powerless to interfere. There is a sanction, as Austin would say, that is far more powerful than the writs of Chancery or King's Bench. It is the sanction of co-operation. Let a club employ such a man and the other clubs will refuse to play them. The club will be starved out and killed. It is far better that one man and his wife should be starved and go to gaol or the workhouse than that a corporation without soul or conscience should suffer. Sport is sport, business is business. Both simple propositions, but when sport is business, then the proposition and its consequences become complex.

Of course, the evil of which the case I have taken is an illustration can be met by suitable rules. It could be provided that a player so signing on should be entitled to a living wage, and that the amount of transfer fee should be on a sliding scale, depending on the number of matches in which a player figures and on the amount of his wages. But what is the chance of such a code? The wage-earning power of a player is limited by the laws of his local tribunal—that is, the Football Association. This was done in the interests of sport, so that rich clubs might not overpower those who are less wealthy than their competitors. A very self-denying ordinance, and so self-sacrificing! Just as though any fool could not observe the wink in the eye. The rich club would have all the more money to buy up a big reserve of players, and the funds with which to pay a large transfer fee. For no limit is set upon

the number of players a club may employ. So much the better for the players. It increases employment. But the less wealthy club is at a disadvantage. No limit is put upon a transfer fee. So much the worse for a player. He cannot until his contract is out go to another club. He may be shut out from all chances of improving his position unless the price offered is big enough to tempt his employer. In that price he has no interest. He is but a human chattel, to be haggled over, and to be bought and sold. He may be the subject of a judicial inquiry before the Football tribunal. He will not be a witness. He is, so far as the proceedings are concerned, as incapable of expressing himself as a horse or a motor-car. This is football as a business. It is all lop-sided and one-sided. Legislation is compiled in the interest of the employer, who is alone represented on the Council of the Association. Some fine day the players will organise, and on one given day they will all refuse to play until their grievances are remedied. At present they are under the thumb of a trust which is run in the interest of sport.

It is certainly a matter for extreme regret that a game so popular as Association football should be dominated by a trust of such a tyrannical description. The popularity of the game was aptly illustrated by my experience in a country village some five miles from a station. At the little post office and general shop there was a small crowd waiting for the maildriver to come up from the neighbouring town with a football edition of results of the first round of the cup tie played last Saturday. There is this marked distinction between football and racing. Practically speaking, only those who bet in any class of society take any interest in horse racing. That there is a good deal of betting on football results, I do not doubt. But the majority of those who are interested never have a penny on the game. Nearly all of these village lads and men could tell you the position of every club in its respective league, and which was playing at home. No doubt the Board of Education will regard this interest as scarcely intellectual. But therein is a common topic for conversation which lightens the long winter evenings. It is a safe subject, and so far as the talkers are concerned a healthy one. It is well that those in high places should understand the pride with which these villagers talked of the good fight that Oxford City had put up against Bury. The Oxford City is an amateur team, and that is what pleased them. Their local team just formed were amateurs as well. There is not a public school boy in the team. But they are strictly amateur, and goodness only knows what hopes the prowess of Oxford City did not excite in their breasts. The public school amateur must remember that in pressing on the cause of amateurs, he is not fighting only for his own class. The professional element on the council should realise that there are a large number of amateur clubs of all classes of society who require careful attention. The Football Association must not exist for the sake of the employers of professional players. Nor must the control of these business concerns be forced upon amateurs, who have quite enough to do to keep their own nest clean and healthy.

Over four hundred thousand people were present at the thirty-six matches that were played in the first round of the competition proper for the cup. The levelling up of all clubs in recent years was shown. These games are no longer a picnic for the North and Midlands. Thirteen matches have to be replayed. The surprise of the afternoon was the success of the Crystal Palace, a moderate team, according to Southern notions. They went to Newcastle and they beat the United, who have for two years been in the final. Their enthusiastic supporters are already asking what will happen if they are in the final. Will it be played at the Palace? These anticipations are rather premature.

Mr. E. C. Breed has resigned the amateur billiard championship. He complains that he cannot get his expenses for going to play exhibition matches. Amateur footballers and cricketers can, and why not he, the champion of the cue? But there is all the difference in the world between representing a club and playing for one's own hand. He is in the position of an amateur runner or swimmer. I cannot see that he has any grievance. Presumably he became champion without these jaunts. If he cannot exist without them he must turn professional.

The death of W. W. Read recalls old cricket scores. He was the first to bring the pull stroke into popular favour. If he had not been so much under the influence of Jupp at first he would, no doubt, have been a much finer bat than he was in his early days. His finest performance was in 1884, when, for some unknown reason, he was sent in ninth wicket down for England. Scotton blocked imperturbably, and Read scored a century and saved the game. If I remember rightly *Punch* honoured the partnership with some verses.

Mr. Hillyard, the old Leicester cricketer, and well known lawn tennis player, has been elected secretary of the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. He has a position which will require a great deal of tact, and in order that he may not be hampered in any way by conflicting interests he will be well advised to resign his position on the Council of the Lawn Tennis Association.

England went under very badly in the Rugby football match with Wales. It was played at Swansea, and the Welshmen worked with the New Zealand formation. Their forwards were more than a match for the Englishmen. Stoop was not up to form at half, and goodness only knows why Cooper was brought in at three-quarter. In London, one of the best club matches seen this season was between the Old Merchant Taylors and the London Scottish. The Old Boys played a good combined game, and thoroughly deserved to win. For the losers MacLeod was in brilliant form, dropping a goal and scoring a couple of tries.

The old Oxford Rowing Blue, Mr. Reggie Rowe, has been appointed secretary of the New University Club. Undergraduates will be interested to know that if elected within six years of matriculation, only half the usual entrance fee is payable. The paternal caution money can be usefully employed.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Inactive—End of a Nineteen Day Account—Prospects Improving—Money Easing Off—Investors More Venturesome.

On the Stock Exchange during the past week the volume of dealings has been restricted and the tendency has been irregular, although with an upward inclination, and the general outlook is satisfactory. Money rates are growing easy and they are a great aid to business, and the general trade of the country is broadening out in a highly encouraging manner. Investors in most departments have just now an opportunity of picking up stocks at bargain prices, and I would commend to their attention Home and Colonial Railways in addition to the gilt-edged group. You can scarcely improve upon the best, as I have more than once had occasion to observe, and these issues bring in a fair return, while giving the best security for one's money. Among mines, rather more activity is looked for in South Africans, but no real briskness need be anticipated there until the end of the political campaign. It would probably be more advantageous to look to copper or tin shares for an early profit.

Money very Usable—Modified Views of the Bank Rate—Heavy Gold Withdrawals.

There is now a distinct change of sentiment in regard to the monetary position, and this is reflected in a material modification of the general impression concerning the possibilities of the Bank rate being immediately reduced. The market has taken too much for granted and permitted itself to become too enthusiastic. In fine, it had under-estimated the extent of the probable gold withdrawals on Argentine and Brazilian accounts, which are now proving somewhat heavy, while indications would seem to give the impression that a still further substantial amount may be taken to the same quarter.

The American Exchange, too, is not so favourable, and while it is not yet actually threatening, it constitutes an element of uncertainty. Owing to the continued prosperity of the United States it is recognised that gold will be urgently required there, and whether or not there would be a resumption of the raid upon London's stock of the metal, were a reduction in the Bank rate to be made now, it is clear enough that the Bank in its present condition, and having regard to the uncertainty of the position in other aspects, is not strong enough to risk such a contingency, however remote. In addition there are the possibilities connected with the "earmarking" of gold on account of India, and altogether the consensus of opinion seems to be that the 6 per cent. Bank rate will be retained into February. As a natural result discount quotations have been gradually marked up, a further contributory influence being the fact that money remains very usable. With bills maturing at the Bank daily until the end of the present month, any superabundance seems improbable, though in this connection it has to be remembered that the release of Treasury balances for account of the Sinking Funds will minimise the effect somewhat. However, a maintenance of money rates is to be expected. The Bank return came up to expectations. Owing to the return of money from circulation the reserve improved by £1,730,000, the stock of gold being £1,371,000 larger, notwithstanding the loss of £54,000 abroad on balance, while this was accompanied by a contraction of £359,000 in the note circulation. The drop of almost £6,733,000 in Other Securities reflects the repayments by the market.

CONSOLS GOOD—MARKET NOT UNATTRACTIVE—NEW ISSUES—JAPANESE FAVOURED.

Everything considered, there is little cause for dissatisfaction in regard to conditions prevailing in the gilt-edged market. The buoyancy is less pronounced, perhaps, because of the recognition of the fact that Bank rate possibilities were discounted rather prematurely, not to mention the beginning of the flood of new issues almost inevitable at this season. But this is not reflected in any significant alteration in values, because the sentiment in regard to the course of money, to which the market is keenly susceptible, remains hopeful enough. Within a month at the outside a retention of a 6 per cent. Bank rate ought to become quite unnecessary, a factor of considerable importance, while as regards the flood of new issues, there seems to be plenty of funds about waiting investment, and, with confidence growing, they ought to be absorbed without indirectly affecting to any material extent the market generally, especially as there will before long be less inducement to deposit money with bankers, owing to a gradual lowering of the interest allowed, following the relaxation of the pressure in Lombard-street as the year progresses. Ultimately values ought to be established on a higher basis, and gilt-edged stocks are therefore still fairly attractive. Amongst the borrowers are the Cape Government and the Colony of Natal. The former requires £994,350, offered in the shape of Three and a Half per Cent. Consolidated stock at 95 per cent. In point of yield this is rather more attractive than the existing 3 per cent. stock, which would bring in about ⅛ per cent. less. The same applies to the Natal issue of £725,000 Three and a Half per Cent. Consolidated stock, offered at 95. The most interesting of the new loans is that of the Chinese Government. This is for £650,000 Five per Cent. Bonds of the Imperial Chinese Railway (Shanghai-Nanking line), offered at par, or about a couple of points below the current price of the existing stock. The Chinese Government unconditionally guarantee the stock both as to principal and interest. An interesting feature of the Foreign market is the growing favour towards Japanese issues, stimulated by satisfactory budget figures and the recent good trade returns. Another point is the impending redemption of the 6 per cent. "war" loans. With the country in a prosperous condition, there is no obvious reason why a purely "war" interest should be paid longer than is absolutely necessary, hence the 6 per cent. issue will be redeemed as quickly as possible. From the investment point of view, the 4 per cent. bonds of 1905, which give 4⅝ per cent., are most attractive, because they have a long currency, and the 4½ per cent. issue ranks next, giving a return of almost 4¾ per cent. Russian bonds have lost some of the cheerfulness which has distinguished them recently, consequent upon a greater recognition of the continued unsettled state of the country and the uncertainty attaching to the future.

HOME RAILS FAIRLY CHEERFUL—EFFECT OF THE WHITE STAR DECISIONS—SOUTH WESTERNS DEFERRED BOUGHT BY INVESTORS—A DEMAND FOR DIDCOT, NEWBURY AND SOUTHAMPTON SHARES—NORTH WESTERNS SOLD—A NERVOUSNESS OVERDONE—THE LOSS "AN INFINITESIMAL DROP IN THE BUCKET"—FORTHCOMING DIVIDEND DATES.

Interest in the Home Railway market during the last few days has centred upon the news—to which I briefly referred a week ago—that the White Star Line had decided to transfer its Wednesday service of boats from Liverpool to Southampton. This decision of the White Star has caused no surprise to those who have been aware of the way in which Germany has been competing with us during the last few years for American traffic. In some quarters an idea prevailed that the step was due to grievances harboured against the Liverpool dock authorities, but we have it direct from the White Star officials themselves that the change has been decided upon solely in order to meet the growing demand of travellers that facilities should be provided to enable them to embark and disembark at either a Continental or a British port. The leading German steamship Companies have long recognised the desirability of meeting this demand, and their New York steamers have been calling at both a British and a French port, and there is no doubt that they have thereby been materially assisted in competing with other lines for first-class passenger business. Obviously the news is a strong "Bull" point, for the South-Western Railway will gain not only from this increased traffic over its line, but from the enlargement in the receipts at the docks of which it is the owner. As already outlined, the new departure involves four liners, and the arrangement is to come into force in June. In shipping circles the belief is entertained that before long the Cunard will follow this example of the White Star; indeed, it is understood that the Cunard Directors have for some time been considering the question of when they shall avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Channel ports. Under the circumstances, I am not surprised that there has been a strong demand for South-Western Deferred on behalf of people who are willing to ignore the indifferent dividend outlook as regards the past half-year in favour of the future possibilities promised by the rising fortunes of Southampton. There was last week some profit-taking by those insiders who heard of the White Star's decision a week or two before the news became public property, and this sent the price back from 55½ to below 54. The reaction, however, will probably be only temporary. For similar reasons to those affecting South-Westerns there has lately been an inquiry for the Preference and Ordinary shares of the Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway. This little line, which was originally intended to run from Didcot to Southampton, stopped short at Winchester, but in 1891 a short line was opened connecting it with the South-Western Railway at Shawford. By means of this junction the railway serves as a link, enabling the various Northern lines to run into Southampton, and, therefore, its traffics are bound to grow with the expansion of business at the port. The capital of the Didcot-Newbury line, including Debentures and loans, is not quite one and a half millions. Debenture interest is now being met, but interest on the £138,000 of loan capital is only being partly paid. The railway from Didcot to Newbury is worked by the Great Western. At present, with only a single track, the

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Great Western takes 60 per cent. of the receipts, but on a double tracking being completed the terms are to be reduced to between 51½ and 52½ per cent. of the receipts. Those fond of taking long views might regard the Company's shares as likely to meet with their requirements. There is, of course, a very limited market in them; the present prices are about 26s. for the Preference and 15s. for the Ordinary. Both are of the denomination of £10, and are fully paid. The White Star's action appears to have caused a good deal of alarm in Liverpool, and has led to some selling of North-Westerns. It does not need my own assurance that this nervousness, so far as the Brum is concerned, is uncalled for, seeing that we have it on the authority of one of the Directors that the loss, so far as his railway is concerned, is "an infinitesimal drop in the bucket." The South-Western, in fact, stands to gain far more than the North-Western is likely to lose by the altered shipping arrangement. The former has a monopoly of the railway service to Southampton, and is the owner of the docks; there is no monopoly of the railway traffic to Liverpool, which is shared by several lines, and the dock and railway interests are quite distinct. As regards the Home Railway Market generally, the tendency continues fairly cheerful. The forthcoming dividends have so far aroused the speculative spirit in only a very slight degree, but there has been a moderate investment demand, stimulated doubtless by the release of the January interest payments on Consols and other stocks. Lancashire and Yorkshire and North Staffordshire, it is interesting to observe, continue to creep upwards, and there is not much "give" about York Deferred or Hulls, in spite of their recent substantial advance. The first of the dividends—that of the Metropolitans—should be known by the time these lines reach my readers. Other Companies have announced the dates of their declarations as follows: January 18, Great Eastern; January 21, South-Eastern and Chatham (Joint Committee's statement); January 23, Brighton and Great Central. Appended is my usual table of quotations:—

Home Rails.	A Year Ago.	Make up, Dec. 24.	Closing Price, Jan. 5.	Closing Price, Jan. 12.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79½	74½	74	73½	- ½
Do. Def.	42½	30½	30	30	—
City and S. London	44	42	44	44	—
Central London	96	83	83	83	—
Great Central 94 Pref.	74	—	73½	73½	—
Do. "B"	37½	34½	34½	34½	—
Do. "A"	18¾	16	16⅝	16⅜	- ¼
Great Eastern	88¼	81½	85½	82½	- ½
Great Northern Pref.	103½	100½	101	101½	+ ½
Do. Def.	43¾	45½	46⅜	46½	- ½
Great Western	143	132½	134½	133½	- ½
Hull and Barnsley	47	48¾	49¾	49½	- ¼
Lancashire and Yorkshire	109½	103	105	104½	- ½
London and Brighton "A"	129½	121½	122	122	—
London, Chatham, and Dover	16½	14¼	15⅝	15⅝	—
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	93	89	91	92	+1
Do. 2nd Pref.	64	54½	56	57	+1
London and North-Western	161	153	153½	153½	—
London and South-Western Def.	56½	50½	55	54	-1
Metropolitan Consolidated	88½	60	59½	59	- ½
Metropolitan District	36⅜	19	19	19	—
Midland Pref.	70	66	66½	66½	- ½
Do. Def.	74	67	67⅜	67	- ⅜
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78½	74½	74½	74	- ½
Do. Def.	46⅝	41	39⅝	39⅝	—
North-Eastern Consolidated	145⅝	141⅜	144½	144	- ½
South-Eastern "A"	53¾	46	49½	48¾	- ¾

AMERICANS IRREGULAR—DEALINGS MAINLY PROFESSIONAL—READINGS PROMINENT—MONEY OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN—RECORD "CLEARINGS."

The movements in Americans during the past week were not very violent nor significant. As usual both the English and the American publics left the market alone, their reason being that the whole game is in the hands of a small group of New York financiers, and that they are not permitted to obtain any inkling of the movements of the game. Business during the week was irregular, and the feeling very much unsettled, although some improvement occurred towards the close. Dealings, as I have implied, were mostly of a professional character, and "Bear" tactics alternated with pool manipulation, which was strikingly manifest in Readings. Perhaps the best feature was that on all weak spots there was substantial absorption of stock. A cable states that the leading adverse influences were first the high rates for call money, and the investigation into the Harriman administration; then the litigation against the Great Northern Company's new stock issue, and the suit to annul the merger of the Gould roads; lastly, the announcement made by the Pennsylvania Company, and fears that other large systems would also seek to increase their capital issues. Some decreases in earnings, especially in net, also did not escape attention. On the "Bull" side the stimulating factors were the postponement of the return of the Government deposits, and towards the end of the week the improvement in the market for call money, and the better monetary situation abroad. The strength of the Copper and Steel groups was the feature in the Industrial department, and contributed to the general confident feeling in an ultimate improvement. The money market outlook is still considered uncertain, and this is believed to be the chief reason of the indifference of the public, who are guided by the advice of commission houses to exercise caution in stock operations. My table is appended:—

—	1905. Highest.	1905. Lowest.	Closing Price, Dec. 29, 1906.	Closing Price, Jan. 5, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 12, 1907.
Atchison	96	80½	107⅝	109½	109
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109	102	103	102⅝	104½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	120½	104⅛	124	125⅝	122¾
Chesapeake and Ohio	61½	46⅜	57½	57½	55½
Denver	40⅛	27¾	43½	43¼	41½
Do. Pref.	93¾	85⅝	86 xd	86½xd	85⅝
Erie	54½	38⅝	41⅜	44⅞	43½
Do. First Pref.	87½	77⅜	77½	77½	77½
Louisville	161½	140½	148	149	147
Milwaukee	193½	173½	155 x rts	155½	159
Mo., Kan., and Texas	39¾	24⅛	41⅜	42½	40⅜
Norfolk Pref.	96½	94	93 x rts	93xrts	93
Do. Common	90⅞	77⅜	94¾ x rts	94½xrts	93½
New York Central	169¾	140½	135 xd	136½	136½
Ontario	65½	41¼	48⅜	48½	47½
Pennsylvania	76⅜	67½	71½	71⅝	70½
Reading	73¾	40¼	70½	70¾	70½
Do. First Pref.	49⅜	46	44½	44½	46
Southern Common	39⅞	28⅜	33⅞	34⅛	32½
Do. Pref.	104½	97½	98	98	95
Southern Pacific	74	50⅜	96	96⅞	95⅜
Union Pacific	155⅞	116⅞	187⅛	186⅜	184⅜
Do. Pref.	102¾	98½	96	96	96
Wabash Pref.	49⅜	37⅞	41	39	37½
Do. "B" Debentures	86⅞	69½	78	78	78
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	44½	26	49⅞	51	50½
Do. Do. Pref.	110⅛	93⅜	108½	109	109½

It is a satisfaction to know that, despite a small falling off in December clearings, as compared with those of the same month a year ago—the first falling off from the preceding year shown for over two years past—the total clearings at all cities in the United States broke all records, and set up new standards of financial measurement which dwarfed all previously existing. The aggregate clearings at ninety-six cities for the calendar year, 1906, as reported to Bradstreet's, totalled $158,823,847,914, a gain over 1905 of 10.9 per cent., and to this extent were the greatest clearings ever reported. Of this vast total New York City contributed $104,675,828,656, a gain of 11.5 per cent. over 1905; while at ninety-five cities outside of New York the total was $54,148,019,258, a gain of 10 per cent. over the preceding year. As bearing upon the monthly figures it may be noted that those for December, while 5 per cent. larger than those of November, fell off 1.2 per cent. from December a year ago, this being due to a decrease of 4.7 per cent. at New York, because the clearings outside of the metropolis gained 6 per cent. over 1905. As bearing upon these figures also, it might be added that, except in January, August, and May, when stock speculation was active—during the latter at declining prices—the year was one of repression in security dealings. Stock sales, it is true, were larger by 7 per cent., but bond dealings were smaller by 33 per cent. than in 1905. Grain speculation also was at no time very active, being very dull in the latter part of the year, though cotton was dealt in heavily. Land speculation early and mining-share speculation later helped to enlarge clearings, but it is probably safe to say that New York clear-

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ings in 1906 more closely represented actual business and industrial activity than in many preceding years.

Canadian and Foreign Railways—Canadian Earnings—Mexicans—Argentines Prominent.

By way of a change, the Grand Trunk market has this week received an agreeable shock. Operators looked for a gross increase of £10,000 or thereabouts, and instead they have got £29,294, which is not a bad start for the first week of the New Year. This increase follows upon £6,778 up for the corresponding period of 1906, and makes a good start for the New Year. It is impossible, of course, to gauge the values of this total in relation to the possibilities of the current year, but at least the start is a very good one, and with Canada in a condition of extreme prosperity there is every reason for concluding that we shall have a further succession of good figures this year, on top of the increases of 1906. It seems to me that Grand Trunk Junior stocks will make admirable lock-up investments, in view of the prospects, and the prior-charge issues down to the Second Preference stock inclusive can be relied upon to return your capital with a very respectable profit upon it. On the subject of Canadian Pacifics, there is little that is fresh to say. The shares are well favoured from this as well as from the other side of the Atlantic, and they keep round about 199-200, at which I think they are not dear. Earnings remain on a large scale, and although the figures do not look so striking, owing to the big increase of a year ago, they are still progressive, and reflect the prosperity of the country and the Company. I look for higher prices for "Canadas." My table will be found below:—

—	A Year Ago.	Make-up, Dec. 24.	Closing Price, Jan. 12.
Canadian Pacific	180¾	199	196¾
Grand Trunks	27¼	28¾	28⅝
„ 4 per cent. Guaranteed	102¾	102¾	102¾
„ 1st Preference	116½	118½	119¾
„ 2nd „	107½	111½	110½
„ 3rd „	62¾	68½	67¾
Bengal and North-West	148	146½	147½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	124	125	154½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	129	112	115
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	133¾	121½	124
„ „ 2nd „	109	102½	103½
„ Great Southern	143½	125	128
„ Western	138	124	127½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	95½	85½	90
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	116½	111½	112¾
Cent. Uruguay Ordinary	92	91¾	94
Costa Rica Railway	—	27½	28
Mashonaland Railway Debentures, 2nd iss.	—	92½	90xrts
Mexican Railway	26½	48¾	47
„ 1st Preference	122½	140½	138½
„ 2nd „	53½	90½	88½
Nitrate Rails	14¾	15⅝	15¾

Foreign Railways have presented next to no feature. Mexican Railways have been helped to some extent by a good traffic, but the response has been insignificant, and on balance the changes are small. Argentine Railway issues may be recommended to the attention of investors for the good yield which they give, coupled with good security. Below will be found a table of investments in this class which can be recommended:—

	Price.		Yield per Cent.
Argentine G. W.	113	.....	£5 6 3
Do. Ord.	3½	.....	—
Do. Pref.	121	.....	4 19 3
Do. 1st Deb.	105	.....	3 17 9
Do. Irr. Deb.	99	.....	4 1 9
Argentine Trans. "A" Deb.	96	.....	4 5 3
Do. "B." Deb.	69	.....	5 19 0
Bahia-Blanca	86	.....	3 9 9
Do. Deb.	98	.....	4 2 6
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	124	.....	5 13 0
Do. 1st Pref.	110	.....	4 11 9
Do. 2nd Pref.	104	.....	4 17 3
Do. 1st Deb.	103	.....	3 17 9
Do. 2nd Deb.	104	.....	4 6 9
Do. 5 p.c. Deb.	103	.....	4 8 3
Buenos Ayres and Rosarios	113	.....	5 6 3
Do. Def.	108	.....	5 11 3
Do. Pref.	16½	.....	4 5 0
Do. Pref.	157	.....	4 9 3
Do. Deb.	104	.....	3 17 0
Do. 6 p.c.	144	.....	4 3 3
Do. 4 p.c.	102	.....	3 18 6
Do. 3½ p.c.	90	.....	3 17 9
B.A.E. and S.C.	98	.....	4 2 6
Buenos A.G.S.	127	.....	5 10 3
Do. Ex. 1910	11	.....	—
Do. Pref.	123	.....	3 18 9
Do. Deb.	106	.....	3 17 0
Buenos Ayres West	125	.....	5 12 0
Do. Pref.	12½	.....	4 0 0
Do. Deb.	104	.....	3 17 0

West Africans Stagnant — Zinc Corporations — Mount Lyell Position — Great Cobars — Mount Morgan Profits—Sensational Siberian Slump.

The West African mining market remains as stagnant as ever, and is utterly devoid of the remotest semblance of interest. This state of affairs has now become virtually chronic, and I am more convinced than ever that nothing short of an earthquake, metaphorically speaking, would stimulate any rehabilitation of the market in general esteem, let alone reduced railway charges, which have recently been made the pretext for the marking up of prices here and there. As regards the Broken Hill group, they still absorb a large degree of speculative interest, and at the moment Zinc Corporation shares are most prominent. Before long this concern ought to be operating on a commercial scale. The enlargement of the No. 1 plant has been completed, and within a few days will be regularly working up to its full capacity of between 12,000 and 15,000 tons monthly. By March next the No. 2 plant, which has a capacity of 15,000 tons per month, capable of being enlarged to 30,000 tons, will also be working, and is to be noted that the Company is to acquire large smelting works at Swansea. The purchase and option over tailings from the mines of the group cover 2,000,000 tons, carrying between 17-22 per cent. zinc, 7-10 per cent. lead, and 5-8 oz. silver per ton, while the future output, estimated at an additional 2,200,000 tons, has also been contracted for. When operations are in full swing, the profit-earning possibilities of the venture are considered bright. The boom in copper shares shows no signs of abatement. Mount Lyells have gained exceptional prominence on the strength of satisfactory development reports to the effect that ore of high grade has been located at the 850 ft. level. This is calculated to add materially to the value of the property, but apart from this it is believed that with copper at the existing level the mine is earning profits at the rate of £750,000 per annum. Another prominent Australian share is the Great Cobar, on rumours of an impending first dividend payment, and I may mention that the rise in these was hinted at in this column some weeks ago. Mount Morgans are coming in for greater attention, on the knowledge that the third copper smelter is to begin operations within a week or two. It is being calculated that with copper at the present price the profits, including those from gold, will be at the rate of something like £600,000 per annum, which on a capital of £1,000,000 would permit of quarterly dividends of 2s. 6d. per share, as against 9d. now being paid. The market, too, professes to believe that an enhanced dividend will be paid in respect of the next quarter. A feature of the utmost importance is the sensational slump in Siberian Mining shares, and more especially Proprietarys, Orsks, and Iroitzks. This is the result of clever "Bear" manœuvring, based principally upon the statements that the titles are defective. The Board have promptly vindicated the reliability of the titles so far as they are able. The fact of the matter is that conditions in Russia generally are not conducive to confidence, and, in addition, the gamble has been obviously spectacular, intrinsic merit being unknown and consequently ignored. But even so, it would be hazardous to predict the end of the movement in view of the determined efforts of the insiders. I have received particulars of the Providence Mine, a tin property situated in the parish of Uny Lelant, near St. Ives, Cornwall, which has recently been acquired by the Tasmanian Exploration Company, Ltd. It is claimed that this is one of the most promising of the unworked mines in Cornwall. It was worked continuously, on the cost-book system, from 1838 to 1877, and the original shareholders, who subscribed the sum of £11,569 8s. 1d., received in dividends no less than £110,000, or about 1,000 per cent. Ore to the value of £600,000 was produced, with black tin at less than £57 per ton (it is now about £120 per ton), and the mine was only closed down when black tin fell to £40, and it could not be extracted at a profit. There are known to be rich lodes in the mine at a comparatively shallow depth, and the Tasmanian Exploration

Company has begun to clear and unwater the workings, after which it is believed that with the aid of modern machinery the property can be made to yield substantial profits. Here is my usual table:—

—	Denomination of Shares.	Closing Price, Jan. 5.	Closing Price, Jan. 12.
	£		
Ashanti Goldfields	1/-	13/6	15/-
Akrokerri	1	⅜	⅜
Bibiani Goldfields	1	⅛	⅛
British Gold Coast	1	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	1	1 1/16	1 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	1	2¼	2¼
Wassau (Gold Coast)	1	⅛	⅛
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	1	3/6	4/6
Nile Valley	1	3/6	5/6
Anaconda Copper	$25	15 3/8	14⅞
Balaghat Gold	1	26/6	25/-
Broken Hill Proprietary	8/-	5¼	5 1/16
Cape Copper	£	9¼	8 15/16
Champion Reef	2/6	13/6	13/6
Le Roi	5	1⅛	1⅛
Mysore Gold	10/-	5 1/16	6 3/16
Nundydroog	10/-	27/6	26/6
Ooregum	10/-	13/-	12/-
Rio Tinto	5	90½	90⅝
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	£	9	8⅝
Waihi Gold	1	8 3/16	8⅜

KAFFIRS BUOYANT—STILL ADVANCING—RECORD GOLD OUTPUT—NEARLY £25,000,000 FOR 1906—CHEERFUL OUTLOOK—RAND MINING RETURNS.

The Kaffir revival has made further progress this week, and there is every appearance that the improvement is not a mere flash in the pan. While the uncertainty as to the monetary situation has to some extent acted as a drag on business in other sections of the House, South Africans have been very active, and prices exhibit a considerable advance on those ruling a week ago. The surprising and serious break in Siberians on Friday and Saturday temporarily checked the forward movement in Kaffirs, but a spirited recovery occurred in the Street after official hours on the last-mentioned day, when the leading shares, including Rand Mines, East Rands, Gold Fields, Modders, and many others were in demand, and closed at the highest prices touched since the present improvement began. Nineteen-day accounts are not usually held in very high esteem by members of the Stock Exchange, as they have the reputation of exerting a depressing influence on business, but the settlement which began on December 29 and concludes on the 16th inst., must be regarded as an exception to the general rule, at least as far as Kaffirs are concerned, for during the whole of the Account South African Mining shares were active, there being a big Home and Continental demand, the effect of which may be seen in the numerous substantial advances shown in last Friday's making-up prices—advances ranging from 2¾ down to ¼. Practically all the active shares in the long Kaffir list shared in the revival, and there is every prospect that the movements will continue in favour of holders for some time to come. Already a very large business has been done for the new account, and the record Transvaal gold output for December has not only been received with satisfaction in interested circles, but has had a stimulating effect on the market, which accepts the figures as an assurance that the Rand Mining industry is flourishing and progressing. The total output for last month amounted to 550,167 oz., of the value of £2,336,961, being an increase of 16,794 oz. in weight and £71,336 in value as compared with the month of November, constituting a record of 9,558 oz. over the previous highest output. In December, 1905, the output was 431,594 oz., of the total value of £1,833,295, or more than half a million sterling below the value of last month's return. That, of course, is a great stride forward considering the difficulties under which the industry has struggled as a result of the insufficiency of the unskilled labour supply, and it is clear that every effort is being made to utilise the material at the disposal of the mine managers to the best advantage. For the whole of 1906 the value of the Transvaal gold output amounted to the enormous sum of £24,579,987, being an increase, compared with the year 1905, when the total was £20,802,074, of £3,777,913. Since the carry-over there has been a further appreciation in Kaffir share values, Rand Mines being 7½, East Rands 5 3-16, Gold Fields 4 15-16, and Modders 7¼, while others show proportionate gains. De Beers have led the Diamond division, being now 26⅛, Jagersfontein are 10 9-16, and New Vaal Rivers are 6¼. Premiers, after their recent soar, have dropped to 13⅜, but Reginas, after making-up at 1 and falling to ¾, are once more in the ascendant, being about 1⅜. Some time ago these shares touched 1⅜, and purchasers at that price who had to carry over at 1 or sell at ¾ must have felt very sick indeed. The Regina Syndicate is prospecting a mine that was years ago proved unprofitable, and until there is something tangible put before them investors would do well to give the shares a wide berth. The news from the New Vaal River property continues to be most encouraging. Some fine stones have been picked up in the course of digging operations, and in places the rich gravel wash has been tested to a depth of 15 ft. It is expected that the waterworks will be completed in a few weeks, and that in about a month the public will have access to the new diggings. I append the usual table of prices:—

—	High. in 1895.	1905. Highest	1905. Lowest.	Make-up, Jan. 11, 1907.	Closing Price, Dec. 15, 1906.	Closing Price, Jan. 12, 1907.
Angelo	7⅜	7 5/16	4⅜	3⅝	2 5/16	3¼
Anglo-French	7⅜	4⅜	2 7/16	1⅜	1⅜	1 15/16
Aurora West	3¼	1⅜	⅜	5/6	⅞	5/6
Buffelsdoorn	—	1	¼	5/-	⅝	5/-
Bantjes	7⅜	1⅜	1/16	⅜	⅜	⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	6½	4¼	4	3 5/16	4 7/16
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	8¼	5 13/16	4 15/16	3 7/16	4¼
Cons. Main Reef	—	2 1/16	1	¾	2	2 7/16
Crown Reef	12⅜	16	11	8½	7⅜	8¼
De Beers Pref.	—	18½	17 11/16	18⅜	17⅜	18¼
Do. Def.	—	18 7/16	16 1/16	25⅜	21¼	20 7/16
Driefontein	4⅜	5¼	3 5/16	2¼	1⅜	2 5/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 13/16	5	3¼	3	2½	3
East Rand Ext.	—	1	1¼	⅜	⅜	15/16
East Rands	12	9 1/16	6 9/16	5 5/16	3 13/16	5 5/16
Ferreira	22	25	17½	20¾	19½	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	2½	1 5/16	1	1	1 1/16
Geduld	—	7⅜	4 11/16	2 13/16	2 5/16	2 11/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	2 7/16	1 5/16	15/16	⅞	1
Goch (New)	3¼	3⅜	1⅞	1½	1⅜	1 5/16
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	5 15/16	3 15/16	3½	3 5/16	3⅜
Glencairn	4⅜	1⅜	¼	⅜	15/16	⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	3⅜	2 1/16	1 13/16	⅞	1⅜
Henderson	5⅜	1 5/16	⅜	12/-	9/3	12/-
Heriot	12½	4⅜	3⅜	4⅛	3 5/16	4½
Jagersfontein (New)	12	8½	7⅛	10⅜	9 5/16	10⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	3 3/16	1 15/16	1 13/16	1⅜	1⅝
Johannesburg Est.	—	1⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅛	1½
" Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	⅞	⅞	⅞
Jubilee	12½	4½	2⅜	2 5/16	2½	⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	2½	1⅜	2 5/16	1 11/16	2½
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1½	20/-	23/-
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2¼	1⅜	2 5/16	1 15/16	2 5/16
Knight's	11½	6 3/8	3½	3 11/16	3½	3 13/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1 1/16	½	⅝	⅜	½
Langlaagte Estate	7½	4 1/16	2⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	2⅜	1½	⅝	¾	1
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1	1½
May Consolidated	4⅜	4 5/16	2 15/16	2 15/16	2½	2 13/16
Meyer and Charlton	8½	5⅜	4½	4	4	4½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	11½	6⅜	7½	5	7 5/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	1½	1	⅝	⅜	⅝
Nigel	8 5/16	2 15/16	2½	3 1/16	2 5/16	2 15/16
New African	—	4 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 7/16
New Comet	4⅞	3 5/16	2 1/16	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3	1⅜	2 5/16	2 1/16	2 5/16
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	1 15/16	1 5/16	21/9	14/-	21/9
Primrose (New)	8¼	3⅜	2 7/16	3½	3 1/16	3½
Princess Estate	4½	1 15/16	⅜	⅝	⅜	⅝
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	11 3/16	7 13/16	7⅜	6	7 1/16
Randfontein	4⅜	3⅜	2	1 15/16	1⅜	2
Randfontein Porges	3½	1 7/8	1 5/8	1¾	1⅜	1 15/16
" Robinson	2 7/16	2	1	1½	1 1/16	1 1/16
" North	—	2½	1⅜	1 5/16	1 7/16	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	1⅜	⅝	2 3/16	⅝	15/16
Robinson (£5)	11½	10⅜	8½	8 7/16	7½	8½
Roodepoort United	8½	4	2⅜	1 13/16	1 1/16	1⅞
S. A. Gold Mines	—	9⅜	5½	2½	1 13/16	2 1/16
S. A. Gold Trust	12/6	7 7/16	3⅜	3½	2⅜	3 1/16
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1 7/16	1 5/16	⅞	1 15/16
South-West Africa	—	16/9	9/6	3½	28/6	3 1/16
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	4⅜	2 3/16	3½	2½	3½
Transvaal Development	2½	1⅜	⅞	17/9	14/-	18/-
Transvaal Exploring	—	10/6	4/6	2/9	2/3	3/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅜	2⅜	1 5/16	1 7/16	⅞	1⅜
Treasury	5	4½	2 5/16	1⅜	1	1 7/16
Van Ryn	11	4⅜	2 5/16	3⅜	2 1/16	3½
Village Main Reef	9½	7½	4	4⅜	3 5/16	4⅜
Violet	—	3 3/16	1⅜	1½	1⅛	1 3/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	1½	⅝	⅞	⅝	⅞
Welgedacht	—	8½	5	3⅜	3⅜	3½
W. Rand Consolidated	—	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Wolhuter	12	3 3/16	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY, LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

The table below shows the production returns of individual Companies:—

—	June	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec'
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Angelo (110; 105)	10,823	11,524	12,307	12,212	11,865	11,889	13,372
Bonanza (55; 55)	3,867	3,426	3,022	2,454	2 608	2,443	2,179
City and Su'b'n (100; 100)	9,587	9,864	10,219	9,883	10,110	9,621	9,633
Cons. Main Rf. (120;110)	6 174	6,397	6,681	6,272	6,510	6,518	6,647
Crown Deep (200; 185)	10,785	10,684	11,435	11,139	11 745	11,856	12,024
Crown Reef (120; 120)	10 553	10,596	10,668	10,527	10,424	10,648	10,756
Driefontein (220; 160)	6,211	6,452	6,144	6,486	6,964	7,168	7,510
Durban R'dep'rt (80; 80)	4,362	4,393	4,495	4,666	4,637	4,474	4,448
Do. Deep (60; 60)	3,741	3,811	3,859	3,733	3,880	4,208	4,133
Ferreira (150; 120)	12 894	12,932	13,113	12,931	13,256	13,082	12,786
Ferreira Deep (100; 120)	12,386	12,413	12,743	12,736	13,257	13,160	13,470
French Rand (120; 115)	6,410	6,257	6,752	6,353	6,124	6,593	6,555
G'ld'nhuis Dp. (200; 200)	9,224	9,679	10,009	10,230	10,049	10,109	9,854
Geldenhuis E. (120; 115)	7,102	7,223	7,281	7,193	7,873	6,916	6,775
Ginsberg (60; 60)	2,196	2,302	2,464	2 339	2,396	2,490	2,373
Glencairn (160; 100)	4,095	4,285	4,539	4,624	5,272	5 058	4,922
Glen Deep (100; 100)	6,830	7,092	7,172	6,766	6,952	7,106	7,377
Heriot (80; 70)	3,845	3,889	4,335	4,281	4,624	4,363	5,043
Jumpers (100; 80)	4,967	5,050	4,996	5,142	5,360	5,314	5,413
Jumpers Deep (100; 100)	6,147	6,510	6,656	6,491	6,912	6,904	6,913
Knight's Deep (300; 100)	8 933	9,888	9,890	10,609	11,247	11,285	11,473
Lancaster (100; 90)	4,160	4,621	4,641	4,478	4,555	4,560	4,948
Lancaster West (40; 40)	2,044	2,116	2,185	2,108	2,170	2,253	2,675
Langlaagte Dp (120; 120)	7,444	7,673	7,975	7,680	8,981	9,465	10,047
Langl'gte Est. (200; 180)	9,221	9 255	9,300	9,323	9,798	9,769	10,079
May Consldtd. (100; 100)	5,898	5,839	5,944	5,866	5,825	5,921	5,842
Meyer & Ch'lton (80; 65)	5,226	5,612	5,895	5,965	6,192	5,444	5,848
New Comet (115)	6,885	7,422	7,498	7,747	8,129	8,000	7,728
New Goch (60; 60)	7,148	7,385	7 198	6,951	8,149	—	8,086
New M dd'rf'nt'n (60; 60)	4,092	5,513	6 094	6,290	6,618	6,437	6,615
New Primrose (160; 120)	7,286	7,354	7,544	7,232	7.768	7,596	7 535
New Unified M.R. (60; 60)	2,255	2,623	2,787	2,566	2,717	2,595	2,501
Nigel (50; 50)	4,123	3,834	3,816	3,799	3,798	4,151	4,183
Nourse Mines (180; —)	11,865	11,814	11,804	11,688	12,279	12,382	12,806
Robinson (230; 210)	20,312	20,563	21,414	21,043	21,472	21,327	20,786
Robinson Cent. Deep (150; 90)	10,914	11,143	11,034	10,848	11.093	10,825	11,143
Robinson Deep (200; 200)	15,586	15,677	16,473	16,768	17,574	18,306	20,241
Robinson Randfontein (100; 100)	5,705	5,785	6,012	5,921	5,904	5,844	5,813
Roodepoort Cent. Deep (50; 50)	3,147	3,219	3,169	3,155	3,245	2,994	2,987
Roodepoort United Mn. Reef (110; 65)	4,483	4,642	4,507	4,078	5,356	5,851	5,584
Rose Deep (200)	9,504	9,580	9,551	9,696	10,154	10,025	10,045
Simmer & Jack (320)	20,013	21,109	23,110	22,853	23,579	24,640	24 659
Sth. R'ndf'nt'n (100; 90)	5,923	5,879	5,895	5,696	5,737	5,341	5,702
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates (80; 70)	3,883	4,120	4 498	4,381	4,452	4,551	4,446
Treasury (60; 55)	2,830	2,746	2,783	2,761	2,841	2,372	—
Van Ryn (160; 160)	9,392	10,413	10,135	9,640	9,207	9,896	9,876
Village Mn.Rf. (160)	14,172	14,342	14,959	14,571	15,460	14,907	15,876
Wolhuter (100; 100)	6,260	6,401	6,063	6,200	6,666	6,361	6,112

The next table gives the gold production for December with comparisons:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	70,340	199,279	283,824	369,258	428,633
February	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668
March	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	443,723
April	119,588	227,871	305,946	399.166	439,243
May	138 602	234,125	314,480	416,395	461,202
June	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	475,975
July	149,179	251,643	307,340	419,505	491,793
August	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,531	509,115
September	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	505,111
October	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	510.609
November	187,375	279,813	336,167	424,757	533,373
December	196,023	286,061	362,264	431,594	550,167
Total	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,776,621*	4,897,221	5,786,617

* Includes 7,949 oz. or £33,766 not declared in year.

In the following table will be found the value of the gold produced:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	298,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739
February	345.782	834.739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731 664
March	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815
April	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	1,865,785
May	588,743	994.505	1,335,826	1,768 734	1,959,062
June	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	2,021,813
July	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	2,039,004
August	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	2,162,583
September	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	2,145,575
October	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	2,296.371
November	795.922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804 253	2 265,625
December	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295	2,356,961
Totals	7,269,888	12,589,247	16,054,909	20,802,074	24,579,987

RHODESIANS LIVENING UP—CHARTERED POSSIBILITIES—BANKET MOVEMENT PREDICTED.

Any sustained movement in the Kaffir market sooner or later "overflows" into Rhodesians, because of the natural affinity between the two, and it would now seem that the latter are going to receive considerably more attention than has been the case recently. Already there is substantial buying of Chartered, which is generally regarded as being of a "good and knowing" character, and this is not without some significance. Chartered, I may emphasise, are purely a gambling counter, and are likely to remain so for many years to come, but at the same time it must be understood that the country is now progressing in a distinctly promising fashion, which is a very important consideration in relation to the shares. The Company may or may not ultimately justify its founders' hopes to the full, but this apart, the annual report, which will put in its appearance within a few weeks, ought to make a more satisfactory showing than we have grown accustomed to. To anticipate the passing of the era of deficit would be altogether too sanguine, but a better financial position is highly probable. Not only has the gold production industry made appreciable headway, but in other respects, agricultural and mineral, the country has progressed, and then there are also the ultimate potentialities of the diamondiferous discoveries to consider as well as the fillip to progress generally which ought to follow the completion of the railway project throughout Rhodesia. It is generally considered, too, that we are on the eve of another "firework" display in the Banket group. This strikes me as being highly probable. The Eldorado mine is opening up promisingly, and regarded as a gamble pure and simple I consider Bankets rather attractive at the relatively low price ruling. As to Tanganyikas, the shares seem to have gravelled, for the time being at all events, and with the sentiment generally cheerful a gradual advance appears probable. Here is my usual table:—

—	Capitals		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1905.	Closing Price, Jan 5, 1907	Closing Price, Jan 12, 1907.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	1 11/16	11/16	3/4
British S. Africa	6,000,000	4,999,038	1	f.p.	1 13/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	201,000	1	f.p.	2 3/4	4/-	4/6
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	250,000	1	f.p.	1 15/16	1 1/4	1 1/4
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	228,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1 1/8	1 3/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	398,976	1	f.p.	1 3/8	9/-	10/-
N rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	3 1/2	1 1/2	1 3/4
Rhodesia, Ltd. (New)	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	1/4	1/4
Rhodesia Expl.	225,000	227,777	1	f.p.	4 3/4	2 1/8	2 1/8
Rice Hamilton	175,000	50,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/8	1/8
Selukwe	350 000	321,000	1	f.p.	1 1/4	6/6	6/6
Tanganyika Conc.	264 600	234,000	1	f.p.	6 3/4	5 1/8	6
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	11/3	2/-	3/6
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	9/-	9/6
Zambesia Explor.	300,000	283,615	1	f.p.	2 7/16	1 1/16	1 3/8

WESTRALIANS FAIRLY ACTIVE—HORSESHOE DEVELOPMENTS—KALGURLIS LESS BUOYANT—DEEP LEAD ITEMS.

Although the Westralian Mining Market is not exactly bristling with features of exceptional interest it nevertheless continues to receive quite a fair amount of attention. This is principally of a professional character, it must be allowed, but perhaps there will be a broadening out of business as confidence is engendered. In point of interest Horseshoes are most conspicuous because of the encouraging developments recorded in depth. At the No. 15 level a well-defined lode has been located, giving an assay value of 13 dwts. per ton over a width of 16 feet. This is considered promising, and has induced some of the customary support from Paris with the result that the shares have advanced substantially. On the basis of the past quarterly dividends these shares would give a fairly good return, but I am inclined to believe that by waiting a little the prospective purchaser would be able to "get in" on much better terms. After the sustained strength recently observable Kalgurlis are inclined to dribble away to a rather lower level, though this is not very marked. This may be ascribed to profit-taking on the recent steady advance rather than any untoward developments, and having regard to the general position of the property and the prospects it does not seem likely that this process will make further progress. Oroyas continue somewhat sensitive to the knowledge that the mine is virtually at the end of its tether as a high-grade proposition. Of course, its existence will be prolonged as a low-grade mine, and there are the interests acquired in the Oroya Black Range to be reckoned with, but,

nevertheless, a reduced dividend seems inevitable before long. As regards deep lead decriptions, a large stream of liquidation has been in progress to depress prices. When this comes to an end the big interests are credited with the intention of creating more activity on the strength of the results achieved by the Loddon Valley. It is now announced that altogether 20 fathoms of wash have been taken from the side of the lead, averaging 48s. per fathom, which, though not so good as the initial results, is nevertheless considered "very satisfactory." With expenses at 32s. per fathom a good profit is thus shown, and richer stuff is looked for in deeper ground which will be entered a few weeks hence. Here is my usual table:—

—	1900. High.	1905. High.	1905. Lowest.	Make-up Jan. 11, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 5, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan 12, 1907.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	3⅝	1⅜	1⅝	1 7/16	¼
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	1 7/16	1 5/16	1⅛	1 3/16	1⅛
Brownhill Ext.	3⅜	⅝	7/6	7/6	7/-	7/6
Cosmopolitan	30/3	½	4/3	4/-	4/3	3/9
Golden Horseshoe	15	8 7/16	5¼	6	6¼xd	5⅝
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	25/6	27/6	25/6	25/6	25/6
Do. Perseverance	13¼	16/6	10/3	8/3	8/9	8/6
Gt. Flagall Cons.	6⅛	8⅝	3½	2 5/16	2⅜	2⅝
Hainault	1⅜	1¼	1 3/16	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛
Ivanhoe (£8)	15½	8 1/16	6⅜	7 1/16	7 1/16	7¼
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	½	⅜	⅜	⅜	½
Kalgurli	9⅛	9⅜	11/8	12 7/16	12⅛	12 7/16
Lake View Consols	5⅜	1¼	⅜	5/7	¾	¾
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	15/6	9/-	20/9	1½	1 1/16
Oroya Brownhill	—	3 3/16	2⅜	2 1/16	1⅛xd	2⅛
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/16	2 3/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
South Kalgurli	6½	2	1 1/16	1 3/16	¾	1 1/16

INSURANCE NOTES—THE BEGINNINGS OF LIFE ASSURANCE—SECURITY INVOLVES PROFIT—PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL CONTROL—NEW POLICIES OF AMERICAN LIFE OFFICES.

Life Assurance, as becomes a complicated matter of great importance, has been of very slow growth. For practical purposes real life assurance, as we know it to-day, was started by the old Equitable Society in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The Royal Exchange and the London Assurance Corporation were previously doing life assurance of a sort and strenuously resisted the formation of the old Equitable; but it was the Equitable, the first of the mutual life offices, which taught life assurance to the world. It originated the idea of mutuality—the notion that by association the financial uncertainties to which we are all subject, owing to the time of death of each individual being unknown, could be converted into financial certainty by association in a life office. The old Equitable, founded and continued ever since on a mutual basis, revealed the fact that uncertainty could be converted into certainty without paying excessive amounts to shareholders. This conception of mutuality has now become universal. In olden times there were three classes of life assurance Companies—mutual, mixed, and proprietary. The mutual offices consisted solely of the assured. The proprietary Companies issued nothing but non-profit policies, and gave the assured fixed benefits in return for fixed premiums, which was a very expensive arrangement for the policy-holders. Proprietary offices in this sense have now disappeared and what we now call proprietary Companies correspond to the mixed offices of former times. The affairs of these Companies are mainly in the control of the shareholders, but the greater part of the profits, usually nine-tenths, are distributed among the policy-holders, the remaining one-tenth being paid to the proprietors.

The old Equitable not only introduced the mutual principle into life assurance, but it practically founded the whole theory of the subject, which in later times has been extended and established on the soundest possible basis by the labours of British actuaries, especially as represented by the Institute and by the Faculty of Actuaries. In comparatively recent times much valuable work has been done by Continental and American actuaries, but the English Institute and the Scottish Faculty are the recognised pioneers, and are still looked up to as the leading actuarial associations of the world. Speaking generally, British life assurance Companies have applied actual theory to practise more efficiently than the Companies of any other country, and the best foreign offices owe their present condition to a great extent to the example of British Companies. In many most important ways the superlatively strong position of English and Scottish offices is due to their freedom from legislative interference. The result of this freedom has been to bring about a healthy competition between the Companies, which has produced in a conspicuous degree two features which, in life assurance alone among financial institutions, inevitably accompany one another. These two features are security and profitableness. In all other financial institutions which I can call to mind, great security means small profits and *vice versâ*, but in life assurance the greatest security is of necessity a cause of the largest amount of profit. A life office is most secure when it holds reserves sufficient to meet its liabilities if interest is earned at a very low rate, when it assumes that mortality will happen at a heavier rate than is likely to be experienced, and when expenses are provided for at a higher rate than is likely to be incurred. The differences between assumptions and experience constitute not merely security of a nature unequalled by other institutions, but a degree of profit which increases with the margin provided for security.

These fundamental virtues of life assurance have had their origin and their principal development among English and Scottish life offices, but in order to translate this excellent theory into practice, and in order to give people the benefits which result from this theory, it is necessary to embody the notions of the actuary in popular and attractive policies. In this respect we have a great deal to learn from some of the American and Colonial Companies. In the United Kingdom the actuary is supreme in a life office and only too frequently is tied and bound by custom and hopelessly out of touch with the needs of the people. The agency manager, the branch manager, and the agent, appeal in vain for the issue of policies which will really meet the needs of would-be policy-holders. There are a few exceptions, but for the most part the British actuary has no knowledge of outside work, no conception of what the public really need, and a profound belief in the sufficiency of his own limited ideas of what people ought to want.

The Americans have very conspicuously broken away from these notions. They have made the business-getter supreme, and have relegated the actuary to a back seat; in doing this they have gone too far, and with disastrous consequences, as the events of the last year have proved. There is, however, a happy mean between the professional Britisher and the commercial American; this is to be found in the co-operation of the actuary and the business manager, too seldom seen in British Companies, and only recently adopted to any adequate extent by the great American life offices. It seems to me that this conciliation of professionalism and commercialism is at its best in the new policies introduced this year by the Mutual of New York, the New York Life, and I suppose, though I do not know, by the Equitable of the United States. I have seen specimen policies of the Mutual and of the New York Life, and, frankly, in regard to their conditions and their guarantees they are superior to any British policies with which I am acquainted. In technical language, there are no "conditions" at all. The wording is: "This policy is free of conditions as to residence, occupation, travel, habits of life, and manner, time, or place of death. No permit or extra premium will be required for military, or naval service in time of war or in time of peace. This policy shall be incontestable except for non-payment of premiums from its date." This is real assurance. You have only to pay the premium and you are sure of the benefits.

The policies further embody specific guarantees for every year of policy duration as to the amount that can be borrowed, the cash surrender value, the paid-up insurance that can be obtained on surrender, and the length of time for which the policy can be kept in force for its full amount without payment of further premiums. There are other valuable features in connection

with the policy prior to its becoming a claim, but for the moment I must pass these by in order to describe the methods of settlement which are offered and specifically tabulated in the policies. A policyholder may, of course, take the sum assured in cash. If he wishes he may be paid by any fixed number of annual instalments varying from two to twenty-five; for instance, if assured for £1,000, he can have two payments of £507 each, or ten payments of £113 each, or twenty payments of £65 each, or twenty-five payments of £56 each. These are conditions which one or two British offices are ready to comply with.

Another method of settlement is offered and tabulated in detail in the policy, and is a plan which seems to me of superlatively great importance. The policy may be settled by the payment of what are called "continuous instalments." The number of these annual instalments is in no case less than twenty-five, but if the beneficiary survives the assured by more than twenty-five years, these annual instalments are continued at their full rate for the entire lifetime of the beneficiary. For instance, if a man dies leaving a beneficiary aged thirty-five, annual payments of £45—supposing the policy to be for £1,000—are paid during the entire lifetime of the beneficiary, however long he or she may live but in no case can the number of these annual payments be less than twenty-five, or £1,125 in all. This last feature, and indeed all the other features of these new American policies, seem to me of the very greatest value, and cannot fail to appeal to every business man as being precisely the conditions which ought to appear in a life assurance contract, and which offer the greatest advantages both to policy-holders during their own lifetime and to the survivors entitled to receive the benefits of the assurance. I am not here expressing any opinion as to the probable future bonuses on these policies; I am simply dealing with the form of the contract, which I regard as being superior to any that have hitherto appeared.

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Wellington.—Brazilian Four per Cent. Recission bonds make a sound investment, and the course of values should be higher. *Canada.*—1. The firm has a good reputation. 2. I look for a material advance in Irish Land stock within the next few months. *Inter Nos.*—The stock was incorrectly described; the reference was to the 4½ per cent. issue of 1905.

RAILWAYS.

J. S. C., Holloway.—Put the money into Canadian Pacific Preference, Grank Trunk First Preference, and Brighton Preferred. *Nemo.*—You are entitled to the dividend. *Sardonyx.*—I should suggest North Westerns and Canadian Pacifics. *Naval Medico.*—I suggest that you buy some Great Central 1894 Preference stock.

MINES.

Blackpudlian.—1. The two concerns have no connection with one another. I have not a high opinion of the prospects of the old company. 2. A very doubtful gamble. 3. I should sell out and put the proceeds into a copper property, or something with a semblance of life in it. 4. There is no information available as to the present condition of the company. 5. I should not buy. 6-7. Both are reliable, I understand. *Alex.*—The high grade ore of the Oroya Brownhill mine is nearing depletion, and big dividends will not be possible much longer. But as a low grade proposition the shares of the mine are worth considering, especially at the present price. *J. F. T.*—All three shares constitute an excellent speculation. *G. C. G.*—Probably for the current year. *H. W. H.*—Buy Arizona Coppers. *Bramble.*—1. Hold on to Mount Lyells. 2. Lace Diamonds might be kept for a further improvement in South Africans. *Cambridge.*—1. I regard Goldfields Ordinary as a good purchase to put away for a little time. 2. Mount Yagahongs should give you a profit within another two or three months. 3. I do not know anything at all about the gentleman. *C. M. W.*—1. I should not have dealings with the concern. 2. All the shares are good, provided you can afford to hold on to them for a bit. *North Kerry.*—1. The shares make a fair speculative investment. 2. Hold on for the present. 3. I have no information about the company. 4. If you have a decent profit, take it. *J. H. H., Reading.*—Simmer and Jack shares are all right, but your other holdings are distinctly speculative. *S. G.*—1. It would hardly be wise to make the exchange. 2. Do not buy. 3. Arizona Coppers and Anacondas. *Largs.*—The shares are worth buying as a speculation.

MIXED SECURITIES.

B. A.—1. Take your profit, and if you see a chance of getting in at a lower level do so. 2. I know of no reliable paper at the price you name. 3. I should hold. *Major.*—For the yield desired your selection of shares is as good as could be obtained. *Jabez.*—1. I have no information, and cannot advise you. 2. Optionally redeemable. 3. I should be rather inclined to buy Kaffirs than sell them just now. *Septima.*—1. Coronations are a reasonably promising speculation. 2. An option on Anacondas should turn out profitably. 3. A wild cat, which you would be well advised to leave alone. 4. I do not recommend the agency. 5. The shares are unattractive. 6-7. I have no information. *Investor, Leeds.*—All three stocks are worth purchasing. *Kors, Sligo.*—You might buy Siberian Mines, Orsks, and Coats. *Spartan.*—Spread the money over B.A. Western Ordinary stock, B.A. Pacifics, Brighton Deferred, and Lyons. *Exile.*—Place the money in Rand Water Stock, Johannesburg Fours, and Great Western Ordinary. *Perseus.*—1. All three investments are worth making now. 2. I understand that the people are reliable. *Palermo.*—1. Hold on to Brazilian Fives. 2. You would be well advised to consider before long the desirability of exchanging into the Four and a Half per Cent. bonds, as the Sixes are pretty certain to be redeemed this year. 3. A well managed industrial, whose shares are worth holding. 4. Excellent of their class. 5. Deal with an inside broker.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Will.—I cannot recommend a lawyer for the purpose, and, any way, I am afraid you would have no case, because the transactions were essentially of a gambling nature. *Bitten.*—I regret that I do not know the man's present whereabouts, and, any way, I fear you would have no case against him, because your transactions with him were essentially of a gambling nature. *G. H., Balham.*—Cancel your application and demand the return of the sum forwarded. *J. J. S.*—I do not know the gentleman, but am certain that he is of no account in relation to Hudson's Bay shares. *Tectona.*—The concern is reliable, I understand. The paper is all right. *W. H. C.*—All could be improved upon as investments. Leave the touts alone. *E. Coleman.*—I have dealt with Martin Bull's methods more than once. *J. F. P.*—Not altogether unattractive. *Van.*—1. No, they do not participate. 2. A fair purchase, in view of the metal outlook. 3. Impossible to say. *Aigburth.*—You might hold. *Waterside, Londonderry.*—I regret my inability to advise you. The concern is not mentioned in any of the usual works of reference. *O. and R. Railway.*—Many thanks for the enclosures. *Ceylon.*—Fairly desirable, but I have no reason for anticipating a rise. *R. N. Agaskar.*—You would be well advised to leave the concern alone. They charge exorbitantly for the bonds, which are procurable through any of the Credit Lyonnais agencies. The booklet is frankly an exaggeration of everything. *Donata.*—Of those named I would prefer Apollinaris and Bovril. As regards British Electric Tractions, a higher dividend is predicted. *Nestor.*—As you have quite a decent profit, why not take it? It is always the safest plan. *Oliver Cromwell.*—1. Somewhat uncertain in view of the change in tactics. Wait a little longer. 2. Not a safe investment. 3. Very attractive, in view of recent achievements. *Sceptic.*—You would be well advised to ignore the pretensions of the concern. *Wight.*—Hold for a possible recovery. Hovis Breads are a fairly desirable commercial investment. *Petroleum.*—Your query is a trifle too comprehensive. Scottish Widows and Edinburgh Life, Royal, and the Royal Exchange. *Fez.*—Fairly attractive. *Alamo.*—1. I do not consider J. R. Roberts' Ordinary in the least attractive. The preference interest is in arrears. 2. You might ignore the motor shares. 3. A bucket-shop, with which you ought not to do business. Humbers or Daimlers might suit you, but do not put all your eggs into one basket. *J. Bevan.*—If you are nervous better sell out at once. *Which.*—1. Do not average. You may see the price if dividend is up to expectation. 2. The brewery share is not unattractive. 3. Better left alone. *First Try.*—Neither are in the least desirable. The higher interest offered is incompatible with security. The other is a bucket-shop. In both cases the literature is carefully designed to attract the uninitiated. *J. A. B.*—Yes. *Hardy.*—Unreliable, and ought to be avoided. *B. Horsfall.*—The amount involved is so small that it is not worth while troubling about it. Sell out and end the matter. *Plodder.*—Hearts of Oak. In regard to the liability your views are accurate. *Castle Douglas.*—Armstrong's, Vicker's, and Fairfield Shipbuilding are all attractive. Nobody ever hurt themselves by taking a respectable profit, but many people have suffered by holding on too long. You ought to digest this. *P. L., Ballina.*—Do not permit yourself to be led astray by the exaggerated bucket-shop circulars. Of those named Argylls appear to be the most attractive. *Bardell.*—Both Fine Spinners and Sewing Cottons might be held a little

longer. D. H. Evans and Charing Cross Electricity make fair investments. A resumption of dividends on United Alkali Ordinary is expected. *Dune.*—I am afraid you have no redress. *Perplexed.*—If you spread the sum over the trust stocks named it would be a good idea. You are liable for the call, and if you do not meet it forfeit the shares. *Ernesto.*—A payment of some part of the arrears on Linotype Preference shares is not improbable in respect of the current year. *St. George.*—The syndicate charge an excessive price for the bonds, which are procurable elsewhere.

INDUSTRIALS FAVOURED — BAYS — ANGLO "A" GAMBLE—TELEGRAPH YIELDS — TEXTILES PROMINENT — WESTINGHOUSE CAPITAL SCHEME—DRASTIC MEASURE—NITRATES—GRAMOPHONES.

Although the process may be slow, it is nevertheless satisfactory to observe a gradual broadening out of business in the Industrial market. This may be regarded as a promising augury, and it would seem to imply that the encouraging character of the recent trade figures and the prospects of a still greater revival throughout the country is serving to engender confidence. Everything considered, there is no apparent reason why this market should not loom considerably larger in the public eye, because of the significance of the factors alluded to, and I am still of opinion that Industrials collectively afford promising opportunities for the profitable employment of money. As regards Hudson's Bays, the shares have quickly recovered after the recent decline following the land sales statement. This is in accordance with the views I expressed here, and I am still convinced that the clique who have been so prominently connected with the steady upward movement in "Bays" have not forsaken them entirely, but are waiting more propitious conditions for a resumption of the movement. At the same time, it is worth while emphasising that the shares are now nothing better than a rich man's gamble. As the dividend season approaches, the gamble in Anglo "A" seems to gain momentum. The insiders profess to be very sanguine as to the possibilities of the stock. Whether such expectation will be realised to the letter is problematical, and for my own part I am still of the opinion that at anything like the existing quotation Anglo "A" is a somewhat wild gamble, and consequently unattractive. An enhanced distribution, as I have said before, is quite possible, but whether it will be large enough to justify the prevailing high price, or anything like it, is doubtful. For those readers who have a predilection towards Telegraph stock, which as a group make very good commercial investments, I have prepared the following table indicating the approximate yield they give:

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Anglo-American Pfd.	110	£5 10 0
Direct Spanish	3¼	5 10 0
Do. Pfce.	9½	5 5 0
Direct U.S. Cable	16	5 12 6
Eastern Extension	13½	5 1 0
Great Northern	37	6 5 0
Indo-European	59	5 8 0
Western	14	5 0 0

Owing to the knowledge that the industry continues very prosperous, Textile shares are receiving considerable attention, and this is reflected in a generally high range of prices. Upon any temporary decline they would seem to be not unattractive, regarded as speculative holdings, especially such things as Fine Spinners and English Sewing Cottons. Iron and Steel descriptions remain very much in the background, despite the encouraging advices concerning the activity and general prosperity of the industry and the satisfactory prospect. I adhere to the opinion that as a group the shares are worthy of more consideration, and shares which strike me as being desirable as a holding are Armstrong Whitworths, Vickers Maxims, Cammell Lairds, John Brown, Babcock and Wilcox, amongst many others. At this juncture it seems opportune to refer to the reconstruction proposals of the British Westinghouse Company, an offshoot of the famous American concern with a similar name. Its career has been anything but brilliant, and a crisis has been anticipated for some time past. The trading profits for the past year reached £7,630 in comparison with £113,409, and there is a net deficit of £87,535, against a loss of £18,200, thus bringing the total debit balance up to as much as £102,900. The root of the evil seems to be that orders have been accepted at unremunerative prices for advertisement purposes. The capital reduction scheme, as could only be expected, is somewhat drastic, the Ordinary shares being cut down from £10 to £5 each, and the Preference from £5 to £3. The £1,375,000 thus written off will be applied to reducing the value of goodwill and patents, and in providing for further development expenditure, as well as extinguishing the suspense account and the debit balance. As a sort of compensation for the loss of capital, it is proposed to increase the dividend to which the Preference shares are entitled to 10 per cent. from 6 per cent., and the Ordinary from 6 per cent. to 12 per cent., prior to the distribution of any surplus between the two classes in the proportions now existing. The following table indicates the yield obtainable upon Nitrate shares, which have been gradually subsiding after their recent boomlet:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Anglo-Chilian Nitrate and Railway Pfce.	13½	£7 8 0
Colorado	16½	12 0 0
Lagunas	4½	6 0 0
Lautaro	12½	6 5 0
London	10	8 10 0
New Paccha	2¾	10 17 6
Salon del Carmen	15½	11 0 0
Santa Rita	13¾	6 5 0

A share which is coming in for considerable attention is Gramophone and Typewriter. This concern has been enjoying exceptional prosperity, and as a high-yielding Industrial it does not seem altogether unattractive, though it is as well to point out that the business is one that depends largely upon public favour. I have more than once mentioned Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills Ordinary shares, and it is, therefore, interesting to refer to the report, which indicates a maintenance of profit, and, as a high-yielding commercial investment—the return is about 8¼—they seem to be deserving of consideration.

VIGILANT.

"AMERICAN RAILWAY EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS," by D. O. CROAL, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News.*—EFFINGHAM WILSON. Price 6d. net.

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QUEER STORY.

THE OTHER WOMAN.

SOPHY CRUTTWORTH was distracted between the claims of love and duty. Love was represented by the Hon. Charles Dashbord, a handsome subaltern of Grenadiers and a younger son; Duty, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Carshalton, an elderly and said-to-be-reformed *roué*, with a castle in the Shires, a house in Grosvenor-square, and an annual rent roll of £60,000.

But Sophy was a sensible and well-brought-up girl, thoroughly instructed in that most important item of the social catechism—your duty towards yourself. And it was not likely that she would prove false to her own high principles at this crisis of her life.

It cost her, indeed, a pang or two. But, courageously regardless of that, she stood firm to the right, and resolutely did her duty—towards number one. In a word, she accepted the Right Hon. the Earl of Carshalton.

But the path of duty (though it may be, as the poet sings, "the road to glory") is by no means always the road to immediate popularity, and Sophy's engagement to the elderly Earl was made the occasion for much spiteful and ill-natured comment about her among her friends—behind her back, that is; to her face, of course, they said the nicest and most congratulatory things imaginable.

The only exception was the Hon. Charles Dashbord, who said nothing at all about Sophy behind her back, but to her face made little effort to conceal his annoyance and ill-temper. In fact—to put it frankly—he was even rather rude in his remarks to the future Countess of Carshalton.

Sophy, however, did not take his rudeness at all amiss. On the contrary, she rather liked it—as indica-

tive of the young man's devotion to herself. If he had not loved her, he would not have been so angry and upset.

She lost no time in soothing, or trying to soothe, his wounded feelings.

"My dear Charlie, you are quite mistaken in supposing that I do not love you. I do care for you very much. That is, indeed, one of my reasons for marrying Lord Carshalton."

"A curious way of showing your love for me, I must say—to marry another man, and a shocking old bad egg at that," retorted Charles, sarcastically.

"Well, you see, in the first place, I could not possibly have married you, Charlie——"

"Why not?" he interjected.

"It was out of the question—on financial grounds," she answered, candidly.

"I don't see that. I'm not rich, I know. But then, I'm not absolutely a pauper, either. I have £1,200 a year."

"Twelve hundred a year!"

And Sophy threw up her hands expressively. "Why, my dear boy, that would hardly pay my furrier's bill."

"Oh, if you think that a sable coat or a chinchilla muff are of more worth to you than my love——"

"Don't be absurd, Charlie. I prize your love beyond everything, and I hope that I shall always retain it——"

"Psha!" he interposed, impatiently. "How can you retain my love when you are the wife of another?"

"Oh, Charlie, how naïf you are! And you a man of the world. You positively astonish me."

"I do not see anything so very astonishing in what I have said. Even men of the world think twice about making love to other fellows' wives."

"Ah, yes. If there is anything—anything wrong in their love," replied Sophy, demurely. "But there is nothing of that sort in my love for you. I care for you deeply—very deeply—but it is with the purest, the most spiritual affection——"

"This is nonsense," he ejaculated, irritably. "Don't believe in that sort of thing. Never did. In my opinion, there's no middle course between merely liking people as friends and loving them as lovers. I know that's my case, anyhow. When I love, I'm what they call a whole-hogger. With me it's got to be all, or nothing."

"Charlie, you are a very foolish and absurd boy. Don't you know that we live in a world, and an age, of compromise? Everything is compromise nowadays, from religion downwards——"

"I say, don't you think we'd better leave religion out of the discussion," struck in her lover, rather brutally.

Sophy flushed, and appeared to be, as perhaps she felt, deeply hurt and offended.

"Oh, if you are going to be insulting," she retorted, holding her pretty head very high, "I have no more to say to you. Let us consider everything at an end between us."

But this was too much for poor lovesick Charles. He at once changed his tone and became abject.

"Oh, come, Soph. I didn't mean that. I—I can't give you up altogether. Only I'm so infernally miserable about your engagement, don't you know, that I hardly knew what I was saying. Don't be too hard on a fellow, Soph. You *will* forgive me, and make it up again, won't you?"

Sophy gradually relented and allowed him to take her hand.

"I'll forgive you, Charlie, if only you'll be sensible," she answered. "I told you just now that I was marrying Lord Carshalton simply because I wished to retain your love. You see, I must marry somebody, and somebody rich. Circumstances make that imperative. And so I have singled out his lordship, not merely because he is rich, but even more because he is elderly and unprepossessing—just the man to whom I could never possibly lose my heart—just the man who could never, by the wildest stretch of imagination, become your rival in my affections—just the man of whom, you foolish boy, you need never feel in the least jealous. *Now* don't you understand, Charlie, or must I dot the 'i's' and cross the 't's' still more plainly?" she murmured, plaintively.

Charles Dashbord tugged at his long moustaches in expressive silence. This frank confession was very flattering to himself, no doubt, and also very soothing to his wounded love—but it was rather a startler, all the same, even to a young man of his easy-going ethics.

True, Sophy had energetically disclaimed the least hint or intention of anything wrong; and no doubt, at the moment of speaking, her disclaimer was perfectly genuine. But Charles Dashbord had sufficient experience of the world to know how these innocent attachments of young married women for lovers more youthful and attractive than their husbands generally end. And though he said nothing, he thought the more.

"You see how it is; and you will accept the situation, won't you, Charlie, dear?" she inquired, smiling sweetly at him and holding out her hand.

He took it and kissed it.

"If you must marry that old wretch, I suppose you must," he said; "and yes, Sophy, I accept the situation."

Then he kissed her on the lips, she gently protesting. The protest, such as it was, was merely make-believe. Perhaps it was scarcely worth while going through the form of it. But then, you see, it looks better to affect some slight coyness in these cases.

The above interview took place in a secluded corner of the conservatory at Mrs. Johann Randstein's New Year's Day dance at 300, Park-lane. And it nearly had unfortunate consequences, inasmuch as Charles had scarcely done kissing Sophy before Lord Carshalton himself appeared and claimed the hand of his bride-elect for a quadrille. He nodded carelessly to Dashbord as he offered his arm to Sophy, who rose and took it, making an expressive little *moué* at Charles behind his lordship's back as she sailed away in her elderly fiancé's company.

"Nice fellow, that young Dashbord, I think," remarked the Earl, who evidently suspected nothing.

"Ye-e-s. Not much in him, though," replied Sophy, with well-acted indifference.

And then she began to talk of other matters.

But how lucky, she thought to herself, that the Earl had not appeared on the scene in the conservatory two minutes sooner. If he had seen Charlie kissing her, it might have caused awkward complications, and she had no wish for any complications to arise—not, at least, until she had safely annexed his lordship in marriage. Then, of course, it would not matter so much.

The marriage duly took place at St. George's, Hanover-square, with great *éclat*, and Sophy became Countess of Carshalton. Her position was now, of course, one of influence and affluence, and, for awhile, she enjoyed all the advantages of her new life thoroughly. She saw a great deal of Charles Dashbord—more, perhaps, than was quite discreet. Indeed, had the Earl been a jealous or exacting husband, he most certainly would have become suspicious, and would probably have interfered. But, as it was, so far from betraying either jealousy or suspicion, he was always most civil to the young man when they met, seeming rather to encourage his visits than otherwise.

At first Sophy was glad of this, and congratulated herself upon the Earl's being so unsuspicious and easy-going. But before very long circumstances came to her notice which revealed his lordship's behaviour in a very different light.

Among the domestic staff of the establishment was a girl named Ethel Jenkins, daughter of Mrs. Jenkins, the housekeeper, who nominally acted as her mother's assistant in the clerical and account-keeping duties of her office, but who, in fact, spent most of her time in the more agreeable pursuit of her own amusement.

This Ethel was a pretty girl and in manners and breeding somewhat above her station. But, at whiles, she gave herself airs to which Sophy took considerable exception. And that exception was, you may be sure,

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not diminished when the new Countess discovered the true inwardness of the girl's behaviour.

The fact was that that incorrigible old Lothario, the Earl, appeared to have been taking a good deal too much notice of the young woman, and to have been flirting with her outrageously, under his wife's very nose.

Then, at length, Sophy saw why her husband had been so accommodatingly blind to her affair with Charlie, and why he had encouraged the young man's visits. He wanted her to be continually occupied with her admirer, in order that he might be the more free to pursue his flirtation with that minx, Ethel Jenkins.

Her resentment flamed high. She invaded the Earl's smoking-room (where he sat reading the *Pink 'Un* after breakfast, that morning) in a white heat of wrath, and charged him to his face with the infamous and degrading behaviour.

His lordship, hardened old sinner that he was, didn't seem to be in the least ashamed of himself, but took the matter quite coolly, and made no attempt to deny the imputation. Indeed, it was evident that he was even rather surprised to learn that his wife had only now discovered the truth.

"What?" he exclaimed, "this is news to you, then? I was quite under the impression, my dear Sophy, that you were all along aware of my regard for Ethel——"

"A likely supposition, indeed. As if, in that case, I should have allowed the minx to remain in the house for a single hour," broke in Sophy, pale with fury and outraged wifeliness.

The Earl looked more than ever surprised at this outburst of passion. For his own part, he never got in a rage; not so much because he was sweet-tempered, as because he thought it too much trouble, as well as bad form, to show strong feeling of any sort.

He shrugged his shoulders slightly, as he replied: "Really, my dear Sophy, I would not put myself out over the affair, in this way, if I were you. Come, now. Do be sensible about it."

"Sensible?"

And Lady Carshalton's look and tone imparted to that single word the equivalent of a whole philippic.

"Yes; sensible," repeated the Earl, with perfect *aplomb*. "You and I are both people of the world, after all, my dear. And I quite thought it was tacitly understood between us that ours was a marriage of convenience."

"I do not know what you mean," cried her ladyship, angrily.

"Come, come, Sophy. You know very well that you never married me for love, any more than that I married you for that Arcadian, but unpractical, reason——"

"What *did* you marry me for then?" demanded the incensed Countess.

"Well, since you put it to me point blank," replied the Earl, "it was because I wanted a pretty, well-bred, and attractive woman to preside over my domestic *ménage* and do the honours of my house, and I may say that I selected you, my dear Sophy, not only because you were quite the prettiest and most attractive among the well-bred girls of my acquaintance, but also because I knew that you were very much attached to young Dashbord, and surmised, therefore, that you would neither expect nor wish from me any tiresome pretence of marital devotion."

"You married me on that account?"

"Yes; why not?" rejoined the old cynic, in his languid, self-possessed way. "I knew that your heart was given to another, whom you could not marry. I knew also that I was in precisely the same position. And, being aware, moreover, what an eminently sensible girl you were, I came to the conclusion that we should suit each other, in the conjugal capacity, down to the ground. I should confer on you wealth and position, which was your desideratum in a husband. You would make an excellent and charming hostess to my friends, which was my desideratum in a wife. Further, you would be quite at liberty to flirt with Dashbord without interference from me; and I should be equally free to flirt with Ethel without interference from you. There, my dear Sophy, is the whole case in a nutshell. Have you anything, as a reasonable and sensible woman, to say against it?"

"It is scandalous! It is infamous!" she cried, passionately, "that you should marry me because you thought I was the sort of woman who would connive at your flirtations—to call them by no worse name ——"

"Tut-tut. It was *quid pro quo*," interposed the Earl, coolly; "you cannot deny that I have connived, in the most considerate and accommodating manner, at your flirtation with Dashbord."

"That is quite different," exclaimed Sophy, flushing. "My regard for Charles Dashbord is of the most innocent description."

"I accept your assurance on that point most readily," rejoined the Earl. "And I beg you to accept my assurance that my regard for Ethel is, also, of the most innocent description."

"A likely story," cried his wife, sarcastically, with flaming cheeks. "As if you, a married man, would flirt with a girl like that from innocent motives."

"My dear Sophy, you do surprise me," answered the Earl, holding up his white hands in polite astonishment; "I can only suppose that your digestion is out of order, or that you have a chill on your liver. If I were a rude or captious person, I should retort on you by saying: 'As if you, a married woman, would flirt with a young man like that from innocent motives? But as it is ——"

"The cases are not in the least parallel!" cried out her ladyship.

"It seems to me that they are entirely parallel," he answered, coolly; "you married me, meaning still to retain your regard for Dashbord. I married you, meaning still to retain my regard for Ethel. I do not interfere with you. Why the deuce should you want to interfere with me? Excuse me, my dear Sophy, but this is not playing the game, thus to go back on our tacit understanding."

"There has been no such understanding between us, tacit or otherwise," she retorted, indignantly.

"Oh, come, my dear," said the Earl, with an incredulous smile, "you are never going to tell me, as a woman of the world, that you really supposed I was conniving at your flirtation with Dashbord out of pure philanthropy?"

Sophy burst into a storm of angry tears—the woman's invariable refuge when she is defeated in argument.

"You are a wicked, evil-minded old wretch," she cried, "and I hate you—yes, I hate you."

His lordship, hardened by long experience to the ways of women, was not in the least moved by this outburst. He merely shrugged his shoulders, and said:

"If that is so, my dear, it seems to me that you have the less reason to complain of my regard for Ethel. Come now; do be sensible, and——"

But the Countess of Carshalton did not wait to hear the end of the sentence. She flounced out of the room and slammed the door behind her, leaving the Earl upon the hearthrug, still smiling.

Presently he rang the bell.

"Ask Miss Jenkins to come and speak to me," he said to the footman who answered the summons.

In a few minutes the young woman came. She was a good-looking girl, of unusually refined appearance for her position in life, and having the air and manner of one who was accustomed to mix with a society somewhat better than that of the Housekeeper's Room.

And this was, in fact, the case, Lord Carshalton having stood godfather to his faithful old housekeeper's daughter at her baptism, and having made a great pet of her ever since her infancy. In that way, a regard entirely paternal on his side, and entirely filial on hers, had sprung up between them; indeed, at this very moment the Earl was interesting himself, as though he were her guardian, in her forthcoming marriage with a young house agent, and was arranging to make her a comfortable dowry. But before she went, he had required a little service of her.

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What that service was may be inferred from the following conversation that now passed between them.

"My dear child," said the Earl, smiling at her in a fatherly way, "you have played your part so well that matters have reached a satisfactory climax even sooner than I had expected. Lady Carshalton has found out —well, just what we intended she should find out. She will, no doubt, tax you with it. Of course, you will make no attempt to deny the imputation; on the contrary, it will help matters forward if you will appear to glory in it, and vow that you will never, never give me up. Do you see?"

Ethel nodded.

"I would not place myself in so false a position for any one else, godfather," she replied. "But you have been so kind to me, that, as you know, I could not refuse you even this favour."

"And I have been sorry to ask it of you, my dear child," he answered, laying his hand kindly upon her shoulder, while a gleam of genuinely paternal affection shone in his usually cynical eyes; "but there was nothing else to be done. It was the only way."

"If I had been you, godfather, I should simply have forbidden Mr. Dashbord the house," exclaimed the girl, with all the downright directness of nineteen.

His lordship smiled.

"Worse than useless," he said. "It would have made her more set on the fellow than ever. No, my dear child, when your wife comes 'the other man' over you, there's only one sure card to play to bring her to her senses——"

"And what is that?" inquired Ethel.

"'The other woman,'" replied the Right Hon. the Earl of Carshalton.

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

THE LIST OF THE PRIZE-WINNERS.

ONCE again it is my pleasing duty to sum up the results of the TRUTH Doll and Toy Show and competition, and to award the prizes and thank all the helpers who have so kindly given their services and thus brought about so successful a result—and the result, I am glad to say, has been most exceptionally successful. Not only was the Show in itself more than ordinarily attractive, but I have not this year to express regret that the financial side of it has been disappointing. I could, perhaps, have wished for better results, but when I say that at least a portion of the deficit which we had unfortunately to bring forward from last year has been wiped out, I have every reason for expressing my thanks to our readers. But what is even still more satisfactory, although I have not been able to enlarge as I should have wished the sphere of our operations, I have been able to comply with all the recognised claims that we have had addressed to us. To distribute 30,000 toys is a serious matter, and one that can only be undertaken and carried out if I have the substantial support of my readers. This I have had, and, as a consequence, at least 30,000 children have had a joyous Christmas.

I could have wished that the attendances at the Show had been a little larger. There was unfortunately some falling off in the number of visitors who paid for admission, but no doubt this was due to the fact that the weather was not altogether favourable. Nor did the boxes that were placed in the Albert Hall yield the results that one might have hoped for. But, on the whole, the confidence which I have at all times so unhesitatingly placed in my readers has been fully justified, and we are able to look forward to another Christmas with every feeling of satisfaction and hopefulness.

As last Christmas Day fortunately fell on a Tuesday there was no difficulty in ensuring that all the toys were delivered at the Hospitals and Workhouses in good time for distribution, either on Christmas Day or at such a time as met with the festive arrangements of the different establishments.

And now as to the distribution of the prizes. The editor has been again most kindly assisted by a small committee of ladies, whose expert advice has proved of the utmost value. Special thanks are due to them for the great thoroughness and untiring care they have displayed in the accomplishment of their important duty. The number of prizes, excluding the lady's gold watch, so kindly presented by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths' Company, Limited, of 112, Regent-street, is this year thirty-nine, in addition to such mementoes of the Show as may be given to the exhibitors who are considered *hors concours*. But even then it has been found impossible to award a prize in all cases to the competitors included in the judges' award list. As usual, however, the proprietor of TRUTH, besides presenting thirty-nine silver articles for prizes, has also decided once more to distribute a large number of silver brooches, specially designed for the purpose, to serve as what it is hoped will be an interesting souvenir of the recent Show.

Every lady who dressed twelve small TRUTH dolls or one large one will receive one of these brooches; but, in addition to these, brooches have also been given to a number of competitors who dressed dolls or contributed home-made toys to the Show. It may be said, in fact, that in awarding the prizes, special recognition has been made of exceptional industry and originality and ingenuity on the part of the exhibitors. But, as has been stated in this column year after year, it would be unfair to deduce from this that contributions not thus recognised have not been equally welcomed and are not being quite as much appreciated by the children who are now their happy possessors. And the knowledge of this fact is, of course, the source of the satisfaction which is always felt by all who took part in making the recent Show a success. The prize list, it is true, is limited, so far as certain silver trinkets and nicknacks are concerned. But from the real prize list not a single name is absent, for it includes every one who has in any way earned the gratitude of the children, whilst the real prizes are the thanks of those little ones (upwards of thirty thousand of them all told), which have been vociferous enough during the past fortnight to well-nigh reach the ears of those to whose kind co-operation and lavish generosity their enjoyment has been due.

Having thus explained the principle on which the prizes are given, it will now be interesting to print a list in which they are arranged in the order of their cash value. As I have already stated, they are thirty-nine in number. It will be noticed that the whole of the TRUTH prizes are either made of, or mounted with, silver, and it may be added that they vary in value from £6 to 10s. As a rule the articles chosen will be found to be useful as well as ornamental, for it has always been the wish of the editor of this journal that lasting as well as pleasing souvenirs of the TRUTH Shows should be presented to the exhibitors who most distinguish themselves.

Here, then, is the list of the prizes, arranged in the order of their intrinsic value:—

Special Prize—Lady's Gold Watch.
1. Silver Spirit Tots, in case.
2. Silver Box.
3. ,, Mirror.
4. ,, Mirror.
5. ,, Hat Pin Stand.
6. ,, Hair Brush.
7. Ditto.
8. ,, Photo Frame.
9. ,, Flower Vase.
10. Ditto.
11. ,, Pin Cushion.
12. ,, Flower Vase.
13. Ditto.
14. ,, Bowl.
15. ,, Shell Box.
16. Ditto.
17. ,, Pin Stand.
18. ,, Pin Cushion.
19. ,, Pin Tray.
20. ,, Tea Knives.
21. ,, Pen Wiper.

22. Silver Tea Knives.
23. ,, Comb.
24. Ditto.
25. ,, Photo Frame.
26. Ditto.
27. ,, Whisk.
28. ,, Hat Pin Stand.
29. ,, Pin Tray.
30. }
31. }
32. }
33. }
34. } Silver Hat Pin Stand or Silver Pin
35. } Trays, to choice.
36. }
37. }
38. }
39. }

The following are the names of the winners of the prizes:—

Special Prize—Mrs. Stern (700 small dolls).
1. Mrs. Skinner (400 small dolls).
2. Miss Rawson ("Yoko") (240 small dolls).
3. Mrs. Comyns (225 small dolls).
4. Miss E. Lloyd (set piece of 100).
5. Miss Pearson (150 small dolls).
6. Miss E. Oakley (120 small dolls).
7. Miss Finlayson (100 small dolls).
8. Miss Sandbrook (set piece).
9. Miss F. Jacomb Hood (groups).
10. Miss L. Jacomb Hood (groups).
11. Miss Grace Scholefield (set piece).
12. Miss C. Ruffer (17 large dolls).
13. The Misses Beynon (60 small dolls).
14. Miss A. N. Carpenter (60 small dolls).
15. Mrs. Auerbach (50 small dolls).
16. Lady Lange (50 small dolls).
17. The Misses Wood (48 small dolls).
18. Miss Rawson ("Yoko") (6 large dolls).
19. Miss Jacomb Hood (6 large dolls).
20. Miss Plumptre (4 large dolls).
21. Miss F. M. Brendon (set piece).
22. Miss Mitchell Molyneux (30 small dolls).
23. Miss Bailey (set piece).
24. Mrs. F. Byrne (36 small dolls).
25. Miss Nichols (set piece).
26. Miss Foulger (set piece).
27. Miss M. J. Thomas (scrap books).
28. Miss Rawson ("Yoko") (scrap books and 48 knitted dolls).
29. Miss Milne (scrap sheets).
30. Mrs. A. Hall (4 dolls).
31. Mr. Louis Karmel (model engine, etc.).
32. Mrs. Lanham and daughter (one set piece).
33. Miss Effie Dresser (home-made toys).
34. Fraulein von Haesler (large doll).
35. Miss Streatfield's maid (large doll).
36. Miss Connell (scrap books).
37. Miss E. C. Baker (sweets).
38. Miss M. Powell (sweets).
39. Mr. J. Richardson (home-made toys).

Instead of awarding the prizes as numbered specifically to each competitor it is proposed, as far as possible, to let the winners choose articles for themselves in turn from the given list. Thus Mrs. Skinner will have the first choice, Miss Rawson the second, Mrs. Comyns the third, and so on in rotation. It will, of course, be well for prize winners, in writing to the editor, to mention more than one article, so that there may still be some guide to their wishes in case it is impossible to award them the prize they may select in the first instance.

The names of the ladies entitled to TRUTH Brooches, (which will be forwarded on application) are as follows:—

Mrs. Appelby, Mrs. Bentley-Rudd, Mrs. F. M. Brendon, Miss Baughan, Miss M. Baughan, Miss G. Baughan, Miss M. Brooke, Miss Barnes, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Billigheimer, Miss Benson, Miss N. Bannister, Miss Burgess, Miss Connell, Mrs. M. Cornish, Mrs. E. Corban, Mrs. Cummins, Miss C. Dunstan, Miss Delgado, the Hon. Mrs. Durant, Miss E. Dodsworth, Miss von Diggelen, Miss J. Douglas, Mrs. Falkiner, Miss A. Fenton, Mrs. F. Green, Mrs. J. Greaves, Mrs. Gwinne, the Misses Glave, Miss A. Hurlston, the Misses Horsfall, Mrs. J. Hedingham, Mrs. Humphreys, Mrs. Hargreaves, Miss L. Couch Johns, Nurse Kempster, Miss H. Kleinwort, Miss D. Leaver, Miss B. A. Love, Mrs. Lovet, Miss Lomax, Miss Moulton, Miss A. Mallard, Miss M. Marshall, Miss P. Macdonald, Mrs. W. J. R. Poole, Miss W. Poole, Mrs. Preston, the Misses Pickering, Miss D. Pitt, Mrs. Prochownick, Miss C. Rivington, the friends of Mr. Rogers, Miss A. E. Smith, Miss H. Stevens, Miss Sanders, Miss Strahan, Miss Sandford, Mrs. P. Tennant, Mrs. Tonkin, Miss J. C. Thomson, Miss H. E. Weatherley, Miss J. F. Walker, Mrs. K. C. Wallace, Miss D. G. Watson, Miss A. F. Wilson, Mrs. M. Webb, Miss G. Wood, Miss C. Wetherell, Mrs D. Watson.

In the necessarily hurried writing of the detailed account of the Show which I published on December 26 the occurrence of a few errors in regard to names was almost inevitable. I find that one serious mistake was made in connection with the large doll dressed as a Boulogne Fishwife, and the set piece, "Talking Toys." The former was ascribed to Miss C. Wetherall, and the latter to Miss Grace Scholefield, but they were dressed and sent by Mrs. F. Green, to whom a sincere apology is offered. The minute care bestowed on both deserved more accuracy on the part of the writer of the article, whose admiration of them was very great. By the way, Miss Scholefield (whose name will be seen in the list of prize winners) dressed 36 (not 24) small dolls, arranged in two groups. The second, called "The Days of Our Youth," which was erroneously classified with the home made toys, represented a children's party with a present-laden Christmas-tree, and Santa Claus standing by to distribute the gifts. Miss Sandbrook, who contributed a very successful set piece, was also credited with the dressing of a large doll as Grace Darling. I find, however, that this doll was really dressed by Miss Sanders. The forty-eight dolls credited to "Miss F. L. Wood" were, it appears, dressed by two sisters—Miss Eileen Woods having dressed three dozen, and Miss Kathleen Woods one dozen. Mrs. F. L. Woods, the mother of these young ladies, kindly writes that they hope to do better next Christmas, when they will have more leisure from their studies. Finally, I have to mention that the correct name of the generous donor of sweets (referred to in the article as Mrs. Baker) is Miss Elma Baker.

ART NOTES.

INTERNATIONAL ART INDECENCIES.

ONCE upon a time there was a misguided poet who wrote something to the effect that "Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty: that is all we know and all we need to know." If he had ever had the happiness of going to one of the exhibitions of the International Society he would have discovered that, in painting at any rate, such ideas are hopelessly out-of-date. At the risk of spoiling his metre he would have been compelled to change his lines to "The Hideous is True, Truth hideous; that is all we see and all we want to see." What is more—I judge entirely from certain paintings exhibited at the present show in the New Gallery—Truth is rather unpleasantly minded, with a distinct tendency towards the obscene. Of course, I am ready to frankly admit that it is only an old-fashioned prejudice, but I must confess that, personally, I have a predilection for a picture-show to which I can take my mother without feeling ashamed. And that is just what I should not like to do, so far as more than one of the pictures now at the New Gallery are concerned. For instance, there is a painting, by a distinguished foreign painter, which provides what is no doubt an absolutely correct insight into certain incidents in the lives of the very lowest strata of the *demi-monde*. It is frankly offensive in its suggestiveness: it is not even offensive in a clean-minded way. I shall be told, I suppose, that a prude like myself could find matter of offence in many of the most famous works by the most famous Old Masters, especially of Teutonic Schools. But this is an altogether different matter. Your old Dutchman was a full-blooded person—the offensive passages in his pictures are merely incidental and without set purpose. He laughed an open, rather coarse laugh; at least, he did not chuckle like a satyr. There is all the difference in the world between a painting of that sort, and one which gloats over the very seamiest incidents of the seamiest side of life. Which is the case with the picture I am now talking about—and not with that one alone.

What a lot of sins against decency the unhappy name of Art is made to cover! Let only a man call himself an artist, and he can produce and exhibit with impunity works of such a nature that, did a foreign bookseller in an obscure street somewhere near Piccadilly Circus deal in them, would probably bring down upon him the attention of the police. He can hang them in the most respectable of picture galleries, and the most respectable of British matrons and maidens will come and look at them there, and be ashamed to blush lest they should be sinning against the canons of High Art. Of course, it is natural enough in a way, just as the excesses of Charles II.'s time were natural enough as a revolt against Puritanism. It is not so very long ago that the British matron professed to be shocked at the very idea of a "nude." Gradually it was impressed upon her that her attitude was Pharisaical and Mrs. Grundyish, and now, by the natural process of evolution, we have come to the exact other extreme, so that the more offensive in

whatever way a picture is, so much the more are we expected to admire it. Of course, "internationalism" has helped the process. The average English painter has—or had—certain scruples as to what was permissible, perhaps because he found that the average English picture buyer drew the line somewhere. The pornographic painting is a peculiarly—and peculiar—foreign invention; any one who has attended the Paris Salons regularly knows that for himself. It dates back, I suppose, for its origin, in its present form at any rate, to the French Revolution, though it has travelled a long way since then. Your French painter felt that beauty in a picture represented a sort of discipline. "Voilà!" he cried, "l'ennemi!" So first he made his pictures merely hideous to mark his noble independence. Next he determined, still in his desire to express his defiance of old-fashioned conventions, to choose hideous subjects—murders, absinthe drunkards, the seven deadly sins, and so forth. Finally he arrived at the frankly objectionable, where he now rests rejoicing. Meanwhile the English painter had been told that he was insular, that England was a non-artistic island, that Paris was the one birth-place of the Fine Arts, new style. So, with a lively sense of humility, he proceeded to imitate the Frenchman. He makes his pictures intentionally hideous; he chooses unpleasant subjects; he only stops short of the frankly offensive, for the present, because he is at heart rather a decent-minded individual, but he will get there in time, especially when he sees notable examples thereof hung in the most fashionable picture galleries side by side with his own.

Is it good policy? I don't think so. I do not think that either from the artistic or the business point of view there is much to be said in its favour. You can find many arguments in support of the man who says: "I won't make my pictures 'pretty-pretty;' I will paint the truth as I see it, not caring a jot whether it is beautiful or not, so long as it is true." But when he definitely goes out of his way to make it hideous—when he chooses subjects alike physically and morally offensive—what is there artistic in such a proceeding? While, as to selling his pictures, does he imagine that one British picture buyer out of a thousand is going to purchase and hang up on his dining-room walls paintings that he dare not, for very shame, let his daughters look at? I don't think that even by calling upon the sacred name of Art you could make him do that. I am sure I hope not.

No doubt many very excellent people will regard me as a prude, a Pharisee, and a hypocrite for writing this. They will consider that I have no idea of the true meaning of the word art—they will contend that the artist must not be judged by the ordinary standards—that he must place his art before all else, and that if he believes it can find its truest expression in representing the frankly offensive he is more than justified in so doing. In that case, why prosecute the person who sells indecent literature, or improper picture-postcards? I cannot, for the life of me, see that the difference is anything but one of degree. Again, if he feels called upon to paint such pictures, let him do so by all means—but let him at least refrain from exhibiting them publicly in London galleries. Let him reserve them for the Paris Salon, where he will never have any lack of admirers, and, for all I know, of purchasers. I am not a believer in internationalism in art—so far, at least, as it is avoidable. But even if we find it necessary to take our ideals from abroad—as is, of course, more or less inevitable—that is no reason for becoming purely imitative — imitating the bad as well as the good—subject and technique—disguising our honest British limbs in all sorts of fantastical foreign trappings, assuming foreign leers and grins to mask the natural stolidity of our honest British rosy cheeks. I, for one—and I am not by any means alone in this—prefer my British painter to paint British paintings; and I do very much prefer to look at, say, a painting of a little girl fondling a puppy dog, however cheap and unintellectual its sentiment and execution, to one, however clever, of Parisian cocottes leering over their shoulders at unmentionable old gentlemen. Of course, it is only a matter of taste, and I may be wrong in this preference. But so it is.

It is a peculiarity about the present show at the New Gallery that so many of the paintings give evidence of—if I may say so, in all sincerity—ill-balanced minds. The majority of them, fortunately, are not offensive. But where they are not, quite a large proportion are, nevertheless, frankly "crankish." By which I mean that they have obviously been evolved only by minds whose one aim is to produce something original, something so eccentric as to impress itself upon the mind of the observer in preference to any other works which may be painted from the sane and common-sense point of view. Thus, there is one painting which hangs upon my memory, and in so far certainly effects the painter's purpose. It shows three figures in a field—two of them, a man and a woman, are represented as decent, sober individuals, very nicely dressed, rather prim in their general suggestion. Between them sits a nude woman, in an attitude of deep thought. She is not a dream or a vision, she is a very solid, moderately well-built young person, with nothing classical or ethereal about her. What the purpose of the picture is I do not pretend to understand, but there it is. I suppose, nay, I am sure, that it has some meaning; that the painter has taken his mission quite seriously; the whole is far too solemnly painted for there to be any suggestion of a joke about it. Will the painter sell it? I hope so, for his sake, but I should very much like to know what the purchaser will do with it when he gets it—unless, indeed, he be the president of some Simple Life Society.

Among all these "crank" pictures—not to speak of the offensive ones—there are, I should say, fifty, which appear to be intended as serious works of art. About two dozen strike me as being really worth seeing, and, if I could afford it, buying. Why the others were painted—still more, why they are hung—is, frankly, beyond me. Unless, indeed, a rumour has got about that some new Barnum has arisen who is making a collection of "artistic" freaks. If so, all I can say is, that he will have to sub-edit his collection carefully before he asks his friends to come and see it—unless he wishes his family to apply for a commission *de lunatico inquirendo*.

MUSIC.

WINTER OPERA AT COVENT GARDEN.

THANKS to the unexpected gift of the "extra" season of German opera which made a capital start at Covent Garden on Monday, the musical year has opened in an exceptionally auspicious style. It is early yet to speak in detail of the venture which has Herr van Dyck as its capable manager, but all the signs point to a successful season, and one of no ordinary interest from the artistic point of view. The operas which are being given include several, such as "Fidelio," "Der Freischütz," and Smetana's "Die Verkaufte Braut," which have been shamefully neglected in the ordinary way of late in London, while in other respects equal spirit and judgment have been displayed by those behind the undertaking. The performers, conductors, and so on, have necessarily been brought together from all quarters, but adequate rehearsal under competent direction has served to bring about an excellent *ensemble*, while the promoters seem to have spared no pains in other directions to ensure performances of the highest class and to offer the public good value for their money.

The engagement of Herr Nikisch as one of the conductors was of itself quite a master stroke as a means of giving *cachet* to the enterprise. Nor is Herr Nikisch the only notable conductor whose services have been engaged. We are also to enjoy the opportunity of gauging M. Ysaye's powers in this unwonted capacity (he has conducted once or twice before in London in the concert-room, but not in opera), and Herr Leopold Reichwein is a still greater stranger, who has already given a favourable taste of his quality. Then in other respects the venture has interesting features. The chorus,

for instance, including as it does some twenty students from the Berlin Hochschule, and a contingent from the London German Choral Society (whose conductor, Professor Max Laistner, is one of the chorus directors) has been chosen and trained with an amount of solicitude which it seldom gets in the case of opera in London, while the engagement of the London Symphony Orchestra *en bloc* is likewise an interesting point about the undertaking. Whether the venture will actually pay is, of course, a matter which cannot be determined in advance. It is quite likely, however, that, regarded as an ordinary commercial transaction, it will not do so, though this is not necessarily to imply that it will thereby have failed to realise the expectations of its promoters.

On the contrary, the present season is admittedly experimental. If, however, the support of the public is sufficiently encouraging to justify a second attempt next year, it is hoped then to reduce expenses in various ways, and by means of a longer season than that contemplated this year to produce better financial results than are anticipated now. Obviously, it is a matter of difficulty to get back the heavy expenses involved in bringing together a large company from the Continent in so short a period as four weeks. It is permissible to hope, too, that in future seasons it may be found possible to employ many more native singers than have been engaged for the present one. There seems no reason, indeed, why in time most of the performers should not be English-speaking, reinforced by just a few imported stars. This, as I recently ventured to point out, would not only encourage native talent, but help materially to reduce expenses. Also it would mean in most cases infinitely more agreeable voices than Germany is usually able to send us, and incidentally might pave the way for the more liberal employment of native artists in the grand season. We have plenty of ambitious singers who would be only too delighted to get up parts especially for a season of this kind, and the services of such might well be utilised. But this is for the future.

As regards Monday's opening performance, it could be heartily praised. "Die Meistersinger" has, no doubt, been sung more brilliantly at Covent Garden before, but for any relative shortcomings in this respect there was compensation in other ways. In particular, the true German atmosphere was secured, as, perhaps, it only can be by a Germany company. Many of the individual performers were excellent also. The Sachs of Herr Feinhals, in particular, was a very sound impersonation. If Herr Kraus is not the ideal Walther, he is hardly the first German tenor to whom the same criticism has been applied. Frln. Bosetti, on the other hand, made a charming Eva, whilst last, but by no means last, the orchestra was first-rate. To the London Symphony players and Herr Leopold Reichwein belonged, indeed, the chief honours of the evening. The reputation of the latter has evidently not belied him. If he hardly eclipsed memories of Richter, he proclaimed himself beyond doubt a master of his craft. For Tuesday, "Tristan und Isolde," under Nikisch, filled the bill; to-day (Wednesday) there is to be a matinée of "Lohengrin," with "Der Freischütz" in the evening, under Nikisch, who will conduct also "Der Fliegende Holländer" to-morrow, repetitions of "Die Meistersinger" and "Tristan" completing the programme of the opening week.

Concerts began again last week, and a busy time is promised in this respect in the near future. At the Chappell Ballad Concert on Saturday, the presence of M. Maurel and Herr Kreisler, in addition to Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Ben Davies, and others, served to attract an audience exceptionally large even for the "Ballads." It is certainly a sign of the times when ballad concerts are associated with artists of this order. M. Maurel scored, as usual, in his usual songs. M. de Pachmann gathered his admirers about him on the same afternoon at the Beehstein Hall, and when it is added that his programme was devoted exclusively to Chopin, it is unnecessary to say how rich was their reward. The Broadwood concert, on Thursday, was mainly a Brahms evening—the Harford Quartet being heard in the "Zigeunerweisen" and the first set of the "Liebeslieder Walzer," among other things, while Mr. Leonard Borwick played some piano solos in his usual finished style. Brahms's choral works, of which he left so many exquisite examples, have been sadly neglected in London hitherto, though one need not necessarily go so far as to say, with a recent writer, that he is destined eventually to live by these rather than by his instrumental compositions.

Sir A. C. Mackenzie on "Latest Phases of Music"—the subject of two lectures which he is to deliver at the Royal Institution on the afternoons of Saturday and Saturday week—should be both instructive and entertaining, for Sir Alexander has a pretty wit, which, if he could be induced to give it play on this occasion, would, I am sure, make for the gaiety of his hearers. Some years ago there appeared an amusing drawing in *Punch* representing a particularly scraggy steed whose owner was trying to dispose of him to a possible purchaser. "He's not without his points, you see," remarked the former, to which the latter replied with withering emphasis, as he scrutinised the animal's unattractive outlines: "Points! He seems made of 'em." In the same way one may say that modern music is certainly not lacking in phases. There is the Strauss phase, the Reger phase, the Debussy phase, the Elgar phase, to name only some of the most conspicuous. Sir Alexander, whether he approaches his subject from the grave or gay standpoint, will doubtless have that worth hearing to say concerning each and all.

A certain amount of comment has been called forth by the recent decision of Messrs. Chappell to adopt the system of fixed net prices in the case of all their publications. One correspondent writes indignantly to complain that for a song which he has hitherto bought for 1s. 4d. he now has to pay 1s. 6d., and others who have had the same experience have doubtless felt equally aggrieved. Messrs. Chappell make, however, a perfectly sound defence. They have resolved in other words to terminate the existing system whereby a song is published nominally at 2s. (or even 4s.) and sold at 1s. 4d., and to substitute instead the system of fixed net prices which has worked so well in the book trade. Everyone knows of the objections and inconveniences associated with the other arrangement, and Messrs. Chappell are to be congratulated on having decided to discontinue it. While in some cases it will mean a slight increase in the price to the public, in other instances—as in the case of vocal scores of popular operas—they will obtain substantial reductions, and in any event there can hardly be any doubt that the new system in the music business, as in the book world, will prove to the benefit of both buyers and sellers in the end. Now that Messrs. Chappell have led the way, other firms will doubtless follow suit.

Signorina Giulia Ravogli's many friends in this country will congratulate her heartily on the announcement of her engagement, and none the less so by reason of the fact that her future husband is an Englishman—to wit, the well-known surgeon, Mr. W. Harrison Cripps, F.R.C.S. Mr. Cripps is senior surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, vice-president of the Pathological Society, and the author of various works on surgical subjects. He is also chairman of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company. It is some years now since Signorina Ravogli has been heard at Covent Garden, but no one will need reminding of her triumphs there and elsewhere in the past.

Mr. P. Robinson (Rusholme, Manchester) sends me another letter on the subject of Handel's "borrowings" in which he develops further his ingenious theory that what the world at large has been disposed to regard as inexplicable plagiarisms may in reality have been designed as delicate compliments. I have no space for the whole letter, but the following extract will give a notion of the line of argument:—

> The first use of Graun is in "Alexander's Feast" (January, 1736), where Handel has adapted a fugue theme from the "Passion." And where does he use this theme? To illustrate

the newer school (divine Cecilia), as opposed to the older school (Timotheus), in which there is generally supposed to be a reference to Carissimi. The words with the Graun-Handel theme are "With nature's mother wit, and arts unknown before." This, again, therefore, looks uncommonly like a compliment to Graun and his admirers; and unless paid openly, by using a known work, it would be pointless.

Unfortunately for this theory, Handel utilised Graun's work not only in this instance, but also elsewhere, notably in the case of "Il Trionfo del Tempo," in which he reproduced, note for note and almost without alteration, two entire choruses of considerable length from the same work. Such attentions on his part are too flattering altogether to be reconciled with the compliment theory—even if it were in the least degree in keeping with Handel's character to deal in subtleties of this kind. The similar "compliments" which he paid to obscure composers long after they were dead, and therefore not in a position to appreciate them, also stands in the way of the acceptance of this rather desperate hypothesis.

It was, by the way, Professor Prout who was the means of bringing to light Handel's depredations in the case of Graun, and this in a curious way. The facts are all set out in Professor Sedley Taylor's interesting volume, "The Indebtedness of Handel," which has lately attracted such attention. It began by the late Rev. J. R. Lunn calling Dr. Prout's attention to the fact that one of Handel's choruses, "Ere to Dust," was substantially identical with one ascribed to Graun in "Latrobe's Collection of Sacred Music." Dr. Prout surmised at once that this was another instance of Handel's pilfering, but to prove it was another matter. Shortly afterwards, however, he was browsing among the Handel MSS. in the Fitzwilliam Library at Cambridge when he came, quite by accident, upon what had till then been regarded as the original drafts for the two choruses in question. With Mr. Lunn's discovery fresh in his mind, Dr. Prout perceived at once that they were not in the form in which they were eventually published by Handel, but in that of the two movements printed as Graun's in the Latrobe collection. Shortly afterwards, looking through a German second-hand music-seller's catalogue, he noticed that it announced for sale an old manuscript score of a "Passion" by Graun which, on being obtained, turned out to be the very work from which Handel had lifted his choruses, and thus placed the matter beyond dispute.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"Sidney Herbert, Lord Herbert of Lea: a Memoir by Lord Stanmore" (1) is certainly in many ways a belated biography, but no less certainly you might say of it, "better late than never." Besides, there are many revelations in it which apply to to-day's, and will apply to to-morrow's British statesmanship as pertinently as they did to our meddle-and-muddle mismanagement of affairs in peace and war fifty years ago. Indeed, I might go farther back and say that an apt motto for this memoir might be found in Burke's description of the statesmanship of his day:—

> Never have the servants of state looked at the whole of your complicated interests in one connected view. They have taken things by bits and scraps, some at one time, some at another, just as they pressed, without any sort of regard to their relations or dependencies. They never had any kind of system right or wrong; but only invented occasionally some miserable tale for the day, in order meanly to sneak out of difficulties into which they had proudly strutted.

To take the business with which Sidney Herbert's name is chiefly associated, and to which his early death is chiefly attributable (since it certainly broke down his strength in his journey and shortened his days)—the Crimean war—many revelations made in this memoir about that big blunder would stand *mutatis mutandis* for an inner history of the South African war. I wonder, by the way, what Sidney Herbert would have said if he had known that Russell of the *Times* had given a flattering and patriotic account of the behaviour of our forces in the assault on the Redan in that letter for which the Secretary for War thought he ought to have been lynched.

> I trust the army will lynch the *Times* correspondent when they read his letter of yesterday. I think it the most scandalous performance I ever read. He brings the most serious and disgraceful accusations against officers and men, who, under circumstances of desperate danger, were risking and laying down their lives.

As a matter of fact, the behaviour of our men at the Redan was put by Russell in the most favourable light possible. Just before taking up this memoir of Sidney Herbert I had laid down the reminiscences of an old Crimean officer, Colonel Robertson, who was heart-broken by the dastardly behaviour of our men at the Redan. Only a handful of men went on the forlorn hope, and these were left unsupported to be slaughtered. "No attempt was made to try a second attack, and the French were left to drive out the Russians single-handed." Next in interest to the disclosure made in these volumes of the inner history of the Crimean war comes the disclosure of the inner history of Gladstone's mind in his frank and affectionate letters to Sidney Herbert. Perhaps the most characteristic passage in these letters is that describing at once the main and the mixed motives inspiring Gladstone's speeches.

> We all believe we shall have to answer before the bar of God for our share in this Crimean war, as much as for any act of our private lives, and I am not able to answer for it on the principles on which it appears to be carried on. I still believe that the question of war is a question of right and wrong, just or unjust; that a great part of strength consists in justice, and that without justice strength is a curse. Now in my speeches I may have mixed up all kinds of follies with these principles, and so far as I have done this I am greatly to blame; but it seems to me that my censurers in the public press and in Parliament, do not admit the principles themselves, but support the war by reasoning of much the same kind as was held conclusive twenty years ago in favour of duelling.

As for the question which chiefly divided, though it failed to estrange Gladstone and Sidney Herbert—the Fortification Loan Bill—"that old common arbitrator, Time," has pronounced decisively in Gladstone's favour. Those fortifications, built at an enormous expense on the plea urged by Sidney Herbert that they would "remain to all time and be useful to many generations," are now seen to be as ludicrously ineffective as the Martello Towers that sentinel our coasts. It is creditable to the magnanimity of Gladstone, and of Sidney Herbert, that this political difference did not embitter their mutual personal relations. There are few more touching things in the memoir than the account Lord Stanmore gives of Gladstone watching from an adjoining house Sidney Herbert as he got into his carriage to be carried home to die, and followed him in a cab to the station to take a last glimpse of his dear old friend on the platform. He wished to see once more his dying friend—unseen himself—as Lady Herbert feared that emotion might precipitate the last few sands in life's glass. Every page of this most interesting memoir testifies to the truth of the epitome of his life as Sidney Herbert summed it up in his last words.

> Well, this is the end. I have had a life of great happiness; a short one, perhaps; but an active one. I have not done all I wished, but I have tried to do my best.

The one fault I have to find with the sweet, simple, old-fashioned, and otherwise altogether delightful "Andrew Goodfellow" (2) is the unnecessary sadness of its close. There was no reason, artistic or other, for the death at Trafalgar of the little lieutenant, except the wanton desire to surprise and harrow the reader by an unlooked-for and tragic close. For the rest, the story keeps the even tenor of its way along the cool sequestered

(1) "Sidney Herbert; Lord Herbert of Lea." A Memoir. By Lord Stanmore. With Portraits and Illustrations. 2 vols. (London: John Murray. 24s. net.)

(2) "Andrew Goodfellow." A Tale of 1805. By Helen H. Watson (Mrs. Herbert A. Watson). (London: Macmillan and Co. 6s.)

(3) "The Swimmers." By Edith S. Rorison. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(4) "Rhoda in Between." By E. R. Punshon. (London: John Lane. 6s.)

(5) "The Millmaster." By C. Holmes Cautley. (London: Edward Arnold. 6s.)

SAN REMO.—GRAND HOTEL ROYAL. The height of modern luxury. Standing in picturesque grounds overlooking sea. Auto. Garage. Officially certified sanitation.—M. BERTOLINI, Prop.

vale of life. The very villainy of the villain—his palming off upon the heroine as his own novels which his sister had written—is the reverse of melodramatic, and though the heroine turns out to be a Duke's daughter, his Grace and the Duchess are as unassuming as the rest of the characters. In a word, Mrs. Watson has written a simple, sweet, and wholesome first novel of much promise. In "The Swimmers" (3) you can hardly see the wood for the trees. The author's own personal experiences of a German boarding-school are convincingly, if tediously, described, but many of the later scenes, described though they also are with a dogged minuteness which sometimes exasperates you, do not strike you as drawn direct from life. Again and again you are reminded of Swift's description of the Scotch: "There are some people who think they sufficiently acquit themselves and entertain their company with relating facts of no consequence, not at all out of the road of such common incidents as happen every day, and this I have observed more frequently among the Scots than any other nation." Yet "The Swimmers" is unquestionably clever, if chaotic. There is nothing commonplace or uneventful, but, I might almost add, nothing strikingly lifelike either, about "Rhoda in Between" (4). If, however, its plot and incidents are far-fetched and melodramatic, your interest in the mystery of the story and in all its baffling windings is continuous and deep. Even Rhoda's fine character is occasionally sacrificed to the exigencies of the plot, since she would never have been so silly as to confirm all suspicions of an intrigue with Murray Randles by consenting to an engagement with that disreputable and repulsive sculptor. Indeed, all Rhoda's relations with Randles are improbable. Nevertheless, the story holds you firmly in its masterful grip from first to last. Speaking as an expert, I can say that the description in "The Millmaster" (5) of life and character (and the book is only a description of life and character in a manufacturing town, for there is next to no plot or story) is true to the very life. I seemed to live my old life of long ago over again as I read it, and to know personally all its scenes and characters. Even those who know nothing of the shrewd, rugged, keen, and kindly race the book describes so graphically ought to be grateful to Mr. Holmes Cautley for such an introduction to them.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

There is now an extraordinary awakening of interest in that strange genius, William Blake, if one may judge from the activity of the publishers. Books about the poet-artist, biographical and critical, reprints of his writings, and reproductions of his drawings, are appearing in considerable numbers. None is more welcome than the new edition of Alexander Gilchrist's classic "Life of William Blake," which Mr. John Lane has issued (price 18s. 6d. net). It has been edited by Mr. W. Graham Robertson, who has judiciously omitted the selections from Blake's writings which Gilchrist incorporated in his biography, but which are now accessible elsewhere. Nearly all the illustrations to this edition are new, including many examples of Blake's art which have not previously been reproduced. Another notable publication is "The Poetical Works of William Blake," edited and annotated by Mr. Edwin J. Ellis (Chatto and Windus, two vols., price 12s. net). It contains the whole of the poems, including the Prophetic Books, and Mr. Ellis's copious notes will be helpful to the student of Blake, though it would be going too far to say that he has succeeded in making clear all the obscurities that baffle the reader.

"The Flight of Marie Antoinette" is a translation from the French of M. G. Lenotre, published by Mr. Heinemann in a volume (price 10s. net) profusely illustrated with portraits of the principal persons engaged in that thrilling episode in the great drama of the Revolution. The story of the escape of the King and Queen, their pursuit, capture, and ignominious return to the Tuileries is related by M. Lenotre with the fullest details, evidently the result of painstaking and minute researches. At times, indeed, the details seem almost too full, but the narrative is, nevertheless, not lacking in vividness of effect, and it is supplemented by interesting biographical sketches of the leading actors in that "pickle-herring tragedy."

Gloomy in the extreme is "The Future of Russia," as predicted in the book of that title—a translation from the German of Dr. Rudolfe Martin—which has been published by Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. (price 7s. 6d. net). In his view the serious troubles that Russia is already experiencing will be enormously aggravated in the next few months, and the inevitable end will be the bankruptcy of the State. He contends, indeed, that bankruptcy would be unavoidable even without the revolution. Though it may be hoped that Dr. Martin is on this occasion too pessimistic—and the financial statement issued this week suggests that he is—he is able to point to the fact that some of his previous prophecies have been justified by the course of events in the Russian Empire.

An addition has been made to Messrs. Methuen's admirable series of Antiquary's Books by the publication of a volume on "The Domesday Inquest" (price 7s. 6d. net) from the pen of Mr. Adolphus Ballard. He gives a learned yet lucid exposition, not only of the object and methods of the inquisition ordered by William the Conqueror, but of the nature and significance of the mass of statistical and other information embodied in the Domesday Book, whereby so much valuable light is thrown on the economic condition of the country in that age, the various kinds of land tenure, the system of husbandry, and the state of the people. The volume has a number of illustrations from contemporary MSS. and the Bayeux tapestry.

In the Master Etchers' Series Messrs. Newnes have published "Etchings of William Strang, A.R.A." (7s. 6d. net.), a volume containing fifty excellent reproductions of plates by that clever artist. His title to a place among the master etchers is indisputable, and the varied examples of his work chosen for reproduction—including portraits, landscapes, Biblical pictures, and book illustrations—give a good idea of his power and his versatility. Mr. Frank Newbolt contributes to the volume an appreciative introduction.

An experiment in publishing which will be watched with the greatest interest is announced by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, namely, the issue of a number of new novels at the price of half-a-crown net each. The first of the series, "Israel Rank," by Roy Horniman, will be ready this week, and among other novels to be published during the next two or three months are "The Spanish Necklace," by Mrs. B. M. Croker, "The Ghost," by Arnold Bennett, "A Free Solitude," by Mrs. Alice Perrin, "The Obliging Husband," by Frank Barrett, and "Love will Venture In," by Amelia E. Barr. These novels, which have not previously appeared in book form, are of the recognised length of the ordinary six-shilling novel, and the volumes will be of the same quality as regards paper, print, and binding.

Mr. Fisher Unwin is issuing this week a third and popular edition of "The Heart of the Empire," a volume of essays on problems of modern city life by ten young Cambridge men, which attracted much attention when it first appeared in 1901. The writers include Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, Mr. P. W. Wilson, and Mr. G. P. Gooch, who have since become Members of Parliament.

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GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London, I feel sure, is the nicest place in the world to live in just now. It is warmer than the country, and we have had several sunny days of late. There are several picture shows, and now we have the opera house open again for Wagner and Weber. Curious conjunction! Jim describes it as brandy and milk.

On Saturday, at the Albert Hall, was held the fifteenth annual fête of the Young Helpers' League, established in 1892 by the late Dr. Barnardo, a voluntary union of young people, who, living in happy, comfortable homes themselves, do their best for sick, crippled and ailing children who belong to the needy classes. The League also helps the emigration department. The first president was the late dear and good Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, whose death in 1897 was a sad loss to the League. Our Queen is patron, and the Princess of Wales and Princess Christian are vice-presidents. The Duke of Somerset was in the chair on Saturday, and the Albert Hall was well filled. Mr. Baker, M.A., L.L.B., the hon. director, received a very enthusiastic welcome, his kind face lighting up in response. The boys and girls were very smart and prompt in carrying out the various items of the programme, and, better still, the young faces were all cheery and happy. Mr. Turvey, organist to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, was at the organ, and the Boys' Band of the Stepney Home performed under the conductorship of Mr. Henry Dunkerton, late bandmaster of the Scots Guards.

The Duchess of Somerset was with the Duke, and among others present were the Marchioness of Donegall, Lord Brassey, Lord Kinnaird, Lady Massy, Lady Agnes and Sir Robert Anderson, Canon Fleming, Mrs. Newberry, etc. The choir of 900 voices—the boys in sailor dress, the girls wearing white pinafores over their neat frocks—sang several songs, the most effective being Charles Mackay's "Old Tubal Cain," with anvil accompaniment. Do you know it? Tubal Cain grows low-spirited because the steel blades and other weapons that he turns out are used in war and carnage. So he sits and glooms, but all at once has a happy thought. He jumped up, made up his furnace, and "fashioned the first ploughshare." The children enjoyed the dramatic ring of the old song. Canon Fleming, chairman of the Council of the Young Helpers' League, gave a very clever recitation of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Bells," a fine lesson in elocution and the use of the voice for the youngsters. The small tradesmen of the Homes gave an exhibition of their arts and crafts, including baking, cooking, boot-making, brushmaking, carpentry and joinery, harness-making, mat-making, printing, tailoring, wood-chopping. There were also youthful blacksmiths, tinsmiths, and wheelwrights. What a contrast to the official training which, in one well-known instance, refusing to allow a boy of six to be sent to the Barnardo Homes, turned him out on the world at the age of sixteen with no training whatever but—you would never guess!—that of stocking darning.

The Duchess of Somerset received purses in aid of the funds of the League, and conferred awards, in the shape of badges and silver bars, upon companions and officers who have rendered distinguished service.

In "Sing a Song of Sixpence," four-and-twenty little boys stowed themselves away in an enormous pie dish, in the centre of the arena, and at the appropriate moment they hopped out one by one.

On the evening of the same day, Saturday, there was held at the Hotel Cecil a very pretty fancy dress ball for children in aid of the funds of the League of Mercy, under the immediate patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, Grand President and Lady Grand President of the League. This charming ball was the outcome of the dance organised two years ago by the two youngest vice-presidents of the League, Miss Irene Hentschel and Miss Doris Joel, which was such a success, and was got up for the Strand district. Last Saturday's ball was given by all the various districts joining forces, and was a gigantic success, about a thousand being present, half of them being children in fancy dress. There is every likelihood of its becoming an annual affair. The Hotel Cecil kindly gave the use of their beautiful Grand Victoria and Oak Halls. The cotillon arranged by Mrs. Henry Wordsworth was extremely pretty, the children forming two large rings, and eventually combining in one great ring, from which they danced out of the hall in what looked like an endless string of pretty children.

Prizes were given for the best dresses, and Dora Countess of Chesterfield kindly presented them to the winners, who were Miss Hentschel, as Rainbow, Miss Attwood as Wedding Bells, Baby Woolland as a Fairy, G. C. Ansell as The Last of the Dandies, A. Watson as an Indian, and A. Vickermann as an Incorrigible. Mr. Carl Hentschel looked after the arrangements in his own energetic and indefatigable manner.

Have you ever, when visiting Ireland, seen a field of flax in full bloom on a sunny summer day, when there are gentle breezes? You cannot imagine anything prettier. The stems are about 30 in. high, very light and slender, and are in a soft tone of pale green; on the top of each blooms a delicately petalled flower in a lovely tone of blue, half-way between forget-me-not and cornflower. You can imagine the beauty of this mingling of colours. It always made me think of Jean Ingelow's line, descriptive of a summer day:—

When blue and green are glad together.

The gentle swaying of the stems makes the two colours commingle in an enchanting way, delightful to the eye of the true colourist. The little flower is not of a very robust constitution. The petals soon fall, and then a seed-pod forms which, when given time to do so, produces quantities of what we call linseed ("lhin" is the Celtic name for flax), but when the flax is grown for the manufacture of linen, it is pulled up before the seed has had time to mature. After having been exposed to the air for a few days, the flax is laid in water, and during the fortnight that this process lasts the odious smell with which it fills the offended air is of a remarkably powerful character. The stranger from other lands, when he first perceives it, sniffs interrogatively, just the worst, and yet the most natural, thing he could do. The result is that he immediately protects his olfactory nerves in the best way he can. Some such dialogue as this takes place:

"What on earth is this horrible smell?"

Car-driver: "Shure, it's just the flax fermintin'. It's a powerful smell intirely, but there's no danger in it, glory be to God."

When it is being spread out afterwards on the field to dry, one pities the men and women at work on it, but after an hour or two they get accustomed to it. The soaking makes it easy to separate the straw from the fibre, which is done by bruising it between rollers and then suspending it through an opening in the top of a machine in which a horizontal shaft with wooden blades revolves at the rate of 250 times a minute. Parted from each other for ever are the fibre, flax, and the straw, now tow.

This is the beginning of our beautiful house-linen. Next comes the spinning it into yarn, done in immense mills, and after that the yarn is woven into the fabric itself. Finally comes the bleaching, when the linen is laid out in whole pieces on the green fields to be whitened by rain and sun and wind. These long strips of snowy whiteness on the green turf surprise the stranger. He

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thinks it some sort of top-dressing spread upon the land to fertilise it.

Belfast is the centre of the linen trade, and of this trade Messrs. Robinson and Cleaver are the hierarchs. They have made the name of Belfast known all over the world. In far west America, in the great Australian cities, and throughout the civilised parts of Africa, people know Belfast by the telegraphic name of the firm, which is "Linen, Belfast."

They give employment, in addition to their hundreds and hundreds of male employees, to great numbers of women, not only in their factory at Banbridge and their Belfast mills, but in the cottage homes of Ulster as well. The beautiful embroideries on table linen, sheets, pillow-slips, and handkerchiefs (I remember telling you of the exquisite embroideries they executed for the Queen of Spain's trousseau last year) are all done by peasant women, and their earnings make "a power of difference," as they would express it, in the comfort and happiness of their lives; that wonderful and inexpressible difference that exists between want and comfort. Hundreds of women of all ages are employed in working button-holes in shirts, cuffs, and collars, that branch alone costing very large sums to the firm.

In 1887 Robinson and Cleaver presented a Jubilee gift of two dozen d'oyleys to Queen Victoria, woven of the finest yarn ever put into a damask loom, and each bearing a woven representation of their splendid premises in Belfast. These d'oyleys in a fine casket were afterwards taken to Windsor Castle with other Jubilee gifts. I am pleased to say that I possess a facsimile of these unique d'oyleys. It lives in my dear tea-basket, and goes with me on all my travels. I remember spilling some tea on it when passing over the Arlberg in a snow-storm last February, but linen is a kindly stuff, and refuses to retain such simple (though unsightly) stains as these.

I thought of all this when sitting at the counter in the firm's palatial premises in Regent-street. As the sale had begun, the counter was thickly and closely fringed with darkly-garbed shoppers, contrasting with the pure white of the linen and damask on the counter. Such bargains, Amy, dear! I should love to show you my newly acquired store of linen sheets and pillow-slips, tablecloths, teacloths, and embroidered bedspreads. I have quite a greedy feeling of pleasure when I look at them. The only alloy is that they will have to be entrusted to the laundry, and before now I have had returned to me, instead of my beloved linen, discoloured and threadbare sheets that were in strong contrast with those they attempted to replace.

I find it a good plan to keep a copy of Robinson and Cleaver's list of necessary household linens pasted up on the inside of the linen-press door, and to keep the supply up to it by replacing at once all that is worn or lost in the wash. The cheap sales afford a good opportunity for doing this.

You will be glad to hear that Herbert sends a very encouraging account of the improvement in his wife's health since they have been at Wiesbaden. He thinks that she has benefited from the change of society and surroundings as much as from the baths. When they wrote to book rooms at the Nassau Hotel they feared that the place would be dull and deserted at this time of year, so that it was quite an agreeable surprise to find there a goodly number of visitors and no lack of amusements. Of course, the season at Wiesbaden really goes on all the year round.

Snapshotters should be a little merciful in choosing their moment, and editors ought to use some discrimination in publishing the result of their efforts. I have seen some cruel libels perpetrated in this way. A week or two since in one of our illustrated papers appeared a snapshot of one of our Royal princesses which, to say the least, it was most uncourtierlike to publish. It amounted, indeed, to a grave discourtesy. The Royal lady's handsome face could in no way be recognised in this picture. Instead of its clear outlines there was a kind of pale Christmas pudding represented. The figure in the picture was that of a dwarf, and one foot, put forward in the act of walking, was twice as large as the original, which is small and neat. Photographs play these tricks sometimes, especially when the person photographed is moving. But where is the editorial eye? Or if it happen to be all it ought to be, where is the editorial acumen? The readers of the paper, seeing such an atrocity as this, would immediately suspect the whole of the rest of the contents of a similar divergence from accuracy. There ought to be a Defence Association against the snapshotter. Nothing is sacred to him, not even the poor mourners at a funeral. The creature is there with his camera or kodak, and never dreams (or does he ever?) of sparing the victims at such a moment.

A clergyman sitting in the stalls of the St. James's Theatre the other evening cried "Hear! hear!" when Hilary Filmer cries, hotly indignant, speaking of the Ridgeley family: "Because they hug themselves with a belief in their own righteousness they are the more pernicious. The class to which these Ridgeleys belong brings everything that's good in the world—virtue, and charity, and religion—into odium and contempt. Its members, individually and collectively, are the pests of humanity." The "Hear! hear!" started by the clergyman went round the stalls, and I almost fear that I joined in. The very sight of such persons as the Ridgeleys, and the world is far too full of them, makes one wish to run to the other extreme and be as unconventional as they are precise and proper. This family, so cleverly sketched by Pinero, and depicted so perfectly on the boards of the St. James's, are the same class that figure in that splendid satire an the medium class in Galsworthy's "A Man of Property," a book that I am reading for the second time though it only came out last spring, I believe.

It was not the first time we had seen the play "His House in Order," and whenever we see it we long for a library like Filmer's. Such a glorious room for such a fearful prig of a man to have, while nice people like us have to be without anything of the kind. What an unjust world, Amy, dear! The lovely subdued glow of red in that room is one of the cleverest things I have seen in decoration. Do you not love colour when it is true and sweet? Minna says that the British are seldom colourists, and that the few gifts we have in that direction are smothered by a kind of puritanic fear of being sensuous. Minna is having her new house all done from designs of her own. The staircase and hall are beautiful, with a dado of golden tan lincrusta, a putty-coloured paper with a creamy pattern on it, and a frieze of soft turquoise with sulphur and tea roses rioting upon it. The woodwork is all creamy enamel, and the carpets are Indian, with deep cream-coloured ground, green borders, and oak and tan-coloured designs. The green border looks lovely with the pale blue frieze and roses, being just the shade of the young rose foliage. The picture moulding has a tiny rail which makes the roses look as if they were on a high terrace.

The wallpapers and friezes in the other rooms are equally lovely. There never was a time when wall-papers were at once so absolutely hideous and so exquisitely lovely.

I have received the following from Mona:—

MY DEAR MADGE,—"I told you so," may be very feminine, but though the cold snap did not last long, I really cannot help reminding you of my prediction that we should have an early winter. It was based, not, of course, on the abundance of berries—for that is due to the ripening of the wood in the previous year—but on the weather in autumn, heavy and con-

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tinuous rain then being almost invariably followed by early frost. You seem to think that, because Brada and I have taken up gardening as a business, we must now be having a bad time. Naturally, as we have not much glass, very little money is coming in at present, but we never expected it to do so. Spring and autumn are our busiest seasons for plants, while in summer we sell a good many cut flowers. Winter, however mild the weather may be, is not our harvest, but our time of preparation for it, and though snow may stop outdoor work, it has its compensations. In the first place, as seen here, it is wonderfully beautiful—the purest white in the world—and when it glistens in the sunlight on the black branches and boles of the trees, it turns our little home into a veritable fairyland. Even in the depth of winter I would not live in dirty, slushy London when the country is so exquisitely lovely. But that is not all. As the temperature of snow never falls below the freezing point, a good thick covering of it is the best protection that herbaceous perennials can have. That frost helps the gardener by destroying insects, however, I very much doubt. Those that had not accustomed themselves to our climate would long ago have been swept out of existence. Whether by hiding in crevices or rubbish heaps, or burying in the ground, or laying eggs which do not hatch until spring, they have all devised means by which they can carry their race unharmed through an English winter. Some of them, indeed, seem almost indifferent to temperature. The woolly aphis, for example, one of the worst pests of our orchards, has been observed actively at work while the thermometer registered eight or ten degrees of frost. Winter may reduce their numbers, but it does not help us much. We must help ourselves.

But it is only in the warm greenhouse or conservatory that insects cause any real trouble during the winter. Here everything is in their favour—the comparatively high temperature, the close atmosphere, and, unless the cultivation is perfect, the weak condition of the plants. The commonest of them are aphides, horrid little green things, which seem to do nothing but eat and multiply. It has been estimated that, if no check interfered with the rate of increase, the progeny of one aphis would in a single season outnumber the population of China. Fortunately, there are many checks in the form of bad weather, birds and insects which prey upon these pests, and so forth; but they are inoperative under glass, and unless we took precautions our greenhouses would soon contain nothing worth growing. Aphides have their favourite plants, such as Richardias or arum lilies, and cinerarias; but though it has been stated that they do not spread to others in a mixed collection—that they will even prefer starvation to change of food—that certainly is not my experience. At any rate, the safest plan on the first appearance of a greenfly is to vaporise the whole house. The old method of fumigation with tobacco paper has been almost entirely abandoned. It was nasty and evil-smelling, far more troublesome and less effective than vaporisation. All that is now necessary is to pour some liquid into a dish, light a lamp under it, and then leave the house, taking care that all apertures are closed. The best time to vaporise is a still, damp evening. If there is any wind, a certain amount of fresh air is certain to be forced into the house between the flaps of the glass, and this will in some degree neutralise the effects of the vapour. It is very rarely that even the most delicate foliage is injured, and then only if it has been allowed to get damp. If the work is properly done, not a single greenfly will be found alive in the morning, but it may have to be repeated a few days later.

The insects on your vine belong to a different class. They are a species of scale, and the difficulty of getting rid of them is increased by the fact that you have a large number of flowering plants in the same house. First of all, the vines should be pruned. All the side shoots or laterals should be cut back to a single bud, and if the rods have extended as far as space will allow, the leaders should be treated in the same way. If there is more room for their development they may be left rather longer, the number of buds depending on circumstances. Then each rod in turn should be unslung from the wires, and, by rubbing with the hands, all the loose bark should be removed. That done, it should be painted with a strong solution of soft soap in which a little black tobacco has been steeped, a soft brush being used for the purpose, so as not to damage the buds, for it is among the depressions in the spurs that the insects are likely to be found in the greatest numbers. It may also be necessary to paint the wires and the woodwork with the same solution. This will depend upon whether the attack is slight and recent, or whether it is really bad and of long duration. It is safer to do so. Finally, all the loose barks and prunings should be carefully swept up and burnt. If you have any hard-wooded plants, such as camellias and azaleas, in the house, they should be critically examined. If, as it is most likely, scale is also found on them, they should be painted in the same way as the vines, but in their case the solution should be washed off with clean water on the following day.

This is a bad winter for plants in unheated houses. If any of your Richardias should be slightly frozen, hang them upside down so as to keep the leaf stalks quite straight. The mischief is done when the thawing stalk, unable to support the leaf, gets a sharp bend or kink. This is prevented by hanging the plant upside down until it has recovered.—Your affectionate cousin,

MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—The next Bill to deal with the better government of Ireland may leave sentiment out of the question, for we are fast ceasing to be a sentimental people, and coming well into line with the most up-to-date and commercial of nations. Can any one doubt the fact when they learn of the important motor show which was held in Dublin last week, in the buildings and grounds of the Royal Dublin Society at Ball's Bridge? In the very stronghold of the horse, on the spot sacred to that highest of all horse festivals in Ireland—the world-renowned Horse Show! Only think of the want of delicacy of feeling in exhibiting, advertising, and, generally speaking, glorifying this great mechanical rival, on the horse's own ground—his very own for so many triumphant years. Does not the success of the exhibition, too, prove the want of sentimentality, or sensibility, all round? The horse enthusiasts had, however, the great consolation left to them that the motor cannot jump, as yet, nor can it legitimately, or legally, help man in the "killing" amusements so dear to him. Still one wonders what the future will bring; it brings so much and so quickly in these days. How will the horse and the motor hit it off together as time goes on? The motor has a whole world of development before it, and what more can the horse do than he has done and been doing for centuries? When he can develop no further and his usefulness declines will he hark back, as the neglected flowers do, to the original strain? Will he acquire stripes again, and go back into being as a zebra? The world will then, no doubt, be occupied with so many new things that it will not care. Aerial and underground and sea sports, and all sorts of unimagined or unimaginable amusements will have made mere earth pastimes seem uneventful and dull.

The motor exhibition was specially interesting to the ordinary individual, because it encouraged hopes that the motor may soon develop from its exclusiveness and come within reach of moderate incomes. Some day every one will have a motor, as everyone can have—only they do not care for it now—a bicycle. "Where shall we be then?" may well be said, when everyone can go everywhere, and no one need be where they are.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen's visit to Rome was of much interest over here, and showed the wideness of Lady Aberdeen's interests in all things, especially relating to the welfare of our sex. In her own way, she can only be compared for strenuousness with the strenuous President of America. Imagine being a leading member of a World's Federation of Women. Does it not sound immense! What prodigious possibilities such a federation suggests, supposing we were all to take a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether." The business of the "season" will soon engage Viceregal attention, and absorb it, too, very completely, for there is to be a great deal of business at Dublin Castle. Society is looking forward to many entertainments, some which are to have the added charm of novelty. The want of variety in amusements is a curious feature in the world that amuses itself; and, more curious still, the want of desire for it, as a rule. Our fickle nature makes us incline more to change over here, though many of us may have the more general taste for treating our amusements as hobbies and riding them with unflagging perseverance year after year.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryce took their departure from the

FIRE.—Merryweathers inspect and report on safeguarding buildings against fire and on means of escape to comply with the L.C.C. new regulations.—Write, 63, Long Acre, London, W.C.

"Gas can be used for warming purposes efficiently without prejudice to health."—*The Lancet*. A Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate should have a gas fire in their bedroom."

Chief Secretary's Lodge quietly and without any public farewells, but leaving behind them many friends amongst the limited number of those whose acquaintance they had had time to make. Dublin is filling fast; the "Courts" to be held on the last days of the month are expected to be very well attended. Motors bring the capital within easy reach of the neighbouring counties, especially for the enterprising, who, even in this heart of the winter, are courageous enough to do ball-going by motor. Lord and Lady Grenfell with their family have taken up their residence at the Royal Hospital, where they will give many dinners, as well as the big ball at the end of the month. The Lord Chancellor and Lady Walker are established at Pembroke House, near Merrion Square, and will entertain as usual during the season, Lady Walker being a hospitable and charming hostess. Lord and Lady O'Brien have returned from England to their residence, Airfield, at Donnybrook, a few miles distant from Dublin. Some miles further out on the same road is Mount Merrion, where Lord and Lady Pembroke are expected to reside for a little time this year. The house is unimportant, but there is a park with fine views over the Bay of Dublin and the capital itself. Lord Pembroke's property in Dublin and its neighbourhood is very valuable, but the Pembroke family are strangers in the country which gives them such a large income. Does not that sound as if it ought not to be? However, we can all know what other people should, or should not, do, so much better than we know what we ought to do ourselves. Would the world be more perfect, one wonders, supposing everyone was to manage everyone else's affairs?—Yours truly, CLARE.

I have just one nice recipe for you; try this ragout of pheasant à la Française:

Cut a picked and cleansed pheasant into neat joints, sautez the pieces in a stewpan with salad oil, chopped shallot, chopped mushrooms, and a tiny bouquet of herbs; when they have taken a golden colour, dust them with salt, pepper, flour, and pour in a glass of white wine, and sufficient good stock to cover it. When it boils add a blanched veal sweetbread, cut in dice, and the blanched, chopped liver of the bird; cover it closely and let it simmer for two hours. Then remove the grease, dress the pieces of bird on a fried croûte, and pour the sauce over it.

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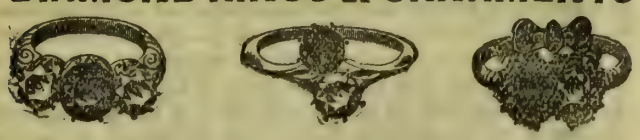

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F. C. ——, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.

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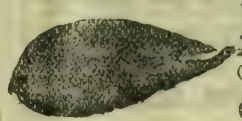

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THE

Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Co. Witwatersrand, Ltd.

JOHANNESBURG, *November 26, 1906.*

NOTICE is hereby given that at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of this Company, to be held at Johannesburg, the Directors will recommend the distribution to Shareholders, in such manner and form as may be determined at the said meeting, of a portion of its capital assets, consisting of certain three hundred thousand (300,000) Shares of the nominal value of £1 sterling each, being a portion of this Company's share holdings in its subsidiaries, on the basis of one Share for every ten (10) Shares of this Company, fractional parts of the distributed Shares being allowed for in cash at par.

It will be further recommended that the distribution be made amongst Shareholders of this Company registered December 31, 1906, and holders of shares not registered in their names are, therefore, invited to lodge same for registration on or before that date, in order to entitle them to participate in the proposed distribution in respect of such shares.

Holders of share warrants to bearer are also notified that they should lodge their warrants:

1. With Messrs. Carrington & Hutton, 30 & 31, St. Swithin's Lane, London, E.C.;

2. With their Paris correspondents, Messrs. Clark & Hattensaur, 46, Rue de Provence, Paris; or

3. At the Head Transfer Office, Robinson Buildings, Johannesburg: from the 2nd to the 15th January, 1907, both days inclusive, for the purpose of having their shares included in the Distribution Lists.

Forms of Lodgment may be had on application at the above offices.

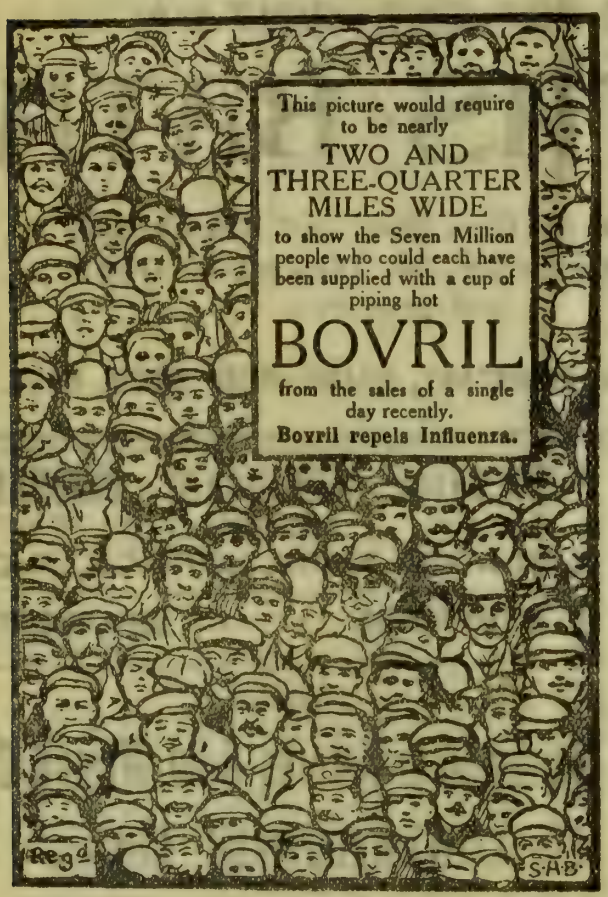
The Lists of Registered Shareholders, and of holders of Share Warrants to Bearer, will in due course be forwarded to the Head Office at Johannesburg, where the distribution will be made if the above proposal is confirmed, and in such case the Certificates for the distributed shares, and cheques for fractions of shares, will be sent out from there.

The date at which the distribution will be made will be subsequently announced by advertisement.

The Transfer Registers will be closed from the 1st to the 7th January, 1907, both days inclusive.

By order,
JAMES H. CROSBY,
Secretary.

IDRIS DRY GINGER ALE
AS SUPPLIED TO THE KING



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DR. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., NAMES A REMEDY FOR THE EVIL.

DR. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., writes:

"It has been said that 'we take our pleasures sadly.' Be that as it may, a large number of people take their pleasures at a rate which is positively alarming. They make a toil of life—dinners, routs, balls follow in quick succession, and the society lady of to-day and the man of the 'smart set' work very hard indeed in the pursuit of pleasure. Narcotics are taken to induce sleep after a round of gaieties, and this practice in itself entails a grave danger, that of taking increasing doses of, say, chloral or other soporific, a habit which can only result in ultimate physical breakdown. How much wiser would be the course of living at a less rapid rate, or at least fortifying the bodily powers day by day by the use of an effective and pleasant restorative! Sanatogen represents such an agent. Its use will tone the body, produce sleep in a natural manner, and render the individual better fitted to sustain fatigue. No lady should be without Sanatogen—a dose taken after dinner and again after the morning meal; or it may be added to tea or cocoa, and thus convert these beverages into veritable tonics. Sanatogen combines two distinct elements, one *tonic*, and the other *nutritive*. The tonic element is represented by a compound of phosphorus. It is the glycero-phosphate of sodium, and it represents the substance which actually forms a very important, if not the most important, constituent of our brain and nervous system.

"But Sanatogen also contains a food (casein) derived from fresh cow's milk, which performs the duty of building up the body and of giving to the muscles and other organs their needed nutriment. It is this combination of tonic and restoring properties which places Sanatogen in a unique position among modern preparations for the prevention and cure of disease. Its great merit is that it can be taken under all ordinary circumstances of life. It does not upset the system. Its action is of a thoroughly natural kind. It is easily assimilated.

"We live in an age in which the vital wear and tear are exercised to an intense degree. Competition in all grades of existence grows more severe year by year. We have much more nervous waste than was represented in our forefathers' case, and the strain on the nervous system increases daily. Now it is of no service to prescribe medicine by way of arming ourselves against weakness. Medicine is given to cure disease; it cannot build up the body, or impart strength and vigour. Suppose a preparation is found which—taken whenever the vital powers begin to flag—will restore them in as natural a fashion as if by taking food and drink, such an agent deserves to be welcomed by everybody. Now Sanatogen is truly to be regarded as a preparation of this kind. Let the overworked man give it a fair trial. It will restore his vigour, and, by strengthening him, give him literally a new lease of life.

"A modern danger threatening every class of society is that represented by the tendency to fly to alcoholic stimulants by way of counteracting the weakness and weariness incidental to overwork and fatigue. There can be no greater mistake. The overworked man who takes alcohol is simply spurring and whipping an overtired horse. I strongly advocate the use of Sanatogen as a substitute for alcohol. It will tone up the system in a natural fashion without danger of subsequent depression. A trial of Sanatogen under conditions in which alcohol is ordinarily taken will convince anyone of this fact."

Dr. Andrew Wilson finds many other virtues in this preparation, Sanatogen, and a fuller statement of his views is to be found in his interesting little book, entitled *The Art of Living*. Every person interested in knowing more about Sanatogen, and its remarkable influence on the health of those who use it, can obtain a copy of the book, free of charge, on writing to the Publishers, F. Williams & Co., 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C., and asking for a copy of Dr. Wilson's book mentioned in TRUTH. Sanatogen is sold in packets at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. 6d., and can be obtained from any chemist.

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,452.

ORIGINAL "LEARICS" ON THE WAR BETWEEN THE "TIMES" AND THE PUBLISHERS.

The Prize of Two Guineas in this Competition is awarded to Leaf Rule, whose "Learic," published in TRUTH of December 12, I print again herewith:

The spirit of Mr. Delane,
On visiting London again,
Would express his disgust
At the Library Trust,
And would think Mr. Hooper insane.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,453.

FIVE INSTANCES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY BETWEEN A.D. 1660 AND THE PRESENT DAY IN WHICH DISTINGUISHED PEERS HAVE TRANSMITTED THEIR ABILITIES TO THEIR ELDEST SONS; ALSO FIVE INSTANCES IN WHICH SUCH ABILITIES HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED BY DISTINGUISHED PEERS TO THEIR YOUNGER SONS.

Competitors in the above (for which, it will be remembered, a special Prize of Four Guineas was offered) are to be congratulated on the diligence of their research into the pages of English History.

I have had the greatest difficulty in adjudicating upon the lists sent in; but, on the whole, I have decided that those of KODON and OX SHORT are the best. The special Prize of Four Guineas will, therefore, be divided equally between those two Competitors.

KODON'S and OX SHORT'S lists were printed in TRUTH of December 19 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,454.

COUPLETS IN RHYMED VERSE, SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, THE KAISER, AND THE SULTAN OF TURKEY.

The four best sets of couplets sent in for this Competition are, in my opinion, so equal in merit that I cannot distinguish between them. I refer to those of JEAN QUI RIT, EBORACUM, TONY and THERSITES.

The Prize of Two Guineas is, therefore, divided equally between these four Competitors, whose verses were printed in TRUTH of December 26 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,460.

I remember seeing in some paper, now a good many years ago, an amusing farcical poem illustrative of the strange irregularities observable in the formation of the past tenses of English verbs. I don't remember the whole poem, and it would be too long to quote, *in extenso*, if I did. The following verse, however, will sufficiently indicate its general character:

The kiss he was dying to steal then he stole,
At the feet he was dying to kneel then he knole
And he said I feel better than ever I fole.

Now it strikes me that an interesting Puzzle may be got out of this idea by inviting Competitors to write short poems, of a farcical character, on similar lines; and therefore, this week, I am offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas for:

THE BEST SET OF NOT MORE THAN TWELVE RHYMED LINES, IN WHICH THE VAGARIES OF ENGLISH VERBS SHALL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO THE EXAMPLE QUOTED ABOVE.

The lines may be in any recognised metre, subject to the condition that every line must rhyme with at least one other line in the poem.

It is not essential that they should be topical. But, if they can be made so, why all the better.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor should send in more than one set of twelve, or less, lines.

(ii) All sets of lines must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, January 28, 1907, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRADLEY.—Your letter was duly received, and your name and address—as you will, doubtless, have seen—were published in last week's TRUTH. The Prize cheques are sent out periodically, and yours will reach you in due course.

BLOOMFIELD.—See reply to Bradley above.

ZUMERZET.—The misprint in your parody—for which many apologies—did not escape the editorial eye, and will be duly allowed for in the adjudication.

FOG.—Many thanks for your kindness in asking me to credit the Toy Fund with your share of Prize No. 1,442 (4s.), on behalf of yourself and your wife. I much appreciate your complimentary remarks.

TREBOR NITRAM.—I congratulate you on your excellent *rebus*. Unfortunately, however, it does not constitute a postal address, as required.

DANDY LION.—Your *nom-de-plume* duly noted.

COLLEGE ROAD.—I have complied with your request.

ASTER AND ACONITE.—Many thanks for your good wishes and kind remarks.

NEMO.—I think your obliging suggestion may be worth considering.

BELINSKA, ETWALL, DULLARD, EBORACUM, BEGINNER, THE PREBEND, DICK MAISCH, KODON, DAVY.—I regret to find that the rebuses sent in by these Competitors for Puzzle No. 1,457 cannot be set without special type, as they all contain letters *inside* other letters. I fear, therefore, that they must be disqualified by the conditions of the Competition.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,457.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

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His Honour A. G. Wise, Hong-Kong.—Redder.

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John Inwood, Congleton Street, Dublin. (John In Wood, C on glet on Street, Double in).—Difisel.

Nether
James B
Cork

James B. Low, Netherby, Bandon, Cork. (James below Nether by B, and on Cork.—Fresher.

Tom
Y
Bury

Tom Overy, Overbury.—Simplex.

E
J
PE
KNUTSFORD

J. B. E. Lowe, Over Peover, Knutsford.—Fidels.

land
J
S
T
Hants

John Sunderland, Overton, Hants. J on S under land over t on Hants.—Stonbrok.

Edward R
Manchester

Edward R after, turn the paper and read Manchester. Edward Rafter, Turn, Manchester.—Roughty.

Hill-road
Isaac
ton
Clifton

Isaac Overton, Underhill-road, Clifton Down,—Aster.

Arthur
ton
L
wyn

Arthur over ton, on l wyn, neath (beneath). Arthur Overton, Onelwyn, Neath.—Jasberrie.

Day × 2 & S
HALL
t
Park

Doubleday & Son, Great Hall, Upton Park.—Nemo.

Lady Day.

As there is only one Lady Day in existence, a letter addressed as above would arrive at its destination without delay.—Master Gunner.

Mrs. Yo
TA—TER
C
O

T. A. Lester, High Town, Mayo, Connaught.—Oiseau.

Mr. A. Binn, Cargo, 1, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.
Mr. A. Binning Lessing, Supercargo, 1, Bishopsgate-street, Without, London, E.C.—Creran.

Stanley
Terrace
Bridges

Stanley Head, 2, Middle Terrace, Three Bridges.—Blencathra.

Mr Richard John
Bere
Farm
Wott

Mr. Richard Littlejohn, Highbere Farm, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.—Ox Short.

II +

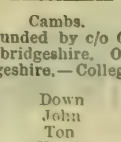
Mark Twain (two marks) the Crossover Markinch. The cross over a mark an inch in length.—Felixicus.

J
j
Head NDA SCo
CR & Sec 2 IR
IO

John Littlejohn, Head Overseer and Sec. to Iron-founders Co., Secunderabad, India. J on little j on Head over CR (seer) and Secretary to Ir-on-fo-under-S. Co. Sec-undera bad India (NDA is a decidedly bad India. Co. might be extended to mean Co. Ltd.—Co being company limited to two letters.—Wachtoe.

F JlongS
VI
A C
I E
HO
TON.

Fred Longinnis, Victoria Square, Overton.—Banjo.



Cambs.

C (Small), Surrounded by c/o O (Large), Central-Square, Over, Cambridgeshire. Over is a good-sized place for Cambridgeshire.—College Road.

Down
John
Ton
Hants

John Underdown, Overton, Hants.—Kotick.

Ton
D
Ton
D

D. Underton, Overton-on-Dee. Authority: A.B.C. Railway Guide. Seismic.

F
I
AMELIA
L
D
Bar
20 cwt.
(N)o.

Amelia Crossfield, Barton-on Humber.—Petriburgen.

J
t
DGVA
John Lyttleton, Gandavi, India.—Brad.

C : l l&
S
Rest H K
g g
Post = after, ante = before, as in p.m. and a.m. Colonel Sunderland, Poste Restante, Hong Kong. —Sterne.

B
MART
D
ONE TON STREET
COLLN
Martin Bond, Singleton-street, Lincoln.—Maran.

James Worth
D
Kent
James by Worth, D over Kent,—James Byworth, Dover, Kent.—Squeaker.

Hans
Bac
Lancs
Hans Down, Bacup, Lancashire. (Hans looks down, Bac looks up.—Canning.

Dean
Office box Cathedral
D Street
Walls
Subdean Overend, Pro-Cathedral box, Post Office, Dante Street, Wallsend.—Dromedary.

Wm
O
L
A
N
E
La nd
William Short, H[oughton Lane, H[endon, Sunderland.—Northlander.

AL—PORT
H ELITS
O
BURN
Miss Ellen Allport, 2, Little Turnstile, High Holborn. (Miss L in Allport, 2 little turn Stile, High O burn.—Caw.

taker
Ja d A
Bed d
LYKS
Henry A. Crossland, undertaker, Elland, Yks.—Lorna.

2,240 lb L Yorks
2,240 lb. = one ton, a single ton, *i.e.*, A. Singleton L (and) Yorks = Elland, Yorks. A. Singleton, Elland, Yorks.—Kelso.

J
LY L
SI D
COLLEGE EC.
(J on) LY on S, SI on COLLEGE, L on D on E.C. John Lyons, Sion College, London, E. C.—Sunny Jim.

Down
James
Herts.
James Underdown, Staudon, Herts.—Alpha.

IRESGUSSGUSLAND
Guiness', Dublin, Ireland. Gu in ss, double in Ireland.—Exeter.

Townjohn
Ash Far
John Townsend, Ashby, Forfar. Ash (before) Far.—Salt.

Thomas d
Kent
Thomas Little, Dover, Kent. (Thomas little d over Kent).—Martin.

Lea
1/. TITL
Strand Cromer
Bob Teasel, Underlea, Over Strand, By Cromer. —Qu'appelle.

O
☛ : el
BBBB
,nding CCCC
GmuAllR
To Colonel Norton Forbes, Commanding the Forces, Mullingar. (Nought on 4 B's.).—Prak.

Can
Potts
Hs
Road
buedrgh
Rose
Canon Potts, Aitchison Road, Roseneath, Edinburgh.—Upsilon.

Leather
down
Jack
please I
Jack Underdown, Leatherhead, If absent please forward.—Verbum Sat.

Hill
James well
iton
James Underhill, Offwell, Honiton.—Game B.

Myles
X
Mile
Myles Topping, Mile-end, Middlesex.—Beatrice.

Har
Percy
ton
Rams boro'
Percy Overton Hartopp, Ramsbottom, near Littleborough. —Juvenis.

J
esq
M
T
TMahrshe
J on small esq., M o'er t on in the Marsh = John Small, Esq., Moreton-in-the-Marsh.—Almaviva.

J
K
P
Chest
John Kay, Over Peover, Chester.—Allimac.

Glamorgs
J
J
John Jay, Neath, Glamorganshire, *i.e.*, J. on. J. (be)'neath Gl.—Anno Domini.

Simon
20 cwt.
more
Ashton
N Lancs.
W——E
S
Simon Overton, Littlemore, Ashton-under-Lyne, N. Lancashire.—Drusilla.

Lc BBBB
eet St.
Oio
U.S.
Elsie Forbes, 2, Little East-street, Ohio, United States.—Fog.

J
BB
T
Hants
John Beebee, Overton, Hants.—Rabbit-Keeper.

Gate
Sex
x
Mark Low, Highgate, Middlesex.—Aconite.

J
S S H
T
I
John Shafterson, High Fen, Overton, Eye. *i.e.*, J on SH after S on hyphen (High Fen) over T on I. —Crescendo.

J
J
ES
GR
SX
J on J on Es on GR SX. John Jones, Ongar, Essex.—Busy Bee.

S.W.
Mary St. John
John Follows, Mary-street, Neath, South Wales. —Laddie.

Cross
James
Bar
Southampton
James B. Lowcross, Above Bar, Southampton.— Aichdoubleu.

taker
A est
Lland
Y
Abe Forest, Undertaker, Llandovery.—Linolite.

Ma(e)n
1The
gar SX
Miss an e in man = Miss Annie Inman. 1The = The is close to 1 = 1 The Close. Gar = 1 The is on gar = Ongar. S.X. = Essex.—Wyandotte.

I i
Suffolk
Bigge and Small, Eye, Suffolk.—Emeritus.

:el. ford Young
House
High
Not old enough.
Colonel Stopford Young, Highdown House, Wantage.—Dandy Lion.

john John Small
seer Overseer
S mart t Martin St.
land Sunderland.
S Tips.

Tom :
ton B
Orkney Isles.
Tom Colon, Overton, Greatby, Orkney Isles.— Orea D. Iona.

Rebuses have also been received from :—Belinska, Etwall, Dullard, Eboracum, Beginner, The Prebend, Dick Maisch, Kodon, and Davy, who are referred to the P.E.'s remarks in Answers to Correspondents. I have also received Rebuses from Svonok, Bel Demonio, Notrutra, V. Knowles, Balmoral, Shandwick, Puck, and Crusoe, for which unfortunately I have no present space.

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President—H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

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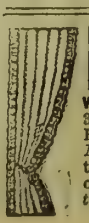
Bankers—Glyn, Mills, & Co. ; Lloyd's Bank, Limited.



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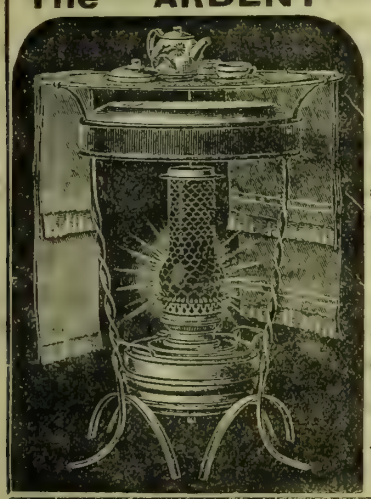

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

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An Index *to the* Sixtieth Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE King and Queen left Sandringham for the season on Monday, and they are now staying for a week or ten days at Windsor Castle, after which the Court will not be again in residence at Windsor until Ascot race week. On leaving Windsor the King is coming up to Buckingham Palace, and he will stay in town until his departure for Biarritz early in March. His Majesty is not expected to return to Sandringham until late in the autumn, but the Queen is going back next week, and it is rumoured that her Majesty will be accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife and their daughters. The Queen will come to town on Monday, February 11, for the meeting of Parliament, the two Courts, and other public engagements.

Their Majesties drove from Sandringham on Thursday afternoon to Holkham, the seat of Lord Leicester, where they stayed for over an hour. Holkham is a stately and well-arranged Palladian house, with a Corinthian portico, which was built from designs by Kent towards the close of the reign of George II. The principal rooms are very handsome, and the house contains a splendid gallery of pictures (including some of the best Claudes in existence), besides choice collections of ancient marbles and old drawings, and one of the finest libraries in England, which is rich in rare books, missals, and illuminated MSS. The park at Holkham, which is perfectly flat, comprises 3,200 acres, of which 1,000 acres are old woods. The lake is a mile long. The gardens and grounds are well laid out. Holkham, which is quite near the sea, is one of the best sporting estates in Great Britain, the pheasant, partridge, and wild-fowl shooting all being quite first rate.

The last circle of their Majesties' guests at Sandringham for the present winter consisted of Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll, Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley, Prince Arthur of Connaught, Lord and Lady Savile, Sir Charles Hardinge, Sir Allen Young, Bishop Taylor Smith (the Chaplain-General), Sir George Higginson, Sir Thomas Lipton, and Mr. Montagu Guest. There was pheasant shooting on two days last week, and partridge driving on one day, when, however, the King was out only in the morning. The Prince of Wales now has quite a large shoot of his own, apart from the King's estates, as H.R.H. has rented the extensive Hillington preserves, between Sandringham and Lynn, from Sir William Ffolkes.

Last year the ceremonial at the opening of Parliament was considerably curtailed in consequence of the Court mourning; the Queen was absent in Denmark, while the Prince and Princess of Wales were away in India. On February 12 there will be a full State ceremonial throughout, with an elaborate procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster and back. The Queen is to accompany the King in the State coach, and the Prince and Princess of Wales and all the other members of the Royal family who are in England will be present in the House of Lords to meet their Majesties.

Full-dress Parliamentary dinners will be given on Monday, February 11, by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Lord Ripon, Lord Lansdowne, Lord London-

derry, and Mr. Balfour. Lady Lansdowne will probably have a reception on that night at Lansdowne House.

The King and Queen will receive the Corps Diplomatique at the Court which is to be held at Buckingham Palace on Friday, February 22, so all the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission will attend, accompanied by their wives, secretaries, and Attachés. It is expected that there will be a large number of presentations from the Diplomatic Circle at the first Court.

The King was to have paid a visit during the winter to Lord and Lady Lansdowne at Bowood Park, Wiltshire. I understand that this visit has been postponed until next summer, when it will probably be a "week-end" affair, and his Majesty will be accompanied to Bowood by the Queen.

It has been settled that the Prince and Princess of Wales are to be the guests of Sir Lewis and Lady Beaumont at the Admiralty House, Mount Wise, when they visit Devonport next month to open the Keyham Extension Works. It was understood that the Prince and Princess would stay at Mount Edgcumbe, but it is probable that Lord and Lady Mount Edgcumbe will be in the South of Europe when the ceremony takes place on Thursday, February 21.

On that day, the Prince and Princess are to drive from the Admiralty House to the Royal William Victualling Yard, where they embark on board the Admiralty yacht *Vivid*, on which a hurricane deck is now being constructed for the occasion. The *Vivid* will steam up the Hamoaze and enter the tidal basin, whence she will pass through the lock entrance into the closed basin. The Prince of Wales is to lay a memorial stone, after which he will declare the works to be open. The order of the ceremonial will not be finally settled until after the return of Lord Tweedmouth from the Mediterranean.

It is probable that the coffin of King George of Hanover, which was deposited in the Royal vault at Windsor in June, 1878, will be removed shortly to Gmunden, in order that it may be placed next to that of Queen Marie in the new Guelph mausoleum in the Duke of Cumberland's park. If a reconciliation takes place between the Court of Berlin and the Duke of Cumberland it is quite likely that the coffins of King George and Queen Marie may ultimately be transferred to the old burial-place of the Royal family of Hanover at Herrenhausen.

Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein returned last week to Berlin after a three weeks' visit to Prince and Princess Christian at Cumberland Lodge. Prince Albert is the ultimate heir to the titles and estates of his cousin, the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Augustenburg, brother of the German Empress. The Duke, who is married to the only daughter of Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (grand-daughter of the King of the Belgians), has no children. This dukedom is endowed with a perpetual pension of about 300,000 marks a year, payable by the Prussian Government.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen return this week to Ireland and take up their residence at Dublin Castle for the "season," which begins next week. In consequence of the alterations in the Viceregal Court ceremonials, many changes have been necessary at the Castle in the State apartments. The household officials have also been kept very busy with the new arrangements consequent on the changed ceremonials. This late departure at Dublin Castle, where tradition was so long held unchangeable as the law of the Medes and Persians, has caused quite a flutter in Irish society. Dublin Castle turned progressive may well invite the alarmist exclamation of the ascendency party, "What next!"

The Chief Secretary's (Mr. Bryce) return to Ireland was unexpected. Were he to attend the Viceregal ceremonials next week the duty would devolve on him of bearing aloft the sword of state in the Viceregal processions. This pantomimic-looking weapon in its dressy scabbard is as heavy in hand and difficult to manage as the Government of which it is the symbol. When the Chief Secretary is not present on State occasions the sword of state is carried by the Under-Secretary. Sir Antony MacDonnell is an adept in wielding this formidable weapon, because of late years the Chief Secretaries have rarely been in Ireland during the Castle "seasons," and maybe for other reasons as well.

A great deal of vapourish nonsense has appeared in the papers about the appointment of Lord Breadalbane "to the important office of Keeper of the Privy Seal of Scotland," in the place of the late Lord Leven and Melville. As a matter of fact, this post is purely honorary, there being neither duties nor emoluments.

A paragraph is going round the papers which states that when the Duchess of Buccleuch resigns the office of Mistress of the Robes "a post of considerable importance will be placed in the gift of the Prime Minister." As a matter of fact, the Prime Minister has nothing whatever to do with the appointment to this post, as the places in the Household of a Queen Consort are not political, and are therefore in her Majesty's own personal gift. Lord Howe, who is Chamberlain to the Queen, is a Tory, and, by a curious coincidence, his grandfather held the same office in the Household of Queen Adelaide for several years.

For Special for Ladies, see page 243.
For Appeals, see page 242.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 239.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 238, 239,
For Amusements, see pages 234, 235.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 241, 242.

The Queen has lost one of her oldest English friends by the death of the Dowager Lady Morton, who was a Lady of the Bedchamber to her Majesty (when Princess of Wales) for thirty-eight years—from her marriage in March, 1863, until a few weeks after the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Lady Morton, who was a daughter of the first Earl of Durham, and a granddaughter (through her mother) of Earl Grey, the Minister, was married in 1853 to the twentieth Earl of Morton, whose first wife had been a daughter of Mr. Watson, of Saughton. Lord Morton died in 1884, and his widow had since lived principally at Dalmahoy, the family place near Edinburgh.

Sir James Fergusson was the head of an ancient and honoured Ayrshire family, and he owned an estate of over 20,000 acres in that county, Kilkerran Castle, his place near Maybole, being a large and handsome old house, beautifully situated on the banks of the Girvan. Sir James was the eldest son of the fifth Baronet, and his mother was a daughter of the celebrated David Boyle, a highly distinguished Scotch lawyer, who sat in the Court of Session for over forty years, during eleven of which he was Lord President and Lord Justice General. Boyle retired in 1852, full of indignation against the Tory leaders, as Lord Derby had refused him a peerage. He was offered a baronetcy, which he rejected with contempt.

Sir James, who was educated at Rugby under Tait, entered the Grenadier Guards on leaving Oxford, and he served throughout the Crimean War, and conspicuously distinguished himself on several occasions. During the war he was elected M.P. for Ayrshire, in the place of Colonel Blair, who was mortally wounded at Inkerman. Sir James lost his seat at the General Election of 1857, when the Palmerstonian Whigs carried all before them, but he regained it in 1859, and remained in Parliament until 1868, when he was appointed Governor of South Australia. Sir James was successively Under-Secretary for India and for the Home Department between 1866 and 1868, under Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli. He was transferred in 1873 to New Zealand, but resigned in 1875, and returned home, as he wanted to resume an active political career. Two attempts that he made to return to the House of Commons were, however, unsuccessful, and early in 1880 he was appointed Governor of Bombay, where he remained for four years. On returning to England, he was elected in November, 1885, for one of the divisions of Manchester, and he held his seat until the last General Election.

He was Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office from 1886 until 1891, when he became Postmaster-General, and his official career terminated with the fall of Lord Salisbury's second Administration in August, 1892. He was not included in the Government of 1895. Sir James was a man of strong common sense, with a remarkably sound judgment and a considerable capacity for practical business, but he was no orator, nor did he ever discover any special gifts as an administrator. He was eminently cautious, and the Walpolean maxim, *quieta non movere*, appeared to be for ever in his mind. Sir James was concerned closely with many important commercial undertakings. He was a keen sportsman of the old school, and very hospitable. Between 1856 and 1868 Sir James mixed a great deal in literary and artistic society, and in those days he was a constant habitué of the Garrick Club. His first wife was the younger daughter and co-heir of the celebrated Marquis of Dalhousie, one of the greatest of the Governors-General of India.

Sir James Fergusson was the elder brother of Sir Charles Dalrymple, who changed his name when a boy on succeeding to the large Hailes estates in the Lothians, which came to him from his great-grandfather, Sir David Dalrymple (Lord Hailes). Sir Charles sat in the House of Commons from 1868 until the last election, when he lost his seat for Ipswich.

The late Miss Agnes Clerke was one of the greatest of the select band of women astronomers. Her books on astronomy and her articles in scientific journals were recognised as of great value. The difficult questions arising out of spectroscopic observations of the stars had no keener student, and at meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society she was frequently to be seen surrounded by leading astronomers, genuinely keen to hear her opinion on some knotty point. Some years ago an attempt was made to admit ladies as Fellows of the Astronomical Society. When this failed, the Council adopted the plan of inviting certain ladies to attend the meetings, and of these Miss Clerke was the most prominent.

In noticing the death of Colonel Wenman Coke, last week, I omitted any reference to the fact that he was for many years a keen follower of hounds, and a prominent member of the Meynell Hunt. He was a fine rider. Colonel Coke inherited his hunting tastes from his father, the first Earl of Leicester ("Coke of Norfolk"), who was Master of the still flourishing West Norfolk country from 1772 until 1810.

The death of Lady Vyvyan is deeply and widely regretted in Cornwall. She was very kind and charitable, and was as generous to Nonconformists as to Church people. Lady Vyvyan, who was a daughter of Mr. Richard Bourchier, of Brook Lodge, Dorsetshire, was married in 1857 to the Rev. Sir Vyell Vyvyan, who succeeded to the ancient baronetcy and to the large family estates in 1879 on the death of his uncle, Sir Robert Vyvyan. The latter was for many years a very influential member of the House of Commons, and a leader

THE CARLTON HOTEL, PALL MALL, S.W.—1598 Gerrard. Famous for its beautiful Restaurant and Grill Room. Under the same Direction as the Ritz Hotel.

of the High Tories. He bitterly opposed the Catholic Emancipation policy of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel in 1829, and contributed largely to the fall of the Duke's Government in November, 1830.

Colonel Henry Donald Browne, who died the other day at Winchester, served for many years in the Rifle Brigade, and he distinguished himself in the Boer War of 1881. He was a very able man, and an immense favourite both in Service circles and in general society. His personality was remarkably attractive. He would have achieved one of the highest positions in the Army but for his poor health, which practically blighted his military career. He was a Groom-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria during the last six years of her late Majesty's reign, and was a *persona grata* at Court. He will be long remembered and regretted by a host of friends.

Mrs. Lyttelton, who died at Perrystone Court, Herefordshire, last week, after a very short illness, was the second daughter of the late Mr. George Clive, M.P. for Hereford, who was for many years Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office. She was the widow of Dr. Arthur Temple Lyttelton, a younger brother of Lord Cobham, who was the first Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, and afterwards Suffragan Bishop of Southampton. His early death is still much lamented in the Diocese of Winchester, where he was universally beloved and esteemed. Mrs. Lyttelton rendered most valuable assistance to her husband both at Cambridge and in Hampshire. She was a clever and highly accomplished woman, and a charming hostess. Her pleasant hospitalities at Selwyn Lodge are still remembered at Cambridge. Mrs. Lyttelton was an able and diligent critic, and she contributed largely to the *Guardian* for many years.

I suppose the idea of the French Government—and of its subjects—is that every French citizen should be *décoré* with some Order or other, which is really a very much more sensible way of meeting the needs of human nature than the American plan of merely envying the possessors of titles and buying them for your daughters when means permit. But certainly some of the steps taken by the French towards this worthy end are a little complicated. Take a shorthand-writer, for instance. We all know that he is a very deserving person indeed, though it might not occur to most of us to bestow upon him as the reward for his labours the Chevalier's cross of an Order of Chivalry. They do things differently in France, and accordingly six of the most prominent members of the French Institute of Stenography have just been so honoured. But it is in the choice of the Order that the Government has displayed to perfection the delicate tact for which our neighbours are famous. One of the lucky stenographists has become Commander, the other five Chevaliers of the Order of Agricultural Merit! Could there be a more charming way of acknowledging how largely the stenographer assists in cultivating the flowers of fancy and of rhetoric?

CHAPERONS HALF PRICE!

A Maiden's Remonstrance.

A club's been lately formed, I see,
  A dual-sex affair,
That youths to marriage drawn may be
  By meeting maidens there.

The "sub." a modest guinea is;
  So any girls who get
An eligible spouse for this
  Will have no cause to fret.

But what with wonder strikes me dumb
  Is why on earth they fix
The chaperons' sub. at half that sum—
  A paltry ten-and-six.

I know if *I* went there to meet
  A handsome, nice young man,
I'd vote duennas all to treat
  On *quite* another plan.

Yea, far from letting in thus cheap,
  I'd put, beyond a doubt,
A thumping tariff on, to keep
  These lynx-eyed dragons out.

I hope that I am not too late to offer the *Tribune* my humble congratulations on its first birthday. As the celebration occurred last week on the day when I was going to press, I was not aware of it in time to pay my respects earlier. When the *Tribune* first started I felt a doubt whether there was room for another penny paper on party lines; but the *Tribune* has, so far, proved that I was wrong, and I hope it may long live to do so. It certainly deserves success, for it has been most ably conducted, and neither money nor labour has been spared to put it at the top of its class of journals. I particularly admire it for the stand that it has made against objectionable advertisements of every class. A new journal cannot always afford to be particular about the advertisements it will accept; but the *Tribune* has set an example in this respect which some of its oldest contemporaries might imitate with advantage—except, of course, to their own pockets.

The annual report of Edinburgh University was issued last week, and it appears that during 1906 there were 3,199 students, including 463 women. Fifteen hundred were enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, 1,012 in the Faculty of Arts, 311 in the Faculty of Law, 292 in the Faculty of Science, and twenty-eight in the Faculty of Music. During the year there were 6,389 additions to the University library.

Principal Story had a wide reputation as a preacher, and he was certainly one of the ablest debaters in the General Assembly. It was often asserted that he would have achieved a great position if he had entered upon a political career. He had filled a large place in Scottish public life for quite forty years. He was always on the side of tolerance and liberal thought, and warmly supported the "innovations" of Principal Tulloch, Dr.

Norman Macleod, Dr. Robert Lee, and "A. K. H. B.," which were detestable in the eyes of old-fashioned Presbyterians. He was admired and beloved by all who knew him. Principal Story was minister of Rosneath for twenty-six years, during which period he was thrown much into the society of the late Duke of Argyll. He was appointed to the Chair of Church History in Glasgow University in 1886, and proved himself to be an admirable lecturer. In 1898 he succeeded Dr. Caird as Principal. He was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1894. He carried out important reforms in the University of Glasgow, which has made immense progress under his wise and enterprising guidance. He took a most active part in the affairs of the Church of Scotland, and exercised immense influence on its general management. The range of his intellectual interests was very wide, and at times he overflowed with wit and humour. He hated every kind of cant and humbug.

It is expected that a layman will be appointed Principal of Glasgow University, and at Edinburgh the names of Professor Jones, of Glasgow, and of Professor Lodge, of Edinburgh, are generally mentioned in connection with the vacancy. The office is worth £1,100 a year, with residence. The appointment of a clergyman would be disappointing and displeasing to Scotch Liberals.

I see that the Rev. J. Rogers, who has so often come under notice in these columns, particularly in the character of a clerical coach, has been advertising again recently. He is still at Cambridge, his latest address being 23, Orchard-street. He distributes a great deal of literature, including testimonials purporting to speak of his success as a coach, but most of it is very old stuff which has frequently been dealt with in these columns, and in view of his record I take the liberty of doubting Mr. Rogers's educational abilities not less than his qualifications to train desirable candidates for Holy Orders.

Another old acquaintance who has been recalled to my memory by a newspaper advertisement is Mr. E. Broughton-Rouse. He also is at Cambridge, and the other day he had a lucrative advowson for disposal, with a fine rectory and church and "no poverty." I suppose that "no poverty" applies to the parishioners, not the incumbent, and the way it is thrown in by the agent among the attractions of the property is decidedly instructive. I take it to mean no hard work, plenty of invitations to dinner, and little difficulty about raising money for "Church" purposes. One sees again how admirably our system of ecclesiastical patronage harmonises with the highest ideals of the priestly office. By the way, I am rather interested to see that Mr. Broughton-Rouse, whom I first knew as "the doyen of ecclesiastical agents," has gone back to that line of business. Has he relinquished the direction of the County Court department of Graves, of Sheffield, or does he combine the two, and sell advowsons on the credit system?

The rectory of Tiverton, which has become vacant by the death of Prebendary Scott, has been declined by Prebendary Burroughs, vicar of Plymouth, to whom it was offered by Lord Harrowby and the other trustees, who are the patrons. The living has now been offered to the Rev. W. H. Stone, vicar of St. Mary's, Kilburn. The net value of the rectory of Tiverton is about £800 a year, with residence.

The Primate has collated the Rev. H. Bickersteth Ottley, vicar of St. Mark's, South Norwood, and formerly vicar of Eastbourne, to an unendowed prebendal stall in Canterbury Cathedral. Mr. Ottley, who belongs to a well-known clerical family, has a great reputation as an organiser, administrator, and preacher, and he is supposed to be well in the running for a bishopric.

In the eye of the law the parish churchyard is the parson's freehold, and in past years I have dealt with not a few remarkable scandals arising from that fact. But until I read a statement just issued by the Rector and churchwardens of Cossington, Somerset, I had never heard of a case in which God's acre was practically regarded as the private property of the squire, a mere appurtenance of the manor-house. Judging from the statement in question this is the position of affairs which has long existed in Cossington. Mr. Broderip, the principal landowner in the parish, is the patron of the living and—following the practice of his predecessors—when he presented the living he obtained from the Rector a lease purporting to give him full authority and control over the churchyard. There seems to be little doubt that such a lease is bad in law. In Cossington, however, down to a recent date, nobody has ever ventured to dispute the legality of this singular arrangement, or to deny the squire's supposed right to do as he pleases with the parish churchyard.

It appears that the church and churchyard at Cossington form a kind of island (approached only by a narrow footpath) in the grounds of the Manor House, Mr. Broderip's residence, the churchyard being, in fact, surrounded on three sides by the garden and on the fourth by the wall of the kitchen garden and the house. The churchyard is unfenced, and, except in one spot where a single strand of wire has been placed, there is nothing whatever to mark the boundaries of the consecrated ground. That part which adjoins the house is, indeed, laid out as though it belonged to the garden in which it seems to be merged. At one point a bow window has been added to the house, which, it is alleged, is an encroachment on the consecrated ground. In another place a flight of steps constitutes an encroachment, and "recently a portion of the churchyard was taken into the carriage drive of the Manor House, but this has lately been restored." Mr. Broderip's assumed authority over the churchyard has furthermore been displayed by his prohibition of burials on the north side, which is

the nearest to his house. There is considerable vacant ground on that side, whereas the south side is already so crowded that nearly every fresh burial involves the disturbance of old graves.

This extraordinary state of things was at last brought to the knowledge of the Bishop of the diocese, and eventually the Rector and the churchwardens were directed to erect a fence round the churchyard and to see that proper use was made of the burial accommodation. On the strength of the above-mentioned lease, however, Mr. Broderip threatened them with an action for trespass and damages if any fence were set up. Various attempts to come to some friendly arrangement were unsuccessful, and, acting under the advice of the diocesan authorities, the Rector and churchwardens have now resolved to proceed with the erection of the fence, for which purpose, owing to the hostility of the squire, they have been obliged to appeal for subscriptions outside the parish. Cossington is evidently one of those villages in which the squire is all-powerful. Still, it is astonishing to learn in these days of a local magnate being permitted to become the lessee of the parish churchyard, and to treat the consecrated ground as though it constituted a part of his private demesne; and it is to be hoped that the action now being taken by the Rector and churchwardens will at last put an end to the scandal.

A burial scandal of a somewhat unusual kind is reported in the *Western Mail*. It occurred in connection with the funeral of a resident of Swansea, who had desired that his remains should be interred in a grave adjoining his wife's. This was arranged, but when the funeral party entered the graveyard an objection was raised to the use of the burial service of the church to which the deceased man belonged. The officiating cleric was informed that there would be no objection to the singing of a hymn or to a prayer, but that any reading from a book, unless it was a passage of scripture, would not be permitted. In these circumstances, the corpse was taken back to the roadway outside the burying ground, where the service was conducted.

Told in this way, it seems a fairly familiar story. In past years I have indeed commented upon scores of similar exhibitions of religious uncharitableness on the part of clergy of the Church of England. This particular incident is, however, rendered remarkable by the facts that the graveyard in question is attached to a Baptist chapel at Swansea, and that it was the minister of this chapel—the Rev. Mr. Harris—who forbade the reading of the burial service—that of the Roman Catholic Church. If an Anglican or Roman Catholic cleric had done anything of the kind I should have condemned his bigotry, and, to my mind, such bigotry is not less, but rather more, discreditable in a Baptist minister.

During the discussion of the Catholic trusts question it was suggested by one of my correspondents that much benefit might accrue to the Roman Catholic Church in England if it were to borrow from its Anglican neighbour the institution of churchwardens. I am interested to see that the same suggestion is now under discussion in the *Catholic Times*, and in Saturday's issue a writer stated that on the Continent lay churchwardens are to be found everywhere, and that it is the custom for them to have a quarterly conference with the priest on questions relating to the income and expenditure of the parish church, and for all their decisions to be read out to the congregation. After all that has come to light in the last twelve months one cannot help thinking that there is a useful opening for the extension of the Continental system to England.

By the way, in the same column of the *Catholic Times* there is a somewhat interesting passage at arms between two correspondents on the subject of episcopal interference with mission endowments. One of them had written some precious nonsense in defence of the diversion of such endowments from their founders' purposes, winding up with the amazing observation that in a missionary country like this the needs of the Church are frequently such that the Bishop "has practically no option but to divert most such endowments to the furtherance of higher and wider aims *that he feels sure must commend themselves to the enlightened mind of the testator—in the light of glory.*" The author of this inspired utterance is smitten hip and thigh by another correspondent, armed with a quotation from the Second Provincial Council of Westminster. I wonder whether any bishop who has used mission endowments "as a financial basis" for wholesale gambling in speculative stocks seriously persuaded himself that his operations must "commend themselves to the enlightened mind of the testator—in the light of glory!"

In an advertisement in the Catholic Press, the Rev. Edward St. John asks for support for the Southwark Catholic Rescue Society, on the ground that it provides youthful offenders "with clothes, food, and a start in a country *where there is no Free Trade.*" Presumably his Reverence is a Tariff Reformer. But does the society which he represents desire to depend upon the charity of Tariff Reformers only? If not, this silly and unnecessary allusion to the fiscal question would be better omitted from the appeal.

By an oversight, which I much regret, the name of Mrs. E. C. Combe, of Donaghcloney House, Donaghcloney, County Down, was omitted from the list of prize winners in connection with the TRUTH Doll Show which I published last week. This lady kindly dressed 200 small dolls which occupied a prominent position at the Show at the Albert Hall, and it was fully intended that she should receive a prize. Mrs. Combe's position in the list would have been sixth, and I have therefore decided to award her an extra prize.

I have to acknowledge the following contributions towards the Toy Fund:—Tangku, 1s.; Sponge, 1s.; A Well Wisher, India, 10s.; Col. W. F. Perry, 12s.; The Eastern Telegraph Mess, Suez, £1; A. C. E., £2 16s.

Some ludicrous nonsense was talked in the papers, even in papers which ought to know better, when it was announced that the Secretary of State for War had given formal notice of objection to the Channel Tunnel Bill. Even a leader-writer on a daily paper might be expected to know that such a notice is the only way of obtaining a *locus standi* to be heard on a private Bill, and no one in his senses would suppose that this particular Bill will be passed without the War Office having any say upon it. Very possibly the War Office evidence will be against the Bill, but at present the case cannot well have been prepared; and to infer that the official notice of the Secretary of State implies that the Government, or even Mr. Haldane personally, have already decided to oppose the Bill is childish. The wish was evidently father to the thought.

Of course, the Government, if it considers that there is any doubt about military danger from the construction of a tunnel, must decide on the side of safety. In any case, it is the duty of the Government to see that all possible precautions necessary to eliminate such danger are taken, both in the design of the work, and in its subsequent control and management. There are two conditions which I would certainly insist upon: (1) The Company constructing the tunnel should be required to pay for all works of defence in connection with it, and all arrangements for rendering it impassable for hostile purposes. (2) The military authorities should be the sole judges under what circumstances it should be rendered impassable, and if it were so rendered the Company should have no right to indemnity if it were demolished or damaged for military reasons. These conditions would only be reasonable. Within a certain radius of a fortress in France (and probably the same rule exists in other countries) people are allowed to build houses, but if the fortress is likely to be attacked, such houses may be levelled to the ground without any compensation being granted to the owners. Under this law, a vast number of houses were destroyed round Paris so soon as the possibility of a siege became apparent.

We are often told that we must be supreme on the high seas in order to save us from being starved into surrender in time of war. I have never thought that the danger is a real one, unless we were not only vanquished at sea, but at war with all the Great Powers. We and other nations have subscribed to the doctrine of free ships, free goods. A neutral ship, therefore, may enter our ports in time of war without risk of capture, unless the other belligerent had blockaded all our ports and the vessel attempted to run the blockade. For an enemy to attempt to starve us out by seizing on the high seas neutral vessels containing provisions bound for our ports would, therefore, be resented by neutrals, and might convert one or more of them into our allies. Assuming, however, that this danger, of which so much is heard, is really worth consideration, then obviously a tunnel or tunnels would be of the greatest advantage to us, provided that we were at war with any Power other than France. No other enemy could "starve us out" while the tunnel existed, except by invading Kent and holding the railway, or by going to war with France and occupying the French end of the tunnel.

GENERAL SIR FATHEAD FRIGHTEM ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

I met Sir Fathead at the club;
We talked about the Channel Tunnel,
Which he, in lurid phrase, did dub
The devil's something, something funnel.

"Now, tell, Sir Fathead, pray," said I,
"What ails you at this Channel Tunnel,
That the poor thing you thus decry,
As Satan's something something funnel?"

He smiled, superior, in his scorn,
As though he deemed my question foolish—
A smile I've often noticed worn
By those who hold opinions mulish—

Then said: "Gad, sir, you're very green!
Why, can't you see it spells perdition,
Thus to destroy what's always been
Our safeguard—insular position?

"Suppose the French to raid our land
Should wish (a likely case I'm puttin'),
There's your d—d tunnel right at hand
To help them get, and keep, their foot in.

"What easier than for them to send,
Say, fifty thousand tunics blue, sir,
By train, to seize and hold our end,
While all their army's getting through, sir?"

"'Easy?'" I cried, "Sir Fathead?—No!
For, sure, the trainload first of blue men
Would give away the blessed show,
And we should promptly squelch those few men."

Lofty contempt his face expressed;
"They wouldn't came *as troops*—those trickers;
As onion-sellers they'd be dressed,
Or else, perhaps, as strawberry-pickers."

"But, sir," said I, "if that be true—
Excuse my mentioning these trifles—
What harm could those poor beggars do
Without their bayonets or their rifles?

"And anyhow, the mines, the fort,
Arranged our exit for defending,
Would cut such raiders precious short,
And bring them to a sudden ending."

Sir Fathead at my words grew red,
Till blazed his face one deep vermilion.
"Pooh! *You* can't gauge these things," he said,
"You're nothing but a damned civilian."

It would save me a vast amount of trouble, and, I think, remove one of the greatest objections to service in the regular army if the War Office would lay down some definite and immutable rules as to the term of foreign service which every soldier should be called upon to perform. There is no matter which creates more dissatisfaction, and the worst of it is that it is felt most by men who have served for long periods,

and who are on the eve of quitting the Service. I have before me particulars of the service of ten men of 66 Company, R.G.A., who have just been ordered to proceed to Bermuda from Jamaica. The senior of them went abroad in 1895, two others in 1897, and the remainder in 1898. They are all, therefore, doing from their ninth to their twelfth year of continuous foreign service. They have all been to Bermuda before, having served two and a half years there on returning from South Africa, and it is easy to understand the sensations with which they learn that after a long spell in the West Indies they are to be sent back to Bermuda again.

Our regular army is essentially a foreign service army; everybody must recognise that. But at least half of it is always stationed in the United Kingdom, and we are to keep here, according to the latest arrangement, an expeditionary force 150,000 strong, ready to go anywhere and do anything at a moment's notice. That being so, I cannot understand what necessity there is for keeping men continually abroad for more than seven years; on the contrary, if men extend their service with the colours, I should have thought that there is a double reason for allowing them to come home—first, that this arrangement will induce them to extend their service, and, secondly, that seasoned and well-trained soldiers are a desirable ingredient of the aforesaid "expeditionary force." There are a certain number of men who like foreign service, but they are a small minority, and the foreign service which they like is chiefly that in India. I do not suppose the man has ever been found who liked service in Bermuda, and when he has already done two and a half years there it is not clear on what principle he should be sent back a second time in preference to somebody else who has not had that pleasing and valuable experience. It will take a great deal to convince me that it is impossible to arrange that every man shall have a right to come home after seven years abroad, and to carry out the arrangement without any additional cost to the country.

A curious arrangement on the part of the War Office was disclosed in a case at Wiltshire Assizes last week, when three men were prosecuted for stealing a large quantity of brass and copper belonging to Mr. W. T. Whitmarsh, of Netheravon. It seems that for a payment of £20 a year the War Office leases to Mr. Whitmarsh the exclusive privilege of collecting spent shells on Salisbury Plain, while he also gets a reward for the discovery of any live shells. Besides the iron case, each shell has a brass or aluminium top and a copper band, and this metal, which in the case of all the spent shells becomes the property of Mr. Whitmarsh, is, of course, of considerable value. What quantity of metal is thus obtained in the course of a year was not mentioned at the trial, but seeing that from 10,000 to 15,000 shells are fired during the artillery practices, and that about half of them are recovered by Mr. Whitmarsh (the other half are buried, and he is prohibited from digging for them), it may reasonably be concluded that he makes a good thing out of this concession. Nobody can blame him for doing so. But why in the name of the taxpayers should such a lease be granted? The War Office might surely undertake the collection of the shells itself.

One day last month a sergeant and a bombardier of the R.G.A. went, in the middle of the day, to a restaurant at Rangoon kept by one Chiesa—it seems that even in Burma the Briton enjoys the advantage of being catered for by Italian restaurateurs. The two soldiers ordered their meal and proceeded upstairs, where there were about a dozen tables, only one of which was occupied. When they had taken their seats a waiter told them that they must go downstairs to a private room. They asked to see the proprietor, but only got a message from him that if they did not like it they could go. They naturally went. These incidents are not only regrettable from the point of view of the men concerned, but from that of the Army, and the public. My view is that licensed victuallers should be precluded by their licences from treating soldiers in this way; and in Indian or colonial garrison towns, where the military element is much more powerful than it is at home, I cannot understand why this is not done.

The naval gunnery results for 1906, which have just been officially issued, are highly creditable to the Service, and very comforting to us gentlemen of England who sit at home at ease. They show what great things may be done by keenness coupled with a little extra attention to business. The previous year produced "record" figures in all directions, but 1906 throws them into the shade individually and collectively. The highest average for any squadron in 1905 was 157. This time only four squadrons come out below that figure, while four are actually above 200. And when one sees that the average of the Second Cruiser Squadron, which comes out at the top of the list, has been lifted in one year from 54 to 264, it seems reasonable to expect further improvement in future—not perhaps at the top of the scale, but certainly lower down.

After the naval events which ended in the battle of Tsushima, it was borne in upon a good many people, whose intellects only work when set in motion by object lessons, that the human element in naval warfare still counts, as it always has done since history was written, for a good deal more than the numbers and size of ships and weapons. Unless our intellects have by this time ceased once more to work, we shall be deeply impressed by these gunnery figures. The plain truth is that they represent an enormous increase in the fighting strength of the Navy—far more than could

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

have been added to it by two or three years' shipbuilding, and the expenditure of several millions under that head. When the shooting of one squadron has been improved to the extent of the difference between the figures 54 and 264, it may be safely said that its efficiency in action has been more than doubled. For firing at any long range the result is the same as if the squadron carried five guns where it previously carried one—with the additional advantage that the expenditure of ammunition remains no higher than before. And if we look back two years, we find that something like this result has been accomplished throughout the whole of our fleet in European waters. I recommend nervous people to bear this in mind when they read in the *Standard*, or wherever it may be, of the awful havoc which the present Board of Admiralty is working, and the disastrous results with which we are threatened by attempts to run the Navy "on the cheap."

Of all the humbugs that we are cursed with I take the professional naval alarmist to be the most pestilent. Smuggled away in a corner of one of the Jingo newspapers the other day, I came across an illuminating paragraph describing the "paralysis" which has fallen on all the foreign ship-building yards owing to the launch of the *Dreadnought*. The substance of it was that the foreign yards have never been so inactive as they are at the present moment, the laying down of new battleships having been practically suspended until adequate information about the *Dreadnought* and her trials is available, and until foreign designers have been able to make up their minds what they will do in the same direction.

These statements applied specially to Germany. Yet a few months previously we were told with equal confidence that the Germans were starting on a fleet of *Dreadnoughts* by comparison with which our prize ship would be an impotent anachronism; and when the number of new *Dreadnoughts* that we had in contemplation was cut down, there was a howl of indignation from certain quarters, and the precise date at which Germany would have five of these terrible monsters to our three was confidently announced. After these bogeys have walked abroad for a few months and scared all the old women among us out of their wits, the discovery is made that not even the design of a German *Dreadnought* has yet been settled! So I suppose for the present if we want to enjoy a good creepy sensation we must fall back upon some of the familiar tables which show what a formidable fleet the Germans will have in 1917, or 1957, or whatever the date may be.

Heaven forbid that I should believe, or induce any one else to believe, that the Admiralty is above criticism or never makes mistakes. But let us have criticism founded on knowledge, common sense, and an intelligent perception of the possibilities of the future, no crazy prophecies begotten of stupidity and ignorance—which is a fair description of the writings of most of the leading amateur experts in this line of journalism. Their only effect is to confuse the civilian mind and create an irrational sense of insecurity, which is the chief predisposing cause of the equally irrational expenditure of money.

The last TRUTH article on the canteen question in the Navy has brought me a long letter from the other side of the world, the writer being an officer who has evidently given much thought to the subject. The substance of his argument is that no system of Government victualling in the place of the canteen will ever satisfy the men, partly because they have a fancy for a variety of provisions, particularly of the "canned" description, which the Government will hardly be able to gratify completely, partly because the canteen supplies a great many articles besides provisions, serving practically as a general shop. It is also suggested that the more the business is placed in Government hands, the more certain the men are to grumble, owing to their inherent suspicion that those in authority over them are always endeavouring to swindle them in one way or another—a suspicion by no means confined to bluejackets. As between the ship's canteen and the tenant canteen, my correspondent thinks that there is not much to choose in point of results, each having its advantages and disadvantages; but he objects to the idea of a tenant system regulated by a Government control over all contracts, on the ground that this will involve a heavy expenditure on an office and staff. I really cannot see why it should.

The following remarks are, I think, worth quoting:—

> The point to which most attention should be directed is the question of cooks and cooking. Better trained cooks, and larger galleys must be provided. If this were done a great deal of the present trouble in regard to victualling would vanish. The galley space is at present so limited that dinners to be eaten at 12 have to be cooked at 9.30 in many ships, and kept warm in the interval. No wonder that the food is not always palatable. Next, something answering to the pantry on shore is urgently needed, where food can be stored from one meal to another. At present there is no such place, and, for want of it, food has to be thrown overboard.
>
> Apparently the great obstacle in the way of these improvements is the construction department. They reply to all demands that there is no room available, and when naval men offer to show them where room can be found, they are informed that this is not their business, they have only to live in the ships when built, and, if convenient, they must put up with them. It is to be hoped that the Committee now at work will find out some way, not of putting an end to grumbling, for that is impossible, but of leaving no reasonable cause for it; but so long as they do not devise some better system of cooking and serving meals, their labours are not likely to lead to any very satisfactory result.

These last points have frequently been dealt with in TRUTH, and many of my readers will remember the astonishing facts that have been given from time to time with regard to the amount of food that is wasted simply because there is no place on board where it can be stored between meals. Unless things have been radically changed in this respect during the last year or two, which, judging from the above letter, does not seem to

be the case, it is quite certain that better arrangements in this direction would work a most useful change in the feeding of the Navy, and greatly reduce the amount which the men have to spend on food out of their own pockets.

The argument that space cannot be found for storing food between meals seems to me nonsense. We all know that space must be economised on board ship, but to contend that space is saved by a system which involves the waste of provisions by the ton in the course of a cruise of a few weeks is obviously absurd, for waste necessarily implies that the quantity stored in the first instance must be increased in proportion. It is equally absurd to suggest that on a warship of anything from 10,000 to 20,000 tons space cannot be provided for kitchens and pantries in the same proportion as on a passenger ship of the same size carrying far more people, and catering for them in a vastly more luxurious style; and every advance made in the size of battleships and cruisers increases this absurdity.

An experienced traveller wrote to me the other day on the frequency of robberies of passengers on board ships when on the eve of sailing, mentioning at the same time many of the tricks by which they are effected. Those who have travelled much by ocean-going steamers are pretty well aware of these tricks, but to the majority of mankind an ocean voyage is a very rare experience, and it is on this fact that swindlers trade. At some ports the shipping companies, recognising this state of things, take adequate precautions for the policing of their ships in port, but certainly not in all. Among other experiences, my correspondent relates that the other day a plausible stranger appeared in the smoking-room of a P. and O. steamer at Marseilles, and endeavoured to obtain change for a £10 note, in order to pay charges on his baggage. Failing in this, he obtained a loan of £3 10s. from another passenger in the smoking-room, and, of course, was no more seen. I hope no reader of Truth will ever advance £3 10s. to a plausible stranger, either on board ship or elsewhere, but the perpetration of these swindles ought to be more difficult than it is.

The Calcutta municipality is being severely criticised for permitting the existence on the Maidan and elsewhere of a large number of death-traps in the shape of open tanks or cesspools, ten or a dozen feet deep in liquid filth. The tanks are not fenced or lighted, and in the darkness they are a constant danger to pedestrians, especially new comers unacquainted with the city's possession of these peculiar amenities. Recently a gentleman freshly arrived from England had a narrow escape from drowning through walking into one of the tanks when taking a short cut across the Maidan to the Cathedral. Many persons have had similar involuntary immersions, and some have actually been drowned. Perhaps it might wake up the municipal authorities to a sense of their responsibilities in the matter if some victim sued them for damages or some victim's relatives prosecuted them for manslaughter.

Last October I commented upon the fact that the State Council of Selangor, one of the Federated Malay States, were induced by the British Resident to vote 7,500 dollars towards the endowment of an Anglican Bishopric in the neighbouring British colony of Singapore. Selangor is a Mohammedan State, and since this grant to the Bishopric fund was made, the question of the erection of a new mosque in Kuala Lumpur has come before the Council. The Resident, whose word is law with the Council, impressed upon the Malay members the desirability of erecting an edifice which in magnitude and importance would be worthy of the proposed site in the Federal capital. Towards the expenditure which this would involve he proposed that —provided his plans were adopted—the Government should contribute "dollar for dollar of the amount raised by subscription" up to an aggregate of 30,000 dollars. Seeing that the donation to the Singapore Bishopric scheme, which had no claim whatever upon the Selangor Government, was made quite unconditionally, it is not surprising to learn that this restriction upon the grant to the native community for their own religious purposes is looked upon as exceedingly mean. The majority of the Britishers in the State, official as well as non-official, hold that view even more strongly than the Mohammedans themselves.

One of the Dutch newspapers has reprinted my recent paragraph regarding the racing and football lotteries or "competitions" (mostly swindles) which are carried on among the British public by parties operating from offices in Middelburg and other towns in Holland. I pointed out that these rogues now make an ungrateful return for the hospitality they enjoy in that country by getting their circulars posted in England, thereby depriving the Dutch Post Office of a considerable revenue. Commenting on this, a Dutch correspondent says that he does not see how the authorities over there can interfere with the posting of the circulars here. Of course, I did not suppose that they could do so. But, failing any other method of dealing with them, the Dutch Government could easily squabash these harpies by stopping the delivery of the letters containing remittances in stamps and postal orders which, in response to the circulars, are directed to them in Holland. Perhaps my correspondent will bring this remedy to the notice of the powers that be at The Hague.

Mr. Joseph Waller, of 89, Aldersgate-street, relates an experience in connection with the National Telephone Company's charges which corresponds exactly to some of the cases against the Post Office described in Truth two or three months back. After finding repeated cause to question the accuracy of the company's accounts for calls, he established an elaborate system of checking the use made of his telephone. The instrument is placed

in a locked room, and when it is used two persons are required to attend it. The duty of one of these is to enter, in duplicate, in a book the number called, and give a counterfoil with the number on it to the caller; so that there should be a double record of every call.

At the end of the first quarter after this system was put in force the company rendered an account showing 125 calls more than the subscriber's account, the difference in cash being 9s. 5d. Remembering that in three months there are only seventy-eight working days, of which thirteen are Saturdays, it is incredible that, even if the subscriber's system was occasionally evaded, this could have occurred to the extent of 125 times in one quarter. When this matter was last under discussion in TRUTH several correspondents urged the formation of a telephone subscribers' defence association, but no one seems to have been disposed to take the initiative in the matter. Mr. Waller feels so strongly on this question that he is ready to undertake the business and give his services gratuitously. If, then, there is any genuine desire for such an organisation those who feel it would do well to communicate with him at the address given above.

Apropos of the education question, a voluntary school teacher asks me to call attention to the great hardship to which his class of teachers is exposed when their schools are closed by the action of the Board of Education or the local authorities. Where they are young men and women they may be able to get other appointments, but it is otherwise when they are approaching the forties, or getting beyond them. It seems to me that in such cases the education authorities ought to make provision for them elsewhere, provided, of course, that they are efficient. The closing of a public elementary school is not like the closing of a shop. Except in a very few cases it does not mean that less teaching staff is required, for the children have still to be taught somewhere. There ought not, therefore, to be any difficulty in "absorbing" the displaced staff when a school is closed.

A correspondent tells me that in the Brompton-road last week upwards of an hour elapsed before a horse, which had been badly injured by a motor-'bus, was slaughtered. This is an example of a very old scandal of the London streets which ought to have abated long since. I was, indeed, under the impression that arrangements were now in force for the more speedy killing of wounded horses, but apparently this is not the case. A delay of over an hour in putting an animal out of its misery is certainly quite inexcusable.

The Bangor Guardians are coming in for some severe but well-deserved criticism in reference to the workhouse infirmary. So long ago as last July the newly-appointed medical officer presented an exhaustive report on the condition of the infirmary, which had also been condemned by his predecessor and by inspectors of the Local Government Board. Without being made public the report was referred to a committee and nothing more was heard of it till two or three weeks since, when some of the more progressive members of the Board urged that the matter ought not to be allowed to drop. The local papers have now procured and published a copy of the document, which reveals the existence of a state of things absolutely disgraceful to the Bangor Bumbles, whose desire to hush up the scandal can easily be understood, though their failure to take any adequate steps for putting an end to it is quite inexcusable. It is said that some of the evils of administration have been remedied. The doctor showed, however, that the building, quite apart from mismanagement, is badly situated, badly designed, badly built, badly furnished, and altogether unfit for the use to which it is put. The Guardians, who have been considering the matter secretly in committee, will therefore do well to recognise that no more peddling alterations and reforms will meet the case.

What the Bench truly described as a deplorable condition of things was revealed in a case at Crediton last week, when a labourer named Alford and his wife, living at Bow, were charged with neglecting their six children, and Hilda Alford, a daughter of the other defendants, was charged with neglecting her two illegitimate children. It was stated that Alford was now earning 15s. a week, but until quite recently he was only receiving 11s. a week, and on this sum the whole family of eleven had to be maintained. They lived in a small, damp cottage, with one room downstairs (the floor being of pebbles) and two bedrooms. All of them were suffering from a skin disease, which the man attributed to the drinking of dirty water from a well out of which "they often took rats and other things." The children did not appear to have been underfed, but they were verminous, and covered with sores, and the house was filthy.

No doubt these children had been neglected, but it seems to me that the parents were to be pitied almost as much as they were to be blamed, and I am glad to observe that the magistrates were fairly lenient, inflicting penalties of 17s. 11d. each, including costs, and allowing three months for payment. As one of the witnesses said, the children and the house could have been kept cleaner. But when a family of eleven are crowded together in a miserably small, damp, comfortless cottage, and have to subsist on a wage of 11s. a week, it is not altogether surprising that they become slothful and dirty in their habits; nor, when such a state of things exists, is it to be wondered at that the rising generation among the rural population migrate to the towns.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

In my Legal Pillory this week I record a wife-beating case at Kirkcaldy which affords a peculiarly flagrant illustration of the misguided leniency of the magistracy in dealing with such assaults. The unfortunate woman in this case was not only thrashed by her husband, but knocked down and kicked by another man, a companion of the husband. Bailie Peebles remarked that it was a wonder she was not killed, yet he allowed both these brutes to escape with the payment of paltry fines, instead of awarding them the term of hard labour which they richly deserved. The list below contains further examples of inadequately punished offences of violence and cruelty, while, by way of contrast, I give various specimens of the severity of the Great Unpaid in cases of poaching, petty larceny, and sleeping out:—

Maidenhead Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. E. R. Lovegrove and A. Upson. Harry Turnvey, charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and trap. A constable said that he was driving at a furious pace through the streets. Fined 10s. and costs.

Mansfield Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. J. E. Alcock. George Holmes, convicted of assaulting William Burkitt. As he was going home complainant was knocked down in the road and kicked on the head, receiving wounds which had to be bandaged. Fined 10s.

St. Rollox Police-court, Glasgow. James M'Grory and John Maguire, charged with assaulting two policemen. The officers were attempting to arrest M'Grory, who butted one of them in the chest and kicked the other. Maguire then joined in the atack on them. M'Grory fined 42s., and Maguire 21s.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Peebles. Alexander Smith and John M'Gonigal, charged with assaulting the wife of the former. After her husband had struck her about the face the other man knocked her down and kicked her so brutally that the Bailie said it was a wonder she was not killed. Smith fined 20s. and M'Gonigal 30s.

Preston Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Clemesha, W. H. Francis, and other magistrates. Joseph Lee Prince, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal was in very poor condition and exhausted through being overdriven. Defendant thrashed it in a most brutal manner, causing a number of wounds, which bled profusely. Fined 40s.

Caerphilly Police-court. A collier named Hayman, charged with doing grievous bodily harm to a woman with whom he lived. It was stated that he beat her with a poker till she became insensible. The charge was reduced to one of common assault. Fined 20s., including costs.

Maidenhead Borough Police court. Before Messrs. H. J. Mount and E. R. Lovegrove. Mary Smith, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Twenty-one days.

Mansfield Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. F. Sanders and G. Stevenson. Charles Durose, William Durose, and Samuel Lucas, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Lucas and William Durose fined 21s. each, and the other defendant 30s. or one month.

St. Rollox Police-court, Glasgow. Margaret Dunlop, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Thirty days.

Warrington Borough Police-court. Annie Mather, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. One month.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent, Major Keppel, and Messrs. A. N. C. Hemsworth and W. H. Salter. John Reeve, charged with trespassing in search of conies. Fined £2 1s., in default twenty-one days.

Barnsley Police-court. Geo. Wm. Fox, charged with stealing two fowls. One month.

Abingdon Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and the Deputy-Mayor. Agnes Cross aged twenty-seven, charged with wandering abroad and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. George Ward, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Two months.

Retford County Police-court. Before Messrs. G. E. Vernon-Harcourt and H. Huntsman and General Ruck-Keane. John Batty and Charles Brassington, charged with poaching. Three months each.

Grantham Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Frederick Johnson, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Six weeks.

Saltcoats Police-court. Before Provost Donaldson. Donald Sinclair, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, and because his wife refused to give him some money he thrashed her. Fined 40s.

Brierley Hill Police-court. James Street, charged with assaulting Harry Pearson. Complainant received a wound on the head, which had to be stitched up. Fined £1 1s. 6d.

Saxmundham Police-court. Before Messrs. D. P. Cooke and C. H. Lomax. Wm. Johnson and Frederick Smith, charged with stealing two pairs of boots from outside a shop. Three weeks each.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Shennan. Charles Combe, Andrew Hynd, and James Macdonald, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 each and costs.

Wakefield West Riding Police-court. Samuel Hepworth charged with assaulting a constable. On being remonstrated with for his drunken and disorderly conduct defendant struck the officer a violent blow on the side of the head, and then took a running kick at him. His lamp saved the officer from a serious injury. The solicitor for the police authorities called the attention of the magistrates to the frequency of such assaults on constables in the district. Fined 29s., including costs, for the assault, and a further 9s. for drunkenness.

A familiar form of trick advertisement is being run by a firm calling themselves Osborn and Dawson, French milliners, 41, King William-street, E.C.—not exactly the neighbourhood to which one would naturally go in search of French millinery. The advertisement announces that a smart French sailor hat (picture appended) will be given away, provided you send postal order for 1s. 9d. for a pair of Osborn and Dawson's "latest Paris fashionable side combs, with a Pompadour to match." I do not know what a "Pompadour" may be, but perhaps it is something that is put on with the comb. On payment of 1s. 9d., the terms on which the smart French sailor hat is "given away" are revealed, namely, that you collect six other orders for combs and Pompadours and remit the cash, together with 6d. for carriage. In other words, the hat is "given away" when Osborn and Dawson have received 12s. 9d. for their combs. This is such a stale trick that it could only be practised on ignorant or inexperienced girls; and as anybody who knows anything of the advertising business can see the nature of the trick at a glance, it seems to me that the publisher of the advertisement is a degree more to blame than the advertiser.

The latest evidence of the ubiquity of the free portrait swindle comes from British North Borneo, where the irrepressible Tanquerey has been distributing his circulars. Not the least remarkable fact about this business is the industry which must be exercised in collecting the names and addresses of likely victims in these out-of-the-way parts of the world. I suppose the explanation is to be found in the trade which is done in the names and addresses of people who are addicted to answering newspaper advertisements. I am glad to know, at any rate, that with all his industry Tanquerey cannot find any region so benighted that TRUTH has not got there too.

As evidence of the unabated activity of the Spanish Prisoner, a solicitor sends me a batch of letters and documents with which a client of his was fooled, though

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

SAN REMO.—GRAND HOTEL ROYAL. The height of modern luxury. Standing in picturesque grounds overlooking sea. Auto. Garage. Officially certified sanitation.—M. BERTOLINI, Prop.

not actually swindled. The client was a simple-minded man. Swallowing unsuspectingly the usual cock-and-bull story, he expressed his deep sympathy with his unknown relative by marriage, Antonio Garcia, in the sad situation in which he found himself—a dying prisoner in the castle fort of Barcelona. He readily agreed to become the protector of Antonio's darling young daughter, Amelia, and to take charge of the little fortune of £37,000, deposited in a bank in London, of which he (the protector) was to have one-fourth. Of course Antonio died immediately, his last moments comforted by this news, and equally, of course, the intended victim was requested to remit £73 to Barcelona to secure the release of the deceased's effects (seized by the authorities for the costs of his trial), and thereby obtain possession of the portmanteau in which he had concealed the receipt for the £37,000.

The supposed chaplain's letters, and the various fabricated official-looking certificates and other papers that he forwarded were accepted as perfectly genuine, and the dupe fully intended to remit the £73. Fortunately for himself, however, he found it necessary to consult a solicitor as to the raising of this sum, and so at the last moment his eyes were opened to the fraud that was being practised upon him. Unfortunately for them, a good many similarly credulous persons are able to dispatch the money without seeking anybody's advice or assistance, and consequently this venerable version of the confidence trick continues to flourish.

An inquiry has reached me respecting two money-lenders' advertisements which figure at the top of a long list of these traps for the unwary in the *Daily Telegraph*. The first is an advertisement of Howard and Cope, Limited, 3, Holles-street, W., "manager, Mr. C. P. Smith, Law Final, May, 1893." They offer advances on expectations under wills, reversions, settlements, etc., and they state that they "make a speciality of arranging loans for widows, even though restrained from borrowing, or if income ceases on re-marriage." All except a few odd shares in Howard and Cope, Limited, are held by "Frances Cope, sometimes known as Frances Smith," and to all intents and purposes C. P. Smith is not merely the manager but the company. His full name is Casson Perrott Smith. He first came under my observation some years ago, when as a solicitor he was doing the dirty legal work of various notorious usurers. For this his certificate as a solicitor was suspended for two years, and I shall be very much surprised if it has ever been renewed. Smith about the same period became a bankrupt, and for the gross misconduct which the investigation of his affairs revealed, his discharge was suspended for no less than ten years. The fact that that term will not expire till February 6, 1913, explains why he is nominally only the manager of this bloodsucking establishment at 3, Holles-street. One of the money-lending transactions dealt with in TRUTH, in which Smith played a part, was a monstrous and cruel fraud upon a widow, and widows in particular should therefore beware of him.

The other advertiser, Arthur Peel, 41, New Oxford-street, W.C., also offers advances to heirs under wills etc. This individual, who also has offices at 85, Lord-street, Liverpool, and 37, North Castle-street, Edinburgh, is practically a tout for a concern called the English and General Reversionary Company. The largest shareholder in this company is a Mrs. Elizabeth Douglas Norman, and Mr. Frederick Douglas Norman, carrying on business as Douglas Norman and Co., acts as solicitor for the company. In various cases of which I have received particulars from time to time persons entitled to reversions who applied to Peel for a loan have been fleeced in the most unprincipled manner; and I strongly advise heirs and other would-be borrowers to give both this harpy and the English and General Reversionary Company a wide berth.

The following advertisement has been appearing in the West of England:—

COPYING and WRITING.—Remunerative Home Work; no canvassing or outdoor work attached.—Stamped envelope to Godfrey, 54, Somerset Street, Cathay, Bristol.

Here is another proof of what I have said a hundred times—that no newspaper is justified in publishing any advertisement of home work without first obtaining satisfactory proof of its genuineness. Godfrey, otherwise "E. Godfrey and Co.," is engaged in one of the most ancient swindles practised through this form of advertisement. He has no work to offer at all. By suggesting that he has he obtains a payment of 1s. from his deluded victim, under the familiar pretext: "As we receive applications from many who apply out of mere curiosity, we are compelled to make a charge of 1s., the value of the necessary papers and particulars." Having got the money, he sends two fly-blown domestic recipes, and instructs the dupe how to dupe others in his turn by advertising these things and retailing them at 1s. each. In what I take to be the original form of this swindle the operator advertised the secret of earning £500 a year in your spare time, and having obtained half-a-crown, gave his dupe the pithy instruction, "Do as I do." The improvements introduced into the trick by later practitioners are probably

CANNES.—HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. First-class. Numerous Self-contained Suites, with Private Bath-Rooms, etc. Central Heating. Renowned Cuisine and Cellars. Large Park.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

designed to lay the ground for a defence in the event of prosecution; but I think the Bristol police might give Godfrey an opportunity of demonstrating how much the defence is worth before an intelligent magistrate.

"B. L. Challoner," a touting usurer, of Queen's Chambers, 7, Market-street, Manchester, seems to have awakened to the fact that many people resent the implication that they require a loan. "This circular letter," he writes, in the latest edition of that effusion, "is not to be taken as an insinuation that the recipient is in need of cash assistance; it is purely a business announcement, and should be treated as such." "B. L. Challoner" is indeed a very smooth-spoken shark. It is in consequence of "the difficulty experienced by gentlemen in obtaining financial assistance having frequently come under his notice," that he has been filled with a desire to let it be known that he makes advances from £10 to £5,000, and that, in order to do away with the necessity for visits and personal interviews, he is prepared to transact business by correspondence only. The impecunious would-be borrower who imagines from this that there will be no inquiries as to his resources and position underrates the astuteness of "B. L. Challoner." That individual, whose real name is Bernard Kletz, is a long way from being such a philanthropist as his circular suggests, and, in common with the rest of the tribe to which he belongs, he should be given a wide berth.

When speaking last week of the possibility of extending banking hours, I was careful to say that I was reluctant to make such a suggestion knowing the extent to which bank clerks are sweated and over-worked already, but this has not prevented my receiving a letter from an ex-bank official, who tells me that if I had ever spent a week behind a bank counter I should never have published the paragraph at all. I do not know about that. It has been said in Truth again and again, and was repeated last week, that there is no reason, banking profits being what they are, why the staffs should be over-worked or under-paid, nor would there be if the working day were extended by another hour or two. The correspondent just mentioned states that he had to retire because at the end of fourteen years' service in one of the large joint-stock banks he had to work constantly from 8.30 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m. for inadequate pay; and that in a country branch with which he is now familiar the ledger-keepers had been regularly working from November to the end of the year up to 10 p.m. There can be no question that bank clerks as a class have more serious grievances than any other kind of employees. I say "as a class," because I believe that in some of the private banks which still survive the case is different. But really the remedy lies in the hands of the aggrieved. Labour is the master in these days whenever it chooses to use its power.

I do not imagine that there is much danger that the "charity habit" will ever become so dangerous as, say, the "drink habit," but really if new inventions in the direction of making the art of giving easier for us continue to increase, quite a lot of us will become charitable without knowing it. The Dutch Government have just initiated a pleasantly ingenious scheme for helping the work of fighting tuberculosis, by issuing a series of stamps towards that end. They are of double the ordinary values—that is to say, that where you would employ a penny stamp in the ordinary course you must use a twopenny one—but half of the receipts from this issue are to be devoted to the various institutions which are combating tuberculosis. Who could resist this most innocuous form of indirect charitable taxation, and for such a purpose?

IN MEMORIAM:

Alfred Shaw. Died January 16, 1907.

He's left us, Alfred Shaw the Great,
So long a King of Cricket,
Whose life was, like his bowling, straight
And always on the wicket.

Aye! never careless, loose, nor slack,
For hard work always ready,
Through many a match, in days far back,
He bowled unchanged and steady.

But now, his Captain, knowing best—
The World's all-wise Controller—
Has taken off, for well-earned rest,
This staunch old veteran bowler.

The West Indies are truly the most unlucky of our dependencies. In any place and at any time, the earthquake that has destroyed Kingston would have excited universal horror and sympathy. Coming as it does when Jamaica showed signs of recovering at last from the economic depression that has so long weighed upon the West Indian islands, it is doubly deplorable. Such a case makes an exceptionally strong appeal to British generosity, not at home only, but throughout the Empire, and it is to be hoped that the result will be seen in the Relief Fund. It is an occasion when we may all show ourselves Imperialists with a good conscience, and do something to strengthen ties with and between the Colonies which are worth strengthening.

As if the earthquake were not a sufficient calamity in itself, it has been exaggerated by being made the occasion for a British Colonial Governor to administer a most churlish snub to the representatives of the United States. Presumably what is at the root of this "regrettable incident" is the jealousy of American encroachment which is so strong among the Jingo element of the West Indies. The American Admiral

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This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

possibly provoked this sentiment by the national method of going to work by a straight cut when he sees that work had to be done, and not troubling much about forms and ceremonies. But in such circumstances it is the British habit as much as the American not to stand upon ceremony, and only a cantankerous churl would raise questions of etiquette where the intention of an act is noble and sensible, still less amuse himself with sneers and sarcasms. Apparently Sir Alexander Swettenham is the sort of a man who, if his house were on fire and a passing stranger broke open the door and pulled him out of bed, would ask him what the devil he meant by such officious impertinence. There are such people in all countries and in most walks of life, but they ought not to be Colonial Governors.

Although no experts seem to believe in Mr. Hugh Clements' theory of weather variations and earthquakes, I cannot help thinking, in my ignorance, that astronomical causes must be closely mixed up with all these phenomena. We live, as I understand it, on a hollow globular contrivance, with a very thin crust, spinning through space by the force of its original impulse, like a football when it is kicked off. It is held in a definite course by the attraction of the sun, which is continually pulling at it. It holds in the same way a subsidiary globe, which is also continually pulling at it, and with no small force, as we see when the tides of the ocean swing backwards and forwards under the pull. There are, I suppose, minor pulls from other neighbouring planets, varying in intensity from time to time. The shell of the earth varying in composition, and also possibly in thickness, what more natural than that it should occasionally "give" a trifle under these varying pulls and strains, especially when two, or more, of them happen to be exerted on the same spot at the same moment? So far from its being at all wonderful that the crust of the earth should occasionally "shiver" at weak spots under the outside forces bearing upon it, the only wonder to my mind is that it does not do so more often.

When it is said that the shivering is due to volcanic explosions in the interior of the earth, I cannot see that this helps us very much. The tremors generally occur most violently in certain well-defined regions, and are very often accompanied by volcanic eruptions in the neighbourhood. But if such phenomena are entirely local in origin, the question still remains, What causes them? Why should subterraneous fire break out suddenly at one place, die down (perhaps for ten, twenty, or a hundred years), and then as suddenly blaze up again? True, a fire may occasionally be seen to behave somewhat in this way above ground, but only when fresh combustible material is supplied. Does any one suppose that a local fire is perennially smouldering, let us say, under Mount Vesuvius, and that every few years fresh fuel is somehow shot into it, causing it to flare up, explode, and shake the whole neighbourhood?

There may be astronomical causes for volcanic disturbances, too. I am not concerned to propound any theory on the subject, being merely a man in the street humbly trying to understand why things are as they are. When one who has patiently studied the subject asserts that lengthy observations reveal a correspondence between certain celestial and terrestrial incidents, and when he even goes the length of predicting such terrestrial incidents with some approach to accuracy on the strength of similar correspondence on previous occasions, all I say is that, whether he be right or wrong, what he says is just what I should expect from the nature of the case. His theory, therefore, is entitled to serious consideration, and it can only be effectually disposed of by showing that the alleged correspondence between the two sets of phenomena does not really exist. If this can be done, it can be done very easily.

It is by no means easy to arrive at a sound conclusion as to what is really going on in Russia, or what will be the outcome. All the conditions are so different from those of any other country that we cannot estimate the present or the future by assuming them to be the same. During the reign of Alexander II., the peasants regarded the Czar as their protector against their landlords, and it must be remembered that in European Russia the peasants constitute nearly ninety per cent. of the population. Alexander II. had to wage war against the Nihilists. Their idea was that the conditions of existence, not only in Russia but everywhere else, were so bad, that everything should be destroyed as a preliminary to building up something else. As a logical result of this view, they burnt and murdered.

It was under these circumstances that Alexander III. came to the throne. He was a man of nerve and determination, and, in the main, the country sided with him against the Nihilists. Under the present Czar, who is a man of very different mould, the struggle became one not only with the Nihilists, but with all those who wished for a reasonable constitutional régime, and it is clear that this desire became almost universal after the disastrous war with Japan. Then came concessions on the part of the Czar. A Constitution was granted and the Duma met. It effected little and was dissolved and another Duma has been summoned. In the meantime, law and order have more or less disappeared. Not

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY) The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of Imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY) Sold Everywhere.

DIEUDONNÉ HOTEL AND RESTAURANT, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

only are officials murdered every day, but bombs are recklessly thrown into crowds, shops are pillaged, houses are set on fire, and all this is met by savage repression. A large section of the nation simply looks on whilst the struggle between autocracy and constitutional liberty is carried on in this fashion.

All our journalistic quidnuncs appear to be on the side of the anarchists. They justify all that they do, and denounce all that is done by the Government. In a country such as Russia I do not believe that a constitutional rule such as ours can be brought at once into existence. I am for liberty, but also for law and order. It seems to me that the future of Russia depends, not only upon the future action of the Czar, but also on the future action of the constitutionalists. If the latter hold aloof, or if they make common cause with the anarchists, the end will be a return to autocracy, and hating the latter, I really should—were I a Russian—prefer this to the rule of the other extremists. I am no believer in the creed of assassination. I have not the slightest sympathy with those who are executed for practising it. When Alexander II. was assassinated, he was about to publish a Constitution. His son did not publish it, and this was the natural result of the assassination. It looks as though the Army in the main will stand by the Czar. He seems desirous to establish some sort of representative Assembly. Were I a Russian I should accept for the nonce such an Assembly, although I might desire that its powers were greater. I should endeavour to accustom the country to look to this Assembly as the exponent of the national will. If this were once done, the power of the assembly would develop year by year. But it needs time for both the Czar and the country to realise what self-government really is.

THE CUSTOMER AND HIS FREE LUNCH.

A certain Shop, well known to Fame—
I need not here disclose its Name—
The Public to attract and please,
Offered free Luncheons and free Teas
To any Persons whosoe'er
Might come to do their Shopping there.
  At first, it proved a mighty Draw,
And Throngs the *Salon* daily saw;
But soon Complaints about the Food
Were heard, and that with Reason good;
For, keen Expenses down to keep,
The Caterer ran it on the Cheap,
Bought only most inferior Stuff,
Mutton and Beef, coarse, stringy, tough
(And e'en of *that* there's not enough);
Gave aged Hen and called it Chicken,
Although your Fork you scarce could stick in;
For Butter served up Margarine,
And Rolls that younger Days had seen;
In Brief, the Grub, from first to last, I
May just sum up as cheap and nasty.
  One Day—when it was extra vile,
And served in worse than usual Style—
A Man, disgusted with his Fare,
Sent, angry, for the Manager:
  "D'ye call *this* Beef—this Leather coarse?
'Fore Gad, but I dare swear it's Horse.
And *those*, Potatoes? Dash my Bones!
They more resemble Cobble-stones.
I wonder how such Stuff you can
Set down before a Christian Man!"
  The Manager, with haughty Stare,
And coolly independent Air,
"Pray, Sir, remember," made Retort,
"That you your Luncheon get for Nought;
And rank bad Taste it seems to me,
To growl at what's provided free."
  "Ha!" cried the other, "*That's* your Line?
The Argument's all very fine;
But where's the Kindness, pray, in treating
A Chap to what he can't be eating?
I'd much prefer—whate'er the Price—
TO PAY, *and have my Luncheon nice!*"

Moral.

'Tis true the amateur J.P.
Gives (so-called) Law and Justice free,
Yet for good Law one rather had
Pay dear than get it—*gratis*—bad.

SCRUTATOR.

HOW THE *TIMES* GETS BOOKS.

SOME three months have now elapsed since the majority of the London publishers ceased to supply books to the *Times* Book Club in consequence of the refusal of the *Times* to accept the trade terms in regard to the sale of books at a discount. When that event occurred, Mr. Moberly Bell announced confidently that the *Times* would be able to obtain and supply its customers with books in spite of all that the publishers could do. This boast has not been fulfilled to the letter. The *Times* has made no secret of the fact, because it has publicly appealed to its subscribers to refrain from asking for certain new books. It is doing so up to the present moment, as may be seen by reference to its literary supplement of Friday last, where in three instances a review of a book is accompanied by a request that subscribers will "co-operate with the *Times* to defeat the Publishers' Trust" by abstaining from ordering this book as far as possible. But nevertheless, during these three months the Book Club has been able to place on its list, and to offer for sale in its windows, a considerable number of new books, and to that extent Mr. Moberly Bell is justified in saying that his boast has been fulfilled.

Those who interest themselves in the dispute between the *Times* and the publishers must have wondered how this has been done. In some cases, of course, the *Times* has been reduced to buying books in the retail market like any other member of the public; and when subscribers to the Book Club have asked for particular books, notwithstanding the appeals to them to co-operate with the *Times* in the trade dispute, they have been requested to order the book themselves from their booksellers and send the bill to the Book Club. But it is evident that the business of the Book Club cannot be profitably conducted in this way. A lending library and bookseller's shop, if it is to compete with others in the same line of business, must obtain the bulk of its books on the same terms as its competitors. It stands to reason, therefore, that when the *Times* is able to offer either in

its circulating library or for sale large quantities of books published since the dispute occurred, these books must have been obtained surreptitiously. The *Times* was fighting not only the publishers, but the bookselling trade—in fact, the publishers had no motive for quarrelling with the Book Club except to defend the retail bookseller, whose business the *Times* was cutting into. In order, therefore, to place orders for books on any considerable scale on trade terms, it was necessary for the *Times* to procure the co-operation of booksellers who would "black-leg" against their own trade organisation, and conceal from the publishers the fact that they were supplying the Book Club. "Black-legs" being mostly very small men, and the publishers being well on their guard, it was not easy to obtain very considerable supplies through this channel. But there was another more easy of access and more difficult for the publishers to watch effectually—namely, the export trade. When books are ordered for export to foreign countries or the colonies, a publisher may not suspect at first sight that their real destination is 376, Oxford-street, W., and even if he has his suspicions, it is very difficult for him to verify them. There is every reason to suppose that this has been the channel through which the *Times* has chiefly been supplied with books during the past three months. Necessarily the working of the business on these lines has involved the use of misrepresentation and deception. Necessarily the *Times*, as the instigator and chief beneficiary in the business, is responsible for these practices. To what depths it has been dragged in carrying on these operations will be seen from a few facts which I will now give in detail.

In the last week in November a Mr. Lee, holding a responsible position in the service of Messrs. Richardson and Co., Export Booksellers, of 25, Suffolk-street, Pall Mall, happened to meet in private life a gentleman named Heath, who was known to him as a sub-manager of the *Times* Book Club. The two got into conversation about the affairs of the Book Club, and in the course of it Mr. Heath suggested to Mr. Lee that Messrs. Richardson and Co. might be of use to the Book Club in procuring books which the publishers refused to supply to the Book Club direct. Mr. Lee was much interested in this proposition, and desiring to learn more of what was going on, arranged that he would call at the *Times* Book Club and have a little conversation with the manager. Mr. Heath gave him his card, on which he is described as of the *Times*, and on November 27 Mr. Lee called at the Book Club, saw Mr. Heath, and was introduced by him to Mr. Carr, the Manager. Mr. Lee explained that he had been given to understand that the Book Club would be disposed to employ Messrs. Richardson and Co. as agents for the purchase of books for export, and Mr. Carr assented, asking him to state his terms. Mr. Lee made a proposal, and eventually Mr. Carr gave him the following letter:—

The Times Book Club,
376 to 384, Oxford Street,
London, W.
November 27, 1906.

Dear Sir,—In consideration of your supplying the books as ordered by us for export at ordinary export terms, you to deliver to the export packers as instructed by us, we are prepared to pay you cash on delivery plus 5 per cent. commission. It is also understood that we will give you orders from time to time upon which the total commission shall be not less than £50 (fifty pounds). Commission to be paid weekly. Yours faithfully,
G. H. Carr, Manager.

Mr. Lee,
c/o Messrs. Richardson and Co.,
25, Suffolk Street,
Pall Mall East, S.W.

This document having been handed to Mr. Lee, Mr. Carr called up one of his staff, asked him what books were required, and then proceeded to dictate to a typist a list of books. For this purpose he took from his desk a blank order form with the printed heading of a Mr. C. W. Twelves, of Antwerp. Below I give the document as completed. It is dated November 26, as is also the one which follows it, but Mr. Lee is clear that all these three documents were handed to him at the interview, and that the interview took place on November 27. The object of putting the date November 26 upon the two documents which purport to have come from Antwerp is obvious. The note "Deliver to Messrs. Harrington and Co.," etc., was added by Mr. Carr in ink later in the interview. The words "Please supply for export" are printed in red ink; the list of books is type-written:—

C. W. Twelves
Import and Export
Merchant.

19, Kipdorp,
Antwerp, November 26th, 1906.

Please supply for Export:—

20	Avebury's Municipal Trading ...	5s. 0d. n., Macmillan.
26	Markham's Richard III.....	10s. 6d. n., S. Elder.
26	Barker's Rise and Decline of the Netherlands	10s. 6d. n., S. Elder.
52	Brady—Great Days of Versailles	10s. 6d. n., S. Elder.
52	Brookfield—Cambridge Apostles	21s. 0d. n., Pitman.
26	Lethaby—Westminster Abbey ...	12s. 6d. n., Duckworth.
208	Malet—Far Horizon.....	6s. 0d. n., Hutchinson.
52	Weyman—Chippinge	6s. 0d., S. Elder.
52	Maitland—Leslie Stephen's Life	18s. 0d., Duckworth.
104	Barrington—Life of Sir Frederick Leighton (2 vols.)	42s. 0d. n., Allen (Nov. 29).
26	De Nolhac—Versailles and the Trianons	16s. 0d. n., Heinemann.
13	Sothern—Marine Steam Turbines	6s. 0d. n., Whittaker.
520	Hohenlohe Memoirs (2 vols.).....	24s. 0d. n., Heinemann.

Deliver to
Messrs. Harrington and Co.,
Export Packers,
17, Laurence Pountney Lane,
London, E.C.

On this document being handed to him, Mr. Lee pointed out that he could not consider it as an order, and at his request Mr. Carr dictated, signed, and handed to him the following letter:—

C. W. Twelves
Import and Export
Merchant.

19, Kipdorp,
Antwerp, November 26, 1906.

Dear Sirs,—We enclose herewith list of books, which please supply for export, delivering same to our order to:—
Messrs. Harrington and Co.,
(Export Packers),
17, Laurence Pountney Lane.
London, E.C.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. Twelves.

Messrs. Richardson and Co.,
Suffolk Street,
Pall Mall East,
London, S.W.

Claridge's Hotel, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

It will be seen from this that Mr. Carr keeps in stock at 376, Oxford-street, the printed order forms of Mr. Twelves, of Antwerp; and further, that his relations with Mr. Twelves are such that he draws up a letter on Mr. Twelves' paper at 376, Oxford-street, and signs it with Mr. Twelves' name. Mr. Lee states that he went the length of asking whether there was such a person as Mr. Twelves in existence—a question which seems justifiable under the circumstances. Mr. Carr replied that Mr. Twelves not only existed, but was a personal friend of his, and was in a big way of business. Mr. Lee next discussed the question of invoices, and Mr. Carr instructed him that the invoices were to be sent to the *Times* Book Club, and that Messrs. Richardson and Co. would be paid upon them in cash. He was also furnished with a printed envelope addressed to Mr. G. H. Carr at the *Times* Book Club, and marked "Private," Mr. Carr explaining that this was to be used in case Mr. Lee had occasion to communicate with him on business, and with a packet of labels printed with the address of Messrs. Harrington and Co., to whom the books were to be delivered. He states that he saw upon the table numbers of similar printed labels addressed to other firms, including Messrs. Driffell Poulter and Co., 12, Redcross-street, E.C.; Messrs. E. Isaac and Co., 16A, Bevis Marks, St. Mary Axe, E.C.; and Messrs. Nye, Craig, and Co., 60, Cheapside, E.C.

Mr. Lee adds that in the course of conversation he asked Mr. Carr how he was getting his books, and Mr. Carr told him that the Book Club had some fifty agents, but none of them were in as good a position as Messrs. Richardson and Co. That was their chief difficulty, the agents being such small people that the Book Club could only place very small orders with each, and for this reason it was important to them that they should have a firm in Messrs. Richardson and Co.'s position. He explained that the agents mostly kept quite small shops, and were to be found "here, there, and everywhere." He would not mention any names, but he incidentally let out that he had an agent or agents in Lincoln. He said that if necessary the Book Club would have 5,000 such agents, and little men were pleased to do the work, and he congratulated himself on the inability of the publishers to interfere with the trade of the Book Club in this direction. This was the substance of the interview.

Needless to say, Messrs. Richardson and Co. had no intention of joining the *Times* Book Club in a scheme to obtain books from the publishers on the false pretence that they were intended for export. Mr. Carr speedily discovered this by telephonic communication, whereupon he wrote Mr. Lee as follows:—

The Times Book Club,
376 to 384, Oxford-street, London, W.
November 29, 1906.

Private.

Dear Sir,—I shall be glad if you will kindly see that the export order handed to you the other day is duly returned to me, as you are of course aware that the transaction we had in view was strictly confidential, and, as a matter of fact, from what you said I inferred that you were making the arrangement with the sanction of your principals. However, I am sorry we are unable to do any business, at the same time shall be glad if you will please return to me the order in question.—Yours faithfully,

For *The Times* Book Club,
G. H. Carr.

Mr. Carr subsequently wrote to Messrs. Richardson, giving his own version of what had passed, and again requesting the return of the "export order." Messrs. Richardson, who had at once communicated the facts to the Booksellers' Association, declined to give up the order, and on Mr. Carr writing again with a request for an interview, they replied that the documents spoke for themselves, and that they did not intend to discuss the matter further with him.

It will be noted that among the firms whose names appeared on the labels which Mr. Lee saw on Mr. Carr's table is that of Messrs. Driffell Poulter and Co. of 12, Redcross-street, E.C. This circumstance throws an interesting light on another correspondence which I have before me. On November 13 last Messrs. Poulter and Co. wrote to Messrs. Macmillan, inquiring their "best shipping terms for prompt cash," which were duly furnished, and on November 20 Messrs. Poulter sent an order for certain books to be delivered upon such terms. This led to the following correspondence:—

Nov. 21.—Macmillan and Co. to Poulter and Co.

Dear Sirs,—We assume that the goods ordered by you on the 20th inst. are required, as stated in your letter of Nov. 13, for "export," and have made out the estimate (enclosed) upon that assumption.

Your name, however, being unknown to us, before supplying the books on "export" terms, we must ask that you definitely state for what part of the world they are required.—We are, etc.,

Nov. 23.—Poulter and Co. to Macmillan and Co.

Gentlemen,—In reply to yours of the 21st we do not understand your reasons for making the inquiry, but our client is a South African merchant, and our instructions are for Natal. How they will be distributed we have no knowledge.—We are, etc.,

Nov. 24.—Macmillan and Co. to Poulter and Co.

Dear Sirs,—We are in receipt of your favour of the 23rd inst., and note that the goods ordered in yours of the 20th inst. are required for export to Durban. The reason for our inquiry was that we know a London house, to which we have refused to supply our publications, is attempting to obtain them on export terms through indirect channels, and, as we wish to avoid if possible having to take action against any firm or firms for obtaining or attempting to obtain goods under false pretences, we have adopted the plan of giving warning to any new customer who approaches us with a view to purchasing for export. As the goods are required for South Africa, if, when you are sending cheque, you will kindly forward the full address of your customer, we will deal with the shipping of them.—We are, etc.,

Messrs. Poulter did not answer this last letter, and it looks as if the allusion to attempting to obtain goods under false pretences somewhat disconcerted them. After waiting till November 29, Messrs. Macmillan wrote that they were anxious to get the South African order out of the way, and would be glad to have the remittance and particulars asked for in their letter of the 24th. Still Messrs. Poulter remained silent. On December 7, Messrs. Macmillan wrote in considerably stronger terms, expressing astonishment, and saying that the matter looked to them like an attempt to obtain goods for export under false pretences, and they proposed to deal with it on that footing. This brought at once the following reply, dated December 8:—

Gentlemen,—In reply to your favour of the 7th inst., we regret your memo. of the date referred to could not be promptly answered, and assure you of our bona-fides in this matter of export commission. An explanation is, however, due to you, which we hope to make and convey to you at an early date, and possibly on Monday next.—I am, yours very truly, etc.,

Driffell Poulter.

"Monday next" came, but did not bring the explanation thus acknowledged to be due to Messrs. Macmillan,

Free From Farrow's Bank.—"Farrow's Bank: Its History Objects, and Work."—Chairman, Thomas Farrow, Author of "The Moneylender Unmasked," &c.—Write or call, 29, New Bridge-st., Ludgate-circus, E.C., and Brighton, Norwich, and Croydon.

nor has that firm heard anything more from Messrs. Poulter since the letter of December 8. Messrs. Macmillan's suspicion that the transaction looked like an attempt to obtain their goods on export terms by false pretences is certainly not negatived when labels addressed to Messrs. Driffell Poulter and Co. are found lying on the table of the Manager of the *Times* Book Club. In view of this fact, and of the failure of Messrs. Poulter and Co. to furnish Messrs. Macmillan with the promised explanation, the reader will have no difficulty in placing his own construction upon the correspondence above referred to.

Another London publisher, Mr. William Heinemann, furnishes evidence showing still more forcibly the devious paths by which books reach the Book Club, and the elaborate artifices employed to impose upon the London publishers. About the middle of October, shortly after the declaration of war, Mr. Heinemann received an inquiry as to the price of Mr. Bram Stoker's "Life of Sir Henry Irving" from the Anglo-Deutsches Annoncen- und Reclame-Bureau, of Ferdinand-strasse, Hamburg, of which a Herr Friedrich Lehfeldt appears to be the principal. The inquiry was for "250 copies, free Hamburg," and, it was added, "we might do with 500." Mr. Heinemann gave his price, which was accepted, and 100 copies were dispatched. There followed an order for fifty copies of the "Hohenlohe Memoirs." These large orders for English books naturally excited suspicion under existing circumstances. Accordingly, before the first order was executed Mr. Heinemann telegraphed to his Hamburg customer, requesting him to promise that the "Irving" was not for sale in Great Britain. Herr Lehfeldt wired back "Books for Germany," and followed the reply with a letter displaying complete innocence of collusion with anybody in England. He wrote:—

> Your wire is somewhat of a riddle to us. We are not buying books for England, but for Germany and export. How could we in Hamburg buy books from England for England; what would be the utility or object, and why should you raise the question? We trust there has been no delay in the despatch of the books, otherwise we must ask you at your expense to send them by the quickest route possible, if not already despatched, to Harwich. . . . . .
>
> We are advertising in this country, and making a speciality of supplying English books at the original published price, and delay in despatching would be very serious to us.

Notwithstanding this display of innocence Mr. Heinemann had instructed his forwarding agents to detain the books pending instructions, and this led to a further protest from Herr Lehfeldt against this "extraordinary proceeding." "We have advertised," he wrote, "in the Berlin, Frankfurt, Leipsig, Stuttgart, and Hamburg papers, etc. We have actually got money from customers in our hands, and now we cannot supply," and so on. In a subsequent letter, having been informed of the stoppage of the consignment, he warned Mr. Heinemann that a writ would be issued. In yet another letter, having heard in the meantime from communications between his own and the English shipping agents that Mr. Heinemann "believed the goods were for a Mr. Hooper," he repudiated Mr. Hooper, and intimated that he should claim £45 damages and costs if the books were not delivered by a specified date. The communications between the two firms were complicated by a misunderstanding on a matter of price, but as that has nothing to do with the matter in hand there is no occasion to go into it. It is sufficient to say that to the last Herr Lehfeldt remained firm in his repudiation of all knowledge of the *Times* Book Club. He ultimately became very angry, not to say abusive, and in his last letter, dated December 1, he asks to be excused for saying that Mr. Heinemann's previous communication "is contemptible beyond degree," and that "his assumption that we sold any books to the *Times* Book Club is a piece of gratuitous impertinence." In the meantime, Mr. Heinemann had allowed the books to be delivered. But he had first taken the precaution of getting them back and stamping them with a private mark, which enabled him to identify them beyond question, and after they had been delivered he watched for their reappearance in London. He had not long to wait. Within a fortnight of Mr. Lehfeldt's last letter, Mr. Heinemann obtained from the *Times* Book Club one of the very copies of the "Life of Irving" which he had supplied to the Anglo-Deutsches Annoncen- und Reclame-Bureau.

Herr Lehfeldt's strange innocence of the *Times* Book Club, and his impatience with the suspicious attitude of the London publishers, are further revealed in a letter written a week or two later to another London firm. This letter is dated on December 12 from Frankfurt a/M., whither the Anglo-Deutsches Annoncen- und Reclame-Bureau had removed from Hamburg during the negotiations with Mr. Heinemann. It has reference to the English edition of the Hohenlohe Memoirs, for which there seems to have been at this period an insatiable craving in Germany, and after inquiring the price of the book, Mr. Lehfeldt proceeds:—

> We may tell you quite frankly we are experiencing great difficulty in getting books we want, because every publisher seems to think there can be only one outlet at the present time, and that is the *Times* Book Club.
>
> That common sense does not tell them to send such a work from London to Frankfurt and from Frankfurt to London would make that book cost the full published price, and hence can be bought as cheaply at any bookseller's shop in London, does not say much for the intelligence of these worthy gentlemen, but it is quite certain "Convince a London publisher against his will, and he remains an unbeliever still," and we cannot move them.
>
> If now you can help us we shall be glad to have price. No indirect statement that you can procure books will assist us at all. If you can write and say how many copies you can procure for us we will arrange to pay you c.o.d. in London through our forwarding carriers.

There is no hint here, it will be seen, of any limit to the number required. Apparently Herr Lehfeldt is ready to take all the Hohenlohe Memoirs he can get. What a trade he must be doing in English books over in Germany! I am not asserting that he was himself buying books for the *Times*. It is quite consistent with his letters that some other agent of the *Times* in Germany was buying of him, and that his protestations of innocence were genuine. But if he was innocent, he will recognise now that his ridicule of the absurd suspicions of the London publishers was singularly un-

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

fortunate, seeing that he himself was at that very moment being used as a channel of supply for the Book Club.

I might add that from another letter received by Mr. Heinemann in December it is pretty clear that a second Hamburg firm were being approached at this period on behalf of the *Times*, but, unlike Mr. Lehfeldt, on learning more of the trade situation in London, they at once withdrew from the negotiation. This firm state that they had been commissioned by another German firm, whose name they were not then at liberty to disclose, to order books from eight different London publishers, and the scale of the orders may be judged from the fact that they included 364 copies of "Sir Nigel" and 364 of "The Far Horizon." The latter book, it will be noted, is another one which the Book Club wanted badly at this time. On November 27 Mr. Carr had ordered, through Messrs. Richardson, 208 copies of it on behalf of Twelves, of Antwerp.

What is to be thought of practices such as are revealed in the negotiation with Messrs. Richardson and Co., described above, not to mention any of the other incidents? Judged by any generally acceptable standard of commercial honour, they can only be described as disreputable. As the practices, the habitual practices, of the authorised agents of a journal long pre-eminent by its high standards of conduct, and still aspiring to a leading position in English journalism, they must fill every right-minded observer with dismay and disgust. A puzzle-headed champion of the *Times* may possibly say that the Book Club has been exposed to an unfair trade boycott which justifies the use of even these weapons in self-defence. But this is nonsense. The Book Club is exposed to no boycott. It can obtain its books to-morrow, if it chooses, on the same terms as every other bookseller and every other circulating library. By its own choice it refuses to do so. If it were true that in this choice it is actuated by a disinterested public spirit, and not by the necessities of its own self-created situation, the fact would still remain that the quarrel with the publishers is of its own seeking. For the employment in such a quarrel of such weapons as organised misrepresentation and deception there can be no excuse. Neither can it be said that for the resort to such practices the *Times* itself is not responsible. At the outset of the "book war" is was announced officially and ostentatiously that the Book Club was originated and conducted by the *Times*, and that no individual or firm but the *Times* is responsible for its existence and management. Moreover, Mr. Moberly Bell has told us that the *Times* meant to get all the books it wanted, and that the publishers could not stop it from doing so. He presumably knew how the thing could be done. And Mr. Moberly Bell is the manager, not of the *Times* Book Club, but of the *Times* newspaper. It follows that for whatever there is discreditable in the proceedings described above the *Times* is responsible. I say this in no spirit of animosity to the *Times* or its proprietors. I am sorry to have to say it. But it cannot be concealed, for it is this that converts a squalid exhibition of sharp practice in a trade dispute into a scandal deserving public reprobation.

THE INDIAN FAMILY PENSION SCHEME.

Since I wrote upon this subject last November, I have received a number of letters and a good deal of information which leads me to form an even more unfavourable opinion of this scheme than I formerly expressed. My previous indictment was largely based upon the fact that in the five years 1893 to 1898 the interest amounted to £179,111, the total subscriptions to £314,597, making total receipts of £493,708. The pensions and management expenses during the same period amounted to only £126,018, or about one-fourth of the receipts from interest and subscriptions. It has been pointed out to me that this is not necessarily a proof that the subscriptions are too much or the pensions too little, but in view of the fact that in 1898 the scheme had been in existence for twenty-five years the correspondent who took some exception to my remarks is now disposed to think that the truth lies somewhere between his original opinion and the opinion which I expressed. The accumulation of funds to provide for future liabilities is a necessity of sound finance, and the figures, coupled with the age of the scheme, suggest that such provision for the future is being carried to extremes. Unfortunately, this is a matter which neither my correspondent nor I are in a position to settle, for the simple but very serious reason that the necessary data are not available, owing to the hole-and-corner fashion in which this thing is managed, or mismanaged, in some Government office, without any adequate information being supplied to the subscribers or given in any publication. This absence of publicity is one of the many objections to the scheme. I have received the regulations in regard to it, published in Calcutta in 1904, and sundry extracts from the *Gazette of India*. I am not without means of obtaining information upon most subjects, but I am free to confess that there are a great many things about this scheme which I should like to know and which I have not been able to find out. I should be grateful to any one who will send me further information.

I called my former article the "Indian Family Pension Fund"; this was a misnomer; it is not a Fund. The regulations say, "No insurance fund is established by these regulations. The contributions will be credited and the pensions charged directly to the Indian revenues as military receipts and charges. . . . The Government of India does not intend by these regulations to sanction any further expenditure for this object. . . . and does not intend that the pensions provided shall be any charge to the Indian Revenue." It is, however, stated that *pro formâ* accounts will be kept for the purpose of ascertaining whether payments and benefits are duly proportioned. "The Secretary of State for India in Council has reserved to himself the absolute right to regulate from time to time the contributions to be required. . . . and to make any alterations in the regulations themselves. . . . provided always that the scale of pensions shall not be reduced in the case of actual incumbents. . . . But if it should

Blackpool. Splendid Winter Climate. Hôtel Métropole. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

appear that the contributions have been fixed too low the Government will not require any supplementary retrospective payments; and if they are found to have been fixed too high no claim to refund will be admitted." I understand that about 1899, after the valuation up to the end of 1898, the subscriptions were increased and the pensions left unaltered. From all this it would appear that nothing is guaranteed to anybody; that if the subscriptions paid since 1873 were at too low a rate the deficit is to be made good by subsequent contributions; the Peters of the future are to be robbed for the purpose of paying the Pauls of the past; while if the Pauls of the past have paid too much the benefit is to go to the Peters of the future. Had the scheme been worked by a life assurance company instead of by a Government department, care would have been taken to see that the rates of contribution were adequate, that the benefits were absolutely guaranteed not to be less than a specified minimum, and that if experience showed the existence of a surplus the members who contributed to the surplus, or their beneficiaries, would have received by way of bonus a fair share of the excess amounts that had been paid. As it is, this pension scheme is a mere haphazard arrangement, with nothing guaranteed by or to anybody, chargeable to no definite fund, with nothing but *pro forma* accounts, and an entire absence of adequate information about it.

Another point to which, as I think quite rightly, many of my correspondents take exception is that subscriptions are compulsory. The regulations say "every officer who enters the service on and after January 1, 1873, must, as a condition of his appointment, provide pensions for his family under these regulations." The contributions are stopped from officers' pay, and the whole tenor of the regulations, as well as the remarks of my correspondents, go to show that subscription to the scheme is compulsory upon unmarried officers and childless widowers. I do not see how a man is to provide for his family when he has not got a family, so that I am not entirely certain that the regulation quoted above makes contributions by unmarried officers necessary, though this is evidently the practice. I will return to the question of unmarried men presently, but before leaving the question of compulsion it is appropriate to remark that much more satisfactory terms and conditions than those given under this scheme could be obtained from first-class insurance companies, and that even if it is considered appropriate to compel officers to make provision for their widows and children, they should at least have the option of doing so by methods which they consider greatly superior to those of this scheme.

One enormous difficulty in the way of obtaining freedom from this irksome burden is that no subscriber can take any active steps in opposition to it. One lady writes to me: "I have heard officers complain bitterly about the Fund, but they are so placed that they cannot agitate like any other body of men about their grievances as it may tell against them professionally." The Bombay Military Fund goes so far as to "exclude subscribers from all the benefits derivable from the Fund . . . . on the bringing under litigation any decision which has been passed in conformity to these regulations." A man may not even seek justice in the Law Courts.

There are sundry regulations which are palpably unfair. It is provided that the pension shall be withheld "if any pensioner is found to be leading an immoral life, or on proof of any gross misconduct." The benefits talked about include pensions to daughters up to the time of their marriage, and if a daughter happens to go wrong, perhaps through no fault of her own, the pension, bought by payments extending over many years made by her father, is entirely lost in circumstances which, in her father's view, would probably make the pension more necessary than ever. Again, "an officer who is dismissed the service will cease, *ipso facto*, to be a contributor and will have no claim to any refund. His family will not be entitled to any pensions." Just when the pensions which have been paid for are most needed they are withheld. Yet again it appears that "when a wife obtains a divorce from her husband the subscription of the latter will be reduced to the unmarried rate"; and when the wife is the guilty party the subscription is also reduced to the unmarried rate. I can only imagine that this means that the innocent wife of a guilty husband is thereby debarred from any possibility of receiving a pension. Yet another unfair regulation provides that a widow's pension ceases on her re-marriage, but can be resumed on the death of her second husband. If, however, the second husband was a contributor to the Fund, she cannot receive the benefits paid for by both her husbands, but can only draw the pension paid for by one of them. All these conditions are absolutely preposterous in a financial contract. The benefits have been paid for and ought not to be withheld on such grounds as these.

I suppose I shall be told that it is quite wrong to regard this scheme as implying any financial contract. As a matter of fact I do not regard it so. I quite see that individual officers are compelled to pay, but there is nothing anywhere implying an adequate guarantee that their dependants are certain to receive anything. Moreover, it is apparently a kind of compulsory charity. The only benefits that are even supposed to be provided are certain annuities for wives and children, and unmarried officers and widowers without children are practically compelled to subscribe amounts varying from about £30 a year downwards. Several of my correspondents put it to me very emphatically that a married officer does not expect or wish his bachelor brother officers to subscribe to a pension for his widow, for this is what it amounts to. I entirely agree that this is a most objectionable feature, not merely for the unmarried men, but for the married officers and their widows as well. Moreover, there are certain features in which the unmarried officers seem to be treated even worse than the married ones. Regulation 26 says, "Officers who may be transferred from the Indian Army . . . and officers who resign the service will be entitled to receive back such portion of their contributions as may be in excess of the risk borne during their membership, but they cannot continue subscribers. . . . No refund will be made in respect of unmarried subscriptions or for risks that have terminated by death or otherwise." Of course, no risk

has been borne in the case of unmarried members, and, if they resign, everything they have paid is lost, while the married officers, to whom the scheme might be of some service, are refunded part of what they have paid.

There are a great many other things that I should like to say—and that I intend to say on some future occasion—about this unfair and ill-devised scheme. In addition to very material alterations in most of the conditions, it is of the utmost importance that every effort should be directed to the creation of a separate fund, to the publication of the accounts in channels readily accessible to all subscribers, to the appointment of a committee of managers elected by those who contribute, and to the abolition of the compulsion which at present exists.

This is by no means the only Government pension fund which is unsatisfactory in its conditions and unfair in its working, nor are the pension funds of railways and other big corporations by any means free from somewhat serious objections of a similar kind. One especially objectionable feature of many of these is that the benefits are determined either by rank or by salary received, and that a direct consequence of this pernicious principle is to favour the well-to-do at the expense of those who are badly off, and to depart altogether from the sound system of maintaining a due proportion between payments made and benefits received.

THE ANGLO-GERMAN GRETNA GREEN.

Several incidents that have furnished copy to the daily papers during the last six months have pointed to the fact—for it is a fact—that London has become a haven of bliss for runaway couples from Germany. Except that it is a little more difficult or expensive to reach, the British capital occupies to-day precisely the same position in relation to the Fatherland as did Gretna Green to the regions this side of the Tweed in the days of our great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers. The cases that have got into the newspapers are only stray examples of a practice which is going on regularly, and they have only got there by accident, because the brides or bridegrooms happen to be distinguished personages, or because other circumstances connected with their marriages have attracted public attention either in Germany or in England. There are in London a number of enterprising individuals of German nationality or birth whose principal, if not their only, business is to entice Teutonic youths and maidens to this country and marry them off in accordance with English law whenever "just cause or impediment" makes it difficult for them to get joined together in holy matrimony in their own country. These agents advertise regularly in the German newspapers, calling the attention of the amorous Teuton to the facilities which exist in England for tying connubial knots expeditiously and on reasonable terms. Some of them have their agents in Germany to push the business and catch customers on commission, much like the parties who "touted for licences" at the entrance to Doctors' Commons in the days when Mr. Weller, Senior, was captured for the second time. They issue books, pamphlets, and leaflets describing, more or less accurately, the English law, and explaining fully all the formalities in connection with an English marriage. To show how carefully every detail is thought out, there is among the stock-in-trade of one of the most active of these firms a leaflet giving in English and German the fateful questions which the Book of Common Prayer requires the priest to put to the parties before joining their hands irrevocably, together with the proper responses. Useful instruction is also given in the correct English pronunciation of such phrases as the law puts into the mouths of the "Braut" and "Bräutigam." Thus the astonished Registrar—naturally a Registrar generally plays the part of blacksmith in the Anglo-German Gretna Green—will hear the interesting lovers from Germany delivering themselves as follows:—

> Ai du solem'li diklae'r dhaet ai no not of aeni laoful impaediment wai ai —— me not bi dschoind in maetrimoni tu ——
> Ai kaol oepon dhis Poer'sens hier pres'ent tu widnes dhaet ai —— du tohk dhi —— tu bi mai laoful wedded [waif or hosboend].

In view of the large Teutonic element in the United States, Mr. Roosevelt might find one or two useful hints here when he is next tackling the reform of English spelling on phonetic principles. At any rate, it will be seen that the enterprise of their fellow countrymen has equipped Hans and Gretchen with everything that they need to know before they start on their trip to London.

The reason of all this is easy to understand. The tying of the matrimonial knot in Germany is a much more lengthy and troublesome business than in England, and to do it surreptitiously is very much more difficult. I am told that from the first official notification to the completion of the ceremony the usual time consumed in going through the necessary legal formalities is about six weeks, and may be anything from that to twelve. The mere statements of the parties are not sufficient, but have to be supported by identification papers and other documents, which are carefully looked into. The only formality that presents any difficulty at all to a foreign bride and bridegroom coming to England to be married is a fifteen days' residence in the district prior to the ceremony, but it is not much of a difficulty in reality, there being little risk in making a false statement on the point, while it can always be got over by a special licence when the parties are anxious that everything shall be done regularly and do not grudge the necessary expenditure. I am told that it is becoming a common occurrence for a pair of German lovers to disappear for a week and return to their delighted friends at the end of that time with the announcement that they have been married in London, and no one who sees the frequency of the agents' advertisements in the German papers will hesitate to believe it. I am also told that the status of such couples is regarded with considerable suspicion by their neighbours and acquaintance, and this is equally credible. In fact, a marriage "made in England" is becoming a stock jest among evil-disposed persons in Germany and Switzerland, and to some extent, I believe, in France also.

There is no reason, so far as I know, to doubt that the couples who flock to our shores under these romantic circumstances are, in a general way, duly

married in accordance with the easy requirements of English law. It is so simple a matter that if they are not the fault probably lies with themselves. But the "honest brokers" who arrange the business must make a pretty big profit out of it, and they seem to be a queer crew. One of the most active of them is a Mr. T. Funk, of 50, St. George's-road, S.W., where he keeps a boarding-house, used no doubt by German couples desirous of qualifying for marriage by residence in England. He also carries on business at 58, Gloucester-street, Pimlico, as E. Theobald, Ltd., in which name he advertises in Germany an institute for teaching English by correspondence. The *Deutsche Reichsanzeiger*, and many other German papers have warned their readers against his agency on the ground that Funk is identical with a man named Schellenberger, who seems to have an unfavourable record in his own country. Funk, however, whom I have had interviewed, entirely denies this, asserting that he merely took over the St. George's-road establishment from Schellenberger, who afterwards went to America. I therefore express no opinion of my own on this point. But the *Deutsche Reichsanzeiger* also alleges that as a matrimonial agent Funk exacts fees out of all proportion to the services rendered; and warns German youths and maidens that a marriage thus effected, though regular under English law, may not be held valid in Germany. Of the first point there can be no question; it is established clearly both by Funk's scale of charges, which runs from M. 100 to M. 900, and by those of the other parties in the same line of business in London. The danger of the marriage proving invalid in Germany may also be real where the agents are not unduly scrupulous. For example, a case was reported in the *Daily Mail* a few months ago in which, the bride being under age, a supposititious father was put up to give his consent to the marriage at the Registrar's office. The fraud was revealed by the arrival of the real father in London a few hours later, when the agent assured him that the bogus parent had been introduced to him by the bride as her father. It is only fair to say that the agent concerned was not Mr. Funk, but one of his trade competitors; but the case shows the danger that may easily arise when a business of this kind is in the hands of agents whose only object is to get a form of marriage gone through and pocket their fees, for I take it that the validity of the marriage in the above case might easily be disputed before a German court.

Among others engaged in the Anglo-German matrimonial trade is a Herr Kirstein, who advertises in the name of "Brock and Co.," of 90 and 91, Queen-street, E.C. Kirstein's specialty is a work on the marriage ceremony in England as it affects German, Austrian, and Swiss subjects, published at M. 1.50 and purporting to be written by "E. Krafft," which is probably only another name of the publisher. Kirstein also seems to be known and unfavourably regarded in his own country, and a few months ago the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* published a warning against his work. He was the agent concerned in the case above-mentioned, where, according to him, the bride produced and introduced to him a bogus father to impose upon the Registrar. I believe that he is related to a tailor at Hamburg named Losch, who does a little business in the same line. I have a copy before me of Losch's advertisement in the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, under the title "Eheschliessungen in England." Another London agent whose advertisements are to be seen in the German press is Herr Eugster, of 8, South-Street, Finsbury, E.C. I suppose that he, too, has sub-agents working for him in Germany, as I have before me a letter written by him some time ago to a German firm, with whom he proposed to enter into a working agreement. The letter gives some interesting information about the business. After explaining that he has just married off a German gentleman in London, he says:—

> I have been here for 25 years, and have interested myself for some years past in these marriages at registrars' offices, which I can put through in three days. If you will work in conjunction with me, I will take over the entire expenses at the Registrar's, licence, witnesses, fee to German Consul to visé the marriage certificate, etc., for M. 210. My clients have always been very satisfied. Of course, you will induce your clients to pay in advance before sending them to me. . . . .

Ten guineas represents a very comfortable little profit upon the actual disbursements on a marriage before the registrar, even when all the incidentals are thrown in. The great game, however, in the general course of things evidently is to get the anxious pair to go in for a speedy marriage by one of the shorter forms available, which cost anything up to £50; and probably in many cases the ignorant victims are made to pay the higher fees without getting in the least what they are supposed to be paying for. I have particulars of one such case, and where the trick is so easy it is not likely that the opportunity is often missed.

In these days of decaying British trade on the one hand, and ruinous German dumping on the other, it is something to have a humble home industry bringing a steady flow of German gold into the country, even though the largest profit is taken by aliens. But it is not altogether a creditable industry, and we should probably be the first to say so, if the case were reversed, and a German Gretna Green at Hamburg or Heligoland were tempting British lads and lasses in all directions to run over and get married quietly at a few hours' notice, when their own laws and unsympathetic parents and guardians made it impossible for them to effect their purpose at home. We cannot, of course, alter our marriage laws to oblige foreign papas and mammas. But we might at least take care that our laws are properly observed, and that the laxity of our practice does not afford shady brokers an opportunity of establishing a traffic which is mischievous to our neighbours. A good deal of the business above described might be stopped if in the case of foreign marriages official interpreters were provided, through whom the registrar or the officiating minister might question the parties with regard to their own declarations, instead of the agent acting as interpreter, as he does now when any awkward questions are asked. It would have a still better effect if birth certificates and other papers establishing identity and verifying the statements of the parties were required; and I am not at all clear that this sort of precaution might not be taken in the case of natives with as much advantage as in the case of foreigners. It is really an empty farce for the Church or the registrar to inquire whether there is any just

cause or impediment why two persons should not be joined together in matrimony, and to rest satisfied with the answer of the two persons themselves. If it is worth while to ask the question at all—and it will hardly be contended that it is not—the answer should be supported by some independent evidence.

THE GREATEST ENGLISHMAN.

We have been told that the happiest marriages are those of which the parties are the most dissimilar in temperament. That being so, our present *entente cordiale* with France ought to be one of the most permanent and harmonious alliances on record, for certainly there could be no two nations more widely differing in mental outlook. In proof of which—if proof be needed—I may quote the result of the plebiscite recently organised by the *Petit Parisien*, among its readers, to discover whom they consider to have been the greatest Frenchman of the last century. Some millions of votes were recorded, with the result that Pasteur was placed at the head of the poll, with Victor Hugo, Gambetta, and Napoleon following him in the order named. Could anything be more unexpected, from the Englishman's point of view? Is it possible to imagine that the readers of a London ha'penny paper, voting in a similar competition, would select Lord Lister, say, as the greatest Englishman, followed by, for instance, Swinburne, Gladstone, and Wellington? I, for one, cannot imagine any such result, or can imagine it only as unimaginable. Let us suppose that the enterprising proprietor of the *Daily Mail* were to originate such a plebiscite among his readers. Who would receive the greatest number of votes? A good deal, of course, depends upon the season of the year in which the voting took place. I imagine that it would be in the "silly season," so I take it that cricketers would have the advantage of footballers. But I am not one of those scoffers who pretend to hold that the readers of the *Daily Mail* would unanimously vote for either cricketer or footballer. They are a serious-minded set of folk who might be counted upon to take themselves and their responsibilities with due solemnity—to place intellect above mere muscle. Also, it must be remembered that the majority of voters would be women—if only for the fact that they are in a numerical majority in the population—and that women are not vitally interested in either cricket or football, while they are notoriously devoted to the masterpieces of fiction. Therefore, I have little doubt that the greatest number of votes would be recorded to Mr. Hall Caine. This not only because he is perhaps the most prominent of our living novelists, but also because he has only recently been writing a good deal in the *Daily Mail* about the *Times* Book Club and Mr. Hall Caine, and other things. For second place I should certainly back the late Mr. Dan Leno. It is true that he is dead, and that the public memory (especially that of the *Daily Mail* public) is short, but he has left no successor who has touched the public imagination to anything like the same extent. He ministered to the pleasure of unnumbered thousands, and he was quite as great in his way as Mr. Hall Caine in his, though, as it was perhaps less intellectual, I do not think the readers of the *Daily Mail* would be inclined to place him *quite* so high. On the other hand, if less respectfully admired, he was, I think, even more intimately beloved, and his features were, in his time, quite as well known.

Though I have found it comparatively easy to place the first two in the race for fame, I must confess to some feeling of doubt as to the probable third. As I have said, so much depends upon the time of year. Taking it, however, for granted that the voting occurs in August, I am confident that the cricketers would beat the footballers. There are, however, other great names in other walks of active life which must not be overlooked. Thus, a month or two ago, a young gentleman (his name, I think, is Bruce), who married Miss Camille Clifford, the "Gibson" girl, would have stood a good chance. But by August next he will in all probability be less in the public mind, and cannot hope to compare with either Mr. Hayward (or Mr. Hirst), Dr. Clifford, Mr. Chamberlain, or the first Duke of Wellington. As we are not likely to have a General Election by August next, considering, further that tariff reform is dead—and damned—and that we are all a little tired of the education question, I am reluctantly compelled to relegate Dr. Clifford and Mr. Chamberlain to inferior positions on the list. I am not sure that Dr. W. G. Grace might not, even a year or two since, have stood a chance of rivalling Messrs. Hayward and Hirst, while there are also Prince Ranjitsinhji and Mr. C. B. Fry. But if the *Daily Mail* is constant to its opinions of last year—which is quite possible in matters of cricket—I believe that Mr. Hayward may safely count upon taking the third place among the greatest Englishmen whose names adorn the British Temple of Fame. Next to him I should not be surprised to find a soldier, either Roberts, Kitchener, or Wellington. I believe it would be Wellington, if only from association of ideas. As thus: the proprietor of the *Daily Mail* has frequently been termed the Napoleon of the press (though I am not sure that Mr. Hooper, of the *Times* Book Club, would agree), and the minds of his admirers must accordingly hold that the general who could beat the Harmsworth of history must have been far and away the greatest soldier who ever lived.

For the fifth place on the list there would, I imagine, be a certain amount of uncertainty. Many readers having, as it were, paid their meed of admiration to the greatest names of the century, might now feel inclined to vote for the candidates who most pleased their individual fancy. Thus it might be suggested that Mr. Fred Horner, ex-M.P., was in many ways one of the most remarkable legislators that England has yet produced, and therefore worthy of a high place among great Englishmen. Others, again, might hold that his greatness arose in some degree only from his position, and that either Mr. Jabez Spencer Balfour or Mr. Whittaker Wright were really in advance of him along his chosen path of fame. Other enthusiasts might point out that Dr. Williams (of Pink Pill fame) or Mr. Beecham—as either can show by innumerable testimonials—are among the greatest benefactors of the race, besides having their names almost as frequently recurrent in the daily press as that of Mr. Hall Caine himself. Again, *Daily Mail* readers who happen to

possess memories would certainly consider the claims of Mr. Rudyard Kipling, the immortal author of "The Absent-Minded Beggar." And there is Mr. Bernard Shaw, who, as he has frequently told us himself—and who better qualified to judge?—is a very great Englishman indeed, so far as he is not an Irishman.

Whichever of these great men might be elected to the fifth place on the list, I have a strong feeling that the sixth should and would be given to H.I.M. Wilhelm II. He is certainly an Englishman on his mother's side; he is quite the most talked about person in Europe, and has been for years past. And he, his advisers, and his deep machinations for the conquest of his maternal country, have for long exercised a weird and quite unaccountable fascination over the minds of readers of the *Daily Mail*. I think it the more likely that he would occupy this honourable place on the list, in view of the fact that we are certain to hear a good deal about him and his subjects in the near future; and it is even by no means impossible, should the present elections go against his Imperial wishes, and should he thereupon feel called upon to exercise his Imperial power in a way unpleasing to the bulk of his subjects, that we may have him as a welcome guest among us by the time that the next "silly season" arrives, in which case he will certainly add a new lustre to the name of Englishman, and may very likely be of considerable service to his adopted country as a reorganiser of the War Office. And certainly, along with Mr. Hall Caine, the late Mr. Leno, Mr. Bernard Shaw, and possibly Mr. William Shakespeare, supposing that that gentleman ever existed, he will go to make up a bevy of distinguished Englishmen, in comparison with which the greatest names of any other nation—past, present, and to come—must hide their ineffectual fires. With which reflection I am pleased to leave any further consideration of the subject to the readers of the *Daily Mail*.

THE EDALJI AGITATION.

Sir Conan Doyle has gained one point on which I congratulate him. He has persuaded the Home Secretary to give him a personal interview on the case of Mr. Edalji. From my own personal experience in this case, I gather that this is a proceeding of a quite revolutionary character, at variance with all the most cherished traditions of the Home Office. As mentioned last week, after the Edalji case had been threshed out in TRUTH in 1905, I approached the then Home Secretary, submitting copies of all the articles that had appeared, and requesting that he would favour me with a personal interview in reference to the case. I received only a formal acknowledgment of the request, and the real answer was conveyed personally by Mr. Akers Douglas to Mr. Labouchere behind the scenes in the House of Commons, the effect of it being that the rules of official procedure prevented the Home Secretary discussing the case of a prisoner with a mere editor, but that any statement which Mr. Labouchere desired to submit to him in the character of an M.P. would be duly considered. A statement was submitted accordingly, with the result that Mr. Akers Douglas decided to release the prisoner at the end of three years, but nothing more. I, therefore, waited until the change of Government, and tried again. On March 15 last an article was published in TRUTH reviewing the main features of the case, avowedly for the personal information of Mr. Gladstone, dwelling specially upon the part played by the Home Office subsequently to the conviction, and emphasising the necessity for an independent public inquiry into the whole case from beginning to end. This article, as well as all that had preceded it, I forwarded to Mr. Gladstone, with a letter inviting his personal attention to them, at the same time informing him that I had been authorised by the father and mother of the prisoner, and also indirectly by the prisoner himself, to represent them in the matter, and requesting that he would grant me an interview and an opportunity of inspecting the documents in the possession of the Home Office. The answer to this application, published in TRUTH of March 28, was that after careful consideration the Home Secretary did not see his way to grant me an interview or allow me to inspect the documents.

I repeat this story because when read with the announcement in the press that the Home Secretary gave Sir Conan Doyle a lengthy interview a few days ago, it shows that we are getting on, and should so far serve as an encouragement to Mr. Edalji and his friends. Clearly, Sir Conan Doyle has no claim to an official interview to-day which the Editor of TRUTH had not equally in April, 1905, and March, 1906. No new facts or arguments are forthcoming now in connection with the case which were not set forth in the TRUTH articles submitted to the Home Office on those dates. I confess I am tempted to wonder what has brought about such a change in the official attitude towards outside interference The natural inference seems to be that the further ventilation of the case in the London and provincial press which has naturally followed on Mr. Edalji's release, and the rising public agitation on his behalf, have warned the Home Office that there is serious trouble brewing over the case. It would not surprise me to learn that in consequence of this the Home Secretary and his staff have now, for the first time, looked seriously into the arguments on Mr. Edalji's behalf and discovered at last something of the strength of his case. Anyhow, I congratulate Sir Conan Doyle on having captured the outer works of the enemy's position, and I certainly do not grudge him that he has succeeded where I was unsuccessful. On the contrary, I hope that he will be stimulated thereby to renewed efforts and speedily plant his flag on the citadel.

The correspondence that has been appearing on this subject in the *Daily Telegraph* during the past week is chiefly useful in showing the public interest and feeling that have been aroused on Mr. Edalji's behalf. The arguments and opinions of the individual contributors, as usual on these occasions, deal only with detached fragments of the case, and, whether on Mr. Edalji's side or against him, prove the personal sentiments or prejudices that actuate the writers, and not much more. I should be sorry to attempt to review them, but there are points here and there which have struck me—one particularly in the letter of Mr. Churton Collins, which appeared in the *Telegraph* of Friday. Mr. Collins relates that in 1905 he was moved

to look into the case, but that in pushing his inquiries he was met everywhere with suggestions that there was behind the case some black and horrible mystery affecting Mr. Edalji and his family. He refers to "one of the kindest-hearted men that ever breathed, with as chivalrous a sense of right and justice as any man could have," but who strongly warned him to have nothing to do with the case as it was "embedded in filth and horror." Others, he says, expressed similar opinions, including a detective who had no connection with the case, and no conceivable motive for injuring Mr. Edalji. These calumnies, says Mr. Collins, estranged many who would otherwise have sympathised with the unfortunate prisoner. I can fully corroborate Mr. Collins in this. When I myself first took up this case, I found evidence on all sides of the shocking allegations that were current. The worst of them all was related to me by a friend at the Bar, who gave it as having originated in the Circuit on which the trial took place. On another occasion when I suggested to a friend on the press that his paper should assist the cause of justice by ventilating the case, he flatly declined, telling me that he had heard things in the neighbourhood of Birmingham (not in any way related to the charge or the trial) which prevented him having anything to do with Mr. Edalji. Not a particle of evidence in support of any of these suggestions have I ever obtained; they were mere intangible rumours passed from mouth to mouth, and I have no more doubt than Mr. Churton Collins that not a shadow of evidence for them exists anywhere. But somebody must have set these stories afloat in the first instance, and in view of several other features of the case, it is not incredible that they were deliberately promulgated for a definite purpose. Undoubtedly they have had a most injurious effect on the efforts to obtain justice for Mr. Edalji, whether that effect was designed or not; and if ever a proper public inquiry is made into the history of the case, this is a point in it which should not be overlooked. Should the occasion arise I will explain what I mean more definitely.

It may be that the wide publicity which is now being given to the case in the *Daily Telegraph* and other papers will bring to light evidence that will help to dispel the mystery surrounding the cattle-maiming outrages at Great Wyrley and the anonymous letter writing which was the real cause of Mr. Edalji's conviction; and that his innocence will thus be demonstrated in a more convincing way than is possible by mere argument on a set of complicated and somewhat puzzling facts. It may be that Mr. Gladstone, in view of the strong public feeling now aroused, will imitate the example of his predecessor in the Beck case, and appoint some independent tribunal to make an exhaustive inquiry into the conviction of Mr. Edalji and all material circumstances preceding and following it. But failing either of these solutions, the end which must now be worked for is the raising of the question in the House of Commons, and no step should be omitted which will ensure its being raised in such a way as will enable every Member to appreciate the gravity of the points at issue. As I have said over and over again, this is not merely a question affecting the guilt or innocence of one man. The case presents a series of questions relating to the attitude of the police towards suspected persons, the methods by which they get up and present evidence, the trial of serious crimes at Quarter Sessions, and last, but certainly not least, the practice of the Home Office on appeals against conviction—questions which directly affect every innocent man among us. It is the duty of the House of Commons—and a duty to the police, the Law Courts, and the Home Office, no less than to Mr. Edalji or the rest of the public—to see that all these questions, raised in the form which they now take, shall be threshed out to a conclusion which will satisfy everybody.

THE THEATRES.

There are none. This statement may sound a little surprising, as regards the metropolis, which teems with theatres of every kind, but my readers are, of course, aware that I refer to novelties.

The most interesting event of the week was the announcement that Mr. Tree would act in Berlin next April. Mr. J. T. Grein seems to have been the ambassador plenipotentiary upon this occasion, and I trust that the performance of "Antony and Cleopatra" may have, as he suggests, the desired effect of mediating between Germany and ourselves. The Germans have always been great Shakespearean students, and the Meiningen troupe, to mention but the best known, has rendered Shakespeare splendidly in the Fatherland for many years. I hope there may not prove to be in Berlin many purists in the matter of production of Shakespeare. The Emperor himself, I should imagine, would like what one may call the Wagnerian production, associated with the names of Irving and of Mr. Tree: I mean a production in which music and painting and scenic effect play almost as large a part as the words and the acting.

But imagine how unfortunate would be the position if we were to read in the German papers something like the following: "The never-to-be-forgotten occasion of the performance of Wilhelm Shakespeare's drama, 'Antony and Cleopatra,' translated from the German by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, was the occasion of much uproar in the Opera House. It was finally decided to ask the Emperor kindly to declare war upon Great Britain as soon as could conveniently be done with satisfactory results, the *casus belli* being the, to us and to all students of the world-poet, most wicked interpretation of 'Antony and Cleopatra' at the Opera House. We understand that a certain Herr Poel and a few others in England also disapprove of this attack upon the world-poet, and when the time comes for the occupation of London these will not be forgotten. Mr. Tree and Mr. Grein will be led in chains through the streets of London by Herr Poel."

But such extreme counsels are little likely to be followed, and I have no doubt that Mr. Tree's visit to Berlin, far from conducing to the gloom, will, on the contrary, contribute to the gaiety of nations.

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The wave of excitement and interest caused by the Zancigs extends every week the circumference of its ripples. Now it is the turn of the Oxford, which announces that the Nassaus bid fair to out-rival all

competitors. The most novel element in the Nassaus' entertainment appears to be their claim to convey information to the audience about their friends abroad. *Credat Judæus.*

NOTES FROM PARIS.

MUSIC-HALL PRINCESSES.

A WANDERING Briton writes to me from the other end of Europe to say how depressed he feels in reading in the daily papers that thousands go every evening to listen with transport to the Prince and Princess Robert de Broglie at the London Tivoli. What else could he expect? Britons love lords. They like to take the romantic view of a young runaway couple, and cannot be expected to understand the standpoint of the parents who refuse to give them their blessing. It costs those who applaud nothing beyond the prices of their seats at the music hall to be on the side of an interesting couple against a hard-hearted father and mother. They know nothing of the closeness of family life in France or of the sacrifices parents make to keep their children as high and as well-off as they themselves have been. You have the "eldest son" in the noble English family. Entails have been made for his advantage. In France all the children are, so far as heritable property goes, on the very same footing. No family could hold out against the democratising action of the Code were it not for the parental sacrifices just mentioned. Through them family dignity, fairly based on wealth, is maintained, and many virtues are nurtured.

In France the crowds would not go into idolatrous transports over a prince and a princess not yet legally entitled to stand socially on the same plane as her husband. If they turned out to be true artists their success would grow. If not they would soon disappear from the bill. For instance, Clara, Princesse de Chimay, née Ward, had a very temporary success, though a beautiful person and finely formed as a statue. The Marquise de Morny would now hardly draw to the degree of, I will not say 160 francs a seat, but to that of filling places at ordinary prices. The very authentic Princess Pignatelli drew for a few nights at the Alcazar as a diva. I thought her a very fine woman, and she presented an interest which I prefer not to speak of. But she knew nothing of the scena, sang out of tune, and, despising to court her public, had in a few days to go elsewhere. We are soon to see a "Princesse Romanoff, a genuine cousin of the Czar." The disturbed state of Russia left her hard up, and she has decided to fall back on her talents. Mme. Adamovich-Woelfling, still the wife of the Archduke Ferdinand of Hapsburg-Tuscany, and plaintiff in a cross divorce suit at Geneva, will come among us with the spring flowers as a musical artist. We shall go to hear her as we have done when genuine princes and princesses figured on the bill, or as we might go to see the sheep with five legs.

Le Matin lays itself out to give autobiographies of notorious persons as they arise. It keeps an autobiographical editor to put into smart grammatical French the tales of the illiterate celebrities of the hour. All is fish that comes to his net, but he seems to prefer awful sinners to saints. I hear when the Marie Aude autobiography came out in his paper that he received from it 4,000 frs. and she 2,000 frs. for the information she supplied. A friendly advocate helped her to steer in a non-committal course as she was only out of prison on bail, and had to stand an Assize Court trial. This editor also cooked up taking memoirs of Ramon Daurignac, Mme. Humbert's brother. I think I detect another pen in those fearful confessions of Marie Frémont and the Abbé Delarue. The memoirs of the Marquise de Morny have not yet been added to the collection. As her Moulin Rouge adventure is now ancient history they perhaps never will. The fetching biography of the hour is by Prince Robert de Broglie and deals with his love affairs, which show him to be inflammable, and will give an account of his two marriages, one of which he allowed his parents to set aside. All over France one sees in staring type, at railway stations and other public places, "LE MATIN: AVENTURES D'UN PRINCE." To the millions who voted *le bloc* into power, and now tell Briand to pull away against the Pope and bishops, the "Prince" may be royal or imperial, or son, grandson, first cousin to king or emperor, or a match for the ex-wife of the King of Saxony, or Duke Philippe of Saxe-Coburg. If he had given his family name with the title there would be no mystery, and the charm would be less great. The millions go too much to the theatres where melodramatic pieces come out not to love what is a bit mysterious.

The Broglies who drop, in signing their names, the De, had Academy prestige in the time of the late Duke Albert and his father, Duke Victor. It was to some extent derived from their relationship to Mme. de Staël, the mother of the Duchesse Victor and the grandmother of Duke Albert, and the Comtesse d'Haussonville, whose husband and son were Academicians. Academy elections were more often decided upon in her salon than anywhere else. She had talent, and her pen warmed the subjects on which she wrote, and especially Ireland and Robert Emmet. The Broglies were brought to France in the time of the Fronde riots. Mazarin wanted some Italian captains whom he could trust to set off against Condé and other *frondeurs*, and he sought for them in Piedmont. A De Broglio from Carre, near Turin, just suited him, and he gave him a footing at Court and in the army. This foreigner has left his mark on the French tongue in the word "imbroglio." His grandson Frenchified the name as it now stands. He had two sons. One was a diplomat, who became the King's friend and confidant, as against the regular Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and ended by getting himself exiled to the family residence, now Château de Broglie, in the Eure. The other son took part, as Marshal de Broglie, in the Seven Years' War, conjointly with Marshals de Contades and de Soubise, whose army was annihilated, but who invented, in the course of the campaign, the famous onion sauce called after him. The Emperor, husband of Maria Theresa, gave him the title of Prince, and declared him *hochgeboren* as a reward for his assistance. Louis XV. at the same time made him a French duke. The Holy Roman dignity, according to French usage in regard to such foreign distinctions, was borne in France subject

to the rules of the Court which bestowed it. One of these rules was parity of birth in marriage. One cannot doubt that it was overlooked when Mlle. Albertine de Staël became Duchesse Victor de Broglie, and much more flagrantly when Mlle. Marie Say entered the De Broglie family. Her great wealth could not give her the equal-birth status. It would be interesting to hear the opinion of William II. on the subject. He abhors unequal-birth, though with the morganatic arrangement which is such a good thing for the plain daughters of illustrious German houses, in limiting the choice of the Princes. The smallest French noble, according to the unbroken usage of the French Court, is entitled to precedence over a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire in France. Marie Antoinette could not obtain any precedence for her cousins, the Princes de Lambescq, at Versailles. Louis XV. once, and as an act of courtesy towards her and the Empress Queen, her mother, gave them *par exception* the highest places in a quadrille at a fête in honour of the Dauphin's marriage. It was violently resented and never repeated.

Had not Horace Walpole in one of his letters a laugh at a Lord Cowper for soliciting the honour of being named a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire? Did you ever hear of a Lord Fordyce or an Hon. Mr. Cowper or any Lady *née* Cowper going about with the title of "Princess"? Yet all the Cowpers were born princes and princesses of the Holy Roman Empire, as are all the De Broglies. There are now thirty princes and princesses in the latter family. The title might be of great value to a dishonest person, inasmuch as it lends itself to an equivocal meaning.

As I end my notes I hear that the Prince and Princess de Broglie have accepted here a music-hall engagement at the rate of 1,500 francs a night. Notoriety is, while it lasts, fortune!

M. Briand contributed regularly to the *Lanterne* up to the day on which he took office as Minister of Public Instruction and "tombeur du Pape." Were he to return to private life he would furnish, as of old, articles to that journal. He has been accused of too great leniency to the Church because ambitious of sitting among the Forty Immortals. On this account the short paragraph in which *La Lanterne* disposes of the reception of M. Maurice Barrès has a special interest. "M. Maurice Barrès, elected by the Academy to replace M. José Maria de Hérédia, was received yesterday. He delivered the usual speech to which Vicomte de Vogüé, the Director, replied." This account is adequate to the occasion.

In one of his books Anatole France remarks that foreigners only now believe in the French Academy. He ought to know as he is one of its members. There is a good deal of truth in what he says. Still, there are people in France who believe in it. They are the sort of people who, in the face of the great lessons of the last hundred and fifteen years, still believe in wealth, decorations, and titles. Half an Academician's prestige is due to his right to wear a uniform which costs £25, and to carry a sword at an age when officers leave off wearing theirs. The Academy is in the Republic of Letters very much what the House of Lords is in the body politic, a body existing on false appearances, figments, and fictions. The prestige of both is based on the ignorant snobbishness of the mass—a great power, I admit. The best modern thinkers have not belonged to the Academy. Michelet and Edgar Quinet did not sit there. Daudet remained out in the cold. Gustav Le Bon, Poincaré, Le Dantec do not belong to the Academy and probably never will. Among the Immortals are authors of real merit. They are admitted to shed lustre on the others, amateurs who keep good cooks, cellars, stables, and are, like the Marquis de Vogüé, squirearchs. These also write books, being anxious, like the Kaiser, to claim universality.

The Academy will elect any one who can advertise it if his rejection is not a better advertisement. The dressing-rooms of the Français often decide an election there, and almost always the election of the candidate who is a dramatic author. Sometimes there is a struggle for electoral influence between the dressing-rooms of the Vaudeville and the Français, and we are sure with Antoine's able management to hear of those of the Odéon claiming the right to nominate academical candidates. One can see how the pretty actress is becoming an influence by the growing tendency of the ladies attending Academy receptions to appear there in flaunting finery. The *style cocodette* is now accepted at the Academy.

Truth has taken from the first a strong stand against usurers. The following will therefore interest you. A Paris judge, M. Lemercier, has passed a sharp sentence on a Montmartre pawnbroker named Devinat, whose chief business was usury. Devinat knew well that he had laid himself open to prosecution, French law on usurious practices being much the same as English. He turned the Code in this way: for a loan of 50 fr. he would get his victims to sign a receipt for 100-fr. worth of jewellery and enter the transaction falsely in his books as a sale. Devinat's customers were mostly clerks and employees in the Paris Gas Company. The judge sentenced him to a fine of 1,500 fr., equivalent to £60, and ordered a copy of the sentence to be placarded in the branch offices of the gas company, and to be inserted in as many Paris papers at the cost of the usurer.

It would be a commonplace to say that we live in a strange time. We now witness a plenary council of Ultramontanist French bishops with a Protestant lady of English birth acting as their hostess—the Countess de Franqueville, *née* (as they say here) Palmer des Lords Selborne. Comte de Franqueville owes his title to the Pope. This is not first-water nobility, but he is a highly respectable person, a member of the Institute, and the happy owner of the once Royal château de la Muette, so called because the King's Bois de Boulogne packs of stag and wolf hounds were kept there. "Meute" is the French word for a pack of hounds. "Muette" means mute—a name the episcopal council deserves, as the bishops composing it only speak in whispers, and are each in a constant state of fear lest some busybody among them might send an unfriendly report to Rome. Comte de Franqueville came into

this Muette château and park, the largest private one by far in Paris, through his marriage with a great-niece of Mme. Erard, widow of Sebastien Erard, the piano manufacturer. The house dates from about 1836, is roomy, and has no pretensions to architectural style, but gives the impression (with the grounds) of great wealth. A single pavilion of the Royal château escaped the fury of the Revolution. Erard pulled it down, but he left the Royal arms in high relief and in carved stone over the imposing entrance to the property from the Ranelagh high street.

Eighty-two bishops, three of whom are cardinals, accepted the hospitality of the Comte and Comtesse. Three of their lordships arranged to stay as permanent guests at La Muette. The others had lunch there only. *La Croix* tells us that the menus were "convenable"—faint praise that ought to drive the chef wild with indignation. La Muette has utterly thrown into the shade the hospitality which M. Cochin has been extending to the Archbishop of Paris. All the photographers who work for the newspapers have been busy with the former, and have pictorially represented it from all possible standpoints.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Modern English parents, dear Lady Betty, are the Boxes and Coxes of matrimony; the fathers are out all day and in bed all night; the mothers are out all night and in bed all day. They only meet in—the Divorce Court!

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The new Cupid has a cheque-book under one arm, and a coronet under the other.

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The new "Society" is composed of the rich undistinguished, attended by the distinguished poor.

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"Money is the root of all evil"; the British genealogical tree appears to be seriously in want of more root.

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It is especially difficult to love our neighbour in a generation when all love has to be reduced to pounds, shillings, and pence.

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The gentlemanly vices have been vulgarised; the gentlemanly virtues have ceased to exist.

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The new Education Bill: a measure to provide Compulsory Religious Education for the members of the House of Lords.

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Old England altering into New England is the main feature of the time in this country, and the situation possesses many peculiarities, some of which are irritating to the earnest, others interesting to the serious, and others again entertaining to the indifferent.

A House of Lords, the object of the members of which it is to protect the privileges of a class; a House of Commons, to which it is entrusted to secure the rights of the community; and a middle-class which is hourly increasing in numbers and prosperity, and the individuals of which are generally prepared to support the Party that shall benefit them the most, all claim to be patriots! Meanwhile, though millions are spent here annually—directly and indirectly—in the struggle between the opposing Parties, the English are doing comparatively little towards their own development; they are being revolutionised by the United States, the example of our self-governing colonies, the influence of France, and internal circumstances over which politicians have no control.

Circumstances have no Party. Whether the Tories or the Radicals are in power, the social, scientific, and mechanical developments in the United States, and the mental and moral influences of France, produce alterations and their consequences, which are forming a New England, notwithstanding all the opposition of the Old. Re-establish the conditions and the customs of twenty-five years ago even, and no Englishman or woman of to-day would credit that it is the same country as we live in now!

The development of finance, commerce, and trade has diminished the importance of land, and, consequently, the wealth and influence of those who own it, and they are being steadily forced downwards in social value. The general increase in prosperity is rapidly causing hundreds of thousands to rise, and is establishing them in the places occupied formerly by the members of the privileged class. Combination might, possibly, delay the process for a while, but it cannot cause it to cease.

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It is a suspicious circumstance that it is the members of the English upper class themselves that have changed the most during the last quarter of a century, and yet it is they who most deprecate change. "Our portion is the people," said a well-known lady, "it will be a bad day for this country when we are dispossessed of it!" That will remind many of the wig-makers who, when pig-tails were abandoned, petitioned Parliament to render it compulsory to wear them, as otherwise England would sink to a second-rate power.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A NUMBER of sporting writers appear to have been thrown into howling hysterics by the passing of the Street Betting Act and the prospect of further legislation of the same description. It is simply idiotic and grossly ridiculous to screech and wail over the impending ruin of the Turf because it is desired to squabash street betting and starting-price establishments, and to prohibit the mendacious and mischievous advertisements of tipsters. It is hopeless folly, moreover, to suggest that the Jockey Club should license bookmakers. The members are not such infatuated simpletons as to mix themselves up with the betting question, and if one can for a moment conceive such a hare-brained policy being adopted, the Club would very quickly be smashed up by Parliament. As I have recently remarked, the moon will fall before betting in any shape or form is recognised officially in this country, either directly or indirectly. The members of the Jockey Club take larger and sounder views of affairs than the sporting writers who are now in such a dangerously delirious condition. Many of the tales concerning the contemplated attacks on racing are so stupidly false and so extravagantly absurd as to be altogether beneath any sort of notice. Indignation does not supply syntax, for some of the diatribes I have looked over are marvels of incoherent gibberish, bearing a strong resemblance to that famous saying of a once well-known county member, who described Sir Robert Peel as "not the sort of man that you could put salt upon his tail."

A correspondent at Newmarket informs me that All Black and his stable companion Orwell have made a wonderful improvement during the winter. They appear to be endowed with both speed and stamina, and each has beautiful action. The colt is to undergo a special preparation for the Two Thousand, and he is also engaged in the Derby, being nominated for that race by his breeder, Lord Clonmell. The filly is entered for both the One Thousand and the Oaks, these two races being her only important engagements. Orwell was far and away the best performer among the fillies last season, as she won five races out of six, and her

defeat in her first race (the Ashley Plate at the Newmarket Craven Meeting) was an arrant fluke,

The White Knight has come on in a very satisfactory manner during the last two months. This horse is a really good stayer. I hear that he is to undergo a special preparation for Ascot, and if he should be beaten for the Gold Cup he will still have an excellent chance of winning the Alexandra Plate, as he has no penalty for that event. The White Knight is quite likely to repeat his victory in the Gold Vase at Ascot, as he will have no extra weight to carry. His raking stride is admirably adapted for the Ascot course. I fully expect that next summer he will discover himself to be one of the very best four-year-olds in training.

Slieve Gallion has been left in for the Union Jack Stakes of £1,200, which race is run on the first day of the Liverpool Spring Meeting. It is not at all likely that Captain Greer's colt will be seen at Aintree. A horse which is fit for racing on March 21 certainly would not be at its best on June 5, the day on which the Derby will be run. Twenty-six three-year-olds are left in for this race, including Lord Wolverton's Prince of Orange and Larig, Mr. J. Wallace's Gnome, Sir E. Cassel's Freeborn, Mr. Freeman's Hexagon, Lord Derby's Glacis, and Mr. W. Hall Walker's Knight of Tully.

There are eighteen acceptances for the Bickerstaffe Stakes of £700, run on the second day at Liverpool, including Larig and Knight of Tully, and the owner of the latter colt is also represented by Ulpean. His Majesty heads the list with Isograph, colt by Isinglass out of Amphora.

A really miserable entry has been received for the Liverpool Spring Cup of £1,000, only twenty-six horses having been engaged, and to make matters worse, one trainer has three representatives, and four others have two each. This is another handicap which would probably do better if the entries closed several weeks later than at present, say on the first Tuesday in March. Lord Derby, who is often dangerous in this race, is represented by Bridge of Canny and Glasconbury, and other notable names in the list are Velocity and Roseate Dawn.

There are sixty-five entries for the Grand National Steeplechase, as compared with sixty-three last year. All the best cross-country horses in training have been engaged, but there are a considerable number of animals in the list who do not appear to hold the most remote chance of even completing the course. His Majesty has entered Flaxman, and other interesting names are those of Mr. J. Clyde's Cinders, Mr. J. S. Morrison's Drumcree, Prince Hatzfeldt's Ascetic's Silver, Mr. C. Hibbert's Red Lad, Mr. B. W. Parr's Aunt May, Mr. Partridge's Timothy Titus, Mr. G. Faber's Ranunculus, Mr. P. E. Speakman's Buckaway II., Mr. A. Gorham's Wolf's Folly, and Mr. G. H. Browne's John M.P. The names of Leinster and Kirkland are missing, and I suppose both these useful horses have closed their racing career. The weights for this event are to be published on Thursday (to-morrow), and the race will be run at Aintree on Friday, March 22.

One of the papers, referring to the entry of Flaxman for the Grand National, announces that the King is expected to pay another visit to Aintree this year, in order to see his horse run. This is untrue, for the King is to be away at Biarritz when the Grand National is run, so he will certainly not be the guest of Lord Derby at Knowsley Hall during the Liverpool Meeting. I am told that his Majesty is not likely to go racing until the Newmarket Spring Meeting, which begins on April 30.

Hack Watch has broken down, and he was therefore struck out of the Grand National Steeplechase last Thursday. He won seven important races last year, and he was generally regarded as the most brilliant young steeplechaser now in training. Mr. Tunstall Moore's horse appeared to possess an excellent chance of winning the Grand National. Hack Watch is a son of Hackler.

The Chester Vase, a new race for three-year-olds and four-year-olds, value £2,100, has proved a dreadful failure. There were only eight-eight entries when the stakes closed in November, 1904, and now that the final forfeit has been declared there is a miserable acceptance of twenty-four. The best animals in the list are the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller (which is a very likely winner), Mr. W. Hall Walker's Black Arrow and Knight of Tully, and Mr. Bass's Sancy.

Forty-nine horses have been entered for the Chester Cup, which is a subscription race of £2,550, minor forfeit £5. It is odd to look back and remember that in the forties and fifties there was heavy betting over this handicap even before the entries were made, and when once the acceptances had been declared horses were backed every week for many thousands of pounds. The Chester Cup was then the heaviest betting handicap of the year, but its prestige began rapidly to decline in the late sixties. Virago was quietly backed in November and December, 1853, for the next year's Chester Cup to win something like £100,000, several bets of 5,000 to 75 having been secured when the handicap appeared. Virago was considered by her owner, Mr. Padwick (a wretched judge of racing) to be outrageously overweighted, so he scratched her in a rage. Her subsequent form showed that she would have cantered in for the Chester Cup, and an immense stake would have been won by her party. In 1852 there were forty-three starters for the Chester Cup, and Joe Miller won, with 4 st. 10 lbs. on his back, while next was Stilton (5 st. 8 lbs., including 10 lbs. extra), and third was Poodle (5 st. 3 lbs., including 10 lbs. extra). The placed horses were all three-year-olds. This year there is only one three-year-old in the list—Lord Rosebery's Donna Caterina. The most notable of the older horses are Roseate Dawn, Hammerkop, Spate, Feather Bed, Bridge of Canny, Gourd, Achilles, Kroonstad, Dinneford, Great Scot, and Bibiani. It is not often that one finds French horses entered for the Chester Cup, but M. Caillault has engaged a couple of four-year-olds—Querido and Hautbois. The Duke of Westminster has not entered anything, the reason presumably being that he has nothing in his stud that would be likely to stand any chance of winning this handicap. All things considered, however, it is odd that Troutbeck was not engaged, in order that the Duke might at least be represented in the great race of his home meeting.

Fifty-six horses have been entered for the Lancashire Handicap Steeplechase of £2,000, which is to be run for at Manchester, Easter Monday (April 1), and fifty-nine horses are engaged in the Jubilee Handicap Hurdle Race of £1,000, run at the same meeting on the following day.

Twenty-four horses are left in for the Greenham Stakes of £1,000 to be run at Newbury on Friday, April 12, including Baron de Forest's smart filly Bellatrix, who will no doubt be prepared for this race, as she has no other engagement until the Gratwicke Stakes at Goodwood. It is very unlucky for her present owner that this filly should have been withdrawn from both the Oaks and the North Derby at Newcastle, which were her two best engagements.

Several events at Newmarket which did not fill on the 1st have been re-opened, and will close next Tuesday, notably the March Stakes, the Newmarket Handicap, and the Payne Stakes for 1908.

Fifty two-year-olds have been entered for the Newmarket Plate of £200 at the First Spring Meeting, the entrances amounting to £150. There are fifty-three entries for the May Plate, and by the time that the minor forfeit has been declared the £200 which is nominally given to this race will probably have been recovered. There are sixty-one entries for the Soltykoff Stakes, with £300 added, but this race costs the fund nothing, as the entrances amount to £305. The Criterion Stakes, with £200 added, has obtained forty-two entries, the sum really given being £32.

The entry of three-year-olds and upwards for the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot of 1908 is interesting, because some idea may be derived from it as to the animals which are expected to last on the Turf, and to do well in the future. The only now five-year-olds in the

list are Mr. Joel's Polymelus and Mr. R. Walker's Dinneford. The best four-year-olds are Lord Derby's Keystone II., and Bridge of Canny, Mr. Dugdale's Picton, Captain Greer's Rocketter, Mr. Joel's Prince William, Mr. J. A. de Rothschild's Beppo, and Mr. Hall Walker's Black Arrow, his entry also including Polar Star. Among the other three-year-olds are his Majesty's dark colt Perambulator, Baron de Forest's Bellatrix, Lord Derby's Olympian and Glacis, Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite, Mr. Hallick's Fra Diavolo, and Major Loder's Weathercock, Galvani, and Baltinglass. Lord Falmouth has entered Lycœus, three years, by Cyllene out of Cereza; and the Duke of Portland has the three-year-old Apponyi, by St. Simon out of Mneme, a colt hitherto unknown to fame, but he must have been highly thought of as a yearling, as he commenced last season with thirty-three engagements.

The weights for the Spring Handicaps will be published to-morrow, and I most earnestly advise my speculative readers not to pay the slightest attention to the fiddle-faddle betting over the Lincolnshire Handicap which is certain to be recorded daily in the papers, as it is all nonsense and rubbish, representing merely the harum-scarum fancies of the gullish herd of public backers. There will be no genuine betting over this race until a week before it is run, and it is quite certain that no stable commissions will be given out for the next seven weeks at least. Genuine commissions are now always kept back until the very latest possible moment. Last year any amount of money was lost by misguided fatheads over Velocity, who was not half fit at Lincoln. Every spring horses are cleverly rushed in the betting for this particular handicap which are sent to the post in so backward a condition that their chance of winning is practically 000.

A writer in a weekly journal refers to Bellatrix as "the One Thousand mare." Baron de Forest's filly is not engaged in the One Thousand, and her breeder, Mr. Musker, withdrew her from the Oaks ten months ago when the minor forfeit was declared.

No horse in training has been so heavily engaged of late as Roseate Dawn. As was recently mentioned in TRUTH, he is a very fine jumper, and he has been entered for numerous hurdle races. Roseate Dawn has also been engaged in over a dozen handicaps and in several important weight-for-age events.

Lord Falmouth, who is now at his place in Cornwall, will probably start his dark colt St. Martin (own brother to Quintessence) for the Newmarket Biennial, instead of reserving him for the Two Thousand. The Kingsclere stable could also be represented in the Biennial by the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, a colt about which I had something to say last week. St. Martin has a second engagement at the first of the Newmarket meetings, in the Craven Stakes, but he certainly will not run for both races.

The Duke of Devonshire has now nineteen horses in training at Beckhampton, in S. Darling's stables, besides those which are in charge of Goodwin at Newmarket. It is probable that Hillsprite, by Cyllene out of Elf, will prove to be the Duke's best three-year-old, but I shall be surprised if he turns out to be anything above the second class. Acclaim, colt by Amphion out of Claque, is also expected to do well next season. The Duke has ten two-year-olds, all bred by himself at his stud farm in Sussex. There is a colt by Orme out of Lady Villikins, and there are fillies by St. Frusquin out of Burgonet, by Diamond Jubilee out of Claque, and by Tarporley out of Lady Sneerwell.

The Duke of Westminster has sold Pipistrello, own brother to Flying Fox, to some French breeder. This horse was bred at Eaton in 1903, and he was a very good-looking yearling, and was highly thought of at Kingsclere during the early part of his two-year-old career. He was much talked about in 1905 before Ascot, but he was beaten in his trial for the New Stakes, and he did not make his début until the Newmarket First October Meeting, when he was unplaced in the race for the Buckenham Post Produce Stakes, Anniversary II. being the favourite, while Adamas was the winner. Pipistrello proved a complete and most ghastly failure on the turf, but he may achieve some fair measure of success at the stud if his mares are judiciously chosen.

Under the Jockey Club Rules there is no race now of less than £100 in value, a regulation which was suggested many years ago in TRUTH, and it has proved a most valuable reform. It would be well if a similar rule was established for National Hunt meetings, as at present one notices nearly every day during the winter a plethora of beggarly steeplechases and hurdle races of the value of £40. The fact is that at many of these miserable meetings the racing is often a melancholy farce, and sometimes disgraceful elements are not wanting. The number of winter fixtures is preposterously out of proportion to the number of horses in training for events of the class to which such meetings are restricted. It has frequently been proposed in TRUTH that a close time should be established for cross-country sport, and that no meeting should be allowed during the months of December and January. If the National Hunt Committee cannot, or will not, carry out this obviously most desirable reform, it may be hoped that a Bill will be introduced in Parliament to deal with the matter.

M. E. Blanc at present has thirty horses in training, of which fifteen are two-year-olds, including Aglia, own brother to Ajax and Adam, and Boufarck, half-brother, by Flying Fox, to Caius. Ouadi Halfa and Myram, (own brother to Jardy) are believed to be very smart colts, and they have done well in every way during the winter. Both these animals are engaged in the Derby, and M. Blanc must now regret the premature withdrawal of Ouadi Halfa from the Eclipse Stakes and the Jockey Club Stakes.

His Eminence has been much talked about as a likely horse to win the Lincolnshire Handicap, and if he is regarded as favourably weighted he is sure to figure prominently in the betting returns. I advise people who fancy him to leave him alone, as it is quite on the cards that Lord Howard de Walden might ultimately decide to keep his horse for the City and Suburban. It seems to me that the Epsom course would be more likely to suit His Eminence than the Lincoln mile. This horse appears to be now considerably overrated by his admirers, for he was certainly one of the disappointments of last season, as great things were expected of him, but his public performances were exceedingly moderate. On more than one occasion he appeared to run like a rogue, for he seemed to "turn it up" when it required only a moderate effort to win the race. I expect it will turn out that the horse is really deficient in stamina, and very likely he would do much better if he were reserved for T.Y.C. races. He won over a mile and a quarter over the easy course at Brighton, and the City and Suburban distance might not be beyond his powers. This horse certainly has fine speed, and I hope that he will be judiciously placed during the coming season. If he "goes for" one of the spring handicaps I should expect him to do better at Epsom than at Lincoln.

It will be remembered that nearly two years ago the Council of the Football Association endeavoured to coerce affiliated associations to admit professional teams. Then came the meeting of the London Football Association, at which Lord Kinnaird presided, and at which he promised a ballot that never took place. The resolution in favour of professionalism was carried, although it is now admitted that some clubs secured two voting papers. The affair did not redound to the credit of the chairman. The formation of the Amateur Defence Association, and its denunciation by the Football Association, followed. The Amateurs replied by asking for a special general meeting of the Football Association. It was evident that a crisis was approaching, and it is to the credit of the Council that a way has been found by which the situation has been materially changed for the better. At a meeting of the Council Mr. Gregson carried a resolution practically rescinding the directions that had been given to

affiliated associations to admit professional teams, and at the same time directing that the relations of these bodies should be made the subject of inquiry This has resulted in the amateurs withdrawing their request for a special general meeting. They intimate that further negotiations are pending. I have been receiving letters pointing out how the members of the Council are paid. I consider that they ought to be paid, and these matters are but side issues. I have read with regret the way in which leading men on the Council have denounced amateurs. I hope that this view is now changed. There is ample room for amateurs and professionals. The work must be divided. I am certain that amateur associations are best suited to encourage amateur sport, but I feel that those who are concerned with the professional side could often render valuable help in these matters. It should be arranged that the parent body should render this help. The bogus amateur club requires stamping out. The professional organisations as business corporations should, as far as possible, run themelves. The Football Association must remember that the unpaid player is the democracy of the game.

I really cannot see why there should be such an objection to clubs which get the benefit of playing at home in the Association Cup ties selling their rights to their opponents. It is written about as though it were a fearful evil which the Association should remedy. That organisation has quite enough to do without bothering itself about the purely financial aspect of the game. These professional teams are entered for the Cup ties to make money for their employers. So far as the men are concerned I am quite sure that they are keen enough to win the cup. To their employers the ties mean money. The luck of the draw means the right to play at home, and with this advantage the prospect of winning and making more money by another cup tie. But suppose a club has little chance of winning, or is offered a guarantee which is larger than the home gate would give, I cannot see why it should not be free to sell the right and make money, and perhaps score a win. Once it is recognised that these contests are, so far as the clubs go, purely and simply business engagements, the absurdity of hampering trade is at once obvious. The less the Football Association interferes with business the better.

It is probably no bad thing for Chelsea that the team has been knocked out of the Cup ties. It will have done quite well enough if it can hold its own and get into the First Division of the League. Fog prevented any play with Bradford, and the leaders' most dangerous opponents, West Bromwich, were unable to finish their match with Barnsley for the same reason. The Arsenal got home against Preston North End, and Newcastle United were unable to beat Everton. At the same time, the losers are very likely to head the League. In the Southern Division Portsmouth showed the effects of much Cup play, and were badly beaten by Reading. This put Fulham, who have played two more matches, at the top of the Southern League. Penalties awarded against the Crystal Palace backs gave Fulham a victory.

Further reports of the disaster at Swansea show clearly where England failed. It is pretty evident that the defeat was due to the mistaken tactics of the English captain. Be it said that the English forwards were quite loyal. They played their best, but they had to obey orders, and that was where the mistake was made. The two fastest forwards were ordered to pack at the back of the scrimmage. The consequence was they were first up to the ball in open play, and then had to wait for the rest to come up. All the advantage was lost. It was a wretched mistake persisted in from start to finish. Another captain must be chosen. Then Hopley, who cannot be considered a genius, was given the position of "lock." Each man was given his own place in the scrum, and its pace was the speed of its slowest forward. No skipper has shown a greater capacity for playing into his opponents' hands. No one suggests that Hill is not worth his place in the team. But he is not the man for captain. Blackheath beat Richmond, and he kicked four goals out of five shots, hitting the post the time he failed. The Richmond team went badly to pieces in the second half. The Rosslyn Park team scored a splendid win over the Harlequins. The winners took full advantage of the mistakes their opponents made. Lambert was certainly not playing up to international form. In the County Championship, Cornwall very nearly beat Devonshire, who only won by a goal and a try to two tries. If she had won, Cornwall would have been at the top of the tree in that division, and a change is always a good thing. I suppose that some day the metropolitan counties will play on Saturdays. It is all nonsense to say that club football would be interfered with. The youngsters would have a chance.

Unless one is behind the scenes at billiards it is difficult to realise precisely what animates the leading professional players. One hears that all games are arranged beforehand. But so long as the men are human so long will there be a keen rivalry. The pecuniary advantages of being at the top of the tree are considerable, and the nearer one is there the better one is off. There is not much socialism amongst the players. Of course, they have to consider the public, which is of two classes, those that like an open game and those who desire to see the manœuvring for position. With the increased popularity of the game I am of opinion that the latter class is on the increase. The tacticians are now in the majority. Of the men who are coming to the top are Harverson, and the ex-amateur champion, Lovejoy. Harverson gave him 3,600 in 16,000 and was only beaten by something over 700 points. Both were playing all out to win. Lovejoy is probably the most rapid scorer amongst the professionals, and his all round play has improved. He had a remarkable break last Friday. At his fourth visit he worked the balls into position for close cannon play. He had the object balls at the left top pocket. The red was just against the cushion and there was two inches between them. In less than thirteen minutes he had scored 458, making 215 close cannons. That stopped play for the day. He was nervous on restarting. But he increased his break to 603, his total time being seventeen minutes. He made 284 consecutive cannons, which beats the previous best by Cook (159) made two years ago.

I have read some rubbish in the papers with regard to the fact that Newhall, who rowed for Harvard, is not being tried. The explanation is that he has not gone up this term. He is travelling on the Continent. He had wretched health at Oxford and he would have been quite unfit to row. He may go up for the summer term. At Cambridge the crew is practically made, and the eight should be a good one. The heavy-weight must not become a fetish on the Cam.

The University boatrace has been fixed for March 16, and the sports will take place the week after, on Saturday the 23rd at Queen's Club. This date would not have done for the race, as the start would have had to be at 7.30 a.m. The Oxford crew are being coached by Mr. Harcourt Gold. They should be a very fair, moderate-weight crew.

If the *Times* is correct in saying that Mr. R. McKenna will succeed Mr. Birrell as the Minister of Education then one Trinity Hall man will have succeeded another. He was a scholar of the Hall and a senior optime in the Mathematical Tripos in 1885. He rowed in the boat that bumped Jesus and went head in 1886. He rowed in the winning crews for the Hall in the Grand in 1886 and 1887, and won the Stewards' as well, besides rowing in the winning University crew that year. It was chiefly owing to his efforts that the Hall won the Grand, Ladies', Thames', Stewards', and Visitors' at Henley in 1887.

After a long illness Alfred Shaw, the Nottingham bowler, has died at the age of sixty-five years. Never was there a better or steadier man in the professional ranks. It may be doubted if there has ever been a keener cricketer. After he retired he took to umpiring rather than lose touch with the game. He played for the Players at Lord's from 1871 to 1881. In 1887 he ceased to play for Notts, and seven years after he came out for Sussex, and at the age of fifty-two he took forty-two wickets for an average of twelve runs. That season,

at the Oval, in an innings of 356, he took seven wickets for sixty-nine runs, and nearly half of his forty-four overs were maidens. He was originally a good bat, but he gave up batting for bowling. He had no off-side theory. He bowled at the batsman. He had a great command of pitch; but he varied his length according to the batsman, and he never believed in making the ball do too much. He could also vary his pace without change in action. He loved bowling for its own sake. He was not troubled about the need for a new ball. The M.C.C. has intimated that after 200 runs a new ball may be ordered. I suppose this is for the swerve theory. Shaw did without it.

The ever-growing popularity of golf is attested by the increasing prominence which is accorded to the game in the announcements of railway companies and hotel proprietors wherever links are to be found. Golf figures conspicuously, for instance, in the new edition of the brochure issued by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Co., in regard to its various hotels. At Turnberry, Ayrshire, where a palatial new hotel was opened last spring, the golfer has a fine eighteen-hole course close to the hotel, situated amid most interesting and picturesque scenery; while if he wishes for a change, half-a-dozen or more well-known links (including Prestwick) are within easy reach by train or motor.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

THE institution of an additional tourist trophy race for heavy cars has been received with general approval, though there seems no very obvious reason why such a step should have been taken. Certainly more practical benefit would have been derived from a race designed to encourage smaller and lighter cars. Every one knows already that there are dozens of heavy touring cars of 40 h.p. and 50 h.p. of the highest efficiency, to be had by those who can afford to pay for them. In the case of small, light cars, on the other hand, of from, say, 8 h.p. to 10 h.p., the number of such at present on the market is by no means excessive, and a race which turned more attention in that direction would certainly be of benefit. Meanwhile, the struggle of the "heavies" will certainly be followed with interest, and seeing that they will be required to carry weight to the extent of no less than a ton, the test will certainly be a severe one—especially in the matter of tyres. It will be interesting to note, by the way, whether any of the competitors adopt Elastes. Removable rims should also offer advantages in this connection.

Talking of Elastes, glowing accounts of its advantages continue to be published, and though one or two rival substances are being spoken of, it certainly seems to hold the field at present. The company which has the rights of the invention in this country is now hard at work supplying the requirements of customers, and it is not surprising to learn that the number of such on its books is already very large. One thing should, however, be understood. The rather prevalent notion that Elastes-filled tyres need no attention whatever is not quite correct. While punctures and bursts of the ordinary kind are done away with, the covers require watching none the less, if the filling is to last properly. Hence, in the case of a bad cut, which might admit wet or foreign matter, remedial measures must be adopted. Otherwise the Elastes will perish, and the tyre will be done for. If a serious cut is experienced on the road, a gaiter will afford protection till a permanent repair can be effected, but in the ordinary way, of course, a cover should travel many hundreds of miles, not to say thousands, without this occurring. As to the durability of the filling itself, as distinguished from the outer cover, it is stated that the same core may be used again and again for a succession of covers, and this being so, it is obvious that a very considerable saving must be effected in the long run, apart altogether from the enormous advantage of getting rid altogether of the labour, worry, and inconvenience associated with the use of the unreliable pneumatic.

Apropos of the Tourist Trophy Competition, by the way, it will have been noted with interest that the Automobile Club de France has now instituted a similar kind of race on the basis of a limited supply of petrol—viz., of about one gallon to twenty miles, the race to extend over a distance of a little over 300 miles, and to take place the day before the Grand Prix. This is a significant sign of the times, going to show that abroad, as at home, it is at length beginning to be recognised that motor racing of the old unrestricted kind, except on special tracks, has had its day.

Some interesting figures were published in last week's *Motor*, showing the complete imports and exports relating to the motor industry from January, 1903, to December, 1906. From these it is made plain that under both heads the increase has been steady and continuous. Thus as regards imports the case stands as follows:—1902, £1,057,875; 1903, £1,845,645; 1904, £2,271,922; 1905, £3,103,150; 1906, £4,025,240. In the case of the exports the figures are less imposing, of course, though not by any means wanting in encouragement—viz.:—1902, £172,152; 1903, £343,817; 1904, £360,377; 1905, £544,028; 1906, £871,290. It is pointed out, moreover, that though the totals of the foreign imports have shown hitherto a steady increase, there is reason to believe that so far as ordinary pleasure cars are concerned the highest total has probably been recorded, the increase in the total since 1905 being attributable to the import of motor-omnibus chassis. In regard to our own exports, one interesting circumstance is brought out very clearly by the graphic chart which accompanies the figures, namely, the fact that the highest point of the curve in each year occurs, not as in the case of foreign imports, in the middle of the summer, but in the winter months, coinciding with the cool season in India and the summer in Australia and New Zealand. This means that our factories can be kept busy all the year round attending to the rush of home orders in the spring and summer, and supplying the wants of the Colonies in autumn and winter.

Messrs. Cordingley announce that their annual motor show will be held at the Agricultural Hall in April next as usual. This will be the twelfth exhibition of the series, and a show in every way up to those of former years is promised. Messrs. Cordingley have always devoted special attention to aeronautics, and this year, it is said, the display under this head will be particularly attractive. Many new firms, it is stated, have during the past year been quietly experimenting with cars and airships, and propose to take advantage of the Islington show to submit the results of their labours to the public.

That is a characteristic American proposal, of which particulars have recently been furnished—namely, an invasion of Europe by American motorists on American cars, who will thereby demonstrate by means of a prolonged tour throughout Europe the excellence of the Transatlantic article. Some sixty cars, all of American manufacture, and representing an invested capital of £10,000,000, will, it is said, participate in the trip, which has been instituted in connection with the lately-offered America Gold Cup for a 4,000-miles road race. From particulars published in the *Express*, it appears that the cars will arrive at Havre and pass through Paris to Brest, thence by way of Nantes, Le Mars, and Tours to Bordeaux, and from there across the Spanish frontier to Barcelona. Then they will skirt the south coast of France, going through Nice and Monte Carlo to Genoa, Florence, Rome, and Naples, after which, turning north again, they will proceed by way of Vienna and Berlin to Brussels, finally crossing the Channel and making their way to Liverpool, where they will take ship for the States again. It is a bold scheme, and should certainly help to advertise the merits of American cars, concerning which, it is to be feared, a good deal of scepticism prevails at present on this side of the Atlantic.

It is not every day in the week that a single firm receives an order for 4,000 motor vehicles, but a contract of this nature has just been entered into by Messrs. Darracq, who have undertaken to supply motor cabs, to the number named, for a new French syndicate, of which M. Charley is the leading spirit. The value of

the contract is estimated at £1,000,000. Darracq shareholders should have cause to anticipate, therefore, another good year. The cabs in question are designed, it seems, for use in all the leading European cities, including London, where it is intended to place some 600 on the streets as soon as possible. The new cabs will, it is said, be of the landaulette pattern, with the driver sitting in front, and strenuous efforts are to be made to introduce in connection with them the adoption of the taxameter. At present the condition of affairs in regard to motor cabs is eminently unsatisfactory in London. There are a fair number on the streets, but people are afraid to use them, because of the exorbitant demands made by their drivers, who seem to regard a fare of anything less than 5s. in the light of an insult. The introduction of the taxameter would help to terminate this undesirable state of things.

Colonel A. R. Wyllie, C.B., who prosecuted a van demon at the Westminster Police-court last week for wilfully obstructing the passage of his motor-car, and obtained a conviction with a fine of 20s. and costs or seven days, deserves the thanks of his fellow motorists for his public-spirited action. He would doubtless have saved himself much worry and inconvenience by not following the matter up, but by taking the trouble to do this he administered a lesson in manners to the offender, which, it is safe to say, will not be without its effect upon himself and others similarly disposed in future. A still more serious evil than mere obstruction to which motorists are still liable, and in regard to which stringent measures should also be taken, is that involved in the stone throwing practised by the sportive youths in country districts. Unfortunately, effective action is much more difficult in this case.

It is interesting to note how hotel proprietors in all parts of the country are waking up to the necessity of providing good accommodation, not merely for motorists but also for their cars. A fine new garage which will take a dozen cars has recently been opened in the grounds of the Hotel Burlington, Boscombe, Bournemouth. The exterior of the garage, designed to correspond with the style of architecture of the hotel, is more handsome than is usual in a building devoted to this purpose; and—what is still more important to the motorist—the arrangements inside are thoroughly up-to-date.

MAMMON.

Heavy Liquidation in Americans—The Market Disturbed by the Plethora of New Capital Issues and by the Harriman Investigation — The Outlook — Further Declines, with Frequent Rallies Probable.

THE long delayed but inevitable period of liquidation appears to have commenced in the American Market, and values during the last few days have given way more readily than for months past. We seem, indeed, to be witnessing something like a repetition of the events of a year ago, when it may be recollected that those in control of the market, after maintaining and even raising prices during the money stringency ruling at the end of the previous year, were compelled by the continued lack of public interest and by force of other circumstances to permit a short spell of liquidation, involving, of course, a reduced level of prices. While at the present time the state of trade and of railroad earnings in the United States continues at high water mark, and the reflux of currency from West to East has already entailed a noticeable improvement in the position of the New York Associated Banks, Wall Street is compelled to ignore such factors in face of the disturbance to the market occasioned by the multiplicity of new capital issues announced and waiting to be announced, and by uneasiness arising from the investigation by the Inter-State Commerce Commission into the Harriman group of railroads. So far as the immediate future is concerned, therefore, the argument would appear to lie with the "Bears," though there is no reason to expect anything like a panic or serious trouble to individuals. The forces that have engineered the upward movement with such masterly dexterity are probably quite capable of conducting a downward movement without undue flurry. So far as can be ascertained, the present decline is part of a movement organised by the same group which was responsible for the big rise that took place last August, and if so, the market may be trusted not to get out of hand; the people now working for a fall are the people who will have new stocks as well as old to sell to the public a little later on, and it appears fairly obvious that the last thing they desire is to badly shake the public confidence. Consequently, while a lower price level seems not unlikely—and is certainly to be desired in order to restore more healthy market conditions—the decline will probably be disguised as far as possible by frequent rallies.

Money Less Abundant—Bank Controlling the Situation—Bank Rate Effects Inappreciable.

While an element of doubt existed it was generally expected that the Bank would find it expedient to lower its minimum discount rate in order to get in close touch with the market, and the reduction from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent. did not come as a surprise. Evidently the Directors are less apprehensive of the outlook, more especially as regards the South American drain, the probable "ear-marking" of gold on account of the Indian Currency reserve, and the situation in New York. The improved position indicated by the weekly return justifies their action to a certain extent, the reserve being more than £1,174,000 higher, at a total of over £22,593,000, owing to the heavy returns of cash from circulation, which completely offset the net loss of £1,051,000 of gold abroad during the week. So far as Lombard Street is concerned the event had been generously discounted in advance by the steady decline in bill rates, and the effect was scarcely palpable. That the Bank means to make the lower rate fully effective is clear from its action in borrowing a considerable sum from the market. This has materially curtailed the floating supplies of money, and in view of the fact that bills will be maturing almost daily up to the end of the month it is practically certain that the Bank will retain a firm hold of the market, especially when it is remembered that the revenue collections will also make a marked impression upon supplies. The Bank of France, too, has advanced its rate for loans to 4 per cent., with a view to checking any speculative exuberance on the Paris Bourse, and also, it is believed, to warn the Wall Street gamblers. Everything considered, it is only natural that discount rates should have hardened, and that money should be now more usable. A maintenance of such conditions may be expected for some weeks to come, but, provided the situation in New York should not become threatening, the position of the Bank by that time may justify a further reduction in the rate.

Consols Subdued—Money and Earthquake Effects—Japanese Prominent—Yields on Foreigners—Russians Sensitive

The reduction in the Bank rate has not made any palpable impression upon the market in gilt-edged stocks. As a matter of fact the event had been discounted in advance, while any further demonstration has been effectually checked by hardening up of money rates following the action of the bank in denuding Lombard-street of its surplus supplies, while the Jamaican catastrophe has contributed towards the same end because of the possibility of some liquidation on the part of the insurance companies concerned. Values, however, hold their ground well, and it seems likely that they will continue to do so because, though money may remain by no means cheap during the next few weeks, the reduction in the Bank rate implies that the tension in the situation generally is passing away. It must be confessed that the outlook is not devoid of an element of uncertainty, but taking everything into consideration, gilt-edged stocks at the relatively low level ruling do not seem an unattractive purchase. In the foreign market Japanese bonds continue most prominent as a consequence of the country's satisfactory trade position,

the Budget figures, and the probability of a conversion loan being issued soon. The Four per Cent. bonds of 1905 seem to be rather attractive. The following table indicates the approximate yield obtainable upon foreign stocks:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Argentine 4 p.c. Rescission	92½	£4 7 0
Do. 4 p.c. 1900	88¾	4 10 0
Brazilian 4 p.c.	86½	4 12 6
Chinese 5 p.c. Gold	104	4 16 0
Japan 4 p.c. 1905	88½	4 10 0
Do. 4½	94½	4 15 0

As regards Russians there is nothing fresh to chronicle, the bonds wobbling somewhat erratically despite the Budget figures. In view of the unsatisfactory condition of the country generally this is not unnatural, and I may repeat that Russians constitute a very uncertain holding.

HOME RAILS AND PUBLIC APATHY—BUSINESS SLACK BUT PRICES ADVANCING—THE HEAVIES IN DEMAND—GREAT WESTERN POSITION AND PROSPECTS—THE FIRST OF THE DIVIDENDS—TILBURY'S SATISFACTORY ANNOUNCEMENT—METROPOLITAN'S DISASTROUS SHOWING—THE CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RECOVERY.

There is still justification for the grumbling heard in regard to the paucity of business in the Home Railway market. While perhaps things are not quite so bad as one might gather from the facetious comment of a leading dealer that there was now no Home Railway market, but only a place where the jobbers stand, it must be confessed that the public so far has been very slow to awaken to the possibilities involved by low prices, increased earnings, dividends, and cheapening money. In view of this dormant attitude it is, perhaps, the more significant that prices during the last few weeks have shown a distinct tendency to move up, for if the advances (which during the past week alone ranged from 1 to 1½ upon the "Heavy" stocks) can be brought about on such a scanty volume of business it is plain that the market would go ahead pretty rapidly once the public appetite were really aroused. Glancing over recent movements in prices, it is noteworthy to observe that North-Westerns have quite recovered from the temporary fright caused by the news of the White Star's partial removal from Liverpool to Southampton. Brums, indeed, have gone ahead along with the stocks of the other trade lines, the improvement having been fostered by expectations that were duly realised of a reduction in the Bank rate to 5 per cent. Lancashire and Yorkshire, North-Eastern Consolidated, Hull and Barnsley, and Great Northern Deferred, regarding which immediate dividend prospects are specially bright, have been prominent in the recovery. Some months ago, when they were at about 42, I ventured to predict that Hulls would go to 50, and I am glad to see that that price has now been reached. York Deferred, which I thought were bound for a similar goal when they stood below 40, have already climbed to 47, and there is no reason to believe that the upward movement is over yet. So far as North-Westerns and North-Easterns are concerned, the earning prospects were, perhaps, never better, but one could speak more confidently about these stocks if it were not for the heavy capital issues which must be made in the near future, judging by the debit balances shown in the last half-yearly reports. Perhaps the "Heavy" stock that offers as bright possibilities as any to the investor willing to exercise a little patience is Great Western Ordinary. The Great Western has been criticised somewhat severely of late on account of the liberal manner in which it has been spending upon capital account, but there is no doubt that for the most part the Board's disbursements have been the outcome of wise forethought. Slowly but surely the physical condition of the road has been improved, until practically every curve of importance between London and Plymouth has been eliminated. The new Great Central joint line, too, which has given the Company a direct route to Birmingham, should be an important factor upon earnings as time goes on, and the newly completed Honeybourne and Cheltenham Railway is also a valuable potential asset. This line, in conjunction with another short line at present under construction, will give the Great Western a more direct route between Birmingham and Staffordshire and Cheltenham, Gloucester, Newport, and Cardiff. It seems to have been part of a definite policy laid down by the Great Western to construct entirely new railways rather than widen existing tracks, and such policy has undoubtedly much to commend it, for while new railways create new traffic, the land required in connection with their construction can be obtained at a much lower cost than land alongside an existing railway; in other words, a railway Company requiring to widen its track has perforce to pay an increased price on account of the commercial advantages which its own capital and energy have conferred. Another point in favour of the Great Western is its recently installed Irish service, from Fishguard to Rosslare. This should before long become a very valuable adjunct. During the past ten years Great Westerns have fluctuated between 179½ and 122⅜, and the current quotation is only about a dozen points over the low record. In the same period the dividend has fluctuated between 6 per cent. and 3⅝ per cent. On the basis of the last two half-yearly payments, averaging 5⅜ per cent., the yield at current price works out at 4 per cent. In respect of the past half-year the Board could no doubt increase the dividend at the rate of ½ per cent., but it would be advisable not to base estimates upon a higher dividend rate, taking the year through, as the £2,000,000 of new Ordinary stock will rank for dividend as from the beginning of this year. Of the passenger railway dividends announced so far, perhaps the most satisfactory was that of the little Tilbury and Southend Railway, which increased its rate from 7¼ to 7¾ per cent., besides raising the carry-forward. The advance thus counterbalances the reduction made for the June half-year, so that the distribution for the twelve months is 5⅝ per cent., the same as for 1905. The Great Eastern has repeated the dividend of 5 per cent. paid for the second half of 1905, while carrying forward about £4,000 more. This is perhaps as much as could reasonably have been expected, though some people thought the Company might have squeezed another ¼ per cent. out of the half-year's surplus. The Metropolitan dividend, at the paltry rate of ½ per cent., was frankly bad, but under the abnormal circumstances obtaining throughout the past twelve months no better result had been anticipated; indeed, it would not have been surprising had the dividend been passed. For the year, holders of Mets. get only 1 per cent., as against 2⅜ per cent. for 1905. Better things should be in store this year, now that the dual traction has been abolished, but meanwhile it is not surprising that some holders have cleared out in disgust, and that the price has in consequence recorded a sharp fall. The little City and South London—the pioneer Tube—has, it is satisafctory to observe, been able to pay at the rate of 2 per cent., against 1¾ per cent., thus raising the dividend for the half-year to 2⅛ per cent., as against 1⅞ per cent. for 1905. The Company seems to have surmounted its recent troubles arising from tramway competition in the south, and the stock at 44 might now be picked up by the speculative investor.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS—"CANADAS" SLUMP—GRAND TRUNKS STEADY—SOME FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS.

The week-end saw a sharp slump in Canadian Pacifics, owing to realisations, but the shares are an excellent holding for investment, and may be cordially recommended to those who can afford to put the shares away for a time. Grand Trunk Prior stocks keep strong, and although the Junior issues are irregular, they tend upward. Mexican Railways show no feature of much interest, and Argentines look unpromising for the time being, the only prominent stocks being Rosarios, Preferred and Deferred, especially the first-named. I give

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below a selection of Foreign Railway stock which might be purchased:—

Present Amount.	——	Price.	Yield Per Cent.
£			£ s. d.
1,312,500	Argentine Great Western L.	111	5 7 3
1,312,500	Do. Cum. Part. Pf.	119	5 0 9
1,675 517	Do. 1st Debenture	101	3 18 6
1,700,000	Do. Irred. 2nd Debenture	95	4 3 3
1,500,000	Argentine N. East. L. Pref.	44	nil.
119,635	Do. Prior Ln. Debenture	97	4 3 3
1,488 343	Do. 5 p.c. Debenture	78	3 3 3
144,700	Brazil Great Southern L Debenture	98	6 3 0
4,000,000	Buenos Ayres and Pacific L.	123	5 13 0
1,000,000	Do. 1st Cum. Pref.	108	4 14 0
1,000,000	Do. 2nd N.-Cm. Pref.	102	4 18 0
2,755,000	Do. 1st Debenture Stock	101	3 18 6
1,945 000	Do. 2nd Debenture Stock	102	4 7 6
750 000	Do. Debenture 1913 or after	101	4 18 0
16,786,930	Buenos Ayres and Rosario, L.	112	5 6 9
811.800	Do. Deferred	107	5 11 0
33 200	Do. Preference	16	4 7 3
4,304 360	Do. Consd. Preference	155	4 11 0
5,500,000	Do. Rosario Deb.	102	3 17 9
442,305	Do. Central Deb.	142	4 4 3
733,432	Do. Do.	100	3 19 3
1,117,207	Do. Do.	88	3 18 9

Among minor Argentine Rails there has been a continued demand for the stocks of the North-Eastern and East Argentine, in connection with the amalgamation that has just received the sanction of both proprietors. Cordova and North-Western Debentures have also been in quiet request, and the belief is current in the market that this little line, which, by the help of the Argentine Northern (the Government system), places Cordova in touch with a district understood to be very rich in mineral wealth, will before long be absorbed by one of its bigger neighbours and a guarantee given to the Debenture holders. Brazilian Rails have been bought on the excellence of recent traffic returns. In the case of the Leopoldina current traffics look especially handsome, as they run against a period when the line was hampered by heavy floods. Earnings in the case of Cuban Railways, too, have had a beneficial effect upon the market, the demand being most noteworthy for United of the Havana and Cuban Central issues.

Kaffirs Lower—Improving Conditions—Village Deep—More Dividends—De Beers Debenture Rumours—New Vaal Claim Allotments.

At times during the week Kaffirs were brisk, and inclined to go higher, but the slump in Yankees affected this as it did other departments, with the result that the close exhibits a shrinkage in values as compared with the previous Saturday, Rand Mines being 6⅞, East Rands 4⅝, and Modders 6 7-16. Other shares are proportionately lower. The closing quotations were fractionally above the worst, and the feeling is prevalent that a renewal of activity may be looked for at any moment. Never have the conditions of the mining industry been more favourable to an advance in Kaffirs than they are at present, and this must be apparent to all who do not wilfully shut their eyes to the important developments that are taking place on the Rand, and to which I have frequently drawn attention. The improvement in the Village Deep mine continues, the reef assaying 18 dwts. over 50 in., which is exceptionally good, both as regards value and width, and in the Jumpers the new reef is opening up satisfactorily. Dividends of 12½ per cent. and 7½ per cent. have been declared by the Nourse Mines and Glen Deep respectively. On two or three days the feature in the Diamond section was the remarkable strength displayed by De Beers, Paris being a large buyer of the shares. To account for this activity it was rumoured in the market that some option dealers had been caught short; but while there may be some truth in this, the real explanation of the good buying of De Beers is understood to be the intention of the Directors of the Company, owing to its strong financial position, to pay off the balance of its outstanding debentures in the course of the next year or so. At the date of the last report, June 30, 1906, the amounts of the three series of debentures stood at £3,833,445, and as the Company has enormous reserves it is not likely that any difficulty would be experienced in carrying out any scheme of redemption provided the Directors were so minded. At the close on Saturday De Beers had reacted somewhat, being no better than 27¼, but they are a strong tip for a substantial rise. New Vaal Rivers have also been an active market, rising at one time to 9 on the publication of a cablegram to the effect that the allotments of claims and mining leases on the new discoveries at Droogveld were made at Sydney, the Company's township on the Vaal, on the 16th inst., but they subsequently fell off on profit-taking to 7⅞. It appears that the New Vaal River Company received applications for 121,000 claims, out of which 45,000 were granted, exclusive of one square mile leased to the River Diamonds Syndicate, Limited. This Syndicate has already found several diamonds, amongst which was one weighing 34¼ carats, valued at £6 per carat, in the course of stripping some claims in preparation for washing. After another month or two more definite evidence as to the value of the New Vaal River discoveries should be forthcoming, and should the finds come anywhere near the yield of diamonds indicated by the test washings, they will be signalised by further phenomenal dealings in the shares. The Borrell's Kopje Diamond Mine, which adjoins the New Vaal property, is opening up splendidly. In the south shaft at a depth of 100 ft. the blue ground has considerably improved, and a parcel of it which has arrived in this country has been pronounced by experts to be indistinguishable from the ground in De Beers mine at a similar depth. So far as at present defined, the mine contains 840 claims, and Mr. Bawden, the manager, until recently the general manager of the New Vaal River, is confident that the test washings now proceeding will prove it to be a highly payable proposition. The Mount Yagahong Exploration Company holds a half-interest in Borrell's Kopje, which probably explains the steady demand for its shares

Rhodesians Quiet—Satisfactory Output Figures—The Year's Performance—Chartered—Banket Movement Expected.

The sentiment in regard to the immediate future of the Rhodesian market remains quite hopeful, and as the movement in Kaffirs gains momentum it is generally expected that, owing to the natural affinity between the two, Rhodesians will come in for considerably more attention. In this connection one would imagine that the growing importance of the gold production ought to lend some assistance. The output for December is not a record, but the figures leave little to be desired, the total of 48,329 oz. comparing with 48,503 oz. for the preceding month. This brings the aggregate production for the year up to 551,875 oz., which contrasts favourably with the 405,048 oz. of 1905, so much so in fact, that 1906 will likely prove a red-letter year in the history of the country's gold industry. Roughly, the average monthly output works out at practically 46,000 oz., as compared with about 33,900 oz. during 1905, while another point worth noting is that in two years the quantity of gold won has more than doubled, as may be seen from the following table:—

——	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950
February	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037
March	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927	44 574
April	17,559	20,727	17,862	33,268	42.423
May	19,693	22,137	19 424	31,332	46.729
June	15.842	22,166	20,402	36,256	47.664
July	15,226	23,571	24,339	34.693	48,485
August	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765	50 127
September	15,164	18,741	26,029	35 785	48 410
October	16,849	17,913	24,919	33,383	45.644
November	15,923	15,714	26,183	32,881	48.503
December	16,210	13,750	28,100	37,116	48,329
Total	194,268	231,872	267,715	407,048	551,875

The significance of the production figures is no doubt stimulating the buying of Chartered which originated in the expectations centred about the forthcoming report. The opinion that the document will reveal an improved financial position is becoming more confident, and a further upward movement in the shares is anticipated as the event draws nearer. Of Bankets, too, a

hopeful sentiment prevails, and as a gamble pure and simple, I still consider the shares fairly attractive. Intrinsically they may or may not be worth even their present price, but such a consideration would not deter the insiders who are contemplating the movement. Here is my usual table:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1905.	Closing Price, Jan. 12, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan 19, 1907.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Bechuanaland Ex.	400.000	400,000	1	f.p.	1 1/32	3/4	13/16
British S. Africa	6,000,000	4,999,038	1	f.p.	1 5/16	1 1/32	1 1/32
Chicago Gaika	250,000	201,000	1	f.p.	2 3/4	4/6	4/6
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	250,000	1	f.p.	1 1/2	1 1/8	1 1/8
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	228,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1 3/32	1 1/32
Mashon. Agency	400,000	398,976	1	f.p.	1 3/4	10/-	9/6
N rth'rn Copper(U.S.A.)	250 000	160,500	1	f.p.	3 1/2	1 3/4	1 11/16
Rhodesia, Ltd.(New)..	800.000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	1/2	1/2
Rhodesia Expl.	225,000	227,777	1	f.p.	4 1/2	2 5/16	2 1/2
Rice Hamilton.....	175.000	50,000	1	f.p.	2 3/4	3/16	3/16
Selukwe	350 000	321,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	6/6	6/-
Tanganyika Conc.	264 600	234,000	1	f.p.	6 3/4	0	5 1/8
United Rhodesia.....	750 000	660,900	1	f.p.	11/3	3/6	2 9
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1/2	9/6	9/6
Zambesia Explor.	300,000	288,615	1	f.p.	2 5/16	1 3/8	1 5/16

WEST AFRICANS STAGNANT—BROKEN HILLS ACTIVE—PROP DIVIDEND DISAPPOINTMENT—ZINCS—COPPERS—MOUNT LYELLS STRONG—SIBERIANS RECOVER SLIGHTLY.

Rather than passing away, the stagnation which has characterised the Jungle for such a long time past would seem to be becoming more pronounced, and on the whole the market is as uninteresting and featureless as seems well nigh possible. Further comment upon this state of affairs, which, as I have frequently remarked, is not altogether unnatural, is superfluous. The speculative interest in the Broken Hill group continues active, and in regard to Proprietaries the market anticipated an increase in the forthcoming distribution upon the 1s. 6d. dividend and 1s. bonus paid in respect of the previous quarter. It is almost beyond question that the mine is earning considerably more than it has paid out in the shape of dividends, and in view of the satisfactory outlook it was considered that the directors would be less conservative in regard to the distribution. However, no alteration is made, to the disappointment of the market generally. The dividend of the Block 14 of 1s. each on both the Ordinary and Preference shares is as before, but encouraging developments in depth have brought the Ordinary into greater prominence. Supplementary advices indicate that the lode is improving both in value and in width, and altogether the development may be regarded as promising. As regards Zinc Corporations, with the position of which I dealt a week ago, they continue to absorb considerable attention, a result, primarily, of the completion of one of the plants. The other ought to be working by the end of March, and the venture is also acquiring large smelting works in Swansea. By looking on for a while, however, I consider the prospective purchaser would be able to get in cheaper, and in this connection it must be recognised that the existing price is rather high. There is no abatement of the boom in Copper shares despite the further improvement in visible supplies of total stocks denoted by the mid-monthly statistics. Mount Lyells continue the centre of considerable speculative interest as a result of the supplementary cables concerning the developments in depth to which I referred last week. This is calculated to materially enhance the value of the mine, which, with the metal still at a very remunerative level, must be earning substantially greater profits. Rio Tintos continue to beat records in the matter of high price as a result of the manipulation of the clique that has been so long in evidence. While it would be erroneous to say that the sentiment in regard to the genuineness and legality of Siberian mining titles is now quite confident again, the feeling is distinctly more hopeful, and this, together with a little interested support, is reflected in a recovery from the recent slump. Whether this will be retained it is difficult to say with any amount of accuracy, because of the element of uncertainty still attaching to the question of "titles." Appended is my usual table:—

—	Denomination of Shares.	Closing Price, Jan. 12.	Closing Price, Jan. 19.
	£		
Ashanti Goldfields	4/-	15/-	15/-
Akrokerri.....	1	3/4	3/4
Bibiani Goldfields	1	5/8	5/8
British Gold Coast.....	1	1/2	1/2
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	1	1 1/4	1 1/4
Taquah and Abosso.....	1	2 1/4	2 1/4
Wassau (Gold Coast).....	1	1/2	1/2
Egyptian Mines and Exploration.....	1	4/6	4/6
Nile Valley.....	1	5/6	4/9
Anaconda Copper	$25	14 1/4	14 1/4
Balaghat Gold.....	1	25/-	23/-
Broken Hill Proprietary	8/-	5 1/8	5 1/8
Cape Copper.....	2	8 1/16	7 1/16xd
Champion Reef	2/6	13/6	13/6
Le Roi	5	1 5/8	1 5/8
Mysore Gold	10/-	6 1/16	6 1/8
Nundydroog.....	10/-	24/6	25/-
Ooregum	10/-	13/-	13 6
Rio Tinto	5	90 1/8	90 1/4
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper.....	2	8 1/8	8 1/4
Waihi Gold	1	8 1/8	8 1/4

WESTRALIANS QUIETER—OROYAS RECOVER—KALGURLIS—NORTHERN BLOCKS REPORT—"COSMOPS."

There is not much interest being evinced in the Westralian market, either professional or otherwise, for which the greater activity of Kaffirs and miscellaneous mining shares is to a certain extent responsible. In spite of this, however, the tendency of values generally is satisfactory enough, a feature of particular interest at the present moment being the relative firmness of Oroya Brownhills, which have been recently depressed by the greater recognition of the fact that the property is nearing the end of its tether as a high-grade proposition. This change is to be ascribed to more encouraging development rumours. No indication of any such improvement, it may be mentioned, can be adduced from the latest development report, and in any case one thing is certain, that if it is to alter the position to any appreciable extent the rumoured improvement will have to be of a distinctly important character. This is clear, and for my part I am inclined to consider the shares already too high on merits. As regards Kalgurlis, they seem to be losing some of the sustained strength of recent months, and this, together with the deduction of the dividend and bonus, makes them appear rather cheaper. There being nothing more "to go for" at the moment it is quite conceivable that a still lower quotation may be established within the near future, in which case the shares would be all the more attractive as a speculative purchase, especially as the property continues to open up promisingly. The report of the Associated Northern Blocks makes a satisfactory showing and is worthy of brief reference. Although the quantity of ore treated was only slightly larger, there is a material improvement in the net profit earned consequent upon the reduction of 2s. 3d. per ton to 21s. 9d. per ton in the working costs, and the smaller sum written off for development, etc. The ore reserves of 101,769 tons compare with a total of 89,400 tons twelve months ago, but the average value is rather lower, at 19.8 dwts., as against 22 dwts., and the estimated gold contents is only slightly larger. Among the "Little Kangaroos," Cosmopolitans are receiving more attention, in consequence of the report that the Company has leased from the Duchy of Cornwall the Phœnix tin mine, situated near Liskeard. This property is an extensive one, containing, according to report, about 2½ miles of lode averaging 12 feet in width. With tin at its present remunerative price there is the greater inducement to reopen the property. Deep Lead descriptions remain more or less neglected, but a revival of the speculative activity in Loddon Valleys is

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generally anticipated within the immediate future. My usual table follows:—

—	1906. High.	1905. High.	1905. Lowest.	Make-up Jan. 11, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan 12, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 19, 1907.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	8⅜	1⅜	1⅝	½	1½
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	1⅞	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1½
Brownhill Ext.	3½	⅞	7/6	7/6	7/6	7/6
Cosmopolitan	30/3	½	4/3	4/-	3/9	5/9
Golden Horseshoe	15	8⅜	5⅛	6	5⅛	5⅜
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	25/6	27/6	25/6	25/6	25/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	16/6	10/3	8/3	8/6	8/-
Gt. Flugall Cons.	6⅛	8⅜	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅝
Hainault	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	8⅜	6⅛	7⅜	7½	7½
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Kalgurli	9⅜	9⅞	11⅜	12⅜	12⅝	11¾xd
Lake View Consols	5⅜	1½	½	37/64	½	⅜
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅛	15/6	9/-	20/9	1⅛	1⅜
Oroya Brownhill	—	3⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2½
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2⅜	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1⅞
South Kalgurli	6½	2	1⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜

INSURANCE NOTES—AMALGAMATIONS—BENEFITS TO PROPRIETORS—INSURANCE MONOPOLY.

There seems to be no doubt that the Union Insurance Company is to be taken over by some other office. In all probability that office will prove to be the Commercial Union. These amalgamations among insurance Companies, or rather the absorption of some offices by others, have been very numerous and on a very large scale in recent times, and there are more or less well-founded rumours of other amalgamations coming in the near future. The subject is one of great importance, and it is seldom, if ever, dealt with in the way which seems to me most appropriate. In the insurance world these amalgamations are generally objected to really, if not avowedly, because they limit the number of chief officers, to some extent limit the number of branches, and thereby tend to block promotion. This is a very natural cause for objection on the part of insurance officials, but does not by itself constitute any argument against amalgamations.

For the shareholders of insurance Companies the sale of one Company to another is usually profitable to both parties to the contract. In order to tempt proprietors to sell, the purchasing office almost invariably offers a price which is greatly in excess of the market value of the shares of the Company being sold. The managers and directors of Companies taken over normally contrive to make very good bargains for themselves. For the most part the purchasing Companies seem able to turn to good account the businesses which they buy, and to derive increased profits which more than compensate for the high price paid for good-will. Thus, considered from the point of view of shareholders, the argument runs distinctly in favour of amalgamations.

The most important class of all, however, is the policy-holders. For them the majority of the absorptions which have taken place have been advantageous, while a few have been the reverse; and each instance has to be considered on its merits. There is a great distinction to be made in this connection between life offices and other insurance Companies. Practically everybody insured against fire fares just as well in one Company as in another, since nearly the whole of the business is controlled by the Tariff Association and people have to pay whatever this Fire Offices Committee determine. The fire insurance Companies which gave the policy-holders participation in profits have almost entirely disappeared at the dictates of the Tariff Association, and though the public have thus been deprived of the opportunity of insuring on such favourable terms as were formerly available, the existing policy-holders were treated quite handsomely. In regard to accident, employers' liability, and other miscellaneous forms of insurance, the differences between the policies of various Companies are not very great, and as long as the office in which they are assured is sound it does not matter vastly much to the policy-holders what Company they go to. For the present, therefore, amalgamations among fire and accident offices are not disadvantageous to the policy-holders, but there may be some danger of the interests of the insured suffering in the future through the business becoming a monopoly in the hands of a few managers who form a Tariff Association and thus acquire absolute control of the whole business. I fully recognise the necessity of some form of co-operation among insurance Companies, partly for the purpose of using the accumulated experience of all for the guidance of each, and partly in order to prevent the cutting of premium rates below a remunerative point which is of no advantage even to policy-holders. Experience of rate-cutting, especially in the United States, shows that it tends to the promotion of wild-cat Companies which, when claims arise, are unable to meet their liabilities. Policy-holders then learn that they would have been wiser to pay fair rates of premium to sound Companies than to select an office which charged the lowest premium, regardless of its inability to pay claims.

At the same time, it cannot be ignored that there is a very real danger that a few huge Companies acting in combination, and consequently having the public at their mercy, may, in the interests of shareholders, sooner or later impose conditions which are unduly onerous. The position of tariff offices, both fire and accident, is immensely strong. The difficulty of starting new Companies to prove anything like formidable competitors increases every year, and if a new office is a success, it usually joins the tariff sooner or later. Policy-holders are, of course, unorganised, and for the most part unable to communicate with one another or to take any concerted action; consequently, if the insurance combine attempted to misuse its powers, the only remedies for the public are the criticisms of the press and legislation. Personally, I think the press is abundantly powerful enough to protect the interests of the public. At the same time, I think it is necessary that the possibility of an oppressive monopoly should be recognised, and that any undue exercise of power should be exposed at once. Let me add that in the course of last year, in spite of the San Francisco losses, the tariff rates for certain kinds of fire insurance were reduced because experience showed them to be too high.

Amalgamations among life offices stand on a very different footing owing to the immense preponderance of the policy-holders' interests and the relative insignificance of the stake which shareholders have in the business. This, however, is too large a subject to be dealt with to-day, and I reserve it for future treatment.

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

G. H. W.—Buy India Threes, Rand Water stock, and South Australians. *Consols.*—No particular principle is adopted; the rate is ruled mainly by the price of money.

RAILWAYS.

Guernsey.—Take no notice of the adverse criticisms, which are obviously badly inspired. *Cappadocian.*—Debenture stocks are well secured, but personally I should not buy American Railway Ordinary issues. *Pacific.*—As you have a good profit on your Canadian Pacifics you had better take it. *J. Nib.*—The full

ROMANO'S RESTAURANT, STRAND.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire, and this opinion is evidently shared by many, for the restaurant was packed, as it deserves to be."

dividend on the First Preference is probable. *Prospector.*—If you think the shares are unduly inflated, why don't you sell out? It seems monstrous to me that you should take advantage of my advice, and then when you have had a good profit abuse me. *Bourn.*—Canadian Pacifics, Grand Trunk Second Preference, and Brighton Preferred Ordinary. *M. P.*—1. I suggest that you transfer into Canadian Pacifics or Grand Trunk Second Preference. 2. The shares are worth holding.

MINES.

Shansi.—I should suggest Robinson Central Deeps and Modders, in addition to Arizona Coppers. *Coupon.*—I am sorry that I cannot advise you. *Draught.*—The shares are a sheer speculation. *Minero.*—The shares are good to hold, provided you can afford to wait for a recovery. *Mem Sahib.*—1. I understand that the concern is reliable. 2. I have no special information, but I know nothing to the concern's disadvantage. 3. The system seems fair. 4. Your selection of mining shares seems a fair one. *Carnwath.*—1. I think you might hold on to Great Cobar shares. 2. Port Lincolns are a fair speculation. *Dart.*—I should not be inclined to buy the shares. *Copper.*—The outlook for the mine is rather uncertain. *B. W. L.*—Buy some Goldfields Ordinary. *Sculler.*—The shares are a fair speculation. *Hill Church.*—I should not recommend you to join the new company. *Cuyre, Dublin.*—1. Utah Apex shares are a promising lock-up. Naturally, if there were a heavy drop in the price of copper it would be reflected in the price of the shares. 2. The shares are worth holding on to. 3. Worth considering as a speculation. 4. Both ends are good to hold so long as you can take them up and can afford to wait for better conditions in the Kaffir market. *W. Sly.*—The shares are a fair speculation. *T. C. B.*—Hold on to No. 2 and sell the others. *H. W.*—I think you might buy Johnnies for a recovery at an early date. *R. L., Tralee.*—The mines have a fairly long life, and you might buy the shares, provided you are in a position to take them up for a little time. *Douglas,*—The shares make a good speculative investment, provided you can afford to take them up. *Jenkins.*—Victorian Deep Leads are a good healthy gamble. They cannot be regarded in any other light.

MIXED SECURITIES.

J. B. L., Bunbury.—1. I believe the concern is reliable. 2. Mexican Railway Second Preference Stock is a good holding, provided you can afford to stick to it. 3. I look for a higher price for Great Northern Deferred. *F. T., Leeds.*—1. An option such as you suggest should turn out profitable. 2. The concern is reliable. 3. I should prefer Coronations, Cargo Fleets, and Furness Withys. *C. A. B.*—You might hold on to Chinese Fives, Monte Videos, Argentine '84s, Peruvian Debentures, Guayaquils, and Portuguese. The others I should leave alone. *Mendip.*—1. The Great Cobars are worth holding for a higher figure. 2. The prospects of the Dominion Atlantic Company do not seem to be particularly bright. *Honesty.*—1. The carry-over charge was correct, and was regulated by the condition of the money market. 2-3. Neither of the Indian mining shares is attractive. 4. I do not recommend a purchase. *Wall.*—1. Hold on to the shares for higher prices. 2. Do not buy any more shares. *Lee.*—1. The brewery shares are a good investment. 2. I should sell out. 3. Not a desirable holding. *Seven.*—1. I have no information about the company, but should be inclined to leave it alone. 2. The company is an obscure one, and I cannot furnish you with any information. 3. Try Grand Trunk Ordinary stock. 4. The bonds are not purchasable on the instalment system. 5. I look for a rise in Anacondas. 6. Neither share is promising. 7. The prospect of the shareholders getting more than the present market value of the shares is remote. *Benny, Leeds.*—1. The company is understood to be doing not very well. 2. Try Lyons' Preference and Slaters' Preference. *Stuart.*—I suggest that you buy Rand Water Board stock, Grand Trunk First Preference, and Brighton Deferred. *Greenhorn.*—The concern is reliable. *H. H., Reading.*—You would probably be safe in buying Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 6. *Tickham.*—1. Your investments as a group are satisfactory, and are worth holding. The Japanese 5 per cent. special loan of '96 might also be kept. 3. There seems no reason why you should sell Rexer Arms at present. *B. O.*—1. The shares are worth holding. 2. An excellent investment to put away. 3. I have not a good opinion of the shares. 4. Good to hold on to for a recovery in South Africans. 5. The shares are a satisfactory holding. *Q. C.*—1. The holding of the shares is not compatible with security for your capital. 2. The shares are worth holding. 3. Try Grand Trunk Second Preference stock. 4. I have not a high opinion of the company. *Hyde Park.*—1. Your selection of shares is a good one. 2. I think you might buy some Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunk First Preference. *Blake.*—Nos. 1 and 3 are good enough to hold. If you want more on No. 2 transfer into the Ordinary. *Aberdonensis.*—1. The company is a good one. 2. I have no knowledge of the company. 3. A promising speculation. *Brook Street.*—Your selection of shares is a very indifferent one, and I should suggest that you sell out. *Francisco I.*—1. The brewery shares are worth holding. 2. Good enough to hold on to. 3. Both railway stocks are good enough to retain. 4. A good speculative investment. *Leeds.*—1. Hold the shares, but buy no more. 2. A very poor speculation. 3. I do not favour Americans at present prices. 4. I believe the concern is all right.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Hunter.—1. Apply to the Royal Insurance Company or the London Life Office. 2. Have no dealings with the concern. It ought to be obvious to you that you cannot get such a high rate of interest compatible with safety for your principal. *Alpha.*—1. I believe the concern is reliable. 2. The option ought to turn out profitable. *H. B. M., Perak.*—The concern is a swindle. *Brixton.*—Buy North Westerns. *A. B. C., Sutton.*—The man is a swindler, but there appear to be plenty of fools in the world to keep him going strong. *Jaggers.*—1. If you want to buy premium bonds do so through the Credit Lyonnais or Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. 2. I suggest that you leave the people named severely alone. *D. D.* and *A. E. T.*—See above reply about premium bonds. *Atheneum.*—It is the old concern, and I should advise you to have no dealings whatever with it. *F. P. G.*—To my regret, I am not in a position to advise you. *B. B., Londonderry.*—A reply was sent to you in the ordinary course, but you must blame yourself if you missed it. *W. J. H., Newcastle.*—I am obliged to you for the copy, which you have passed on to me, of the latest effusion of Mr. J. B. Mackenzie, of 23, Rood Lane. *C. B. S.*—I suggest that you leave the concern alone. *J. G., Fife.*—The concern is a low bucket-shop, and should be avoided. *A. G. C.*—Obviously the man is a swindler. *Sin.*—The shares are a good speculative purchase. *Auceps.*—1. Of the two I should prefer Savoy Hotel Five per Cent. Debentures. 2. Indo-China Steam Navigation shares are the better. *Bootie.*—The concern is very indifferent, and you had better get out. *Domus.*—1. I have not a high opinion of the prospects of the company. 2. Both the industrials give fair promise. 3. It is probably a question of measurement. *Ladies' Agency.*—I do not recommend a purchase of the shares. *J. B. B., Belfast.*—I should not sell Coats shares just now. *M. V. A.*—The company is in a safe position, and you would be well advised to continue the payment of the premiums. *Grand Merci.*—The shares are not negotiable.

INDUSTRIALS INTERESTING—MOTOR SHARES CONSPICUOUS—TEXTILE INDUSTRY FLOURISHING—GAS STOCKS—TELEGRAPHS—BAYS QUIET—BANK SHARES—DOCKS.

There is not much cause for complaint in regard to the complexion of affairs in the Industrial market generally. Public interest seems to be steadily broadening out, and in view of the satisfactory outlook, more especially as regards the trade prosperity of the country, which is naturally of the utmost significance in relation to such securities, a still greater degree of confidence is likely to be engendered in the immediate future. The reduction in the Bank rate, too, is calculated to further stimulate the country's industry, and, generally speaking, I believe the Industrial market to be worthy of closer consideration. In point of interest the strength of Cycle and Motor shares is most conspicuous, Humbers, Darracqs, and Daimlers being singled out for special attention. Indications seem to imply that the "boom" experienced by the industry and reflected in the reports covering the past financial year, is gathering further momentum, in which case there seems to be justification for the existing high prices of the shares. In connection with Darracqs, it is important to note that the concern has just secured the largest contract in the history of the motor industry, an order for 4,000 motor cabs having been accepted. In order to enable the Company to complete the contract special works have been erected. The Ordinary shares, even on top of the rise, appear rather attractive in view of the foregoing contract, and possess speculative merits of no mean order, while the Preferred Ordinary are also worth considering. As regards Humbers, it must be considered in relation to the possibilities of the current year that the Company has no longer any arrears of Preference interest to make up, and the outlook, despite

THE DANGER TO HEALTH of obesity is not sufficiently emphasised. Stout people should know that "fatty degeneration" of the heart and liver is a constant menace to them. The *Sketch*, in writing about ANTIPON, says:—"This pleasant, rational, and most efficacious remedy may be warmly recommended to stout persons, as much for health's sake as for the attainment of perfect elegance of figure." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The ANTIPON COMPANY, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY, LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

the recent fire, is for a substantially larger Ordinary dividend, in view of the reports of large orders being booked. Daimlers, too, are a rather attractive purchase as a speculative investment. Textiles continue to absorb quite a fair degree of attention, stimulated by reports that the industry is still experiencing prosperous conditions. Fine Spinners, Sewing Cottons, and Calico Printers appear the most attractive. The following table shows the approximate yield obtainable upon Gas stocks:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
British Gas Light	42	£4 12 6
Commercial 4 p.c.	112	4 12 6
Continental Union	126	5 2 6
European	25	4 0 0
Gas Light and Coke	101	4 7 6
South Metropolitan	129	4 5 0
South Suburban	125	4 7 6

The imminence of the dividend declaration is stimulating the speculative movement in Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred stock. The clique professes to believe that the distribution will be substantially larger than the 10s. per cent. paid in respect of 1905. As I have frequently remarked, an increase is probable, but whether it will be sufficiently large to fully justify the existing price of the stock appears to be doubtful. The dividend of the Direct United States Cable Company leaves no ground for complaint. The quarterly payment is 4s. per share, making 8s. for the half-year, in comparison with 6s. 6d. for the corresponding period of 1905. On the strength of this achievement the shares, like many others in this group, the merits of which I have frequently emphasized, would seem to make an attractive holding. They would give over 5½ per cent., while amongst others, Anglo-American Preferred, at the ruling quotation, yields almost 5½ per cent; Eastern Extension 5 per cent., and Direct Spanish 5½ per cent. As regards Hudson's Bays they remain more or less uninteresting, but the general impression is still sanguine enough, and now that the Bank rate has been reduced a recrudescence of the manipulation on the part of the Anglo-American-Canadian clique is generally expected in the immediate future. Should this prove to be the case a still higher price will be established, but nevertheless, I consider it desirable to repeat that "Bays" have now become too heavy for anybody but a man of substance. There is little interest being evinced in Chinese descriptions, Pekin Syndicates being neglected because of the absence of any further news respecting the development of the coal measures. Should, as is expected, the recent disappointments be the result of a purely local fault in the formation, it is safe to assume that the shares will experience a recovery. Here is a table showing the yields obtainable upon Bank shares. It may be mentioned that such holdings have the disadvantage of involving a liability in respect of uncalled capital. Such a risk is very remote, perhaps, but it nevertheless exists:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Barclay & Co. (£20—£8 paid)	26½	£4 10 0
Lloyds (£50—£8 paid)	32	4 10 0
London and County (£80—£20 paid)	93½	4 5 0
London and Provincial (£10—£5 paid)	22	4 1 0
London and Sth. Western (£50—£20 paid)	72½	4 7 6
London and Westminster (£100—£20 paid)	54	4 16 0
National Provincial (£75—£10½ paid)	41	4 7 0

Dock stocks remain much in evidence, more especially London and India Deferred, the position of which I have had occasion to discuss more than once recently. The dividend possibilities scarcely seem to justify anything like the present figure unless it be that the results of the second six months have more than compensated for the shrinkage of the first half. Even so, there is scarcely a chance of any improvement upon the 1¾ per cent. distribution of 1905, but the existing inflation is to be ascribed to some extent to the benefits expected to accrue from the materialisation of the Port of London Bill, which, by the way, has been postponed for another year.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A PECULIAR PERSON.

"Such awful rot! I call it simply contemptible." Thus spoke Frank Norman, a subaltern of two years' standing, home from India on his first long leave. The scene was the smoking-room of a well-known country house in the Shires, where the men of the party had forgathered, after the retirement of the ladies to bed, and, to the accompaniment of much tobacco and whisky, were chatting without restraint on all sorts of topics.

In the course of conversation, some one happened to refer to a case that lately attracted a certain amount of notice in the papers—a case in which a member of that sect known as the "Peculiar People" had been arrested on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of his wife. The mention of his case led to some discussion about the tenets of the devotees of that strangely perverse creed, and resulted in Frank Norman pronouncing summary judgment upon them, as reported above.

"Don't you agree with me, General?" inquired the young man, turning to his host, a grey-headed, but hale and erect old soldier, who hitherto had taken no part in the discussion.

"I don't endorse their views, certainly, if you mean that," replied the General gravely. "But contemptible is not exactly the adjective I should apply to these people, nor, for that matter, to any body of men who honestly believe in, and act up to, their religious convictions, however wrong-headed and even pernicious such convictions may be."

"But do you think these fellows *are* honest believers in their convictions?" rejoined young Norman, incredulously. "For my part, I look on the lot of 'em as mere canting humbugs. And cant and humbug are just the two things I can't stick, at any price."

The General smiled. It amused him to hear this young man of twenty-two laying down the law with such sweeping assertiveness, as few but very young persons have the courage and the omniscience to do. He had been in the habit of doing the same thing himself, in the days of his juvenile infallibility, and had often settled conclusively, in five minutes, questions which have been perplexing sages ever since the foundation of the world. But years and experience had now made him not quite so cocksure in his judgments, and had taught him that every man who may happen to differ from you, even on the most vital points, is not necessarily either a knave or a fool.

"I am quite at one with you, Norman," he said, "in your contempt for cant and humbug. But when you assume that these Peculiar People—misguided though they are—all fall under that category, you are making a very large, and I venture to think, unjustifiable assumption. I do not speak at random, either. I once thought exactly as you do, on the subject. But I had a lesson—a severe lesson" (a look of pain and remorse came over the old soldier's face as he spoke), "which I have never forgotten. Indeed, it makes me feel bad, to this very day, whenever I think about it. I don't know whether you fellows would care to hear the story," he added, looking round the room, inquiringly.

The offer was received with general expressions of approval. General Bickerton was famed for his skill as a *raconteur*, and every one knew that a story from his lips was sure to be interesting. So the company settled themselves to listen in confident anticipation.

"The circumstances which I am going to tell you about," began the General, "happened to me more than twenty years ago, when I was major and in command of a small hill-station in Northern India. Some little time previously a civilian high in office—I have forgotten his name—holding strong religious views of the ultra-evangelical type, had induced the Government of India to provide in every barrack where white troops were quartered a room called a prayer-room, where men could retire who wished to be quiet,

and where the more serious-minded could hold prayer-meetings and Bible classes and discuss religious questions. I don't know if they keep it going still. Possibly they don't. Anyhow, there was one in this station at the time of which I speak. It was rather elaborately fitted up with foot-stools, book-shelves (containing a certain number of improving volumes), and a harmonium in an advanced state of wheeziness. The walls were hung round with texts, and some rather highly-coloured pictures of the horrors of drink and the future fate of publicans and sinners.

"Some of the men liked it, and went there a good deal. But it had one objection: it was close to the quarter that did duty for a theatre, and it sometimes happened that between the songs of a smoking concert you could hear the asthmatic rumbling of the harmonium or the voice of some fervent convert raised in pious exhortation.

"I did not like to interfere with the men to whom this sort of thing appealed. For even then, when I was a good deal less tolerant of the Salvation Army style of religion than I am now—I nevertheless recognised that there were very many worse ways in which Thomas Atkins might employ himself, and that whatever kept him from drink and things still less desirable made for his moral welfare, and, therefore (hysterical rot though much of it appeared to me), should not lightly be discouraged. All the same, I could not help thinking that the enthusiasts who ran the prayer-room sometimes purposely arranged their meetings as a counter attraction to the theatre next door.

"The leading spirit was a civilian. To this day, I don't quite know how he got into the station; but he had official permission to occupy married quarters. He was generally known by the natives as the second-class padre, to distinguish him from the official Church of England chaplain. His religious tenets, so far as I could make out, were a hotch-potch of those of the Salvation Army and the Peculiar People. At any rate, he was a whole-hearted believer in the complete efficacy of faith and prayer, and, in particular, regarded the practice of medicine in sickness as an unwarrantable and impious intrusion into the domain of Providence.

"He had no ostensible means of existence, but lived on faith—that is, on what the frequenters of the prayer-room gave him voluntarily, and on broken victuals from the barrack-room. It must, indeed, have been a meagre livelihood for the enthusiast and his wife and children. They all looked half-starved—the man most of all. But he never complained and he never begged. Indeed, except in the exercise of his religious avocations he seldom spoke to anybody.

"He was a curious man. Several times when I visited the prayer-room I had tried to talk to him, but I could never get anything out of him and soon gave up the attempt in disgust, setting him down as a morose and uncivil person, upon whom any attempt to be kind was thrown away.

"This impression of him was confirmed by his demeanour when I met him outside barracks. He would never take the slightest notice of me, nor even say 'Good morning'! I confess it provoked me a good deal, especially when I chanced to meet him walking with men who would, of course, salute me, while he would turn his head in the opposite direction. And I rather hoped some occasion might arise to give me the chance of rapping him over the knuckles.

"In the hot weather following this man Jones's (I will call him Jones) arrival at the station, we had an unusual number of invalids and convalescents sent up the hill, and in order to house every one we had to pitch tents. As Jones was not actually entitled to quarters, he and his family were among the first to be turned out under canvas.

"One morning my boy came to tell me that the second-class padre sahib wanted to see me. I went out into the verandah and found Jones there waiting. I asked him what he wanted. After some hesitation, and in an awkward, embarrassed, shame-faced sort of way, he told me. It appeared that his wife was down with a sharp attack of fever; and he wanted to know whether I would sanction her being admitted into the female hospital, where all soldiers' wives were treated when ill.

"Now, of course, I never had any intention of refusing his request. On the contrary, I was genuinely sorry for the poor woman, whose hard fate in being married to such a man and having to pass such a beggarly existence commanded my unqualified pity. But I thought that here was a good opportunity to give that fellow the rap over the knuckles which I had long been wanting to administer.

"'It's a most extraordinary thing,' I said, contemptuously, 'that all the time you've been living in quarters you've never come near me, never even had the civility to wish me good-day when we met, in fact, have ignored my very existence. But the first moment you want something, here you are hat in hand. You know that your wife is not entitled to treatment?'

He hung his head, sheepishly, and admitted that he knew this to be the case

"'Besides,' I went on, determined to rub it into him unsparingly, 'I thought that people of your persuasion put no trust in medical treatment, but hold to the belief that faith and prayer are the only effectual remedies. If that is your honest conviction, why do you want your wife to go to the hospital?'

"He remained silent, twisting his battered sun-hat round and round; then he slowly turned away.

"'Stop,' I said—for I thought I had now jobated him sufficiently—'I will give you an order.' And I went to my table and wrote one out for him. He took it, thanked me—still in an embarrassed, hesitating sort of way, as though he were reluctant to be beholden to me for a favour—and hurried off. But after a few steps, he stopped and came back to the verandah.

"'I think,' he said, colouring and stammering, 'that there are some charges made for admission into hospital. I ought to say that I have no money, and therefore cannot pay them. Is it possible for them to be dispensed with in this instance?'

"The fellow's cheek—as I regarded it—incensed me. And I let him have it.

"'I don't understand your religion at all,' I said. 'It seems to me that a creed which makes a man uncivil, idle, and neglectful of providing the means to support his wife and children is an uncommonly poor creed to pin one's faith on. If you'd set a little less store by faith and a little more store by works, you'd be a better specimen of Christianity. . . . There! I will settle whatever charges are payable—for your unfortunate wife's sake, not for yours; and the sooner you get her into hospital, the better.' He went off without a word.

"In the course of the morning, I looked up the station doctor, a real good fellow, and asked him to do what he could for the sick woman, see that she had all she wanted, and keep her in hospital until she was completely recovered; as I was sure that, if she were discharged upon convalescence she would stand little chance of picking up strength upon the meagre fare with which alone her husband could provide her. Then I returned to my office, rather pluming myself on the telling off I'd given the second-class padre sahib, and wondering whether it would have any salutary effect upon his future behaviour."

"Serve him jolly well right, too!" ejaculated young Norman, as the General paused in his recital. "That chap behaved just as I should have expected of such a canting worm; and I'm glad you walked into him properly."

"Stay," said the General, "you haven't heard the end of the story, yet, Norman. . . . Would you like to hear it, gentlemen, or will it bore you?"

"Go on," replied one of the company. "The night's young yet." And the General proceeded:—

"Jones's wife had a sharp go of fever; but she was well looked after by the station doctor, who acted upon my suggestion of keeping her in hospital and feeding her up, through the whole period of convalescence—with the result that she was, at length, discharged considerably stronger and more fit than she had been before her illness.

"She was exceedingly grateful for the kindness shown her, and came to thank me, with tears in her eyes, for

all that had been done. But her husband never came near me, nor, though I met him on several occasions about that time, did he take the opportunity to utter one word of acknowledgment. I supposed he was still sulky with me for the way I had rubbed it into him, and it gave me a still less favourable impression of him than before.

"About a week or two after Mrs. Jones's discharge from the hospital, the doctor came round to my quarters one evening, and said:—

"'I say, Major, I'm told that praying chap is seriously ill; and I thought you ought to know of it."

"'Well, you'd better go round and see him,' I replied. 'We don't know what's the matter. It may be something infectious. And look here! Do what you can for him, let him have whatever he wants, and put him where you like. The fellow's no favourite of mine, as you know. In fact, I have the poorest opinion of him, But, of course, I shouldn't let any feeling of that sort stand in the way of doing the right thing by him now he's bowled over by illness.'

"The doctor went off, and presently came back, looking decidedly serious.

"'The chap's very bad indeed,' he said. 'Has a sharp attack of fever, and is so badly nourished and generally in such poor condition that I'm afraid it may go hard with him. The one chance for him is to keep up his strength. He should have milk and brandy at frequent intervals. But there's nothing of that sort, and, indeed, very little of any sort, in the house. His wife, too, poor woman, is quite worn out with nursing him. She can't possibly go on another day without breaking down. He must have good nursing, too, as well as plenty of nourishment. It is the only hope—and a forlorn one at that.'

"'I daresay you can arrange that a ward boy and an orderly are told off to help nurse him,' I rejoined, 'and as for the milk and brandy, there will be no difficulty about that. Let him have everything that is wanted. I will settle the charges later on.'

"'Ah! But it is the patient himself who constitutes the difficulty,' he answered. 'Not only did he decline to see me, with such vehemence, that I had the greatest difficulty in persuading his poor wife to let me in, but he resolutely refused to take either brandy, milk, or anything else that I might prescribe for him. He said his religion forbade him to have anything to do with doctors, and that he would have recourse to no other remedies whatever except prayer and faith in God. I tried to reason with the chap, but it was quite useless. Besides, my presence excited him so much that I saw I was doing more harm than good by remaining, so I came away. Now what the deuce are you to do with a fellow like that?' concluded the doctor, with a helpless shrug of his broad shoulders.

"'I'll go and see if I can bring him to reason," I said. 'He mustn't be allowed to die through his own fanatical perverseness.'

"'I wish you would,' answered the doctor. 'You're not a medical man, so perhaps he will listen to you.'

"I went over at once to the sick man's quarters (I don't think I mentioned, by the way, that some days previously the family had returned to their quarters) and saw his wife, who opened the door to me. At once I began to talk to her very seriously.

"'It is absolutely necessary,' I said, 'that your husband should carry out the doctor's orders. And you and I between us must persuade him to do so.'

"She shook her head and burst out crying.

"'Oh, sir, it is quite useless to attempt it,' she said. 'It is against his principles, and nothing on earth will induce him to submit to medical treatment——'

"'But,' I said, 'when you were down with fever, he did not take that line. He came to me himself and asked me to have you admitted into hospital.'

"'Yes, sir,' she answered, while the tears rolled down her poor, thin cheeks. 'But that was because it was *I* who was ill. He forced himself to go against his conscience for my sake. He would sell his very soul for me or for one of the children; but when it is his own life that is in danger, he is quite inflexible. Besides——'

"And again she burst into a violent paroxysm of piteous sobbing.

"'Besides—what?" I inquired, gently, when she had recovered a little.

"'I—I hardly like to tell you, sir. But—but I think it—it might have been different—I mean I think he might have listened to reason for mine and the children's sake now, if—if it hadn't been for what you said to him when he came to ask you that favour. Oh, sir, you have misjudged my husband! He is a very proud, sensitive man. He felt deeply the terrible humiliation of having to come to you and to ask for that which, in effect, gave the lie to the sincerity of his own convictions. It was torture—it was worse than torture—to him. Yet he braved it in his love for me. And you—you said things to him which, in his agony, stung and scorched him almost beyond endurance. It might have been different had you dealt gently with him then. But now he is dying—and *will* die rather than give you a handle to taunt him with—with hypocrisy again.'

"I cannot tell you how I felt, as I listened to the grief-stricken woman's words. I am no hand at describing this sort of thing. I will leave you to imagine it. Enough to say that at that moment I would have cut my right hand off, if by so doing I could have recalled those stinging taunts which I had taken such a self-righteous pleasure in rubbing into the poor, misguided fellow.

"'Let me see him,' I blurted out, shamefacedly, 'and I will tell him I am sorry.'

"She led me into the inner room. The padre was sitting up in bed. There was a look about him which I knew well—which made my heart sink. I had seen men with such a look on them before, when dying of fever. And always it had bespoken the last rally that immediately precedes the final collapse.

"He fixed his eyes—how piercing they were, how unnaturally bright!—full on mine. They shone with a fire of proud, triumphant defiance which there was no mistaking. . . . Then he fell back, still smiling proudly, and lay there cold and stiff, with that proud, triumphant smile now stereotyped on his dead features.

"It was thus he had answered my taunting challenge. . . .

"And by God, gentlemen," concluded the General, while his voice shook with suppressed feeling, "that poor fellow's death was such a lesson to me as I have never forgotten—a lesson that will lie heavy on my conscience till my dying day."

For some moments there was a pause, which young Norman was the first to break.

"Thank you, General," he said, as he rose from his seat. "Your story has given me one in the eye that I feel I jolly well deserved. . . . Well, good-night, you fellows, I think I'll go to bed."

ART NOTES.

ARE WE LESS BEAUTIFUL?

ARE the English as a race degenerating physically? The question has, I know, been already debated at length in various places, and various evidence has been brought to bear upon it; but I do not think that of the portrait painter has ever received much attention. Perhaps it is just as well, because even portrait painters do not always tell the truth—in fact, short of the habitués of a County Court, I should imagine that no class of witness could be more generally unreliable. But just as a County Court judge by long experience comes to the power of sifting the little grain from the intolerable deal of chaff, so, by making allowances, we ought to be able to find certain valuable evidence bearing upon our physical retrogression, even from the artistic progress of our portrait painters. But we have to be very careful not to jump at false conclusions. Thus, the eager, but rash, inquirer, who paid a visit of investigation to the exhibition of the Modern Society of Portrait Painters, now being held at the Institute Galleries in Piccadilly, and accepted what he saw there at the foot of the letter, as the French would say, would be almost certain to come away a victim of the darkest forebodings. He would compare the portraits he saw

there with those painted several generations since by Reynolds, and Lawrence, and Romney, and the rest, and he would decide there and then that, physically speaking, England is going to the dogs. First of all—before he came to the making of comparisons at all, I mean—he would leap to the conclusion that no Englishman, or Englishwoman, of the middle-classes has nowadays any features to speak of. Their complexions he would put down as being unhealthy, even when not unnatural. Their nerves he would diagnose as universally on edge; their figures as elusive and evanescent. He would not have walked twice round the galleries before making up his mind beyond any possibility of doubt that, taking everything into consideration, the English are about the ugliest set of people under the sun. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I do not myself say that he would be wrong in this, any more than he would be right. I merely state an undoubted fact, supposing the visitor to be a person of average intellect.

Now, before considering the cause of this phenomenon, I should wish to pop the supposititious visitor into a hansom and carry him off at once to the exhibition which is now being held by the Royal Society of Miniature Painters at the Modern Gallery in New Bond-street. I should ask him to keep his eyes firmly closed during the journey, so that he should not see any real faces *en route*, and thus diminish the clarity of his impressions. As soon as he opened them again he would at once leap from one extremity of opinion to the other. He would believe that the English are in reality almost too beautiful to be true; that their complexions are those of slightly unripe peaches tinged with carmine, that they have most expressive eyes, which are so accentuated as to be quite out of keeping with the rest of their faces, but are extremely beautiful for all that; that their lips are red and pouting, their hair beautifully arranged, their expressions of a contented amiability which is not far short of the ideally inane. He would believe, in a word, that the English of the middle class, however it may be with their brain-power, may vie in beauty with the most fascinating dummy that ever adorned a hairdresser's window.

Having arrived at his conclusions, the observer may now, as far as I am concerned, go away and formulate them, first, I hope, communicating to the secretary his desire to have his own miniature painted by whichever of the artists has most caught his fancy, and to have it set in a real gold mount ornamented with pearls, as a *gage d'amour* for his lady-love (though that he need not mention to the secretary).

Now, if he have been, as I suppose, collecting material for his great essay on Physical Degeneration in Great Britain, the thoughtless visitor is likely to find these two artistic aspects of his subject rather hard to reconcile. How is it, he may well ask, that the same sitters which, to the Modern Portrait Painters, appear so evanescently hideous, yet impress the Royal Miniaturists with the solidity of their simperings, the inanity of their beauty? There is, as a matter of fact, more in both than meets the eye. In the first place, we must remember that while the Modern Portraitists express themselves and their sitters in feet, the Royal Miniaturists think, as it were, in inches. Magnify one of the simpering miniatures by twelve, and it might well appear sternly ferocious; diminish one of the Modern portraits to the same degree, and who shall say how simperingly beautiful it might seem. For, as we all know, virtue carried to excess becomes a vice, and vice versâ.

Again, the miniature and the painting are destined for different ends. The six-foot canvas is to hang in a baronial hall, or, more probably, over a dining-room mantelpiece. It will be seen, as a rule, along with its original, gazing down upon him as he welcomes his friends to his hospitable board. Thus, comparing him with it, or meeting him, after absence, when they have seen it but not him, they will find that he is really much better-looking than they have hitherto thought—that he is, by comparison, rather good-looking than otherwise. It is true that after his death—but by that time the matter of his good looks is not likely to interest him. The miniature, now, has, or had originally, a different mission. It is a tender gift to the absent lover or spouse—male or female. It is intended to keep the giver's features always in their mind, to prevent their errant fancy wandering, to be always carried in their bosom and to be referred to whenever opportunity offers. Obviously, therefore, it should represent its subject as being amiable and beautiful—more so, even, than the original—not necessarily intellectual—for what has love to do with intellect?—but quietly, calmly, simperingly beautiful. Already we may see that there is some method in the contrasted methods of the two schools of portraiture. But there is more to come.

It is a fact of striking significance that whereas the exhibitors at the Modern Portrait Show are almost all men, the vast majority of the Royal Miniaturists are women. We are thus given an opportunity of realising and contrasting the intense, almost reckless ambition of the male painter with the sober caution, the law-abiding orderliness of the woman. The Miniaturists trace their artistic descent directly to the immortal Miss La Creevy, whose life and works are so convincingly set forth in "Nicholas Nickleby." Her ideals are theirs; her methods are, to a very large extent, theirs also. They realise to perfection how and why the great foundress of their school succeeded in satisfying her sitters. To satisfy their sitters is their own very proper ambition; what could, then, be wiser, they very sensibly argue, than to adhere to her example? And so they do. The Modern Portraitists, on the other hand, greatly daring, rush in where the Miniature angels fear to tread. They claim descent from the great masters who made English portraiture world-famous in the eighteenth century. Are they content to follow slavishly in their masters' footsteps? Not a bit of it. "We must improve upon them somehow," they very nobly cry. But they have found that they cannot paint portraits more beautiful than did Reynolds, or Romney, or Gainsborough. So they take the only possible alternative—they determine to make their canvases hideous, that no one may accuse them of lack of enterprise. And so they do.

I do not offer these reflections as all that may be aroused—both on the subject of British physical degeneration and other subjects—by the comparison of the two exhibitions in question. I have no doubt that, if called upon, I could fill pages and pages upon the subject. But I am not called upon. And I am quite sure that the reader who is interested in the matter will be amply qualified to do his own reflections thereon. But I feel confident that, in the end, he will arrive at the same conclusion as myself—that the British public, upon the average, is neither majestically hideous nor simperingly beautiful, but somewhere between the two. And that upon the great problem of National Degeneration our present-day portrait painters throw scarcely more light than I do.

MUSIC.

THE DEARTH OF GREAT SINGERS.

A LEADING concert agent who has just returned from a trip to the Continent in search of new singers, announces in effect that he travelled from Dan even unto Beersheba without finding what he wanted. The conclusion is melancholy, but hardly any other was to be expected. The dearth of great singers is one of the most notable phenomena of the musical world to-day. Mediocrity abounds, but of genius the supply is lamentably scarce. Where are the successors to the singers of bygone years? It is easy to ask the question, but difficult to supply a satisfactory answer. True, more vocalists than ever before are inviting attention at present, but how few can be reckoned in the first class. To consider for a moment our native vocalists only, how limited is the list! Under some heads, indeed, the dearth is almost absolute. Where is the English tenor to-day who can be named as the worthy successor of Sims Reeves, or the baritone who can be reckoned in

the same class with Santley? Tenors and baritones of a kind we have, certainly—many of them gifted and cultivated artists who make the most of the powers which have been vouchsafed them. But is there one out of all before the public to-day seriously to be recognised as a legitimate successor of such singers as those named? Only the other day a well-known authority who happened to be in a position to bear personal testimony on the point, was writing to the same effect. "Who," asked Mr. Joseph Bennett, "that remembers Titiens, Lemmens-Sherrington, Rudersdorff, Edith Wynne, Sainton-Dolby, Janet Patey, Sims Reeves, Edward Lloyd, Weiss, Santley, and others easy to name, can look with equanimity upon their successors as a body, albeit some of them have conspicuous abilities?"

Doubtless it is easy to exaggerate in these cases. Seen through the mists of time, the figures of the past always tend to loom larger than life-size. Whereas the inferior singers of former years are forgotten, the few of merit are remembered, and so a false standard is set up. Making due allowance in this respect, however, are we really the victims of hallucination in questioning the claims of our latter-day vocalists? It would be pleasant to be able to think so. Abroad, as at home, much the same condition of things would seem to prevail. Here and there, over the whole of Europe, and not forgetting America, you may find, no doubt, many good singers. Italy has given us, of late years, a Caruso, a Tamagno, a Battistini, and plenty more of smaller note. From France we have had a Maurel, a Plançon, a Landi; and from other quarters have come such notable artists as the De Reszkes, Van Rooy, Ternina, and others who have won their triumphs chiefly in Wagnerian opera. But even so, it is permissible to doubt if any such standard of vocalism prevails to-day as was current a generation since. Without going back to the fabulous achievements of Farinelli, Caffarelli, Gizziello, Faustina, Catalani, and the rest, are there any singers now before the public capable of rivalling the achievements of Patti, Nilsson, Albani, and Trebelli, among women vocalists who can still be remembered by many, or of Mario, Rubini, Tamberlik, and Lablache, among many male singers of about the same period? If so, it would certainly be pleasant to know their names and addresses.

Assuming the fact, what is the explanation? Why are our latter-day vocalists inferior to their fore-runners? Different authorities would doubtless suggest different answers, but most would probably agree that lack of adequate study has not a little to do with the matter. Porpora, it has been recorded, kept Caffarelli for five or six years to one page of exercises, and at the end of the time told him that he was the greatest singer in Europe. It would be amusing to learn the experience of a modern teacher who proposed to one of his pupils the adoption of the same course. The average vocal student of to-day considers himself a finished artist at a time when he would be reckoned just qualified to begin serious study by the teachers of an earlier period. While no amount of training will make fine voices out of poor material, the history of singing furnishes not a few instances—that of Pasta is one of the best known—in which limited natural powers were developed to an astonishing degree by study and training. Nowadays the converse case is more frequently illustrated, and one hears fine natural voices steadily ruined through the faulty manner in which they are used. For a conspicuous illustration one need not look outside the members of the company at present performing at Covent Garden. Modern music has also, no doubt, had its influence—not because, as the old anti-Wagnerians used to declare, it is harmful to the voice in itself, but simply because it is possible to sing it without such stringent exercise and study as that of the older school absolutely necessitated. The trills and roulades of the old florid music are now voted tiresome and banal, but at least they implied a kind of vocal training of which there is little enough to-day. Rossini, Donizetti, and the rest have been avenged, in fact, in a wholly unanticipated manner. We have given up the frivolous music, but therewith have lost the power to sing that of a higher kind which has taken its place.

The opening performances of the German opera season at Covent Garden have been attended so far with the greatest success, and there seems every reason to hope that the financial results have been equally satisfactory seeing what excellent audiences have been attracted. The most noticeable performances of the opening week were, of course, those which Herr Nikisch conducted—particularly that of "Tristan und Isolde," in which he was quite superb. In "Der Freischütz" and "Der Fliegende Holländer" he had hardly the same opportunities. Both works, to tell the truth, make rather tiresome hearing nowadays, whether under Nikisch or anyone else—though it is heresy, of course, to say so. Herr Reichwein has done well, also, with the bâton, and in all other respects the performances have been worthy of high praise, even though there has been no overlooking the German quality of most of the singing. Under the last named head a non-German artist who made a great success was Mme Ackté, so well-known in Paris, who won many friends alike as Elsa and Senta. The singing of Dr. Felix von Krauss has also contrasted gratefully with that of a good many of his compatriots. This week "Die Walküre" was to be done on Tuesday, and "Die Verkaufte Braut" is down for to-morrow (Thursday).

Among recent concerts that of the Queen's Hall Orchestra on Saturday was attractive as usual, including as it did works so far apart in style as the "Jupiter" symphony of Mozart and Debussy's "L'Après Midi d'un Faune," both of which, in common with all the other items in the programme, were given with all of his usual spirit and taste by Mr. H. J. Wood. In the closing scene from "Götterdämmerung" Miss Agnes Nicholls sang brilliantly but was seized with sudden indisposition in the midst of her task. She pluckily recovered herself, however, and managed to get through without further mishap. At the London Ballad Concert on Friday Mme. Clara Butt was once again a leading attraction, while that fine pianist M. Raoul Pugno also contributed to the programme. A pianist of a different school who has been heard of late is Herr Gottfried Galston, who has embarked on a series of one composer recitals, the first of which, devoted to Bach, showed him once again to be a player of high intelligence and some individuality. Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Brahms are to furnish the remaining programmes of the series.

Speculation has been general of late as to the effect of the new Act in relation to secret commissions in the musical profession, where it must be agreed there is certainly scope for it to operate with advantage. Everyone knows how generally the commission system obtains in the musical world—from the organist who levies tribute on the makers over the purchase of a new instrument for the parish church to the pianoforte professor who kindly selects a piano for his pupil in return for a consideration of which the latter usually knows nothing. In neither case would there be any objection to the practice if the element of secrecy were absent, and the Act referred to does not, of course, prohibit the acceptance of commissions when the circumstance is disclosed. Such disclosure will, however, be unpalatable to many, and it will not be surprising if, as a consequence, not a few incomes, none too large already, are still further diminished. As regards professional musicians purchasing pianos for friends, it has been suggested that the new law may be got round in some cases by the instrument being nominally sold to the teacher in the first instance and afterwards resold by him at a higher price to the intending purchaser. A teacher could, however, hardly adopt this course as a practice without the fact becoming generally known, and this being so it would

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seem simpler and more straightforward to comply with the Act as it stands. It is doubtful, moreover, whether such a procedure would not constitute a contravention of the new law. But we shall know more on this and other points a little later when the Secret Commissions and Bribery Prevention League gets to work.

Herr Nikisch has been talking in interesting fashion to a *Tribune* interviewer on the subject of the art of which he is so supreme an exponent. "To let the instruments sing," he told his interlocutor, "is the secret of conducting. Song is the soul of music; everything in an orchestra has to sing, even the dryest instrument. The conductor is like a skilled sportsman who lets the horses have the reins and yet guides them. As long as my picture of the music is not spoiled I let the player and singer draw the line. I remember well my own feelings when playing in the orchestra. I was cut short, still being on the last beat of a bar, when the military conductor began the next." In regard to the trend of opera at the present time, Herr Nikisch deprecated, it seems, the notion that the success which has attended Strauss's "Salomé" implies any general tendency in the direction of works of that order on the part of the general public—which many will be pleased to hear.

Mr. Josef Holbrooke has been taking part in the composer *v.* publisher controversy, though precisely what is the solution which he suggests I cannot quite gather from his remarks. One learns generally, however, that he thinks rather poorly of the publishers for their ignoble prejudice in favour of works which pay—a view, I am afraid, which is not likely to advance matters very much. Mr. Holbrooke goes on to pay a generous tribute to the work of a younger contemporary, namely, Mr. B. J. Dale, on whose recently published pianoforte sonata he bestows high praise, which should certainly draw more general attention to the work than it has hitherto received. In any case, it is pleasant to see one young composer going out of his way in this fashion to give another a helping hand.

A good deal of indignation is being expressed in quarters not entirely disinterested over the action of the wicked Australian musicians who positively think that they are capable of conducting their own musical examinations (and of turning to good account the fees derived therefrom), without the aid of those itinerant professors representative of the Royal College of Music, the Royal Academy, Trinity College, and other English institutions by whom the bulk of the work has been done in the past. "Could anything be more ungrateful or uncalled for?" it is asked, in accents of indignation. "How can high-thinking Australian musicians be influenced by such sordid considerations?" Yet the position of the Australians is quite reasonable. At present, it is argued, thousands of pounds are paid every year in fees to the various visiting examining bodies, and practically the whole of the profits go to the assistance of music in the old country. Under the new dispensation it is proposed that such profits shall be devoted to musical education in Australia, and such an arrangement seems perfectly natural.

Those are striking figures which have recently been issued by Messrs. Chappell showing the costs in which they were involved in connection with the suppression of the piracy business and the promotion of the Copyright Bill last year—costs amounting in all to between £8,000 and £9,000. It is an enormous total, and even the most prosperous firm may well feel thankful that it has seen the end, at last, of such a ruinous kind of expenditure. Towards their expenses Messrs. Chappell have received from other members of the trade £1,363, and from the composers £722. The amounts are not large.

According to an interview recently published in a Vienna journal (reproduced in the New York *Musical Courier*), Dr. Joachim has been paying eloquent tribute to the genius of Brahms:—

> Brahms seems to me the quintessence of an entire musical period. Schumann spoke a prophetic word when he once said that in Brahms one had come with whom we should all experience wonderful things. Brahms brought us new beauties, and he is not only a wonder in depth, invention, and concentration, he is also one of the most astounding apparitions in point of versatility. He is lyric, he is symphonic, he wrote great choral works, among them the glorious German Requiem; he enriched house music through his four part songs; he brought half-forgotten wind instruments into use again in chamber music.

As a master of form, Joachim ranks Brahms, we are told, third in the list, and before even Beethoven—Bach being first and Mozart second. Of Wagner, also, Joachim is quoted as speaking favourably, though it is well known, of course, that his admiration for that master's work is of a very qualified order.

What are the most popular tunes of recent years? At the Palace Theatre Mr. Herman Finck is putting the matter to the test just now by his orchestral selection entitled "Melodious Memories," in which some fifty or sixty of the most popular ditties of the last half-century are recalled. It is an interesting list, beginning with such things as "Champagne Charlie," "Not for Joe!" "Slap, bang! Here we are again"; continuing with "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay!" "Dollie Gray," "Queen of my Heart," and others of a few years since, and coming down finally to such still more recent productions as "O, listen to the band," "Dear little girlie, girlie," and the sublime "Bill Bailey." It would be a nice point to determine whether the superiority rests with the older or the later examples. What is perhaps the most curious feature in connection with popular ditties of this order is the limited character of their vogue. Why should a tune which appeals with irresistible force to one generation fail to evoke the slightest response ten years later? The fickleness of the public in this matter is astonishing. The readiness with which a tune is taken up in the first place is equalled only by the celerity with which it is dropped again when it has served its purpose, and apparently it never regains its popularity. It has its day, and ceases to be.

The scheme for a "Three Towns Coast Festival," which owes its inception to Mr. J. M. Glover, Bexhill's musical mayor, appears to be one worthy of all encouragement. Guarantors from the three towns of Eastbourne, Hastings, and Bexhill to the extent of £1,500 only are required, and, these obtained, the project will be energetically forwarded. If only as a business proposition (to use an expressive Americanism), it should appeal to the inhabitants of the towns in question whose welfare is so intimately bound up with the attraction of visitors.

Talking of seaside music, complaint comes from Weymouth of a kind only too familiar in this connection. Each summer a band is provided for the benefit of visitors, and hitherto excellent results have, it seems, been obtained from an orchestra composed of Englishmen and led by an English conductor. This year it is proposed by the Amusements Committee of the Town Council to engage in their place a band known as the White Viennese Orchestra. As a consequence, a large number of ratepayers are making energetic protest. On the face of it it is hard to understand a local authority going out of its way to encourage imported performers at the expense of the native article in this fashion, and it may be hoped that the attention which has been directed to the matter may induce a more considerate policy. No one in his senses objects to the presence in this country of distinguished foreign performers whose merits entitle them to be heard, but in a case such as that referred to it can hardly be pretended that there are not hundreds of native musicians capable of doing the same work equally well, if not better.

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—The contrast between the two estimates of D'Alembert—that of Miss Tallentyre in "The Friends of Voltaire" (1) and that of Mrs. Bearne in "Heroines of French Society" (2)—is characteristic of the two volumes. D'Alembert to Miss Tallentyre was "a child, affectionate, solitary, tractable, with the great mind always weighed down by the super-sensitiveness of a child's heart"; whereas to Mrs. Bearne, who sees the philosopher through the eyes of that Pharisaic prig, Madame de Genlis, he "was ugly, common-looking, with a shrill voice telling stories that displeased her—even disgusting." Indeed, Mrs. Bearne's point of view throughout her extremely interesting book is distinctively feminine. Only a woman, *e.g.*, would rank La Marquise de Montagu amongst the heroines of French society, and only a woman, perhaps, at this time of day would weep Royalist and sentimental tears over the destruction of the Bastille. Speaking of the visit of that unctuous professor of a virtue she failed to practise—Madame de Genlis—to the Bastille, Mrs. Bearne says:—

> Madame de Genlis was so far identified with the revolutionary party as not only to rejoice at the infamous attack of the mob upon the Bastille, but to consent to her pupils' request to see the mob finishing the destruction of that beautiful and historical monument.

However, whatever other fault you may find with "Heroines of French Society," you cannot possibly charge the book with dulness. From the first page to the last it has the interest of graphic gossip about famous personages. Here, *e.g.*, is a characteristic glimpse of Napoleon. He sends for his brother-in-law, Leclerc, and orders him off to St. Domingo. When Leclerc pleads that he is bound to France by a tie he cannot snap, Napoleon cries:—

> "Your wife, my sister, Paulette? She goes with you." "It is not my wife, but my sister now at school at Mme. Campan's." "You must marry her at once: I shall find her a husband." "But——" began Leclerc, hesitatingly. "I have spoken: Say no more about it!" cried the Emperor, and Leclerc was dismissed. A few minutes later Davoust most unluckily entered to announce to the Emperor his approaching marriage. "With Mlle. Leclerc? A most suitable match," cried the Emperor. "With Mlle. Leclerc! No, General, with Mme——." "With Mlle. Leclerc, I say," repeated the Emperor. "It is a most suitable marriage, and must take place at once." "But," pleaded Davoust, "I have long loved Mme.——. She is now free. Nothing shall make me give her up." "Nothing but my will," Napoleon rejoined sternly. "You will go at once to Mme. Campan's school at Saint Germain, and there you will be presented to your future wife by her brother, General Leclerc. I shall act as the bride's father and provide the *dot*, the wedding dress, the presents, and the marriage must take place as soon as the legal formalities can be arranged. You know now my wishes, and have only to obey them."

Hereupon the Emperor rang for Leclerc to introduce him to his future brother-in-law, and that ceremony over, he packed the two generals off to St. Germain, where Davoust was introduced to Mlle. Leclerc, whom to his extreme disgust—for the girl was not in the least to his liking—he had to marry a day or two later! Here, again, is a characteristic glimpse of the days of the Terror:—

> One dark gloomy day during the height of the Terror, Isabey was sitting in his studio when a woman wrapped in a large cloak knocked and entered. "You are the painter, Isabey?" "Yes." "I want you to paint my portrait at once." "At once, *Diable!* You *are* in a hurry." "It is not I who am in a hurry, but the guillotine. I am on the suspected list to-day, to-morrow I shall be condemned, and I wish to leave my children this remembrance of me." "I shall set to work at once. Madame. In what costume do you wish yourself painted?" "In this," she answered; and throwing off her hood and cloak she showed herself to be a woman still young and pretty, her hair powdered and covered with a simple little cap, her dress, a grey silk, a green apron, high-heeled shoes, and in her hand a *carton*. "I am Mme. Venotte," she went on. "I had the honour to be *marchande de dentelles to la sainte reine*, whom they have sent to God. I wish my children always to see me in the costume I used to wear, when Marie Antoinette deigned to admit me to her presence." Though Isabey painted the portrait in haste, with tears in his eyes, it was one of the best he ever did.

Miss Tallentyre's "The Friends of Voltaire" is a much more solid book than "Heroines of French Society," but it is at least as interesting. It gives you characteristic sketches of such pioneers of the Revolution as D'Alembert, Diderot, Condorcet, and Beaumarchais. Of the galaxy of stars here presented to you, Vauvenargues shines with the clearest, purest light, and his aphorisms ought to be set over against Rochefoucauld's, of whom, indeed, Vauvenargues himself said truly that "he had turned men from virtue by persuading them that it was never genuine." The aphorisms of Vauvenargues are, in fact, as profound and optimistic as Rochefoucauld's are pessimistic and shallow; and most profound of all is his famous axiom to whose truth all the great revolutions and religions of the world testify, "Great thoughts come from the heart." Vauvenargues always resisted the besetting temptation of the aphorist, and especially of the French aphorist—the temptation to sacrifice truth to smartness. No one took more to heart his own maxim, "Would you say great things? Then first accustom yourself never to say false ones." And it must be remembered, and Miss Tallentyre's sketch reminds you of it in every page, that Vauvenargues' noble, brave, suffering, sympathetic and active life illustrated perfectly his manly and optimistic aphorisms. "Who can bear all, can dare all," and "Few sorrows are without remedy: despair is more deceptive than hope," were taught to Vauvenargues by his own sufferings and through his own faith and fortitude. Surely Diderot might have been forgiven more than Miss Tallentyre is inclined to forgive him, if only for his magnanimity. When a lampoonist tried to blackmail this most generous of men by demanding a sum for the suppression of a satire against him, Diderot cried, cheerfully, "Oh I can do better than that for you. Dedicate the lampoon against me to the brother of the Duke of Orleans, who hates me." "But I don't know the Prince." "Sit down, and I will write the dedication for you." He did, and so ably that the satirist obtained a handsome sum. Diderot, too, in the heat and height of his arguments, hammering black and blue the knees of Catherine of Russia—before whom, as before Medusa, every one else was turned to stone—is surely a figure that compels more respect than Miss Tallentyre is willing to concede him? All her portraits, however, stand out clear and sharp in this graphic book, which deserves an honoured and permanent place in your library. You will not, I think, like the style in which Mr. Edgar Saltus has written his suggestive history of love, ancient and modern, "Historia Amoris" (3), but unquestionably it is a suggestive and brilliant piece of work. Again and again, however, it is disfigured by such chopping sentences as, "Cleopatra must have been very heady. Cæsar knew how to keep his head. He could not have done what he did, had he not known. Dissolute, as all men of that epoch had become, he differed from all of them in his epicureanism. Like Epicurus, he was strictly temperate. He supped on dry bread." But all the different loves of the different ages, ancient, mediæval, and modern, are succinctly, adequately, and imaginatively described in Mr. Saltus's vivid pages. I have left myself space only to recommend to you a rollicking novel, Mr. Keighley's "A Beggar on Horseback" (4), whose hero is the stage Irishman, reckless, generous, high-spirited, and, according at least to modern commercial notions, unprincipled. He is, however, a most engaging young fellow, while his adventures are extremely interesting and entertaining reading. —Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "The Friends of Voltaire." By S. G. Tallentyre. With Portraits. London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 9s. net.)

(2) "Heroines of French Society." In the Court, the Revolution, the Empire and the Restoration. By Mrs. Bearne. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Historia Amoris." A History of Love, Ancient and Modern. By Edgar Saltus. (London: Sisley's, Ltd. 6s.)

(4) "A Beggar on Horseback." By S. R. Keightley. (London: John Long. 6s.)

In his introduction to Mr. W. T. Fyfe's book, "Edinburgh under Sir Walter Scott" (Constable, 10s. 6d. net.), Mr. R. S. Rait asserts that during the half-century prior to the death of Scott in 1832 Edinburgh rather than London was the intellectual centre of the kingdom. Not every one will be disposed to admit this, but there will be a ready acceptance of the more

modest claim that the society of the Scottish capital in those days "included a long series of remarkable men," some of them distinguished in the world of letters, others renowned for different achievements, and characteristics, and even eccentricities. With Scott, the greatest of them all, as the predominant figure, Mr. Fyfe has drawn a vivid picture of the intellectual and social life of this memorable period in the history of "the modern Athens." He has gathered materials for his book from many sources, and it is particularly rich in stories of the literary lights and legal luminaries of the time. Social habits were a strange mixture of coarseness and extreme decorum. Swearing and drunkenness were regarded almost as virtues, and apropos of this an anecdote of one of the judges, Lord Hermand, may be quoted. Another judge passed a light sentence on a young fellow charged with the manslaughter of a companion during a drunken quarrel. Lord Hermand, who was an ardent worshipper of Bacchus, publicly expressed from the Bench, his disapproval of this leniency, his view being that such affrays brought discredit on the custom of drinking! "We are told," he said, "that the prisoner must have been in liquor. In liquor! Why, he was drunk! And yet he murdered the very man who had been drinking with him! Good God, my laards, if he will do this when he's drunk, what will be not do when he's sober?"

"Birket Foster" is the subject of the most recent of Messrs. Black's colour books (price, 20s. net). Mr. H. M. Cundall has written an appreciative and interesting life of the artist, but, as is usually the case in this series, the illustrations rather than the text constitute the principal attractions of the book. In addition to many of Birket Foster's sketches, with which the letterpress is interspersed, the illustrations comprise between ninety and a hundred full-page plates, of which seventy-five are reproductions in colour from his water-colour drawings. The pictures chosen for the purpose are thoroughly representative of the work of this popular artist, including, of course, not a few of those charming paintings of rural scenes by which he was most widely known. The reproductions in colour have been admirably executed.

Mr. Carl Jeppe modestly asks that his book, "The Kaleidoscopic Transvaal" (Chapman and Hall, 7s. 6d. net), shall be regarded as an impressionist sketch rather than as an attempt to write history. It is a sketch, however, which will give the average readers a much clearer comprehension of the troubled history of the Transvaal than many more pretentious volumes. Mr. Jeppe went to live in the Transvaal as a child in the early seventies. He was one of the first settlers at Johannesburg, where he practised as a lawyer, and took a prominent part in the public life of the city down to the time of his appointment in 1897 as Consul-General of the Republic at Cape Town. He was closely associated both with Boers and Britons, and in dealing with the disputes that arose he has obviously sought to be fair to all parties. Not the least conspicuous merit of Mr. Jeppe's book is, indeed, its freedom from anything in the nature of partisan bitterness and racial animosity; and he enlivens his narrative with constant touches of genial humour and an abundance of interesting personal reminiscences.

In a volume entitled "Hindustan under Free Lances," which Messrs. Brown, Langham, and Co. will publish, Mr. H. G. Keene, C.I.E., narrates the careers of some half-dozen of those early adventurers who made the British conquest of India possible.

Mr. John Foster Fraser's new book, "Red Russia," announced by Messrs. Cassell and Co., is the outcome of a visit which he paid to that country to study the causes, the happenings, and the consequences of the revolutionary movement.

There will be a number of hitherto unprinted letters in the memoir of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, by George Paston, which Messrs. Methuen will publish. The letters are printed from the Wortley Montagu MSS. at Sandon Hall by permission of the Earl of Harrowby.

Messrs. G. Woolliscroft Rhead and F. A. Rhead, the authors of "Staffordshire Pots and Potteries" (Hutchinson and Co., price 21s. net), are both of them artists intimately associated with the famous industry of which they write. Their work is neither a technical treatise nor a detailed history, though they trace the progress of the potter's craft in Staffordshire from its beginning in Roman times. What they give is rather a series of studies of the potters during different periods, with an account of the conditions under which they worked and their more notable achievements. There are sketches of many men famous in connection with ceramic art, and the book, which is lavishly illustrated, is of interest to the general reader as well as to the connoisseur and collector.

"First Words of an Idler" (Routledge) is a little volume of poems by Mr. Robert Cruttwell, a young Oxonian, whose "apology on his book going out into the world" was hardly needed. Many volumes of poetry have been launched with much less justification. Mr. Cruttwell's verses are always pleasing, and often display a rare felicity of thought, fancy, and expression. "The Death of Shelley," the last and longest piece in the book, is in particular worthy of very high commendation.

"The Letters of Queen Victoria," in three volumes, edited by Lord Esher and Mr. A. C. Benson, will be published by Mr. Murray in October. It is understood that the letters printed in these volumes form the first part of her late Majesty's correspondence, coming down to the death of Prince Albert in December, 1861. Every letter or paper dealing with public affairs, which was either written or received by Queen Victoria, has been carefully preserved in the so-called secret library at Buckingham Palace.

Mr. John Long announces a new novel, "The Folly of the Wise," by Mr. G. Sidney Paternoster. It is a love story—"the love story of a woman of wit and beauty, who awakes so keen a rivalry among her admirers that the result would be disastrous to herself had she the fear of Mrs. Grundy before her eyes."

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—There is an art in attending the cheap sales. Those who have not attained it buy cheap "lines," as they are called. The architecture of these garments is what was once, and may be still, called brummagem (a rude word for Birmingham). Take blouses, for instance. The cheap ones, sometimes got up specially and purposely for the sales, are badly cut and inexpertly put together. The sleeves incommode the arms, the chests are narrow, the backs wide, and the collar declines to "stay put." Weary hours have to be spent by the purchaser, or maid, or sewing woman, in altering what will never come right, because it is faulty in cut.

Now the correct thing to do at a cheap sale is to buy French models (as they are called, though the majority of them have never been in France), even if they are a little soiled. A blouse made of Valenciennes piece lace, Mechlin or Irish, will clean readily and can be bought for a guinea or so, about one-fourth the original price. In this way one gets really good value. And it is well to bear in mind that it is not always the shops where very tempting things are in the windows to which one should go for bargains. Only experience can guide us in such a matter as shopping. We know a girl who saves up all her money for the last day of one particular sale. Then she spends three or four hours intently and does her shopping so exhaustively that she is fitted out for the whole season from head to foot. She invited her friends to see her bargains the other day and it was really like a trousseau. There were hats, coats, an evening wrap that had (oh, joy!) been marked down from thirty guineas to eight, one or two evening gowns as

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fresh as paint, petticoats, a neat tailor-made, at least a dozen blouses, gloves, stockings, shoes, and odds and ends.

Lilla will not look at clothes in the cheap sales with the single exception of Redfern's, where she always secures wonders in furs, dress lengths (she declares they are given away), and on one occasion an evening coat for twenty guineas which had never been made under £100.

Then there is Clara, who buys all her house linen at cheap sales. She goes for the lots that are described in the catalogues as "slightly soiled," and gets them astonishingly cheap. It matters little that the things are soiled, for they can be washed. I was with her one day when she bought six tablecloths and sets of napkins for very little over the price of one complete set. They had been wet by some accident. Two pairs of large, soft, fleecy blankets, rather more than slightly soiled, were sold to her for the price of one pair. The sharpness of her gaze, as it travels round the piles of things, detects the best bargains in a way that I in vain attempt to copy.

It is the uneducated who are the greatest enemies of progress. You may reply to this that everybody is educated nowadays, and that, therefore, there are no enemies of progress. So perhaps I had better alter my sentence and say that it is the ignorant who are enemies of progress. Education does not remove all kinds of ignorance, and partial education is the mother of bigotry and prejudice. "And the bearings of this observation lays in the application on it," to quote Dickens.

A few weeks since we discovered an oven that works splendidly over a gas ring, cooks a chicken more delicately than any other oven, and bakes pastry to perfection. Having tried it with our own hands in our special cooking den, I gave it to Annabel, our present cook, who had prepared the bird and rather disdainfully watched our operations. Yesterday I said to her: "Cook the pheasants in the Appleton, Annabel. If it succeeds with them as it did with the chicken, they will be very nice." She semi-sniffed and omitted her usual deferential "Yes, madam." I said to Bee afterwards, "Cook resents the new oven just as she resented the new cake tin. She spoiled the cakes, and now she'll spoil the pheasants." She did. And she did more—she spoiled the new oven by letting it burn. It was a stranger, so she 'eaved 'arf a brick at it. This is the usual kitchen attitude to inventions intended for saving time and trouble. Have you observed it? Is it because the minds of the partially educated are not open to new ideas? Or is it that curious streak of obstinacy that always accompanies a want of knowledge?

Our good old Sarah—now, alas! superannuated—was years before she would consent to use a gas-cooker, and it was only on hearing one praised to the skies by a woman of her own class and age that she gave in. "I mislike new-fangled things," she would say. Even when a clever invention saves servants time and trouble they are so prejudiced that they will not give it a trial. I shall never forget a cooking-pot we once had, in which a series of stew-pans stood above one with boiling water in it, the contents of the upper ones cooking chiefly by steam. When it came home I explained it all to our queen of the kitchen, and, pointing to one particular pan, remarked: "That one always has a little water in it, and when it wants more it whistles for it."

"*What*, m'm?" with a look of horror.

"Yes; when the water has partly evaporated and gets so low as to leave this pipe uncovered, the air rushes up through it and causes a whistling sound."

"I couldn't stay in the kitchen with anything so out of nature as that, m'm," and she refused utterly to have anything to do with it. In vain may science endeavour to relieve our domestic burdens. Ignorance stands with a bludgeon in the way.

Ella's servants have all had influenza. They caught it in couples, and her household has been turned into an amateur hospital, with nurses and doctor. Ella is very kind to her servants, so they have comfortable beds and well-ventilated rooms to sleep in. When the doctor said that the temperature must be kept up to 65 degrees day and night, Ella at once sent for a "Little Ruby" gas-stove for each of the rooms, which are at the top of the house. This cheerful and pretty little stove requires no flue, and is a treasure. "What I should have done without gas-stoves in the dining-room and morning-room I cannot think," said Ella, "when all the servants were ill in bed and the nurses wanted seven meals a day. A good little helpful charwoman came in to help, but there was no bed for her, and I had to come down in the cold mornings to get Alfred's breakfast. The gas-stove—the Wolseley that you recommended, Madge—had the room warm in ten minutes, and there never was such a fire for toast-making. We had forgotten what good toast was like until we made it ourselves at this gas fire; brown all over, not a pale corner anywhere, crisp outside, yet soft in the middle. We are never going to let servants make our toast again."

"Yes," I said, "'We needs must love the highest when we see it.'"

At which rather inappropriate quotation Ella looked slightly puzzled.

There are some wonderful people in the world; we were listening to one last Saturday, in the person of Miss Martha Craig, an American journalist who has filled in her spare time by discovering an entirely new theory of gravitation, has travelled by herself through all sorts of little known places, and has brought out of her experiences a quiet voice, a charming face, an almost delicately slender figure, and a delightful sense of humour. She gave the American Circle of the Lyceum Club an account of her experiences "in Lonely Labrador," and her matter-of-fact tones were in strange contrast to the intensely interesting things she told us about her adventures in that desolate country. The address was cruelly cut short by the exigencies of time and club routine, but we heard a good deal. One amusing incident was that of the band of wandering Indians who applied to Miss Craig for medicine—every one of them! Miss Craig made them pills of flour and cinnamon and water, fried them over the fire, and told them to take two each, sleep with their wigwam flaps open, and eat a good supper of the bacon and coffee she sent them. They all felt much better in the morning, and looked upon her with extreme reverence. Another band entertained her by a display of magic by their magician. When he had finished, Miss Craig said she would now make some magic, and she started a little gramophone. The Indians were astounded but self-controlled. Then she put in a blank record and asked them to sing, which they did with fervour, beating tom-toms the while ("You can imagine the sort of record I got!" said Miss Craig). "Now," said their visitor, "you shall hear some more magic," and she started the new record. Not even Indian stoicism could stand hearing their own performance reproduced; in reverence and fear they flung themselves upon their faces and scratched the earth with their hands.

Why is it that in our country postmarks are seldom legible? What is the use of a postmark at all if it cannot be deciphered? In France, in Germany, in the United States, postmarks are usually clear and distinct. But here in Great Britain there are but few that can be deciphered. We must get some one to ask a question about it in Parliament. That is the only thing to do now when abuses crop up. To write to the *Times* was once the usual plan, but the Great God Dagon of Printing House Square has fallen, alas, has fallen!

Ashby Sterry wrote amusingly years ago about the perversity of inanimate objects. "Malignity" was his word, I think, and it does not really seem too strong when you think, for instance, of the vicious way in which the hooks on one's gowns behave. I often wonder if other people's hooks behave quite as badly as mine. I asked Mim this question one day, and before I had quite finished she said, "Oh, yes, quite as badly." These wretched but necessary little implements make a point of catching in everything that affords them a chance and of behaving in a manner that, if actuated by

design, would be simply vicious. After a careful coiffure one puts one's skirt on in the only way convenient—viz., over the head, and then hooks make a point of catching in the hair and pulling strands of it out of place in the most irritating fashion. Even when gowns are hanging up in the wardrobe, the hooks catch and hold so that when taking one down there is sure to be damage done. Will no one invent a fastening for us that will behave with the most ordinary civility? Buttons are comparatively harmless, but they can work mischief when they choose. Has it ever happened to you to have the fringe of a tablecloth catch on one of your buttons, and, when you get up, to pull the whole affair after you? I saw that happen once. The unfortunate victim was a man, and the culprit button was in his waistcoat. Two or three cups and plates were rolling about the floor, and his expression of astonished bewilderment, with the fringe still affectionately clinging to his button, was extremely funny.

Minna has some Indian friends in England, and asked us to dine with her last week to meet them. Two days before the appointed evening she came to see us, haggard and worn. "I've been trying to order Friday's dinner," said she, "and I can't remember if the A's are Mahometan or Hindu; so I daren't venture on either beef or ham, and when I explained to the cook she went to bed and won't get up! But I've solved it—I've written to them to come to the Eustace Miles Restaurant instead of home, so now I'm safe—you know, even the ordinary butter wouldn't do! So we'll meet in Chandos-street, Madge, dear, and don't you think I'm ingenious?" We congratulated her, but pointed out that strict religionists would not have accepted an invitation to dinner with her. We had a delightful evening in the pretty green restaurant, and her friends turned out to be Parsees after all! Minna is fairly intelligent, and yet she has no clear ideas about these friends, whom she has known for some time. No wonder our rule in India is so much criticised by Indians, when we cannot even distinguish between members of such different races as are comprised in that wonderful country. We are dreadfully muddled in our ideas about Greater Britain, and mix up Australians and New Zealanders most blithely, a thing which they dislike intensely. It reminds me of a girl I saw last summer at Boulogne, going on board the Folkestone packet. She was obviously Britannic, and the official varied his "Are you a British subject?" by a polite, "English, miss?" She withered him with a glare. "I am not!" said she, "I'm Irish," and she walked up the gangway like an empress.

The Belgrave Ladies' Agency, which has been worked up entirely by educated women into a highly important and widely useful business, has been removed from Ebury-street to new and more convenient premises at 164, Buckingham Palace-road. People who used to gibe and sneer at women's lack of business capacity have been gradually finding their occupation gone. If any such come my way I always point out the wonderful success of Mrs. (Edith) Clarke's cheap fish dinners she inaugurated at one of the great exhibitions held in Kensington. With the proceeds of sixpenny and ninepenny dinners this clever lady made enough money to build the imposing structure known as the National Training School for Cookery, and to inaugurate there the classes which are making such thrifty and capable housewives of the students. And the Ladies' Agency is yet another proof that when women put their hands to the plough they can drive a furrow straight and deep as any man. This Agency supplies servants, ladies' maids, companions, governesses, secretaries, finds apartments and houses for those in search of them, and is especially useful to ladies because, being conducted by gentlewomen, the needs of persons of position are thoroughly understood.

The dance at the Wharncliffe Rooms, Hotel Central, in aid of Princess Christian's crèche at Windsor promises to be a huge success. It has been got up by Miss Cunliffe-Owen, who has managed splendidly to keep down all expenses so as to realise as much as possible for the charity. The Princess has given it her immediate patronage, and so have the Duchess of Devonshire, Lady E. Spencer-Churchill, and many others of position.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—As it was with the "many books" in the wise man's time, so—or even more so—is it, in these our days, with the many newspapers. Of making them "there is no end." They pour forth upon us in ever increasing numbers year after year; morn, noon, and night, they are with us, intimately and copiously. They are all things to all, instructing us about everything in heaven and earth, that every philosophy dreams of. What is it that newspapers do not know and try to teach? The limitations are not on the side of their knowledge, but on our capacity for imbibing it. How much more directly they appeal to us than books do! They supply something always for everyone of every sort and kind, which touches a special chord; their fiction based on fact, and fact based on fiction, strike home somewhere. No subject is too high or too low, too great or too small for them. They treat with equal earnestness and omniscience of the constitution of the greatest empire in the world, and of the constitution of an individual. With regard to the last, what power they exercise on health subjects, and on all our lives therefore. What has ever been more effective in causing general unpleasantness to everyone in our climes than the raising of the old winter "colds" to the rank of "the influenza." Is it not mainly, even solely perhaps, due to the press? Winter always brought its feverish colds, chills, and ills; we took them in the day's work, treated them with tried and trusted family nostrums, pitied ourselves a little, and sat by the fireside until the need for that pity was over. Now who dares to treat the same old symptoms in the same old way? The terrors of influenza have compassed them around; these well known symptoms are full of disastrous possibilities, undreamt of before, when ignorance, unenlightened by articles and paragraphs on epidemics and influenza was bliss. They must be treated for these possibilities with respect, and even in fear and trembling. The winter cold had a sufficiently unpleasant present, but what was that compared to the awful future, which is the specialty of "the influenza"? Now, as if the present were not bad enough, instead of a cheery convalescence to look forward to, we are overshadowed by a future of complications, and of the search for, and discovery of, all our weak points.

Next week our season will be in full swing, though the weather more suggests the spring time than the winter. What mistakes one is liable to make in one's shopping. Furs were so much in excess of the situation last week, and no doubt—though indeed we find it difficult enough not to doubt it just now—they will be very much needed in a possibly near future. The Royal Hospital Ball, on the night of the first Viceregal Levee day, will be the first important entertainment of the season. Lord and Lady Grenfell give pleasant entertainments, at which, of course, the military element predominates. It is a popular one with dancing matrons and maidens, as everyone knows, and especially on the state occasions when the fine feathers which make fine birds are worn. How much there is in dress! And what a long time it takes us—if we ever do learn it—to understand that the man or woman is more than the raiment. Lord and Lady Pembroke are expected to be at their residence, Mount Merrion, for several weeks during the Castle season, and to have Lord and Lady Herbert and several other members of their family staying with them. Lord Pembroke is the principal owner of Merrion Square and other fashionable places in our capital, so that it is only in the fitness of things that he should pay his respects at the Viceregal court. Mount Merrion is little more than five miles from Dublin, on the south side, and enjoys the fresh air from the neighbouring Dublin mountains. Lord and Lady Ardilaun arrived at St. Anne's, Clontarf, last week. Lord Ardilaun will, as usual, have his party at Ashford, Galway, for the woodcock shooting, which is so excellent there at this

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's clear name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 1,461.

It strikes me that considerable amusement might be got out of a Competition in "Spoonerisms." I suppose there will be few readers of TRUTH who will not know what is meant by that term. But, for the benefit of the uninstructed few, I take leave to explain it.

A "Spoonerism" is a particular form of *lapsus linguae* by which the initial letters of certain words in a sentence are unintentionally transposed, with ridiculous effect; the term being derived from the surname of the eminent and amiable Head of a certain College at Oxford, who is popularly supposed to be especially addicted to such involuntary transpositions.

For instance, to quote one or two hoary chestnuts, he is alleged, while preaching in the University Church, to have startled his hearers by remarking, "I know that many of you have *warmed a fish* in your hearts, etc." . . . (meaning, of course, really to have said *formed a wish*); that, on another occasion, he spoke of something having "vanished like a *dutiful dream*" (meaning a "*beautiful dream*"); and that, on yet another occasion, he greatly shocked a lady of his acquaintance, whom he met on a railway journey, by alluding to her "*rags and bugs*" (meaning, of course, "*bags* and *rugs*").

These venerable specimens of "Spoonerisms," which are probably, after all, merely the inventions of facetious undergraduates—are just quoted here in order to make quite clear what is meant.

Now, such hundreds, not to say thousands, of "Spoonerisms" have at one time or another appeared in print, that it would be scarcely feasible to exclude chestnuts from this Competition, and so, without insisting on originality in the matter, I offer, this week, the usual Prize of Two Guineas for:

A SENTENCE, IN INTELLIGIBLE ENGLISH, OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY WORDS, WHICH SHALL CONTAIN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF AMUSING "SPOONERISMS."

But I would point out that the quality, as well as the quantity, of the "Spoonerisms" will be taken into consideration, and that a smaller number of really funny specimens will be adjudged better than a larger number of specimens that fail in that essential quality.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor should send in more than one sentence of "Spoonerisms."

(ii) All sentences must reach TRUTH Office not later than by the *first post* on Monday, February 4, 1907.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PARROT.—I have handed your letter to the Editor of TRUTH.

RIMABEL.—I much regret the printers' errors in your parody, which I duly note, and will allow for in the adjudication.

VICISSITUDE, SPARTAN, RHO.—I much regret that the solutions sent in by these competitors to Puzzle No. 1,457 were received too late to be included in the Competition.

May I, once again, point out that no solution of any Puzzle Competition can be entertained which is received at TRUTH Office later than by the *first post* on the Monday on which the competition closes!

Competitors will save themselves much needless disappointment, and the Puzzle Editor much needless trouble, if they will be careful to comply with this regulation.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,458.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SUGGESTED NEW NAMES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS IN THE CALENDAR.

Anné (from "an" and "né," *i.e.*, year born). Allfallow. Easter (in relation to east winds as well as the Church festival). Caprice. Gaiety. Leafrule. Sunrays. Au Revoir (off to holidays). Adieu (summer's good-bye). Tintamber. Redember (first fires). Advent (in respect both of Christmas and the New Year).—Caledon.

Epiphanius (Jan. 6, Epiphany). Valentinus (Feb. 14, Valentine). Patricius (Mar. 17, St. Patrick). Georgius (April 23, St. George). Augustinus (May 26, St. Augustine). Victoria (June 20, Accession of Queen Victoria). Jacobus (July 25, St. James). Lammas (Aug. 1, Lammas Day). Michaelmas (Sept. 29, Michaelmas Day). Lucius (Oct. 18, St. Luke). Andrius (Nov. 30, St. Andrew). Adventus (Dec., Advent).—Sunny Jim.

Freezy (coldest). Muddy (wettest). Breezy (windiest). Buddy (springtide). Merry (merrie month). Leafy (leafy June). Cherry. Sheafy (harvest). Hoppy (hop picking). Chilly (chill October). Sloppy (2nd wettest). Billy (Xmas bills).—Minos.

Freezy. Greasy. Scuddy. Buddy. Merry. Berry (strawberries). Hotty (dog days). Yachty (Cowes). Galey (equinoctials). Aley (October brewing). Foggy. Loggy (Yule logs).—Minos.

Snowdrop. Crocus. Daffodil. Primrose. Narcissus. Rose. Geranium. Cornflower. Dahlia. Chrysanthemum. Violet. Mistletoe.—Hatter.

Cryomene (frost month). Aromene (plough month). Euromene (east wind month). Hygromene (moist month). Anthomene (flower month). Phyllomene (leaf month). Poamene (meadow month). Thermomene (heat month). Sitomene (corn month). Bryzomene (brew month). Scotomene (gloom month). Nephomene (snow month).—Eboracum.

Primia. Pluvia. Windia. Daffodilia. Arboria. Rosia. Fruitia. Sultria. Moonia. Pheasantia. Foggia. Ultima.—Solf.

Frost. Lambs. Wind. Showers. Blossoms. Flowers. Hay. Corn. Harvest. Plough. Seedtime. Snow.—Alpha.

Bleaksoil. Grey furrow. Gaywind. Joyrain. Buds. Sunbloom. Fullflower. Ripegold. Fairfruit. Brownblast. Darkchill. Snowdrift.—Northlander.

Snowdrop. Daffodil. Crocus. Primrose. Lilac. Rose. Honeysuckle. Poppy. Iris. Chrysanthemum. Violet. Mistletoe.—Fatty.

Aperta. Phildike. Boreas. Aquarelie. Arbépine. Gloria. Septrina. Octavia. Nona. Foggario. Hiverna.—Aster.

Newbroom. Transition. Madhatter. St. George. Ideale Iris. Sol Roseate. Ozone. St. Michael. Corneygrain. Signals. Halcyon.—Acanite.

New Year. Mid-winter. Spring-hope. Floral. Victoria. Rose-month. Summer-height. Harvest. Summer's-end. Golden-leaf. Mayoral. Festal.—Crescendo.

Nuyer. Valenta. Boreas. St. George. Buda Summa. Vacatia. Lubock. Harvesta. Autuma. Mista. Yula.—Caw.

Hope. Faith. Courage. Patience. Truth. Love. Joy. Praise. Gratitude. Justice. Endurance. Peace.—Euthalia.

Moestose. Palaverose. Ventose. Pluviose. Fabulose. Zephyrose. Calorose. Otiose. Perdicose. Phasianose. Nebulose. Gulose.—Verbum Sat.

White (snowdrop). Violet (violet). Blue (hyacinth). Yellow (daffodil). Green (leaf). Pink (rose). Crimson (peony). Orange (sunflower). Purple (heather). Gold (gorse). Brown (bracken). Black (ivy).—La Générale.

Birth. Infant. Child. Boy. Scholar. Lover. Paterfamilias. Soldier. Justice. Pantaloon. Dotage. Death.—Nemo.

Primo. Altero. Aero. Humis. Floris. Rosalis. Thermo. Gramo. Fructo. Frigo. Fumis. Zero.—Rimabel.

Snow. Fill Dyke. Wind. Shower. Flower. Rose. Hay. Holiday. Golden. Shooting. Fog. Yule.—The Prebend.

Newel. Filldyke. Wildwinds. Showery. Flowery. Roseate. Perfection. Vacationy. Harvest. Hunting. Fognoyous. Yearsend.—Mermaid.

Snowdrop. Crocus. Daffodil. Primrose. Hawthorn. Rose. Poppy. Aster. Hollyhock. Blackberry. Chrysanthemum. Holly.—Omega.

Glacifer. Humifer. Ventifer. Undifer. Florifer. Mellifer. Aestifer. Messifer. Frugifer. Aratrifer. Brumifer. Nivifer.—Sincérité.

Primal (because it is the first). Aqua (the rain month, "February fill dyke," as the proverb has it). Robur (the strong month. "The lusty winds of March.") Pearl (the month of shine and shower); what better simile than that beautiful gem. "A sunbeam caught in a bead of dew.") Floral (the month of flowers). Rosa ("Oh! the roses of June!") Torrid (who has not felt the fervid kiss of the July sun?). Harvest (the golden joys of harvest home, that August brings). Garner (the month that witnesses the rich produce of orchard and field gathered in). Sere (yellow, and withered all, is chill October's crown). Mist (the fog and gloom of dark November). Yule (is not all the month full of preparations for the great home-holiday of the British race?).—Djalá.

Fannersmonth. Fagotmonth. Springmonth. Grassmonth. Flowermonth. Summermonth. Haymonth. Harvestmonth. Autumnmonth. Winemonth. Butchersmonth. Wintermonth.—Amsterdam.

Snowy. Rainy. Windy. Budding. Blooming. Haymaking. Thunder. Harvest. Apples. Nuts. Foggy. Frosty.—Parrot.

Snowdrop. Violet. Daisy. Cowslip. Hawthorn. Sweetwilliam. Rose. Geranium. Clematis. Chrysanthemum. Aster. Holly.—Crusoe.

Dunuary. Humidary Winds. Showers. Flowers. Sports. Fêtes. Holidays. Partridgetide. Pheasantide. Fogember. Gorgember.—Morven.

Fogery. Weterun. Stormery. Budery. Flowerery. Leafery (leafy month of June). Fruitery. Tripery (seaside trips). Gamerie. Falleran (the fall of the year). Spertory. Chrismassy. Tom Poo.

Lighters. Waters. Winders. Showers. Blossoms. Rosers. Summers. Sultrs. Harvests. Leafers. Fogers. Enders.—Itinerant.

First month. Second month. Third month. Fourth month. Fifth month. Sixth month. Seventh month. Eighth month. Ninth month. Tenth month. Eleventh month. Twelfth month. As it could be written either in writing or cypher. Game B.

Frost. Rain. Wind. Seed. Flower. Leaf. Light. Heat. Colour. Fruition. Contemplation. Completion.—Abologur.

Freezer. Melter. Blower. Weeper. Cheater. Smiler. Broiler. Tanner. Wheater. Butter. Misterfogger. Grubber. Arachne.

Snowy. Rainy. Parch. Bud. Spray. Rosy. Hay. Reap. Fruitember. Vinober. Fogember. Frostember.—Almaviva.

Snoma (snow month). Mudma. Win(d)ma. Budma. Grasma. Li(t)ma (light month). Hotma. Harna (harvest month). Parma (month of partridges and game generally). Huma (month of the changing hues). Fogma. Dar(c)ma.—Ox Short.

Midwinter. Shortmonth. Vernox (from Vernal Equinox). Eastide. Bloomonth. Sunnidays. Midsummer. Lammonth (from Lammas Month). Automnox (from autumnal equinox). Harvestome. Autumend. Christide.—Belfastiensis.

Hiemal. Glacial. Eural. Pluvial. Vernal. Floral. Astival. Cereal. Fouriferal. Autumnal. Lethal. Brumal.—Simplex.

Maybechill. Rainyvery. Allgust. Yourgamremember. Funnyweather. Bluesky. Parched. Allnotlover. Spoon. Dismalever. Foggyvery. Grey.—Ewell Wynne.

Khartoum. Loufi. Fly. Prim. Mafeking. Waterloo. Dog. Grouse. Telelkebir. Trafalgar. Inkerman. Box.—Heja.

Coldmon. Wetmon. Blowmon. Showmon. Trickmon. Wakemon. Bakemon. Takemon. Rapemon. Stripmon. Mistmon. Christmon. The affix "mon" is, of course, an abbreviation of the word "month."—Dick Maisch.

Resolutione. Valentiate. Springone. Showery. Merrione. Summery. Recessione. Successione. Autumny. Effolione. Wintery. Christione.—V. B.

Brumalis. Redivivus. Borealis. Pluvialis. Genialis. Illustris. Floralis. Nemoralis. Cerealis. Autumnalis. Inhospitalis. Glacialis.—Allos.

The best alternative names for the months would be the signs of the Zodiac for the twenty-one days of each month, or for January Aquarius, February Pisces, March Aries, and so on.—Lilva.

The first month of the year, "Income," I would call,
And February "Breve" because shortest of all.
Then March, in new terminology, Vernal should be,
And April, usually damp, "Showery," you see.
Next, May, bright and gay, "Flowery" we'll term;
For June's name "Gloria," I'll hold most firm.
Then July, closely following, "Solaria" may be,
And August "Cereal" pray with me agree!
Soft, sweet September, "Autumna," we might call,
And October, baring trees, I would designate Fall.
November—damp and foggy—ugh! let its name be Misty,
And for dull December? Well! shall we say Hilary.

Difisel.

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APPEAL.

CITY OF LONDON TRUSS SOCIETY

For the Relief of the Ruptured Poor throughout the Kingdom.

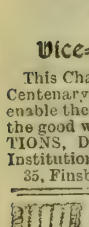
ESTABLISHED 1807.

Patron: His Majesty the King.

Vice-Patron: H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G.

This Charity, which relieves nearly 10,000 Patients annually, celebrates its Centenary this year, and the Committee earnestly APPEAL for £5,000 to enable them to pay off the Loans from the Society's Bankers, and to continue the good work which has been carried on for the last 100 years. SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, and BEQUESTS will be thankfully received at the Institution by

35, Finsbury-square, E.C. W. K. TAUNTON, Secretary.



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WITH NEW HEMSTITCH FRILLS, 3 yds. long, 8/3 per pair. PLAIN FRILLS, 6/9 per pair. *Samples of Muslins on approval.* Tapestries, Cretonnes, Art Silks, Art Serges. Patterns on approval. *Book of Lace Curtains, Blinds, Carpets, Linoleum, Furniture, Bedsteads Bedding, free.* CORRINGE & CO., 91A Dept., Nottingham.

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AT

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White and Cream, Single Widths, 11½d., 1/1½, 1/4½, 1/6½, 1/9½ per yard. White and Cream, Double Widths, 1/3½, 1/6½, 1/11, and 2/2 per yard. Self Colours, 1/2½ per yard in pale blue, pink, etc. Pretty Stripes, 1/1½ per yard.

"HEALTHFUL and NON-SHRINKING." Patterns Post Free on request.

Call at the Warehouse if you can. If you cannot call, write for the SALE CATALOGUE containing full particulars of the great sale of WINCEYS, TWEEDS, "HURRICANE" SERGES, Blankets, Linens, Hosiery, Yarns, etc., which will be sent post free to any address on receipt of a Postcard.

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FOR GOUT, GRAVEL, RHEUMATISM, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS (State Spring)

Caution: See that each bottle has a neck label with VICHY-ETAT & the name of the Sole Agents: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY

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HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

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BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. 2½ per cent. interest allowed on Deposit Accounts. 2 per cent. interest on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.—C. F RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

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To the outstanding holders of

Five per Cent. First Mortgage Registered Stock.
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Referring to the Company's advertisement dated December 12, 1906, and the circulars dated November 29, 1906, issued by the Chairman of the Company to the holders of the above Securities; a considerable amount of such Securities having been deposited under the terms of the Reconstruction Scheme dated November 28, 1906, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the time for further deposits has been extended up to and including January 31, 1907.

Holders of Outstanding Securities who wish to take advantage of the terms offered should therefore deposit their holdings at the Office of Messrs. Speyer Brothers, 7, Lothbury, London, E.C., before January 31, 1907, after which date no further deposits will be received except under such terms as may be fixed by the Reconstruction Managers.

J. MACKENSIE,
Secretary.

7, Union-court,
Old Broad-street, E.C.,
London, January 16, 1907.

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An Editor's experience: "Practical experience causes the Editor to recommend 'YANATAS' (of any chemist) to those troubled by sea-sickness."—*Murray's Imperial Guide to India*, 1904. "YANATAS," the only sure cure for sea-sickness. Of chemists, 2s. 9d.; or 3s. (post paid) from STARKIE, Chemist, Trafalgar Square, London, S.W.

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"Erasmic" Soap

SOFT, WHITE HANDS

can never be acquired whilst impure soaps are used in the toilet, but are the result of the regular use of Erasmic—

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4d. per Tablet. 1/- per Box.

Send two penny stamps for Two Dainty Sample Tablets (postage paid).

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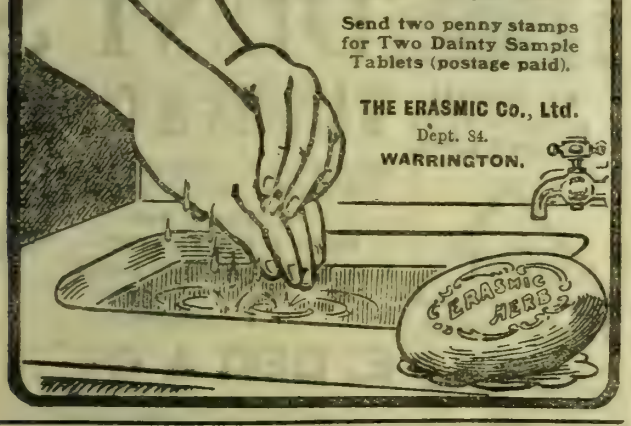

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CHEAPEST, BEST, MOST ECONOMICAL. NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED.

£10 worth	£0 7 0 per month	£50 worth	£1 9 0 per month
£20 "	£0 12 6 "	£100 "	£2 5 0 "
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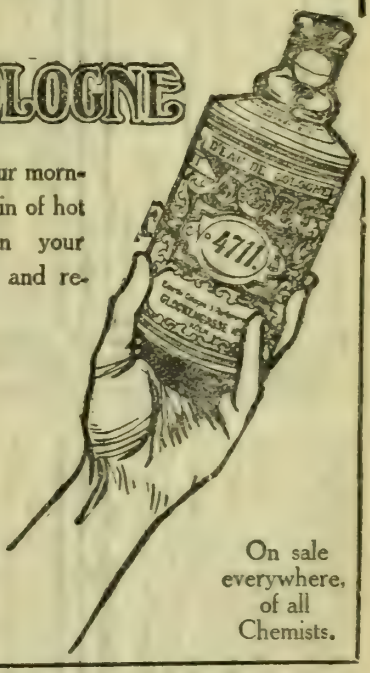
EAU-DE-COLOGNE

A few drops in your morning bath or in a basin of hot water will freshen your complexion, cheer and refresh you.



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The "ARDENT" OIL STOVE IS THE BEST.

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Lot No. 65. **TURKEY CARPETS.** These are made of the finest quality wool, all hand spun. The same fine quality is used throughout, also the best quality dyes only are used.

ft.	in.		ft.	in.	Clearing at £	s.	d.
8	4	by	7	9	4	18	6
8	4	,,	8	0	5	2	0
8	10	,,	8	7	5	16	0
8	4	,,	8	4	5	6	6
9	10	,,	8	2	6	3	0
10	7	,,	9	10	7	19	0
10	0	,,	9	10	7	11	0
10	1	,,	6	10	6	16	6
10	10	,,	8	1	6	14	0
10	5	,,	8	11	7	1	6
10	10	,,	8	8	7	3	6
10	1	,,	8	2	6	6	0
11	9	,,	11	0	10	11	0
11	7	,,	7	4	6	10	0
11	8	,,	6	11	6	3	6
11	9	,,	6	10	6	3	0
11	9	,,	8	11	8	0	0
11	3	,,	7	1	6	2	0
11	3	,,	6	11	6	0	0
12	3	,,	11	7	10	17	0
12	1	,,	11	8	10	15	6
13	10	,,	11	6	12	3	0
13	4	,,	9	2	9	6	6
14	0	,,	8	1	8	13	0
14	4	,,	8	1	8	17	0
14	10	,,	10	4	11	14	0
15	0	,,	11	6	13	4	0
15	1	,,	8	8	10	0	0
15	6	,,	9	6	11	19	6
16	7	,,	8	10	11	4	0
17	11	,,	13	11	19	1	0
17	0	,,	14	0	18	4	0
17	6	,,	9	10	13	3	0
17	6	,,	14	8	19	12	0
17	7	,,	13	3	17	16	0
17	6	,,	9	3	12	7	6
18	5	,,	9	0	12	13	6
18	2	,,	13	8	18	19	6
18	5	,,	16	4	23	0	0
18	2	,,	9	5	13	1	6
18	7	,,	16	3	23	1	6
18	6	,,	16	5	23	3	6
19	1	,,	13	4	19	9	0
19	8	,,	16	3	24	8	6
19	4	,,	11	3	16	13	6
19	10	,,	15	4	23	4	6
19	4	,,	15	1	22	5	6
19	1	,,	15	11	23	3	6
19	8	,,	13	9	20	13	6
19	2	,,	10	1	14	15	6
20	3	,,	13	6	20	17	6
23	5	,,	14	1	25	4	0
24	6	,,	12	3	22	18	6

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There is a good and varied assortment of colours and designs.

ft.	in.	by	ft.	in.	Regular price everywhere. £	s.	d.	Selling at £	s.	d.
7	9	,,	6	1	6	7	6	4	9	0
10	11	,,	8	3	12	3	0	8	10	0
10	5	,,	9	1	12	17	6	8	19	0
11	7	,,	9	2	14	6	6	10	1	6
11	11	,,	9	6	15	7	6	10	14	6
11	8	,,	8	6	13	10	0	9	7	6
11	8	,,	10	5	16	7	6	11	9	6
11	9	,,	9	10	15	13	6	10	18	6
11	11	,,	9	3	14	18	0	10	8	6
12	2	,,	9	2	15	0	0	10	9	6
12	3	,,	10	6	17	2	6	12	3	0
12	2	,,	9	0	14	16	6	10	7	0
12	1	,,	9	2	15	1	0	10	9	6
13	8	,,	11	2	20	10	0	14	8	6
13	10	,,	10	3	19	2	0	13	7	6
13	2	,,	10	0	17	15	6	12	9	0
13	0	,,	8	10	15	12	6	10	17	0
14	9	,,	11	9	23	8	6	16	7	6
14	9	,,	12	0	24	0	0	16	14	6
14	9	,,	11	1	22	2	0	15	8	6
14	10	,,	11	8	23	8	6	16	7	0
14	2	,,	11	3	21	10	0	15	1	0
14	9	,,	12	0	24	0	0	16	14	6
14	0	,,	12	2	22	19	0	16	2	6
14	0	,,	11	2	21	0	0	14	15	6
14	0	,,	10	5	19	15	6	13	16	0
15	8	,,	11	1	23	9	0	16	8	0
15	1	,,	11	11	24	5	0	16	19	6
15	8	,,	11	10	24	5	0	16	19	0
15	0	,,	11	6	23	5	0	16	5	6
15	11	,,	12	2	26	5	0	18	6	0
15	7	,,	11	10	25	0	0	17	8	6
15	2	,,	12	5	25	10	0	17	16	0
16	10	,,	13	1	30	15	0	20	16	0
16	2	,,	12	5	27	1	0	18	18	6
17	1	,,	12	2	27	18	0	19	13	0
17	0	,,	13	0	29	18	0	20	18	0
17	1	,,	12	6	28	14	0	20	3	6
17	11	,,	12	0	28	19	0	20	7	0
17	4	,,	13	3	30	19	0	21	14	0
18	5	,,	14	3	35	10	0	24	16	0
18	10	,,	14	0	35	13	0	24	18	0
18	9	,,	13	9	34	13	6	24	7	0
18	9	,,	13	0	32	19	0	23	1	0
19	4	,,	13	4	34	18	0	24	7	6
20	2	,,	14	11	40	10	0	28	8	6

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ft.	in.		ft.	in.	Regular price everywhere. £	s.	d.	Selling at £	s.	d.
2	3	in. wide	...	0	15	0	...	0	11	3
2	4	,, ,,	...	0	15	6	...	0	11	6
2	5	,, ,,	...	0	16	3	...	0	12	0
2	7	,, ,,	...	0	17	3	...	0	13	0
2	8	,, ,,	...	0	17	9	...	0	13	3
2	10	,, ,,	...	0	18	9	...	0	14	0
2	11	,, ,,	...	0	19	6	...	0	14	6
3	0	in. wide	...	1	0	0	...	0	15	0
3	1	,, ,,	...	1	0	6	...	0	15	3
3	2	,, ,,	...	1	1	3	...	0	15	6
3	9	,, ,,	...	1	5	0	...	0	18	9
3	11	,, ,,	...	1	6	0	...	0	19	9
4	6	,, ,,	...	1	10	0	...	1	2	9

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GUARANTEED ABSOLUTELY PURE SOLUBLE COCOA ONLY.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICES.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

An Index *to the* Sixtieth Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

The Annual Truth Cautionary List *will be published as a Supplement with next week's* Truth.

ENTRE NOUS.

THE King will leave London for Paris on Saturday, March 2, according to present arrangements. His Majesty, who will travel on the Continent incognito as Duke of Lancaster, intends to spend a few days in Paris before proceeding to Biarritz.

It is probable that the King will pay a visit to Ireland at Whitsuntide, according to present arrangements, but it is uncertain whether the Queen will accompany his Majesty on this occasion. If the King does go to Ireland, he will arrive at Dublin on Saturday, May 18, and stay at the Viceregal Lodge for about a week. His Majesty will leave Waterford in the Royal yacht on his return to England on Friday, May 31. On Saturday, May 25, the King is to spend a few days at Lismore Castle with the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and he will probably pay a brief visit to Lord and Lady Londonderry at Mount Stewart, near Belfast, and to Lord and Lady Ormonde at Kilkenny Castle, but, of course, the programme for the fortnight of his Majesty's stay in Ireland will not be definitely settled for the next three months.

The King will hold a Council at Buckingham Palace on Monday, February 11, when the proposed Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament will be submitted to his Majesty for approval.

Their Majesties' "house guests" at Windsor Castle included the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Princes Edward and Albert of Wales, Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, Princess Henry of Battenberg and Prince Maurice, Prince Arthur of Connaught, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Davidson, Count Wolff Metternich, Count Gleichen, Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg, Mr. Arthur Balfour, Mr. Haldane, Mr. John Morley, Lord Roberts, Lord Redesdale, Mr Waddington, Sir Mortimer and Lady Durand, Sir Cla and Lady MacDonald, Sir Schomberg McDonnell, rcu- Henry Knollys, the Bishop of Ripon, Sir Fleet rse, Edwards, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, and Comma and Mrs. Colin Keppel.

The King did not join the shooting party in Win s in Great Park on Wednesday, but his Majesty was d to on Friday in the Virginia Water preserves (lunch was served in the Fishing Temple), and on Satur st- in the covers round Cranbourne Tower. On Thurs e the King and the Prince of Wales had a day's pheasan, shooting with Lord Burnham at Hall Barn Park, and excellent sport was obtained by the party, which included Lord Howe and Mr. Henry Stonor.

The Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife, who have been residing in Portman-square during the last three months, will leave England shortly with their daughters to stay for some time in the south of Europe. It is expected that a complete change will be greatly beneficial to the Princess Royal. Her health has much improved during the winter, but she is still far from strong, and she will require constant care for a long time to come.

The most amazing balderdash is now printed daily by certain journals, the ignorance of the writers being

only equalled by their carelessness. In a notice of Queen Marie of Hanover we are informed that her father-in-law, Ernest Duke of Cumberland (afterwards King of Hanover), was very unpopular owing to his severe policy in Scotland after the Battle of Culloden, and the cruelties which he inflicted on the Jacobites! It really seems incredible that any one could print such crack-brained trash. It appears to be supposed that Ernest Duke of Cumberland, a younger son of George III., who died in 1851, was one and the same person as William, Duke of Cumberland, son of George II., who commanded at Culloden in 1746, and who died some years before his grand-nephew, the aforesaid Duke Ernest, was born. Culloden was fought when George III., the father of Duke Ernest, was in his eighth year.

Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, who has been on a visit to their Majesties at Windsor Castle, is a son of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, and son-in-law of the late Comte de Flandre. He is a brother of the Crown Prince of Roumania, and nephew of King Charles.

The Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha is staying at Coburg until after the accouchement of her second daughter, the Grand Duchess Cyril, which is expected to take place next month. The Grand Duchess Marie will then proceed to the Riviera, for a stay of about two months at the Château de Fabron, which is now lent to the Hereditary Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, and she will be joined there by her eldest daughter, the Crown Princess of Roumania.

Prince Fushimi of Japan, who is coming to England on a visit to the Court, has arranged to leave Yokohama for Marseilles on Tuesday, February 12, so that he will arrive in London just about Easter, unless he stays for some time in Italy and France on his way to England. The end of March or the beginning of April is by no means a convenient time for a Royal visit of this description, which is usually arranged to take place earlier in May, or in July, when the Court is at Buckingham Palace. Prince Fushimi is paying a return complimentary visit to acknowledge Prince Arthur of Connaught's special mission to Japan last year for the investiture of the Mikado with the Order of the Garter.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen arrived at Dublin Castle on Friday evening from England, and with their family, including Lord and Lady Haddo, took up their residence there for the season. The Levee and the two Courts are being held respectively on Tuesday afternoon this week and on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Entertainments will be given on other nights of the week, and their Excellencies will attend, with a large suite, Lord and Lady Grenfell's Ball at the Royal Hospital. The members of the Viceregal household who have arrived at the Castle this week include Lords Herschell, Powerscourt, Hawkesbury, Anson, Sir Anthony Weldon, Hon. C. Ruthven, and others.

Mr. Bryce stayed last week, on his visit to Dublin, with the Under-Secretary and Lady MacDonnell at their Lodge in the Phœnix Park. His pronouncement on the University Question, in reply to the Catholic and Presbyterian deputations, whom he received in the Privy Council Chamber at Dublin Castle, caused surprise and even sensation in Ireland. The novelty of having such immediate action follow with such swiftness on the "finding" of a Royal Commission, was enough to cause amazement in a country which long has had reason to view such Commissions as the substitute rather than the prelude for doing anything. It is a case of the sword of Damocles suddenly descending from its traditional hanging position, and the hope is universal that some of the knots of the very knotty Irish Question may at last be cut.

It is understood that Lady Crewe will undertake the duties of "the wife of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs" at the Diplomatic and Official Court which their Majesties are to hold at Buckingham Palace on Friday, February 22. Her duty is to name to their Majesties the Ambassadresses and wives of the other Chefs de Mission, who pass the presence in the order of their precedence.

A correspondent writes:—

I have not often read anything more utterly ridiculous in the papers, even in these days, than the skimble-skamble statement in the *World* that the late Sir James Fergusson was "a contemporary and disciple of D'Orsay," of whom he really knew no more than he did of Beau Brummell. During the earlier years of D'Orsay's residence in London Sir James was in his nursery, and he was at Rugby during Count Alfred's later period. He did not leave Oxford and enter the Grenadier Guards until about three years after D'Orsay had finally left London for Paris. I should think it is very doubtful whether Sir James Fergusson ever set eyes on the man who is so absurdly and ignorantly mentioned in connection with him.

At one time I used to know poor Mr. Whiteley very well, though I have not seen much of him these last few years, except in occasional business dealings. He was a genial, plain-spoken man, very modest in everything concerning himself, and entirely destitute of the "side" usually associated with self-made men who have been exceptionally successful. No one could ever see him on any matter relating to his own business without being impressed with his wonderful knowledge of every detail of it, and though the concern grew to be so big, he always kept his personal eye on every department. Even when he grew old and turned the business over to a company, he never ceased to visit "the shop" daily, and every customer who dealt there personally knew him by sight. This close personal attention to every essential part of his business was, I suppose, the secret of his success. One would never have thought that he would have come to such an end. Possibly, like a good many other people who look happy enough in every-day life, he had a skeleton in his private cupboard. If so, one would hope now that it may be left there.

The unexpected death of Rear-Admiral Corry is deeply regretted in Service circles. He was an excellent officer, and a very able organiser and administrator,

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 299.
For Selected FOREIGN HOTELS, see pages 298, 299.
For AMUSEMENTS, see pages 297.
For OUR PUZZLES, see pages 301, 302.

as well as personally popular. Admiral Corry had distinguished himself in many ways, and he did good work in improving considerably the training of boys in the Navy. He gained, early in his career, a reputation for practical usefulness, which made him a *persona grata* at the Admiralty. His work on "The Executive Officer's Orders," etc., is generally considered to be the most valuable text book on this subject. While Admiral Corry was in command of the troopship *Crocodile* her engines broke down completely when the vessel was far out at sea, but he succeeded in reaching Aden without further damage. There were nearly 1,200 men on board. Since September, 1905, Admiral Corry had most efficiently filled the appointment of Admiral-Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard.

Sir Francis Evans was an active and very able man of business, with an exceedingly genial manner. He worked hard in the development of the South African trade many years before that country assumed its more recent prominence. He was for twenty years the guide and dictator of the Union Steamship Company, and ultimately brought about its amalgamation with the Castle Line. Sir Francis commenced life as a civil engineer, and he afterwards devoted himself to the business of banking for some years, and at one time he was much associated with Newfoundland trade. He was all his life a staunch Liberal, and heartily supported Mr. Gladstone. He sat for Southampton from 1888 until 1900, when he was defeated, but he soon obtained another seat at Maidstone, where, however, he was beaten at the last election. He did not speak often in the House of Commons, but he was always heard on shipping questions with attention and respect.

Mr. Balfour left Whittingehame, his place in Haddingtonshire, last week, for the season, and he is not expected to return to Scotland until the close of the session. He has been on a visit to the King and Queen at Windsor Castle, and is to address a Tory meeting at Hull on Friday, and during his stay in Yorkshire he will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wilson at Tranby Croft. Mr. Balfour is to pay a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Wyndham at Clouds, near Shaftesbury, during the Easter holidays. On Wednesday, April 3, he will open the new golf links on Lord Bath's estate, near Warminster.

A largely attended meeting of farmers and land agents was held on Friday night at Waddington, near Clitheroe, to protest against the introduction of buckhounds into the district. The meeting was private, but when it broke up the reporters, who were in waiting outside, received the following intimation:—

> The meeting decided, by twenty-eight votes to six, that the Ribblesdale Buckhounds be not allowed to hunt this district.

The farmers assert that one result of the deer-hunting will be enormous injury to lambing sheep, and that the damage altogether "could not be compensated."

STAMMERING.—The severest and most obstinate cases can be permanently CURED by one who has cured himself after stammering for 10 years; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford-court Mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in Residence.

ON THE NORTH-EAST WIND.

(Kingsley Brought Up-to-Date.)

How of that loved-least air
  Kingsley once could pen,
"Welcome, wild north-easter,"
  Doth surpass my ken.
And I wish the singer
  Of that biting blast
Just had faced the stinger
  Here on Wednesday last.
If he had, he'd owned, Sir,
  His encomiums wrong,
And, instead, had moaned, Sir,
  This less joyous song:

"Cuss you, wild north-easter,
  When you're on the blow
You will not find me stir
  From my fireside's glow.
Cuss you, howling rudely
  Round our streets and squares,
Nipping, oh! so shrewdly,
  With your searching airs;
Sending icy shivers
  Down each shuddering back,
Parching up our livers
  Till the whole world's black;
Hands and feet a-freezing,
  Turning faces blue,
Setting noses sneezing
  With incipient flu.;
Fierce as wolf's your bite is,
  Sharp as Sheffield knife;
Come you with bronchitis
  And pneumonia rife,
Turning strong folks dizzy,
  Laying weak folks flat,
Making sextons busy,
  Cemeteries fat;
You for man and beast are
  Bad—for whole and sick.
Cuss you, wild north-easter,
  Cuss you, wind of Nick!"

The following communication has recently been circulated in the neighbourhood of Whitehall, but, of course, not among "second-division clerks":—

> DEAR SIR,—I am sending you a prospectus of this club. From its proximity to all Government offices, the committee think the club may be of use to you, especially for the purpose of lunching. The club has lately removed to larger premises, newly decorated and furnished, and is now one of the cosiest clubs in the United Kingdom. I may add that *this note is not issued to second division clerks.*—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
> C. E. KENNEDY, Secretary.

The club referred to is an institution called the Westminster Club, and it is stated in its prospectus to be specially designed for the benefit of "members of the Church of England"—in furtherance, presumably, of which design Lord Hugh Cecil, who is nothing if not a member of the Church of England, is the president, while three bishops figure as vice-presidents. It is not clear, under these circumstances, why second-division clerks should be considered so hopelessly ineligible. It cannot be that their salaries stand in the way, seeing that one of the attractions of the club is a luncheon at the modest price of 1s. 6d. Nor, I suppose, is there anything about a second-division clerk which would interfere with the remarkable "cosiness" of the club. One can only suppose that a second-division clerk is not considered quite good enough to eat an eighteenpenny luncheon under the same roof with Lord Hugh Cecil and three bishops.

When the French Government is lauded for having inaugurated a campaign against gambling houses, it must be remembered that it is taking action only against clandestine ones, for the municipal gaming houses which flourish in most of the resorts affected by foreigners still exist in order to provide municipal funds. At such places the casino, with its gambling privileges, is let out to some speculator, and between it and the Monte Carlo establishment the only distinction is that, whereas there is no cheating at the latter, this can hardly be said of the former.

In nothing is British hypocrisy more conspicuous than in our attitude towards public gambling in foreign countries. Of late we have been demonstrating against street betting, and fining the professionals who provide opportunities for it. But, at the same time, we allow wholesale gambling on racecourses, and the odds against the principal forthcoming races are daily quoted in the newspapers, and can be obtained from professional bookmakers. A distinction is made between a street and a racecourse, although to all except the legal mind it is a distinction without a difference.

On the Stock Exchange, too, there is more gambling than at Monte Carlo. Any one can buy or sell securities at the former "for the account," and many most respectable middlemen make a living by providing the opportunity. I am not protesting against this, and I know that it would be difficult to prevent it without hampering the stock market, but, nevertheless, it is as unadulterated gambling as is the Monte Carlo Bank, with, I should say, a heavier percentage against the punter.

In many cases a security is merely a gambling counter. A promoter issues a prospectus. Then, by manipulation and other such devices, he runs up the price. If the game is successful, he manages in this way to get rid of the shares in the more or less rotten venture on the public. A, B, and C, who want to make money, buy for the account, because they notice that the shares are rising. They know absolutely nothing of the intrinsic value of the shares. If the "boom" continues, they win; if it breaks, they lose. At some time the boom is sure to break, and it is a question, therefore, of "devil take the hindmost." Just now the general public are cautious. No doubt, however, they will again be bitten by the craze for making money by "bulling" or "bearing," for there are a vast number of persons who, although not in want, live habitually above their incomes, and trust to chance coming to their aid, generally with more or less unpleasant results.

Advertisements have lately appeared under the seductive heading "Scotch Whisky," inviting all whom it may concern to send 3d. to the Glen Distillery, Limited, Campsie Glen, N.B., for a free sample of their Fine Old Pure Malt Pot Still Whisky, and a copy of their illustrated pamphlet "What is Whisky?" I have seen the advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph*, and its wording indicates that it has been published in other papers. I therefore call the attention of all whom it may concern to the advertisement (gratuitous) given to the Glen Distillery, Limited, in TRUTH of September 5 last under the title of "The Phantom Still and the Silent Spirit—A Mystery of a Highland Glen." The point of that article was that the illustrated pamphlet above referred to, which contains what purports to be pictures of the Glen, the Distillery, the Stills, and other paraphernalia of the Glen Distillery, Limited, is an impudent imposture faked up by a man named Reiss, who now calls himself Ross, and whose company owns no distillery in Campsie Glen or anywhere else. Among those whom this information specially concerns are the advertisement managers of the *Daily Telegraph* and other papers patronised by the said Reiss.

Assaults in trains with a view to plunder are increasing in frequency on the Continent. A few weeks ago, Miss Lowe was almost killed, and later a gentleman and his wife, on returning to their compartment in a corridor carriage from lunching in a restaurant car, found that their bags had been broken open and several valuable objects stolen. If I derived my livelihood from robbery, I think that I should make trains my specialty, for the field, if well worked, is a rich one, and detection comparatively difficult.

Before the days of corridor trains, it occasionally happened that some one managed to get into a carriage with a victim, and to rob him after knocking him on the head, or putting a bullet into him. There was at once an outcry for means to communicate with the guard from each compartment. But it always struck me that a desperate rascal, prepared to kill if necessary, could very easily prevent his victim from touching the knob of the communicator. Then came the corridor carriages. All possibility of an attack upon a passenger was supposed to have been rendered impossible. But is this so? A passenger can circulate through the train without attracting attention. He may see in passing a single passenger occupying a compartment, and then settle down there to attack or rob his victim at leisure. This is particularly easy on long night journeys. The corridor carriages are a vast improvement on the old separate compartments; but for safety they do not compare with the carriages in which there are no separate compartments, and these seem to me as comfortable as the former.

I am asked to mention that an amateur performance of a new play by Miss Cicely Wroughton will be given at the Comedy Theatre, in aid of Westminster Hospital, on the afternoon of February 5. Tickets may be obtained at the box office, and from the usual agencies.

I am also asked to mention that a ball in aid of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will be held at Grafton Galleries on Monday, February 11, under the patronage of H.R.H. the Princess Royal, the Duchesses of Somerset and Sutherland, and other ladies. Tickets at one guinea each can be obtained of the Hon. Mrs. Stephen Coleridge, 7, Egerton-mansions, S.W., or any other of the lady patronesses.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—E. AUSTIN, J.P., in a letter to the Editor of the Christian World, writes: "I desire to bear my testimony to the efficacy of the cure, having had one of my daughters under Dr. Alabone's treatment with most gratifying results. Twelve years ago *she was at death's door*, and now every sign of weakness and disease has left the lungs, and she is one of the bonniest girls in the North of London."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, London, N.

A number of letters written by Lord Beaconsfield to his sister were sold at Sotheby's last Tuesday. Some of the papers quote a "remarkable forecast" in a letter dated February, 1833, being apparently in ignorance of the fact that it was published by Mr. Murray in 1886, in the entertaining volume entitled "Lord Beaconsfield's Correspondence with his Sister," in which it will be found on pages 15-16.

Dissatisfaction prevails in certain quarters with some of the arrangements in connection with the typewriting examinations conducted by the Society of Arts and the National Union of Teachers, and the complaints made seem to require looking into by those bodies. One of the most serious of them is that the examiner in typewriting is the headmaster of the Typewriting and Shorthand Departments at the City of London College, from which school candidates compete, so that the examiner is interested in their success, even if he is not actually examining his own pupils. The other complaints are thus stated by one of the dissentients:—

> The examination is becoming more and more a medium for advertising individual typewriter firms.
> Candidates for the advanced stages are considerably handicapped unless they are familiar with a certain Billing appliance used in conjunction with a few well-known makes of typewriters. This puts candidates, who may be equally good operators, but are unfamiliar with this particular appliance, at a considerable disadvantage.
> It is a well-known fact that with the Society of Arts' present system of sending out the "working sets," numbered consecutively, to the various centres, it is possible for the examiner to be aware of the source from which the papers come. Without alleging that he really does know, the possibility of such a thing is clearly undesirable.

All these criticisms are perfectly just if the results of the examinations are to be above suspicion; and it is a simple matter to meet all of them. The Society of Arts would do well to take example by the London Chamber of Commerce, which requires its examiners to resign if they accept teaching appointments. It has also met the point above-mentioned in regard to the numbered "working sets," and made it quite impossible for an examiner to know where particular papers come from.

Dr. Somerville, who is the first Professor of Agriculture at Oxford, delivered his inaugural lecture last week in the hall of St. John's College. Dr. Somerville, who was educated at Munich under Hartig, has taught forestry and agriculture at Edinburgh, Durham, and Cambridge, and he has been for some time past Assistant Secretary to the Board of Agriculture. The Dibthorp Chair of Agriculture is worth £700 a year, and the Professor is required to spend six months of each year in Oxford, and to deliver at least forty lectures every year on "The Scientific Principle of Agriculture and Forestry."

The Simeon Trustees have presented the Rev. W. H. Stone, who has been vicar of St. Mary's, Kilburn, for between ten and eleven years, to the rectory of Walcot, Bath, which is one of the most important benefices in their gift, and which has become vacant by the much-regretted death of Prebendary Rogers. The living of Walcot is worth about £500 a year, and the rector has to find his own house. The stipend depends to a considerable extent upon the pew rents. Directly after Mr. Stone had accepted the living of Walcot he received an offer of the valuable rectory of Tiverton from Lord Harrowby and the other trustees who are the patrons of that benefice.

Prebendary Stuart, vicar of St. Matthew's, Bayswater, has been appointed one of the Simeon Trustees, in the place of the late Prebendary Rogers. The Simeon Trustees present to upwards of 120 livings, many of them being most important parishes and benefices of considerable value.

The Bishop of Stepney is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during February, replacing Canon Henry Scott Holland.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York took part in the private conference of the Bishops, which was held at the Church House, Westminster, on Thursday and Friday last. These meetings, which are regarded as strictly private, always take place a fortnight or three weeks before the meeting of Parliament. The Convocation of Canterbury is to meet at Westminster on the morning of Thursday, February 14, and it is understood that the session will terminate at one o'clock on Saturday, the 16th. The Northern Convocation meets at York on Wednesday, February 27.

Canon Wigram, who died the other day, was a great authority on campanology, and his work, "Change-ringing Disentangled," is a recognised text-book on this subject. He was rector of Hertford for twenty-one years, and resigned the living when he found that his energy was in danger of becoming impaired by advancing age. He was one of the most active, influential, and popular clergymen in the diocese of St. Albans. After his departure from Hertford he went to live at St. Albans, where he took much interest in the Abbey services, and he acted as librarian to the Chapter, and made himself useful in many ways. He will be much missed at St. Albans.

The Bishop of Limerick, who died last week, was a very able man, and he was much liked and highly esteemed by all classes and parties. Dr. Bunbury was a man of vigorous and original mind, and many of his public utterances were remarkable for their absolute independence of expression. He was always courteous and tactful, and he was distinguished for his liberal and very pleasant hospitalities. Dr. Bunbury was Dean of Limerick for twenty-seven years before he succeeded the well-known Bishop Graves in 1899, when he was elected first Bishop of Limerick under the new Church constitution, which had been brought about by the Disestablishment of 1869. He exercised an excellent moderating influence on the diocese in the seventies and eighties, when the atmosphere of clerical gatherings was always stormy. The See of Limerick is of the value of nearly £1,400 a year, with residence.

Two or three Roman Catholic correspondents write to approve of the suggestion that the appointment of churchwardens to take over financial responsibility would be of great advantage to the Church. Among them is a priest who argues that no one can have more reason to desire such an arrangement than mission priests. Every priest, he observes, is at present hampered in the performance of his spiritual duties by financial cares and anxieties; and if he happens to have any small private income of his own, he generally has to devote it all to church purposes. I am told by one correspondent that churchwardens are already to be found in some English missions—Eastbourne and Folkestone are particularly mentioned—and I suppose there is no reason why the institution should not be general.

The following letter on another question seems to have a good deal of point in it:—

The Archbishop of Westminster is making an appeal to the charitable for £100,000 to be placed at his disposal in order that the Catholic schools may meet the requirements of the local authorities. Catholics may well hesitate to entrust so much money to the Archbishop's administration until more satisfactory explanations are forthcoming respecting the loss of the Dawes Trust money, and the losses in connection with other Stock Exchange transactions. In his letter of defence he made strong declarations, but the public looks at facts, not unsupported assertions.

Let me call attention to two points that have come out in the correspondence that you have allowed to appear in your columns. First, Archbishop Bourne declared that Canon St. John had been the means of obtaining for Southwark diocese "at least three times" the amount lost in the Bishop bankruptcy—that is to say, at least three times £55,000. What has been done with this sum of at least £165,000? Secondly, the £10,000 collected for the new church at Westminster was to accumulate until it reached £15,000; but the money was in hand some eighteen years ago, and a simple sum in arithmetic will show that the £10,000 should have grown by this time into much more than £15,000. Is the church built? If not, why not? The plain truth, Sir, is, that as regards Archbishop Bourne and his "revered friend" at Portsmouth, English Catholics neither understand nor approve their methods of dealing with either money or men.

One of the most extraordinary exhibitions of human folly that I have ever come across is furnished by the "endless prayer," which has more than once been mentioned in TRUTH. This prayer, which is only a conventional supplication in three sentences, is designed to be transcribed nine times by each person it reaches, and passed on to nine other people, like a snowball begging letter. Those who comply will be "delivered from any calamity," while those who put it in the waste-paper basket are to be grievously afflicted. Moved apparently by this intimation, innumerable idiots are busily transcribing and circulating the prayer. I have seen references to it lately in several provincial papers, and copies of it have reached me from all parts of the country. My impression is that the thing is simply a hoax started by some practical joker, for the prayer purports to have been delivered from Heaven at Jerusalem to a certain American bishop, who has disclaimed all knowledge of the alleged revelation. But whether it originated in jest or earnest, it can only be perpetuated in folly.

I have to acknowledge £1 from "Ginger" towards the Toy Fund and £1 towards a poor children's dinner fund. Mrs. Caroline C. Bland sends me £1 towards the Toy Fund and £1 for the poor couple referred to in my article entitled "The Prison Cure for Poverty."

The new scheme, which was issued the other day, for the Advisory Board of the Army Medical Department seems to be generally approved by those immediately concerned, but the observation generally made upon it is that everything depends upon whether the Board is to be limited in spirit as well as in letter to purely advisory functions. In its original shape the Board incurred much criticism and hostility by its officious and meddlesome interference in administrative matters. It went about inspecting hospitals, even down to the minutest details of domestic management; and it is understood to have exercised a paramount influence in questions of promotion, and so on. An Advisory Board, recruited outside the Service, may possibly be of use in a time of transition and reorganisation, but as a permanent institution it is likely to do as much harm as good; and it is difficult to see why it is more required in connection with the administration of the Medical Department than any other branch of the Army.

A letter which appeared the other day in the *Army and Navy Gazette* drew attention to the number of officers who have been passed over for promotion under the régime of the late Advisory Board, including many whose records indicate that they have shown themselves good and efficient men. This is a matter on which a good deal has been said in recent issues of TRUTH. Many officers who have suffered in this way have left the Service, but many others remain; and the suggestion made in the *Army and Navy Gazette* was that their cases should now be reconsidered. There seems to be good ground for this request. Promotion to all ranks having a fixed establishment is now removed altogether from the Advisory Board, and is to be dealt with in future by a board consisting of the Director-General and the Surgeons-General serving in the United Kingdom. It would be more satisfactory to the public, as well as to the officers concerned, if this Board were to review some of the decisions of its predecessors in the case of officers still serving, but serving under a stigma, which there is good reason to believe to be undeserved.

A curious circular letter, signed by a Mr. Wm. Ruston, is being sent to the parents of Army cadets who have passed out of Sandhurst warning them in effect against tailor-made swords. Mr. Ruston declares that unless a guarantee stating that the sword is of English manufacture is demanded there is a probability that a German weapon, worth about a pound, will be supplied, while the price charged will be that of a proved British blade. From inquiries I have made there seems to be some grounds for Mr. Ruston's warning. Practically the sword-making industry in this country is in the hands of two firms, Wilkinson's, of London, and Mole's, of Birmingham, and undoubtedly a large number of swords are supplied to young officers which have never been forged in the workshops of either of these firms, and which are not much more than pieces of soft iron, and would be quite useless except for decorative purposes. The moral would seem to be that the man of

CANNES.—HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. First-class. Numerous Self-contained Suites, with Private Bath-Rooms, etc. Central Heating. Renowned Cuisine and Cellars. Large Park.

trousers is not the best source from which to purchase a sword any more than the sword-maker is the tradesman who might be expected to supply a well-fitting uniform.

From information received I gather that there is considerable dissatisfaction among the army nursing sisters at Colchester with regard to the style in which the catering is done. The nurses are allowed 13s. per week for messing, but they have no control over the way in which the money is spent, this business being entirely in the hands of the matron, subject to an audit of accounts once a year by the matron-in-chief. There is no reason why the messing should not be done satisfactorily for 13s. a week; and the best means of securing that end would seem to be to place it under the supervision of a committee such as exists in connection with every other Service mess.

In reference to what was said in TRUTH a fortnight ago as to the block in promotion in the non-commissioned ranks of the R.E., a correspondent in that corps points out that the Submarine Mining branch was not disbanded, but was converted into the Fortress and Coast Defence Electric Lighting companies, the establishment being but slightly affected by the change; and he attributes the block in promotion entirely to the companies being reduced to their peace establishment after the South African war. He also states that the thirteen N.C.O.s referred to as having been promoted to quartermaster sergeant in the Submarine Mining branch were the seniors on the roll qualified for promotion, that they had all from fifteen to eighteen years' service as N.C.O.s, that they were all promoted to fill vacancies, and did not become supernumerary to the establishment. I take it that my previous correspondent was misinformed in regard to these promotions, and that the explanation above given of the reason for the present congestion is probably the correct one.

It was given out shortly before Christmas that the Channel Fleet was not to be given Christmas leave because the fleet was to go abroad for three months in order that the Atlantic Fleet might come home for Christmas, and that it would return to refit at Devonport in March. But an order has since been given excepting H.M.S. *Russell* from this arrangement and directing that she shall proceed to Gibraltar for her annual refit on completion of the Lagos manœuvres. Why the *Russell* is thus specially treated is not evident; but it is particularly unfair on the crew of the ship, as a great many of her officers and men are serving in her as a home ship, on the strength of having previously served a foreign commission. As it is, by the time they return to England, on completion of refit at Gibraltar, they will have served abroad for nine out of the fifteen months of the present commission. It would interest those concerned to know whether it is intended that the *Russell* shall return to Devonport to give leave on completion of her refit, and whether her officers and crew will receive, when she pays off, the foreign service leave that has accrued during her commission.

Reverting to the recent lifeboat inquiry at Walmer, a correspondent suggests that any uncertainty in connection with launches would be avoided if telephonic or telegraphic communication were established between the Goodwin lightships and the shore. I believe that this suggestion has been made before, but it is worth repeating for the joint consideration of the authorities of Trinity House and the National Lifeboat Institution. Signalling for assistance by gun-fire and flares seems to be a decidedly out-of-date method, and with a telephone or telegraph the lifeboat coxswains could be informed not only of the nature and extent of the disaster, but of the precise direction in which they should proceed.

All the ward-room officers of H.M.S. ——, 1st Cruiser Squadron, were lately favoured—in common, no doubt, with the officers of other ships—with a polite and obliging intimation from "Mr. Harris," 6, Old Cavendish-street, London, that he "will be pleased to receive applications for loans in sums of fifty pounds to ten thousand pounds, which he is prepared to advance upon note of hand alone." The following answer was forwarded to "Mr. Harris":—

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your kind favour, received on the 20th inst., in which you generously offer to advance £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) to each and all the officers of this renowned cruiser, we have to request that you will forward by return of post the amounts required, as stated below. Owing to a bad week at the recent Gibraltar Races the money must be forwarded without delay. Kindly charter treasure ship for this purpose. Notes of hand will be sent on receipt of the bullion. Thanking you in anticipation, we have the honour to subscribe ouselves,

Yours gratefully,

[Here appeared the names of eight officers, with the following list of the sums required:—£9,989. £9,999 0s. 9d., £9,909 19s. 9d., £9,701 6s. 3¾d., £10,000, £9,000, £9,999 19s. 9d., £2,074 17s. 4d.]

P.S.—We note that you do not lend money to minors. There are two midshipmen in this ship for whom we would ask your indulgence. The sums they require are but trifling—viz., 14s. 9d. and 7s. 1d., the amounts of their washing bills. Surely you will stretch the point in their favour?

Many naval officers will be particularly interested to hear that "Mr. Harris" is really one Phineas Henry Emanuel, trading under this alias in partnership with Henry Michaelson. Emanuel was formerly manager of a now defunct firm of jewellers at Portsmouth, which became notorious on account of the blood-sucking business which it surreptitiously carried on among young officers in the Navy.

At my suggestion, a correspondent the other day addressed a complaint to the Postmaster-General respecting the delivery through the post of a circular from Germany advertising a manifestly obscene book. In reply, the Postmaster-General has written to say that the circular (which was in an open envelope) would not have been delivered if its character had been observed, and that instructions have been given for a watch to be kept in case any similar circulars are received. I can assure Mr. Sydney Buxton that such circulars and catalogues, either offensive in themselves or open to objection as advertisements of indecent and mischievous publications, are continually passing through the post in wrappers or open envelopes. Quite recently, for instance, there has been a recrudescence of the activity in this direction of a

FIRE.—Merryweathers inspect and report on safeguarding buildings against fire and on means of escape to comply with the L.C.C. new regulations.—Write, 63, Long Acre, London, W.C.

filthy wretch named Arthur, of Paris. Such circulars and catalogues are usually posted in considerable quantities, so that their detection ought to be an easy matter. But I am afraid that the officials of the Post Office are accustomed to think more of the protection of the revenue than of the cause of public morality in checking the contents of packets sent at the cheaper rates of postage. They are unceasingly on the look-out for any breach of the halfpenny post regulations, which, however technical or trivial, will warrant them in making a surcharge. It is quite clear that nothing like the same vigilance is displayed in stopping circulars and publications of a vicious and obscene character, but I hope that the Postmaster-General's instructions will now result in the cessation of this scandal.

By the way, I have received from correspondents in all parts of the country a considerable number of lottery circulars emanating from a firm at Bremen, which were posted in London on January 21. The circulars were in sealed envelopes, but the "paid" with which they were stamped shows that they must have been posted in bulk, and I cannot but think that if there were a little more keenness on the part of the Post Office this illegal use of the post could be prevented. Not only is the distribution of these foreign lottery circulars illegal, but they are open to the further objection that the lotteries for which tickets are offered are conducted under conditions which make them a delusion and a snare.

Apropos of a paragraph which appeared last week, I have had two letters from old residents of Calcutta protesting against the criticism of the municipality on account of the existence on the Maidan and elsewhere in the city of a number of "tanks" which are neither fenced in nor lighted. Both demur to the description of the so-called "tanks" on the Maidan as "cess-pools," the fact being that they are what in England would be called ponds or ornamental waters, uncontaminated by drains, and stocked with fish. Perhaps cess-pools was too strong a word, but the gentleman whose complaint I noticed as to the filthy condition of the water spoke from the personal experience of an accidental immersion in one of the "tanks." My present correspondents are at variance as to the desirability of railing in these pieces of water, but anyhow, it seems that the Calcutta municipality has no sort of responsibility in reference to the Maidan, which is under the control of the Government of India. With regard to other parts of the city, I am assured that for years past the municipal authorities have been working hard for the filling in of dangerous or insanitary "tanks," but as most of them are on private property the task is a difficult one.

The new cab-fare regulations look very complicated. After studying them carefully, I am not at all sure that I understand them, and I doubt if the general public will ever do so. In that case, the regulations are radically bad, for the first essential of a code of this kind is that everybody who uses a cab should be able to see at a glance how much there is to pay. The taximeter will, no doubt, be a good thing for the public and for the cab trade. The same may be said of the sixpenny minimum fare, which is to be compulsory for taximeter cabs and optional for others; but half the advantage of these innovations is lost when they are made the occasion for introducing a variety of different conditions and fares. In addition to this, a separate scale of charges is introduced for motor cabs. I confess I do not see the reason for it. If a motor cab is to be compelled to take a passenger a mile for 8d., why should a horsed cab be entitled to charge 6d. for half a mile?

It is a pity that this opportunity was not taken of getting rid of one of the greatest causes of complication and anomalies in cab fares—namely, the four-mile radius. This limit was originally introduced, I suppose, quite half a century ago, as a rough measure of the London area which was closely built over. But it has long ceased to have any relation to existing facts. A six-mile radius to-day would scarcely be the equivalent of the four-mile radius fifty years ago. The result of it all is that a three-mile cab drive in one part of London may cost you twice as much as a three-mile drive in another. There ought to be one scale covering the whole area in which cabs are in general use, with some reasonable limit to the distance which a driver may be compelled to go. The only obstacle to this is the stupidity of the cab trade itself, and the Home Office should give it an opportunity of becoming wiser. The development of the motor 'buses and "tubes" must tend to reduce the use of cabs in the central parts of London and to limit it more and more to short journeys in all parts. Low fares for short distances, and especially in the suburban districts, are, therefore, the only means by which the cabs can hold their own against the competition they are now feeling.

A MONKEY AND A BROTHER.

FROM THE MONKEY'S POINT OF VIEW.

(Picked up at the South-Western Police-court.)

The Honourable John de Grey,
A Daniel wise and good,
Struck a strong blow the other day
For injured monkeyhood.

For when a fathead "copper" ran
Me in upon the charge
That on the footpath, like a man,
I'd mooched about, at large,

"Bosh, fellow! Can't endorse your views,"
This Daniel made reply.
"The path he's every right to use—
As much as you or I."

That judgment's very sound and sage,
As all must sure agree,
Who 've studied in their Darwin's page
Our common pedigree,

Which shows we come, both man and I
(So said my champion staunch),
Not merely of one family,
But I'm the elder branch.

FOR MOSQUITO BITES, WASP or BEE STINGS, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

Lord Guthrie, the new Scotch Judge, took his seat in the Court of Session last week as successor of Lord Kyllachy. He is a son of Dr. Thomas Guthrie, the celebrated Presbyterian preacher. Lord Guthrie is a very able lawyer, and for many years he has enjoyed a large and varied practice at the Bar. He has been engaged in a great number of important arbitrations, and for many years was legal adviser to the Free Church of Scotland. Lord Guthrie has always been an advanced Liberal in politics, but in 1900 Lord Dunedin (then the Tory Lord Advocate) gracefully recognised his high legal reputation by appointing him to the Sheriffdom of Ross, Cromarty, and Sutherland. He has done the heavy work of this important post with conspicuous ability and success, and has been generally regarded by competent critics as an admirable Sheriff. His promotion to the Bench has met with general and hearty approval, and in the Edinburgh Parliament House he is expected to make a very strong Judge.

The late Lord Field was a man of very acute mind, and a sound, if not a great, lawyer. That he never got beyond the position of a puisne judge before his retirement from the Bench was due, I imagine, entirely to the physical infirmity which hampered him so much during the last few years of his judicial career. Both at the Bar and on the Bench his opinions and judgments were always regarded with the utmost respect; but during his later years on the Bench he grew terribly deaf, and, probably from this cause, very irritable. Being always a man of rather blunt speech, he became somewhat unpopular with the Bar in consequence, and at the last some of the proceedings in his court were rather painful to witness. This was the more melancholy because his intellect remained as clear and keen as ever, as was shown by the part which he took in the legal business of the House of Lords after he received a peerage. I should think that he was really a man of very kindly disposition, for though I never met him in private life, I have more than once heard him apologise very frankly before the end of a case for little ebullitions which had marred the harmony of the proceedings.

In the course of the discussion that has been going on with regard to the county magistracy, defenders of the existing Tory monopoly have pointed to the number of J.P.s already on the Bench as a reason against any fresh appointments being made by the Lord Chancellor. There are many districts, however, in which a great proportion of the J.P.s are mere dead-heads. An example of this is furnished by the *Knutsford Guardian*, which states that in the local petty sessional division eleven out of the nineteen magistrates never attend the court or perform any of the other duties of their office. Some of the minority are business men, who are generally away from home during the daytime, so that their services are not available for the holding of occasional courts, the signing of summonses, and other duties. In such circumstances as these it is manifestly absurd that the nominal strength of the Bench should be allowed to stand in the way of additions being made to it.

I am glad to see that the Court of Appeal has reversed the judgment of Mr. Justice Neville in the case of Henry Leetham and Sons (Limited) and others *v.* Johnstone White, which was commented upon in TRUTH on December 12. Defendant was employed as traveller by a company of corn factors and millers. This company was allied with five other companies in different parts of the country, and by his agreement the defendant became nominally the servant of all six and was bound not to enter the service of any firm in the same line of business in Great Britain and Ireland for a period of five years after the termination of his employment by the plaintiffs. The action was brought to enforce this agreement, the defendant having left the service of the plaintiffs and accepted a situation with another firm. Mr. Justice Neville came to the conclusion that the plaintiffs were entitled to an injunction, but in granting it he severely criticised the state of the law which made no such agreement invalid, "however oppressive and however fatal it may be to the possibility of the employee earning his own living in his own country."

The Court of Appeal found that the law was not so unreasonable as Mr. Justice Neville had supposed. "A trader," said Lord Justice Farwell, "was entitled to protect the particular business in which the servant was employed by an agreement of this kind, but not other businesses in which the servant was not employed, although the trader had an interest in those other businesses. It was against public policy to allow a covenant in gross in restraint of trade." The appeal was therefore allowed. In this case the contract was held to be bad because the restriction went beyond the area embraced in the business of the particular company by whom the defendant was actually employed. The decision does not, however, seem to touch the question whether a contract restraining a man from accepting a similar situation anywhere in the United Kingdom would be binding or not if the business of the employer really extended over the whole country.

In consequence of a recent observation in TRUTH on the numerous "legal aid societies" that have lately sprung into existence, I had an inquiry the other day respecting the National Legal Aid Society, of 1, Great James-street, Bedford-row. The inquiry arose out of a correspondence between this concern and a woman in the country who was desirous of obtaining a divorce from her husband. On the woman's statement of facts the secretary informed her that he was "of opinion" that she would be successful if her statement was correct; and that the cost of proceedings, if conducted by the society's solicitors, would be about £20. In a subsequent letter he went so far as to say that he "had no doubt" that she would be successful. On the facts as given to me, I should myself be "of opinion"—though I am neither a lawyer nor a legal aid society—that the woman's prospect of success would be more than doubtful. On the strength of their confident opinion in her favour, however, the society went on to recommend the woman to "speculate £5" in "having the case investigated by one of our officials;" and this £5 speculation seems to me to be the whole point of the correspondence.

A representative whom I sent to interview the National Legal Aid Society on this case found on the door of No. 1, Great James-street, the name of the society followed by that of "S. Seccombe, Manager," and also by that of "Joseph Sykes, Solicitor." There was also the name of the "Old-Age Pension and Relief Society, S. Seccombe, secretary." My representative found that Mr. Seccombe was not in, but he learned enough to enable him to identify that gentleman; and he was also informed that Mr. Joseph Sykes was the solicitor to the Legal Aid Society. The name of Seccombe may be within the recollection of some of my readers. A few years ago he came under notice repeatedly in these columns in connection with certain more or less bogus volunteer fire brigades, which existed, so far as they existed at all, for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions from ignorant and foolish people who do not understand that they pay in rates all that is necessary for the services of an efficient fire brigade.

This volunteer fire brigade business, at one time a very thriving industry, was knocked on the head by the numerous warnings issued by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, as well as in TRUTH and other papers. The Old-Age Pension and Relief Society which Seccombe still appears to represent is another questionable concern of much the same character. Seccombe's connection with the National Legal Aid Society is, therefore, sufficient in itself to enable the reader to judge how far this national institution is a genuine association, and how far it is merely a touting agency for a solicitor. It was a solicitor who brought under my notice the above attempt to induce a poor woman to "speculate £5" in a divorce case, which he himself, being fully cognisant of the facts, advised her to be hopeless; and I repeat that the proceedings of these legal aid societies call for the notice of the Incorporated Law Society.

An exceedingly lenient sentence was passed by the magistrates at the Sheffield Police-court last week on an old man who for nine years had been secretary of a Lodge of Oddfellows, and in that capacity had appropriated over £300 of the Lodge's funds. The magistrates only fined him £1, and made an order for the restitution of the money, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment. I would much rather see magistrates err on the side of leniency than otherwise, and in this case the extent of the defalcations was undoubtedly due to the imperfect supervision exercised by the auditors, who never once during the period in question asked to see the bank pass-book to verify the balance which was shown in the Lodge's statements of account. The whole unhappy business should prove an object-lesson to friendly societies, and if it leads to the appointment of qualified auditors it will serve a useful purpose. It should not be difficult for friendly societies to obtain qualified accountants to audit the accounts for a nominal fee, and the adoption of such a course would prevent a great deal of the embezzlement of such funds which goes on at present.

Amongst the aberrations of the Great Unpaid chronicled in my Legal Pillory this week is a case where a man is convicted under the Vagrancy Act for sleeping out with two bottles of beer and 3d. in his possession. I may point out to the Newport magistrates responsible for this conviction that many learned stipendiaries have held that the smallest sum of money found in possession of a man charged with this offence is sufficient evidence of means of subsistence, and that the conviction is therefore illegal. The action of the Romsey magistrates, both on the Borough and the County Bench, in letting a brute who systematically ill-treats his donkey off with a light fine is also worthy of special remark. One would have expected to find some indication of fellow-feeling with the unfortunate animal on the part of the magistrates who sat in judgment on its torturer.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. E. Jardine and J. H. Hayward. Arthur Nicholls, charged with assaulting his wife. He came home drunk and brutally knocked her about and kicked her. Fined 20s.

Nottingham Summons-court. Before Messrs. J. K. Wright and T. Shipstone. E. Crotts, charged with cruelty to a dog by throwing it over some railings and breaking its leg. Fined 20s.

Tiverton County Sessions. Samuel Britton, charged with cruelty to a horse by travelling it in an unfit condition. It had an injured shoulder, and was in such a shocking condition that it could not walk. Fined 7s. 6d.

Romsey County Bench. Before the Right Hon. E. Ashley, Major S. Chichester, and Messrs. F. C. Vaudrey, Barker, Mill, and H. L. Hansard. William Amey, charged with cruelty to a donkey on December 22. He was prodding it with a nail fixed at the end of a stick, and a part of the animal's body was a mass of scabs and punctures. Fined 5s. and costs.

Romsey Borough Bench. Before the Mayor, Aldermen E. M. Meddings and W. B. George, and Messrs. A. M. Elcombe, J. Coleclough, and H. Guard. William Amey, charged with cruelty to a donkey on the 12th inst. He was prodding the donkey and beating it continuously. The Bench said it was a very bad case. Fined 10s. and costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Leslie. Patrick M'Farlane, charged with assaulting Barbara Fyfe and Mary Jane Lowson. He butted one woman in the face with his head, knocked her down and kicked her, and assaulted the other by throwing her to the ground and dragging her about by the hair. Fined 30s.

Henley Borough Bench. Before Messrs. C. Clements, E. Chamberlain, W. Simpkins, C. Simmons, and G. W. Turner. William Jones, charged with assaulting an old man over 80 years of age by striking him on the head. Fined £1 and costs.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Before Alderman A. Pyatt and Dr. T. J. Dobell. Bernard Masey, charged with stealing brass, the property of the Corporation. Three months' imprisonment.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Fellows, H. Heath, and Colonel Story. William Lester, charged with game trespass. One month, in default of paying a fine of 40s.

Blackpool Police-court. John Thompson, charged with stealing a jug, value 6d. One month's hard labour.

Moreton Petty Sessions. G. Stoneman, charged with stealing a bag of coal. One month's hard labour.

Swainsthorpe Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. H. Gurney, E. Knight, P. Green, R. H. Denny, and Sir M. Boileau. F. Garman and James Culling, charged with night poaching. The men were seen with a gun in their possession a few minutes after the hour after sunset. Fourteen days' imprisonment and bound over for twelve months.

Bearsted Police-court. Robert Miles and Frederick Cornwall, charged with trespassing on land in pursuit of game. Miles stooped and took a rabbit out of a trap while in a wood, and Cornwall had a rabbit in his pocket. Miles fined 40s. and costs, and Cornwall 20s. and costs.

Edinburgh Police-court. Before Sheriff Orphoot. W. Connelly, charged with passing himself off as a detective. He told thrilling experiences of his work as a detective to two girls whose acquaintance he made. Fined £5, or thirty days' imprisonment, with £5 caution, or a further thirty days.

Chelmsford Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Wood and other magistrates. T. Humphreys and A. Creek, charged with stealing some odds and ends of furniture value 3s. Three weeks' hard labour each.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Frome Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. W. A. Duckworth and other magistrates. E. J. Sheppard, charged with working a mare in an unfit state, and W. J. Hozier, charged with causing her to be worked. The animal was aged, in very poor condition, and dead lame in both front feet from chronic bone disease. Sheppard fined 10s. and costs, Hozier £3 and costs.

Ashbourne Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. M. Bond, Rev. E. Morris, Peveril Turnbull, C. W. Lyon, F. Wright, and T. J. Barnes. Leonard Bosley and Georgina Bosley, charged with neglecting their children. The man went to Birmingham, and the woman refusing to go with him he sent no money for their support. The house was found to be filthy and the children in a disgraceful condition. Each fined 10s. and costs.

Worcester County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. F. J. A. Wood and other magistrates. George Cull and Harry Powis, charged with stealing two pheasants and a wild duck, the property of Lord Hindlip. The birds were hidden after a shoot and were ultimately found in their baskets. Lord Hindlip did not press the charge, and nothing was known against the men. Fined £2 10s. 9d. each.

Newark County Police-court. Before Alderman B. T. Pratt and Mr. J. C. Kew. J. H. Cooke and T. Whitehead, charged with stealing a quantity of lead and zinc, valued at 6s. Cooke three months' hard labour, and Whitehead one month's hard labour.

Ipswich Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. Burton, Anness, Churchman, Moss, Alexander, Gibb, and Bennett. Albert Clowe, charged with absconding from the workhouse with certain clothes, the property of the guardians. Two months' imprisonment.

Newport Police-court. James Clarke, charged with sleeping in a shed. He was in possession of two bottles of beer and 3d. Fined 40s. and a month's imprisonment.

A short time ago I quoted a report from a Canadian newspaper of a case at Toronto in which the police magistrate, Colonel Denison, committed a Crimean pensioner, 77 years of age, to prison for four months for vagrancy. It was stated that the old fellow himself desired that he should be sent to gaol during the winter, but it was suggested that it was scandalous that he should be reduced to taking this course as his only alternative to his death from cold and starvation. I have now received from Toronto some information regarding this veteran, including his police court record. It seems that he has been before the magistrates many times for vagrancy and drunkenness, and probably his pension, when he draws it, is largely spent in drink. There is, I am told, a "house of industry" (otherwise a workhouse) which he could enter, but he prefers to be in gaol, and on this occasion it was not at all ironically that he thanked Colonel Denison for sending him there. It is only fair to the magistrate that this should be explained, though for any erroneous impression that may have arisen it is not TRUTH, but the Toronto newspaper which reported the case, that is to blame.

I do not know whether a fraud order is in force against a "Professor" Harris Edison, of Binghampton, New York, but if not I would respectfully suggest to the U.S.A. postal officials that they should promulgate one against him. The "Professor" is one of the astrological charlatans. At first he offers to erect a complete horoscope and give a reading from it for 8s. If the offer is not accepted, he expresses his willingness to supply the horoscope for half-price, and later on, if this bait is not swallowed, rather than destroy all the work entailed in "erecting" the horoscope, he is willing to forward it for half-a-crown. The whole bag of tricks is apparently expressly designed for diddling servant girls of their half-crowns.

Some interesting remarks on THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH by Dr. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., are found on page 300.

I am continually receiving inquiries regarding the begging appeals issued by Mrs. Henville, of Braughing, near Ware, Herts, who is about the most prolific of begging-letter writers now in the profession, and quite worthy of being classed amongst the most undeserving. For years I found it necessary to warn the public against her late husband, who, while rector of Chipping Warden, was notorious in the profession which his wife has carried on since his death. Residing in the same house with this woman are a son and two grown-up daughters, a boy of nine (the child of one of the daughters), a broken-down doctor named Hodgson, and a man named Dedman. None of this interesting household appears to be engaged in any remunerative occupation outside the writing of begging letters, but between them they manage to consume a considerable quantity of alcoholic liquor. There are frequent disturbances in the house, and the women appear occasionally with black eyes. It is a pity that the police do not do something to break up this band of dissolute loafers who are obviously living on charity bestowed by kind-hearted but stupid people.

A TANTALUS ON SKATES.

I'm a skater—or I *was*—
I correct myself because
At least a dozen tedious years have fled
Since, on rapid, twinkling skates,
I have cut my threes and eights,
And my eagles of the type entitled "spread."

True, frosts we've had since then,
Which have frozen lake and fen,
And given promise high of glacial fun,
But by the time I've found
My skates, and had them ground,
The thaw, as sure as Doomsday, has begun.

'Twas so last week; the ice
Was just a-bearing nice;
My skates one night I cleaned up with a zest;
Rose at dawn next day from bed;
Frost gone! And lo! instead,
A mild and muggy drizzle from the west.

Still my way through life I grope,
Hoping ever against hope
That, somewhere in the distant by-and-by,
We a frost may really get
Of sufficient length to let
Me air those skates once more before I die.

Recently a number of patients in the diphtheria wards of the isolation hospital at Reigate have been attacked with scarlet fever. It is not at all an unknown thing for patients suffering from one disease to contract another in institutions of this description, but according to information that I have received from a reliable quarter, there has been some flagrantly bad management at the hospital at Reigate, and among other things it is alleged that two dogs belonging to the matron have been allowed to run about all over the place, playing, perhaps, first with children in the scarlet fever wards, and then with those in the diphtheria wards. The Town Council are said to be

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doing their best to hush the matter up, but this ought not to be permitted, and if some of the parents whose children have suffered from the laxity prevailing in the hospital were to communicate with the Local Government Board, I have no doubt that Mr. John Burns would send down a medical inspector to inquire into the scandal.

In a general way it is not desirable that electioneering quarrels should be threshed out in the Law Courts; but there are exceptions to this, and the action which has been commenced by the members of the Highways Committee of the L.C.C. against the *Standard* is one of them. On the merits of that case I would not at any time express an opinion, and less than ever with the leading case of Mr. John Burns before my eyes. But it is quite certain that the election campaign of the so-called "Moderates" is being conducted in many directions with illegitimate weapons, and that statements are being circulated broadcast which exceed even the limits which are permissible in the heat of electioneering. Apart from any question as to the merits of the Progressive policy, it has always seemed to me that the chief claim of the County Council to the confidence of London has been the cleanness of its administration; and when the honour and integrity of individual members are called in question, they are quite right to defend themselves vigorously.

Speaking with the profoundest respect to the High Court and his Majesty's Judges, individually and collectively, yet not knowing while I say it but what I may be brought up to-morrow for contempt of court myself, I am heartily glad that the application of the *Standard* against Mr. Burns was dismissed by the Court, without even calling upon that gentleman to show cause why he should not be committed. I do not say this because I have private prepossessions in favour of Mr. Burns's politics; nor even because, as a fervent admirer of the British Constitution, I feel aghast at such a serio-comic possibility as the sending of one of his Majesty's Ministers to one of his Majesty's Prisons by one (or two) of his Majesty's Judges. I say it because I am a journalist. The law of contempt of court is a snare and a pitfall to journalists, and I cannot understand how any newspaper proprietor can consent to use the weapon against anybody else, least of all in a case where the alleged contempt is doubtful and trivial. The success of the *Standard* in this case would have brought new terrors to the press, and its failure should be a matter of rejoicing to the press.

There is special cause for rejoicing over the admirable judicial dicta which the application drew from Mr. Justice Phillimore:—

> I am glad to take this opportunity of repeating what I have said before, and what I wish to say every time these applications are made, that is that the world has gone mad on contempt of court, and that the exercise of this jurisdiction should not be extended, but diminished.

I am glad I was not present, for I could not have helped my "hear, hear!" and I know that would have been a gross contempt.

There has always been a curious difference of tone and spirit between the Moderates on the County Council and the rabid partisans who are supposed to be fighting their battle in the press. The difference was conspicuous last week in the observations of the Moderate leaders on the *Standard* case, when Sir Melvill Beachcroft dissociated himself from defamatory imputations on his opponents, and rather went out of his way to emphasise the loyalty of himself and his party to the Council. The truth is that, though there have been some sharp differences on questions of policy, and feeling has sometimes grown hot, in a general way Moderates and Progressives have worked together for the good of their constituents far more harmoniously than is the general rule on municipal councils. Consequently, they take a common pride in their handiwork. For rabid abuse of the Council, the imputation of unworthy motives to the majority, and ignorant and malicious misrepresentation of its work, one must chiefly look outside Spring Gardens; and it originates almost exclusively with private interests which the L.C.C. has fought for the benefit of the public, or with the political organisations which have incessantly sought to capture the Council and invariably failed. The Unionist press in London has played a most disreputable part in this respect, and has done nothing but harm to the Moderates on the Council, as the more intelligent of them must pretty well know by this time.

The attack in the present campaign is being directed chiefly against the finance of the L.C.C., apparently because the average elector understands little about municipal finance, and the grossest misrepresentations can therefore be offered for his consumption with impunity. A gentleman who poses as a statistician has actually put his name to the statement that the L.C.C. is responsible for the entire debt of London, including the whole stock of the Water Board, and the debts of all the other municipal authorities. This is the sort of thing that is being done on every side, partly in ignorance, but more often with deliberate malice. The Council has published an elaborate statistical table of its tramway finance, showing, among other things, the capital invested and the earnings upon it. On this point the *Times* comments as follows:—

> The tramways undertaking, says the report, is entered in the balance-sheet as an asset at the amount of £4,720,000 odd. The Council's valuer, however, reported that the valuation of the undertaking as a going concern on the same date would have been seven and a half millions sterling. It remains, therefore, a question whether the capital cost has not been kept down by undervaluing the tramways as well as by failing to charge them with their proper share of the cost of improvements.

No such question can possibly remain. The *Times* gives a *précis* of report in another column, showing clearly that the £4,720,000 is capital expenditure. Only

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

Nice.—Cimiez.—Winter Palace—One of the finest and most comfortable hotels in Europe.—J. Agid, Director.

a financial ignoramus could suppose that the "capital cost has been kept down" because a valuation of the business "as a going concern" is higher than the net capital that has been invested in it. Yet this instructor of the public has the effrontery to add, "How materially this might affect the estimated net profit hardly needs to be pointed out." We are to understand, apparently, that it is a recognised principle of finance to calculate the dividends of a business, not upon the capital, but upon a valuation of the business as a going concern. We shall be told next in a *Times* leading article that the dividends of a railway company ought to be declared on the market price of its stock and not upon its actual capital, and that directors who declare a dividend of so much per cent. when their stock stands at 30 or 40 per cent. premium are "undervaluing" the railway in order to mislead the shareholders as to the profits.

Mr. Birrell is certainly an unselfish as well as a bold man. He has not exactly occupied a bed of roses during the last twelve months—at any rate, the thorns have been more in evidence than the blossoms; yet he exchanges it for one of the most thorny couches that a Minister can occupy, especially with important Irish legislation in sight. I suppose he was sick of the Education difficulty, and not disposed to try his hand at another solution of it, and the Prime Minister will naturally be glad to have a man in charge of Irish affairs who has won golden opinions from all parties by his tact and his unfailing good humour under exasperating circumstances. But it denotes a good deal of self-sacrifice on the part of a newly fledged Minister to tackle two of the most difficult legislative problems in successive sessions, and it would not be surprising if Mr. Birrell's appointment as Chief Secretary should involve the postponement of Irish affairs until he has had time to look round him a little in his new office.

Mr. Birrell's appointment to the Chief Secretaryship is popular in Ireland, where geniality and humour are always appreciated, even in high officials. Circumstances might possibly arise to make a pleasant man do an unpleasant thing, but then if he has "a way with him" it does much to save the situation. And if his lines happen to lie in pleasant places, they are very pleasant.

Mr. McKenna has earned his promotion to the Cabinet by steady, hard work ever since he has been in Parliament, and useful service to his party in debate. He is a remarkably clear-headed man, with a great power of getting up his subjects, and he is the sort of man to handle the education question with a good deal less tenderness than Mr. Birrell. What the future may have in store in the shape of Education Bills, Heaven only knows, but it is conceivable that the clerical party may be lamenting one of these days that whereas Mr. Birrell chastised them with whips, Mr. McKenna does the business with scorpions.

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

THE TOUCHY SHE-BEAR.

An old She Bear, whose Mind was set
On Zoologic Etiquette,
Returning to the Den, one Day,
Where her young Cublings helpless lay,
Observed a Leopard in the Brake,
Hard by, about his Spring to make.
Quick, with maternal Zeal imbued,
She hastened up, to save her Brood;
Nor she alone, but, as 'twould hap,
A Bison-Bull, a friendly Chap,
Those Cublings' peril who'd espied,
Came hurrying from the other Side,
Eager to help her drive away
The baffled Robber from his Prey.
Now, Bear, you'd think, had straight made Speed
To thank him for his friendly Deed.
But no! She asked, with haughty Stare,
By whose Permission he was there,
Intruding in her own pet Lair,
And hoped, in Future, he'd be kind
Enough *his own* Affairs to mind.
At these ungracious Words, the Bison,
Astonished, fixed Dame Bear his Eyes on:
"Wa-al, Ma'am," said he, "I guess you air
A most tarnation touchy Bear,
Whose Etiquette's fastidious Sense
In a Pal's Impulse finds Offence,
Because, too keen on Friendship's Task,
He didn't wait your Leave to ask."

Moral.

Would you the Moral seek? Then take a
Mental Excursion to Jamaica.

SCRUTATOR.

"KHAKI" IN GERMANY.

HISTORY seems to be repeating itself over the German elections, which bear a curious resemblance to our "Khaki Election" of six years ago. When the edict of dissolution was so suddenly sprung on the old Reichstag a good many people, both in Germany and in this country, thought that the Kaiser and his Chancellor had taken a false step and would have cause to regret it. But Prince Bülow evidently knew his public better. Whether or not it was the result of conscious imitation, he followed exactly the electioneering tactics of Mr. Chamberlain. The "Imperial" issue was pushed to the front and kept there; and if the electors were not told that every vote for the Centre or the Left was a vote for a particular foreign enemy, it was drilled into them that no man could vote for an opponent of the Government and remain true to the Fatherland. To what extent these tactics have succeeded cannot be judged till the second ballots have been taken; but it is already certain that the Government has the upper hand, and that no repetition of such an incident as led to the dissolution is likely to happen in the new Reichstag.

It is bewildering to see the unsympathetic attitude of the English journalists who have worshipped most devoutly at the Chamberlain shrine towards Prince Bülow and his Imperial master. One might have supposed that their hearts would have gone out to a sovereign and his Minister, summoning all patriots to support them in fighting to a finish a sort of war in South Africa. But that any foreign Government should take up such an attitude in its own country appears to be an offence in the eyes of British Jingoes, and full

of sinister import to ourselves, so much so that they would actually have welcomed a great Socialist triumph in Germany. This has been declared so plainly that I should think the London press has made some little contribution to the victory of the German Government. It is always a fatal error for the press of one country to proclaim its sympathies with one side or another in the domestic quarrels of a neighbour. Foreign sympathy is always injurious to the side it favours. Nothing did more to prejudice Dreyfus in the eyes of his countrymen than the officious agitation on his behalf in England.

Personally, I do not attach much importance, so far as concerns ourselves, to the constitution of the Reichstag, and none at all to a Government electoral victory obtained under the circumstances of the present one. The Reichstag is composed of a series of groups, bearing no resemblance to anything in our own Parliament. It can exercise little influence on the foreign policy of the Government, except by the extreme measure of rejecting a vote in supply, as was done last month. The various groups are actuated by such a diversity of cross-currents, that their combination for such a purpose can only occur under very exceptional circumstances. An astute Chancellor—such as Prince Bülow and all his predecessors have been—can generally negotiate a bargain with them in detail whenever such a contingency is on the cards. In short, "divide et impera" is the Imperial motto for dealing with Parliaments, and the idiosyncrasies of the German temperament, and the diversity of interests in a federation of States like the German Empire, make the application of the rule easy. The defeat of the Government which led to the dissolution resulted from a temporary coalition of the two principal Opposition groups, the Catholic Centre and the Socialists. Of these, the Socialists were the only one which can be regarded, from the Government point of view, as a solid irreconcilable Opposition, as we understand the term. They are not to be "squared" by any terms which an Imperial Chancellor can offer. The Catholics do not seem to have suffered at the polls, but the Socialists have been hit hard. It looks, therefore, for the moment as if the democratic movement, which was the great feature of the last election, had been damped down by the "khaki" appeal to national sentiment, as it has been before now nearer home.

But such movements, though they may be checked, are not destroyed by such influences. Germany has domestic problems pressing for settlement which are bound to force themselves to the front in course of time. And the rest of the world may take it for granted that the democratic undercurrent in Germany sets steadily in favour of international peace and away from aggressive aspirations against neighbouring States, as it does in other countries, whatever direction the ripples on the surface may take under the influence of passing breezes.

On the other hand, it is equally certain that Germans of all parties are united by strong patriotic sentiments, and a legitimate desire for the growth of their national interests beyond the seas. The more they grow as an industrial or commercial people, the more will their aspirations grow in that direction. Whether the Kaiser keeps the Reichstag under his thumb, or whether the democratic party gets the upper hand, this tendency will equally have to be accepted by the rest of the world. That being so, the question for us is whether we are going, in the spirit of the dog in the manger, to resent the natural and legitimate growth of Germany on the sea and beyond it as a menace to ourselves, or whether we shall lay aside all unworthy jealousy and reconcile ourselves to it as we have reconciled ourselves, notwithstanding a good deal of ignoble jealousy, to the growth of the United States. There is a party among us which would deny to Germany the rights of every independent nation, and interpret every measure taken in accordance with those rights as evidence of malevolent designs against our own independence or our own possessions. There is a corresponding party in Germany which equally, but with far more reason, represents Great Britain as actuated by fierce jealousy of German growth and prosperity, and ready to take the first opportunity of striking a deadly blow at her before she is too strong to defend herself. These two parties mutually aid one another in a policy of incendiarism. If either of them gets the upper hand, a terrible calamity to both nations is bound to follow. It therefore behoves well-disposed and level-headed citizens of both countries to jump on the mischief-makers at every opportunity, and resist them constantly, as they resist the Devil and all his works.

MIND, MATTER, AND "MIDDIES."

Just after remarking last week that what the public needs in regard to naval affairs is criticism founded on knowledge and common sense, I picked up a volume which seems to do something towards supplying that want. It is a reprint by Messrs. Blackwood and Sons of a number of articles that have appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* and other publications with the signature "Barfleur," collected under the title of "Naval Policy." From the nature of the case, a book compiled in this way makes no attempt to treat its subject on a systematic plan; but the articles are knit together by a firm grasp of one or two fundamental principles, which are worked out in every chapter in a way that any intelligent land-lubber can understand. And as these principles are quite lost sight of in much of the amateurish naval criticism with which the man in the street is mystified, I recommend the study of the book as a useful exercise in "clear thinking" on the most important of national questions.

I gather that what "Barfleur" chiefly seeks to inculcate is that all recent British naval policy is vitiated by undue exaltation of matter at the expense of mind, of the material element in naval warfare at the expense of the human. This is no new idea to me, and I hope not to my readers. "Battles are lost and won by men, and not by ships" is the axiom prefixed to the analysis of the Battle of Tsushima in "Naval Policy." The same thing was said in Truth in almost the same words when the news of Togo's victory reached England, and the bearing of it on the official naval policy of the last twenty years was pointed

out to the best of my humble ability. If this doctrine is sound—as all naval history seems to teach—the basis on which our present fleet has been built up—namely, the comparison on paper of our material with that of foreign powers—is essentially fallacious, and hundreds of millions of money have been spent in pursuit of a false ideal. And the climax of folly is seen at the present moment, when all other considerations are subordinated to the possession (regardless of cost) of one or more marine monsters, the latest triumphs of naval architecture, which look, but still only on paper, superior to any similar machine possessed by a possible enemy. It might have been supposed that Admiral Togo blew all such notions into space in company with the Russian navy, which had long helped to fix our sham scientific standards of naval strength. But stupidity is not so easily vanquished as a Russian admiral.

When, however, naval policy is looked at by the light of naval history from about B.C. 480 to A.D. 1905, the most important question that arises does not relate to the expenditure we have incurred in a mere competition in material, though that is a serious matter enough, but to the training of the men with whom primarily rests the winning of battles. This is a matter on which the general public are necessarily in the dark. We have seen revolutionary changes in the training of officers in the last few years, we listen helplessly to learned arguments about specialisation, the position of the engineering branch, the new conditions introduced by the disappearance of masts and sails, and so forth, and we hope that the people who understand these things know best, and may be trusted to arrive at safe conclusions. But no one can read "Barfleur" on "Naval Policy" without acquiring serious misgivings on this point. The foundation of his argument is that a ship of war is essentially the same machine whether it is propelled by oars, or sails, or steam engines. Starting from this basis, he argues that the training requisite for the effective handling of the machine is essentially the same to-day as it was in the days when Keppel went to sea at ten years old, and Rodney, Hawke, and Nelson, at twelve; that is to say, that sea training is still the only sound education for the sea, and practical performance of duty the only trustworthy test of merit and efficiency. On that view you are flying in the face of nature and experience when you substitute for sea training education in schools on shore and "doing papers" in examination rooms. Surely this view must be sound. It is accepted in every kind of practical business. The captain of a Cunarder or a White Star liner—the nearest analogy for naval purposes—does not receive his professional education in a school on shore, nor rise to his position by doing examination papers. The man who drives a Scotch express does not learn to do it in a technical school, nor is he even required to "pass" in an engineer's shop. It is the same in every walk of life. You learn cricket in the cricket field, billiards in the billiard room, golf on the golf course. You learn none of them from books—or if you do you never become a "crack"—and the younger you begin the better you learn. I believe that the Americans have attempted to teach rowing on dry land, in accordance with the most scientific theories, but somehow they have not managed to beat a Cambridge eight which learns by merely practising on the water.

Remembering all this, I am not surprised that Nelson, going to sea at twelve, turned out as good an officer as other youths who went first for a couple of years to the Portsmouth Academy. Nor do I doubt that any Nelson put on board a man-o'-war to-day at the same age, and left to learn for himself the whole business of working the ship by seeing it done and helping to do it, would know his business better at five-and-twenty than a prize pupil who had in the meantime been flooring all the examiners at all the naval colleges, classes, and schools of instruction. On the one hand you have the lesson from all analogy and experience that the art of handling a machine, however complicated, or even playing a game, is best learnt by practice, not by theoretical teaching. On the other, you have the historical fact that the little "middies" of the eighteenth century, chucked on board ship at ten or twelve years old, as a puppy is chucked into the water, and left to sink or swim by intuition, observation, and practice, with a minimum of formal teaching, grew into the finest race of naval officers the world has ever seen. These things are worth thinking about, especially by First Lords of the Admiralty and Members of Parliament, who nominally control such matters, but are too apt to accept without question the latest dogmas of experts, instead of enlarging the narrowness of professional views by means of common sense and common knowledge. Let us remember, in conclusion, that these considerations bring us straight to the all-important question of £ s. d. The countless millions by which our naval bills have been swollen in recent years have been expended on material, not on men, on the accidental rather than the essential element of success in war. Nor is it even certain that such money as we spend on education and training has been spent in the right way, while it is certain that of all methods of teaching boys, that of making them learn for themselves is the cheapest. We are chiefly engaged to-day not in turning out Nelsons but turning out *Dreadnoughts*. What did the training of Nelson cost the country? Practically nothing. What does a single *Dreadnought* cost? The best part of two millions sterling. Which is likely to be worth most "when the guns begin to shoot"?

THE LAST EDALJI PUZZLE.

The anonymous letter-writing which has played such an extraordinary part in the Edalji case has broken out again. For the moment it has added a fresh puzzle to the case, but it has possibly supplied clues which may assist towards the ultimate solution of the mystery. Those who are interested in the case are probably aware of the circumstances to which I refer. On Monday, January 14, Mr. George Edalji, who is at present residing in London, received a letter dated from "III., Park-street, Walsall," signed "Martin Molton," and bearing the Birmingham postmark of the previous evening. The writer stated that he could prove who maimed the pony on August 18, 1903, and requested Mr. Edalji to

go on the following Wednesday evening to the G.P.O. and ask for "a letter for me which will be sent by a friend and contain important proofs." This letter was written, I quote from the *Daily Telegraph*, "on the back and front of a sealed envelope, enclosed in another envelope." In this feature it resembles two of the anonymous letters addressed to Great Wyrley Vicarage in 1893. A communication of a similar nature was also addressed to the Home Office; but it seems that no letter addressed to "Martin Molton" ever reached the G.P.O. On January 22 Mr. Edalji received a second letter from the same correspondent, unsigned, and bearing no address, but also posted in Birmingham. In this letter the writer states that he is the author of the letters of 1893, and that this can be seen from the fact that he always uses the Greek "e," that Mr. Edalji is entirely innocent of the crimes ascribed to him, and that the writer is extremely sorry for the trouble he has caused the family, and is now leaving for Melbourne. A facsimile of the first of these two letters, and the covering envelope, appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* on Wednesday last. I may say at once that the handwriting undoubtedly presents marked points of resemblance to that of previous letters written during the last fourteen years, including some of those used in evidence against Mr. Edalji at his trial. The letter appears, therefore, to bear directly upon the problems surrounding the case.

It will be remembered that Great Wyrley Vicarage and the Edalji family have been involved in three distinct epidemics of anonymous letter-writing. The first occurred towards the end of 1888, when letters were addressed to the Rev. S. Edalji and a servant girl at the Vicarage, accompanied also by writing on the walls of the house. In connection with this the servant girl referred to, Elizabeth Foster, was prosecuted, and, her solicitor having pleaded that it was only a foolish joke, was discharged on her own recognisances. She continued to live in the neighbourhood until her death in 1905, and was seen among the witnesses in waiting when Mr. George Edalji was brought before the magistrates in 1903, though she was never called by the prosecution. After her prosecution there was no more anonymous letter-writing until 1892, when a fresh epidemic broke out, and was continued at intervals until 1896. During this period the letters were mostly addressed to the Vicar, as before, and often written in the style of a raving lunatic, containing the wildest abuse of the Vicar and his family, and particularly his son George, and being seasoned with most appalling blasphemy. Letters, apparently from the same hand, were also written during this period to various other people, some of them strangers at a distance, who were subjected to annoying hoaxes in which the Vicar of Great Wyrley and his family were involved. Annoying advertisements, at the expense of the Edalji family, were also inserted in the local newspapers, one of them in the form of an apology by George Edalji to the aforesaid Elizabeth Foster, and there was one particularly atrocious letter addressed to a servant girl at the vicarage, just as in 1888. This sort of thing went on until the beginning of 1896. So far as the Edalji family were concerned there was no repetition of it until the cattle-maiming outrages of 1903 had been for some time in progress. Anonymous letters in various handwritings and from various addresses then began to be addressed to the police and other people in the neighbourhood, including Mr. George Edalji himself. In some of these, as the public already knows, the writer pointed to Mr. George Edalji as connected with the cattle-maiming outrages, and this appears to have been the sole evidence which the police had at the time when they proceeded to arrest that gentleman, as the preliminary to compiling their case against him. Mr. Gurrin, the expert who was called for the Crown, was of opinion that certain of these 1903 letters, but not all of them, were in the disguised handwriting of the prisoner; but why Mr. George Edalji, if guilty, should have written letters to the police tending to incriminate himself, and even have addressed a scurrilous libel to himself on a postcard at his own office, no one to this day has ever been able to satisfactorily explain.

Of the 1888 writing no specimens are now in existence. Of that which occurred between 1892 and 1896 a few specimens have been preserved. I am familiar with two of them, one a letter addressed to the Rev. S. Edalji, and another, the letter referred to above, which was addressed to a girl in his service—a letter of an unspeakably filthy description, which it is difficult to believe that any person in his right mind could have penned. These two letters are to all appearance in the same handwriting. As regards the letters of 1903 which were used at the trial, by one of those strange oversights which no doubt contributed to Mr. Edalji's conviction, they were never critically inspected prior to the trial on behalf of the defence, and applications to inspect them subsequently to the conviction were refused by the Home Office. But as soon as Mr. Edalji was released, and I had an opportunity of discussing the case with him, I suggested to him that he should make an application for permission to inspect and to copy these letters. This request having been granted, Mr. Edalji asked that as a matter of convenience he should be allowed to have the letters photographed, and this also was allowed. I accordingly arranged with Mr. Edalji that he should attend with a photographer at Stafford, where the letters were, and select a certain number to be photographed. He did so, and the photographs are now in my possession. It will be seen from this exactly what materials are in existence for the purpose of comparison with the documents reproduced by the *Daily Telegraph* last Wednesday. They are: (1) A letter addressed to the Rev. S. Edalji somewhere about 1893; (2) a letter addressed to one of his servants in 1895; (3) photographs of various letters used in evidence at the trial in 1903, some of them identified by Mr. Gurrin as being in the disguised handwriting of George Edalji, some of them not imputed to him by that gentleman.

I make no claim myself to be an expert in hand-

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Blackpool. Splendid Winter Climate. Hôtel Métropole. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

writing. But, according to my experience, there is no mystery about that craft. The expert only differs from the ordinary observer in having devoted more attention to the subject, making his observations by a more systematic method, and being by experience quicker in detecting peculiarities of style which may assist in identifying or differentiating the authorship of two documents which at first sight appear to be written by different hands. The first result of my own observation of these letters is, as I have said above, that the "Martin Molton" letter presents striking resemblances to the two extant letters of 1893 and 1895. There are, of course, many differences, but as it must be presumed that the writer was in both cases disguising his natural hand, these do not count for much. It is the reappearance of striking peculiarities of style, notwithstanding the general attempt at disguise, which supplies the connecting link in such cases. If a person who wrote such letters in a disguised hand in 1893 repeats even one or two marked peculiarities when doing the same thing in 1907, the weight of the evidence is greatly increased.

Secondly, I think there are points of resemblance, though less strongly marked, between the incriminating letters which led to Mr. Edalji's conviction in 1903 and the last-mentioned documents, *i.e.*, the letters of 1893-5 and the "Martin Molton" letter. There is, therefore, on this evidence reason to suspect that the same hand has been at work all through these fourteen years. I quite admit that there also exist in the case of the 1903 letters certain features of resemblance to the writing of George Edalji which Mr. Gurrin pointed out to the jury at the trial. I have never questioned Mr. Gurrin's ability in his own line of business, all that I have said, and say now, on this point is that evidence founded on the observations of an expert in handwriting is very far from conclusive. It must be remembered, too, in justice to Mr. Gurrin, that he did not in the Edalji case, and I believe does not in his general practice, profess to swear to the identity of two handwritings submitted to him. What he does, and what he did in the Edalji case, was to point out certain evidence of identity, and to give the opinion that on this evidence the two writings are from the same hand; but it is for the jury to examine the evidence by the light which the expert throws upon it, and to agree or disagree with his opinion. The ground on which I should chiefly disregard the effect of Mr. Gurrin's evidence, and those resemblances in the formation of particular letters which he pointed out, is that the documents were admittedly in a disguised hand, and that the peculiarities are perfectly consistent with the writing being that of a person who was imitating the prisoner's writing for the purpose of incriminating him. This argument might not have counted for much at the trial, when nothing was mentioned of previous anonymous writing in connection with the Edalji family; but it acquires the greatest weight and importance if it can be shown that for fourteen years somebody, who can scarcely have been George Edalji, has been writing anonymous letters to and about the Edalji family, incidentally avowing a sort of insane hatred against George Edalji, and more than once threatening to disgrace and ruin him. I may point out here that the writer of all these letters, whoever he may be, is somebody intimately connected with the circumstances and movements of the Edalji family, and there is therefore nothing improbable in supposing him to be acquainted with their writing; in fact, in 1903 the writer—as though with a deliberate attempt to fasten the authorship upon George Edalji—contrived to enclose with one of his letters an envelope addressed to that gentleman at his office and bearing the imprint of another firm in Birmingham. It is almost impossible to suppose Mr. Edalji himself doing this, unless he was deliberately endeavouring to put the rope round his own neck. It has all the appearance of being the work of an enemy seeking to incriminate him.

Now, with these facts and considerations before us, what are we to think when the anonymous letter-writer of 1893 and 1895 reappears to-day, not only avowing himself to be the same person, but betraying some of his previous peculiarities of penmanship? Of course, those who have made up their minds that Mr. George Edalji is guilty will argue that he might have written the *Daily Telegraph* letter himself. In that case he either went down to Birmingham for the purpose of posting it on the night of Sunday, January 13, or he employed a confederate in that town to post it, and he must have done one or the other thing again on January 21. To go to Birmingham himself is a proceeding too risky to be credible, for Mr. Edalji is a man of marked personal appearance, whose portraits have been widely circulated in the press during the past few weeks, and he could hardly go twice from London to Birmingham and back at the present moment without being noticed and identified by somebody. The alternative suggestion, that he might have employed a confederate to post the two letters to him in Birmingham, at the present juncture seems to me equally incredible. In order, however, to preclude doubt as far as possible, I have asked Mr. Edalji whether he can prove that he did not visit Birmingham on these dates, and he says that he can. It must be remembered that he is a convict on ticket-of-leave, with the eyes of the police always upon him, and he may not even leave his lodgings for a night without notifying the police. Unless we are to assume that Mr. Edalji wrote these two letters himself, there is certainly very strong reason for suspecting that the anonymous letters which led to his conviction are the work of some individual who has been pursuing him and his family off and on for fourteen years, and who has been at large in Birmingham during the last three weeks. There is therefore a new argument in the "Martin Molton" letters for an exhaustive official inquiry into the whole of this case in all its ramifications. Many people have been hoping that before this time Mr. Gladstone would have announced that such an inquiry has been ordered. I have not entertained much hope of that result myself; but I entertain no doubt that if the case is properly brought before the House of Commons when it meets, the House will insist that this step shall be taken.

A CASE FOR THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

Nearly two years ago, in an article headed as above, I drew attention to the impudent manner in which the penal sections of the Moneylenders Act with regard to registration were being set at defiance by a shady tout styling himself "Lofthouse and Co.," 119, Victoria-street, S.W. Particulars were given of a disgraceful case of attempted commission-snatching on the part of this rascal, and, inasmuch as he was not registered in accordance with the requirements of the Act, I suggested that he ought to be prosecuted. The Act, I may explain, applies not only to persons whose business is that of moneylending, but to those who advertise or hold themselves out in any way as carrying on that business—in other words, the definition embraces the usurers' jackals as well as the actual usurers. The circulars and advertisements issued by "Lofthouse and Co." clearly come (and still come) within the words of the statute. My article furthermore indicated that "Lofthouse and Co." was a *nom de guerre* of the notorious Crichton Loftus Tottenham, and that he had also been carrying on another similar business as "John C. Lubbock," first at 2, Haymarket, and subsequently at 19, Hanover-square. In August, 1901, Tottenham had been registered (describing himself as a "gentleman," of 15, York-place, W.) as "Matthew Lubbock," 2, Haymarket, but this registration had run out, and he was not registered at all as "John C. Lubbock." At the time I wrote he was, therefore, committing two specific offences against the Act for which he was liable to heavy penalties.

These matters are recalled now because, as I discovered from an inspection of the register at Somerset House last week, Tottenham's case still constitutes a peculiarly flagrant example of the negligence of the authorities in regard to the enforcement of the Act. In the character of "Lofthouse and Co." he continues to publish his moneylending advertisements, though he remains unregistered. As to his second alias of "John C. Lubbock," the register reveals some interesting and rather amusing facts. On April 11, 1905, three days after the appearance of the above-mentioned article in TRUTH, Tottenham (now calling himself a "moneylender," not a "gentleman") was registered afresh as "Matthew Lubbock," 19, Hanover-square. In the part of the form in which he had to state his "actual name" he gave it as "Abraham Crichton Loftus Tottenham." The officials at Somerset House noticed that in effecting the first "Lubbock" registration in 1901 he had not owned up to the Abraham, subscribing himself simply "Crichton Loftus Tottenham." This led to an inquiry, and in reply Tottenham wrote that the two names referred to the same person and that the omission of the Abraham on the first occasion was due to "a misunderstanding of the terms of the Act." Six months after this incident (October 8, 1905) Emily Bannester, described as a spinster of no occupation, was registered in the place of A. C. L. Tottenham as the person using the trade name of "Matthew Lubbock." Her residence and her place of business were both given as 10c, Portman Mansions, W.

Presumably this was a dodge on the part of Tottenham to put off the scent any one who should suspect that he was connected with "Lubbock." No doubt he thought—quite erroneously—that persons consulting the register at Somerset House would be shown only this new form on which Emily Bannester figured as "Matthew Lubbock." But Mr. Tottenham—as might be surmised from the little mistake about his own name and signature—is a very careless gentleman. Emily Bannester's registration form is filled up in Tottenham's handwriting—or at least in the same handwriting as Tottenham's own registration forms—and it shows that at first he very stupidly gave her place of residence and business too as "119, Victoria-street"—his own office as "Lofthouse and Co."—but then struck out that address and substituted 10c, Portman Mansions. Not only did he fill up the form but, judging from the handwriting, it looks very much as if he also wrote the signature of "Emily Bannester." On September 12, 1906, a new registration of Emily Bannester as "Matthew Lubbock" was effected in consequence of a change of address to 213, Piccadilly. From being a lady of no occupation she had by this time blossomed out into an "artist"—an artist, possibly, in drawing commissions and fees from the pockets of unsophisticated applicants for loans. This latest registration form, like the others, was filled up by Tottenham, but Emily's signature this time was entirely different from what it had been previously, and apparently she had changed the spelling of her name from "Bannester" to "Bannister." From the foregoing facts it is evident that the registration by Emily Bannister—if, indeed, there is such a person at all—is a mere blind, the business being Tottenham's. In spite of the registration, this business is, moreover, carried on illegally, for the name used in the advertisements appearing in the *Daily Telegraph* and other papers is "John C. Lubbock," whilst the name registered—the only one that can be legally employed—is "Matthew Lubbock." If the Moneylenders Act were properly enforced, "John C. Lubbock" would have long since been prosecuted for trading "otherwise than in his registered name," and "Lofthouse and Co." for trading without being registered at all.

Nor are these by any means the only cases in which the law is being similarly violated. "Ralph Vivian," 80, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, whose moneylending advertisement adorns the columns of the *Morning Post*, and "L. Hignett," whose circulars are dated sometimes from 56, Cicada-road, Wandsworth Common, and sometimes from 1, Carlton-street, Waterloo-place, are both of them unregistered; and, if necessary, I could give the names of other offenders. Why they are permitted to break the law in this way is incomprehensible. It is true that the Act does not saddle anybody in particular with the duty of seeing that its penal sections are enforced, but surely this is a duty which in the ordinary course of things devolves upon the police or the Public Prosecutor. On two or three occasions they have, indeed, recognised this by instituting prosecutions—a fact which only makes it all the more extraordinary that they should fail to take action against Tottenham and his fellow-culprits. The compulsory registration of moneylenders was introduced

as one of the checks upon the system of trickery and fraud described in the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Moneylending. In itself it is not, perhaps, a particularly powerful check, but it has some uses, and anyhow it seems to me to be a public scandal that such harpies as Tottenham and Co. should be allowed to snap their fingers at the provisions of the Act. When Parliament meets I hope that the Home Secretary will be asked to explain why they are left unprosecuted and unpunished.

THE THEATRES.

Apollo.

The Apollo Theatre has for a season renounced the gorgeous trappings of musical comedy and donned the severe simplicity of the spoken word. I spent an agreeable evening there last week, and propose to say a word on the three-act drama by Mr. John Valentine which is the *pièce de résistance*.

"The Stronger Sex" savours much of our Transatlantic cousins, and yet has an English, or rather a Hibernian, cousin itself, in Mr. Shaw's "Man and Superman." Both plays are inspired by the domination of that petticoat which is a tendency of the times in America, and not unknown to our suffragettes. Yes, the world has moved since William Shakespeare penned "The Taming of the Shrew," and I have little doubt that were the latter play produced in England now for the first time it would be heartily damned by the press and public opinion.

Penniless the Hon. Warren Barrington marries an American heiress, Mary, for her money, in the most cynical manner possible. He goes the length of kissing, or trying to kiss, the fair Joan, with whom he has flirted for years. The moment which he selects for this operation is certainly not well-chosen, as it coincides with the appearance at the door of his new-made bride, who sees her husband's movement. She gives a low cry, shrinks back, and so successfully conceals her knowledge of what has passed, that it is not revealed to him until the end of the play. Miss Nina Boucicault, as the delicate-looking heiress with the will of steel, played the part of this female Petruchio with considerable cleverness and much conviction. Mr. Leonard Boyne, the very masculine Katherine, executed the difficult feat of making a dominant personality shrink very small with great skill, and he deserves to be congratulated upon his success in this scarcely congenial part. He begins Bombastes, rapidly adds the Furioso (not allowed his pet horse to ride), breaks the dams (spelling immaterial) and the gilded furniture when he is offered twelve hundred pounds a year pocket-money, but bows in obedience to the almighty dollar when his money-lender creditors appear with a demand for five thousand pounds. Mr. Valentine is doubtless right in his psychology of the young American woman, who is more than their match at business for the two money-lenders, and drives them away with a threat of punishment for blackmail; but I never saw or heard of an English girl who would have been capable of conducting Mary's dialogue with the money-lenders, to which her shrewish spouse harkens, much abashed. But America has its female stockbrokers. One more flash in the pan of a toy revolver, and Penniless the Hon. Warren Barrington's say is said. He tries to bully his wife into obedience, and makes as though to strike her. Out comes her revolver, and exit the lady, triumphant. The rest of the play, as regards this couple, is devoted to telling how Penniless the Hon. is put into business by Mary the Magnificent, who at first pays his salary herself, unknown to him. But Penniless the Hon. is such a good and such a clever boy that very soon he is able to earn for himself quite a nice little salary. Thus has Mary the Magnificent succeeded in transforming her aristocratic husband into an excellent clerk with a chance of partnership. But she is severe, and although he is by this time almost a reformed character, almost a perfect clerk, yet she will not come for a nice ride with her good, obedient husband. For she is always thinking of that kiss of the first act, though more than a year has elapsed.

The beautiful Joan (formerly beloved of Penniless the Hon.) is coy, and so dumfounders, abashes, and completely sits upon Mr. Paul Arthur, who loves her devotedly, and represents an outspoken American of great wealth, cousin to Mary the Magnificent, that their engagement requires the direct interposition of Miss Marie Illington, autocratic aunt of Joan, inheritress of her great fortune. Once Mr. Paul Arthur, the blushing millionaire, has consented (though it seems so sudden), all goes well. The aunt, who says the rudest things imaginable all through the play, roars like a sucking dove at the reconciliation between Mary and her spouse and the engagement of Joan and the millionaire. All is well, Mary is no longer jealous, and, having made her husband into a good clerk, is content to love, govern, and sway him to the end of the chapter. She will even allow him to consult with her upon the weightiest of all subjects—the investment of her moneys.

Overtures should certainly be made for a performance of this beautiful morality play at Yildiz Kiosk, Constantinople, for the benefit of the Grand Turk, and Mr. Valentine should see to it that the inhabitants of Salt Lake City, Utah, are not long deprived of his valuable gospel. "Matinées for Mormons" would be a good advertisement outside the theatre.

French Plays at the New Royalty.

M. Gaston Meyer is again the tenant for a season of the New Royalty Theatre, and all who love the drama cannot but be glad to welcome the visits of our admirable neighbours, which, one hopes, will gradually assume the force of habit, so that mighty London, which has room for everything and everybody of any interest, will never be without her swallow flights of French players across the Channel. They were bold swallows who came over as the cast of "Le Marquis de Priola," which I witnessed on the icy Wednesday of last week. M. Le Bargy was, of course, the attraction, and despite the weather the house was filled with a very distinguished audience.

The story of the Marquis de Priola, which is played by M. Le Bargy with the mastery that comes of talent and practice and a perfect acquaintance with the author's intentions, is in one word the story of a Parisian Don Juan of to-day. M. Henri Lavedan, the

dramatist, is a member of the French Academy and a precise student of life. His studies have often led him into the byways affected by a plutocracy dragging an effete aristocracy after it, as a comet its tail. M. Lavedan is, in my opinion, the greatest living writer of dialogue in French. I do not for a moment claim for him the position of premier dramatist, but to read Gyp or Brada in French, or certain English writers who shall be nameless, after Lavedan, is like drinking a pint of rose sherbet after a pint of champagne. The character of the Marquis de Priola, and indeed the whole of the play, are best studied as M. Lavedan studied them: objectively. If one apply any moral or intellectual code to such conduct as his, to a life devoted to the seduction of women alone and to their humiliation, he at once appears so contemptible that we lose interest in him. But if, on the other hand, one direct one's attention chiefly to the brilliant incisiveness of the dialogue, which cuts like a razor, and look upon the Marquis de Priola as more than half a madman, then one can enjoy a very pleasant evening in his company, just as one can agreeably contemplate in painting the masterly treatment by Teniers of "Drunken Boors," or the debauchees of Peter Paul Rubens.

It is a curious thing that both of the Spanish Don Juans were diseased in mind, if not in body, that neither of them persisted to the end in his evil courses but took the cowl, and here in this modern French Don Juan, we have paralysis intervening as the avenger of his evil deeds. It looks, certainly, as though the type of Don Juan were always pathological in one way or the other.

In conclusion I may say of the French plays that the programme, which constantly changes during the next few weeks, is filled with the titles of familiar plays that have not the danger for the uninitiated presented by the flamboyant Marquis de Priola.

* * * * *

At the Savoy Theatre Mrs. D'Oyly Carte continues to carry out her intention of presenting the series of comic operas produced by Mr. W. S. Gilbert and the late Sir Arthur Sullivan.

"The Gondoliers" now holds the boards, and I was struck with the vernal vigour, and the fresh sparkling quality of its music, which seems to well from the composer as from a mossy sunlit rock. A happy Savoyard audience contemplated the decorous octogenarian Duke of Plaza-Toro which, in the hands of Mr. Workman, assumes a living quality, is as it were given a real soul, mean and ridiculous perhaps, but yet a soul, with which it is the privilege of that fine actor to endow whatever part he chooses to play. The remainder of the cast does not call for especial mention, one's attention being chiefly attracted by the carefully-prepared impromptus with which Mr. W. S. Gilbert has studded this, one of his very best, librettos.

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"The Playhouse" was opened for a private view last week, and I had the advantage of accompanying Mr. Maude around the stalls of his new house, which, as all the world knows, occupies the site of the Avenue Theatre at the Charing Cross end of Northumberland-avenue. I can endorse from personal experience the extreme comfort of the stalls, which are spacious and placed at a considerable distance from those in front, allowing an easy gangway. The dress circle is also comfortably seated, and I believe that there is relatively as good accommodation all over the house. This apparently inconsiderable detail is really of more importance than a gold mine expended upon gilded hand-rails and gilded wood. Where a man or woman is uncomfortable each will do one of two things: fidget or go out. Here there is no such excuse. For the rest, the house presents an airy appearance, and yet is not over-decorated, as becomes a house devoted to serious comedy. The dark material of the stalls and dress circle is relieved by the cream and gold decorations of the walls, in which are set at intervals on the dress-circle level oil paintings representing English and Italian comedy. I liked the quality of the orange-coloured light diffused from the surrounding globes and from the electrolier which hangs from the centre of the cupola. The Royal box, with its staircase of teak and its Louis XV. retiring room, with the box facing it and two small boxes behind the dress circle, are the only boxes in the theatre. My readers who care to visualise the interior of the Imperial Theatre will get, *mutatis mutandis*, an idea of the Playhouse, which will be open to all when these lines are in print. It now remains only to wish Mr. Cyril Maude all success in his new house, a wish which found eloquent expression on Monday evening, which witnessed a special progrgamme by many stars and a special prologue by Mr. Shaw.

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At the Empire Theatre, Mr. Hymack has a long and animated conversation with a pump. His (simulated) condition implies that he would be the better for a dousing under its watery replies. Strange things happen—parti-coloured gloves come on to his hand, all unaware; they are rejected; others of a different colour take their place; the figure chalked on the pump becomes rude; more garments are rejected, while others take their place, mysteriously. Finally, the pump goes away in high dudgeon, and we turn to Mr. Hymack, to find him habited in a smart frock coat, descended from heaven, since it had no other visible source. Fox-hunting, of which I have spoken before in laudatory terms, follows this item, with one or two happy variations from the original that I formerly witnessed. The Austria Quartette has much more than a quarter of a voice apiece. It was more like a regiment singing in tune, and they are doubtless clever artists. The big number of the new programme is the Living Pictures and Statuary. Of these, the statuary is, in my view, the more satisfactory. "The Teucer" of Mr. Hamo Thornycroft, R.A., lived in the bronzed Mr. M. Antonio, and the "Athlete Struggling with a Python," by Lord Leighton, found a fine expression by the same artist in poses. It is a study in the manner of the Laocoon. The pictures rather suggest to me those witticisms of Mr. James Whistler that used to startle, but have now almost the sound of old saws. "Nature is coming up slowly," "A feeble sunset," and many other apparent paradoxes seemed to become almost commonplaces

as I watched group succeed group, representing some well-known picture. The intention is excellent, and such poses as "A Venetian Wooing," and "The Bath of Psyche," have a certain alluring prettiness about them, while the Huguenot of Millais stirs romantic memories of the picture. But the fact is that the artist shows us a deal more of the mysteries of colour, light, and shade in his pictures, makes things much more intense than they are in real life, however well arranged, and that is why I went away without sorrow to see some remarkable photographs at 67A, New Bond-street. Baron de Meyer and Mr. Coburn here exhibit some of the most wonderful art photographs I have ever seen, and I advise my readers interested in art or in photography to visit the exhibition. They will thank me when they have seen those remarkable portraits of the former and the wonderful landscapes of the latter.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A VET. ON DOCTORS.

FROM my own knowledge of veterinary surgeons I agree with the opinion Pasteur expressed in their favour: "I very much enjoy the company and conversation of veterinary surgeons, and I have learnt a great deal from them." Their standard of medical attainments is, at any rate in France, a high one, and they enjoy this advantage over the doctor, that their practice, instead of being confined to one animal—the human being—extends to all domestic species. Their scientific status is so well recognised in France that a medical doctor never takes a fee from a "vet." My own doctor holds the "sister profession" in such high esteem that when a member of his own family is ill, he sends for the "vet.," and the latter calls for a doctor if he thinks circumstances require it.

A man from whom I have learnt more about *materia medica* than from anybody else is a veterinary surgeon, who stands, it is true, at the top of his profession—M. Paul Cagny. He is the author of the *Encyclopédie Vétérinaire*, a work which has been translated into several languages. I met M. Cagny this week, when he greeted me in a somewhat startling fashion:—

"I say, is not it a catastrophe?"

"Yes, indeed, *cher maître*. You mean, of course, Jamaica?"

"No, I do not. I mean the collapse of tuberculine."

"???"

"Yes. You have not heard about last Thursday's sitting of the Société des Vétérinaires de France? There was an awful fuss. It was all about 'tuberculine.' Seven or eight years ago, the late Professor Nocard, who was a vet., and also a member of the Academy of Medicine, laid down the doctrine that consumption in cattle could be detected even in its earliest stages by an injection of tuberculine. The method was an infallible one. The statement made a sensation throughout the world, as meat and milk of diseased oxen and cows were supposed to be two of the chief causes of consumption in human beings. The Governments of this and other countries went to huge expense in setting up laboratories for the cultivation of tuberculine. Well, last Thursday a French vet. in the service of the Argentine Government, M. Lignières, Director of the Laboratory of Buenos Ayres, rose to make a communication. He had made systematic tests with tuberculine for the last four or five years, and found that sometimes healthy cattle reacted, while in other cases animals which were afterwards shown to be consumptive felt no effects after an injection. Two of the leading veterinary surgeons of France, Professor Moussu, of the School of Alfort, and Professor Arloing, Director of the School of Lyons, and Member of the Academy of Medicine, concurred with the statement just made by the Argentine delegate. They, too, had been at work experimenting these four or five years, and they found that tuberculine was a broken reed. At best could it be used as corroborative evidence along with clinical symptoms. M. Cagny joined in the debate, remarking the moral of the story was that doctors, whether for human beings or for animals, ought to give microbes a rest for a while and resume clinical studies which modern practitioners have sadly neglected."

"And how did the audience receive your remarks, *cher maître?*" I asked M. Paul Cagny.

"Some laughed heartily, others—the microbiologists—indulged in a sickly laugh."

The great objection, M. Cagny thinks, to modern theories of disease is that they overlook the great point: the temperament of the patient. Young doctors are analysing everything, looking out for microbes and crystals, forgetting that these are not so much causes as symptoms of a disease. "What do I care," he told me, "if a drop of blood examined under a microscope tells me my horse has got typhoid fever? I know it without that. It is more important, and more difficult, too, for me to find out the exact temperament of the horse, because then I have a chance of treating it successfully." M. Cagny summed up his doctrine in these pithy words:—"The whole art of healing lays in not running athwart nature."

Tronchin, the famous Geneva doctor, taught this also, and the greatest genius of his age, Voltaire, cried "That is what I have always preached!" and became a patient of Tronchin.

La Croix ought to regret having tried to damn with faint praise the lunches provided by Comte de Franqueville for the bishops. They came to the respectable sum of 28,000 frs. for the five repasts to which the eighty-two prelates sat down. This also includes the afternoon teas with *petits gâteaux* and the extra service. A great chef tells me that he could have done things handsomely, and even sumptuously, for just half the sum.

One of the five days on which the bishops lunched at La Muette fell on Friday. This was not a reason for going to less expense, but the contrary—a grand *déjeuner maigre* costs more than a grand *déjeuner gras*. The chief difference between a fine dinner and a *déjeuner* on a corresponding scale is that at the former there is soup and at the latter there are eggs and no soup. However, from regard for episcopal stomachs, which rarely have the advantage of being young, the host and hostess at La Muette provided *potages*. Be it known that a plate full of soup as a commencement

of a stiff repast is a security against apoplexy or cerebral congestion. Milk soups appeared on the table at the Friday lunch, followed by *œufs brouillés, filets de sole à la Joinville, en croustillade, en whitebait,* and *truite en gélée.* After the fish came *macaroni à l'italienne.* The final—*bouchées aux fraises nouvelles*—is an exquisite dish worthy of being set before a modern Cleopatra. The strawberries must be raised in blackened hothouses lighted night and day by electricity. Dessert: Grapes and *petites confiseries.* The latter, in the nature of fondants, melt in the mouth and put no strain on the teeth. Doubtless the coffee following the dessert gave out the aroma of true Moka. Nothing marks so well or so ill the grand repast as perfect or middling coffee. The coffee is the crowning glory of the feast, and especially of the *déjeûner,* as it acts as a spur to the brain and prepares for the tasks of the afternoon.

The *petit verre* offered to *nos seigneurs* excluded old Chartreuse (now priceless) and Benedictine. I am not sure the wines—Hermitage and Clos Vougeot—were the best vintages for elderly and aged churchmen who lead sedentary lives. Burgundy is the wine best suited to the country gentleman who hunts stags, foxes, and spends the most of his time in the saddle.

Of course, apart from the *bouchées aux fraises nouvelles* there were substantial delicacies. A *potage aux trois filets* merits special mention. The chef I have been consulting assures me that it is a *potage* which tests the skill of the cook. This is how he proceeds in making it. He first boils down his fowl, or fowls. Hens have more flavour in the broth-pot than chickens. When they have been done to rags, he cools the broth in an icing apparatus, skims it carefully, strains, replaces it on the stove, and adds, cut in *filets,* or in plain English sliced, the breasts of chicken, fresh round of beef, and neat's tongue *à l'écarlate,* to relieve the blandness of the fowl, which is the preponderant element. These additions, after throwing up their scum, which, of course, is skimmed off carefully, are allowed to simmer for about three hours. The broth is then strained, clarified, and re-heated. At the end of this stage it is fit to serve. A poached egg may be added for each *convive,* or even two. This is often done for after-cotillon refreshments at the end of balls. But the poached eggs in a *potage à trois filets* might be too nutritious for sedentary old gentlemen who had really nothing to do but say Yes to the Encyclical.

Another test dish was the *pâté de lièvre à la Périgord,* a preparation of hare deserving to rank as ambrosia. The *œufs Doria* which were served at one of the five lunches might be also named *souvenir de Rome.* One finds them in perfection with the accompaniment of striking local colour in the *trattorie* in the artists' quarter in Rome and round the Flower Market and the Farnese. The eggs are cooked in oil somewhat *à la Marengo,* with tomatoes and spiced with saffron. The *fricandeau de veau* marks as the single homely dish in the various menus. It would have been served to make bishops of plain habits and rustic breeding feel at home. It is a great dish in country inns, in peasants' houses, and in the dwellings of the poorer parish priests. The *bonne à tout faire* can always make a *fricandeau de veau à la casserole.*

The Archbishop of Paris did not appear at any of the episcopal lunches. He has come to an age (eighty-eight) at which milk is the only safe aliment.

I have known not a few of the industrial kings of this country. I noticed how greatly they over-rated the sort of mental capacity that is requisite to the making of a great fortune, and thinking themselves endowed even as they are, fancied their sons must be men of high ability. They therefore subjected the latter to the highest pressure—training with a view to the passing of brilliant examinations. Instead of making them distinguished men, they dwarfed them into half-witted beings, or forced them into semi or whole lunacy. I could furnish many instances of lamentable failures brought about in this way, but they are not sufficiently notorious to excite interest. There are, however, some *hors texte,* for instance, Jacques Lebaudy, calling himself Emperor of Sahara, Max Lebaudy, nicknamed le Petit Sucrier, and unfortunate Van Blarenberghe, who last week murdered his octogenarian mother and then committed suicide, the two-fold tragedy taking place with circumstances of shocking ferocity in a Louis XII. palace standing in its own extensive grounds in the Rue de la Bienfaisance.

Van Blarenberghe's father, an industrial king *de plus chic,* wanted to raise him up by the forcing process of cram, hard work, and the passing of brilliant examinations to high personal distinction. The poor young fellow's life was thus made miserable, and wholly wasted. He had to go into training when little more than a small boy for *les grands concours,* and for admission later on to the Polytechnic. Unable to attain these distinctions, he had to enter the Génie, where he became a lieutenant. He next resigned to read for the Polytechnic again, and utterly broke down. Still he was driven on to obtain elsewhere an engineer's diploma and to discharge divers highly responsible and largely remunerated functions in railways and other industrial concerns. In a short time it became necessary to place him under treatment in a private asylum near Paris, where his parents could often go to see him. Van Blarenberghe returned home a gentle, and, to all appearance, inoffensive, being, and, according to a medical certificate, cured. The father believed in the certificate, but saw the mind so weakened that he did not dare to put the screw on again at once. The mother felt more uneasy than ever. Under the father's eye the discharged madman was as a good child, and almost too docile for a normal state. The death of thee elder Van Blarenberghe removing this control, the younger grew rather misanthropic, and spent his days in rambling and motoring in the forests near Paris, and sometimes made rushes into those of Burgundy. He also became religious, extremely prayerful in season and out, and imagined he had a call to save his father's soul by a course of vicarious expiation. The mother tried in vain to persuade him that the act of expiation on the Cross of Calvary covered all, and that it would have covered Dives had he but shown charity to the beggar. Here the son caught her up. The late M. Van Blarenberghe had the riches of Dives; but on what occasion

was he ever charitable? Eternal justice was not to be cheated. It demanded atonement. It does not appear that he told her who should in his opinion expiate for the sins committed in making and in keeping the vast fortune. But what has happened shows him to have thought: "Those who benefited by his money-making greed." Mme. Van Blarenberghe became seriously frightened, and had alarm bells set up in all her rooms. She instructed her menservants to rush to her the instant she rang any of them. It is not my intention to go into any detail of the frightful tragedy. The journals have left nothing unsaid which they could give about them.

Waldeck-Rousseau declared, often in private and sometimes publicly in courts of law, that the best thing the sons of most of the industrial kings can do is to be spendthrifts. In being so they prove the equity that lies in the nature of things and throw back money into its normal course of circulation. They are doomed to expiate in some way or another the paternal greed and hardness of heart. They may as well do so in amusing themselves. The rake's progress no doubt leads to a plunge into poverty. Is not this wholesome expiation? Waldeck-Rousseau took this line in pleading for Max Lebaudy, le Petit Sucrier, against his mother, who attempted to have him placed, because a spendthrift, under a *conseil judiciaire*. Jacques Lebaudy, calling himself Emperor of Sahara, holds his gold, silver, and even coppers with a tight hand. He has not yet expiated any part of the paternal sins. Mme. Veuve Lebaudy undergoes partial expiation in the disgrace that follows; she clings to the memory of her beloved Syveton, thus justifying the ideas of Waldeck-Rousseau.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

IT is generally accepted, dear Lady Betty, that this is a "mad world"; the prospect is that shortly it will have become a raving-mad world, a condition which would be frightful. The padded-cell and straitwaistcoat systems of government will have to be adopted by all "civilised" nations; laws will have to be made in every direction to protect us from our neighbours and ourselves. There is no security now but in obscurity. Shot or scandal is the portion of all who attain prominence. Blackmailing is the most flourishing industry of the moment; the statesman is blackmailed by his supporters who want place or title; the prominent and rich are blackmailed by their poorer neighbours; the millionaire is blackmailed by Belgravia; the financier is blackmailed in the City; the actor and actress are blackmailed by the critic; and the doctor is blackmailed by his "fashionable" patients!

Physically and intellectually the condition of the civilised man and woman to-day is better than it ever was; spiritually it is degenerating rapidly. Science, observation, progress, and increased prosperity are enormously improving the physical condition of the community in England, for instance; and education and experience are raising the intelligence of most considerably. The decay of the conscience, however, is obvious. The restraining properties of that spiritual organ appear to be disappearing altogether, though conscience is still preserved by many to enable them—to handicap their neighbours.

* * * * *

The millionaire of the immediate future will be in as perilous a situation as is the ordinary sovereign. He will have to maintain a private police force and army to protect himself from the disorderly and desperate. The pirates of Piccadilly will endeavour to seize him in his yacht at sea, to avoid which capture he will have to be attended by an escort of ships. Poison, pistols, and explosives will occupy his thoughts awake and asleep. It is conceivable that this condition might bring about the return of circumstances which have long since been removed. The millionaires might purchase vast tracts of land—whole counties even—build castles and fortifications, maintain armed retainers, and set up mimic courts! Moneygrub, the billionaire, in those conditions, would be a much more powerful citizen than was any king-maker of the past.

* * * * *

The geology of "society" is a fascinating subject, and it is surprising that no writer before this has thought of it. In the process of development various layers have been formed, and in each of them—as in ordinary geology—are deposited the remains of extinct qualities. Sanctity, chivalry, loyalty, varying codes of honour, the "gentleman of the old school," and the "Early Victorian woman," are each to be found in the layers of the time in which they flourished. As in ordinary geology, there are the primary, secondary, tertiary, and quarternary epochs, each with its distinctive features, culminating in the creation of the millionaire, and the middle-class deluge! Our particular epoch is probably destined to add the billionaire and the blackmailer to the deposits, contributions which should interest greatly social excavators and philosophers of the distant future. What discussion it would arouse were the remains of a conscience discovered in our particular layer, and what plausible theories the discovery would disturb!

* * * * *

The successful draw us up to their level; the unsuccessful down to theirs.

* * * * *

Little minds pick little thoughts.

* * * * *

There is in each of us a resident doctor—nature or instinct, or a combination of both—who is the specialist on the particular constitution which has been entrusted to his care. He is ceaselessly at work, repairing here and preventing there, and ordering rest, abstention, or change of diet. The main features in the mechanism of all human beings are alike, but every constitution differs, and only this specialist knows the strength, weakness, and requirements of his particular patient. The ordinary doctor attends the patient, and, more or less, treats him as if he had no peculiarities—and how should he know them? The only way the latter can "consult" with the resident doctor is to discover what are the "instincts" of the patient, and these he generally ignores. Of course, allowances must be made for circumstances, but having taken those into account, there are always individual "instincts" which should act as guides. To order violent exercise to a patient who has always been inclined to be restful, cold baths to one who has throughout life had a distaste for them, early rising to one who is generally disposed to linger in bed, to endeavour to diminish stoutness or increase flesh in those who are naturally respectively stout or slim, are all treatments which—when contrary to the "instinct" or "nature" of those concerned—must frequently be injurious. These lines are not written to diminish the confidence which is accorded to the members of the medical profession, but to submit to them a suggestion which has obviously much in its favour, in the hope that they may develop it by the light of their superior knowledge, and, of course, without permitting themselves to be unduly influenced by present practice, which is subject to continual alterations.

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A little love goes a long way; occasionally it goes to the Divorce Court.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT was announced some time ago that My Pet II. would leave Newmarket early in January for France, and that he would be reserved for his engagements in that country. However, the horse is still at Newmarket, and if his owner is well advised he will let his colt run for the Two Thousand before sending him to France. My Pet II. has not grown much since the Newmarket Houghton Meeting, and he is certainly not such a good-looking animal as Sagamore, who would be first favourite for the Derby if Sir James Miller had lived. It is believed that both My Pet II. and Sagamore will discover themselves to be well endowed with stamina. The former is engaged in the Newmarket Biennial, but he is not likely under any circumstances to start for that race, as he would have to give a stone to Lord Falmouth's dark colt St. Martin. It is very likely that the Two Thousand will be an easier race to win than any of the French three-year-old stakes. There is always a strong disposition among sporting writers to depreciate foreign form, as to which they usually know very little indeed.

Lord Derby will begin next season with a stud of thirty-three racehorses in training. Of the older horses Gourd, Bridge of Canny, and Keystone II. are the most promising. Twelve months ago any one at Newmarket would have been astounded to hear that Keystone II. would win the Oaks and the Coronation Stakes, and that Bridge of Canny would secure nine races of the value of close upon £10,000. Until Keystone II. was entered for several races on the 1st she had no engagements for next season, as she was withdrawn long ago from the £2,000 stake at the Liverpool July Meeting. I do not believe that the Oaks winner will be found capable of staying the Ascot Cup course, but I shall expect her to win the Coronation Cup at Epsom if she is then in her best form. Bridge of Canny is entered for the Triennials at Newmarket and at Ascot, and he has a small engagement at the Newmarket First July Meeting. Olympian, colt by Orme out of St. Victorine, and Ste. Claire II., filly by Isinglass out of Santa Brigada (dam of Bridge of Canny), will probably turn out to be the best of Lord Derby's three-year-olds. Olympian made his début at Goodwood when palpably backward, and Bellavista gave him 6 lb. (including sex allowance), and defeated him by two lengths. At the Newmarket First October Meeting Olympian won the Boscawen Post Stakes, but the form was exceedingly moderate, and he could only beat Sixty by a head. Ten days later, at Kempton Park, Galvani defeated Olympian by a length and a half for the Imperial Produce Plate, the pair having met at even weights, and two days afterwards Major Loder's colt won the Middle Park Plate. The Kempton Park race was Olympian's best performance, and it was the more creditable, inasmuch as it was obvious that he still wanted time. This horse was heavily engaged when a yearling, and he is at present entered for nearly thirty races, his earliest engagement being the Craven Stakes at the first of the Newmarket Spring Meetings. He is entered for the Two Thousand, the Newmarket Stakes, and the Derby. Ste. Claire II. never ran last season, and the One Thousand is her first engagement as a three-year-old. She is entered for the Coronation Stakes at Ascot. The three-year-old relation to Keystone II. is Boulter's Lock, her half-brother, by St. Frusquin, but his two-year-old form was very moderate indeed. Lord Derby has fourteen two-year-olds, two of which are leased from Lord Stanley and three from Lady Meux. There is no relative to Keystone II. among the lot, but Bridge of Sighs is half-sister, by Isinglass, to Bridge of Canny. Pilgrim's Way is a filly by St. Frusquin out of Canterbury Pilgrim, and she certainly ought to race if there is anything in "running" blood; but her grandly bred half-sister, by St. Simon—Wife of Bath, ran twice last season as a two-year-old without winning. There is a half-brother, by Ladas, to Olympian, named Triumph II. Vedanta is own brother to Volodyovski. Gourd is a mare that is quite likely to win an important long-distance handicap, but it must always be remembered that she likes soft ground, and her performance at Derby in November showed that the going cannot be too heavy for her.

I am glad to see an excellent entry for the Buckenham Produce Post Stakes, to run at the Newmarket First October Meeting in 1909. There are twelve subscriptions, so that if every owner is represented in the race the stake will be worth £3,600. The King heads the list with three mares, all covered by Persimmon, one of them being Medora, dam of Zinfandel. Sir D. Cooper's lot includes Glare (dam of Flair), covered by Gallinule. Lord Derby has Broad Corrie, covered by Cyllene; Canterbury Pilgrim, by John o' Gaunt; and Glasalt, by St. Simon. One of Mr. A. James's three mares is The Gorgon (dam of Gorgos), covered by Cyllene. Mr. J. B. Joel's lot includes Golden Lassie, covered by Ayrshire; and Schoolbook, by Flying Lemur. The Duke of Portland is represented by Hattie, covered by William the Third; Mneme, by Flying Fox; and Ganderetta, by Carbine. Mr. Raphael has Cimiez, covered by Cyllene; and Skyscraper, by Isinglass. One of Mr. J. de Rothschild's is Pitti (dam of Beppo), covered by Robert le Diable. Mr. W. Hall Walker has Sand Blast (dam of Colonia), covered by Gallinule; and Lady Lightfoot, by Diamond Jubilee. The Duke of Westminster has Vampire (dam of Flying Fox), covered by William the Third; and Lowood and Gay Rose, both by Orme.

There are also good entries for the Ham Stakes at Goodwood (1909) and for the Gratwicke Stakes (1910). The latter event is named after Mr. Gratwicke, who was an intimate friend of the sixth Duke of Richmond, and the former is named after his place in Sussex, Ham Manor, near Angmering, which now belongs to Sir Henry Fletcher. The King has engaged Medora in both races, and his Majesty also has Amphora (covered by Flying Fox) in the Ham Stakes. Mr. L. Brassey has Winifreda (covered by King's Messenger) in the Ham, and Red Lily (covered by Robert le Diable) in the Gratwicke. Lord Derby has Canterbury Pilgrim in both races. The Duke of Devonshire has Burgonet, covered by Gallinule; and Rambling Katie, by St. Frusquin, in the Ham, and in the same race are the Duke of Portland's La Roche (covered by Isinglass) and Elizabeth Hardwick (by William the Third). One of the Duke of Westminster's is Kissing Cup, covered by Lord Bobs. The entry for the Gratwicke includes Lord Falmouth's Quintessence, covered by Cyllene; Lord Cadogan's La Figlia, by Flying Fox; Lord Harewood's Lighthead (dam of Minstead), by Phalaris; Duke of Portland's Gay Duchess, by William the Third; and Duke of Westminster's Westaria (sister to Flying Fox), by Avington.

There are 156 entries for the Gimcrack Stakes at York. This race is a sweepstake of £5 each, £3 forfeit to the fund, with £1,000 added. The conditions might easily be improved so as to render the race much more attractive to owners, without its involving any additional charge on the fund. Let there be an entrance of £3, to be the only liability if forfeit is declared by the first Tuesday in June, with a sweepstake of £10 or £15 each for every animal left in after that date. Mr. W. Hall Walker, who has now won this race two years in succession, is the largest subscriber, with six entries, and next come Lord Carnarvon and Sir R. B. Jardine with five each, and then Lord Derby with four.

There is a large entry of mares for the Convivial Produce Stakes at York, to run in August, 1909. Mr. Bass heads the list with Sceptre, covered by Cyllene. Sir R. B. Jardine's lot includes Baroness La Flèche, covered by Henry the First, the produce being entitled to a breeding allowance of 13 lb. This mare was purchased for 7,500 gs. last July at the sale of Mr. Musker's stud. One of Sir John Thursby's mares is La Sagesse, covered by John o' Gaunt. She was bought from the late Sir James Miller at Newmarket in December, 1905, for 2,500 gs.

Sir Edgar Vincent has at present ten horses in training at Newmarket, six of which are two-year-olds. Sir Edgar had a very useful two-year-old last season in Auber, who won five races value £3,919. He was sold at Newmarket last month for 2,000 gs. This animal was bred by Mr. Purefoy, and Sir Edgar Vincent purchased him at Doncaster as a yearling for 165 gs., so he proved a remarkably good investment. Angouleme, by Orion out of Angola, was beaten nine times last season, but on more than one occasion he ran respectably. It is believed that this colt will "go for" the Chaplin Stakes at the Lincoln Spring Meeting, and if he does start for that race he ought to win it if in form. Cyanean started four times last season without winning, but I hear that she has been looking and going well during the winter, and it is anticipated that she will win a good race as a five-year-old. I expect that when Cyanean does win again the course will be six to eight furlongs. She was a very smart two-year-old, but afterwards went amiss badly. She was bred by Lord Londonderry, and is own sister to Cynosure, the three-year-old colt for which the King paid 3,800 gs. as a yearling at Doncaster. Cynosure failed ignominiously last season, but he is quite likely to win a T.Y.C. race within the next few months. Sir Edgar Vincent will probably win a five furlongs scramble with Ulalume, who started nine times last season, her only success being in the Great Eastern Railway Handicap at the Newmarket First October Meeting, when she just beat Nero (who started favourite), having 11 lb. the best of the weights.

When writing, a fortnight ago, about M. E. Blanc's Derby colt, Ouadi Halfa, I stated that his dam, Yesterling, had been sold by Lord Clonmell to M. Blanc. This was a mistake. It was only the foal (Ouadi Halfa) that was then sold. Yesterling still belongs to Lord Clonmell, and she is now on a visit to Persimmon, the sire of Ouadi Halfa. Last season's yearling out of Yesterling was a filly by Flying Fox, which was sold at Doncaster to Captain Forester for 1,500 gs., and she was the highest priced lot among Lord Clonmell's team of seven.

There has been a deal of apple-blossom twaddle about the King's dark three-year-old, Perambulator, but, as I have before mentioned, nothing whatever is known as to this colt's capacity for racing. Some good judges at Newmarket are decidedly of the opinion that Lord Wolverton's Larig, by Florizel II. out of Pitcroy, will turn out to be the best of the Egerton House three-year-olds. Larig started twice last season—for the Princess Plate at the Newmarket First July Meeting, which race was won by Sagamore, and for the Dewhurst Plate. Lord Wolverton's colt, however, was then very backward. Larig's first important engagement is the Two Thousand, and he is also entered for the Newmarket Stakes and for the Derby.

The bookmakers did so well over the winter betting on last year's Derby that it is strange that they are not tempted to offer more reasonable odds against the nominal favourites for the race on June 5. The rates which have been quoted are preposterous, and only the most infatuated of mooncalves would dream of accepting such odds.

Slieve Gallion is an animal against which many people appear to be strongly prejudiced. He has been denounced as a rogue, and it is vehemently maintained that he will turn out a non-stayer. Nobody at present can possibly know whether he has or has not the stamina necessary to win the Two Thousand or the Derby, but when Slieve Gallion is abused because he was beaten by Galvani in the Middle Park Plate it really ought to be remembered that the colt had been seriously amiss from dental trouble before he went to Newmarket. The fact is that the only course in accordance with common sense is to ignore the Middle Park Plate running altogether in the case of Slieve Gallion. Captain Greer was very well advised in withdrawing his colt from the Dewhurst Plate, as he might have been irretrievably injured if he had been sent back to Newmarket to run for that race. It is to be feared that the majority of owners would have started Slieve Gallion for the Dewhurst Plate, to judge from the numerous indiscretions of this kind which have excited wonder and contempt during the last few years. Slieve Gallion was not stopped in the Middle Park Plate through lack of stamina, for a horse which has cantered away with the New Stakes at Ascot would certainly be able to "get" the B.S.C. at Newmarket. I hear that Slieve Gallion is a certain starter for the Two Thousand if he is then fit and well, the tale about his being reserved for the Derby being a fiction. It will add considerable interest to the Newmarket race if Mr. Raphael decides to start My Pet II., but, in the possible absence of that colt, Slieve Gallion's most dangerous opponents will be All Black, Linacre, Olympian, Dusty Miller, Simon Square, Baltinglass, Bezonian, the dark St. Martin, and possibly Larig or Perambulator. I do not believe that Traquair now has a 1,000 to 1 chance for either Two Thousand or Derby.

Polymelus appears to me to have been harshly treated in the Lincolnshire Handicap, in that he is made to give 10 lb. to Velocity, whereas in the Cambridgeshire the Irish horse was giving him 6 lb., and, as originally handicapped, the winner at Newmarket was made to receive 16 lb. from Velocity. Even if Polymelus accepts for the Lincolnshire Handicap there is not the very slightest chance that he will run for that race, as it would be utterly impossible for his trainer to get him properly fit by March 19. I do not for a moment believe that Mr. Joel will now "mess about" Polymelus in handicaps. The horse will probably be trained for the Coronation Cup at the Epsom Summer Meeting, but the race which will be the aim and end of his preparation will be the Princess of Wales's Stakes at the Newmarket First July Meeting.

Kaffir Chief has already been backed for the Lincoln race, but these early transactions now represent only the harum-scarum fancies of impetuous backers. Kaffir Chief has 7 st. 8 lb. to carry at Lincoln. In the Cambridgeshire he finished second (beaten three lengths) to Polymelus, who was giving him 2 st.! Any one who backs him for the Lincolnshire Handicap must be of the opinion that Polymelus could win that race with something like 11 st. on his back, taking a line through the Newmarket running. Kaffir Chief's form looks even worse when one remembers that in the Cambridgeshire he finished only a neck in front of Malua, who was giving him a year and 18 lb. Kaffir Chief won the Castle Irwell Handicap at Manchester in November, but he had a great advantage in the weights with those animals in the field which had shown good form, as Roseate Dawn was giving him 26 lb., and he was receiving 12 lb. from Dean Swift. According to the public running of Kaffir Chief he is a bad horse, and Cyclops Too (4 yrs., 6 st. 1 lb.) might turn out to be the best from this stable when they come to be galloped.

His Eminence, who has been a winter tip for this race, is by no means overweighted with 7 st. 11 lb., but he may be kept for the City and Suburban, and he ought to be left alone until it is certain that he will start at Lincoln.

Roseate Dawn has been entered for all classes of races, and for events run over every sort of distance. It will be interesting to see how many handicaps this horse accepts for.

I see it is stated that as Galvani is not engaged in the Two Thousand, Major Loder will therefore rely upon Weathercock for that race. There is not the slightest prospect of Weathercock being in proper racing condition by the end of April. Major Loder will no doubt depend upon Baltinglass in the Two Thousand, and it is quite on the cards that the son of Isinglass and Sibola may ultimately turn out to be his owner's best three-year-old.

There is something at once melancholy and grotesque about the desperate efforts of some of the sporting papers to get up a little excitement over the publication of the weights for the Spring Handicaps. Some amateur predictions have been discussed by these journals with ridiculous seriousness. The fact is that nobody cares a potato peeling about the weights in these days, excepting the few people who have backed horses in anticipa-

tion, and all such wagers are only on a trumpery scale. Betting some time in advance is absolutely dead, so far as large transactions are concerned, and stable commissions are now kept back until the latest possible moment.

Some sensational nonsense has gone round the press as to the intended activities of the Stewards of the Jockey Club, who are stated to have been aroused by the passing of the Street Betting Act and the action of the Anti-Gambling League, the result being that all the Clerks of Courses have been required to send in a full report of the receipts and payments at their meetings, including a list of salaries. This is a venerable order, which originated with Lord Durham when he held the office of Steward. He required the accounts of every race meeting to be submitted to the Stewards of the Jockey Club, the primary object being to ascertain whether the added money was sufficient, judged by the profits of the meeting. It was also desired to find out whether the rule which provides that no larger dividend than ten per cent. is to be paid to the shareholders of a race company has been strictly complied with. This last regulation applies only to companies which have been formed of late years, but all meetings are practically in the power of the Jockey Club if they infringe this or any other rule, as nothing can be more easy than to deprive an offending meeting of some of its days when the annual list of fixtures is drawn out. The Stewards of the Jockey Club have not made any fresh move whatever, and the drivel which has appeared on the subject is all nonsense and rubbish of the most imaginative kind.

Mr. W. Clark's Meadow Rue is by no means overweighted for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap with 6 st. 10 lb. This colt showed excellent form during the autumn. Mr. D. Baird was very badly advised when he let Meadow Rue go after the colt had won a selling race at the Derby September Meeting.

LAWN TENNIS, THE TRADE, AND THE POT-HUNTER.

Those who are interested in lawn tennis will remember that the All England Lawn Tennis Club, which holds the championship meeting at Wimbledon, recently announced that it was going to pay the full trade price for balls, nets, and the paraphernalia of the game. This course was the proper answer to the reformers who, under the cloak of principle, were making personal attacks. It is very pleasant to be virtuous and vindictive. In the course of the dispute it appeared that at lawn tennis tournaments the much-despised trade supplied balls at half the price at which the public can buy them, besides loaning tennis nets and posts, umpire seats, and so on, for practically nothing, and sometimes supplying labour for marking out the courts. I was anxious to see whether any other tournament committees would follow the lead of Wimbledon. At Surbiton, for instance, there is a tournament. The members of that club are simply embodiments of lawn tennis virtue. They were fearfully shocked at the immorality of Wimbledon in having a tradesman secretary of the club. It was naturally so upsetting to their sensitive suburban susceptibilities that I quite sympathise with them. But will Surbiton follow Wimbledon? Will the Northern Tournament committee, too, be virtuous, or will Mr. MacFie, the leader of reform, expect the trade to provide prizes now that this proposition for levying a tribute on the ball manufacturers has been knocked on the head? I very much fear that the conduct of Wimbledon will not be followed by other tournament committees unless the rules of the Association compel compliance. The simple reason is that tournaments could not pay their way unless they received the trade subvention. Now, the trade supplies the goods at a dead loss. But as business men, and not philanthropists, are at the head of the leading firms, it is only fair to surmise that what they lose on the swings they make up on the roundabouts. They no doubt find that these tournaments not only are a means of advertisement, but that the popularity of the game is increased, and thereby the output of materials is augmented. In this way they create markets for their wares. If this business did not pay them, they would not undertake it. If this support ceased, the standard of comfort that the present-day player of every class exacts would not be at his command. He would not have the unlimited supply of balls, the new nets and posts, and canvas round the courts. All this is his because of the trade subvention. These anti-trade reformers know as well as I do that these are the facts of the case. To talk of the duty of the Lawn Tennis Association to popularise the game is all nonsense. Without the manufacturers the Association would be powerless. The manufacturers are wise in their generation. They have created a class of players who, from the highest to the lowest, expect everything of the best. They are content with nothing less. They carry their exigencies into club and private life, and that is where the trade profit comes in. If you ask Jones, the local hero, who has never played in first-class company in his life, you must do him every honour. He has all the airs and graces of a champion. He eyes the balls that are provided, and bounds them, and feels them, as though he were an expert. He must have a new set of balls every time he comes to your court. If others are there beforehand, you protest that you are keeping the new balls until Jones comes, and it is felt that a very proper course is being pursued.

Now these lawn-tennis players have a very good time. One way and another they gather together a lot of prizes. The rules of the Lawn Tennis Association provide no limit as to the value of prizes. Championship trophies that may be won outright after two or three efforts may cost anything from £20 to £50. These prizes would not be offered if they did not attract crack players, who in their turn draw big gates. I have a shrewd suspicion that the players do not slaughter one another in the pursuit of these pots. If Brown is in the north, then White honours the south. I wonder what would happen if the Association passed a rule such as obtains at colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. There, if at athletics the runner wins a challenge cup outright, he can only retain it by providing one of equal value. It seems to me that a sport that is so dependent on trade support for its luxuries should be a little less lavish in its prizes. Further, the richer tournaments are by these means enabled to crush out the competition that might come about from smaller tournaments. Nor under the rules of the Association is there any limit to the value of the prizes in ordinary competitions. I would restrict their value very stringently. By this means the expenses of any tournament would be materially lessened. The pot-hunter would also be less in evidence. It is to my mind a most unsatisfactory feature of lawn tennis that these valuable prizes out of all proportion to the work that they entail should be offered. The fact that the donors have to rely on trade subvention to give them indicates that there is not the money to pay for them. Their existence makes the path of fresh tournaments a difficult one. The glamour of them may attract fresh players, but it must necessarily create a race of pot-hunters. Were it not that these valuable prizes abound, inter-club and inter-county competitions would become more popular. By means of such matches the standard of the game would be materially improved. But as things are at present it is far nicer to spend one's time in ornamenting one's sideboard than in playing for a county or a club. This question of the limitation of value of prizes and champion trophies is one to which the Lawn Tennis Association should immediately devote its attention.

It was with great regret that I read of the early death of B. Fletcher Robinson. He had played Rugby football for Cambridge University against Oxford in 1891-2-3. When at Jesus he edited the "Granta," and like many who were connected with that paper in its halcyon days he drifted into journalism, although he was called to the Bar. But then journalism was in the blood, for his uncle, Sir John Robinson, was editor of

the *Daily News*. He had been editor of the *Express*, *Vanity Fair*, and the *World*. He at one time thought of entering Parliament. He was very popular, especially at his club, the Reform. He was a tall, fair-haired, good-natured giant, ever ready to see the humorous side of affairs. He edited a manual on Rugby football, and his description of a match before a Yorkshire crowd is one of the best pieces of football writing that I know.

Last Saturday the nearest point at which Rugby football seems to have been practicable was the South Coast of Iceland, or the North Pole. But the frost did not interfere with the business of the Association game. In some places there was snow, in others the sun shone brightly. Everywhere there was frost and nearly everywhere big crowds. At Chelsea there were some 25,000 people present. A victory over West Bromwich meant that the local team would be pretty certain to go up into the First Division, and they won. Where the Crystal Palace had succeeded Woolwich Arsenal failed. Newcastle United beat them and so went a long way towards securing the League championship. In the Southern League Portsmouth strengthened their position at the top of the tree by just beating Watford, while Fulham, their most dangerous opponents, were beaten by Brentford after a fast game.

There has been a good deal of complaint lately in the football press about foul play on the part of professional teams, especially when an amateur is playing with them. I have been told that they resent the presence of a man who is taking the bread out of another professional's mouth. It is a matter of common knowledge that an amateur forward is often starved. Certainly all the trend of events is to exclude amateurs from the professional teams. It will soon be just as unlikely that an amateur will play in a league as that an amateur would take a leading part in a professional theatrical production. This exclusion of the amateur makes it all the more important that the Football Association should jealously safeguard his interests. With regard to rough, or rather, foul play, a player should be warned off at once instead of being warned.

There was some very slow play in the game between Dawson and Stevenson. They began with one set of balls, changed them, and then went back again to them on Friday, when big breaks were once more made. Stevenson in the end won easily as he scored very quickly when he once got going. With regard to Lovejoy's cannon record, I may say in answer to a correspondent that the position of the balls is far more difficult to get than in the case of the old spot stroke, and when obtained is so much more difficult to retain that I do not think that a rule similar to the spot-barred rule is likely to be brought in just at present.

MAMMON.

UNSATISFACTORY STOCK MARKETS—SHARP BREAK IN AMERICANS—HEAVY SELLING BY A LONDON OPTION DEALING FIRM—A NERVOUS SENTIMENT—HOME RAILS WEAK DESPITE GOOD DIVIDENDS—THE FORTHCOMING JAPANESE LOAN—KAFFIRS AND THE OUTLOOK.

CONDITIONS on the Stock Exchange during the past week cannot be described as satisfactory. The dominating influence has been the weakness shown by the American market, in which department sales were heavily pressed, and prices tumbled away with an unusual lack of resistance. In view of the long-continued boom in Yankee Rails and the defiance shown by Wall Street to the cautionary signals held out in the Money Market, the fall is only what had been regarded as inevitable by those acquainted with the position. Fortunately the account open here in Americans on behalf of the British public is almost a negligible quantity, although the liberal manner in which our bankers have accommodated Wall Street speculators must render London sensitive to any financial upset in New York. During the last few weeks the banks on this side have been discriminating against loans upon American scrip, and this step, which strikes one as rather belated, has probably had much to do with causing the break in prices, because of New York's unpreparedness to receive the large blocks of stock recently thrown back upon it from this side. Arising out of the recent difficulties in contangoing Americans there has been during the last few days free liquidation on behalf of a large Stock Exchange firm, which appeared to have been carrying a huge amount of stock against call options for which it was liable. As usually happens when sales are pressed by any single firm, rumours of impending trouble have been circulated, and the nervousness thus created has led to a fair amount of scattered liquidation throughout the House. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that prices have suffered without much regard to intrinsic merits. A striking instance of this latter statement is afforded by the events ruling in the Home Railway market. The half-yearly results declared by the trade lines, notably the North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and North Staffordshire, proved to be up to the best expectations, yet they failed to prevent stocks going back. The very illogicality of this movement, however, proves that the set-back can only be temporary, and it seems to me the present is an excellent opportunity for the investor. The yields on the best English Railway stocks range from 4 up to 4½ per cent., and with trade still active and traffics steadily expanding the market is bound to have its turn before long. The monetary situation here has already improved considerably during the last few weeks, and, while the uncertainty surrounding the position in New York makes it doubtful if any return to really easy conditions will be witnessed in the immediate future, the City seems to have surmounted the late period of abnormally high loan rates. At one time fears were expressed that high-class investment securities might be disturbed by sales on the part of insurance Companies in connection with losses incurred through the recent disaster to property in Jamaica. Anxiety on this score has, however, been relieved by the understanding that the insurance Companies will take advantage of the protection granted to them by the earthquake clause in their policies. Respecting inter-Bourse securities, the tendency has continued strong, thanks mainly to the support accorded from Paris. Berlin was disposed to stay her hand pending the result of the State elections, the excitement produced by which prevented the Bourse from deriving much benefit from the reduction to 6 per cent. announced by the Reichsbank in its discount rate. One of the most noteworthy features in the Foreign group of stocks was the influential buying of Japanese issues. There is no doubt that the Japanese £25,000,000 Loan for the Conversion of the Six per Cent. Customs bonds is in course of preparation, and this makes it probable that organised action will be taken to raise the existing Four per Cents., the quotation for which must, of course, govern the price at which the new scrip will be placed. As regards the Mining markets, the falling-off in the public inquiry for Kaffirs seems to have caused the controlling houses to withdraw support for the time being. Probably as soon as market conditions look more hopeful a fresh attempt will be made to awaken interest in this section. Within the next six weeks nearly £4,000,000 will be distributed in dividends on Kaffirs, and this should serve as a useful lever to the "shops."

HOME RAILS AND THEIR APPEAL TO THE INVESTOR—DISCUSSION OF THE DIVIDENDS—MODERATE PASSENGER RESULTS—EXCELLENT SHOWINGS BY THE TRADE LINES—THE "BERWICK" AND "POTTS" FINE RESULTS—GREAT CENTRAL'S SET BACK—METROPOLITAN'S MISFORTUNES—CENTRAL LONDON'S 4 PER CENT. RECORD UNBROKEN.

During the past week a great deal of history has been made in the Home Railway market, in connection with the declaration of results for the past half-year, but it has been unaccompanied by any increase in dealings. At the beginning of the Account the professionals ventured to lay in a little stock in expectation of a rally following the dividend announcements. Owing largely to the nervousness engendered by the liquida-

tion going on in neighbouring departments, their anticipations were not fulfilled, and many have cleared out in disgust. It is a spectacle that has been witnessed in this market at least a dozen times in the last three years. The dealers—and, indeed, all close observers of the Home Railway market—recognise that stocks are cheap on the basis of present yields and of the general outlook for trade and for the Money Market. On the other hand, the market has not yet lived down its long reign of unpopularity so far as the investing public is concerned, and so prices go on dwindling and yields increasing to a degree that would have been thought impossible a few years ago. Of course, I do not forget the one or two bright spots, such as Great Northern Deferred and Hull and Barnsley, that have stood out lately. My object is rather to emphasise the undue depression that still exists among Railway securities as a whole, and to draw attention to the unusual opportunity offered to the capitalist willing to exercise a little discrimination and patience. Taking a survey of the recent dividends, the outstanding feature, so far, has been the difference in the results achieved by the goods-carrying lines and those which derive the bulk of their revenue from coaching traffic. It was a foregone conclusion, in view of the moderate results achieved in the matter of gross traffics, that the Southern passenger systems would be unable to increase dividends, and the fact that two Companies—the Brighton and South-Western—have announced payments at reduced rates was not surprising, having regard, in the first case, to a large capital increase, and in the second to the cost entailed by the Salisbury accident. The Brighton Railway during the past half-year continued to suffer from the effects of tramway competition. Its receipts from passenger traffic slightly increased, but the number of passengers carried decreased by over a million to a total of 26¾ millions. Of its total gross increase of £17,100, as much as £14,000 was swallowed up in extra working expenses. The paltry addition thus shown in net revenue was, of course, not sufficient to allow of the dividend being maintained, seeing that £500,000 of Second Preference and a similar amount of Ordinary ranked for dividend this time as compared with the second half of 1905. The outcome is a reduction in the annual rate on Brighton Deferred of ¼ per cent., making 5 per cent. In declaring a dividend of 1¾ per cent. for the year upon its Deferred stock, as against 2 per cent. for the previous twelve months, the South-Western supplies the full explanation by stating that it has set aside £30,000 as a reserve for claims arising out of the Salisbury accident. This sum is within £3,500 of the amount that would be required to maintain the dividend. The carry forward at £32,000 is practically the same as a year ago, and, having regard to the moderate improvement in the published traffics, the Company has done as well as could be expected. The other leading passenger lines—the Great Eastern, South-Eastern and Chatham—have just been able to maintain dividends, though in the last two cases it was necessary to make a reduction in the carry forwards. Turning now to the results so far made known by the lines serving the Midlands and North, we are able to easily trace the good effect produced by the trade boom in the mineral and textile area. The North Eastern is paying at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half year, or ¾ per cent. more than at the corresponding period, while the Board is carrying forward £82,000, as against £49,000. The advance in the dividend and carry forward combined represents an addition to net revenue of £160,000. This is highly gratifying, particularly as there is reason to believe that the Company, in accordance with its traditionally conservative policy, has applied a considerable proportion of its additional gross receipts (estimated at £258,000) to betterments. The rate now declared makes the dividend for the full year 6⅛ per cent., as compared with 5½ per cent. for 1905. It is the best result shown by the North-Eastern since 1900, when 6⅜ per cent. was paid. In that year Berwicks moved between 159 and 177. The price, at the time of writing, allowing for accrued dividend, is only 142, which makes the yield 4¼ per cent.. On these facts the cheapness of the stock is self-evident. If the North-Eastern dividend may be accepted as a criterion of the other "Heavy" results the railway dividend season should wind up in a manner that will amply compensate for the tame performance recorded at the opening. Another excellent showing was that of the Lancashire and Yorkshire, which is distributing at the rate of 4¾ per cent., as compared with 4¼ per cent. a year ago, while slightly strengthening the balance forward. For the full year the dividend on "Leeds" is thus brought up to 4⅜ per cent., as compared with only 3¾ per cent. for 1905. Here again it is necessary to hark back to 1900 to equal such a result, and the research reveals the fact that in the year named the stock never went below 128½, and touched 147—values that make the present price of 105 "cum. div." look strange. The North Staffordshire has also justified the good opinion I formed of the Ordinary stock. Had the Board chose it could have paid at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, but it has prudently elected to strengthen the carry forward and to advance the dividend by ¼ per cent. to 4¾, giving 4⅜ per cent. for the whole year as against 4⅛ per cent. for 1905. North Staffordshire Ordinary is not one of the most marketable of Railway stocks, but, seeing that it can now be picked up at about par (allowing for accrued dividend), and that the yield is consequently 4⅜ per cent., it should command increasing attention from investors during the next few months. The "Potts," be it remembered, is one of the steadiest dividend-paying railways in the country. During the last ten years its distributions (with the single exception of 1901, when the rate was 3¾ per cent.) have fluctuated between 4 and 4½ per cent., the average for the decade working out at £4 4s. 3d. Turning to the dividend announced by the Great Central, the result has probably come as a disappointment to many people, because of the over-sanguine views that had been entertained regarding the immediate results likely to accrue from this Company's new lines. The recently opened Great Central-Great Western joint line viâ High Wycombe, while it offers big possibilities of future development, is for the present throwing a considerable burden upon the Great Central in the shape of extra capital charges and working expenditure, as well as the payment of a heavy rental to the Metropolitan. Hence it is not surprising that in spite of a published gain in gross receipts of £63,000, the Company's half-yearly result discloses a small decline in the divisible profit. It is true that the 1889 Preference will receive its dividend in full for the past year, as against only 3⅛ per cent. for 1905, and that 10s. per cent. will be paid for the year on the 1891 Preference against nil. But while these increases represent an extra distribution for the whole year of £24,000, it should be recognised that about £30,000 extra was distributed for the first half of 1906 alone. It follows, therefore, that in the past six months the balance of net revenue available for dividends on the Preference stocks was actually about £6,000 less than for the second half of 1905. This is the first check to the progress of recovering lost ground in the matter of dividends that the Company has suffered for many half-years, and the setback will probably have a salutary effect in modifying the absurdly extravagant "Bull" estimates that for some time have been circulated in regard to the Junior issues of the Company. In the Underground group outstanding weakness has again been displayed by Metropolitans, in consequence of the disastrous report for the half-year. This has proved too much for the patience of many old stockholders who had for years been holding on in hopes of a better state of affairs being inaugurated with the advent of electric traction. The collapse of "Mets" has been one of the most pitiful exhibitions witnessed in the Railway market of recent years. In the palmy days of 1898 the stock stood at 136⅞, and although "Tube" competition caused a fall to 70 in 1901, the confident hopes indulged in when it was definitely decided to electrify the line led to a sharp recovery, the stock standing at par only two years ago. How anticipations have been falsified

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is eloquently told by the fact that the price has since been cut in half, sales being made last week below 50. It is not only useless but unjust to blame the management; the Company's misfortunes are due, firstly, to the heavy capital cost entailed by converting the line from steam to electricity, secondly, to the loss of traffic entailed by the opening last April of the Great Central-Great Western joint line via High Wycombe, and, thirdly, to the inauguration of motor-'bus competition, which not only caused a heavy loss of local traffic but was partly instrumental in compelling the Company to reduce its fares. These are not evils which can be called transitory in their effect, though their influence is likely to be modified as time goes on. Some savings are to be expected this year in connection with the abolition of dual traction, and by means of an improved service the Company should win back a good deal of the traffic diverted to the Great Central-Great Western line, though at first the recovery on this account is likely to be gradual. Making all allowances, however, it is difficult to hold out hopes of any early recovery in "Mets.," indeed, it is doubtful if the stock has yet gravelled. Traffics are almost bound to continue showing heavy decreases until April, as up to that month they will run against the period that preceded the diversion of traffic to the Great Central new line. To pay 2 per cent. (which on the existing valuations for Home Railways should be forthcoming if the stock is to remain in the neighbourhood of 50) another £57,000 in net revenue is required, and where anything approaching this sum is to come from it is difficult to foresee. The Central London Railway, I am glad to observe, has not thought it advisable to depart from the pleasant monotony of 4 per cent. dividends. There was some doubt about the maintenance of the usual distributions, as the line—in consequence of the competitive motor 'bus—showed the proportionately big decline in its gross receipts during the half year of £8,200. This falling off has led to a reduction in the carry forward from £25,400 to £14,600, but the fact that the directors have permitted the balance to be drawn upon in this fashion suggests that they are fairly confident of being able to continue paying 4 per cent. Probably the Company has seen the worst of the omnibus competition, while on the other hand points that will tell favourably in the future are the growth of traffics from new "tubes" that will act as feeders, and the increasing revenue from "rents" of properties built over stations. The Central London is one of the few railways that is in the happy position of being able to defy competition. It has, perhaps, the finest route of any line in the world, and loss of traffic arising from the improved omnibus service is almost bound to be made up before long, because the population of London is ever growing. Below will be found my usual table:—

Home Rails	A Year Ago.	Make up, Jan. 14.	Closing Price, Jan. 19.	Closing Price, Jan. 26.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79½	73½	73½	73½	—
Do. Def.	41⅛	30	29⅞	29⅝	− ⅛
City and S. London	44	43½	44	44	—
Central London	96	83	82	80	−2
Great Central 94 Pref.	74	—	73½	68½	−5
Do. "B"	37¾	34¾	34¼	31¾	−2¾
Do. "A"	18⅜	16⅜	16¼	15⅞	− ⅜
Great Eastern	88½	82½	82¾	81½	−1
Great Northern Pref.	104½	101½	102	102	—
Do. Def.	40⅛	46½	46⅛	46⅛	—
Great Western	143½	133¾	133¼	132	−1¼
Hull and Barnsley	47	49⅜	50	49½	− ⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire	109½	104⅜	105½	104½	−1
London and Brighton "A"	130½	122	121	117½	−3½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅝	15⅞	15⅛	15½	+ ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	99	91½	92	90	−2
Do. 2nd Pref.	65	57½	58	57	−1
London and North-Western	161	153⅜	153⅜	153¼	− ⅛
London and South-Western Def.	56⅜	54½	53¼	52¼	− 1
Metropolitan Consolidated	86½	58½	54¼	49½	−5
Metropolitan District	35½	19	17½	16	−1½
Midland Pref.	69⅜	66½	66	65⅝	− ⅜
Do. Def.	74	67½	67	66½	− ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78½	74	74	74	—
Do. Def.	46⅞	39⅝	39¼	38	−1¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	146½	144	145	145½	+ ½
South-Eastern "A"	54⅛	49	47⅛	47½	− ⅛

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LIBERAL OFFERINGS OF CANADIAN PACIFIC—AN OVERWEIGHTED "BULL" ACCOUNT—GRAND TRUNKS DULL—THE BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR 1907—ARGENTINE RAILS AND EXAGGERATED STRIKE NEWS—ROSARIOS RECOMMENDED—TWO CHEAP FIXED INTEREST SECURITIES.

Canadian Pacifics have been the most prominent feature in the Stock Exchange during the last few days. For some months past a tremendous "Bull" account has been built up in these shares—largely on behalf of American operators—and the general liquidation lately commenced in New York has affected Canadas severely. On Saturday the price dipped below 186—a reduction of 22 points from the level touched a month ago. It is a pity that Canadian Pacifics should be so closely identified with the gambling methods of Wall Street, for a share of such high merit as an investment ought to be immune from speculative tactics that make it go up and down like a shuttlecock. The break recently witnessed is not connected with any change in the general outlook for the road, which remains very bright. It is true that the last two or three traffic returns have shown fair decreases, but the results may be put down to bad weather, and are not a criterion of what the line will do when the spell of snowstorms now being experienced in the Dominion has passed. In regard to the rumours emanating in New York that an issue of $25,000,000 new Common stock was under contemplation, an emphatic denial has been made at headquarters. The Company, it is stated, has not used any portion of the proceeds of the last issue, mainly because neither the material nor the men for the work could be secured, and therefore there is no present necessity for, or likelihood of, another issue. It is possible that the fall in Canadas may go further, for the "Bull" account is still understood to be very large; and accordingly, the market is worth watching by the investor wanting to get stock cheap. Grand Trunks have not shared with Canadas to anything like the same extent in the fall, prices merely easing off in sympathy with prices all round the House. The moderate dividend prospects in respect of the Third Preference—which are unlikely to get more than 2½ per cent. on account of 1906—have kept speculation in Trunks at a low ebb. It would not be surprising, however, if the market was shortly to take a turn for the better, for once February is passed, and the danger of serious trouble from blizzards is over, dealers will begin to pay more attention to the prospects for the current year, which are distinctly good. Traffic returns continue to show substantial expansion, and it is reasonable to expect that the Company will be able to make some reduction this year in the ratio of operating costs, if only on account of the fact that it will not again be hindered with the arrears of Michigan taxation. The speculative investor, therefore, who buys Trunk Thirds, ought to have no reason to complain, say, six months ahead. The Ordinary stands in a different category, for its dividend possibilities are still very remote. However, the stock is bound to move to some extent in sympathy with the senior issues, and the forthcoming opening of the Pacific road will keep interest in Little Trunks alive, seeing that the Grand Trunk Company holds all the Common stock of the new line, a possession of great potential value. In the Foreign Railway group Argentine issues have been subjected to some selling upon the strikes at Rosario, and rumours that the trouble was likely to spread to Buenos Ayres. So far as can be gathered the disturbances are not regarded with any apprehension in responsible quarters, and there has been evidence that the declines in stock have been taken advantage of by insiders to get stock cheap. The traffic returns of the leading Argentine Railways keep expanding in really astonishing fashion, and there is every reason to expect them continuing to do so, for the wheat harvest has been excellent on the whole, and the moving of the remainder of the crop will give the railways plenty to do until maize begins to come forward, usually about the beginning of April. It is too early yet to prophesy definitely about the maize harvest, but up to the present indications point to a larger yield

than in 1906. There have been the usual rumours about damage wrought by locusts, but these appear to be unfounded. Among the Ordinary stocks, Rosarios look especially promising. This is one of the few Argentine issues which offers scope for a higher dividend, seeing that it is still paying less than the 7 per cent. which is generally looked upon as the maximum the railways can distribute without invoking Government interference with tariffs. The report of the Rosario for the year is due shortly, and it should make very pleasant reading. It is not generally believed that the Company will increase its dividend in respect of the past twelve months, because for one thing it is desirous of first building up a strong reserve fund; and another thing, an advance in dividend before the Government gives its formal sanction to the amalgamation between the Rosario and the old Central Argentine would hardly be wise policy. Still the annual figures are likely to show that 8 per cent. has been earned, and that 7 per cent. could be paid after making fair provisions for reserves. Among Argentine Railway fixed interest-bearing securities there are two new ones that seem to have escaped the attention of many people. I refer first to the £10 shares of the Bahia Blanca and North Western Railway which bear interest at 4½ per cent., and are guaranteed by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway. As these can be obtained at par, and rank for interest after the Debenture stocks of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, there can be no question that they are a bargain. The other share to which I would draw attention is the £10 Preference issue of the Buenos Ayres Western. These shares also bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent., and can be bought at ¼ premium. Incidentally they look all the cheaper when compared with the same Company's £10 Five per Cent. Preference issue. This is quoted at £13, so that the yield is under 4 per cent. Of course, something has to be allowed for the fact that the banks will not lend upon partly paid securities, but this circumstance does not justify the present difference in yield of about ½ per cent. My table follows:—

—	A Year Ago.	Make-up, Jan. 14.	Closing Price, Jan. 26.
Canadian Pacific	179½	197½	187
Grand Trunks	26⅝	28½	28⅛
,, 4 per cent. Guaranteed	103¼	102½	102⅜
,, 1st Preference	117	119	120⅜
,, 2nd ,,	107½	110⅜	111½
,, 3rd ,,	61⅛	68	68⅝
Bengal and North-West	148	148	148
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	124	124	122½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	129	114½	112½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	133½	124	123
,, ,, 2nd Preference	109½	103	105
,, Great Southern	142	128	128
,, Western	138½	127½	128
Entre Rios Railway Preference	94	89	92
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	116¾	112	111
Cent. Uruguay Ordinary	92	93½	94½
Costa Rica Railway	—	27½	30
Mashonaland Railway Debentures, 2nd iss.	93¾	87	91
Mexican Railway	26⅞	47⅜	46½
,, 1st Preference	125¾	139	138½
,, 2nd ,,	54½	89¾	88
Nitrate Rails	14⅜	15¾	15⅞

AMERICANS STEADILY SOLD—HEAVY LIQUIDATION BY A LARGE OPTION DEALING FIRM—SOUTHERN PACIFICS AND SENSATIONAL DIVIDEND RUMOURS—PUBLIC DISTRUST OF WALL STREET—THE HEAVY NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME—A READJUSTMENT OF EXISTING VALUES INEVITABLE.

Another week of liquidation has been experienced by the American Railroad Market, and while the selling pressure has been unaccompanied by any outward signs of disorder, it is noteworthy that less resistance was offered to the decline than for some months past. So far as the general public in this country is concerned, a fall in Yankees is a matter of little direct interest, brokers having for years past reported a growing disinclination on the part of their clients to touch Americans at the greatly enhanced values established. At the same time the course of the market is being very closely watched by the City, for the leading monetary centres of the world are now so closely interlinked that any upheaval in Wall Street would be bound to react in some degree upon London. There has during the last few days been considerable selling on behalf of a leading firm on this side, which apparently had been carrying an uncomfortably overloaded book in connection with the purchase of stock against options. The commitments open in Pacific stocks were said to be enormous, while Eries, Missouris, and Steels also appeared to have been accumulated with no sparing hand. Owing to the discrimination directed by the bank against Americans at the end of last year, this firm seems to have had great difficulty in obtaining carrying-over facilities for its heavy commitments, and at the last settlement matters are said to have reached a crisis—the outcome being seen in the persistent liquidation that has since been going on. A large proportion of the account is believed to have been taken "firm" by a leading New York house, doubtless to be nursed along with other big lines of stock until the first favourable opportunity for realising. Such an episode as this does not make for a more stable market, and, moreover, there is reason to believe that it is merely typical of what has been happening pretty frequently in Wall Street of late. It must not be too readily assumed that the liquidation made so much of lately has been of a character tending to restore the market to health. Liquidation that reduces the account carried on borrowed money and distributes stock amongst real investors is quite a different thing from the liquidation that simply involves the passing on of stock from one speculative group to another, and, unfortunately, it is the latter sort that we appear to have been witnessing. For some time past, indeed, New York financiers appear to have been kept busy taking in one another's washing. The public in the United States, owing to the demands made upon their resources in connection with the financing of their own growing businesses and to a number of other reasons, have for many months given little support to stocks. The action of Mr. Harriman and his friends in springing the Union and Southern Pacific dividend surprise upon the market was doubtless intended as a bold bid for public support, but, if so, it signally failed, and the criticism that such action aroused has turned what was meant to be a bait for the investor into a warning signal. During the past week reports have been going around that Mr. Harriman is preparing a surprise for the market that will even eclipse the episode of August last. The story is that the dividend on Southern Pacific due to be declared at the end of the month will be at the rate of 6 per cent. (as compared with nothing at this time a year ago and 5 per cent. last autumn), and that a further advance to 8 per cent. is contemplated for August. The report is coloured by the rumour that some fancy prices have been given for the call of the shares to September next. This is extraordinary enough to be regarded as absurd were it not that Harriman finance has been nothing else but extraordinary for some time. If the rumoured advance be made, it may, and probably would, cause a firework display in the market, but the good effect would be brief, and would be succeeded by an intensified distrust of Wall Street methods. For the present one would have thought the Union Pacific group had obtained notoriety enough in connection with the investigation now being made before the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The market has not yet got over the shock occasioned by the enormous stock operations conducted by Mr. Harriman, acting on a minute of the Board of Directors authorising him to pledge the credit of the Union Pacific for any purpose that seemed good to him. It was brought out in the evidence before the Commission that the Union Pacific had since June last bought, directly or through the Oregon Short Line, over $100,000,000 stocks of other railway Companies, including $28,125,000 Illinois Central stock, $39,500,000 Baltimore and Ohio, $14,285,000 New York Central, and several millions of Atchison, Milwaukee, and Chicago North-Western. The revelation of such widespread power placed in the hands of one man must surely suggest that the community of interest principle has been allowed to run to extremes, and it is probable that the evidence now being sifted will form the basis for legislative action to restrict the ability of railroad Companies raising funds for the purpose of buying up

other Companies' stocks. Meanwhile, apart from the public distrust in the market leaders, monetary conditions are likely to continue a powerful "Bear" influence. The rapid expansion of trade in the United States is compelling the railroads to raise fresh capital for the purpose of building extensions and providing equipment, and it is difficult to see how new issues are to be placed in the present congested state of the New York Money Market without lowering prices of existing stocks. Mr. James J. Hill's recent assertion that the new capital requirements of the railroads would involve an annual expenditure during the next five years of $1,100,000,000 is perhaps a little hard to swallow, but, so far as the current year alone is concerned, the estimate looks like being under, rather than over, the mark, for a calculation just made shows that the capital authorised or issued recently amounts already to nearly a billion dollars. Several of the larger Companies, by issuing stock in "bonus" form —that is, by offering it to existing proprietors at considerably under the market value of the old—have managed to obtain the capital they needed, but the difficulty of getting new stock placed is increasing, and one or two Companies are attempting to raise the wind by the issue of short term notes. This form of borrowing is especially objectionable; it only tends to pile up the load of securities carried by the banks and trust Companies—for short-dated bills are not suitable for the public—and must, if carried to excess, inevitably lead to a crisis. The power of the railroad magnates—who also control the principal banks—and the intrinsic merits undoubtedly possessed by the leading railroad stocks render it unlikely that there will be anything in the nature of a panic, but a readjustment of existing values cannot be avoided. After all, the combination does not exist, in Wall Street or anywhere else, that can resist the power of the law of supply and demand. To be attractive to the public here the yields on stocks must be increased, and they cannot be legitimately increased, as a rule, by the payment of enlarged dividends, because while gross earnings are still increasing, expenses are going ahead at a faster ratio on account of increased capital, and big advances in the cost of materials and labour. The only alternative, then, is a lower level of prices for stocks, and towards this a fair start has already been made, as may be seen from the following table:—

—	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Closing Price, Jan. 12, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 19, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 26, 1907.
Atchison	114⅛	89	109	107½	106⅛
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	104½	104½	104
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	129½	109⅞	122¾	120⅞	120
Chesapeake and Ohio	68¼	54	55½	52½	53¼
Denver	52½	38⅝	41½	39½	39½
Do. Pref.	93⅞	86	85⅝	84½	84
Erie	52½	40⅜	43½	39½	40
Do. First Pref.	85½	77	77½	74⅝	75½
Louisville	160⅜	143⅜	147	143	145
Milwaukee	204½	162½	159	152	157½
Mis., Kan., and Texas	45⅜	31⅞	40⅜	38⅛	38½
Norfolk Pref.	96⅞	91½	93	92	90
Do. Common	100⅜	87½	93½	90½	90
New York Central	159½	130⅜	136½	131½	132½
Ontario	57⅛	45½	47½	46⅛	46
Pennsylvania	75⅜	63⅜	70½	69	69
Reading	85⅜	59⅞	70½	66½	65½
Southern Common	43⅞	33	32½	29½	29
Do. Pref.	105	97	95	88½	90
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64½	95⅜	95⅜	97
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	184⅝	180½	179⅜
Do. Pref.	101⅜	95	96	96	95
Wabash Pref.	53⅜	42⅜	37½	35	35½
Do. "B" Debentures	87⅛	78½	78	76	76
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	52⅛	33⅞	50½	47⅞	47⅜
Do. Do. Pref.	117	102⅜	109½	107⅞	109

WESTRALIANS REMAIN QUIET—OROYA AND BOULDER RUMOURS UNCONFIRMED—L. AND W. A. EXPLORATIONS AND LAKE VIEWS.

The activity in Mining descriptions has not yet spread to the Westralian market. Except in a few specialties business here is very limited, but the condition of the market is such that a transaction in a small number of shares usually causes a movement in the quotation. Were a brisk demand to arise, prices would be likely to rapidly advance, as dealers in this market are in very short supply of most of the shares. A rumour as to a breakdown of the Great Boulder mill caused a relapse in the price of those shares, but the story lacks confirmation, as does the rumour I referred to last week with respect to a favourable development in the Oroya Brownhill. There has been a fair amount of business in London and W.A. Explorations, in view of the Company's large holding in the Zinc Corporation, and the relapse in the latter naturally caused a decline in the price of the former. The L. and W.A. Exploration Company's report is expected to be issued at the end of February or the beginning of March, and it is confidently anticipated that it will herald the return of the Company to the list of dividend-payers. It will probably be found that the average cost of its large shareholding in Zincs is about half the current market quotation for those shares. Another Westralian Company with a Broken Hill interest is the Lake View Consols, which holds a large number of Broken Hill South Blocks. The latter have been more active the last week or so, and according to well-informed people the price is likely to materially advance in the course of the next few months. An important point in favour of the South Blocks is that its property adjoins the South mine. The ore developed in the bottom level of the latter is the highest grade as yet encountered in this property, and the South's ore bodies are all dipping into the South Blocks. Any material advance in Broken Hill South Blocks—which any time now is likely to start production—is likely to be reflected by Lake Views. Among the "Little Kangaroos," Chaffers are receiving attention, in view of the news from the mine. The Company is cross-cutting to prove the lode which was located by the diamond drill at a depth of 1,700 ft., and the manager has cabled that in view of the appearance of the country rock, he thinks they are in close proximity to the lode. As regards the financial position of the Company, it is stated that about £37,000 of its £100,000 capital is still intact. Deep Leads descriptions are inactive, but are likely to come into favour again as the time specified for the Loddon Valley to enter the wash in the deepest part of the ancient river bed draws near. My table of quotations follows:—

—	1900 High.	1906. High.	1906. Lowest.	Make-up Jan. 11, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 19, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 26, 1907.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	3	1½	1⅝	1½	1⅝
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	8⅜	1⅜	⅛	1⅜	1¼	1⅜
Brownhill Ext.	3⅜	12/6	4/6	7/6	7/6	7/6
Cosmopolitan	30/3	8/3	3/6	4/-	5/9	4/9
Golden Horseshoe	15	6¼	4⅜	6	5½	5⅝
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	25/-	20/3	25/6	25/6	25/-
Do. Perseverance	13½	13/-	7/3	8/3	8/-	8/-
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅛	6⅜	2¼	2⅛	2⅜	2½xd
Hainault	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜
Ivanhoe (£)	15½	7⅜	6⅜	7⅛	7½	7⅜
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅜	12¾	8⅜	12¼	11¾xd	11½
Lake View Consols	5⅜	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅝	21/10½	8/6	20/9	1⅜	21/
Oroya Brownhill	—	3½	2	2⅛	2½	2⅜
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2⅛	1⅛	1⅞	1⅞	1⅝
South Kalgurli	6½	1⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜

KAFFIRS LESS ACTIVE BUT FIRM—PRINCIPAL MINES' RESULTS IN 1906—DEEP LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS —DE BEERS AND PREMIERS.

Although the activity in Kaffirs witnessed during the first days of the current year has not been maintained, no serious relapse in prices has occurred. As the settlement now in progress approached there were realisations by those who had speculated for a quick turn, and in addition there was some liquidation said to be on behalf of a large option-dealing firm which had lately had extensive commitments in Yankees. The shares which came on the market, however, were easily absorbed, and on any relapse in prices buyers have come forward. This indicates that the Kaffir market is in a healthy condition, which is more than could be said for other sections which, with Kaffirs, have been receiving most speculative attention of late. The carry-over on Monday was easily arranged, and a favourable feature in connection with the settlement is that a fair

amount of stock is being taken off the market. After a period of "marking time," Kaffirs will, it is anticipated, resume an active appearance, and unless conditions alter materially in the meanwhile, the fresh upward movement will start on a firm basis. A good deal of interest is naturally being evinced in regard to the Transvaal labour question, as so much depends upon how the matter is settled. At the meeting of the Van Ryn Company last week—this is one of the few Rand Companies which hold their meetings in London—the principal speakers had a good deal to say on the point. It is worthy of note that the views they expressed are in agreement with the opinion generally held in market circles, namely, that with responsible government in the Transvaal, the one remaining cloud, the uncertainty of the outlook as regards the supply of unskilled labour for the mines, will be satisfactorily cleared away. Mr. Leopold Albu, who should certainly have a good idea of the feeling in the colony, is strongly of opinion that the labour question, on which the prospects of the mining industry so largely depend, will be satisfactorily and definitely settled at no distant date. As Mr. Albu pointed out, the policy declared by the leaders of Het Volk—that it is opposed to the repatriation of the Chinese at work on the Rand until their place can be filled by Kaffirs or some other suitable substitute—is the identical policy of the mining industry. Pending the settlement of the labour question, some encouragement is to be derived from the results achieved by the principal producing mines during the past year. The official monthly statistics for the whole of the year being to hand, it is possible to gain a clear impression of the progress made. In the following table are given the results for 1906 of the leading mines which also contributed to the output during 1905:—

MINE.	1906.		1905.	
	Ore Milled.	Profit.	Ore Milled.	Profit.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Angelo	257,182	227,261	146,867	165,188
Bonanza	71,360	78,856	103,173	108,329
City and Suburban	298,800	202,655	282,200	179,459
Consolidated Langlaagte	220,611	66 014	137,090	36.267
Consolidated Main Reef	215,209	92,853	192,011	98,162
Crown Deep	341,464	243,100	331,667	246,356
Crown Reef	242,376	278,759	231,310	302,423
Driefontein	235,168	58 003	233,735	167,615
Durban Deep	128,177	17,950	114,430	47 608
Ferreira	252,445	351,104	237,500	312,827
Ferreira Deep	251,721	377,653	210,484	339,250
French Rand	217,000	50,691	180.550	18,362
Geldenhuis Deep	303 325	159 200	281,785	196,304
Geldenhuis Estate	203,681	183,790	195,603	183.630
Ginsberg	92,947	24,147	86,418	42,197
Glencairn	184.532	66,166	167,868	57,827
Glen Deep	212.902	104,800	183,230	95,447
Jumpers	135,916	73,613	134,674	44,003
Jumpers Deep	214,739	31,200	188,338	9,680
Knight's Deep	317,480	153,147	261,136	90,740
Lancaster	179,589	26,819	146,199	13,075
Lancaster West	78,073	22,354	77,564	33,674
Langlaagte Deep	265,460	88,100	235 502	82,807
Langlaagte Estate	340,945	152,600	314,068	114,331
May Consolidated	167,970	146,490	163,430	139,742
Meyer and Charlton	149,165	115,720	128,630	96,178
New Comet	224,220	82,812	169,887	66,613
New Goch	227,524	78,945	105,650	2,768
New Heriot	111,165	59 919	108,685	39,844
New Kleinfontein	378,519	176,772	286,372	82,347
New Modderfontein	177,573	59,884	113,421	43,260
New Primrose	202 749	181,141	201,958	166,107
New Rietfontein	149,319	139,472	88,188	85,890
New Unified	101,552	6,160	106,232	21,075
North Randfontein	178,854	92,600	175,675	77,287
Princess Estate	84,358	33,390	74,936	6,359
Robinson	362,367	638,479	328,230	542,534
Robinson Central Deep	201,095	368,445	149,130	248,647
Robinson Deep	383,347	427,001	337,530	372,644
Robinson Randfontein	181,246	63,170	175,829	62,170
Roodepoort Central Deep	92,844	32,021	88,087	29,980
Roodepoort United	132,517	64,824	103,301	61,956
Rose Deep	315,650	138,850	304,353	140,397
Salisbury	64,150	17,493	64,650	20,787
Simmer and Jack	673,684	434,233	609,967	331,697
South Randfontein	174 892	66,050	165,315	69,820
Treasury	99,753	10,977	89,928	50,330
Van Ryn	266,980	186,402	263,780	142,311
Village Deep	279,861	71,086	159 687	43,788
Village Main Reef	394,498	241,956	290,995	172,250
Witwatersrand Deep	335,880	212,709	243,017	123,444
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	374,000	142,462	287,740	61,062
Wolhuter	179,900	59,194	121,825	40,755

The above table includes fifty-three mines, and it will be seen that thirty-eight of them, or rather more than 70 per cent., made larger profits in 1906 than in the preceding year, the aggregate increase in net revenue amounting to £1,467,677. On the other hand, the profits of fifteen mines were lower by £352,222 than in 1905, leaving a balance to the credit of the past year of well over a million sterling. Providing the anticipations of a satisfactory settlement of the labour question are fulfilled, the aggregate results will in all probability be still better in the current year. To revert to the market position, a point of some importance to be noted in connection with the outlook is that a large sum of money is about to be distributed by South African Mining Companies, and it may reasonably be expected that a fair proportion of this money will come back into the market for re-investment. In course of the next month or six weeks thirty-eight Companies will distribute among their shareholders amounts ranging from £16,735 in the case of the Glynn's Lydenburg to £875,000 by the De Beers Consolidated Mines, and in all, these dividends aggregate nearly four millions sterling. The list is as follows:—

Company.	Amount per Share.	Total amount £	Company.	Amount per Share.	Total amount £
Apex	4/3	33,509	New Modderfontein	4/-	60,000
Bonanza	2/6	25,000	New Primrose	10/-	162,500
City and Suburban	5/-	85,000	New Rietfontein	3/-	91,512
Consolidated Main Rf.	1/-	39,402	Nigel	3/-	33,465
Crown Deep	8/-	120,000	North Randfontein	2/-	45,000
De Beers Deferred	17/6	875,000	Nourse Mines	2/6	84,375
Ferreira	30/-	142,500	Porges Randfontein	2/-	50,000
French Rand	1/-	25,700	Rand Mines	3/-	269,393
Geldenhuis Deep	4/-	60,000	Robinson	11/-	302,500
Geldenhuis Estate	8/-	80,000	Robinson Central Deep	8/-	176,000
Glencairn	1/-	27,500	Robinson Deep	3/6	171,500
Glen Deep	1/6	45,000	Robinson Randfontein	2/-	60.000
Glynn's Lydenburg	2/-	16,735	Rose Deep	2/-	42,500
Jumpers	7/-	35,000	Simmer and Jack	1/-	150,000
Langlaagte Estate	2/-	47,000	South Randfontein	2/-	45,000
May Consolidated	4/6	64,968	Transvaal Coal Trust	1/-	25,0 0
Meyer and Charlton	6/-	30,000	Village Main Reef	4/-	94,400
New Heriot	2/6	20,101	Witwatersrand(Knight's)	3/-	61,875
New Kleinfontein	3/-	135,000	Witwatersrand Deep	5/6	137, 00
Total		£3,939,935			

Of this large sum the principal "Trust" Companies will absorb a good share—the Consolidated Gold Fields, for instance, will take about half the Simmer and Jack's distribution, and a large portion of that paid by the Knight's Deep—but British and Continental holders of Kaffirs will still share a large amount, and no doubt they will use at any rate a fair proportion of it to add to their interests in this market. While outcrop descriptions are not devoid of attraction, there is an impression in market circles that Deep Levels are more likely to attract speculative attention in the early future. This view is based to some extent on the fact that in respect of many mines of this class prospects cannot be so accurately gauged as in the case of the majority of outcrops which have been at work, some of them for many years. In other words, there are "possibilities" which give scope for speculation. Moreover, interest in Deep Levels has just been stimulated by borehole results announced by the South Rand Company, and by talk of an amalgamation of that property with the Crown Deep and the deep-level claims owned by the Crown Reef. Some time ago an arrangement was made for the Crown Deep to continue its shafts on the incline to the boundary of the South Rand property to test the value of the reef at that point. The reef series has now been struck, and the assays of the diamond-drill cores, just reported, are very satisfactory. Official confirmation of the report as to an amalgamation is not forthcoming as yet, but it would not surprise me if a scheme were put forward sooner or later. Messrs. Wernher Beit are interested in each of the three Companies named, the Ecksteins are interested in the Crown Deep and the South Rand, while the Consolidated Gold Fields is interested in the South Rand only. The last-mentioned concern, having exhausted its capital, has been financed by the Consolidated Gold Fields and Rand Mines, the latter, according to its last annual report, holding more than half the shares issued by the South Rand Company. Rand Mines at the end of 1905 also held more than half the Crown Deep's share capital, and providing its interests in these two concerns have not been materially reduced, the development now announced is to be regarded as a "Bull" point for speculators in Rand Mines shares. Favourable reports are also current as to the position of other deep-level mines, Rose Deep and Ferreira Deep being specially mentioned. Amalgamation of the Jupiter and Simmer West is under consideration, and providing the terms finally decided upon are mutually satisfactory, the project would seem a desirable

one, especially as the properties of the Companies concerned have for a long time been connected underground by various levels, and have been worked practically as one concern. In the Diamond group New Vaal Rivers keep fairly active, but De Beers and Premiers have come in for chief attention during the past week. In connection with the talk as to the De Beers Board intending to redeem the outstanding debentures it is suggested that a fresh issue of Deferred shares will be made to provide the requisite funds. According to one market statement, 100,000 Deferred shares will be issued at £20 each. The amount thus raised would, however, only be sufficient to redeem about one-half the Debenture debt. Another rumour credits the Board with an intention to offer 160,000 Deferred shares to shareholders for subscription at £25 each. Such an issue would raise enough to redeem the whole of the Debentures, but whether this rumour is any better founded than the other remains to be seen. As the settlement approached De Beers were pressed for sale in connection with the liquidation of large options entered into for the past account, but the price has picked up again, and in some quarters it is still thought that the shares will soar to £30 apiece. Jagersfontein also gave way on sales in connection with options, but have since displayed a rallying tendency, and will no doubt continue to move in sympathy with De Beers. Premiers have been weak, and it is said the shares have been attacked by the same "Bear" operators who were active in a like manner in the early part of the past year.

RHODESIANS UNDECIDED—CHARTERED A FIRM SPOT—OPTIMISTIC REPORT ON THE COUNTRY'S PROSPECTS.

Pending a revival of speculative interest in Rhodesian descriptions which it is thought will not be long delayed, prices move within narrow limits in sympathy with the leading Kaffirs, and the past week has witnessed little change in quotations, as the following table demonstrates:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1906.	Closing Price, Jan. 19, 1907.	Closing Price, Jan. 26, 1907.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	1	13/16	13/16
British S. Africa	6,000,000	6,000,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1¾	1 15/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	201,000	1	f.p.	13/9	4/6	4/-
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 5/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	228,000	1	f.p.	2½	1½	1 3/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	398,976	1	f.p.	1¾	9/6	9/6
N'rth'n Copper(B.S.A.)	250 000	178,000	1	f.p.	2 5/8	1 1/8	1 3/16
Rhodesia, Ltd.(New)..	500,000	166,667	1	f.p.	15/16	¼	¼
Rhodesia Expl.	225,000	253,231	1	f.p.	3½	2½	2½
Rice Hamilton	175,000	136,077	1	f.p.	1¾	7/8	7/8
Selukwe	1,000,000	538,000	1	f.p.	8/-	6/-	6/-
Tanganyika Conc.	264 600	234,000	1	f.p.	8 5/8	6 1/8	6 3/8
United Rhodesia.....	750 000	660,900	1	f.p.	5/6	2/9	2/9
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	16/-	9/6	9/-
Zambesia Explor.	450,000	439,615	1	f.p.	2⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16

However, Chartered continue to be watched with a good deal of interest, and on any relapse buyers come forward, the expectation being that the forthcoming report will give a fillip to the Company's shares and to those of other Rhodesian concerns also. Meanwhile encouragement is to be derived from the cable received from Mr. Percy Inskipp, who is at present in Rhodesia. He is optimistic as to the prospects of the country. He reports that the acreage under cultivation shows a very large increase, and that a record season is anticipated. He adds that "the development during the past six months, both in mining and agriculture, is remarkable." This glowing report from Mr. Inskipp strengthens the belief that the forthcoming report of the Chartered Board will provide more pleasant reading for shareholders than any of its predecessors.

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY, LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

WEST AFRICANS REVIVE—WASSAU DEVELOPMENTS—RELAPSE IN ZINCS—UNFOUNDED "SCARE" RUMOURS—COPPERS LOWER—SIBERIANS DULL.

A little renewal of interest is to be noted in the West African market, which for some time has been in a more or less stagnant condition, while other sections have been enjoying increased activity. The inquiry for Jungles during the past week has not resulted in any material improvement in quotations, but any recovery is likely to be very welcome to tired holders of shares of this class who have received so many disappointments. Encouragement is now derived from the fact of the latest Wassau progress report showing a marked improvement in values in the lower levels. This is all the more welcome, as the returns the Wassau has made since it resumed crushing a few months ago have been very poor, and have probably done as much as anything to check speculation in West Africans generally. The market has also derived a little satisfaction from the announcement that the Abosso has resumed crushing. It will be remembered that milling at this mine was interrupted by an accident, a rush of water from the old workings flooding the mine up to the No. 5 level. Option money has been offering on West Africans for the end-March account, which would indicate that there is a belief that interest in this market is likely to broaden in the immediate future. But for the lack of influential backing such as Kaffirs have, Jungles would probably not have languished for so long. As regards the Broken Hill group, business has continued active, but prices have suffered a relapse. The chief set-back has been experienced by Proprietaries and Zincs. In each of these shares a big "Bull" account had been built up, and consequently they were specially susceptible to any adverse influence. In the case of Proprietaries, sales against options which matured on Saturday caused a sharp break in the quotation, while Zincs were affected by several influences. Adverse rumours as to the Corporation's position and its new plant have been freely circulated, but the weakness of the shares has been due rather to the market position than to any fresh development in connection with the affairs of the Company itself. Heavy profit-taking sales on behalf of clients by a prominent firm gave rise to nervousness among the dealers interested, and this feeling was accentuated by the adverse rumours put in circulation. As a matter of fact, however, these rumours are unfounded. The story of the Corporation having no funds is absurd, as there still remains uncalled a large proportion of the money represented by the issue of new shares at 25s. each, and in all, I understand, the Company has £150,000 available resources. That the process employed for extracting the zinc from the tailings is a failure is disproved by the fact that a portion of the new plant which has been brought into operation has, despite difficulties which will ultimately be overcome, given an extraction equal to official anticipations. Moreover, the Corporation is not limited to the use of one process. As to the plant itself, there has been some difficulty in getting it into proper working order owing to the non-delivery of special machinery, but the manager, who is a metallurgical expert of high standing, is confident that the difficulties will be rectified in the course of a few weeks. Last week I suggested, in anticipation of some profit-taking, that intending purchasers of Zincs might, by waiting a little, be able to purchase to better advantage, and the hint has been justified by events, but it must not be assumed that I consider the prospects of the enterprise unfavourable. On the information available the shares appear a promising holding, and they are, of course, of a less speculative nature than ordinary mining shares, as the material the Company will deal with will be already on the surface. In some quarters, however, determined opposition has been and is being shown towards the undertaking. Attempts have frequently been made to frighten holders into selling their shares, and all sorts of "scare" rumours have been invented. Yet so far as I can learn there is not a big "Bear" position in the shares, so that those who have been so actively engaged in propagating false rumours to create an unfavour-

able impression as to the character of the undertaking have evidently not had the courage to act in accordance with their professed views. It has been suggested to me that the strong prejudice displayed by some market men is the outcome of either a feeling of ill-will towards the people in control of the Zinc Corporation or of interest in some rival scheme. Very likely there is something in both these suggestions, and considering all the circumstances I think that those who have disregarded the attempts made to scare them into throwing their shares on the market will have reason to feel satisfied at no very distant date. Even the recent batch of rumours I have alluded to above did not disturb the public to any extent; on the contrary, I am informed that on the relapse in the quotations buying orders came in from the provinces. This sign of confidence in the future of the undertaking should not be lost sight of by those who may be "Bearing" the shares, or they may find themselves in an unpleasant situation before very long, as did those who persistently "Beared" Oroyas a few years ago. With the two most active shares, other members of the Broken Hill group sympathetically weakened, but it is expected that the Account which has just opened will witness some recovery. Realisation has also been in progress in the Copper group, especially in the Australian issues which have come into prominence during the last few months, and in which a big "Bull" account has been built up. Mount Lyells have given way with other things, but in view of the continuance of satisfactory news as to the development of the North Lyell mine at depth it is thought Mount Lyells will be one of the first to substantially recover, and in the market it is confidently predicted that the price will reach £3 before very long. One or two interesting announcements have to be noted in connection with Siberian descriptions. The Directors of the Orsk Goldfields have issued a statement on the "titles" question to the effect that the Russian Ministry of Finance has officially notified the Company that on December 30 last the Company was formally authorised to hold and to work its mines in its own name. This announcement, however, had only a slight and temporary beneficial effect upon the shares, the general tendency of which, in common with that of the majority of the group, has been in the downward direction. Siberian Props made up on Monday 5¼ lower than at the previous carry-over, and already show a decline on the current account. Of the Indian Gold shares, Coromandels are now quoted at only a few pence, in consequence of the proposal to reconstruct for the fourth time. Shareholders meet to-day to consider the scheme, which involves a fresh liability of 6s. 8d. per share. As it is proposed to expend the money raised on a new property in the Dharwar district, the proprietors may feel more disposed to put their hands in their pockets again than if they were asked to pursue a forlorn hope in further developing their old property on the Kolar field. Appended is a table of prices:—

—	Denomination of Shares.	Closing Price, Jan. 19.	Closing Price, Jan. 26.
	£		
Ashanti Goldfields	4/-	15/-	16/-
Akrokerri	1	½	¾
Bibiani Goldfields	1	⅛	⅛
British Gold Coast	1	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	1	1 11/16	1 11/16
Taquah and Abosso	1	2½	2 5/16
Wassau (Gold Coast)	1	⅛	1/16
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	1	4/6	4/3
Nile Valley	1	4/9	5/9
Anaconda Copper	$25	14 5/16	14 5/16
Balaghat Gold	1	23/-	24/6
Broken Hill Proprietary	8/-	5 3/8	4 15/16
Cape Copper	2	7¼xd	8 3/16
Champion Reef	2/6	13/6	13/6
Le Roi	5	1 3/16	1½
Mysore Gold	10/-	6 7/16	6 3/8
Nundydroog	10/-	25/-	25/-
Ooregum	10/-	13 6	15/6
Rio Tinto	5	90½	91¼
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	2	8¾	8½
Waihi Gold	1	8 3/16	8 3/16

"American Railway Earnings and Dividends," by D. O. Croal, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—Effingham Wilson. Price 6d. net.

Insurance Notes—Amalgamations among Life Offices—Proprietors and Policy-holders—Mutualisation of Proprietary Companies—Lists of Policy holders—The Absorption of the Union.

Last week I referred to the probable absorption of the Union Fire and Life Office by the Commercial Union and dealt generally with the pros and cons of amalgamations among insurance Companies: but I had no space for the more important question, from the policy-holders' point of view, of amalgamations among life offices. Whereas in other branches of the business the whole of the profits go to the shareholders and the policy-holders have a relatively small stake in the companies' welfare, in life assurance Companies the participating policy-holders take nearly the whole of the surplus, and the life funds, which are normally vastly more than the share capital, are the sole property of the assured.

In the majority of proprietary Companies only the shareholders have any voice in the management, the policy-holders being almost powerless to influence their own affairs. It must be recognised that shareholders having started a life office, and, in early days, having run the risk of success or failure, are fully entitled to be paid. At the same time the existence of share capital is no benefit of any sort or kind to the policy-holders. No Company, except perhaps a very new one, that is not super-abundantly secure without the share capital can be made safe by adding the capital to the life assurance funds. There is thus no discoverable benefit to policy-holders from the existence of share capital, though some proprietary Companies are so well managed and the interests of their policy-holders made so predominant that they are fully as advantageous for their policy-holders as mutual offices. At the same time it has to be recognised as beyond question that mutual offices as a class are better than proprietary offices as a class. In saying this I am not thinking of recently established proprietary Companies, but considering both proprietary and mutual offices that have been established for, say, fifty years. One bad result of the Life Assurance Companies' Act, of 1870, which in other ways has worked extremely well, was to make the formation of a new mutual office practically impossible, but in these days of amalgamations attention might well be called to the advisability of mutualising some of the proprietary life Companies. A case in point is the Star, whose proprietors and policy-holders decided by a big majority not to consider the proposed amalgamation about which so much has been said. With a share capital of only £5,000 and a life assurance fund of more than £6,000,000 it is really absurd that the shareholders should take one-tenth of the profits, and it would be a great improvement if arrangements could be made for buying out the shareholders. An appropriate prelude to the mutualisation of proprietary Companies would be that all holders of participating life policies above a certain amount should be given a vote, and thus be able to override the decisions of the shareholders, if necessary, in the interests of the assured. The Star gives votes to certain holders of whole life policies, but those who have endowment assurance policies have no vote. Even this arrangement is exceptional, since in most Companies the proprietors only are entitled to vote. Without wishing to see legislation interfere with insurance matters to a greater extent than can be helped, it seems to me that a valuable amendment to the Life Assurance Companies' Acts would be to give voting power to the policy-holders, and to provide that at the request of not less than, say, fifty policy-holders, the names and addresses of all the assured in the possession of votes should be communicated to a policy-holders' committee.

Since the stake of policy-holders is many times greater than that of the shareholders in practically every life office, it is plainly inappropriate that the assured should have no voice in the election of Directors or the management of the Company. I am quite well aware that while things are going well policy-holders do not trouble to exercise the votes which they have in mutual societies; but the power is there in case of need, and the occasion for the exercise of such power on the part of the policy-holders is more likely to arise in

proprietary than in mutual Companies. Apart from crucial questions like amalgamation, many points occur upon which policy-holders should be able to express an opinion and take concerted action; for instance, it is frequently the case that a proprietary Company spends more money than is good from a policy-holder's point of view, in order to obtain a large new business. This course tends to decrease the bonuses to policy-holders, while increasing the dividends to shareholders. The evil may seldom be great enough to call for special agitation on the part of the policy-holders, but if a certain number of Directors were elected by the assured their interests would, at least in some cases, be better looked after than they are now.

The laws of New York have made it compulsory upon the insurance Companies to give access to the names and addresses of all their policy-holders. I believe any one can demand the right to copy the list. This is perhaps going too far, but it would seem quite fitting that a list of policy-holders should be supplied to any fairly representative committee. The chief difficulty in bringing about co-operation among policy-holders is that they have no means of communicating with one another. The Act of 1870 having made the formation of new mutual offices impossible, there is much to be said in favour of an amending Act, giving policy-holders a share in the management, and perhaps making it possible to convert proprietary Companies into mutual societies, of course on terms that would be fair to the shareholders.

Returning more directly to the question of amalgamations, there seems to me little doubt that these are as a rule beneficial to the policy-holders. If a life office is in a thoroughly flourishing condition, it is not in the least likely to surrender its separate existence, while when a life assurance Company finds itself in a bad way it can almost always sell its business to a strong office on terms which produce better bonuses for the participating policy-holders than they would be likely to receive from the original Company, besides providing greater security for all the assured. As I pointed out last week, the absorption of many small fire or accident Companies into one big one, and the tariff combination among these big Companies, tends to create a trust or combine, with practically unlimited power; and this might, at some time or other, result in oppressive terms for policy-holders. It does not seem to me that any such trust is possible in connection with life assurance, since in mutual offices the whole of the profits, and in proprietary Companies usually nine-tenths of the profits, go to the policy-holders; the policy-holders are the only people out of whom excessive profits could be made, and they are the only people to whom excessive profits could be paid; consequently, any fear of a Life Assurance Trust seems to me altogether groundless. I do not yet know what terms the Union will receive for the sale of its business. The Company was founded as a fire office in 1714, and from the point of view of sentiment the disappearance of so old a Company is to be regretted; but it has incurred very heavy fire losses in recent years, and I am by no means sure that amalgamation is not almost a necessity. The life branch of the Union was founded in 1813, and has never been much of a success; I do not think it has a single policy to offer which is so good as can be obtained elsewhere, and so, as existing policy-holders are likely to gain, and as the disappearance of the Union will deprive the public of the opportunity of assuring relatively badly, the absorption of the Company is perhaps not to be objected to.

"On the Scientific Increase of Income."

There has recently been a violent eruption of seductively worded newspaper advertisements—one of them was offered for insertion in TRUTH, but refused—inviting small investors to apply to Arnold and Butler, 124, Holborn, E.C., for a book "On the Scientific Increase of Income." The small investor is given to understand that this precious treatise will show him how to obtain ten, twenty, or even thirty per cent. for his money "with scarcely any risk," while if he is courageous enough to go in for something of "a more speculative character" his capital can be doubled and at times trebled. Being, of course, pure philanthropists, Arnold and Butler not only give away this wonderful work, together with a quantity of other equally fascinating literature, but generously offer the small investor the benefit of their valuable services in the execution of the scheme whereby he is to amass a fortune. They are ready, in fact anxious, to relieve him of any trouble in the matter; all that he has to do is to accept their disinterested advice and send them his money for investment "on margin." That is the beginning of the process, and no doubt Arnold and Butler can be relied upon to see that it is the end, too.

By the way, I was glad to see that in the *Daily Mail* last Tuesday Mr. Charles Duguid—a financial journalist for whom I have great respect—made some forcible remarks on the "many scandals that are arising in connection with the dealings of silly people with circularising outside brokers of low class," and the urgent necessity for some measure to protect the public from these bucket-shop harpies. It was, however, rather disappointing to observe on the opposite page of the *Daily Mail* one of the flamboyant advertisements of the above-mentioned firm of Arnold and Butler. Pending legislation on the subject, my contemporary's City Editor might perhaps do something to check the operations of "low-class" outside brokers by pressing his own excellent views on the attention of the advertisement manager of the *Daily Mail*.

Milne, Son and Hamilton, 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., are—as I indicated some months ago—another of the benevolent firms whose unselfish aim it is to make money for you or me, or any other stranger, rather than for themselves. "Despite our having addressed you continually," they wrote to a correspondent the other day, "we regret to notice that we are still without your esteemed commands," and so in order to prove their "undeniable *bona fides*" they offered as "a special inducement" to open an account for him with the small sum of twenty shillings, though it was contrary to their custom to do so with less than £5. Needless to say, on the operation they recommended the twenty shillings would have been a gift to Milne, Son and Hamilton.

Publications for Investors.

Mr. Thomas Skinner's "Stock Exchange Year Book," now in its thirty-third year of publication, has such a well-established reputation as a work of reference that one need say but a few words in welcoming the appearance of the 1907 edition. As usual, the preface is devoted to a concise review of the past financial year, and the 2,000 odd pages to which the volume runs are filled with admirably digested information relating to the origin, history, and present condition of each of the public securities and joint-stock Companies known to the markets of the United Kingdom. Not only is the information about each security or Company carefully compiled and clearly set forth, but the contents of the volume are most conveniently arranged for the purpose of ready reference. The Year Book is published at 77-81, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, E.C., price 28s. net.

Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., Limited, 54, Gracechurch-street, E.C., have sent me a copy of the annual edition of "The Stock Exchange Handbook," a work which gives investors a mass of useful information in a compact form. I have also received from Messrs. F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall-avenue, E.C., the 1907 issue of their well-known "Highest and Lowest Prices," giving the extreme fluctuation of every stock officially quoted on the Stock Exchange, with dividends for the past six years; their "Provincial Highest and Lowest," and their handy half-yearly "Traffic Tables" and "American Traffic Tables." Other publications that have reached me include "Horncastle's Manual" (61, Cheapside, E.C.) and "The Mount Lyell Mining Manual" (Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle-street, E.C.); while the *Financial Review of Reviews* has forwarded one of the neat cabinets that are now supplied for the convenient filing of twelve numbers of that monthly.

New Issue.

The following prospectus is published:—

The United Motor Cab Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed "for the purpose of acquiring as a going concern the business of the City and Suburban Motor Cab Company, Limited, together with their existing service of motor cabs, and of further increasing the business by placing upon the streets of London an additional supply of motor cabs and cars for public use under contracts with the Société des Automobiles Unic (George Richard and Co.), and with A. Darracq and Co. (1905) Limited." The capital of the United Motor Cab Co. is £253,000, divided into 250,000 Preferred Ordinary shares of £1 each, and 60,000 Deferred shares of 1s. each. Of the Preferred Ordinary shares 199,537 are now offered for subscription. The list will open to-day and close on or before Friday.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Railways.

Medicus.—Purchase only if you are prepared to put them away for a time. *J. J., Rochester.*—You are being needlessly alarmed by such irresponsible criticism of the Company. Do not sell. *Tyro.*—I am glad to know that you took my advice and profited by it. Of course you understand that the shares you have now bought are decidedly speculative. *Christoper.*—There is every probability of a good appreciation in the near future. *Chagford.*—Central London Ordinary is a sound investment, and worth holding for a higher price. You will find a reference to the stock in this week's article. *Amiens.*—I do not care for Nos. 2 and 3, but the others should be held. *Exmoor.*—I would suggest Buenos Ayres Western New Four and a Half per Cent. Preference. *Petrol.*—Grand Trunk First Preference, Buenos Ayres Westerns New Four and a Half per Cent. Preference and Central London Preferred should meet with your requirements. Better spread the money over the three. *F. M.*—Canadian Pacific Preference, Grand Trunk Pacific Four per Cent. bonds, Buenos Ayres and Pacific First Preference, National of Mexico Four and a Half per Cent. Prior Lien bonds, and Central London Preferred. The average yield would be about 4 per cent. *Aberdeen.*—Great Northern (U.S.A.) Preferred is quoted at about 173. This is "cum," the stock rights estimated as worth 20. These rights were deducted from the price at one time, but have since been restored, owing to the attempts being made in the courts to prevent the new stock being issued. The value of the ore rights was about 84. Northern Pacifics are quoted at about 156. The rights recently deducted were appraised at 24. *Sonka.*—For investment I should give the preference to Trunk Thirds, but I cannot pretend to foresee what price the stock will stand at five years hence. Interest on Chillagoe Debentures has been permanently reduced to 5 per cent., except in any year during which shareholders in the company shall have been paid dividends in excess of 1s. per share, when for such year the interest is to be 6 per cent. I have once or twice referred to the bucket-shop you mention. *Welshman.*—The Company does not publish traffic returns. The bonds can only be regarded as a speculation.

Mines.

H. M'E.—Yes, at the current price they are a fair speculative investment. I do not answer inquiries by post. *T. W., Aberdeen.*—Your South Africans are good, and you ought not to think of selling them at present prices. *Anchor.*—Yes, I still consider the shares a hopeful speculative lock-up. *Leona.*—You might secure the profit available on your present holding, and purchase London and W.A. Explorations, on which an early dividend seems probable. *White Horse.*—Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are fair speculative purchases with a view to a moderate profit in a buoyant market; but the others do not offer much attraction just now. *F. J. S.*—I have not heard a price for the Diamond Syndicate's shares, but you could acquire an interest in them by purchasing the shares of the present Company. I cannot reply by letter. *Sphinxalex.*—1. Very speculative, and you could probably do better in something else. 2. A fairly hopeful speculation, but other shares in the same group are more active. 3. Not very attractive. 4. I do not care to recommend such an operation. *A. W. J.*—Thanks for the papers. The amalgamation scheme is certainly not attractive. *Anxious.*—Hold all three. *24.*—A three months' call option on Arizonas would be a fairly hopeful speculation. *Kraft, Aberdeen.*—Both are promising purchases at present prices. *Captain, Lichfield.*—1. Hold. 2. A pure speculation. 3. A hopeful holding for dividends. 4. The market is talking them to a higher price, but they are highly speculative.

Mixed Securities.

Safety.—1. Hold these shares for the present. 2. I do not recommend them. 3. These are excellent. *M., Cardiff.*—For a permanent investment your selection is very good, though I think it would be better to leave out No. 4. *Nap.*—1. A fair speculation with a reasonable prospect of improvement in value. 2. Not very promising. *Peter Pan.*—1. This stock is likely to have a recovery within the next month or so. 2. You should keep these shares also. 3. Make the exchange you mention. 4. I will give the desired list under this heading next week; it requires careful consideration. *Puzzled.*—1. This is an obscure Company, and the shares are not at all a desirable purchase. 2. They may be worth buying as a speculative lock-up. 3. I have no information regarding this matter. 4. I printed last week a table showing the yields obtainable on bank shares, including Lloyds and the London and South-Western. *Orion.*—Your list is a very fair one, though I would leave out No. 3, as the shares look like going lower. *Pax.*—1, 2, and 3. Should be inclined to average. 4. May improve, but speculative. Am sorry your previous letter was overlooked. *Gipsy.*—3. Hold Zincos. 4. A fair speculation. 5. I do not look for much early advance in either. 1, 2, and 6. Will reply next week. *Perseus.*—1. No information. 2. Of the two I should prefer the Japanese Four and a Half per Cents. *Benula.*—Your little list of twenty-four inquiries shall receive attention. In the meantime I should hold the first five and the last five. *Rusticus.*—1. There is the possibility you mention, and as you can see a handsome profit you had better take it. 2. See remarks in my article this week. *R. C. W.*—Hold all of them for the present. *Como.*—1. The Tin shares seem a good holding for dividends, but for an early advance in market value you might do better in the market suggested. 2. The shares may go lower yet, though on any further break they ought to be worth buying to put away. 3. As you suggest, you could probably employ your money to better advantage than on these shares just now. *Panama.*—Hold all.

Miscellaneous.

Innocent.—There was no enclosure in your letter, but the question you ask leaves little doubt that the circular came from a bucket-shop. Have nothing to do with such people. *Victim.*—You should have noted my warnings. "Blythe, Gould, and Co.," and "The Globe and Lancashire Stock Exchange," were two aliases of the same individuals. They are now in the hands of the police. *J. E. S.*—You should write to the secretary of the Company at Manchester. *W. M., Tiverton.*—At the price of £1 15s. and on the current dividend Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills shares would yield £8 11s. 3d. per cent. *Gondolier.*—I am unable to say whether the attacks on the concern have any real justification. *Widow.*—Be content with the lower interest and greater security of your present investment. *Disgusted.*—Sell if you can. *N. B., Chester.*—It is contrary to my rules to recommend or name brokers. A list of members of the Stock Exchange can be obtained from the secretary. *Mendips.*—The position of the Company is not altogether satisfactory; but I do not think you need fear any default in the preference dividend. *Charles S.*—My opinion is that you would be throwing good money after bad by taking the course proposed. *Dum Dum.*—It is a progressive and flourishing concern, and you will find it difficult to get a better return for your money with an equal degree of safety. *D. M., Liverpool.*—"Martin Bull" is one of the bucket-shop brigade with whom I have repeatedly dealt. *St. Enoch.*—Do you really imagine that you can get 10 per cent. and gilt-edged security? If you do, you have a lot to learn, and you may find the lesson rather costly. *H. J. H., Manchester.*—I know nothing whatever about the concern except that the shares are now scarcely saleable. *Jesmond.*—By this time you will have seen the reports in the daily papers. *Zogloba.*—These foreign lottery bonds are a sheer gamble, and you should not on any account deal with the Paris concern mentioned. If you want to buy some of the bonds write to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. *Nestor.*—1. No, it is a concern of the bucket-shop class. See preceding answer. 2. Take your profit. 3. Such information is constantly given in my article. *Uncertain.*—See answer to "Zogloba." *Preston.*—It is too early yet to express an opinion as to this Company. *Sunsea.*—As you recognise that a certain amount of risk has to be taken, I see no objection to either of the shares named. *K., Dublin.*—Get rid of them at any price. As you say, it is a pity you did not act upon my advice last September. *Gudgeon.*—A bucket-shop swindler. You may help to have him brought to justice if you communicate with the police. *F. S., Bristol.*—By exercising a little patience you may be able to average on better terms. *J. T., Belfast.*—I know nothing of the firm. *Limerick.*—I am making inquiries. *Novice.*—I cannot advise as to the soundness of the concern, and only recommend dealing with members of the Stock Exchange. *X. Y. Z., Chatham.*—Keep them for the present. *Pekoe.*—I am unacquainted with the firm, but I recommend you to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. *Vane.*—The official "business done" quotation on that day was 100¾.

Insurance.

J. G. M.—Your letter is interesting, but I did not refer to liberality of conditions. I approved the specification of amounts of surrenders, etc., and options of settlement. The suicide clause is seldom absent from British policies. In regard to your objections, interest is not likely in practice to be charged for days of grace; interest on loans is rightly at a higher rate, since interest earned is higher; selection of paid-up insurance or cash value within three months is not of much moment, and absence of bonus for the first year is wise, because practically no company earns profits in the first year. No bonus in the first year is the

rule in one company only. *Yankee, Belfast.*—You should certainly continue paying premiums. The company is perfectly sound and much better than before. *Jectona.* — This Insurance Company is not so popular as some, but there is nothing to be said against it. *Roma.* — 1. The Company is sound, and its present representative of the highest standing. As no claim may arise for many years, its absence from this country is objectionable. It depends on your age and the kind of policy you have whether you should continue paying premiums or not. 2. I do not advise a purchase, as shares of this description, whilst easy to buy, are sometimes difficult to sell.

INDUSTRIALS DULL—PEKING SYNDICATE DISAPPOINTMENT—"BAYS" DEPRESSED—ANGLO-AMERICAN SURPRISE—LONDON DOCKS SPURT—IMPERIAL TOBACCO SHARES.

In common with other departments, the Miscellaneous market generally has been stagnant, though there have been a few interesting movements. One of the most noteworthy was a relapse in Peking Syndicate shares on the appearance of the report to be submitted at the meeting this week. In the main, it is made up of somewhat ancient history, being furnished with accounts only to December 31, 1905, but its tenor was regarded as disappointing. It is admitted that no work has been done on the Shansi concessions. In the northern area this is owing to local hostility and a dispute with the Chinese Governor, who refuses to grant the necessary permit except on impossible conditions; and in the southern area no progress can be made until the completion of a railway, which will be a difficult and costly line to build. As to the Honan concession, it seems to be doubtful whether the coal from the mine that has been opened up will be worth working. All this has, of course, had the effect of strengthening the demand of a number of the shareholders for additions to or changes on the directorate with the view to the adoption of a more vigorous policy. Hudson's Bays have suffered somewhat in sympathy with Canadian Pacifics, but a recovery in the near future may be confidently anticipated. Perhaps the greatest surprise of the week was the announcement of a dividend of 35s. per cent. on Anglo-American Deferred. Two years ago this stock received nothing, and last year the dividend was only 10s. per cent. An increase this time was justifiably counted upon, but not so much as 35s. per cent., a rate that has not even been approached for years past. There has been considerable business in London and India Docks Deferred stock on the declaration of a dividend of 2¼ per cent. for the year, as compared with 1¾ per cent. for 1905. The rise in the price of the stock to 64 appears, however, to have been largely attributable to what seem to be decidedly shadowy hopes of some beneficial result being obtained from possible legislation affecting the Port of London. The report of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Limited, recommends a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income tax, on the deferred Ordinary shares and an allocation of a quarter of a million sterling to the reserve account. This is the best distribution on the deferred shares that has yet been made, and such a proof of the growing prosperity of the Company must obviously improve the position of its debentures and Preference and Preferred Ordinary shares, which at the existing quotations are well worth the attention of investors. Textiles have been quieter than for some time past, and Brewery shares have also been inactive, such slight changes as were recorded being mostly in a downward direction. The strike of music-hall artists excited momentary attention, but does not appear to have been regarded very seriously, the effect on music-hall shares being very trifling. An interesting review of the past year was given by Mr. J. Spencer Phillips in his speech at the meeting of Lloyds Bank, Limited, at Birmingham, on Friday. Though the year was undoubtedly a profitable one to bankers, it is, he pointed out, a mistake to suppose that a very high Bank rate is *ipso facto* a thing to be desired by them, not the least important of many countervailing effects being the depreciation which takes place in the value of investments. The balance-sheet presented to the shareholders of Lloyds was of a very satisfactory character. The available profit was £889,853, an increase of £123,899, of which £55,688 was attributable to the amalgamation with the Devon and Cornwall Bank. The dividend declared was at the rate of 18¾ per cent.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL.

IT was generally agreed by all who knew her that Hallie Simcox ought to have been born a boy; for a boy she was, and a man she subsequently became, in everything except the accident of sex. And this accident was the more unfortunate, inasmuch as she was the only child of Squire Simcox, a man of old family and considerable estate, who badly wanted an heir male to his name and his property. There had been Simcoxes at Simcox Manor in unbroken succession for four hundred years, and now the good old name threatened to become extinct.

This was a source of great distress to the Squire, and was, indeed, particularly vexing, because his daughter Hallie came so very near being a boy. If she had been a girlish girl, thoroughly feminine in character as well as in sex, it would have been less provoking to the old gentleman. But the fact of her being a boyish girl, entirely masculine in everything except sex, made it unspeakably tantalising. When one misses one's heart's desire by miles, one seldom frets much about it. The distance between hope and fulfilment is too great. But when one just misses it by inches, it always galls and irritates. It is like being *proxime accessit* for a Balliol scholarship or losing the Derby by a short head.

From her earliest youth, Hallie Simcox had shown pronounced masculine proclivities. Strong and active, she could run and jump and climb trees, and play cricket and rounders, with any lad of her years. There was another thing she could do, and she was the only girl I have ever known capable of it: she could shy. That was enough, of itself, to differentiate Hallie from all the rest of her sex.

As she grew older, she became an ardent devotee of field sports. What she didn't know, at eighteen, about dogs and horses, about foxes, pheasants, and partridges, wasn't worth knowing. No gamekeeper in the county was a more thorough master of that branch of knowledge which is known as woodcraft. No huntsman in the Shires showed to better advantage across country. She adopted the straddle-wise seat (a much more daring departure from convention then than it is now), and could ride anything anywhere. To see her piloting a team or a tandem was an object-lesson in ribbon-handling. To watch her bring down rocketers with her twenty-bore was a polite education in the art of covert-shooting; and to hear her express herself when an unsportsmanlike horseman from town rode through young wheat was a study in robust phraseology.

"God bless 'er 'eart," old Dick Spenceley, huntsman to the local pack, was often heard to declare, with appreciative gusto, "she du talk somethink proper, *she* du. Squire ain't bad, when 'e's put out; but 'e's a fule to little missie, bless 'er 'eart."

In addition to all her other masculine qualities, the fair Hallie added that of being supremely masterful. She had an imperious—not to say dictatorial—way with her, that somehow compelled obedience. Indeed, I can flatter myself that I was about the only person who had much to do with her (always excepting the Squire, her father), upon whom she was not in the habit of sitting unmercifully. But then, I am a man of exceptionally determined character. Besides, Hallie and I were the best of chums.

This frank good comradeship had begun when she was in pinafores and I in knickers, and it had

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continued uninterruptedly ever since. It *was* comradeship, too, pure and simple, into which the question of sex never entered. To all intents and purposes, Hallie was a boy—in my estimation, as well as in her own. Both our lives were devoted to field sports. We rode, drove, shot, hunted, and fished together, on a footing of perfect equality. I never showed her any of those conventional courtesies which custom exacted from me towards other girls; partly because such a thing never occurred to me where Hallie was concerned, partly, also, because she would certainly have resented it if I had. A man in disposition, she liked to be treated as a man; and so, I say, it never crossed my mind to treat her as anything else.

Well, things went on smoothly enough for my chum, and she continued to lead her frankly mannish and sporting existence, like the good fellow she was, until she attained her twenty-third year. Then the Squire suddenly exploded a bomb upon her, which caused a great upset.

I had seen for some days that she was not herself, but that something was evidently troubling her, and one afternoon, while we were out riding together, she confided to me what it was.

"I say, Dick," she began, in her frank, direct way—which was like her riding across country, always straight from point to point, no matter what jumps had to be negotiated—"I say, Dick, old man, there's something I want to speak to you about. You're the best pal I've got, and I'm counting on you to stand by me. Fact is, I'm in rather a tight place."

"What is it, Hal, old fellow? What's up now?"

"It's the pater," she answered, with a worried, aggrieved frown. "He wants me to marry."

"To marry?" I ejaculated, very much taken aback; for the idea of this good fellow and hardy sportsman doing anything so weak as to go the way of other girls and submit herself to any man in the capacity of wife had never entered my head, even in my wildest dreams.

"Yes, to marry," she answered, with a scornful little laugh. "Did you ever hear such beastly rot?"

"But what's your pater's object?" I inquired.

"Oh, his object would be reasonable enough in itself if I were like other girls," she admitted, though with some reluctance. "He says I'm the last of our family, and he looks to me to perpetuate the line and the name."

"But if you marry, you will not perpetuate the *name*, at any rate," I exclaimed. "Wives perpetuate their husband's names, not their own."

"So I should have supposed," she replied. "But the pater has a dodge for circumventing that. He wants me to marry some fellow who, in consideration of the fortune I am going to bring him, will sink his own identity in mine and adopt my name. In fact, I may as well tell you, the pater actually has the specific man cut and dried, and he wants to open up negotiations at once. Isn't it humbug?"

"Who is the man?" I inquired.

"Dollie Spencer," she answered, laughing contemptuously. "Fancy me marrying that namby-pamby, flabby little wretch. Oh, my aunt!"

"He would, at least, sink his identity in yours," I replied. "That is, so far as he has any identity to sink. Perhaps that's why your pater has pitched on him."

"It is," she nodded. "He knows I should absorb poor little Dollie in less than no time, and reduce him to a mere echo of myself. That's just what the pater wants. I'm to boss the show, and run it on the good old lines. My husband is to be a detail. However, as I told the pater, I don't want to marry at all, and I won't marry that invertebrate little nincompoop at any price; more especially as" (and, for the first time in our acquaintance, Hallie blushed slightly, and spoke with some evident embarrassment)—"if I care for any—any man, in that way—which I don't—that man is certainly not Dollie Spencer."

I opened my eyes. A sense of amazement seized me. Was it possible that this good fellow, the best of sportsmen and chums, had been guilty of the incredible folly of falling in love? But no; that could not be.

"You are not—you don't—I mean, you—you—aren't *gone* on any chap, are you?" I inquired.

"No-o-o," she answered, rather uncertainly. "In fact, I may say I'm quite sure I don't care for any man just in that way. But if—well, if I have to marry somebody, there's only one man I could possibly consider."

"And who is he?"

"You won't tell anybody?"

"Of course not."

"Well, it's Reggie Toogood," she answered.

"Reggie Toogood! The curate?" I ejaculated. "To be sure, for a parson, Toogood's not a bad sort. His cricket's quite up to county form, and he's a scratch man at golf, and he got his blue at the 'Varsity for Rugger—but a parson, my dear fellow, and a High Church parson at that, with all sorts of heretical ideas about the cruelty of sport, and the seriousness of life, and the necessity of tectotalism—you would never get on with such a chap, Hallie, and I'm perfectly certain your pater wouldn't hear of him."

"As to the latter part of your statement, you are perfectly correct," she answered. "The pater would *not* hear of Reggie Toogood. In fact, he got into a regular tantrum when I mentioned his name. We had quite a set-to on the subject. 'I can't understand why you jib so at Reggie Toogood's cloth, dad,' I told him, 'I always thought you were a staunch "Church and State" man.' 'So I am,' he answered, getting very excited—you know how the pater always does when you argue with him—'the Church in its place and the State in its place; and the Church's place here is the Rectory, not the Manor. That old Rector has three unmarried daughters. If Toogood wants a wife, he had better take one of them. I'm sure it would be an act of Christian charity, poor girls! But I'll have no black-coated fanatic bossing it here, at Simcox Manor, when I'm dead and gone, and so I tell you plainly.'"

"And how did it end?" I inquired.

"Oh, it ended as it generally does when the pater and I come to loggerheads—in our both declining to give way. And there, for the present, the matter rests," she replied. "The pater's in an awful stew with me because I won't take on Dollie Spencer; and I feel most horribly worried because, though he insists on my marrying, he has set his face against the only man whom I could possibly contemplate as a husband. Altogether, it's the most confounded state of affairs, and goodness knows what the outcome will be."

"Excuse my making the remark, my dear fellow," I observed, "but isn't it rather premature to discuss the question at all, either as regards Spencer or Toogood, until you have reason to suppose that they are—ahem!—willin' Barkises?"

"Oh, as to that," she replied, "I know, and the pater knows, that I could annex poor little Dollie Spencer, at any moment, if I wanted to; and Reggie Toogood" (again that tell-tale flush), "well, I know for certain that *he's* gone on me, because—because——"

"He has told you so?" I interjected.

"He has as good as told me so," she answered, with an embarrassed air, "and upon the slightest encouragement from me he would speak out still more plainly. Hitherto I have choked him off, not wishing (as I have already said) to marry at all. But if I have to marry, I shall not choke him off any longer," she declared, in decisive tones.

"But, my dear chap," I answered, "you would never get on with Toogood. Your tastes and ideas are utterly diverse. You are both as masterful as ever you can stick——"

"Oh! he's very much in love with me—absurd as it may sound in relation to a tomboy like myself," she interposed, "and, therefore, he'd yield to me in everything."

"My good fellow! As if that sort of love ever lasted beyond the period of the honeymoon!"

"Possibly it may not. Anyway, if ructions do super-

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vene, I'll back myself to come out on top," she replied, confidently.

"I think you very likely will, in the long run; but it will mean no end of wrangling in the meanwhile."

"Oh, I rather enjoy wrangling. I'm a born fighter, you know," she answered. "However, the whole thing remains in abeyance for the moment. I have first to make the pater see reason. And I say, Dick."

"Well, old boy?"

"If you can give me a leg up in the matter, I know you will, won't you?"

"Of course, I will," I answered.

"Shake hands on it, old pal," she said.

We shook hands on it, and then the subject dropped. Hallie was unusually silent for the rest of the ride. So was I. I wouldn't have told her so for worlds, but I was rather disappointed in her. Such a good fellow, such a good sportsman, and (as I had always supposed) so superior to the sentimental rot that is called love. And now for her to confess that she was sweet on an infernal curate! What a falling off from my old chum!

The thing worried me. I hate to see a good chap go wrong. It also worried Hallie, though for a different reason. Her pater kept persistently pressing the marriage question. He said that he was getting old, and his health was rather shaky, and that it therefore behoved Hallie to range herself, satisfactorily, without delay. But he would harp on Dollie Spencer, and he wouldn't hear of the curate. So matters remained at a deadlock.

Some six weeks later, when Hallie and I were out fishing together—with very little heart on her part, as I was sorry to see, considering the cause—she laid down her rod on the bank (though the trout were rising like good-'uns), and said that she really must have a serious talk with me.

"I am most fearfully worried," she said. "The pater has been pounding away at this blessed marriage question worse than ever, and something's got to be done, else he will give me no peace. But I won't take on Dollie Spencer, and I mayn't take on Reggie Toogood; and, altogether, it's the very deuce of an *impasse*. Now Dick, old man, I want your help. You said you'd give me a leg up, didn't you?"

"I did; and anything I can do, I will do, dear old fellow. You know that."

"As far as I can see," she went on, "there's only one way out of the difficulty. I must compromise. That is to say, I must give up Reggie Toogood (conditionally upon the pater's forbearing to press Dollie Spencer) and take on some other man who is tolerably agreeable to us both."

She stopped, regarding me inquiringly, as if to gauge how far her suggestion had my approval.

"Sounds simple enough, if you can find the other man," I replied. "That appears to me to be the crux of the matter."

"Oh, it's no crux—at least, I hope not," she answered. "I believe I *have* found him already."

"The deuce you have, old boy. Who is he?"

"You," said Hallie, calmly.

"ME!" I ejaculated, almost jumping out of my skin.

"Yes; YOU," she rejoined, without turning a hair. "I know there's no sentimental nonsense or anything of that kind between us. But we're the best of chums, we understand each other perfectly, we have precisely the same tastes, and we have always got on A1 together. Moreover—which is a matter of at least equal importance—the pater rather likes you, and I have little doubt he would compromise on such a basis. So, looking at the matter all round, old chap, I really think you must take me on."

"But the idea of marrying you never entered my head," I cried. "I like you awfully, of course—better than any one I know; but not in that way."

"Same here," she replied, coolly. "The idea of marrying *you* never entered *my* head—until I was driven into this confounded corner; and then, on thinking it over, I came to the conclusion that if I had to pass my whole life in one man's company, there's no man (Reggie Toogood being barred) in whose company I'd so soon pass it as in yours. If you object, however, or, as is quite possible, want to marry some one else——"

"I certainly want to marry no one else," I said. "I don't want to marry anybody at all, and I'd much rather keep you as you are, the best of pals and chums."

"Well, and can't we remain the best of pals and chums, even if we *are* married?" she rejoined. "For my part, I see no reason against it. We should be just as we were before marriage, plus the accident of a wedding-ring. That is all."

"Rather a big 'all,' dear chap."

"Well, do as you like, of course, Dick. I'm not going to press you. Only, if you *could* see your way to help me out of a tight place in the manner suggested, I should be most confoundedly grateful. Don't be in a hurry to answer. Perhaps you might like to think it over. To-morrow will do quite well, if you prefer to wait till then."

I was silent for some moments. Then, acting on a sudden impulse, I answered:

"Look here, Hal. I said I'd give you a leg up over this job, and I won't be so mean as to go back on my word to a chum. So, since you wish me to do so—why, hang it all, old fellow, I'll take you on."

Curious way of settling an offer of marriage, wasn't it? But that was exactly how it was done.

Hallie thanked me cordially, then we resumed our fishing as though nothing had happened. We fished until dusk. Then, when we could see no longer, we turned our steps homeward.

At length, we came to the point where our ways diverged, and were about to shake hands, as usual, on wishing each other good-night, when Hallie said:

"Seems rather silly, but now we're engaged I suppose we ought to kiss, oughtn't we, Dick?"

And half-mockingly, as if derisive of the silly convention, she lifted her face to mine.

I kissed her upturned mouth, also more or less derisively, and then—and then—it was a most extraordinary thing, but the taste of those warm lips pressed against my own, acting with electrifying suddenness, opened my eyes, on the instant, to something alike in her and in myself—an inexpressible, ecstatic something that I now knew to have been long existent, but of which I had never till now been conscious.

Perhaps Adam felt that way when he kissed Eve for the first time—who shall say? And perhaps, after the awakening experience of that first kiss, he went on to do what I did now—repeat it again and again, as if he could never tire of the process. At any rate, he was a fool if he didn't.

The first words I spoke—about a quarter of an hour later, so far as I could calculate—were:

"I say, Hal, you don't really care for that beastly curate?"

"No," said she, with emphasis, "not a twopenny—— I mean, not a button."

"Then why did you tell me you did?"

"The whole story of Dollie Spencer and Reggie Toogood," she answered, "was a pious fiction of my own, designed to give me the opportunity of introducing a certain subject to your notice, and so of bringing about a certain result. You see, I knew you really cared for me, though you yourself were not conscious of the fact; and as I could not arouse you to consciousness by direct methods——by the way, you've heard that rather profane song:

> If you can't get in by the Golden Gate,
> Get over the garden wall.

Haven't you, old boy?"

"Heard it? I should think I have. But what brings it into your head just now?"

"The fact that it is so eminently descriptive of my own proceedings in this instance. You see, *I* couldn't get in by the golden gate, and so" (with a roguish chuckle) "I—well, I just did t'other thing, and got—over the garden wall."

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ART NOTES.

ARTS AND THE MAN.

ON Saturday afternoon I journeyed to New Bond-street, meaning to attend the press view of an Exhibition of Modern Photography, at the New English Art Club Galleries. As it happened, I was too late, because the press view only lasted until one o'clock. But I was not nearly so disappointed as I ought to have been, because the really interesting feature of the exhibition is Mr. Bernard Shaw, who was, I suppose, not there, and who has, as a matter of fact, nothing whatever to do with it. But he regards it with benevolent interest. I know that, because he has given special permission that a number of aphorisms on photography from his pen shall be prefixed to the catalogue by way of introduction. I think the organisers of the exhibition are to be warmly congratulated on this, because quite a number of people who might not be interested in the photographs will visit the show in order to read the catalogue, which is thus, as it were, immortalised.

We have all heard the old definition of the four stages of wisdom and how the wisest man is he who knows and knows that he knows. It was written a great many years before Mr. Shaw came into the world—otherwise the writer must have added yet a higher stage of wisdom—that of the man—I rather think that Mr. Shaw is so far the only human being who can claim it—who knows that he knows a great deal more than he knows—or, incidentally, than anyone else ever did, does, or can know. To take one instance only. Mr. Shaw, as his aphorisms show us, knows a great deal more about art and photography than any artist or photographer ever did know, unless, indeed, he be a photographer himself, and perhaps even then. He knows, for instance, that all the greatest painters who ever lived were very "second chop" sort of people indeed, and that they have acquired their great reputation only by presuming upon the humility of the photographer. And here I am compelled to turn aside to make a suggestion for a great historical photograph, which would also be a masterpiece of allegory. It would represent Photography as Andromeda chained to the rock of ignorant criticism. Mr. Shaw, as Perseus, should be shown rescuing her from the attacks of a many-headed dragon. I am not sure, now I come to think of it, that I should not prefer him as Saint George, but that is a mere matter of detail. Each of the heads should represent a great painter, Raphael, Rubens, Michael Angelo and the rest—and Mr.—I mean Saint George—should be knocking off one after another with blows of his weapon, which should, of course, be a pen, preferably, I think, a goose-quill. The adequate representation of such a subject would be far beyond the powers of a mere painter, but I have no doubt a photographer could make a very creditable job of it, with Mr. Shaw's assistance.

Let us return now to Mr. Shaw's prefatory aphorisms. He tells us that he told us six years ago that he had already told us more than twenty years previously that nine-tenths (or ninety-nine hundredths, he forgets which) of what was then done by brush and pencil would presently be far better done by the camera. He does not tell us whether that happy day has already arrived, thereby implying, of course, that we ought to enter the present exhibition and see for ourselves—which is really a very cunning way of advertising the show, and shows us yet a new side of Mr. Shaw's genius, which we have never hitherto understood to include advertising. But he goes on to tell us that he knows nothing funnier in criticism—thereby showing us incidentally that he does not concentrate his mind on what is immediately under his nose—than the assurance of the painter and his press-parasite, the art-critic, that all high art is brush work. This is an excellent example of the tremendous width of Mr. Shaw's knowledge. Hundreds and hundreds of us never knew that the painter and the critic regarded brush-work as the only high art. We believed them to include sculpture and possibly etching and lots of other things. We thought that some of them were even so misguided as to grant writing—especially such writing as Mr. Shaw's—a place among the arts, not to speak of music. May not, for instance, trumpeting, especially if it be upon your own instrument, sometimes be extremely high-artistic? We thought that they—the artists and critics, I mean—did not usually include engine-driving, say, or photography, among the Fine Arts, because in them the individuality of the man is subordinated to the machine, because, although he works the levers, presses the buttons, and so forth, it is the steam or the sunlight, as the case may be, that is the motive-power, and not the man's brain at all.

He tells us next—and it bears upon the same point—"the decisive quality in a photographer is the faculty of seeing things and being tempted by them." From this I judge that Mr. Shaw regards Adam and Eve as having been the first photographers, and St. Anthony as the patron saint of the craft—but that by the way. If, as I take it, he means that the photographer has to exercise his powers of selection in making a photograph, and is thereby placed upon an equality with a painter, then surely the man who dines *à la carte* is on an artistic equality with either of them—to say nothing of the cook. Similarly, the pavement artist is no whit behind Raphael. We are, indeed, like the gentleman in Molière—all of us artists without knowing it—with the possible exception of the makers of aphorisms, who can say the first thing that comes into their heads without having to worry about making selections.

"Velasquez," says Mr. Shaw, "could have drawn Philip better with a telephoto lens than with his brush." (It might be interpolated that Mr. Shaw has frequently shown his power of "drawing" people better with a pen than with a lens—but that is a detail.) This shows us, again, the tremendous insight possessed by Mr. Shaw into the true aim of a portrait. Most of us thought that it was not so much to exactly reproduce the sitter's features as to express his whole personality—to reproduce the soul as well as the body. To take a concrete—though wildly impossible—example. Let us suppose, for a moment, that Mr. Shaw concealed within himself a vast fund of, say, conceit, but that his features gave no sign of it, concealed it beneath a mask of contemptuous bonhomie. The brush, in the hands of a great painter, would set forth the conceit; the camera, in the hands of a great photographer, would show only the bonhomie. Which is preferable is, no doubt, a matter of taste.

With all his knowledge of the painter's arrogant assurance, Mr. Shaw is too benevolent a man not to bestow a pat of kindly patronage where he thinks it is deserved. Thus, in yet another aphorism, he tells us that Mr. Whistler has produced portraits of almost photographic excellence. But it does not really make things better for Whistler, for it only forces us to realise how much the world has lost by the fact that the painter of the "Portrait of My Mother" was not a photographer instead of a mere spoiler of canvas.

Quite the most striking of these photographic aphorisms comes at the end. "The photographer," says Mr. Shaw, "is free of that clumsy tool, the human hand." Therefore, he argues by implication, the photographer's work touches a higher artistic level than does that of the painter. I am tempted, if it be not too presumptuous, to carry Mr. Shaw's line of thought a little farther. The penny-in-the-slot automatic piano, being free of that clumsy tool, the human hand, reaches a far higher level of artistic excellence than can a Paderewski or a Joachim. So, again, the donkey, being free of that clumsy tool, the human brain, can express far more artistic—not to say intellectual—thoughts far more artistically than can the mere human orator or writer, with but one possible exception.

All things considered, I really feel that, thanks to Mr. Shaw, I know almost, if not quite, as much about the exhibition of modern photography in New Bond-street as if I had actually been lucky enough to see it.

"Gas can be used for warming purposes efficiently without prejudice to health."—*The Lancet*. A Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate should have a gas fire in their bedroom."

MUSIC.

ENGLISH BISHOPS AND BOGUS DEGREES.

THE gentle reader is requested not to start. It is not suggested that Dr. Winnington-Ingram and his eminent fellow occupants of the Episcopal bench are responsible for the employment of titular distinctions of no account or improperly obtained. Even to mention the word bogus in conjunction with a bishop is, indeed, enough to send something like a shiver down the backs of all rightly constituted persons, and it cannot be disclaimed too emphatically at the outset that no reflection is here intended upon the integrity and moral standing of those right reverend fathers who rule the destinies of the Church. Yet a connection does exist, none the less, between degrees of the sort specified, and those who, it might be supposed would be the last to be associated with such things.

Attention has been directed to the matter once more through the agency of a little controversy which has been proceeding in the columns of the *Musical News* concerning the precise value of the degree of Mus. D., which adds lustre to the name of that eminent musician, Mr. J. H. Lewis, the "Warden" of that august institution, the Guild of Church Musicians. This is not the first time that my contemporary has displayed a kindly interest in Mr. Lewis, who has also received a considerable amount of attention at one time or another in the columns of TRUTH. With that modesty and reticence so commonly associated with true greatness Mr. Lewis has always displayed a touching disinclination to explain the precise circumstances in which he became possessed of the imposing distinction referred to. It is, however, some years now since he suffered it to become known that no less renowned a seat of learning than the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, U.S.A., was its actual source of origin, and further, that his sponsor had been one no less eminent than the late Archbishop of Canterbury.

The fault of mincing his language was one never imputed to Dr. Temple, and his reply to a letter subsequently addressed to him on the subject certainly lacked nothing in respect of its directness. "I certainly do not think," he wrote, "a degree given after the manner in which degrees are given at the University of the South is worth much. The degrees of universities are of very different values; and Mr. Lewis has obtained a degree which is of no value at all." In another letter Dr. Temple explained that his testimony on Mr. Lewis's behalf had related only to the respectability of certain persons who had made application on his account; and so much there was no difficulty in crediting. Certainly a strong effort of the imagination would be needed to conjure up a picture of the late Archbishop putting Mr. Lewis through his paces in a musical examination. Mr. Lewis received his degree, then, on the strength of a recommendation which, however obtained, was certainly not based on first-hand knowledge of his eminent musical attainments, which, it is hardly necessary to say, are so well known to the world at large.

Still, however, there were those who wished to know more, and in the result an offer was made of £5 5s., to be paid to the funds of the Royal Society of Musicians if the actual originals of Dr. Temple's certificate and certain other documents could be produced. Dr. W. H. Cummings and the Editor of *Musical News* were agreed to as adjudicators of the little dispute, and the result of their investigations has just been made known. "We have," they report, "carefully examined all the documents submitted to us, including those forwarded by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South, and have failed to discover any satisfactory evidence of the circumstance and manner of the alleged signature of the late Bishop of London (Dr. Temple)." The University of the South, when written to on the subject, forwarded, it seems, in reply, not the certificate of Dr. Temple, but one dated June 25, 1886, signed by the Bishop of Rochester, which was stated to be a duplicate of that which had been received from Dr Temple on behalf of Mr. Lewis. Naturally, the adjudicators were unable to accept this as supplying the evidence which they required, and hence their conclusion is that quoted. From what has been already said, however, there would appear to be no doubt that Dr. Temple did sign a certificate of some sort on Mr. Lewis's behalf, though precisely how this was obtained, and to what effect it ran, are matters in doubt.

But if obscurity still exists as to Dr. Temple's certificate on Mr. Lewis's behalf, the investigation of the mystery has at least served to throw light on a matter which is, perhaps, of even greater importance—to wit, the general practice of the Sewanee seat of learning here concerned in relation to these degrees conferred *in absentiâ*, in return for cash payments, upon British recipients. For on the back of the certificate signed by the Bishop of Rochester, which was forwarded by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, was printed, with blanks for dates, the following form:—

University of the South,
Sewanee, Tennessee, . . . 188 .

DEAR SIR,—Yours of . . . instant in regard to Degree of . . . has been received. If you will be so good as to obtain the signature of the Bishop of your Diocese to the Certificate printed on the reverse of this, and forward it to our Commissary, the Rev. F. W. Tremlett, D.C.L., St. Peter's, Belsize Park, London, it will give me great pleasure to lay your application before our Board of Trustees next August.—Your obedient servant, TELFAIR HODGSON, Vice-Chancellor.

From this it will be perceived, therefore, that all that it is requisite for any one to do in order to become a Mus.D., a D.C.L., or what not, of Sewanee, is to obtain the signature of a bishop, who may know as little of him as Dr. Temple knew of Mr. Lewis, and to forward this, *with* the needful fees, per the University's British agent, to Tennessee. And further, it will be gathered that so brisk is the trade done in "degrees" of this kind that the University authorities find it desirable to keep printed forms in stock for the purpose of answering applicants, and to maintain a "Commissary"—himself, by the way, a Sewanee D.C.L.—in London to look after its business under this head. That not the slightest test of any academic kind as to the applicant's fitness is required it is hardly necessary to say. In no previous case, indeed, has the thing been done quite so unblushingly. Trinity College, Toronto, was a pretty bad instance of this class of traffic, but in that case at least an "exercise" of a kind was required before the degree was granted and even Harkins, of Chicago, asked for a "thesis." Sewanee only wants a form filled up and signed, and the needful cash. To what extent the business is still being carried on I am not aware, but it is certainly to be hoped that it is no longer being conducted with episcopal connivance. What is astonishing is that such co-operation should ever have been obtained at all. But then, was it not written long ago that the children of this world are, in their generation, wiser than the children of light?

Smetana's "Die Verkaufte Braut," which was revived at Covent Garden last week, has been described as a Bohemian opera in the sense in which Glinka's "Life for the Czar" is a Russian, Moniuszko's "Halka" a Polish, and Erkel's "Hunniadi" a Hungarian opera, and certainly it is worthy of being ranked with any in respect of the charm and brightness of its music. It is more than ten years now since the work has been heard in London (at Drury Lane in 1895), the reason being, no doubt, that we have no house really suited to the performance of operas of this class, for which Covent Garden is, of course, too large. This is by no means to suggest, however, that the present performances of Smetana's work are not thoroughly to be enjoyed, and if the first performance seemed to fall rather flat last week, the deficiency rested, I am afraid, with its hearers.

There is point, indeed, in the humorous remark of one critic that the management should put up notices next time to the effect that laughing is permitted during a comic opera. As it was, Smetana's gay and sparkling work was listened to in a manner which must certainly have convinced our visitors more than ever that we

take our pleasures sadly. The management were, however, partly to blame for keeping the auditorium in darkness, and thereby preventing the audience from following the dialogue. The performance was a very good one, with Herr Naval and Frau Bosetti in the principal parts and Herr Schalk in the conductor's chair. An unusual feature of "Die Verkaufte Braut," by the way, is its part for a stuttering personage, and, curiously enough, Smetana introduced a similar character into another of his works, "The Two Widows," in defiance of the fact that stammerers never stutter when they sing.

At Covent Garden this week "Die Meistersinger" is being given this afternoon (Wednesday), with Ackté and Herold, and "Fidelio" is announced for to-morrow under the direction of M. Ysaye, with Lefler-Burckhardt and Ernst Kraus in the leading parts.

A Covent Garden season without some controversy over the lighting arrangements would be quite unthinkable. In spite of constant complaints the management stick to their light-saving policy, with the result that many worthy folk who like to know what they are listening to find their enjoyment of the performances seriously diminished. Under the circumstances would not a compromise meet the case? Very few people nowadays would like to have all the lights on during a performance of, say, "Tristan," or "Die Walküre," since everyone must recognise that the stage is thrown up far more effectively and attention is more readily concentrated on the performance when the auditorium lights are lowered. But is it really necessary that they should be turned right out, as is the practice at present? If they were turned down instead of being wholly extinguished the same end would be secured, while at the same time those wishing to follow the book of words or the score would be enabled to do so. It is certain that half the tedium experienced by most people at a Wagner opera is due to their inability to follow the actual dialogue. Many musicians, again, find the utmost delight in following the music with the score, and it would inconvenience no one if they are allowed to do so. It is surprising in view of the constant appeals which have been addressed to them on the subject, that the management do not see their way to meet the wishes of their supporters.

There have been a good many interesting concerts lately. At the Æolian Hall, on Thursday, Professor Hugo Becker and M. Camille Chevillard, the well-known conductor of the Lamoureux Orchestra in Paris, co-operated for the benefit of Messrs. Broadwood's subscribers, and were heard in a new 'cello sonata—a blameless work—by M. Chevillard, among other things. On the same evening Handel's "Alexander's Feast" and Parry's setting of the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" provided a piquant contrast at the Royal Choral Society's concert at the Albert Hall. On Saturday, Herr Kreisler was again one of the soloists at Messrs. Chappell's ballad concert, at which Miss Johanne Stockmarr, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Kennerley Rumford, and other well-known performers also appeared.

On the same afternoon, at the Bechstein Hall, Mr. Frederic Lamond proved his mettle once again as a Beethoven player, giving five of the sonatas in his best style, to the vast satisfaction of a big audience. Monday brought an interesting event in the first appearance in England of the famous Rosé Quartet, of Vienna, at an "extra" concert of the Broadwood series. They play superbly, and made a great impression. In the evening Richter directed another of the London Symphony concerts, Strauss's "Zarathustra" being one of the works heard; while for Tuesday was fixed the début of Miss Marie Stuart, a new contralto of whom such high hopes are entertained, at Miss Marie Hall's farewell concert preparatory to a long tour abroad.

The appointment of M. Messager, in conjunction with M. Broussan, to succeed M. Gailhard in the management of the Paris opera will obviously necessitate a change also in the direction of affairs at Covent Garden. It is understood, however, that since he does not enter on his new duties until next year, M. Messager will be able to act in his old capacity at Covent Garden during the coming season. After this it will be necessary to find a successor, and gossip is already busy with the names of more than one possible candidate.

Meanwhile, as director of opera in Paris, M. Messager's term of office is likely to witness some notable changes, some of which will hardly be carried into effect without considerable friction. The abolition of a certain privileged class of operatic habitués seems likely, in particular, to provoke opposition. We are told, in this connection, that no fewer than three thousand gentlemen of all ages are at present allowed to haunt in a way which M. Briand, the Minister of Education, stigmatises as "abusive," the foyer of the opera. These individuals, it is further explained, are lovers of the opera who find their chief attractions, not on the stage, but behind the scenes, while their presence, as a rule, adds nothing to the receipts of the house. M. Briand, bold man, proposes to make a clean sweep of them.

Another drastic change contemplated, euphemistically described as a measure of "social hygiene," is the transference of the children's ballet school from the theatre itself to a separate hall, where the young dancers will be under feminine supervision. Then certain important structural alterations in the theatre itself are to be effected; there are to be more stringent provisions aiming at the more perfect presentation of the works in the répertoire; and under various other heads reforms are to be introduced. Happily M. Messager has always shown himself to be a man of liberal ideas, and no doubt M. Briand will find him in no way indisposed to second his efforts.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, on the "Latest Phases of Music," proved not less lively than was anticipated. It showed no little courage on the part of one in Sir Alexander's position to speak his mind so plainly concerning some of his most eminent contemporaries. Naturally his remarks concerning Strauss were listened to with particular interest, and clearly the composer of "Ein Heldenleben" would meet with short shrift if he presented himself at the Royal Academy of Music. Lustily, indeed, was the professorial ferula applied to his hapless person. A jumble of cacophonous sounds, impossible or puerile subjects, hideous combinations of notes, disgusting excesses, mere barn-storming effects—these were only a few of the vigorous criticisms which Sir Alexander applied to Strauss's work. At the same time, Sir Alexander did not shrink from admitting that here and there Strauss's compositions contained passages of great beauty and power.

Meanwhile, "Salomé," for which Sir Alexander reserved his choicest epithets, goes on from strength to strength, so far as public performances are concerned, and in America, as in Europe, has emphatically proved its drawing power—to the horror of Mr. Comstock and his supporters. "An exudation from the diseased and polluted imagination of the authors," is the genial verdict of one authority; but from the box-office point of view, at least, it has clearly been a sensational success. It is stated, indeed, that the work must be reckoned, from the financial point of view, the most popular opera ever written. But this is certainly a rather misleading way of putting it. "Salomé" has been an enormous financial success so far simply on account of its sensational and unsavoury subject and the amount of discussion and notoriety which have resulted therefrom. When it has been before the public ten or twenty years, and has drawn audiences steadily throughout that period, it will be time to consider its claims to be regarded as a popular work.

A charming little birthday book, compiled by Sir Frederick Bridge, has just been issued by Messrs. Bosworth and Co. While chronicling the birthdays of famous musicians, it provides appropriate Shakespearean quotations for each in English and German.

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

For his own birthday Sir Frederick uses the following quotation from "Twelfth Night":—

Vio.: Save thee friend, and thy music; dost thou live by thy tabor?
Clo.: No, sir, I live by the church.
Vio.: Art thou a churchman?
Clo.: No such matter, sir: I do live by the church; for I do live at my house, and my house doth stand by the church.

Perhaps "The Westminster Bridge Birthday Book" would have been a better title than "The Shakespeare and Music Birthday Book" which it bears on title page and cover.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Heine's witty saying that the nobility, like the Jesuits and the devil, only exist so long as we believe in them, applies, *à fortiori*, to kings. Kings are what they are in Russia and Germany, and were what they were in England and France, solely because of the superstitious belief in them of their subjects. In Mr. Bradby's studies from court life in the later years of Louis XIV., "The Great Days of Versailles" (1) e.g., you find the following extract from that prince's memoirs:—

He who has given men kings has willed that they should be respected as His lieutenants, and reserves for Himself alone the right of judging their conduct. His will is that whoever is born a subject should obey blindly.

In fact, as Mr. Bradby says, Louis XIV. regarded his kingdom much as a man with a passion for horticulture regards his garden, from which he would remorselessly tear up what he chose to consider weeds, and arbitrarily arrange and rearrange, root out and replace what it pleased him to regard as flowers. As for his neighbours' gardens, they were to be ravaged relentlessly, as a duty to God! If this should seem to you an exaggeration of the views of himself and of his duty which Louis XIV. was taught from his earliest childhood, I can only refer you to the catechism composed for the use of the young Prince Godeau, Bishop of Venice. It took the form of an imaginary dialogue between Villeroy, the *gouverneur* of the young king, and his royal pupil. After assuring the boy that "You are the handsomest child in the world, the visible and authentic image of God; and your Majesty should always remember that you are a Vice-God"; it proceeded to inculcate the god-like duty of desolating the world by war.

The great and shining qualities which we see in all conquerors give them a claim on our esteem, although they make the world a desert. Wars are storms which serve to purge the earth as tempests purge the air. Conquerors who depopulate the world are ministers of God. Widespread desolations, being periodic and fatal, have their reason and necessity, and if they meet us on their path, let us bow gratefully to the immutable decrees that order the world. Resistance and affliction of spirit are a secret murmur against Providence.

This from a Christian bishop, who, moreover, was himself the gentlest and most charitable of men! If ordinary war, however gratuitous, is the duty of a vice-god, how much more war against heretics? To understand such ferocious treacheries as the massacre of St. Bartholomew and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, you must read the catechism which this gentlest of prelates—Godeau—composed for the instruction of the young king. Here is a characteristic passage from it:—

How fatal has been the so-called Reformation! Whoever introduces schism into faith introduces it also into the loyalty which is due to the king. Since there is a connection between the laws of the State and Divine law, whoever disturbs the one disturbs the other, and is equally guilty of *lèse majesté*. Consequently he deserves to be punished. Religion teaches subjects to reverence the king without having seen him, just as they worship God without seeing him. Therefore royalty has an interest in supporting the Papal See, the cardinals and ecclesiastics who are the depositaries and ministers of this doctrine.

Indeed, in reading Mr. Bradby's book, you again and again recall these lines from the "Dunciad":—

For sure if Dulness seems a grateful day,
'Tis in the shade of arbitrary sway.
O! if my sons may learn one earthly thing,
Teach but that one sufficient for a king;
That which my priests, and mine alone, maintain,
Which, as it dies or lives, we fall, or reign.
May you, my Cam and Isis, preach it long,
The right divine of kings to govern wrong.

Nor was it only the Church that was responsible for Louis' extravagant ideas of his vice-divine place and power. The nobles also who made themselves his footstool invited all the humiliations they endured. Perhaps the most suggestive story in the volume is that of the monstrous flattery offered Louis by the Governor of Paris, the Duc de Montbazon, and of the complacency with which it was accepted by the king. Louis sent to the Duke a letter by a footman, who presented it just as his grace was sitting down to table. M. de Montbazon read the letter, wrote a reply, handed it to the footman, who bowed and turned to depart. "No, no," said the duke, "as you have come from the king, you must do me the honour of dining with me." The footman did what he could to escape from such an embarrassing honour, but the duke insisted not only upon his sitting down to table with a large and distinguished company, but also on giving him the place of honour and on helping him first. Dinner over, the duke humbly escorted the footman through the rooms and the hall to the steps, and took there respectful leave of him. "The king," says Mr. Bradby, "used often to relate this story, and seldom failed to add, 'That is what I call *savoir vivre*.'" The least that can be said for this engrossing volume is what its author claims for it in its preface—that it reconstructs from familiar material a picture of Court life at Versailles in the later years of Louis XIV., and gives interesting biographies and speaking portraits of some of the most prominent personages of that stirring time. I fear that the aptest motto for Mr. Edge's interesting and suggestive "An Irish Utopia" (2) would be Hood's

Utopia is a pleasant place,
But how shall I get there?
Straight down the crooked lane,
And all round the square.

Mr. Edge's object in writing the book is the promotion of the unity of Christendom, and that an Irish K.C. of his ability and with his knowledge of his country should expect Ireland to lead the way to such a Utopia is, what Dr. Johnson wittily called a second marriage, "a triumph of faith over experience." The truth is, as the Catholic church has all along perceived, the only way to keep men thinking alike in religion is—to use an Irishism—to keep them from thinking at all—to make a desert of thought and to call it peace. But "An Irish Utopia" is extremely interesting, at once as a picture of Ireland as it was half a century since, and as a romance having for its culminating chapter an admirably described trial. Unlike most novelists who hinge their stories on sensational trials, Mr. Edge is here on sure ground, and he makes the utmost of his technical skill and knowledge. Not the least charm of this "Utopia" is the kindliness and geniality which breathe through its every chapter. Miss Bradford Whiting's "The Plough of Shame" (3) is a story of mediæval Italy, in which Michael Angelo himself figures, not always to his credit. Miss Bradford Whiting has thoroughly saturated herself with the history of the times she describes, and she makes thrilling use of all its terrors and treacheries, torturings, poisonings, plagues, and pestilences. Only the hero of a novel could survive all the dangers and tortures to which Domenico Montani is subjected, and he certainly earns the love of the divine Ilaria, if, as Heine says, "To be wholly loved with the whole heart one must be suffering: pity is the consecration of love; is perhaps love itself." I do not know when I have read a more thrilling tale than "The Plough of Shame." "Abbots Verney" (4), a singularly clever novel, is perhaps marred by its very cleverness, since the author is so much absorbed in making her char-

(1) "The Great Days of Versailles." Studies from Court Life in the Later Years of Louis XIV. With Portraits. By G. F. Bradby. (London: Smith, Elder & Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

(2) "An Irish Utopia." A Story of a Phase of a Land Problem. By John H. Edge, M.A., K.C. (London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d.).

(3) "The Plough of Shame." By Mary Bradford Whiting. (London: J. M. Dent & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Abbots Verney." By R. Macaulay. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

(5) "Selma." By Lucas Cleeve. (London: John Long. 6s.)

acters think and talk brilliantly that she forgets to make them act. Besides, the reticent hero is uninteresting, his quixotically honourable grandfather is incredible, while the lame and impotent conclusion of the story, is at once unnatural and disappointing. If the hero of "Abbots Verney" is uninteresting, the young gentleman who plays that part in Lucas Cleve's "Selma" (5) is despicable, and has his dastardliness thrown into relief by the Griselda-like devotion to him of the two women he betrayed. Indeed, you get almost as impatient with their dog-like devotion to so unworthy a creature as with his unworthiness.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

"The Russian Government and the Massacres" (John Murray, 2s. 6d. net) is a translation of a book by M. Semenoff, to which Mr. Lucien Wolf has contributed an introduction. It is a powerful indictment of the Russian Government in respect of its responsibility for the "pogroms"—those massacres of Jews which Mr. Wolf asserts are openly managed and prosecuted by the uniformed servants of the State.

"The Allies" is the title of a book by Major-General Sir Henry Colville on the Anglo-Japanese alliance which will be published next month by Messrs. Hutchinson and Co.

Mr. Heinemann has just issued the sixth and seventh volumes (price 4s. each) of "The Collected Works of Henrik Ibsen," the former containing "The League of Youth," and "Pillars of Society," and the latter "A Doll's House" and "Ghosts." Each volume has a biographical and critical introduction by Mr. William Archer, who is also responsible for the translations of the plays "in the sense that he has exercised an unrestricted right of revision."

Next month Messrs. Chatto and Windus will commence the publication of a series of books with illustrations in colour, the first being "Switzerland and Its People." The text of this volume is from the pen of Mr. Clarence Rook, and the illustrations will include fifty-six reproductions from water-colours by Mrs. Effie Jardine.

Mr. Frederick Lawton's "Life and Work of Auguste Rodin," recently published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, price 15s., is illustrated with portraits of the famous sculptor and numerous photographs of his masterpieces. Most of the biographical facts recorded in the book were obtained by Mr. Lawton from M. Rodin himself, so that in this respect it may be regarded as authoritative. In dealing with M. Rodin's art, Mr. Lawton writes from the point of view of an enthusiastic admirer.

"The Kinsman," by Mr. Alfred Sidgwick, which Messrs. Methuen are publishing, is the farcical story of a rich man and his "double," the former being a gentleman and the latter an ill-educated Cockney clerk. In turn each man finds himself in the other's shoes, and all sorts of diverting complications arise. The book has eight illustrations by Mr. C. E. Brock.

Alike for completeness and ease of reference, "Cassell's Book of Quotations" (10s. 6d. net) eclipses any work of the kind that has previously been published. Mr. W. Gurney Benham is said to have been engaged upon its compilation for nearly twenty years. One of the special features of the book is the inclusion of quotations from eminent living writers, and another is the collection of proverbs, popular sayings, and legal terms. The volume contains no less than 1,280 pages, and the quotations with which it is packed are admirably indexed.

Mr. David Christie Murray seems to have become a "whole-hogger" in sensational fiction as well as in fiscal policy. One incident in an early chapter of "The Penniless Millionaire" (John Long, price 6s.) is the drowning (through a yacht being accidentally sunk by a warship) of every member of an enormously wealthy family of Jewish financiers—every member except the hero, who thereby becomes the heir to many millions. In the meantime, the hero is being kept a prisoner in an East End opium den by the agents of a Buddhist monastery in China, from which he had stolen "the great emerald known as 'The Dragon's Horn.'" Mr. Murray has done infinitely better work than this, but "The Penniless Milionaire" will at any rate receive the approval of readers who love a story full of ingenious complications and thrilling episodes.

Mr. Robert W. Chambers's new novel, "The Fighting Chance," which Messrs. Constable are publishing, presents an interesting picture of fashionable life in New York, and an animated description of a country house party, with its diversions—shooting, motoring, bridge, and flirtation. The story is illustrated by Mr. Fred. Pegram.

Under the title of "The World of Crime," Messrs. Hurst and Blackett are bringing out an English translation of a book which has met with great success in Paris. It contains the memoirs of M. Goron, late chief of the Paris detective police, given in a series of stories, which, beyond being of an exciting character, are all founded upon facts.

Mr. Ramsay Colles has edited a volume of the poetical works of Thomas Lovell Beddoes, which is to be published by Messrs. Routledge in their "Muses Library." The original editions of Beddoes have been long out of print, and this will be the first popular edition of his poems.

"The Advertisers' A.B.C.," issued by Messrs. T. B. Browne, Limited, this year attains its majority and fully retains its high position as "the" book of reference for advertisers all over the kingdom. It is interesting to see from the statistics given that the past year showed a still further increase in the number of periodical publications. Of the making of magazines and newspapers, as of the making of books, there seems to be no end.

Another specialist publication which supplies a very real want is Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's "Annual." It is a *vade mecum* for newsagents compiled by experts which the up-to-date newsagent cannot afford to bo without.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I wrote to you about postmarks last week, but my soul is wrathful now about telephones. I went into a public call office the other day—an automatic one—and rang up. A voice roared, "Box out of order!" and with a click I was cut off. Clutching at my temper, I rang up again, "Where is the nearest box I can use?" I asked. The voice answered, "How should I know? *I* don't know where the nearest box is!" The tones, which I am glad to say were not feminine, were distinctly impertinent. Surely there ought to be a notice pasted up when a telephone box is out of order, with the address of the next nearest available? Another grievance—in the automatic boxes, as soon as the number called responds, the operator says to the caller, "Put your money in, please," and two pennies have to be separately dropped in and a handle turned after each. The operator never tells the person called what the delay is, and when the money is in, the caller hears an exasperated voice saying: "Well, *are* you there or are you not?" with such embroideries on this theme as anyone may imagine. Surely there should be some means of averting all this friction. Our telephone system is far behind those of the other great cities of the world.

Bee has ordered a new frock for the play, merely because she went to the private view of the Playhouse last Friday. She says that hitherto a shabby skirt and rather squashed sleeves have not mattered, but in a theatre where the stalls are armchairs, with space for late-comers to pass in front of one's knees, without disturbing one, and room to sit with arms akimbo, too, the

JAMAICA DISASTER.—The W. I. PRODUCE ASSOCIATION, 4, Fenchurch-buildings, City, are still able to execute all orders for W. I. Produce, Cigars, Cane Sugars, &c.

least one can do is to adorn these deliciously comfortable seats with a nice new crushable frock, in order to prove gratefully that it does not get crushed! I should not be surprised if Mr. Cyril Maude's generosity in space made quite a change in theatre dress, since he invariably puts on plays that everyone wants to see, and the old cry of "any skirt; it won't be seen," will not apply to his luxurious new theatre.

What would have become of us without Ardent stoves during the bitter weather we have had I cannot think. We had a large one in the hall going day and night, and the difference that it made in the temperature became very particularly apparent when one day our supply of oil ran short and we had to be without our Ardent for six glacial hours. Everyone who came into the house and observed the crimson glow and felt the delightful warmth, said: "Oh! what is this lovely stove?" Ours stood on a bright crimson mat, almost rose colour, and the ruby glass chimney turned this and the Turkey rug to an oriental richness of tint that was in delicious contrast with the bleak greyness of the weather. The bathroom pipes were kept from freezing by one of their Intense Heat portables, which burned there night and day.

Bee has a "Little Bijou" Ardent stove in her den, a room about 12 ft. square, and it warms it far better than a fire, half the heat from which escapes up the chimney. I love warmth, don't you? I almost dislike the people who go about rubbing their hands and stamping their feet and praising the seasonable weather. As to the bathers in the Serpentine, I acknowledge no kin with them. They are beyond the borders of what I recognise as of common humanity with myself. Did you read in the papers last week that one of them, while drying himself, found that his hair had frozen? I wonder if such performances as these are really beneficial to the human system? Not that I want to emulate them in any way. Never! I feel too utterly miserable when I am very cold.

Richard enjoys the cold! Whenever I read that verse in the Bible about "making men of one mind in a house," I think how nice it would be if men and women could be made of one temperature in a house. When a room is warm enough for me, it is too hot for Richard. I suppose that in the United States we could get a divorce for that if we wanted one. Incompatibility of temperature sounds quite legal.

Extract from a sale catalogue: "For sale or exchange, a bathchair capable of containing two persons in good condition." This beats the "gold-headed gentleman's cane" and the "perfect gentleman's residence" into fits.

Dinner at the Dieudonné is different from dinner anywhere else. There is a calm repose in the atmosphere of the very pretty room that one does not find elsewhere. There is no orchestra, and 90 per cent. of the visitors express their appreciation of this negative attraction. The waiters, even, seem to make less noise with the plates and dishes, spoons and knives, than elsewhere, and the jibes about the noise of smart restaurants that one reads every now and then are singularly inapplicable to the Dieudonné, smart as it is. The food is delicious. Their Crême Esau is a particularly good soup. We tried to trace out the genesis of the name, but could get no further than Esau's mess of pottage, potage, soup. The woodcock on toast was something to remember, so perfectly was it cooked, and the Marie Brizard ice was uncommonly good. Most delicious chocolates and menthes are handed round afterwards, wrapped in papers simulating sovereigns and half-crowns. Diners at the restaurant in Ryder-street take them home to their children, who appreciate them intensely.

Still further brilliance is lent to the ball got up by Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen in aid of Princess Christian's Windsor Crèche by the fact that the Duchess of Rutland, the Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Ludlow, Lady Castlereagh, Ellen Lady Inchiquin, and Lady Alice Leslie have now given their patronage. The Wharncliffe Rooms, which are to be beautifully decorated, will witness a gay assembly on Tuesday, the 5th. The string band of the Scots Guards is to supply the music, and dancing begins at 9.30.

Where is Barataria? I mean Gilbert and Sullivan's Barataria. It is somewhere quite near Venice, for the distance can be covered in a gondola, and that is not the kind of boat one would choose for a long voyage. There is somewhere (do tell me where) a Gulf of Barataria, and I suppose that is where the delicious preserved prawns come from. They are so nice sautés on the chafing dish in a little butter.

But why do I want to know, you may inquire. Because we were at the Savoy the other evening and heard "The Gondoliers." The scene of the second act is laid in Barataria. The music is delightful, so bright, so melodious, so exquisitely dainty, and, above all, so absolutely free from the flat inanity of which we have had so much of late years. Small wonder that there is record booking at the Savoy, and when such old favourites as "The Mikado," "H.M.S. Pinafore," "Patience," and "The Pirates of Penzance" are produced, there will not be nearly enough room for the crowds who will want to hear them. We admired very much the wonderful curtseys made by the Duchess of Plaza-Toro and her daughter. They were like "popper" in the American anecdote. They went flat. You remember that particular popper? His daughter, having been telling of the family travels, was asked how her father liked the crossings from New York to Liverpool. "Oh, popper? He goes flat," was her answer. Probably entirely untrue, but amusing. Poor popper! Perhaps he knew not of the efficacious Yanatas.

Poor, dear West Indies! They have been unfortunate of late years. We get such delicious things from them that one feels sorry to hear of the misfortunes of these beautiful islands, for selfish as well as general reasons. You know the grape fruit? It is extremely delicious, and the limes are in many ways preferable to lemons and are available for all the purposes for which lemons are used, besides being less than half the price. The shaddocks, too, are very pleasant to the taste, especially when treated, as by an American friend of ours, who mixes up the juicy part with sugar and liqueur in the most knowing way. The oranges are superb and most deliciously sweet, as an orange should be. I always think that an orange fails of its duty when it is not sweet.

Have you ever tasted West Indian pepperpot? For this and other savoury dishes consult the price list of the West Indian Produce Association, which gives excellent recipes for the preparation of the various delicious materials sent over here. So send for one to 4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C. And do not omit to notice the very excellent mangoes in syrup and guava jelly, also the molasses procurable from Wipa. This last is a word, now familiar in our mouths, made up from the initials of the Association.

Do you think wedding gowns are ever hired out like men's dress suits? The average bridal gown is so exactly like its thousands of colleagues that it might be possible to make a profession of its loan. Although brides usually order their wedding gown before they have been tired out with hurry, they seldom expend any originality on it, and in due course rustle up the aisle swathed in satin and lace like nearly all their predecessors. I wonder how a man feels who watches his second bride approaching in the exact garments of his first? It is an unpropitious moment for such memories to arise; one can imagine him, if of a nervous temperament, peering through the veil and whispering: "Are you Mary or Ada?"

A pretty way out of this sameness is the historical idea, in which bride, bridesmaids, and pages are all

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dressed in the garments of some one period, skilfully adapted to modern use. Liberty's has just issued one of their illustrated booklets, called "Wedding Gowns," one part of which is devoted to sketches of historical bridal costumes, unaffected by change of fashion. The Puritan bride, for instance, is the perfection of simplicity—Orion satin simplicity, by the way, very soft and full of beautiful mobile shadows as the folds move. The plain bodice has no belt, but is finished with a cording, and there is a deep double cape or collar of the finest white lawn, falling well over the shoulders, and fastened with three little bows in front. The sleeves are turned back in small plain cuffs from the elbow, and have lower sleeves of lawn doubly gauntletted at the wrist. Her grown-up bridesmaids wear equally simple dresses, but approaching more nearly to the Stuart riding-coats. The little inner crossover vests are of soft white lawn, and they have broad straw hats, tied with ribbon, the brim bent down very becomingly in front. The child bridesmaids have the sweetest high-waisted frocks, with severe collars, and little Puritan caps. As to the page, he is also severe in outline, but very artistic.

With the Charles I. group we are faced with a curious resemblance to the Puritan, but simplicity has vanished. The daintiest of brides, in a plain skirt and tabbed bodice, breaks out into lace edgings wherever she can, and even her wreath is more worldly than that of her Puritan cousin. Her bridesmaids, too, are lace-edged, and they have bewitching bows. Under their great feathered hats are little lace caps, resting on the hair in a most delightful manner. The little girl bridesmaid has the cap without the hat, and her lace-edged collar and ribbon-threaded tabs are very sweet. A little silver embroidery further lightens her. As for the page, he is splendid in silver-embroidered satin, and where the girls have bows he has rosettes. He has a lace-edged collar, like theirs, but his satin knickerbockers, tied in at the knee, are all his own, and he carries a bravely befeathered hat.

The Empire dresses are charming. The bride has a high-waisted bodice of embroidery, over a lace vest, with a jewelled girdle. Her dress is of crêpe-de-chine. The bridesmaid's dress is muslin with many frills at the feet, and a fichu with long frilled ends. Her hat has two long feathers, one on either side. The little girl wears a cap, with a high-waisted dress; both she and the page are reminiscent of Greenaway children. These groups are not only remarkably pretty as they are, but each leaf on which they are sketched can be detached, and sent to Liberty with a list of the alterations one would like, when fresh sketches will be made and sent before any order is given. This same arrangement applies to the modern bridal garments included in the book, which combine art with smartness, and have all that softness and delicacy which have made of the proper name Liberty an adjective used round the five oceans and in a dozen languages to denote the graceful and the pliant in dress.

I have received the following from Mona:—

MY DEAR MADGE,—You ask, Why do a nurseryman's azaleas flower so much better than an amateur's? Is not the answer obvious? The one treats them badly and the other treats them well. As a rule, the amateur's aim is to get flowers, and when they are over the plant which has borne them is neglected, others that are still flowering, or about to do so, taking the late favourite's place. A nurseryman's aim, on the other hand, is to grow fine plants. That is the difference between the two—a very great difference, as you will admit. If, as often happens, plants that have finished flowering are thrust into some out-of-the-way corner of the greenhouse, left without water for days and never fed or re-potted, it is ridiculous to expect them to produce a good crop in the following year, especially as it is just at this time that they are making the new wood on which the flowers should be borne. There is, indeed, no season at which they require more attention. The first thing to be done, when the flowers of an azalea wither, is to remove them all. The formation of seed pods is a serious waste of energy, and if they are allowed to remain it is rarely that flowers appear on the shoots which issue from the spot where the pods have been. If re-potting is necessary, this is the time to do it. Clean pots should always be used. If they are new, they should first be soaked in water for twenty-four hours—for two reasons: to fill the pores with moisture, which they will otherwise absorb from the soil round the roots; and to remove the arsenic, which is generally associated with clay. If they are old, any green stain may be removed or prevented from gathering in them by pouring on an ounce of carbonate of copper enough ammonia water to dissolve it, and adding eight gallons of water, and soaking the pots in the solution. This will keep them clean for at least a year.

The most suitable soil for azaleas consists of peat and coarse sand, but if peat is not available turfy loam in lumps and leaf-mould make an excellent substitute. It should be made quite firm—indeed, rammed hard with a wooden rammer. This is an important detail in the cultivation of all, or nearly all, hard-wooded plants with fine fibrous roots. If they are grown in loose soil they are apt to produce long soft shoots, and in consequence bear comparatively few flowers. Azaleas require a great deal of water during the growing period, and for this reason there should be plenty of broken crocks in the pots, for without proper drainage the soil would soon get sodden—a deadly state of affairs for most plants, but especially for those of this class which includes heaths and rhododendrons. After having been re-potted, azaleas should be placed, not in a dark corner, but in the warmest and sunniest part of the greenhouse, and should be frequently sprayed or syringed, the object being to induce fresh growth to start as soon as possible. The moisture helps here by softening the bark and thus making it easier for the buds to break. As the season advances and the weather gets warmer, the plants will require more air to keep the new shoots sturdy and strong, and in summer they should be placed outside for a month or two to ripen the wood, but very carefully watched, so that the soil does not become dry. If your azaleas are treated in this way, I do not think you will have to complain again of their not flowering properly.

I scarcely think that you will be successful in growing hardy azaleas and rhododendrons. You see, your subsoil is chalk; that is the difficulty. It is useless to dig a hole, no matter how large, and to fill up with good soil. Sunk beds have been tried again and again, and have always proved unsatisfactory, the lime-laden water draining into them and eventually killing the plants. The lime seems to act upon them in much the same way as it acts upon gouty or rheumatic persons—by forming deposits which interfere with the circulation. By the way, I forgot to say that hard water should never be given to azaleas under glass, for the reason just mentioned. The only practicable method of growing these plants in your garden is to make raised beds for them, the larger the better. Here they may do fairly well for a time if you can keep the soil sufficiently moist in summer. That is the difficulty with these raised beds, the water drains away so quickly, but with a hose it should not be insuperable. At any rate, the method is far more likely to produce satisfactory results than sunk beds. A top dressing of litter will check evaporation from the soil in summer and reduce the amount of water required; or, if you object to that, cocoanut fibre may be used instead. The fibre is not expensive, only about five or six shillings a sack, and that quantity will cover a large area.

The propagation of azaleas is interesting work, but I doubt if you will find it worth while; bought plants are now so cheap, and so much better than any you are likely to raise yourself. Sometimes, it is true, instead of a single stem, there are a number, and if these are divided, each with its own roots, you get several fairly large plants at once. But the ordinary methods of propagation are very much slower. The slowest of all is sowing seeds. As years must elapse before the seedlings reach flowering size, and as a large proportion of them are almost sure then to prove not worth growing, I feel sure you will not try it. Cuttings of young ripe wood, taken off with a slight "heel," or scrap of older wood, will often strike if inserted in pots or boxes of sandy soil, and kept close and moist until they show signs of growth. Gentle bottom heat will assist rooting, but any attempt to force the pace is sure to result in failure. Layering is another method. It may be applied with advantage to old

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plants which have grown tall and straggling. By layering the branches, plants of comparatively large size can be obtained in a much shorter time than would be possible in any other way. Finally, azaleas may be grafted. It is by grafting that most of the new and valuable varieties are propagated by nurserymen, Azalea pontica being the stock generally used for the purpose.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Whatever changes of weather we have to go through, however searching and drastic, we possess at least in this season the sustaining knowledge that the days are growing longer. Come what come may—and a great deal is sure to come—is it not a joyful and hopeful thought to remember that we are well on the right side of the shortest day of the winter? A calendar which marks the risings and settings of the sun each day is just now a most comforting possession. It is a case—supposing one does not forget to change the date every morning on the block—of methodic virtue being its own reward. We learn for certain, and with the dead certainty, not to say cocksureness, of scientific knowledge, that the sun rises earlier and sets later each morning and evening respectively as the month goes on. Otherwise, personal experience would frequently teach us nothing on the subject. Last week, for instance, scientific knowledge was our great consolation. On many days we cheerfully believed without seeing, for the sun did not seem to trouble about rising at all, but just left a sort of grey twilight to itself. No matter how much the appearances were against it, however, we knew that the days were growing longer, and, as with the heart that "goes all the day," when merry, our hearts were, passably enough, kept up by scientific knowledge through the continued darkness. Fred, it must be said, ascribes the philosophic bearing towards the dark days more to bridge than anything else, for, of course, it was the natural resource in the long afternoons. One must hope that it was not a case of the Prince of Darkness in connection with the much-abused—in more ways than one—but still popular game.

This week we have no time to consider the weather, unless it forces itself on our attention, for the commencement of the Castle season engages all time and thought. We are plunged into quite a social vortex—engagements day and night, those of the latter including many important ones. Viceregal, like Royal, Court entertainments have always to be more importantly "dressed" than any others. Even when they are not ceremonials demanding a special full dress, we usually honour them with the best we can do when left to our own individual tastes. Perhaps we like doing our best in that way, we women; few of us ever spare ourselves in the manner of selecting and planning toilettes. What laborious days we live in the "cause," but no doubt it is the case that "The labour we delight in physics pain." The Castle season is expected to be a good one; in fact, Dublin starts with the idea of having an unusually brilliant time. "Say well and you will do well" is an excellent maxim; if we all mean to be brilliant, we surely shall be so this season. Lady Aberdeen is sure to do a great deal in the way of bringing pleasant variety into Viceregal entertainments. She has a kindly and reasonable manner of thinking of wider interests than merely "smart" ones. By the way, one wonders why Courts should so exclusively entertain a particular "smart" set, considering that there is no exclusiveness in the taxation which keeps up Courts. Don't you think, at least, that every one "courtable"—may not "hoffähig" be so translated?—should have a turn instead of giving all the turns to a select few? Courts should, like everything else, have their duties as well as their rights. But we all are so much fonder of our rights than of our duties, and so shameless in favouring them! Even the best of us, perhaps!

Dublin has filled for the Castle season. Amongst new arrivals last week were Sir William and Lady Butler, the Dowager Lady Clinton and the Misses Trefusis, Sir James and Lady Stronge and their daughters. Sir Herbert and Lady Plumer have taken a house in St. Stephen's Green. Lord Iveagh arrived last week, but Lady Iveagh was not with him, though she is expected to come, as she generally does at this season. She has been in delicate health, and was laid up for a long time last year in Dublin. Lord Iveagh takes a strong personal interest, not only in his great business, but in all the philanthropic works he is doing to benefit the poorer brethren in his native town. He is, as you know, a Dublin man and a graduate of Trinity College, now

RECEIVED LATE.

The United Motor-Cab Co., Ltd., are issuing a Prospectus which states amongst other things that—

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The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, the 30th day of January, 1907, and will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, the 1st day of February, 1907.

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C. L. CHARLEY (Motor-Car Manufacturer), 70, Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris.
SIR HENRY NORMAN (Member of Parliament), St. Thomas's Mansions, Westminster, London.
SIR HENRY SETON-KARR, Chairman, City and Suburban Motor-Cab Co., Ltd., 47, Chester-square, London, S.W.
CHARLES WYNDHAM QUIN, Director, City and Suburban Motor-Cab Co., Ltd., Wandle House, Mitcham, Surrey.
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This company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as a going concern the business of the City and Suburban Motor-Cab Company, Limited, together with their existing service of motor-cabs, and of further increasing the business by placing upon the streets of London an additional supply of motor-cabs and cars for public use, under contracts with the Société des Automobiles Unic (Georges Richard & Co.), manufacturers of the famous Unic cars, and with A. Darracq & Co. (1905), Limited.

The directors of the General Motor-Cab Company, Limited, in spite of the extension they intend giving to their own enterprise with the Renault motor-cabs, have, after careful consideration, decided that it is of great importance to their own undertaking to assure a friendly co-operation and alliance with this company's enterprise. They consider that, inasmuch as the workings of the Unic motor-cabs of the City and Suburban Moto-Cab Company, Limited, have demonstrated the excellence of the cars and the satisfactory financial results of the business, they are justified in favouring the development of this company's undertaking as an ally, and not treating it as a rival. The General Motor-Cab Company, Limited, has therefore undertaken to subscribe for a substantial sum in the share capital of this company, and will also be represented on the board by those of its directors whose names appear upon this prospectus. Arrangements are in progress so that this company's cabs may be garaged in the important premises now being erected by the General Motor-Cab Company, Limited, in the Brixton Road.

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Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

called Dublin University, or, rather, it used to be erroneously, but popularly, called "Trinity."

Lord Shaftesbury is to be the Lord Mayor of Belfast this year, and has been residing at his residence, Belfast Castle. He inherited a large property in the North from his mother, and serious views of duty from his parental relatives. He was often in Dublin when Mr. Wyndham and Lady Grosvenor were at the Chief Secretary's Lodge. Like his sister, Lady M. Warrender, he is very musical and has a charming voice. Not one's usual idea of a Lord Mayor, is it? We are to have another literary and highly cultured Chief Secretary now in Mr. Birrell, who is, we hear, charming. One hopes that in sending us cultured Chief Secretaries in succession that there is nothing of the "one satiric touch" to suggest that "no nation wanted it so much." We feel that "birrelling" ought to be popular here, where we like life to be brightened by playful fancies and wit.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Try this recipe—young goose and chestnuts:—

Choose a fat young goose, ready trussed as for roasting. Mince the liver, cut an onion up small, and mix in it a tablespoonful of grated bacon. Now make a chestnut purée and mix it with the other ingredients, secure the end and stuff the bird at the craw. Sew it up safely, cover it with buttered paper, and roast it to a golden brown. Roasting before the fire is preferable.

These fillets of partridge à la Susette are also very nice indeed:—

Take the fillets of three partridges, separate the mignon from the upper fillet, sautez the larger ones with butter to set the flesh, and press them between two dishes. When they are cold, trim them, dip them in beaten eggs and bread crumbs, and fry them in salad oil. Dish them on a border of quenelle made with the flesh of the legs, arrange the mignon fillet on the top (which should be curled round with a slice of truffle in the centre and cooked in butter in the oven), garnish the centre of the fillets with a ragoût of cooked sweetbread, red tongue, truffles, and mushroom, all of which should be steamed in a little of the sauce. To make the sauce, it is necessary to have a nicely flavoured stock made from the bones of the birds; cook a couple of chopped shallots with butter in a stewpan, add the trimmings of the mushrooms and sweetbread, mix in a spoonful of potato fecule, and the reduced stock from the bones. Simmer the sauce at least half an hour, adding a glass of claret, then squeeze it through the tammy. Finish the sauce with a small piece of butter, the squeeze of a lemon, and a spoonful of chopped parsley.

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A REMARKABLE BOOK ON THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., the distinguished authority on Hygienic Science and Health Questions, is evidently a believer in Thomas Carlyle's doctrine that there is no utility in pointing out misfortunes unless you at the same indicate the remedy. In his remarkable little book, "The Art of Living," just issued from the press, Dr. Wilson not only points out that "Our first duty to ourselves is to check illness at the outset," but he follows up this admonition with the more welcome information how we are to do it. He, so to speak, says: "You have the evil of ill-health to fight. Now, here's the weapon to fight with. Strike for freedom." For example, he says: "Suppose a person has run down—feels languid and is easily tired. If he neglects this warning—for all such signs and symptoms are Nature's warning to us—the possibility is that he will pass further afield into the great lone land of disease. Can he do anything to save himself from such a disastrous result? In the vast majority of cases he can restore his vigour." How? Dr. Wilson tells his reader how without delay, adding at once this remarkable statement: "Probably he will be advised to take a tonic. This in the main is good advice. Unfortunately the number of tonics is legion, but if there exists any preparation which can combine in itself the properties of a tonic and restorative, and which at the same time can contribute to the nourishment and building up of the enfeebled body, it is evident such an agent must prove of the utmost value to everybody. I have found such a tonic and restorative in the preparation known as Sanatogen." How the distinguished author found this tonic he tells us in an interesting bit of autobiography. "Recovering from an attack of Influenza," he says, "and suffering from the severe weakness incidental to that ailment, Sanatogen was brought under my notice. I gave it a fair trial, and the results were all that could have been desired. In a short time my appetite improved, the weakness was conquered, and without the use of any other medicine or preparation I was restored to health." It is easy to believe that this experience led the doctor to make a thorough investigation into this specific which had served him so well. Sanatogen, he tells us, "combines two distinct elements, one tonic and the other nutritive." Further, it is no "secret" remedy, for, as he pertinently observes: "Its composition is well known, otherwise medical men would not prescribe it." What the tonic and nutritive elements of Sanatogen are and how they effect so much good Dr. Wilson describes in simple, convincing terms. The whole passage is too long to quote, but one important remark of the writer may be given, namely, that one of the principal elements of Sanatogen "represents the substance which actually forms a very important, if not the most important, constituent of our brain and nervous system." How, through regenerating the nervous system, Sanatogen restores the functions of the digestive organs, and by rebuilding the tissues compensates the wear and tear of latter-day life; how it does away with the need of stimulants, and cures the sick by the natural method of making the body strong enough to drive out disease—all this, in the delightful style of Dr. Wilson's language, makes engrossing and pleasant as well as instructive reading. This last contribution of Dr. Wilson to the literature of Health may certainly be calculated to carry joyful news to the ailing and weary. A limited number of complete specimen copies of the "Art of Living," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., are being distributed free of charge. To obtain one of these copies the applicant must mention "Truth" in sending his name and address to the Publishers—F. Williams & Co., 83, Upper Thames St., London, E.C.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,455.

BEST SUGGESTION FOR A REDUCED SENTENCE ON STOKER MOODY.

The result arrived at by averagirg all suggestions sent in, and calculating the answer to two places of decimals, has been to show that 11·95 months imprisonment is the ideal sentence.

No Competitor has given these exact figures. But eight have suggested a term of twelve months, and the Prize of Two Guineas will be equally divided between them.

They are thus each entitled to the sum of 5s. 3d.

The *noms-de-plume* of the successful eight are:—BOBBIN, VERBUM SAT, VAN DAUB, BUCKS, GAME B, STEAM PIPE, KORAH, NEALE.

As some misapprehension appears to exist, may I call the attention of these, and of all other successful Competitors, to Rule 10?

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,456.

BEST ORIGINAL PARODY OF CAMPBELL'S FAMOUS LINES ENTITLED "A THOUGHT SUGGESTED BY THE NEW YEAR."

I cannot say that the Parodies sent in for this Competition have been of high merit. But, in my opinion, the best of a rather moderate lot are those sent in by WALFORD and TREBOR NITRAM, both of which were printed in TRUTH, of January 2 last. The Prize of Two Guineas is, therefore, divided equally between those two Competitors.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,462.

I know, by experience, that we number among our Competitors many efficient writers of the lighter kind of verse; but our serious poets are, so far as I am concerned, still an unknown quantity.

I should like, therefore, to give them an opportunity of proving what they can do; and, to that end, I now offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas to:

THAT COMPETITOR WHO SHALL SEND IN THE BEST POEM, IN SERIOUS VEIN, DEALING WITH THE RECENT APPALLING EARTHQUAKE AT KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

The poem may be either in blank, or in rhymed verse, but should follow some recognised metre; *and it must not exceed twenty lines.*

Any aspect of the catastrophe may be dealt with, the only essential being that a *serious* point of view must be taken.

Apart from the fact that I wish to give our serious poets a chance, Competitors will themselves recognise that anything in the shape of humour or badinage would be totally out of place in so tragic a connection.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor should send in more than one poem.
(ii) All poems must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, February 11, *at latest.*

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1.—SPECIAL FOREIGN.

BEST ANAGRAM OF THE WORDS: "THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND."

After careful consideration, I have decided to award the Prize of Two Guineas in this Competition to ENTEBBE, whose anagram, "A gifted trio-land to their kind guide, Bannerman," was printed in TRUTH of January 9 last.

At the same time, I should like to congratulate Competitors generally; and in particular to make honourable mention to N. S. W. LANCER, whose anagram, "Tho' it be far, true to England and King did I remain," would have been adjudged the best, but for the fact that the word "and" was not anagrammed.

I shall be glad to receive formal application for Prize from ENTEBBE, with real name and address, in due course.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of LEAF RULE, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,452, is Ernest A. Fuller, Esq., 10, The Circus, Greenwich Park, S.E.

*** The real name, with the address, of KODON, winner of half the Special Four Guinea Prize awarded in TRUTH Competition No. 1,453, is the Rev. J. A. W. Bell, Westlands, Eastbourne.

*** The real name, with the address, of OX SHORT, winner of half the Special Four Guinea Prize awarded in TRUTH Competition No. 1,453, is Percy E. Kingsford, Esq., Oxford Shorthand, Dover.

*** The real name, with the address, of EBORACUM, winner of one-quarter TRUTH Prize No. 1,454, is the Rev. W. H. de C. Baldwin, Holtby Rectory, York.

*** The real name, with the address, of TONY, winner of one-quarter TRUTH Prize No. 1,454, is J. H. Morton, Esq., Ardbeg, Cambuslang.

*** The real name, with the addresss, of JEAN QUI RIT, winner of one-quarter of TRUTH Prize No. 1,454, is Chas. Duncan, Esq., 6, Comely Bank Grove, Edinburgh.

CHERRYPICKER.—Your *nom-de-plume* duly noted. Very pleased to welcome you to our competitions.

TONY.—I am much obliged by your courteous letter. I am inquiring into the points to which you refer. I am quite certain that you are no grumbler; and I can assure you that I am always glad to receive and consider any reasonable expostulation.

I am filing your suggestion for a Puzzle, which may, I think, come in useful in the near future. For the sake of variety, I think it better not to have competitions of this *plébiscite* character too near to one another; though they are always interesting and popular.

NURSE.—Your first list of Scrapegraces *was* duly signed with your *nom-de-plume*; so it would, in any case, have been all right.

LINDITE.—I have made the necessary small correction in your rebus.

STERNE.—I duly note correction in your rebus.

MASTER GUNNER.—I have added the 25/3/07, which was unfortunately omitted by the printers.

JASBERRIE.—The correction of ONELWYN into ONLLWYN has been duly made.

RIMABEL.—I have made the necessary substitution, in accordance with your request.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,459.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

LIST OF NAMES OF THE SIX MOST DELIGHTFUL SCAPEGRACES IN ENGLISH FICTION.

Dick Swiveller, Midshipman Easy, Kim, Stalky, Falstaff, Jack Sheppard.—Cherrypicker.

Sam Weller, Handy Andy, Tom Sawyer, Alfred Jingle, Gil Blas, Don Quixote.—Porthos.

Tom Jones, Fielding; Philip Firmin, Thackeray; Jack Brag, T. Hook; Charley Bates, Dickens; Tom Beasley, Marriott; Dick Swiveller, Dickens.—Libra.

The Young Pretender, Henry of Navarre, Robin Hood, Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, D'Artagnan (if counted as English fiction, if not, Micky Free).—Faenlean.

Falstaff, Swiveller, Pickwick, Becky Sharp, Davey Garrick, Capt. Kettle.—The Prebend.

Dick Swiveller, Mr. Micawber, Falstaff, Roderick Random, Alfred Jingle, Mantalini.—Almaviva.

Sydney Carton, Tony Lumkin, Mulvany, Honeywood, Sir John Falstaff, Dick Swiveller.—Judith.

Falstaff, Tom Jones, Sydney Carton, Dick Swiveller, Robin Hood, Captain Kettle.—Rimabel.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Charles Surface, Mr. Jingle, The Artful Dodger, Captain Wragge.—Oberon.

Sydney Carton, Dickens; Charles Surface, Sheridan; Edward Rossiter, Brontë; Eugene Aram, Lytton; Eugene Wrayburn, Dickens; Raffles.—Cybele.

Edward Rossiter, Jane Eyre; Sydney Carton, Tale of Two Cities; Dick Swiveller, Dickens; Denys Mallory, Garden of Lies; Falstaff, Merry Wives of Windsor; Eugene Aram, Lytton.—Arachne.

Alfred Jingle, in Pickwick; Mantalini, in Nicholas Nickleby; Charles Surface, Falstaff, Frank Webber, in Charles O'Malley; Lord George Tiverton, in The Dodd Family Abroad.—Knot.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Henry V. as a boy from Henry IV., Jingle from The Pickwick Papers, Friar Tuck from Ivanhoe, Handy Andy from Handy Andy, by Lever.—New Zealander.

Falstaff, Shakespeare, 1 and 2 Henry IV., Merry Wives; Autolycus, Winter's Tale; Dick Swiveller, Dickens, Old Curiosity Shop; Alfred Jingle, Pickwick Papers; Salvation Yeo, Kingsley, Westward Ho!; The Beloved Vagabond, W. J. Locke.—Eboracum.

Don Quixote, Jack the Giant Killer, Roderick Random, Pendennis, Verdant Green, Rob Roy.—Aconite.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Wilkins Micawber, Alfred Jingle, Charles Surface, Tom Jones.—Tony.

Charles Surface, Falstaff, Tom Jones, David Garrick, Sydney Carton, Prince Hal.—Esperance.

Chaplain Sampson, The Virginians; Fred Bay-

ham, Newcomes; Bob Sawyer, Pickwick; Bertie Stanhope, Burchester Towers: Wildrake, Woodstock; Sydney Carton, Tale of Two Cities. -Nemo.

Robin Hood, in Ivanhoe; Jingle, in The Pickwick Papers; Mantalini, in Nicholas Nickleby; Tom Jones, the hero of Fielding's novel; Peregrine Pickle, the hero of Smollett's novel; Hudibras, hero of Ben Jonson's poems.—Beginner.

Mulvaney, Jingle, Dick Swiveller, Handy Andy, Sam Weller, Tom Jones.—Boxer.

The Artful Dodger, Dickens, Oliver Twist; Friar Tuck, Scott, Ivanhoe; Charles Surface, Sheridan, School for Scandal; Sir Toby Belch, Shakespeare, Twelfth Night; Sir John Falstaff, Shakespeare, Merry Wives of Windsor, etc.; Dick Swiveller, Dickens, Old Curiosity Shop.—Crescendo.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Micawber, Rawdon Crawley, Sydney Carton, Dick Phenyl, Sweet Lavender.—Blencathra.

Falstaff, Sir Toby Belch, Becky Sharp, Dick Swiveller, Micawber, Charles Surface (School for Scandal).—Verbum Sat.

Dick Swiveller, in Dicken's Old Curiosity Shop; Tom Jones, in Fielding's Tom Jones; Sir John Falstaff, in Shakespeare's Henry IV. and Merry Wives; Charles Surface, Sheridan's School for Scandal; Becky Sharp, in Thackeray's Vanity Fair; Mr. Wilkins Micawber in Dickens' David Copperfield.—Juvenis.

Falstaff, Friar Tuck, Charles Surface, Augustus Tomlinson, Dick Swiveller, Becky Sharp.—Myrah.

John Falstaff, King Henry IV.; Alfred Jingle, Pickwick Papers; Mr. Micawber, David Copperfield; Dick Swiveller, Old Curiosity Shop; George Rouncewell, Bleak House; Dick Turpin, Rookwood.—Dick Maisch.

Tom Jones, Charles Surface, Sir Lucius O'Trigger, Dick Swiveller, Tony Lumpkin, Mickey Free. —Chicot.

Falstaff, Barry Lyndon, Dick Swiveller, Wilkins Micawber, Rupert of Hentzau, Captain Kettle. Dracula.

Dick Swiveller, Wilkins Micawber, Falstaff, Barry Lyndon, Rupert of Hentzau, Roderick Random —Hypatia.

Mantalini, Nicholas Nickleby; Steerforth, David Copperfield; Becky Sharp, Vanity Fair; Pietro Glustern, M. Crawford; The Celestial Surgeon. Montrésor.—Aster.

Charles Surface. "School for Scandal." Sheridan; Charles O'Malley, by Charles Lever; Tom Jones, by Henry Fielding; Dick Steele, "Esmond," by Thackeray; Dick Swiveller, "Old Curiosity Shop," by Charles Dickens; Charles James Fox, "Richard Carvel," by Winston Churchill.—Sarned.

Sydney Carton, Sir Toby Belch, Rawdon Crawley, Falstaff, Hotspur, Micawber,—Renwick.

Alfred Jingle, Mr. Micawber, Dick Swiveller, Frank Webber, John Burley, My Novel; Raffles.—Tom Nissed.

Falstaff; Dick Swiveller; Jingle, Pickwick; Micawber; Job Trotter, Pickwick; Rawdon Crawley, Vanity Fair.—Queensholme.

Charles Surface, "School for Scandal," Sheridan; Harry East, "Tom Brown's Schooldays," Hughes; Frank Esmond, Esmond, Thackeray; D'Artagnan, "Three Musketeers," Dumas; Micky Free, "Charles O'Malley," Lever; Midshipman Easy, "Midshipman Easy," Marryat. Zumerzet.

Dick Swiveller, Falstaff, Jingle, Robin Hood, Becky Sharp, Rupert of Hentzau.—Cockbird.

Alfred Jingle, Dick Swiveller, Bailey Junior, Mr. Mantalini, Mr. Micawber, Falstaff.—Pioneer.

Don Quixote, Bob Sawyer, Robin Hood; Stalky, in Stalky and Co.; Hordle John, in The White Company; Angela, in the Heavenly Twins.—Oscau.

Charles Surface, The School for Scandal; The Earl of Leicester, Kenilworth; Paul Clifford, Bulwer Lytton; Count Fosco, Woman in White, Wilkie Collins; Raffles. Thief in the Night, Hornung; Rupert of Hentzau, Anthony Hope.—Bel Demonio.

Dick Swiveller, Alfred Jingle, Rawdon Crawley, Terence Mulvaney, Roland Yorke, Harry Lorrequer.—The Mac.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Tom Jones, Alfred Jingle, Charley Bates, Harry Lorrequer.—Thersites.

Falstaff, Robin Hood, Micawber, A. J. Raffles. Dick Swiveller, Captain Starlight.—Korah.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Micawber; Jingle, Pickwick; Newman Noggs; Sydney Carton, Tale of Two Cities.—Beatrice.

Falstaff, Robin Hood, King Henry V., Dick Swiveller, Tom Brown, Midshipman Easy.—Glenrosa.

Charles Surface, Claude Duval, Dick Steel, Dick Swiveller, Sir John Falstaff, Robin Hood. -Allimac.

Robin Hood, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Rupert of Hentzau; Mulvaney, in Kipling.—Israfil.

Price Hal, Frank Webber, Tony Lumpkin, Mr. Alfred Jingle, The Duke of Buckingham, in Peveril of the Peak, Mr. Richmond, Senior, in Harry Richmond.—Hatter.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Mantalini, Micawber, Tom Jones, Barry Lyndon.—Mercurius.

Kim, "Kim," by Kipling; Sydney Carton, Tale of Two Cities; Falstaff, Shakespeare; Cleg Kelly, Crockett; Dick, in The Light that Failed; Rolande Yorke, The Cleanings.—Carrots.

Bob Pretty, Roger Wildrake, Roland Yorke, Tom Faggus, Charles Surface, Sidney Carton.—Tiny.

Falstaff, Dick Swiveller, Mr. Micawber, Handy Andy, Mr. Jingle, Charles Surface.—Crapaud.

Dick Swiveller, Handy Andy, Tom Jones, Sam Weller, Charles O'Malley, Falstaff.—Roy.

Falstaff, Handy Andy, Dominie Sampson, Mark Tapley, Sam Weller, Micawber.—Dorset.

Charles Surface, Becky Sharp, Alfred Jingle, Dick Swiveller, Falstaff, Rupert of Hentzau.—Nurse.

Micawber, Mulvaney, Huckleberry Finn, Dick Swiveller, Handy Andy, Falstaff.—Northlander.

Rawdon Crawley, Thackeray; Major Monsoon, Lever; Charles Surface; Roger Wildrake, Scott; Count Florac, Thackeray; Mickey Free, Lever. —Mac.

Falstaff, Shakespeare; Dick Swiveller, Dickens' Old Curiosity Shop; Charles Surface, Sheridan's School for Scandal; Mr. Jingle, Dickens' Pickwick; Dick Turpin, Ainsworth's Rookwood; Mr. Micawber, Dickens' Copperfield.—Beaucaire.

Dick Swiveller, Falstaff, Jingle, Charles Surface, Handy Andy, Dick Turpin.—Soucique.

Falstaff, Swiveller, Charles Surface, Micawber, Handy Andy, Dick Turpin.—Maurice.

Sir John Falstaff (Shakespeare). "King Henry IV.," parts I and II. His death described "King Henry V.," act II., line 3; Roderick Random, "Peregrine Pickle," Smollet; Tom Jones, Fielding. "Unquestionably the first of English novels" (Chambers); "Since Homer, the world has not seen a more artful epic fable" (Dr. Beattie); "The prose Homer of human nature" (Byron). The novel contains eighteen books. The initial chapters of each are moral essays which might be read from the pulpit. Rip Van Winkle (Washington Irving). "This, and "Sleepy Hollow," are perhaps the finest pieces of original fiction that this country has produced, next to Scott's works" (Chambers). Richard Swiveller, "The Old Curiosity Shop" (Dickens).—J. McGrigor Allan.

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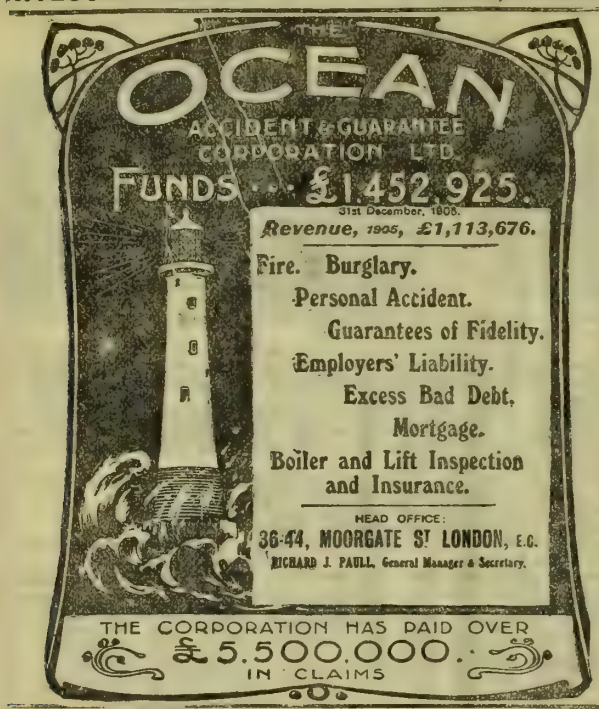

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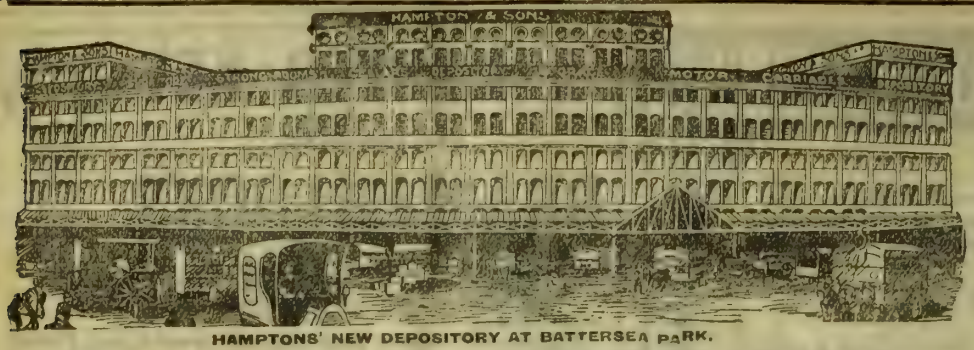

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1571. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, February 6, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICES.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

An Index *to the* Sixtieth Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price 25s.*

A Special Supplement of Truth's *Annual* Cautionary List *appears with this issue.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE King and Queen are to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Saturday evening from Paris, and his Majesty will probably stay in town until he leaves London on his way to Biarritz on Saturday, March 2. It is very likely that the Queen will go to Sandringham on Wednesday next, in which case her Majesty will return to town on Thursday, the 21st. It is expected that the Queen will leave London at the beginning of March on a brief visit to the King and Queen of Denmark at Copenhagen, whence her Majesty will proceed to Christiania, to stay for a short time with the King and Queen of Norway. Princess Victoria, who left London on Saturday with the King and Queen, is to stay at Christiania for several weeks with her sister and brother-in-law.

The King will give two full-dress banquets at Buckingham Palace shortly after the opening of Parliament, and the Ministers, the Ambassadors, and some of the other Chefs de Mission will be invited to the first of these dinners, besides a number of other official personages "of light and leading."

All the Levees of this season are to be held in the Throne Room at St. James's Palace, and the hour will be twelve o'clock, so that the ceremonial is concluded before luncheon. This is a great improvement on the arrangement during the last reign, when the Levees were held at two o'clock, which was a most inconvenient hour, as it interfered with the luncheon arrangements, and practically broke up the whole afternoon. Another laudable reform has been the rule limiting the numbers attending a Levee. Formerly the Palace would be crammed at one Levee, while at the next one the State rooms would be nearly empty. Now there is an adequate attendance at every ceremonial, and the former unpleasant crowding is avoided.

On the day of each Levee the King will drive in state at 11.45 from Buckingham Palace, with an escort of Life Guards, to the garden entrance of St. James's Palace, where his Majesty will be received by the Great Officers of the Household and the other White Staves, who will conduct him to the Royal Closet, where he will be joined by the Prince of Wales and the other members of the Royal family, who will previously have arrived at the Palace. After the customary military formalities, the King will proceed to the Throne Room, followed by the members of the Royal family, and the Levee will at once commence with the presentation (by the Master of the Ceremonies) of the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission, who pass in the order of their precedence. Their Excellencies themselves name any distinguished foreigners or members of suites who are to be presented to his Majesty. After the reception of the Corps Diplomatique the entrée company pass by, and they are followed by the general company.

Only Cabinet Ministers, the Corps Diplomatique, the Keeper of the Privy Purse, the King's private secretary, the Master of the Household, and the other officers who are on duty are to be allowed to remain in the Throne Room after passing the presence, and the State pages are ordered to request all other persons to leave the room at once after they have passed his Majesty. The Ambassadors remain standing on the left of the King

next to the Royal family, while the other members of the Corps Diplomatique will take their places in the circle in front of his Majesty.

On the day of a Levee the doors of St. James's Palace are to be opened at half-past eleven. The general company will arrive at the Marlborough Gate entrance, and pass up the Grand Staircase to the State apartments. All personages entitled to the Entrée will arrive at the Ambassadors' Court entrance, and pass through the Banqueting Room and the Entrée Gallery to the Entrée Room, entrance to which sanctuary is guarded by the Groom of the Great Chamber.

It was announced in Truth last week that the King will probably pay a visit to Ireland at Whitsuntide. I hear that if this intended trip comes off, his Majesty will hold a Chapter of the Knights of the Order of St. Patrick at Dublin Castle during his stay at the Viceregal Lodge.

The announcement in several of the papers that the Prince and Princess of Wales have been staying at Frogmore Lodge is incorrect. They were the guests of the King and Queen at the Castle during their stay at Windsor. The Prince and Princess will now make Marlborough House their headquarters until Easter, when they will probably go to Sandringham for the holidays, in which case there is to be a small party at York Cottage for the West Norfolk Hunt Steeplechases.

Princess Henry of Battenberg, who is now at Kensington Palace, is to leave London next week for Madrid, where she will probably stay until about the middle of May. Princess Henry is not expected to return to the Isle of Wight until about the third week in July. When H.R.H. leaves Madrid she will go to Germany, to take a course of waters at Kissingen, and to pay visits to the Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at the Chateau of Rosenau, and to Princess Louis of Battenberg at Schloss Heiligenberg.

Prince Arthur of Connaught and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein are to leave London on Friday, the 22nd, for Stockholm, on a visit to Prince and Princess Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden.

The Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife and their daughters left Tilbury on Friday in the P. and O. steamer *Moldavia* for Gibraltar, where they will probably stay for at least two months, and they are not expected to return to England until about the beginning of May.

The Castle season in Dublin began last week with the Levee on Tuesday afternoon. The attendance was very large, including all the high officials in Ireland, civilian and military, and leading personages from many parts of the country. Prince Louis d'Orléans and Braganza and Lord Grenfell, with his staff, were present with the Lord Lieutenant and his household in the Throne room on the occasion. In addition to the two Courts held at the Castle on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, a large dinner and dance were given on Friday and an afternoon party on Saturday. The Viceregal "house party" during the week included Lord and Lady Kenmare, Mr. John and Lady Marjorie Sinclair, Ladies O'Neill, Dorothy Browne, Cicely Browne, Violet Brabazon, Louisa Longley, Lord Shaftesbury, Hon. H. and A. O'Neill, the Chief Secretary and Mrs. Birrell.

The Irish Sea was in a tempestuous humour last week when Mr. Birrell crossed over to Ireland, the discomfort of the crossing giving, in its own way, an impressive lesson in favour of Home Rule. Mr. Birrell's first day at Dublin Castle was a busy one. He went through the ceremonial of being sworn in as Chief Secretary previous to the Levee, which he subsequently attended in his official capacity. In the evening he made a graceful little after-dinner speech at the Viceregal dinner party. His wielding of the Sword of State was entered on at once, when he bore it into St. Patrick's Hall at the first "Court." The historic weapon, like the sword Excalibur, needs doughty handling; the future still holds the secret of who will be the champion to master it. On the occasion of the second Court, the Chief Secretary having returned to England, Sir Antony MacDonnell bore the Sword of State in his accustomed hands.

The Irish Chief Secretaryship has been held by many distinguished men within the last century, few of whom have been Irish. Lord Carlingford was the last Irishman who held the place, nearly forty years ago. Several Chief Secretaries of Ireland have risen from the mere rule of Ireland to that of the whole kingdom, but they have left the Irish Question as far as ever from being settled. It is a curious thing in connection with the office that no one in Ireland wishes to have an Irishman as Chief Secretary, whilst every one at the same time has a grievance that only a Scotchman or an Englishman is appointed to the place. Under the circumstances the apparently insoluble nature of the Irish Question is perhaps not altogether curious.

Sir Michael Foster was very successful as a teacher of practical physiology, which was his great subject, and he had a brilliant career both at Cambridge and in London. He worked hard and with complete success to develop the Cambridge Biological School. He was an admirable lecturer, and he was fully as effective in the laboratory. Teaching was his strong point, so that he did not write much, but his "Text Book of Physiology" is a very excellent work, which has gone through seven large editions. His interest in science was fully alive until the last. Sir Michael Foster

For Appeals, see page 355.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 357.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 356, 357.
For Amusements, see page 351.
For Estates, Auctions, see page 355.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 361, 362.

For Approved Charities, see second page of wrapper, also last page of supplement.

succeeded Lord Avebury as Unionist member for London University in 1900, but he became utterly disgusted with the fuddling policy of the late Government, especially on the education and fiscal questions. He rarely spoke in the House of Commons except on his own subject, and he was listened to with marked attention and respect. He did much good practical work on committees, and he was very popular among all parties in the House.

Mr. David Macbrayne, of Glasgow, who has died at the age of ninety-two, was for many years the sole partner in the well-known shipping firm of Hutcheson's, which was converted into a private company about three years ago. This firm was founded by Messrs. David and Alexander Hutcheson, who rendered an immense service to the west coast of Scotland about sixty years ago by establishing the line of steamers from the Clyde to the Highlands and Hebrides, and they opened up the routes through the Crinan and Caledonian canals. The great and continued prosperity of this firm is understood to have been due in a large measure to the remarkable ability of Mr. Macbrayne as an organiser and administrator. He devoted himself entirely to business, and never took any active part in public affairs, though he did good work as an active member of the Clyde Trust.

The late Mr. Markham Spofforth was appointed a Taxing Master in Chancery in 1876 as a reward for his services in reorganising the Tory Party, of which he was the principal election agent and general wire-puller for more than twenty years. Mr. Spofforth undertook this work at the request of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, and he was mainly instrumental in establishing the Junior Carlton Club, one of the leading principles when this establishment was founded being the admission to membership of as many solicitors as could be induced to join. There had been a great deal of trouble owing to the revolt of many of the old Tory agents after the party split of 1846. New ones were appointed in most constituencies, and Lord Derby entertained the opinion that it was indispensable to attract "the country attorneys and land agents," as Mr. Disraeli wrote.

This year's exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society is to be held at Lincoln during the last week in June, and it will be visited by the King and the Prince of Wales, and probably by other members of the Royal family. The total value of the prizes offered is £8,366. It was decided at last week's meeting of the Council that next year's show should be held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne during the first week in July. This will be the week after the summer race meeting at Gosforth Park. The last visit of the "Royal" to Newcastle took place in 1887.

The season's bag at Sandringham is understood to have been below the average, owing to various causes. Partridges did not do so well as usual in Norfolk last year, and on several days the Royal *chasse* was stopped by the stormy weather. The best season at Sandringham was that of 1896-97, when 14,000 pheasants, nearly 4,000 partridges, over 6,000 rabbits, nearly 850 hares, and about 500 head of woodcock, wild duck, teal, and snipe were killed on the King's estates. There will be no more shooting at Sandringham until the beginning of November, and it is understood that the King is not likely to revisit Norfolk until that period.

A correspondent writes:—

An evening paper expresses enthusiastic approval of the discovery (attributed, very absurdly, to Lord Farquhar) that the secret of "the superb success" of woodcock pie has proved to be "the laying of a beefsteak over as well as under the birds, and the placing of the birds themselves with their breasts downwards." This is a venerable principle in the making of partridge and woodcock pies, and it was recommended as the secret of success by the late Mr. Hayward in an essay which appeared in the *Quarterly Review* some seventy years ago, long before Lord Farquhar was born.

How doth the little Suffragette
  Employ her raucous throat
To shriek for that on which she's set—
  The woman's right to vote?

What frenzied protests doth she make
  'Gainst females being taxed
By Parliament, in which to take
  A hand they're never axed!

And let the lady air her rot,
  Say I, till all is blue;
She won't catch *me*; for I have got
  Some better work to do.

In girlish charms' astute display
  Shall my first years be passed,
That I annex in marriage may
  A husband rich at last.

Can any one tell me what has been the result of the great object-lesson in cheap book publishing which was undertaken last autumn by Mr. Hall Caine and the *Daily Mail*? I have had requests for information on the subject, but I am unable to supply it, and my own curiosity has been whetted. The experiment was to teach us a great deal, and among other things to show that the publishers were all in the wrong in resisting the philanthropic operations of the *Times* Book Club. Surely by this time it must either have justified itself or the reverse. It would be a thousand pities if the publication of the result were deferred till the public has forgotten all about the point at issue.

The three volumes of Queen Victoria's letters (1837-61) which have been edited by Lord Esher and Mr. A. C. Benson, will be published by Mr. Murray in October, and not in April, as had been generally expected. The book is to appear simultaneously in London and in New York. A private *édition de luxe*, in a special and highly ornate binding, is to be produced for the King, who desires to present the work to all the reigning Sovereigns and to a great number of distinguished personages in all parts of the world. It is not generally known that Queen Victoria had a private *édition de luxe* of her "Journal in the Highlands," largely illustrated, which she kept to give away.

THE MUSIC HALL WAR.

(By a Puzzled Onlooker.)

I met a Manager; he proved
In language very clear and strong—
Which all my lingering doubts removed—
The strikers were absurdly wrong.

I met a Striker; made he plain,
By demonstration ably planned,
The Managers, in this campaign,
Had not a leg on which to stand.

I read the Papers; some this side
They took, and others took they that;
Which so perplexed me by their tide
Of seeming contradictions flat,

That soon this Mantilinic song
Impartially I sang of them:
"Oh, both are right, and neither wrong,
Upon my life and soul, oh, dem!"

A case which came before his Honour Judge Gye the other day throws some interesting light on the way in which church schools are apt to be managed, besides having an incidental bearing on the administrative methods of certain Roman Catholic bishops. In February last St. John's Roman Catholic School at Gosport was summarily closed by the managers at a few hours' notice. The assistant teachers received no salary in lieu of notice, and as some of them lived in Ireland they were consequently placed in such difficulty that a charity concert was got up in order to help them to get home. One of them, Miss Sheehan, sued the foundation managers, Canon Watson and three other gentlemen, for £4 as salary instead of notice, and the County Court Judge found in her favour, with costs.

It appeared in the course of the proceedings that the closing of the school resulted from some quarrel between the managers and the head-mistress. The full facts were not clearly disclosed, but the dispute seems to have been of a most trumpery character. The principal circumstance mentioned was that some lady had given sashes for the children to wear, and that the head-mistress had objected to distribute them, on the ground that there were not enough to go round. Apparently there were other matters in dispute, for no less than twelve charges were made against the head-mistress, but they were all dismissed after investigation—counsel said by the managers, but I presume that it was by the Education Committee. After this, it would seem that the managers summarily closed the school as the simplest way of signifying their displeasure with their head-mistress. They actually paid that lady £17 in lieu of notice, but they left the assistant teachers to shift for themselves in the way above described. Possibly they had not the money to pay them, but that does not make their conduct any better, nor justify their repudiation of legal liability.

The Bishop of Portsmouth is the legal owner of the school in question, and Canon Watson in his evidence said that when he came to the school and notified that it was to be closed, he was acting as the Bishop's representative. It must be assumed that he did not take this step without Bishop Cahill's approval. It seems to me that those who subscribe for the support of such a school may well expect from the Bishop some explanation of the closing of the establishment with so little regard for the interests of the children and the just rights of the teachers. I published a letter last week in which a Roman Catholic observed that before responding to the appeal of the Archbishop of Westminster for £100,000 for the maintenance of Catholic schools, he and others would like to see the management of diocesan funds placed on a footing more satisfactory to the laity; and in view of this example of the high-handed proceedings of Dr. Bourne's "revered friend," Bishop Cahill, in regard to his diocesan schools, I should think that this feeling will extend itself to the diocese of Portsmouth. To me, as an outsider, the reflection which is chiefly suggested by this case is the anomalous absurdity of calling a school which is dealt with in this arbitrary way at a moment's notice by the decree of a bishop a "public elementary school," and providing for its maintenance, when the bishop chooses to keep the doors open, out of public money.

Another queer example of church school management has been noticed in the Lincolnshire papers. In this case the school concerned is a Church of England school in the village of Grainthorpe, in Lincolnshire. It seems that shortly before Christmas some dispute arose among the managers as to what Christmas holidays should be given, with the result that they could not come to any decision as to whether any should be given at all. The children, no doubt under the direction of their parents, took French leave, and stayed away during Christmas week; but the teachers, being bound by their agreements, could not do this, and had to go through the farce of going to the school every day while the children were away. The head-teacher was placed in a painful dilemma, because he could not mark the attendances in the register and make it appear that the whole of the children were absent, without reducing the average attendance and the Government grant, besides possibly exposing the parents to unpleasing attentions from the attendance officer; and on the other hand he could not mark this period as a holiday, because no holiday had been officially granted, and he might get into trouble with the managers if he took upon himself to declare one. He applied in vain to the managers for instructions, and according to the latest information this august body was to meet shortly to once more debate the question whether the school should or should not have a holiday last Christmas. This, again, is a "public elementary school," supported by public money, and, by the theory of an Act of Parliament, subject to public control!

Canon Appleton has been elected Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, in the place of Dr. Kirkpatrick, who has been promoted to the Deanery of Ely, where he succeeds the new Bishop of Truro. Canon Appleton, who had a most distinguished career at Cambridge, has been a Fellow of Trinity College since 1874, and

he was for many years a very successful tutor there, and held several important College offices. He left Cambridge in 1894 to become Vicar of St. George's, Camberwell, and Warden of the Trinity College Mission, and in 1904 he was presented by his College to the vicarage of Ware. He is an able administrator and a brilliant scholar, and his appointment to the headship of Selwyn meets with hearty approval at Cambridge. Canon Appleton has been examining chaplain to three successive Bishops of Durham—Lightfoot, Westcott, and Moule.

The Provost and Fellows of Oriel College have presented the Rev. Stephen Cornish, Rector of Quedgeley, Gloucestershire, to the rectory of Ufton Nervet, Berkshire. The living, which has become vacant by the death of Canon Cornish, has been held by many highly distinguished Oriel men, notably James Fraser, who was promoted by Mr. Gladstone from this benefice to the See of Manchester in 1870.

Canon F. J. Holland, who has died suddenly at Sorrento, was a younger brother of Lord Knutsford. He was beneficed at Canterbury from 1853 until 1861, when he became incumbent of Quebec Chapel, then a crowded place of worship with a fashionable and wealthy congregation. Canon Holland was an eloquent and persuasive preacher, his sermons being guided by the judgment and taste of a highly cultivated scholar. He detested sensationalism of any kind, but he was a thoroughly earnest man, and his whole life was an example of hearty devotion to every public and private duty. The ritual which he introduced at Quebec Chapel would now be regarded as commonplace, if not meagre, but in 1861 it was considered decidedly advanced.

Canon Holland was warmly interested in education, and his great work was the establishment of the Church of England High School for Girls, to which he devoted much time and considerable sums of money. He also took an active part in school management at Canterbury. He was appointed one of the six preachers of Canterbury Cathedral in 1859 by Archbishop Sumner, and in 1882 he was advanced to a residentiary stall, so that he had been closely connected with the Cathedral for nearly forty-eight years. He will be much missed at Canterbury, where he had long been a familiar figure; and he was greatly esteemed and beloved, as his kindly and genial manner and his munificent benevolence had made him very popular among all classes. He inherited the love of travelling for which his father (Sir Henry Holland) was so well known, and had visited every part of Europe, the West Indies, North Africa, Turkey, and Palestine.

It has been stated that Canon Holland was appointed to his stall at Canterbury by Archbishop Tait. This is wrong, for the appointment was made by Mr. Gladstone. Canon Holland had made Canterbury his principal residence for many years past, and, in addition to his prebendal house in the Precincts, he rented a charming country place at Harbledown. The canonry, which is in the gift of the Archbishop for this turn, is now understood to be worth about £600 a year, with residence. The stipend was formerly £1,000 a year, but the revenue of the Chapter has been largely reduced by agricultural depression, and some years ago it was said that the value of a stall there had fallen to about £350 a year, but there has since been an improvement.

Canon Duncan, who died last week after only a few hours' illness, was one of the best-known and most esteemed ecclesiastics in the diocese of Salisbury, where he had been working for over half a century, his whole clerical life having been spent in Dorsetshire and Wiltshire. Canon Duncan was presented to the important living of Calne by Bishop Hamilton in 1865, and he had since worked that important parish with conspicuous zeal and ability. He was not only an excellent clergyman, but he was warmly interested in educational and charitable work, and took a leading part in the social life of the town.

It must have been edifying to hear the discussion by the City Fathers last week on the Bishop of London's suggestion that the parish of St. Margaret Pattens should be united with another parish, so that the income of the former benefice may be liberated for use where it is more needed. The living of St. Margaret Pattens, which has lately become vacant, is in the gift of the Common Council. Its value is £750 gross, with a house. The parishioners number 178. Clearly the appointment of another Rector at £750 a year to minister to such of the 178 parishioners as are Churchmen would be a scandal. Probably the City Fathers were not unconscious of this—at any rate they studiously avoided any reference to that aspect of the question. What they did was to make a show of indignation over an imaginary proposal for the destruction of an ancient church, a building full of historical interest and noted for its architectural beauty. Its removal would be an act of vandalism—and so on and so forth.

What humbug this is! If the church is such a glory of the City, by all means let the City keep it. But there is no reason why the preservation of the church itself should involve the continued payment of a stipend of £750 a year to the Rector for doing practically nothing—no reason, that is, except the desire of the Common Council to retain a nice piece of patronage. It was this desire which was at the bottom of the rejection by a large majority of the Bishop's suggestion. Not half a dozen of the Common Councillors would care a brass farthing about the retention of the church if there were not a good income attached to it.

Truth is not a paper in which theological opinions are discussed, nor am I addicted to airing my own religious convictions publicly. Far, therefore, be it from me to express my own as to the so-called "new theology" of the Rev. R. J. Campbell. There is, of

course, nothing new about it, but it is so entirely at variance with what I had supposed was the belief, not only of Anglicans, but of the great body of Nonconformists, that I am surprised that more of their authorised representatives have not pronounced against it. So far as I understand Mr. Campbell, he entirely throws over the doctrine of the Divinity of Christ as generally received by Christians. He teaches that Christ was a man like all of us. He was an exceptionally good man, but there was no supernatural interference in His birth, or in what befell Him. He preached a system of ethics even purer than those of Socrates, Buddha and Zoroaster. Such preaching was sure, at that time and place, to end in His violent death. He did not seek to evade the consequences, and His life and death have produced a moral effect, because of the purity of the former and the self-sacrifice involved in the latter. Thus He lifted man from barbarism and selfishness into the spirit of brotherhood. The only salvation is in being like Him, and the only way to be like Him is to have faith in Him, and to show this faith by living in the spirit in which He lived and died. The Bible is in no way inspired. The details of the story and words of Christ as set forth in the Gospels may or may not be correct, and St. Paul in his Epistles was sometimes right and sometimes wrong.

Mr. Campbell, although disclaiming all the vagueness, as well as the dogmatism, of theologians, seems by no means clear himself as to what he believes and what he does not. I have read the reports of several of his discourses, but I do not gather whether he believes in a personal Deity, or in a future state. If he is convinced of the latter, he does not distinctly say so, nor does he explain on what grounds he entertains this conviction. The "new theology" appears therefore to be entirely at variance with what, up to now, has been deemed Christianity by all sects of Christians that have existed for the last eighteen hundred years, and by all the Fathers of the Christian Church whose writings have come down to us. I am not saying that they have not all been in error, and that Mr. Campbell is not in the right. What, however, I should like to know is how far existing sects of Christians agree with him, or, if they do not agree with him, whether they regard the differences between him and them as so unimportant that they can still consider him a Christian. If they do, they must up to now have been misunderstood.

Messrs. Little and Whittingham, of Stroud, solicitors to Mr. Broderip, have sent me a copy of a letter which they have addressed to the *Somerset County Gazette* in reference to the extraordinary dispute between their client and the rector and churchwardens of Cossington concerning the parish churchyard. The letter is of considerable length, but it is only necessary for me to notice such portions of it as traverse statements in my paragraphs on the subject a fortnight ago. As I explained, Mr. Broderip's residence, the Manor House, abuts on to one side of the churchyard, which on the other sides is surrounded by his garden, the only public approach to the churchyard and church being by a narrow footpath. It was asserted (1) that the churchyard was unfenced; and (2) that the part of it nearest to the house was laid out as though it belonged to the garden. As to the first point, the solicitors say that there is "a wire fence marking the boundaries of the churchyard." The fact appears to be, however, that this so-called fence consists of a single strand of wire a few inches from the ground. It is not a fence at all in the common acceptation of the word, and the diocesan authorities, taking this view, ordered the erection of a proper fence, which amongst other things would keep animals from straying on to the consecrated ground. With regard to the second point, the solicitors write that it is not true that part of the churchyard has been laid out as a garden. "It is plain turf, kept mown and tidy. A flower border against the kitchen garden wall has been in existence for quite sixty-five years." To this the rector and churchwardens make the retort that the part in question has been made use of for garden parties.

Another allegation (3) was that a bow window of the house and a flight of steps constituted an encroachment on the churchyard; also that a portion of the churchyard had been taken into Mr. Broderip's carriage drive, but had lately been restored. The latter statement is not touched upon by the solicitors, who, after affirming generally that there have been "no encroachments," go on to say that the bow window has been there for sixty-five years, and the steps for forty years. It was stated (4) that Mr. Broderip had prohibited burials on the side of the churchyard nearest to his house. "As a matter of courtesy," his solicitors remark, "the sexton has sometimes consulted Mr. Broderip as to the position of graves with regard to his house." The only remaining question—but the most important of all so far as the comments I made are concerned—is the question of the lease of the churchyard. On this Messrs. Little and Whittingham write:—

> It has been customary for Mr. Broderip and his predecessors, as patrons of the living, to always have a lease of the churchyard from each rector. The object of the lease was to enable them to keep the churchyard in good order by mowing the grass and otherwise. As a matter of fact, the churchyard is kept in excellent order.

This seems to me a very feeble and unconvincing defence of the singular arrangement which—quite illegally, it is now believed—made Mr. Broderip lessee of the churchyard. The keeping of the churchyard in good order is, of course, a highly laudable object; but obviously it is the duty of the rector and churchwardens to do this. Who ever heard before of a churchyard being leased for this or any other purpose to one of the parishioners? Besides, if this was the sole object, why did Mr. Broderip threaten the rector and churchwardens with an action for damages if they put up a fence round the churchyard in accordance with the requirements of the diocesan authorities? This threat was explicitly based

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

upon his assumed "rights" under the lease. Clearly the rector and churchwardens would be betraying their trust if they submitted to any such interference in the exercise of their duty, nor are they relieved of their obligations in the matter by the fact that they are not supported by the majority of the parishioners. Mr. Broderip is the principal landowner, and in a place like Cossington people are very reluctant to appear in opposition to the "squire." It is for this reason that the rector and churchwardens have had to appeal outside the parish for the money required for the fencing of the churchyard.

A lady sends me a bulky docket of correspondence illustrating once again the swindle carried on by the individual who calls himself the Imperial Art Supply Company. As will be seen on reference to the Truth Cautionary List, published this week, this individual has lately removed from Great James-street to Chichester House, Chancery-lane, but he still keeps his suburban address at 17, Ranelagh-avenue, Fulham. The lady in question paid her 7s. 6d. for the "outfit" necessary for colouring prints for which the Imperial Art Supply Company promised to pay her, having, like all the other victims, been previously assured on the strength of a sample of her work that the firm were satisfied that she would be able to do it. The following extracts from the letters received when she went to work show exactly how the trick is played, and how little disguise there is about it:—

November 15. Madam, We can see an improvement in your work, but the flesh tint is dirty-looking, and the hair is a little too vivid. The colour on drapery is hardly rich enough, otherwise your work is satisfactory. . . . .

December 3.—Madam,—We can see an improvement in your work, but the flesh tint is rather dirty-looking, and the hair is hardly rich enough. The colour on drapery is unevenly applied, and is also a trifle too vivid. We trust you will be able to remedy these little defects. . . . .

December 18. Madam, Your work shows a decided improvement, but the flesh tint is rather too deep. The drapery is also a little unevenly coloured. . . . .

January 8. Madam,—The flesh tint is rather dirty-looking. The blue on drapery is rather heavy, and the brown is unevenly applied. Otherwise we can see a great improvement in your work. . . . .

These letters, of course, are written by hundreds to the victims of the swindle, and continue to be written as long as the victim chooses to persevere in the attempt to earn a few pence from these swindlers. The parties who are really responsible for the continual robbery of ladies of limited means by such tricks are the newspapers which publish the advertisement. In the above case the victim states that she saw the advertisement in "a well-known Church paper." If I had the making of our laws, the "well-known Church paper" would be compelled to compensate her for the money and labour she has wasted.

I have to acknowledge £3 from "Ello," to be devoted to a fund for the homeless and destitute.

The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, W. — 8090 Gerrard. The Restaurant and Hotel overlook the Green Park. Magnificent suite of Ball and Banqueting Rooms. Under the same Direction as the Carlton Hotel.

An order is in force in a Scottish regiment now in India excluding from the A.T.A. room all who are not members of the Association. I suppose that the commanding officer thinks that if men want to use the room they will join the Association, but it may equally well be argued that they are more likely to be induced to do so by frequenting the room and associating with abstainers. Up to the present, at any rate, the order does not seem to have advanced the Temperance movement materially, for I am told that as the result of the New Year's Day celebrations nearly half the men of the companies on the station had to be very severely dealt with. It might be as well, I should think, to try now the effect of encouraging the men to frequent the Army Temperance room, instead of keeping them sober by terms of imprisonment.

In the latest growl from that melancholy spot, Aden, I hear that the number of guards mounted by the artillery has recently increased from two to six daily, without any visible reason; and that the amount of such duty now imposed is far in excess of the general rule either at home or in India. It is alleged that the gunners get more than their fair share of such work, but however that may be, it is evident that they have not derived much benefit from the supposed abolition of unnecessary guards.

During January a number of petty officers and men in Devonport barracks, who have been dissatisfied with the quantity of meat issued to them, arranged to take it direct from the block when issued and have it weighed privately. I have now some of the results before me. The weight seems to have proved deficient in nearly every case where it was thus tested. 8 lb. of beef issued to the stokers' mess came out at 6 lb. 8 oz., and in another case at 7 lb. 1 oz. The same quantity issued to the seamen's mess came out at 6 lb. 5 oz. On another occasion 10 lb. issued to the seamen's mess was found to weigh 8 lb. 6 oz., and so on.

I by no means accept these figures as conclusive; in weighing goods the "personal equation" sometimes comes into calculation as well as the weights and scales themselves; but we must allow for the bias of the weigher on both sides, and if the truth in this case only lies half-way between the two sets of figures, the fact remains that the men do not get what they are supposed to get, and that somebody is making an illicit profit at their expense. The same thing is bound to occur in all issues of provisions—*e.g.*, tea, sugar, and tobacco—unless the weighing is checked on behalf of those who are interested in its being correct. I do not know enough of the circumstances to suggest exactly how a satisfactory system of checking could be introduced, but those who *do* know the circumstances ought to be able to invent such a system without difficulty.

Possibly some one may say that it is impossible in weighing out so many pounds of beef to be correct to an ounce. Even if that be true, it is no reason why the discrepancy should always be on one side, as it appears to

be in the present case. If exact measurement is impracticable, the balance should be adjusted by striking an average, not by always measuring on the wrong side. We see much the same thing in the business of retailing beer at army canteens. It is assumed that exact measurement is impossible; short measure is, therefore, always served, and the man in charge is required to produce a surplus above the quantity nominally sold as shown by the cash receipts. It is evident, from the above figures, that the parties responsible for weighing out provisions to naval messes ought also to be charged with a very considerable surplus.

I am told that the discrepancy between the nominal and the real measure is notoriously biggest in the issue of rum. Here we have the case of army beer exactly reproduced. Somebody must make a profit on the short measure issued. I do not know who it may be, but I would bet heavily that it is not the British taxpayer. From the taxpayer's point of view the men ought to get all the food and drink that the country pays for on their behalf. No difficulty about exactly measuring out small quantities in the least prevents this being done. If the desired result cannot be arrived at by the law of averages, whatever "savings" are effected in the process of measuring ought to be handed over to the men in kind or in cash.

While on this subject, I would call the attention of the Committee on Naval Canteens to a circular from a firm of Maltese bumboatmen reproduced in facsimile in the current number of the *Fleet*. The circular was distributed among the ship's company on the commissioning of H.M.S. *Hibernia* at Devonport, and the *Fleet* states that it was the last effort made to capture the ship after "three of the most notorious bumboatmen" had been for several days "competing in bribes" to secure the canteen contract. Here are a few extracts from the document:—

> Our terms are unequalled for best goods supplied at 5 per cent. discount. . . . We are born in the business and know better your wants, the old *Hibernia* was one of our first instalation of canteen being Irish named ship. In addition to the proposed terms we should like to commemorate St. Patrick's Day, 17th March, by allowing free dinner, not exceeding 2s. 6d. Our prices are to be those lowest quoted by other competing firms and so much each man monthly. . . .

Everybody can see at a glance that a competition among contractors to secure business by such efforts as this must be altogether mischievous, whether from the point of view of the men concerned or anybody else, and the system which gives rise to such results must be radically wrong. The committee now at work cannot have much difficulty in improving upon it, and I still think that the proposal that all canteen contracts should be under the control of an Admiralty official is the best for that purpose.

It is rather surprising to learn that Skegness, now a fairly well-known seaside resort, with a permanent population of over 3,000, increased in the summer months to 20,000, has no police-court. A local correspondent gives me this information. The absence of a police-court, however, is not due to the immaculate virtue of Skegness, but to the simple fact that cases arising there are tried by magistrates sitting at Spilsby, thirteen miles away. There is not even a resident magistrate in Skegness, the nearest being at Wainfleet, five miles distant. Nor is this the only matter in which the town is peculiarly ill-served, for the chairman of the District Council lives at Derby, the clerk at Lincoln, the treasurer at Gainsborough, the school attendance officer at Spilsby, the relieving officer at Alford, and the registrar of births and deaths at Burgh! This official absenteeism is scarcely flattering to Skegness—indeed, it almost suggests that Skegness is a nice place to live out of.

TO THE BACILLUS PYÆMICUS.

(Lines suggested by the medical evidence at a recent inquest.)

Pyæmic Bacillus, you microbe infernal,
Who sneak your way into our systems internal,
  Though no one can tell how the deuce you get in;
By a pin-prick, it may be, by scratch or erosion,
Or just by a thin place, that nobody knows on,
  In the cuticle—medical term for the skin.

And when you *are* in, O you microbe capricious,
No saying there is where you'll settle to dish us,
  Or where to commence operations you'll plan.
That depends, it would seem, on your whim of the second;
But this, at least, certain and sure may be reckoned,
  That, where you *do* settle, you play the Old Man.

The judgment which Mr. Justice Kekewich delivered last week in the case of Taverner *v.* Cuff is of considerable interest at the present moment in view of the fact that Mr. William Taverner, the plaintiff in the action, is still making the most energetic efforts to keep alive the "National Old Age Pension Trust," which he started some three years ago in connection with the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society. Many of my readers will doubtless remember this crazy scheme, and the pig-headed obstinacy with which Mr. Taverner clung to it in spite of the clearest demonstration of its financial rottenness. On the application of his co-trustees the Court ordered his scheme to be wound up. Taverner offered every obstacle in his power to this being done, and persisted in representing that his scheme was still alive, and inviting fools to subscribe to it, using for the purpose the name of the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society, of which he was the secretary.

When the trustees of the Sermon Society endeavoured to check his proceedings, Taverner brought an action against them, the action above mentioned. The action was referred to an arbitrator, and the arbitrator decided against Taverner on practically all points. Taverner then moved to set aside the award. This motion Mr. Justice Kekewich dismissed last week. In dismissing it he made the following observations:—

> The arbitration was heard at great length, and his Lordship could well understand, after seeing Mr. Taverner in the witness-box, that the arbitrator had a very troublesome duty to perform.

When the plaintiff was asked a question he responded by making a long speech. *His evidence was full of inaccuracies, and was hopelessly untrustworthy.*

Having had the opportunity of seeing Mr. Taverner at this office in defence of his Old Age Pension Trust, I can myself well understand his Lordship's observations.

Now, the important point is that this person is still fighting tooth and nail to keep his Old Age Pension scheme on foot, and to obtain subscriptions for it with the assistance of the name of the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society. The *Daily News* mentioned last week that it had information of his proceedings from Wiltshire. I have myself had inquiries on the subject from Derbyshire. They come in consequence of an article which appeared in the *Derby Express* of January 26, under the attractive heading "Old Age Pensions—Formation of a National Trust." The article stated that the National Old Age Pension Trust was established in July, 1904, and legally constituted in December, 1906, and it went on to give particulars of the scheme and to refer inquirers to the "Controller," at Greenhithe. It also mentioned that "the founder is Mr. William Taverner, of the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society," and that the reports showed that 15,000 persons were already enrolled.

One of my correspondents, in forwarding a copy of this article, suggests that it is an advertisement. I do not know that there is any reason to suppose that, but it does not matter much whether the notice is published on the usual advertising terms, or as a bonâ-fide editorial pronouncement put forth in pure ignorance or carelessness. The effect is the same either way. The material points are that, although the National Old Age Pension Trust has been wound up by an order of the High Court, Taverner has simply formed another under the same name, and represents it as the National Old Age Pension Trust which he founded in 1904; that the scheme is essentially the same as that of the original trust; and that Mr. Taverner still seeks to commend it to public support, especially among Nonconformists, by associating it, through his own name, with the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society, which has done everything in its power to stop his proceedings. It is most deplorable that provincial newspapers, or any others, should further this unscrupulous individual in his mischievous designs by advertising his scheme, whether for love or money; and as it may be supposed that many other papers besides the one above mentioned are being used by him for this purpose, they are much to blame if they place their columns at his disposal without first ascertaining the full facts.

Lookers on do not always see most of the game, but I confess that I do not think I should have found for the defendants had I been on the jury in Monckton *v.* Dunn. It seems to me that any lady is entitled to protection against having pictures of herself in any sort of attitude or costume, or no costume at all, faked up by an enterprising tradesman and sold for his own profit. In the present case the principal defence, so far as I can make out, was that Miss Gertie Millar has been photographed with her consent in all sorts of costumes and attitudes. But that only means that she is an actress, and that, like others of her profession, she has to be photographed in character for business purposes.

Are we, then, to hold that an actress is less entitled than any other lady to protection against being publicly represented in a picture in a manner which is offensive to her? I suppose a jury would hardly go so far as that, and that in Mrs. Monckton's case the jury were influenced by the suggestion that she did not really object to the pictures in question, but was instigated to do so by other parties for trade purposes. But that seems rather unfair, and as the verdict was not given on that express ground the case remains a dangerous precedent, for it will certainly have the effect of encouraging enterprising tradesmen to take these liberties, and with other people than actresses, and of discouraging parties who are thus outraged from seeking the protection of the law.

At the same time, it must be admitted that libels quite as atrocious as any that could be perpetrated by a "fake" photographer are published every day in the shape of bonâ-fide portraits. In connection with this very case there was a picture of Miss Gertie Millar in the *Daily Graphic*, for which I should think she might have hoped to recover heavier damages than even a sympathetic jury would have been likely to award against Messrs. Dunn and Co.; and I am of opinion that Mr. Justice Darling might have been joined in the action with every prospect of success. The weekly illustrated papers are sometimes not over kind to their victims, but the dailies have simply added a new terror to existence.

FAKED PHOTOS.

I thought it hard her face they matched
With form suggesting too much leg;
I thought it hard they showed her hatched
Just lately from an Easter Egg.

I thought it hard they stuck her head
Upon a trunk in nightdress clad;
And yet—so judge and jury said—
No legal remedy she had.

If that's the Law, I'm much afraid
That I, one day, my face may find
On someone else's frame displayed,
Clad only in a—never mind—

Or, even worse, in *nothing* dight
(For where the limit can you draw?)
And yet I'll not have any right
To stop their game—if *that's* the Law.

As the *Daily Mail* discovered on Monday morning, no one has a right to prejudge the questions raised by the charge of perjury against Millie Marsh. I should be the last to do so. It may be that in the course of her numerous confessions this young woman has told the truth, and that Lewis was unjustly convicted on her evidence; it may be that her evidence against him was

true, and her subsequent confessions the result of hallucination or some other cause. But however that may be, it is quite evident that any Home Secretary who summarily released a convict merely on the strength of a servant-girl's confession of perjury, in the face of all the other incriminating circumstances against the prisoner, would be quite unfit for his position; and that the attempt of a newspaper to force him into such a course by vilifying him in print and in pictures is an unwarrantable abuse of the power of the press. If, as seems far from improbable, it should bring its own punishment, no one need be sorry.

This indecent personal attack on Mr. Gladstone may, however, have a useful effect. It exemplifies in the most conspicuous manner the evils that result from the present jurisdiction of the Home Office in criminal cases, and it ought to bring home to the mind of the present Home Secretary the urgent need of amending the system. It is the inevitable result of the lack of any court of criminal appeal that every case of alleged wrongful conviction leads to newspaper agitation. It is highly probable that, the Home Secretary being a Cabinet Minister, newspaper agitation on behalf of a prisoner will be inflamed by party spirit, and it thus easily degenerates into rancorous personal attack.

A more scandalous and futile method than this of furthering the ends of justice cannot be conceived. The prisoner necessarily suffers from it more than anybody else, because his case, however just, is liable to be discredited by the violence of his own champions, and even if they are moderate and reasonable in their arguments, they may be suspected by the Minister of being actuated by party motives; while for the same reasons that section of the press which is on the side of Ministers either holds aloof or resists the demand for justice.

Next to the prisoner the Home Secretary himself is most to be pitied. His task is always a difficult and invidious one in these cases. Unless he is an experienced lawyer he is bound to defer to the judgment of the official staff to which such matters are assigned, yet for the purpose of public discussion he must accept the decision and whatever criticism it provokes as if it were his personal act. Every Home Secretary that I can remember has expressed at one time or another his dislike of this business, yet none will interest himself in relieving the Home Office of it. If, therefore, in the present instance, the Home Secretary has been assailed with a violence and unreason beyond all precedent, one may hope that it may do something to goad him into the only action by which such annoyances can be avoided.

The Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds and his colleagues of the Borough Bench were amazingly lenient the other day in the case of a woman named Barton, who was charged with neglecting her four children. Medical and other evidence showed that the children were kept in a horribly dirty state and looked badly nourished. The doctor said that they were neglected in a manner which was very likely to be injurious to their health, and an inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. deposed that during the past eighteen months he had repeatedly warned the defendant, but without any effect. After remarking that these statements were very serious, the magistrates informed the defendant that the summons would be dismissed, but that she must remember that the case would still be watched by the N.S.P.C.C. Not for a moment do I wish to suggest that the woman should have been severely punished on this occasion, but considering the seriousness of the offence and the period for which it had continued, in spite of the warnings of the inspector, the absolute dismissal of the summons was a most extraordinary proceeding. The Bench might very well have adjourned the case for a time to see whether the defendant's conduct improved. To let her off at once without any penalty and without any guarantee whatever for her future behaviour towards her suffering little children was practically a miscarriage of justice, and such a decision is obviously calculated to render more difficult the work of the N.S.P.C.C. in dealing with similarly negligent parents.

A correspondent calls attention to a case at Saltash Petty Sessions last week in which six young fellows were charged with trespassing in pursuit of game, or aiding and abetting in the offence. It seemed that one of them named Thorn invited the others to go rabbiting with him on his grandmother's land, but took them on to the adjoining farm, where they were all trespassers. Thorn admitted his offence and corroborated the statements of the rest of the defendants, that they had no knowledge of the boundaries of the farms, and were quite unaware that they were trespassing. The Bench appeared to think that this was true, the Chairman saying that they believed the other defendants were led away by Thorn. His worship added, however, that "they were responsible for their own actions," and, in addition to Thorn himself, all his companions were convicted and fined. The penalties were small, but conviction involves a stigma, and the Saltash Shallows might surely have dismissed the summons against the five youthful defendants, whose offence—if it can be called an offence at all—was committed unwittingly.

Recently, I pilloried the Chichester City Shallows on account of a monstrously severe sentence of four months' imprisonment which they passed upon a youth of sixteen—a first offender—for theft. I now hear that the matter came under the notice of the Home Secretary, with the result that the sentence has been reduced by one-half. It seems to me that the defendant might very well have been let off altogether under the provisions of the First Offenders Act, but it is at any rate satisfactory to know that he will not have to suffer the full measure of the Draconic punishment which the Chichester Bench meted out to him, and I hope yet to learn that the Lord Chancellor has given effect to another of my comments on the case—namely, that the magistrates responsible for the sentence should be relieved of duties which they are manifestly unfitted to discharge.

For years past the Bailies who dispense vicarious justice from the Bench at Kirkcaldy Police Court have figured in my Legal Pillory, particularly in respect of the leniency with which they treat the brutal ruffians who consider a wife to be a sort of football or punching-ball upon which to develop their muscular powers. This week an object-lesson in the futility of inflicting a paltry fine for such offences is supplied in the case mentioned below, where a man who was fined on the preceding week came before Bailie Gray on another charge. On the first occasion the wife paid the fine, and the man immediately returned home and committed another brutal assault upon his unfortunate wife. Yet even this lesson was lost upon the fatuous Bailie, for he merely inflicted another fine upon the man. An interesting comparison as to the way English county justices treat the motorist who exceeds the speed limit and the man who drives a horse furiously is also to be seen in the cases from Arundel and Woodbury respectively.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Andrew Johnston, A. Lister Harrison, and C. G. Musgrave. George Want, charged with assaulting Edgar Dench by striking him on the nose with a quart pewter pot. Fined 20s. and costs.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Gascoigne and A. Brownsword. Robert Belsham, charged with assaulting a woman. He struck her several violent blows about the head and body. Fined 20s.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Gray. Henry Cluny, charged with assaulting his wife. He knocked her down, beat her with his fists, and dragged her about. He had been fined the previous week for a similar assault, and after his wife had paid the fine he went home and assaulted her again. Fined 30s.

Upper Rhondda Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. F. R. Madge, charged with an aggravated assault upon his wife. He struck her three times on the eye and on the chest with his fist. Fined £2.

King's Heath Police-court. Before Messrs. Buller, Tomson, and J. C. Lane. J. T. Wilson, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked her violently. The magistrates considered it a bad case and fined him 40s. and costs.

Godalming Petty Sessions. Fred. Nunn, charged with ill-treating a horse by starving it. The manger was licked perfectly clean and a portion of it eaten away. The animal was in a deplorable condition, and could hardly stand. Fined £1.

Coventry County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. T. R. Vickers, W. Johnson, M.P., E. Wooton, and Earl Craven. Mary Jane Thomas, charged with neglecting her eleven-year-old boy. His clothing was in a most foul and verminous condition, and he was covered from head to foot with vermin bites. Fined £1, or in default 14 days' hard labour.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Robert Curtis, a grocer's assistant, charged with stealing 2d., the money of his employers. Fined 40s. and costs, or a month's imprisonment.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Johnson and E. Thornloe. Olive Smith, charged with stealing a pair of lady's boots. One month's imprisonment.

Mold Petty Sessions. Before Major Phillips, Colonel Lloyd, and Mr. E. Wheldon. D. Powell and T. Clark, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Fareham Petty Sessions. P. Lipscombe, charged with night-poaching. He had two pheasants and a gun on him. One month's imprisonment, and bound over for a year.

Arundel County Petty Sessions. Before Captain Kemp and other magistrates. James Walters, charged with stealing seven picture cards, value 10d. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Romford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Matthews and Captain Stone. M. Curley and W. Potter, charged with stealing a pump, value 20s. Two months' hard labour each.

East Dereham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Bulwer, Copeman, Daniel, and Hervey. Henry Wright, labourer, charged with stealing wood value 6d. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Mansfield Borough Petty Sessions. Before Alderman J. E. Alcock, Alderman W. Singleton, and Mr. M. G. Bradley. Thompson Hibbert, a youth, charged with stealing two pairs of boots, value 9s. 10d., from outside a shop doorway. The magistrates, after commenting on the temptation tradesmen put in the way of persons like prisoner, sentenced him to two months' hard labour.

Dunfermline Police-court. Before Bailie Stewart. William Clark, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her several times in the face with his fists. Fined £1.

Sparkhill Police court. Before Messrs. J. Boston, J. W. Simcox, J. Hughes, S. Johnson, and J. Marriott. W. F. Wright, charged with assaulting his wife. He caught her by the throat with one hand and struck her in the face with the other, afterwards turning her out of doors. Fined 20s. and costs.

Woodbury Petty Sessions. Edwin Retter and Walter Pring, farmers, of Newton Poppleford, charged with furiously driving at Sowton. They were galloping at a rate estimated at 14 miles an hour, and apparently were racing. Fined 1s. and 3s. 6d. costs each.

Teignmouth Petty Sessions. Before Captain Paul and Mr. R. Alsop. G. H. Rooke, charged with stealing a bowl from a farm. Three months' hard labour.

Spalding Police-court. Before Messrs. F. Howard, W. H. Mills, W. J. Thompson, W. J. Hardy, and Dr. H. T. Stiles. H. Mays, charged with stealing a timepiece value 5s. Three months' hard labour.

Edward Darlow, charged with stealing 15 hens' eggs belonging to his employer. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Arundel County Petty Sessions. Before Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Captain Hills, Messrs. E. J. Mostyn, Travers, and Rawson-Shaw. F. Parker Squibb, charged with exceeding the speed limit on a motor-car and with failing to produce his licence. Fined £6 12s. on the first charge, and £1 6s. on the second.

Stockport Police-court.—George Taylor, charged with assaulting James R. Ryding, licensee of a hotel, and a police constable. Being refused drink, he knocked Ryding down, kicked him, and tore his jacket to pieces. He also struck and kicked the constable. Fined 25s. and costs.

CLARK LIBRARY Randle Cartwright LOWELL, MASS.

Mr. Justice Ridley passed, at Norfolk Assizes the other day, a sentence which stands out in striking contrast to a decision of the Sheffield J.P.s, upon which I commented last week. At Sheffield the secretary of a friendly society, charged with misappropriating over £300 of the funds, was fined £1 and ordered to replace the money, or in default to undergo fourteen days' imprisonment. The prisoner at Norfolk Assizes was also a secretary of a friendly society who had stolen over £400 of the funds. Mr. Justice Ridley gave him three years' penal servitude. Fourteen days, or three years, for almost precisely similar offences! Such are the uncertainties of justice.

Both cases point to the need of a thorough reform of the system of auditing adopted by friendly societies, and I am glad to learn from the *Eastern Daily Press* that this point was noticed by Mr. Henry Broadhurst as the presiding magistrate at the police-court hearing of the Norfolk case at Cromer. It is said that the rules of the societies generally make it difficult, if not impossible, to appoint a professional auditor, and also that the members are averse to what one of them described the other day as "the interference of outsiders in their affairs." But the rules can be altered, and in view of the not infrequent occurrence of such cases as the foregoing I hope that the members of such societies will abandon this foolish objection to the adoption of the only sort of auditing that can afford them any real protection.

"Our position in the banking world to-day testifies to the success of our business methods and to the satisfaction of our customers." So runs the widely-published advertisement of a concern bearing the pretentious title

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

PURE WATER in ample quantity by installing Merryweather's Economic System of Water Supply.—Ask for "Water Supply to Mansions," 63, Long Acre, London, W.C. Est. over 200 yrs

of "The Charing Cross Bank," 28, Bedford-street, Charing Cross, and 39, Bishopsgate-street Within. In reality it is not a bank at all, but a common usury-shop run by a man named Carpenter, and the sort of satisfaction customers are likely to get from dealing with it may be judged from the experiences of the plaintiff in a case before Mr. Justice Channell on Friday. The so-called "bank" had granted the plaintiff a loan of £80, taking as security a bill of sale on furniture worth between £300 and £400, a life policy with a surrender value of £20, and certain shares in a company which eventually realised £20. The plaintiff was told that the rate of interest would be about 30 per cent. per annum. As a matter of fact, the interest charged in the bill of sale was 60 per cent., and when he had paid monthly instalments to the amount of £80 plaintiff brought an action against Carpenter claiming relief under the Moneylenders Act.

In granting the desired relief to the extent of reducing the interest from 60 to 30 per cent., Mr. Justice Channell observed:—

> To agree to one thing and to put something else—a rate of interest double that mentioned—into the bill of sale, with a limited amount of explanation as to what the document meant, was enough to make the transaction harsh and inconscionable within the Moneylenders Act.

In other words, his lordship came to the conclusion that the plaintiff was practically tricked into signing a document which, without his knowledge, just doubled the extremely liberal rate of interest that he had undertaken to pay. This judicial pronouncement upon the "business methods" of the Charing Cross Bank (alias Carpenter) will, I trust, do something to open the eyes of the public to the true character of this bloodsucking establishment, whose grossly misleading advertisement figures in so many daily and weekly newspapers.

In a communication directed to me at Truth office, Mr. Fred Watts, 95, Jermyn-street, W., intimates that it is his earnest wish that I should make an appointment with him if I require financial assistance. It seems that he is prepared to advance me from £100 to £50,000 at a few hours' notice, without any objectionable inquiries, upon note of hand. He would do this, moreover, "not as a professional lender, but as a private banker." I might have felt rather flattered by this generous offer, only I found that Mr. Fred Watts has been making a wholesale distribution of similar communications during the past few days. The name, too, seemed familiar, and I discovered that some months ago I had occasion to mention Mr. Fred Watts as a new addition to the ranks of the circularising usurers or—as is more probable in his case—usurers' touts. Really he is not Fred Watts at all, but David Freedman, of 36, Honiton-road, Kilburn—hardly the sort of neighbourhood in which one would look for the residence of a capitalist in a position to chuck about fifty thousands among all and sundry. Freedman, alias Watts, began by issuing his circulars from Laud Chambers, 150, Friar-street, Reading, and it was only on January 22, that he registered 95, Jermyn-street as an additional address. His present circular, with the attached facsimile of his newspaper advertisement, is, by the way, a close imitation of one from "L. Fortescue" (otherwise Abraham Cohen), 40-41, Sackville-street.

BLUE MOONSHINE.

(The Latest Thing in Anæsthetics.)

So chloroform has had its day,
Ether and gas lie sunk in night;
Henceforth a patient's sense away
They'll take with blue electric light.

Nor on the operating board,
Nor in the dentist's chair you'll blench,
But, pain of severed limb ignored,
Unfelt the pang of molar's wrench,

You'll lie, as in a peaceful sleep,
Enraptured by celestial dreams,
The while your steadfast gaze you keep
Upon those pure cœrulean beams.

Or, so they *say*. They may be right;
No certain means have I to tell.
But why use artificial light?
Why not make Nature serve as well?

If *that* they'll do, I'll let them prove
On *me* their novel theory true,
And any part of me remove
By light—for preference *moon*light—blue.

Before the General Election we were assured that ruin was staring us in the face unless we amended our Free Trade ways and 'verted to Protection. Also, that unless we agreed to impose a tax on all foreign produce for the benefit of our Colonies, they would cut the painter and set up in business on their own account. The country, on being consulted, declined to be fooled by such nonsense, and now the defeated alarmists are quarrelling with each other as to whether they will proclaim a tariff truce, and endeavour to get once more into office by admitting that the danger is not so pressing as they had supposed, or whether they will continue their campaign of unreason. If they really believe what they have said, it seems to denote a singular want of patriotism to look calmly on whilst we are going to perdition—much, indeed, as though the crew of a vessel with a leak were to decide to put off pumping until the ship had gone to the bottom.

This discussion among our Unionist friends at once leads to another still more entertaining, namely, what views Mr. Balfour holds about pumps and the necessity for manning them immediately. Consequently, there has been one more attempt to extract from Mr. Balfour a profession of the faith that is in him, and a declaration of what he means to do as a defender

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of the faith that is outside him. The result, which was made public at Hull last Friday, corresponds to a nicety with the result of all previous efforts in the same direction.

Mr. Balfour tells his followers that his views remain what they always were, and have been repeatedly stated. But that there may be no mistake, he kindly explains once again that he is a free trader as he understands free trade, and a protectionist as he understands protection. He despises ancient shibboleths, which would seem to indicate that he is a tariff reformer, but he puts it in such a way that no tariff reformer can help suspecting that he includes all the ancient shibboleths of protection in his philosophic contempt. He does not see why a monthly bulletin of his convictions is required, seeing that they have never varied. Neither do I, unless the reason be that the bulletins are always amusing reading, and that the process of extracting them yields excellent sport. It is like fox-hunting: the field enjoys it, the spectators revel in it, and I cannot help thinking the fox likes it as much as anybody.

We Radicals have no reason to regret the position into which our opponents have drifted. Until they have decided what is to be their policy, it is not likely that they will convert the country to it. This seems to be the view of the Unionist parliamentary agents. Their business is not to cumber their minds with political issues, but to do their best to secure a majority for any issue which may be adopted by their party leaders. They have, it would seem, notified their leaders that things are going from bad to worse in the party, owing to the uncertainty which prevails as to what are the views and the tactics of these leaders. I entirely disagree with the opinions and the methods of Mr. Chamberlain. But he is far too clever an electioneering hand ever to have allowed his party to act with such supreme folly as has characterised its late doings. The cat is ill, and the mice are playing strange tricks.

The overwhelming majority by which Women's Suffrage was relegated to the dim and distant future at the Belfast Convention of the Labour Party goes far to bear out the opinion which I have so often stated—that working men are in the main opposed to Women's Suffrage whenever it becomes more than a mere pious opinion. Working men prefer a woman to engage in domestic duties rather than gad about on a political mission. They like a man to be a man, and a woman to be a woman, and their wives and daughters share this view. I trust that weak-kneed M.P.s will realise this from the vote of the Convention, and will pluck up sufficient spirit to decline in future to be dictated to in their constituencies by little fussy gangs of unwomanly sisters and unmanly brothers.

Mr. Keir Hardie seems to have been under the impression that he could dictate to his party, and threatened to resign in consequence of the vote. My impression is that his party will bear his resignation with considerable equanimity, should he give effect to his threat, for there are many of his followers in Parliament who would lead the party with equal ability—to say the least.

The position of a Radical—be he working man or not—who votes for propertied women being granted votes on account of their property is an utterly false one. According to the Radical creed the vote belongs to the individual, whether he be rich or poor. It is as absurd for a Radical to vote for the suffrage being granted to propertied women only as it would be for him to give a plural vote to propertied men.

Once let one woman have a parliamentary vote, and, not only all women must have it, but also all must be eligible for election to Parliament. If they were men they would have these rights. It is because they are women that they do not have them. Those, therefore, who break down the sex disqualification must be well aware of what will be the inevitable consequences. One rat is enough to break down the dykes that save Holland from inundation, and one woman is enough to break down the barrier that defends us from the political supremacy of women.

I see it stated that the silly females who made themselves so ridiculous in the precincts of the House of Commons last Session threaten to renew their antics. This comes of treating them with exceptional kindness when they violate the law. If they claim to be the equals of men, they should be so far accommodated as to make them equal in regard to the penalties that await the transgressors of the law. If a gang of men were to riot in the precincts of the House, and to renew this rioting again and again, they would be sent to prison and hard labour without the option of a fine. Why should not women, especially women who claim political equality with men, be treated by the same rule?

In an interview which one of these ladies vouchsafed to grant to a reporter the other day, she said that the wardresses were inclined at first to give themselves airs, but that they were soon put in their proper place. What would be thought of a man who thus discoursed of prison warders when sent to prison because he would not pay a police-court fine? The wardresses are respectable woman who honestly earn their pay, which can hardly be said of most of these silly rioters. The same lady adversely criticised the prison menu, although as first-class misdemeanants they had a right to order and to pay for their own dinners. As martyrs, the suffragettes have been a failure. They howled and shrieked and whimpered when subjected to the very

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mildest of imprisonment, and no sooner were they let out than they ostentatiously caroused at a fashionable restaurant.

Some of them have means; others have not. The latter, I should fancy, will keep up the game as a pleasing alternative to earning their living by manual work. As for the wealthier ones, they appear to be in a state of intense delight at the notoriety that they have gained, and are, doubtless, reluctant to revert to the position of mere ordinary wives or daughters. Let us hope, however, that this will soon be their fate, and that the wives will return to their household duties, and the daughters to the business of finding husbands, instead of making themselves ridiculous. I do not believe that there are fifty working men in the United Kingdom who would approve of their wives and daughters fighting with policemen in the lobbies of the House of Commons, or playing at martyrdom in a comfortable prison room with nothing to do except to put wardresses in their "proper place."

THE SHORT-SIGHTED PRIMROSE.

Thick fell the Snow one Winter's Night,
Enshrouding all the World in White,
So buried every Rood of Ground
Six Inches deep next Day was found,
And shone the Sun, in Heavens serene,
On one unvaried crystal Scene.
Now, hidden there—or, so they say—
'Neath the white Pall a Primrose lay,
Who, young and eke devoid of Sense,
Railed at her snowy Covering dense,
Because, forsooth, it kept away
The midday Sun's benignant Ray:
"Plague on the Weather's horrid Clerk,
Who keeps me thus in Prison dark,
Where ne'er a Beam of Warmth or Light
Can shed on me its Radiance bright!
I wish," she cried—and, troth, she meant it—
"That Snow had never been invented."
But lo! an Iris, close beside
Miss Primrose, thus to her replied:
"'Tis well for you, Miss P.—that's plain—
That you your Wish cannot obtain.
For though 'tis true that Snow, by Day,
Keeps off the Sun's benignant Ray,
'Tis no less true her Blanket white
Keeps off malignant Frosts by Night."

Moral.

This Moral I would fain be pressing:
"What seems a Curse proves oft a Blessing."

SCRUTATOR.

GERMANY AND SOCIALISM.

THE second ballots in the German elections, so far as they have gone at present, have only accentuated the effect of the original polls. This is generally the tendency of the second ballot, and we may reasonably expect to see it in the elections that have yet to be completed. The original polls seem to have resembled our own General Election of last year in one respect, namely, the exceptional number of votes recorded. Out of a total of 13.1 millions, 11.2 millions voted, as compared with 9.4 out of 12.5 millions at the last previous election. Consequently, all the larger groups have increased their polls substantially. The clerical vote has very largely increased, and the "Centre" comes back from the country fully as strong as it went. The Socialist vote has also increased by more than a quarter of a million, but this seems to have been chiefly in the safe seats, and it has not prevented the loss of twenty-three others—a loss of over 25 per cent. of the strength of the party in the previous Reichstag. The decisive electoral fact has been the enormous increase—over 1,100,000—in the votes cast for the Conservatives, Liberals, and Radicals who support the Government. The parliamentary majority which these groups make up hangs together very loosely, and in this country one would not predict a long life for a Government resting on such a basis. But a German Government, of course, does not rest on any parliamentary basis, and the Kaiser and his Chancellor are entitled to crow, as they have not hesitated to do, over the fact that the country has given them the majority they asked for both in members and votes.

I do not doubt that "Imperialism," as understood in Germany, has played an important part in the elections. But I think it is probable that Socialism contributed quite as much to the result. The Germans are more given to act collectively than we are, but when they are faced with an attempt to carry into effect the socialistic idea of the individual being merged in the State, and all personal property being absorbed by the State, it does not surprise me that they have shown that these are not the views of the majority. I am convinced not only that an election on such lines with us would show that the vast mass of the nation is against any such counsel of perfection, but that the vast mass of working men are against it. Common sense must tell them that no nation could prosper under such conditions. I am not, therefore, afraid of the Socialists. With us, those who profess such doctrines are comparatively few in number. Their leaders, and a few of their followers, may honestly believe in them. But with most of their followers the word Socialist means that they desire such social legislation as may better their lot. In this sense it was that Sir William Harcourt said, quite rightly, "We are all Socialists now." I have always been an advocate for such social legislation, but a good deal that goes by this name seems to me to be impractical. For instance, it is often asserted that every man has a right to employment at such a wage as will enable him and his family to live in decent comfort. This I deny. Every man, woman, and child in the United Kingdom has a right, under the existing law, to food, lodging, and clothing. It would be a fortunate thing if all were able to live in decent comfort, and every possible means should be adopted to render this possible to all who are not hopeless idlers. But a nation left to itself enormously increases in numbers; and if all were free to marry and procreate their species without restraint, it is evident that a moment would come when there would not be means to employ them remuneratively. Sooner or later, such a country would be ruined—I should say sooner.

Our prosperity is dependent upon our being able to sell our manufactured goods abroad. To do so, we must successfully compete in price with other nations.

If we—and the same thing applies to every individual nation—were to adopt the principle that the State should find work at wages sufficient to make them happy and contented for every one who applies for it, wages all round would go up to such a degree that competition with nations which had not adopted this doctrine would be impossible. I know it is vaguely asserted that the money necessary for providing all with work and wages on this comfortable scale could be obtained by levying taxes on the rich exclusively. But men only go into trade in order to grow rich, and they would cease to do so if all the profits that they could expect to make were absorbed by taxation. This would necessitate "widening the area of taxation" by continually reducing the definition of "rich," until in the end the taxation came to be borne by working men themselves. It is very easy to construct a theory having for its object the improvement of the condition of the many, but very difficult to carry the thing out in practice without its resulting in the welfare of none.

By all means let us give a free education to all children who care to avail themselves of it, and equip all with the means of becoming useful as well as prosperous citizens. Let us do all we can to provide remunerative work for all honest and industrious persons who are prevented from finding it by circumstances beyond their control. Let us better the lot of all such men when they are too old to work. Let us see that a poor man can get a sanitary lodging without paying a higher rent than is necessary to cover the cost of providing it. More than all, let us see that neither men nor women are worked for miserably inadequate wages to fill the pockets of some sweater. I should be glad if all workers were able to earn more than they do, though I confess that I have far more sympathy for these unfortunate victims than for the fairly well-to-do, who, already in possession of a good wage, are ever agitating for a better one. All beyond this is Utopia, very well in theory, but impossible in practice, and it would, if attempted, reduce the nation to a horde without self-reliance, individual initiative, or that "push" without which there is no progress. Men would either become little better than children, or would be perpetually seeking to do as little work and get as much for it as they could at the cost of the more industrious. Radicals should ever bear in mind what can be done for the general welfare in this world of ours, and not alone what they would have done. If they do not, they may rest satisfied that there will soon be such a reaction against Radicalism that the Conservatives will be once more in the ascendant.

THE ATTACK ON SIR JOHN FISHER.

In reference to the article on naval policy in last week's Truth, I have received the following letter from an officer for whose opinions I have the highest respect:—

> I am sorry to see Truth falling into line with the clique who are making a dead set against the Admiralty policy of the last two years, and more particularly against the First Sea Lord. I suppose you are aware that "Barfleur" is one of the ringleaders of this faction. I am not concerned to deny his abilities, nor those of one or two officers who are acting more or less in concert with him. In fact, up till recently I have looked upon them rather as prophets of the true naval gospel. But it seems to me—and not to me only—that they are at present rather turning their backs on much of their own teaching, and that their criticism of the new Admiralty policy is simply factious.
>
> The passages from "Barfleur's" book which appear to have impressed you are sound enough in principle; but if it were not for fear of frightening you by the length of my letter, I think I could show that there is no ground for the fears you express of modern naval education becoming too much a matter of books and theory. In this and many other respects fallacious deductions are made from sound premisses. I note that you have not said anything on the passages in the book which deal with the policy of "scrapping"; but if you should be disposed to do so, I would warn you that the arguments under this head, and on all that relates to the protection of commerce in war are open to question at every point, even from people who have studied history, and honestly endeavoured to learn its lessons.
>
> In conclusion, let me say that in my opinion if the reduction of expenditure for which you are so anxious should ever be brought about, it is far more likely to come from Sir John Fisher and his colleagues than the people who are making this organised attack on them.

My correspondent is unnecessarily alarmed about the backsliding of Truth. I paid the book in question the compliment of acknowledging its "clear thinking," and having found in it certain arguments which confirm what I have always believed, I made my own use of them. But heaven defend me from identifying myself with any professional school of thought on naval matters or any other, except in so far as its tenets may be intelligible to the mind of a layman. When it comes to discussing such matters as the strategic distribution of the fleet, the respective functions of "capital ships" and cruisers, or the tactical value of speed, I simply settle myself in a back seat, and endeavour not to go to sleep.

What is said, however, in the above letter as to the campaign against Sir John Fisher is perfectly true, and must be familiar to every regular reader of the newspapers and magazines. The campaign is developed without any disguise in a book published last week by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., entitled "The State of the Navy in 1907," by "Civis." Like "Barfleur's" book, this is a reprint of various newspaper articles criticising the present Admiralty policy; but more significant than the articles themselves is the preface by the Editor of the *Spectator*, who published them in the first instance. Mr. Strachey puts what he has to say in *Spectator* language. If I were to translate it into my own it would come to something like this: that Sir John Fisher is the most dangerous type of man that could possibly be placed in his position; that he has a genius for advertising, but for little else; that next to this his chief characteristics are inordinate confidence in his own opinion, and overbearing determination to have his own way in everything; that by his irresistible self-assertion he has made three successive First Lords his helpless tools, and converted the Admiralty into "a one-man show" (I quote Mr. Strachey here); that his naval reforms are at variance with all sound principles, and his boasted economies empty shams; that his reputation as a reformer is merely the result of a clever system of nobbling the press; and that in reality under him "the Service is going to the dogs" at an unprecedented pace. "Civis" explains all this more in detail, and the upshot of it is that there must be

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immediately a public inquiry into the state of the Navy, with a view to the prompt suppression of this naval terror and impostor.

This is a new development of the "naval scare" business, but personally it leaves me unmoved. This is not because I regard Sir John Fisher as an infallible naval Pontiff; on the contrary, I dare say he has made mistakes, like other people. But I have noticed that we are always treated to attacks of this kind when a strong man arises as a reformer in the Army or the Navy, and that the vehemence of the attack is generally in exact proportion to the utility of his reforms. Another thing which allays my uneasiness is that very different views are held in France and Germany, and particularly in Germany, where everything relating to the British Navy is studied most carefully and most intelligently. It is conceivable, of course, that Sir John Fisher, having by skilful use of the British press impressed his countrymen with an entirely false conception of his personality and talents, may have employed the same arts on the Continent, and created the same results among foreign observers. But it does not sound very probable, and I regard the opinion of competent German critics that the British Navy has vastly increased in efficiency and readiness for war during the last two or three years as worth more than the carpings of British critics who have axes of their own to grind, or pet theories of their own to air, whose toes have been trodden on in the process of reform, or who are in want of a little cheap capital for party purposes. All these classes are to be found among Sir John Fisher's critics. In saying this I am not depreciating criticism of the Admiralty. Heaven forbid! The more we have of it, on rational lines, the better. All I mean to convey is that I profoundly distrust criticism which has an alarmist tendency, and which takes the form of an undiscriminating personal attack upon a reformer who seems to have done a good many wise and useful things. There is a proper field for criticising naval administration, namely, the House of Commons, and whenever a genuine "case for inquiry" arises against any Government department we are certain to hear it there, and to hear the defence as well as the attack. By all means let those who believe that the Admiralty is at present engaged in ruining the Navy do their best to raise the issue in Parliament. The public can then form its opinion under proper guidance. In the meantime, I would recommend an attitude of scepticism.

CATHOLIC TRUSTS AND THE CHARITY COMMISSION.

When the Roman Catholic trusts question was under discussion in Truth last autumn, it was mentioned in one of the Catholic papers that some application on the subject had been made to the Charity Commissioners. The history of this application has lately been brought to my knowledge, and it seems to merit publicity on more than one ground. It seems that a Catholic layman who, like many others, was greatly concerned at the revelations of the irregular dealings of various bishops with the trust funds of their dioceses, made a formal communication to the Charity Commissioners about the beginning of last October, inviting their official action for the protection of such trusts. For obvious reasons the gentleman in question was not, and is not, desirous that his name should be brought before the public. The task of "belling the cat" in this matter is a peculiarly invidious one, which is one of the reasons why the bishops have enjoyed such a free hand in their dealings with Church property. We will therefore call the gentleman Mr. A. After preliminary communication with the Commissioners, he forwarded to them detailed statements respecting the misapplication of a number of trusts—chiefly those which have been referred to from time to time by various correspondents of Truth, the only new one being the Market Rasen endowment, which has more recently been mentioned in these columns in connection with the treatment of Father Hays by Bishop Brindle of Nottingham. After this document had been placed before the Commissioners, Mr. A. received the following letter from the Charity Commission, dated October 22:

> Sir,—In reply to your letter received at this Office on the 17th inst., I am to say that the Charity Commissioners are not yet in a position to institute such inquiries as you suggest, and that it would probably be the most convenient course that you should call here by appointment when you are next in London, in order that the difficulty of the case may be explained to you. A single interview will probably be sufficient for the purpose.
>
> Meanwhile I may explain that not all charitable endowments are subject to the Charity Commissioners' jurisdiction; those which are maintained by voluntary contributions are expressly exempted by statute. Also it is not within the competence of the Commissioners to hold a roving inquiry upon hearsay evidence. They would require as a preliminary to be furnished with extracts from the wills or instruments of foundation by which the charities have been founded to which their attention is directed.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
>
> Tho. Allchin.

In consequence of this communication, Mr. A. had an interview with one of the staff at the office of the Charity Commission. In view of what followed, it is important to observe that immediately after leaving the office he made a note on paper of the substance of the conversation. The effect of what passed, as recorded by him, was that while the Charity Commissioners would not refuse to exercise their jurisdiction if the requisite information was laid before them, they would much prefer that a question relating to the administration of ecclesiastical trusts should be dealt with by ecclesiastical authority; that they considered that if the allegations made by Mr. A. were laid before the Pope, the Pope would deal with them himself; but that if redress could not be obtained in this way, then the Commissioners would not refuse to exercise their authority. Their attitude is clearly indicated by one phrase which Mr. A. reports as having been used in the course of the conversation—namely, that the Commissioners did not wish, if they could help it, to have "to wash a lot of dirty Catholic linen in public."

As the result of this conversation, Mr. A. went home, and at once wrote a confidential letter to the Papal Foreign Secretary, Cardinal Merry del Val. In this letter he stated what had passed at the interview, very much as I have stated it above, and expressed his personal hope that in view of all that had transpired recently, "it might seem wise to his Eminence to recommend to the Holy Father prompt, public, and immediate measures." The letter was a long one, and contained, of course, other observations of the writer upon the situation, but this is the substance of it. Mr. A. wrote to the Cardinal on November 7. On November 28, not

having received any reply, he again wrote to the Cardinal as follows:—

I beg that your Eminence will be so good as to give me some sort of reply to my letter of the 7th inst., as I shall have to make a report concerning the execution of my instructions to the Charity Commissioners. They informed me that they were willing to wait a reasonable time to see whether the Holy See would deal with the matter; but in view of the seriousness of the cases brought before them, they cannot suspend action beyond a reasonable time. . . . . .

The next thing that Mr. A. heard was the following letter from the Charity Commission, dated December 6:—

Sir,—A copy of your letter of the 28th ult. to Cardinal Merry del Val has been forwarded to the Charity Commissioners for their information by Messrs. Witham, Roskell, Munster, and Weld, on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster.

Messrs. Witham have been informed that you have no authority to speak in the name of the Commissioners, or to state what steps they propose to take, and that, as a fact, they have expressed no intention of inquiring into the administration of the funds in question. I am at the same time to express the surprise of the Commissioners that you should have purported to act on their behalf.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Fred C. Henry.

Mr. A. made a suitable reply, justifying his part in the correspondence that had passed; and the incident seems to have closed at this point, not only as regards Mr. A., but as regards the matters to which he had directed the attention of the Charity Commission.

As I have observed more than once, I have never had much faith in the Charity Commission as an instrument for redressing the scandals that have arisen in connection with the administration of Roman Catholic trusts. The story of Mr. A.'s negotiations fully justifies that view, but I confess I should not have expected that the Charity Commissioners would cut such an unbecoming figure as they do in the foregoing transactions. It is easy to understand their reluctance to tackle the thorny question relating to the respective jurisdictions of the State and the Papacy over the property of the Roman Catholic Church in England. It may be that political expediency, as well as the personal convenience of the Commissioners, suggest that, if possible, the question should be disposed of by the ecclesiastical authorities themselves. But obviously a public body, constituted by Act of Parliament for certain specific purposes, has no right to allow considerations of this kind to interfere with the performance of its official duties. Its machinery ought to work without regard for persons or outside influences of any kind. If, when the machinery has begun to work, the parties concerned choose to settle their differences privately and abandon the proceedings, it is quite right to give them every opportunity of doing so, whether the object be to avoid expense, or unseemly quarrelling and scandal. The position is the same as in legal proceedings, where the defendant is always at liberty to settle with the plaintiff before the case comes into Court, while even after that point is reached a Judge may properly use his influence to bring the parties to terms without proceeding to extremities. But it would be a very different matter for a Judge, as soon as a writ was taken out, to send for the plaintiff privately, and suggest that he should inform the defendant that the Court did not want to try such a case, and would prefer that he should settle with the plaintiff spontaneously, but that if he did not the Court would possibly make it unpleasant for him. That is practically the same thing as the course taken by the Charity Commissioners in the present case. Mr. A. is in the position of a plaintiff; the Commissioners are the Court; the Roman Catholic episcopacy are the defendants. What follows when the Court takes this course is only what might have been expected, and shows the procedure to be as futile as it is irregular. As soon as the parties on the other side learn what Mr. A. has said, they come straight to the Commissioners, and ask, "Did you authorise this?" Whereupon the Commissioners are compelled to say, "No," and throw over their intermediary.

I do not perceive what other construction than this can be put upon the transaction. Why did the Commissioners specially invite Mr. A. to a personal interview instead of putting what they had to say into a letter? There is no visible reason for it but the obvious one, that they could not put what they desired to say into writing without risking a very nasty outcry if their letter should ever become public. *Manet scripta litera;* a personal conversation can always be disavowed or explained away. But it occasionally happens that the acts of the parties throw a light upon a conversation which sufficiently elucidates the truth in spite of a conflict of evidence as to what was really said. We do not know at present what version the Charity Commissioners may give of the conversation of their representative with Mr. A. All we know is that they repudiate having authorised him to speak in their name, and are surprised that he should "purport to act on their behalf." In point of fact, he had neither spoken in their name nor purported to act on their behalf; he had merely communicated to Cardinal Merry del Val the effect of a conversation which he understood to have been held for no purpose except that it should be so communicated, and of which, to preclude mistakes, he made a note immediately afterwards and before writing to the Cardinal. The Charity Commissioners' disclaimer is, therefore, not precisely to the point. On the other hand, it is beyond dispute that the Commissioners *did* send for Mr. A., presumably to say to him something which they preferred not to say in writing; and that as the result of what was said to him, Mr. A. (who had previously had no idea of doing anything of the sort, but was endeavouring to set the Charity Commissioners in motion) sat down straight away and wrote his communication to Cardinal Merry del Val. Whatever version of the incident may be put forth on the side of the Charity Commissioners, I do not see, in the face of these facts, how it can be doubted that the Commissioners *did* suggest to the gentleman that he should communicate with the Holy See, and if that is so, there is nothing else in the case worth arguing about. The communication suggested *must* have been practically to the effect represented by Mr. A. It must have been conveyed to Mr. A. that the Commissioners considered the matter one in which Rome should act in the first instance. It must have been thought and suggested that, failing such action, the matter would fall within the jurisdiction of the Charity Commission, for if it was not within their jurisdiction they would have no *locus standi* to make suggestions to Rome or to anybody else, and would have no duty in the matter except to tell Mr. A.

plainly that it was not a case in which they could interfere at all.

Now that the facts are out, notwithstanding the diplomatic tactics of the Charity Commission, it is to be hoped that more will be heard of them. Public authorities, when duly appealed to for the performance of their statutory duties, cannot be allowed to resort to devious means of evading them; nor to employ as instruments for that purpose those who seek their aid, and subsequently repudiate them when the result does not work out as expected. Nor is it right that a formal application to a public authority should be killed, as it seems to have been in this case, by irregular procedure of this kind. These are matters that Parliament should look into.

THE CABMAN OF THE FUTURE.

It is rather a way with ideals that, when they are theoretically attained, they are nearly always practically unpleasant in their results. I have a shrewd suspicion that sixpenny cab-fares is going to be one of them. Officially it is already upon us, or in the nearest future, for have we not read in black and white, in the draft of a new order proposed to be made by the Home Secretary, that for a horse-drawn cab carrying a taximeter the fare for a journey within the four-mile radius shall be for "One mile and not exceeding twelve minutes —6d"? Whatever the Home Secretary may think, I do not personally imagine that much will come of this order, because human beings have human weaknesses, and the first man who is bold enough to hand a cabman sixpence with the remark, "There is your fare," will have to be a demi-god—unless, indeed, he is an elderly maiden lady. And, again speaking personally, I think it will be a very good thing if that official ideal never does materialise in practice, for several reasons. For one thing, it will certainly do away with the cabman, as we know and love him. For a second, it will be another move in the organised conspiracy to do away with the individuality of London. For a third, it will go far towards making the presently amiable and polite Cockney almost as insufferably boorish as is the Berliner himself. None of which things are desirable.

Every one loves a cabman—especially the editors of comic papers. He appeals to our primitive instincts—he is the last survival of the days when we lived exclusively by rapine and murder—he is the one figure surviving among us who exists upon licensed blackmail. I except the barrel-organist, who is, of course, a foreigner. Fifty years ago the cabman had a comrade in the omnibus tout. The omnibus tout still lives for us in the pages of Dickens; in real life he has long since given way to the politely sentimental conductor. The cabman, again, is the one Englishman who still preserves the native force and vigour of our language in the face of American competition. He is the one still unchoked fountain of English undefiled; destroy him, and within ten years we shall all be saying "Dog gone it, man!" or "Dodrabbit it!" having laid aside for ever our homely British "Damn!" And destroy him is just what the Home Secretary seems determined to do. This is quite evident in the time-clause he introduces. The length of a mile is still an arguable quantity; the taximeter is not invariable in its judgments, as any one who has travelled twice over the same route in a Paris "*voiture taximétre*" can testify; but not the most erratic of watches can vary more than a few seconds within the limits of twelve minutes. And every one—except the very rich, who drive in carriages—wears a watch nowadays. The cabman, then, struggle how he may, will have his one chance of making a living swept away from him; for it is become a truism that no man can pay the exorbitant rent charged by proprietors for the vehicles and live upon the legal fare, even at present rates. It is true that the taximeter is not made imperative upon the horse-drawn cab for the moment, but a close-fisted public will soon make it so, unofficially. Nothing will then be left for our old friend but to give up the struggle, to enter the service of one of the motor-cab companies—for what cabman could afford to set up a mocab on his own account?—and to accept a weekly wage as humbly as though he were a grocer's assistant. When that day comes English will become a dead language. The cabman will have no further reason for strengthening or enriching his native vocabulary; he will take no more interest in the matter of fares than does a railway-guard; he will, in fact, become as servilely polite, in the hope of an arbitrary tip.

But disaster to our language is by no means the worst that is to be feared. For the chances are at least ten to one that the wage-paid motor-taximeter-cabman will wear a uniform. He will inevitably wear a motor-cap, which is a determined step in the uniform direction. And what will become of his individuality then? For his individual existence is bound up in the individuality of his costume, and especially in that of his head wear. It is the fact that he can wear at fancy a moth-eaten bowler or the smartest of "toppers" that marks out the free man from the slave. It is true that wearing a uniform does not prevent a man from being rude. It usually makes him more so. But it is a different and less lovable kind of rudeness—it is sullen rather than airy. The cabman in a mouldy bowler stands towards his fare in the position of an equal party in a bargain—if anything, the advantage is on his side, and he knows it. Uniformed, he is become but the humble agent of another—a *servus*, a slave. He dare not give full play to the malignancy of his fancy, lest he be reported to his superiors and lose his job. He can only mutter evil words in his heart, not wear them on his lips. The influence of uniform upon public manners is always for evil. Consider its results in Germany. The Germans are naturally an amiable, friendly, polite people, or were before the Prussianising of their Empire forced them as a nation into uniformity. Nowadays, when every one from the Oberpostmeister to the Underbutcherboy wears the nearest available approach to a military uniform, they have become a nation of bullies, lacking alike in manners and in moral tone, regarding their neighbours, and especially their English cousins, with the darkest suspicion and the liveliest dislike. If you doubt it, go to Berlin, and mark the manners of the tramway conductors. Are we content to surrender our free-born, free-hatted cabby in exchange for a Strandful of imitation Berlin bobbies?

Think of the effect upon the rest of us. Should we not also catch the infection? Would not London, from being the most amiable, the best-mannered city in the world, become like any Continental capital—should we not all become dissatisfied, infected, servile plotters? Should we not be sowing the seeds for disturbances beside which the French Revolution were child's play. We risk all that and more if we consent to throw aside the cabman's hat.

It is perhaps too late to deplore the loss of London's individuality, for it is almost gone already, and not even the impassioned words of a free untaximetered cabman might avail to check its going. They have taken from us our dear old narrow inconvenient streets and forced upon us Continental boulevards; they have deprived us of our once proud boast of living in the most inconvenient city in the world and forced upon us speedy means of transit whether we want them or not; they have stolen from us our cheery bus-drivers and forced upon us melancholy mechanics clinging spasmodically to a wheel; the horse must give way to the machine; so must our own dear, dirty London give place to an Americanised, Parisianised, Prussianised, metropolised metropolis, wherein streets and shops and vehicles and people shall have not one distinctive or distinguishing feature among them all. Perhaps it is as well that the cabman should go—that he should not be left like a prehistoric Triton melancholy and alone among a drab uniformity of minnows. Perhaps the Home Secretary realises this, and has officialised sixpenny cab fares out of the spirit of philanthropy to help the *tendenz* of the times. If so, he is a far-sighted statesman indeed, and I retract all that I have written. Also I have the satisfaction of reflecting that, regularise our London as they may, we shall always have our weather to mark out England as a place apart, a something that defies classification and regularity. And let the Home Secretary do his worst with it.

THE THEATRES.

"When Knights were Bold," at Wyndham's.

When were knights bold? I should say at Wyndham's during the last few minutes of the second act of Mr. Marlowe's original farce in three acts. Mr. Marlowe ought almost to be made a knight for his audacious efforts to supply Mr. James Welch with absurdities to say and make us laugh, with absurdities to do and make us laugh again. As for Sir James Welch himself, I feel I am merely forestalling his approaching call to Windsor Castle when I dub him the Knight of the "Forty Winks."

These forty winks are taken after much strife between the very modern Sir Guy de Vere and his environment. All have different designs upon him: Lady Rowena, marriage and a more dignified attitude to life than that assumed by Sir Guy; Isaac Isaacson, marriage with his more than comely daughter Sarah (a part which Miss Daisy Cornell made sympathetic by her grace and quiet playing, even when manacled in the twelfth century of the second act); others have designs both mercenary and matrimonial, like Sir Brian, or merely ecclesiastical mercenary, like the Rev. Peter.

But I shall not develop these at length, because the whole plot hangs about the acutely auburn head of Sir Guy, and it is far more important to note whether he really dips his feet in a footbath to cure his bad cold—well acted at the end of the first act—than whether the Rev. Peter or Isaacson, the Jew, triumph in their transaction, which is conducted on an old principle said to be in use among the Jesuits, but I believe not altogether restricted to them: "the end justifies the means." Yes, Sir James Welch is the play, and he plays it with an overflow of artful vitality which to my innocent mind is very entertaining.

Seven centuries roll back as he takes his forty winks at the end of act the first. What was a piece of tapestry is now the battlements of his castle—younger by 700 years. I think this arrangement rather ingeniously made, for here Mr. Marlowe introduces every one of his former characters in their mediæval guise. Isaacson, the successful financier of the twentieth century, is dragged in chains before trembling Sir James (Sir Guy in the play), accused of usury. Sir James is for pardon, but not so the proud prelate, preincarnation of the affable and Rev. Peter. The prelate is for the utmost rigour of the torture chamber, but Sir James Welch always rises to the occasion when necessary, and probably in part stimulated with the sight of the flowing locks of the beauteous Jewess (same as act I., with hair down), orders prelate and retainers to give the Jew fair passage from his castle. Numberless absurdities, which Sir James makes amusing, culminate in Sir Brian's challenge to Sir James. This haughty knight of seven hundred years ago is also detested of his host, Sir James, in the twentieth century, and one is not, therefore, surprised to see the latter accept the challenge, though I think that if you go to see him, the manner and mode of his accoutrement will make you laugh. He sallies forth and returns, followed by Sir Brian, after a battle which one understands to have been uncertain in its issue. Sir James is not well acquainted with the manner of combating with the broad-sword, and, fortunately for him, Sir Brian seems equally ignorant of the use that might be made of an elegant iron ball adorned with six-inch spikes that depends by a chain from an iron rod which he holds in his hand. Sir James at last falls to with the mailed fist, and, sure of his skill in this exercise, with a few well-delivered punches, he very soon has his rival panting upon his back, and proudly plants his foot upon his breast. Persecuted nuns and retainers crowd around Sir James, who begins to think that the eighth century is not so bad after all, till they bring him a cup of sack, in lieu of a brandy and soda. Then Sir James makes one of his inimitable faces, and it is soon time to pass forward seven hundred years again and to find the Knight of the Forty Winks, with memories all too vivid of his dream, running a-tilt against the other characters, who, of course, appear as in the first act. More fooling on the part of Sir James, but, forsooth, 'tis good fooling.

It would, of course, be permissible to indulge in regrets that so fine an actor as Mr. James Welch should don so persistently the cap and bells. I do regret it. I trust that I may have the pleasure of seeing him in some more serious expression of dramatic art during

the course of the year. But at the theatre one is bound to take things as they come, and if Mr. Welch says "laugh at me instead of with me," why, I am ready to do so, although I know he is capable of greater things.

"Miss Hook of Holland," at the Prince of Wales's.

Mr. Paul Rubens, the author and composer of this play, save for the collaboration of Mr. Hurgon in parts of the book, modestly disclaims any ambitious designs, by terming the score a series of jingles, the libretto mere chatter. Thus severe on himself he wisely disarms criticism, which could easily point out what Mr. Rubens knows well, namely, that the work is not of an important nor of a highly original character. It has been constructed simply to please by the usual methods of musical comedy, and much attention has been given to the accessories, which go to make success in this kind. The scenery and scenic arrangements are not gorgeous, but they are carefully indicative of the Dutch environment, from which the action of the play does not move. The dresses are exceedingly picturesque, and it is a pleasure to see how much of luxury can be insinuated into the garbs of the workpeople in old Hook's distillery, when we come to the triumph of the last act. The story is of the simplest nature, depending upon the stealing of the recipe for "Cream of the Sky" liqueur. Ostentatiously lost by old Hook in the market-place of Arndyk, it is found by one, Slinks, the most eloquent representative of the professional unemployed, and by him conveyed to the officer who wishes to marry Miss Hook, the heiress. But the heiress does not love the officer; she prefers the bandmaster of his regiment. Hence the friction, and hence the resolve of the said officer to use the document to force the hand of Hook into giving him the hand of Hook's daughter. Reckless of duty, the youthful bandmaster exchanges the place of bottler with the identical professional unemployed who sold the recipe to the officer, and the second act finds everyone converging upon the distillery. Needless to add that by the well-known law of such plays as this, the officer fails to secure the lady, and the bandmaster is spared the punishment he deserves for leaving his regiment by the agency of the fair Miss Hook. Miss Hook, indeed, triumphs vocally all along the line, as she triumphs in the story, securing her lover's pardon by threatening the officer, if he does not grant it, with the revelation of his misuse of the recipe. The officer is therefore bound to content himself with a young lady who sings daintily a little song in the second act, and I do not think he is much to be pitied. Hand in hand with the bandmaster, her future spouse, Miss Hook bows her thanks to the plaudits of the crowd.

"Miss Hook of Holland" is worth seeing for several reasons, the most important being the excellence of the cast. First, we have the fine character study of old Hook, by Mr. G. P. Huntley, who, in his tall hat and brown velvet, contrives to be the most living of the personages in this real fairy tale. His part, indeed, stands out from the rest by the wit and incisiveness of almost every word he utters, and I should not be surprised if the actor were part-author of his part. Mr. Barrett gave an admirable study of the humorous vagabond unemployed, and he was well supported by his group, including the somnambulist, who drew forth laughter. Mr. Hyde did justice to his tenor part, and conducted his band on the stage as gallantly as he conducted his love affair with Miss Isabel Jay in the title rôle. There are also inwoven with the doings of the principal characters above referred to the brightest episodes of the evening. Miss Gracie Leigh was all grace and vivacity as the pretty employee of the distillery, despite her numberless petticoats. Indeed, she made of these material for a triumph in the song enumerating the donors of each of these coloured undergarments: "I've a pretty pink petty from Peter" is sure to be a popular favourite. Miss Leigh's success shows what can be done without much voice by talent and the gift of pleasing. Mr. Herbert Clayton plays the part of the scheming officer, and his fine voice and fine presence made his principal song, "Soldiers of the Netherlands," go with a will.

The chorus of fair young maidens was well selected, well trained, and picturesquely dressed, the effects obtained by the two shades of blue in the costumes in the distillery scene of the second act being especially agreeable. Mr. Rubens's music is just what is needed for this sort of entertainment: light and tuneful, and occasionally, as in the workmen's song of the second act, of some merit, as music.

"The Lady Dandies," at Daly's.

Wednesday evening of last week saw the return of the prodigal. Mr. Huntley Wright was playing the part of St. Amour in this, one of the most dainty, and certainly the most picturesque, comic operas which I have seen for a long time. Perhaps it is not quite fair to call Mr. Wright a prodigal, save in the generous sense of being prodigal with his talents to amuse. I watched his little excursion into the domain of comedy with much interest, and really regretted that in his short season at the Comedy Theatre he had not been more fortunate in his choice of plays. For Mr. Wright has great versatility and a happy knack of moulding rebellious material to take the imprint of his fantastic talent. Thus as St. Amour he had to play the prefect of Parisian police and the much-disliked husband of Lodoiska. Yet he contrived to strike the note of his temperament in this part, and with great discretion gradually to work up to his effects and set the house into convulsions of laughter. Miss Gabrielle Ray is another new comer to Daly's, and as the merveilleuse wife of Des Gouttières, contributed much with her delicate dancing in blue and silver, and with her shrilly piping voice, which people have got to like, to the success of this edition of the "Lady Dandies." Miss Orme was not in her best voice, yet gave a very charming performance of Illyrine, and if she does not now sing the song, "Said I to the gay Director," which I liked so much the first night, its place is taken by other numbers not less gay than the Director.

Hengler's Circus.

There are some changes at Hengler's, which make a second visit worth paying by those who like this sort

of entertainment. The most noticeable performance among these is that of Tamamoto in his wire-walking act. "Clownland" tries to epitomise the doings of the day, in the form of a Revue. On the Filmograph were exhibited some fine pictures of Niagara Falls.

Opening of The Playhouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Maude made by their own quaintness, and by that of their little duologue, written by Mr. Bernard Shaw, quite an original affair of this occasion. Full of hesitations and intentional slips, Mr. Maude led us gently along to the catastrophe and the hearty laughter of the upset desk, and the terror of another collapse of the station. Mr. and Mrs. Maude were supported, also, on this occasion by Mr. Tree, who was very rhetorical, and by Mr. and Mrs. Bourchier, who played their favourite "Sixes and Sevens" excellently well.

Whereas the majority of folk try to give publicity to such dates in their lives as their golden or silver wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Maude proceeded in an exactly opposite manner on this public occasion. They made of it, as far as possible, a family affair, trying to make everyone present feel he or she was assisting at an intimate council of friends. Thus, with much of grace and much of accident designed, we reached the performance of that apparently immortal work, "Toddles."

On the 15th of this month there will be given a special matinée at the New Royalty Theatre, in aid of the French Hospital and the French Benevolent Society in London. Half of the proceeds will, however, be handed over to the Lord Major's fund for the relief of the sufferers by the earthquake in Jamaica. Mlle. Jeanne Granier, Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Lewis Waller, and other leading lights of the stage, have volunteered their services for this performance, which will doubtless be thoroughly successful. Mr. T. B. Davis has given the theatre, free of charge.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF LANCASTER.

THE extreme privacy of the King and Queen's visit has been taken as a fresh proof of his Majesty's love for Paris. He and the Queen have come, as it were, to make Paris their home for the time they arrange to stay at the British Embassy, to live an informal life, and to do generally as Parisians do, casting aside the irksome restraints and formalities of official life, and being simply themselves in the midst of a friendly people who really see in the King a charming *boulevardier*. They have not suffered any official personage to be disturbed on their account. By the King's expressed desire, the Prefect of Police and his official private secretary did not appear on the platform of the Northern Railway as the King and Queen stepped from their train. They were the Duke and Duchess of Lancaster, and might have been merely a private lady and gentleman rich enough to travel in a sumptuous train of their own. The terminus was kept quite private so long as they were there. They have enjoyed much greater privacy at the British Embassy than any hotel could have afforded.

Queen Victoria used to come as Countess of Balmoral. I do not recollect her coming as Duchess of Lancaster. The last Duke of Lancaster who came here was Henry IV., when Richard II. banished him. The circumstances under which that King exiled him fill a stirring act in "Richard II." Rather curiously, he and his eldest son, who joined him in Paris, became popular among the bourgeoisie, and especially in the Mont Ste. Geneviève. Their presence in Paris and the subsequent revolution in England drew French attention to English politics. This had a marked effect on the political events that passed in Paris between the return of the Duke of Lancaster to England and the coronation of Henry IV. in Notre Dame. France had grown very tired of the misrule of the four uncles of Charles IV., and the dissipation of his brother and eldest son. Paris was more intelligent and tired than the rest of France, and longed, and then revolted, to place the finances under the direct control of a Parliament as in England. The Sorbonne headed the movement. It is not generally understood that Henry V. came here because a strong party in Paris wanted him. The view the French took of Parliamentary government in England early in the fifteenth century was that taken since by every great English constitutional lawyer.

I see that the Royal Commission appointed in England in 1901 to inquire into the subject of consumption in human beings and in cattle has just issued its report. The French papers give extracts from it. The curious coincidence that made me meet M. Paul Cagny last week and talk on that very subject with that distinguished veterinary surgeon and writer suggested to me the idea of seeing him again. He had not read the report of the Royal Commission. I showed him a quotation from it, in which it is stated that "milk containing bacilli is undoubtedly responsible for cases—fatal cases—of consumption in human beings, and that a large proportion of cases of consumption in human beings is due to meat."

"Yes, that is interesting," remarked M. Cagny, after glancing over the paragraph; "I do not, however, know about a 'large proportion.' This was one of the very questions we went into at our annual meeting the other day. M. Lignières and Professor Vallée both stated their opinion that nine-tenths of human consumption was of human origin, and other authorities concurred. The Royal Commission has no doubt evidence, but I would like to see it."

"Well, what is your own opinion?".

"I think that a child runs greater risk on account

Antipon, most successful of remedies for the Cure of Obesity, has received the highest praise from Press and public alike. The *Illustrated London News* says:—"Antipon not only speedily absorbs and throws out of the system all superabundant adipose matter, but increases strength and vitality." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The Antipon Company, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

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of disease in its family than on account of the milk it drinks. Mind, this is merely my own feeling. We are treading on very uncertain ground. Ten years ago the very doctrine the Royal Commission has just laid down was one of the 'accepted truths' of medical science. Then came a violent reaction. The 'accepted truth' became a 'demonstrated falsehood.' Just now we are unsettled; our minds are in a state of anarchy. If any enlightenment comes from England, I shall be very happy."

M. Cagny told me that from a very long experience he found that five years was about the time many respected medical opinions took to run their course.

Molière, who was never tired of railing at medicine, makes a doctor in one of his plays remark: "Hippocrates says 'yes,' Galen says 'no.'" If either of these Greeks were living now, and members of the Academy of Medicine, they would both say "yes" and "no"—turn about every five years. And so the pendulum swings. But, on the whole, we seem to be getting wiser.

Guiraud, in adapting "Anna Karenina" for the Théâtre Antoine, has Frenchified it considerably. He has brought out its resemblance to "Frou-Frou" in the scene in which Anna returns home and embraces her youthful son, and in the scenes at Venice. Be it observed that the publication of "Frou-Frou" preceded that of Tolstoy's novel, and that while the *cuisine* is his own, the plot may have been drawn from the French play, in which Aimée Desclée was at her best. Gémier has effected miracles of stage management, but his lieutenant, Caillaux, has effected nothing short of a miracle in the management of the train which kills Anna in the last act. It is an express going at full speed in a cutting, casting out the proper amount of smoke and steam, and winding its way in the distance as should a well-regulated train, in which any of us might travel. Nothing in the play drew more applause than this instrument of the dark destiny that rules the heroine's life and serves as her executioner. I say "heroine" with deliberation. One feels, despite her wrongdoings, deeply interested in her, and one cannot but hope that in heaven, where there are no marriages, and therefore no call for divorce judges, she may have a high and happy place. Anna is very much what the French call *une grande amoureuse*. The part is sustained by Mme. Mégard. You have her very close parallel in an English novel, superlatively vulgar and yet extremely dramatic, "East Lynne," by the late Mrs. Henry Wood. Tolstoy was at most pains in writing his sad novel to give relief to the interesting dreamer Lévine, in whom he saw himself as in a perfect mirror, and he painted Kitty with the affection an author ought to feel for the young lady to whom he is engaged, and in whom he can see no fault. Both are pared away almost to nothing in the play. Playgoers do not care for dreamers and Lévine. Gémier is the husband from whom Anna runs away with Captain Wronsky, the fiancé of her dear friend and guest, Kitty Tcherbatsky. This young lady is also considerably pared away by the adapter. She is only brought in in the first act to suggest previsions of the future rascality of Wronsky. One is therefore prepared from the moment that Anna makes up her mind to elope that he will grow tired of their *égoïsme à deux*. Gaston Severin personates Wronsky, but I think he does not enough show the barbarian that underlies the stylish officer, who no doubt is in the habit of carousing at Cubat's after he has been spending the evening seeing the *pièces aux jambes* at the Marie Theatre. A sort of Skobeleff, redolent of scented soap and smelling of drink taken the day before, would have done perhaps better. There is nothing at all of the refined Frenchman in the Russian officer who sets up to Boulevard *chic*.

The humblest Frenchmen, provided they do not come from Normandy or the North-Eastern provinces, have, though they do not perhaps know it, pedigrees extending three thousand years back. The noblest Russians are, compared to this, of mushroom growth — a reason possibly why none of us in this part of the world can understand their ways. One feels their recent upriso in the works of Tolstoy. The characters that M. Guiraud cast into the theatrical mould are fine flowers of an old civilisation, in speech, manners, and modes of dressing—save when Wronsky is in his uniform, and his fast friend, Serpoukhoskoy, who has won glory in military expeditions in Asia, is in that of a general. These and other uniforms were procured in Russia by an aide-de-camp of the Duke of Leuchtenberg, Dimitri Oznobichine. This distinguished person is also a major in the Lancers of the Guard, and is now living away from Nihilists and bomb explosions in the studio of a great artist, deceased, on the Boulevard de Clichy. He took great pains to secure local colour for the stage-manager and the personages. The piece is in seven tableaux. The Tsarkoe Selo racecourse, where Wronsky, as the gentleman rider in a military steeplechase, gets badly hurt in a fall, might, were there a Mont Valérien in the background, pass for that of Longchamp.

The Venice tableaux met with the approval of that evergreen octogenarian, Ziem. One finds from the drawing-room scenes that Russian ladies in society are just as *rosses* as their Parisian sisters. But then they are more provincial in *rosserie*, as they hate seriously and for a long time. French people in a corresponding sphere soon grow tired of hating. The snow scene in a Russian barine's residence calls for sumptuous fur. Anna spares no expense on hers, nor do the other ladies who regard her as a sinner whom they ought to shun. We have no ball, as the action in the Russian scenes always goes forward in the day time. The toilettes in panne, in velvet, in soft satins, are in the First Empire style, with short waists, white lace, and silks of light and yet bright shades are warmed up with Russian sables, ermine stoles, chinchilla trimmings and collars, and blue fox furs. The weeping feathers are known in the Rue de la Paix as *pleureuses*, and may cost from 100 francs to 1,000 francs apiece or more. The wrappers must be the terror of playgoers at St. Petersburg, where there is a tendency to exaggerate Rue de la Paix sumptuosity. Anna Karenina wears

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at the races a black velvet robe bordered with chinchilla, and a coat of the same stuff dotted over with embroidered roses as natural as the embroiderer could make them look. The revers of the collar are to match, but are edged with gold embroidery. Karenina, a big official assimilated to a General of Division, is proud of his wife's fine style and the well chosen richness of her toilette. Her house gown in Venice rose point is just the thing for the young wife of a multi-millionaire, who has suddenly risen in business from humble beginnings. Another *déshabillé* is in white *mousseline de soie*, with a sort of dalmatic in gold embroidered tulle thrown over it, and ornamented in the front with Italian guipure and bows of gold ribbon. Then there is a robe of green velvet, flexible and of a soft green hue. The final robe in which Anna throws herself before the train presages the winding sheet. Mme. Mégard goes to Redfern for her stage dresses, and the astonishing *chic* with which she wears them may have helped their designer to obtain the much-coveted red ribbon.

Tolstoy, in his novel, gives symbolical significance to the different characters. They are, homme-types and femme-types. M. Guiraud softens this symbolism and tries to make them merely men and women belonging to different sections of society.

If you are in Paris this season go to see M. Guiraud's adaptation, and be sure to stay through the drop curtain scene. It is rendered with startling realism. Those who love to sup on horrors will find a feast in the train rattling down at a 55-miles-an-hour pace, the puffs of smoke and steam marking its progress through a cutting which we do not see. They will hear the shriek of the heroine as the train is nearly on her. The illusion of the whole thing is blood-curdling. But the play lacks the deep passion of the novel. However, the beauty, grace, and dramatic talent of Mme. Mégard atone for this.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE battle-cry of Progress, dear Lady Betty, is "Advance"; which accounts for the County Councils continually raising loans.

* * * * *

It is frequently necessary to take a step backwards to take two forwards. The Municipal authorities very properly compel the moneyed classes to take the step backwards to enable the whole community to take the two forwards.

* * * * *

"Prosperity was not made for the People; it is our privilege," is the companion phrase to, "Politics were not made for the People; the People were made for politics."

* * * * *

"Good blood" is bad blood. That which has been transmitted through ten dukes—with their respective follies and vices, and the mental and physical defects these and luxury cause—must necessarily be hopelessly vitiated. The stock of "good blood" in a country is its criminal reserve, should circumstances develop the necessary temptations. The conditions of our time are providing the temptations, and, with increasing frequency, the possessors of "good blood," throughout the world, are figuring in disgraceful transactions. It has been calculated that the confidence reposed in "well-connected" directors has, in the last quarter of a century, cost the public as much as did the war in South Africa. It has recently been said that "we are all pickpockets at heart." There should at once be a Bacteriological Survey of the members of the Upper House; two-thirds of these would probably be condemned, and they would be replaced by wholesome self-made men. That is a scientific solution of the House of Lords difficulty.

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The Sacred Sex is an ill-assorted companion to the Sacred Cat of ancient Egypt and the Sacred Monkey of India; the New Civilisation, however, appears to be developing the first. Imagine that to all her privileges woman has added all the rights of man; she is little else then than a sacred creation. As it is, every Fury claims to have the same attention as is paid to Venus.

Imagine further that the Suffragette agitation has attained its object; that thirty "gallant" constituencies have returned women candidates—the minor difficulties of the situation become at once apparent. In the chair is a bachelor Speaker, and every unmarried woman member is continually endeavouring to "catch his eye"! The Speaker is a married man, and behind the grating in the Ladies' Gallery his wife watches a flirtation which is proceeding between him and a woman member, and the inexorable rules of the House prevent her from interfering! Mr. Arthur Balfour generally rests his feet on the table at an angle of forty-five degrees; of course, such an attitude would be unbecoming were a woman member to assume it. None would, but it is another injustice to the sex that such a trifling comfort should be denied them. To every "Report of the Debate" in the newspapers would certainly be added a "Description of the Dresses." How the Radical reporters of the latter would denounce the costumes worn by the Conservatives, and how the Conservative reporters would condemn those worn by the Radicals, and how continually the House would be compelled to listen to "Personal Explanations" on the subject of depreciated chiffons! Like "The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley pen," our women are a "Boon and a blessing to men," but it is conceivable that the pens, and women, in inappropriate conditions, would not be useful, and would be annoying.

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The following advertisement is pathetically candid:

"Lonely Lady wishes to exchange scandal with another; replies required only from those in the best 'society,' etc., etc."

It is one of the main attributes of modern civilisation that it brings out all the best features of the human character.

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"Is the Mythological Dictionary a fit book to place in the hands of the young?" is a question which will assuredly arouse the anger of most of those who maintain that a classical education is necessary to polish the mind. This dictionary is little better than an elementary guide to dissipation and divorce, yet most boys are set to study it strenuously. Many of the classics, moreover, which youth is forced to translate, are of so objectionable a character that no publisher of to-day would print one of them were a modern author the writer. Knowledge of the classics was a sign of learning in the far distant past, when few could even read or write; later, education was slightly more general, and our remote predecessors naturally valued that which those before them thought important—and we continue in the same course. Greek and Latin are, undoubtedly, most useful languages for certain purposes; they train and polish the mind, but they can be taught without the aid of the objectionable literature both possess.

It is one of the inconsistencies of life that, whilst we are endeavouring to remove religious education

Blackpool. Splendid Winter Climate. Hôtel Métropole. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

from our schools, even in State examinations it is generally necessary to be intimately acquainted with the minutest details concerning the pagan religious systems of the Greeks and Romans. Is it audacious to add to these observations that it is conceivably time for the world to provide other astronomical names to replace those of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, for instance?—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A FRENCH correspondent informs me that M. E. Blanc has a highly promising three-year-old in his dark colt, Vichy, by Cyllene out of Vicuna, and a most successful season is expected for this animal if all goes well with him. Vichy's only engagement in England is in the Two Thousand.

Some years have now elapsed since there was a winter meeting of the members of the Jockey Club in London, but I hear that there is a prospect of one being held shortly after the opening of Parliament at Lord Derby's house in St. James's-square. There are several matters of urgent importance upon which the Stewards might most advantageously confer with the members without waiting for the first ordinary meeting of the Club during the Newmarket Craven Week.

Mr. W. Hall Walker at present has twenty-one horses in training at Foxhill, under the charge of W. T. Robinson. The stud comprises seven three-year-olds and fourteen two-year-olds. Black Arrow is not at Foxhill, as he has been under the care of Mr. Coleman, the veterinary surgeon at Epsom, during the winter. It is confidently anticipated that Black Arrow will be raced next season with satisfactory results, and a large number of engagements have recently been made for him, both in handicaps and in weight-for-age events. Polar Star will presumably be prepared for the Coronation Cup at Epsom, as the best of his very few original engagements are the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, the Northern Derby at Newcastle, and the Lennox Plate of £1,500 at the Hurst Park August Meeting.

The Coronation Cup will be one of the most interesting races of the whole season if it also brings out Keystone II., Polymelus, Troutbeck, and The White Knight, as then Polar Star will be afforded an opportunity of showing whether he is really a flyer of high class, for some good judges maintain that he was indebted for his twelve victories last season, not so much to superlative merit as to pure luck in some cases, and to judicious placing in others. Polar Star lasted well as a two-year-old, for he was out during the first week of the season, when he won the Sefton Park Plate at Liverpool, and his last race was the Criterion Stakes at the Newmarket Houghton Meeting, when he defeated Galvani, winner of the Middle Park Plate, but I am assured that there were good excuses for the defeat of Major Loder's colt on that occasion. Knight of Tully is not likely to be up to Derby form, but he ought to win some good races if he is judiciously placed. A very high opinion must have been entertained of this colt when he was a yearling, as he was then entered for no fewer than forty-nine races, and he has still twenty-seven engagements in the future, the first of which is the Union Jack Stakes of £1,200 at the Liverpool Spring Meeting. Witch Elm won five races last season, and was four times beaten. If this filly trains on she ought to be a useful three-year-old. Witch Elm is entered for the One Thousand and Oaks, and for the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood, and the Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster. Mr. Hall Walker's two-year-olds do not include relatives to Black Arrow or Polar Star, but Royal Realm is own brother to Colonia, who has, I hear, been relegated to the stud. Twelve months ago it was generally expected that this mare would win either the One Thousand or the Oaks, but she only started once as a three-year-old, which was at the Newbury Spring Meeting, and then she was well beaten. White Eagle is a colt by Gallinule out of Merry Gal, and there are four other two-year-olds sired by Gallinule, and five by Count Schomberg.

Mr. Dugdale's horse Picton has not been seen out since he finished second to Spearmint for the Derby, as he could not be trained on the hard ground last summer, so he was wisely thrown up for the season. It is hoped that Picton will get through a preparation for some of his four-year-old engagements. He has accepted for the Lincolnshire Handicap and for the Queen's Prize at the Kempton Park Easter Meeting. He is entered for the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, and as he did not win anything last season, he would have no extra weight to carry in that race.

A number of papers announced on Friday that on the previous day there had been a sale of "racing trophies" at Debenham and Storr's, one of these being the Goodwood Cup of 1883, which is stated to have been won by Sir George Chetwynd's Border Minstrel, who defeated both Corrie Roy and Dutch Oven. As a matter of fact, Border Minstrel belonged to the late Sir Robert Jardine, and he was never owned by Sir George Chetwynd. It is certainly remarkable that any "sporting trophy" should have ignominiously come into the market which had been won by so rich a man as the late Sir Robert Jardine, but I suppose he had given away the cup.

The Stewards of the Jockey Club have given leave for horses belonging to the Prussian Royal stud to run in the name of Count Lehndorff, whose colours are black and white stripes, with black cap. I suppose it is intended to start one or both of the two-year-olds, which have been sent to England to be trained, at Ascot, as they have been engaged in the Coventry Stakes and in the Windsor Castle Stakes. They are in Darling's stable at Beckhampton. The one colt is sired by Ard Patrick and the other by Saraband. Count Lehndorff has been a familiar figure at Newmarket for nearly forty years, and he has been a generous bidder at many of the most important sales which have been held during that period. He has acted as commissioner for the Prussian Royal stud and for the Prussian Government both in England and in France, and he has made many judicious purchases, but there is something in the air or soil (or both) of North Germany which appears to act against the successful breeding of high-class thoroughbred stock. The late Lord Falmouth always kept his stud in Kent, as it was his firm opinion that it would be impossible to breed in Cornwall with satisfactory results. One of the earliest and most remarkable purchases made by Count Lehndorff was The Colonel, who had twice won the Grand National Steeplechase. The Emperor William I. rode this horse as a charger during the earlier stages of the war of 1870-71.

I hear that his Majesty's horse Nulli Secundus is in reserve for the Newbury Meeting, and that he is intended to run for the Spring Hurdle Race of £500 on Friday, the 22nd. It is quite likely that the King will pay his first visit to the new racecourse at Newbury on the 22nd. His Majesty had intended to go down on the second day of the autumn meeting, but he gave up the expedition when it became clear that Slim Lad had no chance of winning the Berkshire Foal Stakes.

An excellent judge of racing, who is thoroughly acquainted with both the English and the French form, informs me that he is decidedly of the opinion that Maintenon will win the Ascot Cup if he goes on all right. I do not believe that there is any real prospect of Spearmint getting through a preparation for the Gold Cup, and as Polymelus certainly could not stay the course, Maintenon appears to hold the older horses safe enough, for Keystone II. will also lack the stamina which is indispensable for success in this race. The most hopeful English candidate is Sagamore. Lord Rosebery, who is particularly anxious to win the Ascot Cup, has engaged Ramrod, Donna Caterina, and Bezonian, of which lot the four-year-olds will be hopelessy outclassed, while the three-year-old will no doubt have started for the Two Thousand and Derby. I shall be vastly surprised if Polar Star turns out to be a good stayer, but it was prudent to enter him for this

race, as the field for the Gold Cup so often collapses altogether at the finish.

Lord Derby's Boulter's Lock, who is half-brother, by St. Frusquin, to Keystone II., ran three times last season without winning, but he is apparently expected to do better as a three-year-old, for he has been entered in several of the races which have recently closed. I do not suppose, however, that he is likely to "come on" to the same satisfactory extent as last year's Oaks winner.

The National Hunt Steeplechase is to be run at Warwick on March 7. There are two races thus named, one, value £1,000, for five-year-olds and upwards; the other, value £500, for four-year-olds only. Seventy-five entries have been obtained for the more valuable of the two events, and thirty-eight for the other race. Mr. J. E. Stevens's Port Light II. has been beaten three times for the National Hunt Steeplechase, finishing second to Timothy Titus at Cheltenham in 1904, while in 1905, over the same course, he refused, and last year, at Warwick, he ran second to Count Rufus. Mr. H. G. Farrant's Red Hall and Mr. S. Park's Glenrex have been twice beaten for this race. Mr. F. Keene's Prophet III. is a very likely sort of horse to win the National Hunt Steeplechase, and he will be more at home in the Warwick race than he would be if he was reserved for the Grand National Steeplechase.

The acceptances for the Spring Handicaps are very large indeed. It was quite certain that Polymelus would be withdrawn from the Lincolnshire Handicap, for, as I stated last week, it would have been utterly impossible to get the horse fit in another six weeks. I do not believe that Polymelus will be started for either the City and Suburban or the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, although he has been left in for both those races. It is much more likely that Mr. Joel will reserve him for the Coronation Cup at Epsom and the Princess of Wales's Stakes at the Newmarket First July Meeting.

His Eminence has accepted for both the Lincolnshire Handicap and the City and Suburban, and if he starts for the race of March 19, I shall certainly expect him to defeat Kaffir Chief, who is a very moderate horse, although a herd of mooncalves have been so infatuated as to "rush" him for the Lincoln race. His Eminence has nice speed, and, although he is deficient in stamina, I fancy he would be able to stay the Lincoln mile, but it is quite on the cards that he may be reserved for the City and Suburban, and in my opinion the Epsom course would just suit him. Earla Mor has accepted at Lincoln, Epsom, and Kempton Park, but this horse appears to be everywhere overweighted.

Minos has been backed at a ridiculously short price, and those who fancy this horse had better leave him alone for the present, as he is very backward, and it is quite likely that he will not be properly fit at the opening of the season. It will not surprise me if Minos is kept for the City and Suburban.

Camisard has been thrown in at Lincoln with a truly contemptuous lenity, for 7 st. is a feather weight for a five-year-old which has shown respectable form. Camisard is a tip among the doodles and noodles who maintain that he ran faster than anything in the Cambridgeshire for a mile. The fact is that this is all balderdash, for directly the rider of Polymelus called upon his horse, the race was over. Camisard will be fit to run at Lincoln, and he has certainly been given a wonderful chance.

The other French candidates are Ob, who won last year, and Champ d'Or, who also belongs to M. Ephrussi. I do not for a moment believe that Ob can win with 8 st. 10 lb., for last year, with 8 st. on his back, he only just won by a head, after a desperate finish with Dean Swift, to whom he was giving 3 lb. These two are handicapped very closely on that form, Ob having now to give 4 lb. Last year Dean Swift won the City and Suburban easily with 7 st. 11 lb. on his back, and he afterwards carried off the Trial Stakes at Ascot. Ob only ran once in England after Lincoln, which was in the Newbury Spring Cup, when he finished nowhere, and his collapse was to be expected, inasmuch as he was carrying the same weight as Thrush, who finished third, and he was giving 5 lb. to Roseate Dawn, who was placed second, while he had 17 lb. the worst of the weights with Succory, who won. Ob did not start in France last year, and his only race on the Continent was the Baden Foundation Prize in August, when he finished second to Phœnix.

Champ d'Or was unplaced last October for the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park, Polymelus being the winner, and the French horse carried 8 st. 3 lb. In May Champ d'Or finished second to Brat for the Biennial at Maisons Laffitte, and in August he easily won the Grand Handicap de Deauville, distance one mile, defeating a field of fourteen. His only other race was the Grand Prize of Baden, in which he ran badly. Champ d'Or, with 8 st. on his back, appears to me to be a very much more promising candidate than Ob with 8 st. 10 lb.

Lord Derby is quite likely to be very dangerous in the Chester Cup, as he has accepted with both Bridge of Canny (8 st. 5 lb.) and Gourd (7 st. 9 lb.). The mare is particularly well in, but the ground must be soft for her to give her best running.

Velocity now heads the Lincoln list, and he has also accepted for the City and Suburban and for the Jubilee Handicap. Velocity was backed for a lot of money last year by impetuous ganders who were in ignorance of the fact that he was exceedingly backward, and the Irish horse was not in proper racing trim until more than two months later in the season, when he won the Castle Irwell Handicap at the Manchester Whitsuntide Meeting. Velocity is not an early spring horse, and I shall be astonished if he runs at Lincoln. So far as "class" is concerned he is now, of course, the best animal in the race.

M. Caillault's Tyrol is a mysterious tip for the Newbury Spring Cup, and this horse, being four years old, is certainly not overweighted with 7 st. 2 lb. Last season Tyrol started seven times without winning, and he never ran at two years old.

The newly published volume of the *Racing Calendar* gives some interesting statistics as to the events of last season. There were 1,753 races in Great Britain during 1906, as against 1,697 in 1905. There were thirty-four races of over two miles and under three, 457 of over one mile and under two, 308 of one mile, 316 of from six furlongs to one mile, 572 of five furlongs and under six, and sixty-six of four furlongs and under five. Of the races of six furlongs and under a mile, sixty-six were for two-year-olds only, and 224 of those of five furlongs and under six were scrambles for three-year-olds and upwards. It would be a most valuable reform to prohibit all races of under six furlongs for the older horses. Let these events be reserved for two-year-olds.

The value of the stakes run for during 1906 was £356,302 in England, £21,430 in Ireland, and £11,548 in Scotland. It would be interesting to learn how much of this money was really contributed by the owners in the forms of entrances and forfeits.

Until within the last few years the minor forfeits for the Derby and the Oaks were declared by the first Tuesday in January. The date of declaration has been postponed until the last Tuesday in March, with the result that the withdrawals from those races have been very much larger than formerly. A considerable sum has now to be added to both stakes in order to make up the advertised value, whereas under the old arrangement there was frequently a surplus, and the deficit (if any) was very small. Last year the Epsom fund was drawn upon for £1,870 on account of the Derby, and for £985 to complete the endowment of the Oaks. In 1905 the deficiencies were £2,095 and £1,510 respectively, and in 1904 they amounted to £4,205!

The rich subscription stakes all did badly last year. At Newmarket there was a loss of £4,449 over the Princess of Wales's Stakes, and of £725 over the Jockey Club Stakes. At Sandown Park the Eclipse Stakes. cost the fund £1,431, and there was a loss of

£665 over the National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000.

The Newmarket events did badly also in 1905, there being a loss of £2,569 over the Princess of Wales's Stakes, and of £1,382 over the Jockey Club Stakes. At Sandown Park the Eclipse Stakes cost the fund £1,250, and there was a deficit of £1,218 over the National Breeders' Produce Stakes.

In 1904 the Princess of Wales's Stakes cost the Jockey Club £2,366, but the deficit over the Jockey Club Stakes was only £74. As to Sandown Park, the Eclipse Stakes involved a loss of £1,067, and the two-year old race cost the fund £232.

Of course, the hideous losses over the Princess of Wales's Stakes (without any compensation in the form of a really good race) were due to the muddy-minded imbecility of the authorities in excluding three-year-olds from that race, in deference to a clamour raised by a few sighing simpletons and visionaries.

TIDEWAY ROWING.

Imagine a man, who, if he had been at the University, would have been good enough to get his Blue—a man of the stamp that makes a first-class president and college first boat captain; picture him attached to a metropolitan boat club, and then you have some notion of the zeal and enthusiasm that a certain tideway veteran displays for the Thames Rowing Club in particular and metropolitan oarsmanship in general. The recent dinners of the Thames and London Rowing Clubs have brought the question of tideway rowing into prominence. Fortunately, the wash of the London County Council steamers has been done away with. That troubles the river no higher up than Chelsea. At Putney there are boathouses and boats. There are a certain number of coaches but there are not enough men. I cannot make out why there is this dearth of material. It is said golf, lawn tennis, and motoring, football, and hockey, dry up the sources of supply. But this can scarcely be the case bearing in mind the increase of population. From a district within two miles of Putney Bridge it should be possible to get at the very least five eights both for Thames and London. A similar observation applies to Kingston, with all the Surbiton district at its back, and then Molesey has a fine area from which to draw. It is surprising that there is no club at Richmond, with its splendid stretch of water. "Now what is the reason, I pray?" as the young man said to old Father William. First of all, there are very few schools which have opportunities for rowing. If a boy who has not played football, hockey, or cricket goes up to the Universities he is drafted to the river. If he comes up to town, there is no boat captain to take hold of him, and he drifts on and does nothing, or else he takes up golf. At public schools nowadays, as contrasted with the early days of the seventies, athletics are much more specialised. Even if they have not got their school colours the majority of young fellows are sure to find places in some of the many cricket and football clubs round London. They have no inducement to take up a new form of sport and go through the drudgery that rowing entails. The boy who has made no mark in school sports has no one to give him a helping hand and to urge him to the pleasures of the river. If a young fellow coming up to town had the chance, I believe he would often take up rowing. In the leading metropolitan clubs he will find as nice a set of men as he could wish to meet. Andrew Lang, in one of his essays, describes the rowing men as being the salt of the college, and it might well be said that of sports in the metropolis the oarsmen are the salt. Mr. Etherington-Smith, the captain of Leander, pointed out at the Thames Club dinner that rowing men always stick together in after life. This is very true. He did not mean that it was only Leander men who clung together. There is a brotherhood among amateur oarsmen in the metropolis which is stronger than freemasonry. Their definition of amateurism is as illogical as it is practical. It may work hardships, but its advantages overweigh any such considerations. In rowing, sport is sport for its own sake more than in any other branch of sport. There is the period of self-denial and training that helps to bring men together; there is the race in which defeat is often scarcely less glorious than victory. There is no one man to win the match by brilliant batting or bowling, splendid shooting at goal, or a fine run that gets the try. In the crew each man has to bear his share. Ideal socialism if you will, each for all and all for each.

Now the difficulty is to get hold of the men. At practically every public school several of the masters have probably rowed in one of their college boats. At all events, they will know enough of rowing to be able to spot the boy who would have done good work for his college if he had been going up to a university. It is not too much to suggest that these masters should take an interest in the boy when he is leaving school and put him on to one or other of the best metropolitan clubs. Within my own experience, I have often been asked which is the best place for a youngster to go to live at when he is first starting his work in London. Such a question must often be put to a master when a boy is leaving school. Unfortunately, the majority of these masters have little or no knowledge of the status of these metropolitan clubs. If they realised the social openings that are there offered to young men, the immediate introductions and friendships that are possible, they would, I am sure, send them on to these clubs, and I know that there is not a boat captain who on such an introduction would not do his best to make things pleasant for the new comer. If boat captains can get in touch with the schoolmaster, they may be able to tap, regularly, an excellent source of supply. My idea is not quite scatterbrained. It can be carried out with little difficulty, and would afford to many parents and guardians the knowledge that young fellows were not being left to their own resources when first coming to town. There would be more than sufficient return for the entrance fees and subscriptions in the advantages that the youngster will obtain. I know that with regard to metropolitan rowing there is an idea that men cannot get to the top of the tree unless they have been to the University. This is all nonsense. Henley certainly looms very largely in the public eye; but the rowing men alone realise the excellent racing that there is at other regattas and amongst the members of the club itself. Besides, there is absolutely no reason why Thames and London should not do as well at Henley as they did twenty years ago. It is all a question of getting material and of working it up. That is naturally a lengthy process, but it can be done, and I believe it is being done. I have indicated a method by which useful material may be obtained. Then there is the question of the University man. He comes from college and gets his first boat seat, and turns out some man who has struggled up. But such cases will become fewer as the standard of metropolitan rowing goes up. Even the college oar does not support the tideway as he ought. A little while ago I had a talk with a first boat captain from Cambridge. His one regret is that he did not take to metropolitan rowing before he came down. He said the men in those crews knew what could not be taught on the narrow waters of the Cam, and that was how to race. There is all the difference in the world between a bumping or time race, and the race where you are alongside your opponent at the start. In opportunities for learning watermanship and the art of racing, the metropolitan oarsman has the advantage. He may lack the long tubbing on fixed seats, but he makes up for this by much longer practice in the summer months. Of course, his difficulties in the way of training are much greater than those of the man who is up at College. But the men of twenty and thirty years ago triumphed over these troubles. There were no cycles and motor 'buses then. They laid themselves out to get hard and fit, and row themselves out. That was the secret of their success, and that was why, as Mr. Eyre, the Chairman at the Thames Club dinner, said, light crews often beat a heavier one; and, with a tithe of that veteran's enthusiasm, the men of the present day could lift Thames rowing once again to the top of the tree.

Those who have been cycling over flinty roads this frosty weather may have been troubled with small punctures. Here is a hint that may be an old one, but is new to me—namely, to insert a length of wide lamp-wick between the outer and inner tube. It is tough stuff, and takes the small flint points that are such a nuisance.

The second round of the Association Cup has been played, and the South has not come out of the ordeal at all satisfactorily. There were no dramatic surprises like the victory of Crystal Palace over Newcastle United. In fact, the Palace drew with Fulham. The unexpected results were the victory of Brentford, who were playing at home, over Middlesbrough, and the failure of Portsmouth to account for Barnsley. Southampton and Luton were playing at home against Sheffield Wednesday and Sunderland, and they could only draw their games. West Ham put up a very hard fight with Everton, the holders of the cup. For the first time in two years Everton were playing away from home in a cup tie.

As an indication of the extent to which all football is being levelled up, it is interesting to note that in the sixteen games played only twenty-eight goals were scored. Bolton Wanderers, with two goals to nothing against Aston Villa, and Bristol Rovers, with a score of two goals to love against Millwall, were the only clubs that had more than a one-goal margin, and in only two other matches did the winners score two goals. These clubs were Woolwich Arsenal and Everton.

Scotland has beaten Wales at Rugby by two tries to a penalty goal. The Welshmen were playing the New Zealand formation. For the last twenty minutes of the game they lost Winfield at full back. Gibbs, the extra half, then took up that position, and for the first time in the game was really useful. Of course, this change did not affect the forward formation. For Scotland, Purves and Macgregor made a good pair at three-quarters, but MacLeod was a comparative failure. The English forward line has been reorganised against Ireland. There will be no quaint conceits of strategy and tactics. The forwards are a good fast lot, and now that the three-quarter line has been reorganised, I quite expect England to do well in the next two International matches.

There was a most interesting billiard match between Stevenson and Diggle, who had a thousand points start. The former won by just about 700 points, after a game marked by two big breaks. Diggle cut his record by a break of 673, Stevenson on the previous day having made 599.

MAMMON.

Markets Still Unsettled—Further Liquidation of Americans—Why the Fall is Likely to go Further—Sharp Advance in Russian Bonds—The New Loan almost at "Par"—Home Securities Still Neglected—A "Bear" Account in Consols—Monetary Prospects—New York takes Gold from London.

THE baneful influence of the American market is still felt throughout the Stock Exchange. All last week Yankees were steadily pressed for sale, and values tumbled away rapidly, with very few intermittent rallies. Prices in this market have since December already undergone a fairly substantial decline, but most indications point to the end not being reached yet. In view of the enormous amount of new capital sought to be placed on the part of American railroads and other leading corporations, and the fact that the finance houses on the other side have already got quite as much scrip as they can accommodate, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that a radical readjustment of values will have to take place before existing stocks can tempt the investing public. This great unsatisfied cry for new capital seems to me to be the dominating factor for the American market, though there are other "Bear" points of no small importance, such, for instance, as the advance in the cost of labour and materials, the growth of the political agitation against the Trusts, and the investigation by the Inter-State Commerce Commission into the Harriman roads. Under such circumstances it is necessary to speak with caution about the outlook for the stock markets as a whole. Any further upheavals in Yankees can hardly fail to affect other departments, though if the further liquidation that seems inevitable be conducted without any severe straining of the credit machine, it may be that the House as a whole will seek to detach itself from the troubles of Shorters-court. Certainly most other considerations that weigh with the Stock Exchange are of a favourable character. The horizon of international politics is clearer than it has been for a long time past. It is true that last week some wild rumours were circulating in America to the effect that President Roosevelt, discussing the question of Japanese children in Californian schools, had declared that Japan wanted war and was seeking for a pretext for its prosecution, but in view of Mr. Roosevelt's recent graceful tribute to Japan and the expressions of satisfaction that his conciliatory message called forth at Tokio, such stories, pending confirmation, may well be put down to the vivid imagination of the American journalist. On the Continent, the success of the Imperialist Party and the rebuff given to the Socialists at the German State Elections appear to have produced a good feeling upon the Bourses, French capitalists apparently being quite as relieved at the latter event as those in the Fatherland. The feature among Foreign Government bonds has been the buoyancy of Russians. A good effect was produced by the official statement that no foreign loan is contemplated during 1907 by the Ministry of Finance, while some people were inclined to attach significance to the fact that a well-known Jewish house in London has identified itself with the Russian Famine Relief Fund. It was argued from this that better relations were being established between the Israelite financial community and the Russian Government—a matter which, without doubt, has an important bearing upon the market for Russian securities. The new 5 per cent. loan which has just become fully paid spurted to within a fraction of "par"—that is, 89—and it has thus recovered already fully 11 points from the lowest of last year. Some of the leading dealers think the rise is not over yet. Coming to markets with which London is more directly concerned, it cannot be said that Home Rails have derived much benefit from the half-yearly dividend declarations, favourable as these have been on the whole. For the most part, indeed, values have undergone a further shrinkage, owing to the action of a few stale "Bulls" who offered stock on discovering what a small effect the dividends had upon the public. Consols and the gilt-edged group generally have remained in a state of utter neglect, although the market for Goschens was steadied by the discovery at the monthly carry-over last week of a "Bear" account, some operators, it is said, having sold short of Consols as a "hedge" against commitments open in the Yankee section. It is so far satisfactory to note that the fortnightly Account in general securities completed last Thursday brought to light no serious trouble. Two failures were announced, but in both cases the liabilities were relatively insignificant. The open account, too, proved to have been materially reduced, and money for continuation purposes was fully 1 per cent. cheaper than a fortnight previous. As to the prospect of any further material reduction in money rates, it would be well for the present not to be over sanguine. It is true that the Bank of England has recently shown a distinct improvement in its position, and that the reserve, according to the last return, is more than two millions ahead of the total of a year ago, when the Bank rate was 4 per cent., as compared with the 5 per cent. official minimum now ruling, but merely to compare current figures with those of a twelvemonth back, and then to argue—as some superficial critics are doing—that a 4 per cent. Bank rate is justified, can only be described as dangerous reasoning. During the last few days a demand has sprung up here for gold on United States account, London having apparently given New York the power to draw

upon her by purchases of Railroad short term notes. Should this gold export movement continue, as is not unlikely, it will almost certainly postpone the establishment of a lower Bank rate.

Depressed Home Rails—Talk of a Freight Commission to Reduce Tariffs—Midland and Great Northern Dividends Below Expectation—Three Prosperous Mineral Carriers—The Hull, Furness and Taff Vale—Points from Recent Reports.

The Home Railway dividend season has now almost run its course, the story being completed this week by the announcements of the Great Western and London and North-Western, due to-day and to-morrow respectively. It cannot be said that the declarations made last week did anything to lift the market out of the rut of depression into which it has drifted. The best estimates, it is true, were not fulfilled, but the dividends were not in themselves really unsatisfactory. The fact is that the Home Railway market is still under the ban of unpopularity, brought on by the almost unbroken declines registered in prices for nearly a decade, and in consequence it is much easier to gain credit for adverse reports than to persuade the public that there is anything good about stocks. The depression of last week was deepened by some forced closing of accounts, and by the rise announced in the price of coal, not to mention a story that Mr. Lloyd George means to follow up the reforms effected in the Consular Service by reforms in railway rates for the carriage of produce, and that a Freight Commission is to be established as a preliminary to legislative action. The course of quotations is shown in the following table:—

Home Rails	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	73½	74	+ ¾
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	29⅛	28¼	- ¼
Central London	96½	82½	80	5D	—
City and S. London	47½	39	44	44xd	+1
Furness	69¾	61¾	63½	65½	+2
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	38½	38½	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81½	69	68½	67½	-1
Do. "B"	40⅜	32½	31½	31½	- ½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	15⅜	15½	- ⅛
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	81¾	79xd	- ¼
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	102	102	—
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	46⅛	44¾	-1⅜
Great Western	144	122¾	132	130½	-1½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42¼	49½	49	- ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	104½	104½	—
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111½	117⅜	116	-1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	15½	14½	- ¼
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	90	90	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	57½	56	-1½
London and North-Western	163½	147½	153½	153	- ½
London and South-Western Def.	57¼	44⅛	52½	52½	+ ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	49½	48½xd	- ⅛
Metropolitan District	37½	18¾	16	17½	+1½
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅝	64	65⅜	65⅜	—
Do. Def.	74¾	62½	66½	65½	-1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78¼	72⅜	74	74½	+ ½
Do. Def.	47½	38¾	38	37⅜	- ½
North-Eastern Consolidated	147⅛	134⅜	145½	145½	- ½
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96⅜	102	101	-1
South-Eastern "A"	55¼	44¼	47½	45⅜	-1½

There was at one time a spurt in Metropolitan, but apparently it was due to nothing more than a little "Bear" closing, and the price later fell back without resistance. Of the dividends declared last week, let me mention first that of the Midland. This Company was content to just maintain the 1905 rate of 2¾ per cent. upon the Deferred stock; another ¼ per cent. could have been distributed, but the Board chose instead to strengthen its position by raising the carry-forward from £56,000 to nearly £82,000. A few years ago the Midland was blamed, and not altogether without reason, for being niggardly in the matter of allowances out of revenue upon the general maintenance of the road. During the last two years it has pursued a distinctly more conservative policy, the provision made out of revenue for maintenance of way, locomotive, carriage and waggon repairs and renewals, having been sensibly increased. The decision now to pouch money rather than divide up to the hilt is, therefore, not a matter of much surprise. Speculators may feel disappointment, but the Board's policy, of course, is all in favour of the stock as an investment; it is clear now that the Chairman was guilty of no idle talk when he said rather more than a year ago that attempts were being made to equalise dividends. The Great Northern dividend also came as a disappointment to the market—in fact, the effect upon York Deferred was rather marked, because this was one of the few Home Railway stocks that had lately received attention at the hands of speculators. The rate declared was 1¾ per cent. for the year on the Deferred, against 1½ per cent. for 1905. This was after making provision for the Grantham accident, and placing £10,000 to contingency fund; the carry-forward, too, was increased by £5,000. Seeing that the Board brought into the half-year an extra sum sufficient alone to pay ½ per cent. on the Deferred, it had been hoped that the dividend would be raised from 1½ to 2 per cent. The accident had not been lost sight of by the market, which had reckoned that due provision could be made out of the published increase in gross receipts of £52,000. Moreover, the market was not out in its calculation, for the amount placed to contingency fund, plus the additional sums carried forward, just equalled the total required to give the other ¼ per cent. that had been anticipated. The Directors' decision, while it, of course, strengthens the position of the Preferred holders, rather modifies what has been said about the Deferred. At the same time, seeing that the latter stock gives a yield of 4 per cent., allowing for accrued interest, it is hardly over-valued—that is, remembering the big discount at which it stands and the bright possibilities for the current year. There is no need to speak in qualified terms about the dividend declared by the Hull and Barnsley. This little "coaler" line has been making steady headway for some years, as the following dividend record shows:—1902, ½ per cent.; 1903, 1 per cent.; 1904, 1¼ per cent.; 1905, 1⅜ per cent. The distribution just recommended in respect of 1906 is 2¼ per cent., which is the best ever paid, and makes the return on the stock, allowing for accrued dividend, 4¾ per cent. It may be argued that the yield upon the stock of a railway depending upon the vagaries of the mineral trade should be more liberal than in the case of a line whose interests are spread, but 4¾ per cent. is none the less an attractive return, particularly as the coal trade seems to be in for another busy year. Another mineral carrier that has done well is the Furness Railway, which is paying at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum for the half-year, as against 3 per cent. for the corresponding period, which makes the dividend for the year 3 per cent., as compared with only 1⅞ per cent. for 1905. This dividend is the best since 1900, and at the present price of about 66 "cum div." Furness Ordinary yields 4⅝ per cent. Following up the track of high-yielding stocks I come to Taff Vale Ordinary. Allowing for increased amounts set aside, the Taff Vale earned nearly 4½ per cent. last year. It is paying 4 per cent. for the twelvemonth as compared with 3⅞ per cent. for 1904 and 1905, and at the current price of just over 80 the Ordinary stock returns a full 5 per cent. Under such circumstances it is surprising that "Taffs" are not more sought after. Can it be that the market is seriously afraid of the injury that may be caused to the Taff Vale through the newly-constructed dock and railway of the Cardiff Company? Among recently issued Railway reports there are one or two features deserving of comment. The Lancashire and Yorkshire's gain in gross receipts of £97,500 is specially encouraging by reason of the fact that £54,000 of the increase was contributed by passenger receipts. It thus appears that the loss in coaching revenue occasioned by tramway competition has been definitely arrested. Another welcome feature is that of the advance of £57,000 in net profit, no less than £51,000 goes to the Ordinary stockholders in the form of an additional ½ per cent., the Company not having mortgaged its prospects by material additions to fixed charges. The Great Central report makes clear why the Company, in face of an advance of £40,000 in net receipts, had £6,000 less available for distribution. I referred last week to the heavy burden that had been

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

thrown upon the Company by the new Great Western-Great Central joint line, which was opened last April. This line was constructed with funds furnished solely by the Great Western, but since its opening the Great Central has had to provide 3½ per cent. interest on its share of the cost. The total interest so paid last half-year was £22,658, against which the sum to be set as its share of the net revenue of the Great Western and Great Central Joint Committee was only £13,000. Another charge arising from the opening of the new line was a rental of £10,000 for the half-year, payable to the Metropolitan for the Canfield Place to Harrow section, whilst £15,600 was set down in the accounts as rent due to the Great Central and Midland Joint Committee, and £18,000 figured as interest on new Debenture stock, making together no less than £53,000 of new obligations. While admitting that there is plenty of scope for development in the Great Central system, extended as it has been of recent years, I would commend the half-year's figures to those who have been glibly talking about the early resumption of the full dividend on the 1894 Preference, and even of a payment on the Ordinary. It will take another £78,000 net before the 1891 issue gets in full, while £155,000 on top of that is wanted to pay the 5 per cent. on the 1894 Preference, or £233,000 in all. The North-Eastern report tends to enhance rather than diminish the good effect produced by the dividend. The advance in gross receipts was £275,000, of which £142,000 was saved in net. Working expenses were relatively lighter, the ratio being reduced from 62.51 per cent. to 61.77 per cent., and a noteworthy feature was the substantial decline of £9,500 in rates and taxes. In the South-Western's report there are two rather striking points: while the total gross receipts rose by £20,400, the whole of this and more was derived from passenger traffic. Goods and minerals actually showed a decline of nearly £18,000. Again, instead of any portion of the advance in gross takings going to swell the available balance, the whole of it and £6,600 more has been swallowed up in increased working expenditure. The outcome has been that the Board, besides reducing the dividend by ¼ per cent. in order to set aside the £30,000 considered necessary to meet claims arising out of the Salisbury accident, has had to reduce the appropriation to steamboat renewals—only £15,000 being put to that fund as against £25,000 a year ago.

Another Severe Fall in Yankees—A "Bear" Carnival—Support from Banking Interests only Temporarily Arrests the Fall—Heavy New Issues by the New York Central and Atchison—Erie a Prospective Borrower—The Question of Higher Wages and Dear Materials.

Except for one brief interval, the American market throughout last week was in a state of acute weakness. This department, unlike many other sections of the Stock Exchange, is seldom seen in a passive mood; the restless energy of Wall Street, if it cannot be turned to profitable account on the "Bull" tack, is readily directed, and with no less effect, in the opposite direction. Perhaps the surprising feature of last week's movement was the unanimity with which the market acted; despite the understanding that a considerable account for the fall had been established, very little retaliation was offered to the "Bears," and it was not until Thursday, when the market showed signs of getting out of hand, that any strong buyers came forward. The rally which occurred on this occasion appeared to be concerted action taken by the banking interests, amongst which the Morgan and Kuhn Loeb division were prominent, decided upon in self-defence. Stocks, it was said, were bought indiscriminately, and the broadside thus delivered drove "Bears" to cover, and turned values sharply upward. London next morning rather readily responded to New York's lead—not because dealers here thought the tide had finally turned, but because it was felt that, after such a severe shake out, the balance of probability favoured a temporary recovery; in fact, the general feeling was that a rally was overdue. London, however, had once again been misled—dealers on this side grumblingly assert that they are always in the wrong if they attempt to get ahead of Wall Street—and on Friday prices broke with a violence that promptly neutralised the improvement of the previous day. Many leading stocks made new low records for the current year. To what extent prices have already declined from the highest of 1906 may be seen from the following table, which also shows the drop on the week:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	106⅞	103½	- 3⅜
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	104	103	- 1
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅞	120	119½	- ⅞
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	98	96	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅛	54	63½	50½	- 2½
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	151½	151½	—
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	39½	37	- 2½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93¾	85⅛	84	83	- 1
Erie	52½	40	40	35½	- 4½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	75½	72½xd	- 1
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	65½	61½	- 4
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	171	163½d.	- 4½
Louisville	160¾	143½	145	137½xd.	- 4½
Mis., Kan., and Texas	45⅜	31⅞	38½	37½	- 1½
New York Central	159½	130¾	132½	129½	- 3
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅞	45½	46	44½	- 1½
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87½	90	87	- 3
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	90	88xd.	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	157½	158	+ ½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75½	63½	69	66¾	- 2¼
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅞	65¼	61½	- 3¾
Southern	43½	33	29	26¾	- 2¼
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	90	88½	- 1½
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64⅜	97	94¼	- 2¾
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	179¼	175¾	- 3⅜
Wabash 6 p.c. "B" Debs.	87½	78½	76	75	- 1
U.S. Steel	52⅛	33¾	47⅜	45	- 2⅜
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	109	108½	- ½

Perhaps the outstanding factor of disturbance was the continuance of new capital announcements. When, on January 22, the New York Central management made known that it had been decided to curtail any new construction, pending an improvement in the financial situation, a section of the market jumped to the conclusion that a halt was to be called in the matter of fresh borrowings not only on the part of the New York Central, but of other leading railroads as well. Only four days later came the sequel in the issue on behalf of the New York Central group of $50,000,000 Three-year Five per Cent. notes on terms that appear to have given the lenders nearly 6 per cent. The market naturally received a shock, and it has since received others in the shape of an issue by the Atchison of $98,000,000 Convertible bonds, and reports of a contemplated note issue by the Erie, without mentioning the $40,000,000 of Four per Cent. Convertible bonds offered on behalf of the American Telephone Company. The New York Central's announcement suggests two important considerations for the market. In the first place, the fact that so influential a group as the Vanderbilt is compelled to raise money upon short term notes, and to pay nearly 6 per cent. for its accommodation, throws a dry light upon the present glutted condition of the market for American securities, and leaves one wondering how the smaller fry among the railroads are to fare when they "take round the hat." In the second place, the raising of money on such onerous terms indicates that, much as it may be desired to postpone borrowing to a more propitious season, the demand for capital to provide for the growth of traffic is imperative. The knowledge is not rendered the more palatable by the fact that new construction and equipment undertaken now must be an unusually costly matter, quite apart from the terms on which the capital be raised. Railroad material is now fetching the highest prices for a generation, and labour is not only extremely dear, but extremely hard to get. The Western Pacific road, now under construction by the Gould system, is said to be paying common labourers $3 per day, and cannot get enough even at that price. The rolling-stock now being ordered by the Companies is of a much more expensive (though efficient) kind than of ten years ago. Freight cars, costing $800 and $900 apiece, are being used in place of cars that cost $450 and $500 a few years ago, and locomotives at

from $15,000 to $20,000 replace those which then cost $10,000 to $12,000. The wages question, of course, affects the ordinary expenditure of the railways even more seriously than outlays of a special character. Recently a number of the big Companies have acceded more than once to the demands of their men for higher rates of pay, and, according to one published estimate, the increase in the wages bill of the railroads this year will average no less than 8 per cent. Attempts to counteract the effect of increased expenses by an advance in transport rates are not likely to meet with much success in the present temper of the public. On the contrary, Government action is tending in the direction of reduced rates, while the taxes of the roads are being materially increased. Many of the States are imposing penalties for delays in the forwarding of freight within State borders, and the National Legislature is pondering on the advisability of subjecting the carriers to similar fines and penalties on Inter-State shipments. If, hampered by all these disabilities, the magnates are able to organise an early resumption of the "Bull" campaign, then they must possess even more power to arrest the action of natural laws than is usually credited to them. For some years the market has dwelt almost alone upon the theme of abounding trade prosperity; it is now discovering that booming trade involves penalties as well as blessings.

THE SLUMP IN CANADAS—A DROP OF 11¼ ON THE ACCOUNT—EARNINGS AND SNOWSTORMS—THE OUTLOOK—ARGENTINE RAILS AND THEIR YIELDS—THE ROSARIO STRIKE AT AN END—POINTS ABOUT LEOPOLDINAS.

Although moving less widely than in the preceding week, Canadian Pacifics have continued in an unsettled state, the amount of "Bear" repurchasing and investment support given not being equal to check a further flood of stale "Bull" liquidation. Operators for the fall in Canadas have been enjoying a boom time lately, for not only have they claimed a contango of from ½ to ⅝ at each of the last half-dozen settlements, but in respect of the past account they had the respectable little difference to collect of 11¼ per cent. The task of the "Bulls" in getting out was scarcely facilitated by the publication of the Company's revenue statement for December, which, like that for the previous month, showed a slight falling off in net earnings. Gross receipts registered an increase of $373,000, but there was an advance in working expenses of no less than $454,000, net revenue consequently being $81,000 down. The Company issued no explanation of the falling-off, but there is little doubt that both the comparatively small gain in gross receipts and the large advance in outgoings were due to bad weather, the winter in the north-west of the Dominion having set in early, and with unusual severity. Confirmation of this assertion may be found in the revenue statement for the same month published by the Canadian Northern. The latter Company's gross increase of $98,400 was converted into a net decrease of $13,800, and an official footnote to the return stated that "the decrease in the amount of the net earnings is due to an increase in the operating expenses by reason of heavy and continuous snowstorms." Probably another factor that has contributed to raise working costs is the shortage of cars from which the Canadian Pacific, in common with the other leading lines in the Dominion, is suffering. Recent advices from the other side state that a general grain blockade is on, and has been on for months. The railways, in fact, are for the present unable to keep pace with the rapid growth in the traffic they are called upon to handle. The Canadian Pacific has large orders on hand for cars, but here again it is having to pay the penalty that attaches to abnormal trade prosperity, for, as I mentioned last week when contradicting the story about a fresh issue of capital, the greatest trouble is being experienced in securing the necessary men and materials. At a time like this, when the drop in the shares is apt to shake the faith of nervous holders, it is desirable to give prominence to the many evidences still afforded of the vitality of Canadian commerce and industry, and to emphasise the temporary character of the recent setback in railroad net earnings. What investors need to recognise is that the setback in the shares is almost entirely due to financial conditions in the stock market—which has had a bad fit of indigestion, from which it has possibly not yet recovered—and that there is no question of diminished confidence in the outlook for the Company. In spite of the indifferent results for November and December, the Canadian Pacific shows an addition to its net earnings since July 1 of $2,399,000, which is handsome enough after allowing for additional mileage. Including the 1 per cent. which will be paid this year out of the proceeds of land sales, the shares are already on a 7 per cent. basis, and prospects point to a higher rate of distribution in the not very distant future. Turning to Foreign Rails, it was perhaps too much to expect anything startling in the way of price appreciation last week, considering the upheaval in the American department, but underlying conditions, as reflected by traffics and crop advices, continue distinctly good, and afford ground for the belief that this section will be among the first to respond to any improvement in the general Stock Exchange atmosphere. How prices of both Colonial and Foreign Rails have moved during the week, and how current values compare with the extremes touched last year, may be seen from the following table:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161¾	187½	180⅜	− ⅞
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25½	28⅛	28⅜	− 1/8
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	102½	102⅜	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅛	114⅜	120⅜	120⅜	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	111½	111⅜	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60½	68⅜	68⅜	+ ⅛
Mexican	50⅜	22½	46½	46	− ½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅜	138½	138½	—
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅜	49½	88	88	—
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11⅜	11⅜	—
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	116½	+ ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	88½	88½	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	26	24½	− 1½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	92	92	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65½	81	81½	+ ½
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	27½	59	56xd	− 2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	26½	25	− 1½
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	148	148	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	171½	171	− ½
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	15⅝	16	+ ⅛
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	112½	113	− ½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅛	64½	80½	80½	—
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	123	123	—
Do. and Rosario	120¾	111	111	109¾xr	− 1½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	128	123	—
Do. Western	138¾	123½	128	128	—
East Argentine	120	87	120½	121	+ ½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	70¾	71	+ ¼
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	103¾	85	92	92	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	92	92	—
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	12⅜	13	+ ½
Leopoldina	86½	69½	75⅜	77	+ 1½
San Paulo	214¾	193½	214	217	+ 3
Central Uruguay	92½	82	94½	94½	—
Costa Rica	29 11/16	25	30	29⅜	− ⅛
Cartagena (Columbia) Debs.	80½	78	76½	76½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76⅜	78	78	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76⅜	82	82	—
Manila 5 p.c Debs.	126	112	114	114	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	63	55	−8
Cuban Central	7 11/16	5⅝	7½	7½	—
United of Havana	193	105⅜	114½	114	− ½
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12½	12½	—
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87½	91	91	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅝	76	78	78	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19½	20½	20½	—

The little cloud upon the Argentine horizon in the shape of strikes at Rosario and Santa Fé has now passed, the trouble, as expected, never having developed to serious proportions. Meanwhile, there is no sign of slackening in the rate of traffic increases upon the leading lines, and, seeing that stocks like Buenos Ayres Great Southerns, B.A. Westerns, Pacifics and Rosarios can be bought to give a return of 5⅜ per cent. to 5⅝ per cent., it requires no special pleading to establish their cheapness. The Buenos Ayres and Rosario has just announced an issue of 176,000 new shares of £10 each to be afterwards converted into Ordinary stock. The new shares are offered at par to holders of the existing Ordinary or Deferred stocks of the Company. The allotment will be in the proportion of one in ten, and the "rights" entailed are assessed by the market at about five shillings per £100 stock. The new funds, I gather, are required to finance the building of new lines and the purchase of rolling stock. Leopoldinas

(*Continued on page 335.*)

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"TRUTH" CAUTIONARY LIST.

IN accordance with the plan adopted last year, the Cautionary List of the various persons, firms, and organisations which have incurred unfavourable notice in TRUTH during 1906 appears again as a Special Supplement. In compiling this list it is not my intention to convey the idea that the persons and firms whose names are to be found therein are on any equality of turpitude. The compilation is based upon the broad principle that the necessity for caution exists in any dealings with the concerns mentioned. Where I consider an absolute swindle is being carried on by the parties named I state the fact in plain terms. On the other hand, where I consider inclusion to be warranted merely owing to undesirable methods by which business is carried on, and where the bona fides of the business itself are not in question, I indicate briefly the nature of the objection. My object is to supply my readers with a useful work of ready reference, so that they may be in a position to save both their time and my own by referring to it before applying to me for information contained therein. I have received so many testimonials to the value of the list in the past, that this year I have considerably extended its scope, so that the present compilation may well be considered still more valuable than hitherto both as a record of the past and a guide for the future. Amongst such additions I would specially call attention to the various concerns which have been dealt with from time to time in my City article. There is one other point which I think well to mention. It will be observed that a number of names of persons are given whose owners are at the present moment undergoing detention at one or another of H.M.'s penal establishments. Only those are included, however, who have been sentenced to short terms of imprisonment, and against whom a warning is likely to be useful in view of their early return to the world. Where, as in the case of the Rev. Vyvyan Moyle and "Monte-Carlo" Wells, both of whom figured in last year's list, a long term of imprisonment has put an end to their depredations, I have excluded their names from the list.

RELIGION AND PHILANTHROPY.

CHILDREN'S HELP FUND, 31, Paulet-road, Camberwell.—The latest alias of a woman named Eagles, who had previously been associated with another woman named Allen in carrying on "St. Mary's Protestant Home for Little Girls." Both were bogus charities, just sufficient pretence of work being made to protect the collectors from arrest by the police for obtaining money under false pretences.

FAITHFULL'S INSTITUTE, Miss, 54, Wellington-road, St. John's Wood (Miss Grey, Treasurer).—Had its origin in a work undertaken by Miss Emily Faithfull. Miss Faithfull has been dead for some years, but Miss Grey, who was formerly associated with the foundress, carries on the concern on her own account. She is partially dependent upon the contributions received from the public, and quite uncontrolled in her management of the funds.

GORDON MEMORIAL DAY NURSERY FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, AND SHAFTESBURY MEMORIAL SHOEBLACK OUTDOOR BRIGADE FOR HOMELESS, DESTITUTE, DEAF, DUMB, AND CRIPPLED BOYS.—Two bogus institutions for which money is collected by an individual styling himself the "Right Rev. Bishop" McLaglen. McLaglen, who is of South African origin, was originally a private in the army, and afterwards was connected for a while with the London City Mission. He later on became associated with a gang of bogus bishops, by whom he was "consecrated," and has no doubt found his episcopal "honours" useful in extracting charitable contributions from the public.

GOSPEL NEWS MISSION, Birkenhead.—The enterprise carried on by a coloured gentleman named the Rev. Hugh Jones, who makes some pretence of giving charitable relief, and undoubtedly lives by means of his charitable operations. Jones has been engaged for the past twelve years in similar undertakings in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, and needs to be suppressed.

GREEN, THOMAS BOWDEN, 1, Finsbury-circus, E.C.—A philanthropist who has been for many years on the "Cautionary Card" of the Charity Organisation Society. Promoter and for many years secretary of the National Thrift Society, a bogus philanthropic organisation which afforded Bowden Green a salary, and the means of obtaining premiums from unsuspecting people for appointments in subordinate capacities in his office. Afterwards founded the Betterment of London Association, of which he is "honorary secretary and editor." Has also promoted a company in which the bulk of the shares were allotted to him to do the printing of the Betterment of London Association, and has also transferred to it the "goodwill" of the Thrift Society.

HOWARD-STREET GOSPEL MISSION, Wandsworth (E. Moffatt Soames, "Honorary" General Secretary).—An obscure local charity which appeals widely for funds. After definite particulars had appeared in TRUTH regarding a cheque sent to the mission, which did not appear in the published accounts, Mr. Soames called at TRUTH Office to explain matters. He was invited to submit the books of the mission to the inspection of the Editor of TRUTH, an invitation he has not thought fit to accept.

LINNECAR, G. W., *soi-disant* "Reverend," Mansion House Mission, Camberwell.—An old-established charity-monger, dealing chiefly in "Urgent Appeals for 2s. 6d.," or some other sum, for the benefit of the poor in his district. His charitable work is insignificant, and the bulk of the money he collects goes to the upkeep of his chapel and himself as pastor.

LONDON INSTITUTION AND HOME FOR LOST AND STARVING CATS (Manageress and Foundress, Mrs. Z. Morgan).—Until exposed in TRUTH Mrs. Morgan was in uncontrolled management of the business and the cash. The business is mainly the destruction of stray and unwanted cats and the collection of funds. The cats kept in the "home" are those paid for by their owners or those otherwise useful as the stock-in-trade of the charity.

MACMILLAN, ROBERT, *soi-disant* "Reverend."—An individual with a disreputable history, who presides over a conventicle called Christ Church in Reedham-street, Peckham, and supports himself and family chiefly by cadging at offices and houses of business in London. His pretence at religion and charity is undiluted humbug.

MARCHANT, Miss KERSTEMAN, Doncaster.—This lady for twenty-four years past has been collecting funds in order to disperse "Aid to Irish Families of the Upper Class." She has never issued any accounts of her receipts and expenditure, and is entirely uncontrolled in her administration of the money.

MAY, REUBEN, Great Arthur-street Mission, E.C.—One of the oldest-established professional charity-mongers in London. Makes a great show of work in preaching and giving free meals, and distributes sensational appeals bearing little relation to the facts. Has for upwards of thirty years lived on this work, publishing no accounts, and giving no information as to what proportion of his receipts he pockets.

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION FOR BEFRIENDING POOR CHILDREN, 19, Borough High-street, London, S.E.—An unsatisfactory charity for giving free meals and country holidays to children. Every £1 received costs 5s. to collect, and the administration of £334 of charity costs £800. The collectors chiefly "work" seaside resorts and race meetings.

MISSION TO CHILDREN, Harrow-street, Hessel-road, Hull.—A "mission" carried on by one Ernest H. Walters, into whose pockets a large proportion of the funds collected goes. He is practically uncontrolled in the collection and administration of the receipts, the secretary and committee having resigned in consequence of their dissatisfaction with Walters' conduct.

ORPHAN GIRLS' HOME, Somerleyton-road, Brixton.—The private enterprise of a pair of orphan-mongers named Street and Sillifant. Owing to an exposure of the condition of the "live stock" in the home in TRUTH, the home was closed by the action of the N.S.P.C.C. in August last. The man Street is a printer by trade, living in Kennington, and has been associated for years with the woman Sillifant in various pseudo-philanthropic enterprises, designed for the purpose of extracting subscriptions from the charitable.

PIONEER CHRISTIAN MISSION.—A "Mission" in Liverpool originally carried on by a notorious impostor named James Baxter and a man named George Smith, mainly by begging in the counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Baxter, while engaged in this missionary enterprise, was convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. More recently it has been carried on by a man named John Matson, who has been fined under the Vagrancy Acts for soliciting alms.

POOR CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, THE.—A concern run by a man named George Breton. It has all the worst features of the most disreputable type of charitable agency. It draws an income of between £3,000 and £4,000 a year from the charitable public, has "homes" at Southend, and a hall in Southwark where free meals are dispensed, but the bulk of the money goes in "expenses." A pretence of reforming it has been gone through more than once, and gentlemen who have associated themselves with the committee for the purpose of reforming the management have retired from their task in disgust.

SAMARITAN BENEVOLENT FUND, Prince's-road, Kennington (A. King, Superintendent).—An enterprise of the wife of a vendor of cat's meat, who was formerly employed as a collector by the women Allen and Eagles. She rents a small cottage at Ramsgate, and gives away food and grocery tickets. She employs collectors, but keeps no books, and has no committee.

UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSION, THE.—A concern, making a pretence of dispensing charity in Liverpool, and run by one "Pastor" George Housley, who has been convicted by the Liverpool magistrates under the Vagrancy Acts.

WHITE ROCK HOME FOR ORPHAN AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN, Acre House, Everton Brow, Liverpool.—A one-woman charity carried on by a Mrs. Morris, who is in sole charge of the institution and its finances. Funds are collected all over the country, and out of every 5s. collected 2s. goes in salaries and expenses.

Amongst the clerical gentlemen whose actions have brought them under notice, apart from philanthropic or missionary enterprise, are the following:—

BROTHER ANTONY, Hagbourne, Didcot.—The son of a Berkshire farmer named Bullock who assumes a friar's habit and goes about the country begging energetically on behalf of "St. Francis d'Assisi League of Mercy." He is the league, and pouches the subscriptions. He was associated with the arch-swindler Donkin and other disreputable characters. For reasons best known to himself he disappeared from Hagbourne for some months last year, but has lately returned there and recommenced his begging operations.

BROWNE, "REV." W., President of the "Larger Hope Society."—An ex-convict, and an unmitigated rascal who was sentenced in 1895 to seven years' penal servitude for bigamy under peculiarly heartless circumstances. He is a hypocrite of the most obnoxious type.

HOWE, NEWTON EBENEZER, Tulse Hill.—Attempts to obtain loans for his personal use or for charitable schemes in which he is interested. Was formerly Vicar of Swindon, of which living he was deprived as the result of a series of disgraceful scandals.

ROGERS, REV. J.—A mysterious cleric who was formerly a tout for American Universities for the sale of their degrees, now offers to prepare candidates for holy orders. Originally agent for the sale of the bogus degrees of the notorious "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis."

WIDDOWS, "EX-MONK."—A notorious scoundrel who has served two terms of penal servitude in this country on disgusting charges, but still fools silly Protestants at the "Church of Martin Luther," South Hackney. In September last he was appealing for £400 to discharge a debt which was hanging over his head.

BEGGING LETTER WRITERS.

Many of the following names appeared in my last year's list, and it is quite obvious that the new members of this parasitic class indexed below have fully earned their right to have their names included:—

ATKINSON, W., Arkholme, Kirkby Lonsdale.—A beggar whose speciality is a pathetic request for cast-off clothes.

BEARDSALL, MATILDA, 23, Halifax-road, Enfield, Middlesex.—Tells various stories of troubles which produce temporary difficulties, and are calculated to unloose the purse-strings of the charitable.

BROOKS, GEORGE, Windsor House, Langland Bay, Glamorgan.—Originally a minister of some Nonconformist denomination, and a violent Radical. Changed his views and became a still more violent Tory. In this character produces political books and pamphlets in defence of the rights of property owners, brewers, Irish landlords, or vested interests generally; and disposes of them by addressing pathetic appeals to wealthy representatives of these classes, describing his personal and domestic distresses, and entreating them to support "his work," and himself, by buying copies of his publications. Having been described in TRUTH as "the prince of begging-letter writers," he some years ago brought a libel action against me, which collapsed ignominiously. He also brought actions against other papers, with the same result. Has continued, however, ever since to send out appeals of precisely the same character as those which formed the subject of the alleged libels upon him. In 1903 he became a "Tariff Reformer," and, stimulated by the General Election, became exceedingly active in the formation of "The Red Rose League," the object of which was to provide him with funds to circulate his pamphlets.

BURKE, ROBERT, Dublin.—For many years made a modest living by begging under the name of Hubert de Burgh on behalf of his sister, "the daughter of the late gifted Thomas McNevin." Now begging for funds to pay the expenses of publication of a history of "The O'Shaughnessys," and amongst others has bagged contributions from the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. A. J. Balfour.

FAUVEL, AUBREY A.—A retired paymaster R.N., who some years ago commuted his pension, lost the money, and has now quartered himself upon the service. A very persistent beggar.

FREYDANCK, J. F., 30, Walpole-street, Upton Park, E.—A German who, so far back as 1885, obtained help from the Friends of Foreigners in Distress to return to his native land, but when he did go it was merely to return with his wife and family. Asks for assistance to enable him to patent some wonderful invention or other.

HANHAM, MRS., wife of the Vicar of Graveney, Faversham.—After telling a long story of family trouble, begs for a loan of any amount up to £150. Has been engaged in the business for the past dozen years.

HARBOTTLE, MRS., Chacknell, Yarmouth, I.W.—A lady who, from a comfortable residence in the Isle of Wight, issues a widespread appeal for assistance to enable her to discharge a few liabilities. She is thoroughly unscrupulous in her methods of obtaining money, and quite undeserving of any sympathy.

HENVILLE, MRS., widow of the late Rector of Chipping Warden.—A thoroughly undeserving person. The late rector himself attained unenviable notoriety as a mendicant, and since his death his widow has been a systematic begging-letter writer.

HUCKS, A. E., 405, Albany-road, Camberwell.—A broken-down musician who has been begging for the past ten years for assistance to enable him to start work, to redeem his wife's wedding-ring, and to provide his poor wife and children with the necessities of existence.

KNIPE, F. S. C., 9, Teneriffe-street, Higher Broughton, Manchester.—Formerly a printer at Wolverhampton, who, after losing his sight through an accident, has developed into a systematic beggar. The Wolverhampton Society for the Blind, after having received a grant for his benefit, returned the money on the ground that he was "not a proper person to be further relieved."

LUDLOW, F., 46, Banner-road, Montpelier, Bristol.—"A poor stricken brother of the pen" who tells a woeful tale in order to induce other authors to subscribe to a book he proposes to publish. He is a drunken, worthless rascal whose last conviction was at Abingdon in March, 1906, when he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for obtaining money under false pretences. Immediately after his release he recommenced operations.

MANSFORD, JULIA, Clovelly, London-road, Norbury.—The widow of a gentleman formerly in a good position in New Zealand. Has begged systematically for loans to assist her in carrying on schools in the suburbs of London and Reigate, and her name has long appeared on the "Cautionary Card" of the Charity Organisation Society.

MCGREGOR, JOHN DUNCAN.—A Scottish journalist in London in an advanced state of consumption, who asks for assistance to enable him to go to South Africa. Has refused help from the Scots Corporation, which would have rendered a general appeal unnecessary and insists on his right to appeal to the "big-headed and big-hearted men of Scotland."

OLIVER, GEORGE M., Wellesley-road, Harrow.—An "old sportsman and dog lover" who appeals chiefly to Cornishmen. He is an old gentleman who has never been particularly fond of work, and who is provided for by his children.

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ROSENTRAUCH, A., alias Abraham Hornstein, 67, Great Russell-street, W.C.—A "converted" Austrian Jew, who, since his conversion has gained a livelihood by posing as a Christian Missionary to the Jews. Has begged vigorously for his mission, and latterly for support while suffering from an injured ankle, and for funds to meet a publisher's account. He is a thorough-going humbug.

SAUNDERS, FRANK HEATH, 5, Willowfield-road, Eastbourne.—One of the most persistent of beggars now before the public. His particular "lay" is to get up a dramatic and musical recital, and he forwards a parcel of tickets with a request for patronage backed up by a story of a sick wife and starving family.

WILLIAMS, JAMES R., alias J. R. Jones.—A professional beggar who writes from accommodation addresses in London to residents in Lancashire, claiming assistance on the grounds of acquaintance with their families early in his life. States that he was in business in America but has been ruined by some accident beyond his control.

WILSON, ROBERT HOGARTH PATTENSON, 15, Lavender-road, Clapham Junction.—Has been engaged in begging-letter writing and swindling for the past twenty years, in the course of which he has served one term of six months' hard labour, and another of three years' penal servitude, the latter for forgery.

WILSON-BONCHARD, J. T., 2, Hampton-parade, Ilford, Essex.—Sends out a little pamphlet entitled "Poems Composed in Prison," and follows it up with a printed circular requesting the remittance of a P.O. for 1s.

In addition to the before-mentioned more or less professional begging-letter writers, a number of clerical gentlemen who issue begging appeals to the public either on behalf of themselves or their churches have come under notice in TRUTH during the past year. Where the appeal is for church funds for local purposes it is desirable that contributors should be in a position to see for themselves how the funds are administered; where assistance is asked on the grounds of personal need it should be remembered that properly administered charities such as the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation, already in existence, may be relied upon to deal promptly with cases of real necessity.

BROWNE, REV. S. S., North Cove, Beccles.—An elderly clergyman, who for years past has issued appeals for funds for the restoration of his church, containing all sorts of loose and inconsistent statements.

HOWELL, REV. E. P., Rector of Penraeth, Anglesea.—Relates a melancholy story of financial embarrassment under the handicap of severe illness in his family.

JONES, REV. J. W. Vicar of Mydrim, Carmarthen.—Tells a distressing story of domestic trouble and straitened circumstances. Has begged for the past five or six years, besides having received relief from the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation, though his income is at least £200 per annum.

TWEEDALE, REV. CHARLES L., Vicar of Weston, near Otley.—Solicits orders for all sorts of goods, from violins to motor-cars, in order to supplement his small income and save his family from starvation.

HOME EMPLOYMENT TRICKSTERS.

Under this heading are grouped firms whose objects are to sell various articles to persons by deluding them into the belief that by purchasing such articles they are obtaining the necessary materials for undertaking some form of remunerative home employment.

ALBION SHOW CARD COMPANY, 203, Strand.

BRITISH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 187, Quinn's-square, Waterloo-road.—A concern, located in a block of workmen's dwellings, which seeks to sell a cheap fountain pen for 2s. 6d., as "materials" for copying testimonials to the value of the said pen.

FORD, BRUCE LESTER, alias PLOWDEN AND CO.—Offered to supply envelope addressing work upon receipt of a deposit of 3s. Convicted at the Newington Sessions in March last and sentenced to six months' hard labour.

HAMILTON STENCIL COMPANY, 43, Dunkeld-street, Poplar.—Offers employment at stencil-cutting on receipt of 1s. 5d., to cover "cost of advertising, postage, etc."

HOLMES, THOMAS JAMES.—A harpy of the same type as Ford, who was sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment at Glasgow in August. Said to be an ex-evangelist.

IMPERIAL ART SUPPLY COMPANY, of Chichester House, Chancery Lane, and 17, Ranelagh Avenue, Fulham.—Charge 7s. 6d. for the "outfit" supplied to their dupes.

NATIONAL HOME EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION.—Albermarle Works, Hounslow.—Are proprietors of a scheme by which the unemployed can earn from 30s. to £5 a week by the sale of transferable pictures or by converting them into magic lantern slides. The outfit for the purpose costs from 5s. to 10s. 6d.

PAYNTER AND CO., Mysore-road, Clapham Junction; SMITH AND CO., Southall; NORTH AND CO., Teddington; THOMAS AND CO., Twickenham.—All aliases of a Thomas Paynter, who was committed for trial at the Old Bailey in September, 1905, but being let out on bail he absconded, and has not since been heard of. Since that date the business has been carried by a brother of the absconding Paynter.

TRUSCOTT AND CO., Torquay. An old-established swindler, who is one of Paynter and Co.'s principal rivals.

WILSON, MRS., 27, Kempston-road, Bedford.—Advertises her ability to put ladies in the way of earning 10s. a week and upwards, and supplies them with begging letters to copy. Does not always pay for the copying work done to order.

REGISTRATION OFFICES AND EMIGRATION AGENCIES.

The coming into force of the new Act of Parliament giving the London County Council powers of inspection and control over agencies in the metropolis providing for female employees has had a most beneficial effect, the consequence being that only one of the class came under notice during the past year. From the list which appears below it is evident that the extension of the Act to the whole country and the widening of its provisions to include all agencies which charge preliminary fees would prevent a vast amount of fraud.

ASPDIN, JAMES, Tewkesbury, alias C. E. Farrant, Dymoch, Gloucestershire.—A well-known exporter of farm pupils to Canada of the type against which the Canadian Government expressly warns intending emigrants.

BRUCE, MRS., Brighton.—Had a gifted nurse who would come up to London to be interviewed if expenses were defrayed, but made use of an accommodation address.

COLYER AND COLYER, 3, Featherstone-buildings, High Holborn.—Colyer is a young American who defrauded sea-side hotel-keepers on pretence of booking rooms for visitors. He was sentenced at Scarborough to six months' hard labour in August last.

EMPIRE MERCANTILE AGENCY, 158, Fenchurch-street, E.C.—A fee-grabbing agency, which advertises indiscriminately for employees to whom it can offer no suitable work, and sends them to employers to whom it has introduced itself by answering advertisements in a fictitious character.

SCHOLASTIC REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.—Secretary, E. Newton Lane, 179, Replingham-road, Merton-road, Wimbledon.—Asks for a fee of a guinea as a preliminary step to the introductions of pupils from India. He uses an accommodation address, and his methods are reminiscent of a man named Ridley Carr, *alias* Paget, who has several times been convicted of similar frauds.

"STANDARD" EMPLOYMENT BUREAU, 145, Cannon-street, E.C.—Offer to obtain situations for a fee of £15, half to be paid within two days of acceptance of the berth. Has no connection with *The Standard* newspaper.

"THE LADY'S GRAPHIC," 13, Featherstone-buildings, London, W.C.—A concern which sought preliminary fees on the pretence that they were paid in return for advertisements, with a view to evade the County Council regulations and inspection.

VERNON, E., 116, Anlaby-road, Hull.—A fee-snatching agency of the ordinary type.

MEDICAL QUACKS.

The number of these is a remarkable tribute to the gullibility of the British public, and an almost equally remarkable exhibition of callousness and carelessness on the part of the proprietors of newspapers and magazines who assist them in their predatory efforts. There is a certain amount of consolation, however, to be derived from the fact that two of the rankest amongst them—Hawkins and Richards—have been brought to justice in the course of the year.

AURAL CLINIC, late the DROUET INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF, 102-104, New Oxford-street, W. — The London branch of a swindle started in Paris by an English adventurer now dead, who was connected with one Nicholson, a notorious sharper, who, after serving a term of imprisonment in England for various frauds, was extradited to Germany and there convicted. The swindle consists of supplying various well-known remedies under the pretence that the "Institute" is the depository of various epoch-making discoveries made by one Drouet—an obscure general practitioner in Paris, who died in a hospital after giving the use of his name to the founder of the "Institute." It seems to be somewhat on the down grade, possibly owing to a pronouncement by Lord Justice Matthew that it was "a disgraceful institution, carried on for unworthy objects by discreditable means."

BELL, MR. JOHN, 11, Clarence-gardens, N.W.—Is ready to cure catarrh by "The German Method" for 8s. 4d.

BILE BEANS MANUFACTURING CO., Leeds.—The business of this company was declared by Lord Ardwall, in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on July 5, 1905, to be "founded entirely upon fraud, impudence, and advertisement." The business is the sale of Bile Beans.

BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE, 23, Holborn Viaduct.—Proprietor of one of the electric belt flat traps, called the "Ajax Dry Cell."

CLIFTON, H., 35, Waterloo-road, S.E.—Another deaf-quack, who prescribes ear drums and charges 16s. 6d. for them.

CO-RO-NA VAPOUR MEDICATOR COMPANY, 37A, Southampton-row.—Advertises a catarrh cure, including a vaporiser at £2 2s. (the ordinary price of which is 5s. 6d.), and 4s. 6d. for drugs (which are worth 6d.).

HAWKINS, REV., and REV. T. STONE, of Chesham-road, Kemp Town Brighton; FENN'S AGENCY, 5, Whymark-avenue, London, N.; REV. JOSEPH HOPE, St. Cloud, Worthing; HAWKINS AND Co., Advertising Contractors, Kemp Town, Brighton. All aliases of one disreputable quack, named William Henry Hawkins, who not only preyed on the credulity of sufferers, but not infrequently swindled the newspapers which inserted his advertisements. He was convicted at Lewes Assizes last November, and sentenced to three months' hard labour, and from the facts elicited at his trial it was shown that he must have been plundering the public to the extent of £2,000 to £3,000 a year.

IRON OX.—A widely advertised cure-all, which has purchased and made use of provably fraudulent testimonials.

KEITH-HARVEY, "PROFESSOR." — Another deaf-quack, who advertises to an enormous extent in the British press, his speciality being a so-called "aural battery," which he supplements, however, by the usual list of highly-priced medicaments.

MONTAGUE, CHARLES, Corporation-chambers and other addresses in Birmingham.—"Rheumatic specialist." Advertises from all parts of the country, and in a variety of names, as a lady desirous of imparting the knowledge of a remedy stated to have cured her of "Rheumatoid Arthritis." To those who reply he sends, without further communication, a parcel of his medicine and the bill, payment of which he then endeavours to extort by threats. For this purpose he poses as a debt-collecting company, to which he pretends to sell his own debts. Formerly passed as "Charles Ashley" and "Napoleon Hirschfield." Bankrupt some years ago, when he absconded and committed other offences under the Debtors Act, on account of which his discharge was refused in 1898.

NICHOLAS, OTTO, 96, Tottenham Court-road, W.—A "specialist" who annoys small advertisers in the daily papers by sending them filthy circulars.

PAUL WEIDHAAS HYGIENIC INSTITUTE, Burgess Hill. Richard Haynel, director.—Advertises a home treatment for asthma, consumption, and a variety of other diseases, making the same pretence as the Drouet Institute of diagnosing the cases of applicants by correspondence. At an inquest held in July last it was shown that the Institute had treated at the usual fees a case which medical evidence declared was hopeless.

POINTING.—The following ten names are aliases of one A. L. Pointing, trading at Century House, Regent-street, W., and in 9 and 10, Pugh's-place, close by. Deals in ordinary quack remedies, mostly lifted with the advertisements and literature distributed in connection with them, from American quacks. "Antidipso" has been shown by the *Lancet* to be a downright swindle, and several of the other remedies are no better. The Grecian School of Physical Culture is a reproduction of a Yankee notion for teaching physical exercises by correspondence.

MURRAY Co.—Artificial ear-drums.
WARD CHEMICAL Co.—"Antidipso" drink-cure.
CAPILLUS MANUFACTURING Co.—Superfluous-hair destroyer.
HELEN TEMPLE.—Superfluous-hair destroyer.
THE MR. T. TEMPLE ASSOCIATION.—The Temple Nerve and Flesh Food.
MR. F. H. TEMPLE.—Cure for blushing.
ESPANOLA MEDICINE Co.—Female bust improver.
FELL FORMULA ASSOCIATION.—"Anti-fat" tablets.
MAGIC FOOT DRAFT Co.—Cure for rheumatism.
GRECIAN SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL CULTURE.

RICHARD, "PROFESSOR."—An itinerant quack of Spanish-American origin, who poses as a "medical electrician." Is well known in all parts of the British Empire, in most of which he has got into trouble of one kind or another. He obtains his victims by means of public lectures, and is a dangerous scoundrel of a most disreputable type. Was brought to justice at Staffordshire Assizes in July last, and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

"SACCO" COMPANY, 22, Basinghall-street, E.C.—The proprietors of a remedy for consumption, which was first put on the market by a man named Stevens, who claimed to have discovered the recipe used in its production amongst the Kaffirs and Zulus. The company circulates in a mutilated form an article which appeared in TRUTH, in which an opinion was expressed that "Sacco" appeared to be "a good cough mixture," and omitting a condemnation of its sale as an absolute remedy for consumption.

SANCHE AND Co., DR. H.—Propose to cure all diseases by the use of the Oxydonor. The dupe, after paying £5 for the Oxydonor, attaches it to one limb and places the other end in a bucket of water, and the disease is thereby presumed to be transferred to the water.

ULLA SOCIETY, Bridlington, Yorks.—The society was originally formed to boom a new universal language, but, failing in this, now seeks to cure the deaf with auraloids and the nervous with nervaloids.

VAN NIEKERK, MRS.—A South African quack, who owns the Aesiab Cancer Cure. This is an ointment, the use of which in certain cases appears, not only to have hastened death, but to have made it horrible. The price of the cure is £1 1s. 6d., and the ordinary trade price of a similar pot of stuff is 6d. or 1s.

WILLIAMS "PROFESSOR," Blenheim House, Oxford Street W.—Professes to initiate dupes in "the mysteries of hypnotism" by means of a course of twenty lessons, price 18s. 6d.

The rest of the names in this list are all of Transatlantic origin, and it is worthy of note that a number of the concerns, while debarred from the use of the mails in their own country, are allowed to practise in this country with perfect immunity from interference:—

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SCIENCES, Rochester, New York.—Sells a worthless course of instruction in personal magnetism and hypnotism. Together with the Yabe School and K. Leo Minges, mentioned below, is the enterprise of one F. D. Shoemaker, jeweller, of 59, Page-street, Providence, R.I.

DERK P. YONKERMAN COMPANY, Bouverie-street, London, E.C.—The advertisers of a cure for consumption called Tuberculozyne, which claims to produce its effect by newly-discovered salts of copper. Analysis proves the claim to be fictitious, and the methods adopted by the "company" in their advertisements are sufficient to prove these Yankee adventurers quacks of the rankest description.

KIDD, "DR." JAMES WILLIAM, Fort Wayne, Ind., U.S.A., and of 423, Saracen's-buildings, Snow-hill, London.—Advertises profusely all over the world, offering to cure all diseases, and to send a sample of his treatment "free." The remedies appear to be absolute humbug, and are supplied in quantities at extravagant prices, as much as £4 having been obtained from victims in some cases.

K. LEO MINGES, Rochester, New York, and 7, Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris. — Proprietor of a "cartilege treatment," which is guaranteed to add two or three inches to the height. It is undiluted humbug.

LIQUOZONE.—A nostrum very widely advertised by a firm of American quacks, calling themselves the British Liquozone Company, as a cure for all germ diseases. It is nothing more than a weak solution of sulphurous acid, a drug which is likely to prove dangerous if administered by inexperienced hands. At an inquest in June, 1905, on two children who died after taking the stuff, the jury returned a verdict that they "died from exhaustion after vomiting and diarrhœa, set up by taking liquozone."

M. A. WINTER COMPANY, Pennsylvania-avenue, Washington.—Offers agencies to people of position to peddle their Nature's Sweet Restorer, a cure-all made up into "highly polished chocolate drops."

MCLAUGHLIN Co., THE "DR.," 164, Strand. — Vendors of "electric belts," the sale of which has been pushed by means of grossly indecent circulars and literature, and by the most lavish advertisements, not only in England, but all over the world. One of its London representatives (an ex-medical practitioner, who had been struck off the register after a conviction for felony) was prosecuted for illegally holding himself out as a qualified medical practitioner. Latterly the company has been offering its £5 goods for £1. A few months ago the German police issued an official notice warning the public that the appliance is a fraudulent swindle.

NUTRIOLA COMPANY, CHICAGO, and 9-15, Oxford-street, London. —The enterprise of a Yankee named Hanson, the "President" of the company. Not content with advertising its ability to cure everything, the company has also advertised purchase of its shares as the shortest way to wealth. Nevertheless, a fraud order has been made against the company by the United States postal authorities, and it is worthy of remark that the president of the company has already been bankrupt in America.

OREN ONEAL, "DR.," 162, State-street, Chicago.—An eye and ear quack, who has an eye on the suffering British public.

OXIEN.—A remedy for heart troubles, sold by the Giant Oxie Company by means of faked testimonials.

PIERCE ELECTRIC COMPANY, 11 and 12, Finsbury-square, E.C.—Proprietors of Dr. Pierce's Galvanic Chain Belt, and a magnetic truss. The company hails from San Francisco, and after pretending to diagnose a case by correspondence, offers one of the above appliances as a remedy.

RICE, W. S., Stonecutter-street, E.C.—Another American "specialist," dealing in rupture-cures.

SANDEN ELECTRIC COMPANY, THE "DR."—A similar concern to the McLaughlin Co., now trading in South Africa, India, Brazil, and the Argentine, the representative of which has also been fined for representing himself as a qualified medical practitioner.

VIAVI COMPANY, BRITISH, Regent-street, W.—A quack establishment of American origin, dealing in remedies for female ailments. Engages women, who go about the country pretending to possess medical knowledge, delivering "health lectures," which they have mostly learnt by heart, and persuading deluded women that they are in serious danger unless they take the Viavi remedies, and submit themselves to the treatment of the Viavi agents.

WESTCOTT-JENNER, PROFESSOR, Commerce-chambers, Duke-street, Liverpool.—Proprietor of the "Alcola Treatment," with which he professes to cure drunkards.

YABE SCHOOL OF JIU-JITSU, Rochester, N.Y.—Professes to be able to teach the Japanese art of self-defence by correspondence.

The five concerns in the following list have been officially declared to be carrying on a fraudulent business in the United States, and a "fraud order" has been made against them.

DR. KNAPP MEDICAL COMPANY, Detroit, Michigan.
FALLIOPIA LYNN COMPANY, St. Louis.
INSTITUTE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, Rochester, New York.
"PROFESSOR" R. E. DUTTON, Lincoln, Nebraska.
"PROFESSOR" THOMAS F. ADKIN, Rochester, New York.

TRADING CONCERNS.

A great many businesses incur criticism in TRUTH for one cause or another in the course of a year, and the reasons for criticism vary greatly in gravity. The following includes such businesses as I have expressly warned my readers, on one ground or another, to have nothing at all to do with:—

BARKER AND Co., J., Richmond.—One of the ordinary "area-gate" touts who victimise servant girls.

BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST MERCANTILE AND LEGAL AID SOCIETY, 8, Gloucester-place, Brighton.—The enterprise of a man named Smith, whose object is to obtain subscriptions from tradesmen, who are offered in return free advice on financial and commercial subjects. Smith was sentenced in January, 1905, to twelve months' imprisonment for defrauding a Brighton tradesman, and in November last was convicted for another eighteen months.

CAMPBELL, SMITH, AND Co., 5, Garrick-street, St. Martin's-lane.—Holders of sham auction sales of secondhand furniture in private houses.

CITY CASH COMPANY, 59½, Causeway-lane, Leicester.—Trick advertisers of a skirt.

CITY OF LONDON FINE ART SOCIETY, Victoria-avenue, E.C.—Lineal descendant of the South Kensington Fine Art Society, whose stock of "works of art" the "Society" offers at 25 per cent. reduction off the catalogue prices.

CLIFFORD AND Co., 4, York-buildings, Clifton, Bristol.—Sell cigars and tobacco on the snowball system.

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL, Rochester, N.Y.—The old trick for getting dollars from the unwary by one of the gang who used to be engaged in selling a "course of lessons" in personal magnetism, hypnotism, magnetic healing, and the allied occult mysteries.

CO-OPERATIVE SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT ASSOCIATION, LIMITED, 3, Broad-street-buildings, E.C.—A large scheme of industrial assurance to be carried on by means of checks sold with goods by tradespeople with a working capital of only £2,300. It is the offspring of Messrs. Dickins and Hibbin, who were formerly associated in the area-gate tout business.

COWAN, A. W., 30, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London.—A shady publisher, who gets orders for serial publications by trickery and enforces payment by threats of recourse to law.

CRAIG, CRAIG, AND Co., 125, West Regent-street, Glasgow.—A firm which charges a higher price for all goods paid for in advance than if paid for at the time of delivery.

DAVIES MAIL ORDER COLLECTION AGENCY, Madison Hall-buildings, Chicago.—A Yankee debt-collecting agency, which is the proud possessor of "The eye that never sleeps," and attempts to bluff debtors by a farrago of nonsense about taking criminal proceedings against them.

DEREHAM ROAD CYCLE Co., Norwich.—Have introduced into the cycle trade the popular advertising trick of offering goods ostensibly on credit, whereas the goods are delivered only on payment of the last instalment.

DIRECT TRADING COMPANY, 1A, Caledonian-road, King's Cross.—Trick advertisers of bicycles.

DOREY, LESTER, AND Co., Winchester-avenue, Kilburn.—Offers watches and jewellery by postal circular, and omits to send the goods after the cash has been paid. Does this business chiefly with India and the Colonies.

ELECTRIC PHONOGRAPH COMPANY, Electric Avenue, Brixton.—Issue misleading advertisements of the goods they sell.

FELLOWS AND Co., 10, Grosvenor-buildings, Steelhouse-lane, Birmingham.—Adopt Ernest Goode's old trick of "presenting" a watch to purchasers of a chain, catching their dupes by prize competitions.

FORBES, FORBES, AND Co., 164, Howard-street, Glasgow.—The name adopted by the benevolent proprietors of a "Blue-ribbon" blend of whisky in an attempt to exploit charity for commercial purposes.

FOSTER AND Co., P., 36-37, Charterhouse-square.—By a trick offer of a skirt the firm secures 1s. 9d. for a rubbishy belt, worth only a fraction of the price.

FRASER AND Co., 51, Milton-street, E.C.—Offered a prize of £5 to everyone who correctly solved the 15 puzzle, the condition of entry being payment of 2s. 6d. for three dozen postcards.

"GENTLEFOLKS" and the "WORLD'S COMMERCE," 40, Rectory-road, London, N.—Periodicals devoted to descriptive articles, which are practically trade advertisements. The editor invites firms to supply particulars for an article, adding that he does not expect an advertisement. Subsequently proposes that the articles shall be illustrated, free of all charge except payment for the blocks. The charge for the blocks, in fact, represents a handsome payment for the whole article. The moving spirit is one Jesse Fletcher, who ran the "Great North Magazine," until a claim he brought against a Midland firm was successfully resisted on the ground of "fraudulent misrepresentation."

"GENTLEMAN'S JOURNAL," 104, Tollington Park, N. (W. Browning Hearnden, Editor).—Another enterprise carried on by precisely similar methods to the foregoing.

GEROME AND Co., C., 83-87, Fleet-street, E.C.—Offer a variety of prizes to persons who sell six shillingsworth of "Happy Home Seeds."

GLEN DISTILLERY, LTD., Campsie Glen.—A whisky business run by one Alfred Reiss, alias Ross, and advertised by an elaborate series of mendacious statements.

GOLD AND Co., alias the SILVER PLATE COMPANY, Delamere-crescent, Paddington.—Engaged in the "send no money" line of business, by which people are induced to take goods for sale or return, in the hope of earning a "premium"; also in other forms of trick advertising.

GRAVES, LTD, J. G., Sheffield.—A firm of general dealers, which carries on an enormous business by advertisement and through local agents. People are induced to purchase all sorts of goods on the instalment system, and payment is enforced by a variety of undesirable methods. The extent to which members of the public are led to purchase articles which they either do not want or cannot afford may be gauged from the fact that 7,000 summonses in the County Court were issued in one year against the firm's customers.

HARDY AND Co., I. A., The United Kingdom, Colonial, and Foreign General Accountancy Offices, 70, 71, 72, Chancery-lane.—The ostensible business of the firm is debt-collecting, but experience shows that the business is more profitable to Mr. Hardy than to the creditors who employ him.

IMPERIAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, Oxford House, Oxford Street, W.—Advertise an ordinary manual under the title "The Piano in Twelve Lessons," and describe their system as one which will revolutionise teaching.

JACKSON AND Co., Business Transfer Agents, 3, Bayley-street, Tottenham Court-road.—The alias of a rascal named Abraham Nathan Jacobson. This man undertakes the sale and purchase of businesses, and whatever money goes into his hand sticks there. He is well known at Bloomsbury County Court, and he is an undischarged bankrupt, so that his unfortunate victims usually allow him to go scot-free.

JACKSON AND Co., 2, Harvey-buildings, Strand.—Trick advertisers of boots.

KENT WATCH COMPANY, 142, Church-road, Swanscombe, Kent.—Plays the good old trick of offering a magnificent watch "free of all charge"—to purchasers of a chain.

KINGSWAY PHONOGRAPH COMPANY, Ferndale Road, Clapham.—Issue misleading advertisements of their goods.

KING AND SON, JOHN K., 12, Albert-street, Manchester.—A firm of booksellers who get rid of their goods by canvassers, and who have been known to claim damages for breach of contract when the order is repudiated.

LEICESTER AND Co., Twickenham.—The alias of a man named Todd, one of the most active of the "area-gate" firms, selling on credit expensive watches, jewellery, Bibles, and other articles to servant girls through touting agents, who resort to various tricks for trapping girls into giving them orders. Todd has been fined £20 for representing himself to be a solicitor in order to intimidate his victims.

LESTER AND Co., 76, Chancery-lane.—A firm which induces children to undertake the sale of picture postcards by the offer of a present, and endeavours to extort payment by means of threatening letters and postcards.

LOCAL TIME TABLE COMPANY, LTD., Croydon.—Publishes suburban time tables and obtains large numbers of advertisements in each district. The orders for advertisements are "faked," and when disputes arise the advertisers are summoned in the Croydon County Court. The amount at issue being small, they usually allow judgment to go by default, so that the business is a profitable one.

MACDONALD AND Co., W., Edinburgh.—Produce worthless and voluminous directories, by means of the sweated labour of unfortunate agents.

MAISON ROSSET, Rue Feydeau, Paris.—Sells silk underskirts on the snowball system.

MCCABE AND WEBBER, LTD., Bank-buildings, Margaret-street, and 11, Great Titchfield-street, London, W. — Offer watches "free," on the snowball coupon plan to the natives of British East Africa.

MERCANTILE AGENCY, 303, High Holborn.—The name under which a Mr. Macdonald carries on a debt-collecting business and retains the debts he collects.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ADVERTISING Co., Sheffield.—Lets space in advertising boxes, and when tradesmen have been tricked into signing contracts enforces these latter through the County Court, in the same way as the above-mentioned Time Table Company.

NATIONAL PEAT FUEL COMPANY, 76, Leadenhall-street; IRISH PEAT FUEL AND MOSS LITTER COMPANY, 40, Gracechurch-street; PEAT FUEL COMPANY, 50, Wilson-street, E.C.—Bilk unfortunate distributors of their circulars of their wages, and do not pay the wholesalers for their peat.

PAUL AND Co., Aston Manor.—A mail-order specialist, who supplies socks and stockings at tempting prices, and guarantees to keep them in repair for three months. When returned to him for repair he is found to have disappeared.

"RAILWAY SUPPLIES JOURNAL."—Another enterprise of the same class as "Gentlefolks," run by a Mr. E. P. Phillips, who has been convicted and imprisoned for frauds in connection with his publication.

Salbini Photo Company, Marlfield-road, West Derby, Liverpool.—Obtains prepaid orders for picture postcards from tradespeople, which orders are never executed.

Scottish Photographic, Touring, and Pictorial Postcard Company, 74, Broomielaw, Glasgow.—Another firm of the same type as the Salbini Company mentioned above.

Scottish Wholesale Jewellery Emporium, 205, Buchanan-street, Glasgow.—Supply shoddy jewellery on credit and extort payment by threatening letters.

Selkirk and Co., J., Ltd., Mail Order and Business Specialists, Bouverie-street, London, E.C. — A firm of astute advertising agents, who claim to be business builders. They provide "schemes" for improving their clients' business, but have recently found their way into the Bankruptcy Court, owing, by their own account, to the criticisms of their methods which have appeared in Truth.

Stamp Prize Bureau, 17, Coventry-street, Kidderminster.—Sends circulars to schoolmasters for distribution amongst their scholars, offering cash prizes for collections of stamps, which go to swell the stock-in-trade of the firm.

Stores Advertising System, Ltd.; The Registered Co-operative Societies' Sickness and Accident Assurance, Ltd.; The Retailers' Sickness and Accident Association, Ltd. A group of companies associated in some way with the Co-operative Sickness and Accident mentioned before, and whose shares a Mr. J. W. Rackham has been attempting to palm off on medical gentlemen and others by offering them appointments.

Stuart and Simpson, St. George's House, Eastcheap.—Engage bands of lady canvassers to push novelties in the provinces, the canvassers frequently finding themselves stranded, and without redress in consequence of the agreement they are required to sign.

Thomas, A., otherwise The City of London Direct Supply Stores, 317, Upper-street, Islington. — Advertises all sorts of goods, either for cash or on credit, but purchasers frequently have difficulty in getting their purchases. The proprietor is a Mr. A. T. Yandell, who some months ago arranged for the business to be carried on under a committee of inspection until his creditors had been paid 10s. in the £.

Warrilow and Co., Weston-super-Mare.—A firm of bicycle manufacturers who offer their goods as marvellous bargains from private addresses.

Williams and Co., 84, Erskine-road, Walthamstow.—Trick advertisers of bicycles.

Wilson, H., 40, St. Luke's-road, Clapham.—A trick advertiser of a dentifrice.

Miscellaneous Practitioners.

The following individuals and institutions are working each in a distinctive line so that it is impossible to group them under any of the previous headings:—

Agricultural and Industrial Society, Ltd.; The Agricultural Organisation Agency, Ltd.; The British and Irish Cattle Corporation, Ltd.—All three are the schemes of a gentleman named Tallerman, who is something of a crank, but as he seeks other people's money to develop his schemes, it is desirable to avoid him.

Alexander, F. Matthias, 1, Army and Navy Mansions, Victoria-street, S.W.—Proprietor of a "New Method of Respiratory and Vocal Re-education," whose methods of dunning dissatisfied clients for the balance of fees are both novel and undesirable.

Appleton, A. Stewart.—An enterprising Yankee deadhead, who applies to theatrical managers for free seats, in order to be in a position to write critical articles in a European edition of his polyglot magazine.

Barnes, Albert E., late of the Wynards, Merriott, Crewkerne, Somerset.—Swindles tradesmen living at a distance, sending his orders on notepaper headed "Get Right with God." Under cover of philanthropy and religion has perpetrated a variety of swindles at Bristol and Plymouth, and has been several times in prison. Now writing begging letters from addresses in London.

Benevolent Dental Society of Great Britain, 7 Whitefriars-street.—An advertising dodge for the sale of artificial teeth. The "Society" professed to supply free teeth to the toothless poor. Applicants for the teeth were directed to apply to Messrs. Guy White and Co., Ltd., of 215, Piccadilly, who would supply their wants at reduced terms on the instalment plan. The enterprise was conducted by Mr. Edwin Drew, a gentleman of divers gifts, and the outcome was the appearance of the members of the firm of Guy White and Co. before the Medical Council, where two of them were struck off the register for "infamous conduct."

Bradley, Ltd., H., 29, Great James-street, Bedford-row.—The enterprise of a Mr. Gannell, which consists in finding secretaries and directors who can invest substantial sums in various companies.

Brezet, Adolphe, Baron Ghelavelt, Viscompte San Joao, Duke of Beaufort, Duke of Valentinois, Prince of Antikich.—An adventurer of French extraction, who claims to be President of the "Free Republic of Counani," a territory under Brazilian Government. In this capacity has appointed a number of official representatives in this country, chief of whom is a Charge d'Affaires, an accountant named Campbell-Everden. The object of the assumption of the Presidency appears to be the granting of concessions and titles to British dupes.

British Arbitration Committee, 20, Upper Richmond-road, S.W.—Undertakes to settle disputes between buyers and sellers of farm produce for a fee of 12s. 6d. Has at present no fixed habitation.

Clarke, Charles M., LL.D., 28, Baker-street, W.C.—Cadges samples of goods from manufacturers under pretence of writing an article about them in his journal, "Dramatic Opinion." Was formerly connected with a bogus literary society, which, after exposure in Truth, landed all concerned in serious trouble.

Club International de Bienfaisance, Amsterdam. — A gambling club touting for members in this country at an annual subscription of 20 fr.

Count and Countess di Colonna y de Vere, 131, Manor-road, Brockley.—The count is in the guinea-pig business, while the countess touts for tradesmen on commission, the coronet and title being a useful asset in introducing themselves to strangers.

Cotiell, Lansdowne, the "London Conservatoire of Music," 29, Craven-terrace, Lancaster-gate, W.—A teacher of music who keeps a boarding-house for young men and women desirous of studying music, and fills it by various misrepresentations, his favourite trick being to persuade the pupil that he or she has won a "scholarship" entitling him or her to tuition "free," on paying merely for board and lodging. The advantages offered by the "conservatoire," whether in the shape of board and lodging or tuition, are altogether delusive. Has also recently started the Prince's Concert Direction Company, the object of which seems to be the extraction of guinea fees from aspirants to musical honours.

Davey, R. H., 107, Holland Park-avenue, and W. Davey, 641, High-road, Tottenham.—The names under which attempts have been made to obtain whisky on credit from Scottish firms.

Day, Ernest, 439, Old Kent-road.—Dealer in old prints and portraits, which he picks up for a few pence and sells for one or two guineas to parties having the same name as the originals of the portraits, on the representation that the article offered is a valuable old picture which has lately come into his possession through the death of a relative, and which he is compelled to sacrifice at a nominal price to relieve his straitened circumstances. "Ernest" is probably a lady.

Dryerre, Rev. J. Meldrum, Burnham, Somerset. — At one time a Congregational minister, who touts for orders for advertisements in a book he is about to publish by offering "laudatory comments" in the text. Well known for begging operations in connection with previous publications.

Earl of Peterborough.—A claimant to an extinct earldom, who with his mother and sister obtains credit on the strength of stories about his impending recognition.

Easby Society, 17, Albion-street, Leeds (John R. Wildman, secretary and treasurer).—Asks newspaper proprietors to pay a guinea a year for publishing an advertisement open to the objection that it is likely to delude people in assurance against sickness, accidents, and death.

Eichler, A., 103, St. John's-street, Clerkenwell. — Issues a series of trashy novels in weekly instalments at 2d. or 2½d. through canvassers, with offers of a premium in the shape of a rocking-chair, musical album, or similar goods. First came under notice in connection with some copyright proceedings, in which Mr. Justice Buckley pronounced one of the publications to be obscene.

Frayer and Walker, Messrs., 151, Seedley Park-road, Manchester.—A firm which undertakes to supply to manufacturers information of all opportunities for doing business in their particular lines in any part of the kingdom for a subscription of £4 4s., but does so in a very unsatisfactory manner.

Free Teeth Society and People's Teeth Association, 177, Westminster Bridge-road.—Another firm in the same line of business as the Benevolent Dental Society already mentioned.

Garner "Professor."—A "Professor" of the Simian language, who has bamboozled numbers of people with stories of his adventures in African forests. It has been recently rumoured that the Professor is about to start on a new expedition to the Dark Continent.

Gaskell, Ernest (author), late Manning Press, Graylands, Langley, Bucks.—Now engaged in looking for "Lancashire Leaders" who will subscribe for works in which their autobiographies appear.

Griffiths, Dr. A. B., 171, Brixton-road, London.—Gives analyst's certificates to quack remedies for a fee of a guinea. Has a long string of foreign "honours" and American "degrees" attached to his name, and was at one time "President" of the egregious Society of Science Letters and Art.

Hamilton.—A peripatetic hawker of ear-drums and spectacles in the neighbourhood of Bristol, who charges extortionate prices for his wares.

Ham, J. J.—A swindler who offers to sell a half-share in an old-established business and disappears when the cash put into the business is exhausted.

Hatton, G. R.—Another author who trades on the vanity of noodles. His latest publication is entitled "Men and Women." He has recently assumed the name of Guy Roslyn, and when last heard of was living at Canvey Island, Essex.

International Institute of Physiology and Hygiene, 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.—Dr. J. Grant Stephen, Director of Laboratories, offers "certificates of analysis," on payment of a fee of one guinea for "registration of the record"

to manufacturers and tradesmen who have never before heard of the Institute. The certificates have even been offered to firms for goods which the firms approached have never manufactured.

Legal Aid Society, 37, Walbrook, and Rotherhithe, S.E. (Mr. J. J. Pink, general manager and secretary). — For an annual subscription of 1s. offers free legal advice to its members, the object being to get on its books the names of prospective clients who may one day have claims under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. In one case undertaken by the "Society," out of £150 paid as compensation for the death of a man only £30 reached the widow.

London Hospital for Diseases of the Teeth, 272, Regent-street, W.—Yet another pseudo-benevolent enterprise promoted by a man named F. Sinclair Kennedy, who has been previously connected with the firm of Guy White and Co., and has been fined at Marlborough-street Police-court for infringing the Dentists' Act.

McIntosh, Walter, Ryde Vale-road, Balham.—Purveyor of a realistic-scope (which is an ordinary stereoscope) and suggestive slides for "the smoking-room."

National Old-Age Pension Trust.—A scheme for providing old-age pensions, which is financially rotten. Its originator was a Mr. Wm. Taverner, of the Spurgeon Memorial Society, with whom were associated a number of well-meaning Nonconformist gentlemen, who, after criticism in Truth, took steps to have the scheme wound up under order of the Court. In spite of this, however, Taverner has represented the Trust to be still in existence under a new board of management, and has invited contributions to the funds.

New Thought Publishing Company, Temple Chambers, Temple-avenue, E.C.—Advertises a course of instruction in personal magnetism, described in a volume of preposterous lies and impudent humbug, entitled "The Power Within." It inherits the business of the Psychic Research Company, which commenced a libel action in 1902 against Truth, when its business was described as a swindle, but feared to meet a jury, and the action was dismissed.

"Parisian Inventors' Academy."—A dodge by which one H. E. Boettcher, of 14, Boulevard Saint-Martin, extracts £2 from persons who take out patents in England for "a first-class diploma" and a "great gold medal (gilded)," and the right to write M.P.I.A. after his name.

Parker, Frederick, of "St. Noel's Distributing Syndicate," offers hampers, containing turkey, whisky, port, 100 Havanas, and a Christmas cake as an advertisement to people who send him 5s. for carriage. Uses an accommodation address.

Parsons, J., 31, King-street, Portman-square.—Answers advertisements by people who advertise carriages for sale, and asks for a preliminary fee of £3 3s. for inspecting the vehicle. Writes from an accommodation address.

Scientific Temperance League. — The enterprise of a "Dr. Neumann Thomas," of Ealing. The "Dr." has falsely represented himself to be a graduate of London University, and was previously known as a begging-letter writer. He is a temperance advocate of the Rev. Stiggins type, and was on February 2, 1906, sentenced at Essex Assizes to eighteen months' hard labour for obtaining subscriptions to the League by false pretences.

Thomas, "Rev." R. H. Owen, Clifton.—Offers to forward on approval a very fine genealogical chart, showing the addressees' Royal descents. If it is returned demands £6 6s., on the ground that the document has been damaged.

Trades and Workmen's Legal Aid Society, 6, Whitefriars-street, E.C., and Dartford.—A similar concern to the Legal Aid Society, the Whitefriars-street address being a barber's shop, where the secretary, Mr. H. G. Lane, calls for letters.

Walker, of Manchester.—Describes himself as an auction-room porter who for £3 will procure a fine old mahogany table bearing the name of an ancestor of the gentleman to whom the bargain is offered. Writes from an accommodation address.

Non-Proprietary Swindles and Tricks.

Under this heading I have classed those tricks for obtaining money which are the common property of the artful dodger of all nations. All of them have been successfully worked during the year, and in spite of continuous exposure the variants of the "confidence trick," as practised by "the Spanish Prisoner" and the "Gold Brick Swindler," still continue to obtain many dupes.

Bogus-account Swindle.—A particularly mean type of fraud practised at the expense of the executors of recently deceased persons, to whom accounts for goods supplied or work done on behalf of the deceased are forwarded with a request for settlement. Has recently been operated by reputed dentists and veterinary surgeons.

"Free Portrait" Trick.—Though classed under non-proprietary swindles, this trick of promising a free enlargement of a photograph and then springing a claim for a frame upon the dupe might almost be considered to be the property of the notorious A. Tanquerey, of Paris, whose methods of business and lying testimonials have been continually exposed in Truth for years past. Tanquerey is, however, continually finding imitators, amongst the latest of whom are Eugène Pierson, 15, Rue de la Tarasse, Paris; Reinhard Becker and Co., of 68, Rue Damrémont, Paris; the International Artistic Society, 22, Tavistock-square, London, W.C.; and the Westbourne Art Gallery, Chepstow Mansions, Westbourne-grove, London, W.

"Gold Brick" Swindle. A highly developed variation of the ancient "confidence trick," worked by gangs of thieves in the United States. When any gentleman possessed of considerable property dies in this country, a letter is addressed to him, purporting to refer to some mining enterprise or treasure hunt in which he is interested in conjunction with a third party, whom the writer represents. The letter reports the discovery of rich mines or other treasure, a share in which is to be handed over to the party to whom the letter is written. The letter is, of course, intended to fall into the hands of the deceased gentleman's heirs or executors, who, knowing nothing of the facts, will communicate with the writer in America. The object is to get a representative of the family over to America, and then to obtain from him a heavy cash payment for some purpose connected with the business. By way of security for the cash, the dupe is handed over "bricks," or blocks of what purports to be pure gold. He is invited to test them, and drillings from the blocks which he may take to a jeweller invariably answered to the tests for gold. When, however, the gold bricks are assayed they turn out to be base metal, the trick having been worked either by exchanging the drillings of base metal for gold filings by sleight of hand, or by the inclusion of a small vein of gold in the block in the process of manufacture. Last year a member of one of the gangs was arrested in New York, but the game still goes on merrily.

Luggage-in-Advance Trick.—The object is to obtain payment for carriage and charges by a pretended firm of forwarding agents on behalf of some apocryphal person who is coming to stay at an hotel or boarding-house. It was originally worked from the Continent at the expense of confiding Britishers, but is now largely worked from this country at the expense of foreigners.

"Original Signature" Trick.—This consists of the enclosure of an old autograph with a circular letter addressed to the owner of the signature, informing him that he has been specially selected as the recipient of a handsome article of some sort at a merely nominal price. The autographs are cut from old letters which are purchased in bulk from various sources. Particularly used in the disposal of shoddy watches by, amongst others, the Anglo-American Watch Co., the British Watch Co., and the London and Sheffield Electro-plate Works, all of St. John's-square, Clerkenwell; the Clark Co., Birkbeck Bank-chambers; George Powell and Co., 14, Silver-street, London, E.C.; J. Scattergood and Co., late the Sheffield Workers' Association, 80A, Southampton-street; Brahmo Lever Watch Co., 65, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate-circus, E.C.; and the Observatory Watch and Jewellery Co., 29, Sandycombe-road, Richmond, Surrey.

Patent Editor Trick.—This is usually carried out with the connivance of the proprietors of certain newspapers who benefit to a small extent through the transaction. The newspaper publishes a notice that if any of its readers have an idea for a useful invention the "patent editor" will be pleased to advise upon it. The "patent editor" is a myth. Replies to the notice are forwarded to some disreputable patent agent, whose advice invariably takes the form of a recommendation to pay exorbitant fees for patenting what is most likely to turn out a worthless invention. One of the worst types of these offenders is a man named Ellen, and it is safe to assert that no reputable patent agent will conduct his business on these lines.

Pawn-ticket Trick.—A very old dodge, which usually commences with an advertisement for a loan with good security offered. The good security turns out to be pawn tickets for jewellery, which is represented to be pawned at a third of its value. Promissory notes for the cash advanced are given, but when they fall due the borrower has disappeared. The security when redeemed is then found to be pawned to its full value, if not for more. Not infrequently the pawnbroker is a participant in the fraud, issuing pawn tickets for a larger amount than he has advanced.

"Railway Clearance Sale" Trick.—A dodge for selling shoddy goods, worked by gangs who go about the country and distribute bills at private houses, in the names of imaginary firms, who are said to be commissioned to dispose of unclaimed goods from railway stations, salvage stock from fires, etc. A representative of the "firm" calls subsequently, and exhibits samples of excellent goods at irresistibly low prices, for which he books orders. He next produces some other article, generally a length of dress stuff, which he desires to sell at once for cash, and on the strength of the excellent samples he has already shown, he usually succeeds. The article sold is always worthless rubbish, and nothing more is heard of the other goods ordered, or of the "firm."

Second-hand Piano Trick.—A dodge for selling cheap pianos by advertising them as the property of a gentleman or lady going abroad for one reason or another. Certain makers of pianos produce cheap instruments and dispose of them almost exclusively by this means. The advertiser is simply an agent, living in lodgings or a private house. Numerous addresses from which this trade is regularly carried on have from time to time been given in Truth.

Second-hand Plated Goods Trick.—A similar trick for disposing of shoddy plated goods, furs, clothing, and other articles, manufactured specially for this trade. The advertiser is generally a lady, frequently sporting a title. A favourite dodge is to offer the goods as duplicate wedding presents. Another is to offer them as unredeemed pledges. This trade is carried on from innumerable addresses in London and the

suburbs, and also in the provinces. Some of the best-known advertisements appear in the names of Davis and Co., pawnbrokers, of 26, Denmark-hill, and 284, Brixton-road; Allen Davis, of 524, High-road, Chiswick; Miss Andrews, The Gables, Ealing Dean; "Maud," 68, Stockwell-road, S.W.; "Lily," 55, Hanworth-street, S.W.; Mrs. Bradshaw, 2, Claylands-road, S.W.; and Emmanuel and Co., 31, Clapham-road, S.W.

"SPANISH PRISONER" TRICK.—One of the most popular and successful of these swindles. Worked by innumerable thieves, of various degrees of intelligence and cleverness, in different Spanish towns. A letter is written, ostensibly from a prison, the writer claiming some knowledge of, or relationship to, the party he addresses, and frequently using the same family name. He explains that through some complicated circumstances (generally connected with the Cuban insurrection) he has had to bury a large sum of money in some part of England, or deposit it in some English bank. A plan of the hiding place, or the receipt note from the bank, as the case may be, is concealed in his portmanteau, which is deposited outside the prison. He desires the party he addresses to assist him in the recovery of his treasure, in return for a large share in it. A youthful daughter is usually one of his properties, and is to be adopted by his friend, who is to hold the rest of the money for her. Innumerable dodges are employed to give verisimilitude to the tale, which always ends, when "confidence" has been established, with a request for a substantial sum of money to release the portmanteau, that article having been seized by a creditor, or detained by the Custom House authorities, at the critical moment when it is wanted.

WORKING BOYS' HOME TRICK.—A method by which various gangs seek to dispose of cheap tinware and such-like goods all over the country. The parties who work the business engage boys to hawk the articles from door to door, supplying them with literature which states that the articles have been made in the "Home."

MONEYLENDERS AND THEIR TOUTS.

Far more space than I can spare for the purpose would be required for the publication of a full list of the usurers and usurers' touts against whom the public have been warned in TRUTH. Such a list would, indeed, have to contain the names and aliases of the vast majority of the individuals and firms, numbering many hundreds, who are registered under the Moneylenders Act; and all that I can do here is to pillory those bloodsuckers who for one reason or another have come under my notice during the past year or so:—

ADAMS, A. (alias Adam Edelsheim), 13, Regent-street, W., 10, South Side, Clapham Common, and 16, St. Enoch-square, Glasgow.

BASSETT, S., 285, Oxford-street, W.—Real name Barnett; devotes himself specially to the practice of usury among medical men.

BEDFORDSHIRE LOAN COMPANY, THE, 30, Rutland-road, Bedford.—The registered alias and address of Isaac Abrahams, who is closely associated with various usurers and touts in the West End. He has few, if any, superiors as an extortioner. One man who borrowed £170 from Abrahams was bled for interest at the rate of £120 a year until he had paid back £600. He then became a bankrupt, and Abrahams put in a proof against his estate for a further sum of £292!

BERRY, FRANK, 112, Oliphant-street, Queen's Park, W.—An impecunious tout, generally operating from accommodation addresses.

BENNETT, THOMAS, 20, Hand-court, Holborn, W.C.—For a loan of £5, repayable, with £1 for interest, in six weekly instalments of 20s. each, this extortioner required a shopkeeper to give him "by way of security," an assignment of the whole of his stock-in-trade and furniture! His full name is Jabez Thomas Bennett, and he belongs to St. Albans.

BRITISH FINANCE COMPANY, THE, 104, Bignor-street, Hightown, Manchester.—This title is assumed by an unscrupulous scoundrel named Samuel Cohen, while his wife, Rose Cohen, is separately registered as a moneylender under the alias of "Charles Russell." The couple have usury-shops in about a dozen Lancashire and Yorkshire towns.

BOWEN, H. (alias Henry Barnett), 23, Sackville-street, Piccadilly; and 18, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.

CHARING CROSS BANK, THE, 28, Bedford-street, Charing Cross, and 39, Bishopsgate-street Within. A 60 per cent. usury shop run by a man named Carpenter.

COGSWELL, E., 20, Bedford-street, Charing Cross.—A rapacious old rascal whose specialty is the bleeding (if they still possess any cash or assets) of persons against whom bills of sale or judgments are registered. He has had an extensive experience of such judgments himself, and he is personally acquainted with the Bankruptcy Court.

CHALLONER, B. L. (alias Bernard Kletz), Queen's-chambers, 7, Market-street, Manchester; 45, Vernon-street, Bolton; and 53, Kingsley-road, Princes Park, Liverpool.

COUNTY AND ALBION LOAN OFFICE, THE (alias Harry Heron and Bernard Heron), Leeds.

COX AND CO., 229, Seven Sisters-road.—An alias of Arthur George Whiteman, who also trades with his brother as "Seymour and Whiteman."

DAILY INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED, THE, 38, Finsbury-pavement, E.C.—An offspring of the so-called Carlton Bank which became notorious a few years ago on account of its moneylending operations among the clergy. The "Corporation," like the "Bank," also addresses itself specially to the clergy.

EDWARDS AND CO. (alias Lionel Hart and Bella Lawrence), 17, Sackville-street, W.

ENGLISH AND GENERAL REVERSIONARY CO., Birkbeck Bank-chambers, Holborn.—In combination with Arthur Peel (see below), this concern has been involved in some disgraceful cases, in which advantage has been taken of the ignorance and improvidence of persons entitled to reversions. The principal shareholder in the company is Mrs. Elizabeth Douglas Norman, and Mr. Frederick Douglas Norman, practising as Douglas, Norman, and Co., is the company's solicitor.

EQUITABLE INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, THE.—In return for a loan of £400, repayable in six months, and secured by a mortgage of land worth £850, this company sought to make a lady pay a bonus of £100 in addition to 5 per cent. interest. The Court of Chancery set aside this transaction, the Judge expressing the opinion that it was a swindle.

ELDRIDGE AND MORRIS, 38, Museum-street, W.C.—Touts for "B. S. Thomas," and other bloodsuckers.

EQUITABLE ADVANCE COMPANY, THE (alias Edwin George Wade Moon), Southampton.

FIELDING'S, 1A, Southampton-row, W.C., and elsewhere.—This concern was run originally under the title of "J. S. Fielding and Co.," then it became "Fielding's, Limited," and now it is known simply as "Fielding's." No Fielding has ever been connected with the business, which has always been in the hands of a Hebrew family named Samuel, hailing from Cardiff. For many years Fielding's, who have branch usury-shops in provincial towns, have been notorious as bloodsuckers of the worst type.

FORTESCUE, L., Piccadilly House, 40 and 41, Sackville-street, W.—A newcomer; real name, Abraham Cohen.

FINE, LOUIS, 2, City-chambers, Bristol.

GRANVILLE BANKING AND LOAN SOCIETY, LIMITED, THE (President, H. Granville Carpenter), 573, High-road, Chiswick.—Registered under the Friendly Societies Act, but its charges for small loans are as exorbitant as those of the ordinary usurers.

HARMSWORTH, J., 18, Regent-street, W.—Under this alias a rascal named Lewis Levene, of 20, Clifton-villas, Maida-vale, sends out a circular offering loans "to station-masters only."

HARVEY, W., 17, Cork-street, Burlington-gardens, W., and 9, Cathedral-street, Norwich.—Formerly a tout for "P. Saunders," otherwise Braham and Philip Samuel.

HARRIS, HENRY, 6, Old Cavendish-street, W.—Phineas Henry Emanuel and Henry Michaelson, the extortioners trading under this alias, have branch usury-shops in a number of provincial towns. Emanuel was formerly manager of a now defunct firm of jewellers at Portsmouth which surreptitiously practised usury at the expense of young naval officers.

HENRY, F. (alias Lewis Mayer), 109, Great Russell-street.

HIGNETT, L., 1, Carlton-street, Waterloo-place, S.W.; and 56, Cicada-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

HIGGINS, JOHN T., 222, Strand.—Improvident young heirs falling into the toils of this vampire have been fleeced in the most unscrupulous manner. More than once the judges have strongly condemned his practices, and compelled him to disgorge part of his plunder.

HOWARD AND COPE, LIMITED, 3, Holles-street, W.—Another concern preying upon persons with expectations under wills, reversions, settlements, etc. It is run by one Casson Perrott Smith, a solicitor with a very shady record. His certificate was suspended owing to the part that he had played in connection with various discreditable moneylending transactions. He is a bankrupt, whose discharge was in 1903 suspended for the unusually long term of ten years.

JACKSON AND CO., 23, Duke-street.—In private he calls himself Joseph Parker, but his original name was Abrahams.

KING, J., 4, King-street, St. James's.—Three Hebrews named Baron Wolfe, Harry Wolfe, and Harris Blumberg, hailing from Manchester, whose pitiless and unprincipled methods of blood-sucking have often come under judicial notice.

LAWRENCE AND CO., F., 119, Regent-street.—Lewis Teller and Sampson Jacob Goldberg are the harpies doing business under this name.

LESTER, HERBERT, 110, Jermyn-street, S.W.—The alias of one Sanguinetti, a tout against whom TRUTH first warned the public thirty years ago.

LOFTHOUSE AND CO., 119, Victoria-Street, S.W.—The alias (unregistered) of one Abraham Crichton Loftus Tottenham, a notorious shark.

LUBBOCK, JOHN C., 213, Piccadilly, W.—Emily Bannister is registered to trade at this address in the alias of "Matthew (not John C.) Lubbock.' This alias was formerly registered by the above-mentioned Tottenham, and to all intents and purposes the business at 213, Piccadilly, is still his.

LESLIE, R., 35, Old Bond-street, W., and 5, Claremont-road, Surbiton.—Louis Nathan Levene, the individual registered under this alias, is a most rapacious extortioner.

LONDON AND COUNTY LOAN COMPANY, SHEFFIELD.—A rascal named Eli Darlow runs this concern, though one of his children is the nominal proprietor, and in the County Court his wife has been represented as the actual financier. Darlow preys chiefly upon working-class people.

LEWEIN AND Co., H. T., 160, Regent-street, W.

MAGGS, S. (alias Solomon Margolies), 10, Bowling Green-street, Leicester.

MASTERS, A., 35, Brook-street, W.—This is the sole remaining alias of Abraham Lazarus, who formerly set the Moneylenders Act at defiance by trading simultaneously as "Herbert Paget," "Carringtons, Limited," "Mortimers, Limited," and "A. Masters, Limited." For that offence he was fined £100 and costs in July, 1905. Lazarus first became notorious as a bloodsucker about ten years ago, when his headquarters were at Bristol, and he has been responsible for some of the most iniquitous moneylending transactions that have ever been exposed in TRUTH.

MAURICE AND Co. (alias Mark Shaffer), Preston.—Has usury-shops in a number of Lancashire towns.

MORRIS, J., 60, Haymarket, S.W.—An individual who describes himself as an "investment broker, registered under Act of Parliament, 63 and 64 Vict., c. 51." This sounds imposing, but it only means that he is registered as a moneylender.

MURRAY, ALBERT, 9, Old-Cavendish-street, W. — A recent recruit to the ranks of the usurers' touts; real name, Nathan Rosen, of 7, Carlton-vale, Maida-vale, W.

MUTUAL ADVANCE AND INVESTMENT COMPANY, THE (alias Annie Rosenthal), Manchester.

PEEL, ARTHUR, 41, New Oxford-street, W.; 85, Lord-street, Liverpool; and 37, North Castle-street, Edinburgh.—Advertises advances to heirs under wills, etc. His victims are bamboozled into paying an exorbitant commission for the privilege of being passed on to the above-mentioned English and General Reversionary Company.

PICTON, THOMAS (otherwise William Powell), 19, Duke-street, Cardiff.—Traded in his own name until last year, when a crushing exposure in the County Court caused him to assume the alias of "Thomas Picton."

PHILLIPS, L., 31, Gower-street, W.C.; also at Brighton and Tunbridge Wells.

PASSMORE H. (alias Henry Phillips), 9, Red Lion-court, E.C.

PYKE, ALEXANDER, 31, Craven-street, Strand, W.C. — Yet another (and a most appropriately-named) member of the voracious tribe who offer loans upon reversions and life interests.

PROVINCIAL UNION BANK, THE.—The notorious John Kirkwood is the proprietor of the usury-shops which are carried on in a number of provincial towns under this high-sounding and misleading title. Many would-be borrowers have been bled for preliminary fees when there was no intention of making any advance, while when a loan is granted on a bill of sale affording ample security the interest charged is never less than 60 per cent. per annum. Kirkwood calls it "5 per cent. per month," and ignorant people are constantly tricked into supposing that they will only have to pay 5 per cent. per annum.

RAMSAY, D., 215, Piccadilly, W.—In the register of moneylenders he describes himself as Duncan Ramsay Blair, of Broom Warren, Teddington. A shark who sometimes works with "R. Leslie," alias Louis Nathan Levene.

RICHARDS AND Co., 39, Lombard-street, E.C.—William Henry Burgess, who uses this *nom de guerre*, is a bloodsucker who seeks his prey amongst clerks in banks and public offices. In a case a few months ago the Lord Chief Justice compelled Burgess to disgorge a substantial portion of the plunder he had secured from an unfortunate clerk by a system of intimidation morally indistinguishable from blackmailing.

ROLAND, J. (alias Meyer Freedman), 101, Edgware-road.

RILEY, C., 60, Station-road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

SANDY, THOMAS, 59, East Dulwich-road, S.E.—Styling himself an accountant, this harpy circularises tradesmen with an offer to assist them in obtaining "additional capital." He is simply a usurer's tout.

SEYMOUR AND WHITEMAN, 32, Walbrook, E.C.—Two unmitigated scoundrels named William Herbert Whiteman and Arthur George Whiteman, who practise what is essentially a system of blackmailing, as well as bloodsucking, upon bank clerks, Civil servants, and others. The system is to lure a clerk into their toils and then squeeze him remorselessly by means of direct or indirect threats to report him to his employers, which in many cases would result in his dismissal.

SAUNDERS, P., 11, Savile-row, W., and St. James's-road, Kingston-on-Thames.—Two brothers named Braham and Philip Samuel, belonging to the same family as the notorious "B. S. Thomas," and as usurers exhibiting the same characteristics. In what has now become a leading case in regard to the law of moneylending "P. Saunders" claimed interest at the rate of 418 per cent. upon a loan advanced to a wealthy inebriate at a time when he was unfit to do any business. Mr. Justice Kekewich cut down the interest to 10 per cent. The usurers carried an appeal in this case to the House of Lords, which, in an important judgment on the interpretation of the Moneylenders Act, affirmed the decision of Mr. Justice Kekewich.

SAGAR, HENRY, 33, Premier House, Dover-street, W.—A commission-snatching rascal, whose dupes are generally handed over to the tender mercies of such bloodsuckers as Isaac Abrahams, "B. S. Thomas," and "P. Saunders."

SELBY, GEORGE (formerly C. Stone), 28, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.—A German Jew, related to the notorious Joel Ford (otherwise Fliegende Taube).

THOMAS, B. S., 4, Adelaide-street, Charing-cross; also at Oxford, Reading, Guildford, and elsewhere.—For years past Charles Samuel, the Hebrew trading as "B. S. Thomas," has been one of the biggest and most voracious of the sharks of usury in London. There have been innumerable exposures of his harsh and unconscionable transactions in the law courts.

TURNER, S. (alias Saul Tumim), 14, Dover-street, Piccadilly, London, and 2, Pall Mall, Manchester.

VIVIAN, RALPH, 80, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, W.—Says that he is "an Eton and Oxford man," which, even if true, does not alter the fact that he is now one of those dangerous and disreputable creatures who act as touts for usurers.

WATTS, FRED, 95A, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W.; and 150, Friar-street, Reading.—Circulars sent out in this name emanate from one David Freeman, of 36, Honiton-road, Kilburn, London.

WEBBER, R. N., 49, Finsbury-pavement, E.C.—In the register at Somerset House this usurer gives "Arthur Henry Norris" as his real name. As a matter of fact it is Aarons.

WARWICK, J., 36, Albemarle-street, W.—Jack Isaacs is the real name of this tout.

WESTON AND Co., JOHN, 30, Duke-street, St. James's, S.W.—This entry takes the place of those that have appeared in previous cautionary lists under the heading of "Gerald Chesney," 25, Regent-street, W. Henry Trowbridge Pockett was "Gerald Chesney." Quite recently, however, he metamorphosed himself into "John Weston and Co.," and removed to the address in Duke-street. He has been in business as a bloodsucker for many years, though his operations were once suspended while he served a sentence of imprisonment for preliminary-fee frauds.

WILSON AND Co., T., 30, Craven-street, W.C.

WILTON AND Co., JAMES, 199, Piccadilly.—Three of the Wolfe tribe—Jonas, Abraham, and Alexander.

"WOLFE AND Co., H.," and "THE STANDARD LOAN COMPANY."—Further aliases in which (by an evasion of the Moneylenders Act) the partners in the above-mentioned firm of "J. King" carry on their wolfish practices in Manchester and other towns.

WOOLEY, J. (alias Wolfe), 103, Regent-street, W.

YORKSHIRE ADVANCE OFFICE, THE (alias Nathan Cohen), The Chambers, Park-square, Leeds; and 2, Westgate, Barnsley.

BETTING AGENTS, TIPSTERS, AND SYSTEM SWINDLERS.

Parliament has now passed an Act for the suppression of street betting, but, unfortunately, it has not yet done anything to check the operations of the horde of swindling bookmakers, tipsters, and system-mongers who prey upon the credulity of the public. Nowhere can fraud and trickery that is akin to fraud be practised more safely and profitably than on the outskirts of the Turf. Consider, for example, the position of the welsher who poses as a turf accountant or commission agent at an office in the West-End or elsewhere. Although he may conduct his business more or less systematically on the plan of "heads I win, tails you lose," he can snap his fingers at his dupes and the police too. When he fails to pay up, the defrauded backer may, of course, sue him for the debt, but as the Gaming Act will be pleaded any such proceeding merely results in throwing good money after bad. There are, I know, plenty of honest bookmakers. A bookmaker is not, however, necessarily honest because he sends out a circular or advertises in a newspaper, and it is amazing that so many simpletons should be found ready to open betting accounts with men of whom they know nothing beyond what they have learned from such circulars or advertisements. Below are the names of some of the betting agents whom I have had occasion to mention during the past year:—

ANTHONY AND EDGE, 48, Dover-street, W.—Victimised a number of backers last summer. Information was given to Scotland Yard, but the reply was that "the police did not deal with gambling transactions."

AYCKBOURN, R., Trafalgar-buildings, 1, Charing Cross-road, W.C.—A welsher.

CHALLIS AND Co. (alias Robert Wilson), Balfour House, Finsbury-pavement.—Sought to evade payment of a debt by setting up the defence of the Gaming Act, which led Judge Lumley Smith to remark that Wilson "admitted that he was a rogue."

DE COSTA, I., 39, Bond-street, Brighton.—Did business illegally on the deposit system.

DRAKE, JOE, St. Leonards, and Flushing.

GRANT, FRANK, 7, Union-court, E.C., and The Hague, Holland.—Prosecuted by the City Police and fined £100 for running his business on the deposit system. Besides breaking the law in that way, he also welshed some of his clients.

MAGNUS, ARTHUR, Flushing, Holland.—Started a Continental office after being fined at Liverpool for conducting a deposit-system business.

MAY AND CO., R., 63, Tamworth-road, Croydon, and 12A, Brewer-street, London, S.W.

MURRAY, COOPER, AND CO., 13, Sackville-street, W.—So long ago as 1902 a swindling bookmaker was using this alias. He revived it again last year, and again defrauded a number of backers.

NASH AND CO., 6, Lisle-street, Leicester-square.—Another welsher.

NEVIL, G. H., 10, Paradise-street, W.—When asked for money which he has failed to pay on settling day this welsher wires pretending that there has been an oversight, and promising to put the matter right. Meanwhile he invites the backer to continue betting. If the backer falls into this booby-trap the probability is that his winning account will be thereby converted into a losing one. In that event he goes on doing business—that is, paying his losses—to the bookmaker without realising that he has been tricked. On the other hand, if the further bets happen to increase the amount due to him from the bookmaker, the latter can still welsh him just as easily as before. Another of Nevil's dodges for gaining time is to put up a clerk to state that he is dangerously ill.

ROBERTS, W., Brockley.—A "turf accountant" who also turns his attention to betting on football matches.

SHERWARD, JOHN, 91, Crown-road, Twickenham.—A "turf accountant" censured in TRUTH for circularising the grooms at a country house.

THOMAS AND CO., ARTHUR, 51, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.—Offered to pay an Army officer if he would "influence" his fellow officers to do business with them.

WALLACE, R. B., 239, High Holborn, W.C.

Lord Durham has denounced the whole tribe of circularising and advertising tipsters as scoundrels, a curse to the Turf and to the country. This is strong language but not a bit too strong, for through the tipsters' essentially fradulent pretences in regard to their sources of information and the infallibility of their tips hosts of simpletons who cannot afford to risk their money are beguiled into the ruinous habit of backing horses. Here are the names of some of the false prophets of the Turf whom I have pilloried during the past year:—

BESTON, E. W., Brighton.—For some years now this individual has been notorious as the most mendacious and unprincipled rogue among the shady fraternity of touting tipsters, outdistancing all his rivals in the extent of his raids upon the pockets of the gullish herd of backers. He uses many accommodation addresses in Birmingham and the neighbourhood, and the list of his aliases is too long to be given in full, but I may mention that among the names he has assumed are those of "Dan Bruce," "Miss Flossie Beresford," "Percy Macdonald," "James Brown," "E. Allsopp," "George Graham," "John Bull," "George Leslie," "Walter Hooley," "Reginald Vernon," "Fred A. Black," "Lionel G. Milton," "Lucky Joe," "Jupiter," "Walter Owen," "Captain George Somerville," "George Westwood," "Nat Thomas," "Herbert Gordon," and "The Major." Besides issuing circulars and advertisements in these aliases, this Protean rascal has also from time to time published swindling journals under the titles of *The Midland Referee, The Winning Guide, The Racing Champion, The Starter, The Thunderbolt, Stable Secrets, The Secret Special*, and *The National Sportsman*. One of his dodges is to trap the unwary into subscribing for these rags (for which a high price is charged) by distributing bogus "specimen copies" purporting to have been published before some big race, but actually printed after the result was known and the name of the winner could be inserted as a "prediction."

"COURSE AND CLUB," Red Lion-square, London.

FELLOWS, R., 28, Upper George-street, Hyde Park.—A sharp using an accommodation address.

GOODWIN, HARRY, Ashley House, Newmarket.

HORNSBY, FRED, Newmarket House, South Norwood.

LOVATT, PAUL, "V. S.," 121, Dulwich-road, Herne Hill.

MILLS, GEORGE, 49, Newgate-street, E.C.—Issues a tipster's sheet of the usual worthless and misleading character, called "The Turf Speculator."

MOORE, J., 34, Leigh-road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

NEWMARKET RACING EXCHANGE, Parliament-chambers, S.W.

PIZZEY, M. B., Heath Villa, Ascot.—At one time Pizzey, as a touting tipster, was able to trade upon the fact that he owned some racehorses, but owing to the comments of TRUTH the Jockey Club put an end to that scandal. Pizzey ceased to be an owner and was reduced to the position of an ordinary tipster—a very ordinary tipster, judging from the persistence with which his most cocksure predictions are falsified by the event.

PRITCHARD, J. (alias Selfe), Vue Tamise, Putney, S.W.

RICHARDSON, W., 12, Grenville-street, Brunswick-square, W.C.

TOWER, TOM, Maidenhead.—One subscriber to this prophet's "Imperial One-Horse Wires" got four winners out of thirty-five telegrams.

TAYLOR, HAWLEY, 12, Old Burlington-street, W.

WILLING AND CO., 41, Stafford-street, N.W.—A harpy having, of course, no right to the name he impudently assumed.

YATES, WALTER, 82, Grovesnor-street, W.

"Z," "CONSTITUTIONAL," Upton, Torquay.—This tipster adorns his card with the inscription "Direct Club Connection, R.C., N.S.R., C.C." It is surmised that the last two initials stand for Common Cheat.

The following are some of the betting system harpies against whom I have specially warned the public. It is evident that there are a great number of greenhorns ready, not only to believe in the existence of infallible systems of betting, but to hand over their cash without security or inquiry to any stranger offering to invest it in the working of a system:—

ARNOLD AND WOOD, The Hague, Holland.—Offer to work any betting system—if you will trust them with your money.

BRAIN BROTHERS, 3, City-road, E.C.

DAWSON, JOHN G., Bushberry, Wolverhapton.—This self-styled "turf accountant and stable commissioner" invited subscriptions for shares in what he called "mutual books," the capital entrusted to him to be used in both backing and laying operations, which, according to his account, were so arranged that a profit was bound to be made. Needless to say, the capital (also according to his account) was lost, and the "guarantee" that he had given to the guileless shareholders proved to be worthless.

"FRIAR FRANCIS," 27, Addycomb-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Invites greenhorns to pay him £5 5s. for the secret of an infallible system.

"JOCKEY'S OPINION," Sandland-street, London.—Practises the same swindle as "Turf News."

LESTER, J. A., 25, Richmond-road, E.C.—Uses as his lure the old, fallacious, discredited first-favourite system, promising a profit of 10s. a week on each £5 handed over to him for "investment."

NORTH, ERNEST, Winchester House, High-street, Hull.—A system swindler who ought to have been prosecuted by the local police.

SECURITY INVESTMENT SOCIETY, THE, 28, Damrak, Amsterdam,—The usual betting-system fraud.

"TURF NEWS," Hand-court, London.—By means of mendacious advertisements in provincial newspapers the rascal trading under the above title has bamboozled many greenhorns into paying him 20s. for a "wonderful system," which is, in fact, the absolutely unworkable one of "backing the last horse named in the betting returns."

WOOD, C., 148, Old-street, E.C.—A swindler who promises a return of 4s. per week on each £1 entrusted to him for "investment."

To complete this section of my Cautionary List I must add a general warning against the numerous so-called "competitions" and sweepstakes in connection with racing and football which are carried on from offices on the Continent, mostly in Holland. Some are downright swindles and there is no real security that any of them are honestly conducted.

BUCKET-SHOP KEEPERS AND SHARE-PUSHERS.

Appended is a list of various firms and individuals against whom the public have been warned by the City Editor of TRUTH. It will be seen that in spite of occasional prosecutions by the police there has been little or no diminution in the number and the activity of the bucket-shop brigade, nor is it to be expected that such sharks will cease to infest the City so long as the public afford them such easy prey. There seems to be an inexhaustible number of flats always ready to send money in to any plausible rogue who promises to return a big profit, no matter how ludicrously incredible his statements may be. Very often, too, the bucket-shop is closed and the proprietor has vanished (only, of course, to reappear elsewhere under a new alias) before the police make up their minds to take action—a process which might surely be quickened in most cases:—

BLYTHE, GOULD, AND CO., 25, Lawrence-lane; THE GLOBE AND LANCASHIRE STOCK EXCHANGE (same address); GORDON, RICHMOND, AND BROTHER, Imperial-buildings; and FIFE, HAMILTON, AND CO., 42, New Bridge-street. — Bucket-shops run by two swindlers, named Edward Wilfred Donnalton (alias E. Pellett) and John Hollingworth.

BULL, MARTIN, 7, Fenchurch-buildings, E.C.—One of the most blatant members of the bucket-shop brigade. Women are always the favourite prey of these gentry, and Bull has more than once shown himself to be a particularly dangerous creature by directing his misleading circulars to girls under age. From time to time I have had complaints from customers of this man, who, having been so exceptionally lucky as to make a profit, were unable to get the cash from him.

CASSELL AND LANGTON, 34-36, Gresham-street, E.C.—Describing themselves as stock and share brokers, these people from time to time issue circulars inviting strangers to advance a client of theirs a loan of £200 for a month, the client offering £25 for the accommodation, giving as security over £600 worth of fully paid up preference shares in a sound dividend paying company. Obviously a "ramp."

CHARLES AND CO., Moorgate-street, E.C.—For two years past I have published warnings against this bucket-shop harpy (real name, Frederick Speigel), whose flagrantly dishonest methods of business ought to have long since received the attention of the police. In one of the last cases which I noticed Charles obtained £25 from a victim by deluding him with a statement that "there was no limit to the time shares might remain open," and then compulsorily closing the account the moment the cover was exhausted.

MORGAN CORCORAN, MESSRS., 14, Great Winchester-street, E.C.—Recommend purchases on "reliable news from exceptionally well-informed quarters," which, needless to say, proves to be erroneous.

COVENTRY AND CO., CHARLES, Trafalgar-buildings, Northumberland-avenue, W.C.—A notorious bucket-shop.

CURRIE AND CRISP, 68-70, Queen-street, E.C.

CLEMENT AND HAYES, 19, Buckingham-street, W.C.

CUNLIFFE, RUSSELL, AND CO., Paris.—For years past the people trading under this name have been engaged in selling Continental government and municipal premium or lottery bonds at exorbitant prices to customers unaware of the fact that such bonds can be procured on more advantageous terms through various reputable channels in London. In a number of cases Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. have been sued in the Paris Courts and compelled to refund the money they had obtained from victims in this country. As to the bonds, even the best of them only offer a very meagre direct return with a very remote chance of winning a prize. The pretence that the bonds afford a good investment is preposterous; they merely provide a very unsatisfactory method of gambling.

DOUGLAS, CAIRN, AND CO., Crown-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.—Bucket-shop philanthropists of the usual type.

FINANCIAL GUARDIAN, THE, 2, Tokenhouse-buildings, E.C.—My cautionary list for 1904 contained a warning against "Chalmers and Cox," who, from this address distributed grossly deceptive circulars respecting the big profits that could be made by buying shares, such as Rio Tintos, just before the payment of the dividend. "Chalmers and Cox" disappeared, but last year precisely the same game was being played from the same address, under the new name of the Financial Guardian.

FRY AND CO., 34, Coleman-street, E.C.—In September this bucket-shop was closed, probably in order that the firm might start another elsewhere under a new alias.

FOREIGN LOTTERY AGENTS.—The public have been repeatedly warned in TRUTH against the German and other foreign lottery agents, usually styling themselves "bankers," whose circulars are distributed in this country. Not only is the business illegal here, but it is open to objection on other grounds. Some of these agents are downright swindlers. Practically all of them issue prospectuses which are grossly misleading, in regard to the conditions upon which the lotteries are conducted. As a rule, the first payment for which the agent asks only admits to the first of a series of drawings, and it is not until several successive tickets have been taken, at a cost of several pounds, that the holder gets a chance of winning a prize which (after the deduction of the usual charges) will be worth having. There are then enormously long odds against him, amounting in the last stage to about 100,000 to 1.

FREEBORN, FRANKLIN, AND CO., 12, Bank-street, Manchester.

GLASS, R. E., 8, Union-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.—Was engaged in peddling the shares of a Yankee concern, called the Big Four Mining and Milling Company, of Deadwood, South Dakota.

HANMER AND CO., MESSRS., Mellor's-buildings, Liverpool, and the Royal Exchange, Manchester.—Sent out a circular recommending a speculation in cotton futures—a business which amateurs should leave severely alone.

HENNEQUIN, EDWARD C., 8, Park-avenue, Ilford.—This benevolent gentleman, having heard that certain shares were likely to rise to £4, wished to get rid of fifty at 17s. 6d. each!

HUMBERT, WILLIAM, NEPHEW AND CO., Wardrobe-chambers, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.—Distribute the usual bucket-shop literature, and carry on the usual bucket-shop business.

IVES, ANDERSON, AND CO., 51, Bishopsgate-street Within.—Have what they call an "ideal system" account, which is of the old familiar, delusive type.

IMPERIAL STOCK AND SHARE EXCHANGE, 19-21, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.—For a year or two past this firm seems to have been able to find fools to believe their heroic stories of "special stock deals," realising in a few days a profit ranging from a modest £8—that appears to be about the minimum—to as much as £22 on every £10 subscribed. The dupes who expect that they are going to get such a return upon any money that they send to these philanthropists certainly need the lesson they receive.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES SYNDICATE, THE, 23, Westminster Palace Gardens, S.W.—Some time ago these people were anxious to make money for guileless strangers by means of "operations" in French Rentes. More recently they have been flooding the country with seductively worded circulars and pamphlets counselling investments in foreign municipal and other premium or lottery bonds, for which, like the above-mentioned firm of Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., they ask a most excessive price. A few weeks ago the syndicate were prosecuted under the Lottery Acts, but though the charge failed the magistrate took occasion to warn the public of the exorbitance of the prices charged for the bonds. And this, of course, is not the only or the most cogent reason for avoiding firms of this kind.

IREDALE AND CO., J. HENRY, 12, Rumford-place, Liverpool.—Were last year pushers of shares in various obscure Welsh gold mining and other companies.

INDUSTRIAL TRUST AND ASSETS CORPORATION, LIMITED, THE, 50, Cannon-street, E.C.

MACKENZIE, JOHN B., 22, Rood-lane, E.C.—"The small investing classes," Mackenzie wrote in one of his innumerable circulars, "show a lamentable lack of foresight in choosing their investments." Very true, and the best evidence of this lack of foresight is the fact that so many small investors are gammoned into transferring their money to the pockets of harpies like Mackenzie.

MELVILLE, GLYN, AND CO., Paris.—Carry on the same business as Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., in much the same way.

MILNE, SON, AND HAMILTON, 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.—Another bucket-shop.

MORGAN, ROLAND, 33, Old Broad-street, E.C.—For two guineas a week he would impart his valuable advice by wire or letter, Being a "successful operator," he did not do this as a means of making a living, but simply because "it is good for a man to be continually employed." A very likely story.

MALABAR RUBBER PLANTATIONS, LIMITED, 45, Finsbury-square, E.C.—A concern offering to sell "rubber land in Malabar, Southern India," at £40 per acre (payable £5 down and £2 10s. quarterly), the price to include "planting and cultivating the trees till they are ready for tapping"!

METROPOLITAN STOCK, SHARE, AND DEBENTURE ASSOCIATION, THE, 257, High Holborn, W.C.—This bucket-shop was run by one, Arthur H. Mowbray.

MINING AND GENERAL INVESTMENTS CORPORATION, THE.—The office of the parties using this high-sounding title was situated at Hounslow.

LONDON AND BRITISH STOCK AND SHARE EXCHANGE, THE, 79, Queen-street, E.C.—Recently came out with a long-winded circular containing the usual fairy tales of the "splendid success" that had been achieved "week after week" with "our special stock operations," in which they were, of course, unselfishly desirous that strangers should participate.

LONDON AND SCOTTISH STOCK EXCHANGE, THE, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C.—The "stock union scheme of operating" is this bucket-shop's euphemism for the customary blind pool.

SHIPWORTH AND WATSON, 2, Dunedin-house, Basinghall-avenue, E.C.—Details were given in TRUTH of a case in which these people swindled a lady in connection with a purchase "on margin" of Canadian Pacifics.

STOCK EXCHANGE INVESTMENT AND GENERAL AGENCY, LIMITED, THE, 3, Crosby-square, E.C.—Subscriptions were invited by Mr. E. Preston, the managing director of the agency, for a blind pool operation, which was the subject of a warning in TRUTH. Mr. Preston protested against this, but I considered that the warning was justifiable.

TYLER AND CO., WILLIAM, Pinners House, Old Broad-street, E.C.—Bamboozle ignorant people with stories of the large profits that can be made by buying shares on which large dividends have been declared, but not yet paid, the fact that the dividend will be deducted from the quoted price being, of course, studiously ignored.

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(*Continued from page* 334.)

have stood out lately amongst Brazilian Rails. Owing to the movement of a heavy coffee crop and the fact that the comparison is now being made against a period when the Company suffered severely from floods, current earnings look very fine. Already since the beginning of the year the receipts amount to £68,000, an advance of £18,600, and the Company is likely to continue forging ahead for some weeks to come. There is some talk, too, of the dividend in respect of 1906 being raised from 4 to 4½ per cent., though on this point it would perhaps be well not to count too confidently, because while the Company showed an increase in gross earnings for the twelvemonth of £55,000, it will have to set against this the provision required to meet the balance of special expenditure entailed by the floods—a matter estimated at £45,000. It is not unlikely that Leopoldinas may have a further moderate rise between now and May, when the annual accounts are published. Whether the stock is worth locking away is, however, another matter, seeing that certain sections of the line will rather more than forty years hence revert (without payment) to the State Government in connection with guarantees now being received. Negotiations have for some time been proceeding with a view to modifying this arrangement, but up to the present nothing tangible appears to have resulted, and in any case it is unlikely that the Company will be able to induce the Government to waive its reversionary claim to the property without offering something in return that must materially affect the position of the stockholders. Guayaquil and Quito Railway Six per Cent. bonds have shown marked weakness. The January coupon has been paid—a month late—but the struggle experienced in meeting it is making bond-holders wonder how the money is to be got together to pay the next coupon. Judging by the Foreign Office report upon the trade of Ecuador, published the other day, the outlook is by no means alluring.

Kaffir Business on a Small Scale, but a Firm Undertone Maintained—Deep Levels Show Signs of Increased Attention—Diamonds Irregular.

Business in the Kaffir market, as in other sections, has been restricted by the uncertainty surrounding the outlook for American Rails, while for a time the apprehension felt with regard to the outcome of the settlement consequent upon the heavy differences which had to be met in some quarters also rendered speculators chary of increasing their commitments. Liquidation has been in progress, and the Kaffir market has not escaped altogether from the pressure, but, considering the lack of fresh support from outside, and that the leading houses have apparently left the market to look after itself, it must be said that this department has well withstood the adverse influences. No material relapse in prices has occurred, while on any signs of improvement in the general outlook the Kaffir speculative favourites have not been slow to show a tendency to advance. This affords evidence that the market is still in a healthy condition, and augurs well for the time when the "shops" may deem it propitious to lend support and start a fresh upward movement. But for the time being the uncertainty surrounding the American outlook seems likely to restrict speculation in the Kaffir and other markets. Some disappointment has been occasioned by the Gold Trust financial statement, though the passing of the dividend had been generally anticipated, in view of the further fall in South African Mining descriptions during the past year, and of the fact that the Company received no dividend last November on its large holding of Gold Fields shares. The profit balance of £57,019 announced by the Gold Trust Directors in respect of the past year's operations, compares with more than twice that sum a year ago, and unfortunately it has again been necessary to write off a very large amount—£364,456—for depreciation. Since the accounts were made up, however, there has been some improvement among the shares in which the Gold Trust is largely interested, and there seems reason to hope that the Company will be able to improve its position during the current year. Below I give a short table of prices of the leading speculative counters of the Kaffir market—the more comprehensive list will be published next week—and it will be seen that Gold Trusts exhibit the largest movement:—

Share.	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Apex	4¼	4⅜	+ ⅛
Consolidated Gold Fields	4⅝	4¾	+ ⅛
East Rand	4¼	4⅜	+ ⅛
Geduld	2⅜	2⅜	—
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1¼	1⅛	− ⅛
Modderfontein (£4)	6⅝	6⅝	—
Randfontein	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
Rand Mines	7⅛	7⅜	+ ⅛
S. A. Gold Trust	2⅛	2¼	− ⅛

In regard to the labour outlook, further encouragement has been derived from the cabled summary of a speech made by Sir Richard Solomon, who appears to have modified his attitude on the Chinese question. According to the published report of his speech, he has come into line with the leaders of Het Volk in so far as he advocates the repatriation of the coolies only when they can be replaced by substitutes. This news has strengthened the belief in market circles that the present uncertainty as regards the labour outlook for the Rand mining industry will be satisfactorily removed at no very distant date, though there are still some who are sceptical as to the Boers subsequently practising what they are now preaching. Providing the labour supply is not interfered with, it is to be expected that greater activity will be displayed by those responsible for the management of the Rand gold mining industry. Some mines have been shut down on account of the uncertain outlook and of the difficulty of raising fresh funds pending a settlement of the important question of labour. Were the labour question assured, those in control would probably see their way to find the necessary money to restart operations. In view of my remarks last week as to the prospect of Deep Levels attracting more speculative attention in the early future, it is of interest to note that these descriptions have during the past week exhibited signs of going ahead, and when business generally becomes more brisk it seems probable that the Deeps will come in for a good share. Some further information has come to hand by cable respecting the South Rand development. A check borehole has been sunk, and while the results are not quite so high as the average of those previously announced, they are of value as affording additional evidence of the continuity of the reefs. A large amount of capital will be necessary to develop and equip this property, and to my mind this fact tends to increase the prospect of an amalgamation scheme being put forward eventually. As regards other Deep Level proportions, it is reported that the Cinderella Deep is opening up in a gratifying manner, and a cable just to hand from the Knight Central states that recent developments in that mine show considerable improvement. Turning to the list of producing deep levels, it is worth noting that the Robinson Deep has got its full complement of 300 stamps working, and in the current month or March this mine should begin to show its great capabilities as a gold-winner. At present the two principal contributors to the Rand gold output are the Simmer and Jack and the Robinson, but when it gets into its full stride the Robinson Deep will probably assume the premier position. It is expected that the 300 stamps will treat 40,000 to 45,000 tons of ore per month, and an estimate has been made that the monthly profits should be about £47,800. In this event something like £525,000 per annum should be available for distribution among the shareholders, after making allowance for the profits tax. A dividend of 50 per cent. per annum would require £490,000, and would represent a return of rather more than 9 per cent. upon the current market price of the shares. The principal Diamond descriptions have continued to participate in a very fair amount of business, but have shown no decided general tendency. No more has been heard about the De Beers new issue, with which rumour

was busy recently. The latest market report is that De Beers and Jagersfontein are to be amalgamated, but the story—which, I believe, has been circulated on more than one previous occasion—has received little credence. Premiers have shown a better tendency, in view of a report as to favourable developments, an unofficial cable stating that several new rich zones have been encountered in the eastern portion of the mine. New Vaal Rivers have fluctuated widely, profit-taking following any marked advance.

Chartered Fairly Active, but Rhodesians Generally Quiet—Little Change Among Prices.

Chartered have received a fair amount of attention, but Rhodesians generally have been very quiet, the market still awaiting a stimulus; and meanwhile prices fluctuate within narrow limits. On the whole the tendency during the past week has been rather dull in the absence of fresh support, but Chartered have kept pretty steady throughout, and on balance it will be seen show no net change:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	7/16	1/2	1/2	—
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2 1/8	1 15/16	1 13/16	1 13/16	—
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	4/-	4/-	—
Globe & Phœnix	1 1/16	1/2	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
Lomagunda Development	2 1/8	3/4	1 3/16	1 1/16	- 1/16
Mashonaland Agency	1/2	1/4	1/2	8/6	-10½d.
Northern Copper	2 1/16	1/2	1 23/32	1 25/32	- 1/32
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	3 1/4	1 1/16	2 1/8	2 1/16	- 1/16
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/16	1 1/2	2 5/32	2 1/8	- 1/32
Rice Hamilton	1 3/4	7/16	7/16	1/2	- 1/32
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	6/-	6/-	—
Tanganyika Concessions	8 1/16	3 1/2	6 23/32	5 23/32	- 1/4
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	9/-	8/6	-6d.
Zambesia Exploring	2 3/8	3/4	1 11/32	1 11/32	- 1/16

I understand that the Chartered report, which is awaited with so much interest, is not likely to be issued for a few weeks, so that market men and shareholders have some time yet wherein to exercise patience. In the meantime, it may be of interest to recall the official anticipations that have been indulged in in respect of the period covered by the forthcoming report. It was originally estimated that the revenue of Southern Rhodesia for the year ended March, 1906, would be £518,550, and the expenditure £531,349, as against the actual amounts of £456,385 and £590,139 respectively for the previous twelve months. Subsequently it was announced that it was possible that there might be a small surplus instead of a deficit, and a little later, at the meeting of the Chartered Company last March, the chairman definitely stated that "for the first time since 1896 the revenue from Southern Rhodesia will have balanced the expenditure in that territory during the financial year ending on the 31st of the present month." In respect of Northern Rhodesia it was estimated the revenue would be £58,125 and the expenditure £148,306, and while the actual figures to be announced may be a little more satisfactory it will be recognised that Northern Rhodesia has still much progress to make before the Chartered Company will be free from financial strain in respect of it. Of course, Southern Rhodesia has yet to reach the stage of a self-supporting state considered from an administrative point of view. If it has ceased to make demands upon the Chartered Company's cash working capital, that result can only have been attained by the application of some of the commercial revenue from that territory to meet the administrative deficit.

Westralians Receive Rather More Attention—Sharp Advance in Horseshoes—Sons of Gwalia and Cosmopolitan Developments.

Rather more business has been transacted in the Westralian market during the past week than hitherto of late, speculative interest having been stimulated by the receipt of news from one or two of the mines, while in addition rumour has been rife in regard to one of the usually most active shares. As regards movement in price, Golden Horseshoes have been the chief feature. These shares have scored a substantial advance, and various stories have been circulated in explanation of the spurt. Very favourable developments in the mine have been talked of, while according to a second rumour the rise in the shares was due to buying in anticipation of the early issue of the Directors' report, which, it was asserted, would be found to make an excellent showing as regards the ore reserve's position. The report is not usually issued till April, so that it will be very early if it does make its appearance this month. A third rumour was that a large speculator in Paris had been caught short of the shares. While Horseshoes exhibit a large advance on the week—a portion of which, however, has since been lost, as the favourable rumours have not been confirmed—it will be seen from the following table that the other leading Westralians have only altered slightly:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 1/4	- 1/16
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/8	1/2	1 1/16	1 1/16 xd.	+ 6d.*
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/3	6/3	+1/6
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 9/16	4 3/8	5 1/16	6 3/8	+1/8
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/-	25/3	+/3d.
Do Perseverance	13/-	7/3	8/-	8/-	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 1/16	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/16	- 1/16
Hainault	1 1/8	1 1/4	1 23/32	1 23/32 xd.	-/3d.*
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/2	6 1/8	7 1/8	7 1/8 xd.	+ 1/16*
Kalgurli	12 3/4	8 3/4	11 3/4	11 3/4	- 1/4
Lake View Consols	1 1/16	7/16	1/2	17/32	+ 1/32
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	21/-	20/9	-/3d.
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	2 7/32	2 7/32	—
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 3/32 xd.	-/3d.*
South Kalgurli	1 1/8	1/4	7/32	7/32	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 15/16	1 1/2	2 1/16	2 1/16	- 1/4
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/4	6/6	6/3	-/3d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	—

* Allowing for deduction of dividend.

The allusion made above to news received from the mines has reference to the cables issued by the Sons of Gwalia and Cosmopolitan Proprietary Companies. The shares of the latter sharply advanced on the publication of the cable, but Sons of Gwalia have been neglected, the importance of the developments announced apparently not being recognised. They are, however, significant and should not be ignored by shareholders, as they improve the prospects of the mine to by no means a trifling extent. The position appears to be that the new southern ore chute located a few months ago at the No. 7 level in the Sons of Gwalia has now been proved at the No. 9 and the No. 13 levels. The widths reported so far are very satisfactory, while the values if not high are payable. It remains, of course, to be seen to what extent the ore-reserves will be augmented by the development of the new chute; meantime the cabled news affords considerable encouragement to shareholders who, in the last twelve months, have had to face a reduction of output and of the rate of dividend. There has recently been some talk of the next dividend having possibly to be still further reduced to 9d. per share compared with recent distributions of 1s. per share, and as the mine has not yet been able to increase its output it is by no means certain that the lower figure will not have to be declared. Even 9d. per quarter, however, would represent a yield of about 11 per cent. on the current price of the shares, and it does not seem probable that the directors would be obliged to keep down the rate at that figure for more than one quarter. The prospect of enjoying a new lease of life is also held out to the Cosmopolitan, judging from the latest cable from the mine, which announces the proving of over 30 ft. of payable ore of good width on the extension of the No. 11 level. A few weeks ago the Company announced that crushing operations had been temporarily suspended pending the opening up of the southern ore chute in the No. 12 level and the prospecting of the new northern leases by the extension of the Nos. 9 and 11 levels. Already shareholders' hopes are raised by the cable now to hand, and, besides, there is ground for hope that work at the No. 12 level will also prove something satisfactory. Ore of 5 dwts. value (£1 per ton) is profitable to work at the Cosmopolitan, thanks to the reduction in costs the managers have been able to effect, so that if any quantity of the material going over £4 per ton is

proved, the Company will do well. The fortunes of the "Cosmop." are not, however, solely dependent upon its Westralian property. As I mentioned the other week, it is acquiring the Phœnix tin mine in Cornwall, and, in addition, it has a one-quarter interest in a deep lead proposition which will probably be floated when times are propitious. As the Company still has a large sum of cash in hand the price ruling for the shares appears to allow little or nothing for possibilities. London and W. A. Explorations have moved in sympathy with Zincs, in which, as I mentioned last week, the Company has a large holding. The Company has also a considerable share interest in the Australian Commonwealth Trust, and therefore stands to benefit from any fresh upward movement in the Deep Leads group. Further, the L. and W. A. Exploration has, like the Cosmopolitan, a one-quarter interest in a deep lead property. Deep Leads remain inactive and seem likely to continue so for a while longer, as I understand that news as to entering the "wash" at the Loddon Valley, on which interest is centred, is not expected to come to hand for about a month yet.

Little Change in West Africans—Broken Hills and Coppers Irregular—Zincs Again Active—Waihi Results—Siberian Props. Further Slump.

While very little change has occurred among the prices of the principal West Africans, the market has not been stagnant during the past week, and dealers appear to still be hopeful of interest in these descriptions broadening in the early future. It is argued that prices here are at such a low level that little or nothing is allowed for possibilities. The current market value of Prestea Block A, for instance, is said to be fully represented by the ore actually developed. The Broken Hill group has been active, and prices have moved irregularly. Zincs have continued to receive chief attention among these descriptions. At first it seemed as though those interested in forcing down the price of Zincs would have things all their own way. Adverse rumours were again freely circulated, weak "Bull" speculators were frightened into realising, and the market was in such a nervous state that dealers were rather encouraged to become short of the shares. Thursday, however, witnessed a marked change for the better. Instead of persisting that the plant was a failure, the rumour-mongers took the opposite line, and a statement was spread through the market that a cable had been received to the effect that the Corporation was proved to be a commercial success. This naturally gave rise to uneasiness among those who were short, and a scramble to repurchase ensued. This they did not find very easy at prices satisfactory to themselves, the "Bull" account having been considerably reduced, and insiders not being at all anxious to supply the demand and thus relieve the position of those who had been doing their best to destroy confidence in the undertaking. Consequently, there was a sharp recovery in the quotation. It will probably be a week or more before the whole of the new plant is got into proper working order, and in the interim fresh attempts may be made to force down the shares in order to enable those who are desirous of getting in to do so to better advantage, but any relapse is likely to be only of a temporary character. Those in the best position to form an opinion are confident of the success of the enterprise, and that this confidence is shared by many others is indicated by the fact that an extremely large number of the shares was taken off the market at the settlement last week. The other Broken Hill shares have for the most part moved in sympathy with Zincs. After being weak they have rallied, the market being all the better for the reduction in the "Bull" account recently effected. Block 10's have been a strong feature, the latest return being regarded as highly satisfactory. This mine is in a very strong position in regard to the important matter of ore reserves, and the price of the shares has hitherto only been kept back by the possibility of another "creep." Now, however, the fears of serious trouble in the event of another movement in the workings seem to have been dispelled. The leading Copper shares have been very irregular, having been to some extent influenced by the tendency of the American market. The latest metal statistics are very satisfactory, a reduction being shown of no less than 3,470 tons in visible supplies of copper on the fortnight. This should help to keep up the prices of the shares of the principal producing mines and encourage speculation in Copper shares generally. Arizonas have benefited from a satisfactory dividend announcement, 3s. per share being declared on the Ordinary, which makes 5s. 3d. in all for 1905-6, or 105 per cent. For 1904-5 the distributions totalled 3s. 9d. per share, or 75 per cent. It is confidently expected that a further material advance in profits will be scored by this Company during the current year. Now that the weak "Bull" element seems to have been shaken out of the market in the Australian Copper descriptions which have been introduced on the market here during the last few months, there is a better tendency in evidence. Mount Lyells, as expected, have picked up, satisfactory news as to developments continuing to come to hand. Some of the smaller-priced issues have also been in fair request. There has been some talk of a probable early dividend being declared by the Mungana (Chillagoe), the amount foreshadowed being 2s. per share; but I have made inquiries in quarters usually well-informed with regard to the Australian propositions, and I am unable to confirm this rumour. My information is that there is not likely to be a dividend on Munganas until after the close of the current financial year, which terminates at the end of June next, and that it is improbable that the first distribution will be more than 1s. per share. However, the Mungana has of late improved its position very considerably, and possibly by the end of this year may have announced distributions amounting in all to 2s. per share, while it is considered probable that eventually the Company will be able to earn profits at the rate of 3s. to 4s. per share per annum, or 60 to 80 per cent. on its capital, the shares being of the nominal value of 5s. each. A little improvement is noticeable here and there among Tin shares. Dolcoaths are a very firm market awaiting the Directors' report, which, as the preliminary output figures and the dividend have indicated, will be a very satisfactory one. The document is being awaited with more than ordinary interest in view of the important deal recently announced in connection with the mineral rights of the estate on which the Dolcoath and other mines are situated. It is understood that the Dolcoath Company is to be given the opportunity of paying a lump sum in commutation of the royalty payable to the new owners of the mineral rights, and it is wondered what policy the Directors will advise the shareholders to adopt. The Directors of the Briseis Tin Mines have declared another dividend, but it has had little effect upon the price of the shares. When the Company's bank balance was on the wrong side the shares were actively dealt in both here and in the Colony, but now that the deficit has been cleared off, and the Company has settled down to paying quarterly dividends, the shares receive scarcely any attention. For 1906 four dividends of 9d. per share and a bonus of a like amount have been paid, or 3s. 9d. in all, and the distribution just announced is the first on account of the current year. The price of the shares, however, remains at such a level that they yield a return of not far short of 30 per cent. per annum. The prospects of the undertaking are, of course, speculative, though not much more so than those of the majority of mining enterprises. Waihis show a little improvement, the announcement of the usual quarterly dividend of 3s. per share serving to direct some attention to the shares. In announcing the dividend, the Company issues a summary of the working results of the past year which shows that the amount of ore treated has steadily increased, and that the total quantity dealt with in 1906 amounted to 328.866 tons, compared with 298,531 tons in the preceding year. The yields, as

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

cabled, totalled £786,474 for the past year, compared with £728,521 actually realised for the 1905 output. It appears that the Waihi is "going strong" on tube mills. It has nine in use, and six more are being made, the intention being to work them in conjunction with the 200-stamp mill. This indicates further expansion of ore treatment, but it does not necessarily follow that the rate of profits will be materially increased. It may be decided to treat more of the lower-grade material and thus prolong the life of the mine. A good deal of attention has been directed towards the Siberian issues, mainly on account of the further heavy fall in the value of the most active member of the group—Siberian Props. At one time there was a smart rally, repurchases by operators for the fall being induced by a rumour as to a powerful syndicate intending to support the shares, but market men were unable to obtain confirmation of the report, and the price of the shares soon relapsed again. A lengthy circular has been issued by the Directors of the Company with the object of disposing of "certain statements of a misleading and injurious character relating to the Company's affairs." It is officially stated that the Company has not sold its shares in its subsidiaries, the Orsk and Troitzk, but neither the Directors' statement nor the letter issued therewith from "the firm most prominently identified with the Company's inception" definitely denies the allegation that has been made that insiders have unloaded a good many of their shares. Since the issue of the official circular the shares have further slumped, and it will be seen from the table below that they register a heavy loss on the week:—

Share	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Jan. 26, 1907.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/4	1 1/4	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	15/9	16/-	+/3d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/8	1 1/2	1 11/16	1 11/16	—
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Wassau	1 1/8	1/2	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	4/3	4/3	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	5/3	5/6	+/3d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	28/6	27/9	-9d.
Esperanza	5 1/16	2 1/2	2 1/16	2 1/16 xd.	+3/-*
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/2	1 1/2	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	43/-	42/6	-/6d.
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 1/16	4 1/16	5 1/16	+ 1/8
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	42/-	42/9	+/9d.
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 5/8	14 5/16	14/-	- 5/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	54/6	56/6	+2/-
Mount Morgan	4 1/2	3 1/4	4 3/8	4 1/4	+ 1/8
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 7/8	63 3/8	91 1/4	91 1/2	+ 3/8
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	26/6	27/-	+/6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 5/16	3/4	2 3/8	2 15/16	+ 5/16
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	24/6	23/1 1/2	-1/4 1/2
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	13/6	13/3	- /3
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	6 5/16	6 1/2	- 1/16
Siberian Mines	2 3/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 3/16	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 7/8	3 3/8	9 1/4	6 3/8	-2 3/8
Waihi	9 13/16	6 5/16	8 11/16	8 3/8	+ 1/8

* Allowing for deduction of dividend.

Old Bucket-shops and New.

Evidently age cannot wither nor custom stale the bucket-shop version of the venerable confidence trick. The flats go on tumbling into the same old trap, baited in the same old way, for all the world as if it were a new invention. To qualify yourself as a flat, it is above everything else necessary that you should have the most perfect faith in the goodness of your fellow-men, especially those who bombard you with circulars from offices in the City. All that you have to believe—only this and nothing more—is that the nice, kind gentleman who so eloquently exhorts you to get rich quick is a philanthropist carrying on business for your benefit and the benefit of all and sundry, rather than for his own selfish gain. If this does not make too deep a draft upon your credulity — why then, of course, you take his tip that a particular stock is bound to rise, send him as many pounds as you can afford—probably more—for a deal on his patent marginal deposit system, and when the cover has run off and he clamours for more, you make further remittances, until you come to the end of your resources, or perchance begin to realise that you are being fooled. It often takes people quite a long time to discover that the bucket-shop harpy's game is to predict an advance in stocks that are pretty sure to recede, so that he may annex the deposit without further question, while even if it should turn out that his prediction was correct—such accidents will happen—it does not by any means follow that he will hand over the profit that is supposed to have been made upon a purely imaginary account.

"Martin Bull," 7, Fenchurch-buildings, E.C., is still one of the most active of the practitioners in this line. As a rule, he is successful in putting his customers on to falling stocks, but complaints that have reached me show that the result is sometimes the same if a rise occurs—Bull retains the deposit. Another old acquaintance is John B. McKenzie, 23, Rood-lane, E.C., whose latest effusion—a very long-winded one—is headed, "To my special correspondents." In common with Martin Bull, this rascal is in the habit of addressing his circulars to married women, and in the past few days I have received a number of vigorously worded letters on the subject from husbands who not unnaturally object to this practice. W. Humbert, Nephew, and Co., Wardrobe-chambers, Queen Victoria-street, are again seeking to gull simpletons with a booklet purporting to show "how an investment of £5 may lead to a fortune." This result, improbable in any circumstances, may be regarded as quite an impossibility if the £5 is to be entrusted for "investment" to W. Humbert, Nephew, and Co. A concern using the high-sounding title of "The National Securities' Corporation," 181, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., professes to have lately carried out a "combined stock operation" in Southern Pacifics which resulted in a net profit of £17 10s. on every £5 share. Another operation in "a certain American railroad stock," bound, of course, to be still more successful, is now proposed; yet, instead of keeping this good thing to itself and its old clients, the so-called corporation ("James Lindsay, manager") is now inviting Tom, Dick, and Harry to share in the profits. Tom, Dick, and Harry are obviously regarded as congenital idiots. Ordinarily the bucket-shop keeper makes a pretence at politeness when he is pestering you with circulars. "James Kitson and Co.," 4, Mildmay-chambers, Bishopsgate-street Within, are trying a different tack. "If you are not dealing in stocks and shares," they say, "you might just as well have the courtesy to let us know, so that we may strike your name from our lists." For impudence this will require a lot of beating.

One of the dupes of Freeborn, Franklin, and Co., proprietors of a bucket-shop at Manchester, has sent me a voluminous correspondence narrating his melancholy experiences with that notorious firm. The main facts can be put in a few words. On the "important special recommendation" of the firm, he began a speculation in Home Railway stock by forwarding £5 for "margin." The stock persistently declined, but Freeborn, Franklin, and Co. as persistently urged him to keep it "protected," with the result that in the end he lost about £300, and was thereby ruined. This little story throws a much clearer light on the firm's methods of business than the "A B C Guide to the Stock Exchange," which they advertise so widely in the daily and weekly press.

Yankee Mining Bargains.

The British investor is now being given the precious privilege of acquiring at a discount shares in "The World's Greatest Gold Mine." Needless to say, the mine thus modestly and veraciously described in the prospectus is situated in America. It belongs to a concern called the Bishop Creek Gold Mine Co., of Inyo County, California. With the generosity and unselfishness which, as we all know, characterise the

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"American Railway Earnings and Dividends," by D. O. Croal, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—Effingham Wilson. Price 6d. net.

Yankee in matters of business, the promoters are most anxious that some of this wealth should find its way into the pockets of John Bull. A couple of months ago a certain A. Poulter, 30, Eversham House, Victoria Park, London, was peddling the five dollar shares in this Company at half price (10s. 5d.). He quoted a statement by the secretary that the shares were "going to be worth £20 each," and added that the price would be advanced to 12s. 6d. on December 1. Seemingly the price has dropped again, for some one calling himself "The Lombard Association," 45, Lombard-street, E.C., is at present offering the same shares at Poulter's old price of 10s. 5d., though it is now predicted that they will sell "for £60 each." Comment upon such a proposition would surely be superfluous. Why, indeed, should anybody think of paying 10s. 5d. each for shares in the Bishop Creek Gold Mining Co. when—as a circular that is now being distributed intimates—they can get shares in the Monte Cristo Mining and Development Co., of Reno, Nevada, for fifty cents each? It is true that this Company does not boast that its property is "the greatest gold mine in the world," but it affirms that it will be "the greatest wealth producer in the State," which is surely quite good enough. Besides, the Company encloses with its circular a facsimile of a letter from A. Victor Segno, of Los Angeles, California, who professes to have purchased 100,000 shares, and predicts "a big profit." Segno's association with the affair will convey its own moral to readers of TRUTH, in whose Cautionary List he has figured in past years, though he has latterly sunk out of notice. Yet another dazzling proposal is being submitted to the public by A. L. Wisner and Co., 78 and 80, Wall-street, New York. They give their word that you will have "perfect safety and large certain profits" if you will only put your money into the Goldfield Somerset Mining Co. And the one dollar shares are to be had at fifteen cents each—payable by instalments! On the other side of the Atlantic the British investor is evidently regarded as an ass—perhaps not unjustly.

NEW ISSUE.

The following prospectus is published:—

General Investors and Trustees, Limited.—This Company has been formed with a capital of £1,000,000 to conduct the business of a trust and investment company. It has already entered into an agreement to acquire securities and investments spread over twenty-five different undertakings, including railways, electric power and lighting, tramways, and industrials at a cost of £150,000, payable entirely in shares. The capital is divided into 100,000 4½ per cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each and 100,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each. The first issue consists of 60,000 Preference and 60,000 Ordinary shares, of which 20,000 Ordinary shares and 10,000 Preference shares are to be issued and credited as fully paid, in satisfaction of the purchase price of the securities, which, as above-mentioned, have been acquired as a first operation. Subscriptions are now invited for the remainder of this issue.

"TRUTH" LEITER BOX.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

RAILWAYS.

Doune Castle.—The immediate outlook is not very bright, in view of the recent disaster, and under the circumstances I should be inclined to sell. *Gama.*—What is your object in wanting to call the stocks before there is a profit on the deal? Evidently you do not understand the question of the stock being cum-dividend or ex-dividend; when you exercise the option is a nominal matter, so far as you are concerned, because, should you call the stocks after the dividends have been deducted, the amount of such dividends will be credited to your account. *L. S. S.*—Your proper course is to sell at once; in fact, you were very ill-advised to have speculated at all. Without knowing further details I am unable to advise upon the last point you raise. *Manitoba.*—No details have reached this side, but from inquiries I have made the market does not seem to attach much importance to the matter. It is apparently a legal quibble over some alleged infringement by the company of its charter, and does not appear likely to seriously prejudice the position of the stockholders. *F. E. P. O.*—Were you a regular reader you would have no need to ask my opinion of Trunks. A few weeks ago I went fully into the dividend question, and showed that unless the Board suddenly altered its policy as regards working expenditure for the final month of last year, the dividend upon the Third Preference could hardly be more than 2½ per cent. In any case I regard both Thirds and the Ordinary as promising lock-ups. *Guayaquil.*—1. An announcement that the January coupon would be paid was made the other day. I do not, however, think the bonds a desirable holding. 2. The stock seems high enough for the present, and unless you are prepared to sit upon it, better sell. 3. See rules.

MINES.

Ignoramus.—1. The scrip is valueless. 2. The undertaking has been absorbed by the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company. *R. M. L.*—There is little likelihood of a recovery in the near future to the prices you paid. Robinson Central Deep seem a promising selection. *M. C., Canonbury.*—I should leave the shares alone. *Argyll.*—You had better keep your present holdings in hope of some recovery later on. The proposed purchases are fair speculations. *Exon.*—The Company is likely to need more money to properly develop its property, and I see little attraction in a purchase of the shares. *Little Kaffir.*—1. A hopeful speculative lock-up. They are £4 shares. 2. You will doubtless have seen the announcement that the dividend has been passed, but you may as well keep the shares for some ultimate recovery. 3. A fair speculation for a moderate profit. 4. Robinson Central Deeps seem a hopeful purchase with a view to dividends. *Fife.*—Keep all for the present, but on moderate advances it would perhaps be as well to dispose of Nos. 1, 5, and 6. *Charlie.*—1. There appears little prospect of such a recovery. 2. It is doubtful whether sufficient will be forthcoming to justify a material advance in the price of the shares. 3. Dividend prospects seem remote. *Bill Sikes.*—They are 10s. shares, fully paid. 2. "The Mining Year Book," or the "Mining Manual." *Constant Reader, Plymouth.*—You are not entitled to retain the dividend, having sold before the shares have been marked "ex.d." *Wondering.*—Better secure a moderate profit.

MIXED SECURITIES.

R. J. W.—You could obtain the required yield by spreading the capital over the following:—Central London Railway Preferred, City and South London New Preference, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds, Imperial Tobacco Preference, Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway First Preference, Great Western of Brazil Six per Cent. Permanent Debentures, and Bovril Debentures. *Ceylon.*—The Internal bonds are less marketable than the External issues, but they are good enough to keep. Your requirements in the matter of exchange should be met by dividing the proceeds amongst United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, City and South London New Preference, Antofagasta and Bolivia Five per Cent. Preference, Buenos Ayres and Rosario Seven per Cent. Preference, San Paulo Five per Cent. Preference, Amalgamated Press Preference, and Pears' Preference. *Nirvana.*—United States Steel Corporation Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds and Pears' Preference would be suitable. Divide the money between the two. *Zeno.*—If you must sell, I would suggest parting with Nos. 6 and 8. The latter issue will, in any case, be paid off in April. *Arctic.*—Both well secured investments. No. 2 is not guaranteed by the Municipality but the Board, in the event of any deficiency in its ordinary revenue, possesses power to levy a special rate upon properties valued in the aggregate at £218,000,000. There should consequently be no question about the due payment of the interest. *Antelope.*—1-4. It would seem best to secure the present prices for these. It is stated with respect to No. 3 that unless developments improve the present rate of profits cannot be long maintained, and a fall in these shares would probably adversely affect No. 4. Hold No. 5. I do not see much likelihood of a material advance in No. 6. Canadian Pacifics should be retained as an investment. See my remarks in this week's issue. *K. C. W.*—1. You are under a misapprehension. The Simmer East is not one of the companies to be absorbed. 2. Dividend prospects are rather remote. It will be a good time yet before the mine reaches the crushing stage. 3. I have no special information. 4. I would suggest spreading the money over London and South-Western Railway Preferred, Hull and Barnsley Preference, Central London Preferred, Imperial Tobacco Preference, and National Telephone Third Preference. *Lex.*—1 and 2. The Corporation is doing very well, but in view

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of the dubious outlook for the market as a whole, I am afraid the shares are likely to go lower. 3. Glencairns appear a fair purchase, but are, of course, speculative. *Vancouver.*—1. Victoria Station and Pimlico issues are secured upon the joint guarantee of the Brighton, Chatham, and Great Western Railways. The rent, which is to be paid under an agreement running for 999 years (dating from 1858), is sufficient to pay 9 per cent. upon the company's Ordinary, while occasionally an extra ½ per cent. is distributed from its surplus income. You could scarcely obtain a safer investment. 2. Quite possible. *Armagh.*—1. Hold for the present. 2. Hold Arauco shares as a speculation. There has been an inquiry for them lately in view of the improvement in the company's position. 3. This company is now part of the Pahang Consolidated, and the new shares seem worth holding. 4. The company has been liquidated. 5. I cannot trace this concern. 6. Will make inquiries. 7. Hold these. 8. I have heard nothing recently about this company. 9. These may have some recovery later on. *Cardigan.*—1. Hold. 2. Such a rise is, in my opinion, doubtful. *Discrimination.*—1. Hold for a possible recovery and then cut your loss. 2. Recent developments have been very satisfactory, and I see no reason to advise a sale; but the shares are, of course, a speculative holding. 3. Altogether they seem a poor selection. *Griff.*—I do not see much attraction in 1 and 2, but 3 are a fair speculative purchase. 4 and 5. Humbers would make a promising purchase, especially upon any temporary re-action, and Argylls also are fairly attractive, but the other Motor shares you mention do not appeal to me. *Strebor.*—1. The matter need not alarm you, seeing that, on the authority of one of the directors, the loss likely to be suffered by the North-Western through the removal is "an infinitesimal drop in the bucket." 2. By exchanging into Colonial Inscribed stocks you could get another ¼ per cent., but that is the utmost you could hope for as a trustee. Cape Threes and Jamaica Threes are two examples of Colonial stock returning 3½ per cent. at present price. *H. M.*—I would suggest Buenos Ayres Western Railway New Four and a Half per Cent. Preference.

Miscellaneous.

J. T. F., Carrick-on-Suir.—Apply to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Somerset House, London. *Emeritus.*—The £10 Ordinary shares are fully paid up and involve no further liability. *M. J. G., Dublin.*—I do not reply to inquiries by post, nor can I recommend a broker. You can obtain a list of members of the Stock Exchange from the Secretary to the Committee, Stock Exchange, London, E.C. *Novice, Tenbury.*—The first two firms on the list have been adversely criticised in Truth. I advise you to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. *Novice, Catford.*—Have nothing to do with the International Securities Syndicate. If you want to purchase any of the bonds write to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street., E.C. *Colonial Investor.*—Do not think of embarking in any such system of speculation. It cannot be called an "investment," and as a speculator you would be at a hopeless disadvantage through being in British Guiana. *M. M. C., B.N. Borneo.*—Melville, Glyn, and Co., like Cunliffe, Russell and Co., charge exorbitant prices for the bonds. *L. A. P. R., Burma.*—See preceding answer. The other concerns you mention are unknown to me. *K. W., Ulverston.*—I am afraid you have no means of redress, though only a solicitor could give you a definite opinion. *Reader, Peterhead.*—No. *C. W. D., Bath.*—My advice is to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. *A. M. W., Borden Camp.*—I know nothing about these obscure companies, but do not take any shares without further inquiries. *Timid.*—The Charing Cross Bank is a common usury shop. *H. B. B.*—Providing you are prepared to accept the uncalled liability, I see no harm in advising the exchange. The concern is ably managed, and its prospects are bright. *H. C. E., Burgess Hill.*—The concern is one that might be profitably avoided. *California.*—Harrods make a good commercial investment, the Ordinary yielding just under 5 per cent. and the Cumulative Preference about 3⅞ per cent. *Collin.*—Sell Nos. 1 and 2, and put the proceeds into something more promising. Both have considerable arrears of interest to wipe off. 3. You may be able to get in cheaper by waiting a little. *H., Ipswich.*—As a high yielding industrial they are not altogether unattractive. *Bobi.*—The Bank share would make a fair holding, but I think the other might be improved upon. *Glory.*—It would be best to hold for a further recovery in the near future. *Gipsy.*—1. Hold for a recovery. 2. Do not fancy the shares. 3. It is now enjoying great prosperity. *Limerick.*—Hold for a recovery in the near future. *Kara Keel.*—You sold them before the earthquakes, etc., depressed shares of this kind. In these circumstances I do not think the exchange would prove very profitable, except perhaps for a "long shot." *Lavender.*—1. It is generally believed that they will experience a recovery in the near future. 2. Daimlers, Darracqs, and Argylls are attractive, especially if you watch the market, but not the other. *W. E., Chingford.*—1. I cannot trace the concern. 2. Leave it alone. *Cuboid.*—1. No, the "system" appears to be less attractive than they make out. 2. You could make a selection of Foreign Railway or Government bonds to bring in such a return and afford comparatively good security. 3. Leave it alone. 4. They are not fully paid yet, and are quoted at par—the amount paid up. Not unattractive. *Blob.*—The bank is thoroughly sound, and the new shares are well worth taking up. *Speculator.*—1. Do not average. 2. You should get them cheaper by waiting. See this week's comments on Americans. 3. I cannot make rules in order to break them. *Lucy.*—I cannot advise you as to the bank. For quotations of the shares you mention refer to the daily papers or the Stock Exchange Official List. *P. de S.*—Thanks for the paper. It seems to be a matter for a solicitor to deal with. *Beeston.*—I cannot recommend one. *Stock Pot.*—Your questions are rather too many. *Brook Street.*—Of course those two are better than the others. *Sunlight.*—For the sale and purchase of two separate stocks a commission is chargeable on each transaction. For the purchase and sale of the same stock in the same account only one charge is made.

Insurance.

W. J. B.—The Company is perfectly sound, and the policy a very good one, but before taking it I should ask the Norwich Union Life Office to quote you for a similar policy. For an almost identical contract, but for a different age, I recently found the Norwich better than the office you mention. I doubt if the bonus would be so good as you mention. *E. M. R.*—I shall be writing on this subject very soon, and shall quote some of your remarks, which are very much to the point, though I do not wholly agree with all you say. *Nogard.*—1. Scottish Amicable Minimum Premium Policy. 2. Norwich Union. 3. The company no longer issue the exact policy I referred to, but have something similar. The Norwich Union Life Office would quote you for the exact thing. *W. D. S.*—The Royal Exchange and the Ocean are both first-class companies. I would call your attention to the fact that the prospectus you send deals only with compensation in the event of accident, whereas you refer to the health of your servants. The insurance of compensation in the event of illness is rather expensive, except in regard to certain specific diseases, which neither occur often nor last long.

Industrials Inactive—Pekin Meeting—Insurance Shares in Request—Textiles Dull—Spurt in Lyons—Breweries Depressed.

Apart from two or three sporadic movements of no great importance, the condition of the Industrial market has been cheerless and inert. The anticipations of a quickening of interest and expansion of business founded upon the prosperous state of the country's trade and the recent reduction in the Bank rate still remain unfulfilled, and though everyone hopes that a turn for the better is coming very soon the most optimistic can scarcely say that it is yet in sight. The easier terms on which the carry-over was effected did little or nothing to brighten the situation, and the week closed without any appreciable improvement. The meeting of the Pekin Syndicate naturally attracted much attention, in view of the attacks that have been made upon the directors. While admitting that the past year had been full of disappointment, Mr. Carl Meyer warmly denied that the Board could have foreseen or prevented the difficulties that had occurred. Mr. Luzzatti, who secured the original concessions from the Chinese Government, repeated his criticisms of what he characterised as the amazing and deplorable policy of the directors in seeking first to work the Honan concession instead of setting about the exploitation of the infinitely more valuable coal and iron field which they possessed in the province of Shansi. However, the shareholders as a body showed no disposition to endorse the demand for a thorough-going change in the management, which had been advanced in some quarters, Mr. Meyer's intimation that it was intended to strengthen the Board by one or two new appointments being apparently accepted as satisfactory. There has been some talk of a working agreement between the Pekin Syndicate and the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, which has met with more success, but the idea is not yet regarded seriously. Some noteworthy movements have been witnessed in insurance shares, owing to the rumours of amalgamations which have been discussed lately in my insurance notes. Commercial Union rose 3 to 79-81, and it has now been announced that the Company has entered into a provisional agreement to acquire the business of the Scottish County and Mercantile Insurance Company. A similar rise, based upon another amalgamation report, was recorded in London Assurance shares, which, however, have since receded. The Law Guarantee and Trust Society, which was established in 1888 and has long been recognised as a very strong and successful office,

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

has hitherto confined its business to what might almost be called financial insurance. Hitherto, however, it has not transacted employers' liability, personal accident, burglary, motor-car, third party, plate glass, and other forms of insurance usually undertaken by accident offices. These classes of business have been done by the United Legal Indemnity Insurance Society, which was founded three or four years ago, and has built up a substantial premium income, as well as a large agency organisation. The United Legal was somewhat at a disadvantage on account of the relatively small amount of its share capital, and its business has now been acquired by the Law Guarantee and Trust Society, which guarantees all the policies of the United Legal. These policies are quite modern and very attractive, and this association with the Law Guarantee provides the most abundant security for the fulfilment of all contracts. In Textiles not much business has been done, but prices generally are a trifle higher. Here is a little table showing the yields of some securities of this description calculated on the prices at the settlement last week:—

	Price		Yield per Cent.
Coats Ordinary	6¾—¾	.....	£3 12 8
Calico Printers Debentures	96 —8	.....	4 1 8
Fine Cotton, Cum. Pref.	22/—23/-	.....	4 6 11
" " Ord.	33/6 - 34/6	.....	4 13 1
Bradford Dyers	25/—26/-	.....	5 6 8

An interesting feature of the week has been a lively spurt in J. Lyons' Ordinary shares, which I have often recommended as a good commercial investment. It is whispered that some new and promising developments on the part of this enterprising concern will be announced in the course of the next few weeks. Whether that be the case or not, the Company is undoubtedly doing well, and, considering the excellent dividends that it has paid for some years past—the last was 32½ per cent.—the shares are a desirable purchase at the present quotation of 5 15-16. Brewery Company shares as a rule have exhibited a slight fall, and there is evidently a feeling abroad that any increase of profits which the industry may show will possibly be wiped out by the effect of fresh legislation or additional taxation. To those who are inclined to regard Debenture investments in breweries with more favour than Ordinary shares, the following table may be useful. It gives the approximate yield of the stock at the current prices:—

	Price.		Yield per Cent.
Bass 4½ p.c. M. Deb. Stock	109½	.....	£4 2 7
Worthington's 4½ p.c. M. Deb. Stock red.	110	.....	4 6 7
Whitbread's 4 p.c. Deb. Stock red.	93	.....	4 7 0
J. W. Cameron & Co. 4½ p.c. 1st M. Deb. Stock	92½	.....	4 12 5
Hall's Oxford Brewery 4 p.c. 1st M. Deb. Stock red.	85	.....	4 14 8
Watney Combe's 3½ p.c. Perp. 1st Deb. Stock	71½	.....	4 19 3
Huggins & Co. 3½ p.c. 1st M. Irred. Deb. Stock	62½	.....	5 14 3
Bullard & Sons 4 p.c. M. Deb. Stock	67	.....	6 1 3

A revival of activity has been manifested in Motor shares, and in particular Darracqs and Daimlers have both advanced. The National Telephone Company's Deferred stock rose 1½ to 112 on a declaration of a dividend of 5½ per cent. This is the highest rate that has been paid, but, having regard to the conditions upon which the undertaking is to be transferred to the Government in four years' time, the present price of the stock seems to be quite high enough. At the annual meeting of the National Provincial Bank of England, Mr. Robert Wigram, the Chairman, was able to give a very satisfactory account of its position. The cash at the Bank of England and at the head offices and branches, as well as at call and at short notice, showed an increase of £637,000 over the previous year, and these items, with the investments, give a total of £27,604,353, or 51 per cent. of the bank's liabilities to the public. The bills discounted, loans, etc., showed an increase of £1,643,000. The reserve fund, which had never once been drawn upon, had been increased to £2,350,000.

VIGILANT.

Free From Farrow's Bank.—"Farrow's Bank: Its History Objects, and Work."—Chairman, Thomas Farrow, Author of "The Moneylender Unmasked," &c.—Write or call, 29, New Bridge-st., Ludgate-circus, E.C., & Birmingham, Brighton, Croydon, & Norwich.

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City Literary Institute Handle carefully LOUIS MASON

QUEER STORY.

LINDA'S VALENTINE.

IT is curious to note how entirely Valentine's Day—the festival once so dear to, and so religiously observed by, amorous youths and maidens—has gone out of fashion. I can recall the time when it rivalled Christmas Day itself as an occasion for sending presents and missives, and when the Post Office had to put on extra hands to deal with the mails. But now—well, I doubt whether if, when February 14 dawns, the average individual realises that it is Valentine's Day at all—unless you specially call his attention to it, and then perhaps he may go so far as to say:—

"Valentine's Day! Great Scot, so it is!"

But that is all the recognition it gets from him; the next moment he has forgotten it as completely as though it had never existed. Truly, O Saint's Day sacred to sweethearts, thou art fallen on evil times!

I wonder why this is. Are youths less amorous and maidens less sentimental than of yore? Have the keener demands of business on the one hand, and of golf and hockey on the other, become so absorbing as to leave neither thought nor leisure for this sweet trifling? Let that be for students of such matters to determine; enough for me to record the fact, and at the same time to apologise for telling you a story that deals with so obsolete a theme—a story that happened within my own experience more than forty years ago.

The morning of February 14, 186— arrived, and with it a small parcel, by registered post, for Linda Eglinton.

Her father, a despotic and somewhat suspicious old gentleman, with whom she was breakfasting *tête-à-tête*, fixed his keen, inquisitorial eyes upon the girl as she opened it. There was a certain confusion in her manner that did not escape him, and that made him watch her all the more intently while her trembling fingers slowly untied the string and undid the paper. At length she arrived at the contents, and her face grew more flushed and her manner more and more confused. It was then that Simon Eglinton spoke.

"What's that, Linda?" he inquired, sharply.

"It's a—a—a—ring," stammered the girl, in a faint voice.

"A ring?" he exclaimed, frowning. "Let me see it."

Linda, looking almost terrified, handed him the article in question—a pretty little thing of the gipsy pattern, set with small emeralds and brilliants.

Simon Eglinton, being in wholesale jewellery himself, knew good stones when he saw them, and he knew that these were good stones, small though they were, and that they had not been bought retail a penny under £50. He scowled angrily; not because the stones were valuable, but because his paternal sense was deeply outraged by the discovery that his daughter possessed, unknown to him, some admirer who had presumed to send her so costly a present.

"Who has sent you this?" he demanded, sternly.

"I—I—don't know, daddy," faltered Linda.

He sniffed somewhat incredulously.

"Give me the cover, if you please," he said, in his curtest manner.

With trembling hand the girl obeyed. Her father first turned out the inside of the package, to make sure there was no letter enclosed. Then, adjusting his gold-rimmed glasses on his Roman nose, he carefully scrutinised the handwriting of the address.

"Umph! You say you don't know whom this comes from, Linda?" he said, after an impressive pause.

"No, daddy; truly, I don't," cried his daughter, with the tears in her pretty eyes.

"Umph!" he grunted. "Well, you have never deceived me yet, Linda; and" (a little grudgingly) "I will take your word now. But—umph! Ah! The writing is transparently in a disguised hand—and yet it seems somehow half familiar. It looks like—— But no, it cannot be—and yet, 'pon my soul, I do believe it is. Tell me, girl" (with a keen, suspicious look), "you

haven't been—I mean, you haven't entered into any secret understanding with young Carlton, have you?"

Linda's face flushed a deeper crimson than ever, with mingled confusion and distress.

"Oh, no, daddy—truly—upon my honour," she cried, emphatically.

"Since you say so, I believe you," replied her father, who could see that she was speaking the truth. "All the same, I could swear—yes, I could swear that this is young Carlton's writing, clumsily disguised. In fact, I am certain of it."

"Oh, daddy!"

And again that look of confusion and distress.

"If it is he who has sent you this ring—as I am sure it is," went on her father, frowning, "he has taken a most unwarrantable liberty—behaved in a most improper and ungentlemanly way. And I shall take an early opportunity of telling him so."

"Oh, daddy! Please—*please* don't do *that!*"

Linda's tones were positively imploring. Her father regarded her with evidently reawakened suspicion.

"Why not?" he demanded, coldly. "Why should you wish to prevent me from reprimanding him for his impertinence?"

"It would—would—make things so—so—uncomfortable," faltered Linda, in great distress. "I should—should—be ashamed of ever meeting Mr. Carlton again, if you spoke to him on such a subject."

"Nonsense, girl," replied her father, impatiently. "It is he, not you, who would have reason, and good reason, to be ashamed of himself. It is due to you, and to your family, that he should be told that you resent the liberty he has taken; and I shall certainly make a point of acquainting him with that fact on the earliest possible opportunity."

"But—but—supposing it is not he who has sent me the ring, after all?" suggested Linda, desperately.

"In that case, my speaking to him will have the salutary effect of clearing up an unfortunate misunderstanding, and of relieving the young man's character from a disagreeable slur," replied Simon Eglinton, in his pompous way.

"But—but—daddy, think of *me!*"

"I *am* thinking of you," replied her father. "That is why I am resolved to find out the impertinent puppy who has paid you this underhand and compromising attention. If it is not young Carlton—though I am confident it is he—it must be some other fellow; and Carlton's repudiation—if he can repudiate it to my satisfaction—is the first necessary step towards clearing the ground for further investigation. Indeed, I cannot conceive how, as a right-minded girl, you can possibly object to my taking up the cudgels in your behalf; unless," he added, again regarding her flushed face suspiciously, "you yourself have some private understanding with the sender of the ring——"

"Oh, no, daddy. I give you my word I haven't."

"Well, then, Linda, let me hear no further foolish objections. I know what my duty is, as your father and natural protector, and I mean to do it," he replied, coldly, as he thrust the ring and package into his pocket and rose and left the room.

Linda, looking very distressed and unhappy, ran upstairs to her mother—a delicate invalid—who always breakfasted in bed, and told her just what had happened.

"Oh, mammie, do—*do* please try and stop the pater speaking to Mr. Carlton about it," she implored. "I shall die of shame if he does."

"But why, my dear?" said her mother, gently. "You have done nothing to be ashamed of; and it was certainly very wrong of Mr. Carlton to send you a valuable ring in that stealthy sort of way. He ought to be told that his conduct is resented. I can't help agreeing with your father in that."

"Yes, mammie, but—but—— Well, you know what Mr. Carlton is—so—so—retiring and diffident. If it was he who sent the ring, it wouldn't have been from any—any—unworthy motive, but—but—because he—he—wanted to—to—feel his way, and—and—— I *can't* explain more than that, mammie. But surely you understand."

And Linda hid her crimson face upon her mother's shoulder.

"My dear," said the other, putting her arm round her daughter affectionately, "I think I do understand *now*. You care for Mr. Carlton, Linda?"

Linda, her face still hidden, faltered a smothered affirmative.

"Oh, mammie, now you know, please—*please* stop the pater speaking to Mr. Carlton!" she added, entreatingly.

"My dear," replied her mother, at once very sympathetic and very helpless, "I would stop your father if I could. But how can I? You know what he is when he makes up his mind to a thing. Nothing on earth will turn him aside, and if I were to attempt interference, the only result would be to provoke him into an even worse humour with Mr. Carlton than he is already, so that I should be making the case worse instead of better." And the poor lady shrugged her shoulders in a gesture of pathetic impotence.

Linda, knowing her father well, was unable to dispute the force of her mother's words. He could be affectionate, and even indulgent, to his womenfolk, when he liked; but he insisted on being their absolute autocrat, and when he put down his foot there was no gainsaying him. The distressed and unhappy girl, therefore, saw nothing for it but to accept the situation.

In the meanwhile, Simon Eglinton, very pompous, solemn, and important, was on his way to the residence of young Mr. Geoffrey Carlton, which stood about a mile distant. He felt sure he should find the young man at home, for the latter was of independent means, and had no business engagements to take him out early in the morning. And on this point Simon Eglinton's anticipations proved correct.

"Yes, sir," said the butler, in answer to his inquiry, "Mr. Carlton is in. I think he has just finished breakfast. Will you step this way, sir?"

The butler showed him into the library, then went off to fetch his master, who presently made his appearance. He was a good-looking young fellow, though his face was rather spoiled by a certain want of character about it, and by an air of undue timidity and shyness evident both in his expression and his manner.

"Good morning, Mr. Eglinton," he stammered, in his quick, nervous way. "Very—very pleased to see you. W-what can I do for you? P-pray be s-seated."

"Thank you; I prefer to stand," replied Simon, very stiff and solemn. "The fact is, Mr. Carlton" (producing the package containing the ring from his coat pocket), "I have something not very pleasant to say to you."

"To *me?*" murmured young Carlton, looking, as no doubt he felt, exceedingly nervous and alarmed.

"Yes, to *you*," pursued the outraged father, sternly. "Have the goodness to look at this ring and this package addressed to my daughter in your handwriting, sir, and then to explain to me what you mean by it."

Young Carlton stared bewildered, almost petrified, at the ring and the package.

"I—I—don't understand you, Mr. Eglinton," he faltered nervously. "I n-never s-sent your daughter a ring. I sh-shouldn't think of doing anything so confoundedly impertinent."

"What! This is not your handwriting?" demanded the other, sternly, holding out the label to him.

"I'll—I'll—swear it—it—isn't," cried young Carlton.

Simon Eglinton fixed him with a searching gaze.

"You assure me of that, upon your honour as a gentleman?" he said.

"Upon my honour as a g-gentleman," was the emphatic rejoinder.

Linda's father found himself not a little taken aback. Young Carlton's repudiation was so evidently and palpably genuine, that, in spite of the remarkable resemblance in the handwriting, Eglinton could not but accept it. His manner changed and became friendly and apologetic.

"I am very glad to hear you say that," he remarked. "I can only assure you that, under the circumstances, I am sorry I spoke. At the same time, you will admit that the handwriting on this label is extraordinarily

like yours, and that I had some reasonable justification for being misled by it."

Young Carlton looked at the label carefully, and admitted the writing to be such that it might naturally be taken for his own.

"It—it l-looks very much as if some one had p-purposely tried to imitate my hand," he said.

"But why should any one wish to do that?" inquired Simon Eglinton, with a perplexed frown.

"I c-can't think, unless it was a st-stupid practical joke," answered young Carlton.

"But people don't go to the expense of buying fifty-guinea rings to play practical jokes with," said the other. "It seems to me more probable that my daughter, unknown to herself, must have attracted the attention of some impertinent admirer, whose handwriting happens, by a curious coincidence, to resemble yours; and if my supposition is correct, I shall make a point of finding out who the fellow is, and giving him back his ring and a bit of my mind with it."

"Serve the b-bounder right for his c-confounded impudence," ejaculated Geoffrey Carlton with venom quite unexpected in so mild-looking a young man.

"But I say," he added, with nervous impulsiveness, after a moment's pause, "you—you—d-don't think your daughter c-cares for any other—for any fellow, do you, Mr. Eglinton?"

"Not that I am aware of," answered Simon, naturally rather surprised by the question. "Linda has never given me any reason to suppose so."

"Because," continued young Carlton, who, having broken the ice, now let himself go with impulsive and reckless unrestraint, as shy men will, "I—I—had half hoped, don't you know, that perhaps she m-might m-manage to—to—c-care for me a l-little, don't you know; and I—I've t-tried to make up my mind scores of t-times to ask your p-permission to pay my addresses to her, only I couldn't f-find c-courage; and—and—d-dash it all, Mr. Eglinton, s-should you have any—any—objection to my speaking to her?"

"My dear fellow," replied Mr. Eglinton, evidently quite unprepared for this unexpected turn of events, "you take me completely by surprise. I had no idea you cared for Linda. I—umph!—well, no! I've no objection to your speaking to her. But I must warn you that I shall not attempt to influence her one way or the other. Let that be plainly understood."

"Of course n-not. I sh-shouldn't w-wish you to do s-such a thing. But I say, M-Mr. Eglinton," cried young Carlton, with all the hasty impetuosity of a nervous man who has once broken through the barrier of the shyness that has long restrained him, and who can no longer control his eagerness to rush full-speed to the goal, "I s-say, w-when w-will it be convenient for me to s-speak to Miss Eglinton?"

Simon Eglinton could scarcely help smiling at such amorous haste.

"Really, I must leave that to you," he replied. "To-morrow—the next day—the day after. You must choose your own time and opportunity. It is a matter in which I shall not attempt to interfere."

"Then I think I'll run r-round this—this—m-morning," said young Carlton.

* * * * *

"My dear," remarked Mrs. Eglinton to her spouse, a few days after the engagement was announced, "I can't think who it was who sent Linda that ring on Valentine's Day. But whoever it was, he would feel rather sick if he knew that it has simply been the occasion of bringing about her engagement to another man."

Simon Eglinton smiled, and pinched his wife's ear—an unusual effort of playfulness for so solemn a gentleman.

"My dear, he *does* know," was his reply, "and he does *not* feel at all sick. On the contrary, he feels immensely pleased with himself. Young Carlton merely wanted an opportunity and a stimulus, and the ring was sent to Linda on purpose to provide them."

"Simon, what do you mean?" cried his wife, quickly.

"Mean? Why, that I sent the ring myself, of course," chuckled the wholesale jeweller.

ART NOTES.

POSTMEN ARTISTS AND OTHERS.

A VERY good way of making the best of two worlds is to follow two professions—the more widely distinguished the better—at the same time, as, for instance, those of postman and artist. Not only are you likely to attract more of the public attention—which is, after all, the breath of life nowadays—as both than you are as either, but your work is always sure of some meed of appreciation. Thus, if people complain that you are a bad postman, you can always counter with the plea that you are a good artist, and vice versa. Further, as those who are qualified to criticise your postal performance are unlikely to have any very intimate knowledge of art—or qualified art critics to know much about the workings of the Post Office—your position is a fairly safe one. All of which accounts, I suppose, for the fact that within the last few years we have had quite a crop of "policeman artists," and "commercial traveller artists," and "postman artists," and the like. The whole movement provides, incidentally, a very pretty study in evolution, which has been going on ever since the artist was first admitted to rank among the respectable classes. In the good old times when a policeman was very much superior, socially speaking, to a painter, there would have been no purpose—unless it were humility—in thus double-barrelling his profession. But little by little the artist has risen until he is now permitted to adorn the dinner-tables of the first families, while postmen and policemen must still remain upon the pavement outside. As soon as Art became respectable every one wanted to be called an artist. Thus came about the first evolutionary stage—when the tailor called himself a "sartorial artist," and the cook a "culinary artist," and the postman, I suppose, a "mercurial artist," and so forth. In some trades and professions this stage is not yet passed. You may see the photographer, for instance, fiercely protesting at this very moment, with the powerful backing of Mr. Bernard Shaw, that he is an artist—and the most elevated kind of artist at that—and that any one who does not consider him an artist is no gentleman. But most of them have realised by this time that it is not much good calling yourself an artist if you cannot get anyone else to believe it, and that the only way to impress upon the public that you are actually an artist is to become a painter—which is not always the same thing indeed, though, fortunately, the public does not know it. So now we are vouchsafed the works of Mr. Samuel Hancock, whose paintings are being shown at the Doré Gallery, and whose chief claim to fame—or so the organisers of the exhibition would have us believe—is that he has for the last fifteen years been a City postman at the East Central Office. No one will deny that such is a very meritorious record, and that Mr. Hancock has deserved well of his country and of the East Central District; but it is not so easy to understand what it has to do with his ability as a painter. Let me say at once that I find his work agreeably disappointing—that it shows, quite contrary to expectation, considerable artistic feeling and some ability in execution. But such being the case, it seems all the harder upon Mr. Hancock to proclaim, *urbi et orbi*, that we must not expect too much from him, because he is not really an artist at all, but only a postman who paints in his leisure hours. It may certainly attract a few more people to visit the galleries than would otherwise be the case; it may obtain rather lengthier notices in the press (this, by the way, is one of them, for I do not suppose I should have written anything about it had I not been told that the artist was not an artist at all, but a postman), and thus gain some extra gratuitous advertisement; it may even result in the sale of some pictures which might otherwise have lacked purchasers. But, granted all this, it is yet doing Mr. Hancock a number of possible ill-turns. To say nothing of the indignity of being thus publicly classed as a sort of artistic freak and as deserving of the most charitable criticism only, it is more than likely to injure

him in the future, both from the artistic and the worldly point of view. Supposing that, misled by his press notices, and by the sale of some of his pictures, he should decide to abandon the safe profession of postman for the hazardous calling of painter. Not only would he be deserting the substance for the shadow, he would be laying up for himself the certainty of disappointment. He would be stepping down from his well-advertised pedestal into the ruck of ordinary artists. Did he exhibit his pictures, they would be criticised only as the work of a painter, not as those of a postman any longer. Unkind things would very likely be said of them which they now escape; those who are ready enough to buy the paintings of an artistic postman would never think of spending their money on the work of a possibly mediocre painter. On the other hand, even did he decide not to take the fatal plunge, he might very probably become a dissatisfied man, scorning the humble profession he now adorns, longing always for that which he might adorn. It would have been kinder, in exhibiting Mr. Hancock's pictures, to withhold all mention of his more serious calling, and let them take their chance as works of art, pure and simple. Painting is an excellent hobby for postmen and others, but when it leads to public exhibition it is apt to become a danger.

Mr. Hancock might learn a useful lesson or two from another more or less amateur exhibition of drawings now being held at the Graves Galleries. It is by Sir Richard Sankey, and it consists of pictorial reminiscences of his travels. Sir Richard is a K.C.B., and the letters R.E. adorn his name, personal details which I should not mention were it not that I wish to bring them to the notice of Mr. Hancock. From them he may surmise—as I do—that Sir Richard has already gained honourable distinction in other than the artistic walk of life; that he has found painting an agreeable hobby which serves to recall pleasant incidents of his active career, and that—and this is the most important point of all—he can afford to exhibit the fruits of his hobby for his own satisfaction and that of his friends without very much caring whether he sells any of them or what any one else thinks about them. His position in life (Mr. Hancock and I may take it) is secured—he has no thoughts of relinquishing his profession and risking his future prospects; he has the K.C.B., and does not accordingly aspire to change R.E. into R.A. When Mr. Hancock has attained—as I am sure I hope he will attain—to the highest possible position in the Post Office hierarchy; when he has several letters to put after his own name instead of into other people's letter-boxes; when he can afford to consider his worldly position assured—then, and then only, will it be safe for him to seek the laurels, whatever they are, of one whose pictures are exhibited in public galleries. Until then I would in all seriousness beg him to ponder on the sentence, "Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes," which may be freely translated, for this occasion only: "I mistrust the advice of those friends and critics who advise me to attempt sitting on two stools at once."

MUSIC.

"FIDELIO" AT COVENT GARDEN.

THE revival of "Fidelio" at Covent Garden last week was an interesting event, though it is unfortunately not possible to say that the performance was all that might have been desired. Certain well-meaning folk have recently been attempting to convince the world that those who criticise German singing are the victims of hallucination, and that in reality the vocalists who come to us from the Fatherland are of unsurpassable excellence. Last week's performance must surely have convinced anyone taking this view of his error. Anything more deplorable than some of the singing heard in the course of the evening it would be difficult to imagine. Little purpose would be served by mentioning names, since one and all of the artists concerned were manifestly doing the best of which they were capable. But the fact itself there was no possibility of overlooking, and it is proper to point it out in the hope that in some way or other means may be found eventually of bringing about a more satisfactory state of affairs in this all-important respect. At present, it must be confessed, the pleasures of such a season of German opera as that now in progress at Covent Garden are sadly qualified by the shortcomings of German singing.

Nor was this the end of the matter, either, in the case of this particular performance. For some inscrutable reason the management brought over the eminent Belgian violinist, M. Ysaye, to conduct the work, with anything but happy results. Perhaps the best comment on the situation was that of a well-known musician, who was asked between the acts what he thought of Ysaye conducting. "I think he plays Beethoven's violin concerto divinely" was his discreet and seemingly irrelevant but actually most apt reply. M. Ysaye is, no doubt, a sound enough conductor in the ordinary way, but with the direction of opera he is unfamiliar. It has been stated, indeed, that this was actually the first time that he had ever conducted a performance of "Fidelio," and having had the privilege of hearing the performance in question, I have not the least difficulty in crediting the statement. Perhaps there has been exaggeration on the subject here and there. Ysaye may well have been puzzled, indeed, to reconcile the conflicting assertions of some of his critics. According to this one he was too rigid, according to another too flabby. One thought that the players went to pieces under him, another that he ruled them with a rod of iron. All are agreed, however, that it was not a satisfactory performance which he obtained.

Yet any performance of "Fidelio" was better than none. There is no need to exaggerate on the subject. One critic, I notice, talks of the work as "Beethoven's charming opera," which is surely the least appropriate epithet in the language to bestow upon "Fidelio." Next to its fine music the most notable feature of "Fidelio" is, perhaps, the uncheerful character of its book. "Inspissated gloom" is all too mild a term to define its general atmosphere. All's well that ends well, and wifely devotion is duly rewarded in the last act, but how harrowing is what has gone before. Really one can hardly wonder that so many attempts were needful to induce the public to accept the work, even with Beethoven's name attached. Yet from the purely musical point of view, how much there is to admire. If its book is gloomy and the form of the opera old-fashioned according to our present-day notions, the beauty, power, and the sublimity of its music will preserve the work, it is safe to assert, so long as music lasts. Beethoven himself once referred jocularly to "Fidelio" as an ancient ruin; but it is likely to outlive yet many a glittering structure of more recent date built upon the sands of passing popularity.

A debatable point always raised in connection with "Fidelio" is as to the best means of introducing the great "Leonora No. 3" overture—though to put it thus is perhaps rather a begging of the question, since not a few eminent authorities, including Dr. Richter and Herr Mottl, take the view that it should not be introduced at all, but be reserved exclusively for the concert room. Last week it was played between the acts, and this is the course usually adopted in German opera houses, though in some cases the practice is, I believe, to play it between the scenes of the second act, on the principle that it comes more rightly with its joyous ending after Florestan has been saved and his release is assured. Von Bülow, pushing the same principle even further, played it sometimes as an epilogue to the whole work, while Richard Strauss once played it, in addition to the ordinary overture in C, at the beginning. None of these arrangements can, however, be regarded as satisfactory, the mistake being to suppose that it need

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be introduced at all. It may not be generally known, by the way, that when the work was brought out in its revised form at Vienna in 1814, the overture used by Beethoven was that of "The Ruins of Athens"!—a little fact which may be commended to the notice of some of our latter-day pedants and purists.

Announcement has been made of the extension of the German opera season for another fortnight. Better proof could hardly be desired of the success which has attended the undertaking. The interesting report is also current that it is proposed to revive "Die Zauberflöte," a work which has not been heard in London since goodness knows how long, before the season ends, while the appearance is promised of at least one interesting new singer, who is also an old one, and one very favourably known to Covent Garden audiences, in the person of Mr. Bispham. As regards recent performances, the revival of "Fidelio" I have referred to already. On Saturday an interesting event was the début of Mme. Agnes Nicholls as Elsa, a part which, it is said, had never before been played in German at Covent Garden by an English-speaking artist. Mme. Nicholls' triumph was great, and warranted hopes of many such by other native-born singers which the future may bring forth.

Many good concerts have been given lately. At the Queen's Hall Symphony Concert on Saturday there were, as usual, an excellent programme and a large audience. The former has long been the rule at these concerts, but not invariably the latter, and it is eminently satisfactory to mark the steady improvement which has been witnessed of recent years in this respect. A feature of Saturday's programme was Herr von Dohnanyi's new concertstück for 'cello and orchestra, of which report had said great things. In the result, however, it proved something of a disappointment. The work is well written, and contains some pleasant pages, but it is far too long, more than a trifle reminiscent at times, and generally undistinguished. Mr. Wood's superb performance of "Till Eulenspiegel" was much more acceptable. On the same afternoon at the Bechstein Hall M. Léon Sametini and Miss Leonora Sparkes had a good audience, who appreciated both the violin playing of the one and the brilliant singing of the other.

Earlier in the week Miss Marie Hall took farewell of her London admirers preparatory to her departure on a long tour in America and Australia, and played as brilliantly as ever in a programme which was almost too good to be popular. The début of Miss Marie Stuart, the "coming Clara Butt," as her friends describe her, was another feature of this concert. Miss Stuart, whose stature is startling, has a fine, rich contralto voice, but her singing rather lacks spontaneity and temperament at present. No doubt, however, she will make more of her powers in due course.

Mr. Harold Bauer's pianoforte recital on Friday was gratefully distinguished by the unhackneyed character of his programme. Among other unfamiliar things which he introduced was a fine "Prélude, Fugue, et Variations," by César Franck, originally written, it appears, for organ solo, and also arranged for piano and harmonium, which has been cleverly adapted for piano solo purposes by Mr. Bauer, who played the work beautifully. Schumann's F sharp minor sonata he gave also particularly well, along with various smaller pieces. Another pianist who has been winning favourable opinions is Miss Alma Stenzel, a young American artist, whose technical equipment is considerable. A word of praise is due also to Herr Gottfried Galston in respect of his finished playing at his recent Chopin recital.

In the way of chamber music the Rosé Quartet from Vienna were heard at the Broadwood concert on Thursday, when they won golden opinions again by the perfection of their *ensemble* and the distinction of their style, though I cannot agree with one critic that their tone is particularly luscious. They were heard this time in Beethoven's posthumous quartet in E flat major and that of Schubert in A minor, and if the Schubert seemed to go the better of the two, perhaps the music had as much to do with this as the playing. It is heresy, of course, to breathe a word at this time of the day against Beethoven's posthumous quartets, or even to hint at such a thing as tedium in their connection. But if the two quartets in question were by totally unknown composers, how many would elect to hear Beethoven's work in preference to Schubert's?

On Monday an interesting performance was that of Bossi's "Paradise Lost" by the London Choral Society. The work is hardly likely to live, but it contains some effective music, and Mr. Fagge and his supporters showed enterprise in giving Londoners a chance of hearing it.

British music lovers will read with interest and gratification of the graceful terms in which M. Messager has been expressing himself to a Parisian interviewer concerning the standard of musical culture in this country. "I do not pretend," he is reported as saying, "that London has a larger number of musical experts than, say, Paris or Berlin; but I do say that Londoners love music more whole-heartedly than either Parisians or Berliners." That statement will surprise many as coming from M. Messager, but more startling still is M. Messager's statement that "Parisians do not go to the opera or to concerts nearly as much as Londoners." If these views are bold, however, what will some of M. Messager's Parisian readers say to the following:—

"The one thing that is wanted here is the chorus material. Unfortunately, the ladies of the chorus in France are not of the same quality as those we get in London. There they are intelligent, fairly educated ladies. Here——" M. Messager threw out his hands expressively and shook his head.

It has been suggested that M. Messager's pro-British sympathies may lead eventually to the hearing of an English opera in Paris. Who knows? Stranger things have happened.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie was hardly less entertaining on Debussy and his impressionist congeners than on Strauss and Reger. While readily admitting, he said, the bewildering ingenuity of their harmonic twistings, and sometimes ear-torturing progressions, as well as crediting them with having developed a system of composition utterly unlike any other, the outcome of it all, as a whole, left one unsatisfied and empty as Shacabac after Barmecide's feast—as if one had been listening not to music but to its mere shadowy spook. Sir Alexander went on to make a sound point in the observation that, whatever else might be thought of music of this order, it was curiously different from that which had hitherto been associated with the national characteristics of the French—to wit, lucidity, grace, and charm. Perhaps it is one of the results of that increasing intercommunication which, according to some, is rapidly obliterating all national traits and reducing the members of every nation to one common type. If so, this may go further to explain the fact that we, in our turn, have seemed of late to be acquiring characteristics in our music—as for example, a partiality for the morbid and the melancholy—hitherto never associated with what Emerson would have classed among our sturdy British traits.

Mr. Richard Temple, so well known to the theatrical public as an old Savoyard, has been appointed director of the dramatic class and professor of elocution and diction at the Royal Academy of Music. Till recently Mr. Temple had been associated, if I am not mistaken, in a similar capacity with the rival institution at South Kensington.

Who says that we have no English conductors—or only one? Mr. H. J. Wood has clearly a rival to be reckoned with in Lieut.-Colonel Mitchell, one of General Booth's musical lieutenants, who has been

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dubbed the "Salvation Army Sousa." According to an admirer, who was present at the Salvationist brass band festival recently held at Clapton, he is a master of his art, with engaging mannerisms all his own. Colonel Mitchell would seem, in short, to be giving up to the Salvation Army what was meant for—Queen's Hall.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Among the many variants—Young's, Voltaire's, Goldsmith's, etc.—of the epigram, "Speech was given to conceal thought," the witty Bishop South's is, perhaps, the smartest and most cynical: "Speech was given to the ordinary sort of men whereby to communicate their mind; but to wise men whereby to conceal it." Now, what the witty bishop said sarcastically of speech, most modern poets, and some precious prose writers, seem seriously to hold of style—that its very unintelligibility is a note of genius. But in the poet's case, and even in that of the precious prose writer, the nut of the style, however hard, is worth the cracking for the sake of the kernel of the thought it contains; but in a book of gossip, even when the gossip is about such interesting or exalted folk as Mr. Escott recalls in "Society in the Country House" (1), you are irritated at having to read twice over passages to discover their far from momentous meanings. Again and again you have to wrestle with the meanings of such passages as this:—

The most impressive of Lady Rolle's Whig guests, Henry Reeve, editor of the *Edinburgh*, seems to have anticipated a retributive blight on the Rolle arboretum and gardens. He was constrained to admit that the desertion of plain Whig principles, notwithstanding the perfection of foliage and growth secured by Lord Rolle for Tory Bicton, must have marked an advance upon its outdoor beauties before it became one of Pitt's social strongholds.

Apropos of Pitt, by the way, this happy epigram, quoted from Moore by Mr. Escott, *re* the restrictions suggested to be imposed upon the Prince Regent during the lunacy of his father, may be new to you:—

A strait waistcoat on him and restrictions on me,
A more limited monarchy could not well be.

Of George III. as a child the following truly Georgian anecdote is told: While George III.'s mother, the Princess of Wales, was dejectedly watching him and his brother, the Duke of York, at their lessons, she heard the younger say to the elder:—

"When we are grown up you may have a wife, but I shall keep a mistress." "Be quiet; there must be no mistresses at all," replied the future king. "Learn your pronouns," interposed their widowed mother. "Can either of you tell me what a pronoun is?" "A pronoun," replied the Duke of York, "is to a noun what a mistress is to a wife—a substitute and representative."

It is curious to find a practical joke, of which that facetious bishop, South, was the occasion, attributed by Abraham Hayward's sister to her own uncle on his promotion by Lord North. In the original story a curate preached before his bishop, South, from the text, "Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor yet from thee, South," which so tickled the witty bishop that he at once presented the preacher to a living. According to Mr. Escott, Miss Hayward's uncle, upon receiving promotion from Lord North, preached with much less point from the same text. It is curious, again, to find Mr. Escott attributing to Wordsworth Lamb's happy description of Coleridge as a "damaged archangel." Here is Mr. Arthur Balfour's first impression of his predecessor in the premiership, Dizzy, "A brazen mask talking his own novels." As for Disraeli, he confessed to Mr. Escott himself an incredible ignorance. When Mr. Escott ventured to suggest to Disraeli that his famous phrase, "exhausted volcanoes," was a plagiarism from Wilkes' excuse for sitting silent through all the French Revolution debates—"I am a burnt-out volcano"—Lord Beaconsfield replied, "Thanks, it looks like a crib; but it's the first time I knew Wilkes ever said anything worth repeating and fit for publication." There are at least a dozen quotable sayings of Wilkes', known to everyone, better worth remembering than this poor phrase, "a burnt-out volcano." Speaking of plagiarism, perhaps the most audacious recorded in the volume is that confessed by the third Sir Robert Peel. When congratulated at a dinner-party, where Kinglake was his fellow-guest, upon a magnificent speech he had made in the House against the annexation of Savoy and Nice by France, Peel, turning first to his host and then to Kinglake, said:—

The speech was the exact oration, word for word, which Kinglake here had addressed in his weak voice to the House. I alone could hear it, as I happened to be sitting next him, and I took it all down and then repeated it in my brazen voice, with the effect upon which you have been congratulating me.

By the way, Mr. Escott—upon the excellent authority of Venables, Thackeray's George Warrington—completely disposes of Froude's picture of Mrs. Carlyle sitting in a solitary corner at Lady Ashburton's, ignored or snubbed by her fashionable fellow-guests:—

"Lady Ashburton," said Venables, to Mr. Escott, "had no little ways, and took care that, in her house at least, the wives of literary men were conceded the rank of their husbands; while from my own knowledge she inspired Mrs. Carlyle with a reciprocated attachment."

To be sure, Mrs. Carlyle, from everything I have read of her, was the last woman in the world to be satisfied with consideration paid to her on any other account than that of her own intellectual supremacy. The last quotation I shall make from this most entertaining book of Mr. Escott's is opportune now that a reckless and unscrupulous section of the press is doing all it can to set Germany and England by the ears. In a letter written by Sir Mountstuart Grant-Duff shortly before his death to Mr. Escott, that diplomatist says:—

The Governments and Chanceries of Europe would get on in perfect peace with each other but for a press always trying to excite jealousies and stir up bad feeling. It is a disgusting spectacle, and I thank God I am more than seventy years of age.

My first ventures into fiction this week were not encouraging—Mr. Shiel's "The Last Miracle" (2) and "The Outer Darkness" (3) of Mr. R. H. Wright. Mr. Wright's novel narrates the sufferings of a miser in the world beyond the grave. Here he is made over in a land of perpetual twilight to the charge of the Queen of this murky region, Kotah, the All-Powerful, an incarnate devil of lovely form and loathsome soul. What strikes you most in this incoherent nightmare is, first, that spirits are so far from putting off with the flesh all fleshy temptations that these alone seem to possess them in the other world; and, secondly, that they are punished there, not according to their deserts, but according to the devilish and capricious whims of their infernal Queen. As for Mr. Shiel's bewildering story of the death and faked revival of Christianity, I had in reading it the misgiving Mark Lemon felt in reading "Sordello"—either the author or I am mad. Certainly the form of worship in Mr. Shiel's Church of the Future is no improvement in dignity or decency upon that at present in vogue. If I have been unfortunate in my two first ventures into fiction, I have been more than fortunate in my third, Mr. H. C. Bailey's "Springtime" (4)—a romance of mediæval Italy, exquisitely written, and light and bright as one of Gilbert and Sullivan's comedies. Perhaps Mr. Bailey is not as happy in his heroines as in his heroes. The Countess Lucrezia, who lashes the hero's face with a horsewhip and meditates the murder of her rival, does not fill very amiably the rôle of first heroine; while Cecilia, Marchioness of Frido, on the other hand, is a little too schoolgirlish to be worthy

(1) "Society in the Country House." By T. H. Escott. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 16s.)

(2) "The Last Miracle." By M. P. Shiel. (London: T. Werner Laurie. 6s.)

(3) "The Outer Darkness." By R. H. Wright. (London: Greening & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Springtime." By H. C. Bailey. (London: John Murray, 6s.)

(5) "The Enemy's Camp." By Hugh T. Sheringham and Nevill Meakin. (London: Macmillan & Co. 6s.)

WEDDING PRESENTS.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. MORTLOCKS, LTD., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

of the gallant Squarcia. But "Springtime," with its big-nosed, big-souled hero, is on the whole the most charming romance I have read for a long time. If you want light comedy in something of the "Three Men in a Boat" style, you must read Messrs. Sheringham and Meakin's "The Enemy's Camp" (5), the romance of a Gladstone bag. It is very light, but very bright comedy, and will certainly pass a pleasant hour for you.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

A new series of volumes dealing with Spain in its various aspects, its history, its cities, and its monuments, is announced by Mr. John Lane. The editor of "The Spanish Series," as it is to be called, is Mr. Albert F. Calvert, and the first two volumes will be a biography and appreciation of Murillo, and a historical account of the Royal Armoury at Madrid. The books will be lavishly illustrated.

It is not as a humorist that Mark Twain deals with "Christian Science" in a book bearing that title which Messrs. Harper will publish shortly. On the contrary, it is described as a work of vital seriousness, the result of years of painstaking study, and a presentation of the writer's sincere views.

Messrs. Longman announce an account of "The Natal Rebellion of 1906," by Walter Bosman, with an introduction by Colonel Mackenzie. Another of this firm's forthcoming books is a study of "The Trust Movement in British Industry," by Mr. Henry W. Macrosty, Lecturer at the London School of Economics.

"The Gold Worshippers" is the title of Mr. Harris-Burland's new novel, which Messrs. Greening will have ready in the course of the next week or so. It is said to be a story of "a very thrilling character." The same firm are also publishing Mr. George R. Sims's "Watches of the Night," a companion volume to his "London by Night."

Dr. Schiller's "Studies in Humanism" is a continuation of his previous work on "Humanism," both on its critical and its constructive side. The new volume will be published by Messrs. Macmillan.

Mr. Archibald Marshall, whose previous stories have been so popular, is the author of a new novel entitled "Exton Manor," which Messrs. Alston Rivers will issue almost immediately. The same firm are also bringing out "Privy Seal," by Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer; "Kit's Woman," by Mrs. Havelock Ellis; and "Arminel of the West," by the anonymous author of "A Pixy in Petticoats."

It is understood that Professor Dicey's new book on Egypt will be somewhat critical of the present administration of that country. The volume is to be published by Mr. Heinemann.

In Mr. Bagot's forthcoming novel, "Temptation," the scene is again laid in Italy, but the author shifts his canvas from Rome and the intricacies of Roman society and draws his characters from the ranks of the Italian provincial *noblesse*. The action of the story takes place in a well-known mediæval city in the Roman province. Messrs. Methuen will publish the book next week.

Mr. Loraine Petre's book, "Napoleon's Conquest of Prussia," to be published by Mr. John Lane, will have a preface by Lord Roberts.

The King and the Prince of Wales have both expressed their pleasure in accepting a copy of Mr. Henry Sharp's "Modern Sporting Gunnery," a volume which has been warmly praised by all sportsmen who are interested in the mechanical and technical aspect of sporting guns and rifles. The publishers are Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall and Co.

In his new book "On Art and Artists," Dr. Max Nordau gives a comprehensive and unconventional view of the development of modern art as represented by some of the best known painters and sculptors. Whistler, Rodin, Meunier, Gustave Moreau, Frank Brangwyn, and Bouguereau are among those whom the author has vividly characterised, and in some cases his judgments differ widely from those generally accepted. The book is published this week by Mr. Fisher Unwin.

Mr. Richard Marsh's new novel "The Romance of a Maid of Honour" will be published by Mr. John Long. In its main currents the story is light reading, but there are also many of those "thrills" which his admirers expect from Mr. Marsh.

A complete reproduction of the beautiful sixteenth century manuscript of the "Hortulus Animæ"—one of the chief treasures of the Imperial Court Library at Vienna—is about to be published by Mr. Oosthock, of Utrecht. Over a hundred pages containing miniatures will be printed in gold and colours, and the remainder in monotone. Messrs. Ellis, 29, New Bond-street, are the English agents for this work, which will be issued in eleven parts.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Little February we call the detective month, because, although the lace on a dress may look perfectly clean on January 31, if the sun shines on February 1 it shows up as too dirty to be worn again. It shows up everything in the unkindest way, shabby carpets, curtains, hats that passed muster well enough in January, and even accuses boots and shoes that had not, until the detective month arrived, had a single stain upon their character. Consequently we have been shopping this week, a pastime that is enjoyable enough, though sometimes it has a bitter after-taste. Some purchases are like a kicking gun. You have the fun of your shot, and then you have the pain of the kick. So many things look nice in the shop and simply horrid when you get them home. Is it not annoying? Carpets are particularly prone to this malign divagation. One takes to the shop bits of the wall-paper, and patterns of the curtains, and of the stuff the furniture is covered with, in order that the colouring of the floor-covering may come well into the scheme. But only too often they fall out with each other, and one cannot exactly return the carpet after having had it made. Life is packed with small worries of this kind, and the true philosopher is she who does not let them fret her. I say "she" and "her," because we are thinking of carpets and other shopping, not because women are more philosophical than men. Perhaps they would be if they smoked as much. Men's serenest moods are when they are under the influence of My Lady Nicotine.

I have just seen a contrivance, invented by a workingman, for preventing an oil lamp exploding. It answers admirably, not only extinguishing the flame of the wick directly the lamp is thrown down, but also preventing the oil escaping. And yet it is a simple device, consisting of an extinguisher which can be affixed to any lamp at a cost of a few pence. To be exact, the price for applying it to a lamp in course of construction would be 5d., and double that amount for a completed lamp, if a slot should have to be made. The inventor was struck by the remarks of a coroner who held an inquest on two poor little children who underwent the cruel death by burning, owing to a lamp exploding. He set to work, produced this simple and inexpensive contrivance, and thought he had thereby prevented much suffering and saved many innocent lives in the future. But do you think the lamp-makers would look at it? No! not one

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of them. They are all much too conservative. It is the old story—"E's a stranger; let's 'eave 'arf a brick at him." The young inventor will have to take the child of his brain to Germany or the United States, as other British inventors have had to do before him.

In *Women's Employment* for this month there is an excellent article on "Women for Canada," by Miss Kate Simpson Hayes, president of the Canadian Women's Press Club, who is over here for the purpose of explaining what the conditions of work are over there, and of encouraging women to emigrate to that land of promise. In her article she sketches the kind of woman who is needed, one possessing an all-round knowledge of domestic and business affairs, and yet with some special acquirement of her own, perhaps merely dish-washing, clothes-washing, nursing, house-keeping, teaching, cooking, typing, embroidering. Even the incompetent earn high wages out there, owing to the great lack of women workers, and a prospect of independence and even wealth opens out before the really competent and capable. Energy, honest effort, and hard work are the factors in success. Instances are given of women who have made their way.

Miss Hayes has no sympathy with the gentlewomen who fear to lose their social position by undertaking hard work of any kind. This is the type that is not wanted in Canada, she says. It reminds one of Mrs. Poyser's saying: "It's them as isn't wanted here as ain't wanted above."

Margaret is having a wonderful time in Canada, and writes home such pæans about the Canadians that nothing but her newly-found enthusiasm for England would ever induce her to come back, I think. She was always content to be English in a comfortable, unthinking sort of way, till she went out on this visit to the Dominion. Now she is full of patriotism, not aggressive, but very sincere. She writes that she was ashamed "to take her Englishness so lightly" when she found such a devotion to the Mother-Country animating the Canadians. She is not getting too serious, though; she writes about a dance she was at with most healthy delight. It must have been very pretty, with palms and Japanese vases and screens in each corner, and many hundreds of lanterns of every colour and shape strung overhead, lighted with electric bulbs, "and swaying in sympathy with the swing of the dancers under them. The walls were decorated with open Japanese umbrellas and long panels. The ball programmes had a drawing of lighted lanterns on a dark background, and the evening was called 'A Feast of Lanterns.'" It sounds pretty, does it not? There were 160 guests, the host and hostess being the only married people present, "and she was the most ornamental person in the room; and the 160 were all crazy about dancing, and I thought of the tired, infinitely old, young men of England, and just saw the difference between the countries." Canada is evidently the land of health without hustle, and vigour without vulgarity.

Miss Yuill, who married the Earl of Portarlington last Saturday, had a most covetable trousseau. We saw some of the gowns at Paquin's, and noticed that the modified Empire style is still among us, though many people prophesied at the beginning of the revival that it would last but a few weeks. There was an evening gown of white velvet, quite plain, but with exquisite folds, drawn into a swathed bodice veiled with silver lace caught with a silver rose. Another Empire frock, also for evening wear, had a high yoke and sleeves of Mechlin lace lightened with delicate traceries of silver. The material was pale rose-pink soft satin, which was here and there embroidered in fine silver. The skirt was trimmed with Mechlin lace applied on pale rose-coloured velvet. An afternoon dress of white cloth, with Irish lace, also had a little Empire coat with an embroidered vest. A lovely afternoon frock was in green, with a little coatee of bengalinette, dotted with tiny gold buttons, and relieved with fine lace. The skirt, in soft green silk, was veiled with black mousseline de soie, a very French idea, and remarkably smart. A lovely pale grey cloth mantle, with a collar of velvet embroidered in gold and Oriental colours, was entirely lined with ermine, that regal fur.

We had a private view of the Peri-lusta competition embroideries, and enjoyed ourselves very much in seeing some extremely beautiful work. The competitors, in view of the handsome money prizes, had put their best foot forward, or, should I say, best hand? The work was divided into coloured Peri-lusta and white, and the former proved a snare to many, who evidently love colour not wisely but too well. Some of their combinations of tint were emphatic beyond expression, though they had all the lovely shades of the beautiful threads from which to choose. The minority, however, made up for the excesses of the majority by the delicate refinement of their harmonies. There was a bedspread in white and pale green which seemed like a draught of cool water after some of the violent heats and rages perpetrated on other pieces. The first-prize piece in this selection was a composed and dignified heraldic design divided into squares and carried out in beautifully modified shades. The work was smooth and even and almost as neat on the wrong side as on the right, and the fine lustre of the threads had not suffered from over-handling, a great point in these embroideries.

From all parts of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland came the pieces of work, as well as from further afield, we were told, and the roomful of competitive pieces testified to the popularity of Peri-lusta. From far-away Vancouver arrived one piece. Some of the designs were very new and uncommon. One, in particular, represented the interior of a convent, with altar and stained-glass window, and three monks evidently doing penance, for each carried a lighted candle as they approached the altar in single file.

The white work contained some specimens of very remarkable beauty. One of these was a white petticoat trimmed with a furlong or so of wide knitted lace done with the finest Peri-lusta knitting threads, yet so strong as to be practically everlasting. Two centuries hence some girl may be handling that lace and saying, "Oh, what patience the dear woman had who knitted this! I wonder what she was like." There were wonderful bed-spreads embroidered in finest stitchery, with drawn-thread work, some with broderie anglaise introduced, and one or two trimmed round with knitted or crocheted edgings of Peri-lusta. Table-centres, sideboard cloths, d'oyleys (one set in exquisitely fine crochet), duchess cloths and mats to match, tray cloths, were in profusion. There were also embroidered dresses and blouses, children's frocks, sweet little knitted and crocheted jackets for new babies, shawls of every size, some of them soft and fine as Shetland, and many other useful and pretty things. Persons who fear that the needle's art is dying out among us may be reassured. There are nimble fingers carrying it on into the twentieth century with as much skill and assiduity as have ever been applied to this, one of the oldest of the arts. One of the principal prizes was, very appropriately, secured by a Leek lady. Leek, as you know, is the acknowledged home of up-to-date embroidery.

The Royal Irish Industries Association has always held its St. Patrick's Day Sale at one of the great town houses of the nobility—the late Lord Salisbury's, in Arlington-street, Londonderry House, Downshire House, Grosvenor House, Lansdowne House, Seaford House, etc.—but this year there is to be a change. The Associations has secured the magnificent suite of reception rooms and ballroom at the Hotel Ritz, in Piccadilly. The great size of these lovely rooms and their artistic beauty will

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make a fine setting for the beautiful work always seen at these sales. As St. Patrick's Day will fall on a Sunday this year, the sale is to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of March.

Do you dread the periodical hair-washings which disturb the peace of every woman? They are so tiring, the rubbing, and squeezing, and the little trickles of cold or hot water, and then the horrid tedious business of getting dry by slow degrees, followed by the probability of a cold and the certainty of a wild, unmanageable head for two or three days. Even going out and having a shampoo at a hairdresser's is a long business, though certainly the hot air is preferable to the crouching in front of a fire which is the penalty of the home process. Bee indulged in a shampoo in "uninflammable Enna" the other day. It cost more, "in mere cash," as she put it afterwards, but she is delighted with it. The whole process took less than twenty minutes; she leaned her head back, the stuff was poured over it, and in a few minutes her hair was dry. It has looked lovely since, and not too soft, and Bee says it was worth the extra money to escape the rubbing over the tender parts of the skull. She went to Regent-street for her first trial, but is going to do it at home next time as it is so easy. Although there is petrol in it, it is really uninflammable—the Post Offices all over the world accept it, which is proof of its safety. It is a boon to any one, but particularly, I should think, to invalids.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Castle seasons come round for us regularly in their course as Christmas and other festive times do, promoting the amusement of society and benefiting trade and innumerable industries. They do a great deal more besides: they give something to talk about, to criticise, and, as a necessary consequence, to grumble at. Above all, they give us something to dress for—men and women both. We could better spare many a better thing than our Viceregal Court; one shudders to think of what Dublin would be without it. No opportunities for the wear of Court dress, for the gauds and vanities so dear to feminine hearts; for trains, feathers, lappets, and all the courtly extras of attire; nor for those equally dear to manly ones, for garb of brilliant colours, gold and silver embroideries, sashes, ribbons, stars and orders.

The Castle season which began last week gave us something more than usual to talk about, as the traditional Drawing Room, in some ways a unique ceremonial and a speciality of Dublin Castle, was abolished, the old order giving place to the new. With the object of letting the many who hold hard by tradition down easy, the name of Drawing Room was retained for the two "Courts" held on Wednesday and Thursday nights respectively. One wonders who had such a thoughtful and original idea. In one way the change is not popular, as it makes the Drawing Room more of a mere Court ceremonial and less of a party. Every one, however, is made more comfortable, there is no crowding, and every one has the fullest opportunity of displaying her Court costume. The oldest inhabitant does not remember a Viceregal Drawing Room ever before being held in the spacious Patrick's Hall. The innovation proved very successful, the Patrick's Hall forming a most effective *mise en scène* for such a State ceremonial. The Lord Lieutenant and Lady Aberdeen sat enthroned at one side of the room, with their staff, household and guests of distinction. Prominent amongst the latter were the new Chief Secretary and Mrs. Birrell, who had only arrived in Ireland the previous evening, and were having their first view of the "society" set of the distressful country, whose "distresses" it has now been given into Mr. Birrell's hands to alleviate. One cannot but think that the Chief Secretary must have been somewhat surprised at the sight of the matrons and maidens in beautiful Court dresses, who passed through the Patrick's Hall making their obeisances to their Excellencies. Their sparkling jewels and frequently very fair faces suggested anything but distressful ideas. And then on Mr. Birrell's and your side of the Channel you so exclusively think of the daughters of Erin as if they all lived in cabins and amongst mountains and bogs.

Lady Aberdeen wore black satin trimmed with Irish lace and green embroidery—Irish made as well—her train was of panne with the same style of trimming. Her jewels—diamonds, emeralds, and rubies—were magnificent. Her daughter, Lady Marjorie Sinclair, was beautifully dressed in white velvet, chiffon, and many diamonds. Lady Aberdeen had two picturesque little pages in attendance, the sons respectively of Lord Fingall and Sir John Arnott, who were St. Patrick's blue—that is, the sons, not their fathers. Lady Annesley was in the latest Empire fashion, with a white gown and blue train all gold embroidery, and of course with gorgeous jewels. Lady Grenfell was in sapphire blue, with iridescent trimming and lovely Alençon lace. Lady MacDonnell's Court dress was a dream of courtly beauty—white chiffon velvet trimmed with gold embroidery and lovely lace, and a train of gold brocade lined with white satin. Her daughter wore a train of gold tissue covered with silver tulle, and dress of lilac crêpe de chine and embroidery. Lady Wicklow's train was of Brussels lace, with a dress of white satin, silver, and lace. Lady Arnott wore a delicate pink dress sparkling with crystal and diamante trimming, and a train of silver cloth and Brussels lace. The list of lovely toilettes would be too long to enumerate; never was there a better-dressed Drawing Room in Dublin Castle. Fashionable materials just now are so beautiful in their softness and delicacy, and the trimmings so effective in their lightness and brightness. However it may be as regards figures, at least as regards attire the feminine world seems determined to be fairy-like. Amongst those who presented daughters were Ladies Clarina, O'Neill, Stopford, Butler, Margaret Proby, Plumer, Kenmare, Stronge, Belmore. Lady Augusta Fane was presented by Lady Powerscourt, Lady Cynthia Crewe Milnes was with her sister, Lady Celia Coates. Those who brought daughters included Lady Granard, Lady Mowbray and Stourton, Lady Clinton—the Dowager who has lately been living in Ireland—Ladies Holmpatrick, Shaw, Arnott, Gwendoline O'Shee, Fermoy. The Misses Ponsonby were with Lady Mayo. Lady Iveagh's niece, Miss Marjorie Guinness, was presented by Mrs. Claude Guinness. Ladies Dunsany, Muriel Close, Clementine Waring, Hawkesbury, Bellew, Pirrie, and many others, wore handsome dresses. Dainty bouquets in most cases completed the Court costumes, and of course feathers and lappets waved and floated on every feminine head.

Lord and Lady Grenfell's ball at the Royal Hospital on the night before the first "Court" was a very brilliant entertainment. Lord and Lady Aberdeen, with a large Viceregal party, were present, and the elect of society assembled in Dublin for the Castle ceremonials. The dresses of the majority of our sex were simply dreams of bright and early beauty; the large military contingent was in full dress and highly decorative.

Lord Iveagh did not remain in Dublin for the Levee, and Lord and Lady Ardilaun went at the beginning of last week to Ashford, in Galway, where they had their usual woodcock shooting party.—Yours ever, Clare.

Here are my recipes. Macaroni and oysters are a tempting dish:—

Boil 4oz. of macaroni till it is tender, then cut it into pieces an inch long, put it into good white sauce. Blanch and beard a dozen oysters, make a little sauce with the reduced liquor, add a squeeze of lemon juice, a pinch of salt and pepper, the yolk of an egg, and a little cream. Line a buttered fireproof dish with the macaroni, pour in the oyster preparation, cover it with the remainder of the macaroni, spread a little grated cheese and cream, mixed together, on the top, and bake it a nice brown colour.

Partridges à la Napolitaine:—

Cut a couple of partridges into halves, sautez them with a minced onion and 2 oz. of butter until brown, dust them with flour, then add 1 lb. of ripe tomatoes, cut in quarters, a minced red chilli, and a gill of stock; stir them till they are hot, then cover them closely, and simmer them for two hours. Remove the birds and keep them hot while rubbing the sauce through a hair sieve. Re-heat the birds in the sauce, adding a glass of any light wine. Dish them in a circle, with inch length pieces of macaroni in the centre, the sauce poured round them, and groups of button onions in groups.

Suprême de Dindon à l'aspic is an agreeable dish:—

Take about 12 oz. of the meat of a cold boiled turkey and pound it thoroughly, adding 2 oz. of butter, a spoonful of white sauce, half a gill of thick cream, and salt and pepper to taste, rub the meat through a wire sieve and mix it with half a gill

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of liquid aspic, adding two or three extra sheets of dissolved gelatine and a tablespoonful of clear, pale-coloured glaze, pour the purée into a dish to set. Set a plain mould with aspic and decorate it with crescent-shaped pieces of truffle and red cooked carrot, cut the purée with a cutlet-shaped cutter, dipped in hot water, and arrange them round the mould, overlapping each other, put scallops of truffle, artichoke bottoms and foie gras in the centre, pour in sufficient dissolved aspic to cover it, and when it is set repeat the layers of purée and aspic, allowing each one to set before another is added. When the mould is set, turn it out on a dish, garnish it with chopped aspic and serve celery and beetroot salad separately.

Lièvre en surprise:—

Having cleansed and skinned a nice leveret, take the bones carefully from the back, without breaking the second skin, sautez the liver with that of a rabbit, adding 2 oz. of dice-shaped pieces of fat bacon, 2 oz. of butter, 2 finely chopped shallots, a sprig of thyme, and a sprig or two of parsley, after which pound and rub it through a hair sieve. Pound the flesh of a rabbit, adding 4 oz. of scraped fat bacon, 2 oz. of butter, 2 whole eggs, pepper, salt, and the passed liver. Spread the farce on the inside of the leveret, sprinkle it with chopped tongue and parsley, add the remainder of the farce, draw the flaps together, sew them securely, and truss the leveret into shape, cover the back with slices of fat bacon, and braise it with stock from the bones, adding vegetables and herbs to season, for about two hours. When ready to serve, remove the bacon, brush the leveret over with glaze, and garnish with groups of red tongue and macaroni. Serve good celery sauce in a boat.

Pain d'épinards à la crême is a plat that will please vegetarians:—

Well wash and boil 3 lbs. of spinach, squeeze every particle of water from it, and rub it through a wire sieve. Put it into a stewpan with half a gill of thick white sauce, and salt and pepper to taste; cover it closely and allow it to steam on the side of the stove for 20 minutes, then remove it to cool a little; mix in 2 yolks, and one whole egg. Line the bottom and sides of a buttered and papered plain mould with the spinach, fill the centre with minced hard-boiled eggs, mixed with a little white sauce, the yolk of a fresh egg, and a spoonful of grated cheese, cover it with the remainder of the spinach, twist a buttered paper over it, and steam it for three-quarters of an hour. Serve it with creamy white sauce poured round it.

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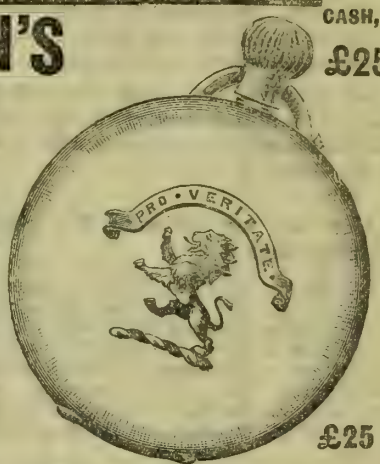

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74. CROMWELL ROAD, S.W., and STABLES.—Well situated near the Park and Kensington Gardens, close to Gloucester-road Station, and thus within a few minutes (by the electrified District and the new G.N., Brompton & Piccadilly lines) of the fashionable world and the principal West End centres, the City and the Temple and Westminster being also very accessible. An excellent well-built Family Residence, facing south, containing 10 bed and dressing rooms and bath room, fine double drawing-room and boudoir, central hall, library, and good dining room, full domestic offices; stabling at the rear for three horses, with coach-house and rooms over; the whole held for nearly 50 years at nominal ground rents amounting to £2 4s. per annum: with possession.
Solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence, Graham, & Co., 6, New-square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.

Close to Hyde Park Corner, quiet and open position.

19. WILTON-STREET, GROSVENOR-PLACE.—Eight bed and dressing rooms, double drawing and dining rooms, conservatory and third room; long garden; lease over 17 years; ground rent only £5; with possession.
Solicitors, Messrs. Bowmann and Curtis-Hayward, Maxwell House, Arundel-street, Strand.

By direction of the Rt. Hon. Lord Walsingham.
EATON HOUSE.

66A. EATON-SQUARE, S.W., and STABLES.—The valuable long lease (from the Duke of Westminster) of this handsome corner Town Mansion, in an exceptionally open and fashionable position, directly overlooking the entire length of the extensive square gardens, and within a few minutes of Albert Gate, Hyde Park Corner, Buckingham Palace, Victoria, and Sloane-square. It is of commanding elevation, nearly detached, and is thoroughly well circumstanced for light and air. There are 13 bed and dressing rooms and two bath rooms, a suite of two lofty drawing rooms and conservatory, spacious hall, dining room (with lift), morning-room, and library, full complement of light and airy domestic offices; two staircases, &c. Held for an unexpired term of 61 years at a ground rent of £120; with possession.
Solicitors, Messrs. Robert Dixon and Sons, Savoy Mansions, The Savoy, W.C. Particulars also of Messrs. Menzies and Menzies, land agents, 17, Victoria-street, Westminster.

Westminster "Trust" Lease.

7. UPPER BELGRAVE-STREET, S.W., and STABLES.—A superior and recently-modernised TOWN HOUSE, in a choice position between Belgrave and Eaton Squares, and close to Hyde Park Corner. The excellent accommodation comprises ten bed and dressing rooms, two having fitted baths, and good box-room, two handsome drawing-rooms and boudoir, vestibule, inner hall, with fine, top-lighted principal staircase, library, spacious dining-room and smoking-room; ample domestic offices, secondary staircase; first-class stabling for five horses, with coach-house and rooms over. The whole held on direct Westminster lease for about 61 years at the moderate ground rent of £120 per annum; with possession.
Solicitors, Messrs. Callard & Vulliamy, 25, Golden-square, Regent-street, W.

MESSRS. TROLLOPE are instructed to SELL these excellent TOWN HOUSES by AUCTION, at the MART, on WEDNESDAY, February 13, at TWO (unless previously sold privately).
Particulars of the respective Solicitors, and of the Auctioneers, Messrs. Trollope, 7, Hobart-place, Eaton-square; West Halkin-street, Belgrave-square; 14, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square; and 5, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.

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ALASSIO.—HOTEL MEDITERRANEE. Large garden. Sea view. Sheltered position. Auto. Garage. Mod. charges.—E. BOGLIOLE, Prop.

ALASSIO.—THE SALISBURY. Proprietor, Mr. John Congreve.

BORDIGHERA. — HOTEL ANGST. Leading hotel. Patronised by English Society. Luxuriously furnished. English sanitation.—Proprietor, ADOLFO ANGST.

BORDIGHERA. — HOTEL ROYAL. High-class hotel. Full South. The most fashionable house. Garden.—L. PALOMBI, Prop

BORDIGHERA.—HOTEL BELVEDERE LOMBARDI. The favourite English hotel.—Prop., G. WUNSCHMAUN. Madame is English.

BRUSSELS.—LE GRAND HOTEL. Grill Room. Mod. charges.

CANNES.—GRAND HOTEL BRISTOL, CENTRAL. First-class hotel, situated in a most charming position.—Prop., T. SCHAER.

CANNES. — HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. The recognised English house. Modern improvements.

CANNES.—ROST'S CONTINENTAL HOTEL. One of the finest hotels on the Riviera. Unrivalled sea view.—Prop., H. ROST.

CANNES.—PRINCE DE GALLES HOTEL. First-class. Suites with private bath. Central Heating. Large garden.

CANNES.—GRAND HOTEL DE PROVENCE. First-class, quiet and select quarter. Large gardens. English house.

CHEMISTS. — GINNER & CO., Court Chemists. The English Pharmacy, 40, Rue d'Antibes, Cannes. Tel. 527.

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CAUX, Switzerland.—1,100 metres above sea. PALACE and GRAND HOTELS. Summer and Winter Resort.

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DAVOS-PLATZ.—HOTEL VICTORIA. Favourite English House.

ENGELBERG.—HOTELS CATTANI. Leading Hotels. Private apartments with baths. Winter sport. Summer resort.—CATTANI BRS.

FLORENCE.—HOTEL MINERVA.—Quiet and Central. Patronised by English and Americans.—G. CANDRION, Prop.

FLORENCE.—HOTEL REGINA ET VICTORIA. First-class. Every modern comfort. Lately improved and redecorated. Full South.—Propr., CHIARI.

FLORENCE.—HOTEL ROYAL GRAND BRETAGNE. First-class. Full south. Open all the year.—CHIOSTRI, Props.

FRANKFORTa/M.—FRANKFURTER HOF. The leading Hotel and Restaurant. 50 private Bathrooms. Cesar Ritz (of the Carlton), Advisory Director.—GEORGES GOTTLOB, Manager.

GENOA.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. Apartments, with bath. Quiet rooms, garden on the fourth floor, splendid panorama.

GENOA.—GRAND HOTEL ISOTTA. Best central situation. All modern improvements. Hot water heating.—E. MOSER, Dir.

GLION, above Montreux, Swiss.—NEW PARK HOTEL. First class. Best situation. Own park. Open whole year. Winter sports.

GRASSE.—GRAND HOTEL. Patronised by her late Majesty.—Proprietor, F. ROST. Open from Sept. 16 to July.

HYERES.—GRAND HOTEL METROPOLE. Full South. With modern comfort. Orchestra. Lift.—E. CASTUEIL, Prop. Director.

LAUSANNE. — HOTEL BEAU SEJOUR. First-class family home. All latest comforts. Fine situation. Large garden.

LAUSANNE.—HOTEL DE LAUSANNE. First-class. Facing railway station. Latest comforts.—AD. SCHAER, Prop.

LUGANO.—HOTEL BELLEVUE AU LAC. First-class. Large dining-room, separate tables. Modern improvements.

LUGANO.—GD. HOTEL METROPOLE. New Hotel, unrivalled position, with latest improvements. The Hotel faces the English Church. Proprietor, A. BROCCA, of Hotel Lugano.

LUGANO.—HOTEL BEAU REGARD and CONTINENTAL. First-class, beautifully situated in its own grounds. Near English Church.

MENTONE.—HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. Leading English house. Two English billiard tables. Garage.—Prop., Mme. ARBOGAST. P. GIORGI, new Manager.

MENTONE.—BOSSHART'S HOTEL D'ITALIE. First-class. Splendid position, large garden. Mrs. Bosshart is English.

MENTONE.—RIVIERA PALACE. Suites with private baths. 300 rooms.

MENTONE.—HOTEL MONT FLEURI. First-class. Central Heating. Lift. Electric Light. Charmingly situated on elevated position.

MENTONE. — BEAU RIVAGE. First-class hotel at moderate prices. Full south, facing sea.—KASPAR TREPP, Prop.

MENTONE.—HOTEL DE TURIN. Central position, full south. Large garden. Modern comfort.—J. WARTH, Prop.

MENTONE.—ALEXANDRA HOTEL. First-class. Under New Management. Reorganised. Redecorated throughout.

MENTONE.—HOTEL DES COLONIES. Grill room Anglo-American Bar. High-class.—Prop., J. SOMAZZI.

MENTONE.—ANGLO-AMERICAN ESTATE AGENCY. Complete list of Villas, Flats, Apartments for rent and for sale.

MILAN.—HOTEL DE LA VILLE. First-class. Near Cathedral. Post, Teleg., and Rly. Office in hotel. Central heating. Suites with baths.

MONTE CARLO.—HOTEL VICTORIA. First-class. Entirely re-furnished and newly decorated. Large public rooms facing south. Suites of apartments with private bathrooms and toilette. Large garden. Auto-car shed. VVE. E. REY, Proprietress.

MONTE CARLO.—GD. HOTEL DE LONDRES. Opposite Casino. Modern comfort, reasonable terms, always open.—Man'r, J. KAISER.

MONTE CARLO.—HOTEL DU HELDER. Modern comfort, central heating. Situated close to Casino.—A. BREMOND, Prop.

MONTE CARLO.—HOTEL HARTER ET MEDITERRANEE. First-class. Facing sea and Casino. Prop., CH. HARTER.

MONTREUX.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. First class. Patronised by English and Americans. Unrivalled situation & comforts.

MUNICH.—THE CONTINENTAL. Leading HOTEL and RESTAURANT. Entirely renewed and enlarged.

MUNICH.—GRAND HOTEL LEINFELDER. First-class. Open position. Opposite Botanical Gardens. Rooms with Bath. Proprietor, GEBRUDER SCHWARZ.

NAPLES.—GRAND HOTEL. First-class. Situated in the finest and most select part of Naples. Magnificent view of town, Vesuvius, and bay. Proprietors, HAUSER & DOEPFNER.

NAPLES.—PARKER'S HOTEL. The English and most comfortable, in best situation. Splendid view of bay.

NAPLES.—GD. HOTEL DU VESUVE. Splendid position. Strictly first-class. Latest comfort.

NAPLES.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. Recommended for its cuisine, position, and comfort.

NAPLES.—ELDORADO MODERN HOTEL. Good central situation. Moderate terms.

NICE.—GD. HOTEL DES ILES BRITANNIQUES. First-class, moderate terms.—Prop., ZAMBAIL. Summer, Hotel Roseg-Pontresina, Engadine.

NICE.—HOTEL DU RHIN. Strictly first-class. Family house. Excellent position. All rooms heated by hot water. Terms moderate.

NICE.—CIMIEZ.—WINTER PALACE. One of the finest and most comfortable hotels in Europe.—J. AGID, Director.

NICE.—MEYER'S PARK HOTEL, Villa Arson. First-class. Situated in its own magnificent Park. Moderate terms.

NICE.—HOTEL TERMINUS. Opposite Railway Station. First-class, up-to-date. New winter garden.—H. MORLOCK, Prop.

NICE.—HOTEL DE SUEDE. English house, every home comfort, hot-water heating, electric lift.

TAILOR.—F. MACGOWAN. English and American Tailor for Ladies and Gentlemen. Established 1879. 19, Avenue de la Gare, NICE.

PALERMO.—EXCELSIOR PALACE HOTEL. New. Leading Hotel. Opened Feb., 1906.

PARIS.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. Most luxurious and comfortable hotel in Paris. Entirely renovated.—A. LOTTI, Gen. Mgr.

PARIS.—HOTEL ST. JAMES & ALBANY, opposite Tuileries. Favourite rendezvous of English and Americans. Prop. Mang., A. LERCHE.

PARIS.—MERCEDES HOTEL, Place de l'Etoile. Most modern hotel in Paris. Opened April, 1904. Luxuriously furnished.

PARIS.—HOTEL MONTANA, Avenue de l'Opéra. First-class. Latest and all modern improvements.—G. VAUTIER, Prop.

PARIS.—HOTEL DE L'ATHENÉE, Rue Scribe. One of the leading hotels.—E. AMBRUSTER, Manager-Proprietor.

PISA. — GRAND HOTEL and HOTEL DE LONDRES. The only hotel with central heating in Pisa.

PONTRESINA. HOTEL KRONENHOF & BELLAVISTA. First-class. Best situation. Open whole year. Summer & Winter Resort.

PORTOFINO.—HOTEL SPLENDID. Station, St. Margherita. The only first-class Hotel in Portofino and district of Portofino. Exquisite view. Tel. Add.: "Splendid," Portofino.

RAPALLO.—VERDI'S HOTEL. Favourite English house. Charmingly situated. Electric light. Modern comfort.

ROME.—HOTEL QUIRINAL. First-class. Situated on famous Via Nazionale, in finest part of Rome. Every modern comfort.

ROME.—REGINA HOTEL. New. Opposite Queen Margherita's Palace. One of the leading.—Managing Prop., E. BARBIANI.

ROME.—PALACE HOTEL. New. Up-to-date.
BEAUSITE HOTEL. First-class family house.

ROME.—WINDSOR HOTEL. Full south, via Veneto. Suites of apartments. Baths. Cent. heat. Mod. comf.—CASTELLI & LANTENAY.

ROME.—HOTEL ROYAL. The English House.

ROME.—SAVOY HOTEL. First-class family hotel near the gardens.—Prop., J. LENGYEL.

FOREIGN HOTELS, &c.—*contd.*

SAN REMO.—GRAND HOTEL BELLEVUE. The most fashionable, of renowned reputation.—JULES LIPPERT, Prop.

SAN REMO.—SAVOY HOTEL, opened 1900. Most luxurious modern hotel, elevated position.—Proprietor, PAUL MARINI.

SAN REMO.—GRAND HOTEL ROYAL. The most "UP-TO-DATE" Hotel of the place. Garage.—M. BERTOLINI, Prop.

SAN REMO.—GRAND HOTEL, HOTEL DES ANGLAIS.—AD. SCHREIBER, Prop.

ST. MORITZ.—THE BELVEDERE. English Family Hotel. Preferred position amongst the villas. Incl. terms, Fr. 11 to 18.

ST. MORITZ.—HOTEL ENGADINER KULM. Baths with suites and rooms. Golf, tennis, and all the Winter Sports.

ST. MORITZ.—PALACE HOTEL, the most fashionable. Prop., CASPAR BADRUTT'S ERBEN.

ST. MORITZ.—HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG. Family hotel. Sunniest pos. adj. Kulm and all the Sport places. Incl. terms, 10 to 16 fr.

TERRITET, Switzerland.—GRAND HOTEL and ALPES. Well-known rendezvous of English and American clientèle.

TERRITET.—GD. HOTEL BON-PORT. Favourite English house. Apartments with baths. Most sheltered situation.

VEVEY. Healthiest Swiss Resort. HOTEL TROIS COURONNES. First-class, modern improvements. Most moderate terms.

VEVEY.—GRAND HOTEL and PALACE HOTEL. The Fashionable Hotels. Two tennis courts.—ENG. MICHEL.

VEVEY.—HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE. First-class. 120 rooms. Very latest improvements. Bath with private suite.—Proprietor, T. WHITE.

VIENNA.—HOTEL BRISTOL. Kartnerring next to the Opera. The most leading hotel in the town. Own fishing and shooting.

WIESBADEN HOTEL KAISERHOF, connected with Augusta Victoria Baths. First-class, open whole year.—Prop., O. HILLENGASS.

WIESBADEN.—FOUR SEASONS HOTEL and BATHS. Finest position, opposite Kurnaus and Opera. Own mineral spring.

WIESBADEN.—HOTEL NASSAU. Connected with a magnificent Bathing Establishment. Situated at the Curplace. "The English Home."

WIESBADEN.—PALAST HOTEL. Kochbrunnen Bath establishment. Rooms with private bath. First-class, up-to-date.

WIESBADEN.—HOTEL FURSTENHOF. Facing Kursaal and Kurpark. New and modern Building. Rooms with private bath.

CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

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IMPERIAL DIRECT Mail Service BRISTOL to KINGSTON (Jamaica).

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FOREIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEAULIEU.—HOUSES AND ESTATES. E. KURZ. (Opposite Station.) Villas furnished, to be let or sold.

HYERES.—R. J. CORBETT & CO. The English Bank. Arrangements with Hotels. Villas and Apartments to let.

TRUTH HOTEL LIST.

AYR.—STATION HOTEL, adjoining station. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards. For Business Gentlemen, Families, and Tourists to "The Land of 'Burns,'" and Ayrshire district. Within few minutes' walk of sea shore. Convenient Golf Courses. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Dumfries, and Turnberry.

BELFAST.—GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.—The Finest Hotel in Ireland. 200 rooms. Electric light throughout. Passenger lifts to all floors. Magnificent public rooms and suites of private apartments. Most central position. Very moderate tariff. Omnibuses from Hotel attend all steamers and trains. Telegrams, "Grand Central, Belfast."

BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL. Finest position on front. Splendid public rooms. Orchestra twice daily. Tepid sea-water Swimming Bath. Garage communicating with the Hotel. Private suites, with bathrooms. Write for Illustrated Brochure.

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms. Passenger lift to all the floors. GEO. HECKFORD, Manager.

DUBLIN.—HOTEL METROPOLE, SACKVILLE-STREET (next General Post Office). Convenient for Railways, Steamers, and Amusements. Modern and luxurious. Electric Light and Passenger Lift. Sanitation officially certified. High-class Restaurant attached. Moderate Tariff. Descriptive matter on application to the Manager.

DUMFRIES.—STATION HOTEL, opposite station. Electric light. Lift. Billiards. Convenient for Firth of Solway, Castle Douglas, Sweetheart Abbey, Caerlaverock Castle, &c. Lovely Drives. Splendid centre for motor and cycle tours. Shooting. Fishing. Golf. Other G. & S. W. Rly Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Turnberry.

EASTBOURNE.—The HYDRO HOTEL, a Select Residential Hotel, due south, facing sea. Spacious Lounges and Public Rooms. Garage. Special Week End Terms. Cinderella Dance Saturday. For Amusement. Programme and Tariff (Illustrated), O. F. BERGANN, Manager.

GLASGOW.—ST. ENOCH STATION HOTEL. Best centre for business and pleasure. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (4 tables). Restaurant. Within shilling cab fare of all railway and steamboat termini in Glasgow. Near electric cars and opposite subway cable railways. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Ayr, Dumfries, and Turnberry.

GRAND CANARY.—The Newest and Best Hotel is The METROPOLE. Facing the sea. Delightful position. Terms most moderate. Agents, ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO., 14, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 4, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.

MALVERN.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL (only 2½ hours from Paddington) facing due S., offers every comfort at moderate and inclusive charges. *A cheerful lounge, with electric light.* Central for Croome and Ledbury Hounds, loose boxes, hunters. Accommodation for Motors.—For tariff apply to Resid. Prop., F. MOERSCHELL.

SCARBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL. First-class. Situated on South Cliff. Magnificent view. Adjacent to the incline. Tramways leading to Spa and Sands, facing South. Billiard Room, two tables. Fireproof Staircase, Lift, Electric Light. Telegrams, "Princely." Illustrated Booklet post free.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate. W. WORSTER, Manager.

TURNBERRY.—STATION HOTEL. "The most up-to-date Hotel in Scotland." Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (3 tables). Conservatory. Garage and stables. Sea Water Baths. Two fine golf courses for visitors. Lovely Climate. Charming district. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Dumfries.

LEAMINGTON SPA.—REGENT HOTEL. The most charming in the Provinces. Reconstructed and refurnished. Lift. Recherché cuisine. Large Garage. Unique Winter and Hunting Quarters.

HASTINGS.

QUEEN'S HOTEL.

Unsurpassed for Comfort. Luxurious Lounge facing Sea. Moderate Tariff. No Charge for Attendance. Motor Garage and Inspection Pit. Trams do ***NOT*** pass the Hotel.

A. RICKARDS, Manager (late of Queen's, Southsea).

ALEXANDRA HOTEL.

Best position on Sea Front.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.

Faces due South.

An Ideal Autumn and Winter Resort.
Patronised by the leading Families in the Kingdom.
Moderate Tariff; inclusive if desired.

Telephone No. 64.

The following notice of the Prospectus referred to below is issued by way of information only, and not for the purpose of inviting subscriptions, and no applications will be entertained unless the same are made on the footing of and with reference to such Prospectus, copies of which can be obtained from the Solicitors and Bankers, and at the Offices of the Company.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on or before February 8, 1907.

The Prospectus is dated 31st January, 1907, and has been duly filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

GENERAL INVESTORS AND TRUSTEES, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862-1900.)

SHARE CAPITAL £1,000,000,

divided into

100,000 Cumulative 4½ per Cent. Preference Shares of £5 each ...	£500,000
100,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each	500,000
	£1,000,000

FIRST ISSUE OF

60,000 PREFERENCE SHARES	£300,000
60,000 ORDINARY SHARES	300,000
	£600,000

The Preference Shares carry a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the amount for the time being paid up thereon, and rank both as regards dividend and capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

Of the above issue, 20,000 Ordinary Shares (being the maximum allowed by the Rules of the Stock Exchange) and 10,000 Preference Shares are to be issued and credited as paid up in satisfaction of the purchase price of the securities acquired as a first operation by the Company.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are INVITED by the Prospectus for the remaining—

50,000 Cumulative 4½ per Cent. Preference Shares of £5 each;

40,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each;

Payable as follows:—

PREFERENCE SHARES—5s. on Application; 20s. on Allotment; 25s. on 15th March, 1907; 25s. on 15th May, 1907; 25s. on 15th July, 1907.

ORDINARY SHARES—5s. on Application; 20s. on Allotment; 25s. on 15th March, 1907; and the balance as and when called up, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association.

The Preference Shares may be paid up in full on Allotment, under discount at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

Dividends will be payable half-yearly on the Preference Shares, the first dividend, calculated on the several instalments from the due dates thereof, being payable on the 1st July, 1907.

The subscription at par of the entire amount of Preference and Ordinary Shares offered by the Prospectus has been guaranteed without commission, in consideration of the right conferred on the guarantors to a preferential allotment at par of one-third of the unissued Ordinary Shares (forming part of the Original Capital), in the event of such shares being offered for subscription within a period of five years from the formation of the Company.

The Directors and their friends have applied for Shares amounting in all (with the Shares for which they have signed the Memorandum of Association) to 4,000 Preference and 11,000 Ordinary Shares on the terms of the Prospectus.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN SMITH, C.B. (late Inspector-General in Bankruptcy), "Dunedin," Chichester-road, Croydon, Chairman.

B. NEWGASS (Merchant), 75-76, Lombard-street, E.C., Managing Director.

J. S. HARMOOD BANNER, M.P. (Chairman, Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Co., Ltd.), 24, North John-street, Liverpool.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. COCKBURN, K.C.M.G. (formerly Premier and Agent-General for South Australia), 10, Gatestone-road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

H. J. FELTON (Trustee, City Parochial Charities), 3, Temple-gardens, E.C.

HARRY KAHN (Merchant), 75-76, Lombard-street, E.C.

BANKERS.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and Liverpool.

SOLICITORS.

TAMPLIN, TAYLER, & JOSEPH, 165, Fenchurch-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

C. F. KEMP, SONS, & CO., 36, Walbrook, London, E.C.

SECRETARY and OFFICES.

JAMES DAVENPORT, 75-76, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

The Company has been formed to conduct the business of a Trust and Investment Company, as defined in its Memorandum of Association. The Directors believe that the present is a favourable time for engaging in such an enterprise, securities being generally free from inflation, and the conditions of trade throughout the world being of a satisfactory character.

It has been shown by experience that a well-managed investment company enjoys many advantages which are not usually within the reach of a private individual, who cannot, generally, exercise that vigilance essential to successful results. The former is in a position, while, as a rule, a private investor is not, to make the investigations necessary to ascertain the real position and intrinsic value and prospects of the undertakings in which it contemplates investing its capital.

The Company, as a first operation, has entered into an agreement to acquire securities and investments (spread over 25 different undertakings, including Railways, Electric Power and Lighting, Tramways, and Industrials), at the price of £150,000. No cash will be paid on account of the purchase consideration, which will be satisfied as to £50,000 by the issue of 10,000 of the above Preference Shares credited as fully paid, and as to the remaining £100,000 by the issue of 20,000 Ordinary Shares credited as fully paid. The Vendors have agreed to hold these Shares for a period of not less than three years in the names of the Vendors or the survivor of them if the survivor shall so long live.

The Securities and Investments so agreed to be acquired by the Company consist of property acquired by Messrs. B. Newgass and Co., of 75-76, Lombard Street, London, E.C. (the Vendors), during recent years in the course of their business, and represent:—

£128,650 Debenture and Mortgage Bonds, £19,480 Preference Shares, £26,895 Ordinary Shares } yielding, as appears below, an income at the rate of £8,729 7s. 0d. per annum,

The capital offered by the Prospectus for subscription will be utilised for the purposes of the business of the Company as above outlined, subject to the limitation provided for in the Articles of Association that no investment shall be made whereby more than 5 per cent. of the issued capital at the date of such investment shall become invested in any one undertaking, other than stocks, funds, and securities authorised by law as Trustees' Investments.

The Company will have the benefit of the valuable experience of Mr. B. Newgass, who has agreed to act as Managing Director for a term of three years from the 31st January, 1907, without further remuneration than the £200 per annum payable to him as Director under Article 96 of the Articles of Association, plus such share of the 15 per cent. hereinafter mentioned as may be agreed between himself and the Directors of the Company. Messrs. B. Newgass & Co. have also agreed to supply the Staff and Offices at 75-76, Lombard-street, E.C., for a term of three years at an inclusive sum of £1,750 per annum.

It is the intention of the Board to create out of the profits a substantial Reserve Fund, which they consider should ultimately be not less than 30 per cent. of the issued capital.

Nothing is payable for goodwill. There are no promotion profits, and there are no syndicate or underwriting commissions, with the exception of the above-mentioned option, but a brokerage of 6d. per share will be allowed on shares allotted upon applications bearing a broker's stamp.

An official settlement and quotation on the Stock Exchange will be applied for.

The Prospectus contains particulars of Contracts and other information required to be furnished by the Companies Act, 1900. Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the Contracts can be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company at any time during business hours. The Prospectus and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Solicitors and Bankers, and at the Offices of the Company.

PEKIN SYNDICATE.—An ordinary general meeting of the members of the Pekin Syndicate, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel E.C. Mr Carl Meyer (Chairman of the Company) stated that the position in round figures was that during 1906 they spent on the development of the mines about £70,000, and they had further sent various remittances to China in connection with acquisitions of lands and wharves, which would be required later on for the purpose of the business. At the present moment their assets consisted of as nearly as possible £800,000 nominal Five per Cent. Chinese Government Gold Railway bonds, and they also had cash assets of about £150,000; in addition they had the interests in China which he had mentioned, as well as their interest in the Chinese Central Railways, to which he referred at last year's meeting. Their available assets therefore amounted to about £1,000,000. It had been a year full of disappointment to all of them, but the Board could not have foreseen or have prevented all the difficulty, all the mining trouble that had arisen, unless they had been able to see into the bowels of the earth or been gifted with the possession of second sight. The troubles and disappointments they had had to contend against were, however, only the troubles and disappointments which were incident to every mining enterprise. He then referred at some length to a letter which had been published within the last few days addressed to him, as chairman of the Syndicate, by Mr. Luzzatti, to whose energy, he reminded the shareholders, the creation of the Syndicate and the obtaining of the original concession for the provinces of Shansi and Honan were due. The principal reproach contained in the letter was because they had so far not done anything in Shansi and had begun work at Honan. This was a point which his colleague, Mr. Jamieson, would deal with later, but he might himself mention if anyone would read his last year's speech he would find the directors' reasons for the policy referred to. Before addressing the letter in question to him, Mr. Luzzatti paid him a friendly visit and explained his views. He strongly urged them to begin work at Shansi, and not to mind the opposition of the local authorities and people, adding that if some of the Syndicate's engineers and staff should be killed they would have a good case for compensation from the Chinese Government. That policy, however, was one which did not commend itself to the Directors, and he would be very sorry to do anything to jeopardise the life of any member of their staff. Then their friend said that they ought long ago to have strengthened the Board by the election of a gentleman belonging to the Asiatic race. He did not see how the Syndicate would be strengthened in the opinion of European investors by putting a Chinese gentleman of high standing—if one could be found—on the Board; and as to reserving their unissued capital for Chinese banks, he feared that they would have to reserve it for a very long time indeed should they require money at any future date. Mr. Luzzatti thought that the directorate ought to be strengthened by the addition of a member who was technically conversant with the difficult problems which were confronting them, and which might confront them. Last summer he accidentally met in Switzerland the Marquis di Rudini, the much-esteemed friend and associate of Mr. Luzzatti in his early Chinese travels, and the Marquis volunteered the statement to him that the Italian shareholders, so far as he knew, had the fullest confidence in the management of the Syndicate. He wished to repeat what he said at their last meeting—that the Directors were convinced that the Syndicate's concessions were as valuable now as they were when they were first obtained. Mr. George Jamieson, in seconding the motion, observed that until quite recently Shansi was altogether inaccessible to them, whereas Honan lay at their feet, so to speak. He afterwards amplified the reasons why they began work on the Honan concession, and referred to the many difficulties against which they had had to contend in connection with the boring and other operations. He desired to take that opportunity of saying that during the whole of his sojourn in China he had had much to do with the British Legation and the officials, and from first to last he had found them most sympathetic and energetic in their support. Mr. Luzzatti afterwards addressed the meeting. The Chairman replied, and afterwards put the motion, which he declared carried unanimously. The retiring Directors, Mr. James G. H. Glass and Mr. Robert Miller, were afterwards re-elected.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY

(LIMITED),

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE OCEAN

ACCIDENT & GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LTD.

FOUNDED 1871. FUNDS £1,452,925.

(31st December, 1905.)

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Branches and Agencies throughout the World.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale houses.

ALCOHOLIC EXCESS

and DRUG HABIT cured at home in 3 to 7 weeks by the TURVEY TREATMENT without inconvenience. The only cure under British Medical Direction. Success tested by officials of the C.E.T.S. Mission, &c. Established 12 years. Over 5,000 recorded cases.—Write for Report of Public Test, or call, Med. Supt., TURVEY TREATMENT CO., Ltd., 24, Amberley House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London. Consultation to patients or their friends, free.

SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND

LIMITED.

CAPITAL—Paid Up	**£3,000,000**
Uncalled	**2,300,000**
Reserve Liability	**10,600,000**
Subscribed Capital	**£15,900,000**

RESERVE FUND (invested in English Government Securities), **£2,350,000.**

Number of Shareholders, **16,296.**

Directors.

COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
MAURICE OTHO FITZGERALD, Esq.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
CLAUDE VILLIERS EMILIUS LAURIE, Esq.
FRANCIS CHARLES LE MARCHANT, Esq.
The Right Hon. The EARL OF LICHFIELD.
Sir JAMES LYLE MACKAY, G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E.
GEORGE FORBES MALCOLMSON, Esq.
WILLIAM ROBERT MOBERLY, Esq.
SELWYN ROBERT PRYOR, Esq.
THOMAS GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq.
ROBERT WIGRAM, Esq.

Joint General Managers.

ROBERT T. HAINES, Esq., THOMAS ESTALL, Esq., and D. J. H. CUNNICK, Esq.

Solicitors.

ERNEST JAMES WILDE, Esq. WALTER EDWARD MOORE, Esq.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the Balance Sheet for the year 1906, and to report that after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and for the rebate of discount on current bills, the profit, including £90,216 8s. 10d. brought forward, amounts to £711,017 13s. 8d., which has been appropriated as follows:—

Interim Dividend of 8 per cent. paid in August last	£240,000 0 0
A further Dividend of 9 per cent. (making 17 per cent. for the year, free of Income Tax), payable 8th proximo ...	270,000 0 0
Transferred to Reserve Fund	50,000 0 0
Applied to Writing down Investments	60,000 0 0
Balance carried forward to 1907	91,017 13 8
	£711,017 13 8

The Directors retiring by rotation are The Earl of Lichfield, Sir James L. Mackay, G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., and Colin F. Campbell, Esq., all of whom, being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

The Directors have to announce the retirement in September last of Mr. F. Churchward, one of the General Managers, after a long and faithful service of fifty years, during twenty-five of which he had occupied the position of Joint General Manager. Mr. D. J. H. Cunnick, who has been Assistant General Manager for the last three years, has been appointed a Joint General Manager.

During the past year a Branch of the Bank has been opened at Coventry, which will doubtless still further strengthen the Bank's position in the Midland Counties.

In conformity with the Act of Parliament, the Shareholders are required to elect the Auditors and fix their remuneration. Mr. Edwin Waterhouse, and Mr. William Barclay Peat (of Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co.), the retiring Auditors, offer themselves for re-election.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

LIABILITIES.

CAPITAL:—			
40,000 Shares of £75 each, £10 10s. paid		£420,000	0 0
215,000 „ £60 „ £12 „		2,580,000	0 0
		3,000,000	0 0
RESERVE FUND...		2,350,000	0 0
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts, including rebate on Bills not due, provision for bad and doubtful debts, contingencies, &c.		54,241,561	19 4
Acceptances and Endorsements of Foreign Bills on Account of Customers		648,699	0 5
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:—			
Balance of Profit and Loss Account, including £90,216 8s. 10d. brought from year 1905	£711,017 13 8		
Less Interim Dividend, 8 per cent. paid in August last...	£240,000 0 0		
„ Dividend of 9 per cent. payable February 8 next ...	270,000 0 0		
„ Transferred to Reserve Fund	50,000 0 0		
„ Applied to writing down Investments...	60,000 0 0		
	620,000 0 0		
		91,017	13 8
		£60,331,278	13 5

ASSETS.

CASH:—			
At Bank of England and at Head Office and Branches ...		£8,602,600	16 8
„ Call and Short Notice		5,046,041	6 8
		13,648,650	17 4
INVESTMENTS:—			
English Government Securities ... ... (Of which £75,500 is lodged for public accounts.)	£8,665,417 1 10		
Indian and Colonial Government Securities; Debenture, Guaranteed, and Preference Stocks of British Railways; British Corporation and Waterworks Stocks ...	4,897,516 8 5		
Canal, Dock, River Conservancy, and other Investments	392,769 2 4		
		13,955,702	12 7
Liability of Customers for Acceptances, &c., as per Contra ...		648,699	0 5
Bills Discounted, Loans, &c.		31,439,523	12 5
Bank Premises in London and Country		638,702	10 8
		£60,331,278	13 5

M. O. FITZGERALD,
G. F. MALCOLMSON,
ROBERT WIGRAM, } Directors.

R. T. HAINES,
T. ESTALL,
D. J. H. CUNNICK, } Joint General Managers.

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with: and we report that we have ascertained the correctness of the Cash Balances and the Money at Call and Short Notice at the Head Office, and the securities representing the investments of the Bank; and having examined the Balance Sheet in detail with the Books at the Head Office and with the certified returns from each Branch, we are of opinion that such Balance Sheet is full and fair and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, as shown by such Books and Returns.

EDWIN WATERHOUSE,
WILLIAM BARCLAY PEAT, } Auditors.

18th January, 1907.

At the Annual General Meeting (Robert Wigram, Esq., in the chair) the above Report was adopted. The retiring Directors—The Earl of Lichfield, Sir James L. Mackay, G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., and Colin F. Campbell, Esq., were re-elected. Mr. Edwin Waterhouse and Mr. William Barclay Peat were re-appointed Auditors for the current year. The best thanks of the proprietors were given to the Directors, General Managers, Branch Managers, and other Officers of the Bank for their efficient services, and to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair.

The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having numerous Branches in England and Wales, as well as Agents and Correspondents at home and abroad, affords great facilities to its customers, who may have money transmitted to the credit of their Accounts through any of the Branches, free of charge.

At Head Office and Metropolitan Branches, Deposits are received and interest allowed thereon at the rates advertised by the Bank in the London newspapers from time to time, and Current Accounts are conducted on the usual terms.

At the Country Branches, Current Accounts are opened, Deposits received, and all other Banking business conducted.

The Bank undertakes the Agency of Private and Joint Stock Banks, also the Purchase and Sale of all British and Foreign Stocks and Shares, and the collection of Dividends, Annuities, &c.

Circular Notes and Letters of Credit, payable at the principal towns abroad, are issued for the use of Travellers.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its customers.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Bank, Lists of Branches, Agents, and Correspondents, may be had on application at the Head Office, and at any of the Bank's Branches.

NO BREAKING.
NO SPILLING.
NO WASTE.

NO RUINED
GARMENTS
IN TRAVEL.

DR. LYON'S
PERFECT
TOOTH POWDER

Cleanses, Preserves, and Beautifies the Teeth without injury; imparts a Natural Fragrance to the Breath.

Sold by all Chemists in dainty blue enamelled metal boxes, with Dr. Lyon's patent measuring tube very convenient for Touriste.

Price 1/-.

Prepared by the eminent Dental Surgeon,

J. W. Lyon. D.D.S.

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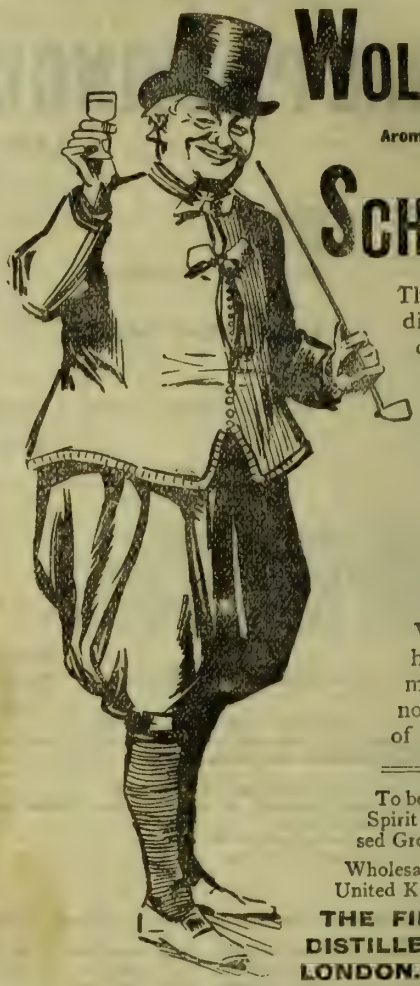

WOLFE'S
Aromatic Schiedam
SCHNAPPS

The purest spirit distilled for human consumption.

Admirable as a pick-me-up, tonic, or digestive.

As a beverage it combines happily with aerated waters.

And, in addition, Wolfe's Schnapps has well-known medicinal virtues, notably in the case of delicate women.

To be had of all Wine and Spirit Merchants, Licensed Grocers, &c.

Wholesale Agents for the United Kingdom:
THE FINSBURY DISTILLERY CO., LONDON.

1907 CARS

For SIMPLICITY,
ACCESSIBILITY and
EASE OF CONTROL
AN EASY FIRST

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THE NATURAL
SCOTCH WHISKY
freed from all Unnatural Elements is
PURE
CAMBUS
Patent Still
Scotch Grain Whisky

7 YEARS MATURED.

MELLOW, SOFT, AND DELICIOUS.

3/6 per bottle. Of all Licensed Grocers and Wine Merchants. 42/- per case.

THE DISTILLERS CO., LTD., EDINBURGH.

"THE EXQUISITE EGYPTIAN."
"NESTOR"
Cigarettes
(Nestor Gianaclis, Cairo).

Guaranteed absolutely free of all drugs or chemical flavourings, the peculiar aroma being due solely to the exquisite quality of the Tobaccos used in the Blend.

Imported in two qualities—
Surfine and Extrafine.

Specialities—Gold Tipped "King" and "Queen" Cigarettes. Also "Golf" Nestors and "Bridge" Nestors in packets of tens.

Of all Tobacconists and Stores throughout the World, and 10, New Bond Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,463.

It is a common subject of remark how completely VALENTINE'S DAY, once so generally observed in this country, has fallen into almost universal desuetude.

What the reason of this is, or whether there is any reason, I do not profess to know. Possibly, however, some of my Competitors may be able to throw light on the problem. And to encourage them to do so, I am offering, this week, the usual Prize of Two Guineas for:

THE BEST EPIGRAMMATIC ESSAY, IN NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED WORDS, THAT SHALL SUPPLY SOME PLAUSIBLE REASON, OR REASONS, FOR THE DECLINE AND FALL OF VALENTINE'S DAY.

The Essays should be in *prose* and as pithy and pointed as possible.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one Essay.
(ii.) All Essays must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday February 18, *at latest.*

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of THERSITES, winner of one-fourth TRUTH Prize No. 1,454, is R. L. Wherry, Esq., Eton Lodge, Don-road, St. Helier, Channel Islands.

SIMPLEX.—I much regret, and duly note, the typographical errors which you point out.

PROVIDENT AND RHO.—I much regret that your Solutions of Puzzle No. 1,459 were received too late for inclusion.

DIFISEL.—Many thanks for your card. Your name and address duly noted.

TEMPLAR.—Very pleased to welcome you once more after so long an interval. I hope I may now have the pleasure of receiving your Solutions regularly.

IOLIO.—The rule, of which you speak, refers only to special Queer Story Puzzle of December 19 last. In the ordinary course, our Puzzle Competitors should send in their names and addresses on the first occasion of their competing.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,460.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

BEST SET OF RHYMED LINES OF VAGARIES OF ENGLISH VERBS.

"I fly to thee, love!" and with rapture he flew.
"I cry to thee, love!" and with passion he crew.
"Oh, try me, dear love!" (a few others had trew).

"Let me tell thee, sweet love, all there is to be told,
How thou dwellest in this heart" (where some others had dwoled).
"Oh, my heart swells with love!" (as before it had swoled).

"Oh, shake not thy head, love!"—his pleading voice shook—
"Oh, wakes not thy heart? Has thy heart never wook?"
But her mien made him quake, so he stood still and quook!

"Thy presence I'll fly!" he cried as he flew,
But fell on the step and lay still. As he lew
With closed eyes, he said, "I shall die!" and he dew! Arachne.

A REMINISCENCE OF A SNOWY SUNDAY.

The snowy path to church I trod,
And saw two shivering creatures wod;
The solemn rite they greatly drod.

I liked the sermon that you praught,
With highest moral teaching fraught;
But oh! the babies—how they scraught!

And afterwards I vainly traught
To smoke those vile cigars you bought,
And in the struggle nearly dought.

And after, when of ghosts we spoke,
You gibbered horribly, and squoke;
And Lord! what shrieks the housemaid shroke! Sponge.

THE ROUT OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

The Suffragettes a vow did make in solemn conclave made,
"That Parliament we'll wake," they said, "and till it has been wade,
The Bobbies take us round the waist (as women should be took),
We'll kick and squirm until they ache as never man has ook;
For holding us, they soon will find, when we dislike being held,
Like folding of a hedgehog up when he will not be feld.
An awkward job to bring about, but if at last we're brought
Before the Beak, in dock we'll cling as none before has clought."
But see! What's this? A dreaded form appears upon the scene,
A mouse! "Agree to fly," they cry. . . . It was, nem. con., agreen. Oiseau.

The long-winded speaker he spoke,
The poor office-seeker he soke,
The swimmer he swam, the skimmer he skam,
And the shrieker he horribly shroke.

The flier to Jericho flew,
The buyer on credit he bew,
The deer he did, the sner he sid,
And the liar (a fisherman) lew.

The writer, this nonsense he wrote,
The fighter (an editor) fote,
The runner he ran, the dunner he dan,
And the biter was hungry and bote. Nichola.

When Uncle Charles his aeroplane had bought,
On his own judgment he had not relought.
But all his friends with questions daily plought,
Until at last in ecstasy he crought,
"Hurrah! Hurrah! It cannot be denought,
That I with motors, birds, balloons have vought,
And all the laws of gravity defought."
But when to soar from mother earth he trought,
And rose triumphant, calm and dignifought,
Alas! down came the car, he fell, and dought—
So, dying, he with Newton's laws complought,
With Dædulus and Icarus allought. Whig.

The thinker on politics thought,
The drinker some spirit he drought,
The maker he made,
The taker he tade,
While the winker most knowingly wought.

This writer a puzzle he wrote,
The fighter a battle he fote,
The striker he struck,
The biker he buck,
And the biter at last he was bote. Almaviva.

MY NEW BOAT.

A boat from a block I'd dig. I dug.
"My boat," I said, "I will rig." I rug.
"On the deck thereof I'll jig." I jug.

I saw my finger bleed, how it bled!
"Plaster I need." I found what I ned.
"In future my knife I'll heed." I hed.

A friend came up to speak, and he spoke.
He said, "It will surely leak." It loke.
"A lump of putty go seek." I soke.

I said to my cronies "Come!" They came.
"See, through the water 'twill hum." It hame.
"The wind on the shrouds will strum." It strame. Nemo.

Said Balfour, "A seat I must find"—which he found,
"Joe's little pet schemes I must mind"—and he mound,
"Good for evil return and be kind"—he be kound,
"And depend on my wiles him to blind"—and he blound.

"To Protection," said Joe, "I will stick"—so he stuck,
"To my views Tories all I must trick"—and he truck,
"'Gainst Protection," C.-B. said, "I'll kick"—so he kuck.
"And Tariff Reformers I'll lick—and he luck.

"With Birrell's Act," quoth the Lords, "we'll soon deal"—and they dealt,
"Its fate we will very soon seal"—and they sealt,
"Our presumption will make Commons kreel"—and they realt,
"The breach caused by our act must soon heal"—has it healt? Xicor.

The earth began to shake; it sharp and badly shook.
It hastened then to quake; most horribly it quook!
"For the country let us make"; and all there quickly mook.
"Round us the walls will break!" Sure enough, they straightway brook.

In th' club 'tis nice to sit; that day a guest there sat.
He saw the roof would hit; as it fell it sorely hat.
His coat was tight to quit, but he got out and quat.
From th' window he could flit, safely he gained and flat.
For goods folk did not feel, t'was over e'er they felt.
Howe'er, thieves like to steal, and much treasure then they stelt.
To this island help we'll send, its neighbours some have sent.
The town they soon will mend—perhaps it's nearly ment. Musapha.

THE TEETOTALLER'S WARNING.

He would drink, but I cried 'ere he drank,
"Pause and think!" But he paused not nor thank,
But did wink and imbibed as he wank.

Oh tread not where others have trod!
I dread your fate, theirs as I drod;
Drink's net's spread as ever 'twas sprod.

Fight this foe, for he sure must be fought;
Drink will bite, as it ever has bought;
I would fright you as you should be frought;
Slight not warning; it should not be slought! Cortex.

He wished them to ring up the girl, and they rang;
But he did not expect her to bring what she brang,
So the thing 'twas his custom to fling her, he flang.

Then remorse made him write his regret, so he wrote,
But "the dust," she declared, "he should bite," and he bote.
Though his pipe he was longing to light, and he lote.

Then the tale he was burning to tell her he told,
And he begged she would smile in reward, and she smoled,
But the letter her ma wished to file, and she feld.

And his rash act induced him to think, what he thought,
Vain his friends tried to warn by the wink which they wought,
'Twas too late when he saw he must sink, so he sought. Gilt Stick.

I am making this verse, I'll be glad when it's made,
Tho' it may take the prize I don't reckon it tade.
There's an ache in my heart as it ne'er before ade.

Oh if I could but get what there is to be got.
If the fates would me let I should like to be sot.
So my muse I will pet, 'twill be pleased, being pot.

Soon to TRUTH this shall go, as the other fellas' went.
I shall soon know my fate, but I wish that I knent.
I shall crow if I win, those who're won ever crent.

So I think day and night as I ne'er before thought,
And my glass I now clink and put down when I've clought,
As I drink to success as it's always been drought. Iolaus.

THE NEW THEORTHOGRAPHY

Were't well the New Theology to teach or not,
'tis taught.
But yet by Pastor Campbell, though he preach it,
'tis not praught:
Or did he choose to write it, he to man and woman wrote
(Did he invite them too, and were these voteless dames invote?).

But no! methinks he speaks it, and thereby put in his "spoke."
('Tis certain did one speak it, that it is not therefore spoken).
If other pastors bring it, 'twill to that extent be brought;
Exceptionally, should they sing it, 'twill—sometimes—be sought.
'Verts may grow up like grass, and men may marvel how they grew.
They'll be cut down like grass (did he who mows them—eat like mew?).
Some, longing much to slay it, would rejoice to see it slain;
But given rope to play, it then, to plain men, will be plain.
Trebor Nitram.

If we ne'er forgot what we'd been taught,
More often practised what we praught;
Of our neighbours faults ne'er jeered,
And always our own business meaned;
When to us the poor appelt,
More pity for their sufferings felt;
Tales of scandal never told,
And all our words correctly spold:
If no one fought or disagreed,
How happy the world might be indeed!
Cherry-picker.

AFTER A TIFF.

Why speak again? She declares I spoke
More than enough. Yet I seek, as oft I soke,
To know the reason why. 'S'truth! I never knew
Woman such waywardness show, as she hath shew.
The sun may shine, as ne'er it shone,
Still I incline, as always I incline,
To think she loves me. Mayhap I wrongly thought,
And now shrink the ordeal—yet my heart ne'er shrought
To find the truth o' things. Still, what if I found
She still minds her troth, as mine I always mound?
Ah! this cruel doubt doth wear my soul, as nothing e'er wore;
I fear the worst. (Later) Alas! 'tis as I fore.
Diffsel.

IF.

If the public could tell when it's truth that is told;
If its leaders would speak what of right should be spoken,
All falsities quell as they ought to be quold.
And no bitter words seek which are not soken;
If our schools would but teach what is best to be taught,
And our parsons Peace preach as 'tis meet it were praught!

Then at tables we'd feed where true wisdom is ted;
At fountains we'd drink where true knowledge is drunk;
Great truths we should heed as philosophers hed,
Great thoughts we should think by the sages once thunk;
And we rhymsters e'en write what we'd wish to have written,
And such laurels invite as none yet have invitten.
Tom Nissed.

The man he was trying to smite then he smote,
The fire he was trying to light then he lote,
And the wrong he was longing to right then he rote.

The foe he was trying to fight then he fote,
The bread he was longing to bite then he bote,
And the ship he was trying to sight then he sote.

The foe he was trying to slight then he slote,
The man he was trying to spite then he spote,
And the hopes he was trying to blight then he blote.

The hat he was trying to dight then he dote,
The maid he was trying to fright then he frote,
And the pledge he was trying to plight then he plote.
Foudrads.

Vagaries of English verbs have also been received from:—Felixicus, Lorna, Walfred, Northlander, Templar, Crescendo, Dick Maisch, Klondyke, Eggs, Ox Short, Watermain, Porthos, Clames, Ampo, Archdoubleu, Idle, Jock, Darby, Hatter, Peterburgen, Bel Demonio, Redder, West Wind, and Petros.

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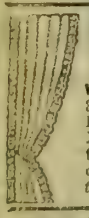

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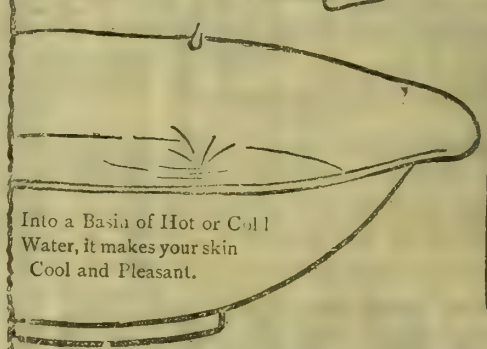

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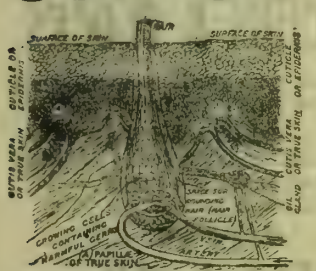

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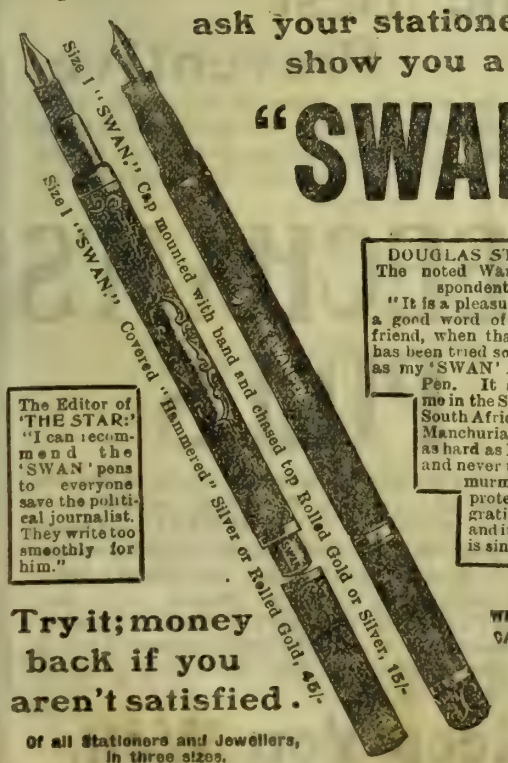

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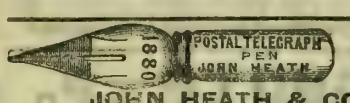

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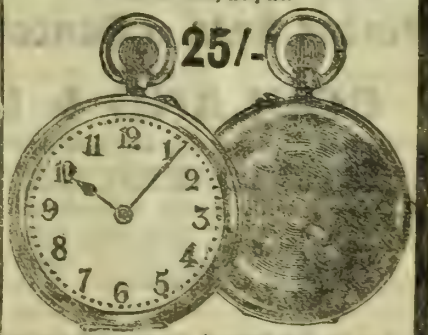

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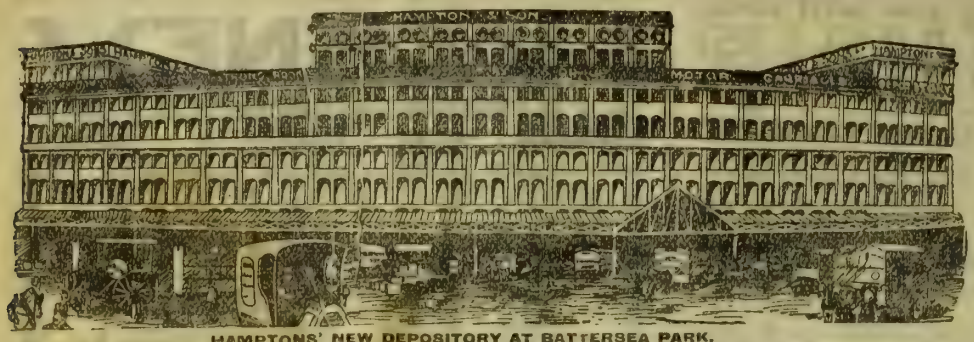

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1572. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, February 13, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE "ceremonial" at the opening of the new Central Criminal Court will be "semi-state," by command of the King. Their Majesties will drive from Buckingham Palace to the Old Bailey, with a military escort, by way of the Strand, and in Fleet-street the Royal procession is to be met by the Corporation, when the Lord Mayor will present the King with Queen Elizabeth's sword with the customary formalities. The proceedings at the Old Bailey will be very brief. The King is to declare the building open in the central hall, and after an address has been read by the Recorder, his Majesty will open the door of the principal court, using the inevitable gold key, which the Corporation will, of course, provide. The new Court has cost the City nearly £600,000.

On the nights of the Courts which the King and Queen are to hold in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace (on the 22nd and on March 1), the garden entrance will be reserved exclusively for members of the Royal family, and when the Prince and Princess of Wales arrive there they are to be received by the Great Officers of the Household and the other White Staves, who will conduct them to the White Drawing-room, where the Royal procession to the ballroom will be formed.

The Corps Diplomatique, Ministers, and other personages entitled to the entrée will arrive at the Pimlico entrance, and are to be shown to the Bow Drawing-room, and thence to the ballroom, where the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission, with their wives, will be received by the Master of the Ceremonies and his assistants. The members of the Royal family (except the Prince and Princess of Wales) are to be received at the garden entrance by the Treasurer and Comptroller of the Household, and the Vice-Chamberlain, who will conduct them to the Council Room, and thence to the White Drawing-room. The Royal procession will be formed directly after the King and Queen enter the White Drawing-room, and will pass through the Bow Drawing-room, the Blue Drawing-room, and the State Dining-room, to the daïs in the ballroom. Their Majesties, the Princes and Princesses, and the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission and their wives will proceed after the Court to the Chinese Room for supper, which is to be announced to the King and Queen by the Lord Steward directly the presentations have been concluded. Supper will be served for the guests in the Green Drawing-room and another room at buffets.

The general company will arrive at the State entrance of the Palace, and will pass to the ballroom through the promenade gallery. After the reception of the Corps Diplomatique and the presentations from the Diplomatic Circle, the entrée company will be received by their Majesties, and then the general body of guests. At the Diplomatic and Official Court on the 22nd there will be a very small contingent of general company, but a very crowded entrée, and a full attendance of the Corps Diplomatique. The order as to costume at the Courts is "full dress-uniform."

The King's contemplated visit to Ireland will not take place in May, as was originally expected, as his Majesty has numerous engagements in England during that month. The visit of the King and Queen of Denmark to the Court will most likely take place about the

middle of May, according to the latest arrangements, and it is now expected that their Majesties will stay for a week at Buckingham Palace, and that during the Whitsuntide holidays they will be the guests of the King and Queen either at Windsor Castle or at Sandringham. In this case the period of the State visit of King Frederick and Queen Louise will be limited to their stay in London, and during the remainder of their visit to England they will be the private guests of their Majesties.

LA MANIÈRE

(An Object Lesson to the British Tourist.)

In the streets of "gay Paree,"
Lo! they make a mighty stir,
Praising, each, with ardour free
"*Edouard, roi d'Angleterre.*"

Nor they "Edouard" praise alone;
Alexandra, too, doth share
Popular affection's throne:
"*Ah! la belle reine d'Angleterre.*"

E'en the gutter poets sing
Songs to greet both him and her;
Boulevards and alleys ring
With incessant "*Angleterre.*"

"*Mais ils ont la bonhomie,*
Mais ils ont la manière,
Bien-venus à Paris,
Roi et reine, donc, d'Angleterre."

Oh, that Smith and Brown would take
Lessons from the Royal pair.
Oh! that, when abroad, they 'd make
Study of "*la manière.*"

If they did, then—truth to state—
These remarks would be more rare:
"*Oh! ces Smeeth et Brown—ces bêtes!*
Oh! ces cochons d'Angleterre!"

The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* was docked at Portsmouth last week for an overhaul and refit, and she is now berthed at the south railway jetty in the Harbour. The *Victoria and Albert* is expected to leave Portsmouth for the Mediterranean towards the end of March, and it is understood that she will embark the King at Marseilles early in the first week of April for a cruise to Naples, Athens, Corfu, and other ports. His Majesty will maintain a strict incognito during his cruise, and there will be no official receptions at any port which he visits.

Sir Stanley Clarke and Sir Arthur Davidson are to be the Equerries-in-waiting on the King during his Majesty's absence from England next month and in April, and they will be in attendance at Biarritz and during the King's subsequent yachting cruise in the *Victoria and Albert*.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to give some dinner parties at Marlborough House during the next few weeks, and they will probably have a reception there before Easter.

The arrangements for the Royal visit to Devonport are now completed. The Prince and Princess of Wales will travel next Wednesday from Paddington to Plymouth, where they are to arrive at the Millbay Station at 4.30. The Royal train will pass over the new Great Western route to the West of England. The Prince and Princess, who are to be the guests of Sir Lewis and Lady Beaumont at the Admiralty House, Mount Wise, will drive on Thursday morning to the Royal William Yard, where they are to be received by the Lords of the Admiralty, and at 11.30 they will embark on board the Port Admiral's yacht *Vivid*. The yacht will proceed up the Hamoaze, and through the lock into the great basin of the North Extension, followed by the Admiralty yacht *Enchantress*.

The Prince and Princess will land for a short time at the West wall of the basin, and will be there received by Lord Fortescue (Lord Lieutenant of Devon), by the High Sheriff of the county, the Mayor of Devonport, and the naval and military authorities. After the opening ceremony the Prince and Princess will lunch on board the *Enchantress*. At three o'clock the Royal party will return on board the *Vivid* to the Royal William Yard, where they are to disembark.

On Friday morning, the 22nd, the Prince of Wales will inspect the Plymouth division of the Royal Marines. H.R.H. is to be accompanied by the Princess, and after the inspection they will drive to Millbay Station in order to leave Plymouth at 12.30 by the Great Western "Cornishman" express, which arrives at Paddington at 4.45. During their drives at Devonport and Plymouth the Prince and Princess of Wales will be attended by a travelling escort. After the dinner at Admiralty House on Thursday evening there will be a naval and military tattoo at Mount Wise.

The King and Queen of Norway and Princess Victoria are residing at the Royal Château of Woxenkollen, a few miles from Christiania, until March 2, when they will return to the capital. It is rumoured that the King and Queen of Norway will accompany the King and Queen of Denmark on their State visit to St. Petersburg about the middle of April, and that King Haakon will afterwards proceed to Vienna with his father to visit the Emperor Francis Joseph.

Last week was a busy one for Lord and Lady Aberdeen. In addition to their evening engagements, they had numerous ones to fulfil each day. On Monday afternoon they were present at the opening of the annual exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy, an institution which is not as flourishing as lovers of art in Ireland would wish it to be. It has lately, like most other things in the country, been inquired into by a commission, and a report has followed. The difficulty up to this time with regard to Irish commissions is to have anything else follow but a report. The period of "discovering" Ireland having passed, is now succeeded by one of inquiring into the "discovery." All Irish interest is at present absorbed in the consideration of what will succeed the inquiry period. What next, and when?

For Appeals, see page 419.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 423.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 422, 423.
For Amusements, see page 419.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 425, 426.

This week, when Lent commences, is a quiet one at Dublin Castle, a lull following the whirl of last week's festivities. Next week the second Levee and Drawing-room of the season will be held on the 19th inst., the Levee in the morning and the Drawing-room in the evening. In the beginning of March "The Irish Lace Ball" will be an important Viceregal entertainment. All ladies are to wear Irish lace or crochet-trimmed toilets. Special national dances are being arranged for the occasion by various ladies of Viceregal "light and leading." Another novelty introduced at Dublin Castle by Lord and Lady Aberdeen is afternoon tea parties, by means of which the more serious section of society can participate in Viceregal festivities. A successful entertainment of the kind was given last week by Lord and Lady Aberdeen to a large number of guests.

BILLINGTON-GREIG.—CONGRATULATIONS!

And so the girl, who Asquith's life
Once harried,
Has qualified to be a wife
And married.

Oh! may her heart henceforth enough
Be set in
Domestic ties to stop her suff-
Ragettin'!

By this inspiring hope elate,
I beg to
Both Mrs. Greig congratulate
And Greig, too.

I shall be greatly disappointed if the psychical researchists and students of the occult do not make something very interesting out of the case of the nameless woman of Willesden, who believes that her husband has a double, and that the double has been filling his place for some time past. I suppose my readers have seen something of the Woman of Willesden in their daily papers. She first came to the front, like so many other people with strange troubles, by applying to a magistrate for advice. The case seemed to be beyond even a police-court Solomon. Since then she has confided in the press, and I read in my *Daily Chronicle* that she is quite convinced that her husband changed clothes with his double some time ago, and then disappeared. As both men took the same size in boots, smoked the same tobacco, and, most important of all, made the same weekly allowance for housekeeping, she did not notice the change at first; but doubts were engendered by the double's waist measurement and the colour of his hair. After the birth of her last child but one (she has five), she noticed that her husband's hair was darker than of yore. It does not seem to have occurred to her that the event had turned him grey, and that he might be having recourse to a restorer. But there may be something in this explanation, because it appears that after the appearance of the fifth child the man did not turn a hair.

Possibly, however, the true explanation of this case is to be found in the remarkable story told in the *Contemporary Review* this month, on the authority of Dr. Morton Prince, of Boston City Hospital, U.S.A. If the reader has not seen this story, I recommend him to peruse it without delay, for it is very wonderful, and I cannot possibly do justice to it here. It is the story of a lady patient of the Doctor's, who, as the result of a severe shock—complicated, I infer, by hypnotic treatment—"split up into three separate personalities." These three personalities seem to have been perpetually contending for the possession of the patient's body, like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. They gave the poor Doctor terrible trouble, as their characters and ideas were quite at variance, and one of them, who called herself Sally, was a most undesirable young person. If I understand the story aright, the Doctor effected some sort of partial cure, by fusing the other two, who thus combined were more than a match for Sally. But he has his doubts as to whether the mixture is "stable," and fears that his patient's personality may split up again with very slight provocation.

Now, what suggests itself to me is that the husband of the Woman of Willesden has split up just like the Lady of Boston. It may be that instead of changing clothes with a physical "double," as the wife supposes, what he did was to change bodies with a psychical double. So far as I understand the *Contemporary* article—and I am by no means sure that I understand it at all—we may any of us have sub-tenants in our bodies, who may take possession of the whole premises when we are out, and pose as the lawful owners, playing the very mischief with the tenement sometimes. Even if ejected, they are always on the look-out for an opportunity of slipping in again, and they find it when we are under the influence of hypnotism—or, I should imagine, drink. This is why I hope that the Willesden case will be investigated in a proper scientific spirit, like the one at Boston, U.S.A.

There is, however, another possibility which presents itself, and that is that it is the wife in the Willesden case who has "split up," and that her body is temporarily occupied by a sub-tenant who does not know the husband. It is even possible that something of the same kind may have happened in the Boston case—I mean, that it was the doctor, not the patient, who was "not quite himself." What I would suggest is that Dr. Prince should consult some other medical man about his own condition.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* informed the public last Thursday that the Duc d'Orléans "is getting pretty close to his *quarantaine*," adding to this interesting news the statement that he resides a great deal at Wood Norton, "the place in Worcestershire his father bought." The Comte de Paris did not buy Wood Norton, nor did he ever own that place. The estate was purchased by the late Duc d'Aumale, who left it to his grand-nephew, the Duc d'Orléans, with reversion to the Duc de Montpensier.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

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The past week has made for itself a melancholy record in the deaths of distinguished people. There have died within six days Lord Goschen, Sir Archibald Alison, Sir Godfrey Lushington, Sir William Henry Russell, and the Countess of Cadogan, all persons of light and leading in their days. And it is rather a coincidence that Sir Archibald Alison and Sir W. H. Russell, whose several professional careers both date from the Crimean War, should have died in the same week.

In purely intellectual qualities Lord Goschen was second to few statesmen of his time, and it was by sheer intellectual force that he made his position in Parliament. He had not only an accurate mind, capable of grasping every aspect and detail of a complicated subject, but his tastes and sympathies were wide, and he studied and understood many matters besides politics. In public life he was greatly handicapped by a poor and unpleasing voice, and also in some measure by shortness of sight. But he had a great gift of lucid speech, which seemed always at its best when the subject was dry and abstruse, as, for example, in his Budget speeches; he was always impressive, if not exactly eloquent; and he was a ready and formidable debater. As a practical man of business he made his mark in every administrative post that he filled—he was in harness, off and on, for five and thirty years—and as a sagacious adviser he was a tower of strength to every Ministry he joined.

In the palmy days of Mr. Gladstone's first Ministry there were Liberals who saw in Mr. Goschen, as he then was, a possible future leader of the party. Had he been born a generation earlier, he might have achieved such a position. But his opinions, which were very strong and never varied, were not the opinions of any party in his own time, though he could find enough in common with both Liberals and Conservatives to serve in Ministries on each side. He was essentially a Whig, and in the days when Whiggery was in the ascendant, he might have been a powerful Prime Minister. As it was, his political career was passed in a state of oscillation between the two parties of his day.

Six years before he openly seceded from Mr. Gladstone on the Home Rule Question, Mr. Goschen had practically severed himself from the Liberals over the county franchise question. He was the first of the seceders to take office on the other side, when Lord Randolph Churchill made the opening for him. He was also one of the first of the Unionist front bench men to declare against Mr. Chamberlain when that gentleman sought to lead the party back to protection. But in spite of these breaches with his colleagues, his political career was from first to last consistent and honourable. He never contradicted himself, nor even dissembled his opinions, and he never incurred, even from an opponent, the suspicion of manœuvring for his own advantage. For this he had his reward in the profound respect of all his contemporaries, including those who most strongly disagreed with him, and there is no one to-day who does not feel that the country has lost a man who has throughout his life rendered it honest and valuable service.

Lord Goschen was a man of keen literary and artistic tastes, which had been well cultivated ever since he left Rugby. His biography of his grandfather, the Leipsic publisher, is an excellent piece of literary work; his famous book "The Theory of Foreign Exchanges" passed through many large editions; and it is to be regretted that the pressure of public life prevented him from writing anything else, except a few articles and addresses. Probably no event in his life gave Lord Goschen more pleasure than his unanimous election to the Chancellorship of the University of Oxford, in the place of the late Lord Salisbury. He took a most hearty interest in all University affairs, and paid frequent private visits to Oxford. His attachment to Oriel was as devoted as that of Macaulay to Trinity College, Cambridge.

When Mr. Gladstone came into power in 1880 he was anxious that Mr. Goschen should replace the late Lord Lytton as Viceroy of India, but the proposal was declined. After Goschen had completed the work of his special mission to Constantinople he was requested by Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville to remain there as permanent Ambassador, but he refused. A year later the office of Secretary of War was offered to him by Mr. Gladstone, but he was not then desirous of returning to the Liberal Cabinet. Shortly afterwards the late Lord Hampden vacated the office of Speaker, for which Mr. Goschen would have been unanimously elected, but he refused to accept nomination owing to his defective eyesight, and Lord Peel was then chosen.

In Memoriam:

Viscount Goschen. Died February 7, 1907.

Those forty years of public life
Saw few men greater;
The devious ways of Party strife
Knew no man straighter.

His wisdom in affairs of State
By some was mooted;
But this one thing, at any rate,
Goes undisputed:

To duty all alike confess
His strict devotion,
And own that stands for uprightness
The name of Goschen.

Sir Archibald Alison was highly distinguished and conspicuously able both as a soldier and as an administrator, but the origin of his early professional success was a chance encounter with Sir Colin Campbell in the trenches before Sebastopol one night during the winter of 1854-55, when they were both out on duty. After a short conversation Sir Colin expressed a wish for some more talk with Alison (who was then under thirty), as he seemed "a sensible fellow." They met again several times, and later on Sir Colin was much impressed with a speech on military affairs which Alison delivered in the autumn of 1856 at a public dinner at Glasgow. The result was that when Sir Colin Campbell was ordered

off to India in July, 1857, at the crisis of the Mutiny, he appointed Alison to be his military secretary. He was severely wounded at the relief of Lucknow, when he lost his right arm. Alison afterwards served in the Ashanti War (as Brigadier-General under Lord Wolseley), and in the Egyptian War of 1882, during which he commanded the Highland Brigade. He held a number of important staff appointments at home, his last post being the command at Aldershot.

Sir Archibald was the son of the historian, and he inherited his father's literary tastes. He was an excellent scholar, and had read enormously in every department of literature. He was a most popular officer throughout his career, and his death is regretted by all who knew him; but he has passed away full of years and honours. Sir Archibald's grandfather was one of the most eloquent preachers of the day, and widely celebrated as a scholar. If he had pushed himself, as was then the custom among ecclesiastics of ability, especially if backed by powerful interest, he would certainly have become a bishop. The famous Dugald Stewart said, after hearing Alison preach: "No man ever wrote a better sermon; no man ever spoke a better sermon; no man ever thought a better sermon."

Sir William Henry Russell perhaps gained a greater name than any journalist who has merely been a writer—for though for many years he owned and edited the *Army and Navy Gazette*, it is not in that connection that he was ever known to the public or will be remembered in his profession. It was as a correspondent of the *Times* that he became famous, and he achieved fame at a bound in the Crimean War, though, as a matter of fact, the work that he did in the Indian Mutiny and the American Civil War was in no respect inferior to his letters from the Crimea. The kind of success that he made by those letters is often ephemeral, and chiefly the creation of circumstances; but in Russell's case it was not so. He was a man of great natural literary gifts, keen observation, and thoroughly sound judgment, and he consequently shone both as a descriptive writer and a critic. His achievements are the more wonderful when it is remembered that he went out to the Crimea without a shred of military knowledge or experience. Nor is it less to his credit that he gained from the beginning of his career the complete confidence and affection of the Army; in fact he was regarded by all officers who knew him personally quite as a comrade in arms. He had an irresistibly winning way with him, and was popular everywhere, certainly not least among his brother journalists.

Lady Cadogan was a true *grande dame* of the old school, and one of the great hostesses of the highest English society. She was a woman of strong character, and of remarkable ability, and with an exceptional capacity for practical administrative business, as she proved during her residence in Ireland, where she was the life and soul of every description of good work. She was never fastidious or over exclusive, but was attentive and affable to every one, with a fine tact, and a most kindly and sympathetic manner. Lady Cadogan had long been one of the ornaments of society, and her loss will be deeply lamented by a host of friends who admired and esteemed her. As to her home life, she was the delight and comfort of her family, and entirely associated herself with their interests and pursuits. She was the staunchest of friends, never being uncertain or capricious. To the poor she was most generous and considerate, and she took a genuine interest in her neighbours of all classes, both in town and country. She was one of the most intimate friends of the King and Queen, who had the greatest regard for her. As a political hostess, she rendered valuable service to the Tory party for some years, and her reign in Dublin was a brilliant period in the history of the Viceregal Court. Lady Cadogan was a remarkably fine horsewoman, like all her sisters, the daughters of the second Earl of Craven.

Mr. F. A. Hamilton, who died last week in his ninety-third year, was for nearly forty years the senior partner in the well-known firm of Brown, Shipley, and Co. He took an active but unobtrusive part in extending the scope of the Bank Holiday Act, and he was a most munificent supporter of many hospitals and charities and of all the Evangelical societies. He was a partner in Brown, Shipley, and Co. from 1845 until 1903, when he retired.

Lord Thring was one of the most valuable public servants of the last century. His official career was one of great practical usefulness, but he never came much before the public. He was for eighteen years the first Parliamentary Counsel to the Government, and it was his duty to draft the principal Ministerial Bills. He was a man of great ability, and he delighted in his work. The last important measure which he drew was the Home Rule Bill of 1886. Lord Thring belonged to a distinguished family of brothers. They were the sons of a Somersetshire clergyman, and their mother was a sister of the well-known Dr. Jenkyns, who was Master of Balliol and Dean of Wells. Lord Thring married the sister of the late Lord Cardwell. He was a pupil of Dr. Butler at Shrewsbury, and went afterwards to Magdalene College, Cambridge, on which foundation he was a Fellow for many years.

Sir Charles Hughes Hunter, who died last week at Plas Coch, his place in the island of Anglesey, was for many years one of the most zealous leaders of the Liberal Party in North Wales, and he had taken an active share in every branch of county business. He was the son of Captain Hunter, of Glencarse, Perthshire, and assumed the name of Hughes in consequence of his having married the daughter and heiress of Mr. William Bulkeley Hughes, who sat in Parliament as Liberal member for the Carnarvon boroughs for over forty

The Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall, S.W.:—1598 Gerrard. The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, W.:—8090 Gerrard. The Hotels and Restaurants de Luxe of London. Under the same Direction, and similar Tariffs prevail at both Hotels.

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years. Sir Charles, who was created a baronet last year, was very popular in Anglesey, and his death is regretted by all classes and parties.

The question that I asked last week about the results of the great Hall-Caine-cum-*Daily-Mail* experiment in cheap book publishing has been answered from so many quarters that I think there can be no doubt why we have heard nothing about it from the experimenters themselves. I believe I am right in saying that this epoch-making work, which was to prove how much better Mr. Hall Caine and the *Daily Mail* understood the reading public than do the publishers and the book trade, has lately been offered to the trade in bulk at 1s. bound in cloth or 6d. in paper covers; and as far as I can learn, sales have not been brisk at those prices. In plain English, the publication was a huge fiasco, and the stock is unsaleable at rubbish prices. Remembering the huge advertisement with which the book was sent off, the experiment certainly has proved a good deal, though not precisely what author and publishers expected.

Trinity College, the Dublin University, has been prompt to roll the drum and unfurl the battle flag on the first threat to its ascendency privileges. For all that, it is interesting and possibly ominous that Professor Mahaffy, in a public lecture last week in Dublin, fell foul of the great Queen Bess, and called the foundress of Trinity College many hard names. Nothing succeeds like success, and in the same way, possibly, nothing fails like failure.

The Government may be congratulated upon a most excellent appointment to the Principalship of Glasgow University, and it is highly satisfactory to Scotch Liberals that a layman should have been selected for this important post. Dr. Macalister is a "strong" man all round, having remarkable force of character, with a really wonderful variety of acquirements in many departments of knowledge, and he is a very able organiser and administrator. He is a distinguished expert in medical and mathematical science. Since the death of Sir George Humphreys he has been the chief manager of the Cambridge Medical School. Dr. Macalister had a brilliant University career, and he was Senior Wrangler in 1877.

The large majority in favour of the reformers of the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge is highly satisfactory, and the disappearance of the Senior Wrangler will be disturbing only to the silly and sentimental. All the three graces were carried without difficulty, and this result is an important triumph for educational reformers and also for the Cambridge residents, who really carry on the practical work of the University. The fact is that such a question should be decided by experts alone, and not by the general body of graduates. Mr. Balfour voted with the majority.

A canonry at Windsor will be placed at the disposal of the Prime Minister at the end of this month by the resignation of Lord Normanby, who was appointed to his stall in St. George's Chapel by Lord Salisbury in 1891. The canonry is worth £1,000 a year, with an excellent prebendal house in the Cloisters of Windsor Castle.

Lord Harrowby and the other trustees who are the patrons of the important living of Tiverton have presented Canon Roxby, who has been for more than eleven years Rector of Cheltenham. The rectory of Tiverton, which became vacant by the much regretted death of Prebendary Scott, is of the net value of about £800 a year, with house. The living had been declined by Prebendary Burroughs, Vicar of Plymouth, and by the Rev. W. H. Stone, the new Rector of Walcot, Bath, before it was offered to Canon Roxby.

I have received the following from one of my Roman Catholic readers:—

In commenting on the case heard before His Honour Judge Gye in the County Court at Portsmouth recently, in which a teacher sued the managers of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic school for salary in lieu of notice, you remark that the case has "an incidental bearing on the administrative methods of certain Roman Catholic Bishops." This will, I venture to think, be more apparent when it is realised that Canon Watson, the real defendant in the case, is a man of many parts; he is primarily priest in charge of the church at Gosport, and also at Ann's Hill on the outskirts of Gosport; to the duties belonging to these two missions he adds those of Military Chaplain, Chaplain to the Naval Hospital at Haslar, and also administrator of the Rescue Society for the diocese. These duties might by some people be thought to be enough for one man to attend to, but Canon Watson holds the further offices of Trustee for the Diocesan Schools, Manager of those at Gosport, Diocesan Inspector, and Secretary to the Portsmouth Diocesan Catholic Schools Associations; and lastly in the course of his examination in Court he pleaded that he was also the representative of the Bishop when he closed the school in question. He stated that he was not Zanoig when asked one pointed question, and this would seem to be about the only thing which he did not claim to be. It sounds like a passage from the "Mikado."

There is, however, one thing which Catholics must be ready to rejoice in as a result of the recent notices in Truth, and that is: for the first time in history, it was given out on Sunday how the money received for the orphans of the diocese had been apportioned. This is a very decided step in the right direction, and we can only hope that, as this improvement has begun, further steps in the same direction may be carried out, and that instead of forcing all the work on one man in future, it may be a little more fairly distributed, and that some little thing may be found for others to do. Perhaps even the Chancellor, or the Vicar-General, might be employed usefully, for though both of them appear in the Directory, no one seems ever to have heard of either of them being called upon to do anything in connection with his office.

Here is another letter on the subject of schools which is interesting from other points of view than the purely Catholic:—

Most sincerely do I trust that Catholics will refuse to confide one hundred thousand pounds to Archbishop Bourne, or any other sum, until, not only satisfactory explanation has been given, but due reparation has been made for the loss in Stock Exchange gambling of the Dawes Trust money.

Moreover, in any case, the money given for Catholic schools is money thrown into the sea.

At the meeting of the Catholic Trust Conference, held in Liverpool two or three years ago, it was publicly stated more than once in the presence of Bishops—Dr. Bourne amongst them—and priests that seventy-five per cent. of the children leaving Roman Catholic schools were utterly lost to the Faith, and that the remaining twenty-five per cent. were only held to it by the slenderest threads. Not one of the Bishops or priests contradicted or even disputed this fact. Our schools, then, as at present carried on, are an absolute failure, and raising money to bolster them up is little short of asking for money under false pretences. Some other system must be tried, and the Government, in its new educational measures, may treat Catholic schools as a negligible quantity. We must spend our money in looking after our children out of school hours; the expense will be less, and the result far more satisfactory.

A Former Manager of R. C. Schools.

I confess it rather surprises me to hear this, because I have always supposed—and it has been more than

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once said in Truth in connection with the question of religious education—that the Romanists manage to retain in the Church the greater number of the children who pass through their schools. The reason for this I have imagined to be that the priests keep an eye on the spiritual welfare of the children after they leave school, which is the time when any religious opinions worth having are formed. In the case of the Church of England, I doubt if it could be shown that even 25 per cent. of the children educated in Church schools grow up to be members of the Church in any practical sense. Notoriously, the vast majority of them are not communicants, rarely enter a church, and have only the haziest notions about the dogmas that they have been taught at school.

The inference that I have always drawn from the obvious facts in respect to the Churchmanship of the working classes—quite half of whom have been brought up on dogmatic theology in Church schools—is that what a child is taught before it is fourteen years of age has no perceptible effect on the religion that it will hold as an adult. The whole theory of Church schools is, in short, a vain delusion; and all the millions that Canon Cleworth claims as having been spent on them have been from the Church point of view absolutely wasted. The theory of Dr. Clifford and the Passive Resisters falls to the ground at the same time, for no Nonconformist need be troubled in his conscience that his rates are used to teach dogmas of which he disapproves, when it is quite certain that the dogmas, if ever learnt at all, will be wholly forgotten by the time the pupil's beard has grown.

With reference to what was said in Truth a fortnight ago respecting the typewriting examinations of the Society of Arts and the National Union of Teachers, I have received a letter from the chairman and secretary of the N.U.T. Examinations Board stating that while it is quite true that the headmaster of the typewriting department at the City of London College is the examiner, "no students of this college have ever been entered for the typewriting examinations of the National Union of Teachers." This is satisfactory, so far as it goes, but it would have been much more so had it been stated that no students of the College ever will be entered for the examinations. It ought to be clearly understood that an examiner has no interest, direct or indirect, in the result of an examination, and the only way to satisfy everybody concerned that this is so is to exclude from the examination all pupils in whom the examiner may possibly be interested. As the attention of the examining bodies has been called to this particular point, I hope that it may also have been directed to the other points in regard to which the examinations have incurred criticism.

I have to acknowledge the following contributions towards the Toy Fund:—Mrs. P. Keely, 10s.; Lieut. J. A. Edgell, H.M.S. *Merlin*, £2 15s.; F. Pollock, £5; G. N. D., £5; In Memoriam, M. L. L., £5. Mr. William Gillett has forwarded me £5 towards a fund for the Homeless and Destitute.

The action of Mr. Warmington against Colonel Wallace seems to me to concern Mr. Haldane as much as anybody else. Colonel Wallace commanded the King's Colonials. The finances of the corps were in a bad way; and money was wanted for a drill hall and other purposes; and the Colonel, like many other commanding officers of Volunteers and Yeomanry, did not see where to get it. But an idea occurred to him; he consulted Mr. Warmington; and the upshot of it was that Mr. Horlick was induced to put down £5,000 on the understanding that his name would be submitted to the Prince of Wales, as Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, for consideration as a person deserving of honour. Mr. Horlick was not represented or present at the trial of the action, and one does not want to do him any injustice; but the foregoing account of the transaction seems to have been practically admitted by all parties concerned, and I suppose it cannot be seriously disputed.

This method of obtaining money for any public purpose is open to observation from more than one point of view, but, raised under these particular circumstances, the most obvious point of view is that of Volunteer corps generally. That is why the case seems to concern the Secretary of State for War. Surely it is not a sound principle to leave any branch of the Army to be financed by such means. Yet what are commanding officers to do? They must get money by hook or by crook.

That a civilian should subscribe money to a Volunteer corps in the hope of obtaining some sort of a handle to his name from the "fountain of honour" is perhaps exceptional. But what is much more common, and much more important, is that an officer may provide for the requirements of the corps out of his own pocket, and obtain thereby, not only a handle to his name, but promotion and military command. It is the inevitable result of the present state of things that the command of a Volunteer or Yeomanry regiment may depend upon the ability or willingness of an officer to spend his money on the regiment. Between this and purchasing a colonelcy there is little or no difference. When the Army was being reformed by Mr. Cardwell, the abolition of purchase was considered to be an essential step in the process, and no one at the present moment will dispute that it was a right and necessary step, or that it has been for the benefit of the Army as a military machine. It is not a bit less necessary to the efficiency of the Auxiliary Forces that "purchase," direct or indirect, should be abolished there also. But this can never be effected unless all money necessary for the efficient administration of each regiment is provided from public sources.

Writing with reference to the case of Warmington v. Wallace a correspondent says:—

The Lord Chief Justice said yesterday that all would regret "this idea of trafficking in honours which were intended, and only given, as a reward for meritorious services." The prime reason why a properly managed monarchy can attract to the public service a class of men which no republic has ever yet obtained, and which makes the great difference between honest and dishonest government, is the wonderful attraction of "honours." You know how men will devote their wealth, their energy, their time, and even risk their lives, and be quite happy at the end of it all with a little piece of paper conferring some title or recognition. I have sometimes fancied that you are inclined to underrate the value

to the State of such things. But we must all agree, I think, that when once the "honour" becomes a dishonour we shall be immediately on the road to the state of things prevailing in certain republics, where it is notorious that no gentleman will identify himself with the politics of his country on account of the bribery and dishonourable practices which open the road to promotion.

What I have complained of in regard to the distribution of "honours" is that, instead of being conferred for public services, they are largely conferred for services to parties and individuals; and these services generally take the form of putting down a certain sum in cash. Everybody knows that titles, and even seats in the House of Lords, are nowadays marketable commodities. There have been notorious instances of it in recent promotions to the peerage, and even the sums paid in one or two instances have become known. It is quite true that men can serve the State with their money as well as with their brains or their arms and legs. I would not, therefore, say that a man who places his purse at the disposal of the State should not receive his "honour" as much as the statesman or the soldier. What I object to is that the money in respect of which the honours are dispensed should go into a party war fund, or into certain individual pockets. I want the thing put on a business footing. The State gets the services for which a general receives a peerage. It would even get the benefit of a payment of £5,000 to the fund of a Volunteer corps. But it gets no benefit whatever from the payment of £100,000 to the Carlton Club.

If London ratepayers would read the reports of the London County Council proceedings, and neglect all the electioneering literature, and speeches, with which they are at present inundated, their chances of giving their votes wisely at the next election would be improved. Each sitting of the Council seems to disperse one or two useful electioneering fictions. Last week there was an interesting discussion on what has figured in the press as the "Blankets Scandal." I had gathered from some of my morning and evening Conservative contemporaries that one of the achievements of the Progressive majority had been to saddle the London ratepayers with a huge accumulation of Austrian blankets, apparently for no purpose but that of expending the ratepayers' money for the benefit of wicked foreigners. I forget how many thousands of these useless blankets were alleged to have been purchased, but the transaction was represented as a repetition of the bargain of Moses Primrose over the spectacles.

The truth of this matter, as revealed at the last sitting of the Council is (1) that by a mistake in the office, which might occur in any house of business, and for which no one on the Council can possibly be held responsible, an order was given for 720 blankets in excess of the number intended; (2) that these blankets are "Austrian" blankets made in Yorkshire, the name being merely a trade description; (3) that owing to the rise in the price of wool the accident is likely to be financially profitable, the Council having simply bought a little surplus stock in a rising market. This is a fair sample of dozens of malicious fictions with which the London electors are now being fooled every day. A Moderate alderman of the Council denounced the propagation of this particular fiction, remarking that "it was quite unworthy of those who advocate Moderate interests to make capital out of a mistake of this character." This only shows what I said the other day, that the Moderates on the Council have greater cause than anybody else to complain of the Moderates outside it.

A description in the *Animals' Friend* of the manner in which pigeons are brought over from Italy to the London market is unpleasant reading, especially for those who are in the habit of eating the birds. During the journey, which occupies nearly three days, the pigeons are closely packed in crates, and only once fed. The feeding takes place when they reach Paris. By that time a number are dead. These are removed, and the survivors are fed—the birds being too young to feed themselves—"by men taking soft food into the mouth, opening the beak, and blowing it into the gullet." A a day or so later, pigeons, which are imported at the rate of 8,000 to 10,000 a week, are served up as dainty dishes for our consumption. After this I imagine that many people will cease to eat pigeons in any form unless assured that the birds do not come from Italy.

THE AGE TO MARRY.

"What's the proper age to marry?"
Thus a paper, "stuck" for news,
Asks; nor do its readers tarry,
One and all, to air their views.

Bee, a beauty young and bouncing
(Born in 'eighty-eight) is seen
Proper age, for girls, pronouncing
When they 've just attained eighteen.

Clara, she some eight years older,
Doth the age for wedlock fix
(So a little bird has told her)
When a girl 's turned twenty-six.

Mary, who in 'sixty-nine O
First beheld the light of Heaven,
Most emphatic doth assign O
Marriage age as thirty-seven.

Carrie, she a widow seasoned—
Born I cannot quite say when—
Proper age, in words well-reasoned,
Proves to be two-score-and-ten.

Which is right? or Clara, Carrie,
Mary, or the bouncing Bee?
What 's the proper age to marry,
Since the four thus disagree?

And I answer, of the views I 've
Mentioned, all are right, yet wrong;
For to no one age exclusive
Doth the marriage time belong.

This, in short, the course most sage is,
This the woman's wisest plan,
Let her wed, whate'er her age is,
When she meets the "willin'" man.

Some interesting remarks on the subject of THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH by Dr. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., are found on page 424.

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

I see from the *Birmingham Post* that the Lord Chancellor has written to several of the magistrates of the borough of Kidderminster who have not been regular in their attendance on the Bench, intimating that unless he hears from them within a fortnight that they desire to remain on the Commission of the Peace their names will be removed. I congratulate the Lord Chancellor on taking action in the direction of a reform which has long been advocated in Truth. All over the country the Commission of the Peace has been overloaded with the names of persons whose one object in obtaining the right to place J.P. after their names is to obtain thereby a certain amount of social distinction, and who make no endeavour to fulfil their duties as magistrates. Perhaps under ordinary circumstances their neglect of their duties is not altogether to the disadvantage of the community, but the retention of these drones in the magisterial hive naturally operates in the direction of preventing the appointment of new magistrates. Besides, they form a class from which it is quite possible, when a case in which special interests are involved arises, to secure a majority which shall over-ride the decisions of their more competent and regular occupants of the Bench.

From the report of a case in the *Times* last week it seems that the President of the Probate Division prefers the form of oath for witnesses as administered in the Scotch courts to that used in the English courts. This is, I think, a sensible and praiseworthy preference, but in connection with the report in question a legal correspondent calls my attention to an interesting point. Section 5 of the Oaths Acts, 1888, provides that

> If any person to whom an oath is administered desires to swear with uplifted hand in the form and manner in which the oath is usually administered in Scotland, he shall be permitted to do so, and the oath shall be administered to him in such form and manner without further question.

The "form" of the Scotch oath is, "I swear by Almighty God, as I shall answer at the great Day of Judgment, that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;" and the "manner" is that the presiding judge, standing, administers the oath to the witness, who, holding up his right hand, repeats the words after the judge. In the English courts in most cases the oath in what is supposed to be the Scotch "form and manner" is administered by an officer of the court—not by the judge—and from the report of the case in the Probate Division it would appear that the words used are not quite the same as those used in Scotland.

The question my correspondent raises is this: Could a witness to whom the oath has been administered in this way and who has sworn falsely be convicted of perjury, seeing that the oath was not duly administered to him according to the provisions of the statute? The expression "form and manner" certainly seems to require that the presiding judge shall personally administer the oath to the witness, as in Scotland, and that the words shall also be the same as those used in Scotland. To do this would give trouble to his Majesty's judges and others, and that may be the reason why the Scotch "form and manner" are not followed here. But to set at rest any doubt in the matter, it is desirable that an order should be issued as to how the oath in the Scotch form is to be administered, or that, if necessary, a short Act should be passed declaring fully how it is to be done. For my own part I am strongly in favour of the adoption of the Scotch form in English courts, and I am glad to find that the use of it here is increasing. It is much more solemn and impressive, as well as more cleanly and wholesome than the English "S'help-me-God-kiss-the-Book."

The situation of Bristol in an agricultural and dairy district ought to ensure it an exceptionally good milk supply, but according to a recent statement of the chairman of the City Bench the supply is exceptionally bad. The statement was based on the number of prosecutions for adulteration. This attack on the trade has evoked a protest from the Bristol Milk Vendors' Association which is certainly not at all milk-and-watery. In a pamphlet on the subject, which I have received from the Association, it seems to be argued, in effect, that in Bristol the milk-sellers are the victims of what is really a species of persecution at the hands of over-zealous officials, ignorant of the fact—recognised by the Board of Agriculture—that under certain circumstances and at certain seasons of the year milk, though perfectly pure, may nevertheless fall below the standard laid down by the Food and Drugs Act. In other words, the cow, not the dairyman, may be to blame. Cases of injustice of this kind do undoubtedly occur, though whether it is such prosecutions which have helped to give the trade in Bristol an undeservedly evil reputation it is, of course, impossible for me to say.

A cruel and preposterous proceeding on the part of the overseers of the parish of Newnham, Kent, came before the Faversham County Bench last week, when a widow named Mann, living at Newnham, was summoned for the non-payment of poor-rate amounting to 5s. The woman is a pauper receiving 5s. 6d. a week as out-relief from the Romney Union, and out of this income, with the addition of half-a-crown or three shillings a week that she is able to earn, she has to pay the rent of her cottage and maintain herself and four children. The magistrates, recognising the hardship of expecting a person in her position to pay the poor-rate, had adjourned the summons at the previous sessions so that the matter could be brought before the overseers of Newnham. Last week, however, the collector reported that the overseers would not consent to an order excusing the widow from payment of the rate, and, as payment cannot be excused without their consent, the Bench had no alternative but to make an order for payment. I am glad to learn that a gentleman in the neighbourhood has already undertaken to pay the rate for this poor woman, whose goods would otherwise be distrained upon. But the fact that the money has been found does not make any the less odious the conduct of the Bumbles of Newnham who thus seek to compel a pauper to contribute to the maintenance of the poor.

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

An application was made to the Bolton County Licensing Justices last week for a billiard licence for a temperance hall at Farnworth. It was urged that the provision of this means of amusement, apart from drinking facilities, would be a useful step in the direction of practical temperance policy. But the superintendent of police raised the extraordinary objection that there was plenty of accommodation in Farnworth for billiards at the public-houses, where the players could have their drink at the same time! He also suggested that billiards at such a place as the temperance hall, where only non-intoxicating drinks could be obtained, would be "dangerous, unless under very strict control." One could understand a publican putting forward such a view of the matter, but it is amazing to hear this objection from a police officer, and still more amazing to find that the Justices were so much impressed by it that they refused the licence.

Mr. Justice Joyce's decision last week in the case of Terry v. Paddington is peculiarly interesting in view of the references I have frequently made to the so-called "competitions" in connection with the results of football matches which are carried on by various parties operating from Holland. Terry carries on a business of this description, and Paddington claimed to have won certain prizes, which had not been paid over to him. He had threatened that unless he was paid he would publish certain statements, and Terry applied for an injunction to restrain him from doing so, the said statements being calculated to damage him in his business. In declining to grant an injunction Mr. Justice Joyce remarked:—

> The defendant in his letters complained that he had not got his prizes, and that he meant to have his rights. He said in effect "unless you settle with me I shall expose you." Suppose what he said—that he had been swindled—was true, why should he be stopped?

Why, indeed? Terry would have been better advised to "lay low and say nothin'" instead of appealing to the Court of Chancery.

In the case of some railway luggage thieves at Clerkenwell Sessions last week the jury asked the chairman, Mr. Loveland, K.C., to take serious notice of the conduct of two pawnbrokers' assistants, who accepted the stolen goods in pledge and failed to communicate with the police when the articles were described in the list of stolen goods which is daily furnished to pawnbrokers. Mr. Loveland commented severely on the conduct of the assistants and disallowed their expenses—an indirect penalty which in the circumstances was scarcely adequate. I believe that pawnbrokers as a body carry on their business fairly and honestly. But a number of them undoubtedly exhibit a good deal of laxity—to put it mildly—in taking in pledge goods offered under circumstances that ought to arouse suspicion, and here and there one hears of a pawnbroker who is really nothing better than a "fence." Practices of this kind need to be sharply suppressed, and the majority of pawnbrokers would, I have no doubt, welcome the expulsion of the black sheep from the trade.

The most noteworthy feature of my Legal Pillory this week is afforded by the case heard at Llandaff, where two worthy Colonels, a Member of Parliament, and a high educational functionary sat solemnly in judgment on a small boy accused of putting his arm round a little girl's neck and asking her for a kiss. Needless to say the ludicrous nature of the proceedings did not present itself to the Solons of Llandaff, and with becoming gravity they vindicated the outraged majesty of the law by fining the amatory boy ten shillings, or in default sentencing him to five days' imprisonment. Otherwise my Pillory is chiefly remarkable for its illustration of the leniency with which magistrates in various parts of the country have thought fit to extend to perpetrators of cruelty to animals. They are apparently unable to understand that a fine is no deterrent to the farmer who allows his horses to starve, or to the dealer who works a suffering animal until it drops dead by the roadside.

Govan Police-court. Before Bailie M'Farlane. Alexander M'Laren, charged with assaulting a woman in delicate health, from whose house he removed some furniture which had been purchased on the hire system. When she claimed some articles of her property he pulled her about and threw her to the floor. Fined 7s. 6d.

Ayr Police-court. Before Bailie Ferguson. Colin Munro, charged with assaulting Mrs. Kennedy by striking her in the face and knocking two of her teeth out. Fined 20s.

Clydebank Police-court. Before Bailie Cornock. John M'Whinnie, charged with assaulting a man who interfered with him when molesting a girl. The complainant was struck several times on the head and face, and knocked down. Fined 30s.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Leslie. John Conway, charged with assaulting Sarah Boyle by throwing her down and also assaulting Bernard Quinn by knocking him about and scratching his face Fined 21s.

Oswestry County Police-court. Frederick Lewis, a grocer, charged with unprovoked assault on George Lloyd and Owen Lloyd. He threw George Lloyd to the ground and kicked him in the eye. He upset Owen Lloyd, who passed him on a bicycyle, and brutally kicked him while on the ground. Fine and costs in both cases £6 6s. 6d.

Watton Petty Sessions. Robert Childerhouse, dealer, charged with cruelty to a pony by driving, travelling, and abandoning it while in an unfit state. When the animal could go no further he left it by the roadside, where it died. Fined £3 and costs.

Llandaff Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Woods, Colonel Fisher, Mr. Sydney Robinson, M.P., and Principal Griffiths. George Vincent, aged fourteen, charged with assaulting Margery Ellen Wightwick. On her way home from school he caught hold of her, put his arm round her neck, and asked her to give him a kiss. Fined 10s. and costs or five days' imprisonment.

Malmesbury Petty Sessions. Before Sir Richard Pollen, Col. Miles, Col. Turner, and other magistrates. Arthur Neal, in default of paying a fine of £2 and 9s. costs for carrying a gun without a licence. One month.

Helensburgh Police-court. Before Bailie Kidston. Mary Dunning, charged with stealing a skirt and blouse belonging to her daughter, sixty days' imprisonment. On leaving the dock the prisoner used some threatening language, whereupon the magistrate called her back and sentenced her to a further twenty-one days.

Reading Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Ridley, Webb, Jackson, and Steward-Smith. William Jones, charged with stealing a coat and cap, value 20s. He took them from a greenhouse, where they had been left hanging up. One month's hard labour.

Oswestry Country Police-court. Before Captain Lovett and other magistrates. Robert Denton Holland, charged with driving a motor car to the danger of the public. The car frightened a pony so that it "nearly" bolted. Fined £10, £1 18s. 6d. costs, and licence endorsed.

Shepton Mallet Petty Sessions. Alfred Hall, charged with stealing a fowl and hoe, value 3s. 6d., from his employer, and George Robbins, charged with receiving them. Hill admitted the offence and selling the things to Robbins. Hill two months' hard labour, Robbins fined £1.

An Eminent Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate, especially on the chest, should have a gas fire in the bedroom. Not one atom less healthy than coal."

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Liverpool City Police-court. Before Alderman Burgess, Dr. Richardson, and Mr. J. Thompson. T. Beazley and W. Hamilton, charged with ill-treating a donkey. The donkey was so emaciated that it could only stand by leaning against a wall. Beazley was beating the animal, and when it fell kicked it. Fined 20s. each and costs.

Fareham Petty Sessions. Frederick Elson, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it in an unfit state, and his employer, B. R. Turner, charged with causing it to be worked. The animal was lame, and its back, according to a witness, was "absolutely rotten" with sores. Turner fined £1 and costs, Elson 10s. and costs.

Methwold Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. P. Mack, and T. C. Frost and Rev. H. C. Hart. Frederick H. Rickard, farmer, charged with cruelty to five horses by failing to provide them with proper food and shelter. They were left in a snow-covered field without any food, and the dykes being frozen the animals could get no water. Fined £1 and costs.

King's Heath Police-court. Before Messrs. C. P. Lane and S. E. Johnson. Joseph Lambert, charged with stealing an outfit of clothing from the King's Norton Union. He said the workhouse people would not let him have his own clothes to go out in. Two months' hard labour.

Wymondham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Stafford H. Jerningham and other magistrates. Harry Elvin, charged with stealing a live fowl, value 2s. 6d., and with receiving a live fowl, the property of a person unknown. He had been a fortnight in prison under remand, and the magistrates ordered him back to prison for another fortnight.

Paignton Police-court. Before Mr. G. Prestige and Capt. Hodge. Olive Banks, domestic servant, charged with stealing two silver watches and a silver chain from her employer. When charged she said, "Serve him right, he should have given me more money." One month.

Paignton Police-court. Henry Milton, a youth, charged with sleeping in a hay loft. Fourteen days.

Reference was made in TRUTH the other day to a trick advertisement in which a lady's hat was to be "given away" by some people calling themselves "Osborn and Dawson, French milliners," of 41, King William-street, E.C. I remarked at the time that this is not exactly the neighbourhood in which one would usually look for French millinery, and the same reflection seems to have occurred to the *Financial News*, with the results recorded in the following paragraph:—

> As the existence of the millinery business in King William-street had never revealed itself to us during the period—now nearly a quarter of a century—throughout which the offices of *The Financial News* have been in that locality, a representative of this journal went in search of Messrs. Osborn and Dawson. His journey, however, ended on the fourth floor at No. 41, where a door heavily padlocked on the outside effectually forbade further exploration. As the hour of his call was the early afternoon, it seems curious that the door should be fastened in that ponderous fashion (and from the outside, too) just at the time of day when ladies might be expected to call, on the purchase of millinery bent.

As I have already said, the advertisement is on the face of it one which no newspaper would publish if it understood its duty to its readers properly, and after the above evidence even a newspaper manager can hardly affect ignorance of its true nature.

My old friend Reuben May has broken out during the last week or two with an appeal distributed by post on a big illustrated card. Writing on January 25 he states that "since Saturday morning last, January 19, quite 10,000 extreme distressed persons, including many women and children, have had a portion of food at this mission." He states that "over 1,000" were relieved on Sunday. But as a matter of arithmetic, it will be seen that about 1,500 must have been relieved on every one of the seven days to make up his total, even if his statement, dated Friday, was made up after Friday's work was done. As May keeps open house for a short time daily, and plenty of people look in there for a bit of bread or whatever it may be, he, no doubt, "relieves" a good many hundred people during the week; but that he deals with anything like the figures above mentioned I do not believe. They are merely imaginary totals put down to attract sympathy, without any honest attempt to state true facts.

The following kind invitation, neatly printed on a white card from a copper-plate engraving, is being widely distributed:—

> *At Home*
> *10 a.m. till 5 p.m.*
>
> *Mr. L. Fortescue.*
>
> PICCADILLY HOUSE,
> SACKVILLE STREET,
> PICCADILLY, W. P.T.O.

This is the latest mode of asking the innocent fly to walk into the parlour of the bloodsucking spider. Really Mr. L. Fortescue is Mr. Abraham Cohen. By turning over the card you will see that Cohen, alias Fortescue, describes himself as "a private banker." This sounds nicer than "a usurer's tout," but I believe that the latter description would have the merit of being more accurate.

"Charles Bloomfield and Co." are the latest recruits to the ranks of the betting agents whose illegal businesses are carried on—or purport to be carried on—from offices at The Hague or elsewhere on the Continent. They have made a start with what is described as a great prize scheme (otherwise a sweepstake) on the Waterloo Cup, which under English law renders them liable to heavy penalties. Remittances for "shares" in this gamble have to be sent to The Hague, but in a reprint of an alleged newspaper puff which is enclosed with the prospectus it is stated that "Mr. Charles Bloomfield" has also a London office at 17, Woodstock-street, New Bond-street. That statement, which is borne out by the directory, appears to me to merit the attention of the authorities at Scotland Yard.

It has become an increasingly common practice for bookmakers and self-styled turf accountants whose headquarters are in London to set the law at defiance by doing business on the deposit system, besides promoting sweepstakes and so-called racing competitions, under the cover of Continental offices, which are often nothing more than accommodation addresses. Apparently it is supposed that this stratagem protects them from the consequences of their illegal acts. But is the law really so impotent? The question is not one on which I am qualified to pronounce an opinion, but I have been told that if the police set to work in the right way the offenders could be brought to book. It is at any rate a manifest absurdity that a man residing and carrying on a business in London should at the same time be allowed to conduct an unlawful branch of that business from an office in Holland; and if it be a fact that the Betting Act and the Lottery Acts can be circumvented by this device, the sooner those Acts are amended the better.

There would, of course, still remain to be dealt with the cases in which the Acts are violated by the horde of betting agents and lottery touts—some of them downright swindlers—whose operations are really and wholly

conducted from places abroad. Here it is obviously the duty of the Post Office to obtain power to intercept letters and remittances addressed to such persons, just as the United States Post Office does. It seems to me that unless this course is adopted the Betting Acts and the Lottery Acts might almost as well be repealed. What, indeed, is the use of prohibiting various forms of gambling in England on the ground that they constitute a public evil, if the same evil is to be permitted to flourish—as it does to an ever-increasing extent—through the service of the Post Office?

I have had a good deal of correspondence from bank clerks with reference to the recent paragraphs in Truth on the question of banking hours. Many of the letters are rather melancholy reading, but I do not know how the position of bank clerks is to be improved until they organise themselves for the purpose of improving it as workers in other fields of employment have done. One gentleman fears that my suggestion that "the remedy lies in the hands of the aggrieved" is, "for obvious reasons, inapplicable to bank clerks." I can only say that the reasons are not obvious to me. I know of no reason which makes it more difficult for bank clerks to organise themselves and fight their own battles than for the servants of railway companies or colliery proprietors, unless it is that they have absurd social prejudices which forbid them to regard themselves as working men, or that they are too apathetic to stir hand or foot on their own behalf. If for this reason organisation is impossible in this field of labour, then it is no use discussing the question. Bank clerks are welcome to sympathy from the outside world, if that affords them any comfort, but the outside world can offer nothing else.

As regards the general question whether the present banking hours are the most convenient to the requirements of the community at large, I am told that some years ago a movement was set on foot to bring about the opening of banks at 10 a.m. instead of 9 a.m., but the movement failed. Why it failed, I do not know. I do not often have occasion to go into a bank before 10 a.m. myself, and I should say that the same thing is true of the vast majority of business people in London, as it certainly is of private customers. On the other hand, it is pretty certain that it would be a convenience to very large numbers of people to have their banks open until 5 p.m. The present banking hours certainly date from a period when general business hours were much earlier at both ends than they are at present. The bulk of the business of London begins quite an hour later than it did forty or fifty years ago, and in a great many businesses people work much later in the evening.

It is very public-spirited of Sir James Knowles to reprint for the benefit of the present generation 136 pages of opinions adverse to the Channel Tunnel project which he published in 1883; but I am not sure that the money it must have cost him has been well spent. The principal thing he has shown is that the opinions against the tunnel which are current to-day are practically identical with those of which we heard so much five-and-twenty years ago. Whether they are right or wrong, everybody must still judge for himself, and will probably judge, as before, more by prejudice than reason.

I have been particularly struck by the *Nineteenth Century* reprint of Lord Wolseley's arguments, because they show in a remarkable way what I was saying only the other day, namely, that our soldiers are the most modest of men and the most distrustful of their own abilities. Lord Wolseley was of opinion, as I suppose many of his successors are to-day, that however strongly you might fortify the British end of the tunnel, a handful of Frenchmen could walk into the defences on a dark evening, surprise the guard, and obtain possession of all the defensive works before anybody on the spot, still less anybody at a distance, knew what they were up to. He thinks it quite possible that a train-load of innocent-looking civilian tourists might descend from a French train at Dover, and carry out this design. He goes further than that, for he thought in 1882 that we could surprise and capture any French fortress in the same way. I suppose, therefore, that we must take it that he, or at any rate his successors, are of opinion that any of the strongholds on either side of the Franco-German frontier might to-day be as easily captured by an enemy from the other side, disguised as tourists or commercial travellers. It is no use arguing against such an opinion as this. It is not addressed to the intelligence.

Dover, Calais, and Boulogne have announced, I see, that they are opposed to a Channel Tunnel. Naturally they are, for the same reason that the proprietor of the refreshment room at Swindon objected to any train passing that station without being delayed there for ten minutes. Calais and Boulogne are frank. They put their opposition on the ground of local interests. Dover, however, puts hers on the interests of the country.

For my part I do not consider the danger of an invasion through the tunnel within the area of practical possibilities. If there had been a tunnel when Napoleon had collected a great army at Boulogne to invade us I doubt whether he would ever have endeavoured to use it. That there will some day be a tunnel I am certain, and then people will be surprised that this narrow passage under the sea, with its exit in an English fortress, and the means of turning the sea into it always ready to hand, ever was dreamt of as destroying our insularity.

Attempts to define party principles—in this country, at any rate—are generally amusing, but rarely useful for any other purpose. Sir John Gorst objects to Lord Rosebery's description of Lord Randolph Churchill's Tory-Democracy as "an imposture," or "the wolf of Radicalism in the sheepskin of Toryism;" and by way of reply he endeavours to explain exactly what it really meant. This is the explanation:—

> The principle of Tory Democracy is that all government exists solely for the good of the governed; that Church and King, Lords and Commons, and all other public institutions are to be maintained so far, and so far only, as they promote the happiness and welfare of the common people; that all who are entrusted with any public function are trustees, not for their own class, but for the nation at large; and that the mass of the people

may be trusted so to use electoral power, which should be freely conceded to them, as to support those who are promoting their interests. It is Democratic because the welfare of the people is its supreme end; it is Tory because the institutions of the country are the means by which the end is to be attained.

How does this differ from democracy without any qualifying prefix? What is there in it that any Radical would not subscribe to? All democrats hold that government exists solely for the good of the governed—and most aristocrats and autocrats as well. No democrat desires to destroy any of the institutions of the country for the sake of destroying them. The contrary may be said, and possibly believed sincerely, but it has no truth in it. The most revolutionary spirit would only destroy or modify an existing institution because he considers that it does not "promote the happiness and welfare of the common people." Every democratic measure that has ever been carried, whether by Radicals or Tories, has used the institutions of the country as "the means by which the end is to be attained," even though it may have reformed those institutions by the principles of Tory Democracy as above expounded. It is absurd, therefore, to say that any form of democracy is "Tory" because the institutions of the country are the means by which the end is attained.

Lord Randolph Churchill was at heart a Radical, and I suspect Sir John Gorst of the same virtue—a suspicion shared by many of his own party. Tory-Democracy was a meaningless phrase, designed to enable a man to call himself a Tory, while holding and avowing convictions which had nothing in common with Toryism. Such a phrase cannot possibly express any intelligible principle. You might as well talk about Nonconformist-Churchmanship, or Atheistic-Catholicism, or White-Negrodom. In Lord Randolph Churchill's case, when the individual necessity which gave rise to the phrase disappeared, with the inventor, Tory-Democracy perished too. Sir John Gorst's pathetic lament that Toryism perished at the same time is obviously begotten only of undue tenderness for the departed. It is highly creditable to him, but I fear it says more for his heart than his head.

I happened to have a conversation with the late Mr. Gladstone in regard to the Lords after he had declared in the House of Commons that the present state of things could not go on. "Why," he asked, "do not you, and those who agree with you, get up a fund of £100,000, and enter into a serious agitation against them? This was what Cobden did when he carried Free Trade." I asked him what he would suggest as a substitute for the House of Lords. He replied, "Agitate for a suspensory veto only, and in doing so, remember this: never consent to a veto beyond a sessional one. It would be impossible under a longer term that any Liberal Administration could retain office, for it would either have to dissolve, or attempt to carry on the Government under such conditions that it would lose all hold on the country."

This, I think, was sound advice. If the Upper Chamber had only a suspensory sessional veto, its influence would depend upon its composition. All intelligent Peers would—and fairly—claim the right to surrender their privilege, and to be eligible for the House of Commons. In order to give the Upper Chamber such influence as it would secure by being an assembly of men of light and leading, the Conservatives would themselves be the first to demand that it should be composed of men whose opinions, when expressed, would carry weight.

The Government will make a mistake if it allows the House of Lords question to be fought on some particular Bill which the Lords have either vetoed or emasculated. The House of Commons should be invited to decide the general question whether an assembly of hereditary legislators and bishops of the Church of England—almost all of whom are Conservatives—should possess the present power of the Lords. I do not even see that an appeal to the country would be necessary, provided that a Bill embodying this reform were carried in the Commons by a large majority, for the decision at a General Election would be a foregone conclusion, unless Liberals and Radicals are prepared to accept political servitude permanently. I doubt, indeed, whether the Conservatives would wish for such an appeal, as an issue more unfavourable to them could not well be imagined. The Lords would throw out the first Bill sent up to them for limiting their veto. A similar Bill would be sent up in the next Session, and it would be intimated to them that, should it be thrown out, a sufficient number of peers would be created to rectify the balance. Rather than have their numbers thus increased, they would—as they did on the first Reform Bill—at once succumb.

I came across the other day a scheme of House of Lords reform propounded by Lord Meath. There were to be in this new House a hundred hereditary members, a certain number of bishops, a few life members, and a few recommended by learned societies and such like. I think, however, that when the Government takes action in regard to the Lords, it should in the first instance limit itself to converting the present veto into a suspensory one. When this be done it will be time enough to amend the composition of the Upper Chamber.

THE BEWILDERED ROBIN AND THE EFFUSIVE MISSEL-THRUSH.

Cock-robin once, prospecting round
For Food, a Lump of Suet found,
And, seizing in his Beak the Treasure,
Flew off to eat it at his Leisure.
But as he sped to his Retreat,
He chanced the Missel-Thrush to meet,
Who, hailing in effusive Trim,
Turned back and flew alongside him.
"How wags the World with you, sweet Bobs!
And how's the Missus and the Squabs?
My Hen must really come and call.
She longs to hear about you all.
How fit you look, how young, how sprightly!
For, gad, your Years you carry lightly!
And that red Waistcoat—truth to tell—
Becomes you most amazing well.
Hard we so seldom see each other,
Though, troth, I love you like a Brother!
It seems an endless Age, I vow,
Since last we had a nice Pow-Wow."
Cock-robin stared, bewildered he
By all this Cordiality,
And wondered what had made Dan Thrush
So suddenly begin to Gush;

Which conduct puzzled him the more
Because, when they had met before,
The other with contemptuous Stare
Had always passed him in the Air.
What was the Reason of this Change,
So noticeable, sudden, strange?
None, at the first, could Bobby find,
But soon it flashed across his Mind,
(And as it flashed, for truth he knew it)
The Reason was——*that Lump of Suet!*

Moral.

The Robin 's He who pays the Rates,
The Thrush the C.C. Candidates,
Whose sudden Friendliness, you 'll note,
Aims simply at the former's—Vote.

SCRUTATOR.

AN EDALJI INQUIRY AT LAST.

NOW that Mr. Gladstone has—contrary, I confess, to my expectation—ordered an official inquiry into the Edalji case, it would not be becoming to say anything of a controversial nature on the subject, nor is there any occasion to do so. But one thing I should like to say—namely, that if the inquiry is to do what the public will expect of it, it must be a public inquiry and the reference must be in the widest terms. The inquiry ought not to be limited to the circumstances immediately attending the arrest and trial of Mr. Edalji, even supplemented by subsequent events bearing upon the justice of the conviction. In order to get to the bottom of the mystery, and to clear up all those questions affecting the attitude of the police towards Mr. Edalji and his family which the public is most concerned about, it is necessary that the Committee (or whatever it is to be) should be instructed to go back to the first outbreak of anonymous letter-writing at Great Wyrley Vicarage in 1888, and follow the course of events from that time down to Mr. Edalji's arrest in 1903. It is equally necessary that the inquiry should extend to all the official dealings of the Home Office with the case, and particularly that the full truth should be disclosed as to the communications that passed between the Home Office and the Chief Constable of Staffordshire after the first petition on the prisoner's behalf was presented. I trust that Mr. Gladstone will see the importance of this, for the concession of the inquiry which has been so often sought and refused puts the Home Office itself on its trial in a certain measure; and in the interest of justice it is far better that this should be officially recognised, so that the Office may defend itself in the open, than that it should be under an inducement to do so by pulling wires behind the scenes. The importance of holding the inquiry absolutely in public will be recognised, I should hope, spontaneously.

There is one other matter which I would earnestly press upon the attention of my readers. Sir A. Conan Doyle has already put it to the public in his letter to the *Daily Telegraph* on Monday. Mr. Edalji is at present a convict on ticket-of-leave; his father possesses but a microscopic apology for a "living"; and the limited means of the family have been severely taxed by the expenses of the son's trial and conviction. To place the case adequately before any tribunal necessarily involves the expenditure of money. Counsel must be instructed, evidence collected and put into shape, and so on; and it is impossible that this can be properly done unless the public will contribute the money.

Accordingly, Sir Conan Doyle has formed a small committee, of which he and Sir George Lewis are members, and Mr. J. Hall Richardson, of the *Daily Telegraph*, treasurer, to collect a fund for this purpose, and be responsible for its proper application. When the Edalji case has been under discussion in Truth a good many people have written to me at one time and another expressing a desire to manifest their sympathy with the prisoner by subscribing to any fund that might be raised for the purpose of securing a revision of his sentence. I beg them now to make good their offers, and I ask my readers generally to join. It is not a very large sum that is required, but it is wanted quickly. Any contributions to it may be sent to Mr. Richardson at the *Daily Telegraph* Office, or if they are sent to the Editor of Truth he will be pleased to forward them to their proper destination.

THE *TIMES* AND ITS CRITICS.

The *Saturday Review* stated last week that the proprietors of the *Times* had decided to part with the Book Club and with Mr. Moberly Bell at the same time. The whole statement has since been categorically denied by Mr. Moberly Bell. I can only say pity 'tis 'tis *not* true, for the longer the present situation continues the more evident it becomes that its continued association with the Book Club must utterly destroy the character of the *Times* as a newspaper. On Wednesday last the *Times* devoted the best part of one of its columns to a letter from "The Manager of the *Times* Book Club," presumably the same Mr. Carr who figured so agreeably as the *alter ego* of Mr. Twelves, of Antwerp, in the transactions described in Truth of January 23. The letter had reference to the business relations of Mrs. Atherton with Mr. John Murray. The lady is one of those authors who have spoken out frankly on the publishers' side, and Mr. Carr's object is to prove to her that in the case of one of her books "Mr. Murray mulcted Mrs. Atherton of £625." He is careful to explain that he does not accuse Mr. Murray of dishonesty, though he thinks that she would have been better off in the hands of two dishonest publishers of whom she confesses she has had experience. But Mrs. Atherton was "mulcted" to this extent "in order that Mr. Murray might preserve the fine old traditions of the house in Albemarle-street"—though it is not clear how this motive is to be reconciled with the previous suggestion that Mrs. Atherton had "unwittingly contributed" the £625 "to this campaign fund of the publishers' trust." This, with a few tasteful allusions to the "arrogance" and "pomposity" of Mr. Murray, who is compared to a waiter pouring out with "insolence" a champagne glass half full of froth, is the gist of the letter.

With the question thus raised as between Mrs. Atherton and Mr. Murray I am not in the least concerned, and I am not clear that anybody else is. Mr.

Carr is of opinion that Mr. Murray will not answer him, because "he has learned from the leaders of trusts in other trades that the complaints of the public may be treated with silent contempt." Mr. Carr, when he is abusing respectable people for their arrogance and pomposity, really ought not to suggest that he and his bookshop constitute "the public"; but even if there were in the letter anything in the nature of a "complaint of the public" against Mr. Murray, the latter gentleman may easily have other reasons for treating Mr. Carr with silent contempt besides his supposed studies at the feet of leaders of trusts. The majority of mankind consider that there is a certain style of attack which cannot be answered without loss of self-respect. For this reason a gentleman does not enter into an argument for the amusement of a crowd with a cabman who becomes abusive over a dispute about a fare. If the cabman goes too far, he calls in a policeman; if the cabman is careful to say nothing which will justify the interference of the police, he walks away before a crowd collects. I do not know whether this is Mr. Murray's attitude towards Mr. Carr, but if it is, he is fully justified in it, Mr. Carr having been careful to keep himself outside the reach of the law. All that I am concerned about is the simple fact that an attack of this character should be made upon any gentleman in the columns of the *Times*, by an employee of the *Times*, in the course of a dispute about pounds, shillings, and pence between that gentleman and the *Times*.

The character of the incident is aggravated by the last revelation of the trade tricks to which the *Times* has lately condescended, and of the part played in them by Mr. Carr himself. The reader will understand what I mean by turning back to Truth of January 23. Mr. Carr is there exhibited as the protagonist in a plot, carried out in the name of the *Times*, for the purpose of practising an imposition on eight different London publishers. To this end Mr. Carr assumes the character of one Twelves of Antwerp, whose agent he claims to be, and whose blank order forms he keeps in stock—apparently for this specific purpose. In the name of Twelves of Antwerp, which he himself signs, he gives to an export bookseller in London an order for upwards of a thousand volumes recently issued by those eight publishers; and with it printed labels, also kept in stock, by which the parcels are to be addressed to an agent of the *Times* Book Club in London. Armed with these materials, the export bookseller is to go to the eight publishers, obtain books for Twelves of Antwerp, on special terms which are not applicable to the home trade, deliver them to the agent of the *Times*, and receive payment from the *Times*. Whether the law is strong enough to protect any tradesman against an imposition of this kind, I do not know; but it is clear that the object is to obtain books for the *Times* on terms which the vendor would not sell them if he knew whom he was dealing with, and to give the *Times* a valuable advantage at the expense of its trade competitors—in other words, to put money into the pockets of the *Times*. Is it for the *Times*, after being caught in the act of perpetrating a disreputable trick of this kind, to throw a column of studied insults at one of the most respected of London publishers, and in all but the name to call him a pick-pocket—certainly to abuse him as one? If there is any question of pocket-picking in the matter, it does not seem to be on the publishers' side. Whether the publishers are wise or unwise in their trade arrangements, they at any rate conduct their business straightforwardly and honourably. They do not disguise themselves in foreign merchants' clothes, and use other people's signatures, in order to obtain goods on more favourable terms than their competitors. And it seems like adding insult to injury that when the *Times* wants to vilify one of the class it is conspiring to impose upon, it should put up for the purpose Mr. Twelves of Antwerp, or Mr. Carr—I really do not know which may be which.

In the same issue containing the attack of the Book Club manager on Mr. Murray, the *Times* published a letter from a well-known novelist, Mr. Eden Phillpotts, protesting against a *Times* review of his latest book being headed with the now familiar notice requesting subscribers to the Book Club not to ask for it. Mr. Phillpotts wrote warmly, and the *Times* was under no obligation to publish his letter. But it chose to do so, and to reply to it in a leading article. If this article was not written by the Manager of the Book Club, it was, at any rate, fully worthy of him. The purport of it was that Mr. Eden Phillpotts had attacked the *Times*, not the *Times* him, and that for all he complained of he had only himself to thank. This retort is based of necessity upon an ingenious perversion of fact; thus: "Either by his own act, or through the publishers whom he has made his sole agents—it does not matter which—Mr. Phillpotts refuses to sell to the Book Club copies of his book at trade prices. . . . He refuses to sell copies to the Club at full retail prices." It is scarcely necessary to point out that the representation of the issue is here effected by the use of the term "prices." The point which is in dispute, as all the world knows, is not one of prices as between the trade and the Book Club, but of the price at which the Book Club is to re-sell. The true statement of the case is that the Book Club refuses to buy of Mr. Phillpotts' agents on the ordinary trade *terms*. The Club is fighting to obtain terms for itself which the ordinary trade not only does not get, but which it does not want. The *Times* is making war on "the ordinary trade" as well as on the ordinary trade terms, and that being so, and the fact being notorious, surely it is as disingenuous as it is futile to pretend that it is being refused ordinary terms. Yet this pretence is set up in a *Times* leading article, and made the occasion for lecturing and ridiculing an unfortunate author who protests against the injury which the *Times* may do him by the weapons it is using in a war of its own making.

When I say that it is a pity that the *Times* has not decided to sever itself from the Book Club, it is because I am horrified at the figure it cuts in incidents such as these, and incidents which are occurring every week. Only a few weeks ago the newspapers reported that "Mr. H. E. Hooper, of the *Times*, Printing House Square, applied (in the City of London Court) to have Mr. W. D. Howe, metal worker, Higham-street, Walthamstow, committed for non-payment of £5 12s., balance due for an 'Encyclopædia Britannica' supplied." Defendant pleaded that business was bad, that he only earned 25s. a week,

and could not pay even 3s. a month. "Just imagine the *Times* thundering away at this poor metal-worker," said the Judge; "no order!" Just imagine it! And imagine also that the poor metal-worker has learned by this time, as everybody has, the true history of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and knows how he was gammoned into contracting the debt for which the *Times* was seeking to send him to prison. In one of many letters received after the appearance of the "Twelves of Antwerp" revelations, I was taken to task by a Radical admirer for being too hard on the *Times*. How can anybody be too hard on a business conducted with such utter disregard of its past traditions, and of every principle that makes a newspaper powerful and respected? It is perfectly true that the manner in which a private business is conducted is not, as a rule, a matter of public concern. But the business of the newspaper which so long gave the lead and set the example to the English press is an exception to that rule, or, to speak more correctly, it is not an ordinary private business. I am told by the critic above mentioned, that the "Twelves of Antwerp" business is merely an example of a common trade trick, never regarded as very heinous, and condoned on the principle that "all is fair in war." Very possibly; but I have yet to learn that the principle that "all is fair in war" is applicable to commercial operations in peace; and the reference to a common trade trick hardly helps the *Times*, for it is just the importation of common trade tricks into the business of the leading London journal which is the matter for condemnation. Moreover, I am perfectly sure that the course which the *Times* has lately been pursuing must prove fatal to itself, and that the best friends of the paper are those who say so the most plainly.

THE PRIESTCRAFT OF MEDICINE.

A case has just occurred which illustrates in a very remarkable way the powers and pretensions of medical trade-unionism. Briefly stated, the case is this: A West End physician of good repute holds strong views adverse to the method of treatment of a particular class of diseases generally favoured for the moment by his professional brethren. He finds it impossible to obtain a hearing through professional channels, including one of the leading professional journals. He then embodies his views in a book, issued in the ordinary way, and avowedly addressed to the public, or so much of the public as it may concern. He is called upon by the Royal College of Physicians, of which he [illegible]mber, to explain his conduct in publishing [illegible] recognised, [illegible]n intimation being given to him that it [illegible] the open, than [illegible]t to do [illegible] a well-recognised principle of profession[illegible] conduct." He replies that the book is its own explanation, and that as he has no other to offer, he anticipates any further action on the part of the College by resigning his membership and removing his name from the medical register. It will be seen at once that the question which the Royal College of Physicians has thus raised is one of supreme importance to the public at large.

The incident to which I refer has naturally been the subject of a good deal of correspondence; but the point really lies in a nutshell, and if the whole of what has passed between the parties were published, it would add little to the above statement. But in order to show the public importance of the question at issue, and that there may be no room for doubt as to the precise attitude both of the College and of the physician concerned, I subjoin a few extracts from this correspondence. The physician is Mr. John Shaw, M.D.Lond., of New Cavendish-street, a Fellow and former Vice-President of the British Gynæcological Society, and late Physician for Diseases of Women in the North-West London Hospital. His correspondence with the College began with the following letter:—

Royal College of Physicians,
London, S.W.
January 12, 1907.

Dear Sir,—The attention of the President and Censors, at their meeting yesterday, was drawn to a work recently published by yourself, entitled "Fibroid Tumours: a New Treatment. . . . . without Operation." Complaints reached them that the book had been obviously written with a view to its being placed in the hands of the general public, and that the Author has addressed himself directly to women suffering from the maladies of which it treats. This constitutes a distinct breach of a well recognised principle of professional conduct. It is thought, moreover, to be very undesirable for their own welfare that patients should have their attention directed to much which is thus communicated.

Having examined the book, the President and Censors regret to find that it fully bears out the principal charge as stated above, and desire me to ask if you have any explanation which you may wish to offer them respecting it.—I remain, faithfully yours, (Signed) Edward Liveing, M.D.,
Registrar.

To Dr. John Shaw, M.R.C.P.

Dr. Shaw replied to this letter at considerable length. The following are the most material portions of his answer:—

I have already stated, in acknowledging your letter, that, "without admitting that any 'explanation' is necessary in addition to the very explicit statements made in the preface and elsewhere in my book," I would bow to the decision of the President and Censors, and "with all urgency prepare a statement of the circumstances (from my point of view) which apparently have been brought to a head by your letter of the 12th inst." Briefly stated, they are as follows:—

The *British Medical Journal*—the official organ of the British Medical Association, with a very important non-medical circulation (exceeding, so far as I can judge, that of many lay journals)—made the specific statement with regard to fibroid tumours of the womb, that "the risks of operation are probably less than those of non-operation." On the other hand, I conclude that the risks of operation are *more than five hundred times greater* than those of non-operation, and that operation is, moreover, liable to be followed by cancer. And it is a noteworthy fact that in the review of my book (December 1, 1906) the journal leaves my statistics severely alone—although I had by letter drawn the Editor's attention thereto—and attempts no justification for its own statements, merely remarking that "we are under the impression (*sic*) that a great deal has been written about the harmlessness of many uterine fibroids." It must be remembered, moreover, that I had repeatedly tried to gain publicity for the alternative non-operative methods of treatment, but unavailingly.

Excluding the personal aspect, the position appears to me thus:—A statement was made in a journal with an important non-medical circulation, calculated (from my point of view) to involve those who might trust therein, in a possible disaster incomparably greater than that which might be occasioned in the fraudulent statements of a company prospectus, for "the life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment"; and yet the President and Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, a corporation the very *raison d'être* of which is the public weal, ask me for an explanation for doing what I could to minimise that which I regard as a grave injustice to the community. And this you speak of as "the principal charge." Is it unnatural that I should be surprised? . . . . .

The next passage, which I omit, relates to previous communications which had passed on the same subject between Dr. Shaw and the British Gynæcological Society. His letter then proceeds:

Moreover, it is not only in regard to protest against mutilative operations on women that I have failed to reach the ear of the profession through the usual and proper channels. And I would like those of my professional colleagues, whose good opinion I still value, to clearly understand, that it was only after having come to the conclusion that the position was hopeless, that I addressed the public directly, in contravention to practice, which I perfectly recognise as the "usual and proper course." I had,

in fact, been equally unfortunate in gaining a hearing in answer to a statement made in the *British Medical Journal*, of November 4, 1905, by an eminent surgeon, to the effect that "in no single case have we yet seen a genuine scirrhus or an undoubted epithelioma" (either of the two chief types of cancer, it will be noted) "whose course has been modified or whose growth has been hindered for a single day by any of their methods," that is to say, "by high frequency currents, various kinds of serum, the injection of complex organic compounds, *et hoc genus omne*."

In my submitted answer, not only were cases set forth, the cancerous nature of which I had subsequently doubted on the simple ground of the success attained, but also others of whose character there could be no possible doubt, and some of these were still available for the inspection and examination of the surgeon just quoted, and although the space required by my letter was approximately but one half that which had been devoted to an artificial purgative of foreign origin—*indexed under its proprietary name*—the length of my letter was the alleged ground for refusing publication.

Not unnaturally, such opposition excited in my mind a desire to study the matter further, and, as the consequence of that investigation, not only did I arrive at the results published in "Fibroid Tumour," but I have come to the conclusion that the "caution, and logical attitude taken up by the hospital surgeons of this country in reference to the treatment of cancer by other than operative measures," has brought about the following deplorable condition of affairs: The increased frequency of operations, the earlier date at which they are undertaken, their wider extent and greater thoroughness, although accompanied by a greatly decreased *primary* mortality, are *followed by an increased mortality from cancer*, of such alarming proportions, that the annual increment of mortality from cancer of the breast per million women, of 35 years of age and upwards, in the period 1898 to 1901, amounted to *three times* that which ruled in the periods 1868 to 1888, and thence on to 1893; and the annual increment from 1901 to 1904 is actually *more than nine times* that prevailing during the period of least operative activity. . . .

For upwards of 30 years I have worked at my profession with a strenuousness which has been, I presume, equalled by few of those who enjoy its rewards, and exceeded, perhaps, by none. And now, with responsibilities which would make me giddy to contemplate you force me into a decision of the gravest moment. Not only do I resign the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, but I shall take off my name from the Medical Register, in the hope that—*from the outside*—I may be better able to rouse the conscience of the profession, and the consciousness of the people and their Parliament, to the grave need of the amendment of the Medical Acts, *and of the far greater dangers of the Medical Acts Amendment Bill*, some of the provisions of which are calculated, not only to aggravate the ills from which the rank and file of the profession are suffering, but to constitute a public peril of the first magnitude.

Herewith, please receive the Diploma of Membership, which I hereby resign; and I need scarcely add that the material parts of our correspondence will be submitted for publication.—Yours faithfully, (Signed) John Shaw.

When this correspondence was placed before me, I communicated with Dr. Shaw, in order to ascertain whether there was any ground for supposing that the College had any other complaint against him besides what is contained in it. He assures me that there is no such ground, and that he has never previously had any difference with the professional authorities during the thirty years that he has been in practice. I conveyed to him my opinion that his resignation of his diploma and removal of his name from the Medical Register were tactical errors, and that he would have been wiser to have fought out the dispute *à outrance*, and, if necessary, to seek the protection of the Law Courts. But his reply is that he has no desire to bring a personal grievance before the public, or to pose as a martyr. His object is simply to call public attention to what he believes to be the truth about surgical operations in the cases above-mentioned; and he withdraws from his profession in order that he may obtain a free hand for that purpose. Whether he has been wise or not as a matter of tactics, and from his own point of view, there can be no two opinions as to the honourable and unselfish motives that have actuated him in the course he has taken. And it is equally clear that there is no personal question involved in the dispute, but merely one of principle—a principle of the most vital public importance.

What is really the offence for which Dr. Shaw has been called to account by his College? Obviously it is not the mere publication of a book on a question of professional treatment of a certain class of disease. This is done with impunity every day; and not only is it done in books, but in communications to the press, both lay and professional. The gravamen of Dr. Shaw's offence lies in the fact that he rejects the current opinion of the profession in a matter of profound importance, and that being silenced by a sort of professional boycott, he appeals directly to the public by showing them what he believes to be the truth. This is the unpardonable sin to punish which the professional machinery is set in motion, and it is to escape the punishment which would have inevitably fallen upon him, unless he had undertaken to withdraw his book from circulation and hold his tongue in future, that he has to resign his diploma and remove his name from the register. What we see here is, therefore, simply that attitude of resistance to the free public discussion of the sacred mysteries of the craft, which has been characteristic of the medical profession in all ages, and of no other, as far as I know, except the clerical. The voice of the Royal College of Physicians is simply the voice of the mediæval Church, directed to the cure of bodies instead of the cure of souls. Listen to it again:—"The book has been obviously written with a view to its being placed in the hands of the general public. . . . It is thought to be very undesirable that patients should have their attention directed to much which is thus communicated." What does this mean? That the patient must be kept in the dark; that he must have no opinion but that of his father confessor, the family doctor; that knowledge must be confined to the initiated, in order that they may be supreme; that the Gospel of Science must not be preached in a tongue understanded of the people. And all this forsooth, not for the benefit of the priesthood of medicine, but for the welfare of the laity, who will assuredly go to the devil if they are allowed to have an opinion about their own salvation. For these reasons, Dr. Shaw is a heretic of the most dangerous type, who must be put to silence. Not only is he preaching false doctrine, but he is a traitor to his own order. He would strip mystery from knowledge, open the eyes of the profane crowd, and allow the laity to judge for themselves in matters pertaining to their own welfare, instead of accepting with becoming faith what they are told by the inspired wisdom of the Brahmins of Science. There are men who tell us that leechcraft—if I may coin a convenient word—has taken in the modern world the place which priestcraft has lost. That it would if it could, Dr. Shaw's case goes far to prove.

Now, what is the weapon which the craft uses for such purposes and with such effect in this instance, and how is it obtained? The weapon is trade unionism, and it is supplied by Act of Parliament and Royal Charter; that is to say, the power which seems to be used here with so little regard to the public interest and approval is derived directly from public authority. It is a State-created power. Personally, I am a firm believer in trade-unionism; but I recognise that its power must in every case be subordinated to the interest of the com-

munity at large. Whether in the case of men who work for a trade employer at weekly wages, or of professionl men who are paid directly by their "clients" or "patients," at so much per job, it is necessary for their welfare that the mischief of free individual competition should be restrained; and for this purpose trades and professions are entrusted by law with certain rights of organisation and disciplinary powers over their members. This is incidentally for the benefit of the members themselves, but the justification for it is the benefit of the community, because the welfare of the community is only the aggregate welfare of its constituent parts. For this reason due care must be taken that the power given to any particular section for its own benefit is not used to encroach on the welfare of the rest. In the particular case of Dr. Shaw there is such encroachment, and it is not an exceptional case, but an example of a tendency which is always at work, and which the public must combat in its own defence. I have already pointed out how careful the Royal College of Physicians is to insist that it is actuated by regard, not merely for professional propriety or etiquette, but for the welfare of patients, who "ought not to have their attention directed to much" which Dr. Shaw has endeavoured to communicate to them. No doubt the incorporated Brahmins honestly believe this; just as their theological predecessors believed it in the time of Huss, or Wycliff, or "the fires of Smithfield." But in these days the public claims the right to know the whole truth in matters of medicine no less than in matters of theology. The doctrine of a sacred caste presiding over mysteries incomprehensible to the uninitiated is out of date in matters affecting the temporal welfare of the community as much as in those affecting its spiritual. And it is well for medicine as well as religion that it should be so. At the bottom of the doctrine lies quackery, for the ignorance of the patient is the soil which nourishes the ignorance of the doctor. Public discussion, however much impeded by ignorance of technicalities, is the only atmosphere conducive to scientific progress, and public opinion, however ill-informed, is in the long run the best, if not the only, test of scientific truth. The patient, therefore, simply cannot know too much, especially on matters about which doctors disagree, and there can be no real motive for keeping him in the dark except to increase the importance and the profits of his doctor. I leave the reader to judge how far the claim of professional secrecy made ostensibly for the patient's welfare, in the letter of the Royal College of Physicians to Dr. Shaw, differs in principle from that of the quack who professes to be the sole depository of a valuable medical secret. But the only difference I myself can see is that in the latter case the claim is made for the benefit of an individual, in the other for that of the profession collectively.

It is a question for public consideration how far the law, which gives the professional organisation jurisdiction over the individual practitioner, requires such amendment as will preclude its being used to suppress alleged scientific heresy, or to hinder the public from knowing what they have a right to know. In my judgment, every man whose name is removed from the official register of qualified practitioners should have a right of appeal to the High Court, and there are other reasons for this besides those revealed in Dr. Shaw's case. In the meantime, however, it is obvious that the best corrective of the abuse here pointed out lies with the public and the press, who, if they choose, can defeat any "conspiracy of silence" and any measures taken in pursuance of it on the part of the profession. I ought not, therefore, to conclude these remarks without drawing special attention to the technical question at issue between Dr. Shaw and the profession. Its public importance is best indicated by his assertion that the increased frequency of operation for fibroid tumour has been followed by such an increased mortality from cancer, that between 1898 and 1901 the mortality from cancer of the breast in women over thirty-five years of age was three times what it had been during the previous twenty years, and in the three subsequent years nine times. It is no business of mine to say whether these figures are accurate, or whether there is any "causal relation" between the two sets of facts, if they are facts. But it is everybody's business that when such statements are made by a physician of long experience and good repute, they should be rationally answered; and until they are refuted by some more convincing method than calling the man who makes them before the Council of his college for a breach of professional etiquette, the public will be wise to take note of them. It is to be hoped, therefore, that in his efforts to call public attention to the truth, as he understands it, Dr. Shaw will be thoroughly successful. Right or wrong, he is working only in the public interest, and should, therefore, have the fullest public support until it has been proved that he is wrong.

THE MUTUAL, OF NEW YORK, AND ITS MANAGER.

The deferred judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady in the case of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York *v.* the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and Mr. D. C. Haldeman has excited a great deal of interest in insurance circles, and some little surprise. Mr. Haldeman had been for many years the manager of the British branch of the Mutual; he resigned his position, became joint life-manager of the North British and Mercantile, issued from his private address a circular to policy-holders, recommending them to transfer from the Mutual to the North British, and was the means of taking over to the latter Company several of the Mutual agents. The trial of the action lasted for eleven days, and with one exception (to be referred to presently) his lordship found that Mr. Haldeman was justified in taking the course he did. The question which insurance men, and, indeed, business men generally, are asking themselves, is whether this judgment will facilitate the manager or other employee of one Company transferring the business of that Company to another Company whose service he subsequently enters.

Mr. Haldeman's position was a very difficult one. The scandals which had taken place in the American life offices and the sensational way in which they were

treated in the press undoubtedly gave rise to a great deal of dissatisfaction among policy-holders, and a policy-holders' committee was formed, which considered the subject and made various representations to the head office in New York. Mr. Haldeman wrote to many influential policy-holders, and some of them at his request joined this committee; Mr. Haldeman attended many of its meetings, and was closely in touch with its work throughout. Although this committee was not elected by policy-holders, it is quite probable that a number of large policy-holders working together and in touch with the general manager of the Company for this country might prove a very effective means of reassuring the general body of policy-holders and preventing them from taking any precipitate action adverse to their own interests, or to the real welfare of the Company of which they were members. Mr. Haldeman and this committee did not feel satisfied with the way things were going in New York, and gradually took up a position of pronounced hostility to the Company, which culminated in the recommendation that policy-holders should leave the Mutual and transfer to the North British and Mercantile.

Communication with the policy-holders was made possible through the Committee being supplied with a list of their names and addresses, and the comments of insurance men principally relate to two points: the propriety of such a list being used to transfer policy-holders from one office to another, and the disadvantages to the policy-holders themselves that result from such a course. "Policy-twisting," as it is called, is universally condemned not only as unfair between one company and another, but as being bad for the assured. Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady found that in this case at least the course adopted was justifiable; but there is a question of insurance fact which did not come before his Lordship, and as to which no doubt can possibly exist. In Mr. Haldeman's circular of May 10, 1906, the day after he left the Mutual, he said: "The offer is open to all British policy-holders to exchange their Mutual policies free of any sacrifice, for a policy in the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company." In a circular issued nine days later this statement was modified, and Messrs. Cockburn and Haldeman, the joint life-managers of the North British, clearly stated that some policy-holders could not transfer without loss, and that the solvency of the Mutual was not in question. The inaccuracy of Mr. Haldeman's first circular is manifest, and was subsequently admitted. There may well be differences of opinion as to which policy-holders could or could not transfer from the Mutual to the North British without incurring loss, and there is the further point that some policy-holders, feeling disturbed by past occurrences in the Mutual, might prefer to change, even if they sacrificed something by so doing. In spite, however, of the great extravagance of the Mutual in the past, it is easily proved that, in the great majority of cases, policy-holders would lose by transferring to the North British, because they would forfeit all the bonuses earned by the premiums already paid to the Mutual. As a bonus-earning office the North British and Mercantile is not in the front rank, and a man assuring twenty years ago at the same premium in both the Mutual and the North British would, under most policies, have done far better in the American than in the English company. These American results were accomplished during the prevalence of extravagance, and at the time policy-holders were being advised to transfer great economies had been and were being introduced, and these must inevitably increase the bonuses of the Mutual, thereby making its superiority over the North British still more manifest. Many policy-holders took the advice of actuaries and other experts upon the advisability of transferring, and in almost every case where competent independent advice was taken policy-holders were told that they would lose by transferring.

A good deal was said to the effect that the North British only wanted to obtain policy-holders who had already decided to leave the Mutual: probably the suggestion of the North British arose out of the notion that policy-holders were leaving the Mutual; but at a subsequent stage the attention of the former agents of the Mutual and other representatives of the North British was not confined to these cases, which must have been exceedingly few, if any. I have before me at the present time a letter from a man who took out a policy at the age of fifty-six, who had paid premiums to the Mutual for seven years, and was entitled to a bonus three years hence. He seems to have announced his intention of transferring to the North British. He subsequently obtained advice, found that he would lose, and determined to continue with the Mutual. He says: "I pointed out to Mr. Haldeman that in contradistinction to his assurance in one of his circulars that 'the transfer could be effected without any sacrifice,' this would entail a very heavy sacrifice. . . . . After some quibbling, and my threatening legal proceedings, Mr. Haldeman sent my cheque back." Another policy-holder also wished not to transfer after proposing to do so, and in this case my correspondent says: "Mr. Haldeman begs the question, and the matter is still under correspondence, and some talk of legal proceedings is being made."

Some light is thrown upon this subject by a memorandum or minute of the directors of the North British and Mercantile, when dealing with the appointment of Mr. Haldeman. It says: "To secure the business," i.e., the business of the Mutual, "it will be desirable to take over Mr. Haldeman in an important position. He has been general manager for Great Britain of the Mutual for nineteen years. . . . Mr. Haldeman could bring into the North British service some twelve or so canvassers in London and elsewhere selected from a larger number." The North British directors among themselves, to judge from the above minute, were simply looking to the fact that if Mr. Haldeman were given an appointment he could bring them some of the connections and agency organisation of the Mutual. What proportion of these connections and organisation they expected to obtain, and did obtain, I do not know, but to judge from the price offered for the good-will of the Star Life Office, the total British connections and organisation of the Mutual would be worth something like £250,000. The Judge held that these transactions were right and proper, but it is the hope of insurance men, for the sake of the welfare of policy-holders, and of

insurance business as a whole, that only the most extraordinary special circumstances can be held to justify the partial destruction of the business of an admittedly solvent Company and the persuasion of policy-holders to take a course which is against their interests.

It was shown in the evidence that Mr. Haldeman supplied the policy-holders' Committee with a list of the addresses of policy-holders for the purpose of acknowledging subscriptions. In the words of the Judge:—"Certainly that was the purpose for which it was supplied." The Company raised no objection to the Committee having the list of policy-holders for this purpose, but the Mutual would have raised very strong objections indeed had they supposed that the list would be used, as it was, for sending out a circular recommending people to transfer from the Mutual, and enclosing a prospectus of the North British and Mercantile. It is the use of this list of Mutual policy-holders for the purpose of transferring the Mutual business to the North British which insurance men regard with apprehension.

On only one point had Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady any adverse comment to make on Mr. Haldeman's action. This was in regard to the "coffin." On December 23, 1906, Mr. Haldeman took a box, popularly called the "coffin," which contained cards bearing the names and addresses of the Mutual policy-holders, to one of the Company's bankers—the Guarantee Company, of New York—and deposited it in the names of himself and one of the directors of the bank. At this time Mr. Haldeman was manager of the Mutual and had not sent in his resignation. Asked what he was going to do with those cards, Mr. Haldeman replied, "I was going to place those cards at the disposal of the policy-holders of the Mutual, so that they could communicate with each other. For their communicating with each other—organising if you like to use the word." A few days after Mr. Haldeman entered the employ of the North British he—the joint life manager of the North British—sent to the Mutual's bankers for the Mutual's property—namely, the "coffin" full of cards—and a very intelligent commissionaire understood that his orders were to take it to the offices of the North British and Mercantile, where it actually was taken. The Judge considers that it was taken to the offices of the North British and Mercantile by mistake, because Mr. Haldeman says that he ordered it to be taken to the committee's solicitor. It would obviously be a nicer story if the box had not been taken to the North British offices; but the commissionaire said, in soldier-like fashion: "I took the order to bring it to the North British and Mercantile. I took that as my instruction and carried it out."

His Lordship's commenting on this matter speaks of there being "no justification whatever for the course taken by Haldeman with reference to the cards. He was not entitled to remove them for use on a future occasion by the North British policy-holders if need for it should arise. The cards were the property of the Company, and should never have been removed from the Company's premises, and it is fortunate for Haldeman that no use whatever was made of them. . ."

Mr. Haldeman's position was undoubtedly a trying one, and the judgment of the Court acquits him of all blame, with the one exception just mentioned: but there is no doubt in the minds of insurance men that extremely serious evils would result if an official of a Company whose policy-holders were dissatisfied could, whether by means of a committee or in other ways, make a list of policy-holders and transfer them and the agency organisation to another office, especially when, as in this case, the policy-holders in the majority of instances suffered loss through taking the advice that was tendered to them.

THE ALIEN IN BANKRUPTCY.

In a recent speech Mr. Lloyd-George referred to bankruptcy administration as one of the directions in which his department can assist British trade; and there can be no question about that. Not only is the present system of bankruptcy administration inordinately expensive, and for that reason most unsatisfactory in its results to creditors—though this seems to be an inherent defect of all bankruptcy systems—but the law as it stands lends itself to gross abuses, and is for that reason a danger rather than a protection to honest traders. It may be assumed that evidence of this last statement has been obtained by the departmental committee that has been considering the shortcomings of the present bankruptcy practice; but it is a subject of which the public at large knows little, and of which it ought to know more if the need of reform in the law is to be properly understood and adequately dealt with in Parliament.

In order to see the scandals of the present system blooming and bearing fruit in the greatest profusion, one must go to the East side of London. The man who has shown the greatest enterprise and acumen in exploiting the field presented to him by the English Bankruptcy Acts is not the Englishman—though he sometimes works this field with highly profitable results—but the intelligent foreigner who comes to start in business among us. Needless to say, he is frequently a German, and not unfrequently a Jew, but it is when he is both that our bankruptcy system yields the biggest harvest. In recent years several remarkable examples of this have been given in these columns. My attention has lately been called to several more, and I think they will astonish every reader who has not already a personal acquaintance with East-End bankruptcy business. The first case is that of a firm called Zimbler and Friedmann, of Whitechapel-road, who were adjudicated bankrupt in the High Court a few months ago. Being always averse to unfair imputations upon our German neighbours and friends, I am glad to be able to say that Mr. Zimbler, although a Jew, is not a German, but a Russian. He came to London at the beginning of 1905; possibly he was fleeing from persecution, and if so, he must indeed have felt before long that, like his ancestors of old, he had escaped from Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey. Mr. Friedmann, with whom he started in business in Whitechapel, is his son-in-law, but I do not know his nationality. The pair carried on business, it would seem, almost exclusively on credit obtained from wholesale houses for fifteen months, when they suspended payment. Their position

then, as stated by themselves to the Court, was that they owed, under various heads, £5,579, and that their tangible assets consisted of £84 in cash, trade fixtures, etc., to the value of £20, and stamped cheques to the value of 19s. 10d.—total, £104 19s. 10d. Book debts owing to them to the amount of £1,079 were valued by them at another £92 odd. So far from being insolvent, however, they estimated that they had a surplus of £23,025 12s. 10s., this figure being arrived at by adding to the above assets a trifle of £28,414 13s. 8d., the surplus from the private estate of Mr. Zimbler. The accounts furnished in respect of this private estate showed that there existed in the hands of secured creditors property to the value of £107,600 against debts to the amount of £77,950, leaving a balance to the good of £29,650. Hence the surplus on Zimbler's private estate above mentioned. Except for this surplus of £29,650 from his secured creditors, the debtor returned his private assets as "nil;" that is to say he declared that apart from the £29,650, and the partnership assets already mentioned, he had not a penny in the world in cash, furniture, or other property. The security which was to yield the surplus of £29,650 consisted, according to his statement, of freehold property in Walthamstow, Tottenham, and elsewhere. The property seems to have had an existence, but it was mortgaged up to the hilt, or above it, and all that it actually yielded to the estate was £100 instead of £29,650, as estimated by the sanguine owner. This £100 was paid by the second mortgagee in order to protect his interest. The account of the private estate of the other partner, Mr. Friedmann, was simplicity itself. It consisted on the one side of unsecured creditors, £100; on the other, "nil." Like his partner, Friedmann possessed outside the business neither cash, furniture, nor other goods. Both being family men, this state of things was explained by their having sold all their effects to their wives. To sum up, their position after fifteen months' trading in England was that they owed individually and collectively, £6,815; and that they possessed in cash and trade effects £104 19s. 10d., plus book debts, which might be worth £22, and beyond this nothing, except Zimbler's mortgaged estate, which yielded £100. The total assets were therefore not worth £300.

With this result in view a peculiar interest attaches to the accounts furnished by the two partners of the amounts drawn by them during their brief business career in London. Here they are:—

Senior Partner's Drawings.

	£	s.	d.
Daughter's wedding	280	0	0
Money drawn from business in connection with private concerns	1,980	0	0
Household expenses	430	0	0
	2,690	0	0

Junior Partner's Drawings.

Wife's illness and expenses to various seaside resorts	500	0	0
Household expenses	430	0	0
Money paid as a deposit on purchase of house property alleged to have been forfeited by the vendor—a personal friend	400	0	0
Accommodation bills to senior partner's brother, also now a bankrupt	476	0	0
	4,496	0	0

These two accounts speak so eloquently for themselves that to offer any comment upon them may seem like insulting the reader's intelligence. But I would venture to point out how careful the two debtors are to ward off any reproach on the score of having been guilty of extravagance in living. Each has kept, you see, his household expenses down to a modest £430, which is hardly out of the way as the expenditure of a family man for a period of fifteen months. If they have drawn so much more from the business it must be put down to circumstances over which they had no control, such as a daughter's wedding, a wife's illness, "private concerns" which the Court ought not to pry into too curiously, the unkind behaviour of a personal friend over a deal in house property, or a too sympathetic attitude towards a partner's brother. What a satisfaction the drawing up of these two accounts must have afforded to the two aliens! One can almost see the Russian Jewish finger on the Russian Jewish nose. Is it wonderful that we should have many such aliens among us under the circumstances? Seeing how easy the trick is, I rather wonder that all the distressed inhabitants of the Russian Empire do not flock over here, marry their daughters, nurse their sick wives at "various seaside resorts," and draw incomes of about £2,000 a year at the expense of our princely wholesale houses.

It may be suggested that the wholesale firms which give such people credit are as much to blame as anybody else. But before that can be said it is necessary to know by what representations the credit is obtained. In the case of Mr. Zimbler it will be observed that he was by way of owning landed estate in the suburbs of London, which he valued at £107,000. I am told that he made good use of this fact, and that he was likely to do so may be inferred from his having the assurance to inform the Court that he was worth £28,414 from this property when the mortgagees were satisfied. I am also told that he was particular about paying cash until confidence was established. Under these circumstances, it is by no means difficult to understand that even a fairly cautious firm might be persuaded that he was good for a credit of a few hundred pounds.

Messrs. Zimbler and Friedmann may be taken as fairly representative of a large class of debtors, but the picturesque account of their personal drawings rendered by these two insolvent partners is quite eclipsed by one drawn up some two years ago by a debtor named Solomon in the same locality. Solomon, by the way, was the original owner of Zimbler's £107,000 freehold property in the suburbs. Zimbler bought it of him, and from the fact of both vendor and purchaser having been in the Bankruptcy Court within such a short time of one another it looks as if the amount that passed in cash could not have been very big. Solomon's liabilities were, roughly, £7,000, and his assets about £1,000. I do not know how long he had been in business, but his deficiency account disclosed the following interesting particulars of his private expenditure:—

	£	s.	d.
Household expenses	1,515	0	0
Allowance to father and mother	412	0	0
Dowry to daughter (three months before bankruptcy)	750	0	0
Cost of marriage feast, presents, etc.	250	0	0

It will be seen that Solomon, as befits his name, had been doing things royally. Unfortunately, he does not seem to have done them by any means at his

own expense. Possibly the British creditors on whom he levied tribute might not have grudged, especially to one brought up under the Mosaic dispensation, the means of doing his duty to his father and his mother in the spirit as well as the letter of the Decalogue; but they would hardly see the obligation to provide his daughter with a *dot* of £750, or to stand wedding presents and nuptial entertainment for alien guests to the tune of another £250. It is evidently necessary to teach these strangers within our gates that they must be just before they are generous.

To come closer up to date, there is the case of Messrs. Theodor and Henry Hill, whose public examination has been in progress for some time past and was concluded only last week. I have before me their statement of affairs, together with the Official Receiver's observations thereon. From these observations it appears that, though their family name might not suggest it, the debtors are of German nationality but naturalised as British subjects. They started in business as leather merchants in December, 1901, with a joint capital of £900. Theodor, who came from Germany in 1891, had been for fifteen years an employee in the leather trade before he started on his own account. Henry, who reached England viâ Africa in 1895, had been for some years in the cigar line in Pentonville-road, but had given up the business because it did not pay. They were adjudged bankrupt on a seizure under process in an action on October 4 last. Their statement of affairs shows that in the four years and ten months that they were in business they had accumulated on their £900 capital liabilities to the handsome amount of £11,546. Against this they estimated that they had assets to the net value of £245 5s. 1d., of which £79 odd consisted of book debts, which I am told have proved to be all bad. There was thus a little deficiency of £11,300, representing an average of over £2,200 a year for the period they had been in business. Theodor also returned an account of his private estate, showing a debt of £150 secured by a life policy, and assets *nil*, the explanation being that the furniture at his residence was settled on his wife, according to what seems to be the usual rule in these cases. Henry, being an unmarried man living in lodgings, rendered no account of private estate. An interesting deficiency account, purporting to explain the deficit of £11,300, is reproduced by the Official Receiver. In this the partners represent themselves as having only drawn £3,020 between them during the two years preceding their bankruptcy. They account for £2,865 as loss on trading, another £2,307 as bad debts, and £800 as "discounts to bankers and brokers"; and then come these singular items:—

	£	s.	d.
Money entrusted to another person to take to Frankfort to settle with a creditor and alleged to have been lost	450	0	0
Commission paid in advance to said person to settle with said creditor	26	0	0
Money paid to Theodor Hill's father-in-law in settlement of money lent him fourteen years ago	1,700	0	0

Questioned in his public examination respecting the first item in this list, Theodor was unable to give the address of the friend whom he had sent to Frankfort to pay the £450. He had heard of him last at an hotel in Berlin. The friend, he understood, had been robbed of the money in a railway carriage on the Continent. He seems to have been a very useful friend, well worth the commission debited to him in the account. Respecting the last of the three items, Theodor's evidence was more enlightening. He stated that his father-in-law—one Julius Hirsch—had twice compounded with his creditors since the date of the alleged loan, but on neither occasion had he disclosed to his creditors the existence of this debt. Hirsch lived with his daughter and son-in-law, and Theodor Hill gave the £1,700 to his wife to pay to her father. He drew the money for the purpose in gold, and, as counsel put it, he "threw it into his wife's lap," nor did he ever afterwards ask his wife what she had done with it. It would be waste of time to comment upon these stories. The Official Receiver states, in regard to the management of the Hills' business, "there is no proper cash-book, no accounts of expenses and personal drawings have been kept, nor any trading and profit and loss accounts and balance sheets prepared." Apparently, therefore, the debtors got all the figures above-mentioned out of their heads.

From what I am told by people familiar with trade in East London, I think it may be safely assumed that the Official Receivers could produce records of scores, if not hundreds, of cases more or less similar to the above without going back many years. This implies losses to creditors amounting to many hundreds of thousands of pounds. Such a condition of things ought not to be allowed to continue, and when the true nature of the transactions in the majority of cases is taken into consideration it is a public scandal that such practices should be habitually carried on with impunity. Personally I am not one of those who rail against foreigners as such. I am, therefore, moved by no quasi-patriotic sentiment in calling attention to the doings of our alien practitioners in the art of remunerative bankruptcy. It certainly accentuates the scandal in this case, that many of the men who have brought this art to such a high pitch of perfection are casual sojourners in our midst, who are indifferent to the chief considerations which restrain natives from resorting to such practices, and who possibly contrive in many cases to "stow the swag" in safety outside the country. I do not see why we should, by the fault of our laws, place ourselves in the position of Egyptians who may be spoiled with impunity by wandering Jews. But do not let us make too much of the alien in this matter. We breed our own fraudulent bankrupts in sufficient profusion. The law is at present too tender by half both to the native and the foreigner. It needs vigorous tightening up. The relief of insolvent debtors is a necessary operation in every mercantile community; but it is equally necessary that relief should be reserved exclusively for those who come for it with clean hands, and that the prospect of obtaining it should not become in itself an inducement to dishonesty, as it certainly is at present. That

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This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

things are as they are seems to me largely due to the fact that the punishment of the fraudulent debtor must generally be paid for by the victimised creditor. It is too much to expect that business men who have been let in heavily by unscrupulous rogues will throw good money after bad for the purpose of making examples for the benefit of others, and there is the least possible justification for doing so in a case where the evil-doer has not only defrauded his neighbour, but is abusing the process of the Court. When the law offers its own machinery for the relief of honest debtors, the law may very well be expected to take all necessary precautions that dishonest debtors shall not get the benefit of its services.

I think, therefore, that not only should the definition of offences under the Bankruptcy Acts be extended, but that all the worst of such offences should be the subject of prosecution at the public expense; and I do not believe that the expense would amount to much, for the knowledge that prosecution is certain, or even probable, would be quite sufficient to deter the majority of the present offenders. They are not of the deliberately lawless class, but are tempted to dishonest courses by the knowledge that prosecution is neither certain nor probable. From what Mr. Lloyd-George has done and said since he has been in office, I suppose we may take it that a new Bankruptcy Bill will be on the programme for this session, and I trust that this aspect of the question will be adequately dealt with in it.

THEATRES.

"The Philanderer," at the Court.

One of the disadvantages of success is that the fierce light of publicity is apt to be thrown upon work that falls far behind the achievement of later years. Yet I was not among those who were wearied by the performance of this early work by Mr. Bernard Shaw. The sparkle of parts of the dialogue helped to carry one over the arid tracts, and I was pleased reminiscently with the humours of the Ibsen Club in Cork-street, where one heard an echo of theories rife in the early nineties, illustrated with a bust of Ibsen. Then in that most improbable parent, Colonel Daniel Craven, one had the pleasure of admiring the suave excellence of Mr. Eric Lewis, a comedian of whom it may in truth be said that he adorns whatever he touches. Mr. Ben Webster had the ungrateful task of rendering the philanderer himself, and it taxed his powers to present us with a full-length portrait of this very unsympathetic young man that should be faithful to the intentions of the author, and yet not too repulsive to the audience. Here and there, as in the last act, when things are going badly with the philanderer, Mr. Ben Webster showed traces of Mr. Granville Barker's influence in his attitudes upon the sofa and the fall of his face. But I liked his performance, which was certainly somewhat of an artistic achievement, seeing that the character of the philanderer lies outside the temperament of Mr. Ben Webster. Miss Barton, understudy of Miss Lilian McCarthy (indisposed), played the part of the ebullient Julia Craven with a perfect comprehension of its vagaries that was pleasure to behold.

The audience was mildly approbative, and at the fall of the curtain dispersed without any violent demonstration in Mr. Shaw's honour. What I feel about the play is that it is a happy early attempt in a vein that Mr. Shaw has since probed to depths of richness, of which the nuggets strewn sparsely through the text indicated in the early nineties a possibility. But, as in the case of gold mining, a rich surface deposit does not mean that the mine carries rich ore at depth. Mr. Shaw's does, however, and has brought its unique shareholder many rich dividends in money and renown.

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At the Royalty Theatre, during the past week, the most attractive of the plays appeared to me to be the "Mariage de Figaro," of Beaumarchais. M. Georges Berr did not disappoint the favourable opinion I had formed of him on the two or three occasions I had witnessed his work at the Théâtre Français, of which august institution he is an associate. As that subtle knave Figaro, M. Berr was mercurial and armed at all points against the many dangers of ruining himself in his master's reputation. M. Berr brought out with clearness that hatred and contempt of the nobility, which was so much in the minds of many literary men in France at the time of the Revolution. He had a way of pronouncing the word *canaille* which in itself was almost a characterisation of the epoch of revolution which dates the play. Mlle. Bertiny, also an associate, filled the part of Suzanne, beloved of the Marquis, the betrothed of Figaro, and she, too, gave a fine rendering of Beaumarchais's spirited dialogue. The Cherubin of Mlle. Eva Linay was also an attractive impersonation, and the other players were adequate, with the exception of the judge, whose utterance was all too extraordinary to have been human speech, even in the artificial eighteenth century. But I dare say that there is some old tradition of how to intone this part, at the Comédie Française, which weighs with all its weight upon those who attempt it now.

Mlle. Jeanne Granier is with us this week, and those who can and are above the age of, say, fourteen, should visit the Royalty while she is playing. "Education de Prince," of M. Maurice Donnay, a great Parisian success, fills the programme for this week, and the education of the heir to the Silistrian throne at the hands of the Parisians will afford much delight to all those who are attracted by charm of style—for M. Maurice Donnay has style—and can enjoy a delicate subject delicately handled.

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It is a curious thing to observe how one "mystery" begets its fellow, and the performance of the two Howards at the Palace Theatre challenges that of the Zancigs. Whether the detection of the Muswell Hill murderers was due to the statement of one of these brothers, as has been maintained, I do not know. But in any case the application of the "silent test," as these brethren term the silence which precedes the identification by the one brother of the objects seen by the other, is certainly a marvellous feat. If done by code, it must be by "silent code" and well deserves to be witnessed by all who are interested in telepathy versus human ingenuity.

By the bye, Mr. Hayden Coffin is to make his first appearance as a variety artist at the Palace Theatre on the 17th of this month.

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"Amasis," crowned with the success of two hundred nights, now proceeds to visit the chief provincial towns, where doubtless the bright laurels of the country will lie beside the dusty but much sought after laurels of London town. Miss Drever, who scored a great success when she appeared at the Savoy Theatre, now plays the title rôle, formerly the part of Miss Ruth Vincent. "The Scarlet Pimpernel" now blossoms afresh at the New Theatre—afresh with the eternity of four hundred and fifty nights behind it.

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At the Vaudeville Theatre I spent a very pleasant evening at the close of last week. The occasion of my visit to this, the cosiest and most home-like of little theatres, was the new version of that "Belle of Mayfair," which has for so long delighted its special public. There that same public was packed happily together and drinking in with eyes and ears those malapropos which are now strewn more than ever thickly in the way of Mr. Arthur Williams, that delightful comedian. He and Mr. Pounds, Mr. Farren Soutar, and Mr. Angelo, seemed to have established yet more excellent relations with the audience, which gave me the impression of knowing exactly what each was going to do and being ravished when he did it. Mr. Sam Walsh comes out nimble, not to say athletic, in this new version, and danced both well and wildly to the tune of "Military Mad," a new song which he vociferates amid thunders of applause. Among the ladies, in the absence of Miss Camille Clifford, Miss Ruby Ray is in evidence in her flirtations with Mr. Angelo, culminating in the pretty new song, "The French and English Maid." Mr. Courtice Pounds gives us melody and mockery as he sings the new song "Do you Waltz?" and reverses in the reverse of the right way with several ladies. The New Double Sextet is a formidable affair, and youth and beauty have much to say to its success. I liked Miss Boyd's new song with its dose of worldly wisdom, "If you must sigh," and Miss Billie Burke trills her new ditties with the charm of the porcelain shepherdess that she is, besides playing the comedy of her part with grace and lightness of touch. Mr. Leslie Stuart's music is ever stimulating, and well suited to this sort of production, which has all the vagary and irresponsibility of the average musical comedy without a trace of offensive suggestion, or, what is even worse, a moment of boredom, in its course. It disarms; it pleases by its very unpretentiousness. I shall probably go there again some months hence.

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The management of the Hippodrome send me a daintily-bound little green book, containing the adventures of "The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas," told and illustrated in colour. I have already said my brief say about that performance, but it may be worth while mentioning that there is a new series of "singing pictures" on the chronomegaphone—what a noisy word!—and that new acrobats, a new magician, and a clown of extraordinary eloquence now adorn the programme of this house of Proteus.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE STAGE AND ROYALTY.

THE King and Queen have left Paris with the reputation of forming "un ménage tout à fait aimable et très uni." They went everywhere together, to restaurant *déjeuner* and dinner parties, to church on Sunday, to the Elysée, to motor in the Bois, pay visits, and generally to the theatre, the exception being when the King wanted to see "Rien à declarer, Messieurs"—a decidedly risky piece—in the Palais Royal or the Passage de Choiseul spirit. It brims over with clever fun. The Queen, on her side, went to witness "Ma Femme Josette," which is also charmingly clever and not too recklessly spicy. At Sarah Bernhardt's theatre the King laughed too heartily for his sides not to have ached. He never, he said, enjoyed any play more than "Les Bouffons," which was on there. When Prince of Wales, he used to go behind the scenes to give the stimulant of praise to players and author. This time, as he had come both as *un bon mari* and a great King, he had them summoned to his box, which gave the Queen an opportunity to add a gracious word and to satisfy her curiosity. Zamacoïs, the author of "Les Bouffons," speaks of the evening spent by their Majesties at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre as *la plus belle soirée* in his own life. His *prenom* is Miguel, and he belongs to an artistic Spanish family. You may remember the mark Zamacoïs made at the Salon with "L'Education d'un Prince," the "Prince" being Alfonso XII. A vein of very amusing irony ran through this painting. One finds a similar one in "Les Bouffons." This is a case for saying "bon chien chasse de race."

Whenever their Majesties had decided at luncheon hour to spend the evening at any particular theatre, they sent word to the manager and intimated their desire for privacy. This prevented their being used as an advertisement, and enabled them to go in quietly and to go out with comparative quietness, for the public, which is now greatly provincialised, rushed to view the departure. Facilities for travelling, and the Government being greatly in the hands of provincial deputies and senators, provincialise Paris, and not always to its advantage.

The theatres managed by actresses may have never heard of the proof Lord Stair gave Louis XIV. of his excellent breeding. Though privacy had been required, they made a preliminary fuss which gave more publicity than was wished for to the Royal intention. True politeness would have been to have closely followed the message received from the person acting as the mouthpiece of their Majesties. The official stamp was hastily given by Mmes. Réjane and Sarah Bernhardt to the stage boxes their Majesties asked for. Sarah called attention to their presence, which otherwise might have been unperceived, by draping the front of their box with crimson satin and placing ushers in the corridor at the entrance to their *avant scène*. Mme. Réjane, who has, or has had, the wealth of Chili behind her, and is now mistress of a most sumptuously comfortable theatre, hung out a similar drapery in buttercup-yellow satin. She even ran up in the corridor at the back of the stage

box a dainty salon for the queen and a fumoir for the King. The more amiable a king is in his personal relations the more inclined we should be to respect his wishes. When he is at once constitutional and desirous of scattering contentment around, his wish should be more than ever law in things social. The easy yoke of such despotism is the recompense for his respect of our liberties. But teach this, if you can, to stage Queens!

"Les Bouffons" is a *conte*, or lay, or old story, broken up into rhymed dialogues of endless variety. The rhyme is sometimes doggerel, as in the interlude in a "Midsummer Night's Dream," sometimes in versification that reminds one of André Chenier, and sometimes might, one imagines, match with nocturnes of Chopin. A French audience revels in good verses, and those of Zamacoïs, as rendered by Sarah Bernhardt, have been received with admiration nothing short of enthusiastic. The story is this:—Baron de Mautpré, an old-time nobleman who lived towards the end of the fifteenth century, or quite early in the sixteenth, has reason to complain of the march of civilisation and the formation of a King's gendarmerie which prevents him swooping down on merchants who pass through the gorge below his high-perched castle. They can even venture to ascend to his ancestral stronghold to give the news of the country they have passed through, or of the Court on the Loire, where they have so many royal and other brilliant customers. The castle is almost in ruins for want of money to repair it, the baroness is long dead, and the châtelaine is Mlle. Solange, the only daughter of the house. She is a Miss Ravenswood without any tendency towards black tragedy. The retainers are Ollivier; a Maître Jacques, or rather a parallel for Caleb, the old servant at Wolf's Crag; three men in liveries worn almost to rags; Dame Nicole, the cook; a doctor, who looks a necromancer; Volcano, an old Italian free lance; Baroco, his Florentine compatriot, also free lance, and born buffoon. The old and the younger Italian, the King's gendarmerie having left them nothing to do, have stuck limpet fashion to the Baron and his castle. Then there are in the way of clownish characters, Jeannot, a villager who is a shrewd rustic and can improvise a funny song or lay against no matter what other rustic bard; Hilaire, a poor woebegone creature, and the bell-ringer. The scenery is marvellously striking and almost mediæval. It undergoes seven shiftings, which are accomplished with the smooth rapidness of "greased lightning." Excuse this Americanism. It is so apposite that I yield to the temptation of using it.

Solange has traditional claims to be counted an heiress. The Baron cannot rid himself of the delusion that he has not eaten into her heritage too often for any of it to remain. Maître Ollivier, as a faithful retainer, is devoted to her, and turns over her matrimonial prospects in his mind seriously and often. She has so far enjoyed in fancy free her life in the half-ruined castle. But she awakes suddenly on hearing from wandering merchants accounts of the outer world. She is curious to form an idea for herself of the balls, hunts, and excursions by land and water, which are got up for the pleasure of Court ladies. At this point of the play Ollivier comes to tell her that two young noblemen have entered the castle disguised as *aides* of the merchants. Their real object is to try her sapience at a Court of Love, at which each will try to win her highest regard. The one who has taken the name of Narcisse is not exactly a dunce, but handsome and wears rich clothes. The other, who takes the name of Jacasse (or the talkative fellow) is brilliantly clever but deformed. They want to see whether talent or good looks goes farthest in a contest for the heart of a fair lady. Solange is vastly interested, but foresees her father's veto to any proposal for a Court of Love contest. Ollivier advises her to feign illness and go to bed. This she does. The doctor comes to see her, but cannot understand the case. Ollivier, knowing better, tells the Baron that his lovely Solange is simply dying of tedium, and needs a more exciting life. He proposes by way of a nice ladylike amusement a poetic tournament, and tells of the poetic talents he has discovered in the two *aides* of the merchant. Why not allow them to compete with Baroco, Jeannot, Hilaire, and Volcano? The Baron consents. He also, from a sense of fairness to the poets, prolongs the trial of skill for a month. During this time Narcisse and Jacasse will remain his guests in the castle.

Each poet remains in his character, Volcano as the hard-drinking and impulsive free lance, Baroco as an Italian buffoon tumultuously gay, intriguing, crafty, and great fun, Jeannot and Hilaire as rustics, and Narcisse as a rather heavy beau. In the opening scene of the Court of Love Mme. Sarah Bernhardt declaims in doggerel and sometimes in queerly turned strophes madly absurd, grotesque as the old gargoyles in the courtyard, and good at best for *la Fête des Fous*. The lay has ear-tickling charm, but not a ghost of reason. Why should it? We are in a realm of pure fancy. The Baron is bewildered at all that passes, and lets things drift. Jacasse does not at once cast aside the hump that is hidden in the *capat*, or little mantle. He can translate to Solange in poetic language the sad sighing of the wind through the crevices in the old tower. Still better can he convey to her a message from the zephyr which yesterday played in her ringlets. His concetti are delicious, and are even enchanting to a young lady brought up in solitary state in an antique castle. In the act with a moonlight scene his poetry is a melodious nocturne. He comes suddenly forward as Solange confesses her love and owns to herself the sorcery of genius. Her heart is more open to attack from the gifted poet, however deformed, than to that of the self-admiring Narcisse. All you see ends as it ought to, and in a love story. The extravagance of the whole thing is one of its highest charms. It lifts for a while above the prose of real life.

French society is in its whole feeling and thought as heartily clerical as French statecraft is—and has been, despite appearances, ever since the thirteenth century—thoroughly anti-clerical. French society has decreed that the important part of the marriage ceremony is at the church, the legal marriage at the town hall being more or less—so it thinks—a pestilential and atheistic form and circumstance. And I can

see no other reason for this view than the old rivalry between the Church and the civil power. French law forbids any priest from going through the marriage ceremony without satisfying himself that the legal knot has been tied by a mayor. The priest, unable to ignore the law totally, nevertheless makes a point of addressing the bride as "mademoiselle," although she is legally "madame."

The marriage of Mlle. Thomson, the pretty daughter of the Minister of Marine, was, therefore, not a fashionable marriage—the invitations were for the Neuilly Town Hall—but it was one of the prettiest I have seen. With Republican simplicity, M. Fallières came as a witness along with M. Loubet, who carries off with perfect grace his position of President-Dowager without a jointure.

The town hall of Neuilly is a modern building in the Renaissance style, standing upon a square and enclosed on three sides by streets. It is one of the handsomest public buildings I know in or around Paris—airy, dignified, and palatial. The gay colours of the frescoes were enhanced by a profusion of flowers and by the glitter of naval and military uniforms. On this occasion the navy was evidently the senior service. Not five years ago the borough of Neuilly was a Nationalist stronghold. It witnessed the birth of Boulangism, engineered in Count Dillon's house, and recently the suicide of Syveton. Neuilly has now changed its political complexion, and all its municipal councillors met M. Fallières at the door and were presented to him.

There was a Protestant ceremony afterwards at the Admiralty, conducted by Pastor Wagner, a man of liberal views. Why not at a Protestant place of worship? Evidently to show that it was a purely private affair in no wise connected with the new legal status of the bride and bridegroom, M. Thomson thus carries the separation of Church and State into his own family circle. I am not aware that either his or the bridegroom's family are Protestants. In France many people who have practically left the Catholic Church would nevertheless regard a civil marriage as "unlucky." In such cases, a pastor of liberal views is asked to give a blessing, which gives a touch of spirituality to the ceremony while leaving consciences free.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

MAN, dear Lady Betty, was the bread-winner; now he is the bread-and-blouse winner.

At the moment our women appear to attach more importance to the latter than to the former. "Less children and more dresses," "Less affection and more admiration," "Let me have the home on my back," are the controlling thoughts in the mind of most Englishwomen of this generation. It is not commercial competition that is affecting us so seriously, as the clothes war among women.

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This is the Age of the Linendraper's Venus.

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There are hundreds of thousands of "Bargain-made" beauties to-day.

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Some men act for a living; all women for a lover.

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When is a woman not a woman? When she is a suffragette!

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A Boucher John Bull is a ridiculous object; nevertheless, our fellow-countrymen and women are rapidly developing the character. "Lightness; lighter still; again still lighter," is the cry in every direction here. In Parliament, only those speeches are attended to that are copiously sprinkled with "Laughter" and "Loud laughter"; in the German Reichstag, the French Chamber, or the United States' Congress, argument and earnestness prevail. The popular preacher here endeavours to provide *soufflé* sermons to obtain an increased congregation; the experienced writer conceals his sense in nonsense; sentiment is almost driven from the stage; wit and wisdom are the Scylla and Charybdis of modern English conversation—only the smallest of small-talk pleases; and art struggles to be a kind of suburban Louis Seize. Morality is a combination of Marie Antoinette and Mayfair; it has the vices of both without having the virtues of either. The Boucher John Bull in a blouse trimmed with bows and a chaplet on his head is an appropriate shepherd to a suffragette shepherdess. Has any previous generation produced so ridiculous a national caricature?

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How our predecessors ridiculed the French craving for "glory"! But the greed for "empire" is only the same appetite described by another word.

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Suffering brings out the beauty of the natural; success, the beauty of the artificial.

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The Sorrows of "Society" in England at the moment are peculiar. There are amongst us some who have "position" without having the money with which to keep it up, and there are others who have the money but are without the "position." Out of that condition has developed a process of exchange; the one provides the "position," and the others repay them for their services with money, and each, in endeavouring to attain their particular object, does much that is unbecoming and even unprincipled. The transaction, however, has, necessarily, to be carried on surreptitiously. Those who have the "position" assure the world that the Midas and his family who are in their charge are altogether remarkable, that they are unworldly, generous, most scrupulously honest, and charming beyond compare; and Midas and his family have the same tale to tell of them in return. In due course Midas has established himself and his, and has no more need of his social pilots. Then an altogether different tale is told by both. "They are terrible people; totally uneducated and unprincipled, and without a spark of generosity," say their former pilots. "Sharks and blackmailers," say the others. "The husband is deeply indebted to mine, and I have showered kindnesses on the rest of the family!" In nine cases out of ten that situation is eventually reached. Nevertheless, Midas and his have meanwhile attained the position and retained their wealth, and have altogether the best of the transaction. On the other hand, the social pilots have obtained just sufficient assistance to tide over the difficulties of the moment, and no more, and are in as bad a condition as they were before. The process of social reversal, however, has been considerably advanced. Midas has his peerage, is established in "society" and in the country, is a power in politics, and is unassailable; the "pilots" have descended to a lower social level than they previously occupied. Never was there a time before when our "society" was so full of complaints of the "ingratitude" of those who have received benefits, of the "worldliness" of the rich and successful, of the "treachery" of friends, of the "unscrupulousness" of others, and of the "misrepresentations" of all! The rival "pilots" hate each other and most of their respective rich "friends" of the past; and the latter have the greatest contempt for the former. Pleasure never thrives on such a hot-bed of hate.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

SPORTING NOTES.

SOME of the papers are constantly printing distracted yelpings calling upon the Jockey Club to arise and defend "racing" from the attacks with which that sport is alleged to be threatened. These melancholy gallimaufrys are, of course, regarded with mingled derision and contempt by the members of the Jockey Club, who recognise the enormous difference between an attempt to suppress street betting, and tipsters' advertisements and starting price establishments (which last are the greatest curse to the Turf at the present time), and an attack upon racing itself, which has never been contemplated in any responsible quarter. It surely cannot be maintained, even by the most hopelessly asinine and anserous of these alarmists, that street betting and analogous evils are intrinsic and essential elements of racing. The screeching writers to whom I refer appear to be deeply sunk in muddy darkness, for they cannot suppose (if they are endowed with a quarter of a grain of common sense) that the Jockey Club is likely to commence a foolish and futile agitation against the Street Betting Act, considering that when that measure was passing through Parliament not one syllable was uttered against it by any member of the Club. In the House of Lords the numerous Peers who are members of the Jockey Club either absented themselves during the progress of the Bill, or they sat as mute as mackerel. There was no opposition worthy the name. As to the proposal, now constantly brought forward, that bookmakers should be licensed, this is mere mountebank's cackle, for the moon will assuredly fall before Parliament recognises betting in any sort of way whatever. Why cannot sporting writers recognise hard facts, which are flagrantly apparent to every one else?

One of the daily papers, in a notice of the death of Lady Hastings, stated that her first husband was "driven to suicide" by losses on the Turf, and this fiction has been extensively copied. This tale is utterly untrue, and it is most discreditable that such an objectionable fabrication should have been printed without the slightest pains having been taken to ascertain the real facts. Lord Hastings, who had a miserably weak constitution, died after a long illness. So far was he from being a ruined man at the time of his death, that he left personal property to the net value of over £90,000. Lord Hastings' difficulties were more due to excessive "all-round" extravagance than to losses on the Turf. Shrewd men of business who were well acquainted with his private affairs were decidedly of the opinion that he lost very little money on the Turf, putting aside the Hermit catastrophe, which was simply a manifestation of the most crackbrained folly. There was a lot of cackling and braying over the disastrous results of Lord Hastings' Turf career by a herd of geese who knew nothing about him, except the trash which they had read in the papers, and who were unaware of his large winnings on many occasions. Lord Hastings cleared about £110,000 by two handicap coups, Ackworth's Cambridgeshire and Lecturer's Cesarewitch. He was an excellent judge of racing, and he would have done well on the Turf but for the fatal blunder of laying huge sums against a horse merely through a personal prejudice. I believe, however, that more than half of the losses over Hermit were recovered a fortnight later at Ascot. Lord Hastings lost heavily by the defeat of Lady Elizabeth in the Middle Park Plate of 1867, and he was £20,000 to the bad through her defeat by Julius in a match, which race, by the way, was said to have ruined the filly. The *Sporting Times* is wrong in stating that Lord Hastings' income was "under £18,000" a year. He had fully double that amount. There were large and valuable estates in Ayrshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire; and when he came of age there was a very considerable sum of ready money, the savings of his minority.

Lord Hastings' embarrassments were cleared off by the kindness of his cousin, the late Lord Bute, and he purchased the Loudoun Castle estate in Ayrshire from him for £300,000 early in 1868. Lord Bute had no use for this property, and he merely bought it in order to oblige his cousin, so a few years later Loudoun was transferred to the late Lord Donington (the brother-in-law of Lord Hastings), and it now belongs to his son, Lord Loudoun. Lord Bute, who was full of generosity and chivalry, offered to place at Lord Hastings' disposal any sum which might be necessary to put him at ease.

I hear that Keystone II. will be trained for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. Heavy weights have frequently distinguished themselves in this race, but Lord Derby's mare has certainly not been favoured by the handicapper, as (including the sex allowance) she has 1 lb. the worst of the weights with Velocity, and she has to give 18 lb. to Gingal. The St. Leger running has been entirely ignored. At Doncaster Prince William gave 3 lb. to Keystone II., and finished in front of her. In this handicap the mare is made to give a stone to Mr. J. B. Joel's horse, so that she has 17 lb. the worst of the weights on the St. Leger form, but it is quite certain that Keystone II. ought to have won the St. Leger easily.

My Pet II. has left Newmarket for France, and I fancy that Mr. Raphael will discover a few months hence that he committed an immense blunder in deciding not to start his colt for the Two Thousand, but to reserve him for his French engagements. It is highly probable that the French three-year-old stakes will "take more winning" next season than will either the Two Thousand or the Derby. My Pet II. is a nice racing-like colt, but I am informed that he has not grown since last season. I see it stated that the withdrawal of My Pet II. leaves the Two Thousand "a good thing" for Slieve Gallion, which opinion seems to me to be all nonsense and rubbish. Captain Greer's colt will have to beat a large field on May 1, as the list of probable starters for the Two Thousand includes Mr. Bailey's All Black, Mr. W. Clarke's Linacre, Lord Derby's Olympian, Mr. E. Dresden's Galleot, Sir R. Waldie Griffith's Simon Square, Lord Rosebery's Bezonian, Lord Wolverton's Larig, Major Loder's Baltinglass, Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, and Mr. W. Hall Walker's Knight of Tully. These represent the best of the public lot, but there is also a considerable and formidable dark contingent, including his Majesty's Perambulator, by Persimmon out of Spyglass; M. E. Blanc's Vichy, by Cyllene out of Vicuna; Lord Falmouth's St. Martin, own brother to Quintessence; Lord Howard de Walden's Cargill, by Carbine out of Galinne; Mr. S. Joel's Portsmouth, by Persimmon out of Mediation; Sir E. Vincent's Charles Edward, by Avington out of Portree; and Mr. G. H. Freeman's Merry Fox, by Flying Fox out of Flower of Wit, whose only distinction up to the present time lies in the fact that he cost 5,000 gs. as a yearling. This colt, who was bred at Sledmere by Sir Tatton Sykes, forfeited sixteen engagements last season, and he has still over twenty to fulfil. Cargill commenced last season with thirty-nine engagements, and Perambulator was entered for thirty-eight races. These animals must have been all well thought of as yearlings. The Duke of Portland is said to have a promising colt in Apponyi, by St. Simon out of Mneme, who was very backward when he ran at Newmarket last autumn.

Slieve Gallion has been left in for the Union Jack Stakes at Liverpool, which race is run on the first day of the Spring Meeting, but I am informed that there is now no intention of starting him at Aintree. Captain Greer would be very badly advised if he pulled out Slieve Gallion before the Two Thousand, and in the Liverpool race his colt would have to carry a penalty of 8 lbs., so that he would have to give 15 lbs. to horses which have never won £300 at one time, of which there are several in the entry.

If St. Martin can be got fit by the middle of April, Lord Falmouth's much-talked-of colt will probably make his début in the Newmarket Biennial, instead of being reserved for the Two Thousand. Of course, if St.

San Remo.—Grand Hotel Royal. The height of modern luxury. Standing in picturesque grounds overlooking sea. Auto. Garage. Officially certified sanitation.—M. Bertolini, Prop.

Martin is really a Derby colt he will win the Biennial in a canter, as he would have the benefit of a 7 lbs. maiden allowance. The best public form in the Biennial is represented by Simon Square (5 lbs. extra) now that My Pet II. has gone to France, and by Weathercock, but (as I have already stated) Major Loder's colt is not likely to be in anything like form until late in the season. The Kingsclere stable might be represented in the Biennial by the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, who was twice beaten last autumn when running in good company, but he was then backward. Dusty Miller is quite likely to improve from two years old to three as much as did his relative Troutbeck. Supposing that he is not quite up to Two Thousand and Derby form he may yet be well worth looking after at Ascot, where he is engaged in the Prince of Wales's Stakes and in the Hardwicke Stakes.

My Pet II. is not now likely to be raced in England this year, even during the latter part of the season, as his only engagement after Ascot (where he is entered for the Ascot Derby) is the Liverpool St. Leger in November. As the Grand Prix is run this year on Sunday in Ascot week, there is not much chance of Mr. Raphael's colt fulfilling his English engagement. If My Pet II. does well in France, and proves himself to be a stayer, it may be hoped that he will be entered for the Doncaster Cup and for the Jockey Club Cup. This colt is nominated for the Grand Prix by his breeder, Mme. Henry Say. The French entry for this rich stake of course includes all their best colts and fillies, and the pick of the English lot are Linacre, Olympian, Galvani, Baltinglass, Hexagon, and Knight of Tully.

I see it is asserted by an infatuated doodle that the Lincolnshire Handicap is spoilt by Kaffir Chief, who has "only 7 st. 8 lb." to carry, although this horse finished second for the Cambridgeshire with 6 st. 10 lb., when there was a field of eighteen behind him. The fact is overlooked that Polymelus, who won in a common canter, was giving 2 st. to Kaffir Chief, and any one who believes that Mr. Barnard's horse is a good thing at Lincoln would expect Polymelus to win there with about 11 st. When Kaffir Chief ran prominently at Newmarket he finished only a neck in front of Malua, who was giving him a year and 18 lb. I do not think that there would be any rush to back Malua for the Lincoln race with (say) 8 st. 13 lb. on his back.

Very few of the horses which have been so prematurely rushed in the Lincoln betting are likely to be fit at the opening of the season. The speculation about which so much elaborate noise is raised is of the most paltry nature, and there will not be any genuine market on the race for a month to come.

I see it is predicted that the three-year-olds will play a prominent part at Kempton Park. Meadow Rue will probably prove to be the best of them. I do not believe that either Polar Star or Sagamore will be brought out to run for the Jubilee Handicap, and Orwell will be put out of court by a penalty of 10 lb. if she has previously won the One Thousand, while if she has been beaten at Newmarket she will have no chance at Kempton Park.

The disappearance of Hack Watch is much to be regretted, from the sporting point of view, but his withdrawal from the Grand National Steeplechase has saved the handicapper from great difficulties. Ascetic's Silver, who won last year, has fairly earned the top weight, nor could the owner of John M.P. reasonably complain of the high place in the handicap which was awarded to his horse. Cinders was not harshly treated with 11 st. 10 lb., but the race would have been at her mercy if she had been kept for it, as in that case her weight would have been very much lighter. Aunt May and Timothy Titus are fairly handicapped on their best form. Wolf's Folly, who has a nice weight to carry, has been a great tip for the Aintree race, and his friends do not appear to be much disheartened by his recent defeat by Cissy's Revel at Sandown Park. It is maintained that the winner was thoroughly fit, but that the second was big, as well he might be if he is being trained with a view to his being in prime racing condition on March 22.

The King will be abroad when the Liverpool Spring Meeting takes place, but I hear that there is a possibility that the Prince of Wales may be at Aintree on the Grand National day, in which case H.R.H. is to stay at Knowsley with Lord Derby.

Dean Swift is favourite at the Continental lists for both the City and Suburban and the Lincolnshire Handicap. Last year this horse was second to Ob (beaten a head) with 7 st. 11 lb. at Lincoln, while he won easily at Epsom with 7 st. 11 lb. Dean Swift does not require a severe course of training, and he is one of the few horses in the Lincoln race that is likely to be quite fit. He is not overweighted with 8 st. 6 lb., considering the moderate class of the probable starters, but he ought not to be able to give 20 lb. to Camisard, if the French horse is worth keeping in training.

At the lists Slieve Gallion is favourite for the Derby at 3 to 1, and next comes Galvani at 4 to 1. It is inconceivable that anyone suffered to be at large would accept such odds at the present time. Slieve Gallion will, of course, start for the Two Thousand, and Galvani may not turn out to be Major Loder's best three-year-old at the finish. Who ever mentioned Spearmint in connection with the Derby this time twelve months? It is strange to find Olympian third favourite at 10 to 1, while the price of Ouadi Halfa is only 12 to 1, although double those odds were laid recently in London against M. E. Blanc's colt. It will be full time to think seriously about Ouadi Halfa when it is known that his owner has decided to start him at Epsom. The most remarkable feature in the Derby list, however, is Traquair at 14 to 1. I do not think that any sound judge of horses and racing would be disposed to accept 100 to 1 about Lord Rosebery's colt, and if the Derby falls to this stable the winner will be Bezonian, but I shall be surprised if he turns out to be up to the best form of the year, although he ought to prove very useful if all goes well with him. Olympian is not likely to show to advantage over the Epsom course, and Lord Derby's colt is far more likely to win the Two Thousand or the Newmarket Stakes than the Derby. Ascot is a course which would just suit Olympian.

There appear to have been some tiresome *tracasseries* in connection with the future mastership of the hunt which has been long known as Lord Galway's. It was expected that Lord Charles Bentinck would be the new master, but he has withdrawn his name, in deference to the wish of his half-brother, the Duke of Portland. It is now understood that Lord Fitzwilliam will be the new master, and that Lord Charles Bentinck will remain in the Blankney country.

THE AMENITIES OF HOCKEY.

Mr. J. E. Gardiner is vice-captain of the Devon Hockey Club. He has captained and played for Devon more often than any one else. So he says, and I feel sure no one who has read his extraordinary letter to the press will care to dispute his assertion or be anxious to play against him. He is very furious with the Somerset men for putting off the county match owing to the frost. They ought to have gone to Teignmouth, and they judged the condition of that ground by the state of the ground at Wellington. If this were so one would think that the Somerset men were deserving of censure. But according to the writer the real reason was that Dorset had routed Somerset on a frosty ground. Devon had defeated Dorset. Devon had a stronger team against a weakened Somerset eleven, and sooner than be beaten for the first time by Devon, Somerset backed out of the match. The writer goes on to compare the effeminacy of his opponents with the more robust character of the Somerset ladies. If the return game is played, Devon he remarks, may agree to have no dangerous players, use a soft ball, and allow Somerset to wear American football armour and have the ground saturated. The

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point of this vulgarity is that the writer says that win or lose Devonians are sportsmen. "Against Somerset this year we started with ten men and ended up with four players maimed." In conclusion Mr. Gardiner says that he trusts the precedent of scratching will not be copied, for the sake of hockey. I have been asked what I think about the affair. It seems to me that any hockey player would be entirely justified in making any excuse to avoid playing against a man who can write such a letter. If any game requires self-control on the part of the player it is hockey. Devon men are no doubt sportsmen, and I have no hesitation in saying that they will regard Mr. Gardiner's letter as exhibiting mental conditions precisely opposite to those which one expects to find in any man who desires to be considered as a sportsman. It is a letter of vulgar innuendo and scurrilous abuse. Mr. Gardiner has mistaken his vocation. He should become a pamphleteer for the Municipal Reformers in the present contest for the London County Council.

Hitherto hockey has been regarded as a game played by gentlemen. These unpleasant revelations from the West show that there are some who have as little regard for their own reputation as they have for the decency of the game. I sincerely trust that Mr. Gardiner's precedent will not be copied. For the sake of hockey—especially of Devon hockey—I hope he will see that the only course open to him is to resign his vice-captaincy. A man who can publish such a letter is quite unfit to be a county official. If every word he says as to the ostensible reason for scratching were true, and for the purpose of my observations I do not doubt a single word, he has utterly spoiled his case and ruined his cause by his malevolent remarks. If Somerset ever plays Devon again that county will have a right to ask that Mr. Gardiner should not be in the team.

After this ebullition of wrath on paper, I am not surprised to read in another journal that in another county match—that between Derbyshire and Notts—a player was ordered off the field. The referee was quite right to be very firm in the matter. Hockey is, to my mind, a far more dangerous game than either Rugby or Association football. A hockey stick is a dangerous implement, and the ball is not hollow. Of course, one has foreseen that with the popularity of the game such incidents as in this county match were bound to arise. Rough play must be tackled with severity. There must be no nonsense about suspending a player. If it is necessary for the good of the game the affiliation of clubs must be compulsory. The Hockey Association will no doubt move with the times. The Council has always done so. From what I know of the members of that Council no one will regret more than they will the extraordinary effusion of Mr. Gardiner. Neither football nor cricket has ever been disgraced in that way.

Mr. A. Wallis Myers is a well-known writer on lawn tennis subjects. He is very upset with some criticisms in the *Referee*, which, as the writer of Sporting Notions kindly points out, were originated by what I wrote about the trade and pot hunters. Mr. Myers says that the success of tournaments no more depends on the bounty of manufacturers than the success of the final of the Cup tie on the bounty of the makers of football. Then all I can say is that Edgbaston, Liverpool, and other large towns he named, should pay the full market price for their goods and follow the example of Wimbledon. Will Mr. Myers explains why Mr. MacFie brought forward his proposition that six shillings a dozen, less a royalty of ninepence a dozen to the association, should be paid for balls if the game does not depend on trade subvention?

Australasia, that is New Zealand and Australia combined, will challenge for the Dwight Davis Bowl this summer. There will be plenty of interest for lawn tennis players. The probable team will be Brookes and Wilding, who combine admirably, and Heath and Dr. Sharp. Brookes has beaten Wilding in the Singles Championship of Victoria, so that he must be as good as he was two years ago. Sharp is said to be a hard driver and good volleyer, and Heath is a very capable all-round player. No doubt the Americans will challenge as well. As for the home team, we may be serenely confident that the best possibly players will be selected, for on the Selection Committee of L.T.A. there is not a player who has ever been good enough to take part in any of these events. They are therefore as critical as they are impartial.

Mr. J. C. Clegg has resigned his position as Chairman of the Council of the Football Association. He has occupied this position for many years. The cause is the resolution of the Council rescinding the one that has caused all the trouble with the amateurs. In a column eulogy in the *Express*, Mr. C. E. Sutcliffe hopes the day will come when Mr. Clegg will resume the chair and the Council his policy. Never was there such a clear thinker or logically-minded man. I can only say that some of Mr. Clegg's remarks about amateurs have not struck me as being those of a logician or high thinker. His policy has been one of coercion. I may have to refer to this matter at greater length, and for the present I will only say that I cannot conceive Mr. Clegg as official receiver paying any attention to a resolution of a meeting of creditors if it were passed on the lines pursued at the meeting of the London Football Association.

Two more Southern clubs have fallen by the wayside in the struggle for the Football Cup. Luton went to Sunderland and, putting up a great game, they were beaten by a goal. Southampton were overwhelmed by Sheffield Wednesday, while Tottenham Hotspur, after extra time, quite failed to beat Blackburn Rovers. Crystal Palace again proved their worth as Cup-tie players by beating Fulham, and yet they failed in their Southern League match against a reserve team of the Hotspurs. In the First Division of the League Aston Villa simply overwhelmed Sheffield Wednesday by eight goals to one, and Chelsea, in the Second Division, although playing on their own ground, had to put up with defeat by Notts Forest, a result chiefly due to the brilliant goal keeping of Linacre.

The English Rugby team has met with another defeat. They went to Ireland and they were routed in the first half of the game, although they made a splendid rally afterwards. The Irish forwards are a splendid team. They are fast and rush grandly. These rushes were too much for the English halves and centre three-quarters. The days of midget half-backs are over, and Jago is certainly no good in such games. The Devon pair failed miserably. Their forwards got them the ball in the tight, but the Irish forwards swooped round so quickly that Jago took to blind passing, and Peters passed where he stood. Jackett at full back played superbly. The winners are a splendid team, and MacLear is playing a great game at three-quarter, but they badly want a good full back. Jackett was as good at getting England out of difficulties as his adversary was in getting his side into them.

Both the University crews have gone into strict training. Cambridge will go to Richmond and Oxford to Henley before putting in appearance at Putney. The Cambridge crew has been changed. Close-Brooks has gone to bow and Powell is at seven, with Johnstone at six, Shinewell, the heavy-weight, having gone out of the boat. The crew should be a good one, and Baynes has been given his Blue. I hope that bow, who also rowed against Harvard, may have the same good fortune.

By the way, in answer to a correspondent, I did not intend to say that the district round Putney could provide five eights for Thames and London. I wrote fine, but the printer willed otherwise.

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MOTORS AND MOTORING.

A NOTICEABLE feature of the motor business at the present time, upon which comment has more than once been made here, is the relative neglect by the leading makers of the small car. With few exceptions, all the better-known firms are devoting themselves exclusively to-day to the production of big and powerful cars selling at high prices, which naturally yield a bigger profit than the more modest article suited to the requirements of the automobilist of humble means. And in America apparently the same condition of things prevails. "A conspicuous feature of the recent show at New York," writes a correspondent of the *Tribune*, "was the absence of the usual array of small runabouts. Of the forty-odd exhibitors of gasoline cars, but three showed machines of this type—Cadillac, Oldsmobile, and Autocar. It is currently reported, further, that the two first-named have decided to discontinue their manufacture at an early date. Whether true or not, it is obvious that the larger cars are attracting by far the most attention." Would-be motorists waiting for the advent of that long-deferred boom in small, cheap cars must therefore still possess their souls in patience on both sides of the Atlantic.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jarrott is sending out particulars of a new small, light French car of which he has undertaken the agency in this country, which, according to his account of it, should certainly go some way to meet this particular want. The Duc d'Uzès is, it seems, interested in these cars, which are, we are told, fitted with single cylinder engines and characterised by great simplicity of design, as well as high efficiency. "I took one of the cars and used it for several days," says Mr. Jarrott, "and found it was possible to beat, for speed, any ordinary 12 h.p. or 15 h.p. car on the road, particularly up-hill. There was no undue vibration, and generally I was amazed at the extraordinary results I obtained." Mr. Jarrott adds: "I do not think that France is neglecting the small car business, but many brains are at work in evolving the right type of machine, and the car in question is certainly the most efficient small car I have ever tried." Further information on the subject will be awaited with interest, and should not be long delayed, seeing that Messrs. Jarrott and Letts have contracted for the delivery of one hundred of the new cars as soon as possible. It is said that the car in question is the Sizaire-Naudin, which was shown last year at the Agricultural Hall.

The Motor Union is doing good service by taking action in the matter of railway level crossings, and, while it is too much to hope for the abolition of all of those already in existence, the construction of new ones should certainly be interdicted. The dangers and inconveniences associated with level crossings are sufficiently well known, but motorists have more practical experience of them than most. A writer in one of the dailies has been citing well-known instances of such obstructions on main roads in country districts, but much worse are the cases of some still to be found within the metropolitan area. There is one which many will be familiar with at Mortlake, where the London and South-Western Railway crosses one of the principal streets in the most inconvenient and dangerous manner possible. Another which existed till recent years at Grove Park, Chiswick, has since been done away with on account of a bad accident which happened there a few years ago when a train ran into a 'bus. There is a third out Tottenham way at a God-forsaken little station rejoicing in the name of Park, and a fourth on the Tilbury and Southend line at Barking—the last being a particularly dangerous one since two branch lines join here, resulting in considerable traffic; and there are a quantity of sidings which utilise the crossing in addition. All such death-traps are an anachronism nowadays, and ought to be done away with. But our level crossings are nothing, of course, to those which they have in America where, as Mr. Rolls has recently been telling us, they are absolutely unguarded except by a warning board.

Mr. Filson Young has, in his capacity of guide, philosopher, and friend to budding motorists, more than once inculcated the desirability of considerate driving, and apart altogether from this fact, most motorists professing to guide public opinion have long since recognised the grievous harm done to the whole movement by selfish and inconsiderate drivers who disregard such counsel. It must have been with considerable surprise, therefore, that many read that in the course of a recent journey, made apparently for advertising purposes, from Cornwall to London on a well known 60 h.p. car, the motoring authority referred to drove it over one stretch of road at the rate of over 60 miles an hour; and what is even more surprising is, perhaps, that he should actually advertise the fact, or allow the firm in question to do this for him, in the press. Certainly it is impossible to reconcile such a proceeding with any genuine regard for the interests of automobilism as a whole. No doubt there will be plenty to make the most of the incident in course of the Session's debates in the House of Commons on the revision of the existing motor law.

That seems to be an interesting device for automatic gear changing which has been invented by Captain the Hon. Wm. Stanley, whose active interest in automobilism, like that of his elder brother, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., is well known. Detailed particulars have yet to be supplied, but briefly it would appear that, as the matter has been so far explained, the engine is fitted with a governor which, at certain speeds, brings into play a pawl mechanism, consisting of cams and levers, which operates to withdraw the clutch and effect the requisite gear changes as desired in accordance with the varying speeds of the engine as determined by the load. Captain Stanley claims that by his device the gears are changed automatically at exactly the right moment and without the slightest noise, that strains caused by bad driving are rendered impossible, and that the engine is kept running at its efficient rate under all conditions. Another ingenious automatic gear-changing device has recently been brought out in America in connection with the Sturtevant car.

A good deal of surprise, and not a little apprehension, was occasioned a short time since by a decision given in the courts in favour of a motor driver who, upon dismissal, had stuck to the leather motor-coat which had been provided by his master, and claimed it as his own. Obviously, the notion that a servant had the right to walk off, perhaps after a month's service, with a valuable livery provided by his master, was one quite at variance with the equity of the matter, and also with the established law as it had hitherto been laid down, and no little surprise at such an astonishing decision was accordingly expressed. Many will be glad to learn, therefore, from a lucid statement in a contemporary, how the matter actually stands. The case in question, it is explained, did not really raise the issue which was supposed at all, the sole point involved having been whether the driver had stolen the coat—that is to say, appropriated it with criminal intent—and the fact that the man was acquitted on this charge did not imply in the slightest degree that he was entitled to keep the garment, but merely that he had honestly believed that it belonged to him. As to the law on the larger issue, it has long been established that a servant's livery is his master's property, unless there is special understanding or agreement to the contrary, and this is plainly in accordance with common sense.

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MAMMON.

Stock Markets Dull—The American Financial Position Still Restricting Business—Monetary Prospects—New York a Competitor for Bar Gold—Domestic Conditions Favourable—Good Trade Returns and Railway Dividends—Paris and the Income Tax Bill.

ALTHOUGH relieved from the vague fears of financial difficulties that disturbed it just recently, the Stock Exchange last week was not in a particularly bright mood. The unsatisfactory outlook for Americans is still restricting business all round the House, and although Yankee Rails have experienced a recovery of from 1 to 3 dollars since I last wrote the balance of probability points to the rally being succeeded by further liquidation. Satisfaction of a negative character may be derived from the fact that a large "Bear" account has lately been built up; it was mainly due to profit-taking by the "Bears" that the market took a turn for the better last week, and further rallies of a similar character may be expected to follow any fresh break. While, however, the "Bears" are to be welcomed as tending to regulate the market and prevent it getting out of hand, the monetary position in New York must still be looked to as affording the clue to the future level of prices. For the present interest rates are likely to keep firm, what with the outflow of money to the interior and the preparations being made by the banks to repay the $30,000,000 of Government deposits that Mr. Shaw requires before he goes out of office on March 4. This concerns the immediate future, but taking a broader view it is difficult to foresee any early return to cheap money on the other side, in view of the heaviness of Railroad borrowings. Following upon the extensive loans to which I referred a week ago, several other Companies have attempted to raise money upon short-dated notes, and two are credited with having to give 6 per cent. Recently attempts have been made, and with a certain amount of success, to place some of these short term notes with financiers in London and on the Continent. This circumstance has a very direct bearing upon the outlook for our own money and stock markets. A little while ago, when the joint stock banks were putting pressure upon Wall-street to take back stocks that had for months been carried here, and discrimination was made against American finance bills, some people predicted a speedy return to easy monetary conditions. Recent events must cause them to modify their anticipations. From the sound financial point of view it is good that the account carried here in Yankee Rails has been lightened, and that the volume of "kite" bills—which were sold to banks this side largely in order that Wall-street groups might continue to indulge their gambling propensities—has been reduced. But if in place of accommodation bills our banks and insurance Companies are going to load themselves up with Yankee short term bonds, the latter, desirable as they are from the point of view of investments, must tend to maintain the *status quo* in Lombard-street. Already the extension of credit granted by Europe has turned the exchanges again in favour of New York, and the United States is likely to continue a competitor of the Bank of England for the bar gold that arrives here from week to week on account of South Africa and other places. Were it not for New York there is little doubt that an immediate reduction in the Bank rate would be justified, for Threadneedle-street's reserve has already risen by six millions since the beginning of January, and, according to the last return, stands at nearly twenty-six millions, as compared with only twenty-three and three-quarter millions a year ago, when the official discount minimum was 4 per cent., against the 5 per cent. rate now ruling.

Romano's Restaurant, Strand.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire, and this opinion is evidently shared by many, for the restaurant was packed, as it deserves to be."

In other respects the position at home gives rise to cheerful feelings. The Board of Trade returns for the first month of the year, showing an increase of 13 per cent. in imports and of nearly 14 per cent. in exports, furnish substantial proof of the activity ruling in the industrial and commercial world, and this must mean bigger profits for our manufacturers and traders, and a consequent growth in the surplus available for investment. Our railways, too, as the recent dividends demonstrated, have, on the whole, enjoyed an excellent half-year. For the present dear money is largely responsible for checking a revival in this market, but the high yields offered by the majority of stocks, and the fact that the dividends declared did not in many cases reflect the full extent of the enlarged earnings, owing to the additions made to reserves and carry-forwards, are facts that must tell favourably later on. Turning to the market for foreign securities, Internationals have lately been rather dull, in consequence more than anything else of the disturbance caused upon the Paris Bourse by the French Income Tax Bill. In some quarters it has been suggested that this measure, if adopted, may cause an exodus of capital from France, and that our own and other countries would reap the benefit. Such a statement, however, is altogether premature. The French people naturally do not take kindly to a tax on incomes, in which matter our own countrymen have a strong fellow-feeling, but the new imposts are not, to begin with, at any rate, very onerous, and our Gallic neighbours will no doubt grow used to them if they do not grow to like them by-and-by. The only Foreign bonds to show distinct weakness during the last few days have been Brazilians, and here the cause is undoubtedly connected with the Federal Government's recent attempts at raising a loan for coffee "valorisation"—a matter that appears to have caused friction between the Government and its European agents. Among Foreign Rails the stocks of the old Mexican Railway have been prominent owing to favourable earnings, but Argentines were dull owing to the minor political upset at San Juan, and to the capital issue announced by the Argentine Great Western. Grand Trunks have returned to popularity, the dividend of 3 per cent. on the Third Preference coming up to the best anticipations of the market. In another column I give reasons for the opinion that Trunk Thirds are one of the most likely purchases at present offering.

Sharp Movements in Home Rails—Break in Berths—The Traffic Question—Reassuring Statement by the Chairman—The North-Western and Great Western Dividends—Boards Adopt a Conservative Policy—Favourable North London Results.

What with the continued dearness of money and some further forced realisations, the Home Railway market during the greater part of last week presented a very woe-begone appearance. Except in one or two cases, it is doubtful if the actual sales were at all extensive, but as is inevitable in a narrow market, and one that, moreover, is out of fashion for the time being, the jobbers were not willing to put stock upon their books, and marked prices down accordingly. Towards the end of the week there were signs that the fall had been overdone. The dividend declared by the North-Western, while a keen disappointment to speculators, who had, and not unnaturally, looked for an increase, was recognised by the market on second thoughts as distinctly favourable to real holders. This Company, like a number of other leading lines, appears to have decided upon a more conservative policy in the matter of dividend distributions, and has taken advantage of the recent spell of trade prosperity to make provision for a rainy day. To a fair extent, of course, the advances in outgoings incurred by the Brum along with other leading Companies were due to circumstances over which the Boards had no control, such as the rise in the cost of labour and materials, but there has also been general evidence of a desire to expend more freely out of revenue upon upkeep, and to strengthen liquid reserves, and this must make for more

stability in the matter of dividends. The recent movements in prices may be seen from the following table:—

Home Rails	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Feb 2, 1907.	Feb 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	74	74	—
Do. Def.	42½	28⅜	28⅜	28⅜	- ¼
Central London	96½	82½	80	77	-3
City and S. London	47½	39	44xd	45xd	+1
Furness	69¾	61½	65½	65½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	38½	38	- ½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅓	69	67½	64½	-3
Do. "B"	40⅜	32½	31½	30	-1½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	15½	14⅜	- ⅝
Great Eastern	90⅜	79½	79xd	78xd	-1
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¼	102	101½	-½
Do. Def.	48¼	39½	44½	44⅜	—
Great Western	114	122¾	130½	128½	-2
Hull and Barnsley	60	42¼	49	50½	+1½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	104½	104½	—
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111½	116	113½	-2½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	14½	14½	—
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	93½	85	90	89	-1
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	56	54	-2
London and North-Western	158½	147½	153	152	-1
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	52½	52½	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	50	48½xd	48½xd	—
Metropolitan District	37½	18½	17½	16½	-1
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	65⅜	66	+ ½
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	65½	65½	- ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	74½	74	- ½
Do. Def.	47⅛	38¾	37¾	37½	- ¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134⅜	145½	144½	- ½
North Staffordshire	105¾	96⅜	101	101	—
South-Eastern "A"	55⅜	44¼	45⅜	45	- ⅜

In the Southern group, Brighton "A" provided something of a sensation by suddenly dropping from 116 to 111½. A prompt rally of a point or two followed, but even so the price still looks strangely low, especially remembering that five points are about to be deducted on account of dividend. The ostensible reason for the weakness was the publication of a traffic decrease of £5,400, representing more than 10 per cent. of the total weekly receipts, while there were also rumours—which fortunately are devoid of foundation—concerning a forthcoming capital issue. Another reason, and one which probably had most to do with the drop, was the pressure for sale of a large block of stock that had been temporarily "taken over" in connection with troubles arising out of the previous Account. On the question of the heavy falling off in receipts during January—amounting to over £10,000—Lord Cottesloe was able to partially reassure stockholders at the meeting last Wednesday. Tramway competition, while still admittedly severe, does not, it appears, account for anything like the reduction in earnings lately exhibited. The chief offender has been the weather, and his lordship referred to previous hard winters, when the takings of the line showed heavy decreases during January and February, but picked up immediately after the disappearance of the cold snap. In the matter of tramway competition, too, which has played such havoc with the Brighton's short distance receipts during the last two years, the Chairman sounded a hopeful note. The electrification of the South London Railway between London Bridge and Victoria is proceeding so satisfactorily as to afford a prospect of the experimental working being commenced early next year, when the Company hopes, not only to arrest the declining tendency in its suburban takings, but to win back some portion, at any rate, of the lost traffic. The Brum dividend caught the market in the wrong mood. Had it been announced immediately after the Midland declaration, when there was talk about the Heavies going in for a dividend equalisation policy, all might have been well. Dealers, however, at the last moment became more optimistic, most of them being sanguine that the North-Western dividend would be at the rate of 7½ per cent. Consequently, the news that the Board had decided to just maintain the 7¼ per cent. rate paid a year ago caused considerable selling on the part of professionals, which temporarily knocked the price down 2½. Yet the dividend in itself was a good one. For the full year the stock receives 6⅜ per cent., and, allowing for accrued dividend, the return at current price is over 4¼ per cent., surely a generous yield to be offered upon the stock of our premier railway. To beat the dividend, it is necessary to go back to 1899, when 7¼ per cent. was paid. Perhaps it was natural that the market should have looked for a bigger distribution, for the Company's gross receipts showed a published gain of £110,000, which was probably much larger, making allowance for under-publication. It is gratifying to observe that £30,000 has been set aside for general reserve (against nothing a year ago), and that the balance carried out is £26,200 more. Still, as the balance brought forward from June last was £21,700 ahead of a year ago, the net improvement in the half-year's results was apparently no more than £34,500. The dividend declared by the Great Western was quite up to expectations. In view of the fact that the Board has during the current year to provide interest on two millions of new Ordinary stock, it was considered unlikely that it would sanction any advance in respect of the half-year just ended, while on the other hand some people even predicted a reduction. The actual result is a repetition of the 7 per cent. paid in the corresponding period of 1906, and an increase of nearly £40,000 in the balance forward, which increase is alone sufficient to pay another ¼ per cent. The dividend for the year works out at 5⅜ per cent., and the yield "clean" is just over 4¼ per cent. Of the results declared by the Metropolitan lines, that of the North London made a good impression. The Company is paying at the rate of 5½ per cent., against 4½ per cent a year ago, which brings the annual dividend up to 5 per cent., as compared with 4¾ per cent. for 1905. Seeing that the published traffics showed a falling off of £6,500, while the increase in the dividend just announced calls for £10,000, the performance seems a very creditable one, even allowing for the increase of nearly £4,000 in the balance brought in. North Londons rose upon the declaration 5 points, to 93-98. From the report subsequently issued I find that the total decrease in gross earnings was only £1,000. Passenger receipts actually showed a small increase, and the fact that the Company carried nearly half a million more passengers is significant that the line is at last making some resistance to the onslaught of tube, tram, and motor 'bus competition. That £9,400 should have been saved in operating costs seems almost too good to be true, especially as nearly £6,000 of the savings occurred under the headings of rates and taxes. The District's announcement of 1½ per cent. per annum on the Four per Cent. Guaranteed stock, as against 1⅛ per cent. a year ago, must not be taken as affording an index to the general results achieved by that Company. The Guaranteed stock is specially secured upon the District's share of the City Lines and Extensions, and the payment of a dividend on it is not inconsistent with a shortage in the fixed charges of the railway, as was the case six months ago, when the deficit was nearly £50,000.

"American Railway Earnings and Dividends," by D. D. Croal, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—Effingham Wilson. Price 6d. net.

The Grand Trunk Dividend—Market Confidence Justified—An Unusually Promising Outlook—Relative Attractions of "Thirds" and Ordinary Considered—Mexican Rails Booming—A Discussion of Dividend Prospects—A Mexican Central Anomaly.

After weeks of stagnation Grand Trunks have returned with a bound to public favour, and the professional buying that went on in the middle of last week was fully explained when the dividend was made known on Friday. The Board has recommended the payment of 3 per cent. for the year upon the Third Preference Stock, with a carry-forward of £13,200, which compares against 2 per cent. and £4,200 forward a year ago. This result was highly gratifying, the more so as many authorities did not anticipate more than 2½ per cent. upon Thirds. As a matter of fact, estimates based upon the revenue statements for the five months to the end of November (with an allowance for working expenses during December at the rate incurred in the corresponding period) revealed a surplus only sufficient to pay on a 2½ per cent. basis. The Trunk, however, has once again shown how absolutely calculations based on the earnings for five months may be upset by adjustments made

during the final month of the half-year (a separate statement in respect of which is never published). On this occasion the end of the year adjustments have been in the direction of substantial savings, hence the payment of 3 instead of 2½ per cent. Analysing the half-yearly figures, there is much that increases one's sense of satisfaction over the addition to the dividend. While gross receipts on the main line rose nearly £300,000, working expenses advanced by nearly £215,000, which hardly suggests a policy of starving the road. The advance in net revenue was £80,500, to which has to be added £32,500, representing a saving in net revenue charges (after allowing for the usual credits). This latter item is very welcome, seeing that it probably is due to improved credits from subsidiaries, including the Grand Trunk Western, and it helps to tone down the effect of the deficiency upon the Canada Atlantic system, which amounts to £34,200, or £16,200 more than in the corresponding half-year. The Canada Atlantic so far has acted as a rather serious drag upon the Grand Trunk, but the deficits shown have no doubt been largely due to more generous outlays upon the road made with a view to bringing it up to the Trunk's standard of efficiency, and so the matter may be construed as a "Bull" rather than a "Bear" point. Allowing for the Canada Atlantic's bigger shortage and a decline of £1,700 in the surplus derived from the Detroit section, the available surplus is £95,000 greater than a year ago. Of this the extra 1 per cent. upon the Third Preference absorbs close on £72,000, and the balance is absorbed by heavier charges (on account of new Guaranteed stock) and the expansion in the carry forward. As to the current half-year, the Grand Trunk has begun it under unusually bright auspices. Startling results may not be achieved in view of the high cost of labour and materials, which no doubt prompted the prophecy of Mr. Hays (the general manager) a few days ago respecting big increases in gross revenue and small gains in net revenue. However, if the Trunk can maintain anything like the record for January, which was an increase in gross receipts of £70,000, it can afford to incur a substantial rise in the expense ratio, and still come out with a net increase larger than the £72,000 wanted to make up the dividend on Thirds to the full 4 per cent. rate. Now that the middle of February has been reached, the market may reasonably hope that the danger of serious damage from snowstorms has passed, while another point that may add to the gaiety of the "Bulls" is that already £56,000 net has been saved on account of the non-repetition this half-year of the item Michigan taxation arrears. As to which stock is best to buy at present price, the Third Preference or the Ordinary, there can be no question about the superior attractions of the former. At current quotation Thirds yield a little under 4½ per cent. If, as there is good reason to hope, the full 4 per cent. be forthcoming in respect of 1907, the return to the investor who buys now will be 5⅞ per cent. Now as to the Ordinary. There is £22,000,000 of this stock, and therefore to pay 1 per cent. upon it requires an addition to net revenue of £220,000 over and above the £72,000 extra required to satisfy the claims of the Third Preference. What addition to gross income will be necessary in order to yield this £292,000 of net revenue I will not venture to estimate, but the most ardent "Bull" of things Canadian must admit that it will be sufficient to call for a fair amount of patience. Assuming, however, that this task be accomplished, Little Trunks would still return a yield of no more than £3 6s. 8d. to a purchaser who bought at the present price of around 30, and consequently the stock would hardly be worth then a higher price than it stands at now, even with "prospects" thrown in. On the other hand, the Third Preference, paying 4 per cent., with a net revenue margin behind it of over £200,000, ought to be standing at par, and thus the man who got in at 70 should be able to ultimately sell at a profit of 30 points, while having in the interim between purchase and sale enjoyed a yield of nearly 6 per cent. Sentiment, I am well aware, plays a big part in the Stock Exchange, and it will probably take up Trunk Ordinary along with the Preference stocks, but the man who wants to lock up his money should consider intrinsic merits before sentiment, remembering that while speculative fervour sometimes produces strange anomalies, such anomalies cannot remain indefinitely; the only standard of valuation that can last is actual earning power. Below I give my usual table of Colonial and Foreign Railway prices:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb 2, 1907.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Rise
Canadian Pacific	208	161¾	186¾	187	+ ¼
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	28⅞	29⅛	+ ¼
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	102¾	103	+ ¼
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅝	114¾	120½	121	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105¾	111¾	112	+ ¼
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	68¾	70⅝	+ 1⅞
Mexican	50¾	22½	46	51½	+ 5½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144¼	118¾	134¼	142½	+ 4
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¾	49½	88	92½	+ 4½
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11⅜	6	11⅛	11⅜	+ ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs	124	109	116½	—	—
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78¼	88½	88½	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	24½	25½	+1
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	92	92	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	66⅛	81¼	81¼	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	37¼	56xd	58xd.	+2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅝	19½	25	26	+1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	148	148	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180⅛	162	171	169	-2
Nitrate Rails	16⅝	14½	16	16	—
Argentine Great Western	130½	111⅞	113	110½	-2½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅝	64½	80½	79½	-1
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	123	122	-1
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	109¾xr	109¾xr	—
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	124	127½	-½
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	128	127¼	-¾
East Argentine	120	87	121	120½	-½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	71	69½	-1½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	103¾	85	92	91	-1
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	92	91	-1
Great Western of Brazil	16⅛	12½	13	12⅝	-⅜
Leopoldina	86½	69¼	77	75	-2
San Paulo	214¾	199½	217	215	-2
Central Uruguay	92½	82	94½	94	-½
Costa Rica	29 15/16	25	29¾	29	-¾
Cartagena (Columbia) Debs.	80½	78	76½	76½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76½	78	78	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76½	82	82	—
Manila 5 p.c Debs.	126	112	114	113	-1
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	55	52	-3
Cuban Central	7 15/16	5¾	7¼	7¼	—
United of Havana	193	105⅜	114	113½	-½
Western of Havana	15⅞	12½	12½	12⅜	+⅛
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94¾	87½	91	91	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs	81⅜	76	78	78	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23¾	19¼	20½	20½	—

In the Foreign Railway section remarkable strength has been shown by the stocks of the old Mexican Railway, which for some reason not altogether easy to see, often burst into prominence along with Grand Trunks. The First Preference, Second Preference, and the Ordinary have each scored a decided advance. It dos not require much argument to demonstrate the attractions of the First Preference, seeing that the stock is now earning the full 8 per cent. to which it is entitled, that it gives the buyer a return of 5⅝ per cent. upon his outlay, and that the margin of security behind the stock is steadily growing. The advance in the Second Preference, too, although rather rapid of late, does not seem unreasonable, if one analyses the position. To take first the dividend prospects in respect of the half-year to December 31 last, it would be as well not to expect great things. The published traffics amount in round figures to $3,600,000, an increase of $430,000 upon those for the corresponding six months of 1905. Putting the ratio of working expenses at 61 per cent., which was the figure shown a year ago, net receipts would work out at $1,400,000, which, converted into sterling, would represent a gain of, say, £20,000, or just about enough to raise the dividend on the First Preference from the 6⅛ per cent. declared a twelvemonth ago to the full 8 per cent. to which the stock is entitled. It is probable, however, that some reduction will be effected in the ratio of working costs. For the first half of 1906 the proportion was 53½ per cent. This was very low, but if we assume a ratio of 55 per cent. for the past half-year, there would be a net increase of just over £40,000, sufficient to pay the full 8 per cent. on the First Preference and 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the Second Preference. A higher rate it would be unwise to count upon; indeed, if this estimate be borne out,

"FINANCE."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

the Company will have done very well. On such a basis the dividend upon Seconds for the whole of 1906 would be 3⅞ per cent. Now turning to prospects for the current half-year, there is every reason to take a cheerful view. In respect of the first six months of 1906, the Company paid at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum on the Second Preference. To give the stock its full 6 per cent., a net addition of £11,000 is required, and as the line has for the first month of the six published a gain in gross earnings of, roughly, £10,000, the task may quite conceivably be accomplished, with a fair margin to spare. As far as the Ordinary stock is concerned, the current price of a round 50 suggests rather a generous discounting of the future, seeing that after the Second Preference interest is satisfied it will require another £11,000 net to give the Ordinary a dividend of only 1 per cent. I am aware, of course, that the recent rise in Mexican Rails has been accompanied by a revival of rumours as to a capital rearrangement scheme whereby the interest on the First Preference is to be scaled down, and holders offered compensation in the shape of Ordinary stock. No confirmation of such a proposal can be obtained, and all that can be said for the present is that there is nothing inherently improbable about an arrangement of the kind, for 8 per cent. seems a steep rate to maintain on a Preference issue, and if the rumour turns out to be well founded, it must very greatly strengthen the attractions already possessed by the Second Preference. The stocks of the Mexican Central and Mexican National have been very quiet lately, the vagaries of the American Market being a curbing influence, but a fillip should be given before long, when the amalgamation proposed to be effected under the supervision of the Government comes to be practically considered by the shareholders of the respective Companies. Investors who buy National of Mexico First and Second Preferences ought to see a substantial addition to their capital in the course of the next few years, judging by the rapid strides which that country is making. So far as the Mexican Central is concerned, an anomaly that might be studied with profit is the wide discrepancy which exists between the prices of the "A" and "B" classes of certificates issued by the Securities Company. At present, while the interest on the 4 per cent. bonds held as collateral against these certificates depends upon the earnings of the railway, it is not unreasonable that the "B" series should stand rather more than 10 points below the "A" series. In view, however, of the Mexican Government's offer to Guarantee 4 per cent. on the bonds, such a difference cannot last. Of course, the Government's proposals have yet to be considered by the bondholders, but, as the market opinion seems all in favour of the scheme, it is surprising that steps have not been taken before this to bring the quotations for the "A" and "B" certificates closer together. At the time of writing the "A" stand at 92 and the "B" at 81½. As to whether it should be a case of the former being levelled down or the latter being levelled up, I would simply mention that Mexican Government 4 per cent. gold bonds (with which the Railway issues in their converted form would rank) stand at about 95. Turning to Argentine Rails, the record of movements has not been altogether satisfactory lately, what with the revolutionary outbreak (since understood to have been quelled) in the province of San Juan and the new capital requirements. Following the invitation of the Rosario to which allusion was made last week, the Argentine Great Western has made an issue of £600,000 in 5 per cent. Debentures at 102. For so strong a Company to have to give nearly 5 per cent. upon a Debenture stock is significant of the present stringency prevailing in the Money Market. Truly these are times when the capitalist can afford to practically dictate his own terms. The Company, I observe, reserved £300,000 for its own stockholders. It would be strange if the latter allowed such an opportunity to go a begging. The market, I observe, promptly clapped a premium of 2 per cent. upon the issue price of 102.

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

Kaffirs Sag in the Continued Absence of Support—Awaiting the Result of the Transvaal Elections—Jupiter and Simmer West Amalgamation Scheme—Transvaal Gold and Labour Returns for January—Rhodesians Droop.

In Kaffirs business during the past week has been on a small scale. Dealings have been practically limited to local professionals, who have themselves appeared disinclined to increase their commitments to any extent. Anything like a fair display of interest has been confined to a few specialities in which interest has been stimulated by cabled news from the Rand. Seeing that when Yankees were weak the fact exercised a depressing influence throughout the House, it might have been expected that the recovery in those securities would have helped the Kaffir market to some extent, but as a matter of fact it has been of little, if any, assistance, and the general trend has been against holders. It is thought that the imminence of the elections in the Transvaal is tending to restrict speculation in Kaffirs. No doubt there is a disposition on the part of the investing public to await the result of the polls, seeing that the prospects of the Rand gold mining industry are largely dependent upon the manner in which the new legislature deals with the labour question. And, very possibly for the same reason, the "shops" are holding their hands, so that House speculators are without a lead for the time being. The opening of the new Account on Monday was signalised by a sharp drop in the leading counters. The weakness was apparently due to a determined "Bear" raid on the market, which was all the more effective in view of the general disinclination to give fresh support. Below is given a comprehensive list of Kaffir quotations, which shows the change that has taken place during the past month:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Jan. 12, 1907.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Angelo	5 1/16	2½	3 3/16	3⅜	- 3/16
Anglo-French	2⅜	1 7/16	1 9/16	1 5/16	- 1/32
Apex	6⅜	2⅜	4 7/16	4 5/16	- 1/16
Boksburg	1 3/16	11/16	1/2	1/2	- 1/32
Cinderella Deep	2⅜	1⅝	2¼	2⅜	+ 1/16
City and Suburban (£4)	5½	3½	4	3⅞	- 1/16
Consolidated Goldfields	6⅜	3	4 15/16	4½	- 7/16
Consolidated Main Reef	1 3/16	13/16	29/32	25/32	- 3/32
Crown Deep	13½	10¼	12⅜	12½	- 1/16
Crown Reef	13	7½	8⅝	8¾	- 1/16
De Beers Pref. (£2 10s.)	18¼	16¾	18¾	19	+ 1/4
,, ,, Def. (£2 10s.)	24 5/16	16 5/8	26 7/16	27½	+1 3/16
Driefontein	3 5/16	1⅝	2 5/16	2 5/16	- 1/16
Durban Roodepoort	4	2⅜	3	2⅞	- 1/16
East Rand Proprietary	7 3/16	3⅜	5 7/32	4 11/32	- 1/16
Ferreira	20½	17¾	21	21/4	- 1/4
Ferreira Deep	5 5/8	4½	5⅜	5½	+ 1/16
Geduld	5 15/16	1⅞	2 3/16	2 1/16	- 1/32
Geldenhuis Estate	4½	3 7/8	3⅜	3 7/16	- 1/16
General Mining and Finance	2 9/16	1⅜	1⅜	1½	- 1/4
Goerz A. & Co.	3⅜	1 1/8	1⅝	1 7/8	- 3/16
Henderson's Transvaal	16/3	7/-	12/-	10/3	-1/9
Jagersfontein Def.	10½	7 7/8	10 5/16	10 3/16	- 1/8
Johannesburg Con. Inv't	1⅝	1	1⅛	1 7/32	- 3/32
Jubilee	3½	1⅞	2	2	—
Jupiter	2 1/16	11/16	1 3/16	1	- 3/16
Knight's	4½	2 5/16	3 1/8	3 1/16	- 1/16
Langlaagte Estate	3	2 3/16	2⅛	2 5/16	- 3/16
May Consolidated	3 1/8	2 1/16	2 1/8	2 5/16	—
Meyer and Charlton	4¼	3⅜	4⅛	4⅜	+ 1/16
New African	1 7/8	1	1 5/16	1	- 5/16
New Comet	3	1 5/16	1 1/8	1⅛	- 1/16
New Goch	2⅜	1	1 7/8	1 7/8	—
New Heriot	4½	2⅛	4⅛	3⅜	- 1/16
New Modderfontein (£4)	8 5/16	4 1/16	7 1/16	6 7/8	- 3/16
New Primrose	3½	2⅜	3⅛	3 1/16	- 1/16
Nigel	3½	2⅛	3	2 15/16	- 1/16
Oceana Consolidated	1 5/8	1/2	21/9	20/3	-1/6
Premier Dia'md Def. (2s. 6d.)	19⅜	8	13⅜	12½	- 7/8
Randfontein Estate	2 1/8	1 1/8	2 3/32	1 27/32	- 3/32
,, North	1 13/16	1 1/8	1 5/8	1½	- 1/8
,, Porges	1 15/16	1⅜	1⅞	1⅜	- 1/8
,, Robinson	1½	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
,, South	1⅞	1	1⅛	1 1/16	- 1/16
Rand Mines (5s. sh.)	7 1/16	5⅜	7 1/32	7 1/16	- 1/32
Robinson (£5)	8⅛	6⅞	8⅜	8⅝	+ 3/8
Robinson Central Deep	6 3/8	4⅝	5 1/16	5 1/16	—
Robinson Deep	5 5/16	4 1/16	5 1/16	5 1/16	- 1/4
Roodepoort United	2⅜	1½	1⅞	1⅞	- 1/16
South African Gold Mines	6	1⅜	2⅛	2 1/8	- 1/16
South African Gold Trust	4⅜	1⅞	3 1/32	2 31/32	- 1/16
Simmer and Jack	1 1/16	1⅛	1 1/8	1⅛	- 1/16
Transvaal Consd. Land	2 1/8	1 1/16	3⅛	2⅜	- 1/4
Transvaal Est. and Dev'mt.	21/3	9/0	18/-	15/	- 3/
Transvaal Goldfields	1⅜	15/16	1⅜	1½	- 1/16
Treasury	2⅜	13/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	- 1/4
Van Ryn	3⅞	2 5/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	- 1/32
Village Deep	3½	1⅜	2 15/16	2 15/16	+ 1/32
Village Main Reef	4 7/8	3⅛	4½	4 1/8	- 3/8
Violet	2⅛	7/8	1¼	1 1/8	- 1/8
Welgedacht	6	2⅝	3⅜	3½	- 1/16
Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/8	2 1/16	3⅜	3	- 1/16
Wolhuter	3⅜	2⅛	2⅝	2⅜	- 1/8

While the general list has been inactive during the past week, a few specialties have come in for a fair amount of attention in consequence of the receipt of news as to developments. Knight Centrals have been bought on the improved developments to which reference was made in last week's notes, and Van Dyks have been a fairly active counter on the strength of a favourable cable, which shows that the result of actual development fully confirms the satisfactory borehole figures. The news from the latter has also served to revive interest in the shares of one or two other Companies whose properties are also situated on the far eastern section of the Rand. Among Deep Level descriptions Jupiter and Simmer and Jack West have come in for some attention in view of the fact that the suggestion to which reference was made in these notes a fortnight ago that these two Companies should be amalgamated has now assumed a more definite shape. Official circulars have been issued to shareholders in the two Companies, giving details of a scheme for their consideration. The proposals involve an increase of the Jupiter's capital from £600,000 to £1,032,000. The idea is that Jupiter shareholders should retain their present holding, while those interested in the Simmer West should receive six shares in the amalgamated undertaking for every five shares now held. This would account for 1,007,000 shares in all, leaving 25,000 in reserve. From the standpoint of economy and favourable working conditions, the amalgamation has advantages, and a point worthy of note is that to which the consulting engineer draws attention in his report—namely, that if the amalgamation is not carried through the probability is that before any reduction plant would be warranted large amounts of the cash at present available would have been spent in advancing the mines towards that stage. As at present situated, the Jupiter is much the better off of the two Companies as regards cash resources and the quantity of ore developed, but the grade of the Simmer West's ore is higher than that of the Jupiter. Turning to the Transvaal gold output statistics for the past month, it will be noted that, contrary to general anticipations, the return does not constitute a fresh record. The January production was 12,529 oz. in weight and £53,220 in value lower than that for December. The following table gives the returns in fine ounces:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638	537,633
February	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668	—
March	217,405	308,242	399,823	443,723	—
April	227,871	305,946	399 166	439,243	—
May	234,125	314,480	416,395	461,202	—
June	238,320	308,219	412,317	475,975	—
July	251,643	307,340	419,505	491.793	—
August	271,918	312,277	428,581	509,115	—
September	276,197	312,286	416,487	505,111	—
October	284,541	325,625	415,527	510.609	—
November	279,813	336,167	424,757	533,373	—
December	286,031	362,264	431,594	550,167	—
Total	2,963,749	3,776,621*	4,897,221	5,786,617	537,633

* Includes 7,949 oz. or £33,766 not declared in year.

In the table below the value of the returns is shown:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739	2,283,741
February	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731 664	—
March	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815	—
April	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	1,865,785	—
May	994 505	1,335,826	1,768,734	1,959,062	—
June	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751.412	2,021,813	—
July	1,068,017	1,307,621	1,781,944	2,039,004	—
August	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,495	2,162,583	—
September	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	2,145,575	—
October	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	2,296 371	—
November	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804.253	2 265,625	—
December	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295	2,336,951	—
Totals	12,589,247	16,054,909	20,802,074	24,579,987	2,283,741

At first sight the latest figures appear disappointing, but it is to be noted that they do no include any gold reserves, whereas the December total included 19,115 oz. under that heading. Allowing for this, the January figures are 6,586 oz. better than those of the previous month.

The gold produced and profits earned by individual Companies are set out in the table below, and it will be observed that in several cases the January earnings were better than those for December, Crown Deep and Robinson both showing increases of over £2,500. On the other hand, the New Heriot's profit dropped by no less than £5,720, the Robinson Deep's by £4,374, while all the East Rand and Randfontein subsidiaries did not do so well last month as in December:

Company.	November.		December.		January.	
	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £
Angelo	11,889	21,669	13.372	26,130	13,372	24,912
Bonanza	2 443	4,089	2,179	5,000	2,155	3,749
Cason	18,260	36,684	18,310	36,774	18,110	35,348
City and Suburban	9,621	16,145	9,633	16,541	10,139	16,670
Comet, New	8,000	8,926	7,778	8,917	7,812	7,838
Consolidated Langlaagte	6,692	7,111	6,753	7,206	6,859	7 722
Consolidated Main Reef	6,518	7,770	6,647	7,950	6,727	7,915
Crown Deep	11,856	20,650	12,024	21,560	13,808	24 250
Crown Reef	10,648	22,500	10,756	22,410	10,771	22,545
Driefontein	7,168	5,888	7,510	6 039	7,502	5,727
Durban-Roodepoort	4,474	6,300	4,418	6,060	4,498	—
Do. Deep	4,208	2,050	4,133	1,950	4,269	2 150
Ferreira	13,082	29,423	12,786	29,968	13,146	30,503
Ferreira Deep	13,160	33,450	13,470	34,100	13,634	4,350
French Rand	6,593	5,146	6,555	5 074	6,521	35 020
Geldenhuis Estate	6,916	14,706	6,775	13,649	6,611	3,931
Geldenhuis Deep	10,009	12,550	9,854	13,400	10,392	13,650
Ginsberg	2.490	1,977	2,373	1,680	2,445	11 538
Glencairn	5,058	6,890	4,922	6,093	5,152	6,174
Glen Deep	7,106	10,200	7,377	10,350	7,824	0 750
Glynn's Lydenburg	1,484	—	1,430	4,109	1,544	14,011
Goch, New	7,277	7,314	8,086	10.065	7,852	8 681
Heriot, New	4,363	7,207	5,043	10,423	3,900	4,703
Jubilee	1,549	—	1,683	—	—	—
Jumpers	5,314	7,042	5,413	7,027	5,796	7,490
Jumpers Deep	6,904	3,400	6,913	3,450	6,921	3,750
Kleinfontein, New	12.910	19,020	13,154	20,998	13,461	21 345
Knight's (Witwatersrand)	10.779	15,015	10,693	15,202	10,703	15,304
Knight's Deep	11,285	17,065	11,473	17,655	11,448	16,646
Lancaster	4,560	2,877	4,948	5,771	4,964	5,915
Lancaster West	2,253	1,916	2 675	3.300	2,232	1,811
Langlaagte Deep	9,465	9,350	10,047	10,150	11,038	11,000
Langlaagte Estate	9,767	14,400	10,079	15,000	10,194	15,5 0
Luipaard's Vlei	5,023	8,002	4,803	6,478	5,201	7,988
May Consolidated	5,921	12,269	5,842	12,292	5,874	11,991
Meyer & Charlton	5,444	10.244	5,848	11,009	5,874	11,991
Modderfontein, New	6,437	7,289	6,615	7,668	6,904	8,069
New Unified	2,595	1,064	2,501	991	2,653	1,152
Nigel	4,151	7,382	4,183	7,508	4,004	6,500
Nigel Deep	1,802	1,093	1,942	1,176	1,910	1,092
North Randfontein	6 217	8,200	6,226	8,400	6,146	6,660
Nourse Mines	12,382	16,450	12,806	16,860	13,059	17,090
Porges Randfontein	6,361	9,200	6,406	11,000	6,409	8,200
Primrose, New	9,596	16,104	7,535	16,099	7,985	16,286
Princess	3,748	4,103	3,695	4,216	3,929	5,178
Rietfontein, New	9,280	19,138	8,985	16.343	9,679	17,056
Robinson	21,327	57,937	20,768	57,953	22,090	60,468
Robinson Central Deep	10,825	31,492	11,143	31,744	11,232	31,752
Robinson Deep	18,306	39,874	20,241	45.313	20,047	40,939
Robinson Randfontein	5,844	6,000	5,813	7,000	5,353	3 500
Roodepoort Central Deep	2,994	2,592	2,937	2,456	2,922	2,604
Roodepoort United	5,851	7,651	5,584	7,575	5,659	7,242
Rose Deep	10,025	12,200	10,045	12,150	10 020	11,900
Salisbury	1.620	2,300	1,775	2,025	—	—
Sheba	2,339	—	2,349	—	2,100	—
Simmer East	10.802	5,219	11,312	9.577	11,081	9,000
Simmer & Jack	24,640	47,427	24,659	46,197	24,419	47,078
South Randfontein	5.341	3,400	5.702	5,400	5.648	4,500
Transvaal G. M. Estates	4,551	—	4,446	6 415	4,266	6,014
Treasury	2,732	1,056	2,859	1,112	2,823	1,051
Van Ryn	9,806	18,133	9,876	19 313	10,304	19,772
Village Deep	8,096	6,464	8,518	8,630	9,050	8,750
Village Main Reef	14,707	23,182	15,876	26,119	15,400	24,155
Vogelstruis Estates	2 799	—	2,663	—	—	—
West Rand Central	931	625	896	375	—	—
Windsor	1,239	*592	1,390	23	1,383	297*
Witwatersrand Deep	11 732	20,022	12,114	20,427	11,682	19,392
Worcester	1,159	—	1,435	—	1,393	—
Wolhuter	6,561	5,816	6,112	5,326	5,750	4,203

* Loss.

The native labour returns for January are satisfactory as showing a further net increase of 2,336 in the supply. A fair amount of business has been transacted in the well-known Diamond shares during the past week, but no special feature has been presented. In the Colony, it appears, speculative activity is mainly confined to Diamond shares, and cables tell of sensational movements in the shares of new ventures. In the Rhodesian section, business has remained on a limited scale. The prices of the leading descriptions, after fluctuating within narrow limits, developed weakness on Monday in sympathy with Kaffirs, Bankets being one of the weakest spots. Nothing has transpired in connection with the Company's affairs to explain the relapse, however, and the shares, with Chartered, would seem worth picking up on the fall by those prepared to await better general market conditions.

SAVOY HOTEL & RESTAURANT, LONDON.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

Rally in Americans—"Bear" Covering the Principal Support—President Roosevelt and the Trusts—The Government's Attitude Said to be Less Antagonistic—The Monetary Question.

Writing a few weeks ago upon the outlook for Americans, I ventured to predict that the market was in for a long spell of liquidation, which, however, would be broken by frequent rallies. Shorter's Court has had to wait rather an unexpectedly long time for a rally, but one duly came along last week, as the table given below shows:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	103¾	107	+3⅛
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109¼	101	104	103	–
Baltimore and Ohio	129¼	109⅝	119¼	120¼	+1⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101¼	93¼	96	96	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	50⅜	52¼	+1⅞
Chicago, Milwaukee	204¼	152½	151½	153	+1½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	37	38	+1
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93¾	85½	83	83	—
Erie	52½	40	35¼	36¼	+ ¼
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	72½xd	72½xd.	—
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	61¼	63¼	+2
Illinois Central	188⅜	171	163xd.	164xd.	+1
Louisville	160¾	143¾	137½xd.	139xd.	+1½
Mis., Kan., and Texas	45¾	31⅞	37½	40⅜	-2⅜
New York Central	159½	130¾	129½	132½	+3
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅜	45½	44½	45¾	+1¼
Norfolk and Western	100¾	87½	87	89	+2
Do. 4 p.c. Pref	96¼	91½	88xd.	88xd.	—
Northern Pacific	235	190¼	158	157	-1
Pennsylvania ($50)	75¾	63¼	66⅜	67⅜	+ ⅜
Reading ($50)	85¾	69⅞	61½	63¾	+2
Southern	43½	33	26⅜	27½	+ ⅜
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	88½	90	+1½
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64⅜	94¼	96¾	+1¼
Union Pacific	203	141⅜	175⅜	178¼	+2½
Wabash 6 p.c. "B" Debs.	87¾	78½	75	75	—
U.S. Steel	52⅜	33½	45	46⅜	+1⅜
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102¼	108½	110	+1½

The very unanimity with which the market has lately acted on the "Bear" tack constituted the principal lever by which the big holders of stocks were able to raise values. It requires very little favourable news to startle the "Bears," once the account given for the fall is really big, and, moreover, the ursine brigade have lately had some big profits awaiting to be taken. Perhaps the two items that had most weight in tempting covering orders were the understanding that two big accounts which threatened trouble had been "taken over" by strong people, and rumours that the Trust leaders had made their peace with President Roosevelt. It was said that the Government had modified its plan of action against the Standard Oil Company, and that the Inter-State Commerce Commission would withdraw its opposition to an advance in freight rates providing railroads did not persist in their policy of favouring certain big Corporations by the granting of secret rebates. This news the market made the most of, as it needs to do if it is to soften the effect produced upon the investing public by the recent serious increase in railroad expenses through advances in wages and materials. Those who are looking for increased dividends have not been cheered by the railroad statements for December. Taking fifty of the leading railroads, an analysis for that month shows that thirty have experienced decreases in net receipts, in spite of the fact that forty made increases in gross earnings. Bad weather no doubt is a partial explanation, but higher wages are believed to be principally responsible, and in this connection it has to be borne in mind that the pay roll of many Companies has been further increased since December. As for the monetary question, which, after all, is likely to remain the chief governing factor during the present year, there is still strong evidence pointing to a further shrinkage in values of existing stocks. One of the latest railroad borrowers has been the Delaware and Hudson, and this Company was forced to pay 6 per cent. for the loan of $6,000,000 for a year. The Missouri Pacific is also credited with being in the market for an advance of $50,000,000 upon short term notes, and with having to give 6 per cent. to the buyers. Under such circumstances, it is no wonder that the issue by the American Telephone Company of 4 per cent. bonds at 95½ met with so poor a response. The financial requirements of the railroads are pressing, and in the present state of the New York market, new issues can only be made upon terms that make old securities look unattractive. Europe has lately been a buyer of these short-dated notes, and probably will take more. Some relief may thereby be brought to Wall Street through gold imports, but not to an extent that is likely to finally arrest the downward movement in stocks. If it is good business for London to buy safe bonds that will give 5 to 6 per cent., it is also good for New York, and there will not be wanting financiers who will buy bonds at the expense of parting with junior securities returning lower rates of interest. The United States seems to be in for a year of tight money, and eventually the course of stock values will be determined by the disparity between interest rates and the returns upon fixed investments; consequently, as Mr. Henry Clews puts it, "until interest rates reach a permanently lower level security values must fall at irregular intervals."

Broken Hills Droop—Leading Copper Favourites Active—Important Tinto Rumour—Mount Lyells Relapse—Indian Gold Output—American Gold Shares—Ashanti Goldfields.

Broken Hill descriptions have been affected by selling on the part of local speculators, who apparently became tired of waiting for a fresh upward movement. Colonial support has not been lacking, but it has been insufficient to counterbalance the realisations on this side, so that prices have given way. So far as the mines themselves are concerned, speaking generally, there appears no cause for uneasiness, and the metal prices are satisfactory enough, so that the set-back in share quotations that has occurred seems to afford a favourable opportunity for those who are prepared to pay for their purchases to jump in. Now that the South Blocks' plant has been brought into operation, the shares of this Company will doubtless receive more attention, and it may be added that they appear one of the cheapest selections in the Broken Hill group at present. Zinc Corporations have been quieter, and the quotation has dwindled a little in the absence of further official news, but according to the manager's cable of a week or so ago it should only be a short time now before news comes to hand that the new plant is working properly, and it is confidently anticipated that there will then be a fresh upward movement in the quotation. The carry over on Monday is stated to have disclosed a large "Bear" position in the Zincs. This should prove a source of strength in the future. The leading Copper shares have been active, and the general tendency has been in favour of operators for the rise. Anacondas have reflected the improved tendency displayed by the market in American Rails, while Rio Tintos have sharply advanced on a statement that the Company is on the point of making a material increase in its output. The information is given by the *Financial Times* as "from a quarter usually well informed," that additional smelters are being established, which, it is said, will be capable of treating another 15,000 tons of ore per day. On the basis of an extraction of 2½ per cent. this would represent an output of 12,000 to 15,000 tons of copper per annum. As the mine is understood to have produced 36,000 tons of copper last year, expansion to the extent suggested would mean that its output would be increased by quite one-third, and, with copper at its present price, this would represent an addition to gross revenue of well over a million sterling per annum. No official statement on the subject is forthcoming so far, and possibly shareholders will have to wait until the meeting in April before they learn whether the above informa-

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd, Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

tion is well-founded or otherwise, but already some market men are calculating what effect the predicted increase in production is likely to have upon the rate of dividend. As regards the Australian Copper descriptions, active dealings have been confined to a few specialities, and the general tendency has been dull. Mount Lyells have failed to maintain their recent recovery owing to realisations by speculators on this side who considered the latest cablegram as to developments at depth less satisfactory than the earlier messages. The values reported were certainly lower than those given in former cables, but the main point is that ore of payable grade is still being developed as the work proceeds, and those who hold the shares need be in no hurry to sell. Among the smaller-priced Australian shares Chillagoes are inclined to recover now that the time for applying for the new shares has expired. The new issue is understood to have been fully subscribed by shareholders, and it is not improbable that some of the underwriters have been left in the position of "Bears," by having sold old shares against the new which they expected to get allotted in view of the price which ruled in the market for the former. The Company appears to be making good progress. It announces that it expects to bring a third smelter into operation shortly, and that its new lead plant will be ready in May. Besides making profits on the treatment of ore from outside properties, the Company derives revenue from the carriage, on its own railway, of such ore. It has just been announced that the Chillagoe Company has disposed of its holding of shares of the nominal value of £25,000 in its subsidiary, the Mungana, at a price which represents a total sum of nearly £60,000. Wide fluctuations have continued to characterise the Siberian shares which have lately been attracting so much attention, and the weakness of which has exercised a depressing influence on mining descriptions generally. During the past week there has been extensive liquidation in this section, but support has been forthcoming, and prices have rallied from the lowest level reached. Siberian Props. have been down below 6, but it will be seen from the following table that they show no alteration on the week:—

Share	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 2, 1907.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1⅛	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/-	17/6	+1/6
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3⅛	1½	1 15/16	1⅞	−1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2¼	1 1/16	2 5/16	2 1/16	—
Wassau	1¼	¾	⅞	1⅛	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	4/3	4/-	−/3d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	5/6	5/-	−/6d.
Camp Bird	33/3	22/-	27/9	27/6	−3d.
Esperanza	5 1/16	2½	2 5/16	2⅝	+1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1½	1½	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	42/6	39/4½	−3/1½
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5⅞	3 1/16	5 1/16	4 3/16	−¼
Zinc Corporation	2½	1 1/16	42/9	40/6	−2/3
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15⅜	11⅛	14	14⅝	+⅝
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	56/6	53/6	−3/-
Mount Morgan	4½	3¼	4¼	4 3/16	−1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91½	63⅝	91½	93½	+1½
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	27/-	26/6	−/6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	¼	2 5/16	2 1/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	23/1½	19/4½	−3/9
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	13/3	13/3	—
Mysore (10/-)	7½	5½	6½	6⅝	—
Siberian Mines	2 5/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	2	−1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16⅜	3⅜	6⅞	6⅞	—
Waihi	9 1/16	6 1/16	8⅛	8 1/16	—

Turning to Indian gold shares, a little more business has latterly been transacted in these descriptions, but, with the exception of Balaghats, which have shown weakness, prices have not materially changed. The steady decline in the price of Balaghats would appear to be due to the disappointing return for January and to the fact that for some months past the mine has not been looking very well. Other Indian mines also report reduced outputs for January, but where the falling off is large it is almost entirely accounted for by the fact that the December figures included the usual end of the year scrapings from the plates. Below is a table showing the gold production of the Indian gold mines for January and for the last four years:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	48,080	51,568	52 157	52,000	46,010
February	46,268	50,151	50,660	49,576	—
March	48,434	51,634	52 688	49,040	—
April	48,574	50,669	53,354	46,632	—
May	48,971	51,242	52 171	48,515	—
June	49,338	51,606	52,747	47,816	—
July	50,989	51,283	52,191	47,247	—
August	50,717	51,517	52,017	46,817	—
September	51,714	51,686	52 959	49,638	—
October	51,524	51,238	52,241	47,101	—
November	52 046	51,664	51,905	46,487	—
December	54,257	52,690	54 201	49,981	—
Total	601,411	616,838	628,415	577,200	46,010

It will be observed that last month's return is the lowest since June, 1903. Some of the American gold shares have been in better demand than for some weeks past, Esperanzas and Mexico El Oros being rather favoured, the latter in view of the commencement of shipments of high grade ore to the smelters. This is being done in order to provide additional funds for the erection of the mill now in course of erection, and it should not be long before the Company commences to treat ore with its own plant. The El Oro Mining and Railway Company is reported to be doing well, but the heavy capitalisation—£1,080,000 issued out of £1,150,000 authorised—seems to be a drag upon the market and to prevent the price of the shares making much progress. Tomboys have recently come in for a fair amount of attention, and if the results being achieved can be maintained for any length of time, the shares would still seem a promising purchase, as the Company is earning at the rate of 80 per cent. per annum. When, however, the shares had a sharp rise some weeks back heavy American selling promptly follow d. This rather suggests that something is known on the other side which would explain the apparent cheapness of the shares. Camp Bird is another share which appears undervalued, judging from the excellent results obtained since the resumption of milling in November last. But there is evidently "a tap on" here, as selling follows any improvement in the shares, so that the price is kept below 30s. Dealings in the West African market have been on a small scale, the only shares to receive much attention being Ashanti Goldfields, which have been bought in view of the reported success of the roasting plant. Hitherto the Company has only been able to extract from the ore about 65 per cent. of its gold contents, but with the use of the roasting plant it is stated it will be possible to extract quite 90 per cent. This obviously improves the Company's prospects to by no means a trifling extent; it means on future returns a larger revenue per ton, and thus tends to bring nearer the time when it will be possible to resume the payment of dividends.

WESTRALIANS QUIET—HORSESHOE ORE RESERVES STATEMENT—REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN DEEP LEADS ON NEWS FROM LODDON VALLEY—"HIGHLY PAYABLE" RESULTS FROM THE EDGE OF THE DEEP GROUND.

Last week I had to report that rather more business had been transacted in the Westralian Market than for some weeks past, but the slight expansion of interest in this department has not been maintained, and little change in prices has occurred. Golden Horseshoes have continued to attract some attention in view of the favourable rumours recently in circulation as to the Company's position and prospects. None of these rumours, however, has been confirmed. On the contrary, the ore reserves estimate issued with the latest monthly circular, while showing a larger quantity of ore actually "in sight," exhibits a falling off in the total gold contents compared with the previous statement. The mine's reserves as at the end of 1906 are estimated at 992,867 tons, containing 680,355 fine ozs., whereas at the end of 1905 they were estimated to amount to 931,307 tons, containing 700,352 ozs. However, the latest figures represent about four years' supply for the

treatment plant, a position which is quite satisfactory as such mines go, though not nearly so "excellent" as rumour made out. As regards the other leading Westralians the dulness of Great Fingalls has been a feature. Apparently this is solely due to realisations induced by the poor results which continue to attend development at depth, but holders need not give up all hope of a fresh run of payable ground being opened up, and it would seem that the current price of the shares allows very little for such a possibility. Among the smaller priced Westralians Chaffers and Cosmopolitans have been receiving some attention, the former on the prospect of the receipt of early news as to the proving of the lode which was located by diamond drill at 1,700 ft. some time ago. The further cable to hand with regard to development at the No. 11 level of the Cosmopolitan Mine is satisfactory as showing a continuance of the payable ore, while the nature of the reference in the message to the No. 12 level is considered to encourage the hope of ore of payable grade being met with sooner or later at the bottom of the mine. Turning to Deep Leads group, a revival of speculative interest in these descriptions has been one of the features of the week in the Mining Markets. Business here has improved, as, earlier than anticipated, further news has come to hand from the Loddon Valley, and it will be seen that it has had a favourable influence upon the prices of the shares:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 2, 1907.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/4	—
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/8	1 1/8	1 7/16	1 3/4	— 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/8	3/6	6/3	5/9	—/6d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/8	4 3/4	6 3/8	6 7/16	— 1/16
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/3	25/3	—
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	8/-	8/-	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 5/16	2 1/4	2 7/16	2 1/4	— 1/16
Hainault	1 1/3	1 1/4	1 5/16	1 3/4	—
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/4	6 1/16	7 1/16	7 1/16	— 1/16
Kalgurli	12 3/4	8 3/4	11 9/16	11 5/8	—
Lake View Consols	1 7/16	1/4	5/16	1/4	— 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	20/9	20/3	—/6
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	2 7/32	2 1/8	— 3/32
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	— 1/16d.
South Kalgurli	1 1/8	1/4	5/16	1/2	— 3/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 3/8	1 1/2	2 1/4	2 3/8	+ 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/8	6/3	7/3	+1/-
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	7/8	1 1/8	2 1/16	+ 1/8

The deepest part of the ancient river bed has not yet been entered at the Loddon Valley, but the cable to hand reports that from the edge of the deep ground a section of the "wash" has been sampled. Sufficient data is not available to enable one to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the actual value on a working basis, but the managers in their cable state that the result is "highly payable." As the deepest part of the lead is expected to give the most satisfactory results the news now to hand must be regarded as very encouraging. It is expected that the "wash" at the bottom of the river will be entered about the end of the current month, and in the event of the results obtained proving to be still more satisfactory than those reported in the latest cable, it would not be surprising if a Deep Leads boomlet ensued.

The Bishop Creek Wild Cat.

Apropos of my remarks last week on the Bishop Creek Gold Mine Co., a correspondent writes:—

> You did not mention the interesting fact that the "precious privilege" of buying shares at half price in the Bishop Creek Gold Company is being offered to the readers of the *Economist* and the *Statist*. Both these journals have published the Lombard Association's advertisement, describing the company's mine as "the world's greatest gold mine," and quoting the treasurer's statement that "dividends will be over £4,000,000 a year," and the shares now offered at 10s. 5d. "should sell for £60 each, and they will." The *Statist*, while inserting the advertisement, ridiculed it in an editorial note; the *Economist* left it to speak for itself.

No doubt it may be said that the readers of my eminent contemporaries are not exactly the sort of people who are likely to be gammoned by such a share-pushing concern as the Lombard Association. Still, one naturally looks to the leading financial journals to set a good example to the rest of the press, and their example certainly is not good when they give the countenance of their columns to what is manifestly an attempt to impose upon the credulity of innocent investors. Lest it should be supposed that this is a case of "sour grapes," I may add that the advertisement in question was refused insertion in Truth.

An Opportunity for the Masses.

In a publication prematurely dated February 15, Martin and Church, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C., observe:—

> Opportunities for the masses to share in the profits of commercial and industrial enterprises have been comparatively rare.

Being evidently a "House"—they call themselves a "House"—with democratic and benevolent sympathies, Martin and Church have determined to remedy this injustice. The aforesaid publication, a four-page sheet the size of a halfpenny evening paper, is filled with flapdoodle designed to convince the masses that they can become rich by taking shares in "The British Exploration and Development Company," which is "now being incorporated under the Laws of the State of Arizona, U.S.A." The shares are sixpence each, payable in three instalments! . . . . . On reflection I think I should have headed this note "An Opportunity for the Police." The whole thing is a transparent, unmistakable ramp.

The Prescience of Wm. Tyler and Co.

That sudden drop in Brighton "A's" must have given a peculiarly sharp, short shock to the patrons of Wm. Tyler and Co., Pinner's Hall, Old Broad-street. On Saturday week this philanthropic firm, whose name is well-known to my readers, sent out a circular exhorting all and sundry to seize "practically an absolutely secured and certain profit by buying at once, without delay, Brighton Railway 'A' stock" on a 2 per cent. cover. It was a secured and certain profit, because each £100 stock would carry the dividend of £5, or two and a half times as much as the deposit, and there was besides the "enormous possibility" of a rise in the price of the stock, which would yield "a still much larger profit." A little rise of ten points was, in fact, suggested as quite likely, and with the profit on this added to the dividend, each £10 deposit, controlling £500 stock, would earn £75. Imagine guileless recipients of this valuable tip hurrying on Sunday to remit their money "at once, without delay," to Wm. Tyler and Co. And then imagine their feelings when on Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning they learnt that, instead of making the certain profit, they had incurred a dead loss through the stock dropping three points, and the cover running off! Really, it was a very smart operation for the cover-snatchers, whose prescience is shown in predicting an advance in stocks which are about to fall.

Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. Again.

"An Easy Way to Fortune" is the alluring title of one of the pamphlets issued by Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., of Paris. The way is doubtless easy for that notorious firm, but how tedious and dismal and delusive it is for their victims is shown once more by a case which has been brought under my notice. By means of gross misrepresentations on the part of an agent of Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., the victim in this case was hoodwinked into paying them £260 for a "combination" of foreign government and municipal premium bonds. This was in 1900. He soon found out that a number of the bonds were of very small value, and that he had been charged exorbitantly for the whole lot. Believing that his only course was to make the best of a bad bargain, he did not attempt to recover his money, but in 1902 he got Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. to exchange some of the bonds for others which he thought more attractive. This exchange involved a further loss; and down to the present date the owner of the bonds has never had the luck to draw one of those prizes which figure so conspicuously in the literature issued by Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. and other touting firms. There are premium bonds

which are not without some attractions for people who want a gamble. But the objection to Cunliffe, Russell, and Co.'s business is that they not only charge outrageously excessive prices even for the better bonds, but deliberately palm off trashy ones on unwary purchasers, and, in fact, make the whole business a delusion and a snare to the innocents on whom they prey. In another case of which I have heard in the last few days Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. sold a "combination" of nine foreign bonds for £51. The purchaser found that he had been imposed upon, and after three or four months the firm bought back the bonds for £41 10s. This had really been their market value at the time Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. charged £51 for them, no material reduction in price having occurred in the interval.

As I have previously stated, a number of people have secured verdicts against Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. in the Paris Courts, and any victim who is disposed to take legal proceedings there for the recovery of his money can obtain from the Editor of TRUTH the name of the French advocate—the agent in Paris of a well-known firm of London solicitors—who conducted these cases. This gentleman has, by the way, just informed me of his latest success against these extortioners. He sued them on behalf of a lady who had been gulled into paying £115 by monthly instalments for some bonds really worth about £58 or £60. Judgment was given against Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. for the return of the £115 with interest from the date of each monthly instalment, and they were, of course, also condemned to pay the costs of the proceedings.

Though the most notorious, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. are by no means the only firm in the same line of business. Melville, Glyn and Co., who are also located in Paris, and the International Securities Syndicate in London, are both busily engaged in beguiling unwary speculators into the payment of exorbitant prices for premium bonds. Like the rival Paris firm, Melville, Glyn and Co. sometimes send a persuasive-tongued, not too veracious, representative to make a personal call upon any promising dupe; and I have just been furnished with particulars of a case in which this was done, with disastrous results for the dupe, in the North of England.

"TRUTH" LEITER BOX.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" reply by post.

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

M. M., Winchfield.—Neither class of bond can be called safe, although the security behind both has improved considerably during the last few years. In my opinion, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series) would be preferable.

RAILWAYS.

Rio. This is not a security I care for, and I think you might realise. If there were any prospect of redemption at due date, the quotation would not stand at 10 discount. *W. H., Leeds.*—Your question was anticipated by my remarks in last week's issue, from which you will have already gathered that I advise selling.

Sunny Jim.—The market talks of a favourable report being issued in April, and the shares during the last week or so have shown a tendency to improve. They are, of course, nothing more than a gambling counter at present, but under the circumstances I would not be in too great a hurry to sell. *Constant Reader, Southampton.*—Better postpone a purchase for the present, as, in the absence of public interest, the stock is not unlikely to go lower. *Constant Reader, Saundersfoot.*—Cuban Central Debentures are a sound investment. At the present price you ought to hold on to Dominion Atlantic Second Debentures. I am a strong believer in the outlook for the National of Mexico, and think the First Preferred an attractive investment. *Nestor.*—The new stock under the guarantee is a high-class investment. The guarantee ranks after Great Central Debentures. In regard to your last question, I cannot say off-hand, but the matter is scarcely of great importance, seeing that the lease is for 999 years. *Japan.*—The Hull dividend was 4½ per cent. for the half year, making 2¼ per cent. for the twelve months. At the time the article you refer to was written the price was 49. Allowing for accrued dividend therefore, the yield was fully 4¾ per cent. I regard the stock as a promising holding. *Fritz.*—Your obvious course is to allow the option to run. You will not lose anything by the deduction of the dividend, as the amount taken off the quotation will be credited to your account.

MINES.

Soldier.—1 and 2. Taking everything into consideration, Great Boulders, Ivanhoes, and Kalgurlis appear the best holdings, but it is impossible to estimate the lives of such mines. 3. Developments at depth have been disappointing, but a purchaser at the present price would be likely to come out satisfactorily in the long run. *Jock.*—I cannot recommend you to subscribe more money in respect of this concern. The papers have been returned. *Reading.*—Do not deal with the firm mentioned. *Van.*—1. They are a fair speculative holding for a moderate profit. 2. The old company paid a dividend of 6d. in 1899, but the present concern has not made a distribution. 3. £225,000 in 10s. shares. *Hake, Burton Agnes.*—You might hold in hope of some recovery eventually, and then cut your loss. *Captain X.*—I see no reason to advise an immediate sale. It is impossible to estimate the lives of such mines as these. *Medicus.*—You may as well hold 3 and 4, but realise the others on any recovery, and put the proceeds into the suggested purchase. *Sphinxalex.*—Hold for a recovery. *Spes.*—A promising holding, but you should be content with a moderate profit. See my notes this week. *Borderer.*—1. See answer to "Jock." 2. A bucket-shop. *Thyra.*—You had much better keep your money than put it in this concern.

MIXED SECURITIES.

R. B., Wiesbaden.—You could obtain 4 to 5 per cent. with excellent security by spreading the money over United States Steel Second Mortgage bonds, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds, Buenos Ayres Western Railway New Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, Chinese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds of 1898, Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, and Imperial Tobacco Preference. The following would give from 5 to 6 per cent.:—Mexican Railway First Preference, San Paulo Railway Ordinary, Buenos Ayres and Rosario Ordinary, Natal Bank "B" shares (2½ paid), Bryant and May, and London United Trams Preference. The reference work for your purpose is "The Stock Exchange Year Book," published at 28s., by Thomas Skinner, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C. *Canada.*—1. Carrying Irish Land stock on margin strikes me as an excellent method of losing money with the Bank Rate at 5 per cent. You were not entitled to the dividend, as dividends on British Government stocks are deducted a month before they become due. 2. I should not be surprised to see a further decline. *N. H.*—Your investments have been well chosen, and I think you might safely leave the money where it is. As regards the Mexican Central certificates, I would refer you to my remarks in another column. You might, after reading them, think it worth while to exchange from the A. to the B. series. *X.*—1. Very little information is available as to this concern, and I have not heard a price for the shares. 2. Very speculative, but may have some recovery later on. 3. A fair holding for dividends. 4. I do not know. 5. The stock is worth keeping as an investment, but if you bought for an early profit you might as well take the present opportunity of realising. 6. Hold for a moderate profit. *South Devon.*—1, 2, and 3. Hold these. 4. The Company is at present paying 6 per cent., and the maintenance of this rate has not, in my opinion, been jeopardised by the new capital issue; indeed, without allowing for the benefits that will accrue from the proposed outlay, the current profits are sufficient to pay another 1 per cent. *Edie.*—1. Deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. 2. I cannot say what the custom of this firm is, but I presume you have received contract notes to show that you have bought the shares. 3. I have not a high opinion of the mining shares or the others. I do not recommend brokers. *Investor, Oxford.*—Yes. The mining shares are very speculative, but there seems a fair chance of their having some recovery eventually. *Bingo.*—I am sorry, but I cannot undertake to give advice on a list of eighteen different securities. Fewer questions at a time, please. *Scrutator.*—1. I see no reason to look for much advance with these in the near future. 2. The prospects of the company are good. 3. See my article this week. *Marie.*—1. Johannesburg Consolidated Investment. 2. Have good prospects, subject to the labour question being satisfactorily settled. 3. Very speculative. 4. No. 5. Only from a broker. *F. E. A.*—It will require consideration, but I will endeavour to give you such a list next week.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Miscellaneous.

F. M., Malvern; W. G. L., Bromyard; C. S. J., Oxford; and *M. D., Stockport.*—Thanks for the circulars. I will deal with the bucket-shops in question in an early issue. *Claco.*—Certainly not; the so-called Charing Cross Bank is a usury shop run by one Carpenter. *Magister.*—See preceding answer. I do not know the other concern, but if you have at present a safe 3½ per cent. investment you had better stick to it. *L. G., Hathersage.* — Do not deal with these or any other German lottery touts. *Prudence* and *Jay Bee.* — I cannot give advice as to the relative merits of the Continental Government and Municipal premium bonds in your lists. If you want to make a purchase apply to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. Such touting firms as the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville, Glyn and Co., charge extremely exorbitant prices for the bonds. *C. B. P., Bangalore.*—They would swindle you. *H. A. S.*—I have no evidence on the point you raise, but see my answers above. *Diogenes, Limerick, St. Leonards,* and *Lincoln.*—You did not send coupons. See rules above. *A. A. B.*,—Your best plan would be to realise and put the proceeds into something more hopeful. *A.M.T., Dorking.*—1. They make a fair commercial investment. 2. There is no apparent reason why they should go up. 3. Apollinaris Ordinary yield about 8 per cent., and Darracqs about 8¾ per cent. *Doubtful.*—Better hold on to the insurance shares for a recovery in the future, which seems not improbable. The effect of the recent catastrophes will pass away in time. *Banshee.*—They are a fair holding of their type. As to the work of reference, note my answer above to "R. B., Wiesbaden." *Mrs. P., Lée.*—1 You could do better. 2. A fair holding. 3. I would not advise you to average in view of recent developments. 4. Upon any recovery sell out. *Juno.*—1. They could be improved upon. 2. You might hold on. *Ellichporé.*—My opinion of hotel shares as a group, from the purely investment point of view, is a poor one. *Bristol, E.*—The proposed exchange does not seem a wise one. As the dividend season approaches it is quite possible that Nelsons will touch the figure named. *Brash.*—I have a very poor opinion of the concern, and if you could sell the bonds you should do so. *Motors.*—The shares are unattractive, and, rather than improve the position and prospects, the combination is calculated to make them worse. As to the published traffic, it is impossible to form any opinion of the position, because the number of vehicles in employment has increased considerably. *Bill.*—All three are fairly attractive. They are controlled in Canada. *Scat.*—1. Daimlers are talked to 10 on the bright possibilities, and Darracqs would be fairly attractive. Both are speculative. 2. Paquins give about 6¾ per cent., Rio Flour Mills about 8¼ per cent., and Carlton Hotel 8¾ per cent. 3. There is no reason why she should not be registered as a shareholder, but it would be much more prudent to keep her little capital in the savings bank. *Scarbro'.*—Ignore the request and await developments. *Edcot.*—1. The concern is not one that I would in any circumstances recommend, and I am afraid you would experience some difficulty in selling the bond. 2. A matter for negotiation. 3. No proper balance sheet is ever published. *Novo.*—You would be well advised not to go to the concern in question. There are many more desirable offices transacting the same business. *Pem, Londonderry.*—If your first consideration is security and you favour industrials they make a fair selection, Dunlop Debentures, perhaps, excepted. *Lincoln.*—Purely an American concern, which is not represented on this side. As to reports and balance sheets, they are not available, here, at all events. *Clericus.*—1. Certainly as great a risk. 2. The first office you mention may be safe, but I should greatly prefer the second, although the terms are not so good. *James.* — I do not recommend any brokers. It is a method of speculation; some books are published explaining it. *A. W. P. A.* — I shall be dealing shortly with the firm in question. I do not recommend any lotteries. *Castria:* — It must be highly speculative. The attractive-looking estimates in the prospectus are not based on actual results. *Farway.*—As stated elsewhere, I can place you in communication with a solicitor in Paris.

Insurance.

Wellington.—The Ocean and Employers' Liability are both first-class companies. The company in which you hold shares is commencing this business, but I have not yet seen its prospectus. I shall be dealing with the whole subject in an article shortly. *G. B. T.*—I have no great opinion of the first company you mention. It is of recent origin, and its financial position is scarcely strong enough for the liabilities undertaken. The other company you name found competition of wealthier offices too much for it, and the shareholders gained by the sale. Your policy is, of course, quite safe. *San Marco.*—The only other company I know of is the Yorkshire Fire and Life, who give more favourable terms occasionally in the event of ill-health, but do not make this a regular feature.

Industrials Generally Flat—Motor and Cycle Shares Brisk—Woolcombers Fall—Beyer-Peacock Report—Anglo "A" Down—London General Omnibus Company.

Though it is evident from the Board of Trade returns for January that the foreign trade of the country still continues to expand, business in the leading Industrial securities remains more or less at a standstill. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the figures issued last week, the outstanding features being the increases in the imports of raw materials and the exports of manufactured goods. The fact that the trade of the country is so flourishing obviously has a specially favourable significance for the Industrial market, and the reasons for the coyness which is nevertheless exhibited both by speculators and investors must, of course, be sought in other directions. During the week the motor and cycle section has been decidedly the most animated and cheerful. The shares of the Eadie Manufacturing Company of Redditch, which stood at 2⅞ at the beginning of January, have been steadily advancing of late, and on the news of a proposed amalgamation of this concern with the Birmingham Small Arms Company, the price rose to 4. Eadies last year paid 25 per cent. and the B.S.A. 15 per cent. Since the B.S.A. took up the manufacture of cycles it has been working several of the Eadie cycle patents, and this is reported to have been an important factor in bringing about the amalgamation. Argyll Motors, Daimlers, and Darracqs have been active, and at the present prices I am inclined to regard all these as hopeful purchases for a speculative investment. The prospects of this industry generally are, indeed, distinctly bright. In Textiles, Calico Printers have been most conspicuously in demand, while a drop in Woolcombers, Limited, occurred on the announcement of a dividend of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, which had stood at 2⅜. I hear from Bradford, however, that the balance-sheet will show that the results of the year's working have really been more satisfactory than was assumed from the amount of the dividend, the Directors having met considerable expenditure for new machinery, etc., out of the year's earnings, and retained a good balance in hand. Trade at Bradford is now more prosperous than for years past, and all the wool-combing firms are very busy. A much-discussed report was that of Beyer, Peacock, and Co., the locomotive engineers, whose Ordinary shareholders now receive a dividend of 10 per cent., after getting nothing in 1905 and 1904. This led to a slight advance in the Ordinary and the Preference issues, but it is considered in many quarters that the position of the Company is still unsatisfactory, the inadequacy of the amount placed to the depreciation account being especially commented upon. In Catering descriptions there have been no notable changes, but Brewery shares as a rule have given way, and in view of the probability of a Licensing Bill—which can hardly fail to have an adverse influence on prices—being introduced by the Government this Session, a further decline may be anticipated. The most important exception to the rule has been presented by Guinness stocks, which benefited from the announcement of an interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary stock, as compared with 16 per cent. a year ago. Anglo-American Telegraph Company Deferred stock, which has been receding as the outcome of profit-taking since the recent announcement of the dividend of 35s. per cent., had quite a sharp break on Friday in consequence of the chairman's statement at the meeting that the increase in the traffic receipts was to a large extent due to the exceptional earnings of their cable-repairing ship, and also to the fact that £20,000 was no longer being taken out of revenue for renewals. However, another spirited gamble in this stock is sure to come in due season. Two years ago the London General Omnibus Company paid 8 per cent. on its Ordinary stock, last year the dividend dropped to 6 per cent., and this year it is only 5 per cent.—and this will involve a withdrawal of £15,000 from the general reserve. The immediate effect of this news has been a tumble of £10 in the price of the stock, which is now 67½. Last year it was never lower than 82, and at one time it was as high as 117.

VIGILANT.

Free From Farrow's Bank, Ltd. "Farrow's Bank: Its History Objects, and Work."—Chairman, Thomas Farrow, Author of "The Moneylender Unmasked," &c. Write or call, 29, New Bridge st., Ludgate-circus, E.C., & Birmingham, Brighton, Norwich, & Croydon.

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QUEER STORY.

TRINDER'S KNIGHTHOOD.

THE financial position of the Rottenborough Conservative and Unionist Club (hereinafter, as the lawyers would say, to be known as the R.C. and U.C.) was undeniably parlous. In fact, it was quite evident that, unless substantial aid was promptly forthcoming, the Club must go on the rocks. But the question was, whence was such aid to be procured?

The Hon. Algernon Fitzjawkins, M.P.—the sitting member—had already been bled to his utmost capacity; while other prominent Conservatives in the borough, long tired of putting their hands in their pockets, were not disposed to come forward with anything more solid than good advice—that cheap commodity so frequently offered, so seldom taken, and even when it is taken, still more seldom productive of any benefit to the taker.

Here, at any rate, it was perfectly useless. What's the good of preaching economy to an insolvent threatened with instant bankruptcy? It is like lecturing a patient suffering from acute pneumonia on the imprudence of sitting in wet feet, while not attempting to treat his immediately pressing malady. "Save my life first," he might well say, "and then lecture me, if you like."

So now, the life of the R.C. and U.C. had to be first saved, before good advice as to its future administration could be of any possible service; and a big cheque was the only thing to save it.

But from whom was that big cheque to be obtained?

One thing was quite certain, in the mind of Algernon Fitzjawkins. The club must not be allowed to go broke. In the first place, such a collapse would have a disastrous moral effect on Conservatism in the borough. In the next, the members, deprived of their comfortable institution and the many free shows and amusements connected with it, would be sure to join the Liberal club, and would so contract the deadly taint of radicalism, with the result that he, Algernon Fitzjawkins, would probably lose his seat at the next election. Such a catastrophe must not be permitted to occur. The Club *must* be saved and put on its legs. The money requisite for that purpose *must* be found. And Algernon Fitzjawkins set himself to get hold of somebody who might be induced to find it.

After thinking the matter over, he decided that William Trinder was the most likely man. William Trinder was better known to the general public as "Trinder's Peptonised Pigs' Feet." He was rich. His politics were, on the whole, Conservative; although, as a large importer of foreign meat, he viewed with disfavour the wild schemes of tariff reform which had recently become one of the planks in the platform of the Conservative Party. But—and here it was that Fitzjawkins hoped to have him—William Trinder had one really vulnerable spot. He was known to hanker after titular distinction—a knighthood at least, or if possible, a baronetcy. And with such a bait before his eyes, a Conservative Ministry being then in power, he might—despite his views on tariff reform—be easily induced (so Fitzjawkins calculated) to do a signal pecuniary service to the Conservative cause.

The amount actually required to meet the pressing needs of the club was a little short of £3,000. But Fitzjawkins thought that, while he was about it, he might as well go for double that amount. Trinder, as I have said, had heaps of money. He could pay the larger sum with no more inconvenience than he could pay the smaller; and that extra £3,000 would come in uncommonly handy for the next electoral campaign, to enable Algernon Fitzjawkins to do things in style without expense to himself. In short, the seat was to be retained by Fitzjawkins with the cash of Trinder. A very convenient arrangement—for Fitzjawkins; and all the more so, because even as it was, our M.P.'s income was insufficient to meet his ordinary current expenses, and he was rather heavily in debt.

But, of course, the matter wanted delicate handling. Moreover, it was beset with difficulties. In the first place, Fitzjawkins, being only slightly acquainted with Trinder, couldn't go and bluntly offer to procure him a knighthood for £6,000; and, in the second place, he was by no means in the position to be sure of carrying out his promise if he did.

The Fitzjawkins' interest with the party leaders was small. It was true the Member for Rottenborough's father was an Earl and held a subordinate post in the Government; but he had neither the money, the influence, nor the ability to carry much weight in their councils. Indeed, he might have resigned office and withdrawn his support from the party to-morrow without in the least affecting their strength or disturbing their equanimity.

Still, "Trinder's Peptonised Pigs' Feet" would, probably, not altogether realise this. To a plebeian, who had begun life as an errand boy, and who, at fifty, was still outside the social pale, an Earl was an Earl—a personage in politics and society—one who could pull all sorts of useful wires—one with whom it was worth while to stand well. That pious delusion must be carefully sustained and fomented. Trinder must have it delicately, yet emphatically, instilled into him that the Fitzjawkins' interest would easily run to a knighthood—if not to a baronetcy. Everything must be liberally implied, yet nothing must be definitely promised. In fine, all the artifices of diplomacy must be employed to lead Trinder to believe he was putting his money on a dead cert., when, as a fact, he was really backing an outsider at long odds.

You are not to conclude, if you please, that Fitzjawkins was deliberately planning to jockey Trinder out of £6,000. He fully intended to get him *quid pro quo*, in the shape of a knighthood, if he could. But he also intended to protect himself, in case of failure, by refraining from giving any actual pledge that might afterwards be brought up against him. This, indeed, is the very A B C of diplomacy—to cajole the other man into construing your remarks in a sense in which you mean him to construe them, but which, detached from your tone and manner of uttering them, they will not really bear. And you must not be too hard on Fitzjawkins for practising in a small way that art which, when successfully practised on a large scale by ambassadors, is rewarded with orders, titles, and the highest public honours.

But it is necessary to catch your hare before you can cook him. And the first thing Fitzjawkins had to do was to get hold of "Trinder's Peptonised Pigs' Feet." He began by enlisting the services of Tommy Betts, a bachelor friend of his, who knew Trinder fairly well, in bringing him in touch with the millionaire.

Betts undertook to do what he could in the matter, but hinted pretty intelligibly that he should expect to make a bit out of it; and, upon being asked to name his terms, stipulated for a commission of 5 per cent. on whatever Trinder might be induced to spring. To this Fitzjawkins raised no objection, privately determining to get another thousand out of Trinder, so as to cover Betts's commission, with a handsome margin. Indeed, the difference between £6,000 and £7,000 was nothing to a man of Trinder's means, who would doubtless be willing enough to pay the latter figure for his coveted knighthood.

On this basis, the two friends got to work. Betts opened the campaign by giving a little dinner at the Carlton, to which Trinder, Fitzjawkins, and one other man—an immaterial person, so far as this story is concerned—were invited. The dinner was good, the champagne, if possible, better, and conversation soon became genial and general.

It was now that Fitzjawkins, having turned the talk into channels political, introduced, quite casually and naturally, the subject of the R.C. and U.C.

"I'm afraid there's no doubt," he remarked, "that at the present moment our party's undergoing a general set-back throughout the country. Swing of the pen dulum, I suppose ——"

"Tariff reform, more likely," interposed William Trinder.

"Well, I dare say that has something to do with it,"

admitted Fitzjawkins, affably. "Anyway, there it is. I notice many signs of it in my own constituency. There's our local Conservative club now—excellent institution, doing capital work, providing working men with all sorts of advantages, and yet, owing to constantly diminishing support, it's in serious danger of going on the rocks. I was talking to A. J. about it only yesterday" (this, of course, was a pure myth), "and telling him that, if things didn't look up, we should soon have to close our doors. He begged me, at any cost, to get our people to hold on until after the next election. But I told him plainly that we couldn't do so without funds. And he said he'd try and get some wealthy member of the party to come to our assistance. I'm sure I hope he'll succeed. It will give the party a nasty knock in Rottenborough if our club goes under, and very likely lose me the seat, into the bargain. However, we must hope for the best."

"But expect the worst," struck in Betts, sententiously.

"Lay you five to one the wealthy philanthropist dcesn't materialise, Algie. Men who plank down thousands in the party interest look for some more likely field than—excuse my saying so—an insignificant concern like your Rottenborough Club. They want to give their oof where it will attract public attention and get them a title or an order. Don't blame 'em, either. Politics is a business, not a charity, when all's said and done."

"Ah! But if the oof's found to oblige A. J., you bet A. J. won't forget the finder," replied Fitzjawkins, with a knowing wink. "Besides, even if he should—well, there always the governor to fall back upon. He's only an under-secretary, it's true but he can still pull a wire or two. But there, don't let us spoil a rippin' dinner with any more of this beastly shop."

"Hang it all, man, you began it," said Betts.

"*Peccavi*," laughed Fitzjawkins. "And now, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the previous question."

Thus the subject was thrust aside with a careless jest. That was part of the game—not to emphasise it unduly. But enough had been said for the purpose. The ground bait had been artfully laid for the observant fish. It remained to be seen whether or not the fish would take it.

The said fish—Trinder's Peptonised Pig's Feet—made no sign, at the moment, one way or the other. But, after dinner, when they adjourned to the smoking-room, he paired with Fitzjawkins and, over a cigar and coffee, led the conversation round to the Rottenborough Conservative Club.

"Sorry to hear that Club of yours is in such a dicky state," he remarked.

"Yes; beastly nuisance. But it can't be helped," answered Fitzjawkins, elaborately suppressing an imaginary yawn, as though he were sick of the tiresome subject.

"It is certainly a case in which some rich man ought to come forward," said Trinder, not to be put off.

"Oh! I don't know," rejoined the other, carelessly, "rich men have so many claims on them nowadays, that one can't expect too much. However, I know A. J. will work the oracle for me, if he can. And if he can't—why, what will be, will be," added Algie Fitzjawkins, with easy fatalism.

"I don't see why the thing need be left to chance at all," pursued William Trinder, "I suppose the sum required is nothing so very enormous."

"Depends upon what you call enormous," answered Fitzjawkins. "It's not exactly a flea-bite, anyway. To pay off the mortgage on the premises and put the thing on a really sound basis can't be done a penny under seven thousand pounds."

"Is that all?" remarked William Trinder.

"All?" ejaculated Fitzjawkins, sorry now that he hadn't said ten thousand. "You talk of seven thousand as though it were a mere bagatelle."

"Hardly that," rejoined William Trinder, "seven thousand pounds is seven thousand pounds, of course—a considerable sum of money; not so considerable, however, but that there must be plenty of public-spirited men able and willing to provide it, in so good a cause."

"Wish I could find 'em," laughed Fitzjawkins, secretly delighted to see how his fish was rising.

"I can find you one such man, at any rate," answered William Trinder.

"You can?" ejaculated Fitzjawkins, with feigned astonishment. "Who?"

"Me," said William Trinder, whose grammar was not always according to Lindley Murray.

"Oh, come! you're joking," cried Fitzjawkins.

"Devil a bit," said William Trinder.

"But, I say! This is really too good of you," exclaimed Algie.

"Mr. Fitzjawkins," answered Trinder, looking his companion steadily in the eyes, "I'm a plain man, and I won't attempt to beat about the bush with you. You may as well understand at once that I don't make you this offer out of pure philanthropy. If I find seven thousand pounds for the Conservative party, I shall expect due—ahem!—recognition from the party leaders; and I should only give the money on that clear understanding,"

"Now, I call that damned honest of you, to put the case so frankly," replied Fitzjawkins. "I like a man who talks straight and doesn't put on any humbugging pretences. You know where you are then, and can do business properly. There will be no difficulty about this 'recognition'—within reason, of course. Will you tell me, in confidence, what you expect?"

"I would be content with a Knighthood," answered William Trinder, modestly.

"Oh, it will run to that, all right," replied Fitzjawkins, with confidence.

"I will not ask for any guarantee," continued William Trinder. "Your word, as a gentleman, is enough."

"Right O! you needn't be afraid of my letting you down," replied Algie, implying, but not (you will note) actually giving, the required pledge.

Trinder, however, not suspecting any double dealing, was quite satisfied.

"I will send you a cheque to-morrow morning," he said, briskly.

He sent the cheque, and Algie paid it into his bankers. This, in the Scriptural phrase, was "the beginning of sorrows." For just now, as fate would have it, our M.P.'s creditors, who, hitherto, had been commendably patient, began to grow restive; and a considerable part of Trinder's £7,000 had to be spent in satisfying their pressing demands. Consequently only quite a small fraction found its way into the coffers of the R.C. and U.C.—just enough to tide things over and no more.

It was awkward, in more ways than one. There was the matter of the Knighthood, for instance. Even if Fitzjawkins could have brought Trinder's name before the Prime Minister, backed by that gift of £7,000 to the Rottenborough Conservative Club, it is improbable that he could have got the donor his promised titular distinction. But, as it was, he could not venture to bring Trinder's name forward at all; since to do so was simply to call attention to an irregularity which he must, at any cost, conceal.

Consequently, he did nothing, but just let matters slide.

However, "Trinder's Peptonised Pigs' Feet" was not the man to take this sort of thing lying down, as Algie Fitzjawkins soon found. By the end of six weeks, having heard nothing whatever of his expected knighthood, he began to make himself troublesome. It was in vain that Algie tried to put him off with various excuses. Trinder saw that he was merely being played with, and soon let the other see that he didn't mean to stand it. He called upon Fitzjawkins, one afternoon, at the latter's house in Eaton-place, and tackled him in the most determined manner.

"Look here, Mr. Fitzjawkins," he began. "About that knighthood you promised to get me——"

"Yes, yes, my dear Mr. Trinder—that will be all right—perfectly all right," interposed Algie, hastily. "But these things take time, don't you know. Any amount of routine and red-tape and all that sort of thing. Government offices are never in a hurry. It's against their principles."

"That won't do for me, Mr. Fitzjawkins," retorted William Trinder, looking very unpleasant and resolute. "I'm sick of excuses. And I won't listen to any more

of them. It's my belief you have never brought my name before the Prime Minister at all."

"Oh! I assure you, Mr. Trinder, you are entirely mistaken. . . . I—I—mentioned the matter to our chief some weeks ago, and he promised to give it his favourable consideration."

"Umph! That can easily be ascertained by inquiry," answered Trinder, rudely.

"Oh! If you mean to say you doubt my word," retorted Algie, making rather a feeble attempt to assume the insulted man of honour. "I decline——"

"Besides," pursued Trinder, ignoring the interruption, "I have reason to believe that only a small fraction of my seven thousand pounds, given expressly for the benefit of the Rottenborough Conservative Club, has ever found its way into the hands of the treasurer of that institution."

"Really, Mr. Trinder, now you are accusing me of cheating. I never heard of anything so——"

"Yes, Mr. Fitzjawkins," interposed the other, bluntly. "I am accusing you of cheating; what then?"

And he looked the unhappy Algie steadily in the face.

"What then?" he repeated.

"It's a—a—damned lie," cried Algie, trying to look righteously indignant, and failing signally.

"If you persist in that statement, I shall insist—as a subscriber—on seeing the club's books," answered William Trinder, with cold determination.

Then Algie saw that the game of bluff was up, and that his only course was to confess, and, as far as possible, to excuse, what could be no longer concealed.

"Well, I did borrow some of the money to tide me over a temporary embarrassment," he admitted.

"The law has an ugly name for this sort of borrowing," said William Trinder, grimly.

"The law?"

Algie Fitzjawkins stood aghast at this thinly veiled threat of criminal proceedings.

"I should be sorry, of course, to have to take so extreme a line," replied William Trinder; "but unless I can get some sort of satisfaction, I shall be compelled to do so."

"You mean, you must have your knighthood?"

"No, Mr. Fitzjawkins, I do not mean that; for I am perfectly well aware that your political influence is so trifling that you could never obtain it for me. But there *are* other directions in which you can be useful to me—*social* directions; and it is here that I venture to invite your co-operation," said William Trinder, in a meaning tone.

"W-what the deuce do you mean?" stammered Algie.

"I mean," answered Trinder, coolly, "that if you will get your wife, Lady Mary, and your mother, the Countess, to call upon Mrs. Trinder, to invite us to their houses, and to introduce us to the right sort of people, I will neither press the matter of my knighthood nor ask inconvenient questions about my seven thousand pounds."

Algie Fitzjawkins, seeing that he was fairly cornered, had no option but to submit to these terms.

"Trinder's Peptonised Pigs' Feet" went home and told his wife the result of his interview.

"But, William, suppose he plays us false over this, as he did over the knighthood," remarked the lady, dubiously.

Trinder smiled:

"My dear Harriet, I have the whip hand of him now. He will not dare to play us false again," he said. "And, as for that knighthood—you don't imagine I ever expected to get it, do you?"

"Didn't expect to get it, William? Then why on earth did you part with seven thousand pounds?"

"For a very good reason, Harriet. I knew that the Fitzjawkins' interest was politically nil, though socially of considerable value. I therefore pretended to fall into the fellow's political trap in order that I might catch him in my social trap—see?"

"You mean you entrusted him with the seven thousand on purpose that he might appropriate it and so place himself in your power?"

"Precisely. I had ascertained that he was in debt, and calculated that, if his creditors began to press him, he would succumb to the temptation; in which calculation, as the event has proved, I was entirely justified."

"Rather risky, William, all the same," rejoined his cautious better half. "For where would your scheme have been but for the fortunate coincidence which led his creditors to start pressing him at that particular crisis?"

"Trinder's Peptonised Pigs' Feet" laughed outright. "Coincidence? Oh! my dear," he said, when he had recovered from his amusement. "Really, you don't give your William credit for much management. As if I should leave a thing like that to coincidence!"

ART NOTES.

THERE are quite a number of picture shows open at present—some of them interesting. There are, for instance, the works of two deceased painters, both of more than respectable eminence—those of the late Mr. Robert Brough at the Burlington Fine Art Society, and of the late Mr. James Charles, at the Leicester Galleries. Then there is one of caricatures, at the Baillie Galleries in Baker-street, which suggests, for the hundredth time, the absorbing problem whether Mr. Bernard Shaw or Mr. G. K. Chesterton be the most widely illustrated man of the moment. Mr. Chesterton, I may say, is easily first at the Baillie Galleries, but that is only one victory out of many stricken fields. And certainly I have never seen, either in Baker-street or elsewhere, any portrait of Mr. Chesterton that is as wildly and improbably unlike him as was M. Rodin's caricature bust of Mr. Shaw at the International Show—which is, I admit, rather beside the question. Then, at the Fine Art Society's Galleries we have a number of very breezy sea-sketches by Mr. W. L. Wylie—whose paintings always impress me as being among the most potent arguments against the necessity for a Channel Tunnel with which I am acquainted—and water-colours by Mr. E. Wake Cook, whose work always interests me, not because I find it wildly exciting in itself, for, to be frank, I don't, but because Mr. Cook has, in his time, expressed in print very cogent and straightforward views upon "Anarchy in Art," with which I am very largely in agreement.

But of the two exhibitions which interest me most this week, one is that being held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, and which was opened by Mrs. Holman Hunt on Thursday, and the other is not a picture show at all. It is, or was, a well-advertised determination on the part of certain lady-artists to take part, in their corporate capacity as painters, in a Women's Suffrage procession. I do not know whether their intention was carried out or not. I understand, for one thing, that the weather proved unpropitious, but whether or no, I welcome their intention. Not because I am at all interested in the Suffragettes—who are certainly not artistic, whatever else they may be—but because it shows that there are women-artists of to-day who are not devoid of initiative. I take it for granted, by the way, I trust upon sufficient grounds, that the women-artists in question did initiate the proposal, and did not have it forced upon them by other, more resolute and daring, of their sisters. I am very anxious not to be misunderstood. I do not say that there are no women-painters of to-day who possess initiative. I could mention at least half-a-dozen, one of whom I am credibly informed was observed, during the passing of the Suffrage Procession, surveying her bedraggled sisters from the pavement of the Haymarket with a smile of pitying compassion. But I do maintain that when women-artists collect themselves into a society—from which male artists are excluded—their work seems to lose at once, in general, all the best qualities which may (or may not) attend the artistic efforts of each member in particular—to become, in a word, feeble, timid, and characterless. I have frequently found occasion to say this. Not to labour the point any further, I would suggest that any one who has any doubt on the truth of my statements should visit the exhibition now being held by the Society of Women Artists in Suffolk-street, and judge for him or herself. And that is why I welcome the fact that a number of women-artists gathered into a society, however temporary in its nature, should have mustered up sufficient initiative and energy to determine, even if they did not carry out the determination, upon anything so dashing

as a walk from Hyde Park Corner to Exeter Hall upon a muddy afternoon.

It is but a short ride upon a motor-'bus from Exeter Hall to Whitechapel, and I very much hope that some of the artistic demonstrators, having registered their vows of martyrdom at the former classic spot, afterwards journeyed eastward to the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Because if they did, they very likely learned a good deal about one of the directions, at least, in which Art may be made a serious benefit to the community instead of a laughing stock. Nowadays most of us have come to think that the one useful purpose of the word "Art" is to be degraded to the better advertising of some article of commerce to which it can be ever so remotely applied. While the one excuse for the existence of the artist—judging from appearances, as most of us, alas! do—is to paint feeble little pictures which are of no particular use to anybody, to exhibit them in a West End gallery at 1s. entrance fee and sixpence for the catalogue, and trust to the purchases of charitable friends to make a profit out of it. Why anybody, save the artist's friends, should ever pay a shilling to see the pictures exhibited at the average "one-man" or "one-woman" show—I mean, of course, the average of those endless shows by painters whose reputations are not sufficient to make their names familiar to even the small art-loving public—is one of the mysteries of civilisation. Why these same shows are held at all is another. They do not pay the artist; the gallery proprietors will tell you, and who should know better, that they make little or no profit out of them—the public never enters them—try it upon any day subsequent to the "Private View," and you may view them in a state of privacy to which nothing is comparable but the grave. "Vanity, vanity," saith the prophet. And he is right nine times out of ten.

Now if you go to Whitechapel you will find a fine gallery hung with fine pictures, entrance to which is absolutely free. I do not refer only to the present exhibition, but to any of the series which have preceded it and will follow it. You will find not only pictures that are beautiful in themselves and the works of great masters—very probably, also, of great historical interest as well—but if you are one of those whom fortune has not blessed, and whose opportunities for acquiring knowledge have been limited to a Board School, you will find guides who have the subject at their finger tips ready to show you round and explain everything to you in language you can understand, and help you to cultivate the little seed of appreciation of the beautiful which lies dormant in every human bosom. And even if you have not a penny in the world you will be able to afford the entrance fee. You can attend lectures on Art there, into the bargain, if you will. Now that seems to me something like a picture show. It is placed at the service of those who need it most, to whom hitherto the word "Art" has meant nothing; it directs a ray of beauty into the lives of those to whom beauty has been no more than a name; it shows to those who have little chance of learning it elsewhere that there are human ideals higher than those of satisfying the material needs of the body It seems to me that when the Artistic Day of Judgment comes Whitechapel will have a better chance of salvation than all Bond-street taken together, with Burlington House and the New Gallery thrown in as make-weights.

MUSIC.

THE OUTLOOK AT COVENT GARDEN.

THE appointment of Mr. Percy Pitt to succeed M. Messager as musical director at Covent Garden, in conjunction with Mr. Neil Forsyth as general manager, is an important step, which may conceivably mark the beginning of a new era in the history of our only opera house. The qualifications of both Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Pitt are, of course, well known. Mr. Forsyth has long since made himself quite indispensable to the Royal Opera Syndicate as their right-hand business man, while Mr. Pitt has been connected with Covent Garden for several years now as deputy musical adviser, assistant producer, and general utility man, and during that period has won the unqualified respect of all who have come in contact with him on both sides of the curtain. Last year, it will be remembered, he achieved the rare distinction, for a native-born musician, of actually conducting at Covent Garden; he is himself a composer of repute, with thoroughly modern sympathies; he possesses the necessary linguistic powers; and generally there is every reason to believe that he will prove himself fully equal to the duties of his new position. There was always something of an anomaly in having a French composer as musical director of what stands for our national opera house, and on this score alone Mr. Pitt's appointment is matter for satisfaction. It is hardly to be supposed that any epoch-making changes will immediately result, but important developments may be witnessed in the near future, none the less.

The increasing popularity of opera in London has frequently been commented on of late. The advance made during recent years has really been remarkable. Slowly but surely grand opera seems to be making its way as an established institution in London. So far as the regular fashionable season is concerned, little or no anxiety is now experienced. Vast profits may not be realised, but there is no question as to the stability and permanence of the arrangements which have been established, and in the result we are sure of at least three months of grand opera of the highest quality every year. This much accomplished, the rest would seem to be following in the shape of the "extra" seasons given in conjunction with the Royal Opera Syndicate, which have lately become part of the established order of things. First there came the San Carlo Company in the autumn. This year we have had, in addition, a winter season of German opera, and in view of its extension for an additional fortnight, it seems fair to hope that it has been sufficiently successful financially to warrant its repetition next year. Then we are to have, it seems, the Carl Rosa Company in a season of opera in English next Christmas, when, it is said, the whole of "The Ring" will be given for the first time in the vernacular.

Here, therefore, are signs and portents not to be overlooked. We may not have quite reached yet the goal of opera all the year round, but we are certainly getting on that way. Significant progress is being made in another respect also—namely, in the matter of the increasing employment of native singers; and it is an open secret that the present authorities at Covent Garden are quite inclined to go a good deal further in this direction. The difficulties in the way of native vocalists aiming at operatic success are obvious enough. They have to sing in foreign languages; no proper training schools are available for them here; they have to stand comparison with foreign singers representing the pick of all the world, and, in addition, there is the "anti-patriotic bias" to be reckoned with on the part of not a few still convinced that our native singers can never stand in opera against those from abroad. All honour, therefore, to those, such as Mme. Kirkby Lunn and Mme. Agnes Nicholls, who have so successfully fought their way to the front; and all credit also to the management who have given them their opportunities. The sound policy thus well begun must now be followed up and developed.

The claims of British composers, as well as of native vocalists, are also to be considered. In this connection it is interesting to remember that a new work by an English musician will probably be one of the features of the coming grand season in the shape of the winning opera submitted in the Ricordi competition. It will be remembered that a prize of £500 plus 40 per cent. of the performing fees was offered by Messrs. Ricordi, and it is understood that in response there has been received a large number of works, which are being examined at the present time by the appointed judges, to wit, Dr. Richter, M. Massenet, Signor Tito Ricordi, and Mr. Joseph Bennett. One of the conditions of the competition is that "the prize opera will be produced at Covent Garden Theatre during the grand opera season of the year 1907, in accordance with the arrangements made between Messrs. G. Ricordi and Co. and the Grand Opera Syndicate, Limited"; so that unless some unfore-

seen cause of postponement arises, we may expect to hear the work in the course of the summer. Its production will certainly be an event of no little interest, and one tending emphatically in the right direction. Altogether, therefore, the operatic outlook in London is quite uncommonly encouraging at present.

The German opera performances at Covent Garden continue to prove attractive. On Saturday, for instance, there was an audience which, in point of size, would have done no discredit to the grand season, the work being "Tristan," with Herr van Dyck in his old part of the hero and a new Isolde in Frau Leffler-Burckhardt. Neither can be regarded as completely satisfactory from the vocal point of view, but both are experienced artists who know their work and played up to each other dramatically, with good results. Others in the cast were Mme. Marie Brema (always an admirable Brangäne), Herr Feinhals (a sound Kurwenal), and Dr. Felix von Krauss (once again a dignified and vocally pleasing King Mark). Herr Schalk was the conductor. Earlier in the week an interesting performance was that of "Die Walküre" on Wednesday afternoon, with Mme. Agnes Nicholls appearing as Sieglinde for the first time. By all accounts she did remarkably well. Another feature of this performance was the reappearance of Mr. David Bispham in his old part of Hunding. Here is the right remedy for the afflictions which we suffer at the hands of singers of the Teutonic school. We must grow our own vocalists to replace them.

Truly it never rains but it pours. In addition to the four different seasons of opera which we seem likely to have in the course of the current year at Covent Garden, we are also to have shortly, it appears, a season of German comic opera at the Adelphi Theatre. This is to be provided by the company of the Berlin Komische Opera, who are to be imported en bloc, band and all, and to be heard in such things as Offenbach's "Hoffmann's Erzählungen" (a work which there has been talk of doing at Covent Garden before now), Délibes' "Lakmé," and similar works. According to present arrangements the season will begin about the middle of April, and run for some eight weeks. I hope sincerely that the venture may succeed, but it is difficult to resist misgivings. Comic opera in a foreign tongue makes a somewhat limited appeal—even more so, perhaps, than grand opera. This might be reckoned curious, perhaps, but the explanation is obvious enough. In grand opera the music is the main thing, and the words are of less account; in comic opera the conditions are very different. However, every one will hope that the coming season may prove a success notwithstanding.

Concerts just at present are hardly so numerous as usual at this time of the year, though it would hardly do, perhaps, to count on a continuance of this happy state of affairs. At the first of the Philharmonics last week Mme. Carreño was the bright particular star of the evening, and in that capacity blazed effulgently as ever. Once again she elected to be heard in Tchaikowsky's B-flat minor concerto, and there is probably no pianist living—man or woman—who could have played that brilliant work more brilliantly. Miss Amy Castles was the vocalist, and Mr. Colonne (no competent native conductor being available, it must be supposed) conducted. On Friday the Bach Choir did Parry's "Sinfonia Sacra," entitled "The Love that Casteth Out Fear," a work best described, perhaps, as earnest, Bach's Sanctus in D, and Beethoven's choral fantasia (with Herr Buhlig at the piano); but it was not altogether a very stimulating evening. In the way of chamber concerts there have been performances by the Hans Wesseley Quartet; by Miss Ethel Barns and Mr. Charles Phillips; by Mr. Hans Neumann and Mr. Walter Handel Thorley, and others.

Pianists have been represented by M. de Pachmann, who had a crowded and appreciative audience, as usual, on Saturday, while the Chappell ballad concert was another entertainment on the same afternoon which drew a large audience—Mme. Agnes Nicholls, Mr. Ben Davies, and other well-known artists appearing among the singers, while Mr. Fritz Kreisler contributed violin solos, and Mr. George Grossmith gave a musical sketch. On Monday the London Symphony Orchestra did Beethoven's Mass in D, with the assistance of the Leeds Chorus—a stupendous undertaking, which was accomplished about as successfully as could fairly be expected. For Tuesday, piano recitals by Herr Emil Sauer and Mr. Leonard Borwick were announced, and this evening (Wednesday) the Royal Choral Society are tackling "The Dream of Gerontius."

The announcement that the authorities of the Tottenham Council schools have thought it advisable to put an end to the wholesale teaching of the violin to their scholars on the so-called "Maidstone" principle is one to be noted with satisfaction. Reference has frequently been made in these columns to the absurdity involved in trying to teach the violin in this wholesale manner, and to the undesirable nature of the scheme in other respects, and apparently the authorities in question, after practical experience of it, have come to take the same view. The scheme is one run, it may be remembered, in the interests of a firm of instrument makers, who, to push it, offer a handsome commission to teachers on the violins purchased by the pupils—or rather by their parents—payment for which is usually made on the instalment principle. From the brief reports which have appeared, I gather that it is this instalment arrangement which has had not a little to do with the Council's decision—one member being reported as saying that thousands of homes are destroyed each year in this way. The worthy councillor was doubtless referring to the instalment principle in general here rather than to the particular instance in question, but I can well conceive of any number of happy homes being broken up by the scraping of the youthful scholars upon the cheap instruments so acquired.

The defence offered by the Rev. Dr. Tremlett, Commissary in England of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, U.S.A., in respect of the "degree" of Mus.D. conferred on that eminent musician Mr. J. H. Lewis, of the Guild of Church Musicians, is not very convincing:—

> The University of the South grants Honorary Degrees *in absentiâ*, as other Universities do, on special grounds only to men eminent in science or literature—not to ordinary scholars. With regard to Dr. Lewis, the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Temple), when Bishop of London, recommended Dr. Lewis for the Mus. Doc. degree, and out of consideration to the Bishop's high standing in the Church, the University, being a Church institution, acceded to the Bishop's recommendation and granted the degree.

From this it might be supposed by the innocent that the late Archbishop of Canterbury was the prime mover in the matter, and that the University gracefully conceded the point out of deference to his wishes. Certainly no one would suspect that Dr. Temple could have written afterwards that "Mr. Lewis has obtained a degree which is of no value at all." Nor would it be deduced, perhaps, that it is the practice of the University in question to grant similar degrees to all and sundry on the strength of a bishop's signature—and the payment of the requisite fees.

Friends and admirers in this country of the eminent American composer, Mr. Edward MacDowell, will be glad to learn that favourable progress is being made with the fund which has been instituted to provide for his care and support now that the state of his mental health unhappily precludes him from doing any further work. It was believed at one time that Mr. MacDowell might possibly recover, but seemingly little hope is now entertained of this, and the public has accordingly been called upon to recognise its obligations and come to the support in his affliction of one of America's most richly gifted sons. The committee which has the matter in hand includes the names of some of the most distinguished public men of the day, and there is every reason to believe that by their efforts the wants of the afflicted composer and his dependents will be satisfactorily provided for. Should any of Mr. MacDowell's English admirers feel disposed to contribute, the treasurer of the fund is Mr. E. C. Benedict, 60, Wall-street, New York.

So little has been heard of Humperdinck recently that it is pleasant to read very favourable accounts of his latest work, described as "a musical fairy tale" for soloists, female chorus, and orchestra, entitled "Bübchen's Weihnachts-Traum," which has recently been

given in Berlin. We have heard far too little from Humperdinck since "Hänsel and Gretel," and at present he bids fair to go down to posterity, like "Single-speech Hamilton," on the strength of one achievement only.

A good friend of music has passed away in the person of Mr. Thomas Threlfall, whose death was announced last week. Not only as chairman of the committee of the Royal Academy of Music and as chairman of the Associated Board, but in many other ways Mr. Threlfall did much for the encouragement of the art in London, and many an individual performer could testify to helpful advice, and in not a few instances generous assistance received from one whose interest in music was none the less sincere because it was combined with a singularly unostentatious nature.

A trenchant writer in that always informing publication, the *Monthly Journal* of the International Musical Society, has been falling foul of some of the Aubrey Beardsley illustrations in a recently issued Wagner volume—specimens, as he calls them, of that artist's "immund extravagancy":—

In these unnatural pictures, the stalwart Siegfried's limbs become carrot-like distortions, and his celebrated sword a short fine rapier. Isolde, who wears a tea-gown of to-day, has a body about 10 feet tall to a face about 3 inches long. Venus is nothing but an uncombed wicked-looking dot-eyed little trull. Fricka's figure is like symbolical wall-paper with a face added. All such art is founded on monstrosity, and indicates rather a reversion to savagery than any development of our civilisation. Whatever views are held about some of Wagner's opera-plots, there must have been grave error of judgment to suppose that this decadent style was fit to be associated with them.

What will the Beardsleyites (if such still exist) say to this?

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I do not know when I have read a more tantalising biography than "The Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn" (1). No doubt Miss Bisland has done what she could to repay in this biography the idolatry of herself expressed in his letters by Lafcadio Hearn; but her merely prefatory life of him gives you only such a silhouette of her subject as his portrait in the frontispiece, while she has not furnished a single note in elucidation of the letters which constitute the bulk of the two volumes. There is, again, the further and greater tantalisation of the fragments of autobiography, which are at once so intrinsically interesting and so exquisitely recounted as to recall De Quincey's famous "Confessions." But neither De Quincey, nor any other English writer of equal genius with Lafcadio Hearn, had such adventures. From the time of his birth in the island of Cerigo, from a Greek mother by an Irish father, to the day of his sudden death in Japan and burial with Buddhist rites as a Japanese citizen, Lafcadio Hearn led something of the life of his remote ancestors, the gipsies. Of this eventful life we get only occasional glimpses, as through scudding clouds, but we see at least enough of it to infer at once its extreme interest and its extreme forlornness. Hearn was, so to say, born a hermit crab with a body shell-less and sensitive, but not without formidable claws. His sensitiveness, I imagine, accounts for his supposed fickleness or ingratitude in dropping suddenly the friends he had adopted enthusiastically—his sensitiveness, and also, as Professor Chamberlain suggests, his idealism. "Friends," says the Professor, "when he first made them, were for him more than mortal men: they stood endowed with every perfection. He painted them in the beautiful colours of his own fancy, and worshipped them, pouring out at their feet all the passionate emotionalism of his Greek nature." Then

"A something light as air, a look,
A word unkind or wrongly taken,"

or even a failure to worship Herbert Spencer, or to worship him precisely as he ought to be worshipped by the orthodox, would disillusion Hearn with his dearest friend, who was forthwith dropped. He seems, too, to have fallen in and out of love with nations in the same headlong way—with the nation, *e.g.*, which adopted him, with whom he was identified by his marriage, and through his pen—Japan. Perhaps, though, the seeming irreconcilability of his different impressions of Japan arose from the two different Japans of which he was speaking—the old and the new. It was when the old, child-like Japan was passing or had passed into the new that he became disillusioned.

"My conclusion is," he writes to Professor Chamberlain, "that the charm of Japanese life is largely the charm of childhood, and that this, the most beautiful of all race childhoods, is passing into an adolescence which threatens to prove repulsive. Perhaps the manhood may redeem all—as with English 'bad boys' it often does."

Yet his final impression, as expressed in his last letter but one to Miss Bisland, was:—

"I have learned about Japan only enough to convince me that I know nothing about Japan."

This bewildering effect of a deeper study of an inscrutable people reminds me of what Lord Carnarvon said many years ago to a leading journalist who was going over to Ireland to master the Irish Question. "Mr. ——," said his lordship, "after you have been a month in Ireland you will think you know all about it; after you have been two months, you'll know you know nothing"—and the journalist, in reporting the conversation to me, added drily, "I mean to stay a *month*." But Ireland is an absolutely transparent country as compared with Japan. And the baffling thing is, the more Europeanised the Japanese becomes in culture the less intelligible he becomes to Europeans in character.

"Here," writes Hearn to Hendrick, "is an astounding fact. The Japanese child is as close to you as the European child—perhaps closer and sweeter, because infinitely more natural and naturally refined. Cultivate his mind, and the more it is cultivated the further you push him from you. Why? Because the race antipodalism shows itself. As the Oriental thinks naturally to the left where we think to the right, the more you cultivate him the more strongly will he think in the opposite direction from you. *Finis*, then, sweetness, sympathy, friendship."

This certainly was Hearn's experience, since he found the adult Japanese so far from sympathetic as to be hostile, and hostile in sly, mean, and nasty ways. It is true that Hearn's supersensitiveness made him impracticable, and that, as Miss Bisland admits, his final resignation of his Japanese professorship was due to a preposterous misconstruction of the accidental intrusion of an English traveller into his class-room; yet even Hearn would not have misinterpreted this intrusion, but for all kinds of previous petty and treacherous Japanese intrigues to oust him from his position. Indeed, there can be no question as to the gross ingratitude towards him of the Japanese Government, and the measure it meted out to him is the measure of what it will mete out to all its Western servants when they have taught it enough to enable it to dispense with them.

"Life will be made wretched for the Occidentals," writes Hearn to Professor Chamberlain, "in business, just as it is being made in the schools, by all sorts of little tricky plans which cannot be brought under law provision, or even defined so as to appear to justify resentment—tricks at which the Japanese are as elaborately ingenious as they are in matters of etiquette and forms of other kinds. The nation will show its ugly side to us after a manner unexpected, but irresistible."

I hardly know how to define the charm of Lafcadio Hearn's letters, and can only say that you, too, are sure to find them absorbing.

If you have had the pleasure of reading "The Cardinal's Pawn" and "Major Weir," you will expect a thrilling story from the same pen; but you will hardly be prepared for the numberless and breathless adventures of the heroine of "The Ark of the Curse" (2). No man would be so unchivalrous as to subject a lady in the condition of the Countess de Beaucens to such frightful perils, privations, and sufferings as she endured among the Cagots and their and her enemies, and you are quite prepared for the sudden turn in the plot due to her child being stillborn. "Our Lady of the Snows'" condition, however, only deepens your sympathy with her sufferings and your interest in her adventures, which, indeed, is so keen that you resent the many passages you have to

(1) "The Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn." By Elizabeth Bisland. With Illustrations. Two Vols. (London: Archibald Constable & Co. 24s. net.)
(2) "The Ark of the Curse." By K. L. Montgomery. (London: Hurst & Blackett. 6s.)
(3) "The Sacrifice." By Alphonse Courlander. With a Frontispiece by Elsa Hahn. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)
(4) "The Dust of Conflict." By Harold Bindloss. (London: John Long. 5s.)
(5) "The Mill." By Ralph Harold Bretherton. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

read over twice to discover their meaning. Miss Montgomery writes so admirably that her occasional lapses into grotesque Meredithese a little irritates you. The motto of Mr. Courlander's powerful and painful "The Sacrifice" (3) might be Waller's

"Women born to be controlled
Stoop to the forward and the bold."

"Can a man be too kind?" asks "the poor craven bridegroom" of the novel, and is answered by the girl who finally elopes from him: "Oh, I think so. It's them that has cruel men likes their husbands best." The two men—the magnanimous but feeble creature she marries, and the mere but masterful animal she elopes with—are contrasted with singular power; and though your own masculine sympathies revolt from the brute who carries off the heroine, you are constrained to admit the naturalness of his triumph. The animal scenes and characters of "The Sacrifice"—and most of the scenes and characters are purely animal—are certainly drawn to the life. Mr. Harold Bindloss's "The Dust of Conflict" (4) opens somewhat incredibly with the unnecessary but chivalrous flight of the hero to America; but when he reaches Cuba and plays heroic part in the fighting there, your interest is roused, and grows henceforward to the end. Both the American girl and the heroine are natural and charming, and all ends well through the death in battle of the feeble and futile Tony Palliser. I think you will be interested in the fight about "The Mill" (5) and will be amused by the way in which finally the stubborn Saxon, John Burditch, beat in the battle the Norman bully, Reginald Talbot. The incidental characters, too, are well described, and your interest is kept up at a fair average level throughout.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

"Moltke in His Home" (Murray, 6s. net) is a delightful account of the domestic, social life of the great soldier and statesman. The author, Friedrich August Dressler, has not sought to write a biography of the Field Marshal, or to deal with the historical events in which he played so conspicuous a part. He has been content simply to set down his recollections of Moltke as he knew him in the intimacy of a close friendship, and the result is a most interesting picture of the man as he appeared in his home. The book has been translated by Mrs. C. E. Barrett Lennard, and Lord Methuen, who was also well acquainted with Moltke, contributes an introduction.

To their popular series of little books containing passages from the works of well-known authors, Messrs. Chatto and Windus have now added "The Pocket George Eliot," price 2s. As in previous cases, the selection of the extracts has been made by Mr. A. H. Hyatt.

It is stated that the Rev. R. J. Campbell is writing a book in which he will treat fully of the "New Theology" with which his name is identified. Messrs. Chapman and Hall expect to have the book ready next month.

In his new story, "Beatrice Kavanagh," published by Mr. Edwin Arnold, George A. Birmingham writes of the Gaelic League and other features of Irish life at the present day with the same intimate knowledge that he revealed in his previous novels, "The Seething Pot" and "Hyacinth."

Bentham, J. S. Mill, Cobden, Carlyle, Mazzini, and T. H. Green are the subjects of the collection of essays by Professor John MacCunn, of Liverpool University, which Mr. Edwin Arnold is publishing under the title of "Six Radical Thinkers."

Mr. A. W. àBeckett's "Recollections of a Humourist" will be published this week by Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons. The author, who was for more than twenty years assistant-editor of *Punch*, explains that he uses the word "humorist" in the sense that it gives him "the right to be grave or gay as the humour seizes him."

Mr. Francis Miltoun's "Rambles in Provence and on the Riviera," described in a volume just published (7s. 6d. net) by Messrs. Sisley, were accomplished on a motor-car. Like previous travel-books from the same pen, it is pleasant, entertaining reading, neither spoilt by tiresome topographical details, nor overloaded with more or less well-known historical facts. The book is charmingly illustrated in colours and monotone by Blanche McManus.

In "Shakespeare Studied in Six Plays" Mr. Albert S. G. Canning gives an exposition for the general reader of the leading ideas of some of the dramas, those dealt with being "Othello," "Macbeth," "King John," "Richard II.," "Henry IV.," and "The Merry Wives of Windsor." The book is published by Mr. Unwin, price 16s.

A first novel which is said to be written with unusual power is announced by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett. The new author is Patrick Hood, and "A Jury of the Virtuous" is the title of the book, which deals with the difficulties and temptations which a man once fallen in life has to contend with in retrieving his past. The sadness of the theme is, however, relieved by a charming love story.

Mr. Walter Sichel's singularly interesting biography of "Emma, Lady Hamilton" has passed through several editions since its first publication rather more than a year ago. A new popular edition, price 7s. 6d. net, has now been issued by Messrs. Archibald Constable and Co.

Mr. G. Locker Lampson is the author of a book entitled "A Consideration of the State of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century," which is being published by Messrs. Archibald Constable and Co. It gives an account of the social state of Ireland down to the rejection of the second Home Rule Bill, and also discusses the different measures that have been proposed and passed by Parliament in respect of Irish affairs, concluding with several suggestions for the future. Mr. Locker Lampson is a brother-in-law of the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is awaking from her social lethargy, and it seems as though we are going to have a rather gay season, now that Parliament has opened and brought so many people to town. That it is Lent does not seem to be taken into consideration as it was until some few years ago. Are we becoming an irreligious nation? It would rather seem so. The clergy are much concerned about our Sabbath-breaking, and I see that there was a great ruridiaconal conference near Maidenhead last week on this subject. Maidenhead may be said to be the queen of temptresses towards Sabbath-breaking, so great is the charm of the river just there, and so convenient are the trains on Sunday morning from Paddington.

We were at two dances last week, both held in the handsome Wharncliffe Rooms, where everything is so well done. The first dance was got up for a local object, and was remarkably well organised. There were about four hundred persons present, and both music and floor were capital. The second ball was organised by Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen in aid of the Windsor crèche, Princess Christian giving her patronage. The lovely ballroom looked extremely well, with one end of it arranged as a drawing-room, with a pretty carpet, abundance of flowers, and great palms, with their tubs cleverly draped. For a wonder, there were more men than women, with the consequence that some of the former got no dancing, or hardly any. There should really be a master of the ceremonies at every subscription dance, who could make introductions. He should be a paid official, wearing a badge or uniform by which he would be known to all as the person to whom to apply for partners. I remember one ball at which such an individual officiated. He was extremely useful to both chaperons who wanted partners for their charges and to men who wanted to dance but had no acquaintances in the room. As things are, there are would-be dancers of both sexes who, made eager by the inspirit-

Important to Ladies. — You can get the real genuine Horrockses' Longcloths and Flannelettes if you insist on seeing this stamp on the selvedge: 'Horrockses.' Obtainable from the principal Drapers. Over a century's reputation

ing music and the gaiety of the scene, can yet do nothing but look on, in the absence of an official M.C.

However, at the Windsor crèche ball, to our astonishment, we met a steward who actually performed the duties of a steward at a ball. He introduced men to girls, and even pronounced quite distinctly the names of each individual—no mean achievement, and a most unusual one. We admired him immensely both for his prowess and his activity. So few young men are active nowadays. The ball was a very great success. The Countess of Dundonald brought a large party, and so did Mrs. Ritchie, the Hon. Mrs. Howard, Mrs. T. R. Drake, and others. Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen managed so well that after deducting the expenses of printing, advertising, band, refreshments, flowers, programmes, and champagne supper, the crèche will receive close on £100. I regard this as a triumph.

A number of people came up from Windsor for the ball, and stayed the night at the Great Central Hotel, of which the Wharncliffe Rooms form a part. I am told that the idea was originated by Princess Christian herself, whose kind heart is greatly interested in the Windsor Crèche.

We went to see the "Morals of Marcus" at the Garrick one evening, and are thinking of writing to ask the manager the name of the sweet that Carlotta eats so enchantingly and so tantalisingly on a sofa while she hums a waltz tune. She tells "Seer Marcoos" that it is nougat, but was nougat ever so appetisingly soft? We thought it must be Turkish delight, such as Quentin sends us sometimes straight from Constantinople, some of which has nice little nutty bits in it. Are you thinking us very greedy? But, then, you have not seen Carlotta eat those bonbons!

Apropos of good things, we went to lunch with a German girl one day last week, who had cooked the whole meal. Why are not we British women equally clever and domesticated? We have never had a better luncheon, and the entire thing was as perfectly served as it was well-cooked. First came a soup called Flädern, after the tiny, very thin pancakes which floated in it; then a risotto of root vegetables, most delicious, afterwards veal cutlets cooked as we had them in Austria a year ago, not bone cutlets, but simply slices browned to a turn. Then a punch-pudding, so-called because flavoured with a little brandy, and quite excellent with a cream sauce served round it. And our hostess, after having cooked the whole thing, helped by a youthful maid, sat down to table as fresh and trim and dainty as possible. We admired her so much.

Girls of the same class in England would scorn to do likewise, which is by no means to their credit. In these days of servant difficulties—now intensified by the Compensation Bill—life would be made much smoother if the daughters in middle-class households would devote their mornings to cookery and other domestic arts. And how much happier these young women would be, too! A little good, honest work done in the morning gives a nice contented flavour to the whole day. Do you not find it so?

There are the K—— girls, four of them, sitting a dead weight on their wretched, overworked father's income, which grows smaller year by year. After breakfast they go into the drawing-room, poke the fire, and sit in easy chairs reading novels, while their poor mother wrestles with the insoluble problem of how to make 9d. do the work of 1s. She has often told me how hard she tries to make servants understand economy and practise it. They set it all down as meanness. And once she said to me, "Madge, I would give anything to see my girls take up some real work in the world, instead of wasting their days as they do in novel reading and bridge-playing. Something to exercise their brains upon." But girls who have been brought up to do nothing are the last to find out the blessings of work.

We were talking about them before Richard one evening, and he asked how many servants they kept. Four, we told him. "And those four plain girls doing nothing all day long." Asked what their lack of beauty had to do with it, Richard was ready. "Because it makes them unlikely to marry. Their father will have to support them until he dies. Why do they not send away three out of the four servants, keeping one to do the rough work, and let the four daughters do the rest?"

Thus Richard. If those young women heard him, how furious they would be. They would call him ever after, "that man," a highly opprobrious term, as you are aware. Whose fault is it? I am afraid it is the mother's. In her unselfishness she wants her girls to enjoy their youth, and it is pathetic to think that she goes quite the wrong way about it, for they are only discontented, restless, and ill-tempered, for lack of the sweetening influence of work.

A spinsters' and bachelors' dance is to be given on the last Tuesday of this month at the Grafton Galleries in aid of the Douglas Nursery in Hoxton. It is rather a novel idea, and is being got up by Miss Sylvia Dale, of 60, Onslow-gardens, S.W., from whom tickets may be had, price 12s. 6d., including a Benoist supper. The company will be limited to two hundred and fifty, so that the gallery will not be uncomfortably crowded for dancing. It ought to be a success. The cause is a good one. The Nursery, a branch of the Christian Social Union Settlement in Hoxton, will be three years old in July, and has done a good and kindly work by taking in daily the children of women obliged to go out to work, and who want their children looked after while they are away. Such a boon to these poor women, who are chiefly widows or deserted wives. The Nursery consists of two wards, one for cot babies and children under a year, the other for toddlers and bigger children. The management is in the hands of an executive committee of ladies. Muriel Viscountess Helmsley, who has taken a great interest in it ever since its start, and who is its most liberal supporter, is chairman, and has formed a West-End Committee to raise money. From this latter, two ladies are proposed to serve on the Executive Committee.

The children are taken care of from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m., and there is also a night ward, with accommodation for twenty babies, much appreciated in special cases. Parents pay 4d. a day for each child, and 3s. 6d. a week for those who remain at night, but, of course, the nursery is maintained entirely by voluntary subscriptions. Everything is economically managed, but wages are a necessarily heavy item, and it is hoped that the Spinsters' and Bachelors' Ball may bring in a substantial sum.

Lady Helmsley is, in addition, getting up a variety entertainment at 33, Belgrave-square on Thursday afternoon, February 28, in aid of the nursery crèche. As Mlle. Jeanne Laurent, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and Mr. Charles Capper are among those who have generously given their services, it is certain that the room will be full, and the tickets are very cheap, being only 5s. each. They may be obtained of Muriel Viscountess Helmsley, 48, Pont-street.

"Whipstart, uppersnapper," remarked Richard this morning, while reading the paper. "What language are you speaking?" I inquired, whereupon he said, "The only one I know—English. Why do you ask? I am calling some one an upstart and a whippersnapper." This reversal of initial letters is a snare into which some persons fall with peculiar readiness. A friend of ours informed us one day that she had been caking a mound of rawls. It sounded like operations with pastry, but it really meant that she had been making a round of calls. On another occasion, the same friend told her parlourmaid to be very careful in "depanting the court." You guess, of course, that she intended to say, "decanting the port."

I have just discovered the daintiest possible thing in teapots. You know what capital tea the old-fashioned brownware teapots make? But they are rather unsightly and very ill-suited in appearance to the appointments of a lady's teatable. A clever means of obviating this has been invented by Mrs. Wright, in the shape of a handsome silver cover for the humble little brownware pot.

Corset Krutoid.—The latest *nouveauté Parisien* in tricot forms an elegant and smart up-to-date contour and lengthens the waist line.—Write or call at Mesdames Sykes Josephine, & Co., The Royal Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, London.

This cover is fastened on by means of four small screws, and is removable. It presents a very pretty appearance. I saw some at Mrs. Wright's office, 186, Regent-street, one day last week. They are in various designs, one of which, in Indian silver, I very much admired. It would make a lovely lace design. Some are plainer than others, and on some of the lids the handle is covered also with silver. The open-work designs look extremely well with the brown just peering through, and there is a dark blue Doulton teapot with a handsome open-work cover, which is very much admired. These covers need only to be seen to be appreciated. Silver ones never make such good tea as the brownware, and are also much more expensive than these covers, besides being not nearly so pretty. I prophesy a great demand for them.

"I'm dying for a smoke!" said one young man to another at one of the dances we were at. He was rushing along a corridor at full speed in search of tobacco, and I wondered how long he could bear himself without a smoke. I suppose the craving is something similar to what we women have for tea at about five in the afternoon.

We were of the company at a dinner given by the American Circle of the Lyceum Club to the American Rhodes Scholars, and were much interested in the proceedings. The dinner was excellent, a fact which I carefully mention as I have been told that women's clubs are not always up to the mark in this particular. The ice, "biscuit-glacé Pompadour," was delicious. The toasts of the King and the President of the United States having been given that of the American Rhodes Scholars was proposed by Mme. Thayer, President of the American Circle. This lady expects great and beautiful things from these young men. Her thoughts flew like young eagles into the wide empyrean of hope, as she enthusiastically detailed to us the expected achievements of the scholars and prophesied the results that would follow. I watched the faces of one or two of those in whom the president placed such pathetic faith, and I thought to see their countenances express a certain humility, and even deprecation, as they listened. But it was not so. They accepted the whole programme without a doubt or hesitation, either feeling themselves absolutely competent to play the part sketched out, or else treating the lady's hopes and aspirations as a child treats the soap bubbles he blows, knowing that they are charming nothings.

One of the scholars told us in his speech that we have much to learn from America. True, no doubt, but it would have come better from some one else. Being probably struck by the icy silence with which his first remark had been received, our American hostesses being much too courteous to show approval, he added as an afterthought that America had much to learn from us. We were far too polite to applaud, but, like the parrot in the story, we thought the more. It is very interesting to find out what other nations think of us, especially the young ones. Ever since hearing this speech we have been vainly trying to pronounce the words "current" and "thorough" as monosyllables. The speaker did. We really must learn from Americans how to speak English. And they are so sweetly willing to teach us. I was reproved by one dear woman for not saying *enn*-velope, as she does when she wishes to mention an envelope. It seems that an assistant in the Stores had corrected her English pronunciation of the word and substituted the more usual French sound for the first syllable. All wrong, of course. I think a few series of lessons in the pronunciation of English undefiled, to be given by American professors, would be very valuable. Do you not agree?

"That master of civilised man, the bath-tub." Is not that a telling phrase? It is from a story of American life, "The Builders," by W. C. Emerson, and is noticeable in a setting largely composed of gold mines and robberies and murder. More than one officer who went through hunger, illness, cold, and overpowering fatigues in the Boer War, has told me that the thing that troubled him most was the lack of opportunity or water to have a tub! It seems to be peculiarly the Anglo-Saxon who is a slave to the habit. The Latins are amused and the Teutons indifferent on the point; and really I think their attitude must be the most comfortable and convenient, if not remarkably refined.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Most of us in our schooldays are in hearty agreement with the wise man that "much study is a weariness of the flesh," but later on we do not so readily accept his wisdom in laying down that "all is vanity and vexation of spirit." Or at least we do not feel inclined to act on the idea and avoid vain things, because of the consequent vexation of spirit. Let wisdom say what it will, the world which amuses itself never falters on its way, but pursues vanity with unflagging perseverance. It is always on the rush and the crush, come what, come may; the present is pleasant, let the future take care of itself and the vexed spirit deal with vexation when it approaches. "Seasons" might well be called the times of roses; even over here society shuts out from consideration all but the roseate view of life, and eagerly and zealously, so far as possible, gives itself up to pleasure during the Castle season. Outdoor pastimes, in which hunting plays a large share, by day, dinners, balls and parties of various kinds by night.

The chief entertainment last week at the Castle was the first State ball on Monday night, which was much crowded, the guests numbering over one thousand, or thereabout. They certainly looked to be assembled in more than hundreds. Dancing was at times trying enough to the staying powers of light and airy ball dresses, to say nothing of the tempers of their wearers. How hard it is for a girl to view with indifference the destruction of an arduously thought-out toilette, a dream of loveliness and becomingness, to say nothing of the cost of such a construction! And all through the War Office, against whom ball-goers at Dublin Castle have a really serious grievance! The military element, you know, predominates amongst the dancing men of the British stronghold in Ireland; they attend Castle festivities in uniform. The War Office, with grim humour, commands that the spurs of active service must be worn, by all entitled to wear spurs, in the ball-room. The spurs certainly do very active service in crowded dances. The new "Court" arrangement of St. Patrick's Hall, with the throne removed from the top to the side of the room, spoils the effect of the hall, and is awkward for dancing. On Monday night dancing took place in two rooms, and the entire suite of apartments was thrown open for refreshments, supper, and sitting out. Whatever drawbacks there might have been with regard to dancing, the scenic effect was brilliant. There was a large Viceregal party, amongst whom were Lady Desborough, Lord Portsmouth, Lady Wicklow, Lady Margaret and Miss Proby, Ladies Violet Brabazon, Louisa Longley, Kenmare, Dorothy and Cicely Browne, the Misses Margaret and Alice Carr Glyn. Many lovely dresses were worn, with brilliant embroideries, and softly silky of texture. And what an ornament hair is now to our sex! The amount worn by everyone, young and old, suggests that woman, in many cases, has learned, helped by the latest resources of civilisation, to crown herself with the crowning glory of a fine head of hair. The Victorian head of the plainly braided period grew no such profusion of hair. How "skimpy" were the ringlets of our grandmothers compared with the thick, waving, and fluffy tresses of their granddaughters. One hopes that all the strength of the wearers does not go into these haloes of hair, though in extreme cases it sometimes looks as if the head were entirely given up to its outside adornment. Lady Granard brought her daughters, so also did Ladies Mowbray and Stourton, Clinton, O'Neill, Stopford, Plumer, Butler, Arnott, Nixon, and many others. The ladies of the Viceregal household included Ladies Haddo, Hawkesbury, Celia Coates, Powerscourt, Clementine Waring, Lady MacDonnell, and Miss MacDonnell. Lord and Lady Grenfell were obliged to cancel all their engagements, owing to the sad death of Lady Victoria Grenfell, who was married to Lord Grenfell's nephew.

On Tuesday evening Lord and Lady Aberdeen, with a large Viceregal party, attended a charity ball for one of the numerous fine hospitals of Dublin, the entertainment being in every way a brilliant success. Sir John and Lady Arnott's ball took place on Wednesday, in their new house in Merrion Square. This residence of the Gort family in old days, and then of Lord Ash-

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bourne, is one of the finest, or perhaps the finest, in Merrion Square. The house, which has been newly done up, was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Lord and Lady Aberdeen, with a large Viceregal party and staff, were present, and, of course, the elect of society were assembled to have the honour to meet their Excellencies. Many beautiful dresses were worn, and many diamonds and other jewels. Lady Arnott was a charming hostess, and received much help from her pretty twin daughters in doing the honours of the occasion. A big dinner on Thursday at the Castle was followed by a small dance. These small dances—the guests numbering some hundreds—are indeed the cause of much vexation of spirit. Such grumbling about favouritism—justifiable, too. The same girls invited over and over again, and equally charming ones never asked at all. One wonders why such a reformer as Lady Aberdeen does not see to everyone having a turn and rigorously exclude the guests of the first small dance from the second, and so on. How many heartburnings, and even youthful tears, it would save! For little things are great to little men, including women. But indeed it seems no little thing to a girl to be deprived of expected opportunities for herself and her best frocks, and not alone that, but to see double quantities given to the other girls. Oh, these others! Which of us has philosophy enough to suffer gladly their getting our share as well as their own? Is it not the same with everything?—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Now that Lent is here, try these fillets of haddock à la Raymond:—

Fry a sliced onion with 2 tablespoonfuls of salad oil, mix a dessertspoonful of flour with water, to make half a pint of sauce, simmer it 20 minutes with a bouquet of herbs and rough vegetable, and then strain it. Put the sauce into an earthenware casserole and arrange the fillets of haddock in a circle on it, season it with salt and pepper, put 4 large, ripe tomatoes, with the skins and seeds removed, in the centre with a chopped pimento, cover all closely, and cook it in a hot oven for half an hour. Serve it with a napkin pinned round the casserole.

Rolled sandwiches à la Norvégienne are just the thing for "Bridge" suppers:—

Drain half a tin of Lax, pound it with the yolk of a hard-boiled egg and an ounce of butter, season it with a dust of cayenne, a few drops of lemon juice and chili vinegar, and rub it through a wire sieve. Spread the purée carefully on slices of new bread and butter, sprinkle it with chopped capers, trim and roll them very neatly. Dish the sandwiches prettily on a napkin and garnish them with mustard and cress.

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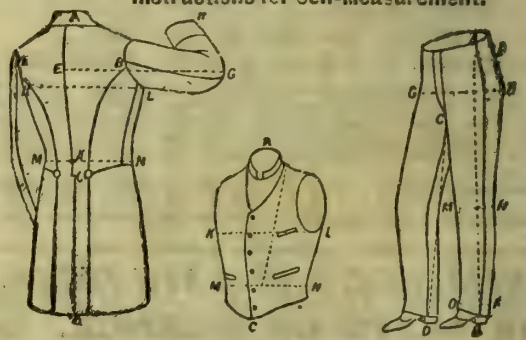

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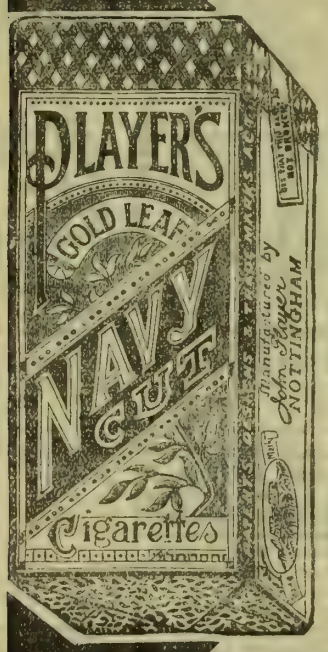

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0406

A REMARKABLE BOOK ON THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E, the distinguished authority on Hygienic Science and Health Questions, is evidently a believer in Thomas Carlyle's doctrine that there is no utility in pointing out misfortunes unless you at the same time indicate the remedy. In his remarkable little book, "The Art of Living," just issued from the press, Dr. Wilson not only points out that "Our first duty to ourselves is to check illness at the outset," but he follows up this admonition with the more welcome information how we are to do it. He, so to speak, says: "You have the evil of ill-health to fight. Now, here's the weapon to fight with. Strike for freedom." For example, he says: "Suppose a person has run down—feels languid and is easily tired. If he neglects this warning—for all such signs and symptoms are Nature's warning to us—the possibility is that he will pass further afield into the great lone land of disease. Can he do anything to save himself from such a disastrous result? In the vast majority of cases he can restore his vigour." How? Dr. Wilson tells his reader how without delay, adding at once this remarkable statement: "Probably he will be advised to take a tonic. This in the main is good advice. Unfortunately the number of tonics is legion, but if there exists any preparation which can combine in itself the properties of a tonic and restorative, and which at the same time can contribute to the nourishment and building up of the enfeebled body, it is evident such an agent must prove of the utmost value to everybody. I have found such a tonic and restorative in the preparation known as Sanatogen." How the distinguished author found this tonic he tells us in an interesting bit of autobiography. "Recovering from an attack of Influenza," he says, "and suffering from the severe weakness incidental to that ailment, Sanatogen was brought under my notice. I gave it a fair trial, and the results were all that could have been desired. In a short time my appetite improved, the weakness was conquered and without the use of any other medicine or preparation I was restored to health." It is easy to believe that this experience led the doctor to make a thorough investigation into this specific which had served him so well. Sanatogen, he tells us, "combines two distinct elements, one tonic and the other nutritive." Further, it is no "secret" remedy, for, as he pertinently observes: "Its composition is well known, otherwise medical men would not prescribe it." What the tonic and nutritive elements of Sanatogen are and how they effect so much good Dr. Wilson describes in simple, convincing terms. The whole passage is too long to quote, but one important remark of the writer may be given, namely, that one of the principal elements of Sanatogen "represents the substance which actually forms a very important, if not the most important, constituent of our brain and nervous system." How, through regenerating the nervous system, Sanatogen restores the functions of the digestive organs, and by rebuilding the tissues compensates the wear and tear of latter-day life; how it does away with the need of stimulants, and cures the sick by the natural method of making the body strong enough to drive out disease—all this, in the delightful style of Dr. Wilson's language, makes engrossing and pleasant as well as instructive reading. This last contribution of Dr. Wilson to the literature of Health may certainly be calculated to carry joyful news to the ailing and weary. A limited number of complete specimen copies of the "Art of Living," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., are being distributed free of charge. To obtain one of these copies the applicant must mention "TRUTH" in sending his name and address to the Publishers—F. WILLIAMS & Co., 83, Upper Thames St., London, E.C.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change the noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLES No. 1,457 and 1,458.

The awards in these two competitions will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,464.

The pun, or play upon words, is admittedly not the highest form of wit; still, if smart and appropriate, it is capable of producing considerable amusement, and adding something to the gaiety of nations.

One of the cleverest punning rejoinders on record was perpetrated by the celebrated Dean Mansel under the following circumstances:—He was dining with the head of a certain college at Oxford, and the latter, while carving a fore-quarter of lamb, spilt some of the gravy on the cloth.

"Pish, filthy mess," ejaculated the carver, annoyed by his own clumsiness.

"Hardly that, my dear Doctor;" replied the Dean, "but it is certainly lamb-on-table."

I have told this somewhat hoary anecdote in order to make clear to competitors the sort of thing I have in my mind, when I offer, this week, the usual Prize of Two Guineas for

The Best Example of a Smart and Appropriate Punning Rejoinder.

Such examples need not be original; though if at once original and witty, why so much the better. The only essential condition is that they should be *rejoinders*, and so, of course, should embody the remark that leads up to them. Subject to this condition, competitors are given an entirely free hand.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor should send in more than one example.

(ii.) All examples must reach Truth Office by the *first post* on Monday, February 25, *at latest*.

N.B.—From time to time I receive complaints from competitors of misprints in their solutions. Now in many, if not in most cases, such misprints are primarily due to lack of precision in the handwriting of competitors themselves.

May I, therefore, in the friendliest spirit possible, point out to those concerned that by the exercise of a little extra care in this direction they will be doing a real kindness both to the printers and myself, and, at the same time, will save themselves much unnecessary vexation.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Verbum Sat, winner of one-eighth of Prize No. 1,455, is Robert Nixon, Esq., 9, Rye Hill Park, Peckham Rye, S.E.

*** The real name, with the address, of Van Daub, winner of one-eighth of Prize No. 1,455, is Miss Ellen S. Burrell, c/o Miss Castle, 4, St. John's Church Road, Folkestone.

*** The real name, with the address, of Game B., winner of one-eighth of Prize No. 1,455, is Thomas Partridge, Esq., Beech Villa, Clarendon Road, Weston-super-Mare.

*** The real name, with the address, of Neale, winner of one-eighth of Prize No. 1,455, is Mr. Dwane, Inverness Villa, Brockhurst Road, Gosport.

*** The real name, with the address, of Steam Pipe, winner of one-eighth of Prize No. 1,455, is Bert J. Ball, Esq., 85, Monkton Street, Ryde, I. of W.

*** The real name, with the address, of Trebor Nitram, winner of one-half Prize No. 1,456, is Robert Martin, Esq., Ingleglade, Queen's Road, Colchester.

*** The real name, with the address, of Walfred, winner of one-half of Prize No. 1,456, is Fred Wallis, Esq., 8, Malwood Road, Balham Hill, S.W.

Ethna.—I much regret that your solution of Puzzle No. 1,460 was received too late for inclusion in the competition.

Maran.—Your name and address duly noted.

Aster.—I note your correction of printer's error; much obliged to you for pointing it out.

Rimabel.—Many thanks for your letter. I have substituted the "o" for the "is." I rather agree with your comments.

Neale.—You are still eligible for part of a Prize, to an amount not exceeding the difference between what you have already won and the full Two Guineas.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,461.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SENTENCES OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY WORDS, CONTAINING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF "SPOONERISMS."

When Pipe Pous was Rope of Pome, the Nuke of Dorfolk, with call tandle and fare beet, appeared. He offered himself bowl and sody to defend the Foman Raith.—Mac.

Vicar addresses committee of ladies on the subject of a projected poor children's tea party:—Say we open with key and toffee (tea and coffee), sandwiches—not the stale way ration (railway station) variety—then jamson is dam (damson is jam) well liked by youngsters. Work early, ladies, if only as late players (plate layers).—Kingston.

THE HUSBAND'S FAREWELL.

No time to be tost (time to be lost!) Put the cabbage on the lug (luggage on the cab), sake your teats (take your seats), tippy shall have a cab (cabby shall have a tip); I'll kiss the misses (miss the kisses), but you'll hit hard at your nose (knit hard at your hose.")—Ox Short.

Gentleman, the noble duke is here to-night, and it is now my proud privilege to beseech His Brace of Geese—I mean His Grace of Beestminster, to address you.—Aichdoubleu.

I ask the assistance of my hung helpers (young helpers) on behalf of a home for the duff and demb (deaf and dumb). Blokes and cooks (clooks and books) will be acceptable, and the friends badly feed nun(d)s (need funds).—Caeren.

Quotation from the speech of an irate shareholder at a general meeting:—"Were at a lead devil: the Maud beating considers the hair-shoulders silk mops. In future I'm going in for flaps and shots. I've had enough of shocks and stares!"—Hilly.

I saw Jack kiss Mattie and Pollie at the Shower Flow, but the girls went blushing through the rooms of rice-coloured noses, and soon there were titters at sea. (I saw Jack, Miss Kattie, and Pollie at the Flower Show, but the girls went rushing through the blooms of nice coloured roses, and soon there were sitters at tea.)—Nerno.

What the "Spoonerist" means to say:—When the rector speaks, bidding men no longer sleep in crime, he lifts above life's dusty levels the worshipping horde of ladies, cautious nurses, keen lads, and gentle maids. What he said: When the spectre reeks, bidding men no longer creep in slime, he lifts above life's lusty devils the worshipping Lord of Hades, nauseous curses, lean cads and mental jades."—Bandbox.

After buying a package of eggs and some new-laid pegs she churned into the church and heard the text, "Out of the fullness of the mouth the heart speaketh." Correct Version: After buying a package of pegs and some new-laid eggs, she turned into the church and heard the text, "Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh."—Ethna.

I love to wield a fork; to meet perchance a brown fig box, or perhaps a squirrel popping on its tiny drawers, and I so dote on tipsy gents! (Walk afield, big brown fox, dropping on its paws, gipsy tents.)—Thersites.

"Yahoo, Christen with curdly tea, the lucifers of Nancy and perspire with a negress the fat man of pope, to end at the hysterics of a racy lass of Ibsen's Ayah."* Which, please note, is "Spoonerism," for "Ye who listen with credulity to the whispers of fancy, and pursue with eagerness the phantoms of hope . . . attend to the history of Rasselas (prince) of Abyssinia." Sincerite.

* "Ayah" is an East Indian nurse, the Italian word for governess.

Whilst hunting over my grounds, and mildly cursing the wire, a big fox rushed through bogs and ditches, finally upsetting a gipsy tent. "Now I'm bagged," said the fox. The alternative sentence reads thus:—Whilst grunting over my hounds, and wildly cursing the mire, a fig box rushed through dogs and bitches, finally upsetting a tipsy gent—"now I'm fagged," said the box.—Lorna.

Smith has a horrible rabbit (roarable habit) of faking maces (making faces); his flastic pace (plastic face) shakes extraordinary tapes (takes extraordinary shapes); he wets his life (lets his wife) hake their mouse (make their house) a home for shaifs and ways (waifs and strays) and domeless hogs (homeless dogs).—Oiseau.

An old cricketer was once asked for advice on bowling, and this is what he said:—"A bird on the wall—the bricket call. He holes with his bed who coals for batches; thus battling rate, with bands round their hats, are bought and cold." This is what he intended to say:—"A word on the ball—the cricket ball. He bowls with his head who bowls for catches. Thus rattling bats, with hands round their bats are caught and bowled."—Fondrads.

A tree-sipper, track of all jades, city crises meal rashers with bright leeches, cockey Japs, and stalking wicks, for trailing hams for mummer's plates, mug-rakers and tar-lenders. The above should read:—A sea-tripper, Jack of all trades, criticises real mashers with light breeches, jockey caps, and walking-sticks, for hailing trams for plumber's mates, rug-makers and bar-tenders.—Eggs.

In a nosy cook, we had a sight lupper of peat-matties, hainty dam sandwishes, keak and stidney pie, some stink puff (called manc-blange), cea, toffee and binger geer.—Difisel.

She: Nice wedding, Mr. Downy? He: Just a slit bow, eh what! Reglar country spread, don't yer know. Lots of arming chaces, rippers and slice and tarty hosts, eh what!—Erinne.

Mrs. Malaprop remarks:—"These two neologies seem to me to far ant tether paint Saul and his wee frill. Pappily no heart of the old Gospel bray can be eaten out.—Trebor Nitram.

After fighting the liars and sewing the people into their sheets, he boiled his icicle, hushed his brat, and running straight as the fly crows, jumped into the fowh-drain.—Glenrosa.

Lecture to students:—"Gentleman, you really must be more punctual in your attendance, having tasted two worms already, and it is annoying always to see rooms of beery wenches."—Hatter.

Traveller to Porter:—I have two rags and a bug. Find me a nosey little cook in the town drain. I also want a bath of milk and a glass bun.—Wooge.

Mother (rather late for train) to daughter:—Just hush my brat; put a dog and foal on the lire; order a good dupe for sinner, and give me my bed rag and red bug. Good guy, burly!—Nurse.

At a christening of twins, the mother being greatly flustered, gave their names as "Steak and Kidney." The bewildered clergyman turned to the husband, who explained she meant "Kate and Sidney."—Dullard.

The Minister said:—In the country of the Gergesines the brine ran violently into the swine. He should have said the swine ran violently into the brine (or sea).—Canning.

A clergyman addressed his congregation in the following manner:—I must kindly ask my parishioners to keep to their own seats and not to occupew other people's pies.—Jem.

Let us find a nosy little cook (cosy little nook), and thought I am as cross as a hoe (hoarse as a crow), I will bry my test (try my best) to tell you a tipping little rail (ripping little tale) I heard.—New Zealander.

A WROUGHT SHOW.

Whop a stile and hear the toll hidings. We went to rake up the liver by bow wrote when by crashing a cab I hurt the ball of the smack. Solution:—Stop a while and hear the whole tidings. We went to lake up the river by row-boat when, by "catching a crab," I hurt the small of the back.—Dick Maisch.

Mrs. Muddlit (loq.):—"Yes, Shakespeare's 'Shaming of the Trew,' 'Winter's Night,' and 'Twelfth Tale,' are nice enough, but give me something by Thickens or Dackeray—Thackens or Dickeray—I mean Dackens or Thickeray!"—Hardie.

After pacing for a round cake we decided to balk a wit, but, unfortunately, I was hired of Tim and te(a) was hired of me, so we both went home. (After racing for a pound cake we decided to a walk a bit, but, unfortunately, I was tired of him and he was tired of me, so we both went home.) Porthos.

Flurried Doctor:—Be sharp with a light; here's a max of botches. Reach the pumach stump. quick.

A FOOTBALL MATCH.

The Work of the Clerks:—The winter of the spring bricked the light rack, and, shutting in a pot, the breezy gall ripped in the whigging for the sinning wide. Translation:—The Clerk of the Works: The sprinter of the wing tricked the right back, and, putting in a shot, the greasy ball whipped in the rigging for the winning side.—Felixicus.

A lady, in describing a wedding, said:—"A dell-pressed wage tearing her brain, Marry was carried to Black Jacket, who was pressed like a deer of the Louse of Hordes. The merry sonny was a sand green." She should have said:—"A well-dressed page bearing her train, Carry (Carrie) was married to Jack Blacket, who was dressed like a peer of the House of Lords. The ceremony was a grand scene."—Watermain.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,460.

RHYMED LINES OF VAGARIES OF ENGLISH VERBS.

*** I this week give a few more Vagaries of English Verbs.

A WINTER HOUSE-PARTY.

What a jolly house-party we were,
What frolics we started at once,
Every day such a stir as we stare,
At night what gay dances we dunce.

All the motorists thought it was nice
To motor all day—so they mote,
Then, when frost floored the lake with hard ice,
The skaters took skates and they skote.

But some others, to skaters amaze,
Declared they would slide, so they slode,
While the lazy ones thought they would laze,
With nothing to do, which they dode.

Bel Demonio.

THE TRAVELLERS.

The wind was beginning to blow and it blew,
Then we thought it was likely to snow and it snew;
We tried from the blizzard to fly and we flew,
But suspecting our horses might shy, and they shew,
We deemed it more prudent to hide and we hid,
Yet determined once more to ride on and we rid.
Jack cried, "Where's a tavern? Let's think!" and we thought;
As we reached it we gasped, "Let us drink!" and we drought.
Our hearts had been sinking, and well nigh had sunk,
But we quickly felt able to wink, and we wunk;
Then ventured to draw near the hearth and we drew,
When we heard someone shout, "Why, it thaws!" and it thew.

Redder.

THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Oh, was it a dream? How could I have dreamt
Of a stream of fierce women, who rapidly streamt
Past a beaming policeman who no longer beamt
As he heard the wild scream they constantly screamt?
So it seems—it could only have seamt
In a dream, which I certainly dreamt.

West Wind.

He wanted a song to sing, and he sang
Of a message he had to bring, which he brang,
Said to hope he ever would cling, and he clang;
But I told him "Enough"—that would do—and it did,
And that he'd better go, and he gid.
But it began soon to blow, and it blew
So that I thought it would snow, and it snew;
Then I feared he might freeze, and he froze,
And began very badly to sneeze, and he snoze,
Until a hot drink I gave him to take, which he took,
Then slept till I thought he never would wake, but he wook,
And said he felt fit to bake, though he had never been book.

Petros.

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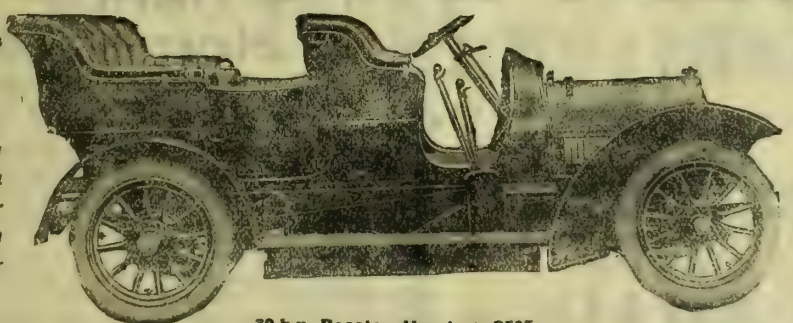

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

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ENTRE NOUS.

WITH reference to the coming inquiry into the case of Mr. Edalji, Mr. J. H. Richardson, of the *Daily Telegraph*, told me on Monday that he had received in subscriptions up to that time about £200. Although this is a good beginning, it will be readily understood that £200 will not go far towards meeting the inevitable expense of presenting Mr. Edalji's case to the Committee of Inquiry as it should be presented if justice is to be done. I venture, therefore, to repeat the appeal I made last week for subscriptions for this important public purpose. Please note that it *is* a public purpose, for whatever individual sympathy may be felt with Mr. Edalji, it is of personal interest to every member of the public that the important questions raised by his case with regard to the administration of justice, and the share of the police and the Home Office in it, should be fully discussed and threshed out to a satisfactory conclusion. All who have read what has appeared in Truth on the subject will appreciate this, and I hope that all will show their appreciation by sending their subscriptions, large or small, either to me or to Mr. Richardson at the *Daily Telegraph* Office.

It was announced in Truth several weeks ago that two full-dress dinner parties would be given at Buckingham Palace this month, and the first of these entertainments took place on Saturday evening, about forty guests having been invited by the Master of the Household.

There was a very full Levee on Thursday, with a crowded entrée, and a large attendance of the Corps Diplomatique. The arrangements, however, are now so good and so complete that the ceremonial was comfortably got through with a rapidity which would have astounded the Court officials in the old days. Everything is now managed at St. James's Palace vastly better in all respects than in the last reign. The King was a few minutes late in entering the Throne Room, as his Majesty received several individuals in the Royal Closet directly after his arrival at St. James's Palace. Before the Levee the King invested Mr. Frederick Graham, of the Colonial Office, with the Second Class (K.C.B.) of the Order of the Bath, and Mr. Whitmore Smith with the Second Class (K.C.I.E.) of the Order of the Indian Empire, and they were both knighted by his Majesty.

The Queen will pay a semi-state visit to the City early in June, when her Majesty is to open the bazaar which is to be held at the Mansion House in aid of the Lord Mayor's fund on behalf of crippled children. It is expected that this bazaar will be opened on the second day by the Princess of Wales.

The Devonport and Stonehouse Town Councils refused last week to vote any public money for the decoration of the streets on the occasion of the public visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Three Towns. It is stated that the civic bodies at both Devonport and Plymouth have been most pointedly ignored by the naval and military authorities who have made all the arrangements, and the result of this ungracious conduct is the vote to which I have referred. At Plymouth there is much grumbling because the Prince of Wales declined to receive an address from the Corporation, although he is High Steward of the Borough, so it has been decided there also that no public expense for decorations is to be incurred. The Prince appears to have expressed a wish that the Royal visit should be regarded as strictly private, and his desire will be gratified.

It is unfortunate that there should have been such *tracasseries*, and the fact is that the Royal visit cannot

reasonably be looked upon as otherwise than public, inasmuch as the object is to open works which have cost the country some six millions, and the ceremony is therefore one of national importance. There was none of this fiddle-faddle when the King and Queen visited the Three Towns in March, 1902, and their Majesties were received everywhere with the utmost enthusiasm, every street through which they passed being profusely decorated.

The *Westminster Gazette* announced last week that "great preparations are being made at Floors Castle, the seat of the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, for the expected visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales during the coming summer." This is all nonsense. No "preparations" of any sort or kind are being made at Floors, and no visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales is expected during the summer. As to the redecoration of the castle and the installation of the electric light—which the *Westminster Gazette* supposes to be now going on—all that work was carried out shortly after the Duke's marriage. It is quite likely that the Prince and Princess of Wales will be guests at Floors either this year or next year, but their visit will not take place in the summer. They will go to Floors in October, when excellent salmon fishing is usually obtained on the Duke's celebrated waters in the Tweed. The Prince and Princess are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace, near Edinburgh, during the second week in July, and the fiction about their going to Floors may have originated in some confusion between the two places.

Princess Louise has been on a visit to Lord and Lady Yarborough for a few days at Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire, where some Royal guests will be entertained during the last week of June for the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Lincoln. Brocklesby is a large red-brick house of irregular architecture, which has been improved since the fire of 1898, the east wing having been rebuilt, and new terraces made from designs by Mr. R. F. Blomfield. The hall, staircase, and gallery are fine, and the house contains a few good pictures (Old Masters), and the celebrated Aufrere collection of sculpture. The charming gardens are noted for some splendid cedars of Lebanon. The deer park is large and well wooded, and contains the family mausoleum, which was built by Wyatt in 1794. The thorns in the park are remarkable for age and size.

A weekly contemporary announces that several of the Paris friends of the King and Queen have been invited to pay a visit to Sandringham "shortly." As a matter of fact, no more company will be received at Sandringham until the beginning of November. The Queen, who has been expected at Sandringham for a few days, will probably go there on Saturday, returning to town on Tuesday evening, and her Majesty will not return again into Norfolk until the autumn. Last year the Queen spent part of the summer at Sandringham, as she wished to be in the country as much as possible, owing to her mourning for King Christian.

The King has appointed Mr. George Ronald Lane to be a Page of Honour to his Majesty, in the place of Mr. Victor Spencer, only son of Lord Churchill, whose term of employment in that capacity has expired. Mr. Lane is the only son of Sir Ronald Lane, Lieutenant-Governor of Chelsea Hospital, and he is a nephew of the Dean of Rochester. The Lanes of King's Bromley are one of the oldest families in Staffordshire, and they were always staunch supporters of the Stuarts.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen were present at a memorial service for Lady Cadogan during last week at the Castle Chapel. They also attended a meeting of the Irish Industries' Association, at which both Lord and Lady Aberdeen made graceful speeches in allusion to Lady Cadogan's work in the cause of the association, which owed its origin to Lady Aberdeen, who started it during Lord Aberdeen's first term of office as Viceroy of Ireland. This week visitors are being entertained at Dublin Castle, where the second Levee and Court of the season are fixed for the same day. The usual dinners and dances will follow the Court ceremonials on succeeding days.

The annual conference of the National Liberal Federation is to be held this year at Plymouth, probably about Whitsuntide, and it is hoped that the Prime Minister may be able to attend on one day, in which case Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman will probably be the guest of Lord and Lady Clifden at Lanhydrock, near Bodmin, during his stay in the West of England.

Lord Allendale was the head of one of the richest and most powerful families in the North of England. The Beaumonts were for centuries settled in Yorkshire, but their principal estates were obtained by the marriage of Colonel Beaumont in 1758 to the daughter of Sir Thomas Wentworth, who had large estates in the West Riding, and in Northumberland, including the lands of the Blackett family. A Beaumont has sat almost continuously as one of the members for Northumberland since 1798, and Lord Allendale was a member of the House of Commons for forty years. He is said to have refused a peerage from Mr. Gladstone. He seldom spoke, as he had not inherited his father's oratorical powers, but he earned a great Parliamentary reputation as a most useful man on Committees. Lord Allendale exercised immense influence on the Liberal side in Durham and Northumberland, but he always worked quietly.

The first wife of Lord Allendale was Lady Margaret De Burgh Canning, youngest daughter of the late Lord Clanricarde, who was described by competent critics as "the most agreeable woman in England, and one of the cleverest." She was a perfect hostess. In her time Bretton Park, the family place near Wakefield, was the scene of much brilliant and delightful hospitality, and invitations to the numerous parties entertained there were greatly coveted. It was, indeed, one of the most

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 483.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 482, 483.
For Amusements, see page 481.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 485, 486.

comfortable houses in England, apart from the attraction of a pleasant host and a hostess who was one of the very best examples of a *grande dame*, with remarkable powers of conversation, and a gift of repartee which was hereditary in her family.

Lord Allendale was one of the largest landowners in Durham and Northumberland, and he was also a great mineral proprietor both in those counties and in the West Riding. In 1874 he increased his territorial possessions by purchasing the Dilston estate, near Hexham, from Greenwich Hospital, the price being about £280,000. The immense fortune of this family is principally due to the famous "W. B." lead mines in Allendale, which came to the Beaumonts from the Blacketts. For many years the revenue from these mines drawn by Lord Allendale's father and himself averaged £100,000 a year. The mines were greatly developed towards the close of the eighteenth century by the skilful management of the famous "Madame Beaumont," who rebuilt the stately house at Bretton. Once Mr. Pitt was dining with her, and he admired her splendid display of plate. She replied: "That is all lead mines," on which he remarked: "Dear me, I thought it was silver," and went on talking, without allowing her to explain.

Lord Allendale succeeded to his vast property when a minor, and the last of the great baronial entertainments at Bywell Castle took place when he came of age in 1850. His Parliamentary career commenced two years later, when he was returned for South Northumberland.

The Exchequer will not benefit so largely as might have been expected by the death of Lord Allendale, as his estates in Northumberland and Durham were made over to his eldest son in 1894, and it is understood at Wakefield that the Bretton estates have also been transferred to the new peer. Lord Allendale had been very rarely seen in the North since his public life terminated in 1892, and he had since resided principally at his house in Piccadilly.

Rear-Admiral Raby, who died last week at Southsea, where he had resided for nearly thirty years, served in the Crimea in the trenches during the most critical period of the war for eleven months. He performed an act of gallantry during the attack on the Redan in September, 1855, which gained him the Victoria Cross. Rear-Admiral Raby afterwards did good work for several years in the suppression of the slave trade on the West Coast of Africa. His last employment was the command of the *Adventure* on the China station from 1868 until 1871.

Captain Carr Ellison, who died a few days ago, owned large estates in Durham and Northumberland, and he was the representative of the ancient Border family of Carr, who at one time owned Ford Castle, near Coldstream, which now belongs to Lord Waterford. His father assumed the name of Ellison in 1871 on succeeding to the large Hebburn estates on Tyneside. Captain Carr Ellison went through the Crimean War, and was presented with a sword of honour in 1856, after his return to England. He afterwards settled down on his estates as a country squire, and he took a prominent and useful part in Northumberland county business for many years. He was a generous landlord, and was very popular in the district in which he lived.

A correspondent at Hyères relates an interesting incident, which, so far as I have seen, has not got into the daily papers. A villa in the centre of the town, occupied by an English lady, was entered during the night by four burglars, one of whom held a pistol to the lady's head while the room was ransacked and all her belongings appropriated; and after muffling the lady's head with a mosquito curtain, the thieves departed with booty to the value of over 15,000 fr. As we have been forcibly reminded during the past week, burglaries are successfully perpetrated in London, in spite of the most elaborate precautions; but people who take villas in the South of France hardly expect outrages of this kind, and may easily be taken unawares. When I am wintering at Hyères, I think I shall stop at one of the excellent hotels in that town. Private villas may sound more attractive in some ways, but hotels are at any rate pretty safe against burglars.

A lady sends me the following advertisement, cut the other day from an Eastbourne paper. It is a good illustration of the sweating which goes on in domestic service, particularly at the expense of those who combine educational and domestic duties. The lady required, it will be seen, although she is to act as a governess, earns less than a nursemaid's wages, and though her hours may be shorter, she gets nothing in the shape of board or lodging. The hours, indeed, seem to be ingeniously arranged to fit in between meal times:—

YOUNG Lady required at once to walk with Girl of ten and Teach her simple Lessons; mornings only, 9.30 to 1 p.m.; references required; salary 5s. weekly.

The following letter represents, I am quite certain, the view of the vast majority of Englishwomen on the riotous demonstrations of the Female Suffragists. On my own behalf I feel bound to say that I have done my best to speak and write in the vein which my correspondent enjoins. If I have failed to express myself with sufficient force and decision I am sorry, but the failure will only inspire me to renewed efforts:—

Dear Sir,—It has always been your custom to protect and help the *wronged*, to speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. May I, therefore, entreat you to speak or write, and that with *force* and decision, on behalf of a deeply wronged and grossly outraged class? I mean the great majority of women in the United Kingdom who do *not* want votes, who are quite satisfied with the amount of influence they already exercise, and who burn with shame at being associated, as members of a common sex, with the creatures who behaved yesterday at the gates of the Houses of Parliament more like drunken men than even the worst of female viragos. Do you consider them fitted to help in directing the Home and Foreign policy of a great nation? Do you think them fitted to help to choose representatives whose duty it will be to do so? Why, we must be the laughing-stock of every European nation. Furthermore, you know well that if the whole women of the country were polled the majority against female suffrage would be overwhelming. Will you be the champion of that voiceless majority? Will you forcibly state the views of those whose ardent desire is to dissociate themselves from the members of the shrieking sisterhood, and to escape from the shame and degradation which they bring on the hitherto respected name of woman?—I am, yours faithfully,

A Non-Suffragette.

THE LADIES' BATTLE.

A Lay of Modern London.

I.

Dame Despard, she a suffragette,
  Did swear by Yea and Nay
That she'd herself arrested get.
  And sent to Holloway.
For long had grieved this worthy dame,
  That, try as she might try,
The p'lice, a-twigging of her game
And quite resolved to baulk the same,
  Had always passed her by.
Yea! though she stood their nose before,
And did, in piteous tones, implore
Arrest, the brutes would still ignore,
  And wink the other eye.

II.

Such insolence could not be borne—
So hath the doughty Despard sworn;
  When she the crown would wear
Of martyrdom, these minions vile
Should not be 'llowed her game to spile,
Withholding thus the martyr's tile
  That ought to grace her hair.

III.

She swore, and named a trysting place
Where gathered all the Suffrage race—
  The place styled Caxton Hall—
Here Pankhurst came from Manchester,
And Kenny from—I can't say where,
And Moffat from the Brig of Ayr
  ('Tis thus her home I call
To serve my rhyme's compelling need;
For where the lady lives, indeed,
Save that it's far beyond the Tweed,
  I do not know at all).

IV.

They come, and many a one beside,
They stream, this petticoated tide,
  From Caxton's fane, in fours,
To Westminster's historic Hall,
Where some they wheedle, some they bawl,
While some with tooth and nail they fall
Upon the peelers, grim and tall,
  Who guard the sacred doors.

V.

The doughty Despard led their van;
She marked, with eagle eye, her man,
  Then into him did barge,
Until that member of The Force
Was driven, though with much remorse,
To manual strength's extreme resource,
  And took the dame in charge.

* * * * *

Next day before the Beak she's brought,
And won the crown she long had sought,
  To deck her tresses grey—
That martyr's crown to which aspire
Such dames—as off, in Black Maria,
  She drove to Holloway.

A number of daily papers have published a cock-and-bull story about the "discovery" of an alleged early portrait of Shakespeare at the village inn at Winston, near Darlington, which picture is stated to have been valued by Christie and Manson at "about five thousand guineas." The whole tale is a farrago of rubbish. The picture in question, which was exhibited some years ago in the Shakespeare Museum at Stratford-on-Avon, is perfectly well known, but experts have never regarded it as genuine. The picture has always been known as "the Grafton Shakespeare," as it is supposed to have originally belonged to the Duke of Grafton, and its ownership can be traced to a farmer on the Grafton estate in Northamptonshire. It is dated 1588.

I found on my table the other day a couple of volumes of an unusual kind—a new issue of Thomson's English translation of the Septuagint, edited by Mr. F. S. Pells, of Hove, who publishes the book himself. In these days, when Biblical criticism is addressed to the very man in the street, the earliest extant translation of the Hebrew scriptures into another tongue ought to command a considerable public; and I must say that it is easy to find in Mr. Pells' edition a good deal of new light on many obscure passages of the authorised version, besides sundry obvious variations of the text which are interesting and suggestive.

Charles Thomson, the author of this translation, was the first Secretary of the United States Congress, a position which he held for seventeen years. He was a man of note in his day, and highly respected by his contemporaries, George Washington among the rest. But he seems to have been a self-educated man, and it is hardly to be supposed that he was a profound classical scholar. Caution, therefore, seems desirable in accepting his reading of the Greek text as if it were "verbally inspired," if anything in the shape of doctrine is to be founded upon it. Mr. Pells holds, and gives his reasons in an interesting preface, that the Septuagint was "the Bible used by our Saviour and the Apostles"—a point on which I should be sorry to express an opinion, though it seems to me one which requires a good deal of proving. He is anxious to see the book restored to a position of authority, and one may agree with him to the extent that an authoritative English translation is desirable. I suppose there is good ground for accepting the Septuagint as representing the oldest extant text of the books it contains, which is enough in itself to give it a peculiar value.

The acute reader will need no assistance from me in identifying the author of the following pathetic appeal:—

> Just recovered from a five weeks' illness, ready and eager to resume my work. I trust you will forgive me if I seem somewhat impatient. But I did think that ere this I should have had some response from you in regard to the Final Fund, on which I wrote to you fully a week ago, especially as that Fund has been started under such very good auspices, and as I made it very clear that the Fund could not be successful unless each one appealed to did something.
>
> The apathy of the upper and middle classes, the propertied classes, the ought-to-be-influential classes, makes work against Socialism difficult and unpopular, thankless, and costly. . . . I am weary—very weary—of making appeals to rich property owners and capitalists, not because the appeals are not warranted, or proper in themselves, but because such men ought to be forward to help one's work without appeal. . . . . .

The name of the Final Fund is certainly calculated to allure the apathetic propertied classes if any document with the signature "George Brooks" could have that effect. But, unfortunately, the propertied classes know only too well that there is no such thing as finality with the habitual mendicant—except in name. If you will only spare a trifle this time, it is always the last time you will be asked. But another time arrives without fail, and, like G. B. himself, the capitalists grow "weary—very weary." So do I.

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

Though Mr. Brooks does not understand the reason for the apathy of capitalists, it seems clear enough to me. They have to choose between Socialism and George Brooks, and they prefer Socialism. The danger at your door is always more convincing than one only dimly visible in the future. One can even understand that Socialism is chiefly terrible to them as the stalking-horse of George Brooks. The "elect few" who have been placed on Brooks's list for an appeal every quarter-day may well say to themselves, "Why, Socialism could not be so bad as this; let us have Socialism, and get rid of Brooks!" Besides, what is the value of Brooks as a defence against Socialism? Does not he tell us in every appeal, that the peril is to-day more deadly and imminent than ever? Has not he been saying the same thing for ten or twelve years? Judging by his own account, things have only gone from bad to worse since he has been at his "work." It looks as if he were doing more harm than good. I wonder that this view of the matter does not occur to Sir William Lewis, Lord Burton, and the other capitalists who are still writing their cheques.

The passage in the "Final Fund" appeal which most interests me personally is the following:—

When I think of my former comfortable circumstances, and then of my present difficulty and need, county court summonses and judgments—of rent and accounts unpaid—of straitened economies at home, etc., I could wish myself well out of it all; but when I ponder over the alarming growth of Socialism and the perils with which our beloved country is threatened by it, and on the lamentable apathy and weakness which prevail all round, I feel like throwing all prudence to the winds and saying: "Come poverty, privation, and persecution, come workhouse and gaol; I am going to exhaust my energy and life in opposing this dragon which is striving to strike its fangs into my country's heart, and poison and corrupt the very springs of its life."

When Mr. Brooks thinks of his former comfortable circumstances, I suppose his mind runs back to the Halesworth days, and the evidence of his prosperity that was given in his libel action against Truth. But his memory does not seem to have recalled the fact that even in those comfortable days he gave precisely the same account of his "present difficulty and need" that he gives to-day. If in the subsequent ten years his difficulty and need have become more pressing, I take it that it is only because the tale has got worn out. But I really think he need not be so unkind to the "dragon" which—poor beast!—has now provided St. George with the means of subsistence for so many years. "Come workhouse, come gaol" by all means. But if it had not been for Socialism they would have come long before this.

LUCY—UP-TO-DATE.

No. II.

(Contributed by a descendant of the famous W-ll-m W-rdsw-rth.)

The Fates sweet Lucy in my way
  Once at a Ball did shove.
"She's passing rich," I heard them say—
  I heard, and fell in love.

We wed. She took a bossy tone;
  Eclipsed entire was I,
Like a pale star, when Madame Moon
  Shines regnant in the sky.

She died. I put on looks of woe,
  For other men to see;
But, in my heart, I smiled; for oh!
  Her cheque-book's come to me.

Dr. C. S. Kenny, of Downing College, has been elected to the Downing Chair of the Laws of England, vacant by the much-regretted death of Professor Maitland, whom he succeeded in 1888 as Reader of English Law. The appointment had been fully expected, and it meets with general approval in the University. Dr. Kenny, who is a strong Liberal, sat in the House of Commons as Member for the Barnsley Division of Yorkshire in the Parliaments of 1885 and 1886. He is a profound scholar, and has published several books on legal subjects, which have obtained a considerable success. Dr. Kenny has been a Fellow of Downing since 1875, and has taken an active part in the administrative work of the University, as well as in local business. He has sat for many years on the Cambridge Town Council, and he now Vice-chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council.

The death of the President of Trinity is an immense loss to Oxford, and deprives the University of a familiar and commanding figure. Mr. Pelham had taken a most active and conspicuous part in the tutorial and administrative work of the University for over thirty-six years, and he exercised great influence both in Congregation and in Convocation, and as a prominent member of the Hebdomadal Council. He also served most usefully on numerous committees and boards, and he was closely associated with the management of the Bodleian, and with Somerville College. Roman history was, of course, his great subject. He was ever zealous on the side of research, and in urging the value of the close study of Greek and Roman history and literature. His lectures, when a tutor of Exeter, were always very able, and attracted large numbers of men from all the colleges in Oxford. Mr. Pelham, who was a son of the late Bishop of Norwich, practically spent his whole life at Oxford, and he had been President of Trinity during the last ten years. He married a daughter of the late Sir Edward Buxton, M.P., and their house was distinguished for its generous and delightful hospitality. Mr. Pelham was all his life a very strong Liberal, but he never forced his political opinions upon his friends, nor were they allowed to get in any way mixed up with his University work. He enjoyed frequent trips to Italy, and his principal diversion was golf.

I have received a copy of the Duke of Devonshire's letter on the financial needs of Cambridge University, but as the letter has already appeared in most of the daily papers, I suppose I may assume that most of my readers are familiar with it. The cardinal fact in it is that the University needs in round figures about a million and a half sterling, most of it more or less urgently, for purposes immediately connected with the proper equipment of a University for the complex work that falls upon it in the present day. The magnitude of the sum is almost enough to daunt the would-be benefactor if he is anything less than a multi-millionaire. Yet there is no reason why it should not be raised in

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

the course of a very few years if the effort were made systematically, if the rich men who have the inclination to endow teaching were brought to understand the need, and, above all, if every man who has passed through the University would signify his affection for his Alma Mater, according to his means, in pounds, shillings, and pence. But with all respect, I would point out to the Chancellor and the University authorities that in these days of competition for subscriptions (as for everything else) you do not get a million of money by merely writing a letter to the newspapers. You must organise and "energise" a big movement, seize every man by the button-hole, especially the millionaire, and drag his money out of him.

I suppose Oxford could do with some more money as well as Cambridge, and she is not likely to sit by in silence while the sister University is extracting a million and a half from the pockets of the public. Oxford is the richer University, but both Universities, as distinguished from the Colleges, are wretchedly endowed, considering what a wealthy nation they adorn, and what a wealthy class they chiefly cater for. This state of things is largely due to lack of "pushfulness," and indisposition to move with the times. Rich men who endow educational institutions in these days are not often University men, and are distrustful of University ideals and methods, and University men themselves when they have money to give know little of University needs. If the old Universities kept more in the front of educational progress, made more effort to supply the requirements of the times, and showed that they not only want money but know how to employ it usefully, instead of limiting their energies to turning out so many hundred curates and barristers per annum, the public would very soon give them all they want. This Cambridge seems to appreciate in some measure.

The sudden death of Prebendary Robinson is a great loss to the diocese of Bath and Wells, in which he had been beneficed for half a century. Prebendary Robinson worked hard in many directions, and everywhere with conspicuous ability and zeal. He will be much missed in Somersetshire by both clergy and laity. He was a most eloquent preacher, and had an exceptional capacity for practical business, so that he exercised much influence in the diocese and was continually consulted by the Bishop. Prebendary Robinson was presented to the important vicarage of Chard in 1876 by the late Bishop of Bath and Wells (Lord Arthur Hervey), to whom he rendered valuable assistance when the Diocesan Conference was first started.

The Misses Nutter have presented Canon Corbett, vicar of St. Botolph's, Colchester, to the valuable rectory of Wanstead, which has become vacant by the death of the late incumbent. Canon Corbett has been doing good work in Essex for the last thirty-seven years as a Churchman of the Moderate school. The living of Wanstead is of the net value of about £900 a year, with house. The Misses Nutter have the patronage of this benefice for their lives, after which it is to pass to the Bishop of St. Albans.

A good example of the practice of tempting clergymen to act as commission agents for tradesmen is furnished by the following circular, which has apparently been sent to all the beneficed clergy in Sussex:—

Moore of Brighton, Ltd.,
Henry Moore, Managing Director,
Motor Engineers.

67-68, Preston-street,
and 21, Regency-square, Brighton.

£10 FOR ANY CHARITY YOU LIKE TO NAME.

Sir,—It has occurred to me as you are intimately acquainted with so many people, you probably know someone who intends to buy a new motor car.

If you give the name and address of any such it will be my pleasure to hand the above sum to any charity you like IF I AM SUCCESSFUL IN EFFECTING A SALE.

It is, of course, possible that more than one clergyman will send the same name. Should this occur, the said £10 will be given by me to the one from whom I received the first intimation, and £5 additional will be given to the second.

Immediately I hear I shall reply stating whether or no previous information has been given me, and as evidence of good faith I shall add the name of the clergyman or clergymen who have previously written.

I am sending one letter by the same post to every rector and vicar in Sussex.

I have only to add it is a matter of indifference to me which make of car is selected. I am quite willing to supply, with one or two exceptions, any make desired.—Yours truly,

Henry Moore.

One vicar who received this communication observes that though he is not quite clear whether the promised £10 would be a "secret commission" within the meaning of the new Act, he is "quite clear that it is a secret commission within the meaning of those who wanted the Act passed"; and this seems to be the proper view of the matter. The circular, however, is also of interest to motorists. Mr. Moore, who is ready to supply any make of car, is actually prepared to pay a £10 commission out of his profits, regardless of the price of the car, to any one who will get him an order. There must be a pretty handsome middemen's profit to enable him to do this; and it is easy to see what effect the multiplication of commissions, secret or otherwise, on this scale must have on prices.

The *East Anglian Times* describes an edifying scene which took place the previous Sunday in the parish church of Felixstowe. Before the sermon at the morning service "two frightened little boys, aged about nine and ten," were brought to the chancel steps in the presence of the congregation, and interrogated by the Vicar, the Rev. S. R. Gamble, as to whether they abjured the errors of the Church of Rome and desired to be received into the Church of England. The infant converts solemnly replied that they did, and returned to their places, and the Vicar proceeded to discourse upon the glorious event. The Pope of Rome must have had a bad quarter of an hour when he heard of this triumph of Protestantism.

A Roman Catholic correspondent writes:—

The paragraph suggesting churchwardens for Catholic churches in your issue of the 30th ult. escaped my notice until yesterday.

Far from there being any inclination on the part of the authorities to accept the assistance of the laity in this way, such parish committees as have existed for some time are being systematically suppressed—at any rate, in the diocese of Westminster. The policy of the present Archbishop in this matter is thoroughly retrograde, and naturally sets the key for his clergy. It is

Blackpool. Splendid Winter Climate. Hôtel Métropole. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

through this policy that the Temporal Council established by his predecessors and to whose labours in cordial co-operation with them the building of the Cathedral was so largely due, was immediately dissolved on the elevation of the present Archbishop. This was done, to the keen disappointment not only of the members of the Council, but of the large majority of the more independent and thoughtful portion of the laity, who saw in the Council a faint recognition of the principle that the laity are not to be regarded merely as a mass of blind and dumb contributors.

At the same time, though the desire for parish committees is very widely felt, the laity have no desire for committees composed merely of the limp nominees of the parish priest. They would even prefer the present absence of system, as they can always turn a deaf ear to appeals from the altar for objects they do not sympathise with, whereas it may be otherwise when committeemen make a direct personal application.

Your correspondents are unfortunate in their selection of examples of successful parish committees. It has been brought accidentally to my notice that at least one of these had piled up a debt of at least £8,000, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the parishioners when the debt stood at £6,000. The rector in this case is able to carry things with such a high hand, in spite of his committee, that he has not scrupled to set aside the ancient customs of the Church at High Mass, and has adopted a French eighteenth century *cérémoniale*. . . . . The funny thing about this affair is that the *cérémoniale* has been introduced to gratify the tastes of certain ex-Protestant ritualists, for whom even the Roman Catholic Church is not yet "high" enough. Of course, if the committee in this case were any good, they could, by a direct remonstrance or complaint to the ordinary, put a stop to all these extravagances, as well as to the St. Antony's boxes and other inventions of *La Croix*, which stink in the nostrils of old Catholics. . . .

With regard to the general question of administration, while there is no doubt that the laity in England, and to a considerable extent in Ireland also, are disturbed by a sense that things are not as they ought to be, they are hoping, with some confidence, that the good sense of those in authority will initiate the needful reforms, instead of waiting until they are wrung from them by force of circumstances.

Is this the latest evidence of the far-reaching effects of the Secret Commissions Act? I quote from a document entitled, "Rules for the Management of Yarrow Churchyard":—

2. A minimum fee of ten shillings shall be charged for digging each grave, but the Sexton may accept more than this sum, should the person ordering the grave offer him more.

So if the customer wants an inch or two more elbow room, or a trifle of extra depth below the surface, the sexton is free to take an extra half-crown or half-sovereign for humouring his taste, without either party having anything to fear on the score of bribery and corruption.

Mr. Registrar Hope, a few days ago, refused the application of the Rev. William Earle for his discharge from bankruptcy, and suspended his discharge for three years from May last, the date of his public examination. Many of my readers will doubtless remember the name of this reverend gentleman, who has been before the public on more than one occasion, and came under the notice of Truth just twelve months ago. He calls himself Sir William Earle, on the strength of some nebulous claim to one of King James I.'s original baronetcies. He has been in the Bankruptcy Court for the last twelve months; and the reason for the suspension of his discharge was the insufficiency of his assets and "rash and hazardous speculation." The facts were that the proofs against his estate amounted to £2,402, while his assets consisted solely of equities of redemption which he himself valued at £7,380, but which turned out to be absolutely worthless.

When I had occasion to comment upon Mr. Earle's proceedings in February last, he was engaged in hawking the shares of a small private commercial company through the medium of an office described as "the Church and State Exchange," of which he called himself president; but apart from himself the said Exchange appeared to have no existence. He called upon me, and offered various explanations, all of which were more or less contradicted by other parties concerned in the transactions. He made, however, an earnest appeal to me not to say anything further on the subject, on the ground that he had an expectation of obtaining one of the most valuable livings in London, which happened to be vacant at that moment. It was perfectly obvious that he had no more prospect of obtaining the living in question than I have of being appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. But as he renounced all intention of pursuing his "share-pushing" operations, I did not think it necessary to say more about him at the moment, and he was made bankrupt immediately afterwards. The result of the bankruptcy proceedings, however, shows that my observations about him were fully justified, and as Mr. Earle is one of those gentlemen who are apt to obtain credit on the strength of their position and pretensions, I think it right to call attention to the Registrar's decision in his case.

SUNDAY BEST.

The Mayor of Nottingham, I see,
Is very much distressed
About the immorality
Of donning "Sunday Best."

For persons wearing raiment smart
(So says the worthy Mayor),
Are seldom found to join, with heart,
In worship, praise, or prayer;

But, heedless of the words sublime
Read from the Holy Book,
Instead, they're thinking all the time
How very nice they look.

Thus, Jones, the latest thing who wears
In trouserings slap-bang,
Keeps glancing down with side-long stares
To notice how they hang.

While Mrs. J., though warm the day
Pretends it's cold enough
Her priceless sables to display,
Or grey chinchilla muff.

Or, even if she self forgets
'Tis but (let truth be spoke)
To size up Mrs. Brown's corsets,
Or Mrs. Thomson's toque;

Or p'raps to wonder how Miss Kate,
The elderly and fat,
Can dare to wear, at fifty-eight,
A saucy sailor hat.

The Mayor, he thinks this very sad
And ought to be repressed.
But just suppose a law we had
Forbidding Sunday Best!

If women, when to Church they went,
Their smart frocks mighn't air,
Nor criticise, with gaze intent,
What other women wear,

This even worse result, I ween,
Would certainly befall—
They'd simply cut the sacred scene
Nor go to Church at all!

I had an inquiry the other day respecting an appeal for money for the Workmen's Hall, Drury-lane, of

which a Mr. Henry Hambleton is the secretary, and, as far as I can see, the proprietor. The institution in question has been in existence for a very great number of years. It is carried on by Mr. Hambleton single-handed, without any responsible committee, and consequently nothing can be known of its finances or general management except what Mr. Hambleton himself chooses to tell. His principal work seems to be to circulate a publication called the *Workmen's Messenger*. It may be a very interesting journal to some people, but from what I know of working men, I should say that there is uncommonly little in it which is specially interesting or useful to them. The rest of his work seems to consist chiefly of such familiar business as Bible Services, Band of Hope, summer outings, etc.

Mr. Hambleton issues annually a list of subscriptions received, and a "general summary" of the year's finances; and from the last of these documents it appears that he received during the year, from one source and another, £489 odd, of which £245 was absorbed by the production of the *Workmen's Messenger*, £76 odd by rent, taxes, gas, etc., and £59 odd by "relief, teas, Christmas dinners, etc."; £20 10s. was spent on an "excursion," and at the end of the account appears the singular entry "Towards labour, £58 8s. 6d." Apparently this sum balances the account, for no balance was in hand at the end of the year, and none was brought forward from the previous year, so that it looks as if all the cash not otherwise accounted for is put "towards labour, etc." I presume that the labour it goes towards is that of Mr. Hambleton himself. Whether the labourer is worthy of his hire depends chiefly on the view that the subscribers take of the value of the Bible classes, country excursions, and indiscriminate charity in the shape of free meals. The only opinion which I can express is that the *Workmen's Messenger* is certainly not worth the collection of £245 per annum from charitable sources, and that everyone engaged in this sort of work ought to have a responsible committee behind him, and to issue accounts vouched for by some one else than himself.

The appeal which Lord Northampton is making for a public testimonial to Mr. John Kirk ought to meet with a general and hearty response. Mr. Kirk has been identified with the Ragged School Union for over a quarter of a century, during which time he has multiplied its utility tenfold, besides giving valuable work to many other useful agencies of the same class; and every one who has been in contact with him can endorse Lord Northampton's eulogy of his energy and devotion to duty. What particularly entitles Mr. Kirk to the grateful recognition of the public is the contrast beween his work and that of so many other labourers in the same field, for no branch of philanthropy is more beset by fraud and humbug than work among the children of the poor.

I have to acknowledge 10s. from "Une poupée" towards the Toy Fund.

It is astonishing to see how persistently the firms who lay themselves out to supply goods to soldiers and sailors on credit use the naval and military authorities as debt-collecting agencies. This trick has usually been illustrated in connection with the notorious business of Graves, of Sheffield. Here is another instance of it from another advertising firm of very similar class, J. N. Masters, of Rye. The communication is addressed to a regimental sergeant-major (no name given) at Aldershot, and headed "Strictly confidential":—

Sir,—We trust we are not taking too great a liberty in addressing you in this matter, but should esteem it a great favour if you would inform us if you have now in the — — a Corporal — —.

Would you also kindly have the enclosed letter handed to — —, late of R.W. Fusiliers. You will be sure that we will not prove ungrateful for your kind information.

We enclose stamped addressed envelope, and thank you in anticipation of an early reply as to when delivered.—Yours faithfully, J. N. Masters, Ltd.

Although in this particular instance the communication *was* considered "too great a liberty," that it is not always considered so is shown by the persistence of these practices. Presumably the explanation is to be found in the significant sentence which indicates that J. N. Masters, Ltd., "will not be ungrateful" for any assistance that the sergeant-major can give them in the direction required; and as it is so clear that men in authority in the Service are ready to earn the favours of credit firms in this way, I suggest again that some steps should be taken by superior authority to check such abuses.

The mention of the name of Graves reminds me of a communication I had the other day from an Irish solicitor. This gentleman states that at the last Quarter Sessions at Navan and Trim, County Meath, upwards of thirty civil bills at the suit of J. G. Graves, Ltd., were entered for hearing. Evidently, this mischievous trade has been extended of late to Ireland on a large scale, and my informant mentions that, as usual, the defendants were nearly all persons in very humble circumstances, mostly farm servants and day labourers. The county court business is done on the cheap, like the rest of the trade, no representative of the firm being sent to the court to prove the debts, and the plaintiffs relying on the attendance of the defendants on subpœna for the necessary evidence. It is some consolation to know that this method of procedure did not prove effectual, only one or two of the defendants attending, and all the rest of the cases being struck out in consequence. The Irish are a quick-witted race, with a native instinct for the niceties of legal practice, and Graves is not the first English creditor who has discovered this.

By the way, I heard the other day, without sorrow, that Graves, Limited, has lately been in some financial difficulty, and has had to make certain arrangements with a view to "gaining time." There is something of poetic justice about this, and I only hope that in its dealings with its own creditors the firm will be done by as it has done. Under the circumstances, I would not recommend the pushing of the business in Ireland, at any rate.

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Apropos of the Indian Family Pension Fund, an officer tells me that a few years ago several officers invited signatures to a very moderate and respectfully worded petition to the Government on the subject of this fund. On learning what was going on, the authorities issued a confidential memorandum calling attention to a certain paragraph in the Army Act, and informing officers that any such concerted action was equivalent to mutiny, and would be dealt with accordingly. This is a most outrageous proceeding, and it is a pity that attention was not called to it at the time. It shows the mischief that may arise from a fund of this character being conducted under official management, and if the fund is to be reformed in any way, as I hope it may be, one point that ought to be considered is that the contributories to the fund should have a right to an opinion as to its management, and the right of addressing the Government on the subject without fear of being treated as mutineers.

A point worth notice on the question of soldiers' characters is made by an ex-soldier, who sends me a long account of his difficulties in obtaining employment. His suggestion is that the character given to a man on his discharge should be determined by his company officer and not by the officer commanding the regiment, the argument for this being that the company officer knows the man much better than the C.O., and is in far better position to judge the precise significance of any entries to his disadvantage in his defaulter sheets. The man in question is one of those who have suffered, as so many do, by being discharged with the useless character "good," owing to one or two entries, which he attributes to the personal malice of non-commissioned officers. After a long and fruitless search for employment, he eventually got a job on the strength of an excellent private testimonial given to him by his company officer, having at length found an employer who considered this testimonial of more value than the official character given by the C.O. Any employer who understood the circumstances would attach much more value to a testimonial from a company officer than from a commanding officer; and common sense seems to suggest that if the former does not actually determine the character that is to be given he should at any rate have a voice in the matter.

A good deal of resentment appears to have been caused in a certain field battery in India owing to some of the men having been placed under the orders of a havildar of a native regiment, while doing some fatigue work in a practice camp. As this resentment has been confided to me, accompanied by many strong observations respecting the indignity of an English soldier being ordered about by a "native," I feel bound to point out that the English soldier and the native soldier equally wear the King's uniform, exercise the King's authority, and are expected to fight side by side the battles of their King and country without squabbling over the colour of one another's skins. I would therefore suggest to the indignant gunners that they should remember that when they receive orders from superior officers, it is the rank that they are expected to respect, not the individual who bears it. At the same time, human nature being what it is, and persons with white skins considering themselves such superior beings to those whose skins are of a darker hue, it certainly seems undesirable that native non-commissioned officers should be set over British soldiers if it can possibly be avoided.

It would be highly interesting to know where the Press Association caught the *canard* about Lord Charles Beresford's refusal of the command of the Channel Fleet. That the wish was father to the thought there can be no doubt, nor that the party, or parties, who communicated the valuable information to the world are associated with the organised campaign against Sir John Fisher which was discussed in Truth the other day. It shows, therefore, that these patriots do not stick at much. No doubt they believed what they revealed, but their eagerness to use an officer in Lord Charles Beresford's position as a whipping-boy for the Lords of the Admiralty is decidedly indecent, and does not indicate a very sagacious regard for the best interests of the Service. Lord Charles Beresford himself will probably be the last to approve of the part which he was cast for.

In the ordinary course of things the Navy Estimates must now be in preparation, and as economy is the order of the day, I would suggest to "my Lords" that the cost of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, is a matter calling for consideration. According to my information, there have been for some time past less than 100 students in the College, and at present the number is about eighty. The staff, however, remains the same as when the number was over 200. An admiral receiving £2,000 a year, with a large residence, a captain, and a commander are considered necessary for the discipline of these eighty students. The domestic staff of servants, porters, messengers, etc., numbers something like 100, or over one for every student in the College. A very heavy expenditure is being incurred at present on the re-roofing of the College. This may or may not be necessary, but a further expenditure of £500 or £600 on a dancing floor cannot possibly be. I do not profess to have this information at first hand, but if it is anywhere near the truth, there seems an opening here for something substantial in the way of "retrenchment."

I learn from Simla that the remarkable deadlock in connection with the local municipality which I described nearly eighteen months ago still continues. It arose through one of the elected European members having had the temerity to criticise the work of the engineer-secretary of the municipality. That an elected member, a mere representative of the ratepayers, should dare to take exception to anything done by a paid servant of the municipality was regarded by the Punjab Government as an outrage calling for drastic correction. The Punjab Municipal Act empowers the Government, in certain circumstances, to refuse to confirm elections to the municipality, such confirmation

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

being required before an elected member can take his seat. In due course the term of office of the above-mentioned critic of officialdom expired. His constituents, comprising all the European and native owners of property in Simla outside the bazaar limits, evinced their approval of his conduct by again electing him, in company with two other candidates. The Government, however, declined to confirm these elections, and since the autumn of 1905 the municipal business of Simla has been managed—the ratepayers say mis-managed—by a body consisting of Government nominees and two elected native representatives of the Bazaar Ward.

The only reason which the Punjab Government vouchsafed for the non-confirmation of the elections was that "the question of the future administration of Simla had been referred to the Government of India." This was in October, 1905, and in reply to a memorial of the Simla House Proprietors' Association a few weeks back, protesting against their continued disfranchisement, the Punjab Government stated that "the matter is still awaiting the decision of the Government of India!" At the best, owing to the strength of the nominated official element in the municipality, the ratepayers of Simla have never been able to exercise any really effective control over the management of their affairs; and it is a flagrant scandal that they should thus be arbitrarily and indefinitely deprived even of the small share of local self-government which the Punjab Municipal Act gave them.

Red tape seems to flourish in India more vigorously than in any other part of his Majesty's dominions. One of my readers who resides in Ceylon relates a grievance illustrating this point. He had occasion to make a two days' visit to Bombay, and took with him a native servant. Before he returned, he made inquiries as to whether his servant, being a third class passenger, would need to be submitted to medical examination and disinfection, but he could learn nothing on the point until he actually went on board, when he found that his servant was detained on the wharf by the port medical officer. This functionary, on being interviewed, insisted that the servant must be disinfected, although the steamer was to start in a few minutes. He suggested that the captain should delay the ship half an hour for this purpose, and the captain not falling in with this suggestion, the difficulty was only got over by paying the servant's fare as a second class passenger. This having been done, the ship, the servant, and the master were allowed to depart without further objection. It would be interesting to know what scientific basis the medical authorities have for assuming that infection is less easily conveyed by a second than by a third class passenger, or that a second class ticket is a better disinfectant than a third class one.

I have received a letter from Mr. R. Nanasamy Rao, private secretary to the Dewan of Mysore, in reference to a paragraph which appeared in Truth on the subject of the Mysore Mines Regulation. The paragraph stated that this law, promulgated by the Government of his Highness the Maharaja at the instance of the Government of India, was not confined to the neighbourhood of the gold mines, but extended to the whole State. I find that this was a mistake so far as the more drastic sections of the enactment are concerned. A Government notification is required to apply the sections in question to any local area, and the only area that has been so dealt with is one of about 250 square miles in the immediate vicinity of the Kolar gold fields—a very small tract of the entire Mysore State, and containing but one-fiftieth of the total population.

With regard to a remark that this enactment was of an extraordinary character, the private secretary to the Dewan of Mysore writes:—

> It is so in the sense that it is intended to meet exceptional conditions prevalent in a local area of small extent, in which valuable gold mining operations are carried on and which is occupied for the most part by a floating population either directly connected with the mines or lured thither by motives of dishonest gain. The great increase in gold theft cases in recent years has been a serious evil and required stringent measures for its extirpation. Even more drastic provisions are to be found in the gold mining laws of the self-governing British colonies of Victoria, West Australia, and South Africa.

The latter reminder is a palpable hit, and in so far as my paragraph implied any censure upon the Government of the native State of Mysore, I withdraw it.

A voluminous correspondence has been sent to me in reference to the case of an old ex-postman named Ridley, of Chester-le-Street. He was employed as a rural postman from 1864 till 1873, when he resigned. In 1874 he started again as a town postman, and he continued in that situation till 1903, when he was compulsorily retired on account of his age. Altogether he put in about thirty-eight years' service as a postman, and when he was retired he had five good-conduct stripes. It might be supposed that the State, which we have been told acts as a model employer, would grant this old servant a pension, or at least a gratuity. Neither has been granted to Ridley. Owing to the break in 1873-1874, the first nine years of his service are excluded from consideration for this purpose. As to the other twenty-nine years, it seems that when this period began he was too old by three months for appointment as an "established" postman. This deprived him of any legal right to a pension. As to a gratuity, it appears that from 1874 till 1889 his wages were paid under an allowance to the local postmaster, and "service paid for in this manner is not reckoned by the Treasury for any award under the Superannuation Acts." A compassionate gratuity is only awarded on a minimum of fifteen years' direct employment by the Post Office, and Ridley's further period of service from 1889 to 1903 was therefore not sufficient by one year to render him eligible for such a gratuity.

Friends of the old man have made strenuous efforts to secure him some assistance from the State. One or two M.P.s have represented the hardship of his case to the Postmaster-General, and after a great deal of effort the magnificent sum of £5 was granted to Ridley from the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. So far as the State itself is concerned, however, nothing whatever has been done. This "model employer," finding that the man was too old—he is now over 70—to be of further use, cast him aside, and whether he dies in a workhouse or starves to death outside seems to be a matter of indifference to the powers that be. It cannot be pre-

tended that he ought to have provided for his old age himself, seeing that the wage that he received was never more than 22s. a week. Regarded legally, the official treatment of this humble veteran may be correct. Morally, however, it is indefensible and a disgrace to this wealthy country.

The *Daily Telegraph* had an article the other day on "the prospective disappearance" of the "walk clerk," in consequence of the new arrangement of the banks for dealing through the clearing-house with cheques drawn on branches. The change was represented as likely to be to the advantage of shareholders, as no doubt it will be, but the writer drew extensively on his imagination in speaking of "the young gentlemen who now move about town so gaily," and "run up little bills of expenses." From one of these young gentlemen, who sends me his views about the *Daily Telegraph* scribe, I gather that there is precious little gaiety about the walk clerk's vocation, and that the "little bills of expenses" are a figment of the *D. T.* imagination, unless regarded as bills which the clerk himself has to pay.

According to my informant, the average allowance of a walk clerk per diem is 4d. for 'bus fares. Except for the occasional lift which he can get for this sum, he may have to tramp, making frequent calls, from Lombard-street to Charing Cross viâ Oxford-street and Regent-street, and back by the Strand. His job will take him four or five hours, and woe betide him if he were seen entering any house of refreshment while it is in progress. The wear and tear of shoe-leather and clothing—for he must be decently dressed, whatever the weather—is debited to his account, not the bank's. And he performs his journey under the constant risk of being robbed. Probably no clerk will regret being relieved of this job; but beyond that, all that the change means to the bank staffs is that there will be some reduction in their number.

One of the ugliest revelations in connection with the proceedings against the West Ham Guardians is contained in the evidence of the manager of the local branch of the London and Provincial Bank. In order to obtain the Guardians' account, which apparently was hardly to be desired for its own sake, this gentleman distributed among Guardians and officials sums which he estimates "in round figures" at £100. He seems to have paid it reluctantly, at any rate when he began, but presumably he believed that if he did not pay a rival manager would. He explained that all his expenditure was reimbursed by the bank. This implies that the proceeding was approved and ratified at headquarters. Are we really to take it that leading joint stock banks, in competing for accounts of public bodies, regard the bribing of public representatives and officials as legitimate business?

An admirer of Skegness, especially of its salubrious air and excellent golf-course, sends me some humorous comments on the facts noticed in a recent paragraph that the town has no police court and no resident magistrates, and that nearly all the local officials, such as the chairman, the clerk, and the treasurer of the District Council, the poor-law relieving officer, and the registrars of births and deaths live elsewhere. He explains that, though these functionaries do not, for various reasons, reside in Skegness, they show their appreciation of the health-giving qualities of the place by putting in a good deal of time there. Neither a relieving officer nor a registrar of deaths is wanted on the spot, because there are few or no paupers and people never or hardly ever die there. As to births, why the babies thrive so rapidly that they can very soon trot over to the office at Burgh and register their own births! Joking apart, however, my correspondent admits that even in this Elysium of the East Coast the absence of a police court and resident magistrates is a public inconvenience that ought to be remedied.

I have received the following letter, and I am in doubt as to how far its publication may have the prejudicial effect which the writer is anxious about. But I think it deserves publication as a document of general interest in connection with the relation of the press to legal proceedings. Mr. Sanders' clients know a great deal more about my business than I do myself, for this is the first I have heard of the article about which they are so fully informed. But it is evident that they believe me to be in possession of information which they are anxious to prevent my publishing, and I bow to their superior knowledge and judgment:—

1, Old Serjeants' Inn, Chancery Lane, London,
February 16, 1907.

Dear Sir,—I am writing on behalf of Messrs. Vert and Sinkins, Concert-Direction Limited, and Mr. Lawrence Cowen.

My clients have been informed that an article is in course of preparation to appear in Truth which contains reflections upon both my clients and their relations with one another.

I have to inform you that legal proceedings for slander and libel have been commenced by my clients against Mr. Pedro Tillett (trading as N. Vert) and against others, and these actions will raise various points which are involved in your article, according to my clients' information concerning it. It is therefore my duty to warn you that the publication of the article in question, or of any similar article, is likely to be prejudicial to proceedings which are now *sub judice*, and to request you accordingly to refrain from such publication.—Yours faithfully, W. H. Sanders.

Several Scotch correspondents have informed me that the words of the oath administered in the Scotch Courts were not given quite correctly in my paragraph on the subject last week. Curiously enough my correspondents themselves are not in complete agreement as to the precise words, but the usual form appears to be: "I swear by Almighty God, as I shall answer to God at the Great Day of Judgment, that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." It is said, however, that this form is often cut down—especially in the inferior courts—to the simple words: "I swear that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." As to the manner in which the oath is administered, not only the witness, but also the judge (both standing), holds up his right hand, and the witness repeats the words after the judge. This is undoubtedly much more impressive than the English procedure, and as the Scotch oath is now being increasingly used here, it is desirable that official instructions in regard to its proper form should be issued to judges, magistrates, coroners, and other functionaries who are called upon to administer it.

Congenial Employment for officers and gentlemen with £500 to £5,000. Extra Capital found for profit-earning concerns. Major F. E. V. Taylor, The Officers' Employment Bureau, 14a, Belfast Chambers, Beak-st., Regent-st., W.

At Bristol, last week, Louis Fine was convicted under the Moneylenders Act of having unlawfully carried on business as a moneylender elsewhere than at his registered address, and the magistrates inflicted a penalty of £20 and costs. The fact that Fine was committing this offence was discovered by one of my staff during an inspection of the register at Somerset House, and the prosecution was the outcome of a paragraph in Truth directing the attention of the Chief Constable of Bristol to the matter. The Chief Constable is to be congratulated upon this enforcement of the Act, and I commend his example to the authorities at Scotland Yard. In London, as I have repeatedly shown, the police appear to treat violations of the penal clauses of the Moneylenders Act as outside the range of their duties, and far more flagrant offences than Fine's are committed with impunity.

An old man of sixty-nine years of age named William Peters, who was brought up at Birmingham Quarter Sessions last week for stealing some waistcoats, supplies an appalling example of the manufacture of the recidivist criminal by our fatuous penal system. According to the Recorder he has served in all fifty-three years' penal servitude, and since he was a boy of sixteen he has only spent ten months of his life outside prison walls. What was the original offence which led to the lad's first incarceration and started him on his remarkable prison career, Mr. Dugdale omitted to mention. It is a pity he did not do so, for the facts would be of value to reformative penologists. But even without full details of Peter's career it is impossible not to see in him a victim of the old time judicial ferocity which sought the punishment rather than the reform of the criminal.

I have received from Messrs. Alpe and Ward, solicitors, a letter which I print below with the omission of one sentence. My paragraph was based upon the remarks of Mr. Justice Joyce in refusing the injunction for which Messrs. Alpe and Ward's client applied. While I am willing to afford publicity to the rest of their statement, the sentence that I have omitted seems to involve something like a pre-judgment of the matter still *sub judice*, and its insertion might give employment to other solicitors—including, possibly, my own. For this reason I have deleted that particular passage from Messrs. Alpe and Ward's letter, which is otherwise as follows:—

Our client Mr. H. T. Terry's attention has been brought to a paragraph in the edition of Truth, dated the 13th inst., relating to a decision of Mr. Justice Joyce in an action of Terry v. Paddington. The writer of this paragraph is evidently under a misapprehension as to the facts of the case. The prize alleged to have been won by the defendant was in respect of a competition held in the month of February, 1904, which competition did not in any way belong to our client Terry, although at the time he was in the employment of the proprietors. . . . . The matter came before the learned Judge on an interlocutory motion for an injunction, and we are pressing on the action with the utmost vigour.

Our client instructs us that he is in a position and quite willing to prove, that every prize offered by him has been duly paid. This being so, we must ask you, in fairness to him, to insert this letter in your next issue

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My Legal Pillory supplies this week a number of glaring contrasts in the treatment accorded offenders against the person and offenders against property. Thus it would appear that in the eye of the law the man who indulges in a little surreptitious skating on public water is as heinous an offender as the ruffian who kicks and batters his fourteen-year-old son; that to set a snare for a rabbit merits twice the punishment doled out to the man who attempts to strangle his sister; that nothing less than three months' imprisonment is adequate punishment for the lad who steals two bagatelle balls, while the knacker who puts an unfortunate horse to inexpressible agony in the attempt to export it alive to the Continent, is considered to be sufficiently penalised by the infliction of a fine.

Sheffield Police-court. Before Alderman Senior and Mr. F. Brittain. George West, charged with assaulting his son, aged 14. The boy was kicked and struck on the head with a mug, stunning him, and making a wound penetrating to the bone. Fined 20s.

Birmingham Police-court. Before the Stipendiary and other magistrates. Samuel Holloway, charged with assaulting his sister. He broke into her house, dragged her about by the hair, tried to strangle her, and bombarded her with dishes. Fined 20s. and costs.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Henry Grantham, a knacker exporter, and George Dennis, drover, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal could not walk without excruciating pain, and after taking three days to travel eight miles it collapsed. Grantham fined £2 2s. 6d. inclusive, Dennis 10s.

Romford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. Wright and J. D. Broodbank. George and Alfred Otley, charged with assaulting J. J. Bennett. He was attacked by both defendants, knocked down, and kicked. Fined 40s. and costs each.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. W. Hunt and other magistrates. Harriet Bird, single woman, charged with neglecting her three children. The children were half starved and were in a filthy condition. Bound over in £5 to come up for judgment.

Abingdon Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. Coxeter, Brewer, and Paul. Thomas Hodnett, charged with cruelty to a mare by keeping it without food and water during the cold weather. From January 19 to January 30 only three "pitches" of barley straw were given the animal to eat. Fined £3 and costs.

Wragby Police-court. Before Messrs. N. L. Calcraft, J. Sharpe, and the Hon. George Heneage. J. Hosthorpe, charged with assaulting Arthur White. White was knocked down and bitten through the ear and on the arm. Fined £1 and costs.

Llandaff Police-court. Before Dr. Taylor and other magistrates. P. Rogers and W. Clark, charged with being on enclosed premises during prohibited hours. They were skating on Roath Park lake after the time appointed for the closing of the park. Fined 20s. and costs each.

Somerton Petty Sessions. Before Colonel F. W. Pinney, Messrs. E. W. Valentine, A. E. Staley, Russell Barrington, R. Alford, F. M. Eastment, and H. C. Price. Charles Garland, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. He set some snares for rabbits. Fined 40s. and costs.

Pontypridd Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. John Bowden, a youth, charged with stealing two bagatelle balls. Three months' imprisonment.

Worksop Police-court. John Rose, W. Bartrop, and R. Elms, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Rose fined 40s. and costs, and the others 30s. each.

Droxford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. H. Myers, R. A. P. B. Campbell-Wyndham, H. W. Trinder, E. Whalley Tasker, and Major Randolph. W. Matthews, a gipsy, charged with stealing two faggots of wood, value 4d. Three weeks' hard labour.

Ixworth Petty Sessions. Before Major-General H. Percival, Mr. C. S. Wolton, and Mr. H. J. Parker Jolly. James Dew and George Smith, charged with night poaching. Smith six weeks' hard labour; Dew fined £1 and costs.

Andover Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor. Thomas Sanders and Robert Johnson, tramps, charged with making false statements. They told the police at Stockbridge that they had come from Sarum, whereas they had only come from Andover, after receiving relief. Seven days' hard labour each.

Boston Borough Police-court. Before Dr. A. Tuxford, Messrs. Bedford, J. Beaulah, H. B. Clark, J. W. Skinner, J. H. Simpson, and J. Thompson. Arthur Prudence, charged with stealing a pair of scissors, of the value of 1s. One month's hard labour.

Gentleman (42) desires engagement as Companion (travelling or otherwise) or as Private Secretary to another requiring cheerful society. Well educated; highest references.—Reply, Williamson, 11, Cathcart-road, South Kensington.

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

John Brady, farmer, and G. Barnaby, farm servant, charged with working a horse, one of whose feet was completely rotted away. Brady fined 14s. 6d., inclusive; case against Barnaby dismissed.

Alloa Sheriff's Court. Before Sheriff-Substitute Dean Leslie. George Love, charged with stealing a pocketful of potatoes from a potato pit. Thirty days' imprisonment

York Police-court. Before Messrs. W. W. Hargrove, H. W. Empson, T. E. Wood, and S. Wright. Nathaniel Smith, charged with cruelty to a pony. The animal, which was ill and in an emaciated condition, was thrashed with a whip until it fell down. Fined 10s. and costs.

I wonder what amount of evidence the Tywardreath Bench would require to prove a case of cruelty? Before these Cornish Shallows last week the R.S.P.C.A. prosecuted a man for cruelty to a pony, which was so overdriven that at the end of the journey it fell down and died from exhaustion. A veterinary surgeon stated that this was the cause of the animal's death, and several witnesses deposed that they saw the defendant driving the pony and trap (in which there were five men) at a furious pace; but the magistrates held that the evidence was insufficient to prove a case of cruelty and dismissed the summons. The letters that I have received show that this decision has excited a good deal of astonishment in the district, and, having read the evidence, I should have been astonished myself had I not long since discovered that the ways of the Great Unpaid are past understanding.

As an illustration of the continuous vitality of some of the bloodsucking fraternity, a correspondent sends me a reminiscence of H. Sanguinetti, alias "H. Lester," whose name figured in my recent Cautionary List. Twenty-nine years ago, when he was at Cambridge, my correspondent was pestered with the circulars of this usurer's tout. He passed the circulars on to his father who submitted them to his college tutor, the Rev. E. H. Morgan, of Jesus College, now the popular Master of the College. The result was that Mr. Morgan preached an excellent sermon on the subject of an undergraduate's temptations, with special reference to the tempter Sanguinetti. In the past thirty years or so I have often taken that shark as a text for a little journalistic homily, but I did not know before that he had achieved the distinction of being denounced in a college sermon.

By the way, I find that I omitted from the Cautionary List the name of another veteran touting moneylender—Arthur Cheston, 18, New Burlington-street. One of his circulars came to hand a few days ago to remind me of his existence. Cheston is not quite such a veteran as Sanguinetti, but, still, it is a great many years now since, after learning the tricks of the trade as clerk to the once notorious Harry Marcus, alias Mason, alias Fry, alias Kennedy, he blossomed forth as an extortioner on his own account.

A peculiar, almost pathetic, figure in the world of usury is the needy tout signing himself "Frank Berry." There are other needy touts, but they contrive somehow to keep up outward appearances, to rent an office, to get their circulars printed, and to buy postage stamps. Not so Berry. For many years past he has done his touting from some humble lodging in a back street or from some small newspaper shop serving as an accommodation address. He laboriously writes out his own circulars on the cheapest procurable notepaper, puts them into envelopes endorsed "private," and sealed with a dab of wax, and then drops them into the letter-boxes of well-to-do residents. Just now people in the neighbourhood of Regent's Park are being favoured with his intimation, dated from 112, Oliphant-street, Queen's Park, that from £50 to £10,000 can be quickly advanced to all responsible persons of either sex. It is not easy to imagine any one applying to this impecunious individual for a loan, but still it is evident that he manages now and then to get hold of a would-be borrower from whom a fee or commission can be extracted, or else he would not continue his curious method of business year after year.

A firm of solicitors in the country relate another instance of the rapacity of I. A. Hardy and Co., of Chancery-lane—a debt-collecting firm, who have frequently come under notice in TRUTH on this same ground. It may be remembered that Hardy and Co.'s trick is to charge a trifling commission, and supplement it by outrageous charges for postage. In one of the latest instances they collected a debt for 10s. and remitted to the creditor 4s. 3d., the modest commission of 2s. being swollen by "postages" to the tune of 3s. 9d. In another case they collected £1 12s., on which their commission was 3s. 6d., and postages this time amounted to 5s. The total debt in this case was £4 17s., and after the £1 12s. had been collected, the creditor withdrew the debt from Hardy's hands. Thereupon Hardy and Co. made another charge of 7s. on the amount withdrawn, pointing in justification for this to a note on their prospectus, where an announcement in large type: "No commission is charged on unrecovered amounts," is followed by the further notice in type so small as to be almost illegible: "excepting debts if withdrawn for no cause whilst in course of collection, in which case 2s. in the £ on amount of debt."

Hardy and Co.'s full style and address are "The United Kingdom, Colonial, and Foreign General Agency Offices, Royal Courts Chambers, 70, 71, 72, Chancery-lane," etc., and their trade prospectus is adorned with an imposing picture of these premises. In point of fact they only occupy a room in this building, which is generally closed, and their business communications bear the post mark "Finsbury Park." It would seem, therefore, that their City address is nothing but an accommodation one for the receipt of letters.

THE RITZ HOTEL, PICCADILLY, W. — 8090 Gerrard. The Restaurant and Hotel overlook the Green Park. Magnificent suite of Ball and Banqueting Rooms. Under the same Direction as the Carlton Hotel.

DIEUDONNÉ HOTEL AND RESTAURANT, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

There is nothing left to wonder at in anything that the *Times* does in these days; but a few years ago one would have been amazed to see the following advertisement appearing, as it has done, again and again in its columns:—

LARGE HOUSE WANTED.—A gentleman, having a quantity of valuable furniture (now warehoused), which he wishes to sell by auction, would be willing to pay a liberal rent for the use of a large house in a good neighbourhood for one month. Commission to agent introducing. Apply A. B., etc.

Everybody knows what this means—everybody, at least, who knows enough of the world around him to manage the advertising department of a daily paper. The large house in a good neighbourhood is wanted, at a liberal rent, because the furniture which is to be sold—doubtless in the ordinary course of trade—will fetch prices far in excess of its value by the mere fact that it is found in such a house. The trick is in evidence constantly, and a flagrant example of it was given in Truth a few weeks ago, in the case of a sale held in South Kensington. But to find the trick systematically worked through the agency of Printing House-square is a novel and unpleasant "sign of the *Times*."

The following piece of impudence seems to deserve gibbeting: A Mr. C. P. Taylor, of Shrubbery Road, Streatham, writes to a well-known Sheffield firm that he possesses two rare works of interest to Sheffield and the cutlery trade, which he will be pleased to forward on receipt of 7s. 6d. The firm, instead of putting the letter into the waste-paper basket, as they would be perfectly entitled to do, take the trouble to send Mr. Taylor a postcard, stating that they have no use for the books. Mr. Taylor returns the postcard in an unstamped envelope, with the following memorandum written across it:—

The next time a gentleman goes out of his way to offer you a very scarce book, write in a proper manner—not on a postcard—and thank him for his courtesy.

Mr. Taylor's ideas of gentlemanly conduct are more evident in his theory than in his practice. I am curious to know whether any other people have had experience of his gentlemanly attentions.

A collector, described to me by a friend as "a decidedly attractive young lady," has lately been at work in Brighton for "the London Samaritan Collecting Fund," which is the *nom de guerre* of my old friends Mesdames Morton and Pass. It is some time since I heard of these ladies, and I was in hopes that they had found some more useful means of supporting themselves than by collecting money from unsuspecting persons for the alleged purpose of providing free meals for "the aged poor, and crippled and destitute children" during the winter. From numbers of testimonials printed with their appeal it would seem that certain persons testify to free meals having been provided by the two ladies during the last six years; but I doubt if those which the aged poor and the children have enjoyed in this way equal either in quality or quantity the number which Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Pass have consumed during the same time at the expense of the subscribers.

The said testimonials are curiosities in their way. A Mr. Robert H. Parsons, of Southville, Wandsworth-road, returning thanks on behalf of his teachers to Morton and Pass, dates his letter, "October 21, 1902-3." A Mr. George Dale, who describes himself as "superintendent" of the Custom-street Mission Hall, dates his letter, "December, 1901-2-3-4-5," and March 1, 1906." A gentleman named Josiah Foster dates in the same way from "Victoria Docks Union Church, January, 1901-2-3-4-5," while "Sister Nellie," of the Wesleyan Seamen's Mission, Three Colt-street, E., gives the date of her testimonial as "February 2, 1900, and January, 1901-2-3-4." It is manifestly absurd to suppose that anybody would write letters and date them in this way unless acting in collusion with Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Pass, which I have no reason to suppose is the case. It is really time that the operations of these two females were stopped. My own feeling is that their energies would be better employed in a little oakum-picking.

"Probably the change of address may be of interest," writes a correspondent, in forwarding a communication "*re* concert tickets" which he has received from R. H. P. Wilson, Trematon Cottage, Albury-road, Streatham. The change is certainly worth noting, Wilson having figured in my recent Cautionary List with an address at Clapham Junction. He makes pitiful appeals to strangers to buy tickets for benefit concerts which he is getting up. Strangers, however, would do well to turn a deaf ear to his importunities, for he is a rascal quite undeserving of any sympathy. Begging and swindling have been his professions for twenty years, and besides six months' hard labour he has undergone a sentence of three years' penal servitude for forgery.

With reference to a paragraph which appeared in last week's Truth under the heading of "Motors and Motoring," Mr. Filson Young writes:—

The writer of your article is right in supposing that I have always endeavoured to promote considerateness in the driving of motor cars, and, in so far as my own small example is worth anything, to drive considerately myself. He quotes, however, in contradiction to these facts, the circumstance that I admitted driving a car over a flying mile on the Bath road at over sixty miles an hour. If he is familiar with the Marlborough Downs he must know that there are exposed stretches of that road, perfectly straight and visible for more than a mile, on which such a speed is perfectly safe; and it was on such a stretch of open empty road that I carried out the test mentioned.

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. . . . . I am no more ashamed of having driven at the speed mentioned on a straight, empty moorland road than I should be proud of driving at twenty miles an hour on many roads where such a speed is legally authorised.

I must ask you also to correct a grave mistake which your correspondent has made. He says that the test was made "apparently for advertising purposes." In making this statement your contributor has fallen into an error, which, however little he may have intended it, is, in fact, impertinent and unjustifiable. I have never driven a motor car a single yard for advertising purposes, or to serve any other purpose than my own pleasure, instruction, or scientific interest.

Of course I accept at once Mr. Filson Young's statement that he did not make the test in question for advertising purposes, but at the same time, having regard to the use that has nevertheless been made of it as an advertisement of the car, I think that my contributor's mistake was not impertinent or inexcusable. I think, too, that it is not in the interests of automobilism as a whole that such a performance as the driving of a car at sixty miles an hour on a public road, even though it is a straight, empty, moorland road, should be advertised.

THE "PREVIOUS" PEER.

(An Incident of the Opening of Parliament.)

He sat him in the sacred place
Which ducal forms are wont to grace.

It simply may have meant, no doubt,
He hadn't learnt his way about;

Or, p'rhaps, his mind's so long been set
Upon a ducal coronet,

He'd, for the moment, clean forgot
That he as yet a duke was not.

His friends make jocular complaint
Of such unusual self-restraint,

Which stopped at ducal bench alone,
And modestly left void the Throne.

Mr. Henry Broadhurst writes:—

During the Parliament of 1880 Lord Goschen favoured me with many talks on social and political subjects, chiefly concerning their effect upon the working classes. It is quite true that he had the gravest doubts as to the wisdom of entrusting the labouring people with the Franchise. This was not because he did not like the people—it was, as he expressed it to me, because he feared that demagogues might lead them astray on questions of great national importance, and he specifically mentioned that of Protection *v.* Free Trade, on which most deceptive but alluring promises might be made.

I distinctly remember doing my best to assure him that he might trust them on that subject, and especially in the case of those of us who remembered the hungry forties. On the occasion of his "gamble with the food of the people" speech, I wrote reminding him of our conversation then, more than twenty years ago. He acknowledged my note, and remembered the incident. My retirement from Parliament immediately after the late General Election prevented me seeing him in the last Session, or I should have spoken with him again on the results of the polls in January, 1906.

In the campaign of mendacious slander that is now being directed against the London County Council there is one reflection which I should think must occur to even the most ignorant of London voters. How is it that we only hear of these things at election times? The campaign is being waged on behalf of the Moderates, or "Municipal Reformers," as they have dubbed themselves for electioneering purposes. How is it that during the three years' life of the present Council the Moderate Councillors have had nothing to say about all the administrative fatuities which fill the pages of papers like the *Daily Mail* and the *Evening News*? The answer is very simple. The County Council is an executive body in the work of which all members take their share. The particular proceedings which are now used in the manufacture of electioneering capital are the work of committees, on which there is never any very serious friction or difference of opinion, and in most cases one party on the Council is as much responsible for them as another. It is only at election times that this or that piece of business is raked up, distorted, misrepresented, and held up to the electors as proof of the fatuous idiocy of the majority on the Council.

People who understand nothing of the business of municipal bodies imagine that parties on a County Council are in the same position as in the House of Commons, and that there is a sort of Government in office, supported by the majority, and resisted at all points by the Opposition. This is simply nonsense, and if the position were properly understood—namely, that all executive business is transacted by committees composed of men of both parties—there would be no room for the wild fictions that are now being so busily circulated, and no elector would be misled by them. A Moderate candidate, called to account the other day for repeating the fairy tale about the "blankets scandal," which had been knocked on the head at the previous meeting of the Council, justified himself by the argument that "the party in power" is responsible for everything the Council does. There is nothing either in the theory or the practice of the Council to warrant any such contention, and in this very instance a Moderate member of the committee under whose jurisdiction the blankets fell, had not only accepted his share of the responsibility, but protested against the use that was being made of the story—a story which was as to nine-tenths of it fiction, and as to the remaining tenth pointless.

Precisely the same thing may be said about the "Norbury brickfield" business, out of which a fictitious "scandal" has been created by evidence of a very questionable character. There has been no serious question between Moderates and Progressives in regard to this brickfield; and there is not the slightest reason to suppose that, had the majority on the committee been Moderates, the brickfield would not have been worked exactly as it has been. The reasons for it were sound, and by overwhelming

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evidence the result justifies what has been done. All these electioneering libels are libels, not on the majority of the Council, but on the Council collectively, and in many cases Moderate Councillors have had the decency to recognise this and repudiate the falsehoods. But the plain truth is that the present campaign is inspired altogether from outside the Council, and with no object but to wreck its work and destroy its influence.

If money can do it, this end will be accomplished. But in some cases it would really seem that the means employed must defeat their own end. One of the most audacious fictions propagated since the election has been in sight represents the County Council as having raised the debt of London to over 100 millions. This figure is arrived at by adding together all the debts of all the municipal authorities in London, including the 40 millions of the Water Board, and I believe also the debt of the City Corporation. The amount for which the County Council is responsible is about a third of the total, and, unlike the debts of most of the authorities, it includes large sums invested in tramways and other remunerative enterprises—that is to say, capital. Now this fiction of a 100 million County Council debt has actually been embodied in their election address by the "Municipal Reform" candidates for Norwood. How can any ratepayer who takes the trouble to ascertain facts for himself vote for a candidate who commits himself to such a statement? Even taking the most favourable view, that the statement is put forward in sheer ignorance, how can a man so hopelessly in the dark about the municipal business of London be a fit person to serve on the County Council? What qualification can he possibly possess for the self-imposed mission of a "municipal reformer"?

I am glad that Mr. John Burns intends to introduce a Bill to enable every conscientious objector to vaccination to obtain the relief which the Act of 1898 was intended to grant him, but which has too often been withheld by self-opinionated magistrates bent upon rendering null and void a law of which they disapproved. In some districts the Act has been fairly administered, but in others the great unpaid have practically set it at defiance, refusing exemptions in cases where it was manifest that they ought to have been granted, and adding insult to injury by their methods of brow-beating and ridiculing the applicants. Though not an anti-vaccinator myself—the question is one upon which I really have no settled convictions—I have always strongly protested against these proceedings.

For one reason, it has seemed to me a monstrous and intolerable state of things that magistrates should be permitted to obstruct the working of an Act simply because they disagree with its provisions. For another reason, it has meant the infliction of gross hardship and injustice on many citizens. The magistrates can refuse a certificate of exemption, but they cannot compel a conscientious objector to have his child vaccinated; all that they can do is to subject him to various penalties as a defaulter, and thereby—as the report of the Royal Commission showed—strengthen the anti-vaccination movement by making him appear—as indeed he is—a victim of persecution. That movement has probably gained many hundreds of adherents mainly owing to the short-sighted and pig-headed policy of pro-vaccinist Shallows in over-riding the spirit if not the letter of the law. It is apparently intended that under the new Bill the granting of a certificate of exemption shall no longer be left to the discretion—save the mark!—of the magistrates, but shall be obligatory on the applicant making a simple statutory declaration of his conscientious objection to vaccination.

THE ILLOGICAL LAURUSTINUS.

A little Laurustinus grew
Hard by a stark and stalwart Yew,
Who, pitying the fragile Thing,
Did take it underneath his Wing,
And sheltered, with protecting Care,
From scorching Sun and biting Air.
Yet eke he managed, so they say,
To twist his Boughs in such a Way
That no Obstruction they present
To his small Friend's Development,
Who thus, of Interference void,
A full Protection still enjoyed.
  Long flourished Laurustinus there,
Beneath Dan Yew's indulgent Care,
Until, at length, conceited grown,
She took an independent Tone,
And thus, with upstart Air, expressed
The Thoughts that filled her swelling Breast:
  "Far, far too long, upon my Soul,
I've played Subjection's meagre Rôle!
Who's Yew, that I should live, till Age,
Dependent on his Patronage,
And humble Thanks obsequious owe
For what he deigneth to bestow?
No more for me this servile Game,
Henceforward *equal* Rights I'll claim,
To Tree exalt myself from Shrub,
And Branches with His Lordship rub!"
  She said, and forth her Branches threw
To try Conclusions with the Yew,
Who, rigid, met the Shrub's Attack,
And firm, yet gentle, forced her back.
So when her Impotence she found
Miss Laurustinus changed her Ground,
And Coward now Dan Yew did dub
For shoving thus a helpless Shrub.
To whom Dan Yew, in Accents dry,
Made this succinctly shrewd Reply:
  "'Tis plain at once you cannot be
Both helpless Shrub and pushful Tree,
Nor, while aggressive Strength's your Aim,
The Privilege of Weakness claim."

Moral.

The Moral is not far to seek.
'Twas seen at Westminster last Week.

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SCRUTATOR.

THE GOVERNMENT BILL OF FARE.

THE King's Speech offers Parliament plenty to do for the next few months, and there is something in the bill of fare to suit every guest at table. If Ministers succeed before the end of the Session in carrying a new Army Scheme, reforming Irish Government, solving the "housing" question, re-modelling the Licensing Laws, and re-adjusting the relations of the two Houses in a satisfactory fashion, in addition to passing eight or ten minor measures, they will have satisfied all reasonable requirements, on their own side of the House, at any rate, and can afford to laugh at Mr. Balfour's inability to discover that they possess anything in the shape of a "constructive" policy. One cannot judge a dinner by the menu, and the various measures promised must be seen before they can be considered on their merits; but at least the Government may be credited with a business-like zeal. And it may also be said that in regard to the two chief items—Ireland and the House of Lords—their utterances promise well. Mr. Birrell's first speech as Chief Secretary was excellent in spirit and in matter, and as this was the Irish opinion as well as the English, he has begun well. Equally good was his speech on Lord Clanricarde and the evicted tenants question, in proof of which there is the unsolicited testimony of Mr. Walter Long. The idea that a landlord who manages his estate on Clanricarde principles should be treated as unfit to have the control of his own property, for his own sake as well as his neighbours', contains just that mixture of humour and sound sense in which Mr. Birrell is at his best.

What constitutes the King's Speech of 1907 an epoch-making document is the reference in it, for the first time in history, to the House of Lords question. That this event should not come till 1907 is a remarkable proof of the slowness with which political events move in this country, and incidentally of the little need we have of a permanent bulwark against "hasty and ill-considered legislation." It is just on thirteen years since Mr. Gladstone took his leave of Parliamentary life, and solemnly bequeathed to his successors the duty of demolishing the power of the House of Lords as the first step to any effectual legislative achievement by the Liberal Party. It has taken all that time to bring the Party back to the point at which Mr. Gladstone left it; but at last the task is to be taken in hand. The definition of the task in the King's Speech is precisely on the right lines, as I have always understood them. There is no suggestion for the present of reforming the Upper House. It is a question of "the relations between the two Houses," which can only mean the unrestricted power of the Upper House to reject once and for all measures carried by the Lower. It would be a fatal error to lose sight of this point by starting with some contentious proposal for altering the constitution of the Upper House; for, in the first place, as things are at present the reform of the House of Lords must rest entirely with the House of Lords itself, since it can reject any scheme proposed by the Commons of which it does not approve; and, in the second place, any reform must be calculated to increase the authority and strength of the House of Lords, and to do this while the unrestricted veto remains would be to step out of the frying-pan into the fire. Moreover, if an attempt to amend the constitution of the House were made before its powers in regard to legislation have been limited, the new constitution would have to be shaped with some regard to the existing powers, which would introduce fresh difficulties into the problem and fresh ground of contention between the two Houses. When the permanent veto on legislation has been got rid of, the precise composition of the Upper House will cease to be a question of serious consequence to either of the Parliamentary parties, and there will be so much the better chance of constructing a second chamber with sole regard to obtaining the best possible class of members for the purposes which such a chamber is designed to serve. Every consideration, therefore, suggests that the veto is the first point of attack.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in his few remarks on the subject last week, expressed the opinion that the problem is not so difficult as many people suppose. He is quite right. The course to be pursued is perfectly simple, and, with all respect to Sir Lawson Walton, it involves no nearer an approach to a "revolution" than did the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832. A Bill limiting the Lords' veto to one session should be passed by the House of Commons. We may take for granted that it will be rejected by the Lords point blank. Whether there should be a dissolution upon it at once would probably depend upon the King. With or without a dissolution, and assuming that the country supported the Government at a general election, if held, the Bill should be again passed in the following session, and returned to the Lords with an intimation that if it be again rejected the number of peers necessary to carry it will be created at once. Whether the Lords force the question to that extremity or yield to the inevitable gracefully, is immaterial to the result; but that they would yield as they did in 1832 may pretty well be taken for granted, seeing that resistance would be futile, and that aristocratic *esprit de corps* would be all against the swamping of the Peerage with some 600 new men. We have also to remember that the vast majority of the Peers, however conservative and tenacious of their ancient rights by instinct, are ordinary sensible men, who know at heart, as does every Conservative in the House of Commons, that the present power of the Upper House is an indefensible anachronism, and its suppression in a democratic age only a question of a few years more or less. This knowledge is not conducive to the spirit which fights to a finish, or yields only to "revolution." The solution of the whole difficulty is therefore quite as simple as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman believes, and if he

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manages the business as discreetly as he has managed all his business up to the present time, he will settle it before he goes out of office and make for himself a conspicuous name in history.

PENSIONS AND MILITARY SERVICE.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, like everybody else, is so anxious to make a start with old age pensions, but, like many other people, does not see how or where to begin, I make a present of a suggestion which may be of use to the Secretary of State for War as well as his colleagues. It is that we should start by giving old age pensions for military service, whether in the regular Army, the Militia, or the Volunteers. The pensions might be graded according to the nature of the service; for example, the regular soldier who completes twelve or fourteen years, mostly of foreign service, should receive 1s. 6d. a day, and he might come into it at the age of sixty; the militiaman and the volunteer might have a shilling a day at the age of sixty-five, with an opportunity of increasing it if they reach a certain class of proficiency. Whether or not the charge should be placed on the Army Estimates in the case of the auxiliary army is a matter of detail; but I may point out that if this were done, there is a possibility that the charge might not be a very heavy one, because it is an essential part of my suggestion that all military pensions should be of the "deferred" order. The present system of pensioning for life men who are discharged at forty seems to me wrong in principle, and it is one of the causes of the high cost of our Army. If no pensions became payable until fifty-five or sixty, except in case of disablement for work, the present pension charge would be very substantially reduced.

Looking at the matter purely from the political point of view, I appreciate that "Labour" might kick at first against anything that looked like an attempt to connect old-age pensions with military service. But if the thing were done in the right way, I think that such objections could be avoided or overcome. It is pretty generally agreed that we want to get more men, and a better class of men, for military service, especially in the Army and Militia, and the offer of pensions is the cheapest way of getting them, as well as the most effectual, because it appeals to the best class of men. In fact, the chief difficulty which I anticipate from the adoption of this plan is that we should get many more Volunteers and Militiamen than we have any use for.

When Mr. Haldane's scheme for the reorganisation of the auxiliary forces is presented, I hope that the Government will be perfectly frank with the Labour men on the subject of military service—as Mr. Haldane has endeavoured to be in many of the speeches that he has made lately. I do not believe that the working classes as a whole doubt the necessity for a properly organised home army on a militia basis, or that they are averse to the State dealing fairly, not to say liberally, with all men who undertake a few years' military service in whatever class of troops. But they are very shy of any steps in the direction of compulsion, and they hate the spirit which is vaguely described as "militarism"; and it is therefore necessary to have a clear understanding with their leaders as to what is and is not necessary in the shape of an army, and what is and is not the duty of the State in regard to the working men who serve in it. It is no doubt true that "Labour" is unsympathetic towards soldiering at present. But this attitude is not without reason, and the best way to alter it is to recognise that the question of soldiering is essentially a Labour question, and to discuss it on that footing.

The other day the Preston Trades Council was deeply exercised over the fact that short-service soldiers had been introduced into one of the bakeries of the town in order that they might learn the trade. A unionist had been asked to teach the men; and the union, after considering the question, had decided not to allow him to do so. The Bakers' Union having referred the matter to the Trades Council, several delegates described it as a most serious question, and its further consideration was postponed until the next meeting, apparently with a view that the matter might be brought before the Labour Members of Parliament. There was no reason whatever, so far as I can see, for this excitement except the fact that it was proposed to teach a trade to a soldier. If there was any question of some technical trade-union rule in regard to the terms on which the teaching was to be given, it was kept altogether in the background. I confess I am quite unable to understand the trade union view of this class of question, and therefore I attribute it to want of clear thinking on the other side. The soldier is, with very rare exceptions, a man of the working class. He is taken from it, and he reverts to it. In what way, then, are working-class interests injured by his being educated as a working man while he is serving? A more serious question still arises in connection with the preferential employment of discharged soldiers in the public service. A few months ago an important Labour deputation waited on the Prime Minister to protest against such preference. I was sorry to see that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman received them sympathetically, and expressed general approval of their views. It seemed to me that he would have done better to tackle them boldly and point out to them that the whole object of the proposed arrangement is to secure fair treatment by the State for its servants of the working class. Some 30,000 or 40,000 young men of that class are taken by the State every year for service in the regular Army; and according to the system which has hitherto prevailed, are chucked away at the end of their time, good for very little except to recruit the ranks of the unemployed, and fill the casual wards. The working classes can have no interest in perpetuating this state of things. Their whole interest is that those working men who enter the service of the State should enter it as far as possible permanently, or, if they have to be discharged, that they should be discharged with every assistance that can be given them to prevent their suffering by having spent seven or eight years in the public service. It is very important that the Government should fight this question out with the trade unions and their parliamentary representatives, not in any hostile spirit, but fairly and squarely by friendly discussion, with a view to a

rational understanding on both sides. And if that course is taken, I believe that the representatives of Labour will show their usual common sense in realising where the true interest of working men lies.

THE ABUSES OF MEDICAL TRADE UNIONISM.

In last week's article on the dispute between Dr. John Shaw and the Royal College of Physicians the opinion was expressed that medical practitioners ought to have a right of appeal to the High Court against the removal of their names from the Medical Register. As bearing upon this suggestion, I would call attention to the judgment delivered two or three weeks ago by Mr. Justice Warrington in the case of Clifford *v.* Timms. Mr. Clifford is a dentist and one of the directors of the American Dental Institute, carrying on also a private practice. He took Mr. Timms into partnership in his private practice, under an agreement which provided that Mr. Timms was to carry on the business in his own name, Mr. Clifford being a sleeping partner; and there was a clause in the agreement to the effect that if either partner should be "guilty of professional misconduct or of any act which is calculated to bring discredit upon or injure the other partner or the partnership business, the other partner shall be at liberty to give notice in writing of his intention to determine the partnership, and thereupon the partnership shall be dissolved." In the course of last year Mr. Clifford was reported to the General Medical Council for certain irregularities in connection with the American Dental Institute. The charges were that the Institute employed unregistered assistants, and that it advertised in an objectionable way by pamphlets, etc. reference being particularly made to an article in the *Review of Reviews* reflecting on English dentists and dentistry, for which the Institute paid 100 gs. The Dental Committee of the General Medical Council found that Mr. Clifford had been "guilty of infamous and disgraceful conduct in a professional respect," and his name was ordered to be removed from the dentists' register. Thereupon Mr. Timms gave notice to determine the partnership under the clause above mentioned, and Mr. Clifford brought his action, claiming a declaration that this notice was invalid and that the partnership still subsisted. Mr. Justice Warrington gave judgment in his favour.

It was contended, on behalf of the defendant, that the decision of the General Medical Council was binding on the Court, and that the Judge could not go behind it, the Council being a statutory body empowered to decide upon questions of professional misconduct. The learned Judge did not accept this contention. He drew a distinction between the kind of professional misconduct over which the Council has jurisdiction and the professional misconduct contemplated by the partnership agreement; and he expressed the opinion that even if the issue had been whether the plaintiff was guilty of the misconduct mentioned in the statute, the decision of the Council "would not have been admissible in proof of that fact, being *res inter alios acta*." He pointed out that on the evidence of the President of the Council the professional misconduct referred to in the statute would "be held by the Council to include certain breaches of professional etiquette which could not in my judgment be properly described as professional misconduct;" in other words, he treated the statutory expression, "infamous and disgraceful conduct in a professional respect," as having a narrow technical signification, which he declined to extend to an ordinary legal agreement dealing with "professional misconduct." That, at any rate, is how I understand his Lordship. The employment of unregistered assistants was not, he said, contrary to any rule of professional conduct; and after reading the advertisements of the American Dental Institute, he saw no professional misconduct in their publication, advertising being admittedly allowed in the dental profession.

The decision, therefore, seems to amount to this, that though a man may be struck off the register for certain breaches of professional etiquette which the General Medical Council construes as "infamous and disgraceful conduct in a professional respect" within the meaning of its statutory powers, this does not prove him to have been guilty of anything that can be called professional misconduct outside the General Medical Council-room; and that when the Court has to decide whether particular acts amount to professional misconduct it will form its own opinion quite independently of professional rules which have been imported into the construction of the Act by the Council. It is easy to see from this that if an appeal lay in law from the Council to the High Court on a question of the removal of a man's name from the register, the definition of "infamous and disgraceful conduct in a professional respect" might be very considerably narrowed. The power freely exercised by the General Medical Council to strike men off the register for some breach of professional rules in regard to advertising or what not, although there is no imputation either upon their personal honour or their professional abilities, has always seemed to me oppressive and dangerous. It appears still more so in view of Mr. Justice Warrington's decision.

An incident which occurred in the course of the trial of this case throws some useful light on the way in which the power of the Council is exercised. The Registrar of the General Medical Council had been called by the defendant on a *subpœna duces tecum* to produce documents which had been before the Council when the plaintiff's case was considered by them. On behalf of the Council objection was made to the production of these documents; and it was contended that "if all documents of a confidential nature which were brought before the Council in disciplinary cases were liable to be brought before the Court in cases of this kind, it would be impossible for the Council to conduct its inquiries." Mr. Justice Warrington looked at one of the documents before deciding the point, and ultimately, in giving his judgment, ruled, for the reasons above indicated, that the documents were not admissible. But the point which is of most interest is the revelation that the Council acts in cases of this kind upon private and confidential documents, and regards them as so sacred that it objects to produce them in Court when the reasons for its decision are in question. If, as I contend, the powers of the Council are essentially oppressive and dangerous, how much more so do they

become when it is seen that the proceedings of the Council are founded upon evidence of such a nature, that if it were disclosed the operations of the Council would become impossible! I believe I am right in saying that even the man who is on his trial before the Council is kept in the dark as to much of the evidence against him; and it is a fair presumption that this is so, for if the evidence were disclosed to him there would no longer be any possibility of that secrecy which the Council claims for it. The Council, in short, seems to follow a procedure for which the only parallel is that connected with the Lion's Mouth at Venice. Any man can write any lie about another and transmit it to the General Medical Council in the full assurance that neither his identity nor the statement he has made will ever be disclosed; and the man incriminated is called upon to defend himself without knowing what defamatory allegations have been secretly made to the Council against him. It is not too much to say that this course of procedure is simply abominable and incompatible with the proper administration of justice. Outside the profession this will hardly be disputed; and even within the profession I doubt if the procedure will be defended by any one except the small ring by which the law is administered.

It is quite possible and logical, as I said last week, to recognise the necessity and utility of professional organisation for restraining individual competition while objecting to the grant of excessive powers for this purpose, or condemning the manner in which the powers are used. That the professional organisation should become tyrannical and unjust is no more for the interest of the profession than of the public. As regards the profession, it is a common matter of complaint, as has been repeatedly shown in these columns, that the powers of the medical organisation are used in a way which combines the maximum of tyranny towards small practitioners with the minimum of regard for their general welfare. A case was noticed in Truth only last summer in which a humble practitioner was kicked out of the profession after twenty years' practice, notwithstanding his apologies and appeals for mercy for the sake of his wife and family, because, after severing his connection with a medical benefit club, which had been objected to by his brother medicos, he incautiously sent a postcard notifying this fact and mentioning that he would continue to receive patients privately. That a family man of middle age should be deprived of his means of livelihood and thrown helpless on the world for such a reason as this is as revolting to the sense of justice as to the sentiment of humanity. It is very doubtful whether the general practitioner has any substantial interest in the crusade against advertising which is carried on so busily and remorselessly by the British Medical Association, with the General Medical Council at its back. On the other hand, it is perfectly certain that in the upper grades of the profession, advertising, less frank but far more effectual than that of the little club doctor in the above case, is practised systematically and with enormous profit, and that the British Medical Association and the General Medical Council are powerless to stop it—even if they have any desire to do so, which is improbable.

In a recent issue of the *General Practitioner* I see some strong observations on an advertisement for a doctor for the Petworth Park Friendly Society, the terms offered being such that the holder of the appointment would have to undertake all cases within a radius of seven miles—all-night midwifery cases, for example—at a remuneration working out at less than 3s. per head per annum. The first business of a trade union being to stop sweating, it might be supposed that the British Medical Association would long since have laid down a union scale of wages for club doctors, based on the "living wage" principle. But this does not seem to have been attempted. Any luckless struggling practitioner may take the sweater's terms for the sake of daily bread; but if the club that he serves on these terms advertises for members and uses his name, God help him! The precious Medico-Ethical Section of the British Medical Association will have him before the Council in an instant, and the Council will not think twice about depriving him of the right to practise, and packing him off with his wife and children to the nearest workhouse. Meantime, the County Hospital may advertise the imposing list of its staff in every newspaper, and send it to every householder from whom it solicits subscriptions, without a word of objection from any professional authority.

It is the same with other questions vitally affecting the small practitioner. Notoriously, private medical practice has been grievously injured by the abuse of free treatment at the hospitals. The charitable public is equally aggrieved by this abuse, for its money is applied to purposes for which it is not intended. Why does not the professional organisation move in this matter? Because the organisation is ruled by the few who are interested in the enlargement of hospital practice and have little concern for the welfare of the general practitioner, and still less for the rights of subscribers to hospitals. One sees the same state of things in another matter constantly under notice in these columns, the development of quackery and the inadequacy of the law against fraudulent unqualified practitioners. Here again the public interest is identical with that of the general practitioner. Again and again I have asked why the medical profession does not move to obtain an amendment of the law which will check the unauthorised practice of medicine. Again and again I have had from doctors the same answer—because the profession is ruled by men who have no interest in this matter, the quack only entering into competition with the general practitioner. It follows naturally that when a Bill is promoted in the name of the profession—there is one in the air at the present moment—for the purpose of amending the Medical Acts, its primary object is to increase the disciplinary powers of the professional oligarchy, not to remedy abuses which concern the public, or even the average doctor.

I mention these matters to show that the tendency of medical trade-unionism as at present constituted is not conducive to the best interests of the public or the profession. The case of Dr. John Shaw, described last week, exemplifies this tendency under yet another set of circumstances. A physician of good standing in

practice in the West End of London questions the expediency of the treatment of a certain disease which is for the moment in vogue, and alleges it to be the prolific source of a worse evil than that which it is designed to cure. Finding himself refused a hearing by the profession, he publishes a book which avowedly appeals to the laity. He is called to account by the Royal College of Physicians for violating the rules of professional conduct and communicating to patients what they ought not to have their attention called to. Recognising that if he does not desist from the course he is taking he will probably be handed over to the tender mercies of the General Medical Council, he resigns his membership of the College, and voluntarily removes his name from the medical register. Here we see the power of the professional organisation over its members used to prevent the public discussion of a question of profound public importance, and to keep patients in the dark about a matter in which they are vitally interested. When the powers of the medical colleges and the General Medical Council were conferred, it was never contemplated that they should be used for such a purpose. This use is therefore an abuse, which ought to be restrained; and I can see no more effectual way of restraining it than by making the functions of the General Medical Council in respect to the removal of names from the register subject to appeal to the High Court. The whole question calls urgently for the attention of Parliament, and when it is raised there it is to be hoped that the general body of medical practitioners will realise that their own interest in the matter is essentially identical with that of the public.

I have received the following letter from Dr. Shaw, which will help to explain the technical question at issue between him and the professional authorities:—

32, New Cavendish Street, Portland Place, London, W.,
February 14, 1907.

Dear Sir,—I cannot thank you too heartily for the article in yesterday's issue of your journal. There is, however, one misconception which I should be grateful if you would correct. It has apparently arisen from the correspondence with the College of Physicians covering two distinct although related works:—"Fibroid Tumour," *nominally* the subject of "the principal charge," and a book still in the press, "The Cure of Cancer: and how Surgery Blocks the Way," which I assumed (without justification, it would appear) to be the *real* offence.

In "Fibroid Tumour" I showed the reasons for concluding that the real mortality from hysterectomy (removal of the womb) was *more than five hundred times greater* than that alleged by the *British Medical Journal*, and four times that referred to by the late Dr. Thomas Keith, as constituting the operation under specified conditions *a criminal act*. The operation entails, moreover, increased liability to the subsequent development of cancer.

In the work shortly to be issued, the premises are predicated from which I conclude that operation is, of all the factors tending to the increased mortality from cancer, the most dominant. Cancer has been steadily increasing for a number of years. The *improved* conditions of operation during the last ten years—so far from arresting that increase—have resulted in the increment for the *three* years 1901 to 1904 exceeding that for the *thirty* years 1868 to 1898, cancer of the female breast being taken as the illustration, because it is free from any question of improved diagnosis constituting an error, and is at the same time the direction in which operative zeal has been most immediately applied.

The newly-issued report of the Registrar-General for 1905 supplies the data from which it may be ascertained that this year—the year in which the surgeon quoted in my letter desired "to protest as strongly and as publicly as possible against the increasing tendency to record such isolated cases" of alleged cure of cancer by other than operative measures—was the first since the improved methods and conditions of operation came into vogue in which there was a substantial drop (about 3½ per cent.) in the mortality from cancer of the female breast. Stated briefly, my argument is, that operation is far more effectual as a *cause* than as a *cure* for cancer. What I claim is, that my facts and figures shall be explained or refuted, not by "impressions," but by figures and facts.—With heartfelt thanks, I remain, faithfully yours,

John Shaw.

A PEER ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Wednesday last a gentleman called upon me at this office, refusing to give his name, but alleging business of urgent importance. When he was shown in I recognised him as one of the younger members of the Upper House and the bearer of an ancient name. His object, in brief, was to apply for a position on the staff of Truth. He was strongly of opinion that the House of Lords was threatened with abolition; he was also contemplating matrimony. With the loss of his position as hereditary legislator he anticipated also the jeopardising of the profession which was hitherto his sole source of income—that of director of public companies. I was able to reassure him to some extent, by pointing out that if the titled directorate had survived the financial scandals associated with it in the recent past it could afford to smile at such a minor happening as the abolition of the Lords. He saw little prospect, again, that a Conservative Government would return to power during the next twenty years, and thus could not look forward to the Under-Secretaryship or other lucrative trifle which would in that case have been his by right of birth. Yet again, his fiancée—a young lady who has achieved eminence in musical comedy—insisted that he should find something to do to keep him out of mischief, as she explained, and refused to fix the day for their marriage until he could vouch for the possession of an income of at least one-twentieth of her own. Journalism had occurred to him as a means of remedying his fortunes, partly because it was already famous, even in the House of Lords, as the last refuge for the destitute, partly because he had, in his own words, seen a good deal of life in his time, which he thought might come in useful. He frankly admitted that he was but imperfectly educated, having been at Eton and Christ Church, but supposed that there must be others no better off than himself in this respect. Truth had recently come under his notice as having published certain strictures—he admitted them to be well-deserved—upon one of his relations, who, having suffered reverses, had set up in business as a turf-tipster. He added, with admirable candour, that he was in entire disagreement with Truth upon political questions, and that he was accustomed to speak of it as a rag. Failing a staff appointment, he would be willing to come to a business arrangement, upon the basis of a commission on results, by which he should push the sale of the paper among those of his friends who might not already be subscribers. Failing that, he believed that I should find him useful in connection with my exposure of turf-tipsters, moneylenders, and the like, of whose operations he declared himself to have personal experience second to none. Finally, if I could make use of him in no other way, could I not give him a job as an advertisement canvasser? Appreciating his willingness to work, and being always ready to help those who show any desire to abandon a life of idleness in favour of honest industry, I asked him to write me an article, on any current topic that occurred to him, that I might judge of his capabilities The following is the result:—

After talking the matter over with Jessie—who has three times my brains—I do not see that I can find

anything better to write about than the Radical proposals to abolish the House of Lords, especially as I am personally interested. I do not myself see—and neither does Jessie—exactly what good they expect it to do. For one thing, those countries that have not got anything of the sort do not seem much better off than we are. We boast—I mean the newspapers do—about being the freest and the happiest and the generally best sort of country going, and we have become so *with* a House of Lords, mind you. And it cannot be said that we should have got on any better without them, for you have only got to look at other countries where there are not any, and they are certainly no better off than we are. Look at France; they are grumbling and quarrelling and plotting to overthrow the Government all the time; they are just as discontented, in fact, as they know how to be. And as to America, well, we may have a House of Lords, but how about their Trusts?

For another thing, I do not believe it would be at all popular to do away with us. People try to make out that the Peers are of no service to anybody, and are not looked up to any more, and all that sort of nonsense. I know better, and I can prove it out of my own personal experience. The lady I am engaged to—I wish I was clever enough to set down how beautiful she is, and what a thoroughly good sort, and how clever. There are a lot of fools who try to sneer at people of our sort who marry actresses; if I could only make them understand all that Jessie's done for me, and how she pulled me up just at the time I was going to go an absolute cropper, and how she's helped me to lead a straight life and made a decent man of me, they would just see where the real truth of the matter lies. She's not a bit of a snob either, so it is not as if she was set on wearing a coronet, or anything of that sort. I can give you a case in point. Her mother, Mrs. Perks, always makes out that old Perks was an officer in the Indian Army, while Jessie told me quite openly that he was really only a private in a line regiment. And, what is more—but about the Lords. Jessie was only getting quite a small salary when we got engaged. But as soon as it was made public she was offered another £100 a week right off. It only shows what a good sort she is, that she wanted to hand me over half of it, because, she said, I had quite as much to do with getting it as she had. Naturally, I could not think of such a thing, so she is saving it up in case we should want it after we are married. But it just shows that the public are not as sick of the Peerage as the Radicals want to make out, and that we are not so absolutely useless either.

If they did abolish us I can't see where they could find a better lot to put in our place. They say we are one-sided, always backing up the Conservatives and throwing out Radical Bills. But if they turned us out and put a lot of Radicals in our places, I don't see that they would be a bit less one-sided, only it would be the Conservative Bills they would throw out. Then again, they profess to think that it is only because we are Peers that we are Conservatives. As a matter of fact, that has nothing to do with it. It's because we—or most of us—have something to lose in the way of money or land. Naturally, if you have a good time as things are, you don't want to change them. It seems to me that if you could only find some way of abolishing the Radicals instead of the Peers, every one would be happy. I am not at all sure that the best way to settle things wouldn't be to go in for payment of Members in the Commons. If you gave them something really handsome—say, a thousand a year each or so—there wouldn't be a Radical among them in three months. They'd all be too anxious to keep what they'd got, instead of making changes; especially if you gave them a retiring pension, in case they got turned out.

What the Radicals don't seem to see is that we are really a very average lot. You can find all sorts among us, just as you can in the opposition shop. There are good and bad Peers, some with brains and some without, some straight and some crooked, though I must admit we haven't got any quite so utterly wrong 'uns as two or three of the Commons Members that I could mention. If you did turn us out and put somebody in our places, however you chose them, you would get very much the same average as you have now. And whatever they might start as, Socialists, or Radicals, or what, they'd soon turn into Conservatives when they found out the possibilities in the way of patronage and influence and perquisites of one kind or another. That, by the way, would be another way of getting rid of the Radicals, giving each of them a title and a few letters to stick after his name, I mean.

I was talking to Jessie about it yesterday, and she says that our best policy is to back up the Suffragettes. She isn't one herself, of course—got far too much sense for that—but her idea is that a woman is always much more Conservative than a man, especially if she is a property owner. She says that if women get votes, on the present property qualification, it will mean putting Conservatives in power for the next half-century, so that the Lords will be quite safe during my lifetime, at any rate. She says it is really going to be a sort of triangular race between the Peers and the Radicals and the Suffragettes—a sort of bumping match. If the Radicals bump us first, they'll abolish us before the Suffragettes can come in and save us. But if the women get the vote before we are abolished, then it will be the Radicals that will get turned out, and we shall be safe. I shouldn't at all wonder if Jessie proved to be right, because she is about the cleverest woman I ever met in my life, and even prettier than she is clever.

THEATRES.

"Three Blind Mice," at the Criterion.

Mr. Arthur Law has done some amusing work, and I was disappointed with the present production. The author of the "Country Mouse" should know all about mice by this time. Certainly, the wisest plans of his three absurdities, the three young men in love with Miss May Palfrey, go as wrong as in the song by Burns. But the whole construction of the piece is so flimsy, there is so little vitality of any sort in it, that one cannot follow their doings with any interest. Obviously, the only attractive man in the play is Mr. Frederick Kerr, the godfather of Miss Palfrey. Though he is older than the young lady by twenty years, we see at once that this barrier will not stand between them, and even the young lady's engagement to Mr. B. O. Clarence, playing the part of an altogether tiresome governess-ridden widower with three children, fails to make one doubt the inevitable end. The governess comes and leads the widower back to the altar. There is a storm in the second act, and the characters come in rather wet from visiting the circus. This remarkable stage device had for effect to damp my rapidly waning interest, and I did not care in the least what had been the relations between Mr. Fred Kerr and the society lady whose part is taken by Miss Granville.

The play is of the ingenuous rather than the ingenious order, and may possibly please among the wooded glades and babbling brooks of the provinces.

"The Cassilis Engagement."

This work was produced by the "Stage Society" at the Imperial Theatre and had the usual run of two performances. It represents the intrigues of a very youthful mother, determined to extricate her son from his engagement to an actress. The environment is throughout that of a country place in Leicestershire. The course pursued by Mrs. Cassilis is the opposite of that taken, as a rule, in real life. Instead of uttering peacock cries of indignation when she hears of the engagement, Mrs. Cossilis quietly accepts the situation and invites Miss Ethel Borridge and her mother to stay

with her indefinitely. The rest of the plan, which Mrs. Cassilis develops throughout the four acts of the play, until it is crowned with success, is this: On the one hand, by surrounding her boy with refined ladies, and, in particular, one to whom he has been previously attached, she hopes that the contrast between his betrothed and the others may give him pause. On the other hand, she trusts in the boredom of country life, to weary Miss Ethel Borridge into disgust of her engagement to young Cassilis. This is thoroughly done, and the only unfortunate part of it is that in boring Ethel Borridge, the author ends by boring us also. Still, there are witty remarks to keep awake upon, and the characters of Mrs. Borridge and her daughter were in excellent hands. To the outrageous and, it must be admitted, impossible vulgarity of Mrs. Borridge, Miss Greet brought a talent which characterised so powerfully as almost to make us feel that Mrs. Borridge is real; and Miss Maudi Darrell, whose first attempt I believe this to be in the domain of comedy—without music—showed more than promise, giving to the part of Ethel Borridge a firmness of outline which was very pleasing. Miss Darrell will be heard of again in comedy, or I am much mistaken. Mr. Sam Sothern appeared elegantly as the man of the world, giving counsels of wisdom and revealing the past of Mrs. Borridge, but this part could really have been dispensed with, seeing that Mrs. Cassilis obtains her end without his aid. Mrs. Cassilis, by the way, was not made up to look old enough to be her son's mother.

What struck me throughout the play was that, although produced under the auspices of a society which claims to represent advanced thought and real observation of life, so many of the characters do and say things obviously for effect, and not as the outcome of their temperaments. For instance, the parson is a conventional stage parson, the old aunt is a conventional society aunt, and, above all, the part of Mrs. Borridge is so heavily over-coloured, that one cannot believe the author to have studied from the life. Mr. Hankin has done better work than this, and he should beware lest the desire for popular success lead him into paths where such wit and power of characterisation as are his will be wasted.

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The *Daily Mail* has apparently been giving the wrong date for the "Red Lamp" matinée in aid of St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, at Plaistow. This will be given at His Majesty's Theatre, on Thursday, the 28th instant, but so far as one can gather from the announcement, the stalls and balcony stalls have all been sold, but a number of pit stalls have been arranged at the ordinary price of stalls. Viscountess Parker, 22, Down-street, W., is one of those from whom tickets may be obtained.

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I was right in my prophesying as regards the success of "Les Merveilleuses," at Daly's. "The Lady Dandies," as the piece is now called, have every right to their success, and on the night of last week when I looked in the house was full from floor to ceiling. Mr. Huntley Wright's appearance and the change of title have acted galvanically upon the performance, and I fancy that Miss Gabrielle Ray has also contributed to this success by her very graceful dancing; and among those who have been in the piece since the beginning, Miss Denise Orme was in particularly good voice the evening I was present, having recovered from the cold which troubled her on the night of Mr. Huntley Wright's first appearance. Dr. Hugo Felix's music is real music, standing well the test of thrice hearing, and shedding over the whole complex performance a sense of dancing lightness, of elegance, and charm.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE PRINCESS CLÉMENTINE.

I READ with sorrow of the death of the good, sagacious, amiable, and very clever and discerning Princess Clémentine, Duchess August of Saxe-Coburg. I speak of her from personal knowledge. I never met an old lady who impressed me more by the qualities of head and heart, ripened by a perfect education and a long and singularly wide and varied experience of life. I first saw her to converse with her in the Hôtel de Liverpool, and then, as Countess Muryani, on the ground floor *pied à terre* which she had at the Continental. She gave me her views on the future of Bulgaria, speaking English, which she learned at Twickenham before she learned French, and always kept up. She spoke of Bulgaria as a "fine country," emphasising the word "fine," of the people as worthy of every success, and admirable. They were the Scotch of Southern Europe—solid, industrious, and marvellously fit for high civilisation. A better hearted people did not live. They were so generous to herself, she added, crowding on her their beautiful embroidery and other handiwork. The Princess begged of me never to mention her name in connection with Bulgarian affairs. She sent me, after our first conversation, in which I talked through an ear-trumpet, a pretty brooch, arranged as a shamrock, with three large pearls, and having a sapphire centre. The stalk, studded with brilliants, was brought round the shamrock in a circle. The secretary of Prince Ferdinand, M. Bourboulon, brought me this souvenir from the Princess, and said she would in her visits to Paris be happy to receive calls from me. She carried off her deafness with a charming grace. Her handwriting was large, free, and bold, and resembled that of Baroness James de Rothschild, sister of Lady Rothschild.

The Théâtre Français has brought M. Donnay, an up-to-date dramatic author, into the arm-chair at the Academy of M. Albert Sorel, the historian. The left side of that body, as bound to do, has brought the Marquis de Ségur, an agreeable writer on historical subjects, into the arm-chair of Maître Rousse, the eminent advocate. M. Donnay, who received a mathematical training at the Ecole Centrale, but turned out a poor engineer, has had behind him an extremely varied course. There were as many steep up-hill and down deep-dale ways in that course as in, say, a thirty miles' walk in any part of Central America, or round the Peak of Derbyshire. He first worked as a civil

engineer in his father's factory, but as he paid more attention to the people around him than to the machinery, the consequences threatened ruin to the business. He had to start out for himself; dropped into "Le Chat Noir;" obtained a hearing there as a poet—*genre chansonnier*, good-humoured and satirical. Salis gave him much encouragement but no pay. It was against his principles to pay any of his poets. They found a hot-bed for the flowers of fancy and imagination, and fine wit. They, at that time, included Jules Jouy, MacNab, Allais, Delmet, and Auriole. Madness and brain fever lay in wait for most of the bards of Salis, who generally left him for music halls and the press. Donnay contributed to the entertainments of "Le Chat Noir," amongst other things, "Phryné en Ombres Chinoises," with the accompaniment of sparkling verse. He became, at a salary of 50 frs. a week, secretary of the late M. Jacques Saint Cère (pronounced "Sincère") son of a Prussian Jew, and chef in the Royal kitchen at Berlin and Potsdam. Saint Cère ran, when Donnay became his secretary, the blackmailing weekly which one day stranded him *en Police Correctionnel*. But this was no fault of Donnay's. This born *homme de lettres* and satirist had opportunities to study in Saint Cère's sumptuous and very open house in the Rue Scribe the motley and feverish society which Panama had called into existence. Some came to adore the lady known as Mme. Jacques Saint Cère, some to see and be seen, some to prepare the way for fishy schemes, others, who had already netted good things in fishy ways, to appease the terrible blackmailer. Donnay wrote the letters, for Jacques' French was that of a foreigner, and he thought better not to let his handwriting appear. Saint Cère outlined answers to communications which he did not always show the secretary. But the latter understood that he should write between the lines, and that a light hand was best to stir a guilty conscience. He saw at Saint Cère's the dramatis personæ of "Retour de Jerusalem," "L'Esclandre," "Paraître," and other plays, and gravitating round the lady of the house *ces vieux messieurs* whom he pierces with barbed arrows in "Lysistrate." You know perhaps—

> "Plus laide que des prêtres boudhistes
> Ils s'en vont, suivant les modistes,
> Avec des airs astucieux—
> Les vieux messieurs."

You have in London some nice clean old City men who afford a parallel, I am told, to those *vieux messieurs*. Donnay, luckily for himself, cut the Saint Cère concern before the storm burst on his patron. He found a fairly settled income in writing for *Le Temps*. But experience soon taught him that to be anything in literature he must throw up journalism, which soon uses up one's gold in the small change of block notes, leaflets (*feuillets*), or other daily tasks. He is perhaps the most incisive writer of those who graduated at the "Chat Noir," or, indeed, of any dramatic author who has won fame and fortune in the last eighteen years. You may infer from the above that he knows human nature through and through. The factory period of his life enabled him to study Demos, the "Chat Noir" soirées the Bohemian and the slave-driver in the person of Salis. At Saint Cère's he saw the politician-statesman-financist-solemn humbug who rolls in illgotten riches, and the *farceur aimable* or sceptical who amuses himself or finds money in the weak sides of those who have got on. Donnay does not like Paris except for the liberty it secures to queer types. One may in Paris live according to one's humour more agreeably than elsewhere. This gives to the observer of character illimitable variety in the unity of a brilliant civilisation. With wealth one may be corrupt without risking to be stoned. But when riches have taken wings, it is another story. Timon has then to work. If he can, like Donnay, bring his former flatterers and sycophants into a taking play they will return to him with high interest all his profession gave them.

Donnay is of a roving humour. He lives about six months in the year with his father-in-law in lower Normandy. There he has good fishing and an agreeable country life. He winters at Davos, the Italian lakes, Venice, Naples, the Riviera, and passes about six weeks or at most two months in Paris. This he does to be near the theatres. He is devoted to the Français. The ladies there have paid back his devotion by supporting him with Academicians. Their dressing-rooms may be an ante-chamber to the Academy. Donnay's auto-portrayals in his drama bite into the plate. "Oiseaux de Passage" is from beginning to end in *eau forte*, with some drops of vitriol that have burnt holes. In "Le Torrent" there are two heroines, and both enigmatic in the same degree; Mmes. Bartet and Brandès personated them. The enigma is: "Laquelle des deux dames a trompé son mari?" I recollect at the first representation some provincial cousins concluding (the play does not conclude) that the deceiver must be Brandès. Bartet could never *tromper son mari*.

The Japanese war prevented "Retour de Jerusalem" from bringing Donnay about £10,000 in Russia alone. It had only time to come out at the Michel Theatre when the thunderbolt fell on Port Arthur. The Czar received the news of that event as he had just applauded some effect of Mlle. Munti in that play. He had begun the evening at the opera, where "Semiramis" was on, grew tired of its "Orientalisms," and quitted the Empress "to be enlivened by Donnay's anti-Semitic play." Before he left the Winter Palace, early in the evening, he had had a grandiloquent message from Alexeieff, the gist of which was: "Those pigmies burn to strike a blow there (Port Arthur), but they are too clever not to know what it would cost to try. They will never dare. Your Majesty may rest assured that our naval and land forces are in the best fighting trim, and determined to do their duty. This Japan well knows." The war spoilt the theatrical season everywhere in Russia. Donnay only reaped slender royalties. But his "Vieux Messieurs" and "Phryné" had a roaring success at the Musik-Restoration at Irtkousk. Officers under orders for Manchuria made a long halt there, and drank perry costing 20 fr. a bottle for French champagne. Their travelling expenses had been calculated according to the old tariff when there was no transcontinental railway. This gave the poorest a good balance for Musik-Restoration carousals.

Donnay is a Parisian by birth and education, but seems to me half Fleming, half Semite, of the type one

sometimes sees in Franz Jourdain's portraits. The strong, long, aquiline nose, heavy jaw protruding, and luscious under lip, remind me of the profile miniature of Philippe le Hardi at the Bibliothèque Nationale. He is related to the Donnay who, in partnership with Cohn, founded the universal provider's at Brussels that was burned down last year, and is fast rising from its ashes.

The Marquis de Ségur belongs to a family of agreeable writers. His great-great-grandfather wrote an agreeable account of his journey with Potemkin in the suite of the Empress Catherine to the Crimea. His great-grandfather wrote agreeable memoirs; his great-grandmother, *née* Rostopchine, wrote most agreeable stories for children; his aunt, Mlle. de Ségur, wrote agreeable novels and novelettes, and the Marquis himself serves up in agreeably piquant sauce twice-told tales and familiar personages of French history. All the De Ségurs were personally agreeable, and he is no exception. You are not to look in any of them for more than surface sentiment and observation. But they manage to skim cream, and can whip it into nice, tasty froth *à la* Chantilly. They are, above all things, personally agreeable and clubbable. The Marquis seemed sure of being elected an Academician in the room of Monsignor Perraud. Cardinal Matthieu came forward as a candidate. M. de Ségur at once withdrew. He is very well-bred and unaffected, inclines to the *bon enfant* type, is plain, but has an interesting countenance, and agreeably intelligent eyes. He gives agreeable dinner parties, keeps a first-rate cook, and if he is vain of anything it is of his cellar. I think it an advantage for men like him to be brought into the Academy. He is under no temptation to blow his own trumpet, has no axe of any consequence to grind, sustains without hurtful pride or other aristocratic nastiness his rank, and has that sociable politeness which goes so far in rendering life pleasant to oneself and those around one.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, being now a Conservatoire professor, is sure of her red ribbon. She may soon expect to triumph over the Council of the Legion of Honour and its Chancellor. Her talents ought to be a sufficient distinction. But this is not her view. She knows that when she retires much will be forgotten because of her decoration. Nor could she endure the idea of Mlle. Bartet wearing the much-coveted *croix* at soirées when she herself had not so much as the palms of her academy to show. When Sarah Bernhardt quarrelled with M. Perrin (the manager of the Français) in her far-back days, Mlle. Bartet stepped into her place and taught her that there is no necessary actress. On the whole, the new-comer did better than her precursor—her personality was less unbinding. She was, look at her as one might, more plastic, entered more completely into her rôles, was free from mannerism, and her public thought her perfect. I had been very tired of the mannerisms of Sarah Bernhardt, and thought so too. One admires the latter, but sometimes wearies of her. One falls in love with Mlle. Bartet and remains constant to her; her yoke is easy. Sarah is—excuse the fancy—a marvellous transposition of the perpendicular style of architecture. Go to St. Albans Cathedral and sit down in front of the tomb of Duke Humphry of Gloucester, a fancier in his benighted time of rare books and curios. Get the tomb well into your eye, and you will come away with the idea that Sarah Bernhardt in her winding sheet draperies is its only suitable guardian angel. She is like it—all in vertical lines. The vertical style is one of decadence. But it is none the less taking, and has great charm. It is a style meet for the tomb of a grand seigneur, who was a horrible wretch, but had so much charm and was so thoroughly the artist as to win the name of Good Duke Humphry. Mme. Bartet represents the reign of the bourgeoisie which Mme. Récamier began. She finds her symbol in the futilities of the Louis XVI. style of furniture.

Queen Anne is dead! I say this in reference to that eminent and good woman, Mme. Blanc, who took the pseudonym of Bentzon. You will remember that she was *née* De Solms, coming of an ancient Alsatian family. She belonged to the upper reach of the Seine at Seine Pont, a most characteristic point of the most celebrated valley in Europe, a valley of much sweet dignity, of smiling happiness and wealth, and gladdened with the *chasselas* vines of Thomery and Fontainebleau. Mme. Bentzen wrote not less agreeable than any De Ségur. Every one admitted to her acquaintance admired and held her in affection. She was genuine in all respects, and in late years of venerable appearance. Her sweet and yet strong face told of the patient fortitude with which she took the inevitable ills of life. M. Briand sent her, last summer, the red ribbon. She said: "It will do to ornament my coffin." So it did. She died a fortnight ago.

My doctor being always willing to test novelties, I sent round to him a dishful. A week later I received from him a cutting from a farmer's journal with an article of his. The subject was: "How to Use Beetroot Leaves as a Substitute for Spinach." The doctor gave it as his medical opinion that these leaves were excellent for the blood on account of the salts of potash and iron they contained, that in many respects they were even preferable to spinach, and that if housekeepers would encourage them there would be an end to the agricultural crisis. The whole article kept this sustained tone of enthusiasm. One little objection he passed over in silence, namely, that the larger leaves are too stringy to be of any use, and the cost of picking out the tender shoots would be prohibitive.

After this, I heard nothing more about beetroot tops. The doctor, however, put by his article, and when, a few weeks ago, his deputy asked him whether he could think of any service he had rendered to French agriculture, he produced several articles on hygiene, agriculture, and cheap food.

"But," he remarked with a smile, "I placed the article on beetroot leaves on top of the pile, so that it might catch the eyes of the Government officials concerned, because I thought it would afford them entertaining reading. So you see I really owe my *Mérite Agricole* to your dish of mock spinach."

I can quite believe that with careful cultivation beetroot tops might be better than spinach.

On glancing over the New Year's list of honours the other day, I was pleased to find in it the name of my doctor, and not over-surprised at seeing that the particular shape the honour assumed in his case was that of *Chevalier du Mérite Agricole*—an order of knighthood founded not many years ago by M. Méline, when he was Prime Minister, ostensibly to reward the efforts of farmers and landowners—as if the Méline corn-tax were not sufficient reward—but really to relieve the pressure of candidates on the Legion of Honour.

My doctor is an old Republican, and has rendered services to the party, and several deputies have asked for the red ribbon on his behalf. As the number of ribbons of that colour is not large enough to go round, a cheaper but nevertheless acceptable substitute was offered, and now my doctor's buttonhole proclaims that he has rendered distinguished service to French agriculture. What these services were I had no idea, nevertheless I penned him a line of congratulation. My doctor called on me the other morning to thank me in person, not only for my congratulations, but because I was remotely, he said, the cause of his distinction.

"Guess how?" I gave it up.

"Do you remember the dish of beetroot tops," he queried, "you sent round to me three years ago?"

I thought for a moment, and presently it all came back to my mind. Not only that, but I began to guess how my beetroot tops had led up to the *Mérite Agricole*. About three years ago, walking out in the country, I met some Flemish farm labourers (who come there on account of the shortage of French labour) rooting up beets for a sugar factory. It occurred to me that the tender leaves might be a good substitute for spinach. These leaves are ploughed in the fields as green manure. I persuaded one of the Flemings to bring me a good basketful. My chief trouble was with my cook, who thought that her dignity was at stake in serving up a thing "fit for cattle." However, I mollified her. The beetroot tops, seasoned with butter, pepper and salt turned out to be very like spinach, with a stronger and slightly astringent—but not unpleasant—flavour.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THERE are three sexes, dear Lady Betty—men, women, and Suffragettes.

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ADVICE TO THE AUTHORITIES.

"When taken to be shaken."—Colman the Younger, "Broad Grins."

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The country is suffering from two afflictions: lords and ladies.

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The narrower the English Channel is the less narrow-minded the English people will be.

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London "society" has reduced the Ten Commandments to tabloid form; it is more convenient.

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Labour is the political heiress of the time in England; a Tory husband would certainly neglect and deceive her.

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Those at the West End urge the rest of the nation to "Think Imperially," but the former should marry Imperially, not Americans; dress Imperially, not in French materials and Paris-made gowns; live Imperially, not half the year partly in the South of France and partly in Germany; eat Imperially, not French-cooked food and French delicacies; drink Imperially, British-brewed ale, not foreign wines; and spend their money Imperially, not mostly on the Continent. The community at large is to "Think Imperially," fast Imperially, and fight Imperially, to enable those in the West End to conduct themselves imperiously!

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There is a broad streak of inconsistency that runs right through the British character. The unedifying example of many of the peers furnishes a constantly used argument against the continuance of the House of Lords in its present form. Were the members of that House converted into patterns of good behaviour they would undoubtedly lose much of the attractiveness they possess for most Englishmen, and especially women. It is the element of Don Juanism which is popularly supposed to lurk in almost every peer that makes the pretensions of the peerage tolerable to the ordinary British mind. A privileged few who disregard all but the Upper-Ten Commandments appear to most of our fellow countrymen and women especially worthy of respect. The Angel in the House is generally regarded as a sot. Yet these very people cannot overlook the slightest deviation from the path of rectitude in their social equals or inferiors!

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The community in this country might be divided into the misleading and the misled; the Tories, through long practice and the circumstances of their cause, have the instinct of the misleading. "Tariff Reform" implies Liberal progress, but merely means return to Protection; "Municipal Reform" is only opposition to popular control in disguise; "Imperialism" is not single-minded patriotism, but militarism, with all the pecuniary advantages this has for the upper class, sinecures, and the postponement of Progressive legislation. It is singular that a Party which has wasted hundreds of millions recently in South Africa, in useless wars, and advocates a policy which may entail enormous unnecessary expenditure, so carefully scrutinises every penny spent by the people for the people. It is like the Justice of the Peace who drives his motor-car at an illegal speed, and at the risk of maiming or killing others on the road, and presently sentences a poacher to imprisonment for stealing a pheasant! To the objections of the latter he answers, "If the law is unjust, have it altered. I am here to administer it as it stands." The law as regards the speed of motor-cars is established and clear, but he himself disregards it.

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The matter of pockets is more serious than it at first sight appears to be. The ordinary man, wearing the ordinary clothing, and the overcoat which is usual in cold weather, possesses fifteen pockets! It is not to be wondered at that he is so continually in a flustered condition. The woman produces her railway or theatre ticket calmly; these are generally either in her purse or in her hand. The ordinary man, on being required to produce the one or the other, has, generally, to hunt through most of the fifteen pockets with a growing suspicion, meanwhile, that the ticket has been lost, and this seriously affects his nervous system. Indeed, for some time before the ticket is required his mind is disturbed by the thought, and he covertly commences the search. It has been calculated that the disturbance of the nervous system of man caused by this circumstance—seeing how frequently in the day he now has to ransack his pockets—continues during several hours! The No-pocket Cure has been devised to remedy that evil.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

OVER-STOUTNESS is not difficult to permanently cure when the right remedy is found. Antipon is now in universal favour. The *Methodist Recorder* says:—"It is satisfactory to know that Antipon is the practical result of a specialist's researches and discoveries, so that reliance can be placed upon its efficacy." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The ANTIPON COMPANY, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE *Sportsman* appears to have been dangerously excited by my assertion that the moon will fall before betting is in any way recognised by Parliament, and that journal seems to consider that the licensing of bookmakers is quite likely to come about. Any one who is seriously of the opinion that a measure with this object would have the ghost of the shadow of a chance of passing through either House of Parliament must be the stupidest and most ignorant of two-legged creatures. It seems inconceivable that any one suffered to go at large can print such balderdash. Surely a lesson might be learnt, even by the *Sportsman*, from the Parliamentary history of the Street Betting Act, and the acquiescence in that measure of the numerous members of the Jockey Club who sit in the House of Lords, while in the House of Commons Lord Stanley, who is a Steward of the Club, had not a word to say in opposition to it. Racing can go on very well without popular betting, which, as Lord Beaconsfield wrote in 1880, "brings the gaming-table into the street, and converts the Turf into a vast engine of national demoralisation." The absurdities and fatuities of the *Sportsman* and some other journals remind me of the remark of a well-known Peer, who was for many years a prominent member of the Jockey Club, and a leading owner of race horses. Somebody happened to mention the announcement that a certain journal was "written by gentlemen for gentlemen," whereupon Lord X. observed, "It might be said of most of the sporting papers that they are written by noodles for doodles." He would have been confirmed in this opinion if he had lived to read the piteous and distracted brayings of screeching addleheads during the last two months.

Last week, in referring to the racing career of Lord Hastings' mare, Lady Elizabeth, I wrote exactly the reverse of what I had proposed by a temporary eclipse of memory. I had intended to say that, after losing £20,000 by the defeat of Lady Elizabeth in the Middle Park Plate, Lord Hastings recovered the money when she won her match with Julius. It was a slashing race, and the mare was never worth sixpence afterwards, although the tactics of those clever but not too scrupulous persons who were behind the scenes were so ably conceived and carried out that she started favourite for the Derby, the real odds against her being at least 10,000 to 1. Several persons made respectable fortunes by laying steadily against Lady Elizabeth, and they had no reason to fear the issue of these transactions, as they knew perfectly well that the mare had gone all to pieces, and would be incapable of winning a donkey race. The cackling about Lady Elizabeth having been poisoned was all wretched drivel. Lord Hastings would probably have won the Derby of 1868 with The Earl if that horse had been allowed to start, but he was scratched at the last moment, and Admiral Rous then wrote his famous letter to the *Times* on the story of the spider and the fly.

I hear that since Persimmon went to the stud he has earned £112,000 in fees. A foreign offer of 50,000 gs. for the King's horse was refused some time ago. Persimmon headed the list of winning sires for 1906, thanks to Keystone II., who credited him with £12,837. Plum Tree and Gourd contributed nearly £5,000 towards their sire's total, which would have been increased by £4,275 if Keystone II. had won the St. Leger, and subsequent running clearly proved that she ought to have been the winner at Doncaster. Persimmon's prospect for next season is not bright, as Keystone II. has very few engagements in weight-for-age stakes, and she will, of course, be over-weighted in handicaps. Gourd may win another good handicap on soft ground, and Plum Tree is a genuine stayer, but only a moderate horse, so he will need to be judiciously placed. Persimmon will have to depend mainly on his two-year-olds, for his three-year-olds in England are a very poor lot. The King's dark colt Perambulator may do good service for his sire if he turns out to be smart, but at present nothing is known about him. Then there is M. E. Blanc's Ouadi Halfa, who was certainly one of the best two-year-olds in France last season, and he is said to have wintered well. Two dark fillies which are likely to turn out useful are his Majesty's Isograph and Lord Rosebery's Prunella.

Malua is a horse that is likely to win an important handicap next season, but it is certainly nonsensical to eulogise his running in the Cambridgeshire, which is apparently considered to be a strong recommendation by one of the sporting papers. In that race Polymelus gave Malua 3 lb. more than weight for age, and Mr. Joel's horse won in a common canter, having at least a stone in hand. There is nothing at all impressive about such form, but it is probable that Malua will be found to have come on considerably during the winter, as he was palpably backward and unfurnished as a three-year-old, and he is said to have been doing well. The Royal Hunt Cup is the race which would just suit Malua, and I do not expect we shall see Mr. Faber's horse out during the spring.

Meadow Rue is much fancied by many good judges for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. This filly had been twice beaten at Newmarket (in May and in July), when running in good company, before she was started for a selling race, value £100, at the Derby September Meeting. She won very easily, and Mr. D. Baird allowed her to go at 500 gs., the filly having been entered to be sold for £50, and she was purchased by Mr. W. Clark. Meadow Rue was apparently regarded as exceedingly moderate by her former stable, as she started at 10 to 1 for this race, Golden Lassie colt (who finished second) being a great "pot" at 6 to 5. Mr. Clark put Meadow Rue aside until the autumn, considering that she was the sort of animal to do well in nurseries, and his policy turned out to be sound. At the Newmarket Houghton Meeting this filly won the Richmond Nursery, starting favourite at 2 to 1, and at Liverpool she carried off the Knowsley Nursery, with 12 lb. extra, and her friends were not frightened by the penalty, as she again started favourite at 9 to 4. Meadow Rue afterwards finished third to Hillsprite and the Ardvourlie filly for the Chesterfield Nursery at Derby, and she was giving 13 lb. to the winner, including the sex allowance. The filly's autumn performances give a timely lift to her sire, Sainfoin, who already had one of the very best two-year-olds of the season (Sagamore) running for him. If Meadow Rue was sold at Derby with her engagements she has a fair prospect of winning the Column Produce Stakes at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, and she was entered by her breeder for the Yearling Plate of £1,000 at the Hurst Park Whitsuntide Meeting. She was struck out of her other engagements when a yearling, one of them having been the Great Foal Stakes at Newmarket.

A fortnight ago I stated that M. E. Blanc is believed to own a very promising dark three-year-old in Vichy. I have since read a dissertation on the Derby, in which Vichy is mentioned as a likely second string for his owner at Epsom in case he should decide to reserve Ouadi Halfa for his French engagements. Vichy is not entered for the Derby, and he never was engaged in that race. Last year he had three English engagements the Coventry Stakes and the New Stakes at Ascot, and the Middle Park Plate, but he never started as a two-year-old. His only remaining engagement in England is the Two Thousand. Ouadi Halfa has been backed for the Derby at the ridiculous price of 12 to 1. Anyone must be hopelessly crackbrained who backs this horse without stipulating for a start. It would be better business to take 4 to 1 with a start than 12 to 1 all in. If Ouadi Halfa turns out to be his owner's best three-year-old he is quite certain to start for the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby), which is run at Chantilly on the Sunday in Epsom week, and a horse which has started in France on Sunday cannot reasonably be expected to run up to his best form in England three days later. It is curious that M. Blanc should have struck this colt out of the Eclipse Stakes when the first minor forfeit for the foals engaged was declared in October, 1905, and six months earlier Troutbeck had been withdrawn.

The Royal Handicap Steeplechase at Windsor on Thursday was won by Red Lad, who finished second to Ascetic's Silver for last year's Grand National Steeplechase. Red Lad was not backed as if he was considered to be one of Mr. Hibbert's good things, as the horse was extremely backward, and his performance, under the circumstances, was a most creditable one. After his race at Aintree last March he was believed to be unsound, and next day he was put up for sale by auction, when Mr. Hibbert purchased him for 1,050 gs. Red Lad is now sound enough, and he ought to train on to a very considerable extent during the next month if the going is good. Last year he jumped the Aintree country without making a mistake, and he ought to be a very dangerous candidate for the Grand National with 11 st. 3 lb. on his back.

His Majesty's horse Flaxman was beaten at Baldoyle last week, and I do not believe that he has any real chance of winning the Grand National. Flaxman is a fine horse and a good fencer, but it may any day be necessary to stop him in his work, and nobody ought to back him for the Grand National until his number is up. He is more likely to win the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown Park next week.

I hear that Lord Derby will probably be represented by Bridge of Canny in the Liverpool Spring Cup. This horse does not require a strong preparation, and he will be fit enough by March 23. Bridge of Canny is well in for this handicap with 8 st. 6 lb., considering the moderate class of his probable opponents. Lord Derby's horse has two nice weight-for-age engagements—in the Newmarket Triennial at the Craven Meeting and the Ascot Triennial.

Lord Derby will probably be represented in the Union Jack Stakes of £1,200, on the first day at Liverpool, by Glacis, by Carbine out of Glasalt, who will be entitled to an allowance of 7 lb. Glacis was backward when he ran at Kempton Park and at York last summer, and he is said to have made a considerable improvement during the winter. Lord Derby has also accepted for the Union Jack Stakes with Boulter's Lock, half-brother, by St. Frusquin, to Keystone II., but he may reserve this colt for the Bickerstaffe Stakes of £700 on the second day at Aintree. Boulter's Lock is also said to have "come on" in a satisfactory manner since he was last seen out at the Liverpool Autumn Meeting in November.

Twelve months ago nobody entertained any idea that Lord Derby would win the Oaks and the Coronation Stakes. It is quite likely that his colours may again be very prominent in the fillies' races, as he has two highly promising candidates for those events in the "dark" Ste. Claire II., by Isinglass out of Santa Brigada (dam of Bridge of Canny), and Altitude, by Florizel II. out of Alt Mark. Ste. Claire II. was not trained for her two-year-old engagements, but Altitude was highly tried before the York August meeting, where she started favourite for the Prince of Wales's Plate, but could only get third, the winner being Saxham, who was giving her 18 lb., while she had 8 lb. the best of the weights with Hexagon, who finished second. This was a miserable exhibition. A few weeks later Altitude was again heavily backed for the Kempton Park Nursery, but again finished third, the winner being Galleot, who was carrying the same weight as Lord Derby's filly, while she was giving 9 lb. to Clareton, who was placed second. Altitude's last appearance as a two-year-old was in the Cheveley Park Stakes at the Newmarket Second October Meeting, when she was again strongly supported, but was beaten by Witch Elm, who was giving her 5 lb. These fillies are engaged in the One Thousand, Oaks, Coronation Stakes, and St. Leger.

A non-sporting paper, referring to the plunging of Lord Hastings, states that the only survivor of the racing magnates of that era is Mr. Henry Chaplin, who has long ago given up the Turf. The writer has forgotten Sir Frederick Johnstone, who was a bold and very successful plunger, as he never put down his money unless there was a good reason for doing so. When the late Lord Alington (then Mr. Sturt) and Sir Frederick backed a horse in earnest they were excellent men to follow. One of their greatest coups would have been the Cambridgeshire of 1871, as if Allbrook had been judiciously ridden he would have walked in for that race. Sir Reginald Graham sometimes betted heavily in those days, and another survivor is Lord Coventry, who, however, was always most cautious in his Turf transactions, and he never lost any considerable sum of money at racing.

Mr. Joel's colt Earlston, by Love Wisely out of Monday, was highly tried last spring before he made a successful début at Derby, and his autumn form was more than respectable. Earlston will be specially prepared for the Chester Vase of £2,100, and he should have a fair chance of winning that race if he can stay the course, for it is thought that he will be more distinguished for speed than for stamina. The Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, who is expected to turn out a very useful three-year-old, will be dangerous in this race, for which I hear he is to be reserved, and Earlston will have to give him 2 lb. The individual who drew out the conditions of this race committed a serious blunder when he omitted any penalties for two-year-old winners. Black Arrow is engaged, and his 12 lb. penalty for winning a race at Lingfield of the value of over £2,000 is reduced to 5 lb. by a breeding allowance.

His Majesty's horse Nulli Secundus is said to be now in excellent form, and he is so well weighted for the Imperial Hurdle Race at Sandown Park that he may be reserved for that event, instead of being started for the £500 race at Newbury on Friday, as was originally intended. This event will probably be won by Cinders. The Imperial Hurdle Race is a stake of £1,000, and it is run on Saturday, March 2. Wild Aster and Cinders are the top weights, each having 12 st. 10 lb. to carry, and then comes John M.P. with 12 st. 9 lb. Nulli Secundus is thrown in with 10 st. 3 lb.

Next spring, at the close of the hind hunting, the Quantock Staghounds will be given up. Mr. E. A. V. Stanley, who has hunted this pack for six seasons, has accepted the mastership of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds. In future the Devon and Somerset pack will pay periodical visits to the Quantock district, as well as hunting the Exmoor country. This is the arrangement which was formerly in force before Mr. Stanley's pack was established.

Last week I had occasion to comment on an extraordinary attack that Mr. J. E. Gardiner, the Devonshire County hockey player, had made on the Somerset team. I am very glad indeed to see that he has had the good sense to made a very frank apology. He asks that it may be accepted in the spirit in which it is made, and I feel sure that Somerset and other players will accept his regrets. It is an old saying that a still tongue maketh a wise head, and but for this apology it might have been written that a pen does more harm than a hockey stick.

Dr. Warre, the old Headmaster of Eton, last week addressed a meeting of Oxford University boat captains on coaching. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the day on which he had first rowed for Oxford. His lecture was full of good advice. My only regret is that he did not give it at the Union. Every rowing man at the University would then have attended, and learned something. The boat captain of the future, the freshman of this year, could then have been present. I wonder if the president of the C.U.B.C. could get the lecturer to go to Cambridge.

The Amateur Rowing Association has had the question of amateurs' expenses forced upon it by the approaching Olympic Games, which for some reason or other are to include boat racing. At Henley no crew can have its expenses paid except by the members of the club that it represents. That is where the Vesper Club, from Philadelphia, fell foul, in one respect, at least, with the authorities. The sub-committee has proposed a rule which the Association will be invited to pass as a law. The rule seems to cover the ground, but in order to avoid any doubts, I should like to suggest an amendment. The proposition is that "an

amateur may not receive any contribution towards his expenses in competing in a race or a regatta except from the club which he represents or from a bonâ-fide member of such club, but the committee shall have power to make special rules for any international regatta or competition." The reservation is a very proper one. Now as to the amendment that I propose. It will be observed that the proviso as to expenses only applies to the amateur competing in a race. It might well be argued that it does not apply to the oarsman who trains, but owing to accident or ill-health fails to compete, or whose crew for some reason or other has to scratch. Nor would the rule cover the case of the spare men, those unfortunate twin brethren in misfortune, who year after year go to Putney and just miss the Blue. They never compete in the race. I would therefore submit to the committee of the A.R.A. that before the rule is finally submitted the words "in training for" should be inserted after the word expenses.

The rule would then run, "his expenses in training for or in competing in." This alteration I regard as being most material. There is then another question which does not seem to have occurred to those who framed the proposed rule, and that is the question of time. The rule, as I have said, is obviously intended to include training expenses, but there is no limit of time. Now there are certain folk who at times compete at Henley who are so keen on winning certain of the prizes that they are quite capable of finding wealthy supporters who would practically keep a crew or a sculler for months at their expense in order to carry a trophy on a trans-Atlantic journey. I believe that the University crew goes into strict training six weeks before the race, and I would therefore limit the period of expenses to that period, reserving to the committee the power to sanction any exceptional expenses incurred owing to temporary and unforeseen circumstances. As an example, I would recall the fact that Cambridge had to journey to Richmond owing to the frozen state of the Cam. Of course, it is very easy to criticise and suggest amendments when one reads a rule which has obviously been very carefully drafted. But I do think that the two points I have raised require very careful attention, especially having regard to the various competitors from all the world over who come to seek rowing honours in this country. To some of them the letter of the law is everything and the spirit thereof nothing. Some degree of precision is therefore desirable. Such precision helps also as a guide to the committee in regulating what it conceives to be the proper expenses that should be permitted in international contests. For instance, the crew we hope to see one day from Australia would be on a very different footing to one from Paris, Toronto, or Philadelphia.

The Oxford crew have left the University and gone to Henley. The crew is, I am told, coming on satisfactorily. At present the body recovery is not smart, and so to make up time they rush the slides forward, with the inevitable consequence that they do not get their weight on at the beginning of the stroke. Since Johnston went six the Cambridge crew has improved rapidly. He backs up stroke splendidly. At the same time there is a tendency to lie too far back at the end of the stroke. The crew has a good beginning. They have done some fast work, and should become a first-class crew.

The University sports are fixed for the Friday after the boatrace. I hope that the new A.A.A. rule as to the hammer will be adopted. The hammer has to have a straight steel shaft with a wooden grip. The American clutches are done away with. At Cambridge Brass did a very good sprint considering the ground in the Trinity sports, and at Oxford Chavasse ran very well in the Jesus open quarter, although he failed to win. Rogers, the winner, is no plater.

When Lord Randolph Churchill forgot Mr. Goschen he learned that no man is indispensable. Judging by the remarks of the writers on Association football it would seem that they, too, have to learn the lesson that Mr. Clegg is not indispensable. His supporters, however, are those who in conjunction with their legislative duties on the Football Association carry out journalistic work. Naturally, they are prepared to support their ex-chairman through thick and thin, and regard him as being indispensable. In March, 1905, the Council carried a resolution compelling local associations to conform to their wishes as to whom they should and should not admit to their bodies. To accede would in many cases involve a change in the rules. Many on the Council considered—and I agree with them—that under the rules of the Football Association the Council had no power to pass such a resolution. They further argued that even if they had such power it was coercive, and it was undesirable to exercise it. Mr. Clegg says that the objectionable resolution was in accordance with the practice of the Council, and he so strongly resents the rescission which was recently passed at the Council meeting that he resigns the chairmanship. Mr. Sherrington, the vice-president of the Association, points out the contentions on behalf of the original opponents to which I have referred. He says the famous fall-into-line resolution thoroughly shook the confidence of the amateur clubs in the Council. How correct he is in his opinion is shown by the fact that the committee of amateur clubs formed in November last to deal with the requisitions for a special general meeting of the F.A. recommend that final fixtures for next year be held over until negotiations are completed. They hope and trust the final settlement will be amiable and final. Now, Mr. Clegg and his friends seem to regard amateurs as poor creatures who clamour for gate-money and expenses. They do not hesitate to ridicule them at the expense of the professionals. They fail to realise that the amateur has no objection to the professional player. That player has no representation, and cannot sit on the Council. His wages and his transfers are all arranged by the Council, which fixes the terms and times at which he may be bought and sold. To men like Mr. Clegg it must be very annoying that the amateur, or non-paid player, declines to be dragooned in this way. I agree that the resolution was in accordance with the practice of a certain section of the Council, who seemed to consider themselves to be the heaven-sent tyrants of the game, and the omniscient embodiments of despotic wisdom. It is a matter for supreme satisfaction that the leader of this policy has seen fit to retire. The prospects of a deplorable split are considerably lessened. The world will still go round the sun, and the finals of the Football Association Cup and of the Amateur Cup will still be played. Mr. Clegg is not indispensable. His policy is dispensable. The popularity of the game as a sport and recreation depends upon the existence of the non-paid player. They are the huge majority of the active players, and it is to their welfare that the attention of the Association should be primarily directed.

Blackheath, with an Irish international and military contingent, beat Cambridge University very easily. They need scarcely be puffed up with pride, for no one takes much account of these University matches at the fag end of the season. Richmond went under very badly to the London Scottish, and the Old Merchant Taylors had to be content with a drawn game against Lennox.

It may have been that Woolwich Arsenal were temporarily upset by their local earthquake. At all events, they showed anything but really first-class form in their home match against Bristol City. The visitors thoroughly deserved their win, and they may now head them in the League table. The Chelsea team increased their chances of promotion by beating Lincoln City away from home. In the Amateur Cup ties the Clapton team scored a victory over Oxford City, whom they overplayed forward. Before very long Ireland will score a win against England under Association rules. At Liverpool they were only beaten by a goal. Portsmouth were beaten by Fulham in the Southern League, and so the teams changed places in the League table. But Portsmouth are only a point behind, and have two more matches to play.

Mr. Henry Leach's book, "Great Golfers in the Making" (Methuen and Co., 7s. 6d. net), will delight every lover of the game. Thirty-four famous players,

amateur and professional, contribute chapters relating the story of their golf, how they learned the game, corrected their faults, surmounted difficulties, and eventually acquired the degree of skill which has made practically every one of them the winner of a championship. Perhaps the principal lesson to be drawn from their experiences is that in golf as in other games, an infinite capacity for taking pains is essential if any considerable success is to be achieved. But the book is full of hints that may be useful to the player desirous of improving his game, while, apart from its educational value, it is thoroughly interesting as a collection of golfing autobiographies.

It is very hard lines on R. L. Baker to have come from Australia to take part in the middle-weight boxing competition and then in less than a fortnight to be laid up with enteric. If sympathy in misfortune can comfort, he has it.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets More Active—But Business Unevenly Distributed—New High Records for Trunks and Tintos—The Canadian Pacific's Fine Half-Yearly Statement—Americans Better though the Market still Distrusted—Domestic Securities Depressed—Dear Money the Principal Influence.

WHILE business in the Stock Exchange, generally speaking, still gives rise to complaints, the House during the past week developed a moderate amount of activity in one or two sections. Canadian Rails and Copper shares have shown to considerable advantage, new high-level records being established for Trunk Thirds and Tintos, while Mexican Rails have risen to the highest figures touched for many years, the movement being associated with a report that the Mexican Government is buying for control. The rise in Canadian Railway issues was fully explained by the half-yearly dividends just announced. Canadian Pacifics have since the beginning of the half-year been rather roughly handled, owing to the existence of an unwieldy "bull" account and the spell of bad weather experienced in the North-West. The half-yearly figures, therefore, showing, as they did, net earnings on the railway alone of over 16 per cent. per annum for the six months, came as a welcome antidote to the recent depression, and have already been responsible in rallying the shares to the extent of several dollars. Grand Trunks during the early part of the week were heavily bought; prices subsequently were inclined to waver a little on reports that the Company would shortly issue more Guaranteed stock. This is more than a remote possibility, and while it need not seriously disturb the equanimity of the "bulls" of "Thirds," it lends additional point to the remarks I made last week about the distance that separates the Ordinary from the dividend stage. Americans, helped by the satisfactory dividend announcements of the Union and Southern Pacific Boards, and by "bullish" estimates of the prospects for Missouri Kansas and United States Steel shares, have made a further recovery, though movements, apart from the shares mentioned, did not amount to very much. The market has again derived useful assistance from the "bear" division, but the public in America remains shy, and with the Railroad and other leading Corporations all wanting to raise money, and having to offer unusually stiff rates for their accommodation, the task of raising values of existing stocks is hardly becoming easier. The Home Railway market, instead of showing symptoms of recovery, goes from bad to worse. The recent run of poor traffics appears to have rather badly scared holders of Brighton Deferred, and the price has tumbled to within a point or two of par, the selling pressure meeting with practically no resistance. North British Deferred also suffered a bad break. The fall appeared to be due in part to the difficulties of an operator in Glasgow, who had been caught a "bear" of Tintos and a "bull" of British, though the coming dividend was also believed to have something to do with the slump, speculators in the North evidently taking a serious view of the loss incurred in connection with the recent Arbroath disaster, not to mention the expense arising from the snowed-up condition of the line during the closing weeks of the half-year. Speaking of investment securities generally, the dearness of money is still the main influence at work upon prices. A good deal has been said since the King's Speech about possible adverse legislation affecting stock values, but while admittedly the Stock Exchange is still somewhat exercised over the demands of the Labour Party in the House of Commons, prices, in my estimation, are being kept down far more by high interest rates than by lack of confidence in the political outlook. At the present time the London Money Market is being called upon, not only to cope with a growing internal demand for currency, but to give substantial assistance to foreign borrowers. The tide of American short term note issues is still flowing strongly, and the capital issues being placed here by Argentine Railways come as a good second. In both cases British investors are getting excellent security and a comparatively generous return on their capital. From that point of view there is no reason to feel aught but gratification, but meanwhile the extension of credits allowed involves the possibility of further gold exports, and thus the likelihood of really easier money—which must be inaugurated before any lasting revival can take place in gilt-edged securities—is being postponed. The Miscellaneous market last week provided a sensation in the severe slump that occurred in Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred. The fall, which led to the downfall of two small jobbers, excited considerable comment in the House, and it was common gossip that the break was the outcome of the tactics pursued by the member of a "bull" syndicate who had "ratted" upon his fellows.

Home Rails and the Reasons for their Unpopularity—Has the Fall been Overdone?—Prospects and Yields Analysed—The Fall in North British—Adverse Dividend Forecasts.

The Home Railway market during the past week failed to show any signs of returning animation, and for the most part prices continued to dwindle. Even the deduction of the dividends from prices—a matter that in former times of speculative activity used invariably to attract a little attention on the theory that stocks looked cheap—was allowed to pass unnoticed. That the Home Railway market has lost its old popularity with the public is, perhaps, not to be wondered at in view of the fact that for a decade past holders have been treated to a continuous spectacle of shrinking prices, and in some cases to severe "cuts" in dividends. What with the effects upon the money market of two great wars; the havoc wrought upon the receipts of our railways by motor and tramway competition; the growth in rates and taxes; the fears of Socialistic legislation; and last, but by no means least, the rival attractions offered by Canadian and Foreign Railway stocks—as a result of the great forward movement that has occurred in the New World—the Home Railway market has never been given a chance to hold up its head. The influences I have mentioned are sufficient, without referring to the lack of enterprise shown by the dealers themselves in sticking to obsolete and almost prohibitive methods of contangoing stocks. While admitting, however, the natural prejudice that has been fostered against Home Rails, it becomes a question whether the fall in values is not in danger of being overdone. So far the market has almost ignored the great revival that commenced in the general trade

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

of the country some eighteen months ago, though the improvement has already been reflected to a pronounced extent upon the earnings of the leading goods and mineral carrying lines. Dividends have not perhaps been increased to the extent some people had hoped, but this circumstance is encouraging rather than otherwise, for it implies an effort on the part of the Boards to equalise dividends by taking advantage of good times to strengthen reserves, and to increase the amounts spent upon their properties. Another point that should be kept in mind is the growing tendency to closer co-operation amongst the Companies, with a view to abolishing unnecessary competition, and the successful attempts that have lately been made to economise by more scientific methods of handling traffic. Again, with one or two exceptions, the Companies have, during the last few years, pursued a much more moderate policy in the matter of capital expenditure, and though retrenchment did not occur before it was badly needed, and may not have come at all but for the stringency prevailing in the money market, the fact, with the others I have just alluded to, is worth keeping in mind. Coming to the question of actual and prospective yields, which is, after all, the primary one for investors, there is much to inspire a feeling of confidence in the market outlook. The dividend season, now just ended, has made some important revisions in the returns upon stocks, and I have therefore thought it opportune to set out the distributions for the last two half-years, and show the yields at current values. For comparative purposes I have also included the dividends paid in respect of 1905:—

Stock.	1905.		1906.		Yield per cent.
	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	£ s. d.
Central London 4 p.c. Preferred	1	1	1	1	4 5 0
,, ,, Deferred	nil	8	nil	8	6 13 0
City & South London Ordinary	2	1½	2½	2	4 14 0
Furness Ordinary	¾	3	2½	3½	4 14 0
Great Central 5 p.c. 1881	3	7	5	5	4 2 0
,, ,, 4 p.c. 1889	nil	6½	2	6	4 3 0
,, ,, 4 p.c. 1891	nil	nil	nil	1	0 12 0
Great Eastern Ordinary	1½	5	1½	5	4 6 0
Great Northern 4 p.c. Preferred	4	4	4	4	4 0 0
,, ,, Deferred	nil	2	nil	3½	4 1 0
Great Western Ordinary	3½	7	3½	7	4 6 0
Hull & Barnsley Ordinary	nil	2½	nil	4½	4 12 0
Lancashire & Yorkshire Ordinary	3½	4½	4	4½	4 5 0
London & Brighton Deferred	nil	10½	nil	10	4 12 0
London & Chatham 1st Preferred	2½	4½	2½	4½	4 5 0
London & South-Western Deferred	nil	4	nil	3½	3 10 0
London & North-Western Ordinary	5	7½	5½	7½	4 6 0
London & Tilbury Ordinary	4	7½	3½	7½	4 9 0
Metropolitan Ordinary	2½	2½	1½	½	2 0 0
Midland Deferred	2	3½	2½	3½	4 7 0
North-Eastern Ordinary	4½	6½	5½	7	4 7 0
North London Ordinary	5	4½	4½	5½	5 5 0
North Staffordshire Ordinary	3½	4½	4	4½	4 7 0
South-Eastern Preferred	1	9	2	9	4 12 0
Taff Vale Ordinary	4	3½	4	4	5 0 0

Judged by all past records it would be said at once that stocks are now selling at tempting levels. Even making allowance for the adverse factors that have come into play within recent years, a yield of £4 6s. upon London and North-Western Ordinary (the Consols of the Railway market) seems to leave room for some levelling up in price, and it will be surprising if the present depression in this and other "Heavy" stocks is allowed to remain when monetary conditions sensibly improve, as it is to be hoped they will a little later on. Hull and Barnsley should be worth buying on the basis of a 4⅝ per cent. return, for the Company appears to be in for another prosperous year, judging by the outlook in the coal trade. Already for six weeks it has put up a gross increase of £7,200. The Company proposes to place shortly £300,000 of new Preference stock, which, assuming it be a 3½ per cent. issue, would require another £10,500 net revenue. Providing, however, that traffics keep up at anything like their present rate, the line should be able not only to meet this extra charge, but after providing for increased revenue expenditure to be in a position to make a small increase in its Ordinary dividend. The high yields obtainable on the southern passenger and underground lines are less surprising, in view of the great increase of competition caused in the last two or three years through the development of tube, tramway, and motor enterprise. Still, when South-Eastern Preferred can be bought to return 4⅝ per cent., City and South London Ordinary to pay 4¾ per cent., and North London Ordinary to give 5¼ per cent., it looks as if the market had already discounted pretty fully the adverse features of the situation. The current level of prices and how they compare with the highest and lowest of last year may be gathered from the following table:—

Home Rails	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	74	74¼	+ ¼
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	28⅜	28	− ⅜
Central London	96½	82½	77	75xd	—
City and S. London	47½	39	45	44½	− ½
Furness	69⅜	61⅞	65½	63½xd	− ⅞
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37½	38	38	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81½	69	64½	63½	−1
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	30	30	—
Do. "A"	19½	15⅞	14⅞	14⅞	—
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	78	76½	−1½
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅞	101½	102	+ ½
Do. Def.	48⅞	39½	44⅜	43⅞	− ⅜
Great Western	144	122⅜	128½	127⅜	− ⅞
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	50½	48½xd	+ ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	104½	102xd	− ½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	113⅝	103½xd	−5
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅝	13	14½	14½	− ½
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	89	85xd	−1½
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	54	54	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	152	150½	−1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	52½	49½	−3
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	48½	46½	−2
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	16½	16½	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅝	64	66	66½	+ ½
Do. Def.	74½	62½	65½	64	−1½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72½	74	73½	− ½
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	37½	36½	−1
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	144½	139½xd	−1½
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96½	101	99 xd	+ ½
South-Eastern "A"	55½	44½	45	44½	− ½

Among Scottish Rails it will be observed that North British have suffered a sharp break. This was connected by some people with the financial troubles of a Glasgow operator, though adverse dividend estimates also appear to have had some bearing upon the movement. The Company paid 2 per cent. in respect of the second half of 1905, and although traffic returns in the six months just completed showed an increase of £30,000 it is expected that the Board will have to reduce the dividend, in view of the accident claims arising out of the Arbroath disaster, and the addition to working expenditure entailed by the "snowed up" condition of the line in the last few weeks of the half-year. Dealers in London have been recently talking of 1½-¾, but operators in the North are pitching their estimate lower still, 1 to 1½ per cent. having been suggested in some quarters. Assuming the dividend be reduced from 2 to 1½ per cent., it would mean that the available balance was some £30,000 less than a year ago, despite the published traffic gain already referred to of £30,000.

Further Rally in Americans—Bears Restive but Public Buying Still Small—The Pacific Dividends—Bulls Talk Regarding Missouri Kansas—Steels and Dividend Rumours—Currency Reform—The General Outlook.

A further recovery has occurred in American Rails during the past week. On one occasion the volume of shares changing hands in Wall-street exceeded 1,000,000. It cannot be said, however, that there was any notable increase in the amount of public buying, a matter which appears to have given a good deal of disappointment to the professionals. Covering purchases by the "bear" party doubtless again had much to do with the rally, operators for the fall being rendered nervous by the aggressive support given to one or two stocks. The movements in the majority of shares were

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

not very extensive as may be seen from my usual table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	107	107⅞	+ ⅞
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	103	103	—
Baltimore and Ohio	129⅛	109⅝	120¼	118¼xd.	+1
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101¼	93⅛	96	95xd.	+1
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	52⅛	54⅞	+2⅜
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	153	154½	+1½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	38	40½	+2⅛
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅝	83	83	—
Erie	52⅛	40	36½	37½	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	72½	72½	—
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¼	63½	62½	-1
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	164	165½	+1½
Louisville	160¾	143¾	139	140	+1
Mis., Kan., and Texas	45⅝	31⅞	40⅜	44⅛	+4⅜
New York Central	159½	130⅞	132½	133½	+1
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	45½	46⅝	+1⅛
Norfolk and Western	100¼	87½	89	89	—
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	88	88	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	167	159½	+2½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63⅜	67⅝	68¼	+ ⅝
Reading ($50)	85⅜	69⅞	63½	64½	+1
Southern	43⅝	33	27½	27¾	+ ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	90	89	−1
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64⅜	96⅜	97½	+1⅛
Union Pacific	203	144½	178¼	182½	+4¼
Wabash 6 p.c. "B" Debs.	87⅜	78¼	75	75	—
U.S. Steel	52⅛	33¼	46⅜	48⅝	+1⅜
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅛	110	108¼xd.	+ ¼

The Pacific stocks have been most prominent owing to the declaration of the half-yearly dividends. No one will deny the phenomenal prosperity that has, during the last few years, been enjoyed by the Southern Pacific and the Union Pacific, and the fact that a second half-yearly distribution of 5 per cent. is being made upon the former stock, and that the 10 per cent. paid last autumn is being repeated in the case of the Union Pacific, caused little surprise. To some speculators, indeed, the declarations were a disappointment, as 6 per cent. had been freely predicted upon Southern Pacifics, and it was whispered that the Union Pacific might even pay a bonus in addition to its 10 per cent. dividend. Missouri, Kansas, and Texas shares have met with very liberal support from New York. There has been less talk lately about a guarantee, the belief now most commonly entertained being that the Company will pay an initial dividend of 1 per cent. immediately, and another 1 per cent. in the autumn. Some very bullish estimates of the Company's prospects have lately been published. In the view of one authority the road should earn in the current year a surplus for dividends ranging from 3½ to 4 million dollars, which would mean from 5½ to 7 per cent. for the Common stock. Another stock that has changed hands in very large amounts lately is United States Steel Common. The Morgan following is credited with having been large buyers of call options on Steels for some time, and Mr. J. P. Morgan is said to be in favour of an advance in the dividend in April. Apart from these specialties the market has not presented any particularly striking feature, and the narrowness of the fluctuations suggests that the support given by the "bear" party has been made free use of to distribute stock. For several days it was noticeable that prices after opening strongly in London fell away rapidly in the late dealings. This looked like a revival of the trick so often played with success by Wall-street, whereby the London market was rigged overnight in order to allow New York to work off an accumulation of selling orders. A good deal of talk has been indulged in over the alleged modification in the Government's attitude towards the Railroad and other large capitalist interests, and it is believed in some quarters that President Roosevelt will shortly take steps to define his position, with the view of replying to the attacks that have been made against him by his political opponents. Whether, however, the Railroad managers will find the way smoothed for them to advance freight rates as suggested is questionable. Some people have already begun to count upon such a step, though according to statements alleged to have come from representatives of the Standard Oil group, higher tariffs are unlikely yet awhile, the view adopted by leading managers being that with the President in a more conciliatory frame of mind anything calculated to revive hostility would be bad policy. Certainly nothing would be more likely to inflame public opinion against the railroads than an advance in rates, and as evidence of the popular outcry that still exists one may point to the legislation threatened in the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, which, if adopted, would have the effect of reducing gross earnings without reference to the present tendency of working costs to increase. The market is perhaps on more solid ground in hoping for some measure of currency reform that will give greater elasticity to the system of note circulation. The Aldrich Bill now under discussion, if made law, would permit of Customs receipts being deposited in the banks instead of being consigned to the vaults of the Treasury Department, whence they can only be released into circulation by means of appropriations by Congress. Under the proposed plan the banks would be able to retire three times the volume of circulation that is now allowed. For the present, however, the market is still demonstrating, by the issue of short-dated notes at high rates of interest how severely its available resources are being strained, and this fact, coupled with the big rise in railway working expenses and the public's distrust of the "bosses"—which is likely to be intensified by the further disclosures that will be made at the resumed hearing of the case against the Harriman group set down for the 25th inst.—makes it difficult to see how Wall Street can hope to do more than temporarily raise prices. Among the recent new issues one that is of some general public interest was the offer of $1,500,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Fifty Year bonds on behalf of the contractors for the building of the Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient Railway Company. The price of issue was par, say, £205 15s. for the $1,000 bonds, and with each bond will be given by way of bonus $300 Non-cumulative Four per Cent. Preferred stock, and $300 Common stock of the railway. The bonds are secured on the property, assets, and franchises of the Railway Company, which include the railroad within the States of Kansas and Oklahoma, the bonds and stock of the Texas Corporation, in whom the ownership of the railroad within that State is legally vested, and the bonds issued under a mortgage executed in Mexico, and charging the railroad within that Republic. The railroad, when completed, will extend from Kansas City, Missouri, to Topolobampo Bay, Mexico, a distance of about 1,629 miles, and will be shorter by nearly 500 miles than any other railroad route between Kansas City and the Pacific coast.

The Canadian Pacific's Half-yearly Statement — Over 16 per Cent. Earned by the Railway Alone—Improved Weather Conditions—Heavy Buying of Grand Trunks—Rumoured Forthcoming issue of Guaranteed Stock—More Argentine Railway Capital Asked for—Stockholders Protest Against Underwriting.

The strength shown by Canadian Rails was one of the leading features in the Stock Exchange last week. Canadian Pacific, after its recent slump, scored a sharp recovery, for which there were several contributory causes. In the first place, the unwieldy "bull" account that had been built up has lately undergone a wholesome shrinkage, and the "bulls" were able at the carry-over last week to obtain accommodation on comparatively easy terms. Then again, reports were received from the Canadian North-West to the effect that the severe snowstorms had abated, and that general conditions on the railroads were rapidly righting themselves. The continued recovery in the American market also helped not a little to put more heart into Canadas, but the principal lever which raised the shares was the dividend announcement made in respect of the half-year to December 31. The actual rates to be distributed on April 2, namely, 3 per cent. from railway earnings and ½ per cent. from interest upon the proceeds of the land sales, was just in accordance with expectations; being an interim distribution, nobody had looked for more than the usual 3 per cent. out of railway revenue, while the ½ per cent. bonus paid out of lands income (which is to be repeated in the autumn) had been foreshadowed by the chairman at the meeting last October. What, however, gave such gratification to the market was the surplus carried

forward of $6,600,000. This amount is $1,730,000 larger than the surplus balance of a year ago, notwithstanding that in the past half-year $20,280,000 of new Common stock allotted in April last ranked for full dividend, increasing the distribution by over $600,000. The surplus alone is equal to more than 5 per cent. actual on Canadian Pacific Common, so that the earnings from the railway last half-year, without making any allowance for the revenue from lands, was equivalent to more than 16 per cent. per annum. It may be recalled that the net earnings for the completed year ended June 30, 1906, worked out at 14 per cent. on the capital then ranking. The advance in the balance available, in spite of the big increase of capital, is very satisfactory, particularly when it is borne in mind that a large portion of the money raised last spring has never yet had a chance of assisting traffic receipts, for the simple reason that it has not yet been spent. As Sir Thomas Shaughnessy recently said, the Board would willingly spend $10,000,000 on equipment if it could only get the equipment; but not only is it impossible to get it fast enough, but there is not sufficient labour in the country to build the new branches proposed. There is little likelihood of the situation being materially altered for some time to come, and hence the market is not likely to be troubled yet awhile with requests for more capital; indeed, a Montreal financier who is in close touch with the leading directors of the Canadian Pacific, and is in a position to know any financial plans they may have, has informed a Wall Street contemporary that no more Common stock will be issued "for a year at least." So far as current earnings are concerned, the Canadian Pacific during the first week of February showed a traffic decrease of $197,000, the falling off being entirely due to bad weather. From July 1 to date, however, there is an expansion of $5,635,000, equivalent to no less than 15.29 per cent. Grand Trunks last week met with considerable support, especially Thirds, investors naturally being attracted by the bright prospects which this stock offers of getting its full 4 per cent. in respect of the current year. It is not every day that the speculative investor gets the chance of buying a popular stock to give an immediate yield of 4½ per cent., with a reasonable promise of the return upon the purchase value being increased to almost 6 per cent. within a twelvemonth. It is this very cheapness of the Third Preference which makes one wonder why people should want to buy the little Ordinary, which, as I indicated last week, is a bay horse of quite another colour. Now that the public is being invited to rush headlong to purchase Little Trunks, it is advisable to recall what happened a year or two back when the stock was being introduced on the Continental Bourses. At the time to which I refer, Trunk Ordinary stood around 20, and account after account large blocks were steadily transferred into foreign names, chiefly those of people at Amsterdam and Hamburg. These speculators have now, of course, handsome paper profits, and if the British public is going to respond to the call to indulge in a wild gamble in Trunks I have no doubt our Continental friends will oblige them by liberally unloading. Seeing that there is £22,000,000 of the Ordinary in existence, would-be purchasers need not fear a dearth of floating stock. Last week there were rumours that the Grand Trunk board, under the powers it at present possesses, proposed to place a fresh issue of Guaranteed stock. This is a contingency not at all remote, and while it does not seriously modify the prospects for the Third Preference stockholders, it removes the dividend chances of the Ordinary still further into the future. In the Foreign Railway group not much has happened to call for comment apart from the further rise in Mexican Rails. It has been rumoured that the Government is buying for control, and the fact that the Ordinary stock continues to enjoy a disproportionate amount of support lends perhaps a little colour to the story. At any rate, it would be difficult to justify the upward movement in the Ordinary stock on current earnings, good as the latter are and are likely to be. Argentine Rails have remained dull. There is nothing wrong with the traffics, but recently the leading Companies have been rather generous with offers of new capital. Following upon the issues made quite recently by the Rosario and Great Western has come an emission of £1,000,000 Four per Cent. Debenture stock by the Great Southern, and a report that stock for a similar amount is to be placed by the Pacific. The action of the Great Southern Company in under-writing its new scrip with a syndicate has called forth loud protests, several large stockholders having written to the Press stating that in their opinion the proprietors would readily have applied for the whole issue had it been offered to them direct, and that in consequence the payment of the underwriting commission was an unnecessary expense. I mention the matter, but hardly think I am called upon either to criticise or justify the board in the action it took. It is for the stockholders themselves, if they think the under-writing of new issues unnecessary, to fight the question out with the directors. Below will be found my usual price table:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	187	192⅝	+5⅛
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25⅛	29⅛	31¼	+1⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	103	103	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114⅞	121	121½	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅝	112	112½	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	70⅝	73½	+2⅜
Mexican	50⅞	22½	51½	55	+ 1/16
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144¼	118⅜	142½	143½	+ 1⅛
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¾	49½	92¾	94¼	+1⅜
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11⅝	6	11 5/16	11 11/16	+ ⅜
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	100	116½	116	- ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	88½	88½	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	25½	26½	+1
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	92	92	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81¼	65⅝	81½	81½	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	58	57½	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	26	27	+1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	148	150	+2
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180¼	162	169	169	—
Nitrate Rails	16⅝	14⅛	16	16	—
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	110½	110	- ½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83¼	64½	79½	79½	- ¼
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	122	119½	-2½
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	109⅞	109	- ⅞
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	127½	127	- ½
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	127¼	126⅜	-1
East Argentine	120	87	120½	120½	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅝	69½	70	+ ½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	103⅜	85	91	91	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	91	91	—
Great Western of Brazil	16⅛	12½	12⅜	12⅜	- ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69½	75	76½	+1½
San Paulo	214⅞	199½	215	213½	-1½
Central Uruguay	92½	82	94	93½	- ½
Costa Rica	29⅛	25	29	29⅜	+ ⅜
Cartagena (Columbia) Debs.	80½	78	76½	76½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76½	78	78	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76⅜	82	82	—
Manila 5 p.c Debs.	126	112	113	113	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	52	56½	+4½
Cuban Central	7 11/16	5⅝	7⅛	7 1/16	-1/16
United of Havana	193	105⅝	113½	114	+ ½
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12⅝	12⅝	—
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87½	91	91	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs	81⅛	76	78	78	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19½	20½	21½	+ ½

ACTIVITY IN THE KAFFIR MARKET CHIEFLY CONFINED TO DIAMOND FAVOURITES—SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCE IN DE BEERS—GOLD SHARES QUIET—GENERAL BOTHA AND THE MINING INDUSTRY.

In the Kaffir market speculative activity during the past week has been practically confined to Diamond shares. A large business has been transacted in De Beers, and the price has established a fresh high record. In connection with the rise in these shares, dealings on French account have been mentioned, but it is believed that the appreciation has been mainly due to influential support accorded by a leading house on this side, and to the transaction of a large option business. Jagersfonteins have also been pretty active, and have improved in sympathy with De Beers, which it will be seen from the following table of prices have nearly reached the predicted quotation of 30:—

	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Def. (£2 10s)	27½	29 5/16	+2 1/16
Jagersfontein Def.	10 3/16	1 1/16	+ 3/16
New Vaal River	7⅛	7⅛	+ ⅛
Premier (Transvaal) Def. (2/6)	12½	12⅜	- ⅛

It is now predicted that Jagers will become more active, and that the price will rise to 12½ before very long. A fair business has been done in New Vaal Rivers, but Premiers have been rather neglected.

Turning to Kaffir Gold shares, it is a satisfactory feature that the weakness developed at the beginning of the past week as a result of a determined "bear" raid has not remained in evidence. There has been some liquidation in connection, it is reported, with the closing of a Glasgow account, but on balance, prices are not materially changed, even though fresh support has been on a very limited scale, there still being a disinclination to increase speculative commitments pending the result of the Transvaal elections to-day. As Lord Harris reminded his hearers at the Gold Trust meeting on Friday, all uncertainty as to the labour question has not yet been removed, though reassuring statements have been made by Boer politicians on this important matter. In this connection it is worthy of note that General Botha has just made a further announcement as to Boer policy. He emphatically disclaimed any hostility to the mines, and added:—"This talk of wholesale Chinese repatriation regardless of consequences is nonsense. I say emphatically that nothing shall be done to embarrass the mines so far as unskilled labour is concerned. We want to restore confidence in the country. Could we do that by crippling or hampering the mines?" This is certainly encouraging, and it is to be hoped that in the event of the Het Volkites and Nationalists gaining a decisive victory at the polls, as is predicted, they will firmly adhere to their declared policy of no repatriation without replacement. It remains, of course, also to be seen what attitude the Home Government will adopt if the Transvaal Legislature is opposed to the repatriation of the Chinese until a substitute is forthcoming, and so long as the uncertainty remains it is feared that business in Kaffirs will continue restricted so far as the public is concerned, though the announcement of the election results may stimulate professional interest to some extent.

Westralians Quiet and Generally Dull — Boulder Perseverance Ore Reserves and Dividend—Further Improvement in Deep Leads Prices.

Business has been on a small scale among West Australians, and the general tendency has been towards a lower level of values. Great Fingalls, to the weakness of which I referred last week, suffered a further decline, but the relapse to £2 was followed by some support, and it will be seen from the table below that they are unaltered on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	2	1 5/16	1 1/2	1 1/2	—
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/8	1/2	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	5/9	6/3	+6d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/8	4 3/4	6 5/8	6 1/8	+1/2
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/3	25/-	−3d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	8/-	8/-	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 3/8	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	—
Hainault	1 13/16	1 1/2	1 31/32	1 15/16	−3/32
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/4	6 5/8	7 1/16	7 1/8	—
Kalgurli	12 1/2	8 3/4	11 5/8	11 5/8	—
Lake View Consols	1 5/16	3/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	—
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	20/3	20/3	—
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	2 1/2	2 1/2	—
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 3/8	−1/8
South Kalgurli	1 13/16	1/8	1/2	25/32	−1/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 15/16	1 1/4	2 3/8	2 3/8	+3/16
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	5/16	7/3	7/6	+3d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 11/16	7/8	2 1/16	2 1/8	+1/8

The issue of a favourable ore reserves statement by the Boulder Perseverance has had no effect upon the shares. At the end of December last there were in reserve, according to the manager's estimate, 383,410 tons of ore, averaging 8 dwts. 17 grs. per ton, compared with 301,327 tons, averaging 9 dwts. 3 grs. per ton at the end of June last, while the "probable" ore is estimated at 226,192 tons of 6 dwts. value, as against 185,349 tons of a like value. Including the "probable" ore, the latest figures represent nearly four years' supply for the mill on the basis of the past year's scale of treatment. The Company has also announced a final dividend of 6d. per share, making a total of 1s. for 1906, which is exactly half the amount paid in respect of the preceding twelve months. All things considered, the shares appear to be over rather than under-valued at the current price of about 8s. each. Only about half that sum is represented by the ore reserves, and in view of the very heavy capital, it would require an exceedingly favourable development to add, say, 1s. per share to the value of the concern. In the Deep Leads shares speculative interest has been well maintained, and prices have further improved. News from the Loddon Valley as to the value of the "wash" at the deepest part of the river bed is awaited with considerable interest, as if it proves as satisfactory as results so far to hand have encouraged one to look for, interest in this group of shares is expected to broaden.

Rhodesians Receive a Little More Attention—January Gold Output—The Chartered Report—Satisfactory Administrative and Commercial Progress Shown.

Although they have not been active, Rhodesians have come in for rather more attention during the past week than in the preceding period. When Kaffirs were depressed under the influence of an organised "Bear" raid, Rhodesians gave way in sympathy, but they have since presented a somewhat firmer appearance. I give a table of prices below:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	7/16	1/2	1/2	—
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2 1/8	1 7/8	1 13/16	1 11/16	− 3/32
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	3/6	3/6	—
Globe & Phœnix	1 5/8	7/8	1	7/8	− 1/8
Lomagunda Development	2 1/4	3/4	1	1	—
Mashonaland Agency	1/8	1/8	1/16	7/-	+9d.
Northern Copper	2 1/16	1/8	1 13/16	1 1/2	− 5/32
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	2 1/4	1 1/8	2	1 31/32	− 1/32
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/16	1 1/2	2	1 29/32	− 3/32
Rice Hamilton	1 3/4	1/16	1/16	1/16	—
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	1/8	4/6	+9d.
Tanganyika Concessions	8 1/16	3 1/8	5 1/2	5 1/16	− 1/16
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	8/8	8/-	−3d.
Zambesia Exploring	2 3/8	3/4	1 1/16	1 3/8	− 1/8

The announcement of the Rhodesian gold output for the past month had practically no influence upon the market. It will be seen that the January figures represent a falling-off of 1,281 oz. compared with those for December:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950	47,048
February	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037	—
March	19,626	17,756	34,927	44,574	—
April	20,727	17,862	33,268	42,423	—
May	22,137	19,424	31,332	46,729	—
June	22,166	20,402	35,256	47,664	—
July	23,571	24,339	34,693	48,485	—
August	19,187	24,669	35,765	50,127	—
September	18,741	26,029	35,785	48,410	—
October	17,913	24,919	33,383	45,644	—
November	15,714	26,183	32,861	48,503	—
December	18,750	28,100	37,116	48,529	—
Total	231,872	267,715	407,048	551,875	47,048

The event of the week as regards this section of the Mining markets, however, was the issue of the report of the Directors of the Chartered Company, which had been awaited with considerable interest. It made its appearance on Monday, and its immediate effect was to depress the price of the shares. As foreshadowed, the revenue of Southern Rhodesia for the year ended March, 1906, is shown to have exceeded the administrative expenditure, the actual surplus being £23,901, and while the original estimate for the twelve months ending on the 31st of next month was for a surplus of about £2,000, it is now announced that a surplus of £50,000 is confidently expected. Of course, as I explained a fortnight ago, the surplus has only been arrived at by including in the general revenue of Southern Rhodesia the bulk of the income derived there from the property of the Company. This is expected to amount in the current year to £80,000, so that the revenue from taxation and charges for administrative services only is estimated to fall short of administrative requirements by about £30,000. During 1905-6 some £48,000 of the

commercial revenue had to be used in this way. A marked improvement, therefore, has been shown, and this has led the directors to observe that "as the contribution required to be made for commercial income has now been brought within such moderate limits it may reasonably be expected that the whole of the substantial and expanding commercial revenues of the Company will be before long available for general purposes." Northern Rhodesia has still much progress to make before revenue balances expenditure. For the year now nearly at an end the deficit is expected to be £68,000, whereas in 1905-6 it was over £75,000. As regards the finances of the Chartered Company itself, the balance on the wrong side is also being gradually reduced, as the following table shows:—

Year.	General Expenditure.	Revenue.	Deficit.
1900-1	£810,800	£502,500	£308,300
1901-2	933,200	586,100	347,100
1902-3	1,051,400	633,000	418,400
1903-4	1,073,800	608,300	465,500
1904-5	898,700	641,300	257,400
1905-6	803,800	698,000	105,800
1906-7	802,400*	719,000*	83,400*

* Estimated.

The deficit estimated for the current year is mainly represented by the debit balance in respect of Northern Rhodesia, which, as I have mentioned above, is expected to amount to £68,000. Turning to the references in the report as to Rhodesian affairs in general, it is certainly satisfactory to find that the directors are able to state that in spite of the continued depression in South Africa the past year in Rhodesia has been distinguished by steady and continuous progress, which has been reflected in every department of the Company's business. Greater activity in mining, agriculture, and other industries also affords further evidence of the general improvement. As regards the important question of land settlement the board is hopeful that it may be possible to report at a later date that a practical basis for co-operation has been found. Meanwhile useful preparatory work is in progress in this connection; already farms have been established at selected spots at which intending settlers can acquire cheaply the necessary training and experience before embarking their own capital. This is a step in the right direction, and another is the decision that a special committee of directors shall spend some time in Rhodesia during the present year with the main object of considering all questions of commercial policy and making definite recommendations thereon. Direct consultation with those engaged in the work of building up the industries of the country is certainly calculated to stimulate activity and encourage enterprise, to say nothing of tending towards the existence of a better feeling between all concerned.

Broken Hills Irregular—The North and Proprietary Half-yearly Statements—Zincs and the Bears—Copper Favourites' Substantial Rise—Pahang Consolidated Activity—Dolcoath's Prosperity—Mysore Dividend and the Balaghat Position.

In Broken Hill descriptions business has not been on a very large scale. At one time they showed a tendency to make a fresh start in the upward direction, but the movement was nipped in the bud by some further liquidation. However, Broken Hill Proprietaries and Norths have been helped a little by the announcement of the past half-year's results of these Companies. The North's net profits are shown to have trebled in the past half-year, the amount now reported, £49,000, comparing with £16,000 for the first six months of 1906. In the case of the Proprietary, a further increase of £80,000 in profits is shown compared with the previous half-year, while developments are reported to have materially added to the ore reserves, which on a moderate estimate are stated to amount to 3,000,000 tons, against 3,200,000 tons in May, 1905, since when 828,000 tons have been extracted. One paragraph in the Proprietary's report is likely to be of interest to many besides that Company's own shareholders. It reads as follows: "Zinc concentration plant has worked satisfactorily, producing 32,181 tons of concentrates for the half-year; some modifications have been made, the result of which has been in every way satisfactory, both with regard to working costs and better recovery of all metals." I quote this statement in view of the adverse reports that are still current as to the affairs of the Zinc Corporation, in which considerable market and public interest is displayed. It is still being asserted that the Corporation's plant is a failure, and in the absence of further official information the persistent "bear" talk has a depressing influence upon the price of the shares. Here is a sample of the adverse comment: "Is it not the fact that the amount of acid employed in treatment has wrought havoc with metallic portions of the plant, and that wood has been substituted so far without success? . . . . Will the costs have to embrace a continual renewal of plant, due to the destructive effect of the acid used?" It was officially stated last month that, owing to the action of the acid, the cast-iron pumps only lasted a few days, but these were only used as a temporary measure pending the arrival of special machinery. Shareholders were told that there might be a few weeks' delay before the plant was got into proper working order; meanwhile, they should not be disturbed by such talk as I have quoted. Apart altogether from the fact that one of the leading metallurgical experts of the day is attending to the Zinc Corporation's plant, and that the management remains confident of success, there is the definite statement by the Proprietary Company that it has produced a large quantity of zinc concentrates with its plant, and I may add that the Proprietary is employing an acid process. Turning to Copper shares, the outstanding feature has been the activity and strength of Anacondas and Tintos, which, as will be seen from the following table, have substantially advanced in value on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 9, 1907.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 13/16	1 5/16	1 1/4	1 1/4	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	17/6	18/-	+/6
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/8	1 1/4	1 5/8	1 5/8	—
Taquah and Abosso	2 1/4	1 7/16	2 5/16	2 5/16	—
Wassau	1 1/8	1/2	11/16	11/16	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration ...	10/6	1/3	4/-	4/-	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	5/-	5/6	+/6d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	27/6	27/6	—
Esperanza	5 7/8	2 1/4	2 5/8	2 7/8	+ 1/8
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/2	1 7/8	− 1/8
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	39/4 1/2	40/7 1/2	+1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 1/16	4 1/16	4 3/8	+ 1/4
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	40/6	38/6	−2/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	14 5/8	15 1/16	+ 1/2
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	53/6	54/-	+/6d.
Mount Morgan	4 3/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 7/8	+ 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/8	63 5/8	93 1/4	96 1/2	+2 3/8
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	26/6	27/-	+ 6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	1/2	2 1/16	2 1/8	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	19/4 1/2	16/10	- 2/6
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	13/3	13/6	+ 3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/4	6 1/8	6 3/8	+ 1/8
Siberian Mines	2 11/16	1 1/16	2	1 15/16	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 3/8	8 1/4	6 3/4	7 1/8	+ 1/4
Waihi	9 13/16	6 1/16	8 1/16	8 11/16	+ 1/8

In connection with the activity in Anacondas there has been talk of the Amalgamated Copper intending to buy up the outstanding minority stock, while Tintos have continued on the up-grade on the strength of the important rumour I mentioned last week as to a material expansion of production being contemplated. In addition to fresh speculation for the rise, there has been extensive repurchasing by speculators who had operated for the fall, and since the above table was compiled the price has spurted more than a point further. Among the Australian Copper descriptions, Great Cobars suffered a sharp relapse, but have since recovered the greater part, if not the whole, of the ground lost. The weakness was attributed to forced liquidation and to disappointment at the board's policy of keeping profits in hand instead of commencing the payment of dividends. Mount Lyells have not been quite so active as hitherto, but Mount Elliotts have received rather

San Remo.—Grand Hotel Royal. The height of modern luxury. Standing in picturesque grounds overlooking sea. Auto. Garage. Officially certified sanitation.—M. Bertolini, Prop.

more attention, and have experienced a recovery in value. It is proposed to convert the Mount Elliott into an English Company with a registered capital of £750,000 in £5 shares, shareholders receiving one new share for each of the £1 shares they now hold. It is stated that the preponderance of interest in the undertaking is now held on this side, and there seems no reason why English shareholders should object to the proposal. As regards Tin shares, the feature of the week has been a substantial advance in Pahang Consolidated, which is an amalgamation of the old Pahang Corporation and the Pahang-Kabang. A large business has been transacted in the shares of this Straits tin undertaking, and the price has risen to over £1. Reports as to the development of the property are stated to be very satisfactory, and the concern is being talked of as "the Tinto of the tin world." If large quantities of ore, averaging 7 per cent. tin—the latest value mentioned—should be developed, the undertaking would certainly have claims to be regarded as "a big thing." This is a possibility. What is an actuality is that large results are necessary to justify a quotation of about 22s. for a share of the nominal value of 5s. and only 1s. 6d. paid. It is admitted that it will be at least two years before the concern is on a paying basis, and the management is hardly likely to appreciate having prospects discounted so early by the market, as what would be a satisfactory return on the paid up capital would look insignificant on the current market capitalisation. The half-yearly report of the Dolcoath mine, Cornwall's chief tin producer, is now issued, but it contains no reference to the question of dues, which is of considerable interest at the moment. As regards the mine's results it is satisfactory to note a further increase in net profits, and that the amount—£41,757—constitutes a fresh high record in the history of the present Company, as does also the dividend of 2s. per share for the past half-year. Still, the earnings are not so large as might have been expected, considering the price ruling for tin, and the report shows that the average grade of the ore treated was not as high as in the previous half-year, while working costs per ton were a little higher. By the way, a useful little manual giving particulars of Cornish mines has been compiled by Mr. H. A. H. Russell; it is published by Effingham Wilson at 1s. Of the Indian Gold mines the Mysore announces a balance dividend of 5s. 6d. per share, making a total return of 140 per cent. for 1906, which represents a yield of 11½ per cent. per annum on the current market price of the shares. For 1905 the return to shareholders was equivalent to 145 per cent., but in March last, it will be remembered, the capital was increased by 30,000 new shares, which were issued at £6 apiece. A yield of 11 per cent. is none too much on such a share, having regard to its speculative character. It is true the Mysore mine has been developing well of late and that the immediate prospects are satisfactory enough, but experience with other mines on the same field has shown how necessary it is for shareholders to keep a close watch on developments—witness the steady decline in Balaghats during the last few weeks. The weakness of Balaghats has given rise to some criticism of the management, it being contended that an explanatory statement from the Board is due to the shareholders. The position appears to be that, in consequence of recent poor developments, it has been thought advisable to lower the average grade of the ore milled, hence the falling off in the last two months' returns. When it was found necessary about a year ago to adopt a similar policy in the case of the Champion Reef an official circular was issued to the shareholders explaining the position. A very fair amount of business has been transacted in American Gold shares, El Oros having been particularly active in view of the favourable cables received from the manager as to developments. Esperanzas have been up to £3, but have since relapsed on some fresh speculation for the fall. The January profit of this concern shows a further large falling off, in explanation of which the manager again refers to transport difficulties. Interest in the Siberian group seems to have died down, and while the West African market has not been quite stagnant, prices have been but little affected during the week.

"American Railway Earnings and Dividends," by D. O. Croal, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—Effingham Wilson. Price 6d. net.

Insurance Notes—Liability to Domestic Servants—Points in Fire Insurance—Under Insurance—Necessary Conditions—The Absolute Company.

There are many circumstances in which insurance is an absolute necessity, and when to abstain from it is the height of folly. There are other conditions in which, while not perhaps a positive necessity, it is a great advantage and constitutes an excellent investment. The new Workmen's Compensation Act, which makes householders, shopkeepers, and pretty nearly all other employers liable in the event of injury to employees from accident arising out of their employment, is the most modern and perhaps the most forcible instance of insurance being a necessity. I do not propose to deal with this subject at any great length to-day, though I contemplate doing so in the near future. When we look at the Act in detail we find that there are a great many points about it which can only be settled in the law courts, and in regard to which lawyers and insurance officials differ among themselves as to the meaning. In the meantime I am only concerned to point out that insurance is the only means of adequately providing against the liabilities to which we are to be subject from July 1 and onwards. The normal cost of insurance is 3s. a year for each indoor servant. The heaviest compensation to which we may at any time become liable is £300 in the event of death by accident, or an annuity of £52 a year for life. The cash value of such an annuity might easily amount to as much as £1,000. Besides the actual payment of compensation there is always the chance of legal proceedings, which may be of a very vexatious and expensive character; consequently, it is perfectly absurd for anybody to be so penny-wise and pound foolish as to abstain from insurance.

It is too late in the day to emphasise the necessity of fire insurance, but in this connection there are two things which it is worth while to say. If our goods are burned and we are not insured, we can at a pinch do without them or replace them gradually. But so far as compensation to domestic servants or other employees is concerned, the actual cash has to be found for settlement, and, consequently, the need for insurance against employers' liability is even more imperative than the need for fire insurance, which everybody recognises. While people recognise the need for fire insurance they by no means always realise the importance of insuring for an adequate amount. We had a very deplorable case of this kind at Selby Abbey. The fire policies amounted to only £11,000, while the cost of the damage done is something like £50,000. Now the premium for insurance of this kind is about one shilling and sixpence a year for £100, so that the authorities, in order to save premiums of £30 a year, are compelled to appeal to the public for funds to rebuild the Abbey. This habit of under-insurance is far too prevalent, not only in regard to churches, but in regard to private houses and their contents; it also quite rightly affects settlements of small fires, as well as of total losses. If a man has property worth £5,000 and insures it for only £2,000, it is only right to consider that two-fifths of the risk is carried by the insurance Company and three-fifths by the owner himself. Consequently, if damage is done to the extent of £50, the policy-holder is only entitled to expect the insurance Company to pay him £20 and should be quite content to pay the other £30 himself. I am quite aware that in certain cases the insurance Companies do not adhere to this rule and pay up more liberally than they should. I also know that settlements on this perfectly proper basis frequently cause a great deal of dissatisfaction among policy-holders simply and purely because they do not understand the subject. It is appropriate to add that there are some instances in which insurance Companies require compliance with impossible con-

ditions and offer settlements which are by no means fair. I am always ready to give publicity to instances of this kind, but, at the same time, it happens much more frequently that people are under-insured, and that consequently when a fire occurs they do not get, and they ought not to get, payment for the full amount of the damage. I especially commend this subject of under-insurance to clergy and churchwardens. It is not perhaps easy to find an extra £10 a year for insurance of churches or other buildings, and the risk of fire is not great, but fires will happen, and it is altogether wrong to make the public pay for the neglect of those in authority.

I never pretend that insurance Companies are entirely free from faults, but in the main the rules upon which they insist are necessary and must be complied with. People unacquainted with the subject frequently regard the conditions as arbitrary and onerous, whereas they are really necessary for the conduct of the business, and for the protection which people require if it is to be provided at a moderate cost. I have several cases before me at the present time where appearances suggest that the treatment by insurance Companies has not been what it should be. I am always glad to hear of such cases and to do the best I can to help my correspondents out of a difficulty.

In this connection I should like to refer to a case upon which I commented so long ago as last July, where a policy-holder had a claim against the Absolute Life Assurance Company for the surrender value of two policies. I had to criticise pretty strongly the conduct of various people concerned, but I am glad to say that a substantial part of this claim has now been paid by the Profits and Income Insurance Company, who took over certain liabilities in regard to the policy-holders. There is a further balance to which the policy-holder is apparently entitled, but in regard to this I am afraid that the matter is still in the hands of the solicitors. So far as the Profits and Income are concerned, they have paid over the full amount which they received on account of these policies, but they decline to pay any interest in spite of having had the money in hand for some years, and I think they would have been wiser to make sure that they received enough to cover the full claim of this policy-holder. Still, rightly or wrongly, they have been relieved of liability and have dropped out of the case altogether. Other people, however, are left in who are taking up an attitude which, in all the circumstances, is quite inappropriate. They have attempted to maintain that the policy-holder was only an ordinary creditor, in which case he should have been paid nothing; they must have consented to his being paid £300 out of something like £400 which was due. There is no dispute about the amount of the claim, the only question being whether my correspondent was a policy-holder or an ordinary creditor. The payment already made seems to be an admission that he is a policy-holder, and consequently ranks in front of debenture holders and is entitled to be paid in full. But after having practically admitted his title (probably because the Profits and Income insisted upon it), those in whose hands the matter now rests decline to acknowledge his title, and intimate that "he must take whatever steps he thinks necessary in the matter." He obtained judgment against the Company so long ago as April 28, 1902, and the settlement having been delayed for nearly five years, he is invited to indulge in further legal proceedings and further delay. It is rather difficult to ascertain the precise responsibility of different people in this connection, but some of them are respectable and might be expected to use their influence to prevent the continuance of this scandal. The liquidator is Mr. D. F. Basden, of Mellors, Basden, and Co., and the receiver for the debenture holders Mr. D. Rae Fraser, both of whom have expressed the opinion that, as far as they can see, my correspondent's claim should be paid. Considering the matter has been standing over for nearly five years, it should have immediate attention, and, in the improbable event of there being any legal defence to the claim, the grounds of this opinion should be stated. If there is no defence, steps should be taken for the immediate payment of the amounts due. Elaborate regulations for winding up insurance Companies are contained in various Acts of Parliament. If the procedure in the case of the Absolute is a fair specimen of how these Acts work, the law certainly leaves a great deal to be desired.

Niekerk and Southern Klerksdorp Scheme.

Several correspondents have written to me for advice with regard to the latest development in connection with the affairs of Niekerk, Ltd. I have replied to them in my usual column, but propose to deal with the matter here, as it appears to me to be one which calls for exposure. At the beginning of last year the Niekerk underwent reconstruction, a liability of 2s. 6d. per 10s. share being created, and shareholders were told that if they supported the scheme the new Company would be in a position, after paying off its trade and other creditors and discharging the cost of reconstruction, to start with an available cash working capital of about twice the amount of the requirements as estimated by the two experts who had examined the mine. These experts recommended a total expenditure of £13,000, and held out the prospect of getting some £22,000 to £30,000 returned as profit from the ore developed, "besides opening up the mine and being able to carry on your future work on a sound basis." So far, however, from finding themselves with a profit or their undertaking on a sound basis, Niekerk shareholders have recently been informed that the Company is in debt, and that an option on their property has been granted by the Board to another concern called the Southern Klerksdorp Gold Mines, Ltd. Moreover, they have received documents showing that the Southern Klerksdorp has allotted to them some of its own £1 shares—not fully-paid, but carrying a liability of 5s. per share. In other words, Niekerk shareholders are expected to provide the Southern Klerksdorp with £30,000, out of which it will pay off the Niekerk's liabilities, expected to amount to about half that sum. There is nothing to show that the Southern Klerksdorp has at present anything worth fifteen hundred pence. Its capital is stated to be £250,000, and it is alleged to have property adjacent to the Niekerk. But there is no evidence that any of its capital remains intact, or that any work has been done on its property. It is audacious, therefore, to attempt to foist partly paid Southern Klerksdorp shares on holders of Niekerks and expect them to finance a concern of which they have no information of any value, in order to retain an interest in their own property. It would be much cheaper for Niekerk shareholders to go through another reconstruction than to subscribe to this "Southern Klerksdorp Relief Scheme," as it has been aptly described. In the official circular it is stated that in addition to liabilities and cost of liquidation, in all about £15,500, a sum of £3,000 to £4,000 would be sufficient to restart the battery "with profitable results." In view of the fate of past promises, it would, perhaps, be unwise to attach too much importance to the words quoted, but in the event of Niekerk shareholders wanting to keep their property to themselves an assessment of 1s. 6d. per share would more than meet the immediate financial requirements, as officially estimated.

Very Fishy.

Included in a batch of bucket-shop circulars which a reader forwarded to me the other day was one from "Charles and Co.," 73, Moorgate-street, E.C. This is the *nom de guerre* of a certain Frederick C. A. Spiegel who, in February, 1905, made over his business to a Company styled "Charles, Limited," of which he became governing director for life. He has outlived the Company, which at the end of about a year came to a stop with liabilities to the amount of £6,778 against assets estimated as worth £234. Since then Spiegel has carried

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on business on his own account as "Charles and Co." Two or three weeks ago he was sued in the City of London Court for a fishmonger's bill of £20, which debt he was ordered to pay by instalments of £5 a month. From these bare facts anyone can judge for himself what chance he will have of making money out of dealings with "Charles and Co."

Three Blind Pools.

It is amusing to notice what very different estimates of the gullibility of the public are formed by the promoters of bucket-shop blind pools. William Murray, The London and Counties Exchange, Imperial Buildings, New Bridge-street, E.C., believes in moderation. In soliciting your participation in his next operation he contents himself with asserting that the last was closed in four days with a net profit of £1 1s. 9d. on each £10 share. Evidently his notion is that if he does not put the profits too high, you will be all the more likely to credit him with the infallibility which is implied in his further statement that he had "an unbroken run of twenty-six successes last year." His namesake, A. Murray, The London Scottish Stock Exchange, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C., makes a bolder appeal to your credulity and cupidity. He expects you to swallow the story that this concern paid a net profit of £13 10s. 5d. on each £10 subscribed to its last "Stock Union," and that the total net profit in five such operations in a little over two months has been no less than £42 17s. 6d. on each £10 share. Bolder even than the L.S.S.E. are Digby, Curtis, and Co., 40 and 41, Sackville-street, W. They "point with satisfaction to such returns as £31 5s., £35, £42 10s., and £50 on each £10 share," and intimate that they are now about "to eclipse all previous efforts!" One would suppose that anybody fit to be at large would pause to consider why people able to coin money in this magical way should be offering to do so for the benefit of strangers, instead of piling up fortunes for themselves. But this idea never enters the head (though it obviously cannot be for lack of room there) of the dupes of such firms as the three above mentioned.

The Foolishness of Small Investors.

This is a theme that lends itself to humorous treatment, but some of the letters that I get from very small investors are not without an element of pathos. Here, for example, is one from a man who just twelve months ago started a still unfinished operation in a home railway stock with a sum of £3, deposited as a 3 per cent. margin. The price of the £100 stock then was 71. It soon receded, and ever since he has been paying trifling amounts to carry over, and occasionally another pound or two for additional cover. He has been credited with one dividend, but the net result of his little speculation is that if he closes the transaction now—which is the wisest thing that he can do—he will be about £10 out of pocket, and that, I gather, is a very serious loss to a man in his position. Obviously, people who cannot afford to risk £5 or £10 ought not to speculate in stocks or shares at all, but to keep their money in the Post Office Savings Bank. And even those amateurs who are able to adventure larger amounts would do well to remember that the odds are against their making money on margins—very long odds indeed, if they are operating more or less on the advice of an outside firm who stand to gain by their clients' losses.

Another correspondent seeking my advice is a private in the army. He had been ensnared into paying down a penny each for 180 sixpenny shares in the British Exploration and Development Company, and he says he understands that he will have to find another 30s. in six months' time. This is the Company "now being incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona" to which I referred in a note last week anent the circulars issued by Martin and Church, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C. It was "The London Stock and Bond Exchange," of the same address—doubtless the same sharps under another alias—who gammoned this poor soldier into parting with his 15s. In my opinion, such a proceeding is nothing better than pocket-picking.

The Bishop Creek Wild Cat.

In a letter from "The Lombard Association," 45, Lombard-street, E.C., Mr. J. H. Watts—is this gentleman the "association"?—writes to me as follows:—

> We observe in this week's issue you state that you refused insertion of the Bishop Creek Gold Company. This is not the whole truth, for your own canvasser called here and solicited the order, which was accordingly sent you through our advertising agents. We note that you do not point out that purchasers of the shares are given one month to pay for same, during which time they are at liberty to make inquiries regarding the undertaking and cancel their orders should the result be unsatisfactory. Why act *half* the truth?

I have no objection whatever to making known the fact that a canvasser asked for the advertisement, which nevertheless was refused insertion in Truth. On the contrary, that fact is the best possible evidence of the strictness of the supervision which is exercised over advertisements in this paper. Occasionally a canvasser may make a mistake in applying for an order, but if the Editor of Truth regards an advertisement as undesirable it is at once rejected, in spite of any order that may have been given. There are newspapers whose advertisement columns are not subjected to any sort of editorial control, but Truth is not conducted in that way. As to the second part of Mr. Watts's letter, I strongly advise the purchasers of shares in the Bishop Creek Gold Company to cancel their orders at once.

"A British Goldfield."

Interest has recently developed on the Stock Exchange in the shares of a concern known as the Chastan Syndicate, the founders of which are reported to have discovered the existence of many miles of gold-bearing formation somewhere in Great Britain. The affair is "wrop in a mystry," and it seems to be a case of mystery lending enchantment to the undertaking; at any rate, the £1 shares of the syndicate have been run up in price to £5 10s. apiece during the past week. According to rumour, the secret of the locality of this British goldfield is known only to five persons, and will be kept dark until options over the whole line of "auriferous banket"—as it is termed—have been secured. As to the exact extent of the formation, reports differ; one gives it as forty-five miles, and another as thirty-one miles. A statement that the locality is within a couple of hundred miles from London has created an impression that it is in Wales that this "Golconda" exists which it has been left to Chastanites to discover, and the fact that gold-bearing reefs have been found and worked in Wales apparently makes people more ready to listen to the talk about the Chastan Syndicate. Some of the stories in circulation are of a very "tall" order. For instance, it is said that cottages in the neighbourhood of this "goldfield" are built of the "auriferous banket"! Possibly some enthusiast will go one better and report that, armed with a bucket and a shovel, one could, with but little exertion, secure a pile of pure metal. It seems that one has only to mention the word "banket" to some people and they will immediately have visions of untold wealth, merely because they happen to know that a large amount of gold has been won from the Rand "banket" formation. But "banket" is merely a descriptive term for a conglomerate having a similar appearance to the sweetmeat "almond rock." Plenty of such conglomerate is to be found in various parts of the world besides South Africa, but that it contains gold in anything like payable quantities has yet to be proved. And as regards the concern interested in this British "banket," I may point out that this is not the first mysterious syndicate on whose shares a big premium has been established. Whether the Chastan will prove less disappointing than the others when the air of mystery no longer surrounds its affairs remains to be seen.

This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

Cannes.—Hotel des Anglais. First-class. Numerous Self-contained Suites, with Private Bath-Rooms, etc. Central Heating. Renowned Cuisine and Cellars. Large Park.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

RAILWAYS.

Caledonian.—1. The Company has been spending too liberally out of capital. The present yield is absurdly small, and I do not look for any early recovery. 2. Hulls would be a likely purchase. *Tenderfoot.*—The real estate question is out of my province. You could invest your money with reasonable hope of an improving return in Grand Trunk Third Preference. *Rolyat.*—You had better close the transaction. With your very small capital it is utter folly to speculate at all. *H. C.*—The line was sold to the Indian Government last year, but there was, as is not unusual in deals of the kind, a lot of delay, and the contract was not signed until November. Seeing that interest at 3 per cent. on the sum to be paid to the company will be allowed from January 1, 1906, until date of payment, the shareholders have little cause to complain. *Raymond.*—1. Yes. 2. I doubt if you will gain much by delaying a purchase. See this week's comments.

MINES.

Wamba.—I do not see much attraction in No. 2, but the others appear hopeful holdings for dividends and ultimate appreciation in value. *Little Kaffir.*—1. and 3. In the event of a moderate recovery it would seem a good plan to realise with a view to exchanging into something more promising. 2. A fair speculation among low-priced Kaffirs. As to your further inquiry, there would appear to be a fair chance of your being able to repurchase at a lower price, but, obviously, such an operation would be a pure speculation. *Wizard.*—Highly speculative, but may have some recovery eventually *China.*—The Company is not doing well at present, but it has a large area, and there is a fair chance of better grade ore being developed. A purchase must be considered very speculative. *Exon.*—I do not see much attraction in a purchase at present.—*Republique.*—1. I understand the public issue was not a success, and that the underwriters had to take a large proportion of the shares. 2. These should have some recovery when interest in Rhodesians generally revives. 3. You will see from my rules that I never recommend brokers. *W. C., Taunton.*—I cannot trace the concerns named. You had better try to get in touch with some one in the locality; failing this, try the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York. *J. W. H.*—These seem fair speculations. *Stoke.*—The shares may be taken in hand again later on, but they are a very speculative holding. *Galen.*—The phrase implies that there are sellers of the shares on any improvement in the price. Still, you may as well keep your shares for the dividends. *X. Y.*—Of your list I should select Chillagoes and Briseis Tin at present prices. *Medico.*—Hold Knights. Secure a good profit on the others.

MIXED SECURITIES.

Daghest.—1. You need have no difficulty in getting the requisite 3¼—3½. I would suggest dividing the money between India Threes, Metropolitan Water Board Threes, Great Western Five per Cent. Debentures, Cape Threes, and Jamaica Threes. 2. The market is in a very forlorn condition at present, but I think it would be a pity to part with the stock now. Better hold for a moderate recovery. *F. E. A.*—My advice would be to spread the money over the following securities, as by doing so you could get from 4½ to 5 per cent., without much risk:—Buenos Ayres Western Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds, U.S. Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Brazilian Companhia Lloyd Five per Cent. bonds, National Railroad of Mexico Four per Cent. First Mortgage bonds, Grand Trunk Five per Cent. Second Preference, Imperial Tobacco Preferred, and Pears' Preference. *Quiverful.*—I would suggest spreading the money over Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series), Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, National Railroad of Mexico Four per Cent. First Mortgage bonds, National Telephone First Preference, Erie Railroad Four per Cent. General Lien bonds, Buenos Ayres Western Four and a Half per Cent. New Preference, Argentine Great Western Five per Cent. New Debentures, Great Western of Brazil Six per Cent. Permanent Debentures, City and South London Railway Five per Cent. Preference, and United Railways of Havana Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference. *St. Leonards.*—2. So far as I am aware, its position is satisfactory, and business is increasing. 3 and 4. Hold. 5. The debentures are worth keeping, seeing that they enjoy the joint guarantee of the Argentine Great Western and the B. A. and Pacific. 6. I have no information about this company's prospects. *Chummey.*—1. I should not advise the purchase. 2. Buy, if you can afford to pay for the stock; I doubt if you would make money over a call option. 3. I do not recommend brokers. *Plasmon.*—1 and 2. I have no special information that would justify me in recommending either. 3. A very speculative selection. 4. A promising speculative investment. *Discrimination.*—1. You see a good profit, and I think you ought to take it in view of the adverse criticism of the company. Anyway, the shares are not such as I would recommend for a permanent investment. 2. The shares appear a fair speculative lock-up, and unless you are desirous of making a change you may as well hold. 3. Bovril Ordinary and Pettigrews are desirable, and, as a high yielding industrial, the other is fair. 4. In the circumstances they certainly appear rather low-priced.

INSURANCE.

Carpenter.—I have never heard of the company you ask about; it is not mentioned in any reference books. You should effect your insurance in some other company. Try the Central or Fine Art. I will make inquiries about the office you name, and may have more to say next week. *Melrux.*—The company is quite sound, and its prospects are particularly good. The shares should become very valuable in course of time. As to your second question, I have referred to this wild-cat scheme in my last two issues, and again this week.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Granite.—I will publish a warning against the firm, but I cannot recommend a solicitor, and probably you would only be throwing good money after bad if you sued them. *E. H. B.*—How it is done is a financial mystery. *W. H. S. M.*—I cannot recommend a solicitor. *M. H.*—Your inquiry as to a tradesman's financial position is altogether outside my province. *R. D. C.*—The first-named firm has been adversely criticised in TRUTH. You should deal with a member of the Stock Exchange, but I cannot recommend one. *E. R. C.* and *G. C., Malta.*—Have nothing to do with the International Securities Syndicate. *Ottoman.*—No doubt you saw my references to Melville, Glyn, and Co., and Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. last week. In the case of proceedings against these firms in the French Courts, I can make no exception to my rule by giving you the name of a solicitor in Paris. *Negra* and *Premium, Ilford.*—Apply to the Crédit Lyonnais or Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle Street, E.C. *Anglo.*—1. The fall has been due partly to what were considered unsatisfactory features of the chairman's statement at the recent meeting, and partly to profit-taking. 2. It is a favourite stock for a gamble, and should be regarded from that standpoint. *Calais.*—1. I do not recommend brokers. 2, 3, and 4. You ought not to risk your small capital in any such extremely speculative transaction. Better buy a few shares outright. *Interested.*—I have no information about this local concern. *Alpha.*—1. Do not join in any "blind pool." 2. Obviously a concern to avoid; I will refer to the pamphlet in an early issue. *Mene.*—Consult a solicitor. *Civis, Oxford; Mea; H. B., Birkenhead;* and *Medicus.*—I cannot undertake to give an opinion upon the firms or the publications mentioned in your letters, but my advice is that you should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Furst.*—See preceding answer to your third question. As to the shares, the business is manifestly more or less speculative. *Belfast.*—Hold. *Seaside.*—Very doubtful indeed. It would be foolish to buy any more. *Alexander Kyle.*—Clearly a common cover-snatching firm. *H. A. B.*—1. As an investment I do not consider the shares attractive. 2. Regret my inability to advise you in the matter. Inquire locally. *B. B.*—With an improved Kaffir market they would probably go higher. I think you might hold. *A. C. M.*—The so-called corporation is one that you could profitably avoid. *Harrogate.*—1. Even at the low price I do not regard the shares as being attractive. 2. They may go higher with other motor shares. *Marius.*—An exchange into Zincs, or the other share, especially upon a reaction might turn out well. *Martaux.*—The threatened further legislation is, of course, not calculated to benefit such shares. Sell out and put the proceeds into something with prospects. *Lora.*—Hold on a little longer. *B., High Holborn.*—Have not a high opinion of the shares. *Mrs. P., Lee.*—Lyons' Preference are safe enough, and Cement Debentures are not unattractive, though scarcely gilt-edged. The others I do not fancy. Components do not seem to be a very promising speculation. *Diogenes.*—A, D, E, and F, might suit you. A purchase of C might turn out well on any reaction. *Pancha.*—The commercial possibilities of the process have yet to be demonstrated, and in any case it will be a long time before the price of nitrate is affected. *Equus.*—1. You are liable for the call unless you can prove misrepresentation, or unless the board decide not to press for it. 2. I am unable to express any opinion. 3. Purely speculative. As regards their class they are fair. The debenture capital is certainly large in proportion to the amount of Preference and Ordinary, but the value of the property accounts for this to a certain extent. *Britnor.*—Good industrial investments. *A. L. K.*—Scarcely a gilt-edged, or even silver-edged, investment, in view of the financial difficulties that have beset the undertaking. *Two Girls.*—If you rely upon the income it would be wise not to change the investment into such industrials as you name, not one of which strikes

me as being a particularly "safe" investment. *Newbridge, Kildare.*—The company is, I believe, still in existence, and if you addressed a query to the secretary a reply ought to be forthcoming. *Radis.*—It seems rather a poor selection. *Security, N.B.*—This stock seems to be well secured. I cannot reply by telegram, and your stamped form is returned. *O. W. M.*—The only thing to do is to await developments. *G. F. D.*—I have no special knowledge of the society in question. If you want 4½ or 5 per cent. you must take some risk. *Erie.*—Of course, you are not liable in the circumstances you mention. The man is a swindler. Hold Rosarios; it will be time to name a limit at which the stock should be sold later on.

INDUSTRIALS MORE LIVELY—ANGLO "A" SLUMP—"BAYS" HIGHER—BREWERIES AND THE BILL—MOTORS STILL STRONG.

There has been, on the whole, rather more cheerfulness in the Industrial market, though the general improvement in view was to some extent retarded by the depressing influence of the slump in Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred, which brought about two or three small failures. Various unpleasant rumours were afloat in reference to the heavy selling of this stock, one being that it was a case of "ratting" on the part of a member of a big "bull" syndicate; but probably certain passages in the speech of the Chairman of the Company at the recent meeting also helped to unnerve a good many holders of Anglo "A." However, by the end of the week signs of a recovery were seen, the closing price on Saturday being 21⅛-21⅜ xd., as against the low-water mark of 20 on the previous day. Anglo "B" was but very slightly affected by the fall in the Deferred, and on the current price, which gives a yield of almost 5½ per cent., it is a not unattractive purchase. In the same group, Eastern Telegraph stock, yielding nearly 5 per cent., and Direct U.S. Cable shares, yielding 5¾ per cent., are both worthy of attention. There has been some recrudescence of interest in Hudson's Bays, which, partly in sympathy with other Canadian securities, and partly on the renewal of a rumour as to the splitting of the shares, have been run up 5 points. It is of course quite possible that they will be carried yet higher, but a purchase must obviously be very speculative. In accordance with the intimation which was made at the meeting two or three weeks ago, a representative of the foreign shareholders has joined the Board of the Pekin Syndicate, whose issues have at the same time met with more support, and on the week show a small advance. As regards Brewery stocks, the announcement in the King's Speech that a Licensing Bill will be introduced had been pretty well discounted, but a few further declines have been recorded, and I shall not be surprised if the downward movement continues. It is practically inevitable that the Bill will have an adverse effect on prices, though on the other hand it is probable that the apprehensions of the trade as to the actual results of coming legislation will in the long run turn out to have been absurdly exaggerated. In the Catering section, Lyons have again been the most conspicuous feature, and another small advance has been made. The Company has secured on very favourable terms the entire control of the refreshment department of the Irish International Exhibition which is to be opened in Dublin in May; but apart from this it is known to be doing a large and increasing business, and, as I recently observed, the shares continue to provide a good commercial investment. A very satisfactory report is presented by Maple and Co., Ltd., for, in spite of keener competition in the furnishing business, this well-known house has enjoyed an increased measure of prosperity during 1906, the net profit, after deducting Debenture charges and Preference dividends, being £123,282, as compared with £122,008 for 1905 and £112,300 for 1904. The dividend on the Ordinary shares will again be 15 per cent., and an addition of £10,750 to the reserve raises the fund to a total of £332,050. At the existing prices, Maple's Six per Cent. Preference shares yield about 4⅜ per cent., and the Ordinary shares nearly 5¾ per cent.; both may be commended as attractive industrial investments. It may be interesting to mention that there are now 7,528 debenture-holders and shareholders in this Company. Textiles have not received much attention during the week, but there has been a continuance of activity in motor shares, Argylls, Daimlers, Darracqs, and Humbers all moving up. There has been some talk of a possible amalgamation between the Daimler and another Company, but this is not generally regarded as probable.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE KENWIG-STREET MURDER.

(Queer Story Puzzle: TRUTH, December 19, 1906.)

AWARD OF PRIZES.

THE laborious work of examining the thousand odd solutions sent in by way of answer to the above has now been completed. And it may be of interest to competitors to know the general result of the scrutiny. Every one of the six suspected persons, viz., Jeffs, Mrs. Jeffs, Selina Prowse, the Rev. R. Fillmore, Tunks, and Louisa Lamport, finds a large number of adherents. But Jeffs with nearly 600 supporters is first favourite. This is doubtless due to the fact that the weight of evidence, contained or implied in the story, makes it pretty clear that Jeffs was the forger of the cheque on Amy Beadle's account, and of the covering letter to the bank. Many competitors seem to have jumped to the conclusion that the forger and the murderer were the same person. That, however, is in fact erroneous, and is moreover, in logic, a bad deduction. The forger of the cheque had no motive for the murder. Indeed, his interests lay exactly in the opposite direction, for reasons which will appear below.

Now excluding Jeffs, and presuming— a presumption on the whole supported by the weight of evidence—that the murder was committed by one of the three persons in the house—we are left with Mrs. Jeffs and Selina Prowse. There is, it is true, a certain amount of *prima facie* evidence against Prowse—of which many ingenious solvers have made the most. But several considerations make it improbable that she should have been the murderess. In the first place, she had no adequate motive for putting her neck in danger. In the next place, the subsequent precautions taken to divert suspicion were clearly the handiwork of an educated person, not of an ignorant maid-of-all-work. Therefore, even judging the question strictly on its merits, and without reference to the author's solution (which by the published terms of the competition has to be taken as the standard), Selina Prowse may fairly be excluded.

This process of elimination fixes the crime upon Mrs. Jeffs (the murderess given in the author's solution), and no solution, however ingenious, which goes wrong on this main issue, could, of course, be entertained. It only remains, therefore, to consider the "Mrs. Jeffs" solutions.

Upwards of a hundred of these were sent in. After careful examination some seventy of them were weeded out, forty-three being left in for further consideration. In order to ensure their being thoroughly considered, these forty-three solutions were submitted to a small jury of experts, with instructions to select the three best—*i.e.*, the three which came nearest to the author's solution.

Their award is as follows:—

Prize solution, that sent in by LA MANCHA.
2nd best " " " " " NEW YORK.
3rd best " " " " " WATTY.

LA MANCHA, therefore, is awarded the first prize of fifteen guineas, NEW YORK the second prize of five guineas, and WATTY the third prize of two guineas.

These three successful competitors are requested to write, in their own names, making application for their prizes, in accordance with the published regulations.

For the benefit of competitors generally, I print herewith the prize solution, with criticisms subjoined,

showing its strong and weak features, and also pointing out where it differs materially from the author's solution.

Question 1.—Who was Amy Beadle's murderer?—Mrs. Jeffs.

Question 2.—What was the murderer's motive? Jealousy. After being convinced of Amy Beadle's condition and that her husband was Amy's seducer.

Question 3.—What was the evidence by which he, or she, was convicted?—Mrs. Jeffs' finger-print on Amy's nightdress.

Question 4.—How are the various circumstances that involved innocent persons in suspicion to be explained away?—Mr. Jeffs will be found to have the tattoo mark above his wrist, and will be identified by the bank cashier as having presented Amy Beadle's forged cheque.

Shuckpenny's evidence will show that Jeffs was in pressing financial difficulties, which were arranged on *Wednesday* by a payment of notes and gold, part proceeds of forgery uttered the same day. It may be inferred that the *result* of Jeffs' flirtation with Amy was to give him information of Amy's account at the bank, and when he committed the forgery he fully intended to pay it back, and he drew a little more than what was owing to Shuckpenny, as Christmas bills were falling due. After the murder by quiet smothering, after Amy had gone to bed, Mrs. Jeffs found Amy's letter to her mother on the dressing table *undated*, which explained things. This letter she dated and posted on Thursday, though, of course, it must have been written at the latest on Wednesday night, January 1. Mrs. Jeffs, upon the discovery of her terrible mistake, confessed to her husband what she had done in her rage.

Mrs. Jeffs overlooked the allusion to £200 in Amy's letter, but posted it as a fair implication of Tunks, diverting suspicion from themselves, and Jeffs has then to confess his forgery, and they plan how to throw suspicion on Fillmore by opening the window and putting mud on the ladder, and two notes in the offertory bag on Sunday—one note was to be given to Selina Prowse, which was done on Thursday evening or Friday morning—without knowing what Selina had told the Inspector. This may have been hush money, or a simple Christmas present. Louisa Lamport's gratuitous evidence may be explained as a device to put Inspector Minshull on the track of Selina Prowse or Mr. Fillmore, and avert Tunks' detention on suspicion, if the Inspector heard of Amy's entanglement with Tunks. This would give them time to elope without being shadowed. Tunks would have urged her to do this. The three notes cashed by Tunks, stolen from Madame Chapote, were part of what Shuckpenny had paid Madame Chapote, and Shuckpenny will be able to show other notes, part of Mr. Jeffs' payment on Wednesday.

Mr. Jeffs, being a man of business, would have been fully aware of the folly of taking notes from the bank, if he had contemplated murder; but when he found what his wife had done, he got rid of all the notes in his possession by giving one to Selina and the remaining two in the offertory. With the exception of the date, Amy Beadle's letter to her mother is clearly genuine—but it must have been written on Wednesday night.

Mrs. Jeffs would not have forged this letter of Amy to her mother alluding to the £200.

Strong suspicion would have rested on Tunks and Lamport, but the notes put into the offertory on Sunday absolved them, as they could not have been in the neighbourhood of the church on Sunday, since they cleared off on Saturday.

December 25, 1906. La Mancha

Observations on Prize Solution.

Question 2.—"Jealousy," etc. The solver does not expressly state that the jealousy was founded on a misapprehension; though this is evidently implied in his answer to question 4.

Question 3.—Evidence: "Mrs. Jeffs' finger print on Amy's nightdress." Although a finger print is now regarded as positive evidence of identification, this evidence might here be considerably strengthened. In the author's solution, Mrs. Jeffs is assumed to have previously cut her finger—the exertion involved in smothering Amy causing the blood to ooze from the wound. The mark of this cut would be visible on the finger print, and would thus make the identification doubly sure. Further, in the author's solution, it is mentioned that there was a faint smear of blood on Amy's letter to her mother—a piece of evidence that would throw significant light on the mystery of the date, January 2; of which more below.

Question 4.—La Mancha's answers to this question are, on the whole, excellent, and generally tally with the author's solution. Jeffs *had* flirted with Amy, in order to win her confidence about her financial affairs. He *did* forge the cheque, meaning either to repay the money, or in the alternative (La Mancha does not add this), trusting to his influence over Amy to make it right with her in the event of discovery. In this confidence, he *did* take part of the money in notes at the bank (La Mancha does not expressly point out that a request for all gold would immediately have aroused the cashier's suspicion), and he *did* pass some of the notes to Shuckpenny *before* the murder. Subsequently, when, to his horror and dismay, he learnt of the murder, he *did* unload certain of the remaining notes in such a manner as to direct suspicion both on to the Curate and on to Selina Prowse.

La Mancha is correct in saying that he put two of the notes into the offertory; but incorrect in saying that he gave one to Selina Prowse. This would have been a fatally weak thing to do. The author assumes—far more probably—that he purposely left the note in Selina Prowse's way, so that she might find and appropriate it.

So much for the forgery—a crime entirely distinct from, and independent of, the murder. Now to come back to the perplexing question of Amy Beadle's misdated letter to her mother. Here La Mancha hits upon the right explanation. Mrs. Jeffs finds the letter immediately after the murder. It shows her that she has committed a terrible crime under a complete misapprehension; that Tunks, not Jeffs, is the father of Amy's unborn child. And she acts just as La Mancha states, as the best way to divert suspicion from herself.

La Mancha, however, is wrong in saying that she overlooked the mention of the £200 in the letter. She did *not* confess her crime of murder to Jeffs (as La Mancha states), nor did he confess his crime of forgery to her. Hence, *it was in ignorance of the forgery* that she despatched the letter next morning to Amy's mother (filling in the date in imitation of the girl's unformed handwriting), and not knowing that, by so doing, she was giving Jeffs away. The date, January 2, the day of despatch, may have been, as La Mancha implies, merely an oversight; or it may have been, as the author's solution suggests, the result of deliberate calculation; *i.e.*, inserted in order to make it appear that Amy was alive *after* midnight of January 1; whereas Mrs. Jeffs could have proved by her husband's evidence (which might, or might not, have been accepted) that she did not leave her bedroom subsequently to that hour.

And here, while we are on the subject of the letter, I cannot refrain from quoting a particularly luminous and well-reasoned passage, which I find in the solution of Sleuth Hound. Sleuth Hound puts himself out of court by giving Fillmore as the forger; but his remarks on the subject of the letter are so much to the point, and so exactly bear out what the author had in his mind, that they are deserving of publicity. He writes:—

> It is clear from the evidence of the letter that the murderer and the forger cannot have been identical. It was written on the evening of January 1 ("having only just returned from the shop"), but the date shows that it was not posted until January 2, and this must have been inserted by another hand. The letter, therefore, was lying in Amy's room at the time of the murder It clearly shows that a forgery had been committed, and the murderer, if also the forger, would have destroyed it. The murderer, however, if in ignorance of the forgery, might well post it in order to throw suspicion on Tunks. The insertion of the day of posting, instead of that of the previous day, was a fatal, if not altogether unnatural, blunder.

The case against Jeffs, as the forger, being also the murderer, or an accessory to the murder, could not have been more convincingly stated.

It now only remains to congratulate competitors generally on the ingenuity and acumen that most of their solutions show. I had no idea that Truth numbered among its readers so many potential Sherlock Holmeses, and I propose, before long, to give them another opportunity of exercising their talents on a further problem, of which particulars will be announced in due course.

I should mention that, in addition to the four competitors specifically mentioned above, the following have also sent in solutions giving Mrs. Jeffs as the murderess. (N.B.—In this list are not included those solutions which give Jeffs and Mrs. Jeffs acting in concert—that theory being entirely incompatible with the author's solution.)

Noms de Plume of Competitors Who Give Mrs. Jeffs.

Adviser, Allak, Antonio, Autonomos, Aspinwall, Atè, Audio Sed Taceo, A Yorkshire Ferret, Bene Meriti, Ben Trovato, Blix, Blue Nile, Bobi Moobung, Bottle Scrub, Bill Sikes, Brattie, Bricket, Brief-trager, Calpe No. III.,

Chublock, Clachnacuddin, Coracle, Disgusted, Dosia, Durlston, Eaux Bonnes, Edouard, Eirene, Felix Qui Potuit, etc., Fitz, Fouché, Fountain, Furbelow, Gilbert, Witton, Gog Magog, Halgag, Heather, Induction Infelix, Investigator, Joint Stock, Jumbo III., Lady Godiva, Lavengro, Leo, Leto (Liverpool), Loyal au Mort, Maison Rouge, Marietta, Marseillaise I., Martin Crewe, Medicus, Minerva, Mosey, Muleteer, New Zealander, Nobody, Nohall, Nowhere, Nostik, Nux Vomica, Occupet Extremum Scabies, Olga, Optimist, Orrery, Pen, Pennelle, Phi, Piggoo, Possum, Ptahmes, Quill Pen, Raymond Le Gros, Ronaba, Roughty, Sagace, Sapper, Sarnia (Plymouth), Scrutator, Seventy-Seven, Silver Fox, Simple Simon, Spider, Solomon II., Sunflower, Sylphe, Tang, Tertium Quid, The Bottle, The Prophet, The Seal, Tony, Twin, Shore Catti, Van, Vae Victis, Verdict, Westaria, Wobbles, Wood Pigeon, Wyomar, Woolwich Infant, Xanthias, Yebba Eladesor, Yorkshire Hussar. In addition to the above, several unsigned solutions have also been received, and several more from competitors who have disqualified themselves by attaching their real names and addresses, in contravention of the published regulations.

MUSIC.

THE BITTER CRY OF THE ANTI-MODERNS.

IN his interesting and valuable book on programme music which has just been issued by Messrs. Novello, Professor Niecks suggests that, looking to the present condition of music, the outlook is profoundly unsatisfactory:—

> If we can boast of improvement (he observes), it is only technical improvement in some directions. In all other respects we are getting poorer and poorer, and are face to face with imminent bankruptcy. The road on which we are travelling offers no prospect, and the increase of complexity and sensationalism cannot go on for ever. We must strike out in a different direction. There was a great revolution in music about 1600. We may therefore, without unreasonableness, expect another—the present age is ripe for it and longing for it. And what do we want? Simplicity, sanity, spontaneity, and, above all and including all, beauty—natural, gracious, persuasive beauty."

To much the same effect spoke Sir A .C. Mackenzie the other day at the Royal Institution:—

> To what all these strange and artful experiments in iconoclasm were destined to lead was not easily observable. To imagine that the art would ever revert to a state of Mozartian or even an artificial kind of simplicity after all it had acquired to itself through the long succession of the masters was as unreasonable as to think that this lawless and boneless system of composition [of Debussy] was likely to remain permanent. . . . . It was said that this was the harmonic age of music, and that the next phase would show the further exploitation of rhythm—perhaps of other modes beside the ordinary major and minor now chiefly in use. If the age of thematic invention were in sight it would be more welcome than any other.

Read further on the same subject the views of an eminent foreign musician—M. Ysaye:—

> Music nowadays is going too fast, under the influence of Strauss and Debussy. Every year sees something new and sensational in the art, but the question is whether anything really new is being done in the cause of music. I would like it to rest for a time—say, half a century—so as to let things simmer down to their proper value. Music has gone off the track, and no one knows where it is at present.

Here, then, are the views of three eminent and typical musicians on the musical tendencies of the day, and it is certain that they express thoughts widely entertained. Many others besides Professor Niecks are of opinion that the age is ripe for music of a more attractive type than it is getting at present. Sir A. C. Mackenzie is not alone in sighing for a return to the halcyon days of melodiousness and intelligibility. M. Ysaye speaks for many in pleading for a less feverish rate of progress. Carlyle, when folks were disposed to go too fast, used to recommend them to go to bed for a week and reconsider themselves. M. Ysaye's suggestion of a fifty years' armistice, so to speak, is still more drastic, though it is certain that it would have the cordial support of many. The musical world, in short, would seem to be in something like revolt at present against the excesses of its leaders. The sheep look up and are not fed. Plain people long for a time when the Strausses and Regers shall cease from troubling and the Debussys shall be at rest. In a way, no doubt, there is nothing very surprising in this. Since the earliest days of the art the same kind of protests have doubtless been heard. Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner—all of the great ones in turn have been similarly assailed.

At the same time, it is permissible to doubt if the pace of the leaders were ever before quite so furious as it would seem to be to-day. Is it possible that Beethoven's C minor affected its hearers quite so violently as, say, Strauss's "Heldenleben" when the latter was first produced? One knows that Beethoven's finest works were criticised and condemned by many of his contemporaries, that it was long the practice to omit the final section of the choral symphony, that the posthumous quartets were reckoned the productions of a mind unhinged, and so on. But even so it is difficult to believe that quite the same intensity of feeling was excited which Strauss, Reger, and the rest at their best—or worse—arouse. Yet it is needful only to recall some of the choicest utterances of the anti-Wagnerians less than fifty years ago to realise that history may be only repeating itself to-day. A well-known New York musical critic has lately drawn up, in connection with the "Salome" affair, a catalogue of the opprobrious terms which have been applied to Strauss's work, and it makes instructive reading. If it were merely a question of exciting sufficient contemporary scorn, Strauss should certainly be able to count on ultimate fame and popularity.

Unfortunately it does not necessarily follow that the composer who most startles and shocks his own generation will prove the greatest delight of later ages, and it is the mistake of too many of the younger musicians of to-day that they fail to recognise this rather obvious truth. Strauss is, of course, an indubitable genius. His music may not appeal to all, but no one can deny its wonderful qualities. Unluckily, the same hardly applies to the works of some of those less richly endowed, who, fired by his success, strive to follow in his footsteps. Just as a generation ago it was a case of Wagner or Brahms with all the younger men, so to-day Strauss and Debussy are the idols to whom aspiring youth loves to play, in Stevenson's phrase, the "sedulous ape." In England, it may be, we have not at present suffered very greatly in this way, but in France and Germany they say the case stands very differently. It is only to be hoped that the malady may not cross the Channel. Meanwhile for the young composer prepared to give the world—not Strauss-and-water or Debussy-*au-lait*—but something new and original of his own, which the world will really like, there surely never was such an opportunity as the present.

The unexpected collapse of the German opera season at Covent Garden has caused natural surprise and probably not a little disappointment, but under all the circumstances the management were doubtless wise. It was, perhaps, a mistake to have extended the performances originally beyond the date first announced. As a whole the season has certainly reflected great credit on all concerned, and it may be trusted that any little disappointments which may have been experienced in this respect or that will not avail to prevent the promoters from trying their hands again next year. Only in one respect has there been cause for serious criticism, namely, in regard to the quality of some of the singing. But the management were hardly to blame for this, seeing that they did their best to secure the finest artists available. The misfortune is that in the case of German vocalists good singers are so hard to find. But against any shortcomings under this head must be set the all-round excellence of the performances and the splendid orchestral playing which has been heard—notably at the three performances directed by Herr Nikisch.

In consequence of the premature conclusion of the season Nikolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor" was revived, as it turned out, for one performance only—a fact to be regretted, as the work contains some delightful music and deserved a better fate. Perhaps it may be found possible to give it later, during the Grand season.

We get too little in the way of music of the lighter and more genial order at Covent Garden, and though this of Nikolai now sounds a trifle old-fashioned in places there is such warmth and melody and fragrance about its happiest pages that its more conventional features are readily overlooked. It had the advantage, too, on this occasion, of being capitally presented, with Herr Max Lohfing in the principal part. This is a German vocalist who can really sing, and his success was undeniable.

Among recent concerts that of the Queen's Hall Symphony Orchestra on Saturday afternoon drew once more an enormous audience—attracted, doubtless, in considerable measure by the presence of Herr Kreisler, who played superbly as ever in Mendelssohn's violin concerto. Another feature of the programme was Stanford's second Irish rhapsody, which had not previously been given by the Queen's Hall Orchestra. On the same afternoon, at the Bechstein Hall, Mme. Carreño delighted her followers in an admirably chosen programme. Eminent pianists have, indeed, been much in evidence just lately. Herr Emil Sauer, Mr. Leonard Borwick, and M. Jacques Pintel were others heard earlier in the week. On Wednesday the Royal Choral Society did "The Dream of Gerontius" at the Albert Hall, which is really too large for a work of such intimacy of feeling, and on the same evening Mr. Donald Tovey gave a very enjoyable chamber concert at the Chelsea Town Hall, with the assistance of that unparagoned clarinettist, Herr Mühlfeld.

On Friday the King and Prince of Wales were both present, along with other notables, at the smoking concert of the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society. The London Symphony Orchestra's concert on Monday brought forward a novelty in Sir A. C. Mackenzie's new violin suite, which proved, however, rather disappointing, though brilliantly played as to its exacting solo part by Mischa Elman.

The announcement that M. Edouard de Reszke is starting a singing class in London on similar lines to those followed by his brother, M. Jean de Reszke, in Paris, is interesting. From some particulars supplied in the *Tribune*, which is always well served as to its musical intelligence, it seems that he is acting on the advice of his brother in coming to London. Pupils will only be accepted for a complete course of twenty lessons, either privately or in classes not exceeding three in number, and in every detail the system of teaching will be identical with that pursued in Paris. The fees asked will naturally be high, but there will doubtless be any number ready to pay them for the privilege of receiving instruction at the hands of such a past master of the art of *bel canto* as M. Edouard de Reszke. It is getting on for thirty years now since M. de Reszke made his début in opera, though his voice is said to be still almost as fine as ever. But he has no intention of returning to the stage.

The New York criticisms of "Salome" now to hand make lively reading. Mr. H. T. Finck in the *Evening Post* was pungent as usual:—

> If the presentation of such a story is ethically a crime Richard Strauss's music is æsthetically criminal—or, at least, extremely coarse and ill-mannered. His music often suggests a man who comes to a social reception, unkempt, with hands unwashed, cigar in mouth, hat on, and who sits down and puts his feet on the table. No boor ever violated all the laws of etiquette as Strauss violates all the laws of musical composition.

The New York *Evening Journal*, in an article which has been ascribed to Mr. Hearst's famous journalistic bravo, Mr. Brisbane, was even more frank:—

> What would you say of a man of genius if he collected beautiful white lilies, arranged them beautifully, and on top of them placed a dead and putrid toad for the world to look at? That is what Strauss has done, that is what those who produce "Salome" are doing.

Other critics say the same sort of thing in less picturesque language, but it is noteworthy that nearly all agree in recognising the marvellous descriptive force and expressive power of Strauss's music.

Meanwhile, it is announced from Berlin that "Salome's" successor, "Elektra," is nearing completion. The text of this, according to the *Morning Leader*, has been adapted by the composer from the play of the Viennese poet, Hugo von Hoffmannsthal, whose literary style is said to bear a curious similarity to that of Oscar Wilde. Strauss and Sophocles should certainly make a piquant blend.

A composer held in great esteem by many has passed away at the early age of forty-six in the person of Ludwig Thuille. Although few of his works have been heard in England, they have long enjoyed much favour in Germany. In Munich especially, where he was a professor at the Academy, Thuille had an extensive following. Apart from his operas, Thuille's music was mostly of the "absolute" order. The modern tendency in the direction of programme music was one with which he had little sympathy. Of his dramatic works, the most successful was "Lobetanz," an opera which was given at one time all over Germany.

Much regret has been caused in musical circles by the death of Mr. Vernon Blackburn, the well-known critic of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and other journals. For some years past he had been in indifferent health, but his numerous friends were none the less shocked last week to learn of his sadly premature decease. Mr. Blackburn was not, perhaps, a great critic, but he wrote very picturesquely and in a manner all his own on musical matters. A memorable incident in his career was the famous protest signed by various eminent musicians and addressed to the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the subject of one of his notices of a Bach Choir performance, which they regarded as misleading and unfair. In the result, however, they hardly gained much by their action. On the contrary, the *Pall Mall Gazette* vigorously maintained the position of its critic, and a nine days' controversy left the latter more firmly established in his post than before. But this, of course, is all ancient history now, and Mr. Blackburn had long since made friends with most of his former assailants. Personally Mr. Blackburn was a man of a most amiable and generous disposition. He leaves a widow, with whom sympathy will be general.

Congratulations will be general to that excellent artist, Miss Gleeson White, on the announcement of her engagement. During the last few years Miss Gleeson White has made many friends in the concert-room as principal soprano at the leading festivals and elsewhere, while she has also appeared at Covent Garden, where, it may be hoped, with her fine voice, good presence, and high intelligence, she may go still further yet.

Interesting particulars are given by the *Musical News* of a proposed Orlando Gibbons festival to be held at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, June 5, the anniversary of Gibbons' death in 1625. This is being promoted, it seems, by the Worshipful Company of Musicians, on the initiative of Mr. C. T. D. Crews, one of the past Masters of the Company, and it should certainly prove an event of interest to musicians. Gibbons is one of those worthies whose reputations stand in inverse ratio to the general knowledge of their music, and such a performance as that projected should help to remedy to some extent this condition of affairs.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—The explanation Socrates gave of Alcibiades' failure as a traveller, "that he took himself with him," is the explanation also of the failure of many books of travel by Englishmen. The Englishman generally takes himself with him and sees all things therefore only from the outside, and all things therefore *partially* in both senses of the word—especially the East, whether the Far or Near East. The East can be no more intelligibly seen from the outside than can the stained glass window of a cathedral. You must stand inside the temple and as a sympathetic wor-

(1) "The Desert and The Sown." By Gertrude Lowthian Bell. With many Illustrations and a Map. (London: William Heinemann. 16s. net.)
(2) "Letters to Young and Old." By Mrs. C. W. Earle. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 7s. 6d. net.)
(3) "The Fighting Chance." By Robert W. Chambers. With Illustrations by Fred Pegram. (London: Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd. 6s.)
(4) "White Fang." By Jack London. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)
(5) "The Folly of the Wise." By G. Sidney Paternoster. (London: John Long. 6s.)

shipper there before you can even perceive either any beauty or any significance in the colours and figures presented to you. What holds generally true, however, of an English male traveller in the East, is not applicable to an adventurous lady, since the sympathy and intuition of the sex come here to her aid; and it is chiefly this sympathy and intuition, together with her knowledge of the modern Syrian Arabic tongue, which make Miss Lowthian Bell's "The Desert and the Sown" (1) the very best book of Eastern travel I have read for many a year. The fine coloured frontispiece by Sargent, representing Bedouins of the Syrian Desert, suggests the faithfulness and picturesqueness with which Miss Lowthian Bell has caught and reproduced the colour and character of her Eastern subjects. By the way, her book is illustrated by numberless and admirable photographs of temples and castles, ruins and relics (hitherto un-photographed) of the highest antiquarian, archæological and artistic interest. But Miss Lowthian Bell's interests are far from being exclusively archæological or antiquarian. She has a keen eye for the political situation of the moment, and especially for the mutual political relations of England and Turkey, which are far from satisfactory at present. We have wholly lost our former strong reputation and position as regards Turkey, in part through our unwillingness to interfere officially, and in part through our permission of vehemently expressed non-official and sentimental protests. Hence "our dealings with the Turk have presented an air of vacillation which he may be pardoned for considering perfidious." Miss Lowthian Bell is at pains to correct a preposterous European impression of Turkey as a homogeneous empire—as preposterous as to suppose that the term England included with the United Kingdom India, the Shan States, Hongkong, and Uganda.

> In the sense of a land inhabited mainly by Turks there is no such country as Turkey. The parts of his dominion where the Turk is in a majority are few; generally his position is that of an alien governing with a handful of soldiers and an empty purse a mixed collection of subjects hostile to him and to each other.

As the Turk has no knowledge of the language and no sympathy with the religious or political ideas of these subjects, he can hardly be blamed for enforcing drastically law and order—of which he has himself the strongest sense—amongst the contending factions. At any rate, the Turkish rule is an improvement upon that it superseded in Hamah, to judge by one tale told by Miss Lowthian Bell. One of its former rulers, coveting, like King David, his neighbour's vineyard, which its owner declined to sell, caused a slave to be slaughtered, cut up into mince-meat, and buried in a corner of the coveted ground. Having waited till he felt assured that decomposition had well set in, he notified the contumacious owner of the vineyard that he would do him the honour to drink coffee with him in his garden. The man, delighted at the condescension of his prince, made all haste to receive him worthily in an arbour. "Not here," objected the prince. "Pray, remove to there," pointing to the spot where the minced-up slave had been buried. "But that is a refuse heap," objected the host. "I have taken a fancy to that spot," replied the prince—a fancy, however, which did not last long. "What a stench!" cried the prince. "I told you, my lord, it was a refuse heap." "It is not the smell of refuse," rejoined the prince sternly. "I must have this looked into"; and he bade his attendants dig. When the chopped-up body was exhumed, the prince charged Naboth with the murder, and appropriated all his possessions, including the garden, as compensation for the loss of his slave. Miss Lowthian Bell confirms the apparent miracle to which a hundred other Eastern travellers have testified, of the instantaneous transmission of news from one corner of Asia to the other. Nor is the interest in this news political, or what we should call patriotic.

> Islam is the bond that unites the western and central parts of the continent, and there is little or no sense of territorial nationality to counterbalance the religious sentiment. A Turk or a Persian or a Syrian does not think of my country in the way that an Englishman or a Frenchman thinks. His patriotism is confined to the town of which he is a native, or at most to the district in which that town lies.

England, therefore, as the greatest of all Mohammedan Powers, has most to win or lose by these rumours that flash across Asia as the lightning that lightens out of the east to the west. It is satisfactory, therefore, to learn from Miss Lowthian Bell that:—

> For the moment the name of the English carries more weight than it has done for some time. I noticed a very distinct difference between the general attitude towards us from that which I had observed with pain five years before, during the worst moments of the Boer War. The change of feeling is due not so much to our victory in South Africa as to Lord Cromer's brilliant administration in Egypt, Lord Curzon's policy on the Persian Gulf, and the alliance with the conquering Japanese.

If you have read and enjoyed—and who has not?—Mrs. Earle's "Pot-Pourri from a Surrey Garden," you will welcome as the fourth of a charming series, "Letters to Young and Old" (2). I turned first to the letters on gardening, assured here that the treatment would be worthy at once of the writer and of the subject, nor was I disappointed. But, indeed, there is not a disappointing page in the whole delightful volume; while the few distasteful letters—to meat-eaters and tea-drinkers—are like the medicines of our childhood, as wholesome as they are distasteful. Mrs. Earle might have added to her cento of excellently chosen quotations one of Sydney Smith's three rules for happiness:—"Note the effects of tea and coffee upon you." By "The Fighting Chance" (3), Mr. Robert Chambers, an American novelist, will certainly secure here the success he has already achieved in his own country. By the way, I wonder if his success in his own country guarantees the faithfulness of his unpleasant pictures of his countrymen—at least of the "Four Hundred." They confirm the Miltonic view of Mammon—that even in Hell there was no meaner spirit. The other moral of the novel is anti-Spencerian, since it proves that both in the hero's and in the heroine's case there is a fair fighting chance against the influence of heredity. The hero inherited the curse of drink and the heroine the tendency to illicit love, and each helps the other to an ultimate triumph over their congenital inheritance. It is a little paradoxical that the Americans, the most practical folk in the world, should be, as their popular songs and novels testify, also the most sentimental; but the sentiment in "The Fighting Chance," though occasionally gushing, is never mawkish.

There is an ever-recurring contrast between the style and the subject of Mr. Jack London's "White Fang" (4). You do not expect in an extraordinarily vivid story of a dog fight, either with his kind or with other creatures, fine writing appropriate to an ethereal love romance. On the other hand, when Mr. Jack London is writing simply he is unsurpassed in the wonderful vigour and vividness of his descriptions. In this history of the evolution of a soul in a dog he has, so to say, condensed the history of the development of the species from the original wolf, wild dog, or jackal to the faithfullest of all the friends of man. A finer or more fascinating story of its kind has seldom been written than this history of the evolution of a dog's soul. Very clever indeed is Mr. Sidney Paternoster's "The Folly of the Wise" (5), whose heroine makes first a nauseating marriage of convenience to an old man, and is later indemnified by her union with the hero, who had had the good fortune to save her life. The interval of suspense between the revolting and enchanting marriages is filled up ingeniously with the usual misunderstandings—more than usually malignant—and your interest is kept at a high level throughout.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

Lady Dorothy Nevill, whose volume of "Reminiscences" was one of the great successes of the autumn publishing season, is engaged upon a further volume of recollections, which, like the first, will be edited by her son, Mr. Ralph Nevill. It will be issued by Messrs. Macmillan in October next.

General Baden-Powell's "Sketches in Mafeking and East Africa" will be published by Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co., on March 12. It is a collection of sketches drawn by General Baden-Powell during the siege of Mafeking, with other illustrations of his recent journey to the Victoria Fall and to Lake Victoria Nyanza and Uganda viâ the East Coast. The accompanying letterpress gives numerous personal incidents of the siege

and a rough journal of the author's travels and shooting in British East Africa.

The pure undiluted gospel of Toryism which Mr. A. C. Fox-Davies expounds in his pamphlet on "The House of Lords" (John Lane, 1s. net) will amuse every Radical. Whether it will be relished by people of his own way of thinking is another question. He frankly avows opinions which they deem it more discreet to conceal. He regards the notion that the British Parliament should represent "the will of the people" as unutterable rubbish. His theory of the House of Lords is that its sole duty is to safeguard the big material interests it represents; the idea that it should act as a mere second chamber, a check upon ill-considered legislation, is a miserable subterfuge, a pusillanimous abandonment of its true and logical and constitutional place and status. Mr. Fox-Davies is a vigorous and vivacious writer, and his "political tract" is well worth reading.

Mr. Edward Arnold will have ready immediately two books on Africa. The first, "A Picnic Party in Wildest Africa," by C. W. L. Bulfett, is a record of an expedition organised by Mr. McMillan, the American traveller, for the purpose of exploring the country lying between the river Akobo and Lake Rudolph. The other book, "Tippoo Tib," is a translation of a work by Dr. Brode, German Consul at Zanzibar, who induced the notorious Central African adventurer to write an account of his life, and has built up from it a picture of the gradual transition of Africa in the hands of the white man.

Mr. Frank A. Martin's "Under the Absolute Amir" (Harper and Brothers, price 10s. 6d.) has made an opportune appearance during the visit of the ruler of Afghanistan to India. Both the present Amir, Habibullah, and his predecessor, Abdur Rahman, figure prominently in the volume, which is the outcome of Mr. Martin's residence in Cabul for eight years as engineer-in-chief to the Government. He gives a most interesting and instructive account of the country and the people, of the characters of the two Ameers in whose service he was, and of the methods and the barbarities of their administration.

Lady Rosalind Northcote has written a book on "Devonshire: its Moorlands, Streams, and Coast," which will be illustrated after water-colours by Mr. James Widgery. The book will be published by Messrs. Chatto and Windus.

Mr. Everard Cotes's forthcoming work on the China and Japan of to-day and to-morrow, entitled "Signs and Portents in the Far East," will be published by Messrs. Methuen. It embodies the author's observations of men and things during a prolonged tour in Manchuria and the East, and among other matters he examines the capabilities of the new Chinese army and the limits imposed by race characteristics upon the situation which has arisen since the Russo-Japanese war.

A new novel by S. R. Crockett, entitled "Little Esson," is announced by Messrs. Ward, Lock, and Co. It is described as a story of the sorrows and smiles of which domestic comedy is made up in modern life.

The Marquis of Ruvigny continues with tireless industry the compilation of his monumental work, "The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal." The new volume (just published by Messrs. T. C. and E. C. Jack, price four guineas), traces the lineage of no fewer than 25,052 living (or very lately living) descendants of Anne (Plantagenet) Duchess of Exeter, the eldest sister of Edward IV. The list comprises persons in every station of life, and one can imagine that a volume showing that they are sprung from the Plantagenets will be a source of joy to many of them.

The 1907 volume of "Sell's Directory of Registered Telegraphic Addresses" has just been published by Mr. Henry Sell at 166, Fleet-street, E.C. Besides containing a complete record of the telegraphic addresses registered at the Post Office, the book now gives upwards of 20,000 foreign and colonial cable addresses, while it also forms a unique directory of the largest commercial houses in the United Kingdom. Another very useful feature for firms doing an export trade is a complete list of British Consuls in foreign countries. To commercial and professional men having occasion to transact business by wire the volume is indispensable, and those who are annual subscribers have the advantage of receiving free of charge quarterly supplements giving the latest new registrations, alterations, etc.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Two or three cases of nervous breakdown having occurred in our little circle lately, I have had it borne in upon me that it is not work that makes such ruinous drafts upon health and strength, but the want of a playground for one's thoughts. If a business man works all day, putting the whole of his energies into whatever he is doing, he ought to be able to switch off his thoughts and turn them on to something whereon they may pasture pleasantly. To some men, home, wife, and children are the playground. For others there is some special hobby which is their salvation, saving them from that iterant and reiterant monotony that belongs to business of most kinds. A great doctor once said that every man should have a hobby—and every woman, too, I suppose? But we have more inward resources than men. Do you not think so? Men are often restless, and hate sitting still, unless they are fond of reading. Women do not object to being quiet and passing a tranquil evening at home. That is, of course, if their hearts are in their homes.

Carpentering is a hobby of several men we know. They have a workroom set apart for them, and their joy is in getting new tools for their work. I know one man who has made beautiful furniture for his dining-room, doing the whole work after business hours. He is an architect. Another has beautified his wife's drawing-room with fanciful cabinets, bookcases, a writing-table, brackets, and an overmantel, all in some white wood, which is enamelled to match the Rose Dubarry walls. The room is a picture, with its Aubusson carpet, old Chippendale and Sheraton chairs, painted piano, and soft easy chairs with pink silk cushions. The lamps have all pink shades, and there are rosy screens here and there, which are a joy to the eyes of those who turn in from the bleak grey streets at teatime.

Another man we know is a collector of many kinds of rare things: china, old silver, pictures, curios from all parts of the world. No fear of his ever breaking down from overwork, for the playground of his thoughts is wide and breezy.

Then there is Minta, who works so hard at philanthropy—a most wearing occupation. She did break down once, and her sensible doctor said to her: "Are you fond of gardening? Then get a garden and play in it," or words to that effect. She took his advice, and has never shown a sign of breakdown since. The garden and the little cottage that stands in it, as a cup in a saucer, give her thoughts abundant recreation. She says she has two distinct lives, one being sunk in her work, the other a butterfly existence spent wholly in her garden. "Even when I am up here in London," she remarked, one day, "my thoughts are circumambulating among the paths, and I sometimes wonder if the gardener ever fancies that he sees me, I being in imagination so strongly present there."

What a jump it would give the poor man! I have often had the same idea, though. When we were abroad last spring I found I had forgotten a key belonging to our luggage, and one evening when I was thinking hard about the spot where I felt sure I had left it, and was in imagination standing in front of the wardrobe in my room at home, I felt certain that at that very moment Richard opened the door and looked in. It was a curious sensation. He was not with us on our Tyrol trip, and I have often wondered if he really did look into the room at that moment when the real I was so strongly there, though not in the body.

I have never asked him. He would certainly think me quite mad if I were to do so!

We were at such a very pretty wedding last week. The bride, a tall, slight, graceful girl, with immense dark

eyes, quantities of dark hair, a brilliant colour, red lips, and pretty white teeth, a beauty of a Spanish type, wore the loveliest gown I have seen for a long time. It was satin, so skilfully made that the folds clung around her, now catching the light, now showing deep pearl tones in the shadows. A Medicis collar in lace and pearls was curved back from the shoulders, and just below it was lace that made me suddenly whisper to myself, "Oh, *do* remember the Tenth Commandment!" The bridal veil was fine old lace and was very gracefully arranged over sprays of orange blossom in the dark hair.

The bridesmaids wore very charming gowns of softest pale pink silk, the bodice trimmed with velvet in a rather deeper tone arranged in a new and picturesque way. A small page and a tiny girl in Sir Joshua costumes of white satin carried the bride's train. When the happy pair had advanced and knelt at the altar the scene was so pretty that it might have been arranged by some clever and experienced colourist. The bridesmaids stood apart at either side, allowing the congregation to see the bride and bridegroom (a great improvement on the ordinary plan of standing immediately behind them), and the small boy and girl were pleasant items in the picture. At one moment the vivid crimson of the clergyman's hood made a telling bit of colour and the high arch formed across the entrance to the chancel by tall palms framed in the whole. You can scarcely imagine, without having seen, how very pretty it was, all lit up, too, by the bright electric light.

At the reception everything was equally artistic. Tall lilies made a guard of honour on the stairs, one rising from every baluster. The chimney-pieces bore clusters of white flowers arranged in groups as though growing, and above them drooping smilax from the overmantels with lilies here and there.

Some professor has been telling the world that blue-rayed individuals have no affinity with others who are red-rayed, and that a man or woman who takes a matrimonial partner whose rays are of the wrong colour is sure to be unhappy. Now why has that sage professor led us thus far on the road to happiness and not taken us the whole way? Why has he not told us how to discover the colour of the rays by which (he says) we are surrounded? How very incomplete some systems of philosophy are! If this professor could but start a laboratory in which the rays of man or woman would be visible directly they entered, what a boon it would be to the world! and think what a huge fortune he would make—beyond the dreams of avarice. One can imagine an engaged couple entering in a tumultuously happy frame of mind and after a few moments rushing out and violently parting for ever on the doorstep or somewhere in the street, having discovered that one was blue-rayed, the other red.

Helen has just taken a flat in partnership with another lonely widow whose circumstances are in many ways similar to Helen's own. How useful it would have been to call in at such a laboratory, pay the professor's fee, and discover if there were a compatibility of colour-rays. But we have all to grope along in the dark, so long as this learned man may delay in carrying out his investigations to some practical end. Would it be of any use for us to write and beg of him to hurry up?

We were at an interesting debate at the Pioneers' Club last week. The subject was "That Bernard Shaw is justified in eliminating romance from his plays." Mr. Osman Edwards opened the debate, and gave us the narrowest definition of romance to argue on that he could, thus tacitly admitting that a wider proposition would have been untenable. Fierce and earnest ran the debate on whether romance in the sense of a "love-interest" ought to be left out or not. Miss Hughes, who opposed, said in a witty speech that Bernard Shaw was not fit to handle romance, and therefore would be quite "justified in eliminating it from *his* plays"—but did not, squeezing it in "in stupid little love-scenes." After that the evening was one of great intentness, varied by much laughter. One lady said she had travelled in many countries, but she had never met people "one least bit like any of Bernard Shaw's." An uncompromising disciple announced, after much denunciation of G. B. S.'s women from the opposers, that he was perfectly right; women were schemers, and they had pursued man since the Garden of Eden—a serious opinion which was received with peals of laughter and not a few "Good gracious!"-es.

The end of it all was so exactly like a G. B. S. situation that we have smiled ever since over it. The "ayes" had it; he was quite justified in eliminating romance from his plays; and every one of those ayes admitted that he had not eliminated it, and, indeed, at one period of the evening, the supporters of the proposition were engaged in an earnest eulogy of G. B. S. as a great romantic writer! We were struck by the clearness and conciseness of the speakers, all but two of whom were women, and many of them were witty as well as wise. We had been so afraid, for the credit of our sex, that Mr. Osman Edwards's opening was so brilliant that we should not be able to return a Roland for his Oliver. Bee and I only wished that G. B. S. could have been there himself, for he does not say more opposite things about one of his own characters than were said of him; the image of him evoked challenged comparison with a dozen different great men, of course, including Shakespeare; but never faltered from its Shawishness.

Lady Ludlow is to open on March 14 the thirty-seventh annual sale of the original society for selling work done by ladies in reduced circumstances. Established in 1871 by some ladies of means, this may be called the eldest sister of those that have sprung up since. The work is so quietly, unobtrusively, and inexpensively carried on that it runs some risk of being overlooked. The hon. secretary, Miss Green, 136, Alexandra-road, N.W., receives work done by poor gentlewomen in all parts of the United Kingdom, and the sale is held every spring and occupies two days. It is a good deed to go and buy, nor does it involve any particular self-sacrifice, since the work is beautiful and moderately priced. The Hampstead Conservatoire, Eton-avenue, close to Swiss Cottage, is the scene of the sale on the two days, and a very convenient arrangement is made by which visitors can have cold luncheon or tea at moderate cost. As these refreshments are a gift to the society, the full receipts go towards the expenses of the sale.

What makes this society so beneficent to the workers is that no commission is charged them. Each one receives in full the amount realised by her work, and the cost of membership is just 1s. per annum. Orders for needlework of any kind are gratefully received. Do send your next purchase of table linen or handkerchiefs there to have your initials embroidered on them. I wish a thousand people would. The class benefited by this society is, to my idea, the most to be pitied of any, and, alas! some of the members are crippled or invalids.

The name you have forgotten is Glyciduline—the address, Reeve, chemist, Birmingham. It is really wonderful stuff, and I, for one, owe many a good night's rest to it, especially in such trying weather as we have been having. Do not dilute it too freely when your throat is relaxed or when you have a teasing cough. It is a mixture of glycerine and something like concentrated lemon juice, agreeable to the palate; highly superior in this way to some of the remedies of a flavour so frightful that one almost prefers to go on coughing rather than annoy one's palate with anything so atrocious. I recommended the Glyciduline to an old lady who was harassed by a most distressing cough both night and day. After two or three doses she was completely relieved, and always says she can never sufficiently thank me for having told her about it. She makes me feel quite a benefactress—a very pleasant sensation!

Corset Krutoid.—The latest *nouveauté Parisien* in tricot forms an elegant and smart up-to-date contour and lengthens the waist line.—Write or call at Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Royal Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street London.

Important to Ladies. — You can get the real genuine Horrockses' Longcloths and Flannelettes if you insist on seeing this stamp on the selvedge: 'Horrockses.' Obtainable from the principal Drapers. Over a century's reputation.

I have received the following from Mona:—

MY DEAR MADGE,—I thank you for your good wishes. We are making some progress, though it is but slow. Strange as it may seem to you, the Prevention of Corruption Act may help us. When we first started this little business we thought we had only to grow good plants to sell them. We were soon undeceived. One of our earliest customers was a lady, living about twelve miles away, who sent her gardener and another man in a cart to fetch the plants she had ordered. The gardener told me that the other man wanted some money for his dinner. I pretended not to hear. Then he informed me that his mistress was very rich and would give us large orders if satisfied with the plants, and concluded by asking for what he called "the usual commission." I emphatically refused to give him a farthing. We have never had another order from this lady. The gardener, as we have since discovered, neglected the plants supplied by us, and in consequence most of them proved failures. You may consider this an exceptional experience, but it is unfortunately a very common one. The practice of demanding money from nurserymen is almost universal among gardeners, among head gardeners especially. It is sometimes called commission and sometimes discount, but whatever the name, it rightfully belongs to the employer, for though the nurseryman pays it in the first instance, he is bound to take it into consideration when fixing the price. You may think it unlikely that firms of good standing would countenance anything of the sort, but it is impossible that they should be ignorant of what is going on, except perhaps where, as often happens, their travellers say to a gardener, "If you give me an order, I will divide my commission with you." In a letter which I received some time ago from a member of one of the largest firms in the kingdom, he admitted the evil, and said that all efforts to remove it had failed because horticultural firms would not combine. It had, therefore, become almost compulsory to bribe. I know of one gentleman who, after having made a hobby of the finest bulbs, tried for years to start a business in them, but, after spending a great deal of money, was compelled to give it up, simply because he refused to be a party to what he justly called swindling. To some extent, perhaps, it is the employers' own fault. If they leave the ordering of their plants and seeds entirely to others, they must expect to pay through the nose. I suppose owners of large gardens, perhaps several gardens in different parts of the country, cannot well help themselves, but others would be well advised if they gave their orders themselves. The Prevention of Corruption Act may effect some improvement. That it will completely smash up a system so deep-rooted and so widespread is too much to hope for, but it will at least prevent open demands for commission or discount. For that reason, we think it will help us a little.

If, as it must do, it reduces the expenses of horticultural firms, it should benefit the public by bringing about a general reduction in prices. In order to supply some justification for the high level at which they have hitherto been maintained, packets of seeds have been made far larger than is necessary for ordinary gardens. If this were merely waste it would be bad enough, but it is much worse. For, with the idea of preventing the waste, all the seeds are sown in an area in which not a tenth of the plants can grow, with the result that most, if not all, of them are spoilt. "To give a practical illustration of the results of overcrowding," says a horticultural writer, "place a single seed of a mignonette in the ground, and the seedling will spread into a mass a foot or 15in. across, covered with fine spikes; but allow thirty seeds in the same space and the outcome is deplorable." Yet thick sowing is the commonest of all mistakes in the garden, and for it the excessively large packets of seed sold by most seedsmen at a correspondingly high price must be held responsible. Sweet peas supply a striking example. They are usually crowded so close together that they are an impenetrable tangle of stems, and in consequence the flowers are poor in quality and comparatively few in number. A single plant, properly grown, would cover more space than a dozen of them, and would produce more and finer flowers for a much longer time. Try some of the new varieties 18in. apart, and you will be astonished how well they do. Those that I specially recommend are Countess Spencer, the best pink; Henry Eckford, the best orange; Paradise, the best rose, with beautifully waved petals; Dorothy Eckford, the best white; King Edward VII., the best crimson; Navy Blue, the best blue; Helen Lewis, with large, waved, orange standard and rose-coloured wings; and the Hon. Mrs. E. Kenyon, pale yellow. Of course, there are many other beautiful varieties, some of them differing but slightly from those I have named, but these seven would be very difficult to beat.

You told me last year that you had never grown cannas; I strongly advise you to do so. With their handsome leaves and gorgeous flowers, they are magnificent for either pots or beds. You can buy the tuberous roots if you like—they are not expensive—or you can raise the plants from seed in the greenhouse. But the seed should be sown at once, or you will not get good flowers the same year. It is something like a sweet pea in shape, but excessively hard—so hard that germination often takes months unless it is facilitated by scratching the outer skin with a file and afterwards soaking the seed for twenty-four hours in hot water. Cannas are easy enough to grow: their chief requirements are rich soil, plenty of moisture, and a fairly high temperature. In June they may be planted outside. If wanted for conservatory decoration, they should be moved into large pots. They will keep on throwing up fresh flowering stems all summer, but when colder weather comes growth will cease. This should be the signal to reduce the supply of moisture. When the stems wither they may be cut away, and the pots containing the tubers stored away for the winter under the greenhouse stage—on their sides, so as to keep the soil dry.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—The beginning of Lent last week brought, as it always brings, a very short interlude in the Castle season, a pause in the social whirl. There was time to think for any who had a turn that way, and to take up the less frivolous works and interests, neglected in the rush of society engagements; time for our friends in particular, and, above all, time for ourselves for dallying with life and tasting the hours appreciatingly, instead of just swallowing them down, as one does an influenza cachet. In "rushing" life might one not be any one else just as well as one's self, so little opportunity do individuality and special tastes get? One does what the others are doing, simply because they are doing it without any reference to the why and the wherefore.

The interval only began on Wednesday, entertainments being given at the Castle, both on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Lady Aberdeen, owing to a slight cold, was not present at either of them, but Lord Aberdeen was zealously assisted by his family and staff in doing the honours. Never was there a more active viceregal staff than the present one. Thirteen aides-de-camp, as well as a great number of civilian household officials, and all just as much for use as for ornament, which says a great deal. "Like master, like man," and what host at Dublin Castle was ever more gracious and pleasing than Lord Aberdeen? No wonder those who are asked to the parties—the dances in especial—enjoy them, and still less wonder that those who are not asked suffer much vexation of spirit. You can imagine how pleasant for the guests it is to have so many hosts, as it were, solicitous for their enjoyment. Pretty faces and pretty frocks were pleasantly predominant at the dance on Monday evening, the guests numbered several hundreds, and all the state rooms were thrown open. Lord and Lady Grenfell were not present, on account of Lady Victoria Grenfell's death. They left the Royal Hospital at the beginning of the week, to attend her funeral in England. The news of Lady Cadogan's death cast a gloom over the entertainment to some extent. She had many friends in Ireland. Her bright and charming personality and her kindly manner, the outward expression of a kindly heart, made her perhaps the most popular viceregal chatelaine of Dublin Castle of late years. There is so much in manner! So many who are kindly in intention, are, in a way, dumb with regard to giving open expression to their kindliness. Small blame to us if we do not recognise that a bad manner alone is a fault. We fallible mortals from whom hearts are hidden have more or less to judge by what is shown. And so we are easily won by the hearts whose kindliness is expressive and what might be called articulate. On Tuesday evening a concert was given in St. Patrick's Hall, at which also there were many hundreds of viceregal guests. To the young and frivolous—not necessarily only the young—these entertainments are not very attractive; they have their charms, however, for those who like music, and can dissociate enjoyment from activity.

This week the interval ends; another "Court" will be held on Wednesday. Their Excellencies will entertain another party of viceregal visitors. Lord Hawkesbury's father, Lord Liverpool, is still seriously ill; the Chamberlain was absent from the Castle last week in England. Sir Antony MacDonnell was in London

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for the opening of Parliament and other business, but no doubt will return to wield the sword of State at the Levee and Court this week. The Chief Secretary will hardly be able to take up his residence in the Phœnix Park for a long time to come, but is expected to spend Easter there, though hardly to have a holiday time. Since sympathy came into fashion with Chief Secretaries in Ireland there is no more rest for them than for the "pilgrim of love" in the old song. We are looking forward to Mr. Birrell, and with pleasant anticipations. Those of us who read—not, it must be said, the largest section of society—have happy associations with his name, through his graceful and cheering writings. And then we all like a new high official, as giving us something new to criticise. We are deeply disappointed that the King is not to visit Ireland in May; we were in hopes that the Sovereign and Royalty in general would get into the way of going about this island of the kingdom as about the other countries and with the same freedom. As a matter of fact, there is no safer country in the world for Royalty than ours. Amongst our many departments we have not one as yet for Anarchists, nor even for Suffragettes.

Lady Keane, whose death occurred so sadly on the eve of her son's marriage, was a well known member of Irish society, a clever woman of high culture. She was very popular in the country amongst all classes. Her father, Mr. J. Vance, was in the old days the well-known Conservative member for the City of Dublin, and her mother was one of the handsomest women of her time.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Here is another Lenten recipe for you: fillets of soles à la Viola:—

Trim the fillets of a pair of soles, season them with salt, pepper, and lemon juice, roll each fillet round some cork-shaped pieces of potato, dipped in liquid butter, fasten them round with thread, and arrange them in a buttered stewpan, moisten them with a little fish stock, and cook them ten minutes, with a buttered paper over them. Remove them to cool, then take out the potato, and fill the cavity with chopped lobster, mixed with sauce and the yolk of an egg. Roll the sole first in bread crumbs, then in beaten egg and bread crumbs, and fry them in a bath of hot lard. Dish the fish in a circle, with scallops of lobster in the centre, and the remainder of the sauce poured round them.

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A Sample Packet, containing four "A," three "B," and two "C," will be sent post free for 1s. from **The Lady Manager, Bull St., Birmingham.**

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,457.

THE BEST POSTAL ADDRESS CONSTRUCTED IN REBUS FORM.

Owing to the large number of excellent Rebuses sent in, I have found the adjudication in this Competition exceptionally difficult. But, on the whole, having regard to the conditions laid down, I have decided to award the Prize of Two Guineas to BLENCATHRA.

At the same time, I should like to make specially honourable mention of FIDELS, ASTER, CAW and QU'APPELLE, all of whom run the winner to a short head.

BLENCATHRA'S Rebus, which was printed in TRUTH of January 16th, is as follows:

Stanley
Terrace
Bridges

Stanley Head, 2, Middle Terrace, Three Bridges.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,458.

SUGGESTED NEW NAMES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS IN THE CALENDAR.

Though a large number of competitors entered for this Puzzle, I cannot truthfully say that their solutions were generally of a high quality. The Prize of Two Guineas is awarded to SINCÉRITÉ, with EBORACUM and MINOS as runners up.

SINCÉRITÉ'S list of names, which was printed in TRUTH of January 23rd, is as follows:—Glacifer. Humifer. Ventifer. Undifer. Florifer. Mellifer. Aestifer. Messifer. Frugifer. Aratrifer. Brumifer. Nivifer.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,459.

THE SIX MOST DELIGHTFUL SCAPEGRACES IN ENGLISH FICTION.

A Collation of all lists sent in has produced the following ideal list, viz., Dick Swiveller, Falstaff, Charles Surface, Wilkins Micawber, Alfred Jingle, Tom Jones.

Only one Competitor—TONY—has sent in a list containing all the above Six Scapegraces. But as Tony was awarded a quarter of a Prize on January 16th last, he is only eligible to take three-quarters of the full Prize now, *i.e.*, the sum of £1 11s. 6d., which is hereby awarded him.

The balance, 10s. 6d., being too small to divide among several ties for second place, will be added to the value of the Prize in some future Puzzle, of which Competitors will have due notice.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,465.

I have been informed—please do not imagine I speak from personal experience—that one of the methods employed by the Police to test the sobriety of a prisoner is to require him to pronounce some awkward combination of words, over which, if not quite sober, his tongue is pretty sure to trip.

"Mixed Biscuits" is said to be one of these combinations; "She sells Sea-Shells," another.

Now it strikes me that the Police are tolerably merciful in the matter, and that many more tongue-twisting combinations of words might easily be found. And I think it will afford a Puzzle at once novel and amusing to set Competitors to work to devise such Combinations.

This week, therefore, I am offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas for:

"A COMBINATION OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR ENGLISH WORDS, IN COMMON USE, CALCULATED MOST SEVERELY TO TAX A SPEAKER'S POWERS OF ENUNCIATION."

The words thus combined should have some sort of connection in sense, and must not be of an abstrusely technical or otherwise unusual character; that is to say, they must be readily intelligible to our friend, "The Man in the Street."

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) Competitors are—in this instance—permitted to send in *three* such "Combinations," but not more.

(ii.) The Illustrative examples quoted above may *not* be used.

(iii.) All "Combinations" must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, March 4, 1907, *at latest.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of BUCKS, winner of one-eighth of TRUTH Prize No. 1,455, is Mrs. Woodhouse, Merstham Rectory, Surrey.

*** The real name, with the address, of KORAH, winner of one-eighth of TRUTH Prize No. 1,455, is Miss E. H. Courtenay, 37, West Square, London, S.E.

FOG.—Your correction duly noted.

MATOPE.—Your change of address duly noted.

LITTLE BEN.—Very pleased indeed to welcome you to our competitions.

SPONGE.—The matter to which you refer has been for some time under my consideration. And, in fairness to competitors generally, I propose to deal with it. But, as you will readily understand, it requires delicate handling.

ELM.—A warm welcome to you.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,462.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

POEMS, IN SERIOUS VEIN, DEALING WITH THE RECENT APPALLING EARTHQUAKE AT KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

The city slept.
Bathed in the sunshine of a radiant day,
Fanned by the zephyrs warm;
And all the land in burning splendour lay,
Nor dreamt of harm.

When lo! a sound.
Nature supplanted by a mightier hand
Helpless was forced to yield:
With rumbling low gloom settled o'er the land;
Death took the field.

The city stirred,
Stirred but to sink before yon awful tread
And tottering wait her doom;
The earth all-heaving rendered up her dead,
And dragged new victims quick into the tomb.

Once more she moved
And, like the wave upon tempestuous sea,
Towering, first rears her crest,
Then curling breaks and breaking falls away,
She sank to rest.

P. F. H.

Houseless and homeless, she and I forlorn,
Gaze on the spot where we had waked this morn,
Glad with the thought that here was our sweet home.
And now it lies unwalled; its roof Heaven's dome.
'Twas not the fever fiend that swept our land.
Nor deadly grip of warfare's bloodstained hand.
'Twas Mother Earth, convulsed in direful throe,
Who spread, nor warned of swift o'erwhelming woe.
Round the dear home is desolation now,
All broken up as by some Titan's plough,
But yesternight I planned a fresh surprise
To bring the look I loved in sweetest eyes.
Or was it years ago?—I scarce can tell.
Ere this destruction on our homestead fell.
Gone all our fruit crop, hope, and work of years,
The home, made sacred by our joys and tears,
All gone! I turn away, to meet brave eyes,
Whose strength and courage make my manhood rise
To meet the worst. Come weal, come woe; no ill
Can crush us quite, while left each other still.

Bel Demonio.

Peaceful and smiling in the sun-lit air
Jamaica lay. No warning sight or sound
Presaged calamity, when, lo! the ground
Shook and split. Then, what a scene was there!
Men, women, children, rushed in frenzied fright
Forth from their tottering dwellings. Well they knew
The import of that message, and they flew,
Seeking for safety in unreasoning flight.
But mortal power could not avail to save.
For, crashing down upon him as he ran,
Man's handiwork crushed out the life of man,
And what had been his home became his grave.

Then fierce-eyed fire, and e'en the rageful sea
Leapt to the cruel work and seized their share
Of spoil. Oh, that a spot so wondrous fair
Should hold so much of human misery!

There, in a smou'dering and groaning heap,
Beings and buildings, art and nature, lay.
And what had wreaked the ruin of that day?
The earth had moved a muscle in its sleep!

Vox.

Gem of the Western Isles, Jamaica! Thou
Seeming to us who visited thy shore
Lately, one summer slumber, weaved about
With mystic spell of deep tranquillity.
Thou, too, then, hast those earth-born agonies
To take the fairness of thy capital
And render back a charred disfigurement;
To turn the busy rhythm of thy life
Into one solemn death-cry of despair!

O, little island, though the shade of death
Has overcast thee, moody, terrible,
And brought thee trouble thou hast never known
Before the horror of that thronging day,
Yet thou shalt cast it from thee, and shine forth
In the old glory of thy summer light,
And find again life-pulsing happiness!

And we who love thee shall, returning, find
Thy calm more soothing from its broken sleep,
Thy wounds assuaged, and wrought to loveliness,
Thy beauty, sorrow-chastened, greater yet!

Little Ben.

Hour after hour, amidst the ruins searching,
With failing hearts we dug, whilst overhead
The hungry vultures, on the débris perching,
Served us as fingerposts to mark the dead.

So, by these birds of evil omen guided,
We filled the lines of carts that waited nigh:
Happy are you, who have not seen, as I did,
That grim procession of the dead go by.

Happy are you, you folks in England, wrapt in
That changeless ease, which Europeans know:
Hear now the story that an old sea captain
Tells of the doom he 'scaped two days ago.

All round and round the angry sea was whirling
Into a deep and funnel-shaped abyss,
They glibly talk in hymns of "billows curling,"
I guess they never saw a sight like this.

And though, at last, both land and sea are quiet,
Jamaicans will not soon forget the day
When Nature's hidden forces rose in riot,
And like an ant hill brushed our town away.

Sponge.

Behold! the earth, and fire, and wind, and sea,
Clapp'd hands and made a bet. They said:—
Kingstown
Shall tremble, topple, fall, and be a crown
For desolation, throne for misery.
Lo! it was done. In fire-bright agony
Man saw his works and children burn and drown,
Then wept he weary tears, and, bowing down
His head a moment, quailed and said: "Ah! me."

But after lifted eyes and forehead high,
Clench'd hands to pay his honour back; yea, fed
Poor empty mouths and bound the wounds that bled,
Laid stone on stone, and plan to mighty plan,
Casting his stakes upon the self-same die.
Reckless is nature? Reckless, too, is man.

J. M. B.

Where soft winds woo, and wavelets sprightly brawl
Around free forest feet of cinnamon
And tropic topiary, lord over all,
The everlasting sun.

There sleeps Port Royal in a crystal grave;
Her splendid sins found pardon and surcease
Of punishment on sweet sea lips that lave
The weird West Indian peace.

The ageless hills above, afforested
With every fruitful tree the warm world knows,
Still shed flower tears for her forgotten dead—
Her unforgotten woes.

Once more hath Nature, fain of man's eclipse,
Astir with awful nightmare, broke her sleep,
Prophetic of the last Apocalypse,
Deep calling unto deep

When God the island of His chaos made,
He blessed her as the fairest of His fair.
But set grim wardenship lest man should trade
Upon God's ware.

Elm.

When Kingston rose that awful morn,
There was no hint of earthquake shock,
Of earth convulsed, and racked, and torn,
Of dizzy plunge, and whelming rock.

The sun rose bright, the air was clear,
The chattering negroes laughed and sang,
While curious white men wandered near,
What things on trivial moments hang!

Hark the dread sound! Crash after crash!
Stout buildings fall, and dust-clouds rise;
And vast rents open, and huge rocks clash,
And every instant someone dies!

Dreadful the scene, some shriek in prayer,
And some in wild delirium pass,
And some, the nobler spirits there,
Would vainly calm the frantic mass.

O God! look down on their distress,
And grant them in their sorrow peace!
In trial and in suffering bless,
And may their sad affliction cease!

Dudhope.

Alas, doomed city! we, who from afar
The echoes of thy dread disaster hear,
And give thee but a far-off sympathy,
Not realising, when we pity most,
The desolation of thy ruined state,
How little aid can offer but our prayers!
How many, lull'd in calm security
Of peaceful homes, will render even that?
So seldom is it giv'n to mortal minds,
Immersed in ceaseless strife for selfish ends,
To penetrate the depths of others' woe.

Who dare deny, of those who would impute
To a just dealing Heaven thy distress,
That thou shalt ever greatest comfort find
In the sure knowledge that, whate'er befall,
God's Heaven is over all? It is ordained
That in our deepest suffering shall lie
Our greatest good, so cometh the belief
That from the ruins of thy buried past
Thou mayest rise to higher things at last.

Elm.

But yesterday we anchored with the tide
In Kingston Harbour as the sun sank low,
And saw the sky transformed and glorified
Purple and gold and crimson in one glow.
We heard the sound of music on the shore,
Where joyous negroes hailed the closing day,
And shining water dripping from many an oar
Where little boats came gliding on the bay.
The light grew dim—the white datura bells
Gleamed like faint ghosts of blossoms on the trees,
And from the gardens strange sweet tropic smells
Were borne to us upon the seaward breeze.
Far off Blue Mountains rose into the air,
And a young moon with Venus on her breast
Hung o'er the highest peak a sickle fair.
As Kingston's Sabbath closed in peace and rest

That was but "yesterday"—now Kingston lies
In smoking ruins on her shaken ground.
The air is full of frenzied prayers and cries,
And death and desolation stalk around.
Yet not all sad Jamaica's tragic tale,
Selfless devotion shines out calm and brave,
And there are hearts that will not tire or fail
While there remains one sufferer to save.

Klondyke.

One viewed the ruin of the ruthless wall
That crushed his wealth, his wedded wife, his all,
And cried, "There is no God; the dead skies fall!"

Another marked destruction on this side
And that, safe in the midst himself, and cried:
"Thus from the lost Thou dost the just divide."

A third laughed loudly and to looting ran,
Saying, "There is no law for lordless man,
Each for himself is God; grasp he who can!"

Then chanced a wandering pastor on that way,
And saw where one hard-breathing, tortured lay;
Then stooped to hear his laboured accents pray:

"Should'st Thou, O weaver of eternity,
Thy mighty woof unthread for such as me?
Be what thou wilt, not what men bid Thee be!"

. . . . . .

They build their walls, they see their city thrive,
Make and unmake their God, for self still strive;
That pastor preaches, "God too is alive."

Gyges.

Picture of peace! No ocean-isle more fair!
Wisely Queen Beauty chose thee for her throne!
Is it the city owns most loveliness?
Thy verdant fruit-groves flecked with red and gold?
The haven at thy feet? Thy fleckless sky?
The background of those everlasting hills?

Vision of war! A moment all is changed!
Rises and falls the earth. Terror, despair,
Havoc and death and fire their orgies hold.
No words can paint the horrors of that hour.

Hear the wild shriek! See yon convulsed hand
Out the 'whelmed ruin vainly clutch for help!
See dark against the glow strange moving forms
Bring wood and oil to feed the funeral flames!
Pyres of the dead! See barges freighted deep
Silently ferried to a sodless grave!

Yet in that gloom one splendid gleam of light!
See how the suffering draw th' unsuffering's care!
See how the blackness of that awful night
Sets British heroism's star afire!

Ox Short.

The sunshine slept upon the land at noon,
A careless land, with laughing folk at ease,
Dowered with all precious gifts of sun and moon,
'Mid her blue tropic seas.

The clink of ice in the glass; the song, the mirth
Of girls. No thunder cloud, no storm wind beat.
Only the old, familiar, patient earth
Clove yawning at our feet.

The rocking land, the raging sea, the roar
Of ruining walls, the awful, anguished cry
Of thousands swept from life, the flames that tore
A rent in the night sky.

Woe passing words; yet death's not worth to bear;
These suffered not man's cruelty—not long
Their passion; theirs no sickness of despair,
No bitterness of wrong.

And mourning them we know his heart who cried
Out of his bitter grief, "Let me not fall
Into the hand of man—I would abide
Thy judgment, Lord of all!"

Matope.

When such a dire catastrophe o'ertakes
Our fellow men, we shudder at the tale;
And for the moment ask, "Of what avail
Can be a Heavenly Father who forsakes
His children, or who sleeps and never wakes
When forces none can fight against assail?
When wreck and ruin make the stoutest quail,
While the foundation of the round world shakes.

As towers and pinnacles and lofty halls
Totter and fall with a stupendous crash;
As helpless earth to heedless heaven calls,
Love and omnipotence appear to clash;
Till reason tells us, they who rear their walls
On ground which God marks "Perilous" are rash.

Ephemeron.

Poems have also been received from:—J. McGrigor Allan, Semper, Kathleen, Cherrypicker, Nemo, Dullard, Dead Head, Pyeddi, Aichdoubleu, Otho, R. Y. H., Felixicus, Almaviva, Mary, Edwin Butt, Nurse, Chrystabel, Lorna, Oiseau, and Ephemeron.

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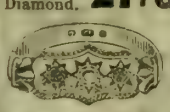

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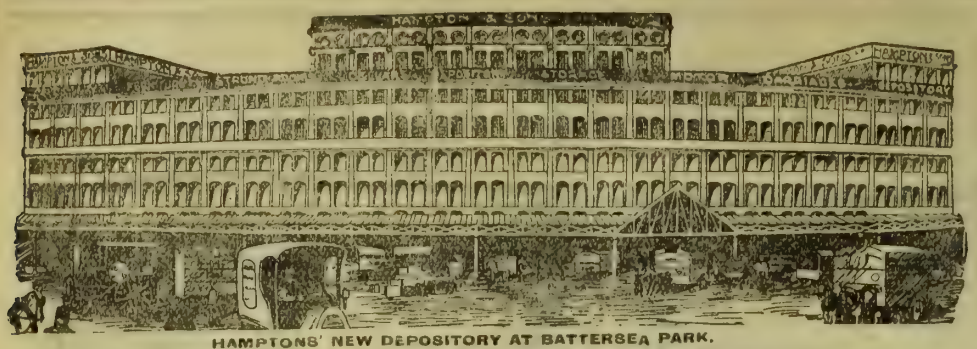

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No. 1574. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, February 27, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I AM sorry to hear that money is not coming in at all as it is required for the proper presentment of the Edalji case at the forthcoming inquiry. It is of very great importance that Mr. Edalji should be furnished with the funds that are necessary for this purpose, and I would again ask all those who sympathise with him, or recognise the necessity for having the case fully threshed out, to assist in providing the money. I shall be pleased to take charge of any contributions, or they may be sent direct to Mr. J. Hall Richardson, the Hon. Treasurer of the Edalji Committee, at the office of the *Daily Telegraph*, Fleet-street, E.C.

The King is expected to arrive at Biarritz next Tuesday, and his Majesty will occupy the same apartments at the Hôtel du Palais as were reserved for him last year. The King is to stay at Biarritz for nearly four weeks before proceeding on a cruise in the Mediterranean in the Royal yacht.

The announcement, which has gone pretty nearly all round the press, that the King is to proceed from Biarritz, shortly after his arrival at that place, to San Sebastian, where he will be entertained by King Alfonso at the Royal palace, is the very purest of fiction, no such expedition being in contemplation. It is also quite untrue that King Alfonso is to travel to Biarritz to visit the King. According to Court etiquette, the King now owes a State visit to the King of Spain at Madrid, which must be paid before there is another meeting between the two Sovereigns. Spaniards are rigid purists in such matters. The King would have paid his official visit to the Spanish Court at Madrid during the first week in April, but the delicate state of the Queen of Spain's health has caused this visit to be deferred until Easter, 1908.

There will probably be three more Levees later on in the season, all of which are to be held in the Throne Room of St. James's Palace.

The features of the first Court were the very full attendance of the Corps Diplomatique, and the remarkably large entrée. There was a smaller Royal circle than had been expected. There were upwards of two hundred presentations, including those from the Diplomatic Circle, and there were nearly eight hundred guests altogether. There was a splendid display of the Crown plate in the supper rooms. Their Majesties will hold the second Court on Friday night, and it is understood that there is to be another early in May, and a fourth one shortly after the Whitsuntide recess.

The King was last week the guest of Sir Julius and Lady Wernher at Luton Hoo Park. Luton Hoo was formerly a seat of the Marquises of Bute, but after the old house had been burnt down early in the fifties the estate was sold to the late Mr. Gerard Leigh, whose widow lived there in great state after her second marriage with M. de Falbe. The present house is very large, with many fine rooms, and a handsome private chapel. The park is extensive and heavily timbered, and contains a picturesque lake. After the death of Mme. de Falbe, the Luton Hoo domain reverted to the Leigh family, and it was sold to Sir Julius Wernher, who has carried out all kinds of improvements. This was not his Majesty's first visit to Luton Hoo, as (when Prince of Wales) he stayed there several times as the guest of M. and Mme. de Falbe, and the Queen was also there more than once.

I hear that the King will shortly confer the Order of the Garter upon the King of Saxony. It is probable

that the Prince of Wales will proceed to Dresden on a special mission to invest his Majesty with the ribbon and insignia, following the precedent of 1904, when the King of Wurtemberg received a blue ribbon, and the Prince went to Stuttgart to invest him. It is, however, possible that the King of Saxony may pay a brief visit to London this spring, either when he goes to Portugal or on his way home. His Majesty, who is now at Dresden, is going to Lisbon on a visit to his cousin, King Carlos. If the King of Saxony comes to England the King will personally invest him with the Garter at Buckingham Palace.

The late King Albert was a Knight of the Garter for twenty years, and when he received the blue ribbon from Queen Victoria in 1882 the Duke (then Earl of Fife) was sent on a special mission to invest him. King Albert presented the Duke with a superb dessert service of Dresden china, which has since been kept at Duff House. There has been an intimate alliance between our own Court and the Court of Dresden since the marriage of Queen Victoria. Prince Albert was a Duke of Saxony, and all his sons inherited that title. When the late Queen granted armorial bearings to her eldest son in 1841 by an Order in Council, special care was taken by the Court that the Saxon Arms were quartered with the Royal Arms of England.

It is understood that the Queen has postponed her contemplated visits to Denmark and Norway until the end of August, and that her Majesty will leave town on Saturday or Monday next for Sandringham, where she intends to reside until Easter Monday, when she will proceed to Marseilles to join the Royal yacht for a cruise in the Mediterranean. The King will reach Marseilles from Biarritz on Tuesday, April 2, in time to receive the Queen on her arrival from England. Their Majesties will return to London from the Continent about April 27.

A daily paper announced the other day that if the King goes to Naples this spring he will motor several miles into the country in order to visit Lord Rosebery at the Villa Posilippo. The writer of this nonsense is evidently unaware of the fact that Posilippo is a suburb of Naples on the shore of the bay. Lord Rosebery's villa stands in grounds which slope to the seashore, and any one paying him a visit from a yacht of course lands at the private pier. The King and Queen spent part of a day at Lord Rosebery's villa last spring, when they were staying off Naples on board the Royal yacht.

The Royal visit to Devonport was not favoured by pleasant weather. There was a bitterly cold wind on Thursday, and the ceremonials at the opening of the Keyham Extension Works were very brief indeed. Several of the papers announced that in the afternoon the Prince and Princess of Wales went to Mount Edgcumbe, where they took tea with Lord and Lady Mount Edgcumbe, but, as a matter of fact, the Royal guests did not again leave the Admiralty House after they returned there about four o'clock.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Glasgow is now definitely fixed to take place during the fourth week in April. The Prince and Princess will arrive on Monday, the 22nd, at Blythswood House, Renfrewshire, where they are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Blythswood until Thursday, the 25th, when they will return to London. On Tuesday, the 23rd, the Prince and Princess will open the new buildings at the University, and afterwards they are to visit the exhibition of the Glasgow Royal Institute of the Fine Arts. On Wednesday, the 24th, the Prince and Princess will lay the foundation-stone of the addition to the Royal Infirmary, after which they are to lunch with the Lord Provost in the banqueting-room of the City Chambers, and later they will inspect the Clyde division of the Royal Naval Reserve.

The Duchess of Albany returned to Claremont on the conclusion of her visit to the Duke and Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey. H.R.H. is not going to the Riviera, but she intends to spend the early part of the spring at Claremont, where she will probably receive a visit from her sister, the Queen Dowager of the Netherlands, who is now at The Hague. It is very likely that the Duchess of Albany will go to Germany at Easter to visit the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at Coburg.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is to pay a visit to the West Riding of Yorkshire during the Whitsuntide holidays, and H.R.H. has promised to open the new Art Gallery at Brighouse on Wednesday, May 22. Princess Louise will be the guest of Sir George and Lady Armytage at Kirklees Park, which is celebrated as being the traditional scene of Robin Hood's death. The house at Kirklees (which occupies the site of an ancient Cistercian priory) is Jacobean, and the park is large, picturesque, and well wooded.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen had a party of visitors staying at Dublin Castle last week, and a number of entertainments were given, including the second and last Levee and Court of the season, which was held on Tuesday. The Levee was a small one, both as regards quality and quantity. The sword of State, which has been borne lately by Mr. Bryce, Mr. Birrell, and Sir Antony MacDonnell, was last week manipulated by Mr. T. Sinclair. Like other historic swords, it is easy to carry but difficult to wield. Has the doughty champion who can successfully wield it come at last? is the question which absorbs much interest in Ireland at present.

After a short visit to England last week, Lord and Lady Aberdeen returned for the continuance of the season. The Lace Ball, to be held on March 5, is open to all who have been at the Levees and Drawing-rooms. Many special dances, reels, and quad-

For Appeals, see page 538.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 541.
For Special for Ladies, see page 543.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 540, 541.
For Amusements, see page 539.
For Estates, Auctions, see page 535.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 545, 546.

rilles are being made up for the occasion. Irish lace, in its many beautiful varieties, and crochet will have a leading part in the ladies' dresses.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen were present during this week at the opening of the annual exhibition of the Water-Colour Society of Ireland, a large Viceregal party accompanying them. The Society, which holds a good place in the artistic world, is an interesting and instructive example of what self-help can do in Ireland without the co-operation of a Board or a Department, or even of a loan. Amongst those who have contributed to its success and are exhibitors this year are Miss Rose Barton, A.R.W.S., Mildred Butler, A.R.W.S., Mr. Bingham McGuinness, R.H.A., Helen O'Hara, Mary Barton, H. K. Lynch, Mary Perrin, Mr. P. Trench, Lady Ross of Bladensburg, A. Williams, R.H.A., Miss Jessie Douglas, C. Culverwell, and many others. Amongst distinguished English exhibitors this year are Lady Butler—who lent two pictures—and Messrs. Lee Hankey and Francis James.

Mr. John Aynsley, who died the other day, began life in extreme poverty, but he worked hard for many years, and he has died at the age of eighty-three one of the largest china manufacturers in North Staffordshire, and possessed of a considerable fortune. Mr. Aynsley was a most munificent benefactor to the Potteries, and particularly to Longton, of which town he was four times Mayor. He not only gave largely himself, but he was wonderfully successful in begging subscriptions from others, and the Longton Public Park and the Longton Hospital are monuments of his generosity and energy. After the Mossfield Colliery explosion, by which sixty men were killed, he personally collected £11,000 for their relatives. He had a remarkable capacity for business, and the first good chance which was afforded him led to fortune. He worked as a lad in a potting manufactory for twelve hours a day, his wages being 1s. per week!

Mrs. Clive, of Perrystone Court, Herefordshire, who has just died at the age of ninety-two, has survived her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Lyttelton, for only a few weeks. She was the daughter of Sir Thomas Farquhar, and widow of Mr. George Clive, M.P. for Hereford. Mrs. Clive, who retained her faculties until the day of her death, managed her estates with remarkable ability and enterprise, and she was most generous and considerate to her tenants, and munificent in her charities. She had been a prominent figure in Herefordshire society for sixty years. Mrs. Clive was an aunt of Lord Grey and of Lady Minto.

There has been, I understand, some unreasonable alarm among intending visitors to the Canary Isles owing to some cases of typhus fever which occurred at Teneriffe some little time back. I am asked to mention that the Civil Governor of Teneriffe has recently notified the foreign consuls that there has been no case of typhus or other infectious disease in the islands since January 21, to which it may be added that all steamers calling at Teneriffe are now receiving clean bills of health from the consuls.

A noble lord sends me the following offer which he lately received from Mr. J. H. McGregor, of 13, Sciennes-road, Edinburgh, apparently thinking that I may be more interested than he is in proving my descent from Adam and Eve:—

> I beg to offer your lordship a pedigree right back to Alfred the Great; Cerdic, who founded the kingdom of Wessex, A.D. 495, and actually back to Shem, the son of Noah, and therefore to Adam and Eve. It might take a fortnight to prepare it, written on four or five pages of foolscap paper, closely written, and my fee would be 35s.
>
> If I am authorised to forward it, I ask for no payment until it has been carefully studied by your Lordship, and found to be, not only genuine, but correct.

As a rule, the descendants of Adam and Eve are not particularly anxious to prove the fact, still less to spend as much as 35s. on the proof. But I confess I should like to know how Mr. McGregor traces Cerdic of Wessex back to Shem, for I presume that Cerdic did not bring his pedigree in his pocket when he landed in this country. Mr. McGregor describes himself as "Curator of Ancient Family Documents," and if he has really got the pedigree of Cerdic into his possession, this description of himself seems justified, and a copy of it looks cheap at 35s.

By way of advertisement the Curator also notifies in print at the head of his stationery that "replies to letters have been received by the writer from representatives of nearly every family amongst the aristocracy," but I do not know that this proves much, except the force of the maxim, "Noblesse oblige," in regard to the answering of letters from intrusive strangers. It is more interesting to learn that he has in his possession a steel engraving which is "a lovely picture" of a "young maiden," presumably an ancestress of the peer to whom he writes, and that he is prepared to deliver it free at any address in the United Kingdom for 14s. From this I gather that besides being a Curator of Ancient Family Documents, Mr. McGregor is also a trade competitor of Ernest Day, of the Old Kent-road.

The latest circulars issued from Graylands, Langley, Bucks, intimate that Manning Press, otherwise "Ernest Gaskell, Author," is "very shortly bringing out an exceptionally interesting and beautiful New County Illustrated Work, entitled 'Derbyshire Leaders: Social and Political,' at the usual price of 3 gs. for an *édition de luxe*." There is no end to this game, of course, for even if Ernest Gaskell, Author, works off two counties a year, there are enough in England and Wales to last him for twenty-six years, and by the end of that time, when a new crop of "County Leaders: Social and Political," has risen, there is no reason why he should not begin again at the beginning and produce a fresh series. But what I cannot understand is that eminent individuals, who really have some claim to be considered county leaders, should allow their names to be associated with such notorious humbug. A few months ago Manning Press was engaged in angling for "Lanca-

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

shire Leaders" at 3 gs. a head, stating that Lord Stanley was supporting him in his operations. Now that he has transferred his attentions to Derbyshire, he announces that the "Lord Lieutenant of the County, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., P.C., LL.D., M.A., D.L., J.P., is supporting this work." I should have thought that his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, etc., etc., etc., knew better than this.

There was a crowded meeting last week of the members of the East Riding Antiquarian Society at Driffield, when the Rev. R. C. Wilton, Rector of Londesborough, read a paper describing the Burlington vault under Londesborough church, which he visited in 1905 during some alterations. The vault had then been closed since 1809. It is underneath the Lady Chapel, and was found to contain thirteen coffins, the earliest (Frances Clifford) dated 1619, and the latest (Dorothy Countess of Burlington) 1758. Londesborough passed from the Cliffords, by marriage, to the Boyles, and later to the Cavendishes. The sixth Duke of Devonshire sold the estate for £470,000 to George Hudson, from whom it was purchased by the first Lord Londesborough. Sydney Smith was Rector of Londesborough (then one of the most valuable livings in the East Riding) for many years. He held this benefice until Mr. William Howard (afterwards eighth Earl of Carlisle) was old enough to take orders.

THE ATTRACTIONS OF ACTRESSES.

(By an Observant He-male.)

A Daily, I observe, inquires
  Why actresses attract us men,
Which stimulating theme inspires
  The ink of many a scribbler's pen.

And some write that, and some write this
  ('Tis mostly pretty futile rot),
But all alike the point they miss,
  Nor touch the question's central spot.

That point is this: The sirens who
  Parade the histrionic boards,
Are merely types, condensed in few,
  Of all their sex's countless hordes.

Id est, ALL women ('neath the rose
  'Tis spoke) are actresses who play
A made-up part, and strut and pose
  Upon the stage of every day.

Whence follows it, as you can see,
  If we mere men in love must fall,
Or with an actress it must be,
  Or else with woman not at all.

"You seem surprised," writes a correspondent, "at the *Times* publishing the advertisement of an individual who requires a good house for a month, apparently for the purpose of a bogus auction. What do you say to the enclosed, which I have cut from my *Times* of yesterday (February 18), and which has been frequently repeated?" The following is the enclosure:—

RAILWAY LOST PROPERTY.

BEAUTIFUL SILK UMBRELLAS, 2s. 4d.; three for 6s.; carriage paid, or call; wonderful bargains.—Western Depôts, 83a, Regent-street, and 150, Strand, London.

The reader will recognise the advertisement as one which has been the subject of frequent warnings in TRUTH, and any one possessing ordinary knowledge of the world can tell its character at a glance. Is one to infer that the columns of the *Times* are now at the service of any advertising trickster who is prepared to pay the price?

On the top of the foregoing communication comes another from a gentleman who has advertised some dogs for sale in the *Field*. He has been favoured with the familiar circular from Printing House Square, soliciting the pleasure of repeating the advertisement in the *Times* at 3s. per insertion. In addition to the old bunkum about all the readers of the *Times* being substantial, well-to-do people, there is a special formula for this case, asserting that the *Times* addresses a "large and uniform body of moneyed people among the highest classes of the Sporting World," hence its peculiar value "as a medium for advertisements relating to horses, dogs, carriages, motor-cars," etc. It is news to hear that the Sporting World is greatly addicted to subscribing to book clubs at £3 18s. per annum, and I would recommend advertisers who want to reach sportsmen to stick to the *Field*, even if it costs them more than 3s.

Dr. Ince, who has been Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford during the last twenty-nine years, has been unable to lecture during the last two terms, and his duties were undertaken by Chancellor Barnard, of Salisbury, and by Canon Cruttwell, Rector of Ewelme. Dr. Ince is now restored to health, and he will resume his lectures this term. He was appointed to his Chair (with Canonry of Christ Church annexed) by Lord Beaconsfield, after the death of Dr. J. B. Mozley, who was described by Dr. Liddon as "the modern Butler," and the same divine expressed the opinion that Dr. Mozley was the best Regius Professor of Divinity since Bishop Lloyd.

Archdeacon Sinclair is to be the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during March, replacing the Bishop of Stepney. Dean Gregory, who is also in residence, has rarely attended the Cathedral services during the winter, but he hopes to occupy his stall regularly when the weather improves. It is improbable that the Dean will be able to preach again in the Cathedral. He is the "appointed" preacher at the morning service on Easter Day, but his place will be taken by the Bishop of London.

Canon Jelf is to succeed Dr. Haig Brown as Master of the Charterhouse, and it is understood that he will therefore resign the residentiary stall in Rochester Cathedral, to which he was appointed by Lord Chancellor Selborne in 1880. The revenue of the Chapter of Rochester has been largely reduced by agricultural

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.*—W.F——, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.M., Edin., writes: "I have some thirty patients in all stages of phthisis undergoing Dr. Alabone's treatment, some very bad, so that I should not be surprised if I lost one or two, but at present I have lost none. The improvement in them is most marked and surprising. There is no doubt of the efficacy of his treatment; it has in my hands been very successful in many cases." *"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s.6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

depression, so the Dean's stipend has fallen from £2,000 a year to £1,200, while each of the four canons is cut down from £1,000 a year to £600. The Bishop of Rochester, who has lived in the city since his appointment to the see, is to remove at midsummer to Kippington House, near Sevenoaks, which place he has rented for a term of years.

At the last Council which was held by the King an order was approved by his Majesty for the establishment of a third residentiary stall in Truro Cathedral. This canonry is to be in the gift of the Bishop of Truro, and is endowed with a stipend of £300 a year out of the Truro Chapter Endowment Fund. The incumbent of the stall is to be in residence during eight months of the year. If the canon has to find his own house, this stall will be "a lean and ill-fed" piece of preferment. There are already two canons-residentiary at Truro, each of whom receives £400 a year.

The Mayor of Nottingham asks my permission to reply to the bard who criticised his views on "Sunday Best" in last week's Truth, and his reply is so much to the point, and such a revelation of the talents that may lurk unsuspected beneath a mayoral robe and chain, that it is a pleasure as well as an honour to oblige him. I hope I may also, without offence, congratulate Nottingham on its mayoral bard. By the way, at Bexhill-on-Sea there is a mayor whom we all know and respect as a talented musician. If the musical mayor would set to music the verses of the metrical mayor, the result could not fail to be a triumph of municipal art. This is what the Mayor of Nottingham has to say for himself:—

Sunday Best.

The Mayor of Nottingham says he
  Is not at all distressed,
Respecting their theology,
  Who wear their "Sunday Best."

He kr s not, neither does he care,
  How far their view and thought
Depend upon the clothes they wear,
  Or where the same are bought.

'Twas lowly Tom, and Bill, and Jack,
  Who have no silky hat,
Nor yet a coat of Sunday black,
  That he was driving at.

If Church becomes a fashion show,
  It is no place for him,
Whose earnings small and station low
  Run not to fashion's whim.

If silks and sables rule the place,
  Remember Bill has pride,
And if you flaunt your gems and lace,
  You'll find poor Bill outside.

I have to acknowledge the following contributions towards the Toy Fund: Exiled, £2 2s.; Paper Money, 6s.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

Mr. Haldane's performance on Monday night may almost be considered to establish a Parliamentary record. In the mere matters of wind and staying power I cannot remember a finer exhibition, unless by Mr. Gladstone in his prime. Nor was it less wonderful that, though much of the subject was unfamiliar to his audience, he contrived to keep most of them interested well into the fourth hour, and none seemed to lose the thread of his discourse. But, not being able to sit up all night for the purpose, like some happy journalists, I cannot claim to have digested this heavy meal. Indeed, my digestive apparatus is such that I think I should like a clear week to assimilate properly all that I have taken in.

So far as one can judge at the moment, the novelty of the scheme is chiefly confined to the reorganisation of the Auxiliary Forces. In one respect only is there anything new about the Regulars. Last year Mr. Haldane propounded a plan for obtaining a force for foreign service, by supplementing the Regulars on mobilisation with some 30,000 troops recruited and maintained in peace time on a "Militia basis." They were to provide the artillery train and reinforce the departmental services. Now the Militia is to disappear in name, but there will be a "special contingent" corresponding more or less to the present Militia, and serving not only the above-mentioned purposes, but also to furnish drafts to the army in the field during war. This contingent is to be 78,500 strong, in officers and men, and will comprise a considerable number of infantry, trained in "nucleus" third battalions of the line regiments. The idea is very pretty to look at, but obviously everything depends on the raising of this rather peculiar kind of Militia reserve.

The surprising part of the scheme is the abolition of the existing Militia. So far as they are not perpetuated in the form above-mentioned, the battalions will become Volunteers pure and simple. As it was obvious that Mr. Haldane was going to work on a "two-line" basis, it was practically a question whether the Militia was to swallow the Volunteers or the Volunteers the Militia. Most people expected that the name, at any rate, of the Militia would be preserved, for the sake of its antiquity and associations. Apparently this is not to be, but neither is it quite clear from Mr. Haldane's speech whether the name of the Volunteers is to be preserved either, or whether we are to have a new name for the new force. This sounds like a small detail, but as a matter of fact there is as much quarrelling over names in the Army as over anything, and the disappearance of the historical term, "Militia," is enough in itself to evoke a storm of protest, whether or not the thing itself survives in one shape or another.

What, however, Mr. Haldane seems most entitled to gratitude for is that a definite scheme is at last forthcoming for organising all the old auxiliary troops as a homogeneous army of home defence on intelligible principles and a business-like basis. An excellent part of the idea is the administration of the business side of this army by local associations, partly civilian. I claim to be a part inventor of this notion, and may regard it

with undue affection for that reason; but I firmly believe that in practice it will have the best results in stimulating enlistment, developing local pride and interest in the territorial forces, and keeping down expenditure so far as the taxpayer is concerned. But of these and other points one can speak with more confidence when the process of digestion is further advanced.

One matter which the vast majority of the public will hail with unreserved joy is the reduction of two millions in the Estimates. We are requested, indeed, to believe that it is really £2,600,000, as, had no reduction been effected, the year's charges would have grown automatically to the tune of £574,000. But whatever the precise sum may be, it is satisfactory to know that Mr. Haldane has really succeeded in reversing the tendency which military budgets have manifested for so many years. When he held out hopes of doing this last year, I was sceptical, and I am glad to find that I had no occasion to be. At the same time, I cannot help noting that no charge falls on next year's bill for the territorial army scheme. It is quite certain that we are not going to get the improvements promised under this head for nothing, and pounds, shillings, and pence will have to be watched very carefully if we are not to lose in the next Estimates more than we have gained in the present.

A few weeks back I called attention to the extravagant cost of the bungalows erected for married officers in South Africa, and the "intolerable burden" consequently cast upon the tenants in the shape of rent. It is to be hoped that Mr. Haldane will find an opportunity of looking into this question. An officer who writes to thank me for the article remarks that there is only one point in respect to which its accuracy is open to question, and that is the reference to South Africa as "an undesirable locality" in which to be stationed. This disclaimer will be welcome reading to many. The writer says:—

> Many of us like our stations here thoroughly, and complain of nothing but the inadequate pay and allowances we receive for our work. The work in Africa is very real, and very valuable as military instruction—in fact, I should imagine that African training, particularly for mounted arms, is as good as that given anywhere. Were our pay at all commensurate with the conditions of life, those of us who value space, air, and health, would wish for no better country to serve in than South Africa.

The South African garrison is such an expensive establishment that it is some comfort to hear that the country is worth something as a military school, and also that every man out there is not wishing from morning to night that he was somewhere or anywhere else.

I wish I could induce somebody on the Army Council to look at this case. I have a young friend who enlisted during the war in a cavalry regiment, and served first in South Africa and afterwards in India. From my own observation, and by all independent accounts, he is an ideal soldier—fond of the life, sound in wind and limb, irreproachable in conduct, a total abstainer, and all that sort of thing. I believe that he has a perfectly clean sheet for the whole of his seven years, and his only fault is that he would never accept promotion, preferring, like some few others, to enjoy himself without care or responsibility. At the end of seven years he contemplated extending his time, being delighted with India. At this juncture a silly sister wrote from home an exaggerated account of his mother's ill-health, and hinted that if the boy did not come home he would probably not see her again. So the boy, who is a dutiful son, decided to take his discharge, came home, found that his mother had practically nothing the matter with her, and is now burning to resume his soldiering. I have talked to him, and the only question we discussed was the advisability of his re-enlisting as a "fraud," and the chances of his getting back to his old regiment if he "give hisself up."

Now I quite appreciate that the Government cannot bring a soldier home from India for discharge, and then allow him to alter his mind and go back again at the public expense. As a taxpayer I would not suggest that it should. I also appreciate that my young friend, if he wanted to see his mother again before she died, could have had a furlough home on the usual terms. He seems to have thought of that, but he is rather a careful youth with his cash. He grudged the money, though he had it by him, and as he was not sure that the domestic circumstances would permit of his return within the time, he would not pay for a furlough. I think he was foolish. So does he now, but it must be remembered that the cost of a furlough home from India is very stiff. What I want to know is why, when a soldier finds himself in this position, and is really anxious to retrace his steps, there should be no way open to him but the back door of "fraudulent enlistment," with all its ignominious consequences. If he is a soldier worth having, and I do not think there will be two opinions about it in this case, why not let him come back on payment of a small fine or something of that sort? If he wants to go back to India—and my friend seems to think no other country fit to live in, which is not the rule with soldiers—why not take him if he will pay his fare?

I ought to make it clear to the Army Council that in my case the man has not even been discharged. At the moment he is simply at home on furlough. And here he is, sick of civil life before he is out of the Army, and pretty clearly making up his mind that as soon as the Army has done with him he will go round to the nearest recruiting sergeant and re-enlist, come what may. Surely it is very absurd to put a good soldier in this position.

A man with a son in the Dorsetshire regiment writes me a forcible complaint on a pending appointment to the post of sergeant-major on the Militia staff. It seems that a short time ago a vacancy for quartermaster-sergeant on the Militia staff was filled by the promotion of a colour-sergeant from the foreign battalion who happened to be home on furlough, and who had completed twenty-one years' service, and for the latter reason the appointment was much resented by other qualified N.C.O.s in the regiment, who consequently lost the opportunity of earning a full pension. It is now under-

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This is to inform the Patrons of the Grand Hotel, Cannes, that a large Restaurant has recently been erected, overlooking the gardens.—A. Menge, Proprietor.

stood that the quartermaster-sergeant is to fill the vacancy for sergeant-major, and the same feeling is again prevalent. There is only one valid excuse for promoting in this way a man of over twenty-one years' service and over forty years of age, when other men are bound to suffer in consequence—namely, that there is no other man available thoroughly fit for the job; and such a case is likely to occur about once in a blue moon.

The story of Lord Charles Beresford's refusal of the command of the Channel Fleet was capped last week by a "report" of the resignation of Sir John Fisher. Apparently the syndicate which is seeking to evict that eminent officer from the Admiralty is so pleased with its own performances that it considers Sir John as good as gone. There has been a trifling miscalculation here, I fancy. Sir John Fisher is hardly the man to retire before a volley of blank cartridge; and if he were, no one would regret his disappearance.

What is most regrettable about the naval campaign now in progress is that it introduces for the first time into the Navy a spirit which has long been the curse of the Army. It is a tradition of the Army for officers to abuse the War Office and lose no opportunity of holding it up to ridicule and contempt. It may be true that this state of things is largely the fault of the War Office itself, but none the less it is a fruitful source of mischief. Everybody with any experience of a big establishment knows perfectly well that no business can be administered efficiently where distrust and contempt for the heads of the firm and all their orders permeate the whole staff and are made no secret of. In an army this state of things weakens discipline, obstructs execution of even the best policy, and creates antagonistic schools and cliques which are far more anxious to score off one another than to co-operate for the common welfare.

Hitherto the Navy has been distinguished by universal loyalty to Headquarters, and discipline and personal efficiency throughout the Service have been at their best in consequence. Things will be very different if organised campaigns against Admiralty policy are to be conducted with any weapons that come handy; if the Admiralty is to be held up to the rank and file, and to the public, as a gang of incompetent cranks who are ruining the fleet; and if officers in high positions are to confederate into rival factions, perpetually intriguing and fighting, and striving to persuade the public that Codlin is the friend, not Short. We only see the beginning of this at present, but it is easy enough to see, and the sooner it is stopped the better.

A naval correspondent relates one or two queer stories about the naval operations undertaken for the edification of the Lords of the Admiralty on their last visit to Malta. Here is one of them. Night manœuvres were arranged, in which one portion of the fleet represented a force blockading the harbour, while the rest was the blockaded fleet. The latter force was to attempt to break through the blockade after dark. My correspondent categorically asserts that before the blockading fleet sailed to take up its position outside, "a confidential memorandum was issued to the rear-admiral commanding it, informing him exactly when the second portion of the fleet would leave, what course it would steer, and at what speed, and the exact position it would be in at a certain time." I gather that the attempt to break through the blockade was ignominiously frustrated, and that "My Lords" were much impressed by the spryness of the blockaders. They knew it was a sham fight, but did not know the extent of the sham. I wonder whether this is true.

At a meeting of the Selby Guardians last week a question as to the desirability of fish being provided for Catholic inmates of the workhouse on Fridays came up for discussion, whereupon a Mr. Ward, inspired by the true spirit of the original Bumble, remarked, "It will not do them any harm to go without meat for a day; it will sharpen their stomachs." I trust the arrogant, over-fed, and bloated paupers in the Selby Workhouse will be duly appreciative of Mr. Ward's kindly interest in their physical welfare.

In some recent litigation between the Chester Board of Guardians and the Waterworks Company, turning on the question whether the workhouse was to be charged for water as an inhabited house or on some other scale, an aged pauper named Boyle was subpœnaed as a witness for the company, and gave evidence as to the use of the workhouse supply of water on the land belonging to the union. Judgment was given in favour of the company. Boyle, who left the workhouse at the time of the trial, has now returned, and last week he applied for re-admission to the classification ward where the conditions of pauper life are rather better than in the rest of the establishment. Though it was not suggested that his evidence was untrue, he was severely taken to task for having appeared as a witness against the Guardians, the chairman telling him that he ought to be ashamed of himself, and his application was refused. For a mean, contemptible exhibition of vindictiveness the treatment of this old fellow will be hard to beat even in the annals of Chester Bumbledom.

A report submitted to the Tredegar District Council by its sanitary inspector last week on the condition of the common lodging-houses in the town revealed a disgusting and disgraceful state of affairs. Men, women, and children were found to be occupying the same rooms, and the houses were over-crowded to such an extent that though accommodation was provided for

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

"Gas can be used for warming purposes efficiently without prejudice to health."—*The Lancet*. A Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate should have a gas fire in their bedroom."

only 280, 447 persons were found huddled together in them. But the most amazing part of the disclosure was to be found in the fact that this state of affairs was partly due to the connivance of the Bedwellty Board of Guardians. The Bedwellty Guardians contract for the accommodation of the casual paupers who apply to them for relief, and in the lodging-house which held the contract about 100 persons were found, though accommodation has provided for only thirty, upwards of sixty of them being vagrants. It was decided to institute proceedings against the lodging-house keepers for breach of the by-laws. I presume it would be impossible to include the Bedwellty Guardians amongst the defendants as aiders and abettors of the offence, but they clearly deserve to be so included.

A resident at Petersfield sends me a report of what is described as a "turbulent scene" at the last meeting of the District Council. The chairman had given notice of a motion for the dismissal of the clerk. This fact was public property, but when the motion was reached the chairman proposed that it should be discussed in committee, a course against which the clerk protested on the ground that if his dismissal were decided upon in secret it might be supposed that he had done something to deserve it, whereas, if any charges were to be made against him, he preferred that they should be made openly. Some of the members also urged that in fairness to the clerk the matter should be threshed out in public, but by the casting vote of the chairman the motion to go into committee was carried. Ultimately, however, all the members except the chairman and two others left the meeting, and the question of the clerk's dismissal was adjourned to the next meeting. This is said to be a fair sample of the proceedings of the Council, and I should think myself that whether or not a change should be made in the clerkship, changes in the composition of the Council are certainly desirable.

PURITY BEGINS AT HOME.

(A Word to Uncle Sam.)

Our friends across the Herring-Pond,
My comprehension lie beyond;

With Britons constant fault they find,
As folks of horrid, nasty mind,

Who cultivate a taste impure
In drama, art, and literature;

Wherefore they ban, with pious looks,
Quite half our poems, plays, and books.

But when within their Courts of Law,
A case comes on like that of Thaw,

Their papers shameless details print,
At which *our* press can't even hint,

While day by day some million Yanks
Gloat o'er these journalistic pranks.

Yet they've the nerve with us to quarrel,
Because our tastes are so immoral!

Lord Guthrie, the new Judge of the Court of Session, has been succeeded as Sheriff of Ross and Cromarty by Mr. J. A. Reid, who is widely known as a very able lawyer, and he has for many years enjoyed a large practice at the Scotch Bar. Mr. Reid is an expert on all questions connected with poor-law administration. He has always been a strong Liberal, and held the office of Advocate-Depute under Mr. Gladstone (twice), and under Lord Rosebery. He is much identified with the affairs of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The Sheriffdom of Renfrew, vacant by the death of Sir John Cheyne, has gone to Mr. J. D. Kennedy, Professor of Scots Law in Aberdeen University. He is a thoroughly sound lawyer, and has written largely on legal subjects. He has had many passages of arms with some of the Judges of the Court of Session, and he usually got the best of these altercations. Mr. Kennedy, who has always been a staunch Liberal, unsuccessfully contested Inverness-shire in 1895.

There was a trio of eminent Chancery lawyers in the later Victorian period who always seemed to me to have a sort of family likeness—the first Lord Cairns, the first Lord Selborne, and Lord Davey. They were certainly alike in legal learning, in seriousness of deportment, and to some extent in disposition, and I always thought there was a sort of resemblance in feature and expression between Lord Davey and Lord Selborne. It may have been a mere accident due to the wig and the Chancery atmosphere, or it may have been the result of unconscious imitation. I have an idea that family likenesses *do* sometimes grow up at the Bar in this way. Neither in point of intellect nor eloquence was Lord Davey the equal of the two Chancellors I have compared him with, and he was a lawyer pure and simple; but he was a man of great ability, he enjoyed for years a most lucrative practice, and his opinion, both at the Bar and on the Bench, always carried the greatest weight. It has been said that he was unlucky in electioneering, and he was probably the only Solicitor-General who never sat in Parliament while he held that office. I fear the truth is that he somewhat lacked the gifts of a successful candidate. But he was certainly unlucky in missing the Woolsack, of which at one time he seemed to hold the reversion with certainty.

I was glad to see the other day the unsympathetic attitude of Judge Lumley Smith towards Mr. G. J. Howell, of Newgate-street, in an action to recover five guineas for an encyclopædia sold by a canvasser to a customer at Cardiff. The defendant in this case asserted that he had been told by the canvasser that the price was five shillings, and on discovering afterwards that it was five guineas he at once wrote to Howell cancelling the order. As usual in these cases, the book was delivered in spite of the protest, the firm trusting to an action in a London County Court for the recovery of the money. However, the Cardiff man came up to London to defend himself and brought two witnesses with him, and the canvasser's misrepresentation having been proved, the Judge not only gave judgment for the defendant, but ordered Howell to pay his costs and those of the two witnesses. The swindling that is habitually practised in canvassing for books—and,

indeed, for orders of all kinds—is, in a great part, due to the power of summoning purchasers to distant county courts, in the expectation that they will pay up rather than travel two or three hundred miles to defend a claim for a few pounds; and it is a pity that all County Court Judges are not as ready as Judge Lumley Smith to discourage this abuse.

There is a remarkable divergence of opinion between the Wisbech Borough J.P.s and the Isle of Ely J.P.s (who also sit at Wisbech) in regard to the provisions of the new Dogs Act for the exemption from the annual tax of dogs kept for tending cattle or sheep. The Isle of Ely Bench, which is composed of landowners and farmers, refuses to grant an exemption to farmers and others who keep only cattle, holding that a dog is not required if there are no sheep. According to the *Wisbech Advertiser*, the police superintendent objected to sixty-four applications on this ground, and in no fewer than sixty-two cases the objection was sustained. The superintendent made the same objection in a number of cases before the Borough Bench, but there it was decided that if an applicant declared that he wanted a dog to "shepherd" cattle he was entitled to an exemption regardless of the question whether he had any sheep on his land, and in one such case a certificate was granted to a small farmer in respect of a greyhound! I do not know which of these conflicting views of the Act is right, but it is manifest that one of them must be wrong, and the matter deserves the attention of the Inland Revenue authorities or the Board of Agriculture.

The J.P.s of the Buckingham Petty Sessional Division have a quaint idea of their duties in regard to the administration of the Licensing Act. At the recent annual licensing sessions, the chairman, Mr. A. J. Robarts, said they could not help feeling that in certain villages in the district there were too many public-houses. One village with a total population of 439 has no less than seven public-houses; another, with a total population of 481, has five public-houses; and several more parishes are almost equally over-supplied. In these circumstances, it is clearly the business of the magistrates to reduce the number of licences, the owners and tenants of the houses so closed being, of course, entitled to compensation under the provisions of the Act. But while admitting that a reduction ought to be made, the chairman went on to say that "it would be a very invidious thing for the Bench to pick out any houses to be done away with"; that this could be "equally well done by the brewers"; and that it was a great pity that the brewers, who were the best judges, "could not agree among themselves, where there were too many public-houses, as to which should be closed."

In other words, instead of administering this portion of the Act themselves, these feeble-minded magistrates leave the matter to the brewers, and, as the latter—not unnaturally—make no offer to surrender licences, nothing is done to relieve the villages in question of the excess of public-houses, which is an undoubted evil. I commend the chairman's extraordinary remarks to the consideration of the Lord Chancellor. This is one of the districts in which nothing has yet been done to change the almost exclusively Tory complexion of the Bench; but, apart from politics, it is obviously desirable that new magistrates should be appointed who will have sufficient firmness and independence of character to carry out the Licensing Act, even if they have to do what may appear to be "a very invidious thing."

Never having had the pleasure of hearing a zither harp, I cannot say what sort of an effect its music produces. I hope, however, that the playing of the instrument is not as demoralising as the selling of it appears to be. Why it should be so I do not know, but it is a fact that itinerant vendors of zither harps are frequently accused of trickery, and things worse than mere trickery, in palming off the instruments on simple-minded working men and their wives. There was a case at Eastbourne last week in which it appeared that an elderly jobbing gardener, apparently smitten with a desire to become a musician, was persuaded into paying £1 6s. 6d. for a zither harp. A day or two afterwards the agent from whom he purchased it borrowed the instrument on the pretext that he wanted to play it at a concert. It was not returned, and the agent was charged with the theft of the instrument. A prosecution for theft was, in the circumstances, utterly ridiculous, and the magistrates dismissed the charge, but the case conveys another warning to people who have dealings with such gentry as the accused.

A case lately tried in Dublin disclosed a gross scandal in connection with the former administration of the County Court for the East Riding of Cork. It appeared that for a long time prior to his death in 1905 the late Clerk of the Crown and Peace, who received a handsome salary, had given over the discharge of his duties to the Registrar, one Tristram Curry, who put the former's signature on documents with a rubber stamp provided for the purpose. After the Clerk's death it was found that considerable sums of money belonging to suitors had been misappropriated by Curry, and he was allowed to abscond—I say allowed because if the authorities had exercised proper diligence he might have been arrested. It was entirely owing to the deceased Clerk's neglect of his own duties that the defalcations became possible, and the recent action was brought by the Crown against his sureties to recover the amount that was missing, £1,156. The jury gave a verdict for the Crown for this amount, and it is to be hoped that the money will now be restored to the unfortunate suitors. Most of them are poor people, and it seems to me a monstrous thing that they should have been kept waiting so long; for when money lodged in a Court under judicial instructions is stolen by one of the officers of the Court, the Crown should surely make good the loss. It is to be hoped also that effectual measures have been adopted to prevent any repetition of a scandal which was primarily due to the excessive indulgence with which the authorities treated an incapable and absentee officer.

It is astonishing to find how many magistrates still imagine that the man who starves or brutally ill-treats a horse or donkey can be brought to a sense of his duty by the infliction of a paltry fine. A typical example of this misplaced lenity is supplied by the Llandudno magistrates. These worthies are apparently of opinion that the man who ventures to cry newspapers in the streets is quite as heinous an offender as he who practically starves a donkey to death. Notable contrasts in the treatment of offences against property and the person are also supplied by the Coleford and Bedford benches. I am glad to see that the Nottingham magistrates have at last come to the conclusion that assaults on married women must be put down, but at the same time I would point out to these worthy gentlemen that such a result is not likely to be brought about by fining the assailants a few shillings.

Llandudno Police-court. Before Dr. R. A. Prichard and other magistrates. Arthur Davies and George Davies, charged with cruelty to three donkeys. The animals were left in a field without food or protection. One was bleeding from the mouth and nose in consequence of falling against a wall from exhaustion, and had to be slaughtered. Arthur Davies fined 10s. and costs; George Davies dismissed.

Coleford Police-court. Before Messrs. C. T. Palmer, T. T. Taylor, S. J. Elsom, and W. A. Bennett. George Creed and Russell Creed, charged with assaulting Albert Watkins. They attacked Watkins in his own shop, severely kicking and beating him. Fined 5s. and costs each.

Bedford Petty Sessions. Harry Colgrave, charged with wilfully exposing his two children in such a manner as to injure their health. He turned them and his wife into the street at night in their night-dresses, sleet falling at the time. Fined £1 and costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Leslie. William Patterson, charged with assaulting J. Walters. Walters was knocked down and his jaw fractured. Fined 25s.

Greenock Sheriff-court. Before the Hon. Sheriff-Substitute. Margaret Bellew, charged with ill-treating and neglecting her three children by failing to provide them with sufficient food, clothing, and bedding. Fined 40s.

Harwich Petty Sessions. Before the Deputy-Mayor and other magistrates. Alfred Double, charged with neglecting his child, aged thirteen. The girl's body was nearly black with dirt, she was insufficiently clad, and her rags were verminous. Fined 20s. and costs.

Tonbridge County Police-court. Frederick Hicks, charged with starving a horse. The animal was emaciated, its back arched, the four legs drawn together, and stomach nearly drawn to the spine. Fined £1 and costs.

Llandudno Police-court. Before the same Bench. William Jones, charged with committing a nuisance by crying the sale of newspapers in the streets. Fined 10s. and costs.

Wellingborough Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Mr. N. P. Sharman and eleven other magistrates. Mary Brown, charged with stealing a pair of boy's boots, value 2s. 9d. One month's imprisonment.

Coleford Police-court. Before the same Bench. Thomas Preest and Frank Macey, charged with releasing three impounded sheep. Preest fined £2 10s. and costs, Macey £1 and costs.

Bedford Petty Sessions. George R. Tanner and J. Ashby, charged with stealing 10s. worth of bones from a field. Tanner two months, Ashby one month's hard labour.

Newton Abbot Petty Sessions. R. Clarke, charged with poaching for salmon with a spear. Fined £1.

Glasgow Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Fyfe. James Stewart, charged with the theft of a ham from off a lorry. Six months' imprisonment.

Maidenhead Borough Police court. Before Sir George Young and other magistrates. C. Munday, charged with having trespassed on the railway. Fined 30s.

Before Messrs. Lovegrove and Truscott. H. Shepherd and J. Burke, charged with destroying their clothes in the workhouse. Twenty-one days each.

Tenterden Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. E. Howard and J. Chacksfield. Henry Davis, a casual pauper, charged with refusing to perform his allotted task of work at Tenterden Workhouse. Twenty-eight days' hard labour.

Ilkeston Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and Aldermen F. Sudbury and C. Maltby. A youth named Herbert Spencer, charged with wandering abroad without any visible means of subsistence. One month's hard labour.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. P. Norman, C. Boam, and J. W. Gandy. Ernest Allen, charged with cruelty to a mare by violently beating it with a whip-stock. The ground was slippery, and the animal failed to draw a heavy load of sand. Fined 10s. and costs.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Potter, W. Oldershaw, W. N. Hicking, and G. A. Harrison. Walter Foss, charged with cruelty to a horse. Because it had difficulty in climbing a hill, Foss kicked its legs until blood ran down them. Fined 30s.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Bradwell and W. Hunt. J. Magrath and C. Boness, each charged with wife assault. Mrs. Magrath had two black eyes. The magistrates said they would have to put down the practice of assaulting married women, and fined Magrath 15s. and Boness £1.

Reading Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Owen Ridley, G. W. Webb, G. R. Jackson, and C. S. Smith. Five boys named Reeves, Martin, Powell, Rivington, and Healey, charged with loitering at the railway station. The first four were fined 20s. or fourteen days, Healey fined 5s. and 5s. costs.

Cannock Police-court. Emmanuel Parkes, charged with being in possession of army uniform and with aiding his brother to desert from the army. Fined £5 and £4 10s. damage, or in default two months' imprisonment for the first offence and a further two months for the second.

Coventry City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Marriott, R. Hill, and W. J. Wormell. Henry Barber, charged with stealing a pair of stockings, value 1s. Two months.

Rochester Police-court. Florence Boorman, a girl of seventeen, charged with sleeping in an unoccupied house. One month's imprisonment.

Gosport Police-court. Before Admiral Field, and Messrs. E. Lapthorne and R. H. Rogers. Thomas McCarthy, charged with cruelty to a donkey. He gave it running kicks in the stomach, and later it was found in the stable suffering excruciating agony. It ultimately died from its injuries. Fined £2 and costs.

A man named Frederick Robarts got three years' penal servitude the other day, on charges of defrauding various people from whom he obtained capital for working an imaginary business in the London poultry markets. I have since heard that Robarts is the rogue who figured under the name of "Ham" in a swindle of this nature which was described in Truth last July. In that case a half-share in the poultry business was sold for £200. "Ham" drew a great part of this sum to meet fictitious periodical purchases of stock, and to pay the weekly salaries of himself and partner, and when the money was all gone, he went too. If he is really the convict Robarts, he has well earned his sentence. But I believe that a gang of at least three individuals has been engaged in this game for some time past, and the police would do well to look out for the rest of them.

Some instructive light has just been thrown on the notorious Viavi business by the prosecution at Capetown of a Mr. Anderson, otherwise the South African Viavi Company, for defrauding the customs. The headquarters of the Viavi business is San Francisco, whence Anderson obtained his stock. The charge against him was that he had declared the value of the stuff to the customs at a mere fraction of the price at which it was invoiced to him, and a still lower fraction of its sale value in South Africa; and the jury having convicted him, he was sentenced to a fine of £400, with the alternative of one year's hard labour. It appeared in the evidence that what was called a "quarter course" was declared for duty at the value of 4s. 2d.; and that the invoice price, plus certain other charges, was really three dollars twenty-five cents., or a trifle over 12s. The "quarter course" was supplied to the branch agents at £2 5s., and as agents and sub-agents were each allowed 50 per cent. profit, the price to the customer came to £4 10s. The price

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

at which the stuff reached South Africa was therefore multiplied by more than seven before it reached the public. And, looking back a stage further, and allowing for previous profits, and freight to South Africa, I suppose one may take it that the stuff ultimately retailed for £4 10s. would probably be produced at San Francisco for something under half-a-crown.

I would invite country newspapers in whose neighbourhoods Viavi agents are at work to "please copy" the foregoing paragraph, and more especially those in whose columns the business is allowed to be advertised. I may specially mention the neighbourhood of Dundee, where the evening paper publishes an announcement under the heading "Of Interest to Ladies," stating that the teachings of Viavi "have brought Health and Happiness to Thousands of Women," "all Women should acquire a knowledge of Viavi Teachings," and so on. By the side of this gammon may be placed a letter from a resident in the neighbourhood, who says, "I have spent a lot of money over this swindle, and perhaps you can help to save others from the same fate." I can at any rate show them by the light of the South African case how much profit the swindle yields to those engaged in it.

An interesting illustration of the smartness of the American Gold Brick swindlers is afforded by a recent letter from one of the gang. The letters in these cases, telling of "Thomas's" or "Samuel's" discovery of fabulously rich gold mines in Colorado, or elsewhere, always come addressed to persons who are dead, the object being to trap their heirs or executors. Usually there is an interval of a few weeks between the death and the arrival of the letter, for the swindlers in the States have to pick out from the English papers the names of the deceased persons who, judging from the obituary notices, are likely to have left sufficient money to be worthy of this attention. In the present case, however, the letter was posted from New York to a recently deceased eminent public man immediately the news of his death reached America by cable; and doubtless with the idea of giving it a further appearance of genuineness the swindler dated it two days before the death actually occurred. In this instance the fraud was at once detected as one that I had exposed; but victims are continually found among people who, unfortunately for themselves, are not readers of Truth.

In consequence of an inquiry, I sent the other day to Praed-street to interview a firm calling themselves the "Universal Supply Co.," who are offering home employment in the shape of colouring and illustrating show cards, etc., for shopkeepers. My representative found the firm in an almost unfurnished room in a house that had recently been burnt out, and they flatly refused to give him any information in proof of their ability to dispose of the articles when they had been executed by the home employees. In order to obtain work for these people the worker must pay 5s. for bronze for illustrating the cards; and until some evidence is given that the firm have any sale for the work when done, I recommend no one to pay the money to them. A reference to the Truth Cautionary List will show how delusive are offers of home work involving a preliminary payment for materials.

In my reference the other day to the moneylending circular of "Mr. Fred Watts" (alias David Freedman), 95, Jermyn-street, W.," I omitted to notice a point to which several correspondents have since drawn my attention. Copying the dodge of another tout named Abraham Cohen (otherwise "L. Fortescue"), Freedman pins to his circular a slip of paper which he describes as "the enclosed cutting of my advertisement." It is not actually a piece of a newspaper, but an ingenious imitation of one, and the bogus "cutting" seems to have been somewhat carelessly made, so that it includes what appear to be fragments of the advertisements immediately preceding and following Watts's. The portion at the top gives the name of the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, and that at the bottom relates to a "Tour of the Holy Land, Egypt, etc." Apparently this, like his intimation that his office is "opposite St. James's Church," is designed to give simple-minded people the idea that "Mr. Fred Watts" carries on his business in an odour of respectability, not to say sanctity. It seems on the face of it incredible that any one could be imposed upon by such a silly device; but nevertheless I am told that this has happened, especially in regard to the use of the name of the bank. Perhaps it may be as well, therefore, to explain that Freedman has no connection with the bank or the church, though he has a racial association with the Holy Land.

The remarkable begging advertisement of Father Gray, of Fakenham, Norfolk, to which I drew attention on January 9, is still appearing in the Irish newspapers. Father Gray appeals to Catholics to cast a "pitying eye" (meaning a pecuniary donation) on his "struggling infant mission," which he represents as having an average weekly collection of only 3s. 6d., and "no endowment whatever except hope." I pointed out that for many months past this gentleman has been advertising in the press on a scale which probably represents an expenditure of some hundreds of pounds a year, and I inquired whether his appeals had the approval of the Catholic Bishop of Northampton, whose name he uses, and whether he renders any account—and if so, to whom—of the money that he obtains. No answer to either question has yet reached me. In these circumstances I have no hesitation in advising Catholics in Ireland or elsewhere to turn a deaf ear to this reverend mendicant. It seems to me, indeed, to be anything but creditable to the Irish newspapers that publicity should be given to his advertisements. Obviously, if Father Gray's mission in a Norfolk village were deemed worthy of support by English Catholics, it would not be necessary for him to cadge for donations in Ireland.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

One of my readers forwards a personal appeal received from Mr. Linnecar, of the Mansion House Mission, Camberwell, which is rather a curiosity in its way, because it shows that in addition to his distribution of circulars, Linnecar occasionally duns people by a more direct method, and also because he furnishes in the letter some edifying particulars of what he has been doing recently in the way of charity. He writes:—

> The other day 170 had a free tea, 55 prize books given to children, and the needy mothers had in all 52 cwt. of coal. This was highly appreciated, for coal is 1s. 7d. per cwt. Others had 18 qt. (*sic*) bread, last night some pk. of tea (*sic*) was given, so we go on day by day and feel grateful for any help kind friends give us.

Linnecar's writing is decidedly obscure, but I presume that "18 qt bread" means 18 loaves, and that "pk of tea" means tea in packets. Even supposing that he paid 1s. 7d. per cwt. for his coal—which, of course, he did not—the above catalogue of his benefactions may possibly represent the expenditure of a £5 note. When he issued his last accounts in October, Linnecar had an unexpended balance of above £130 in hand, and since then he has been busy with his Christmas appeals, which no doubt bring in considerable sums. His average expenditure on charity in a whole year, even according to his own account, is between £80 and £90. The reader can easily judge from these facts what humbug in his attempt to work on the feelings of a subscriber at the present date by the above recital of his valuable labours.

Exception has been taken to the appearance in the Truth Cautionary List published on February 6 last of the name of Mr. F. Matthias Alexander, of 1, Army and Navy Mansions, described as "the proprietor of a 'New Method of Respiratory and Vocal Re-education,' whose methods of dunning dissatisfied clients for the balance of fees are both novel and undesirable." The reason why Mr. Alexander's name was included was due to the fact that on September 19 last I commented on some correspondence which had been placed in my possession, from which it appeared that Mr. Alexander had taken the course of writing to the employers of a client threatening to subpœna officials of the firm unless a claim he had made for payment of certain fees was satisfactorily settled. I thought then, and I still think, that such a method of attempting to obtain payment of a disputed debt is quite indefensible.

To my comments Mr. Alexander made no reply at the time, but since the appearance of his name in the Cautionary List he has placed himself in communication with me, and he has assured me, through my representative, that had the comments been brought to his notice he would at once have communicated with me. He further assures me that the case to which I referred was an exceptional one, and that he was labouring under a considerable degree of irritation when he wrote the letters which formed the basis of my remarks. I am prepared to fully credit Mr. Alexander's assertions in these respects, and to remove his name from the List. I may as well point out that it was exclusively because of Mr. Alexander's action as above described that his name was included, and that his methods of Respiratory and Vocal Re-education were in no way made either the subject of remark or of warning.

When referring last week to the correspondence of a gentleman named Taylor of Streatham with a firm at Sheffield, I little thought I was pillorying a bona-fide claimant to a baronetcy. I admit that I ought to have known it, for the gentleman in question and his baronetcy came under notice in Truth in March last; but I find it impossible to carry in my head the names of all the worthies who claim my attention in the course of twelve months. Mr.—or I suppose I should say Sir—C. P. Taylor, of 32, Shrubbery-road, S.W., was mentioned on the last occasion as an example of the spontaneous generation of baronets—a phenomenon of increasing prevalence which has not received the scientific attention it deserves. Possibly he thinks that as a baronet he is entitled to send letters unstamped when he finds it necessary to rebuke people who do not want the books he is trying to sell, and who signify their refusal on postcards. But he is under a misapprehension as to the rights of baronets in relation to the Post Office, and besides, I see from "Debrett" that the Heralds College still fails to recognise that he is a baronet at all.

ELECTION TACTICS.

"Elections," said some Johnny wise,
"Are nothing but campaigns of lies—
They win who most can tell.
Suggest the false, suppress the true!"
That's what our yellow journals do,
And do it very well.

But though Municipal Reform
Is bolstered by these falsehoods warm
From pens to slander used,
I doubt if, in the end, 'twill pay,
For lies, like curses, have a way
Of coming home to roost.

"I see you rejoice at the promised Vaccination Bill," writes a medical friend, "and I have always read with interest your criticism of the administration of the present law by magistrates. But I have never been able to make out whether you are opposed to vaccination." I suppose the reason why my friend is in the dark on this point is that I am shy of giving my opinion on technical matters which are very much in controversy. But if anybody cares to know my opinion, I have no objection to say that, like the majority of people, I believe in vaccination up to a point, provided it be renewed at regular intervals. My belief is that it reduces the chance of catching small-pox, and renders the disease much slighter if caught. But if re-vaccination is necessary for this result, there is as much reason for insisting on the compulsory re-vaccination of adults as the vaccination of babies, and there are sometimes dangers about

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

the vaccination of babies which do not exist in "such as are of riper years." Small-pox being no longer the public danger that it was fifty or a hundred years ago, and many people having no faith in vaccination, but, on the contrary, a violent horror of it, I do not see the justification for enforcing the vaccination of babies against the honest objections of their parents.

I was for many years connected with the town of Northampton. The majority of its inhabitants are anti-vaccinators, and they have always offered such a determined resistance that in the main the children are not vaccinated. Yet there has never been an outbreak of small-pox there. Whenever a person catches it, a system of prompt and effectual isolation is put in force. Moreover, the sanitation of the town is carefully looked after. The result shows that there are other methods besides vaccination to cope with the enemy. As these methods are not adopted in all towns, however, it has always seemed to me that, if an unvaccinated citizen of Northampton were exposed to the contagion elsewhere, he might find himself laid up with small-pox, for it is admittedly most contagious. This, however, is a matter for their consideration.

I was one day talking to the late Mr. Bright about vaccination. He told me that he was once on a visit to the Duke of Argyll, and came across a keeper, or some sort of retainer of the Duke's, who used to breed terriers for sale. He lost many, he said, owing to distemper. Mr. Bright advised him to have them vaccinated, as it was equally effective against that disease as against small-pox. The dog had, when a puppy, to be vaccinated in the ear, and this hardly ever perceptibly affected its health. A few years later he went again on a visit to the Duke, and came across the man. He told him that he had acted on his advice, and had largely increased his gains. I have often told this story to persons who keep dogs. Some have said that they had already heard of this preservative against distemper, but that they did not believe in it, and I imagine that very few took the trouble to try it. But why?

A good many of my lady readers who are not desirous of votes have favoured me with their opinions on the suffrage movement during the past week. As I think it is pretty generally understood that the vast majority of women are entirely opposed to the movement, I do not know that it is necessary to do more than thank my correspondents; but I select the following letter as having reference to one which I published last week. The writer may be quite right in considering that her sex at large are not compromised by the doings of the "suffragettes," but, at the same time, it seems to me a pity that more women do not protest publicly against what is now going on. The best answer to the cry of "Votes for Women" is that women don't want votes, and it is women who can give this answer most effectually. It is really their business to disown the suffragists, and if they did the movement would become a self-evident absurdity, besides being a public nuisance:—

Dear Sir, I have read the letter by a non-suffragette in your current issue. Of course, it is possible that the large majority of women are "grossly outraged" by the conduct of the suffragettes, but why should we—the majority—lose our dignity by noticing such a negative grievance?

No truly educated man or woman could uphold the shrieking sisterhood, and the papers denounce *them*—not *us*.

We are not attacked, therefore we require no defence. When the suffragette finds she can only attract the attention of the police she will quickly subside, and I certainly think her defeat would be accomplished sooner if, every time she makes an unwomanly disturbance, she were heavily fined. Argument increases her hysteria, and Holloway feeds her ambition.—Yours truly,

One of the Voiceless Majority.

To my thinking a great mistake was made in not treating the suffrage Amazons as men would have been treated, when they first attempted to storm the House of Commons, and boasted that they would continue to defy the law and its guardians. They should have been sent to prison as ordinary prisoners, if they preferred this to paying a fine. On the second occasion they should not have been allowed the alternative. These silly women court notoriety. They have no particular objection to martyrdom, so long as the martyrdom consists in having a week or so as first-class misdemeanants in a prison, and when they come out, they celebrate their "sufferings" by a dinner or breakfast party, and recommence these troublesome tomfooleries.

If women are to be allowed to riot in or around the House of Commons, because they do not approve of a law, it is clear that men have the same right, if there is to be equality before the law for both sexes. We shall then have men following the women's example whenever any number of them wish for legislative reform. This, however, would be an intolerable state of things, and reduce Parliament to ridicule and contempt.

The sovereign of Dahomey used to have a corps of Amazons. They were true warriors, and fought well. The idea of their enemies not being allowed to repel their attacks in a battle because they were females never entered their minds. But these suffragette humbugs squeak and scream if the police treat them as men, and they protest against it at meetings, and in "interviews." In their recent raid on the House of Commons they were treated with singular kindness by the police, who are the garrison of St. Stephen's; and this is admitted by Lady Frances Balfour, who is herself an ardent advocate of female suffrage. But some of these women seem to imagine that if they strike a policeman on the right cheek he should turn the left to them; if they endeavour to push one aside, he should not push back; and if they insist on rioting, no effort should be made to abate the nuisance if moral suasion fails. Such ridiculous "martyrs" never yet claimed the crown of martyrdom, and it is full time that they should be taught that if they defy the law, *vi et armis*, they

Some interesting remarks on the subject of the Surest Means of Obtaining Health by Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., are found on page 544.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N

must abide by the chances of war, and when taken to a police court be seriously punished.

Apparently the members of the Cabinet are not of one mind in regard to Home Rule. The Prime Minister, Mr. Birrell, and the majority of the Cabinet are Home Rulers, and regard any grant of local self-government to Ireland as a step towards a measure based upon the principles which underlaid Mr. Gladstone's two Home Rule Bills. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane object to Home Rule, and, therefore, personally they are against anything which will conduce to it. The former, indeed, who has never altered his opinion as to the pernicious character of Home Rule since he repented of having voted in favour of it, announces that if anything is contained in Mr. Birrell's Bill for the Reform of Irish Administration that conflicts with his objections to Home Rule, he will at once resign, and probably this is the state of mind of Mr. Haldane.

The Liberal Party would regret to lose the services of these two gentlemen. But it would rather do this than allow itself to be dictated to by them in regard to their Irish policy. If these gentlemen and those who agree with them on Irish matters decline to accept the will of the party, and of the party's leader, they will have to cease to be members of a Liberal Cabinet. In this matter, they seem to play the part in the Cabinet that the House of Lords plays in the Legislature. They want to have reforms whittled down to suit their personal views. If so, like the House of Lords, they will have to be disestablished.

General Botha is Premier of the Transvaal and Advocate Smuts is Colonial Secretary. Yet England remains unmoved, and even the Stock Exchange is free from panic. What a change of public feeling in seven years—it is almost exactly seven years since the surrender of Cronje. I do not think any one will have the face to-day to say that it is not a change for the better, or that the outlook in South Africa is not brighter at the present moment than it has ever been before. There are a good many questions to be settled yet, and nobody supposes that Britons and Boers in the Pretoria Legislature are going to work together without friction. But they have got to work together, and it is a pretty safe prediction that the longer they do it the less will be the friction. If only the British public will maintain its present attitude, and decline to take the slightest interest in Transvaal affairs so long as the Constitution is observed, nobody need feel the slightest apprehension about the future.

THE PLAUSIBLE WASP.

Queen Wasp full long had envied she
The easy Lot of good Queen Bee,
Who, all the Winter through, did thrive
On Honey, in a nice, warm Hive,
While *she* could scarce, in frosty Weather,
Keep her Wasp's Frame and Soul together.
  At length the desperate Insect cried,
As wistfully that Hive she eyed:
"Great Hornets! I *must* get inside!"
  But how? 'Twas here the Trouble lay—
To find an efficacious Way.
Impossible to have Recourse
(She saw at once) to open Force,
Or to attempt that Gate to storm
Where Scores of watchful Sentries swarm.
Her only Chance, to gain her End,
Was to assume the Rôle of Friend,
Approach the Bees with soapy Smile
And try the Arts of Fraud and Guile.
  So to the Hive then see her fare,
And thus, with bland, persuasive Air,
Accost the Sentries stationed there:
"It grieves me much, dear Friends," said she,
"That you the down-trod Slaves should be
Of one whose Greed, as I'm alive,
Doth eat you out of Home and Hive.
Now, if I were installed your Queen,
Oh! what a Change would then be seen.
Your luscious Honey's hard-earned Store
Would shrink by Leaps and Bounds no more;
For *I'd* subsist, and do it gaily,
On Half of what she guzzles daily."
  To whom a Sentry made reply,
Blinking the while his solemn Eye:
"'Tis true our Queen devours a Lot
Of Honey. I dispute it not.
But then, so well us Bees she treats,
It compensates for all she eats.
And e'en apart from that," said he,
"The Fact remains, she's still A Bee,
Sprung from the self-same Race as We,
And so, by natural Sense inclined
To rule with sympathetic Mind.
While *you*—howe'er to gain your End,
You play the kind, unselfish Friend,
Are still, by Fate's unchanged Decrees,
A WASP—*the natural Foe of Bees!*"

Moral.

Oh, London Voter, if you're wise,
Reject the interested Lies
Of those who, while as Friends they pose,
By natural Instinct are your Foes.

SCRUTATOR.

THE L.C.C. QUESTION.

WITH the best intentions I am unable to get my passions up to white heat over the London County Council election; and I suspect that feverish excitement on the subject is chiefly confined to candidates and their henchmen and the staffs of the daily papers. There must be a good deal of make-believe about it in most cases. The management of tramways and parks, street improvements, the administration of "housing" Acts, and such-like matters, are not by nature exciting topics; and you require to be personally connected with the business in order to feel really angry with somebody whose opinion on the subject differs from your own. On the present occasion, it is true, heroic efforts have been made on one side to develop heat and generate electioneering steam by inflammatory language about "scandals" and profligate extravagance in expenditure. We are to believe that L.C.C. administration by reason of its blundering incompetence, and, what is worse, its dangerous Socialistic tendencies, is loading London with ruinous financial burdens, and that the electors will assuredly be fleeced of their last penny unless they vote for Brown, or Jones, or Robinson. Without desiring to boast, I think I have a pretty good nose for a scandal, and it is always a peculiar pleasure to me to get on the scent of a scandal in connection with municipal administration. Unless my

nose is much at fault, however, the "scandals" with which the "Municipal Reform" fraternity have been making play lately are merely the smallest of electioneering small beer, and I have no taste for such swipes. There was a mighty outcry the other day, turning, as far as I can make out, upon something of so much public importance as a cellar-flap, in respect to which a company, of which the chairman of the L.C.C. is a director, was alleged to have been too favourably treated by the Council. This "scandal" was brought to light by that enlightened "Moderate" body, the City Council of Westminster, which is such a joy to all Westminster ratepayers. Last week there was published in the *Daily Chronicle* the official report of a Local Government Board auditor upon certain contracts of the said Westminster City Council. The matter being in a sense *sub judice* I express no opinion about it, but to any one in search of a municipal scandal it affords far more promising material than anything yet alleged about the administrative errors of the L.C.C. The Westminster City Council, it seems, would do better to cast the beams out of its own eye before looking for motes (even of the size of cellar-flaps) in the eyes of the County Council; and in view of the general record of the local London boroughs, which have always been strongholds of the Moderate party, one would hardly regard that party as highly qualified for the business of purifying or bettering any sphere of municipal work. Electors would do well, therefore, to share my scepticism about "municipal reform" from this quarter.

As for the rate-collector, experience leads me to the conclusion that he will come along with much the same tune whether I vote for Brown, Jones, or Robinson, or for Pickwick, Nokes, or Styles. What is more, so long as Parliament is continually throwing new duties on municipal authorities, and the public is continually demanding improvements of all kinds in the management of big cities, I do not see how rates can cease to rise, or what Brown, or Jones, or anybody else can do to stop the process. Apart from education, which it has only recently been saddled with, the County Council is only responsible for 1s. 5d. in the £ of the charges on the London ratepayer—that is to say, less than one-fifth of the total rates, which for all London now average 7s. 5¼d. During the three years' life of the present Council the L.C.C. rate has risen one farthing, while the rates for all other purposes have risen 3¾d. This seems a somewhat slender basis for all the invective that has been flung lately at the heads of the "wastrels," and until one looks a little further it is difficult to understand why anybody should make such an almighty fuss about such a very little. The general rise of 3¾d. in London rates during the last three years is largely made up of additional charges thrown on the ratepayers by the Education Act of the late Government for the maintenance of Church schools. When this Act was passed, in defiance of the protest of the L.C.C. and many other people, it was calculated that it meant an addition of 4d. to the education rate of London. Such estimates are generally under rather than over the mark, and as the full weight of the burden has certainly not fallen yet, we need not be in any doubt that the full 4d. will come in good time, and we may thank our stars if it does not come to more. With this increased charge in sight, I have no faith in any municipal reformer's ability to reduce the rates by even the farthing addition of the last three years. I look upon him as a humbug, and in such hands I apprehend that my rates are more likely to go up than down.

"But you don't think," some brother ratepayer may cry in his despair, "that rates must go on rising automatically for ever, and that there is no power that can save us?" No, I don't; and that is just the point. All I say is that you must moderate your requirements or you must pay. If you object to pay directly in the shape of rates, you must find the money in some other way. Two other ways are obviously open. One is the rating of ground rents or land values; the other is the undertaking by the municipalities of public services which yield a revenue as well as those which have to be wholly paid for out of the rates, like the schools, and the sewers, and the emptying of dustbins. Unfortunately, the "municipal reformer" is dead against both those remedies, and it is just for that reason that he is such a rotten reed for any ratepayer to lean on. The pair of "municipal reformers" who ask for my vote in order that they may relieve me of my burdens have no objection, I find, to the L.C.C. providing schools, or parks, or sewers, which I shall have to pay for; but they would not have it touch gas, electricity, or tramways, or anything out of which I and other ratepayers may get a few thousands a year profit. This attitude explains what I have never been able to understand about the L.C.C. steamboat service. When that undertaking was first proposed, it was generally admitted that it would cost the ratepayers something for two or three years, and I for one protested against the spending of public money on such an enterprise. But the Moderates, now "Municipal Reformers," were as enthusiastic in its favour as the Progressives; the Council was practically unanimous about it; a Conservative House of Commons approved and authorised it; and even the House of Lords followed suit without a murmur. Mr. Hayes Fisher, who was denouncing "wastrels" in Trafalgar-square last Saturday, welcomed the prospect of a halfpenny rate for such a purpose when the Steamboats Bill was before Parliament. Why were all these disinterested friends of the ratepayer in favour of the scheme? I could not understand then, but I see now. Simply because it *was* unprofitable, because no private company or syndicate had ever been able to get a dividend out of the business. That is the sort of public service which, according to the doctrine of the "municipal reformers," may properly be left to the L.C.C. It is only when a service is bound to be profitable, like the tramways or the supply of electric power, that these worthy gentlemen insist it must be left in private hands—for the sake of the ratepayers! As a ratepayer, I fail to see the argument, nor does it impress me any more when I am told that if I get a profit out of a tramway or an electricity supply, I am guilty of the crime of municipal trading, and that this is another name for Socialism. Give me

the profit, I say, credit it against any charges for drains and dustbins, and you may call me a Socialist or anything you like. This I notice has long been the view of the ratepayers of provincial towns who own their own tramways, gas, water, and electric supplies, and pocket the profits, without objection from anybody.

I quite understand the enthusiasm of great ground landlords, and all the magnates interested in the exploitation of public services for private profit, for the policy of the "municipal reformers." I do not wonder that money is being poured out like water in this campaign from sources in the background by disinterested friends of the ratepayers; that it is even possible, as we saw last Saturday, for the unemployed to be hired in hundreds at 4s. a head to march in a "municipal reform" demonstration with a banner advertising themselves as an example of "what the wastrels' policy has done for London." But that any ratepayer can suppose his interest to be on the same side, or allow his tail to be salted with such flapdoodle, passes my comprehension. It is widely supposed that London is going to return a majority of the "reformers" next Saturday. If so, I wish London joy of the result. I am not assisting in it myself.

CATHOLIC TRUSTS: A LESSON FROM HISTORY.

In the course of the protracted discussion that has been going on in Truth for the best part of a year on the administration of Roman Catholic trust funds, I have once or twice heard of a scandal which arose more than twenty years ago over a fund bequeathed for the benefit of aged and infirm clergy in Scotland. As the matter seemed rather ancient history, and the facts were obscure, I have not gone into it. But I have now accidentally come across an account of the incident which was some months back printed "for private circulation" by the Rev. James Keatinge, Canon of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Southwark, and the story bears so closely upon the scandals that have been brought to light of late in England, that it is worth telling for the instruction of those Catholics who are indignant at the way Church property has been dealt with by their bishops, but at a loss to know how these irregularities are to be stopped. In 1865 a Captain Thomas Mitchell, of Baldovie, Forfar, died, having bequeathed to the three Vicars-Apostolic of Scotland (the Roman Catholic episcopate in Scotland had not at that date been restored) the residue of his estate, upon trust for the support of aged and infirm clergy of Scotland, and the endowment of an asylum for them out of the revenue. The Bishops, or Vicars-Apostolic, were to be joint trustees of one common fund for the whole of Scotland. They accepted the trust, and received under it some £52,000. They first decided, however, in defiance of the will of the founder, that the proposed asylum would be uncongenial to the clergy, and that the income should be wholly spent in direct cash allowances to the beneficiaries. They next departed from the terms of the trust by dividing it into three separate funds of different amounts for the three dioceses. Growing bolder, they next proceeded, like their successors in certain English dioceses, to divert the trust fund from the aged clergy to general diocesan purposes, and large sums were applied to the building of churches and schools. In some cases interest was demanded and paid on the grants thus made, in others not, in others it was demanded but not paid. In 1878 matters were further complicated by the restoration of the Scottish Episcopate under Leo XIII. and the division of Scotland into six dioceses. Under the terms of the Mitchell bequest the new bishops should have become trustees of the fund. They were not appointed, and for one reason or another they did not claim the position, possibly because they did not like the responsibility, a great part of the trust fund having by this time disappeared.

Matters drifted thus until 1882, when Dr. Carmont, of Blairgowrie, who had been a friend of Captain Mitchell, and is described as "a priest of mature years and unblemished repute," determined to throw himself into the gap, and formally raised the question of the misappropriation of the trust fund. Getting no satisfaction by other means, he eventually, in March, 1883, commenced proceedings against the three bishops in the Court of Session, praying for the removal of the trustees and the appointment of a "judicial factor," which I take to be Scotch for a receiver in Chancery. The proceedings which followed were protracted, but resulted in the complete triumph of Dr. Carmont. The Court declined to remove the trustees, but appointed a judicial factor, who took possession of the fund, and made reports to the Court revealing the most scandalous abuses in connection with the administration of the trust, which could not have been more grossly muddled away by a party of old women totally ignorant of business. An exception to this, however, was found in the case of the Northern Vicariate, where the trust business seems to have been conducted in a more or less unimpeachable manner. Ultimately, in January, 1885, the Court gave a final judgment, establishing a scheme for the future administration of the fund, which was restored to the bishops as trustees, and providing safeguards against the repetition of similar abuses in future. Since that date the trust has apparently been properly and regularly administered, with great advantage to the clergy whom the founder intended to benefit. It is scarcely necessary to add that Dr. Carmont suffered grievously for his bold action in the matter. He was excommunicated and ejected from his benefice—it was alleged on the directions of Rome. The Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda, however, seems to have subsequently repudiated the alleged objections, and in August, 1885, the excommunication was withdrawn by his order, after having been in force for two and a half years.

The bearing of this story upon the maladministration and diversion of trust funds that have taken place of late years in England scarcely needs to be pointed out. Many Roman Catholics, clergy and laity, have from time to time observed in Truth that the most effectual remedy for the grievances complained of lies in an appeal to the jurisdiction of the civil courts. The history of the Mitchell Trust shows clearly how readily accessible and how effectual that remedy is. The case is precisely on all fours with the more noteworthy cases that have come to light in England, more

particularly the harum-scarum tricks played with the Dawes Trust, resulting in the loss of £56,000, in the bankruptcy of Mr. Bishop, and the cool appropriation of the mission funds of Portsmouth diocese as a "financial basis" for speculations scarcely less disastrous. The Scottish Court dealt with the ecclesiastical trustees by temporarily sequestrating the trust fund, putting it into order by means of a judicial officer, and restoring it to the trustees under a scheme of its own approval, for the due observance of which definite safeguards were provided. There cannot be any reasonable doubt that the High Court in England, if invoked, would exercise its jurisdiction on much the same lines. An attempt has already been made, as shown in these columns a few weeks ago, to set in motion the Charity Commission for a similar purpose; but it was frustrated by the timid reluctance of that body to enter into conflict with the Roman Catholic hierarchy in England. No such scruples will hamper the action of a judge of the High Court; the issue of a writ in the Chancery Division will set the machinery in motion, and, once in motion, nothing will stop it until the Court is satisfied that the trust is being and will be administered in accordance with the donor's directions.

One difficulty, and one only, stands in the way of this course of action. A man must be found bold enough and unselfish enough to bring his ecclesiastical superiors before the Court and fight the matter out, regardless of the consequences to himself, as Dr. Carmont fought the Mitchell case. Dr. Carmont's experience shows that every weapon in the ecclesiastical armoury will be used against him; but it also shows that if he succeeds in his civil action the persecution which he will suffer is not likely to be more than temporary. Precisely what passed between the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda and the Scottish Bishops in reference to Dr. Carmont's excommunication I do not quite understand. But it is evident that whatever Rome did, if it did anything, was done in such a way as to leave the door open for a subsequent retreat; and I think it may be taken that the very astute ecclesiastics who manage these matters at the Vatican are not likely to put themselves in the position of supporting through thick and thin the action of Bishops who, by making ducks and drakes of Church property, have been worsted in a civil court and proved wrong in the sight of all men. In the earlier part of the controversy over the Church funds, it was hoped and expected by many influential Catholics that Rome would spontaneously deal with the scandal that had arisen, and this seemed to me the simplest and most decent solution of the question. But the time for such hope is past, and the part taken by Cardinal Merry del Val in connection with the recent application to the Charity Commissioners suggests that there was never much hope of papal action. The position is, therefore, clearly defined. If among the many English members of the Roman Church who have written to Truth on this subject, and the many more who sympathise with them, any are to be found who will, in colloquial language, "face the music," and bring the grievances of clergy and laity to the test of a civil action, the evil that has been done may be to a great extent repaired, and a lesson taught which will protect ecclesiastical property from episcopal folly and greed for many years to come. If not, I do not see that there is anything else worth saying on the subject. If the rank and file of the Roman Catholic Church in England, lay and clerical, are not prepared to help themselves, it is now clear that no one else will help them. It has been said that in all countries men have the government which they deserve, and this is true in the affairs of the Church no less than in those of the State.

A GAMBLING SCANDAL AT CALCUTTA.

I have received from Calcutta an account of some remarkable proceedings in connection with a "Fancy Fête," which was recently held on the Maidan in aid of the Minto Nursing Fund and the Calcutta Hospitals. The fête was organised by an executive committee, over which Lady Minto, the wife of the Viceroy, presided. The object in view was an excellent one, and financially the affair appears to have been an immense success. For nearly a fortnight it provided Calcutta people with an entertainment in the form of a miniature Earl's Court Exhibition and a Military Tournament combined, which was much appreciated. Unfortunately, however, certain features were introduced which have aroused much adverse criticism, more especially in view of the fact that the fête was being held under the auspices of the Viceroy and Lady Minto. My correspondent writes:—

"First should be mentioned Lady Minto's 'Lucky Bag,' an attraction of the fête which was advertised months beforehand. The 'Lucky Bag,' the public were informed, would contain many valuable prizes, and it was announced a few days before the show was opened that the chances would be four to one. As a result of these inducements and the mention of some of the prizes, such as a gig, a cottage piano, and some diamond ornaments given by Lady Minto, as many as thirty thousand tickets were sold at a rupee each before the day on which the 'Lucky Bag' was to close. When the time came for the draw to begin an immense crowd had gathered round the 'Lucky Bag' tent; soldiers, sailors, and police had to be requisitioned to keep the crowd in order, and a pandemonium ensued. The discomforts that were endured in the crush might have been forgiven and forgotten, but the public indignation was finally roused by the manner in which the draw was conducted, and the trumpery nature of the majority of the prizes. Every petty tradesman in Calcutta seems to have seized the opportunity of obtaining a cheap advertisement by contributing some rubbishy article from his stock-in-trade to the 'Lucky Bag.' Thus when people went up with twenty tickets, drew nineteen blanks and one prize, and were then solemnly presented with a roll of coloured crinkled paper, a tin of somebody's patent food, or a packet of somebody's cheap cigarettes, they began to feel that they had been hoaxed. This feeling was intensified by the fact that—contrary to the rules that had been published—they were not allowed to draw for themselves, even if they managed to reach one of the barrels. In many cases ticket-holders who were afraid to face the struggle persuaded soldiers or sailors, who were on duty to keep the crowd in order, to take their tickets up to the barrel. In such cases officials in charge were heard to ask, 'Is it for a lady or gentleman?' before handing out the discs. As the ladies generally got at least one prize the public naturally drew inferences, and the local papers have published numbers of letters from ticket-holders in which the bona-fides of the 'Lucky Bag' have been impugned. I have omitted to mention that on the strength of the receipt of a few more prizes, including a baby elephant (won by Lord Kitchener), the committee, at the last moment, re-opened the sale of tickets and disposed of another 20,000 tickets, thereby reducing the chances of ticket-holders enormously.

"So much for the 'Lucky Bag.' I now come to what was really a disgraceful feature of the fête. In various parts of the grounds were tents in which Roulette,

Les Petits Chevaux, and various other kinds of gambling devices well known to certain foreign resorts, were kept in full swing. It is needless to say that they proved highly attractive, and the edifying spectacle was provided of poor Eurasians and Indians gambling with their hard-earned rupees for the benefit of the show, which most of these poorer Indians believe, by the way, was really organised in honour of the Amir's visit. Now the law of India is very stringent in regard to gambling, and for the last few years the Governments and police of the various provinces have been engaged in a vigorous campaign to stamp out the various forms of it which exist. But it was not until after the open, organised gambling at this fête had gone on for more than a week, under the very eyes of the Viceroy and members of his Government, who were constant visitors, that it was announced that the tents were to be closed, and added 'semi-officially' that this was at the personal request of the Viceroy himself. On the same day that the public were gambling merrily at the fête, two unfortunate men were hauled up at the Calcutta Police Court and sent to gaol for 'gambling for money with cards.'"

The management of the "Lucky Bag" was undertaken by a special committee, and it would be grossly unfair to blame the Viceroy or Lady Minto on account of the manner in which the drawing was conducted by the persons in charge of it. But the "Lucky Bag" was manifestly nothing else than a huge lottery, and it is certainly astonishing that it should have been allowed to take place at all under Viceregal patronage. Only a few years ago a stop was put to the promotion of so-called "Lucky Bags" in Calcutta at Christmas time, and in various directions the law against gambling has latterly been enforced more strictly than used to be the case. The duty of the police and the magistrates must, however, obviously become exceedingly difficult when not only the drawing for a lottery, but playing at roulette tables and other forms of gambling, are openly included among the attractions at a great public entertainment. It is satisfactory to learn that the Viceroy eventually requested that the gambling tents should be closed; it is much to be regretted that the committee of the fête ever permitted them to be opened.

THE CHARING CROSS USURY SHOP.

A great many inquiries are being directed to me as well as to my City Editor in reference to "The Charing Cross Bank," 28, Bedford-street, W.C., and 39, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C., which has lately embarked on a vigorous advertising campaign, carried on partly through the newspapers, and partly through the distribution of prospectuses. It may be useful, therefore, if I explain once more that this concern is not a bank at all in the ordinary acceptation of the word, but a common usury-shop registered under the Moneylenders Act by one Alfred Wm. Carpenter. The fact that Carpenter is permitted to pose as a "bank" is, indeed, a signal proof of the unwisdom of Parliament in rejecting the original proposal of the Select Committee on Moneylending that the Act of 1900 should absolutely prohibit the use of all such misleading titles. In this case the title is misleading not only to borrowers but to lenders too, for Carpenter is himself a very extensive borrower. The most prominent feature in his present advertisements is a statement that his so-called bank receives deposits of £10 and upwards at rates of interest ranging from 5 per cent. per annum on sums subject to three months' notice of withdrawal, up to 10 per cent. on sums subject to five years' notice of withdrawal. It is also stated that the bank's "terminable deposit bonds pay nearly 9 per cent., and are a safe investment."

It is obvious that these tempting terms, when offered by an institution with the high-sounding title of "The Charing Cross Bank," are likely to attract deposits from people who, though more or less unsophisticated, would not think of advancing money to plain Alfred Wm. Carpenter, usurer. I have, in fact, heard of several cases in which a deposit—amounting in one instance to a very substantial sum—has been made under the quite erroneous impression that the money was being put into a legitimate banking business. More cautious than these depositors, one of my correspondents called at the bank and asked for the names of the directors, and a copy of the last balance-sheet. He was told that there were no directors, and that no balance-sheet was published, but that he would find information as to the bank's financial position in the newspapers. The only discoverable information of the kind in the newspapers is the following in the advertisements of the bank:—

Assets, £1,136,249. Liabilities, £796,788.
Surplus, £339,461.

From the point of view of an investor, these figures, put forward without any sort of verification, are, of course, absolutely worthless. "Owing to the nature of our investments," the advertisement proceeds, "we are able to pay rates of interest on deposits that will compare favourably with dividends paid on almost any class of stock or shareholding securing the safety of capital." No doubt a usurer of Carpenter's type can make big profits, but the business has very considerable risks, and these are probably increased rather than diminished when the usurer is employing capital provided by other people. One illustration of the risks of the business was given a few weeks ago, when Mr. Justice Channell cut down by one-half the interest which this bank had charged in a harsh and unconscionable bill of sale transaction.

Putting aside, however, any question as to the safety of the investment, persons who contemplate depositing money with the Charing Cross Bank should bear in mind that they will thereby become partners in a disreputable bloodsucking business. It seems to me that those who knowingly place themselves in this position would not be entitled to the slightest sympathy if, owing to the more stringent administration of the Moneylenders Act or any other cause, they lost their money. As to those who have become depositors in the bank in ignorance of its real character, on grounds both of prudence and self-respect they should withdraw as speedily as possible.

THE THEATRES.

Madame Jane Hading at the "New Royalty."

To judge from the numbers of people that have crowded the newly-decorated little playhouse in Dean-street, the French play has decidedly become the fashion. There is one peculiarity of playgoers in the matter of theatres generally which seems exasperated in the case of the French theatre: so many of them come late.

When the curtain rose upon Alfred Capus's charming comedy one evening last week, the stalls were not more than one-third full. By the end of the long first act my toes had been trampled upon by many feet that might well have been armed with hobnails, to judge by the sensation, and countless buxom ladies had brushed past. Neither experience was agreeable in the very spring of the play. "La Châtelaine" was not early in beginning, and I am sure it must have been half-past nine when the last straggler had stumbled to his or her place, and the theatre was quite full. Perhaps one resents this stampede more when the play is interesting and the players so much above the average, as are Mme. Jane Hading and M. Arnaud, to name the principals in a strong and at all points competent cast.

Earlier in the week Mme. Hading, who is well known in London owing to her frequent visits to the Coronet Theatre and elsewhere, gave the public another taste of her fine quality in "L'Aventurière." The end of the week was reserved for "La Châtelaine."

M. Capus is a writer of infinite ingenuity and resource. I have never known him dull, and although I have known him considerably more audacious than in "La Châtelaine," yet I believe he made every one enjoy themselves who remained to the end, which some, I regretted to see, did not. The last act is of first-rate importance to an appreciation of the work as a whole. In it one sees the crushing superiority of André Jossan (M. Arnaud) thoroughly manifested to the mean and desperate husband of the woman he loves. My readers have only to be apprised of the main outline of the play to see this. André Jossan has made a fortune in business, having begun life by losing one at cards. He meets Thérèse de Rives, whose husband has deserted her, having previously impoverished both through prodigalities for a mistress. Thérèse has a castle to sell. It is her last asset. At first, greatly over-valuing it and ignoring the heavy mortgages raised for her husband upon it, the news of the amount likely to be received by her on the sale comes as a crushing blow. Her distress is not wholly selfish, as she has a little son. At this juncture supervenes André Jossan. He falls in love at first sight, takes in the situation at a glance, and buys the castle from her by a form of direct treaty (between principals) known to French law. His family, and those who scheme a marriage for him with a young girl, are furious. The rest of the play shows how this man, who has been through the mill, reads at once the purposes of his adversaries, stimulates the woman he loves not to run after her little son, who has been abducted by her husband, since he will certainly try to make profit out of the situation, and therefore bring him back again, at a price. In the last act, the interview between the two men was, to my mind, the most interesting moment of the evening. Gaston de Rives admits himself all along to be the inferior of André Jossan; he admits to his wife in the previous act that he does not love her, and only insists upon her returning to him in order to make the successful André feel the taste of bitter, for once in his life. In this last act, however, Gaston de Rives' feelings are so wrought upon by the sight and presence of the man whose success he hates more than his person, that he begins the interview with a challenge. This André refuses, having decided no longer to risk his life, save for what is well worth while. And Gaston de Rives is not worth while. No, he will talk it over, and convince this foolish husband that he had much better go back to the mistress he loves and free the wife whom he hates, by divorce. Gaston de Rives refuses all his offers, says he will carry off the boy, and will certainly be followed by the boy's mother. Exasperated, André cries out: "Well, then, I will fight you, and rid the earth of a ruthless encumbrance!" "But I will not fight now," retorts Gaston. A fine situation, with the two men exasperated to the highest pitch, for, provoked beyond endurance by Gaston's cynical insistence on his legal rights, André loses his self-control, and Gaston comes up to him, for a moment, on the moral plane. André's explosion of anger has calmed De Rives, who experiences for the first time in his life the luxury of pseudo-magnanimity, calls his wife, and, having obtained her pardon for all his misdeeds, hands her over to André Jossan, astonished beyond measure at this sudden achievement of his hopes.

I think M. Capus is right in his psychology of Gaston. The man had latent in him qualities which it took the strength and character of André to bring out. Jealousy of André's perpetual triumphs alone stood in the way of his admitting the equity of André's claims. The moment he saw André weak, he could afford to be generous.

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Mr. Cyril Maude's idea of producing plays for a few matinées is not a new one, but it is none the less a good idea for that. The more trial trips there are, the more likely we are eventually to hit upon good plays. Undoubtedly some good plays have been crushed out of existence owing to the successful runs of mediocre plays, and certainly some good plays have never and never will see the light owing to the inability of the dramatist to get a hearing. The play that Mr. Maude will produce for a series of matinées—the first on Tuesday, March 12—is entitled "Her Son," by Mr. Vachell, and (I rather regret to see) is adapted from a novel by the author. I should have prefered an originally dramatic work, but this play was well spoken of when first produced at Glasgow. Mr. Maude is naturally anxious to make it known that the matinées of "Toddles" will not be interfered with by this venture.

* * * * *

The Zancigs have departed, and there is a new ballet to be seen at the Alhambra. "The Queen of Spades" is described as quite different from "L'Amour," but does not seem altogether novel in theme, describing as it does the struggle between self-denial and the temptations of modern life. But though this theme is as old as the

Blackpool. Splendid Winter Climate. Hôtel Métropole. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

Savoy Hotel & Restaurant, London.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

world, it is as young as spring, and I am sure Mlle. Alexia's interpretation of what it feels like to be tempted will be well and profusely illustrated.

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At Hengler's Circus a troupe of champion wrestlers now challenge all-comers for substantial prizes, while the remainder of the programme remains unchanged. I observe, also, that the old fashion of half-price after 9.15 o'clock has now been introduced at this place of amusement.

* * * * *

May comes and goes,
May blossom blows
Each year.
But Edna Mays,
What can replace?—
A tear?
No tear, but bells,
Whose pealing tells,
She's wed.
Belles of Mayfair,
And everywhere,
Chime: "Wed."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"GRIPPE" PATIENTS.

WE have plenty of subjects to talk about this week, but suffer too severely from *grippe* to converse on any. Nearly every one I know is "down" or barely convalescent, and too weak to gad about, though it were only in well-heated drawing-rooms. *Grippe* kills, it seems to me, faster than typhoid, poisons the blood for a long time to come, and makes one more liable to be again attacked in other gripal visitations. The necrological city returns show a sudden rise of fifty deaths a day in the bills of mortality. They are all due to *grippe* or influenza—a word meaning bad influence, and introduced here when France had an Italian Queen who believed in astrology. The sequelæ will be worse than the evil visitor itself. If any one who reads these lines has a weak heart or delicate lungs, or a too wakeful nervous system, let him or her beware.

Keeping in bed, as M. Clemenceau thought well to do for nearly ten days, is the best course. He is sound as bell metal, but the wear and tear of his life have been great, and his nerves may be said to burn his blood, they being the nerves of a man of genius, and of every great artist, whether pictorial, literary, or oratorical. He could not join in the debate on the last law of M. Briand a week ago in the Chamber. Instead, he sat by while that Minister danced his *pas seul*, and dropped words of encouragement in a short sentence whenever the speaker in the tribune went according to the sentiment of the majority. He was able since to go to hear Mme. Caron in "Orphée" at the Opera. He is one of her many admirers, and has been so from the outset of her career. M. Clemenceau's *grippe* obliged him to countermand a grand dinner for eighty at the Ministry of the Interior. The guest list included the principal diplomats now in Paris, the old and faithful friend M. Pichon, who is impeccable as Minister for Foreign Affairs, the expected Swedish lion of the hour who has effected the North-West passage round the Pole, and a number of other celebrities. I dare say the Prime Minister, in giving orders to cancel invitations, felt a sense of intense relief. He hates those great "feeds" known as "banquets" and "State dinners." Their sameness is the least of their drawbacks. The single compensation they offer is the post-prandial conversation in the smoking-room. Diplomats do not bore there. Celebrities are often *hommes d'esprit*, though some of them in a big gathering are sure to be *poseurs*, which makes their company tiresome. M. Clemenceau is, and has been all his life, sober in eating, and is from taste a tea and water drinker only. He could have made a handsome income as a tea taster in the time when there was no Ceylon or Indian tea in the market. Fine teas are one of his hobbies. He takes his tea, which costs 12 fr. a pound, without cream, sugar, or the Russian slice of lemon, and sips it as though it were precious nectar. He rarely quaffs it, and the contents of a small Bokhara tea-pot are enough for him at a time. This sobriety stands him in good stead. I think him, in spite of the consuming nerves, the youngest man of his age either in the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, or the artistic world.

More than half the *invités* of M. Clemenceau were in bed from *grippe* when they received the counter invitations. This *grippe* nearly caused a break-up of the Ministry. But all's well that ends well. M. Briand has backed engines according to the wishes of the Chamber. That body is ready to indulge in any way the ordinary clergy, which is at heart national, but fears to be one day left in the lurch if it went in for Gallican liberty. It felt inclined to turn out the Minister of Cults for the march he took in his chief's absence in the direction of concessions to Rome. The Vatican wants to bring members of the religious orders, in the cassocks of *curés*, into the churches. This the Chamber will not have. It professes to have had too much, under the Concordat, of preaching monks, to again allow them to mount the pulpits. If the mayor of a commune leases a church for three, six, nine, or eighteen years, to a particular *curé*, the lease cannot be passed on to any one else without the renewed consent of communal council and mayor. The last Briand Law had ambiguities which the Chamber blamed. Its author has given in on the question of the interpretation. I may add that Freemasonic members of municipal councils say this is not enough. A Ministerial circular is not binding on any one. The faulty article or clause in the law itself will have to be revised; and I dare say that satisfaction will be given on this point to the Freemasons.

Influenza has notably affected the theatrical season. Not only the leading singers and players have been sufferers, but the understudies as well. It has interfered with Post Office arrangements. The illness is said to have been most severe towards letter-carriers, telegraphic clerks, and the young ladies of the telephonic department. The delivery of letters is delayed in many parts of the town, and newspapers are piled up in the Post Office local bureaux as during the strike of the letter-carriers.

I have doubly paid my tribute to the influenza scourge, inasmuch as a relapse followed recovery from the first

attack. I try never to write a letter when I suffer from the malady, owing to a wish not to spread it. When I must write, I disinfect as much as I can. The course of treatment is, if the cough and fever cause insomnia, a few drops at night of paregoric elixir, supported by a cup or two of some infusion—*quatre-fleurs*, or lime-flowers. The latter is an active sudorific. The four flowers—violets, camomile, the corn-poppy, and something else, I know not what—are less sudorific, but calming. In the way of food, only milk in half-and-half proportion with hot water, and on the third or fourth day hot milk at meal times with a beaten-up egg and sugar in it. I find that an open window and a blazing fire keep the air of the room stimulating and pleasant. Later on boiled vegetables and fruit may be added to the milk and two eggs. Give up meat until well out of the wood. Should weakness follow, one's bed under an eider-down quilt is the best place.

The family and the physician of the late Princess Clementine made a grave mistake in allowing her to rise from a bad attack of *grippe* to make a long journey. There is no more terrible climate for weak or weakened lungs than that of Vienna. The Coburg palace there is a cold, sullen-looking barrack, and has been practically uninhabited since the Princess Louise of Belgium left it. The Princess Clementine was to break her journey there en route for Mentone. She went from Sofia to Mentone last year and the year before without halting—a record feat for an old lady on the verge of ninety. For many years she had led the life of a King's Messenger, going from capital to capital and Court to Court to consolidate her son's position in Bulgaria. Her vitality up to the recent attack of influenza had seemed unimpaired and her equanimity unshaken by this trying kind of existence. One might have thought that she never knew what it was to be put out. Yet she had quick feelings and risked many a hard rub. It may be that her stone deafness, in shutting her out from tiresome chatterers, defended her nerves. It threw her back on her own thoughts. This was an advantage, as they were high, sweet, and luminous. She also knew what the pleasures of memory are. She never wished to be a man. Her words were, "Mon rôle de femme me suffit grandement. C'est un joli rôle, quand il est bien compris. Tout est là."

The Princess had endless contrarieties in her family circle. She had, since the opening of the Russo-Japanese war, a comparatively easy mind. The leisure this afforded her admitted of her devoting herself to the education of her two Bulgarian granddaughters. They slept in her room. She watched over them closely without letting them know they were under observation. Both learned to speak so distinctly that she could tell what they said from the motions of their lips. She spoke last year of different crosses she had to bear. One was "never to hear the sweet, childish voices of Eudoxia and Nadejda." The ear-trumpet never conveyed the true tone.

The Princess Clementine had for her professor of French history that transcendant genius Michelet. Thereby hangs a tale, not to the discredit of master or pupil. Obituary services in memory of the venerable Princess were celebrated at Sofia in the Chapel Royal (Prince Ferdinand ranks as Royal Highness) in Vienna, in Paris in the Chapel of St. Ferdinand de Neuilly, at the Madeleine, at Chantilly, and at Coburg, where her remains now lie in the mausoleum built by her husband.

The Duc d'Orléans returned to London directly after the reading of her will at the Coburg Palace. The Duchess went on with her uncles and aunts to Coburg.

A Dominican preacher, Father Monsabré, has fallen a victim to the "malign influence." He had a great vogue after Father Hyacinthe married, and Père Felix had to keep silent as a punishment for his vanity. He reminded persons who had seen O'Connell of that orator, but had not his might. Characteristics of both were vehemence, a talent for calling names, exuberant fancy, humour, and a life and movement that carried away their hearers. The magnetic personality of O'Connell, and in a less degree perhaps of Monsabré, helped their eloquence. The monk had a short burly figure and a homeliness that ran into vulgarity. His ferocious and acute argumentation was greatly talked of when he delivered Advent and Lent lectures in different metropolitan churches. Some years ago he incurred disgrace at Rome; why, nobody could think, and he retired for the rest of his life to a monastic house near Havre. The Combes law obliged him to "secularise" his habit.

As Paris sets the fashions to London, I expect soon to see ladies of quality setting up as cabbies. I know one lady of quality who might safely take at a brisk pace a mail coach to Epsom on the Derby day. Lady Di Huddleston, as a "whip," used to be one of the attractive sights of Hyde Park. She made driving a pony team a conquest of Baron Huddleston. We have now in Paris six women cabbies. They are rather good-looking, give a smart air to their regulation garments, fasten their low-glazed hats on their heads with bonnet pins having jet-heads, sport jauntily the yellow and white cockade of their company, and stick nosegays in the buttonholes of their clumsy waterproofs. They pull up to a nicety, keep their heads in crowded streets, and their tempers under severe trials. Mlle. Curlier, who for seven years drove daily a dairy cart from Montreuil to the Paris Halles, is a first-rate "whip." Some confrère twitted Mme. Dufaux, who is sonsy and matronly, but pleasant to behold, with having left the baby at home with holes in its socks. Why did he not thus twit the women who drag costers' cars through the streets and cry "fish"? The lady cabby is a Mme. Ludgen, daughter of the Comte du Pin de la Guézinière. She fell in love with a professional tenor, and bribed her family to consent to her marriage with him by renouncing her share of the paternal heritage. The Combes law deprived him of the place of soloist at Notre Dame des Victoires. Their children must have come in twins and triplets, as she is still fairly young, and there are eleven. She was very much the Amazon in her tastes, in youth followed hounds, drove a team of ponies, and might have come out at a circus as a star of first magnitude. She tried last year to drive a cab, but failed. She is now qualified, and earns about 18 fr. a day. The *cri de Paris* of to-day is "Vivent les femmes cochères!" So be it. While a fair amount of

good looks or comeliness lasts, they are very well on the box. But I recoil from the idea of age and snowy hair coming upon them there. However, they will not be more pitiable than dragging the coster's handcart in rain, hail, or snow.

A PEER ON THE PROGS.

[I have received the following from the noble correspondent who last week favoured me with his views on the reform of the House of Lords. In deference to the opinions of his fiancée, which do not, however, coincide with my own on the point, I insert it without further comment.—Ed., Truth.]

NOT having heard anything from you about it, I took it that you did not think much of what I wrote about the House of Lords last week, and would not want any more. But Jessie, who read it several times, tells me it was far and away the best thing in the paper, and that it would look dreadfully unenterprising if I did not send something else until I was asked for it. She said, too, that I ought to make it topical, and that the best thing I could do would be to give you my opinions about the County Council elections. As a matter of fact, I did not know much about them; I do not find them specially interesting myself, but my brother-in-law, X., happens to be a candidate. He ought to know all about it, because he is a director on two big electric companies as well as a motor omnibus concern. He is a Moderate—at least, that is what he used to be, but now he says he is a Municipal Reformer. He is not really a bad chap, if only his manner were not so patronising; and considering his directorship and things, I do not very well see how he could be anything but a Moderate, but I do not think his side are playing the game quite fair. When it comes to hiring the unemployed at 4s. a day each and sending them round with barrel-organs and notices that they have been ruined by the Progressive majority's buying cheap Austrian blankets and making bad bricks, it does not seem cricket to me somehow. In fact, it is one of the things that makes me think I must be a Progressive. For one thing, if there is nothing worse to find fault with them about than bricks and blankets, they cannot be governing London so badly, and one supposes that there cannot be, or the Moderates would surely have routed it out before now.

The things that really annoy my brother-in-law are the County Council trams. He said such a lot about them that I got quite muddled, and the only point he made that I can clearly remember was that they ought not to make people who did not want them and never used them, pay for carrying other people from Peckham and Tooting to and from the City at a loss. I have been going into the point with Jessie—who is one of the most clear-headed people living—and we have read no end of papers and things on both sides, and Jessie thinks differently about it. She says we ought not to mind lending a little money for a time—investing it, as it were—to give the working classes the chance of riding cheaply, and that after a bit the tram systems will make it all back again, and a profit on top of it. She says that my brother-in-law is the worst kind of Trust magnate, and that she would ever so much rather pay down money, even if it was all dead loss, to give poor chorus girls, and supers, and people a chance of cheap tram fares, instead of putting it into the pockets of my brother-in-law and his shareholders. I suppose I really ought not to agree with her; the profits on his Trusts and things really mean that my sister Kate has a good time; but I am beginning to find out that when Jessie says a thing it is right nine times out of ten, so, of course, I agree with her. As a matter of fact, though, it is only fair to say that she is a bit prejudiced against my brother-in-law, because when the news of our engagement was published my sister did not behave very nicely about it, and Jessie took it into her pretty head that it was all through my brother-in-law. It made things a little difficult for me, because, as a matter of fact, I owe the chap money.

What seems to me quite one of the most curious things about the County Council elections, by the way, is that the Moderates should nearly all be Conservatives and the Progressives nearly all Radicals. Of course, that rather set me against the Progressives to start with, because I do not think much of the Radicals myself. But Jessie says she can't see what Protection and Chinese Labour and the Reform of the House of Lords and things like that have got to do with improving London streets and having a smart fire brigade and seeing that poor people have got decent places to live in and cheap trams to ride on. So, although I am a Conservative myself, I don't see any reason why I should not vote Progressive, unless, indeed, my sister Kate makes a point of my backing up her husband. I cannot very well afford to offend her any more just at present, though, if Jessie got to hear of it——I suppose it will end in my not voting at all either way.

I am a very open-minded sort of person myself, and I was talking to a man at the club about it—trying to pick up points for this article—and he said something that struck me a good deal. He said he did not care twopence which side got in, because whatever they promise now he was quite certain that neither of them would make the rates any lower—he's noticed it dozens of times before in all sorts of places and countries—while as to the way they will spend the money, the Progressives have started to govern London on a regular plan, and if the Moderates got in they would just have to go on the same lines, whether they liked it or not. He said he had travelled a lot, and he had never found any of the foreign capitals nearly so well governed or so pleasant a place to live in as London is, and he puts it down to the Progressive majority on the L.C.C. But he is going to vote for Municipal Reform himself because he owns—or did own, I am not quite sure which—some shares in a music-hall that was knocked sky-high because the County Council insisted on their spending a fortune on the building to make it safe in case of a fire. When I told this to Jessie she said he was a pretty sort of reformer, and ought to be ashamed of himself. So between the two I did not get much forward.

I quite agree with this chap that London is just about the best place to live in anywhere. I always have been fond of the old place—though I was born in Gloucestershire myself. Jessie is a London girl. I know it is generally believed that she is an American—the papers always write about her as "the famous American beauty," and that she speaks with an American accent, and so on. And what I am going to say now rather bears on the cry about L.C.C. Austrian blankets. As I say, Jessie is really a London girl, through and through. And if you only knew her you would realise that a thoroughbred London girl is worth any half-dozen, or more, Yankee "beauties." She is a head taller than I am, she has the loveliest eyes, and—but, as I was saying, she was born in Camden Town. For a long time she couldn't make any headway in musical comedy, until at last her agent—curiously enough, his name was really Jenkinson, but he called himself Isaacstein, because he found there was a sort of prejudice against Christians in his line of business—he told her she'd have to be an American beauty. She went away from London for a bit, into a quiet village in Cornwall somewhere, and studied the American accent as hard as she could, and after that her agent brought her out as a Californian girl, and after that she never had the slightest difficulty in getting engagements, even before she became engaged to me. But it was really screamingly funny to read the Yankee papers when it was announced, and how they boasted about the beauty of American women, and ran down English girls, and that sort of thing. It is rather a queer thing, if you come to think of it, that just the same people who profess to be scandalised that the L.C.C. should buy Austrian blankets—which didn't happen to be Austrian at all, they tell me—should

refuse to give a hearing to an English girl—or an English fiddler, for that matter—until some one makes them believe that she is a foreigner. But the County Council election is a puzzling sort of business altogether, and the only thing I can make out is that there must be a lot of humbug somewhere, and a good deal of lying.

LETTER FROM THE LINK MAN.

"ARE 'Gentlemen' gentlemen?" dear Lady Betty, is a question which expresses a thought that is present in the mind of many. It is a wise father that knows his own son in these days in the West End, when greatly altered political, financial, and social circumstances have so considerably changed the characteristics of modern "upper-class" men. The soft-voiced, courteous, considerate, and strictly honourable father is parent to the loud-voiced, blustering, heartless, and unprincipled son, whose character is a combination of all the worst features of Mayfair and San Francisco.

The latter are the men who most positively insist that the community must be governed by gentlemen. The advice should be adopted; it would rid the country of their injurious influence in the direction of public affairs.

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Example is a surer master than experience; and example is a fast traveller in these days of newspaper enterprise, American journalism, general education, the telegraph, and the railway. Every class in England has considerably changed in the last thirty years, but none amongst us have been so greatly altered as have the so-called "ladies" and "gentlemen." It is no exaggeration to describe the West End as the birth-place of half the socialism there is in this country, for most socialists are not disorderly dreamers, but thoughtful men and women who are irritated by the unnecessary and serious inconsistencies of the social system. There is an inequality in iniquity which is insupportable. Vice holding the scales for Virtue, Folly worshipped as Wisdom, Justice obviously unjust: those are the ordinary characteristics of life in the West End, and they are the talk of every tavern in the kingdom.

"The Constitution must be maintained." Whose Constitution? That evolved by a class for a class in the distant past, and in altogether different conditions? Parrot-cry principles have had their day.

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He who is drunk in a first-class carriage has had a fit; he who has a fit in a third-class is drunk. That is the basis of our system. "Give me title," "Give me money," "Give me social consideration," "Let me be in the first-class social compartment at any cost" almost all cry in England now—and for the purpose.

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"Rome was not built," nor was it destroyed, "in a day." It is an inconvenience that this generation of English men and women has to endure that its members live at the period of the rapid transition. This once isolated nation is fast being welded to the European main-land. Our neighbours no longer all appear to be the "outer barbarians" most of our predecessors were convinced they were; they are not hopelessly iniquitous, idolaters, and shockingly ignorant. The Americans are not the scum of our servants' halls, a nation of which the women are dressed in shoddy silks and satins, and the men shoot each other at sight. Our Colonists did not all have a slum-made Adam and Eve for their first parents. Out of it all the English are learning that they themselves were insular, narrow-minded, ignorant, and abominably prejudiced. "We did great things in that condition." They will do far greater in the improved circumstances. The "gentleman" is our Jonah—but he has not the advantage of being a prophet. He hopes, however, that Protection will be his particular whale, who will swallow him and replace him on safe ground!

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There is a peculiarity of everyday life in civilised conditions which appears to have escaped attention. The ordinary man, in London, for instance, has occasion to entrust his overcoat to an hotel, restaurant, or other attendant several times a day, and on each occasion, on recovering this, gives the man a fee. That works out an unexpected result. The overcoat may have cost nine guineas; four fees of 6d. a time amount in a year to £36 10s. At that rate, therefore, he would be paying four times as much for the temporary convenience as he did for the coat! At 3d. a time—the more usual fee—he only pays twice as much, which even still seems to be unreasonable. But an overcoat should last three years, in which period at the sixpenny rate the cost of feeing the attendants would amount to £109 10s.! That object lesson gives an insight into the amount of money which is now literally wasted in fees. There would be a saving of £20 odd in the time were a man to use his overcoats roughly and buy three a year!—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

ONE of the papers includes "the Duke of Bedford" among the plungers of the so-called Hastings era. The last head of the house of Russell that was given to gambling was the fifth Duke, who died more than a hundred years ago at the age of thirty-seven, through an accident. He was a member of the Jockey Club, and a constant habitué of Newmarket. The Duke won six Jockey Club Plates, and he three times carried off the Derby, and also won the Oaks three times. The seventh Duke of Bedford, who died in 1861, was a member of the Jockey Club for upwards of forty years. He raced as Lord Tavistock long before he succeeded to the dukedom on the death of his father in 1839. The Duke bred Habena, who won him the One Thousand in 1855. He also bred Asteroid, but did not live to race that good horse. Admiral Rous managed the Duke's stud for many years, and his Grace bequeathed him the choice of any one of his horses. The Admiral selected Asteroid, and sold him shortly afterwards to Sir Joseph Hawley for 1,500 gs. The seventh Duke of Bedford raced for sport alone, in the same way as the late Duke of Westminster and the late Lord Falmouth.

Owners of hurdle racers are waiting anxiously for Roseate Dawn, of whom they appear to stand in the greatest fear. I am told that this horse is to start for the £1,000 hurdle race at Hooton Park on March 9, and that he will afterwards be reserved for the £2,000 hurdle race at Auteuil on June 12. Roseate Dawn will not incur a penalty for the French race by winning at Hooton Park.

"There is no prospect whatever of betting being legalised." This is an extract from last week's *Sporting Times*, and I am glad to see that journal taking the practical view of this subject which has always been maintained in Truth. I have frequently asserted that the moon will fall before anything is done by Parliament in the way of legalising betting, and it is simply amazing to find some of the sporting papers seriously writing about such a chimera as the Government or Jockey Club licensing bookmakers and other will-o'-the-wisp vapour.

Last year's Grand Prix de Paris was a stake of £9,924 for the winner, with £800 for the second horse, and £400 for the third. This was a considerable improvement on the Epsom Derby, which was the richest of the English three-year-old stakes, and the winner of this race got £6,450 (including £500 for the nominator), with £400 for second horse, and £200 for the third. The winner of the Prix de Jockey Club took £7,360 (including £400 for the breeder), while the second horse got £600, and £300 went to the third. There were 432 entries for last year's Grand Prix, and 487 horses are engaged in this year's race.

Hitherto £8,000 has been added to the Grand Prix de Paris, with £600 for the breeder of the winner in addition if the animal was foaled in France. Next year the added money has been increased to £12,000,

while the breeder of the winner (if foaled in France) is to receive £800 besides. Second horse gets £1,200, and £800 goes to the third. There are 576 entries. It is no wonder that the Grand Prix should have been so extensively patronised, for it is not only the richest stake in Europe, but it is also the cheapest. The liability for a starter is only £40, and an owner can "get out" for £4 by declaring forfeit about six weeks before the day of running. Mr. Vanderbilt is the largest subscriber, with twenty-three entries, and next comes Baron Edouard de Rothschild with eighteen, M. Ephrussi and M. E. Blanc have fifteen each, and ten of M. Blanc's lot are sired by Flying Fox, one of the colts being own brother to Adam and Ajax, named Agha. M. Michel Ephrussi has thirteen entries and Comte de Pourtales has twelve. As to the English entry, Mr. W. Hall Walker has eight of his two-year-olds engaged, including Royal Realm, half-brother, by Persimmon, to Colonia, and White Eagle, by Gallinule out of Merry Gal. Mr. W. Bass and Major Loder have seven each, this lot including an own sister to Pretty Polly; Auspicious, by Gallinule out of Astrology, and Simmerglass, half-brother, by Isinglass, to Galvani. Mr. J. B. Joel and Mr. W. M. Singer have six entries each, and Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Arthur James have five each. One of Sir Daniel Cooper's lot of three is Petrello, half-brother, by Gallinule, to Flotsam. Captain Forester has engaged the half-sister, by Flying Fox, to Ouadi Halfa, for which he paid 1,500 gs. at Doncaster last September at the sale of Lord Clonmell's yearlings. Lord Derby has three entries, one of them being Vedenta, own brother to Volodyovski, who is one of the best-looking and most promising two-year-olds now in training at Newmarket, and I hear that he will probably make his début in the New Stakes at Ascot. If, however, Vedenta should not then be ready for racing his début will probably be deferred until the Sandown Park July Meeting, where he is engaged in the £5,000 stakes by his breeder, Lady Meux.

I have just heard a most favourable account of Lord Falmouth's dark colt St. Martin, own brother to Quintessence. Only a mooncalf can think of betting on the Derby at present, but if anyone was forced to speculate on that race, a trifle on St. Martin would probably prove more remunerative in the long run than an investment on either of the nominal favourites. I hear that St. Martin will make his début in the Newmarket Biennial if he is well and fit, and probably a race of this kind would be of great benefit to him before he runs for the Two Thousand.

Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's handsome colt Simon Square, by St. Simon out of Sweet Marjorie, was one of the disappointments of last season. After winning two races, this colt finished second to Traquair for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, and then he trained off altogether, and his later form was very poor. Simon Square is said to have made a prodigious improvement during the winter, and at Newmarket he is regarded as likely to become a most promising outsider for the Two Thousand and Derby. Simon Square has two engagements at the Newmarket Craven Meeting. In the Biennial he would have to give 12 lb. to St. Martin, and in the Craven Stakes he has incurred a penalty of 3 lb., so he would have 8 lb. the worst of the weights with maidens. He has over twenty engagements in the future, and if all goes well with him he is certain to win a good race next season.

Captain Homfray's Asian, by Ladas out of St. Ia, is a handsome and promising colt in the same stable, but it is no recommendation that he is own brother to Liao, who was a doleful failure as a racer after he had been bought in at two years old for 5,000 gs. Asian ran several times last season in good company, his first race being the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, which was won by Traquair. He appeared to want time, and his only success was in the Chaplin Nursery at the Lincoln Autumn Meeting, when he won by a neck from Young Lochinvar, to whom he was giving 5 lb., and third was Donna Caterina, who (reckoning the sex allowance) had 1 lb. the worst of the weights with him, and three weeks later she won the Lancaster Nursery at Manchester, beating a large field. Asian is believed to stay well. His first engagement as a three-year-old is in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket, and he is entered for the Two Thousand, the Newmarket Stakes, and the Derby. This colt was bred by Sir R. Waldie-Griffith, and his present owner purchased him as a yearling for 600 gs.

It is curious that none of the Derby favourites are engaged in the Newmarket Stakes, the best public performer in the entry for that race being Linacre. If Simon Square goes on well during the spring he will have a good chance of winning this stake, supposing him to have made all the improvement which is claimed for him. The A.F. will suit Lord Derby's colt, Olympian, very much better than the Derby course. Traquair is entered, but he is not likely to distinguish himself next season except in short distance events.

Every day the papers print a number of betting transactions on the Lincolnshire Handicap, but all this speculation is wholly unworthy of the slightest attention, as the amounts wagered are ridiculously small, and the business only represents the harum-scarum fancies of foolish backers, who cannot be content to wait until stable intentions become apparent. It is quite certain that no genuine commissions will be sent out until the latest possible moment. Camisard is now favourite, and the French horse is more forward in condition than any other Newmarket candidate, but he has been backed principally for covering money from the Continental lists, and certainly not by his stable. The Lincolnshire Handicap will be won this year, not by the best horse in the race, or by the most favourably weighted horse, but by the one among the starters which is really fit to run. Scarcely a single animal in the list of horses which accepted is likely to be in anything like proper racing condition. The Lincolnshire Handicap, like most mile races, is usually run at a rattling pace from start to finish, and a horse must have done a lot of real fast work if he is to show to advantage in such an event. The training of most horses in the recent unfavourable weather has been only the sort of fuddling which is described as "useful exercise" and "kept moving." The number of horses which will be anything like fit during the first few weeks of the season will be exceedingly small.

I hear that Polymelus will be started for the Coronation Cup at Epsom, and that he will afterwards be reserved for the Princess of Wales's Stakes at the Newmarket First July Meeting. Polymelus would not stay the Ascot Cup course, and, with a valuable engagement waiting for him a fortnight later, he is not likely to run for the Gold Cup. I do not believe that there is the slightest prospect of Spearmint standing a preparation, and The White Knight will probably be the best of the English lot for the Gold Cup, as Keystone II. would not stay the course. If Sagamore is a Derby horse (as many good judges assert), he ought to win the Gold Cup, presuming him to be endowed with the necessary stamina. Sagamore's form last season was very good indeed, and he appeared to be likely to train on. Mr. Raphael made a wonderfully good purchase when he picked up this horse for 1,650 gs. at the sale of the late Sir James Miller's racing stud last April.

Mondamin (5 yrs., 7 st. 3 lb.) is said to be a good thing for the Lincolnshire Handicap ("another Mintagon") if only he can be got fit. I should imagine, however, that the odds are enormous against any horse trained in the North of England being in anything like racing condition by the 19th. Mondamin was bred by Mr. Douglas Baird, and he was purchased by his present owner for 580 gs. at the Newmarket sales last December. He was "weeded" by his original owner because it was thought that he could not get through another preparation, and I fancy that he had for some time been regarded as unsound. It was at one time hoped that he would win last year's Princess of Wales's Stakes, but he did not get through his preparation. A five-year-old maiden, which has been long regarded as unsound, does not seem a promising candidate for such a race as the Lincolnshire Handicap.

Fra Diavolo won three races during the last month

of the season, having previously been defeated four times, but the class of his opponents was not high, and the merits of his victories seem to have been extravagantly overrated by the people who have been declaring that he will win either the Lincoln race or the City and Suburban. I have no belief in his Epsom chance, and he certainly will not be fit to run at Lincoln.

Queen of the Rivers, by Gallinule—the dam of Orwell (who is generally looked upon as likely to win both the One Thousand and the Oaks), has been sold to Mr. S. Joel, and she is to be sent to Gallinule.

An own sister to the Derby favourite, Slieve Gallion, has been foaled in Ireland.

Cinders won the Spring Hurdle Race at Newbury, as I had predicted would be the case. Mr. Clyde's mare won in a canter, after having made the whole of the running, and as Kolo was much fancied and heavily backed, the friends of the winner were able to get on by laying 11 to 8, after odds of 5 to 2 had been asked for.

It is very unfortunate that the King's horse, Nulli Secundus, should have lamed himself just as he had been got into prime condition for racing. The £1,000 hurdle race at Sandown Park on Saturday looked like being won by Nulli Secundus, who had been very lightly weighted, but now I do not suppose he will be seen out again for some time to come. When the King's horse has done with hurdle racing for the season he will no doubt be trained for the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket, in which race he will have the benefit of a 7 lb. maiden allowance. Polymelus will be able to give his Majesty's horse the weight, but, of course, there is always the chance that something may happen to the Cambridgeshire winner.

The subscriptions are full of Thrush, Persimmon, Robert le Diable, Bachelor's Button, Pioneer, Orme, Melton, Lord Bobs, Martagon, Count Schomberg, John o' Gaunt, and Desmond.

A correspondent who has just visited Newmarket informs me that he does not consider that Galvani has made much improvement during the winter, and he likes Baltinglass very much the best of Major Loder's three-year-olds.

His Eminence appears to be now the great Newmarket fancy for the Lincolnshire Handicap, but it will be quite time enough to think seriously of backing Lord Howard de Walden's horse when it becomes certain that he is to "go for" this race, and when he has been tried. Minos does not seem to be much liked, and Earla Mor's backers may look upon their money as lost, for he is not likely to run at Lincoln, and he will not be really fit until later on in the season.

As a youngster I remember that I was always disgusted with the way in which the various wretched little Greek States flew at each other's throats on every possible occasion. For that reason it always seemed to me rather nonsense to talk of the humanising effects of Greek art and literature. The Olympic games, with their laurel wreaths and side bets, were probably the cause of the friction. Human nature has not changed, and now when these modern Olympic games are being run periodically in different European countries as the biggest shows on earth, the sweet old spirit of squabbling is reviving. Next year these Olympic games are to be held Shepherd's Bush way, not far from the shadows of Wormwood Scrubs prison. The council has decided that Great Britain and Ireland are to be considered as one nation for the purposes of sport, and that all entries must go through the various governing bodies of sports in England. The Scotch terrier has naturally barked at the words, "Who said England?" The Irish terrier will probably follow suit. The athletic and swimming associations that control these bodies in Scotland are demanding direct representation. Unless this is granted they will have nothing to do with the show. Here is a chance for Lord Rosebery to rouse Scotland to frenzy. The Scots Greys are but a paltry incident in the national history compared with this affront to the dignity of Caledonia wild and stern. In spite of the Act of Union Scotland is Scotland still. Small nations like Greece, Denmark, Holland, Norway, and Sweden are entitled to direct representation. Where would England be but for Scotland? Why should the predominant partner compel the other partner to surrender his individuality in this way? The mere statement of the proposition shows it to be as unjust as it is inequitable. The national honour is at stake, therefore let the predominant partner stand or fall in the strength of her own arrogance. The hurlers of hammers, the heavers of weights, the tossers of cabers shall be absent. These are the sports of the strong men of the North. And why should the caber be excluded? The cestus is the sport of civilised man. The caber is the exercise of primitive man in the forest primeval. Even the pines upon Ida grew before the first stones of the Acropolis were laid. Those of the parts of Bœotia knew of the bagpipes and danced thereto before Homer sang. It is incredible that the ignorant Southron should have wilfully cut off the only race that could have given us Londoners an inkling of the first days of Olympia. As I have said, the show will be held within the shade of one of London's greatest citadels. The local colouring is rather depressing. It would be a thousand pities if the clans of the North did not march down with pipes and claymores to enliven us during this Olympic festival. There will need to be some novelty to make a gate, and the gate is the secret to success even on the way to Olympia.

The Oxford crew is a difficult one to criticise. It would have delighted Matthew Arnold. For the men are children of light, seekers after truth, searchers after the ideal. But withal they lack the brute force of the Philistine. Joking apart, my friend who put the matter in this way did really hit on the trouble in the Oxford crew. All the men are trying to do their work in the right way, they are all just as far forward as each other in doing every part of their work in the proper way, there is no big blaring fault that the coach can get hold of and eradicate and be sure that at the end he will have turned out a decent crew. They know what they ought to do, but they cannot quite do it. No doubt if there were a really good oarsman in the boat the case would be different. There would then be a foundation on which the crew could be built up. I very much doubt whether the crew will be a really good one, but I am pretty sure that by the trouble they are taking they are laying the foundations for the revival of Oxford rowing. Neither their work nor that of the coaches, Captain Willis and Mr. Harcourt Gold, will be wasted. With regard to the individual members of the crew, it is sufficient to say that Bucknall at two and Southwell at seven are the best oars in the crew. Their blade-work is good, and they use their legs well. The difficulty really seems to lie with stroke. He does not give six time to finish, and the consequence is that the end of the stroke is clipped. This affects the whole crew.

At Cambridge there has been another change in the crew. Benham has come up to row in the place of Hudson, who has had to give up his seat owing to boils. One never quite sees the object of a spare man unless he is a man that can be spared. He certainly never seems to get a seat if he can possibly be done without. If Benham is fit the crew should be a very fair one. They will certainly start favourites, and in all probability they will win fairly easily.

At Oxford there has been plenty of excitement in the Torpids. Magdalen bumped University, and went head, but their joy was short-lived, as Balliol bumped them in turn. Keble did well, and St. John's romped into crews and made their bumps very early.

Messrs. Burroughes and Watts are to be congratulated

Cannes.—Hotel des Anglais. First-class. Numerous Self-contained Suites, with Private Bath-Rooms, etc. Central Heating. Renowned Cuisine and Cellars. Large Park.

The Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall, S.W.:—1598 Gerrard. The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, W.:—8090 Gerrard. The Hotels and Restaurants de Luxe of London. Under the same Direction, and similar Tariffs prevail at both Hotels.

on the success of their American billiard tournament. The last match was between Stevenson and Dawson. Both were at scratch, both had won similar matches this season against each other. At the end of four games they were all square. This was the deciding match as between themselves in this tournament. It was 9,000 up, and Dawson only scored 3,751 points. For a whole week Stevenson played consistently brilliant billiards. At the last sitting he made a record break of 702. During the week he had, in addition, made two breaks of over 500, six over 300, six over 200, and twelve over 100. These figures are more interesting than a Chancellor's Budget.

The M.C.C. has not liked to draw up rules relating to the registration of county players. It is not a pleasant job. It has been created by the business of cricket, and I should let those who make and lose money by having first-class county teams put their heads together and draw their own rules. It seems as though in first-class cricket no player should go on the field without producing his certificate of registration or of birth, just as a motorist has to produce his licence. If I had been the rule committee I should have passed some such rule and appointed an official inspector who would be dismissed if any player tried to pass by saying "Season."

The Oxford and Cambridge football match resulted in a win for the Dark Blues. Cambridge were the favourites in the press, and the writers are chivalrous to make excuses for the failure of those whom they expected to win. The fact remains that Oxford did win, and they owed the result to the brilliant play of their own half-backs, who broke the Cambridge attack time after time. Certainly there was a bit of luck in Oxford's win. One of their goals was lucky, and it was obvious that the Cambridge goalkeeper was suffering from stage fright. Nothing upsets a defence more than the knowledge that the goalkeeper is off his game. These were the reasons for the result of a good honest game. Thank goodness amateurs can play such a game. Unfortunately a certain class of amateurs and some professional teams do not indulge in this class of play. The press has been calling attention to foul play that is debasing football, but the authorities do not seem inclined to move. The fact is the authorities have something else to do. Mr. Clegg, the Napoleon of the football world, is to be reinstated as chairman of the Council of the Football Association. At least, so rumour says, and if this be so the massacre of the amateurs will be renewed with vigour. He has been thwarted once. He is a clear-thinking and high-minded gentleman who does not like amateurs and such canaille.

Another round of the Association Cup has been played. Tottenham Hotspur were simply routed by Notts County. Woolwich Arsenal must improve in front of goal. They could only just beat Bristol Rovers. The Second Division of the League did very well. Everton could only draw with Bolton Wanderers, and the Palace will have to replay at Brentford. London will be represented by two clubs in the last eight, and the Second Division of the League sends two more. Ireland has bad luck in International football. The Welshmen won by the odd goal in five, which they scored in the last minute of the game. At the Queen's Club there was a good crowd present to see the match between the Corinthians and the crack amateur Scotch club, Queen's Park. The visitors were beaten after a brilliant forward display by the home team.

Scotland was victorious over Ireland at Rugby football because the Irish forwards went to pieces when they saw their chances of victory being thrown away owing to the mistakes of their centre three-quarters. The Irish attack lacked finish, and McLean, their best player, was literally starved from start to finish. Scotland made the most of every opening and every blunder, while Ireland bungled when they ought to have scored.

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models.—Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., London, W. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

A GOOD deal of surprise and a certain amount of disappointment have been aroused in motoring circles by the decision of the Government not to attempt any amendment of the existing motor law this session. The surprise is not unnatural, since in view of the report of the Royal Commission last year it was confidently anticipated that the present law would be generally overhauled this year. For the disappointment there is, perhaps, less warrant. Let sleeping dogs lie may well be the motorists' policy in this matter. In the present condition of public opinion they are at least as likely to lose as to gain from further legislation. Time is on the side of the motorists, however, and given a reasonable attitude on the part of the police in the matter of prosecutions, as to which it is pleasant to believe that a better spirit is gradually obtaining, motorists have not very much to complain of in the present law.

All automobilists will be glad to notice, however, that there is some slight prospect of one very urgent reform getting attention at the hands of a private member—Major Renton having been fortunate enough to obtain a favourable position in the ballot for his Bill to render compulsory the carrying of lights, back and front, on all vehicles at night. Last year, it may be recalled, a similar Bill which was introduced was defeated owing to the prejudice and hostility of the anti-motoring section of the House. It is sincerely to be hoped that wiser counsels may prevail this time. It is, indeed, inconceivable that any one can be found capable of opposing such an obviously reasonable proposal. The present condition of affairs is anomalous in the extreme. In some counties lighting is compulsory while in others it is not, except in the case of motor-cars, which are the only vehicles subject to a universal law. The fastest traffic on the road, that is to say, is required always to show a back light, while the slow-moving country cart or market waggon, ambling along at a snail's pace in the middle of the road, and as often as not with its driver half asleep, is not. When the law is amended the same obligation should be extended also to cycles, which need back lights just as much as any other vehicles.

The Automobile Club has prepared a new system of handicapping for hill-climbing competitions, but the details are so complicated that one requires to be a Porson or a Todhunter to understand them, and it is extremely doubtful, therefore, if it will prove of much service to those, namely, the officials practically responsible for the conduct of such competitions, for whose use it has been designed. But the idea aimed at is excellent enough, and the general principle which has been adopted by the mathematical geniuses of Piccadilly seems perfectly sound. It is only unfortunate that they have not been able to embody it in a less complicated series of formulæ. The adoption of one universal system of handicapping is, no doubt, desirable, and the authors of the A.C. system are doubtless right in their suggestion that a well-devised system cannot fail to encourage the improvement of engines and transmission gear by the makers who study the results intelligently. The aim of the ideal system is, of course, so to handicap that when everything has been allowed for—gradient of hill, size, weight, power, and so forth of the individual car—the car with the most efficient transmission shall win; and analysis of some of the figures of last year's trials goes to show how enormously one car can differ from another under this last-named head. For the purpose of the A.C. formula, it may be noted, it is assumed that the efficiency of transmission from the engine to the road wheels should be not less than 66 per cent. This figure is sufficiently moderate, but even so, how many cars approach it in the ordinary way?

In his recent paper read before the Society of Automobile Engineers on the motor omnibus, Mr. W. Worby Beaumont had much useful advice to offer which it may

be hoped the makers may be wise enough to lay to heart. His remarks as to the unnecessary size and weight of the existing 'buses were particularly sound. As it is the public are compelled to endure the racket of vehicles which compare with traction engines in respect of their weight and noise in order that the companies may increase their earnings. A year or so ago some very handy little single-decked steam 'buses were tried for a time on the Bayswater-road route, and appeared to give complete satisfaction so far as the public were concerned—being at once speedier, less noisy, more readily stopped and started, and in every way more satisfactory than the big double deckers. Naturally, however, their earnings were less than those of the larger vehicles, and presumably on this account they were taken off. Yet, as Mr. Beaumont urged, it is by no means certain that in the long run 'buses of this type would not pay as well. The argument is that they carry too few passengers to pay, but, as Mr. Beaumont pointed out, there is no law in existence making it necessary for the motor-'bus to carry passengers absurdly long distances for a penny. They should raise their fares.

Many friends of the wire wheel will be glad to see that such a weighty authority as Mr. S. F. Edge has been speaking up on its behalf. It is, indeed, a curious instance of the extent to which mere fashion and fancy and regard for appearances prevail in relation to matters motoring that the wire wheel should have been superseded so completely at the present time by the wooden one. As Mr. Edge points out, wire scores over wood in being at once lighter, stronger, more durable, more reliable, more easily repaired, and in various other ways. Yet because wood looks a trifle smarter it is almost universally preferred. Some years ago, it may be remembered, the Lanchester cars were invariably fitted with wire wheels, but in this, as in so many other details of that finely designed and original car, theory had to give way to fashion and wood to take the place of wire.

One of the minor troubles of motoring is the periodical necessity of parting with one's car for the purpose of adjustments or repairs. Of course, the ideal is for every owner to look after all such things himself. But then, every owner may not have the time or the ability, or the appliances, to do everything that is required in this way—time alone is an insuperable obstacle if he be a busy man—and hence it becomes necessary to entrust the work to other hands. Then, if the owner be one who takes a proper pride and interest in his car, begin his trials and trepidations. Once the vehicle is out of his own hands, it is at the mercy of the average mechanic's unscrupulousness, and the care and caution of months may be nullified by ten minutes' careless handling. Even in the case of the best regulated repair shops this applies—though less so, of course, than in those of an inferior order. Merely to note the way in which the average mechanic hauls a car about in the garage, turning it by the steering wheel when it is at rest, and so on, is enough to set the teeth of any sensitive spectator on edge. As to what happens later, when the owner has departed, perhaps it is as well that he does not always know. He usually finds it out later, however, on the road.

It is stated that good progress is being made with the arrangements for the introduction here of the Renard road train system, a demonstration of which was recently given at the garage of the London Motor-'Bus Company, at Walham Green. Probably most of my readers have seen descriptions of the Renard train in the daily papers. It is designed for use on ordinary roads, and consists of an engine and three or four passenger coaches or goods vans, or a mixture of the two as may be required. The great feature of Colonel Renard's invention is, however, that in the place of a heavy traction engine drawing two or three waggons, such as may now sometimes be seen on the roads, there is a light motor, from which, by means of a connecting rod running through the train, power is transmitted to the driving axle of each vehicle, making it practically self-propelled. The system is already being used in the neighbourhood of Boulogne for the conveyance both of passengers and merchandise.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Unsatisfactory—Exceptional Strength shown by Rio Tintos, Grand Trunks, and Mexican Rails—Kaffirs and the Elections—Why Investment Securities Hang Fire—The Tampered Investor.

THE past week has not added much to the gaiety of the Stock Market. Bright spots there have been here and there, such, for instance, as Rio Tinto copper shares, which have achieved the distinction for a £5 share of topping the 100; Mexican rails, which have again gone ahead on favourable earnings and a report that the company is saving at the rate of £80,000 a year by the adoption of liquid fuel; and Grand Trunk Railway stocks, for which investors have during the past Account shown a marked partiality. The firm undertone shown by the Kaffir market, too, is worthy of comment; certainly the Circus has received the news of a Boer majority in the new Transvaal Parliament with a confidence that would have been thought impossible not many months ago. But of markets as a whole the recent record has been distinctly unsatisfactory. Why there should continue to be so little elasticity about prices is to many people a puzzle. "Bull" points at the present time are not difficult to find. There is the wonderful vitality of trade, as reflected by our Board of Trade returns, by the figures of the Clearing House, by railway earnings, and by the excellent showings of our leading commercial and industrial companies. Again, there is the improving state of our national finances. The Chancellor of the Exchequer bids fair to have a surplus at the end of the financial year amounting to something like £6,000,000, a good proportion of which will probably be utilised in the reduction of debt. It is worth bearing in mind that already within the past twelvemonth Mr. Asquith has been able to materially curtail the amount of British floating debt, the volume of Treasury Bills now outstanding being only £9,700,000, as compared with 19½ millions a year ago. In the near future it is probable that the Consol market will benefit from the Chancellor's energies; indeed, official purchases of the Funds for redemption may have already commenced, judging from the several visits to the House paid by the Government broker last week. After taking credit, however, for these favourable circumstances, and for the fact that yields on high-class securities are at a higher level than they have been for some time past, it is necessary to study the abnormal situation that exists in the Money Market if we are to understand why existing stocks so persistently refuse to move up. Active trade, as I remarked a little while ago, brings its penalties as well as its blessings, and just now not only London, but nearly all the other financial centres of the world are experiencing a monetary pinch—the outcome of the pressing demands for capital to finance this widespread commercial activity. The United States has lately been a specially heavy borrower, having raised since the beginning of the year over $200,000,000 for railroad extensions and equipment, mostly upon two and three year notes offered at from 5 to 7 per cent. European capitalists are naturally showing a fair amount of readiness to take up these issues, for the security is unquestionable, while the return on the money is distinctly tempting. As a consequence, the United States' power to take gold from this side is increasing, and the Bank of England accordingly deems it advisable to maintain its protective 5 per cent. discount rate, notwithstanding that the reserve of the Threadneedle-street institution is now at the reassuring level of 27½ millions, or a million more than a year

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

ago, when the official minimum was only 4 per cent. While money remains as dear as at present, and new securities continue to be offered in such heavy volume and on such attractive terms, it would be unwise to build upon any pronounced Stock Market revival. The general situation, looked at from almost every standpoint, is sound enough, but the investor just at present finds himself surrounded with offers of new stocks on terms that make many old stocks look unattractive. Just now the seller of gilt-edged wares at the regulation 3 to 3½ per cent. rates is hardly looked at. The West Australian Government, for example, offered the other day £1,000,000 Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed stock at 97. The terms seemed generous enough for a strict Trustee security, but the underwriters found themselves saddled with the bulk of the issue, and the quotation for the scrip has fallen to 1½ discount. It is said that the London County Council contemplates an early visit to the Money Market, for a loan of five to six millions, and that the issue may take the form of 3½ per cent. two-year bonds, to be offered at a discount, with an option of conversion on maturity into inscribed stock. Another important financial operation likely to be brought off shortly is the conversion by the Japanese Government of the Six per Cent. Customs bonds raised during the war. It had, of course, been the intention all along to replace these bonds by Four per Cents., and for that purpose one-half of the £50,000,000 Four per Cent. loan of 1905 was held in reserve. But as things stand it would be impossible to place a 4 per cent. loan at better than 85, and even then its success might be open to some doubt. At the time of writing rumours are current that the Japanese authorities may meet the situation by placing 5 per cent. bonds instead, either at par or a small discount.

Heavy Slump in Home Rails—The Bottom Almost Out of the Market—Traffic Returns—Goods Receipts Favourable but Passenger Takings Indifferent—Railway Traffic Pooling—The Companies' Policy Defended—Financial Effect of the "Berlin" Disaster—District's Dismal Position—Scottish Dividends.

So far as the Home Railway Market is concerned there still seems no turning in the long lane of depression. In the early part of last week the bottom appeared to have fallen out of the market, not the slightest resistance being offered to the selling pressure. There was talk about a leading House firm, closely identified with the Consol market, throwing out large lines of pawned stock, and with the dealers still very unwilling to increase their books, prices slumped in alarming fashion. Towards the end of the week the market showed a slight tendency to pull itself together, but on balance the falls are still substantial, as the following table shows:—

Home Rails	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Feb 16. 1907.	Feb. 23 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	74½	74	– ½
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	28	27⅝	– ⅜
Central London	96½	82½	75xd	72xd	–3
City and S. London	47½	39	44½	43½	–1
Furness	69⅝	61⅝	63½xd	61½x.	–2
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅝	37¼	38	38	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅞	69	63½	63½	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	30	29⅝	– ½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14⅞	14½	– ⅜
Great Eastern	90⅞	79½	76¾	74½	–2¼
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅞	102	100½	–1½
Do. Def.	48⅜	39½	43⅞	42⅝	–1¼
Great Western	144	122⅝	127⅝	126⅝	– ¾
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	48½xd	47½xd.	–1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	102xd	100½xd	–1½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	103½xd	101½x d.	–2
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	14¼	13⅞	– ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	85xd	83xd.	–2
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	54	53	–1
London and North-Western	163½	147½	150½	149⅜	– ¼
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	49½	48½	–1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	46½	42½	–4
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	16½	15½	–1
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	66½	66½	—
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	64	63⅜	– ¼
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	73⅜	71⅜	–2
Do. Def.	47⅝	33⅜	36½	34⅜	–1⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147⅛	134½	139¼xd	138xd.	–1½
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96⅜	99 xd	98xd.	–1
South-Eastern "A"	56⅜	44½	44½	42½	–1½

Traffics were again noteworthy for the wide difference in the results achieved by the passenger lines and those which derive the greater part of their revenue from goods and mineral receipts. This distinction is strikingly demonstrated by the customary compilation of the *Railway News*. Taking the traffic receipts for the week ended 17th inst., of fifty-three railways of the United Kingdom which make weekly returns, with a mileage of 21,155, the total amounts to £1,877,000, being equal to £88 14s. per mile. For the corresponding week of 1906 the receipts were £1,850,000, and the number of miles open 20,900, or £88 10s. per mile. These figures show an increase of £27,000 in the receipts, and an increase of 255 in the mileage. On thirty-eight of the railway companies whose returns distinguish the revenue derived from each class of traffic, the receipts from passengers for the week were £673,500, or £1,500 increase; and from goods £1,137,000, or £23,500 increase. The aggregate receipts for the past seven weeks of the current half-year amount to £12,971,000, or £264,600 increase. On the thirty-eight lines above-mentioned the aggregate receipts for the same period from passengers were £4,917,000, or £7,500 increase, and from goods £7,598,000, or £245,000 increase. So far, then, the indications point to a repetition this half-year of the experiences of the past eighteen months, namely, prosperous times for the "Heavies" and trade lines, and comparatively indifferent results on the part of the railways dependent mainly upon coaching receipts, which are still suffering severely from the united onslaught of trams, tubes, and motors.

As to the general market outlook, it is still necessary while the value of money remains so high to speak with great caution. The yields upon all Home Railway stocks are, as I showed in a table last week, higher than they have been for many years, and in the case especially of those lines that are steadily going ahead in the matter of gross earnings, there is little doubt that stocks are worth attention on the part of capitalists willing to buy outright and await the advent of cheaper money. But for the present, while our insurance companies and other leading financial institutions have their attention diverted to American short-term bonds and other securities offering alluring rates of interest, and the Bank Rate is maintained at 5 per cent. for fear of an American raid upon our bullion stocks, it would be rash to predict an immediate recovery; indeed, it is possible that values may yet go lower. A little stir was raised last week by the action of the Mansion House Association on Railway and Canal Traffic in passing resolutions directed against the recent combination entered into by several of the leading lines for the pooling of certain competitive traffic. The motions adopted characterised the combination as a violation of the conditions on which railway companies had acquired their statutory powers, as contrary to public policy by tending to destroy competition, and calculated, if maintained, to invest the companies with the uncontrolled monopoly of the carriage of merchandise, while the opinion was also put forward that undue preferential rebates and arrangements, especially with regard to the preference given to foreign imports, should be abolished. This is a sweeping indictment, but a little investigation shows it to be somewhat beside the mark. The agreement entered into by the railway companies a little while ago to pool certain traffic carried to Liverpool and Manchester—which presumably has stirred the Association to activity—was a well-meant effort on the part of those companies to do away with wasteful competition. The fight for traffic had become so keen that what with the expense involved by each company maintaining an army of agents and receiving offices, and the secret rebates allowed to traders, much of the traffic was carried at an actual loss. The need, therefore, for a truce among the companies was imperative. To speak of an arrangement whereby extravagant competition is converted into a fair and businesslike agreement as the establishment of a mischievous monopoly

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

is to miss the point. If the companies were to commence utilising their combination as a means of unduly raising rates, the Board of Trade could be relied upon to promptly intervene, but there is no reason for suggesting that such action will become necessary.

From the mere Stock Market point of view it would be easy to exaggerate the importance of the wreck last Thursday of the Great Eastern's s.s. *Berlin*, off the Hook of Holland, which involved such an appalling loss of life. The maximum liability of the company for personal claims is limited by statute to £15 for every ton of the vessel's tonnage, or about £26,000. The boat was not at the time of the disaster insured at any marine insurance office (although formerly the company held policies at Lloyd's upon the vessel), but the Great Eastern makes very full provision in its own accounts against contingencies, the insurance fund for Continental steamboats standing in the last balance sheet at £145,000, and the steamboat depreciation account at £239,000. At the meeting of the District Railway last week Sir George Gibb was unable to do much towards reviving the drooping spirits of the stockholders. The company, although carrying nearly two million more passengers, or 6.72 per cent., and showing an increase in gross revenue of £13,500, was able to add practically nothing to its net receipts, the outcome of the six months working being a deficiency of nearly £50,000. The deficit, as usual, has been "charged to capital under the special powers obtained from Parliament." It is becoming a question how long this sort of thing can go on. The directors are doing all in their power to improve the company's position, but they are fighting against long odds. The recent increase in the fares—or, as Sir George Gibb more correctly termed it, the abandonment of a decrease—has done little to help matters. Incidentally the present overburdened condition of the company offers a timely rebuke to that unthinking section of the Press and public that so roundly abused the District Board because of its fare revision, and I was glad to observe the reasonable attitude taken up by Mr. Lloyd-George towards the deputation which recently waited upon him to demand cheaper workmen's fares. The President of the Board of Trade, in effect, reminded the deputation of the homely maxim that "you cannot get blood out of a post," and that for the Board of Trade to impose further impositions would simply mean that the railway company would be put into the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade. The District, I observe, is badly in need of more capital, and the directors are being driven to the desperate expedient of realising some of their surplus lands in order to raise the wind. The first of the Scottish Railway dividends, that of the Great North, was announced last week. The company is paying 3 per cent. per annum on the preferred and 1 per cent. per annum on the deferred, or the same as a year ago. In view of the published traffic decrease of £4,700 this is a fair result, especially as the carry-forward has been slightly increased. The market is now awaiting the declarations of the Caledonian and North British, due on March 5 and 7, respectively. Judged by the recent heavy selling, more particularly of British deferred, the showings are unlikely to be very cheerful. Few people are now looking for more than 1½ per cent. upon British.

Renewed Weakness in Americans—Further Railroad Note Issues—Pennsylvania's Big Emission—Reading and Baltimore Prospective Borrowers—The Resumed Harriman Investigation—Currency Reform—The Aldrich Bill.

After the recovery of the previous week, due, it will be remembered, to a "bear" scramble, the American market has again broken away. The selling pressure was not as heavy as on the occasion of the preceding fall, because, for one thing, the market has already undergone a decline sufficient to make operators for the fall cautious, and for another, it is known that there is still a large "bear" account in existence. The controlling houses, relieved of the necessity for giving support to regulate the decline—a step that was forced upon them a few weeks ago—have certainly shown no readiness to buy with the object of initiating a fresh upward movement, and in the continued absence of the investing public, the market has made a natural response to continued unfavourable conditions. Business was, of course, considerably curtailed by the holidays on the New York Stock Exchange at the end of the week in connection with the Washington anniversary. Wall Street took two days off—one (according to the wags) for the celebration and the other to get over it. How prices have moved on the week may be seen from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	107⅞	105¾	-2⅛
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	103	103	—
Baltimore and Ohio	129¼	109⅝	118¼xd.	115¼xd	-3
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	96xd.	95xd	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	54⅞	53	-1⅞
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	154⅝	151	-3½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	40⅛	38½	-1⅝
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅜	85⅞	83	83	—
Erie	52½	40	37½	36½	-1⅝
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85¼	77	72½	72½	—
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	62½	63	+ ½
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	165½	165	- ½
Louisville	160⅜	143¾	140	137	-3
Mis., Kan., and Texas	45⅝	31⅞	44½	42¾	-1¾
New York Central	159½	130⅜	133½	131	-2½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	46⅞	45⅝	-1½
Norfolk and Western	100¾	87½	89	88½	- ½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96¼	91½	88	88	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	159½	159	- ½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75½	63⅜	68½	67	-1½
Reading ($50)	85⅛	59⅞	64½	61½	-3½
Southern	43⅜	33	27½	27½	- ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	89	89	—
Southern Pacific	99 5/16	64⅜	97½	95½	-2½
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	182½	177¾	-4¾
Wabash 6 p.c. "B" Debs.	87½	78½	75	75	—
U.S. Steel	52⅜	33¾	48⅝	46½	-1⅞
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	108½xd.	108xd	- ½

To obtain the key to the present situation it is still necessary to go to the Money Market, and observe the borrowing activity that is being shown by the railroads. Since the beginning of the year not less than $200,000,000 has been raised by the leading companies, mostly on the security of short-dated notes bearing high rates of interest. These short term obligations, excellent though most of them are from the point of view of security, have not got into the hands of the public to any great extent. They are being carried in large blocks by the banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions. As these issues increase, the effect must be felt in a growing congestion of the security market, and, with the hands of those who usually give a lead to Wall Street more or less tied, the chances of a revival in speculative activity become correspondingly less.

Two of the most important loans arranged within the last few days were $29,000,000 Four per Cent bonds by the New York, New Haven, and Hartford, and $60,000,000 Three-year Five per Cent. notes on behalf of the Pennsylvannia Railroad. A portion of both these issues has been taken up by capitalists in this country and on the Continent. The Pennsylvania issue, when first announced, was productive of some very pessimistic talk by the market, because of the prodigality with which this road has been adding to its obligations during the last few years. It was, therefore, a relief to learn that the proceeds of the issue, together with the proceeds of recent sales of stocks, will meet all the financial requirements of the company for the present year, and that it will, therefore, be unnecessary to issue the $200,000,000 of stocks and bonds which were to be authorised at the annual meeting in March next. The credit now obtained will provide for the constructional and other work connected with the new terminal in New York at the end of the Hudson River tunnel, and will also allow of the refunding of the $50,000,000 of notes which mature in November next. The notes were publicly offered on the other side last week at 99½. Another railroad which has just sold $10,000,000 of Two-

"American Railway Earnings and Dividends," by D. O. Croal, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—Effingham Wilson. Price 6d. net.

year Six per Cent. notes on a 7 per cent. basis was the Tidewater. This concern is but little known here, but the fact that a line having the backing of people so powerful as the Standard Oil group has been compelled to concede such terms adds not a little to one's understanding of the present unsatisfactory condition of the security market. The Reading and Baltimore and Ohio are mentioned among other prospective borrowers. This rumour in the case of the Baltimore had a particularly adverse effect upon the company's stock, because it was published simultaneously with a very poor earning statement for January. Gross receipts for the month amounted to $6,365,000, a decrease of $208,000, and net earnings were $2,000,000, or no less than $448,000 behind the total for the corresponding period.

The earnings of the railroads as a whole in respect of both January and February are scarcely likely to be a "bull" point for the market. Not only will they reflect the recent big advances in wages and materials, but are likely to suffer materially by comparison with the previous year, because of the recent severity of the weather, which has lessened gross takings while adding heavily to operating costs. The winter of 1905-6 was unusually mild, whereas the weather through which the country has lately been passing has been most unfavourable for transport. Another factor that has a direct bearing upon the immediate condition of the Stock Market is the resumption that commenced on Monday of the Harriman investigation before the Inter-State Commerce Commission. Some hardy traders ventured to predict that the matter would favourably affect prices, asserting that Mr. Harriman's statements would resolve themselves into a recital of prosperity facts and figures that would provide "bull" ammunition. Perhaps the wish was father to the thought; anyhow, the underlying feeling over the investigation seemed to be one of uneasiness, and it was reported that Mr. Harriman himself had been preparing for the ordeal by disposing of considerable lines of stock in advance. The market is hopeful that the long-promised Aldrich Bill for the reform of the currency system will go through within the next few days. As I remarked last week, this is one of the few possible factors of weight that may be set upon the "bull" side. At the moment of writing the outcome of the Bill is hanging in the balance, an amendment having been offered which may cause the matter to be shelved. Time in which to decide whether or not the Bill shall become law is growing short, for Congress rises on Monday next. If no definite action be taken before then the market must possess its soul in patience until December, and meanwhile be prepared to face another autumn of monetary "alarums and excursions."

Canadian Pacifics Steady—Traffics Improving Again—Trunk Thirds Strong—A Trunk Pacific New Issue—Argentine Rails and New Capital Emissions—The San Paulo's Impregnable Position.

Canadian Pacifics have not experienced a repetition during the past week of the violent movement to which I referred seven days ago, but the rise has been fairly well maintained, and the market is not likely soon to forget the splendid showing made by the recent half-yearly statement. The traffic return for the second week of February showed that the line is quickly recovering from the effects of the recent spell of severe weather. True, there was a decrease of $34,000, but this was a much smaller falling off than had been shown for some weeks, and, moreover, the result ran against an increase of no less than $302,000 for the corresponding week of 1906. The Canadian Northern, I observe, actually showed an increase last week, the takings amounting to $82,000, or a gain of $2,500. The Grand Trunk market, after a spell of quietude, woke up towards the end of last week, when an active demand set in, more especially for the Third Preference. The dealers' expectation of an early issue of Guaranteed stock turns out to have been well founded. The issue announced on Friday night was not actually Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Guaranteed, but it was a 4 per cent. debenture of the Trunk Pacific, bearing the guarantee of the Grand Trunk, so that, as far as the junior stocks are concerned, the distinction is without much difference. The amount offered was £1,000,000, and the issue price was par, or a little under, allowing for the fact that a full half-year's interest will be paid on September 1, whereas the instalments may be spread until July. Redemption may be effected in 1936, or afterwards, at 105, subject to one year's previous notice. The money is wanted for the provision of rolling stock, and I observe that the Grand Trunk will be empowered to make use of the new equipment until it is required by the new railway. The issue, of course, means the putting of a charge of £40,000 ahead of Trunk junior issues, though this is a matter that need not seriously perturb holders of Thirds, in view of the very progressive nature of the Company's earnings, and the saving that will be effected this year in taxation. The latter item alone more than offsets the new charge.

The Argentine Railway market has again suffered to a mild extent from the effect of fresh issues, which have had to be offered on terms that made it worth while for holders of the old issues to exchange into the new. The recent placing of 5 per cent. debentures by the Argentine Great Western was a striking case in point. These debentures, almost a gilt-edged investment, were, it will be remembered, offered at par, and they can even now be bought at about 3 premium, thus yielding 4⅞ per cent. The new Rosario shares at one time afforded another instance of superior attraction, although there has since been a levelling up. The latest issue to disturb the market for old securities was that made by the Pacific, which allotted to its ordinary stockholders 100,000 shares of £10 in the proportion of two shares for every £100 stock held. The "rights" deducted from the stock were valued at 2 to 2½. In the Brazilian group there was cause for genuine satisfaction at the fine showing made by the San Paulo Railway in respect of the second half of last year. Contrary to the expectations of some people, although in accordance with the view of those who know the company's aversion to doing anything that would encourage Government interference with tariffs, the company has made no increase in the dividend, the payment, inclusive of bonus, being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum. But the appropriations have been of a lavish character. The sum of £100,000 has been placed to general reserve, £100,000 to rolling stock reserve, £35,000 to income tax reserve, and £50,370 to write down the company's holding of £550,000 Consols to 85, after which no less than £320,380 was left to be carried forward. Last year the distribution was the same, but whilst £100,000 was also placed to rolling stock reserve, only £50,000 was transferred to general reserve, £30,000 to income tax reserve, and £162,000 was carried forward. At the current price of about 214 San Paulo Ordinary yields a little over 5½ per cent. Although an "open" stock, the margin behind the 12 per cent. dividend is so big that the stock is really a high-class investment, and were it a little less "heavy" it would probably not return so high a yield. The 12 per cent. dividend has now been paid for six successive years. Taking the last six months alone, the sum added to accumulations after the payment of the £180,000 required as dividend, was £324,000. By limiting its distributions for some years past the board has placed itself in an almost impregnable position. The general reserve amounts to £746,400 and the total accumulations just upon a million sterling, which represents practically one fourth of the share (as distinct from the debenture) capital. The company, as is generally known, derives the bulk of its income from the carriage of coffee, and it is satisfactory to observe that the board has telegraphed

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to the superintendent authorising a further reduction in the tariff. My usual table follows:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	192⅜	191⅜	- ¼
Grand Trunk	29⅝	25⅛	31⅛	31⅛	-
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	103	102½	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114⅜	121⅝	121½	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅝	112½	112⅝	+ ⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	73⅛	74	+ ⅜
Mexican	50⅜	22½	55	57½	+2½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144½	118⅜	143⅜	143½	- ⅛
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¼	49½	94¼	95	+ ⅜
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11⅝	6	11⅛	11½	+ 3/16
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	110½	+ ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78¼	88½	88	- ½
Do. First Incomes	30	18	26½	25½	-1
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	92	92	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65⅛	81½	81½	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	57⅜	57½	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	27	26	-1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127⅛	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	169	167	-2
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	16	15⅜	- ¼
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	110	110	—
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	79½	78½	- ½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	119½	117	+2½
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	109	108⅜	- ¼
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	127	126	-1
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	126⅜	125½	-1¼
East Argentine	120	87	120½	120½	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	70	69	-1
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	103⅜	85	91	90	-1
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	91	89	-2
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	12⅜	12⅜	- ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69½	76½	76	- ½
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	213½	212	-1½
Central Uruguay	94½	82	93½	93	- ½
Costa Rica	29 1/16	25	29⅛	29	- ⅛
Cartagena (Columbia) Debs.	80½	78	76½	76½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76⅜	78	78	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76⅜	82	82½	+ ½
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	113	113	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	65	56½	53½	-3
Cuban Central	7 1/16	5⅜	7 3/16	7⅜	- 1/16
United of Havana	193	105⅜	114	115½	+1½
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12⅜	12⅜	+ ⅛
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94⅜	87⅜	91	91	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅜	76	78	78½	+ ½
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19½	21½	22¼	+ ⅜

KAFFIRS AND THE TRANSVAAL ELECTIONS—RESULT MUCH AS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED—A LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS.

The volume of business in the Kaffir market has expanded a little during the past week. As anticipated, the Transvaal elections stimulated professional interest both here and in Paris, but so far as share values are concerned, the result, on the whole, has not been very satisfactory. Dealers laid in some stock in anticipation of the election results encouraging outside support, but their anticipations in that respect did not materialise, and, stimulated by adverse rumours as to Russian affairs, they hastened to lighten their books, so that prices relapsed. On balance, however, quotations do not show any material change, as will be gathered from the following table of the leading speculative counters:—

Share.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Apex	4 1/16	3 13/16	- ¼
Consolidated Gold Fields	4 7/16	4 7/16	—
East Rand	4 1/16	4 1/16	- 1/16
Geduld	2⅛	2 1/16	- ⅛
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1¼	1¼	—
Modderfontein (£4)	6⅛	6 3/16	+ 1/16
Randfontein	1 13/16	1¼	- 1/16
Rand Mines	6 15/16	6¾	- 1/16
S. A. Gold Trust	2 3/16	2⅜	+ 1/16

Evidently the public is disinclined to increase speculative commitments in respect of Kaffirs pending a decision on the labour question by the new Transvaal Legislature, and it would seem that fluctuating markets such as we have witnessed the last few weeks are to be expected in the immediate future, rather than a decided and sustained movement in one particular direction.

The results of the Transvaal elections—which, by the way, render the past week one of importance in the history of the Colony—are quite as satisfactory as had been anticipated, considered from the point of view of those interested in Rand gold-mining securities. The Boers and the Nationalists have a working majority, but this is not regarded as an adverse factor, in view of the declared policy of those parties, and of the belief that the Home Government is more likely to be satisfied with any measures they may adopt in connection with the labour question than it would be with action on the part of a Progressive majority. It is a satisfactory feature that people in the Colony who are primarily concerned with the gold-mining industry are not disposed to take a pessimistic view of the outlook. According to cables from Johannesburg, confidence is felt in the future of the mining industry under the new form of Government, and the Transvaal Parliament, as constituted by the elections and nominations. It is pointed out that there is a strong Progressive minority. The result of the elections has removed one element of uncertainty in respect of the outlook for the mines, and it is to be hoped that the decision the new Parliament will arrive at in regard to the very important question of labour will also be in accordance with general anticipations, which, it may be added, are based on the statements made on the subject in advance of the elections.

DIAMOND FAVOURITES CONTINUE ACTIVE—DE BEERS PASS 30—JAGERS AND MARKET ANTICIPATIONS—RHODESIANS UNDECIDED—ELDORADO BANKET DEVELOPMENTS.

While in the generality of South African descriptions business has remained on a comparatively small scale, the leading diamond shares have continued to enjoy activity. In De Beers, in particular, there has been a good deal of business, and a feature of the past week was their passing the level of £30, the price (as I mentioned a few weeks ago) it was thought likely would be attained. The fact of this prediction being fulfilled is calculated to at least stimulate interest in the anticipations that are being indulged in in regard to Jagers. As I have already mentioned, a rise in the price of these shares to over £12 is being talked of, and I am assured that usually well-informed people share in the opinion that a substantial advance is likely. In this connection it is rumoured that the dividend due to be declared by the company at the end of next month is likely to be much larger than previous distributions. The amount predicted is 10s. per share, as against 6s. per share last September, and a like sum in March, 1906. On the week, however, Jagers show no change:—

Share.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Def. (£2 10s)	29 1/16	30⅛	+ 1/16
Jagersfontein Def.	10⅜	10⅜	—
New Vaal River	7⅛	7⅛	- ⅛
Premier (Transvaal) Def. (2/6)	12⅜	12⅛	- ⅛

New Vaal Rivers have been a dull market, despite the official announcement that the company has received a sum of £22,000, representing six months' licence money for 42,000 claims, which shows that the company is deriving practical benefit from the recent discoveries on its property. The above sum, it is pointed out, does not include licence money to be received from small diggers on completion of the waterworks.

Rhodesians have come in for a little more attention than in the preceding week, but instead of this helping prices the general tendency has been rather unfavourable to holders, as the following table shows:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	1/16	⅛	⅛	—
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2⅛	1 3/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	- ⅛
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	3/6	3/6	—
Globe & Phœnix	1⅜	1/8	⅛	1/8	- 1/16
Lomagunda Development	2⅛	⅛	1	1/16	- 1/16
Mashonaland Agency	⅛	1/16	7/-	7/-	—
Northern Copper	2 5/16	⅛	1⅛	1⅛	- ⅛
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	3⅛	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	- 1/16
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/8	1⅛	1 3/16	1 1/16	- 1/16
Rice Hamilton	1⅛	1/16	1/16	1/16	—
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	4/6	4/-	- 6d.
Tanganyika Concessions	8⅛	3⅛	5 3/16	5⅛	+ 1/16
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	8/-	8/3	+3d.
Zambesia Exploring	2⅜	⅛	1⅛	1 1/16	- ⅛

Holders of Bankets, however, should be able to derive some consolation from the statements made at the meeting of the Eldorado Banket Company held last week. The property of this company—which is a sub-

sidiary of the Rhodesian Banket—is shown to be developing in a very satisfactory manner; in fact, the chairman at the meeting went so far as to tell the shareholders that it is "a proved proposition of great value, and the new developments show there is every probability of the mine being much larger even than we have anticipated." It is hoped to commence crushing in May, and by the time the mill starts it is expected the quantity of ore opened up will represent nearly three years' supply. The Rhodesian Banket has a large shareholding in the Eldorado, and this looks like turning out well.

Westralians Receive Rather More Attention—Fresh Light on the Great Fingall Position—Deep Leads Relapse on Profit Taking.

Slightly more speculative interest was displayed in Westralian descriptions during the past week than in the preceding period, as a result of reports received from some of the mines, and, as I mentioned a few weeks ago, the condition of this market is such that it needs but little business to affect prices in the case of most of the shares. Both Associated and Ivanhoes have strengthened on favourable reports as to developments, and it will be seen from the following table of prices that both show a little improvement on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	8	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 3/4	+ 1/4
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/8	1/8	3/4	1	+ 3/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	6/3	5/6	- 9d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/8	4 3/4	6 1/16	6 1/16	—
Great Boulder (2/-)	29/-	20/3	25/-	25/-	—
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	8/-	8/-	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 5/8	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	—
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 3/8	1 3/16	- 3/32
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 3/4	6 5/8	7 1/8	7 3/8	+ 1/4
Kalgoorli	12 3/4	8 3/4	11 3/8	11 5/8	- 1/8
Lake View Consols	1 1/8	3/4	1	1 1/16	+ 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	20/3	19/6	- 9d.
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	2 1/2	1 3/4	- 5/32
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	- 1/16
South Kalgoorli	1 1/2	1/4	3/4	3/4	- 3/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/8	1 1/4	2 3/8	2 3/16	- 3/16
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/8	7/6	6/3	-1/3
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	2 1/8	1 7/8	- 1/8

Fresh light on the Great Fingall position has just been thrown by an official statement in regard to the ore reserves. The general managers report that, owing to the very irregular distribution of values in large blocks of ore exposed in the lower levels, it is impossible to estimate the reserves of ore in terms of tonnage and value with accuracy. But on the basis of extensive sampling and experience in stoping, they are confident the present output can be maintained for two and a half years from the ore above the No. 13 level. The mine is now producing at the rate of about 98,000 oz. of fine gold per annum, and the last quarterly dividend was 3s. per share, but it is thought, in view of the reduction in the output that has taken place recently, the next dividend may have to be reduced to half a crown per share. Two and a half years' distributions at this rate would amount to 25s. per share, leaving a large margin in the market price for possibilities. There is, however, the prospect of the official estimate proving a conservative one, and shareholders are not likely yet to give up all hope of fresh ore of payable grade being developed at depth. Oroyas have shown weakness during the past week, in consequence of fears that the next quarterly dividend will be at a reduced rate. For this possibility, however, my readers have been prepared; about a month ago, when the price of the shares was 2¼, I expressed the opinion that they were over-valued. At a little under 2, however, they seem fair value, considering that the mine is likely to have a fair career as a low-grade proposition, and that the company has interests outside its Kalgoorlie property. London and W.A. Explorations have been marked down in sympathy with the fall in Zincs and the relapse in Deep Leads, but I look for a recovery in view of the impending issue of the directors' report and the expectation that it will announce the declaration of a dividend.

Deep Leads have given way on profit-taking sales, while some disappointment has been occasioned by the further news to hand by cable from the Loddon Valley, the latest values not being as favourable as those formerly announced. The best results, however, are not expected to be obtained until the deepest part of the wash is reached, and whatever the first tests of this may give, it will be some time yet before an idea can be formed of the results of working on a commercial scale.

Copper Favourites Active—Tintos Pass 100—Mount Lyell Position and Mount Morgan Prospects—Weakness of Zincs Depresses Broken Hills—Mysores and the Fire at the Mine—Nundydroog Dividend—Esperanza Ore Reserves.

Activity has continued to characterise the copper group. In Rio Tintos, in particular, a large business has been transacted, and one of the chief events of the past week on the Stock Exchange was the passing of the 100 mark by the price of these shares. In addition to extensive purchases by those who had operated for the fall in the expectation that the upward movement was unlikely to be maintained, there has been a large option business in the shares. For a £5 share £100 is a big price, but the last dividend was at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum, so that on that basis the shares yield 5 per cent. even at the price mentioned. On the generality of mining shares a return of 5 per cent. would be quite inadequate to compensate holders for the speculative character of their security, but the Tinto is removed from the ordinary run of mining enterprises in that its production is remarkably even and the question of life does not need to be seriously considered in estimating the value of its shares, the reserves being equivalent to about 70 years' production. Dividend prospects are considered excellent, not merely on account of the price ruling for copper, but also in view of the belief that the company's production is to be increased. A fortnight ago I mentioned the rumour then current as to an expansion of output being contemplated, and it is interesting to note that Messrs. James Lewis and Sons, in their mid-monthly report issued during the past week, make the following reference to the matter:—"It is stated that the Rio Tinto Company are erecting furnaces to smelt ore at the mines, sacrificing the sulphur contents in order to reap the benefit of the high price of copper on a largely increased production—reported to be as much as 12,000 tons per annum." As regards the outlook for copper, metal brokers report that, with the continuance of labour and transport difficulties in America, it is considered probable that for the next few months present quotations will practically be maintained, if not improved upon. The Australian copper shares have been affected by liquidation, with the result that prices have lost ground. I think the opportunity thus afforded to acquire an interest at a reduced level might be taken advantage of in the case of some of the principal shares. Among these I regard Mount Lyells as a promising speculation. A reader has written me a denunciatory letter regarding this company, one of the allegations being that its property is exhausted. But he gives no reason for his assertion, and apparently expects me to accept his unsupported statement in preference to official statements backed up by definite figures and by independent reports. As a matter of fact, the recent very satisfactory developments at the 850 ft. level of the North Lyell are calculated to prolong the life of that property (which supplies 70 per cent. of the Mount Lyell's total copper production) to five years, and who can say that the lode will not continue to still greater depths? Moreover, the company has other strings to its bow; it is building up a big business in superphosphate for agricultural purposes, and has tin leases which may prove valuable. The last half-yearly dis-

Nile Valley Cigarettes (Turkish).—A treat for Connoisseurs. In two sizes, Large 10/6 per 100; Ordinary Club size 7/6 per 100, post pd.—F. W. Robinson & Co., 21, Mincing-lane, London, E.C.

tribution was 3s. 3d. per share (dividend 1s. 3d. and bonus 2s.), or at the rate of 32½ per cent. per annum, and equivalent to a return of over 12 per cent. on the current price of the shares. Mount Morgan is another share which has been depressed by forced liquidation during the past week, and which is worthy of the attention of mining investors at the reduced level. This company is destined to become a big copper producer, just as in the past it has been one of the world's biggest gold producers. It has large reserves of ore containing gold and copper, and immense quantities of low grade sulphide ore, for which methods of treatment are now being considered. The company is now distributing at the rate of 9d. per share per quarter, or 15 per cent. per annum on the capital, which is equivalent to less than 4 per cent. upon the current market valuation; but it is expected that ultimately the shares will yield a steady return of 10 per cent. on the basis of £5. Some mining shares can be secured to yield more than 10 per cent., but the Mount Morgan, like the Tinto, is a much less speculative enterprise than the ordinary mining undertaking. The report for the half-year ended November last has come to hand during the past week, and it shows that while maintaining the regular dividends and writing £24,699 off plant, machinery, and property, the company has also paid off the sum of £75,000 temporarily borrowed, leaving the company free from debt. It is not the intention of the directors to make an early increase in the rate of dividend; with the increased earnings they propose to make provision for the additional works authorised and contemplated, and to create a reserve fund. This is a conservative policy which shareholders will benefit from in the long run.

In the Broken Hill group the weakness of Zinc Corporations has been the feature. The adverse rumours as to the process and the new plant have continued in circulation, and the fact that the board has issued no fresh statement has been made the most of by those desirous of depreciating the value of the shares. As a matter of fact, the officials, so far as I can learn, have had nothing to add to the statement they issued at the end of the past month, and they remain as confident as ever of the ultimate success of the enterprise. But it would appear that the persistent adverse task and the drop in the price of the shares, have had the effect of frightening some holders into realising their shares, and the weakness of Zincs has had an unfavourable influence upon Broken Hill prices generally. Last week I showed how the results of the Proprietary and North Mines had substantially expanded in the past half-year, and further evidence of the prosperity that is being enjoyed by the mines of the Barrier field is now supplied by the Block 10 Company, which has just declared a dividend of 3s. per share and a bonus of a like amount. This distribution of 6s. compares with 5s. in December, and 4s. per share at the corresponding date last year. Reverting to the Broken Hill Proprietary, it is worthy of note that the cabled summary of the meeting held during the past week at Melbourne contains the statement: "The financial position is stronger than it has ever been, and the board are of opinion that with £250,000 sufficient strength has been reached to provide a reserve for every reasonable contingency, and in future profits will be available for dividends." Thus an increase in the rate of distributions to shareholders is foreshadowed, and a purchase of the shares at about £5 should prove remunerative.

In the Indian group Balaghats have shown a better tendency following the recent steady decline, the view having been taken in some quarters that the fall was overdone. Mysores suffered a sharp relapse on news of a disaster at the mine, but since the publication of official details the shares have rallied, and it will be seen from the table below that they are only a trifle down on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 16, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1⅛	1/16	1⅛	1⅛	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	15/-	15/-	—
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3⅜	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	+ 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2⅜	1 7/16	2 5/16	2 5/16	—
Wassau	1⅛	⅝	¹¹/₁₆	¹¹/₁₆	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	4/-	3/3	- 9d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	5/6	4/3	- 1/3
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	27/6	27/6	--
Esperanza	6 1/16	2½	2 13/16	2 5/8	- ⅛
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 7/16	1½	+ 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	40/7½	40/7½	—
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5⅞	3 1/16	4⅜	4 3/16	+ 3/16
Zinc Corporation	2½	1 1/16	38/6	35/-	- 3/6
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15⅜	11⅛	15 1/16	15½	- 1/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	54/-	52/3	- 1/9
Mount Morgan	4⅜	3½	4 1/16	4 1/16	- 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91½	63⅜	96⅞	102½	+ 5⅝
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	27/-	26/6	- /6 d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	⅜	2⅝	3	+ ⅛
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	16/10	18/6	+ 1.7½
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	13/6	13/6	—
Mysore (10/-)	7⅛	6½	6 3/16	6 1/16	- 1/16
Siberian Mines	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16⅞	3½	7⅛	6⅛	+ ⅛
Waihi	9 1/16	6 1/16	8 1/16	8⅛	- 1/16

One of the Mysore's shafts has been destroyed by fire from the 400 ft. level to the surface, and also portions of the structures on the surface. This will entail a temporary reduction in the output, but it is thought the leeway will be made up later by the treatment of ore rather above the average of the mine. The forthcoming annual report is expected to make a very satisfactory showing as regards the extent of the ore reserves. The Nundydroog has declared a balance dividend of 1s. 4d. per share, making 3s. 8d., or 36⅔ per cent. for 1906. This is the same as for 1905. Realisations have been in progress in respect of the Siberian issues, but West Africans have been steady. The recent dulness of Esperanzas, among the American gold shares, is now explained by the ore reserves statement just issued by the company. The mine is estimated to have reserves which should yield an operating profit of $1,480,000, or say, £296,000. This amount compares with an estimated profit in sight of over a million sterling a year ago. Allowing for the cash balance after payment of the January dividend, and for ore on hand and in transit, the total amount "in sight" works out at about 30s. per share. In view of the large dividends being paid and of the official denial that was given to the rumours that the supply of high-grade ore was giving out, the shares appeared cheap at £3, but on the latest figures they would be fully valued at £2 10s. apiece.

"Big Profits on Small Temporary Outlays."

"George Brodie and Co.," of 42, Copthall-avenue, E.C., have been trying to make people believe that it is possible to secure a certain profit by sending them money as "cover" on shares on which a dividend is about to be paid, the idea being that they will at least gain the amount of the dividend. New Primroses are the shares selected, because a dividend of 10s. per share is payable shortly. "The dividend alone on 100 shares will return £50 profit." Moreover, the shares "are confidently expected to be quoted at least 30s. higher during the next three or four weeks." I have already exposed the fallacy of the idea of being certain to net a profit by this process, but it may be as well to point out once again that the amount of the dividend when paid is deducted from the price of the shares, and—as is, indeed, the case of all operations on the "cover" system with firms of this class—the people who are most likely to benefit from such a system are the touts who send out circulars to trap the unwary. The talk of a probable early rise of "at least 30s." in New Primroses, coming from such a quarter, can only be regarded as an additional lure to induce the gullible to send along their money. It is a pity such people cannot be legally held to their statements—or restrained from making them.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

German Lottery Touts on the War-Path.

The inquiries that are reaching me every day show that the German lottery ticket touts, who style themselves "bankers," are once more conducting a vigorous raid on the pockets of the innocent British public. It would seem, however, that in the mind of at least one of the raiders, H. Langenhahn and Co., of Bremen, a horrid misgiving has arisen as to whether the people here are quite so innocent as of yore. It is evidently realised that the persistent warnings of Truth must have the effect of curtailing the supply of dupes. H. Langenhahn and Co. are consequently now seeking to throw a little dust in the eyes of the public by enclosing with their prospectuses a leaflet purporting to be "A Convincing Reply to Newspaper Slander." In this they profess "to meet various erroneous opinions advanced by the British press, inexperienced as their representatives necessarily are in German lottery dealings." As a matter of fact, the only question to which they refer is the non-publication of the names of prize-winners, a practice which they defend on the ground that the winners themselves object to any such publicity. I do not know what other journals may have said on this point, but it has never been the sole or the principal ground of the criticisms which have appeared in Truth. It is true that I have frequently observed that ticket-holders over here have no guarantee of the honesty of the agents they employ in Germany—indeed, I have sometimes exposed cases in which winners have been cheated out of a large proportion, or even the whole, of their winnings. In the main, however, my warnings have been based upon the grossly misleading character of the circulars issued by the vendors of these lottery tickets. Scarcely one of their English customers in a hundred understands that the ticket which he buys first of all will not give him any chance whatever of winning one of the valuable prizes which bulk so largely in the prospectus. As a rule, this first ticket simply admits the holder to the first of a series of perhaps half a dozen successive drawings; and even if he has the luck to come out a winner again and again in the earlier drawings, the prizes in each instance are so trifling that they will only just suffice to pay for his entrance into the next class. Finally, when he has been lured on into risking ten or twenty times the amount he originally intended, the odds against his winning a really big prize will probably be upwards of 20,000 to 1, and possibly as much as 100,000 to 1. Quite apart, therefore, from any doubt as to the trustworthiness of the agents in the event of a prize being won, or any consideration as to the illegality of the business in this country, such lotteries really provide an extremely unattractive sort of gamble.

Abroad as well as at home the Britisher appears to be marked down as the natural prey of these German lottery harpies. Recently, for example, a certain Albert Jarmulowsky, of Hamburg, has been importuning Britishers in India to take tickets in what he vaguely describes as "the Great German Money Lottery." "Distance," he says in his circular, "is no hindrance," and the careful execution of orders for tickets is guaranteed by "the good reputation of his firm all over the world." Judging from the letters I am getting, Jarmulowsky's firm has no reputation at all in India. I do not recollect ever hearing of it here; but, anyway, my Anglo-Indian readers will see from what I have written above that they will be well advised to have nothing to do with such lotteries through this or any other agent.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

Headingley.—1. Brazilian bonds should be all right as an investment. The market is under a cloud for the present, owing to the friction that has been caused by the Government's action in regard to coffee "valorisation," but this is a matter that will probably be adjusted before long. 2. You do not get bonds to the nominal value of £500, but of £496 5s. *Security, N.B.*—The security for the Bloemfontein stock is quite good, and the decline in price is merely due to the present dearness of money. However, I see no objection to your taking the course suggested.

Railways.

C. P., Oxford.—1. The new Five per Cent. Debentures of the Argentine Great Western Railway should suit your purpose as well as anything I could name. 2. The company is doing very well just now, and there is room for a further rise in the shares. At the same time, the property is such a small one that the shares are scarcely an ideal investment. *Riddle.*—The matter constituted an anomaly, which you will see has since been rectified by a levelling down of the preferred and a levelling up of the "B" debentures. *N., Enniskillen.*—The company is properly managed, and the accounts you submit are correctly drawn up. According to the figures the company has now finally extinguished the debit balance on old revenue account, and is now in a position to apply any increase in net revenue earned during the current year to dividends on the share capital. The company, however, has still much leeway to make up before anything can be distributed on the "B" shares. *Fac.*—The stock might be worth buying to lock away, but I hardly expect much early rise. *Fitzroy.*—The dividend was a disappointment, but the company starts the present year under favourable auspices, as, given ordinary luck, it will save considerably under the heading of compensations, and should be able to pay not less than 2 per cent. on the deferred. I therefore think you ought to hold. *Bruno.*—Having held so long I think it would be a pity to sell now. The market should make a moderate recovery as soon as monetary conditions take a turn for the better. *Verdant Green.*—1. Burma Railway Debentures are a high-class investment, and the yield is accordingly only £3 6s. per cent. The ordinary is thoroughly sound, but you must not forget that the Indian Government has power to determine the contract in 1921, when the capital would be repaid at par, thus involving a loss to those who buy at the present price. Allowing for this contingency, the stock already seems fairly valued. 2. Yes. 3. The new issued Five per Cent. Debentures of the Argentine Great Western Railway, quoted at about 3 premium, should suit you. However, if you do not propose to purchase until June, better write again before making a final decision. *Primrose.*—The line is certainly being severely hit by competition, and it would be rash to assert that the stock has yet touched bottom. I think an exchange into Grand Trunk Railway Third Preference offers better prospects of your getting back part of the loss. *Rancheros.*—Thanks for your letter. I am always pleased to receive information from correspondents on the spot. At the same time I think you are taking an unduly pessimistic view of the stock. The line is in such a strong position that there is no question about the maintenance of the dividends, while its traffic is of such a varied character and drawn from so wide an area that losses made in one direction are likely to be made up by gains in others. Already since your letter was written the weather reports received here have been much more favourable, and traffic returns have begun to shape better. *Amina.*—Provided you are not putting too many eggs into one basket, I think you should avail yourself of the allotment of new shares. *Sorrel.*—I am afraid there is little prospect of any early recovery, and think it would be as well to lighten your holding with a view of being in a position to average later on, should such a course become necessary. Nos. 1 and 3 are perhaps the least promising of the group. Grand Trunk Third Preference would, in my opinion, be a suitable exchange.

Mixed Securities.

Ripon.—If you will be content with from 4½ to 5 per cent. you could get very good security by spreading the money over United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Argentine Great Western New Five per Cent. Debentures, Grand Trunk Second Preference, and National Telephone First Preference. *Ben Allen, Liverpool.*—I would suggest spreading the money over Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series), Argentine Great Western New Five per Cent. Debentures, Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, National of Mexico Railroad Four

per Cent. First Mortgage bonds, National Telephone First Preference, and United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds. *Carrots.*—1. Hold for the present. 2. Defer averaging for the present. 3. The line is doing very well, and I am inclined to look for a further moderate improvement. 4. Worth keeping, though no immediate rise is to be looked for. 5. A fair speculative lock-up. 6. I see no particular attraction in a purchase. *Arundel.*—The bonds cannot be regarded as anything but a speculation, and I do not look for any early improvement. 2. A hopeful purchase for a moderate profit in a buoyant market. 3. Yes. *Larne.*—Divide the proceeds between Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference and National Telephone First Preference. The yield would be a trifle over 4½ per cent. *W. D. H., Gateshead.*—See my rules as to coupon and number of inquiries. *Terrace.*—1. Hold. 2. Fairly promising. *Carter.*—1. They are 10s. shares, quoted about 3s. 6d. 2 and 3. Fair industrial investments. 4. Chillagoes, Cosmopolitans, and Briseis Tin appear hopeful speculative holdings. *Mooburg.*—1. Not a particularly attractive investment. 2. A fair speculation for a moderate profit. *Colonel.*—1. A fair speculative holding for a moderate profit. 2. I have no special information. 3. I have not a high opinion of these. 4. Yes. See my notes this week. 5. I do not care to recommend the system. *D. R.*—1. The tea share does not strike me as being in any way attractive. 2. A promising speculative investment, though you must be prepared for the possibility of the price moving against you somewhat in the immediate future. It should only be a question of time before this railway enters the dividend stage. *Bingo.*—1. The stock may eventually make some recovery, but immediate prospects are poor, and by selling now you would probably have an opportunity of buying back at a lower level. 2. I think it would be unwise to average. 3. The profits have been on the down grade, and it might be best in the long run to cut the small loss, putting the proceeds into something with better prospects. *Trylewood.*—1. The depreciation in capital value is due to slightly reduced dividends. I think you might hold in the hope of a recovery. 2. Great Central Debentures are, of course, a high-class investment, but it is doubtful if there will be any early rise in price. 3. Given a better Kaffir market they would probably advance. *Pompadour.*—1. A capital reduction scheme is being carried out, and perhaps the concern may benefit. Too much uncertainty to recommend for a purchase. 2. Under the guarantee these debentures should be sufficiently secure. 3. The concern is controlled in Canada. A fair investment purchase. *J. N. S.*—No. 1 seems a fair speculation for a moderate profit, but I do not see much attraction in No. 2 at present. 3. I have not a high opinion of them. *Grateful.*—Suitable securities for your purpose would be Grand Trunk Pacific New Four per Cent. Debentures, Central London Railway Four per Cent. Preferred, Buenos Ayres Western Railway New Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, Atchison Railway Four per Cent. Adjustment bonds, Southern Pacific Railway Four per Cent. First Refunding bonds, National of Mexico Railway Four per Cent. First Consolidated Mortgage bonds, San Paulo Railway Five and a Half per Cent. Permanent Debentures, English Sewing Cotton Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, Imperial Tobacco Preference, and Bovril Debentures. *Vera.*—1. After the severe fall I think the stock should be held. Even if the forthcoming dividend be as poor as the market predicts, it ought to be pretty well discounted already. It must not be forgotten that the last half year was quite exceptional, owing to the losses involved by the accident. 2 and 3. I see no reason to advise a sale of either. If you were to realise it would be difficult to find more likely stocks into which to put the proceeds. 4. Hold for the present. *Soho.*—1. Take your profit. 2. The railway has yet to prove its earning capabilities, and for the present you had better be content with the holding you have. *Junior, Edinburgh.*—1. I think them a promising purchase on the relapse that has occurred recently. 2. I would not buy options, as suggested, for the present. 3. There is a fair chance of some improvement, but the shares are a very speculative selection. *Inexperienced.*—I am unable to trace No. 1. No. 2 is not attractive. 3. A poor holding, and I have not seen a recent price for them. 4 and 5. These appear to be valueless. 6. Have a poor opinion of these shares.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Wales; H., Truro; W. C., South Shields; Clarence; Car; Demos; Motor Car.—The attention of these correspondents is directed to the rule regarding coupons which appears at the head of this "Letter Box." *W. B., Burton-on-Trent.*—I have frequently warned the public against Martin Bull. *C. C. R.* and *T. D.*—Thanks for the circulars. *J. R. C.*—Both Arnold and Butler and the International Securities Syndicate are firms of the bucket-shop class, with which you should have no dealings. *G. A. A., Bromley.*—See preceding answer. *F. W., Bagshot,* and *T. H., Edinburgh.*—It is certainly surprising to see the Arnold and Butler bucket-shop advertisement (without even any indication that it is an advertisement) in such papers as the *Daily Graphic* and the *Scotsman.* *C. C. S.* and *A. K., East Lothian.*—I do not recommend brokers. *Anxious.*—I am afraid that it would be useless for you to sue Bertram, Seymour and Co., even if you could afford to do so. *C. W. C.*—1. Not necessarily dishonest. 2. The National Share Exchange is a common cover-snatching bucket-shop. 3. Such cautions are constantly given in TRUTH. *P. W. P.*—A fairly good industrial investment. *F. D.*—1. No; have nothing to do with these people. 2 and 3. These are questions for a solicitor. *Nestor.*—1. Thanks for the prospectus and correspondence. 2. Yes, a fairly good speculative investment. *Ottoman.*—It would not be possible to enforce a judgment here, the business being carried on in Paris. *Spark.*—1. Apply to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., or the Crédit Lyonnais. 2. Lyons, Maple's. Bryant and May's, London United Trams Preference. *Manor House.*—A good industrial investment. *Harfagr.*—1. Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. charge very exorbitant prices for the bonds. 2. Probably you would. 3. On this point you had better take legal advice, and, if you desire it, I will send you the name of the Paris solicitor who has successfully conducted other cases against Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. 4. I do not recommend brokers. *Peter Pan, Shylock,* and *Depositor.*—The Charing Cross Bank is simply a usury-shop. Read the "Scrutator" article in this week's TRUTH. *Z.*—No; this so-called bank is not compelled to supply any such statement. *Medicus.*—I cannot advise as to the exact value of the "combination," nor can I undertake to say that you will be "certain to succeed" if you bring an action in the Paris Courts. See first part of answer to "Spark" above. *Exor.*—Yes, if the facts are as stated. *Swansea.*—A matter on which you should consult another solicitor. *A. K.*—United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Weldon's Preference, Anglo-American Telegraph Preferred, and Bovril Preference would give the required yield. Spread the money so as to limit the risk as much as possible. *Fredericus.*—Buy National Telephone First Preference. You could obtain a yield of 4¾ per cent., and ought to have no difficulty in selling at the end of the period named. *Sport.*—The stock must be regarded entirely as a gamble. I am unable to speak regarding the results attending the directors' mission to the Government, but it would be as well for you not to be sanguine after the many abortive attempts that have been made for some years to arrive at a settlement. *James.*—1. Obviously I should be breaking my rule if I said they were a reliable firm. 2. Given a continuance of the boom in cycle and motor shares, they may go higher. If you see a profit, take it. *Prospects.*—In view of the further legislation contemplated it would be inadvisable to increase your holding, seeing that it is calculated to depress values. *Port Haven.*—All four would make fairly promising purchases at existing prices. Beyond being cumulative, I fail to see what "exceptional advantages" the preference shares in question possess. *Earnest.*—The rubber share is purely a speculation. The question of dividend payments is problematical. *M. F., Portsmouth.*—1. The present undoubtedly affords great opportunities, but you could, I think, improve upon the stock named. 2. I would not recommend you to average. 3. A recovery is not improbable before long. *Fuimas.*—More legislation is contemplated, and it may depress values still further. Perhaps it would not be unwise to cut the loss and put the proceeds into something more promising. *Bordon.*—In the circumstances you might face the loss, the possibility of any material recovery being remote. *Oxonian.*—1. I do not regard averaging as advisable, in view of the decline in profits. 2. They might be held for a possible recovery in the near future. *Headmaster.*—1. Nothing further, as far as I know, has transpired. Debenture holders will rank for something. A sale would be purely a matter of negotiation. 2. The posting of the dividend warrants is just announced. 3. I cannot advise you. *E. A. J., St. Heliers.*—1. In a better market they may advance. They are a pure gamble. 2. The shares would make a fair commercial investment. *Macer.*—The shares scarcely appear attractive. Rather than benefit, the company will suffer from the rise in tea prices. *Knocknagee.*—None appear particularly promising "speculative" investments at existing prices, though, given prosperity in the industry, 1, 3, and 6 might be established on a slightly higher level. 8. A gamble, in view of the chaotic position of affairs and the uncertainties of the future. *Cicero.*—Of their type they are tolerably fair. *Bogey.*—1. An American concern, of which very little is known on this side. 2. Somewhat speculative, but it is believed they will go higher ultimately. *Simple Simon.*—The preference share prospectus of the Kent Coal Concessions, Limited, is a most unsatisfactory document. It does not give the names of the directors or officials of the company and such particulars as are supplied in relation to the numerous contracts with syndicates and individuals (including Mr. Arthur Burr) are extremely bewildering. I think you would be very foolish to take any of the shares. *S. J. C., Isleworth.*—See TRUTH of June 23, 1904. As to the insurance company, I have more than once commented unfavourably upon its terms and methods of business, and I propose to do so again at an early date. *A. M. W.*—I did not recognise the name of the concern in your previous letter. It was, I find, dealt with in the "Entre Nous" columns of TRUTH on October 3, 1906.

INSURANCE.

Fuimus.—I hope to deal with the whole question in my insurance notes in an early issue. *Argyll.*—The prospects are distinctly good, and considerably improved by amalgamation. *J. B.*—The society is apparently bona fide, but I should not advise joining it. I may have something to say about it soon, and will return your enclosure in due course. *Investor.*—An investment in the shares of the new British Security Insurance Company would be highly speculative.

MINES.

Cartor.—1 and 2. I have by no means a high opinion of the shares, and think you should take what you can get for them. 3. Do you refer to the system of dealing in options or to a particular share? *Mining Fraud.*—On what do you base your statements? See my notes this week. *S. G. C.*—There appears little prospect of much recovery in the price, and you had better exchange into something more promising. *E. N.*—They appear a promising speculative holding. *Belmont.*—1. It is impossible to estimate the life of such a mine, but there appears no reason to sell at present. 2. As at the most you could only get a few pence for the shares, you may as well keep them on the chance of something turning up. *Hove.*—The last I heard respecting this concern was that its expedition had been refused permission to land on the island on which the diamonds were said to exist.

Bandbox.—The offices of the Broken Hill South Blocks are at Salisbury House, E.C. The company has no connection with Block 14. South Blocks shares I consider a promising holding. *Qui Vive.*—Since you wrote it has been resolved to wind up Niekerk, Limited, voluntarily.

INDUSTRIALS GENERALLY DULL—A BOOM IN TEA SHARES—BREWERIES STILL DEPRESSED—PROSPEROUS DYERS—"BAYS" BUOYANT AGAIN.

The more cheerful prospect which seemed to be opening out in the miscellaneous market soon faded away, and the prevailing condition is again one of melancholy dulness. From almost every section comes the same story of the absence of public interest. The most notable exception to the rule has been supplied by the demand for the shares of Indian and Ceylon tea-growing companies. Through a combination of factors, including an increased Russian and American consumption of Indian tea, a sharp rise in price has occurred, and quite a little boom in the shares of the companies has sprung up. Assams have advanced 3 points to 38-40, and Dooars ordinary 2 points to 20½-21½. The former would yield on the last dividend 4 per cent., and the latter 6¼ per cent. Jorehauts, Tokais, and Empires are among the other Indian shares which have gone up, whilst in Ceylons, Alliance ordinary, Ceylon Plantations, and Eastern Produce and Estates have been in request. The issues of companies concerned in both tea and rubber production have been particularly buoyant, Anglo-Ceylon stock reaching 130. In marked contrast to this boomlet in tea shares is the continued depression of brewery stocks. No doubt this is mainly due to apprehensions in regard to the effect of forthcoming legislation, though in the long run it will not improbably turn out that the injury to the trade in that direction has after all been considerably exaggerated. Recent reports have varied enormously as to the actual state of the trade, but some, at least, of the companies are doing a good business, and at the existing quotations many of the shares provide a yield high enough to cover any real risk of depreciation. The directors of Ind, Coope, and Co. recommend that at the meeting on Friday a committee of shareholders shall be appointed to assist in preparing a scheme for reorganising the capital of the company. A substantial writing-down is contemplated, but the heaviest portion of the loss will fall upon the holders of the ordinary shares, which are held by the directors and their families, who received nothing in respect of goodwill when the company was formed twenty-one years ago. While this necessary step is to be taken to place the company's finances on a sounder basis, it is to be noted that last year's profits showed a large increase on those for 1905. The report of Meux's Brewery Company shows an improvement in the results of the year's trading. The difficulty of the huge deficiency of £805,000 revealed by the balance-sheet, which created such a sensation twelve months ago has, however, still to be faced, and the directors now ask the shareholders to agree to the drastic course of writing £98 off each £100 ordinary share and £6 off each £10 preference share.

In the textiles section the chief event of the week was the publication of the very satisfactory report of the Bradford Dyers' Association, the results for the past year being the best that have been achieved since the company was formed in 1898. Practically the whole of the Bradford dyers are comprised in this combination, which was started with a capital of £3,000,000, since increased by further issues to £4,810,227. In 1900 the company paid 9 per cent. on its ordinary shares, and in every other year before and since the dividend has been 7 per cent. Last year the profits reached £366,086, as compared with £342,279 in 1905, and £20,000 is added to the reserve fund, which now stands at £285,372, and £60,000 to the depreciation fund, now brought up to £331,764. In view of the remarkable prosperity of the cotton and woollen industries the prospects of this concern for the current year are exceedingly bright, and its securities appear to constitute a sound industrial investment. At current prices the ordinary shares yield over 5¾ per cent., while the return on the preference is almost 4¾. There was a slight momentary reaction in motor and cycle shares after the recent advances, but the week closed without any conspicuous changes. Nitrates have recently been exhibiting an improvement as the outcome of a continuous advance in the price of nitrate of soda. Hudson's Bays have been steadily recovering from the recent fall, and are now seven points higher than a fortnight ago.

VIGILANT.

THE KENWIG STREET MURDER.

IT is a matter of congratulation, both to my readers and also to myself, that, out of more than a thousand competitors, only four have written to criticise the award announced last week. Moreover, even of these four, three are entirely friendly criticisms, and only one is in any degree hostile. I think it will be generally agreed that these figures speak for themselves, and are an eloquent tribute to the impartiality of the jury of experts who sat in judgment on the solutions.

I do not propose to deal with my four critics in detail, or to discuss with them any points that would involve the reopening of *res judicata*. The case has been decided under conditions as fair and square as it was possible to make them, and there it must rest. But there is one point mentioned by two of my critics to which I can, with propriety, refer. The point is this: that the fact of having a standard solution cut and dried reduces a competition of this sort to something in the nature of a lottery, by debarring all solutions, which however excellent *per se*, do not happen to hit upon the precise explanation given by the author—in short, that the elements of chance and conjecture enter too largely into the matter.

One of the critics who raises this point acknowledges, in the most candid and courteous manner, that, as that was one of the conditions laid down, and all competitors had fair warning of it, he does not make any retrospective complaint, but merely brings the matter to my notice in order that I may have it before me in formulating the conditions of any future puzzle. I have only to assure this gentleman that I accept his criticism in the spirit in which it is offered, and that, when occasion next arises, I will give it my careful consideration. How soon that will be, I am not in the position now to announce. But, at any rate, it will not be long. And I think I can promise my readers that the next "Queer Story" Puzzle will be at least as interesting as that of the Kenwig Street Murder, to which, in their name and my own, I now bid a final adieu.

I ought to mention that I have not yet received applications for their prizes from the first and second prize-winners.

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QUEER STORY.

LENTEN OBSERVANCE.

FROM time to time we find newspapers discussing the question, why men do not go to church. I have often thought that a debate at least as interesting might be got out of the converse question, why men *do* go to church, since, while not denying for a moment that many men go from real religious conviction, one cannot blind one's eyes to the fact that there are others whose motives are by no means so exalted.

Ted Bandon belonged to this latter class. Far from churchily inclined, he first started going to church, not with a religious, but merely with an amatory object. That is to say, he became a regular member of the congregation of St. Cyprian's, Further Green, for the simple reason that Cecilia Graylands was a constant and devout frequenter of that ritualistic place of worship.

Cecilia Graylands took herself and her churchwomanship seriously. Although exceedingly pretty, and of an age when a touch of worldly frivolity in her might have been considered venial, she devoted herself entirely to things ecclesiastical. Steeped to her finger-tips in Church history, a regular devourer of High Church

literature and journalism, she could argue an abstruse doctrine, or a nice question of ceremonial, with all the technical knowledge and ability of a Consistory Court. No priest of the Church was better versed than she in the proper etiquette of vestments or the precise amount of observance due to any given Black Letter saint. She was a sort of walking Churchman's Almanack of all the fasts and feasts and vigils in the Calendar. To these externals of religion she attached a perhaps exaggerated importance, as those of her school are often inclined to do. For instance, to eat meat on a fast-day was regarded by her as a sin comparable with lying or thieving. But, with all her perverted prejudices in this direction, it cannot be denied that she lived, in practice, a very pious life, and, according to her lights, was an exemplary Christian.

Such was the girl to whom Ted Bandon, the good-natured, the easy-going, the frankly mundane, lost his heart. It was a bad case, too—a case of love in its most malignant form. Unless he could win her for his wife, life was no longer worth living to him. He *must* win her. He *would* win her. And he set himself resolutely to achieve that object.

But, from the first, it was clear to him that, before he could have any earthly chance with Cecilia, he must first altogether change his way of life. A man who seldom went to church on Sundays, and never on week days, a man who had little or no respect for "authority," a man, in short, who lived his life without reference to his spiritual Mother, would surely be regarded by the fair Cecilia as anathema maranatha. She would shrink with horror from the idea of marrying such a person, and would doubtless reject his offer, if he ever got so far as to propose, by quoting St. Paul on the subject of being unequally yoked with unbelievers.

No! There was only one channel through which Cecilia could be approached—the High Church channel. He must become a Ritualist, and accept all the consequences of adopting that creed. He must go to church, not only on Sundays, but on one or two evenings in the week as well. That, however, he did not mind, lazy and slack in such observances as he naturally was. Indeed, about this time he would have gone anywhere where he was certain to meet Cecilia, and have the opportunity of escorting her home afterwards.

You must not be too severe in your strictures on Ted Bandon for thus taking up with religion from ulterior motives. Judged by ordinary standards, such a thing, I grant you, is despicable. But when a man is in love, he cannot be judged by ordinary standards. He is a law unto himself.

Well, the affair prospered. He gradually won his way into the favour of Cecilia, who did not in the least doubt the sincerity of his religious devotion, with the result that he presently became engaged to her and ultimately led her to the altar of St. Cyprian's. So far, so good. But now his punishment began.

There is an old saying that it is easier to form undesirable acquaintanceships than to drop them when once formed. And with equal truth it may be asserted that it is easier to assume the cloak of Ritualism than to doff it when once assumed. This is more particularly the case with an easy-going man, whom the very infirmity, by which he has been betrayed into the former, naturally unfits to display that moral courage which is requisite for the latter. Most of all is it the case with a man, who, having put on such a cloak in order to win a charming wife, finds after marriage that he cannot now lay it aside without entirely forfeiting her respect and affection.

Such a man—if his wife's love and good opinion are matters of the first importance to him, as they were to Bandon—is practically forced into keeping up the sham, in spite of himself. This Ted found. In fact, in a mild sort of way, his position was like that of the unhappy creator of Frankenstein. He had called into existence a bugbear which he could not destroy—the irksome bugbear of being tied and bound for the rest of his days by the galling chain of ecclesiastical servitude.

For Cecilia it was different. She had always been used to submit herself to sacerdotal authority. She liked it. She gloried in it. She believed that she was thereby fulfilling the highest spiritual law. Frequent attendance at Church was to her no less a pleasure than it was a duty. Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, if not exactly a pleasure, afforded her at least the satisfaction of *mens sibi conscia recti*. But even that satisfaction was denied the unhappy Ted. To him the pain of an empty stomach carried with it no consoling sense of suffering bravely endured in a righteous cause; for the good reason that he most emphatically did not believe in fasting as a salutary religious exercise, nor see either sense or virtue in going hungry when there was plenty of food to be had.

Ted Bandon found the ordinary Wednesday and Friday fasting bad enough—so bad, indeed, that it was often on the tip of his tongue to suggest beafsteak and jam roll for dinner instead of salt fish and sago pudding. But the horror, which he knew such a suggestion would arouse in Cecilia, always deterred him from giving verbal expression to it. But the worst time of all began with the arrival of Lent—the first Lent after his marriage. Hitherto Lent had been little more than a name to him. But now it became a very stern reality. Ash Wednesday gave him a foretaste of what to expect. There was nothing to eat all day, except the stereotyped salt fish and sago pudding. Now, Bandon hated salt fish, and he detested sago. So he lunched and dined mostly off dry bread (butter was taboo), and went to bed that night exceedingly hungry.

His discomfort, it may be said, had been not a little aggravated in the course of the day by an uncommonly savoury smell emanating from the kitchen. It appeared that the servants—happy, independent creatures, thought Bandon—had absolutely struck at a fish diet, and had threatened to leave unless they were provided with their usual dinner and supper of butcher's meat. It was in vain that Cecilia had appealed to their better feelings. The cook maintained, almost rudely, that neither she nor her fellow-domestics held with such ways. Of course, if her master and missus liked to starve theirselves, she hadn't nothing to say agin that. But Lent or no Lent, she'd always been accustomed to beef and mutton, and beef and mutton she'd have. And 'Liza and Mary Anne were of the same opinion.

Cecilia had, in the end, deemed it policy to yield to the strikers. Her servants were, on the whole, satisfactory, and she knew the paramount difficulty of getting others. So they were mollified that Ash Wednesday by the indulgence of an Irish stew. It was the smell of this stew that so aggravated the sufferings of Ted Bandon. There were his servants sitting down to a savoury meat repast, while he, their master, was half starving on dry bread. It was a cruel thing—apart from being quite out of character. But he dared not say a word, for fear of hurting his beloved Cecilia and forfeiting her good opinion.

As Lent advanced, however, he found the process of semi-starvation to which he was subjected more and more galling, until, at length, his lust for butcher's meat became so overwhelming that he could withstand it no longer. Beef or mutton, pork or veal, he *must* have. He must have it or die! But how to do so without Cecilia's knowledge? The Tempter, ever ready to aid and abet such nefarious desires, soon whispered in his ear an easy way.

Easy? Yes, indeed, easy enough; and reprehensible in proportion. For it was nothing else than to satisfy his base lust for meat under the cloak of religious self-denial. There was a mission to men on just then, in which the Vicar of St. Cyprian's was inviting the co-operation of the male members of his flock, asking them to spend their evenings (while the mission lasted) in scouring the streets, the alleys, and the public-houses with a view to gathering in the prodigals. A noble work. Far too noble, indeed, to be prostituted to the uses of animal self-indulgence. Yet Ted Bandon, in his desperate hunger, stooped to the hypocrisy of such a course. And thus he introduced the subject to his unsuspecting wife:—

"My dear," said he, one morning, as they sat at breakfast, "I have been thinking over what the Vicar said at church last night, and I feel that I really ought to do what he asks—I mean, go out of an evening into the streets and public-houses and try to get men to come into the mission."

"Oh, Ted! How good of you!" exclaimed Cecilia, beaming upon him in pious admiration.

"Tut, tut! Not at all. It is nothing more than my duty," answered Bandon, hastily, conscious, as he spoke, of an uncomfortably guilty flush, which he hoped his wife would not notice.

Cecilia did notice the flush, but (fortunately for him) she assigned it to an entirely different cause—the natural and laudable bashfulness of a modest Christian who deprecates being complimented on his good works. And she beamed at Bandon all the more admiringly.

"As there is no time like the present, my dear," he went on, trying desperately hard to look the part he was thus hypocritically assuming, "I think I will make a start this evening."

His wife, evidently suspecting nothing, nodded and smiled her entire approval.

You can see, of course, what Bandon's little game was. He meant, while absent from home on the work of the mission, to seize the opportunity of adjourning to some safely remote restaurant, and there enjoy a good square meal. For this iniquity, aggravated by deceit, he tried to salve his conscience by the plea that he *would* spend part of his evenings in genuine mission work, only devoting quite a small fraction of it to the claims of Little Mary. The excuse was flimsy, but it served as well as any other. Nor must you judge Bandon too severely. A hungry man, with a healthy appetite, who (except on Sundays) has not tasted meat for three weeks, and who is driven to satisfy his craving at the expense of his probity, should only be condemned with extenuating circumstances. In measuring the crime you must also measure the provocation, and regarded as a provocation to a reckless "bust," three solid weeks of salt fish and sago pudding must be allowed to rank high.

Bandon left home at seven that evening on his missionary enterprise. He returned about eleven. This is how he had really parcelled out his time: Five minutes in walking to the nearest tram connection; fifteen minutes by car to a neighbourhood where he was not known; forty minutes at a restaurant, spent in discussing three successive succulent mutton chops and a pint of Bollinger; fifteen minutes by car back to the scene of parochial operations; and the balance of the time devoted to genuine mission work. Thus he spent his first "evening out" in the local mission field; and thus he spent many subsequent evenings. The fact of its being a mission to men only rendered his little game safe and easy. Cecilia was debarred, by her sex, from accompanying him, as she would otherwise doubtless have wished to do, and remained behind quietly at home. And certainly it was much to Cecilia's credit that, though she must have found these long hours of solitude uncommonly dull, she was careful to dissemble her feelings in Ted's presence—for fear, no doubt, of seeming to act as a damper on his missionary zeal. Indeed, so far did her sense of duty lead her to carry this pious dissimulation, that a casual observer, seeing the cheery smile with which she sped her husband on his nightly outings, might have been deluded into the unwarrantable belief that she really was not sorry for a short respite from his society—which was, of course, a ridiculous supposition.

But those evenings out, though they enabled Bandon to satisfy his craving for beef and mutton, and so brought him ease of body, nevertheless fatally impaired his peace of mind. Indeed, how should any man, not utterly callous, enjoy peace of mind while he is engaged in meanly deceiving a beloved and confiding wife? Day by day the stings of conscience grew sharper and sharper. They reacted on his physical system. His appetite failed him. The mutton chop at the restaurant lost its succulence, the steak its flavour, the Bollinger its bouquet. He became moody, depressed; and, despite his utmost efforts to shake it off, "black care" sat tight behind him.

It was his tenth evening of unlawful indulgence, and Ted sat staring at the untasted pork before him, roasted though it was to a turn, and the crackling, a very dream of crispness. Clearly, even that favourite dish had lost all attraction for him. He pushed the plate from him with a groan. He rose. He paid his bill, and stalked out. He could bear the burden of deceit no longer. He must go home and confess all to his beloved Cecilia. The clocks were striking half-past eight when he reached his domestic doorstep. Pale and trembling at the prospect of the impending ordeal, he let himself in with his latch-key. He lingered in the lobby unnecessarily long over the task of taking off his overcoat, the while he was trying to brace himself up for his interview with Cecilia. Then, with the courage of desperation, he repaired to the drawing-room. Cecilia was not there. He tried the dining-room. She was not there either. She must be upstairs in her bedroom, then; and thither he went.

He tried the door. It was locked, but from within he heard the sound of his beloved's voice demanding, rather sharply:—

"Who's there?"

"It's I—Ted," he answered.

A sound of scuffling inside ensued, followed by the noise of an opening window. It was a minute or two before Cecilia unlocked the door. Her face was flushed. She looked excited, confused, even rather apprehensive. What could be the matter?

And then a smell—a strange, strong, penetrating smell—the unmistakable smell of frying or grilling—forced itself upon Bandon's olfactories.

He sniffed. He gazed around him with a puzzled air, Cecilia looking all the while, more and more confused. . . . The fire was burning in the grate, hot and clear—an ideal fire for grilling. Was it possible—*could* it be that . . .?

"Cecilia," he said, "there is a very marked smell of cooking in the room. Indeed, I could almost swear——"

Cecilia suddenly burst out crying.

"Oh, don't think too harshly of me, Ted," she sobbed, holding out her hands to him imploringly. "But I was *so* hungry; and while the servants were at supper, I—I—stole out to the butcher's and bought a mutton chop, and—and——"

But here Ted cut her short by seizing her in his arms and pressing her to him in a warm ecstatic embrace.

"I say, I *am* glad of this, Cis," he ejaculated, fervently.

"Glad?" she cried. "Oh, Ted; and you such a strict Churchman!"

"Not such a strict Churchman as you are a Churchwoman," he rejoined.

"I—I—ought to have told you, Ted. For some time now I have modified my views about fasting; only, knowing how strongly you felt upon the point, I was afraid to confess it to you for fear of forfeiting your respect and love, so——"

Ted Bandon burst into a roar of delighted laughter.

"Great Scot! What a funny game of blind man's buff we've been playing with each other," he said. "You humouring my supposed scruples with eternal salt fish and sago pudding, and I humouring yours by submitting to the beastly stuff; while all the time I've been dining at a restaurant on the sly, and you've been surreptitiously cooking chops in your bedroom. Well, we're quits now. That's one comfort. And I say, Cis!"

"What, Ted?"

"You won't give me any more salt fish or sago pudding just at present, will you, pet?"

"Never again, as I live, my own!"

And she didn't.

ART NOTES.

TO me at least one of the most terrifying events of the year is always the appearance of "The Year's Art." It is an excellent annual, quite a model of its kind; this year is no exception, but that only makes it the more terrible. I do not refer to the introductory essay on "The Past Year," by Mr. A. C. R. Carter, the editor. I read it, as always, with admiring interest; admiration which is none the less genuine because Mr. Carter describes me, unkindly if incidentally, as an angry, yelping jackal. He does not single me out personally, it is true, but employs the designation as a handy way of classifying those of us who did our little best to point out some of the disadvantages surrounding

the purchase of Velasquez' "Venus" by the National Art Collection Fund for £45,000. I do not think that Mr. Carter ever quite understood the motives—they were quite honest, let me assure him—which impelled one at least of the jackals to give tongue. We did not object to the acquisition of the painting for the nation, if some one was generous enough to buy and present it. What made our crests bristle were the methods adopted in raising the funds for the purchase of a sufficiently good example of Velasquez—much of it, though, very obviously repainted, to say the least of it—at a preposterously inflated price. It still makes one jackal feel indignant when he remembers how very useful towards the purchase of other paintings for the nation the odd £25,000 or so—more, I mean, than the actual value of the painting at a very handsome valuation—would have been. As it was, owing to the very excellent methods of advertising adopted—the ingenious use of the "foreign purchaser" scare-lines, and so forth—that £25,000, instead of being left available for further additions to the National Art Collections, went into very estimable, but none the less, private pockets.

Even jackals are not without eyes and the faculty of appreciation, and I feel compelled to yelp forth, in passing, my admiration for the industry, and, still more, the carefulness, of Mr. Carter's labours. I have gone through the volume with my vulpine eyes open for blunders and omissions, and I have not found one. On the other hand, I have found pretty well everything that is to be said, formulated and tabulated about the Art of the past year. Which brings me to that part of the volume which I find so terrible. It is the "Directory of Artists and Art Workers," and it contains more than 8,000 names. And the list is professedly incomplete—including only the names of those who exhibited at some twenty-four representative exhibitions during the past year. Think of what it means! Think of the horrible, appalling significance of these 8,000 names! Take it that for each of the 8,000 who did exhibit at the twenty-four representative exhibitions there are only two who did not, a ridiculously low estimate—that there are, in fact, only 24,000 artists in the country. (Some few of them, I see, hail from Australia, but the moral is the same for all countries.) Then think of the number of people who buy pictures. Are there 24,000 of them—one apiece for the artists? Ask, rather, if there are 2,400—or 240! Think of that gallant little band of picture buyers, each of them, like a very Daniel, surrounded by his ten, or fifty, or a hundred artists—gazing at him with greedy eyes, holding out appealing hands towards him, looking towards him for the annual sustenance of their charming wives and their interesting children, many of whom, *horresco referens*, are going to be artists themselves some day. Of course, the artist may retort that there are quite as many superfluous journalists as artists. So there are. But, on the other hand, there are many more editors than there are picture buyers, and the demand for "copy" is, thank goodness, always on the increase. Though, even so, I should think that an editor with a conscience—if that be not a contradiction in terms—must pass many sleepless nights thinking of the perennial penury of his contributors and would-be contributors, and—but I am wandering from the subject.

One way of using up superfluous journalists would be for every one of the 24,000 artists to employ a capable press agent. I am sure it would pay them. There is a Russian gentleman named Borissoff, who is exhibiting a number of paintings of the Arctic regions at the Grafton Galleries, who is an excellent example of what I mean. He has a press agent, and one who knows his business thoroughly. M. Borissoff paints quite well, and he has hit upon a novel and interesting range of subjects. Some of his ice scenes almost make you turn your coat-collar up when you look at them. But where would they or their painter be without that indefatigable press agent? He has—or had a week ago—built up quite a Saga around M. Borissoff and his Arctic wanderings. It was impossible to open a daily paper without coming across thrilling accounts of the painter's struggles with Polar bears and walruses and Esquimaux and other wild fowl of one kind or another. Now, I am not quite sure why we should imagine that because a painter has carried on his work when his hands and eyes were frost-bitten, or while wrestling with a Polar bear at the bottom of a crevasse, it should be a nobler artistic effort than if he had completed it before a comfortable fire in the privacy of his own studio. But we certainly do so imagine; and M. Borissoff's press agent, smart man that he is, knows it, with the happy result that, if M. Borissoff had been Michael Angelo, and Raphael, and Rubens, and Velasquez all rolled into one, he could not have got his pictures more generally appreciated by the press.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of the 24,000 do not know how to pull the ropes in this masterly fashion, and have nobody to do it for them. They just paint their pictures and get them exhibited, and then pray. Or, if they are very enterprising and lucky, they know or get to know a man who knows a man whose brother once dined with a tame critic, and the man asks the other man to ask his brother to ask the host to ask the tame critic to give some sort of a notice to poor So-and-so, whom he believes, without accepting any responsibility in the matter, to be quite a decent sort of painter in his own little way. And the critic drops into the show, in the way of business, and because he is paid for it, and patronises it, kindly but firmly, in three lines, and pretends to the host that he is thereby conferring a great favour, and ought to be asked to dinner regularly once a week during their joint lives in consequence.

To choose at random one of the many minor picture shows which are open at the present time—at the Modern Gallery are a number of water-colours of garden scenes by Mrs. Caldwell Crofton. They are quite nice little paintings, not wildly exciting in themselves, but no less so than ninety-nine out of every hundred pictures that are exhibited nowadays. Now, if the artist had had a competent press agent, he would have warned her against painting gardens, which is not at all a perilous undertaking, except, perhaps, in the earwig season. He would have advised her to paint her pictures in the uttermost Sahara, preferably killing a lion by the way. If she had protested against this on humanitarian or other grounds he would have provided a stuffed lion for the purpose. And when she was going to open her exhibition of "Gardens in the Sahara," he would have sent round interesting biographical details of her adventures and her heroic struggles with beasts of prey. And if by some mistake on the part of enthusiastic interviewers or sub-editors, the one lion should have, as happened once before to the immortal Tartarin, grown into whole cohorts of lions by the time it reached the public, and it should be made clear that the heroic artist, having mislaid her brushes in the struggles, had cut off the hairy tips of half a dozen lions' tails and painted her pictures with them instead of brushes, then—well, I for one should probably have devoted the whole of this column to her exhibition, and every journalist with an eye to artistic effect would have done the same, according to his opportunities.

Lest it be held that I measure an artist's powers only by his capacity for self-advertisement, I would here draw attention to the fact that the Corporation of Manchester is about to hold an exhibition of the paintings of Frederic Shields during March and April, and are appealing to the owners of his works to lend them for that purpose. It is a worthy compliment to be paid to one whom I hold to be among the worthiest of our living painters, who is certainly our only living painter of religious pictures. I believe this, not only on technical grounds, nor because he ably supports a great tradition, but because his work is carried out in the right spirit. He seeks neither for self-glorification, nor for theatrical effect; he paints a religious subject reverently, sincerely, humbly, and it is evident in all his works. He paints for the glory of his God and his art. Pay a visit to the Chapel of the Ascension, in the Bayswater-road, where his fine series of decorative panels is now nearly completed, and judge for yourself; he does not trouble about *réclames*, but does his duty in the station of life to which it has pleased God to call him.

In consequence, you scarcely ever hear his name mentioned, even in artistic circles, and to the general public he is almost unknown. He is a son of whom Manchester may well be proud, and the Corporation in thus honouring him do themselves no less honour.

MUSIC.

THE SEAMY SIDE OF SCRATCH OPERA.

THE ending of the German opera season has been unfortunate for all concerned. Apart from the shocking loss of some of the members of the company in the appalling *Berlin* disaster, unpleasant reports are current as to the ability of the promoters of the undertaking to meet their financial obligations. At the moment of writing, it is not possible to state precisely how matters stand in this respect, since Messrs. Gundry and Straus, the auditors, are still engaged in the preparation of a statement of affairs. But quite enough is known to suggest decidedly unflattering reflections concerning the manner in which the undertaking has been managed. While it is understood that most, if not all, of the chorus and ballet received their salaries down to the date of the last performance, the same happy state of affairs certainly does not obtain as regards many of the principals and the members of the orchestra. The case of poor Frl. Schöne, one of the ill-fated *Berlin* victims, was particularly cruel, since I am told that, having failed to obtain leave of absence in the ordinary way, she was actually paying a fine of so much a day to the Mannheim opera authorities for the privilege of appearing at Covent Garden under what she doubtless regarded as highly favourable auspices. Alas! She had probably changed her opinion on this point before setting forth on that return journey which was to have for her so tragic an end. Nor can it be said that the absence of M. Van Dyck, immediately after the collapse of the concern of which he was the responsible manager, and while so many of his fellow artists would have been glad to see him personally, is an altogether agreeable feature of the affair.

Of course the salient feature of the situation is that the season has not been run by a single impresario making himself personally responsible to those who have entered into contract with him, but by a limited liability company. Such a body, as we all know, has neither a soul to be saved nor a body to be kicked, but this is not the end of the matter when it happens to be engaged in such a speculative business as the running of grand opera. An even greater point in its favour is that the individual obligations of its component members are strictly limited, with the result that when all its available funds are exhausted there is nothing more to be done so far as its creditors are concerned, and this would appear to be the position of affairs which obtains in the present instance. Whether the capital of £10,000 with which, it is understood, the company originally set out was adequate to its purposes, or whether the conduct of the enterprise was all that could have been desired, are other questions, which do not affect the issue on this particular point. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that Mr. Van Dyck's management was hardly the most economical imaginable, and if rumour is accurate as to the general run of the fees paid, it is not difficult to understand how the money went.

Not the least unfortunate part of an unfortunate business is the undesirable impression which it is likely to have produced abroad. It is the fact that the performances took place at Covent Garden which is likely to give rise to misapprehension. While it is well enough understood at home that Mr. Frank Rendle, the lessee of the opera-house, had merely sub-let the theatre to promoters of the venture, and that the Grand Opera Syndicate had no connection with the scheme whatever, it will hardly be surprising if these facts are not so clearly grasped on the Continent, and this being so, erroneous and unfortunate impressions may obtain currency. But on this, as on other aspects of the affair, it would be easy, of course, to exaggerate. After all, the eyes of Europe are not exactly concentrated on Covent Garden. Abroad, as at home, the speculative nature of most operatic undertakings is sufficiently well understood, and the circumstance that a scratch season such as that just ended has not quite run its full term will occasion probably a good deal less comment than some appear to think. But it would have been better, none the less, if it had not happened, and it is probable that for some little time to come Continental artists may be rather chary of accepting engagements in England unless they know with whom exactly they are dealing. Some even profess to think that the forthcoming German performances of the grand season may conceivably be affected, and that German music-lovers in London may mark their resentment of the treatment of their compatriots by staying away. But this would, of course, be absurd.

There have been a good many concerts lately, but none of very exceptional note. Pianists, again, have been much to the fore. Thus, on Saturday, Mr. Lamond, whose popularity steadily advances, played brilliantly as ever at the Bechstein Hall. On Thursday, Mr. Gottfried Galston rounded off his cycle of one-composer recitals with one devoted to Liszt. In the evening, Mr. Arthur Newstead, a clever young English artist, who has recently returned from a long tour abroad, was heard again, while another accomplished native player, in the person of Mr. Leonard Borwick, was heard at the Æolian Hall on Wednesday. Among several vocalists who have lately appeared, Dr. Lierhammer, who would make more effect if he suggested less of the pedagogue, was perhaps the most noteworthy. At the Chappell Ballad Concert on Saturday, a long and varied programme included a new song by Miss Maud White, "Under the Moon," which, if hardly the equal of some which that talented lady has given us in the past, proved yet sufficiently attractive, and Mr. W. H. Squire, who combines 'cello-playing with composition, was responsible for another new song entitled "The Siesta," which, as interpreted by Mr. Kennerley Rumford, made a great success. Mme. Edna Thornton, Mr. Ben Davies, and Mr. Gregory Hast were some of the other well-known singers who appeared, and Herr Kreisler, who is becoming a rare favourite at the Ballads, was once more the violinist of the concert.

In the way of chamber music, which seems to have been recently looking up a little, several interesting works have been lately heard. César Franck's first pianoforte trio, which was brought forward at Miss Cécile Brani's concert on Tuesday week, proved, it is true, a sadly dull and laboured affair, but it was pleasant to have the opportunity of making acquaintance with it. On the same evening Miss Nora Clench and Mr. Joseph Holbrooke gave us Max Reger's forbidding yet in some respects strangely fascinating violin sonata in F sharp minor, while a pleasing piano quartet of Gabriel Fauré was brought forward at the Æolian Hall at Thursday's "twelve o'clock" concert by Miss Mathilde Verne, Mme. Beatrice Langley, Miss Cecilia Gates, and Miss May Mukle.

The German Opera season is over, and Covent Garden has closed its doors for the present, but London is by no means without opera, for all that. It is still to be had for those who seek it—in Shoreditch, where Mr. J. W. Turner and his company are once again drawing all the rank and fashion of that thriving quarter of the town to performances which, if applause counts for anything, would seem to leave nothing to be desired. Mr. Turner does not give his supporters the "Ring," "Tristan" or "Die Meistersinger." Their language would probably be illuminating if he did. But with such things as "Maritana" and "The Bohemian Girl" he affords unqualified delight to more unsophisticated hearers than those who slumber through "Siegfried" and "Götterdämmerung," and in his modest way helps on the good cause which more learned musicians have at heart. It is stated, by the way, that Mr. Turner is about to retire from the management of the travelling company bearing his name, which has

been in existence over twenty years. Mr. Turner himself made his operatic début as long ago as 1864, though he still sings as energetically as ever.

The promised presence of Dr. Grieg should impart exceptional interest to this year's Leeds Festival. The works which he will conduct have not yet been finally determined, but it is understood that his choral composition, "Olav Trygvason," will be one of them. The work was, if recollection serves, done at Queen's Hall a few years ago at one of the London Eistedfodd performances. Efforts were made, it appears, to secure a second "lion" in the person of Glazounow (whose eighth symphony is one of the instrumental compositions to be given), but without result in this case. Of the novelties promised, Stanford's "Stabat Mater," described as a "symphonic cantata," seems likely to prove the most important.

An appeal which, it is hoped, will meet with a ready response is being put forth on behalf of Mme. Georgina Burns, who some fifteen years ago enjoyed a distinguished reputation as an English prima donna, but who is now penniless, and has not a single relative in a position to support her. Mme. Burns lost all her savings in the Burns-Crotty Opera Company, which was a total financial failure, and has since been afflicted by prolonged ill-health. Mr. H. J. Wood and Mr. Ben Davies are among other well-known musicians interesting themselves in her sad case. Contributions may be sent to the Georgina Burns Fund, Church Army, 55, Bryanston-street, W.

The late Mr. Goldschmidt will be remembered, not only as the husband of Jenny Lind, but as the first conductor of the Bach Choir under whose direction many notable performances were given. He was, in fact, an admirable choral conductor, and the success of the Choir in its earlier days was largely due to his devoted labours. His own compositions were of small account, and with latter-day musical developments he was hopelessly out of sympathy, though this fact did not avail to lessen the respect in which he was held, alike as man and musician, by all who knew him. Mr. Goldschmidt survived his world-famous wife something less than twenty years.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"How it struck a contemporary" is interesting, and even instructive, reading, when the contemporary had as keen an eye and bright a pen as "Malakoff" (1). "Malakoff" was the *nom de guerre* of the *New York Times* Paris correspondent, Dr. Johnston, during the entire existence from the cradle to the grave of the Second Empire. It is to the credit of "Malakoff's" discernment that he foresaw its grave from its cradle. Indeed, the wonder is that it should have lived so long, when one remembers that Napoleon III. had not even the claim of blood—not to say of brains—to the throne, since the French at least who endured him believed that he was no more the son of his supposed father than his half-brother, De Morny. However, as you might expect, Napoleon III. tried to make up by the pretentiousness of his Court for any lack of legitimacy. It is at once preposterous and pathetic to read now the regulations enforced on the Court at Eugénie's confinement of the Prince Imperial, and again upon the wet nurse of the baby. This nurse was forbidden to kiss the baby, to call him by a pet name, or to address to him baby language. When she was caught in the very act of kissing the baby by Mme. Bruat, the governess, there was a perfect storm in the palace. The Emperor was at last appealed to; but he was so much moved by the tearful entreaties of the nurse to be allowed at least to kiss her charge that he compromised matters thus: "Listen, nurse, to what I say, and calm yourself. I am going to offer you a compromise. You can kiss your child as much as you wish, but you must not give him names unworthy of his rank." You remember Dr. Johnson's similar interdict and its result? Pitying a poor woman with a baby, who was trudging along the road through the mud of a wet day, he gave her a seat in his coach on the condition that she did not talk baby language to the child. Hardly, however, was she seated in the coach when she burst out irrepressibly "An' did the little Georgey-porgy like its jaunt in a coachy-poachy?" with the result of her instant expulsion by the exasperated doctor. I fancy the Imperial nurse must have broken out, at least in the night watches, with profane prattle. To the philosopher the real hero of these two volumes is not one of those of the many wars it chronicles—Crimean, Franco-Austrian, Franco-Prussian, and that between the North and South in America—but Béranger, who scorned at once popularity, riches, places, and honours. He refused the Legion of Honour, a place in the French Academy, a place in the Cabinet, the Ministry of Public Instruction, the direction of the National Printing Office, the direction of the Mont-de-Piété, a seat in the National Assembly, and the offers made many times to him of pensions to save him from the destitution in which he died. The poet shrank so from the public notice which haunted him that to escape it he removed to Passy. But Passy was so moved by the honour of his residence that its mayor and municipal council proceeded to his humble house in state to make him the presentation—of the finest place in its cemetery! Even this honour he declined, and he was finally huddled into his grave hurriedly and stealthily, as though his corpse was plague-stricken, by the Imperial Government, through its dread of a popular demonstration at his funeral. Whether Béranger would have sung with such fervour the glories of the First Empire if he had seen the sights that appalled "Malakoff" after the battle of Solferino, is doubtful. Upon a false alarm being raised that the beaten Austrians had broken through the French lines and were slaughtering all before them, the drivers of the ambulance waggons, in their mad haste to escape, flung the wounded on to the road, where they were crushed to death or left to die. Next to the horrors of war, the heroisms of the French soldiery seemed to have made most impression upon "Malakoff." Not the mad heroism merely of hot blood in the battle, but the patient fortitude of these soldiers who died like beasts of burden from all the horrors of hunger, thirst, heat, and hard work. Indeed, "Malakoff" found to be essentially French those Spartan virtues of silent endurance of suffering and silent acceptance of victory which we consider distinctively British. He contrasts thus the frantic excitement in London upon the receipt of the news of a victory, with the stolid calm of the Parisians under the same circumstances:—

> The different manner in which the news of the victory of the Alma has been received in Paris and in London is worth noting. If we are to credit the English newspapers, the staid, sober, impassive Englishman grew noisy and frantic with expansive delight. Even the brokers on 'Change broke out in song—though, to be sure, "God Save the Queen" is not a lively air. . . . In Paris the outside of some of the theatres and four windows in the Rue de la Paix were illuminated. I caught in Paris passing words that showed that the news of victory was a topic of conversation. And these are the sum of public demonstration on the occasion of a national victory by the most emotional, sensitive, volatile, frisky people in the world! Curious, is it not?

Again, he contrasts the receipt of the news of the victory of Solferino in Paris—"announced in six lines in the Paris papers without one word of fanfaronade"—with the extravagant descriptions in the American papers of the bombardment of Fort Sumpter—"for fifty miles around the scene was one of indescribable grandeur." At Solferino fifty thousand men bit the dust; during the bombardment of Fort Sumpter not a single life was lost on either side. Who would have said *a priori* that "Mafficking" was much more an English or an American frenzy than a French? The

(1) "Memoirs of Malakoff." Being Extracts from the Correspondence and Papers of the late William Edward Johnston. Edited by his Son. 2 Vols. (London: Hutchinson & Co.)

(2) "The Whirlwind." By Eden Phillpotts. (London: Chapman & Hall. 6s.)

(3) "The Expensive Miss Du Cane." By S. Macnaughtan. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(4) "Harry and Ursula. A Story with Two Sides to it." By W. E. Norris. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(5) "Adam's Clay." By Cosmo Hamilton. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.

heroine of "The Whirlwind" (2) either sells or gives her body, I really am not sure which, to her husband's master, while loving her husband idolatrously, and while being the simplest, straightest, purest, and sweetest of women. Nor is this impossible inconsistency lightened by the contrast between the physical and mental manliness of her husband and pettiness of her lover. The truth is that such a woman as Sarah Jane Friend could not have been unfaithful to such a husband as Daniel Brandon with any one, and, least of all, with a creature like Hilary Woodrow. Yet more incredible is the suggestion made in some passages of the story that the heroine deliberately sold her body to her lover to secure to her husband promotion on the farm. But Mr. Eden Phillpotts must wind up his story with his usual melodramatic catastrophe, and to this end are sacrificed the heroine's character and the reader's sympathy. But the pity of it! For all the earlier scenes and characters of the story are nature itself as Mr. Eden Phillpotts knows it so well in his beloved Dartmoor. A greater contrast to the natural country folk of "The Whirlwind" than the fashionable fribbles of "The Expensive Miss Du Cane" (3) cannot well be imagined. But these creatures are natural, too, of their kind—not an engaging kind, certainly, for the hero is a snob and a cad, while the heroine, whom he virtually jilts, is not romantically harrowed by her disillusionment and disappointment. The dreariness of the close of the story and of her romance is, however, poignantly conveyed, and Mr. Macnaughtan has succeeded in giving a faithful, if somewhat cynical, view of a country-house party. In his "Harry and Ursula" (4), Mr. Norris has been unusually happy in giving both sides of the indispensable lovers' misunderstandings from the point of view of each as expressed in his and her reminiscences. Indeed, nothing could be more natural than these misunderstandings, for, as you know, Mr. Norris has long been thoroughly at home in lovers' quarrels, while the happy ending of the novel is a welcome relief after the stormy catastrophe of "The Whirlwind," and the dismal close of "The Expensive Miss Du Cane." In a word, Mr. Norris is at his best in "Harry and Ursula." Mr. Cosmo Hamilton's misogynist novel, "Adam's Clay" (5) is unusually clever and has at least one absolutely original situation. A husband just returned from sea interrupts his lovely young wife's lover in the act of strangling her, but almost apologises for the interruption. "Well," he said, "are you goin' to kill that dirty little woman, or isn't it worth your while?" This situation is skilfully led up to, though a hypercritical reader might object that so clever a coquette as "the beautiful Betty Blundell" would never have written to a rival such compromising confidences.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The "Notes from Paris" in last week's Truth contained some interesting personal and literary references to the Marquis de Ségur, one of the newly elected members of the French Academy. By a happy coincidence, Messrs. Chatto and Windus have just published the authorised English version (price 7s. 6d. net) of his latest book, "Julie de Lespinasse." It is a fascinating biographical study of that famous Frenchwoman, embodying much fresh material, and is generally regarded as the best book that M. de Ségur has written.

The new book from the pen of Mr. A. C. Benson which Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. will have ready on March 12 is entitled "Beside Still Waters." It is a story in which the interest is mainly psychological, the evolution of a mystical type of character being traced on the religious and artistic as well as on the ethical side. On the same date, Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. will publish "The Letters of One," by Charles Hare Plunkett. This book also presents a psychological study, the writer of the letters being depicted as a man of sensitive and irresolute character who has to choose, or imagines that he has to choose, between a marriage promising him happiness and security and the service of art. The author gives a relentless analysis of the artistic temperament.

Mr. Murray is publishing this week "George Crabbe and His Times," a translation by Mr. Frederick Clarke of a volume by M. René Huchon, Lecturer in English at the Faculty of Letters in the University of Nancy. M. Huchon has made a close study of the life and writings of George Crabbe, and his work is not merely a biography of the English poet, but a careful account of his surroundings, social, political, and historical.

"Lady Nugent's Journal: Jamaica one Hundred Years Ago" has been published by Messrs. A. and C. Black (price 5s. net) for the Institute of Jamaica, whose secretary, Mr. Frank Cundall, has edited the volume. The journal, which presents an interesting picture of life in the colony at the beginning of the nineteenth century, was written by Lady Nugent during the period of her husband's governorship, and was printed for private circulation only in 1839. The present edition has twelve illustrations and two maps.

There has been so great a demand in advance for Sir Oliver Lodge's book, "The Substance of Faith Allied with Science: A Catechism for Parents and Teachers" that a large second edition is already in the press. The publishers are Messrs. Methuen and Co.

Mr. John Lane is publishing this week "Women of the Second Empire: Chronicles of the Court of Napoleon III.," a translation of a book by Frederic Loliee. Mr. Richard Whiteing contributes an introduction. A feature of the volume is the illustrations, which include over fifty portraits of the beauties of the Court.

Next month Mr. Douglas Sladen's new book, "The Secrets of the Vatican" will be issued by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett. It will be embellished with sixty illustrations, partly from photographs of the unshown portions of the Vatican and partly from the superb engravings of Pistolesi.

For the foundation of the plan of his forthcoming book, "Russia and Reform," announced by Messrs. Constable, Mr. Bernard Pares takes the view that the political difficulties in Russia are the result of a great moral conflict between the teachings of two schools—the Slaphophiles and Westernism. He sketches the chief features of Russia's development as a people and as a State, explains the significance of the points at issue between the Government and the people, and brings the story of the present movement up to the election of the second Duma.

In Mr. Philip L. Stevenson's "A Gallant of Gascony," which Messrs. Hurst and Blackett will shortly publish, the romantic life of Marguerite de Valois is dealt with for the first time in a novel. The scene is laid in Paris, Gascony, and the Auvergne, and the book is full of exciting incidents. Mr. Stevenson is known to many readers as the author of "A Gendarme of the King" and "The Black Cuirassier."

With the expiration of the copyright of the early editions of a number of Ruskin's books, cheap reprints are beginning to appear. Messrs. Routledge have just commenced the publication of a series called "The Universal Ruskin," in which they have now issued "Modern Painters" (five volumes, with 314 illustrations), "The Stones of Venice" (three volumes, with 166 illustrations), "Lectures on Architecture," "Unto this Last," "The Two Paths," and other works. The price of these volumes, which are well got-up, is one shilling each.

"The Poems of Emily Brontë," with an introduction by Mr. Arthur Symons, and "Selected Essays of Joseph Addison," with an introduction by Mr. Austin Dobson, are two new volumes of the Favourite Classics, Mr. Heinemann's remarkably cheap series of reprints.

Mr. Henry Frowde continues to make many acceptable additions to the well-known series of "The World's Classics," among the recent volumes (one shilling each) being "Poems of Thomas Hood," "Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures," "Cranford," and "The Pickwick Papers."

More cheap classics! Messrs. Sisley will begin early in March the publication of a new series of shilling

reprints, to be called the "Sisley Books." Among the first twenty volumes, which are to be issued simultaneously, will be "The Idylls of the King," Rousseau's "Confessions," "Wuthering Heights," "Salammbo," and "Sheridan's Plays."

In Messrs. Blackwood's popular edition of George Eliot's novels, "Felix Holt" and "Middlemarch" (3s. 6d. each volume) have just been published.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Last Friday's Court, the first of the year, was a very large one. The Queen wore black lace embroidered with sequins. The Duchess of Buccleuch had dazzling jewels, and both she and her sister, Lady Lansdowne, wore many Orders. Lady Tweeddale's grey and gold gown and train were as artistic as beautiful, and her splendid emeralds made a very lovely contrast. Lady Salisbury's cloth of gold, with sparkling bugles and rare old Italian point, was another admirable gown. Lady Dysart also wore cloth of gold embroidered in silver. Olivia Lady Cairns, presenting her daughter, looked extremely well in pale pink satin muslin, and carried a glorious Goodyear bouquet of shaded pink carnations. Lady Rosemary Cairns, in white net embroidered with silver, had a bolero of silver embroidery fringed with silver. The white chiffon train looked as though made by fairies, so fresh and dainty were the folds. An arcade bouquet of lily of the valley arranged as a mere handful added to the simple girlish effect.

Yellow is coming up again this season. Lady Fitzgerald, wife of the Knight of Kerry (I always think his such a romantic title!), wore tea-rose yellow satin, the bodice made Empire-shape and trimmed with chains of brilliants. The cloth-of-gold train was veiled with pale yellow tulle, and had a long spray of Gloire de Dijon roses down one side. She presented her only daughter, who is god-daughter of the Duchess of Connaught, and who wore white chiffon strewn with diamond dewdrops, and a glorious train of Mechlin lined with chiffon.

Mrs. W. W. Astor was much observed in her lovely gown, made Empire style in Brussels net deeply flounced with fine old Brussels point, bordered with a band of ermine. Folds of pale blue velvet, arranged most becomingly, brought the bodice into harmony with the pale blue velvet train.

By the way, I hear that many ladies consider that it is a defect in the arrangements for the Courts (otherwise excellent) that their invitations fail to indicate for which particular date they are intended. Surely it would be a simple matter to make out the cards for a definite Court.

The poets all along the ages have said that spring shows herself first in some "timid snowdrop" in a "quiet nook." I think this is a mistake; I always see her first in a hat-shop window, wherein felt and fur give place to flowers and feathers; and if the feathers do not flutter there, at least the flowers do not fade, however cold the wind. Flower toques are still to the fore; they greet the spring regularly every year. In shaded hyacinths and roses and violets they are charming, and they are made in various round and torpedo shapes. A very pretty one in white lilac has a bunch of pink roses at one side. The torpedo shapes are still to be worn, but the newest of the new hats is a very small mushroom shape, tilted up on an all-round bandeau, and with a brim coming low at the back. We were studying several of these at the Parisian Hat Company last week. (By the way, it is only the number in Bond-street that matches the price—thirty shillings; the Knightsbridge address is not so accommodating, and the new branch is not 30, but 7, High-street, Kensington.) The prettiest were in roughly plaited straw. One was in cream chip, the bandeau hidden under ruffled brown tulle, and the crown loosely swathed with green and brown tulle. Green and brown ostrich feathers drooped in a cluster over the brim at one side. Even smaller, but of the same shape, was a mushroom in opalescent straw of green and mauve shades, trimmed with a wreath of all sorts of little babyish blossoms—forget-me-nots, roses, "cherry-pie," London pride, jessamine, all brought into tints of mauve and faint pink, with a background of dull green foliage. A long feather, white in the centre, with the tips of the fronds shaded to dark green and mauve, hung over the brim at one side, and curled round on the hair at the back.

A very pretty hat, in a peculiarly rakish and charming version of the tricorne, was in dull Persian lilac tulle, covered with shaded hyacinths in pale pinkish and darker tints. A bright pink rose at one side was enough trimming. Another flower-hat, in powder-blue straw, had blue hyacinths round the brim, and a huge knot of looped blue glacé ribbon at one side. Very smart was a toque folded into torpedo-shape of moleskin coloured straw. This was drawn into two rows of medallions round the brim, with green straw centres resembling roses, while at one side an osprey of moleskin and green barley rose above a cluster of bright red cherries. Loops of narrow green velvet ribbon rested on the hair at the back. A quiet brown torpedo hat was covered with a veil of coffee-and-milk chiffon, floating out at the back. Two flat fawn and white wings lay on the crown, held by a fawn-coloured buckle in front. This was very smart, but unostentatious; the sort of hat to be worn shopping, but if you meet Mary she's sure to carry you off to Prince's to luncheon. Do you know that sort of chance? It is so difficult to find a hat which is equal to an unexpected invitation. A version of the Tyrolese shape, in green straw, with brown wings, tilted on an all-round bandeau of brown tulle, is also one of these rare hats.

Finally, there was a perfect dream, a thirty-shilling marvel, of very fine straw, in a gipsy shape, in a pinky-tan shade, with deeper tan velvet round the crown, and a riot of large pink roses at the back, tumbling over the brim in one place; and a ruche of soft brown tulle on the hair at the back. Now which of them all would you choose, from my inadequate description?

Have you ever experienced the unpleasantness of conversing with anyone whose eyes wobble about, apparently unable to focus themselves on any one point? Or have you ever seen anyone whose eyes seem to lean up against their glasses? Things run curiously in layers, and in one morning last week I underwent both of these disagreeable experiences. And both varieties are probably easily curable. I think I told you about Mary's elder boy, whose prospects in life are seriously damaged by the carelessness of his parents in not having his sight examined when he was small, and taking measures to improve it. When he was a tiny child he always longed to be a soldier, and the wish did not pass as it often does. Think, then, of his bitter disappointment when he found he could not pass for the Army owing to defective sight. The doctor said the words "gross neglect" and "unpardonable carelessness." You could not help pitying poor Mary, blamable as she is, for when she heard the bad news she nearly cried her own eyes out. She took Noll to Dollond's, in Cheapside, a firm with a reputation dating back one hundred and fifty years, and with probably the widest experience in sight-testing in the world. Here again her heart was pierced by an observation made: "Had the young gentleman been provided with suitable glasses ten years ago, his defect of vision could have been completely cured."

"Is it too late now?" asked Noll. "No," he was told.

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I went to Dollond's years ago with father, who had been troubled with his eyes, and shall never forget the pater's delight when he began wearing his glasses. Not only did his new vision of things add to the joy of life, but the headache he had suffered so much from disappeared completely, his digestion improved, and he could take longer walks and do an increased amount of work. Ada, too, always says that Dollond's Featherweight eyeglasses have "made over" the world for her, to use an American expression. She used to wear pince-nez that justified their title by pinching her nose, making ugly marks on it, and by pressing on some blood vessel giving her headache. But the Featherweight clip has no high-arched bridge, and yet, by means of a cleverly devised spring, rests on the nose with perfect security, even in windiest weather. It is rimless, therefore lighter and less expensive than the old-fashioned eyeglasses, and, what is more, practically invisible, needing neither chain nor guard of any kind. In fact, it marks a new era for those who have to wear glasses.

The reason the pater went to Dollond's in the first instance was that all their work is done in England by Englishmen. You know the dear old man's patriotic feeling about such things. Would there were more like him!

Ella has been experimenting with home-made bread, and is inflated with pride over her success. She got hold of a little booklet issued from Horseferry-road by the Gas Light and Coke Company, containing full instructions about both making and baking bread at home. Her loaves look and taste delicious, and she declares that cook thinks it no trouble to bake them in the gas oven. One advantage is that the bread is free from adulteration. We very particularly fell in love with her brown loaves—such pictures—and are going to try bread-making ourselves.

Richard is extremely pleased with himself for having "discovered," as he phrases it, the large stone bottles of Apollinaris water, and converses with some eloquence on the "what a good boy am I!" theme. He deserves some commendation, for the stone bottles are a great improvement in every way on the ordinary glass bottles. The earthenware keeps the water cool and sparkling during the longest dinner in a hot room, and by using an inexpensive patent cork any water left in the bottle can be drawn off later in as bright condition as that from a freshly opened bottle. You know how deliciously cool ordinary water always is when kept in those terra-cotta jars? Well, in the same way the "Polly" is preserved from becoming tepid by the stone jars, which, by the way, are ornamental in shape and colour. And with these advantages there is the additional one (which appeals to most people nowadays) of economy, as the stone jars, both large and small, are a trifle cheaper than the glass ones. I expect you to thank me for imparting Richard's valuable "discovery." What would the world do without Apollinaris, the acknowledged queen of table waters? And especially those who like champagne, and could not dare to take it without the precautionary measure of sipping a little of this unique water during dinner. They may then take their champagne without fear of any ill effects. And is there any wine quite so nice as good, dry champagne? Perhaps sparkling Burgundy—but no! Delicious as it is, it fails to be appropriate to such varied occasions as champagne.

You remember the very pretty necklets and chains made by "Marguerite," of Bombay. You admired them because they are so uncommon and artistic. She now makes, in addition to the above, the most perfect amulet necklets, the prettiest we have ever seen, with all the lucky stones of the months introduced in a very graceful and highly becoming way. The idea is that good fortune is secured by wearing the sacred stones consecrated by the Chaldeans to the twelve signs of the Zodiac, so that as each constellation rises above the horizon the corresponding jewel is there ready to secure for the possessor the benign influence it is supposed to bestow. The price of this lovely amulet necklace, which "goes" with any colour, having so many in itself, is 2½ guineas; and if any one prefers one in any single stone, such as turquoise, sapphire, topaz, amethyst, or pearl, these would be the same price. Opal or ruby are more expensive, costing 3 guineas. Any one born in October should choose the opal. July is the month of the ruby, but I am sure you have the complete list somewhere. Marguerite can send any of these pretty necklets or long chains in jade, turquoise, etc., by return of post, when a postal order accompanies the letter. The amulet necklace with all the twelve stones would charm your Brenda. You could get one in time for her birthday by writing at once: Marguerite, P. and O. Dockyard, Mazagon, Bombay, is the full address.

On the last three days of next week the Royal Amateur Art Society will hold its annual exhibition at Hyde Park House, Knightsbridge, lent for the occasion by Lady Naylor Leyland. Princess Alexander of Teck will open the exhibition on the Thursday and will also distribute the prizes. Dr. Emil Reich will give an address on art. On Friday Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein will open the show and Mr. Henry Cunynghame will give an address on "Enamel Work"; while on Saturday Lady Henry Somerset will speak on "Art in its Relation to Charity." The proceeds of the exhibition will be devoted to the Parochial Mission Women Fund, the East London Nursing Society, and the Church Army.

I have received the following from Mona:—

My Dear Madge,—We are now entering upon our busy season, for the time of seed-sowing has begun. David is preparing the boxes of soil, Brada is sowing the seeds, and I am noting down any important particulars. We use boxes in preference to pans, because they are lighter and cheaper, and in preference to pots because they hold more soil, which is, therefore, less likely to get dry. For delicate seeds which usually lie a long time in the ground before germinating, the soil is first sterilised by baking, but for ordinary seeds it is merely sifted, the coarser portion being put at the bottom of each box, and the finer at the top. As I have just suggested, the periods which elapse between sowing and germination differ widely. In some cases a few days are sufficient; in others, as much as a year may be required. I mentioned last week that the seeds of cannas often took months to germinate unless they were manipulated by filing and soaking in hot water. The seeds of some Alpine plants, such as auriculas, are very slow and irregular. If, instead of being sown as soon as they are ripe, they are kept until the following spring—which is the general practice—the seedlings will often continue to appear in twos and threes for a whole year, or longer, if you have the patience to leave the box of soil undisturbed and keep it watered. There is an obvious reason for this acquired habit. Slowness of germination prevents the seedlings, when growing in their native country, from appearing before the severe Alpine winter is over, and irregularity ensures the perpetuation of the race in case the earliest batches are destroyed by late frosts. But why, you may ask, is the irregularity carried over a whole year? That, I think, is due to our unnatural method of storing these seeds. We are most careful to protect them from frost; yet in a wild state they are bound to be frozen in winter. It has been found that the seeds of certain North American plants will not germinate unless they have first been frozen, and if the same treatment were applied to the seeds of Alpine plants, which are accustomed to very similar conditions, I feel convinced that their germination would be quicker and more regular than it is at present. Anyway, I intend to try.

There is one Alpine which it is almost impossible to raise from seed—the lovely blue gentian (G. acaulis). Bought seed, or seed which has been kept for any length of time, is practically useless; seed which you have saved yourself and sown at once is better, but even then you may have to wait two or three years before the seedlings appear, or before you can be quite certain

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that they are never going to appear. That, I know, would be too great a trial for your patience. Gardening is full of such trials. I remember an enthusiastic gardener telling me how he had sat up all night to watch the opening of the flower of an orchid raised from seed which he had sown eleven years before, and how excited he was when he saw that the time was approaching. It was not his orchid, but his employer's, yet he felt like the holder of a lottery ticket which may draw a big prize or a blank. That was a long wait, yet for gentians it is not much shorter. They are generally propagated by division of the roots, and even then may not flower for a year or two, for they greatly dislike disturbance. It is a pity, for there is not a more beautiful blue in the garden. One of the plants which most nearly approaches it is the Dropmore variety of Anchusa italica. I mentioned it last spring in my description of the Temple show, where it was quite a feature. The flowers of the well-known old A. italica are a dull purplish blue, but in the new variety they are a rich blue, not unlike that of the gentians. The plants grow four or five feet high, and, though perennials, will flower this year if the seed is sown at once under glass. I consider them much the best of the year's novelties.

Of course, if we are to judge from the catalogues, all novelties are exquisite, and nearly all other plants as well. I confess that these seedmen's catalogues have as great a fascination for me as, if you will not mind my saying so, the dress-shops have for you. The illustrations of plants simply covered with beautiful flowers almost make me forget that my business is to sell, and strongly tempt me to buy the lot. If only they illustrated plants which I did not know, the illusion would be complete and enduring. But they make the mistake of depicting also what is familiar, and recognition—often impossible but for the letterpress—brings disillusionment. I am looking now at an illustration of the new Nicotiana hybrids. I recognise it as a French *cliché*, but the plants themselves I should hardly recognise, they are so idealised. Still, they are worth growing, either in beds by themselves or in the mixed border. There was, you may remember, a good deal of excitement two or three years ago about the first of these hybrids, Nicotiana sanderæ, with red flowers instead of the white of the ordinary sweet-scented tobacco-plant. Everybody rushed to grow it, and then came complaints that the red was a dull, slightly purplish colour, and already it is out of favour. But these new hybrids are a very great improvement. They are not confined to a single colour, but range from pale yellow to dark red, and though in every batch of seedlings there must necessarily be some which are unsatisfactory, I think that on the whole you would be delighted with these plants. Here, too, the seed should be sown under glass. There is no actual hurry—any time in March will do.

You know salpiglossis, of course, with its tubular flowers of various colours exquisitely lined and marked with bronze. The one objection to it is its straggling habit of growth. In a comparatively new variety, Emperor, this has been overcome. Instead of having a number of shoots from the base, it grows erect with a single stem. Get a packet of seed and try it. It is a half-hardy annual, and should be treated as such.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—If the country is happy which has no history, the antithesis, no doubt, holds good that the country is unhappy which has history, and still more the one which not only has too much, but sometimes even little else, at frequent intervals, spasmodically and acutely. For all that, I do not know that we are unhappy, though it is certain that the country which possesses a perennial "Question" is always in the state of having history. To begin with, we are born to our "Question," it is the heritage of ages; we are entangled from our birth, without any choice in the matter, in its knots and intricacies. It always is and always has been with us, like the poor; we would not know ourselves without it. On the whole, too, we are a cheerful race, with a gift of adapting ourselves to circumstances and looking for mitigations in them. Our attitude towards Dublin Castle is an example of this; it represents the Government of Ireland which everyone, more or less, seems to think a bad one, though not so bad as in the days when Grattan said: "To find a worse Government than the Government of the English in Ireland, you must go to hell for your policy and to Bedlam for your discretion." Whatever Dublin Castle is, however, there it is in our midst, and there we are cheerfully making the best of it. How hard it would be on our sex, who are not yet politically articulate over here, if we might not enjoy the social amenities of the Viceregal Court. Fortunately, we are not the least inclined to be hard on ourselves, but wisely take our good where we find it.

The season resumed its normal course last week, to be interrupted at the end by Lord and Lady Aberdeen's visit to London, where they went for the presentation of Lady Haddo at the Court at Buckingham Palace on Friday night. Our Viceregal rulers, unlike our Royal ones, always seem to make very light of the journey between the big and little capitals. The weather was not at all helpful to this mental attitude last week; not only did the wild winds disturb the waters of the Irish Sea, they even interfered with the iron way on land. The Irish mails by sea and land had very bad experiences of the weather on several days. The second Levee and Drawing Room were held on the same day, which was an innovation. Neither ceremonial was crowded. The Drawing Room, or rather Court, was again held in St. Patrick's Hall. It was small enough to have ample space for everyone. Never was a better opportunity afforded for displaying Court costumes, and many beautiful ones profited by it. We are not accustomed to the idea of the Vicerey remaining seated whilst our sex file by and make curtsies to him. The effect is unchivalrous; there is the suggestion of the ways of Oriental potentates about it. However, the King can do no wrong; we have to accept a decline in manners at Court and grumble at it. Lady Aberdeen was resplendent in a sapphire satin dress with shiny trimmings, and a sapphire chiffon velvet train with lovely Irish point lace. Her jewels were very fine. Lady Arran was in white, with silver, pearl, and shining embroidery; her collar of pearls and diamonds, and her tiara of brilliants were lovely. Lady Bandon wore faint grey, and Lady Haddo pale blue. Lady Blanche Seymour in white satin, with a black velvet train, chaperoned her sisters, Lady Hersey and Lady Edina Conyngham, the latter of whom was presented. Lady Massereene and Ferrard and her sister, Miss Ainsworth, were also amongst the presentations, Lady Massereene's tall figure looking extremely effective in a handsome Court dress with many diamonds. Lady M'Calmont's beautiful costume was of white satin, embroidered with silver and crushed pearls, and her train of pink chiffon and lace. Lady Carbery wore white satin with a train of white puffed chiffon. Lady MacDonnell was in grey with handsome lace, and Miss MacDonnell in pale green with a lace train. Lady Clonbrock presented her daughter, Lady Mahon. Amongst others present were Ladies Castletown, Musgrave,

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Chamberlain, Ross of Bladensburg, Arnott, the Misses Alice and Margaret Glyn, Ethel Dillon and O'Brien. Many diaphanous trains were worn. The fashion is somewhat theatrical in suggestion, and, with diamond stars in the hair, looks as if the costume should be completed by a fairy wand, instead of a bouquet, in the hand.

The State Ball on the next night was a big one, the guests numbering over a thousand. Dancing was in both the St. Patrick's Hall and Throne Room. The military were in full dress and the civilians in Court dress, which, with the present somewhat fantastic fashion of women's attire, made the entertainment look rather like a fancy ball and very picturesque. There were quite a number of pretty and attractive girls—Lady Violet Brabazon, the Ladies Conyngham, the Misses Glyn, Miss I. FitzGerald, and many others. Most striking looking amongst the young matrons was Lady Massareene in a glittering princess or Empire dress, with a fine tiara of diamonds, and Lady Blanche Seymour, very pretty in a black dress. Lady Hawkesbury had a peculiar brown costume. Lady Musgrave's handsome dress was of white striped satin muslin with embroidery, Lady Weldon's of black velvet, Lady Margaret Forbes wore rose colour chiffon, Lady Ross of Bladensburg a costume of white chiné silk, and Lady M'Calmont blue, with fine diamonds. Sir Hugh M'Calmont, who came to Dublin for the Levee, has, with Lady M'Calmont, been staying at the residence of his mother, Mrs. Barton, in Merrion Square. Mrs. Barton, in her time, kept up the tradition of Irish beauty, as did her daughter, Lady Brooke, in the next generation. Mrs. Barton is still a handsome lady of much personal charm and Celtic vivacity. General Sir William Butler also came to Dublin for the Levee, and joined Lady Butler and his daughter, who are spending the season here.—Yours ever, CLARE.

I am so glad you liked the recipes. Here are some more. These lemon dumplings are worth some attention:—

Grate half a pound of bread into fine crumbs, add to them a quarter of a pound of fine beef suet, chopped fine, a quarter of a pound of Demerara sugar, the juice and zest of a large lemon; mix all well together with a glass of wine, boil them in small cup moulds for about three-quarters of an hour. Turn them out on a dish and screen them with red currant liquor or jelly.

These oyster patties are really too nice to be appropriated to Lent:—

Line some small patty pans with some good puff paste, put a round piece of bread into each, put on the lids, and bake them in a quick oven. Have ready this mixture: Beard a dozen oysters, cut each one into two, put them in a saucepan with the liquor from the oysters, carefully strained, season it with grated nutmeg, pepper, salt, and grated lemon peel; simmer for three minutes, then stir in enough cream to thicken it. Do not let it boil. Remove the lids of the patties, and having taken out the bread, fill them with oyster mixture; put on the lids again and send to table on a dish covered with a d'oyley. Garnish them with parsley.

Finally, try these oysters in scallops' shells:—

Allow half a dozen oysters to each shell. Let them remain in their own liquor. Put into a saucepan an ounce of butter, three skinned mushrooms, a bunch of parsley, and three skinned shallots, finely minced, and a dash of nutmeg. Dust in a little flour. Stir this over the fire until it is brown, then add the liquor from the oysters. When it is of the consistency of thick sauce remove it from the fire and put in the oysters, and give it a toss or two, adding the juice of a lemon and a dash of cayenne. Put the mixture into the shells, which have been well buttered. Screen them with fine bread crumbs, place small pieces of butter here and there. Now put the shells upon a tin and set it in a good oven. When the scallops are of a fine colour send them to table in the shells. Arrange them on a dish upon a d'oyley. Garnish them with parsley.

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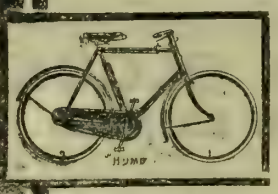

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THE SUREST MEANS OF OBTAINING HEALTH.

Dr. Andrew Wilson's Idea.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., has just issued from the press an engrossing booklet which will set people thinking. In this booklet, "*The Art of Living*," he says :—

"Many people merely exist—they live in a state in which they may be described as being neither very ill nor very well. Persons in this state do not get the most out of life and they cannot attain to the best in the way of living. They cannot do their work in a satisfactory fashion. Work which should be easily performed becomes a toil to them. As a writer has said, they feel 'the burden of living.' Now in a typical state of health living should be no burden at all.

"I should define health as that condition in which every duty of life is performed without pain or discomfort. Whenever we are ill we infringe, so to speak, this definition. The little ailment, equally with the serious one, implies pain to a certain extent, and it renders the sufferer a less effective worker. Besides, loss of health, or even feebleness, has its economic side. It entails loss of money, by reason of inability to discharge the duties that lie to our hand.

"Our first duty to ourselves is to check illness, if we can, at the outset. Suppose a person has 'run down,' as the saying goes, in his bodily health. He feels languid and is easily tired.

"Probably he will be advised, and rightly, to take a 'tonic.' This in the main is good advice, but if there exists any preparation which can combine in itself the properties of a 'tonic' and restorative, and which at the same time can contribute to the nourishment and building-up of the enfeebled body, it is evident such an agent must prove of the utmost value to everybody.

"I have found such a tonic and restorative in the preparation known as Sanatogen. Recovering from an attack of influenza and suffering from the severe weakness incidental to that ailment, Sanatogen was brought under my notice. I gave it a fair trial, and the results were all that could have been desired. In a short time my appetite improved, the weakness was conquered, and without the use of any other medicine or preparation I was restored to health. It is this personal experience of Sanatogen which leads me to recommend it so strongly in all cases of weakness. I do not wonder, after my own experience (duplicated I may say in the case of friends), that medical men both at home and abroad prescribe Sanatogen in many instances of ordinary weakness as well as in those of actual disease.

"What is Sanatogen? is a query which may be answered by saying that it is in no sense a 'secret' remedy. Its composition is well known, otherwise medical men would not prescribe it. It combines two distinct elements, one *tonic*, and the other *nutritive*. This is how Sanatogen comes to act specially as a brain and nerve tonic, bracing up the great nerve centres, and restoring them so that they will adequately discharge their duties in governing our frames."

The publishers of Dr. Andrew Wilson's little work are Messrs. F. Williams & Co., 83, Upper Thames Street, London, E.C., and they are sending free of cost specimen copies of the whole booklet to every *bona fide* applicant who wishes to know all about Sanatogen, and names Truth in his note of application. Sanatogen, by the way, is sold in packets at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. 6d., and can be obtained from any chemist.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,466.

The near approach—unusually early this year—of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat-race suggests to me that now is a convenient opportunity to set a Puzzle that shall appeal to those of our Competitors who are interested in rowing.

I am, therefore, offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas this week to that Competitor who shall send in

THE MOST ACCURATE FORECAST OF THE RESULT OF THE FORTHCOMING BOAT-RACE, GIVING THE NAME OF THE WINNING CREW, THE OFFICIAL TIME OCCUPIED BY THEM IN ROWING THE COURSE, THE RELATIVE POSITION OF THE BOATS AT (I.) THE THAMES BOAT CLUB, (II.) HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE, (III.) BARNES BRIDGE, AND THE NUMBER OF LENGTHS, OR FRACTIONS OF LENGTHS, BY WHICH VICTORY IS FINALLY SECURED.

Any solution which gives the wrong winner cannot, of course, be entertained. But subject to this, the Prize will be awarded to that Competitor who solves the remaining five problems most accurately.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor must send in more than one forecast.

(ii) All Forecasts must reach TRUTH Office by the *last post* on Monday, March 11, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORTEX.—I am much obliged by your letter. I cannot help thinking, however, that I have heard the answer of the riddle which you propound, and that it has some connection with "soles and eels," though I cannot recall the exact metrical form in which it runs.

LIBRA.—Very sorry your *nom-de-plume* was incorrectly printed. I will see that the error is not repeated.

LITTLE BEN.—Your *nom-de-plume* has already been noted. Very pleased indeed to number you among our Competitors.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,463.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

EPIGRAMMATIC ESSAYS, SUPPLYING SOME PLAUSIBLE REASON FOR THE DECLINE AND FALL OF VALENTINE'S DAY.

That the sending of Valentines has fallen into desuetude is due: (1) To the gradual deterioration of what was many centuries ago a happy and pretty custom—the interchange of presents between the sexes—to which Pepys in his diary quaintly alludes; but within the knowledge of many of us it has degenerated into a kind of "Fescennina licentia,"* when a few indulge in lampooning and vulgarly caricaturing people's peculiarities. (2) To the reason that presents or cards are sent in such profusion at Christmas and the New Year, and even Easter, that Valentines have almost sunk into oblivion. Simplex.

* Horace.

Valentine was a martyr priest of Rome who, tradition says, converted the drawing of lots on the Festival of Juno Februata into the custom of sending messages of affection amongst Christians. In time these became messages between the sexes, especially in England and France. At last they degenerated into vulgar and often scurrilous and indecent, coarse, coloured pictures, and decent folk gave them up. The custom of young acquaintances greeting one another first thing in the morning on Valentine's Day as Valentine or Valentina has also come to an end since coarse hooligans shouted Valentina at every girl they met. Nemo.

Valentine's Day, like the last century, is quite out of date. A hundred years ago our girls were so guarded that they never could know what a lover meant until he declared himself to her parents. So the swain invented the fashion of sending a picture letter to his fair one, or sometimes a valuable gift, to let her know his feelings. This is quite unnecessary now, when girls can meet men on golf, hockey, or any other sporting ground, without a chaperon. In fact, the emancipation of women has quite done away with the gentle hint of a Valentine. Frances.

Hic jacet. Saint Valentine of blessed memory! Patron-in-Ordinary to all true lovers! Peace be with you!—though you had no more to do with patronising the frivolous fancies of fleeting youth than the Man-in-the-Iron-Mask. You are now, alas! only a memory indeed, but, it appears, not of unalloyed sweetness. For, sad to say, your remembrance is inalienably associated in all our minds with certain twopenny red-and-black abominations of bounders, boozers, and snakes-in-the-grass that have been in the habit of appearing about your time. Therewith the dainty and delightful custom of exchanging flowered greetings lapsed. The Philistines again, O Valentine! The rest is silence. Rimabel.

Why tell your girl you love her in gold and Cupids on February 14, when on December 25 you told her ditto in silver and angels? Why send her a letter with a pretty picture on it, on one—when you can send her a pretty picture with a postcard on it, on any—day of the year? Why waste time, stationery, and postage, when the harmless, necessary telephone is always with us?—

"Hallo! Are you there? Valentine's Day—I adore you, dar——conf—ound!—Good-bye!"

That's how we do it, and why we don't do it. Hence these idle tears. Islander.

About the middle of last century the cult of St. Valentine, previously abandoned as vulgar by the classes, culminated among the masses. These have ever since grown year by year more practical. Arry deems money better spent on treats and trinkets than on silver-laced sentimentality. Arriet prefers appreciable gifts and significant company-keeping to conventional effusions—unsigned, and therefore unconvincing in actions for breach of promise. Both, having floundered at school through a course of "Poetic Readers," deride the namby-pamby, love-dove, heart-dart anthology of Cupid which, damned alike by common sense and smart Society, no longer overburdens the postman. Eboracum.

One of the effects of the establishment of the penny post was an immense increase in the sending of Valentines. So great became the rage for these literary absurdities that it caused a serious hindrance to commercial correspondence. Some one suggested that useful presents should be substituted for Valentines. The idea was almost universally adopted, and nearly every one felt it a duty to send a useful present to some one else. This in its turn became a burden to society, and St. Valentine became an "old man of the sea." But he had gradually so thoroughly displaced the old-fashioned Valentine that it never recovered itself, and probably never will.—Libra.

Valentines disappeared because more can be got out of Christmas cards. The former were made by hand in England; the latter are produced in Germany in unlimited quantities by cheap mechanical processes, which enable dealers to effect enormous sales at substantial profits.

The more costly Valentine appealed mainly to young people of ardent temperament, whereas the cards appeal to all ages, conditions, and requirements; and there seems no longer reason why Edwin should wait till February and pay half-a-crown, when he can apprise Angelina of his amorous condition a couple of months earlier for twopence.—Ephemeron.

In olden days, when etiquette sanctioned little or no intercourse between the sexes, Valentines were dispatched in order to convey affectionate greetings. Now that loving couples see more of each other they are seldom used, except for abuse. When we speak of Valentines nowadays we generally refer, not to the elegant old-fashioned missives, but the hideous coloured monstrosities which adorn our toyshop windows. In these degenerate times a valentine is, more often than not, an insult from some anonymous individual, and he who would win the heart of some fair lady had far better send her a pictorial postcard.—Cherrypicker.

Rationalism and the Suffragette, destroying love, have destroyed also its graphic-poetic declaration—the Valentine. Or, if love be still rampant, the higher nature, stirred to its deeps, now requires more ethereal expression—say, chocolates. Again, St. Valentine was a respectable saint, and bishops (educated since Guy Thorne arose) have discontinued so obnoxious a use of the holy day. Then, pupil teachers have discovered that "Valentine" has no etymological connection with "galantin" (a lover). They therefore discountenance such an unwarrantable violation of philology. Hence the decline. Lastly, the Poet Laureate has refused to write any more Valentine verses. Hence the fall.—Little Ben.

Some folk say St. Valentine's Day has gone out of fashion; some say it has not; therefore, "quot homines tot sententiæ." But even granting the former to be right, the explanation is simple—"Autres temps, autres mœurs." Cupid is not such a "sentimental Tommy"-rotter as he used to be; his love is none the less ardent than before, but he conducts operations in a more business-like way. In these days of incandescent mantles and economic gas burners the flame of love burns none the less brightly for a smaller consumption of—"gas"!—Derula.

Valentine's Day died in "the up-to-date rush." Men and maidens are too matter of fact now. Our boys do not write verses to girls, or send pretty gifts, "From your Valentine," or girls watch to find out the name of the first man she sees on February 14, as "it" will be the name of her husband. No beating about the bush; the birds will come to the front without; romance expired when women's cigarettes came in.—Felsberg.

As there are patent medicines that cure every ill under the sun, so does the science of Evolution solve every riddle of the universe.

Man, the itinerant vagabond, marching through Time, drops his habits by the roadside as a tramp discards worn-out boots and holey garments.

The pride of to-day is the contempt of to-morrow.

The quaint usages of Valentine's Day have but followed the eternal order of things. They are a threadbare vestment cast into the limbo of the ages.

It is regrettable; it is inevitable; it is Evolution.—Cybele.

Here lies Valentine—once patron saint of lovers. Extinct as the dodo; snuffed out by an utilitarian age. Remembered only, by the vulgar, in rude images and ribald jests, displayed in tenth-rate shop windows; whereas, erewhile, thy dainty pledges wheedled coins from prince and statesmen!

Poor saint, thou has naught in common with the goggled motorist, the "muddled oaf," the Suffragette, or the slang-loving maiden of to-day! Unheeded would be thy love-laden sighs, unless accompanied by the "Golden Key," which alone openeth the hearts of England's men and maids in these modern days.—Hic Jacet.

Valentine's Day, with all its fooleries, vulgarities, vanities, and gushing sentiments of endearment, is almost annihilated, for revengeful or amorous dissipation. The lovely, fairy-like scraps, with touching lines, pleading for the maiden's heart, are scornfully disowned. The hideous splashes of pictorial art no longer invite the malignant humour of jealous rivals or broken friendships. The new age is polished and refined. Gentility, courtesy, and good breeding are cultivated. The mind has higher aims. Love is in the market, with dignity or dollars. Calumny wears a smile. Hostility gracefully unbends. The magic art of inward illumination determines the saintly change.—Mary.

The blight and mildew of old age have demolished the energy and marred the glory of the patron saint of wit, humour, and amorous dedications. His day is in shadow. And why? Pictorial art has risen to the sublime. The songs of love are chanted in halls of music. Flowery maids and matrons expand their charms where the gods give praise. Emulation in artistic shows and refinement of sentiment bestows superiority. Cupid's appeals are ignored. The broken heart is soon patched. Dollars supply the requisite enchantment. Blushing modesty is scornfully reviled. Matrimonial aspirants present their credentials in public form.—Diana.

The decline of St. Valentine's Day is an effect of the emancipation of women. Just think what girls were in the days when an ardent swain used to manœuvre to be the first seen by his lady-love on St. Valentine's Day, and what they are now, when they go off to business by train, and compete with men in the open market! There is the bread-and-butter miss at one end of the chain and the bread-and-butter earner at the other; and men have to get up early to hold their own instead of getting up early to be a Valentine.—Almaviva.

Saint Valentine must go. The modern spirit—if anything so material may be called a spirit—derides him. We have no use for him—that is the phrase! We picture him wearing peg-tops and Piccadilly weepers, and they are unfashionable. Cupid himself is no longer the marksman, but the mark, and our shafts we tip with levity. Love's tokens now must have intrinsic value to make up for the poorer quality of the love. We have exchanged poetry for slang, and lavender for patchouli. We go in for the vivisection of self, and would analyse the bloom off a peach.—Nibbler.

Valentines, of latter days, were mainly of three types—the sentimental, the silly, and the scurrilous, or sometimes a combination of two of the three. Sentiment ceased to be in vogue. The silly type was merely ridiculous, but ridicule kills. The scurrilous was disgusting. The custom thus brought about its own decline by the inept methods employed in its observance, and the final blow was given by the coming of the Christmas card. This last statement is proved by the Post Office returns, the increase in the Christmas postings being coincident with a rapid decrease in those of Valentine's Day.—Petros.

Saints and the Valentine sentiment are equally at a discount. The winter festival has eclipsed the festival of spring. To Christmas and New Year's cards has been added the picture postcard, which, beggar-like, is always with us. Art is so lavished on these other missives that the "ugly" valentines alone survive—for death! Lads and lassies no longer draw names from St. Valentine's box, for can they not anywhere invoke the gipsy-queen by putting a penny in the slot? Telephones, telegraphs, tubes, trams, and buzzers are at hand, and nothing approaches the personal interview for matrimonial business purposes.—Ox Short.

I may be an old bachelor, but I can resolve ye this problem in less than a hundred words. In my day, boys of all classes spent the scanty remnants of their Christmas cash on Valentines, some tender tribute to the selected sweetheart.

The dimpled darlings, whether in servants' hall or boarding school, furbished up their last year's leavings of lace, heart-pourings, and filigree, altered perchance the pencilled price, and posted them stampless to promiscuous but possible admirers. If these sacrifices to the little love-god have ceased nowadays, it is owing to the confounded cupidity of the rising generation.—Thersites.

"The world is grown old," says the philosopher. "We dress sombrely, we play sombrely, we drink sombrely, and now we love sombrely." "Just fancy sending a Valentine to a modern girl," sneers the cynic. "She would use it to light her cigarette with, or write golf scores on the back." "Things were different when I was young," growls the old stager. "Then men were men, and love was love. When I courted your mother, sir, . . ." The whine of the moneygrubber rises, "What is love? A shadow! Wealth is happiness." But youth smiles contentedly, for many are the ways of love.—Oiseau.

Poets and all amiable persons regret the decline of Valentines. At this genial season, when birds marry, the bashful youth writes Angelina the condition of his heart. Valentines flourished when written. When they became articles of commerce they grew common. Sensible women prefer original composition to printed verses. Men are not all poets, or even versifiers. But persons of taste might send good selections complimentary to women, like this:—

"The world was sad! The garden was a wild!
And man, the hermit, sigh'd—till woman smil'd."

Scottish people call a poet a maker, thus retaining the original Greek sublime word.—J. McGrigor Allan.

The romantic customs and associations connected with St. Valentine's Day are out of harmony with this money-making age. Open, unabashed chivalry is almost non-existent. A lover of to-day rarely wears his heart on his sleeve, or, if he does, he has not placed it there intentionally. The main cause of the decline, however, is the growth of the vulgar valentine. The hideous comic Valentine has gradually displaced the silk and satin messages of a few years ago, and by investing the custom with ridicule has contributed more than anything else to the desuetude into which the festival has fallen.—Hyde.

Mild flirtations were formerly the order of the day, and numbers of youthful victims were then taken in and done for, with frequently improvident results. At the present day few can afford to trifle with a pastime that might lead to irretrievable positions. Men are now habitually cautious with regard to matrimony, and play a waiting game. They look well round, and study the situation from all points, especially the pecuniary one. Women, too, do not marry as a rule till nearing thirty, and therefore the frivolity of Valentine's Day has ceased to be a means to an end. Canning.

The fine art publishers themselves may be responsible.

The decline set in when even the man in the street was hooked at Christmas by the bait of De La Rue. There was, here, a sort of passive imperativeness to purchase. The cynics set to work with a cold douche, but their efforts were misguided, for the douche led to a deluge on the other side—through the simultaneous rise of the New Year card. Here is active imperativeness, on the principle that: "If I do not send the one, I must send the other." Hence the Fall after the Deluge! Caledon.

Why is Valentine's Day neglected? As well ask why we don't travel by sailing ships: because we no longer need it, having far easier means of corresponding, as superior to poor old Saint Valentine as steamers are to sailing ships for speed—and equally prosaic by comparison. Man's ingratitude being proverbial, the patron Saint of lovers is being yearly more neglected, now that the thorny path of courtship has been worn smooth by time and custom, and for a maid to write to a man ceased to be one of the seven deadly sins. Postal revenues increase correspondingly. Hatter.

The heartrending wail of the Saint is surely that oft-repeated cry: "I have lived my life."

The designing of Valentines is no longer considered a fine art, and thereby hangs the tale. The few displayed in the publisher's window have but little original design or artistic talent displayed in their creation—certainly none sufficient to kindle sentiment in the matter-of-fact public, who with interest unawakened pass by.

Forgetfulness is principally the root of this evil, for sentiment but slumbers, and in reality "The old order (only) changeth, yielding place to new"-er designs. S. Era Exshaw.

Poor St. Valentine! Poor bedraggled, wing-broken, sat-upon Cupid! No more rustic swain in search of ye, no maiden of high degree listening for the postman's knock! Alack, alack! Hacked, kicked, Rugby fashion, into nothingness, ye are dead as a door-nail! And what enemy hath done this? Verily, the noble army of Christmas cards, coming, locust-like, ten thousand strong, to stay, has ousted your old favourites from your stronghold here, and clean put your little pipe out. But in the Eternal City damsels cast their *billets doux* at the feet of a Saint annually, and so the tradition survives. Aster.

As the years pass one by one, many an old custom fades with them into oblivion, so as to let some new craze have its day, which may live and flourish, or else have a similar fate to its predecessor.

Christmas cards, which are sent now in such numbers, have undoubtedly been the Valentine's successful rivals. True, some twenty years ago both were in vogue, but the Christmas card of that period was ugliness itself, while that of the present day—even for a halfpenny—is "a thing of beauty and a joy." Consequently, as December's custom grew, February's decayed. Ethna.

The decline and fall of St. Valentine's Day was brought about by cheap printing and illustrating; Valentines then lost their chaste appearance, and became vulgar and low. Game B.

St. Valentine has accomplished his work satisfactorily. It must be admitted that his services were possibly required in the bygone ages; but now it is very different.

In our young days one of his chief ultimate objects was to encourage proposals of marriage and the consummation thereof; but now we are all married, or nearly so; and those of us who are not are too poor to venture the risks involved (there's the new servant risk also).

Why not let the custom die a natural death, and let well alone? Something fresh might be substituted. Rho.

Saint Valentine, you are deposed! Illustrious in past ages, your glory has now departed!

Jester, lover, avenger, and scandaliser, your days are numbered and your grave is ready! And why? The light of mental expansion is spreading. The cultivation of the classic forms of pictorial art has decreed your doom. The machine gives variety and colour cheap. Maidens and widows, bachelors and philosophers refuse to surrender to the terrors and convivialities once inspired by your miscellaneous effusions. The bleeding heart with Cupid's arrow through it has vanished.

The carnival of foolery is decked with funeral wreaths. No emblems of sorrow. Crank.

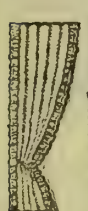
St. Valentine is dead! He was slain by his rival, Santa Claus—the latter saint having artfully pandered to the taste of children, who occupy a very different place in the world from what they did some fifty years ago.

And women, alas! have no time for sentiment nowadays.

Even should a modern man condescend to purchase and send some touching emblem, such as a flaming heart, garlanded by forget-me-nots, bearing words of rapturous love, would it not be greeted with shouts of laughter by the athletic maiden, and cause the suffragette to shiek anew? Autre temps, autres mœurs. Belinda.

Saint Valentine has had his day. This is an age when delicacy emanates not from the refinement of our feeling, but from the restaurateur, and appeals to our taste only in a gastronomic sense. King Candour reigns supreme; anonymity, no longer the verdure concealing the modest violet, is but the shadowy niche where lurks in safety the assassin armed with the stiletto of invective. Love may laugh at locksmiths, but displays a respect for their handiwork, the strong-room, nor fails, in defiance of Saint Valentine, to leave his card or his offering at the shrine of beauty. Eldibee.

February 14 marks in the calendar the period of Nature's awakening from winter's sleep, and long associated in popular fancy with the budding of tender sentiments in men and maidens. Modern ideals, however, have developed in the youth of both sexes an early condition of wideawakeness which renders special periods for the purpose unnecessary. The age of the new woman has come, and with it aspirations more practical and less romantic. Moonlight rambles, the evergreen pictorial postcard, a better understanding of the law of affinity, make the flimsy, scented, anonymous Valentine ridiculous. Hence the decline of the old Saint's popularity. Gilt Sticks.



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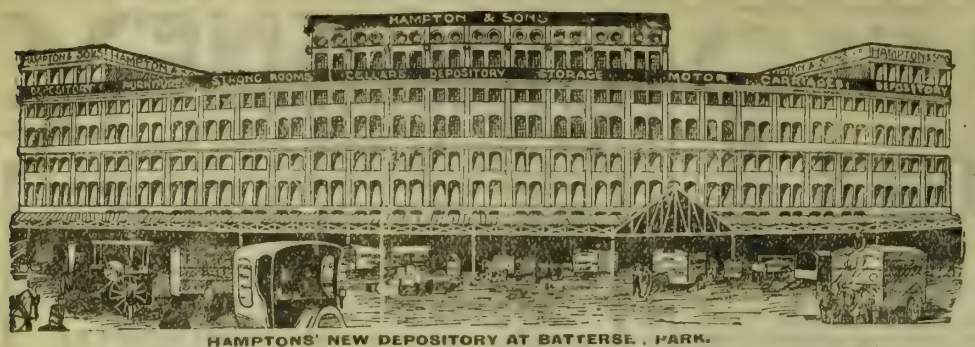

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

MY Puzzle Editor has not yet received applications for their prizes from "La Mancha" and "New York," the first and second prize winners in the recent "Kenwig-street Murder" Queer Story Competition. I shall be glad if the writers of the solutions sent in under the above-mentioned noms de plume will now apply, giving their own names and addresses, for the prizes which they have been awarded.

The Court will not be much in residence at Windsor Castle during the summer. The King and Queen are expected there for ten days during the Whitsuntide holidays, and they will also reside at the Castle from June 15 to 24, for Ascot races. It is very likely that a large garden party will be given at Windsor Castle this year, in which case it will take place about the end of May or early in June, when the King and Queen of Denmark will be on a visit to the Court.

The King is staying at Biarritz at the Hôtel du Palais, in the same suite of apartments which he occupied last year. These rooms, fourteen in number, comprise the ground floor of the southern wing of the house, and there are beautiful views from the large windows. The King has a drawing-room, a dining-room, and a library, all *en suite*. The rooms contain a great deal of the furniture which belonged to Napoleon III. and the Empress Eugénie. On fine mornings the King breakfasts under an awning on the terrace outside his rooms, after which he devotes a couple of hours at least to business with Sir Arthur Davidson, the acting private secretary. The déjeuner is usually served at half-past twelve.

At the second Court there was a very much larger attendance of general company, with a thin entrée and a comparatively small diplomatic circle. An important change has been made in the regulations, in that only those who have the entrée are now allowed to go directly into the ball-room. Others wait until the time arrives for them to pass the presence of the King and Queen, after which they leave the room at once. Their Majesties were late in arriving, as they had given three private audiences in the Blue Drawing-room before the procession to the ball-room was formed. Lady Crewe presented the Ambassadresses and the wives of the other Chefs de Mission, and the duties of Lord Steward were undertaken by Lord Farquhar, in consequence of the illness of Lord Liverpool. The Court could not be described as a notably "smart" ceremonial, for, apart from the personages in waiting, the attendance of the élite of society was exceedingly limited, while there was a great show of the class described by the late Lord Sydney as "tagrag and bobtail." The floral decorations were much admired.

The Court was over before twelve, and the King and Queen and the members of the Royal family (of whom very few were present) left in procession (as on arrival) for the supper-room, followed by the Corps Diplomatique. Supper for the guests was served at buffets, and there was the usual magnificent display of the Crown plate, and a fine show of fruit. The supper was very good, as it now always is at the Palace.

The next Court will be held early in May, probably on Friday, the 3rd, and there will be a fourth one later

on in the season, probably immediately after the Whitsuntide holidays.

It is now probable that the Queen will leave Sandringham about Monday, the 18th, and that a day or two later her Majesty will embark at Portsmouth on board the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* for Gibraltar, where she will spend a few days with the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife. On the passage to Gibraltar the *Victoria and Albert* will probably stop at Cadiz for a day in order that the Queen may pay a visit to the Comtesse de Paris at the Château of Villamanrique. Her Majesty will go from Gibraltar to Marseilles, where she is to be joined by the King (coming direct from Biarritz) on April 1 or 2. The Royal yacht will then proceed on a three weeks' cruise, which will terminate at Genoa or Venice, and the King will then return overland to London.

A weekly journal announces that the King intends to enlarge the house at Sandringham very considerably, and that the plans for the contemplated additions to the Hall have already been drawn out. It is possible that three or four rooms may be added to the present house, in order to afford further accommodation for members of suites. But there is no idea of enlarging the house "on account of its insufficient accommodation for entertaining parties." The present house has afforded ample accommodation for the last thirty-five years for larger parties than are now usually entertained there. Of late there has been a tendency at Sandringham to cut down the number of guests rather than to increase it.

The present house at Sandringham was completely rebuilt from designs by Humbert a few years after the King (then Prince of Wales) had purchased the estate from the late Mr. Spencer Cowper, but a ballroom and other additions were afterwards made to the mansion, which is more remarkable for comfort and a well-arranged interior than for any distinguished architectural merit. It is understood that Sandringham has been settled by the King upon the Queen as a dower-house.

It was stated in Truth several weeks ago that the first series of the correspondence of Queen Victoria will be published by Mr. Murray in October. A paragraph appeared in numerous journals last week which described this work as an "official life" of her late Majesty. The book is in no sense a biography, as it will consist simply and solely of the letters written by Queen Victoria. The statement that the King "has written personally a large portion of it" is a ridiculous invention. His Majesty has merely looked through the proof sheets of the three volumes in order that he might signify his approval of the publication of the letters which had been selected by Lord Esher and Mr. Benson. An enormous collection of Queen Victoria's political correspondence, and of her other papers relating to public affairs, has been carefully preserved in the so-called "secret" library at Buckingham Palace, and all Prince Albert's letters and memoranda have also been kept. These were arranged after his death by the late General Grey.

I gave an account last week of the arrangements which had been made for the public visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Glasgow next month. An important change of programme has since been decided upon. The Prince and Princess are to arrive at Blythswood House on Monday, April 22, and they were to have returned south on Thursday, the 25th. It has now been arranged for them to stay at Blythswood until the morning of Friday, the 26th, and on Thursday, the 25th, they will formally open the new dock at Clydebank. The Prince and Princess (then Duke and Duchess of York) performed a similar ceremony on the Clyde about ten years ago, when they opened the great Prince's Dock. The ceremony of April 25 will take place in the morning, and it is very likely that in the afternoon the Prince and Princess will pay a visit to Sir Hugh and Lady Alice Shaw-Stewart at Ardgowan, their splendid and beautiful domain on the Clyde, near Greenock, which is one of the finest country seats in the west of Scotland.

It was announced in Truth several months ago that the Princes Edward and Albert of Wales would be sent to the Royal Naval School at Osborne, and afterwards to the Naval College at Dartmouth. Prince Edward goes to Osborne after the Easter holidays, and he will be followed in a few months by Prince Albert. It was stated last week in some of the papers that "it is not yet certain whether Prince Edward will adopt a naval or a military career." As a matter of fact, it has been for some time "settled" by the King (in conjunction with the Prince and Princess of Wales) that Prince Edward is to go through a course of education for the Navy, and he will afterwards proceed (with his brother) on one or two voyages. Prince Edward will then enter the Army, while Prince Albert is to remain in the Navy. This arrangement is in accordance with the family precedents. The King is the supreme authority on all questions concerning the education or custody of members of the Royal family, and in these matters the Sovereign has absolute power.

Princess Christian will leave England shortly for the Riviera, on a visit to the Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at the Château de Fabron. Prince Christian will stay, during the absence of the Princess, at Cumberland Lodge.

It was announced in Truth several months ago that the Empress Dowager of Russia was expected to come to England on a visit to the Queen. Circumstances have caused this visit to be postponed, but the Empress is now on her journey from St. Petersburg to London, and she will arrive at Buckingham Palace to-morrow,

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For Appeals, see page 610.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 603.
For Special for Ladies, see page 607.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 602, 603.
For Amusements, see page 611.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 609, 610.

and will be the guest of her sister at Sandringham for about ten days. It is probable that the Empress Marie will leave England with the Queen on board the Royal yacht, from which she will land at Marseilles, whence she is expected to proceed to Cannes, where several members of the Russian Imperial family are now staying. The Empress Marie paid her last visit to England, with her husband, during the summer of 1873.

It was stated in Truth last week that his Majesty intends to confer the Order of the Garter upon the King of Saxony, and that the Prince of Wales would probably go to Dresden on a special mission to invest his Majesty with the ribbon and insignia. It is probable that this arrangement will be changed, and that the King himself will invest the King of Saxony at Biarritz. The King of Saxony left Hamburg on Saturday for Lisbon, on a short visit to his cousin, the King of Portugal, and he intends to return home overland, making brief halts at Madrid, Biarritz, and Paris.

The Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and her youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, who have spent the winter at Coburg, are to arrive this week at Nice for a stay of two months at the Château de Fabron. The Grand Duchess Marie and Princess Beatrice are expected to visit England in June, and they will probably spend about a fortnight in London as the guests of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. The relations of the Grand Duchess Marie with the Tsar and Tsaritsa have been considerably strained since her second daughter, the ex-Grand Duchess of Hesse, married the Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovitch, after their union had been positively forbidden by the Tsar.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen returned on Monday to Dublin Castle from their short visit to England. Amongst the visitors who stayed at the Castle during the week were Lord and Lady Wicklow, Ladies Alexandra Hamilton, Mabel and Violet Anson, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith, and Mr. G. and Miss M. Coates. A succession of entertainments was given during the week, at which Lady Aberdeen, owing to indisposition, was unable to be present. On Friday evening Lord Aberdeen, with a Viceregal party and staff, attended the annual concert of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and afterwards distributed the prizes to the successful pupils. He made a graceful speech on the occasion. This week the Lace Ball at the Castle is the leading social event in Dublin.

The death of Lady Ripon is stated by a so-called "society writer" to have been "entirely unexpected," to which it is added that "few people knew that she was even ill." As a matter of fact, Lady Ripon had been a complete invalid for nearly three years, during which period she has resided entirely at Lord Ripon's house at Chelsea, as she was unable to travel to Studley Royal, the family place in Yorkshire. Lady Ripon's illness took a turn for the worse three weeks ago, and for several days before her death not the slightest hope of her recovery was entertained.

Lady Ripon was a daughter of Mr. Henry and Lady Mary Vyner, of Gautby Hall, Lincolnshire, and granddaughter of the first Earl de Grey. Her mother was co-heiress of Lord de Grey's large estates, in conjunction with her sister, the late Lady Cowper, and she inherited the fine domain of Newby Hall, in Yorkshire, which now belongs to Lady Ripon's brother, Mr. Robert Vyner. Lady Vyner herself was a very clever and highly accomplished woman, and a charming hostess. She was exceedingly kind and charitable, and took a deep and warm interest in all those among whom she lived. She succeeded her mother, Lady Mary Vyner, in the carrying on of many good works in and around Ripon, and she was always ready to help the charitable and philanthropic institutions of the district. The King and Queen (when Prince and Princess of Wales) were more than once guests at Studley Royal, and the Prince of Wales has stayed there several times for grouse-shooting. Until Lady Ripon's health failed Studley Royal was the scene of constant hospitality during the autumn and winter. She had excellent taste, and greatly improved the famous Dutch gardens at Studley Royal and the demesne generally by alterations which she suggested, and which were carried out under her supervision.

In political affairs Lady Ripon took a keen and most intelligent interest, and the Sunday afternoon receptions which she held for many years at Lord Ripon's former house in Carlton-gardens were regularly attended by many of the leading statesmen of the day. She was of immense assistance to her husband while he was Viceroy of India, and as loyal and devoted a helpmate as Lady Canning. The greatest sympathy is felt for Lord Ripon in the irreparable loss he has sustained. When he and Lady Ripon celebrated their golden wedding in 1901 he said: "We have lived and worked together for fifty long and happy years, and I have learnt to love and trust her more as each of these years has gone by."

Mr. J. W. Barclay, who died last week, was for twenty years Member for Forfarshire, from 1872 until 1886 as a Liberal, and then until 1892 as a Unionist. He was always prominent in connection with agricultural affairs, which he thoroughly understood. Mr. Barclay was an early and an enthusiastic supporter of scientific methods of farming. He farmed himself on the improved principles at Glenbucket, his place in Aberdeenshire, and field experiments were regularly conducted there in connection with the Aberdeen Agricultural College. He was very popular, and during his Parliamentary career he was generally regarded in Scotland as being peculiarly the representative of the farmers.

Sir Francis Plunkett, who died on Thursday in Paris, has survived his retirement from the diplomatic service

For Approved Charities, see page 605.

for less than two years. He was a son of the ninth Earl of Fingall, and became a paid attaché in 1885. After serving in many subordinate posts he was appointed Minister at Tokyo in 1883, and afterwards became Minister at Stockholm and Brussels successively, the last five years of his official career being passed at Vienna, where he succeeded Sir Horace Rumbold as Ambassador in 1900. Sir Francis was a very able man, and a dexterous diplomatist. He was full of tact and urbanity, but, at the same time, he was both acute and resolute. He was everywhere very popular, both officially and in society, and his death will be regretted by friends in many parts of the world. Sir Francis settled in Paris on his retirement from public life.

Sir Francis Tress Barry, who died on Thursday, was the Tory Member for Windsor from 1890 until the last General Election, when he retired. In early life he was a merchant at Bilbao, when he was also a member of the Consular Service. Sir Francis Barry made a large fortune out of the San Domingo copper mines in Portugal, and his brother-in-law, the late Mr. James Mason (afterwards of Ensham Hall, Oxfordshire), was his partner in the exploitation of that lucrative undertaking. About thirty years ago he purchased the beautiful domain of St. Leonard's Hill, in Windsor Forest. He was a great benefactor to Windsor in many ways, and his charities of all kinds were most munificent.

Sir Robert Rollo, Colonel of the Black Watch, who died at Bournemouth last week in his ninety-third year, was a younger son of the eighth Baron Rollo, and great-uncle of the present peer. He joined the 42nd Highlanders in 1832, and in 1846 he was sent on a special mission to Tripoli, and received the thanks of the Government for his services. During the greater part of the Crimean War Sir Robert commanded the 42nd, and he greatly distinguished himself on several occasions. He afterwards served on the Staff in Canada for five years, and then he was military secretary to Sir Fenwick Williams for another term of five years. He returned to England in 1865. He was for some years Colonel of the 93rd Highlanders until he was appointed to his old regiment.

The offer mentioned in last week's Truth to furnish a noble lord with his pedigree back to Adam and Eve for 35s. has interested many of my readers who have genealogical or archæological tastes, and they have been good enough to give me much valuable information on the subject. I select the following as the one which possibly explains how Mr. McGregor, of Edinburgh, is able to price his goods so cheaply:—

> Whether the heathen Cerdic was fully informed about his ancestry it is perhaps impossible to say now. But in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, year 860, the monkish chronicler gives the pedigree of King Æthelwulf (Alfred's father), tracing it back (probably correctly) to Cerdic, and then back to one Scaef, who is said to have been born in Noah's Ark! From Noah to Adam, of course, the pedigree comes from the chronicler's knowledge of Genesis.

This is the first I have heard of an addition to Noah's family having occurred during the sojourn in the Ark, but it is just the sort of inconvenient time at which such events *do* happen.

Another reader, who seems afraid—quite unnecessarily—that I may be sending 35s. to Edinburgh for the pedigree of Cerdic, warns me that very possibly the connection of the noble family in question with the Hebrew patriarchs may be due to some previous holder of the title having, for reasons of financial convenience, espoused a Jewish maiden—I suppose he means a moneylender's daughter or something of that kind. But I should not like to give pain to the very excellent peer who sent me McGregor's letter by countenancing such a suggestion.

THE MORALS OF MARRIED MEN.

(By a Perplexed Maiden.)

The Bishop of London lays his ban
Unsparing, upon the married man,
Whose morals his lordship declares e'en more
Lax than are those of the bachelor.

It used to be thought that wedlock's yoke
Steadied and tamed the fastest bloke.
But now it appears in another light,
With results precisely the opposite.

Now, if the Bishop's remarks are true,
What is a girl like myself to do?
'Tis a choice of evils—an old maid's life,
Or else to become some Lothario's wife.

An old maid's life, with its parrot and cat!
Perish the notion! I can't stand *that!*
So, e'en though husbands frivol and frisk,
I think, after all, I will take the risk.

One of my readers asks me whether it is legal for an omnibus company to fine its drivers and conductors for short earnings. I should be inclined to say that it is not, were it not that in these days it is not easy for an employer of labour to stretch his rights beyond the limits that the law allows; and it may be presumed that omnibus drivers would long since have made a firm stand against this practice if the law were on their side. But the system is very harsh and oppressive, as has often been pointed out in these columns; and it has become much harder on the men at the present time, when they are in charge of horse omnibuses which have to compete with motor vehicles. My correspondent has had his wrath aroused by a 'bus driver of his acquaintance who had recently been fined three days' pay for short earnings under these conditions. It is not easy to see that a 'bus driver can do much towards either filling or emptying his vehicle. He ought to have to do his journey in a given time, and to be paid for doing it, whether the public patronise the vehicle or not. But if the companies desire to interest their servants in pushing the business, the proper way to do so is to give them a percentage on the receipts, not to dock their pay when trade is unsatisfactory.

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

I do not profess to know whether carriage-horses really object to bearing-reins. I should fancy that it must be disagreeable to them when moving forward quickly with a heavy load behind them, although it may not be so disagreeable as to amount to absolute torture, whether or not they suffer from it when standing still. There was a meeting not long since of the Anti-Bearing-Rein Association, when the chair was taken by Lady Orford. A letter was read, in reply to a request of the association to place a notice in the quadrangle of Burlington House, requesting coachmen to slacken their bearing-reins when carriages stand there, and considerable indignation was elicted by a reply to the effect that the President and Council decline to do so. If my view be correct, however, this would be of little service to the horses, for the bearing-rein would have to be fixed precisely at the moment when it would be most distressful to them.

Lady Orford, said the reporter, made the following observations to him: "Undoubtedly, with a bearing-rein, you have a greater control over the horse, and in these exceptional cases (Court carriages), where great lives and interests are involved, it may, as a question of safety, be permitted." I cannot help thinking that all persons, whether great interests in their lives be involved or not, are likely to consider that they are of so much importance to themselves that they will not consent to incur risks which the association considers are excessive in the case of great personages. Moreover, with all respect to Royalties and courtiers, there are many others whose lives are as valuable as theirs. Would, then, Lady Orford suggest that ministers, judges, admirals, generals, bishops, doctors, men of science, etc., should be allowed to fix bearing-reins on their carriage-horses as an additional security against accidents, no matter what torture the reins might be to the horses?

Apropos of the story told by a correspondent the other day of the blackmailing of nurserymen by gardeners, one of my readers relates the following experience. He has been accustomed to order his vegetable seeds of a first-class firm from a list supplied by his gardener. Finding that this list was growing even more vigorously than the seeds—he had five shillingsworth of onion seed last spring—he this year ordered a box of seeds of another firm at a guinea and a half, in place of his gardener's list, which came to nearly £4. When he produced his box of seeds, the gardener "gave a month's notice on the spot." As the man was receiving 24s. a week, besides a house, fuel, light, and milk, his prospect of perquisites from the other seedsman must have been pretty substantial to make it worth his while to take this step. Possibly he was contending for an important professional principle, like the doctors and lawyers with their trade-union rules. It may be that he felt he would lose caste by serving an employer who could do such an ungentlemanly thing as to buy a collection of seeds in a box, instead of using the prescription supplied by his regular horticultural adviser.

Another of my readers sends the following letter, as an example of the "secret commissions" system and the effects of the new Act. The letter comes from a large game-dealer with whom my correspondent had dealt for many years—in blissful ignorance, apparently, of what his head keeper was getting out of the business:—

> Dear Sir,—The shooting season being closed, I venture to take the liberty of asking your permission to send the Head Game-the same time to comply with the new Act just passed.
> The motive is simply to recognise the season just closed, at the same time to comply with the new Act just passed
> Thanking you in anticipation of your esteemed reply, etc.

In these days of cut-throat competition between newspapers we can none of us afford to lavish compliments too freely upon our contemporaries. Personally, I feel this so strongly that I always abuse them for choice. But I am bound to congratulate Mr. Massingham, and all else concerned, upon the first number of the *Nation*, which has now replaced the *Speaker*, under Mr. Massingham's editorship. I never could quite understand why the *Speaker* was not more successful, and this is not a proper occasion for an inquiry into the question. But it may be seen at a glance that the *Nation* is an improvement upon its predecessor in more respects than one; and all who know its editor will expect to see the improvement more pronounced as time goes on. I hope, therefore, that the *Nation* has a brilliant career before it, and that we shall all of us find the supply of sixpences equal to the demands we are making upon an appreciative public.

While I trust that as a mere man I am as charitable as my neighbours, as an editor I am compelled to place business first and charity second. In this respect I am not aware that I differ from other editors or other people who have to conduct commercial undertakings. Now, a gentleman has sent to my musical critic an advertisement of an eminent singer, cut from the *Morning Post*, with an intimation that it would be "very charitable" on his part to allude to the announcement in his weekly article. People not infrequently do this sort of thing, which is my reason for putting on record the foregoing observations. Possibly, if the singer's advertisement had been published in Truth and then sent to the *Morning Post*, the *Morning Post* would have been charitable enough to repeat it free of charge. The gentleman who appeals to me can easily try this experiment, and I shall be delighted to co-operate in it. But I am sorry to say that at present he has begun at the wrong end.

The indefatigable Manning Press was mentioned in last week's Truth as engaged in exploiting "Derbyshire Leaders: Social and Political," under the name of "Ernest Gaskell, Author." It is quite impossible to keep pace with the literary activities of this hustler. From another of his circulars, it appears that he is also at work on "Cheshire Leaders: Social and Political." Only a few months ago he had marked down Lancashire Leaders for his prey. The Cheshire

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

Leaders, of course, pay three guineas, like the others, for the honour offered them, and the same description of the volume, and the same formulas, are used in cadging for subscriptions, and following up the "Leaders" who hang back when first summoned to enrol themselves. But it is rather odd that while Manning Press is "Ernest Gaskell" to Derbyshire men, he becomes "W. Gaskell" to the men of Cheshire. Whether he forgets his own aliases, or whether he seriously supposes that he can conceal his identity by changing his initials, he alone knows.

One of the easiest ways of earning a living that I know of is to call on ladies in answer to advertisements for servants and obtain a few shillings for payment of railway fare. It is a very ancient trick, and I should have thought that by this time all ladies were forewarned and forearmed against it; but I had a letter the other day from a gentleman describing how a lady relative of his had parted with two half-crowns under such circumstances on two days in succession to prepossessing females who professed to have travelled long distances to apply for her place, and gave promising references to their present employers. The victim must be a beginner at housekeeping, and the five shillingsworth of experience which she has thus obtained may be far from useless to her.

THE MAID BEHIND THE BAR.

(By a Cynical Bachelor.)

Some Puritanic folk, I hear,
With horror painting are
The perils of the maid's career
Who serves behind a bar.

They conjure up some youthful miss,
Fair as a radiant star,
Whom every chappie longs to kiss—
The maid behind the bar.

I've seen her often, day and night,
I've seen her near and far;
She never struck *me* in that light—
The maid behind the bar.

A damsel of uncertain years,
Whose looks are on a par—
That's mostly how to me appears
The maid behind the bar.

Who with this elderly coquette
Would play young Lochinvar?
Oh, no! She's pretty safe, you bet—
The maid behind the bar.

The announcement last week of Lord Curzon's adoption at a preliminary meeting held at Oxford to select a candidate for the Chancellorship of the University was entirely inaccurate and misleading. What took place at the meeting, which was held at Magdalen, was that several names were mentioned, and that for Lord Curzon's name about thirty-seven hands were held up, there being 130 members of Convocation present. In regard to certain of the names reasons were given why they could not or would not stand, but on what authority does not appear. No candidate, therefore, was voted for by a majority of those present, or anything approaching it, and most members left under the impression that no candidate had been formally adopted. The election of a Chancellor by Convocation takes place on March 14, and nominations may be put in up to the end of this week; and as there is a widespread feeling in Oxford, not by any means confined to one political party, that an attempt has been made to rush Lord Curzon's candidature through, it is by no means impossible that a contest may yet take place.

The preparations are now far advanced for the "Historical Pageant" which is to take place at Oxford in next Commemoration Week. The Pageant will really be a "folk-play" on a grand scale, in an open-air theatre on the banks of the Cherwell, looking over Christ Church meadow to the Long Walk. A number of eminent writers, among them Mr. Lawrence Binyon and Mr. Stanley Weyman, are contributing to the "libretto," Sir Hubert Parry will be responsible for the music, while the best intellect of Oxford, archæological, historical, artistic, and dramatic, will be employed in the dressing, mounting, and stage-management of the piece. The "scenario," of which I have been privileged to inspect a rough proof, will comprise about sixteen tableaux, illustrating the history of Oxford from the time of St. Frideswide to that of the Prince Regent—a wide gap to fill up. Altogether, the show promises to be of exceptional interest, and in every way worthy of the place.

The election of the Rev. R. W. Inge to the Lady Margaret Chair of Divinity at Cambridge, in the place of the Dean of Ely, has given much satisfaction among University Liberals. He has resided both at Oxford and at Cambridge, and combines in himself much of the best thought of both Universities. Mr. Inge was described before the election as the special representative of philosophy among the four candidates. He is a profound scholar and altogether a wide-minded man.

The Bishop of Oxford has presented the Rev. G. B. Crawford, vicar of Bicester, to the living of Sonning, vacant by the preferment of Canon Holmes. Sonning is a most picturesque village on the banks of the Thames, with a fine church, and a delightful old vicarage. This living was held for over forty years by the Rev. Hugh Pearson, Canon of Windsor, who refused the deanery of Westminster after the death of his intimate friend, Dean Stanley.

It was stated in Truth last week that the King has approved of an Order in Council by which a third residentiary canonry in Truro Cathedral has been founded, the stipend being £300 a year. Bishop Stubbs has appointed Sub-Dean Hassard, Rector of Truro, to this stall. The living of Truro is of very small value, and no stipend is annexed to the office of Sub-Dean of the Cathedral.

The Bishop of Durham preached on a recent Sunday in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, and Dr. Moule is praised by a writer whose knowledge on the subject is obviously blundering and defective for having set a good example to other dignitaries by appearing in a

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., Convalescent Home. Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

Presbyterian pulpit, as if this was the first instance of such "reunion." Dean Stanley preached on several occasions in the seventies in the parish church of St. Andrews under the auspices of "A.K.H.B.," and it is even more remarkable that the same pulpit should have been occupied many years later by Dr. Charles Wordsworth, the High Church Bishop of Dunkeld, Perth, and St. Andrews. Any one, however, must be singularly ignorant and unsophisticated who supposes that there has ever been the slightest approach to "reunion," for the moon will fall before Anglicans and Presbyterians come together.

The Prime Minister has appointed the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal to the canonry of Windsor which was vacated last Thursday by Lord Normanby. Dr. Sheppard was for some years a Minor Canon of Windsor, so he is no stranger to St. George's Chapel. He succeeded the Rev. Francis Garden as Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal in 1884, and he also holds the office of Sub-Almoner to the King, and is one of the three Deputy Clerks of the Closet. Dr. Sheppard was for several years a Priest in Ordinary to Queen Victoria. The canonry is worth £1,000 a year, with a very nice house in the Cloisters of the Castle. The departure of Lord Normanby is much regretted, and he will be missed in the pulpit of St. George's Chapel, as he was far and away the best preacher in the present Chapter of Windsor. Dr. Sheppard has been appointed to this stall by the wish of the King.

I have received a copy of the last annual report of the Charity Voting Reform Association, of Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge-road, and it is satisfactory to see that the movement for suppressing the system of selecting the beneficiaries of charitable institutions by the votes of the subscribers continues to make headway. But the system still flourishes in far too many institutions, and those who appreciate the objections to it ought to support the work of the Charity Voting Reform Association. The practice of electing beneficiaries is, I believe, unknown outside this country, and flourishes chiefly in London. The only conceivable reason for it is to supply people with a motive for subscribing other than that of disinterested benevolence. But for every subscriber who values the voting privilege, I should think that a dozen must regard it as an unmitigated nuisance, and I wonder that the subscribers themselves do not agitate for its abolition in those institutions which still keep up the system.

DANCING: A SHORT CUT TO ——?

A Baptist minister, I read,
A man of very sombre creed,
  Last week his flock did tell,
That in the valse's giddy whirl
There lay for man, and eke for girl,
  The shortest cut to Hell.

To *me* the view's absurdly false;
At least, when I with Phyllis waltz
  (Her age is ten plus seven),
'Tis just the other way about;
I find therein, beyond a doubt,
  The shortest cut to—*Heaven.*

I have been studying the second volume of Sir Ian Hamilton's "Staff Officer's Scrap Book," which Mr. Arnold published the other day, and I think I know now as much about the doings of Kuroki's army, and the why and wherefore of each doing, as if I had commanded it myself. The second volume is quite as readable to the mere civilian as the first, and I should think even more instructive to the military man, in proportion as it deals with more complicated and difficult operations. The only matter for regret about it is that Sir Ian Hamilton did not remain in Manchuria to the end of the campaign—he left on February 5, 1905, on appointment to his command at home. He wields the pen of a ready writer, and his keen power of observation has not been exercised on military matters alone. Consequently, among the most interesting passages in his book are the sidelights and casual comments on the phases of national character and method which contributed so much to the success of the Japs.

It is interesting to have this book side by side with Kuropatkin's commentaries on his Manchurian campaign. In several instances the Russian General has remarked that at different times the Japanese might have done this or might have done that if they had known. But is he in a position to judge? General Hamilton records the capture on one occasion, among other Russian documents, of a statement dated Harbin, July 31, 1904, setting forth the strength of the Japanese forces. It put Kuroki's army at just double its true strength, and credited him with a complete cavalry brigade, the only basis for which, in hard fact, was a single squadron! One finds General Hamilton here and there surprised at the way the Russians missed their opportunities; but perhaps had he seen both sides of the field of war he would have understood it easily. No doubt the Japanese Intelligence Department was vastly better informed than the Russian; but there could have been little conception on their side of the state of chaos, demoralisation, and insubordination which Kuropatkin has been describing to an astonished public.

There appeared in the *Gazette* of February 22 a notification that "the announcement relating to Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel C. H. Rees (3rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers) which appeared in *London Gazette* of December 5, 1902, is cancelled." A most indefensible official proceeding, which was severely condemned in TRUTH of April 23, 1903, is rectified by this order. Some of my readers will doubtless remember the story. Colonel Rees was the highly popular commanding officer of a highly efficient Volunteer battalion, on which he had spent a great deal of money. On his retirement after a long command, the War Office surcharged him with certain regimental expenses which had been incurred, to the amount of about £170. Colonel Rees disputed his liability, and refused to pay. After long

THE RITZ HOTEL, PICCADILLY, W. — 8090 Gerrard. The Restaurant and Hotel overlook the Green Park. Magnificent suite of Ball and Banqueting Rooms. Under the same Direction as the Carlton Hotel.

deliberation, he was informed by Mr. Brodrick that unless he paid the money he would not be allowed to retain his rank on retirement or to receive the Volunteer decoration. He declined to be coerced in this way, and was deprived of his rank and decoration accordingly. As pointed out in Truth, if the money was legally due to the War Office, the proper course—and the only course fair to the taxpayer—was to sue the Colonel for it; while if it was not legally due it was an abuse of official power to try and extort payment by threatening the man with military disgrace. This view of the matter has, after four years' delay, been recognised at Headquarters, and I congratulate Mr. Haldane as well as Colonel Rees on the result.

It was announced the other day, in connection with changes in the officering of the Army Service Corps, that it is proposed to create a larger number of quartermasters in place of lieutenants, and to throw the Army Service Corps open to all branches of the Army for commissions from the ranks, in order to compensate for the suppression of a certain number of such commissions by the abolition of the rank of riding-master. This seems a very sensible arrangement. If it is to be carried out, it is to be hoped that in promoting to new quartermasterships preference will be given to the men who have been the longest recommended for promotion. Some have been waiting a very long time. I have my eye upon one sergeant-major who has been on the list for promotion for no less than seven years, and other cases of the same kind have been mentioned in Truth before now.

According to a correspondent in South Africa, N.C.O.s in certain corps serving abroad are really losing the opportunity of re-engaging as required by the Army Order on proficiency pay, and are in consequence losing their service pay without getting any equivalent, although when this grievance was noticed in Truth before Christmas, I was assured that such cases had been provided for, and that no such result would arise. This is what my informant says:—

> In some corps (A.S.C., for instance) the re-engagement has to be sent home to the Officer in charge of Records, in accordance with Standing Orders, to ask whether there is any objection. This means a delay of at least seven weeks between the time when the man applies to re-engage and the date when the application is approved, with the result that the man loses his service pay and receives nothing in lieu, although he may have applied and signed his agreement long before the order was published at home. Soldiers of the Royal Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry are permitted to re-engage without any other authority than that of their C.O.s.

There is evidently something wrong here, and it ought to be put right.

The Naval Estimates for next year show on paper a reduction of a little less than 1½ millions, though the taxpayer does not immediately benefit by anything like that amount. It is true this is largely arrived at by reduction of the vote for new construction; but why is this? Because we, who do not challenge other States, have just completed a new ship which is so large and expensive as to defy competition for the moment, and construction abroad is temporarily checked pending another advance. Meantime, though spending less, we announce that we are going to start on two larger and improved ships of the same type. What is this but challenge upon challenge, and resulting in increase of armaments and increased expenditure all round? As I read all this, it means that the present Government has not the courage to set the example of reducing armaments. I am not saying that it may not be wise in its generation. Unless the country is prepared to support such a policy, a Government which initiated it would be sacrificing itself for an idea. All I am pointing out is that while the British Government and country are in this frame of mind about the Navy, it is futile, if not discreditable, for a British delegate to preach disarmament at the Hague.

As readers interested in the subject will doubtless have noticed, Mr. Morley was interrogated last week by Sir Seymour King respecting the management of the Indian Family Pension Fund. It is satisfactory to know from the reply that the Secretary of State's attention "has been drawn to certain articles in the public press," and no doubt he will appreciate the points that have been raised in them. Sir Seymour King also elicited that the last quinquennial valuation of the Fund has been completed by the official actuary, and will be published in due course; but the explanations given by Mr. Morley as to the reasons why it should take from March, 1903, to March, 1907 to perform this operation are very far from convincing, and if I know Mr. Morley aright he will find means of expediting the process when the 1908 valuation becomes due. There are many other points in connection with this fund besides mere actuarial calculations which will probably be the better for his personal attention.

One of the regulations of the Civil Service of Rhodesia is as follows:—

> 35. Subject to these limitations and conditions, a gratuity not exceeding one month's pay for each year of service may be granted to any person of less than ten years' continuous service if his services are dispensed with, *or*, if being placed on the fixed establishment of the Civil Service, he is compelled to leave the service from infirmity of mind or body, or is found unfit to discharge the duties of his office.

From a case that has been brought under my notice, typical of a number that have occurred, it is evident that this regulation is the subject of a good deal of misapprehension among servants of the British South Africa Company. Last year, in pursuance of a policy of retrenchment, the administration dispensed with the services of a number of men. One of them had been employed for nine years as a storekeeper in the Transport Department, B.S.A. Police. He had never seen a copy of the regulations, which were made after he entered the service, but he had always understood that

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues free.—South Audley-street, London.

he would be entitled to a gratuity when he left, and his superior officers were apparently under the same impression, for they endorsed his application for such a gratuity and submitted it to the administrator. His Honour replied, however, that he was unable to accept the recommendation, adding that he saw "no difference between this case and thirty or forty others dealt with on reduction of establishment."

I think myself, from a perusal of the regulations, that this claim to a gratuity was technically barred, one of the conditions being that the claimant should have been a contributor to the pension fund. But the regulations —especially the above-quoted No. 35—are so framed that it is quite possible for misconceptions to arise even in the minds of those who read them; and in this case, as I have already mentioned, the applicant had never actually done so, but had relied on hearsay as to their purport. It may be said that he ought to have acquainted himself with the regulations, but during his nine years' service no copy was ever available in the department to which he was attached, and to my mind there is considerable force in his contention that he should have been informed that he must contribute to the pension fund if he wished to qualify merely for a gratuity, not a pension. No doubt the shareholders of the company will be gratified to hear of the efforts that are being made to reduce the expenses of the administration. I scarcely think, however, that they would desire to see more or less trumpery economies effected at the cost of hardship and injustice to the humbler servants of the company.

Mention was made in TRUTH a few months ago of an obnoxious circular emanating from Berlin which had been widely distributed by post in England, being an advertisement of a book by one Carl Buttenstedt. This thing is again in evidence, and as it is delivered in open envelopes it is a source of widespread annoyance, and at the same time one which the General Post Office can easily deal with if it chooses. Those who complain of having such filth shot into their houses by a Government Department would therefore do well to make forcible representations on the subject to the Postmaster-General. Like all blackguards in the same line of business, the advertiser professes sham scientific and philanthropic motives. How much this pretence is worth is shown by the fact that the circular was addressed the other day to all the officers of a certain regiment.

As an instance of excessive zeal in the collection of taxes, a correspondent forwards a letter from an Inland Revenue officer at Felstead. The officer writes to the present owner of a country house pointing out that though he has taken out certain dog licences, those taken out by the former occupier of the place (who left in 1905) have not been renewed. "Will you kindly inform me," the letter proceeds, "if the dogs have now left Mr. ———, and, if in England, where they are now kept?" It is all to the advantage of those who pay the taxes for which they are liable that vigilance should be shown in preventing evasions. Surely, however, zeal is carried too far when a man is asked to give information as to the whereabouts of two dogs which the previous occupier of his house took away two years ago.

AS EASY AS LYING.

And so Municipal Reformers
Have been of seats successful stormers,
Whose victory's proved (there's no denying)
As easy, shall we say, as—lying.

Doubtless many of my readers contributed to the great triumph of "Municipal Reform" last Saturday, and are now rejoicing over "the end of the Wastrels." I would not mar their satisfaction. Indeed, I hope that it is all for the best, and that we shall have our rates going down like a barometer before a blizzard in the course of a few months. But for the reasons mentioned last week, my hopes are not precisely exuberant. "Municipal Reform" was all on top and the "Wastrels" all underneath in the Borough Council elections last November. I see that since that date the rates have risen 4d. in Paddington, 2d. in Islington, and 1d. in Lewisham, and that in half-a-dozen other Moderate strongholds estimated increases are in sight ranging from the above amounts up to a shilling. *Absit omen!*

A few months ago I was inclined to think that a change of government in Spring Gardens might not be without its advantages. There were little schisms in the Progressive ranks which adversity might heal. The band of municipal statesmen who have done such admirable work since 1889 was passing away to other spheres of one kind and another. A Liberal majority is in power in Parliament to check reactionary projects in the County Council; and altogether the time seemed favourable for one of those changes of party which are bound to come sooner or later, and have their uses.

But the way the change has been engineered is an ugly feature about it. The magnificent victory of last week looks too much like a victory of what American vulgarians call Boodle. Money has been spent to win it as money has never before been spent in a municipal election fight in this country. It has come from mysterious sources, but some of them are pretty well known. Some of it has been shown to have passed through the hands of the press, which is one of the ugliest features of all. To expect municipal purity and disinterested regard for public interests from a par returned on boodle is rather like looking for figs thistles.

Another unpleasant feature in the ings is the atrocious libelling of councillors. Whether its policy has wrong, thrifty or unthrifty, the L.C. posed hitherto of men above reproach .

BLACKPOOL. SPLENDID WINTER CLIMATE. HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE. Delightfully situated. Comfortably heated. Moorish and Japanese lounges. Orchestra. Moderate Winter "En pension" Terms.

and character—I am not speaking of one side only. It is not easy to get such men, for the work is arduous and thankless; and it is certain to become harder and harder if, when their efforts fail to give satisfaction, they are to be assailed with such venomous abuse and calumny as the London daily press has been filled with for the past few weeks.

The most extraordinary revelations of County Council mismanagement that I have ever heard of were given by the *Daily Chronicle* last week in an article on the work of the County Council of Surrey. According to the *Chronicle*, the Surrey County rate in 1901 was 4⅜d. in the £. In 1902 it had risen to 6⅜d. After the passing of the Education Act of that year it bounded up in three years to 1s. 8¼d., and now stands at 1s. 5¾d. What is done with the money, Heaven alone knows. There are no county fire brigades, no parks or open spaces, the Small Holdings Act is a dead letter, the staff of inspectors under the Sanitary, Factories, and Weights and Measures Acts is described as hopelessly inadequate. The Council holds only five short meetings a year, to register the decisions of its committees. A Local Government Board auditor complains that committees and sub-committees do not see bills, or give orders, but merely confirm payments in totals after they have been made. There seems room for some really useful agitation against "Wastrels" here; but I fear the Wastrels in this case are "Moderates."

TO CHARLEY MATHEWS—CONGRATULATIONS.

And so the Ancient Bailey's gone,
The old is changed to new;
And he who there as leader shone,
His style has changed, too.

But, rank despite, the man's the man;
And, to his life's finale,
Sir Charles will still, as he began,
Remain our genial "Charley."

The new legal appointments are in every respect excellent. Sir Henn Collins has fully justified the expectations formed when he became Master of the Rolls, and the House of Lords loses nothing in judicial strength by his succession to Lord Davey. Sir H. Cozens-Hardy is one of the shrewdest judges as well as the soundest lawyers on the Bench, and his appointment as Master of the Rolls will be universally approved. Mr. Justice Kennedy has also, by general consent, earned his promotion to the Court of Appeal. I am sorry to say that my personal recollections of him are painful, for he tried one of the few actions that have ever cost me a considerable sum in damages; but as I was altogether in the wrong, and was in fact in the position of having to plead guilty to an unfortunate accident, his Lordship was happily innocent of all share in my misfortune.

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by Easter at Sunny Felixstowe under most favourable conditions at the Felix Hotel, which re-opens Tuesday, March 26th. [illegible]ue Hungarian Band. Cinderella Ball Easter Monday. The, Jer[illegible] most beautiful English Hotel, has a South-West aspect, faces their A[illegible] Sea, and, being in a sheltered position, affords a charming To be h[illegible]ng Residence. Pleasantly warmed. Moderate Inclusive Terms.

The spirit of indulgent complacency with which the Great Unpaid too frequently listen to ghastly details of cruelty is strikingly illustrated in the case heard at Chester which heads my Legal Pillory this week, and how vastly different is the emotion excited in the breast of Shallow by contemplation of the poacher's depravity is made clear by the sentence in the case at Chorley placed opposite to it. Another remarkable contrast is afforded by the cases heard at Dunfermline, from which it would appear that an assault upon a street lamp is, from the point of view of the worthy Sheriff, an offence meriting exactly the same punishment as a brutal assault upon a wife. For the rest my Pillory contains a number of examples of vicious punishments inflicted for the crime of poverty and two instances where magistrates have done their best to increase the criminal population of this country by sending first offenders to gaol.

Chester Police-court. Before Dr. Stolterfoth and Alderman R. Lamb. Henry Brown, charged with cruelty to a cat. He beat it, knocking out both eyes, and smashing the jaw and right shoulder. Fined 5s. and costs.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Stewart. Andrew Clark, charged with cruelty to a horse by beating it severely with the thong and handle of a whip. Fined £2.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Sherman. Thomas Graham, charged with assaulting his wife. He caught her by the throat, struck her on the face and body, and bit her on the hand. Fined £1, with £1 caution, or 16 days' imprisonment.

Salisbury Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and Messrs. Atkins, Brown, Haskins, and Woodrow. Frederick Dayman, drover, charged with cruelty to a calf only a week old by striking it with a heavy stick because it could not keep up with other beasts. Fined 15s.

Castleford Petty Sessions. William Dickinson, charged with assaulting John Bond. Dickinson struck Bond with a stone, knocked him down, and kicked him. He was rendered insensible, had two teeth knocked out, and his face severely cut. Fined £2 10s.

Wirksworth Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. E. B. Bowles and A. E. Broster. Samuel Repton, charged with assaulting Ethel Makins, aged 17, whom he met on the road at night. The Bench said such assaults on young girls must be stopped, and imposed a fine of 40s. and costs.

Derby County Police-court. Before Messrs. G. W. Peach, E. S. Milnes, W. G. Copestake, W. B. Woodforde, W. Mallilieu, E. Elsey, and J. Smedley. J. Bainbridge, charged with assaulting Martha Townsend. He struck her a violent blow in the eye, necessitating medical attention. Fined £2 and costs.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Whitehead, R. L. Crosse, and G. T. Brown. James Wilkinson, charged with being found in possession of a rabbit, a net, and pegs on the highway. Fined £5.

Perth Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Sym. M. Gilhooly and W. Irvine, charged with being on the river bank of the Tay intending to take salmon. Fined £3 7s. 6d. each or 20 days.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Robert Hodge, charged with breaking a street lamp by throwing bottles at it. Fined £1, with £1 caution.

Before Sheriff Sherman. J. Close, charged with day poaching. Fined £2 10s., or 20 days' imprisonment.

Torquay Police-court. Before Mr. W. B. Smale. J. Riley, charged with peddling picture postcards without a certificate. Seven days.

Haywards Heath Petty Sessions. Percy Edward Brown, charged with sleeping out in a brickfield. Three months' hard labour.

Rugby Police-court. Percy Bradley, aged 15, charged with stealing a gold watch, value £6. A first offence. One month's hard labour.

Fakenham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. C. A. Hamond, Rev. J. Lee Warner, and Mr. W. Frewer. C. Steward, charged with stealing a larch pole, value 6d. Seven days.

Broxton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Howard, Langley, Vernon, and Jones. Frank Rowlands, charged with stealing a spade, value 3s. Two months' hard labour.

St. Augustine's Petty Sessions. J. Gregory, charged with trespass in pursuit of rabbits. Fined 40s. and costs.

Saffron Walden Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Tuke, Brown, Gibson, Midgley, and Robson. William Fitch, charged with stealing a fowl. A first offence. One month's hard labour.

Winchester Petty Sessions. Before Captain Mitchell. W. Richardson, charged with stealing watercress. Fourteen days.

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Grantham Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and Councillor T. Rowle. Timothy Newcome, charged with cruelty to a horse. It was suffering from skin disease, its knees were broken and raw, there were sores on the withers and ribs, it was given nothing to eat, and was exposed to the cold weather. Fined 30s.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Alderman Lloyd and Mr. S. G. Middleton. Elizabeth Wisdom, charged with sleeping in an outhouse. One month.

Colchester Police-court. Before Messrs. Goody, Laver, and E. T. Smith. E. Bridges, A. Loven, and C. Wright, charged with not performing their tasks at the workhouse. Bridges, a month's, the others 14 days' hard labour.

Lutterworth Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. Marriott and L. T. Topham. Ernest Pike, charged with poaching on October 12, 1901. He had absconded after being seen with two other men in a field with nets, in which rabbits were caught. Two months' imprisonment and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

Ilfracombe Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. P. Verney, R. Lake, W. H. Gould, W. Brooks, and F. Anderton. George and Eva Dennis, charged with ill-treating the daughter of the female defendant. The child was continually beaten by her mother. On one occasion she was struck with a poker, and, falling down, broke her arm, and, to escape further ill-treatment, tried to drown herself. The woman fined £5, the case against the man dismissed.

At Southport Police court last week, a Bench consisting of Messrs. T. Hough and W. Hulme, Dr. Earnshaw and Dr. Arthur Wood, heard an application by a local architect under the conscientious objection clause of the Vaccination Act. He was clearly entitled to a certificate of exemption, but, as their remarks showed, the two doctors are opposed to the granting of such certificates, and the other magistrates being apparently mere dummies on the Bench in cases of this kind, the application was refused. "We cannot compel you to have the child vaccinated," said Dr. Earnshaw, "but we can refuse the certificate of exemption." In other words, their worships refused to give effect to the plain intention of the Act of Parliament. Medical men who cannot approach the matter with an open mind ought to be debarred from adjudicating on these applications, but fortunately an amendment of the law will soon render it impossible for magistrates to treat conscientious objectors with such gross injustice.

A familiar swindle has recently been worked, with great success to the operators and disastrous results to the victims, in the name of the Empress Gold Paint and Speciality Company, Ltd., 12, Station-road, Finsbury Park. The trick consists in advertising for employees at a tempting remuneration, and making them take shares in the company, the business of the company being at best microscopical, and the agreed salary not being forthcoming after the first few weeks. I have particulars of three cases in which men, all practically of the working class, have paid £50 for shares under such circumstances between April of last year and January of this. In each case the shares transferred to them were those of Mr. Lewis Rogers, the managing director, who engaged the men, and is apparently the only person actively connected with it.

One of the three men—who was caught by a newspaper advertisement, and engaged at a salary of £2 a week and rooms rent free, valued at 10s. a week—took up his post at the beginning of May, and seems to have remained till the third week in June, when his salary was three weeks in arrear, in addition to which Rogers had borrowed £2 of him. He took away with him Rogers's I.O.U. for £8, but the money has never been paid, Rogers pleading impecuniosity, although he has since unloaded £100 worth of shares for cash on the first man's successors.

Victim No. 2 was caught early in August on similar terms to the last, and left the company in the second week of September, with three weeks' salary owing to him. He went to Rogers to demand the return of his £50, and Rogers personally assaulted him. The shareholder took out a summons against the managing director, and Rogers was fined 40s. and costs at North London Police-court. The magistrate's sentence did not, of course, pay the wages due to the complainant. Nor did Rogers. The last application for payment of the debt produced the following letter, nominally from the secretary to the company, but evidently written by Rogers himself:—

> Replying to your p.card to hand this day, asking us to settle up *re* wages, etc., we beg to inform you that the costs of the police court proceedings incurred by our Mr. Rogers in the course of the execution of his duties here will be duly debited to you after a resolution to be passed at a board meeting to be held next week, when a statement of same will be duly sent to you, and you will be required to pay the amount less what is to your credit on the books of this company.

It will be seen that Rogers is a cool hand, as well as a bit of a humorist. He suggests that the assaulting of dissatisfied shareholders is all "in the course of the execution of his duties"; and when he is ordered to pay a fine and costs by a police magistrate, he proposes to send in a bill for the amount to the complainant.

The last of the three victims paid his £50 to Rogers and took up his duties on January 28, and I am not sure whether he has actually determined his agreement. But he makes one of the most interesting statements in the story. In the first four weeks of his engagement the orders amounted to 45s., or 11s. 3d. per week. This bears out a statement made by Rogers on January 24 in a letter to victim No. 1, that the report of the police-court proceedings had "just about killed the goose." Nevertheless, he contrived to make the dying bird lay another golden egg to the value of £50 on January 28, as above mentioned. The reader can judge for himself the character of this transaction, and of the whole business. The victims seem to think they have no remedy, their observations having satisfied them that the company and its managing director are not worth powder and shot. All that can be done, therefore, is to warn others.

"Dear Friend,—We have good news for you" is the form of address adopted by the latest recruit to the ranks of shoddy watch vendors, the Goldoid Watch Association, of 88, Chancery-lane. The "good news" is the information that a Goldoid watch and chain is reserved for the recipient of the circular, and will be forwarded upon receipt of 5s. 11d. This stale trick ought to be nearly played out by this time.

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY) The Original Brand.
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CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

A resident at Earl's Court writes that his wife was called upon the other day by a well-dressed young man, who related a pitiful story of illness, non-employment, and poverty, but stated that he had been promised a situation with a firm of tea merchants in the Minories if he could sell a certain quantity of their tea during the week. The lady gave an order, and her husband wishes to learn whether she was tricked. Of course, I cannot speak as to this particular case, but I know that for years past dodges of this kind have been extensively practised in connection with the tea trade, especially in the suburbs. By thus appealing to the sympathies of housewives the canvassers book a good many orders which would never be obtained on the merits of the article they sell, and there is little doubt that the firms for whom they tout are parties to the trick. Usually no payment is required till the tea is delivered, and the fact that no attempt is made to secure a second order shows pretty conclusively that it is, to all intents and purposes, a bogus business. The tea is generally rubbish worth nothing like the price that is charged for it.

Signs and portents of the approach of another racing season are to be seen in the increasing vigour with which the hungry horde of touting tipsters are taking up the pursuit of their prey. One of the first in the field is that many-aliased rascal E. W. Beston, of Birmingham, who, in the character of "James Brown," is issuing circulars which are choice specimens of the childish clap-trap with which credulous backers are gulled. The mythical Brown, who talks of his "unique" and "influential" and "powerful" position on the Turf, has several different baits in his trap for greenhorns. There is "a grand starting price job," price 10s. "All must have a Fearless Splash on this Matchless Certainty," but in case all do not care to spend 10s. even "to win a fortune," he offers for the same day "a popular 5s. double"—both these horses also being absolutely certain winners.

On the other hand, if the greenhorns are disposed to have what Brown would call a "fearless splash" on his tips, he is willing to send them "next week's £25 all day wires for £10," this vast reduction in the usual charge being made because he is "sanguine of another terrific triumph." In a separate prospectus he announces that for five guineas down he will not only furnish particulars of "James Brown's Long-shot Certainty Method" of finding winners, but also "a full week's £5 specials." We hear a good deal about the physical deterioration of the race. The fact, however, that we have in our midst a host of brainless idiots who allow themselves to be fooled and swindled by such gentry as Beston suggests that the question of mental decadence is of more pressing importance.

The irrepressible M. Pizzey, of Ascot, who now styles himself "The World's Premier Selectionist," is also on the war-path. He heads his latest effusion with the following:—

"No pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth."—Francis Bacon.

This strikes me as a singularly inept quotation for Pizzey, of all men, to use. The vantage ground of truth, forsooth! It is rather in the pillory of Truth that this false prophet of the Turf is accustomed to stand, and I scarcely think that he has derived any pleasure from his experiences in that position.

"Harry Hyams, of Camden Town," is issuing a circular, in which he announces that all his late agents have been discharged "owing to the new Betting Bill," and that he has opened an office at Flushing where he will execute commissions "for peer and peasant" on the deposit system. I know nothing about Hyams beyond what he says in his circular, but seemingly he has hitherto done business directly or indirectly as a street bookmaker, and he is only one of a number of these gentry who have now started offices on the Continent for the receipt of deposits from backers. But Hyams, like others, intimates that clients can wire their instructions "direct" to his registered telegraphic address in London, or telephone to him there, and it is quite evident that though the money will have to be forwarded to Flushing, the business will be really carried on here. This is, of course, a transparent evasion of the Betting Acts, and in view of the increasing extent to which it is being practised I would once more commend the matter to the attention of the police.

Hundreds of men at Oxford—many of them being still infants in the eye of the law—were last week circularised by a firm of bookmakers named Morris and Calder, 19, Air-street, Regent-street, W. I trust that the authorities of the University will consider the advisability of prosecuting Messrs. Morris and Calder. Under Lord Herschell's Act a person sending a betting circular to a youth at any university, college, or school, is deemed to have known that such youth was an infant, unless he (the sender) proves that he had reasonable ground for believing that he was of full age. It would be manifestly difficult, if not impossible, for the bookmakers to prove that they had this reasonable ground in the case of all these circulars.

Robert H. P. Wilson, the begging-letter writer to whom I recently referred, is now specially appealing to the charity of civil engineers, on the ground that his late father was an eminent member of the same profession. He tells the same old story of his privations, and solicits the purchase of tickets for the same old benefit concert. "Our future," he says, "rests on the success of the concert; if a failure, ruin, and I shall have to end my days in the workhouse infirmary." Before that fate overtakes him, however, I think it is probable that Wilson will pass some more of his days in gaol, for he is an incorrigible rogue and vagabond who has already undergone six months' hard labour and three years' penal servitude. For the information of the police, I may mention that his present address is Trematon Cottage, Albany-road, S. Merstham—not Streatham, as erroneously stated in my last paragraph.

Southampton.—South-Western Hotel.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

In the TRUTH "Cautionary List" for this year will be found the name of one Charles M. Clarke. Clarke is a person with a shady record, who styles himself "LL.D.," and was last year caught in the act of cadging for samples of the goods of the Ardath Tobacco Company under pretence that he desired to write an article on smoking mixtures in an alleged publication called *Dramatic Opinion*, of which he represented himself to be the editor. I recently heard of this individual again under much the same circumstances, through Messrs. Angus Watson and Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne. This firm deals extensively in sardines, and for sardines Clarke was this time fishing. It seems desirable, therefore, to repeat the warning that has been given against his fishy operations, for the benefit of all business firms.

Messrs. Angus Watson and Co. tell me that they are incessantly pestered with applications of this character for samples of goods, generally from individuals professing to be in the medical profession. Within about two months they have heard from about twenty gentlemen sporting medical degrees, and all fishing for sardines. The nuisance has grown to such an extent that they recently communicated with the police at Manchester and Derby respecting two medical fishermen within their jurisdiction. In the Manchester case the police reported that the alleged medico was residing in a common lodging-house; in the Derby case the report was that he was an advertisement canvasser, who, when interviewed by the police, explained that he had written on behalf of a friend. Doubtless many large business firms are subject to similar attentions from parties who live by their wits, and it is a pity they do not take steps to discourage the practice. If they are not disposed to take stronger measures, I would advise that all communications of this nature be referred at once to the Editor of TRUTH.

It was suggested in these columns a few weeks ago, apropos of the Jamaica earthquake, that Mr. Hugh Clements's theories of such phenomena are deserving of more respect than they have received. One of my readers now forwards a forecast by Mr. Clements for last month, and suggests that the publication of such prophecies should be forbidden in the interest of nervous folk. Mr. Clements certainly seems, on the face of it, to have been rather at sea in his predictions of earthquakes for February; but it must be remembered that trifling earthquakes occur frequently without attracting much attention. As a prophet Mr. Clements has frequently "come off" in a very remarkable way, and he attempts what neither the Meteorological Office nor any one else in the same line of business considers possible. While it seems clear that his method is imperfect, and does not reckon with all the forces that are at work, I think that results justify him sufficiently to warrant one in saying that there is something in his theory worth considering.

I read an article the other day in a New York commercial paper about the wealth of the United States. The writer put down the total valuation at 107,000,000,000 dollars—an amount, he said, more than twice that of the United Kingdom; and this, he continued, did not take into account the value of undeveloped resources. He then proceeded to advise the "regulation of swollen fortunes" by making all property above a certain limit revert to the State on the death of the owner. This proposal is often made on our side of the Atlantic, and I certainly think that something will have to be done to restrict accumulations in the hands of individuals, for beyond a certain point they constitute a danger to the community. The mistake is, however, often made of supposing that if a progressive income tax or progressive death duties on a high scale were adopted, the revenue derived from them would be perpetual. It should be obvious that this could not be, for each year, by the action of this fiscal mill, the number of great fortunes would be reduced, and consequently the income derivable from this source.

There is an Italian proverb which says, "Money and sanctity, the half of the half"; and I know nothing which is more exaggerated than the estimate made of other people's incomes. There are, of course, some very rich men in most countries. But if any one looks into the income tax returns, and the amounts of the fortunes which pay death dues, he will find that there are comparatively very few persons who leave above £100,000 on their death. And yet, to hear people talk, one would suppose that millionaires are as plentiful as blackberries. I would have a proportional income tax, calculated on such a scale that it would not lead rich men to settle in some other country. But I would allow no man to inherit more than £50,000 from another, and I would make the State the heir of £10,000 if he has £100,000, and one per cent. in addition on his second £100,000, two per cent. in addition on £200,000, and so on. An inheritance of £50,000 would bring in an annual revenue of a trifle over £1,500 per annum without risk. This ought to content anybody. Should he wish to have a larger income, he might either earn a salary, or with his £50,000 engage in some commercial undertaking. No one with an annual income of £1,500, who has only condescended to be born, could complain of his fate, for he would be far better off than the vast majority of human beings.

Supposing that a person leaves a million, the State would, under the above scale, come in for £145,000. The owner would, therefore, have to divide the remainder into sixteen parts, and could only leave one part to any one person. If he had only five children he would have to select eleven other persons. I doubt whether such a law would prevent a man from heaping up the million if he could, but were he to spend a great portion of it whilst alive, this would be no disadvantage to the community. I remember suggesting this fiscal scheme to the late Sir William Harcourt, when he was discussing his death duties. But he did not take kindly to it. For my part, I thoroughly believe in its wisdom and in its expediency.

The Brigg election is one of those afflictions which seem to be sent upon Governments by a beneficent Providence as a reminder of the wrath to come. It is well for all of us to remember that we are mortal, but particularly so for Ministers, whose lease of life is shorter. They should live with one eye ever fixed upon the grave, and in a lively consciousness that

only by mercy, not by merit, can they escape damnation. Thus will they be stimulated to good works, strengthened in grace and humility, and saved from the pride which goeth before a fall, as also from all other snares of the enemy.

The electors of Brigg seem to have a particular faith in this kind of discipline. A vacancy occurred when the last Liberal Government was in office, and they promptly returned a recruit for the Opposition in place of a supporter of the Government. When the same Parliament was dissolved in 1895, and the whole country was going for the Unionists, Brigg changed its mind and returned a Liberal. It returned him again by a larger majority when the Unionists were sweeping the country in 1900, notwithstanding that every vote given for a Liberal at that juncture was a vote for the Boers. Why it returned him again by a still larger majority in 1906 it is difficult to say, but apparently local associations and personal attachment count for a good deal in the constituency. The member who had been supported so consistently through thick and thin now retires, and Brigg once more goes over pretty solidly to the Opposition. The new member is a popular man of great local influence, and apparently this and the local tradition of being "agin' the Government" explain the result. All that can be said for certain about the verdict of such a constituency is that it is not much guide to the general feeling of the country.

LORDS AND LADIES.

The Brigg election, Tories find,
A signal proof affords
Of what's the British Public's mind
About the House of Lords.

The Suffragettes—that frantic crew—
Proclaim, with joyful throats,
It shows The Nation's favouring view
Towards down-trod women's votes.

Suppose that both the mark should hit?
In prospect then displayed is
A House of Lords retained to sit
Upon a House of Ladies.

Here is another letter from an anti-suffrage lady:—

In the current number of Truth you advise women who do not want the vote to make their voices heard; but how are we to do so if we flatly refuse to scream aloud in public or private? My name appears in "Who's Who," and my youngest daughter is a graduate of Girton, and we have both been inundated by the detestable "Suffragettes" with petitions to sign and with applications of all kinds. I always write and plainly tell these misguided females what I think of them. But the letters still come. I have never once been approached by the other side. Yet among my many women friends I do not know one who wishes to vote, and who does not regard the whole movement with rage and despair. What can we do to demonstrate that the majority of women are still sane and decent?

When I advised women to "make their voices heard" I was under the impression that this was a task they were quite equal to. If they really do not know how to do it, I hardly feel competent to instruct them, and perhaps they may be better without this knowledge. However, it seems a pity that the "suffragettes" should have all the shouting to themselves; and as I understand that sundry women's petitions to Parliament in opposition to the suffrage movement are now in preparation, I am endeavouring to obtain particulars of them, and I hope to be able to give the necessary information next week for the benefit of the voiceless sex.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's article in the *Nation* on the limitation of armaments is admirable in language and intention, but beyond the encouragement it gives to the friends of peace throughout the world to find a British premier speaking so plainly and hopefully, I doubt if much good will come of it. Already we hear it criticised in Germany as hypocritical or Machiavellian, and this is really not surprisng. Sir Henry urges that we have "given earnest of our sincerity by the reductions that have been effected in our military and naval expenditure"; but the reductions, such as they are, are accompanied by the most positive assurances on the part of the Government that the strength of both Army and Navy has been increased, not diminished, in spite of the reduction of expenditure. Sir Henry expects this to be believed at home, and he cannot expect that it will not be believed in Germany, where the most unfavourable view of our words and actions always find ready acceptance. How, then, can the Germans fail to regard it as hypocritical to appeal to the reduction of expenditure as evidence that we are really reducing our armaments?

Next to Germany, the desirability of reducing armaments must chiefly be preached to France. In France any move in this direction is at present regarded with alarm, nor, looking at her position in relation to Germany, can this be wondered at. Our Prime Minister's aspirations consequently evoke no sympathetic response in France. Personally, I am by no means unsympathetic, but it is necessary to clear our minds of cant in this matter if any practical result is to be attained. No nation which stands armed to the teeth can preach disarmament to its neighbours without bringing the cause of disarmament into ridicule and contempt. The only preaching which has any chance of success is the preaching by example, not precept.

We are of all nations the worst offenders at present, because we have in late years added more than any other to our expenditure. Our strength is chiefly naval, though there is a movement on foot for greatly increasing our military strength also, and the present Government seems to think it must be played up to. In naval strength we have established a preponderant position in relation to other nations such as no other power aspires to in any branch of its armaments. "The sea power of this country," says the Premier, "implies no challenge to any single State or group of States." We may say so, but how in the name of common sense can we expect any other State which sees a possibility of this power being directed against itself to believe it? Within twenty years we have chosen to increase our sea power, which was little more than equal to that of France, to an equality with that of any two, if not three, foreign nations. Unless other powers are content to leave their coasts and their ocean trade absolutely at our mercy in time of war, how can this be anything but a challenge to them? The only wonder is that the challenge has not been taken up more vigorously.

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

Some of the Lords are awaking to the fact that the country is not likely to put up much longer with the existence of an Upper Chamber composed of hereditary noblemen—in the main large landowners, and not only Conservatives, but Conservatives in the party sense of the word—and of the Bishops of one particular sect of Christians. In opposition to the proposal to limit their veto on all legislative measures to one session, they make it known that they are prepared to agree to a scheme to strengthen their House, by adding a certain number of nominated Members, and by a selection of those whom they deem the fittest amongst their lordships. Lord Newton has prepared a Bill to give effect to these views, and Lord Curzon, without pronouncing in favour of his brother Peer's Bill, has expressed his general approval of some sort of reform.

Some twenty years ago a Bill was read a first time, with the names of Mr. Brodrick and Mr. Curzon on the back, enabling any M.P. who succeeded to a peerage to decline to become a Member of the Upper House. I remember that they asked me to put my name on the back of it. I thought it reasonable that some useful Member of the House of Commons should not be kicked upstairs against his own will, and I offered to be one of the backers of the Bill, provided that the decision to remain a Commoner was to be final, and the right to re-enter the Upper House should not be retained, as it was in the Bill. This, however, was declined.

Assuming two Chambers to be desirable, the House of Lords, as at present composed, is obviously not such an Upper Chamber as ought to exist in a country where Government is representative, and if we are to continue to have one, its members ought to be elected, with, perhaps, a few nominated members. But the election should be a popular one. An hereditary right to a vote is as absurd as an hereditary right to a seat. The Senate of the United States possesses large powers, but all its members are elected by the several States constituting the Union, and, generally speaking, men are elected who have been long engaged in public affairs. Two are elected for each State, and one sits for seven years and the other for five. In both cases the election is by the local Legislature of the State. By this means there never is a dissolution, but each year a certain number cease to be members, and either their mandate is renewed for another term, or they are replaced by some one else.

We have not State Legislatures, but some such system might be easily adopted in our case. Large senatorial areas might be created, and each would have the right to elect a certain number of Senators based upon representation. To these might be added representatives of the Army and the Navy, of commerce, of trades unions, of chambers of commerce, of those engaged in education, etc., who would be elected by those engaged in such matters, and to these might be added a few nominated members from those who had already served in three or more Parliaments. The respective numbers of these Senators elected from senatorial districts should always largely exceed the two other categories. In regard to the representatives of trade, etc., the term might be for three years and four years. Thus an Upper House would be created that would be representative, and whose views would carry the greatest weight—all the more if no Senator were allowed to form part of any Administration, or to occupy any place of profit or trust in the public service.

The Senate thus constituted would have a suspensory veto of not more than one year at most. Such a period would be amply sufficient for the country to make clear its views in regard to any measure that had passed the House of Commons and had been thrown out in the Upper House. No political institutions are quite perfect. They may be in theory excellent, but in practice holes may be picked in them. For their proper working we must always assume a certain measure of patriotism, and a certain measure of plain common sense.

But before altering the composition of the House of Lords, it will be well to define its powers, and in their intention to do so I hold that the Government are wise. When the veto of the Lords has been limited it will be time enough to consider what is the best way to render it a useful branch of the Legislature within such limitations. I see it said that the House should devote itself to social and such-like legislation, instead of tinkering at the Constitution. This is folly. If the machinery is rotten, no good work is likely to be done by it. Any manufacturer would be of opinion that he must first put his machinery in order before attempting to use it profitably.

THE YOUTH AND THE PIPE.

A Youth, just growing up to Man,
Was seized with Tastes nicotian,
So bought a Pipe, a brand-new Briar,
Wherewith to compass his Desire.
He filled it, lit it, found it drew,
Then vigorous puffed for all he knew;
But soon, with an expressive Frown,
He threw the Thing, disgusted, down;
For, sure, the Taste of burning Wood
Was scarce—to put it mildly—good;
Indeed, unless he'd chucked it quick,
That Flavour rank had turned him sick.
Next Day he went a Friend to see—
A seasoned, veteran Smoker he—
Whose Rack displayed full many a Pipe
With frequent Usage coloured ripe.
"Come choose you one and take a Fill."
Replied his Visitor: "I will."
He chose and filled an ancient Briar,
Applied the Vesta's needful Fire,
Then pulled, half-nervous, lest he should
Again be choked with burning Wood.
But soon observe his Face expand
In Smile contented, placid, bland;
For nought of sickening, woody Taste
The Baccy's Flavour now effaced;
Instead, there did his Palate greet
A Bouquet nutty, mellow, sweet.
"Ah! lucky Man, whose Pipes are old,"
He cried, with Envy uncontrolled,
"And so are spared the nauseous Savours
Wherewith new Wood one's Baccy flavours!
"Dear Boy, my Pipes," his Friend returned,
"Would ne'er this mellow Age have earned,
Unless, with Perseverance due,
I'd nerved myself *to smoke them new*."

Moral.

Who'd reap the Pleasures of Success
Must first endure its Toil and Stress.

SCRUTATOR.

ARMY REFORM AGAIN.

THE more one sees of Mr. Haldane's army proposals the more difficult it is to pick any big hole in them, and this is practically demonstrated by such criticism as the scheme has yet received, both in Parliament and outside. From this statement it is only necessary to except the views of Mr. Arnold-Forster, whose opinion, of course, is that any scheme not devised by himself must necessarily be fatal to the Army and the nation. In two respects I distrust Mr. Haldane's projects myself, but the future alone can say whether there is any reason for such mistrust. In point of fact, Mr. Haldane himself described his scheme as "speculative," and any such scheme necessarily contains a large speculative element. If 78,000 officers and men, practically the equivalent of the present Militia, enrol themselves for the proposed "special contingent," which is to be available for foreign service on mobilisation, and if 300,000 Volunteers and Yeomanry, or whatever they are to be called in future, are forthcoming on the proposed terms for the second line, the scheme will satisfy all military requirements which can be reasonably set up. But it looks such a big "if." Mr. Wyndham, the most intelligent of Mr. Haldane's critics, expressed that view, and many people will share it. I do not say that Mr. Haldane is expecting impossibilities, and he has had the advantage over any outside critic of having explored the regions behind the scenes, where the work of staging the proposed two armies will have to be done. There are some 90,000 men now serving in the Militia on more or less the same terms as are proposed for the auxiliary contingent of the Regular Army. They may continue to serve on the new basis, or others may be found to supply their places. But as far as my observations go, the only militia units which are worth their salt owe their merits to special circumstances connected with the present constitution of the force, of which local traditions and the personal influence of commanding officers are the chief; and when the peculiar circumstances which have kept the Militia alive and flourishing in certain localities are swept away, I shall be surprised if you can still get militia-men as a mere semi-professional adjunct of the foreign service army. So again with the Volunteers and Yeomanry. The Government is going to ask a good deal more of them than is asked at present, and experience has shown that to ask more of the Volunteers is immediately to reduce their numbers. Many people have thought—I am one of them—that it would be a gain in the end to ask more and accept the consequent reduction of numbers, on the principle that a thoroughly efficient and trustworthy force of 150,000 men is worth more at a pinch than an altogether inferior force of 250,000. But Mr. Haldane is like an epicure Oliver Twist, who not only asks for more food, but asks for an improved menu. I wish he may get it, but judging by past experience, I have my doubts.

The second reason for misgiving is on the score of £ s. d. No definite estimate worth consideration of the probable cost of the new elements in the organisation has yet been put forward. We are to postpone that painful subject for another year. In the meantime, however, does anybody suppose that the "special contingent," with its six months' training and its 3,500 officers (yet to be caught), is not going to cost at least twice as much as the old Militia, if it is to be worth anything? Or does anybody suppose that a second line of all arms, field artillery included, 300,000 strong, is going to be formed out of the present auxiliary forces, and properly officered, organised, and equipped with non-combatant services, without a new expenditure of several millions per annum? My own credulity does not run to that length. One of our instructors in military matters takes a favourable view of the whole scheme, having regard to the conditions attending its inception, one of which is that the Secretary of State has only got 28 millions per annum to spend. But as it is quite certain that the scheme is not going to be carried out for 28 millions, its excellence from this point of view will apparently not endure beyond the end of the coming financial year. What I should expect to happen is that when the first bills come to be made out next spring this item and that of the new programme will be modified or postponed out of regard for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that this process will be repeated from year to year. In the meantime, the establishment of the various units will fail to form itself, and as this will suit financial exigencies, no strenuous effort will be made to fill it up. In that case the scheme will remain an ideal dangled before our eyes year after year by Secretaries of State, present or future, as a high ideal towards which the War Office is steadily working so far as circumstances permit; and this will go on until a new scare is got up, and a new army reformer comes into office, when we shall have another scheme. In hazarding this prediction, I lay no claim to the gift of prophecy. Mr. Haldane is very energetic and clear-headed, and has a gift of inspiring others with enthusiasm, which gives him a certain driving force. He may, therefore, be able to force his scheme through where others have failed. But I have seen so many army schemes, and experience has made me pessimistic.

Does it matter very much whether Mr. Haldane's ideas are ever realised in their entirety? The present excitement about the condition of the Army is confined to a somewhat narrow circle, and is attributable entirely to the experience of the Boer war. The Boer war was a blunder in many respects. From the purely military point of view the blunder was that we drifted into the war without ever seriously calculating what sort of military effort it involved. If Governments are going to make wars or drift into wars in that style, the only sort of army that is any use to us is an army equal to that of the biggest military power with whom we may be involved in war at short notice by a bungling Ministry. The lesson of lessons taught by the Boer war is that embodied in the scriptural precept against going to war without previously reckoning whether you have a force which is equal to tackling your enemy. That is a lesson for Cabinets in general, and for Foreign and Colonial Secretaries in particular, rather than for Secretaries of State for War. It is no use, therefore,

for people to go about talking at large about the necessity of preparedness for war, as demonstrated by our experience in South Africa. In 1899 we were perfectly prepared for war, if the enemy had been a West African emperor, a Soudanese mahdi, or a Pathan mullah. We were not prepared to undertake the conquest of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The contingency had not been contemplated, and we had to improvise the machinery at vast trouble, loss, and expense. When, then, we are told by Mr. Haldane or anybody else that we must have a "striking force" of this size or that size ready for prompt mobilisation, the question instantly arises, against whom is it going to strike. Is it going to strike against France, Germany, or Russia? If that is the idea, it is a matter of indifference whether the force is 120,000 strong or 160,000. At either figure it is an equal absurdity for the purpose in view, and the addition of another 40,000 or 50,000 would not make it less so. In the same way, when we come to the second line, in what war is the territorial army going to defend our hearths and homes? The only foreign nations in a position to invade these islands in force are France and Germany. The circumstances under which the territorial army would have to turn out and defend us would only arise if the "striking force" had gone away somewhere—on strike—and we had no regular army left at home behind our fleet. Is it to be seriously contemplated that, being at war with either France or Germany, we should despatch the whole of our military first line to some other part of the world? The suggestion seems an absurdity, and the need of the national army of home defence becomes proportionately distant and speculative. We have been bidden, quite rightly, to betake ourselves to "clear thinking" on military matters. This is the result of my clear thinking. By clear thinking I mean definitely working out the military contingencies against which we have to provide, instead of talking wildly and irrationally about the defenceless condition of the Empire and the necessity for arming and drilling hundreds of thousands of men to protect it from undefined dangers, when its frontiers are guarded at all vital points by a greater naval force than any nation has hitherto possessed.

If we stick to clear thinking, what do we want a striking force for at all? As far as I can see, chiefly because it implies a certain power of doing mischief to other people, without which our diplomacy would not be respected. A navy without an army behind it cannot hurt anybody else seriously. It possesses only a limited power of annoying a well-armed enemy. But a power which commands the sea and can land a formidable military force at distant and unexpected spots without much trouble cannot generally be defied with impunity. We might not be able to invade France, or Germany, or even Turkey, if they fell out with us, but we could annex many of their possessions by means of our "striking force" without much trouble. Then, again, we have land frontiers in Asia and America, and to have no troops for the defence of our possessions in those regions would be to invite our neighbours to seize them if an occasion offered. A portable army is, therefore, necessary in order to prevent other people taking liberties with us under the impression that we cannot do them any harm, which is the same thing as saying in the interest of peace. And, of course, it is necessary to keep uncivilised neighbours in order. If it is to be any good for these purposes, the army must be an efficient and business-like one, capable of doing its work properly within the limited sphere of operations open to it. If it is not all this foreign powers will know the truth very quickly, and turn up their noses at it accordingly. What its precise strength should be is very difficult to say; but I can see no reasonably probable emergency to which the army that we have kept up during the last thirty years would not be equal; and every increase in it beyond that size is simply an inducement to statesmen to suppose that it can be used for purposes to which it is quite unequal and to shape their relations with foreign powers accordingly. Far more important than numbers, therefore, is efficiency. Judging from Mr. Haldane's account of War Office work during the past year, a great deal has been done to secure that end, and concurrently with some saving of money. Let him persevere with his efforts in that direction, and the country will have far more cause to thank him than for the addition of another 20,000 or 30,000 men to a "striking force," and two or three millions more to the Army estimates.

THE EDALJI INQUIRY FIASCO.

Every one familiar with the history of the Edalji case, especially the last chapter of it, will have read with amazement the communication from the Home Office issued to the press on Saturday last. It had been understood, as the result of communications between Sir Conan Doyle and the Home Office, that Mr. Gladstone had promised a full inquiry into all the circumstances attendant on Mr. Edalji's conviction, on the lines of the inquiry held into the Beck case. The only points which were not quite clear were whether the inquiry was to be held in public, and whether it was to extend to the procedure of the Home Office in dealing with the petitions and applications addressed to that department on Mr. Edalji's behalf subsequently to his conviction. It now appears that Sir Robert Romer, Sir Arthur Wilson, and Mr. Lloyd Wharton were nominated by Mr. Gladstone to conduct the inquiry. Sir Robert Romer, however, accepted the office under a misapprehension, as also, it would seem, did his colleagues. Sir Robert supposed that he was only to advise "whether a free pardon should be granted to Mr. Edalji, having regard to the materials in the possession of the Home Office." He found, however, that a general inquiry was contemplated, and possibly a public investigation, and he then withdrew, for the reasons which he thus states:—

> Now, it appears to me that if such an inquiry is embarked on it ought, in order to be satisfactory, to be done according to the ordinary rules of procedure governing a criminal trial. In my view an inquiry of that kind ought to be in public or not at all, and I am not willing to undertake it. May I point out to you some of the difficulties in the way of it? Apart from the objection of a retrial of a criminal charge so long after the conviction, without a jury, there is the question of evidence. Such a committee as you were desirous of appointing would have no power to call witnesses or administer an oath. To make the inquiry effective, witnesses ought to be properly examined and cross-examined. I think that the committee ought not to take upon itself the duty of cross-examination, and if counsel be employed,

the question arises who would act as counsel for the prosecution, and by whom would he be instructed. It appears to be thought that the inquiry in the Beck case was analogous to the present, but in that case the innocence of the convict was assumed, and no question of a trial for a criminal offence arose. At any rate, speaking for myself, I do not see my way to act, as it were, as judge and jury in trying the particular question of the guilt or innocence of Mr. Edalji, and that without any proper legal power of summoning witnesses.

Sir Robert adds that Sir Arthur Wilson and Mr. Wharton have seen this letter and entirely concur in it. It is natural that they should do so. The extraordinary part of the story is what follows. It seems that the three gentlemen subsequently offered to undertake the limited functions which Sir Robert Romer supposed in the first instance were all that he was to perform, namely, "to examine the material in the possession of the Home Office, and to give their advice on the case to the Home Secretary." This offer Mr. Gladstone accepted. Private circumstances subsequently compelled Sir Robert Romer's withdrawal; Sir Albert de Rutzen took his place; and "the examination of the papers is now proceeding."

It is decidedly strange that these gentlemen should have been appointed to act on a committee without understanding what they were to do; and that what they were really intended to do should have been open to the very obvious objections which Sir Robert Romer states in the above letter. But, without discussing this point further, the amazing thing is that the promised inquiry into the Edalji case should now have resolved itself into an examination of papers in the possession of the Home Office. What good purpose such a proceeding is expected to serve I am at a loss to imagine. It seems to come to this, that Mr. Edalji is to be tried again *in camerâ* on a secret official *dossier* on the strength of which successive Home Secretaries have three times over refused to pardon him, or to order a full public inquiry into the case. The injustice of this to the gentleman himself must be obvious to everybody. It must be assumed *à priori* that the papers in the possession of the Home Office, whatever they may be, are wholly unfavourable to Mr. Edalji. What their nature may be nobody knows; what credit they are entitled to the committee now at work cannot possibly determine. All that these three gentlemen can do is to say whether or not the Home Office was justified in arriving at the decisions it has arrived at on these documents. If, as seems most probable, they decide that it was, the Home Office, which ought really to be on its trial in this matter, obtains a thin coat of whitewash without any real justification, and at the expense once more of the man who is seeking for justice. If, on the other hand, the papers are pronounced not to justify the action taken on them, justice can only be done by ordering a public inquiry into the whole case, the difficulties in the way of which have been so clearly stated by Sir Robert Romer. The proceeding is at once unjust and absurd, and it is difficult to see what good can come of it.

However, the result of it must be awaited before any further steps are taken. In the meantime a substantial sum of money has been collected through the agency of Truth and the *Daily Telegraph* for the assistance of Mr. Edalji at the inquiry which was supposed to have been promised. Sir Conan Doyle, who has taken the lead in this matter, is unfortunately laid up at this juncture; but I hear from him that he thinks, as I do, that the money should be retained pending further developments, and I hope that the subscribers will consent to this course for the present. The examination of the papers in the possession of the Home Office cannot in the ordinary course of things take many days, and when the result is announced, what is best to be done next on Mr. Edalji's behalf can very soon be decided.

BOWDEN GREEN AND STREET NOISES.

Mr. Thomas Bowden Green, who has so long been under notice in these columns in connection with philanthropic or quasi-philanthropic enterprises of a more or less shady description, has just issued a financial statement of the latest of these concerns, styled "The Betterment of London Association, with which is incorporated the Street Noises Abatement Committee." The operations of this association in reference to street noises have attracted some public notice, and many excellent people are much interested in its doings. I am not concerned to deny that, properly conducted, such an association might be a useful body, deserving of support. All I am concerned about is to warn those interested in the object in view that Bowden Green's association is not properly conducted, and is thoroughly undeserving of support. Many reasons for that opinion have been given from time to time in Truth. They are in all respects confirmed by the financial statement above mentioned, as I will now proceed to show.

This statement purports to account for receipts to the amount of £2,462 5s. In a properly conducted association supported by public subscriptions, accounts in respect of so large a sum would be issued by the honorary treasurer and vouched for by the certificate of a chartered accountant. This account bears at the foot the following note:—

> We have examined the above accounts with the books and vouchers of the Association, and find the same to be correct.
> Henry Mogridge. Thos. Bowden Green, F.R.C.A.,
> Arthur MacGillicuddy. Hon. Sec.

No information is given as to who Henry Mogridge and Arthur MacGillicuddy may be, what qualifications they possess for the function they have discharged, nor who authorised them to examine and sign the association's accounts. The inference is that this is an account prepared by Green and countersigned by two friends or assistants. We thus start with ocular demonstration that in the vitally important matter of preparing and issuing its accounts to the subscribers, the association is not a properly conducted one.

The receipts which Mr. Green feels himself called upon to account for are thus stated:—

To balance in hand from last audit	£15 15 6
To subscriptions and donations during 2½ years (1st July, 1904, to 31st December, 1906)	1,446 8 6
To amounts advanced for the development of the movement during its early years (for repayments see "Expenditure" column)	1,000 0 0
	£2,462 5 0

Subscriptions, it will be seen, have been coming in for 2½ years at the average rate of nearly £600 a year, but no audit has been held or accounts issued since July, 1904—neither does it appear that any proper

audit has been held now. Moreover, this is the normal course of business. The last account issued, which was dealt with in Truth in December, 1904, covered the period from January 1, 1902, to June 30, 1904. Two and a half years is evidently, in Bowden Green's opinion, a proper period for the making up of the books of a public institution, and the issue of accounts to the subscribers. I call attention, also, to the item of £1,000 "advanced for the development of the movement during its early years." Advanced by whom, and when? The whole sum has been "advanced," if it has been advanced at all, during the period covered by the account. For the previous period of 2½ years, Green entered in the same way a sum of £50 as "advanced by friends." The description of the more recent advances as "for the development of the movement during its early years" is most misleading, for it suggests that the entry relates to a period prior to this account. In the 1904 account Green acknowledged receipts to the amount of £1,322. By that time, therefore, the movement was being well supported; and there is no visible reason why he should have had to borrow £1,000 during the last 2½ years. The importance of this entry is seen when one finds in the "expenditure column" an entry of £250 as "repayment of advances for the development of the movement during its early years." Repaid to whom? I will say a word more on that question presently.

Let us look now at the manner in which the alleged receipts of £2,462 5s. are alleged to have been spent. Here are the items:—

	£	s.	d.
By the publication of Occasional Papers of the Association, Noise Abatement Leaflets, and other Literature issued by the B.L.A.	402	7	0
„ Placing up Enamelled Iron Tablets *re* Barrel Organs and Street Cries in numerous localities throughout the metropolis	325	0	0
„ Petitions to the Home Secretary, L.C.C., the Corporation, Kensington Town Council, the Police, and various other Authorities	233	6	8
„ Office Rent (City and West-End)	150	0	0
„ Office Furniture, Books, Stationery, Office Printing, Advertising, Newspaper Cuttings, Travelling, Postage, and Miscellaneous Expenses	241	13	4
„ Repayment of advances for the development of the movement during its early years	250	0	0
„ Interest on Deposits	32	16	6
„ Remuneration of Secretaries and Inspectors, and „ by Office Assistants' and Hon. Sec.'s Expenses	549	13	6
„ Commission on Subscriptions and Donations	216	18	0
„ Balance in hand 1st January, 1907	10	10	0
	£2,462	5	0

I frankly confess that this account takes my breath away. A good many curiosities of philanthropic finance have come before me in my time, but nothing equal to this. Here we have a concern which, in the course of two and a half years, has fixed up a few enamelled iron plates in London (number, you observe, carefully omitted), has presented petitions to five specified authorities, and perhaps one or two more, and has distributed a certain amount of literature (chiefly for advertising purposes); and to accomplish these microscopic results has cost, after deducting the balance in hand and the alleged repayment of loans and interest, upwards of £2,200! To collect £1,446 in subscriptions and donations costs, in commissions alone, £216, or 15 per cent., independently of the salaries of the staff, and the expenditure on advertising, postage, literature, and travelling expenses. The salaries and the up-keep of *two offices*—what in the name of wonder are two offices required for?—absorb £941, only about £500 less than the total income from the public. Yet in spite of all this expenditure on staff and apparatus, it costs a further £223 to get up about half-a-dozen petitions to public authorities. It would be wasting time and space to criticise the items in further detail. The figures speak for themselves, and if any subscriber cannot understand them at a glance, I doubt if anything I can say will enlighten him.

The matter which I am chiefly concerned with is Bowden Green's share of this monstrous expenditure. He poses as an "honorary" secretary, and the account discloses no money paid to him except an unspecified amount for "expenses." The intention, therefore, is to suggest that he is doing the work of the Association, such as it is, for love. I do not believe this, and no one will believe it who knows the man's record as a charity-monger. Where, then, does Bowden Green come in? Probably under many heads, but I should look for him chiefly under three. (1) It has already been explained that when he started this Betterment of London Association, he also floated a company called the Betterment of London Printing and Publishing Company, Ltd. This company was to print and publish the *Betterment of London Journal*, which the Association was to issue, and apparently to do the printing of the Association generally. The *Betterment of London Journal* has apparently become the "Occasional Papers" mentioned in the account; but if the original arrangement is still in existence, Green will have made a profit of unknown amount out of the expenditure of £402 for publishing work. (2) There is another item of unstated amount for "hon. sec.'s expenses," which are lumped in with the "remuneration of secretaries and inspectors" and office assistants' expenses. In the 1904 account, though then, as now, "honorary" secretary, Green put himself down for an "honorarium" to the tune of £262 10s. as "editor." The editor's honorarium has disappeared from the present account; but on the other hand it appears that the salaries of the staff, with the assistance of the new item, "hon. sec.'s expenses," have risen from £286 13s. to £549 13s. 6d., an increase of £263. It will be seen that this corresponds within 10s. to the "editor's honorarium" in the previous account; and I suggest to the subscribers that they should inquire whether the "honorary" secretary has not charged this amount as his "expenses," or, if not, how the salaries and expenses of the staff have increased in 2½ years by this enormous amount. (3) £250 is entered as repayment of advances. As already shown, the circumstances of the advances are misrepresented, the money, if borrowed at all, having been borrowed within the period covered by this account. No information is given as to the reason for borrowing money within that time, or from whom it was borrowed and to whom repaid. It is one of the commonest practices of charity-mongers who issue uncertified accounts to create debts in their own favour and repay themselves out of the subscriptions as opportunity offers. Is it possible that Mr. Green is the generous friend who received this £250 in repayment of his advances to the

infant "movement"? If so, Mr. Green being by no means a millionaire, the subscribers ought to know, and should make it their business to know, the dates, amounts, and reasons for his alleged loans.

There is, however, another possible explanation of the advances and repayments, and it is suggested by the entry of £82 16s. 6d. for "interest on deposits." In connection with the Thrift Society, Green carried on for years an abominable system of appointing assistant secretaries in his office on payment of a returnable premium or deposit. Many unfortunate persons of both sexes, on giving up the work after becoming acquainted with the real character of the concern, had the greatest difficulty in recovering the money thus paid. Some never did so at all; and those who were paid were—certainly in some cases and probably in all—only paid at the expense of the fresh victims who succeeded them. When dealing with the Betterment of London finances in 1904, I mentioned that Green was trying this trick again, and that a gentleman who had applied for the post of a secretary at the branch office had been asked to deposit no less than £500, at 5 per cent. interest. I have heard that large deposits have since been obtained in this way, and the entry of £82 16s. 6d. for "interest on deposits" confirms this information. The question, therefore, arises whether the £1,000 advance on the other side of the account may not refer to such deposits by persons on the office staff. In that case the advance is in a sense a genuine entry, and possibly the repayment is too; but the description of "amounts advanced for the development of the movement during its early years" then becomes more delusive than ever; and the entry in this shape can only be designed to conceal from the subscribers the traffic in appointments which Green is carrying on. If such a system is being practised, it is utterly disreputable. It cannot be necessary, even if it were justifiable, to carry on the work of the association by such means, for the society is under no obligation to spend more money than it can obtain from subscriptions; nor is it likely that any secretary who was really "honorary" and had no financial interest in the concern would resort to such a method of raising money.

My reason for going into this account at some length is that I have lately been in communication with gentlemen interested in the anti-street-noises movement who are concerned about the discredit which it suffers from the criticism of the Betterment of London Association in Truth. It has been suggested to me that I should bury Bowden Green's past out of regard for the commendable objects of the B.L.A., or that I should explain how my objections to the individual may be met, or suggest some sort of *modus vivendi*. The answer to all this is to be found above. I would bury Bowden Green's past with pleasure if he himself would make it possible. We have all heard of men "rising on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things;" and I should be the last to disturb the dead self for the purpose of throwing down one who has risen by this process. But T. B. G. shows no disposition to rise in this way; on the contrary, he is ever demonstrating that the T. B. G. of the past, so far from being dead, is very much alive and kicking. A few years ago I went, at great expenditure of time and trouble, and at Green's own invitation, into the affairs of the National Thrift Society. In passing, I may remark that though it suits him now to represent himself, especially to hesitating subscribers, as pursued with implacable malignity by somebody connected with Truth, not a word as to the results of that investigation was told in this paper at the time. It is now clear that his misconduct ought to have been exposed in the public interest; but he was let off, and had every opportunity of profiting by the lesson he received. It was only when I found him long afterwards at his old game that my experience of the Thrift Society was published. He has the least possible right, therefore, to complain now of the way he has been treated by Truth. So far as can be judged from his own published information, he is now repeating the history of the Thrift Society in every detail, and no reason can be seriously suggested why those on whom he is practising should not be warned of what he has done before and what he is apparently doing again. On the contrary, it appears to me to be the first duty of one who knows the man to prevent, as far as possible, those who do not from being imposed upon by him. Personally, I have a good deal of sympathy with those inhabitants of London who find their lives made intolerable by Italian organs, German bands, newspaper boys, motor 'buses, or any of the nuisances which T. B. G. sums up under the picturesque title of the Noise Fiend. But it is quite certain that T. B. G. could not dispose of the Fiend if he would; nor is it very likely that he would if he could, so long as the Fiend is worth a few hundreds a year to him in a state of freedom. It is absurd to suppose that such an organisation as the Betterment of London Association can ever practically influence either those who make the laws or those who administer them. The only advice, therefore, that I can give to those who are sufficiently keen on this "movement" to put their money into it, is that they should first dissociate themselves from Bowden Green, and then associate themselves in a properly constituted body, controlling it themselves, and appointing officials whom they can trust to do their work properly and to be content with the salaries paid them.

A PEER AMONG THE PRESSMEN.

[I have received the following from the noble lord who has been favouring me lately with studies in journalism.—Ed. Truth.]

I was awfully pleased when I read my article on the County Council election last week, it seemed to me to go so uncommonly well, though I notice I put my money on the wrong horse, as far as picking the winner goes. Not that I have much reason to complain myself, for my brother-in-law—the one who runs the electrical companies, I mean—was so delighted with the result that he gave my sister Kate a blank cheque to get herself a new set of sables, and some of it came in uncommonly useful. But about my article. I was surprised to find that Jessie was a bit worried about it. She liked it tremendously at first, but she happened to look at it again in her dressing-room while she was waiting for her "call," and it suddenly struck her that it was quite different from the rest of the paper. She thought it was ever so much better herself, but she was afraid that it might not be

quite professional enough. She talked it over with her press-agent next morning—he had come to discuss with her whether she did not think it was almost time she had her emeralds stolen again, or some technical matter like that—not, of course, mentioning my name, for nobody has tumbled to the fact of my writing yet, but in a sort of general way. She gathered from him that the best way to make a name for yourself as a journalist is to get a particular style of writing of your own and stick to it. It did not matter a bit whether it was good or bad, he told her, so long as there was no mistaking it. And the best things to write about were things that everybody knew all about already, so that they would not have their attention taken away from your style, and how very clever you must be to write about it so differently to anything they could have done. He promised to send her two or three examples of the sort of thing he meant, and as soon as she got them she handed them over to me, and told me she thought I had better get them up a bit. Of course, I knew she was right; a girl cannot get on in the way she has done without having her head screwed on tight, especially if she is as lovely as Jessie is. If you could only see her eyes!—they are the most beautiful brown colour, and bright, like brown diamonds, if there were such things—and there is a sort of tenderness in them, too.

But about those newspaper articles. I very soon saw that it was no good my trying to turn out anything original of the kind on my own account—not without years of practice—and the best thing I could do would be to try to get as near one of them as possible. We went through them all very carefully, and there were two of them that seemed likely to suit me. One was by a Mr. James Douglas. It was in the *Morning Leader*, and it was about billiards. I liked this because billiards is a game I know something about. Jessie preferred one by a Mr. Bartholomew Kennedy. It was in the *Daily Mail*, and it was about America. I could not make head or tail of most of it myself, but Jessie said it would be easy for me to imitate, because the style was so marked. In the end we settled that I had better try my hand at both styles, and you could decide which you like best, and I would keep to that in future. I thought I would make my article about motor 'buses, because every one is interested in them—my brother-in-law in particular. Perhaps when you have read them both you would not mind letting me know which you prefer. The first is in my Douglas style.

1. The Ineffability of the Motor-'Bus.

Yesterday, being unnerved by the complexity of civilisation, I wandered down to Charing Cross. Cabs and vans and motor 'buses were drifting up and down Whitehall and melting into the Strand and Cockspur-street. The motor 'buses stirred my curiosity. They must have come from somewhere and be going somewhere else. Some of them went very fast, others more slowly; some would not move at all, some proceeded sideways. Suddenly it flashed upon me that I had chanced upon the explanation of their mystery. By some accident I had floated into the vortex of the motor maëlstrom. I settled myself firmly upon the curbstone and wept over the unchanging change of Charing Cross. It is the cross of complications. Around it are always all manner of confusions. Here, unexpectedly, upon an unchallengeable curbstone, Charing Cross provides me with the luxurious spectacle of inexpressible skilfulness in the most subtly exquisite sport the worlds have ever seen. The audience is superb. There are continual crowds. Motor-'bus driving is an artistic pursuit. It is not a common trade. It is a religion, an all-engrossing act of worship, rather than a means of livelihood. It is the recreation of men of action.

The roadway is wide. Many lines of traffic converge and mingle within it. There are cab-drivers, and butcher-boys on bicycles. Above all, there are the motor-'bus drivers. A visitor from Colney Hatch might imagine that these men, with their grimed fingers and veiled eyes, were Druids, celebrating the Eleusinian mysteries, charged with horrid occultations. He might conceive the muffled wailing of the horns as the anguished appeals of hidden victims, suffocating amid sacrificial pyres. The varied colours of the vehicles he might conceive as solemnly symbolical. His blood would freeze beneath the horror of their suggestion. He would glower terror-stricken at the unmanageable machines, weaving a labyrinthine weft, mingling inebriated curves and skiddings. The red "Generals" he might understand as symbolising the horrid purpose of the Druids; the white "Vanguards" he might conceive to be the emblems of the victims' bleaching bones; the black "Tillings" the horrid smoke rising from the altars. The voices of the conductors would seem to him the dreadful howlings of the Furies. "Benk! Benk! Victorier! Cherring Cross!" would fill him with forebodings of the decreasing durance of distance and the inexorable limitations of penny fares.

London fades before me like a bioscope-picture as I watch the driver making melody with his clutches. To me he seems the poet of the unutterably unexpected. He is ——

Perhaps I have done enough to show you what I can do in this style. Here is the other, which is as near as I can make it to Mr. Kennedy's. I found it a good deal easier to write, because I did not have to worry about verbs and things:—

2. The Motor-'Bus Driver.

The motor-'bus driver will give way to nobody. He would not give way to a brewer's lorry. He would not give way to a traction engine. He would scarcely give way to a railway train. The motor-'bus driver. It is a fine thing to be a motor-'bus driver. You can kill men. You can kill women. You can even, if you are lucky, run over a policeman. You will acquire certain qualities—calmness, virtue, pride.

Your empire will reach from one curb-stone to the other. You will overturn hansoms. You will overturn lamp-posts. Even pillar-boxes. And houses. Resistless. Sweeping. Skidding. The motor-'bus driver.

You will sit on the front seat and direct.

Your fingers will let loose the power of petrol upon living men. Death, evil odours, and broken limbs they will deal out. By the dozen. Indiscriminate. Streets, squares, circuses they will govern. And other places whose names I have forgotten.

Forgotten.

You will look coldly before you. You will be calm. Strong. Nervy. You will travel above the speed limit. Forward. Sideways. Backwards. Or all at once. Behind your deeds will be a god. The god of petrol. Men will get out of your way. If they have time. The motor-'bus driver.

Sad and black is the lot of the pedestrian who seeks to cross the road. Sad and black. He has no friends. Hit him. Hard. The tremendous power that harnesses the earth-forces is not his friend. Sinister mystery. Conundrum ineffaceable. Enduring, immovable incomprehensibility.

Since the coming of the motor-'bus, what is this Strand? It is a wide street. Still. An old street. A strange street. A street. But the joy, the freshness of the old days is gone. The curse of the motor-'bus is over it. Its atmosphere is oily, discoloured, niffy. Poisonous smoke soddens it. Columns of it. Huge. Long. Death dealing. The rays of the sun cannot struggle through it. It smells so vile that the cab-horses shy on their ranks. The street is as a Hell. An Inferno. The very cats shun it. But thousands must endure it. The people who walk.

All down the street they walk. Nearly all of them wear boots. Leather boots.

Lord!

I am not really quite sure, myself, which style I am best at. But if you will let me know which you prefer I will always keep to it. I am not sending you this to

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., London, W.

publish, unless you think it would sell the paper—Jessie, by the way, likes them both no end. I would have tried to send you a really topical article, but I rather overdid it getting up the County Council facts last week, and I have had headaches ever since. While I think of it, I do not quite know what your usual custom is, but I have not heard from your cashier yet about the last two articles. I was wondering, if I was to call at your office some time during the week, if he would mind advancing me something on account. Since I have become a journalist, I seem to have quite lost my luck at Bridge somehow.

THE THEATRES.

"My Darling," at Hicks'.

Mr. Hicks and Mr. Haines between them have written the above musical play, which was produced last Saturday evening at the Hicks Theatre. I wish I could add that Mr. Hicks is playing in it, but by this time he is far away, astonishing the provinces with "The Beauty of Bath." On the last London night of that play he announced that "My Darling" would be exactly like its predecessor. There is much to be said in support of that argument, from one point of view, though there are ingredients missing. There is, for instance, the ghost or spirit of Mr. Hicks, which shows itself, sometimes to advantage, in the quips of the dialogue. But these would need the presence on the stage in flesh and blood of their author before they could obtain sufficient body to fill the whole field of vision. Mr. Henry Lytton is very active as the young buck who sings Romeo in place of his friend the tenor, incapacitated for that evening through champagne. "Champagnitis" is a joke word typical of Mr. Hicks, but he is needed to give the full sparkle to the suggestion; otherwise, in his own words, the Jack Hylton is apt to be "egged off."

The muddle of masks and dominoes, people expecting to meet their beloved and clasping their best detested at the Hôtel d'Ontelle, is familiar to farce, and treated here in the familiar way. The accessories may be at once set down as gorgeous, and with them may be coupled the robes of the ladies—Butterflies they are that once were Buns—who follow the adventures of the evening. An innovation is the introduction of genuine Scots pipes and pipers, who achieve their music well and solemnly in the midst of flowered silks and satins rather surprised at the martial sounds. But shadows, shadows, I see on the programme and in memory, until my eye stops at the welcome name of Marie Studholme, who is not a shadow, though not stout, as she points out. This little lady made friends with the audience at once, as is her custom, and then had a very fair luncheon with Mr. Hylton (H. A. Lytton) before lapsing into dainty song. At a later period, for some obscure reason, a pathetic scene is introduced between Miss Beryl Faber, as the hard, yet to-be-melted *demi-mondaine*, and Miss Marie. Miss Faber had no difficulty in dealing with the situation, *ayant vu bien d'autres*, and for Miss Studholme it may be said that she took the fence gallantly, though not in her stride. I hope some day to welcome her in real comedy. Ghosts, ghosts come to memory, with the clever but quite unexplained imitations of popular players in the second act, with Mr. Kalisz's tenor, so obviously aped from Maurice Farkoa. Even Master Valchera, of Vaudeville renown, has his shadow in a little boy with a Scottish accent and the gift of the gab. Shadow, too, is the Hotel Proprietor, "Oddy," of Mr. Tom Graves, with whom, on the first night, it was possible to compare reality in the stalls. Why does Mr. McArdle not make me feel as amused as I could wish with the adventures of the Newspaper Proprietor? I cannot tell. Why does Miss Barbara Deane suddenly sing "Home Sweet Home," in the last act? I really forget, unless she intended to take off Patti; but she must not be disconcerted to tears by the foolish disapproval of a few, for she has a good voice. Lastly, why do all these disconnected things happen? I have forgotten enough Latin to make a pun that explains all: *Post Hicks: ergo propter Hicks.* That is bad Latin, but, "My Darling," it is all you deserve.

* * * * *

At the Alhambra the past week has witnessed a new ballet, coming on about ten o'clock. "L'Amour" still seems to maintain its hold of public sympathy. "Queen of Spades" is the name of the new fantasy, and in it figures the graceful and athletic Mlle. Alexia. Eccentric in her orbit, Mlle. Alexia claims attention by dint of this very eccentricity, which makes comparison with more normal stars of the toe vain. There is a good deal of action in this ballet, and with the help of the synoptical programme, the spectator may follow, if he will, the love and frenzy of the young sculptor, who, for love of L'Etoile, loses his all at cards in the Kursaal. He may follow him even on his dreams, which comprise the second scene, and with the aid of the biograph, manifest, amid much else, his thoughts of deadly vengeance upon his rival. Individual tastes vary; mine, I fear, go against the use of semblance where one might have reality. The scenes of the dream would have been more vivid if acted behind gauze, or some device similar to that adopted some years ago, when Maeterlinck's "Pelléas and Mélisande" was acted at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. The ballet will be found cheerful of ending by that single spectator in a hundred who cares about the story. The majority will be more interested to study the variations on the theme: playing cards, roulette and bridge as reflected in the costume and dances of this new work. The detail of revolving roulette boards and cards surmounting them displayed by the chorus was one that amused me. Admittedly the ballet has caused the expenditure of much money and trouble, and although I have known ballets that have gone with greater gusto in this famous house, many of my readers will doubtless go to learn how to play roulette picturesquely, and to mix liqueurs according to the recipe of Signor Alfredo Curti.

* * * * *

"The Prodigal Son" is again earning money for his father. The Adelphi Theatre was crowded on Monday of last week, the first of the revival. Mr. Frank Cooper, as on former occasions, is a favourite with the special audience that evidently intends to prove that the Adelphi has not been deserted by the descendants of those that made it famous for melodrama. Certain of the picturesque accessories, such as the sheep and the carnival, have now no longer their place in this great work; Mr. Alexander has long been gone; Mrs. John Wood and Miss Nancy Price are now no more

visible. But their successors hold the audience with a grip as tenacious, to judge by the commendation of their doings vociferated from many parts of the house.

* * * * *

Let me say in one word what it would take two columns to say in full. The performance of Mr. "You Never Can Tell" at the Court Theatre is worthy of an early visit. I was there with a party not especially favourable to that author, on an evening of last week, and all admitted that they had not been so well entertained at any party on or off the stage for many a week. The play is very amusing and not at all "unpleasant." Mr. Calvert, Miss Minto, Mr. Granville Barker—to name but three—and, more important than any individual, the whole cast, is at this moment ripe—like a strawberry in June.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE MONTAGNINI PAPERS.

THEY make a noise about the Montagnini papers both in Paris and in Rome. Who could doubt that the Vatican did not do its utmost to prevent King Alfonso coming to visit M. Loubet? Vatican interest prompted Monsignor Merry del Val to move in this direction. Nothing but Vatican interest ever moves a Papal Secretary of State; some clear, direct interest of this kind is always sure to move him. Were it not so, why send nuncios to every Catholic country, and political agents to the non-Catholic? The Vatican mind is essentially politic and diplomatic. The Curia cannot live on air. Its members are accustomed to costly splendour. "Love makes the world go round elsewhere," said Cardinal Antonelli to Mirès. "Money alone has influence here." Mirès had, therefore, to pay dearly for his concession of the Roman railways. Spain, though a poor country, furnishes handsome revenues to St. Peter's See. The latter would be inconsistent with itself and its past history had it not done all in its power to prevent Alfonso's projected visit. In European politics the Vatican has been leaning on the German Emperor's arm. He had rendered the Pope services. In return he wanted services of the Pope, better services perhaps. His Lutheran subjects had begun to growl at his Papal proclivities. They are his most intelligent subjects. He found that he could never hold the Catholics. As members of the Reichstag Centre they united with the Socialists against his pet schemes of naval aggrandisement and *Welt-politik*. Of course, as a means to this end he would have wanted to keep Alfonso from coming to Paris. Alfonso XII. belonged entirely to Bismarck. The Hohenlohe "Memoirs" tell us that he said to the Emperor William I., "My army is yours to command. If you ever go to war with France I will march at the head of my troops against her." "That is more than I want," quoth the sly old Emperor. "All I want is to be assured of your friendly neutrality." Now that a great navy lies at Kiel, and that vast mercantile steamers hoisting the German flag plough the ocean, the friendly neutrality of Spain is of more importance than ever to the Kaiser. Spain is a road by which the Germans could turn a strong French position. A large German force could land in safety in a Basque port, Passages or some other, and enter, as Wellington did, the Gascon end of France. To guard against this contingency France would have to keep nothing less than an army near the Bidassoa.

You see from this that, in endeavouring to stop the growing intimacy between Paris and Madrid, Monsignor Merry del Val served at once a Papal and a German interest. He is not to be blamed, inasmuch as he discharged a duty to the temporal power of the Pope, which now chiefly lies in Peter's pence. He apprised the Papal agent here of his efforts, so that he could discreetly, in private conversations, ventilate the matter without leaving any traces in archives.

The Norwegian explorer, Amundsen, has been the hero of a whole week. He came, lectured, received gold medals, the congratulations of the head of the State, and nearly made Paris forget what every one speaks of as "the abominable income-tax scheme." More than ever he has confirmed me in my belief that faith removes mountains, and that outside of engineering feats the greatest things are done by persons of scanty means. Just think of the heaps of gold that have been spent on fitting up Polar expeditions that nearly always failed. Amundsen's adventure, which lasted three years, only cost £8,000 throughout. It is true that Parry, Sir John Franklin, McClintock, McClure, and so on, knew nothing of tinned foods, of the warming qualities of sardines and anchovies preserved in oil, and of many other devices for cheating the temperature. They were prejudiced in favour of rum. Amundsen has been brought up under the healthy influence of the Gothenberg law.

Our Norwegian explorer pleased by his gentle manners, with much peeping through it that denoted a frank, firm, thoughtful character. It would be awfully hard to find in him the wherewithal for a stage hero. He can talk, but not fluently and eloquently. The manner in speaking struck those who went to his lecture as calm, unvarnished statement that might not have come to much had he not had the constant support of optical effects. But the deeply graven lines of the face spoke of intense and prolonged anxiety, of mental strain, tension, anguish, and withal something that told of a hopeful habit of mind with deep enthusiasm to maintain it. His well-set, clean-built figure, and easy motions won the favour of some sculptors who went to study his plastic points. It might do for a future statue or bas-relief of Jason, or of Ulysses, in a break in his long voyage. That is what Mercié thinks. The blue eyes of the explorer are those of a mild seer, and on the look-out, as it were, for some far-off haven or Princess Lontaine. There is no sign of an Esquimaux Calypso in his lectures.

Three years of the Polar regions ought to count for twenty of ordinary life. Amundsen has kept in perfect health. He lost but one of his six companions. I think of Drake's "Golden Hind," a poor little pinnace, as I mentally review the achievements of the *Gjoa*,

a 42-ton barque which an angry whale might have tossed sky-high. It would have only needed collision with a very small iceberg to knock it to pieces. The calm courage of the leader and crew took it safe and sound through the mysterious passages and down the Pacific, and through the Golden Gate into the haven of California. "Haven" meant "heaven" to the explorer and his six men—namely, Godfried Hansen, Ristredt, Lund, Helmer Hansen, Lindstrom, and poor Wüg. Wüg's name is not euphonious. It rhymes to nothing heroic that I can think of. But the solitary, snow-capped mound under which he lies is invested with poetic interest.

Amundsen sees a serious, or a more than serious, drawback to his expedition. It has brought those simple, honest inhabitants of the Polar regions face to face with civilisation. This contact must upset all their traditional ideas, and distort their imaginations, fever the minds of their best men and women, and make the lot of many among them a torment. He did not say whether the adventure of Theseus and Ariadne was repeated in the course of his voyage, but he spoke in private of the inhabitants of his winter station as having, until he came among them, lived happily within the limits of their narrow means and small enlightenment. He found the women devoted, gentle, simple. Those who had babies not only gave sustenance to the infants, but to the goodmen of their snow-house. They did so in the most cheerful way, and happy to be of service. Those primitive people have complex grammars and social etiquettes. Their sense of smell is either defective, or takes a pleasure in odours which made the explorers hold their noses. To make use of a euphemism, they offer at their feasts the "inside" of the animal to the most honoured guests or members of the family. Hibernating through long winters—ten and a half months *or more*—they come to have a village dialect incomprehensible to villagers at a short distance from theirs. The village is a circle of snow houses internally communicating. The word *miki* in one village may mean a child, and in another a dog. Amundsen and his comrades thought 30 degrees below freezing point summer heat. They had had to put up with 60 degrees. The steam that went up in huts from animals and inhabitants fell down from the roof in frosty snow. The explorers, observing this effect, used it for a Turkish bath. Imagine!

"The North-West passage," says Amundsen, "can never be of any commercial use, nor of much practical use, except to facilitate the study of the Magnetic Pole." One would think he had had enough of the dismal Polar regions. Not at all; he is keen on further exploration. Not only his curiosity as a savant prompts him, but he wants again to see the boundless horizon of the low snow-fields, and the effects of the borealis lights, which are far finer than he could have imagined in somewhat lower latitudes. These snow plains are magnificent, especially in the short summers. Their thick mists in falling and in melting away are full of weird beauty. There is no such blue on earth as that of the Polar ice. The higher one goes, the finer the blue, but, of course, the eye of each person has its own visions of beauty. Amundsen can call to mind no colour combinations more delightful than along the North-West Passage. The wide difference between the Arctic and Antarctic Polar regions came home to him in his recent voyage. They are in the sharpest contrast. No human life or higher life than that of penguins and fishes is to be found in Antarctic countries. The Arctic circle has walruses, bears, dogs, reindeer, and human beings with some excellent human qualities. They have made the most of their conditions and are good people on the whole. Their conditions hold them in as the skin of the seal holds in that interesting animal. It will give our explorer real pleasure to see again his Polar friends.

Prince Robert de Broglie is hardly an interesting person. But this is not a reason why the Prefect of Police should prevent him and his wife displaying their musical talents at the Scala Music Hall. If his father pays roughs, or sets on young sprigs of nobility to get up riots, the police ought to drop down on them, and the Commissioner of Police send them on to "la Correctionelle." It seems that General Picquart can lay hold on the Prince as a defaulting reservist and send him to serve as a private soldier. Prince Robert has been threatened with this consequence of default should he return to France. He is a miserably poor soldier, health and energy being wanting. According to the canon law, he is still the husband of the Comtesse Fleury, *née* Deslandes and a semi-Oppenheim. The Pope has resisted all the attacks on him of the De Broglie family to obtain the annullation of this marriage. According to American law, Prince Robert is the husband of the lady he now goes about with. But he is not bound to her according to the French code, nor of course she to him. A Hermaut, a Downay, or a Chapus might find in this imbroglio some amusing situations. The slip-knot nature of their tie may not prevent it being lasting. "Rien n'est permanent que le provisoire." The Prince and Princess Robert expect lucrative engagements in Belgium, Bavaria, Switzerland, and Italy. They call her in his family circle *la Tsigane*. If the name has a basis of fact, she ought to be a born musician, but not exactly a type for the stilted De Broglie connection.

Police interference at the Moulin Rouge when the Marquise de Morny appeared there is cited by that connection as a reason why M. Lépine should put down a scandal at the Scala. Not so. What is there that out-Herods Herod in the joint artistic career of Prince and Princess Henri? One need not, in reference to that of the Marquise and Colette Willy, ask the same question. By the way, the Willy pair are now judicially separated. To avoid the washing of soiled linen in public, they did not ask for more. A separation automatically becomes a divorce at the end of three years, if in the meanwhile the *séparés* do not again set up *en ménage* together.

M. Abel Hermaut's comedy of "Les Jacobines" ought to bring him into the Academy. It is a satire on the Thermidorian ways of the upper Court ladies of this Republic. Why did he not call them "Les Radicales"? We associate Jacobinism with the guillotine *en permanence*, Robespierre, *la patrie en danger*, and the screaming and universal excitement of

1793. M. Hermaut is a drawing-room satirist only. His *litre* vessel will not contain any ocean, sea, or even good-sized pool. He writes this time against divorce, which he so amply justified—without, perhaps, meaning to do so—in "La Belle Madame Héber." His Jacobins, after treating marriage as a jest, deal with divorce in a similar spirit. They regard both as a means to legalise free love. He is not generally inclined to express his feelings with warmth. Germaine has thought him sluggish and sleepy, and altogether a lump of lead. But she gives her estimate in sparkling terms, and lavishes at his expense brilliant and cheeky chaff. This time, however, indignation heats him, and makes him eloquent. She finds she has misunderstood him. An appeal to her better feelings in terms of the enthroning of Plutus and Cytheris is successful. Divorce may, just like marriage, serve as a screw.

Let us see how it answers. Germaine, the *premier rôle*, has married a M. Drouart, and seems not to have had reason to regret it. We find, however, that she feels the matrimonial chain unbearable. Why? She thinks she might have done better by marrying her cousin Bernies. At any rate, he is now more to her liking. But as her husband is impeccable, and has no desire to help her to divorce him, she must create a noisily scandalous situation. What is it to be? Why, to elope with Bernies, with whom she has engaged in a sentimental passage of arms at the *très chic* country house where she receives a party of visitors. Bernies receives warning of her intention, and stops her. In real life we have had the divorced wife of an ex-Minister marrying a "secularised" Jesuit, her former spiritual director. To-morrow we may have a princess running away with her footman. Prince Hohenlohe might have recorded such an event, but somehow did not. Who could, with such scandals to talk about, pay the slightest attention to the break-up of a *ménage* Drouart?

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

ENGLAND, dear Lady Betty, is on the treadmill of a movement. It is not a party, politicians, agitators, or a class that are compelling us to move, but the treadmill of development in the United States, and to resist is only to incur unnecessary suffering.

Almost every small town in England is in advance of London; almost every small town in the Colonies is in advance of the small towns in England; and almost every small town in the United States is in advance of those in the Colonies. The centre of resistance is the West-End, with its artificial conditions, private interests, monopolies, and privileges, and the further from the influence of these, the less opposition there is to progress.

The West-End is being denounced by the preacher, philosopher, novelist, writer of plays, journalist, and the orderly throughout the Empire, who describe it as mostly composed of co-respondents and company promoters!

. . . . .

There is a companion picture to that: "The Animal Artisan," the dray-horse of human labour, with the bit in his mouth throughout the day, harnessed to the shafts, stalled at night in a slum-stable, with just sufficient fodder to sustain life, and when old or infirm, despatched to the "knacker's yard," the workhouse.

. . . . .

The "Wisdom of the West-End" has invariably proved to have been folly. Every movement in advance from time immemorial has been vigorously opposed by the West-End on the ground that each change must inevitably ruin the country—and with each successive alteration the nation has increased in prosperity and importance. In the "Reminiscences," "Journals," and "Letters" of almost every "upper-class" politician in this country for generations past occurs some such phrase as "The outlook is despairing; if this so-called 'reform' is adopted the ruin of Great Britain is assured"!

. . . . .

There is one comparatively trivial instance of West-End wisdom which may be described here, for the consequences of it are a striking example of retributive justice. When the railway was being introduced into England, the West-End refused to have stations established in the district, or even sufficiently close to it to possibly disquiet its members. Since then they, and their descendants, have suffered enormous inconvenience through being so far distant from the stations, and have spent millions collectively in being conveyed to them. Again, the West-End refused permission to run a tramway through the district, and, therefore, its streets have eventually become congested with omnibuses and noisy motor-omnibuses, whilst a railway has been built under Piccadilly!

Nevertheless, there will some day be a central station, and lines of tramways will cross Mayfair, joining North London to the South and the West to the East. Every delay of progress has to be paid for with compound interest.

* * * * *

There is no such imaginative a people as the English; they always foresee evil in the future, and believe the past to have been filled with good. How they must have suffered in the past to have so great a dread of the future!

* * * * *

It is always being told to us how much woman in England has gained from man in recent times, how greatly her liberty of action has been increased, how much more influence she exercises, and how considerably her general condition has improved. It appears to be imagined that man has submitted to all that change without receiving adequate compensation. The restraints which hampered him in his association with woman have been enormously relaxed in recent years; she permits him to saturate her with smoke, to treat her with a disrespect which her predecessors would never have tolerated, to discuss subjects before her which his predecessors would have feared even to approach, and to regard her as a secondary circumstance in life—the first being the acquisition of money. In the exchange it is not at all certain that woman has not been the loser.

* * * * *

Times have changed, and with them the correctness of many proverbs. "Look after the pence, the pounds will look after themselves," was a wise saying when we could move less freely, and opportunities were fewer than they are. Now, whilst we look after the pence we are losing the pounds.

* * * * *

The automatic musical conductor is the latest innovation, and it is easy to predict that the days of the energetic white-gloved man who intercepts the view of part of the audience at every theatre are numbered. It has been discovered that an instrument can be easily constructed which will record every movement of the conductor's wand, and will afterwards cause a *baton* to perform exactly the same beats, and with the same intensity. When a conductor has trained his orchestra, a wire is attached to his wrist which connects it with the recording instrument; after that

CANNES.—HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. First-class. Numerous Self-contained Suites, with Private Bath-Rooms, etc. Central Heating. Renowned Cuisine and Cellars. Large Park.

final performance the machine will guide a *baton*, making it repeat exactly the movements.

* * * * *

Mr. Charles Bulpett is known to many, and it will interest them to learn that he has written an account of his late exploring trip in Central Africa, "A Picnic Party in Wildest Africa," which has been published this week by Edward Arnold. In company with Mr. and Mrs. McMillan, the popular Americans, and a little army of servants and natives, Mr. Bulpett penetrated into portions of Africa which had never been reached before by the white man. Notwithstanding all that money could provide, and knowledge and intelligence could prepare, to remove the difficulties, dangers, and discomforts of such an adventurous expedition, this "picnic" had many of each to encounter, and the story of the journey is full of incident and information, described pleasantly and interestingly.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE annual financial meeting of the Jockey Club is to be held at Newmarket on Wednesday, April 17, being Wednesday in the Craven Week. Colonel Baird will then vacate the office of Steward on the completion of his three years' term of duty, and he will be succeeded as senior Steward by Lord Downe, who was specially elected last year to fill the vacancy caused by the deeply regretted death of Sir James Miller. It has been suggested that Lord Durham may be invited to take office again, and this is the best arrangement which could be made if only he is willing to accept the post. It is unfortunate for the Turf that the Duke of Richmond and Gordon is not disposed to resume the office of Steward, which (as Lord March) he filled with such thorough efficiency. Sir Daniel Cooper would make an excellent Steward, and it would be a considerable advantage that he constantly resides at Newmarket.

One frequently comes across lachrymose croakings over the alleged poverty of the Jockey Club. It seems to me that the Club must be now in the enjoyment of ample means, in spite of idiotic muddling and mismanagement in the past. The Stewards are ever on the alert to discover new sources of revenue, and they have been most fertile and ingenious in hitting upon devices for increasing their income. Within the last few years they have themselves published the Newmarket race-cards. Formerly the official card was a perquisite of the clerk of the course, who shared the profits with the local printer who was employed. The *Racing Calendar* has been taken away in the same manner from Messrs. Weatherby, and is now the property of the Jockey Club. Every meeting and every stake must be several times advertised in the *Calendar*, and the official charge is high for such advertisements. During the last few weeks the Stewards have gone a step further, and the *Calendar* now displays the advertisements of hotels, of horse medicines, and of many descriptions of tradesmen. Every imaginable transaction on the Turf now involves a fee, from owners, trainers, and employers, generally, to the Jockey Club, and a charge of seven guineas per annum is made for every horse trained at Newmarket. It is a great pity that the Stewards do not devote themselves to the business of revising the Newmarket programmes. The conditions of many of the races there are hopelessly obsolete, and in most of them the pecuniary inducements offered to owners are by no means generous. The stakes could be made very much more attractive without the change involving any additional charge on the fund. The principal summer race for two-year-olds at Newmarket is the July Stakes, which consists of a sweepstakes of £50 each, £30 forfeit, not a farthing being even nominally added. There are no penalties for previous winners, so the event is usually a certainty for some horse which has won at Epsom or at Ascot, and it excites no interest whatever. The Middle Park Plate, which was once known as "the two-year-old Derby," and which in its palmy days was the great event of the autumn at Newmarket, involves a liability of £25 for each entry, and the paltry sum which is advertised to be added is got back by means of entrances. Surely the Jockey Club could well afford to endow this race with £1,000 at least of added money really given, and not delivered with one hand and then taken back with the other. When this race was founded by the late Mr. Blenkiron, more than forty years ago, he gave £1,000 of added money, but when the Jockey Club took over the stake not long afterwards the endowment was reduced to £500, and since the dodge of a £5 entrance has been adopted the added money has usually been recovered from the subscribers. The conditions of the Dewhurst Plate also require that "amending hand" which Lord Coke prayed might be "blessed," and the name of this race ought long ago to have been altered.

All Black has been supported for the Derby at 100 to 7, which seems a preposterously short price, considering that he has never yet won a race. All Black has not been seen in public since the Sandown Park July Meeting, when he ran Traquair to a head for the National Breeders' Produce Stakes, but Lord Rosebery's colt was giving 9 lb., and All Black had two days previously been beaten at Newmarket for the Khedive Plate, for which race he started favourite, and the animals which finished in front of him were not within measurable distance of high-class form. It seems to me that 33 to 1 would be a more reasonable price to take about a colt with such moderate antecedents, but backers now appear to become perfectly infatuated and muddy-minded when they begin to meddle with the Derby. All Black is believed to have "come on" very considerably, as was mentioned in Truth some weeks ago. He is engaged in the Two Thousand. I am told that Traquair looks well, and he will no doubt be hard to beat over five and six furlongs, but he has not the most remote prospect of winning any of the great races of the year, and I do not suppose he will be trained for long-distance events. The race for the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot will no doubt find Traquair to the fore. If Lord Rosebery is to carry off the Two Thousand or Derby it is Bezonian which will be the winner, but I shall be surprised if this colt proves capable of securing either of these events.

At one time the Grand Military Gold Cup was really a great sporting race. In those days it was run over some steeplechase course which fairly represented a good hunting country, and there were a large number of starters. The cup was then a genuine affair, and any man owning a bona fide hunter of high class had a reasonable chance of winning the race. Of late years, however, the Grand Military Gold Cup has frequently brought out costly steeplechasers, instead of the hunters for which the race was established. It was never contemplated that such an event would attract horses worth thousands of pounds, and trained steeplechasers ought to be absolutely excluded from it. There are plenty of valuable races for such animals from the Grand National downwards, and they are altogether out of place in what was practically an amateur race when it was established. It is no wonder that the Grand Military Gold Cup has declined in importance, and that the event now excites no sporting interest whatever. Whereas there were once forty starters, there were this year only sixteen entries. Old Fairyhouse won several steeplechases in Ireland last year, and he was afterwards purchased for a large sum by Mr. Bewicke with the express object (it is said) of winning this race. Such a horse ought not to be eligible for an event of this description, and he is not "military" in any sense of the word, beyond the fact that he is owned by an officer, who would not be likely to ride such an animal in the hunting field. Shooting Star II. is another of the same class. Last year he won a great number of races, and when beaten he finished second to Ranunculus, who is a really good horse across country. What chance can any hunter stand against such animals as these? The Grand Military Gold Cup was a really important event in its class when it was contested by the sort of horses for which it was intended, and in those days the value of the race was just one-fifth of

its present worth. It is a perfect bathos to find the entry for such an event containing the names of noted steeplechasers and of animals which have been running at the ordinary winter meetings.

It is said that Achilles will "go for" the Liverpool Spring Cup, and he is reported to have done well during the winter. Achilles created a rare sensation at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting last year by defeating Bachelor's Button for the Burwell Plate, odds of 6 to 1 being laid on Mr. Joel's horse, who, however, was not so fit as he was at Ascot a few weeks later, and he laboured under the great disadvantage of having to make his own running. The victory of Achilles was an arrant fluke, and he afterwards started seven times without winning. I do not believe that he will be able to beat Bridge of Canny (who gives him 4 lb.) at Liverpool, if Lord Derby's horse is all right and fit to run.

It is probable that the fields for the two-year-old stakes and for most of the minor events at Lincoln and Liverpool will be exceedingly small, as very few horses indeed can possibly be fit for racing by the week after next. The early running of the season will probably turn out to be altogether unreliable. Horses will win through superior condition, which a month or two afterwards will be easily beaten by animals which finished behind them at the early meetings when backward.

Large house parties will be entertained during the week after next for the Liverpool Spring Races at Aintree by Lord and Lady Derby at Knowsley Park, and by Lord and Lady Sefton at Croxteth Hall, and it is understood that the Duke and Duchess of Westminster will have a few guests at Eaton Hall. It has been rumoured that the Prince of Wales will be at Aintree on Friday, the 22nd, to witness the race for the Grand National Steeplechase, in which case H.R.H. will presumably stay at Knowsley, where the King has several times been a guest during the spring race week.

The great event of the Kempton Park Meeting was the resurrection of Drumcree, who won the Grand National Steeplechase four years ago, after which he went all to pieces. Drumcree, however, recovered in the course of time, thanks to the skill and patience of those who had the management of him, and last year he was able to start for the Grand National, and he got over the country without a mistake, and altogether performed most creditably, all things considered. After running at Aintree Drumcree had not been seen in public until last week, when he was easily defeated by Rassendyl for the Stand Steeplechase, the winner having 10 lb. the best of the weights. Drumcree looked remarkably well, but he will be all the better for a few more gallops. This horse is to be ridden in the Grand National by Mr. Bulteel. He is a grand fencer, but decidedly deficient in speed. He is now thirteen years old.

Some dreadful crack-brained nonsense has been printed about the entry of Nulli Secundus in the Auteuil Hurdle Race, and one or two writers appear to have become quite hysterical at the idea of the King's colours being successful in an important French race. This gibberish has not appeared in any sporting paper, for, of course, any one with a particle of knowledge concerning public form must be aware that the odds against a horse of the class of Nulli Secundus for such a race as this are simply incalculable. Nulli Secundus has presumably been engaged merely as a compliment to the Société des Steeplechases de France, and it is in the greatest degree improbable that there is any idea of starting him at Auteuil, as he could not have a 1,000 to 1 chance, running at weight-for-age against the best form of the day. Roseate Dawn will no doubt "go for" the Auteuil race, and I expect he will defeat all the English lot.

It has lately been announced that Sagamore "is not engaged in any of the great three-year-old races." An ingenious writer, whose discourse is obviously not based on any knowledge whatever of the subject, points to Mr. Raphael's colt as an example of the blunders so often made by owners in entering their yearlings, as the animals of which great things are then expected are heavily engaged, but frequently prove worthless for high-class racing, while others, which did not promise so well, at first, are therefore omitted from the great races, but turn out to be fliers a year or two later. This is all true enough, but the selection of Sagamore as an instance of such an error is singularly unfortunate. Sagamore was entered as a yearling for all the classic races of this season, but his engagements became void through the death of his breeder, Sir James Miller. The fact is that if Sir James had lived, Sagamore would now be first favourite for the Derby, for I have no doubt but that this colt's performances of last season would have justified his being regarded as the best two-year-old of 1906.

Backers who support Slieve Gallion for the Derby at 7 to 2, three months before the race is run, must surely be insane. Even supposing Slieve Gallion to have won the Two Thousand, I do not believe that his price at Epsom would be much shorter, and it would surely be very much better business to take 2 to 1 on June 5 than 7 to 2 during the last week of February. There are some good judges who are of the opinion that Slieve Gallion will show to more advantage over the Derby course than over the R.M., and if he were beaten at Newmarket he would, of course, be knocked out to comparatively long odds. It must be remembered that the Newmarket Craven Meeting may discover a most formidable opponent to the public lot in Lord Falmouth's St. Martin. I have never attached the slightest importance to Slieve Gallion's defeat in the Middle Park Plate, as he had been seriously amiss. This colt's form at Ascot and at Doncaster was excellent, and my opinion is that if he had been in the same condition at Newmarket as he was when he won the New Stakes and the Champagne Stakes, he would have cantered away with the Middle Park Plate. It is curious how often the Ascot two-year-old form collapses after it has thrown people into paroxysms of enthusiasm. Last year there were two breakdowns, the one with Traquair, winning the Coventry Stakes, the other with Slieve Gallion. In 1906, what copious gushings of laudation were heard after Ascot over the superlative merits of Black Arrow, Lally, and Colonia; and how doleful was the outcome. It has always been asserted that before Slieve Gallion ran at Ascot he had beaten Rocketter at even weights. That the two-year-old had won the trial was no doubt true, but I do not for a moment believe that the pair had met at even weights.

Gallinule filled the third place in the list of last year's winning sires, having sixteen winners, with a total of over £16,300. Next season he will have lost Pretty Polly, but Hammerkop and Poussin may each win a long distance race and Rocketter ought to distinguish himself in T.Y.C. events. Slieve Gallion is, of course, Gallinule's most hopeful three-year-old, and Weathercock, having been long amiss, may turn out to have lost his form altogether. Some of Gallinule's two-year-olds are highly thought of, and if two or three of these animals turn out to be really smart when it comes to racing them, they will keep their sire well to the fore even if Slieve Gallion disappoints his friends.

Some shrewd judges at Newmarket appear to be of the opinion that Galvani will turn out a failure as a Derby colt, and they consider that Baltinglass will be Major Loder's best candidate for Epsom. I mentioned this colt long ago as likely to improve prodigiously on his two-year-old form, as he was ridiculously backward when he finished third to My Pet II. and Candahar for the Dewhurst Plate. Baltinglass obviously wanted time, and no serious attempt was made to train him for his two-year-old engagements. This was a very wise policy. If Baltinglass lost the Two Thousand and Derby he has two nice engagements at Ascot, the Ascot Derby and the St. James's Palace Stakes, with a 7lb maiden allowance in each race.

Radium, who was one of the great disappointments of last year, has been doing well during the winter, and it is quite expected that he will retrieve his reputation next season. Radium is intended to run for the Newmarket Biennial (four-year-old heat) on the third day of

the Craven Meeting, and this will be a most interesting race if Mr. de Rothschild's horse is opposed by Troutbeck, who would have 21 lb. the worst of the weights. If the pair meet on these terms, to run over the Cesarewitch course, I shall expect Radium to win easily.

The latest introduction into the Derby betting is Colonel Baird's Woolwinder, by Martagon out of St. Windeline. This colt won the Alington Plate at the Newmarket Second October Meeting, and second to him was the Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite, beaten two lengths. Woolwinder has no engagement at the Newmarket Spring Meeting, and I hear that it is intended to run him for the Dee Stakes at Chester. The colt has escaped a penalty for that race, and it seems to me that it will be full time to think of backing him for the Derby when he has won his Chester engagement. A victory in the Dee Stakes would not bring him to much shorter odds than the price at which he was so impetuously backed last week.

The death of Mr. C. W. Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey Cricket Club, means to that club the loss of a devoted and industrious official. To the historian of sport his work will be singularly interesting. To him as much as to any one is due the change that in the last five-and-twenty years has come over cricket and football. In cricket he had undertaken from the first the arrangement of the Australian cricket tours. In Association football he proposed the change which legalised the position of professional footballers under Association rules. Of the propriety of this change he was convinced for some years before he could secure the necessary majority. From 1866 to 1886 he was honorary secretary of the Football Association, and subsequently held the post for a time at a salary. He was appointed secretary of the Surrey Club in 1872. The work with which he was so prominently connected has resulted in both cricket and football being run on strictly business lines, and both directly and indirectly his influence was very wide. The original success of the Australian cricket tours was due to him in a considerable measure. Their visits whetted the public appetite for cricket, and paved the way for the development of first-class county cricket. The glorious successes of Surrey cricket when Lockwood, Lohmann, Abel, W. W. Read, M. Read, and others were in their prime induced other counties to start the game. Surrey was ready to help them. The mammoth cricket programmes of first-class cricket were started with Surrey. True, at first all such matches were not first-class, and the county championship table was rather a vague classification. One fact remained, that the county admittedly at the top of the tree could play practically twice a week from early May to mid-September. The possibility of the county programme being so materially increased was first indicated by the way in which the Surrey team started long programmes. Under Mr. Alcock's secretaryship was built up the stern reality of modern business cricket. If there were not men in the county let them come from elsewhere. As for the cricket itself, it was not for Surrey to have a cricket week at Reigate or elsewhere. The social amenities of the game were not for Surrey. Yorkshire could have a week at Scarborough, Lord's might rejoice in the University match or Eton and Harrow. But at the Oval, under the shadow of the gasometers, the business side of cricket was exemplified in every way. Let those who would yearn for happier days read the article by Mr. Rudd in this week's *Field* on County cricket. He deplores the weary round, the common task of ordinary first-class cricket. He pleads for shorter programmes; he argues for pleasant cricket weeks; he mourns that Kent is enlarging its match list to give the younger players a chance. And I mourn too. For I had rather watch a couple of hours' cricket at Canterbury in the "week" than a three days' match at the Oval. Mr. Alcock built up Surrey cricket on certain lines. The effect on his great rivals at Lord's illustrated the maxim that action and reaction are equal and opposite. The counties had to agree to let men off to play in the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's. There was no time for representative teams to meet at the Oval. On the other hand, the M.C.C. matches with the counties fail to attract either spectators or players, for there are none to spare.

In football the effect of his policy was even more marked. It is not the paid player, but his manager, who runs the game. It was not likely that he would consider that the player should have anything more to do with the conduct of the game than the professional cricketer, who is but the servant of the club. The sport has become a business. The amateur has been neglected. I do not doubt that Mr. Alcock himself scarcely realised that matters would be pushed to such an extreme. He certainly occupied a prominent position in making both cricket and football businesses. It was his business to do so. But it must not be thought that he was all business. Few kinder men ever lived, and I have known him in after years show kindness to men who as youngsters had known his son who died years ago, and by whom they had been introduced to his father. He had a great faculty of recalling faces and names, and he will be missed not only at the Oval.

Those who work out the times of the University crews at practice on the tideway have every prospect of being provided with a very enjoyable time. Cambridge went over the whole course, and within twenty-four hours Oxford did likewise, and only took three seconds more than Cambridge. They were twelve seconds longer for the mile, seventeen seconds behind the Light Blues at Hammersmith, twelve seconds slower at Chiswick Church, ten at Barnes Bridge, and three at the finish. Naturally Oxford were very pleased with themselves. But the unreliability of times was best shown in the practice for the Harvard race, when our visitors did a record over the course in a trial, and could never be said to have pressed Cambridge after the first half-mile. On the form of the crews Cambridge ought to win. Their stroke is longer, they have a better leg drive than the Dark Blues, and they do not slip the finish. It is all nonsense to say that they row like a crew of scullers.

At Oxford there was a record amount of bumping in the Torpids. On one afternoon the crews in the second division made the highest possible number of bumps. Balliol, using short Belgian oars with big blades, went head. The only crew to go up each of the six days was St. John's, which was the heaviest eight on the river, except Balliol II. Trinity were the next best crew to the headship. They made four bumps, and only averaged 11 st. a man. Keble ought to have gone up six places, but they failed against New College II., who were by no means a fast crew.

At Cambridge the Lent races were held in gloriously fine spring weather. On the four nights fifty-eight bumps were made. Downing, for the first time for over thirty years, made a bump each night, and the other crews that got their oars were Caius, Queen's, and the third boats of Lady Margaret, Christ's, and Pembroke. Jesus went head, bumping First Trinity. The rowing was not too good, but then the frost had interfered with training.

At Mentone, Mr. J. G. Ritchie has been having a good time at lawn tennis. He won the final of the mixed doubles with Miss Salusbury, and he was successful in the singles, beating G. M. Simond in the final, while those two players had little difficulty in defeating De Bray and Ermeloff in the men's doubles. Miss Salusbury won the ladies' competition.

The National Cross-country Championships were held at Colwall Park, near Malvern, and there was a record entry of twenty-eight clubs. The Birchfield Harriers were easily first, and the Highgate Harriers came second. By way of compensation, Pearce, of the Highgate Harriers, was first man home, Deakin, of the Hearne Hill team, was only ten seconds behind, and then, at a fair interval, came Underwood, of the winning team.

Five-and-twenty years ago the Clapham Rovers F.C. beat the Old Etonians in the final of the Association Cup. They used to run both Rugby and Association teams. The Rugby team, which was a power in Metropolitan circles, has vanished. The Association team is

scarcely flourishing. I hope it will do better. At the club's annual dinner there was a big gathering, and some important speeches were made by those who are taking an active part in the difficulties that have arisen with regard to the attitude of the Football Association towards amateurs. It was stated that the amateurs had got their house in order for a secession, if that course became necessary. It would rest with the Council's meeting on March 11 as to whether or not the amateurs would continue under the rules of the F.A. There is a similar feeling of dissatisfaction with the ruling authorities both in Scotland and Ireland. Similar statements were made at the dinner of the Townley F.C. There is no doubt that the amateurs mean business.

It looks as though there would be a split between the National Cyclists' Union and the Amateur Athletic Association. Now the Union is threatening to take up, or rather, has sanctioned, professional running races at its meetings. If this course is persisted in there will be only one course for the A.A.A., and that will be to debar all amateur cyclists racing under N.C.U. rules from competing at A.A.A. sports. The N.C.U. ought to have no more to do with foot racing than the Cyclists' Touring Club with motorists.

It is to be hoped that the members of the C.T.C. will bestir themselves to reorganise their club both as to rulers and finance. Those who wish a change have a sound leader in the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Irregular—Why Business is Quiet—Money at Present Wanted for Trade Purposes—The Turn of the Stock Exchange will Come Later—The Money Market and the Aldrich Bill—The Japanese Conversion Loan.

THE past week in the Stock Markets has been characterised by great irregularity. Generally speaking, however, the tendency at the end was considerably brighter than at the commencement of the period. Markets all round continue under the shadow of dear money, and for the present speculation outside one or two specialities remains at a very low ebb. It is not, as I explained last week, that want of confidence is felt in the outlook; on the contrary, the situation as measured by the state of trade at home and abroad, by the quiescence of international politics, by the dividends being earned on the stocks of leading railway and other companies, and by the healthy condition of the National Exchequer (to name no other factors) gives rise to feelings of pronounced optimism. But the fact must be kept prominently in mind that periods of bumper trade and of high commodity prices do not as a rule coincide with general stock market activity. Just now merchants and manufacturers require all their surplus credit for the development of their own businesses, and will not look at securities unless the rate of interest be specially attractive. Hence such indifferent results as those achieved by the West Australian Government with its offer of three and a half per cent. stock at 97 and by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway over its issue of £1,000,000 four per cent. bonds at par. The turn of the Stock Exchange will come later, when the inevitable trade reaction sets in, and then, according to precedent, Throgmorton-street will be in the throes of a boom. An important development last week was the passing by the United States Senate of the Aldrich Bill for currency reform, under which the credits of the banks may be fortified by the deposit with them of Customs receipts instead of the lock up of such funds in the Treasury. In view of the fact that the strained financial position in the United States has been mainly responsible for the long maintenance of our present high Bank Rate, the measure which has now been ratified by the House of Representatives possesses great interest for the London money market. Whether, however, it will involve an immediate reduction in the official minimum is open to some doubt. In any case, however, it is permissible to look for some relaxation in outside money rates during the next fortnight, because of the preparations always made by the Japanese Government prior to the issue of a new loan. It is now generally understood that the Japanese Conversion issue will take the form of five per cent. bonds, and, according to current reports, the prospectus will be before the public within the next fortnight. To summarise in a sentence the features of stock market activity during the past week, I might mention the continued buoyancy of Grand Trunks, Mexican Rails, and Rio Tintos; the rally that followed a further severe break in Home Rails; and the fresh triumph achieved by the "bears" of Americans in consequence largely of the latest Harriman disclosures, and the continuance of the stream of railroad short term notes at flood tide.

Home Rails Improving—Further Break Succeeded by a Partial Recovery—The Traffic Position—Promising "Trade" Stocks—York Deferred and Hulls—The Fall in Brighton A.

After slumping without a show of resistance during the first part of last week, Home Railway stocks showed a distinctly better tendency towards the end of the period, and on balance the losses have been restricted to comparatively small proportions, while a few stocks are actually higher. While many arguments could be advanced as to why values should improve, last week's rally was sufficiently explained by the fact that it followed a decline altogether disproportionate to the amount of stock actually sold. In a narrow market such as now exists for Home Rails, it is not difficult to bring about a rapid movement either in favour of or against holders. For some time the dealers have kept down the amounts of stock carried on their books to a minimum, and it has accordingly been practically impossible to realise a large line without breaking the market. For the same reason a moderate increase in the demand from the public causes an undue commotion, the jobbers being compelled to see prices move up against them in their effort to meet the inquiry. The improvement that set in a week ago was without doubt the direct result of a demand from real investors who were tempted by the unusually low level of prices and high yields. The traffic returns on the whole were encouraging, particularly as the increases in most cases occurred on top of substantial gains a year ago. My readers may obtain a comprehensive idea of current earnings from the following table:—

Company.	Week's inc. or decrease.	Aggregate (8 weeks)	Increase or decrease.
	£	£	£
Great Central	+1,800	595,500	+13,400
Great Eastern	−1,900	727,300	− 3,200
Great Northern	+5,100	852,600	+25,100
Great Western	+2,300	1,638,600	+40,900
Hull & Barnsley	+2,100	85,800	+10,600
Lancashire & Yorkshire	+2,300	812,000	+26,500
London Brighton & South Coast	− 3,900	393,300	− 20,800
London & North-Western	+3,000	2,097,000	+64,000
London & South-Western	−1,100	610,800	− 2,800
Midland	+4,400	1,784,500	+58,100
North-Eastern	+6,100	1,355,000	+50,200
North Stafford	+ 660	140,100	+ 500
South-Eastern & Chatham	− 200	581,000	+ 2,500
Central London	− 600	51,200	− 4,500
City & South London	+ 13	24,800	+ 600
Caledonian	−1,900	*311,700	− 5,100
Glasgow & South-Western	+ 100	*118,900	− 460
North British	−2,900	*334,200	− 6,200

* Four weeks.

The disparity between the results achieved by the goods-carrying lines and those which depend mainly upon

The Danger to Health of obesity is not sufficiently emphasised. Stout people should know that "fatty degeneration" of the heart and liver is a constant menace to them. The *Sketch*, in writing about Antipon, says:—"This pleasant, rational, and most efficacious remedy may be warmly recommended to stout persons, as much for health's sake as for the attainment of perfect elegance of figure." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The Antipon Company, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

Nile Valley Cigarettes (Turkish).—A treat for Connoisseurs. In two sizes, Large 10 6 per 100; Ordinary Club size 7 6 per 100, post pd.—F. W. Robinson & Co., 21, Mincing-lane, London, E.C.

coaching business, to which I referred a week ago, is still very marked. Taking last week alone, the receipts of thirty-eight railways in the United Kingdom showed an actual decrease of £13,100 in passengers and an increase of £23,600 in goods, while the results of these same thirty-eight lines for the first two months of the current half-year disclose the fact that while goods receipts have expanded by £269,000, passenger takings have practically stood still, the exact outcome being a decline of £5,600. It is to be hoped that with the advent of better weather, coaching business will now begin to pick up, but as regards more particularly those companies operating largely in the metropolitan and suburban area there is unfortunately too much reason to believe that competition more than bad weather accounts for the losses in passenger revenue.

While this distinctive characteristic in railway earnings continues it is natural to expect that investors will give the preference to stocks in the "trade" group. Perhaps one of the most promising stocks in this section is Great Northern Deferred. It must be confessed that the York dividend in respect of 1906 was a little disappointing, owing to a big increase in working costs, and the loss involved by the Grantham accident. These, however, constitute "bull" points for the current year. The Grantham disaster alone entailed a draft upon the revenue of 1906 of £16,700, which represents practically ¼ per cent. upon the deferred stock. In other words, if the net revenue earned in 1906 be maintained during 1907, and there be no repetition of the lamentable Grantham affair, York Deferred will receive 2 per cent. instead of 1¾ per cent., which would thereby give a yield of over 4¾ per cent. to a present purchaser. Owing to high prices for coal and other materials, the board may have to face a further increase in the ratio of expenditure to receipts, but in this connection it is reassuring to observe that already for two months gross takings show a published increase of £25,000, while I may also recall the fact that £10,000 additional out of the profits of the past half-year was set aside to contingency fund. Hull and Barnsley ordinary, too, is another stock that is well worth attention. The dividend for 1906 was 2¼ per cent., so that at present price the stock yields 4¾ per cent. Moreover, earning prospects continue bright, the company having for eight weeks a published traffic gain of £10,600, equal to 14 per cent. If this rate of progress be continued, or anything like it, a further increase in the dividend is practically certain next February, even after allowing for the possibility of an increase in fixed charges in connection with the proposed issue of £300,000 preference stock. The solid attractions of the "Heavies" are apparent, when it is pointed out that such stocks as North-Westerns, Midland Deferred, and North-Easterns yield 4⅜ to 4½ per cent. on the basis of last year's dividends, and that traffics are steadily expanding. In the southern passenger group, while earnings have not been very encouraging, the market has shown a great readiness to discount the recent declines in gross revenue. Brighton "A" last week touched 94¼; this represented a drop of nearly 30 points since the commencement of the year, while even allowing for the subsequent rally the stock remains at the lowest level for twenty-one years. Of course, it is no use blinking one's eyes to the serious falling off that has lately been shown in receipts—amounting to £21,000 for two months—and the market will scrutinise traffic returns very closely during the next few weeks in order to see how far the recent losses have been due to the temporary influence of unfavourable weather, and how far to the more enduring influence of rival tramways and motors. The electrification of the South London line will not come too soon to help in stemming the tide of competition. Another undertaking that when completed will be equally welcome is the rebuilding of Victoria Station. The inconvenience that the company's regular patrons have had to endure since the station was given over to the British workman has been no trifle, and it seems a great pity that the board does not take steps to hurry the work a little more. Below appears my usual table:—

Home Rails	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb 23, 1907.	Mar. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	74	72¼	−1½
Do. Def.	42¼	28⅜	27⅝	27½	+ ⅛
Central London	96¼	82½	72	70	−2
City and S. London	47½	39	43½	43	− ½
Furness	69¾	61½	61½	60½	-1
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	38	38	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81½	69	63½	60½	−3
Do. "B"	40⅜	32½	30½	28½	−1½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14½	14½	− ⅛
Great Eastern	90⅜	79½	74½	75½	+1
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅜	100½	97½xd	−1
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	42⅜	42xd	+1½
Great Western	144	122⅜	126¾	125½xd	+1 ⅛
Hull and Barnsley	50	42¼	47½	47⅜	+ ⅛
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	100½	102	+1½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111½	101½	98	−3½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¾	13	13⅜	14½	+ ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	83	83	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	53	51	−2
London and North-Western	163½	147½	149⅝	146½xd	+ ⅜
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	48½	49½	+1
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	42½	43½	+1
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	15½	15	− ½
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	54	66½	64½xd	+ ½
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	63⅜	63½xd	+ ⅛
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅛	72⅜	71¾	71	− ¾
Do. Def.	47⅛	38⅜	34⅜	34½	− ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134⅜	138	138⅜	+ ⅜
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96½	98	98	—
South-Eastern "A"	55½	44½	42½	42¾	+ ¼

Canadian Rails Active—Grand Trunks Steadily Absorbed—The January Revenue Statements—Quebec and Lake St. John Developments—Mexican Rails—Has the Rise in the Ordinary been Overdone?—Renewed Demand for Interoceanics.

The market for Colonial and Foreign Rails was perhaps the most active in the House last week, and in one or two instances prices were taken along by the "bulls" with a determination that contrasted strongly with the lethargy shown in neighbouring departments. In the Canadian group liberal support was again extended to Grand Trunk issues, and evidence was afforded at the Carry-Over that stocks of this line, and particularly the third preference, are being steadily accumulated by investors, who are being brought to recognise the big potentialities that attach to the securities of the company. Brokers tell me that from £60,000 to £70,000 of third preference has been lifted from the market at each of the last two or three Settlements. The ordinary, too, has not been allowed to go a-begging, heavy buying taking place in connection, so it was said, with call options entered into on behalf of Paris operators. I demonstrated a week or two ago how much dearer Little Trunks were as compared with the third preference, and without going over old ground, would again utter a word of caution to would-be purchasers. The ordinary must not be regarded as anything more than a gambling counter; if people choose to gamble in it I raise no objection, but they will only have themselves to blame if they are led away by highly-coloured stories about dividends into buying the stock as an investment. I do not, of course, wish to deny that Trunk ordinary might not one day be worth more than its present price on merits, but the present quotation probably discounts fully the position for some years ahead, and while on the one hand it is almost impossible to conceive circumstances that would justify any early rise, there is, on the other hand, plenty of scope for unfavourable events that must assuredly operate against the stock. Already the market has had a mild shock in the shape of the January revenue statement. In view of the advance of £70,800 in gross receipts for the month the market had not unreasonably expected an increase of £12,000 in the net takings. The actual result is a paltry gain of £2,400. It is premature to discuss dividend prospects on the basis of one month's results; perhaps there were temporary causes such as the clearance of snow on the track to account for this very big advance in working costs. But remembering the cautionary words recently uttered by the general manager great things in the way of net receipts must not be looked for this year. I do not depart from my view as to the cheapness of the third preference, because it already yields about 4¼ per

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

cent. on the basis of a 3 per cent. dividend, and the payment of the further 1 per cent. to which the stock is entitled can hardly be a matter of very long waiting. But the January figures are likely to check undue "bull" enthusiasm, and the stock ought not to be bought at the moment unless the purchaser is willing to take up.

Canadian Pacifics have continued to fluctuate erratically in sympathy with American Rails. The January revenue statement, like that of the Trunk, showed a substantial increase in working expenses, which, added to the decline of $217,000 in gross receipts, gave a reduction of $719,000 in net. In view, however, of the congestion on the line caused by its snowed up condition, the result found the market prepared, and operators were disposed to pay more attention to the fact that the company has resumed its normal rate of expansion in gross earnings—as the gain of $195,000 for the third week of February testifies. A feature among minor Canadian Rails has been a rise of several points in the income bonds of the Quebec and Lake St. John. The demand was based on a cablegram to the effect that Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, the promoters of the Canadian Northern Railway, have secured control. The Quebec and Lake St. John line runs north from Quebec to Roberval, a distance of 190 miles, and the plan contemplated is to extend the railway to James Bay, Hudson's Bay, through a valuable mineral area. How quotations of Colonial and Foreign Rails have moved recently may be seen from the following table:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 23, 1907.	March 2 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	198	161⅞	193¾	188½	-3½
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	31⅝	32 15/16	+1 15/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	106½	101½	102½	102¼	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅝	114¾	121½	122¼	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅝	112⅝	113	+ ¼
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	74	74¾	+ ¾
Mexican	50⅞	22¾	57½	62	+4½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅝	143½	147	+3½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¼	49½	95	93	+3
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11½	12⅜	+1¼
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116½	116½	—
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	88	87½	- ½
Do. First Incomes	30	18	25½	25½	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	92	91	-1
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65½	81½	81	- ½
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	57½	58	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	26	26	—
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	167	166½	- ½
Nitrate Rails	16⅝	14⅛	15⅜	16⅜	+ ⅜
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	110	108½	-1½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	78½	78	- ½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	117	118	+1
Do. and Rosario	120¾	111	108⅜	108⅜	—
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	126	127	+1
Do. Western	138⅜	123⅛	126½	126	- ½
East Argentine	120	87	120½	119½	-1
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	69	69	—
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅜	85	90	91	+1
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	89	88	-1
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	12⅝	12½	- ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69½	76	77½	+1½
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	212	217½	+5½
Central Uruguay	92½	82	93	93	—
Costa Rica	29 15/16	25	29	28¾	- ¼
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	76½	78	+1½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs.	88½	76⅜	78	77½	- ½
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¼	82½	82½	—
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	113	113	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93¼	85	53½	51	-2½
Cuban Central	7 3/16	5⅝	7⅜	7½	+ ⅛
United of Havana	193	105⅝	115½	116	+ ½
Western of Havana	15⅜	12½	12⅞	13⅛	+ ⅜
Mashonaland Debs. (2nd issue)	94¾	87½	91	91	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅝	76	78½	78½	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19½	22¼	22¼	—

Mexican Rails have again monopolised chief attention in the Foreign group, the rise in the Ordinary being quite sensational. This stock, which is in receipt of no dividend and has earned nothing for sixteen years, has, since the beginning of the year, been rushed up from 46 to over 60. As to what exactly has caused the jump the market does not itself seem to be able to agree. There have been stories of Government buying for control, of some reorganisation plan that would benefit the junior securities, and of phenomenal savings by the use of liquid fuel, but none of these have seemed very conclusive. Another rumour is that the Ordinary will get a dividend of anything up to 4 per cent. in May. On that point I cannot help feeling very sceptical. As I showed when dealing with the company's position on February 13, if working expenses were at the same rate during the second half of 1906 as in the corresponding period of 1905, it is difficult to see how the board can do more than pay down to the full rate on the First preference, while if the percentage of operating costs be pulled down from 61 per cent. to 55 per cent. it will still be impossible, according to the published gross receipts, to pay more than 4 per cent. per annum for the six months on the Seconds. True, current earnings are very good and the ordinary may get a small dividend in respect of the current year, but the market seems to have discounted prospects with no sparing hand. The boom in the stocks of the old Mexican Railway has spread to Interoceanics, the preference having risen to 13, while the ordinary, after a period of somnolence, was trotted out and has climbed to 3. A good case might still be made out for the £10 preference, in view of the big earnings and of those interest arrears (amounting to more than the nominal value of the shares) which must be funded one day.

"Bear" Activity in Americans—Fresh Low Records Established—Missouri Kansas a Strong Exception—The Harriman Investigation—More Short Term Note Issues—The Aldrich Bill.

For the greater part of last week the American market was in a state of acute weakness. Not for a long time have the "bears" held such high carnival, and the determined manner in which certain individual stocks were attacked must have involved some heavy losses to "bull" pools. Practically until Thursday the market failed to show any sign of rallying, and on that day fresh low records were established by many stocks. There is no doubt that the resumption of the Harriman inquiry by the Inter-State Commerce Commission was the effective weapon used by operators for the fall; if proof of this were needed, it was afforded by the rush to cover which followed the news that the investigation had been adjourned indefinitely. One strong exception was provided throughout the week by Missouri, Kansas and Texas Common. These shares touched a new high record on the continued satisfactory growth in earnings and persistent reports that a 2 per cent. dividend will be paid this year. Another helpful factor was the announcement that the Supreme Court of the United States had decided in favour of the railroad in the action brought against it by the Kansas State authorities for ownership of some valuable tracts of coal and farming lands in the Indian territory. It may be remembered that the State demanded to be recognised as trustees for the railway company in regard to the ownership of these lands.

Apart from Missouris, prices on the week show a further all-round decline, as may be seen from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 23, 1907.	March 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114½	89	105⅜	105	- ⅜
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	103	102½	- ½
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅝	115½xd	113½	-2
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93⅜	95xd	94	-1
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	53	51½	-1½
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	151	150	-1
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	38½	38	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	98⅜	85⅝	83	82½	- ½
Erie	52⅝	40	36½	34⅞	-1½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	72⅝	71½	-1
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	63	60	-3
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	165	162	-3
Louisville	160½	143¾	137	133	-4
Missouri, Kansas	45⅝	31 7/16	42⅜	44⅛	+1⅞
New York Central	150½	130⅜	131	129½	-1½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	45⅜	45	- ⅜
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87⅜	88¼	86½	-1¾
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91¼	88	87	-1
Northern Pacific	235	190½	159	151	-8
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63¾	67	66½	- ½
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59 3/16	61½	60	-1½
Southern	43⅜	33	27½	26½	-1
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	89	83	-6
Southern Pacific	99 9/16	64⅜	95½	93¾	-1¾
Union Pacific	203	144⅜	177¾	176¼	-1½
Wabash 6 p.c. "B" Debs.	87⅜	78½	75	72	-3
U.S. Steel	52½	33¾	46½	45¾	- ¾
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	108xd	107¼	- ¾

It has been argued that last week's examination of the Union Pacific officials failed to provide the sensations that were expected. The contention only serves to demonstrate what strong meat in the way of scandal Wall Street was prepared to devour. Surely the history

of the Chicago and Alton deal alone was a sufficiently lurid revelation of the methods that have been employed by certain devotees of Wall Street high finance. It was brought out that bonds of the Alton Company were sold to the New York Life Assurance Company at a profit of $3,000,000, and that extraordinary expenditure of $12,444,000 incurred during previous years had been capitalised, to permit the declaration of a 30 per cent. dividend. Arising out of this disclosure, a rumour was circulated that the Wall Street attorney, Mr. Samuel Untermeyer, who was conspicuous in the recent Insurance contest, had been retained by a number of Union Pacific stockholders to sue the Harriman associates in the Alton syndicate for the purpose of forcing restitution at least of part of the profits they made. Speaking in a general sense, the results of the inquiry have left the New York market in a nervous frame of mind. It is recognised that the purpose of the investigation was to demonstrate the desirability or necessity for more stringent control of railroad companies by the Government, especially in the issue of capital and purchases of stocks of other companies, on account of the bearing on freight rates which these matters have. As far as the impression on the public mind is concerned, the inquiry will do much to strengthen the Government's contention and advance the efforts to secure legislation for the furtherance of its aims.

Meanwhile the market gets no rest from the railroad borrower. Last week the Louisville and Nashville placed with Messrs. J. P. Morgan $6,500,000 of Five per Cent. Three-year Notes at a cost, including interest and commission, of 6¼ per cent., while the same firm bought $5,000,000 of Short-term Notes from the Atlantic Coast Line on identical terms. The Reading and Baltimore and Ohio are said by Wall Street to be the next applicants for funds. The steady flow of short-dated paper is not tending to improve Wall Street's digestion. Already a number of the issues recently placed are selling below the subscription price, and the significance of this upon values of existing junior stocks needs no emphasising. Under all the circumstances, the passage through the United States Senate of the Aldrich Bill by 43 votes to 14 did not have the effect that had been anticipated. When the news came through that the Bill had passed, London operators bid with some eagerness for stocks, but their enthusiasm found no responsive echo in New York—speculators there being otherwise engaged. As I have before explained, the provision of the Bill which mainly affects the market is that which allows the Treasury to deposit Customs revenue with the National Banks, but its effect appears to be merely permissive, so that the expected relief would still apparently depend on the United States Treasurer. If the Treasurer exercises his full power under the Bill it is estimated that some eight or ten millions sterling will be deposited with the banks and enable them to expand their credits materially. The Bill, which has now received the final assent of both Chambers, is certainly a step in the right direction, although so far as the immediate future is concerned it is possible that the relief afforded to the Money Market might be only temporary, having regard to the new capital hunger of the railroads and other corporations and the encouragement that would be given to borrowers by the increase in banking credits.

Kaffir Gold Shares Inactive—The Labour Outlook—Deep Level Developments—Fair Business in Diamond Descriptions—Jagers Dividend Prospects—Premier Report.

On the whole there has been little doing among Kaffir gold shares during the past week, and prices, as a rule, have merely fluctuated within narrow limits. The general disposition on the part of speculators is still to await a pronouncement of policy by the new Transvaal legislature on the important question of labour, although it is not believed that any action detrimental to the interests of the mining industry is likely to be taken. Apart from the definite statements of a reassuring character made before the elections on behalf of the Boers and Nationalists, who have secured a victory at the polls, there is the fact that interference with the labour supply of the mines would render it more difficult for the Boer farmers to secure native labourers for agricultural work, and to seriously restrict the operations of the mines would have the effect of spoiling the farmers' chances of marketing their produce. This likelihood of interference with the mining industry adversely affecting the interests of the Boers themselves is a reassuring influence of no small importance. In a message recently to hand from Johannesburg the opinion is expressed that the alarm at the possible antagonism of the Boer Cabinet to the mining industry is unwarranted, and it is suggested that "the Government will probably extend the Chinese labour contracts for one year, pending a report on the possible supply of aboriginal labour." The question as to the re-engagement of the Chinese, whose contracts expire during the current year, is one of considerable importance, as if such action is disallowed there will be a steady exodus of coolies from the Rand after June next, when the three years' contracts of the first arrivals are due to expire. As I have shown, it will be to the interests of the Boers themselves to extend the contracts as suggested, but there is the Home Government to be taken into consideration in this matter. It is to be remembered that under the new Constitution granted to the Transvaal the Home Government reserved to itself a power of veto in regard to the Chinese labour question, and this power it might use with a view to preventing the re-engagement of the coolies. Opinion on this point in market circles, however, is that it is very doubtful whether the Home Government would interfere seeing that it professedly left the colony to decide for itself as to what should be done in regard to the Chinese. Were such action as extending the contracts to be taken by a legislature mainly composed of members of the Progressive party, it is thought the Home Ministry would be more likely to exercise its power of veto than in the event of the present Het Volk-Nationalist majority adopting that policy. Moreover, to deplete the labour supply of the mines would have the effect of rendering the commercial depression in the Transvaal more acute, and it is inconceivable that the British Government would deliberately, in face of the opinion of the representatives elected by the colonists themselves, take action calculated to have such a distressing result. All things considered, therefore, it appears improbable that the Chinese labour supply will be tampered with, at any rate, until there is some other class of labour to take its place. In this connection it is to be borne in mind that an equivalent number of natives would not be a satisfactory substitute, as natives will not enter into contracts for anything like as long a period as the Chinese have done, and a fluctuating supply is inimical to the progress of the industry. As the President of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines pointed out at the annual meeting at Johannesburg on the 28th ultimo, even a surplus of 10,000 natives would not compensate the Rand for the removal of 53,000 Chinese, for the native labour supply had been, and would be, irregular and subject to serious fluctuation. "Our work here," he continued, "to be completely successful must be permanent and continuous, and we must endeavour to regulate our supplies of unskilled labourers so as to ensure permanency and regularity of supply and, therefore, regular working of the mines."

One bright spot in the Kaffir market during the last week was the inquiry for some of the deep-level issues. Among the smaller-priced shares, Knight Centrals have been favoured, in view of the further news from the mine. The recent records as to the development of this property have been highly satisfactory, and have considerably improved the prospect of a good quantity of good-grade material being opened up, which is consoling to the shareholders in view of the low grade of the ore that was proved hitherto. It is a satisfactory feature, too, that the Knight Central is not the only deep-level mine which has been developing better of late. At the meeting of the Witwatersrand Deep, held a fortnight ago at Johannesburg, the chairman emphasised the general improvement recently shown in the development of the deep-level mines on the eastern section of the Witwatersrand, mentioning Knight Central and

Witwatersrand Deep, also Angelo Deep and Cinderella Deep. He also referred to the Van Dyk, New Kleinfontein, and New Modderfontein, and observed that the profitable life of this whole area was estimated even six months ago. As regards deep-level propositions on other parts of the Rand, it is worthy of note that the quarterly report of the Village Deep just to hand contains the satisfactory information that the 5th and 6th levels, which are being started on the main reef leader at No. 1 shaft, are showing much better values than have been exposed in the levels immediately above. In the case of the Rose Deep, an expansion of profits is foreshadowed, and Robinson Deep, as I pointed out a few weeks ago, is also likely to increase its production shortly.

In the Diamond group there has been a fair amount of business transacted. Profit-taking followed the rise in De Beers to over 30, with the result that they have dropped under that price. These shares still carry the right to the 17s. 6d. per share interim dividend. If the final distribution next June is no larger, the yield on the shares at the current price would be about 6 per cent., but it is believed that the directors will see their way to pay the £1 per share next time. In regard to the market rumour I mentioned last week as to the distribution due to be announced at the end of the current month on Jagers, I am now assured by one who is evidently well informed that there is not likely to be any increase in the amount as compared with the 6s. per share announced last September, the reason given being that the company's operations were hindered for some time during the present financial year by a shortage of water for washing purposes. The company, I gather, has been spending some of its profits on arrangements to ensure a regular supply of water. The difficulty has now been overcome, and it is expected that it will not be long before shareholders reap the benefit of the conservative policy that has been adopted. It being the custom on the Stock Exchange to anticipate events, it is considered probable that the price of the shares will move up in advance of the improvement in the rate of dividend which it is thought will take place during the financial year due to commence shortly. The issue of the annual report of the Premier (Transvaal) Diamond has served to attract rather more attention to its shares. As was remarked in the market, the report is "not brilliant," but it makes a rather better showing than its predecessor, the profit being £673,349, compared with £622,633 for the preceding twelve months. A further large sum has been expended out of revenue on equipment, and no less than £370,453 has been paid to the Transvaal Government in respect of its 60 per cent. share of the profits. It is hoped that the new Transvaal Legislature will be willing to reduce the tax, which in the case of this mine has thus called for a sum equivalent to about three-fourths of the whole amount paid by the gold-mining companies of the Rand in respect of the 10 per cent. tax on their profits. In order to provide for the payment of regular dividends, the directors state that the sum of £640,000, representing the stock of diamonds, must be made available, and the establishment of a trading fund is under consideration. A water supply is now ensured, but additional washing plant is needed. It is stated, however, that provision for this will not affect the distribution of future profits. Rhodesians have continued to move pretty much in sympathy with Kaffirs, and have presented no particular feature.

The Slight Expansion of Interest in Westralians Maintained—Spurt in Horseshoes—Lake View Position—L. and W.A. Exploration Report—Deep Leads Lower.

The slight expansion of interest in the Westralian market which I recorded in my last notes has been fully maintained during the past week, fresh points in regard to some of the companies concerned having come along, and in a few cases share values have been affected to a fairly substantial extent. The chief feature has been the strength of Golden Horseshoes, but apart from the fact that Paris speculators are credited with taking the shares in hand once again and renewed talk of favourable developments in the mine, no reason transpired to account for the advance in the quotation which, it will be seen, is the largest movement in the group on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Mar. 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 3/16	1 3/16	1 3/16	—
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/4	1 1/8	1	1 1/16	— 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	5/6	5/9	+ 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/8	4 3/4	6 1/16	7 1/4	+ 1 3/16
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/-	25/3	+ 3d.
Do Perseverance	13/-	7/3	8/-	7/6	— 6d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 5/16	2 1/4	2 1/4	1 1/2	— 3/4
Ha'nault	1 1/8	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 5/8	— 3/16
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 3/4	6 5/8	7 1/16	7 1/4	+ 1/8
Kalgurli	12 3/4	8 3/4	11 5/8	11 1/2	+ 1/4
Lake View Consols	1 1/8	3/4	13/16	13/16	—
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	19/6	17/6	— 2/-
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	1 3/4	1 15/16	— 3/16
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/4	1 1/2	—
South Kalgurli	1 1/2	11/16	1	1	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/2	1 1/4	2 3/8	1 1/4	— 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/8	6/3	5/9	— 6d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1 1/4	1 1/8	— 1/8

Kalgurlis have been helped by the news from the mine, and by the declaration of a further dividend of 7s. 6d. per share, while Great Fingalls have been realised in view of the ore-reserves statement on which I commented last week. It may be remembered that I pointed out that the price then ruling allowed a large margin for possibilities. However, big mines like this take a long time to work out, and it is quite on the cards that the two-and-a-half years' life estimated by the managers on the basis of the ore developed will be considerably extended. The Lake View Consols is a striking example of the way big properties have of remaining payable propositions. Years ago it was thought the Lake View mine was practically at the end of its career as a profitable gold producer, but it is still earning profits, thanks largely to the drastic reduction in working expenses the managers have been able to effect, and the ore reserves estimate just published shows that it has about a year's supply still in sight. At the end of 1906 the Lake View's reserves were estimated at 140,158 tons, of an average value of 29s. 3d. per ton, compared with 121,474 tons, averaging 30s. 9d. per ton at the end of June last. The latest figures represent profit in sight to the extent of only a few shillings per share, but of course the price of Lake View shares is not based solely upon the prospects of the mine at Kalgurli the company having interests in other parts of the world, the chief of which is a large shareholding in the Broken Hill South Blocks. Another concern which originally was principally interested in West Australian mines, but has of late extended its operations, is the London and W.A. Exploration Co., whose report has come to hand during the past week. As I ventured to predict, this report heralds the return of the company to the list of dividend-payers, the amount the directors recommend being 1s. per share. The net profit on the past year's working was £25,896, which compares with £21,266 for the sixteen months ended December, 1905, so that the company has certainly made satisfactory progress. After wiping out the debit balance brought forward from 1905 and paying the proposed dividend there will remain about £5,000 to be carried forward. Besides acquiring a large interest in a deep lead property, the company during the last twelve months also acquired an interest in a company formed for the purpose of exploiting an important silver-lead property in Burma. A few weeks ago I directed attention to the more promising outlook opened up for the Cosmopolitan Proprietary by the developments on the new north chute. In this connection a cable to hand during the past week is of interest, it being officially announced that, in view of the satisfactory dimensions and value of the new chute at the No. 11 level, it has been decided to commence extending the No. 12 level immediately in the hope of proving the new ore body at still greater depth. News of a cheering nature for Lancefield shareholders has also come to hand, Mr. Hoover, of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., having cabled that the reor-

ganised furnaces are working admirably, and that the plant will be a complete success. This company had to raise fresh capital to provide special plant for the treatment of the refractory ore, and the first results with the new machinery were not as satisfactory as had been hoped, so that modifications were made, with the result now cabled. The mine is a large low-grade proposition, and the shares seem a fair speculative lock-up.

Deep lead descriptions have suffered a further set-back, the delay in getting into the deepest part of the wash at the Loddon Valley being mainly responsible. The additional information to hand by cable from this property during the week goes to show that further work will have to be done before it will be possible to enter the part of the lead which is expected to give the best results. The continued delay is disappointing, but those who have taken up shares should not give in at this stage.

Continued Activity in Copper Shares—Tintos Establish a Fresh High Record and Great Cobars come into Favour—Extensive Dealings in Zincs and a Surprising Development—Esperanzas and the Official Figures—The Mysore Annual Report.

The copper group has continued one of the most active sections of the House, and among these descriptions Rio Tintos have continued a prominent feature. A large business has again been transacted in these shares on London and Continental account, and it seems probable that pending the annual meeting, which is due to be held in April, they will remain a favourite with speculators. No official announcement having been made with regard to the reported expansion of operations, it is thought that the statement is being reserved for the meeting. Following their rise to 105, the shares relapsed on profit-taking, but have since recovered and passed 109, partly as a result of further forced closing of "bear" commitments, while the rise in the price of the metal has naturally had a favourable influence upon these and copper shares generally. Market men are anticipating that the next dividend will be £3 per share, as compared with 50s. in October last. In the case of Anacondas, which have fluctuated mainly in sympathy with Yankee rails, a further increase in the dividend is being talked of, but the price does not seem able to make much headway without inducing realisations. An improving tendency has latterly been displayed by the Australian copper descriptions, particularly Great Cobars, which have been helped by a favourable cable as to developments, and market talk as to profit prospects. Recent operators in Tintos are said to be transferring their attentions to Great Cobars, and a further advance in the quotation is predicted. The company is stated to be earning at the rate of £300,000 per annum, on the basis of an output of 100 tons of copper per week, and, with the new plant expected to be brought into operation before the end of the year, it is expected that the present rate of profits will be trebled. A dividend of at least 10s. per share is looked for in June. Mount Lyells, whose position I dealt with at some length last week, have also come into demand again, and those who took the hint to purchase the shares on the recent set-back are already on the right side.

In the Broken Hill group, Zinc Corporations have continued the chief feature; in fact, the attention paid to the shares of this concern has overshadowed the rest of the list. Dealings in Zincs have been on a very extensive scale, one firm being credited with having disposed of some ten thousand shares in one day. A further substantial decline in the quotation has been witnessed, but at a little below 30s. influential support has been forthcoming. On Friday news was published of a surprising development in connection with the corporation's affairs, it being officially announced that it had been thought advisable to remove Mr. A. Queneau from the control. No reason was given for this action, the board promising a full statement as soon as possible after the arrival of the two members of the board on their way to Broken Hill. This is awaited with considerable interest for information as to the state of the plant and as to the time when it may be expected to be in proper running order and commercial results produced. Meanwhile the official announcement referred to above has given renewed heart of grace to the "bears," who hold to their assertions as to there being something seriously wrong with the plant; but the officials apparently remain confident of ultimate success. The fall in Zincs restricted business in other Broken Hill descriptions and depressed the group as a whole, but since the issue of the official statement referred to above, the prices have rallied somewhat, and it is believed that the worst has now been experienced. At any rate, it is a favourable sign that Colonial speculators have sent over buying orders for some of the Barrier shares, and those among my readers who are on the look out for mining speculations of promise, and who are prepared to take their purchases off the market, might do worse than pick up some of the shares of this group at the current level of values. The position of the principal mines is sound, the prices of the metals they produce remain at a satisfactory level, and there are prospects of increased dividends, as I pointed out last week in referring to the Proprietary Company.

Siberians and West Africans have come in for little attention, but a fair amount of business has been transacted in American gold shares. The official announcement as to the Esperanza's position, on which I commented last week, had a depressing effect upon those shares and others of the group, but prices have rallied since. Esperanzas dropped away to 2 3-16 on the statement showing a marked falling off in the profit represented by the ore in reserve, but, as the following table shows, they have recovered to 2½, the price I mentioned last week as fully representing their value on the latest figures:—

Share.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Feb. 23, 1907.	March 2, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 5/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 3/16	- 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	18/-	18/-	—
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 5/8	1½	1 13/16	1 5/8	- 3/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/8	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/8	- 1/8
Wassau	1 1/8	½	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	3/3	3/-	-3d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	4/3	4/3	—
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	27/6	26/6	-1/-
Esperanza	5 1/16	2¼	2 1/16	2½	- 1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1½	1 1/16	+ 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	40/7½	41/3	+7½d.
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 3/8	3 1/16	4 3/32	4 1/32 xd.	+ 1/32
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	35/-	30/-	-5/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	15½	15 1/2	- 1/8
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	52/3	52/9	+6d.
Mount Morgan	4 1/8	3 1/8	4 1/16	4 1/16	—
Rio Tinto (£5)	91½	63 3/8	102½	108	+5½
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	26/6	26/-	-6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 5/16	¾	3	3	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	18/6	19/-	+6d.
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	13/6	13/9	+3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5½	6 1/32	6 1/32	—
Siberian Mines	2 13/16	1 1/16	1 3/8	1½	- ⅛
Siberian Proprietary	16¼	3½	6⅞	6¾	+ ⅛
Waihi	9 13/16	6 7/16	8⅞	9	+ ⅛

Indians have been a quiet market. The annual report of the Mysore Company is now to hand, and, as was anticipated, it makes a favourable showing in regard to the important matter of ore reserves, thanks to the very satisfactory manner in which the mine has been opening up of late. The estimated reserves are equivalent to fully four years' supply for the treatment plant, calculating on the basis of the tonnage treated during the last twelve months. Four years' dividends at the 1906 rate of distribution would amount to £2 16s. per share, while the present market valuation represents over eight years' purchase, allowing only for the return of capital.

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

"Heads We Win, Tails You Lose."

Eastwood and Co., 76, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C., are just now distributing a circular in which they dilate upon the advantages of opening a three-monthly instead of a fortnightly account on a marginal basis. It may be useful to give the experiences of two customers of the firm from whom I have recently heard. The first opened an account with them on the fortnightly system, which they now depreciate. For some time after he had paid his deposit the shares in which he was dealing were on the down grade, and he duly remitted to Eastwood and Co. the debit balances shown by their fortnightly accounts. Then a rise occurred, which gave a balance of £30 or so in his favour, but on this occasion no account, let alone any cheque, came from the firm, nor have they even vouchsafed a reply to the customer's requests for payment. So much for the fortnightly system as operated by Eastwood and Co. The other customer opened a three-monthly account, and at the end of the first quarter he forwarded the firm additional cash amounting to nearly three times as much as his original deposit. By the end of the second three months the stock had risen, and he ought to have received back the whole of his money. But no communication of any kind was forthcoming from Eastwood and Co., and letters and telegrams on the subject have been left unanswered. It would appear from these two cases that there is not, after all, much difference in the result between a three-monthly and a fortnightly account with Eastwood and Co.; and speculators who do not care to be played with on the principle of "heads we win, tails you lose," will do well to avoid dealings with this firm.

"Taking Small Profits."

The circulars issued by the cover-snatching firm of Bertram, Seymour, and Co., Copthall House, E.C., harp upon the wisdom of "taking small profits." How ready these people are to practise what they preach, even at the expense of a poor deluded working-man, is shown by the following case, which can, I think, be best stated in the simple words of the unfortunate victim:—

> Early in December, 1906, I called on Bertram, Seymour and Co., seeing their article [no doubt this was an advertisement.—"Vigilant."] *re* investments in *Daily Telegraph*. They showed me an account in their books (in confidence) where one of their clients had by their books made a good deal out of little. On December 10 I received a letter advising purchase of Brighton Deferred stock. I wired them on December 11: "Am posting £2 for purchase advised," and posted the £2. I hear from them on the 12th to state that they have invested my little all in National Columbian First Debentures. I wrote and inquired why they had not bought the advised stock. (Had they done so I should have received a profit.) They replied that £5 was the lowest they could accept on Brightons; this was not told me before. They sent me a contract for Columbians at 103½. Seeing by *Financial Times* these were quoted at 102 and 102½, I wrote, and they enclosed another contract for 102½. Now (February 16) they write and say my £2 capital is exhausted. I am only a poor man, out of employment at present, and £2 is a fortune to me, as it represented all my spare cash.

Such mean, contemptible, unprincipled harpies as Bertram, Seymour, and Co., ought to be hounded out of the City.

More Bucket-shops.

"By judicious speculation Rockefeller, Morgan, Carnegie, Gould, Vanderbilt, Gates, Harriman, Fish, Herring, and nearly every millionaire and multi-millionaire amassed his enormous wealth." I cull this impressive sentence from a recent circular designed to persuade ambitious and avaricious simpletons that they, too, may grow rich beyond the dreams of avarice if they will only accept the disinterested advice of the National Share Exchange (secretary, John Collins), 22, Great Winchester-street, E.C., and deal in American railway shares on a 1 per cent. marginal basis. The would-be Rockefellers, etc., were exhorted to buy Atchisons, Canadas, and Missouris "for a ten-point rise which would return 1,000 per cent. profit." But with the malicious perversity which stocks almost invariably exhibit when a bucket-shop predicts a rise, Atchisons, Canadas, and Missouris all went down sufficiently to run off the cover, so that instead of that little 1,000 per cent. profit the potential millionaires were left lamenting a 100 per cent. loss. In expounding the great advantages of the cover-system, the N.S.E. intimates that it is "always prepared to accept transactions of this nature." Here at least I fully believe John Collins and Co.

Would you like to hear of a convenient, lucrative, and legitimate system by which, if you have capital invested in marketable shares of any description, you can—without any cash outlay and while still retaining your present holdings—very largely increase your income? Some philanthropists calling themselves the Securities Investment Company, 42, Old Broad-street, E.C., are ready to show you how the trick can be done—nay, in the goodness of their hearts, they undertake to work it for you. Here is one of the illustrations they give in a pamphlet on this wonderful system. Suppose you have £250 invested in a sound undertaking which brings you in 6 per cent. You hand over these shares as security to the company for an advance of £250. "With this amount you can buy ten times the number of the same or any other shares—viz., £2,500 worth. You still retain your original shares and receive the dividend from them, but besides this you receive the 6 per cent. dividends paid by the £2,500 extra shares." The 6 per cent. dividends will then amount altogether to £165 per annum. Out of this the company will take £100, being interest at 4 per cent. on the £2,500 they have so nobly advanced for your benefit, and there will thus remain for you a net return of £65 on your investment of £250 as compared with the paltry £15 which you were previously drawing. "This," says the Securities Investment Company, "is no financial jugglery." Jugglery, indeed! I should myself apply a much stronger term to the propositions put forward in this pamphlet.

An illiterate individual styling himself "The Metropolitan Investment Trust," 4, Birchin-lane, E.C., has been inviting subscriptions for £5 shares in "a guaranteed profit operation in Canadian Pacifics," the profit to be "at least 20 per cent." He observes that the railway "is built upon such a solid foundation that there is no gainsay." No doubt his guarantee is as good as his English.

In consequence of an outburst of circularising activity last week by A. Lawrence and Co., 38, Great St. Helens, E.C., I have received sundry inquiries concerning this firm. It will perhaps be a sufficient answer if I mention that this is a bucket-shop carried on by Lawrence Spiegel, a member of a family notorious in this line of business.

Noting the absence of Hamilton Smith and Co., 80A, Fenchurch-street, E.C., from my 1907 "Cautionary List," though they were given a place in the 1906 edition, a correspondent asks whether I have changed my opinion of these people. Not in the least. The omission was simply due to the fact that they had not come in for any special notice during the past twelve months, but as they are now on the warpath again, I repeat my previous warnings against this bucket-shop.

Two Well-known Reference Books.

The 1907 editions of two well-known works of reference have just come to hand. Now in its twenty-eighth year of publication, Mr. Thomas Skinner's "Directory of Directors" (issued from 77-81, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, price 15s.) has long since become practically indispensable to every one interested in joint stock enterprises. The new volume gives information regarding about 20,600 individuals. The fact that this is only an increase of 600 on the preceding year is, Mr. Skinner points out, evidence of a tendency at the present time to form the boards of new companies (of which 4,748 were registered last year) from men already experienced as directors, rather than from novices. At the same time, it is noteworthy that the average number of directorships held is only about two, though there are some cases of upwards of thirty posts being in one hand, and many men hold seats on the boards of a dozen or more companies.

A younger, but now well-established, work of reference is "The Mining Year Book." By all who are in any way concerned in the mining industry it will be found a valuable publication, giving as it does a complete digest of information relating to more than four thousand companies engaged in mining and kindred businesses throughout the world. A feature of this work is that the companies are given in alphabetical order, so that no index is necessary, nor does one need to know what group a particular concern belongs to in order to facilitate ready reference. Sketch maps of the principal mining fields, particulars of production and dividends, and analyses of accounts, form only part of the book; there are also directories of mining directors, secretaries, mining engineers, and metallurgists, and a record of liquidations and dissolutions during recent years. Mr. J. W. Broomhead contributes an instructive survey of mining developments in the past year. The "Mining Year Book" is edited by Mr. A. N. Jackman, and published by the *Financial Times*, Ltd., at 15s. net.

Land Mortgage Bonds.

Baron Julius von Madarassy-Beck, the managing director of one of the principal Land Mortgage Banks in Hungary, contributes to the new number of the *Financial Review of Reviews* an interesting description of the method of investment which is afforded by the bond issues of those institutions. This is a type of security which, by reason of its stability, is very popular in Austria and other countries on the Continent; according to the Baron, the bonds of his bank have not moved so much as 7 per cent. in value during the past ten years. The operations of the land mortgage banks in Hungary are, of course, based upon a system of land tenure and proprietorship totally different to that prevailing in England.

Insurance Notes—Life Policies and Loans—Surrender Values—A Good Investment—House-Purchase and Life Assurance—Good Schemes and Bad.

Many people seem to have the quaintest sort of ideas about life assurance, especially in connection with loans. I received a letter the other day, in which I was asked to recommend a company that would lend £1,000 on the security of a policy, which the borrower would kindly take out in consideration of the loan. He evidently thought this was quite an ordinary kind of transaction for an insurance company, and did not think it necessary for the insurance company to have any security for such a loan. Of course, a life office cannot lend money on the security of a policy until the policy has acquired a certain amount of value through premiums having been paid for some years. After a policy has been in force for some time a company will lend nearly the whole amount of the surrender value, charging interest on the loan at 5, 4½, or perhaps 4 per cent. It takes some years, however, before its surrender value amounts to much more than about 40 per cent. of the total premiums that have been paid.

People sometimes wonder how it is that an insurance company cannot behave like a savings bank and repay a policy-holder at any time he chooses the entire amount he has paid in premiums, perhaps with a little interest as well. I have explained before, but it cannot well be explained too often, that the chance of receiving the full sum assured, say £1,000, after having paid only one or two premiums, perhaps of £35 each, is strictly akin to fire insurance protection, where a man may pay for years without having a fire, and yet he knows that the protection has been well worth the cost. To use another illustration, it is similar to the tickets in a fair lottery, which are worth their price, even though in the end they fail to win a prize. This protection which is afforded by life assurance—this chance of one's estate receiving a very large sum in return for a small payment—is not only of definite value to the individual policy-holder, but obviously involves a considerable cost to the insurance company. The chance of dying within a year increases as we grow older, and when we take a policy which calls for a uniform annual premium throughout life, we are paying rather more than the cost of the insurance protection during the early years of assurance, in order that we may pay less than the cost of assurance protection during the later years. This excess which we pay at first is accumulated by the insurance company in order that funds may be available to meet claims when they arise. This reserve, together with the cash value of bonuses added to the sum assured, is all that a company can possibly give for surrender, and, in fact, for various reasons it is not possible to give quite the full amount of the reserve.

In what I have said above I have principally had in mind policies which are subject to the payment of premiums throughout the whole of life, but when a policy is effected by the payment of a single premium the companies will generally lend at any time 95 per cent. of the amount paid as premium, and after a few years the amount that can be borrowed, or the sum for which the policy can be surrendered, exceeds the amount originally paid; this makes policies taken out by a single payment an extremely satisfactory form of investment. Thus a man aged thirty, in return for a single payment of £350, can be certain, whenever he dies, that the sum of £1,000 will be paid to his estate. He can at any moment borrow £332, and, after a very short time, he can borrow more than he has paid in. Reckoning compound interest at 3 per cent. per annum, it would be thirty-six years before £350 accumulated to £1,000, and thirty-six years is about the average duration of life after age thirty. Hence the man has a perfectly secure investment at a fair rate of interest, always available for realisation, and providing the chance of yielding to his estate a vast deal more than the capital invested in the event of his premature death.

It will thus be seen that while under single premium policies the conditions in regard to surrender value are considerably more advantageous than most people are probably aware of, the conditions as to loans upon annual premium policies are, from the very nature of life assurance business, of a less liberal character than persons unacquainted with the subject think they ought to be. This latter point leads me to a subject about which I hear a good deal from various correspondents. I mean house-purchase systems in connection with life assurance, which are vigorously pushed among the better-class workmen, small shopkeepers, clerks, and the like. I have nothing but praise for the combination of house purchase and life assurance, when the transaction is carried out on sound lines with a good life office, and there is no reason whatever why the well-to-do, as well as the merely thrifty, should not avail themselves of this combination. If a man wants to buy a house for £1,000, and can provide, say, £300 himself, he can borrow £700 from a life office at, perhaps, 4½ per cent., and—assuming his age to be thirty-five—can take a policy for £700 at a premium of £23 10s. a year, under which the sum assured is payable at the end of thirty years, or at death if previous. If we ignore the interest on the £300 which he found himself, his outlay is £31 10s. a year for interest, and £23 10s. a year for the premium, making a total payment of £55 a year. In addition to this, he has the usual landlord's liabilities for repairs, etc., and for ground rent if it is leasehold property. This particular policy participates in bonuses, which would amount to £420 at the end of thirty years, so that if he lived to be sixty-five the house would become his own property without any further payments, and he would have £420 in cash, which would more than replace the £300 which he originally provided for the difference between the purchase price and the amount of the mortgage. An arrangement of this kind has the advantage that the insurance company will undertake not to call in the mortgage so long as the interest is paid and the policy kept in force. If, after some few years, the policy-holder wishes to do so, he

Romano's Restaurant, Strand.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire, and this opinion is evidently shared by many, for the restaurant was packed, as it deserves to be."

can borrow on the security of his policy, which is practically equivalent to increasing the amount of the mortgage.

The difficulty with many people in carrying out such a transaction as this is to provide the difference between the purchase price and the amount that can be borrowed on mortgage; this, however, can be overcome in the course of time. If a man took out such a policy as I have spoken of at age thirty-five, it would in the course of twelve or fifteen years acquire a surrender value sufficient to provide the difference between the purchase price and the mortgage. On the security of the property and the policy the company would lend the full value of the house. For fifteen years the man would have to pay the premium on the policy in addition to his rent, the policy being an excellent and probably necessary investment in any case. For the next fifteen years, instead of paying rent, he would have to pay £31 10s. for interest on the mortgage, and £23 10s. for the premium on the policy, in addition to the usual landlord's payments. At the end of thirty years in all the house would become his own unencumbered property, while if he died within the second fifteen-year period his estate would come into the property with a substantial sum in cash in addition, and if he died within the first fifteen years his estate would receive £700 assured under the policy, together with bonuses of £14 for each year the policy had been in force.

Such an arrangement as this is altogether excellent, but it is not the kind of thing that most of the house-purchase companies do. They commonly promise a vast deal more than it is possible to accomplish, and perform a vast deal more than it is perfectly feasible to do in a first-class life office. I have had a long letter from a correspondent, who has had some dealings with one of these companies, and who, after paying for some years, applied for an advance to enable him to purchase the house, his expectations being in accordance with the company's prospectus. It is almost needless to say that they were not realised. This is typical of what usually happens with these companies, and if anybody wishes to know the facts about them they cannot do better than refer to what I said on the subject in Truth for August 11 and 18, 1904. In the time that has elapsed since then I have had many opportunities of seeing how well-founded my adverse criticisms were.

New Issue.

The following prospectus is published:—

The British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Ltd., invites subscriptions for £500,000 Four and a Quarter per Cent. Perpetual Consolidated Debenture stock at the price of 98 per cent. This is an English limited company, incorporated in 1897, which carries on a well-established electric railway, lighting, and power business in the cities of Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster, Steveston, Victoria, and surrounding districts in British Columbia. The company also controls the whole of the capital of the Vancouver and Victoria Gas Companies, which have a remunerative business. The present issue is required to meet the necessities of the company's expanding business, more particularly in connection with the enlargement of the capacity of the hydraulic electric plant and the construction and equipment of further railways. For the last three years the company has paid a dividend of six per cent. on its deferred ordinary stock. The subscription list closes to-morrow.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Railways.

Why Not.—The stock is sound enough, but if you are anxious not to miss securing the profit, you might realise and exchange into, say, the new Five per Cent. Debentures of the Argentine Great Western Railway, which are offered at 102, and are called 4 premiums on the price of issue. *Orient.*—1. The bonds cannot be called safe, seeing that the line is not yet built. I can only say the prospect appears to be good. 2, 3, and 4. I will inquire about the outlook for the Ordinary shareholders is a very poor one, and I should be inclined to sell.

Mines.

Azore.—It is impossible to estimate the lives of such mines. No. 1 appear a fair speculation, but I see little attraction in No. 2 at present. *Dissatisfied.*—Mount Molloys should have some recovery, but there appears little prospect of much improvement in the others within the period mentioned. *Mikado.*—1. I have not a very high opinion of these, and if you can see a profit, take it. 2. Hopeful holdings for improvement when the market becomes more active. 3. Obviously, your question is barred by my rule. *Norval.*—A pure speculation, and not a very promising one. *J. W. H.*—The highest price was, I believe, 1⅞. *J.*—A fair speculation. *Islay.*—There is little prospect of a recovery in the near future to the prices you paid, but you should be able to realise to rather better advantage than at present, by waiting. *J. F.*—Taking the new shares seems a fair speculation. *Emerald.*—The shares dealt in are fully paid, and are a fair speculation. *Vec.*—No mining share can be regarded as a safe investment, but as a speculation those you name are a fair holding. *Apotheker.*—I am unable to give you the desired information. Hold 4 and 5, but you might as well dispose of the others with a view to employing the money in a more promising selection. *Delphin, Dublin.*—As the London Secretary suggests, you must await the report of the meeting for information as to the directors' policy. You may as well keep the shares in hope of improvement when the market becomes more active.

Mixed Securities.

Slap.—1. I have not a high opinion of its prospects. Besides the arrangement with regard to the deferred shares is preposterously inequitable. 2. Yes. 3. The mine has not been doing well of late, and you could make a better selection in the same market. 4. A very speculative share, and one on which you should be content to secure a small profit. *Bello Squardo, Florence.*—1. I should give the preference to the Four per Cent. Debentures of the Mexican Central Securities Company. 2. As a holder you are legally liable for the calls, and forfeiture of your shares would not release you from the liability. 3 and 4. I see little attraction in taking up the shares. 5. No. *Navigator.*—You might transfer portion of the money to Grand Trunk Second Preference, Buenos Ayres Western Railway new Four and a Half per Cent. Preference and Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series). *A. D.*—1. I do not make such recommendations; see my rules. 2. I see no particular attraction in either. Grand Trunk Third Preference, Argentine Great Western new Five per Cent. Debentures, and United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage Bonds would be more suitable. *Objector.*—1. I think it would be a pity to part with any of the stocks in your list. The security is excellent, and prices have merely been depressed by the dearness of money, which has affected all investment stocks. 2. Grand Trunk Pacific new Four per Cent. Bonds, City of Bloemfontein New Four per Cent. Stock, and Buenos Ayres Western Railway new Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, should suit your purpose. *Scorpion.*—1. My advice would be to exchange, as you suggest, into Thirds. See this week's comments. 2. The bank shares are a high-class investment, and I do not advise selling, especially at a loss. *Hatton House.*—1. The bonds are a dangerous holding, and unless you are prepared to face the possibility of a further fall, better clear out. 2. For a long shot these bonds may turn out all right. The country will probably find out in time that honesty is the best policy. *Don Aber.*—Mather and Platt, Dick Kerrs, and Pearson and Knowles might be held. 4 and 5 might be sold, and the proceeds put into something with greater promise. 6. There is no reason to advise an immediate sale, but you should watch developments. See my notes a few weeks back. *Wales.*—1. I think the railway stock should be held for a recovery. 2. The mine you mention has no connection with the Proprietary. The shares seem worth holding. 3. Hold for a recovery. *Cariad.*—Your list is a good one, and I see no objection to spreading the money just as suggested. *F. C. C.*—1. The recent fall has been out of all proportion to the amount of stock offered, and you might keep both stocks for, at any rate, a partial recovery. The conditions affecting the companies—as distinct from external market conditions—are brighter than for some years, and it was upon intrinsic merits that my previous advice was based. 2. Hold for the present. *G. P.*—1 and 2. Both sound investments, and should be held. 3. You might keep them for the present. *Michus.*—1. A purchase would be likely to turn out well eventually. 2. When com-

mercial conditions in South Africa improve, the company might benefit. 3. There is nothing left to go for at the moment, the dividend resumption anticipations being realised, and they might go lower before they go up. 4. Speculatively I consider Humbers attractive. Watch your market. *Hypatia.*—1. I have a very poor opinion of the shares.—2. They could be improved upon. 3. Doubtful. 4. They are very attractive, in view of the strength of the metal. 5. If the preference capital is appreciably augmented, the ordinary will naturally suffer. *Dublin Reader.*—1. Unless developments improve, a decline in the price seems more likely. 2 and 3. I know of no reason for anticipating an advance—certainly not in the latter. *Jaylee.*—Of their class, 1, 2, and 3 are fairly good. There is, of course, the threatened legislation to consider, but I would hold. 4 and 5 are fair holdings for a moderate profit in a buoyant market. *Shamrock.*—There is no reason to recommend an immediate sale of Nos. 1, 2, and 3; but they are speculative, and you should watch developmsnts. Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 make very fair holdings for investment. 9. This is not altogether hopeless. 10. Might be sold on any temporary recovery. 11. With any recovery in Kaffirs they might go higher, especially if conditions in the country permanently improve. 12. These may also improve. *Francisco the First.*—With any improvement in the condition of affairs in the country the company would be one of the first to benefit, and I think you might hold. 2. Yes. *Bottom Dog.*—1. In the event of some recovery, better cut your loss. 2. Hold the preference in view of the guarantee. *Psyche.*—1. The second, if you want to sell. 2. Hold. 3. It would be a good exchange. 4. Too dear now. 5. I would select Imperial Tobacco pref. *Ajax.*—1. Johannesburg Fours, Grand Trunk Pacific New Fours, Central London Railway Four per Cent. Preferred, Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Six per Cent. Central Debentures 1979, San Paulo Railway Five and a Half per Cent. Permanent Debentures, City and West End Props. First Mortgage Debentures, and English Sewing Cotton First Mortgage Debenture stock. 2. The society is in a sound condition. *Investigation.*—1 and 3. I know nothing of either of these concerns. 2. Quite good. 4 and 5. Both attractive investments. 6. Fairly promising. *W. D. H.*—1. A good investment. 2-4. No recent information, but it seems to be in a more or less hopeless position. 5-7. These lines are under the supervision of Chancery, and in the absence of reports or quotations for the stocks it is impossible to advise. 8. Might as well be held for the present. 9. The line is doing very well, and as a speculative investment the shares are worth holding. 10. Quite satisfactory. 11. A first-class investment. *Bath.*—They would make a tolerably attractive purchase. The reserve, if any, is small. The undertaking might be municipalised in 1936. *Collbran.*—As the big contracts are nearing completion, the shares are naturally drooping. If other important contracts are secured they might respond to a slight extent. *Capella.*—The Tram share is attractive, but Allsop debentures are best left alone. *Senoj.*—1. I doubt very much whether there is any such book. 2. A "silent" company, and in the absence of reports, I cannot express any opinion on its shares. *Melton.*—In every instance existing prices are lower than when you bought, but you might, I think, hang on, all being fair commercial holdings. *Star.*—There is no preference capital beyond the guaranteed stock, redeemable in 1914. Ordinary shares, £3½ paid out of £6⅔, stand at 10½, and would give about 3½ per cent. For a long shot they are attractive. *S., Sussex.*—The loss would be great, but it might be best in the long run to face it now, and put the proceeds into something more promising, with a view to recouping yourself. 2. A gamble. *Claims.*—They might be held. *Inter Nos.*—1. The Grand Trunk of Canada is the parent line, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is now under construction, being built under the auspices of the older company, assisted by the Canadian Government. 2. The bonds I referred to were those of the National of Mexico. I am not familiar with the other concern you name. 3. I would suggest the new Four per Cent. Debentures of the Grand Trunk Pacific. 4. The stocks you mention will shortly be redeemed at par. They are therefore unsuitable. *Souka.*—1. No. 2. The directors' report is due, and pending its issue it would seem inadvisable to buy more. It is impossible to estimate the life of the mine. 3. You had better consult your solicitor.

Insurance.

E. P., Reading. — I advise you not to take up one of this company's bonds; see last paragraph in my insurance notes this week. *Poissure.*—The Central Insurance Company. *Botafogo.*—1. The institution is one of the best in existence. 2. The endowment assurance policy is quite good, and, while it will not yield 5 per cent. if you live to fifty, your estate would receive much more than this in the event of your premature death. This protection is well worth buying.

Miscellaneous.

Athenæum.—I have frequently published warnings against the Charles Coventry and Co. bucket-shop. *Scotia.*—No; the Securities Investment Co is a concern of the bucket-shop class. *Anxious.*—A sound industrial investment. It is a combination of firms engaged in what is known as the Bradford piece-dyeing trade. *Lex loci.*—1. I cannot advise you as to the safety of this institution. 2. Not in my opinion. 3. Yes. *Boots.*—No. *Rica.*—If you wish to sue Cunliffe, Russell and Co for the return of your money, I will give you the name of a solicitor in Paris. *Apple Blossom.*—I have had no reason for criticising them; but see rule 8. *Languedoc, Scrutator, J. T., Colne,* and *Cava Via.*—See preceding answer. *Medicus, Armagh.*—Read my "Letter Box" rules. *A. W. M., Punjab.*—It is a gamble rather than an investment, and not a very attractive one. Do not deal with any advertising firms, but if you want to buy the bonds apply to the Crédit Lyonnais or Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. *Constant Reader.*—You did not give your name and address. *St. Leonards.*—The society is in a sound condition. *G. H. L., Sohag.*—Will make inquiries. *P. A. W., Cambus, Kent,* and *Glasgow.*—Read my answer to "A. W. M." I strongly advise you to leave such bonds alone. The International Securities Syndicate charges—as a London magistrate lately pointed out—most exorbitant prices; it is a concern of the bucket-shop class. *E. H., Newry.*—I am afraid the annoyance cannot be stopped. *Notts.*—1. Not very attractive. 2. No immediate prospect of it. *Cartor.*—1. It is not a form of investment at all, but a kind of speculation that is by no means to be recommended, unless the operator has made it a subject of careful study. 2. This question is really answered by the previous reply. I would, however, suggest your reading this week's article on Trunks. 3. No; a bucket-shop. *E. R. C. N.*—The connection is obvious, but I do not agree that there must consequently be "something wrong."

Hudson's Bay Spurt—'Bus Companies' Troubles—Electric Lighting Companies and the L.C.C.—Lyons Strong—Breweries Still Depressed.

The miscellaneous market, as a whole, has again pursued a humdrum course, unrelieved by any particularly striking development, and uncheered by any sign of that general expansion of business which has so long been awaited. Some revival of activity occurred in Hudson's Bays, which were put up to 118½ on the reports of a railway extension project which is expected to be beneficial to the company, but the upward movement was soon checked, and at the end of the week the price had relapsed to 116½. For a long time past it has seemed to me that these shares are a gamble which speculators of moderate means should avoid. Anglo-A, another favourite gamble, has fluctuated considerably, but after it had dropped below 20 some support was forthcoming, and at 21½ it finished ¼ better on the week. The reports both of the London General Omnibus Company and the London Road Car Company bring out very forcibly the difficulties with which they have been confronted through the introduction of motor traction. The London General, as was announced a week or two back, is paying a dividend of 5 per cent. on its ordinary capital, but in order to do this, £15,000 has to be taken from the reserve fund, and from the report issued last week it appears that the profit on the working for the half-year was only £1,450. The Road Car Company passes the dividend on its ordinary shares for the first time in upwards of twenty years. In reality, however, the figures in its report are not so unsatisfactory as those of the older company, and the Road Car directors have certainly adopted a more judicious policy by strengthening instead of diminishing the reserve funds. The Associated Omnibus Company has also passed its dividend, and at the meeting the other day the chairman made some strong but perfectly justifiable remarks on the lack of prudence which has marked the introduction of the motor 'bus. Inefficient and unsuitable vehicles have been recklessly rushed on to the streets only to be taken off again, and competition in the cheapening of fares has been carried to ruinous lengths. For the old 'bus companies the period of transition from horse to motor traction was bound to be an exceedingly trying one. It is noteworthy, moreover, that only one or two out of ten or a dozen companies formed to run motor 'buses have yet paid any dividend, and no trustworthy information as to the earning capacity of the new vehicles when a proper allowance is made for depreciation is yet forthcoming, so that the outlook for people financially interested in such undertakings is anything but clear. The shareholders in the London United Electric Tramways (1901), are in a more fortunate position. It is true that the dividend on the ordinary shares is only 3 per cent., but the report shows that the company has been doing better than before, and a further improvement may be anticipated with the opening of the Wimbledon, Merton, and Tooting extensions two or three months hence. At the current quotation the five per cent. preference shares of this company give a return of about 6 per cent.

It is evident from the reports that are appearing that the past year was an unfavourable one for the

"American Railway Earnings and Dividends," by D. O. Croal, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News.*—Effingham Wilson. Price 6d, net.

London electric lighting companies. In several cases an increase of business has been accompanied by a diminution of profits, due partly to some reductions in the charge to consumers of electricity for lighting, and partly to the growing use of current for power purposes, the latter customers having, of course, to be supplied at a lower rate than the former. The result of the elections on Saturday puts an end to the proposed electricity supply scheme of the London County Council, but it does not by any means dispose of the question of the establishment of a separate bulk supply undertaking which would be equally detrimental to the existing companies. It is understood that the latter are uniting in the promotion of a Bill to enable them to deal with the matter themselves, but it is not in the least degree likely that this measure will be passed by Parliament. Among catering shares Lyons have advanced to 6⅛ on the announcement that this enterprising company have secured the contract for the Franco-British Exhibition which is to be held at Shepherd's Bush next year. The exhibition is expected to be the biggest thing of the kind that has been witnessed in London for a great many years, and the contract is the most important one that J. Lyons and Co. have yet undertaken. Coupled with the Dublin Exhibition contract, it makes the prospects of the company exceedingly bright and will warrant a still further rise in the shares. In Brewery securities no improvement whatever is discernible, and the existing depression is, indeed, certain to continue in view of the threatened legislation. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RICHARD SMETHWICK.

THE sudden and mysterious disappearance of Richard Smethwick on that eventful Friday afternoon in the early part of December, 189—, gave rise to considerable consternation in his family, and to any amount of speculation, mostly scandalous, among the employees at his place of business. The circumstance which lent especial point to their scandalous suggestions was the fact that Amelia Brown, a good-looking girl in the "Ribbons and Laces," to whom Smethwick had for some time been noticeably attentive, had neither put in an appearance that Friday morning nor sent any explanation of her absence.

Richard Smethwick was a draper on Ludgate-hill, in a tolerable way of business, employing about twenty hands, and making an annual net profit of about £1,500. But more than half the capital invested in the business had been put in by his wife, who was very well off, and was perhaps rather too fond of reminding her husband that she provided the lion's share of the family income.

They lived in a largish house at Putney, with their three children, and, at the time of which I write, had been married upwards of fifteen years. Until recently, their union had proved happy. But there was no concealing the fact that for the past twelve months Mrs. Smethwick had found reason to complain of her husband's coldness and neglect, with which she had frequently reproached him, thereby causing many unpleasant altercations, and at the time of his disappearance the relations between them were particularly strained.

Richard Smethwick left the shop about half-past three on that Friday afternoon, saying he was going home early, but should be back as usual next morning. There was nothing out of the way in this, and at the time it excited no attention. Indeed, the first intimation received at the shop that Smethwick had not gone home, as he said, was when the manager, who lived on the premises, was rung up on the telephone by Mrs. Smethwick about 10 p.m., inquiring whether her husband was still there. He replied in the negative, informing her that Mr. Smethwick had left business at half-past three and had not returned since.

The result of his answer was to bring Mrs. Smethwick up in her motor from Putney, in which she reached the shop shortly before eleven o'clock. Finding her husband had still not returned, she drove on to his club to see if she could hear anything of him there. Failing to do so, she went back to the shop and telephoned to Putney (it was now nearly midnight) to ascertain whether, in the meantime, he had gone home. The reply was in the negative, and there was nothing for the wife to do but go back to Putney and there await his return. But when nine o'clock next morning came and still no Smethwick, she felt sure something must be wrong (for he had never in his life stayed out all night before without letting her know); so she went up to London and placed the matter in the hands of the City police.

In the course of the day, the latter ascertained, by investigation, that Smethwick, on leaving the shop the previous afternoon, had gone to his bankers in Lombard-street and had there drawn out nearly all the money standing to his credit at the time—viz., £600, mostly in small notes. But here the scent failed. Nor could they discover the slightest trace of his movements after leaving the bank.

It was at this point that the police were apprised of that circumstance which was already a subject of scandalous gossip at the shop—viz., the simultaneous disappearance of Amelia Brown. The girl, who had quitted the shop on Thursday night at closing time, had not been back since, and inquiry at her lodgings showed that she had left suddenly first thing on Friday morning, saying she had been called away into the country, and might not be back for a week or ten days. She had driven off in a cab and had taken a small quantity of luggage with her. This circumstance, coupled with the fact of the marked attentions shown her by Smethwick, and of his having drawn all his ready money from the bank just at that conjuncture, struck the officer in charge of the case as so highly significant, that he did not think it worth while to pursue his investigations.

Assuming—a fairly safe assumption—that Smethwick had eloped with the girl Brown—well, it was very reprehensible, of course, but it was not a matter in which the police could interfere. They had quite enough to do in running criminals to earth. It was no part of their business to track out merely moral delinquents.

You may imagine that Mrs. Smethwick was exceedingly upset when the true inwardness of her husband's disappearance was thus brought home to her. But there was another member of the fair sex who, with less reason perhaps, but still with reason enough, was even more upset. And her grief and rage were aggravated by the fact that her grievance against Smethwick was of such a nature that she could not make it public.

The individual referred to was a girl named Polly Malpas, employed in a flower shop in the City. Smethwick had for some months been carrying on a flirtation with this girl, and had at length fallen so deep under the spell of her attractions (which were undeniable), that he had persuaded her to run away with him, and had arranged with her to meet him at Charing Cross at four o'clock on that memorable Friday afternoon.

Polly went to Charing Cross, with her luggage, to keep the appointment. But her lover never put in an appearance. She waited for him for three hours, then went back to her lodgings in anything but an equable frame of mind. Polly Malpas was a girl of high spirit and hot temper, not at all the sort of young woman to take a slight "lying down," and she was highly incensed with Smethwick for having failed to keep his appointment.

But, in the course of the next day, when it came to her ears that he had actually disappeared with another girl, her fury against the deceiver knew no bounds. She vowed to herself that if she ever caught him, she would make him pay dearly for his treatment of her and, in the meanwhile, took up with another of her numerous admirers, of whom she had at least a dozen in tow. Polly, you see, was a prudent young woman, and in love, as in finance, prudent persons always take care to keep an ample reserve against contingencies.

A week elapsed without anything whatever being heard of Richard Smethwick, and then, he suddenly

turned up late one evening at Putney, looking very pale, seedy, and decidedly woe-begone. It is needless to say that he was not received exactly with open arms by his wife, who very naturally refused to have anything to do with him until he could give her some satisfactory explanation of his absence.

He told a remarkable, and, I am bound to admit, a rather lame, story. It appeared (according to his version) that after leaving the bank in Lombard-street——

"And what did you go to the bank for?" interposed his wife, sharply. "But there! I needn't ask. For I have already ascertained that you went to draw out nearly the whole of your effects—£600—in cash and small notes."

Richard Smethwick coloured and looked decidedly confused. He might have known that this discovery was bound to be made by his wife. But none the less, it was dreadfully disconcerting to be suddenly called upon to explain it to her, face to face.

"Yes—that is so, my dear," he stammered, "I had to meet some—some—heavy business accounts——"

"A likely story," she broke in, witheringly. "As if you could not have paid any such business accounts by cheque! However, go on, Richard. I shall be interested to hear the rest of this pretty little fairy-tale," she added, with biting sarcasm.

"I give you my word, Mary, that I shall tell you nothing but the strict truth," he rejoined, in an injured voice.

"After so promising a start, I should think it highly probable," she retorted, even more sarcastically than before. "However, go on, Richard."

"When I left the bank," he said, in an aggrieved and somewhat sulky tone, "I hailed a four-wheeler that happened to be crawling past and got into it. It was then four o'clock and quite dusk. We had not proceeded many yards, when the cab stopped—owing to a block in the traffic, as I supposed—and drew in close to the kerb. Then, before I had time to realise what was happening, the cab door was suddenly opened from outside and two men, closely muffled so that I could not distinguish their features, jumped in. For the moment, I imagined they were under the mistaken impression that the cab was empty. But in this I was soon undeceived. They fell upon me, gagged me before I had time to cry out, and thrust a drugged handkerchief over my mouth and nose. After a few ineffectual struggles, I lost consciousness."

Mrs. Smethwick sniffed, but said nothing.

The unfortunate Richard continued: "When I came to myself, feeling very faint and dizzy, I found myself, entirely undressed, lying in bed in a strange room, with a man in a black mask sitting by the bedside.

"I asked him where I was and what was meant by such treatment of me. He curtly refused to answer my questions, but told me that no harm was intended to my person, as long as I lay still and didn't try to escape (rather a difficult matter, seeing that all my clothes had been removed), or give an alarm. But if I should attempt anything of the kind, he wouldn't answer for the consequences.

"Well, I was kept there in bed, always under strict surveillance, for how long I cannot say. It seemed like months, and I couldn't distinguish between day and night, for the windows of my room were closely shuttered and curtained, and the gas was always burning. But in the course of my imprisonment, I gathered from remarks between the two masked men who alternately kept watch by my bedside, that they were waiting for a reward to be offered, and that, not satisfied with the £600 of which they had already robbed me, they looked to get at least another thousand out of my family by way of ransom.

"At last, after what seemed an interminable period, I was informed that the time had come for my restoration to my friends; that I must submit to be again drugged, and that, in that condition, I should be taken and left in a certain place from which I could easily find my own way home. I protested against the being drugged, but they insisted, and I was not in the position to offer any resistance. So I was again rendered insensible; and when I came to myself, I was alone, in that piece of waste land by the river, not two hundred yards from here. It was quite dark. But I had no difficulty in recognising the locality. And, as soon as I was sufficiently recovered to walk, of course I came straight here."

"Umph! Is *that* the best account you can give of yourself?" demanded Mrs. Smethwick, with an ominous sniff.

"My dear, if you don't believe me——" he cried indignantly, "I——"

"Well, it is such a probable story, is it not?" she interjected, with a scoffing laugh. "And such things are so exceedingly likely to happen in London in this civilised twentieth century. Drugging, kidnapping, holding to ransom! My dear Richard, if the scene had been laid in Sicily, or Macedonia, it would at least have had an air of plausibility about it. But in England—— Come, you yourself must admit that it sounds a trifle thin."

"It is the truth, any way," he persisted.

"Besides," she went on, not heeding him. "If they were waiting for a reward, it is decidedly odd that they should release you at the end of a week, when no reward had been offered."

"Eh? Did you offer no reward then?" he exclaimed.

"Certainly not, Richard. Was it likely, considering the circumstances under which you disappeared?"

"What do you mean?" he asked, quickly.

"I mean," replied his wife, with cold deliberation, staring him steadily in the eyes. "What have you done with that hussy Amelia Brown?"

"Amelia Brown!" he ejaculated, with a surprise that, if not genuine, was remarkably well assumed. "Amelia Brown? Good Heavens! The girl is nothing to me. Has she disappeared, then? I remember now that she did not come to the shop on that Friday morning. If she has gone off, I am in no way responsible for it, I give you my word."

Mrs. Smethwick laughed a hard, incredulous laugh.

"Come, Richard," she said, "you had better own up and have done with it. Here we have this girl Brown—to whom I understand you have been much too attentive—disappearing on a certain Friday, and all trace of her is lost. On the same Friday you also mysteriously disappear, having just drawn out a large sum in cash from the bank. Can you wonder that I am naturally anxious to know what you have done with your favourite—where you have installed her? As your wife, I have a right to ask the question; and I mean to have it answered, too," she added, with fierce determination.

"I tell you I have no more idea of Brown's whereabouts than the babe unborn. Her disappearance had nothing to do with me."

"That remains to be established by investigation, Richard," answered his wife, frigidly, pursing up her firm lips.

"The more you investigate, the better I shall be pleased," he answered. "For it will only confirm the truth of what I have told you."

"Oh," said Mrs. Smethwick, icily. . . . "Well, perhaps you had better go to bed now, Richard. You looked fagged and done up. I have had the spare room prepared for you these days past, on the chance of your return. We can discuss the position further to-morrow. Now I will wish you good-night."

And she sailed out of the room. Her husband was not sorry for the termination of the interview. He had been in mortal dread, all along, lest she should make some allusion to his projected elopement with Polly Malpas. It was a great relief to him to find that she still knew nothing of that *liaison*.

Next day he went, as usual, to the shop, and made a point of telling his manager the same story, to account for his mysterious absence, as he had already told his wife. The manager heard the story with many expressions of respectful sympathy. But Smethwick rather gathered from his manner that the fellow all the while had his tongue in his cheek, and this annoyed him the more because he could not well take notice of such veiled incredulity. He determined, however, to seize the first available pretext for dropping heavily on his manager.

In the course of the day, by a strange coincidence,

news was received of the missing Amelia Brown, in the shape of an apologetic letter to the head of her department.

From this letter it appeared that the girl had been suddenly telegraphed for to nurse a sick relative at Hastings, and had gone off in such a hurry that she had not had time to communicate with her employers. She had, however, written, explaining matters, immediately after her arrival at Hastings, and had entrusted the letter to the milkman to post. But the milkman appeared to have put the letter in his pocket and forgotten all about it, and she (the writer) had only that moment been made aware of his omission. She wished to apologise most sincerely, and, at the same time, to say that she should not be returning to the shop, as her young man had just had a substantial rise in salary and they had arranged to be married at once.

This story, with its lame excuse about the milkman, was also regarded by the hands at the shop as rather thin, and among themselves they were extremely facetious about it. But the further investigations which Smethwick, for his own sake, insisted upon making, proved the girl's statement to be quite correct, and he was thus cleared of the suspicion of having taken her away and installed her in a bijou residence, which, ever since their simultaneous disappearance, had been universally entertained.

But prior to these further investigations, Richard Smethwick had sought an interview with Polly Malpas. He found Polly in a most resentful and vixenish humour. She laughed his story of being kidnapped to utter scorn, refused to listen to his protestations, and ended by telling him to clear out of the flower-shop at once, unless he wanted his face smacked. Polly was a vulgar girl, and expressed herself with vulgar robustness. Moreover, she was so evidently in earnest that Smethwick, who had no mind for facing the scandal and disgrace of being publicly assaulted by the little termagant, beat a prudent retreat.

During the ten days that intervened between Smethwick's return and the clearing up of the Amelia Brown affair our worthy draper had the deuce of an unpleasant time, both at home and at the shop. His wife's scornful coldness in the one place, and the covert smiles and whisperings of his employees in the other, made his life a perfect misery to him—a misery for which he could not console himself by the reflection of conscious innocence. Since, though it was in a wrong direction that suspicion had fallen upon him, yet he could not deny to himself that suspicion of infidelity to his wife (in intention at any rate) had been but too well deserved. Besides, when all was said and done, he *had* been unduly and foolishly attentive to his pretty employee.

However, the clearing up of the Brown affair—his projected intrigue with Polly Malpas not coming to light—had the satisfactory result of bringing about his reconciliation with Mrs. Smethwick and also of reinstating his character at the shop. And he vowed to himself that, after the lesson he had had of the unpleasant consequences of amorous scandal, he would never risk compromising himself with any young woman again.

This was not virtue. Virtue did not rule strong in Richard Smethwick. It was just the selfish prudence of a man who, having once burnt his fingers, to his own great discomfort, has no stomach to risk the pain of a second cauterisation.

A week or two later, Mrs. Smethwick and her husband went to dine with the former's brother, who not long previously had taken a house near the Smethwicks at Putney.

No one else was there. It was a little family party of three. After dinner, the host suggested that they should explore his new house.

On entering one of the bedrooms, on the top floor, Richard Smethwick suddenly turned pale and gave vent to a smothered exclamation.

"Great Scott! Why this is the very room where I—I——"

"Just so," smiled his brother-in-law. "The very room where you were incarcerated. And here" (handing him a sealed packet) "is the money of which you were then relieved. I do not know if you would like to count it. But if you do, you will find it perfectly correct——"

"But—but—I say—what the—devil does this mean?" gasped the bewildered draper.

"It means, my dear Richard," struck in his wife, quietly, "that it was necessary to save you from the ruinous step of bolting with that Malpas creature, and also, incidentally, to cure you of being too attentive to your pretty shop assistants. Miss Brown was perfectly willing—for a consideration of £100—to co-operate with us in a way you can easily divine. And my brother, with the help of two intimate friends, did the rest. To put it concisely, you needed protection against yourself; you also needed a lesson that you would remember. And I took care that you should have both."

ART NOTES.

I AM pleased to find that I have hitherto underestimated the business enterprise of some of the artists who make a habit of exhibiting their works at little "one-man" shows. My last week's reflections on the subject have brought me quite a number of letters—most of them from ladies—pointing out my errors, discussing the commercial value of press notices, and incidentally suggesting, with various degrees of subtlety, that I might do worse than notice the exhibitions held by the writers. One of these letters charmed me very much, so that I am tempted to reproduce parts of it, the more so that it is an excellent example of the subtlety to which I refer. It runs: "I have much enjoyed your 'Art Notes' this week in Truth, and especially the way in which you dispose of the 'minor women.' It would interest me much to see how you would dispose of me, and, therefore, I enclose . . ," and so on. Mark the subtle mixture of direct and implicative adulation; the suggestion that my writings are enjoyable; the hint that my criticism would be both instructive and amusing. Can one not imagine the writer laughing in her sleeve (I believe that sleeves are now fashionable) at the thought of the gudgeon gulping down the hook so delicately hidden in the attractive bait? At any rate, the gudgeon swallowed it, and went to see the writer's pictures, and liked them very much, even while he realised that they were largely derivative, and that if a painter named Turner had never lived many of them would never have been painted. I am very much tempted to mention the painter's name, but refrain, lest she should think it unfair of me to take advantage of a personal letter, even though it were not marked "private."

Among my other letters is one which is instructive as showing that the path of the critic is made very smooth indeed nowadays. It encloses a long dissertation—it would take up about three columns of Truth—expressed in the most charming style and excellently printed, upon the exhibits which are to be included in the annual exhibition of the Royal Amateur Art Society which is to be opened to-morrow (Thursday) at Hyde Park House. It is an excellent "annual;" it assists several deserving charities, and altogether deserves everybody's best wishes. But what really warms my heart towards it, is the thoughtful way in which the dissertation not only tells the busy journalist what he may expect to see, but exactly what he ought to think and say about what he does see. Thus he gathers not only that Princess Beatrice contributes a screen embroidered by herself with B's intertwined with Tudor roses, but that it is "in an admirable design"; not only that Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein exhibits enamels, but also that there is much originality in her designs—this, I suppose, refers to the designs of the enamel—and that "the colour is specially translucent and pure." He can learn that the Duchess of Buckingham sends "a striking head," and Captain Fuller Maitland "some very clever water-colours." This is really extremely useful to the critic, who, otherwise, dazzled by the array of august and aristocratic names, might lose his critical faculties altogether and not know *what* to say about some of the exhibits. I can discern only

one possible danger concealed among the roses thus heaped in the critic's path; if things are made too easy for him it may be that some day newspaper proprietors and editors, who are a notoriously unappreciative race, will dispense with his services altogether and invite artists to write their own criticisms upon their own works, to be inserted at usual advertisement rates. And I doubt if either the critics or the artists would like that.

Referring to the prices fetched by paintings in the auction-room, a correspondent professes astonishment that George Morland's paintings should now fetch thousands of pounds, but that he nevertheless died in poverty. As a matter of fact, Morland is scarcely a good example, for his poverty was to a large extent his own fault—he certainly had the opportunity of earning a competency during his lifetime. He had no difficulty in selling all the pictures he cared to paint, but preferred to spend much of his time observing life through the bottom of a tumbler. But, quite apart from the personal equation, it is only natural that when paintings come into the auction-room, a dead dog should be worth more than a live lion. Once an artist is dead, his output of pictures is stopped. Nature forms a trust in them; the supply being limited, prices are bound to rise and to continue rising, and the greater the dead painter, so much the greater will be the disparity between the prices he could command during his lifetime and those fetched posthumously. "It cannot be that the common herd are more enlightened," continues my correspondent, ". . . . for I read in the *Daily Graphic* that two modern R.A.s' pictures came into Christie's, and they had great difficulty in getting a bid of twenty guineas for them." Surely the comment upon this startling fact is obvious—too obvious, indeed, to need stating.

I have given up so much space to pointing out what I consider defects in various recent picture-shows, that I feel inclined, for a change, to speak of one which I have found absolutely satisfying. It is that of paintings by Henri Le Sidaner, now being held at the Goupil Galleries in Regent-street. Le Sidaner is a very great painter—in his chosen field I know of no living painter who approaches him. He shows only eight pictures, each of them, in its way, a masterpiece. They all treat of Venice, and each of them makes Venice a great deal more convincing than it is in actual fact—to ordinary eyes, at any rate. Take "Le Vieux Palais, Clair de Lune." It epitomises the whole poetry of the Venice of romance—the old palace, standing up pale and mysterious in the moonlight; soft, dark shadows hedging it all about, one gush of lamplight coming from a window—a masterpiece of melting, trembling luminosity. Or, again, the "Musique sur l'Eau, le Soir"—was there ever more convincing artificial light than that which comes from the coloured lanterns around which the gondolas are clustering, or from the lamps along the quay and trembles on the dark waters of the canal? You may look closely at the canvas, and your eyes will still almost refuse to believe that it is not light, but only paint, which deceives them so. I have heard Le Sidaner's work called "trick-painting;" if so, it is among the most convincing trickery that art has produced. There are admirable points about this exhibition, quite apart from the pictures. The very fact that there are only eight of them is an abiding joy. Each has its ample wall-space—it has no need to jostle its neighbours; there is no clashing of colours or harmonies—each can be seen to its very best advantage. You need have no fear of an "Academy headache;" you can give to each the attention it merits, and when you go away, each has its own place in your memory, with no more jostling of or by its neighbour than on the walls themselves. If only every artist would realise the great fact that the less he shows of his work—at a time—the better for it and for him; and what a pleasant trade that of art critic would be!

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

MUSIC.

THE SAD CASE OF "A REAL SANTA CLAUS."

Readers of the newspapers will recollect a picturesque story which gained wide publicity some few weeks since in which Mr. Albert Spalding, the young American violinist, was represented as having played the part of Santa Claus to a sweet little girl who had written to him to ask the loan of a violin. As communicated to the press by Mr. S. T. Dann, Mr. Spalding's energetic manager, it was a moving narrative in which the circumstances were recounted. This was how it opened:—

A REAL SANTA CLAUS.

How a Musical Genius was Discovered.

In a flat in the West of London lives a happy little girl to-day, who had the ardent wish of her young life granted on Christmas eve, like a good child in a fairy story. Little Nusha—for this is her name—is a charming little lady of thirteen, and bids fair to grow up as beautiful as she is talented. She speaks four languages, paints beautifully for her age, and plays the piano; but her ambition is to become a great violinist. Nusha lives with her widowed mother, a charming cultured lady, who from affluence has been reduced to a small income, but undaunted shows a smiling face to the world, and ekes out her scanty income by giving lessons in languages, she being master of five, and is also a good musician.

Then the writer proceeded to narrate how little Nusha had written to Mr. Spalding to ask him to lend her one of his fiddles, how Albert had been touched by the appeal, and had commissioned his manager to investigate the case, and how in the result Mr. Dann was the bearer of the gratifying news to little Nusha that her wishes were to be realised.

In the graphic language of the official narrative:—

Mr. Dann being satisfied, proceeded with a friend and Mrs. Dann to the flat on Christmas eve. The door, strange to say, was opened by Nusha herself. Mr. Dann said he was the bearer of a letter from Albert Spalding, and the little party was asked into the dining-room to see mamma. Nusha's face was a study, the expression alternating between hope and fear—she could see no violin. Mrs. Dann, seeing the child's emotion, suggested that she should take the letter into another room and read it. She was quickly back, rushing in with a radiant face, saying, "Oh, Mamma! mamma! Isn't he good! He is sending me a violin, and has written me such a lovely letter."

What a happy picture it conjured up? Who could fail to thrill sympathetically at the thought of Albert's goodness and little Nusha's delight? The most hardened reader dropped a furtive tear as he perused the affecting story and rejoiced with little Nusha over her great good fortune. But, alas! for the vanity of human hopes—

> Oft expectation fails, but most oft there
> Where most it promises.

The homely proverb which reminds us of the sempiternal slip lurking 'twixt cup and lip, was destined to be exemplified afresh in the subsequent course of this transaction whose opening was so auspicious. In other words, little Nusha is still awaiting the arrival of her promised violin, and the lively correspondence which lies before me at the moment explains the reason why.

The trouble began, apparently, with Mr. Dann's thoughtlessness in communicating the circumstances to the press without the consent of the parties concerned. This was a Santa Claus, one gathers, with a keen eye to the uses of advertisement, whose first care it was, accordingly, that the public should be made acquainted with his benefactions. Hence the correspondence in question opens with a letter from Mr. Dann to Mrs. King, little Nusha's mother, apologising for his premature disclosure of the facts, and explaining, in effect, that they had leaked out despite his anxious desire to withhold them from the public. Mrs. King is, however, a lady evidently blessed with commendable strength of character, and her reply lacked nothing in respect of its point and directness. Mr. Dann had stated that the matter which had appeared had been based on casual remarks which had been made to a reporter. To which Mrs. King made answer: "I must own that I am not able to follow your explanations. But then, you see, I am not acquainted with the ways of the gentlemen of the press. It seems to me, however, that your Central News gentleman must possess

remarkable talents to be able to supply from memory even to a literal copy of a letter." At the same time, she inquired when the promised violin might be expected to arrive. Confiding Mrs. King! Poor little Nusha!

The next development was a visit in person from Mr. Dann, the impression left by which on Mrs. King may be gathered from the following extract from a letter subsequently addressed by her direct to Mr. Albert Spalding:—

Mr. Dann calls yesterday subsequent to his letter of January 7 (anticipating an early arrival of the violin), and practically says that all that was required was the advertisement, that nothing was meant, and that we were foolish to believe anything. "After all," he exclaimed finally, "Nusha had her *quid pro quo* in receiving a letter from a big violinist and £5." I pointed out to him that it seemed incredible that a present could be tendered in such a spirit, and that if there was any clear ground to think so, the £5 would be returned to-morrow; also that I could not believe that you never intended to give effect to the promises in your gracious letter to Nusha.

Here was a sad state of things! Santa Claus accused of breach of faith and conducting an angry correspondence with his clients! Take the following, for instance, from one of Mr. Dann's subsequent letters to Mrs. King:—

In consequence of receiving your extraordinary letters, Mrs. and Albert Spalding wish me to state that they decline to see Nusha to-day as originally arranged. As I will not advise them on the subject, Albert and Mrs. Spalding have decided to refer the matter to others who will investigate the case before again communicating with you. Having practically ruined your daughter's career with the Spaldings for no obvious reason, it may be a source of gratification to you to know that the violin has arrived, and only your ill-advised letter, containing false statements, has prevented Nusha from receiving it to-day.

Santa Claus was clearly angry, while Mrs. King, in her turn, was much upset.

Mr. Spalding and his mother were kinder, however, and at their request little Nusha was taken by her mother to see them. She played, they expressed their approval, and all seemed to be going well. Unfortunately, this happy state of things was not to last. For Santa Claus was in the background, biding his time, and the harmony was speedily disturbed again. Precisely why Mr. Dann intervened at this stage is not quite clear. It is enough that he did so, however, and, according to Mrs. King, with dire effect. Nusha was sent away, and for a quarter of an hour by the clock that unfortunate lady was called upon to withstand the fury of his invective. Appeal for protection to Mrs. Spalding was vain. Like the Ancient Mariner, Mr. Dann subdued one and all by his glittering eye, and heaped reproaches, more in anger than in sorrow, on Mrs. King's devoted head. The want of delicacy displayed by that lady in positively asking for the delivery of the promised fiddle had evidently angered him inexpressibly. Eventually it was arranged that the whole matter should be submitted to the arbitration of Mr. Spalding, sen. (Albert's father). Mrs. King, still smarting beneath the flail of Mr. Dann's eloquence, staggered from the scene, upborne by Nusha (who is quite a strapping little lassie), and has since been anxiously awaiting the promised award of Spalding *père*. This was several weeks ago, and up to the moment of writing no communication of this nature has, I understand, been received. Mrs. King has accordingly taken the offensive again, and now demands an apology for the annoyance caused her by the publication of the original story, together with a list of all the papers in which that moving narrative was inserted. To this Mr. Albert Spalding has replied by his secretary that "he quite fails to understand what you are driving at in your letter," and "he desires me to add that possibly it would have been better if the original letter he received from Nusha had been tossed there and then into the waste-paper basket, or still more, that the child had not written any letter at all."

In such melancholy circumstances, what can the mere outsider say? Little, surely, with profit. I am content to give the facts, leaving it to others to extract therefrom such morals as they may.

There have been a good many interesting concerts lately. At the second Philharmonic on Thursday a new symphony by Georges Enesco was introduced, but it is hardly likely to find a permanent place in the society's repertory. De Pachmann was the pianist, and played superbly as usual. The programme of the Queen's Hall symphony concert on Saturday contained no novelties, but proved none the less attractive on this account. Mme. Carreño's playing in Rubinstein's D minor concerto was alone worth going to hear. Another orchestral performance of the week was that given by the recently-formed Kreuz Orchestra, which gives works of the lighter and less familiar school with admirable point and finish. M. Godowsky's rare appearances in London are always events of note, and on Saturday he played with all his wonted brilliance, though in a rather unINTERESTING programme. Comic relief was, however, provided by the antics of M. de Pachmann, whose admiration for Godowsky, whom he once called the Christus of the piano, is of old standing.

Mr. Leonard Borwick has also been heard again, likewise a new pianist (Mr. Nathan Fryer), who is quite a credit to his master, Leschetizky. Mr. Borwick introduced, among other things, some clever transcriptions of his own of Bach organ pieces, which, I notice with surprise, have been received with positive enthusiasm in quarters where such things are usually condemned without mercy. Nay, we are even told that these particular transcriptions are better than the originals, because they bring out details impossible on the organ. Here is heresy indeed. In the way of vocal concerts the record is rather scanty. Of course, there was a large attendance at the London Ballad Concert on Friday, when Mischa Elman appeared, in addition to many vocalists of note, while Signora Estrela Belinfante's recital introduced a new singer of considerable gifts. Mention may also be made under this head of the enjoyable concert given by the Oriana Madrigal Society.

Full of years and honours Sir August Manns passed away last week. Few men have done more for music in this country. But just a little exaggeration has crept into some of the remarks called forth by his regretted death. It is going too far, for instance, to say that Manns was actually the first to give classical orchestral music at cheap rates in this country. As early as 1839 Valentino at "The Crown and Anchor" was offering symphonies to the London shilling public, while the good work which Jullien did in the early 'fifties at his famous Promenade concerts may also be recalled. The suggestion, therefore, that when Manns began his labours at the Palace, London hardly knew what an instrumental concert meant is rather wide of the mark. Even apart from such concerts as those of Jullien, Musard, and others, the Philharmonic concerts had been founded long years previously, while contemporaneously with those given under Manns at the Palace, the New Philharmonic Concerts under Berlioz were also offering first-class fare at very moderate prices. But to recall these facts is not to diminish in any way the credit due to the grand old musician who died last week for his splendid services in the same field.

A paragraph of a familiar type is going the rounds concerning "a famous Strad" which our old friends Messrs. Glendining, of the Argyll Rooms, propose to offer for sale shortly. This, we are told, "is known to connoisseurs and musicians as the Soames Strad," and it is added that "it was bought many years ago by Mr. Soames for a large sum, and has figured prominently in all the records of the maker's life." There is, perhaps, a touch of pardonable exaggeration here. Mr. Soames was an estimable old gentleman, who lived in Great Cumberland Place, but his name was practically unknown in the violin world, and as to his having purchased the instrument "many years ago," I fancy that he cannot have bought it more than ten years since at the outside. This would not matter much if the instrument were really, as stated, one well known to connoisseurs and musicians. In point of fact, it is nothing of the kind, and those concerned in booming it would certainly be hard put to point to any reference to it in any of the authentic records of Stradivari's work. It is a small-sized instrument, and on this account alone it has probably never been used by any player of standing as a solo instrument in public, nor

is any such player ever likely to use it, since the volume of tone is necessarily less in the case of such violins. The idea is, doubtless, to run it up in the auction-room to a fancy figure—a process which often has a marvellously stimulating influence on the price subsequently obtained for such instruments from the ingenuous amateur. Cases are not unknown, indeed, in which instruments have been put up and "purchased," with this end in view, by one and the same individual.

In regard to the vexed question of piracy by phonograph, which continues to agitate the breasts of composers and publishers all the world over, a valuable pronouncement has just been made by the United States Senate Committee on Patents in their report on the new Copyright Bill, at present under consideration in America. The point at issue is, of course, whether the proprietors of mechanical instruments, such as gramophones and phonographs, should reproduce compositions without the permission of the owners of the copyright. The committee in question has decided emphatically in the negative. They say:—

> It seems obvious to this committee that if the musical composition is entitled to protection it is not only against the reprinting of a musical score, but against any publication or reproduction of the composer's work. The musical composer's work is meant to be uttered in sound, and if science has discovered a method of reproducing that sound, thus taking possession of the very soul and essence of a musical composer's work without the medium of actual printing, the musical composer is entitled to protection against this new and more complete form of appropriation quite as much as he is entitled to protection from a stage performance of his opera or orchestral performance of his symphony.

The case could hardly be put more cogently.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Am I too late in recommending to you Professor Clerici's "A Queen of Indiscretions" (1), translated by Mr. Chapman and furnished by him with an admirable and necessary introduction? Necessary, I say, since it supplies a just counterpoise to Professor Clerici's assumption that his Queen of Indiscretions was more than indiscreet. When you have read and weighed all that Mr. Chapman has to say of the unfortunate lady in the introduction, and all that the Professor has brought against her in the volume, you will, I think, give her the benefit of the doubt, or at very least add to your verdict of guilty a recommendation to mercy, because of circumstances of extraordinary extenuation. The juries of her own day which tried her—and she was tried, I might say, not in the Houses of Lords and Commons only, but in every house in the three Kingdoms—were all deeply prejudiced politically, either on one side or the other. Indeed, it was not possible to know this impolitic and impulsive woman without being deeply prejudiced either for or against her. Sir John Page Wood assured Grantley Berkeley that "there never was a more attractive and alluring person in manner than Queen Caroline. She had an excellent temper and most benevolent disposition. Her fault was a contempt for the world's opinion, when she was unconscious of wrong-doing." On the other hand, Captain Gronow assures you that "the Princess of Wales was one of the most unattractive and almost repulsive women for an elegant-minded man that could well have been found amongst German royalty." A clue to these conflicting impressions, and not to these conflicting impressions only, but also to the opposing views of Mr. Chapman and of the Professor, and of the Court, and of the country—while her trial was proceeding—seems to me to be suggested by the following significant anecdote narrated by Grantley Berkeley. When Caroline found amongst her guests at dinner at Brandenburg House a nobleman whom she knew to be of the Prince's faction, she had two decanters filled with cold tea, and nearly emptied both during the meal. After the break-up of the party, she remarked to one of her own ladies, "Now dat man vill go back to de Prince and tell him dat I had finished de best part of two bottles for dinner, and dat I vas qvite drunk." Caroline took a perverse pleasure in shocking Mrs. Grundy, especially when that old busybody was venomously on the look-out for such offences. Again, the Queen was as gross and great a hoyden as Wycherley's "Country Wife." She loathed boredom—and is there any boredom like that of a Court? Of a bore she remarked: "Mein Gott! Dat is de dullest person Gott Almighty ever did born!" She took, therefore, a threefold delight in kicking over the traces, through her horror of boredom, her love of pleasure, and her joy in appalling Mrs. Grundy. When, then, this elderly lady fell in love with her handsome, young Italian valet—a kind of infatuation from which old ladies, even when they are queens, are not exempt—she allowed herself and him scandalous liberties. Whether these liberties were as scandalous as the Italian witnesses—most of them evidently suborned—tried to make out, is another question. On the other hand, there can be no question that if ever a wretched woman in this world was forced on ill courses by ill-usage, that woman was Queen Caroline. On her arrival upon our shores, Lady Jersey, her bridegroom's mistress, was sent to meet and escort her, and also to pump and betray all her secrets—and this with the connivance of "the good Queen Charlotte!" Because her husband's niece, in place of her own, was chosen as the bride of her son, "the good Queen" pursued the wretched Caroline from first to last with all the mean malignity of a vindictive woman. As for the First Gentleman in Europe's treatment of his wife, from first to last it was brutal and even bestial. At his first introduction to his bride he could support the sight of her only with the help of brandy, and only with its help could he get through the marriage service. Thenceforward there was no insult or indignity which he or his mother could heap upon her that they failed to subject her to. Nor did she escape persecution when she flattered herself that she was free to disport herself as she pleased in Italy. Her every move and movement was dogged by the Prince's spies, who reported it duly, no doubt exaggerating—when they did not invent—much that they reported. Of course, Caroline, in the exuberance of her delight at her emancipation from the house of bondage, did all kinds of compromising things, for she was as silly as she was impulsive. How inexpressibly silly she could be, when left to her own devices, is suggested by her establishment, in commemoration of her visit to Jerusalem, of the Order of St. Caroline, whose motto was that of the Garter, and whose Grand Master was her ex-valet, Bartholomew Pergami, to be succeeded by "his children—males as well as females—who were to have the honour to wear the same order from generation to generation for ever." However, Professor Clerici has taken this poor queen quite seriously, and has been at the pains to compile from hitherto unpublished documents, both public and private, an extraordinarily detailed, minute, and interesting record of her sojourn in Italy. I think you will be deeply interested in the very pretty love story of "Amalia" (2) and her German Prince, neither of whom sees the other before marriage, nor cares much for each other for some time after. Each, however, comes to discover unsuspected virtues in the other, while the common dangers to which they are exposed, through the many plots of assassination hatched by their turbulent subjects, naturally draw them nearer together. The development of Amalia's motherly and protective love for her consort into worshipping conjugal devotion is charmingly described. But, indeed, the whole story is charming. I hope Mrs. Summers's idea or ideal of "A Man's Love" (3) is neither that of the frenziedly jealous Ross Barrington, nor that of the dastardly scoundrel, Selden Marshall. I suppose there are such gratuitous scoundrels as Selden Marshall and such gratuitous vipers as Lilia, the heroine's sister;

(1) "A Queen of Indiscretions." The Tragedy of Caroline of Brunswick, Queen of England. Translated by Frederic Chapman from the Italian of Graziano Paolo Clerici. With numerous Illustrations reproduced from Contemporary Portraits and Prints. (London: John Lane. 21s. net)

(2) "Amalia." By Graham Hope. (London: Smith Elder & Co. 6s.)

(3) "A Man's Love." By Dorothy Summers. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

(4) "Kate Bannister." By Keighley Snowden. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

(5) "The Tourist's India." By Eustace Reynolds-Ball, F.R.G.S., F.R.C.I. With Twenty-eight Full-page Illustrations and New Map of "Tourist India." London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d.)

but they are too rare, fortunately, to be probable in a novel. On the other hand, the heroine, her sister-in-law, and the two Desmonds indemnify you at once by their naturalness and by their amiability for all that is improbable and unpleasant in the other characters. Yet more charming is the sprightly, gifted, but ill-mated heroine of Mr. Keighley Snowden's "Kate Bannister" (4). Her forced marriage to the villain is forced to unnaturalness, while the villain's death — foreseen in a dream by her — is somewhat melodramatic, but the relations between the two women he married, and betrayed through marriage, are excellently described, and yet more effective are the love passages between Kate and Dick Herrick. An Indian connection of mine, now in high position in that Empire, scored off a globe-trotter, who expressed to him his indignation at sight of the following notice posted up in a Dak bungalow: "You are requested to refrain from beating the native servants." "Why," retorted my friend, "that notice is put up for those who use Dak bungalows—for you, the globe-trotters, not for us, the residents." If every globe-trotter took with him upon his visit to India Mr. Reynolds-Ball's really admirable handbook, "The Tourist's India" (5), such notices would be superfluous. I took the volume up under the impression that it was a mere guide-book, but found it to my surprise and pleasure incomparably more interesting and instructive than any guide-book. Not the least of its merits is that I have just suggested to you—its sympathy with the natives. The ordinary Englishman, resident or globe-trotter, is the reverse of sympathetic with the natives of any country, east or west, with the result—at least in India—that he is regarded, says Mr. Reynolds-Ball, as Temple, when Master of Rugby, was regarded by his boys—"as a beast, but a just beast." "The Tourist's India," while being packed like a globe-trotter's portmanteau—everything put in the smallest possible space in the neatest possible way—is saved from the dryness that usually goes with such terseness by numberless illustrative stories excellently told.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

Mr. P. H. Ditchfield has written a most entertaining volume on "The Parish Clerk" (Methuen and Co., 7s. 6d. net). He gives an instructive sketch of the history of this ancient office, the duties of the clerk, his ecclesiastical status and so forth, but to the general reader, at least, the book will be chiefly welcome on account of its rich store of diverting anecdotes. Of the eccentricities of the parish clerk, his droll mis-readings, and his exalted ideas of the importance of his office, Mr. Ditchfield has, indeed, an endless supply of good stories. One of the best relates how a Lancashire clergyman preached an unconscionably long sermon at a week-day service in order that the parish clerk might be prevented from going to a local race meeting. The clerk had his revenge. After the sermon he gave out "the 'undred and nineteenth Psalm from yend to yend," adding, "he's preached all day and we'll sing all neet." The uncertainty of a clerk with reference to his position in modern days was thus explained by one worthy: "I hardly know what I be. First vicar, he called me clerk; then another came and he called me virgin (verger); the last vicar said I were Christian (sacristan), and now I be clerk again."

Mr. George Morley, who is known as the author of several works on the Shakespeare country, has taken the Warwickshire greenwood as the subject for his first effort in fiction—"A Bunch of Blue Ribbons," which Messrs. Alston Rivers announce for publication immediately. The same firm are also issuing a novel entitled "The Artistic Temperament," by Jane Wardle.

It is in autumn fiction in the daily papers that the sea serpent usually figures. Now, however, it is announced that the monster will make an appearance in a novel by Mr. James Barr, entitled "Witchery of the Serpent," which Messrs. Gay and Bird will publish.

On Friday next Messrs. Harper and Brothers will have ready a new volume by Archibald R. Colquhoun and Ethel Colquhoun entitled "The Whirlpool of Europe: Austria-Hungary and the Hapsburgs." It is a comprehensive account of that great conglomerate of nationalities, and the book will have an abundance of illustrations.

Mr. John Long is bringing out a political novel entitled "The Sweets of Office," from the pen of Violet Tweedale, which, it is predicted, will be read with equal enjoyment by people of all shades of political opinion. It is described as a merciless exposure of political insincerity, one of the characters being an ambitious young member of the Cabinet who professes Radicalism in order to retain office, though at heart he is a Tory. Another novel which Mr. Long announces is "A Butterfly," by the Baroness von Goldäcker, a new writer.

Mr. A. T. Quiller-Couch's new book, "Poison Island," which Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. are publishing this week, is a story of the year 1813, dealing with the search for a hidden treasure, and packed with thrilling adventures. It is certain, therefore, to delight a host of "Q's" most ardent admirers.

Sir Charles Eliot's "Letters from the Far East," and a fourth series of Sir Herbert Maxwell's charming "Memories of the Months," are among Mr. Edward Arnold's announcements of books to be published immediately.

Mr. W. H. Craig's "Life of Lord Chesterfield," published this week by Mr. John Lane, does not dwell on the more notorious aspects of the Earl's character, but rather seeks to bring into prominence "those rarer and higher qualities which distinguished him as a valuable public servant, whose zeal, energy, political foresight, incorruptibility, and dexterity have placed England under an obligation to him which she is sometimes liable to forget." The volume has a photogravure portrait and numerous other illustrations.

Mr. G. M. Trevelyan's new book, "Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Republic," will be published by Messrs. Longmans in April. It is based upon a minute study of the manuscript and printed authorities made available of recent years by the work of Italian professors and librarians, and upon visits paid to the actual scenes of the events described.

The 1907 edition of Mr. Robert Donald's "Municipal Year Book" has just been published by Edward Lloyd, Ltd., Salisbury-square, price 3s. 6d. net. It contains some new matter, and all the old features, with the facts and figures brought up to date, which have so firmly established the reputation of the volume as an indispensable work of reference for every one interested in municipal administration throughout the country.

I find that through an oversight I omitted to notice the appearance some weeks ago of the 1907 edition of "Thoms's Official Directory," published at 87, Abbey-street, Dublin, price 21s. It is, of course, primarily an Irish directory, but at the same time it contains a mass of official and statistical information, including some special features of its own, which make it useful as a general work of reference.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Ours is not regarded as a romantic nation. Yet what other country has ever had the idea of providing honeymoon railway carriages for happy couples? The Midland Railway leads the way with this happy thought, and will probably reap the benefit in being preferred to all other railways for the start into "that new world that is the old."

Apropos! In Hachette, the businesslike and invaluable French almanac, there is given a list of things to be noted throughout the year. Not the prices paid for coal, nor the date of changing servants. Not at all! Nothing so depressing. Here are some of the items which I find perfectly charming—just poetic

Redfern.—Exclusive and original Models in Day and Evening Gowns for the Riviera. Furs, Paris millinery, blouses, lingerie, &c.—Redfern, Conduit-street and Bond-street.

enough, and not too poetic. The things to which dates are to be appended include: The first blackbird's song; found the first violet; arrival of the swallows; the chestnut trees in bloom; first dined by daylight; heard the cuckoo for the first time; the lawn mowed for the first time; the cherry trees in flower, and so on; and this in the midst of any amount of learning, science, art, details of commerce, cookery, and other masses of information. Do you not admire the editors for putting in these lighter matters and sparing the space for noting them?

Their Majesties' second Court last Friday was well attended and some very lovely gowns were worn. The Duchess of Sutherland was much admired in white tulle and chiffon embroidered in tapering sprays with dull and burnished silver, and made Empire style. The white satin train was lined with cloth of silver and embroidered in silver. Lovely diamonds echoed the white light of the silver embroideries.

Adeline Duchess of Bedford wore velvet in a tone of Parma violet trimmed with a quantity of fine old rose point. The train was in chiffon of the same soft violet tint, and was very gracefully hung from under a hood of the rare old lace. Lady Blandford's was a beautiful gown, black lace embroidered in gold, silver and pink roses over pink silk, the black velvet train lined with pink and ruched with pink tulle. Lady Castlereagh had an uncommonly lovely dress in pale pink satin embroidered all over in silver in a design of rose, shamrock, and thistle worked in India. The cloth of silver train was veiled with pale pink chiffon and trimmed with rare old Alençon.

Among the brides' dresses Lady Gerard's was exquisite, strewn with diamonds in graceful lines and point Alençon train over cloth of silver. Mrs. Levita, another bride, had a wonderful Paquin gown of Brussels appliqué over dewdrop net, under which was a veil of chiffon over satin, a chef d'œuvre.

House-cleaning time has come round again, and the question comes up about wall-papers and fresh chintzes, curtains, etc. We have had a discussion as to whether it is better to choose the wall-covering first and chintz after, or to proceed in the reverse way. What is your idea? For our part we began with the chintz, partly because we found in a book of patterns from Gorringe, Nottingham, a perfectly delicious one, No. 1,139, with a French design in chené tints on a white ground. Dreamy tones of pinkish mauve and pale yellow are introduced, and the pattern waves about in an airily graceful way, like smilax in a summer breeze. By the way, have you ever seen their reversible cretonne? So convenient for curtains, since it needs no lining. The blue poppies and green leaves (design No. 1,135) is so artistic and uncommon. There are many others, and sweetest cretonnes, one with small baskets of pink roses slung with pastel blue ribbons. The taffetas cretonnes are very handsome, and the pure white just the thing for country cottages, for bed and window curtains. It is striped like dimity, and has little raised flowers. The pattern-book for curtains is equally tempting. The crêpe antique is not only lovely in colouring, but of beautiful draping quality. It looks like hand embroidery on fine voile. The Madras muslins are in every tone of white and écru. No. L1,672 E is the prettiest, I think, and very uncommon-looking. The frilling is sold by the yard, all ready to run up, or if edging is preferred it is to be had at a penny a yard, in either white or écru, a neat little finish.

Next come wall-papers, and for this we made an expedition to Jeffreys, in Mortimer-street. It is simply impossible to judge from papers in pattern books how they will look when hung, so it is much better to go and see them in the piece, or even on the walls, as one often can at Jeffreys'. The friezes, too, can be better judged in this way. We saw some wonderful papers there, large designs as well as small; a dignified and slightly pompous Georgian which seems to reflect the human characteristics of its period; damasks in designs classical and up through the centuries to modern; flocks printed in oil, the patterns softened with sheeps' wool and goats' hair laid on by a special process; old Dutch designs reproduced in all their quaint sincerity, groups of flowers and detached blossoms; and then the "sweetly pretty" of our own day, as shown in the "Crown" papers, those with trails of blossoms running up to a frieze of similar flowers, but larger and more numerous. The apple tree is the newest of these, the lines climbing the wall representing the stem with little bursts of bloom and leaf upon it, and at the top the tree spreads out in fullest blossom. This will almost cut out the favourite wistaria of last season, and its companion the "Crown" laburnum.

Some of the neutral-tinted papers are very fascinating, especially those that look like canvas. We admired the stamped-leather papers illuminated by hand, and particularly one in a glory of peacock tints deftly intershoaling, green and blue and gold by Walter Crane. We noticed that among all these rich and handsome things there were papers as inexpensive and as suitable for small rooms as one can see in sample books anywhere. And seeing them in the piece is so very much more satisfactory.

And what would house-cleaning be without Globe polish? Servants always ask for it, for they say that metalwork of all kinds responds immediately to it, not only getting bright quickly, but keeping so, and saving them half the labour.

You must often have wondered where the heroines of men's novels get their "soft, clinging materials," which are so flimsy that they float, and so durable that they are still in wear on the last page? They wear them to breakfast, they wear them to dinner, and I have known a heroine to indulge in a flirtation on a P. and O. liner in a feathered hat and "trailing draperies." I should have thought that for wear at sea our good old friend, navy-blue serge, would be the only possible material. But men are so romantic, until they marry and have to pay for those trailing draperies and waving plumes. Then they agree with their wives that an English serge that never wears out is not only becoming, but sensible, and there is no reason why it should even be monotonous. We have been feeling and looking over about three hundred different patterns of various textures and qualities of serges, etc., from John Noble, in Manchester, ranging from 7½d. to 10s. 9d. a yard, and we could scarcely have believed in such infinite variety. Smooth serge, rough serge, plain serge, ribbed serge, blue serge, black serge, blue-black and black-blue serge, and all other coloured serges—there they are in booksful, and all with only one quality in common—they wash like house-flannel. Then there are other materials, cloth, cashmere, velveteen, chiffon, velvet, and as many checked and striped tweeds as there are serges. We really sent for the patterns because Bee wanted a morning costume of real English serge (she is going to learn punting before the river season, and wants to be free to fall in with an easy mind as often as the punt leaves her); and the result is that we are planning about half a dozen gowns each. There is a lovely shade of moleskin in the "Sterling" cashmere, which will look charming made after one of the sketches that came with the patterns; an indoor dress with a wide skirt, and a broad-pleated bodice, with loops of dull gold galon outlining a lace yoke crossed by straps of the cashmere. And Bee is having an outdoor dress of Ranger tweed, very soft, in light grey, with a large dim check in green, the coat-bodice made with long crossing lines edged with knife-pleated silk, and the belt and cuffs of spotted velvet. Velvet buttons trim

Corset Krutoid.—The latest *nouveauté Parisien* in tricot forms an elegant and smart up-to-date contour and lengthens the waist line.—Write or call at Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Royal Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street London.

"Madge" in Truth says: Every dressmaker ought to leave out a bit of selvedge somewhere, with the "Pirle" stamp on it, as this affords an absolute guarantee for the wearer. The proprietors undertake to make good any material so stamped that has been actually damaged by rain. "Pirle" finished cloths in great variety can be obtained from all Drapers. Full particulars from Edward Ripley & Son, Ltd., 100c, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

both skirt and bodice, and there is a lace vest. People are a little tired of boleros, and these coatish bodices that only need a fur out of doors are very useful.

Have you heard about the new hair-net? It is a capital idea turned into fact by the inventors. The net is open for just sufficient space in the centre to allow one's "topknot" to emerge, and the little twist of hair that we all wear (or almost all of us) is consequently not flattened by the net, which fits in all round it. It is called the Conforma, and if correctly matched to the colour of the hair is quite invisible, being made of human hair. It is made in three sizes. Do not omit to get some. It is so annoying to find, after arranging one's hair beautifully, that after half an hour it is untidy. The Corforma prevents this and does not allow of a single wandering hair, and yet there is nothing dragged nor any suggestion of compulsion about the coiffure. They are no dearer than ordinary nets.

Please observe what very nice paper this is that I am writing on. It is a new discovery, and if you wish for some like it you must ask for Puryta parchment-stationery. This soft faint blue is so refined-looking, but it is also to be had in white, and is sold in shilling boxes containing five quires of any of the four sizes—8vo, imperial, albert, or duchess. This last is a dear little size for writing tiny notes. One's writing looks its best on this kind of paper, for it hits the happy medium between being rough or too highly glazed. A surprising amount of useful information in connection with correspondence is continued in "The Prompter," a little book sent out with Puryta.

What cigarettes to smoke? It is, of course, a matter of opinion. Egyptians, says Richard, who is never happy without a Nile Valley cigarette between his teeth. They are, he considers, so mild, so delicate, and yet so fragrant.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Although February is dead and gone we cannot shut our eyes to its shortcomings. As "February fill dyke" the month was a fraud, utterly failing to fulfil its traditional engagements and belying its established reputation. March comes in to find the dykes empty, and the value of its "peck of dust" not only gone down from the "King's ransom," but vanished. The last thing in the world we want just now is even a pinch of dust. The misconduct of February has made it a drug in the market; we are pining for rain instead, not light nor slight rain either, but for a good honest downpour to fill the empty dykes and set the springs going and the rivers flowing. No doubt all parts of the country are not in the same condition, but about here we are very dry, deliciously so, one feels inclined to say, who only thinks of personal comfort in the present, and leaves the future to itself.

Society does not want rain for its "season," the ordinary severities of winter are enough without any extra supply of it. The roses of a winter "season," such as we have over here, are much more beset with thorns than are those of a summer "season" like yours. We have often to go through a great deal in gathering them. Think of the nights of storm, snow, and frost on which we go our rounds of festivities. Last week the Castle season was very brisk, after the return of Lord and Lady Aberdeen from their short visit to the Royal Court and London. Lady Aberdeen, unfortunately, got a rheumatic chill, and Lord Aberdeen, unsupported, had to do the honours of many entertainments. He is a very energetic host, the most good-natured of Viceroys, always solicitous about the amusement of his guests. The problem of this season—and of many another before it—is the superfluous girl, at Castle balls and dances. Irish girls are good to look at, which is fortunate, as there are so many of them; sometimes, however, it is possible to have too much of a good thing. "Pretty maids all in a row," and without partners, are not a happy sight at a dance. Yet what is to be done when they strongly outnumber the men, who do not go round, even with veterans pressed into the service? Lord Aberdeen does all he can, and is very active in the dance himself. When the suffragettes have established the equality of the sexes no doubt the girls will cease to stand in rows; they will saunter about the rooms, go to supper independently, and otherwise enjoy the exclusive privileges of men even in ball-rooms.

On Monday there was a big dinner at the Castle, on Tuesday a dance, on Thursday a ball, and on Friday an afternoon concert. A goodly list of entertainments for one week, and then, in addition, were the rehearsals for the great social event of this week, the Lace Ball, the lessons in step-dancing for the jigs, reels, etc. One cannot but think that the wear of lace and the dancing of jigs and reels do not go well together, neither are these kinds of dances specially a case of fitness at a court. The greatest enthusiast for the Celtic revival would hardly maintain that they were danced at the Royal Court of Tara, or in Kincora, the palace of King Brian Boru. One thinks, in the case of Mr. Birrell's common-sensible speech, of those "who are more Irish than the Irish themselves." The good intention, however, is the saving cause. Supposing the British court were to go in for an ancient British revival, what were the dances at the court of Queen Boadicea? The ball on Thursday night was a very big one, with dancing in both the St. Patrick's Hall and the Throne room. Many pretty dresses were worn in soft and shiny materials, with bright embroideries of many kinds. Lord Aberdeen danced the State quadrille with the Duke of Abercorn's daughter, Lady Alexandra Hamilton. Lady Wicklow, who was also in it, wore a charming costume with many jewels. Amongst other guests were Ladies Granard and Mowbray and Stourton, resplendent in diamonds. The latter is staying in Dublin with her daughter, having spent the early part of the season in Malta. Lady Powerscourt was prettily dressed, and Lady Weldon, Ladies Clarina, Arnott, and MacDonnell chaperoned daughters. Lord and Lady Castletown were not present, owing to the death of Lady Castletown's mother, Lady Doneraile. Lady Clementine Waring was with her brother, Lord Arthur Hay. The Ladies Mabel and Violet Anson were on a visit at the Castle, where their brother Lord Anson is aide-de-camp. Lady Aberdeen was still obliged to stay in her room, but will, it is hoped, have regained her strength fully, and be able to do the honours of the Lace Ball with Lord Aberdeen.

Lord and Lady Ardilaun have not been staying this season at their residence, St. Anne's, near Dublin, but at Ashford, their place in Connemara, where they entertained the Prince of Wales. As usual, they had a party for the woodcock shoot there, which is of much renown. Lady Plunket has arrived from New Zealand, which her husband governs, on a home visit with some of her family. New Zealand is not a place of many social attractions,

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its ways are very new, and not yet softened by time and experience. Lord and Lady Plunket, however, have got on very well there, and done the honours of Government House very pleasantly. Sir Francis Plunkett, the late Ambassador, who died in Paris, was an Irishman of the old Catholic family, which spells its name with a double T, and whose head is Lord Fingall. Sir Francis was the uncle of the present peer, who lives at the family residence, Killeen, in the county of Meath, and, with Lady Fingall, is well known in Dublin society. The Plunkett family, both with a double and a single T, have a knack of being peers, no less than five titles being in the family: Lords Fingall, Louth, Dunsany, Plunket, and Rathmore, and all are Irish titles. Not a bad record for one family in Ireland.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Here are some nice recipes for you. Try these mullets à la Beaconsfield:—

Trim, wash and dry the mullets, put them into a buttered sautépan with half a bottle of champagne, some mushroom catsup, pepper and salt to taste. Bake them in the oven, and baste frequently. When cooked, glaze and dish them. Reduce the liquor, and add to it some minced prawns, thicken with a lump of butter, well rolled in cornflour. When smooth and of a nice thickness, put in a dessertspoonful of essence of anchovy.

Caramel cream pudding sounds tempting, does it not?

Make caramel by boiling 2 oz. of castor sugar with a dessertspoonful of lemon juice until it turns a golden colour, pour it into a plain mould. Steep a piece of vanilla pod in half a pint of milk on the stove to extract the flavour, pour it upon a tablespoonful of bread crumbs; when it is cold mix in 3 eggs, an ounce of sugar, and a dessertspoonful of rum. Steam the pudding in the prepared mould, without allowing it to boil; after it has somewhat cooled, take out a portion of the centre and fill the cavity with caramel cream, and when it is set turn it out on a glass dish. To make the cream, boil 2 oz. of sugar with water until it turns golden, allow it to cool, then whisk it with half a gill of whipped cream, adding a few sheets of dissolved gelatine.

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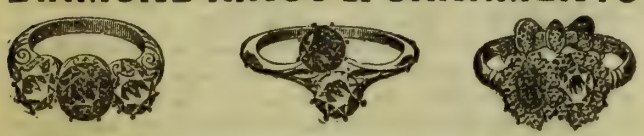

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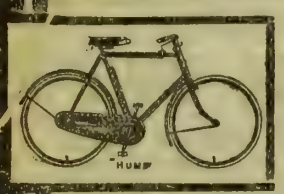

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HOLLOWAY, N.

2,300 In-Patients and 30,000 Out-Patients Annually.

No Reserve Fund. £7,000 Owing to Bankers.

£10,000

NEEDED ANNUALLY FROM VOLUNTARY SOURCES.

Illustrated booklet descriptive of the Hospital and its work post free on application.

L. H. GLENTON-KERR,
Secretary.

A PROSPECTUS IS NOW BEING ISSUED WHICH CONTAINS (INTER ALIA) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:—

A Copy of the full Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST OPENED on March 4, 1907, and will CLOSE on or before March 7, 1907.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1862-1900 (Imperial), and carrying on business under privileges granted by Acts of the Legislature of British Columbia.

SHARE CAPITAL ISSUED AND FULLY PAID UP..... £1,000,000.

£300,000 FIVE PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PERPETUAL PREFERENCE STOCK. £300,000 FIVE PER CENT. NON-CUMULATIVE PREFERRED ORDINARY STOCK, and £400,000 DEFERRED ORDINARY STOCK.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE BEING INVITED FOR £300,000 4½ PER CENT. PERPETUAL CONSOLIDATED DEBENTURE STOCK (Part of an issue limited as within mentioned).

The Stock bears interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, payable by warrant half-yearly on March 31 and September 30 in each year. A full half-year's interest on the Stock now allotted will be paid on September 30 next.

THE PRICE OF ISSUE IS 98 PER CENT., PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

On Application	£5 per cent.
On Allotment	£10 ,,
On May 6, 1907	£25 ,,
On July 5, 1907	£25 ,,
On September 5, 1907	£33 ,,
	£98 per cent.

Or the whole may be paid up in full on Allotment, or on any Wednesday prior to September 5, 1907, under discount at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. Interest will be charged on any instalments in arrear at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The above-mentioned Stock is Perpetual and Irredeemable, and is entitled to the benefits of a Trust Deed dated February 23, 1907, in favour of the British Empire Trust Company (Limited), whereby the whole of the Company's Assets and Undertaking, including its uncalled Capital, are charged by way of First Floating Charge according to English law, subject to the existing mortgages and charges created to secure £238,000 First Mortgage Debentures and £220,000 Vancouver Power Debentures now outstanding.

The Trust Deed provides that the total amount of the Debenture Stock shall be limited to the amount of the Share Capital of the Company for the time being issued and paid up; that no mortgage or charge shall be created ranking in priority to or pari passu with it; that so long as any of the First Mortgage Debentures or the Vancouver Power Debentures remain outstanding, an amount of Debenture Stock exceeding the amount of all the First Mortgage Debentures and Vancouver Power Debentures for the time being outstanding shall be retained unissued. When the Debentures at present outstanding have been redeemed, the Stock will form one Consolidated First Floating Charge on the whole assets of the Company.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company is an English Limited Company, incorporated in 1897, and carries on, under powers conferred by Acts of the Parliament of British Columbia, a well-established Electric Railway, Lighting and Power Business in the cities of Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster, Steveston, and Victoria, and surrounding districts in British Columbia.

The Company controls the whole of the Capital of the Vancouver and Victoria Gas Companies, both of which are carrying on a rapidly expanding and remunerative business.

The whole of the electrical energy utilised by the Company is generated by water-power. The Mainland Service is carried by electrical energy generated by the water-power installation of the Vancouver Power Company, Limited, the whole of the Share Capital of which is held by the Company.

The proceeds of the present issue are required for the general purposes of the Company to meet the necessities of its constantly increasing business, and more particularly in connection with increasing the capacity of the hydraulic electric plant at Lake Buntzen and with the construction and equipment of further Railways radiating from and supplementing the Company's existing systems.

The net earnings of the Company for twelve months to June 30, 1906 (including sales of bonus land and income from subsidiaries, but before providing for renewals maintenance), as certified by the Company's Auditors, were.....	£114,958
The amount required to pay Interest on the Debentures, including the present issue of Debenture Stock, is.....	33,360
Leaving a surplus of.....	£81.598

Available for provision for Renewals Maintenance, Dividends on Share Capital, etc.

For the half-year ending December 31, 1906, the Gross Earnings show an increase of £23,834 over the figures of the corresponding period in the preceding year, and the Net Earnings, including Income from Investments, but before providing for Renewals, show an increase of £18,391.

The Capital of the Company is £1,500,000, of which £1,000,000 is now issued and fully paid up, consisting of £300,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Perpetual Preference Stock, £300,000 Five per Cent. Non-Cumulative Preferred Ordinary Stock, £400,000 Deferred Ordinary Stock, all of which are quoted on the London Stock Exchange at substantial premiums.

The Reserve Funds of the Company now reach a total of £122,684.

The Full Prospectus contains details of Contracts and other material information which is omitted from this notice, and allotments will only be made upon the basis of the full Prospectus, copies of which (with application forms) can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, or from Messrs. Sperling and Co., Bond Court House, Walbrook, London, E.C.; and applications should be sent to Lloyds Bank Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or Branches; or to the Bank of Scotland, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, or to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, London, with cheque for application money. By order of the Board. B. H. BINDER, Secretary.

Threadneedle House, 28-31, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C.
March 2, 1907.

DIRECTORS.

R. M. HORNE-PAYNE (Chairman).

T. BLUNDELL BROWN. | G. P. NORTON.
E. L. EVAN-THOMAS. | R. K. SPERLING.
The Hon. M. R. GIFFORD, C.M.G. | J. BUNTZEN (Managing Director).

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

F. S. BARNARD. The Hon. R. G. TATLOW, M.P.P.
W. H. KEARY.

BANKERS.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, 19, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.
THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, 60, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

MESSRS. NORTON, FEASEY, AND SLADE, London.
MESSRS. CLARKSON, CROSS AND HELLIWELL, Vancouver.

SOLICITORS.

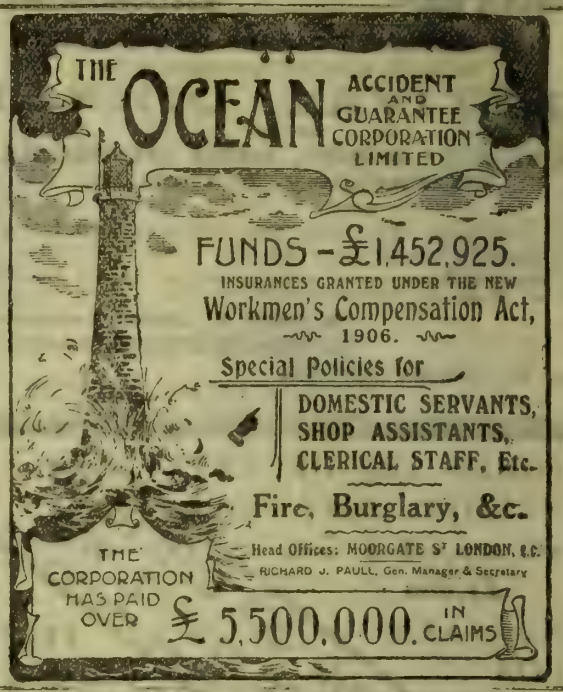
MESSRS. LINKLATER, ADDISON, AND BROWN, Bond Court, Walbrook, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

MESSRS. SPERLING AND CO., Bond Court House, Walbrook, London, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED),
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.



THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. 2½ per cent. interest allowed on Deposit Accounts. 2 per cent. interest on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.—C. F RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.

Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "the most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system of operating, although well known and very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY,

LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD.

Bankers,

BASILDON HOUSE, BANK, London, E.C.,

Or from any of its Branches.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE

THE WORLD-FAMED BLOOD PURIFIER,

is warranted to Cleanse the Blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising. It

WILL PERMANENTLY CURE

Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Glandular Swellings, Bad Legs, Abscesses, Boils, Pimples, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Gout, and

SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Thousands of Testimonials from all parts. Of all Chemists, 2/9 per Bottle.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

SPECIAL FOR LADIES.

The

PARISIAN HAT Co.

30, NEW BOND STREET,
67, KNIGHTSBRIDGE,

Beg to announce the opening of a New Branch Establishment at

7, High St., Kensington

All the Newest Models at one uniform price of **30/-**

LADIES' HIGH-CLASS **COSTUME TWEEDS.**

COPLAND & LYE,

Caledonian House, GLASGOW,

Recommend the undernoted :— (Patterns post free on request.)

HANDSOME "KELVINDALE" HOMESPUN CHEVIOT TWEEDS, thoroughly shrunk, eminently suited for Smart Tailor-made Coats and Skirts, in a full range of new art shades for Spring wear, 54 inches wide, at 3/11 per yard.

"HEBRIDEAN" SCOTCH TWEEDS, thoroughly shrunk, suitable for Ladies' Travelling or Sporting Costumes, in smart small checks, light, dark, or medium colourings 56 ins. wide, 3/6 per yd.

THE NEW "CLACHAN" SCOTCH TWEEDS, thoroughly shrunk, in two-effect mixtures, and self colours, 58 inches wide, 4/11 per yard. Stylish and Exclusive.

The Famous "CALEDONIAN" WINCEYS in Cream, Stripes, and Colours, from 1½d. to 2 2 per yard.

SCOTCH TARTANS. SCOTCH LINENS, SCOTCH HOSIERY, SCOTCH BLANKETS, &c.

COPLAND & LYE, The Leading Specialists in Scotch Textiles,

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A Most Charming REFRESHER AND HEALTHY SKIN TONIC.

Sprinkle a Few Drops of

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Into a Basin of Hot or Cold Water, it makes your skin Cool and Pleasant.

Warning.

Cheap, impure Colognes are injurious, stale, and sickly.

Insist on the **4711** when purchasing.

Look for the Hall Mark №4711. on the blue and gold label of your

EAU DE COLOGNE.

№4711. is the highest standard, and guaranteed pure.

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WEAR NOBLE'S SERGES.

The most durable, most reliable fabrics in the world. They stand the hardest wear—stand drenching rain, burning sun, sea water, washing with common soap—stand almost anything without changing colour, shrinking, or going to pieces. See and test JOHN NOBLE'S

ROYAL YACHT CLUB and IMPERIAL SERGES

(IN NAVY, CREAM, AND BLACK).

Every piece British-made, absolutely fast dye, non-spottable and unshrinkable. In all weights, to suit all climates and all pockets. 160 Qualities.

Prices: **1/3** to **8/9** per yard.

State whether you require Navy, Cream, or Black, and whether for ladies' or men's wear.

JOHN NOBLE'S astonishing variety of Spring Dress Fabrics Voiles, Cashmeres, Tweeds, Habit Cloths, Velveteens, Silks, &c.), are the most delightful ever offered. All patterns post free on approval. Grand New Fashion Book of Garments for Ladies & Children FREE.

JOHN NOBLE Ltd
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MANCHESTER.

ALL LADIES CONCERNED

WILL WELCOME THE

"Conforma"

REVOLUTION IN FRINGE NETS.

What is this revolution?

The ordinary fringe net is flat, and it therefore flattens the hair out of shape. It is difficult to handle, and requires a host of hairpins.

But the "Conforma" net, being **made to the shape of the coiffure, encloses** without crushing, whilst an opening in the net allows freedom for top hair-dressing.

The "Conforma" is easy to handle, and requires at the most two pins.

Made of real hair. Any shade hair or net matched.

If unable to obtain from your draper or hairdresser, fill up this coupon and send to—

HARRISON, SMITH, & CO.,
88, Hamsell Street, London, E.C

Medium Hair Size.	Full Hair Size.	Extra Full Size.
3 for 1/1½ ; 3/11 doz.	3 for 1/4½ ; 4/11 doz.	3 for 1/7 ; 5/- doz.

White and Grey Nets extra Prices.

COUPON.—To Harrison, Smith, & Co., 88, Hamsell-street, London, E.C.

Enclosed please find P.O. or stamps for .....s. .....d.

Please send ..... "Conforma" Nets.

Shade.....

Size for ..... hair.

Name.....

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1907 MODELS.

LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATION

is but one of the many advantages possessed by the Lanchester Car. There are many others. You will find them all fully explained in our 1907 Catalogue, which gives particulars of both the four and six cylinder "LANCHESTERS"; accompanied by explanatory diagrams and illustrations. It is post free.

THE LANCHESTER MOTOR CO., LTD.,
BIRMINGHAM. MANCHESTER. LONDON.

A Drink. A Tonic. A Medicine.

WOLFE'S

Aromatic Schiedam

SCHNAPPS

The purest spirit distilled for human consumption. Admirable as a pick-me-up, tonic, or digestive. As a beverage it combines happily with aerated waters. And in addition, WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS has well-known medicinal virtues, notably in the case of delicate women.

To be had of all Wine and Spirit Merchants, Licensed Grocers, &c.
Wholesale Agents for the United Kingdom:
The FINSBURY DISTILLERY Co., LONDON.

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CAMBUS

The Whisky with an individuality—notably different from all others in peculiar delicacy and charm of flavour—mild and mellow. A soft, round, natural, wholesome stimulant that ministers to good health and neither affects the head nor the liver.

CAMBUS is NOT a POT Still but a Pure PATENT Still Scotch Grain Whisky. Guaranteed 7 years old, matured in wood.

Ask your Wine Merchant for CAMBUS.
Price **42/-** *a case, or* **3/6** *a bottle.*

THE DISTILLERS Co., Ltd., EDINBURGH.

NO BREAKING.
NO SPILLING.
NO WASTE.

NO RUINED GARMENTS IN TRAVEL.

DR. LYON'S

PERFECT

TOOTH POWDER

Cleanses, Preserves, and Beautifies the Teeth without injury; imparts a Natural Fragrance to the Breath.

Sold by all Chemists in dainty blue enamelled metal boxes, with Dr. Lyon's patent measuring tube very convenient for Tourists.

Price 1/-.

Prepared by the eminent Dental Surgeon,

J. W. Lyon. D.D.S.

157, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.

"THE EXQUISITE EGYPTIAN."

"NESTOR"

Cigarettes

(Nestor Gianaclis, Cairo).

Guaranteed absolutely free of all drugs or chemical flavourings, the peculiar aroma being due solely to the exquisite quality of the Tobaccos used in the Blend.

Imported in two qualities—
Surfine and Extrafine.

Specialities—Gold Tipped "King" and "Queen" Cigarettes. Also special packets of ten for Golfers and Card Players, including scoring cards, rules, &c.

Of all Tobacconists and Stores throughout the World, and 10, New Bond Street, London, W.

Cadbury's

COCOA

A Genuine high-class beverage of absolute purity, having the greatest strength and finest flavour. Made under ideal conditions of labour in an English Factory amidst pure & healthful surroundings and where the health and well-being of the workers receive the constant care of the firm.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,460.

BEST SET OF RHYMED LINES OF VAGARIES OF ENGLISH VERBS.

The many excellent solutions sent in for this Competition have made the task of adjudication exceedingly difficult. After mature consideration, I have decided to divide the Prize of Two Guineas equally between ARACHNE, OISEAU, NICHOLA, and WHIG; each of whom will, therefore, receive half-a-guinea.

The Verses of these Competitors were printed in TRUTH of February 6 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,461.

SENTENCES OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY WORDS, CONTAINING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SPOONERISMS.

The Prize in this Competition is awarded to LORNA, whose sentence was printed in TRUTH of February 13 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,462.

POEMS, IN SERIOUS VEIN, DEALING WITH THE EARTHQUAKE AT KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

Some of the poems sent in for this Competition were really quite good—so good, indeed, that before long I propose to give our serious poets another chance of showing their talents.

I have decided to award half the Prize (One Guinea) to VOX, and to divide the remaining half between BEL DEMONIO and P. F. H., each of whom will, therefore, receive 10s. 6d.

The Poems of these three Competitors were printed in TRUTH of February 20 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,467.

With Easter now so near at hand, one's thoughts naturally direct themselves to the subject of Bank Holiday; and as it is my laudable desire to keep our Puzzles, as far as possible, up to date, by dealing with topical events of the moment, I herewith offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas for:

THE BEST ALLITERATIVE AND EPIGRAMMATIC DESCRIPTION, IN NOT MORE THAN TEN WORDS, OF A TYPICAL ENGLISH BANK HOLIDAY.

I do not suppose it is necessary for me to explain the meaning of the epithet "alliterative;" but, in case it should be so, I will point out that all words must begin with the same letter.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) Each competitor, in this instance, is at liberty to send in *two, but not more*, alliterative epigrams

(ii) All epigrams must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, March 18th, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to inquiries from several readers, I beg to point out that the award of Prizes in the Queer Story Puzzle, "The Kenwig Street Murder," was announced in TRUTH of February 20th last.

*** The real name, with the address, of TONY, winner of three-quarters of Prize No. 1,459 is J. H. Morton, Esq., Ardbeg, Cambuslang.

QUILP.—Many thanks for sending me duplicate of your poem. The original was duly received.

RIMABEL.—Many thanks for your letter. The subject of the "triolets" is still under consideration.

ROUMANIAN.—Your real name and address duly noted.

CARLOS, PRESTO, BARGEE, URSELLIA, PEMBROKE, GLENLEVAN, and SACKI.—Very pleased to welcome you to our competitions.

ENVOY.—Very pleased to greet an old friend once more. Your change of address duly noted.

LAIDLAW.—Your *nom-de-plume*, with real address, duly registered. Very pleased to welcome you.

XLCOR.—I much regret that your solution of "Valentine" Puzzle was received too late for inclusion.

CARROTS.—Your poem was duly received, but, along with many others, was crowded out at the last moment.

C. L. BARNES.—Many thanks for your obliging suggestion, which I will consider.

SCEPTIC.—Very pleased to welcome you again after so long an interval. I trust you will now be able to take part in our competitions regularly.

DUDHOPE.—I note the correction of "ope" for "open" in your poem.

From time to time I receive inquiries from competitors expressing surprise that their solutions, in some given competition, have not been printed. I think it will save both them and myself much needless correspondence, if I point out that, owing to the large number of solutions sent in week by week, it is seldom possible to print more than a fraction of them, and that where (as is usually the case) there are many solutions between which there is nothing to choose, I try, as far as possible, to give a turn to those who have recently had to be crowded out. It may, indeed, occasionally happen that a really good solution suffers this fate. But that is no prejudice to the sender's chance of winning a Prize, as *all* solutions, both those in type and those in MS., are carefully considered in the adjudication.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,464.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

EXAMPLES OF A SMART AND APPROPRIATE PUNNING REJOINDER.

A gentleman was indiscreet enough to feed a lady's dog at the lunch table.

"I wish you wouldn't feed my dog," ejaculated the fair one, wrathfully. "I never allow him meat."

"I beg your pardon, I won't allow it to a cur again," was the soft answer.—Autolycus.

It may not be generally known that the sailor's term for intoxicated is "slewed."

In one of our seaport towns some years ago, a sailor, named Cain, was brought before a well-known magistrate, charged with being drunk and disorderly. The magistrate, on hearing his name, facetiously enquired, "Are you the man that slew his brother?" "No, your honour," promptly replied the man. "I'm the man that was slewed."

It is said that the man's ready wit obtained for him a light sentence.—Allegro.

"Au reservoir!" said the Englishman to the Frenchman at parting.

"Tanks!" replied Monsieur.—Nurse.

I crossed on one occasion with a party of friends from Tangier to Gibraltar on a remarkably cold, wet, and stormy day.

After having endured the discomfort on deck we all took shelter in the stuffy cabin, with the exception of one young lady, who had perched herself, wrapped up in rugs and waterproofs, on a little raised platform near the wheel, where she looked particularly forlorn as she became more and more drenched with the rain and spray.

I made several attempts to induce her to leave her uncomfortable seat, but in vain. At last I exclaimed, "For goodness sake do come, and don't sit there looking like an effigy." An aggrieved but rather defiant voice replied, "Shan't! Please leave me alone. If I look like an effigy it's nothing to you, and I don't care an F.I.G.!"

I retired rebuffed but very much amused at the retort, which I thought very clever under adverse circumstances.—Roumanian.

Country Theatrical Manager, who had engaged for stock company an actor named "Suet," addressing stranger after a terrible rain-storm:

"Are you Suet?"

Actor's reply: "No, dripping."—Presto.

Buncombe (a fleshly poet and a bore): Well, Jones, what do you think of my peroration?—

Dead to the glances others prize,
I long to live in Lucy's eyes.

Jones: Lucky dog! You may fulfil your wish. When I noticed the lady's eyes this afternoon, I saw that she had a sty in each of them.—Eboracum.

The late Rev. John Bent, well known to Etonians of a past generation, and much loved for his sterling worth and hilarious bonhomie, once gave his gratuitous services to a London church.

Happening to be in the church one day when some unknown ladies were looking around, he kindly pointed out the chief objects of interest. In the course of the resulting conversation, one of the ladies said: "May I ask if you are the incumbent of this parish?"

"No, madam," was the immediate reply, "I am only plain Bent, without the incum."—Fidelis.

"I've much finer feathers than you," shrieked the parrot

"Pinions differ!" croaked the raven.—Nibbler.

The late W. S. Caine, M.P., at a banquet in Liverpool, referred to the many puns he had heard made on his surname, and challenged any of the company present to invent a fresh one.

A reward of five shillings was jocularly offered to the inventor.

"Don't be in a hurri-cane," rejoined a guest, to whom the crown was at once tendered.—Pembroke.

"Why did you cut me at the morning party?" asked a younger son of a young lady. "The sun was in my eyes, and I did not see you." "Yes, the eldest son," was the biting rejoinder.—Dudhope.

A friend of mine (an adept in the gentle art of punning), on paying me a visit, and seeing for the first time my little boy of eighteen months, gave a good example of his punning ability. Knowing my pronounced taste for things literary, and seeing the heterogeneous samples of child's toys spread all about the floor, he said: "Old chap, you have always had literature in your head, but now I see you have provided yourself with plenty of litter-at-your feet!"—Veritas.

A celebrated living author lately observed that he rarely made a pun, "but when I do," said he, "I'm very proud of it, for it is always the very worst that ever was made, and therefore excellent. The other day," he continued, "a lady spoke to me of Mr. ——'s gallery of pictures, and remarked that she should like very much to get an introduction to see them. 'Well,' said I, 'he is my friend, and you shall go—you shall go and pick his pocket.' 'Pick his pocket!' she exclaimed. 'Why should I do so?' 'Why,' said I, 'because he has pict-ures.'"—Percy Vere.

"Ah!" said the fussy old nurse, closing the window and drawing the curtains to, "we must mind the son and heir."

"Madam," said the doctor, parting the curtains and throwing up the window, "the sun and air can look after themselves. You'd better forget them. This child can't have too much of them!"—Ox Short.

Two men were discussing a mutual acquaintance who bore the rich-sounding name, Aulay Macaulay.

"He comes of a good family," said one, "but they are poor. He has nothing but his name."

"I see," said the other, "its all he may call his own."—Pan.

"Everything comes by waiting," chuckled Juggins, as the stable-boy landed a dish of green peas on Algy's neck.

"Waiting!" grunted the injured one. "I should call it a superfluity of ex-pea-dish-us-ness."—Anno Domini.

Douglas Jerrold was on one occasion debating with a friend the respective merits of two contemporaries. The argument had been long, and, thinking to conclude it by a compromise, the friend remarked:

"Well, after all, they both row in the same boat."

"But not with the same skulls," rejoined Jerrold.—Tang.

A lady was speaking to a male friend about her son, who, she said, exhibited a profound distaste for female society, and shunned the fair sex generally.

"Isn't it distressing?" she queried.

"Mm—er—yes, it is—er—rather lass-er-hating," he replied.—Petros.

Q.—What was it Mr. Asquith said in the House of Commons about the whiskey frauds at Tullamore, in Ireland?

A.—That as the matter was to be dealt with in the Courts of Justice, he couldn't tell 'em more about it just then.—Little Jim.

TWO COCKNEY CLERKS ARE EXPLORING THE ISLAND OF JERSEY.

Green: Notice how all the cows are tethered? There's so little grazin' space here. Seems a bit cruel, though, don't it?

Brown: Well, I don't know; there's plenty of Gray's-Inn space in London, where they tether human beings like you and me!"

Green: I don't see what you mean.

Brown: No, the joke is pasture comprehension!—Thersites.

X (commenting on legal case): I consider the prisoner's agitation on being charged consistent with his innocence.

Y. Z: Well, it is, in a sense, but innocence it is not.—Hardie.

Several amateur literati contemplated the publication of a new magazine, which was to be written only by people of rank and high position in society. The question of a suitable title was discussed, and a lady famous for her wit was asked to suggest a title.

"Well," she said, "as you already have a 'Strand' magazine, I should call this one 'Cheap-Side.'"—Swanage.

In a mansion of flats, let both as private residences and offices, one occupant enquired of another as to the identity of a man ascending in the lift. "Oh, I think he is one of the 'privates.'" "Looks to me more like a 'lift-tenant.'"—Trebor Natram.

A certain London ground landlord, who is also a Municipal Reformer is said to have declared to a friend that rather than see another three years of Progressive rule on the L.C.C he would prefer an earthquake—to bring people to their senses.

"I can quite understand your preference for an earthquake," said his friend. "You are evidently thinking of the increase in ground rents."—Wyandotte.

The late Lord Grimthorpe, Edmund Beckett Denison, was not noted for urbanity and consideration for the feelings of others, even those of his professional brothers. One day when arguing in Court he required a document from his bag, which was lying on the barristers' table. "Give me that bag," he said bluntly to a member of the junior bar who was seated near it. The young man made no movement. "Don't you hear me?" thundered Denison. "I want that bag with E. B. D. on it." Then the young barrister turned his face towards his senior, and said, with a languid drawl, "U. B. D."—Nemo.

A young lady was once dilating on her troubles to a gentleman friend, and ended, "So I am sad, you see" (Sadducee), to which her friend gallantly returned, "You are fair, I see." (Pharisee).—Sarnia.

Some eminent lawyers had been dining in the Inner Temple, and were looking for their hats in the lobby outside the hall. Sir John Lewis could not find his. "Here," said Sir David Dundas, handing one to him. "Is this the Castor?" "No," answered Sir John Lewis, "that's Pollock's." (Pollux).—Cortex.

F. (apropos to never mind what): I'm sick of the subject.

L.: That is why you bring it up again, I suppose.—Parrot.

"Well, Pat, when did you last see our old friend Smith?"

"I saw him last month making the ascent of Mount Vesuvius with his young lady."

"And was he indulging in his old weakness, kissing?"

"Well, I didn't actually see him kissing, but sure enough that was his object, as he was trying to get at the mouth of the cratur."—Ildhart.

"I think I'd better apply to the County Council for a bag for them," said our school correspondent when playfully bantered on the way he was tying up his books at the close of our last meeting. "Better not," retorted a manager, "they might give you the sack."—Brad.

The noted punster, Hood, when on his deathbed, was told that a great friend of his (an erstwhile bachelor) had been egged on to matrimony. He thereupon made the reply, "I hope the yolk will set well."—Doveae.

The boys of a certain school in the north of England were playing football, when the outer case of the ball, after a violent kick, was found to be burst at one of the seams.

No other ball was available, so in distress the boys took the ball to the form master.

"What shall we do, sir, our ball has burst?"

"Hum." was the answer, "so it seems!" (Sew its seams.)—Hyde.

I was dining with a friend at the Sheridan Club in Dublin, and in cutting a bit off the leg of a chicken the knife slipped, and shot a piece into my friend's glass of Beaune, whereupon he said, "Bother you, you have put some of your fowl into my Beaune." He had to go away for a minute, and in the meantime the waiter removed his plate. On his return he said, "Confound it, you have collared my chicken." I replied, "Hang it man, there is no pleasing you, first you say that I have fowled your Beaune, and then you say that I have boned your fowl!"—Leo.

Ducrow was teaching a boy to go through a difficult act of horsemanship, and, the boy being timid, his master applied the whip to him unmercifully. Joseph Grimaldi was standing by, and looked very serious.

"You see," said Ducrow to Joey, "that it is necessary to make an impression on these young fellows."

"Very likely," replied Joey; "but it is scarcely necessary to make the whacks (wax) so hard."—Arundo.

At an evening party, where music was one of the principal features, the host approached a young lady and said, "May we have the pleasure of a song from you, Miss C.?"

She answered, "I am sorry not to be obliging, but I am a little hoarse this evening."

"Ah," said he, "you may be a little hoarse (horse), but you mustn't say nay (neigh)."—Sacki.

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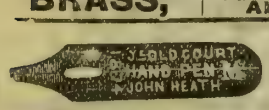

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE recent death of Sir Francis Tress Barry, of St. Leonard's Hill, Windsor, has led to the disclosure of a fact which is of great interest to me personally, and will not be less so to all readers of Truth and to many thousands of little people who never heard of him, and can know nothing of this paper but its name. I have been informed by Sir Francis Barry's family that it was he who, for many years in succession, had anonymously presented a new sixpence to every child in the workhouses and workhouse schools of London at Christmas in connection with the Truth Toy Show. In the brief obituary notice of Sir Francis that appeared in these columns last week, reference was made to the munificence of his charities, but I little thought that I had such a close personal interest in one of them, or that I was recording the death of the unknown benefactor of so many generations of workhouse children.

It was in 1883, when the Truth Toy Show was comparatively in its infancy, that a commissionaire first dropped into Truth Office a week or two before Christmas, with a big parcel of sixpences fresh from the Mint, and a letter signed "A Friend," requesting the Editor, as if it were a great favour, to distribute the coins in the workhouses and their schools in connection with the Truth Toys and Dolls. For years since the same event has always occurred about the same date, varied only by the increase of the donation as the donor heard of the growth of the juvenile population of the London workhouses, and by the fact that of late years a relative of the unknown friend has replaced the commissionaire as the bearer of the gift. The number of sixpences began at 5,000; but for many years past the number has been 11,000, and it was characteristic of the thoughtfulness of the donor that after he saw from the Toy Fund accounts that the distribution of the sixpences over London and the suburbs by special messengers involved a charge upon that Fund, he always sent with the coins a cheque for £5 to defray this cost. Again and again I have expressed the wish that this unknown "Friend" would allow me an opportunity of thanking him personally, but the gentleman who has been his messenger for so many years always assured me that his relative desired to remain unknown, and I could only respect his wish. Guesses, of course, I have made, as have other people, but they all prove to have been quite wide of the mark. The opportunity of thanking the unknown benefactor has never come; but I am glad to be able at last to render the honour where it is due.

Perhaps some one may say that this story of Sir Francis Barry and the children's sixpences is only a story of a rich man's whim. For the sake of ten thousand or more of the poorest of London children, who will be looking in vain next Christmas for new sixpenny pieces from Truth Office, I can only wish that rich men were more given to indulging such whims. But though rich men are common, I fear that the qualities which have prompted Sir Francis Barry's benefaction are rare—the true kindliness of heart which finds its highest pleasure in bringing pleasure to those who are strangers to it; the love of little children though unknown, unseen, and unattractive; the shrinking from all personal praise or recognition for a good deed—unless it be the reward promised to him whose alms are in secret.

FRANCIS TRESS BARRY.

The Children's Friend.

O thou who play'dst good Fairy's part,
And didst so oft at Yuletide send
Delight to many a little heart—
Farewell, thou friendless children's friend.

Bright glittered each new silvern prize,
Fresh from the Mint, which thou didst send,
But brighter shone the bairnies' eyes,
In thanks to thee, their unknown friend.

Full many a man—we know—his pelf
In charity, for *fame*, will spend:

Not thine to advertise thyself—
The nameless children's nameless friend.

Now there, above, a countless band,
Children on children without end,
Throng thee around and clasp thy hand—
They know thee *now*, their unknown friend.

No prayer we breathe—what need of such?—
Nor to Christ's mercy recommend.
Thy passport's sure ('tis "Inasmuch")
To Him, the children's own best Friend.

The King is not expected to return to England until April 26 or 27, when his Majesty will take up his residence at Buckingham Palace until Whitsuntide. The King proposes to attend the First and Second Spring Meetings at Newmarket.

It is probable that the next and third Levee will be held at St. James's Palace by the King directly after his return from the Continent, very likely on Monday, April 29. The fourth and last Levee of the season will be held by his Majesty after the Whitsuntide holidays, probably on June 3, which will be Monday in the Derby week.

The King has conferred the First Class of the Royal Victorian Order on Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, who paid a brief visit to their Majesties at Windsor Castle in January. Prince Charles is the third and youngest son of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (who is *de jure* the head of the Hohenzollern family, a great territorial magnate, and one of the richest Royal personages in Europe), a brother of the Crown Prince of Roumania, and son-in-law of the Comtesse de Flandre. He belongs to the Roman Catholic branch of the Hohenzollern family. Prince Charles was invested with the ribbon and insignia last week at Berlin by Sir Frank Lascelles.

Some of the Continental papers are very busy making plans for the King, all of which are evolved out of their own fertile and ingenious imaginations. One journal states that directly after Easter his Majesty will arrive at Cauterets for a stay of three weeks, while another asserts that the Château de Thorenc, at Cannes, the well-known residence of Lord Rendel, is being prepared for his reception. As a matter of fact, the King, as has already been announced in Truth, will proceed on a cruise in the Mediterranean in the Royal yacht when he leaves Biarritz about April 1. His Majesty will land from the *Victoria and Albert* about April 25, at Venice, Genoa, or Marseilles, and will then return direct to London. The Queen will probably come back to England by sea, in which case it is expected that she will be joined at Gibraltar by the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife and their daughters, who will accompany her Majesty to Portsmouth.

One or two journals have announced that when the King is on his way back to England he will stop for three days in Paris, where his Majesty is to be the "official guest" of the President of the French Republic, and it is added that King Alfonso will be in Paris at the same time, also as the guest of the nation. All this is not only untrue, but it is extravagantly absurd. There is no idea of the King paying an official visit to Paris. As to King Alfonso, he was "the guest of the nation" for a week in May, 1905, and therefore there can be no idea of his returning there again, for long intervals always elapse between such public visits. When a Sovereign pays an official visit to a capital, care is always taken by the Government (or the Court) that his stay does not clash with that of any other Sovereign, in order to avoid vexatious difficulties as to etiquette and precedence which would be certain to crop up copiously under such circumstances.

An article describing how the King travels appears in a monthly magazine, in which it is stated that his Majesty's journeys to and from Scotland always take place by night. As a matter of fact, the King has invariably travelled to and from Scotland by day for several years past, and his Majesty has entirely given up night journeys, except when he has to proceed for a very long distance on the Continent, such as from Flushing to Marienbad, or from any Italian city to Calais. Queen Victoria much preferred night travelling, but her journeys between England and Scotland gave an enormous amount of anxiety and trouble to the railway officials, which would have been greatly diminished if she could have been induced to travel by day.

The *Daily Mail* announced last Wednesday that the visit of the Empress Dowager of Russia to England is a "striking manifestation" of "the good feeling and friendship which has grown up between this country and Russia." This is mere froth and twaddle. The visit of the Empress Marie, which has long been in contemplation, has not a particle of political significance. It would be just as reasonable to attach any such importance to the visits of the Empress Marie and the Queen to Copenhagen. It is certainly something new to hear that the Empress Dowager is "a valuable ally" to the Russian Liberal, who has always been under the impression that she was a resolute advocate of the old absolute system of government in Russia.

The papers have been falling into strange blunders in their dissertations on the Empress Dowager's visit. One of them announced on Thursday that "forty-four years have passed since the mother of the Tsar set foot on English soil," and the same nonsense was repeated in other papers. As a matter of fact, the Empress Marie (then Tsarevna) spent over six weeks in England with her husband during the summer of 1873. The *Times* was nearly as much astray in stating that in 1873 the Empress Marie visited England "on the occasion of the marriage of her sister-in-law, the Grand Duchess Marie, to the Duke of Edinburgh,"

For Appeals, see page 678.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 669.
For Special for Ladies, see page 670.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 668, 669.
For Amusements, see page 667.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 677, 678.

and the *Pall Mall Gazette* fell into the same error. The wedding in question took place at St. Petersburg in January, 1874, and the couple had been betrothed at Sorrento in April, 1873.

It is rumoured that the Empress Marie will leave England with the Queen on the Royal yacht, and that she will accompany their Majesties on their cruise in the Mediterranean, during which Naples and Athens are to be visited by the *Victoria and Albert*.

A morning paper announced last week that Edinburgh "is preparing a great welcome for the Prince and Princess of Wales when they visit that city in April." The Prince and Princess are not to visit Edinburgh until the second week in July, when the show of the Highland and Agricultural Society is to be held at Prestonfield. The statement that the Prince and Princess are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace during their visit to Glasgow in April is altogether incorrect, for they are to stay at Blythswood House, Renfrewshire, with Lord and Lady Blythswood, as was announced in Truth several weeks ago.

It was stated in Truth four weeks ago that the Prince of Wales would probably be the guest of Lord and Lady Derby at Knowsley Hall for the Liverpool Spring Races. H.R.H. is to arrive at Knowsley from London in time for dinner on Wednesday next, and he will return to town on Saturday, the 23rd. The Prince intends going to the races both on Thursday and on Friday, and this will be his first visit to Aintree.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are expected to reside at Marlborough House until the end of next week, when they will go to Sandringham to spend the Easter holidays at York Cottage, and Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck are to pay them a visit there. The Prince and Princess of Wales and a party from Sandringham will attend the West Norfolk Hunt Steeplechases, which are to take place over a course near Fakenham on Easter Monday. The announcement which has gone round the press that the Prince and Princess are to visit the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe at Floors Castle at Easter is a pure invention. Indeed, the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe have just gone abroad, and are not expected to return to Floors for several months. The contemplated visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales will take place in October.

Princess Victoria is expected to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Saturday from visiting the King and Queen of Norway at Christiania. H.R.H. will accompany the Queen to the Mediterranean in the Royal yacht, and it is probable that she will stay for some time at Gibraltar with the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife.

It was announced in Truth a fortnight ago that the King would shortly confer the Order of the Garter upon the King of Saxony, and that the Prince of Wales would go to Dresden on a special mission to invest his Majesty. My statement has been reproduced by numerous daily and weekly journals, but one of the latter varies its borrowed information from Truth by announcing that "it is understood" that Prince Alexander of Teck will go to Dresden. If there is now a special mission to Dresden the Prince of Wales will be at the head of it as a matter of course. His Royal Highness went three years ago to Stuttgart to invest the King of Wurtemberg; and the King of Saxony, being a more important Sovereign, would most certainly consider himself slighted if a collateral member of the Royal family were sent to Dresden. There has never been any doubt as to the arrangement, and the Prince and Princess of Wales were to have paid a visit to the Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, who is now at Dresden.

It is now probable, however, that there will be no special mission to Dresden, as the King of Saxony, who is now at Lisbon, intends to spend a few days at Biarritz on his homeward journey. It is therefore understood that the King will take the opportunity of himself investing King Frederick Augustus with the ribbon and insignia of the Garter. A year or two ago the Prince of Wales accepted a Saxon decoration. It is believed that the real object of the King of Saxony's journey to Lisbon is to arrange for the betrothal of the Crown Prince of Denmark to his eldest daughter.

Last week a party of visitors stayed at Dublin Castle, the number being added to by the arrival of Lady Bessborough and Lady Gweneth Ponsonby, and Lady Fitz-Gerald and Miss Nesta FitzGerald. Dinner parties were given each evening. The "Lace Ball" on Tuesday was attended by over 1,000 guests. Lady Aberdeen, notwithstanding her indisposition, was present for a short time to witness the success of the entertainment she had planned and worked for with so much energy. The ball gave an excellent object-lesson in the artistic beauty of many kinds of Irish needlework and the exquisite and dainty suitability of Irish lace for evening dress.

Lady Aberdeen unfortunately had a relapse of her illness, and was unable to be present at the ball on Thursday evening in St. Patrick's Hall, the dinner parties throughout the week, or the afternoon party on Friday. It is hoped that she may be recovered enough to appear at St. Patrick's Ball, which will be held this week on the 15th inst., in anticipation of the Feast of the Irish National Saint, which falls on Sunday, the 17th inst.

Lord and Lady Grenfell have again taken up their residence at the Royal Hospital. Little or no entertaining has been done there this season owing to family mourning, on the death of Lady Victoria Grenfell. It

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Page 665 contains an interesting and important article on stimulative and curative vibratory massage by means of the famous and much talked of Veedee. It should be read.

it expected that Lord and Lady Grenfell will entertain later on, probably not until after Easter, and keep up the Royal Hospital tradition of hospitality.

"A Lover of English Scenery" writes:—

Please back up the Bill which has been introduced in the House of Commons at the instance of the National Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising. It seeks to restrict the display of such advertisements as affect injuriously the amenities of a public park or pleasure promenade, or disfigure the natural beauty of a landscape. I feel sure that this will have your sympathy. There are plenty of foreign precedents for such a law. Prussia has one more far-reaching than is proposed here. . . .

I hope that the Bill will be passed, but this appeal places me in a difficulty. If I began to argue in favour of such a measure on æsthetic grounds I should be suspected of a sordid motive. It is a cynical age. Unkind critics would hint that my real object was to divert, to the enrichment of my advertising columns, some of the money now spent in uglifying English rural scenery. It is, indeed, just possible that I may really consider that this would be an advantage to the advertisers as well as to me, but, of course, I am precluded from saying so.

Though not a hunting man, I have never been an out-and-out opponent of the sport; nor do I think that I have ever laid myself open to the horrid charge—it is so regarded by many people—of being a sentimentalist. Certainly, the hunting of carted deer has always struck me as an objectionable travesty of real sport, which is moreover continually brought into discredit by such incidents as those at Wendlesham and elsewhere, which have been reported in the papers during the past few days. But the pursuit of the wild red deer on Exmoor has always appeared to me to be a very different pastime, worthier of sportsmen, and I am therefore all the more surprised to hear of the disgusting barbarism with which it is carried on at this season of the year. My informant, who is a hunting man himself, affirms that hinds heavy in calf are regularly hunted by the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds, and that for this reason one landowner has forbidden the hunt to come on his estate. The revolting cruelty of the practice speaks for itself. I have sometimes heard of similar cruelty through harriers and fox-hounds being taken out after the sport should have ceased for the season, but whatever the quarry may be, the practice is a debasement of sport, which will, I am sure, meet with the indignant condemnation of the best class of hunting men.

Since the above paragraph was written I have received from a correspondent the appended extract from the *Hants and Berks Gazette* of Saturday last. Comment upon it seems to be unnecessary:—

FOX KILLED IN THE HIGH-STREET (ODIHAM, HANTS).—Considerable excitement and interest were occasioned on Friday afternoon in last week, when a fox which had been hunted by the Garth hounds took refuge in Mr. Fountain's coal store at the back of his shop in the High-street. The fox, which the hounds had brought from Coxmoor, was in an exhausted condition, and quite done up; and it seems a pity that it was not given a chance of providing another day's sport on some other occasion. Instead of which the fox, which was a vixen, and in cub, was let out of the shed into the dogs' mouths, and was soon disembowelled. The carcase was then taken to the High-street, despoiled of its mask, brush, and pads, and then thrown to the dogs, who speedily made short work of it, much to the disgust of some residents.

THE FALL OF MAN.

So Mr. Zangwill says—I note—
(Nor would he, willing, tell a fib)
If women aren't to have a vote,
Eve might as well have stayed a rib.

But p'rhaps such logic, after all,
Don't prove his case; nay—truth to say—
The fair conclusion seems to fall,
In reason, just the other way.

For when Eve ceased a rib to be,
How did she on her life-work start?
Why, ate of the forbidden tree
And upset Adam's apple-cart.

Which conduct makes me eye askance
Eve's daughters' "Votes for Women" plan,
Lest, like their Ma, if they've the chance,
They re-enact the Fall of Man.

The recent sales at Christie and Manson's have afforded another striking example of the ruinous depreciation of the value of pictures by modern masters. Long's "Reading Don Quixote," purchased some years ago for 1,100 guineas, now realised 105 guineas; a work by Herbert, R.A., which sold for 480 guineas about thirty years ago, was knocked down for 26 guineas; a dozen of Cooper's pictures sold for an average price of under £80; a landscape by A. Vickers, which last changed hands at 400 guineas, went for 36 guineas; a work by Ary Scheffer fell from 265 guineas, not many years ago, to 26 guineas.

Mr. William Strang has been commissioned by the King to paint portraits of Lord Knollys, his Majesty's private secretary; of Sir Dighton Probyn, Keeper of the Privy Purse; and of Sir Richard Holmes, the late Librarian at Windsor Castle. These pictures are to be added to the collection in the private apartments at Windsor. Queen Victoria employed Angeli, of Vienna, to paint numerous portraits of her friends (such as Dean Stanley) and of the principal members of her household (such as Lady Ely, Sir Thomas Biddulph, Lady Augusta Stanley, and Sir Henry Ponsonby), most of which are in the private apartments at Windsor Castle.

The Bishop of Southwell has presented the Rev. Gerard Holmes Gore, curate of Newark-on-Trent, to the vicarage of St. Werburgh's, Derby, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. Reginald T. Talbot to a residentiary stall in Bristol Cathedral, on the nomination of the Lord Chancellor. St. Werburgh's, which is one of the most important livings in the diocese, was held for a number of years by the Bishop-Suffragan of Derby. Mr. Holmes Gore worked for three years under the Rev. Bernard Wilson at Bethnal Green, and he had previously spent three years at Great Grimsby. He is a zealous and a very popular clergyman, and his preferment has given much satisfaction in the diocese of Southwell.

Archdeacon Orpen, who has been Rector of Tralee for thirty-eight years, has been elected Bishop of Limerick in the place of the late Dr. Bunbury. He is a son of the late Sir Richard Orpen, of Ardtully Castle, and is one of the most popular and most respected

clergymen in Ireland. After the election the Roman Catholic band paraded the streets of Tralee, followed by many hundreds of people, and the crowd stopped at the residence of the new Bishop and cheered him loudly. The stipend is about £1,350 a year, with residence. There are fifty-three incumbents and eleven curates in the Diocese of Limerick. The other candidates for the See were the Dean of Ossory and Archdeacon Wynne.

Canon Northcote, who died last week at Stoke-upon-Trent, was a member of the old Devonshire family of which Lord Iddesleigh is the head. He was at Oxford during the crisis of the Tractarian Movement, and, on leaving the University, he was ordained deacon by Bishop Henry Phillpotts. About a year afterwards he joined the Church of Rome and went abroad, and for some years he made Rome his principal residence. After his wife's death Mr. Northcote was received at the Oratory, Edgbaston, and became a friend and a devoted disciple of Newman. He was ordained priest in 1855, and worked zealously in the Potteries for five years, when he was appointed principal of Oscott College, a post which he held with conspicuous ability and efficiency for seventeen years. Since 1877 he had been a member of the Stoke Mission. Canon Northcote was a fine scholar, and he wrote largely. His little books on the catacombs of Rome are full of interest and instruction.

The death of the Rev. David Purnell-Edwards, of Stancombe Park, is much regretted in the Dursley district of Gloucestershire, as he was very popular among all classes, and was most highly esteemed. He was a nephew of the once well-known Canon Jelf, who in his day was one of the most prominent of the Oxford dons. Canon Jelf gave Mr. Edwards a studentship of Christ Church, and he ultimately became senior student. He held the college living of North Nibley, near Dursley, for thirty-two years, and was greatly beloved by his parishioners. He assumed the name of Purnell when his wife succeeded to the estates of her grandfather, Mr. P. B. Purnell. Stancombe Park, which is beautifully situated under a range of hills, is celebrated for a most interesting collection of Roman remains, and on the estate is the site of a Roman villa, which extended over six acres.

Canon Page-Roberts has been elected Proctor in Convocation for the Chapter of Canterbury in the place of the late Canon Holland. He will be a valuable addition to the Broad Church and Liberal Party in the Lower House. Canon Page-Roberts, who is incumbent of St. Peter's, Vere-street, was appointed to his stall at Canterbury in 1895 by Lord Rosebery, and he is now the senior canon residentiary of the Cathedral.

The Dean and Chapter of Rochester have presented the Rev. Edward Nash, Precentor of the Cathedral, to the vicarage of Leatherhead, which will be vacated at Easter by Archdeacon Utterton, who last year succeeded the late Archdeacon Sapte as Archdeacon of Surrey and Canon Residentiary of Winchester Cathedral. The living of Leatherhead (which has been held by Archdeacon Utterton for over thirty years) is of the net value of about £500 a year, with house.

The annual review of the position, requirements, management, revenue, and cost of the hospitals of Great Britain and Ireland with which Sir Henry Burdett introduces "Burdett's Hospital and Charities" is, as usual, full of instructive information. Particularly interesting is the chapter dealing with the misuse of hospitals. To show the extent of the growth of free medical relief, figures are quoted showing the proportion of free patients to population in thirteen large towns in the United Kingdom over a term of years. Dublin supplies the most remarkable example of the increase, for there 1 out of 1.3 of the population is admitted to free medical treatment. London is not much better, for, according to the latest figures obtainable, practically 1 in 2 of the whole population are in receipt of free medical relief. I agree with Sir Henry that the system which permits such a state of affairs is unjust, not only to the hospitals and their medical officers, but to the great body of medical practitioners, to the supporters of the hospitals, and to the patients in most need of medical aid. I agree, also, with his contention that the provision of paying hospitals for those whose surroundings do not permit of home treatment would do much to remedy the evil complained of, and the suggestions Sir Henry makes regarding the organisation of a large system of insurance to provide the necessary funds is well worth consideration.

Apropos of a recent case, I have had a letter from a nurse who is greatly distressed by the discredit her profession suffers from the doings of those whom she describes as wolves in sheeps' clothing—adventuresses posing as nurses. Of course, this is very unpleasant, but there is no help for it. Nurses, after all, are not the only people who are aggrieved in the same way. The theatrical profession is saddled with the sins of many impostors who are described in the police court charge-sheets as actors and actresses, though their only public appearance is made in the dock. Journalists, too, if they could blush at all, would blush for shame at the frequency with which their calling is similarly besmirched by all sorts of shady characters.

My correspondent goes on to complain that the nursing uniform is assumed nowadays by numbers of women who, even if they do not bring it into disgrace, are not nurses at all. This is true, the motive being usually nothing more sinister than a little feminine vanity. The dress is really rather attractive, a fact of which the legitimate wearers are, perhaps, not altogether unconscious. I can only think of one method by which they can guard against imitations of their professional costume. It is that they should adopt one that is ugly—or at least dowdy—and that remedy would, I expect, be regarded by most of the nurses as worse than the evil it was designed to cure.

I have to acknowledge 10s. from Une Poupée 5s. from T. E. G. towards the Toy Fund.

There is an uncommonly interesting little passage in a letter in the *Nation* on the disappearance of the Militia, signed "M.":—

Shortly after the conclusion of the Boer War, I had the opportunity of discussing with Kaiser Wilhelm the military changes in the British Army which were suggested by our saddening experiences. The Kaiser volunteered the statement that the future of the British Army lay in the expansion of the Militia; that in view of their great services they should be allowed to organise under their own Inspector General, with their own artillery, transport, and medical services, etc. There cannot, I think, be any indiscretion in saying that His Majesty informed me that he had caused a plan to be prepared by the General Staff of the German Army, and this plan had been submitted to the King. It would be interesting to know whether the German plan for the expansion of the Militia is in the archives of the War Office, and if so, whether there is any objection to its publication

Yes, we should all like to see this document. Apparently it was not favourably received. It may be that Mr. Haldane, in spite of his own military studies in Germany, fears the Greeks even when bearing gifts. Or it may be that the German General Staff, though it knows so much, did not know adequately some of the difficulties in the way of reorganising the Militia—including that of first catching your militiaman.

In all directions one hears lamentations over the extinction of the Militia, and they will probably get louder and more angry as time goes on. Personally, I sympathise with such feelings, up to a point, having favoured the adoption of the Militia as the nucleus of the new territorial army. But really the question is more one of names and sentiment than anything else, and therefore of not much concern to anybody but militiamen. In point of fact, Mr. Haldane's Bill—which all interested in the question should read—extinguishes the Volunteers as much as the Militia. Apparently it does not contemplate the preservation of either name. It simply provides (in Section 28) for the transfer of units of Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers to the new "Territorial Force." The conditions of training and service are altered, and assimilated for all alike.

Further, such Militia battalions as deserve to be perpetuated, and desire to preserve their identity, seem to have the opportunity of doing so by joining the "Special Reservists," as the Bill calls them, *i.e.*, men of the first line who have not passed through the ranks of the regular army. By doing this, they will in most cases, as I understand it, lose only a part of their official titles, being still "3rd battalions" of their county regiments—a change of name which is no more than the whole of the infantry underwent when Lord Cardwell introduced the territorial designation of regiments.

For all practical purposes the changes proposed by Mr. Haldane seem to affect the Volunteers a good deal more than the Militia, looking at it from the point of view of the individual man. The recruit who joins the new territorial force will be bound to a definite term of service, and will have to put in a good deal more training, and it is to be expected that with improved organisation he will be kept more strictly up to the mark all round. How he will like it is the x in the Haldane problem. The general anticipation seems to be that x will work out as a *minus* quantity. The following extracts from a letter which I have had from a Volunteer officer give a different view, and encourage a hope that the equation may prove to have a *plus* value:—

The doubts thrown in your article this week on the probability of Mr. Haldane's Territorial Army ever being seen in the flesh are not flattering to the Volunteers or to the public spirit of the classes from which they are recruited. There are two classes of Volunteers, those who take themselves seriously and those who do not. The former class has increased of late years—so far as my observation goes. At all events, if it has not increased in numbers, it has increased in the disposition to take itself seriously. Every Volunteer knows, of course, that more stringent conditions of service and a higher standard of efficiency drive a certain number of men out of the ranks; but this is due, not so much to disinclination to improve, as to sheer inability to find the necessary time. . . . .

What I think you overlook is that the men who are really keen on the work and desire to make themselves as efficient as possible, have been disgusted and "choked off" in past times by the refusal of the military authorities themselves to take Volunteers seriously. Not only will a change of spirit and policy at the War Office gratify all those Volunteers who mean business, but it will encourage many men to join the new territorial army who have either never joined the Volunteers, or have given up in disgust, simply beause they feel that they are only "playing at soldiers." As you say, one cannot prophesy how any scheme of this kind will work out in practice, but my own expectation is that the new organisation, provided it is worked with tact and energy from headquarters, will have a good effect, and also that the county associations will be able to do great things in encouraging recuiting. I see that Mr. Arnold-Forster thinks the new territorial army will only be the old Volunteers under a new name. As a Volunteer, I think they will be greatly improved in spirit and efficiency; and if they are, and especially if they are relieved from unfair financial burdens, it is much more likely that their numbers will go up than go down.

An officer forwards from India a sample of a batch of circulars sent out by a Bombay firm of a very shady character, and addressed to "Any Officer of the Temperance Lodge," at a certain station. The Indian Post Office considers that it has discharged its duty by shooting them into the officers' mess of an infantry detachment at the place named. It would do its duty much better by refusing to accept matter so addressed, more especially as most of it is of the most offensive and objectionable character, which any properly managed Post Office would refuse to deliver if it knew its nature. Apparently a trade advertiser in India, who does not care for the expense of addressing circulars by means of a directory, can dump a few million circulars into the post addressed to "Anybody, Anywhere," and rely on the Post Office to deliver them separately from house to house.

I heard the other day from Meerut of a case in which a full sergeant of an infantry regiment is struck off all duties in order to serve as a waiter in the coffee shop. Is it not about time that this sort of thing was peremptorily stopped? Even if the rulers of the Army consider it conducive to "efficiency" to take a sergeant from his soldier's work and employ him as a waiter, the wretched taxpayer may well protest

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

JEFFREY & CO.'S ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

against having to give a canteen waiter a sergeant's pay and allowances, and a life pension of 2s. 6d. a day at forty.

Recruits at the R.G.A. Depot, Plymouth, have lately been employed in the afternoon in making a garden for the officers' mess. This is a good illustration of the advantages arrived at by many years of army reform. The recruits like the work, of course. They feel it is just what they wanted when they decided to become soldiers. Their "pals" who have not yet donned the King's uniform envy them, and hasten to enlist. The work itself is just the kind of training to turn out a smart gunner in the shortest time. The officers will benefit directly by it. The country, which pays the bill, sees what intelligence and zeal are now at work to secure "preparedness for war" regardless of all other considerations.

The following edict appeared on March 1 in the regimental orders of the R.G.A., 1st Scottish Sub-District:—

O.C. companies will report to this office not later than March 5, that all trouser pockets of N.C.O.'s and men under their command have been sewn up or removed.

Neglect of this order will entail a regimental entry in the conduct sheet of any N.C.O. or man concerned.

If you want to cause the maximum of annoyance to the men under your command with the minimum of good result from any practical point of view, this seems a good way of attaining your end. I presume that the garments in question are issued by the higher military authorities with pockets in them, and if so the question seems to arise what authority a commanding officer has to order the pockets to be sewn up, and how much further that authority extends in the direction of altering the official pattern of uniform. However that may be, if what is objected to is the practice of carrying the hands in the pockets, it seems a case where teaching would be better done by example than by precept, which, judging from the evidence of eye-witnesses, has not been tried as yet at Leith.

The recent order limiting re-engagement to 10 per cent. of non-commissioned officers and men per battalion was doubtless issued for good reasons, and obviously in a short service army there must be some definite rule of this kind. In the Royal Artillery, however, there is some grumbling because the percentage is calculated on individual batteries instead of on the regiment collectively. Thus a good N.C.O. of one battery, very keen on re-engaging, is forbidden to do so, the 10 per cent. of his battery being already re-engaged, while throughout the whole of the R.F.A. the re-engaged men only number about 7 per cent. This seems unreasonable, and naturally aggravates the annoyance of the man who is compelled to leave against his will, and deprived of the chance of securing a pension for which he has worked hard.

As a natural consequence of this, one hears again of the grievance caused by allowing N.C.O.s to continue their service beyond twenty-one years. A sergeant concerned in the question tells me that there are "hundreds" of staff-sergeants in this position. Possibly that is a liberal estimate, but the number must be considerable. In one battery which has its full 10 per cent. of re-engaged men there are two, and since the 10 per cent. rule was put into force against junior N.C.O.s a third staff-sergeant has been allowed to extend his time beyond twenty-one years. Surely the re-engaged men who have completed their full time and earned their full pensions should be got rid of before men eight or ten years younger. What conceivable justification can there be for keeping a man of forty and getting rid of a man of thirty, who is fully efficient? Of course, it may be said that you are saving prospectively the pension which the younger man might have earned. But in that case you are sacrificing efficiency for cash, and for an infinitesimal saving even at that. The senior man may possibly increase his pension, and at the most he must go in four or five years, and be replaced by a pension-earning N.C.O.

Our mutual friend, Mr. Punch, has developed an alarming martial spirit in his old age. This is no doubt comic, but it does not seem to be accompanied by "clear thinking." Last week he published an excellent cartoon depicting Mr. Haldane as Pygmalion the sculptor invoking the spirit of patriotism. On the opposite page appeared a feeble illustrated jest at the expense of the Yeomanry—not the first of its kind by any means. When the spirit of patriotism responds to Pygmalion's invocation, one result will be that it will no longer be considered funny to "guy" the auxiliary forces.

Admiral Sir Edward Tracey, who died last week at the age of seventy, was a very distinguished officer, and a man of remarkable scientific knowledge. Soon after he entered the Navy he went to the Baltic with Sir Charles Napier's squadron, which engaged in some not very brilliant operations against the Russian naval forces in that region. He was afterwards concerned in various engagements in the East, when employed on the China Squadron. Later on Tracey was at the head of an important naval mission to Japan, and it is mainly through his careful and tactful instruction that the Japanese navy has become what it now is. He afterwards undertook a similar mission to China. Early in the seventies he did good work (when in command of the *Spartan*) in the suppression of the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa. From 1886 until 1890 he was second in command of the A fleet, and then Admiral-Superintendent at Malta. His last employment was as President of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, a post for which he was eminently well fitted. He was a most sagacious man, abundantly gifted with common sense, and his advice was often sought both by the Admiralty and by his brother officers.

It seems rather an odd thing that a man who has spent perhaps thirty years in responsible business employment in India or Ceylon, or some other distant

part of the Empire, and comes back to England with a pension, should find any difficulty in obtaining work on his return, if he desires it. There are men who desire it, and it is natural that they should, for no man worth his salt cares to sit down at fifty years of age and do nothing for the rest of his life. But a gentleman in this position with whom I was in communication the other day, told me that he finds it quite impossible to obtain any employment, and that he knows many others who have the same experience. I heard the same thing not long ago from a former acquaintance lately returned on pension, after having been many years a bank manager in India—a man, I suppose, just turned fifty. This is not the old story of "too old at forty." The men I speak of are in the prime of life for business, and in this country would only just be reaching their full salary-earning powers. At the same time they have extensive foreign experience, which ought to be very useful in many businesses, and, being pensioned, they do not require extravagant pay.

One of the Rangoon papers has lately published some much-needed protests against the frequency with which corporal punishment is inflicted upon prisoners in the Burma gaols. The magistrates are very apt to order floggings for quite trivial offences, a typical case of the kind being a sentence of "twenty stripes" which was recently passed upon a club servant in Rangoon for stealing whisky to the value of four annas. Even more abominable, however, than the ferocity of such sentences upon convicted criminals is the not uncommon practice of flogging untried prisoners—prisoners who may therefore turn out to be innocent—for alleged breaches of the gaol regulations. In one recent case the hearing of a charge against a prisoner had to be postponed because he was suffering from the effects of a flogging that he had received whilst awaiting his trial. It appeared that this prisoner made an accusation against a fellow-prisoner, and that the superintendent of the gaol, after inquiring into the matter, condemned him to thirty lashes on the ground that the accusation was false.

No doubt it is requisite that there should be means of maintaining discipline among untried as well as convicted prisoners; but it assuredly ought not to be in the power of a superintendent of a gaol to award any prisoner, tried or untried, such a terrible punishment as thirty lashes except after an independent judicial investigation of the facts. The brutality of the treatment of this man is not an isolated occurrence. The flogging of unconvicted prisoners in the sacred cause of discipline has indeed been carried to such lengths in Burma that more than once the result has been fatal. To the present Secretary of State for India these barbarities must, I am sure, be intensely repellent, and it is to be hoped that he will have steps taken to put an end to a system which is a standing disgrace to British rule.

BRAVO, SPERLING!

I'm glad that, spite persuasive try on,
Brave Sperling wouldn't play the Lion,
Nor be induced to tread the boards—
A spectacle for gaping hordes.

Hero, well done! Your head who kept
'Midst winds and waves that howling swept;
And kept it still—which e'en more rare is—
Amid the *aura popularis*.

One of the new machines which the Post Office uses for cancelling stamps on envelopes seems to be doing its work rather too thoroughly. A reader forwards some envelopes on which not only has the stamp been cancelled, but the name of the addressee of the letter has been struck through, the cancelling marks (with the "London, E.C." time and date stamp twice repeated) going right across the upper part of the envelope. From the official point of view this appears to be a stupid arrangement, inasmuch as the partial obliteration of the name must give extra trouble to the postman. From the point of view of the public it is also objectionable, for through the name or such endorsements as "personal" or "private" being more or less hidden, mistakes may be made in the opening of letters.

No one need regret that it has been found impossible to provide the L.C.C. with an ornamental chairman, selected from outside *ad hoc*. It is far better that the business of the Council should be directed by a working member with long practical experience, especially when the great majority of Councillors have got to learn their work from the beginning. Mr. H. P. Harris, the new Chairman, is one of the oldest members of the Council, a hard worker, and thoroughly respected by all parties. No one who knows the L.C.C. from within will grudge him his elevation to the chair, and the Moderates ought to think themselves lucky in having such a good man for the post.

Apropos of the pending elections of Boards of Guardians, Mr. J. Theodore Dodd writes to urge the importance of returning candidates who are in favour of granting adequate outdoor relief to the deserving aged poor where practicable. "Until old age pensions can be obtained, this," he says, "is far better than offering to the veterans of industry a painful choice between the workhouse and starvation, or at least destitution." No doubt a great many people will sympathise with this view, but I have not the least hope that their sympathy will receive practical expression at the poll. Here and there some little interest is excited by the triennial election of guardians, but in the vast majority of unions, especially in London, it is passed by entirely unnoticed. The same men are returned unopposed time after time, and when a contest does

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arise it is disregarded—probably not even heard of—by seventy-five per cent. of the ratepayers.

With regard to the statement in last week's Truth as to rates having risen in certain metropolitan boroughs notwithstanding the victories of "municipal reformers" last November, one of my readers in Lewisham points out that the statement is not fair as regards that borough, his account of the matter being, as I understand it, that the rate for the year was made by the old council and is called up by quarterly instalments. The third instalment was 1s. 11d., and the fourth 2s., and the difference is the alleged rise of 1d. I know nothing of the facts, having only taken the statement from one of the penny papers. If the above account is correct, it is clearly not fair to charge the new council with having raised the rates; though it would be fair to say that nothing has been done to reduce them. But the "Moderates" seem to be in a hopeless minority on the Lewisham Council.

There has been some discussion in the Borough on the question whether a hop merchant who is a J.P. is disqualified from acting on a licensing committee by reason of the fact that he sells hops to brewers who are owners of licensed premises and of properties for which new licences are sought. It is thought in some quarters that membership of the Licensing Committee is likely to give a hop merchant an undue advantage over his rivals in the trade—at any rate, in the division or county for which he is a J.P. The point has been submitted to the learned editor of *The Justice of the Peace*, and his answer is as follows:—

> In our opinion he has not such an interest as will disqualify him. It seems to us that his interest is too small and too remote to affect his position.

Too small and too remote! I fancy this must be a little bit of delicate irony on the part of the legal oracle—a veiled allusion to the circumstance that hops are now a negligible quantity in the ingredients with which beer is brewed.

WOMEN'S SIZE IN HATS.

(Suggested by a recent incident in the Divorce Court.)

So women have no size in hats.
The fact a light instructive sheds
On something else besides, and that 's
Th' adaptiveness of women's heads.

For woman's head is small, or big,
Or middle-sized, or dark, or fair,
According to her style of w—,
I beg the ladies' pardon—hair.

Now when a tile the male-man buys—
Say, Dick, or Harry, Tom, or Ned—
He needs must buy it of the size
To fit his own especial head.

But Chloe knows a better plan.
Her headwear's size, what matters *that*,
When, at a pinch, she always can
Make up her head to fit her hat?

Chills are frequently caught through leaving a warm sitting-room to undress in a cold bedroom. Avoid this danger by having a gas fire in every bedroom. Comfortable, Convenient, & Healthy.

Mr. Justice Pickford, who succeeds Lord Justice Kennedy in the King's Bench Division, first made his reputation at Liverpool, and was for some time the leader of the Northern Circuit. It is only of late years that he has migrated altogether to London, where he has enjoyed a large practice of the most lucrative kind, though not of the kind that makes a barrister's name known to the man in the street. He is the type of man of whom the best judges are made, and his promotion to the Bench is universally approved. All Lord Loreburn's judicial appointments have been admirable, and agreeably free from those indirect motives which, before his time, had almost become a tradition of the Lord Chancellor's office.

In the March number of the *National Review* Mr. Churton Collins has a very forcible article on the Edalji case. Here and there he has fallen into trifling mistakes of fact, as is almost inevitable in telling a long and complicated story extending over fifteen years, and collected from various detached sources. There were one or two passages in the first Truth articles on the case which would require correction by the light of fuller knowledge if I were telling the story again now. I mention this because those who are concerned to uphold the conviction and burke inquiry may lay hold of such slips to discredit Mr. Edalji's case. But as a matter of fact they all relate to trifling details, and in no way affect the general argument. Mr. Collins's article is welcome and useful because he is known to the public as a clear-headed man, who makes rather a hobby of analysing evidence in obscure cases, and he approaches the Edalji case without any personal interest or prepossession. The conclusion that he arrives at is precisely that arrived at under precisely similar conditions by myself, by Sir Conan Doyle, and, I believe, by everybody capable of weighing evidence who has applied an unbiassed mind to the facts.

The strongest remarks that have yet been made in public on this case come from rather an unexpected quarter—namely, the *Police Review*. Discussing, in its issue of March 8, the latest proceedings of the Home Secretary in reference to Mr. Edalji, that journal observes:—

> The exposures in the Beck case of Home Office misconduct, and our experiences in the Rolls case, fully justify the conclusion, which this announcement of secret inquiry confirms, that it is designed to hush up the Edalji case. Justice and reparation may possibly be obtained for Mr. Edalji himself without the dreaded exposures, but the public interest will be betrayed and sacrificed by its most responsible servant. . . . The knowledge that a Secretary of State may be depended upon to avoid the exposure of misconduct on the part of Crown officials will conduce to the repetition of miscarriages of justice. Repeated miscarriages will be sure to occur so long as these things can be done in secret, and so long as his Majesty's principal officer of State will have the hardihood to maintain the traditions of foul play by his repeated declarations that the secret reports submitted to him are strictly confidential, and that they cannot be seen or known to the victim most deeply concerned. . . .

I do not quote further, because there is yet a faint hope that the observations are premature. As explained by Sir Conan Doyle in Monday's *Daily Telegraph*, the private inquiry now being held extends to other matter in the possession of the Home Office besides the official

dossier. There is, therefore, a possibility that the committee which is examining the documents may obtain sufficient insight into the case to advise the Home Secretary that a more thorough and public investigation of the case is imperatively necessary.

Although Mr. Justice Grantham would perhaps have been justified in stopping Mrs. Tewksbury's action against Messrs. Maple at the close of the plaintiff's case, it was much better that the issue should be left to the jury. Their verdict showed that in their opinion the defendants did take all reasonable precautions before instituting the proceedings, in respect of which the plaintiff claimed damages for malicious prosecution and false imprisonment. Messrs. Maple are to be congratulated on the result, which is, moreover, of considerable importance to the commercial community generally. As the judge remarked, no firm directing a prosecution could have taken more care to be rightly guided, and if damages had been awarded to the plaintiff in the circumstances disclosed at the trial the setting of the criminal law in motion would have become a risk almost too serious for any tradesman to incur.

Apropos of the recent Truth article on "The Alien in Bankruptcy," my attention has been called to the recent bankruptcy of a Mr. Aaron Bagel, boot manufacturer, of Commercial-road. This debtor, a Polish Jew by birth, has been in England for a long time, and prior to his failure had been in business on his own account at different addresses for seventeen years. The accounts presented at the first meeting of creditors on February 27 showed a deficiency of £10,068 18s. 4d., the assets being valued at only £760. The notable feature in this case, as in those dealt with in my previous article, is the huge pile of liabilities contracted by a small trader, who had originally started with only £200 capital. Another feature of resemblance between this and so many other cases is that the debtor's wife is carrying on another business in the same road, started last year, although the debtor states that he did not provide any capital for the purpose. The debtor himself carried on business at this second address prior to 1905, when he sold it to one Barnett. Barnett became bankrupt a year later, after which the present debtor's wife, Mrs. Bagel, commenced operations on the same spot.

Mr. Lloyd-George has just received, I believe, or is just about to receive, a deputation from the leather trade on the subject of these East-End bankruptcies. It is to be hoped that he will appreciate the need of prompt measures to abate these scandals, as well as others arising out of the defects of the present bankruptcy laws. A fact which I heard on good authority the other day ought to be brought to his notice. It is now generally understood by these enterprising aliens —if they have not discovered it for themselves it is promptly impressed upon them by the solicitors whom they consult when they meditate invoking the kindly assistance of the Court—that the first essential to the performance of the operation without risk is to make away with everything in the shape of liquid assets before putting the bankruptcy law in motion. The reason for this is that it reduces the risk of prosecution to a minimum. If the assets included enough cash to pay the cost of proceedings, the creditors might be vindictive enough to employ it for that purpose; but neither they nor the official receivers are likely to find the money themselves. This explains the state of destitution to which the debtor is apparently reduced in so many of these cases when the official receiver takes possession. It also shows the importance of making some provision for the punishment of offences against the Bankruptcy Acts otherwise than at the expense of the creditors.

I have received from the Rev. William Earle a very lengthy communication, in reference to the recent remarks in Truth on his bankruptcy. The substance of it is that he has received no pecuniary benefit from his extensive dealings in real estate, and he seems to think that this is a sufficient answer to the Registrar's decision to suspend his discharge on the ground of "rash and hazardous speculation." If that is his view, I have no objection to put it on record, but I really feel under no obligation to discuss it.

Is it not about time that we abolished the Lottery Acts? The present state of things, at any rate, seems to me to be nothing better than a piece of national hypocrisy. On the one hand, we more or less rigorously prevent the promotion of lotteries in England. On the other, we allow the English Post Office to be used as an agency for the promotion of lotteries on the Continent or in Ireland. In the past week or so there has been another huge distribution in the United Kingdom of lottery circulars emanating from firms at Buda-Pesth, one of whom—repeating a dodge that has been practised on former occasions—had its circulars posted at Alexandria because the postage is less from Egypt than from Hungary. There has also been a distribution on a smaller scale of books of tickets for a "Derby sweep" organised by the Newry Rowing Club, and for "a drawing of prizes" (otherwise a lottery) in connection with St. Peter's Church Bazaar, Philsboro', Dublin. In the latter case it is announced that the drawing—an illegal proceeding even in Ireland, though the law is not enforced there—will take place in the presence of the Lord Mayor or the High Sheriff.

As I understand, the Lottery Acts were passed to protect the community from what was regarded as a demoralising system of gambling—a system, too, that is easily employed for the purpose of fraud. Such protection is certainly needed, and I could point out directions in which the law might advantageously be extended for the suppression of methods of other gambling that are also to a large extent methods of fraud. But it is a manifest absurdity that the State, while virtuously putting down lotteries in England, should make itself a party through the Post Office to the sale here of tickets in lotteries got up in Germany, or Austria Hungary, or Ireland. I know that the

Postmaster-General says that he has no power to intercept circulars enclosed in sealed envelopes. But he could obtain power to do so, and unless some action of the kind is taken, the Lottery Acts might, as I have suggested, just as well be abolished—indeed, if people are to be permitted to engage in this form of gambling it is better that they should lose their money here than send it off to Buda-Pesth or Homburg.

In a prosecution under the Street Betting Act at Wigan the other day a detective deposed that he saw the defendant pay money to two men in a public lavatory and to a third man in the street. The defendant, who was known to the police as a street bookmaker, had nearly £50 in cash in his possession, but no papers. A sagacious alderman named Gee inquired whether he would be arrested if he were seen in the same position paying money to men. The Chief Constable pointed out that there was an essential difference between the two cases, inasmuch as his worship was not a bookmaker. But the use of such a place as that mentioned in the evidence for the purpose of making payments would be at least a suspicious proceeding even on the part of an alderman of Wigan, and, seeing what the defendant's occupation was, the Bench took a very indulgent course in letting him off.

One of the dodges of a certain class of furniture dealers called forth some unfavourable criticism from Judge Edge in the Clerkenwell County Court the other day. The defendant in the action was attracted by an advertisement in the daily papers of second-hand furniture, "a wonderful bargain for young marrying couple," stored for convenience of selling at a depository, where inquirers should "ask to see Madame ——'s goods." The goods really belonged to a furnishing company, and on finding that the advertisement was being repeated after he had made his purchases, the defendant refused to take any of the furniture except a drawing-room suite, which his solicitor described as "the decoy one." In giving a verdict for the defendant on another ground, the Judge took the opportunity of observing that, while the plaintiffs had doubtless some of the goods from the lady mentioned in the advertisement, "he could not help thinking that the object of such advertisements was to create a false impression." This seems to be quite obvious, and under such false impressions people every day buy furniture at prices which make it anything but the bargain they imagine it to be. In this instance the goods were at a depository, but, as I have repeatedly shown, an even commoner version of the same trick of the trade is to get up a bogus sale by auction at a house temporarily rented for the purpose.

A typical example of the bloodsucking methods of the notorious Darlow family, otherwise the London and County Loan Co., was recently given in the Sheffield County Court when a working man borrower sought relief from a hard and unconscionable bargain. The amount received by the borrower was £1 19s. 6d. He had paid back £10 18s. 9d. (including £2 14s. 5d. for court fees) but he still owed £5 1s. 9d. on the last promissory note that he had given. The interest charged worked out at the rate of about 650 per cent., and the Judge had no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the whole transaction was harsh and unconscionable within the meaning of the Moneylenders Act. His Honour accordingly made an order relieving the borrower from any further payment, and cancelling the promissory note.

This case supplies another illustration of the scandal arising from the abuse of the jurisdiction of the Record Court of the Hundred of Salford. The transaction took place at Sheffield, where the Darlows and the borrower live. When, however, the latter got into arrear with his payments it was in the Salford Hundred Court that the Darlows sued him, and as he was without the means to journey to Manchester (where the court sits), judgment was obtained against him in his absence. It was in respect of this judgment that he had to pay the above-mentioned £2 14s. 5d. for court fees. For some years past it has been a common dodge of a number of sharks of the Darlow breed to employ the processes of the Salford Hundred Court against small debtors residing at a distance from Manchester, and it is high time that a stop was put to that practice. The existence of this court nowadays is an anachronism. It should either be abolished altogether, or else be so reformed that it can no longer be used in this illegitimate and oppressive manner.

A so-called charity, styled "Pastor Black's Orphanage," came under the notice of the Liverpool City Bench a few days ago, when a young woman, named Callaway, was charged under the Vagrancy Act with begging, and Charles Black (the "Pastor") was charged with aiding and abetting her. Callaway was employed by Black as a paid collector. It was shown by the police that she was begging from door to door, and that she stated that there were fifty children in the orphanage, whereas the number was only ten. These ten children had their food in the cellar, and the best rooms in the house were occupied "by the people responsible for the mission." The prosecution was instituted by the Chief Constable, because he had come to the conclusion that the orphanage was in reality a commercial concern, run for the benefit of the defendant Black and those who assisted him.

The Bench, though they said they "did not like this sort of thing," came to the conclusion that the defendants could not be convicted under the Vagrancy Act—a decision presumably due to the fact that a few children are kept at the "orphanage" as a sort of stock in trade. This is a device which unfortunately enables many a charity-monger to snap his fingers at the law and continue year after year what is practically a fraudulent imposition on the public. The law with respect to this form of mendicancy needs to be strengthened. Meanwhile, it is to be hoped that the statements of the police in the above prosecution will show people, in Liverpool and elsewhere, that "Pastor Black's Orphanage" is utterly undeserving of support.

My Legal Pillory this week is particularly rich in examples of the punishment accorded to the unfortunate persons who have been guilty of the crime of poverty. Six weeks' hard labour is considered by the Littlehampton magistrates none too much punishment for the pauper who refuses to do her allotted task at the workhouse. An aged pauper whose hands are crippled is sent to gaol for fourteen days by the Dunmow Bench because he refuses to pick oakum. The Selly Oak's magistrates give a beggar three months' imprisonment, while the West Hartlepool worthies have no hesitation about sending an unfortunate labourer who was tempted by hunger to help himself to an inexpensive breakfast, to gaol for a month, even though this was his first offence. In the same category is the case reported from the Bishop's Castle Bench. I am utterly unable to understand the infliction of a fine of £5 for the crime of sleeping out. Even if this sentence is an error of the reporter or the printer the apprehension of a man who has just escaped conviction, and his prompt consignment to gaol, looks very much like persecution. There remains two other noteworthy cases. The fine of half-a-crown by the King's Heath magistrates upon the fashionably-dressed woman, who tore handfuls of hair from the head of a little girl under her charge, is absurdly lenient, while to send a man to gaol for representing himself as destitute while he had 7½d. in his possession, as was done by the possessors of aristocratic titles who sit on the Kettering Bench, is equally ridiculous.

Epsom Petty Sessions. Before Sir W. Vincent, Colonel Lambert, and Messrs. Rostron, Langlands, and Wootten. W. J. Saitch, charged with assaulting his wife. He knocked her down and kicked her. Fined 10s. and costs.

Epsom Petty Sessions. Before the same bench. Douglas G. Gilmour, charged with driving a motor cycle at the rate of nine or ten miles an hour. Fined £5 and £3 for failing to stop when called upon to do so.

Glasgow Southern Police-court. Thomas Little, charged with assaulting his mother, a frail old woman. He struck her on the face, knocked her down, and kicked her. Fined £3 3s.

St. Rollox Police-court. Before Bailie Edward Guest. Allan Cameron, charged with stealing four brass bushes from the premises where he was employed. Sixty days' imprisonment.

West Riding Police-court. Before Mr. H. Pigott and eight other magistrates. James Atkinson, charged with assaulting Mrs. Clara Saunderson. He made an appointment to give her information about her husband, who is in Canada, and attempted to assault her, dragging her along the road, and tearing her clothing in the effort. Fined 40s. and costs

West Riding Police-court. Before the same bench. Seth Stephenson, charged with leaving a traction engine unattended on the high road for ten minutes. Fined 20s. and costs.

Clay Cross Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Jackson and Mr. E. Tinkler. Mary Vincent, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Oswestry Petty Sessions. Before Dr. Aylmer Lewis and Mr W. H. Plimmer. John Thomas, innkeeper, charged with cruelty to a pony. He beat it most brutally with the butt-end of a whip. The animal's body was covered with weals. Fined £1 and costs.

Dunmow Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Clapham, Worrin, and Major Lowndes. David Reeve, an aged inmate of the Dunmow Workhouse, charged with refusing to perform a punishment task of oakum-picking, because his hands were crippled with rheumatic gout. Fourteen days.

Govan Police-court. Before Bailie Neilson. Edwin Williams, charged with assaulting a girl of fifteen. He entered the shop in which she was temporarily in charge and attempted to assault her. When she called for assistance he struck her several times on the face and mouth. Fined £3 3s.

Kinross Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff - Substitute J. Dean Leslie. John Bruce, Richard White, and Thomas B. Close, miners, charged with night-poaching on a private road on the Blairadam estate. Forty days' imprisonment each with hard labour.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Lochgelly Police-court. Before Provost Garry. A. Walker, charged with assaulting E. Harvey by butting him and kicking him in a vital part. Harvey was unconscious for half an hour. Fined £2.

Mansfield Police-court John Tomlinson, charged with ill-treating his three children. All of them showed marks of severe beating, and, when arrested, defendant admitted that he had given one of them "some of this belt," on which there was a buckle. Bound over to come up for judgment.

Newbury Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. Hemsted, Jackson, Long, Lewendon, and Hickman. S. Marshall and A. Garrett, charged with an unprovoked assault on J. Pike. Because he had not a light when the two men asked him for one. Pike was knocked about and his arm broken. Marshall fined £1, Garrett £2.

King's Heath Police-court Before Mr. C. P. Lane and other magistrates. A fashionably dressed single woman named Gertrude Isabel Allbutt, charged with assaulting a girl four years of age, who was under her care. When drunk she dragged the child along by the hair and struck her. There were bald patches on the head, and the scalp was much bruised. Fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

Market Rasen Police-court. Before Messrs. W. J. Clarke and B. Hardy. John Collins, charged with cruelty to a dog. He bashed it on the pavement, smashing its leg. The animal had to be destroyed. Fined £2 and costs.

Bishop's Castle Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. F. Plowden and H. B. Whitaker. F. Martin, liberated the day previously at the Shropshire Assizes, charged with sleeping out. Fined £5, or, in default, fourteen days' hard labour.

Cannock Police-court. John Baugh and T. Shuter, charged with poaching. They were caught with two baskets in their possession containing twelve live rabbits and two nets. One month each.

Selly Oak Police-court. Before Messrs. Lyndon, Tomson, Jones, and Bayliss. W. J. Venn, charged with begging. Three months' hard labour.

Kettering County Bench. Before Messrs. J. A. Gotch, Stockburn, de Crespigny, Sartoris, Preston, Summer, H. G. Gotch, and Captain Heycock. George West, labourer, charged with attempting to obtain lodgings in the casual ward on the plea of destitution, having at the time 7½d. in his possession. Seven days' hard labour.

Abingdon County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. B. H. Morland, W. Dockar-Drysdale, and M. Brewer. Agnes Cross, an eccentric woman, charged with absconding from the workhouse. One month's imprisonment.

Littlehampton Petty Sessions. Elizabeth Moore and Henry Hamblin, charged with refusing to do their allotted task at the East Preston Workhouse. Six weeks' hard labour each.

West Hartlepool Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. W. Barber, a labourer, charged with stealing a breakfast from a man at work in a shipyard. He was out of work and had nothing to eat. A first offence. One month's hard labour.

In Mr. Justice Purcell the Gold Coast Colony evidently possesses a Draco of the most relentless type. Recently at the Assizes at Tarkwa a sergeant in the mines police and four confederates pleaded guilty to a theft of £300 from the Bibiani mines. Mr. Justice Purcell condemned the sergeant to twenty years, one of his confederates to fifteen years, and the other three to seven years' imprisonment; and, in addition, ordered that each of them should be flogged twice. No doubt it was a serious offence, calling for severe punishment, but these sentences exhibit a degree of unreasoning ferocity such as one would scarcely expect from a British judge.

A piece of crass stupidity on the part of the police was revealed at a case heard at the West Riding Court last week. Two boys, aged twelve and thirteen, were playing at Red Indians, and had erected a cardboard wigwam in a field. To heighten the illusion they borrowed a couple of lamps from some adjoining property, whereupon they were arrested and locked up all night in the cells as a preliminary to being brought before the magistrates on a charge of theft. The magistrates let them off with a reprimand in view of their having been locked up all night. The reprimand might have been much better addressed to the officials responsible for the arrest. To treat a couple of youngsters

guilty of a mere boyish prank as if they were a couple of ferocious ruffians whom it would be dangerous to the community to leave at large for a few hours could only suggest itself to a mind steeped in policemanism.

In commenting last week upon a vaccination exemption case at Southport I assumed that two of the magistrates, Dr. Earnshaw and Dr. Arthur Wood, were medical men. It appears that this was a mistake, Dr. Earnshaw being a doctor of music, but that fact only makes all the more surprising his refusal to give the conscientious objector the certificate to which he was clearly entitled. The same objector has, by the way, since repeated his application to a different Bench, who at once granted it, one of the magistrates being a solicitor, who pointed out that it was their duty to administer the law. Obviously a legal training is a better qualification for the Bench than a knowledge of music.

A trickster named H. Edwards, 137, St. Alban's-avenue, Chiswick, is still practising the mean imposition on poor people for which I pilloried him in November, 1905. He advertises in the newspapers an offer to forward particulars to persons desiring to secure situations as stewards, clerks, butchers, bakers, stokers, etc., on Atlantic liners. Those who apply for these "particulars" get in reply a circular in which Edwards invites a payment of one shilling for "full instructions how to proceed to obtain" one of "these very remunerative and attractive berths," in which many men have "cleared between £150 and £200" during a season of about five months. All that the victims receive in return for their shilling, however, is a small pamphlet on "occupations afloat," in which they are informed that if they want such berths they must apply to the shipping companies and "take their chance with others who apply." Edwards words his first circular so ingeniously that I fear he could not be successfully prosecuted for obtaining money by false pretences, but morally, if not legally, he is committing that offence, and it is a disgrace to the press that his misleading advertisements should be inserted in so many newspapers.

One of the latest additions to my list of Yankee medicos with specifics for various complaints is N. Tucker, M.D., Mt. Gilead, Ohio, U.S.A., who is represented over here by A. Q. Tucker, of "Onaway," Half-moon-lane, Herne Hill, S.E. The Tuckers present an asthma specific to the asthmatic public for £3, this including an atomizer and 4 oz. of an inhalant. As a very good atomizer can be purchased at any chemist's shop for 3s. 6d., the charge for the treatment on the face of it seems exorbitant. Some people even describe it in much stronger terms. Dr. F. J. Waldo, the City coroner, for instance, in the course of an inquest held at the beginning of the year upon a labourer who died from consumption, and who had been dosing himself with "Dr." Tucker's specific, stigmatised this kind of dealing as a fraud.

Business men frequently write to ask me whether I know anything of the "Institute W. Schimmelpfeng" and what I think about it. Their inquiries are generally the result of having been requested by the I.W.S. to fill up an inquisitorial form, with full particulars of their business—its history, the names of the partners, the amount of their capital, their turnover, and so on. It seems not unnatural that a request of this kind from a perfect stranger—having no motive except to facilitate the stranger's own business—should be resented as a gross impertinence; but as this is not the opinion of the firm of Schimmelpfeng, they will have no objection to my putting to them the following questions. I have modelled them, with a few trifling alterations which I regard as improvements, upon the catechism which the Institute W. Schimmelpfeng uses:—

1. Since when has the Schimmelpfeng business been established? Who was W. Schimmelpfeng? Did he always pay 20s. in the £.?

2. Who is the present proprietor or partners? Since when? Antecedents? (Anything in the nature of what the firm of Stubbs calls "registered information" should be inserted under this head.)

3. Description of business (*modus operandi*, number of customers, average bank balance, etc., etc.). If a limited company, a copy of the last annual report and balance sheet is desirable

4. Present capital? Are the business premises the firm's property?

5. Special remarks: (Insert here such information as will enable the Editor of Truth to answer any possible inquiry about the Institute.

6. References who can substantiate all the previous statements.

7. Bankers.

I may add that it is important for my business that this form should be filled up and returned at an early date.

In reference to Reuben May's latest appeal, noticed in a recent issue of Truth, a gentleman who had been favoured with it tells me that he wrote in reply asking May to send him a balance-sheet and the name of his bankers. His letter was not even answered. Reuben does not think it worth while to waste a postage stamp on a possible subscriber who wants information about his financial administration. Of course, he would not send a balance-sheet, it being against his principles to issue accounts of the money he collects; but I presume he has to employ a banker, to whom he might have referred his inquirer.

May has lately been issuing a new postcard appeal about once a fortnight. In one of the last he states that he is relieving "over 10,000" people a week; but he does not say what he has spent on the printing and postage of these appeals. As for his "over 10,000"—which means nearly 1,500 a day—I believe the figure to be a guess inspired by a morbid imagination. But whatever the correct figure may be, the people dealt with are mostly of the loafer class, for whom the casual ward is the proper place, and though his operations draw crowds from all the adjoining

Some interesting remarks on the subject of the Preservation of Health, by Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., are found on page 676.

regions of London, I do not suppose he could show that he feeds fifty people a day who have any genuine claim upon charity.

With reference to my paragraph last week, Messrs. Morris and Calder write:—

> We very much regret that you should have thought it necessary to call us over the coals in your issue of 6th inst. If you will refer to our rules (copy of which we enclose), you will see by No. 18 that we take every precaution to avoid doing business with minors, and although we have carefully searched our lists of names and addresses of sportsmen, we cannot find anything to indicate that they include any infants or members of universities, colleges, or schools.

They had better search again, for I fancy one of the lists must have been overlooked. It is, at any rate, a fact that a large number of men at Oxford, including minors, received circulars from this firm of touting bookmakers, and, as I pointed out, they have clearly rendered themselves liable to a prosecution under Lord Herschell's Act. The sending of a betting circular to a minor is an offence in itself, whether any business is transacted or not, and the fact that the firm requires intending clients to state that they are over 21, would be no defence to the charge. I may add that even if none of the circulars had been addressed to youths actually under age I should still have called Messrs. Morris and Calder over the coals, because I consider that the distribution of such incitements to betting—more especially at a university—is a reprehensible proceeding. I observe that these people, like most of the fraternity to which they belong, talk about their lists of "sportsmen." Of course, a backer of horses is not necessarily a sportsman, nor—thank goodness—is a sportsman necessarily a backer of horses.

Matilda Bernstein, a female Shylock plying her nefarious business in Birmingham and Shrewsbury, found a Daniel come to judgment at the Shrewsbury County-court last week. A bricklayer was sued by Matilda for £12 10s., the balance due on a promissory note. Seeing that the defendant had already been fleeced in a most outrageous manner, Judge Harris Lea decided to revise the terms of the transaction under the provisions of the Moneylenders Act. He directed that an account should be taken on the basis of allowing the plaintiff interest at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the amount that she had actually advanced. It was ascertained that on this basis Matilda, instead of receiving £12 10s., would have to repay £4 14s. to the bricklayer, and his Honour made an order accordingly. An excellent example of the biter being bit.

In another case, also at Shrewsbury, the public examination of a bankrupt tradesman revealed the fact that in return for a loan of £28 from the notorious Wolfe Jackson, a Manchester moneylender, he had already paid back £45 10s., but still owed £57 14s. 4d. The Official Receiver said that he proposed to deal with Jackson's claim under the Moneylenders Act, and I trust that the matter will come before Judge Harris Lea.

"Having a large amount of capital lying idle and being desirous of extending our clientèle," "Cox and Co.," 229, Seven Sisters-road, N., are now diligently circularising London schoolmasters and their assistants with an offer of cash accommodation from £20 to £10,000. There are many poorly-paid members of the scholastic profession to whom such an offer is peculiarly tempting, but if they take my advice they will avoid "Cox and Co." as they would the plague. The name is really an alias masking the identity of one of the brothers Whiteman, the rapacious and unprincipled blood-suckers whose nefarious practices as "Seymour and Whiteman" have frequently been exposed in the law courts and the press.

By the way, "Cox and Co." themselves would have come in for a nasty exposure last week if the daily papers had not for some inexplicable reason omitted the name of the firm from the reports of a case at the Clerkenwell County-court. The reports in question gave extracts from some letters which the plaintiffs, described simply as "a firm of moneylenders," had written to the defendant, an insurance clerk, threatening to inform his employers unless he complied with their demands immediately. The Judge characterised the letters as "improper," but that seems to be too mild a word to apply to these usurers' methods of putting the screw on their wretched victims.

For the first time within my recollection, Mr. E. P. Phillips, who has so frequently come under notice in these columns, has brought out a number of his *Railway Supplies Journal*. This is doubtless to protect himself against a repetition of the unpleasant experience which he incurred two or three years ago from the arm of the law in consequence of obtaining payments in advance for articles in this publication. The copy in my possession, which is dated January, 1907, bears no number, but describes the *Railway Supplies Journal* as having been established in 1872. Phillip has been at the game longer than I supposed. The only remarkable thing about this production is that a brewery company and fourteen proprietors of patents should have paid Phillips for articles in it. According to the scale hitherto in force the price is only 10s., but the copies have to be bought and distributed before they can be of any use as an advertisement, and even then it is an advertisement which any person of ordinary intelligence would rather pay to escape.

Another case has lately come under my notice exemplifying the foolishness of ordering directories from unknown firms, working through canvassers or postal advertisements. The victims in this instance are clergymen, who, in the latter part of 1905, paid for an "Illustrated Clerical Directory," which was to have been issued, at the price of 25s., by the Church, School, and Estate Agency, Limited, then located at 6, The Sanctuary, Westminster. The directory has never been issued, and the money paid has never been returned. Nor is it likely that it ever will be. When I first heard of the case, I discovered the company at Parliament Chambers,

Great Smith-street, but before my representative had succeeded in finding any representative of the firm at the office, the company had again migrated, and where it has gone to I cannot discover.

Closely connected with the Church, School, and Estate Agency, Limited, was another company called the Illustrated Directories, Limited. A parson who paid his money to the first company received an answer from the second when he wrote to inquire about his directory, and both names were on the office door at Great Smith-street. A gentleman styled the Rev. T. E. Forbes-Jones, B.A., seems to have been the presiding genius of both companies. One of the cheques sent to the Church, School, and Estate Agency, Limited, to pay for a directory is endorsed "T. E. Forbes-Jones, Principal." The Illustrated Directories, Limited, was registered in January, 1906. Its object was described to be to acquire from the Rev. T. E. Forbes-Jones all rights and interests in a directory then being compiled by him, and he was appointed permanent editor of the company's publications at £500 per annum. A winding-up order was made against the company last October. The name of T. E. Forbes-Jones is not to be found in the clergy lists, and if the gentleman is a minister of a "Free Church" it seems very unbecoming that he should prey in this way upon his brethren of the Establishment. I am curious to know more of him.

Mr. Dudley Salt, of Herne Bay, is still busily pushing his beautiful scheme for getting "Back to the Land for 1 lb. of Tea," and I am constantly receiving inquiries about it. I can only repeat what has already been said in Truth. Salt appears to have got some land, of sorts, and as he publishes grateful acknowledgments from parties to whom plots have been conveyed, there is no reason to doubt that he is getting rid of his land as well as his tea. The objection to the business is the same which applies to all "premium" trading—the tea is loaded with the price of the land as well as the cost of an expensive system of advertising and agency, and as it is not likely that all the customers will stick to the tea until they become entitled to their plot of land, they would all be better off if they drank somebody else's tea and put the difference in price into the savings bank. If they choose eventually to invest such savings in land, they will probably be able to get something much more to their liking than the Dudley Salt allotments.

Last Friday's papers recorded a meeting of the Street Noise Abatement Committee at the House of Commons under the chairmanship of Sir Alfred Jacoby, to consider a draft Bill for the amendment of the existing Acts dealing with street music, etc. The incident was even paragraphed in the "Political Notes" of the *Times*. It is not recorded that the assembled committeemen took the opportunity to question Mr. Bowden Green, who was present, respecting the article in last week's Truth on the finances of the Committee; but it is high time that some of them turned their attention to this side of the movement. If it were not for the many names of well-known people that figure on Green's advertisements and circulars, he would not have been able to collect in subscriptions a quarter of the money that has passed through his hands during the last four or five years; and when people's names are used for this purpose an obligation rests on them to see that the money is properly spent and properly accounted for. To all appearance, no one connected with the Committee has ever given a moment's thought to this subject, nor to the precise relation in which Bowden Green stands to his patrons and subscribers.

An advertisement offering "Teeth at Hospital Prices" has been appearing recently in the weekly press, applicants being directed to apply for letters to "Lord Haldon, Honorary Secretary, The Artificial Teeth Aid Society, Ltd., 89, New Oxford-street." I had not heard previously of the Artificial Teeth Aid Society, but from inquiries I have made from Somerset House, I find that this is not surprising, since the Society was only registered on February 7 last with a modest capital of £500. The gentlemen who are responsible for the company's existence include a mining engineer, a perfumer, a traveller, a cutler, an accountant, and a secretary, with not a dentist amongst them. It is stated in the memorandum of association that the object of the Society is to contract with registered dentists to attend in their own homes, or at local dispensaries, patients who shall be nominated by members of, or subscribers to the Society, for nothing, or at a reduced rate.

As yet no return of shareholders has been filed at Somerset House, so that I have been unable to ascertain whether any registered dentists are shareholders in this joint-stock endeavour to supply the public with teeth at hospital prices. The scheme, however, looks very like an ingenious dodge on the part of some worthy dentist or other to reap the advantages of advertising without shocking the sensibilities of his professional brethren. Personally, I have never been able to understand the ethical objection to dentists advertising their businesses in the ordinary way, but I can certainly see very grave objections to this method of getting hold of patients by means of introduction through the medium of mining engineers, perfumers, and cutlers, under the supposition that they will obtain exceptional terms at reduced rates.

I am surprised that Mr. Gibson Bowles's letter to the Chelsea Conservative Association in reply to a request for a subscription has not attracted more attention. He was long a shining light in the Conservative Party, although always retaining a certain amount of independence of judgment and action. The party fund, he says,

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was over £100,000 not many years ago, and it was at least £500,000 at the last general election, mainly derived from the sale of titles, and he not obscurely hints that in one case £250,000 was paid for a peerage, and £50,000 for a knighthood. According to him, most Conservative candidates pay their own election expenses, and only a small portion of them got a dole of a few hundreds at the last election, unless they happened to be needy Unionists, when it was more considerable. Mr. Bowles, therefore, suggested that as Unionist office holders, during their ten and a half years of office, received a total sum of £1,750,000, the Chelsea Conservative Association, if in want of funds, would do well to apply to these ex-office holders for a contribution.

If people like to subscribe to their party fund, and if the leaders of a party like to help themselves out of these subscriptions to meet their election expenses, these are matters which concern the party alone. As the Unionist Party contains many rich men it will always benefit by this, and this accounts for their persistent opposition to candidates being relieved of the cost of elections. But if what Mr. Bowles says in regard to large sums having been procured for party purposes by the sale of titles is true, this is a national scandal. We are apt to sneer at foreign titles because they can be bought. But we are the only country where not only a title, but the right to sit in one branch of the Legislature, are to be purchased. Some M.P. should make it his business to inquire into these allegations of Mr. Bowles, and unless they are absolutely and officially denied, the matter should be referred to a committee with full powers to examine witnesses.

The cheapest country for buying a title used to be Portugal. When a man is made a baron or a count there, his patent recites the service for which the grant is made. I was once in Portugal, and I had some curiosity to discover what were the services for which an Englishman of my acquaintance had been made a Portuguese Baron. I therefore looked the matter up, and I found that it was for having introduced into the country a new tree. There used to be another plan for becoming a baron. It appears that there is—or was then—a convent which once had large possessions. All its tenants were, by the fact of being tenants, barons. But the convent had lost its possessions with the exception of one farm. It had an agent in London. For a very moderate consideration, the agent let this farm to a would-be tenant. He therefore became a baron; and when he resigned the farm to the next applicant, he retained the title.

At present the cheapest mart of titles is the Papacy. A dukedom costs £5,000, a countship only a few hundreds. In the kingdom of Italy these titles are not officially recognised, as the Pope has ceased to be a territorial sovereignty. But they pass muster socially in Italy, and are recognised outside Italy. Before the King of Sardinia became King of Italy, Count Cavour, being in want of funds, proposed to the Chamber to sell hereditary countships for 10,000 fr. His proposal, however, was not accepted by the Chamber.

Personally, I see no reason why a State should not sell titles, provided that the money goes into the public coffers, and does not convey any legislative rights. Many would buy them, for, apart from the pleasure of being called "my Lord" or "Sir ——," a Peer when impecunious can always find an American young lady reeking of dollars to pay handsomely for being his wife. Thus money is brought into the country. This was the view of Frederick the Great. A Nabob, or an ex-pirate (it was never known what his calling and his nationality had been), named Neal, once visited Berlin in his day, and offered to take up his residence at Berlin if he were made a nobleman and received at Court. Frederick closed at once the bargain, and always particularly prided himself on having done a smart stroke of business.

The three months' visit of the Ameer of Afghanistan to India is a remarkable event, and one naturally wonders what will come of it. Indian Officialdom has exerted itself to give the visitor a good time and impress him favourably; and the length of his stay, even more than the effusive expressions with which he bids the country good-bye, seems to indicate that in both respects the effort has been successful. There is just a danger that it may have been too successful. If the Ameer were so deeply impressed with all that he has seen as to set about Europeanising his own country, he might soon find himself in trouble at home. The same result may follow from his becoming suspected of a desire for too intimate relations with the Indian Government and British officials. The strongest characteristic of the Afghans, so far as we are concerned, is their intense love of their own independence. In spite of all professions of friendship, the average Afghan is bound to cherish a certain suspicion of British designs on his country. It is a risky thing, therefore, for their ruler to profess too warm an affection for his next-door neighbour, or too strong an admiration for men and things British.

Our policy towards the Ameer and his subjects should be to cultivate their confidence rather than to make overtures for their friendship. When they have got to understand that we cherish no secret designs on their independence, they will never be our enemies, as long as we are strong enough to command their respect, and more than this we do not want of them. At the bottom of all our relations with Afghanistan is, of course, the

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bogey of a Russian invasion of India. The Afghans have no motive for loving Russia more than England. With the history of all their Asiatic neighbours before their eyes, their natural disposition must be to regard both with equal suspicion and unfriendliness. The only motive which could induce them to facilitate the passage of a Russian army through their country is that they have more to fear from Great Britain than Russia. Our business is to disabuse their minds of any such fear, and this can only be done by leaving them severely alone.

The North Tyrone election shows any student of electoral statistics that the gilt is pretty well off the Ministerial gingerbread by this time, and it is astonishing that the Opposition have not been more jubilant over it. A majority of nine has been pulled down to seven—a reduction of over 20 per cent. in twelve months. A few more nasty knocks of this kind, and where will the Government be?

Suppose that females should be sent
To sit and speak in Parliament.
A "talking-shop" it was before;
But with the ladies there——Oh, Lor!

Women's Suffrage has been "talked out" for the present—not altogether an inappropriate fate for it. The speeches on Mr. Dickinson's Bill show, as usual, that there are a certain number of men in the House of Commons who believe that the social advancement and moral elevation of women are in some way connected with their admission to political power. But the general reception and the fate of the Bill show that the overwhelming majority have no such faith in their hearts, even though some of them may have rendered homage to it with their lips.

I said last week that I would endeavour to obtain particulars of the women's petitions against the suffrage now in circulation. One of these was presented to Parliament last week, but I understand that signatures are still being received, and there is no reason why they should not be; on the contrary, it seems highly desirable that every effort should be made to obtain the fullest possible expression of the opinion of the enormous majority of women who are strongly opposed to the movement, and as they are numbered by hundreds of thousands, this must necessarily be a matter of time and labour. Miss E. M. K. Taylor, 30, Hyde Park-street, London, W., is the hon. secretary of this movement, and I would recommend all ladies who desire to "make their voices heard" to communicate with her. The following is the text of the petition or protest:—

We, the undersigned, fully realising the importance and value of Women's Work in our National Life—especially in Education and the care of the Poor—protest against Parliamentary Suffrage being granted to women, believing it would destroy rather than add to their real influence in their own sphere of work in the world.

THE VINDICTIVE FARMER.

A Farmer once a Pony had,
Of Manners most exceeding bad,
Who'd shy, and jib, and plunge, and kick—
In fact, show every vicious Trick.
'Twas vain his Owner lashed and cut,
Nay, gave him e'en the Whip-Stock's Butt;
The more by Stripes he tried to tame,
The worse that stubborn Brute became.
At length, with vengeful Anger rife,
The frantic Farmer drew his Knife:
"Dang 'un, since whipping bean't no Cure,
I'll cut 'un's Hamstrings through, for sure;
And then, I guess, 'tis plain as plain,
He'll never jib nor kick again."
While thus he spake, there chanced to pass
A sober, mild-eyed Quaker Lass,
Who, halting there, surveyed the Scene
With pained and disapproving Mien:
"Thee'lt never, Friend," exclaimed the Maid,
"Use on thy Colt yon cruel Blade?"
"Aye, but I will," the Farmer cried,
As wrathful he his Pony eyed.
"I've stood his Nonsense long enough,
And now I mean the Brute to hough;
For that's the only Means, I says,
To cure 'un of his kicking Ways!"
"Cure!" cried the Lass. "Nay, worthy Friend,
To cure is not to maim, but mend.
If houghed, I own, no more he'll kick,
Nor play thee other vicious Trick;
But neither will he draw thy Cart,
Thus crippled, to the weekly Mart.
In brief, thee'lt kill *his Vices*, true;
But then, thee'lt kill HIS USES, too!"

Moral.

While Penal Laws should, doubtless, aim
The Criminal and Rogue to tame,
They so endeavour should to tame him
As not to ruin, but reclaim him.

SCRUTATOR.

PEACE, RETRENCHMENT, AND—THE HAGUE

THE last week's debates on the Naval Estimates have resolved themselves simply into a discussion whether the Navy is or is not stronger to-day, or will or will not be stronger during the coming year, than under the late Government. The spokesmen on the Government side maintain the affirmative proposition, the representatives of the late Government, the negative. Where the truth lies as between the two no man can decide—not even an expert, for the experts disagree, and there is no means by which the question can ever be brought to the test. The average man can, therefore, take little interest in the discussion, nor has he any occasion to, so long as he can see for himself that we have a vastly greater preponderance of naval force over any possible enemy than we have ever had before, and so long as even those who make it their business to "crab" this force scarcely deny that it is equal to those of any two possible enemies. The one question which might be discussed with advantage to the ordinary workaday Briton, the question whether this force is in excess of any national requirement that can be reasonably foreseen, is the one question which no one in the House of Commons seems disposed

THE LUXURY OF A BATH is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

to raise. The First Lord of the Admiralty, not having yet been heard on the subject in Parliament, took the opportunity when he was speaking at Oxford on Saturday to declare emphatically that the "two-power standard"—now accepted as meaning a two power standard with a handsome percentage over—is being maintained, and will be maintained at all costs; and this seems to be the view of our naval policy most generally accepted.

I have never myself understood on what principle the United Kingdom and the Empire require a greater naval strength in comparison with that of foreign nations than has been deemed necessary in any previous period of our history. On the contrary, seeing that our own experience and that of all foreign nations has shown that success at sea has no necessary relation to the size and number of ships, it appears to me to be a mischievous delusion. When we cease to be more than a match, man for man and ton for ton, for any nation we may have to fight at sea, I believe that the days of our naval supremacy are practically ended, and that no mere multiplication of men and tonnage will prolong its existence for any time worth talking about. In this I may be, for the moment, a voice crying in the wilderness. But for the moment the voice ought not to fall wholly on deaf ears, because so many people in this country and abroad are looking anxiously towards the proceedings of the forthcoming conference at The Hague, and the part which Great Britain is to play there. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has just told the world that our superiority in naval armaments implies no challenge to any other power, and has confidently appealed to the world to recognise that it has no aim or tendency but the maintenance of peace. When Napoleon was at St. Helena, he explained to the faithful who shared his exile that he had been misunderstood, and that he had merely endeavoured to establish a sort of French hegemony in the world in order to render wars impossible in the future. It is possible that he may have had such an aspiration loosely floating in his mind, and the result would unquestionably have been secured had France been able to become the world's ruler, supported by a physical force which would have rendered all resistance to her behests impossible. But what nation would have trusted France with such a supremacy, and counted on her invariably using it in the general interest?

I entirely sympathise with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's desire to effect a general reduction of armaments. It is sad to think of the amount that is annually wasted in such unremunerative expenditure. Moreover, these huge armies and navies are themselves a cause of war. They encourage a state of mind which is antagonistic to peace. I see no objection to general disarmament being discussed at the Hague Conference, for such discussion will call attention to its desirability. But until some one has brought forward some concrete plan for a general scheme of disarmament, I believe that the suggestion will remain a counsel of perfection. Disarmament will only be the result of each nation coming to the conclusion that it cannot afford to spend the present sums in warding off possible dangers. Wars, and the maintenance of vast armaments, are so ruinous, and so injurious to the well-being of a community, that in the end the workers and toilers will insist upon reductions in war budgets. But this will never be the outcome of an arrangement between nations limiting the amount of the expenditure of each, for each will put forward some special plea for its forces being proportionately greater than those of its neighbours.

Sir Henry himself is really doing this in our case. He demands that the principle should be generally recognised that our Navy is to give us a practical superiority on the high seas, and he pleads that we desire no conquests, and that we should only use this superiority in the interests of all. In the past, it is certain that we have not done this. Some hundred or more years ago we put forward such pretensions, based upon our naval supremacy, that two successive leagues of neutrals to defend their rights against us were formed. When, after the peace of Amiens, war again broke out between us and France, we declared, in defiance of what was then recognised as international law, that all enemies' vessels on the high seas were good prizes, although they had received no notification of the state of war; and this was followed by the United States going to war with us because we insisted on exercising the right to search all neutral vessels and to seize all on board of them that we asserted were British subjects, and incorporate them in our Navy. But even assuming that we have recognised the illegality of such courses, and that they are not likely to be renewed, let us fairly consider what is the meaning of a supremacy on the high seas. It means that we have the power to destroy the trade and commerce of any other country with which we may go to war. There was a time when pretty well all trade and commerce were in our hands. At present many other nations compete with us. They have learnt that their prosperity is dependent upon production of goods, and upon finding a market in which to sell them. In this way alone can they become wealthy. Is it likely, then, that they will agree, as part of a plan of general disarmament, that their prosperity shall be dependent on our goodwill, because, unlike other nations, we are never likely to abuse this maritime supremacy? Moreover, ships of war are now huge floating fortresses. These fortresses can be moved by steam to any part of the world, and their presence on the shores of an enemy would almost enable their possessor to dictate his own terms. We are already in possession of the high road to the East. We could close the Suez Canal, and it is certain that no European maritime nation would be able to send a fleet or to transport an army to the East viâ the Cape route. For us, therefore, to base our proposal for disarmament upon an admission by foreign powers that we are to stereotype this state of things, and that we and they are to agree that we will each only build vessels to maintain the present naval relations between them and us, seems to me hardly a practical proposal to which they would assent.

Sir Henry points to our just now spending a little less on our Navy than we did a year ago. True. But what if we look back ten or twenty years?

In 1887 the Naval Estimates were a trifle over twelve millions. In 1897 they were twenty-two millions. In 1907 they are thirty-one millions. Moreover, our Government insists, as did its predecessor before it, that though the cost has recently been reduced, our naval strength—the only matter that a foreign Power is concerned about—is as great to-day as three years ago, when the year's bill came to thirty-six millions. This increase of naval armaments, it must be remembered, has been accompanied by increases in the Army, on nearly as big a scale in point of expenditure, though the visible results in numbers and efficiency are less evident. In 1887 the Army Estimates were eighteen millions, and half a million of the money voted was not expended. For the following ten years the sum remained about the same. Then came the South African War, which left our peace expenditure for two or three years at thirty millions or over. It has now got back to twenty-seven millions, but is still half as much again as in 1897; and these figures do not include the cost of the Indian Army. Taking Navy and Home Army together the figures for the twenty years stand thus: 1887, thirty-one millions; 1897, forty millions; 1907, fifty-nine millions. No other Power has made anything like these increases in its naval and military budgets during the same period. For us, who have set the example of such huge inflation of expenditure and effective strength, to ask other nations to reduce their armaments, while consenting to ours being maintained on the present scale, seems to be making a suggestion that we know would be declined. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's proposal reminds me of La Fontaine's fable of the wolf who proposed to a flock of sheep to assume the garb of a shepherd, and to defend it against the evil designs of all beasts of prey. I do not believe that foreign Powers will ever agree to a reduction of armaments based upon some mysterious rule of three. But of this I am certain: they will never consent to a permanent engagement in regard to the size of navies which will assure the absolute supremacy on the high seas of any one of them. If it be correct that such a supremacy is necessary for our security, and if we are ready to pay for it, I think it very probable that our supremacy will not be contested, because we are a very rich nation. But between the grudging acquiescence of foreign nations in acceptance of our supremacy by force of necessity and the formal recognition of it by an international agreement there is a very wide difference.

A PHYSICIAN *MALGRÉ LUI*.

A most extraordinary line of action has been taken by the General Medical Council in the case of Dr. John Shaw, which was dealt with in Truth of February 13 and 20. It will be remembered that Dr. Shaw is at issue with the prevalent opinion of the profession as to the result of operating in cases of fibroid tumour; that, having found himself boycotted in the attempt to promulgate his views through the ordinary professional channels, he embodied them in a book avowedly addressed to the lay public; that he was called upon by the Royal College of Physicians, of which he was a member, to explain his conduct in publishing this book, the College being of opinion that an appeal to lay opinion was irregular conduct on the part of one of its members; and that thereupon Dr. Shaw returned his diploma to the Royal College of Physicians, and requested the Registrar of the General Medical Council to remove his name from the Medical Register, where it had been for thirty years, his object being to wage war in the cause which he had taken up with a free hand, and untrammelled by any consideration of professional propriety. All this I have already dealt with. We come now to the next stage in the case.

Dr. Shaw's request for the removal of his name from the register was made on January 19. The official reply on January 21 was that in accordance with the standing orders of the General Medical Council, the licensing bodies whose qualifications Dr. Shaw held would be asked if they had any objection to his name being removed, and the matter would "then be brought before the proper authorities of this Council." It thus appears that it does not rest with a registered practitioner to remove his name spontaneously from the Medical Register. The bodies whose qualifications he holds must first be consulted, and have a *locus standi* to object to the withdrawal of his name. The next communication which Dr. Shaw received carried the matter a good deal further. Here it is:—

General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom,
299, Oxford-street, London, W.,
[No. 16,980.] 27th February, 1907.

John Shaw, Esq., M.D.,
32, New Cavendish-street, W.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 19th January was considered by the Executive Committee of the Council on 25th inst., and I was directed to inform you that, as information has been received that your resignation of the membership of the Royal College of Physicians of London has been accepted by that College, I have been directed to erase that qualification from the register; but that, in view of the statement in your letter, the Committee was not prepared to accede to your request for the erasure of your name from the Medical Register, but have referred the application to the General Council, by which it will be considered at the session to be held in May next.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. E. Allen, Registrar.

Dr. Shaw at once inquired what statement in his letter was here referred to, and on what grounds such statement was regarded as a reason for refusing to comply with his request. In his first letter to the Registrar, he had asked for information as to the legal effect of the removal of his name, giving as his reason, "as I must, of course, continue to earn my livelihood from the practice of my profession as an unregistered practitioner." He was now informed by the Registrar that these words were the statement referred to in the above letter of February 19 as the reason why the Executive Committee could not accede to his request for the removal of his name. To this explanation were added the somewhat significant words, "I am not authorised to state further the grounds on which the Executive referred the matter to the General Council." Dr. Shaw replied to this letter at considerable length, stating fully his position and his reasons for the course he had taken; but concluding by a formal withdrawal of his request for the removal of his name from the register, "in order that the General Medical Council shall not shirk the issues by eventually accepting my resignation."

The situation thus created is decidedly curious, and the next development may be awaited with interest both by the medical profession and the public. Dr.

Shaw's last letter was only written on March 6, and the Executive Committee of the G.M.C. must necessarily think it over before an answer can be given. If they accept the withdrawal of Dr. Shaw's request, there must be a temporary pause in the hostilities, and it will remain to be seen whether any professional body will take action for the compulsory removal of Dr. Shaw's name from the register. Although he has resigned his membership of the Royal College of Physicians, and this qualification has been struck off the registration of his name, as above mentioned, he retains, of course, his degree of M.D. of London. It is not likely that the University of London will enter the field as a combatant; but it may be that the Royal College of Physicians may move further, having failed to extract from Dr. Shaw an explanation of his unprofessional conduct; or it may be that the General Medical Council, having the whole of the facts before it, may accept the challenge which Dr. Shaw has delivered and proceed of its own motion to strike his name off the register, notwithstanding his withdrawal of his request for its removal. Up to the present, however, the disposition to fight the question seems rather more pronounced on Dr. Shaw's side than on the other. In the meantime, we have the extraordinary spectacle of a medical man striving to remove his name from the register, and baulked by the General Medical Council itself, through its Executive Committee. But for his first withdrawal of his request, Dr. Shaw would be now almost literally a *médecin malgré lui*—a registered practitioner in spite of himself. The original refusal to comply with his request until the Royal College of Physicians had been consulted is perhaps not inexplicable or indefensible. The Council could not allow a man to retire voluntarily from the official ranks of the profession while there was a possibility that questions were pending which might involve his retirement compulsorily. But after the College of Physicians was known to have accepted the resignation of the Doctor's diploma, it is difficult to see what right the Council, or its executive representatives, have to make any difficulty about his retirement. The *reason* for this action the Executive Committee have themselves stated. Dr. Shaw has admitted that he proposes to continue the practice of his profession as an unregistered man. But this he has a perfect legal right to do. That the General Medical Council should have power to prevent him from practising as an unregistered man and compel him to remain on the register whether he desires it or not, seems an outrageous proposition. Why should the Executive Committee put it forward? Apparently because it is desired, if possible, to expose Dr. Shaw to the slur of having been struck off the register compulsorily—a slur which will, of course, prejudice him in any attempts he may make to continue in practice. There is no other visible motive for throwing obstacles in the way of his voluntary retirement and referring the matter to the consideration of the Council itself at a date about three months distant. Dr. Shaw has now given the professional authorities an opportunity of expelling him from the ranks of registered practitioners if they desire it. But this does not in the least alter the fact that they have already manifested a desire to kick him out if they can, in preference to allowing him to depart in peace. It is the manifestation of this desire which deserves notice, and which is so thoroughly in keeping with all that has previously transpired in regard to the attitude of the professional authorities in this case.

THE THEATRES.

"The Great Conspiracy," at the Duke of York's.

The power of the Napoleonic legend to attract and fascinate is shown by the immense literature in fiction—history, and half-and-half—which has grown up around the greatest conqueror of modern times. In the drama also this influence has been often revealed, and most short men, squat or slim, feel on their best days that they have about them something of Napoleon. Only once have I seen on the stage what struck me as a colourable reflection of an incident in Napoleon's career. That was the French version of "Madame Sans-Gêne," grotesque and even caricature in parts, yet more near to reality than many a pompous display, adorned with the bees and the N.s.

In "The Great Conspiracy" we have an adaptation by Madeline Lucette Ryley of Pierre Berton's drama. It is in the grand panjandrum style; that is, much parade, many marshals, and ladies of the Napoleon Court in gorgeous dresses. The story is one which is quite new to me, and I should imagine to most readers of history. Psychologically, no doubt, many aristocrats, like the Marquis de Tallemont, would have enjoyed giving Napoleon his death in any way they could, and the explosion at the end of the first act was a very probable expression of opinion, though I am not aware to what period of his career it refers. This does not materially affect the play, and, indeed, does not at all matter, as Miss Ryley has made of the Bonaparte of M. Berton, Napoleon, with the object of affording to elderly Mr. John Hare a suitable part. The attempt to blow up the Emperor does not succeed in the play, and, indeed, it may be doubted whether at any time a dramatist or his adapter will be found sufficiently bold to abolish St. Helena. But in "The Great Conspiracy" plotting continues throughout, and Miss Irene Vanbrugh, "La Belle Marseillaise," after having been married much against her will to Crisenoy, has an opportunity for a fine bit of acting when she prevents the Emperor from taking snuff from the fatal box. Her objection to sudden marriage with Crisenoy is reasonable enough, seeing that her husband still lives, but this objection is waived for reasons political. The police plays, of course, a great part in this drama, and we are alternately bidden to laugh at the stupidity of Regnier, Minister of Justice, and to admire the astuteness of Fouché (presumably not yet Duc d'Otrante), well played by Mr. Robertshaw.

Napoleon, in the hands of Mr. Hare, was a very stern, diplomatic personage; much as one would suppose Metternich to have played the part at private theatricals after the Congress of Vienna. Private theatricals were not the vogue at the beginning of last century, and Metternich would not have played in them, if they had been. But Napoleon, who died young considering his career—just over fifty—was by all accounts a much more

volcanic personage than Mr. Hare makes of him. Mr. Hare gives him plenty of dignity, but not enough of the devil.

The play does not need serious analysis, so far as the plot is concerned, and one must fall back upon the playing rather than the play, if one is to be interested in "The Great Conspiracy." Napoleon would not have taken more than a second to discover by the voice and manner of "La Belle Marseillaise" in the last act, that something was wrong about his snuff-box. But he quite fails in this, thereby giving to Mr. John Hare and Miss Irene Vanbrugh their chief opportunity for a pretty piece of playing.

Garrick Theatre.

The Sheridan of the Garrick Theatre is not the youthful dramatist with whom most people are acquainted, but, as has been abundantly pointed out, Miss Unger's Sheridan has struck forty. This does not, however, in the least affect his mercurial temperament, and his wit is as ready as ever. In fact, he is constantly saying things which have reference to earlier periods of his life, and a constant reminder of happy marriage faces him in the portrait of his first wife. This portrait of Miss Linley is the cynosure of Esther Ogle's eyes, and it does not take long to ascertain the lines on which the comedy is going to run. Tom Sheridan the son is to be eclipsed by his brilliant father, and the heart of the beautiful Miss Ogle is to be won by the celebrated dramatist and widower, with one or two slight bars leaped on the way. The dialogue, apart from the numerous quotations of old jokes, which are deftly introduced, is without distinction, yet serves well enough the purposes of the play. Peers did not talk like Lord Cray in Sheridan's day, any more than in ours; they did not make crude plots to betray their friends and benefactors in the way that Lord Cray does; but they have done so for a long time on the stage, and so, doubtless, all is well. Actresses of the period must have been very alarming if they behaved and talked as loudly as did Kitty Montmorency, and they must have also been less ambitious than in our day, if they philosophically descended to the level of the hostess of an inn. Yet Miss Nancy Price was doubtless bidden to accentuate as she does, that the contrast with the refinement of Miss A. Carlisle's Esther Ogle may be more apparent. Apart from Mr. Bourchier, who is well suited in the part of Sheridan, save that he does not convey the feeling of being very sincere in his wooing, there are some fine actors, such as Mr. Sydney Valentine, who has to be very angry with Sheridan in mistake for his son, and there is Mr. C. V. France, who has less chance than Mr. Valentine of showing his powers, which are known to be very considerable. Mr. Keightley and Mr. Bristowe, as respectively the scheming peer and the messenger from the bank who runs stammering after Sheridan with an order for £15,000, which he fails to deliver till the last act, were neither of them effective. But the latter, at any rate, is so silly a conception that I cannot imagine any one making it entertaining. Yet there can be no doubt that this comedy is of a sort that entertains many simple folk. It has no value as dramatic literature, save that it gives opportunities to Mr. Bourchier and others for the display of their undoubted talents. The ideal is to get the two—play and playing; here we have the latter, and must, I suppose, be thankful with due moderation.

"John Glayde's Honour," at the St. James's Theatre.

This new play by Mr. Sutro combines the two qualities of which I found one lacking in the above-mentioned productions. "John Glayde's Honour" gives the actor his full opportunity, and does not, as in those other plays, sacrifice for this purpose anything of probability. The dialogue here differs as chalk from cheese from that sort of dialogue which resembles nothing so much as those labels marked with a sentiment that issue from the mouths of politicians in the cartoons of the eighteenth century. Mr. Sutro has evidently studied most carefully his environment. Almost in the setting of the first act, with its elegant arrangements for luxurious living and the bird's-eye view of Paris from that upper story of the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, one feels the sort of persons with whom we are to have the brief traffic of the stage. They soon, however, clear up any floating doubts that may remain. Muriel Glayde, the wife of the millionaire who has for so long left her to her own devices, stands forth brilliantly characterised by the art of Mr. Sutro combined with that of Miss Eva Moore. Not wholly superficial, she is capable of a "grande passion," and in the person of the young artist she has evidently found it. Over against her nervous existence stands that of her husband, John Glayde, the neglectful millionaire, who, at the end of the act, attempts to win back his wife's affection, which he has so wilfully alienated through neglect. The play proceeds in a perfectly orderly manner toward its conclusion, for in the second act we find Mr. Glayde at deadly grips both with his young rival in his wife's affections and with a great financial combination against him. Here, it is that Mr. Sutro has shown us real mastery of his material, made of John Glayde so living a personage that I have never seen Mr. Alexander to better advantage, and in the personage of the hard, business-like clerk, admirably incarnated by Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, a being almost crude for realism. The cross-purposes and cross-dialogue of this act are very interesting to hear, and the devices by which Mr. Sutro introduces the young artist and the wife, and contrives that these two shall have a passionate love-scene while Mr. Glayde is out of the room sending off cables, show consummate knowledge applied. Business and love intermixed inextricably: that is the material of the second act; and in the third there is no sense of flagging, seeing that it concludes with that scene of exquisite perfidy, so true of such a woman, in which Mrs. Glayde cajoles her husband into the belief that she has definitely abandoned her intrigue, at the very moment when she is about to fly with her lover. In the last act Mr. Sutro reveals to us an unexpected side of the character of John Glayde. Having surprised his wife on the point of departure with her lover, he does all mortal man can do to persuade

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her to give him up. She refuses absolutely to alter her course of conduct. The young artist appears, and she and the audience alike, apprehend violence on the part of John Glayde. Not at all; he has recognised the inevitable, and now acquiesces in it. In a few brief words, John Glayde tells his wife that she is free, for he will divorce her, and yet more, that he will make her an adequate allowance. Such magnanimity certainly surprises, but I feel that Mr. Sutro probably knows a great deal more about the inner workings of his hero's mind, with whom he has lived so long, than can one who sees him for the first time.

There can be no doubt that "John Glayde's Honour" adds largely to Mr. Sutro's reputation as a dramatist. His play will be witnessed by many thousands of people, and whatever may be said of its other qualities, none can deny to it those great ones of observation, perspicuity, and concision. The playing was throughout very good. Among others, Messrs. M. Lang, Graham Browne, and Norman Forbes all distinguished themselves, and Miss Henrietta Watson gave to the unsympathetic part of the Princesse its share of interest.

* * * * *

At the Bechstein Hall, Miss Muriel Matter's recitation of various poems by D. G. Rossetti, Robert Browning, and others of our well-known names, was marked by a singular perfection both in perception and expression. The refined art of Rossetti stood out in marked contrast to the somewhat crude appeal to the emotions of Lindsay Gordon's "Stock-Rider."

* * * * *

Mrs. Patrick Campbell is an old friend of Ibsen, and much more in her element as an extractor of the quintessence of Hedda Gabler than as milkmaid to Mr. Hall Caine. The performance of Ibsen's play at the Court Theatre ranks high among the many interesting revivals I have witnessed at the Court under the present management. Apart from Mrs. Campbell, whose work on this occasion was on a par with the performance of Miss Elizabeth Robins, which is a memory of the past, I admired especially the Tesman of Mr. Trevor Lowe. But it seems invidious to single out names in a cast which had the greatest of qualities —unity—though I cannot forbear from including Miss Marian Lea's name. As Thea, the excitable, the loving, this actress gave a very fine performance, and the object of her affections found in Mr. Lawrence Irving always an adequate explanation.

* * * * *

At the Aldwych Theatre "Nelly Neil" has reached and passed its fiftieth performance. Great changes have been made in the play, though the first act is still too full and taken too slowly. Mr. Fred Wright, jun. (Donetti), has come as an able auxiliary to Mr. Coyne, whom I noticed particularly on the occasion of the first performance. The chief alterations are in the last act with its lively scene between the police and the Suffragettes, and if the whole entertainment could be taken as rapidly as the arrests of the militant ladies, I believe "Nelly Neil" would go with a snap. Miss Edna May plays and sings as winsomely as ever, and Miss Kitty Gordon scores a genuine success with her song of the cigarette.

NOTES FROM PARIS

LADY MUSICAL CONDUCTORS.

THE example of Prince Robert de Broglie has, it seems, emboldened the Princesse Armande de Polignac to conduct the orchestra at the Nice Opera House. There is but one lady named Armande in the Polignac family; she is the eldest daughter of Prince Camille de Polignac and Marie Langenberger, his first wife, who was said to be a professional musician. She has been the wife for the last eleven or twelve years of Comte Chabannes-la-Palice, and would now be about thirty. Her father's second wife was a Miss Margaret Knight, of Wolverley. Her family lived for some years at the long, roomy, and not very picturesque château overlooking the pond-like spring-head from which Le Loiret issues a navigable river. Bolingbroke resided there through the time of his exile, and had Voltaire and other bright wits down from Paris to cheat the tedium of the long summer days. Neither of Miss Knight's two daughters, Mabel or Agnès de Polignac, can be the orchestra leader.

All the society heavy swells of Nice went to encourage Mme. Armande de Polignac on the evening of her début as a conductor. The opera was "Cavalleria Rusticana." A diamond merchant, who also went, tells me that he never saw a more brilliant display of the gems in which he deals. He describes the appearance of the débutante as "very English," and speaks of her as "having a slight English accent, but with a musical voice and more breadth of diction than one is used to in London drawing-rooms." This would apply to Armande, née Princesse de Polignac, who passed twelve years under the care of Miss Knight. The eldest half-sister, Princesse Mabel, is barely twenty. The description is, however, applicable to her of a "young shy miss, at once determined and blushing, slender as a willow but stiff and bolt upright, seemingly gifted with a head, and correct in all respects as the young nobleman who moves the Address in the House of Lords."

The Chabannes de la Palice are scarcely in the spirit of a time that gives us women cabbies, lady advocates, doctresses, and a feminist Government. They belong to the Court of Marie Amélie and still hang round the d'Orléans. The Polignacs have very much gone with the tide in the marriages of the junior scions. The late Prince Alphonse did not hesitate to become the son-in-law of Mirès of shady memory, and the patron, by the way, of the late Daniel Iffla, otherwise Osris. Prince Edmond, his brother, is husband of Winaretta Singer, whose opulence is due to the paternal sewing machine.

Mme. Armande de Polignac, as she is styled on the bill of the Nice Opera House, met with an enthusiastic reception before she took her place in front of the footlights. The audience were mostly British and American. "How do you know they were?" In this way. The greater part of the gentlemen clapped their hands in cadence. One might feel sure that all who tapped the floor with their canes or the heels of their boots were French.

Mme. Armande wore a black dress of an elegantly

easy fit, and loose from the waist up. It afforded the freest play to the arms, but gave her a rather maypole figure, which, however, had character, and suited the part she played. She had no jewels save a neat brooch of no great value. Her small, narrow hands helped the effects of the conductor's wand.

Victor Hugo's beloved friend, Mlle. Louise Bertin (daughter of Bertin of the "Débats"), conducted the orchestra at the Paris Opera House, when her "Esmeralda" was on there. She laboured under the terrible disadvantage of being deformed. Victor Hugo had helped her with the libretto, which she took from his "Notre Dame de Paris." His enemies spoke of her as belonging to the collection of monsters in that astounding novel. A Royalist reviewer saw in her a sister of the hunchback Quasimodo. A Mme. Thys conducted concert orchestras with distinction. She had the advantage of a fine, freely grown and developed figure, all ease and harmony, and of a magnetic personality.

I received nothing less than a shock on learning of the death of my dear and highly-valued friend, the Hon. Dr. Alan Herbert, with whom I had been acquainted for very many years. He was quite unlike his brothers, the late Earl of Carnarvon and the Hon. Auberon Herbert, but as perfect in his gentlemanly qualities and delicate moral sense as either. His resemblance to his mother, a Countess of Carnarvon, could not be more striking than that of his younger brother to their aunt, the late Countess of Suffolk, the adored mother-in-law of the present Countess-Dowager of Suffolk. This aunt had a high-strung nature that ran into idealism—pure, tender, and one may almost say heavenly—loved flowers, birds, children, and had a heart that bled for the houseless and the homeless. I do not think she left a descendant who resembled her in a remarkable degree. But I thought her rather the spiritual mother and the feminine prototype than the aunt of Mr. Auberon Herbert. She created the garden side of the grounds in which the Jacobean house of Charlton Park stands. The park is majestic, rich, soft, "the Countess's garden" a sweet paradise. Her sensibility might have made her life too painful had she not found an anæsthetic in her gardening operations. The Countess of Carnarvon had also keen and lively sensibilities, but balanced by a fine judgment and practical good sense. She lost her husband when her children were young, and devoted herself to their education, bringing them up according to the ideas of Maria Edgeworth. They were taught never to look to patronage, but to their own efforts. She often expressed before them contempt for human barnacles and sprigs of nobility who sought to live in sloth and comfort at the expense of the hard-working. They might not have the reward of wealth, but they would have the true respect of others and the approval of their own consciences. Her children drank in her teachings, but assimilated them differently. All had tender hearts, a passion for justice, love of truth. But the Doctor best agreed with the conditions and the spirit of his time. His feelings were wrapped up. He could enjoy the refined epicureanism of Paris, which is really a fine flower of humanism, and he enjoyed in his somewhat shy way the pleasures of friendship. I never knew any one who had a more lucid perception of scientific truth, or could better unravel complex and perplexing questions. The last time I had a long talk with him was as he took me home from a dinner at the house of an American lady in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne. He spoke with enthusiasm of the delicious Paris of former days—an active, lively Paris, but never in a hurry, and not merely the fountain-head of fashion, elegance, art, but science and high literature. He remained faithful to the boulevards and the Champs Elysées. They had completely changed, except in the ground plan as traced on the map of Paris. He pointed out the site of the house (now replaced by a Pelmonte palace) where as a student he made chums with another future doctor, an American named Curtis, both living the life of incomparable Paris, such as it then was.

This Englishman abroad, in becoming so Parisian, lost no English quality or peculiarity. He never married, seemed very well-off, lived with quiet dignity and charming amiability, and took an almost paternal interest in the Hertford Hospital. It was he and a Dr. Shepmel who inspired Sir Richard Wallace with the idea and desire to found and endow it. Dr. Herbert drew up the scheme and the plan for the architect. It is for British subjects of the old country and colonies, without distinction. In the experimental stage Dr. Herbert had only to say: "Sir Richard, we want such and such a sum." A cheque for the amount came by return of post. Lady Wallace fulfilled in a cheerful spirit the clause in her husband's will enjoining his executors to keep up the Hertford Hospital on the scale on which it had been kept up in his own lifetime. Since her death the disposition has been less cheerful.

Dr. Herbert had the virtue of hospitality. He often gave dinners, and, I should say, at a rather heavy expense, the plate, set out, and service being in the best French style, with, however, a snugness that bespoke his English ancestry. As a host he had a cheerful manner, and chatted pleasantly, with just a point of sly humour. Believing that human beings must learn from their own experience, he rather wished to *improve* than *reform* the world, but thought we owed something to the quixotic people, though in our delicately adjusted and very complex human societies they often are a cause of wreckage and ravage. They sometimes reminded him of children who tear open the rosebud to make the rose it holds bloom. Among the English friends and relatives of Dr. Herbert whom I met at his table were Eveline, Countess of Portsmouth, a very remarkable woman, though not setting up to be so; Lady Gwendolen Herbert; different Cowpers who had been brought up under the eye of Lord and Lady Palmerston; Lord Carnarvon; Sir Francis Plunket; Lord and Lady Burghclere—the niece of whom he felt so proud as a *mignonne* piece of perfection and an authoress who never suffered her fingers to be stained with ink; Sir Bruce and Lady Seton; the late Lord Goschen and his son, with *illustrissimi* of the Royal Society and Institute. He did not generally mix French with English company, but, as he looked on me as being Parisianised in feeling, made an exception.

After one of my visits to Ashley Arnewood, the New Forest home of Mr. Auberon and Lady Florence Herbert, the Doctor called to ask whether I had found them all well. I must have greatly pleased him in telling him how like the youngest boy, now Lord Lucas, was to him. He rubbed his hands with pleasure, and, indeed, looked quite joyful. He then said: "I must go soon to visit them all and to judge for myself as to the likeness you speak of." He then spoke of Christmas family parties, which he used to attend as a small boy at Charlton Park. Dr. Alan patted his Carnarvon nephew on the back for going in, as an art collector, for the pictorial advertisements on the walls of Paris, especially those of Cheret, for having a sceptical mind with dealers, and for entirely following his own taste.

Maeterlinck will soon be one of the dramatic authors who have their homes in the country and the mere *pied à terre* in Paris, a growing practice due to the motor. He is now the owner of the ruined abbey of Sainte Wandrille-en-Caux, and of the Seine-side farm on which it now stands. While the work goes on of restoring the ruins, the glorifier of the bees will stay at the farmhouse. There he can pursue his studies in natural history and in Norman characteristics. He can also oversee the restoration of the Abbey. His ideas of snugness are Belgian. Maeterlinck thinks them compatible with the dignity of Gothic architecture as it evolved towards the close of the fifteenth century and the beginning of the sixteenth. There is an air of comfort in the Louis XII. part of the Château de Blois and in the Hotel de Cluny, the dower residence of the last wife of Louis XII., an English Princess.

It is agreed to hold the coming wedding of M. Francis de Croisset and Mlle. Dietz-Monnin as a Parisian event. The fable that the bridegroom had asked to pass into the church on that occasion through the waters of baptism had not even the colour of probability. The announcement that Mme. Jeanne Granier has offered to be M. Croisset's godmother kept at least probability in view. He owes to her much of his early success, and he has helped to prolong her perennial youth. The truth is that if M. de Croisset's father is a Belgian Jew, his mother is a British Catholic. She had him christened before he was a week old, and in due time confirmed and admitted to the First Communion. M. de Croisset is handsome, dresses with smart elegance, and, under the air of a man of fashion, is very serious. His fiancée belongs to a Protestant family, and is the daughter, also, of a Catholic mother—a rare thing in a French Protestant community. The semi-Judaism of her future husband pleases the Dietz-Monnin connection. There is hardly any difference between Liberal Protestants and Liberal Jews.

The diamond merchant whom I have just quoted gives this bit of interesting information. "Diamonds were never so plentiful as now, and yet never so dear." "How do you account for that?" "By the great diffusion of wealth and the growing power of women. A Porgès or a Cecil Rhodes cannot deck himself out like a Shah of Persia. His diamonds must be used to adorn the necks of the other sex. Brazilians, not to be laughed at by Parisian satirists, have given up sticking brilliants in their shirt-fronts and cravats. No lady whose husband is at all rich will now wear paste. Just before the Carnival I went to a Trades' Company ball. This company is not famous for its wealth. Well, none of the ladies, so far as I could see, wore paste, and there were brilliants on most of the necks and in the coiffures. Twenty years ago those who wore brilliants at such a ball would have been the exceptions." "How do you know that what you took for brilliants the other night were not imitations?" "By the intensity of the real diamond. You know those blue blazes that almost blind you. They defy imitation. If we must satisfy the craving of women for diamonds we shall have to outrun the late M. Moissan. He made diamond dust artificially. We must transmute lumps of sugar into good-sized brilliants." "Do you think that possible?" "Certainly. Moissan thought it very possible, and he said so six weeks before he died. His death must have relieved some members of the De Beers Company from a heavy anxiety."

My informant further said: "The firm I belong to cleared between 1898 and 1902 at the rate of 400,000 fr. a month, with diamonds. It now has a business worth 600,000 fr. a month, and on the upward grade. Commercial men who may not care for their wives deck them out with diamonds as an advertisement of solvency, which it is. Enormously rich men from vanity lavish brilliants on theatrical and operatic stars. The fire of Mlle. Croizette's diamonds in 'La Princesse de Bagdad' proclaimed the wealth of M. Stern and a certain Royal Duc. Léonide Leblanc, as Duchesse de Guise, in the drama of the same name, was perhaps more dazzling. Wanda de Boncksa, in a few years, gathered together more than a million francs' worth of pearls and diamonds. The cantatrice whom a gold or coal king (it does not matter which) foisted on the ex-director of the Opera House could now live in opulence on the produce of her casket were she to realise it. He found sometimes satisfaction for his vanity in sending thirty or forty thousand francs' worth of flowers to adorn her dressing-room or be cast at her feet whenever she appeared for the first time in a part or came back after a short absence. It delighted him to hear her sing out of tune. This proved his *toute puissance*. She was called by the habitués and her comrades 'la Dame aux quarante mille francs de fleurs.' One winter's evening he sent her in at the close of a *roulade* a gorgeous basket filled with the choicest tea-roses and festooned with a chain studded with brilliants. His fortune is on a sure basis, and he can fear no crack. It would be the ruin of a commercial man, however wealthy, to distinguish himself in the same way, because extravagance of this kind could not fail to shake his credit. On the other hand, the more he spends on his wife or on the *corbeille de mariage* of a daughter, the better for his business reputation."

The "Dame aux quarante mille francs de fleurs" brought on the late directorial crisis at the Opera House. M. Briand belongs to a working-class family. His name of Aristide like *noblesse, oblige*. He has risen from a

humble condition through the severe practice of his virtues. The display of flowers and brilliants seemed to the subscribers in bad taste, but to M. Briand something abominable. He felt as did Mr. John Burns some years ago at the sight of amiably fast company which had found its way at tea-time on a certain terrace which has a world-wide celebrity. "Is the Opera House a seraglio?" he asked himself. "If it is, it must cease to be so, and engagements must go according to capacity and talent." M. Briand is obstinate. The power of wealth arrayed itself against him. It directed against him the power of the press and of cabal in the Chamber of Deputies. Nothing could drive him from his determination not to let the Opera House serve as a byre for the golden calf, and he has ended by having his own way—at any rate, for the time being.

It is dangerous to boast. The Citizen Viviani declared in Parliament his determination to put out the lights of heaven. The class he represents, taking every one else by surprise, reduced la Ville Lumière to darkness. A universal extinguisher was applied in cutting off the entire electrical supply. Theatres, restaurants, the Elysée palace, thoroughfares, and the Metro. found themselves plunged in black darkness.

I think the 2,000 electricians who got up the strike were right. They did so to prevent a repetition of the job of 1872 or 1873, which, for the benefit of M. Dubochet, President of the Gas Company, signed a lease giving him the lion's share. This lease kept gas twice as dear as in most other capitals. A second lease granted eighteen years ago gave similar advantages to a syndicate of electrical companies. This job dated from the time when so many Boulangists sat in the Town Council and Panamism reigned everywhere. There was, however, the excuse of electric lighting on a great scale being experimental. These syndicates now want a twenty-five years' monopoly. Of course, this advantage is to be to the detriment of every one else. They want to screw down the public, and reduce by a half the retiring fund of their operators. It is to defend the opponents in the Town Council of the proposed trust that the 2,000 electricians struck. I only hope they may succeed in putting down the jobbery which has inflicted on us for so long a time bad and dear gas and far too dear electric light.

A PEER AMONG THE PUSHERS.

I HAVE been feeling a good deal cut up since last week. For one thing, it has all got out about my writing, and I have had to put up with no end of chaff about it. It was my young brother, Bob, that told me about it first, and, naturally, he rubbed it in. He came up to me in the club, on Thursday, and wanted to know what it felt like to be the champion ass of the century. Of course, I told him he ought to know better than I could—it was about the only thing I could think of on the spur of the moment—and then he told me that every one knew all about it, and was laughing at me no end. I told him I didn't see anything funny in it, and that lots of other fellows write for the papers, and that I didn't suppose what I wrote was anything very different. But he said it was, and that you only let me go on with it because it amused your readers—who are all, he said, the worst kind of Radicals and Socialists and things—to see what an ass I was making of myself and the House of Lords and all the rest of it. He can be rather biting when he likes, and if I hadn't remembered to ask him for a tenner he borrowed from me last week he would have probably made me lose my temper—silly young ass. I couldn't think how it had come out, for, of course, I have never mentioned it to a soul, and I was rather inclined to suspect that you must have been making use of it—thinking it might get you a better class of readers, perhaps, or some idea of that sort. But, according to Bob, I had let it out myself without knowing it. He said that for the last three weeks I had been always going about everywhere with a copy of Truth under my arm and opening it out and reading it whenever I thought nobody was looking at me, and sniggering over it. He said, too, that no one could have possibly doubted it for a moment, because I was always talking about these articles—mine, I mean—and saying how clever they were, and how I wished I could have written them, and pretending to be awfully puzzled over who it could be. As a matter of fact, I had done so sometimes—because I thought it might disarm suspicion—and I suppose I must have overdone it a bit.

Bob wasn't the worst of it by a long way. I hadn't left the club ten minutes when, at the corner of Pall Mall, I ran up against my old Uncle Herbert. We haven't spoken to each other since the news of my engagement to Jessie was announced. He behaved like a cad about it, and said things that I couldn't allow any one to say in my presence, and I lost my temper a bit, and since then we have cut each other. But this time he came straight at me and asked me if I didn't think I had disgraced the family enough already without starting this new tom-foolery. He put it in pretty strong language—he used to be in the Army, and made no end of a fool of himself in South Africa—and if he had been forty years younger I should have had to kick him or something. As it was, I just told him that I had as much right to make a living as any one else, and that when I wanted his permission I would ask for it. And as to journalism, I wasn't the first of our class to do it, and that Roberts and Wolseley had both written things, and he had better go and talk to them about it. He said it wasn't writing that he objected to, but writing blithering tom-foolery and making myself and my family a laughing stock, and that if I must write on a paper there were plenty of decent ones I could have chosen instead of such—and then he said one or two things about Truth I should rather like you to have heard. The last thing he said was that if I had only let him know beforehand he would have got me half-a-dozen directorships or a place in the War Office, or something where my asininity would not matter.

I was feeling pretty bad by the time I got to Jessie's flat, and I found that she was as upset as I was about things. It seemed that her beast of a manager had been at her that very afternoon, offering her a £20 a week rise in her salary if she would only get me to bring her name and the name of the piece she is playing in and the theatre into one of my articles, and say how pretty she was, and that it was a first-class show and that sort of thing, and sign it. She was furious, and she'd thrown up her part on the spot, and now she was frightfully upset about having been too hasty in being so independent before I had made my way in journalism a bit more, in case we shouldn't have anything to live on at all except what she's managed to save. It turned out all right in the end, because in less than half an hour after I got there she got three telegrams from other theatres—of course she had 'phoned to her press agent at once to see what he could

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., London, W.

do about it—with better offers than the one she'd thrown up, and just as I was leaving, the original man turned up to apologise. He was nearly in tears because he was afraid there would be a riot if she didn't go on, and the end of it was that he added another £40 a week if she would only consent to let bygones be bygones. But of course we didn't know how it would end when she first told me of it, and we were pretty miserable about it.

Ever since then we have both been deluged with every kind of offer you can think of if I'll only mention things in one of my articles in Truth. The first thing I found when I got home that night was a box with 500 cigars and 1,000 cigarettes of different brands, and a letter from some man with a queer foreign name offering to keep me in whatever brand I liked best for a year if I would only bring in the name of it into one of my articles so that it didn't look as if I had dragged it in on purpose, and say that it was the most delicious I had ever smoked, and that I smoked no other. I haven't answered him yet, because I felt that you would expect me to ask you about it, and in case you didn't see any objection we might share the cigars. I found one brand that was really not half bad. They are called ——, and the maker's name is ——. (If you just scratch out the names I shall understand that you don't like the idea.)

I have had quite a number of offers of the same kind since then. They were all more or less flattering; two of them spoke about "a writer of your lordship's eminence," and there was another said: "Your brilliant and witty articles in Truth," so it doesn't look as if every one thinks I am making such an ass of myself. What? They really took no end of trouble over it, too. There was one from the —— Motor Company that enclosed a whole article—already written—and very interesting I thought it was, about "Motoring as a Rest Cure," which brought their name in every second line. They offered to lend me one of their cars free for a year, and all they wanted me to do was to sign it and send it along to you as if I had written it myself. There was one that made me savage. It was from some firm that makes face powder and that sort of thing. They enclosed a blank cheque, made out to me, and never said a word about it in the letter. They wanted me to make out that Jessie's complexion—which is about the most beautiful you ever saw in your life—was got by daubing her face with some beastly stuff they manufacture. I wrote and said I wished the man that wrote that letter would call on me, because I should thoroughly enjoy kicking him. But he didn't come.

Jessie has been having just the same experience. She had a visit from a clergyman who wanted her to interest me in some charity he runs in the East End or somewhere. She says that he spoke so feelingly about the poor, starving wretches he works for that she gave him a sovereign herself, and promised to do her best to make me mention his mission in one of my articles. I think, perhaps, it might be rather a good thing. His name is the Rev. ——, of the —— Mission. [See Truth Cautionary List.—Ed.] Then the managing director of some bank that makes a business of lending money on easy terms to tradesmen and others who are temporarily inconvenienced for lack of ready cash, offered her a set of sables if she could get me to bring in something to the effect that their disinterested efforts on behalf of the needy and distressed had been basely maligned by envious slanderers. Their name is the ——. [See Truth Cautionary List.—Ed.] And some play-writer fellow sent her a long letter about having written a play that brought her and myself in, and wanting her to take a West-End theatre and get me to boom it up in Truth, and then to share the profits between us. But I see I have scarcely left myself any room for the topical article I meant to write for you this week. It is about the Suffragettes. If you will wire me as soon as you get this I will send it you by express, after I have touched it up a bit. I think it is really the best I have done yet—and so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"THE English, by the English," dear Lady Betty, is a study that has never yet been undertaken; as we represent ourselves on the stage and in the novel, so are we, presumably, in real life. Allowance must, of course, be made for necessary exaggeration.

. . . . .

The peer and the "gentleman" are almost invariably represented now on our stage as semi-imbeciles, absolutely helpless, and hopelessly in debt. Those features are generally reproduced in the novels, and the applause accorded to the actor, and the approval to the author, prove that the public admit the correctness of the representations.

Neither on the stage nor in the literature of any other nation is the aristocracy of the particular community painted as being so contemptible.

The good woman was the central figure on the English stage and in our literature until a quarter of a century ago; the unselfish girl and the immaculate wife were considered to be distinctive products of Great Britain. Deceit and divorce are now the circumstances that are most frequently connected with them.

The honesty of the commercial man and of the financier—of British origin—was a feature which our writers of the past continually chose as the leading idea of their plots; the successors of the latter most generally compose their story around a criminal offence which may at any moment be exposed.

The orthodox are almost always now represented as hypocrites.

The millionaire of fiction to-day is seldom vulgar, generous, and simple-minded. He is pretentious, designing, often a criminal in disguise, and generally the villain of the piece or story.

The poor enjoy a monopoly of whatever principle remains—unless they are convicts.

The stage and the novels of a generation reflect—in a reasonably exaggerated form—the characteristics of contemporary life; did they misrepresent them they would not obtain the approval of the audiences or the readers. It appears, therefore, that the English of the time are convinced that the present generation of peers and "gentlemen" are semi-imbeciles; of women, good-for-nothing; of officers, boobies in busbies; of millionaires, scoundrels; and of the orthodox, humbugs.

That is a summary of our condition as it is generally represented on the stage and in the novels. Is there a people in the world that has given us so bad a character—or that has painted its own contemporaries so unpleasantly?

* * * * *

"The Interleaved Shakespeare" is a publication that is sure to attain success. The interleaves contain financial recommendations, advice regarding stocks and shares, and much interesting information in connection with City transactions. The Society for Promoting the Study of English Literature has adopted this simple device to induce the British of to-day to read our best authors. It proposes to issue shortly an edition of "The Spectator," interleaved with "society" gossip, and one of "The Vicar of Wakefield," on the interleaves of which will be provided accounts of the most exciting criminal trials of the past. For the benefit of the women, Milton's works will also be published, interleaved with fashion plates, household hints, receipts for dyeing the hair, and advice as to the treatment of husbands.

* * * * *

A wedding without a bridegroom is an original proposition; it is contained in the following letter:—

"The ordinary woman regards the wedding ceremony as the chief attraction of marriage; the ordinary man, as the main drawback. Is there any need for the bridegroom to be present on the occasion? Why should not the bride attend the church with her

bridesmaids and surrounded with her friends, but unaccompanied by the bridegroom? A signed deed, properly attested, might be handed to the officiating clergyman, in which the bridegroom bound himself in writing, as he now does at the altar. The bride might thus enjoy all the publicity she so greatly delights in, and the bridegroom might be spared the painful experience."

* * * * *

The ingenuity of the modern woman has discovered a new method of earning a competence. There are horse-breakers; it has occurred to an ingenious woman that there should be husband-breakers. For a moderate fee she is prepared to make a lengthened stay, and gradually mould the newly married husband according to the pattern that his wife requires. Since Adam was driven from Paradise, man has never felt the effects of the Fall so severely as he does at the moment!—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

DURING the winter a great deal of twaddle was, as usual, printed on the subject of the nonsensical list of Winning Owners, which appears in the sporting papers at the end of every racing season. The figures in this most misleading list are all bosh, as every one knows that has even the very slightest knowledge of Turf affairs. The list simply consists of the gross sums won by the various owners in stakes. If the amounts paid for forfeits and lost or unfulfilled stakes were deducted, the alleged winnings would in a very large number of cases be converted into a startling deficit. A man with a large and heavily engaged stud often finds his stake account £1,000 to the bad after a heavy week if his horses are out of form. Of course, in order to make this annual list of any practical value, it would be necessary to calculate the original cost of the stud and the amount spent every year in keeping it up, with an adequate allowance besides for wear and tear. Then the expenditure in breeding (or buying) and training and racing the animals would have to be added to the outlay. The fact is that after all these deductions have been made a very large sum which has been nominally won, not only disappears altogether, but leaves a considerable balance on the wrong side. A great many of the owners of the present day commit the immense mistake of keeping a number of bad horses in training, instead of getting rid of them. If a horse cannot win a good-class race, let it be put into a selling plate, in which it will probably meet worse animals than it has been in the custom of running against. If an owner does not care to see his colours figuring in selling races, or if the animal is too bad to win in any company, it ought to be at once sold for whatever it will fetch. Better give the beast away than waste money on keeping it in training. There have never been more successful owners than the late Duke of Westminster and the late Lord Falmouth, and one secret of their "luck" (as it was sometimes, and most absurdly, defined) was that the foundation animals of their studs had been selected with the utmost scrutiny, and then the stable was maintained judiciously and with a generous expenditure, while (above all) it was winnowed unsparingly and with unceasing vigilance. The subscription stakes which are now so common are exceedingly expensive to owners, who enter their foals and yearlings extensively, and there is often a truly shocking waste of money through carelessness in not striking animals out of races for which they have no chance when the minor forfeit is declared.

When the Empress Marie of Russia was in England with her husband in 1873 (they were then Tsarevitch and Tsarevna) they attended Goodwood races, and were included in the late Duke and Duchess of Richmond's house party. The Tsarevitch also went to Stockbridge races on one day. At Goodwood House that year the wonderful luck of the Tsarevitch at whist was a daily topic of discussion. He was not a good player, but the run of the cards was always in his favour, and his delight at his brilliant and continued successes was quite boyish, as, of course, the sums depending on the issue of the rubber were as nothing to him. The concluding game of the week was played on the night before the party broke up by the King (then Prince of Wales) and the Tsarevitch against Sir Frederick Johnstone and Mr. George Payne. The Tsarevitch, having won two rubbers, was much elated, and he offered to bet "a monkey" or "a thousand" or "five thousand" on this one, in addition to the points and the odds. Sir Frederick Johnstone was willing to go halves with his partner in betting "a monkey," but Mr. Payne declined, and was fortunate in so doing, as the brothers-in-law carried everything before them, and won the rubber in three hands. The Tsarevitch afterwards informed his opponents that if he had won "a monkey" he would have given the money to endow a race at Goodwood in 1874.

Dean Swift is favourite for the City and Suburban at the various "lists," his price being 12 to 1. Last year Mr. Joel's horse won the handicap with 7 st. 11 lb., and he now carries 8 st. 7 lb. I do not at all fancy him for this year's race, which will probably bring out a more formidable field than was seen at Epsom last April, when the best of the starters were backward, and Dean Swift cannot have improved with an additional twelvemonth over his head. Dinneford, Polymelus, Golden Measure, and Magic Balm are next in demand, each of these horses standing at 16 to 1; and the same odds are offered against His Eminence, who, however, now appears certain to run at Lincoln. If Lord Howard de Walden's horse wins next Tuesday's race his 10 lb. penalty will stop him at Epsom, but if he is beaten at Lincoln he may nevertheless stand a good chance for the City and Suburban, as he will then be more fit than he is at present, and the course would suit him.

Galloper and Spate are the nominal favourites for the Chester Cup, each standing at 12 to 1, and next comes Catnap at 14 to 1. There is no real market on this handicap until the day of running.

The list favourites for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap are Polar Star (10 to 1) and Polymelus (12 to 1). I do not believe that either the one or the other of these horses will start for this race. Polar Star is entered for the Chippenham Plate on the last day of the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, and he is also in the Burwell Plate and in the Payne Stakes at the Second Spring Meeting. He might very likely be started for the Payne Stakes if he is then fit and well, for his 7 lb. penalty is reduced to 4 lb. by a breeding allowance, and a very moderate lot of animals are engaged in this race. Polar Star would have to give 12 lb. to All Black, unless Mr. Bailey's colt has by that time lost his right to a maiden allowance, but it is expected that this animal will turn out to be a non-stayer. Polar Star's first important engagement is the Coronation Cup at Epsom, and in that race he would have an opportunity of showing whether he is really the flyer which his friends have proclaimed him to be since he defeated Galvani in the Criterion Stakes. The field on June 6 will probably include Keystone II., Beppo, Radium, Troutbeck, The White Knight, Polymelus, and Velocity. The entry includes Spearmint and Llangibby, but (as was long ago stated in Truth) neither the one nor the other of these horses is likely to get through a severe preparation. Polar Star has escaped a penalty for the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, and he is far more likely to start for that race than for the Gold Cup. A week later this colt has a nice engagement at Newcastle, where he will not have much to beat in the North Derby of £1,300 to the winner, and his penalty is reduced to 4 lb. by a breeding allowance. Later on he has another good race in the Hurst Park Lennox Plate of £1,250 to the winner, as his 9 lb. penalty is wiped out by his breeding allowance.

Any one must be perfectly infatuated of folly who now backs Polymelus for either of his handicap engagements. Mr. Joel's horse is almost certain to be kept for the Coronation Cup at Epsom, and it may be decided to reserve him for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of

£6,000 at the Newmarket First July Meeting, as that race appears to be merely a question of health for him, in the absence of Spearmint and Llangibby. Black Arrow will have a great advantage in the weights, but this colt is not likely to distinguish himself over such a severe course.

Lord Falmouth, who has been spending the winter at Tregothnan, his place in Cornwall, paid a visit to Kingsclere on Thursday. The dark Derby colt, St. Martin, has been going on very well, but Waugh's horses are, of course, backward. Lord Falmouth's two-year-olds include an own brother to Quintessence and St. Martin, and the first produce of Quintessence, a colt by Orion.

A correspondent at Newmarket informs me that he will be greatly surprised if Baltinglass does not turn out to be Major Loder's best three-year-old. Weathercock, who has been under veterinary treatment for several months, is now all right again, but he is not likely to be really fit for a long time to come. Galvani is not generally liked, and he does not appear to have improved as much as could be desired. I have always regarded Galvani as an over-rated colt, for his defeat of Slieve Gallion in the Middle Park Plate, about which such an elaborate noise was raised, ought not to be regarded, as the favourite was altogether out of form when he started for that race. Galvani has two engagements shortly before the Derby, both at Hurst Park, and he might be started for the Whitsuntide Plate of £1,000 on May 20, as a miserably bad lot of animals are engaged (apart from My Pet II., who will be in France) and Major Loder's colt has no penalty.

The statement in certain journals that Carnegie was "quietly backed" for the Imperial Hurdle Race at Sandown Park is utterly untrue. The success of Lord Carnarvon's horse was a most complete surprise to every one connected with him, and he was not backed for sixpence by the stable, or, so far as is known, by any one whatever. On public form the odds against Carnegie were incalculable.

Flaxman has been struck out of the Grand National Steeplechase, so the King's colours will not be seen at Aintree next week. After Flaxman's grievously ignominious performance at Sandown Park, he could not stand any earthly chance for the Grand National. This horse has proved a very bad investment for his Majesty.

Of the horses which were beaten in Carnegie's race at Sandown Park, Mr. Whistler is likely to win before long, as he ran very creditably. Savernake, who was heavily backed, is said to have given his rider a great deal of trouble, and he also ought to improve on this form very shortly, but I fancy he has a temper.

Carnegie bids fair to do well as a hurdle-racer, but he was a dreadful failure on the flat, and a great deal of money must have been lost over him last season, when he was beaten six times, and in two of these races he started first favourite. Carnegie was much talked of last autumn as a likely horse to win the Cambridgeshire, which was an amazing fairy tale. Lord Carnarvon purchased him during the autumn of 1905 for £1,500.

There are a large number of English entries for the Grand Steeplechase de Paris, value £5,400, which is to be run at Auteuil on Sunday, June 9, including Mr. H. Browne's John M.P., Captain Wood's Prince Royal, Mr. J. A. de Rothschild's '45, Captain Foster's Kingship, Mr. S. Joel's Whitechapel, Mr. A. P. Cunliffe's Jack Spratt, Sir Peter Walker's Albuana, Captain Wood's Amersham, Mr. H. Hartigan's Domino, Mr. F. Bibby's Monsieur Beaucaire, Mr. Singer's Heatree, Mr. C. Bewicke's Old Fairyhouse, Major Loder's Maggio, and Mr. Parr's Judas and Faithless Lad. This is the richest steeplechase in Europe, and the distance is four miles. It is a weight-for-age event, the only penalty being 7 lb. for the winner of either the Grand National Steeplechase or the Grand Steeplechase de Paris.

The Auteuil Grand Hurdle Race of £2,000, which is run on Wednesday, June 12 (distance three miles and a furlong), has also obtained a large subscription from England, including his Majesty's Nulli Secundus, Mr. T. Clyde's Cinders, Captain Wood's Roseate Dawn, and Amersham, Mr. Kerne's Sancho, Mr. J. W. Dugdale's Crathorne, Mr. Prentice's Karakoul, and Dalharco, Mr. Joel's Whitechapel, Mr. G. Walmsley's Longcroft and Wild Aster, Mr. MacMahon's Mistral Boy, Mr. Hartigan's Dafila, Mr. A. B. Walker's Round Dance, Mr. Stedall's Kolo and Olitzka, and Captain Foster's Kingship. This also is a weight-for-age event, the penalty of 7 lb. being imposed only on any winners of the Grand National, the Grand Steeplechase, or the Grand Hurdle Race.

It is a pity that post entries should be permitted for any race whatever on any terms. In both of the Auteuil events "second entries" may be made by Tuesday, May 28, the cost being £100 for the steeplechase and £50 for the Hurdle Race. In the late 'sixties post entries were tried for a short time in the Ascot Cup, thanks to which arrangement Sabinus won that race in 1870, but such a clamour arose from many of the principal owners and trainers that the innovation was discontinued, and there has never been any serious idea of reviving it in connection with any English stake.

The Goodwood Cup has been a failure for some years past, the fields having been usually composed of wretchedly bad horses. It was a mistake to close and name for such a race nearly three years before it was run, and this error has now been rectified. Entries for this year's Cup will close next Tuesday, and there ought to be a large subscription, as £1,000 is added, bonâ fide, as at Ascot, and there is a sweepstake of £20 each, half forfeit to the fund. The conditions as to penalties are satisfactory.

Very few of the horses which will run at Lincoln next week can by any possibility be properly fit, and backers will do well to exercise extreme caution in their speculations, or the first meeting of the season will prove a veritable Moscow campaign for them.

It usually happens that horses win at Lincoln simply because they are more forward in condition than opponents of better class, which "lose" them a few weeks later on in the season. Last year Velocity, on his summer and autumn form, would have walked in for the Lincolnshire Handicap with 7st. 12lb., instead of finishing nowhere. I am told by a sound judge that Kaffir Chief and Cyclops Too are about the best-trained horses at Newmarket, and that, in his opinion, the representative of the stable will beat all the lot from that place. They are both very moderate horses, but superior condition may enable the trusted one to pull through. As to the "country" horses, I have heard a good account of Crusader. Nobody ought to venture a penny on this race without being assured that the animal which he is backing is tolerably fit, and the event should be left alone until the numbers are up. There is quite likely to be a revolution in the betting when some of the animals now fancied are seen in the paddock at Lincoln.

There are eighty-seven entries for the Brocklesby Stakes. I have not heard of any reliable trials in which the two-year-olds have been successful. It is inconceivable that such animals can be anything like fit as yet, after the hard winter; and the early form is certain to be altogether unreliable.

I have been much amused by reading the financial statement of the Cyclists' Touring Club. I have no intention to worry my readers with the details of these accounts. Some years ago I went into the matter thoroughly. The present position is exactly what I should have anticipated would come to pass from the state of affairs at the date when I criticised them. The committee has been going into matters, and retrenchments on salaries amounting to £500 a year are to take place. I have absolutely no sympathy with Mr. Shipton in the reduction of £200 which he suffers. It is the consequence of want of foresight and business prudence. I am very sorry for the others whose small salaries are severely docked. As a matter of fact, I do not consider that any of these salaries, including the secretaries', as at present paid, are excessive, if the work is properly and capably done. The fault really lies with the manage-

ment. The *Gazette* is not registered as a newspaper. There is no reason why it should not be. People might join the club by means of that advertisement if they had the paper thrown in. Of course, different rates of subscription should be required if the *Gazette* has to be posted abroad. Then, all members requiring written replies to correspondence should prepay addressed envelopes for replies. As for the councillors and their £440 a year for travelling expenses, this is pure waste. A limited board of directors is all that is required, elected perhaps by the members. There has been too much waste in the management. The folk that have been running the show have been themselves singularly incapable. There has been much too much bunkum talked about the word "club." To Mr. Shipton and his friends it has been, like "Mesopotamia," a blessed word. All that cyclists want is a sound business organisation, to look after their interests and to give them a decent *Gazette* once a month. They do not want to be bothered with "consuls" and "councillors" and "presidents," and they do not want money wasted on convening meetings and printing huge quantities of agenda papers.

The general meeting of the club was lengthy and lively. The Hon. Gilbert Coleridge carried his resolution condemning the management and securing the appointment of a committee to go into affairs. The resolution condemned the existing organisation of the secretarial and editorial staff, and pledged the committee to present a scheme of reorganisation. I am very glad indeed that this resolution was carried. The authorities have persistently set their backs up against the Reformers. A letter from the hon. secretary of the Reform Committee in the *Gazette* evokes a caustic comment from the secretary-editor Mr. Shipton. The meeting was described as "a well attended meeting," by the secretary. The editor notes that only twenty-seven were present, and they were specially invited. But they meant business and they carried their resolution. Under the circumstances Mr. Shipton gets a rap over the knuckles, which is well deserved. I know that to him the club as an organisation is due. For a certain amount of business capacity credit is due to him. But he has turned a deaf ear to reforms, and the club has suffered. At the same time, it is much stronger than most people would imagine. I feel sure that it would receive a great deal more public support if people were satisfied that it was run on business lines. The "councillors" at the meeting promptly signed a requisition with the object of defeating Mr. Coleridge. They demand a postal vote of the club—a very unwise proceeding.

By the way, I see that the club reports at portentous length the case it laid before counsel, and his opinion as to appealing from the decision of His Honour Judge Bray, that the owner of a fowl that upsets a cyclist is not liable. The fowl flew into the spokes of the bicycle, so that, I presume the bicycle originally upset the fowl. It is not for me to teach either counsel or the C.T.C. any law, but I may remind them that the Divisional Court has held that the owner of a blind dog was not liable when the dog, wandering on the highway, upset the cyclist. This decision seems to me conclusive. Neither a dog nor a chicken is an animal feræ naturæ, so that the elephant case will not apply. By the way, it appears to be a funny kind of business to publish counsel's opinion in a case under appeal. The dealer at bridge does not generally expose his hand.

Last week both the University crews disappointed their friends. Oxford, in a row from Chiswick to Putney, quite failed to do themselves justice against a couple of scratch crews that rowed with them. At the start, Thames kept with them for quite a long while, and at the finish London passed them for a considerable distance. Cambridge, when going over the whole course, had done much better against crews from these clubs, which were quite as strong as those that rowed against Oxford. Then Cambridge on Saturday did a rather ragged mile. For the life of me I cannot make out why they have been indulging in gallery starts at over forty a minute and then dropping suddenly to thirty-six and thirty-two. No doubt it is a nice piece of exhibition work for stroke, but anything more calculated to knock to pieces the heavy men in the crew I cannot conceive. It is not as though they kept at high pressure for half-a-mile to get a lead, and to keep it so that the crew might have a breather. They drop away at once. Their performance on Saturday was limited to a more rational start at thirty-nine. But the whole row was scarcely satisfactory. They are, as a crew, slow into the water, and their finish is dirty. They have been suffering to some extent from their stroke, who is a plucky and a good waterman, but by no means an ideal oarsman. They ought to have been a first-class crew, and they are not. Oxford are quite as much trained on as Cambridge. In fact, they have been given rather lighter work. They are a neat crew to look at, and with five old Etonians they are, of course, good watermen. But there is a sad lack of devil in their rowing.

The Right Hon. R. McKenna, M.P., will be in the chair at the dinner after the race. It is just twenty years ago since he rowed bow in the winning Cambridge crew. He also rowed bow of the winning Grand for the Hall at Henley in 1886 and 1887, as well as in the winning Stewards four in the latter year. He rowed with Swann in the Pairs, which were won by Muttlebury and Barclay. C. J. Bristow, who stroked the crew, and was President of the club, is now a school inspector under the Board of Education, of which Mr. McKenna is President. The positions are changed. I trust I may be forgiven for repeating the following story:—Mr. McKenna confided to an old rowing friend that he had thought out when at the dinner in 1887, the sort of speech he would make if he ever took the chair. He is satisfied that it was quite a good one, but he cannot remember it.

Lacrosse and athletics have muchly benefited at Oxford by the Rhodes scholarships. They beat Cambridge for the first time at Lacrosse, and I fancy they will win the sports easily. The L.A.C. team took a team up to Cambridge and tied with the University. Powell, the president, is hurdling in splendid form. Cornish, the old Oxford Blue, cleared 22 ft. in the long jump. It is to be hoped that he will be able to spare time for training this year. He has filled out, and he should be able to do a clinking quarter.

At Monte Carlo there has been something like a revolution. Ritchie has beaten Laurie Doherty at lawn tennis by three sets to love; the games were 8-6, 7-5, 8-6. The Americans, as well as the Australians, are challenging for the Dwight-Davis bowl. The Trade Reform selection committee of the Lawn Tennis Association will now be able to sweep out the old gang.

The unexpected happened in the boxing and fencing competition between the Universities. Cambridge came out winners by the odd event. The Corn Exchange was crowded. There was sound and plucky boxing. But I do hope that undergraduates will remember not to cheer during the rounds. The timekeeper's voice was practically drowned. It is very bad form to cheer, and such interruptions are not permitted at any boxing show. I know the cheers were but the ebullition of youthful zeal and innocence. The present generation is ignorant of the old prize-ring traditions.

At Rugby football Ireland was simply overwhelmed by Wales at Cardiff. I see in the press that David, the Welsh half, was allowed to put the ball into the scrimmage in such a way that the Welsh forwards practically got the ball on every possible occasion. For this the referee has been severely blamed by at least one writer. The Welsh outsides were in splendid form, and simply ran through the Irish defence.

There was a crowd of 30,000 people to see the match between Newcastle United and the Corinthians at Fulham, for the Sheriff's Charity Shield. The Northerners won a most interesting game. They played for bare expenses, and the Fulham folk gave the ground for nothing. These numbers did not prevent as big a crowd going to the Palace to see the cupholders, Everton, draw with the local team. Woolwich Arsenal were the only team to win away from home. They beat Barnsley by two goals to one, and, singularly enough, all the goals were scored by the team playing uphill.

At the London Caledonian F.C. coming of age dinner, Lord Kinnaird opined that, although there were 200,000 amateur footballers, there were 5,000 professionals whom he considered deserving of consideration. This is quite true, but it is no reason for running the Football Association and its subordinate branches solely in the interests of those who do not play the game, but run professional teams. The professional player is the last person considered by the Football Association.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

THE exhibition of commercial vehicles and motor-boats at Olympia is a sign of the times not to be overlooked. It is quite reasonable to think that eventually the supply of self-driven vehicles of the industrial class will constitute the more important branch of the industry as a whole, for the simple reason that vehicles of this kind must always outnumber those required by private owners; and it is doubtless shrewd perception of this fact which has induced so many firms who have been mainly associated hitherto with the manufacture of private cars to turn their attention to those of the more matter-of-fact description now on view at Olympia. From the standpoint of the trader the advantage of such vehicles over the horse-drawn article is obvious enough in many ways, though there is, of course, the difficulty that, whereas any intelligent youth can take charge of a horse and cart without much risk, this hardly applies in the case of a motor vehicle. Extra labour in the shape of trained drivers is necessitated, therefore, in many instances. But even so, the gain resulting from the employment of the motor-van or dray or what not is in the long run enormous on account of its vastly greater efficiency in the matter of distance and speed. Some very striking particulars under this head were recently published by Messrs. Harrod, and their experience is doubtless that of all other large firms.

In the case of the motor 'buses, unfortunately, the tale is so far hardly so satisfactory. On every hand complaints are to be heard of the unsatisfactory financial results now attending their working. At present nearly all of them are being run at a loss, and it is plain that the cost of upkeep must undergo much further reduction before they can be regarded as a wholly satisfactory business proposition. From the outsider's point of view, one obvious way of meeting the situation would seem to be to raise the existing fares, which are in general ridiculously low. For 'buses going about double the speed of the older kind the public might well be charged on a higher scale. As it is, under the pressure of competition, the tendency has been rather in the other direction, with the result that the whole industry at the present time is in the doldrums. Under the circumstances, it is hardly a happy suggestion that the County Council should be invited to add to their present undertakings by starting additional motor 'bus services, and the proposal comes with curious inconsistency from those who have been foremost in denouncing the Council's action in taking over the trams. A vast amount of nonsense has, of course, been put forth under the latter head. There is not the slightest doubt that the County Council tramway services will prove in due course a most valuable source of revenue, and the attempts which have been made in some quarters to discredit them, and to hold up the motor 'bus as the ideal form of public service vehicle, are doomed to sure and certain failure. The truth of the matter is that each kind of service is good in its way, and that with the population of London increasing as it does, there will be plenty of work for both in due course.

Will the new Secret Commissions Act kill the particular form of bribery and corruption rife in the motor trade? It is too early to speak at present with confidence on this point, but if it does it will prove a good deal more effective than some previous legislative efforts of a similar order. Meanwhile, attention has been directed to certain practices which have been regarded as attempts at circumvention of the Act, as, for instance, the printed notification sent round to their customers by a well-known firm of coachbuilders. This runs to the effect that as their practice in the past has always been to bestow gratuities on the employees of their customers, they propose to continue doing this in future. Earl Russell has, however, pointed out that the remedy for this on the part of the automobilist objecting to his servant receiving such gratuities is very simple. All he has to do on receiving such a notification is to reply requesting the discontinuance of the practice in the case of his servant. If, after this, the firm still persists in distributing its largesse, it will bring both itself and the recipients forthwith under the provision of the new law.

This is the season when motorists who have bought new cars realise the delightful uncertainty which attends their delivery. They have paid their deposits of one-third of the purchase price, the promised day of delivery has long since passed, yet they do not receive their eagerly awaited treasures; and, what is worse, they can do little or nothing to expedite matters. Speaking generally, the buyer is completely in the hands of the makers, and there is no doubt that serious cause for grievance often results. The deposit system in itself, whereby a big firm holds thousands of pounds of other people's capital for an indefinite period without paying a farthing of interest thereon, is decidedly open to criticism. It is argued by the manufacturers that it is necessary for their security, while the plea has been advanced, also, that it is good for the industry as a whole, since it enables firms to trade with a smaller capital than otherwise. Neither argument is, however, very convincing.

At least all firms who require such substantial advances should on their side be prepared to enter into a more binding obligation in the matter of delivery than is customary at present. Some—to their credit be it noted—do this, of course, as, for example, Messrs. S. F. Edge, Ltd., who, I believe, pledge themselves to deliver on the appointed date under penalty of a substantial fine for every subsequent day's delay. But even this arrangement is capable of being circumvented. Messrs. Edge, I am confident, would not lend themselves to such a practice, but in the case of certain Continental firms it not infrequently occurs that a purchaser enters into such an agreement but is kept waiting as long as ever for his car. What happens is that some other purchaser comes along, with plenty of money, little scruple, and a very ardent desire to get a new car, and he snaps up the one which was bespoken, and indemnifies the maker for the penalties incurred.

The recent debate at the Automobile Club—now, by the way, the Royal Automobile Club—on the respective merits of steam and petrol was interesting and instructive, though it is hardly likely perhaps that the opinions of a single individual were altered thereby. The friends of steam and the partisans of petrol will remain, when all is said and done, of the same opinion still—and not altogether unnaturally, since nowadays, so far as practical results are concerned, it is so very much a case of six of one and half-a-dozen of the other. Formerly it was not so, of course, and petrol then got a start which has been of inestimable value to it. In those days steam was handicapped by its greater intricacy, greater liability to derangement, excessive weight, the necessity of constantly filling up with water, and so on. To-day there is no doubt that the finest steam cars, such as the White, give results equal in every respect to the best of the petrol makes, with certain advantages in addition which even the finest of the latter cannot claim. Yet even so, fashion has fastened its affections on the petrol article, and though it is hardly to be denied that theoretically the balance of advantage rests with its rival, it is hardly likely to be superseded. None the less, there is not the slightest doubt that there is still an enormous future for steam. A really good small steam car in particular would probably find a very ready market. But all the bigger firms are too busy at present catering for the wealthy to bother about the needs of the smaller fry.

MAMMON.

An Unsatisfactory Week in the Stock Markets—The Unsettling Influence of the Yankee Slump—The Public's Losses Small—A Rich Man's Panic—Dear Money and its Effect upon Security Values—New Loans Another Depressing Factor—The Japanese Conversion Issue—Forthcoming Argentine Loan.

THE past week in the Stock Exchange was marked by heavy liquidation in one or two markets, by stagnation in most departments, and by a shrinkage in values practically everywhere. The two evil influences at work have been New York and new loans. It is some time since American railways have been subjected to such heavy liquidation or experienced such violent movements, and the slump occurring on top of the recent Harriman disclosures and the frantic rush of the railroads to secure capital, has produced an uneasy feeling in market circles, which, so far as it relates to the financial position of individuals, was probably overdone. It is one of the consoling features of the recent fall in Americans that the public—and particularly the British public—has been very little hit. The wild boom that culminated last autumn in the firework display by the Pacific crowd was a matter that in the main concerned a few operators in Wall Street. The public was some time previously scared out of the market, and each successive rise only caused it to hold more resolutely aloof. The game then was left to a few individuals, who, failing in their efforts to unload upon the public, have been forced by inability to renew loans, to unload upon themselves. These men are so wealthy that there is little need to worry about their ability to bear the losses they are now being compelled to incur. Thus far, then, it would be easy to magnify the effect of the slump in Yankees, but the bearing which the present unsatisfactory state of the New York market has upon the monetary situation here is of the greatest importance to the City. Largely because of the continued stringency on the other side of the Atlantic, and the fear of gold withdrawals from Europe, our Bank Rate has had to be maintained at the high level of 5 per cent., with no prospect of early relief.

Of course, it would be wrong to blame the United States for all our troubles. As I have pointed out several times lately, trade is at present so wonderfully active practically the world over that the demand for currency has for the time being grown at a faster pace than the supply. It is one of the penalties London must pay as the financial centre of the world, and the one free market for gold, that she should feel most directly this international clamouring for increased currency facilities. With the value of money so high, it is inevitable that prices of securities should be affected. At the same time investors should remember that the prevailing dearness of money is unlikely to last for any great length of time. Before very long trade is bound to react, and when it does, the Money Market will be quick to feel the relief. Then we may look for the tide of security values to turn in the opposite direction, and those who hold good-class stocks acquired at anything like the present level may expect to begin reaping the benefit. I referred at the outset to new loans as another factor prejudicing the market for existing stocks at the present juncture. During the last few days the Japanese Five per Cent. Loan of £23,000,000 for the conversion of the Six per Cent. Customs bonds has been placed, one-half in London and the other half in Paris. Seeing that the new bonds were offered at 99½, thus yielding a clear 5 per cent., there was no doubt about their being taken by the public. At the same time, I am not surprised that some people were inclined to draw comparisons between the relative price of the new Fives and those for Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. Loans. Doubtless the new issue is good enough, but, unlike the bonds which it will redeem, it has been given no special hypothecation. The Four and a Halfs, on the other hand, which at the present price yield only about ⅛ per cent. less than the Fives, are specially secured by a first charge upon the Government Tobacco Monopoly, and therefore they are naturally preferred by many investors. Now that the Japanese Loan is out of the way, the City is likely to witness an early issue on behalf of the Argentine Government. The total loan wanted is £7,000,000, which is required to fund the Treasury Bills created in connection with the redemption of the Six per Cent. Funding Loan in January, 1906. The new bonds will bear 5 per cent. interest, and be offered at 97½. Two and a half millions will be reserved for London, and the remainder will be offered on the Continent.

Renewed Weakness in Home Railways — Excellent Traffics and Trade Returns Ignored—Scotch Railway Dividends—Ghastly North British and Caledonian Results—The "Ayrshire" and Highland Performances.

The little revival in Home Rails recorded a week ago has not been allowed to make much headway. Owing to the disturbance occasioned by the break in Americans, and to preparations for new loans, all investment securities have during the past week moved unfavourably, and Railway stocks, as a consequence of their narrow market, proved specially susceptible, as may be seen from the following table:—

Home Rails	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Mar 2 1907.	Mar 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	72½	70	-2½
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	27⅞	26½	-1½
Central London	96¼	82½	70	70	—
City and S. London	47½	39	43	43	—
Furness	69¾	61⅜	60½	61½	+1
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	38	36	-2
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅛	69	60⅜	60½	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	28½	28⅝	+ ⅛
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14½	14½	—
Great Eastern	90⅞	79⅝	75⅞	74⅜	-1½
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	97½xd	95½xd	-2
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	42xd	40½xd	-1½
Great Western	114	122¾	125½xd	122¾xd	-2¾
Hull and Barnsley	50	42¼	47¾	46½	-1¼
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	102	100½	-1½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	98	97	-1
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¾	13	14⅜	13⅜	- ⅝
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	86	83	82	-1
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	51	50	-1
London and North-Western	163¾	147¼	146½xd	143½xd.	-3
London and South-Western Def.	57¼	44⅜	49½	47½	-1⅞
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	43½	43	- ½
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	15	15	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅝	64	64½xd	64½xd	-1⅜
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	63¼xd	61⅜xd.	-1½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78¼	72⅜	71	67¾	-3¼
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	34⅜	31⅜	-2⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	138⅜	136¼	-2¼
North Staffordshire	105½	96½	98	98	—
South-Eastern "A"	55¾	44¾	42¾	41½	-1½

Traffic returns, as regards the trade lines, again made a very fine showing, and additional evidence, if it were needed, of the vitality of our leading industries was furnished by the Board of Trade returns for February. The market, however, is at the moment not in the mood to pay attention to news of the kind, though, of course, the steady growth in earnings must exercise its logical effect later on. A bad impression was created by the Scotch Railway dividends, which, it must be confessed, in the case of the two leading systems equalled the worst estimates. There is, however, no particular reason why these declarations should cause alarm to holders of English Railway stocks, for the methods of finance that have produced such startling results have been peculiar to the companies north of the Tweed, the reckless capital expenditure indulged in across the Border being quite unparalleled amongst the English lines.

The worst showing of all was that of the North British. This company is paying ½ per cent. per annum upon the deferred, as against 2 per cent. a year ago, which makes the dividend for 1906-7 only 1 per cent., as against 1¾ per cent. for both 1904-5 and 1905-6. The reduction involves £90,000, and this notwithstanding that published traffics showed an increase of £15,100. In other words, about £105,000 has vanished, and to learn where it has gone it is necessary to wait for the report. Of course, there was the Arbroath accident, but that surely did not account for anything like so large

a total; evidently there must have been a serious addition to working expenses and to interest charges. The dividend is the worst paid by the North British since 1900, and affords a strange contrast to the results recently made known by the leading English "trade" lines, several of which made the best showing at least for six years. The question may well be asked, if this be a sample of what the British can do when trade is good, what will happen when the lean times come round again. If anything further were needed to complete the disgust of the market, it could be found in the fact that for some years previously the North British had been pursuing a policy of spending more freely out of revenue upon the up-keep of its property, and therefore there seemed to be the less room for any sudden advance in outgoings. The decline that occurred last week in North British stocks was accompanied by a rumour that the board was seeking to place £2,000,000 of Three per Cent. Debenture stock at 85. The terms may not be exactly as stated, but there is unfortunately too much reason to believe that the company is wanting more capital; indeed, it appears to have already tried to place a portion of the stock by offering it free of stamp and fee upon the market.

Hardly less gloomy is the half-yearly showing of the Caledonian. This company is paying at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on its ordinary stock, as against 4¼ per cent. for the corresponding half-year, which gives the deferred stock ½ per cent. as compared with 1¼ per cent. The balance forward is practically unaltered. For the full year 1906-7 the dividends on Caledonian ordinary and deferred will have been 3⅝ and ⅝ per cent. respectively, as against 4 per cent. and 1 per cent. for 1905-6. The reduction in dividend represents £69,000, but there was not quite the same mystery as to where the money had gone as in the case of the British. To begin with, £10,000 less was brought into the half-year, while an extra £24,500 was required to meet the interest on the £1,222,832 of 4 per cent. convertible preference stock issued in the early part of last year. Thus £34,500 out of the £69,000 is accounted for, but, nevertheless, there is solid ground for dissatisfaction at the performance. According to the report, while gross receipts expanded by £15,000, there was an advance of no less than £43,500 in working expenses. For a long time past loud complaints have been uttered in the press and at the meetings of the company against the latter's prodigality in the matter of capital expenditure. In five years the aggregate capitalisation of the line has risen from 49½ millions to 55 millions sterling, and proof that this advance of 5½ millions in capitalisation has not benefited the proprietors may be found in the fact that the ordinary dividend has fallen in the same period from 4 to 3⅝ per cent. Under the circumstances the stockholders are likely to chafe at the special circular just issued by the company asking authority for a Provisional Order to create further capital for "general purposes."

The Glasgow and South Western completes the trio of misfortune, its ordinary dividend having to be reduced from 1¾ to 1¼ per cent., which makes the annual payment on the deferred 1½ per cent. as compared with 1⅝ per cent. for the preceding twelvemonth. In this case, however, there is less room for criticism, because the company states that it has set aside £15,800 in respect of the Saltcoats Station accident, and but for this necessary provision the dividend could have been maintained. Gross receipts showed an increase of £18,000, but this gain was swallowed up by additional working expenses. The little Highland shares with the Great North of Scotland the distinction of being able to maintain its rate of dividend. The distribution recommended is again 2 per cent. per annum, making 1¾ per cent. for the twelvemonth. Traffic receipts as estimated showed an increase of nearly £5,000. The balance carried out is £10,100, as compared with £8,800, but the merit of this is spoilt by the fact that the amount brought into the half-year was £1,800 larger than the year before.

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free). — Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

Sensational Slump in Americans—Repetition of the Panic of 1903—The Government and the Railroads—The Overdose of New Issues—Unfavourable January Earnings—A Pennsylvania Forecast.

Throughout last week the American Market was in the throes of liquidation of a more pressing character than has been witnessed for a long time past, and values have slumped with tremendous violence. On one occasion the day's transactions in Wall-street aggregated 2,357,000 shares, which was the largest turnover since the Harriman coup of August last. Save for one brief rally—due to mysterious and heavy buying of Reading shares—the "bears" had matters all their own way throughout the week. The extent of the declines may be gathered from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	March 2, 1907.	March 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	80	105	93½	−11½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	102½	100	− 2½
Baltimore and Ohio	129⅛	109⅝	113⅛	108⅛	− 5⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93⅝	94	94	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	51½	44½	− 7½
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152⅛	150	145½	− 4½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	38	32½	− 5½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93¾	85½	82¼	75	− 7¼
Erie	52⅛	40	34⅜	30	− 4⅜
Do 4 p.c First Pref.	85½	77	71½	67	− 4½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	60	53	− 7
Illinois Central	188⅜	171	162	155	− 7
Louisville	166⅜	143½	133	123	−10
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	44⅛	40⅜	− 3¾
New York Central	159	130⅜	129½	124	− 5½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	45	40⅜	− 4½
Norfolk and Western	100½	87½	86½	82	− 4½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref	96½	91½	87	86	− 1
Northern Pacific	235	190½	151	142½	− 8½
Pennsylvania (50)	75⅜	63⅛	66½	64	− 2½
Reading ($50)	85⅛	59⅞	60	61⅜	+ 1⅜
Southern	42⅜	33	26½	23½	− 3½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	83	78	− 5
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64⅜	93⅜	87	− 6⅜
Union Pacific	203	144⅜	176½	165	−11½
Wabash 6 p.c. "B" Debs.	87½	78½	72	70	− 2
U.S. Steel	52⅜	33⅜	45⅜	39⅜	− 6⅛
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	107¼	103¼	− 4

It is so far fortunate that the collapse is not one that directly involves the general public on either side of the Atlantic. The riot of speculation that preceded the present break was conducted by a comparatively few individuals, whose methods were so flagrant as to effectually repel the public they were seeking to attract. These men have now been obliged by force of circumstances to throw their securities upon the market, and the commotion they have caused recalls the rich man's panic of 1903, when many of the largest capitalists having so over-extended their commitments were obliged to throw stocks overboard regardless of prices.

There has been nothing that could be described as fresh news to account for the latest fall; the weakness arises rather from the development of the various adverse influences with which my readers are now familiar. Wall-street has been spared further disclosures of Railroad financial methods before the Inter State Commerce Commission, but the belief that this inquiry was simply a preliminary to action by the Federal Government is keeping alive a feeling of nervousness in market circles. Of course, it will be a month or two before the report of the investigation is laid before President Roosevelt, and after that any recommendations put forward can only be carried into effect through the medium of the courts—a procedure that must inevitably be slow in arriving at an ultimate outcome. Still, it is becoming evident that the policy of the Government is to probe to the bottom of public grievances against the railroads, and accordingly the market is rendered liable to frequent disturbance from rumours of new legislative action. Last week it was stated that the Government was about to follow up its investigation of the Harriman group by a similar inquiry into the finances of the Hill Roads, and the story helped to quicken the downward pace in Hill stocks. There has been a comparative cessation of new short term note issues during the week. Apparently most of the leading railroads have now completed their capital arrangements for the present, while companies

of second-rate importance—although many of them are known to be badly in need of funds—find themselves unable to obtain money except on ruinous terms. Of course, it is the congested state of the security market as a consequence of the frequent big additions to the floating debt of the railroads that is primarily responsible for the present demoralisation. Since the beginning of the year over $250,000,000 of short term notes have been created, without taking into consideration new stock and bond issues. Is it any wonder under such circumstances that there has been wholesale liquidation of stocks on the part of banks and financial houses wanting to take up lines of these new notes?

Despite the large amount of money recently raised by the railroads, lately, there is no doubt that it does not represent a tithe of the total needed for improvements and extensions. Many of the companies have publicly announced their intention to curtail their expenditure on new construction work to a minimum pending a return to cheaper money and lower prices for materials. People naturally regard this as a forewarning for a general industrial reaction, and there is no doubt that it will exercise an important effect upon industry, and consequently upon railroad gross earnings a little later on. The matter is receiving all the more attention from the market because of the recent serious effect upon net earnings produced by the rise in wages and materials. Two January statements that caused considerable comment were those of the Louisville and Southern. The former, while having an advance in gross earnings of no less than $358,000, registered an actual decline in net earnings of $28,000. The Southern, while coming out with a gain of $63,000 in gross receipts, had to put up with a drop of $440,000 in net takings. Looking at the January results more broadly, while the gross earnings rose by $4,638,000, an increase of 6 per cent., net receipts were down $1,848,000, or 8 per cent. The Southern has managed to pay its preferred dividend again at the full rate, but the market is beginning to raise doubts about the maintenance of the full dividend much longer. The Pennsylvania report for the year ended December 31 has also been subjected to severe criticism. According to the *Financial News*, a large commission house has sent out a letter to its customers saying that, on the basis of the report for 1906, there is every reason to expect that the showing for 1907 will be very bad. "The railroad," says the letter, "is earning about 10 per cent. on its common stock according to the report; but this year allowance will have to be made for increased wages, the higher cost of materials and operating expenses generally, which represent fully $12,000,000. This amount must be deducted from the net earnings of the last twelve months, leaving $19,000,000, or less than 6½ per cent. on the common stock. Furthermore, the company has disposed of a large part of the treasury stocks, which means that the income will be largely reduced in 1907."

HEAVY LIQUIDATIONS OF CANADIAN PACIFICS—THE INFLUENCE OF WALL STREET—CANADIAN RAILWAY TRAFFICS—ARGENTINE RAILS—A YIELD OF 6 PER CENT. ON B.A. AND PACIFIC—THE NEW BUENOS AYRES MIDLAND RAILWAY.

The blighting influence of Wall Street has effectually checked the rally in Canadian rails. The shares of the Canadian-Pacific, which in the late American boom received a big share of attention from speculators in the United States, have been subjected to a fresh bout of heavy liquidation, and the price has been tossed about like a shuttlecock during the whole week. The Continent joined in the selling chorus, more particularly Berlin, and at one time rumours of failures were reported from that centre, though the stories were promptly shown to be untrue. While speculators who have been trading beyond their depth are being compelled to disgorge, the market must continue in an unsettled state, but the break that has lately occurred ought not to shake the faith of the real holder. The company has now passed the "lean patch" in the matter of earnings that was occasioned by bad weather, and is resuming its former steady rate of expansion. Seeing that net earnings last half-year from the railway alone were equal to more than 16 per cent., there is no question about the maintenance of dividends; the only doubt seems to be as to how long before a higher rate be paid. The Grand Trunk Railway continues to forge ahead in the matter of gross earnings. For the last week of February the line recorded an increase of £3,100—following on top of an advance of £10,100 in the corresponding week of 1906—and thus for the first two months of the year the railway has registered an improvement of £99,400, equal to nearly 9 per cent. The other leading Canadian railway—the Canadian Northern—showed an increase in gross takings for the last seven days of February of $12,900. This brings the aggregate increase since July 1 to $1,246,200, equal to 37.15 per cent.; but there has been an increase of mileage in operation equal to 21.6 per cent. The severe winter, described by the company as "unprecedented in the history of Canada," has done much to spoil the net receipts of the line. In January, for instance, gross receipts declined by $8,500 and working expenses rose $149,700, so that net revenue fell off by $158,200. In consequence, the increase in net receipts since July 1 has been pulled down to $169,500. However, with the advent of milder weather, the company should now begin to go ahead again in the matter of both gross and net earnings.

Argentine rails have, with most other foreign railway stocks, pursued a dwindling tendency during the week. The recent reports of serious damage to the maize crop from drought and locusts have assisted to depress values, but in the main the fall may be accounted for by the adverse influences common to all Stock Exchange securities. Were monetary conditions brighter, it is extremely unlikely that prices would be allowed to crumble as they have lately, even though maize has been damaged to the extent suggested in some quarters. The leading companies already have such big gross traffic increases standing to their credit, and they are, moreover, in such a strong financial position—thanks to the dividend limitation policy pursued during the last few years of marvellous prosperity—that there is little fear about the maintenance of dividends, even allowing for the additions to capital made during the last few months. Perhaps one of the cheapest stocks in the group is Buenos Ayres and Pacific. At the present price the yield is a clear 6 per cent. There is no likelihood of the dividend going above the present 7 per cent. level, but the company should be in a position at the end of the current financial year to again make liberal appropriations to reserve and renewal funds, and thereby further add to the value of the stock as an investment. According to the *Buenos Ayres Herald*, the enterprise of the Pacific Railway, as shown in its methods of informing the public as to what is to be seen along its line and the lines of its Western connections and in the Andes, is being richly rewarded by a very substantial increase in the through and long-distance passenger traffic. In the same way the local traffic is being increased, and scores of houses are being built at near-by stations on the local section. The local train service is described as excellent, the trains run on the schedule time without vexatious and unaccountable delays, the passenger tariff has been reduced to a minimum scale of charges, and season ticket holders are given the privilege of paying three, six, or twelve months in advance, and thereby securing a further and very substantial reduction.

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY, LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

OPTIONS AT LOW RATES can be obtained from the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. List post free to any applicant.

Appended is my usual table:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	March 2, 1907.	Mar. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅜	188¼	178⅝	-10⅛
Grand Trunk	29⅛	25⅛	32⅜	31⅞	-⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	102¼	102	- ¼
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅜	114¾	122¼	121¾	- ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	113	113	—
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	74⅜	73¼	-1⅛
Mexican	50⅞	22½	62	61¾	- ¼
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅜	147	146½	- ⅝
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	98⅜	49½	98	98	—
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11⅝	6	12⅜	12¼	- ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs	124	109	116½	116½	—
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90¼	78½	87⅞	86½	-1
Do. First Incomes	30	18	25½	24	-1½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	91	91	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	66½	81	79½	-1½
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	58	55½	-2½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	26	25	-1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180⅜	162	166½	166	- ½
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	16⅛	15⅞	- ⅛
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	108½	107½	-1
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅛	64½	78	77½	- ½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	118	115½	-2½
Do. and Rosario	120¼	111	108⅜	101	-2½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	127	125½	-1½
Do. Western	138⅜	124½	125	123	-2
East Argentine	100	87	119½	119½	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	(3⅛	69	67	-2
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅜	85	91	90½	- ½
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	88	87½	- ½
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	12½	12	- ½
Leopoldina	86½	69½	77½	76½	-1
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	217½	216	-1½
Central Uruguay	92½	82	93	91½	-1½
Costa Rica	29⅛	25	28¾	28½	- ¼
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	78	78½	+ ½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76¾	77½	78	+ ½
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¾	82¾	83	+ ¼
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	113	112	-1
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	51	51	—
Cuban Central	7⅛	5⅛	7½	7	- ¼
United of Havana	193	105⅜	116	113¾	-2¼
Western of Havana	15⅜	12⅛	13⅝	13¾	+ ⅛
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87⅜	91	91	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs	8⅜	76	78½	79	+ ½
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19½	22¼	22½	—

ACTIVITY AMONG SOUTH AFRICANS STILL CONFINED TO THE DIAMOND FAVOURITES—GOLD SHARES QUIET AND IRREGULAR—THE RANDFONTEIN SCRIP DIVIDEND—TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT FOR FEBRUARY.

In the Kaffir market activity has continued to be confined to diamond descriptions. In these a very fair volume of business has been transacted during the past week, and prices have shown considerable fluctuation. De Beers have been persistently offered on any advance to the neighbourhood of 30, while Jagers have been a rather dull market, possibly owing to some disappointment at the statement that the next dividend will not be at an increased rate. However these shares are expected to go ahead before long, and if anticipations with respect to the company's earnings in the financial year due to commence next month be realised, a purchase at the present level should prove remunerative. Premiers, in which interest was revived by the issue of the directors' report, have continued an active counter, and have been helped by the February return and by the news of the discovery of a diamond of nearly 400 carats, which is stated to be of the finest water. New Vaal Rivers suffered a sharp relapse, but the fall is said to have been due to "bear" sales, and not to any unfavourable news as to the property.

Signs of a revival of outside speculative interest in Kaffir gold shares are still wanting. During the past week business remained on a comparatively small scale, operations being practically limited to professional speculators here and in Paris, and no decided general tendency was displayed. But for the unsettled state of the American market, which has had a restricting influence upon business in other departments of the Stock Exchange, it is thought Kaffirs might have made a rather better showing, although it is hardly expected that the public will resume active operations in these descriptions pending a definite pronouncement of policy by the new Transvaal Legislature, it remaining to be seen what action will be taken with respect to the Chinese on the Rand whose contracts are due to expire from June onward. Meanwhile it is very satisfactory to note that, speaking at Pretoria on Monday evening, General Botha reiterated the statements he made before the elections. He said the Ministry would devote all its efforts to encouraging and helping the mines, and that in the matter of labour no extreme measures would be taken. Below I give my usual table of Kaffir prices, showing the movement on the past month:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest	Feb. 9, 1907.	March 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Angelo	5⅜	2½	3⅜	3½	- ⅛
Anglo-French	2¼	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	- ⅛
Apex	6⅜	2⅜	4 3/16	3½	- ⅛
Boksburg	1 3/16	⅛	⅜	⅜	- 1/16
Cinderella Deep	2¾	1¼	2⅜	2½	- ⅛
City and Suburban (£4)	5½	3½	3⅝	3⅝	- ⅛
Consolidated Goldfields	6⅜	3	4½	4¼	- ¼
Consolidated Main Reef	1 5/16	⅜	⅜	⅜	—
Crown Deep	13½	10⅛	12¼	12¼	- ¼
Crown Reef	13	7½	8⅜	8½	+ ⅛
De Beers Pref. (£2 10s.)	18½	16½	19	18⅜	- ⅛
" " Def. (£2 10s.)	24 1/16	16⅜	27½	29½	+2½
Driefontein	3 1/16	1½	2⅛	2 1/16	- ⅛
Durban Roodepoort	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	- ⅛
East Rand Proprietary	7 1/16	3⅜	4 3/16	4 3/16	- ⅛
Ferreira	20½	17½	2 1/16	19	-1½
Ferreira Deep	5⅜	4½	5½	5⅜	- ⅛
Geduld	5 1/16	1⅜	2 1/16	2½	- 1/16
Geldenhuis Estate	4⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	2 1/16	- ⅛
General Mining and Finance	2 1/16	1⅜	1½	1 1/16	- 1/16
Goerz A. & Co.	3⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	- 1/16
Henderson's Transvaal	1/3	7/-	10/3	9/9	-6d.
Jagersfontein Def.	10½	7 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16	- ⅛
Johannesburg Con. Inv't	1⅜	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	- 1/16
Jubilee	3½	1½	2	1⅞	- ⅛
Jupiter	2 1/16	⅜	1	1⅛	- 1/16
Knight's	4½	2 1/16	3 1/16	3⅛	- ⅛
Langlaagte Estate	3	2 1/16	2 1/16	2⅜	- 1/16
May Consolidated	3⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	- ⅛
Meyer and Charlton	4⅜	3⅜	4⅜	4¼	- ⅛
New African	1 1/16	⅜	1	1	—
New Comet	3	1⅛	1½	1 1/16	+ 1/16
New Goch	2¼	⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
New Heriot	4½	2⅜	3⅜	3½	—
New Modderfontein (£4)	8 1/16	4⅜	6 1/16	6 1/16	- ⅛
New Primrose	3½	2⅜	3⅛	3 1/16	- ⅛
Nigel	3⅛	2½	2 1/16	2½	- 1/16
Oceana Consolidated	1⅜	⅛	20/3	19/3	-1/-
Premier Diamond Def. (2s 6d.)	19⅜	8	12⅛	12⅛	—
Randfontein Estate	2 1/16	1⅛	1 3/16	1 1/16	- ⅛
" North	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1 1/16	- 1/16
" Porges	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1 1/16	- 1/16
" Robinson	1⅛	⅜	1⅛	1 1/16	- ⅛
" South	1⅜	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	- ⅛
Rand Mines (5s. sh.)	7 5/16	5⅜	7 1/16	6 3/16	- ⅛
Robinson (£5)	8⅜	6⅜	8 1/16	9⅛	+ ⅛
Robinson Central Deep	6 1/16	4⅜	5⅛	5 1/16	- ⅛
Robinson Deep	5 1/16	4 1/16	5⅛	5⅜	+ 1/16
Roodepoort United	2⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	- ⅛
South African Gold Mines	6	1⅛	2 1/16	1⅛	- 1/16
South African Gold Trust	4⅛	1⅞	2 3/16	2⅛	- 1/16
Simmer and Jack	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1 1/16	- 1/16
Transvaal Consd. Land	2⅛	1⅜	2⅛	2 1/16	- 1/16
Transvaal Est. and Dev mt.	21/3	9/3	15/-	13/9	-1/3
Transvaal Goldfields	1⅜	⅜	1⅛	1⅛	- ⅛
Treasury	2⅛	⅜	1 1/16	1⅛	- ⅛
Van Ryn	3⅜	2 1/16	3⅛	2 1/16	- ⅛
Village Deep	3⅛	1⅜	2 1/16	2⅛	- 1/16
Village Main Reef	4⅜	3⅛	4 1/16	3 1/16	- ⅛
Violet	2⅛	⅜	1⅜	1⅛	- ⅛
Welgedacht	6	2⅜	3⅛	3½	- ⅛
Witwatersrand Deep	3⅛	2⅛	3	3⅜	+ ⅛
Wolhuter	3⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅛	- ⅛

Some information of particular interest to holders of shares in the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company has come to hand by mail from Johannesburg, where the annual meeting of the company was held last month. It will be remembered that in December last the directors announced a dividend of 10 per cent. payable in the shares of subsidiary companies, but it was not stated which of the twelve subsidiaries the directors had in view. The total number of shares comprising this scrip dividend is 300,000, and it is announced that they form part of the parent company's holding in six subsidiaries; but even now shareholders are not told the names of the companies concerned. As the directors find it impossible to make an equitable distribution of the 300,000 shares as they stand, it is proposed to form a special trust, which will have a capital corresponding to the number of shares to be distributed, and holders of Randfontein Estates will be given one trust share in respect of every ten shares at present held. Those concerned will doubtless regard this as a fair way of settling the matter. Very possibly they would prefer a cash distribution, but the directors consider it would be unwise to deplete the parent company's cash until most of the subsidiary companies have been placed on a crushing footing. The annual statements of the Randfontein Estates, its subsidiaries, and the other companies connected with what is known as the Robinson group

"AMERICAN RAILWAY EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS," by D. O. CROAL, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—EFFINGHAM WILSON. Price 6d. net.

should shortly be in the hands of shareholders on this side, and at a later date, when space permits, I propose to review the results achieved by the mines of this group.

As was to be anticipated in view of the shorter month, the Chinese holidays on the 13th, 14th, and 15th ultimo, and the interruption caused by the elections, the gold output of the Transvaal mines for last month shows a falling off compared with that for January, the decrease amounting to 44,096 oz. in weight, and £187,307 in value, but it is a satisfactory feature that the average daily production last month was higher than in January. The following table gives the comparative results in fine ounces:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638	537,633
February	196,513	289,502	363 811	407,668	493,542
March	217,465	308,242	399 823	443 723	—
April	227,871	305 946	399 166	439,243	—
May	234,125	314,480	416,395	461,202	—
June	238,320	308,219	412,317	475,975	—
July	251,643	307,840	419,505	491 793	—
August	271,918	312,277	428,581	500 115	—
September	276.197	312,286	416,487	505,111	—
October	284,541	325,625	415,527	540 609	—
November	279.813	336,157	424,757	533,373	—
December	286,061	362,264	431,594	550,167	—
Total	2,963,740	3,776,621*	4,897,221	5,786,617	1,031,180

* Includes 7,940 oz. or £33,786 not declared in year.

The monthly statistics in sterling are set out in the subjoined table:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	846,483	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739	2,283,741
February	834.739	1,229,726	1 545,371	1,731 664	2,096,434
March	923,739	1,309,329	1 698,340	1,884,815	—
April	967 936	1,299,576	1 695,550	1,865,785	—
May	994 505	1,335,826	1,768 734	1,959,062	—
June	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751 412	2,021,813	—
July	1 068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	2,039,004	—
August	1,155,039	1,326 468	1 820,496	2,162,583	—
September	1,173,211	1,326 506	1,769 124	2,145,575	—
October	1,208,669	1,338,167	1 765,047	2,296 371	—
November	1,188,571	1,427 947	1,804 253	2 265,625	—
December	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833 295	2 336,961	—
Totals	12,589,247	16,054,909	20,802,074	24,579,987	4,380,175

The gold produced and the profits earned by individual companies are set out in the table below:—

Company.	December.		January.		February.	
	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £
Angelo	13 372	26,130	13,372	24,912	10,311	16,987
Bonanza	2.179	5 000	2 155	3,049	2,037	2 528
Cason	18.310	36 774	18 110	35,848	16,009	28,969
City and Suburban	9,633	16,541	10 159	16,570	9,262	14,342
Comet New	7,728	8,917	7,842	7,838	6,790	4,991
Consolidated Langlaagte	6,753	7,206	6,859	7,722	6,700	7,585
Consolidated Main Reef	6,647	7,9 0	6 727	7,915	6,016	7,448
Crown Deep	12,024	21,550	13,808	24 250	12,955	24,169
Crown Reef	10.756	22 410	10,771	22.545	10 416	22,008
Driefontein	7,510	6 039	7,592	5,727	7,663	4,170
Durban Roodepoort	4,418	6.000	4,498	5,900	4,203	—
Do. Deep	4,133	1.950	4,209	2 150	3,633	1,750
Ferreira	12,786	29,968	13,146	30,503	12 603	30,507
Ferreira Deep	13.470	34,160	13,664	34,350	12 813	32,150
French Rand	6 5 5	5 074	6,521	5 020	5,223	3,526
Geldenhuis Estate	6 775	13,649	6,611	3 9 1	6.191	12,745
Geldenhuis Deep	9,854	13 400	10,392	13,650	9,732	13,300
Ginsberg	2,373	1,580	2,445	1 538	2,231	2,490
Glencairn	4,922	6,093	5 152	6 174	4,844	6,116
Glen Deep	7.377	10 350	7,824	10 750	6,409	8,400
Glynn's Lydenburg	1,430	4,109	1,544	4,011	1,458	—
Goch, New	8,086	10 045	7,852	8 681	6,505	4,878
Heriot, New	5,043	10,423	3,900	4,703	3,904	5,006
Jubilee	1,683	—	1,698	—	1.718	—
Jumpers	5,413	7,027	5,796	7,490	5,330	6,090
Jumpers Deep	6,913	3.470	6,921	3,750	6,102	3,700
Klemfontein, New	13 154	20,998	13,461	21 345	11.910	17,491
Knight's (Witwatersrand)	10.693	15 202	10,703	15,304	10,085	16,678
Knight's Deep	11,473	17,655	11,448	16,646	10,490	14,939
Lancaster	4 948	5,771	4,964	5,918	4,229	4,574
Lancaster West	2 675	3.300	2,232	1,811	2 143	1,753
Langlaagte Deep	10,047	10,150	11 638	11,000	10 314	10.200
Langlaagte Estate	10 079	15 000	10,194	15,5 0	9,250	13,800
Luipaard's Vlei	4 803	6,478	5 201	7,088	4,619	6,485
May Consolidated	5,842	12 292	5,874	11,991	5,616	11,056
Meyer & Charlton	5,848	11,009	5,874	11,339	5,434	10,470
Modderfontein, New	6,615	7,668	6,504	8,009	6,370	7,834
New Unified	2,501	991	2,658	1,132	2,535	1 148
Nigel	4,183	,508	4,004	6,500	3,702	5,935
Nigel Deep	1 942	1, 76	1,910	1,052	1,833	1,043
North Randfontein	6,226	8,400	6,146	6,600	5,370	5,500
Nourse Mines	12,806	16 860	13,059	17,000	11,745	16,450
Porges Randfontein	6,406	11,000	6,109	8,200	5,876	8,100
Primrose, New	7,535	16,099	7,985	16 286	6,997	13,714
Princess	3,695	4,216	3 929	5,178	3,463	3,471
Rietfontein, New	8,985	16 343	9,679	17,056	9,005	15,328
Robinson	20,768	57,953	22,090	60,468	21,514	60,461
Robinson Central Deep	11,143	31 744	11,232	31,752	10 577	30 208
Robinson Deep	20,241	45 313	20,047	49 639	18 513	36,014
Robinson Randfontein	5,8 3	7 000	5,393	3 500	5 535	5 500
Roodepoort Central Deep	2,9 7	2,456	2,924	2 004	2,787	2 240
Roodepoort United	5,884	7,575	5,650	7,202	4,872	5,331
Rose Deep	10,015	12 150	10 020	11 566	9,241	11 0 0
Salisbury	1 775	2,025	1,770	1,755	—	—
Sheba	2,319	—	2,100	—	2,332	—
Simmer East	11,312	9 577	11 081	9,000	10 051	7,040
Simmer & Jack	24 059	46,197	24,419	47,078	21,109	39 542
South Randfontein	5,702	5,400	5,648	4,500	5,248	5,100
Transvaal G. M. Estates	4,446	6 415	4 266	6,019	4,043	5,511
Treasury	2,869	1.112	2 823	1,051	2,592	4 0
Van Ryn	9,876	19 313	10,304	10,772	8 6 6	16,242
Village Deep	8,518	8 6 0	9,059	8,750	7,367	4,765
Village Main Reef	15,876	26,119	15,400	24,155	14,552	24 098
Vogelstruis E tates	2 668	-	2 504	2,671	—	—
West Rand Central	896	375	963	450	9 5	430
Windsor	1 390	23	1,383	207*	1 329	*106
Witwatersrand Deep	14,114	20 427	11,082	19,302	11,393	19,877
Worcester	1,435	—	1,393	—	1,019	—
Wolhuter	6,112	5,826	5,750	4,208	5,498	3,399

* Loss.

In a few cases, it will be noticed, profits are a little larger than in January, despite February being a shorter month. On the other hand, heavy declines are shown by the East Rand subsidiaries, which also exhibited a falling off in January compared with December. The native labour return for February is very satisfactory, a gain of over 4,000 being reported, and this follows on a steady increase of late.

Rhodesians have continued a disappointing market, the general tendency having been towards a lower level of quotations. Some fresh favourable development to stimulate interest in this department is hoped for, the Chartered report and meeting, though providing evidence of satisfactory progress, having failed to give the market a fillip. The gold statistics for February are not likely to help matters owing to the shorter month.

Interest in the Westralian Market Centred mainly on Horseshoes and Fingalls—Further Decline in the Deep Leads Group.

Speculative interest in the Westralian Market during the past week centred mainly upon Golden Horseshoes and Great Fingalls. In my last notes I dealt with the revival of activity in the former shares and stated that no reason had transpired to account for the substantial advance in the quotation. Horseshoes have recently been up to over £8, and although they have dropped back below that figure it will be seen from the following table that on the week they still show a good margin in favour of holders:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 2, 1907.	Mar. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8	—
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	- 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	5/9	5/6	- 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/4	4 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	+ 1/8
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/3	25/-	- 3d.
Do Perseverance	13/-	7/3	7/6	7/6	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 3/8	2 1/4	1 1/8	2 1/4	+ 1/8
Hainault	1 1/8	1/2	1 1/8	1 1/2	+ 1/16
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/2	6 1/8	7 1/4	7 1/8	- 1/8
Kalgurli	12 1/4	8 3/4	11 1/2	11 1/2	—
Lake View Consols	1 1/8	1/2	1/2	1/2	- 1/16
L. & W. A Exploration	21/10 1/2	8/6	17/6	17/-	- 6d.
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	1 1/2	1 1/4	- 1/8
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/2	1 1/2	+ 1/16
South Kalgurli	1 1/8	1/4	1/2	1/2	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/8	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/8	- 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/8	5/9	4/6	- 1/3
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	- 1/8

The latest suggestion in connection with the recent spurt in Horseshoes is that a prominent French speculator took advantage of the narrowness of the market in the shares to hoist the price, thinking it not unlikely that by so doing he would catch some dealers short and their purchases would enable him to get out at a satisfactory profit. At the same time, the belief that the annual report, due to be issued shortly, will make a satisfactory showing has helped to keep up the quotation. In the case of Great Fingalls, the recent relapse on the disappointment caused by the latest ore-reserves estimate has been followed by a smart recovery, the shares having

been up to over 2¼ at one time during the past week. The buying, which was Colonial in origin, was accompanied by a rumour as to a favourable development having occurred in the property. The official cable published a week yesterday showed an improvement in the grade of the ore at the No. 13 (the lowest) level, while the reef in a winze sunk below that level was reported to assay 35s. per ton over a width of 4 ft. 8 in. —a payable grade. The subsequent colonial buying would seem to indicate a maintenance of the improvement in the position at depth. In other Westralians business has been on a small scale and no special feature has been presented. The Deep Leads group has experienced a further relapse in prices, the main reason for which is the continuance of the delay in reaching the deepest part of the ancient river bed at the Loddon Valley. Further cabled news has come to hand from this property, and the results announced are encouraging, but they are not from the point on which market interest is centred.

Copper Shares Continue Active and the Favourites Sharply Relapse—Zincs Very Erratic—Further Official Information—Balaghat and Ooregum Distributions—Increasing Interest in the Dharwar Goldfield—Nundydroog Position—Indian Gold Output.

Activity has continued to characterise the market in copper shares, and during the past week the "bull" movement received a check, the influence of the American situation on mining descriptions being most marked in the case of the copper group. The remaining "bears" of Tintos have found the course of the market much more to their liking than for some weeks past, for as a result of extensive realisations, largely on Continental account, the price of the shares has suffered a substantial relapse from the high record of over 109 recently touched. The position of the market in the metal has not given cause for uneasiness, and the selling of copper shares would appear to have been mainly induced by the general depression arising out of the American unsettlement, and in the event of this bugbear being removed, a fresh upward movement in the copper favourites would no doubt follow. Arizonas have suffered in sympathy with the heavier descriptions, and the relapse affords mining investors a favourable opportunity to acquire an interest in the undertaking. The February return of 1,286 tons of copper was satisfactory, allowing for the shorter month, and it is expected that the current month's production will reach the long-hoped-for record of 1,500 tons. In the event of such a monthly output being secured and maintained up to the end of September, it is considered probable that the company will be able to show much better dividend results than the rate distributed in respect of the year ended September last, which was 105 per cent. In the Australian group of copper shares, Great Cobars have participated in the general downward tendency, the recent sharp rise in the quotation having been followed by profit-taking realisations and "bear" sales.

Zinc Corporations have continued to monopolise attention in the Broken Hill group. Dealings in these shares have again been on an extensive scale, and the price has fluctuated widely, the extremes having been 26s. 6d. and 33s. 6d. On Thursday last dealers, for a change, talked very bullishly of the undertaking, it being rumoured that private cables reported the plant to be working satisfactorily. On the following day an official cable reached London, announcing that the plant was treating 120 tons per day, a second unit, bringing the tonnage up to 240, would be started within ten days, and another unit soon after. Though satisfactory so far as it goes, the effect of this cable upon the market was adverse, dealers having expected to be told more. But holders of the shares will doubtless be reassured by this message, as obviously the directors who are visiting the works, and who are experts, would not recommend the starting of further portions of the plant were the process the utter failure market rumour has so assiduously asserted it to be. The promised further cable is awaited with considerable interest, and it is hoped it will give details as to extraction and working costs. The rumour as to a new issue of capital being contemplated has been revived, but I am informed that the directors have no proposal of the kind under consideration, the funds available being quite adequate for present requirements. The Broken Hill Mine shares have given way in price, but this has been the result of the general depression, and not of any unfavourable development in connection with the mines themselves or the metal markets. The first return of the Broken Hill South Blocks is now to hand. If the net amount given in the cable may be taken as the company's profit after the payment of working expenses, the return must be considered very satisfactory, the sum mentioned being equivalent to 30s. per ton. The mine is stated to have over 400,000 tons of ore opened up, which, at 30s. per ton profit, would represent a sum of £600,000, or £3 per share, and this estimate does not make any allowance for the value of the tailings, which will ultimately be treated by the company for their zinc contents.

A dull tendency has also characterised West African, American, Siberian, and Indian descriptions, as will be gathered from a glance at the table of prices given below:—

Share.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Mar. 2, 1907.	Mar. 9, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	- 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	18/-	17/3	- 9d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3/8	1/2	1 5/8	1 1/2	- 1/8
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/4	1 7/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Wassau	1 1/8	1/2	7/8	7/8	- 1/16
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	3/-	3/-	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	4 3	4/-	- 3d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	26/6	26/-	- 6d.
Esperanza	5 5/16	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/16	- 1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 5/16	1 1/2	- 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	41/3	39 4 1/2	- 1/10 1/2
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 3/4	3 7/16	4 3/4	4 3/32	- 5/32
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	30/-	30/-	—
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	15 1/16	13 3/4	- 1 5/8
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	52/9	52/6	- 3d.
Mount Morgan	4 3/4	3 1/2	4 1/16	4 1/2	+ 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/2	63 3/8	108	101 3/4	- 6 1/4
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	26/-	26/-	—
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	3/4	3	2 15/16	- 1/16
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	19/-	18/-	- 1/-
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	13/9	12/-	- 1/9
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	6 3/32	6 1/8	- 3/32
Siberian Mines	2 15/16	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 3/16	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 5/8	3 3/8	6 1/4	6	- 1/4
Waihi	9 13/16	6 5/16	9	9	—

Further dividend declarations by Indian gold-mining companies have just been made. On Balaghats a final distribution of 1s. 9d. per share on both the ordinary and preference shares is announced, which makes the total return for 1906 the same as for 1905—namely, 3s. on the ordinary and 5s. on the preference. At the current market price the yield on the ordinary is equivalent to 16 per cent. per annum, which makes the shares appear cheap. But it must be remembered that recent developments have been poor and the rate of the output has had to be reduced, so that, unless the mine's position improves, the 1906 rate of dividends is not likely to be maintained in the current year. The Ooregum announces a balance dividend of 9d. per share on both ordinary and preference shares, making the total distribution for the past year 1s. 3d. (or 12½ per cent.) on the ordinary and 2s. 3d. (or 22½ per cent.) on the preference. The amounts are the same as were paid in respect of 1905. Shareholders in this company are also notified that the directors recommend an increase of capital to the extent of £68,500 by the creation and issue of 137,000 shares of 10s. each at par. For what purpose the new capital is required is not yet announced; details are promised when the annual

"The Mining Year Book."—A. N. Jackman 1907 edition now ready. All information about 4,000 mining and kindred Companies, including details of recent copper, tin, Brokenhill and Siberian Gold flotations, 15s. net. post free. All Booksellers. —Financial Times, 72, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

report is issued in about a week's time. It is, however, surmised that the Board intends to follow the lead of the Champion Reef, Coromandel, and Mysore Companies and acquire an interest in the Dharwar district. In view of the attention being paid to this new mining field, the annual report of the Dharwar Reefs is of especial interest. This company is the most advanced, having concentrated work on one of its properties. The payable ore reserves were increased during the last twelve months by 14,247 tons, making a total of 17,686 tons. Crushing was commenced last month, and the announcement of the first "clean-up," which in all probability will be made at the end of the current month, is awaited with considerable interest. Other concerns which have acquired properties or options on properties in this district are the Goldfields of Dharwar, Dharwar Gold Mines, the Sangli Gold-Mining Company, and the Goldfields of Mysore and General Exploration Company. So far the results obtained on the new field have been of an encouraging character, and no doubt mining investors are destined to hear a good deal about it in the future. The report for 1906 of the Nundydroog Company is just to hand, and I observe that it makes a more satisfactory showing than its predecessor in regard to the amount of ore opened up in the mine, the ore reserves at the end of the past year being estimated at 73,000 tons, compared with 49,100 tons at the end of 1905. It will be gratifying to shareholders to read that the condition of the mine has much improved, and to find that the superintendent in his report expresses the opinion that the present favourable prospects of the company justify the expectation that the exploratory work of the current year will be attended by important developments. Were the ore reserves position stronger—the latest figures represent barely a year's supply for the treatment plant—Nundydroogs would be an attractive purchase among the Indian gold shares, the yield on the current price on the basis of the dividends for 1906 working out at 14 per cent. This is not quite as high as the yield on Balaghats, but then immediate prospects are brighter in the case of the Nundydroog.

The output of the Indian gold mines for February and preceding months is given in the subjoined table:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	48,080	51,588	52 157	52 009	46,010
February	46,268	50.151	50,660	49,576	43,224
March	48,434	51,634	52.688	49.040	—
April	48,573	50.609	53,374	46,033	—
May	48,971	51,242	52.174	48.515	—
June	49,368	51.606	52,717	47,816	—
July	50,989	51,233	52,191	47,247	—
August	50,717	51,517	52,017	46.817	—
September	51,714	51,666	52.039	49,638	—
October	51,824	51,238	52,291	47.101	—
November	52.016	51,664	51,906	46,487	—
December	54,467	52,690	54,201	49,981	—
Total	601,411	616,838	628,415	577,260	89,234

The further falling-off in the February returns is accounted for by the shorter month and the hindrance to the Mysore's operations by the fire at the mine.

"Foundation Stones of Fortune."

This is the heading of one of the many seductively-worded advertisements that are now being issued by the International Securities Syndicate, 23, Westminster Palace-gardens, S.W. "Investing £5 to produce £5,000," is the heading of another, and all of them are cleverly designed to gammon ingenuous investors with the idea that a purchase of foreign Government and municipal premium bonds from the syndicate offers a sure road to fortune. For years past the notorious Paris firms of Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville, Glyn, and Co. have been engaged in a similarly pernicious enterprise, but in the grossness of its misrepresentations, the cunning with which it sets its trap for the unwary, and the lavishness of its expenditure on flambuoyant newspaper advertisements, this mushroom concern in Westminster completely eclipses the old-established practitioners. It may therefore be useful if I point out once more that the syndicate, like its rivals, charges prices outrageously in excess of the actual market value of the bonds which it sells, that the "combinations" which it recommends include bonds which are practically worthless, and that instead of being—as is mendaciously asserted—a safe and remunerative form of investment, a purchase of one of these "combinations" is really a gamble with enormously long odds against the punter. These reasons should be sufficient to show the most foolish of the public the unwisdom of dealing with the firm; but another may be mentioned. The International Securities Syndicate is no doubt a somewhat impressive title in the eyes of innocents; but who are the persons using it? What guarantee is there of their respectability, their financial stability, their trustworthiness as recipients of the money of the public paying for bonds by instalments?

More to Follow?

By one neat stroke the Recorder of London last week made a clean sweep of the Globe and Lancashire Stock Exchange, Blythe, Gould and Co., Gordon, Richmond and Co., and Fife, Hamilton and Co. These were the various well-sounding titles under which Edward Wm. Donallon, alias E. Pellett (now gone to gaol for twenty months' hard labour), and John Hollingworth (twelve months' ditto) had for a couple of years carried on a series of bucket-shop frauds. The promise of a profit of £50 a month on an "investment" of £5 was the bait they held out, and victims were hooked among all classes of the community. A major in the Indian Army parted with £35; a London clergyman with £20. It has been said that where a demand is there will be a supply, and when presumably educated men, to say nothing of a host of ignorant people, can be so easily imposed upon, it is not perhaps surprising that frauds of this sort are common. It is, however, part of the business of the law to protect the fools from the rogues, and I hope that this prosecution of Donallon and Hollingworth will be promptly followed up by others. There are still at large in the city a considerable number of swindlers practising precisely the same game.

A South African Stores Scandal.

Recently a shareholder in the Naval, Military, and Civil Service Co-operative Stores of South Africa, Limited, suggested to me that the whole history of that unfortunate concern ought to be unfolded for the benefit of the public. I am inclined to think so myself, but the difficulty is that the story embraces a series of scandals too numerous and too complicated to be related in any detail in the space at my disposal. Besides, many of the facts have already been published, though only in detached instalments. It is, for instance, now known to everybody interested that the promoter of the company, which was registered in April, 1902, was Marcus Percy Shorrock, who at that time was an undischarged bankrupt, and who, for the purpose of this promotion, used a concern called Services, Limited, of which he was the sole director. Eventually Shorrock also got himself appointed a "committee of one" to exercise all the powers of the board of directors of the Co-operative Stores Company. The original directors, mainly military men, seem to have been mere instruments in the hands of Shorrock. One of their first proceedings was to enter into a monstrously inequitable contract with Services, Limited, and apart from this the conduct of the company's business was marked by the most reprehensible laxity and incompetence. Shares were allotted to the public to the amount of about £42,000, and a further £6,322 was obtained by an issue of debentures. By the end of the first year upwards of £17,000 had been spent for which there was nothing whatever to show, and in April, 1903, a compulsory winding-up order was made upon a shareholder's petition. This order was unfortunately discharged a couple of months later, and thenceforward the position of the company went from bad to worse. Its absolute helplessness was at length admitted, and in September last it was resolved that the company should be wound up. Mr. F. B. Smart, of 22, Queen-street, E.C., being

appointed liquidator. The liquidation is not yet completed, but it is quite clear that the shareholders have not the remotest chance of receiving back a penny of their money. As to the debenture holders, an action was brought against the company for the return of the money subscribed. This action was settled in October, 1905, on an undertaking on the part of the company as to the transfer of certain property in South Africa, for which purpose a sum of £5,997 was left in the hands of the trustees for the debenture holders. The undertaking as to the property in South Africa was not carried out, but soon after it had been given the trustees advanced £4,800 of the money to the Higgs Dairy Company (then known as the Army and Navy Dairy Company), which is another of Shorrock's companies. This advance was made at the time without any security, though subsequently debenture stock certificates for £3,300 and a deposit note for £1,500 were taken from the Higgs Dairy Company. Besides Shorrock, two other directors of the Co-operative Stores were also directors of the Dairy Company, and one of the two trustees for the debenture holders in the former company was also a director of the latter. This transaction was severely condemned by Mr. Justice Neville a few weeks ago on a further application by the debenture holders against the South African Company and the trustees, but his lordship found that no actual breach of the undertaking had been proved to have been committed, inasmuch as no specific time for its performance was fixed. From beginning to end the story of the Naval, Military, and Civil Service Co-operative Stores of South Africa is a gross scandal, and it is to be regretted that the law is apparently impotent to deal with it.

Insurance Notes—Prudential—Sun Life—American Life Offices.

As a rule, I say little or nothing about the annual reports of insurance companies, because for the most part it is more interesting and more useful to the general reader to deal with practical insurance matters from the point of view of the policy-holder. Here and there, however, among the numerous accounts which are being published at the present time there are some which, for one reason or another, are of exceptional interest. The Prudential Assurance Company, for instance, with nearly 18,000,000 policies in force, is an institution of interest to almost everybody. The magnitude of the Prudential is a standing marvel, but is by no means the most wonderful thing about it. The point that strikes me most is the perfection and organisation of the management in every detail. Organisation is the keynote of the Prudential position. Its work is limited to the British Isles, and so thoroughly does it cover the whole field that its funds approximate in amount to those of the great American life offices, which do business throughout the civilised world. Its total assets amount to close upon £64,000,000, and every year it has to find fresh investments for something like £5,000,000. The low prices for good securities which have been prevailing in recent years are a great benefit to a company like the Prudential, which has no occasion to realise its assets. The plan adopted is to enter securities in the balance-sheet at their cost price, and not to write them up or down to the market value from year to year. Even in present circumstances the reserve fund for fluctuation in the value of securities considerably exceeds the difference between the market and the book value of the securities. The financial position of the company is superabundantly strong, and its financial strength is being steadily increased from year to year.

Both last year and this the directors had a pleasant surprise to announce to their policy-holders. In 1906 an enormous amount was set aside for the purpose of giving bonuses to industrial policy-holders; these were not provided for in the policies, and the concession was an act of wise generosity on the part of the shareholders which has been fully appreciated, as is shown by the great extension of the industrial branch. This policy of granting extended benefits to industrial policy-holders is to be continued, although the total cost of the benefits already exceeds £4,000,000. On the present occasion it is the turn of the ordinary policy-holders. For the last ten years participating policies have had the sum assured increased by a bonus addition of 30s. a year on each £100. The directors now see their way to increase this bonus to 32s., and to maintain it at this higher rate for the future. When we remember that the average amount of an ordinary policy in the Prudential is less than £100, it will be recognised that the Prudential affords small policy-holders the opportunity of assuring to particularly good advantage. The magnitude of the Prudential business is the obvious thing to say about it, but the much more important point is the merit, as judged by the results to policy-holders, and the soundness and ability with which its affairs are managed.

With the end of 1906 the Sun Life Office completed a quinquennial valuation period, and with commendable promptness the results are already published, including specimens of the bonuses. The bonuses to policyholders are the final test of success, and in this respect the latest valuation of the Sun is a slight improvement upon that of 1901, and a great deal better than 1896. The society has funds sufficient to meet its liabilities if interest is earned at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, any interest in excess of that rate constituting an additional source of both security and future profit. As the rate earned last year was £4 4s. 9d., after deduction of income-tax, it will be seen that the profit from this source is considerable. The Sun Life has proved in very practical fashion that it is feasible to issue life policies without medical examination. When the Sun started this it was regarded as a bold experiment, but the favourable mortality mentioned in the report fully justifies the action of the directors, which has been very popular with the public. The further innovation of accepting premiums monthly has proved a great convenience to a large number of people. I do not mean that the Sun was the first to adopt this course, but I think it has been the only one to do a monthly premium business on a large scale at a moderate rate of expense.

The disturbances in the American life offices make their accounts for last year of quite unusual interest. I should doubt if so great an improvement as is revealed by the reports of these companies has ever before taken place in so short a time. The New York Life reduced the rate of expenditure from 22 per cent. of the premium income to 17 per cent.; and although part of this saving may be due to a reduction in the amount of the new business, it undoubtedly gives proof of real economies effected and promise of further economies to come. I have for years been objecting to the American life offices for three reasons. Their chief aim was bigness, their principle of working was the tontine bonus system, and the consequence of these two things was a very extravagant rate of expenditure. On all three of these points the practices of the companies have been altered. The amount of the new business they are now allowed to do in the course of a year must not exceed assurances for £30,000,000, although even last year, in spite of a great deal of dissatisfaction, the New York Life issued new policies assuring £34,508,639. This limitation of new business directly conduces to economy and to the welfare of policyholders. The tontine bonus system, whereby the profits were alloted only to those who survived the tontine period, usually of twenty years, is also abolished in favour of annual bonuses. For a variety of reasons this is a great improvement. It enables the position of the companies from year to year to be judged much more effectively than before, and it is a distinct check upon extravagant management. The investments of the American life offices have always been managed very skilfully. The New York Life, for instance, is able to announce that not one penny of interest was in default at the close of the year, and the Mutual of New York were in a position to make a similar statement.

The Mutual also shows a reduction in expenses of more than 7 per cent. of the premium income, while the bonuses declared in 1907 exceed by more than 20 per

cent. the bonuses of 1906. Considered as a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, these economies and reforms altogether outweigh the irregularities about which so much fuss was made. The companies themselves have practically condemned their former custom of paying £20,000 or £30,000 a year to their presidents, who now receive only £10,000. It has quite properly been declared illegal to contribute to political party funds, or to attempt to ward off legislation in various States by bribing legislators, who frequently introduced their Bills for the purpose of earning blackmail; but the plain fact of the matter is that the cost of these practices to the policy-holders was infinitesimal, while the abolition of tontine bonuses, the limitation of new business, and the big reduction in expenses, are points of very great importance which must inevitably produce vastly better results than before for the policy-holders. In regard to the American offices, people have been straining at gnats and swallowing camels in the most absurd fashion. Personally, I strained at the camels, and quite consciously swallowed the gnats. Now that both the camels and the gnats have been got rid of, it is only fair to point out that the serious objections which I formerly expressed to the three New York companies have entirely ceased to exist, and that I look forward with confidence to their future being characterised by great prosperity.

Last week, by a clerical error, I said the exact opposite of what I meant about sundry house-purchase insurance companies, though I hope the context made my meaning clear. I should have said, "They commonly promise a vast deal more than it is possible to accomplish, and perform a vast deal less than it is perfectly feasible for a first-class life office to do." Unfortunately this word "less" was printed as "more."

New Issues.

The following new issues are announced:—

De Dion-Bouton (1907), Limited.—With a capital of £195,000, divided into 185,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 200,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, this company has been formed to acquire the business, contracts, rights, and property of a company of the same name (registered in England in 1899), which has the exclusive selling agency in the United Kingdom and the British Colonies of cars manufactured by the celebrated French firm, De Dion-Bouton et Cie. The new company also acquires various De Dion-Bouton patents and licences in respect thereof, now held by other companies, which will give it the control in the United Kingdom and the Colonies of the whole manufacture and sale of motor vehicles manufactured under the above-mentioned patents. Unexecuted orders for motors amounting to £59,000 are being taken over by the company. The profits of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, are shown to have risen from £800 in 1900 to £20,163 in 1906. It is estimated that on an annual output of 1,500 cars being attained a net manufacturing profit of £78,500 should be made. Subscriptions are invited for the ordinary shares, and the list will close on or before Thursday, March 14.

Hitherto the business has been restricted to the sale of imported "De Dion" cars, the company having no manufacturing rights. From the first the profits have steadily increased, and with the further development of the business that is now projected, the shares offered appear to be a fairly promising speculative investment. The presence of Mr. S. F. Edge and Mr. J. W. Stocks at the head of the new undertaking should ensure its being ably managed.

Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Co.—Applications are invited for the purchase of £600,000 Five per Cent. First Debentures, at £92 10s. per cent. of this company, the amount forming part of a total authorised sum of £2,000,000. The company is registered under English law, and has been authorised under a concession granted by the Provincial Government of Buenos Ayres to construct and work a metre gauge line of about 333 miles in length, between Barracas al Sud (a suburb of the city of Buenos Ayres) and Adolfo Alsina (Carhué), the junction of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Buenos Ayres Western Railways. The concession includes, among other provisions and regulations, the free introduction of the necessary material for the construction and working of the line; the exemption from all municipal and provincial taxes until the line shall have earned 8 per cent. on the capital invested in the construction of the railway, and the reservation by the Provincial Government to expropriate the railway twenty years after it has been open to traffic, the value of such expropriation to be fixed by arbitration plus an additional 20 per cent. The district through which the new line will pass is reported upon by Mr. Charles Steel, late General Manager of the Great Northern Railway (of England), and Mr. Oliver Budge, formerly General Manager of the East Argentine Railway, and now one of the directors of the new concern. These gentlemen state that the railway will traverse some of the most productive districts of the Argentine Republic, and pass through districts similar to those served by the Buenos Ayres Western lines. Construction work was commenced in June last, and it is anticipated that the first 25 kilometres of the line from Barracas al Sud will be completed very shortly. The list of applications for the debentures will close to-day (Wednesday)

In view of the great scope for development there is in Argentina and of the very successful careers of the lines serving the southern half of the Republic, there is no reason to take aught but a cheerful view of the new company's prospects. At the same time, seeing that the line has yet to be built, nobody can pretend to definite knowledge of what the company's earning power will turn out to be. Under these circumstances the new scrip is a somewhat speculative investment, especially when regarded from the point of view of a debenture.

The Arnoya Mining Company, Ltd.—This company has a capital of £400,000, divided into 100,000 shares of £4 each, of which 95,000 are offered for public subscription. It has been formed (*inter alia*) to acquire by lease, concession, licence, or otherwise, mines, mining rights, or metalliferous lands in any part of the world or any interest therein, and to explore, exercise, develop, and turn to account the same; and particularly in the first instance to acquire two tin mines known as "Sultana" and "Sultana II.," both situated in the neighbourhood of the towns of Ribadavia and Filgueiras, and near to the village of Paolo, in the province of Orense, Spain. It is stated that a considerable amount of work has been carried out on the principal tin lodes on the property, and some of the levels have been sunk to the extent of 200 mètres or thereabouts. The engineer reports that a present production of 1,200 tons of oxide of tin may be obtained from the property, and this should produce about 890 tons of metal, at an estimated working cost of £33,000. At present the market price of tin varies from £190 to £195 per ton. The subscription list closes on Thursday for town, and on Friday for the country.

Canadian Estates, Limited.—The capital of this company is £400,000, divided into 215,000 seven per cent. participating preference shares of £1 each and 185,000 ordinary shares. Subscriptions are invited for the preference shares. The company has been formed primarily to acquire the whole of the share capital of the Douglas Lake Cattle Company, Ltd., a company incorporated according to the laws of British Columbia, and owning the Douglas Lake Ranch, described by the prospectus as the best known and most valuable of the cattle and horse ranches in that country. This company has been composed of three shareholders, only, whose advanced age is the sole reason for their parting with their interests.

It is mentioned that, owing to the manner in which the books of the Douglas Lake Company have been kept, it is impossible to give a proper balance-sheet, and only estimates of profits from the ranch are available. The present offer of participating preference shares (the preferential dividend is non-cumulative) does not seem to be very attractive.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

Colonel.—1. They are excellently secured, and will pro touch par later on, when monetary conditions improve

Although not having any special revenue hypothecated to them as in the case of No. 1, these bonds ought to be worth keeping. The fall has been due almost entirely to dear money, which necessitated the raising of a new loan upon a 5 per cent. basis. Naturally, under such circumstances, the yield on the Fours had to be readjusted for the time being. *High Walter.*—The municipality has defaulted before, and I should not like to say it will never do so again. However, the yield is fairly high.

Railways.

Anceps.—A high-class investment. You could buy or sell through the London Stock Exchange, though, of course, the market for the shares is a somewhat nominal one. *D. W. W.*—I would not care to recommend any for investment at present. *Ablitt.*—Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference and Buenos Ayres Western New Four and a Half per Cent. Preference. *Orient.*—The bonds offered a few weeks ago are quoted 1 discount to 1 premium—that is cum the rights to $300 Preferred and $300 Common for every $1,000 bond. There are no dealings in the issue placed last year, and I have therefore been unable to obtain a price. The Common stock is quoted at 15 and the Preferred at 35. The Shanghai-Nanking Railway profit-sharing sub. certificates are worth about 7½. They are, of course, a very speculative holding, and hardly fit for a lady. *E. H. F.*—1. I do not look for any immediate recovery, and would not average at present. 2. For lock-up purposes an exchange into the Third Preference would be advisable. *F. C. C.*—It would be a mistake to sell such a sound stock at a loss. All investment securities are depressed for the time being. *P. Arson.*—1. The shares bore a guarantee, and are therefore an excellent investment. 2. The recent history of the line has been a sore disappointment. You might await the report, but unless that document puts a much better complexion upon the dividend than was given by the formal dividend announcement, it would be advisable to cut the loss. *Strandtown.*—You could get practically 4½ per cent. with excellent security on Buenos Ayres Western Railway New Preference shares. I would not advise you to try for more. *Juvenis.*—1. No. 2. Apply to the secretary. *Perplexed.*—The conversion plan had a good deal to recommend it, and you need have no doubt about the bona-fides of the people carrying it through. Your new scrip will be delivered in due course. *Riddle.*—I have made inquiries, and find that the value of the new 4 per cent. bonds is not 80, as you state, but about 70. *Tottenham.*—Both high-class investments, and should be held for an ultimate recovery. *Poor Man.*—You are asking too high a yield to be compatible with safety. No. 1 is a hopeful speculative purchase, but I do not see where you get your yield of £5 6s. 8d. from. The stock last year got 3 per cent. It may, and probably will, get 4 per cent. in respect of the current year, but you cannot regard this as a matter of course. Nos. 2 and 5 are too speculative, and both 3 and 6 are unsuitable, because of the options held by the companies to redeem at any time. No. 4 would be a good purchase, though for the present the margin behind the stock is very small; indeed, it has not yet been proved that the stock earned its full interest in the second half of last year, though in all probability it did. *Como.*—Hold. See this week's comments. *F. J.*—There is no reason why you should sell at a loss. The line is doing very well, and there is reason to look for a moderate advance before long.

Mines.

Primrose.—There is a fair chance of the shares having some recovery, in which event it might be as well to realise. *Bell.*—Hold for the directors' report. See my notes this week. *R. R. R.*—An exchange into the tin shares would be a hopeful speculation, as you would then receive good interest on your money. *J. K. S.*—Dividend prospects are rather remote, and by waiting you might be able to purchase still cheaper. *Wee McGregor.*—It is impossible to estimate the lives of such propositions as you name, but on the information available the shares appear hopeful speculative holdings. *Long.*—1. The present does not seem a favourable time to realise. 2. Prospects are not very bright. 3. The concern has gone into liquidation. *Domus.*—1. South Broken Hills are the best as a holding, but you should not put too much money into the shares of a group such as this, which is so largely dependent upon the course of the metal market. 2. Ivanhoes are good holding for dividends.

Mixed Securities.

Jungle.—1. The rate varies according to the movement in the Bank Rate. 2 and 3. The bank is thoroughly sound, but you could probably do better by investing the money in securities. I would suggest spreading the proceeds over Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, Argentine Great Western Five per Cent. New Debentures, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series), and National Railroad of Mexico Prior Lien bonds. The return would be just over 4½ per cent. *Farway.*—If you wished to transfer the money to securities you could obtain fully 4½ per cent. with little risk by spreading the proceeds, as per my advice to "Jungle." *C. C. C.*—Nos. 1 and 4 are promising holdings, and there is a fair chance of No. 3 having some improvement eventually. No. 2 is doing fairly well now, but I do not look for early dividends. *Orkney.*—1. You may as well hold for a better market. The life is estimated at about ten years. 2. Good for a regular dividend. 3. A fair speculation, but they may not have much advance in the early future. You must not overlook the fact that since the price mentioned was touched the capital has been increased. *Alpha.*—1. Grand Trunk Pacific New Four per Cent. Debentures, Central London Railway Four per Cent Preferred, London, Brighton, and South Coast Preferred Ordinary, Buenos Ayres Western Railway new Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, National Railroad of Mexico Prior Lien Debentures, San Paulo Railway Five and a Half per Cent. Permanent Debentures, Lyons Preference, and Imperial Tobacco Preferred Ordinary. Spread your money over the lot. 2. Hold. 3. You might exchange into a Kaffir, such as Robinson Deep, as then you would receive interest on your money. *Binks.*—1. The stock is a sound investment. 2. The company's chief traffic is derived from minerals, the line serving a rich silver mining district. It is also largely interested in the carriage of nitrate. 3. Not more likely in the company's district than any other part of South America. 4. A hopeful speculative holding. *Which.*—1. The margin behind the stocks is now none too large, though it is difficult to imagine the Preferred issues actually going short. 2. Narrowness of market is the great drawback with these stocks. If you do not mind this, I see no objections to a purchase. Redemption is to be at par. *Dix.*—1. The life is estimated at about ten years, and the shares appear a good holding for dividends. 2. I have a poor opinion of these. 3. From the investment point of view the Minas bonds would be preferable. *B. P.*—1. I cannot enter into a dividend calculation here, but may say the stock is a likely purchase at present price. 2. It is not unlikely you will. *Newbridge.*—1. They might be held for the time being. 2. Buenos Ayres Western Railway New Four and a Half per Cent Preference shares. *John.*—There is little attraction in running any of them on the terms you mention. *Ladies' Agency.*—The stocks are highly speculative, and I should not care to recommend. *Reader, Amsterdam.*—1-4. You could make a more attractive selection at present than either of these. 5. I consider "bears" of either too risky to recommend. *Sniqpol.*—1 and 2. These are not semi-private, as you imagine, and you could get copies of the last reports upon application. 3. These bonds are good enough; 4 and 5 could be improved upon; but 6 may recover still further in the near future. *Noumena.*—1. I cannot trace the concern. 2. A further slight improvement in profits is not improbable, but I would not advise you to average. 3. I cannot trace the first concern, and I do not fancy the dairy shares. 4. Whether they will touch that figure this year is problematical. Why not try a foreign government stock? *Watchful.*—The Bank shares ought to be held, and also No. 3. Have you named the Nitrate share correctly? As to your last question, I do not recommend brokers. See rule. *Holloway.*—Such a transfer would be all right. The shares named make a decent selection. *Persia.*—These are only dealt in locally, and it is difficult to obtain an approximate price. Suffered like the rest of the trade, and the threatened legislation does not improve the outlook. *H., Truro.*—As a whole, they are worth holding on to. *C. H.*—Schweppes Deferred would make a fair speculative purchase, but the others are altogether unattractive. *Seaside.*—The chances of the shares reaching such a figure again are remote. The existing quotation is, nominally, anything under 2s. 6d. Robinson Deep. *Patsey.*—Would not advise the exchange at present. The colliery shares are dear, even at 1s. 9d. each. I have no reason for anticipating a rise in the others. *Ardent.*—1. I should be inclined to secure the present price for the shares held. Mount Morgans are a hopeful purchase with a view to ultimate dividends of fully 10 per cent. on the current price, and Arizonas are also a good selection. 2 and 4. The fall in the price of the shares from the level at which you originally purchased is accounted for by the falling off in dividends. Recent developments in the mine have shown improvement, and I think you might hold. 3. The shares are a fair speculative holding, but it is doubtful whether they will have a material advance in value in the early future. 5. Have no recent information. 6. There is a very fair chance of 160 being reached in time, though if you can secure a profit of, say, 10 points you might perhaps consider the advisability of doing so. Do not forget that the man who always waits for the top is the man who usually gets out at the bottom. *Norfolk.*—1. Prospects are very speculative, and unless you are prepared to face the possibility of a further decline in the shares you had better realise. 2. Trunk Thirds would be a good purchase at the present price.

Insurance.

Kent Inquirer.—Its methods are not satisfactory; read my insurance notes last week. *B. M. O.*—You could do better elsewhere. The objection is to the one-sided nature of some of the conditions on which the bonds are issued. *Oxo.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with the Corporation you mention. *Eton.*—1. The company is quite sound and reliable. 2. This is a mere sum in arithmetic, dependent on wages paid. 3. Insist on a policy covering all casual employees; the extra cost is very slight. *R. V.*—Leave it alone. See my last week's article. *Doubtful.*—I looked carefully into the condition of this society some time ago, and have reason to believe it is quite sound and good. *J. H. J.*—I do not like the look of the prospectus. I should want to be satisfied with the accounts and valuation report before recommending it.

Miscellaneous.

Lighthouse, Congo, The Sop, Eleo, Bond, S. H. P., G. W. F., Petty Cash, F. J., Bristol, Yum-Tum-Yum.—I do not give advice with regard to the relative merits of different foreign premium or lottery bonds. On the contrary, I recommend you not to engage in this form of speculation. In any case, you should carefully avoid all the touting firms, including the bucket-shop called the International Securities Syndicate, to which I am referring in another column. For the information of those correspondents who still wish to purchase such bonds, however, I may mention that the business can be safely done through Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., or the Crédit Lyonnais. *Dale.*—1-3. Read preceding answer. 4. A concern that has been adversely criticised in Truth. *R. H. G., Bromley.*—Have

nothing to do with the Arnold and Butler bucket-shop. *Rex.*—I am unacquainted with the firm, and so I cannot advise you. *Constant Reader.*—The National Share Exchange is another bucket-shop. *Nola.*—I have never heard anything against it, but I cannot make any recommendation; see rule 8. *A Small Investor* and *G. H. H.*—I cannot, of course, answer for its safety, but I have had no reason for unfavourable criticism. *J. W. E.*—Thanks for the circular from the notorious John B. McKenzie. *Captain J. D. B.*—I had already seen the issue of the *Daily Mail*, which, on the same page, contained a half column advertisement by a bucket-shop and a warning against the firm in question by the City Editor. *Vestor.*—Probably you know by this time that you can, if you choose, withdraw; you had better do so. *Erie.*—1. I do not make such recommendations. 2-5. Read statement above as to premium bonds. *Puzzled.*—Thanks for your reminder of the position, which I had for the time being overlooked. *Sub.*—It has not yet been actually carried out. *Chin Chin.*—Seeing that the company's capital is to be materially reduced it would be unwise to purchase the shares. It will be some time before the concern fully recovers from the disastrous experiments of a few years ago. They are unattractive at present. *Spero.*—I know nothing about the agency. I have not a high opinion of the deep lead shares. *Infelix.*—1. The company is safe if things go well, but it is not one of the best. 2. I am not familiar with the issue. Presumably you refer to the new preference shares, which stand at about ½ premium. *Britannicus.*—You will observe that I am dealing with the syndicate this week.

Slump in Hudson's Bays—Allsopp Amalgamation Dropped—Electric Light Companies—'Buses and Trams—British Electric Traction—Mazawattee Tea.

In the Miscellaneous Market one of the outstanding incidents has been the sharp drop in Hudson's Bays, which on the week are 6 points lower. No doubt the slump was partly attributable to sympathy with the depression in other Canadian securities, but the chief factor was the heavy selling from the north in connection with the closing of an account; and at one time the shares fell as much as 9 points below the high-water mark of the previous week. Additional emphasis has certainly been given to my frequently reiterated opinion that "Bays" are a gamble which should be left to rich men, and the movements of the past few days make a decidedly amusing commentary—amusing, that is, to all but the foolish victims—on the fact that one of the bucket-shop brigade has actually been bamboozling people into purchasing these shares on a 1 per cent. marginal basis. Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred have exhibited rather more steadiness than might have been anticipated in view of the wild fluctuations elsewhere, and only a slight reduction was recorded. In the brewery department a surprise was furnished by the announcement of the abandonment of the proposed amalgamation of Allsopps with Thomas Salt and Co. and the Burton Brewery Company. It was supposed that the scheme was practically completed except for some purely formal steps. However, the announcement has been received with a feeling of relief by the holders of the Allsopp Four per Cent. Debentures, whose position would have been prejudiced by the ranking of a sum of £300,000 in priority to their security. The dropping of the arrangement has given the debentures a rise of 3 points, and, apart from this particular consideration, in view of the fresh legislation which is expected it is perhaps just as well for Allsopps that the company is not to take over nearly 500 more additional licensed houses. As a whole, brewery securities continue on the downward grade, though the movement is now very slight.

There was some improvement in electric supply companies' shares on the victory of the "Municipal Reformers" at the L.C.C. election, but it did not last, the week closing with only small gains in the shares of the City of London and one or two other companies, whilst some others showed a reduction. Though the election removes the menace of the L.C.C. bulk supply scheme, it does not, as I have previously pointed out, do away with the danger that the present companies may be hit by another scheme which will scarcely be rendered less injurious by reason of the fact that it is a private and not a municipal enterprise. Judging from various statements that have been published, the change in the political complexion of the L.C.C. has produced some extraordinary illusions. There are people who seem to imagine that sweeping alterations will be made in the municipal tramway service with an eye to the advantage of 'bus companies, though there is really not the least likelihood that anything of the kind will be done. In the Bankruptcy Court last week the failure of a small 'bus company was attributed to the competition of the London United Tramways Company. It would be deemed the height of absurdity to ask this company to cripple its service for the sake of a rival concern, and there is no probability that such a request will be more successful when addressed to a municipal body. On the other hand, there is plenty of room for the 'buses in districts where the trams have not appeared and are not likely to do so. The principal difficulty is that for the time being the old companies and the new are engaged in a system of cut-throat competition. At the best such companies as the London General and the London Road Car must have suffered pretty severely during the necessarily costly period of transition from horse to motor traction. Both, however, have also had to encounter the keen opposition of the new motor-'bus concerns, and in the stress of competition fares on a number of routes have been brought down to a level which leaves no margin of profit. Some rather pessimistic remarks were made by the deputy chairman at the meeting of the London General Omnibus Company. He declared that the motor-'bus as a commercial success had not yet appeared either with his own or any other company, and he predicted that "they were going to have bad times, not only now, but for two or three half-years." This pessimistic utterance had a natural sequel in another drop in the company's ordinary stock, which now stands at 62½. Still, with good management both the London General and the Road Car companies will be far better able to weather the storm than the majority of the motor-'bus companies. British Electric Traction issues have at last shown a welcome tendency to improve, though it must be confessed that the traffic receipts are still far from satisfactory. For the third year in succession the ordinary shareholders of the Mazawattee Tea Company receive no dividend, but the report for 1906 indicates some improvement in the position. The present board are evidently making a vigorous effort to repair the disastrous blunder their predecessors perpetrated in opening a large number of retail shops. Nearly all the shops have now been disposed of, and it is estimated that the total loss through this rash enterprise will be about £220,000. This will probably be met by cutting down the nominal value of the shares, a course to which the shareholders may submit with less despondency, since under the policy now being pursued the profits of the company are showing a satisfactory recovery. Waring and Gillow shares have manifested a slightly better tendency during the week. In the motor and cycle section the only noteworthy feature has been the demand for Darracqs.

VIGILANT.

QUEER STORY PUZZLE.

The Kenwig-Street Murder.

I HAVE now received formal applications from the three prize winners in the above competition, and, in accordance with the advertised regulations, I print their real names and addresses herewith.

The real name, with the address, of La Mancha, winner of the first prize of fifteen guineas, is Edward Browne, Esq., Greycourt, Astrop, Banbury.

The real name, with the address, of New York, winner of the second prize of five guineas, is B. H. Buxton, Esq., 1, West 101st Street, New York, U.S.A.

The real name, with the address of Watty, winner of the third prize of two guineas, is William A. Taylor, Esq., 59, Durban-road West, Watford, Herts.

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893). 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues free.—South Audley-street, London.

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QUEER STORY.

HOW McTAVISH GOT HIS "BLUE."

"We've nine men up at Oxford now
Of whom it doth appear
That eight of them they cannot row,
The ninth he cannot steer."

THUS sang Tommy English, captain of the Dark Blue Rugger XV., at an informal wine given by his friend, Teddy Basingstoke, of The House. The words quoted were, of course, no original composition of the singer's, being (as every Oxford man knows) a facetious and chaffing formula which, with slight variations, has been in use at the senior University from time immemorial—being usually applied to college boats that have cut an inglorious figure in Eights week. But, on this particular occasion, the chaff was directed at the 'Varsity Eight itself.

Hilary term was then rather more than a fortnight old; and Dudley-Carter, President of the O.U.B.C., had, with infinite difficulty, and after many choppings and changings, got together something in the shape of a representative crew. His difficulties had been greater than usual, inasmuch as with the exception of himself and of Jim Cuthbertson, last year's stroke, he had no old choices to fall back upon. The other six places had to be filled with new and comparatively unknown material. But the thing had at last been done and an eight formed. It was really not such a bad eight, though just at present somewhat backward and raw. A few shrewd judges, looking, not at the immediate form, but rather at the future possibilities, saw the making of quite an average boat. But the *hoi polloi*, seeing only what was, and not what was presently to be, generally voted the crew a rotter, and chaffed it, with good-natured derision, accordingly. Hence the application of the song, of which a verse has been quoted above.

Especial point was lent to this chaff by the presence of Cuthbertson, the stroke—a "House" man, who lived on the same staircase as Teddy Basingstoke, and had looked in for awhile upon the convivial scene. Cuthbertson, of course, was in training, and therefore unable to partake of the flowing bowl and the nicotian weed personally; but there was nothing to prevent his joining in the conversation and seeking a brief respite from the solid stodginess of Aristotle in the more congenial frivolity of his fellow undergraduates.

In point of fact, however, although a Grant's "Ethics" and a Peter's translation of the same had been lying open before him and apparently occupying his attention, it was not the stodginess of the Stagirite from which he really sought relief, but something else very much more troublesome—to wit, gloomy personal reflections arising (as they say in the Services) out of "urgent private affairs." That formula, indeed, may mean anything, or it may mean nothing. More generally—especially when pleaded by an officer as a pretext for leave—it means nothing. But, in the case of Jim Cuthbertson, it meant a good deal. It was (to be precise) a pecuniary urgency that oppressed him. He was deeply in debt. He had aggravated his indebtedness by having recourse to moneylenders. And his financial position was now acute.

The worst of it was, too, that he dared not go to his people. His father was by no means well-off; moreover, the old gentleman had a horror of debt, which he regarded as an unpardonable sin. What the effect of a request for £500 would be upon him young Cuthbertson shuddered to think. Yet it needed every penny of £500 to relieve him from his embarrassments. It was the devil of a situation, and was preying more and more upon the young man's mind; though, as far as he could, he tried to shut his eyes to it.

However, of this digression enough. Let us return to Ted Basingstoke's "wine," and the singing of that song by Tommy English at the expense of the Dark Blue eight. Cuthbertson, the only member of the crew present, was too good a fellow to take mere friendly chaff in bad part; but he was rather in the mood, just then, for a "rag" to help work off his worries, and he seized upon English's song as a favourable opening. He went for the football giant, forcibly, though quite good-humouredly, and a sort of friendly Hackenschmidt-Madrali wrestling bout ensued between the two. Both were as muscular as they make 'em, and in the pink of condition; and they grappled with each other long and vigorously, amid the furious plaudits of the assembled company. An unfortunate accident, however, brought the rag to a premature termination. Cuthbertson's arm went through the window, cutting his right hand rather badly—so badly, indeed, that he found it advisable to run out to a neighbouring chemist's and have it properly bandaged. The chemist advised him to hang up his hand in a sling at once, with the added comforting assurance that it was likely to be some time before he would be able to use it again. Here was a pretty thing to have happened to the stroke of the 'Varsity Eight within five weeks of the boat race!

Dudley-Carter was nearly mad about it. He walked into the unfortunate Cuthbertson with that directness of phraseology which is characteristic of rowing autocrats. He called him a something ass, a something else fool, and a liberally adjectived juggins. He said that if the accident had happened in a reasonable way, he shouldn't have had so much to say about it. But for Cuthbertson to go and lay himself out in a miserable little rag at a potty "wine" was really too provoking. A man on whom so much depended should have had more sense than to incur risks in this kind of silly bear-fighting. Where was he (the President) to find another stroke? There wasn't another, worth twopence, in the whole 'Varsity. And Cuthbertson knew it. He deserved to be kicked to—somewhere unmentionable—for his idiocy in having crippled himself at this juncture.

Such in substance, though very much bowdlerised in phraseology, was the pith of Dudley-Carter's remarks. It may have relieved the speaker's feelings. Let us hope it did. But, of course, not all the adjectives and past participles in the language could put use into Cuthbertson's crippled hand. When all was said, he still remained *hors de combat*. And where was an adequate substitute to be found?

The unfortunate stroke took his ragging meekly and in subjection, as rowing men all learn to do from their aquatic pastors and masters, by whom they have long grown accustomed to be damned into shape. He merely said, with apologetic humility, that he was awfully sorry, don't you know, and that it would be a jolly good lesson to him not to play the giddy goat at a "wine" again. While as for not being able to find a substitute, it could hardly be that he was the only decent stroke in the whole bally 'Varsity, don't you know; there must be *some* other johnny who——

"D—n it then, give him a name," interposed the President, irritably. "If you can, you are a jolly sight better informed than I am. That's all I have to say."

"Well, there's Jeffers, of Magdalen," suggested Cuthbertson.

"Pish! All very well over a short distance. From Iffley to the Barges is just his limit. He'd crack up about Harrod's and faint away before Barnes Bridge. Try another."

"Why not Menifield, of Corpus, then?"

"Tut!—Menifield! What's the good of a feather-weight like him, with a crowd averaging twelve-seven behind him?"

"How about Cornbury, of New?"

"Cornbury!" (and the President's tone expressed immeasurable scorn). "The maximum of style with the minimum of work. Always reminds me of those flash cobs that put everything into the action of their forelegs. The Corner looks a picture I grant you; but he doesn't put enough back into his work to pull a sprat off a gridiron."

Cuthbertson scratched his head in thoughtful perplexity.

"Well, really, I don't know that I have any one else

This is to inform the readers of Truth that the Hotel Europe, Lucerne, a favourite English house, will be open for Easter, Telegrams, "Europe, Lucerne."

to suggest, at the moment," he said; "unless it's that dark horse of a fresher who's just come up to Univ——"

"Eh! Who's he? Never heard of him," interposed the President, contemptuously.

"Oh! he's a johnny named—d—n it, I forget his name. Anyway, at the present moment, he's stroking the Univ. togger, and they talk of him there as something phenomenal."

"The Univ. togger! Oh, my aunt!" ejaculated the President, holding up his hands in derisive mockery. "We may be in a bad way; no doubt we are. But we haven't yet sunk quite so low as to look for the 'Varsity stroke in a College togger."

"Don't sound very promising, I admit. But, after all, every fresher has to begin that way. The fellow's in the togger, I suppose, because at this time of day there's nothing better for him to be in. But Horncastle—you know Horncastle——"

"Rather! He was in my house at Eton."

"I was dining with him at Univ. last Sunday, and he was simply full of this what's-his-name. Says he's one of those *raræ aves*, a born stroke, and that they haven't had such a find at the College for years and years. I believe Horncastle's something of a judge, too."

"Not bad," admitted Dudley-Carter, condescendingly. "Rather too much inclined, perhaps, to regard all his own geese as swans. But, still, not bad. By the way, where does this marvellous fresher phenomenon hail from? He's not an Eton man, I'll be bound; or I must have heard of him."

"Eton! Good Lord, no!" laughed Cuthbertson. "He comes, I think Horncastle said, from some North Country grammar school, and learnt his rowing on the Tyne, or the Tees, or the Wear; I forget which. That's all I can tell you about him. I've never seen him in a boat. But Horncastle pointed him out to me in hall. He's a great, gaunt, rawboned chap, with a good chest and any amount of sinew—to look at him. But, as I say, I know nothing about him as an oar first-hand. You had better ask Horncastle."

"Umph! Well, I can do no harm by asking," replied the President; "and not much good, I'm afraid, either. These North Country oarsmen seldom do turn out much use for our work. Different style altogether. However, perhaps I'll see Horncastle about him, on the off-chance."

"Better see the chap row, for yourself, first—I should suggest," answered Cuthbertson. "You'll be able to tell at a glance, then, whether he's any great shakes or not. For my part, I'm inclined to agree with you that these North Country oars aren't, as a rule, much use on the Thames. The Univ. togger is sure to be out this afternoon. You might take quiet stock of him, then."

"Ah! perhaps I will," replied the President.

He strolled out on the tow-path that afternoon and took up his position by the Gut, where he could command the longest and best sight of passing boats. Presently, the Univ. togger came along, stroked by a gaunt, sinewy, red-headed individual, whose personal aspect made it evident to the most casual eye that he hailed from one of the counties adjacent to the Scottish border. But Dudley-Carter hardly noticed the fellow's personal aspect. His attention was entirely occupied in gauging his oarsmanship. The President's face brightened, and his eyes sparkled, as he looked.

"By Gad!" he muttered to himself, as he watched the togger out of sight round the bend; "Horncastle was right, after all. The chap's a peach!"

That evening the captain of the Univ. Boat Club received a request from Dudley-Carter, President of the O.U.B.C., that McTavish, stroke of the college torpid, might be let off to attend at the 'Varsity Barge at 2 p.m. next day, with a view to his being tried for the Eight.

Such a request being, like Royal requests, equivalent to a command, was, of course, acceded to; and next day the red-headed Northumbrian duly presented himself at the 'Varsity Barge. He was a weird, ungainly-looking mortal, out of a boat, with awkward, dour manners, who had but little to say for himself, and that little marked by a strong North Country burr. The President tried to engage him in friendly conversation, without much success, while the other occupants of the barge stared at him as though he were some new and uncouth sort of beast.

They opened their eyes when this weird person was directed to occupy the stroke thwart; but still more did they open their eyes to see the sudden transformation that took place in him when the craft pushed off and swung away at a strong paddle.

It was like the difference between a swan on land and a swan in the water. The gaunt, gawky lout, losing in an instant all his awkwardness, fell to his work, in polished style, with all the ease and assurance of the master. Presently the word was given to row. And he took them down to Iffley, at thirty-five, in a way that did the coach's heart good to see. No flurry! No bustle! Every stroke rowed through from start to finish! And somehow, as if by magic, he seemed to gauge the exact capacity of the men behind him, and to infuse into them a homogeneity that they had not before displayed. There was no doubt that here was a natural genius—a born stroke. That afternoon's trial settled the question once and for all, and made, in six short minutes, the reputation of Sandy McTavish.

A fortnight before the race, Jim Cuthbertson's hand was quite well again. But there was now no question of his being reinstated at his old thwart, McTavish having, in the meanwhile, proved himself decidedly the better man. Nor did the form and the coolness of head he had shown during practice desert the gawky Northumbrian on the eventful day of the race, when, with a distinctly moderate lot behind him, and with the betting 3 to 1 on Cambridge, he very nearly upset the odds by rowing the Light Blues to a short front canvas, in somewhere about ten seconds outside record time.

On the Monday after the race, McTavish, now a public hero, returned to his Northumbrian home—(his father, a self-made man, was in business, in a large way, at Gateshead)—and Cuthbertson, who also lived in the North of England, travelled with him.

They went in a smoker, for Cuthbertson's benefit; the latter, when not in training, being a veritable chimney. McTavish did not smoke. His serious mind regarded the practice as a useless, almost vicious, luxury, not to say a sinful waste of good money. He whiled away the tedium of the journey partly by reading *The Economist* (his favourite publication), and partly by conversing with his companion.

"Cuthbertson," he said, in the course of the occasional observations, with which he punctuated his reading, "I'm no denyin' ye managed it varra weel; but sax hundred pun is a lot o' money."

"May be," smiled Cuthbertson. "But I wouldn't have sacrificed myself even for that, unless my financial affairs had compelled me. Besides, after all, McTavish, your governor could very well afford it."

"Oo aye," replied the canny Northumbrian, "I'm no sayin' my feyther couldna afford it. But sax hundred sovereigns—sax hundred golden sovereigns, Cuthbertson. It was a deal to pay juist for a seat in a boat."

Cuthbertson laughed.

"Nothing out of the way, considering all the circumstances," he rejoined. "You know both you and your governor were dead set on your getting your Blue, McTavish; and you know, also, that, coming as you did from an obscure provincial grammar school, without friends or influence at the 'Varsity, you'd never have had an earthly of attracting the President's attention, unless the oracle had been worked for you."

"I'm no denyin' that, Cuthbertson," admitted McTavish

"Besides," went on the other, "think of the risk I ran, when I arranged with Tommy English to shove my arm, accidentally on purpose, through Basingstoke's window. I might have been maimed for life, you loon. It was more by luck than by judgment that I wasn't, I can tell you."

"What ye say is verra true," assented the prudent Northumbrian, wagging his red head, sagaciously; "but for a' that, sax hundred pun is a muckle bit o' siller, James Cuthbertson."

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MUSIC.

SOME OPERATIC RUMOURS AND REPORTS.

AMONG a good many operatic rumours which have been in the air lately none is more interesting than that which has hinted at the possibility of Covent Garden joining forces with the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. The fact that Mr. H. V. Higgins (ingenuously described in one quarter as "brother of Lady de Grey") has recently been on a visit to the States was quite enough to set the ball rolling, and though it has been officially denied that any such notion has ever been so much as thought of in Bow-street, there is no doubt that if it could be brought about, an arrangement of this kind, or, at all events, a working understanding between the two houses, would not be without its advantages. In particular it might be expected to result, as has been pointed out, in a considerable reduction in the fees paid at present to the leading artists—a consummation which, though it might not be hailed with enthusiasm by the latter, is one most decidedly to be wished in the interests of opera as a whole. Under this arrangement the joint management would be able to offer virtually continuous engagements of some six or eight months, in which circumstances they would obviously be in a position to make better terms than at present.

There is no doubt that the fees which are being paid nowadays to the star artists alike in New York and London are out of all reason, and any scheme which seems likely to bring about a healthier state of things in this respect is worthy of serious consideration. A good tenor or a first-rate soprano is no doubt a very rare article, and one which has to be paid for accordingly; but this does not in the least explain or justify the fact that a scale of fees obtains in London and New York, which, speaking generally, is absolutely unknown elsewhere. It would not matter so much if opera in this country were a prosperous and flourishing institution, earning big profits, and enabling the public to get their seats at the lowest rates. Unfortunately, as is well known, it is nothing of the kind. If it just pays its way without any profit to the shareholders and at high prices to the public, this is as much as is ever expected, and it is the enormous fees demanded by the principal singers which, more than any other single circumstance, probably is responsible for this undesirable state of things.

In the case of Covent Garden, seeing that the syndicate have the field so entirely to themselves it might be thought that they would not be so readily squeezed, but the public would be astonished if they learnt the actual fees paid to some of the better-known vocalists. As to New York, matters are even worse, especially at present, thanks to the competition of the rival managers, Conried and Hammerstein, for all the available talent. It does not do to believe all that one reads in this way, of course. It is probably quite untrue, for instance, that Caruso, the chief star of the Metropolitan during the past season, has taken advantage of the situation to ask precisely double his previous fees as a condition precedent to his continuing to sing for Mr. Conried; but apparently there is no doubt as to his not appearing at the Metropolitan next season, and instead, Mr. Conried has, it is reported, secured for his leading tenor next year Signor Bonci, who, during the past season, has been Mr. Hammerstein's bright particular star at the Manhattan. The latter, in his turn, announces that he has signed a five years' contract with Signor Zenatello to take Bonci's place; and so the game goes merrily on.

It is all very amusing, and rather absurd from one point of view, but hardly from that of the public who, in the long run, have to pay in one way or another for these beggar-my-neighbour proceedings. Then, as if this were not enough, comes the further startling and, of course, strictly veracious report that Mme. Melba proposes to take a hand in the game by erecting yet a third opera house in New York, which she will run herself. Mme. Melba is no doubt a clever business woman, as well as an accomplished artist, but personally I shall believe in that opera house when I see it, and I hardly think that it will be necessary to go to America for that purpose. Altogether, what with the "Salome" affair and other features, matters operatic in New York of late would seem to have been quite exceptionally lively.

As to the operatic outlook at home, all the signs seem to point to a successful season. The subscription is said to be larger than ever, while the advance booking for the opening festival performances of the "Ring" and "Die Meistersinger" is understood to have been very brisk.

Among recent concerts there has been none more interesting, perhaps, than that given by the Blackpool Glee and Madrigal Society. Finer glee-singing has not been heard in London for many a long day, and it was only to be regretted that the audience was so scanty. A vocal concert of another kind was Mr. David Bispham's recital, at which some of Mme. Liza Lehmann's pretty "Vicar of Wakefield" music was heard, along with other things. At the Chappell Ballad Concert, on Saturday—the last but one of the present series—the absence of M. Maurel (indisposed) was a disappointment to many, but there was plenty, even so, to engage the attention of a huge audience throughout the afternoon. Among several new songs heard, Mr. Hermann Löhr's "Messmates" (words by Henry Newbolt) has character and strength. An interesting work heard at the last Nora Clench Quartet concert was Max Reger's quartet in D (Op. 74). It is very, very Regerish, but daylight glimmers through the forest here and there. Mr. Frank Bridge's "Idylls," introduced on Friday by the Grimson Quartet, are thoughtful and agreeable little pieces. At the last of the Wessely Quartet concerts César Franck's pianoforte quintet in F minor was to have been given, but at the last moment the intention was abandoned. Violinists appearing recently have included Herr Floris Ondricek and Signor Antonietti (capable artists both), and Mr. Leonard Borwick and M. Jacques Pentel have given piano recitals. On Monday, at the London Symphony Orchestra's concert, Mr. Harold Bauer was heard in Tchaikowsky's B-flat minor piano concerto, and "Ein Heldenleben" was also in the programme. In the afternoon Mme. Eleanor Cleaver Simon and Mr. Ingo Simon joined forces in an enjoyable vocal recital.

Reports are current of important ballad concert developments in the not very distant future. Thus an entirely new series of concerts of this class will, it is understood, be started by Messrs. Enoch and Co., the well-known publishers, in the autumn at the new hall which it is proposed to erect in Great Portland-street. Even more interesting is the project ascribed to Mr. Arthur Boosey, of taking the Albert Hall for the next season of his well-known London Ballad Concerts; and so well advanced is the latter scheme that many important contracts have, I hear, already been entered into. Mme. Melba, among others, may, it is whispered, appear at these concerts.

The season of German comic opera at the Adelphi has been fixed to open on April 15 and to run for two months. It will thus have to withstand the competition of Covent Garden, where the season opens on April 30, and it may be hoped that it will not suffer too seriously thereby. I am afraid it is just possible, however, that disappointment may be in store for the promoters of the venture. It is understood that the undertaking will entail a very large outlay—indeed, Herr Gregor, the manager of the company, has stated that he will have to take at least £450 a night to make the thing pay. Apparently, however, he has boundless faith in the drawing powers of Offenbach's "Hoffmann's Erzählungen," which he hopes will see him right through the season. I hope so, too, though I have my doubts.

The wedding of Mr. Neil Forsyth and Miss Mary Helen Cathcart on Thursday will take not a few southrons to far-away Musselburgh. Mr. Forsyth's entrance on married life will coincide happily with the initiation of his career as full-fledged manager of Covent Garden.

and every one will hope that in each capacity destiny may have nothing but good in store for him.

The suggestion which has been made (in the *Tribune*) that, now that Sir August Manns has gone, the next musical knighthood might appropriately be bestowed on Mr. H. J. Wood, who has done such splendid work in the same field, brings to mind the fact that Manns afforded one of the few instances in which knighthoods have been conferred on purely executant musicians. Sir Michael Costa and Sir Julius Benedict supplied similar cases, but nearly all the many other musical knights have owed their distinction either to their having held Court or other official appointments or to their work as composers or professors. Mr. H. J. Wood would certainly make a popular knight. The late Sir August Manns, by the way, was one of the few knights who have received the distinction without going "on the knee." He was suffering from gout at the time, and was, therefore, excused by the King.

Music-lovers will have read with regret of the death of Otto Hegner, who made such a stir in his younger days as a prodigy, and many, by no means veterans, who recall him as a small boy in knickerbockers who thrilled the hearts of feminine audiences at St. James's Hall, will note with something of a shock that he has passed away at the age of thirty-one. Certainly it is hard to realise that twenty years and more have passed since he and Josef Hofmann were astonishing all London as the rival prodigies of the time.

By the will of the late Mr. Charles James Oldham, F.R.C.S., of Brighton, the British Museum will become possessed of some valuable Stradivari instruments, in the shape of the violins known as the "Rode" and "Spanish," the "Spanish" viola and the "Christina" 'cello. I believe it is a fact that this is actually the first time that any Stradivari instruments have been left to any museum or similar institution in England, though Scotland and Ireland have both been more fortunate. In the case of Scotland, the late Mr. J. G. Orchar, of Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, some few years ago bequeathed a fine Stradivari and a fine Guarnerius to the local museum at Broughty Ferry; while some years previous to the Orchar bequest a "Strad" violin was left to the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.

The Stradivari left by Mr. Orchar and the "Rode" Stradivari left by Mr. Oldham to the British Museum both belonged at one time to the late M. Lamoureux, and some may find cause for regret in the fact that two such beautiful instruments should henceforth be condemned to perpetual silence. It has even been suggested before now that in the case of instruments of this description they should be lent from time to time to approved performers. But this, of course, would raise considerable difficulties, as, for instance, the possibility of an inferior instrument being substituted for the original when it came to their being returned. In any case, it may be taken for granted that the British Museum authorities will not entertain any suggestion of this kind, and in their custody the instruments in question have a very fair chance of lasting about as long as the British Empire.

The date of the Santley jubilee concert has now been definitely fixed for May 1, when it is probable that, for once in a way, even the Albert Hall will prove too small to hold all who will wish to be present. The programme will be one of the strongest of its kind ever presented. Meanwhile a testimonial fund has been opened, to which donations are invited by the hon. treasurer, Sir Douglas Straight, Royal Albert Hall, S.W.

When "Z.," a member of the Stock Exchange Orchestra, took Mr. Plunket Greene to task the other day (in the columns of *Musical News*) for having declined to sing Stanford's "Sea Songs" at the high pitch, he was surely overlooking the fact that that popular vocalist is a doughty son of Erin, and not one, therefore, to take such strictures lying down. He is, at all events, likely to remember for some time the severe castigation administered to him by Mr. Greene in his complete and crushing rejoinder, which he rounded off as follows:—

"Z" owes me an apology I shall be at his service on either evening.

"Z." replies this week as follows:—

He has challenged me to meet him on the 15th or 20th inst. I have far too much regard for Mr. Arthur Payne than to be a party to a discussion, perhaps an angry one, on the evening of the final rehearsal, or the concert. We can do better than that. I am at Mr. Greene's disposal any day in the next two weeks from ten till four o'clock, except on Saturdays or Sundays. If he will notify the hour of his arrival, I will take care to be in and not disappoint him of an interview. Mr. Spurling can give him my address.

Clearly a case of pistols for two and coffee for one. In the immortal words of Simon Tappertit, "Something will come of this; I hope it mayn't be human gore."

In connection with M. Bruneau's new opera, "Nais Micoulin," it has been remarked that he stands alone in having had the courage to introduce operatic characters in ordinary conventional attire; but this is hardly the case. While "Le Rêve," in which the men wear frock coats and top hats, was no doubt one of the first operas so distinguished, there have been others since from other hands, one of the latest examples being Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," while Giordano's "Fédora" is another.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Sir Spencer Walpole's "Studies in Biography" (1)—reprints from the *Edinburgh*, *Quarterly*, and *New Reviews*—might have been written from the text of Burke's denunciation of politics as "trickery and treachery," especially if you include international politics in your definition. In home politics Disraeli certainly bears the palm for unconscionable opportunism. To take one or two flagrant instances. In 1827 Disraeli, in "Popanilla," ridiculed delightfully the Corn Laws. In Vraibleusa—the scene of that romance—it was the law of the land that the islanders should purchase their corn only of the Aboriginal; and when the Vraibleusians, finding that they had to pay its weight in gold for their corn, remonstrated, the Aboriginal demonstratively proved to them that all their profits were derived from his income. In 1843 he defended the Corn Laws as an outwork of the landed interest. In 1845 he reverted to his original position and described the Revolution as "a memorable epoch that had presented England at the same time with a Corn Law and a public debt." In 1846, upon the revolt from Peel of the country gentlemen, Disraeli saw his chance and put himself at their head as the protagonist of Protection. In 1852, when the Government, of which he was a member, introduced Bills to deal with the Irish Land question, he complained of the omission from the fourth of these Bills of "what I consider its vital clause—that which gave compensation and even retrospective compensation for improvements." When, however, Gladstone made this a vital clause of his Bill, Disraeli denounced it as "a policy of confiscation." When Peel charged Disraeli with such opportune inconsistencies, and attributed them to his disappointment at having been refused office, Disraeli denied that he had ever directly or indirectly solicited office, declaring that "nothing could be more foreign to his nature than an application for place." But in the Peel correspondence, published by Mr. Parker, there is a letter from Disraeli, not merely applying for office, but concluding his application thus:—"I confess to be unrecognised by you at this moment appears to me to be overwhelming, and I appeal to your own heart to save me from an intolerable humiliation."

(1) "Studies in Biography." By Sir Spencer Walpole. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 15s. net.)

(2) "Her Majesty's Rebels." By Sidney Royse Lysaght. (London: Macmillan and Co. 6s.)

(3) "Benedict Kavanagh." By George A. Birmingham. (London: Edward Arnold. 6s.)

(4) "Exton Manor." By Archibald Marshall. (London: Alston Rivers Limited. 6s.)

(5) "Temptation." By Richard Bagot. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

Cannes.—Hotel des Anglais. First-class. Numerous Self-contained Suites, with Private Bath-Rooms, etc. Central Heating. Renowned Cuisine and Cellars. Large Park.

In the same correspondence are two other urgent letters of application—one from Mrs. Disraeli asking for office for her husband, and the other from Disraeli asking for a place for his brother. It is curious, by the way, that Sir Spencer Walpole does not recognise as plagiarisms two passages he praises from the speeches of Disraeli: the famous "exhausted volcanoes" passage—taken from Wilkes—and a simile which is for ever recurring in Disraeli's speeches and writings—"bad wine produces good vinegar"—which he found in his father's essay on proverbs, "Guardati d'aceto di vin dolce," "Beware of the vinegar of sweet wine." It is, however, when you come to international politics and read Sir Spencer Walpole's essays on Bismarck and Napoleon III., that you realise how kind fortune was to these men in placing them in positions where wholesale robbery and murder win a crown and not a cross: "Ille crucem sceleris pretium tulit; hic diadema." Bismarck especially realises Fielding's ideal of "Jonathan Wild the Great." He suggested so cynically the annexation through war of the territory of his neighbours that King William thought he was drunk, and the Crown Prince supposed him to have gone mad. And when his suggestions were ultimately one and all carried out, he was as cold-blooded in executing them as he was unscrupulous in proposing them. In the Franco-Prussian War he complained: "Our people are very good marksmen, but bad executioners. Every village in which an act of treachery has been committed should be burned to the ground, and all the male inhabitants hanged." He did not approve of the taking of prisoners: "I should have been better pleased if they had all been corpses." He thus advised Jules Favre during the Versailles negotiations: "Provoquez donc une émeute pendant que vous avez encore une armée pour l'étouffer." From first to last Bismarck was cynically unscrupulous and brutally callous, and I cannot agree with Sir Spencer Walpole in considering "morbid" the slight flicker of remorse which shot up in the Chancellor's conscience in his old age. On one Sunday in October, 1877, he said to Busch:

> I have had little satisfaction in my political life. I have made no one happy thereby, neither myself, nor my family, nor others. On the other hand, I have caused great unhappiness to great numbers. But for me, three great wars would not have taken place; eighty thousand men would not have been killed, and be mourned to-day by parents, brothers, sisters, and widows.

"The story of the Empire," says Sir Spencer Walpole in his paper on Napoleon III., "is the story of a crime, and the story of the Emperor is the story of a conspirator"; and, indeed, the Emperor, though incomparably more amiable and less decided and drastic than Bismarck, was not far his inferior in unscrupulousness. The cost in blood and tears of the *coup d'état* alone was but a presage of the cost in blood and tears of the Second Empire to France. "None will ever know," says Kinglake, "the number of men who at this period were either killed or imprisoned in France or sent to die in Africa or Cayenne; but the panegyrist of Louis Bonaparte and his fellow-plotters acknowledges that the number of people who were seized and transported within the few weeks that followed the 2nd of December amounted to the enormous number of twenty-six thousand five hundred." All the papers in this fascinating volume of Sir Spencer Walpole's—on Peel, Cobden, Disraeli, Lord Dufferin, Gibbon, Bismarck, Napoleon III., and Lord Shaftesbury—are well worthy of their famous subjects.

In the preface to a very brilliant novel "Her Majesty's Rebels" (2), Mr. Sidney Royse Lysaght admits the points of resemblance between the public career of his hero and that of Parnell, but denies that Michael Desmond is intended for a portrait of the Irish National leader. If, however, he had studied the character as well as the career of Parnell for reproduction in "Her Majesty's Rebels," he would have made his hero more intelligible, more sympathetic, and more convincing. As it is, you neither care much yourself for Michael Desmond, nor can you understand the enthusiasm for him in Ireland. The truth is, you cannot have an adequate "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out, and you cannot have the situation Parnell created in Ireland with Parnell left out. On the other hand, Michael's brother (the real hero), the heroine (Kathleen O'Brien), and, indeed, nearly all the Irish characters are both sympathetic and convincing, while this admirably-written novel is full of the most thrilling situations. I cannot say that "Benedict Kavanagh" (3) abounds in thrilling situations, but it is a brillant political novel, whose sketches of persons and parties in the Ireland of to-day are drawn by the keenest and not unkindest of observers. There is not much story, but what there is serves its admirable purpose of pointing the moral of Irish regeneration. "We sentimentalise," says Father O'Meara. "We dream. We create a Celticism such as never was in our poems and our plays. We shroud heroic figures in mists of our own imagination, and then, because they loom dim, we call them great. All the while we are missing the essential thing about them. They were brave men. Fighting for good causes or for bad, for Ireland or for themselves, at least they fought. They did not shrink from facing long odds, or despair of bringing half-lost battles to victorious ends. This is the spirit which we want."

What will you say to a novel with little or no story, or at least incident, which yet absorbs you from the first page to the last? I really do not know when I read a novel at once so simple, so natural, so humorous, and so interesting through its simplicity, naturalness, and humour, as Mr. Archibald Marshall's "Exton Manor" (4). It is not too much to say that it recalls the art of Jane Austen and of Anthony Trollope, and heralds perhaps a return to the style of novel which charmed our youth. Different, indeed, is Mr. Richard Bagot's startling story of "Temptation" (5), whose Italian temptress is an extraordinarily natural, powerful, and fascinating study. Indeed, every character in the novel and its every scene—which is laid in familiar ground to Mr. Bagot, Italy—are masterly drawn, and lead up with consummate skill to its tragic close.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

A new edition of "Napoleon's Campaign in Poland: 1806-7," by F. Loraine Petre, is being brought out this week by Mr. John Lane. This is the most complete and accurate military history of the campaign in the English language, and the new edition—which has sixteen full-page illustrations and three maps—makes an opportune appearance, seeing that the Staff College has chosen this particular campaign as a subject for its coming examination.

"Peaceful Personalities and Warriors Bold," is the title of a volume of reminiscences by Mr. Frederic Villiers which Messrs. Harper are issuing this week. As befits a book by a famous artist and special correspondent, it will have a large number of illustrations.

Mr. Arthur W. àBeckett's "Recollections of a Humorist" (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, 12s. 6d. net) make a very entertaining volume. The author was for a short time in the Civil Service, but his book is mainly concerned with his varied experiences as a journalist, more especially during the long period of his assistant-editorship of *Punch*. He introduces the reader to many famous and interesting men and women, he relates plenty of amusing stories, and he gives some pleasant glimpses of the literary and social life of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The Rev. Father Hugh Benson's new book, "The Papers of a Pariah," is being published this week by Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co., in England, and by Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co., in the United States. It is a volume of religious interest. At the time the papers were written the author had not entered the Roman Catholic Church, and their point of view is that of one who regards the Church from without, not from within, though with a favourable eye.

The buying of a horse is notoriously a risky business for amateurs, but still a good many are either unwilling or else find it inconvenient to secure professional assistance. Chiefly for their guidance Mr. F. T. Barton, a

veterinary surgeon, already well-known as an author, has written a book on "Horses: Their Selection and Purchase," which Messrs. Hurst and Blackett are publishing. The book has a number of illustrations which enhance its practical value.

Mr. E. V. Lucas has carefully revised his "Life of Charles Lamb" for the cheap edition which Messrs. Methuen announce. Hitherto this successful biography has only been obtainable in two costly volumes. In the new edition the most interesting of the original illustrations are retained, but the appendices have been removed.

"My Prison Life," by Jabez Spencer Balfour (Chapman and Hall, price 6s.), is not a mere reprint of the articles which he has been contributing to various newspapers, but is to all intents and purposes a new work. It is very readable and instructive as a description of convict life, and well worthy of the attention of all who are interested in the reform of our system of penal servitude. The defects of the system are clearly shown. It fails to reform the first offender, and the presence in our prisons of an ever-increasing number of convicts who have served sentence after sentence shows that it "does not deter and cannot truly punish." One practice which the author severely condemns—and rightly so—is the employment in mechanical labour of men who have never used any mechanical tools in their lives. No purpose whatever is served by putting "a middle-aged or elderly banker, lawyer, doctor, or shopkeeper, still less a clergyman or dissenting minister," to work as a bricklayer, plumber, shoemaker, or tailor. It is a mere waste of time and energy, a delusion and a farce, and some rational system of useful employment ought to be adopted for such prisoners.

A gap in the biographies of naval celebrities is filled by Mr. Fisher Unwin's publication of "Admiral Vernon and his Times" (10s. 6d. net). This memoir of the "Old Grog" of the days of George II.—the nickname was earned by his courageous abolition of the naval custom of drinking raw rum—is in the nature of a vindication, with sidelights on the Parliamentary intrigues of Sir Robert Walpole and others with reference to the navy. Vernon was a fighting man both at sea and in Parliament, and the story of his career in the light of great national events is full of interest. The author, Mr. Douglas Ford, has had access to valuable family and official records; and the book is abundantly illustrated.

Mr. C. Guise Mitford has chosen an unhackneyed background for the charming idyll he sets himself to portray in "Izelle of the Dunes" (John Long, 6s.), and his pictures of Dutch life and Dutch scenery alone would make the book worth reading. But in addition the love story of Izelle and the wandering English artist is delightfully treated. Izelle is the unsophisticated half-child, half-woman, who, unfortunately, hardly exists outside the pages of fiction, but is all the more welcome when she is to be found there. Mr. Mitford's readers will thank him for a new and delightful acquaintance.

"Three Vagabonds in Friesland, with a Yacht and Camera" (Simpkin Marshall, 7s. 6d. net) may be heartily commended, not only to those who wish to make acquaintance with a little known portion of Holland, but to the legion of vagabonds to whom it is dedicated. It is a leisurely volume and very pleasantly Mr. H. F. Tomalin discourses of the "land of miniature," while his colleague, Mr. Arthur Marshall, is busy capturing impressions of the country and its people with his camera. The result is a happy one. The three men in a boat whose experiences are chronicled herein not only seem to have thoroughly enjoyed their holiday in Friesland, but they succeed in conveying their enjoyment to others.

In "The Flare of the Footlights" (Grant Richards, 6s.) Mr. Horace Wyndham has produced a companion volume to "Audrey the Actress." Audrey was a study of the feminine moth who is attracted by the stage candle, while "The Flare of the Footlights" treats of the experiences of a young man who adopts "the" profession at the instigation of an actress-manageress who falls in love with him. Mr. Wyndham's stage land is not a pleasant place, and disillusionment of stage glamour lies in wait for his readers, but there is much to be said for the writer who deals "faithfully," in its old Puritan sense, with his subject, and this Mr. Wyndham does—wittily as well.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You may possibly remember that a few weeks ago I wrote you about the incompetence of English girls of the upper middle class in household accomplishments and the desirability of their acquiring them. Well, dear, I have just heard of a most agreeable manner of doing so, one which almost confutes the old proverb which tells us that there is no royal road to learning. If for the word "royal" we may read "easy and pleasant," then there certainly is to be found such a road to the acquirement of the important lore of housewifery, the knowledge of cookery, dressmaking, and the outdoor arts of riding, driving, shooting, hunting—to say nothing of the milder joys of tennis, croquet, and other games. A family in beautiful Buckinghamshire, by the way, are ready to receive ladies in their pleasant home, give them all the instruction referred to above, supply horses for riding, keep a liberal table, and take their pupil guests to tennis and picnic parties. It sounds ideal, does it not? The daughters of the family are competent to teach the domestic arts, and even pillow-lace making, and are expert horsewomen. What a chance for the brides of the immediate future to graduate in the science of home-making and have a good time while taking their degree.

The new Sutro play at the St. James's is wonderfully gowned; indeed, it would be rather nice to have the ladies of the cast parade before the curtain for five minutes previous to each act. Then we could thoroughly examine their clothes, and settle down to the play with free minds. Miss Eva Moore's frocks are charming, especially her striped tan-and-white silk. It is made with bretelles, over a white broderie anglaise blouse, the bretelles being held together with heavy white silk cord braided into motifs, with tassels. The folded belt of black glacé has long ends broadening to the hem, where they are embroidered in high relief with clusters of cherries. The toque is composed of cherries and dark green blade-like leaves, and a cherry-red sunshade goes with the dress. Then Miss Moore, at the Embassy garden party, wears a wonderful painted chiffon gown, chiefly white, with faint pink roses on a broad band of pale blue, and grey-black ribbons painted in a wandering design of bows. The dress is bordered with lace, and made over white. The bolero bodice has a cluster of pink roses in front, and the dear little lace sleeves are tied up with blue ribbon edged with silver. With this frock Miss Moore wears a toque of pale blue chip, with a great chou of silver ribbon veiled with blue chiffon, and a pale blue ostrich feather, whose long, slightly curled fronds are tipped with mauve.

Miss Helen Ferrers looks very handsome in her lovely gowns, particularly in one of deep rose-coloured chiffon, heavily embroidered with appliqué velvet in the same shade, and deeply hemmed with velvet. On the front of the bodice a heavy embroidery of gold is lightly veiled by a loose piece of the chiffon, edged with rose-coloured embroidery. Both hat and sunshade are in shades of copper, and the latter has a green and red head of some mysterious water-bird where the ferrule usually is, and forms the handle.

But Miss Henrietta Watson, as an American princess, has the chief sartorial glories literally on her shoulders. Her coral-pink silk evening dress is embroidered with coral and gold, and is worn with a coral diadem; but her garden-party dress is a most wonderful affair. The full skirt is of Alençon lace in deep écru, with gold braid

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laid on the inner side simulating a pelerine. The little Directoire coat of amber glacé has long ends embroidered in gold bugles, and caught at the waist by two large round studs of cornelian that exactly match the waistband. The bodice is of lace and embroidery, and the whole colouring of the dress is summed up in the hat of gold-coloured chip with a large black-headed bird with plumage ranging from amber to copper. There are enough ideas in the St. James's costumes to last us through a year's frocks.

The mid-Lent Ball was held this year in the beautiful ballroom of the Ritz Hotel, a splendid room which is highly appreciated by the givers of smart dances. The corridor looked quite lovely decorated in a scheme graduated from lemon to deep, rich orange, the flowers being chiefly azaleas. The ballroom was all pink tulips, and the white and gold archways were hung with smilax and flowers arranged in long fringes like curtains, and swaying delicately. The occasion was, as usual, extremely smart. Many of the Ambassadors were present, or were represented by their wives and daughters, secretaries, and attachés. No one appreciates a good floor better than our Continental visitors, whose waltzing is a dream. There were many pretty girls present, and the ballroom was pronounced to be a most becoming room.

At the Ritz also is to be held the Royal Irish Industries Exhibition on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Argyll have promised to be present, and, as ever, the cream of our high society will officiate as either stall-holders or assistants. This sale is always a beauty show, and it is our joy to get into a corner and watch the lovely faces pass. It affords a study in gowns, as well, and I shall enjoy telling you all about it.

You remember the Windsor Crèche Ball I told you of, held in the Wharncliffe Rooms? Princess Christian was much pleased with the £100 handed over for the crèche, in which her Royal Highness takes a deep and kindly interest, and consequently the Princess has given her patronage to a ball in aid of the Loughborough Hospital, which is being organised by Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen, and will be held in May in town. The precise date is not fixed. It is sure to be a success, as the Windsor dance was, for the arrangements will be in the same hands, and every one was pleased with the hot supper with good wine, all included in the guinea tickets.

The annual exhibition of the Royal Amateur Art Society was interesting as ever this year. It was held at Lady Naylor Leyland's beautiful London house last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Princess Alexander of Teck, looking very girlish and pretty, opened it, and handed the prizes to the successful competitors. The King lent four fine prints from Windsor Castle, and many other owners sent pictures of children. It was a good idea to limit the collection to portraits of children under seventeen. Several great ladies sent exhibits to the general section. Princess Henry of Battenberg sent a screen embroidered by herself in a design of B's and Tudor roses. The enamels lent by Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein were much admired. Landscapes and portraits were sent by the Duchess of Buckingham, the Duchess of Somerset, the Duchess of Rutland, Lady Marjorie Manners, the Speaker, his wife and daughter, Lord Berwick, Lady Maitland, and Lady Wenlock.

A lucrative section is that of the pictures presented by artists and amateurs, to be sold for the charities to which the proceeds of the exhibition are devoted. Lady Maxwell-Lyte had charge of this department, and arranged the hundred pictures with her usual skill. Dr. Emil Reich was present, and lectured on art. Among other things, he said that the woman with a charming smile was more highly gifted than the woman who writes clever books or gives lectures. What, then, must he think of those gifted beings who manage to combine the pretty smile and charming manner with sufficient brains to produce widely read books? A combination of youth, beauty, and brains is not unknown. What a different view Dr. Emil Reich takes from that entertained by the terrible Schopenhauer on the subject of women. They represent the two extremes.

We are all beginning to think of our gardens now. We spent a week at our riverside home, and it was lovely to hear the birds sing in the mornings and to realise that spring is really on the way. The rose-trees are all a-flush with tiny green leaves folded tightly against the frost. The hyacinths, daffodils, and tulips are coming romping up, and the sweet little snowdrops are beginning to weary of this wicked world and preparing to leave us. What a contrast they make to the flaunting gold and purple of the crocus. And how delicately, in comparison, the snowdrop dies, shrinking and gently fading, while the crocus sprawls its vivid leaves, taking the whole neighbourhood into its confidence without reserve.

We are sorely tempted to spend more money than we can afford on the very pretty garden furniture and ornaments illustrated in a catalogue sent us from the Pyghtle Works at Bedford. The garden seats are quite different from any we have ever seen before. The backs are higher, and the seats much wider, so that one can comfortably lounge upon them, a thing impossible in the narrow limits of the usual bench. The "Radley" is 5ft. 6in. long, and with cushions would make an ideal resting-place for a siesta. It has, besides, a seat at either end, so that if the sun comes round at one, as it has a way of doing, a position in a different aspect is available by moving a yard or so.

Some of the shapes are classical, recalling Leighton's and Alma Tadema's pictures, and would give an air of great refinement to one's garden. Some are specially designed for Italian gardens. Sundials, trellis arbours, pergole, and summer-houses are among the other fascinating things illustrated, also pigeon cotes, arches, rustic bridges, and fences, and other adjuncts of landscape gardening. The "seat of the thirteen hearts" and table to match, designed by the Hon. Mrs. Anstruther, look as comfortable in shape as they are poetically named.

I always share with you every discovery that I think would be either useful or amusing, do I not? I must therefore tell you about a curiously named little machine whose acquaintance we have lately made. It is called the "Veedee," but we give it the sounding title of the "40-h.p. lady's maid." The cleverest maid in the world could not do one-hundredth part of what this marvellous little machine does. As you know, the world has wondered over the increasing number of pretty women during the last few years, and the wonderful increase of good complexions. Both, no doubt, are due to massage, but that has always been a tedious and a costly process, open only to those who have both money and leisure. But here comes in our 40 h.p. friend the Veedee, a small hand machine, easily worked by a handle, which is to ordinary massage what the motor is to a donkey-cart. Its action is simple enough. By its rapid vibrations it imparts energy to the muscles beneath the skin that have, from one cause or another, become flabby and relaxed. The "rubbing" of the masseuse, which has worked such wonders for beauty during the last ten years, is by the Veedee performed in one-fiftieth part of the time, and at practically hardly any cost. Besides this, it has a curiously stimulating effect upon the whole system, freeing the circulation from lassitude, and arousing the torpid liver to a practical sense of its important duties. Mabel, who works hard, says she has for years been longing to be able to feel as energetic in the afternoons as she does in the mornings. And in this little machine, which she can work with her own hand with the greatest ease, she has found what she longed for.

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Complexion is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, point of good looks in a woman, and the action of the Veedee on the little vessels that contain the colouring pigment is to energise them, the vibrations causing them to fulfil the functions for which Nature intended them, but in the performance of which they have become lax, with a consequent muddy dulness of skin, or, what is even worse, a fixed, hard colour on the upper part of the cheeks. You must send for one to Southwark-street, if not for use in the cause of vanity (important enough in its way, is it not?), then as a gentle reliever of pain. Not only does it remove wrinkles and crow's feet, but it does far higher work for the sufferer from rheumatism. It was poor Milly, a martyr for years to rheumatic pains, who first told us about the Veedee. She was recommended to use it by her doctor. Instead of nights of constant pain, she now enjoys hours of restoring sleep, and is already able to get about in the daytime instead of being crippled and a prisoner on her sofa.

I could tell you much more about it, but as I insist on your getting one at once, I leave you to find out its benefits for yourself.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Most of us are sun-worshippers at heart, and no wonder! Does it not make all the difference in the world to have the sun constantly with us? To have his risings early and his settings late, and, above everything, to have the former—real, bona fide risings, flooding the days with brightness and light. The light cure for human ills is a very old one; sunshine is the greatest and best of nerve tonics. What courage light gives us as compared to darkness and gloom. What hopefulness in endeavour, and extra strength in the ordinary struggles of life. Our spirits are sensibly raised by the lengthening of the days; things never seem to matter quite so much when we are emerging into spring as they do when we are getting deeper and deeper still into winter. Come what come may, we have light, and the promise of more to come, to hearten us. The sunshine stirs the principle of life within us, as it does the sap in the trees and the grass. We had much sunshine last week, and the call of the spring in the air; but for all that we fear that the case is rather that of *au revoir*, than of good-bye, with winter. We feel that he is still looking back at us over his shoulder, and in the state known to human beings as that of "being between two minds," whether to come back or go quite away.

The Castle season ends this week, and with St. Patrick's Ball as usual. The Lace Ball last week, for which there had been so much preparation and which caused so many expectations, came off with great *éclat*. The only drawback was Lady Aberdeen's illness. She was, however, brave enough to be present at the ball for an hour or so, though far from well, and obliged to be wheeled in a chair. She had the gratification, which no doubt did her good, of seeing the success of an entertainment planned to please, as one may say, all down the line, to extend happiness from the Court to the cottage. Lady Aberdeen's sapphire dress was covered with the beautiful Irish point lace, which bears so much resemblance to the old "point de Venise." The specially got-up quadrilles and reels were danced in front of the Viceregal dais in St. Patrick's Hall. The quadrilles were organised by Ladies Clementine Waring, Hawkesbury, Mayo, Holmpatrick, and Grenfell. The ladies in each quadrille were dressed alike in special costumes and lace of a special kind—all Irish, of course—point, Carrickmacross, Limerick and Youghal. The men wore Court dress, black velvet with lace ruffles and jabots. Amongst those taking part in the dances were Ladies Wicklow, Powerscourt, Celia Coates, Violet Brabazon, Mabel and Violet Anson, Gweneth Ponsonby, Bessborough, Dunsany, Hon. Sybil Hamilton, the Hon. Clare Hamilton, Hon. Zoe Maxwell, the Misses Nesta Fitzgerald, Alice Carr Glyn, Arnott, Post, Victoria Bigg, and Lady Blanche Seymour. Amongst the men who took part were the Viceregal staff, the Lord Chancellor, Lords Mayo, Powerscourt, Grenfell, Hawkesbury, Colonel C. Crichton, Sir John Arnott, Sir Anthony Weldon. The four-handed Irish reels got up by Ladies Weldon, MacDonnell, Countess Plunkett, and others, were very picturesque and effective, and toned down to graceful courtliness. Lady Weldon's four ladies wore beautiful costumes of mauve chiffon,

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But the point is this. I claim—nay, I go further, I guarantee—to pass every ailing man or woman whose case I judge to be amenable to my exercise cure, as a first-class life, and that often within a very short time.

The thousands of readers of this paper who are, from one cause or another, prevented from the full enjoyment of life and healthy vigour, do not need to be so muscularly strong as I. But they do need health and vitality, and I want them to realise how it is that I am able to place these twin benefits within the reach of at least nine out of ten of the men, women and children who at present do not know exactly all that they imply.

The system I advocate is not—as some people seem to think—one of lifting enormous weights, training with heavy dumb-bells, or performing other feats requiring excessive strength. It consists in practising for a short time every day certain easy, gentle, regular movements, which involve no physical strain, but which, on the contrary, are pleasant to perform. Ladies practise them every day.

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Further, after reading my book, if you can call or if you care to write me any particulars of your own case and desires, I will reply and advise you as to whether I consider you would benefit by my guidance in taking up physical culture, either at one of my institutes or in your own home.

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trimmed with sparkling white chiffon, violets, and Limerick lace; whilst the dresses in Lady MacDonnell's reel were of gold tissue with pale green poplin hems, trimmed with green tulle, Limerick lace, and shamrocks. Such diaphanous costumes hardly suggest any great suitability for reel dancing, do they? But then, as Fred says, it was a reel Lace Ball—"imitation" not being allowed—and that made all the difference. Lord Aberdeen wore a Scotch dress in honour of the occasion—the Gordon tartan—with a scarlet and gold waistcoat, and many magnificent diamond stars of various orders. The taste for dress which men display in stars and ribbons, as in military and official dresses, shows that love of finery and self-adornment is not peculiar to our sex. What masculine wit would be expended supposing a council of Amazons spent all the thought and time over the cut and colour of a head-dress for their corps which the War Office spends with regard to the military cap. "How like women!" the men would exclaim. "How like men!" we well might retort. Some beautiful lace and fine crochet dresses were worn, the latter very exquisite, if perishable, in ball rooms. Lady Massereene's beauty showed to advantage in a lovely old Limerick lace dress over white satin, hemmed with gold tissue. How becoming to a tall slight figure the present fashion of dress is! Lady Fitzgerald also wore beautiful old Limerick lace, as did Ladies Mowbray and Stourton, Holmpatrick, Grace, Stronge, and many others. Lady Grenfell's old Carrickmacross guipure looked beautiful on a black satin dress trimmed with sparkling embroidery and silver. The modern Carrickmacross and Youghal point laces are both very effective and charming for evening dress. The former goes beautifully with satin and diamonds, or pearls. Lady MacDonnell's lovely costume was of silvery crêpe de chine with silver embroidery and exquisite Limerick lace. An ideal dress to go with the soft grey hair which comes prematurely and is so attractive. The Ladies Margaret and Dorothy Lowry-Corry were in white, and Lady Arnott had lovely Irish art needlework and Youghal point lace on a pale blue satin gown. Dancing was kept up to a late hour, and under some overcrowding difficulty at the beginning of the evening.

Lord Dunraven, who has been very active in lending a hand in Irish constitution making of late, has gone to France, where he will meet his daughter on her return from India. He and Lady Aileen Quin will spend some time in Pau. Most things will now be postponed until the Easter holidays are over. What holiday takers we now are, with intervals of work between. A modern transposition.—Yours ever, CLARE.

I present you with some rather "loud" recipes this week, soused herrings and tomatoes, for instance:—

Split and bone 3 or 4 soft roed herrings, take each half and roll it, leaving the tail end outside; place them in a dish, side by side, then screen them lightly with minced shalots; over these arrange slices of tomatoes, and over these minced mushrooms; now place the roes between each fish, and scatter mixed spice here and there; fill up the dish with slightly sweetened vinegar. These can be put in the oven after cooking has been done, and left in all night; remove them before lighting the fire. Garnish them with tufts of chervil, and serve them cold, with half lemons and cayenne.

Creamed eggs with cheese are appetising:—

Cut the whites of 3 hard-boiled eggs into strips, and rub the yolks through a wire sieve. Dissolve an ounce of butter in a stewpan, mix in a spoonful of flour, half a gill of white chicken stock, and half a gill of milk; stir it till it boils, add seasoning, a squeeze of lemon juice, the yolk of an egg, half a gill of cream, and the shredded whites of the eggs. Butter a fireproof gratin dish, put a layer of the creamed whites at the bottom, sprinkle them with cheese, and the passed yolks, add a layer of whites, then the remainder of the cheese and yolks. Mix an ounce of grated cheese with half a gill of cream, pour it on the top, and brown it in the oven.

A pretty sweet for parties:—

Make a fine puff paste, then cut it into strips about an inch in width, a quarter of an inch in thickness, and twelve inches long. Fasten three pieces together at one end with a little beaten egg, then plait them, taking the two outside pieces over the centre one, leaving a space between each fold, fill the hollows with mincemeat, placing the star-shaped piece of paste upon the mincemeat. Set them in a good oven, and when they are done screen the top with minced angelica.

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To the Editor of the *Christian World*.

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Yours faithfully, J. DAWSON, M.D., L.R.C.S., L.M.

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NICE, Cimiez—WINTER PALACE. One of the finest and most comfortable hotels in Europe.—J. AGID, Director.

NICE.—MEYER'S PARK HOTEL, Villa Arson. First-class. Situated in its own magnificent Park. Moderate terms.

NICE.—HOTEL TERMINUS. Opposite railway station. First-class, up-to-date. New winter garden.—H. MORLOCK, Prop.

NICE.—HOTEL DE SUEDE. English house. Every home comfort. Hot-water heating. Electric lift.

PALERMO.—EXCELSIOR PALACE HOTEL. New. Leading hotel. Opened February, 1906.

PARIS.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. Most luxurious and comfortable hotel in Paris. Entirely renovated.—A. LOTTI, Gen. Mgr.

PARIS.—HOTEL St. JAMES and ALBANY, opposite Tuileries. Favourite rendezvous of English and Americans.—Proprietor-Manager, A. LERCHE.

PARIS.—MERCEDES HOTEL, Place de l'Etoile. Most modern hotel in Paris. Opened April, 1904. Luxuriously furnished.

PARIS.—HOTEL MONTANA, Avenue de l'Opéra. First-class. Latest and all modern improvements.—G. VAUTIER, Prop.

PARIS.—HOTEL DE L'ATHENÉE, Rue Scribe. One of the leading hotels.—E. AMBRUSTER, Manager-Proprietor.

PISA.—GRAND HOTEL and HOTEL DE LONDRES. The only hotel with central heating in Pisa.

PONTRESINA.—HOTEL KRONENHOF & BELLAVISTA. First-class. Best situation. Open whole year. Summer and Winter resort.

PORTOFINO.—HOTEL SPLENDID. Station, St. Margherita. The only first-class Hotel in Portofino and district of Portofino. Exquisite view. Tel. Add.: "Splendid," Portofino.

FOREIGN HOTELS, &c.—*contd.*

RAPALLO.—**VERDI'S HOTEL.** Favourite English house, Charmingly situated. Electric light. Modern comfort.

ROME—**HOTEL QUIRINAL.** First-class. Situated on famous Via Nazionale, in finest part of Rome. Every modern comfort.

ROME.—**REGINA HOTEL.** New. Opposite Queen Margherita's Palace. One of the leading.—Managing Prop., E. BARBIANI.

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BEAUSITE HOTEL. First-class family house.

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The English House.

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VEVEY.—**HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.** First-class. 120 rooms. Very latest improvements. Bath with private suite.—Proprietor, T. WHITE.

VEVEY.—Healthiest Swiss resort.—**TROIS COURONNES HOTEL** First-class. Modern improvements. Most moderate terms.

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TOUR TO SUNNY SPAIN

by Twin Screw Steamer "SABOR," from Southampton 20th March, visiting

BILBAO, CORUNA, and VIGO.

Ample time for Tourists to visit Pontavedra and the famous Cathedral City of Santiago de Compostella. Return by R.M.S.P. South American Mail Steamer "ARAGON," from Vigo on 28th March calling at Cherbourg.
RETURN FARE £9 15s 0d. First Saloon.

R.M.S.P. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.
18, Moorgate-street, E.C., and 32, Cockspur-street, S.W.

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18, Moorgate-street, E.C., and 32, Cockspur-street, S.W.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

TRIP from SOUTHAMPTON to LISBON and BACK, March 29, by R.M.S.P. "Nile," returning April 13 by R.M.S.P. "Araguaya." **£10** For particulars apply as above.

Channel Crossing, Sea-Sickness.

Mr. LABOUCHERE, in *Truth*, writes: "The only remedy is my trusty 'YANATAS.' It absolutely prevents sea sickness." On sale at all chemists'. 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. (the latter a sufficient supply for yourself and a friend) or by post (3d. extra) from STARKIE, Chemist, Trafalgar Sq., London, S.W.

FOREIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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HYRES—**R. J. CORBETT & CO.** The English Bank. Arrangements with Hotels. Villas and Apartments to let.

TRUTH HOTEL LIST.

AYR.—STATION HOTEL, adjoining station. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards. For Business Gentlemen, Families, and Tourists to "The Land of 'Burns,'" and Ayrshire district. Within few minutes' walk of sea shore. Convenient Golf Courses. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Dumfries, and Turnberry.

BELFAST.—GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.—The Finest Hotel in Ireland. 200 rooms. Electric light throughout. Passenger lifts to all floors. Magnificent public rooms and suites of private apartments. Most central position. Very moderate tariff. Omnibuses from Hotel attend all steamers and trains. Telegrams, "Grand Central, Belfast."

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms. Passenger lift to all the floors.
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BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL.
Finest position on front.
Splendid public rooms. Orchestra twice daily.
Tepid sea-water Swimming Bath. Garage communicating with the Hotel.
Private suites, with bathrooms. Write for Illustrated Brochure.

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DUMFRIES.—STATION HOTEL, opposite station. Electric light. Lift. Billiards. Convenient for Firth of Solway, Castle Douglas, Sweetheart Abbey, Caerlaverock Castle, &c. Lovely Drives. Splendid centre for motor and cycle tours. Shooting Fishing. Golf. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Turnberry.

EASTBOURNE.—The HYDRO HOTEL, a Select Residential Hotel, due south, facing sea. Spacious Lounges and Public Rooms Garage. Special Week End Terms. Cinderella Dance Saturday. For Amusement Programme and Tariff (Illustrated), O. F. BERGANN, Manager.

GLASGOW.—ST. ENOCH STATION HOTEL. Best centre for business and pleasure. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (4 tables). Restaurant. Within shilling cab fare of all railway and steamboat termini in Glasgow. Near electric cars and opposite subway cable railways. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Ayr, Dumfries, and Turnberry.

GRAND CANARY.—The Newest and Best Hotel is The METROPOLE. Facing the sea. Delightful position.
Terms most moderate.
Agents, ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO., 14, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 4, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.

MALVERN.—For the Easter Holidays.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL (only 2½ hours from Paddington) facing due S., offers every comfort at moderate and inclusive charges. *A cheerful lounge, with electric light.* Central for Croome and Ledbury Hounds, loose boxes, hunters. Accommodation for Motors.—For tariff apply to Resid. Prop., F. MOERSCHELL.

SCARBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL. First-class. Situated on South Cliff. Magnificent view. Adjacent to the incline. Tramways leading to Spa and Sands, facing South. Billiard Room, two tables. Fireproof Staircase, Lift, Electric Light. Telegrams, "Princely."
Illustrated Booklet post free.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
W. WORSTER, Manager.

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LEAMINGTON SPA.—REGENT HOTEL. Ideal for Easter Holidays. In the midst of a beautiful and Historic Country. Large Motor Garage & Stables. Orchestra Nightly. Mod. charges. Tele. 109 & 0359 Leamington.

Best position on Sea Front.

ALEXANDRA HOTEL.
ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.
An Ideal Autumn and Winter Resort.
Patronised by the leading Families in the Kingdom.
Moderate Tariff; inclusive if desired.

Faces due South.

Telephone No. 64.

PEEBLES HOTEL Hydropathic,

Under Mr. A. M. THIEM'S Personal Management, will be RE-OPENED to its numerous friends on Monday, March 25, 1907.
RETAINING all the BEST FEATURES which have made its name so widely known throughout the United Kingdom, it has been RE-BUILT, IMPROVED, and EQUIPPED on the most MODERN Lines.
IT IS CONSTRUCTED FIREPROOF THROUGHOUT.
Elegantly Furnished and Decorated, it is now as perfect as experience and liberal expenditure can make it. SPECIAL EASTER ATTRACTIONS.
The CURE DEPARTMENT will be under the direction of E. NEU, M.D. Bonn University), an authority of great experience in Natural Medical Science.

SUNNY ALGERIA.

A SELECT CONDUCTED TOUR will leave London April 10th, visiting Paris, Marseilles, Tunis, Carthage, Kairouan, Constantine, Biskra, Sidi Okba, Batna, Ruins of Timgad and Lambessa, Setif Kharata, Gorge du Chabet, Bougie, carriages through Kabylia district, Fort National, Michelet, Algiers, &c.
Inclusive Fare First Class throughout } 60 Guineas!
Illustrated Programme free.
THOS. COOK & SON, Ludgate-circus, London, and Branch Offices.

SPECIAL FOR LADIES.

USEFUL and CHARMING NOVELTY for

Wedding & Birthday Presents.

As Supplied to Her Majesty the Queen.

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WRIGHT'S PATENT (No. 28,295).

The brown earthenware tea-pot is the recognised best tea maker.

WRIGHT'S PATENT is a pierced and embossed Silver Casement, artistically designed, made in two parts, which fits the brown tea-pot, and is fixed by four tiny screws. It can thus be easily removed.

"WRIGHT'S PATENT," 184 & 186, Regent Street, W. (Side Entrance).

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PARISIAN HAT Co.

30, NEW BOND STREET,
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Beg to announce the opening of a New Branch Establishment at

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All the Newest Models at one uniform price of **30/-**

HITCHING'S GOLD MEDAL BABY CARS

Under the Patronage of the English Royal Family.

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86, NEW BOND STREET; 329, 331, OXFORD STREET (Corner of Bond-st. and Oxford-st.); **45, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.**

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74, BOLD STREET.
165, DUKE STREET.

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BANKERS:—
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.

HITCHINGS, Ltd., are the Premier Manufacturers of High Grade Baby Carriages in the World, having special facilities for the supply of High Grade Carriages at the lowest prices.

BABY CARRIAGES from **3** to **25** Guineas.
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Pictorial Lists Post Free.

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LADIES' HIGH-CLASS **COSTUME TWEEDS.**

COPLAND & LYE,

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Recommend the undernoted :— (Patterns post free on request.)

HANDSOME "KELVINDALE" HOMESPUN CHEVIOT TWEEDS, thoroughly shrunk, eminently suited for Smart Tailor-made Coats and Skirts, in a full range of new art shades for Spring wear, 54 inches wide, at 3/11 per yard.

"HEBRIDEAN" SCOTCH TWEEDS, thoroughly shrunk, suitable for Ladies' Travelling or Sporting Costumes, in smart small checks, light, dark, or medium colourings 56 ins. wide, 3/6 per yd.

THE NEW "CLACHAN" SCOTCH TWEEDS, thoroughly shrunk, in two-effect mixtures, and self colours, 58 inches wide, 4/11 per yard. Stylish and Exclusive.

The Famous "CALEDONIAN" WINCEYS in Cream, Stripes, and Colours, from 1 1½d. to 2/2 per yard.

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FOR EMBROIDERY.

These Celebrated Threads are made in all the Newest Art Shades, and are the Best for all Fancy Work.

Equal to Silk at the Cost of Cotton.

Obtainable at all Berlin Wool Dealers and Fancy Drapers.

Ask your Wool Dealer for particulars of our

Grand Fancy-Work Competition

£100 IN CASH PRIZES.

If he cannot give them to you, write to us and we will send, post free.

Have you got the "PERI-LUSTA" Handbook? Price 6d.

Compiled by Mrs. Humphry ("Madge," of *"Truth"*). Over 80 illustrations, with instructions for working. There are very few left.

If unable to procure, send 7d. stamps to—

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WEAR NOBLE'S SERGES.

The most durable, most reliable fabrics in the world. They stand the hardest wear—stand drenching rain, burning sun, sea water, washing with common soap—stand almost anything without changing colour, shrinking, or going to pieces. See and test JOHN NOBLE'S

ROYAL YACHT CLUB and IMPERIAL SERGES

(IN NAVY, CREAM, AND BLACK).

Every piece British-made, absolutely fast dye, non-spottable and unshrinkable. In all weights, to suit all climates and all pockets. 160 Qualities.

Prices: 1/4½ to 8/9 per yard.

State whether you require Navy, Cream, or Black, and whether for ladies' or men's wear.

JOHN NOBLE'S astonishing variety of Spring Dress Fabrics (Voiles, Cashmeres, Tweeds, Habit Cloths, &c.), are the most delightful ever offered. All patterns post free on approval. New Fashion Book of Garments for Ladies & Children FREE.

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Maintain their popularity by excellence and reliability.

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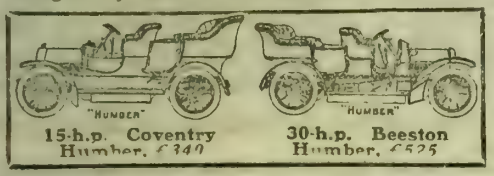

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PROMPT DELIVERY

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Prices from £270. Twelve months' Guarantee.

Free Trials arranged.

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Works: Beeston (Notts), and Coventry.
. . AND AT . .
NOTTINGHAM: Grey Friar Gate.
MANCHESTER: 33, Blackfriars-street.
BIRMINGHAM: 280, Broad-street.
SOUTHAMPTON: 27, London-road.
LIVERPOOL: 27-33, Leece-street,
——— *Humber Agents Everywhere.* ———

GOUT

No Cure—No Pay.

Anturic Bath Salts can and *do* cure Gout. We have seen this proved in so many thousands of cases that we positively guarantee it to relieve you, or we will refund your money. Anturic Bath Salts act in the natural way. They draw the uric acid out of your system through the pores of the skin. No drugs to take—no dieting necessary—no plasters or liniments required. The warm, pleasant Anturic Bath alone surely and completely rids you of all your pain. Begin to-day. The treatment is quite harmless, and we give you your money back if it fails.

For a mild attack of Gout Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, or any uric acid disease three or four tins of Anturic Salts should be sufficient. Where, however, the disease is one of long standing, four times this quantity may be required, **but a few baths in either case will afford relief.** Should no benefit result, send us a certificate to this effect from your medical adviser, also the lids of the tins you have used, together with a receipt from the Chemist from whom they were bought, and we will refund your money.

Remember, no cure—no pay, when you buy

Anturic Bath Salts

(THE ONLY GENUINE)

Of all Chemists, 1/6 per tin.

Free book, describing the peculiarities of Gout and its proper treatment, post free, or with a tin of Anturic Salts for 1/6 direct from

ROCKE, TOMPSITT & Co., 71, Redcross-street, London, E.C.

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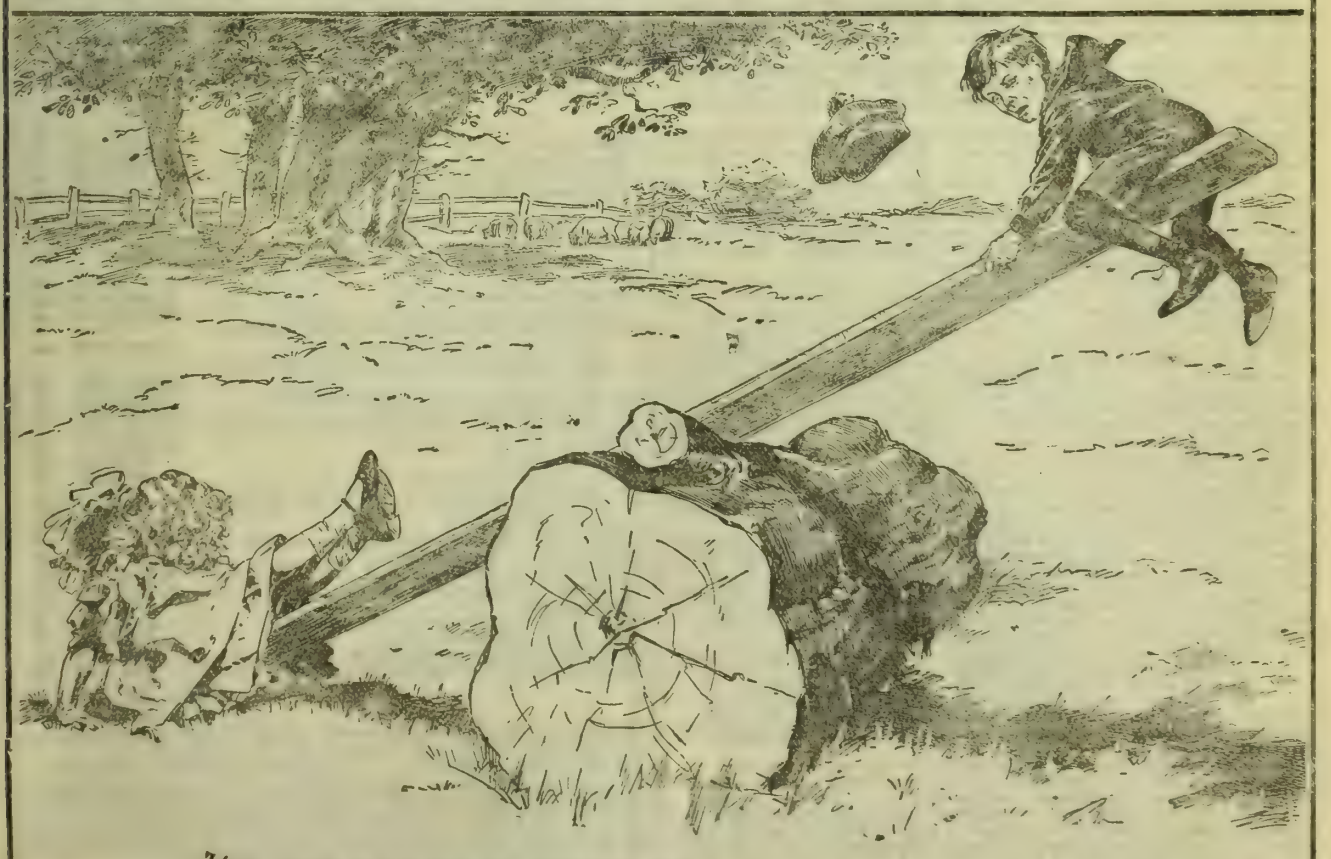
A little "Lemco" stirred into warm milk is splendid for delicate children.
It overcomes the digestion difficulty and soon makes them robust and strong.



Marjory— "**LEMCO & MILK** would soon make you as heavy as I am"

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST is now OPEN, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 14th March, 1907, for Town, and on or before FRIDAY, the 15th March, for the Country.
The full Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and states (*inter alia*) :—

THE ARNOYA MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Province of Orense, Spain). Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.

CAPITAL £400,000

Divided into

100,000 Shares of £4 each, of which 28,750 are reserved for Working Capital. 95,000 SHARES or £4 each are OFFERED for PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION, payable as follows:—8s. 0d. per Share on Application, and 12s. 0d. per Share on Allotment, and the balance in Calls of £1 per Share at intervals of not less than two months.

The remaining Shares are reserved for future issue.

Subscribers may, if they think fit, pay the full amount of the Shares in advance, and the Company will pay interest on the money so paid in advance at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The minimum subscription on which the Directors may proceed to Allotment is the subscription of 10,000 Shares, which have all been underwritten. The Directors will proceed to allotment immediately upon close of the list.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN TOWNSEND WESTCOTT, 19, Abingdon-street, Westminster, London, S.W., Mechanical Engineer (Chairman).
FREDERICK THOMAS FISHER, 15, Great Saint Helens, London, E.C., Shipbroker.
JOHN ROBERT LOWNDES, 39 and 41, Wood-street, London, E.C., Manufacturer.
OTTO FRANC VIOLA, 27, Albemarle-street, London, W., Merchant.
BERTRAM BRAUND WALLER, 165, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C., Mechanical Engineer.

BANKERS.—THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK (Limited), 71a, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—SIMS AND SYMS, 70, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C., and 3, Clarence street, Manchester.
BROKERS.—SILVERTHORNE, LEPPARD, AND CO., 9, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
AUDITORS.—HART BROS., TIBBETTS, HEIRON AND CO., Chartered Accountants, 30, Moorgate-street, London, E.C., and New York.
JOINT SECRETARIES.—DAVID BEECH, HERBERT C. FRANKLIN.
REGISTERED OFFICES.—30, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

EXTRACTS FROM PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed (*inter alia*) to acquire by Lease, Concession, Licence, or otherwise, Mines, Mining Rights, or Metalliferous Lands in any part of the world, or any interest therein, and to explore, exercise, develop, and turn to account the same, and particularly in the first instance to acquire two Tin Mines, known as "Sultana" and "Sultana II.," both situate in the neighbourhood of the towns of Ribadavia and Filgueiras, and near to the village of Paolo, in the Province of Orense, Spain.

Mr. E. Wickersheimer, an expert Mining Engineer, who is Chief Engineer in the Department of Mines to the French Government, and a Member of the Conseil du Roseau des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat, made an examination of the above Mines and tested the ore bodies, and has made a report thereon, dated the 5th day of January, 1907, which is in the possession of the Directors, and the following statements are based thereon.

The area of the property is 550 hectares, or thereabouts, and is situated in close proximity to the termini of the Ribadavia and Filgueiras Railway, on the line running to Vigo, a seaport on the Atlantic Ocean, from which port ore can be shipped to England and elsewhere. An estimate of the cost of transport has been made, which shows that the ore can be conveyed from the Mines to London at an inclusive cost of about £2 per ton.

The most valuable part of the business of the Company, having regard to its future, will be the opening up of the Tin lodes, eleven of which have been already located on the left bank of the Arnoya river and five more on the hill of Viso.

The principal Tin lodes on the property are named "San Guillermo," "San Manuel," "San Jaime," "Santa Cristina," "California," "San Francisco" and "San Sebastian."

A considerable amount of work has been carried out on these lodes, some of the levels have been sunk to the extent of 200 mètres or thereabouts.

The mineral is shown in quartz, mispickel and pegmatite containing oxide of tin.

An analysis of the ore taken by Mr. Wickersheimer himself from the Mines was made by Messieurs Morin Frères, of 18, Rue de Montmorancy, Paris, Assayers to the Bank of France, and with the results set out in the above-mentioned report, namely :—

Santa Cristina.—An assay of a portion of the ore extracted from this lode has been made, and has given 24 per cent. of tin oxide, thus showing the existence of rich ore.

San Sebastian.—This lode is very regular, and, although being the least thick of all lodes known on the Mines, it is estimated at about 300,000 tons. An assay has also been made of a portion of the ore extracted therefrom, and the analysis has given a result of over 5 per cent. of tin oxide. Mr. Wickersheimer, in his report, confidently gives his opinion that this lode can be worked with considerable profit to the Company.

San Francisco.—Portions of the ore taken from this lode as now opened have been assayed, and found to contain 1.33 and 8.14 per cent. of tin oxide, and this indicates that at greater depth it will prove a rich lode.

The mispickel which has so far been met with on the principal lodes contains little arsenic and much oxide of tin, forming true lodes rich in tin.

An analysis of the pegmatite has been made, and which produced about 1 per cent. of oxide of tin. Mr. Wickersheimer gives his opinion that there are several millions of tons upon the property, and that the rock, being easily friable, will in itself alone amply justify the Company in exploiting the property, as its contents of oxide of tin, and its friability, make it well paying mineral, the more so as it can be broken into large blocks by pickaxe without the expense entailed in using explosives.

The present market price of tin varies from £190 to £195 per ton.

The Engineer reports that a present production of 1,200 tons per annum of oxide of tin may be obtained from the property, and this should produce about 890 tons of metal at an estimated working cost of £33,600.

Taking the market price of tin at £100 per ton (being only about half the present market value) then 890 tons of fine tin would produce £89,000, which after deduction of the said working cost would leave a net profit of £55,400 per annum. Assuming the net cost of working to remain the same whatever the fluctuation in the market price of the metal, and assuming that the market price of tin was at the price below mentioned, the assumed profits on working the quantity above mentioned would be as follows :—

Taking the market price of tin at £120 per ton, the estimated profit per annum would be £73,200.
At £140 per ton the estimated annual profit would be £91,000.
At £190 per ton the estimated annual profit would be £135,500.

From the above figures supplied by the said Engineer it is reasonable to anticipate that the Company will be able to pay substantial dividends to the Shareholders.

For Contracts and Memorandum of Association see full Prospectus.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the offices of the Company.

Applications for shares must be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers with the amount of the deposit. If no allotment is made the application money will be returned in full, and, where the number of shares allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

PRUDENTIAL Assurance Company, LIMITED.

Chief Office: HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Presented at the Fifty-eighth Annual Meeting, held on March 7, 1907.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—The number of Policies issued during the year was 79,942, assuring the sum of £7,529,031, and producing a New Annual Premium Income of £424 145.

The Premiums received during the year were £4,290,971, being an increase of £167 653 over the year 1905.

The Claims of the year amounted to £1,947,444. The number of Deaths was 7,656, and 8,686 Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 807,218.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—The Premiums received during the year were £6 499,028, being an increase of £359,978.

The Claims of the year amounted to £2,376,863. The number of Deaths was 260,941, and 3,342 Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policy-holders of five years' standing and upwards who desired to discontinue their payments was 120,198, the number in force being 1,194 432. The number of Free Policies which became Claims during the year was 28 034.

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 16,764,654; their average duration exceeds eleven years.

The Assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance Sheet, are £63,887,008, being an increase of £4,422,682 over those of 1905.

The increase granted early in the year under the principal Industrial Branch tables, to provide for which £750,000 was transferred from reserve, affected nearly thirteen million policies, ten millions of which received an immediate increase in the sum assured. The Directors are glad to say that the alteration has been highly appreciated, and has resulted in a large accession of new business.

As the Shareholders are aware, the Directors have on many occasions granted extended benefits to Industrial Branch policy-holders. The total cost of these benefits already exceeds £4,000 000. It is the intention of the Directors to continue this policy, and if possible to establish it upon a more definite basis.

For each of the past ten years a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 10s. per cent. on the original sums assured has been added to all classes of participating policies in the Ordinary Branch issued since the year 1876. The Directors are now pleased to announce a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 12s. per cent.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET

of the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited, being the Summary of both Branches, on December 31, 1906.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Shareholders' Capital	1,000,000	0	0
Reserve Funds	2,300 000	0	0
Life Assurance Funds	60,470,431	4	1
Claims under life policies admitted	116,576	18	11
	£63,887,008	3	0

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
British Government securities	3,415,976	13	0
Indian and Colonial Government securities... ...	6,156,247	4	4
Railway and other debentures and debenture stocks, and gold and sterling bonds	7,743,842	19	7
Loans on County Council, Municipal, and other rates	14,091,357	12	4
Freehold ground rents and Scotch feu duties ...	4,501,678	8	10
Freehold and leasehold property	3,560,244	13	8
Mortgages on property within the United Kingdom	7,975,178	5	0
Railway, Gas, and Water stocks	7,464,984	18	9
Suez Canal shares	163,709	13	0
Telegraph and other shares	97,420	2	2
Metropolitan Consolidated stock and City of London bonds	257,901	11	10
Bank of England stock	202 756	18	6
Indian, Colonial and Foreign corporation stocks ...	1,564,957	14	7
Foreign Government securities...	1,539,459	7	4
Reversions and Life Interests	1,220,637	14	1
Loans on the Company's Policies	2,372,768	10	8
Rent charges...	278,523	13	1
Outstanding premiums and agents' balances ...	544,207	4	8
Outstanding interest and rents	515 685	7	1
Cash—In hands of superintendents	35,973	11	7
Ditto—On deposit, on current accounts, and in hand	183,495	18	11
	£63,887,008	3	0

THOS. C. DEWEY, *General Manager*. H. A. HARBEN, *Acting Chairman*.
FREDERICK SCHOOLING, *Actuary*. J. W. SIMMONDS, } *Directors*.
D. W. STABLE, *Secretary*. J. H. LUSCOMBE. }

We have examined the Cash transactions (receipts and payments) affecting the accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended December 31st, 1906, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on December 31st, 1906.

DELOITTE PLENDER, GRIFFITHS, & Co., *Chartered Accountants*.
19th February, 1907.

ALCOHOLIC EXCESS

and DRUG HABIT cured at home in 3 to 7 weeks by the **TURVEY TREATMENT** without inconvenience. The only cure under British Medical Direction. Success tested by officials of the C.E.T.S. Mission, &c. Established 12 years. Over 5,000 recorded cases.—Write for Report of Public Test, or call, **Med. Supt., TURVEY TREATMENT CO., Ltd.,** 24, Amberley House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London. Consultation to patients or their friends, free.

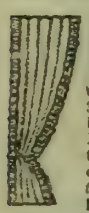
WAUKENPHAST

LARGEST STOCK IN THE WORLD OF READY-MADE HAND-SEWN WATERPROOF WINTER

BOOTS & SHOES

For LADIES or GENTLEMEN. Catalogue No. 42 Post free.

125, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.



FRILLED BUTTER MUSLIN

WITH NEW HEMSTITCH FRILLS, 3 yds. long, 8/3 per pair. PLAIN FRILLS, 6/9 per pair. *Samples of Muslin on approval.* Tapestries, Cretonnes, Art Silks Art Serges. Patterns on approval. *Book of Lace Curtains, Blinds, Carpets, Linoleum, Furniture, Bedding, free.* **CORRINGE & CO., 91A Dept., Queen's Walk, Nottingham.**

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

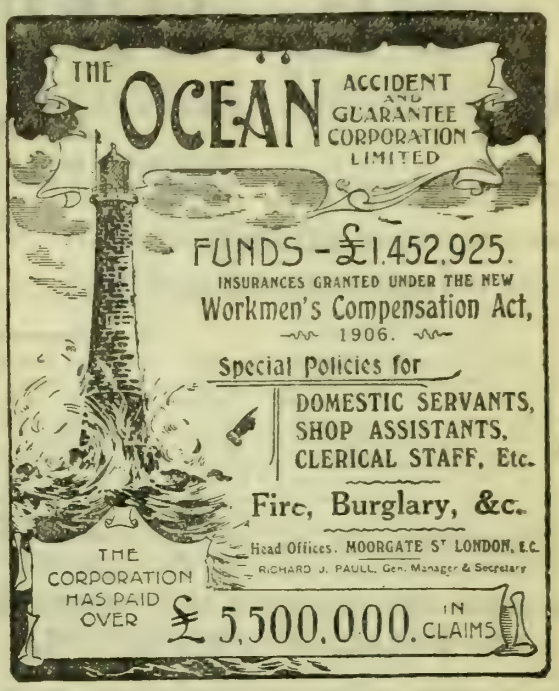
EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY

(LIMITED),

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.



BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. 2½ **per cent. interest** allowed on Deposit Accounts. 2 **per cent. interest** on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.—C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

To the Policy Holders of

THE MUTUAL LIFE

Insurance Company of New York.

The progress of the Company in the year that has just closed has been eminently satisfactory, especially from the standpoint of the policy holder.

The new paid-for business was	£17,935,787 5 5
The Company had in force at the end of the year...	311,551,782 6 10
The amount received in premiums during the year was	11,974,921 5 3
The total funds held in trust for policy holders aggregated	101,820,256 11 9

THE TOTAL LIABILITIES WERE AS FOLLOWS:—

Net reserve on outstanding policies and other legal liabilities	£84,442,714 9 2
Reserve for dividends on existing policies as dividend periods are completed	13,250,416 15 6
Reserve for dividends payable in 1907	827,515 8 0
Reserve for possible depreciation of securities and other contingencies	3,299,609 19 1

IN GAINS FOR POLICY HOLDERS THE COMPANY HAS BROKEN ALL RECORDS.

It earned in interest, rents and net miscellaneous investment profits	£4,571,958 4 6
Its gains from mortality, loading, surrender charges, and annuities were	2,138,379 14 9
Total	£6,710,337 19 3

This is over fifty-six per cent. of the entire premium income, a remarkable showing, rarely, if ever, approximated by any other company.

IN ECONOMY OF MANAGEMENT THE COMPANY TO-DAY STANDS PRE-EMINENT.

The expenses of the year were paid entirely from the loading provided for that purpose, with a surplus over for policy holders of	£601,184 3 9

The Annual Bonuses declared in 1907 show an increase averaging more than 20 per cent over those of 1906.

The Expense Ratio to Premium Income was reduced from 25·99 per cent. to 18·85 per cent.

Further information will be supplied on application to

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK,

Head Office for the United Kingdom : **16, 17 & 18, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.**

J. H. HARRISON HOGGE, *General Manager.*

This notice is not an invitation to the public to subscribe for Shares, but is published for the purpose of giving information only and applications for Shares can only be received on the forms accompanying the full Prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers with a cheque for the sum payable on application.

A copy of the full Prospectus, dated 9th March, 1907, has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST is now OPEN, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 14th day of March, 1907, for Town and Country.

DE DION-BOUTON

(1907)

LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - - £195,000

DIVIDED INTO

185,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each - - - - - - - - £185,000

AND

200,000 DEFERRED SHARES of 1/- each - - - - - - - - 10,000

£195,000

The Ordinary Shares are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the amounts paid up thereon, and after such payment the profits available for dividend will be divided as to one-third among the Ordinary Shares, and as to two-thirds among the Deferred Shareholders, in each case in proportion to the amounts paid up on the Ordinary and Deferred Shares held by them. On a winding-up the Ordinary Shares will be entitled to a preference both as regards capital and the arrears of the preferential dividend down to the commencement of the winding-up, and any surplus remaining after such payment, one-third shall go to the holders of the Ordinary Shares, and the remaining two-thirds to the holders of the Deferred Shares in each case in proportion to the amounts paid up on the Ordinary and Deferred Shares held by them.

The above 185,000 ORDINARY SHARES are now OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION.

Payable as follows:—2s. per Share on application, 3s. per Share on allotment, 5s. per Share one month after allotment, 5s. per Share two months after allotment, 5s. per Share three months after allotment.

DIRECTORS.

SELWYN, FRANCIS EDGE (Chairman), 3, Whitehall Court, Westminster, London, S.W., Merchant.

JOHN WILLIAM STOCKS (Managing Director in England), 10, Great Marlborough-street, London, W., Merchant.

HERBERT OSBALDESTON DUNCAN (Managing Director in France), 57, Rue Bayen, Paris, Merchant.

S. VAN DEN BERGH, 82 and 83, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C., Merchant.

W. SCOTT-LEEFE, 23, Coleman-street, London, E.C., Export Merchant.

ARTHUR I. PHILLIPS, 112, Commercial-street, London, E., Manufacturer.

BANKERS.—LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, 222, Strand, London, W.C., and other Branches.

SOLICITORS.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP, and CO., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

WALTER B. STYER, 11 and 12, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.—C. F. BURTON, SEWELL, and CO., Chartered Accountants, 35, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—LAZENBY BROTHERS and PAINE, 20, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C., and London Stock Exchange.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—WALTER MUNN, 10, GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET, LONDON, W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The full Prospectus contains, amongst other things, statements to the following effect:—

This Company has been formed to acquire the undertaking, business, goodwill, leasehold premises, contracts, and rights, and (with the exception of certain Shares in the Dion-Dunlop Motor Company, Limited) the whole of the property of De Dion-Bouton, Limited (a Company registered in England in 1899), who are the exclusive Selling Agents in the United Kingdom and the British Colonies and Dependencies of Cars manufactured by the celebrated French manufacturers, De Dion-Bouton et Cie., and to acquire the well-known "De Dion-Bouton" Patents, relating to road and water traction, namely, No. 22,762 of 1900, 22,763 of 1900, 3,625 of 1902, and 9,551 of 1902 for the United Kingdom; 69,782 of 1901, 71,272 of 1901, 71,729 of 1901, and 71,921 of 1901 for Canada; 2,217 of 1901 for Cape Colony; and 10,657 of 1900, 10,943 of 1901, and 10,944 of 1901 for New South Wales, under which the Company will be able to manufacture Motor-Cars, Omnibuses, Cabs, Delivery Vans, and Motor Vehicles of every description.

The Company is also acquiring the licences in respect of such patents, granted to the Motor Traction Company (1905), Limited, and the Mercedes Daimler and De Dion Motor Company of Great Britain, Limited, and the benefit of certain agreements relating to the importation into this country of 810 omnibuses, or omnibus chassis, manufactured by De Dion-Bouton et Cie.

This Company will thus control in the United Kingdom, and the above-named Colonies and Dependencies, the whole manufacture and sale of Motor Vehicles manufactured under the "De Dion-Bouton" Patents above mentioned, and no such vehicle (unless already licensed) can be imported into or used in such countries without first being licensed by this Company.

This Company will take over unexecuted orders for Motors amounting to over £59,000, and the benefit of orders for Motors executed since the 30th September, 1906, amounting to over £50,000.

In the test trials organised by the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland and the Scottish Automobile Club, and in the test trials held in the Colonies and on the Continent "De Dion-Bouton" Cars have gained an exceptional record for "Excellence of Workmanship," "Reliability," "Durability," and "Hill Climbing."

The Company has secured for a period of seven years the services of Mr. S. F. Edge and Mr. J. W. Stocks, as Chairman and Managing Director respectively. Both these gentlemen have successfully organised and conducted the business of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, and have been connected with extensive and profitable businesses in the Motor Trade.

The profits of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, have been made by the sale of imported "De Dion" Cars, and component parts and accessories thereof, but, having no manufacturing rights, their Car business has been restricted to the sale of such Cars and component parts as they have been able to obtain from De Dion-Bouton et Cie. The business of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, has from its incorporation steadily increased, as will be seen from the following returns of the annual profits (calculated down to September 30 in each year), which have been certified by Messrs. Craig, Gardner, and Harris, Chartered Accountants, who have furnished the Company with the following report:—

20, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C.

To the Directors of

DE DION-BOUTON (1907), LIMITED.

We hereby certify that the profits of De Dion-Bouton, Limited (of which Company we have been Auditors since its Incorporation), not including interest on Investments and on Bank Deposits, have been as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
Period to September 30,	1900..	800	15	5
Year ending "	1901..	4,319	8	8
" " "	1902..	8,017	9	0
" " "	1903..	9,245	13	11
" " "	1904..	11,492	0	11
" " "	1905..	15,136	14	8
" " "	1906..	20,163	16	9

The above profits are arrived at before charging Directors' Fees, Managing Director's Commission, Manager's and Secretary's salaries, and their commissions (which during the year 1906 amounted to £3,608 2s. 6d.), Royalties, and Interest and Expenses on loans, but such profits have been arrived at after allowing for payment of Rent, Rates, and Trade Commissions, and all other expenses incidental to the business.

In the Balance Sheet at 30th September, 1906, the value of the assets of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, after deducting the liabilities as shown by the said Balance Sheet, exceeded the sum of £30,291.

(Signed) CRAIG, GARDNER, AND HARRIS.

25th February, 1907.

As the Company are acquiring under the Agreement No. 5 below mentioned the above patents no royalties will in future be payable by this Company.

Messrs. Edge and Stocks are of opinion that on an annual output of 1,500 Cars being attained a net manufacturing profit of at least £78,500 should be made therefrom.

Taking this estimate as a basis, and adding thereto the estimated profit to be derived from the sale of imported Cars, the profits available for distribution should be at least £80,000, which would enable the Company to pay

7 per cent. on the 185,000 Ordinary Shares £12,950

and leave over £67,000 available for distribution among the Ordinary and Deferred Shares, and for providing for depreciation, reserve, Directors' fees, Manager's and Secretary's salaries and commissions.

This issue (when subscribed) will (after payment of the preliminary expenses, estimated at £20,000, which includes underwriting commission and brokerage) provide this Company with a sum in cash of over £96,000, out of which the sum of £2,000 will be paid to S. F. Edge, under Contract No. 5.

The undertaking, business, goodwill, etc., of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, consists of stock-in-trade, sundry debtors, cash in hand and at the bankers, furniture, fittings, plant, and other assets, and these, after deducting the liabilities in carrying on the business as shown by the balance-sheet of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, of the 30th September, 1906, and certified by Messrs. Craig, Gardner, and Harris, as shown in the above report, exceeded £30,291, and this amount will be payable out of the above sum of £96,000. The business of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, will be taken over as from the 30th September, 1906, and the profits will, as from such date, belong to this Company. Messrs. Edge and Stocks have informed the Directors that the assets, after deducting the liabilities, should now exceed the above sum of £30,291.

A brokerage of 6d. per Share in respect of all Shares allotted in response to applications bearing brokers' stamps will be paid by this Company. Brokerage will not be paid in respect of applications sent in in direct relief of underwriting.

The Contracts and Certificate of the Auditors referred to in the full Prospectus and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of this Company may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company, on any day before the closing of the subscription list, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The full Prospectus with forms of application can be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers to the Company.

SALE OF 5 per cent. FIRST DEBENTURES.

The List of Applications opened on Monday, the 11th day of March, 1907, and will close on or before Wednesday, the 13th day of March, 1907.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED

(formerly the Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina, Limited), and

THE METROPOLITAN BANK (of ENGLAND & WALES), LIMITED,

are authorised by the South American Railway Construction Company, Limited (the Contractors), to receive applications for the purchase of

£600.000 Five per cent. First Debentures to Bearer

(Part of an authorised sum of £2,000,000) of the

Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company

LIMITED,

which are offered for Sale by the Contractors at the price of £92 10s. per cent. The Redemption Price of the Debentures is £110 per cent.

The Debentures can be purchased in Bonds of **£100, £50** or **£20** each, as required, and the price will be payable as follows:

	£100 Debenture.	£50 Debenture.	£20 Debenture.	
On Application - - -	£10 0 per Debenture	£5 0 per Debenture	£2 0 per Debenture	on Application.
On acceptance of Application	15 0 ,,	7 10 ,,	3 0 ,,	on acceptance of Application
On 22nd April 1907 - -	20 0 ,,	10 0 ,,	4 0 ,,	on 22nd April, 1907.
On 22nd July, 1907 - -	25 0 ,,	12 10 ,,	5 0 ,,	on 22nd July, 1907.
On 22nd October, 1907 -	22 10 ,,	11 5 ,,	4 10 ,,	on 22nd October, 1907.
	£92 10	£46 5	£18 10	

Payment for Debentures may be made in Francs at 25.20; Reichsmark at 20.40; Gulden at 12.10, or Argentine Gold Dollars at 5 04 per £ sterling exchange respectively

£300,000 Debentures are being reserved for public offer in France, Belgium and Holland, at not less than the above issue price of £92 10s. per cent.

The Debentures will be issued in pursuance of Article 95 of the Articles of Association of the Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company, Limited, and a resolution of that Company passed on the 30th day of January, 1907, and bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st July and 1st January in each year, the first payment falling due on the 1st July, 1907. Interest on the Debentures now offered will be paid upon the instalments from time to time paid up. Upon payment of the last instalment, interest will run upon the full nominal amount of the Debentures. The Debentures may be paid for in full upon application, in which case 3 per cent. interest will be allowed in respect of the amounts paid in advance until the due dates of the respective instalments.

The Debentures which are secured by a Trust-Deed constituting a first charge upon the undertaking of the Railway Company, are to be redeemed on or before the 1st January, 1956, at £110 per cent., and may be redeemed by the Company at its option on six months' notice at any time after the year 1910, at the price of £110 per cent. The amount payable on redemption of the Debentures to be £110 per cent. in any event.

The redemption of the Debentures will be provided for by annual payments by the Railway Company into a sinking fund in the hands of the Trustees, such payments commencing on the 1st January, 1910. The Debentures will be redeemed by annual drawings at £110 per cent., in which case one month's notice of redemption will be given by advertisement, or the sinking fund may be utilised in purchasing Debentures by tender or in the open market whenever they can be acquired at or below the redemption price of £110 per cent.

The £600,000 Debentures now offered for sale have been purchased by the South American Railway Construction Company, Limited (the Contractors), and will be deposited at the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, to be delivered to the purchasers against payment in full of the fixed price of £92 10s. per cent.

Application will be made to the Stock Exchanges at London, Liverpool and Glasgow for a settlement in and official quotation of the Debentures now offered for sale.

A brokerage of 10/- per cent. will be paid to Brokers in respect of applications for Debentures accepted on forms bearing their names.

Prints of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Railway Company, the Trust Deed securing the Debentures, copies of the Contract and letters, and translations of the Concession and Law referred to within, can be seen at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Contractors, Mr. Cecil Adler, 19 Coleman Street, E.C., whilst the list remains open.

Where any application for Debentures is not accepted the amount paid by way of deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount of Debentures sold to any applicant is less than that applied for, the balance of the amount received in excess of the money payable as deposit will be applied towards the payment due on the acceptance of the application, any excess being returned to the applicant.

Default in payment of any part of the price of the Debentures when due will render the contract to purchase the Debentures liable to cancellation, and the amount previously paid to forfeiture, and any instalments in arrear will carry interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

Applications for the Debentures should be made on the accompanying form and sent to the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited (formerly the Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina, Limited), 97-8 Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., or the Metropolitan Bank (of England and Wales), Limited, 60 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Particulars of Sale and Forms of Application can be obtained from the above-mentioned Bankers and from the Brokers—C. BIRCH CRISP and CO., 11 Angel Court, London, E.C.; DOUGLAS CAIRNEY, 135 Buchanan Street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow.

Dated 6th March, 1907.

The Buenos Ayres Midland Railway is a metre gauge line of about 333 miles, which has been authorised under a Concession granted by the Provincial Government of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, to be constructed and worked between Barracas al Sud (a suburb of the City of Buenos Ayres) and Adolfo Alsina (Carhué), the junction of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway and the Buenos Ayres Western Railway. The Concession is owned by the Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company, Limited (an English Company), and was the first granted by the Provincial Government of Buenos Ayres, after a special Law passed on 6th September, 1904, for the encouragement of railways of this class.

The country through which the line will run is well settled, and is part of the very best for grain production, dairy produce, and the rearing of cattle, sheep, &c. Following the experience in other parts of the province of Buenos Ayres the advent of the new Railway will result in further developing and increasing the cultivation of the land.

Arrangements have been made by which excellent terminal facilities will be obtained, including an entrance into the Great Central Produce Markets at Barracas al Sud (Buenos Ayres), which comprise extensive warehouse, wharf, and other accommodation for the storage and expeditious handling of goods, and which will in effect give this Railway the advantages of a terminal goods station, already built, and an outlet to the River Riachuelo for the export trade. The land for the principal terminal station, apart from the facilities at the Central Produce Markets, covers an area of upwards of 35 acres, and is situate to the south of the City of Buenos Ayres in a rapidly improving business and railway centre.

The line should prove to be of the utmost advantage in the great development and extension which is taking place in the metre gauge Railway system of the Argentine Republic, which at present has its terminus at Rosario, and should ultimately form an important integral part of that great system. The English and French metre gauge lines are now being extended from Rosario to the City of Buenos Ayres.

Mr. Charles Steel, late General Manager of the Great Northern Railway (of England), recently made a special visit to the Argentine to study and advise upon the method of dealing with the traffic of the Railway, and generally to report upon the value and prospects of the line. Mr. Steel completed the arrangements for the acquisition of the Terminal Lands and facilities at Buenos Ayres before referred to. Mr. Oliver Budge, M.Inst.C.E., formerly General Manager of the East Argentine Railway, who has had upwards of 34 years' practical experience of Railway management and construction in the Argentine, and who is one of the Directors of the Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company, Limited, has also made a careful study and examination of the economic and practical features of the business, and the importance and value of the Line. Mr. Budge is now at Buenos Ayres, where he has been for the last few months supervising the construction of the line on behalf of the Railway Company.

The definite surveys of the Line were completed and plans approved by the Provincial Government in accordance with the provisions of the Concession, and the work of construction was formally commenced on the 8th June, 1906, and is now proceeding. It is anticipated that the first 25 kilometres of the Line from Barracas al Sud (Buenos Ayres) will be completed very shortly, and work on other parts of the Line has also been commenced so that the progress of the remainder of the works will rapidly proceed.

The Following is a List of the Trustees, Directors and other Officials of the

Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company, Limited.

SHARE CAPITAL issued - - £500,000.

Trustees for Debenture Holders.—The Right Honourable LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T., P.C.; J. S. HARMOOD BANNER, Esq., M.P.

Solicitors for the Trustees.—ALFRED BRIGHT and SONS, 15 George Street, Mansion House, E.C.

Board of Directors.—CHARLES STUART COCKBURN, Deputy-Chairman Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway Company (Chairman); T. E. PRESTON, Director of Argentine Transandine Railway Company, Limited, and Santa Fé Land Company, Limited; Lord GARIOCH, Manton Hall, Oakham, Rutland; OLIVER BUDGE, M.Inst.C.E., late General Manager of East Argentine Railway; Sir FRANCIS L. O'CALLAGHAN, K.C.M.G., C.S.I., C.I.E., Director Burma Railways Company, Limited, and Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited.

Representatives in the Argentine.—F. J. WYTHES (of Nelson & Wythes), 309 Calle Cangallo, Buenos Ayres; ANDREW MACKINTOSH (late of Barclay, Mackintosh & Co., Manchester and Buenos Ayres), 432 Calle Florida, Buenos Ayres; FREDERICK C. COOK (of F. C. Cook & Co.), 312 San Martin, Buenos Ayres.

Legal Advisers to the Railway Company.—London—CHRISTOPHER & RONEY, Solicitors, 33 Cornhill, E.C.; Buenos Ayres—Dr. FELIPE YOFRE, 195 San Martin.

Consulting Engineers.—Sir DOUGLAS FOX & PARTNERS; HARPER BROTHERS & Co.

Secretary and Offices.—J. O. KETTRIDGE, 81-84 Dashwood House, London, E.C.

Representative of the South American Railway Construction Company, Limited.—Sir VINCENT CAILLARD, Director London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company.

This Form may be used and sent with the deposit of 10 per cent. on the nominal amount of Debentures applied for to the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, 97-8 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., or the Metropolitan Bank (of England and Wales), Limited, 60 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Offer for Sale of £600,000 5 per cent. First Debentures of the Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company, Limited.

To the SOUTH AMERICAN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION CO., Limited,
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A REMARKABLE BOOK ON THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., the distinguished authority on Hygienic Science and Health Questions, is evidently a believer in Thomas Carlyle's doctrine that there is no utility in pointing out misfortunes unless you at the same time indicate the remedy. In his remarkable little book, "The Art of Living," just issued from the press, Dr. Wilson not only points out that "Our first duty to ourselves is to check illness at the outset," but he follows up this admonition with the more welcome information how we are to do it. He, so to speak, says: "You have the evil of ill-health to fight. Now, here's the weapon to fight with. Strike for freedom." For example, he says: "Suppose a person has run down—feels languid and is easily tired. If he neglects this warning—for all such signs and symptoms are Nature's warning to us—the possibility is that he will pass further afield into the great lone land of disease. Can he do anything to save himself from such a disastrous result? In the vast majority of cases he can restore his vigour." How? Dr. Wilson tells his reader how without delay, adding at once this remarkable statement: "Probably he will be advised to take a tonic. This in the main is good advice. Unfortunately the number of tonics is legion, but if there exists any preparation which can combine in itself the properties of a tonic and restorative, and which at the same time can contribute to the nourishment and building up of the enfeebled body, it is evident such an agent must prove of the utmost value to everybody. I have found such a tonic and restorative in the preparation known as Sanatogen." How the distinguished author found this tonic he tells us in an interesting bit of autobiography. "Recovering from an attack of Influenza," he says, "and suffering from the severe weakness incidental to that ailment, Sanatogen was brought under my notice. I gave it a fair trial, and the results were all that could have been desired. In a short time my appetite improved, the weakness was conquered, and without the use of any other medicine or preparation I was restored to health." It is easy to believe that this experience led the doctor to make a thorough investigation into this specific which had served him so well. Sanatogen, he tells us, "combines two distinct elements, one tonic and the other nutritive." Further, it is no "secret" remedy, for, as he pertinently observes: "Its composition is well known, otherwise medical men would not prescribe it." What the tonic and nutritive elements of Sanatogen are and how they effect so much good Dr. Wilson describes in simple, convincing terms. The whole passage is too long to quote, but one important remark of the writer may be given, namely, that one of the principal elements of Sanatogen "represents the substance which actually forms a very important, if not the most important, constituent of our brain and nervous system." How, through regenerating the nervous system, Sanatogen restores the functions of the digestive organs, and by rebuilding the tissues compensates the wear and tear of latter-day life; how it does away with the need of stimulants, and cures the sick by the natural method of making the body strong enough to drive out disease—all this, in the delightful style of Dr. Wilson's language, makes engrossing and pleasant as well as instructive reading. This last contribution of Dr. Wilson to the literature of Health may certainly be calculated to carry joyful news to the ailing and weary. A limited number of complete specimen copies of the "Art of Living," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., are being distributed free of charge. To obtain one of these copies the applicant must mention "TRUTH" in sending his name and address to the Publishers—F. WILLIAMS & Co., 83, Upper Thames St., London, E.C.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,468.

Most of my readers, I suppose, are acquainted with the good old riddle: "If you saw a house on fire, what appropriate commentary could you make upon it, using the surnames of three distinguished literary persons?" of which the answer is "Dickens, Howitt, Burns."

Now I think that the idea contained in the above riddle might be developed and amplified into an interesting and instructive Puzzle.

I am, therefore, offering this week the usual Prize of Two Guineas for the best original example of:—

A SHORT PARAGRAPH IN INTELLIGIBLE ENGLISH, OF NOT MORE THAN FIFTY WORDS, INTO WHICH SHALL BE INTRODUCED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SURNAMES OF DISTINGUISHED LITERARY CHARACTERS.

I need hardly point out that such surnames must *not* be introduced as *proper names*, but as ordinary English words, or parts of words.

But, in order to facilitate the efforts of solvers, *exact similarity in spelling* will not be *de rigueur*, provided that *exact similarity of sound* is produced. Thus, *e.g.*, 'Moore' will be accepted as the equivalent of 'moor,' Scott of 'Scot,' Cowper' of 'cooper,' and so on.

Competitors will be required to underline, in every case, the surnames introduced and to write, at the foot of their solutions, the number of such names which they claim to have embodied.

The 'distinguished literary characters' may belong to any age, language, or nationality from the earliest times down to the present day. They must, however, be 'distinguished' and well-known names.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No competitor must send in more than one paragraph.

(ii) All paragraphs must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, March 25th, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The real name, with the address, of BLENCATHRA, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1457, is Mrs. Nixon, 9, Rye Hill Park, Peckham Rye.

ELDIBEE.—I duly note your correction, for which many thanks.

DUDHOPE.—Your new address is duly noted.

CHICK.—A hearty welcome to you.

ECHO and ZIMMY.—Very pleased to renew acquaintance with you.

A WORD TO COMPETITORS:

I should be glad, if in future, all Competitors would avoid writing extraneous matter on the sheets of paper containing their solutions, merely putting the number of the Puzzle at the head of their solutions and their *noms-de-plume* at the foot.

Anything in the nature of correspondence, or of explanatory remarks, should be written on *a separate sheet of paper*, also signed with *nom-de-plume* for identification. Only new competitors are required to add their real names and addresses.

Competitors will save both the Printers and myself an endless amount of trouble by complying with these conditions.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,465.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

COMBINATION OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR ENGLISH WORDS, CALCULATED TO TAX A SPEAKER'S POWER OF ENUNCIATION.

Manless land, landless man.—Sergeant Cimber.

Suffragettes shrilly shouting shibboleths.—Dorset.

Scenery schemes truly rural.—Nemo.

1. Such sons shun sunshine. 2. Seek six sick shippers. 3. Snobbish soldiers shoulder sod.—Bip.

Sieve of sifted thistles.—Bucks.

1. TRUTH puzzles puzzle puzzlers. 2. Charlotte seizes Susan's shoes. 3. Sixty-six sick singers.—Elim.

1. Gig ship. 2. Proper copper coffee pot. 3. Thick, thin, satchel, cymbal.—Mrs. Figgis.

Suffering suffragettes secure summarily.—Dick Maisch.

1. A truly rural retreat. 2. She searches such seriously. 3. Say this fish which.—G. Henderson.

1. Five wives weave withes. 2. Fresh fish freely flavoured. 3. Strange strategic statistics. H_2SO_4.—Patrick Murphy.

1. Statistics stated statistically. 2. Strange strategetic statistics. 3. Thistleeifter sifting sifted thistles.—Porthoe.

1. Phthisis tries Titus thrice. 2. Skin the sinner's shins. 3. An amicable inimitable imbecile.—Korah.

1. Silly Sammy sucks shells. 2. Cook raw red liver. 3. Pick pink petalled poppies.—F. Boyd.

Burgess's fish sauce shop.—Ginger.

1. Six sick sheep. 2. Squashed wasps. 3. She shall sew sheets.—Gazcka.

Sweetly slumbers sleepy Sammy, dreaming dreary day-dreams.—Hatter.

British Constitution! glorious institution.—Crawshed.

Truly rural.—Actress.

Black bug's blood. Rapidity of repetition is of course essential.—Otter.

1. Seize sister's scissors. 2. She sewed the sheet. 3. She saw Seth's ship.—Wisdrive.

1. Sisters sillily shrieking shrilly. 2. Critical cricketers. 3. Frolicsome floral fêtes free.—Thersites.

1. Sixty-six sick sheep. 2. Will Jim bring him? 3. Mike makes much mischief.—In Tune.

1. Ships shun shelvy shores. 2. She securely sits seesaw. 3. She picked patched pieces.—Simplex.

1. She shrieks so shrilly. 2. Charlie takes Kate's cake. 3. Twelve trees Tim trimmed.—Rhamnus.

1. Sieves of sifted thistles. 2. They were copper-bottoming them. 3. Burgess's fish-sauce shop.—Echo.

1. Six skilled fiscal tricksters. 2. Six sick whisky mixers. 3. Florrie fetched Frank's flask.—Belfastiensis.

1. Stick six Chichester stitches. 2. Picking pickling picnic pipkins. 3. What witches wash watches?—Redder.

Speak plain without spluttering.—Aster.

1. Black Brown's Blucher boots. 2. Poodles paddle rural puddles. 3. Sly spies shy stones.—Cybele.

1. Fate frustrates Florry's folly. 2. Frenzied fowls flee foes. 3. Greedy gluttons grow greatly.—Arachne.

1. Stock socks shock Stocks. 2. Sea shore she saw. 3. Sure Suchards sue Shah?—Oiseau.

1. Certain saucy sausage sauces. 2. Welcoming hymningly inimitability indomitable. 3. Chilly cheeses Chaucer chooses.—Northlander.

1. Good blood, bad blood. 2. Bob Gorman's gob. 3. Truly rural.—Robin Adair.

Six thick hemstitched sheets.—Leaf Rule.

1. Ashore on sinking shingle. 2. Best British bristles.—O. P. A.

1. She stood at the door of a fish-sauce shop welcoming him in. 2. She shall slit the sheet suitably.—Wolver.

Suspicious police dismisseth us.—Turtle

1. Rulers rarely really rest. 2. Tragic trials test truly. 3. Swift swimmers swimming swiftly. —Berco.

1. Grandma grasps great gig-whips. 2. Selfish shellfish swallow shrimps. 3. Six thistlesifters sift thistles.—Gladiator.

1. Griffiths's fish-sauce shop. 2. Beckoning, welcoming him in.—Denmore.

1. Shrieking shrapnel, short shrift. 2. Tippling tipsy Trilby trips. 3. Fools follow frolicsome folly. Mart.

1. Sheep chops and trotters. 2. Indescribable bubbles. 3. Soft-skinned Scotch sausages.—Nibbler.

1. Soldiers shrugging shoulders. 2. Cheap sheep-shearing shears.—Query.

1. The sea ceaseth. 2. Francis French fried frogs 3. Charles chose cherries cheerfully.—St. Austell.

1. Invariably welcoming him in. 2. A truly rural scene.—Portia.

1. Steel shields soldiers' shoulders. 2. Soldier shoulders cough specific 3. Brompton cough specific capsules.—J. E. W

1. Burgesses' fish-sauce shop. 2. Conscious of difficult situation. 3. Semi-serious condition, sorry.—Clapa.

1. Honorary physician's decision mistaken. 2. Assure you understand perfectly. 3. Incapable? Ascertain my capability.—Vera.

1. Susie shuns shrimp sauce. 2. Grouse-shooting serves such zest. 3. Here's next best text.—Sincérité.

1. She sleeps soundly. 2. Frivolous muddled oafs. 3. Puss purrs pleasantly.—G. W. Forth.

1. Sham shrimps. 2. Chilly children changing clothes. 3. Pretentious pagoda Rhoda ran.—Woodsome.

1. Fisk's flax fixes flasks (Fisk is the name of a shop in Folkestone, and there is one in Canterbury. I hope it is not too unheard of.). 2. Fetch fresh French flesh 3. Sue's lamb slew Sam.—Israfil.

1. Mild mingled murmuring monotone. 2. Jewelled janizaries jubilantly jabbered. 3. Jewish judges jabbered jurisprudence.—Rasrlow.

Shaw's fish-sauce shop.—M. C. Beverley.

1. Smith's fish-sauce shop. 2. Sulkily welcoming him in. 3. Shear cheap sheep cheerily.—Cashier.

1. Stemps' patent lamp wicks. 2. That thou shouldest visit. 3. Fourteenth January Wenceslas foundered.—Oaf.

1. Kate takes stakes—skates. 2. Take Kate's stake—skates.—Riam.

1. Seek six sleek sheep. 2. Sal Shelley sells shell-fish. 3. Sketchy skittish Scottish skits.—Difisel.

1. He tricked the trickster. 2. The quixotic questioner queried. 3. A rugged jagged rock.—Puck.

1. Sheriff Joseph dismisseth Ethel. 2. Shaggy sheep sluggishly sheared. 3. Gauge great grey casks (i.e., measure . . . barrel).—Hypatia.

1. Scenery seeme truly rural. 2. Noisy noises annoy oysters. 3. Six sharp scissors snipping.—Togo.

Sixths of Brixton's twists.—Ox Short.

Big-wig's gig whip.—Selah.

1. Goffered copper coffee cups. 2. Rough leather red lumps. 3. Shoes, socks, shock Susan.—Bargee.

Tariff fossils shun statistics.—Quilp.

1. Welcoming him in. 2. Truly rural. 3. Peter Piper picked peppercorns.—Trixie.

1. A flawless flea flew. 2. She shrieks shrdless sorts. 3. Thirty thrushes thrust through.—She.

1. Actually Atkins acting antics. 2. Sloths slouch through slush. 3. Schiedam skippers ship schnapps.—Jem.

1. A cricket critic. 2. I saw an eyesore. 3. An airy aviary.—W. J. S.

1. Ants patiently arching parts. 2. Perpendicularly poised patching pants. 3. Chichester churchyard, archives, chants.—A. K.

1. Gig whip. 2. Strange true stories. 3. She shovels soft snow.—Petros.

1. Sweet Swiss whisky. 2. She saw Esau on a see-saw. 3. Genesis Exodus, Leviticus.—Nest.

1. Lhassa Lama lassooed lassie. 2. Six sheiks seeking shelter. 3. Cruisers crew cosily screwed. —Chick.

1. Strict cricketers' critical cricket. 2. Sleek sheep seeks she. 3. A cold school coal-scuttle.—Petit Frere.

1. Mrs. Smith's fish-sauce shop. 2. Six thick thistle-sticks. 3. Silly Susan shuns sunshine.—Ixor.

1. Bishop Sheepshank's gig whip. 2. Little Lizzie's lizard's living. 3. Shear such sick sheep. —Klondyke.

1. Finest fresh fried fish. 2. A pint of split peas, please. 3. Six stickybacks for sixpence.—Cherrypicker.

1. Country scenery truly rural. 2. Six sick undersized soldiers. 3. A bewailing veiled viper. —Tocre.

1. Can cats catch chinks. 2. Sixty sextons sniffing snuff. 3. Fight four fat frogs.—Beginner.

1. Fresh fish-sauce shops. 2. Sighing shyly, shyly smiling. 3. Six sick shrews shrieked.—Etwall.

Shun sixth sick sheep.—Felicious.

1. Freshly fried fish flesh. 2. She shapely sashes sheweth. 3. Growing gleam glowing green.—Diss.

Swallowing sweet Swiss champagne.—Ess.

1. He threw true throws. 2. Gaze, gay gray brigade. 3. She shyly slashes slices.—Esrun.

1. She saw sheep see-saw. 2. Nic knocks Nixey's knick-knacks. 3. She chews Sue's shoes. —The Rascal.

1. Wilfully willed, wrathful Wilfred. 2. Pesky pedagogue, pertinently persuaded. 3 Meddler Mellor, meddlesome muddler.—Vickdoubleu.

1. Tremendous taletellers telling truth. 2. Rough right red leather. 3. Quizzical quiz quits quoits. —The Prebend.

1. She eins ship's sherbet. 2. See this thistle sifter. 3 Tis true, through trying.—Almavivo.

1. Six little thistle sticks. 2. She sells shop snuff.—Damon.

Three thrifty Scotch thistles.—Spanish Paddy.

1. Six and six, shimmering silver. 2. Pick shining shells 3. Shave a slave.—Clodach.

1. Sybil's shining satiny slippers. 2. Slippery slinking shuffling slider. 3. Change me sixpence. —Major.

1. The three thorny trees. 2. Greedy grey geese grazing.—Ethna.

1. Rarely really truly rural. 2. Sunshine on shop signs. 3. Do not trust trusts.—Crusoe.

1. Burghers baulked burglar-blaguards. 2. Trumps thrice took tricks. 3. Chronic phthisis case's crises.—Kismet.

1. Benjamin's marvellous mess. 2. He shoots his shingle. 3. His irreproachable Christianity.—Zumerzet.

1. Quip, quick quit, quaker. 2. Twit Kit quick, Kate. 3. Rally Larry, rollicking Liberals.—Verbum Sat.

She shaves Sam Shurey.—Walfred.

1. She set sail southward. 2. Shut six slippery shutters. 3. Truly rural Christian charity.—Watton.

1. Wistfully whisk wasps' whiskers. 2. Six pixies twist wisps. 3. Fred flicks frantic flies.—Juno.

1. Skippers ship slippery kippers. 2. Sixty-six sticks. 3. Roar o'er raw ore.—Crescendo.

Noisy noise annoys oysters.—Robina Cheri.

1. Chipped with gig whip. 2. Lump red raw liver. 3. Wilhelmina welcoming him in. 4. Peter picked pickled pepper.—Ebor.

1. Seven slipshod slippers. 2. She sells shot. 3. Sea smells seals smell.—Winkle.

Use huge youth's thews.—Tony.

1. We're welcoming him home. 2. Literally hospitable literary supernumeraries. 3. Really rural royal rollers.—Will.

Risk Asquith's asterisked statistics.—Little Jim.

1. Scenery truly rural. 2. Roriferous prorogation refractory Parliament.—Scotus Viator.

1. Clamp ship chunks quick. 2. Think through thought true. 3. Squint winks crinkle quinces.—Rumabel.

Sam Swivel's sword swung sidewavs.—Grannie

1. Theatres theoretically teach ethics. 2. Theosophy teaches psychological occultation. 3. Spiritual illuminations inspire hallucinations.—Sphinx.

1. Shily she sheds smiles. 2. Scottish Sabbaths Bacchus blesses. 3 Soldiers shoot heathens unmercifully.—Mary.

1. She's seen starching shirts. 2. The thermometer demonstrates thaw 3. Shela shells green peas.—Dumna.

1. She shuns showy society. 2. Suffragists shriek for martyrology. 3. Do shrimps shrivel up?—Crank.

1. (The) Leith police dismisseth us. 2. Shot silk sash shop.—Grace.

Crisp lips risk lisps.—Tom Nisse.

1. Some physical cyclists cycles skidded. 2. Pecuniary remuneration. 3. Say should such a sharply sash shabby stitches show?—Finnim.

Sheepshanks sips Schweppe's seltzer.—Prak.

Ordinarily, "corollary" sufficeth statisticians.—Wyse Latte.

1 Six sick sheep sickened. 2. Packets of Swedish matches. 3. Sixteen showy shop signs.—M. M. Dean.

1. May acts black masked. 2 Black masked Max acts. 3. Dash black masked Max!—Imara.

British Association sociological section.—Bede.

1 Cricket critics economise encomiums. 2. Wobbling woolly golliwog dog.—Zimmy.

Have you affixed six asterisks to that paragraph you showed me?—P. P.

1. Beckoning, welcoming him in. 2. Positively rural, truly rural.—Canning.

APPEAL.

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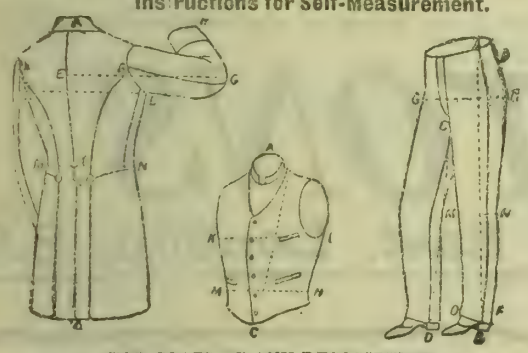

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE third Court of the season will be held by the King and Queen in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace early in May, probably on either Friday, the 3rd, or Friday, the 10th. It is understood that the fourth Court will be held after the Whitsuntide holidays and before their Majesties go to Windsor for Ascot race week. Friday, June 7, is the date "mentioned" for this function. It is not expected that a fifth Court will be held this season.

At the Council which was held by the King at Buckingham Palace on the 1st of this month, the King signified his approval of an Order in Council that the Long Vacation shall in future begin on August 1 and terminate on October 12.

It is now expected that the Empress Marie will either return direct to St. Petersburg when she leaves London, or that she will proceed to Copenhagen on a short visit to the King and Queen of Denmark before going back to Russia.

The Queen has abandoned her intention of proceeding by sea to Gibraltar and thence to Marseilles, and will revert to her original plan of leaving London on April 1 or 2 for Marseilles, where she will be met next day by the King, who is to arrive there shortly before her Majesty from Biarritz. The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* has left Portsmouth for Gibraltar, and proceeds thence to Marseilles to embark the King and Queen and Princess Victoria, who will accompany her Majesty. The Royal yacht is to leave Marseilles directly after the King and Queen have joined her on a Mediterranean cruise, which will extend over three weeks, and which will probably terminate at Venice.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to spend a few days in Egypt at the beginning of next month, when on their homeward journey from India. The Duke will present new colours to the Dublin Fusiliers at Alexandria.

Several of the daily papers published a telegram last week announcing that the King of Spain's intended visit to Biarritz had been given up, and that when the King leaves Marseilles in the Royal yacht at the beginning of next month he will proceed to Carthagena, and thence to Madrid. These statements are pure and simple inventions. There never was any idea of King Alfonso visiting Biarritz. As to his Majesty's contemplated visit to Madrid, it was decided quite two months ago that the trip should be postponed for a year, as was announced in Truth several weeks back.

The Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Roumania will pay a visit to England during the summer, and they will probably be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle during Ascot race week.

Queen Caroline of Saxony (widow of King Albert) has arrived at Brussels, on a visit to the Comtesse de Flandre, from Berlin en route from Dresden. It is expected that Queen Caroline will pay a visit to England before she returns to Germany. It will be remembered that she spent a short time in London in May, 1905, when she was received with marked attention by the King. Queen Caroline then intimated that she would be pleased to receive a visit from his Majesty, or the Prince of Wales, or the Duke of Connaught, at Sybillenort, her beautiful domain in Silesia, which is one of the best hunting estates in North Germany. Sybillenort was left to King Albert by the late Duke of Brunswick.

Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll have been staying at Kent House, their residence on the Osborne

estate, where Princess Louis of Battenberg has been on a visit to them. They returned at the end of last week to Kensington Palace. Princess Louise is going abroad for a short time, and the Duke of Argyll will spend the Easter holidays in Scotland.

"UNEASY LIES THE HEAD THAT WEARS A (SERVIAN) CROWN."

Achilles vowed he'd rather toil
(So we've in Homer read)
A hireling labourer on the soil
Than reign among the dead.

E'en thus King Peter, if he'd tell
The truth, would doubtless own
He'd rather run a cheap hotel
Than sit on Servia's throne.

The Dublin Castle season came to an end last week, terminating with the St. Patrick's Ball on Friday, and the State dinner, also in honour of the national saint, on Saturday. The last-named entertainment is not, like the former, of old standing, but dates from the period when the shamrock, as a sympathetic concession to Irish feeling, was taken into favour at Court. At the State dinner on Saturday the guests numbered several hundreds, the leading officials and personages, with their wives, all in full Court dress. The banquet was celebrated in the Scotch Gaelic fashion, the Lord-Lieutenant presiding in St. Patrick's Hall, in Highland dress. The table was in the form of St. Andrew's cross, and pipers discoursed music throughout the dinner.

The picturesque ceremony of trooping the colour in the Upper Castle Yard took place on Saturday morning. The chief part in the military pageant was taken by the Royal Irish Fusiliers. There was much wearing of the green, and the bands played selections of Irish music. Lord Grenfell and his staff, and the leading military officials, were present. The Lord-Lieutenant and a large Viceregal party, all displaying bunches of shamrock, witnessed the ceremony from the balcony outside the Throne-room in the Castle. The weather was most unfavourable in its wildness to an out-of-doors pageant, storm alternating with heavy showers.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen leave Dublin Castle for the Viceregal Lodge this week, unless, which is not anticipated, Lady Aberdeen's recovery should not be complete enough for the move. The Viceregal residence in the Phœnix Park enjoys at all seasons, and especially in the spring, a more than adequate supply of fresh air and breezes. Most of the official residents in the Castle yards usually take flight, also, when the "season" is over. The week after Easter, however, will see a reassembling of Society in Dublin, Punchestown races taking place this year on the 9th and 10th of April—earlier dates than usual—and the Leopardstown race meeting on the 12th and 13th of the same month.

Lord Penrhyn was the son of Colonel Douglas, a younger brother of the nineteenth Earl of Morton, who married the elder daughter and heiress of Mr. George Dawkins Pennant, of Penrhyn Castle, the head of one of the oldest families in Wales. The Penrhyn estates extend over nearly 47,000 acres, and the quarries are said to yield a net profit of about £60,000 a year when trade is brisk. Lord Penrhyn's first wife was a daughter of the late Sir Charles Rushout, and his second wife was the daughter of the Rev. Henry Glynne, rector of Hawarden, and niece of Mrs. W. E. Gladstone. Lord Penrhyn came into possession of his estates in 1886, when he succeeded his father, who had been raised to the peerage by Lord Derby in 1866.

Lord Penrhyn had inherited a full share of the despotic tendencies of the Douglas family, which had been increased by the circumstances of his early life and by his social surroundings. He was a man of remarkably strong character; austere and imperious in manner, and arbitrary in his methods, but he was really most kind hearted. He was a most ardent supporter of the principle of freedom of contract, and he keenly resented dictation from any quarter; but he was an hereditary Tory of the old school and a staunch Churchman, and he certainly liked to dictate to the clergy on his estates, apparently regarding them as so many domestic chaplains of the tame cat order. He was an excellent man of business, and had a great capacity for both organisation and administration. He took an active and very useful part in all the affairs of North Wales, where he will be much missed. He was a fine shot, a most expert angler, and an admirable and resolute rider to hounds. In South Northamptonshire, where he owned a large estate, he was popular, and as Master of the Grafton Hunt he made himself greatly liked by the farmers of that country. For eight years he hunted that country at his own expense. Lord Penrhyn was known to many of his friends as Don Quixote, whose portraits he considerably resembled in appearance.

Penrhyn Castle is an immense and very stately house, with some remarkably fine rooms, but it is gloomy, being built of grey stone. The windows command most beautiful views over the sea and mountains, and much of the surrounding scenery is very grand. Penrhyn has been a most hospitable house during the reign of the late owner, and it was rendered the more pleasant by a genial and charming family, and a perfect hostess, who was once described by a well-known guest as "presiding over this great place with the calm of perpetual moonlight."

Sir James Colquhoun, of Luss, who died suddenly at Hastings on Thursday, was chief of the Clan Colquhoun, and he owned large estates in Dumbartonshire. Rossdhu, his family seat on the western shores of Loch

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For Appeals, see page 731.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 739.
For Special for Ladies, see page 743.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 738, 739.
For Amusements, see page 736.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 745, 746.

Lomond, is a very beautiful place. Sir James succeeded to the baronetcy and estates in December, 1873, when his father was drowned in Loch Lomond, through the overturning of a boat laden with dead deer, which he had shot on one of the islands. Sir James succeeded the late Mr. Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, as Lord Lieutenant of Dumbartonshire in 1887, on the nomination of Lord Salisbury. He was very popular in the county, and took a keen interest in all local affairs. He was a generous and considerate landlord, and his property round Helensburg had greatly increased in value during his ownership. The estates have long been under trust, so that the late owner's powers were limited. The baronetcy passes to his cousin, Colonel Colquhoun, who is a son of Mr. John Colquhoun, the author of "The Moor and the Loch."

The late baronet's father, Sir James Colquhoun, was notable in Scotland for his Liberal politics, which were not then often professed by the territorial magnates of the north. He was very advanced in his views, except on the Game Laws, as to which he was a Tory of Tories, and he would have punished poaching and similar offences with Draconian severity. Sir James represented Dumbartonshire in Parliament for many years. He was a keen sportsman and a famous shot.

In referring last week to the late Sir Francis Barry's annual anonymous donation of 11,000 sixpences to the children in the London Poor Law institutions, I inadvertently stated that the donation was accompanied by a cheque for £5 to relieve the TRUTH Toy Fund of the cost of distributing the money. More people than I have time to count have written to tell me that in that case I must have known from the signature of the cheque who sent the money. I may remark that this does not necessarily follow, since a bank might have drawn the cheque. In point of fact, however, what Sir Francis Barry sent was always a five-pound note, and my statement that it was a cheque was due to pure carelessness. I am glad, however, of the mistake, for it has shown once again how many clever people I number among my readers, and how attentively they read their TRUTH.

Visitors to Switzerland at this time of year are apt to have very unpleasant experiences of Swiss law in the event of their contracting infectious disease. A typical example of this has just occurred. A young lady who was staying at an hotel-pension in Montreux was attacked with scarlet fever, and had to be removed to a sanatorium. On the top of all the other trouble and expense incurred, the proprietor of the pension raised a claim for £40 as an "indemnité," and seized the luggage, clothing, and jewellery of the young lady and her mother pending the settlement of the claim in the law courts. Swiss law entitles an hotel keeper to compensation under such circumstances, but, considering the probability that the disease is contracted inside the establishment rather than outside, it would seem that the customer has, *primâ facie*, quite as good a claim to compensation.

Although the sanatorium to which the patient is compulsorily removed under such circumstances as the foregoing is a public institution, the charges are £7 a week, irrespective of medical fees and the cost of disinfecting the place from which the patient is removed. In this state of things, it would seem worth while for visitors to Switzerland at the time of year when infectious disease is about to try to come to some understanding beforehand as to what they will be liable for in the event of their catching anything unpleasant. After all, hotel accommodation is as a rule cheaper and better in Switzerland than anywhere else in the world, and I should think the better class of hotel-keepers will not be found very stubborn in standing on their rights when their visitors are in trouble.

Is the increase of holiday-making at Easter the cause or the effect of the growing enterprise of the railway companies? Perhaps it is a little of both. Londoners certainly have become more and more alive to the benefits, both to body and mind, of a change of air and scene, a taste of the delights of springtime in the country or an invigorating sojourn at the seaside, after a long winter in town. It is equally clear that the railway companies have fostered and stimulated this feeling by the attractiveness of the arrangements they make. Each Easter they vie with one another in the compilation of the most alluring programmes. The Great Northern tempts the holiday-maker to Scotland, or, if that be too long a journey—though it can be performed in the greatest comfort—it will take him to the Norfolk or Lincolnshire coast or to Yorkshire or Lancashire. Even those who can only get away for a day or a half-day have an abundance of choice of excursions. Then there are the Midland and the North-Western, with their offers of cheap tickets to innumerable inland and seaside resorts; and the South-Western, with its invitations to the English Sunny South, "the best for an early Easter." As for an Easter in Paris, the South-Eastern is at your service, and the Brighton Company, too. In all directions, in fact, the railway companies nowadays offer the Easter holiday-maker wonderfully improved facilities for getting away for a few days or a week or longer.

In my paragraph last week on the Devon and Somerset Staghounds I mentioned that in consequence of hinds in calf being hunted, one landowner has forbidden the Hunt to come on his estate. I now find that the prohibition only comes into force at a certain date each season, and that the gentleman imposing it is himself a stag-hunter of many years' standing, and a member of the Hunt Committee. These facts greatly accentuate the force of his protest against the barbarous cruelty of hind-hunting at this period of the year; and it is much to be regretted that his colleagues on the Committee do not put an end to a practice so discreditable to the sport.

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AN ECHO OF THE BOAT RACE.

A daily paper takes the view
We give importance more than due
To rowing;
And says, in after life's stern stress
'Tis brains, not thews, that are success
Bestowing.

If brains *per se* success could spell,
This argument were very well,
I own, Sir;
But all who think the matter o'er
Must see that brains won't victory score
Alone, Sir.

A body temperate, healthy, clean,
Its appetites and passions keen
Restraining,
And pluck and grit, these help to earn
Success in life, and these lads learn
In training.

So while our young men's minds we feed
On books and other things they need
For growing,
Let's not the oar and stretcher ban,
For nothing makes a man a man
Like rowing.

In reference to what was said in last week's Truth upon certain observations on the subject of bearing-reins attributed to Lady Orford, her ladyship writes that she was not quite correctly reported, and that all she said in regard to what the reporter called "Court carriages" was that where horses have to face great crowds and noise, the use of a bearing-rein, as giving greater control over the animal, is perhaps excusable. She did not, therefore, suggest that precautions may be taken for the safety of the lives of Royal personages which would not be admissible for those of humbler rank. Lady Orford also points out that if a horse, in the course of its work, is kept standing for a long time under a tight bearing-rein, as outside Burlington House, it must be under great discomfort, and that any temporary relaxation must be of advantage to it, and in this I dare say she is right.

Extraordinary prices were paid last week at Christie and Manson's at the sale of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's splendid collection of engravings, which realised nearly £19,300, or more than double the sum at which it had been previously valued. "Lady Jane Halliday," by Valentine Green, after Reynolds, was run up to £820, the highest price previously paid for this engraving having been £472 at the Normanton sale six years ago. Green's "Lady Louisa Manners," after Reynolds, sold for £670, the highest price previously paid having been £141. A superb impression of Rembrandt's "Three Trees" fetched £620. The highest price hitherto recorded for this etching is £385.

Although the contest for the Chancellorship at Oxford resolved itself at the poll more or less into a party fight, it did not originate in any party, still less personal, feeling against Lord Curzon or for Lord Rosebery. Unionist members of Convocation took an active part in promoting the contest. The opposition to Lord Curzon was inspired by the impression that an attempt was being made to "wire-pull" the election in the interest of All Souls'. Further measures of University reform are in the air, and there is a strong feeling in Oxford—outside All Souls', of course—that All Souls' is the institution to which reform should be first applied whenever it comes. Consequently, anything which looks like a tactical operation to defend the interests of that college in the selection of a Chancellor is calculated to excite suspicion. Justly or not, the part taken by the Warden of All Souls' in the selection of a candidate stimulated that suspicion. A little incident which arose out of the meeting at Magdalen helped in the same direction. What was considered a misleading account of the meeting appeared in the *Times*. Two members of Convocation sent a correction to that paper. It was not published. The Editor of the *Times*, like Lord Curzon, has held an All Souls' fellowship. The circumstance, therefore, might have a little significance of its own.

From what I know of Lord Curzon, I should not suppose that, even if the opportunity arose, he is at all likely to justify either the misgivings of his opponents or the motives which have been, rightly or wrongly, attributed to his backers. No doubt, as Chancellor, he will look to the interests of the University at large rather than those of any individual college, if the two happen to come into conflict. But the anti-All Souls' and pro-All Souls' element in the late contest has an interest which makes it worth recording. Outside the College itself there cannot be any question that All Souls' is a very anomalous institution. Its continued existence in its present shape is quite indefensible; and that there is a strong feeling to this effect in Oxford, and that a good many Conservatives hold it strongly, is a fact to be remembered when University reform is next taken in hand.

Until last week there had not been a contested election for the Chancellorship of Oxford University since 1809, when there was a most sensational contest, and Lord Grenville, the "Liberal" candidate, unexpectedly defeated Lord Eldon, then Lord Chancellor, who would have won the coveted office but for the fact that a second Tory candidate was brought forward in the person of the Duke of Beaufort, who was better known as an enthusiastic foxhunter than as a scholar. Political affairs were then very unsettled, but Lord Eldon would certainly have been successful if the electors could have foreseen that he would occupy the woolsack, and dispense its patronage, for another eighteen years.

The last contest at Cambridge took place in 1847, after the death of Hugh, Duke of Northumberland (who was often described as "an excellent man, but

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the greatest bore that ever lived"), when Prince Albert defeated Lord Powis, who was the Conservative and High Church candidate. This contest caused much ill-feeling, both in the University and out of it, and years elapsed before there was an end of the bitterness and exasperation which had been excited. Dr. Whewell, the Master of Trinity, was the most active and zealous of the resident dons on the side of Prince Albert.

The election of the Rev. H. E. D. Blakiston as President of Trinity, Oxford, was pretty generally expected and has been received with satisfaction both in the College and in the University. Mr. Blakiston has been a Fellow of Trinity for twenty years, a tutor since 1890, and senior tutor since 1889. He has filled numerous University offices, including those of proctor and examiner, and he is still one of the auditors of University accounts. The University offices held by the late President have also now been filled up by Congregation. Mr. Smith, of Balliol, was elected Curator of the Bodleian by a large majority over Mr. Oman, Chichele Professor of Modern History. For the Curatorship of the Parks Mr. Somerville (Sibthorpian Professor of Rural Economy) defeated Mr. Shields, Fellow of Corpus.

The Prime Minister has made an excellent appointment to the stall in Canterbury Cathedral which became vacant by the death of Canon F. J. Holland, the senior member of the Chapter. Prebendary Stuart has been for over a quarter of a century one of the most zealous and popular leaders of the Evangelical party, and he has held large London parishes with conspicuous success, having been untiring in his pastoral work. He is an admirable preacher, and has gained a high reputation as a missioner. Although he has always been an Evangelical champion, he is no partisan, and has at various times worked cordially with men from whom he differs widely. He succeeded the Bishop of Ripon as Vicar of St. James's, Holloway, in 1879, and in 1893 he became Vicar of St. Matthew's, Bayswater. The present Bishop of London collated him to a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral about two years ago. He was captain of the Harrow eleven, and boat-club captain at St. John's College, Cambridge.

Prebendary Stuart will still be able to devote himself largely to the mission work which he has carried on so successfully, as there are six residentiary Canons at Canterbury, so that he will be on duty there for only two months in the year. The stall was formerly worth £1,000 a year, but agricultural depression has reduced the income of the Chapter, and the stipend does not now exceed £700, with a very nice house and garden in the precincts.

Prebendary Kempe, who died last week at the age of ninety-seven, was for many years one of the most prominent and influential of the London clergy, and for over forty years he was Vicar of St. James's, Piccadilly, having been presented to that important living in 1853 by Lord Aberdeen, on the promotion of Dr. Jackson to the See of Lincoln, after the death of Bishop Kaye. Mr. Kempe had for many years the richest and most aristocratic congregation in London, the pews being then occupied every Sunday during the season by princes, peers, bishops, and members of the House of Commons, and social and literary celebrities. He was able to raise very large sums without any trouble whatever. It was an old rule of the vestry that all the most prominent pews were to be let only to "parishioners of title and distinction." Lord Derby, the Minister, was a regular attendant on Sunday mornings, and sat in a front gallery pew, immediately above the pulpit.

The late Prebendary, who was a High Churchman of the good old school, was the first Vicar of St. James's to preach in a surplice, and his repudiation of the Geneva gown excited some dissatisfaction in the parish during the first few weeks of his incumbency, but his many excellent qualities soon reconciled the congregation to this change. He was a large-minded man with wide sympathies, and he was ready to give practical assistance to every good work. For many years Kempe was looked upon as a future Bishop, and if he had been more of a "pusher" he would no doubt have attained to the Episcopal Bench, a promotion which would probably have shortened his life considerably. His only preferment was a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral, which was given to him in 1861 by Archbishop Tait, who was then Bishop of London. He was a chaplain to Queen Victoria for thirty-seven years.

Mr. Kempe was a genial and courteous divine, with the fine manners of the old school. Some years ago he wrote a little volume of reminiscences, which was printed for private circulation only. He was a noted scholar, and he had a great store of interesting recollections of the many celebrated people with whom he had been brought into intimate contact. Mr. Kempe commenced his clerical career as curate of Tavistock, after he had been ordained by Bishop Henry Phillpotts in 1833, and he stayed there for three years. He resided at Cambridge as Fellow of Clare College from 1838 until his marriage in 1842.

"Surely this is a novel form of temperance work," writes a lady in Willesden, who has been favoured with the following announcement. Very novel, I should say. The "Escaped Nun" in question is a notorious person, and the discourses of such persons have no relation to the cause of temperance or any other virtue. The intimation "Ladies only" suggests much, and among other things that the term "lady"

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has as wide a significance in temperance circles as in most others nowadays:—

National British Women's Temperance Association,
Willesden Green and Cricklewood Branch.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING,
On Monday, March 18th, 1907,
at the
Willesden Green Baptist Church.

Edith O'Gorman
(Mrs. Auffray),
THE ESCAPED NUN,
Will give her Celebrated Lectures.

AFTERNOON (FOR LADIES ONLY)—
"THE SECRET MYSTERIES OF THE CONFESSIONAL."
"THE INNER LIFE OF CONVENTS."
Etc., etc.

A firm who had for some years kept a collecting-box for the Poor Children's Society on their counter, having seen the mention of this concern in the Truth Cautionary List, wrote to request that the box should be removed. In replying, Mr. G. H. Breton, the "founder and director," writes:—

If you should be in London any Wednesday or Friday, between 12 and 1 p.m., and see 1,000 children being fed at dinner, November to Easter, at our headquarters, I think you would alter your opinion as stated, or call at our homes at Southend-on-Sea during the summer months.

I neither control nor manage the society. This is done by a committee, who have all management of funds and banking account, with a financial secretary, who receives and pays out money according to their instructions, and has done so for many years.

This is a good example of the sort of reply that a charity-monger of this type always has ready for criticism of his finances and management. No one has ever denied that Breton feeds a certain number of poor children at his headquarters, or that he keeps others in his homes at Southend. The question is whether the work done bears any adequate proportion to the vast amount of money collected, and to this question the accounts which the so-called society has published afford a sufficient answer. As to the committee, the question is who are its members, and by whom are they appointed? When I last had occasion to go into the matter, they contained a handsome proportion of relatives and hangers-on of the Breton family, and if they have been appointed by any other authority than that of Mr. and Mrs. Breton, it may be taken for granted that the fact would have been stated.

The best proof of the real character of the alleged committee is that within the last three or four years at least two independent gentlemen who have joined it in the hope of putting the administration on a proper footing, have eventually retired from the task in despair. Two of these gentlemen subsequently reported to me their experience of the committee and the society, and of the position occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Breton in relation to the business. On the other hand, although Breton is ready to throw dust in the eyes of a casual objector by a letter like the above, he has never, from the first moment that his charity was criticised in Truth, made the slightest attempt to answer what has been said about the concern, and the legitimate inference from this is that he knows it to be unanswerable. It is a great pity that the hundreds of tradespeople in London and throughout the Home Counties who keep Breton's collecting-boxes on their counters do not follow the example of the firm above mentioned.

In pleasant contrast to this shady charity of Mr. Breton's, my attention has been called during the past week to two excellent institutions of the same class at work in provincial towns. One is the Preston Borough Police Poor Children's Fund. As its name implies, this fund is run under the auspices of the police, and its report is issued by Major Little, the Chief Constable of Preston, and trustee of the fund. It keeps up a seaside convalescent home for poor children at St. Anne's, in which 320 children were kept for about three weeks each last year at a cost of £270 18s. 2d.—a figure which may be profitably compared with Breton's expenditure—and it did other work, no less economically, in the shape of treats in summer and winter, the distribution of clothing, shoes, clogs, and gifts to other funds; all this without a penny of expenditure on officials or collectors.

The other charity just referred to is also located in Lancashire—the Poor Children's Treat Association, of Wigan. This also is a fund managed by the police, the Chief Constable of Wigan being the honorary secretary. Like the Preston fund, it has no administrative expenses, and its work is similar, except that it keeps up no home, but distributes practically the whole of its income in treats, food, clothing, and clogs—the last useful item accounting for no less than £148. It would seem that for the juvenile population of Preston and Wigan nothing can be more desirable than to fall into the hands of the police, and the example of these towns seems well worthy of imitation.

The institution formerly known as the Queen's Jubilee Hospital has incurred in past years so much unfavourable notice in Truth and elsewhere, that it is satisfactory to know that it has been very thoroughly re-organised, and with very good results. The hospital is now known as the Kensington General Hospital. It has Lord Brassey for its President, a representative and influential committee of management, and a first-rate medical staff; and the report for 1906, which has just been issued, shows that it is doing much good work in all departments.

The report records the retirement of Mr. R. F. Benham owing to ill-health. I have no desire to say anything here as to the history of Mr. Benham's connection with the old Jubilee Hospital. But it would be affectation to dissemble the fact that, in view of what has happened in the past, the institution was prejudiced by Mr. Benham's association with it, and his retirement makes it easier to commend the charity to the support of the public. It has always been a strong point in favour of the institution that it is the only general hospital available for a very poor and populous district of London. It actually received 14,465 out-patients and 306 in-patients last year, and every one must desire that it should be placed in a position to deal adequately and efficiently with the heavy calls upon its resources.

It has been suggested to me that in the preparation of his scheme for the Territorial Force, Mr. Haldane may have been, consciously or unconsciously, inspired in some measure by one put forward some three years ago by the late Mr. John R. Hutchinson, of Leamington. Mr. Hutchinson's idea has more than once been referred to in TRUTH, though his name was not mentioned, and some of my readers may remember it when I say that the cardinal feature in it was the raising of the whole army by the civil local authorities, and the payment of the men out of the rates, the object being to obtain a certain quota of men from each district, and to penalise the district by the extra pay that would have to be given to recruits if men failed to offer themselves voluntarily in the required numbers.

Mr. Haldane's scheme applies the principle of recruiting by a civil authority to the second line, and almost literally follows another suggestion of Mr. Hutchinson's, namely, that the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers should be absorbed in a new force for which he actually suggested the name "Territorial Army." This, of course, may be mere coincidence. But besides the notice that it has received in TRUTH, Mr. Hutchinson's scheme was amplified in an essay sent to the United Service Institution in 1905, and I am told by one of his relatives that he submitted his ideas to the War Office, so that it is possible that he really sowed seed which has now borne fruit. However this may be, he is entitled to the honour of having anticipated Mr. Haldane in certain important points—though, unhappily, it is only a posthumous honour.

I have received the following from a Service correspondent, and as far as I can ascertain he is correct as to the facts, which certainly justify unfavourable observation:—

There is a good deal of dissatisfaction in India over the manner in which appointments as aide-de-camp to the King have recently been made. Hitherto a strict and impartial system of marking has insured that the colonel or lieutenant-colonel with the most distinguished service should succeed to the vacancy. This rule was over-ridden by Lord Kitchener, who, instead of taking the most distinguished officer, sent in the name of his own Military Secretary, a comparatively junior officer, who had no possible claim to supersede his seniors. Though it was a disappointment to the Indian Army feeling that Lord Kitchener should take a step of this kind, it was never dreamt that the departure from the established practice was more than temporary. It was confidently expected that when the next vacancy occurred the matter would be put right; but, to the surprise and regret of all, the indignity was accentuated by filling the vacancies from below the aforesaid Military Secretary, on the plea that no one senior to him could now be appointed. Such an argument is ridiculous; there is nothing whatever in the regulations to support it. It may not be generally known that, besides the honour of the appointment, two out of the four aides-de-camp receive about £200 a year extra pay.

It gives me pleasure to see that the *Military Mail* has been compelled to apologise handsomely for certain reckless charges against the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society and its directors published in the early part of last year. Reference was made in TRUTH at the time to the attacks which were being made on the Society in question, and the source and motives of them were pretty easy to guess. The principal allegation put forward in the *Military Mail* was that the Canteen and Mess Society had "plundered" a sum of £11,000 belonging to the soldier, which ought to be returned; and it was also asserted that for each attendance at a meeting the members of the committee received a sum of five guineas. An action for libel was commenced against the paper by Lord Fortescue and two other members of the committee, and the *Military Mail* has now been compelled to settle it by publishing an apology declaring itself satisfied that its statements were untrue, and paying all the plaintiffs' costs. The Canteen and Mess Society ever since it came into existence has been systematically assailed with all kinds of misrepresentation and innuendo by the interests, both in the Service and in commercial circles, which were affected by its operations, and it is satisfactory to know that the circulation of some of the worst of those calumnies has now been stopped and punished, even though the instigators escape.

On the question of the limitation of re-engagements for twenty-one years' service, which was referred to last week, the following remarks of an N.C.O. are interesting:—

There has been a lot of hostile criticism of Mr. Haldane's decision to limit the number of men allowed to qualify for pension. The amount of rot talked about men enlisting in order to earn a pension is stupendous. I have asked numbers of men in my own unit and others whether they had any idea of doing twenty-one years when they joined, and have always got an answer in the negative. If you leave out those who enlisted as boys, I doubt whether in the whole Army there is one per cent. who ever had that idea—I should almost venture to put it at one per thousand. Want of employment, pangs in the stomach from hunger, or a row with a lady-love, cause fifty more enlistments than the prospect of making a pension.

Again, we all of us know in the Service that the right, first, to extend from seven to twelve years, and, secondly, to re-engage are nothing more than privileges which can be refused by a C.O. without giving any reason. So I fail to see the grievance when the number allowed to re-engage is put under a fixed limit. If there is any grievance, it is certainly confined to men of ten to twelve years' service.

The growling, however, seems to be confined to men of ten to twelve years' service; and though they may not have any right to re-engage, they have a certain grievance when they have been soldiering on up to that time in the expectation that they would be allowed to do so if they acquitted themselves satisfactorily. It would have been kinder if a year or two's notice had been given before the limitation was enforced. As it is, it ought to be construed as favourably as possible to the men affected, as in the case of the Royal Artillery, already noticed. And I certainly think that it ought to be accompanied by a stricter limitation of service at twenty-one years. From the point of view of "preparedness for war," there can be no question as to what the choice should be when it rests between retaining a man of twelve years' service and a man of twenty-one.

The married people of the depot of the West Yorkshire Regiment are groaning against an order requiring them to settle up an account for breakages in the school and women's washhouse. The grievance is that the premises in question are used in common by the women and children of the whole garrison at York, among whom are another infantry regiment, two cavalry regiments, and detachments of A.S.C., and A.O.C., and that the damage ought, therefore, to be a garrison charge. The amount at issue is trifling, but that does

not affect the principle of the thing, and it would seem to be by an oversight that the charge has been laid on one unit only.

An officer in the merchant service sends me a suggestion with regard to old age pensions, which seems deserving of consideration. He is of opinion that if a beginning is to be made with old age pensions, the mercantile marine offers a most suitable field for it. His point is that the employment of sailors is fully regulated by law, supervised by a Government Department, which keeps official records of every man's service, and even the payment of the men is made under the superintendence of a Government official. The machinery for working a pension scheme is therefore to a great extent in existence already.

My correspondent proposes a self-supporting fund, formed by the contributions of the men. He suggests that a contribution of 1d. per day, which would be deducted on payment of wages, would be no serious tax upon the men, and would be sufficient for the purpose, in view of the high rate of mortality in seafaring life, and provided the fund were supplemented out of the wages forfeited by deserters; and in the event of men leaving the sea and going into other trades, he proposes that they should be allowed to keep up their contributions to the fund. I am afraid that all old age pension schemes involving contributions are now very much out of favour. But there is no reason whatever why a contributing pension scheme should not be established in the merchant service, without waiting for the day when a Government will find itself in a position to confer old age pensions on everybody.

A FUTILE THREAT.

A barmaids' champion, I see,
Expressed the fervent wish that she
  Might Herbert Gladstone find
Among her audience that night,
So she bestow upon him might
  A fragment of her mind.

Methought her menace (truth to state)
Scarce likely to eventuate;
  Since not, though e'er so clever,
Could she her mind on him bestow,
Till first she'd learnt that mind to know—
  Id est, in woman, NEVER!

Sudbury preceded London by returning to its Council a number of so-called municipal reformers, who last week distinguished themselves by proposing that the Town Clerk should be dismissed, and the duties of his office transferred to the borough accountant. Apart from the absurdity of the amalgamation, this treatment of the solicitor who for over twenty years has filled the office of Town Clerk was on discussion considered too shabby, and he was let off with a reduction of his salary from £180 to £100 a year. That is £40 less than the borough rate-collector receives. Where extravagant salaries are paid to municipal officers it is right that they should be cut down, but I should not have thought that £180 a year was an excessive amount to pay the Town Clerk of a borough like Sudbury, and the reduction appears to have been prompted by some petty personal feeling rather than a pure regard for the public interest. If a salary of under £2 a week is deemed enough for the Town Clerk, what, I wonder, do Sudbury reformers consider a sufficient wage for a scavenger?

The following is from a legal correspondent. Nobody would wish to see the judges sweated, but there is a good deal of force in the criticism that the sittings of the courts have been unduly shortened, though for my own part—as I am sometimes obliged to appear before their lordships—I should regret any interference with the adjournment for luncheon. The reform of the circuit system is unquestionably a measure by which valuable judicial time might be saved:—

That hardy annual, the bitter cry of the Judges of the King's Bench Division for more judges, is now in full vigour. At the late assizes all the Judges have poured their lamentations upon the subject into the ears of the grand jury, at each assize town. If such a want exists, which I think is not the case, it seems to me to be due to the short hours which the Judges now sit in court, and to their unwillingness or inability to stop the great length at which cases are now heard. Many persons are still alive who recollect the Judges sitting in court for six hours on six days in the week, with a very short, and in some cases, without any adjournment for luncheon. Now they do not sit on Monday until 11 o'clock, and on the other days of the week until 10.30; they rise at 4 p.m., and on Saturdays at 2 p.m., and they all take a liberal three-quarters of an hour for luncheon. Surely it is not too much to expect the Judges to give six hours' work in court every day, with a Saturday half-holiday, which is often a whole holiday. The long vacation lasts for nine weeks, and besides this, the Judges have three weeks' holiday at Christmas, and twelve days at both Easter and Whitsuntide. Their holidays therefore amount to more than fifteen weeks in the year. The other cause of the alleged want is the great length to which cases are now allowed to go on. It is much easier for a Judge to try one case, which lasts two or three days, than to try three or four cases in the same time, and the present Judges do not seem to try to shorten trials.

If more time is wanted for hearing cases in London, it might be obtained by alterations in the Circuit system, and by grouping together, for assizes, the counties where there is little work, as is done at the autumn assizes. The present assize towns were fixed centuries ago, when communication between places was difficult and often dangerous, but that reason does not now exist. At the late assizes in North and South Wales, all the criminal and civil business of both circuits, except in Glamorganshire, might have been got through by the two Judges in three or four days instead of one circuit lasting twenty days and the other seventeen days, without counting the days in Glamorganshire and Chester. Formerly, Judges of assizes had to pay their own circuit expenses, but a few years ago they were granted £7 10s. for their expenses on each day the circuit lasts, including Sundays.

Apropos of a paragraph published last week, I am interested to learn that a proposal for the exemption of the borough of Bolton from the jurisdiction of the Salford Hundred Court of Record is under the consideration of the local authorities. By means of Acts of Parliament or Orders of the Privy Council the towns of Oldham, Middleton, and Bury have obtained this exemption, and at Bolton Mr. Matthew Fielding, a local solicitor, has lately put forward some forcible reasons why that borough should take the same course. The maintenance of the jurisdiction of the Salford Hundred Court over outlying districts, at any rate, is really an indefensible anachronism. It serves no legitimate purpose that is not better served by the County Court. Its procedure may easily be employed harshly and oppressively, and, as I have frequently pointed out, it is with this express object that the court is so largely patronised by the moneylending fraternity. Poor and ignorant debtors residing at a distance from Manchester are not only bewildered and baffled by the technical pleadings, but

are unable to incur the expense of journeying to the court, with the result that judgment is given against them in their absence, and they are, moreover, saddled with costs on a most extravagant scale.

One of the anomalies—not to say abuses—connected with this ancient court is the payment of a third of the fees to the Earl of Sefton as Lord of the Manor. His lordship is guaranteed a minimum of 200gs. per annum, but, according to the last Parliamentary return, he was that year entitled to receive £433 2s. 8d. Such an arrangement as this—a belated survival from feudal times—is in itself a sufficient condemnation of the existence of the court.

A solicitor who has had a good deal to do with compensation cases for personal injuries complains of the obstacles that are thrown in the way of poor patients by hospital surgeons. He not only asserts that he has been frequently met with great discourtesy when endeavouring to obtain information, but that it seems to be a regular practice of hospital doctors to demand a fee of a guinea before they will give any professional information. The result often is that if the patient cannot afford a guinea, the solicitor must fee the doctor out of his own pocket before he can ascertain for certain what sort of a case his client has got; and as the most prosperous solicitors are rarely disposed to disburse money in the dark like this, one consequence is that poor people are driven in these cases into the hands of the class who will "take up the case on spec.," at proportionate profit to themselves if the "spec." turns out well. It seems unreasonable for doctors to stickle for preliminary fees like this, because, as my correspondent observes, if the case is a good one they will eventually receive fees on subpœna; and it will be a surprise to many people to learn that hospital doctors are accustomed to deal with their patients in such a spirit.

In January last attention was directed in the Hampshire newspapers to the shooting of game on Sundays on an estate in the district of Whitchurch. It was stated that on one occasion as many as seven guns, with seven beaters, were out, and as such Sunday shooting is absolutely illegal, the names of the offenders were given to the police, with other necessary information, for the institution of a prosecution. Up to the present, however, no prosecution has taken place, and in these circumstances I am not at all surprised to learn that the people in the neighbourhood have come to the conclusion that there is, after all, one law for the rich, and another for the poor. It would be interesting to know whether the case ever came under the notice of the Chief Constable of Hampshire, or whether some subordinate local officer was responsible for the decision not to prosecute.

An enlightened method of dealing with juvenile offenders has been adopted during the past six months in Hull. Instead of bringing children charged with offences against the law before the magistrates, and thus subjecting them to the degrading environment of the police court, the Chief Constable has made the cases the subject of personal investigation and of talks with the youthful offenders and their parents. Six hundred cases have been dealt with in this way with such gratifying results that the scheme is to be continued and an inspector appointed to assist the Chief Constable in this department of his work—a wise policy.

A circular issued by the Home Office with regard to the uselessness of sentencing a vagrant to a few days' imprisonment only was read by the magistrates' clerk at Bolton the other day. When a man was known to be a habitual tramp, it was observed, a sentence of less than fourteen days would produce no useful effect, and the magistrates, prompt to act on the advice, committed a prisoner before them to a month's imprisonment. I should very much like to know who is responsible for the issue of such ill-judged advice. To assume that fourteen days' imprisonment, or a month even, is likely to act as a deterrent to the habitual vagrant shows a singular lack of appreciation of the difficulties of the vagrancy problem, and the advice to inflict heavy sentences is merely pandering to the natural inclinations of Shallow.

There ought to be an inquiry into the conduct of the police and the magistrates in the case of a young man named Quarterman, whose unconditional release from prison was ordered by the Home Secretary last week. It appears that Quarterman was charged before the Watlington (Oxon) Bench with the theft of a piece of beef, and that the Bench, holding that there was not sufficient evidence upon which to convict, discharged him. A few days later—on a Sunday—Quarterman was re-arrested on the same charge, and next morning he was taken before the Bench and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. The only additional evidence was an admission which the prisoner was alleged to have made on being interrogated by the police. At the second hearing Quarterman was undefended, the solicitor who had appeared for him on the first occasion not having been informed that he had been re-arrested.

Not only was this a case in which the prisoner should never have been convicted at all, but the re-hearing of the charge was an outrageous irregularity. As I understand, the defence of *autrefois acquit* is as conclusive in proceedings before magistrates as in a trial by a jury, and the charge against the prisoner having once been dismissed upon the merits, the police had no right to arrest him again, and the Bench no right to convict him. Probably the man himself was unaware that he could raise this defence. His ignorance, however, would be no excuse for the conduct of the police and the magistrates, and the summary manner in which he was dealt with in the absence of his solicitor wears a particularly ugly look.

PITFALLS OF THE LAW.

(To Mr. Justice Warrington.)

Of pitfalls *of* The Law I've heard,
But ne'er till last week saw
(So whispers me a little bird)
A pitfall *for* The Law.

By fellow feeling kind now made,
May'st thou, when technic flaw
Would baffle Right, thy suitors aid
From pitfalls of The Law.

The leniency shown to offenders in a number of cases of aggravated assaults upon women forms the chief feature of my Legal Pillory this week. The Nottingham magistrates are of opinion that the petty thief is a much more dangerous ruffian than the man who kicks his wife so severely that she has to be detained in the hospital for days. Even more startling is the action of the Bootle magistrates who think a fine of 10s. sufficient punishment for the ruffian who knocks a woman down and kicks her, breaking her leg. Some interesting comparisons are afforded in the fines inflicted upon motorists, and those imposed for offences which are much more likely to prove dangerous to the public. In addition, there are included three cases of cruelty to animals where the offenders had well earned a term of imprisonment but were let off by misguided magistrates with fines.

Nottingham Borough Police Court. Before Alderman Jelley and Mr. A. H. Franks. Henry Dykes, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked her so severely that she was kept four days in hospital. Seven days.

Cupar Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Armour. James Robertson, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her on the face with a plate. Fined 10s.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Shennan. Peter Murray, charged with assaulting a relative by kicking her. Fined 15s.

Bootle Police Court. Before Messrs. R. W. Hall and H. H. Winstanley. S. T. Browning, charged with an aggravated assault on Mary Carroll. He knocked her down and kicked her, breaking her leg. Fined 10s. and costs.

St. Helens Police Court. Thomas M'Manus, charged with an aggravated assault on his wife. He beat her about the head and face, and kicked her. She was covered with bruises from head to foot. Fined 40s. and costs.

Sheffield Police Court. Before Sir J. Bingham and Mr. W. R. Carter. J. T Swift, charged with neglecting his five children. He sat drinking in public-houses while the children were found on several occasions without a fire in the house and crying for food. Adjourned to give him another chance.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Chapman, Bailey, Bodger, and Aitchison. H. T. Buckingham and H. Foster, charged with furious driving. They were racing on the high road. Fined 10s. and 4s. costs.

Welshpool Borough Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and Messrs. Owen, Jehu, Humphreys, J. Jones, and J. Pryce Jones. E. Green, a farmer, charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and trap, and with cruelty to the horse. He drove furiously backwards and forwards, lashing the horse with the whip until it dropped dead. Fined £1 and costs for the first offence, and £5 inclusive for the second.

Nottingham Borough Police Court. Before the same magistrates. James Voce, charged with stealing a watch and chain value 10s., the property of his father. Two months' imprisonment.

Framlingham Petty Sessions. William Gooderham, charged with killing a partridge without having a licence or certificate. Fined £2, and 12s. 11d. costs.

Rushden Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. F. Knight and J. Claridge. F. Cushion, J. Smith, and Lily Smith, wire workers, charged with sleeping in an outhouse. Fourteen days' hard labour each.

Derby Borough Police Court. Before Sir E. T. Ann and Mr. W. G. Norman. F. Butler, a homeless groom, charged with stealing five eggs and a pair of boots. One month for the first offence, and two months' hard labour for the second.

Isle of Wight County Sessions. Before Admiral Sir A. de Horsey, Col. Crozier, and Messrs. Shedden, Cochrane, Upward, Chatfield Clarke, Fellows, Dabell, and Major Arnell. H. F. Lewis, charged with stealing a handbarrow from his mother. One month's hard labour.

Sheffield Police Court. Before Messrs. T. C. Newton and W. L. B. Hirst. W. McDonald, charged with attempting to steal a florin. He was standing at a window which was broken, near which the florin had been placed on a sewing machine. Three months' hard labour.

Wokingham County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Knox, Huntrey, Watson, Macnabb, and Col. Mackenzie. J. E. Rooney, charged with driving a motor-car at a dangerous rate, 25 miles an hour. Fined £10 and 12s. costs.

Arundel County Sessions. Before Capt. Hills, Messrs. Mostyn, Rawson Shaw, Travers, Henty, Heasman, and the Mayor. A batch of motorists charged with exceeding the speed limit, were fined respectively £5 12s., £5 8s., £5 14s., and £4 15s.

Arundel Borough Sessions. Before the Mayor and Alderman Herington. Three motorists, charged with exceeding the speed limit, fined £4 8s., £6 13s., and £5 16s. respectively.

Handsworth Police-court. Before Messrs. F. M. Thompson and G. Salter. E. Neale, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal had been turned out since Christmas on ground covered with brick ends, and died from starvation. Fined 50s. and costs.

Chesterfield Police-court. Before Mr. A. H. Fowler and other magistrates. T. W. Green, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal had been turned out all the winter until it became a mere frame of skin and bone. It fell, and, being unable to rise, had to be killed. Fined 40s. and costs.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 3,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Owing to the continued prosperity of the notorious Tanquerey, there seems to be a considerable revival of the "free portrait" trick in this country. A newcomer in this line of business is the New British Studio, 84, High Holborn. As this firm works by means of canvassers, who call at houses, and are apt to obtain from ladies orders for enlargements of photographs by verbal representations, it seems desirable that heads of families should warn their female belongings of the nature of the trick—provided that they know it themselves, which does not appear to be always the case. It is always possible, of course, to refuse payment for the "free" portrait when it comes to be demanded; but the victim is then apt to find, as in the case of Tanquerey, that he has parted with a photograph to which he attaches some value, and has great difficulty in recovering it, unless he carries out the alleged bargain.

The "luggage in advance" trick was tried last month —unsuccessfully, I am glad to say—on two French ladies keeping a modest boarding house at Havre, the operator using the name of "J. Kerr, Carman and Contractor, 5, Holywell Row, E.C." A "Mrs. Mortimer" first writes from 157, High-street, Walthamstow—doubtless an accommodation address—desiring to place her two daughters in the boarding-house while she goes to join her husband in India. The terms having been settled, Mrs. Mortimer next writes from "Paris" (no other address), stating that she is there with her daughters owing to the illness of a relative, and requesting the lady at Havre to pay the charges on the girls' luggage, which she has ordered to be forwarded, having had to leave England in a hurry. Simultaneously arrives the invoice from "J. Kerr" for charges amounting to fr. 39.95, which must be paid before the luggage can be despatched from Charing Cross.

Fortunately the ladies at Havre took advice and did not pay the money, and, of course, they have heard no more either from Kerr or Mrs. Mortimer. Kerr's invoice is a beautifully got-up document adorned with a picture of a railway engine pulling one of Kerr's pantechnicon vans, and evidently printed in England But the writing on it, as also of Mrs. Mortimer's letters, is obviously French, and this is clearly a case where a French gang are working the swindle against their own countrymen. 5, Holywell-row, E.C., is merely an address where letters for "J. Kerr" have been received. As all the thieves in this line of business are careful to use only accommodation addresses, it is very difficult to catch them; but it is quite certain that a good many other people abroad have received "J. Kerr's" attentions besides the two ladies above mentioned, and if the police were promptly communi-

cated with, they ought to be able to trap the gang. The French newspapers should warn their readers against this lucrative swindle.

From an office at 3, Wine Office-court, E.C., is issued a tipster's sheet called the *Sporting Globe Special*. A specimen copy of this publication, dated March 11, was sent by post to one of my readers on March 14. Out of five tips for races on the 12th and 13th, no fewer than four winners were given, while the other horse was placed. On the other hand, out of nine tips for the remaining three days of the week no fewer than eight were losers, the solitary winner being, moreover, an animal that started at odds on. The change in the prophet's form was certainly remarkable. Can it be that his brilliant success on the first two days was due to the fact that the results of the races were known before the specimen copies of the paper were printed and distributed? Such a trick has often been practised.

A novelty in the literature of the touting commission agent is a circular issued by Mr. Ludor Beecher, of 43, Sheen Park, Richmond, Surrey. Ludor—a man with such a distinguished Christian name must not think one unduly familiar in giving him the full benefit of it—introduces himself thus:—

> I have been an Assistant Master for some years, and am a member of two well-known London football clubs, and have represented my County.
>
> Being possessed of some spare capital, I am offering to men of my own and other Universities the means of doing their business in a strictly confidential and secure manner.
>
> I propose offering you a credit of £2, without asking for the usual references, etc., etc.

Ludor explains that owing to the new Betting Act, "a great many small bettors have been prevented from doing their business by the great expense of sending money across the water," which seems to imply, in a manner hardly flattering to the members of his own and other Universities, that they have hitherto been in the habit of doing their betting at street corners. He gives, however, convincing evidence of his academic qualifications. He has entangled his remarkable name in the classical motto "Dum Spiro Ludo," and he commends his business principles to clients in this polyglot outburst:—

> On receipt of your application for me to execute your commissions, I will reply accepting same. "Quodcunque imperatum erit, fiet. Ce que vous voulez, je le ferai. Was sie befehlen, das tue ich."

It is melancholy to see so much learning reduced to this extremity, but it shows what the University man who takes to school-mastering may come to in these days.

I think Lord Northcliffe should advise his *Answers* young man to leave the subject of usury alone—it is evidently much too abstruse for his immature mind. "Honest Moneylending: How old 'Shixty per Cent.' may be Avoided," was the alluring title of an article which this journalistic innocent published the other day. While expressing a hope that "the day of the blooksucking moneylender is done," he remarked that "it is pleasant to think that there are in existence responsible companies to which we may resort in the moment of embarrassment"—companies granting loans "at rates which are perfectly legitimate." By way of example, particulars were set forth of the terms on which advances, ranging in amount from £5 to £100, are made by an unnamed company in the City. The company, it was explained, does not entertain hazardous business of any kind, adequate security for every loan being insisted upon. On such security, it appears, the sum of £100 can be borrowed, "to be repaid by twelve weekly instalments of £9 2s. 0d." This is the ingenuous scribe's idea of a perfectly legitimate charge, "a change for the better" from the extortion practised by the grasping sixty per cent. Shylock. As a matter of arithmetic, taking into account the weekly reduction of the principal, the interest exacted by this "responsible company" works out at the rate of nearly 80 per cent. per annum.

Some surprising performances in the way of the treatment of disease by "thought waves" are promised by a Mr. Leonard Hall in a pamphlet which he is advertising at the price of 3d. The principle of the treatment is extremely simple. It is a scientific fact, according to Hall, that bad thoughts produce a chemical poison in the system, while good thoughts have a beneficial chemical effect, like a seidlitz powder. It is also a scientific fact that one thinker can transfer his thoughts to another thinker. Hall gives you a picture of a Marconi installation to show how it is done, but a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Zancig would have been more helpful. Starting with these principles, it is easy to see that when a person is unwell in consequence of unwholesome thoughts, he can be put to rights in a moment by a little thought transference from a more healthy thinker. Supposing it was the patient's dinner, and not his thoughts, that had upset him, Hall seems to think that the process would work equally well.

When you are out of sorts, what *you* have to do is to pay Hall £1 a month. This covers half-an-hour's daily treatment, Sundays excepted. What Hall does is thus explained:—

> I shut myself up in my private office from six o'clock until ten o'clock, allow no one to disturb me, and, barring five minutes of deep breathing and muscular relaxation every half-hour, I devote my whole mental and nervous force to concentrating my mind upon the so-called "Health Vibrations" in the interests of my patients. . . .
>
> While I am practically treating patients for four hours, I would not advise patients to take more than half an hour of the vibration each day. . . .
>
> The effect of a strong telepathic treatment is described differently by different people, according to their nervous temperament, etc. The most common report which I have from my patients is that during the first few minutes there is a sensation of increasing warmth all over the body, followed by a distinct tingling, especially in the diseased parts of the body, this being generally followed by a comfortable calmness and feeling of strength. . . .

Obviously this is not a luxury to be overdone. It sounds very much like what one reads about the effect of alcohol, and Hall is right to limit his patients to half an hour a day. The treatment is apparently identical with that of Christian Science, only at a mere fraction of the price. As Hall points out, £1 a month is only 9d.

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a day; and as the exhausting nature of the work precludes his doing more than four hours per diem, he can only earn 6s. a day, and he is obliged to rest completely on Sundays. True, not everybody can make 6s. a day by merely shutting himself up in his room and thinking; but office rent, advertising, printing, and postages have to be taken into account. I should say, therefore, that either the healer must manage to think of several patients at once, or else he expects to make his profit by selling his pamphlet at 3d.

SOULS — BY THE OUNCE.

Our human souls, in point of weight,
To scale an ounce apiece are found;
At least—so Yankee doctors state—
They run sixteen to every pound.

Now, weights and measures, wet or dry,
To standardise our laws compel,
That purchasers, in what they buy,
May get full worth from those who sell.

We've standard weights, arranged and classed,
For everything from coins to coals;
Maybe, ere many years are passed,
We'll have a standard weight for souls.

It is always amusing to see a masterpiece of sustained irony accepted and answered in its literal sense. The *Daily Mail* had a very clever article last week on the "Wastrel" Ministry now in office, showing how the Government has caused depression on the Stock Exchange and driven Consols down to a record point. The writer's intention, no doubt, was to burlesque the *Daily Mail* attacks on the County Council and draw a *reductio ad absurdum* of the much-abused term "Wastrel." But several Liberal journals have answered the article quite seriously, and proceeded to show how the Stock Exchange fared and how Consols fell under the late Government, and what the present one has done to restore sounder financial conditions. The humorist who wrote the article could not desire a more genuine compliment. I hope it will encourage him to try his hand again, and show us how the London County Council election led to the late fall in American Rails.

A female suffragist, who does not know if I ever give a hearing to people who are not of my way of thinking, invites me to tell her on what ground I say that the majority of women are against women's suffrage. I am pleased to answer her on both points by saying that the only ground I have for my statement is my own observation, which I always prefer to the observation of other people. I have not counted up my female acquaintance, nor even the number whom I have heard expressing their opinion on this subject during the last few months, but I suppose the total comes to some hundreds. If I except one or two ladies connected with the movement whose acquaintance I have made in political life, the whole of them, to a woman, are dead against the demand for votes. As to the "physical force" movement, the vast majority of women one meets seem to be not only against it, but far more severe upon the "suffragettes" than men. Wherever one goes, and among women of all ranks and classes, one hears the same opinion. Since the above question was put to me, I have made a point of asking nearly every man I have met how many female suffragists he is acquainted with, and in this way I have heard of the existence of two women who desire votes. I am, therefore, convinced that the vast majority of women are against the movement, and I shall not believe the contrary until I see an authoritative record of the number on the other side.

Another lady, who also appeals to me on the *audi alteram partem* principle, points to the large number of women now engaged in business of one kind and another involving, directly and indirectly, the employment, not only of women, but of men, and seems to think it a grievance that men thus employed should have a voice in making the laws which govern their women employers who are voiceless. My dear lady, what is the use of arguing like this? No one denies that all women have to obey the laws, and that they have no voice in making them. Whether this is or is not to the advantage of the community is the question at issue, and it will not be affected by pointing out that women are employers, or employed, or mothers, or virgins, or any other fact which anybody knows. There is no difference, so far as I know, between the laws applicable to male and female employers of labour, and no reason why there should be. I hope that no more would-be lady voters will ask me to publish or discuss their views, for there is nothing to be said on the subject which has not been repeated *ad nauseam*, and there are plenty of editors ready to publish communications on the subject and to regard them far more sympathetically than I can.

It is no doubt true that there are a good many women who are much better fitted to vote than a good many men. It is equally true, however, that there are a good many men who are much better fitted to vote than a good many women. The broad issue whether it is desirable to admit women to the franchise must be looked at broadly and decided on grounds of general principle. No franchise short of that enjoyed by men can be more than a temporary measure, creating fresh grievance and injustice which will have to be redressed. Women must come in, therefore, if they are to come in at all, on the same terms as men, and must participate equally with men in all future extension of the franchise up to universal suffrage. Further, if men and women vote on an equal franchise, does any one suppose that women will not claim the right to sit in Parliament, or that the claim can be refused? It is the necessary logical consequence of the right to vote. These are the consequences that have to be looked at in considering the desirability of admitting women to the franchise. How many men are really in favour of them? Not one in a thousand, I should say.

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It is sometimes asserted that working men are in favour of giving votes to women. Some of their associations are, mainly because they believe that it would strengthen the party of progress. I doubt this; indeed, Conservatives are in many cases equally in favour of the measure because they believe that they would be the gainers. According to my experience, working men are by no means for giving their wives and daughters votes. No class is more sound on the supremacy of men, and none hold more strongly that their womanhood should leave politics alone.

A SUFFRAGIST'S REMONSTRANCE.

'Tis strange, O Truth, you gibe and flout,
And mock our women's suffrage school;
But peg away, year in, year out,
In staunchly crying up Home Rule.

Yet if you would achieve that task,
To grudge us votes you are a fool;
For just you, sir, our husbands ask
If we're not demons at Home Rule.

"TRUTH'S" REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

Ma'am, I believe 'tis as you say,
Nor need I ask your spouse for proof
That you the foremost fiddle play
Beneath your own domestic roof.

Full oft I've marked his downcast mien,
In which extinct is every germ
Of independence, and have seen
Him writhing like a helpless worm.

That's why I've even Home Rule waived,
Rather than give you ladies votes;
For better Ireland breeched and 'nslaved,
Than free and swathed in petticoats.

I hear from what I believe is a good source that the papers left with M. Montagnini and now in the hands of the French Government are really most compromising to the Papal Secretary of State and the Papal Court. Not only do they clearly show that efforts were being made by Cardinal Merry del Val to prevent the visit of King Alfonso to Paris, but they prove that the French bishops were in favour of conciliation, and were urged to resist the French law by Rome. So compromising, indeed, are they, and so clear do they make it that the French ecclesiastical hierarchy were acting under orders, and in defiance of the advice of several of their own most eminent members, that it is probable that large concessions will be accepted on condition that they are not published. Secret negotiations, my authority assures me, are now on foot upon this basis.

That these papers are in the hands of the French Government at all is the best proof that Cardinal Merry del Val does not know his business. Diplomatic relations had been broken off between the Pope and France. M. Nisard, the French Ambassador to the Pope, had been recalled from Rome. The Nuncio Lorenzelli had been recalled from Paris. On his departure he left behind him all his official papers under the care of M. Montagnini, who was without any recognised diplomatic position. The French Government considered that a conspiracy was being hatched, and that the papers would throw some light on the matter. Of course, they seized the documents. The Nuncio should either have carried them away with him, or should, as is often done under such circumstances, have requested the representative of some friendly Power at Paris to give them hospitality. The idea of Cardinal Merry del Val that some friendly Power, or all Powers collectively, would demand the return of the papers only shows how ignorant the Cardinal is of the elements of all diplomatic usage. Technically, the French Government were absolutely within their right in seizing the papers, and M. Clemenceau would have been foolish indeed had he not availed himself of this right.

The truth is that the present Pope is a kindly, worthy priest, entirely ignorant of everything outside Italy. Left to himself, he would devote himself entirely to spiritual matters. Cardinal Merry del Val is a pushing, intriguing Spaniard, hand and glove with the Jesuits, and prepared to get his own way everywhere by allying himself with the most extreme Catholics. In this he is supported by many influential priests at Rome. Probably he regards Bossuet and the leading men who raised their voices against Papal pretensions as greater enemies to the Church than Luther. I have no personal prepossessions either for or against the Roman Catholic Church. I am glad that it has been reduced in France to the level of other sects, but I should be sorry to see it, or any other sect, unfairly treated. Were I its enemy, however, I should rejoice to see its destinies in the hands of the Roman politicians who now control them.

I am curious to know what reply will be made to the demand of the Egyptians to be allowed self-government by means of a Parliament. We went to Egypt in order to protect the bondholders. This was alleged as the ground for our interference. The Khedive Ismail was a reckless spendthrift, and he was always in monetary difficulties. When he was got rid of by the joint action of France and England, his son succeeded him. Then came Arabi's so-called rebellion. The Khedive had called together a Parliament, and Arabi and his friends were not only supported by that Parliament, but by the Khedive. We interfered, bombarded Alexandria, and vanquished the Egyptian army at Tel-el-Kebir, on which the then Khedive, to save himself, went over to the winning side. We announced that so soon as the Egyptians showed that they could govern themselves we should withdraw. But practically we have not taken one single step since then to educate the Egyptians in self-government by giving them representative institutions. Egypt is better governed by us than it ever was before; but we are not popular there, for the Egyptians do not approve of a foreign rule, and, being Mahommedans, do not approve of a Christian rule. This does not surprise me. It is what we ourselves should call patriotism, and we English would prefer the worst of English rules to the best of foreign rules.

Were there competition, the Suez Canal charges would undoubtedly be reduced, and were it not that we happen to hold Suez Canal shares largely, we should join with other Powers to insist upon such a reduc-

tion. A vast amount of the capital of the company was squandered, and yet a Suez Canal share, nominally of the value of 500 fr., now stands at 4,600 fr. The Conservatives have always boasted of the amount of money that we made by Disraeli's purchase of the Canal shares. But, as a speculation, we should no more have bought them than shares in a Rand mine. We did so on political grounds, because we wanted to acquire a hold on the Canal, and because its good administration was necessary not only in our interests, but in the interests of others, and, provided that we get a fair legitimate return on the investment, this is all that we can ask.

A despatch was published in a French Yellow-book from M. Waddington to the then French Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which the former gave an account of a conversation about Egypt that he had had with Lord Salisbury. Our then Prime Minister tells M. Waddington that it is a mistake to suppose that we desire to continue our occupation of Egypt, for this is a strategical mistake, and he adds that this is not only his opinion, but that of all our military and naval men that he has consulted. It has always seemed to me that there is much force in this view. Supposing that we were engaged in a war—say with France and Russie—we should have to maintain our hold on the Mediterranean, although we might strategically deem it wise to temporarily evacuate it. Were we to do so, we should be able to hold the high road to the East by blocking the Red Sea, and making the Cape route the only one. Moreover, we should have to largely increase our garrison in Egypt, because we could not be absolutely sure that a French or Russian army of invasion might not land. I should like to know whether our present military and naval experts agree with those whom Lord Salisbury consulted. In any case, however, it might be wise not to perpetuate a grievance, which not only is a legitimate one, but which would lead to the Egyptians turning against us whenever they may find a good opportunity.

I am all in favour of action at the Hague Conference being taken collectively, which is likely to strengthen the substitution of arbitration for war in disputes between nations. As, however, it is probable that two or more will now and then fight out their disputes, it is most desirable that their relations to neutrals, and the relations of neutrals to them, should be clearly defined, and should be such as to leave neutrals to pursue so far as is possible their commerce without let or hindrance. I doubt if any international agreement can go further than this. I am convinced that any agreement as to mutual disarmament is impossible, and still less do I believe in a fund of one million per annum being subscribed by all nations, and devoted to mutual carousing and the delivery of speeches and lectures in order to create good feeling. But I do not agree that efforts should be made, and rules laid down, in order to carry on war without those who engage in it greatly suffering. On the contrary, I would bring its terrors home to all.

I remember listening to a speech of the late John Stuart Mill in the Parliament of 1866. A motion had been made to mitigate the action of belligerents towards the civilians of the countries engaged in cutting each others' throats. Mill pointed out that this would lead to nations engaging in war. Armies would be regarded as gladiators fighting for the glory or interests of their country, and the tendency would be for civilians to engage in war lightly and cheerfully. I entirely agreed with him. I would have a war made so terrible in its results to non-combatants, who have brought it about by their action, that every country would hesitate long before incurring such consequences. During the Middle Ages the Italian Princes and Republics were always fighting. But the rules of war were so peculiar that even the warriors incurred little risk of danger. In one great battle only one man was killed, and he fell off his horse and was smothered in his armour.

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SCRUTATOR.

DAKHYL *v.* LABOUCHERE.

THE daily papers have already reported the dismissal by the House of Lords of the appeal by Dr. Dakhyl against the judgment of the Court of Appeal in 1904 ordering a new trial of his action against Truth. As the new trial will now have to take place, although the first trial took place three years ago, I am precluded from making any observation upon the case; but I give below a full report of the judgments delivered on Thursday last by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Robertson, and Lord Atkinson, who heard the appeal:—

The Lord Chancellor:—My Lords, in this case, which was one of libel, the Court of Appeal has ordered a new trial; and I am driven to the conclusion that no other Order is possible.

The pith of the libel is that the defendant wrote of the plaintiff as a "quack of the rankest species" in connection with his service on the staff of the Drouet Institute. The defendant denounced the Drouet Institute, on what he claimed to be public grounds, as an organised system for dishonestly obtaining money from persons suffering from deafness, in hope of a cure.

The defendant pleaded that his accusation against plaintiff was true, and also that it was protected as a fair comment upon a matter of public interest. The Jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £1,000.

I rest my opinion that the verdict cannot stand upon two grounds.

In the first place the defendant was entitled to have the Jury's decision on his plea of justification, whether the words used were true in the plain meaning which the Jury might attach to them. Unfortunately, the learned Judge told the Jury more than once that the term quack meant a pretender to skill which the pretender did not possess. If that were a sound direction, and really it was put as a direction, there could not be a verdict on this point against the plaintiff, for admittedly he possessed skill. But there are other meanings of the word quack, such as a person who, however skilled, lends himself to a medical imposture. The Jury were the persons to affix the true meaning to the words, and to say whether or not it fitted the plaintiff. But they had not the chance if they followed the Judge's direction.

In the second place the defendant was, in my opinion, entitled to have the Jury's decision as to the plea of fair comment, whether or not, in all the circumstances proved, the libel went beyond a fair comment on the plaintiff and on the system of medical enterprise with which he associated himself, as a matter of public interest treated by defendant honestly and without malice.

The plea of fair comment does not arise if the plea of justification is made good, nor can it arise unless there is an imputation on a plaintiff. It is precisely where the criticism would otherwise be actionable as libel that the defence of fair comment comes in. But the learned Judge put aside that defence, and told the Jury that unless a justification was proved they were bound to find a verdict for the plaintiff, and that unless justified the libel is not fair comment and cannot come within the region of fair comment.

I agree in what Sir Edward Clarke said to us of the evil which may flow from an Order for a new trial in this case. In all cases it is a most deplorable result, not to be entertained upon any but the most solid grounds, as the only means of redressing a clear miscarriage. In the present case I regret it all the more, because the amount of the verdict seems to indicate that the Jury took the plaintiff's view of the facts. But I cannot reconcile myself to allowing a verdict to stand when I am convinced that the opinion of the Jury was not really taken on two vital points on which the defendant was in law entitled to insist, and did insist.

Lord Robertson: My Lords, I entirely agree with the judgment which has just been delivered by my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack.

Lord Atkinson: My Lords, I concur in the opinion that this Appeal should be dismissed and the Judgment of the Court of Appeal affirmed.

In the long and elaborate summing up of the learned Lord Chief Justice I find the following passages in addition to those quoted by the then Master of the Rolls in his Judgment:—"But I am entitled to tell you that the defendant is not entitled to call the plaintiff a quack because he advertises, and Mr. Shee very properly corrected himself when I pointed out that he had gone too far. Mr. Shee at first said, quite unintentionally, that a man was a quack if he advertises. I should have been bound to tell you that that is not the law. Mr. Shee very properly withdrew the expression, and said if a man advertises, it is some evidence of his being a quack. The fact of the plaintiff having advertised, and making up his prescriptions and sending them by post, has nothing to do with this case; the question for you is simply this: Aye or No, is this man, an M.D. of Paris, a quack or not?"

And further on, when dealing with the advertisement, the contents of which Dr. Prichard, Mr. Cheatle and Mr. Yearsley had described as absolute nonsense, the Lord Chief Justice instructed the Jury as follows:—"The publishing of that advertisement does not in any way show that Dr. Dakhyl was a quack, but if he was a party to that advertisement, and if it is not nonsense, of course, you would think that he was a man who had to a certain extent puffed a system, which may be a perfectly good system, in a way which was not very gentlemanly and not very straightforward; and if it is nonsense, it is a thing he ought not to have done. Upon that Mr. Shee says: 'I am justified in calling any man who was a party to such an advertisement a quack of the rankest description.' That is for you. All I can say to you is this: You have to consider it from the point of view of the evidence, whether because a man has published an advertisement showing that he is not a gentleman, that he is a man whom you would not like to have much to do with; but, on the other hand, it does not show that he is a quack. But if you come to the conclusion that he, a gentleman of medical skill, knew that that was a lie, you would not think very much of him."

From these and other passages to the same effect contained in the summing up, it is, I think, clear that at the trial Mr. Shee, on behalf of the defendant, put forward, or attempted to put forward, the same contention he has so clearly and forcibly put forward before your Lordships, namely, (1) that the accusation made against the plaintiff in the words which have been described as the sting of the libel, amounted in effect to this, and only to this, that the plaintiff "was a quack of the rankest species by reason of his connection with the Drouet Institute and by reason of his having resorted to and adopted the quack methods of that notorious establishment." And (2) that the libel so interpreted was true in substance and in fact, or if not, was a fair comment.

I do not for a moment suggest that the meaning thus put upon the libel by the defendant is its true meaning, but I think it would be impossible successfully to contend that it is not reasonably susceptible of that construction, or, to use the words of Lord Esher, in *Merivale v. Carson*, 20 Q.B.D., 279, that, "it could not be thought by any reasonable man to have that meaning." If that be so, as I think it is, it was the right of the defendant to have it in some form of words distinctly left to the Jury to say whether the *meaning* so put upon the libel by the defendant was, in fact, the meaning it conveyed to the mind of the ordinary reader. This, however, was not done. No such question was ever left to the Jury. The contention was practically ruled out, and the reason why it was not left to them is, apparently, this, that the libel, read in the sense so contended for by the defendant, does not necessarily impute to the plaintiff want of skill or professional incompetence at all; whereas it would appear to me that the learned Lord Chief Justice was of opinion that the words "he is a quack of the rankest species," necessarily conveyed an imputation of want of skill or incompetence, and that his instruction to the Jury on the point amounted to a direction to that effect. He treated the question of the plaintiff's "being a fully qualified man able to deal with the treatment" of the diseases treated in the Drouet Institution as being put beyond all controversy by his possession of the degree of M.D. of Paris, and nearly at the end of his summing up he uses the following words:—"It seems to me that the first question you have to consider is: Has the defendant established before you that this man was a quack of the rankest description? That is the sting of the libel. I am not going over it again. I have told you what that means, and you will consider it from that point of view. If the defendant has not established it then, of course, the plaintiff is entitled to your verdict. Upon the other part of the case, if you think the system of the Drouet Institute, which Dr. Dakhyl is now carrying on, is a system which no competent medical man ought to be a party to, then you would not think so much of him."

But the only portion of his summing up in which he had purported to tell the Jury what those words meant was the passage first quoted by the Master of the Rolls, in which he stated that they meant not only "an incompetent person, but a person who puffs his own incompetence before the public," a person "who pretends to medical skill he does not possess."

With all respect to the learned Lord Chief Justice, I think he was in error in the course he took. I think that in effect he took upon himself to determine the question which it was the province of the Jury to determine, namely, the meaning which the libel in fact conveyed to the mind of an ordinary reader, the sense in which the words complained of were to be understood by that reader.

Upon the question of fair comment, with equal respect to the Lord Chief Justice, I think he also fell into error. To show that, it is only necessary to quote two passages from his summing up dealing with this subject. They respectively run as follows:—"(1) You were told yesterday, and you were told again this morning by Mr. Shee, that the real question here was—was this fair comment, and that if it is fair comment, the fact that the defendant has used strong or exaggerated language, if honestly used, would not prevent it from being fair comment. Upon one part of the case that is a perfectly just observation, namely upon that part of the case which involves the question of the kind of practice that the plaintiff has carried on; but I am bound to tell you (and I ought to tell you plainly and forcibly, as I indicated to Mr. Shee when he was addressing you, and when he rather invited my observation, and took it, as he always does, very fairly) that that has nothing to do with the personal attack upon the plaintiff as a man in his profession. If you find that the defendant has libelled the plaintiff in his profession as a medical man, the fact that the defendant wanted to comment upon a system which he did not approve of would be no justification at all. (2) Therefore in so far as this paragraph, if it be a paragraph, which is otherwise libellous, relates to the system carried on by the Drouet Institute, of which the plaintiff was the physician, and to criticising that system because it was a system purporting to advise people without seeing them—in so far as that is a matter for consideration what Mr. Shee told you about fair comment would be (and I tell you so) absolutely right, and you ought not to condemn a man because he has used strong language about it. The other branch of the case is the attack upon the individual, and, as has been laid down by many Judges of far greater experience and ability than anything I can ever hope to attain to, fair comment is not to be made the opportunity of personal attack. Therefore, the first question you have to consider is aye or no, is there any personal attack on the plaintiff in his profession as a medical man? If there is not, the personal element goes out of the case, and you may then consider a great deal of what has been said to you as to the criticism upon the system, but if beside the system which is supposed to be attacked and criticised there is personal comment, then you have to consider whether it is true."

The statement of the law contained in these passages is, I think, enforced in other portions of the summing up. I cannot find that it is qualified in any. It is, in my opinion, altogether too wide. A personal attack may form part of a fair comment upon given facts truly stated, if it be warranted by those facts; in other words, in my view if it be a reasonable inference from those facts. Whether the personal attack in any given case can reasonably be inferred from the truly stated facts upon which it purports to be a comment is a matter of law for the determination of the Judge before whom the case is tried, but if he should rule that this inference is capable of being reasonably drawn, it is for the Jury to determine whether in that particular case it ought to be drawn.

The well-known passage from the judgment of Mr. Justice Crompton in *Campbell v. Spottiswood* (3 B. and S., 778) relied upon so strongly by Sir Edward Clarke, was not confined to literary criticism, but applied "to writers on any public matter," and distinctly laid down the principle that if base and sordid motives which are "not warranted by the facts" be imputed, the fact that the writer *bonâ fide* believed his imputation to be well founded affords no defence. *Joynt v. The Circle Trade Company*, 2 K.B., 1904, is to the same effect.

In this case the established facts might not warrant the personal charge made against the plaintiff of being "a quack of the rankest species," if that charge necessarily implied "incompetence or want of skill" on his part, but if, on the other hand, the libel bears the meaning contended for by the defendant, and, as I have already said, I think it is reasonably susceptible of that meaning, then the question whether the imputation was a fair comment in that it was warranted by the established facts was quite another matter, and should have been left to the Jury to determine.

The assumption on which the learned Lord Chief Justice appears to have proceeded, namely, that incompetence or want of skill was necessarily imputed to the plaintiff, shaped and coloured his whole summing up. It led him to instruct the Jury upon the law in a manner which amounted to misdirection, and prevented him from taking the opinion of the Jury on an issue raised by the defendant as to the meaning of the libel. It was, I think, an erroneous assumption, and the fact that it was acted upon necessitates that there should be a new trial, however hard it may be on the plaintiff to be burdened with the cost of a second investigation.

There can be no more just and wholesome rule of practice, in my opinion, than that laid down by Lord Halsbury in *McDougall v. Knight*, 14 A.C., 199, as to raising new questions on appeal, but this case does not come within it. The questions raised here are not new. They were, in my view, raised below, and practically ruled upon by the Lord Chief Justice in the course of the case.

Questions put:
That the Order appealed from be reversed.
The Non-Contents have it:
That the Appeal be dismissed with costs.
The Contents have it.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE EDALJI CASE.

Nothing that has yet happened has shown more clearly the weight and strength of the opinion that has been formed in favour of a public inquiry into the Edalji case than the memorial of the professors of Birmingham University to the Home Secretary, and the protest of professors of Dublin University and other distinguished men which was sent to the *Times* by Dr. Maurice Gerothwohl. Both these documents were inspired by the discovery that there was to be no independent public inquiry into the case, and the most significant point about them is that both insist upon the need of such inquiry into the conduct of the police and the Home Office itself. The Birmingham petition speaks of an inquiry into "the conduct of all the officials concerned." The Dublin protest speaks, with greater precision, of "the conduct of all officials concerned, whether of the Home Office or the Staffordshire Constabulary." The Birmingham petition has been sent in, and Mr. Gladstone has answered it in a letter to Sir Oliver Lodge. In his letter Mr. Gladstone says, in complete contradiction of what had been previously understood, that he never had and has not any intention of investigating the conduct of the officials concerned. He goes on to explain that the case was considered by his predecessor in consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown; that when it came before him early last year—this apparently refers to the application made to him by the Editor of Truth—"though he was not altogether satisfied with some of its aspects, he could see no adequate reason for interfering with the decision which had been arrived at"; but that later developments "have led him to think that it was necessary to submit the whole of the accumulated material to the review of experts of high judicial authority." We have here a full explanation of Mr. Gladstone's attitude, and of the private inquiry into the case which is now proceeding. But it is practically certain that this was not in the least what Sir Conan Doyle understood when he was informed that an inquiry was to be held; nor what Sir Robert Romer understood when he consented to preside over the committee of inquiry. There would seem to be some mystery behind it all, which is only too much in keeping with all that has gone before, and which does not promise well for the result of such inquiry as is being held.

There is, I suppose, a possibility that the report of the gentlemen now examining "the accumulated material" may be of such a nature as to compel Mr. Gladstone to order the public inquiry so obstinately refused. I confess I have not much faith in this, partly because I doubt whether all the material accumulated at the Home Office affords an adequate ground for forming a true and just opinion on the case, still more because it is difficult, after all that has happened, to believe that a genuine public inquiry, embracing the conduct of "all the officials concerned, whether members of the Home Office or the Staffordshire Constabulary" will ever be ordered by the Home Office except on compulsion. We shall probably know before many days are past whether this view is or is not well-founded. In the meantime, however, it is important that all who feel the need of such inquiry should be prepared for the worst, and when they know it, be ready to set in motion that compulsion which will alone be effectual. This, of course, can only be done through the House of Commons. There has never been a case which calls more loudly than this for a searching public judicial investigation. And no feature in it compels that conclusion more than the persistent opposition of the Home Office to every demand for inquiry, and every attempt to ascertain the grounds for its own decisions. This is a case in which a man was convicted on a *primâ facie* incredible charge, upon evidence the value of which depended absolutely upon the impartiality, straightforwardness, and veracity of the local police. The police are shown to have been ready in previous instances to believe the very worst against the prisoner on grounds which appear to be worthless and have never yet been explained. Subsequently to the conviction, again, the police are shown to have made obviously indefensible allegations against the man for no apparent purpose but to prejudice a pending appeal against the conviction. This appeal goes to the Home Office, and is there decided upon the strength of confidential communications between that Department and these same local police. The prisoner's friends ask to be allowed to see these confidential communications on which the conviction has been upheld, and permission is refused. For the space of three years afterwards the Home Office resists every attempt to ascertain what has passed behind the scenes. If the opinion is formed on this that there is something behind which will not bear the light of day, the Home Office has itself alone to thank. The facts which all the world knows are sufficient to justify the worst suspicions. The interests of justice, the desirability of maintaining public confidence in the good faith and integrity of the police, the equal desirability of protecting the Home Office itself from suspicion of screening police misconduct, all point to the necessity of giving full publicity to the true facts. When under these circumstances publicity is obstinately refused, regardless of the unfavourable inferences thereby suggested against the Department which gives the refusal, no one will believe that concealment is not being chosen as the less of two evils. I make these observations in anticipation of the result of the inquiry now proceeding. As the position stands they are justified by Mr. Gladstone's frank declaration that he has not the slightest intention of holding a public inquiry. If he hereafter alters that intention, so much the better. If he adheres to it, Parliament must know the reason why.

BISHOP BRINDLE AND HIS CLERGY.

On Sunday, March 10, the Rev. Father Meenagh addressed to his congregation at St. Mary's, Alfreton, a forcible complaint against the action of his ecclesiastical superior, the Bishop of Nottingham. References to the address have appeared in several local papers, and a full report may be found by those who desire it—it is worth reading—in the *Alfreton and Belper Journal* of March 15. The story affords a striking confirmation of all that has been said of late as to the autocratic disposition of the Roman Catholic Bishops in England, and their scant consideration for the interests and feelings both of the laity and the parochial clergy; and as

regards the Diocese of Nottingham in particular, its effect is accentuated by what has recently been told of the action of Bishop Brindle towards Father Hays in the Market Rasen case.

As in the case of Father Hays, the aggrieved priest in the present instance is one highly respected for long and valuable service. He has worked for twenty-six years in the mining district of Derbyshire, where there is a considerable Catholic element, largely composed of Irish miners. Prior to his advent, Bishop Bagshawe, then Bishop of Nottingham, had been for some time unable to get a priest to take charge of the mission at Clay Cross. When Father Meenagh undertook it there was no Catholic church in the district, and no preparation for building one. He took up his quarters with the miners at Alfreton, and by strenuous exertions succeeded within a year and a half in getting a church built and opened at Clay Cross. He then set to work and built another church at Alfreton, and, having done that, he next got a presbytery built at Clay Cross. For all these years he has had good congregations in those two places, and has conducted the services almost without a break, walking twelve miles over the Derbyshire hills every Sunday to perform his duty. Some few years ago a gentleman named Wright, a wealthy convert to Romanism, settled at a house called Swanwick Grange, about a mile from Alfreton. He proceeded to build a private oratory in his grounds. In October, 1903, this oratory was opened to the public with the approval of the Bishop, and another priest has been regularly holding services there. The result has been to take away about two-thirds of Father Meenagh's congregation at Alfreton. This result was foreseen, and when Father Meenagh was informed of the proposal to open the oratory, he wrote to Mr. Wright saying that he could not assent to it. He pointed out that a large proportion of his congregation came from a neighbouring place named Ripley, to which the new chapel was a mile nearer than Alfreton Church, that the loss of these people would mean a loss of £50 a year to his church, and that if this support was lost, "Alfreton Mission will have to be closed, and this means the closing of Clay Cross also." The priest's protests, however, were disregarded both by Mr. Wright and by the Bishop. Apparently there was some arrangement for compensating Father Meenagh by a small dole from the offertory at Swanwick, and a few months ago the Bishop stated that 10s. a week was being paid to Alfreton. On hearing of this statement, Father Meenagh at once informed the Bishop that the largest sum he had ever received in one week was 6s., and requested that the balance which appeared to be due to Alfreton for the previous three years should be paid to him. The Bishop did not answer the letter—one remembers here how Father Hays' letters from New Zealand were left unanswered by the same prelate—but since that date the full 10s. a week has been paid.

It would seem, however, that Father Meenagh, after three years' struggle, has at last come to the conclusion that it is impossible to keep his mission going under these conditions, nor has he much motive for persevering in the attempt, seeing that the greater part of his congregation has disappeared. In the address above referred to he told his people he could hold out no longer, that he could not honestly beg for his mission under existing circumstances, that the church at Clay Cross could not exist without Alfreton, and that his twenty-six years' work was "knocked on the head." He pointed bitterly to the array of empty seats, and the one-and-twenty people present at Mass where he had long had eighty, and he asked whether Rome would allow two public churches to be closed for the sake of opening a private oratory, and whether this was the way to convert England. The good father is an Irishman, and does not measure his words when his blood is up; but no one can fail to sympathise with him, or to recognise that he has a real grievance. One can see, of course, the sort of justification that will be pleaded for the action of which he complains. It may be said that if fifty people who formerly attended his church now go to the private chapel, the chapel is a public convenience, and, so far, in the general interest of the Catholics of the district. But the private chapel was not built for the public convenience, but for that of a private individual. Had it been proposed to build a new church and destroy one already existing in order to save part of the congregation a mile walk, the proposal would not have been countenanced, and money would not have been contributed for the purpose. Father Meenagh is, therefore, right when he declares that his work has been sacrificed to suit the convenience of one wealthy Catholic, and if the result is that one, not to say both, of his churches is closed, the Church will have lost a public place of worship, erected at great labour and cost, and have nothing in exchange but a temporary right to use a private chapel. Setting aside altogether the lack of consideration for a priest who has laboured with admirable devotion and effect for over a quarter of a century, the Bishop's action is utterly impolitic from the point of view of Church interests, unless it be sound policy to subordinate all other considerations to the pleasure and convenience of one wealthy layman. No one can read of cases like this—two of them in one diocese within six months—without recognising how much cause English Catholics have to doubt the wisdom and competence of their bishops.

In the article of February 27, which gave the history of Dr. Carmont's successful struggle to stop the misapplication of the Mitchell Trust by the Scottish bishops, I observed that this case showed that there is an effectual remedy in the civil courts for the diversion of trust funds by bishops, if any one can be found bold and unselfish enough to put it in force. Among other letters since received in reference to that article is the following from a highly respected Roman Catholic priest, who has written to me on previous occasions:—

> The whole Catholic body should be grateful to you for your article of February 27. As you say, we have, no doubt, the government that we deserve, and yet our punishment is a heavy one, for we did not choose our present rulers, and in Southwark and Westminster they were imposed upon us against our wishes. Your columns have put before the world the only results that could be expected.
>
> You tell us that anyone of us can bring the squanderers of Church property to justice by moving the High Court. Is that so? What *locus standi* have I as a simple priest? I should not fear the honourable fate of Dr. Carmont: indeed, I doubt if in these days such a fate would befall me. In a little book written by Mgr. Goddard, entitled "Manual of Ecclesiastical Law and Practice in Missionary Countries," I read, on p. 45, these words: "Bishops may not without permission of the Holy See be prosecuted before the law Judge: but probably whenever this permission is asked for it will not be refused, because the tendency to recognise the authority of the land becomes greater every day

in matters that are not purely spiritual, and in countries that are distinctly hostile to the Church."

Inasmuch as Archbishop Bourne and Bishops Amigo and Cahill seem to have been immediately concerned in the alienation of trust funds, the first step will be to ask permission of the Holy See to bring the whole matter before the High Court. This permission will no doubt be accorded, and thus all ecclesiastical censure may be avoided. But all this, of course, depends upon the question, have I, as a simple Catholic priest or layman, any *locus standi* before the High Court?

Pray, Sir, continue your efforts to help the Catholic body in England to understand and assert their position. Universal grumbling avails nothing. We need wise and strong action.—Yours truly, SENIOR.

This letter is interesting as showing how "ecclesiastical censure" may possibly be avoided by any one desirous of fighting the question in the civil courts. I cannot say, however, in view of what has happened hitherto, that I regard the prospect of obtaining the sanction of the Holy See to civil proceedings as hopefully as does my correspondent; and I should recommend any one who proposes to test the question to be prepared to face ecclesiastical censure if necessary, and every other inconvenience to himself, as did Dr. Carmont in the case of the Scottish Clergy Sustentation Fund. As to the question about *locus standi* I am not qualified to express an opinion. It is a matter for a lawyer. In the Scottish case Dr. Carmont's *locus standi* was not open to question. As a priest he had a sort of reversionary interest in the fund, which would clearly entitle him to seek the protection of the Court. It may be that any private individual who seeks to call a trustee to account must have some sort of personal interest in the trust. But as such interest in the cases in question extends almost to all Catholics in the dioceses concerned, there is a wide field in which to find a plaintiff, even if it be only a nominal one. I may point out that the question of the Southwark trusts has already been raised before the Charity Commission by one layman, who was certainly able to claim a *locus standi* for the purpose, and I presume that what would be sufficient to create a *locus standi* before the Charity Commission would be sufficient before the High Court. This is certain, that if episcopal administrators of trust funds are ever to be called to account and reduced to order, it will have to be done by the spontaneous action of aggrieved Catholics at a certain amount of personal inconvenience and expense. The hope which existed at one time of intervention from Rome in the scandals of the English Church has long since come to an end. It received the *coup de grâce* when Cardinal Merry del Val sent to Archbishop Bourne the letter addressed to him respecting the contemplated proceedings before the Charity Commission. Henceforth it is certain that if the Catholic clergy and laity desire to obtain redress of their grievances they must trust to their own efforts.

MORE LIGHT ON STREET NOISES FINANCE.

In the article in TRUTH of March 6 on the last balance-sheet of the Street Noises Abatement Committee, otherwise the Betterment of London Association, it was suggested that Bowden Green, the presiding genius of this concern, was once more practising the old trick of obtaining large sums by way of "deposit" from persons appointed as secretaries or collectors, by means of which he in former days victimised so many people in connection with the National Thrift Society. This inference was drawn partly from the fact that in his last account Green enters among his receipts a sum of £1,000 as "amounts advanced for the development of the movement during its early years," while on the other side he enters £250 as repayment of such advances, and £82 16s. 6d. as "interest on deposits"; and partly from information I received two or three years ago that this practice of obtaining deposits was again being practised by him, and that as much as £500 was being asked for a secretaryship. From my own knowledge of Green, I had no doubt in my own mind that this inference was correct; but I am now in a position to state the fact without any question at all. At least three gentlemen have deposited with Bowden Green sums of £300 during the period covered by his last account; and negotiations were pending with a fourth at the very moment when my article was in the press. The story of this last gentleman, whom it will be sufficient to refer to as Mr. B., shows exactly how Bowden Green is carrying on this game.

In the third week in February, under the heading, "Secretaryship and Investment," an advertisement appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* for a gentleman "able to invest a few hundred pounds for short period," as "secretary and interviewer in West End of London." Mr. B. replied to this advertisement, and had an interview with Bowden Green on February 23, when particulars of the proposed appointment were given him. After a second interview on February 25, when the appointment was verbally offered and accepted, an interview was held to sign the agreement on March 1. Green had professed to be in a great hurry to conclude the business, and that he really was in the greatest hurry is sufficiently shown by the fact that at this interview on March 1, before the agreement was signed, he produced a printed circular from the Betterment of London Association applying for subscriptions, on which Mr. B.'s name was already printed as West London Secretary, and also printed cards with Mr. B.'s name on them as representative of the Association, for his use in canvassing personally for subscriptions. It is also a significant circumstance that the agreement which he produced for signature was in a lithographed form. Although the date "first day of March" is also lithographed, blank places were left for the insertion of names, sums of money, rate of interest, etc., so that evidently Green did not go to the expense of having the agreement printed for this occasion only, but was laying in a stock for future use. Probably his old stock happened to have run out at this moment. The agreement is between the Betterment of London Association and Mr. B., and recites the appointment of Mr. B. as secretary of the West London branch, and that "the Association purposes raising a sum of about £3,000 for the extension and development of its work throughout the metropolis, and for promoting one or more Bills in Parliament, etc." It then makes the following agreement as to Mr. B.'s remuneration, namely:—

A salary and commission equal to one-half of the first five hundred pounds obtained by him for the Association, together with one-fourth of all amounts from five hundred pounds to one thousand pounds, and ten per cent. of all sums obtained by him above one thousand pounds. Upon all renewal contributions

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obtained by the said (Mr. B.), including those originally received without his instrumentality, it is hereby agreed that a uniform commission of twenty per cent. shall be paid to him. Upon the signing of this agreement the said (Mr. B.) shall deposit with the Association the sum of three hundred [pounds is evidently understood.—Ed.] upon which interest shall be paid at the rate of five pounds per cent., and shall be returned according to arrangement entered into on this date.

The arrangement referred to in the last paragraph was as follows:—

It is hereby mutually agreed and arranged that interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum shall be paid for the period of one year to (Mr. B.) upon his deposit with the Betterment of London Association. It is also agreed that at the expiration of one year from the date hereof, one-half of all amounts obtained for the Association by Mr. B., together with one-fourth of all other amounts coming to the West London office of the Association, shall be paid to Mr. B. until the amount of his deposit together with five per cent. interest on same has been returned to him, unless, by mutual consent, some other arrangement is entered into at the expiration of one year from this date.

Both these documents were duly executed on March 1, which was a Friday, and on the same night Mr. B. posted to Bowden Green two cheques for £150. Green had asked for two cheques because, for reasons best known to himself, he has two banking accounts, and he wanted to pay one cheque into each. The day after posting these cheques something occurred which made Mr. B. think that he had been a little incautious, and no one can deny that he had been. He knew nothing of the Betterment of London Association but what he had heard from Bowden Green, which was a great deal in point of words, but very little in point of substance. Green, according to his wont, had talked volubly of the magnitude of the work, and made a brave show of names of patrons and subscribers, press extracts, and all the paraphernalia on which he regularly trades, but when Mr. B. came to think the matter over, he reflected that he had absolutely no security for his money, and knew nothing of what prospect there might be of recouping himself in accordance with the foregoing agreement by subscriptions obtained from a sympathetic public. He therefore wired to his bank to stop the cheques, made an excuse to Bowden Green, and saw that gentleman again on Monday, March 4, when he suggested that some security should be given for his deposit. Green appeared to be exercised over the breakdown of the negotiations, but was not in a position to offer anything in the shape of security. Mr. B. then wrote to three of the gentlemen whose names are advertised as members of the Street Noises Abatement Committee, and their replies, which I will come to presently, did not encourage him to pay his money. On March 6 he saw the article in Truth on Bowden Green's last accounts, and so the negotiations ended.

Let us now look a little more closely at the agreement contained in the two documents above mentioned. The Betterment of London Association professes to want £3,000 for the extension of its work in London and the promotion of Bills in Parliament. A gentleman is engaged to take a leading part in raising this money. He is to put down £300 for one year at 5 per cent. He is to be paid, as salary and commission, 50 per cent. on the first £500 he collects, 25 per cent. on the next £500, and 10 per cent. beyond that amount. Considering that according to Green's last published statement, the income from subscriptions in the two and a half years ending December 31 last was only £1,446, the gentleman thus engaged would have to be not only extremely energetic, but extremely lucky, if he collected by his sole exertions £500 in one year. £250 of that goes into his own pocket, so that his exertions will only yield £250 towards the sum of £3,000 which it is the ostensible object of this arrangement to raise. In addition to this, he is to receive 20 per cent. on all renewals of old subscriptions that he obtains, and, in passing, I would point out the monstrous extravagance of paying over £250 a year to one of the secretaries of an association which, if Bowden Green is to be believed, has an income of less than £600 a year, and another paid secretary at its head office. But let us see what happens at the end of the first year. The secretary's exertions now begin to be devoted to paying off his deposit. To this purpose are to be applied 50 per cent. of all he collects, as well as 25 per cent. of all money coming to the West London branch from other sources. It would be absurd to suppose that the secretary's ordinary remuneration would be suspended after the first year, and there is nothing in the agreement to justify such a construction. If, therefore, the secretary is able to collect £500 in his second year, £250 of this will go to pay off his deposit and interest; while £125 will be due to him as salary and commission, leaving only £125 for the Association. Thus, at the end of two years, out of £1,000 collected from the public by this secretary the Association will have received £375, and all it will have got beyond that is a loan of £300 for a little over a year at 5 per cent. interest. The reader will see for himself that it would be necessary to engage eight secretaries on these terms, and to collect £8,000 from the public, in order to raise £3,000 in two years by this method.

It would be sheer waste of time to devote serious criticism to such an idiotic system of finance as this. From the point of view of the subscribers and the public, who are invited to support an important movement, it is nothing better than a fraud, since only 7s. 6d. out of every pound obtained in subscriptions by such means is to be devoted to the object for which it is given. From the point of view of the gentlemen who are invited to invest their money on such terms, it is very little better, since the prospect of their ever obtaining subscriptions to the amount which the agreement contemplates is quite visionary. As I have said, Green acknowledges in his last account subscriptions to the amount of £1,446 in a period of two and a half years, and a great part of this is collected by himself, or through the head office in Finsbury-circus. There is little likelihood, therefore, of the West London secretary being able to raise £500 in one year, even though he is to receive half of it himself, and in proportion as he falls short of raising this amount, so is his prospect of paying off his own advance deferred. Unless he can pay himself off in this way by his own exertions, there is absolutely no provision in the agreement for his being paid off at all. He has not a particle of security, and though it is a matter of law on which I hesitate to speak confidently, I cannot see that he would have under this agreement a right to sue for the return of his money, even if there were

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any one more substantial to sue than Mr. Bowden Green personally. The only real security he has is that when he comes to realise the impossibility of earning an adequate remuneration and repaying his loan by his own exertions, he may threaten to show up the swindle, and get Bowden Green into hopeless hot water with the various eminent personages under the shadow of whose names the game is carried on. If matters reach that point, what will probably happen, as has happened before, is that Green will advertise for a new secretary with a new deposit, and by this means pay off and silence the out-going man. This is what he used to do in the case of the Thrift Society, and from what I can learn it is what he is doing in connection with the Street Noises business. Of the three gentlemen above mentioned who have deposited £300, two have certainly not been paid off, and one of them is actually taking legal proceedings against Bowden Green at the present moment. I should think there is very little doubt that it was the pressing necessity of settling with the last-mentioned gentleman that made Bowden Green in such a hurry to get this £300 out of Mr. B.

It has been mentioned above that after he had become uneasy about the security for his £300 Mr. B. wrote to certain members of the "Council" of the Betterment of London Association. He obtained their names from the circular with his own name upon it as West London Secretary, which Bowden Green had printed before the agreement was signed. The full list on this circular is as follows:—

President: Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B.
Chairman of Council: Captain E. Murray-Cookesley.
Vice-Presidents and Members of Council include:—John Anderson, Esq., M.D; Sir Lauder Brunton, M.D., F.R.S.; Rev. Percival Clementi-Smith, M.A., C.C.; Colonel Andrew Duncan, M.D.; Alderman Sir John Whittaker Ellis, Bart.; John Fitzgerald, Esq.; Colonel H. Cooper Gleadow; Sir Robert H. Hobart, M.P., K.C.V.O.; Dr. Theo. B. Hyslop; Sir Alfred Jacoby, M.P.; Lewis J. Knuthsen, Esq., M.D.; Kenneth Lund, Esq., M.D.; Richard Loveland-Loveland, Esq., K.C.; Henry Morris, Esq., Pres. R.C. of S.; Robert Pierpoint, Esq.; Sir John Tweedy, F.R.C.S.; the Right Hon. Edmond R. Wodehouse, P.C.; W. Hale White, Esq., M.D.

The gentlemen whom Mr. B. wrote to were the chairman (Captain Murray Cookesley), the Rev. P. Clementi-Smith, and Colonel Andrew Duncan. He asked them whether they considered that if he invested £300 in the Association he would have any security or guarantee for its repayment, or words to that effect. Here are their answers:—

7, Cromwell-place, London, S.W., March 5, 1907.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of this day's date. It is the first I have heard of your being appointed Secretary of the Betterment of London Association.

I consented to be Chairman of the B.L.A., but I was quite unaware that any change was contemplated in the secretaryship; and I do not see what security you could have for the investment you mention.—Yours faithfully, E. M. Cookesley.

St. Andrew's Rectory, Doctors' Commons, E.C., March 6, 1907.

Dear Sir,—Your letter surprises me. I never looked on the Betterment of London Association as an *investment* for one's money—save so far as it is an investment to pay an annual subscription in order to try to ensure peace and quiet!

I can quite understand that any paid official who has to receive subscriptions should be required to give guarantees, etc.—Yours very truly, P. Clementi-Smith.

24, Chester-street, Grosvenor-place, March 5, 1907.

Dear Sir,—I know nothing of the matter on which you write; but it seems to me rather an extraordinary thing that the appointment of a secretary should depend on his placing £300 without any security with the Association. Speaking entirely personally, I would have nothing to do with such a proposal.—Yours faithfully, Andrew Duncan.

The interesting feature about these letters is the complete ignorance displayed by all the gentlemen of the affairs of the Association and the doings of Bowden Green. All three obviously learn for the first time of the practice of obtaining heavy cash deposits from the secretaries, though attention was called to it in Truth several years ago, and it has been followed systematically ever since. When it is brought to their notice, one of them unequivocally condemns it; another, without exactly justifying it, suggests that security may properly be required from an official who has to collect money. If the latter gentleman feels sufficient interest in the business with which his name is so prominently connected to read this article, he will see that there is no room for this suggestion. The "deposit" only purports to be required for one year; after that the secretary is to apply half the money he can collect towards paying himself back, and when he has succeeded in repaying himself, no provision is made for any security to the Association for the cash he may subsequently receive. The deposit is simply a loan to the Association at 5 per cent. for twelve months, certain; and I suggest to Mr. Clementi-Smith and all his colleagues that, now they have been fully apprised of the facts, they should lose no time in ascertaining why such loans have been needed, and to what purposes they have been applied. It may be taken as practically certain that all the members of the "Council" are as much in the dark about the business management of the Association, as the chairman and his two colleagues above-mentioned. It is obvious that no meeting of this body for dealing with such matters as the financial administration and the office organisation are held, or the chairman and the others would not be so completely in the dark as to what is going on. I do not suppose that the "Council" has ever met, unless it be in a committee-room of the House of Commons for the purpose of considering a Bill, or at some other such function which Green gets up from time to time for the purpose of showing how much he is doing, and getting free notices of the "movement" in the press. In point of fact, the "Association" exists only in name. It has no constitution or rules, no elective organisation or officers. It is entirely run by Bowden Green, who is in uncontrolled management of its money and operations, and "Vice-Presidents and Council" are simply gentlemen who, like the chairman, have "been asked" (of course by Bowden Green) to allow their names to be used by him in those capacities.

I do not wish to be unduly hard on the gentlemen whose names appear in the above list, for two or three of them are personally known to me. But in the public interest it is necessary to say, regardless of personal considerations, that they are greatly to blame in this matter. The real purpose which they are designed by Bowden Green to serve is sufficiently shown by the printing of all their names on a circular appealing for subscriptions. It is solely by virtue of such names, used with all the skill that a professional subscription-hunter like Bowden Green knows how to employ, that money for this movement is obtained in sums of unknown amount from people who have not the slightest idea to whom they are giving or by whom their money is administered. Gentlemen who allow their names to be used for this purpose have a direct

responsibility for the proper administration of the money which is given on the faith of their names. They cannot divest themselves of this responsibility by merely removing their names, as many appear to have done in the last two or three years, leaving Bowden Green free to replace them by others equally indifferent, and to carry on the game as before. It is not their business after the money has been obtained and disposed of to wash their hands of it. Their business is to find out what has become of it, to compel the rendering of proper accounts to the people from whom it has been obtained, and to take steps for the proper management of the business in future. At the present moment every gentleman in the list given above is morally as much answerable as Bowden Green himself for the preposterous financial statement which was printed in TRUTH the other day, and for the transactions between the Betterment of London Association and its paid secretaries, of which I have given a sample. There is only one way in which they can put themselves right with the subscribers and the public; that is, first, by insisting on a proper investigation of the finances of the Association for the last five years by an independent professional accountant, and the publication of proper accounts for the whole period; secondly, by the reconstitution of the Association on a proper legal basis, with an elective committee, a responsible honorary treasurer, and explicit rules. As long as any such association seeks to obtain a large annual revenue from the public, it must be conducted on the ordinary principles applicable to a business of this nature, and those who make any profit from it must be its paid servants, not its masters and rulers. Nor will such an association have much claim to public confidence if its principal official, even though a paid servant of the committee, has a record behind him like that of Mr. Bowden Green.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

I.—The Social Catechism.

(For the use of Females.)

[Certain catechisms, conveying instruction in religious and political matters, having lately been published, and having been received with favour by the public, I have arranged with a number of well-known experts in various departments of knowledge, to compile elementary educational formulas in this shape for the benefit of readers of TRUTH. I trust that they will be found useful. The following is the first of them.—ED. TRUTH.]

QUESTION: Who are you?

ANSWER: A female animal, endowed with Social instincts.

Q.: What do you mean by these words "Social instincts"?

A.: I mean the instincts which qualify a woman to shine in Society.

Q.: What is Society?

A.: The circle to which I belong.

Q.: Of whom does it consist?

A.: Of myself—and others.

Q.: How do persons get into this circle?

A.: In three ways: by Birth, by Purchase, and by Push.

Q.: How did you yourself get in?

A.: By Push.

Q.: What is Push?

A.: Push is the faculty of forcing yourself in where you are not wanted and appropriating a place to which you have no right.

Q.: Have you, then, no right to your place in Society?

A.: No right whatever.

Q.: How comes it, then, that the other members do not eject you?

A.: Because nine-tenths of them are in the same boat with myself, and the rest do not count.

Q.: What are the characteristics of persons in Society?

A.: Frivolity, extravagance, self-indulgence, and self-advertisement.

Q.: Does it require much money to be in Society?

A.: It does.

Q.: Have you, then, much money?

A.: I have none. But I know those who have.

Q.: Who pays your rent?

A.: My man friend of the moment.

Q.: Your rates and taxes?

A.: Also my man friend of the moment.

Q.: Your servants' wages?

A.: I do not pay my servants wages.

Q.: How then, are you able to keep your servants?

A.: Because I have my house constantly full of guests, out of whom my servants make what they can in gratuities.

Q.: It is your guests, then, who pay your servants' wages?

A.: It is.

Q.: Your smart frocks?

A.: My dressmaker provides me with those, and I recommend her to my rich acquaintances.

Q.: It is your rich acquaintances, then, who pay for your smart frocks?

A.: It is.

Q.: Do you not, then, pay for anything yourself?

A.: I pay for nothing myself.

Q.: Who is Father Vaughan?

A.: A preacher who wastes his time in telling people what everybody knew already.

Q.: Why does he thus waste his time?

A.: Because he hopes to reform Society.

Q.: And will he ever reform Society?

A.: He will never reform Society. It is impossible.

Q.: Why is it impossible?

A.: Because, if it were reformed, it would no longer be Society.

THE THEATRES.

"Her Son," at the Playhouse, and "The Little Admiral," at the Lyric.

Mr. Horace Vachell is the author of several novels, as announced on the playbill before me, besides that from which has been adapted the play which he entitles "Her Son," and somewhat euphemistically describes as new. New in a certain sense, perhaps, it is, since we have not seen anything like it for a good many years. But the types of character and the way events develop were properties of the stage and exploited with some success in the seventies. We may not have grown wiser nor better than our predecessors, but we have become different from them in our theatrical tastes. We like a sense of reality to hover like a mirage over the stage, a possibility that the things presented to us shall have happened somewhere at some time.

Here and in the nautical play, "The Little Admiral," produced by Mr. Lewis Waller at the Lyric Theatre, we are very far from any such illusion. But while in "Her Son" there is some attempt at characterisation, taken every advantage of by Miss Winifred Emery as the incredibly good and kind young woman, who renounces the man she loves, because of his prior attachment, and adopts his baby by the other woman, in "The Little Admiral" it is not so. Yet here, too, we have in Mr. Lewis Waller an actor yielding to none in his power of fascination for certain large sections of the public; in Mr. A. E. George an artistic actor who in my view stands in the first rank with very few on his level. As the reckless young naval officer, so improbably rescued by Miss Millard's influence from a career of dissipation, Mr. Waller made sometimes even his ardent followers smile and ripple with laughter at his strange doings; Mr. George's performance as the old sea dog was an admirable study of amiable senility, a lesson to any young actor as to how the thing is done; but having no substructure of real thought to fall back upon, the play was bound to fail before a modern audience.

So, too, with "Her Son"; though there was some observation and some characterisation, yet its great length and the amount of repetition soon made one insensible of such redeeming points. Mr. Cyril Maude was, of course, interesting as the much-loved lover of two, but it is curious how far less he seems to grip and hold one when not playing one of his famous character parts. The little boy filled a large place in the piece, and, indeed, was always running on and off the stage. The part was well played, but ended by becoming very tiresome. Children, if introduced at all in comedy, should always be episodic, and if their presence is the pivot of the plot, it is quite feasible to make the audience realise this in the brief intercourse of five minutes or so. Too facile is that appeal to sensibility which brings tears to ladies' eyes because they, too, have little ones at home. Many of us have, but one goes to the play with other objects in view than to realise the happy fact that they are with us, and likely to be a burden and a blessing for many years to come.

I have often said that I do not believe it possible to construct from a novel a first-rate play. What category "Her Son" should occupy in the hierarchy I leave to the modesty or arrogance of its writer to decide. But I do not wish to conclude these remarks without expressing my pleasure that Mr. Cyril Maude has taken a leaf out of the book of the Court Theatre. He should continue to give plays trial trips at matinées, and if he selects these with discrimination there is every possibility that he may be rewarded for the possible loss of a few hundred pounds by the gain of many thousands accruing from an unknown masterpiece thus brought to light.

The Van Dyck, at His Majesty's.

"Un Peu de Musique" is the title, omitted on the playbill, of M. Peringue's amusing dramatised episode, adapted by Mr. Lennox from the French. Founded on a real incident, a mystification, the same incident transferred to art continues its sway. I did not happen to know the plot, and defy anybody to have guessed from Mr. Tree's acting what was to be the conclusion.

It was the actor's opportunity, taken too full advantage of by Mr. Tree, who, one would have thought, had already expended enough energy in the revival of what was termed by a wit "a prehistoric peep," in the shape of "The Red Lamp." Here his "I wonder" recalled my lay visits to the Haymarket when I was first at school, and I ceased to wonder at the hold "The Red Lamp" had on me when I witnessed in more mature years the excellence of Mr. Tree's "Demetrius." Yes, it is a great effort, and I hope he will not fail to play "The Red Lamp" in Berlin.

But I return to my muttons, and pick the bone I mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph. Why does not Mr. Tree see that the episode is but an episode, a short story on the stage? Why, having done with his praise of John Peters's self, does he not satisfy himself with a touch of the piano keys, a graceful toying with the Stradivarius, a brief reference to the Van Dyck? No, he must run up and down the whole scale till one is weary. It sounds almost uncharitable to say this in face of the very fine performance given by Mr. Tree and Mr. Weedon Grossmith. Nothing could be better than the humorous taciturnity, the gradually awakening alarm of the moneyed proprietor of pictures and other "cheaply acquired" property, when he believes himself to be shut up alone with a lunatic. Nor could Mr. Tree's strange voice and suggestive power be better employed than in embodying this most artful of masquerading thieves. For thief, not lunatic, is Arthur Blair-Woldingham. Only, having created a perfect effect, it is the artist's business to pass on, or, having nothing different to say, to cease saying.

The confusion of the last five minutes, with the sham lunatic assisting his accomplices to remove all the furniture and works of art, save the sham Van Dyck, and occasionally barking like a dog at the keyhole, behind which crouches the miserable Peters, in terror of his life—this it would be hard to beat for comicality, and, indeed, I think it is as amusing a five minutes as is to be had in London at this moment.

* * * * *

The London Hippodrome now rejoices in the possession of a Tyrolese giantess, named Marie Fassnauer. Her dimensions are thrice those of ordinary women, her height eight feet, and her hobby going to church and knitting underwear for little children, to whom she is much attached. Surely this brief account should attract to the Hippodrome those interested in length—and breadth. Auto-Atlas is also at present at the Hippodrome. This gentleman can with ease lift with his teeth a motor-car containing passengers from the auditorium. He performs other feats, and may perhaps attempt a greater than all—to court the fair Marie Fassnauer.

"The Hurricane" will be produced here on Easter

This is to inform the readers of Truth that the Hotel Europe Lucerne, a favourite English house, will be open for Easter, Telegrams, "Europe, Lucerne."

The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, W. — 8090 Gerrard. The Restaurant and Hotel overlook the Green Park. Magnificent suite of Ball and Banqueting Rooms. Under the same Direction as the Carlton Hotel.

Monday, and as the waves are reported to rise to a height of eight feet in the arena, seats in the gallery to view should command a premium.

* * * * *

I see that the Lyceum Theatre is about to open again. The new tenants are called "Popular Playhouses, Limited," and deserve all praise if their intention of providing "the best of drama, thoroughly well mounted, and played by a cast worthy of the theatre," prove feasible, at half the price of any other West-End theatre. "Her Love Against the World" is the title of the opening play on the evening of March 30.

* * * * *

The statue of the late Sir Henry Irving will be the work of Mr. Thomas Brock, R.A. I am asked to mention that the final list of subscriptions will soon be published, and to add that all members of the theatrical profession who have not yet subscribed and wish to join in this memorial to their late chief should send their subscriptions to Mr. John Hare, 75, Upper Berkeley-street, W.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE M. CASIMIR-PERIER.

AS President of the Republic, M. Jean Casimir-Perier was a failure. He was too much *la fille à papa* to fit the place. As a private person and the President of the Anzin Collieries Company he was a success. He had been born to this position. His great-grandfather, Claude Perier, a Dauphinois notary, reorganised the Anzin collieries before the revolution, and prepared the way for their colossal prosperity. His son, who died of cholera in 1831, his grandson, the great friend of Thiers, and one of the best and most amiable of men, and his great-grandson, Jean Casimir, contributed to their prosperity. There was no break or swerving from a predetermined course in the administration. On the whole, the administration of the Periers made for the prosperity—or comparative prosperity—of the colliers. The last two Periers had an affable way of dealing with the mining population that prevented strikes, and when labour questions grew angry, facilitated compromises. The late M. Casimir-Perier's dinners and other feasts at the Elysée were the best set out and most intelligently sumptuous of any ever given there. He had a very pleasant way, when his shyness wore off, of receiving guests. Being so much *la fille à papa*, he rather over-rated the dignity of the Presidency, and felt too sensitively his nullity as President. He bitterly resented the long furloughs given by General Mercier, and the extreme reticence of M. Hanotaux about foreign affairs. He only knew of what the War Minister had done through a complaint of Baron de Mohrenheim—a step which brought on the Dreyfus affair. The sensitiveness and the notion of official dignity were expressed on his coffin, according to his last spoken wish—the simple Cross of the Legion of Honour, won in an action at l'Hay, near Paris, on September 18, 1870, side by side with the Grand Cross of the same order, which he had worn as President and ex-President of the Republic. M. Carnot, from a mistaken idea of the importance of a very high-class bourgeois President to the Russian Alliance, helped M. Casimir-Perier on towards that post. M. Carnot's time had nearly expired when he fell beneath Caserio's dagger. He had aided in bringing Casimir-Perier to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Presidency of the Chamber, and the Premiership, and did his best to make sure of his election to the tip-top Presidency of all. Everything had been at that time made subservient to the Russian Alliance. As the Anzin and Courriers collieries had secured a seven years' contract to coal the Russian Baltic fleet, M. Carnot looked forward to the hearty co-operation of the next President in the alliance policy. M. Casimir-Perier, as Foreign Minister, had signed the first diplomatic convention between France and Russia. Russian influence threw him too decidedly into a course of reaction, then the general course of politicians who had escaped narrowly from the smirch of Panamism and were glad to hang on to the Moderates and to Leo XIII. in the name of "l'esprit nouveau."

M. Casimir-Perier had one great negative defect—no sense of humour. He saw in each skit on himself a crime of *lèse majesté*. A gamin was arrested and sent before a police magistrate for crying "bow-wow!" as the President passed. He aggravated the offence by saying he did so because he saw in M. Casimir-Perier a resemblance to the dog that sits beside the driver of the market dray. An artisan found himself in a serious scrape for remarking, as he looked at the President's photo that hung in a shop window: "I prefer my own phiz *(binette)*, ugly though it is, to Casimir's." What President Casimir-Perier found most galling and unendurable was the espionage of the police. He could not stir anywhere without being tracked by agents from the Prefecture of Police or the Bureau of Public Safety. Some of them furnished not merely reports to his official chief, but to the newspapers. Visits of consolation to the widow of the President's best friend, who had not been long dead, caused the cup of bitterness to overflow, and the grand bourgeois President left the Elysée in a fit of anger with M. Dupuy, the Prime Minister, and Minister of the Interior. His subsequent life was entirely devoted to the Anzin mines, to leagues against tuberculosis and other diseases, and to schemes for improving the working class millions. He remained to the end in fast friendship with President Loubet. Mme. Casimir-Perier was her husband's first cousin.

Present-day catastrophes have a common character of monotony in their horror. They happen in the twinkling of an eye, and crush tens, or scores, or hundreds or more human beings out of existence, depriving death of all the calm beauty of "the first dark day of nothingness." "The bill of casualties" chiefly deals with mangled corpses, too shattered and torn to pieces to be identified as belonging to any one in particular.

Occasionally some heroic effort gives a tone of grandeur to the gruesome horrors. We find this element in the *Iéna* catastrophe. But for the grand conduct of men and officers who survived the explosion, the greater part of the fleet and town must have been destroyed. The words in which M. Brisson, as President of the Chamber, spoke of their efforts came, as

do most great things, from the heart. A nobler tribute to purposeful martyrdom to duty never had official utterance. So far from being stunned by the appalling situation in which they found themselves, the hell upon earth which raged around them seems to have called into play their finest mental faculties. Moltke said that if the improvised forces of Gambetta obliged the Germans to raise the siege of Paris there would be an end to standing armies. Likewise, may we not find a reason in the explosion of the *Iéna* to revolutionise naval armaments? The B powder, or melinite—a variety of cordite—is too dangerous to be of much good except to shipbuilders. Its liability to go off of itself renders it the almost certain destroyer of any vessel with a full store in a warm climate. When fresh it lights up easily into flame, but does not explode except when there is a mixture of ordinary gunpowder. Rather curiously, its potentiality cannot appear in explosive force if there be not the "stimulant" of the black powder or of fulminate. Any slight shock can set the latter going.

The first revelation of the destroying force of the picrate of potassium, which is the basis of melinite, took place on the eve of the Franco-German war in the Rue de la Sorbonne. A chemist had a store of that substance by him to use as a yellow dye. In exploding it wrecked nearly the whole street. "Smokeless powder" came out of the explosion, and the whole tactics of modern artillery by land and sea had to adapt themselves to this new discovery. The wonder now is that any great vessel can survive a cruise in a tropical sea or a sojourn in the Port of Toulon. A dry dock there grows like an oven when the weather is at all fine. The ordinary temperature there of the hold of a vessel like the *Iéna* is 45deg. C. This heat decomposes the melinite and makes it flame. The unavoidable mixture of gunpowder then "irritates," and there is an explosion. Infinitely minute pains are daily taken to test the state of the melinite and to cool the hold where it is stored. The general rule is for vessels, on entering a dry dock, to send their explosives to cold cellars at the arsenal. But in the case of the *Iéna* this rule had to be set aside so as to admit of a sudden departure for Morocco on an order from Paris.

I knew Admiral Ponty very well when aide of Vice-Admiral Gervais, and commander of the port of Bizerta. I heard him say that anxiety about explosives would kill him, and so it did. It also killed his wife, who had never the courage to read a newspaper until somebody else had looked over it for her and assured her that it contained nothing to shock or alarm her. She had known of too many cases of the spontaneous igniting of melinite stores ever to sleep with an easy mind when the Admiral was at sea. He had the very narrowest escape of being caught in an explosion in the Piræus. The whole Court had come down from Athens to see off some Imperial Russian visitors, and the French man-of-war lay near them. All just missed passing in an instant from time to eternity. But they remained in blissful ignorance of the danger they had run. Admiral Cuverville had in the *Admiral Duperré* an escape so narrow that he felt he must attribute it to the favour of the Archangel Michael. The melinite ignited spontaneously. A huge wave and a sudden change in the wind cooled the vessel, and drove the flames in a safe direction. The Admiral has lost no opportunity to attribute his escape to this supernatural protection. Another similar accident took place out at sea. Admiral Aube never returned from a cruise in a behemoth steel ship without feeling impelled to return thanks at some Lady shrine.

In scandalising the right-thinking people of *la rive gauche*, Antoine has made a crock of gold. The scandal lies in his having mounted, at the Odéon, an adaptation of Zola's novel, "La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret." Bruneau, for seventeen years the intimate friend of Zola, furnishes the musical accompaniment, corresponding to that of Mendelssohn in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It is meant to fill in pauses where words might answer less well than vague and yet suggestive musical harmony and melodious phrases. The word "*faute*" means "fall" in the Paradise Lost sense. That of the Abbé Mouret is due to the rousing effect on his whole nature of the Provençal garden, or *paradou*—a real paradise which has been suffered to run wild. Any one who pleases can enter it through a breach in the old crumbling wall. In this Eden, as in the primitive one, the serpent knows how to fit his arguments to fleeting circumstances. There is but one want in this garden, as presented at the Odéon—the want of heady Provençal perfumes. Joussaume, the stage decorator, cannot reproduce the fragrance of those scrubby plants, the sage, mint, southernwood, lavender, thyme, and other labiates which have crowded out the garden flowers and potherbs.

To give a summary of this play would be to serve up a dish of bare bones. Besides, you have the novel to refer to. Antoine, who, if a great artist, likes to take all the money he can out of a stage venture, produces "The Fall of the Abbé Mouret" at matinées as well as at evening representations. The Odéon, which used to be a theatre of empty benches, is now full as it can hold. Perhaps the studious youth of the neighbourhood hardly needed this to stir their passions, or the Catholics round about the play-house to remember they have fallen upon evil days.

That theatre is in the sharp accentuation of two sets of prevailing opinions in the most piebald district of this capital. You have there the Catholic Institute, Saint Sulpice's Church, the devout population which gathered round the monasteries and convents, now closed and for sale under the Combes Law, and then there is the grave Senate at the adjacent Luxembourg. You have, on the other hand, the very godless schools of the Faculties, the Sorbonne, College of France, where Renan used to lecture, the Boulevard St. Michel, the Boule Mich' of the students, with its crowd of free-and-easy lads and lasses from every province of France and country of Europe, not to omit the Japs, and the Chinese, of whom there is quite a settlement sent here to study at the expense of their Government—that is to say, of the old Empress Dowager. All these young people are aggressively unbelieving, and, for the time being, Antoine is one of their divinities.

Of course, the Catholic papers say their worst of "La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret," and the voluptuous music that chimes in with it. Drumont, while admitting that

the novel contains magnificent pages, deplores the bad taste which led the adaptor to collect "la crotte et la déjection." This phrase may be taken as the summing up of all the hostile opinions.

We had the mediæval priest—now revived by Sarah Bernhardt—in the villanous Archdeacon Frollo in "Notre Dame de Paris." But he is so absurdly unreal in his immorality and monstrous villany, that no Catholic thinks of taking offence when he stalks the stage. A good many years ago Ludovic Halévy, author of so many Offenbachanalian librettos, delighted the Catholic world with a dear, deliciously mellow curé, l'Abbé Constantin. It did not see that the author, an inveterate Jew, poked a little fun in bestowing on this personage every pleasing virtue he could think of. His object was to enter the Academy, and he succeeded almost at once. The character and whole play are as artificial as "Frou Frou," a drama from the same pen, and just as charming. Coquelin revived it not long ago at the Gaîté, and is now having a second aftermath at another theatre. Those who applauded the dear Abbé overlooked the danger of producing the cassock—in French, *soutane*—on the stage. To applaud an abbé implies the right to deride him.

We have had, since Halévy entered the Academy, "Le Duel" at the Français, by M. Lavedan, the son of a pious and influential Catholic, and a conforming Catholic himself; "Ces Messieurs," by Ancey, at the Gymnase; "Le Bourgeon" at the Vaudeville, by Georges Feydeau, with Porel as manager and stage manager, and disposed for risky spice; "La Sorcière," with its red Cardinal and inquisitor, at the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt; "La Soutane," by Brenède, at the Théâtre Molière, and "Sainte Thérèse" at the Sarah Bernhardt. That poetic drama is a betrayal with a kiss, but, to the innocent or voluntarily blind Society Catholics, less disrespectful to the church than the Bishop of Avila thinks it.

Dramatic authors must please the Parisiennes. If they do not like a play it has no run. How best please them? In showing their irresistible power over the other sex, "la soutane sur la scène" now takes. But that garment must be worn by a priest who is possessed by a maddening passion for some fair parishioner or secularised nun. Had the Bishop of Laval been fifteen years younger at the time of his adventure with the Carmelite abbess, he would have been an attractive character in a Vaudeville or a Gymnase play. Under one pretence or another all the fashionably religious people went to see "Le Bourgeon" at the Vaudeville. The author, perhaps anticipating this, had made the principal personage a tonsured divinity student merely. The sight of a cocotte bathing on the strand of Paramé kills his vocation for a professionally religious life. In "Ces Messieurs," the village curé trembles from terror when a rosy-cheeked and dimpled devotee accosts him and seems to desire spiritual direction. This, of course, is *blague*, but flattering *blague* to the taste of the Parisienne. A priest finding a motive for action in avarice or ambition would never fill a house with an elegant audience. He must be lost in love. A virtuous priest, with a mind illumined with heavenly light and a heart warmed with charity, could not fail to set a Parisian audience yawning.

The latest taking horror in the way of a *soutane*—the word is used figuratively—is "La Tentation de l'Abbé Jean," by M. Payen, now on at the Théâtre Moderne, where it replaces that droll "La Puce dans l'Oreille," at which the King laughed so continuously and heartily. I think I had better not analyse it, as the author has evidently the adventure in his mind of the Abbé Delarue and Marie Fremont, but with a different end. The Abbé Delarue has been undergoing the severest penances in a Tyrol monastery, spat upon, and treated with every contumely by the monks, and is under orders to proceed to Northern Canada. The dénouement of "La Tentation de l'Abbé Jean" is this: As with sobs and groans he confesses his adventure with Louise Gallin, a secularised sister, to his venerable mother, Louise's mother enters to call on the Abbé to make an honest woman of her daughter by a marriage *in extremis*. This is so well played to shock that it brings down the house. Village life in France is amusingly and truly represented in this play. It is not always edifying, but the peasants represented have their good points and even virtues. M. Payen seems to advocate the marriage of the priest. Most dramatic authors who busy themselves with the *soutane* now do. With an inconsistency that hardly any one notices, they are for minimising in the cases of laics the matrimonial tie almost to non-existence. If they succeed, that tie will be too completely useless for any layman to be at the trouble of incurring it. The only marriages at mayoralties will then, perhaps, be those of priests who have broken with the Church.

A PEER ON POPULARITY.

JESSIE says that she is quite sure you won't stand it if I write any more about myself, and that I really must write a topical article this week. She says, too, that she is inclined to think it would be more dignified. As a matter of fact, I believe it is really her mother, Mrs. Perks, who has been making a fuss about it to her. Mrs. Perks is very strict in her ideas, and I understand that it was one of the bitterest blows in her life when Jessie got a place in the chorus, instead of going as what they call a 'tweeny maid—some sort of a housemaid, Jessie tells me—in the family where Mrs. Perks used to be cook before she married. And although when Jessie got on so wonderfully through being brought out as an American beauty she got more reconciled to things, and even tried to learn the American accent, so as to keep "in the picture," as Jessie says, she never went down to the theatre with her without taking some sort of a tract and trying to convert Jessie's dresser while she was waiting for her in her dressing-room. I don't believe she ever succeeded, though. Then again, Mrs. Perks was horribly cut up about it when Jessie got engaged to me, because she is very religious in some sort of queer Nonconformist way, and, to use her own words, sits under some preacher—I forget his name, but his chapel is somewhere near Westbourne-grove, and his sermons are chiefly about Passive Resistance and the Abolition of the House of Lords. She has sort of gathered the idea from him that all peers are quite unspeakable, and that all the curses in the Old Testament against the heathen were meant for them; and it was one of her ambitions that Jessie should marry a minister of some kind. She has come round more or less now, I am glad to say. The first time I realised it was one day when she told me that her husband had been a colonel in the army, though Jessie had already told me, when I first asked her to marry me, as one of the

reasons why she oughtn't to, that he was a private in a line regiment, and a bad little hat at that. That is one of the things I admire Jessie for so much: she is about the only woman I ever knew who tells me the exact truth about things.

Anyway, it was Mrs. Perks didn't like my writing about Jessie and myself, now that every one knows who I am. She says it shows a want of dignity; and Jessie is so thoroughly good to her mother, and lets her have her own way about nearly everything—it is another of the things I admire her so much for—so, of course, I shall have to humour her. We have both tried very hard to think of a subject. I do wish, by the way, you would have used my article on the Suffragettes last week; I think it was quite one of the best I have ever done—and so does Jessie. We hit on the Boat Race at last, not because I know any more about it than any one else, though I had a cousin in the Cambridge boat this year—I never was a wet-bob myself—but because it is the sort of thing the newspapers always make no end of a fuss about whenever it comes round, and I thought you would like to have something new about it.

It has always struck me that there is more piffle written about the Boat Race than about almost anything else, and now, at last, by reading all the papers and looking up their back numbers and things, I believe I have found out why it is, and I expect it will surprise you when I tell you. It is because it helps them to fill up a lot of pages for nothing—or nearly. I find that all of them give a map of the course of some kind—every year—so of course it doesn't cost them a penny, because they keep the plate, or whatever you call it, in stock. And then they all give a sort of table, showing the races and who won them from the beginning. Of course, they have got that in stock, too, and all they have to do is to add one line for last year's race on to the bottom, which can't cost them much. Then they have a lot of long articles that have been written about the race for years and years, and that are all as nearly as possible word for word the same; so they just change a word here and there and use them up again, and, of course, do not have to pay any one for writing others. Most of them get nearly a page a day, for weeks perhaps, that costs them nothing, and they must save no end over it. Of course, you cannot blame them, but it does make me smile to read all the nonsense they hash up about the perennial popularity of the Boat Race, and the reasons they give for it, when all the while they know that they make it themselves in order to economise. Of course, when people read so much about it for days before, and about the thousands that are going to see it, they just go there because of the others that they are told are going, just as they would go to anything else that was so well advertised. In fact, it only shows you how powerful an advertisement can be, because they all know that not one in a thousand of them will see anything of the race at all, and the rest will just see two boats going along the river not nearly so fast as a motor-'bus, with a lot of very warm young men rowing in them, and only see that for about three seconds.

But it is the reasons that the papers give you for its popularity that are really so screaming. They say it is because it is the only really honest piece of rowing we have left. Perhaps it is. But do you suppose that if you took eighteen of the biggest scoundrels whose names you put in your Cautionary List and set them to row a race, and gave up columns and columns to it in all the papers for days beforehand, you would not get just as big crowds on the tow-path as you do now, or bigger? And then they say that the Boat Race is popular because it is rowed by real amateurs, who are absolutely untainted by professionalism. Then I suppose they would say that the Derby would be more popular if you had amateurs up instead of professional jockeys, or that you would get bigger crowds to see a billiard match for amateurs than between Stevenson and Reece. I could write no end to show you that it is all nonsense what they write about the perennial popularity, and I should just like to give you one illustration. Supposing something really exciting happened just before the Boat Race day—if Ireland was destroyed by an earthquake, or the Kaiser declared war upon us—so that the papers just had to fill their columns with it, and had not got room to write about the race at all; how many people do you think would go and see it? I wonder.

The real truth of the matter is that the Boat Race is only popular because the papers find it pays them to make it so. And it will go on being popular just as long as it does pay them and no longer. It only shows you what a lot of power a journalist has, and it is one of the things that makes me feel glad I became one instead of going into partnership with a cousin of mine in an S.P. Turf commission house, as I had some thought of doing. That is all I have to say about the Boat Race, and I hope you will like it, because I rather think it is quite the best article I have written for you yet. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE middle-aged, middle-sized, middle-class man, dear Lady Betty, is the most perfect human product in modern England. The type represents security—a quality which is much valued by our cat-hearted generation. The old suburban Englishwoman expressed the sentiments of her fellow-countrymen accurately when she said: "'There is nothing new under the sun'; we have much to be thankful for!"

The lady was not altogether correct; there is the New Brilliancy.

. . . . .

Sparkling scandal appears to be the most approved form of this.

"Any news?"

"No. Everything is very dull. Old Jones is ruined." (*With an appreciatory smile*): "Is he? No more dinners! Anything else?"

"Nothing; except that Smith is dying."

"Well, you are not brilliant to-day! Good-bye."

A little divorce would have made all the difference; the conversation would then have attained brilliancy.

. . . . .

A "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Words" should at once be founded. There are now a multitude of words and phrases that are being abominably ill-treated every moment of the day in this country, and amongst them especially are "brilliant," "society," "cynical," and "smartness." From shopping in the West End to supping with a prospective co-respondent at an expensive restaurant seems to be the area covered by "society" in the suburban and provincial minds, and the least disapproval of conventional circumstances in contemporary life is "cynicism." From committing a substantial fraud with impunity to being the figure-head of Fashion is "smartness"—limits which include some of the flashes of Shakespeare and the facetiousness of an omnibus conductor.

* * * * *

The rage for the "smart" in this country shows no sign of abating. It corresponds to the demand for spurious jewellery, imitation furs, and false finery, and is the outcome of the same circumstances.

In our Parliament of to-day the members do not appreciate oratory, stimulating speech, or even argument, but "smart" retort, and affronts "smartly" masked so as to avoid the censure of the Speaker.

In the literature of the time we do not look for imagination, originality, thought, style, or even instruction, but "smart" inconsistencies, and affectations that appear "smart" to the inexperienced. On the stage it is not elaborate plots, careful studies of character or wit, but "smart" dialogue—butterfly-phrases—"smart" dresses, and "smart" actors and actresses that our public wants.

It is not the good, but the "smart," woman we

admire, the woman who has the phonographic mind in the phonographic body, both reproducing the conventionalities which at the moment are described as "smart." It is not the great, but the "smart," man that is popular in "society."

It is not good dressing that is attempted, but "smart" dressing.

The business man does not glory in his honesty and industry, but in his "smartness"—the capacity for overreaching his neighbour.

We have "smart" sermons, "smart" vices, and "smart" Good Samaritanism!

* * * * *

The Actress Apostle is a character that it has been reserved for our generation to develop. The profligate peer, baronet, or "gentleman" of the past who married an actress generally ended his career as a bankrupt and a drunkard. The rake who marries an actress now generally retires to the country, behaves respectably, retrenches, and leads an altogether happy and exemplary life. It is the "society" wife in the England of to-day who drives her husband to the gaming table, drink, debt, and divorce! Those are not accidental circumstances. The "lady" of to-day in this country has often no higher ambition than to model herself on the pattern of the actress, as she imagines the latter to be, and, consequently, adopts many failings which are on the surface of stage life, or are supposed to be always associated with it. On the other hand, the modern actress is not the outcast her predecessors generally were, and her endeavour is to model herself on the pattern of the "lady" as she imagines the latter to be; and, consequently, when well-settled, she adopts many virtues which are commonly supposed to be inseparable from the "lady-like" character. Many an actress, moreover, has suffered, has toiled, has struggled—these are great educating circumstances for the heart. Most "society" women in England have not had these advantages.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE late Lord Penrhyn had been an owner of racehorses and steeplechasers for forty-seven years, but he was not elected to the Jockey Club until 1887. During his father's lifetime he raced under the name of "Mr. Moreton," and for some years he was in partnership with Lord Coventry. His attention was then principally directed to cross-country events. He won many important hurdle races and steeplechases with animals of his own breeding, but he never succeeded in carrying off the Grand National Steeplechase. For that race he had a great favourite in 1873 in Footman, but Disturbance won, and thereby retrieved the then shattered fortunes of Captain Machell, whose circumstances at that particular juncture were most critical and precarious. According to his own account, he won £30,000 over the race, and the owner of Footman had stood to win £16,000 over his horse. "Mr. Moreton" had a very smart filly early in the seventies in Perfume, a daughter of Buccaneer. She was a fine performer in T.Y.C. races. "Mr. Moreton," who trained with Weever at Bourton-on-the-Water, was intimately associated in his racing affairs with his brother-in-law, the late Sir Charles Rushout, and with his intimate friends, the late Mr. T. T. Drake and his brother, the Rev. Edward Drake ("Mr. Ekard"), the well-known and very popular rector of Amersham. In those days "Mr. Moreton" sometimes betted heavily, but he was singularly sagacious in his plunges, and when he put down his money in earnest he usually picked it up again, whether he was backing his own horse or somebody else's. He was an excellent judge of racing. In 1887, a year after his father's death, Lord Penrhyn placed his racehorses under the management of Mr. E. C. Clayton, who soon got together a useful stud. Noble Chieftain was one of the smartest horses in training over short courses, and Red Palmer (a daughter of Perfume), Robin Hood, Quæsitum, King's Messenger, Peroration, and Harefield all carried his colours successfully. Lord Penrhyn won the Chester Cup and the Ascot Vase with Quæsitum, and King's Messenger carried off the Goodwood Cup and (twice) the Great Metropolitan Handicap at Epsom. This horse was bought by Lord Penrhyn after he had won a selling race at Goodwood, and his brilliant successes induced his owner to speculate afterwards in other platers, but with no very satisfactory results. Lord Penrhyn was a regular attendant at the great meetings of the year, and a constant habitué of Newmarket. He was once invited to accept the office of Steward of the Jockey Club, but declined, on the ground that he was fully occupied with the management of his own private affairs, and had no time to spare for Newmarket business. He raced for sport alone, and the starting of his horses was never influenced by any considerations connected with betting. As to Lord Penrhyn's hunting career, there certainly was no more popular M.F.H. in England during the nine years that he presided over the Grafton country, and it is no exaggeration to assert that he was really beloved by the farmers. Lord Penrhyn's family are now represented in the Jockey Club by his son-in-law, Lord Falmouth, in whose horses the late peer took a most keen interest. He was delighted some years ago by the successes of Quintessence, and had looked forward to seeing St. Martin distinguish himself this season. His death has deprived the Turf of a familiar, stately, and honoured figure, and it is a loss which will be lamented by all who knew him.

The racing season has this year commenced a week sooner than usual, owing to the early Easter. After this week there will be no sport of any general interest until the Newmarket Craven Meeting (April 16), except at the Kempton Park Easter Meeting. The first of the Newmarket fixtures is immediately followed by Derby on April 19 and 20. The next week is practically divided between Epsom and Sandown Park, for the sport at Pontefract and Stockton will be of only local interest. Newmarket First Spring begins on April 30, so the Two Thousand will be run on May 1, and the One Thousand on the 3rd. The next week is divided between Chester and Kempton Park, and then (May 14) comes the Newmarket Second Spring, followed by a two days' fixture at Gatwick. Whitsun Monday comes on May 20, and there are seven meetings during the holiday week, the only important ones being Hurst Park and Manchester. The week before Epsom Summer has Harpenden (on Monday), Bath, and Salisbury in the south, and York and Doncaster in the north, with a one-day meeting at Hurst Park on Saturday, which might surely have been dispensed with. There is this year an interval of five weeks between the Newmarket First Spring week and Epsom, so the Derby will be run on June 5, and the Oaks on the 7th. The Stewards of the Jockey Club are perfectly infatuated about one-day Saturday fixtures, which are detested by owners, trainers, and jockeys. Four days at Epsom will surely satisfy the most insatiable appetite for sport, without that meeting being followed by a Saturday orgie at Kempton Park, and there is the same idiotic arrangement in Ascot week, the Saturday being given over to Windsor. Lingfield and Hurst Park (again!) are the best of the five fixtures in the week after Epsom. Ascot begins on June 18. It is greatly to be regretted that there should have been a return to the old, stupid, and most objectionable arrangement of letting only one week intervene between Epsom and Ascot. The last week of June has five meetings, the best being Gatwick, Newcastle, and Sandown Park. Newmarket First July comes on July 2, and the next week is given up to the Bibury Club Meeting at Stockbridge and Lingfield Park. It is simply preposterous that the Bibury Club Meeting should be allowed to drag over three days, for the programme barely justifies a second day, unless it is to be considerably enriched this year. Newmarket Second July (July 16) is followed by the Sandown Park Eclipse Meeting.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—DIEPPE CASINO. 5 hours from London. Open March 28 to April 1 inclusive. Unrivalled pleasure centre. Concerts, Plays, Balls, Petits Chevaux, Baccarat, &c.

The week before Goodwood has Liverpool and Newbury. It is provoking to find such flagrant folly as an allotment of three days to Liverpool, the result being that there is a clashing with Newbury, to the great damage of both meetings. Goodwood comes on July 30, and then there is the customary sequence of fixtures until Doncaster, which begins on September 10. This year there is an interval of three weeks (instead of the usual fortnight) between Doncaster and the Newmarket First October Meeting, which begins on October 1. The result of this muddling is that the Houghton Meeting does not begin until October 29, so that all the "back-end" fixtures have to be crammed and jammed into three weeks instead of them being allowed the usual term of four weeks. The authorities certainly move in mysterious ways in making their arrangements. Liverpool is again grossly favoured, for there is no justification whatever for allowing this meeting to draggle on over four days when only three are granted to Derby and Manchester. The only alteration in the November arrangements is that Newbury has been granted a one-day fixture, being the Wednesday in the closing week of the season, when this meeting is rammed in between Warwick and Manchester. It would be difficult for the most vigorous imagination to conceive a more thoroughly inconvenient arrangement for everybody concerned—owners, trainers, jockeys, public, bookmakers, and Turf camp-followers. The season will close on Saturday, November 23.

The St. Leger has hitherto been a sweepstakes of £25 each, but next year the race will be of the value of £6,500, the new conditions being precisely the same as those of the Derby. There are 329 entries, as compared with 182 for this year, while last year there were 188. It is premature, however, to describe the St. Leger of 1908 as a pecuniary success, for the amount of the subscription from owners mainly depends upon the number of animals which are withdrawn when the minor forfeit is declared on the 26th. His Majesty heads the list of owners with five entries, but the largest subscriber is Sir John Robinson, who is represented by eleven of the Worksop Manor yearlings, which were sold at Doncaster in September, and next comes Mr. L. de Rothschild with ten, and then Lord Rosebery with eight, this last lot including a half-brother to Cicero, by Sir Visto, a half-brother to Traquair, by St. Frusquin, and an own brother to Lavengro. Sir R. Waldie-Griffith, Mr. Arthur James, the Duke of Portland, and Mr. W. Hall Walker have seven entries each, and the Duke of Westminster and Lord Derby have six each. As the profits from the races at Doncaster are devoted to the benefit of the ratepayers of the town, it is quite certain that, in the event of the St. Leger proving a failure from the pecuniary point of view, there would be a vigorous agitation there for a return to the old conditions. I do not believe that the increased value of the stakes will ever bring an additional starter to the post, and nobody can desire to see a classic race contested by a large field of bad horses. It would have been more to the purpose if the Stewards of the Jockey Club had recommended the managers of the meeting to increase the value of their principal two-year-old races, notably the Champagne Stakes and the Rous Plate.

A paragraph has appeared in several papers stating that the best of M. E. Blanc's two-year-olds is a colt by Mackintosh, who is alleged to be considerably in front of the numerous sons and daughters of Flying Fox. I presume that reference is made to Imperméable, colt out of Isola. The story of his superiority is obviously rubbish and balderdash. Who ever heard of a large stud of two-year-olds being seriously galloped in February, and especially in France, where these animals are not allowed to run before August. It would be surprising if M. E. Blanc entertained any idea of a real trial of his two-year-olds for the next four months at least.

Sir Ernest Cassel's Araminta, half-sister, by Ayrshire, to Spearmint, is described to me as a nice racing-like filly, with excellent action, but she is decidedly small. Araminta, who cost 3,500 gs. as a yearling at Doncaster last September, has no fewer than forty-eight engagements, the first of which is the Great Surrey Foal Stakes at the Epsom Summer Meeting, and she is also in the Acorn Stakes there. At Ascot she is entered for both the Coventry Stakes and the New Stakes.

Lord Derby's colt, Olympian, is third favourite for the Derby at 10 to 1, but I would be sorry for any one who took 100 to 1 about him unless a start was given. Olympian is a heavy colt, and he wants a lot of time. Of all the three-year-olds now in training he is about the last that any one would select as likely to distinguish himself over the Epsom gradients. He will probably prove a troublesome horse to train. He has a nice engagement at Hurst Park on June 15 (the Saturday before Ascot) in the Duchess of York Plate of £1,000 to the winner, as he has no penalty.

Colonel Baird's colt Woolwinder is a most promising Derby outsider, and he will probably be found a profitable colt to follow, even if he fails at Epsom. It is, however, preposterously fatuous to speculate on the Derby at present. Nobody can tell as yet whether the animals which have been backed will get through their preparations all right, and their stamina has been entirely taken upon trust. Every year there are so-called Derby colts whose early gallops throw beholders into paroxysms of enthusiasm, but when these animals come to be seriously galloped they stop "dead" at the end of five or six furlongs.

His Majesty's colours are not likely to be seen prominently in either the Derby or the Oaks, although he has four colts left in for the former race and three fillies for the latter event. Slim Lad dreadfully disappointed the Egerton House stable last autumn after he had been well tried, and it is improbable that he will ever be of any use on the Turf except in moderate company and when running over short courses. Perambulator, the dark colt by Persimmon out of Spyglass, obviously wants plenty of time, and he is not likely to be really in thorough racing condition before the end of the summer. It might be decided to keep this colt for the Jockey Club Stakes at the Newmarket First October Meeting if he turns out to be a stayer. He has some good engagements at Ascot, and he was left in for the Eclipse Stakes, but it would be unwise to hurry him on in his training.

The Crawfurd Plate at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, which originally failed to fill, has obtained only twenty-three entries, a truly miserable subscription, considering that the value is £300, and the liability only £4, the race being run over the popular B.S.C.

The Stewards' Handicap of £1,000 at the Kempton Park Spring Meeting, has only thirty-five entries, and, inasmuch as the distance is five furlongs, this is an even worse subscription than that for the Newmarket event, considering the increased value of the race. The class is good, as the entry includes Rising Falcon, His Eminence, Ulalume, Cyanean, Traquair, Saxham, Rocketter, Hexagon, Nero, Lally, and Bill of the Play. It is significant that Traquair has been entered for such a race as this. He need not be thought of for a moment in connection with the Two Thousand or Derby.

Lord Rosebery paid a visit to Newmarket last week, accompanied by Lord Dalmeny, and three of his two-year-olds were ignominiously defeated in a trial with Trunnion over half a mile. These animals were Chattan, filly by Ladas out of Catronia; Lucian, by Velasquez out of Sister Lucy; and Sirmio, filly by Ladas out of Apennine.

At Liverpool, to-morrow, Mr. Arthur James is likely to win the Molyneux Stakes with Attraction, colt by Ladas out of Charm, who has been well galloped at Newmarket. Slieve Gallion will not run for the Union Jack Stakes of £1,200, and it is expected at Newmarket that Sir E. Cassel's Freeborn will win this race, and it is probable that Mr. Hall Walker's Knight of Tully will prove to be his most dangerous opponent. Succour is a strong tip from Newmarket for the Spring Cup, and he is described as being quite fit and in excellent form.

On Friday, it is likely that the Sefton Park Plate will be won by Mr. J. Wallace's St. Elf, half-brother, by St. Maclou, to Gnome, who has been highly tried at Newmarket. An excellent judge of steeplechasing informs me that, in his opinion, the Grand National will be won by Hercules II, and that this horse should be backed both to win and for a place.

There will be racing next week at Nottingham on two days, but after Friday there is not likely to be any sport of general interest before the Kempton Park Meeting on Easter Monday.

The minor forfeits for a great number of races are to be declared on Tuesday next, and there will doubtless be an extensive weeding of the entries for the Derby and Oaks of 1908.

THE WASTRELS OF THE C.T.C.

I said last week that the Council of the C.T.C. had resolved to have a postal vote in order to challenge the results of the poll at the general meeting of the club, which adopted a resolution by the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge, pressing for reform in the secretarial and editorial offices. It is not until the history and constitution of the club is studied that the public can learn the remarkable character of the institution that they are invited to join. Properly organised, it is a corporation capable of doing a great deal of good. As it is run at present, there is a tremendous expenditure for practically no results. The balance-sheet for the year shows a reserve fund of £20,600, an income from subscriptions of £7,483, and an expenditure of £4,667 on office expenses alone, excluding altogether the expenses of the *Gazette*, which is published once a month, and is run at a loss of £1,923 a year, notwithstanding that its advertisements bring in £2,285 a year, which sum ought to be added to income.

Now, the club recently attempted to enlarge its borders by taking in all tourists. The effort failed. The opponents of the scheme were not called upon by Mr. Justice Warrington to argue their case. The case the Council put forward was in effect that the present privileges of the members could not be retained, and that all the councillors save one held the view that the club must be broadened if it is to retain its power and influence. This is the view, not only of the Council, but also of Mr. Shipton, who fulfils the duties of editor and secretary. With all the money it has at its back, and with the enormous income it possesses, such an admission is incomprehensible, unless it be that the club is in the hands of people as incompetent as the statement of affairs shows they are extravagant. These persons, who have admitted the impossibility of conducting the club on its present lines, and who have squandered the club's funds on a Chancery suit, in which their admissions have been published to the world, are the very people who are fighting tooth and nail against the resolution passed by a considerable majority at the general meeting, demanding reorganisation and reform in the editorial and secretarial departments. Having employed the machinery of the law courts to advertise their failures, they now have the effrontery to seek the support of the members and the public in their efforts to run the club on its present lines. I doubt if either the public or the members realise the extent to which they are in the hands of these councillors and their secretary-cum-editor, Mr. Shipton. Nor do they appreciate the extent to which the machinery of the club is used to stifle reform and thwart those who are anxious to run the club as an institution commanding the support and respect of cyclists. Every member of the club will be well advised to support the reform resolution carried at the general meeting. They will be told that only 300 voted and that only thirty was the majority. They must remember that this was a big meeting, as meetings of the C.T.C. go, and that their secretary, Mr. Shipton, recently sent out 2,000 circulars for a special meeting in order, as he said, to secure a quorum of ten. They must not forget that the councillors, some forty of them, were present, and voted in the minority. They need to be reminded that their councillors in effect get their railway fares paid to attend their meetings because a council meeting is always held on the same or next day, and for council meetings the councillors' fares are paid by the club. For instance, Mr. Kendall Barnett, the chairman, gets his trip from Aberdeen to London paid by the club. He attended eight out of nine council meetings last year. One was held in Edinburgh, two in Manchester, one at Newcastle, and four in London. So he got a nice lot of travelling for nothing.

Now the club members elect their councillors, thirty-three in number, for their respective divisions. How many voting papers are received I do not know. Probably members let matters slide. These councillors elect chief consuls who, from their members, select a number of councillors equal in number to the representative councillors. It will thus be seen that the majority of the representative council determined on a certain course of policy can, by their nomination of chief consuls, secure a solid support of thirty-three votes. The whole procedure is a farce. Once elected, the members have no chance of coercing or correcting their representatives, who can play ducks and drakes with the club as, on their own admission, they have done in the past and apparently intend to do in the future.

Having once been elected they then have the power of demanding a poll of the club on any resolution passed at a general meeting, or they may demand a special general meeting. For this purpose fifteen councillors need only sign the requisition. If the members desire such a privilege 200 must sign the request. Thus fifteen councillors demanded a poll on Mr. Coleridge's resolution. As a counterblast Mr. Coleridge must get 200 members to sign a request for a general meeting, which, be it noted, must be held at a town 100 miles away from the town where the last meeting was held, and such town must contain 200,000 inhabitants, and such meeting must be held within four months of the previous one, and then, if it confirms the resolutions at the previous meeting, the council is bound thereby. It is obvious that the council would never require two such meetings to confirm its own policy. The policy of the members, if hostile to the council, can only be of any value if confirmed by a fresh meeting a hundred miles away, to which it may be impossible for the members to travel. This will not affect the councillors, who will arrange a council meeting and have their fares paid. But fancy Londoners going to Birmingham in order to vote. They would waste more time and money than the thing is worth. It is better to resign the club. And that is precisely what people are doing in their thousands each year. Over three thousand joined last year, but more than three thousand threw the club over. It is this steady drain on the club that is the surest testimony to the incompetence of the present management. Every credit is due to those who are fighting the battle of Reform. I shall return to this subject and show how difficult it is for the club members to organise, and what unfair means the council adopt in order to gull the members to support them.

The *Sportsman* points out that Mr. Willis, the Oxford coach, was a fine heavy-weight oarsman, who by some strange accident never got his Blue at the University. Perhaps my well-informed contemporary will kindly say what sort of accident prevents a man who does not go up to the University from getting a Blue. Captain Willis did not go up to either University.

The *Daily Mail* and the *Evening News* had stated that Cambridge had decided to ignore the Oxford crew and go for record. Happily it is the press and not the undergraduate who has changed in character. The Cambridge men are not braggarts. From idle boast and foolish word it is hopeless to expect certain journalists to be saved. But then Cambridge were the progressives of the race, and bad habits will show themselves. It was a dull afternoon, the weather inclined to provide drizzle, but just a ray of sun at the start. There was a strong westerly wind, with a touch of south, that meant on a good flood fast times

to Hammersmith and afterwards in Corney Reach a dead row and a regular sea. Oxford won the toss and the Surrey shore, and if they could keep the station as far as Chiswick they would give the Light Blues a dusting in the rough water long before both would have to face it. Mr. Pitman, who started, preferred a megaphone to firearms. There was no chopping the start—Cambridge at thirty-nine, and Oxford one less in the whole minute. Stuart put in nearly eleven strokes in the first quarter, but he dropped the rate, and for ever after Oxford rowed the faster stroke. The first mile was fast, and at the end of four minutes Cambridge were a clear length ahead. They were well steered, and took the shelter of the Surrey shore at Hammersmith three lengths ahead. By Chiswick Church, Oxford had spurted and gained a length, and Cambridge were well within themselves, for the worst was coming. As they crossed for Barnes Bridge there was a huge sea raging. Both crews splashed a good deal, but they simply could not help it. Their watermanship was excellent. Oxford in mid-stream had the worst time. They sadly needed the leg-drive of the Cambridge crew. At Barnes Bridge the Light Blues were twenty seconds ahead. They had both had a bad time in the rough water, but Cambridge could take a breather, and so they finished up fresher than Oxford, who were quite rowed out, but had kept their form. Cambridge won by four and a half lengths, and the time was twenty minutes twenty-six seconds, which was very fast considering the conditions after Hammersmith.

There was really a good game of Rugby football at Blackheath. England met Scotland and was beaten, but the forwards played a sterling game. The weakness was at half-back. Public opinion was against that selection. It is a thousand pities that the forwards and three-quarters were not picked earlier, with a couple of half-backs from the metropolis. Then England would not have been wooden spoon. Simpson's try for Scotland was a grand effort, which would have failed against any but unintelligent provincial halves. The game is not dead in England.

The answers of the Council of the Football Association were satisfactory, and they were well received by the amateurs who may now form their federation. This body will be able to represent amateur interests directly as the Football League and Southern League represent the interests of the managers of professional teams. Those two bodies are already ventilating the wage-limit and amount of transfer fees.

MAMMON.

Perplexed Stock Markets—The Unnerving Effect of the Yankee Débacle—A Troublous Settlement—Six Failures—A Week-End Revival—The Position of Consols.

ANOTHER week of anxiety has been spent by the Stock Exchange, the collapse that occurred in the American market on Wednesday and Thursday leaving members for a time quite bewildered. While the wild scenes of excitement reported as prevailing in Wall Street found no reflection here—because of the small speculative position open on local account—fears that the liquidation in New York might bring down houses this side having American connections gave rise to a nervous sentiment, and the spread of all sorts of rumours about people being in trouble. Naturally, in the circumstances, prices of securities fell away all round, to an extent out of proportion to the actual sales. So far as the London Stock Exchange is concerned, the Settlement was not completed without the announcement of six failures. One was that of an old-established firm of brokers, in a fairly large way of business; but the others were of no general importance, and in one case the defaulter was a plunger whose disappearance from the House will be welcomed as the removal of a source of danger to the general body of members. In New York, however, which has been the storm centre, it is really remarkable that not a single Stock Exchange failure was announced last week. Seeing that stocks for two days in succession were simply thrown out regardless of price, and that in the case of Union Pacific the quotation dropped 25 per cent. in a few hours, this immunity from disclosed trouble is a striking proof of the small extent to which the American public—as well as the British public—was in the recent gamble. The public, indeed, appears at last to have had its eyes opened to the unscrupulous methods of certain mushroom millionaire speculators, and, as was the case in 1903, has compelled these gentry to unload upon themselves. The very violence of the fall in Yankees made a reaction inevitable, and, helped by the monetary relief measures of the United States Treasury, prices turned sharply upwards at the end of the week, the Wall Street rally, of course, being reflected here upon markets generally.

A good deal of comment was aroused last week by the further drop in Consols, which at one time touched 84⅝. The decline was eagerly seized upon by certain unscrupulous critics as a text to found a tirade against the alleged socialistic intentions of the Government. To those who have followed recent financial history there is no need to enter into details of the causes that have brought down Consols and other high class investment securities, or to say that they are of a nature quite beyond the control of the powers that be at Westminster. For instance, can the Government be held responsible for the two great wars fought in the last seven years? for the drain upon the international money market occasioned by those wars? for the world-wide trade activity that has followed in the wake of peace, and for the enormously increased monetary requirements occasioned by this commercial revival? for the over speculation indulged in by New York and for the borrowings of American capitalists here, which have given to the States an awkward hold over our gold stocks? or for the long absence of an effective national Sinking Fund? Yet these factors account almost entirely for the unsatisfactory state of the Consol Market during recent years and at the present moment. As for the gloomy talk indulged in because Consols last week dipped to the lowest level since 1848, it is not necessary to remind most people that the Funds are now on a 2½ per cent. basis as compared with 3 per cent. ruling down to 1888, and 2¾ per cent. between 1888 and 1903, and, therefore, to compare the existing price with any year prior to 1903 is of no practical value. A 2½ per cent. stock at 85 is equivalent to a 2¾ per cent. stock at 93½. and to a 3 per cent. stock at 102. Seeing that French Three per cent. Rentes are quoted at 95 and German Threes at 84, it will be seen that British credit is still paramount among the nations—despite all the powerful adverse influences of a temporary character that have been at work.

Home Rails Steadier—The Bargain Hunter in Evidence—The Traffic Record—Stocks that Look Cheap—The North British Report.

Considering the bad example set by the Consol and other markets Home Rails last week displayed a very steady appearance, and it looked as if the attention given to this department by the genuine investor was at last beginning to tell. The market was assisted, no doubt, by the scarcity of stock for delivery at the last settlement, a matter which was reflected in rather easier carry-over rates. But the real impulse arose from the publication of another batch of very fine traffic returns, which, read in conjunction with the comparatively high yields now available upon the best stocks, naturally

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

attracted the bargain hunter. The earning record for the week and since the commencement of the half-year may be seen from the following table:—

Company.	Increase or Decrease Last Week.	Aggregate (10 Weeks).	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Furness	+ 400	100,400	+ 6,400
Great Central	+ 3,400	746,500	+19,700
Great Eastern	+ 1,700	917 600	- 3,100
Great Northern	+ 2 000	1,074,900	+30,300
Great Western	+ 5,600	2,148,100	+48 900
Hull & Barnsley	+ 3,000	309,100	+10 000
Lancashire & Yorkshire	+ 2 600	1,026 000	+32 400
London Brighton & South Coast	- 1,600	499 600	- 20,400
London & North Western	+ 6 000	2,652,000	+78,000
London & South-Western	+ 1,900	775 200	+ 1,900
London, Tilbury, & Southend	+ 500	82,500	+ 3,500
Midland	+ 2,700	2,241,000	+70,600
North-Eastern	+15,400	1,731,100	+73,300
North Stafford	+ 400	178 300	+ 1,600
South-Eastern & Chatham	+ 2,100	741,900	+ 2,900
Central London	- 400	63,900	- 5,700
City & South London	+ 140	30,800	+ 700
Metropolitan	- 1,900	151,500	-16,600
" District	+ 40	79,300	- 2 300
North London	- 200	90,100	- 2,600
Caledonian	+ 1,800	*475,200	- 4,500
Glasgow & South-Western	+ 200	*184,000	— 50
North British	+ 2,300	*511,500	- 2,800

* Six weeks.

The increases displayed by the leading goods carriers are the more noteworthy as they occur on top of heavy gains a year ago. It will be observed that the North-Western, the Midland, and the North-Eastern each have advances to date of over £70,000, which is a very good performance for ten weeks. The yields on the three junior stocks of these lines work out at about 4½ per cent., with rather more in the case of Berwicks. At current prices, therefore, there is something to be said for a lock-up of either. The Great Northern is making good headway, and allowing for the growth in traffics and the saving that should accrue this year under the heading of "compensation" because of the loss incurred in 1906 over the Grantham disaster, the deferred stock is one of the leading attractions among the low-priced stocks. On the basis of last year's dividend of 1⅞ per cent., the yield at the current price of just over 40 is 4⅜ per cent. Assuming the dividend for 1907 be 2 per cent., which is not unreasonable, the yield to a present purchaser would be 4⅞ per cent. The Hull and Barnsley, the stock of which line I recommended a week or two ago, is forging ahead at a wonderful pace. Relatively to its size this little "coaler" is doing better at the present time than any other line in the country, its gross gain of £16,000 for ten weeks being equal to more than 17 per cent. As the stock returns fully 4¾ per cent. at the present price, I look for it to lead the way in any market improvement. There is, as I have previously mentioned, a new capital issue to be taken into consideration, but the growth of the line is so rapid, and moreover it has been so continuous for a number of years, that this need not deter the prospective purchaser. This is the dividend story for the last five years:—1902 ½ per cent., 1903 1 per cent., 1904 1¼ per cent., 1905 1⅞ per cent., 1906 2¼ per cent. In addition to the attractions of the stock as a dividend earner, there is always the possibility of the line being taken over by one of its larger neighbours, a matter which would doubtless be preceded by a speculative advance on the prospect of favourable absorption terms.

The Furness might be quoted as another example of a small line whose stocks give a generous return. The recovery in the iron trade of the last two years has revolutionised the fortunes of the Furness; in 1904 the times were so bad that the dividend fell to ¾ per cent. The trade revival enabled the company last year to pay 3 per cent., which was the best return since 1900, when the stockholders received 3½. The line, depending almost entirely upon the iron and steel trade, is of course, subject to greater ups and downs than others enjoying a well-distributed traffic, but a yield of 5 per cent., which is the current return, is not to be despised, particularly as earnings continue on the up grade. In the Southern passenger group, South-Western issues have been picked up lately in anticipation of the benefits that are likely to be reaped in connection wth the development of Southampton Port. Messrs. Harland and Wolff have made a tentative proposal to erect a large ship and engineering works at Southampton, the project being, of course, connected with the forthcoming removal to the southern port of White Star liners, and this matter, if it comes to a practical issue, must have a material bearing upon the traffics of the South-Western later on. Brighton issues have steadied after their recent severe tumble, and the market seems now inclined to await and see whether better weather and the improved facilities for handling traffic that will accrue from the electrification of the South London line and the rebuilding of Victoria Station do put a different complexion upon earnings. Mr. William Forbes, the general manager of the company, has, according to an interview published in a contemporary, stated that he was not at all despondent as to the future of the Brighton Company. Just as it recovered from the temporary set-back which it experienced during the exceptionally hard winter of 1895, when there was a falling-off in the receipts during the first two months of the year, he hopes that things will right themselves in a similar way this year. The London and Brighton Company, he says, may be called the barometer of the Stock Market; whenever the latter is depressed the company is pretty sure to feel it. He anticipates that the trade prosperity now being experienced in the north will in due course find its reflection in the south. His experience is that when there is exceptional commercial activity in the north the south does not begin to feel the benefit of it until about a twelvemonth later.

The reports issued by the Scottish Railways do nothing to remove the unfavourable impression created by the dividend announcements. The North British showing is without question the worst of any Home Railway for a long time past. There was an increase in the gross receipts of £28,000, which was nearly double the estimated total. On the other hand, expenses rose by no less than £114,000. The Arbroath disaster was responsible for £32,000 of the advance, but, leaving this aside as an exceptional item, there is still left a jump of £82,000 in ordinary operating costs, of which £9,400 occurred under the heading of maintenance of way, £30,300 under locomotive power, £8,100 under carriage and wagon repairs, and £25,400 under traffic expenses. The outcome is a rise in the ratio of expenditure to receipts from 50.08 per cent. to 54.30 per cent. Meanwhile, the capital account is steadily increasing; last half-year the addition was £441,000, and it is proposed to expend another £402,000 in the current six months, of which more than half will be upon rolling-stock. My table of prices is appended:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Mar. 9, 1907.	Mar. 16 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	70	69½	- ½
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	26½	27	+ ⅝
Central London	96½	82½	70	70	—
City and S. London	47½	39	43	41	-2
Furness	69⅝	61⅜	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	36	36	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅛	69	60½	60½	—
Do. "B"	40⅛	32½	28½	29½	+ ½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14½	14½	—
Great Eastern	90⅜	79½	74½	74⅝	+ ⅛
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	95½	97	+1½
Do. Def.	48½	39½	40½	40⅞	+ ⅜
Great Western	144	128¾	122¾	124½	+1¾
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	46½	47½	+1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	100½	101	+ ½
London and Brighton "A"	139⅛	111½	97	98	+1
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	13⅝	14	+ ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	82	82	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	50	50	—
London and North-Western	163¼	147½	143½	145½	+1⅞
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	47½	47½	- ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	43	43	—
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	15	14½	- ½
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	64½	64	- ½
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	61⅞	62¾	+ ⅞
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	67⅞	68¼	+ ⅜
Do. Def.	47⅛	38⅜	31⅜	33½	+1⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134⅜	136½	136⅞	+ ⅜
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96⅜	98	98	—
South-Eastern "A"	55⅜	44⅜	41½	41½	+ ⅛

HOW TO OPERATE IN STOCKS SUCCESSFULLY.—See HALFORD'S ADVISER (post free).—PALMERSTON HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. ESTABLISHED 1869. TELEGRAMS: "MONITOR, LONDON."

PANDEMONIUM IN WALL STREET—TWO DAYS OF UNRESTRAINED PANIC—BIG SPECULATORS COMPELLED TO DISGORGE—THE PUBLIC NOT INVOLVED—CAUSES OF THE COLLAPSE—RELIEF ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES TREASURY—A SUBSTANTIAL RALLY FROM THE WORST.

After opening with a superficial display of strength, the American Market last week gave way to a fit of uncontrolled weakness, the like of which has not been seen for a generation. On Wednesday and Thursday the New York Stock Exchange was simply pandemonium; enormous blocks of stock were thrown overboard, utterly regardless of price, and in those two days alone the volume of shares changing hands aggregated 4,800,000. The nearest approach in recent times to last week's scenes was the excitement produced by the Northern Pacific corner in the spring of 1901, though the spasm that occurred six years ago was a small thing compared with the collapse in values that has taken place within the last few weeks. The chief consolation to be derived from the recent débacle seems to be the immunity from loss of the general public on either side of the Atlantic. It is a well-known fact that the interest of the British public in Yankees has been steadily declining for some years past, and the speculative account carried here on behalf of English people—as distinct from the large position open on behalf of Wall Street houses—has for some time been almost a negligible quantity. That the American public had also held aloof from the invitation given them to join in the gamble started last summer, despite the bait in the shape of higher dividends dangled before their eyes, is strikingly demonstrated by the fact that the huge liquidation of last week failed to disclose a single failure in Wall Street. Thus there is justification for the statement that what has happened recently is a repetition of the rich man's panic of 1903, when a few big people who had overloaded themselves with securities which they could not dispose of at the sky-scraping levels to which they had hoisted them, were compelled to finally throw their holdings overboard at knock-out prices.

What was the exact cause responsible for the panic it is difficult to say. Some people ascribed it to fears of a fresh attack against the railroads on the part of the National Government, others to the difficulty experienced by large speculators in renewing loans, while another theory was that the collapse was the outcome of a duel between rival speculative groups. It is feasible to suppose that all three factors played a part in the downfall. The public agitation against the railroads has been growing for some time, and just lately Bills for the purpose of reducing passenger rates within the borders of States have already been passed in one or both houses of a number of the State Legislatures. With net receipts already seriously affected by advances in the cost of labour and materials, and with gross takings likely to suffer through the curtailment of constructive work necessitated by the difficulty all corporations are finding in raising capital, it will be recognised that the proposed action of the States in the direction of lowering passenger rates cannot be regarded lightly. In the early part of last week the market derived a stimulus from the news that Mr. J. P. Morgan had been in conference with President Roosevelt, as a result of which arrangements had been made for a meeting between the President and heads of leading railroads for the purpose of discussing the attitude of the administration towards railroad interests. Later on, when the deluge came, Wall Street construed this interview as a "bear" point, its argument being that railroad interests had become panic-stricken by the action of the States, and were therefore anxious to surrender unconditionally to the President in order to obtain the protection of the National Government against the several States.

In view of the reports that have from time to time been circulated recently as to an alleged modification of the Presidential policy towards the Trusts, it is of interest to read a Reuter dispatch from Washington stating authoritatively that Mr. Roosevelt will not change his attitude towards the railways, though it is admitted that the administration does not intend to make an extremely radical attack on them. While nothing as yet has been definitely decided on, President Roosevelt may issue a statement outlining his attitude some time this week. The administration is firmly convinced that the great unrest in financial circles has been caused by the arguments of the railroad interests in the endeavour to prevent hostile legislation in various States, and is not due to the determination of the Government to enforce the laws relating to common carriers. It is known that President Roosevelt takes up the same position as he did in December, when he sent his message to Congress, calling attention to the fact that "during the last five months, within which the new law has been operative, the railroads have shown increased earnings, and some of them unusual dividends." The President believes that this refutes the claims made by the railroads at the time that the new law would ruin them, and emphasises the fact that rate legislation, either by the Federal or State Governments, did not cause the present panic conditions. President Roosevelt has also referred significantly to another portion of the message, in which he said: "It must not be supposed, however, that with the passage of these laws it will be possible to stop progress along the line of increasing the power of the National Government over the use of capital in inter-State commerce."

The influence that dear money has exercised in bringing about the break in values will be apparent to those who have followed the recent course of events in both the American and the European markets. For some time past certain big Wall Street speculators who persisted in indulging in their wild stock gamble, heedless of the cautions administered by those who declared that the resources of the money market were already fully taxed by the demands of legitimate trade, have found increasing difficulty in obtaining the requisite accommodation. When, a month or two ago, London bankers made an organised attempt to reduce the speculative account carried this side on behalf of New York, the result was quickly seen in a sharp tumble in values—the outcome of Wall Street's efforts to find a lodging for the stocks thrown back upon it. A few days ago it is understood that an Anglo-American house was informed that large lines of bills shortly maturing here on behalf of New York would not be renewed, and the fact that this report synchronised with the sensational decline in stock prices may explain much. The New York Money Market remains in a decidedly unsatisfactory condition, and once last week the loan rate ran up to 25 per cent. The situation became so bad as to once more call for action on the part of the United States Treasury. The measures adopted by Mr. Secretary Cortelyou included instructions to the Customs' collectors to deposit their receipts with the National Banks (which step was taken under the new Aldrich Act), the offer to redeem with interest to July 1 $25,000,000 of Government fours, and the intimation to the banks that they might retain the $18,000,000 of circulation sanctioned on October 22, with the same security, instead of retiring it immediately as was provided at the time.

Thanks to these stop-gap measures, and to the absence of failures, prices on Friday last made a distinct recovery from the worst, but they still, in several instances, show a heavy fall on the week, while the decline from the

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"AMERICAN RAILWAY EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS," by D. O. CROAL, F.S.S. "A carefully written *résumé* of the position and prospects of the leading lines in the United States."—*Financial News*.—EFFINGHAM WILSON. Price 6d. net.

highest of last year is very marked, as may be seen from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	March 9, 1907.	March 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	93½	94⅜	+ 1⅛
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	100	99½	— ½
Baltimore and Ohio	129⅛	109⅝	108½	104⅜	- 3⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93⅛	94	93	- 1
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	44½	43	- 1½
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	145½	142	- 3½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	32½	32½	—
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅞	75	76	+ 1
Erie	52⅝	40	30	30½	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	67	67½	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	53	48½xd.	- 2½
Illinois Central	188⅜	171	155	154	- 1
Louisville	160⅞	143⅜	128	123	—
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	40⅜	39	- 1⅜
New York Central	159½	130⅜	124	122	- 2
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	40⅜	40½	- ½
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87½	82	80	- 2
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	142½	132	- 10½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63⅜	64	64½	+ ½
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅞	61⅜	55⅜	- 6
Southern	43⅞	33	23¼	24	+ ¾
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	78	78½	+ ½
Southern Pacific	99	64⅜	87	81⅜xd.	- 2⅝
Union Pacific	203	144⅜	165	142½xd.	-17½
U.S. Steel	52½	33⅞	39⅜	39½xd.	—
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	103¼	103½	+ ¼

That there should be a sharp rebound from the extreme levels touched last Thursday was inevitable, for when a stock like Union Pacific, which has just been put upon a 10 per cent. basis, was offering at under 130 it was bound to attract a certain class of speculator. At the same time the market continues in a state of extreme nervousness, for the cataclysm of the last few days is not one that can easily be forgotten. What with this upheaval and the unsavoury disclosures of the methods of Wall Street high finance that preceded it, public confidence has had a shock from which it will not quickly recover. The theory beginning to be laid down in some quarters that Yankees might be considered as investments has been rudely dispelled, and for some time to come, at least, the shares will be left alone by all except the daring professional or semi-professional speculator, who is in a position to be always in direct touch with the market, and to promptly snatch a profit or cut a loss.

CANADAS AGITATED WITH YANKEES—WHY THE SHARES SHOULD BE BOUGHT—TRUNK THIRDS AS A SPECULATIVE INVESTMENT—THE SURPRISING STRENGTH OF MEXICAN ORDINARY—ARGENTINE RAILS AND POLITICAL RUMOURS.

Once again Canadian rails, and particularly Canadian Pacifics, have been agitated in sympathy with Americans. It is, perhaps, inevitable that Canadas should move up and down with Yankees, because of Wall Street's large interest in the shares. At the same time, most of the reasons that may be advanced to justify the fall in Americans do not apply to the Colonial line. There have been no "'orrible revelashuns" connected with the management of the road, the company is not feeling the effects of Government action to reduce passenger rates, and there has been no straining after dividends with the object of facilitating capital issues. The 7 per cent. now being paid on the shares represents little more than one-third of the income that was received in the last completed year, and, therefore, there is no question about the maintenance of dividends for a long time to come. A calculation made recently demonstrated that each present Canadian-Pacific share is actually represented by cash assets and land worth about $120 per share, which would leave only some $60 per share as the market value of the railway as a going concern. I have frequently urged the claims of Canadas as a high-class investment, and the recent fall produced by purely external circumstances should present a good opportunity to the capitalist.

Grand Trunks, which are not a speculative medium with Wall-street, have not fallen far during the past week, but "bull" enthusiasm here has, for the time being, received a check. The set-back in the Third Preference might be taken advantage of by the speculative investor to "get in," seeing that there is a good prospect of the stock receiving its full 4 per cent. dividend this year. For the benefit of numerous inquirers I would repeat my opinion, which was expressed at length a month ago, that the ordinary stock ought not to be regarded as more than a gambling counter, and that there is no reasonable ground to support the view airily expressed in some quarters, that it was only a matter of a year or two before the stock entered the dividend stage. The probability is that two or three years ahead Little Trunks will be worth no more than the price at which they stand now, and this statement is made with a due regard for the very bright possibilities that lie ahead of the railroads in the Dominion.

In the Foreign Railway group Mexican Rails have shown a fair amount of fluctuation, though support has been forthcoming on each decline. The traffic record of the line lately has been excellent, but it is still hard to avoid the feeling that the rise in the ordinary stock has been too fast. It is said that the buying has been of a "good" character, and there may be something behind it which is known only to a privileged few. But, judged by the dividend outlook, so far as it can be gauged by earnings to date, I cannot advise my readers to buy the ordinary at the present level. There is, however, much to be said still for the First Preference, which is now doubtless earning at its full 8 per cent. rate with a fair margin to spare. Dear money, and uncertainty about the maize crop continue to tell against Argentine Rails. There were also rumours last week emanating from Buenos Ayres to the effect that trouble was brewing politically. Up to the time of writing these stories remain unconfirmed, and the fact that they have had scarcely any effect upon values suggests that the position has, to say the least of it, been exaggerated. Certainly, judged upon the financial strength of the leading railways, the current earnings and the yields, it cannot be said that stocks are over-priced, and a recovery ought not to be very far off. My table is appended—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Mar. 9, 1907.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	173½	179½	+1⅝
Grand Trunk	29	25⅛	31⅛	31⅛	- ¼
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	102	102	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅜	114⅜	121⅞	121½	- ⅜
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	113	113	—
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60	73½	73½	—
Mexican	50⅞	22½	61⅜	62½	+ ⅜
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅜	146⅜	145½	-1
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅜	49½	98	96	-2
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11⅛	6	12½	12	- ½
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs	124	109	116½	116	- ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	86	86	- ½
Do. First Incomes	30	18	24	23½	- ½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88	91	90½	- ½
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65⅝	79½	78	-1½
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	55½	54	-1½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	25	23	-2
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180⅛	162	166	154	-12
Nitrate Rails	16⅝	14⅜	15⅞	15⅞	—
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	107½	107	- ½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅛	64½	77⅞	76	-1½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	115½	116½	+1
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	106	104⅜	-1½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	125½	126	+ ½
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	123	123	—
East Argentine	120	87	119½	117	-2½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	67	67½	+ ½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅞	85	90½	89½	-1
Entre Rios First Pref.	98	85	87½	87½	—
Great Western of Brazil	16⅛	12½	12	11⅞	- ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69½	76½	75⅞	- ⅝
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	216	215	-1
Central Uruguay	92½	82	91½	91	- ½
Costa Rica	29⅛	25	28⅜	28	- ⅜
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	78½	78	- ½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs.	88⅝	76½	78	78½	+ ½
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76½	83	83	—
Manila 6 p.c Debs.	126	112	112	112	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	85	51	49½	-1½
Cuban Central	7⅛	5⅜	7	6⅜	- ⅝
United of Havana	193	105⅜	113½	111	- 2½
Western of Havana	15⅜	12½	13½	12⅜	- ⅝
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94⅜	87⅜	91	90	-1
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅜	76	79	77½	-1½
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19½	22½	22½	—

KAFFIR GOLD SHARES ONE OF THE FIRMEST GROUPS IN THE HOUSE—THE LABOUR OUTLOOK—A GOLD FIELDS RUMOUR—HEAVY SELLING OF DE BEERS, BUT PREMIERS IN DEMAND.

During the recent unsettlement consequent upon the condition of semi-panic into which the American market relapsed, the Kaffir market was one of the firmest depart-

ments of the Stock Exchange. It has not wholly escaped from pressure of realisations — caused very possibly by the necessity of raising funds to meet losses incurred elsewhere—but, on the whole, it has held its own very well. This is largely due to the fact that the open position is of small volume, and that, in view of the brighter outlook for the Rand mining industry, and consequently for Kaffir gold shares, speculators who in the past frequently adopted "banging" tactics are much less disposed to do so now. This augurs well for the time when general market conditions improve. Those interested in Kaffirs should be encouraged by the way the market has maintained its position during the trying time experienced in the past week. There is little doubt that, but for the general unsettlement caused by the American slump, Kaffirs would have gone better. The speech made by General Botha at the beginning of last week, and to which I referred in my last notes, had the satisfactory result of causing a resumption of buying by Colonial and Continental speculators, and quotations quickly responded to the support thus accorded; but the upward movement was, unfortunately, nipped in the bud by the American collapse and the fear of trouble with the conclusion of the settlement. Nevertheless, on the week most of the Kaffir speculative favourites show improvement, as will be seen from the following table:—

Share.	March 9, 1907.	March 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-French	1 7/16	1 7/16	—
Apex	3 1/4	3 1/4	+ 1/16
Consolidated Gold Fields	4 1/4	4 13/16	+ 9/16
East Rand Proprietary	4 13/16	4 7/8	+ 1/16
Geduld	2 1/4	2 1/4	—
General Mining and Finance	1 3/4	1 5/8	- 1/16
Goerz and Co.	1 7/16	1 7/16	—
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1 3/16	1 1/4	+ 1/16
New Modderfontein	6 5/8	6 7/8	+ 1/4
Randfontein Estates	1 11/16	1 3/4	+ 1/16
Rand Mines	6 13/16	6 15/16	+ 1/8
S. A. Gold Trust	2 1/16	2 1/16	± 1/16

As regards the all-important matter of labour, the question to the fore now is as to what will happen when the contracts of the coolies expire, as they will begin to do next June. Having regard to the declared intention of the new Transvaal Ministry to encourage the mining industry and to pursue a policy of repatriation with replacement, it has been assumed that the coolies will be allowed to re-engage. To permit of this, some action will have to be taken by the Legislature, and the question is raised as to whether such action will be taken in time. A cable from Johannesburg, published in one of the London morning papers the other day, says the Ministry has no intention of dealing with the Chinese question in the short session of Parliament before General Botha leaves for England, and points out that a lengthy delay of the Ministry's decision would be a serious matter for the mining industry, and increase the present depression in the Transvaal. It is to be hoped the apprehensions raised on this score will be allayed by a definite statement to-morrow on the occasion of the first meeting of the new Transvaal Legislature. All that can be said at the moment is that delay, which would entail a reduction in the coolie labour complement of the mines, would certainly not be in accordance with the terms of General Botha's speech at Pretoria on the 4th inst., when he stated that the Ministry would devote all its efforts to encouraging and helping the mines, and that in the matter of labour no extreme measures would be taken. The Letters Patent having deprived the industry and the coolies of the right to renew contracts, it remains for the new Ministry to bring in a new Ordinance to allow of the re-engagement of the Chinese, and, providing the necessary arrangements are made, the outlook for the gold mining industry will be brighter than for some years past, as it is not expected that the Home Government will exercise its power of veto, seeing that its friends are in power in the Colony. In the event of the question being satisfactorily settled, the condition of the market is likely to reflect the improvement in the outlook, and a revival of public interest in the market may be brought about, though the American situation, the imminence of the Settlement and the Easter holidays, may tend to temporarily restrict the opening of fresh speculative commitments. My readers may therefore like to have a short list of selections to consider, so I will give the names of a few shares which I think promising speculations for a profit in a good market. Of the leading counters I prefer Rand Mines; among outcrops, Glencairns, Knights, and New Kleinfonteins; and in the Deep Level list, Cinderella Deep, Robinson Deep, Simmer West, and Witwatersrand Deep.

An interesting rumour has been in circulation in respect to the Consolidated Gold Fields, it being stated that an interim dividend of half-a-crown per share is to be declared. It may be remembered that when the dividend was passed in November last the directors held out the hope of their being able to declare an interim dividend in the current year. Such a distribution, however, is dependent upon the labour question being satisfactorily settled. There is little doubt that if the Gold Fields directors do declare a dividend within a short time it will stimulate the Kaffir market, as their action will forcibly demonstrate that they consider the outlook bright.

While Kaffir gold shares have been pretty steady, the diamond group has on the whole been depressed during the past week. De Beers have been persistently sold from Paris, and have also suffered from liquidation in connection with the closing of the account of a speculator on this side, with the result that on the week the price shows a substantial decline:—

Share.	March 9, 1907.	March 16 1907.	Rise or Fall
De Beers Pref.	18 3/4	17 3/4xd.	- 1
,, ,, Def.	29 1/4	26 3/4xd.	-1 1/2
Jagersfontein Pref.	4 5/16	4 1/4	- 1/16
,, Def.	10 1/16	9 3/4	- 5/16
New Vaal River	6 1/2	6 1/4	- 1/4
Premier (Transvaal) Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/4	+ 1/4
,, ,, Def.	12 1/2	13	+ 1/2

Premiers have been erratic, but in the main the "bulls" have had the best of it. I am informed that large options have been entered into in respect of these shares for the end of June, which would indicate that the price is expected to reach a higher level in the early future.

Rhodesians have also Shown Some Resistance to the General Depression—The Gold Output for February.

While there has been little in market conditions of late to cheer the hearts of those interested in Rhodesian undertakings, there is perhaps a little satisfaction to be derived from the fact that the market in the past week was able to show some resistance to the general depression. Business in these descriptions has not been very brisk, but at times the market has shown signs of shaking off the dulness which has characterised it for the most part for some weeks past, and with better general conditions on the Stock Exchange a moderate recovery in Rhodesian quotations would not be unlikely. As it is, prices in a few cases exhibit slight improvements as a net result of the past week's small volume of business, and in other cases the quotations given in the following table are above the lowest touched at one time:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 9, 1907.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	7/16	5/8	2 1/32	+ 1/32
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2 1/4	1 7/16	1 13/16	1 1/2	+ 1/16
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	3/-	3/-	--
Globe & Phœnix	1 1/8	1/2	1/2	1/2	--
Lomagunda Development	2 1/8	3/4	3/4	27/32	- 1/32
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1/2	1 1/32	1 1/32	—
Northern Copper	2 5/16	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 9/16	+ 1/16
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	3 1/4	1 7/16	1 13/32	1 3/4	+ 1/16
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/32	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 5/32	+ 1/16
Rice Hamilton	1 3/8	7/16	3/4	3/4	- 1/16
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	4/-	3/6	- 6d.
Tanganyika Concessions	8 1/16	3 1/2	4 7/8	4 3/4	- 1/8
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	7/6	7/6	—
Zambesia Exploring	2 1/4	3/4	1 1/4	1 1/8	- 1/8

A rumour has been in circulation in the market as to a fresh issue of shares being contemplated by the Chartered Company, but dealers were not disposed to credit the story.

The Rhodesian gold output for February was 6,566 oz. lower than that for January. Comparative results are set out below:—

——	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz
January	16,246	19,359	32,531	42,950	47,048
February	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037	40,482
March	19,626	17,756	34,927	44 574	—
April	20,727	17,862	33,268	42,423	—
May	22,137	19,424	31,332	46,729	—
June	22,166	20,402	35,256	47,064	—
July	23,571	24,339	34,693	48,485	—
August	19,187	24,669	35,765	50,127	—
September	18,741	26,029	35,785	48,410	—
October	17,918	24,919	33,383	45,644	—
November	15,714	26,183	32,861	48,503	—
December	18,750	28,100	37,116	48,539	—
Total	231,872	267,715	407,048	551,875	87,530

The shorter month largely accounts for the falling off, while it would appear that a shortage of native labour has restricted the operations of some of the mines.

General Tendency of the Westralian Market Dull—Great Fingall Dividend Reduced—The Ivanhoe Ore Reserves Estimate and the Company's General Position—A Sound Mining Holding—Comparison with Mysore.

In the Westralian market the business transacted during the past week was mainly in the nature of realisations, but as a rule where prices were marked down the decline was attributable to general market conditions rather than to any unfavourable developments in connection with the affairs of the companies concerned. One exception, however, was the Great Fingall, whose shares have been sold in consequence of the dividend just announced, the amount—half-a-crown per share—comparing with previous quarterly distributions of 3s. per share. But in view of the reduction in the output that has had to be made, the average grade having been lowered in consequence of the comparatively poor results that have attended the development of the last two levels, the further reduction in the rate of the dividend was expected in some quarters; in fact in my notes a few weeks ago I prepared my readers for this event, and, in dealing with the outlook, based my remarks to some extent on the prospects of quarterly distributions of no more than 2s. 6d. per share. Golden Horseshoes have had a sharp relapse, presumably on realisations from Paris, whence a good deal of selling has emanated during the past week in connection with more than one department of the Stock Exchange. How other shares have fared will be seen from the subjoined table:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 9, 1907.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 5/16	1 3/16	1 3/16	− 1/16
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 1/2	1/2	3/4	3/4	—
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	5/6	4/9	− 9d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 5/16	4 3/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	− 3/16
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/-	25/-	—
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	7/6	6/9xd	− 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 1/16	2 1/4	2 1/8	2	− 1/8
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 5/16	− 3/16
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 3/4	6 1/16	7 1/16	7 1/16	—
Kalgurli	12 3/4	8 3/4	11 1/2	11 5/16	− 3/16
Lake View Consols	1 1/16	3/4	3/4	13/16	+ 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21 10½	8/6	17/-	15/6	−1/6
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	1 3/4	1 11/16	− 1/16
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1/4	3/4	5/8	− 1/16
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 3/8	1 1/4	1 5/8	1 3/8	+ 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/8	4 6	5/6	+1 -
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	+ 1/8

Ivanhoes have been one of the firmest spots in this market of late, and this is not at all surprising when one considers the position of the company. During the past week an ore reserves estimate has been issued by the Ivanhoe management, and it reveals a larger value in sight by over £200,000 than the previous computation. It is estimated that the mine has opened up 932,551 tons of ore of a total value of £2,539,838, as against 796,841 tons of a value of £2,317,829 at the end of June last. The latest figures represent fully four years' supply for the treatment plant, and a profit in sight of about £5 15s. per share. The strength of the Ivanhoe position in relation to the current market capitalisation of the mine may perhaps best be shown by contrasting it with that of another big mine. For the purpose of comparison, then, let us take the Mysore, which, judging from the considerable premium at which its shares are quoted by the market, is evidently considered to be in a strong position. Mysores are 10s. shares quoted at nearly £6, while Ivanhoes are £5 shares valued in the market at a trifle over £7. In order that my readers may be able to obtain a clear idea of the positions of the two concerns, and to tell at a glance how they compare, I have compiled the following table:—

Mine.	Ore Reserves.	Estimated Value.	Years' Supply.	Profit in Sight.	Proportion of Current Price represented by Profit in Sight.	Dividends, 1906.	Yield on Current Price.
	Tons.				Per Cent.		Per Cent.
Ivanhoe ...	932,551	£2,539,838	4	£5 15s per Share.	80	£1 4s per Share.*	16·5
Mysore ...	747,000	not stated	4	£2 16s. per Share.†	47	14s. per Share.	11·9

* 15s. already paid; balance 9s. probable, as for 1905.
† Assumed on the basis of 4 years' dividends at 1906 rate.

It will be seen that while Ivanhoes yield a bigger return at the current price than Mysores, the position of a shareholder in the former is also more secure. In the case of Ivanhoes, 20 per cent. of the current price represents possibilities, whereas in the case of Mysores, the margin of risk is 53 per cent. It should also be noted that the Ivanhoe reserves represent ore developed above the 1,370 ft. level only, although all the lodes have been cut at the 1,520 ft. level and the new lode has been cut at a still greater depth. Moreover, the Ivanhoe Company has a substantial cash reserve, and this is not allowed for in the profit in sight estimate given above. At the end of 1905 the cash reserve was about £70,000, and the report for 1906, which should be issued in about a month, will doubtless show that sum to have been increased. As regards the balance dividend due to be declared by the Ivanhoe Board this month, it is most probable that the amount will be 9s. per share, making in all 24s. per share for the past year, as for 1905. All things considered, Ivanhoes appear to me to be one of the best holdings in the whole list of mining securities.

Heavy Fall in the Leading Copper Shares—The Broken Hill Group and Zincs—West African Factors—The Mysore Meeting and the Proposed Mine Redemption Fund.

The Copper group has continued one of the most active sections, and it has been one of the principal sufferers under the wide influence of the demoralised state of the American Market. Both Tintos and Anacondas have fluctuated violently from day to day, the former having been extensively realised on account of French speculators, while the latter have followed the course of Yankees. The fall in the price of copper from its high record of over £110 per ton contributed to the flatness of the leading shares, but it would appear that the drop in the metal quotation has not been due to unfavourable trade developments. At any rate, a leading firm of metal brokers has attributed the relapse to the disturbed condition of the international stock markets bringing about "bear" selling. With a removal of the disturbing element, then, the price of copper should recover, and the quotations of copper shares also; but who can say at the moment when normal conditions will again prevail? As regards Tintos, the time is drawing near for the dividend declaration and the issue of the annual report, and anticipations in respect of these will probably serve to keep speculators active, even if general market conditions

assume a quiet aspect. Among other Copper favourites, Arizonas have been a comparatively firm spot, and Mount Morgans have maintained their position, thanks to Colonial buying having been forthcoming to counterbalance the selling on this side, but some of the Australian issues have been weak as a result of forced liquidation, notably Mount Lyells and Mount Elliotts. The following table shows how prices have fared on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Mar. 9, 1907.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/8	1 1/32	1 1/8	1 1/8	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	17/3	16/-	-1/3
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/8	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 7/16	- 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/8	1 11/16	2 3/16	2 1/8	- 1/16
Wassau	1 1/8	1/2	1/8	1/8	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	3/-	1/9	-1/3
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	4/-	3/6	-6d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	26/-	24/6	-1/6
Esperanza	5 5/16	2 1/4	2 3/16	2 1/4	+ 1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/2	1 7/16	- 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	39/4 1/2	37/6	-1/10 1/2
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 1/32	4 23/32	4 3/4	- 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	30/-	29/6	-6d.
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 1/8	11 1/8	13 1/2	13	- 1/2
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	52/6	50/9	-1/9
Mount Morgan	4 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	—
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/8	63 3/8	101 1/2	91 1/2	-10 1/2
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	26/-	23/-xd	-1/
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	3/4	2 15/16	2 15/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	18/-	18/6	+6d.
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	12/-	11/-	-1/-
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/4	6 1/8	5 1/4xd	+6d.
Siberian Mines	2 13/16	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 7/16	+ 1/8
Siberian Proprietary	16 7/8	3 1/8	6	5 1/4	- 1/4
Waihi	9 13/16	6 9/16	9	8 13/16xd	-6d.

Like most other departments, the Broken Hill section has shared in the recent depression, but there has been no particular pressure to realise shares of this class, and prices have not given way to a material extent. The general position as regards the mines themselves being satisfactory enough, it may reasonably be expected that with better general market conditions, Broken Hill quotations will recover. What would also tend to help this group as a whole would be a smart rally in Zinc Corporations, the recent heavy fall in which has checked speculation in the mine shares, although obviously the success or failure of the Zinc Corporation has no connection with the development of the mines. Zincs have been somewhat quieter since the receipt of the cable to which I referred last week, the market awaiting the promised further message from Messrs. Hoover and Loring as to the working of the plant. The price of the shares has fluctuated within narrower limits than in the preceding week, and it has been noticeable that they have been readily absorbed in the neighbourhood of 27s. A good many speculators are believed to have sold short of the shares, and it is thought the receipt of satisfactory advices from the colony would cause a scramble on the part of the "bears" to repurchase, with the result that the price would quickly spurt.

But for the general depression, it is thought West Africans would have made a rather better showing. Certainly there are one or two encouraging factors to be noted in respect of Jungle shares, improved results being reported by several of the mines. Despite the shorter month, the February returns of the Bibiani, Broomassie, and Ashanti Goldfields are all better than for January, and in connection with the shares of the last-named concern there is said to have been some buying recently by people who should be well informed as to the company's position and prospects. The reported success of the roasting plant, of course, improves the outlook for this undertaking, and hopes are being indulged in of the early declaration of a dividend. At the meeting last December the Chairman said the directors fully expected to be in a position—"and that, too, consistent with a sound financial policy"—to pay a dividend in course of the current financial year. The decision of the Abosso management to add twenty stamps to the milling equipment of the mine is also an encouraging factor, as it implies that the ore reserve position has improved, and affords promise of satisfactory dividends on the current market value of the shares. The parent company, the Taquah and Abosso, is expected to get its full mill of fifty stamps in operation in a month or two.

The event of the week in connection with the Indian group of shares was the holding of the Mysore annual meeting. The chairman held out the prospect of an increased output, but apparently it is not intended to increase the dividend in the event of larger profits being earned; the policy will be to maintain distributions at last year's rate—140 per cent.—and place the balance of earnings to a mine redemption fund. This is an interesting departure from the usual policy of those responsible for the management of the Indian gold mines. Instead of creating a reserve the general policy has been to divide profits practically up to the hilt. Consequently, in prosperous years big dividends have been paid and share values have been put up accordingly by the market. When money has been needed it has been raised by making a new issue of shares, or when developments have fallen off shareholders have had to face a reduction in their dividends, with the result that the prices of the shares have slumped. It is all very well to say, as one gentleman did at the Mysore meeting last week, that the best thing shareholders who want a reserve can do is to make one for themselves by keeping a portion of the big dividends declared. One can make the suggestion, but how many mining investors do invest part of their dividends with a view to the redemption of their capital? In the long run it would be probably better for them to agree to receive a somewhat smaller dividend so as to allow of the creation of a reserve for the equalisation of future distributions, and for providing against a run of bad luck which might call for extra expenditure on capital account. Those who bought Champion Reefs and Ooregums at high prices on the expectation of the big dividends being maintained, have had an unpleasant experience. They have seen their dividends considerably reduced, and the prices of the shares have consequently fallen. The Champion Reef quotation, which was up to 30s. at one time last year, has since been less than a third of that amount. The probability is that the dividend due to be declared by this company in a few weeks' time will show a further reduction compared with the 9d. per share declared for the corresponding period of last year. Mining enterprise is at best speculative, but if a cautious financial policy be followed the risk to be faced by a shareholder will obviously be less than if it is the practice to divide profits practically up to the hilt and put by nothing for a possible rainy day.

Prospectusless Companies.

The Bill for the amendment of the Companies Acts, which was read a second time in the House of Lords last week, is doubtless capable of improvement in some of its details, but on the whole it seems to be a praiseworthy and well-designed attempt to check the abuses that have arisen under the Act of 1900. The most salutary of all its proposals is that aimed against the promoters who evade the requirements of the Act by launching companies and "making a market" on the Stock Exchange without the issue of prospectuses. It is provided by the Bill that every company which does not on its formation issue a prospectus, shall file with the Registrar at Somerset House a statement containing all the facts which are required to be disclosed in a prospectus. This statement will, of course, be accessible to the public, so that intending investors will at any rate be in a position to obtain the information if they choose to go to the trouble of doing so. Unfortunately they are a careless race, and it is to be hoped that in committee on the Bill consideration will be given to the question whether it may not be desirable to insist upon some more public disclosure of the facts than the mere filing of a statement with the Registrar. One doubtful provision of the Bill is that empowering a Court to

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

grant relief to directors in cases where a breach of duty has been caused by honest oversight, inadvertence, or error of judgment. On the face of it this may seem reasonable enough. But in practice—as may be seen from the revelations that are constantly being made in the Courts—far too much latitude is already given to reckless, negligent, and incompetent directors, and instead of offering them another means of escape, the law ought to bring their responsibilities home to them more closely and severely.

Share Peddling.

Though these are the days of woman's emancipation, it is news to learn that her charming sex are regarded as possible customers of touting brokers at the early age of nine. Last week a maiden of these tender years, the daughter of one of my readers, was favoured with a letter from A. Everest and Co., 82, Wells-street, Oxford-street, W., offering her for sale twenty ordinary shares in J. Lyons and Co. For some of that well-known firm's pastry the little lady might have found a use, but the shares did not appeal to her. No doubt a similar letter has been addressed to other and older persons. If, however, they desire to buy shares in Lyons and Co.—and the shares are really a good commercial investment—I should recommend them for various reasons to make the purchase through a member of the Stock Exchange. The same advice applies, of course, to the shares in other companies which A. Everest and Co. are also offering by means of circulars.

Blind Pools for Simple Fools.

Digby, Curtis and Co., 40 and 41, Sackville-street, were pilloried a few weeks ago among the bucket-shop promoters of blind pools. The circular I noticed then has since been issued afresh with the alteration of the date and a few minor changes, such as the substitution of "the handsome profit of £43 15s. on each £10 share" for the comparatively paltry £21 5s. which the previous "special syndicate stock operation" was said to have made. In the first edition of the circular the firm had decided to open another "operation" at once, in consequence of the receipt of "important information" that the shares of "a certain (American) railway" were "shortly to be taken in hand by a powerful 'bull' syndicate which is certain to advance the price of the shares at least 4 or 5 points." A month later this same statement was repeated word for word, Digby, Curtis, and Co. apparently thinking that it was not worth while to invent a new cock-and-bull story for the beguilement of the greenhorns to whom they appeal.

"Lee Baillie and Co." (until a week or two back they styled themselves "Lee Baillie and Nephew"), of 31, Basinghall-street, E.C., are another gang of the same class who evidently consider that no story is too steep for the public to swallow. "Clients joining us in this deal," they say in a recent circular, "may confidently rely on a profit something like 300 or 400 per cent." Compared with these bold practitioners, the London and British Stock and Share Corporation (manager, Walter Bell), 79, Queen-street, E.C., the London Scottish Stock Exchange, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C., and Laurie and Vincent, 70, Queen-street, E.C., exhibit a sad lack of confidence in the handling of the long bow. The London and British only profess to have made a trifling profit of £12 10s. on each £5 share in their last "special stock operation," the London Scottish are content to boast of "£13 10s. upon every £10 subscribed," while Laurie and Vincent, with still more surprising modesty, claim a mere return of 50 per cent. Whether the bait is a promise of a profit of 50 or 500 per cent., however, it seems to me that the people who fall into such booby-traps as these are not deserving of much sympathy; indeed, they need the lesson in worldly wisdom which they get.

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

Insurance Notes—Fair Fire Insurance—Profit-Sharing—Insurance of Policy-holder, not of Property—Inventories and Valuations.

Fires, like all other phenomena, exhibit average results when dealt with on a sufficiently large scale. For individuals the happening of a fire is quite uncertain, and the possibility of a large financial loss through fire may be avoided by a relatively small annual payment. It is an exceedingly happy arrangement that the combination of individuals in a fire company affords to each of them complete security against the risk of loss, while the whole body of the insured is equally secure against excessive risk through the operations of the laws of average. When a naturalist tells us of ingenious arrangements of mimicry, colouring, and other devices by which various animals are protected, we are filled with admiration of Nature's ingenuity; but when we see ingenuity no less great and, properly considered, no less natural, working in the social sphere, we are apt to forget to wonder and only too frequently we take to grumbling instead.

One of the complaints which is frequently made against the fire insurance companies is that their profits are too large. People point to the big dividends that are paid to the shareholders, and the high values of fire insurance shares. It is true we have not heard so much about this aspect of the matter since the fire at San Francisco, which will need profitable times for many years to come before average results are again produced. If, however, we take the accounts of insurance companies over a series of fairly normal years the profit, after paying losses, commission, and expenses, is only about 8 per cent. of the premiums paid, which cannot be considered excessive, although it is sufficient, when added to the interest on large accumulated funds, to pay very substantial dividends to shareholders.

While dealing with this aspect of the matter, however, it really does seem to me that private people and other owners of property, in connection with which the chances of fire are very small, have some cause for complaint. It is perfectly well known that the fire risks which pay best are those for which the smallest premiums are charged. Insurance at a premium of 1s. 6d. or 2s. for each £100 insured is vastly more lucrative than policies where the premium is twelve times as much. This fact is very clearly shown in the large trading profits systematically obtained by the offices which secure the largest proportion of small premium policies. Unfortunately, the most conspicuous of the companies which made a feature of this best class of business have been absorbed in recent years by companies doing foreign and hazardous insurance. The Hand-in-Hand, the Westminster, and the County have all been taken over, and now the disappearance of the Law Fire is in process of being carried through. In regard to the first three of these companies, the sales of their businesses deprived the public of insuring to such good advantage as they could formerly. The business done was select, the profits were very large, and the holders of fire insurance policies participated in the profits. This resulted in a very substantial decrease in the premiums they had to pay as compared with those charged by ordinary companies.

A fourth profit-sharing fire office is the Essex and Suffolk Equitable, which was founded in 1802. Up to quite recently this very interesting and excellent society was unable to do business within ten miles of the Royal Exchange, in consequence of certain provisions in early deeds of settlement. These provisions have been abolished, and the society has now opened an office in London. Its share capital has lately been increased, but the shareholders are not allowed to take a larger dividend than 5 per cent. per annum until the policy-holders have had half their premiums returned to them. This 5 per cent. dividend is more than provided for by the interest on the funds, so that the policy-holders have first claim upon the whole of the trading profit, which, since the business is select, are very large. I do not know how far human ingenuity can succeed in binding future generations, but so far as it is possible to do this the Essex and Suffolk has inserted conditions in its

regulations purporting to make the transfer of the business to another company impossible. The methods of this society seem to me admirably devised for giving safe fire insurance on the lowest terms to the best class of policy-holders, who, in normal cases, undoubtedly pay a vast deal more for their insurance protection than it really costs.

Having thus pointed out one particular instance in which the majority of the fire offices make excessive profits out of their best customers, it is appropriate to deal with another aspect of the question, in regard to which the companies are right, and a great many policy-holders are wrong. It is extremely common for people to say that if they are insured for £1,000 and the whole of the insured property is destroyed by fire, the company ought to pay £1,000 regardless of the value of the property at the time it was burnt, and without requiring any proof that property to the value of £1,000 was destroyed. Now I have no hesitation in saying that such a practice as this, or any approximation to it, is both undesirable and impracticable, and there are various cogent reasons for this opinion. In the first place, we must remember that the business of the companies is insurance against loss by fire; they do not profess to cover losses arising from other causes. If as a trader my goods depreciate in market value, the companies contract to pay me the value of the goods at the time they were destroyed, not to give me the price I paid for them. If a picture would now fetch only one-tenth of what I gave for it, the company will not compensate me for my lack of judgment; if my sheets and blankets are nearly worn out through long use, my policy does not pretend to replace them with new ones of the same quality as the old. All that the contract does cover, and all that it ought to cover, is my loss by fire. It is a fundamental and necessary condition of fire insurance that the company insures me personally against loss by fire up to the amount of my policy. A fire policy for £1,000 is not at all the same sort of thing as a life policy for £1,000. When a life policy becomes a claim its face value has to be paid without any questions arising as to whether the financial loss to my dependants at my death is greater or less than my financial value at the time I assured.

In fire insurance, however, it is not, and cannot be so. It is altogether against the general good that people should be able to make profits out of a fire. A fire policy that put a premium on incendiarism, either by replacing old goods by new ones, by realising the cost price of goods which have decreased in market value, or in any other ways, would, if it were introduced, not merely increase enormously the cost of fire insurance for honest people, but would probably have to be prohibited by law.

This brings me to another question about which I am continually receiving inquiries—that of having valuations of one's property made from time to time with the idea that the fire companies will settle claims on the basis of such valuations. With one or two exceptions, none of the fire offices will accept such a valuation as proof of loss, and it seems to me that they would be quite wrong if they did. An inventory and a valuation made in 1907 affords no proof of either the existence or the value of goods destroyed in 1910; and considering the way in which countless frauds on insurance companies are attempted I think they might just as well close their doors altogether as attempt to settle claims without proof of loss.

I am all in favour of the most explicit conditions in policies, and of their being fair both to the insured and to the companies, but in regard to fire insurance it is a positive necessity that the companies should give no loophole by means of which unscrupulous persons could make a profit out of a fire. In the vast majority of cases honest claims, whether small or large, are fairly met and promptly paid. To introduce conditions which might seem more fair, and which would not be abused by honest people would inevitably increase the opportunities for fraud, and thereby make fire insurance much more expensive all round than it is at present. Some of the normal conditions may not be ideal, but for practical purposes they work well and are satisfactory.

Notes on New Issues.

Prospectuses have been issued by the following:—

The Maudslay Motor Company (1907), *Limited.*—Capital £100,000, divided into 80,000 Seven and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Ordinary and 20,000 Deferred Ordinary shares. The former are offered for subscription. The company acquires the business of the Maudslay Motor Company, Coventry and London.

The deferred shares are allotted as fully paid to the shareholders of the vendor company in part payment of the purchase price. After payment of the fixed dividend on the preferred ordinary shares, the deferred will be entitled to a 7½ per cent. dividend and the balance of profits will be equally divided between the two classes. By the articles of association each deferred share carries four votes. In view of these arrangements in favour of the deferred shareholders, together with the absence from the prospectus of any statement as to the profits of the business acquired, the offer of the preferred ordinary shares is not at all attractive.

Chicago Great Western Railway Company.—Offers for subscription $3,873,000 Four per Cent. Debenture stock.

This is not exactly a happy moment for an American railway issue, but there seems to be fair security for this stock.

Thomas Wolfe and Son (1907), *Limited.*—Capital £150,000, in £1 shares, of which 80,000 are now issued, 53,500 being offered for subscription. The new company acquires the business of Thomas Wolfe and Sons, Limited, jobmasters, of Woburn-square, W.C., which is to be extended by the purchase for hiring of town motor carriages and touring cars.

The profits of the vendor company are not set out, though a statement is made as to the average dividend that has been paid on the ordinary shares. "It is expected, on a conservative estimate," says the prospectus, "that the capital invested in motor vehicles will earn ten per cent. as net profit." Obviously the shares offered on the strength of this expectation must be speculative.

Stanley Brothers, Limited.—This company, formed in 1905, carries on brick and tile works and collieries at Nuneaton and elsewhere. An issue is now made of £75,000 Five per Cent. Debenture stock.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

A. B. C., Boscombe.—Hold both as investments. *C. W. D.*—A very fair investment of the second class.

Railways.

M. F., Cardiff.—No; you had better have nothing to do with such a system of speculation. *Kent.*—The market in both has been disappointing, but the long spell of dear money has operated against all securities, and has played havoc with many reasonable anticipations. You ought, in my opinion, to hold Midland Deferred; the instrinsic merits on which my opinion was based still hold good. *Anxious.*—You could get safety and a yield of 3½ per cent. by buying, say, London and South-Western Railway 4 per cent. Preference. *Wolverley.*—Both Little Chat-

hams and Caledonian Deferred are very poor holdings. I should be inclined to sell. *Stannerton.*—1. Metropolitan District Three per Cent. Rent Charge should be held. 2. Also Midland Deferred. *Canada.*—1. Under the circumstances, yes. 2 and 3. Having bought "cum. div." and sold "ex. div." you should be credited with the dividend, and thus your loss would be 7½. If you had no confidence in your man, why did you deal with him? *Cantab.*—The stock is worth holding as a speculative investment, but I see no attraction in running it upon borrowed money. *K. L. T.*—Ultimately there may be a recovery, but the immediate outlook is anything but bright. It is possible that you might do better to exchange into, say, Great Northern Deferred or Hulls. See this week's comments. I will keep your suggestion in mind, but objections to carrying it out often come from correspondents themselves. *Borril.*—I am afraid there is little chance of an early recovery, and think you might exchange into Hull and Barnsley Ordinary.

Mines.

C. L. D.—Please note Rule 1. An exchange into Chillagoes would be likely to turn out well in time. *Cæsarea.*—No special reason has transpired for the decline, and I think you might hold for a recovery. A further purchase to average would be a fair speculation, but you should not put too much money into one concern. *Preston.*—1. There has recently been some talk of a reconstruction, but I have no official information. 2. I would not subscribe any money for such a purpose. *G. M.*—I see no reason to anticipate much improvement in No. 1 in the early future, but the South Africans are a fair holding with a view to a rise in a buoyant market.

Mixed Securities.

Flip.—1. I should not buy them. 2 and 3. I do not see much attraction in these at present. 4. A hopeful holding. 5. Very promising; see my remarks in this week's article. 6. Keep them, if you have any. *D. K.*—What information do you require? *Adew.*—1. Hold them. 2. The lines are doing very well, and the shares are worth keeping. 3. The bonds appear to be fairly well secured, and at the price they are not without attraction. 4. A very speculative holding. Better sell. 5. Very speculative, but may have some improvement if copper keeps up. 6. The stock should get not less than 3 per cent., and will probably get its full 4 per cent. *Sabrina.*—1. El Oros recently had a very fair advance, but have since relapsed slightly. On any further decline the shares would be worth picking up with a view to dividends. 2. Simply the dividend, I think. 3. No special reason that I am aware of. *Sheila.*—1 and 2. Hold for a better market. 3. The Company is doing very well, and a rise is quite likely. *Foreigner.*—1. The stock will probably recover in sympathy with the senior issues. It is, however, nothing better than a gambling counter, and if your idea is investment, better exchange into the Third Preference. 2. Since you wrote the price has fallen, and I think you should hold for a recovery. *I. M. S.*—I must ask you to comply with Rule 1 in future. 1. A mere gambling counter. 2. A very speculative holding, and you might as well exchange into something which is more active. *Curley.*—1. Quite good, though it would be better to choose a non-terminable security. You could get 3½ per cent. with safety upon some of our best English Railway Preferences. 2. Represents the splitting of original Ordinary stock into two equal parts, called Preferred and Deferred. On the former the dividend is fixed, while the latter ranks next for dividend, the amount upon which is not limited. 3. By no means. The yield is a beggarly 2¼ per cent. *Waterloo.*—After the recent heavy fall a rally, if only temporary, would not be surprising, and you might therefore continue for the present. *Inexperienced, Valve, Preston,* and others.—You could get from 4½ to 5 per cent. with very fair security by buying Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. Bonds (first series), United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage Bonds, Buenos Ayres Western Railway Four and a Half per Cent. new Preference, Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, Mexican Railway First Preference, Bradford Dyers Preference, Pears Preference, and Raphael Tuck and Sons Preference. Spread the money to limit the risk, the number of securities chosen of course depending upon the amount you have to invest. *Huntsman.*—1. Better hold for the present. 2. The stock looks high enough, but in view of the strong support understood to be accorded, a better opportunity might be afforded of getting out. 3. As a speculation, the shares should be kept for the present; there is talk of a higher dividend. 4. I have no recent information. 5. Buenos Ayres Western Four and a Half per Cent. new Preference, and Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference. *Jacobus.*—1. See list of 4½-5 per cent. stocks given to other correspondents. 2. See Rule 8. *Invalidi.*—1. Prospects are not very promising at present, but you may as well hold in hope of something turning up. 2. I regard *b* as a promising purchase, but it does not yield anything like 5 per cent. The return is not quite 4 per cent. at the current quotation. Better leave *c* alone; (a) might be bought. *Hindu.*—1. Grand Trunk Pacific Railway new Four per Cent. Debentures ought to suit you. 2 and 3. No doubt you have seen the article on the so-called "bank" in Truth of February 27. *P. A. M.*—1. Leopoldinas would be a fair speculative purchase for a rise between now and the dividend. 2. Hold the Cuban Rails, though I cannot venture to predict such a rise as you suggest. 2. The prospects of the Mexican Railway are bright; at the same time it is difficult to justify the recent big rise in the Ordinary, and the statement that the buying has been "good" only makes the movement the more puzzling. At present levels better stick to the Home Railway stock. *Bingo.*—The present return on the "B" annuities is of course less than that on the "A," 5s. 2d. per pound of annuity being deducted from the former to form a sinking fund, which it is calculated will produce as nearly as possible £174 5s. 11d. per £100 of old stock at the expiry of the annuity in 1948 (this works out at £26 2s. per £1 of annuity). It would be a pity to part with such a first rate security, though it would probably suit you better to exchange from "A." to "B." 2. I believe they have. *R. B.*—Never heard of the shares. 2. Would be unattractive even at half the figure mentioned. *Badger.*—1. A fairly promising speculative purchase at the moment. 2. Coal factors. A decent holding, but devoid of speculative qualities. 3 and 4. Both fair of their type. *H. A. T.*—(a) Humbers might be bought upon any temporary market decline. (b) Last year the dividend was reduced, but they are nevertheless a fair holding. (c) Merely passable. (d) In view of the declining dividends they are not very promising. (e) Van Den Bergh Ordinary are worth keeping. *F. G. E.*—To realise and put the proceeds into something more hopeful would be wise. *T. F. C.*—1. Hold. 2. If you want something with speculative qualities, Darracqs, Humbers, and Argyll Motors might suit. *Bucks.*—Both might be held for the time being. *Jacandem.*—They are not very brilliant, but might be held. *Thrift.*—Save for Dunlops they make a decent selection. *Boissiere.*—I do not regard them as attractive. *Senex.*—I think 1 and 2 ought to be held. No. 3 and 4 ought to go higher within the next few months. 5. It will be some time before the factor alluded to menaces the stock. 6. The threatened legislation makes the outlook uncertain. *P. N. M.*—1. You cannot get a "minimum return of 5 per cent. on safe stocks." I would suggest your studying the 4½-5 per cent. securities recommended in this column to others. 2. Too speculative. *Cariad.*—1 and 2. The market is best left alone. 3. See Rule 8. *Lee.*—1. Hold. 2 and 3. No. *York.*—Hold all of them.

Insurance.

H. R.—A brief reference was made to the matter in my insurance notes some weeks ago, and I intend to deal with it in more detail at an early date. *Onus.*—The Yorkshire Insurance Company is sound and good in every way. *E. S. C.*—I have little belief in the company you are assured in; if you have recently joined, drop the policy. The Century and Scottish Temperance are better than the other office you name. See my insurance article of March 6. *A. B. C.*—I cannot recommend either of the companies you mention. See my reply to "E. S. C." above. *Stability.*—The company is quite sound. I dealt with it at very considerable length in Truth for August 22, September 12, and September 26, 1905. *Lieut. D. S.*—The Corporation is quite sound, and its policies for the purpose you want are good. *C. E. G.*—You were wise not to be victimised. Quite likely I will give before long the free advertisement you suggest. *J. O. B.*—I have but a poor opinion of this company, whose circular is in bad taste and needs considerable qualification. People who want the kind of policy referred to in it can do better elsewhere. *Southampton West.*—A good deal depends upon age. Tell me the dates of birth and I will advise as to the best company to go to. *J. P.*—I have a very poor opinion of all the three house-purchase companies which you mention, and should advise you to go elsewhere. See reply to "E. S. C." The North British and Mercantile is sound beyond any possibility of question. *S. G. P.*—See reply to "E. S. C."

Miscellaneous.

Duped.—It is a point on which I do not care to take the responsibility of advising you. The shares are a hopeful holding. I do not know the paper, but from what you say as to its advice it is evidently one to be avoided. *C. W. M.*—The system mentioned is a gamble—not an investment—which I do not recommend. *Oxford.*—Not at all a promising purchase. *Caution.*—Read my rule as to coupon. *H. M.*—I hardly think anyone will be misled. The Company, by the way, has been established over thirty years. *Bond, X. Y. Z., Stan.,* and *C. H. K. J.*—I do not recommend a purchase of such bonds; in any case avoid the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell and Co., and similar touting firms, which charge most exorbitant prices. *Widow.*—I have published frequent warnings against "Martin Bull" and "John B. McKenzie." *Uncertain.*—1. Apparently due to the approaching completion of some big contracts. May recover if other contracts are obtained. 2. A further purchase of Baskets would be likely to prove remunerative in time. 3. See Rule 8 above. *A. M. W.*—There is a firm of the name you mention at Pinners' Hall, Old Broad-street, but I have had to warn my readers against them. *P. W. C.*—Thanks for the circulars. *Ladies' Agency.*—Bradford Dyers. *Hilda.*—I do not recommend it. Read my weekly articles for such information.

Hudson's Bays Still Falling—Vickers, Sons, and Maxim—Depreciation of Productive Plant—Daimlers and Dunlops—Ocean Accident.

In the midst of more or less general demoralisation the Miscellaneous market as a whole exhibited a welcome degree of steadiness, the most conspicuous exception to the rule being Hudson's Bays. Like other Canadians, they suffered from the American slump, and in one day a drop of as much as 8 points was recorded, but a rally occurred before the end of the week, and the closing quotation was 106. This, however, still leaves a total loss of 11 points on the past fortnight. Nor will a further decline in the near future be at all surprising, for there are signs and portents that the Canadian land boom cannot last unchecked much longer. Anglo-American Telegraph

deferred have been fairly firm, and scarcely any changes have been marked in other securities of the same class. A noteworthy feature of the week has been the strength of steel and engineering companies' shares. It is well known that these industries are now in a highly prosperous state, and the report of Vickers, Sons, and Maxim affords further striking evidence of that fact. For 1906 the net profit of this great undertaking was £879,905, being an advance of £92,127 on 1905, which in its turn had displayed a gain of £100,000 on the preceding year. There is, however, no increase in the ordinary dividend of 15 per cent. which was paid a year ago, the directors prudently preferring to apply the sum of £250,000 to writing down the item of goodwill and patents. That item is thereby reduced to £250,000, so that in another year or so it ought to be entirely wiped out. The prospects of the company for the current year are very good, and at the existing prices both the ordinary and the preference shares—the former giving a yield of about 6 per cent. and the latter 4 3-16—are worthy of attention. All the talk about international disarmament will end in smoke—let us hope that it will not be the smoke of battle—and Vickers, Sons, and Maxim (who have now, by the way, acquired a quarter interest in the firm of Whitehead and Co., the torpedo manufacturers) will no doubt long do a lucrative business in the production of armour plates and guns and warships. In connection with engineering companies, the paper on the depreciation of productive plant which Mr. P. D. Leake read last week before the Institute of Directors, is specially interesting, though what he said is, of course, also applicable to many other undertakings. For the protection and guidance of investors, he advocated the introduction of a system of statutory registers in which records would have to be made of the date of purchase, original cost, and estimated efficient economic life of every class of productive plant, as well as of the provision (if any) that was being made for depreciation. Whatever may be thought of this proposal, there can be no question as to the necessity for the general adoption of more scientific and regular methods of providing for depreciation.

In the motor section the scheme of the Daimler directors for the reorganisation of the capital of the company has been the chief source of interest. It is proposed to call up the unpaid balance of ten shillings each on the existing preference shares, to extinguish their preferential rights in return for a cash bonus of six per cent. on their nominal amount, making them rank hereafter with the existing ordinary shares, and to create a new preference capital of £300,000, of which £100,000 will be issued forthwith. The present preference shares are now entitled to a six per cent. cumulative dividend and one-half of the surplus profits after six per cent. has been distributed on the ordinary shares, with priority as to capital. It is scarcely astonishing that the proposal to cancel these rights for a bonus, amounting only to one year's dividend, has not been favourably received by the holders of preference shares; and although it is encouraging to know that the company's business continues to expand, it would certainly appear that a more equitable method of raising the additional funds that are needed for working purposes could have been devised. The present scheme has brought about a slight decline both in the preference and the ordinary shares. The report of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company was deemed somewhat disappointing, though its position has now been improved by a drastic reduction of the inflated capital account from £3,994,800 to £2,119,900. On the deferred shares the dividend is 5 per cent. and on the ordinary 8 per cent. An offer of 38,100 shares in the Dunlop Rubber Co., the most profitable of the subsidiary undertakings, is now made to the shareholders in the parent company at a premium of £5 per share. There has been some demand for Darracqs as the result of the reported arrangement for the introduction of the shares on the Paris Bourse, but, for the rest, motors have been featureless. Breweries remain depressed, and in catering companies' shares there have been no movements of any significance.

Among insurance shares the issues of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation advanced on the appearance of a very satisfactory report. A further dividend of 7½ per cent. together with a bonus of 10 per cent. is recommended, this making, with the interim dividend, 25 per cent. for 1906, as compared with 20 per cent. in 1905. The revenue for the year amounted to £1,178,385, as compared with £1,113,676 in 1905, and the claims paid and provided for amounted to £578,000 as compared with £605,826. The general insurance fund, together with the reserve, amounts to £1,391,537. The revenue account shows, after debiting all charges and expenses, a credit balance of £554,814, leaving, after making provision for unexpired risks, £172,814. Investments and other assets amount to £1,623,439.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

AN UNLUCKY LINCOLN.

"I SAY, Berty, dear boy; I wonder if you'd execute a little commission for me."

"What's that, old girl?"

"Get me a monkey on Skyscraper for the Lincolnshire. I wouldn't ask you, only, you know, the bookies won't have any dealings with us women direct. I'm sure I can't think why," she added, with an artless, petulant little pout.

Berty Combermere knew why. He had good reason to know. This was not the first time that Angela Fisherton had employed him as agent in her betting transactions; and on each occasion when she had lost, she had left him to settle up off his own bat, serenely unconscious, apparently, of her own obligations in the matter.

The proceeding was essentially feminine, though why women should be less punctilious than men over their debts of honour I confess I do not understand. Indeed, in order to do so one must first arrive at the inner workings of the woman's mind—a thing that no mere man has ever yet achieved. The fact is the two things—the male mind and the female mind—are like Euclid's definition of parallel straight lines, "which, being produced ever so far both ways, never meet." The wise man, therefore, is he who, without wasting his time on trying to comprehend what is beyond him or to study the motive springs of woman's conduct, is content to take that conduct as he finds it, and to shape his attitude towards her accordingly.

To this extent the bookmaker is a wise man, inasmuch as, without troubling himself about the why or the wherefore of woman's deficient moral sense in matters pecuniary, he philosophically accepts the fact, and declines to do business with her. Berty Combermere, though not himself a monument of wisdom, would have liked to adopt the same line, and excuse himself from undertaking the fair Angela's commission. But, in the circumstances, that was next door to impossible. When an exceedingly good-looking girl—one, moreover, with whom you are very much *épris*—asks you, to your face, to do a little favour of this kind for her—well, you can hardly say you won't, can you? Berty, at any rate, was unequal to the requisite display of moral courage, and he answered:

"All right, old girl; I'll see if I can get it on for you."

"Thanks awfully," she rejoined. "I've every confidence of pulling it off this journey. From what I'm told, Skyscraper is the pick of the basket."

"Umph! Price rather too short, though," interposed Berty, shaking his head. "I see he's quoted in this morning's paper at fives; and, to my mind, fives isn't good enough in any handicap—especially at the very beginning of the season, when the whole form of the entry is enveloped in Egyptian darkness."

"There's something in that, I dare say, Berty. And if you can get me a longer price, by all means, do."

"No chance of it, I'm afraid. I shan't get more than market price. Old Gildersleeves isn't a philan-

thropist; nor any other member of the Ring either, for that matter."

"Grasping old wretch! They say he's worth half a million."

"I rather doubt that," replied Berty. "These big bookies are seldom so rich as people give 'em credit for. Not but what Tim Gildersleeves must have done himself pretty well out of backers, all the same."

'He's done himself pretty well out of *me*, at any rate," sighed Angela, plaintively. "I'm sure I should be afraid to say how much money I have lost to him since this time last year."

Berty Combermere could hardly help smiling—though, for him, it was scarcely a smiling matter—at his fair companion's way of putting it. It was true, indeed, that Angela had lost money rather heavily during the period mentioned; but it was equally true that he (Berty) had had to pay up in every instance, so that he, not she, was the actual sufferer. However, the matter did not seem to strike Angela in that light at all, as little pecuniary matters of this sort never did. To her it was as much a matter of course that her men friends, who made her bets for her, should pay the piper in event of loss, as that, when they took her to a theatre or a restaurant, they should stand her her stall or her dinner. What else were men friends for?

From this you may see that to be one of Angela's men friends was a somewhat expensive privilege; and yet she did not lack men friends, in spite of it. Not only, as I have said, was Angela exceedingly pretty; she was also very much the rage. When she had made her début in society last season, under the wing of her aunt, Lady Wilie, with whom she had then recently come to reside, she caught on from the first in the most remarkable manner. Her youth, her beauty, her freshness, her vivacity, her daring conversation, her reckless disregard of conventionality—this irresistible combination of attractions took the men by storm. Even among the sirens of musical comedy she had scarcely a rival. The gilded youth ran after her. Everybody talked about her, and the women hated her—which was the most certain sign of all that she had scored a hit.

The mothers of sons and the sisters of brothers used all their influence to keep their men-folk from the spell of Angela Fisherton's *beaux yeux*. To that end they ransacked the scandal market for facts to the girl's discredit, and where facts failed them did not hesitate to invent suitable fictions.

They began by insinuating doubts as to the respectability of her parentage. Who was she? Where had she sprung from? Whence had her aunt so suddenly unearthed her? Assuming her to be her ladyship's niece—as was given out—it must follow that, since Lady Wilie's maiden name was certainly not Fisherton, the girl must be the daughter of one of her sisters. Inquiry so far confirmed this as to show that Lady Wilie's youngest sister *had* married a ne'er-do-well named Fisherton, who had long ago gone to the devil, having first broken his wife's heart and driven her into an early grave.

But these inquisitive scandal-mongers could hear nothing of any offspring of the ill-fated marriage. Indeed, it seemed to be pretty certain that the union had been childless. How, then, was this Angela to be accounted for? There had been odd stories afloat about Lady Wilie before her marriage with the now deceased Sir Gerard Wilie, twenty years previously, and Angela's age was just twenty-one. Take this fact, couple it with her ladyship's warm interest in the girl, and the inference was obvious. Nor were there wanting inventive minds to corroborate this scandalous suggestion with precise circumstantial details, such as the name of the convent school at which Angela had been brought up, and the exact annual charges paid by her "aunt" for the girl's education in that establishment.

Having thus discredited her origin, they proceeded to do all in their power to discredit her character. But here they rather over-reached themselves by making their animus against the girl too obvious. If a woman wants to set her son, or her brother, against an undesirable girl who is dangerously attractive to him, she can adopt no course more sure to defeat itself than to be constantly speaking against the girl in his presence. For even in this twentieth century man has still enough chivalry left to dispose him to take the side of a pretty girl whose character is being spitefully assailed by her fellow-women; and, apart from this, he is naturally a pig-headed and contrary animal, whom any open attempt to influence in one direction is pretty certain to drive in exactly the other.

Now, in the abstract, one cannot altogether blame the women for thus trying to put a spoke in Angela's wheel, for though her character, in the restricted sense of the word, was not open to imputation, there is no doubt that she was a heartless, unscrupulous, and dangerous young person. The wholesale way in which she encouraged the men to run after her and drew them on to make love to her, yet all the while cared nothing for any of them except for what she could get out of them, was a proceeding that admitted of no justification; and up to this point, at any rate, the charges against her rested on a solid basis. Her rivals, however, who were her bitterest accusers, were scarcely the people to bring these charges forward, since there was scarcely one of them who, given the same attractions and opportunities, would not have behaved in precisely the same way. But to return to my story.

Of Angela's many admirers, Berty Combermere was perhaps the one whom she affected most. He was by no means the richest of them, although, for a bachelor, he enjoyed a comfortable, not to say a substantial, income. But he was the most generous and the most easy-going—one of those men who find a constitutional difficulty in saying "No"; and the less a man was capable of saying "No," the more the insatiable Angela liked him. You see, she was poor. She made no secret of it. Yet the amount of money she got through in the year must have run into thousands, for, apart from her dressmaker's and milliner's bills, she was a persistent gambler both on the Turf and at the card-table, and though she sometimes brought off a good *coup* by her reckless punting, she very much more often lost heavily. Backing horses is a fool's trick at any time, even if it be indulged in with judgment and moderation; but Angela had neither judgment nor moderation; she just plunged at random as the fancy seized her, and, naturally enough under such circumstances, she was perpetually finding "wrong 'uns." This, you might have thought, would have taught her sense and led her to profit by experience. Angela, however, was not the girl to profit by experience. She was far too much the born gambler. "If you go on long enough, the luck must turn." That was her light-hearted maxim; and as this process of "going on long enough" cost her nothing, all the expense being borne by one or other of her men friends, the fair Angela was able to pursue it with little personal inconvenience.

But this sort of thing can't last for ever. The patience even of a Berty Combermere is not inexhaustible, and a period had now arrived when he was beginning to grow rather sick of Angela's treatment of him. She accepted his amatory advances up to a certain point complacently enough, but whenever he tried to press for a definite engagement, she always put him off with evasive replies, until it became clear, even to his enamoured understanding, that she was simply playing with him.

It was with this conviction strong upon him, and consequently in no very good humour, that he went round to Tattersall's to see Tim Gildersleeves and book the bet of that monkey about Skyscraper.

"As I've undertaken the thing, I'll do it this journey," he muttered to himself; "but it's positively the last time I'll let her make a catspaw of me. I don't believe she cares for me a button, except in so far as I serve her convenience. She hasn't a grain of heart in her whole composition."

In this frame of mind, he found and accosted Tim Gildersleeves, the well-known bookmaker, with whom he always did business.

"Morning, Tim."

"Morning, Mr. Combermere," replied Gildersleeves,

a well-dressed, portly, and genial personage whose appearance denoted the urbane good temper engendered by solid prosperity. "And how's the world using you, sir? You don't look so very chirpy to-day."

"Don't feel it, either," rejoined Berty, with unwonted moroseness. "Look here, Tim. I want to put a monkey on Skyscraper for the Lincolnshire Handicap."

Tim Gildersleeves pulled out his betting-book, and, pencil in hand, regarded it thoughtfully:

"Well, I'm pretty full up on Skyscraper," he answered, after a pause. "Still, for so good a client as yourself, Mr. Combermere——"

"It's not for myself," interposed Berty, whose sense of grievance made him unusually communicative. "I wouldn't touch the beast at the price. I'm getting the money on for a lady."

"Ah! for a lady?" said Gildersleeves, regarding the young man with an amused twinkle in his genial eye. "You'll excuse my saying so, Mr. Combermere, but I'm old enough to be your father; that's not a very paying game, that ain't."

"I know it, Tim—to my cost," answered Berty, with some bitterness.

"Then pardon me, sir, but why do you play it?" inquired Gildersleeves, with almost a paternal air.

"Don't know. Because I'm a damned fool, I suppose," replied Berty.

Tim nodded.

"Well, I expect we've all of us made fools of ourselves over a woman one time or another," he remarked. "But to make a lady's bets for her—it's such a very 'heads I win, tails you lose' arrangement, that is. If I were you, Mr. Combermere, I'd drop it; I would, really," he added in tones of kindly concern.

"I mean to, Tim, after to-day. I've been made a convenience of long enough."

Again Tim Gildersleeves nodded, regarding Berty Combermere thoughtfully.

"Look here, Mr. Combermere," he said, after a minute's silence, "I'm not so keen on booking this bet, myself; and you, I take it, are not so very keen on risking your monkey, either. Well, then, what do you say to simply dropping it all—eh, sir?"

"I'd much rather, Tim; but I've promised the lady. I must do it for her this time."

"She need never know," answered Tim Gildersleeves, with a meaning wink.

"Not if the colt loses," replied Berty; "but what if, by an off-chance, he happens to win—eh?"

The bookie smiled.

"Hark'ee, Mr. Combermere," he said, "you've been a good client to me, and I'm going to show my appreciation of it now by telling you—in confidence and against my own interests—a bit of information I wouldn't breathe to any other man alive. It wasn't because I'm full up that I had any hesitation about booking your bet. It was simply and solely because I didn't want to see you let in for that monkey, after all your heavy losses of last season. And that brings me to the bit of information of which I spoke. Skyscraper won't win, sir. *He's not out to win.* I can't divulge the source of my information; I can only assure you that it's absolutely reliable. There, Mr. Combermere, now you know the exact position."

"Hang it all, Tim," ejaculated the impulsive Berty, genuinely touched by the bookmaker's frank and handsome behaviour, "now I do call that damned generous of you——"

"Not at all, Mr. Combermere; not at all, sir," replied Gildersleeves, modestly, cutting him short. "You've been a good client to me, and I'm pleased to have this opportunity of acknowledging it. Why should you drop five hundred over a beast that's dead cert. to lose, when there's no necessity? Let the lady think you've put the money on for her. The colt will lose, *you'll* have nothing to pay, and *she'll* be none the wiser. Now, don't you agree with me that that's sound business?"

"Sound enough from my point of view, Tim. But, all the same, I hardly like taking advantage——"

"Tut-tut. We won't look at it in that way, Mr. Combermere. A good turn to a good client. And why not? I'm sure I can well afford it, after all the money I took off you last season," said Gildersleeves, with a genial smile.

But at that moment, another client of the bookmaker's coming up, the conversation was necessarily brought to a rather sudden termination.

Berty Combermere went away entertaining a much higher opinion of the bookmaker than he had ever had before. That Gildersleeves was a straight man in business he had always known. But that he was capable of behaving with the uncalled-for generosity he had just shown was a revelation to our young friend, whose heart quite warmed towards the elder man, as the hearts of young fellows do, when their better impulses are thus appealed to. Then he began to think of what he should say to Angela, who had arranged to dine with him at the Carlton that evening. To tell her the truth was, of course, impossible, as it would involve the betrayal of Tim Gildersleeves' confidence. Well, he must tell her a white lie, that was all; must give her to understand that he had duly executed her commission. There could be no harm in that. Angela's interests were not really affected one way or the other. The only thing was that he himself was relieved of the unnecessary burden of having to pay up £500.

Still, his heart smote him a little when the time came, for Angela was unusually sweet to him that evening, causing his resentment against her almost entirely to evaporate.

It did, somehow, seem rather mean to tell even a white lie to a girl at the very moment when her manner towards him was more tender and responsive than it had ever been before. Yet there was no help for it, so it had to be; and when, in the course of conversation she happened to ask: "You got that monkey on for me all right, old boy?" he nodded assent, and there should have been an end of it. But, unfortunately, it wasn't. The telling of even white lies sometimes involves subsequent awkward complications, and so, by a most unlucky chance, it fell out now.

Angela went down to Lincoln with a party of friends, of whom Berty Combermere made one. They put up at the best hotel in the old cathedral town, and all enjoyed themselves thoroughly, Berty included, until the morning of Tuesday, when the young man experienced rather a nasty shock.

This was administered by Tim Gildersleeves, who met him in the paddock shortly before the big event, and, requesting a few words with him, drew him aside. Gildersleeves looked very much concerned and upset, which—considering what he had to tell Berty—was hardly surprising.

"Mr. Combermere," he said, in an agitated voice, "I've only found out ten minutes ago that I've been sold, sir—infernally and damnably sold."

"How so, Tim? What do you mean?" inquired Berty Combermere.

"Why, the information I had about Skyscraper was all a plant—an intentional plant of his owner's, I've too much reason to suspect—in order to lengthen the odds against his colt. Skyscraper *is* out to win, Mr. Combermere; and, what's more, the stable's confident he has the race comfortably in hand. I do hope they're mistaken, by G—d, for if the brute gets home I'll be pretty well broke."

"Great heavens!" ejaculated Berty Combermere, turning pale. "And I told Miss Fisherton I had got on that monkey for her."

"I'm truly sorry to have been the innocent cause of misleading you, I am indeed," rejoined the unfortunate Gildersleeves, earnestly. "I wouldn't have had it happen for anything. It's a bad job for us both; but worse for me, as I'm in up to the neck. However, the race is not won yet; that's one comfort. And the stable may be wrong, after all. I hope to G—d they are," he added, with pardonably vehement profanity.

"By the Lord, Tim, so do I," cried the dismayed Combermere.

Though he was not involved so deeply as Gildersleeves, he was still involved quite deeply enough. If Skyscraper pulled it off, Angela would suppose she had won £2,500, and would naturally look to receive

her winnings next settling-day. What's more, he should have no option, as a man of honour, but to pay them over to her. £2,500 would not absolutely break him, indeed. But it would cripple him pretty seriously; and altogether it was the devil of a situation in which he had landed himself. There still remained, however, as Tim had said, one hope—the hope that Skyscraper might not, after all, justify the stable's confidence.

But that last forlorn hope did not, as the spiritualists would say, materialise. Skyscraper got home by three lengths; and the following Monday Berty Combermere, adopting the only course open to him as a gentleman, handed Angela Fisherton his cheque for £2,500.

It made him pretty sick. He would have been even more sick had he been able to hear the following conversation that took place between Angela and Tim Gildersleeves on the evening of the same day:

"Managed that rather well, I think, daddy," laughed Miss Angela.

"Rippin'," sniggered the parental Gildersleeves. "You see, my dear, if I'd booked the bet in the ordinary way, I should simply have had to find the £2,500 myself to pay our own winnings with. Whereas by getting out of booking it——"

"The worthy Berty had to find the oof instead. Just so," cut in Miss Angela. "But, I say, Dad, I guess this is about the last time he will let me squeeze him. What do *you* think?"

"I think it highly probable. But happily he is not the only mug in the world, my dear," replied her parent, with a placid smile.

ART NOTES.

THE ARTISTIC TEMPERAMENT.

IT is always pleasant to have some proof that people are reading what you write—even if it leads them to set little traps for you. A short time back I made some remarks about the lack of business acumen in the average artist, and ever since I have been receiving all manner of proof that I was wrong. Now the movement has spread to the authors, and one of them, a lady, has set a neat little trap for me, into which I am now walking, open-eyed, I may say. She—or some one who writes a neat feminine hand—has forwarded me a copy of a novel, with the suggestion that it contains much that will interest me. Now, of course, every law of prudence and wisdom leads me to take no notice of such communications, as a general rule—certainly not to give their senders free advertisement in these notes; but there is a certain novelty about this. A novel is more acceptable bait than a ticket for a picture show, and the reviewing of novels is not my business. For all of which reasons, and, further, that I have found the novel in question extremely interesting from the artistic point of view, I propose to walk, open-eyed, I repeat, into the trap neatly laid for me by the authoress, or some friend of the authoress, or, even it may be, by her enterprising publisher. Therefore, I say that the name of the book is "The Artistic Temperament," that it is written by a Miss Jane Wardle, though I have my doubts, for, with all respect to that lady, I may say that I never heard of her before, and that this book is certainly not the work of a novice, and that it is an uncommonly brilliant study of the effect that Art (with a big A) has upon those who take it too seriously.

I am not going to attempt to criticise the novel as a novel. I am not an authority on such matters, and whether it is good or bad as a novel I do not feel qualified to judge. Only I know that I sat up most of one night to finish it, that it made me laugh quite as often as anything I have read by our best-known contemporary humorists, and that there is not one of the characters, with the possible exception, I am glad to be able to say, of a man in possession, that I did not feel as though I might have met any day during the last week, so unusually life-like did they seem to me. But it is not as a novel, but as a study of the much discussed Artistic Temperament, that I am moved to write of this book, and as such it strikes me as about the most brilliant piece of satire that has been published this century. It shows you exactly the ill-effects of the Artistic Temperament upon various brands of humanity—upon the painter, who (and this is perhaps the least convincing feature of the book) is sufficiently prosperous to keep a man-servant, upon the pretty young Cockney wife of a City tradesman, upon a bank clerk, and so on, and so forth. The painter—I wish, by the way, his creator had given him a less artificial-sounding name than Cartmel—has the Artistic Temperament in a very common form—that is to say, he cultivates it with the utmost industry while mocking at it openly, and thus comes in time to the verge of shipwreck, whence he is only rescued by the much-enduring Philistines. Delia, the heroine, is another kind of sufferer. Having, from a typist, suddenly been raised to wealth, she is, of course, a very likely victim to the ravages of Art. She falls easily, and the description of her drawing-room at Tooting, with its attempted compromise between High Art and Philistine comfort, is a marvel of neatness and observation. The following description of the wall-decoration seems to me to crystallise the type of drawing-room uncommonly well: "At intervals around the walls were four Oriental plates, a colour-print of Sir Joshua Reynolds' 'Infant Samuel,' two of the Arundel Society's reproductions of works by Florentine masters, a photogravure of 'The Soul's Awakening,' and a coloured reproduction of Whistler's portrait of his mother. Modestly lurking on a table in a corner was a glass-case of stuffed birds, a smartly bound edition of Ruskin shared another, with odd copies of art magazines and a large gramophone, the brazen trumpet of which stuck out stiffly from the wall." It is one of the most significant points of this little epitome of the ravages of Art in Tooting and elsewhere, that the authoress does not include one original picture of any kind among the ill-assorted collection of reproductions she catalogues—a point which might profitably be impressed upon the minds of those who contemplate entering the profession of painting just now.

I cannot honestly say that "The Artistic Temperament" strikes me as a genial book. Perhaps Miss Wardle has been an artist herself; perhaps the ravages of artificial art weigh on her spirits as I have known them to weigh upon my own. Certainly she plants the arrows of her satire all around her. Peculiarly pleasant is her description of how the hero—originally one of those proud spirits who find it pays them to abuse the R.A.—after marrying a rich wife, becomes gradually reconciled to the official body and ends his career as P.R.A. and a baronet. Very soothing, again, is the character of Mr. Manwell, a bank clerk, who devotes his leisure hours to the works of Mr. Bernard Shaw, and who finally goes out of his mind. Again, I should very much like to quote some of the hero's *obiter dicta* upon the best way to make England an artistic country—which, to put it briefly, he thinks can only be done by exterminating the artists. And I should very much like to enter into speculations concerning the identity of Miss Jane Wardle—whom, if she will forgive me for saying so, I regard with considerable suspicion. So much so, indeed, that, were it not the height of impertinence to tell a lady that you don't believe her to be a real lady at all—I should like to ask her where she acquired her knowledge of young manhood, and especially of the way in which young men behave and talk when there are no ladies present. But it would be unprofitable, for, after all, the personality of the author matters nothing—it is the book that counts. And, though she has preferred to put her reflections into the form of a novel, and of what I take to be an uncommonly brilliant one at that, "The Artistic Temperament"—which, by the bye, is published by Alston

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

Rivers—certainly seems to me to contain some of the soundest common-sense condemnation of the artificial high-art tomfoolery that is doing so much to crush all real taste for art out of the country, that I have read in fiction or elsewhere.

MUSIC.

THE COMING OPERA SEASON.

THE Covent Garden prospectus which has now been issued holds out promise of an attractive season. If the menu includes no dish so piquant as, say, Strauss's "Salomé," plenty of good, solid fare of a more humdrum order is promised. For a beginning there will be, of course, the "special" performances of the "Ring" and "Die Meistersinger" under the now familiar "Bayreuth" conditions. Two cycles are to be given this season, opening with "Das Rheingold" on April 30, and the fact is emphasised that this year no "extra" cycles can be arranged. The arrangements will be as before, with an early start and a long dinner interval after the first act. Many would be better pleased, I fancy, if the latter were taken after the second act, which would give them dinner about eight o'clock instead of at the rather uncomfortable hour of half-past six; but the management evidently think otherwise. Dr. Richter will conduct these festival performances, of course. Several novelties and quasi-novelties are promised, as usual, among the former Mascagni's "Iris" and Catalani's "Loreley," while the latter will include Giordano's "Andrea Chenier" and "Fédora" and Ponchielli's "La Gioconda."

"Andrea Chenier" was last heard at Covent Garden in 1905, when it was given during the San Carlo season with Zenatello and Sammarco in the leading parts. "Fédora," by the same composer, will be remembered as having been one of the operas given last autumn with Zenatello and Giachetti. A more recent work by Giordano, "Siberia," is said to be stronger than either of these, but that we may hear later, perhaps. Giordano, it may be recalled, first attracted notice by his one act opera "Marina," one of the unsuccessful works submitted in the great Sonzogno opera competition, which brought to light "Cavalleria Rusticana." Ponchielli's "La Gioconda" is a work of older date than these, of course, and was, indeed, given at Covent Garden as long ago as 1883. Since then it has not often been heard, but it was announced for performance during the last San Carlo season and would have been given then but for the indisposition of Mme. Nordica. It is Ponchielli's most popular work and was originally produced at La Scala, Milan, in 1876, and London opera goers will no doubt be pleased to renew acquaintance with its melodious strains. Ponchielli, it may be recalled, was for a time Puccini's teacher at the Milan Conservatoire. Mascagni's "Iris," which will be heard in London for the first time, is, like "Madama Butterfly," a Japanese opera. I remember hearing it some years ago in Germany, when I thought it rather dull. It is not a typical Mascagni opera at all. A feature of the music is the plentiful employment of Eastern intervals and colouring. Its effective prelude, supposed to be representative of sunrise in the East, has occasionally been given in the concert room. Catalani's "Loreley" is an interesting work by an Italian composer of the modern school, who died in 1893. Its music is light and imaginative and, by all accounts, pleasing.

For the rest it will be noted with pleasure that Verdi's "Otello" is to be revived, while many will be glad to see also that Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor," which was done so recently during the German season, is to be repeated. On the other hand, not a few will observe with regret the omission of both "Lohengrin" and "Tristan" from the list this time. In the opinion of some, at least, "Tannhäuser" and "The Flying Dutchman" could have been spared more readily—to say nothing of "La Traviata," "Cavalleria Rusticana," and one or two other works in the list which might be named. But, then, it is not given to even the best intentioned management to please all parties. No mention is made, by the way, of the Ricordi prize English opera, which, according to the conditions of the competition, was to have been produced this season. Perhaps, however, matters are not yet sufficiently advanced to admit of a definite announcement regarding this.

As regards the singers, the list is sufficiently imposing, though in the case of sopranos one misses the names of Wittich and Ternina, also of Fräulein Von Mildenburg, whose re-engagement after her success last season was generally anticipated. Frau Gulbranson is apparently to be relied on as leading soprano in the heavier Wagnerian rôles. But "other engagements are pending," so that perhaps the list may be strengthened eventually in this respect. Otherwise, with Destinn, Giachetti, Kurz, and Melba, to name only a few, all appearing, the list of sopranos is not lacking in strength. Other well-known artists who have been engaged include Caruso, Herr Jörn, and Herr Kraus, among the tenors, who are also reinforced by a newcomer, Signor Bassi, of whom report speaks favourably; along with Messrs. Gilibert, Journet, Knüpfer, Sammarco, Scotti, Van Rooy, and others, who go to make up a particularly strong list of basses and baritones. The native singers engaged include Mme. Agnes Nicholls and Mme. Kirkby Lunn, who are now, of course, established favourites with Covent Garden audiences, together with Miss G. Lonsdale, Miss Maud Santley, Mme. Edna Thornton, and Mr. Frank Arthur. It is not a very extensive list, but one which, it may be hoped, will lengthen in time. Signor Campanini and Mr. Percy Pitt will share with Dr. Richter the duties of the conductor's chair.

Recent concerts have not been very remarkable. Christian Sinding was the bright particular star of the last Philharmonic, but the violin concerto which he brought forward, with the aid of M. Johannes Wolff as soloist, is not a very epoch-making composition. At the Queen's Hall Symphony concert on Saturday, Mr. Buhlig played finely in Beethoven's E flat concerto, and a very varied programme included also works by Mozart, Tchaikowsky, Strauss, and Sibelius. On the same afternoon Mr. Frederick Lamond played with his usual distinction and virility of style at the Bechstein Hall, and in the evening Mr. Gervase Elwes gave his postponed Brahms recital. His singing is refined, but inclined to effeminacy. The Royal Choral Society's recent performance of "The Kingdom" on Thursday drew a large audience, and was one of the best things which that rather unwieldy choir has done for some time. An interesting choral concert of another kind on the same evening was that devoted exclusively to Bach, which was given at the Æolian Hall, under the direction of Dr. Walford Davies, as one of the Broadwood series. The usual Irish concerts were given on St. Patrick's Eve (Saturday), Mr. Santley appearing at that given by Mr. William Saunders at the Crystal Palace. On Monday a performance of Brahms's "Requiem," the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the relief of the *Berlin* victims, was given by the London Choral Society, along with the first London performance of Mr. Dalhousie Young's "The Blessed Damozel," which contains some pleasing choral writing.

From far-away Detroit, U.S.A., inquiries have reached me lately concerning a certain Signor Giuseppe Bartolotta, who, it appears, is at present established in that city as professor of singing at the Michigan Conservatoire of Music. In a prospectus of that institution, which has been forwarded to me, Signor Bartolotta is described, I notice, as "the eminent Italian tenor . . . . . who has won universal distinction as a concert singer and teacher throughout Europe." Further, it is stated that "he has sung at the foremost concerts in England in conjunction with some of the most famous artists, including Patti, Melba, Kubelik, Paderewski, and others;" and in confirmation of these statements excerpts are appended of glowing notices ascribed to the *Morning Post*, *Daily Telegraph*, and other well-known papers. Now the odd thing is that diligent inquiry in London musical circles has so far

failed to discover any one who has the smallest recollection of Signor Bartolotta having appeared here, still less of any singer of that name having achieved the remarkable success with which Signor Bartolotta is credited in the document above quoted. Apparently we have been entertaining an angel unawares, and no one can even recall that such a visit was ever paid. It is true we receive a great number of musical visitants —not always of the celestial order—in London, and it would be rash, perhaps, to assume that who is not remembered has necessarily never been here. Still, it is curious, to say the least, that an artist who is apparently of such commanding calibre as Signor Bartolotta has contrived to leave so little impression. I wonder if Mme. Patti, Mme. Melba, Herr Kubelik, and the rest would find themselves equally at a loss to recall the occasions upon which he has shared their triumphs. If so, the thing becomes "curioser and curioser." But doubtless the worthy Signor himself will be able to elucidate the mystery and supply those "fuller and further particulars," as the lawyers say, which the case would seem to demand.

Seeing the splendid work which he did as a great populariser of the best music in this country, and in particular on behalf of our native composers, it will be quite in accord with the fitness of things to do something to perpetuate the memory of the late Sir August Manns. Miss Fanny Davies, who first mooted the suggestion, will certainly not take it amiss that the same idea has been put forward independently by the Society of British Composers. Miss Fanny Davies's suggestion is that an exhibition might be founded for the encouragement and training of students in the art of conducting, which might be competed for in alternate years by students of the Royal College and Royal Academy respectively; and it would certainly not be easy to hit on a more useful and practical form which such a memorial might take.

The late Mr. Maurice Grau has been generally referred to as the American impresario, but he was by birth an Austrian, and in this country, at any rate, was best known by reason of his connection with Covent Garden, where he will be remembered as having been manager for a time after the death of Sir Augustus Harris. His career, like that of most others of his calling, was somewhat chequered, and though personally an amiable man, his responsibilities, even in the heyday of his success, always sat rather heavily upon him. Of late years matters had not gone well with him, and his death terminates a career which had recently known much disappointment. Such has been too often the lot of the impresario, whose feverish exertions during his lifetime are seldom rewarded by a happy end. Either it would seem, their fate is to fall upon evil times, deserted by all who paid them court in their days of triumph, or, like Sir Augustus Harris, they kill themselves by overwork and business worries.

Meanwhile, to pass from the dead to the living, the fierce rivalry continues in New York between Mr. Conried, Mr. Grau's successor at the Metropolitan Opera House, and Mr. Hammerstein, his rival at the Manhattan—the latter, it would appear, having scored the most recent point in the game by the engagement of Mme. Nordica for his next season. The struggle for the best singers which is being waged in New York at present must be excellent business for the latter, but we have no reason to regret that the same kind of cut-throat game is no longer being played in London. When opera can only just be made to pay its way at one opera house, it is not very easy to see how the result can be anything but disastrous in the long run when the attempt is made to keep it going in this fashion at two.

Congratulations to Mr. Georg Henschel on the announcement of his marriage. Like more than one music teacher before him, he is marrying one of his pupils, Miss Lewis by name. It is understood that the wedding took place on Saturday last in New York, and that Mr. Henschel will shortly be bringing his bride to England. Mr. Henschel has, I believe, recently had his abode in Boston, where, it may be recalled, he made his first reputation as a conductor some years ago as director of the Boston Symphony orchestra. He is certainly one of the most versatile musicians living, being gifted alike as singer, pianist—Moscheles was his teacher under this head—composer and conductor; and though in the latter capacity he had to give up his work here, the popularity which orchestral music enjoys in London to-day may be ascribed in no little degree to the splendid pioneer work which he put in at a time when it was less generally appreciated.

The British singers' *Berlin* Fund has, it will be noticed with pleasure, made an excellent start with a first list of subscriptions totalling close on £100, a sum which will no doubt be largely augmented in due course. Twelve of the unfortunate artists lost were chorus singers, and a strong appeal is made accordingly for a response, in small contributions, from all the singers of our choral societies, musical comedy, and opera companies. The following singers have joined the committee of the Fund:—Mme. Marie Brema, Mrs. Henry J. Wood, David Bispham, Ben Davies, Gervase Elwes, D. Ffrangcon-Davies, George Grossmith, John Harrison, Robert Hilton, Dr. Theo Lierhammer, and Robert Radford. Subscriptions should be sent to the London and South-Western Bank, Oxford-street.

A generous response has also been elicited, I am glad to notice, by the appeal on behalf of Mme. Georgiana Burns, the Prince and Princess of Wales having led the way with donations of £5 each. Contributions in this case are being received by Mrs. Bagot, Levens Hall, Milnthorpe, Westmorland.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I suggested to you in a recent letter that "A Queen of Indiscretions" had every temptation, provocation, and extenuation that a woman could have for being indiscreet. But the hard case of Queen Caroline differs in degree only, not in kind, from the case of every other queen who marries for State reasons a man of whom she knows nothing, for whom she cares nothing, and from whom in the deadly dull routine of Court life she cannot escape. In Mrs. Colquhoun Grant's "Queen and Cardinal" (1), a memoir of Anne of Austria and of her relations with Cardinal Mazarin, you have another Royal, political, and uncongenial marriage, resulting in more than one indiscretion, and in one at least which was more than indiscreet. The most dangerous of her innocent indiscretions was that with "Steenie," the insolent, incapable, and despicable favourite of James and Charles, who, as he himself boasted, had been the lover of three queens, and, as Richelieu declared, was "equally dangerous to nations, kings, and husbands." That he should have been dangerous only to Anne of Austria was owing less to her virtue than to the lack of time and opportunity. Within a few hours of their first meeting Buckingham drew from her the avowal that he would have been her choice had she been free to choose, and within a week he had clasped her in his arms in a passionate embrace! Indeed, Buckingham's impudence was even sublime. Coolly leaving Henrietta Maria—the bride he was escorting home to his Sovereign, Charles—at the seashore, he hurried back to Paris, forced his way into the Louvre and into Anne's chamber at an hour when she was still in bed. "Falling on his knees beside her bed, he kissed the sheets with ardour, while inarticulate sobs broke from him as he bent his handsome head in

(1) "Queen and Cardinal." A Memoir of Anne of Austria and of her Relations with Cardinal Mazarin. By Mrs. Colquhoun Grant. With Portraits. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

(2) "The Memories of Ronald Love." By Mary E. Mann. (London: Methuen and Co. 6s.)

(3) "Running Water." By A. E. W. Mason. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s.)

(4) "Memoirs of a Person of Quality." Edited by Ashton Hilliers. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(5) "Her Father's Soul." By Lucas Cleeve. (London: John Long. 6s.)

an attitude of despair." Indeed, her ladies had great difficulty in putting an end to this sentimental scene. Anne's opportunities with Cardinal Mazarin were, of course, more free and frequent since in the days of this intrigue she was a widow and Queen Regent and he virtually sovereign of France; but here their very sovereignty—"a closely-watched slavery, mocked by the name of power"—to borrow Disraeli's description, embarrassed their amours. "I wish," sighed Anne to her one confidante, Mme. de Motteville—"I wish it was always night—not that I can sleep, but then at least I can have solitude and silence." If she had been confined in the Bastille, she could hardly have had less liberty than the rigorous routine of a routine-ridden court allowed her. No sooner did she wake in the morning than her bedroom was invaded by a crowd of the principal officers and gentlemen of the court. When she had at last got rid of these, the ladies who co-operated with her in her charitable schemes were admitted to a council. When this council broke up she was allowed time for breakfast, and after breakfast for her toilet, "when the little king (afterwards Louis XIV.) was allowed to hand her her chemise, which he kissed tenderly before presenting it." The afternoon was given to visiting charitable institutions and to the reception of all the princesses and ladies of quality. Then came her one hour of happiness in the day when the Cardinal was admitted to a private audience. That over, she had, with the Cardinal, to pass through the *Grand Cabinet* and honour with a word or two each of the crowd of courtiers which thronged it. Supper followed, where her ladies waited upon her, not without an eye to what she ate and drank, since they had to be content with her leavings, "to finish the Queen's bread, drink up her wine, and use her serviette!" Then at last she was allowed to retire to enjoy the solitude and silence of a sleepless night. Even the Cardinal was a disappointment to her, since his return of her love was rather perfunctory and diplomatic than personal. When she attended him day and night upon his death-bed he treated her as an officious sick nurse, and once exclaimed irritably, "This woman will kill me with her importunities. Will she never leave me in peace?" More illustrative still of the ordinary loneliness and lovelessness of a queen's life is Mrs. Colquhoun Grant's description of the marriage of Princesse Marie de Gonzague to the King of Poland. It is only right to say, however, that the princess had a fair forewarning of her future life when the semi-savages, sent as the Polish King's ambassadors to seek her hand, were presented to her. These gentlemen wore no linen, and, indeed, dispensed with sheets as well as shirts. They went to bed naked, wrapped in furs, "and were extremely dirty." However, being intoxicated with the idea of becoming a queen, she accompanied them back to Poland, expecting as a spoiled beauty to be received with rapture by her royal bridegroom. Here, however, is the account of her reception:—

> When at last she found herself in the presence of the King she was shocked to see an old gouty, enormously fat man unable to move about with comfort. He awaited her in the cathedral in Warsaw, seated in a chair from which he did not attempt to rise. She knelt before him and kissed his hand, but he showed no pleasure whatever in seeing her. He looked at her fixedly and, turning to the ambassador, De Bregi, who was standing beside him, said aloud, "Is this the beauty of whom you gave me such a glowing description?"

The historical student, as Mrs. Colquhoun Grant admits, must look elsewhere for a study of any reach and depth of Cardinal Mazarin's France; but those who love a look behind the scenes into the life of a Court will fine this volume very interesting.

Mrs. Mary Mann's "The Memories of Ronald Love" (2) is the most poignantly pathetic, I might say, poignantly painful, story of the life of an ill-starred, ill-reared, and ill-used child that ever was written. It is harrowing, and, I think, inartistically harrowing. Surely there ought to be some break in the clouds, some "green isle in the deep, wide sea of misery" from the point of view of art alone, to say nothing of the relief to the o'ercharged heart? But there is no relief, not even of a hope that the story or the characters are exaggerated, since Mrs. Mann does not over-colour even the fiendish Miss Pergaman. The most striking thing in the book is the sympathy, almost Dickensian, with which Mrs. Mann sees and makes you see every person and thing through the eyes of a little child. Whether you will or will not be disappointed in Mr. Mason's "Running Water" (3) depends upon whether you have or have not been a mountain climber. The chapters which have to do with this form of athletic frenzy are so spirited as to infect you with it; but I doubt if you will consider the rest of the book up to the high level Mr. Mason has led you to expect in a novel from his pen. You may expect much from Mr. Ashton Hilliers, whose first novel, "Memoirs of a Person of Quality" (4)—if I may call it a novel—is the most promising piece of fiction I have read for years. Mr. Ashton Hilliers has so saturated himself with the spirit of the eighteenth century that you believe as you read at once in the genuineness and in the authenticity of these "extracts from certain journals written at different times by my great-uncle, the Hon. George Augustus Frederick Chorley Fanshawe, wherein are given the authentic particulars of his connection with the —th Regiment of Dragoon Guards, his breach with his family, residence among the Yorkshire Quakers, his restoration to society, etc." The very discursiveness and incoherence of the narrative seem to testify to its genuineness as the reminiscences of a person of quality, conscious of the planetary importance of all that concerned himself and his family. Mr. Ashton Hilliers has come to stay. "Her Father's Soul" (5), after his death and her birth, passed in some mysterious way into his daughter, making her ineffably pure, with a purity, however, which could hardly have been hereditary, since she was the offspring of an adulterous intrigue between her parents. Such was this ineffable purity that she died upon the day of her marriage, so sparing her father another reincarnation. "Her Father's Soul," in a word, is the most preposterous hotch-potch of theosophy that you probably have ever read.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

Mr. John Murray has sent me the prospectus of "The Letters of Queen Victoria," which—as announced in Truth some time ago—will be published in the autumn, probably in October. There will be three volumes. The first covers the correspondence of the Queen till the age of nearly twenty-five; the second, the period of the repeal of the Corn Laws, the foreign revolutions, the disruption of the old Whig Party, and the fiasco of Chartism; the third deals with the Eastern question, the Crimean war, the Indian Mutiny, the Franco-Austrian war, and the struggle for a United Italy. The selection terminates with the death of the Prince Consort. Throughout, the object of the editors, Mr. A. C. Benson and Lord Esher, has been not so much to present a compendium of political history as to show the personality of the Queen, her method of approaching and deciding questions, her outlook, her sympathies, her shrewdness, her perseverance, her diligence. The book will, of course, be published by the authority of the King. It will be illustrated with numerous portraits.

In a preface to his new book, "Behold the Days Come" (Methuen, price 3s. 6d.), the Hon. and Rev. James Adderley announces for the guidance of reviewers that "this is a tract, not a novel." He quickly adds, however, that this does not mean that "it deals with little choir boys who steal apples and then get consumption and repent on the advice of a district visitor," or any such themes as that. Really it is a story with a purpose—an attempt to show that the Socialist movement, if it is to succeed, must not oppose Christianity, but work with it; an appeal to the wealthy and educated classes to take the Labour movement seriously, and to co-operate with it in facing the social problems of the day. Father Adderley remarks that the people in his story are very ordinary people, who talk quite ordinary language: "That's where I am no novelist." But this "tract" will be

found richer in humour and altogether more readable than the average novel, despite its serious purpose, and it will be surprising if "Behold the Days Come" does not eclipse the success of the author's previous story, "Stephen Remarx."

Miss Florence Warden's new novel, "The Man with the Amber Eyes," which Mr. John Long is publishing, has a mystifying plot which, it is predicted, even the most experienced reader will fail to pierce before he reaches the end of the book.

The Sheridan family have placed a large amount of hitherto unused material at the disposal of Mr. Walter Sichel for the biographical and critical study of Richard Brinsley Sheridan upon which he is now engaged. The book will be published by Messrs. Constable and Co.

Several novels by well-known writers will be issued by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett next month. The list includes "Needles and Pins" (a sequel to "If I were King"), by Justin Huntly McCarthy, "Colonel Daveron," by Percy White, "The Flying Cloud," by Morley Roberts, "The Strongest of All Things," by Mme. Albanesi, and "Short Cruises," a new volume of stories by W. W. Jacobs.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus have in the press a work by Dr. A. S. Rappoport entitled "The Curse of the Romanovs (1796-1825)," which is to a large extent based on hitherto unpublished records. They also have in preparation an authorised English version of M. Batiffol's "Marie de Médicis and the Court of France in the Seventeenth Century," and "Artists of the Italian Renaissance," by Miss E. L. Seeley, a companion volume to her "Stories of the Italian Artists"; while in their new series of colour books this firm will issue, on April 4, "Venice," by Mrs. de Selincourt and Mrs. Sturge-Henderson, with illustrations after water-colour drawings by Mr. Reginald Barratt, A.R.W.S. Messrs. Chatto and Windus announce that they now publish the well-known series of "The King's Classics," to which, under the general editorship of Professor Gollancz, a number of important additions will be made. In May a new series entitled "The Shakespeare Classics," being reprints of the romances, novels, and plays used by Shakespeare as the sources of his plays, will be commenced.

The Baroness Orczy's romance, "The Scarlet Pimpernel," is being brought out by Messrs. Greening and Co. in a popular edition, price 1s. The story has now been translated into German, Swedish, Italian, Hungarian, and Dutch, and the play founded upon this extremely successful book has also been very popular. Messrs. Greening announce a new book, entitled "Pen, Patron, and Public," which will, it is anticipated, create a considerable stir in journalistic and literary circles. The author deals somewhat audaciously with literary and journalistic life behind the scenes, and throws an interesting light on the history of several great newspapers.

"The Cosy Corner Library" is the title of a new series of charming little volumes, price half-a-crown each, which Messrs. Gay and Bird have begun with the issue of "Love Letters of Famous People," chosen and arranged by Freeman Bunting, and "The Power of Gems and Charms," by G. H. Bratley.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We paid a rather belated visit to the South African Products Exhibition in Vincent-square last week, and were sorry we had not gone before, so interesting did we find it. The very first thing that struck us was a beautiful picture of the veldt, with a line of dark blue hills on the horizon. The next was the silver tree, with its lovely grey leaves quite white in the high lights; and after these the maps of Africa in 1894 and three other years, showing the wonderful way in which the pink of the British possessions has swallowed up the other colours. The Victoria Falls, shown in large photographs, next attracted us. Niagara has to take a back seat, and have its tea in a mug, in competition with this marvellous mass of water. It must be a most wonderful sight. They had begun to sell the fresh fruits the day we were there, and this was a great chance for us. I have never seen such enormous purple plums. Pines of every size were a tempting item. The pears were of a different shape from ours, much longer, more slender, and inclined to slope sideways at the top.

The catalogue informed our minds for us. From it and its illustrations, we learned that the sugar cane is thrice the height of the men who work in the fields; that bananas grow in clusters at the end of long branches of the trees; that mealies are merely maize, or corn cobs, and that the ostrich is by no means the smart and curly bird that one imagines it. Lank and limp are its drooping feathers, giving it a dissipated "out-all-night" appearance. The length of its legs and the extent of its neck give its body the aspect of being slung midway between the two extremities for the better convenience of carrying it. There is nothing decorative about the bird that supplies us with such ornamental feathers.

The South African Women's Industries was full of interest. The embroideries and old Huguenot laces were quite out of the common, and the examples of fish-scale embroidery were very fascinating, as were also those of fretwork in high relief and chiefly depicting the effective rooi flower. On a table lay a waltz, "Couleur de Rose," composed by Miss Frances W. Cloete, of Alphen, Cape Colony, Hon. Sec. of the Women's Industrial Exhibition. You may remember her charming "Fraises Ecrasées" waltz some years ago. "Couleur de Rose" is even better, more spirited, the time well marked, the melody more "singing," delightful to dance to. It is published by Cramer and Co. The Queen accepted a copy and Miss Cloete felt greatly honoured, she told us, as the only South African composer represented in the Exhibition. The Coldstream Guards played it frequently at Windsor and Buckingham Palace, and also a Berceuse by the same composer; and the King's Colonials' orchestra played them daily at the Exhibition.

The Exhibition goes on to Holland, where it will naturally be a source of intense interest.

On the same afternoon we attended the opening of the English Women's Home Industries, started for the employment of skilled gentlewomen in their own homes. It is quite time that English ladies of fallen fortunes were looked after. There are Scottish, Welsh, and Irish Home Industries, and it seems unfair that the ladies of this land should be omitted. The Dowager Duchess of Wellington heads the list of patronesses, a very influential one. The Principal is Mrs. Betty Eeles, and the Secretary Miss Elinor Deane. One sentence in the prospectus struck me very particularly. It runs:—

> We hold that there should be no need of King's Funds, Queen's Funds, or Lord Mayor's Funds if Englishwomen would always buy English-made goods where possible. The only people in this rich country who ought to need charity are the aged and the sick.

The management of the English Women's Home Industries appeals to those who like dainty surroundings and beautiful, fine clothing, to support the venture by giving orders for the skilled work offered them. "The only real means of helping distressed gentlewomen is for gentlewomen in easier circumstances to unite for this purpose." Specimens of the work can be seen at the office, 76, Upper Gloucester-place, N.W., on any day except Saturdays and Sundays, between eleven and four. Estimates are given for trousseaux, layettes, or single articles, as well as for house decora-

"MADGE" in TRUTH says: Every dressmaker ought to leave out a bit of selvedge somewhere, with the "Pirle" stamp on it, as this affords an absolute guarantee for the wearer. The proprietors undertake to make good any material so stamped that has been actually damaged by rain. "Pirle" finished cloths in great variety can be obtained from all Drapers. Full particulars from EDWARD RIPLEY & SON, LTD., 100c, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

tion, furnishing, catering for evening parties, dinners, etc. The principal industry is ladies' and children's outfitting in all its branches, but besides this there are English real laces, millinery, dressmaking, jewellery, enamels, toilet articles, leather work, artistic bookbinding, etc., etc., etc., all of the most up-to-date description. Make a mental note of the address.

I wrote you some time ago that Linda was looking so slim and neat, quite a contrast to her robust and comfortable proportions of a year ago. We teased her and asked her how she had done it, but she always answered "Nothing." However, we were out shopping together the other morning, and Linda called in at Sykes Josephine's to inquire about a pair of their new krutoid corsets, which are so made as to be non-stretchable round the waist, though moderately elastic above and below it. The effect of this upon the figure must be seen to be believed. They are particularly useful for golf, riding, tennis, etc. Sykes Josephine have the monopoly of this krutoid material, and no one who wishes to look slim should fail to invest in their petticoat tops in krutoid, also those in doeskin. We had a look at their blouses, always so beautifully finished and so tastefully trimmed. One, in Valenciennes, had little rouleaux of pale blue satin with a Louis XVI. bow of the same at the neck, and dear little hanging ends in the form of fuchsias, with smaller ones on the sleeves. A comparatively inexpensive blouse was in torchon relieved with Valenciennes. Then there were silk blouses, among them a black glacé with dainty white front and a little crossing vest in printed coloured velvet, so smart and chic. This is one of the few shops in London where blouses are kept ready made in all sizes, even to a fifty-two inch round the shoulders. It is so nice to know of a place where a well-proportioned, well-cut blouse can be had, ready to put on at a moment's notice. We noticed a very graceful teagown in white ninon over soft pink silk, and trimmed with guipure outlined with rouleaux of satin. There was a dear little lace overbodice with sleeves to match, short, of course. Washing moirette petticoats, we were told, are one of their novelties, very cheap; and another item which will commend itself to everybody takes the form of long lace sleeves, like mittens, but with no thumb-hole, suitable for wearing with short-sleeved blouses or bodices. They are in black as well as white, are in pretty designs, and are long enough to cover the arm from wrist to above the elbow. Only three half-crowns a pair, too.

The opera season is to open on April 30, and will last for thirteen weeks, closing July 29. These thirteen weeks are the top crust of that unique and wonderful whirlpool, the London season, which agglomerates the best of everything portable (including genius of various sorts) from all over the world. Whether it be new music, a new picture, a new commercial invention, a discovery in science, an exploration of some unknown tract of country, an infant phenomenon, or anything else that is remarkable, it comes to London, the heart and brain of the world, to be inspected and pronounced upon. Other capitals are looked to for opinions on certain subjects—Petersburg for singers, Berlin for mathematics, metaphysics, and some kinds of special medical skill, Paris for dress and cookery and the fine arts, Vienna for the top sparkle of smartness and social gifts; but to London comes every good thing of every kind. And all has to be crowded into the three months of the season. Small wonder that exhaustion, physical and mental, sets in about the third week in July, synchronously with the very hot weather, usually at its climax about that time. It is then that we all begin to "babble of green fields," and that the very name of a purling brook or a country lane or a vicarage garden sets us longing for things rural.

You do not throw away your old magazines and weekly papers, do you? Nor your paper-covered books when they become so shabby as to disgrace your neat bookshelves? Make them into parcels and send them to the Kyrle Society, 2, Manchester-street, London, W. I see that Lord Monkswell is appealing for books and periodicals in the papers. But do not omit to prepay the cost of carriage. The Society cannot afford to defray this. But it sends collecting baskets by carrier to any address in the Metropolitan area if notified that there are books, etc., to be given to the Society. This saves all the trouble of packing and sending off.

This reminds me to remark that London does not yet possess a perfect carrier system, though there are so many companies of the kind. The would-be sender of a parcel or box does it up and labels it and puts a carrier's card in the window. Then he has to wait to catch the speaker's eye, as it were. The carrier may see the card and call, or he may not. And when he comes he seems to have no fixed charge for conveying parcels. For a small hamper, for instance, one company charges 4d., another 6d. The amount seems to be left entirely to the discretion of the man with the van. There should be, surely, a scale of charges by dimensions, unless the weight be extraordinarily and unusually great. The present haphazard way offers temptation to dishonesty on the part of servants. I have always found them a particularly honest class, but that is no reason that they should be exposed to temptation, especially in the case of very young girls.

The Horse Show at Olympia will be one of the sensations of the season. It is to begin on June 7 and end June 13. All London will be flocking to it. The harness of one of the American teams is to be lit up with electricity. Horses are coming from all over the world. The list of prizes reaches a high figure. A high jump competition is to be held every evening, and handsome prizes offered on each of the seven nights. It will be most exciting.

Have you seen that we are not to have sixpenny fares for cabs in London? Eightpence is to be the minimum. I cannot fancy myself proffering this precise sum to a cabby. I am so dreadfully afraid of him that I always give him more than his fare. It is a species of cowardice that I share with the stronger sex. I am quite certain that if it were a question with Richard of doing without his evening smoke or giving a cabby his exact fare, he would prefer the former alternative, hard as it would be.

We went to the Hunters' Improvement Society's Show at the Agricultural Hall last week. It is always delightful to see real fine upstanding English hunters. We timed our visit for the parade of winners and the jumping competition, which was most exciting and amusing. To my great pleasure and intense interest I found that our seats were near enough to the Royal box for me to see the Queen, the Dowager Empress of Russia, and the Prince and Princess of Wales quite easily. As one of the strong charactered women of the world who will live in history, the Dowager Empress fascinated my gaze; happily I was just far enough away to look long and hard with no fear of discovery. There is a certain likeness to our handsome Queen, but the faces are yet most unlike. The Queen was so amused with the horses and their pranks before they would condescend to show their prowess. Time and again she spoke to her sister, trying to enlist her sympathy in her own pleasure. It was useless. The Empress spoke once or twice to the Prince of Wales and occasionally to Lady Lansdowne, but never smiled or looked alert or even alive—hers is a mask-like face. As the Royal sisters drove away, the Queen was bowing right and left in response to the handkerchief-waving and cheers of the crowd. The Empress sat back sphinx-like and looked on. What, we wondered, did she think of the looks of love and almost passionate admiration on the faces round for her sister, whose sway is all of love, whose only public actions are done in the cause of charity or of duty?

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I have received the following from Mona:—

My dear Madge,—You want flowers for large vases; then you cannot do better than grow gladioli. They are beautiful in any position or for any purpose, and they last an unusually long time in water if the spikes are cut when two or three of the lowest flowers are open, for all the others above them open in succession. The choice, too, is very great. There are about 140 different species, and innumerable varieties. Very few of the original species, however, are now grown; they have been almost entirely superseded by the beautiful hybrids raised during the last thirty years in this country, in America, and especially in France. MM. Lemoine and Sons, of Nancy, were the first to see the possibilities of the genus, and it is largely to their efforts that the improvement in the present race is due. By crossing G. gandavensis (itself a hybrid between G. psittacinus and either G. cardinalis or G. oppositifolius) and G. purpureo-auratus, they obtained the group of exquisite hybrids known as Lemoinei, and by crossing one of these and G. Saundersii they originated another fine group, to which the name nanceianus has been given. The gandavensis hybrids form another group, one of the oldest, but still one of the most beautiful, being the scarlet brenchleyensis; while a fourth, which was raised in America a few years ago, is Childsi, perhaps the handsomest of all. One more group deserves mention—G. colvillei—a hybrid between G. cardinalis and G. tristis. It is dwarf and early, and its white variety, the Bride, is grown in enormous quantities for Covent Garden. You may see great bunches of it in the florists' windows in spring and early summer.

G. colvillei is the earliest. The gandavensis and nanceianus hybrids flower normally in June and July, and the Lemoinei and Childsi hybrids in July and August, the latter sometimes as late as September. But it is easy to prolong the flowering period by planting at different times. If, for example, gandavensis corms—a corm, by the way, is an upright tuber without the scales or fleshy leaves which are characteristic of bulbs—are planted at fortnightly intervals from the middle of March to the end of May, they will flower in succession from June to October. In any case, do not waste them by scattering them about the garden, as is often done, but plant them in large groups—the corms from 9in. to a foot apart, and about 4in. deep. If a little sand is laid under each—and this I recommend for all bulbous plants, especially if the soil is at all heavy—it will facilitate the formation of roots and consequently induce more vigorous growth and finer flowers.

Gladioli succeed best in a rich, well-drained, sandy loam, and during the growing period they require a great deal of moisture. In a dry summer they are liable to be attacked by red spider, a reddish-brown insect so small that it can scarcely be seen with the naked eye. If the leaves begin to turn brown prematurely its presence may be regarded as certain, and the plants should be frequently syringed and the ground soaked with water. If that is not sufficient a solution of soft soap should be applied with the syringe, and washed off a few hours later. It is rather a pity that gladioli need supports, but if care is exercised the sticks are not obtrusive, and they prevent all chance of damage by strong winds. I have not said anything about the price, because this varies greatly, some of the named varieties (the new ones especially) being expensive, while the unnamed are comparatively cheap. The latter, if obtained from a trustworthy firm, are quite good enough for ordinary purposes. I have looked through the lists of named varieties in three or four catalogues, and the varieties named in any one and recommended as the best are different from those in the others. It is, therefore, difficult to avoid the conclusion that each firm selects certain varieties, gives its own names to them, and then offers them at high prices, just as a patent medicine firm gives a fancy name to some cheap salt, or combination of salts, and then charges for it at an exceedingly high rate. Sometimes, of course, these named varieties may be better than the unnamed, but not always; and, as I said before, I recommend you to buy the latter. You will get far more for your money, and if any of them do happen to be poor, you can easily weed them out.

This weeding-out is important, if you are to keep your stock select. It may seem a sacrifice, but only the really good are worth growing, and the increase is so rapid that the others are not missed. When the old corms are lifted in autumn, there will be found around them a huge number of tiny ones, which should be carefully collected and stored by themselves. If planted in a reserve bed in spring and treated in the ordinary way, many of them will be large enough to flower in the following year. Gladioli may also be propagated by means of seeds sown very thinly in pans in March and placed in the greenhouse. The young plants should be thinned out if necessary, and should be allowed to grow the whole year without disturbance. Next spring the little corms may be planted out, and this must be repeated for two or three years until they reach flowering size. The process, you see, is a slow one, but it is undoubtedly interesting. There is always the chance of drawing a big prize in the lottery—of raising some plant of extraordinary merit. I cannot say, however, that so far we have been exceptionally fortunate, though we grow many thousands of seedlings of all kinds every year. To give you some idea of the patience required by the hybridist, to say nothing of the labour which he must be prepared to undertake, I will mention the experience of Dr. Van Fleet, of New Jersey. Out of 150,000 seedling gladioli raised by him in the course of sixteen years he obtained only two which he considered worth naming and putting into commerce. One of these is Princeps, which I see described in one catalogue as a "magnificent bright scarlet variety of enormous size," priced at a shilling each. The other—Lord Fairfax—I cannot find in any list. Is it surprising, then, that new-named varieties are often costly?—Your affectionate cousin,

Mona.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Life is a succession of beginnings and endings, and how quickly the latter seem to follow on the former, especially as we advance in years—an advancement, by the way, which none of us struggle for, yet all, who live for it, attain. The chapters grow shorter and shorter as we progress along the path of life, until beginnings and endings seem to be hurrying on, overtaking and overlapping each other. There is no "at length, it ringeth to evensong," in the days of what may be gently called—the later period of youth; time never dallies on the way in their case, but just "runs through," however rough they may be. Does not the coming of the spring and the passing of the winter turn one's thoughts in this direction? It seems but the other day that Christmas was still lingering with us, and now we are deep in preparations for Easter. Our rest after a prolonged Christmas holiday is hardly over before it is time to set off on a strenuous Easter one. The young "rush" life, but life "rushes" the others.

The Castle season, which began at the end of January, finished last week. The ball on Friday, given in honour of the national

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saint, as well as the State official dinner on Saturday, anticipated his festival. Lady Aberdeen's slight relapse of illness after the Lace Ball made her still poorly last week, but the programme of entertainment was gone through by Lord Aberdeen, helped by his family and the Viceregal party and staff. It was a pity that Lady Aberdeen was not able to preside at the end of a "season" which was so successful throughout, and owed so much of its success to her energy and thoughtfulness. Dinner parties were given throughout the week, and a select dance on Tuesday, which was much enjoyed by those who were at it, and caused much lamentation amongst those who were not. And what a jealous watch Court guests keep on one another. Everyone knows how often everyone else has been at entertainments, and everyone has such excellent reasons for being asked to as many parties as everyone else. But who can hold the balance even? Even Irish land values are not more difficult to determine than social ones. St. Patrick's Ball, to which everyone can go uninvited who has been at a Levee or Drawing-room in the season, was not as crowded as might have been expected under the circumstances. Full Court dress was worn, the ladies, of course, being an exception as regarded the wear of trains. The ballroom-in-chief, St. Patrick's Hall, was a picturesque sight, brilliant with uniforms as well as with the brilliant costumes of our sex. Diamond stars, orders, decorations and ribbons also in many cases added to the brilliancy of masculine attire, whilst feathers, lappets and veils were an extra—a considerable one they looked in dancing—in the headdresses of matron and maid. One wonders, considering their universal wear by savage humanity, if feathers are a "touch of nature" that "makes the whole world kin." The ball was opened by the traditional country dance, Lord Aberdeen dancing with Lady Mayo, and the Chamberlain (Lord Hawkesbury) with Lady Grenfell. His Excellency was resplendent in full Highland dress, with stars and orders; two pages in St. Patrick's blue and Irish crochet were in attendance on him. Lord Grenfell was a much decorated figure, too. Lord and Lady Portarlington, the latter beautifully dressed and glittering with jewels, made their first appearance, since their marriage, at Dublin Castle. Lord and Lady Massereene had come from their residence, Oriel Temple, for the occasion. Lady Blanche Seymour was amongst the party from the Royal Hospital. Her sisters, Ladies Hersey, Edina and Mildred Conyngham, were among the large number of pretty girls who met the eye on all sides. Whatever changes our changeful country goes through, it keeps steadfastly to the tradition of girlish beauty. One does see such lovely eyes and beautiful complexions, and all home grown and not imported. Irish and Scotch reels were danced during the evening with great effect, the officers of the Black Watch and of the Cameron Highlanders being the partners in the latter. Lord Aberdeen took part in the dancing with much vigour, and also in promoting the enjoyment of his guests. On Saturday the full-dress banquet took place in St. Patrick's Hall. On this occasion, too, the ladies had to wear feathers and lappets or veils, not the most convenient of head-dresses at a dinner.

This week is a quiet one, and the next will be still quieter, of course. Society rarely wakes up to the fact that Lent is going on until it is going off, until the last week comes. Then, and then only, festivities are in abeyance.

The Dowager Lady Dufferin and Lady Hermione Blackwood were in Dublin last week to attend a meeting to start the Women's National Health Association of Ireland, also patronised by Lady Aberdeen. Lord Aberdeen presided in Lady's Aberdeen's enforced absence. Lady Hermione Blackwood is a very practical philanthropist, who, having gone through a hospital nurse training in London, now works amongst the poor women in the County of Down and neighbourhood of Clandeboye. How one must admire such zeal and thoroughness in helping those who need help so much. A noble life, truly, is it not?—Yours ever, Clare.

I shall have some nice recipes for you next week, dear.

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Liverpool and Manchester Districts - - - -	Mar. 27, 28, & 30.
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Birmingham District -	Mar. 28, 29, & Apl. 1.

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FOR FULL DETAILS AND PARTICULARS OF SHORT-DISTANCE EXCURSIONS ON MARCH 30TH AND APRIL 1ST, OBTAIN PAMPHLET at any of the Company's Stations or Town Offices, or write to the Enquiry Office, Euston Station, London, N.W.

FREDERICK HARRISON,
March, 1907. *General Manager.*

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Brussels (via Calais or Boulogne)	8	48/4	34/2	—
Do. (via Ostend)	8	38/-	27/3	18/4
Amsterdam	8	37/1	25/6	—
The Hague	8	32/10	22/5	—
Calais	3	22/6	—	14/-
Do.	8	31/6	26/6	20/6
Ostend	8	28/9	20/3	13/8

TICKETS AVAILABLE BY ANY TRAIN (Mail and Boat Expresses excepted) will be issued from LONDON to the undermentioned Stations on 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st March, available for return on 31st March, 1st and 2nd April.

	RETURN FARES. 1 Cl.	2 Cl.	3 Cl.		RETURN FARES. 1 Cl.	2 Cl.	3 Cl.
Ashford	14/-	9/-	7/-	Margate	16/-	12/-	8/-
Bexhill	14/-	9/-	7/6	Ramsgate	16/-	12/-	8/-
Broadstairs	16/-	12/-	8/-	St. Leonards	14/-	10/6	8/-
Canterbury	14/-	10/6	8/-	Sandgate	17/6	12/6	9/-
Deal	18/6	12/6	9/-	Sandling Junction	17/6	12/6	9/-
Dover	17/6	12/6	9/-	Sandwich	18/6	12/6	9/-
Folkestone	17/6	12/6	9/-	Shorncliffe	17/6	12/6	9/-
Hastings	14/-	10/6	8/-	Tunbridge Wells	8/6	5/6	4/6
Herne Bay	14/-	10/-	7/-	Walmer	18/6	12/6	9/-
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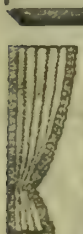

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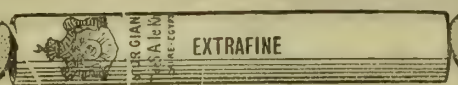

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,469.

I propose, this week, to set another Puzzle of a *plébiscite* character, as I find that such Puzzles are always immensely popular with readers of TRUTH. The last Puzzle we had, of this sort, dealt with works of fiction. But now I am going to make an incursion into the pages of history, and to offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas for the best solution of the following comprehensive problem:—

WHO WERE THE FOUR GREATEST MEN IN THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD DOWN TO THE CHRISTIAN ERA? AND WHO HAVE BEEN THE FOUR GREATEST MEN SINCE THAT DATE?

There will be no limitations to the scope of this exhaustive inquiry, which embraces the world's history from the creation (or evolution) of man down to the present time.

Moreover, the precise meaning of the term "greatest men," in this connection, will be left entirely to the discretion of competitors. They may be statesmen, warriors, poets, authors in fact, any men of any description who have left their mark on the pages of History.

The Prize will be awarded to that competitor whose list of eight "greatest men" shall most nearly approximate to the "ideal" list arrived at by collating all lists sent in.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No competitor must send in more than one list.

(ii) All lists must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, April 1, *at latest.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of ARACHNE, winner of one quarter TRUTH Prize No. 1,460, is Miss A. M. Halsey, London Road, Liphook.

*** The real name, with the address, of WHIG, winner of one-quarter TRUTH Prize No. 1,460, is J. M. Heathcote, Esq., Conington Castle, Peterborough.

WHIG very kindly desires me to hand over his Prize-money (10s. 6d.) to the TRUTH Toy Fund; for which act of self-abnegation, in a good cause, I desire him to accept many hearty thanks.

*** The real name, with the address, of OISEAU, winner of one-quarter TRUTH Prize No. 1,460, is C. Owen Griffiths, Esq., Trewern, Hay, Hereford.

*** The real name, with the address, of NICHOLA, winner of one-quarter TRUTH Prize No. 1,460, is Robert Nichols, Esq., c/o Mr. Curle, 7, Lindsay Road, Tatham Street, Sunderland.

*** The real name, with the address, of LORNA, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,461, is J. H. Naylor, Esq., 45, Cleveland Road, Huddersfield.

*** The real name, with the address, of VOX, winner of £1 1s., in connection with TRUTH Prize No. 1,462, is William Vokes, Esq., Alandale, Pinner Road, Harrow.

*** The real name, with the address, of P.F.H., winner of 10s. 6d., in connection with TRUTH Prize No. 1,462, is Philip F. Holland, Esq., 6., Fair Street, Cambridge.

MISS KINNISON.—Will you kindly adopt another pseudonym, as "Ginger" is already appropriated.

OLDTRAF.—Very pleased to welcome you. I have duly registered your *nom-de-plume.*

SPONGE.—Many thanks for your letter. I am afraid, however, that it is at present rather too soon to have another serious poetry competition; though I cannot, of course, but agree with you that the Berlin disaster would make an excellent subject.

B.H.—The correspondence to which you refer must have been addressed to my predecessor, the late much lamented Puzzle Editor. In any case, I am afraid that the matter is too much out of date to be now reopened. It is impossible to find space for printing more than a fraction even of current Puzzle solutions. So incursion into ancient history is out of the question.

DERULA.—Many thanks for your amusing and friendly letter. As has already been announced in TRUTH, when the next Puzzle Story Competition is framed, the question which you raise will be taken into careful consideration. The "Valentine" solutions have not yet been judged; but I hope to be able to publish the award next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,466.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

FORECASTS OF THE RESULT OF THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT-RACE.

Winner: Cambridge. Time occupied: 19 min. 45 sec. Position at Thames Boat Club: Cambridge ahead half a length; at Hammersmith Bridge, two lengths; at Barnes Bridge, three and a-half lengths. Cambridge wins by four boat lengths.—Kinnison.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 51 sec. Relative positions: Thames Boat Club, Cambridge half-length ahead; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge two lengths ahead; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge three lengths ahead. Won by three and a-half lengths.—Almaviva.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 17 sec. If start at 3, at Thames Boat House, 3; at Hammersmith Bridge, 3 1.; at Barnes Bridge, 3 3; ahead half a length at 3 hrs. 12 min. 15 sec. Rho.

Winner: Oxford. Time: 19 min. 42 sec. At Thames Boat Club, Oxford leading by half a length; at Hammersmith Bridge, Oxford leading by one length; at Barnes Bridge, Oxford leading by two and a half lengths; at finish, three lengths.—Oldtraf.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 43 sec. Positions: 1. Cambridge leading by half a length at the Thames Boat Club; 2. Oxford leading by half a length at Hammersmith Bridge; 3. Cambridge leading by a length and a half at Barnes Bridge. Winner: Cambridge, by one and a quarter length.—Wyandotte.

The winner: Oxford. Time occupied, 19 min. 27 sec. Position of the crews at: 1. Thames Boat Club, boats level; 2. Hammersmith Bridge, Oxford leads by a half boat length; 3. Barnes Bridge, Oxford one boat length ahead. Position at finish: Oxford wins by one and a-quarter length.—Verbum Sat.

Cambridge wins in 19 min. 1 sec. Cambridge leads: 1. At the Thames Boat Club by nearly half a length; 2. at Hammersmith Bridge by a quarter of a length; 3. at Barnes Bridge by three quarters of a length; 4. at the finish by a length and a half.—Ebenezer.

Cambridge leads: 1. Half-a-length at Thames Boat Club; 2. one and a-half length at Hammersmith; 3. two lengths at Barnes Bridge. Final: Two lengths. Time: 19 min. 30 sec.—Owain.

Oxford won by two-thirds length. 1. Thames Boat Club, Oxford 1.3.. Cambridge 1.29. 2. Ham-

mersmith Bridge, Oxford 7.59, Cambridge 7.42; 3. Barnes Bridge, Oxford 16.28, Cambridge 16.37; 4. winning post, Oxford 19.30, Cambridge 19.31.—Blackest Rose.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time of couree: 19 min. 42 sec. Relative positions of crews: 1. Oxford leads by a quarter length; 2. Cambridge leads by half-a-length; 3. Cambridge leads by one length; and Cambridge finally wins by a length and three-quarters.—Kingston.

Winner: Cambridge. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge lead three-quarter length; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge lead one length; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge lead one length; finish, Cambridge win one and a-quarter length. Time: 19 min. 19 sec.—Oiseau.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time: 12 min. 23 sec. Relative position of crews: 1. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leading quarter-length; 2. Hammersmith, level; 3. Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leading one length. Cambridge win two and a-half lengths.—Crusoe.

Winning boat: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 32 sec. Position: Cambridge leads at Thames Boat Club, one-eighth of a length; Hammersmith Bridge, one quarter of a length; Barnes Bridge, daylight. Finish: Cambridge leads by one and an eighth length.—Nemo.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 45 sec. Cambridge lead at Thames Boat Club three-quarters length; Hammersmith Bridge, two lengths; Barnes Bridge, three lengths; Mortlake, two lengths.—Zumerzet.

Cambridge to win by two and a half lengths in 19 min. 54 sec. Positions: 1. By one length; 2. by two lengths; 3. by two and a-quarter lengths.—Cassio.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time of race: 19 min. 30 sec. Positions: Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leads quarter length; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge leads three lengths; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leads five lengths. Cambridge won by four and a half lengths.—The Rascal.

Cambridge. Official time, 20 min. 55 sec. At Thames Boat Club three-quarters length ahead; Hammersmith Bridge, two and a half lengths ahead; Barnes Bridge, four lengths ahead at finish five and a quarter lengths.—Mrs. Game B.

Oxford. Official time: 21 min. 30 sec. At Thames Boat Club, half length ahead; Hammersmith Bridge, three-quarters length ahead; Barnes Bridge, three lengths. At finish, four and a half lengths victory.—Game B.

Oxford. 20 min. 5 sec. (1) 3 ft. behind; (2) equal; (3) length ahead. One and three-quarters lengths win.—Vici.

Cambridge win. Course: 20 min. 22 sec. (1) quarter length; (2) one length; (3) two lengths. Victory by one and three-quarters lengths.—Veni.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 26 sec. Position of the boats at (1) Thames Boat Club, Cambridge slightly in front; (2) Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge half a boat's length in front; (3) Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leading by one boat's length. At finish Cambridge wins by a boat and a quarter's length.—Queensholme.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 25 sec. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leading by half length; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge leading one and three-quarters length; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leading three lengths. Finish, Cambridge leading three and a half lengths.—H. G. P.

Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 21 sec. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge quarter length; Hammersmith, Cambridge three lengths; Barnes, Cambridge six lengths. Finish, Cambridge wins by four and a half lengths.—Ram.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time: 20 min. 33 sec. Relative positions: (1) At Thames Boat Club, Oxford; (2) at Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge; (3) at Barnes Bridge, Cambridge. Victory secured by four and a quarter lengths.—Gapstang.

Cambridge wins. Time: 20 min. 1 sec. Positions: (1) Oxford; (2) Oxford; (3) Cambridge. Won by two and a half lengths.—Muz-Muz.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 7 sec. Positions: (1) Oxford, half length; (2) Cambridge, three lengths; (3) Cambridge, four lengths. Won by six lengths.—Sclanidge.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 46 sec. Relative positions at the Thames Boat Club: (1) Cambridge; (2) Oxford. At Hammersmith Bridge: (1) Cambridge; (2) Oxford. At Barnes Bridge: (1) Cambridge; (2) Oxford. Victory secured by one and a quarter lengths.—Training.

Cambridge. Official time: 20 min. 8 sec. (1) Cambridge leading; (2) Oxford leading; (3) Cambridge leading. Cambridge will win by three and a half lengths.—Snaggard.

Winner: Oxford. Time: 19 min. 1 sec. (1) Cambridge, 2 ft.; (2) Cambridge, half length; (3) Oxford, quarter length. Oxford win by half length.—Marnou.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 13 sec. (1) Cambridge, quarter length lead; (2) Cambridge, one and a half lengths lead; (3) Cambridge, two and a half lengths lead. Cambridge win by three and a half lengths.—Fog.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Time occupied: 19 min. 30 sec. Thames Boat Club, boats level; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge ahead quarter length; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge ahead half length. Cambridge wins by three-quarters length. —Cherrypicker.

Oxford. Time occupied for course: 19 min. 10 sec. Start 2.30. Relative positions of boats: (1) Thames Boat Club, Oxford wins toss and leads; (2) Hammersmith Bridge, Oxford half length; (3) Barnes Bridge, neck and neck. Number of lengths by which victory is assured: One length.—Bad Luck.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Time for whole course: 19 min. 10 sec. Time at Thames Boat Club, 1 min. 25 sec.; time at Hammersmith Bridge, 7 min. 55 sec.; time at Barnes Bridge, 16 min. 15 sec. Winning by one and a half lengths.—Ginger.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 10 sec. Intermediate times: (1) Thames Boat Club, 1 min. 25 sec; (2) Hammersmith Bridge, 7 min. 30 sec.; (3) Barnes Bridge, 16 min. 15 sec. Won by four lengths.—Caw.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 29 sec. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge led by half length; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge led by one length; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge led by two lengths. Finish: Cambridge won by three lengths. —Riam.

Cambridge. Official time: 21 min. 17 sec. (1) Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leading by half length; (2) Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge leading by a clear length; (3) Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leading by two and three-quarters lengths. —Gilt Stick.

(1) Cambridge will win. (2) Time, 20 min. 15 sec. (3) Cambridge leading quarter length; (4) Cambridge leading three-quarters length; (5) Cambridge leading one length. Finally Cambridge passes winning-post two and a half lengths in front.—Dullard.

Winner: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 23 sec. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leading one length; Hammersmith Bridge, two lengths; Barnes Bridge, two and a half lengths. Won three lengths. —Crank.

Winner: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 19 sec. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leads one boat length; Hammersmith Bridge, one and a half; Barnes Bridge, two lengths. Won slightly over two lengths.—Mary.

A dead heat. Official time: 19 min. 24 sec. Thames Boat Club, even; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge leading slightly; Barnes Bridge, almost level. Reach home together.—Diana.

Winner: Oxford. Official time in rowing the course: 19 min. 29 sec. Relative positions: (1) Thames Boat Club, Oxford leading; (2) Hammersmith Bridge, Oxford leading by half a length; (3) Barnes Bridge, Oxford leading by two lengths. Win by three and a half lengths.—Aster.

Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 3 sec. (1) Cambridge, one-third length; (2) Cambridge, one and a quarter lengths: (3) Cambridge, three and a half lengths. Result, five lengths.—Isis.

Cambridge will win by two and a quarter lengths. Full time for race by winners: 19 min. 12 sec. Time to Thames R.C. boathouse, 1 min. 14 sec.; time to Hammersmith Bridge, 7 min. 47 sec.; time to Barnes Bridge, 17 min. 50 sec.—Prior Park.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 27 sec. 1. Three-quarter length; 2. one and a-quarter length; 3. two lengths. Won by one and three-quarter length.—Clotheshorse.

Winner: Oxford. Time: 20 min. 7 sec. Relative positions at: 1. Thames Boat Club, Oxford leading by half-a-length; 2. Hammersmith Bridge, Oxford leading by one and three-quarter length; 3. Barnes Bridge, Oxford leading by two and three-quarter lengths; Oxford finally winning by three and three-quarter lengths.—Rhamnus.

Cambridge; 20 min. 12 sec. 1. Cambridge half-a-length; 2. Cambridge one length; 3. Cambridge two and a-half lengths. Won by three lengths.—Knot.

Winners: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 53 sec. By two and a-half lengths. Boats level at Thames Boat Club; Cambridge leading half a length at Hammersmith, and two lengths at Barnes.—Cashier.

Oxford. 19 min 35 sec. 1. Oxford leading by half-a-length; 2. Oxford leading by one length; 3. Oxford leading by one and three-quarter length. Oxford win by three lengths.—Railway.

Winner: Dead heat. Time: 20 min. 10 sec. Relative positions: 1. Quarter length, Oxford ahead; 2. quarter length, Cambridge ahead; 3. nearly level. Neck-and-neck.—Bucks.

Winner: Cambridge. Official time: 21 min. 15 sec. Relative position: 1. Cambridge quarter-length ahead; 2. Cambridge one length ahead; 3. Cambridge two and three-quarter lengths ahead. Final result: Cambridge four lengths.—Dorset.

Winner: Cambridge. Time: 19 min. 13 sec. Position: 1. Cambridge barely leading; 2. Cambridge leads by a quarter length; 3. Cambridge a length ahead clear. Won by one and a quarter lengths.—Redder.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Official time: 19 min. 10 sec. Relative position of boats at: 1. Cambridge lead by a quarter length; 2. Cambridge lead by two lengths; 3. Cambridge lead by three lengths. Won by three and a-half lengths.—Stourton.

Cambridge to win, occupying 18¼ min. At the Thames Boat Club, even; at Hammersmith, quarter-length in advance of Oxford; at Barnes, one length;; winning finally by one and three-quarter length.—Nurse.

Winner: Cambridge. Official time: 21 min. 24 sec. 1. Cambridge leading three lengths; 2. Cambridge leading three and a-half lengths; 3. Cambridge leading two and a-half lengths; Cambridge winning by six and a half lengths.—Thomas Barker.

Winner: Cambridge. Time occupied: 20 min. Positions at: Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leads half-a-length; Hammersmith Bridge, level; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leads one length; finish, Cambridge leads one and a half length.—Passe.

Winner: Oxford. Official time: 18 min. 45 sec. 1. Cambridge three-eighth length ahead; 2. Cambridge one length ahead; 3. Oxford quarter length ahead; 4. Oxford three-quarter length ahead.—Hindu.

Winning crew: Cambridge. Time: 18 min. 40 sec. Thames Boat Club, three-quarter of a length; Hammersmith, two lengths: Barnes, three lengths; finish, five lengths.—R. W. W. Spooner.

Winner: Oxford. Time: 20 min. 27 sec. Position of boats at Thames Boat Club, Oxford; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge; Barnes Bridge, Oxford. Won by two and a quarter lengths.—Northlander.

Winner: Cambridge. Time occupied: 19 min. 40 sec. Position at Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leads three-quarter length; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge leads one length; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leads one and a-half length; finish, Cambridge leads two lengths.—Dobbin.

Position at Thames Boat House, Cambridge one and a-quarter length ahead; Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge six and a-half lengths ahead; Barnes Bridge, Cambridge nine and a-half lengths ahead. Cambridge won by thirteen lengths. Time: 19 min. 48 sec.—Albert Rose.

Cambridge won by one and a-half length. Time: 19 min. 22 sec. 1. Thames Boat Club, Cambridge leading; 2. Hammersmith Bridge, Oxford leading; 3. Barnes Bridge, Cambridge leading.—Djalfi.

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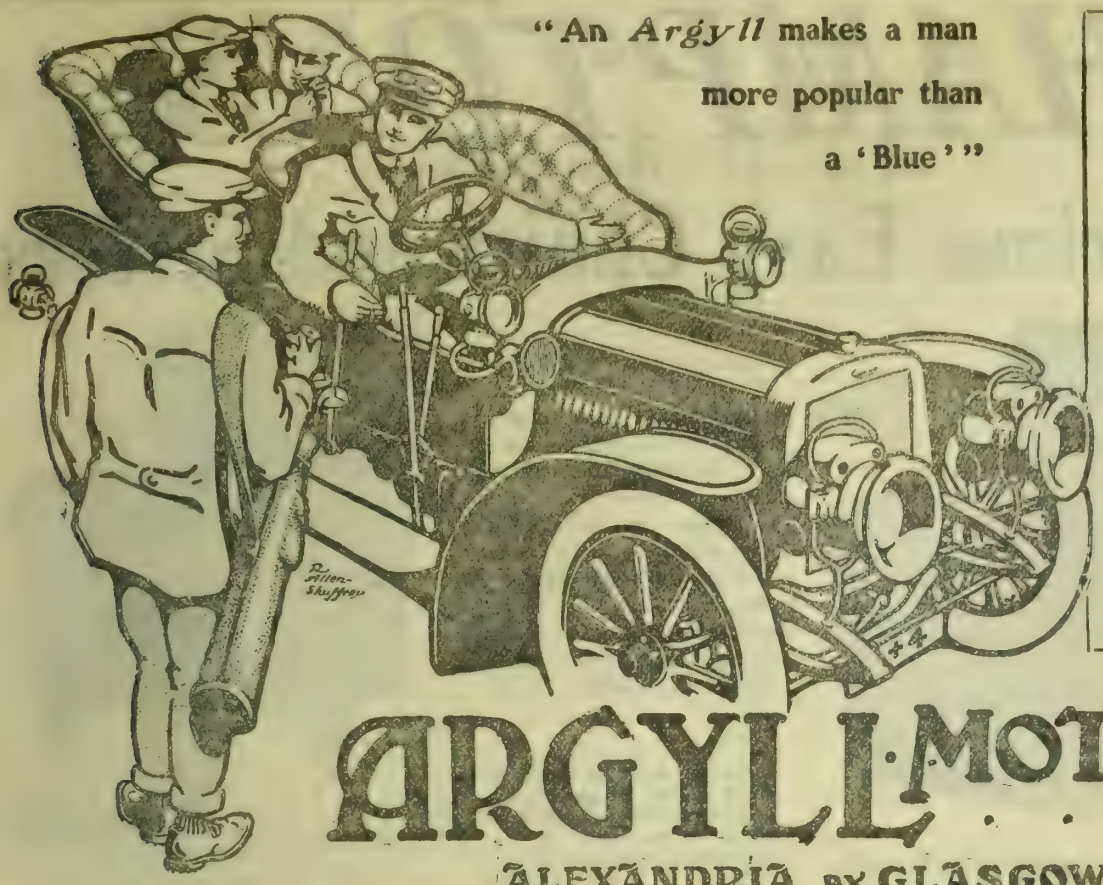

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

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ENTRE NOUS.

IT gives me much pleasure to publish the following letter that I have received from a lady who does not wish her name disclosed:—

Dear Truth,—I am not a rich woman, but I should be sorry to think that the poor children should lose their new sixpences next Christmas owing to the death of their so long unknown friend, Sir Francis Barry. I will gladly promise you four hundred new sixpences for this year, and if I can send more next year I will willingly do so. Perhaps if a few more people will do the same, there will be no sad little hearts next Christmas. Should you think of publishing my offer, others might follow. I will also gladly defray the expenses of distributing my small gift.—Yours truly,

Since the sad news came of the death of the unknown friend, I have naturally been considering the possibility of keeping up Sir Francis Barry's benefaction in connection with the Truth Toy Fund. I do not doubt the possibility of raising 11,000 sixpences for this purpose among the readers of Truth, and it seems a small matter to ask some thousands and tens of thousands of people to undertake among them what one man has done so long single-handed. But what I am compelled to consider is the possibility of raising such a fund without drawing away subscriptions from the Toy Fund. The danger of this would be small if the necessary number of sixpences could be made up or promised now, when the necessity of appealing for the Toy Fund is some months distant. I publish the above letter, therefore, in the hope that it will express a widespread feeling and evoke a practical response. I am not asking for contributions of sixpences now, but if any ladies or gentlemen will let me know at once that they are willing to contribute to this admirable object, I shall be able to judge whether or not there is a sufficient prospect of support to justify me in making a serious effort to keep up Sir Francis Barry's gift.

The King and Queen will leave Marseilles next week on their Mediterranean cruise, and they will probably pay a private visit to Gibraltar in the Royal yacht before going to Sicily and Naples. The King is expected to return to London on April 26 or 27, and it is expected that his Majesty will go to Newmarket on Tuesday, the 30th, for the First Spring Meeting, returning to town after the races on Friday, May 3. The King will come back to England overland from the Mediterranean, but the Queen will probably return by sea, landing at Portsmouth about Wednesday, May 1.

It is very likely that the King's visit to Ireland will after all take place during the last fortnight of May, as was originally proposed, instead of being postponed until later on in the year. In this case his Majesty will cross from Holyhead to Kingstown about Saturday, May 18, and he will proceed to the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin. During his stay in Ireland the King is to pay visits to Lord and Lady Londonderry at Mount Stewart, and to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Lismore Castle, and he will return to England about Saturday, June 1, embarking on board the Royal yacht at Waterford.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to stay at Sandringham for about a fortnight, after which they will return to Marlborough House for the season, and they will then be in town until Whitsuntide, except during their five days' absence (April 22 till 26) in Scotland. The Prince and Princess are to spend the Whitsuntide holidays at Frogmore Lodge, and they will again reside there from June 15 till 24, when they will entertain a number of guests for Ascot races.

It has been settled that on each day of the Royal visits to Glasgow (April 23 and 24) the Prince and Princess of Wales are to travel by special train from Renfrew to St. Enoch Station. On Tuesday, the 23rd, the Royal party will return by the same route in the afternoon, but on Wednesday, the 24th, they will drive

back to Blythswood House in motor-cars. On the morning of Thursday, the 25th, the Prince and Princess will sail down the Clyde in a special steamer from Renfrew Pier to Clydebank Dock, and they will return to Blythswood in time for luncheon.

A contemporary announces that after the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Lord and Lady Blythswood, at Blythswood House, next month, "they will go on to Floors Castle on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe." As a matter of fact, the Prince and Princess of Wales will travel back direct from Glasgow to London when they leave Blythswood on Friday, April 26, and their intended visit to Floors Castle will not take place until the autumn. The Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe are now abroad, and they are not expected to return to Floors for several months.

Several of the papers are stating that either York Cottage is to be rebuilt on a larger scale, or the Prince of Wales is going to buy an estate in the Midland counties. Two or three rooms may be added to York Cottage during the summer, but that will be the extent of the work there. There is no idea of the Prince of Wales purchasing an estate, large or small, either in the Midland counties or anywhere else. Some years ago there was some talk of the Prince becoming the tenant of Houghton Hall, the celebrated seat of the Walpoles, which is within an easy drive of Sandringham, and which now belongs to Lord Cholmondeley, but the project was abandoned. If two or three rooms are added to York Cottage, that residence will afford all necessary accommodation for the Prince and Princess of Wales and their family and household.

The papers were last week printing what they described as "an interesting announcement concerning the Princes Edward and Albert of Wales," the news in question being the fact that they are going to the Royal Naval School at Osborne. This arrangement was notified in Truth about five months ago, when I was also enabled to state that the two Princes will afterwards proceed to the Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth, and later on they will be sent on a long voyage in a man-of-war. Truth also announced that Prince Edward is ultimately to enter the Army, while Prince Albert will join the Navy. These arrangements were settled by the King and the Prince and Princess of Wales at Balmoral last autumn. A morning paper states that Prince Edward enters the Army "by special desire of the King," which is nonsense. There has never been any other career contemplated for him, nor is any other possible for the ultimate heir to the Throne. It may be added that the Sovereign exercises absolute authority in all questions concerning the custody or education of members of the Royal family.

Prince Fushima of Japan, who is coming to England to return thanks to the King for the Order of the Garter which was last year conferred on the Mikado, will spend the next few weeks on the Continent, and he is expected to arrive in London early in May. Prince Fushima's visit is official, and he will be lodged at York House, St. James's Palace, during his stay in London. A State banquet is to be given by their Majesties in his honour at Buckingham Palace, and the first Court Ball will take place while he is in London. Prince Fushima is to make a tour through the country, during which he will probably visit Oxford and Cambridge, Edinburgh, the manufacturing districts, and some of the principal ports. The Prince is bringing valuable presents for the King and Queen, and the first Japanese decoration for his Majesty.

The visit of the King and Queen of Denmark to England will probably take place in June, and it is expected that their Majesties will be accompanied by their third son, Prince Harold, and by their third and only unmarried daughter, Princess Thyra. It is very likely that their Majesties will time their visit so as to be in England for the Ascot Meeting, in which case they will be the guests of the King and Queen at Windsor Castle during the race week. The King and Queen of Denmark are now expected to visit St. Petersburg in May. King Frederick will afterwards pay official visits to Vienna and to Paris, but he is not to be accompanied to those capitals by Queen Louise.

"OH, WILLIE, WE HAVE MISSED YOU."

All sorts of things have taken place,
Which you 'd have thought might well inspire
The Kaiser of the German Race
To send along his usual wire.

The *Iéna* has been blown to bits;
Lamsdorff and Berthelot expire;
All night our House of Commons sits—
And yet the Kaiser 's sent no wire.

We 've seen the *Suevic* on the shoals,
The *Jebba* wrecked by breakers dire;
We 've seen the County Council polls—
And yet the Kaiser 's sent no wire.

We 've seen the suffragettes absurd
To crowns of martyrdom aspire;
Eke Haldane's Army schemes we 've heard—
And yet the Kaiser 's sent no wire.

I fear there must be something wrong.
That 's why I 'm writing to inquire.
Oh, Willie, we have missed you long,
Oh, Willie, dear, why *don't* you wire?

Lord Mount Edgcumbe, who has been for many years a member of the Council of the Duchy of Cornwall, has accepted the office of Keeper of the Privy Seal of the Duchy, in the place of Lord Spencer. Lord Revelstoke has become a member of the Duchy Council, succeeding Lord Mount Edgcumbe. It has been announced that Lord Mount Edgcumbe's selection for "the most important office" connected with the Duchy is to be followed by important reforms in the management of the estates and other property. This is all a pure fiction. "The most important office" connected with the Duchy of Cornwall is held by Lord Ducie, who is Lord Warden of the Stannaries. There is no idea of carrying out any reforms, nor are changes called for, as the Duchy of Cornwall property has been most judiciously managed in all respects ever since Prince Albert took the affairs into his own hands directly after the birth of the present King.

For Appeals, see page 800.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 804.
For Special for Ladies, see page 802.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 803, 804.
For Amusements, see page 801.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 809, 810.
For Estates, Auctions, etc., see page 800.

The accounts of the Duchy of Cornwall for 1906 show that the total receipts were £140,015, of which £92,832 came from rents and profits of Courts, royalties produced £3,909, wood sales brought in £1,047, there were £11,672 from dividends on stock, and £16,216 from the Consolidated Fund, being compensation for the loss of the coinage duties, post groats, and white rents. The Prince of Wales was paid over £80,331. Improvements on the estates accounted for £16,000, and deductions under various Acts of Parliament ran away with £16,319. Expenses of management came to £9,269, of which £4,566 were paid to the Duchy establishment in London. The cost of management might surely be reduced considerably.

The Duchy of Lancaster accounts for 1906 show that the total income during last year was £103,147, out of which £63,000 was paid to the Keeper of the Privy Purse for his Majesty's use. Rents and profits of Courts yielded £58,981, and royalties and rents of mines and quarries produced £25,942.

Owing to Lady Aberdeen's continued illness, Lord and Lady Aberdeen were unable to leave Dublin Castle at the close of the "season," according to the usual Viceregal habit. They expect shortly to take up their residence at the Viceregal Lodge, where they will spend Eastertime. The following week will be the great Irish race meeting week, the national "Punchestown" races being fixed for Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Leopardstown meeting for Friday and Saturday. The week is at a somewhat earlier date than usual this year, which brings the probability that winter may yet be lingering "in the lap of spring" at the time. However, enthusiasm for festivals connected with the horse never fail, let the weather be what it may. Punchestown week has the pleasant tradition of good weather associated with it, a wet, or wild, "Punchestown" having seldom been known.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen will have visitors at the Viceregal Lodge for Punchestown week, and the usual entertaining will be done, if Lady Aberdeen's health continues to improve as it has been improving. Parties of visitors will also assemble in many houses in Kildare, Meath, and many other counties, which the motor has now brought within daily reach of Punchestown. The hotels in Dublin and the neighbourhood will be full as usual for the week.

Mr. Dames Longworth, of Glynwood, who died suddenly last week while walking in his grounds, was one of the most popular landowners in Ireland, and his death is most deeply regretted by people of all classes, both Roman Catholics and Protestants. He was a general favourite, and will be greatly missed. Mr. Dames Longworth owned large estates in King's County, Roscommon, Westmeath, and Galway.

Sir Victor Drummond, who died at Munich on Friday, was a son of the late Mr. Andrew Drummond, of Cadland Park, Hants, and a grandson of the fifth Duke of Rutland. He belonged to the Strathallan branch of the Drummond family. Sir Victor commenced his diplomatic career in 1852, when Lord Malmesbury appointed him attaché to the Embassy at Paris. He was employed successively at Madrid, Athens, St. Petersburg, Washington, and Vienna until 1890, when he became Minister to the Courts of Munich and Stuttgart. Sir Victor was a clever, shrewd man, pleasant in his manner, and very hospitable. He will be regretted by many friends in various parts of Europe.

Mr. Charles Bathurst, of Lydney Park, who died on Friday, owned a large estate in West Gloucestershire, and for many years he took an active part in county business. He was a generous benefactor to the town of Lydney, his gifts including a public park. The Elizabethan house at Lydney commands beautiful views over the Severn estuary, and it contains some excellent portraits. The park has many interesting Roman antiquities, and in the gardens there are some splendid Spanish chestnut and orange trees. The manor of Lydney, which belonged for centuries to the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Admiral Wyntoun for his services against the Spanish Armada. The estate passed to the Bathursts about the middle of the eighteenth century.

There is a Scottish adage, "Peebles for pleasure," which in former years has been verified in the most satisfactory manner by many visitors to the well-known hotel-hydro conducted by Mr. Albert M. Thiem. It will interest them, and others likewise, to learn that the building which was destroyed by fire in July, 1905, has now been replaced by a more palatial and up-to-date establishment, which was opened last week. The new Hotel-Hydropathic has been built on the site of the old, standing in its own extensive grounds on a spot high on the north bank of the Tweed. It is situated in a most healthy as well as beautiful district, and, with a complete installation of modern medical baths, the establishment makes its appeal to those who are in need of cures as well as of rest and pleasure.

It seems that I may have erred last week in saying that Swiss law gives an hotel-keeper a right to an indemnity over and above any specific loss which he may have incurred in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease among his guests. A claim of such a nature, though occasionally made by the baser sort of proprietors of *pensions*, etc., is apparently mere bluff, and that it may be successfully resisted has since been shown in the case mentioned last week. The lady referred to put herself in the hands of a lawyer at Montreux, who settled the landlord's claim of over £40 by a payment of £4! The following statement of Swiss law, given to me by a correspondent thoroughly familiar with the country, may be of use to visitors to Switzerland who have unfortunate experiences of this kind:—

The Swiss law is clear and reliable, and the Courts will recognise no fictitious claim for loss of custom, departure of other visitors, etc.; nothing but damages for cost of disinfection, destruction of bedding, repapering of rooms, and such-like necessary expenditure.

The death "indemnité," or claim made upon the relatives of a person dying in a boarding-house or hotel is another form of callous and indefensible extortion, which is contrary to the law of the land. As in the case of infectious disease, actual loss from damage to hotel furniture or structure, and also compensation for closure of the room during a short period, are recoverable. But no claim for an "indemnité" pure and simple, tacked on to the costs incurred by disinfection and damage to property, is recognised by the Court. (*Vide* Mrs. Saint *v.* Franz—Civil Tribunal, Montreux, 1902.)

The following form, forwarded by a branch of the bank mentioned for a customer's signature, seems to show that business people occasionally expect those with whom they are dealing to be extremely unbusinesslike. Why should the receipt be forwarded before the documents have been received?

To the Manager,
National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, ———
I have received all the paid vouchers relating to my account for the half-year ending December 31, 1906.

———

Please sign and return, when vouchers will be sent.

In reference to the recent observations in TRUTH on the financial affairs of the Betterment of London Association, I have received letters from Sir Alfred Jacoby, M.P., and Sir Robert Hobart, M.P., both of which are to the same effect. Each gentleman states that he was quite unaware that his name was being used in connection with the Association, and that he has written to the secretary requesting the removal of his name from the list of Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council published last week. Sir Alfred adds that he has never been summoned to any council meeting, which is precisely what I should have supposed.

Of course, if people's names are used without their permission, they have no responsibility or duty in connection with anything that has been done. As regards some of the names, however, on Bowden Green's list, it is clear from the letters published last week that permission has been given for their use. Those gentlemen who have done this, whether with or without adequate knowledge of the character of the concern and its "honorary" secretary, are clearly under an obligation to those who have been induced to subscribe in the belief that reputable people were concerned in the management of the concern. It is to be hoped, therefore, that no gentlemen in this position will shirk their duty by retiring, but that they will use their position for the purpose of reducing Bowden Green to order, or removing him altogether from the management, and placing the financial affairs of the Association on a proper business-like footing.

Another example has just come under my notice of the practice of inducing people to invest money in small firms carried on as limited companies, as a condition of appointment as clerks or secretaries. The firm in this instance is called the "Where-to-Stay Bureau, Ltd.," and has an office in Baker-street. A Mr. J. F. Powell appears to be the head of it. It gets up books of illustrated advertisements of boarding-houses and hotels at the various watering-places, advertises in the newspapers, and sends its pamphlets to people who reply. Last summer a lady was induced to take shares to the amount of £100 in consideration of being appointed secretary at £2 a week, with a commission of 10 per cent. on the business done. After about three months she was so unfavourably impressed with the manner in which Mr. Powell was conducting the business that she gave up the appointment. Since then she has been endeavouring, but of course unsuccessfully, to obtain a repayment of her £100.

It appears that the Where-to-Stay Bureau, Ltd., only has a capital of £1,500, in the same number of shares, of which 1,200 in the first instance were taken by Mr. Powell, and, of course, the shares transferred to the lady in the above case were those of Powell himself. People in search of employment cannot be too strongly warned against taking shares in small unknown companies under such circumstances. I might add that the proprietors of private hotels and boarding-houses who are advertising in the publications of the Where-to-Stay Bureau would do well to satisfy themselves more closely than they appear to have done at present as to the return which they are getting for their expenditure.

The combination of investment with employment is of course perfectly legitimate. But there is always a certain amount of risk attaching to it when in the case of persons seeking employment, who are ready to invest a small sum in a business, but have themselves no business experience which would enable them to judge for themselves the real value of the business into which they are going to put their money. When a handsome remuneration is held out, the temptation to invest a few hundred pounds, more or less in the dark, is often irresistible. Retired Army officers, anxious for employment, and having some small capital at their disposal, are particularly liable to be caught in this way. Major F. E. V. Taylor, late of the Sherwood Foresters, has lately opened an Officers' Employment Bureau at Belfast Chambers, Beak-street, W., with a view to assisting officers under such circumstances. He undertakes to make inquiries for clients who desire to combine "employment with investment," and there is no doubt that such an agency, in competent and trustworthy hands, may be extremely useful.

I do not know what may be the cause of it, but my old friend, Manning Press, has lately been inspired to a most extraordinary outburst of activity. His operations at the expense of Lancashire Leaders, Derbyshire Leaders, and Cheshire Leaders have been recorded in TRUTH within the last few weeks, but since the end of February he seems to have started upon Lincolnshire Leaders, and then dashed off to the other end of the kingdom in search of Devonshire Leaders. The description of the "forthcoming exceptionally interesting and beautiful new County Illustrated Work" is precisely the same for all counties, as are the terms (3gs.) for promotion to the rank of a County Leader. As long as human nature is what it is, I suppose that Manning Press, or "Ernest Gaskell," as he now calls himself, will find nonentities willing to pay his price for this honour; but he would have much more difficulty in doing so if he were not assisted thereto by Lords Lieutenant and other genuine "Leaders." It is astonishing that he should be able to obtain such assistance, but he states—I suppose correctly—that he is supported in

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., testifies as follows:—"I think it only right to state that for some years I have prescribed Dr. Alabone's remedies for chest diseases, having been converted to do so by the marvellous recovery of a patient *whom I had given up to die.* Since then I have attended other cases of advanced tubercular disease, and have watched them gradually restored to health."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

Lincolnshire by Earl Brownlow, and in Devonshire by Earl Fortescue.

As usual, success induces competition, and those counties which have not yet been attacked by Ernest Gaskell may expect the attentions of other literary free-booters of the same type. A gentleman calling himself Allan North sends out a circular from Baxter Lodge, Clissold Park, N., announcing that the preparation of his new work on Kent is nearing completion, and that his engravers are anxiously waiting for the favour of the loan of your photograph. Like Press, alias Gaskell, Mr. North is happy to say that his undertaking "is receiving the heartiest support from very influential county families." One of the men of Kent whose patronage and photograph have been applied for suggests that this is only Manning Press under a new name, but the identity of the operator is not of much consequence.

It may be hoped that nothing more will be heard of the scheme for building a residence at Oxford inside the Parks for the Professor of Astronomy. This project has been "simmering" for several years past, and it has now been most decisively rejected by Congregation, being lost by the majority of 156 to 55. The Parks are an open space of the greatest value, and on no consideration should they be reduced in area by building operations. Let but one house be erected, and very soon others would be projected. It is difficult to understand why the successive Professors of Astronomy have not arranged to make more use of the Radcliffe Observatory, which might surely work usefully in conjunction with the observatory in the Parks. It is absurd that there should be two excellent observatories at Oxford within a short distance of each other, unless they are to work together and in perfect harmony.

POOR LITTLE BEAST!

(By a Protestant Lady.)

I love thee! I love thee! How dare Vaughan chide, O,
My love for my popsety-wopsety Fido?
Thou art bound to my heart by a thousand ties—
By thy snuffling nose, by thine oozy eyes,
By thy mangy coat and thy neck's skin creased—
And yet he has called thee "a little beast."

I love thee! I love thee! With joy elate
I dote on thy dear little waddling gait,
And fonder thy smelly head I kiss.
Than ever did lover the lips of miss.
And yet that rude and unfeeling priest
Has dared to call thee "a little beast."

* * * *

Slate *me*, O Father, as much as you like,
At *my* sins and vices and foibles strike,
Lash *my* excesses, my Bridge attack,
And paint my morals in Brunswick black,
But treat as a sacred thing, at least,
The hallowed name of my "little beast."

Two important appointments have just been made by Bishop Wordsworth in the diocese of Salisbury. He has presented the Rev. Eric J. Bodington, who has been Vicar of Potterne, near Devizes, for the last eight years, to the living of Calne, which has become vacant by the much regretted death of Canon Duncan, who had held this benefice since 1865, when he was presented by Bishop Hamilton. Calne is worth nearly seven hundred a year, with house. The Bishop has presented Prebendary Whitefoord, who has been Principal of the Salisbury Theological College since 1884, to the living of Potterne, which is worth between four and five hundred a year, with residence. Canon Duncan was an intimate friend of Lord Lansdowne, and for many years he had been domestic chaplain at Bowood.

The Church Patronage Trustees have presented the Rev. H. E. Noyes, Chaplain of the Anglican Church in the Rue d'Aguesseau, Paris, to the important living of St. Mary's, Kilburn, which is of the net value of about £800 a year with house, and which has become vacant by the preferment of the Rev. W. H. Stone to the rectory of Walcot, Bath, on the presentation of the Simeon Trustees.

The death of the Rev. A. H. Williams is much regretted in South Warwickshire. He was one of the most popular and most highly esteemed parish clergymen in the county. Mr. Williams, who had held the rectory of Alcester for thirty-eight years, was a chaplain to the King, and he filled the same office under Queen Victoria for nearly a quarter of a century. He was a brother of Canon Williams, of Hereford. The living of Alcester is in the gift of Lord Hertford.

Chancellor Newbolt is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during April, replacing Archdeacon Sinclair. The Bishop of London is to preach for the Dean at the morning service next Sunday.

The impossibility of extinguishing a chain-letter when it has once got a fair hold on the public is shown once again by an advertisement issued by Dr. Barnardo's Homes, which will be found on another page. In this a further attempt is made to stop the circulation of the famous appeal started by Miss Robertson, of Kenilworth. I suppose that this "snowball" has been rolling over the United Kingdom and the Colonies for five or six years past, if not longer. Long before his death Dr. Barnardo endeavoured to stop it, but in vain. The letter, which was originally started, as such things often are, without any attempt to obtain the sanction of the charity for whose benefit it was intended, has now become altered into a shape which the present managers of the homes describe as "highly misleading," and is "actually doing harm to the Homes." It is deplorable that an admirable charity should be injured in this way by the folly of people who suppose themselves to be helping it, and the public should understand that contributions should in all cases be sent to the head-quarters of the charity they desire to help, and not be given to unauthorised volunteer collectors.

A very ingenious, but, as I believe, an impotent attempt to evade the Lottery Act has been devised by the promoters of a bazaar in aid of the Christian Brothers Schools at Bristol. It has been the practice of the Christian Brothers to raise the wind in Ireland by means of huge gambles, and last year I was compelled to criticise the brethren somewhat severely on account of their circulation of an impudently garbled extract from TRUTH in reference to a so-called "grand

Art Union drawing" at Clonmel. Beyond the use of some euphemism of this kind, lotteries—at any rate, ecclesiastical lotteries—are carried on without any disguise in Ireland, the law against them in that country being in abeyance. The Christian Brothers now seem to think that the ecclesiastical lottery can be introduced in England, though their scheme recognises the need for the exercise of some circumspection—not to say trickery.

The Christian Brothers Bazaar at Bristol is to be held under the patronage of the Bishop of Clifton on December 30 and 31. The committee have lately been inviting advertising agents to take spaces on the backs of "the tickets for same" of which "a minimum of 2,000,000 copies will be circulated per post through the English-speaking world." Specimens of the tickets are submitted to the agents; and it is palpable that they are nothing but lottery tickets, though they have been artfully framed to get round the law. The front of the ticket is mainly occupied with an imposing list of articles, ranging from a Kimberley diamond (or value £100), a motor bicycle, a pony and trap, or a fat bullock, to a railway waggon of coal, a chest of tea, or a sewing machine. Each ticket has a duplicate to be returned with the purchase money to the Rev. Bro. J. F. Roche, The Christian Brothers, Berkeley-square, Bristol. The price of the ticket is sixpence, described "as a contribution to the fund," and "the names of the persons to whom the committee will present the above articles" will, it is notified, be published in various newspapers. On the back of the ticket is the following:—

Bazaar Receipt Form.

1.—The Committee, whose names are herein set forth, or a majority thereof, shall have the entire power of deciding in any way they think fit to whom (if any person) they may present the articles.

2.—The amount paid for the ticket for which this is a receipt is accepted by the Committee on these terms as a contribution by the purchaser of the ticket towards the cost of the articles (which have been purchased for the benefit of the Bazaar) and the expenses of the Bazaar.

So proud are the Christian Brothers of this little scheme that they print on the tickets the warning: "Copyright registered: Infringers will be proceeded against." It seems to me that the parties most likely to be proceeded against are those who engage in the distribution and sale of these tickets. Notwithstanding the careful avoidance of any reference to a "lottery," or a "drawing," or a "raffle," or even "prizes," and the above-quoted statement as to the power of the committee to "present the articles" in any way they think fit, I think it will be found that this scheme is a lottery within the meaning of the Act of Parliament. There are certainly decisions which bear out that view, and obviously if such a dodge as this could succeed the law might as well be repealed. I hope, therefore, that the Chief Constable of Bristol will at once take advice on the matter, and, if necessary, warn the Christian Brothers of the penalties they will be incurring if they proceed with this project. I fear from former experiences that it would be useless to appeal to them to drop it on the ground of the discredit which they bring upon the Roman Catholic Church by this system of gambling.

In the debate on the future of the Militia, which Lord Wemyss started in the House of Lords last Thursday, there was a curious conflict of opinion on one point between the Duke of Bedford and Lord Hardinge, though they were both "agin' the Government." One of the grounds on which the Duke most strongly condemned the suppression of the Militia was that that force had lately supplied the Army with more than half its infantry recruits. On the other hand, Lord Hardinge was of opinion that the system of recruiting the line through the Militia is "pernicious and dishonest, and should be abolished." He insisted that "no man should be allowed to transfer from the Militia to the Line without the consent of his commanding officer." When one champion of the Militia finds one of its chief merits in a feature which the next champion would abolish at once as a pernicious abuse, it is not surprising that the Secretary of State and his advisers have been unable to carry out the ideas of Militia C.O's.

When Mr. Haldane introduced his scheme he mentioned a most important fact of which sufficient notice has not been taken, though it must be news to a very large number of people. He stated that 80 per cent. of the Volunteers at present are of the artisan class. This fact has a most important bearing upon the Territorial Army scheme, and it discounts a great deal of the merely speculative criticism which the scheme has incurred. The Duke of Bedford, for instance, spoke very confidently of the impossibility of recruiting the new force from the same class of men who have hitherto furnished the Militia. "The Militia," he said, "is recruited from among the working and labouring classes," and he went on to demonstrate the impossibility of obtaining such men for a force "conducted on Volunteer lines." Evidently his Grace missed that important point in Mr. Haldane's statement, for it disposes entirely of his prophecy. The thing which cannot be done is done already.

One of the most eminent of our instructors in military matters, writing to me privately a few weeks ago, observed that "while you and I and every one else has been asleep, the Volunteers have transformed themselves into a Militia." He referred chiefly to the substantial payments now received by all ranks of Volunteers in many battalions for camp training. When Mr. Haldane's 80 per cent. of working men are added to the argument, it seems to become pretty conclusive. A great many reasons have been advanced for the decay of the Militia, but when one looks at the real facts, the truth of the matter seems to be that the Militia has of late been "bled white" by the Volunteers. Presumably this view of the matter has been taken by Mr. Haldane and the Army Council; and if it is the sound view, the policy of making Volunteers rather than Militia the basis of the Territorial Force is likely to be justified by the results. At any rate, the facts warrant the view that there is a far better chance of obtaining the required force on a Volunteer than on a Militia basis.

Lady Henry Somerset writes on Nervousness, and How to Overcome it, on page 808.

Though not always agreeing with the *Daily Mail*, I have a great admiration for its vivacity and originality; and its latest idea of publishing ironical leading articles by way of ridiculing the humbug of these compositions is very amusing. The all-night sitting of Parliament last week gave the *D. M.* humorist an excellent opportunity. As everybody knows, the business with which honourable legislators diverted themselves on that occasion included the Army (Annual) Bill, which has been passed more or less in the same form for many generations past. By way of parodying the absurd ignorance and pomposity of leader-writers, the *Daily Mail* pretended to think next day that the House had been trifling with Mr. Haldane's Army scheme. "It is a great misfortune," the writer began, "that Mr. Haldane's Bill for Army Reform should, even in outward appearance, have been associated with the untoward events in the House of Commons during the all-night sitting." And then followed a solemn disquisition on the merits of Mr. Haldane's scheme and the necessity for patriotic concentration in order to give it a chance. In this amusing way the writer affected to repair the "untoward events" in Parliament, and mitigate the "great misfortune" that had befallen the State.

The only objection to this form of humour is the danger of its being taken seriously. Among the 900 billions, or thereabouts—I am only quoting the figures from memory—of *Daily Mail* readers, there must necessarily be a certain percentage of ignorant people, people who cannot see jokes, and people accustomed to receive as gospel all the utterances of editors. It is alarming to think of the effect which this new kind of journalistic fooling may have upon them. At the best they must be bewildered, at the worst they may fall a prey to quite insane delusions about contemporary events.

Immediately after the article about the great misfortune that had befallen Mr. Haldane's army scheme, the *Mail* had another for the benefit of "the hapless income-tax payer." This omnipresent sufferer was told that "he is threatened with a fresh measure of spoliation to provide the Government's supporters with old age pensions." Only a few days previously, however, the City editor of the *Mail*, who has not previously been known as a humorist, had encouraged the world to suppose that the Government's supporters were to be provided with old age pensions by some financial legerdemain based on a loan of twenty millions—in other words, by the spoliation of holders of Consols, which were thereby to be driven down to zero. The reader who happens to be both an income-tax payer and a holder of Consols may have the gumption to see that either the City editor or the leader writer is "getting at" him, and may perhaps suspect that both are. But those of the 900 billions who are not given to clear thinking will understand nothing, except that old age pensions involve general "spoliation," which, of course, is quite the last thing that the airy wags of the *Daily Mail* intended to convey.

The following observations were not written for publication, but form part of a private communication from a personal friend. But the interests of the State come before those of private friendship, and I think it is a public duty to warn the Government of the trouble that may come upon them if they persist in making my friend carry his rifle. As he is not by nature of a discontented spirit, I have no doubt that others are resenting this burden besides him:—

> I regret to say that I shall have to turn Conservative again, or else start a party of my own, at the next general election. The reason is that I see no amelioration of the miserable condition of the poor fool who calls himself an officer, but who, after 22 years' zealous service, is condemned to carry a rifle when he marches out with his company, like the last arrival from the depot.

I have had sundry communications from the Army Veterinary Service in reference to the question raised by an article in the *Veterinary News* upon a memorandum of the Indian Adjutant-General, which called attention to the facilities offered for the instruction of cavalry officers in veterinary hospitals. The matter was discussed in Truth some two months ago. I have waited to hear from India before saying anything more upon it. The following letter from a veterinary officer in that country seems to state most concisely the professional objection to the memorandum in question:—

> You do not seem to be aware of the existence of veterinary schools in the Army. There are two in India, one at Poona and one at Umballa. Here veterinary courses of three months are held once or twice a year for the special training of officers, N.C.O.'s, and men, farriers and shoeing-smiths, in veterinary first aid, stable management, saddles and sore backs, shoeing, etc. Numbers of officers, etc., attend these schools yearly, but it would appear that officers of British cavalry do not avail themselves of them as they should do, as two years ago only two out of a very large number were British cavalry officers.
>
> We are all agreed that a certain amount of elementary veterinary knowledge, comprised under the term "veterinary first aid," simple sanitation or hygiene, and horsemanship, is necessary for cavalry officers; but these subjects should be taught in the proper place, namely, the veterinary schools. The great objection to the order in question, and one which has not been made clear to you, is that the veterinary hospitals, as distinct from the veterinary schools, are now besieged on certain days during the hours that veterinary officers are in attendance by classes which interfere with their professional work. This is quite a different matter from holding classes in a class-room and giving a simple lecture on "first aid," sanitation, etc., by veterinary officers. What would medical officers say if their hospitals and wards were invaded by parties of officers, N.C.O.'s, and men enlightening themselves on the treatment of disease at the bedsides of the patients? This is practically what we are asked to endure. The thing is absurd and should be discontinued.

Thus stated, the grievance is perfectly intelligible and deserving of consideration. If it was not properly appreciated in the previous reference to the matter in Truth the fault lies with the writer in the *Veterinary News*, not me. The purport of the *V.N.* article was clearly indicated by its title, "Every Man to his Trade," and it lost sight of the particular point about the practical inconvenience of teaching elementary veterinary science in hospitals rather than schools, in a general argument tending to deprecate the intrusion of the laity into the sacred mysteries of professional knowledge. Against such nonsense I protested in the name of common sense, but I am sorry to say this has not prevented sundry Brahmins of the veterinary mysteries writing long letters to convince me of my errors.

To draw the proper line of demarcation between professional and lay knowledge of technical or scientific matters is not easy, though the difficulty arises more in theory than in practice. I am not going to attempt it, but one of my veterinary correspondents delivered a challenge which seems to require an answer. He was

much perturbed at finding remarks in Truth to the effect that any farmer, coachman, etc., "who knows his business," is capable of doctoring his own animals, "thereby implying that veterinary science is little more than stable routine, and the everyday management of horses, cattle, and dogs." After reminding me of the number and complexity of the diseases and injuries of animals, and the severity of the study required for a diploma of the R.C.V.S., he proceeded to say:—

> Unless you maintain that every man who "knows his business" and possesses a general knowledge of mankind should be capable of "doctoring" both himself and his fellow-creatures, and that the occasions when it is necessary to call in a medical man are extremely rare, what reasonable grounds are there for supposing that he is competent to doctor animals?

This is a fallacious statement of the point. It is a farmer's or coachman's business to attend to the health of his animals, and that is the reason why, if he "knows his business," he will know how to doctor them in ordinary ailments. Only in exceptional cases is it a man's business to attend to the health of other human beings, and, therefore, "knowing his business" has not, as a rule, any reference to knowing how to doctor them. But when the cases are similar, the argument in the case of animals extends to human beings. For example, a good mother should understand the doctoring of her children in ordinary ailments just as a good farmer or coachman should understand the doctoring of his cattle or horses. A schoolmaster or schoolmistress should look after his or her children in the same way, either personally or by deputy—when I was at school the ordinary doctoring was done by the matron. Captains in the merchant service used to, if they do not now, perform the same office for their crews when occasion arose.

Moreover, every man of sense and education is able to perform the same office for himself, and generally has all the requisite appliances at hand when he feels out of order. The cases where lay knowledge is applied—and quite properly—must thus occur by thousands every day, and I readily accept the proposition that "the cases where it is necessary to call in a medical man are extremely rare." I do not blame a medical man for thinking otherwise or doing his best to inculcate the importance of sending for the doctor the moment the tongue looks a little unhealthy or the pulse beats one more to the minute than it ought to. But I blame the man who believes him.

It is high time that official attention was given to the complaints that have more than once been made publicly about the management of the public abattoir at Alexandria, where meat is killed for the whole of the British garrison in Egypt. A question was asked on the subject in Parliament towards the end of last session, and a promise was given that inquiries should be made, but no other result has followed. The principal matter for condemnation is the barbarous practice of killing animals by cutting their throats and leaving them to bleed slowly to death. Possibly it is followed in deference to Mohammedan traditions on this subject, but that argument does not amount to much, seeing that we are in Egypt for the purpose of enlightening the Egyptians with Western ideas. Besides, even if the animals must be bled for the benefit of the Mohammedan consumer, there is no reason why they should not be stunned first. A Service correspondent, who writes very strongly on this subject contends that this abattoir ought to be under the supervision of a properly qualified A.S.C. officer, which sounds reasonable. At present the place seems to be *de facto* under the management of a corporal.

In Truth of January 16 an account was given of the case of a former sergeant of the Army Service Corps named Pitt, who was reduced to the ranks and ordered to repay a sum of £33 odd, on conviction by a court-martial at Cape Town of negligence in the capacity of caterer in the garrison sergeants' mess, whereby the mess had incurred a loss of that amount on the beer account. One of the contentions for the defence at the court-martial was that the prisoner's duty as a clerk in the office of the Staff Captain, Naval Base, occupied so much of his time that he could not attend properly to the business of the mess. The man himself said that he was on duty in the office daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but the Staff Captain asserted that his office work would not take him four hours a day. Mr. Haldane, when replying to a question by Lord Turnour on the case, referred to this evidence as a reason for not interfering with the decision.

I have since heard from Cape Town that two clerks A.S.C., a sergeant and a corporal, have since been put on duty at this office. It is therefore now found necessary to employ two men on work which, according to the evidence of the Staff Captain at Pitt's court-martial, would only occupy one man half a day. Unless it can be shown that the work has been multiplied by four in the meantime, which is not conceivable, that evidence must have been wholly erroneous. This is not the strongest point in the case. The main ground of defence was that there was no satisfactory evidence that the alleged loss had ever been incurred at all. But had the money really been lost, it became a material point that the caterer was not relieved of other duties, as required by para. 994, King's Regulations. The officers responsible for this breach of regulations were obviously interested in minimising it. The allegation that the prisoner's office work only took him four hours a day, in contradiction of his own statement that he was at work nine hours, ought therefore to have been regarded with suspicion; and the subsequent admission that there is work for two men in the office shows that this suspicion would have been well founded. The opinion that a gross injustice was done to this man is thus strongly confirmed, and it is a scandal that after this he should remain deprived of his rank and mulcted of £33, the loss of which has never been proved, and which the Court acquitted him of having embezzled.

Admiral Palliser, who died last week very suddenly, was a very popular officer and a keen sportsman. He was an able man, and his opinions on professional subjects were much valued. Admiral Palliser was on active service for forty-seven years. He served during the Crimean War both in the Baltic and in the Black Sea, and as a midshipman he distinguished himself on

several occasions. During the Carlist War he was employed on the coast of Spain, and was officially thanked for his valuable services in protecting British interests. He afterwards commanded several vessels on foreign stations, and for two years he was employed at Hong Kong. He was Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific from 1896 until 1899, and was retired from the Navy under the age clause when he returned to England.

In consequence of the appearance of a paragraph in the Indian press, the following letter was recently addressed to a Maharajah whose name I need not mention. His Highness very prudently ignored the suggestion that it contained, and the letter has been passed on to me, with an inquiry as to whether I know anything of the writer or of the wonder-working Carroll:—

26, Mott-lane, Calcutta.

The Maharaja of ——.

Dear Maharaja,—I have lately read in the papers the news of the illness of. . . . I am the Editor of the *News of India*, and therefore write to tell you that I know of a gentleman who I believe could cure any of them, no matter what their disease, if you invite him.

While I was in Simla last season I saw many astonishing cures performed by this gentleman, Mr. W. F. Carroll, and since I have been in Calcutta I have seen still more marvellous cures effected by him, of every kind of disease known, sometimes in a single touch, but others after a longer treatment.

I am perfectly convinced that if you invite Mr. Carroll to —— he would cure, not only the ladies of your family, but any one who may be sick and suffering. This is my only excuse for venturing to trouble you with this letter.—Yours faithfully,

H. Baldwin May.

Though I think that I may fairly claim to have an extensive and peculiar acquaintance with quacks, this is the first time that I have come across W. F. Carroll. The sort of quack that he is may be judged from the fact that he advertises himself as a "natural magnetic healer," who "cures all diseases without medicine; distance no obstacle to treatment by means of magnetised articles." As to the *News of India* and its editor, I have never before heard of either; but I observe that the address from which the above letter is dated is also the address that Carroll gives in his advertisements. I should not, therefore, be surprised to learn that this apparently disinterested editor who so benevolently proffers his advice to illustrious invalids, is really the quack's paid trumpeter, and the *News of India* the instrument on which he performs.

The disgusting state of affairs existing in the lodging-houses at Tredegar, upon which I commented on February 27, has resulted in proceedings before the magistrates, a number of persons being summoned for breach of the by-laws. It was admitted by the sanitary inspector under cross-examination in the course of the hearing, that the authorities had been "blinking at breaches of the by-laws" until the condition of affairs had grown into a public scandal, and the magistrates expressed the hope that the Local Government Board would take action in the matter. I sincerely re-echo the hope, and I also hope that the action of the Bedwellty Guardians in boarding out their vagrants in these Tredegar dens will not escape attention.

Stammering cured only by personal tuition: interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Some account was given in these columns two or three weeks ago of the first stage of the public examination of Aaron Bagel, of Commercial-road, E., which seemed to exemplify very forcibly the evils described in my recent article, "The Alien in Bankruptcy." This impression is deepened by the last stage of the debtor's examination, which was brought to a conclusion last week. Aaron then explained blandly that he could not read or write, and did not understand book-keeping, and, as it was consequently impossible to get from him anything but explanations from memory of transactions dating back several years, the Official Receiver was naturally unable to throw much light upon the mysteries of the financial operations leading up to the bankruptcy. The principal facts elicited were that in the three months prior to the bankruptcy Aaron had bought stock to the value of £6,000, and had made a loss during that period of £700; and that having made losses to the amount of £1,926 between January, 1905, and October, 1906, he was drawing during that time for himself about £600 or £700 a year and paying his two sons, mere boys, £7 a week between them. Aaron is, indeed, more fortunate than Moses, who was not privileged to enter a land flowing with milk and honey.

Tradesmen and other persons against whom County Court judgments are registered are favoured with a circular from J. A. Palmer and Co., "C.A.," Newhall-street, Birmingham, who offer their services in "protecting your estate from executioners, and putting an end to your worry and trouble." In December, 1904, a King's Lynn grocer accepted this kindly offer, and, with the assent of his creditors, executed a deed of assignment to Palmer as trustee for the payment in instalments of a composition of 12s. 6d. in the £. The creditors have had much difficulty in getting any dividends from Palmer, and he has been very much in arrear in rendering accounts to the Board of Trade. In these circumstances an application was recently made to the County Court Judge at Birmingham to remove him from the trusteeship. Palmer admitted that for over twelve months he had had in hand a sum of £108 belonging to the estate. He also stated that the letters "C.A." affixed to his name did not mean—as people might infer—"chartered accountant," but "corporate accountant of Scotland." The Judge made the desired order, and, having regard to the revelation of his methods of business in this case, I should think debtors and their creditors would be well advised not to entrust the winding up of estates to Mr. J. A. Palmer.

There was a disagreeable appearance of vindictiveness about a prosecution of a motorist which came before the Barnsley West Riding Bench the other day after being held over for several months pending the result of a civil action. The action arose out of a collision between a motor-car and a wagonette, which at the trial in the County Court was shown to have been an accident due to an error of judgment—not to furious or reckless driving—on the part of the motorist. The latter was on his right side of the road, but turned off as the best means of avoiding the wagonette, which had been

coming along on the wrong side. The driver of the wagonette, however, crossed to his proper side at the same moment, and in the resulting collision one of the horses was killed, while the motor-car was smashed up and the owner injured. Being found to have been in fault, inasmuch as he should, of course, have kept to his own side of the road, the motorist was mulcted in £50 damages and costs. This ought surely to have been considered a sufficient penalty. It failed, however, to appease the police and the magistrates, and on the top of the judgment against him in the County Court the motorist has now been fined £5 and costs and his licence has been endorsed. Even if it be conceded that a conviction under the Motor Car Act was justifiable, notwithstanding the civil action, a nominal fine would obviously have met the case.

A sitting of the Welshpool Borough Bench was held last week in the office of the magistrates' clerk, which is registered as an occasional court-room. Every sitting of the magistrates for the hearing of cases, wherever it takes place, must, of course, be open to the public, and on this occasion the reporters of the local papers were present. Mr. D. Pryce Owen, the senior magistrate, objected to their presence, and though the clerk pointed out that it was a public court, he refused to act unless the reporters withdrew, adding: "It is not a public court if we choose not to make it." The reporters stuck to their seats and Mr. Owen eventually quitted the room, leaving the business to be dealt with by other magistrates. Judging from the amazing ignorance which he exhibited in this matter, I should imagine that it would be a distinct gain to the administration of justice in Welshpool if this egregious J.P. permanently absented himself from the Bench.

The Mayor and other city fathers who adorn the Bench of Neath Borough Police-court have evolved a new method of dealing with offenders which has a strong Gilbertian flavour. One day last week several persons were brought before their Worships charged with using obscene language. The first was let off with a fine of 5s. and costs; the second was ordered to pay 10s. and costs; the third was fined 15s. and costs, or twenty-one days' imprisonment. When a fourth offender made his appearance the Mayor's indignation boiled over; he declared that this sort of thing must be put a stop to and fined him 20s. and costs, or a month. Why the Mayor of Neath should quadruple the punishment for an offence merely because the offender has the misfortune to be fourth on the list is explicable only on the grounds that he allowed his indignation to over-ride his judgment. I should like to point out to his Worship that such an exhibition is calculated to bring the administration of justice in the court over which he presides into contempt.

I wish Mr. John Burns would hurry along the promised amendment of the Vaccination Act which will entitle a conscientious objector to a certificate of exemption on his making a statutory declaration. It would save me the trouble of having to expose the perversity and stupidity of such Shallows as Messrs. H. A. Dunstan and L. Fox-Pitt, of the Shaftesbury Bench. In a case before these gentry last week an applicant stated that he conscientiously believed that vaccination would be detrimental to the health of his child. On this statement a certificate ought to have been granted, but the Bench proceeded to subject the applicant to a long cross-examination, which was at once irrelevant and—as the Lord Chief Justice and the Home Secretary have repeatedly pointed out—unwarrantable. Its object was to draw from the applicant an admission that he had a general objection to vaccination, whereupon the egregious Mr. Dunstan exclaimed, "if that is so it disqualifies you," and the certificate was refused.

Of course, a general objection to vaccination is not in itself a sufficient claim to a certificate. But, equally of course—though these magistrates are evidently too muddy-minded to perceive the point—a general objection to vaccination does not in any way debar a man from the relief afforded by the Act, if he also conscientiously believes—as this man affirmed he did—that vaccination will be prejudicial to the health of the particular child for whom the exemption is required. I have a general objection to the administration of the law by untrained, amateur magistrates. This does not, however, disqualify me from holding that in particular instances the magistrates are not merely untrained amateurs, but positive noodles.

What the *Chester Chronicle* calls an "amusing dialogue" took place the other day before the Chester magistrates at the hearing of a number of passive resistance summonses in respect of poor rate due. The dialogue was between one of the passive resisters and the magistrates' clerk, and the "amusing" part of it was a remark of this functionary in reply to the defendant, who contended that it had been admitted that the rate was an injustice. The clerk denied that it had been admitted by anybody, adding in a stage aside, "outside of Bedlam." This worthy clerk evidently needs a lesson in manners as well as a reminder that he is merely a servant of the magistrates, and that it is no part of his duty to ventilate his opinions with regard to cases brought before the bench.

I am pleased to see that the St. Helens police have successfully prosecuted a couple of practitioners of the Railway Clearance Sale trick, against which I have for years continuously warned my readers. The two men, as usual, offered samples of goods at ridiculously low prices, and after booking orders for these, palmed off pieces of shoddy cloth at treble the value. The police prosecuted upon a charge of obtaining money upon false pretences, and the magistrates convicted, sentencing the men to four months' hard labour each. The attention of police and magistrates generally may be usefully directed to this result, for the country is infested by similar gangs of swindlers who need dispersing.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

The strained quality of the justice administered by Scottish bailies and sheriffs has long been a notable feature in my Legal Pillory, and this week I give a number of instances of their obliquity of vision in dealing with offences against property and offences against the person. The most remarkable contrast is afforded by the comparison of the punishment awarded a brutal wife-beater with that meted out to a dairy-keeper who had the temerity to sell a dozen eggs in defiance of a city by-law which demands the closing of his shop at 8 p.m. The wife-beater is merely mulcted in a couple of guineas for his amusement, while the struggling little tradesman, for his anxiety to add a few pence to his daily takings and at the same time oblige a customer, is fined £2 4s. 6d.—a truly remarkable example of disparity in fitting the punishment to the crime in the respective cases. In regard to the cases at Heanor and Retford, I regret that the reports which came under my notice did not contain the names of the adjudicating magistrates, for they appear to be well qualified for inclusion in my Pillory.

St. Rollox Police-court. Before Bailie Shaw-Maxwell. John Crawford, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her several blows in the face. Fined £2 2s.

St. Rollox Police-court. Before Bailie Montgomery. E. Flannigan, charged with assaulting two women. He blacked both the eyes of one woman and kicked the other. Fined £2 2s.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Walker. Michael Glen, for striking his wife on the face and kicking her, fined £1. James Thomson, for kicking his wife and throwing a bowl at her, cutting her face, fined £1.

Heanor Petty Sessions. Samuel Marshall, charged with unlawfully assaulting a girl of thirteen. Fined 10s. and costs.

Coventry City Police-court. Before Messrs. Bill, Wyley, Pugh and Burbidge. John Moore, charged with assaulting his wife, who was living apart from him on a separation order. He had acted similarly on several previous occasions. Fined 5s. and costs, and bound over to keep the peace.

Blackburn Police-court. John Byrne, charged with assaulting his wife. He bashed her on the floor, danced on her stomach and struck her in the mouth, loosening her teeth. Fined 20s. and costs.

Stratford Police-court. Thomas Forbes and Sarah Stuart, charged with neglecting Forbes's four children. The children were cruelly beaten, placed in a back garden scantily clad, and kept without food. Fined £5 and costs each, or a months' hard labour.

Somerton Petty Sessions. Before Col. Pinney, Messrs. Valentine, Dickenson, Staley, Alford and Price. Samuel Rossiter, farmer, charged with cruelty to a horse. There were several raw wounds under the saddle and collar. Fined 20s.

Glasgow Police-court. Mitchelina Allan, dairykeeper, charged with a contravention of the early closing order by selling a dozen eggs after 8 p.m. Fined £2 4s. 6d. inclusive.

Glasgow Western Police-court. Before Bailie Dunlop. Robert M'Dowall, charged with stealing 9lb. of lead on one occasion and 19lb. on another. Thirty days' imprisonment.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Shennan. Peter Philp, convicted of trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 16s. 9d. inclusive.

Perth Sheriff Court. E. Irvine, for gaffing a salmon on September 14 last, fined £3.

Retford Petty Sessions. George Ostick, aged 16, convicted of stealing a metal tea-pot and hammer value 3s. Fourteen days' imprisonment.

Coventry City Police-court. Before the same magistrates. James Flinn, rag gatherer, charged with sleeping in an outhouse without visible means of subsistence. He pleaded that he had been out of town, and on his return his lodgings were shut up. Twenty-eight days' hard labour.

Thrapston Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Buckley, G. Smith, Jellis, E. Smith and Adams. C. Newman, charged with breaking a plate-glass window, value £2 10s. One month's hard labour.

Romford Petty Sessions. Before Col. H. Holmes, Capt. H. J. Stone, and Messrs. Hope and Smith. Albert Rose, charged with erecting a Punch and Judy show on the Market Plain, Romford. Fined 40s. and 4s. costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

Chichester County Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. Chancellor H. M. Davey. John Wetherall, charged with acting as a pedlar without a licence. He was selling brushes and pleaded ignorance. Ten days' imprisonment.

Swainsthorpe Petty Sessions. Before Lord Lindley and Messrs. Denny and Steward. W. Knott, carrier, charged with cruelty to a mare. There were sores upon the back, shoulders, and under the tail, and the animal was attached to a heavily laden wagon. Fined £1 and costs.

Ipswich Police-court. Before Messrs. Alexander, Anness, Fraser, Sizer and Gibb. E. W. Trickner, charged with absconding from the workhouse. He pleaded that as seven days' notice was required he took French leave, having only had a night's lodging. One month's hard labour.

Rarely, in my humble judgment, do magistrates err seriously in the direction of undue leniency. Mr. Marsham, however, seems to have fallen into such an error in the case of Joseph Riley, who was brought up at Bow-street on a charge of stealing an overcoat from a shop. There seems to have been some evidence that the coat was taken from the shop by another man, who had handed it to the prisoner; but the latter had nothing better to say for himself than that he had been drinking after an attack of pneumonia, and "hardly knew what he was about." However, on the assumption that "the prisoner had been a mere catspaw of the man who had escaped," Mr. Marsham dismissed him on his own recognisances. Now, Riley had previously to this been convicted four times since 1898, and if ever there was a case where the "previous conviction" doctrine could be applied justifiably, it is his. The only reason for treating him so mercifully, as far as I can see, is that he is respectably connected, and came into a large fortune some years ago, of part of which he was swindled, while he has dissipated the rest. He has now turned swindler himself, and is well known to the police in one of the provincial towns through his depredations on tradespeople, and he ought to be treated as an incorrigible.

An old acquaintance of mine and my readers, "Dr." Caleb Whitefoord, received a sentence of ten years' penal servitude last week at the hands of the Lord Chief Justice upon conviction of performing an illegal operation. Although the sentence was heavy, it was no more than he deserved. Whitefoord is a disreputable and apparently incorrigible old scoundrel. He has served five years already for a similar offence, and I have no doubt that he has been repeating it systematically for years, as seems to have been the opinion of the police in the statement made to the Lord Chief Justice. This occupation he combined with the sale of quack remedies, one at least of which—his "Appendicitis Pill"—was a downright fraud.

A fortnight ago I called attention in my Legal Pillory to two cases heard at Epsom Petty Sessions before a Bench on which Sir William Vincent and Mr. Simpson Rostron were reported to be present. One of the cases was that of a man who was fined 10s. and costs for wife assault, the other that of a motor cyclist who was fined £8 for dangerous driving and failing to stop when called upon to do so. Now Mr. Rostron has written to remonstrate with me for not giving full details of the cyclist's case, and to point out that neither himself nor Sir W. Vincent adjudicated in the wife beating case. As regards the latter complaint I can only say that the report from a local paper which came under my attention gave no hint that any of the magistrates had

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

departed before the day's work was finished. As regards not having given full details of the cyclist's case, I can only say that these would not have materially affected the object with which the two cases were included in my Pillory. Possibly the fines inflicted upon the cyclist may be justified on the ground that he had been twice previously convicted, but, at the same time, the fact remains that there is an enormous disparity in the punishment accorded the cyclist and the wife-beater, and it was to make this point clear that I called attention to the cases.

Only the other day I mentioned that Mr. E. P. Phillips had, for the first time in my long knowledge of him, brought out one number of the *Railway Supplies Journal*. This feat does not seem, however, to have satisfied the reasonable requirements of all who have paid money for notices of their patents or businesses in this intermittent publication, for on Saturday Phillips was brought up at Old-street on a charge of obtaining 10s. by false pretences from a patentee who was desirous of a place of honour in the *R.S.J.* As he is now under remand, all one can say about the case is that it is to be hoped that full justice will be done to him.

THE (YANKEE) HARE AND THE (BRITISH) TORTOISE.

(An Object Lesson in Slickness.)

The Yankees are a slap-dash race—
  In their own estimation,
Who boast, for promptitude and pace,
  They whip the whole Creation.

And while *we're* making up our mind
  How best our course to shape, sir,
They, leaving us whole laps behind,
  Are breasting now the tape, sir.

Thus vaunts the Hare in Æsop's saw.
  To make the likeness plainer—
For Hare, read case of Harry Thaw,
  For Tortoise, that of Rayner.

Besides flaunting the advertisements of "Dr. Sanden's electro-medical inventions" in the Indian newspapers, the Bombay agency of this notorious quack concern is conducting a circularising campaign on the usual Yankee plan. Anybody who fails to reply to the first circular is favoured with a "follow up" in which Sanden coolly says that he is "led to believe" that his previous communication has been delayed in the mails or mislaid. He "does not desire to force his attentions upon any one," but it seems that if they wish to be freed from the annoyance of receiving his circulars they must take the trouble to send him an intimation to that effect. I have always understood that the Indian police have very extensive powers for dealing with pests of the Sanden type, and it is a pity that they do not adopt measures for the suppression of this mischievous business.

Modestly veiling his identity under the pseudonym of "Calculator," a certain A. Newman, of 6, Ingate-terrace, S.W., is advertising for partners with £100 to £500 to join him in working a betting system which "differs from others in that it has been successful in actual operations, not merely on paper, for over thirty years." The circular which he sends to inquirers states that the profits each racing season are at the rate of £100 on each £25 of capital. At this rate, as a simple multiplication sum will prove, a man starting to work the system with the modest capital of £25 would—on Newman's showing—be making a profit of millions a year in less than ten years. The veracious Newman says that this wonderful method of amassing wealth has actually been in operation for upwards of thirty years; yet instead of selfishly using his priceless knowledge of it for his own personal benefit, he is spending time, and money too, in trying to persuade strangers to let him pile up fortunes for them. The only condition he imposes is that they shall first of all trust him with their cash, and human credulity is so boundless and bottomless that I have no doubt a number will do so.

Another philanthropist of a similar species is James Holt, of 17, Ferndale-road, Liverpool. He is a racing tipster, but with rare modesty he admits the possibility that his prophecies may not invariably come off. His clients are, however, "absolutely insured" against loss by means of what he calls his "retrievers," these being "several good horses, trained in different stables," in which he has, he says, acquired an interest. "It is my idea," continues Holt, "to pop them into selling races in moderate company. They will be slipped on finding we are on the wrong side towards any week-end, and so '*retrieve*' the situation." Putting aside the consideration that slipping is not winning—"there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip"—the notion of a tipster keeping several good horses for such a purpose is surely too silly for the belief of even the greenest of greenhorns.

My paragraph last week anent the *Sporting Globe Special* has brought me a letter from the editor of that publication. I commented upon the obviously suggestive fact that a specimen copy of the *Special*, sent to one of my readers on a Thursday but bearing the date of the previous Monday, gave four winners out of five tips for the Tuesday and Wednesday, but eight losers out of nine tips for the remaining three days of the week. The distribution of tipsters' sheets, actually printed after the tipster knows the results of some of the races for which he gives what purport to be predictions, is a dodge that I have frequently exposed. In this case the editor of the *Sporting Globe* contradicts my statement as to the number of the losers from the Thursday to the Saturday.

The statement I made was perfectly accurate so far as the most conspicuous list of tips in the paper was concerned, but, like some of its bigger contemporaries, this *Special* appears to give three or four different series of selections—the reader pays his money and takes his choice—and the editor refers me to one lot in which there were two winners out of the five horses named. However, his main point is a repudiation of the idea that the specimen copy of the paper was faked. He says that if the party who sent it to me had been a subscriber, "he would have received the copy in the

ordinary course on Tuesday." "We are prepared," the editor adds, "to swear an affidavit if it will please your worthy self." I have no desire that he should swear. Yet I fear that there is a possibility that he may do so when I say that, waiving this question of the specimen copy, I agree with Lord Durham that tipsters' sheets such as this *Sporting Globe Special* are a curse to the Turf, and that in my own opinion they are also a curse to the community.

It seems desirable to repeat the warnings that have been given in Truth, particularly to people in the West of England, against attractive-looking advertisements of cheap bicycles, purporting to emanate from private individuals in the neighbourhood of Weston-super-Mare. It is more than likely that these advertisements are really issued by the firm of Warrilow and Co., whose name will be found in the last Truth Cautionary List. An advertisement has lately appeared in the *Western Morning News* headed "Cycle—Marvellous Sacrifice—Gent's new 1907 Machine," with a full specification of the article, which is offered at £4 10s., and said to be worth double. The advertiser describes himself as A. House, St. Madge, Pitman-road, Weston-super-Mare. A correspondent reports that on answering this advertisement out of curiosity, the machine was sent to him at once on approval, accompanied by a circular from Warrilow and Co. It proved to be a new machine, of course of the very cheapest class, and he had the pleasure of paying 5s. carriage on it, as well as the trouble of sending it back.

Here is another example of the trickery which seems to be a regular feature of the system of credit trading which is now so widely carried on by post. A soldier is tempted by an advertisement of J. N. Masters, Limited, of Rye, to treat himself to a gold ring priced at £2; and, in accordance with the terms offered, he forwards a deposit of 5s. and an undertaking to pay 5s. a month. Masters acknowledges the receipt of the 5s., but sends another form for signature, in which the customer promises to pay 8s. on receipt of the article and the balance by 6s. a month. The man refuses to sign this, and asks for his money back. To this the reply is: "If you do not intend to proceed with the order, we must request you to purchase goods to the value of the deposit for our trouble and expenses." This impudent attempt at extortion is, of course, only made in the belief that a soldier in the ranks is not likely to take the necessary steps for the recovery of his money, and that he can, therefore, be bluffed into carrying out a bargain which was not the one he entered into. It should be a warning to men against all dealings with firms of this class.

It seems desirable to warn all inexperienced literary amateurs against a man named Richard Lewis, who is carrying on business at 75, Fetter-lane, E.C., under the style of Lewis and Co., Literary and Advertising Agents. In a case that has come under my notice Lewis persuaded a writer to entrust an MS. to him under an iniquitous agreement by which one-third of the proceeds of the sale was to go to the author and two-thirds to Lewis. The MS. was sold for £50, payable by two instalments. Lewis paid the author his share of the first £25, but has stuck to the whole of the second, which was paid on the 19th of last November, down to the present moment. A second gentleman was employed by Lewis to revise the same MS. for publication. He has never been paid at all.

Before referring to this matter I gave Lewis an opportunity of explaining his conduct. A seedy-looking individual called at this office for the purpose, but all he could say was that Lewis would explain matters on his return to town. This was more than a month ago, and repeated applications in the interval to extract further communications from Lewis have failed. The gentleman above referred to who revised the MS. states that he was introduced to Lewis by the Governor of one of H.M. prisons, who had formerly had the man under his charge and believed him to be a reformed character. Evidently the process of reformation has not been carried far enough, and it might be a good thing for everybody if the Governor had an opportunity of resuming the treatment.

Careful parents usually keep an eye on the literary matter of the periodicals which their children patronise, but in these days it is quite as needful to study the advertisements. An indignant father sends me the results obtained by a small boy for an investment of 7d. in response to the advertisement of one Hackett, of July-road, Liverpool, in a boy's paper called the *Union Jack*. Hackett advertises what he calls "The Yankee Marvel," which "produces your own photograph in a few seconds," adding: "Will produce thousands. . . . Ready for use. . . . Even a child can work it." "The Yankee Marvel" consists of two or three worthless glass negatives of photographs of the "midget" size, a few slips of prepared card of the same size, and a minute quantity of soda and some other stuff, apparently for toning and fixing. "Directions for use" explain how the negatives may be printed on to the card, but how the child, who has been done out of sevenpence by this trick, is to "produce his own photograph" is not explained—for the best of reasons.

Not content with the first sevenpence, Hackett despatches with his "Yankee Marvel" a price list of other novelties likely to prove attractive to small boys. Here is something for the special benefit of ten-year-olds:—

Another Offer, My Boy!

Send 2s. 4d. for six cameras, post free. What age are you? Say you are only 10 years, it is time you started to make money. I have got 500,000 little Perfect Cameras I have bought cheap, there are directions with each camera how to work it, also it is fitted with a lens, and is well worth a couple of shillings each. They are packed in boxes of six cameras to each box. Now you send me the price I paid per half-dozen cameras, that is per box, and after I have added a few pence which is 2s. 4d. per half-dozen, then you sell and make what you can get from 6d. to 2s. each. See what you will make, and I am sure they will sell ready enough.

In one respect, at any rate, Hackett does not overstate

the truth. Cameras must certainly be "bought cheap" to be retailed with a profit at 2s. 4d. the half-dozen—especially when they possess the peculiar advantage of being "fitted with a lens."

In view of a letter that has been sent on to me by the recipient, signed Emily G. Henville, and dated from Braughing, near Ware, it seems desirable to repeat the numerous warnings that have been given in Truth against the begging operations of the Henville family. Emily G. Henville appears to be one of the daughters of this interesting house, and she bases her appeal on the usual story of the mother's illness and a long catalogue of domestic troubles. Probably the only true statement in it is contained in the sentence "we owe money in the village." Emily says that they are about to remove to Oxford, and wherever they go people should be on their guard against them, for they are professional mendicants of a specially undeserving class.

The following letter was recently addressed to an aged lady in the North of England, well known for her benevolent disposition, by the vicar of a neighbouring town. Being willing to believe that it is written in all sincerity, and not with the object of getting a cheap trip to Norway, I do not give his reverence's name; but it is really an extraordinary thing that a gentleman in such a position can believe as much as this in the twentieth century—probably on no better evidence than something he has read in the newspapers. It does not seem to have occurred to him that if he was right in his facts the clergy of all denominations and all nationalities, to say nothing of the laity, have as much reason as himself for a visit to Christiania:—

My Dear Friend,—On Wednesday morning I start (God willing) to travel to Christiania and at once return.

I go because the Holy Spirit is descending there as on the Day of Pentecost, with wonderful signs of the Gift of Tongues.

I need more of the Holy Ghost for the sake of my people, and that a great work may begin. I am going *in faith*, though one friend has promised to help. The rail is £10 return, and there will be food, etc., say £2.

If you could help me God would bless you in return, I know.

I do not go for pleasure, but to get a Blessing (the best pleasure of all).

Would it be too much to ask you to send me a wire? Say ——— "Will send you some help," or "Sorry cannot help."—In great haste, your affectionate and ever grateful friend, ———.

It is quite a mistake for the reverend gentleman who writes the foregoing epistle to suppose that in these days signs and wonders are by any means confined to Christiania. The New World is the place to look for them in the greatest abundance. The Prophet Dowie has ceased to prophesy, and to collect gifts from the faithful, but there is not likely to be any lack of successors to compete for his mantle. A solicitor in the country sent me the other day a wondrous journal which had been posted to him from America in conjunction with a pamphlet. The journal, which is garnished with the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes, as appropriate emblems of faith, is entitled "Shiloh's Messenger of Wisdom." It is said to be "published monthly at Boston Harbour, Mich., U.S.A., by Mary and Benjamin;" but for some reason unexplained it is dated "Jerusalem, Ninth Month, Fourth Year of the New Creation."

Truth compels me to say that Mary and Benjamin, who seem to be really a firm of publishers, do not shine as journalists. The editorial matter of the "Messenger of Wisdom" reads like the ravings of wild-eyed evangelists at street corners on Sunday evenings. The news matter relates chiefly to the doings of the disciples of Mary and Benjamin, whom I take to be literally travellers for the firm. They appear to go forth in couples, each of one male and one female, like the inmates of the Ark. Thus Birdie and David are in South Wales; Olive and William are at Brighton; Lydia and Stephen in the less salubrious atmosphere of Barking; Mary and John in Australia; and Octavius and Alice in New Zealand. The business side of their efforts seems to be revealed in the following "Notice! To all Believers and Workers for the Deliverance of Israel":—

Let one and all go forth in their labour of love. Let nothing hinder you in spreading the good news of Shiloh's Message containing the glad tidings of redemption full and complete. . . . . .

If each subscriber would send the addresses and $2.00 for twenty 3 months' subscriptions, or the same for ten 6 months' subscriptions, or $1.00 for ten 3 months' subscriptions, it would help wonderfully to spread the word. . . . .

We will, in addition to this, send to each one a Little Book, for which many have said they would not take $5.00.

Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days. Eccl. 11. i.

A very good motto in business, for it takes time to build up a connection in journalism as in all other trades, even with your travellers working all over the world as busily as Birdie and David, Olive and William, and the rest of them, seem to be, judging by their reports to headquarters.

The following portions of the Shiloh's Message are also of importance to those seeking redemption:—

Yearly subscription, 50 Cents. Single copies, 5 Cents.
Make all Money Orders payable to Mary Purnell, in U.S. currency.

. . . . . .

We are binding the Star of Bethlehem, the Living Roll of Life, into four books of 200 pages each. . . . Price: 50 cents each; $2.00 for the complete work. Postal money orders preferred, made payable to Mary Purnell, in United States currency.

Another message to much the same effect is contained in a leaflet entitled "The Ingathering of Israel":—

We have booklets, and publish an eight-page paper, called "Shiloh's Messenger of Wisdom"; full of reading matter; no advertisements; issued monthly; only 50 cents a year; and a book of 256 pages, entitled "The Book of Wisdom." It is written, Men die for the want of wisdom (Prov. 10-21). Why will ye die, O House of Israel? (Ezek. 33-11). The "Book of Wisdom" is 50 cents. And a roll of a book, sent by the hand of an angel (Ezek. 2-9), entitled "The Star of Bethlehem, the Living Roll of Life" (Zech. 5-1), containing 780 pages; price $2.00. My sheep know my voice, and a stranger they will not follow (John, 10-5). . . . . When writing always sign your name in full. Money orders made payable to Mary Purnell.

The ingathering of Israel seems, therefore, very closely connected with the ingathering of the United States currency.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

THE BITERS BITTED.

This biting, kicking, female crew
How best shall we restrain?
Why, curb them, as we fillies do,
With bridle and with rein.

Aye, punishment to crime let's fit,
And, till they have submitted—
On principle of biter bit—
Let's have these biters bitted.

The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church, it is said, and to a certain extent it probably was. When a number of persons really accept genuine martyrdom rather than refuse to air their views and to adjure others to accept them, it is pretty fair proof that they deem this acceptance of considerable value to the world. I do not agree with those Russians who consider that they have a right to assassinate any official who opposes the triumph of their political doctrines, although I agree with them that the will of the nation should prevail in Russia as elsewhere. But at least it may be said for the Russian political assassin that he fully accepts the risks of his act, and goes to prison or the scaffold without whimpering. But the case is very different with the dames and damsels who insist on rioting within the precincts of Parliament, in order to draw attention to their cause and to themselves.

There is little risk, or even inconvenience, in the proceedings of these females. They are sent to prison for a short period with the option of a fine. But when they choose the former they receive exceptional treatment because they are women. When they emerge they are fêted by the rest of the little band at some fashionable restaurant, when they announce that they will do it again, only more so, and they declare that they will rather sacrifice their lives than obey the law. What does this nonsense mean? That they love notoriety, and rejoice in this cheap martyrdom. These speeches are reported in the newspapers, and some silly dame or damsel becomes a household word for the moment. If the Christian martyrs had got off as easily as this, they would not have advanced the cause in which they believed, nor would their names have been sanctified by the Church for which they fought.

Personally I am for old age pensions being granted to men and women who have passed their lives in honest, decent work. But I would only give them to those who have done so, and who really require the money to live in decent comfort. I see no reason why ne'er-do-wells, who have shirked work, and, when they have condescended to do a job, have spent the greater part of what they have earned in spirituous liquor, should be given 5s. per week when they become old, to spend in the same way. From the nature of the case they will have to be provided with some kind of board and lodging, as now, at the public expense under the Poor Law, and the minimum of Poor Law relief, in the least attractive shape, is all they are entitled to. I think that women have a greater claim than men. They are handicapped in the struggle for existence. In the main, unskilled labour requires more muscle than Heaven has vouchsafed to them, and when they do work fitted for both sexes, they get a lower wage than the men. I have, indeed, far more sympathy for women and children than I have for men. I am, therefore, as strongly for their having old age pensions as I am against their having votes.

I thoroughly despise those persons who try to pose as friends of the working man by advocating some specious reform, which, they must be well aware, if they have a grain of common sense, it would be impossible to effect. None of these is more foolish than the theory that any man has a right to be provided with employment and to receive the current wage for it. Why is he unable to get work? Either because he has not tried to find it, or because he has tried and failed. If he has honestly tried to obtain it and failed, it is obvious that there is no work for him to do. I may regret this, but my regret no more alters the fact than that disease can be abolished by proclamation. A temporary stagnation in the labour market may be met by temporary work being provided, but the only right of this kind that the citizen can have is to be employed where remunerative work is to be found, and, failing that, to be provided with clothes, shelter, and the food necessary to prevent him from starving. This may be a hard saying, but so are many truths. Who would make an effort to secure work, if he were certain that it would be provided for him?

Let us suppose that for some cause or other there are thousands of tailors out of work, and that we cannot find a market for the stock of clothes that we have already manufactured. Are we to make more superfluous clothes, or are we to provide these tailors with work as navvies? If so, are they to be paid a navvy's wage, although, owing to their not being used to this business, they would do less than half what a navvy does in a day? And yet there are men who pass as friends of the working men by the simple expedient of telling them that they have a right to be provided with work! To act upon such a doctrine would eventually ruin the most wealthy country in the world.

"PRETTY FANNY" AGAIN.

When Balfour did "conspiracy"
And "crime" 'gainst Ministers allege,
The Speaker ruled he should not be
Condemned for Breach of Privilege;

Implying—or to that it came—
That whatsoever words he spoke,
They don't in Balfour mean the same
As they would mean in other folk.

In brief, 'twere foolish fuss to make
O'er aught this pettish scold might say,
Since—the Lone Ploughman's phrase to take—
"'Tis only pretty Fanny's way."

It is tolerably safe to say that such a programme of legislation as M. Stolypin presented to the Duma last week has never been put before a legislative assembly since constitutional government was first thought of. The liberty of the subject is to be recognised; "administrative exile" abolished; freedom of conscience established; civil law and the administration of justice are to be reformed on Western models, and a new criminal code introduced; the entire fabric of municipal government is to be reorganised; land

is to be provided for the landless, and whole series of Bills presented for ameliorating the condition of the peasants; free education is to be established, with compulsory education to follow; and so on through the whole field of legislative possibility. Roughly speaking, Russia is to traverse at one stride the whole road through which we in England have toiled between the reigns of King John and King Edward VII.

If in this country a Government packed the business of half-a-dozen revolutions into one King's Speech, it would simply be laughed at. The Tsar and his advisers evidently desire to be taken seriously; but they must expect that the Duma is going to accept all the measures presented to it in a spirit of submissive acquiescence, and pass them with little discussion or amendment, for no legislative assembly will be able to get through such a task on any other terms. That this is the expectation is also shown by the frank declaration of M. Stolypin that it is not the function of the Duma either to express confidence in the Government or to censure it. This implies a conception of the rights of a legislative assembly somewhat at variance with the general spirit of the Government programme, with its eulogistic references to representative government and Western ideals.

Moreover, the Government is all this time engaged in deadly conflict with the forces of revolution. Apparently the country is to understand that the Tsar and his Ministers have not the least objection to a revolution, provided that they are allowed to carry it out in their own way, and that nobody else interferes, not even the Duma. To the British mind this mixture of autocracy with constitutional forms and revolutionary ideas is rather bewildering, but in the circumstances of Russia it may have its advantages for the people as well as for the monarch.

That M. Pobiedonostseff should finally pass off the scene at this juncture is rather in keeping with the fitness of things. It almost looks as if the meeting of the second Duma and the programme of M. Stolypin had killed the high-priest of Autocracy. There is a type of man peculiar to Russia, in which the keenest intellect and the dryest rationalism are combined with the fervid enthusiasm of the fanatic. We see it in many of the "intellectual" revolutionaries. Pobiedonostseff seems to have been their counterpart on the other side of politics. He united the theories of Hobbes with the practice of Torquemada. If his opinions were not founded on pure reason, they were permeated and directed by it, but in enforcing them he was like a man crazed by religious enthusiasm. He has been looked upon as the embodiment of cruelty, but in the executions, and massacres, and other tyrannies which have made his name odious, he probably was not actuated by any lust of blood or delight in inflicting torture for its own sake, but by a reasoned belief that cruelty was the kindest course, and that he was labouring humanely for the greatest good of the greatest number. But of all types of human nature this is the most terrible, especially when it wields great power, and he was rightly hated.

THE DEGENERATE RABBIT.

Once in a Burrow, as I find,
A Rabbit of the lop-eared Kind,
In Size, in Strength, in Courage best,
Ruled Monarch over all the Rest.
So there he reigned for many a Day,
Bearing supreme, unquestioned Sway;
And when, at length, his Life was done,
He left behind an eldest Son,
To whose Lop-ears the common Crowd,
As to his Sire's, submissive bowed.
Now, this was odd, because, you see,
Naught but his Sire's Lop-ears had he.
The Strength, by which that Sire had won
Renown, had passed not to the Son,
Nor eke his brave and fearless Sprite,
Nor Hinder-legs unmatched in Fight.
In short, this Rabbit stood confessed
A poor, degenerate Bun at best.
Yet, that despite, the common Train
Still bowed submissive to his Reign,
Controlled by Force of Habit sheer
To rev'rence a lop-sided Ear.
At length an independent Rabbit,
Who's not such abject Slave of Habit,
Bethought to ask the Reason why
They yield to these Pretensions high,
Whose sole Foundation seemed the mere
Succession to a lop-side Ear.
So off at once he skipped, hot-foot,
And to the Rest his Question put.
Amazed, and deeply shocked, they heard
That bold, bad Rabbit's daring Word.
"Great Guns! What next, audacious Fool,
Who question thus his Right to rule;
Which Right most plain in him appears
As Heir to the paternal Ears."
"Paternal Ears!" cried Bun. "Oh, Ferrets!
What's Ears, without paternal Merits?"

Moral.

Men may their Coronets transmit,
But not therewith their Brains nor Grit;
Which Fact, much Food for Thought affords
Anent our British House of Lords—
Based on that most grotesque Foundation:
Hereditary Legislation!

SCRUTATOR.

THE PRESS AND THE ADVERTISER.

THE letter printed below rather exceeds the space that I am usually able to allow my correspondents, but as it relates an interesting series of experiences and cannot be curtailed without robbing it of much of its effect, I strain a point to make room for the principal part of it. Although the writer boldly signed his name, I have taken upon myself to remove his signature, feeling that any responsibility attaching to the publication had better rest with me. The accuracy of his narrative is beyond question, as he appends to his letter the whole of the correspondence referred to in it, though there is no occasion to publish this mass of documents:—

Dear Sir,—In January of last year my attention was called by the *British Medical Journal* to an application by the "Bile Beans Company" for an Order in Court against a firm of chemists in Edinburgh, and to Lord Ardwell's judgment:—He refused the Order, with costs against the plaintiff, on the ground (amongst others) that they were entitled to no protection from the law, as their business was "founded and conducted by fraud."

Soon afterwards I noticed that my paper, the *Daily News* (to which I had subscribed for some years) was inserting this company's advertisement, and I wrote to the editor on January 31, asking him to express his opinion on the policy of misleading the public by admitting this fraudulent company's advertisements into the columns of his paper. He took no notice of my letter, and I wrote again on February 22, without result. On March 9 I sent him a copy of my first letter and a penny stamp. This elicited a reply from the advertisement manager (see "A") saying "the result of the case was appealed against, and will shortly come before the Scottish Court." I wrote again, on the 15th, to the editor, inquiring whether the statement given by his

advertisement manager had been verified, and asking, also, if he accepted the responsibility arising from the insertion of advertisements collected by his advertising manager? I enclosed a stamp again, but was not accorded any reply. And I repeated my inquiries on the 22nd and 29th; and on the 29th I received a letter (marked "B") declining to make any further reply on the matter.

Consequently I cancelled my subscription to the *Daily News*, and, searching for some other daily paper, found the *Tribune* to be the only honest daily journal published in London.

The next day, March 30, I was concerned to find the *Graphic* (which I had taken in for thirty years) following the same dishonourable course, and I sent a similar protest to the editor of that paper, and informed him that my subscription would cease unless he assured me this advertisement should not again appear. But he did not do so, and I at once gave it up.

I should have informed you that I wrote to the Home Secretary on March 27, calling his attention to the subject, and suggesting that a circular, warning the press, should be issued by his Department, and also that the Bile Beans Company should be cautioned about inserting their advertisements in future; and he promised that the matter should have his attention. (See "C.")

On April 5, another weekly paper that I had taken in since its inception, *M. A. P.*, and sent three copies abroad every week, followed suit, and received my protest, and an intimation of my intention to discontinue taking it in if the advertisement was repeated. But the editor gave me no assurance, and I stopped it.

A few months afterwards a new paper appeared, entitled the *Reader*, which I thought would supply the place of *M. A. P.* and interest my friends abroad, and this hope was gratified until December 5, when a full-page Bile Beans announcement appeared in glowing colour on the back cover. I wrote at once to the editor my usual protest, with intimation of my refusal to subscribe to it, if the advertisement again appeared; but I had no acknowledgment of my letter, and on January 3 they repeated the offence, whereupon I wrote him again, and informed him of my intention to lay the matter before the Public Prosecutor, and asked for an acknowledgment of my previous letter, sending a stamp for that purpose; but he failed to reply to this letter, as well as to another on the 10th. On the 16th I wrote to the publishers (Edward Lloyd, Limited) and called their attention to my letters, and asked them if they accepted responsibility? But their general manager wrote me on the 17th that they were "not disposed to enter into correspondence on the subject." (See "D.")

Consequently, on January 19, I wrote to the Public Prosecutor fully upon the subject, and I send you his reply (see "E.") which I considered very unsatisfactory, and I addressed a further letter to him on February 7, pointing out that "every one who purchased the Bile Beans Company's goods, through these advertisements, was defrauded of his money," and that I was "under the impression that the Public Prosecutor's *rôle* is to take action in the public interest, when a private prosecutor fails to do so. To obtain money fraudulently is a criminal offence, and if your Lordship will peruse the judgment of Lord Ardwall, referred to in my last, you will, I am sure, decide that the offence of the Bile Beans Company is aggravated by their instigating the proprietors of newspapers, and other publications, to conspire in carrying out their fraudulent practices, by the insertion of their advertisements. Possibly the best way to get public attention given to the scandal will be to request a member of the House of Commons to ask the Home Secretary whether (as is the case) his attention has been called to the matter, and what he intends to do to remedy it?"

To this communication he vouchsafed no reply, and on the 18th and 25th I repeated my inquiry, whereupon his deputy wrote to me on the 27th that he had nothing to add to his previous letter. (See "F.")

Meanwhile these fraudulent advertisements continued to sprout out intermittently in other publications that I subscribed to, and on January 16 of this year, I found it necessary to include the *London Magazine* in my *Index Expurgatorius*. This magazine I have taken in from the commencement, and have the series of eighteen volumes, but my principles rose again in rebellion, and my protest went to the editor the same day. He maintained a discreet silence, and also failed to reply to my repetition of the 23rd, so that on February 1 I wrote to the publishers (the Amalgamated Press, Limited), who informed me, on the 4th, that my letter had been handed to Mather and Crowther, Limited, their advertising agents (see "G.") upon which, on the 5th, I put the usual inquiry as to whether they accepted full responsibility for the insertion of these advertisements? The same day I received a communication from Mather and Crowther, Limited (see "H") saying (*inter alia*) that as this advertisement was accepted by newspapers in all parts of the country, they saw no cause to reject it for the one publication to which I was paying attention; and that as I was in communication with the Home Office and the Public Prosecutor, it was unnecessary for them to make any further investigation. . . . .

I omitted to mention that, in addition to the other papers, *Modern Society* received my protest on February 8 last year, was entered on my *Index*, and, getting no reply, my subscription ceased.

I have now, after the interval of twelve months, asked the Home Secretary what steps, if any, were taken with regard to my complaint of March, 1906? And his deputy replies as follows:—(See "I.")

> "Whitehall, March 13, 1907. SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he has carefully considered the matter which you have brought to his notice, but he does not see his way to take any action therein."

But what can anyone expect from the Home Office?

I think, Sir, it is time that you were invited to say a few more pungent words upon this matter. The Bile Beans Company duly appears in the "Cautionary List" for the p— year, and if I were a millionaire I would have this list published in every paper in the kingdom; for a very small percentage of the population (and that not of people whom it should reach to benefit in this instance) have the privilege of seeing TRUTH, which with the *Tribune*, *Punch*, a gardening paper, and the *Bystander* completes the series of honest papers still left for my support.—I am, dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

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It is a distressing picture that this gentleman draws of himself, throwing over one by one his daily papers, weekly journals, and monthly magazines in the effort to escape the haunting presence of Bile Beans. Up and down Fleet-street and the adjacent thoroughfares he has wended his weary way in search of an honest newspaper, like a latter-day Diogenes; and at the end of the journey he has bagged but five. It is a trifle above the percentage of righteous men in the Cities of the Plain, and that is about the best that can be said for it. The state of the case looks worse when one reflects that the test which the investigator applied was not of a very severe character. His definition of honesty rests on nothing wider than the express finding of the highest Scottish courts (the judgment of Lord Ardwall in the Bile Beans case was subsequently affirmed on appeal) that the business in question was founded upon fraudulent advertising. If his objection had extended to all advertisements which are palpably dishonest, or of doubtful honesty, or of a mischievous tendency for some other reason, he could have found dozens of grounds for impeaching the newspaper trade where he has limited himself to one. The Bile Beans test, therefore, cannot be said to try the press very high.

A few days before the receipt of the above letter I had another, protesting against the growing practice of publishing advertisements without the slightest indication of their real character—on the contrary, every effort to make them look like editorial matter. The paper which had provoked the protest was a London evening journal with an honoured name, but there seems no occasion to single it out for special condemnation, seeing that precisely similar advertisements have appeared of late in the once irreproachable columns of the *Times*. "Presumably," said my correspondent, "the price offered for the suppression of any indication that the article is an advertisement is too tempting to be refused; but it seems to me, and must to most people, that a gross deception is thus practised upon the readers of the paper, and that the practice cannot be too strongly condemned or too speedily abandoned." I agree cordially. The practice began in the columns of the struggling local papers, whose proprietors might salve their consciences with the plea that "a man must live." That it should have extended upwards until even the *Times* is not ashamed to resort to it, is a significant proof of the increasing disposition of the press to sacrifice all other considerations to hard cash in the management of the advertisement department.

I have been discussing this question for more years than I care to think of, and I am now reluctantly arriving at the conclusion that it is hopeless to look to the press itself for any serious attempt to check abuses of advertising—even the grossest of them. The only possibility of that would lie in a combined movement, loyally supported by the whole newspaper trade.

In the face of the increasing keenness of the struggle for existence among newspapers, to propose such co-operation as this would seem like amiable insanity. Moreover, if any disposition for concerted action existed, it is doubtful whether any practicable method of attaining the desired end could be found. Every journal must therefore take its own course, and that course is bound to be more or less down stream, for no one, however noble his intentions, can swim against the stream by his own unaided efforts. A newspaper is merely a commercial undertaking, and the only possible policy in business is the policy that pays.

To say this is by no means to say that there is no possibility of checking abuses of newspaper advertising. What cannot be expected from inside may be accomplished from outside. The matter, in fact, rests with the general public and the general body of advertisers—and chiefly with the public—for with them it rests entirely whether any particular policy does or does not pay. The public does not by any means appreciate the fact that the existence of every periodical depends entirely upon advertisements. The revenue from sales, except in the case of quite exceptional circulations, can do little more than cover the cost of producing a paper; the advertisements yield the real profits of the business. As a commercial "proposition"—to use the current slang of the City—a newspaper does not differ essentially from a hoarding. The chief difference between the two things is that the rental value of a hoarding is fixed once and for all by the site it occupies, and cannot be improved, whereas the value of a newspaper as a medium for advertisements rises or falls with its circulation. Every person, therefore, who buys a paper contributes his mite to the proprietor's profits, not through the halfpenny or penny or sixpence that he disburses, but by the fact that he is one more possible reader of advertisements, and one more possible customer for the firms that advertise in the paper. That is why we all want to sell more copies, and why some of us brag so much about our big circulations. At present the public seems to judge its newspapers chiefly by their bonâ-fide literary contents, and to care very little what is offered for its reading in the shape of advertisements. As long as this is so, the proprietor naturally exhibits on his hoarding anything that he is paid to stick up. It is no use saying that he ought to be guided by ethical considerations as well as the desire for profits. To begin with, in the present day a great many newspapers and magazines are owned by joint-stock companies, which possess no corporate conscience, and no substitute for one. It has been shown over and over again that shareholders approve of no policy that interferes with dividends, and shareholders are the employers and masters of directors. There are still private individuals who, fortunately or unfortunately for themselves, own newspapers. But, conceding to them the normal endowment of conscience, they have to compete with the journals owned by conscienceless corporations, and if they are to compete at all they must compete on equal terms. They must, therefore, give up either business or conscience, and for the purpose of the present argument it must be assumed that they do not propose to give up business.

That is why I say that the question what advertisements shall or shall not be published rests chiefly with the public. If they do not read advertisements, or do not object to what they read in them, the question is not worth further discussion. If they do read and do object, then they should signify their disapproval in the same way as the writer of the letter published above. This course does not involve any excessive measure of self-denial. My correspondent is still able to take Truth, the *Tribune*, *Punch*, the *Bystander*, and an unnamed gardening paper. There is something here to suit all tastes and all purses, but the weaker brother who has become the slave of the newspaper habit might perhaps add one or two more to the list without running serious risk. It is interesting, if true, to know that Bile Beans are not found in gardening papers. Of course they are not a horticultural product, but I suspect the real explanation to be that gardeners are not of a bilious habit. I should not expect to find Bile Beans in a golfing or a rowing paper. It might be otherwise with a journal devoted to motoring, or photography. But this is an irrelevant digression, for which I apologise.

Advertisers, however, as I have said, have an interest in this matter as well as the public. Apparently they are very far from appreciating it at present. Whatever discredits newspaper advertising must affect the value of all advertisements. When a newspaper reader has once answered an advertisement and found himself taken in, he is not likely to do the same thing again. Consequently, so far as he is concerned, every future advertisement published in that paper is worthless to the advertiser, whether the reader continues to take in the paper or not. As reader after reader incurs the same experience, the value of the paper as an advertising medium becomes substantially reduced, notwithstanding that its sale may be maintained. Seeing that there are numbers of journals and magazines in which notorious swindles are continuously advertised day after day and month after month, it would seem that their readers must largely consist of people who never look at the advertisements, and that their value for the purpose of legitimate advertising is very small, whatever they may say about their circulations. Again, the advertisement columns of many journals—I almost wrote "most"—teem with announcements which, if not open to other objections, are grossly offensive to large numbers of people. If in these cases the paper is able to maintain its sale, it is quite certain that a substantial proportion of its readers turn away from the advertisement columns in disgust. Every legitimate advertisement that appears in the same column or the same page loses its effect in consequence. It follows that advertisers who make a genuine appeal to the public, and have no reason to be ashamed of their announcements, have as good a right as the public to object to all abuses of advertising, and an even stronger interest in refusing their custom to journals conducted on the principle that anything may be published for which payment on the usual scale is forthcoming. That advertisers, however, do not as a rule appreciate either their rights or their interests in this matter is pretty obvious, or one would not see every day the advertisements of respectable houses of business in the same pages as the "flat-traps"

of swindlers or notices and pictures which are calculated to disgust every decent-minded reader.

When one says, then, that the only possible policy in the management of a newspaper, or any other business, is the policy that pays, it has still to be borne in mind that, in the matter of advertising, what will or will not pay depends upon the public and the advertisers. My own experience has led me to the conclusion that a reasonable measure of discrimination in the matter of advertisements is a paying policy. For that reason it has been followed in Truth. But I lay claim to no more exalted motive, and when I find that the public does not care what advertisements are published, and that respectable advertisers do not care what disreputable company they keep, it will be necessary for me to think of opening my columns not only to Bile Beans, but to dozens of other announcements which are at present rigorously excluded. I take the opportunity of saying this because I observe that the tendency of the times is very strong. The press falls more and more under the domination of the advertiser and the advertisement agent. If they have their way every journal will before long mix up editorial matter and advertisements inextricably; every advertisement will have an editorial notice of some kind published concurrently with it, no discrimination between one advertisement and another in the interests of the public will be possible. That the advertiser and the advertisement agent have the power to bring about all this if they choose is obvious. The fact that newspaper profits are derived almost entirely from advertisements necessarily gives them the command of the situation so far as the newspaper offices are concerned. But they may use their power wisely or unwisely. To convert a newspaper into an advertisement sheet, interlarded with just enough reading matter to sell it, may prove to be killing the goose for the sake of its eggs. After all, a journalist who knows his business is the best judge of the interests of his advertisers as well as his own, for the two are indissolubly bound up together. And my impression is that the better he knows his business, the cleaner he will keep his advertisement columns, and the more strictly he will draw the line between the advertisements and the rest of his paper. If advertisers are wise they will use the power they undoubtedly possess to support every effort in those directions, and to resist all the abuses that are now growing up in connection with newspaper advertising.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOP QUESTION.

A great deal of correspondence has again reached me from Roman Catholic readers of Truth, chiefly with reference to the grievance of Father Meenagh, of Clay Cross, which was dealt with last week. Mr. Wright, of The Grange, Butterley, the owner of the private oratory which has caused the trouble in this instance, writes to say that he takes exception to the accuracy of some of Father Meenagh's statements, and suggesting that I should publish his version of the story, which, of course, I am quite ready to do whenever he sends it. Another correspondent in the same neighbourhood says that it was an unduly flattering account of Mr. Wright's undertaking to say that he had built a private oratory in his grounds, and I gather from what he says that what has really been done is to convert into a chapel an apartment previously used as a hay-loft. If this is correct, the action of the Bishop of Nottingham in allowing this oratory to be opened for public services at the risk of serious injury to Father Meenagh's churches and work at Alfreton and Clay Cross becomes so much the more difficult to justify. I give below two other letters which refer to this case and to the general questions which have lately been under discussion:—

Bishop Brindle has not been a success at Nottingham, a military career being no recommendation for the mitre. I wonder how many know how the retired army chaplain came by his bishopric? The late Cardinal Vaughan wanted an auxiliary, and he had fixed on his brother, Monsignor J. Vaughan, for the post. But Father Brindle, retiring from the army with a good pension, was, on the recommendation of Lord Kitchener, considered by the Cardinal to be more eligible than Monsignor J. Vaughan. So it is to a letter to the Cardinal written by Lord Kitchener that the Catholic Church in England owes the privilege of having Bishop Brindle as one of her chief pastors.

As regards the general policy to be pursued respecting the financial scandals, it seems to me that several things have to be made clear. You say that all hopes of Rome's interference "received the *coup de grâce* when Cardinal Merry del Val sent to Archbishop Bourne the letter addressed to him respecting the contemplated proceedings before the Charity Commissioners." I am not so sure that Cardinal Merry del Val did send the letter directly to the Archbishop; he may have sent it to one of the other Bishops to make inquiries. It is obviously the duty of the Holy See, when a serious charge is made against a Bishop, to inquire into the truth of the charge, and to hear what the accused has to say for himself. Once the Archbishop heard that the Charity Commissioners were moving it was quite easy for him to send his solicitor to find out the cause and who was the mover. Of course, the gentleman who wrote to the Holy See at the suggestion of the Commissioners, had no official position; and so, from the beginning, ran the risk of being discovered. We have now the curious spectacle of a great Government office shirking their duty, trying to put it upon other's shoulders, quibbling over the position of their agent, and now, in self-defence, backing up the very man whose administration they were officially called upon to examine. What should the gentleman, "Mr. A.," do now? Sit down quietly under the disavowal of the Charity Commissioners? No. He should again approach them and force them to take action. "Acting on your suggestion which you have thought fit to deny I approached the Holy See unsuccessfully. We now return to the position before our last interview, and I now call upon you forthwith to begin the formal inquiry into the administration of the Catholic funds, the particulars of which I have given to you."

We have lately had an object lesson, both in the generosity of the Catholics and their justly suspicious fears. The Archbishop in January asked for £100,000 for a School Crisis Fund. He has not obtained one-tenth of the sum asked for, although certain wealthy Catholics found themselves forced, for example's sake, to make large donations. Father Bans, on the other side, a few weeks after the Archbishop had made his levy, comes out with an emergency appeal for £12,000. His institution being incorporated, Catholics knew that the money is under control. In two weeks he received more than the amount asked for. The Catholics remember that Manning put down one of his horses so as to save money for his schools, and they draw comparisons between his way of carrying on the work and that of the present Archbishop, for whom, at the present time, a £1,000 motor-car is being built, although he possesses a carriage and pair. Suppose the motor-car is a present (I do not know where the £1,000 is coming from), this is not the time to accept presents of luxuries when money for vital necessities cannot be raised.

An amusing thing is reported in the Portsmouth *Evening News* of March 18. The Bishop has finished his cathedral, and the congregation presented him lately with an address of congratulation. The good Portsmouth Catholics are certainly the most humorous in England. Remembering that the cathedral has been built by using the funds of the endowed missions "as a financial basis," they tell Bishop Cahill in their address: "We are deeply sensible that this [*the completion of the cathedral*] has been accomplished without any pecuniary assistance from us. . . . We are deeply sensible of your paternal affection towards us in completing and adorning in so beautiful a manner this house of God, etc." In his reply Bishop Cahill followed the same tone: "He thanked them, too, for their prayerful help during the carrying out of the work of cathedral extension, in respect of which he was glad to say that no pecuniary liability now remained." I understand there was a similar assurance before the famous circular, which must have been in the minds of all concerned, the addressed and addressers. While Portsmouth rejoices, what are the feelings of the endowed missions that have been deprived of some £50,000 by the use of their capital?

A matter in the diocese of Southwark needs looking into. I hear that a sum of money, given some years ago to build a presby-

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., London, W.

tery at Redhill, I think, has been spent on the seminary at Wonersh. Is this so? If it be the case, the Charity Commissioners might well look into the affairs of the Wonersh Seminary.

If any one proposes to put the Bishop into Court, let him write to Propaganda to ask permission, and say if he does not get a reply within a month, he will take silence for consent. He can then proceed without any fear of excommunication.

As regards what is said above respecting the recent application to the Charity Commission, no doubt it would have been better if the applicant had insisted on the Commissioners dealing one way or the other with his original complaint, and declined to allow himself to be put off on the side issue raised by the Commissioners in regard to his communication to Cardinal Merry del Val. But as I understood his attitude, he was so disgusted at the way he had been treated that he did not care to go further—which was probably what the Commissioners hoped for. I suppose, however, that it is still open to any one interested in the administration of the Dawes Trust to take up the case with the Charity Commission where he left it. The matter is one which emphatically calls for notice in Parliament, for the attitude of the Charity Commission towards the Roman Catholic hierarchy concerned all sections of the community, irrespective of creed, and I would point out that it is not too late for some public-spirited legislator to take the question up. The following letter has an interesting bearing on the question of the desirability of applying to Rome for permission to take proceedings against Bishops in the civil courts. I may mention that in this connection I have been told that Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of Propaganda, has had many applications from the diocese of Nottingham besides that in Father Hays' case, and that he is personally strongly opposed to proceedings in the civil courts, involving public scandal to the Church, for which reason he is the more disposed to take a strong line with English Bishops who require to be kept in order:—

Your article on "Bishop Brindle and his Clergy" does not regard as very hopeful the prospect of a priest obtaining the sanction of the Holy See to take civil proceedings against a bishop. In this you are correct, and your view is substantiated by recent facts.

It must not, however, be overlooked that Propaganda, rather than permit the maladministration of a bishop to be exposed in the civil courts, have frequently been forced themselves to bring direct pressure to bear on offending prelates.

In the case of Miss Sharpe, who was successful in her slander action, the Holy See ordered Bishop Brindle to withdraw absolutely his excommunication, and (fearing the reopening of the case in the civil courts) also to pay damages for what the lady had suffered.

Some months ago Father Hays, missionary rector of Holyrood Church at Market Rasen, demanded that the Holy See should either give him justice or grant him canonical permission to seek the protection of English law. His grounds of complaint were that during his absence in New Zealand (where he was prostrate with pneumonia), Bishop Brindle took away his mission, entered his house, and broke open the locks on his private drawers and cupboards in his study, containing private documents and letters. Also that the Bishop had taken the endowments of the mission, and the payments (or stipends) for masses he had said. The first action is contrary to civil law; the second is against the Church's interpretation of the eighth commandment; and if the stipends are not restored, it is contrary to the instructions given to all confessors "de restitutione."

Nevertheless, the Roman authorities neither refused nor granted this request, but *at once* they themselves moved against the Bishop. Father Hays received the leave of absence for which he had asked in vain for years. His house and church at Market Rasen were fully restored to him.

The present chaotic state of the diocese of Nottingham and the unfortunate administration is one that calls for vigorous action on the part of those of the clergy who have the courage, not only to speak in defence of "Right," but also to act.

The next letter refers to an incident which has already been discussed in Truth—the closing of St. Ann's School at Gosport. The story here told of the sequel to that event, the memorial to the Holy See, the information on the subject which subsequently reached the Portsmouth diocesan authorities, and the alleged suffering of certain of the memorialists in consequence, is not very pleasant reading. The statement in the church magazine as to the letter, although registered, having been refused by the Curia as insufficiently prepaid is manifestly untrue, and it is obvious that some knowledge of the nature of the communication had made its way back from Rome to Portsmouth. The writer of the first letter printed above points out the necessity for any complaint addressed to Rome being referred back to England for inquiry as to the facts before action can be taken upon it. But, however necessary this may be, it ought to be done in such a way as to protect every individual complainant. This was clearly not done in the case of the letter to Cardinal Merry del Val, which in one way or another came into the hands of the Archbishop of Westminster, and was referred by him to the Charity Commission; nor in this case at Portsmouth. An appeal to Rome becomes an impossibility for the great majority of Catholics if it immediately results in the appellants being handed over to the tender mercies of the ecclesiastical superiors of whose action they complain:—

One of the statements of the writer in your issue of the 20th inst.—viz.: "The hope which existed at one time of the intervention from Rome in the scandals of the English Church has long since come to an end," is, curiously enough, confirmed by what has recently occurred at Gosport. The facts are: A few years since a church and school were opened at St. Ann's Hill, a suburb of Gosport. At first things went on flourishingly. The school increased until there was an average attendance of some 150 children, then quarrels arose between the head teacher and a member of the congregation on a matter not connected with the duties of the teacher. Canon Watson then had his curates removed, and tried to get rid of the teacher. Failing to do this by fair means, he proceeded to shut up the school and turned all the children out to seek their education where they could find it. This after the parents of the children had collected for the building of the school, and after the Education Authority had been to the expense of providing the requisite furniture. Objection was naturally taken to this, and letters were written to the Bishop, begging for his help to put things straight. These letters were never replied to by him. Then he was seen and appealed to, with the same result. Failing to obtain redress, where they had every reason to expect it, a number of the congregation then wrote and sent a letter to Rome, showing that out of the 150 children who had been attending the school, some 130 had had to go to non-Catholic schools. By some means the news that this letter was being prepared leaked out, and every means was taken to find out who was answerable for its preparation. It was, however, sent off, registered. Then came one of the most remarkable bits of bluff imaginable. In the church magazine (edited by Canon Watson) appeared a remarkable story of a letter having been received from one of the officials of the Curia in Rome, in which this mysterious person stated that a bulky letter had been refused by the Curia, as it was insufficiently post paid, and the article went on to suggest that perhaps it was the testimonial which a grateful congregation had sent to Rome about their priest. It would have been interesting if the article had told us how they knew in Rome what the bulky package contained if they did not take it in; and it might have gone a step farther and shown how it was possible to register and post a letter without paying the postage. Since then some of the names of signatories have been discovered, and the coal tickets of one poor person have been stopped, because there was a name similar to hers on the list. At the time that it was being signed many persons declined to sign, not because they did not approve, but for fear that it might be found out that they had signed, and they would be made to suffer for signing. That it is time to stop this reign of terror must be evident to every man with the courage of his convictions, and if letters of a confidential nature are to be sent back to the person reported, with the result that the writers are liable to suffer for their temerity in the way of being boycotted, all confidence in justice will be at an end.

A communication that I have had from another gentleman well informed on all ecclesiastical matters, though he does not write for publication, indicates that the kind of grievance under which Father Meenagh has suffered is not peculiar to the diocese of Nottingham. Two cases in Southwark diocese are mentioned which

An Eminent Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate, especially on the chest, should have a gas fire in the bedroom. Not one atom less healthy than coal."

seem to justify this view. My informant states that the new church, opened a week or two since at Clapham, was set on foot without the knowledge of the Redemptionist Fathers in whose mission it is situated, and that when the fact was discovered it provoked a very outspoken protest to the Bishop (Dr. Bourne). In the same way a new mission is said to have been set on foot in the Benedictine Mission at Lordship-lane, Dulwich. The story goes that the first intimation the priest in charge had of what was on foot was conveyed by an anonymous letter, telling him that if he walked down a certain road on a certain morning he would see something that would interest him. He did so, and was rewarded by discovering the Bishop engaged in laying the foundation stone of a new church! If it is really possible for new churches to be originated in this way within the precincts of existing missions, the strongest remarks that have yet been made on the autocratic methods of English Bishops hardly do justice to the state of the case. It seems to be a common opinion that such excesses of episcopal authority are inevitable in a missionary church; but that can only be because the authorities at Rome are lamentably lacking in the exercise of the needful controlling authority, and in listening to the complaints of the aggrieved. It is difficult to understand how a missionary church can make any headway or fulfil any missionary character under such conditions.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Social Catechism.

(Second Series—for the Use of Males.)

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A male animal, of the human species, endowed with a thirst for Social distinction.

Q.: What do you mean by "Social distinction"?

A.: By "Social distinction" I mean only being seen about with the best people, in the best places.

Q.: Who are the best people?

A.: The people whom I want to know and who do not want to know me.

Q.: Are you often seen about with the best people?

A.: As often as they will let me.

Q.: And in the best places?

A.: As often as I can get there.

Q.: Were you born among the best people?

A.: No; I was born in an industrial centre in the provinces. But my father made money, and I have come to London to spend it.

Q.: Then you have a father?

A.: Physically and financially, I have a father; socially, I have none.

Q.: And a mother?

A.: I have no mother.

Q.: How is that?

A.: Because my mother is impossible.

Q.: Do you know many of the best people?

A.: I know them all, and some of them know me.

Q.: When you came to London, did you bring letters of introduction to the best people?

A.: Yes; I brought the best of all letters of introduction to them.

Q.: What is that?

A.: My cheque-book.

Q.: Did the best people, then, welcome you on the strength of your cheque-book?

A.: They welcomed my cheque-book and they put up with me.

Q.: How did you make an opening for the use of your cheque-book?

A.: I had no need to make an opening. They made the opening.

Q.: How did they do that?

A.: Some played bridge with me; others made bets with me. In both cases, the use of my cheque-book followed as a matter of course.

Q.: Can you play bridge?

A.: No.

Q.: Did the best people mind that?

A.: No.

Q.: Why did they not mind it?

A.: Because they did the playing, while I did the paying.

Q.: Have you a wife?

A.: I have not a wife of my own; but I am doing my best to annex the wife of another man.

Q.: Why do you do this?

A.: Because it is expected of me to live up to my exalted surroundings.

Q.: Do all the best men in society, then, annex other men's wives?

A.: All who can afford to do so.

Q.: Is it very expensive to annex other men's wives?

A.: It is very expensive. One has to finance the wives, and frequently the husbands also.

Q.: Then would it not come cheaper to have a wife of your own?

A.: It would come much cheaper. But it would be less up-to-date.

Q.: What is morality?

A.: Morality is a fetish of second-rate persons, in which the best people, with few exceptions, have long ceased to believe.

Q.: Who are these few exceptions?

A.: Men who, from age or infirmity, are past gallantry, and women who are either too old or too ugly to attract.

Q.: Are the best people, then, never moral on principle?

A.: The best people have no principle.

THE THEATRES.

The Follies, at the Royalty.

A mixed programme was awaiting us at the Royalty Theatre on an evening of last week, and whatever might be said against the entertainment provided by Mr. Pélissier and his company, lack of variety cannot be brought forward among its failings. But I am glad to say that on this occasion I am not obliged to talk of failure, but can let myself go on the pleasant stream of praise and unreservedly advise my readers to betake themselves to the Royalty Theatre while The Follies are in possession.

The programme is divided into three main sections, and contains a great deal of humorous printed information indispensable to the playgoer between the acts. Mr. Pélissier here informs us, for instance, that it was a moot point with his family whether to have him educated or sent to Eton. The former course was adopted, as is proved by the brilliancy of the present entertainment. Mr. Pélissier is also good enough to furnish us with information as to the burial place of the Chicago branch of his family (note illustration),

with a portrait of his business manager, "seen from the south," and other valuable biographical details. The programme is certainly the most amusing among the thousands that have passed through my hands in this country, and is a clever adaptation of the French system in vogue at the lighter Parisian theatres.

Returning to the actual performance, after the songs and recitations of the first part comes "Baffles," the parody of "Raffles," "A Peter Pantomime," "resented" by Mr. Showman, and coupling together these two popular successes in an inextricable farrago of amiable nonsense. Mr. Pélissier as Baffles, a music pirate, and Nana (a Tweenie), unites in his own person two important personages of our modern comedy, and it will suffice to mention that Miss Poor Lean Blumé figures in the triple personages of Peter Tanned, the boy who couldn't sit down, of a Burglar and a Pirate, to place my readers in possession of all the information they require when deciding whether to witness or to refrain from witnessing this part of the entertainment. My advice would be to dine comfortably and see as much of the clever fooling as coincided with good digestion, which, as the performance does not begin until 8.30, should be a considerable amount.

But the third part is certainly not to be missed. Here Mr. Pélissier's wit as parodist, comedian, and composer finds full scope in the "Burlesque of a Music Hall Entertainment." Frequenters of music halls will not want a second bidding to go and see "Mr. George Robeville, the Refined Humorist," and "Mr. Gush Squealin, the Costly Coster." Mr. Pélissier exceeds his own high level of entertainment as the feminine star of the music hall, and the stage of the Royalty is arranged as the stage of an East End music hall with boxes and seats occupied by the other members of the troupe, who take an active part in the entertainment. Apparent impromptu marks the contribution of these onlookers, until, as it were by accident, one finds them on the stage, making one laugh by some new device.

The whole forms an unpretentious entertainment, which should be visited by all in need of laughter.

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At the Waldorf Theatre is being given the new musical play, "The Gipsy Girl," by Mr. Arundale. The familiar theme of a youthful heiress kidnapped and returning to her ancestral home as a member of a gipsy troupe serves as basis for this entertainment. The young Squire falls in love with her, and after many mild vicissitudes and frequent changes of garment on her part, he wins her for his own. Miss Sybil Arundale plays the gipsy with much cleverness, especially when disguised as a lad. Her dancing of the Polonaise was a bright moment; her singing was always welcome. Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, a genuine humorist contrived to make us laugh from time to time as the conceited aspirer to the gipsy's favours, and Mr. Cleather contributed one effective song. But the play was not quite strong enough to hold the audience, and the shoulders of Miss Sybil Arundale are hardly strong enough to bear so considerable a weight as the entertainment, on the ladies' side, of a whole evening. The performance has nothing objectionable about it, but, on the other hand, does not contain enough of interest to make it possible to recommend it.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE M. BERTHELOT.

THE French, taken as a whole, are perhaps as good as, if not better than, almost any other people. Their great men rise to a pitch of perfection rarely, if ever, equalled by those of any other nation. They have a fineness of grain that one hardly ever meets with outside France, and a high tension that one may meet in Spain, but conducive there to quixotism. Zanardelli had high-strung character with a practical mind, which would have brought him into brotherhood with Berthelot. I do not suppose you could find at Royal Society meetings a member so distinguished for exquisite scholarship, for the literary perfection of his papers, and so versed in classical literature, as the great savant who last Saturday had the honours of a national funeral under circumstances unique in the whole history of science. Berthelot could find on the spur of the moment a verse or lines of Lucretius chiming in with his philosophical thought or some train of ideas arising from a recent discovery. He was equally in his place at the Academy and at the Academy of Sciences. As a literary artist he may be ranked with Buffon. On the occasion of his College of France golden jubilee he received addresses from all the universities of the world. The great number precluded answering any one in particular. He had to speak *urbi et orbi* from the Sorbonne, and to be, without setting up to the character, *l'homme pontife* of the day and the spokesman of humanity. In being so he gave out no uncertain note. He spoke up and out, and from the depths of profound conviction, without dogmatism or intolerance. In his long, laborious, and pensive life he had learned that moral and scientific truth is to some degree relative, or at any rate liable to shift. But in relation to the short span of human life it may be held as fixed. Berthelot aimed at this "certitude" as a basis for all his theories. He spared no pains to attain it, cast to the winds personal interests, and devoted himself with the rarest singleness of mind to its pursuit. His brain became a university from the vast range of his intellectual acquirements. He detested narrow or narrowing education, predicted that the narrow specialising of young German chemists by the captains of chemical industry would be the ruin some years hence of chemistry in Germany, as technical scientific schools would be of the Swiss in the sphere of science. These schools are only good for capitalists wanting a certain supply of cheap labour.

Berthelot's discoveries have vastly enriched the world. Honours crowded upon him, but he made no money beyond the slender salaries attached to the different posts he filled, all posts involving hard work. Up to 1881, when the Senate elected him a life member, he had only the salary of a professor at the College of France. The rule, not many years ago, against the cumulation of incomes from posts under Government reduced him to his meagre income of Permanent

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Secretary to the Academy of Sciences, with the residential flat at the Institute, and his pay of 25 frs. a day as a Senator while the Senate was in session. There were the fees for attendance at the weekly meetings of the Academy, which he entered in 1900. This would have brought him 4,000 frs. a year had he been able to go there every week. The open-air laboratory for vegetable chemistry, at Meudon, cost the State 14,000 frs. and afforded Berthelot a country residence from May to November. But he worked there for nothing, studying the action of electricity on plants and how to create nitric acid by means of artificial electrical storms, on of course a small scale. Instinctive divination often put him on the right track. He took, he said himself, more pleasure in following tracks than a hunter could in tracing a wild animal to its lair. He rather looked on the forces of nature as wild creatures. They must have the mastery in the long run. Meanwhile it was amusing, interesting, and useful to master and turn them to our service. There could be no more methodic worker. The roomy lodging at the Institute and the laboratory buildings at Meudon afforded him space to range methodically and conveniently his vast correspondence, notes, mems, brochures, and books sent him from all parts. The bane of his life, before he went to live at the Institute, had been the heaping up of written and printed matter in great piles where they lay lost to him for ready reference. The methodic orderliness of Mme. Berthelot could not compensate for the want of space for the proper ranging of his things. One has hardly room in a Paris flat, at a reasonable rent, to keep an extra umbrella. Only the wealthy can afford to store up papers in boxes or pigeon-holes and books in cases.

Berthelot took his appearance and his extraordinary activity from his mother, a native of Lower Burgundy, and "a true daughter," as he said, "of Gaul," coming, as she did, from the locality of Alise Sainte Reine, the site of the great Gallic city of Alesia, where Vercingetorix played his last card against Cæsar. In the spirit of her far-back foremothers, she instinctively put her shoulder to the wheel. Her courage rose, as did theirs, when she had to face a difficulty. This kept her young through old age. She dated from the last year of the eighteenth century, married at the age of twenty-six, witnessed three foreign invasions and all the dynastic changes and revolutions between 1814 and 1871, talked about them as she knit stockings, and never ceased to hope for the good time coming. She lived long enough to see her son rank among the illustrious Frenchmen of his time. He inherited her longevity—for she died at the age of seventy-eight—but not her optimism. His activity kept the pessimism he took from the other side of the house under. He passed his childhood and youth in the house to which his father, a doctor with a fair local practice, brought her home a bride, in the dark, narrow Rue du Mouton. Baron Haussmann cleared away this street to make way for the Avenue Victoria. The rooms looking on the street were chilly and gloomy. A large room facing the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville was bright and spacious. Without stirring from it, the inmates could see all the revolutionary drama of which the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville was the theatre in 1830 and 1848. It was waken-ing to a young mind, and deconventionalising. Berthelot, who had instinctive courage and combativeness, could not understand Taine running to some hole in the country whenever there was powder in the air. Taine lay by at Orsay all the time of the Commune. As a historian, he ought to have been in Paris and in the thick of the excitement. Had Berthelot had to write a history of the Revolution and its *origines*, he would not have lost this opportunity to study revolutionists, and the proximate causes for their being so. Dr. Berthelot, on leaving the Rue de Mouton, went to Neuilly, where he bought a practice. He and his widow died and were buried there, and their son arranged to lie beside them in the grave. The children have, however, accepted a mausoleum niche in the vaults of the Panthéon, on condition that the remains of Mme. Berthelot be placed there too. As a feminist, M. Briand readily consented, and all the more easily for the Westminster Abbey precedent in favour of the late Mrs. W. E. Gladstone.

Events take a spontaneously dramatic character in Paris, and with the suddenness of a flash of lightning. They "éclaterent." You have none of this in London, Berlin, or the other great capitals. A week ago I had occasion to mention the attempts of novelists and dramatic authors to minimise the marriage tie to nothing. This week the world has learned that M. Berthelot died from grief at losing his wife a few minutes after her death. When her recovery could be no longer hoped for he told his sons that he could not possibly survive her. She suffered from a painful heart disease. He, knowing how painful darkness and the sense of being alone is to a person with her malady, sat up at nights beside her to cheer her up a little when a nervous action of the heart gave her a painful start. He kept the room lighted, but screened the light. When it was day he went to rest on the couch in his study, which served as a shakedown for relatives from Lille. The patience he had acquired in his scientific searches for truth made him invaluable, with his sensibility and tenderness, as a nurse. This man of hard facts brimmed over with sentiment. I do not say that his cry of "Je n'en peux plus," as he turned away from her lifeless, will live through the ages. But it deserves to do so. His renown, the funeral honours given to him and her, and the celebrity now attached to both of their names must make the anti-marriage authors back engines. The tomb of M. and Mme. Berthelot gives the Panthéon the sentimental interest that it wanted.

Nobody could be more keenly alive than Berthelot to the great note of interrogation that a funeral solemnity forces on the mind. He kept it out of sight as much as he could, so that it should not slacken his activity. Life at best—and he had the best it could give—seemed to him a sad affair with the certain prospect of a wind-up at the end in bankruptcy. His wife had a mild, patient disposition, disciplined by education, experience, and naturally unselfish. She had a peculiarly sweet and beaming presence that was really a feast to the eyes. She kept off the sadness of advancing years by having round her her grandchildren and by busying herself with their little affairs, and in Dorcas works of charity. Mme. Berthelot belonged to

a family of Swiss origin—the Bréguets—who had as watchmakers a great name in the reign of Louis Philippe. They and the family of M. Léon Bourgeois were in close friendship as Paris watchmakers.

If the Senate do not change at nurse the income-tax scheme of M. Caillaux, or reject it altogether, we may expect to see the prospects of the exiled Pretenders brighten. This scheme is another instance of the betrayal with a kiss. The excuse for it is that it is intended to throw the burden of taxation on the great fortunes. If it did, M. Caillaux would not have devised it. He belongs to the northern part of the Sarthe, where it runs into Normandy, and to the Christophle—De Marcère politico-financial group. His scheme will bear heaviest on the struggling bourgeoisie that can barely make both ends meet, and on that grade of the working class which is above the from-hand-to-mouth level. Nothing in the way of a fiscal blister has approached it since the abolition of the *gabelle* of hateful memory. The great splitting up of fortunes in France must place any income tax on an unbearable footing. M. Caillaux, being rich, can afford to laugh at the discontent of the petty bourgeoisie and upper-class working people. He thinks, I hear, that they will squeal in vain, since they are not the people to cast bombs or to throw up barricades. This is true. But they are, and have been always, the people who goad on the poor wretches. They did so in 1830, in 1848, on the Fourth of September, and will do so again if they are squeezed according to the Caillaux plan. If the enormously wealthy people did not see in his scheme something analogous to the approaches in siege tactics they would have good reason to be satisfied. There will be *only* a tax of 4 per cent. on incomes above 100,000 fr. a year. What is this to a Porges, a Sommier, a Casimir-Perier, a Rothschild, a Schneider, a Creuzot, and many other industrial and banking kings?

The curiosities of the scheme would be amusing were they not certain to draw tears. So far from contributing to family unity, as M. Caillaux imagines, it must utterly disperse it. A wife's income will be totalised with that of her husband, though her marriage contract secures her separation in regard to money matters. If he has as clerk, counter-assistant, or officer 5,000 frs. a year, the totalised income of 10,000 frs. will be liable to the two taxes—*générale et complémentaire* —that is to say to 10 per cent.; a big hole that will be severely felt in New Year's week. Were these taxpayers living according to the system of "l'union libre" they would be spared the tax *complémentaire*. We may therefore expect free unions to increase in respectable spheres. As yet they are confined to the working classes.

A theatrical star will only be taxed according to the salary entered in her manager's account-book, though she may notoriously refuse to accept bouquets containing fewer than five hundred-franc bank-notes, or even less than a thousand-franc note. Mme. Bob Walther, in her suit against her husband to recover from him the custody of their daughter, started giving the names of those actresses of a celebrated theatre who insisted on Flora being thus made subservient to the mercantile Cytheris. Her point was that the husband brought the child—a girl entering her teens—into the wings of this theatre. I really do not see why the State, which lends itself to the destruction of the population by the sale of spirits, should not tax those bouquets containing bank-notes and visiting-cards.

Clemenceau does not set up to be a financier. I fancy that he trusts to the Senate to render the Caillaux scheme bearable. The Senate is now the citadel of the Republic and the stronghold of good sense. The great angle of vantage of the Finance Minister is his having served in the same capacity in the Waldeck-Rousseau Government. This is why the actual Premier offered him the post when M. Poincaré declined to take it, though much pressed and offered a free hand.

A PEER ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

I REALLY do think you have made a great mistake in not using that article I wrote for you about the Suffragettes. I thought when I wrote it, and I do now, that it was quite one of the best I have written for you—and so does Jessie. In fact, she is quite annoyed about it, and says she does not think you can be much of an editor if you are not a better judge of an article than that shows you to be. I do not go so far as that myself, but *I really do think you are making a great mistake*, and it is only fair to tell you so. It would have been convenient for me, this week, as it happens, too, because I have found it uncommonly hard to find anything else worth writing about. However, Jessie thinks the Channel Tunnel would do, so I have written this one about it. I am not quite sure myself whether the Government was right to jump upon it. Being a Radical Government makes me feel a little doubtful; especially when I do not see that it makes any difference—because I am quite sure it never would have been bored anyhow. My brother-in-law, who ought to know, says he does not believe there are enough people so unselfish as to like burying their money in a deep hole at the bottom of the sea merely to save a few other people from being sea-sick for half-an-hour or so, once a year. He says that money talks, whatever that means, and that when all the soldiers and patriots and journalists and axe-grinders have finished discussing it, the capitalists would settle it. And when he thought about the millions it would cost to build, and the big fares that would have to be charged, and the competition from Channel Ferries, and improved steamboats, and all the rest of it, he said that he would as soon put all his money on a Lincolnshire favourite as in any Channel Tunnel Company. And he knows what he is talking about.

(Jessie says I am very silly to tell you, but I think you might be able to guess, from the style or something, that I did not write the rest of the article myself. The truth of it was that I could not find anything more to say, so I spoke to a man I know slightly, and he said he had an article about it that he had offered to every paper in England, and not one of them would look at it. He offered to make me a present of it, just for the pleasure he would get from seeing it in print. I do not think it half bad, myself, though I cannot say much for the style it is written in, so if you take my advice you will use it. But mind you do not forget to scratch out this part between the brackets.)

I was at a dinner party the day before yesterday.

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One of the guests was a Volunteer colonel, and another was a newspaper editor. Hence it came naturally about that Art and Literature—the two subjects in which I am most qualified to shine as a conversationalist—were never so much as mentioned either before, during, or after the meal. Even the Suffragettes were totally neglected. Nothing was, in fact, discussed but the Channel Tunnel and the Government's action with regard to it. Opinions were, of course, divided. The Volunteer colonel took what is, I understand, the orthodox military view that, had the tunnel once been built, the Kaiser would have immediately declared war upon France; would have marched from victory to victory, and so to the French end of the tunnel; would have despatched through it, in excursion trains and disguised as German waiters, an enormous army of uhlans; would have surprised our slumbering sentinels, seized and fortified Dover, and within a few days would have been marching up Ludgate Hill at the head of his guards to celebrate a victorious "Te Deum" in St. Paul's Cathedral. The colonel was supported by our hostess, who is a lady of strong views, and who considered that the boring of the Channel would have had a prejudicial effect upon the morality of the South Coast, that Brighton would become a second Ostend, and that Eastbourne would rival Monte Carlo, with Beachy Head as the site for a monster casino. The editor on the other hand—but at this rate I shall never get to what I am really trying to write about.

I should have hesitated to introduce these incidents of private life into a newspaper article had it not been that to them I owe my realisation of the fact that the real interest of the Channel Tunnel proposals lies in the past rather than in the future. I do not think personally, that it ever will be bored, but I do firmly believe that it provides us with quite illuminating insight into the things our ancestors used to discuss at their dinner-tables thousands and thousands of years ago. And as this realisation came to me in what I suppose to have been a vision while I was still sitting at the dinner-table, I am tempted to set forth that vision exactly as it came to me. It lasted an astonishingly short time; the editor when I awoke—if that be the proper word—had not yet finished the sentence—it had something to do with the benefits to be expected from greater opportunities of mutual intercourse among the nations, I think—upon which he was already embarked when I fell asleep, so to put it.

It seemed to me that I was at a dinner-party, in an island which I believed to be England, very many thousands of years ago. We were sitting in a cave, round a stone table; we were cutting up our meat—it was raw—with stone knives, and our costume was of skins and scanty. The most remarkable part of the vision was, perhaps, that we were exactly the same party. Our hostess, I remember—though I should not like her to know it—had her face tattooed in a curious zig-zag pattern, and wore a large bone nose-ring, which did not prevent her from looking extremely distinguished. The teeth of the Volunteer colonel were filed to sharp points, giving him a very martial air; the editor's skin was dyed a curious yellow colour, and he wore several scalps at his girdle.

At the commencement of my vision the colonel was talking angrily, voicing, as he declared, the unanimous opinion of every warrior of the tribe. By close attention—wishing meanwhile that he would not brandish his bone knife quite so close to my face—I was able to make out the gist of his remarks. It appeared that some inventive genius had recently discovered that by tying the trunks of several large trees together it was possible to make boats very much larger and more stable than any hitherto known, and, with the help of skins stretched upon sticks, to direct their course, even out of sight of land. His invention perfected, he had proposed to cross the straits—across which land was clearly visible in fine weather, though hitherto, of course, impossible of access—and enter into communication with the natives, if any, of the opposite shore.

This proposal had aroused a storm of controversy in which the whole tribe took part. The originator had been promptly brained, and, I believe, eaten, by a prominent warrior, as a dangerous revolutionary and probable anti-Druidist; but his doctrines had found many upholders, and it was upon them that the colonel—the vision-colonel, I mean—was animadverting. His most cogent argument was that were these cross-Channel water-chariots, as he termed them, introduced, the natives of the further shore would infallibly invade us in overwhelming numbers, and would, in a few days, convert us all into one general barbecue. The hostess supported him—on moral grounds declaring, though I know not on what authority, that the said foreigners were of low moral tone, preferring, for instance, to cover their bodies with blue paint instead of wearing a seemly costume of skins or seaweed. Others, on the other hand, maintained that our degree of civilisation, admittedly high though it were, could but be heightened by added intercourse with sister tribes; that the progress of the world must not be checked by the invocation of worn-out military shibboleths; that, as to invasion, one jolly ancient Briton could lick half-a-dozen skinny foreigners; and so on and so forth. What conclusion was come to in the end I cannot say, for the discussion was interrupted by the Volunteer colonel—the visionary one, of course—who in a moment of anger unexpectedly fastened his teeth into the shoulder of the journalist. This latter happened to be a distant relation of our hostess, who very properly and promptly brained the aggressor with a convenient rock. The incident seemed likely to break up the party, but at that moment my vision ended.

I do not, of course, attempt to make out that my vision had any particular significance—had it been meant for the guidance of the nation at large it would scarcely have been vouchsafed to so insignificant a person as myself, especially when the Government had already made up its mind about it. Nor do I endeavour to reconcile it with atavism, or any other of the fashionable "isms," because I know very little about them. But, as a matter of personal opinion, to be taken for what it is worth, I am inclined to think that it may throw some light upon the doctrine of the transmigration of souls—that very likely, in some past existences, I have assisted at many previous discussions on proposed Channel Tunnels or their contemporary prototypes, and that in centuries to come I may again, and yet again, listen to other similar discussions concerning the same proposals. The moral of which would seem to be—or so I suppose—that talking never makes much difference to the march of events, but that we all go on talking just the same as if it did.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Middle-class, dear Lady Betty, is the backbone of this community; the backbone, however, has recently shifted to the front—a circumstance which is materially affecting the whole system. The New Anatomy involves, obviously, the moving forwards of the social organs connected with the Middle-class backbone, and the displacement of those which formerly were at the front. Our Governing class is prepared to accept the accomplished change, but is endeavouring to prevent the further necessary alterations; a treatment which must have serious consequences.

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A political Party insists that we should "Think Imperially"; it is a symptom of our condition that no Englishman or woman has as yet appealed to us to have an Imperial Conscience.

* * * * *

This is the Age of Abbreviations; we reduce not only our words, but our principles, restraints, and work. Out of that reflection arises one of serious importance—is machinery to become the master of man? Every year more mechanical appliances are being constructed which enable man to produce easily, rapidly, and cheaply,

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commodities of all kinds. The increase of those commodities adds to the general prosperity, and to the condition of comfort that has to be maintained, and these improved circumstances necessitate additional production. As it is, we find ourselves compelled to sacrifice much comfort, quiet, and even security, to attain greater speed of movement. Still, the mechanical output and the generally improved conditions it causes increase. It is obvious that the time approaches when man shall not be able to add to his exertions. Is the general condition of comfort then to collapse? The contention is that the circumstances he is developing are binding man to the machinery; that the more the former improve and the latter increases the quicker and the harder he will be compelled to work, until, at length, he sinks exhausted, and the whole system collapses! Is it a new Frankenstein's Monster this mechanical development?

* * * * *

There is a characteristic story of an American woman —formerly well known in London—that will bear repeating. The lady is said to have written the following letter to a Royal personage:—

"Sir,—My medical attendants have just informed me that I am in a hopeless condition. I should die happy did I know that you would be represented at my funeral. I enclose a cheque for £1,000 to cover all expenses."

Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

As has so often happened before, the Lincolnshire Handicap was won neither by the best horse in the field nor by the most favourably weighted of the starters. Ob, who won with extreme ease, had certainly been harshly treated by the handicapper, and he was indebted for his victory simply to the fact that he was really well trained, and, indeed, he was actually about the only thoroughly fit horse which ran. The result was a tragical crash for backers, as Ob's name had scarcely ever appeared in the betting, while on the day of the race he drifted out to 25 to 1, and any one desirous of backing him for a small sum would have found no difficulty in obtaining 33 to 1. The early backers were not likely to back Ob, inasmuch as M. Ephrussi had a second candidate in Champ d'Or. The fact is that at one time the odds were considerable against Ob ever running at Lincoln, as he was on the point of being sold to a Belgian breeder. M. Ephrussi is said to have backed the horse for £500 at 20 to 1, which was the same bet that he had last year. Ob was trained for this race in the forest rides at Compeigne. If the race could be run over again two months hence, I do not believe that Ob would finish in the first three, and no sensible person will regard the running as correct form. Writing a fortnight ago about this race, I expressed an opinion in favour of the best from Chaloner's stable—Kaffir Chief or Cyclops Too. They are moderate horses, and Kaffir Chief was by no means favourably handicapped, but I had heard that they were fairly well forward in condition, and were believed to be in good form. Kaffir Chief finished second, and if Ob had been out of the way he would have won in a canter. It seems to me to be utter drivel to eulogise Kaffir Chief's running in the Cambridgeshire as if it had been a highly creditable performance. Polymelus was giving him two stone, and could certainly have given him another stone. Kaffir Chief only finished a neck in front of Malua, who was giving him 18 lb. and a year! This was truly abject form. At Lincoln, Kaffir Chief really represented Polymelus with about 10 st. 8 lb. on his back. As Ob was palpably fit to run, while the whole of his opponents were more or less backward, it is amazing that he was not well backed at the finish. The gullibility of the speculating public is only to be equalled by their calf-headed imbecility, and Ob was entirely neglected, while money was piled so freely on His Eminence that he finally started at the crack-brained price of 9 to 4. On the day of a big race a reproduction of the always instructive story of Panurge's sheep is usually witnessed in the ring. Let any horse be supported freely, and every distracted backer hastens to invest money on the animal. It was not stable money which brought His Eminence up in the betting, nor was it the investments of clever backers who are well inspired from Newmarket. There were considerable sums of covering money from the Continental lists to be put on Lord Howard de Walden's horse, and when it was seen that His Eminence was really in brisk demand there was a general rush to back him. His Eminence ran miserably, being quite done with more than a quarter of a mile from home. I have always thought that the Epsom course would suit this horse better than the flat mile at Lincoln, and he will be in much better racing condition on April 24; but His Eminence has of late been decidedly overrated by his admirers, who, moreover, have overlooked the fact that he has a bad temper, for in many of his recent gallops at Newmarket he has turned sulky, and has most obviously refused to exert himself. A wet and stormy day, such as was experienced at Lincoln on Tuesday, is quite likely to upset such a horse. Camisard, who carried a great deal of public money, was tolerably fit, but he ran untried. If this horse had been galloped the result would have shown that he had no chance at Lincoln, and the friends of Ob were convinced that their steed would find no difficulty in giving nearly 2 st. to the Newmarket horse. The fact that Rifleite finished third was an immense benefit for the numerous bookmakers who were betting 1, 2, 3, but I fancy that Athi could have gained this place if he had been ridden out.

Ob had the race safely in hand some distance from home, and I do not suppose that any horse was ridden out hard unless express instructions had been given to the jockey to try for a place. Minos was out of the race from the start, as he whipped round, but Mr. Rothschild's horse had really no chance of winning, for he is exceedingly moderate. Minos has dreadful forelegs, and it will be well to get a race out of him before the ground gets hard, but it will require clever placing to bring him in a winner. Bill of the Play, who was well backed at the finish, was the most fit of the English horses. He delayed the start for a long time by his exasperating antics, and his caperings caused some others in the field to behave badly. He must have utterly destroyed any chance which he might originally have possessed. Velocity was so ridiculously backward that he might as well have remained at home, and the same may be observed of Roseate Dawn. Crusader's chance was blighted by the delay at the post, and that this horse's running was all wrong was proved by the fact that he finished a long way behind his despised stable companion, Truffle de Périgord. Dumbarton Castle, who had no price in the betting, ran prominently for a long way, and his performance was the more creditable, inasmuch as it was said that he had been badly kicked while at the post by Bill of the Play. Sir John Thursby's horse had not been seen out since he was unplaced in the Wokingham Handicap at Ascot, and his last appearance previously was in the Royal Handicap at the Epsom Summer Meeting, when he started favourite, but finished nowhere. It is funny to remember that Gingal and Bill of the Play were the favourites for last year's Two Thousand when the flag fell, and Sir John Thursby's colt was backed for that race by pretty near every "sharp" on Newmarket Heath. Lovania, who was a great fancy at Newmarket, ran very badly, and is not likely to be heard of again in connection with a race of this description. She is deficient in stamina. The heavily backed Crescent ran best of the horses which were favourites at the finish, but his supporters were grievously disappointed by his failure to gain the place for which he had been well backed. Kaffir Chief went out to 100 to 7 towards the last for lack of support, every one being perfectly infatuated about His Eminence and Bill of the Play, and there was no difficulty in getting propor-

tionate odds for a place. Fra Diavolo, who carried a great deal of money, was scratched in consequence of his having met with an accident, but his presence in the field would not have altered the result, if it is true that he was not nearly fit.

There were large fields for most of the events at Lincoln, but the majority of the starters were preposterously backward, and the early form will no doubt be knocked all to pieces before the season is far advanced.

The Brocklesby Stakes brought out a field of eighteen, and practically all the money went on two animals trained at Newmarket—Lord Harewood's Malwood, and Mr. L. de Rothschild's Pastry. Mr. Larnach's Seance, who had been well tried, was quietly backed for a good deal of money. The run on Malwood surprised those who had heard that he had failed to give satisfaction in a trial. Pastry was the great tip, as she had been well galloped, and she was said to be in front of her stable companion Selaginella, who had defeated a large field for the Lincoln Cup on Tuesday. Pastry could only finish second to Counterfeit, gelding by Bill of Portland out of Cup of Assay, who is owned by Sir John Thursby. This animal has been entered for forty-three races, his next engagement being the Rendlesham Plate at Kempton Park next Monday, where he will have only 4 lb. extra to carry. Counterfeit, who was bred by Lord Crewe, is entered for races at Croxton Park and at Newbury, but he will probably be kept for the Fitzwilliam Stakes on the first day of the Newmarket Craven Meeting.

Succour was reported from Newmarket to be far and away the fittest of the three Liverpool Cup horses, and to be now in excellent form, but he ran very badly indeed, and appeared unable to stay the course. His collapse was truly ignominious, for there was not a particle of excuse for him. I much regret having been induced to depart from my original opinion as to this handicap, which was that Bridge of Canny would win, as he was obviously the pick of the lot, being a horse of decidedly superior class. I was informed, however, that Bridge of Canny would not be quite fit last week, but he came to the post much more forward in condition than had been expected, being, however, still capable of improvement. Lord Derby's horse, who has done well during the winter, won very easily indeed, and it was altogether an excellent performance. I do not suppose we shall see Bridge of Canny out again before Ascot, where he is engaged both in the Triennial and the Gold Cup. He has incurred a penalty of 10 lb. for the Vase, so it may not be thought worth while to enter him for that race.

Mr. James's colt, Attraction, who was said to be one of the best tried of the early two-year-olds at Newmarket, was heavily backed for the Molyneux Stakes, although the defeat of his stable companion, Seance, in the Brocklesby Stakes might have warned his friends not to be over sanguine. Attraction got off in front, but he is not apparently endowed with much stamina, and he ran green when collared. However, we shall see how this colt gets on at Kempton Park next Monday if he meets Counterfeit with 4 lb. the best of the weights. Mr. James may decide to keep Attraction for his engagement at Croxton Park on Thursday. The Westminster Plate at the Epsom Spring Meeting is the race which would best suit this colt. Pom, who won the Molyneux Stakes, was bred by his owner, Mr. W. H. Walker. He is own brother to Fairy Footstep, being by Count Schomberg out of Puffball, and was quite fit to run, although he may still be made considerably better than he was on Thursday. Pom, who is doubtless a better animal than either of the Lincoln winners, is next engaged in the Fitzwilliam Stakes at Newmarket, where he will probably meet Counterfeit, after which he has nothing until Salisbury. He is entered for the Woodcote Stakes at the Epsom Summer Meeting.

Glacis and Freeborn were the favourites for the Union Jack Stakes, but neither of them had a chance with Auber, who won very easily from Prince of Orange. Auber was sold at Newmarket in December to Mr. J. F. Farquharson for 2,000 gs. This animal has done well during the winter, and he was quite fit to run. Sir Edgar Vincent must regret having sold Auber, as the race which he won on Thursday was worth upwards of £1,000, and he has some other promising engagements. Freeborn hopelessly failed to stay the course, and he need not be thought of again seriously for any race of over six or seven furlongs.

A new race for three-year-olds, maidens at the time of entry, is the Red Rose Stakes of £1,000 at the Manchester Whitsuntide Meeting, and it has obtained fifty-five entries, the list being headed by his Majesty's Slim Lad and Isograph, the latter being a dark filly by Isinglass out of Amphora that is expected to prove useful next season. Among the notable animals in this race are Mr. A. Barley's All Black, Major Loder's Adora and Baltinglass, Mr. A. James's Sixty, and Mr. Fairie's Jovial.

There are no fewer than ninety-four entries for the Rous Plate of £500 at the Doncaster September Meeting, and the whole of the sum with which this race is nominally endowed will be got back by the entrances. It certainly seems to me that the Stewards of the Jockey Club ought to insist upon the value of this race being doubled, and the minor forfeit in the Champagne Stakes should in future go to the winner, instead of being rapaciously grabbed for the fund. Last year the minor forfeits amounted to £335! As to the Rous Plate of £500, this race last year cost the fund nothing, as the entrances amounted to £562! In 1905 the Champagne Stakes entrances amounted to £350, while the Rous Plate cost the fund £69.

There were twenty-three starters for the Grand National, and a worse field never went to the post for that race. The fact is that at the present time there is not one really good steeplechaser in training, but Eremon may turn out to be one of the highest class. The poor class of the starters was proved by the fact that only eight horses completed the course, falls taking place at nearly every fence. Ascetic's Silver was the best-looking horse in the field, but he was not altogether liked by some of the critics who inspected him before he left the paddock. He was soon out of the race, although he did manage to finish sixth. Timothy Titus, who fell, was not liked before the race, as he appeared jaded and overdone. Rathvale, who also fell, caused much mischief by going on without a jockey, and at every fence he was a terror to the riders of the other horses, two of which were brought down by him, and Eremon had a narrow escape. Red Lad, who started a decided favourite "for money," fell at the Canal fence, the second time of going over it. Eremon won in a common canter, after having made the whole of the running. This horse, who was bred in Tipperary by Mr. J. Cleary in 1900, is a son of Thurles, and in early life he was in the shafts of a jaunting car. He passed into the hands of Mr. James Daly, who sold him for £50 to Mr. Stanley Howard, who sent him to Coulthwaite to be trained. The result was thoroughly satisfactory, as the owner of Eremon does not bet, but races for sport alone. It is seldom that a horse of only seven years old wins at Aintree. Since 1879 the Grand National has been won twenty times by aged horses, the youngest winner having been Empress (1880), who was five years old. Thurles, the sire of Eremon, himself won some cross-country events, and he has got some excellent hunting stock in Ireland. Eremon is a beautiful jumper, his fencing being absolutely faultless, and his victory was the more creditable inasmuch as Newey, who rode him, broke a leather and lost a stirrup early in the race.

I gave a plumper last week for St. Elf for the Sefton Park Plate, and Mr. Wallace's handsome colt won easily from twelve opponents. St. Elf had been highly tried at Newmarket, and he is probably the best two-year-old which ran last week. He is a half-brother, by St. Maclou, to Gnome, who himself made a successful début at Liverpool last year. His next engagement is the Newmarket Plate at the First Spring Meeting, and he is entered for one of the principal two-year-old races at the Second Spring Meeting. He is in the Wood-

cote Stakes at Epsom. St. Elf is the first of the stock of St. Maclou that has won a race. This horse, who is a son of St. Simon, is now in Germany.

Beattie was made a great favourite for the Bickerstaffe Stakes, but many of the clever people backed Knight of Tully, who had missed his more valuable engagement on Thursday in order that he might be kept fresh for this race. Maya, who was not much fancied, won easily. Mr. Wyndham's filly is a mere pony, but she is very game, and she stays well.

There will be flat-racing next week at Kempton Park, Birmingham, Newcastle, Windsor, Catterick Bridge, Croxton Park, and Alexandra Park, besides upwards of twenty steeplechase meetings. The best sport will be at Kempton Park and at Newcastle, where there is not likely to be much racing of any general interest before Newmarket.

A number of events close next Tuesday, including the Great Northern Handicap of £700 at York (run May 28), and the Northumberland Plate of £1,000 at Newcastle (run June 26). There is also the Futurity Stakes of £800, with £1,000 added besides, at Baden-Baden (to run August 27), for two-year-olds, distance six furlongs. The minor forfeit (due July 23) is £5, and the conditions as to penalties are very fair. This race ought to receive a large number of English entries.

THE TRICKS OF THE C.T.C.

Last week I said I should show how difficult it is for members of the Cyclists' Touring Club to organise and what unfair means the council adopt to gull the members to support them. Members should remember that in 1906 there were 2,550 members who did not renew their ordinary subscriptions, while the decrease in new subscriptions was 770. Intending members will realise that they are invited to join a dwindling club. Let them appreciate how the officials treat the members. Last week Mr. Symons, the hon. secretary of the Reform Committee, summoned the club's chief clerk, Mr. Cladish, for assault committed at the general meeting of the club. He asked for an apology. The magistrate suggested it was a case for apology. Mr. Cladish, represented by counsel, declined to give one. Mr. Beatty, the vice-chairman of the council, was sitting by defendant's counsel. Mr. Shipton, the secretary-cum-editor, was in court. It is absurd to pretend that they did not approve of the defendant's defiance. He was fined and ordered to pay two guineas costs. Such conduct is what might be expected to meet with the approval of Mr. Shipton. He has a profound contempt for the cyclists out of whose 5s. a year he gets his living. He can afford to be a motorist now. Wherefore, he writes in the journal contemptuously of those who do "the donkey-work" needed for the propulsion of the machine. I wonder how long the long-enduring spirit of that animal will continue to animate the majority of the members of the club. If they wish the club well, they will clear out the present jacks in office—for after their behaviour at the Westminster Police-court they deserve no better term—lock, stock, and barrel.

Now the difficulties of organisation amongst the members arise from the fact that no list of members is published and that the council use the machinery of the club to support their own policy and burke discussion in the columns of the *Gazette*. The council refuses to publish a list of members on the petty ground that cycle agents might pester them with circulars. This is twaddle. The names and addresses of new members are published weekly, and touts can get the names there. The object is obviously to keep the members apart. Further, members are refused access to the list except by the personal leave of the secretary, and then they are not allowed to take copies. I give an instance. On February 13, 1907, a member of the Reform Committee went to the office to search the register in order to get the names to canvass for the general meeting in the South London and Brighton district. He was refused access to the register. He was not told that he must get the secretary's leave. He was told that the assistant secretary—who, by the way, is Mr. Shipton's brother—refused inspection. Apparently Mr. Shipton realised that even he can go too far. He gave himself away, however, in his letter, which was to the effect that the assistants had no authority to give leave, but the register was open at all reasonable hours for inspection, though "I cannot, of course, afford facilities for taking a copy." It is a piece of impertinence to say that the roll is open at all reasonable hours when the presence of the great panjandrum himself at the office and his gracious permission are needed.

Now let us see how the Council uses its machinery in order to work the oracle in its favour. The way in which it faked up its case in order to be able to present the petition to the Court to admit motorists aptly illustrates the methods of the Council. In March, 1906, the motion for enlargement was debated at the general meeting in London. The votes were thirty-eight for, thirty-five against, out of a total membership of some 30,000 members. The fare-paid councillors were in the majority. Thereupon the postal vote was taken. In the notice paper not one word was said that the object of the alteration was to admit motorists, nor was a hint given that it was a matter of notoriety that motor-cars had to a great extent destroyed the pleasures of cycling and increased the risk of accident in the use of bicycles. But this was what Mr. Kendall Barnett, the chairman of the Council, solemnly swore in his affidavit in support of the petition to the High Court. Having successfully concealed from the members that the object of the petition was to give the benefit of the club's assets to those who were ruining cycling, they secured a postal vote of 10,433 in favour of the change and 2,214 against. Barely one-third of the total members of the club voted. Then there had to be a general meeting. In the ordinary course London would have been selected. But a three-fourths majority was needed, and it was shifted to Newcastle. No one believes that this was to give the provinces a chance. Mr. Kendall Barnett swore it was selected as a populous district. He concealed from the Court the fact that this town is in a division of the club containing fewer members than any other division in England. Of course, it did not matter to the councillors where they went. The faithful gang has its fares paid. There were only eighty-three persons present, and the Council triumphed by seventy-seven votes to one. Meanwhile every effort had been made to suppress the opposition. In March, 1906, the *Gazette* had published a strong article by Mr. Kendall Barnett, written at the request of the Council in favour of the change. In April there was a strong editorial to the same effect. The postal vote was in April, and voters had to be won at all cost. Therefore a communication from the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge against the change was suppressed. The Council had coolly resolved that only their chairman's and their editor-cum-secretary's effusions should appear. How on earth was organisation possible? A more scandalous abuse of power it is impossible to conceive. Having secured the postal vote, the next move was to get a big majority in London to support the change in the rules. This would impress the Court, although only a bare majority was needed at the confirmatory meeting. Wherefore Mr. Shipton issued 2,000 reminders in the form of a postcard, which were sent out to members residing near London. Mr. Shipton swears the object was to get a quorum of ten members. He knew the Council would form a quorum. Here was a gross waste, but somehow or other Mr. Cladish, of police-court fame, managed to send practically none of these cards to members who by their postal vote had voted against the extension of the club's membership. He admits he only sent cards to those who had voted by post. After all these tricks with the Council vote there were only 173 for the change against 150. And yet the rotten petition was persisted in.

I have shown that by non-publication of the list of members, by refusal of access to the list, by jockeying meetings, by deliberately burking discussion, by using the list of voters to secure supporters who can but be ignorant of the tricks to which it resorts, the Council

presents every opposition to, and has every advantage against, those who consider that men who behave in this way are not to be trusted with the affairs of a club whose income from subscriptions, advertisements, and investments is in round figures £10,000 a year.

The South will not be seen in the final of the Association Cup tie at the Palace. Lancashire and Yorkshire, Everton and Sheffield Wednesday, will give battle, and Everton, the holders, will probably win. The Arsenal were badly beaten by the Wednesday team. West Bromwich made a great fight against the holders.

After the performances of Lovejoy and Reece last week, the Billiard Association will probably consider that the anchor stroke should be barred.

Cambridge received a bad beating by Oxford in the sports. It was well deserved. The team was about as bad a one as I have ever seen, with very few individual exceptions. There was the brilliant hurdling of Powell, who equalled record for the hurdles, with Hussey, the Oxford man, only a foot behind him. The hammer-men and weight-putters were good. But of the rest, the least said sooner mended. MacLeod ought to have won the sprint, but he could not stay the distance. The jumpers and quarter-milers were not up to College form. The mile and half-mile lacked style and finish, and flapped their arms and hands about badly. In these two events Oxford were not much better. Their second strings ran admirably and fairly killed the Cambridge men by making them sprint too soon. Young's jumping was excellent, and so was the hammer-throwing. Mr. Cecil Rhodes was responsible for these events and the weight as well. The twin brothers Chevasse sprinted well and should improve a lot. But, considering the admirable state of the track, the absence of wind, and the warm, fine day, the times in both the hundred and quarter were disappointing.

St. Paul's won the public school gymnastic competition at Aldershot. I hope these schools will at once adopt the Swedish drill and exercises that are to be used in the Army. Then the physique of the boys of all conditions will improve, and the cricket, football, and boats, where there is a river, will reap the benefit. The same school won both the heavy and middle weights, while the feather-weight went to Bedford Grammar School and the light-weight to Charterhouse.

Evidence of the growing popularity of golf is to be seen in the holiday arrangements of the railway companies. Here, for instance, is an announcement of the Great Northern that, for the convenience of golfers desiring to spend Easter at links within easy distance of town a special express is being run to-morrow (Thursday) evening to Sheringham, West Runton, and Cromer, and a return express on Tuesday morning. To many men this will be a great advantage, more especially as the extended week-end tickets for Easter will be available by these expresses.

MAMMON.

Apprehensive Stock Markets—More Failures Feared—The Rise in the French Bank Rate—Consols and Sinking Fund Purchases.

THE past week has not been a happy time for the Stock Exchange; indeed, about the only comfort members can derive from it is that things have reached such a stage that any change must be for the better. Owing to the gloom cast by the continued slump in Americans and the stringency in the money market, there has been a complete lack of buying power anywhere. The result has been that a moderate amount of liquidation found prices extremely susceptible, and the all-round fall, following upon the heavy shrinkage that occurred in the previous account—I might almost have said for many accounts—aroused at one time grave fears regarding the outcome of this week's Settlement. Fortunately, as the result of a good deal of arrangement between certain firms and their creditors, matters appear to have since been smoothed out sufficiently to avoid serious trouble. That there will be some failures is almost a foregone conclusion, but apparently the area of trouble will be restricted to the smaller fry. A certain measure of confidence was imparted by the announcement that the Stock Exchange will, after all, be shut on Saturday next, in accordance with the usual custom in Good Friday week. It was understood that, before deciding, the committee took counsel with the leading banks on the subject, and the fact that judgment was given in favour of a holiday has of itself done much to remove alarmist feelings as to the outcome of the Settlement. An event that did much to increase the nervous sentiment prevailing last week was the announcement of an advance from 3 to 3½ per cent. in the discount rate of the Bank of France. As the Paris authorities have made no change in their official rate for seven years—the last movement occurring on May 25, 1900, when a reduction took place from 3½ to 3—it was natural, perhaps, that the step should provoke a certain amount of suspicion, with markets in their present highly strung condition. But looked at calmly, there is no reason why the change should be regarded as in any way a sinister omen. Rather is it a matter for wonderment that the French have so long been practically unaffected by the monetary alarums and excursions prevailing at other leading international centres. Owing to the gold-hoarding policy pursued for some years by the Bank of France, and rendered possible by the various measures peculiar to that institution for preventing the free movement of the metal, Paris has been for the past seven years a kind of financial monastery. However, the directors of the Bank could not hope to prevent indefinitely the flow of water downhill, and of late the obligations of France to other countries, incurred because of the more attractive rates offered abroad than those at home, have rendered a rise in the Paris Bank rate necessary. So far as can be gathered, Paris a short time ago became indebted to the United States to a fairly large extent upon purchases of Railroad short term notes. She has also taken 11½ millions of Japanese bonds, the bulk of which is not unlikely to be transferred to this side because the old bonds which are to be replaced by the new issue are nearly all understood to be domiciled here. Further, French capitalists have taken a prominent part in subscribing for the new Argentine loan of £7,000,000, a matter which also seems likely to increase London's drawing power upon Paris. Under these circumstances, therefore, and bearing in mind the wide difference that still exists between money rates in France and those elsewhere, it is doubtful if the directors of the Bank of France expect to put a summary stop to the export of gold coin to London and other places; indeed, if such be their intention, it would not be surprising to see a further advance in the discount rate within the early future. Meanwhile, the City remains harassed by doubts as to our own Bank rate. It is to be hoped we shall be spared a return to the iron collar of 6 per cent., but the old lady of Threadneedle-street is not in a position to allow her reserves to be tampered with, and if New York commences to take gold from us in any large quantity a rise in the Bank rate may be regarded as a certainty.

With markets all painted in such drab colours, it was, perhaps, too much to expect any revival in Consols last week. There is, however, hope for the future in the sinking-fund purchases that apparently have already been commenced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. While irresponsible critics still rail against the Government for the depression in the funds caused by circumstances over which the present Administration has no control, the Government broker continues his daily visits to the Consol market, having purchased something like £50,000 of stock per day for the past three weeks. This is the best medicine for Consols, and, judging by the probable extent of the current year's surplus, it is evidently going to be applied in large doses. The effect may be hidden for a time, but later on it should be plainly evident, and the rally in the funds ought to do something towards improving the condition of other investment securities.

THE SITUATION IN HOME RAILS—A FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LONG-HEADED PURCHASER—HIGH YIELDS AND GROWING TRAFFIC RETURNS—SCOTTISH RAILS AND CO-OPERATION.

The past week has done nothing to repair the shattered fortunes of Home Railway stockholders, though a negative satisfaction may be derived from the fact that prices have only moved in sympathy with Stock Exchange securities as a whole, and that the fall in rails was less severe than in many other departments. That the market is ripening for a rally most people are in agreement; even brokers who for some years did not conceal their antipathy to Home Rails are beginning to relax their attitude now that stocks have got upon a yield basis of 4½ per cent. and even more, while traffic returns continue to show steady increases. Dear money, however, remains an effective barrier to an upward movement, and while the position in that respect keeps so unfavourable, it would be folly to recommend speculative operations in stocks. The appeal made by Home Rails is still to those capitalists who are in a position to take advantage of the present low range of prices to buy and to sit on their purchases for a twelvemonth at least. For some years the Home Railway market suffered more than any other department in the House from the combined effect of monetary stringency and declining dividends. Owing to the trade boom that began eighteen months ago, the fall in dividends—as regards the leading trade lines—has been summarily checked, the distributions made a month or two ago being in several cases the best for a number of years. The fact, therefore, that stocks have not only shown practically no response to this improvement in intrinsic conditions, but, on the contrary, are actually a good deal lower than they were before the trade revival set in, is conclusive evidence that it is the external circumstance of dear money which constitutes the market's evil genius. The Socialistic bogey, which has been so frequently trotted out by party politicians for electioneering purposes, has probably also done something to kindle prejudice against the railway market in the minds of British investors, and thereby tend to depress prices. Thus the sword wielded by those writers who pose as champions of the capitalist is a two-edged one, and I often hear, in imagination, the Stock Exchange, after reading the inflammatory epistles of the scare monger, praying to be saved from its friends. That the railways are in danger of anything savouring of confiscatory legislation I do not for one moment believe, and those who have allowed the subject to prey upon their nerves may derive some comfort from the remarks made in the House of Commons a few days ago by Mr. Lloyd-George—who has been freely pointed to as the apostle of anti-capitalist measures—to the effect that "nothing should be done to make railway investments so unremunerative that the companies could not get money for the purpose of development."

On the question of gross traffics the feature for some time past has been the virtual stagnation of passenger earnings in face of a substantial increment in goods receipts. Taking thirty-eight lines of the United Kingdom, whose figures have been collated by the *Railway News*, the aggregate showing for the eleven weeks of the half-year reveals total goods takings as £12,262,000, an increase of £387,000, and total passenger takings of £7,748,000, an advance of no more than £23,500. These results emphasise what I said a week ago in referring to the attractiveness of North-Westerns, North-Easterns, Great Northerns, and Hulls, which carry a preponderance of merchandise and mineral traffic. The way in which the Hull and Barnsley is forging ahead induces me to again single out this stock for the attention of the speculative investor. A return of 4¾ per cent., with a prospect of its being more, is not to be lightly refused even in these times of high-yielding stocks. The company, moreover, according to a rumour current in the market, has decided to postpone the proposed preference issue for the present. No doubt it is only awaiting a more favourable opportunity of getting placed, but delay is all in favour of the ordinary stockholders, so far as the current year is concerned. Reverting to the broad question of the slow improvement in railway passenger business, it may be hoped that with the advent of better weather we are about to witness an increase in the pace. It is, perhaps, significant that last week saw a distinct advance in the ratio of coaching increase, the results on the thirty-eight lines already referred to being: Passengers, £704,300—increase, £17,400; goods, £1,169,000—increase, £43,200. Given fine weather, there is reason to expect the coming Easter holidays to greatly stimulate passenger business, and in ordinary weeks this class of revenue ought to expand at a growing rate, as the benefits accruing from trade prosperity become more widely spread.

After the doleful reading made by the reports, it could hardly be expected that the Scottish Railway meetings held last week could produce much that was cheerful. The chairmen of the two leading lines did their best to meet anticipated criticism by dwelling upon the losses incurred by the strike in the Clyde shipbuilding yards, the clearance of snow from the tracks, and the repair of damage done by the blizzards; the great advance in compensation claims; and the rise in the price of materials. But the recital of these circumstances, all of which had been known and allowed for in advance as far as it was possible for the market to do so, did not remove the feeling that the underlying cause of the present dismal dividend position is the lavish expenditure on capital account that has been incurred for some years in pursuance of a policy of cut-throat rivalry. Evidently the boards themselves have begun to see that things have reached the critical stage, for at the meetings of the three leading companies each chairman had something to say about his willingness to co-operate more closely with his neighbours in order to reduce unnecessary expenditure. The Earl of Dalkeith made the most explicit declaration when at the meeting of the North British he declared that the whole business of the competing companies must be dealt with, and that the directors would give the matter their immediate attention, and that it was quite possible to come to a satisfactory arrangement. It is sincerely to be hoped that the suggestions thus thrown out will fructify in the direction of a practical working arrangement. Some security for the genuineness of these reform pleadings is contained in the fact that without definite promises of a changed policy neither company could hope to raise more money on reasonable terms. But, after all is said, what a thousand pities it is that the respective boards could not have been wiser before the event, instead of waiting until the inevitable effect of wasted substance compelled them to return to the path of financial rectitude.

Home Rails.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 16. 1907.	Mar. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	69½	69¾	+ ¼
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	27	26¾	− ¼
Central London	96½	82½	70	70	—
City and S. London	47½	39	41	40	−1
Furness	69¾	61¾	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅝	37¼	36	36	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81¾	69	60½	60½	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	29½	28¾	− ¼
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14½	13¾	−1¼
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	74¾	73¾	−1
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	97	97	—
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	40¾	39	−1¾
Great Western	144	122⅝	124½	123	−1½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42¼	47½	45½	−2
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	101	101	—
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	98	96½	−1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¾	13	14	13¾	− ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	82	80	−2
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	50	48	−2
London and North-Western	163½	147½	145½	143⅜	−1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	47½	46½	− ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	43	42½	− ½
Metropolitan District	37½	18¾	14½	13½	−1
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	64	64	—
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	62½	61½	−1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅝	68½	66⅜	−1½
Do. Def.	47⅜	38⅜	33½	32⅜	− ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	136¾	135¾	−1
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96½	98	98	—
South-Eastern "A"	55½	44½	41½	39½	−2⅛

HOW TO OPERATE IN STOCKS SUCCESSFULLY.—See HALFORD'S ADVISER (post free).—PALMERSTON HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. ESTABLISHED 1869. TELEGRAMS: "MONITOR, LONDON."

Fresh Sensations in Yankees—Harriman and Hill Stocks Again Lead a Heavy Decline—Eries Another Very Weak Spot—The Outlook Considered—Hard to See Blue Sky Ahead.

After the temporary rebound that followed the mysterious two days' panic in Wall Street to which I referred a week ago, the slump in American Rails has broken out with fresh virulence. At the beginning of last week it appeared evident that stocks taken over in order to allay the panic were being turned adrift again, and, helped by this circumstance, the "bears" renewed their attacks with greater energy than ever. Now and again the market paused in its downward course, but only to permit of operators for the fall securing profits, and how values have suffered on the week may be gathered from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	March 16, 1907.	March 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅝	89	94⅜	91	– 3¾
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109¼	101	99½	99	– ½
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅜	104¾	98¼	– 6½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	93	91	– 2
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	43	40½	– 2½
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152⅓	142	137	– 5
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	32½	31	– 1½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅜	85⅝	76	76	—
Erie	52½	40	30½	24	– 6½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	67½	63	– 4½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	48½xd.	40xd.	– 8½
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	154	148	– 6
Louisville	166⅞	143¾	123	120	– 3
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	39	35	– 4
New York Central	159½	130⅜	122	120	– 2
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	40½	35	– 4½
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87½	80	77½	– 2½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	86	85	– 1
Northern Pacific	235	190¼	132	126	– 6
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63⅜	64½	62	– 2½
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅜	55¾	51	– 4¾
Southern	43⅞	33	24	21¼	– 2¾
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	78½	77	– 1½
Southern Pacific	99⅞	64⅜	81¾xd.	78¼xd.	– 3½
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	142¼xd.	135¼xd.	– 6¾
U.S. Steel	52⅛	33¾	39¼xd.	35¼xd.	– 3⅝
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅛	103½	101½	– 2

Once or twice the market was agitated by reports that several large financial houses in New York were on the point of "going under." It was naturally not difficult to obtain credence for such rumours, after the landslide of the last few weeks. Up to the time of writing none of these reports crystallised into fact, but that certain people have incurred enormous losses goes without saying, and it is perhaps not to be wondered at that one of the principal market leaders was freely talked about last week as having been "cleaned out," and having to submit to his holdings being taken over.

The stocks of the Standard Oil, Harriman, and Hill roads were again the storm centre, though towards the end of the week Erie issues became sensationally weak upon the news that the Board, owing to the difficulty of raising capital, and the high cost of materials, would follow the example already set by the New York Central, Chicago Milwaukee, Atchison, and other railroads in suspending all proposed new construction. Thus, one after another the leading companies are shutting down upon work connected with the physical improvement of their systems, and the effect upon the industrial situation and upon railroad gross earnings must be pronounced; in the latter connection it is important to bear in mind that a large proportion of the enormous traffic carried by the railroads during the last few years has resulted from the heavy expenditure the railroad companies themselves have been making in order to add to the efficiency of the various systems. The market has already begun to feel the big effect upon operating costs produced by dear materials and advanced wages, and with the growth in gross takings threatened both on account of restriction of railroad construction and legislative enactment to lower passenger and freight rates the outlook cannot be regarded as roseate. There is no doubt that before long the question of the maintenance of dividends will become in a number of instances a very practical issue, and while it is early yet to attempt a detailed forecast, the possibility of reductions should be borne in mind by those apt to lay too much stress upon stock yields based on past distributions.

The more one hears of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing on the railroads as regards the handling of traffic, the more is the conviction pressed home that the recent advances in dividend should never have been permitted, nor would have been, as a rule, except to serve some ulterior purpose. Mr. James J. Hill's recent statement that the railroads needed to spend $1,100,000,000 annually during the next five years in order to raise their physical standard to the needs of the times, was, perhaps not unnaturally, ridiculed by some critics, but admissions made subsequently by individual companies must leave those critics wondering whether the assertion was, after all, such a random shot as was supposed. For instance, to quote from the chairman of the Louisville and Nashville—a line which has hitherto ranked pretty high for its allowances upon betterments—it will be necessary to reduce grades and curvatures, construct second tracks, purchase new equipment, and secure further terminals and shops during the next five years at a cost of $100,000,000. As I have already stated, the companies for the moment are going slow in this matter of physical improvements, but the delay is merely due to the unfavourable combination of circumstances governing the money and labour markets and the political situation. Were these clouds to suddenly be dispersed, a contingency which is to the last degree unlikely, it would apparently be right to expect a resumption of new stock issues for big amounts by the companies generally. Looked at this way it is hard to see blue sky ahead for the American market.

Heavy Slump in Canadian Pacific—The Question of Canadian Passenger Fares—Argentine Rails and the Crops—The Poor Maize Outlook—Has it been Discounted Already?—Rosarios and the Dividend—Another 6 per Cent. Stock—United of Havana Debentures—An Attractive Investment.

Owing to the difficulties encountered by speculators in London as well as in New York and on the Continent, the past week has witnessed a heavy outpouring of Canadian Pacifics, and the price was driven down on Saturday to 167½, while on Monday a further break occurred to 164. Movements like this, while they need not seriously perturb the man who has bought Canadas for investment, must have awkward consequences for those people who have been so venturesome as to "bull" the shares. Under existing market conditions Canadas have derived no benefit from recent earnings, though the traffic return for the second week of March showed the handsome increase of $226,000, which was quite a return to old times. Reports, too, from the Dominion are generally couched in hopeful vein. The spring rush of immigrants from the old country to the North-West has started in earnest, and the Canadian Pacific has begun running special trains to accommodate the newcomers. Railway officials report that an enormous amount of west-bound traffic is being offered. Between now and the beginning of May a large number of new engines and cars will be received by the Canadian Pacific, thus relieving to a considerable extent the traffic congestion about which there has been such an outcry of late.

Grand Trunks have not escaped the depression shared by Stock Exchange securities as a whole; in fact the liquidation of those issues was particularly noticeable, a good deal of stock coming out in connection with options not exercised. Some people may have been led to sell by a decision of the Board of Railway Commissioners fixing the passenger rate on the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific systems at a maximum of 3 cents a mile in Eastern Ontario, and also in Alberta and Saskatchewan, as far west as the foot of the Rocky Mountains. A little investigation, however, soon showed that this decision would effect very little alteration in existing tariffs. The Grand Trunk's fares from Montreal to Toronto are already on a 3-cent basis, while so far as the Canadian Pacific is concerned, the average

amount received per passenger per mile in the year 1905-6 was under 2 cents, namely 1.80 cent. Apparently, therefore, this fixing of a maximum rate of 3 cents can at the worst only affect the companies in certain isolated instances. How Colonial and Foreign Rails have moved lately may be seen from the following table:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Mar. 16, 1907.	Mar. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅜	179½	167½	-12
Grand Trunk	29⅛	25⅛	31⅛	28⅝	-2⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	102	101½	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	121½	114⅞	121½	121	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105½	113	112	-1
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60⅛	73½	69	-4½
Mexican	50⅜	22½	62½	56	-6½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅜	145½	140	-5½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅜	49½	96	93	-3
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11⅝	6	12	11⅜	- ⅝
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	115½	- ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	86	85	-1
Do. First Incomes	30	18	23½	22	-1½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88⅛	90½	90	- ½
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65½	78	77	-1
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	37½	54	53	-1
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	23	22	-1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180⅛	162	154	155	+1
Nitrate Rails	16⅝	14½	15⅞	15½	- ½
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	107	104½	-2½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅜	64½	76	73½	-2½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	116½	112½	-4
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	104⅜	103	-1⅜
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	126	123½	-2½
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	123	120½	-2½
East Argentine	120	87	117	115	-2
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	67½	64½	-3
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref	108⅜	85	89½	88½	-1
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	87½	86	-1½
Great Western of Brazil	16⅛	12½	11⅝	11	- ⅝
Leopoldina	86½	69½	75⅞	74½	-1⅜
San Paulo	214⅞	199½	215	214	-1
Central Uruguay	92½	82	91	89	-2
Costa Rica	29⅛	25	28	27	-1
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80	78	78	77	-1
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76⅜	78½	77	-1½
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76⅜	83	82½	- ½
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	112	112	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	49½	42	-7½
Cuban Central	7⅛	5⅝	6⅞	6½	- ⅜
United of Havana	193	105⅜	111	107	-4
Western of Havana	15⅜	12½	12⅞	12½	- ⅜
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94⅜	87⅜	90	90	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs	8⅝	76	77¼	78½	+1
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19½	22½	22½	—

The Argentine railway market, after a brief show of strength, succumbed with other things. It is, of course, necessary to keep in mind when considering the outlook for Argentine Rails that estimates of the maize crop, which will begin to be harvested in about a month's time, are for a crop 50 per cent. smaller than last year, owing to the damage wrought by drought and locusts. At the same time, if traffics are likely to show up less favourably later on, the companies have made such a splendid start in the current year that they can view a shortage in one crop with equanimity. Wheat, the carriage of which is the most profitable to the railways, has constituted a bumper crop, and altogether, making allowance for the heavier and better quality of wheat in the principal zones of production and the larger area under cultivation, the total export of cereals will, according to the latest estimates, be at least as large as those of last year, notwithstanding the assumed loss of half the maize crop. Glancing at current prices of stocks, it may reasonably be asked if the market has not already made liberal allowance for unfavourable possibilities. I referred a week or two ago to the fact that Buenos Ayres and Pacific Ordinary could be bought to yield 6 per cent.; now Rosarios must be included in the same category. The Rosario Board, as expected, has refrained from increasing the dividend this time, the 3½ per cent. just declared on the ordinary making the distribution for the twelve-month to December 31 6 per cent., or the same as for 1905. Seeing that the line earned over £500,000 more in gross during 1906, there was no question that a higher dividend could have been paid, even making allowance for a fair addition to working costs. As I pointed out some time ago, however, it was unlikely that the company would raise the dividend for the present; its policy is, first of all, to build up an adequate reserve fund, besides which the directors are no doubt anxious to avoid doing anything that might afford a peg for popular agitation against it, seeing that its fusion with the old Central Argentine (which no doubt is believed by many stockholders to have been all settled years ago) still awaits ratification by the Government. As an investment, "Rosies" at 103, cum 3½ points dividend, should surely be worth picking up.

Another stock in the foreign railway group that is worthy the notice of my readers is United of Havana Five per Cent. Irredeemable Debentures (1906). Those who know anything of the recent history of this railway will agree that its debenture stocks rank almost as gilt-edged securities. The special attraction about the 1906 debentures is their price in relation to the older irredeemable stock. While the latter stands at about 114, the former can be bought (taking the quotation at the time of writing) at 109, or say 108½, making allowance for the fact that it is obtainable free of stamp. On the question of merits there is very little to choose between the two issues. The 1906 stock ranks after the earlier issue upon the old line, but constitutes a first charge upon the Cardenas and Jucaro system, to partly meet the cost of acquiring which line was the object for which most of it was created. That brings me to the real explanation for the present comparative cheapness of the 1906 stock. Being a recent creation, and moreover being offered largely to Cuban people, who did not want to take it up—because of the high yields obtainable on local investments—a fair amount of the issue has not yet found a permanent home. Later on, when the floating supply becomes better absorbed, the prices for the Consolidated Fives and the 1906 issue will probably be identical. At the present price the yield is 4⅝ per cent.

South Africans Depressed under General Market Conditions—The Labour Policy of the New Transvaal Ministry—Randfontein Report.

The tide has still to turn in favour of the holders of Kaffirs. During the past week the general tendency has been unfavourable, but, considering market conditions as a whole, this group has, perhaps, given less cause for complaint than most others. The hoped-for statement by the new Transvaal Ministry as to its policy in regard to the labour question has been duly made, but the market has been more concerned with influences other than those connected with the Rand mining industry. The main factor has been the uncertainty as to the outcome of the Settlement, and until this is removed it seems hopeless to look for much improvement in market conditions. Doubts on this score, however, should soon be settled one way or the other, this being pay day, and it would certainly seem that the worst has been fully discounted. In part the set-back in Kaffir prices that has occurred during the past week has been due to sales of stock in connection with options which had been opened for the end-March account. Prices having fallen, those who had given for the call of shares did not exercise their option, and the grantors of the options who had followed the usual course of purchasing half the amount of stock consequently realised their protective holdings. In addition, the Kaffir market has been affected by liquidation of a forced character, and there having been little inclination to lend support in view of the uncertainty surrounding the outlook, the realisations have naturally had more effect upon share values than they would have had under normal conditions. The following table of the prices of the large speculative counters will give an idea of how prices have fared on the week:—

Share.	March 16, 1907.	March 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo French	1⅝	1⅜	- ¼
Apex	3⅛	3¼	- ⅛
Consolidated Gold Fields	4⅛	4⅛	- 1/32
East Rand Proprietary	4⅜	4⅜	- 1/16
Geduld	2⅜	2⅛	- 1/16
General Mining and Finance	1⅜	1⅛	- 1/16
Goerz and Co.	1⅞	1⅞	- ⅛
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1¼	1⅛	- 1/32
New Modderfontein	6½	6	- ½
Randfontein Estates	1¼	1⅛	- ⅛
Rand Mines	6⅛	6¼	- ¼
S. A. Gold Trust	2⅛	2⅛	- ⅛

The policy outlined by the new Transvaal Ministry in respect to the labour question is in accordance with the statements made before the elections, and with the terms of General Botha's speech at Pretoria subsequent to his becoming Premier. It is not proposed to repatriate the Chinese until an efficient substitute, either in the form of fresh labourers or labour-saving machinery, is found. If substitutes cannot be found, the indentures of the Chinese will be temporarily renewed. It is pointed out that with the exception of the indentures of some 400 coolies which expire at the end of June, no indentures are due to expire until August, and as the Legislature will reassemble early in June it is expected that the situation will be dealt with in time to prevent a steady exodus of labour from the mines. It is generally considered that the policy outlined means that the progress of the mining industry will not be seriously interfered with, and it is thought that Kaffirs stand a good chance of being among the first securities to present a more cheerful appearance when general conditions on the Stock Exchange return to normal. The announcement of the Transvaal gold output for the current month—or the anticipation thereof—should tend to assist the market, as the figures are likely to be better than any issued so far.

The annual reports of the companies comprising the Robinson group have now been issued on this side, and I propose next week to review the results and prospects of the gold mines. Meanwhile, I will deal with the important financial undertaking of this group, namely, the Randfontein Estates, which is the parent of twelve subsidiaries. This company's operations last year resulted in a net profit of £120,000, compared with £140,000 in 1905, and the carry forward is thereby increased to £3,574,000. The cash in hand at the end of the year amounted to £658,000, and accrued dividends to £81,436. Shares held represented £5,274,059, but out of this holding the scrip dividend to holders of Randfontein Estates is to be taken. Debentures held by the company stood in the books at £975,000. These comprise the whole of the Debentures issued by the four producing subsidiary mines, and they return the parent company a steady income. Now that the labour outlook is considered satisfactory by the management of this group, an active policy is to be pursued; work on the eight Randfontein subsidiaries which have not yet reached the production stage is to be pushed on, and an increased output by the four which are already contributing to the gold output of the Transvaal is foreshadowed.

There has been a fair amount of activity in diamond shares, and De Beers have been particularly erratic. Following the set-back as a result of forced liquidation to which I referred last week, De Beers came into strong demand on French account, but they have since given way with other descriptions, and show a substantial decline on the week:—

Share.	March 16 1907.	March 23. 1907.	Rise or Fall
De Beers Pref.	17⅞	17½	– ⅜
,, Def	26⅜	25¼	–1⅛
Jagersfontein Pref.	4½	4½	—
,, Def.	9⅜	9¼	– ⅛
New Vaal River	6¼	5 15/16	– ⅜
Premier (Transvaal) Pref.	8½	8¼	– ¼
,, ,, Def.	13	12⅞	– ⅛

While on the subject of Diamond shares I may mention that the report of the Orange Free State and Transvaal Diamond Mines—a member of the Robinson group of companies—has just been issued, and shareholders will be glad to learn that the policy of inactivity which has been followed in respect of the company's property is to be abandoned for one of activity. The directors have now under consideration a scheme for the further development and more extensive testing of the mine, "and to enable them to achieve this object the board will communicate with shareholders at an early date." Does this mean they will be asked to provide more money? According to the report the cash on hand amounts to £28,000, and this should surely go a good way towards the thorough testing of the property.

Rhodesians have participated in the general tendency towards a lower level of values, and it has not taken much liquidation to depress the prices of these descriptions, there being less inclination to support them than Kaffirs at present. The subjoined table shows how prices have moved on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Mar 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	7/8	31/32	15/16	– 1/32
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2¼	1 7/8	1½	1⅜	– ⅛
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	3/-	4/-	+ 1/-
Globe & Phœnix	1 5/8	1/2	1/2	1/2	—
Lomagunda Development	2½	¾	¾	¾	—
Mashonaland Agency	¾	⅜	½	⅜	– ⅛
Northern Copper	2⅜	⅞	1⅛	1 1/16	– 1/16
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	2¼	1 7/16	1 11/16	1 5/8	– 1/16
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/2	1½	1 13/16	1⅝	– 3/16
Rice Hamilton	1½	⅞	1 1/16	1	– 1/16
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	3/6	3/6	—
Tanganyika Concessions	8⅛	3½	4½	4 7/8	– 1/8
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	7/6	7/6	—
Zambesia Exploring	2⅜	¾	1 1/8	1 1/8	– 1/8

WESTRALIANS INACTIVE—PRICES GENERALLY LOWER BUT IVANHOES SHOW IMPROVEMENT—GREAT BOULDER AND LANCEFIELD PROSPECTS.

Business has been on a small scale in the Westralian market during the past week. What was transacted was mainly in the nature of realisations, and in most cases prices have given way, but it will be seen from the following table of quotations that the decline has not been serious, even though in the narrow state of the market it takes little actual business to move prices.

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Mar. 23, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 1/16	1 3/32	1 3/32	—
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1⅜	⅛	⅜	⅛	– 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/9	4/9	—
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6⅜	4⅜	7½	7	– ½
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	25/-	24/6	– 6d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/9	6/9	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 3/16	2¼	2	1 15/16	– 1/16
Hainault	1 1/2	1⅛	1 3/16	1 5/16	—
Ivanhoe (£5)	7⅜	6 1/16	7 1/16	7 5/16	+ ¼
Kalgurli	12¼	8⅜	11 5/16	11½	– ⅛
Lake View Consols	1 1/16	⅛	3/16	3/16	– 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21 10½	8/6	15/6	15/-	– 6d.
Oroya Brownhill	3½	2	1 3/16	1½	– 3/16
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1/6	5/16	5/16	– 1/16
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3½	1½	1¾	1 5/8	– 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	½	⅜	5/6	4/6	–1/-
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1⅜	1⅛	– ¼

It will be noticed that Ivanhoe is the only share to show any improvement. In my last notes I dealt at some length with the position of this company, and expressed the opinion that the shares are "one of the best holdings in the whole list of mining securities." During the past week there has been some quiet buying of these shares for investment. The final dividend for 1906 is now officially announced, and the amount is, as I foreshadowed, 9s. per share, bringing the total distribution for the past year up to 24s. per share, which is equivalent to a yield of about 16 per cent. on the current market price of the shares. Advices just to hand by mail from the colony as to the development of the mine make satisfactory reading—in fact, they state that, "generally speaking, the prospects of the Ivanhoe were never brighter than they are at the present time." Reports of an encouraging character are also to hand in regard to the way the Great Boulder mine is opening up, and before very long the production of this company should show expansion as the plant for treating the accumulated slimes will probably be in full operation in about a month's time. According to the manager, there are 500,000 tons of slimes available, and he estimates that they will yield a profit of about 4s. per ton. The new plant is estimated to treat about 400 tons per day, on which basis an additional profit of over £2,000 per month should be earned. Among

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the smaller priced Westralians there has been a little demand recently for Lancefields, it being expected that the April return will make a comparatively good showing, and that henceforth the company will be a steady profit-earner on a satisfactory scale.

Deep Leads have given way again, there being little inclination to accord fresh support pending the receipt of encouraging news from the Loddon Valley.

Copper Shares Active and Erratic—Rio Tinto Dividend—Broken Hills Depressed—The Ooregum New Issue.

The volume of business transacted in shares of the Copper group has continued on a pretty large scale, and the leading issues have been very erratic. On the dividend announcement Rio Tintos' came into strong favour among French speculators and the price rallied sharply, but with other descriptions these shares have suffered from liquidation, and it will be seen that on the week they show a further loss although they have been up to over 97 in the interim:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 16, 1907.	Mar. 23 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 5/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/-	15/6	-6d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/8	1 1/2	1 7/16	1 1/2	- 1/16
Taquah and Aboosso	2 3/4	1 1/16	2 1/8	2 1/16	- 1/16
Wassau	1 3/8	1/2	1/2	1/2	- 1/8
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/9	1/9	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	3/6	2/-	-1/9
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	24/6	24/6	—
Esperanza	5 1/16	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	- 1/8
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 7/16	1 5/8	- 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	37/6	36/3	-1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 1/16	4 3/16	4 1/8	- 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2 5/8	1 1/16	29/6	23/6	-6/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	13	12 1/2	- 1/2
Mount Lyell	52.6	33/-	50.9	48/-	-2/9
Mount Morgan	4 1/8	3 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/2	—
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/8	63 3/8	91 1/2	89 1/2	2
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	23/-	23/-	—
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	3/4	2 15/16	2 15/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	18/6	17/6	-1/-
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	11/-	10/6	-6d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	5 3/4	5 13/16	+ 1/16
Siberian Mines	2 13/16	1 1/16	1 7/16	1 1/4	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 3/4	3 1/8	5 1/4	4 1/4	-1 1/2
Waihi	9 13/16	6 9/16	8 15/16	8 13/16	—

The Tinto dividend of £3 per share is in accordance with the general anticipations as recorded in my notes a few weeks back, but some optimists had looked for as much as £3 10s. per share. The distribution announced makes, with the interim dividend, a return of £5 10s. per share for the whole of 1906, which represents a yield of 6 per cent. with the quotation at 90. The total distribution mentioned compares with £4 per share in respect of 1905, and the increase is, of course, due to the advance in the price of the metal, which averaged not far short of £20 per ton higher last year than in 1905. At the present time the price of the metal is over £100 per ton, and has recently been over £110 per ton, and if a high market value for a prolonged period could be relied upon the shares would still appear an attractive purchase, especially as it is understood that the company is making arrangements to considerably increase its production. For official information as to this reported extension the directors' report is awaited with considerable interest. The set-back in the copper quotation during the past week has served to remind speculators that the metal market is a factor of importance in connection with the prospects of the share market. It is to be borne in mind that while for the present the demand is likely to equal the supply, increased production by established undertakings is foreshadowed, and, ultimately, some at any rate, of new copper propositions which have come forward on the strength of the high price ruling for the metal will become contributors to the output. To revert to the share market—Anacondas have fluctuated considerably, and are also lower on the week. But, with normal market conditions, it is thought that these shares will be taken in hand and that the price will recover at least a few points. The dividend due to be declared on Anacondas next month is expected to be at an increased rate. The last quarterly distribution was 1¾ dol. per share, or at the rate of 28 per cent. per annum. The Australian copper issues have been mostly depressed by further forced liquidation. Satisfactory reports continue to come to hand with regard to Mount Lyell developments, but the market in the shares has not been able to withstand the general depression, the large account open for the rise in these shares rendering them all the more susceptible to adverse influences. One or two of the smaller priced shares, however, have shown strength, notably Munganas and Chillagoes. There has been colonial buying of these, and I learn that mail advices from the Colony in respect to the last named are of such a character as would lead one to expect a fairly substantial advance in the quotation under better general market conditions.

In the Broken Hill group there has been forced liquidation, and in the absence of fresh support of any volume prices have dropped away. There has been a general disinclination to open fresh speculative commitments pending the outcome of the Settlement, and there may seem little to encourage mining investors to jump in at the moment, but a period of general depression affords opportunities for securing bargains, and those in a position to take their purchases off the market have now a chance to pick up shares at reduced prices in most departments, not the least attractive of which is the Broken Hill group. The delay in issuing further information as to the Zinc Corporation's position has induced further realisations of the shares. It is contended in some quarters that all through the recent period of activity the management has rather played into the hands of those who have been doing their best to depress the price of the shares, as the information officially issued to shareholders has been scanty, though it was not to be expected that the directors would issue a denial to every rumour circulated in the market. However, I do not think those who bought the shares with a view to dividends should be frightened into throwing their holdings on the market at this juncture. Even if profits do not work out at quite so high a rate as has been predicted, there should be enough to permit of a very satisfactory return on the current price of the shares, if not on the highest level touched during the current year. According to an interview with Mr. F. A. Govett, the chairman of the Zinc Corporation, published in yesterday's *Financial Times*, there has been a preliminary trial with another process, for which the present plant can be easily adapted if it is decided to abandon the method originally followed. Delay in getting results has been caused by the labour shortage and inability to get plant delivered promptly. Mr. Govett summed up the position as follows:—"The conclusion to be drawn . . . seems to be that even if the Potter Process, with magnetic separation tacked on, is not as remunerative as the Cattermole method, at any rate success will be obtained from either one or the other, and it ought not to be very long before this point is decided."

West Africans, American gold shares, the Tin group, and Siberians have all participated in the general depression, but the Indian gold shares have been comparatively firm. In my notes last week I commented upon the proposal by the Mysore directors to establish a mine redemption fund, and remarked that it was an interesting departure from the usual policy of those responsible for the management of the Indian gold mines, the usual procedure being to divide profits practically up to the hilt instead of creating a reserve. An interesting object-lesson with respect to the effect of this policy is provided by the experience of the Ooregum Company, whose annual report has been issued since my former remarks were published. This company is paying a final dividend of 9d. per share on both

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ordinary and preference shares, making a total return for 1906 of 1s. 3d. per share on the ordinary and 2s. 3d. on the preference, absorbing £54,687. The directors also recommend the issue of 137,000 new ordinary shares—thus increasing the capital for the fifth time in the company's history—and ask the shareholders to subscribe for them at par, that is, 10s. apiece. The proportion being one new for every five shares at present held, this is equivalent to asking holders to pay out 2s. per share. The reason for this new issue of shares is that the company, although it is paying dividends, "has no cash for working capital." It must either charge the profits with the whole of the expenditure on capital account or raise fresh funds. The first alternative, the directors state, "would leave sufficient margin for only a very small dividend on the ordinary shares," and they think it would impose an unfair burden upon the holders of those shares. "On the other hand," the directors add, "fresh capital being provided, the profit as earned, not being unduly taxed with expenditure properly chargeable to capital, would be available for distribution in dividends." My readers will be able to judge for themselves as to the sounder policy of the two, and consideration of this matter should make it clear to them that the shares of the Indian group of which the Ooregum is a member must be regarded as more speculative than those of companies which are managed financially on conservative lines.

A Protean Pair of Company Promoters.

The public inquiry into the affairs of the Welsh Slate Quarries, Limited, and the North Wales Slate Quarries, Limited, which Mr. Registrar Hood concluded in the London Bankruptcy Court last week, was of peculiar interest to me, in view of the attention that I have from time to time bestowed upon the promoters of these concerns. The promoters were Messrs. Walter Darby and Henry Warwick Gyde, but they are more widely (if not more unfavourably) known under various aliases than under their real names. No doubt many of my readers will recollect the frequent references in Truth a few years ago to a shady bucket-shop purporting to be carried on by "Maynard, Grant, and Co." That was a *nom de guerre* of Messrs. Darby and Gyde. At different periods and different addresses this Protean pair of City harpies have also preyed upon the public as "McAndrew, Robinson, and Co.," "W. Darby and Co.," "F. C. Lawson and Co.," "Walter Scott and Co.," and "The City of London Investment Corporation." It was in the character of the "Corporation"—registered in Guernsey with a nominal capital of £100,000, but with only £11 15s. issued—that they brought out the two above-mentioned quarry companies. The financial history of these undertakings is sufficiently described in the following extract from the evidence of a Mr. G. H. Dodgson, one of the directors:—

> In the case of the North Wales Company over £3,000 was subscribed by the public for debentures, and only about £40 was received from the sale of slates. They paid about £2,600 to the promoters, £5 5s. weekly as fees to the directors, over £400 for stamping circulars, and various amounts for travelling expenses of the directors. With regard to the Welsh Quarries Company, over £14,000 was subscribed by the public for debentures and £13 odd was realised from the sale of slates. The promoters were paid something over £9,000 in cash, £3,000 odd went in printing, stationery, and stamps, and between £800 and £900 was paid for rent and wages.

Mr. Dodgson was hired as a director at a fee of a guinea a week to perform what he described as the "quite nominal" duties of attending the weekly board meetings and signing the various documents placed before him. The several prospectuses that were issued contained grossly misleading and inaccurate statements, but Mr. Dodgson said that "after the first he did not trouble to read before signing them." Major-General Sir John W. Campbell became the chairman of both companies at the invitation of Messrs. Darby and Gyde. He received £100 a year in fees from each company. He said he did ask a good many questions before signing the prospectuses, but having no personal knowledge of the value of the quarries, he accepted the replies that were given to him. The Major-General was also a trustee for the debenture holders in both companies. One trust deed provided for a half-yearly drawing of fifty of the £10 ten per cent. debentures, to be paid off at £11 10s. each. He was present at a drawing when forty-seven out of the fifty bonds drawn for redemption turned out to belong to the promoters. This did not strike him as peculiar; "but then," the Major-General naïvely added, "he had seen so many curious things in connection with companies." No doubt. He has been connected with other companies, and, as he admitted, "the connection was not a happy one." Mr. Gyde also professed his inability to explain what the Official Receiver called "the conjuring trick" at the drawing of the debentures.

These quarry companies are but two out of a numerous progeny of rotten companies which Messrs. Darby and Gyde have brought forth with disastrous results to confiding investors. In each case they adopt the same *modus operandi*. A company is formed to purchase some small undertaking at a huge price. The directors, or the majority of them, are mere puppets of the promoters; the latter get practically all the money that can be extracted from the public by means of misleading prospectuses and a skilfully-conducted "unloading" campaign, and sooner or later the company reaches its inevitable end in the Bankruptcy Court. One of the most notorious of Messrs. Darby and Gyde's enterprises was the Kent County Gas and Coke Company, floated in 1906 to acquire, at the price of £21,800, some works which had been sold in the previous year for £2,350. This concern, which is now being wound up, came under the notice of Mr. Justice Joyce a few months ago in an action by some of the defrauded shareholders. It was shown that the directors were aware that statements in the prospectuses were untrue, and also that they went to allotment—which, the Judge said, it was neither right nor honest for them to do—owing to the pressure of the promoters. In the course of this judgment his lordship remarked:—

> The prospectus was a most cunningly devised document. He did not think he had ever seen a prospectus more artfully framed to entrap the unwary and the inexperienced. He had no hesitation in saying that the bringing out of this company was nothing better than a swindle, and the public had been most grossly defrauded by somebody. If there was further litigation, he thought it would be found that somebody was a knave and a cheat.

The West Suburban Gas Company, Limited, now in liquidation, the South Luton District Gas Light and Coke Company, and the London and Hull Soap Works, Limited, have also been among the schemes of these prolific promoters. During his examination in the case of the quarry companies Mr. Gyde mentioned that he and Mr. Darby were now trading at London Wall as Walter Scott and Co. The Official Receiver asked what the business was. "To tell you the honest truth," the witness replied, "there is practically no business now." For the sake of the public one would like to believe that the operations of these gentry have come to an end. Unfortunately, however, investors are so credulous and the law is so lax that it is only too likely that Messrs. Darby and Gyde will soon be engaged again in the same old game.

Devonshire Investors and the Cotton Trade.

New mills have been springing up like mushrooms in Lancashire since the cotton trade entered upon its present remarkable spell of prosperity. It is surprising, however, to learn that the demand for capital for these projects has so far outgrown the local supply that this wealthy and flourishing manufacturing district is now reduced to the extremity of borrowing money from the comparatively poor population of Devonshire. In an advertisement "to investors" in an Ilfracombe newspaper, it is notified that the Bamber Bridge

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, "have now opened their Loan Deposit Account, and are prepared to receive loans of £100 and upwards, repayable at call or for a term, bearing interest at 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. per annum, according to amount or term." An application to the secretary at Bamber Bridge elicits the information that the company's mill is "being built," that the share list "opened in November and is expected to close in March," and that "the loans account will be kept open a little longer." Accompanying the secretary's letter is a picture postcard showing the architect's design for the mill—a very fine and large building. But that design has not yet materialised in bricks and mortar, and in the circumstances I think that investors in Devonshire or any other distant place would be well advised to leave the privilege of lending cash to this Bamber Bridge company to the capitalists of Bamber Bridge.

Insurance Notes—Life Assurance as a Whole.

In certain ways the Insurance Department of the Board of Trade is an excellent institution. It is the medium through which life assurance companies of the United Kingdom publish to the world their accounts, in ways which purport to be in accordance with the schedules of the Life Assurance Companies Acts. If, for reasons of its own, any life office chooses to depart from those schedules, and to insist on details being published in the official returns in a form which exhibits its proceedings in an unduly favourable light, the Board of Trade is quite complacent, and includes in the official records any figures which life assurance companies choose to send. In giving evidence before the House of Lords Committee, the Chief Clerk of the Insurance Department of the Board of Trade testified that his Department never had insisted upon true returns, and appeared to consider this a perfectly conclusive reason why they never should insist upon compliance with the Act. To people who, like myself, regard red tape with less reverence than this, the practice seems indefensible, and the deduced consequences inconclusive. Perhaps when the Life Assurance Companies' Acts are amended some steps will be taken, not merely to require a considerable amount of useful information which is not demanded at present, but to insist upon the information being given accurately, regardless of whether or not it is convenient to certain assurance companies to reveal the truth about themselves.

These deviations from strict conformity with the schedules are of importance in regard to individual companies, but they have comparatively little effect upon the tabulated statements of the business as a whole, which are included in the Blue Book that has just been published, and which constitute the official record of British life assurance companies. This record, published in March, 1907, refers for the most part to the accounts for the year 1905. Already a great many companies have issued their reports for the year 1906, and almost any mail may bring from New York the official records of American life offices up to the end of December, 1906. It is thus apparent that in our leisurely British way our latest official records are comparatively ancient history; if the position of a life office is rotten our existing system allows it a superfluous twelve months in which to victimise the ignorant and to proceed from bad to worse. This long delay in publishing accounts ought to be abolished when the Life Assurance Companies Acts are amended; it would be no undue interference with the affairs of the offices to require all of them to make up their accounts to the end of December each year, and to deposit them with the Board of Trade before the end of March at the latest. The Blue Book could then be presented to Parliament in April or May, and be comparatively up to date.

The summaries of the accounts published in the Blue Book are of considerable interest, even if they are rather much out of date. They do not supply a record of the life assurance business of the British Isles; they exclude the British business of Colonial and American life offices, and they include the Colonial and foreign business of English and Scottish life offices. It would be a distinct improvement if all companies, British and foreign, were compelled to give returns of their business in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and if this were made the basis of the official summaries. Still, we will look at the figures for what they are worth, which, after all, is a good deal. The summary of the revenue accounts is as follows:—

	Ordinary.	Industrial.	Total.
Income.	£	£	£
Premiums	25,332,993	11,619,303	36,952,296
For annuities	2,185,859	6,722	2,192,581
Interest	10,860,172	1,032,835	11 893,007
Other items	458,997	175,101	634,098
Total income	38,838,021	12,833,961	51,671,982
Outgo.			
Claims	17,527,265	4,409,035	21,936,300
Bonuses	1,132,576	334	1,132,910
Surrenders	1,706,448	103,811	1,810,259
Annuities	2,137,657	6,925	2,144,582
Commission	1,337,415	2,910,670	4,248,085
Expenses	2,094,516	2,128,687	4,223,203
Shareholders	479,922	579,819	1,059,741
Depreciation	583,018	7,380	590,398
Other items	326,338	311,642	637,980
Increase in funds	11,512,866	2,375,658	13,888,524
Total	38,838,021	12,833,961	51,671,982
Funds	299,349,913	31,765,237	331,115,150

From these figures it appears that the rate of interest earned upon the funds was £3 15s. 4d. per cent. by Ordinary companies, and £3 8s. 9d. per cent. by Industrial offices. This is a falling off in the past thirty years of about 8s. per cent. on the Ordinary funds and 3s. 6d. per cent. on Industrial funds. There is reason to suppose that the Blue Book to be published next year will show an appreciable improvement in this respect. It should, however, be remembered that the essential thing in insurance matters is to compare the rate of interest earned upon the funds with the rate assumed in valuing the liabilities. There is no doubt that this margin is larger at the present time than it was in previous years, and that consequently the financial position of life offices as a whole is stronger than formerly, and the profit for the policy-holders from this source larger than it used to be.

In both the Ordinary and the Industrial companies the proportion of the premium income that is absorbed in commission and expenses is less than it used to be. According to the present Blue Book the expenses are 13.5 per cent. of the Ordinary premiums, and 43.4 per cent. of the Industrial premiums; I am by no means sure, however, that these ratios indicate any real increase in economy. Owing to the much greater prevalence now than formerly of endowment assurances and other comparatively expensive policies, an equal amount of expenditure appears as a lower proportion of the premiums received. Still, speaking not so much from official statistics as from general experience of individual companies, I think it is safe to say that although a few inferior offices are incurring much heavier expenses than before, the bulk of the best companies are spending less than formerly.

The total ordinary assurances in force, according to these official returns, which, in this respect, are on the average at least three or four years out of date, exceed £713,000,000. Of this amount 81.5 per cent. participate in profits, and 18.5 are without-profit policies. About 65 per cent. are policies under which the sum assured is paid only at death; 29 per cent. are endowment assurances payable at a specified age or at death, if previous, and 6 per cent. are miscellaneous policies of other kinds. The significant feature of these statistics is the enormous increase in endowment assurances. When these figures were first published in the Blue Books endowment assurances were 6 per cent. of the whole, and whole life policies were more than 90 per cent. It is permissible to be sceptical as to whether this change is beneficial to either the policy-holders or the companies.

Romano's Restaurant, Strand.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire."

Whatever criticisms may be made in regard to detailed points of these records, there is no doubt whatever that British life assurance, as a whole, is steadily growing stronger and better year by year. The unassailable financial strength of the good companies is little short of amazing, and it is gratifying to see from these official returns of the life assurance business of the country that people in ever increasing numbers avail themselves of the advantages which it offers.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

RAILWAYS.

Rex.—No. 1 would be a fair lock-up purchase. The present price carries the dividend. No. 4 has fair speculative prospects, but I see little to go for in the others. *Curragh.*—Yes. *D. W. E.*—I do not regard the outlook favourably, and would refrain from buying either. *Rancheroo.*—Many thanks for your second interesting letter. Apparently losses in one direction are being compensated for by gains in others, for traffics lately have been showing a welcome improvement. *Perplexed.*—I doubt if you would be able to arrange any large deal at the lower rate mentioned. The difference can only be explained by the fact that one firm is willing to take greater risk There is scope for an option on the cheaper terms you name, but as regards your last question I must refer you to Rule 8.

MINES.

C. C. C.—I gave a short list of selections last week. Purchases should yield a fair profit when business becomes more active. *Euterpe.*—I see little attraction in these at present. *F. S. D., Brisbane.*—I am much obliged by your letter and the papers. *Marmo.*—I would hold Taquahs for a recovery in price. The share is one of the best selections among West Africans. *Rusticus.*—A purchase of Arizonas would be a hopeful speculation. *Sigma.*—The shares should have some recovery before very long. With regard to No. 4, I am unable to give you an answer; you should address the query to the Goldfields Company. *B. J. S.*—Hold all for the present, but take advantage of a moderate recovery to realise. Instead of putting further money into these I would suggest your making a selection from the short list given in my notes last week. *H. A. D.*—They are a speculation rather than an investment—that is, if you refer to the London and West Australian Exploration shares. There is a fair chance of a moderate recovery.

MIXED SECURITIES.

Reader.—1 Cosmopolitans and Consolidated Deep Leads are hopeful speculative purchases among low-priced mining shares. 2. No. 3. There is nothing much to go for in a purchase of this stock. *Winton.*—1-5. The stocks are desirable purchases, though in buying the various Government issues you had better give the preference to the Three per Cents., as, standing now at a discount, these offer more scope for an ultimate levelling up in price. 6. The Three and Three and a Halfs are full fledged Trustee stocks. *R. R., Sittingbourne.*—It would be hard to beat Great Western Five per Cent. Consolidated Guaranteed, which yields 5½ per cent. *Red Rose.*—1-4. I should be inclined to sell. 5 and 6. Keep these for the present. *Ocean.*—1 and 2. Have nothing to do with these; the Charing Cross Bank is really a common usury shop, run by a man named Carpenter. 3-6. All four are fair purchases, the most attractive being 3 and 6. *Erex.*—1. The Shares are sound enough, and you might well buy, so long as you do not mind the heavy uncalled liability. 2. I have never suggested that Seconds should be avoided. But there is at present so small a difference between the prices of the two that I am inclined to give the preference to the senior issue when advising intending purchasers. 3. The limitation of the guarantee is, without doubt, a principal cause of the lowness of price. The railways are not doing at all grandly, and the ultimate position of the debenture holders is doubtful. 4. Advisable, though I should hesitate to apply the term "safe." *Vortex.*—1. A very doubtful holding. I should be inclined to cut the loss. 2. Worth holding for an ultimate improvement. 3. Quite good. *Straightforward.*—A very unattractive list. *Renda, County Cavan, Quilla,* and others. Will reply next week. *Fitzroy.* Better realise now what you do not require the discount being only 4—than sell the other securities at the moment. *Deutsch.*—A fair investment. *Naval.*—A pure speculation, and hardly attractive. 2. If you refer to Niger Company shares, they are worth holding. *B. B. B.*—Vickers and the other Iron shares might be held. No 2 makes a fair holding of its class; but 5 might be sold. I cannot trace No. 3. *Bowler, Aberdeen.*—They might go a little higher in view of the better tea prospects. Hold a little longer. *Mafalda.*—Schweppe Deferred are rather speculative, but the others are fair. *Glasgow.*—Might be held for the time being.

INSURANCE.

Ajax.—1. National Provident Institution. 2. Perfectly safe, bonus likely to decrease *Rosslyn.*—You would probably be disappointed if you continued; personally I should surrender or lapse. *W. T.*—I shall very likely deal with the whole question of bond companies before long.

MISCELLANEOUS.

W. S., Junior.—See Rule 8 as to recommendations. I may say, however, that the public have been warned against the first of the two firms you name. The sum mentioned is too small for the purchase of shares; have nothing to do with any system of so-called "marginal investment," which is really a gamble. *Inexperienced, Lieutenant R.F.A., F. Mc. E.,* and *Doris.*—I do not give advice as to purchases of foreign Government and Municipal premium bonds. As I have repeatedly explained, the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell and Co., and other touting firms, charge prices enormously in excess of the actual market value of the bonds. *St. Briar.*—You could bring an action against Cunliffe, Russell and Co. for the return of your money, and if you wish to write again I will put you in communication with a Paris solicitor, who has successfully conducted many similar cases against this notorious firm. *Ikona.*—I do not see the quotations to which you refer. As to the firm, I have had no reason to criticise it, but I cannot make any recommendation. Read Rule 8. *D. R.*—See preceding answer. *H. R., Birkenhead,* and *H. R. H. D.*—Thanks for the circulars. *Pack.*—It is impossible to express an opinion without seeing the lists referred to in the letter. *J. C. B.* and *G. A. L.*—My readers have already been warned against these bucket-shops. *Gainsborough.*—The fact that he has paid you and your friend does not prove his bona fides, and the idea that he is a philanthropic capitalist bent upon making money for his customers at the expense of his own pocket is manifestly absurd. Have you ever received inquiries about him from any one? *Karlos.*—I know of nothing against the firm, but this does not mean that I recommend them. I certainly do not advise a speculation on the method described. *A. G. L.*—Leave these bonds alone. *Welshman.*—Hold what you have. *Commutator.*—The threatened licensing legislation seems to be the only reason for the fall. Should be kept, if you have any. *Athenæum.*—Usually, of course, directors take all the fees they are entitled to. *Edwinstowe.*—I should advise you to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange; but see Rule 8. With regard to your first list, numbered 1 to 6, I think it would be a pity to part with such first-rate securities as the Bank shares, the Corporation stock, and Local Loans; No. 5 should also be held. As to No. 6, prospects are partly dependent upon the settlement of the bulk supply question, but on the whole I should be disposed to keep these shares. Of your second list (Nos. 1 to 6), hold Furness and Hulls for the reasons mentioned a week ago. The Indian Native stock is quite good, and ought to be kept. As to No. 1, you do not say whether it is preferred or deferred stock. Nos. 5 and 6 ought to be kept. *Doubtful, Arbroath.*—1. Inquire of the secretary. 2. Leave them alone. *G. R., Richmond.*—A warning against this firm appeared in TRUTH quite recently. I will repeat it in an early issue. *F. B., Blackburn.*—I believe you are legally liable; but you had better consult a solicitor. *H. A.*—The remarkable prospectus of the Provincial Billposting Company hardly seems to require serious criticism. *Shamrock, Derry.*—I regret that I am unable to give you his address. *Wali Dad.*—I have not had occasion to criticise this firm, but as you will see from Rule 8, I cannot make any recommendation beyond saying that it is better to do business with a member of the Stock Exchange. *Country Bumpkin.*—Some, if not all, the desired information could be obtained at Somerset House, but I cannot undertake to search the register for the purpose. *Leviathan.*—1. Probably all right while acting as agent for good insurance company. Security doubtful if issuing its own policies. 2. I do not recommend it as an investment. 2 and 4 are poor. 3. You might hold. 5. Not very attractive. *R. F. W.*—It is not in my province to fill up such a form. You had better get a stockbroker to do the business.

THE TURKISH MATCH GAMBLE—DAIMLER AND DUNLOP MEETINGS—MOTOR 'BUS AMALGAMATION—ARMSTRONG'S—DRAPERY DIVIDENDS.

In the Miscellaneous Market the discussion relating to the New Founders' Association has provided a little serio-comic diversion amid the prevailing gloom. To all except the losers in the gamble that has been going on the story of this undertaking is really rather amusing. Nearly five years have passed since the Association was formed with a capital of £30,000 (since increased to £33,000) to acquire a quarter interest in a monopoly

for the sale of matches in the Ottoman Empire. That monopoly, however, is not yet established, and since the issue of a circular in 1904 affirming that "the prospects of the company were never better," no official announcement has been made by the directors, nor has any meeting of the shareholders been held. But various rumours have been spread so industriously and ingeniously that in the past few months the shares, after being unsaleable at 10s., were put up to £10, from which point they have recently been dropping, with the result that demands have once more been made for the publication of some definite statement regarding the position of the company. The directors remain silent, though a statement has appeared to the effect that the company knows nothing of the market movements, "which are (it is said) engineered against its will by parties over whom its officials have no control." A flood of light has, however, been thrown on the situation by the publication of a letter from Sir Edward Grey. Under the articles of the Berlin Treaty the grant of such a concession by the Sultan is ineffective without the sanction of the Great Powers, and Sir Edward Grey's letter states that the British Government is opposed to the establishment of a match monopoly in Turkey, and that all reports as to a cessation of this opposition are without foundation. In these circumstances the surprising thing is not that the shares have fallen during the past few days, but that they have not fallen still lower. Hudson's Bays suffered severely in the slump at the end of the week, dropping to 100 for the first time for many months.

The meeting of the Daimler Motor Company passed the resolution approving of the proposed re-arrangement of the capital, but not without some opposition on the part of a section of the preference shareholders, whose existing rights are to be extinguished. The scheme is, no doubt, partly responsible for a further slight decline in both the preference and the ordinary issues of the company, though motor and cycle shares generally have been affected by the common tendency downwards. In connection with the invitation to the shareholders of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company to subscribe for an issue of shares in the Dunlop Rubber Company—one of the subsidiary undertakings—at a premium of £5 per £1 share, I have had a letter from a shareholder calling attention to a paragraph in the prospectus relating to the salaries and commissions that are to be paid to the two managing directors. My correspondent has probably seen that this matter was mentioned at the meeting of the Tyre Company in Dublin last Wednesday. No doubt he has also seen that it is a somewhat dangerous subject to deal with, the Chairman, Mr. Harvey du Cros, having intimated that he once held "the heavy-weight championship," and that if he had been near him he would have knocked down one of the shareholders who had spoken. This method of answering a critic seems to have had the approval of the meeting, and not being an ex-heavy-weight champion myself, I think I had better say nothing more about it. The proposed amalgamation of the Vanguard and three other motor omnibus companies is being opposed by a committee of shareholders, who announce that they intend to take certain action which has been recommended by counsel to give effect to their opposition. The reason assigned for this course is "the conviction that the amalgamation scheme was being forced through wholly in the interests of the directors and their friends, the holders of the shilling deferred shares"—a view of the matter for which there is a good deal to be said. Of the flourishing condition of the engineering trades a further proof has been given in the satisfactory report of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. The accounts cover only the six months ended December 31, 1906, it having been decided to end the financial year on that date instead of on June 30 as hitherto; but in that period there has been a substantial increase of profits, and the dividend on the ordinary shares for the half-year is 10 per cent. The dividend was better than had been expected, and a slight rise in the shares has been recorded. The report of the Salt Union reveals an increase in the net profit; but it is too small to offer much encouragement to the shareholders. For the second year in succession the preference dividend is passed, while the ordinary shareholders have received nothing since 1897, when they got 1 per cent. During the past week or so the reports of several companies have borne testimony to the prosperity of the drapery trade in London. D. H. Evans and Co. are paying 22½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, Peter Robinson 18 per cent., Swan and Edgar 15 per cent. on both the preference and the ordinary shares; John Barker and Co. 12½ per cent., and Dickins and Jones 14 per cent. These dividends are in their turn a striking indication of the prosperity of the middle classes, on whose custom the shops mainly depend. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE KEY OF THE SITUATION.

"TELL Mr. Pillinger I should like to see him for a minute."

The speaker was the editor of that popular weekly, *Up-to-Date*. It was the Thursday afternoon before Easter, and the issue for the current week had been published that morning; but the editor had remained up at the office a day later than usual in order to get forward with his arrangements for next week's issue—a step rendered imperative by the disturbing intervention of the approaching holiday.

The editor was a man of large frame, of shrewd, withal good-humoured, countenance, and of genial personality. His labours were just completed, and he lounged comfortably back in his chair, soothing tired nature with an excellent cigarette, while he awaited the compliance of Mr. Pillinger with his summons.

In two or three minutes Mr. Pillinger made his appearance. He was a young man—nearly young enough to be the editor's son—but the gravity and sobriety of his demeanour imparted to him the air of being considerably older than he really was. Popular ideas despite, there was nothing in the least Bohemian about this young journalist. On the contrary, the precision of his dress, the almost prim formality of his manner, and his general air of quiet reserve, rather suggested the confidential clerk in a business house than the descriptive writer on the staff of a go-ahead paper. However, he had the root of the matter in him all the same—to wit, a natural eye for picturesque detail and a ready pen for the conversion thereof into effective copy. Hitherto he had been chiefly employed in doing smart social sketches, but his editor was now about to try him in a different line.

"Look here, Pillinger," he said, "I'm thinking of utilising your abilities next week in something a bit off your ordinary beat. That is to say, I want you to do us a bank holiday sketch (nothing like being topical)—something crisp, sparkling, and racy—dialogue in the true 'Arry and 'Arriet vein—in short, a little cockney cameo from real life."

"Hardly my style, I am afraid," replied the young man, diffidently; "I don't pretend to any proficiency in cockney dialect——"

"Tut, my dear fellow," interposed the editor, good-humouredly, with a sweeping wave of his large hand; "with your powers of observation and assimilation, you'll pick it up as easy as winking. It's not a matter of having to invent. It's simply a matter of keeping your ears open. The thing's got to be done from the life—I mean, you need simply spend next Monday at some popular holiday resort, mix freely with the hoi polloi, and there you are! Of course, I shall make it worth your while," he added, "and you can charge the office with all expenses incurred."

"Thanks very much. But it's not on those grounds that I feel any hesitation," replied the other, still somewhat reluctantly, "only I know so very little of these matters——"

"All the more reason why you should lose no time

in making personal acquaintance with them," interrupted the editor, with good-tempered insistence. "The more versatile you make yourself the better you'll get on. Besides, you've got it in you all right, or else I shouldn't want to put you on to the job. Now where will you go?"

"Wherever you like," replied his subordinate, seeing that further remonstrance was useless. "The Palace, Wembley, the Zoo—I really don't mind in the least."

"Umph!" grunted the editor. "I think if I were you, I'd go somewhere to the seaside—Southend, say, or Margate. Margate, perhaps, for preference. No place like Margate, after all, for seeing 'Arry in his full bank holiday glory. Yes; suppose we decide on Margate."

"Very well. Let it be Margate, then. If I've got to spend my bank holiday out among the riff-raff, I'd as soon do it at Margate as anywhere else," replied young Pillinger, with rather a rueful look.

"Come, man, don't pull that long face," laughed the editor; "I dare say you'll enjoy it when you get there. There's plenty of amusement to be got out of such experiences, if only you enter into the spirit of them."

"That's just what I doubt my capacity for doing," answered Pillinger.

"Rot, my dear fellow," was the editorial rejoinder. "Put on your shabbiest suit, smoke your foulest pipe, throw all Philistine respectability to the winds, and simply let yourself go. You'll find it a novel and far from unpleasing experience. Moreover, you'll thus come back primed to write a really racy and sympathetic sketch. That's what I want. No mere contemptuous description from the point of view of the superior person, but something—damme, what d'ye call the thing—something *subjective*, from the point of view of the bank holiday-maker himself."

"You mean, you want me to project myself into the mind of 'Arry?"

"Precisely. And of 'Arriet, likewise."

Pillinger smiled: "I doubt if I could project myself into the mind of any woman. Women are not in my line. I don't understand 'em," he rejoined.

"Dare say not. You have never, you see, studied them at close quarters," laughed the editor. "However, perhaps you'll be marrying one of these days, and then you'll get to know more about them."

"I shall never marry; women don't attract me," answered the other, with decision.

The editor merely smiled lazily at this announcement. It was evident he was not sufficiently interested in the matter to care to pursue it.

"Well, about this Margate affair," he said, briskly, coming back to the business in hand. "You will go?"

"Of course, since you wish it; and I'll do my best to turn it into good copy," answered Pillinger.

"All right," nodded the editor, and there the interview terminated.

Young Pillinger returned to his lodgings that Thursday afternoon in rather a grumpy humour. His chief's word was law and had to be obeyed; but it *was* a confounded nuisance to be required to spend his Easter Monday in so uncongenial a manner. He hated bank holiday-makers and all their ways. The vulgarity and the rowdiness of their orgies—as he styled them—disgusted his refined sensibilities and got on his nerves. Never, if he could avoid it, did he stir out of doors on these periodical festivals of St. Lubbock. Perhaps that was why his prejudice against them was so strong, as prejudices arising from ignorance usually are. Had he seen more of bank holiday crowds at close quarters he might have modified his views on the subject. But relying, as he did, entirely upon either mere hearsay or remote observation from the altitude of his superior pedestal, he had hitherto had no opportunity of rubbing off the corners of his prejudices. This is the necessary result of imperfect personal acquaintance. It is so in every department of existence. For instance, when you meet, in private life, some bitter political opponent whom you have hitherto only known and hated by reputation, you will be sure to find out that he is not half such a bad fellow as you supposed. He only wants knowing and understanding. That is all. Indeed, in the whole dictionary of proverbial maxims, none is truer or sounder than this: "Tout comprendre est tout pardonner." If perfect comprehension does not lead you actually to love your *bête noire*, it at least leads you to make allowances for him. However, I am telling a story, not preaching a sermon.

But though Pillinger disliked his job, he was too conscientious a journalist not to throw himself into it to the best of his ability. The thing had to be done; and—so far as he could do it—he would do it well and thoroughly. It was in this determination that he entered St. Paul's Station of the S.E. and C.R. early on the morning of Easter Monday and took a third-class excursion ticket to Margate. He might have travelled first for the ordinary third-class fare; but, his object being to get in touch with 'Arry and 'Arriet, he felt it incumbent upon him, though much against his inclination, to submit to such conditions as would insure that result.

The journey down proved hardly so disagreeable as he had expected. It was true the compartment in which he travelled was uncomfortably crowded, having seven on one side and eight on the other. It was true that the atmosphere was rather stuffy with humanity and rank tobacco. It was true that the company was frankly and unashamedly plebeian. But for all this there were compensations in the shape of a constant variety of amusing incidents such as never occur to relieve the decorous tedium of first or second class travel.

You see, these artisans and 'Arries, with their attendant womenfolk, were out for enjoyment, and they didn't mind who knew it. The holiday mood was upon them. Their animal spirits were high, and they gave those spirits full play without making any attempt to disguise them. The loving couples behaved in the most skittish and frolicsome manner. They swapped hats; they exchanged half-sucked bull's-eyes; they chaffed each other, and were chaffed by the assembled company, whom they chaffed back with good-humoured vigour, generally giving quite as good as they got. Pillinger was quite surprised by the readiness of the repartee. It was not, indeed, of the most refined order. But it was spontaneous, racy, humorous, and always to the point. Personalities were freely, though quite good-temperedly, indulged in. And before long our young friend himself—somewhat to his disgust, at first—came in for a share of these facetious attentions.

"Sy, mite," said the man sitting opposite to him, cocking his eye at Pillinger in a waggish manner, "where 'ave yer bin and put yer best gurl—eh, mite?"

Pillinger, much resenting the liberty, bit his lip and affected not to hear the fellow's remark.

"Yer doun't mean ter sy as yer left the pore dear be'ind at 'ome," went on the other, in mocking reproof, "'cos if yer 'ave, yer didn't orter done it—yer didn't reelly, mite."

Pillinger still preserved a frigid silence. By this time the attention of the whole compartment was fixed upon him.

"Hem. He-e-e-e-m. My lord's 'orty to-dy," struck in a pretty, pert, and rather over-dressed factory girl, who sat next to him.

Pillinger flushed, but still not a word.

"P'raps 'is lordship's married—'e looks sad enough," remarked another of the company, "and 'as left 'er lydyship at 'ome to tike care of the noble kids."

"Ho! If that's your ideer of marriage," broke in the speaker's sweetheart, in shrill tones as she pushed him from her, "the sooner you and me turns it up the better."

Here followed a little interlude of reconciliation between the lovers of a nature so amusing that Pillinger could not help laughing, and thus the ice was broken. Before they reached their destination, he was on the best of terms with everybody, and had entered into the spirit of his surroundings to an extent that, at the outset of the journey, he would have deemed impossible.

On getting out at Margate, the rest of the company broke up into twos and threes—mostly twos—and went their several ways. Pillinger was left to saunter down to the front alone. It was an odd thing. Usually he was quite content with his own society. But somehow to-day he felt, for the first time in his life, conscious of a sense of loneliness. Every other man he saw had a

companion—usually a female companion, and the way in which they all stared at him, as though they wondered what he was doing by himself, made him quite uncomfortable. Evidently to be out on bank holiday without your "best gurl" (as the man in the train had put it) was to be a marked man. Pillinger did not like exciting remark in this way. He was naturally too retiring for that, and he almost wished now that he had enlisted the services of his sister, or some other female relative, to come down with him and keep him in countenance.

It was while these reflections were passing through his mind that he suddenly heard himself accosted in a refined, feminine voice:

"You here, Mr. Pillinger?"

Pillinger started, looked up, and took off his hat. There, before him, stood Miss Mildred Stacpole, a fresh, good-looking girl, whom he knew in business as one of the staff of the *Daily Courier*.

"Miss Stacpole—pleased to meet you—unexpected pleasure," he stammered, in the nervous, disjointed way into which this shy young man always fell when first embarking on conversation with any member of the fair sex.

"Thanks," she rejoined, smiling; "but do you know—social amenities apart—I'm really awfully glad to meet you. I'm down here doing 'Bank Holiday Humours' for the *Courier*. And though, of course, I'm well enough used by this time to going about alone in all sorts of places—well, I've never in my life been stared at as I've been stared at since I came down here to-day. The loving couples—if I read their looks aright—seem to regard me as a strange sort of beast for being unaccompanied, while the unattached men I've met appear, for the most part, to infer that I'm of the 'come-and-kiss-me-somebody' type of young woman. Indeed, one or two of them have been most offensively rude in trying to force themselves upon me, and I've had the greatest difficulty in escaping from them. I do not know whether your engagements allow of it. But if so, I should feel really grateful if you could take me under your wing for awhile, Mr. Pillinger."

"Of course—of course," he answered, hastily, "with all the pleasure in life."

He could have said no less even if the favour requested had been ever so distasteful to him. But averse though he usually was to feminine society, to-day, somehow, the prospect of a lady's companionship appeared by no means unwelcome, for reasons which have been already indicated. So the pleasure he expressed in falling in with Miss Stacpole's suggestion was, for once in a way, no mere polite formality.

"What are you doing down here, Mr. Pillinger?" inquired his companion, as they strolled away together in the direction of the Jetty.

"I'm on the same errand as yourself. My editor wants a realistic bank holiday sketch for this week's issue," he replied.

"Have you picked up any useful material for copy yet?" she asked.

"Well, I think I've mastered the cockney accent, more or less," he answered; "I had plenty of opportunity for that in the train coming down, and I've also picked up some good samples of racy chaff. By the way, it's really astonishing how ready these fellows are in their repartee—and the girls, too, for that matter."

It was noticeable how, the moment the conversation began to turn on his professional business, all young Pillinger's shyness vanished. He talked—as he always could talk about that—with complete absence of self-consciousness.

Miss Stacpole nodded.

"Yes," she said, "there's a natural humour about most of these cockneys, combined with a pungent crispness of expression, that is, in its way, quite unique. Even those impertinent young men who tried to scrape acquaintance with me just now—well, angry as I was, I could hardly help laughing at the things they said. They were all so pleased with themselves, too, and seemed to regard it so entirely as a matter of course that an unescorted girl like myself should jump at their advances. And their astonishment when I would have nothing to say to them was downright ludicrous."

"I can believe it," said Pillinger. "These good people seem to regard bank holiday as a sort of special occasion for the pairing of the sexes. In the carriage, coming down, I was, so to speak, the only odd man out, and finely I got chaffed about the absence of my 'best gurl' (as they phrased it) I can assure you."

"Yes, awfully absurd, isn't it?" laughed Miss Stacpole, "as though hunting in loving couples was the one and only way to enjoy a holiday outing. Ah! I have it. Bright idea! I've suddenly thought of a good catch-title for my article—'Among the Amorous.' How does that strike you, Mr. Pillinger?"

"It strikes me as highly appropriate," he answered. "Amorousness is evidently the key of the bank holiday situation."

Miss Stacpole made no immediate reply. She was busy at the moment jotting down headings for an article in her pocket-book.

They strolled about, mingling with and taking stock of the crowds, for an hour or more. Then the voice of the inner man began to make itself heard, and Pillinger suggested that they should adjourn to a restaurant for lunch. Miss Stacpole, who had visited Margate before, knew of a good Italian place not far from the front, and thither they repaired. The restaurant was pretty full up, but they managed to find a couple of seats, and Pillinger gave his orders to the waiter. The viands were good; the champagne was—let us say inspiring; and Miss Stacpole was capital company. Under the combined influence of it all, young Pillinger began to feel unwontedly genial. However, in the course of luncheon, an embarrassing incident occurred that rendered him rather uncomfortable.

The man who had chaffed him in the train happened to enter the restaurant with his sweetheart on his arm. While looking about for seats, he espied young Pillinger lunching with Miss Stacpole, and up he went to him and tapped him playfully on the shoulder.

"What ho! mite," he said, with a facetious wink, "so yer *'ad* got a best gurl up yer sleeve arter orl? Oh yer sly dawg!"

Pillinger flushed crimson to the roots of his hair. Miss Stacpole, who had not failed to hear what was said, also looked rather uncomfortable.

"Is that one of your friends in the train?" she asked, when the man had gone, by way of breaking the awkward silence that had intervened.

"Yes—impertinent jacknanapes!" muttered the blushing and annoyed Pillinger.

"Well, he knew no better. I don't suppose he meant any offence," said Miss Stacpole, whom a good luncheon had evidently rendered more than usually indulgent in her views on things in general.

Young Pillinger muttered something unintelligible, and drank off a whole glass of champagne.

Presently they left the restaurant, and, after promenading awhile upon the jetty, they descended to the sands—the tide being then low—and sauntered along in the direction of the North Foreland. As they went, they passed numbers of amorous couples, sitting in sheltered nooks under the cliffs and caressing each other, with serene indifference to observation, as the proletariate do.

"It is really very remarkable" commented Miss Stacpole, "how openly these lower orders make love! They do not appear in the least ashamed of being seen kissing—the girls no more than the men."

"No. Their ideas on the subject are decidedly elementary," replied young Pillinger. "Though, when you come to look at the question dispassionately—apart from conventional prejudice—" he added, in moralising vein, "why *should* they be ashamed of it? Kissing between lovers is, after all, a very natural and harmless amusement, I suppose—for those who like it."

Miss Stacpole smiled.

"Since when has Saul taken his place among the prophets?" she inquired, mischievously.

"I don't quite spot the allusion," replied young Pillinger.

"I mean, it strikes me as rather odd to hear a man

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who in his writings is so down on lovers and all their ways defend the practice of kissing," she explained.

"Well, it is not in my line, I admit," he answered, "but I would not grudge so innocent a diversion to those to whom it appeals."

"I see," said Miss Stacpole.

"Besides," went on young Pillinger, "on bank holiday, don't you know, one somehow takes a broader and more indulgent view of these things."

"Oh! Does one?" queried Miss Stacpole. "And why, I wonder?"

"Don't know. The holiday fever, I suppose. But, I say, let me give you a hand over these boulders, Miss Stacpole."

The boulders which they had now begun to cross were slimy with seaweed, and the lady gladly availed herself of her companion's proffered hand. Presently she slipped, and would have fallen had not young Pillinger caught her in his arms. He had never held a pretty girl in his arms before, and the effect of it, reinforced by the bank holiday fever, was sudden and electrical. You know what shy men are—very much like faulty soda-water siphons. It takes a deuce of a lot to get them started. But when you do get them started, they go it with a vengeance. So now: young Pillinger went it. To be explicit, he audaciously kissed Miss Stacpole.

"Mr. Pillinger," cried the lady, "I'm amazed at you."

"I'm awfully sorry," he answered, apologetically, "but I really couldn't help it. I hope you are not frightfully angry——"

"Not so much angry," she broke in, "as astonished. You said just now that this sort of thing wasn't at all in your line."

"Nor was it until this moment. I succumbed to a sudden temptation. And—well, you see, after all, as I said just now, kissing is a very harmless amusement for those who like it."

"Yes, for those who like it," she murmured, with downcast eyes.

"And don't *you* like it?" he insisted, with earnest audacity.

Miss Stacpole lifted her eyes to his. She said nothing. But the glance was eloquent. It said more plainly than any words:

"Yes, I do like it very much."

It also spoke in the imperative, as well as in the indicative mood. It said:

"Do it again"—which young Pillinger promptly did.

Over the events and conversation of the next hour I will draw a kindly veil. A journalist myself, I will not give away the weaker moments of a brother and a sister journalist. Besides, those who have been through the critical stage of courting will easily fill in the *hiatus* for themselves. And those who have not—well, let them wait until they do—that's all; and then they will understand why the conversations of newly-engaged couples are, simply on intellectual grounds, unfit for publication. . . . . .

Young Pillinger duly produced his bank holiday sketch to his editor, which the latter pronounced to be quite good.

"But, hang it all, my dear fellow," he said, "don't you think you've given us rather too much love?"

"Not a bit," replied young Pillinger stoutly; "love is the key of the bank holiday situation."

"Hulloa!" exclaimed the editor, "I seem to have come across that phrase before. Yes! I remember now. It was in a bank holiday article I saw yesterday in the *Weekly Courier*."

Young Pillinger blushed furiously.

"Yes," he blurted out, "it was Mildred Stacpole's article. She went to Margate on the same business as I did. And I met her there, and—and—we're engaged."

"So ho! That's it, is it?" ejaculated the editor, beaming on him, kindly. "Well, I congratulate you, my dear fellow. Mildred Stacpole's a real good sort ——"

"You know her, then?"

"Quite well. She's a sort of relation of my wife's."

There was something in the editor's look and tone, as he made this announcement, that made young Pillinger exclaim, suddenly:

"What! you knew all along that Milly was going to be at Margate on Easter Monday?"

"Precisely; and, being aware that love—to use your own phrase—is the key of the bank holiday situation," said the editor, genially, "I sent you there on purpose to give you the opportunity of turning the key in the lock."

ART NOTES.

IF any of those who make a habit of looking at modern pictures still preserve belief in the existence of a place where the isms cease from troubling and the painters are at rest, they may certainly instance the exhibitions of the R.I. as affording grounds for the faith that is in them. I never enter them without a feeling of reverence for their cloistered calm creeping over me—without an instinctive desire to take off my hat, even though I may be already holding it in my hand. There are no iconoclasts here, no furiously raging heathen—everything is quiet, calm, solemn, even a little dull. These Royal Water-Colour painters deserve their title of honour; they are as Royal as the Bourbons; like that exalted race, they have forgotten nothing, and not learned much, of what has been passing in the outer world during the last quarter-century or so. There is not a picture that annoys you, not one that excites you, scarcely one that interests you. You can go away and get your tea with a quiet mind, and without a headache—ten minutes after you have left the galleries it will be to you as though the pictures had never been. Or if you think of them at all, it is in a peaceful reverie in which you distinguish none individually, but have a vaguely pleasant recollection of innumerable little landscapes, and little domestic scenes, and little portraits, all very neat and nicely coloured, and every bit as good as you would find in the best of Christmas Numbers or the highest type of chromo-lithograph.

We ought to be very thankful that such a peaceful institute can exist and flourish even in these ruthless days, especially those of us who, through pressure of business in the outer world, have not had time to come to any very decided opinion about our preferences in art. If we want to buy a picture—and to be hailed as a patron of the Fine Arts is a very worthy ambition indeed—we know that we can go to the R.I. and satisfy the craving at a very moderate figure, being absolutely certain the while that we are not making fools of ourselves. We could enter the gallery blindfold—if the custodians would allow us to do so—turn round three times in the middle (avoiding the settees), and choose the first picture our extended hands should touch, secure in the conviction that it would be an ornament to our drawing-room. I do not believe there is another gallery in Europe of which the same could be said with such confidence.

Of course, there is the R.S.B.A. in Suffolk-street, which has also about it a faint suspicion of incense. But I am very much afraid that the R.S.B.A. has been waking up recently. There are quite a number of paintings there at this moment that insist upon being looked at. They are nearly all landscapes, it is true; and if we confined our blind-man's buff experiment to the subject pictures, we should still be reasonably safe. But if, when we removed the handkerchief, we discovered that we had run up against Mr. F. F. Foottet's "Passing of Spring," I think we should get rather a shock to our nervous systems. It is such a pale, anæmic picture, for one thing, that looks as if it had been "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought"—perhaps through sitting up all night composing spring poetry. And as you look at it it wobbles—or, more

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exactly speaking, its component parts wobble—chiefly because it is all arbitrary blobs of pale paint. As the poet has happily remarked, "I know it's very clever, but I do not understand it," and I am quite sure that it would make the furniture in the ordinary suburban drawing-room feel extremely uncomfortable. In fact, I believe the only way to make it seem quite at home would be to build a pale purple drawing-room on purpose for it, and most of us could not afford that. I think we should be wiser to confine our game of touch-picture to the four end galleries. Those on the north contain the water-colours—little ones, most of them—and almost without exception quite innocuous The South-East and South-West Galleries contain oil pictures, and, for some reason which I cannot fathom, appear to be intended by those in authority as dust-heaps or last refuges for the destitute. I can scarcely believe, that is to say, that the fact that all the best and most interesting pictures are hung in the Central Gallery is altogether due to chance. However it be, were I an exhibitor I should certainly feel the reverse of complimented were my picture hung in one of those secondary rooms in which are collected nearly all the canvases which are neither good nor interesting. Not, of course, that I should blame the Hanging Committee, who are quite right to put the best face possible on to their show by hanging as many good pictures as possible in the most prominent position.

One of the minor features of the show which interests me is the fact that nearly all the most notable landscapes deal with wintry scenes. Certainly Mr. Tom Robertson's "Haven Under the Hill" does not, and were I a millionaire, it is the painting which I should choose to buy and live with with the most confidence. But Mr. East, and Mr. Walter Fowler, and Mr. W. J. Laidlay, and Mr. W. Elmer Schofield, each show a fine and important landscape, and there is not a leaf—unless it be an evergreen—among the four of them, only grey skies, and mud, and snow. Are we becoming a nation of pessimists, or is it that Nature's blue skies and flowers have come to be classed among the efforts of the "pretty-pretty" school, and, accordingly, looked down upon?

Among the many minor shows which are being held at the present time there are two which appeal to me particularly. One is of works by Mr. Wm. Rothenstein. I like Mr. Rothenstein's paintings very much, and admire those which are now at the Carfax Gallery, although they are of the slightest. But what chiefly arouses my admiration is the keen common-sense which has brought them together while the compliment paid to Mr. Rothenstein by the inclusion of one of his paintings in the national collection is still fresh in the memory. It shows an appreciation of the virtues of topicality—an ability to strike while the iron is hot, and an understanding of how to make hay while the sun shines, such as is rarely to be found among the organisers of "one-man" shows.

The other is of water-colours and pastels of Constantinople, by Mr. Warwick Goble, at the Brook-street Gallery. I admire it because, in the first place, Mr. Goble is an extremely clever painter, an able draughtsman, and with a keen eye for fine colour; and in the second, because he has chosen such a fascinating and unhackneyed theme. Even were Mr. Goble's paintings a great deal less attractive than they are, I would much rather possess one of them, dealing, say, with the Galata Bridge or the view of Stamboul from Eyoub, than an equally good painting of some such worn-out scene as is painted by the hundred yearly in Brittany or Normandy or Scotland, or the rest of the stock artist's paradises.

If any temptation to take Bovril on any occasion were needed, it would surely be found in the engravings which its proprietors offer their customers. The latest is a reproduction of Mr. Arthur J. Elsey's Academy picture, "A Tempting Bait," by Messrs. C. W. Faulkner and Co. There is a double significance in the title.

Mr. Herbert Sedcole's mezzotint engraving from Mr. Joseph Farquharson's Academy picture, "Homewards," which Messrs. Frost and Reed have just added to their list of publications, should prove exceedingly popular. It is a very finely finished piece of work.

MUSIC.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONDUCTING.

CAN conducting be taught? That is a rather interesting question which has been raised by Miss Fanny Davies' suggestion that a conducting scholarship or exhibition should be founded at the Royal Academy and Royal College to perpetuate the memory of Sir August Manns. One knows, of course, that all of the more famous existing practitioners of the art have been their own teachers. The well-known remark ascribed to Herr Mottl on the subject may be recalled in this connection. Asked the best way to learn the art, his reply was engagingly simple: "You go up to the desk, and if you can do it—why, you can." (Wenn man 's kann, kann man 's.) There is much virtue in an if, and not less certainly here than elsewhere. Also bearing on the point is the story told in relation to the first performance directed by another eminent master of the craft, to wit, the late Herr Levi. When he was a boy of sixteen in the gymnasium at Mannheim he was studying music under Vincenz Lachner, who was conductor at the opera. One Sunday afternoon Lachner fell ill, and the sub-conductor was ill, too. So they sent for Levi, and Lachner asked him did he dare to undertake the job.. And Levi answered: "Ja." And that night, without rehearsal, he conducted Halévy's "La Juive," and did it wonderfully well—which goes to show that whether conductors can be made or not, some are certainly born. This was the view of the late Anton Seidl, who once expressed the opinion that conductors are of two kinds—those who can conduct by the grace of God, and time-beaters. On the same occasion he explained that he gained his earliest operatic training himself by wheeling Lilli Lehmann about as one of the Rhine daughters at Bayreuth in 1876, and doubtless such training was excellent both from the musical and muscular point of view, and contributed in due measure to Mr. Seidl's eventual distinction.

Unfortunately, recourse to such heroic methods is not always practicable, and it remains to consider how far our native students would be likely to benefit from instruction of a more hum-drum order, though it would, of course, be a mistake to assume that such instruction is not given up to a point already. Alike at the Royal Academy and the Royal College, opportunities of trying their hands with the bâton are, I believe, afforded already to the more advanced students, even though conducting, as such, may not actually rank as a "subject" in the recognised curriculum. If, however, Miss Fanny Davies' suggestion be adopted, the art of using what Richter once described as the most difficult instrument in the orchestra would no doubt be more systematically cultivated, and without supposing that Weingartners and Mahlers would be turned out forthwith by the dozen, there seems no reason to think that benefit would not result. Those inclined to scoff at the notion may at all events be reminded that a master no less eminent than Nikisch has for some time past directed such a class at Leipzig—to which it may be added as bearing very pertinently on the point at issue, that one of his most talented pupils has been, according to report, a young Englishman named Coates, who has, indeed, done so well under Nikisch's tuition that he has, it is said, recently been appointed principal conductor of the opera at Elberfeld. Nikisch's system of teaching is, we are told, simplicity itself. His pupils are pre-

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pared for him by Hans Sitt, once the distinguished viola player in the Brodsky Quartet in Leipzig, who takes them through a course of score reading. When sufficiently proficient in this, the pupils take up the bâton and direct their version of a score they have studied, the orchestra being composed of picked pupils in the Conservatoire. At first Herr Nikisch restricts his attention to the physical manner of his pupils, behind whom he stands, and any signs of exuberance are at once checked. Advice as to the time, accent, and other matters is tendered when asked for, but everything is done that can be done by the Professor to make his pupils independent, induce originality of thought, and promote self-confidence. It must be rather trying to conduct the "Pathetic" symphony, say, with Nikisch standing behind one, but excellent training no doubt.

In the case of our British students, a preliminary task of some difficulty would be to find a native Nikisch to undertake their tuition. At present it must be recorded with sorrow such a one has not disclosed himself. Obviously, however, it would be the precise object of the Manns scholarship to bring him to light so that too much need not be said on this point. A more difficult question arises when it is asked what orchestras our budding Richters and incipient Safonoffs might be expected to conduct when their talents have been revealed. Unhappily the field is sadly limited, and it is this circumstance, of course, which goes to account for the fact that hitherto we have produced so few conductors of note. You cannot make omelettes without breaking eggs or learn to swim without entering the water. But for the happy chance which gave him his opportunity when the Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts were started, Mr. H. J. Wood would probably have been engaged in the teaching of singing at the present day. Apart from such openings, which occur once in a blue moon, the average young musician who feels that he has a gift for conducting can only demonstrate his powers by giving concerts at his own expense, and this is a somewhat unremunerative way of going to work. Where the opportunity has offered the right man has seldom failed to appear. Mr. Riseley, at Bristol, for instance, is a choral conductor of the first class, and it is hardly necessary to recall the achievements under the same head of Dr. Coward at Sheffield. Other orchestral conductors who have done excellent work beside Mr. Wood include, of course, Dr. Cowen, as well as Mr. Landon Ronald (whose talents in this direction are quite exceptional), Mr. Charles Williams, Mr. W. H. Thorley, Mr. Thomas Beecham, and others. Given proper opportunities, we should soon have conductors; but without these it is to be feared that no amount of scholarships or exhibitions would be likely to bring them into being.

Save for those on Good Friday and Sunday there will be no more concerts now till some time after Easter. As regards those recently given, the London Symphony Orchestra brought their Richter series to a close on Monday with one composed of entirely familiar works and Mme. Agnes Nicholls as vocalist. Last week a performance of some interest was that of an unfamiliar quintet for piano and strings by Gabriel Faure, which was introduced by Quatuor Capet, with Mlle. Marguérite Long at the piano, at the Broadwood concert. It proved a refined and scholarly work, but probably few of its hearers experienced any violent desire to hear it again. At the last Chappell Ballad Concert of the present season on Saturday there was the usual array of popular artists, among whom no one seemed to make a greater success than Miss Margaret Cooper, who has won great favour during the past season. A new pianist of considerable promise heard earlier in the week was Miss Janet Wheeler, whose recital at the Æolian Hall impressed her hearers most favourably. She should certainly be heard of again. A successful début was also made by another young native artist, Miss Gwendoline Pelly, an accomplished violinist. Another new violinist heard was M. Oskar Back, an artist possessed of brilliant technique and a cultivated style.

In connection with the new concert hall which it is proposed to build in Great Portland-street, an important step has been taken by the leading concert agents, who have entered into a common undertaking, to which they have pledged themselves to adhere by a signed agreement, not to book any engagements at the hall so long as it remains under the management of the firm at present associated with it. The reason assigned for this step in the letter which has been addressed to the firm in question is, I understand, the undesirability of the management of a hall of this kind being entrusted to those engaged themselves in the concert agency business; and it is, of course, sufficiently obvious that such an arrangement would hardly be likely to work satisfactorily. Among those who have signed the undertaking are, I understand, Messrs. N. Vert, Concert Director E. L. Robinson, Mr. Daniel Mayer, Mr. Leslie Hibberd, Mr. L. G. Sharpe, Messrs. Ibbs and Tillett, in fact, all the best known agents. Future developments will be awaited with interest.

The list of artists who are giving their services on the occasion of the Santley Jubilee concert at the Albert Hall on May 1 may be said to represent all quarters of the globe. Thus Mme. Albani hails from Canada, Mme. Suzanne Adams from the United States, Mme. Ada Crossley from Australia, Mr. Ben Davies from Wales, M. Hollman from France, Herr Kreisler from Austria, and M. Edouard de Reszke from Poland, while Mme. Clara Butt, Mme. Kirkby Lunn, Mr. John Coates, and Mr. Kennerley Rumford, together with Mr. Santley himself, will stand for the old country. During the interval a presentation will be made to the hero of the occasion in the shape of a cheque representing the subscriptions of his numberless friends and admirers.

Three vocal recitals whose programmes are quite off the beaten track are announced by that excellent singer, Miss Grainger-Kerr, for the afternoons of April 24, April 29, and May 6, at Messrs. Broadwood's rooms. The first of these will be devoted to works by Granville Bantock, Havergal Brian, Debussy, and Weingartner; the second to MacDowell, Bertram Shapleigh, and Katherine Ruth Heymann; and the third to Norman O'Neill, Stojowski, Cyril Scott, Jan Sibelius, Emil Sjogren, Coleridge-Taylor, Max Reger, and Weingartner. Miss Grainger-Kerr will be assisted by Miss Esther Palliser, Mr. John Coates, Mr. Gregory Hast, and Mr. Frederic Austin.

The news that Karl Goldmark has now finished his opera based on "A Winter's Tale," which will be produced in Vienna in the autumn, reminds one of a composer whose works have so far been ignored at Covent Garden. Yet his "Queen of Sheba," "Cricket on the Hearth," and other operas, have enjoyed much favour on the Continent, and are known to all musicians. The former work there has, indeed, been talk of producing at Covent Garden more than once, but the absurd rule against Biblical subjects has stood in the way, especially as I believe that the composer objected, when the matter was under discussion, to any alteration of the title of the work for the purpose of getting round the difficulty, after the manner in which it was circumvented in the case of Massenet's "Hérodiade." His "Rustic Wedding" symphony, the "Sakuntala" overture, and his violin suite, are the instrumental compositions by which Goldmark, who is now getting an old man, has been best known to English audiences. But these are only a few of the many works in every form which he has produced.

That seems to be a capital plan which Mr. Charles Manners has adopted in connection with Moody-Manners provincial performances of getting amateur operatic societies, when such exist in the various cities which he visits, to co-operate with his company. In Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and elsewhere it appears the scheme has been successfully tried, and now it is to be resorted to again in connection with the forthcoming special "opera week" which Mr. Manners is giving once more at Sheffield. These local operatic societies, we are told, have an average membership of between fifty and seventy members, who pay a local conductor £1 per head, for which they are taught the choruses of various operas, and so enthusiastic are they seemingly that they frequently travel from one town to another to have the benefit of practical stage experience under Mr. Manners,

who, in his turn, is naturally delighted to have such useful auxiliaries. It really seems a most excellent arrangement. After all, why should local choral bodies confine their attention exclusively to goody-goody oratorios and wishy-washy cantatas. It is easy enough to understand, at all events, that many find operatic music, especially when combined with the excitement of actual stage performances, a pleasant change, while it is hardly necessary to point out that singers so trained might prove invaluable eventually when English opera is better established than at present.

Is the variation form played out? According to some the answer must be, as they say in Parliament, in the affirmative. Thus one writer tells us that "the form is bound to be a somewhat stiff and cold one, for it is simply a kind of grid on which we place boxes containing emotions all duly sorted and marked." The similitude is, perhaps, more novel than convincing. Certainly it would require very powerful argument to persuade one that a form which includes such masterpieces as the immortal examples left by Beethoven and Schubert, to name no others, is necessarily "stiff and cold." As a matter of fact there is not the slightest sign that the variation form is losing favour in the least degree, even with the most "advanced" composers. Reger's partiality for it is well known, one of Strauss's most famous works consists of "Variations on a Knightly theme" ("Don Quixote"), Elgar has done nothing better than his Orchestral Variations, which have carried his fame to the end of the musical earth, and other cases could be cited. Nor is there anything surprising in this. After all, what is most good music but variations?

The particular variations which have given rise to the remarks above quoted are those of M. Paderewski, recently published as his Op. 23. Paderewski has not written a great amount, though enough to stimulate warm admiration on the part of many who have wished that he would write more. Was it not Mr. H. T. Finck who, always independent, once declared that some of his smallest compositions were of greater value than all the works of Brahms. That was, perhaps, slightly exceeding the mark, but there is no doubt that Paderewski has written some very charming music. Such are his Polish fantasie for orchestra and piano and his pianoforte concerto, and among smaller pieces his well-known minuet—all full of melody and grace—while there must not be forgotten in the same connection his opera "Manru," which was performed with success some years ago at Dresden. This is a work which Sir Augustus Harris thought at one time of producing at Covent Garden, but the composer declined to make certain alterations which were suggested, and the idea was dropped. The fact that the work is no longer given may or may not go to indicate its worth. Some of the music was done, it may be remembered, at the Crystal Palace a few years ago, when it made quite a pleasing impression.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Harry De Windt's "Through Savage Europe" (1) amply justifies its paradoxical title. Hardly had he reached Cettinge, the capital of Montenegro, when he heard a shot in the market-place, saw a corpse carried past him, and was told by an unconcerned bystander, "It's only a family feud. It was not murder, for the victim carried arms, and was fool enough to make no use of them." "And his assailant?" "Oh nothing will happen to him; this often happens here,' replied my informant, with a smile and a shrug. When street boys quarrel in Cettinge, the most monstrous charge they can hurl at each other—and it is occasionally and shamefully true—is, 'Your grandfather died in his bed!'" Throughout the Russo-Turkish campaign but *one* Montenegrin prisoner was taken out of more than 6,000 slain! Nevertheless, the Montenegrin is the best fellow in the world.

I have never (writes Mr. De Windt), in all my wanderings throughout the world, met a better fellow than the Montenegrin, who seems absolutely free from the petty meannesses which often characterise natives of the further East. He has been called the "Afghan of Europe," and if the Afghan be as brave as a lion, generous in his dealings, and the soul of honour, the comparison is correct.

On the other hand, the Servian seems a swine. The account Mr. De Windt gives of the murders of King Alexandra and Queen Draga, derived from the murderers themselves, and especially from a general officer who was the first to break into the chamber where the assassinations were committed, is revolting. Indeed, one of the leading murderers, Captain Nikolai Rastovitch, who seemed to Mr. De Windt to have "the courtier's, soldier's, scholar's eye, tongue, sword," and "to be the glass of fashion and the mould of form" in Belgrade, "had shamefully mutilated Queen Draga under such conditions as would have repelled the most degraded ruffian in the East End of London." Yet he was neither the highest in rank nor the lowest in brutality of the assassins. Here Queen Draga's brother-in-law, Colonel Maschin, the prime mover of the conspiracy, bears the palm. He had the murdered and abominably mutilated body of the Queen exposed to the public gaze on the day before her interment, tricked out in a gay pink ball-gown, while she and the king were carted off in the prison tumbril, used for the conveyance of dead criminals, to be buried in the pauper graveyard. Even here the vindictive Colonel showed a petty and disgusting spite:—

No friends or relatives of the dead were permitted to attend the funeral, and floral offerings were strictly forbidden, though a tiny wreath of withered azaleas had been secretly placed there since by an unknown hand. Two black wooden crosses leaning carelessly against the wall, and bearing the names "Alexander Obrenovitch" and "Draga Obrenovitch," roughly scrawled in white chalk, mark the spot. The crosses stand side by side, but half a dozen other graves separate the remains of the King and Queen. "She shall not have even that satisfaction," Maschin is reported to have said.

Before quitting the Balkans I should like to quote for you Mr. De Windt's testimony to Austrian efficiency as colonisers and civilisers. Mr. Gladstone said once that "no man could put his finger on the map of Europe and find a place where Austria had done good;" a reproach which the Austrian Balkans alone refutes.

While travelling, writes Mr. De Windt, from Ragusa to the Servian Frontier I met in every town or village with some fresh and wonderful proof that the Austrians (generally regarded as a stay-at-home nation) are really the finest and quickest colonisers in the world—excelling not only in the administration of State affairs under novel and complicated conditions, but also in that close attention to details which affects even the personal comfort of travellers.

Your impression of Russia, on the other hand, will certainly not be modified by anything Mr. De Windt has to tell you of that distracted country. Not the least characteristic, perhaps, of Mr. De Windt's experiences of Russia is that of the sudden pull-up and its cause of a train from Batoum to Baku.

"Something wrong?" asked Mr. De Windt of a fellow-passenger. "Oh, dear, no! We are only killing time to suit the timetable. You see this tunnel, recently made, cuts off a long détour round a range of hills, and we have to pull up at it for twenty minutes to fit in with the scheduled time."

The suggestion that the scheduled time might be changed to suit the short cut seemed to his Russian friend revolutionary. Not less characteristic of the Russia of to-day is the frightful slaughter in Warsaw of men, women, and little children. Mr. De Windt saw the bodies of some of the victims, "shockingly disfigured, having been clubbed to death with the butt-ends of rifles, though many of the women, having been shot in the back while trying to reach a place of safety,

(1) "Through Savage Europe." Being a Narrative of a Journey (undertaken as Special Correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette*) throughout the Balkan States and European Russia. By Harry De Windt, F.R.G.S. With One Hundred Illustrations. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

(2) "Privy Seal." His Last Venture. By Ford Madox Hueffer. (London: Alston Rivers, Ltd. 6s.)

(3) "The House of Rest." By Mrs. Fred Reynolds. (London: Hurst and Blackett. 6s.)

(4) "The Angel and the Outcast." By G. Colmore. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s.)

(5) "The Kingmakers." By Armiger Barclay. With Four Illustrations by H. Piffard. (London: Cassell and Co. 6s.

had no visible wounds. Both sexes were stripped to the waist, their upper garments being rolled across the hips." Amongst the corpses was that of a slim, fair-haired, pretty little girl of sixteen. "They got her in the back while she was running away," remarked the corporal in charge. I hope what I have said of "Through Savage Europe" will suggest to you the extreme interest of the volume. To transport you to savage Europe of to-day is incomparably easier than to transport you, as with Hans Andersen's goloshes of happiness, to savage England of the days of bluff King Hal; but this in his "Privy Seal" (2) Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer has done. The very style of the story—which has to do chiefly with Thomas Cromwell's plots and the counter-plots which brought him to the block—through its Saxon vigour and old-world quaintness helps to transport you to those dread times. One thing even Mr. Hueffer has not done, and could not do—though he has had the courage to attempt it—reverse the impression left too deeply upon you by history of the characters of Anne of Cleves and of Catherine Howard. On the other hand, nothing could be more vivid or veracious than the impressions left upon you of the characters of Henry and Thomas Cromwell.

The inmates of Mrs. Fred Reynolds's "The House of Rest" (3)—a home for "decayed" gentlefolk established by a lady who had learned sympathy with poverty through bitter experience of its miseries—hardly interest you, while they distract you from the fortunes of the lady bountiful herself, which you would have preferred to follow. That they should end as happily as they do is a surprise as well as a pleasure to you, since at the opening of the story you are assured that its hero "had laid down his life valiantly in his country's cause in far Thibet." Nevertheless, he turns up as one of the "decayed" inmates of the House of Rest to recover there his lost memory and with it his lost love. The contrast between the fates of the two gutter-born girls, Yan and Littl'un, in Miss Colmore's "The Angel and the Outcast" (4) is as powerful and poignant as it is suggestive. It would be almost too painful but for the redeeming love of Yan, who gives her life in an effort to save from ruin her idolised sister, Littl'un. Most novel readers, I fancy, would have wished that the outcast on her deathbed had been identified and ministered to by the angel; but this would have somewhat lessened the powerful impression left upon you at the tragic close of the story of Yan's self-effacing and redeeming love. The sordidness of London East-End life is painted with a painful vividness in this striking and suggestive novel. You ought to read Mr. Armiger Barclay's "The Kingmakers" (5) after laying down "Through Savage Europe," since you are probably intended to read "Servia" for the "Sergia" of the novel, while the rival kings seem to have been suggested by Alexander and Peter. However, the story, which has to do with rival loves as well as rival kings, is stirring and interesting, while its plot is certainly ingenious.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

By way of relief from the worry of Transvaal politics and the troublesome question of Chinese labour, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick has written "Jock of the Bushveld." It is "the story of a dog," and the book will be published by Messrs. Longmans.

President Roosevelt is a man of many accomplishments, and among the rest he is a delightful writer on big game hunting and field-lore. Under the title of "Good Hunting," Messrs. Harper and Brothers have just published a volume (price 3s. 6d.) containing a collection of papers by the President, in which he gives an account of some of his sporting expeditions in bygone years. The book has a number of illustrations.

Last September a deputation from the Eighty Club paid a visit to Hungary on the invitation of the Independent Club of Budapest, an organisation occupying a place in Hungarian politics similar to that of the Eighty Club in this country. As an outcome of that visit, which attracted much attention at the time, a volume entitled "Hungary; Its People, Places, and Politics," the work of various members of the deputation, has just been published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, price 10s. 6d. The book, as may be gathered from the title, is not entirely occupied with politics, or a mere formal record of the deputation's experiences. Mr. Oscar Browning writes on "Education in Budapest," and there are chapters on excursions to the Carpathians and the Iron Gate of the Danube; on hunting, sporting, and fishing, agriculture, and horse-breeding in Hungary. It is, indeed, an instructive work on the country and its people, and its interest is enhanced by numerous illustrations.

"The Pocket Charles Kingsley" has now been added to Messrs. Chatto and Windus's popular series of little volumes (price 2s. each), containing selected passages from the books of well-known authors. The extracts have been chosen by Mr. Alfred H. Hyatt from Kingsley's works as novelist, poet, essayist, and preacher.

"A Hunting Catechism" (Arnold, 3s. 6d. net) is another little book from the pen of Colonel R. F. Meysey-Thompson, on the same lines as his previously published "catechisms" on fishing and shooting.

"Kerry" is the subject and Captain C. P. Crane the author of the latest volume in Messrs. Methuen's series of "Little Guides" (price 2s. 6d. net). Captain Crane gives an admirable descriptive and historical account of that most picturesque and interesting county, and his book—which is provided with a map and many illustrations from photographs—should be in the hands of every tourist visiting Kerry.

Mr. Thomas W. Lawson's novel, "Friday the 13th" (Heinemann, 4s. net), is as melodramatic as the page-advertisements with which he boomed it in the daily papers last week. It exhibits the author of "Frenzied Finance" himself more frenzied than ever in his denunciations of "the Dirty Dollar army," the "human hyenas," the "hell-hounds," etc., of the New York Stock Exchange. The purpose of the book need not be discussed here, but as a sensational story of stock-gambling it is undeniably effective.

Early in April Messrs. Sisley will publish a new book by the Rev. Evelyn Burnaby, entitled "Memories of Famous Trials at the Old Bailey." The book, which makes an opportune appearance just as the Old Bailey has given place to the new court, will be dedicated to the author's old friend, the Lord Chief Justice. Mr. Evelyn Burnaby is a brother of the late Colonel Fred Burnaby.

Messrs. A. and C. Black will shortly publish "The Savage South Seas," a book written by Mr. E. Way Elkington, and illustrated in colours from pictures by Mr. Norman Hardy.

Mr. Fisher Unwin has issued a new edition (price 6s.) of Signor Fogazzaro's novel, "The Woman (Malombra)," translated from the Italian by F. Thorold Dickson. Since its first appearance the translation has been revised, and in its present form this powerful story by the author of "The Saint" should make a wider appeal to English readers.

"The Clergy List for 1907" has been issued by Kelly's Directories, Limited. Now in its sixty-fifth year of publication, this well-known work has always enjoyed a high reputation, alike for the accuracy of its information and the convenience of its arrangement for purposes of reference.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

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GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—What are you going to do with yourself at Easter? Frolic over to France? Romp off to Rome? Or quietly stay at home? Each has its charms, but the first two have the disadvantage of being what everyone else is doing. Crowded trains and boats are very disagreeable things—especially the boats— and besides, when we do what the masses do, we sink our individuality for the time being, and become merely molecules. This is surely unworthy of intelligent beings such as you and I!

The chief reason for leaving home is that one may the better enjoy coming back to it. Home is the place we have so studiously suited to our own needs that it fits us like an outer envelope. In no other house do we feel so absolutely ourselves; and of all the delightful things that devoted persons have done to please another, that which (it is said) King Edward did for his bride is the most charming. I refer to his fitting up for the beautiful Danish Princess a boudoir exactly like the one that was her "den" in her girlhood's home. Jim imitated his Majesty when he brought home his Irish bride, and she has often told us what a delightful surprise it was when, getting back from her honeymoon, she found her own little sitting-room almost exactly reproduced, even to the pictures on the walls, the books on the shelves, and the patterns of the chintz. Her mother had conspired with Jim and hatched a most successful plot.

Home means much of our mental atmosphere. When the Burdons were burnt out of their house two years ago (all for the want of a properly organised system of fire appliances), they were all three as restless and uncomfortable as a wretched hen that cannot get to her nest. When they were rebuilding, the architect suggested some alterations (to do this appears to be a duty that an architect owes himself!), but the Burdons were quite firm in insisting that the rooms should be exactly as they had been before the fire. Not only that, but they got the furniture as nearly as possible like what they had had. This all took a whole year, but when it was accomplished, and not till then, they felt at last that they were really at home, and could settle down into the old ways.

I can imagine their sighs of satisfaction when they did so. Cannot you?

Maud and Jack are going to a hotel on the shores of Lough Foyle, in Donegal. Here they intend to have a second honeymoon. They spent last Easter there, and fell in love with the beautiful country, the velvet air, the grounds sloping to the sea, with rocks and fine stretches of sand, the capital golf links, perfect cleanliness, and last, but not least, the excellent cooking. The terms, too, are very moderate. Would you like the address? I may mention that the proprietresses wear pale grey and white uniforms, like the seagulls.

I wished for you so much at the Sale and Exhibition of Irish Industries at the Ritz on Tuesday. Never have the lovely laces and embroideries looked better than they did in the beautiful ballroom and the adjoining rooms. An Irish harpist gave us wailing music, so characteristic of the distressful country, and a string band discoursed in the intervals. The Princess of Wales, very becomingly dressed in violet velvet, bought things at every stall. Her Royal Highness not only wore emeralds in her ears as a compliment to Ireland, but also had a lovely shamrock brooch as well. Half the peerage was represented by its ornamental sex. Lady Headfort was much observed. She was a purchaser. There were pretty faces and smart frocks. The Duchess of Montrose, the Marchioness of Downshire, Lady Helen Graham, the Marchioness of Londonderry, the Countess of Ilchester (in Parma violet velvet), Lady Castlereagh (in bright red velvet), and Lady Henry Bentinck (in pale grey), were among the notable beauties.

One of the Princess's purchases was a hatpin with a head of plaited leather. Her Royal Highness also bought knitted silk ties from Lady Arran, a lovely Limerick lace scarf from Lady Londonderry (who looked very handsome in black velvet, lace, pearls, and a large black hat), six knitted jerseys from Lady Waterford, a hand-painted white vellum covered box from Lady Mayo, tweeds from Lady Lucan and Lady Arthur Hill, a beautifully embroidered handkerchief sachet from the Duchess of Montrose, green enamel buttons from Lady Fingall, and a red frieze cloak from Princess Mary.

A bevy of pretty girls sold programmes. A very handsome, tall girl with a lovely complexion wore mauve silk, with an all-round cream lace yoke, the line of connection between it and the gown being hidden by raised velvet flowers, also mauve. Lady Dudley's dress was much admired. It was dark olive green, made Empire fashion, the yoke in olive chiffon over lace and the upper part of the gown embroidered upon this. The sleeves matched the yoke. The hat was made of marabout, with ostrich feathers, shaded from olive green to white.

Town was extremely full last week. We lunched one day at the Empress Club, and found the pretty dining-room full of well-groomed women in smart frocks. Quite a third of the gowns were tartan, made on the cross, and the skirts beautifully hung. The blouse worn with one of these was a shot blue and green taffetas, with a wide plastron in front embroidered with pastel blue and silver-grey in a design of forget-me-nots. The short, puffed sleeves ended in cuffs of écru lace matching that in the small, square yoke and collar. Folds of the silk began on the shoulders and ended under the plastron at the waist. Another gown that we admired was in fancy woollen, mole-colour, with a sun-ray pleated tablier, buttoned tabs holding the pleats in position, and made with a wide double pleat at the back. It had a pink and mole-coloured frou-frou round the inner side of the hem, and as the whole dress and its wearer suggested Paris, I suppose these frilly frou-frous are in again. And, remember, this particular one was on a tailor-made.

The nicest hat I have seen for a long time was a brown straw, rather a mushroom shape, raised from the hair by a brown velvet band, and with a cachepeigne of brown silk ribbon at the back. The only other trimming was a large bow of brown ribbon on one side and one similar but in green on the other. Simplicity, when cleverly carried out, is always successful. But in such a case it is a contradiction in terms, for it means the art that conceals art.

May 8 is the date fixed for the Loughborough Hospital Ball at the Hotel Great Central, and a quite unique feature will be the illumination of the whole of the courtyard on the same lines as the "Healtheries" of several years ago, with little lamps and coloured fountains. The work is to be done by Messrs. Pain and Sons for the good of the hospital, and, as they wrote Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen, who is getting it up, in consideration of the "great and uniform courtesy and kindness" they always received from the late Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen. The hospital deserves a bumper ball, for it is one of the few that pay their way. This is due entirely to the good management. It has twenty-four beds, but the demands upon its accommodation are very great, and just now it is urgently in need of money to instal electric light, enlarge the operating theatre, and re-furnish the wards, nurses' and servants' bedrooms, and establish up-to-date sanitary appliances. The ball is certain to be a great success. The whole of the quadrangle is being arranged for sitting out. The Scots Guards band supplies the music, and the guinea tickets include the first-rate champagne supper, which so pleased the sub-

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scribers to the Windsor ball. There will be a rush for tickets, the number of which, of course, is limited.

One cannot have utilitarian advantages without paying for them, and modern progress, although it brings many conveniences in its train, is not without its drawbacks. Many of the most picturesque parts of London have vanished, and Paris is in the same case. The monochrome drawings of "Parts of Disappearing Paris," by C. Jonas, now at Graves' Gallery, reveal many quaint corners that will be sorely missed by lovers of the picturesque. The river-scenes are delightful, and the more minute M. Jonas becomes, the more charming his work is. The absence of over-emphasis in his drawing is particularly grateful.

We accepted an invitation to the showrooms just opened in Grape-street, Shaftesbury-avenue, by the well-known firm of E. and C. Braby, and found there some quaint and enchanting things. Fancy an ingle-nook after the early English style, with red bricks showing, and a big armchair, à la Darby and Joan, each side of the fire. A Dutch fireplace pleased us greatly, and our pleasure in these comfortable things was not diminished when we were told that they are inexpensive. Downstairs there were fine marble chimney pieces designed by eminent architects, high-class wooden chimney pieces, many of them beautifully carved, with steel hob and dog, grates representing Tudor, Jacobean, Renaissance, and Georgian periods, and among them a lovely blue-tiled fireplace with dull steel, a perfect dream of colour. One reason that this show is so fascinating is that it is combined with an exhibition of antique and modern furniture, mirrors, tapestries, and bric-à-brac, so arranged as to be in harmony with the mantelpieces and grates and hobs.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Another great holiday time is already with us, although the last seems to have ended such a short while ago! And then, between times, there have been so many week-ends and various other interludes of the holiday kind. For us over here there has also been the "season," with its incessant rounds of amusement by night and by day. Our obvious way, under the circumstances, for getting a thorough change would be to stay at home. Not a fashionable, nor, in any sense, a progressive way, however, for society is very much of the opinion of Comus and his "smart set" that it is only "for homely features to keep home." Still, there might be points, besides the novelty of it, in trying the experiment of a real stay-at-home sit-by-the-fire holiday. For instance, it would throw each of us more or less into his or her own society, and give us the opportunity of renewing acquaintance with our own selves. We become such strangers to our own egos in the rush and crush of life, in the strenuous times of "seasons" and holidays. The unit gets lost, even by himself, amongst the flocks that fashion is herding. Of course, there might possibly be a chance that we would not find ourselves good company, but supposing the contrary happened, what an advantage it would be to know that we had an interesting companion closely associated with us and always at our beck and call throughout all the chances and changes of life. Fred is not in agreement with this view, and declares that for his part he wants no further acquaintance with himself. He had enough of it when he had the influenza at the beginning of the year, and he emphatically asserts that he did not find himself good company then.

Although last week saw the break-up of the Castle season, the dispersal of the Viceregal visitors, and of most of the officials from their Castle residences, Lord and Lady Aberdeen were unable to make their move to the Viceregal Lodge. Lady Aberdeen, though improving, was kept by her doctors on the safe side of remaining in her room. Rheumatism is a tedious ill to deal with, especially in a month of many weathers, and has a despotic way of asserting its power if any one tries to make a stand against it. There is nothing but a surrender at discretion to propitiate and disarm the enemy. And how hard that is for the energetic, whose aim in life is always to be lending a helping hand all round. Dublin Castle is not a popular Viceregal residence. It stands on an eminence, but is closely built up to all round by somewhat slummy regions. It lies far from the fashionable and residential part of the town, and has no open space on any side. If a Viceroy be included in the remaking of Ireland, now under consideration, a new residence will, it is to be hoped, be provided for him. It would be an undoubted advantage for him to get away from Dublin Castle, as well as from its traditions. Lord and Lady Aberdeen expect to spend Easter at the Viceregal Lodge. The Chief Secretary will possibly visit Ireland during the holidays, but will hardly establish his household gods at the official residence in the Phœnix Park until the long vacation time comes. The Under Secretary will return to his Lodge in Phœnix Park, where Lady MacDonnell is now staying, having left her residence in the Castle Yard last week.

Lord and Lady Londonderry are to be at Mount Stewart for the holiday time, and will do some entertaining there. Lord Londonderry will visit Belfast and take a leading part in rallying the North for the coming conflict over the new political amalgam—Devolution-Home Rule. The roll of the Orange drum is rather a muffled one now, since the days when Lord Londonderry's cousin, Lord Randolph Churchill, said, "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right." How glad we shall be, we women, who have nothing to do with politics, when all the drums are laid aside, and we all together betake ourselves to the ways of pleasantness and the paths of peace.

Lady Plunket has come over here, having spent only a short time in England on her arrival from New Zealand. She is staying in Dublin for some little time, where Lady Dufferin, her mother, also was for some days. Lord Ashbourne and Lord Iveagh were here last week, coming over, as well as Sir Edward Carson, to attend a meeting in Trinity College, apropos of the Bryce scheme. Lord Iveagh is an "old Trinity" man, like Lord Ashbourne—the latter was also member for the University for many years. How much on the make we are just now! And if ours were a new country only just discovered. We must hope that it will be nice when we are finished, and that the reconstruction will not take too long. A new country and constitution ought to be nearly as exciting as a new frock. Newness in anything is, at all events,

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interesting, in an age of incessant craving for excitement and sensation.

Next week we shall have the Ward Union Hunt Race Meeting at Fairy House to get us into training for the more important races of the following week. Wishing you a happy Easter holiday.
—Ever yours, CLARE.

Here are the recipes I promised you. Do you like eels? Try them broiled or baked:—

This fish, if taken alive, killed, skinned, and blanched, is quite digestible; blanching (that is, par-boiled), does away with the blue-looking skin, and the oil that remains after skinning, which makes the eel indigestible. Cut the eel into pieces about four inches long, take some good gravy, and stew the eel in it, after blanching. When nearly done, let them cool, then brush over with beaten egg, and dip them into fine spiced bread crumbs; place them on a plate; pour over each piece some clarified butter. Screen them with bread crumbs, place them in a tin, and bake or broil them over a clear fire. Serve them with this sauce. Put into a mortar a tablespoonful of chopped shallots, the yolks of two boiled eggs, a teaspoonful of mustard, salt, pepper, and a dust of cayenne. Now pound the whole together carefully. Stir in two tablespoonfuls of salad oil, a little malt vinegar, and the juice of a lemon. Rub all through a fine wire sieve, then stir into the whole one raw yolk of an egg. A little tarragon, or chervil vinegar, is an improvement.

This fowl à la Napolitaine is quite a new dish:—

Cut a fowl into neat members and fry them briskly in a stewpan with 2 oz. of butter, a minced onion, and 2 oz. of minced lean bacon. When they have taken a nice colour sprinkle them with a heaped tablespoonful of flour and mix in a pint and a half of stock, stir until boiling, then add a pound of tomato purée, season with salt and pepper, cover the stewpan, and place it in a moderate oven to simmer for nearly two hours, after which skim off the fat, dish the pieces of fowl en pyramide, pour the sauce over, and garnish with groups of cut, boiled macaroni.

Gâteau de Brie is a lovely lunch sweet:—

Beat the weight of 2 eggs in butter and sugar till they cream, beat in 3 yolks of eggs, mix them in 3 oz. of flour, 2 oz. of ground almonds, and a tablespoonful of brandy, mix in lightly the whipped whites of 3 eggs, and bake it in a buttered plain mould. When it is cold, cut it into slices, and take out the centre of 3 slices with a plain cutter. Beat 4 oz. of fresh butter with 6 oz. of sifted icing sugar, adding a few drops of vanilla, until it is quite white; spread the rounds of cake with the cream, replacing them one on the other; coat the outside with a layer of the butter, and decorate it with split, browned almonds and glacé cherries. Serve whipped cream in the centre, flavoured with vanilla and brandy.

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This letter was originally set going by a genuine friend of the Institutions, who, however, did not consult the Management prior to issuing her well-meant appeal. In its original form it was open to criticism; but since Dr. Barnardo's death in 1905 some one has altered very considerably the wording of the letter, and now in its present form it is highly misleading and actually doing harm to the Homes. It is absolutely untrue, for instance, to say that there is any thought of closing the doors. On the contrary, **THE WORK IS BEING PROSECUTED WITH VIGOUR, AS HERETOFORE.**

Every day **8** or **9** Destitute Boys or Girls are being admitted. About **8,000** Children are under the care of the Homes; and last year the fresh Admissions numbered **2,928.**

The Council are very anxious to put this Chain-letter out of circulation altogether, and they will take it as a favour if all readers will aid them in their endeavour by giving publicity to this statement. At the same time they would urge the claims of the Homes upon the charitable public, for Support is urgently needed: **THE DAILY FOOD BILL ALONE AMOUNTS TO £240.** Even the Smallest Contributions will be gratefully received.

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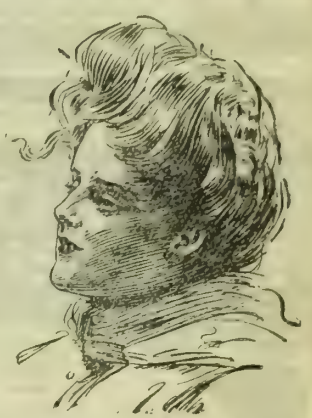

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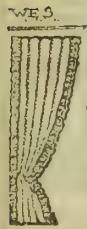

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BAD NAUHEIM.—HOTEL PRINCE OF WALES. HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.

BÂLE.—GRAND HOTEL and HOTEL EULER. First-class. Close to Central Railway. Situated in a quiet position.—Prop. A. S. BUCHER.

BÂLE.—GD. HOTEL VICTORIA and NATIONAL. Opp. central Stn. First-class. Private apartments with bath.—Pr., PAUL OTTO.

BÂLE.—GRAND HOTEL DE L'UNIVERS. Leading hotel. Suites of rooms with private baths.

BORDIGHERA.—HOTEL ANGST. Leading hotel. Patronised by English Society. Luxuriously furnished. English sanitation.—Proprietor, ADOLFO ANGST.

BORDIGHERA.—HOTEL ROYAL. High-class hotel. Full South. The most fashionable house. Garden.—L. PALOMBI, Prop.

BORDIGHERA.—HOTEL BELVEDERE LOMBARDI. The favourite English hotel.—Prop., G. WUNSCHMAUN. Madame is English.

BRUSSELS.—HOTEL DE L'EUROPE. Suites with private bath. Central heating.

CANNES.—GRAND HOTEL BRISTOL, CENTRAL. First-class hotel, situated in a most charming position.—Pr., T. SCHAER.

CANNES.—HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. The recognised English house. Modern Improvements.

CANNES.—ROST'S CONTINENTAL HOTEL. One of the finest hotels on the Riviera. Unrivalled Sea view.—Prop., H. ROST.

CANNES.—PRINCE DE GALLES HOTEL. First-class. Suites with private baths. Central heating. Large garden.

CANNES.—GRAND HOTEL DE PROVENCE. First-class, quiet and select quarter. Large gardens. English house.

CHEMIST.—GINNER & CO., Court Chemists. The English Pharmacy, 40, Rue d'Antibes, Cannes. Tel. 527.

CAPRI.—GRAND HOTEL QUISISANA. The leading first-class hotel. Every modern comfort.

CHATEAUX D'OEX.—GRAND and BERTHOD. 3,300 ft. Switzerland. Summer and Winter Sports.

DAVOS-PLATZ.—GRAND HOTEL BELVEDERE. First-class.

DAVOS-PLATZ.—HOTEL VICTORIA. Favourite English House.

DRESDEN.—HOTEL BELLEVUE.—World-renowned. Very select. Situated on the Elbe and Opera Square. Suites and single rooms with private baths and toilet. Under the personal management of R. RONNEFELD.

EMS.—HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE. Leading hotel. Opposite baths. Suites with private baths.

EMS.—HOTEL FOUR SEASONS AND EUROPE. HOTEL FOUR TOWERS. The two best situated hotels. Own mineral baths.

FLORENCE.—HOTEL MINERVA. Quiet and central. Patronised by English and Americans.—G. CANDRION, Proprietor

FLORENCE.—HOTEL REGINA ET VICTORIA. First-class. Every modern comfort. Lately improved and redecorated. Full south.—Proprietor, CHIARI.

FLORENCE.—HOTEL ROYAL GRANDE BRETAGNE. First-class. Full south. Open all the year.—CHIOSTRI, Props.

GENOA.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. Apartments, with bath. Quiet rooms, garden on the fourth floor, splendid panorama.

GENOA.—GRAND HOTEL ISOTTA. Best central situation. All modern improvements. Hot water heating.—E. MOSER, Dir.

GLION, above Montreux, Swiss.—NEW PARK HOTEL. First-class. Best situation. Own park. Open whole year. Winter sports.

GRASSE.—GRAND HOTEL. Patronised by her late Majesty.—Proprietor, F. ROST. Open from Sept. 16 to July.

HOMBURG (BATH).—RITTER'S PARK HOTEL. The leading hotel. Patronised by English and American Society.—Proprietor, C. RITTER.

HOMBURG (BATH).—VICTORIA HOTEL. Very first-class in every respect. The largest, also 4 villas. Finest garden.—J. BAEHL, Pr

HOMBURG (BATH).—THE GRAND HOTEL. Suite with private bath and lavatory. All comforts.

HOMBURG (BATH).—HOTEL BELLEVUE. First-class. Patronised by English and Americans. Vacuum cleaning indoors W. FISCHER, Prop.

HYERES.—GRAND HOTEL METROPOLE. Full South, with modern comfort. Orchestra. Lift.—E. CASTEIL, Prop., Director.

LAUSANNE.—HOTEL BEAU-SITE & RICHMOND. Motor garage. Leading hotels. Best situation. Open whole year.

LAUSANNE.—HOTEL DE LAUSANNE. First-class. Facing railway station. Latest comforts.—AD. SCHAER, Prop.

LAUSANNE.—HOTEL BEAU SEJOUR. First-class family home. All latest comforts. Fine situation. Large garden.

LUCERNE.—HOTEL EUROPE. First-class. Finest situation. Very quiet. Entirely renovated. Latest improvements.—HAGEN BROS., Proprietors.

LUCERNE.—HOTEL BRISTOL. Open from March 4. In the vicinity of Station and landing boats.—G. MUTH, Proprietor.

LUCERNE.—HOTEL BEAU RIVAGE. First-class family house. Write for illustrated pamphlet.—C. GIGER, Proprietor.

LUGANO.—HOTEL BELLEVUE AU LAC. First-class. Large dining-room, separate tables. Modern improvements.

LUGANO.—GRAND HOTEL METROPOLE. New hotel, unrivalled position, with latest improvements. The Hotel faces the English Church.—Proprietor, A. BROCCA, of Hotel Lugano.

LUGANO.—HOTEL BEAU REGARD & CONTINENTAL. First-class, beautifully situated in its own grounds. Nr. English church

MENTONE.—HOTEL DES ANGLAIS. Leading English house. Two English billiard tables. Garage.—Proprietress, Madame ARBOGAST. P. GIORGI, new Manager.

MENTONE.—RIVIERA PALACE. Suites with private baths. 300 rooms.

MENTONE.—HOTEL MONT FLEURI. First-class. Central. Heating. Lift. Electric light. Charmingly situated on elevated position.

MENTONE.—BEAU RIVAGE. First-class hotel at moderate prices. Full south, facing sea.—KASPAR TREPP, Proprietor.

MENTONE.—HOTEL DE TURIN. Central position, full south. Large garden. Modern comfort.—J. WARTH, Proprietor.

MENTONE.—ALEXANDRA HOTEL. First-class. Under new management. Reorganised. Redecorated throughout.

MENTONE.—ANGLO-AMERICAN ESTATE AGENCY. Complete list of Villas, Flats, Apartments for rent and for sale.

MILAN.—HOTEL DE LA VILLE. First-class. Near Cathedral. Post, Teleg., & Rly. Office in hotel. Central heating. Suites with baths.

MONTE CARLO.—HOTEL VICTORIA. First-class. Entirely re-furnished and newly decorated. Large public rooms facing South. Suites of apartments with private bathrooms and toilette. Large garden. Auto-car shed. VVE. E. REY, Proprietress.

MONTE CARLO.—GRAND HOTEL DE LONDRES. Opposite Casino. Modern comfort. Reasonable terms. Always open.—Manager, J. KAISER.

MONTE CARLO.—HOTEL DU HELDER. Modern comfort. Central heating. Situated close to Casino.—A. BREMOND, Prop.

MONTE CARLO.—HOTEL HARTER ET MEDITERRANEE. First-class. Facing sea and Casino.—Prop., CH. HARTER.

MONTREUX.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. First-class. Patronised by English and Americans. Unrivalled situation and comforts.

MUNICH.—THE CONTINENTAL. Leading HOTEL and RESTAURANT. Entirely renewed and enlarged.

MUNICH.—HOTEL ENGLISCHERHOF. A good English house.—CARL POSCH, Proprietor.

NAPLES.—GRAND HOTEL. First-class. Situated in the finest and most select part of Naples. Magnificent view of town, Vesuvius, and bay. Proprietors, HAUSER & DOEPFNER.

NAPLES.—PARKER'S HOTEL. The English and most comfortable, in best situation. Splendid view of bay.

NAPLES.—GD. HOTEL DU VESUVE. Splendid position. Strictly first-class. Latest comfort.

NAPLES.—HOTEL CONTINENTAL. Recommended for its cuisine, position, and comfort.

NAPLES.—ELDORADO MODERN HOTEL. Good central situation. Moderate terms. Overlooking the Gulf.

NICE—GD. HOTEL DES ILES BRITANNIQUES. First-class, moderate terms.—Proprietor, ZAMBAIL. Summer, Hotel Roseg-Pontresina, Engadine.

NICE.—HOTEL DU RHIN. Strictly first-class. Family house. Excellent position. All rooms heated by hot water. Terms moderate

NICE, Cimiez.—WINTER PALACE. One of the finest and most comfortable hotels in Europe.—J. AGID, Director.

NICE.—MEYER'S PARK HOTEL, Villa Arson. First-class. Situated in its own magnificent Park. Moderate terms.

NICE.—HOTEL TERMINUS. Opposite railway station. First-class, up-to-date. New winter garden.—H. MORLOCK, Prop.

NICE.—HOTEL DE SUEDE. English house. Every home comfort. Hot-water heating. Electric lift.

FOREIGN HOTELS, &c.—*contd.*

OSTEND.—**HOTEL DU LITTORAL.** First-class family hotel. Facing sea, nearest the Kursaal.—Props., HILLBRAND & BROWN.

PALERMO.—**EXCELSIOR PALACE HOTEL.** New. Leading hotel. Opened February, 1906.

PARIS.—**HOTEL CONTINENTAL.** Most luxurious and comfortable hotel in Paris. Entirely renovated.—A. LOTTI, Gen. Mgr.

PARIS.—**HOTEL St. JAMES and ALBANY, opposite Tuileries.** Favourite rendezvous of English and Americans.—Proprietor-Manager, A. LERCHE.

PARIS.—**MERCEDES HOTEL, Place de l'Etoile.** Most modern hotel in Paris. Opened April, 1904. Luxuriously furnished.

PARIS.—**HOTEL MONTANA, Avenue de l'Opéra.** First-class. Latest and all modern improvements.—G. VAUTIER, Prop.

PARIS.—**HOTEL DE L'ATHENÉE, Rue Scribe.** One of the leading hotels.—E. AMBRUSTER, Manager-Proprietor.

PISA.—**GRAND HOTEL and HOTEL DE LONDRES.** The only hotel with central heating in Pisa.

PONTRESINA.—**HOTEL KRONENHOF & BELLAVISTA.** First-class. Best situation. Open whole year. Summer and Winter resort.

PORTOFINO.—**HOTEL SPLENDID.** Station, St. Margherita. The only first-class Hotel in Portofino and district of Portofino. Exquisite view. Tel. Add.: "Splendid." Portofino.

RAPALLO.—**VERDI'S HOTEL.** Favourite English house. Charmingly situated. Electric light. Modern comfort.

ROME.—**HOTEL QUIRINAL.** First-class. Situated on famous Via Nazionale, in finest part of Rome. Every modern comfort.

ROME.—**REGINA HOTEL.** New. Opposite Queen Margherita's Palace. One of the leading.—Managing Prop., E. BARBIANI.

ROME.—**PALACE HOTEL.** New. Up-to-date.
BEAUSITE HOTEL. First-class family house.

ROME.—**WINDSOR HOTEL.** Full south, via Veneto. Suites of apartments. Baths. Cent. heat., mod. comf.—CASTELLI & LANTENAY.

ROME.—**HOTEL ROYAL.** The English House.

ROME.—**SAVOY HOTEL.** First-class family hotel near the gardens.—Proprietor, J. LENGYEL.

SAN REMO.—**GRAND HOTEL BELLEVUE.** The most fashionable, of renowned reputation.—JULES LIPPERT, Proprietor.

SAN REMO.—**SAVOY HOTEL,** opened 1900. Most luxurious modern hotel. Elevated position.—Proprietor, PAUL MARINI.

SAN REMO.—**GRAND HOTEL ROYAL.** The most "UP-TO-DATE" Hotel of the place. Garage.—M. BERTOLINI, Prop.

SAN REMO.—**GRAND HOTEL, HOTEL DES ANGLAIS**—AD. SCHREIBER, Proprietor.

ST. MORITZ.—**THE BELVEDERE.** English Family Hotel. Preferred position amongst the villas. Inclusive terms, Fr. 11 to 18.

ST. MORITZ.—**HOTEL ENGADINER KULM.** Baths with suites and rooms. Golf, tennis, and all the winter sports.

ST. MORITZ.—**PALACE HOTEL,** the most fashionable. Proprietor, CASPAR BADRUTT'S ERBEN.

ST. MORITZ.—**HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG.** Family hotel. Sunniest position, adjoining Kulm and all the Sport places. Inclusive terms, 10 to 16 fr.

TERRITET, Switzerland.—**GRAND HOTEL & ALPES.** Well known rendezvous of English and American clientèle.

TERRITET.—**GRAND HOTEL BON-PORT.** Favourite English house. Apartments with baths. Most sheltered situation.

VEVEY.—**GRAND HOTEL and PALACE HOTEL.** The Fashionable Hotels. Two tennis courts.—ENG. MICHEL.

VEVEY.—**HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.** First-class. 120 rooms. Very latest improvements. Bath with private suite.—Proprietor, T. WHITE.

VEVEY.—Healthiest Swiss resort.—**TROIS COURONNES HOTEL.** First-class. Modern improvements. Most moderate terms.

VIENNA.—**HOTEL BRISTOL.** Kartnerring next to the Opera. The most leading hotel in the town. Own fishing and shooting.

WIESBADEN.—**HOTEL KAISERHOF,** connected with Augusta Victoria Baths. First-class, open whole year. Proprietor, O. HILLENGASS.

WIESBADEN.—**FOUR SEASONS HOTEL and BATHS.**—Finest position, opposite Kurhaus and Opera. Own mineral spring.

WIESBADEN.—**HOTEL NASSAU.** Connected with a Magnificent Bathing Establishment. Situated at the Curplace. "The English Home."

WIESBADEN.—**PALAST HOTEL.** Kochbrunnen Bath establishment. Rooms with private bath. First-class, up-to-date.

FOREIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEAULIEU.—HOUSES & ESTATES. (Opposite Station.) Villas furnished, to be let or sold. **E. KURZ.**

HYÈRES.—**R. J. CORBETT & CO.** The English Bank. Arrangements with Hotels. Villas and Apartments to let.

TRUTH HOTEL LIST.

AYR.—STATION HOTEL, adjoining station. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards. For Business Gentlemen, Families, and Tourists to "The Land of Burns," and Ayrshire district. Within few minutes' walk of sea shore. Convenient Golf Courses. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Dumfries, and Turnberry.

BELFAST.—GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.—The Finest Hotel in Ireland. 200 rooms. Electric light throughout. Passenger lifts to all floors. Magnificent public rooms and suites of private apartments. Most central position. Very moderate tariff. Omnibuses from Hotel attend all steamers and trains. Telegrams, "Grand Central, Belfast."

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms. Passenger lift to all the floors.
GEO. HECKFORD, Manager.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL.
Finest position on front.
Splendid public rooms. Orchestra twice daily.
Tepid sea-water Swimming Bath. Garage communicating with the Hotel.
Private suites, with bathrooms. Write for Illustrated Brochure.

DUBLIN.—HOTEL METROPOLE, SACKVILLE-STREET (next General Post Office). Convenient for Railways, Steamers, and Amusements. Modern and luxurious. Electric Light and Passenger Lift. Sanitation officially certified. High class Restaurant attached. Moderate Tariff. Descriptive matter on application to the Manager.

DUMFRIES.—STATION HOTEL, opposite station. Electric light. Lift. Billiards. Convenient for Firth of Solway, Castle Douglas, Sweetheart Abbey, Caerlaverock Castle, &c. Lovely Drives. Splendid centre for motor and cycle tours. Shooting. Fishing. Golf. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Turnberry.

EASTBOURNE.—The HYDRO HOTEL, a Select Residential Hotel, due south, facing sea. Spacious Lounges and Public Rooms. Garage. Special Week End Terms. Cinderella Dance Saturday. For Amusement Programme and Tariff (Illustrated), O. F. BERGANN, Manager.

GLASGOW.—ST. ENOCH STATION HOTEL. Best centre for business and pleasure. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (4 tables). Restaurant. Within shilling cab fare of all railway and steamboat termini in Glasgow. Near electric cars and opposite subway cable railways. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Ayr, Dumfries, and Turnberry.

GRAND CANARY.—The Newest and Best Hotel is The METROPOLE. Facing the sea. Delightful position.
Terms most moderate.
Agents, ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO., 11, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 4, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.

MALVERN.—For the Easter Holidays.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL (only 2½ hours from Paddington) facing due S., offers every comfort at moderate and inclusive charges. *A cheerful lounge, with electric light.* Central for Croome and Ledbury Hounds, loose boxes, hunters. Accommodation for Motors.—For tariff apply to Resid. Prop., F. MOERSCHELL.

SCARBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL. First-class. Situated on South Cliff. Magnificent view. Adjacent to the incline. Tramways leading to Spa and Sands, facing South. Billiard Room, two tables. Fireproof Staircase. Lift. Electric Light. Telegrams, "Princely." Illustrated Booklet post free.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
W. WORSTER, Manager.

TURNBERRY.—STATION HOTEL. "The most up-to-date Hotel in Scotland." Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (3 tables). Conservatory. Garage and stables. Sea Water Baths. Two fine golf courses for visitors. Lovely Climate. Charming district. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Dumfries.

WEYMOUTH.—The Ideal Spot for Easter.
The most beautiful Bay in England.
Golfing. Motoring. Fishing. Driving. Sea-trips. Land-trips.
Special holiday terms. GLOUCESTER HOTEL.
Motor garage and inspection pit. A. MIDDLETON, Managing Director.

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Best position on Sea Front.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.

Faces due South.

An Ideal Autumn and Winter Resort.
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Moderate Tariff; inclusive if desired.

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PEEBLES HOTEL Hydropathic.

Under Mr. A. M. THIEM'S Personal Management. Just RE-OPENED.
Entirely **RE-BUILT** and **EQUIPPED** on the most **MODERN** lines.
Pure Bracing Air, Excellent Cuisine, Every Home Comfort, Delightful Grounds, Golf Course, Croquet and Bowling Greens. Every form of Indoor and Outdoor Amusements.

CONSTRUCTED FIREPROOF THROUGHOUT.

LATEST ELECTRICAL TREATMENT.—The CURE DEPARTMENT is under the direction of E. NEU, M.D. (Bonn University), an authority of great experience in Natural Medical Science.

BEN RHYDDING HYDRO HOTEL, Wharfedale, Yorkshire. 500ft. alt. Bracing air, lovely scenery, 9-hole Golf course. Static Electricity. High-frequency Currents. Radiant Heat X Rays. Vibratory Massage.—J. I KIRBY, Managing Director.

LEAMINGTON SPA.—REGENT HOTEL. Ideal for Easter Holidays. In the midst of a beautiful and Historic Country. Large Motor Garage&Stables. Orchestra Nightly. Mod. charges. Tele. 109 & 0659 Leamington.

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LUXURIOUS TRAVEL.

Brazil, £50; Argentina, £62; West Indies, £38.

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Apply to 18, Moorgate-street, E.C.; or 32, Cockspur-street, S.W.

Most Attractive Alpine Health-Resort.

VULPERA-TARASP

ENGADINE, SWITZERLAND.

4,170 Feet above the Sea.

Famous all the World over for its Health-promoting Springs.

Pleasantly situated midst Fir and Pine Woods.

The Climate and the Sheltered Position of
VULPERA
with its world-renowned Saline Springs at
TARASP
make it an ideal place to rest, recreate, and regain Health.

HOTEL WALDHAUS

with adjoining Dependence and Villas Wilhelmine, Erica, and Post, offers unrivalled opportunities for a delightful sojourn. **300** comfortably furnished Bedrooms, numerous Private Saloons and Suites. First-class in every respect. English system of Sanitation. Hydro-therapeutic arrangements. Carbonate Baths.

Four Lawn-tennis grounds. Daily Concerts by Hotel Band.

Within four minutes of Hotel Schweizerhof.

HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF

offers every comfort of a first-class house, at the same time answering—with its adjoining Dependences, Bellevue, Tell, and Alpenrose—more modest demands. **200** Bedrooms, and numerous Private Saloons. Best English Sanitation throughout. Equally good position, overlooking valley.

Daily Concerts.

Private Lodgings:—
Villa Engiadina, Villa Silvana, and Villa Maria.

Season from May to September.

Physician Resident in the Hotels.

The Alkaline-saline Cold Glauber Salt Springs LUZIUS and EMERITA may be compared with other famous springs by the following Table:—

Feet above Sea Level.	1,000 parts contain—	Amount of Solid Constituents.	Carbonic acid free and semi-united.	Sulphate of Soda.	Bicarbonate of Soda.	Chloride of Sodium.	Temperature.
4,000	**Tarasp** (Luzius spring) ...	**12·8**	**5·55**	**2·2**	**4·3**	**3·9**	6° C.
1,200	Carlsbad (Sprudel)	6·3	0·79	2·4	1·9	1·0	75° ,,
2,100	Marienbad (Kreuzbrunnen) ...	11·1	4·24	4·7	1·6	1·8	12° ,,
750	Vichy (Grande-Grille)	7·0	2·60	—	4·8	0·5	44° ,,
600	Kissingen (Rakoczy)	9·0	3·19	—	—	5·8	10° ,,

A stay at Vulpera-Tarasp is indicated in cases of Affections of the Digestive Organs (Chronic Catarrh of the Stomach and Intestines, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhœa, Dyspepsia, Hemorrhoids). Diseases of the Metabolism and Disturbances of Nutrition (Obesity, Diabetes, Gout, Gravel, Scrofula, Chlorosis, Anæmia), Affections of the Liver and the Spleen, Neurasthenia, remainders of Tropical Affections and Malaria, Chronic Bronchial Catarrh and Bronchial Asthma.

The **Iron-Arsenic Springs** of **Val Sinestra,** near Vulpera, are especially beneficial for Nervousness, Anæmia, and Rheumatism.

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Head Office:—MAYFAIR, JOHANNESBURG.
London Transfer Agency:—30 and 31, ST. SWITHIN'S LANE, E.C.

THE LANGLAAGTE ESTATE AND GOLD MINING CO., Ltd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

J. B. ROBINSON, Chairman.
J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.
J. W. H. STUBBS. N. J. SCHOLTZ. F. S. TUDHOPE.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the shareholders in the above-named Company was held in the offices of the Company, at Mayfair, Johannesburg, on Monday, February 4, 1907, Mr. J. W. S. Langerman presiding.

The Directors' Report and the Statement of Accounts were unanimously agreed to, and the two dividends of 10 per cent. declared by the board in June and December, 1906, were confirmed.

Mr. N. J. Scholtz, who retired by rotation, was re-elected, and, on the nomination of the board, Mr. F. S. Tudhope was elected a director of the Company.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets as at December 31, 1906.

Dr.		
To Capital		£470,000 0 0
Share Premium		72,000 0 0
Dividend No. 33, declared December 31, 1906		47,000 0 0
Dividends Unclaimed		825 14 6
Sundry Creditors		33,923 14 5
Special Loan Account (on account of Block B Development)		50,000 0 0
Balance of Profit and Loss Account		797,611 11 9
		£1,470,661 0 8
Cr.		
By Property		£366,000 0 0
Machinery and Plant		304,916 3 8
Buildings		32,778 19 1
Development, Shafts, &c.		74,892 4 5
Dams and Reservoirs		25,526 12 0
Roads and Fences		69 11 1
Furniture		906 11 8
Live Stock and Vehicles		1,849 1 9
Stores		14,805 16 8
Native Labour Recruiting		180 10 0
Block B No. 2 Account (Expenditure under Terms of Lease)		68,424 12 0
Shares		476,976 12 0
Sundry Debtors		20,134 6 6
Cash Account		83,199 19 10
Johannesburg	£67,981 12 9	
London	1,090 6 11	
At Mine	1,100 14 3	
Gold in Transit	13,027 5 11	
		£1,470,661 0 8

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.
JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary.

We hereby certify that we have examined the Books of the Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company, Limited, and compared same with Vouchers and Bank Book; that we have found them correct, and that the above is a true extract from the said Books.

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., Incorporated Accountants, } Auditors.

Statement of Expenditure and Revenue for the Year ended December 31, 1906.

Dr.		
To Mining		£138,144 11 3
Hauling and Pumping		24,599 5 2
Sorting		3,605 16 10
Crushing		3,110 0 8
Transport		4,664 7 1
Milling		29,125 16 3
Fruevanners		6,675 10 6
Water Service		8,138 19 3
Development Redemption		19,725 19 0
Cyaniding Sands		30,148 5 4
,, Concentrates		6,550 18 4
,, Slimes		15,810 8 11
General Charges		26,967 7 8
Salaries, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, &c.	£4,696 4 8	
London and Paris Agencies and Transfer Office	1,700 10 4	
Draughtsman and Survey Offices	641 17 6	
Interest, Commission & Exchange, and Insurance	2,122 16 3	
Maintenance, Buildings, Roads, &c.	1,609 4 2	
Electric Lighting	2,763 7 3	
Assaying	3,063 10 6	
General Charges, Stationery, Printing, and Advertising	10,369 17 0	
Balance to Profit and Loss		153,088 5 3
		£470,355 11 6
Cr.		
By Gold Account		£464,191 15 4
Battery	£275,340 15 8	
Cyanide Works	188,850 19 8	
Dividend Account		216 0 0
General Revenue		5,917 16 2
		£470,355 11 6

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.
JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary,

Examined and found correct,
S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., Incorporated Accountants. } Auditors.

Profit and Loss Account for Year ended December 31, 1906.

Dr.		
To Dividends Nos. 32 and 33		£94,000 0 0
Profits Tax		10,110 8 0
For year 1906	£10,298 4 0	
Over-estimated 1905	187 16 0	
Share Depreciation		291,900 0 0
Sundries		3,094 16 6
Balance		797,611 11 9
		£1,196,716 16 3
Cr.		
By Balance as at December 31, 1905		£1,043,628 11 0
Balance from Expenditure and Revenue		153,088 5 3
		£1,196,716 16 3
By Balance		£797,611 11 9

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.
JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct,
S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON & CO., Incorporated Accountants, } Auditors.

THE RANDFONTEIN ESTATES GOLD MINING COMPANY, WITWATERSRAND, Ltd.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the above-named Company was held in the offices of the Company at Mayfair, Johannesburg, on Monday, February 4, 1907, Mr. J. W. S. Langerman, presiding.

The Directors' Report and the Statement of Accounts were unanimously agreed to, and Mr. N. J. Scholtz, who retired by rotation, was re-elected a Director of the Company. On the nomination of the Board Mr. F. S. Tudhope was elected a Director of the Company.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets as at December 31, 1906.

Dr.		
To Capital		£3,000,000 0 0
Share Premium		2,255,057 9 3
Sundry Creditors		262,181 8 1
Balance of Profit and Loss Account		3,573,614 1 1
		£9,091,752 18 5
Cr.		
By Property		£1,850,452 4 3
Machinery and Plant		31,797 17 0
Buildings		21,442 11 2
Prospecting		19,760 4 1
Dams and Reservoirs		28,336 18 2
Roads and Fences		793 1 10
Plantations and Tree-planting		5,153 1 11
Furniture		3,398 11 1
Live Stock and Vehicles		1,898 6 11
Stores		48,813 4 10
Shares		5,274,059 0 3
Debentures		975,000 0 0
Sundry Debtors		91,272 6 3
Dividends accrued during year		81,436 16 0
Cash		658,138 14 8
Johannesburg	£248,154 6 9	
London	407,875 0 0	
At Mine	2,109 7 11	
		£9,091,752 18 5

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.
JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary.

We hereby certify that we have examined the books of the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Witwatersrand, Limited, and compared same with Vouchers and Bank Book; that we have found same correct; and that the above is a true extract from said books

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., Incorporated Accountants, } Auditors.

ROBINSON GROUP OF MINES—*continued.*

Statement of Expenditure and Revenue for the Year ended December 31, 1906.

DR.		
To Salaries, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, &c.		£6,303 13 4
London and Paris Agencies and Transfer Office		3,600 10 4
Survey Office		227 7 2
Interest, Commission and Exchange, and Insurance		473 15 0
Maintenance of Buildings, Roads, &c.		1,411 2 5
Licences		5,174 6 9
General Charges, Stationery, Printing and Advertising		3,055 0 10
Balance to Profit and Loss Account		122,604 14 11
		£142,850 10 9
CR.		
By Dividends	£81,477 12 0	
Received and Accrued during Year—		
General Revenue	61,372 18 9	
		£142,850 10 9

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.

JAMES H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct,

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants (Eng.).

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended December 31, 1906.

DR.		
To Sundries		£2,947 11 4
Balance		3,573,614 1 1
		£3,576,561 12 5
CR.		
By Balance as at December 31, 1905	£3,453,956 17 6	
Balance of Expenditure and Revenue Account	122,604 14 11	
		£3,576,561 12 5
Balance		£3,573,614 1 1

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice Chairman.

JAMES H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct.

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and Co., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants (Eng.)

THE PORGES RANDFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY, Ltd.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the above-named Company was held at the offices of the Company at Mayfair, Johannesburg, on Monday, February 4th, 1907, Mr. J. W. S. Langerman presiding.

The Directors' Report and the Statement of Accounts were unanimously agreed to, and the dividend of 10 per cent. declared by the board in December, 1906, was confirmed.

Mr. J. B. Robinson, who retired by rotation, was re-elected, and, on the nomination of the board, Mr. F. S. Tudhope was elected a director of the Company.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets as at December 31, 1906.

DR.		
To Capital		£500,000 0 0
Debentures		250,000 0 0
Dividend No. 5, declared December, 1906		50,000 0 0
Dividends Unclaimed		471 6 0
Sundry Creditors		13,431 8 5
Balance of Profit and Loss		338,641 10 11
		£1,152,544 5 4
CR.		
By Property	£806,943 0 6	
Machinery and Plant	298,773 12 1	
Buildings	37,161 0 6	
Development, Shafts, &c.	215,021 17 0	
Roads and Fences	1,149 15 7	
Plantations and Tree Planting	86 18 4	
Furniture	335 17 0	
Instruments	203 7 5	
Live Stock and Vehicles	474 0 6	
Stores	167 18 5	
Shares	200,001 0 0	
Leases, &c., paid in advance	37 10 0	
Carried forward	£1,060,355 17 4	
Brought forward	£1,060,355 17 4	
Native Labour Recruiting	1,262 12 0	
Sundry Debtors	1,214 10 7	
Dividends accrued for 1906	10,000 8 0	
Cash Account	79,710 17 5	
Johannesburg £68,862 2 7		
At Mine 1,480 3 1		
Gold in Transit 2,368 11 9		
	£1,152,544 5 4	

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.

JAMES H. CROSBY, Secretary.

We hereby certify that we have examined the books of The Porges Randfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited, and compared same with Vouchers and Bank Book; that we have found them correct, and that the above is a true extract from the said books.

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants (Eng.).

Statement of Expenditure and Revenue for Year ended December 31, 1906.

DR.			
To Mining			£94,432 15 10
Hauling and Pumping			18,020 10 5
Sorting			1,013 17 2
Crushing			2,457 13 10
Transport			2,101 17 4
Milling			16,758 13 4
Water Service			2,634 2 6
Development			25,327 18 11
Cyaniding Sands			12,766 13 10
Cyaniding Concentrates			2,877 7 8
Cyaniding Slimes			4,917 19 10
General Charges			20,661 6 10
Salaries, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, &c.	£3,577 0 0		
London and Paris Agencies and Transfer Office	703 6 3		
Draughtsman's and Survey Offices	1,593 1 11		
Interest, Commission and Exchange, and Insurance	1,352 19 6		
Maintenance, Buildings, Roads, &c.	1,213 16 10		
Electric Lighting	2,606 13 6		
Assaying	1,793 18 4		
General Charges, Stationery, Printing, and Advertising	7,810 10 6		
Balance to Profit and Loss			109,298 11 0
			£313,269 8 6
CR.			
By Gold Account			£311,864 10 3
Battery	£208 816 9 6		
Cyanide Works	103,048 0 9		
General Revenue			1,404 13 3
			£313,269 8 6

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.

JAMES H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct,

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants (Eng.).

Profit and Loss Account for Year ended December 31, 1906.

DR.			
To Dividend No. 5			£50,000 0 0
Debenture Interest			12,500 0 0
Profits Tax			10,317 18 9
For Year 1906	£10,274 14 0		
Underestimated 1905	43 4 0		
Sundries			1,289 12 2
Balance			338,641 10 11
			£412,699 1 1
CR.			
By Balance as at December 31, 1905			£293,400 2 1
Dividends accrued			10,000 8 0
Balance of Expenditure and Revenue			109,298 11 0
			£412,699 1 1
Balance			£338,641 10 11

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.

JAMES H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct.

S. FLEISCHER
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants (Eng.).

This is the famous BOVRIL Poster

which proved to be the most popular on the London Hoardings, being awarded the first place in the recent Poster Competition.

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appeals to the discriminating smoker and the connoisseur of tobacco.

Sold in TWO STRENGTHS:

Mild, 5d. per oz. Medium, 4½d. per oz.

John Player & Sons, Nottingham, will forward testing samples post free to applicants mentioning this paper.

0298

LETTERS FROM CELEBRITIES.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET ON NERVOUSNESS.

Industrial Farm Colony,
Duxhurst.

Dear Friend,—Your letter is one of many which I constantly receive begging me to tell of something which can help to restore tired nerves and over-worn strength, and you ask me to do so because I come in contact with so many who for these very reasons fail in the race of life, having sought the wrong remedy for such loss of nerve-power.

The description which you give me of your difficulty scarcely varies from that of which I am so often told. Work has become a drudgery, and life a heavy thing. You tell me that you go to bed feeling tired, and that you wake in the morning almost equally tired, that your food is distasteful to you, and that little things which used to sit lightly upon you have become heavy burdens; that even pleasure is toil. I know you have worked hard through many years, and have had much mental strain. This may in a measure account for your weakness, which is not brought about by any condition of actual disease, but which seems to arise from an even greater trouble—namely, that your nerve-force is seriously overspent.

It is important to understand that in these days of worry and over-excitement, the over-work (mental and physical) to which most of us are subject calls forth an undue expenditure of strength, and that to recuperate the vigour we have lost we must consider what sort of food or remedy we require.

Of course, the whole question of proper nourishment requires much thought and experience. Many forms of food and many restoratives are recommended, but having had to do with a great many people who have impaired their digestive organs and whose nerve-power has been seriously undermined, I do not think that I have come across anything which I believe a more suitable nutrient for all forms of weakness than Sanatogen. I do not know if you have tried it, but it seems to me, under the conditions such as you have described, an ideal preparation, because it provides a valuable tonic-food in the most suitable form. It consists, I believe, in the nourishing element of pure cows' milk, incorporated with which is a special nerve-tonic containing phosphorus. It has an invigorating power on worn-out nerves, and gives tone to exhausted tissues to a surprising extent. The feeblest system and the poorest digestive organs are able to assimilate it when they can really touch little else. I am strongly of opinion that you cannot do better than begin a course of Sanatogen if you wish to regain your strength.

Sanatogen undoubtedly restores sleep and invigorates the nerves, and it braces the patient to health, for I have noticed that with the restoration of the digestive organs the mind becomes more quickly active, and work, both mental and physical, becomes more easy, and the freshness and keenness which such people have lost (apparently altogether) return gradually, and bring with them an enjoyment of life and a feeling of hopefulness not hitherto experienced.

When the body is subjected to a course of Sanatogen the blood condition improves, the skin assumes a more healthy colour, the invigorated nerves are braced to a more healthy tone, and the whole human machinery is made fit for exercise and work and for fulfilling its functions in the most perfect manner.

The above is an abstract from a letter addressed by Lady Henry Somerset to an intimate friend. In view of the public interest associated with the subject of the letter, the recipient has obtained her Ladyship's gracious permission to make the contents more widely known. Additional information and interesting literature on the same subject may be obtained free of charge on application to the Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C. Sanatogen is sold by all chemists, in packets, at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. 6d.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLES NOS. 1,463 & 1,464.

The awards in above will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,470.

Father Vaughan, in the course of one of his slashing sermons, has recently run a tilt at the extravagant marks of affection lavished by so many Society women on their pet dogs, to which the good Father refers, in his trenchant way, as "little beasts."

Now, on the principle of *audi alteram partem*, I should like my competitors to put themselves in the position of one of these dumb "little beasts" and to indite the good Father a neat and effective rejoinder.

To that end I am this week offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas for

THE BEST HUMOROUS POEM, IN NOT MORE THAN EIGHT LINES OF RHYMED VERSE, SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY A "LITTLE BEAST" OF A PET DOG, IN ANSWER TO FATHER VAUGHAN'S DIATRIBES.

Any metre, in ordinary use, may be employed, subject to the condition that every line must rhyme with at least one other line in the poem; and the limit of eight lines must on no account be exceeded.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No competitor must send in more than one poem.

(ii) All poems must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, April 8, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of BEL DEMONIO, winner of 10s. 6d., in connection with TRUTH Puzzle No. 1,467, is Miss Isabel W. Ferguson, Edenballymore, Londonderry, Ireland.

MAKHILA.—Emendations are quite in order until the closing day of Competition; and I have duly substituted your revised version, in accordance with your request.

CLOTHES-HORSE.—Your explanation duly noted.

SIMPLEX.—I much regret that your solution for Boat Race Puzzle was received too late for inclusion.

NORTHLANDER.—Many thanks for your kind suggestions, which I will consider.

QUILL PEN.—I much regret that your solution of Puzzle No. 1,465 was received too late for inclusion.

J. MCGRIGOR ALLAN.—Your quotation from Virgil's Eclogues is decidedly apt. I am not printing it, however, for reasons already indicated, viz., that, owing to the large number of solutions received week by week, and the consequent demands on space, I am obliged rigorously to exclude all extraneous matter. You will, I am sure, understand this.

DERULA.—You will, doubtless, have seen my reply to you in last week's TRUTH.

JOHN O' GAUNT.—Very pleased to welcome, once again, an old competitor. Your change of address duly noted.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,467.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ALLITERATIVE AND EPIGRAMMATIC DESCRIPTIONS OF A TYPICAL ENGLISH BANK HOLIDAY.

1. Arry and 'Arriett anticipate an 'appy April afternoon at 'Ampstead. 2. Tired toilers take trips: trains, trams, theatres, taverns take toll.—Eboracum.

Mixed multitudes madly making merry mindless morrow's miserable morn.—Cherrypicker.

1. Total transformation: ten thousand thousand toilers turned trippers. Traffic topsy-turvy. 2. Expectation. Exodus. Exquisite, ecstatic enjoyment. "'Eavenly!" exclaims 'Enrietta. 'Enry endorses.—Oiseau.

1. Britain bedlamised by bawling babies, bustling Bessie's bibulous bills. 2. Boisterous boys, "baked" bicyclists, beery Bills; bankholidays be blowed!—Alpha Beta.

1. Monday morning! Master, mistress, man, maid meeting 'midst merry manifestations. 2. 'Arry and 'Arriet 'Awkins 'aving a 'appy afternoon at 'Ampstead.—Nurse.

Soaking showers—swilling swains supporting simpering sirens shrieking silly songs.—Redder.

Amalgamate altogether, 'Arrys, 'Arriets, accordions, affability, activity, amorousness, and alcohol.—Korah.

1. 'Appy 'Arry and 'Arriet, 'andsomely attired, attend Avebury's annual airing. 2. Gallery gods gay, guying game; gadabouts go grogging, gallivanting grimly.—Northlander.

Amorous 'Arries and 'Arriets absorbing ale and actuating atrocious accordions.—John.

1. Huge hampers heavily handicap hungry, heated, hurrying, hilariously happy holidaymakers. 2. Drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink!—Bim.

1. Amusements are arranged accommodating all ages, admirable attractions always abound. 2. Crowded carriages carrying cheerful children, chattering continuously, cause ceaseless confusion.—Elm.

Breezy, boisterous British bonhomie becomes blatant bestiality by besotting beer.—Edibee.

1. Cheerful cockneys cut careless capers, crowd charabancs, chaffingly caress. 2. Amiable acquaintances admire 'Arryjs 'Arriet, all are active and athirst.—Elsab.

Cake-chewing children; cabbies' cadging customers, crammed carriages crawling coastwards.—Hatter.

1. Seasonable saturnalia, serviceable stimulus, successful sans souci, strengthening sedentary spirits. 2. Effectually enliven exhausted energies, employers encouraging employees, enjoyment everywhere exciting.—Simplex.

1. Many men 'midst merry maidens make most monstrous melody. 2. Bidding Bertie bear both babies, Bertha bathes beneath the brine.—Hibernia.

1. Monday metamorphoses men, making many mere machines, merry, mischief-loving madcaps. 2. City clerks cheerily crowd countryward, carping country cads cavil caustically.—Bel Demonio.

An awful agreeable affair to 'Arry and 'Arriet at 'Ampstead.—Beginner.

AT A RABBIT COURSING.

Yoicks! yoicks! yonder, ye yelling youngsters, ye yeiping yahoos!—T. de P.

'Arriet 'appy, 'andsome adornments, 'at awry; 'Arry alcoholic after awhile.—Canning.

Ordinarily orderly oafs' occasional opportunity of organising outrageous orgies.—Thersites.

1. Lawless, lusty, lively, laughing legions let loose. 2. Noisy Nihilism.—Spartan.

Rollicking roysterers run right royal riot, regarding rowdyism real recreation.—Malsah.

1. Suffering Suffragettes sought seats. State Secretary stood stern—secured "skally" (and so their holiday). 2. Angus and Angelina at Anglesea ate appetising apples, amply.—Dorset.

1. Many merrymakers, much mangled music, misguided maidens musing matrimonially. 2. Mirth mummery, 'mid music's masquerade, many men mashing maidens.—Raspboy.

1. Trippers tidy tramp the town, take tea, then theatres throng. 2. Swells swam streets, street-swam swells.—Scepsic.

An animated affair at "'Appy Ampstead," amusements automatically arranged assisting.—Magpie.

Perfect programme! Pair, provisions, pack, picnic, parasol, proposal, promise. Paradise!!!—Ethelwyn.

1. "Awful affliction," 'Appy 'Ampstead asseverates, anticipating 'Arry's and 'Arriet's arrival. 2. Low life, luxuriating listlessly, limply lies lengthwise, lining leafy lanes.—Quilp.

Melodious maidens, muddled music, mundane merrymakers, mirthless mokes (Anglice donkeys).—Djalfi.

Rowdy, ripping, rejoicing, rollicking, revelling, rejuvenating, right royal rabble rout!—Aster.

1. Artful, 'armonious 'Arry, 'ansome, 'aughty 'Arriet: ardently amorous; absolutely 'appy! 2. Roundabouts, ripping, rummy, rackety, raffish, rattling, rough, rushing, rioting rowdyism.—J. McGrigor Allan.

1. Reading, resting, rowing, restraint—reward. 2. Romping, reeling, rowdy, reckless—regret.—Grace.

1. Dollar diminishing, drink demanding, dress destroying, dust disseminating, disappointing day. 2. Headache healing, health hoarding, here's Happy Hampstead Heath hearty holiday.—Derula.

1. Thousands throng trains, trams, Thames. Tramping trippers terminate the toil. 2. Motley masses, making merry, merch, meters, mashers, maidens, "minor Marks." 3. Long live Lubbock! Look lively! Labouring limbs like leisure's luxury.—Alles.

People planning, planning, packing; parking, picnicing, pairing; pressing, pushing, panting.—On Spec.

1. Racing, roaring, rushing race round rural roads, returning right rampantly. 2. Trippers trailing tiredly trainwards, torturing trombones, thirsty tipplers tippling toddy.—Porthos.

1. Freedom for feastings, fights, follies, friendships, flirtations, flatteries, fooleries, fraternities. 2. Diversions, dissipations, drinkings, delights, delusions, disorders, domestic disruptions, felicities, divorces.—Mary.

1. Sunshine smiles, satisfaction supreme, sorrow succeeds, sweet pleasures seduce society. 2. Realistic revels, revellers rampant, romping, roystering, racy, rousing, refuting restraints.—Sphinx.

1. Fineries, flights, floatations, fermentations, friendships follies, feuds, fatalities, fermentations flourish. 2. Daydreams delightful, dissipations divine, disasters, and the many discretions, debaucheries desecrating Crank.

Pleasant pastime. Pursuits propitiated. Pitiable plight. Pitiless perverse.—Mary.

Pay, Pallor, push-pin, pebbles; penalty, pain, pallor; prescription, pill, pillow.—Ethelwyn.

Beautiful, breezy, bracing, bustling, beery, bad, bankrupt, beanfast.—V.C.

1. Heterogeneous, hilarious hordes hurrying Hampstead Heath have healthy, happy holiday. 2. Increasing exemplary [illegible] impossible. Illiterate impulsive individuals imprisoned. Improvement invited.—Dullard.

Mad merry-makers mingle 'mid many motley-coloured motors: murderous Monday.—Autolycus.

1. Men musical, maidens mirthful, much merry-making, many marriages meditated. 2. Ambling aimlessly all around, 'Arry and 'Arriet, arm and arm.—Crusoe.

1. Avebury's Act assures 'Arry and 'Arriet's 'appiness at 'appy 'Ampstead. 2. Beloved by bean-feasters, because Bacchus, being by, brings beery badinage.—Fog.

Passionate pilgrims, pursuing pleasure, patronising "pops," paying pipers.—Asthore.

Every Englishman (excepting exceptional employees) enjoys easier existence every Eastertide.—Caw.

Absconding 'Arry and 'Arriet's amours—an alcoholic aberration and affliction.—O. P. Q.

1. (The smooth side): Shop shut—sunshine—steamer — Southend—switchback—shrimps—sands—satisfaction—sleep. 2. (The rough side): Rush—railway—Ramsgate—rain—restaurant — robbery—recrimination — returning—rowdyism—regret.—John o' Gaunt.

Bracing, breezy, beautiful Brighton, bassy, Bass, beef, best blushing belle.—The Prebend.

Coster cart carries company Clapham Common, change caps, comic cuts.—Do.

1. Agonised æsthetes anathematise 'Arry's artless antics as an aboriginal anachronism. 2. Tumultuous trippers throng the termini, thereby turning the traffic topsy-turvy.—Sponge.

Bicycles, bluster, babies, buns, bathing, betting, bibacious bachelors, belles, belladonna.—Clodagh.

1. An authorised annual "airing," amusements abound and attract animated assemblies. 2. An "altogether" annual airing: appropriate amusements abundant, attracting animated assemblies.—Riam.

Rushing, bustling, crushing, hustling, singing, shrieking, flirting, freaking, spooning, squeaking.—Petros.

Big British blunder, beloved by bankers, but bemoaned by barmaids.—Almaviva.

1. Rush, river, rail, romping, reeling, resting, rinking, romance, refreshments, repentance. 2. Many men meet maidens, making moments merry, mentioning matrimonial matters.—Nana.

Howling Harry's, hoydenish Harriet's hysteric heyday. Ho! Happy Hampstead Heath.—Verbum Sat.

Ordinarily orderly oaf's occasional opportunity of organising odiously outrageous orgies.—Thersites.

1. 'Arry and 'Arriet's artless amusement at 'Appy 'Ampstead. 2. Delightful day, delicious drives, dining, drinking, dancing, dallying.—Difisel.

1. Wet Whit-week when weary, worried wights wander, whimper, wrangle. 2. Easter excursions! Elysium! Elevens enjoy, Edwins embrace, Elders eat enormously.—Peregrine.

1. Lubbock-lightened labour, legally let loose, lovally luxuriates. 2. Exemplifies episode essentially English—everybody earnestly energetic enjoying enforced "ease."—Kingston.

Sea sparkling, ships sailing, sailors smoking, strollers singing, shrimps selling.—W. J. S.

Beautiful, bracing, bright, fills thousands of hearts with delight.—Game B.

A trip by train, to the bracing main, for me.—Mrs. Game B.

Happy holiday Hampstead Heath, hale Harry hovering here, having Harriett handy handsomely hatted, holding ham-hampered handkerchief.—Dagmar.

Blessed bank break, bringing burdened bodies, bothered brains beneficial balm.—Brad.

1. Many men making merry, much music, mirthful maids marrying mashers. 2. Children create consternation; cyclists certainly collide; conventionality ceases, consequently congeniality.—Miss Eva Exshaw.

"Fellowship among men is nowhere more harmonious than among smokers, since the weed seldom fails to create an atmosphere of the greatest peace and goodwill."

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A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

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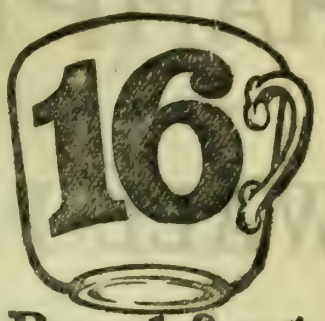

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE King was to have left Biarritz to-morrow night for Marseilles, but his Majesty's plans have been changed, and he will remain at Biarritz until Friday morning, as he has decided to travel by day, and will then proceed to Toulon, where he is to receive the Queen when she arrives from London on Saturday morning. The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* has arrived at Toulon from Portsmouth in company with the Admiralty yacht *Enchantress*. The King and Queen are to leave Toulon on Saturday afternoon for Cartagena, where they will be received by the King of Spain and the Queen Dowager. The *Enchantress*, with Lord Tweedmouth on board, is to accompany the *Victoria and Albert* to Cartagena. On leaving Cartagena the Royal yacht will proceed on a cruise in the Mediterranean until the 25th or 26th, when the King is to land at one of the Italian ports, and he will return direct to London overland. If the weather is fine the Queen and Princess Victoria will return to Portsmouth by sea, in which case they are to stop for a day at Cadiz in order to pay a visit to the Comtesse de Paris at the Château Villamanrique. The proposed route of the Royal yachts is being kept strictly secret in order to avoid the *gêne* of receptions and ceremonials, but it is settled that the King and Queen are to spend a few days at Naples.

It was stated in Truth a few weeks ago that there are to be no more State Concerts, these ceremonials having been permanently discontinued. One of the papers deplores the cessation of entertainments "which have been a feature of the Court season for many years." As a matter of fact, there has not been a single State Concert during the present reign. State concerts were established in the forties, at the suggestion of Prince Albert, as a Court entertainment suitable for such prim and serious personages of light and leading as could not be properly invited to a State Ball. Now, however, that Drawing-room Courts are held at night, with a supper to follow, they take the place of the concerts. State concerts were not entertainments for which invitations were coveted, as they were usually very tedious and uninteresting, while the ballroom was overpoweringly hot. The King's decision to discontinue these concerts is certainly not regretted at Court.

The Buckingham Palace invitation lists are being rigorously revised, and will probably be weeded somewhat extensively. There are two lists, the larger one for the Courts, and the smaller one for the State Balls. In future the number of guests invited by the Lord Chamberlain to a ball at the Palace will not exceed 2,000, and it is probable that the old custom of inviting certain personages to every such entertainment (such as ex-Ministers and ex-White Staves, and members of the class described by Lord Beaconsfield as "the high nobility") will be given up. This practice was commenced during the reign of William IV., and it has since been continued, but until within the last thirty years "society" was very much more restricted than it is now, while the candidates for Palace invitations have enormously increased in numbers.

Several papers printed a paragraph last week which announced that the Council which was held on Tuesday by the Prince of Wales for the King had been summoned to transact business connected with the adjournment of Parliament for the Easter recess. This is all nonsense. The Council was summoned for the transaction of certain routine business, which it was desired to complete at once, as it would have been inconvenient to wait for nearly five weeks until the King returns to London at the end of this month.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were to have spent Easter at Sandringham, but they changed their arrange-

ments, and are staying for a fortnight at Frogmore Lodge. The Prince and Princess will not return to Sandringham before the middle of October, after their usual residence in Scotland. The Princess will go to Germany at the end of July, and is to remain abroad for about a month, the latter part of the time being spent in Switzerland. H.R.H. will pay visits to the Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz at her villa near Dresden, to the Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at Schloss Rosenau, and to Princess Louis of Battenberg at the Château of Heiligenberg.

It is probable that the Emperor William will pay a visit to England next summer for the Cowes regatta week, in the Imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*. The R.Y.S. regatta begins on Tuesday, August 6. It is expected that the Emperor will arrange to arrive in the Solent on Wednesday, July 31, in which case his Majesty will probably go to Goodwood on the Cup day, while Friday, August 2, will be devoted to a long motor drive through the New Forest. During the Emperor's visit to Cowes he will live on board the *Hohenzollern*, and it is understood that he will stay until Saturday, August 10. The Emperor will not visit London, and he is to be entertained by the King and Queen on board the *Victoria and Albert*, which will be in Cowes Roads, with their Majesties on board, from Friday, August 2, until Monday, the 12th.

The Duchess of Albany will leave Claremont Park shortly on a visit to her sister, the Queen Dowager of the Netherlands, at The Hague. The Duchess is not going to Germany until the beginning of August. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha have just left Coburg to spend a few weeks in Italy.

Princess Louis of Battenberg and her daughter, Princess Louise, have left London on a visit to Prince and Princess Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden at Stockholm, whence they will proceed to Russia, to visit the Tsar and Tsaritsa at Tsarskoe-Selo and the Grand Duchess Elisabeth at Ilinskoe, near Moscow. Princess Louis will spend the summer at Heiligenberg, and in October she is going to Malta for a stay of several months. During her visit to England the Princess was the guest of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, of Prince and Princess Christian at Cumberland Lodge, and of Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll at Kent House.

The King and Queen of Norway will pay a private visit to England at the end of May or early in June, when they are to be the guests of their Majesties at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor Castle.

Lord Liverpool had been hopelessly ill for several months, and by permission of the King his duties had been undertaken by Lord Farquhar, the Master of the Household. His death is greatly regretted in Yorkshire and in Nottinghamshire, as he had been for many years a familiar and honoured figure in both counties. He was very genial in his manners, and a man of courtly air, as well as high culture and fine taste in art and literature. He was a most accomplished antiquary, and a great authority on all questions of archæology and family history. As a landlord he was generous and considerate, and he took a keen interest in the welfare of all residents on his estates, and generally in his neighbours of all classes. He was an enthusiastic Churchman, and not only presented valuable gifts to some of the churches with which he was connected, but served for many years as vicar's warden at Ollerton, and after his removal to Kirkham Abbey he usually read the lessons in the parish church.

In politics Lord Liverpool was a strong Liberal, and throughout his public life he staunchly supported Mr. Gladstone. He sat in the House of Commons as one of the Members for Notts from 1880 until 1892, when he retired, and a year later he was raised to the Peerage by Mr. Gladstone, and last year Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman advanced him to an earldom. He owned estates in Yorkshire, Notts, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire. He was twice married. His first wife was a daughter of Mr. and Lady Fanny Howard, granddaughter of the sixth Earl of Carlisle, and his second (who survives him) is a daughter of Colonel and Lady Emily Cavendish.

Lord Liverpool came of an ancient, wealthy, and influential Whig family. He was the younger son of the late Mr. George Savile Foljambe, of Osberton Hall, Notts, a domain now owned by his elder brother, who himself sat in the House of Commons for twenty-eight years, and he was made a Privy Councillor in 1895. Lord Liverpool's mother was the daughter and co-heiress of the third Earl of Liverpool, and niece of the Minister who was described by Lord Beaconsfield as "the Arch-Mediocrity." Lady Selina Jenkinson was first married to Viscount Milton, eldest son of the fifth Earl Fitzwilliam. He died in 1835, and ten years later his widow married Mr. Savile Foljambe, the late Lord Liverpool being their eldest son. He would have taken the title of Liverpool in 1893, but objections were raised at the College of Arms that this title belonged to an earldom, and ought not, therefore, to be taken for a barony. It has always been understood that when Mr. Gladstone retired from office in 1894, Queen Victoria offered him an earldom, and suggested that he should take the Liverpool title, as being appropriate from his family connection with that city.

Mrs. Selwyn, who died at Lichfield last week at the age of ninety-eight, was the only daughter of Sir John Richardson, one of the puisne judges of the Court of Common Pleas, who was raised to the Bench by Lord Eldon in 1818. She married George Augustus Selwyn in 1839. He was then Curate of Windsor, but two years later he was induced by Archbishop Howley and Bishop Blomfield to accept the newly founded See of New Zealand. Mrs. Selwyn, who was a clever, ener-

For Approved Charities, see pages 858, 859.
For Appeals, see page 857.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 861.
For Special for Ladies, see pages 862, 863.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 860, 861.
For Amusements, see page 857.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 865, 866.
For Estates, Auctions, etc., see page 857.

getic woman, zealously assisted her husband in his work, and she shared his hardships and worries. They returned to England in 1867 for the Pan-Anglican Synod, and, on the death of Bishop Lonsdale, Lord Derby offered Selwyn the See of Lichfield, which he twice refused before he was finally induced to accept it. The new Bishop and Mrs. Selwyn abandoned Eccleshall Castle, the former episcopal residence, and established themselves at Lichfield. Bishop Selwyn died in 1878, and his wife continued to reside at Lichfield, where she was actively interested in many good works. She retained her faculties to the last. Mrs. Selwyn suffered a great grief in 1898, when she lost her younger son, who had for some years held the See of Melanesia, and was at the time of his much-lamented death Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

SPRING—IN THE PRESS.

The hedges shoot, the linnets sing,
The lambkin cuts his capers;
And—yet a surer sign of spring—
They're writing to the papers:

"I heard the cuckoo yesterday,"
"I saw a Painted Lady,"
"I found an orchis blooming gay
Within a coppice shady."

"The lilac trees are all in bud
Down here in Sleepy Hollow,"
"I've roused a tadpole from the mud,"
"I've seen the primal swallow;"

And so on. But the while I doubt
If such they've really seen, Sir,
And read the reams they ladle out
With rather sceptic mien, Sir,

I'm glad to meet them, I confess,
And always feel elated
When cuckoos cuckoo—in the press,
A fortnight antedated,

And swallows are—on paper—seen
Some weeks before they're due, Sir,
Because spring's journalistic "green"
Forecasts spring's verdure true, Sir.

A rare opportunity is offered to any enterprising capitalist who would like to become practically the proprietor of a fashionable and flourishing health resort. Messrs. Knight, Frank, and Rutley announce the sale by auction of the Middleton Evans Estates, which comprise the greater part of Llandrindod Wells, including the Pump House Hotel, with its pump room and the well-known mineral springs.

This year's show of the Royal Agricultural Society is to be held at Lincoln, which place was selected in preference to Ipswich. The show of 1908 will be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The Lincoln show is to take place during the last week of June, under the presidency of Lord Yarborough. It is expected that the King will be the guest of Lord Brownlow, Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, at Belton Hall, near Grantham, and that the Prince of Wales will stay with Lord Yarborough at Brocklesby Park. The Duke of Connaught and Prince Christian will also visit Lincoln during the show week.

Belton, the old seat of the Custs, is a very handsome and remarkably well-planned house, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and "improved" by Wyatt. It is in the form of the letter H. The house contains some good portraits by Lely, Romney, Gainsborough, and Reynolds, but the best pictures were removed many years ago to Ashridge, Lord Brownlow's place in Hertfordshire. There are some superb carvings by Grinling Gibbons at Belton, and the house contains a great deal of splendid old furniture. The park of seven hundred acres is well-wooded and much varied, and is ornamented by three lakes formed by the river Witham. There are pleasant gardens, which are well laid out. The view from the Belmont Tower, near the eastern lodge, is one of the most extensive in the district. Belton is altogether the most attractive country seat in Lincolnshire.

Lord Durham has presented his grandfather's collection of private papers, relating to the affairs of Canada, to the Government of that Dominion. There are about 4,000 papers altogether, and they give the whole secret history of a most important and exciting epoch in Canadian affairs. The first Earl of Durham, whose biography has been recently published, was practically Dictator of Canada for more than a year after the rebellion of 1837, and he was very badly treated by the Whig Ministry. His papers have been carefully preserved at Lambton Castle since his death in 1840.

The sale of the Rowfant copy of the First Folio Shakespeare for the record price of £3,600 (purchaser Mr. Quaritch, on behalf of a well-known American collector) is exceptionally interesting, because the book has a curious history. It was purchased for a comparatively small sum about 1870 by the late Mr. Locker Lampson, but it then lacked the leaf with Ben Jonson's verses. In "My Confidences" there is an entertaining account of a visit paid by Mr. Locker Lampson to the late Sir Henry Dryden (who is described as "Mr. Zachary Dene"), with the object of inducing him to part with the missing leaf, which was contained in the Canons Ashby copy of the First Folio. The mission failed, as he would not accept an offer of £80; and some years elapsed before Mr. Locker Lampson was able to complete his copy by paying £100 for the missing leaf, which was found pasted in an old scrap book.

The highest price previously paid for a First Folio was £1,720, in July, 1901. In 1864, Baroness Burdett-Coutts paid £720 for the Daniels copy, which was by no means a fine one. The Rowfant library was sold some years ago *en bloc* to an American dealer, who disposed of the Locker Lampson First Folio to a New York collector for £2,000. This book was originally published at twenty shillings per copy. The Rowfant copy of the first edition of Izaak Walton's "Compleat Angler," which Mr. Locker Lampson purchased for £105, now realised £1,290. The highest price previously paid was £415, in December, 1896.

People would save themselves trouble as well as me if they would refrain from writing me anonymous letters in praise of quack remedies which they see unfavourably noticed in these columns. This remark applies specially to the ladies who expect to convince me (or

my readers) in this way of the virtues of the Viavi humbug. I had quite a long letter of this kind last week from an unknown lady, apparently at Edgbaston. If this lady will forward her name and full address, and those of the medical gentlemen who attended her before she put herself in the hands of the Viavi people, I shall be pleased to ascertain exactly what her statements are worth. At present they are worth nothing, and having been rendered suspicious of my fellow-creatures by many years' experience of their little ways, I am sorry to say that I take the letter and all others of its class to emanate from somebody interested in the sale of the stuff.

Since I reluctantly decided a little time ago that people who want advice or assistance from me in any shape must forward a coupon from the cover of Truth, by way of establishing that they are, so to speak, bonâ-fide holders for value of my paper, I have had any number of complaints from libraries, clubs, regimental messes, and other places where Truth is taken for general consumption, that the restriction leads to the mutilation of the paper as soon as it appears by unscrupulous persons who cut out the coupon for their own use. Apparently I am not the only sufferer in the same way. The managers of the Boston Free Library, who have written to me on the subject, state that they have long been troubled by the mutilation of newspapers and magazines in this way. They kindly warn me that if anybody has been applying to me for advice from Boston he has probably not paid for it; but unfortunately this does not help me much, as I have a good many more than one appreciative reader in Boston, and in most other towns. The only suggestion I can offer is that the managers of all libraries should obliterate the coupon before placing the paper in their rooms. This would be a kindness which I should appreciate.

It is certainly a remarkable proof of the baseness of human nature that people who want an editor to do something for them should not only shirk the expenditure of a few coppers on a copy of the paper by way of remunerating him for his trouble, but try to humbug him by sending a coupon to prove that they buy the paper, when they have really stolen it. Attempts have been made before now at defining "the height of meanness." I suggest as a new one the case of the individual who desires to know how he can invest £1,000 to the best advantage, and in order to obtain the best advice goes to the nearest free library and cuts out the coupon from the cover of Truth in order to palm himself off on the City Editor as a purchaser of the paper.

In the case of regimental messes and libraries, this question has a somewhat different aspect. An indignant "Tommy" who wrote to me the other day was of opinion that the coupon was always cut out of Truth before it was placed in the reading-room by the sergeant-major with a view of discouraging the rank and file from consulting the Editor on little points of military practice, or army reform, or whatever it might be. If any sergeant-major is capable of such an action, which I hardly believe, it can only be because he does not read his Truth attentively himself. Coupons are only required from correspondents who want an answer by post or advice from my City Editor. I should imagine, therefore, that if any sergeant-major takes the course above mentioned, it is because he requires advice about his investments or something of that kind. This, however, does not make his conduct the less reprehensible.

So steps are being taken to start a publishing business in connection with the *Times* Book Club. This is what many people expected when the Book Club first came into collision with the bookselling trade and the publishers. The fear of it probably did as much as anything else to unite all interested in the book trade against the Book Club, for if that concern ran the booksellers off their legs, as it threatened to do, it would be in a fair way to obtain command of the publishing as well as the distributing branch of the business. The prospect of a powerful monopoly of this kind, run on smart American principles, alarmed booksellers, publishers, and authors in about equal degrees, and I should say justly. It would be one of those commercial undertakings which promise little benefit to anybody in the long run except the promoters and shareholders.

In the move that they are now taking, the Book Club strategists evidently propose to carry the war into the enemy's country. How this may affect the result of the "sort of war" in which the *Times* is engaged it is impossible to predict; but a publishing house can hardly exist in a state of internecine conflict with the bookselling trade. It looks, however, as if there might be a chance at last of the poor author getting something out of the battle. The *Times* has striven vigorously, with the help of Mr. G. B. Shaw and other free lances, to persuade the authors that Codlin is the friend, not Short, and during the last few weeks it has been devoting an article a day to demonstrating the accuracy of the theory that Barabbas was a publisher. Should it start in the publishing line itself, therefore, it will be bound to treat its authors with a munificence to which they have hitherto been strangers—bound not only in common decency, but also because (as we know already) the Book Club must be stocked at any cost. It will be interesting, therefore, to see the new publishing business at work. I would recommend authors to carefully preserve the *Times* articles on the Barabbas question for reference in their negotiations with the new firm.

The mere journalist is no partaker of what Mr. Zangwill has beautifully spoken of as "The Priesthood of Letters." Though he may get his livelihood by means of pen, ink, and paper, or may even run to a typewriter, he belongs only to the outer court of the temple. His calling brings him no nearer to the sacrosanct office of a priest than the verger who has charge of the hymn-books, or the washerwoman who gets up the surplices. At the best, all he can aspire to do is to burn a little incense when Meredith, the High Priest, enters the Holy of Holies, or when Father Shaw delivers the Gospel or ascends to the pulpit. From my humble station I would not presume to express an opinion on the relations of the Priesthood as incorporated in the

Society of Authors, with Barabbas on the one hand or a Book Club on the other. The T.B.C. merely interests me in its relation to the humbler vocation of journalism.

From this point of view, the news that the *Times* is going into the book-publishing business affects me as it would to learn that the *Spectator* had decided to supply its readers with its own brand of cigars and tobacco, or that our dear old friend, Mr. Punch, was wheeling a fruiterer's barrow in Fleet-street. It is not any old-fashioned notions about dignity that trouble me, but simply that I should be sorry to see a once prosperous neighbour in business reduced to these shifts, and I should doubt their good effect upon his journalistic activities. I do not question that Mr. Punch might blossom out into a prosperous greengrocer if he gave his mind to the business; or that the *Spectator* Colorado Claros would prove indispensable to every connoisseur; but I should fear a suggestion of onions in my *Punch*, and a whiff of the other fragrant vegetable—not cabbage, of course—with my *Spectator*, just as I find my *Times* every day positively reeking of Book Club. Neither the intrinsic merits nor the commercial value of a newspaper can possibly be improved by such associations. It is pretty certain to be the reverse.

That is why I have always regarded the *Times* Book Club as a deplorable experiment from the newspaper point of view. As a matter of business, it is the same thing as distributing the *Times* as wrappers for parcels of tea. The better the tea and the greater its commercial success the greater the certainty that the wrapper will be found merely an expensive superfluity, and will presently be discarded in favour of something cheaper. It must already be felt, I should think, that the Book Club could get on much better without the *Times* than with it, and if a successful publishing business is tacked on to the Book Club, that view of the situation is likely to be strengthened. I can quite understand that it might pay to run a general business like Harrod's Stores or John Barker's in conjunction with a daily paper as an advertising medium, but a halfpenny paper would be better for this purpose than a penny one, while a threepenny paper is comparatively useless.

A lady in the musical profession gives an interesting account of her experiences with Mr. G. R. Hatton, alias "Guy Roslyn." In the autumn of 1905 she received the usual application from Hatton for particulars of her life for *Men and Women*, and, thinking that it might be of use as a professional advertisement, she sent the desired particulars, together with a photo block, and paid 10s. 6d. Several months elapsed, during which all she could extract from Hatton was that there had been some hitch in the issue of the next number of his publication; and then, in March, 1906, she was told by him that *Men and Women* had come to grief, and that he was starting a new publication called *The Biograph*, and invited payment of any sum of money up to £5 in order to help him make a start. Again the lady sent 10s. 6d., nominally for twelve copies of the paper. Needless to say, she never received them, and after many months of waiting and writing, all she could obtain was the return of her photo block. When she threatened to take proceedings for the return of her money, Hatton calmly informed her that it would be quite useless as he had lost everything. Nevertheless, in March, 1907, the man writes again from his safe retreat in Canvey Island, Essex, requesting "particulars of your life for *The Biograph*," evidently forgetting all that had previously passed between him and the lady. Hatton has been swindling people right and left by this game for several years past, and anyone who would hand him over to the police would be doing a public service.

NO PARSON NEED APPLY.

A Parson's Protest.

An ex-M.P., not well advised,
Whose curious will I've lately read,
His daughters all hath penalised
If they, perchance, should parsons wed;

Because a parson don't (says he)
Believe his Ordination vows,
And, thus dishonest, cannot be
To any girl an honest spouse.

If that is the testator's line,
Why did he only parsons ban,
When the same vice he might assign
To nearly every mortal man?

Do M.P.s never disbelieve
The stuff they on the hustings spout?
Or promise what they can't achieve—
When bye-elections are about?

Do barristers ne'er raise in court
False pleas, defending some bad egg?
Are journalists too straight a sort
To pull at times the public's leg?

Don't great physicians e'er pretend
To knowledge that they haven't got?
Do auctioneers, with goods to vend,
Believe their own high-coloured rot?

No; every man, of every grade,
At whiles must prudent falsehoods weave,
And, in the interests of his trade,
Make statements that he can't believe.

So if strict truthfulness the key
To wedlock is, it follows, then,
Our daughters all must spinsters be
And all our sons unmarried men.

The Lords of the Manor of Knutsford, Cheshire, who are the patrons of the vicarage of Knutsford, have presented the Rev. G. L. Higson, curate of Holy Trinity, Birkenhead, to this living, which is worth between six and seven hundred a year, with house Knutsford, the original of Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford," is a charming little town, but the church is most uninteresting.

Lord Zetland has presented the Rev. H. J. Oliver, domestic chaplain at Aske Hall, to the vicarage of Marske-by-the-Sea, which has become vacant by the preferment of the Rev. F. G. James to the living of Ruswarp, near Whitby, on the presentation of the Archbishop of York.

I have to acknowledge £2 2s. from Rangoon towards Lady St. Helier's Children's Holiday Fund.

Fashionable Felixstowe.—This is a favourite season for visiting Felixstowe. The weather is usually beautifully fine. Society select. Specially reduced terms at the popular Felix Hotel. This establishment is pleasantly warmed, has a South-West aspect, faces the sea, and being in a sheltered position, affords a charming Spring Residence.

A gallant officer, who says that he has written to several editors in the same strain, but without gaining a hearing, sends me a long letter, of which I subjoin samples just to show that I am more intelligent, or more indulgent, than my contemporaries. The opening passage, which I am constrained to omit, is a somewhat fierce indictment of our national lack of patriotism and our shop-keeping proclivities:—

> Mr. Haldane proposes to obtain officers to replace the Militia officers, who most assuredly will resign *en masse*, by recruiting from the University. Just when young men should be doing their utmost to work to pass examinations to set them up in life he mildly suggests that they should be attached to a regiment for a year to learn a smattering of soldiering.
>
> As regards the rank and file, who on earth can expect a man who is in lucrative employment to join the Home Defence Force, thereby putting a noose round his neck in the shape of at any time being called out for six months' embodiment at 1s. a day? Can the man expect his employer to keep his place open for him when his generous Government sees fit to let him go. . . . Mr. Haldane says he has had most satisfactory letters from employers of labour. I am very glad to hear it, but he does not say he has asked the unemployed. Ask your friends whether they are prepared to let their butlers, valets, grooms, gardeners, etc., go for a fortnight annually, so that they can join the Defence Force. They will surely say Yes, and explode with wrath at the idea of not being called a patriot. But will they do it? I say No. . . .
>
> Let us stop being hypocrites. We all know there are only two ways to have a good second line, and these are by conscription and by paying for it. Let us make up our minds which we will have, and stop trying to bring in a scheme that ninety-nine people out of a hundred know is doomed to failure.

I suppose that there are a good many people talking, if not writing, more or less in this strain, but I am not at all surprised that they should find a difficulty in persuading editors to publish their letters. No one can say with any certainty that 300,000 men will voluntarily accept the terms of service Mr. Haldane proposes, but it is extravagant nonsense to say that ninety-nine people out of a hundred "know" that it will not be done. There are about 270,000 Volunteers and Yeomanry serving at present—to say nothing of some 90,000 Militiamen. It is possible that some of them may not be able to accept the new conditions; it is equally possible that the new system may please many men who have been dissatisfied with the official treatment of the Volunteers in the past. The county associations, largely composed of employers of labour, which are to be responsible for the raising of the territorial units, will bring entirely new influences to bear on recruiting, as well as in counteracting all such difficulties in the way of service and training as the above letter alludes to, and a man must be of a very cocksure habit of mind who predicts that all that these associations can do is "foredoomed to failure."

Again, it is absurd to picture 300,000 youths of all classes joining for four years' service at about eighteen years of age as being all "in lucrative employment;" still more to try and frighten them with the prospective loss of their situations when they are "called out for six months' embodiment at 1s. a day." The embodiment of the Territorial Army is only contemplated in the case of a very serious war which has taken the whole of the Regular Army on foreign service; and every man mustered for the defence of the country under such conditions will be a hero. Remembering how much was done for men under the very different conditions of the South African War, to suppose that the county associations will not be able to save the men of their own units from suffering by embodiment during a grave national crisis is simply foolish.

I do not understand Mr. Haldane's scheme for obtaining officers "to replace the Militiā officers" who are going to resign *en masse*, precisely as my correspondent does, but I may point out to him that there is a goodly proportion of youths at the Universities who are by no means bound to pass examinations "to set them up in life," and who would be all the better for having a little useful occupation found for them. In saying so much, I by no means imply the opinion that the problem of officering—and non-commissioned officering—the Territorial Army efficiently is likely to be settled in a minute. But I would strongly recommend the writer of the above letter, and all who talk in the same sort of strain, to indulge in a little clear thinking before they resort to strong language, and to show their patriotism by refraining from "crabbing," even before they understand it, the first business-like attempt that has been made to convert the auxiliary forces into an organised army.

Not very long ago some men on the night staff at Connaught Hospital, Aldershot, were discovered refreshing themselves at their early morning meal with eggs and bacon—provided, of course, at their own expense. The medical officer who made this alarming discovery pointed out to the men that they were only allowed biscuit, cheese, and coffee at this hour. The men themselves do not seem to have been punished for the outrage, but subsequently the two cooks who had served up the eggs and bacon were returned to duty—though it might have been thought that the offence of buying the unlawful food and eating it was more heinous than that of merely cooking it. The incident helps to show what a zeal for discipline the Army medico acquires with his military rank—and what a plentiful lack of discretion occasionally accompanies it.

A correspondent forwards a delectable specimen of "Protestant" literature handed to a soldier at Gibraltar with an invitation to attend a meeting at the Soldiers' Home, Europa. The pamphlet purports to record the ravings of an hysterical female of the "escaped nun" class, and a person must be a crazy fanatic who could expect to effect any good result by distributing such garbage among soldiers. The Soldiers' Home in question has presumably some official connection with the Army, if not with the Church of England, and it ought not to be mixed up with such mockery of religion.

The naval correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* contributes an interesting item to our knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of the Japanese:—

> Japanese naval discipline is a marvellous thing in British eyes. There are no ship police, and there is practically no code of punishment. An officer remonstrates with a faulty man, reminds him of his ancestors, and appeals to his love of country. If the man is recalcitrant the officer slaps his face once or twice, and that brings him to his senses.

The Japanese are always being held up to us for imitation, but little facts like these show the difficulty

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

of copying them. Obviously, a man must have had ancestors before he can be reminded of them. In this country ancestors are the possession of an insignificant minority, and they are probably very rare on the lower deck. With the progress of democracy the enjoyment of such luxuries may be extended, but, judging by some examples that we see, it is by no means certain that to remind an Englishman of his ancestors will always keep him straight. Besides, so much must always depend upon the ancestors. Slapping the face as a disciplinary measure comes nearer the British code. It is not much worse than 10A. It might be worth thinking about the next time the stokers are troublesome.

A memorial signed by 376 M.P.s, including many well-known members of the Liberal, Labour, Conservative, and Irish parties, has been presented to the Prime Minister asking for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the grievances of the assistant clerks (new class) in the Civil Service. This class was instituted in 1896, boy clerks on reaching the age of nineteen being eligible for admission to it by open competitive examination. The initial salary is £55 per annum, which formerly advanced by annual increments of £2 10s. to £70, thence by £5 to £100 (when an "efficiency barrier" has to be passed), and afterwards by the same increment to a maximum of £150. This is, indeed, still the arrangement in the case of all who entered the service prior to April, 1905, but for those who have been appointed since that date the initial increment has been increased to £5. The average age of admission to this class is twenty years, so that even under the present rule an assistant clerk is twenty-nine before he receives £100 a year.

On the recommendation of the Bradford Committee, the salaries of postal servants residing in large cities were increased to give them between £90 and £100 a year at the age of twenty-five (which was regarded as a proper and desirable age for marrying), and the class of assistant clerks certainly seems to have an equally strong claim to similar consideration. There are about 1,300 of them, and with the exception of 200 in Dublin, practically the whole number are employed in the Government offices in London, where the cost of living clearly makes their salaries inadequate, at any rate during the first ten years or so of their service. The maximum of £150 is, too, decidedly small for the "model employer" to pay, considering that many of these assistant clerks perform the same duties as those in the second division, and the fact, moreover, that a man in this class receives no increase at all during the last twenty years of his service can hardly be conducive to efficiency. It is to be hoped that the Prime Minister will see his way to comply with the request for an inquiry.

A recent appointment to the secretaryship of the Calcutta Corporation has provoked a good deal of adverse criticism in that city. When the post became vacant last year Mr. N. P. Mookerjee, the municipal magistrate, was appointed acting secretary. To this arrangement exception was taken on the ground that it would be calculated to destroy the feeling of independence which a stipendiary magistrate should possess if he were to be eligible for preferment in the municipal service. The force of this argument was admitted, but the official answer was that the employment of Mr. Mookerjee as secretary was only a temporary measure. Now, however, he has been given the permanent appointment, and this proceeding is defended on the ground that as six months have elapsed, and as he has shown himself to be an admirable secretary, the position is changed. Nobody questions Mr. Mookerjee's qualifications for the office, but the objection to his selection—an objection endorsed by a judge of the Calcutta High Court—was made as a matter of principle, and the idea that it has been removed by delaying the permanent appointment for a few months is transparently absurd.

The case of Mr. A. C. Rolt, to which I devoted a good deal of attention a couple of years ago, has been reopened in the Indian press owing to the treatment which that gentleman has since received at the hands of the Government of Bengal. The facts of the case were briefly as follows:—Mr. Rolt had been for ten years employed by the Court of Wards as manager of the Khagra estate, when a criminal charge of taking a bribe was preferred against him. At the trial in the Calcutta High Court it was shown that this charge was based on false evidence and forged documents, the outcome of a conspiracy among parties connected with the estate. The jury not only acquitted Mr. Rolt without waiting to hear the defence, but expressed the opinion that the conspirators had been assisted by the "culpable carelessness" of Mr. Lea, the Collector of Purneah, who conducted the prosecution. Mr. Justice Henderson endorsed and emphasised this opinion in a minute which he submitted to the Government of Bengal, severely condemning the conduct of Mr. Lea and other officers concerned in the getting up of the prosecution.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Andrew Fraser, subsequently attempted to whitewash the censured officials by publishing an *ex parte* resolution in reply to the judge's minute. While seeking to exonerate Mr. Lea, however, the Bengal Government acknowledged—as it was absolutely bound to do—that Mr. Rolt had been grossly wronged, and assurances—written and oral—were given him that he should be eligible for further service, and that his claims would be fully considered in connection with any suitable vacancy. Against the advice of his friends, Mr. Rolt relied on these assurances, instead of instituting a civil suit for damages. He has now made known the result in the Calcutta *Englishman*. As manager of the Khagra estate he received Rs.600 a month, with a free house and various allowances, equal to at least Rs. 1,000 a month. For over a year the Government, though profuse in promises, made him no actual offer of a new berth. He was then offered an appointment in Calcutta at Rs.300 a month, with no quarters or allowances. He took this, believing that in due course something better

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would be found for him; but seeing that his claims were being systematically passed over when vacancies occurred, he has now resigned, and made public his reasons for doing so.

Two years ago a leading Anglo-Indian journal described the Rolt case as the heaviest blow to the prestige of British justice in India during recent memory. This was written in reference to the attempt of the Government to brush aside the judicial censure of its officers, and what has since happened is an aggravation of the scandal. The promise of further employment which was given to Mr. Rolt has been kept to the ear but broken to the hope. He was clearly entitled to expect as good an appointment as that which he lost through the conspiracy of which he was the victim, and the treatment he has experienced is disgraceful in the extreme to the Government of Bengal. I hope that Mr. John Morley will take this view of the matter and see that justice is yet done to Mr. Rolt.

The appointment of Mr. Shee, K.C., to the Recordership of Liverpool will be very popular in Lancashire, where Mr. Shee first made his reputation, and where he has always had a large practice. Mr. Shee is a son of the late Mr. Justice Shee, and not only a thorough lawyer, but a man of sound judgment and never-failing common sense, and if I ever had to be tried by a Recorder I should regard it as a mitigation of my misfortune to be brought before him. Let us hope that all prisoners will feel the same. Mr. Shee has never obtained a seat in Parliament, but he has fought two elections on the Liberal side, so that he has earned his promotion politically as well as professionally, as a Recorder is expected to do.

The opinions of civilised people in regard to the proper punishment of murder vary strangely. A young Russian lady, desirous of assassinating a political enemy in a Swiss restaurant, shoots an innocent Frenchman by mistake, and get four years' imprisonment. A good-for-nothing scamp, in a fit of excitement, kills poor old Mr. Whiteley, and is sentenced to death. He is reprieved, apparently out of consideration for his wife and an unborn babe, but he is still condemned to a convict's fate for the rest of his life. I cannot see many "extenuating circumstances" about either crime, but even less in the Swiss case than the other. "Que messieurs les assassins commencent" may or may not be a good argument for capital punishment; but at least the would-be assassin should make sure that he has got the right man before he goes to work, and should take the consequences if he kills the wrong one. Nor can I see any reason for departing from the rule if "monsieur l'assassin" happens to be an interesting and good-looking damsel. At any rate, it makes no difference to the victim of the mistake.

The strongest argument I can see against capital punishment is that it constantly exposes the course of justice to be interfered with by maudlin outbursts of sentiment. The outcry on behalf of the wretched creature, Rayner, was purely sentimental, and quite irrational. The man did his best to kill himself, and is said to have expressed regret at his reprieve. He seems to have formed a fairly accurate judgment of the value of his own existence. If such a man prefers to be hanged, and the law decrees that he shall be hanged, what intelligible reason is there for keeping him in prison instead, to spend the rest of his days miserably at the public expense? There is no mercy about it. No man of sound judgment, viewing the matter dispassionately, would hold that penal servitude for life is preferable to immediate death. No reason, so far as the merits of the case are concerned, can be advanced against the death penalty which does not tell equally against the other. The sentence is commuted—in this case contrary to the wishes of the only person directly concerned—simply because the sentiments provoked by the idea of killing a man in cold blood cause a certain number of fussy people to lose their heads and get up a noisy agitation against the sentence.

This is grossly unfair to the general body of murderers. If their cases were examined in the right spirit, it would doubtless be found that nearly all of them are entitled to sympathy. Either there was a good reason for the murder or there was not. If there was such a reason, it is an equally good reason for not hanging the murderer. If there was not, the murderer is an unreasonable person and must not be held responsible for all he does. Probably his aunt was in a lunatic asylum, or his grandfather had fits, or he married the wrong woman, or his moral sense was impaired by gin. But not one murderer in a dozen gets a chance of a public agitation in his favour on such grounds as these. On almost every Judge's circuit, at almost every session of the Central Criminal Court, some poor fellow is sentenced to death and goes to the scaffold without a protest from the public. It is only when some accidental circumstance gives a sensational character to the crime that the case gets taken up in the papers and the murderer receives the sympathy and consideration due to him. This is not justice, and it is obviously due solely to the death penalty. Did you ever see an agitation for the release of a burglar on the ground that his uncle had fits, or his mother drank, or that he was in doubt about his parentage?

I was glad to see that the bankrupt alien whose performances have lately been described at some length in these columns was formally brought under the notice of Mr. Lloyd-George last week by questions in Parliament. Sir William Evans Gordon was the questioner. He failed to obtain the information he sought as to the number, liabilities, assets, etc., of alien bankrupts, for the simple reason that when a man "goes through the Court" the Court takes no cognisance of his nationality. But Mr. Lloyd-George recognised the seriousness of the evil, and practically promised that a departmental committee would look into the question. The committee may be expected to make some very edifying discoveries.

I do not look, however, upon the stranger within our gates with the same eye as Sir William Evans Gordon, and it must not be supposed that this is a branch of the alien question. The East-End alien has come to the front as a successful practitioner in bankruptcy—I suppose partly because he is an adept in the shadier

tricks of commercial life, and partly because his foreign connections give him special facilities for "stowing the swag" which he is able to accumulate under the protection of the Bankruptcy Acts. He has served a certain purpose in advertising the defects of the law, but those defects exist equally for the benefit of natives and aliens, and plenty of British-born subjects of his Majesty take full advantage of them every year. There is not the slightest occasion, therefore, for any special information on the subject of alien bankrupts, or any legal discrimination between natives and foreigners. What is wanted is such amendment of the law as will protect honest tradesmen against insolvent banditti whatever their nationality.

A striking illustration of the rapacity of the usurer Pockett was given in a case in the Brighton County Court last week. The borrower was a local auctioneer and estate agent named G. F. Attree, now a bankrupt, and at the time of the transactions Pockett was trading as "Gerald Chesney," 25, Regent-street, London. Like many members of the bloodsucking tribe, Pockett changes his alias as it suits his convenience, and a short time ago, finding that "Gerald Chesney" had become rather too notorious, he transformed himself into "John Weston and Co.," of 30, Duke-street, S.W. In a series of transactions extending over a couple of years or so, Mr. Attree received from Pockett a total amount of £1,400, and paid back a total amount of £2,750. Pockett, however, claimed that he was entitled to a further £1,250. The interest on the loans varied, but in several instances it was at the rate of 233 per cent. per annum, and the promissory notes contained the customary default clause making the whole amount of principal and interest become due upon default in payment of any single instalment. As security for one loan of £300, repayable with £100 for interest in four months, Mr. Attree handed over to Pockett shares in a company of the value of from £750 to £1,000. Pockett, nevertheless, compelled him to make the following acknowledgment:—

> I quite understand that the reason you charge the £100 is because of the risk you run in lending without security, but it suits my purpose not to be under any obligation to friends.

In the County Court last week Mr. Attree explained that this mendacious document was "one of the moneylender's forms, and he had either to sign it or get nothing at all." Pockett's object was, of course, to have this acknowledgment ready for production in the event of any attempt being made to get the transaction set aside.

The matter came before the County Court Judge on an application by the trustee in the bankruptcy under Section 1 (Sub-section 3) of the Moneylenders Act. The trustee asked that the whole of the transactions between Pockett and Attree should be reopened on the ground that the moneylender's charges and conditions were harsh and unconscionable, and that an account should be taken of the sums actually advanced, and interest allowed at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. On this basis Pockett, instead of receiving more money, would have had to disgorge about £1,200 for the benefit of the estate. While this application was pending, however, Pockett gave notice of the withdrawal of the proof for £1,250, which he had put in against the estate, and the trustee most unfortunately agreed to the withdrawal. The result was that the judge held that, as there was no proof by the moneylender on the file, the application under the above-mentioned subsection could not be sustained, and it was accordingly dismissed with costs. Through a technical mistake, Pockett is therefore allowed to retain—unless, indeed, the judge's decision is reversed on appeal—the plunder he secured from the bankrupt; but the fact of his legal victory does not in any way affect the value of the case as an example of his methods of extortion.

I am glad to see that the attention of the Attorney-General has been directed to the strong comments the Assistant Judge of the Lord Mayor's Court has frequently made on the scandal arising out of moneylending transactions with City clerks. In a question on the subject, Mr. H. C. Lea, M.P., asked whether there was any possibility of the Moneylenders Act being so amended that a Judge could re-open a transaction at any stage of the proceedings before him. But, as the Attorney-General's reply indicated, in this matter at least it is not the Act that is at fault. "The amendment required," said Sir John L. Walton, "appears to be in the direction of an alteration of County Court procedure, which will obviate the difficulty which has been experienced in the application of the Act," and he suggested that Mr. Lea should refer the subject to the consideration of the Lord Chancellor. I trust that the Lord Chancellor will have the necessary changes made in the County Court rules bearing on this Act. A most iniquitous system of usury, aggravated by methods of intimidation that are closely akin to blackmailing, is practised among City clerks and civil servants by such unprincipled rascals as the brothers Whiteman (alias "Cox and Co." and "Seymour and Whiteman"), and Wm. Henry Burgess (alias "Richards and Co."); and it is monstrous that Judges in the Lord Mayor's Court or elsewhere should be hampered in dealing with the evil by red-tape formalities of procedure.

Mr. R. Merry, the Chairman of the Holbeach Petty Sessions, has just repeated the ludicrous and unseemly performance on which I commented some months ago. He is a passive resister, and when the usual summonses by the overseers come on for hearing he retires from the Bench in order that his own case may be first dealt with. In the character of a defendant he addresses the customary protest to his fellow-magistrates against the exaction of any rate for denominational teaching, and his fellow-magistrates make the usual order for payment. Having thus won his own crown of cheap martyrdom—the balance of the education rate for which he was summoned on the present occasion was a trifle of 2s. 4d.—Mr. Merry resumes his seat as Chairman of the Bench, and in that capacity proceeds to make similar orders against the rest of the passive resisters. The passive resistance movement has always seemed to me to be rather absurd, but at Holbeach Mr. Merry makes it positively farcical.

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, N.—£7,000 owing to Bankers. £10,000 needed annually from voluntary sources.—Lewis H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

There are certain offences which can only be properly dealt with by the infliction of a sharp term of imprisonment, but unfortunately there are many magistrates who can never be brought to see that cases of systematic ill-treatment of children are in this category. A glaring instance of this sort of misplaced leniency is supplied to my Legal Pillory by the case heard before the Bootle magistrates. It is absurd to contend that the man who tortures an orphan who is placed under his charge, and for whose maintenance he is adequately paid, can be properly punished for months of continuous brutality by the infliction of a fine of £10. A sharp term of imprisonment is the proper method of dealing with an offence such as this, and it is ridiculous to allow the ruffian guilty of it to escape the proper penalty by the payment of a fine:—

Bootle Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. F. Carruthers. Manasseh Berket, charged with cruelty to his nephew. The boy was an orphan of means, and the uncle received payment for his maintenance. He was frequently beaten during the past two years, and was made to do the housework. Medical evidence showed that he had been subjected to systematic ill-treatment. Fined £10 and costs.

Sheffield Police-court. Before Messrs. Grafton and Stephenson. George Taylor, charged with cruelty to a horse. For no reason he struck it twenty blows with the stock of a whip. Fined 10s.

Barnsley Police-court. John Hayes, charged with an aggravated assault on his wife. Because she went to nurse her mother, who was ill, he thrashed her severely. Fined 40s. and costs.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Osmund Falconer, charged with assaulting Mary Woolett. The woman left him to marry another man, so he broke into her house at night, attacked her, and threatened to kill her. Fined £1 1s. for the assault and 10s. for drunkenness.

Mansfield Police-court. T. W. Knott, charged with assaulting Priscilla Tudsbury. He attacked her as she was returning from church alone, but after a struggle she managed to escape. Fined a guinea.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Gray. Duncan McKenzie, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked her several times and struck her with a pair of bellows. Fined 15s.

Doncaster Police-court. John Green, charged with cruelty to a horse. He beat it first with the lash and then with the whip stock. The horse broke away, and when it was pulled up he recommenced the thrashing. Fined £3 inclusive.

Heywood Petty Sessions. Benjamin France, charged with torturing a bullock. To make the exhausted animal get up he twisted its tail, put his finger in its eyes, probed the inside of the ear with a stick, and belaboured it unmercifully. Fined £2 and costs.

Worthing Police-court. Two boys, named David Scutt and Albert Hosier, charged with breaking open a slot gas meter and taking 2s. 1d. out of the money box. The meter was in the house of Scutt's aunt. Committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

East Harling Petty Sessions. William Smith and George West, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days' hard labour each.

Fareham Petty Sessions. Charles Baggs and J. Nash, charged with wilful damage. They were caught digging up primroses and fern roots. Baggs five weeks' hard labour; Nash four.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. H. Wells and J. J. Hounsfield. Thomas Grundy, a tramp, charged with sleeping out at Plumbley Colliery. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Boston Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Thompson, W. Porter, and J. H. Simpson. Frederick Smith, aged 15, charged on remand with obstructing the footpath and using indecent language. Again remanded in custody for a week.

Ashford Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Nottige and J. Stirling. A girl, named Rose Searle, and a boy, named James Smith, charged with damaging a watercress bed. Each fined £1 11s. inclusive.

Perth Police-court. Before Bailie Young. Pietro Manatini, ice-cream dealer, charged with keeping his ice-cream shop open at 10.35 p.m., contrary to the bye-laws. Fined 30s.

Tonbridge Police-court. Edward Rogers, charged with stealing a shirt, value 2s. 6d. The shirt was taken from an outbuilding and sold by the prisoner for a shilling. Six week' hard labour.

Coventry County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. H. Wheatley, T. R. Vickers, A. Ash, and T. Taylor. Henry William Simpson, charged with destroying his clothing at the Foleshill Workhouse. One month's hard labour.

Govan Police-court. Before Bailie Neilson. James Smith, charged with striking his wife on the head with a poker. An artery was severed. Fined three guineas. In two other cases of assault in which the same weapon was used the Bailie inflicted fines of £1 1s. and 30s. respectively.

Denbigh Police-court. F. Thomas Plant, charged with assaulting his wife. She had to leave him because of his treatment, and he broke into her parents' house, dragged her about by her hair, and punched her until she was nearly unconscious. Fined 50s. and costs.

Kirkham Police-court. Before Messrs. Nicholson and Benson. Thomas Brown, charged with absconding from the workhouse. He had been granted a day's leave on Saturday, but did not return until the Monday, and when the master spoke to him about it he left by climbing over the wall. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Bridgwater County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Broadmead and other magistrates. John Parsons, charged with stealing oats and meal, value 12s., the property of his employer. A first offence, his employer saying he had been 20 years in his service. Two months' hard labour.

The power of committal for contempt of court is happily withheld from our magistrates, the theory of the law apparently being that any exhibition of contempt in a court of the Great Unpaid is a perfectly natural and excusable proceeding. Jersey is less fortunate in its law. That eccentric magistrate, Mr. John Vaudin, whose vagaries have often come under notice in Truth, can commit anybody for anything that he chooses to regard as contempt of his court, and he exercises his authority in this matter with the harshness and the tyranny that might be expected from the rest of his performances. The other day an aged gentleman who is always more or less incoherent in his speech was a witness in the court. Neither his words nor his demeanour were in the slightest degree offensive, but merely because in consequence of his infirmity he could not answer questions very clearly, Judge Vaudin peremptorily sentenced him to twenty-four hours' imprisonment.

This incident has excited a great deal of indignation in Jersey, but really it is but a mild specimen of the sentences that Mr. Vaudin has passed for contempt of court. On one occasion he gave a youth of eighteen a month's hard labour for the enormity of laughing at a witness who was giving evidence. In another case a witness—a small farmer and a churchwarden of his parish—was told by the magistrate, "Perhaps you were drunk." Obviously without any premeditated intention of being rude, he replied, "I was no more drunk than you are," whereupon he was committed for a week's hard labour. Apart from his record in matters of this description, Judge Vaudin's general incompetence as a magistrate has long been a public scandal in Jersey, and it is astonishing that his retention as a stipendiary—an office for which he was not qualified by any sort of legal training—is tolerated.

Apropos of my recent remarks on the tricks of the racing tipsters, a correspondent sends me a specimen copy of *The Secret Special* dated March 18. It contains what purport to be predictions giving the winners of the Lincolnshire Handicap, the Grand National, and other events, and if he had received the paper before the races were run my correspondent might have been sufficiently impressed by these successes to comply with the suggestion in the accompanying circular that he

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

should remit a guinea for the next five issues of "the world's champion winner-finder." As, however, the specimen copy in question only reached him by post from Birmingham on March 23, he is inclined to suspect that it was really printed after the results of the races were known. I have no doubt that he is right. As a matter of fact, *The Secret Special* is one of the publications of the notorious Beston, who has been a constant practitioner of this essentially fraudulent method of gulling simple-minded backers.

The following letter adds a little interesting information to what has already appeared respecting the traffic in secretaryships of the Betterment of London Association. It apparently arises out of one of the advertisements for a secretary referred to in my article of March 20. On receipt of the letter the gentleman to whom it was written recognised Mr. Bowden Green as the occupant of a niche in the Truth Cautionary List, and consequently went no further with the negotiations:—

STREET NOISES ABATEMENT COMMITTEE.
2, Harrington-gardens, South Kensington, W.
February 17, 1907.

Dear Sir,—Your letter replying to our advertisement in yesterday's papers is to hand, and I herewith enclose some particulars of the movement for which a West-End secretary is desired.

It is essential that the gentleman undertaking the post should be in thorough accord with the work of the Association, or he would not be successful at it.

With regard to the investment, I can give you the minimum and the maximum amounts—namely, £250—£500, but the exact sum is a matter for arrangement at interview, as also is the matter of remuneration. Office hours 10 to 5, usually speaking, but no hard-and-fast lines drawn. Should you desire to discuss the appointment, please send word what day next week you would be in London. This office is close to Gloucester-road Station and a few minutes' walk from South Kensington Station.
—Yours faithfully, Thomas Bowden Green.

It looks a nice easy job—"no hard and fast lines drawn" in regard to attendance at the office, and probably not much to do beyond writing letters and making calls in the hope of obtaining the subscriptions, which are to yield the remuneration. It is not surprising that Bowden Green has been able to get a good many hundred pounds out of gentlemen on these terms—as little surprising as that, when they have obtained a closer acquaintance with the business, their chief anxiety is to get their money back and escape as quickly as possible.

People in the provinces should beware of advertisements like the following, which appears in a Shropshire paper, and is no doubt to be found all over the country:—

Pianoforte.—Marvellous Offer. Magnificent 56-Guinea Upright Iron Grand, slightly used, to be sacrificed for £15 15s., cash payable in one, two, or three years. . . Seven days' trial, free carriage paid anywhere.—Goudge, 231, Burdett-road, Bow, London, E.

As already mentioned in Truth more than once, Goudge is a manufacturer of shoddy pianos, which are disposed of by advertisements like this, conveying that they are second-hand bargains. The only novelty in the above announcement is that Goudge's general practice has been to offer his instruments from a bogus address, in the character of a doctor, or officer, or other party "about to leave England." That he now discloses his true name and address is probably attributable to the fact that he has lately offered his advertisements directly to the newspapers, instead of placing them through an agent, in order to secure the agent's commission for himself; and apparently he finds some newspapers shy of publishing the old form of advertisement when it is actually offered by the piano-maker himself. The real value of an instrument which can be sold new at fifteen guineas, with three years' credit, and "carriage paid anywhere," should be sufficiently obvious.

In the last issue of the Truth Cautionary List reference was made to the business of the Iron-Ox Remedy Company, the ground on which it was placed in the list being that bogus testimonials had been used for advertising purposes. The facts in regard to these testimonials have been stated on earlier occasions in Truth. I have now been in communication on this subject with Messrs. McKenna and Co., of Basinghall-street, solicitors to the company, with the result that I think that the unfavourable reflection above mentioned is not justified by the facts at the present date. The explanation given is that in obtaining and using such testimonials as were referred to in Truth, the manager of the English branch of the business acted not only indiscreetly, but in opposition to express orders from headquarters; and I am assured that since attention was called to the matter in Truth none but perfectly genuine testimonials have been used. I am glad to hear it, and to give publicity to the fact.

In this connection I have made an interesting discovery. It appears that the Iron-Ox Company, since their remedy first began to be advertised, have been inundated with offers from unscrupulous persons to provide them on moderate terms with the usual testimonial accompanied by a photograph. Presumably their experience in this respect is not singular. When bogus testimonials can be obtained so easily by any large advertiser, the temptation to take them and use them, without going to the trouble of worrying genuine customers for them, must be considerable. We certainly live in a very wicked world.

With reference to a recent paragraph in Truth on the *modus operandi* of the Institute Schimmelpfeng, I have received a letter from the general manager for Great Britain and Ireland, giving me particulars of the history of the business from the time when the first Herr Schimmelpfeng started it in Berlin, as well as particulars of the expenditure upon the business, the number of the offices and staff in various countries, and so on. I take this to be a response to my suggestion that the Institute should furnish me with the same kind of information which it invites business men indiscriminately to supply to itself. I am bound to say that I did not make the suggestion quite seriously, and still less expected it to be taken seriously. I do not question that the Institute is doing a large business, and that its success justifies its existence. But its managers really cannot be surprised if some of the people who receive their requests for information regard the application as somewhat impertinent.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

THE CABINET OF THE FUTURE.

I dreamt the Suffragettes had gained
The aim on which they're set,
And high positions had obtained
Within the Cabinet.

And as around the board they sat
To settle grave affairs,
The Première looked her colleagues at
And thus the case declares.

"We've met to talk, my dears, to-day
Of Egypt's troubled state.
It seems—Oh, Minnie, love, *do* say
Have I my hat on straight?—

What's to be done to make it clear
To those vile Fellaheen—
I think I'll trim the bodice, dear,
With frills of *crêpe de chine*—

And Ireland, things are awful there;
That Redmond gives no peace—
If I were you, I'd do my hair
Up *à l'impératrice*—

I fear we'll have Home Rule to try;
Naught less the brutes will stop—
Oh, are you going, by the by,
To Lady Smithson's hop?

The Estimates—well, I declare,
'Tis after half-past two!—
My Fido waits to take the air
(Sweet pet), so, dears, adieu."

I sympathise with President Roosevelt in his desire to put an end to a state of things which prevents most Europeans from investing their money in American railways, and makes all shareholders in these undertakings mere pawns in the game of great railway magnates. American railway presidents have far too much power over the finances and the financial policy of these companies to render their shares safe. They are always plotting and scheming with confederates to fill their own pockets, and usually they manage to effect their purpose at the cost of their shareholders and of the public. In their defence they urge that, thanks to them, new railways are built. This may be true to a certain extent. But they are like those charity-mongers among us, who may be able to show that they really spend on charity a little of the money that they collect, but whose charity begins at home.

When I hear the vast fortune of a Railway King spoken of, I ask myself, From whom comes his plunder? Sometimes they fight, but who pays for their battles? They are even more dangerous as friends than as enemies, for the friends join in some nefarious campaign against everybody else. When railway shares are high they scheme to produce a fall; when they are low, they starve their lines in order to pay high dividends, and thus produce a rise. What surprises me is that they do not become even more rich than they are. Of course, there are honest men amongst them. But they are the minority. The majority of them, judging by the revelations of the recent official investigation of their doings, are entirely lost to shame. Their ethics are those which, if practised by poor men, would land them in a prison in any self-respecting country. Americans would do well to go to the root of the evil and end it. Most of them in their private relations are honest. All of them have at heart the good name of their country. But, even on the lower plane of self-interest, they will be wise if they support their President, and not only cease to regard a man who is a great millionaire as a licensed thief, but take good care that he be sent to prison as a deterrent to others who might be disposed to follow his example.

I see it stated that general legislation is difficult because it conflicts with State rights. If this be so, the Constitution provides means to meet this difficulty. What is needed is legislation to protect shareholders against the nefarious schemes of those who get large salaries to look after their interests. But laws alone are not enough. As long as rings can be formed to get the voting power by the purchase of shares, there will always be bogus amalgamations, bogus leases, and such like devices, for the benefit of those who can pull the wires and are "in the know." What should be done is not merely to strengthen the law in the interest of the shareholder, but to establish an official Railway Board, consisting of men of high repute, holding their positions permanently like the judges of the Supreme Court, in whom would be vested full powers to interfere when they think things are going wrong, and whose assent would be needed for all amalgamations, leases, issues of capital, etc. There ought also to be an official audit of accounts each year. This would inspire confidence, and—after some half-dozen magnates had been sent to prison for violating the law—an American railway share would be deemed a sound investment, when bought at a price bearing some sort of relation to its intrinsic value.

As it is, Europeans who are neither fools nor gamblers keep aloof from them; indeed, most of the gambling class already do so, for they are not so silly as to play against persons who meet them with cogged dice. Probably the wary in America assume the same attitude toward railway shares as Europeans. I do not know what amount of money represents the intrinsic value of American railways. But surely it is great enough for the community to see that it is honestly administered, and for the benefit of those who have provided it. Moreover, it is understood that large railway extensions are needed. Who is likely to provide the capital, unless the whole system in its financial aspect is reformed, except on terms that necessitate the most excessive charges on freight and passengers in order to pay interest?

THE RETIRING BULLFINCH.

Once of a Bullfinch Hen I heard—
By no means an attractive Bird—
Who might have been (so you'd surmise)
Glad of a Mate at any Price.
Yet 'twas not so, for, though was she
As plain and homely as could be,
Far from accepting first Advances
From any Male on whom she chances,
Or taking smallest Pains or Thought
To throw herself his Path athwart,
She rather made a Point (they say)
Of keeping out of Cock-birds' Way—
Nay, mostly, when they came in Sight,
She'd to a Distance wing her Flight.
Now when they marked her thus avoid
Their Presence, they 're at first annoyed;
But soon their challenged Pride was stirred
To woo and win this scornful Bird,

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

And Each with Other eager vies
To make her his especial Prize.
The other Hens, with puzzled Mien,
And jealous, too, surveyed the Scene.
'Twas vain their pretty Selves they cast
In every Cock-bird's Way who passed;
'Twas vain they spread their Charms to view,
And twittered, "Come and bill me, do";
Those Males, with an indifferent Stare,
Passed them all by, though ne'er so fair,
And bent their Efforts to pursuing
The one who would avoid their Wooing.
So when next Time her Sisters met
This Hen, they her forthwith beset,
And said: "Than you we're lovelier far,
'Tis incontestable we are;
Eke we behave most nice and sweet
To all the handsome Cocks we meet,
Encouraging each likely Beau
By all th' alluring Arts we know;
Yet though almost, nay even quite,
Their fond Attentions we invite,
They scarcely deign, by some strange Chance,
To throw us e'en a single Glance;
While, after you, you homely Creature,
Who haven't one attractive Feature,
And who have always, too, displayed
A wish their Presence to evade—
Yes, after *you* they run—'tis funny—
Like Armadilloes after Honey.
Why is't with *you* they 're wild to match,
Who are both plain and hard to catch,
While *us* they keep contemptuous slighting,
Who are both pretty and inviting?"
To whom the Other made Reply:
"I'll tell you, Dears, the Reason why.
What they can for the Asking win,
The Cock-birds *that* see Nothing in,
But Store alone by that will set
Which is remote and hard to get.
That's why they 're wild with me to match—
Just 'cos I'm difficult to catch!"

Moral.

If, Angelina, you would wed,
Don't throw yourself at Edwin's Head;
But fly him, when he tries to woo you:
'Twill just provoke him to pursue you.

SCRUTATOR.

THE TERRITORIAL CADET.

MR. HALDANE presented prizes last week to a cadet battalion, and he took the opportunity of calling attention to the importance of the cadet in relation to the Territorial Army scheme. This is a point which may easily be overlooked, and Mr. Haldane is quite right to lay stress upon it. The place of the cadet in relation to the general scheme is provided for by Sections 2 and 3 of the Government Bill. The powers and duties of county associations, as defined by Sect. 2 are to include (sub-section *f*) "establishing and maintaining, or fostering and encouraging cadet battalions and corps and rifle clubs;" and by Sect. 4 the Army Council is empowered to make regulations affiliating all these bodies to the Territorial Force, or any part thereof. It will therefore become the statutory business of every county association to start and keep up cadet battalions, and the cadets will have a definite relation to the Territorial battalions, which the Army Council may make as close and strict as it pleases.

In my humble judgment it is impossible to insist too strongly upon the proper discharge of this particular business, and the Army Council will have to see that it is not neglected. There are a great many people preaching at present the military and social advantages of giving all young men and boys military training. Like all propagandists they over-state their case, and in more ways than one; but while dissenting from their conclusions, it is possible to admit that there is an element of truth in what they say, both on the military and on the social aspect of the question. To take the military side first: the most important point seems to be that if you give the requisite number of boys two or three years' preliminary training in a properly conducted cadet corps, you greatly simplify the problem of training your Territorial Army. A boy who joins a cadet corps at fifteen, or thereabouts, ought to know his drill thoroughly, and to have made good progress with his shooting, by the time he is eighteen and ready to join an adult battalion. There is no reason why he should not join his battalion quite as well drilled and trained as any recruit who joins a regular battalion from a depot; in point of fact, I should think he will generallly be a more valuable solidier than the average infantry depot at present turns out, for he will have had the advantage of being caught young, and being thoroughly imbued with habits of discipline and soldierly instincts before he has had time to acquire any of a contrary tendency. We have heard a great deal during the last two or three years about the necessity for a period of several months' continuous training for Militia recruits, and something of the same kind is apparently contemplated by way of preliminary training on enlistment for "every man in the Territorial Force." But if that force obtains, as it should, a considerable proportion of its recruits from efficient cadet corps, the necessity for anything further in the shape of preliminary training may be more or less obviated, and the difficulty of adequately training the Territorial Force is reduced to that extent. This is the first advantage of the cadet corps from the military point of view. Further, it is almost certain to be found that the multiplication and enlargement of cadet battalions in all parts of the country will greatly stimulate recruiting for the Territorial Force. Boys who have been serving in such battalions for two or three years will not have done so unless they like the work and feel keen about it, and it may be pretty safely assumed that the majority of them will desire to pass into the battalions to which they have been affiliated as soon as they reach the requisite age. Hitherto cadet corps have always been conducted under more or less serious financial difficulties, and their attractiveness to boys has been limited in consequence. The more money you can spend on them, the more attractive you will make them, which is the same thing as saying that it will rest with the county associations to make them as attractive as they please.

I hardly think that anyone will dispute the value of cadet corps training to the boy himself and his neighbours. There is a prejudice among many people against fostering the spirit of "militarism" in boys. It is reasonable up to a point, and I sympathise with it. But the value of lessons in discipline, self-

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

control, and mutual co-operation cannot be disputed; and boys who leave school at fourteen years of age—that is to say, all boys of the working class—are apt to suffer from lack of such educational influences at the most critical period of their lives. Everybody who has had anything to do with boys' clubs and similar institutions knows the great moral good that is done by bringing working boys under the influence of some organisation which provides them with occupation, stimulates self-respect, and creates *esprit de corps* and respect for law and order. This sort of influence is necessarily exercised by the cadet corps. I put the moral aspect of the question first, because these considerations have to be weighed against the moral objections to military training. But the physical benefits have also to be taken into account. Cadet service means regular exercise and physical drill, occasional marches into the country, and an annual holiday in a country or seaside camp under discipline—all of them invaluable for the development of physique in a growing boy.

For these reasons the cadet battalion has a very real social value, apart from the assistance which it may yield to military organisation; and all money spent upon it is a good investment, yielding profitable national assets. The only danger to be guarded against is that of overdoing the training and working boys too hard. It is very easy to disgust them in this way, and cause them to give up at the earliest opportunity. It may be worth while considering whether this is not done already at some of the Public Schools. I heard it said a few months ago, on the authority of an officer of a University Volunteer corps, that the Public School cadet is apt to prove shy of volunteering when he comes up to the 'Varsity, the reason being that he has had a "sickener" of it at school. It must be remembered that a large proportion of the members of a school cadet corps are volunteers only in name. A great many boys join under compulsion from parents or pressure from masters. It may be desirable to apply a little compulsion in this way, and considering that it is applied at the Public Schools to cricket, football, and other games, there is no reason why it should not be applied to soldiering. But if your boy "Volunteer" is in fact a conscript, you must handle him a little tenderly, and endeavour to encourage in him that love of the business which has not come to him by nature. Outside the Public School corps cadets will be Volunteers pure and simple, but even here they may need, in many cases, a good deal of coaxing and indulgence during their first year or so. I have a friend, an old Public School and University man, who has spent all the best years of his life in working as a boys' club manager in London. I do not think any man living knows the London working boy better. He told me once that very few boys under fifteen or sixteen years of age will show any keenness for volunteering. For a few weeks, he said, they may be taken with the idea of wearing a uniform and playing at soldiers, but when the novelty wears off the boy of that age soon finds the routine of drills and marches irksome. The martial spirit which causes a lad to derive a real pleasure from shouldering arms and marching out with the band, longing for the chance of putting a bullet into an enemy of his country, does not come as a rule until the threshold of manhood is reached. From my own experience of the human animal in the earlier stages of his development, I should judge that there is a good deal of truth in this, and that if cadets, especially of the working class, are enlisted very young, it would be wise to make their soldiering as much like play as possible for the first year of their service. These, however, are details which do not call for consideration at present.

CATHOLICISM AND MAMMON.

In connection with the discussion on the administration of Roman Catholic trusts, my attention has been called to the history of certain troubles which arose ten years ago in connection with the Secular Clergy Common Fund of the dioceses of Westminster and Southwark—the latter then including the diocese of Portsmouth. The story is interesting owing to the close resemblance between the facts and those which have come to light in connection with the Dawes bequest. The administrator of the fund seems to have been bitten with the mania for speculation which has so long been the curse of the Roman Catholic Church in England. Like others, he was actuated by wholly disinterested motives, fancying that he had sufficient knowledge of the Stock Exchange to increase the resources of the fund by judicious "bulling" and "bearing." Like others, however, who have used ecclesiastical trust funds as a "financial basis" for operations of this kind, he failed dismally, and lost no less than £3,782 of the capital of the fund. When the losses got wind, the clergy of the two dioceses appointed a committee of investigation, which went thoroughly into the matter. It eventually reported that arrangements had been made with the defaulting administrator, by which he was to make over to the fund three life policies of £1,000 each, and to give a lien upon certain freehold property to cover the balance of the losses and the premiums on the life policies, as well as interest until the debt was discharged. The fund was not wholly indemnified, but the actual capital lost was repaid, and I understand that the reverend gentleman who brought the trouble about had the satisfaction of seeing it all repaid before he died.

It will be seen that this case affords an exact parallel, in all but the last stage, to that of the Dawes trustees and the losses in the Bishop bankruptcy. There is absolutely no legal reason why all concerned in these losses should not have been compelled to make restitution as was the erring priest who played the same trick with the securities of the Secular Clergy Fund, unless there is to be one law and one measure of justice for priests and another for higher dignitaries, including bishops and archbishops. One difference, of course, there is between the two cases. In that of the Secular Clergy Fund there were plenty of interested parties to take the matter up and call the defaulting administrator to book. In that of the Dawes Trust, and in other similar cases, it is nobody's business to take action. But this only makes it the more astonishing that the authorities at Rome should have allowed these incidents to pass unnoticed, and should have acquiesced in the loss of enormous funds of which restitution might justly have been demanded. It is not surprising that

English Catholics should feel that they have been sadly deserted by their Holy Father in this matter.

The following letter, though it only recapitulates facts which have already been stated, is of interest as an expression of the feelings now widely current among educated and reflective Catholics, lay and clerical:—

If any proof were needed of the good which has been done by your allowing the Catholic Trusts question to be ventilated in your pages, it is surely to be found in the very lively and eager interest which has been taken in the matter by so large a section of the public. May I suggest that now a point has been reached when it is useful to recall distinctly and definitely a few of the facts which have, no doubt, contributed to the feelings of unrest and distrust which exist in the minds of many English Catholics?

In the first place, it is known that when the late Mr. Willock Dawes left a very large sum of money to the Southwark Diocese, a great part of which afterwards disappeared in the now celebrated "Bishop" failure, there were certain Trustees in whose names these and other diocesan funds were vested. Whether Dr. Bourne was himself technically a Trustee or not seems rather immaterial, considering that in an English Roman Catholic Diocese the Bishop is practically *ex officio* the virtual Trustee of all Diocesan funds, and if there are other legal and technical Trustees he appoints them. Now, leaving aside altogether the reasonableness of entrusting trust funds to a stockbroker, is there any record during the years in which Mr. Bishop's firm managed the moneys left by Mr. Dawes, that Dr. Bourne or the Trustees exercised from time to time the most ordinary measures of prudence and precaution by checking the amounts invested in different securities, and especially by themselves retaining possession of these, their own securities? Catholics mostly think, rightly or wrongly, that Bishop Bourne and the Trustees were content to leave everything in the most confiding manner in the hands of the stockbroker, and were quite satisfied to get their dividends. Were the investments rotten, such as caused disaster in the Portsmouth Diocese, or had the Trustees no securities for any investments in their own hands?

Secondly: Mr. Willock Dawes, in the knowledge of everybody, built the church and presbytery at Petworth, and liberally endowed the same, so that Canon Lalor (Mr. Dawes' most intimate friend) and his successors in this small country mission might be amply provided for at the founder's expense. No sooner are Mr. Dawes and Canon Lalor in their coffins than it is reported among Catholics that half or a considerable portion of the Petworth endowment has been diverted by Bishop Bourne, and that a clergyman has been placed there who has been a consenting party to this alienation, having some means of his own. Now, if there be any clause in the Dawes will leaving such discretion to the Bishop as would justify this alienation of a portion of the endowment, ought not this clause to have been made public at once, so that no suspicion of illegal or interested action could attach to the Bishop?

Thirdly: Can it excite wonder, Sir, that Catholics are beginning to feel every day more and more suspicious of episcopal finance when a Bishop, who is himself known to be on the most intimate terms with the present Metropolitan, boasts of his very questionable financial speculations, and relates how Providence blessed his gambling in the good cause, gambling, too, with moneys which were certainly not his private property, and which were eventually utterly dissipated? Can financial infatuation further go?

Now you yourself, Sir, during the course of this open discussion have remarked more than once upon the personal feeling, or even animus, which has been but thinly veiled in the case of some of your correspondents. This has apparently struck you as puzzling to account for, and no doubt it may have puzzled some of your readers. The truth is that there is something more at the root of all this trouble than meets the eye of the mere outsider, who may think that it is all a matter of £ s. d. More than one of the writers in Truth have hinted, not obscurely, at other difficulties; arbitrary episcopal action with regard to men as well as money; titular appointments *cum jure* secured, and others to actual sees in this country obtained, quite regardless of capitular voting or clerical desire; ways and devices many, tortuous and winding, wherein serpentine cunning has been more in evidence than dove-like simplicity. Now, there are no people, laity or clergy, who have such an exalted idea of the episcopal office as Catholics. But the very greatness and spiritual glory of the office require in their eyes a corresponding freedom from vulgar ambition, from the taint, or even the suspicion, of selfish scheming and intrigue, whereby men, possibly without censure, may climb to places of political power and mere worldly eminence. When Catholics recognise that it is the *digitus Dei* which has given them their Bishop, they naturally feel very differently in his regard than they do or can when it is thought or feared that influences the reverse of spiritual have been hard at work. The logical foundation for such feelings or fears is of its own nature hardly susceptible of mathematical proof, but public opinion does not often commit a grave injustice, especially when the firm bias of loyalty and respect is altogether on the other side. The whole world recognised that Pius X. was placed in the Pontifical chair against all his wishes, ambitions, and expectations, and it was precisely this humility which made all see the finger of God in his election. The man who is the most desirous of spiritual rule may, according to the ascetics, be put down as the most unfitted for the burden. Common sense endorses this view.

A gentleman, of whose religious persuasion I know nothing, writes to tell me that he has once or twice doubted the genuineness of letters from Roman Catholics that have appeared in Truth because they are not signed. He is now confirmed in his opinion by a passage in one of the letters published last week, in which diversion of certain endowments are said to be "against the Church's interpretation of the *eighth* commandment." He goes on to point out that "in the Catholic Church the eighth commandment refers to bearing false witness against a neighbour," whereas in the Protestant Church it is "Thou shalt not steal." My correspondent has not allowed for the facts (1) that MS. does not always get into print precisely as it is written, and (2) that in this case the MS. had to run the gauntlet of non-Catholic printers, readers, and editors. The author of the letter published last week wrote "seventh commandment" plainly enough; *manet scripta litera*. But Protestant or other heretical revisers, who attach a very different meaning to the seventh commandment, thought in their ignorance that he must have meant the eighth, and altered the word for him accordingly. I have to apologise to him.

The other point, about letters not being signed, is scarcely worth arguing about. I said all that was worth saying about it long ago in answer to a newspaper critic. To suppose that a number of people who are not Roman Catholics would take the trouble to join in a controversy of this kind is childish. The only imputation that a writer who withholds his name lays himself open to is a lack of courage or personal animus. For lack of courage no one but his ecclesiastical superiors will blame him; and the charge of personal animus is irrelevant so long as his facts and arguments cannot be answered. Of course, a great many people have written to me on this question of whom I know nothing beyond their names and addresses; but those whose letters have made most mark are priests and laymen for whose trustworthiness as witnesses of fact and loyalty to their Church I can personally vouch. The last remark applies to the letter given above, and to all those published last week. Even the unfortunate correspondent who has incurred suspicion of not knowing how the Commandments are numbered by his Church, happens to be a priest against whom I think no man living can say a word. The criticism above mentioned is therefore very wide of the mark, though I am glad that it has given me the opportunity of making these remarks.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The J.P.'s Catechism.

(*For the use of Amateur Magistrates.*)

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A Justice of the Peace.

Q.: What is a Justice of the Peace?

A.: A judicial Functionary appointed to repress crime among the rural population.

Q.: Who made you a Justice of the Peace?

A.: The Lord Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Lord-Lieutenant.

Q.: What qualifications have you for the office?

A.: My wife is niece to the Lord Lieutenant.

Q.: What is crime?

A.: Crime is of three sorts; the infamous, the ordinary, and the venial.

Q. Quote me examples of infamous crime.

A.: Poaching, Motoring, and Murder.

Q.: And of ordinary crime.

A.: Arson, Larceny, and Sleeping Out.

Q.: And of venial crime.

A.: Wife-beating.

Q.: What do you mean by the crime of "Sleeping Out?"

A.: I mean the crime of having no money to pay for a lodging, and so being compelled to pass the night in the open air.

Q.: How do you punish this crime?

A.: With three weeks' hard labour.

Q.: What do you mean by "Wife-beating?"

A.: I mean the playful ebullition of high spirits, which prompts an intoxicated navvy to knock his wife down with the poker, and to kick her, when she is down, with his hob-nailed boots.

Q.: How do you punish this playful ebullition of high spirits?

A.: If his wife is not in a delicate state of health at the time, I fine him ten shillings.

Q.: But if his wife is in a delicate state of health at the time?

A.: Then I fine him two-and-sixpence.

Q.: What is a Chauffeur?

A.: A perjured miscreant, who is constitutionally incapable of speaking the truth.

Q.: What is a Constable?

A.: A man of unimpeachable veracity.

Q.: Does the Constable stand alone in this honourable quality?

A.; No; he has one equal.

Q.: Who is that?

A.: The Game-Keeper.

Q.: What is an Exemption Certificate?

A.: A Certificate of Exemption from Vaccination, which conscientious objectors are empowered, by Law, to claim from me.

Q.: Do they often claim it?

A.: Very often.

Q.: Do they often obtain it?

A.: Never.

Q.: Why do they never obtain it?

A.: Because such vulgar wretches have no consciences and, therefore, cannot entertain conscientious objections.

Q.: What is Law?

A.: The mighty and salutary Social Engine which protects the property of the rich and keeps the poor in their places.

Q.: What are the places of the poor?

A.: The Workhouse, the Reformatory, and the Prison.

Q.: What is Education?

A.: The Curse of the Country.

Q.: Who is the Home Secretary?

A.: The Jack-in-Office who revises my decisions.

Q.: Does he often revise them?

A.: As often as his attention is called to them.

Q.: Who calls his attention to them?

A.: Usually, Radicals.

Q.: What are Radicals?

A.: Radicals are the enemies of Law and Order, and consequently of the Magistracy. They are the class whom it is the duty of a Magistrate to Put Down.

THE THEATRES.

The Stage Society at the Imperial.

The Stage Society produced last week, in English save for the title, a play by M. Brieux, which might not improperly be called "The Cockchafers." Here M. Brieux shows himself much less of the stern moralist than in most of his other work. He is content to observe life, and half ironically to note its absurdities and the fatal consequences which ensue from loving not wisely enough to wed. Mr. France made of the middle-aged hero a very living person. He took the part quietly, and impressed quite as much by reason of what he did not say as by the remarks that fell from his lips. This French lover has a mistress, selected entirely for her beauty from the ranks of the shopgirls, and they have long been living together when the play opens. It is not very dramatic, this constant bickering of the pair, but although nothing very dramatic happens until quite the end of the play, when the young woman, after a quarrel, attempts and fails to commit suicide; yet all the time one is amused and interested. This is because the play is based upon real observation of an incident that actually did occur in Paris, and the art of Mr. France and, to a less degree, that of Miss Mabel Hackney, who made a clever yet not quite convincing mistress, help the dramatist to give us a slice of reality. There are humorous touches, too, as when the young woman throws the key of their flat out of window and hits a neighbour, who comes up to protest. In the French version this is very amusing, and although the play was not a great success in the original, yet in the hands of a Guitry and of a Polaire it enjoyed more than a *succès d'estime*. It is some time since I have spent so pleasant an afternoon at a Stage Society's performance.

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At the Palace Theatre there are several novelties this week. Among them I note the appearance of Miss Josephine Cohan in a new sketch entitled "A Friend of the Family," and the Bioscope pictures of the Grand National Steeplechase.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

VACCINATION FIVE O'CLOCKS.

I RECEIVED a short time ago a circular marked "private," telling me where and on what terms I could have myself insured against smallpox. It has since occurred to me that possibly touts employed by the insurance company created business for it by spreading the scare, for which the Morocco excitement may prove a cure. The French insurance tout does not generally get any commission, but he knows he will be paid so much on every policy-holder he brings in. I remember some years ago a trial of a tout who was charged with setting fire to an isolated shed where shavings were heaped up, for the purpose of creating an opportunity to go round proposing policies of insurance against fire. He had

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., Convalescent Home. Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

not been authorised to act for any company, but acted as though he had, and pocketed a number of commissions. The present scare is not less absurd than the first of May *frousse* of last year. There were four cases of black smallpox in Dunkirk, and two in Paris. Dunkirk is never without this form of smallpox, and the same may be said of nearly all the great seaports of the North, for it appears that smallpox is in Europe rather the malady of winter and of cold climates than of summer and the sunny South.

The different dispensaries where doctors vaccinated gratis were so run upon as to cause riots. The heifer was taken round to the abode of the general practitioner who operated, but not gratis, in the courtyard. The approaches to the mayoralties when the heifer went there were choked up with old and young of the poorer class—with men, women, and children, all wanting to be vaccinated. The Prime Minister had his papers and books removed from the horseshoe table at which he works at home, and lancets, a spirits-of-wine lamp, and tubes of vaccine set out instead. Any friend who called when he was in and wished to be sheltered by vaccination from the black smallpox was at once operated upon, the Premier making use of a lancet which he rapidly passed through the spirits-of-wine flame. He looked incredulous, let fly a *trait d'esprit*, and explained that if there were no pustule in eight days the vaccine would not have taken, though possibly, some doctors taught, it would have taken none the less. It was like the influence of the Saint Esprit on the baptised, not always patent, but still effective. At any rate, the belief in Jenner chased depressing fears of infection, and in giving good courage helped vital resistance.

Vaccination five o'clock teas cannot last long, as nearly every one in Paris has been revaccinated. They came in in this way. A certain lady of quality, whom M. Abel Hermant had a few seasons back under his magnifying glass, made them fashionable. She is an object of much envy, and, of course, ill-natured whisperings, because she directs the greatest number of votes on the French side of the Suez Canal Company, though not herself a shareholder. One of her characteristics is a taste for launching novelties. In the early days, or hours, of the smallpox scare, she went to a member of the Academy of Medicine, her physician, and after a few polite preliminaries, asked him whether he knew a young doctor of taking appearance and *distingué* manners, the handsomer the better for her purpose, though she did not want exactly an Adonis. The Professor smiled as he listened. The lady went on to explain that in the presence of the black smallpox invasion she thought it a social duty to give a good example, and had therefore thought of having vaccination five o'clocks. To her immense satisfaction the Professor did know of the very young doctor she wanted. If she chose, he could, as a preface to the vaccinations, give a lecture in her drawing-room on the malady she called on him to combat. He had the gift of chaste eloquence, and what he said might be illustrated with photographs which any medical publisher could supply. The Countess—I give her the title so as not to put dots on i's, but she stands higher in the *Livre d'Or*—at once called on the youthful doctor, with a letter of introduction from the Professor, and made arrangements for the vaccinations, to be preceded *par une conférence* and followed *par une tasse de thé*.

The great world of our West End went with a rush to this novel function. The lecture took place on a low stage and in a darkened room, to give full value to optical effects on the white sheet. The photographs of smallpox disfigurements, and the cinematographs of crowds waiting for vaccinations at public dispensaries, and of the transport of the heifer from mayoralty to mayoralty deprived the lecturer of the necessity of making statements shocking to ears polite. Optical effects, as a means for conveying horrible impressions, do not jar upon any of our social conventions to the same degree as terribly strong words. The handsome disciple of Æsculapius understood this. To keep in the well-bred tone he had to spare ears, but he could go to any length in presenting loathsome horrors to the eyes. When he had ended his lecture every one present wanted to be vaccinated, some on the arm, some on the instep, some above the ankle, and the gentlemen in the Pasteurian manner, as if against hydrophobia. The different operations gone through, the hostess asked *ces messieurs* to conduct *ces dames* to the buffet in the next room to brace up their nerves with a cup of tea. They found there a sumptuous spread as at a Hôtel de Ville "lunch." There was tea, but lost in chocolate, slightly iced coffee, port, sherry, champagne, and liqueurs, with delicately dainty solids. Sherry is the favourite beverage of the King of Spain, who made a point of asking for it in France. The Queen of Portugal prefers the *petit verre* of port to liqueur. She contents herself with one or two *petits verres*. Our beauties lead lives too exciting not to require more picking up, and, fresh from the vaccination lancet, did not think a half-dozen too many.

The French press laments the death of Count Lamsdorff as a loss to France. The curtain fell on his career at San Remo, where he so long lay ill from cirrhosis of the liver. That malady had obliged him to resign the chancellorship, to which the Tsar called him on the death of Prince Lobanoff. A more colourless person one could not meet at a Foreign Office party, where the neutral tint is generally in favour. He symbolised to perfection bureaucratic inertia—that is, when action is called for by a faction, a Court, or a country. Was it George Eliot, who, on being asked what, in her opinion, was the virtue of virtues, answered, "exactness"? She would have found her ideal in Count Lamsdorff. Somehow it came to nothing.

The late ex-Chancellor of Russia belonged to a noble family of Lithuanian origin, and had an inborn probity that kept him with clean hands in a service in which palms itch terribly. But he had, as a perfect official, the conscience of the good dog whose rule of conduct is his master's will. In private life he would not hurt a fly, or wrong his worst enemy. As a high servant of the

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

Tsar, he leant himself with all the zeal so supine a nature could muster to the Lobanoff policy of the Armenian massacres. He went, as Chancellor, on a visit to Belgrade, which had the immediate effect of bringing about the Karageorgevich conspiracy to massacre King Alexander and Queen Draga, from whom the Empress Alexandra had declined to receive a visit, a good reason for "removing" her. He was on a high grade in the Foreign Office service when Stambouloff was got rid of. But he may not have been an accessory before the fact to the riddance, whatever he became after. It was such a Lower Empire tragedy that one cannot imagine the Count having had part or lot in the atrocity. His exactness had some results, but always bad ones. This may have been that something in him made him, even when the merest instrument, semi-scrupulous. Certainly, he had moral sense when the canine reverence for the master's will did not predominate. Count Lamsdorff had been brought up on Kant. So had his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. But they all must have placed restrictions on the categorical imperative, otherwise they could not have got on so well. It was not the late Count's fault if a war with Japan broke out when he filled the office of Chancellor. Lamsdorff set his face against an impetuously forward course in Eastern Asia. He trusted to inertia to keep on the safe side. Alexeieff, who had the Tsar's favour, grew impatient at being clogged by, as it seemed to him, slothful officialism, and persuaded Nicholas II. to give him an entirely free hand, and something more, as Viceroy at Port Arthur. Poor Lamsdorff had to put up with seeing Far Eastern affairs, so far as they touched China and Japan, transferred from the Chancellor's to Alexeieff's office. The eating of this leek had a bad effect on his health, and the liver attack it brought on grew chronic. Both his deep personal knowledge of Far Eastern affairs and the depression into which he fell made the supremacy of Alexeieff more than trying. The latter sent the most hopeful reports to the Winter Palace, whence they came to the Chancellerie with marginal notes by the Master, a little flat perhaps, but expressing approbation. Lamsdorff's information communicated to Delcassé on the Russo-Japanese outlook was necessarily second-hand, and derived from the Alexeieff reports. This is why the French Minister gave optimist cues to the press, and a formal declaration that peace stood on a firm basis, five or six hours after the first Japanese attack on the Russian fleet.

Count Lamsdorff looked what he mentally was, inert (save for study), heavy, orderly, methodic, and *le parfait fonctionnaire*. He had a fleshy, clean-shaved face, a trim moustache, and well-made clothes, of a good fit and well brushed. He had civil manners, and did not practise the cordial dodge so common in Russian Government offices. Every day, when not attending the Tsar abroad, or engaged on some high mission, he walked four times across the Winter Palace square, counting his steps and looking at his watch as he set out and reached his goal. If he took a step too much or too little, the rather stolid face fell. A look of contentment passed over it when his pace had been within the regular limit and he had been on the nick of time. The Count lunched every day, when the Tsar did not keep him for that meal at the palace, at the English Club—which is not English. He had a table in a corner all to himself, spoke to nobody, treated intruders wanting to buttonhole him with expressionless, but not discourteous, want of sympathy, but was on his feet and let fall his napkin the instant a Grand Duke approached to ask him a question. Nobody ever knew him to invite any one to his table. He never left town on a holiday, was not devoted to any hostess, and remained a stranger to Cubat's.

One of the Count's far-off missions was to China. Thanks to a Benedictine study of State papers and other documents, there could be no higher authority on the questions connected with that Empire. His knowledge of the Chinese language and a name for learning commanded the respect of the Wai-pou-pou. It had been said to some of its members by a Chinese Minister to St. Petersburg that the Count might successfully pass an examination for the coral hat knob—the highest grade of mandarinship. His mission remained dark. Princes Pou-lun and Sheng, custodians of the family archives of the Imperial dynasties, allowed him facilities to make searches in them. Nobody more deeply lamented than Count Lamsdorff the havoc made in these archives by Waldersee's troops. His belief in leaving the work of the world in great part to time brought him easily into touch with the Chinese.

Learning in China is the Jacob's ladder that leads to every official altitude save the throne. The spirit of the French Academy remains in the Middle Empire. Learning is verbal and locked up. Lamsdorff's work in the world ought to have been in the compilation of a Russo-Chinese dictionary, or as assistant in a chemist's laboratory, where exactness and patience are so necessary. Had he been under a Government that allowed scope to his conscience, he must have been a valuable public servant. He had very few tastes or wants. One of his pleasures was to listen in the Emperor's chapel to the rehearsals of the choir under Count Schermatieff. I do not suppose he kept a sledge or carriage of his own. A vehicle of the Emperor's used to whisk him off to Peterhoff or Tsarskoe Selo and back. He hardly cared for the opera, but sometimes went there on certain evenings as an official duty, to be near the Emperor.

M. Delcassé often went to St. Petersburg to "exchange ideas with Count Lamsdorff," who returned his visits in close accordance with protocol politeness. He must have felt, as he looked, the fish out of water, and lost in Paris. At Compiègne he could, when in attendance there on Nicholas II., pace up and down the long arbour, counting his steps and unstared at. He had there different conferences with M. Delcassé, and, of course, interviews with M. Waldeck-Rousseau. They both wanted to make something out of the kettle of fish which the interests of the Chartres family and of the Princess Waldemar of Denmark had created there, but concluded nothing. Exchanges of views also took place on Balkan subjects, the Euphrates Railway scheme, Persia, Japan, and a measure then pending to further democratise the French army.

Waldeck-Rousseau had a cold stare and a distant manner disconcerting to those not used to it. He com-

Southampton.—South-Western Hotel.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

plained later of the "blankness" of Count Lamsdorff's mind. Was this because he stepped aside to leave all initiative to the master? He could not have been more reticent had he been deep in a game of chess. Yes; the Count had a chess-player's intellect. He did best left to himself, and allowed in quiet meditation to think out his adversaries' as well as his own game. Friction with a more active and ready mind rather confused him. The Tsar and his brothers had been used to the over-ruling personality of Pobiedonostseff, and under-rated the quiescence of Lamsdorff. Hence the setting over the Count's head of Alexeieff, who wanted to play a grand part and to please financial syndicates, which had never been able to use Lamsdorff as their tool in Korea. I suppose no official step was ever attended with more dire consequences than this one.

The severe judgments in actions for damages against Comte de Beauvouloir and Comte Hélie de Noailles may have the effect of moderating the pace of motorists on high roads. The former, not finding his chauffeur went fast enough, seized the steering-wheel, and, driving furiously, ran against a post, the chauffeur's legs being so smashed up that the surgeon had to amputate both. Comte de Noailles ran down Lieutenant-Colonel Croizat and killed him. The civil tribunal has in the former case awarded the widow 60,000 fr., and in the latter 80,000 fr., with 20,000 fr. each for the children. The wealth of the Molès belongs to this generation of De Noailles. It has been added to by rich dowries. The Comtesse Hélie is a daughter of Margaret, *née* De Rothschild, Duchesse de Gramont, who died last year. The De Noailles are in the Orleanist tradition in writing books, in being prudent in their expenditure, in having numerous progenies, and in being drab in their politics. The late Duc wrote as Duc d'Ayen a book on political economy, to prove that the greater the wealth of his class, the better for those who had no money at all. Father Gabriac, of the Jesuits, kindly sent it to me, to bring me round from fancying that after all the Socialists have some sort of a case to go upon.

The Government barely escaped being now defunct on Tuesday in last week on a military question. This question would not have arisen but for the Morocco affair. The Socialists, disappointed at General Picquart not anticipating their wishes, raised it. It was, Are the soldiers now serving who entered the Army in the autumn of 1904 to continue to the next October, or are they to be at once liberated under the new law, they having served more than two years? Two years for all is the present rule. General Picquart, who had intended to apply his rule to them, gave, in consequence of events in Morocco, a negative answer. Thereupon the majority voted against the Government. Had not M. Brisson been a friend of the Ministry, a crisis would have been declared. But he kept the debate on orders of the day going on until Clemenceau had time to realise the situation. He played with spirit, address, and in a fine appeal to good sense with cards on the table. He resembles Marshal Ney in being most brilliant, ready, and redoubtably combative in the smoke of battle. In less than ten minutes he brought the hostile majority and friendly minority together in a *bloc* of 413 against 79.

The speeches of M. Pichon and M. Ribot on the Morocco incident—if the massacre of Dr. Mauchamp can be called an incident—show what progress France has made in good sense since 1870. Compare them with the speeches of the Duc de Gramont, Emile Ollivier, and Baron Jérôme David in that year. Yet both MM. Pichon's and Ribot's tingle with patriotism. M. Ribot condensed what M. Pichon said, and threw it into a noble mould. It came to this: A provisional occupation of Oujda until reparation is made, no policy of adventures, close adherence to European arrangements, and all this to be declared in a tone audible to the whole world. M. Ribot has a splendidly high pitch, without being at all stilted.

A PEER AMONG THE PERIS.

YOUR not putting in my Suffragette article, after all, I got me into a deuce of a scrape last Thursday. Jessie was no end upset about it; said that my not insisting upon it showed my weakness of character, and all sorts of bitter things like that. As a matter of fact, she had set her heart on its going in, because some girl that she has quarrelled with has turned Suffragette, and she thought that article would make her sit up. She ended by breaking off our engagement, and she would not speak to me for two whole days. However, we have made it up now, you will be glad to hear. Funnily enough, it was through that quarrel that I got the subject I am writing about. Jessie has an aunt that she is very fond of—who used to be very kind to her when she was a young girl. She was a barmaid, and she married her employer. Their house is not far from Charing Cross, and they have tons of money—because it is what is known as a "free" house. They could have retired years ago, but they have kept it on for the love of the thing. They have just bought a place in Berkshire now, though—it used to belong to a cousin of mine, which is rather a queer coincidence—and they are going to retire to it as soon as Jessie and I are married, so that the Radicals and people shall not be able to use their keeping a public house as a handle against Jessie. Her aunt has always had a lot of influence over my dear girl. I believe the only time they ever disagreed was when Jessie went on the stage instead of going behind the bar, which her aunt thought a more respectable profession for a young girl. So as soon as the trouble over the Suffragette article began, I went to Mrs. D'Urbeville and asked her to help me make things up.

While we were talking the question of abolishing barmaids happened to come along, and I made up my mind to write this article about it, instead of about the Easter Holidays, as I was thinking of doing. I have always had a friendly feeling for barmaids; and now that they are talking of doing away with them—and of us, too—it seems to me that it forms a bond of union between the Peers and the Peris (rather good, that. What?), and that they ought to stick up for each other. I must say, though, that until I heard what Jessie's aunt had to say about it, I was not at all sure in my own mind, whether it might not be rather a good thing for the barmaids to be abolished. They work for dreadfully long hours, I am told; and it cannot be much fun working beer-pulls and measuring out Scotch and sodas for other people to drink. I used to think it was rather like the sympathy that lots of silly asses professed to feel for horses when the motor came in. As if they would regret anything that stopped them from being overworked and flogged in the way they are! I mean the horses, not the barmaids. But Jessie's aunt has made me see things in a new light.

She is an uncommonly nice woman—gives away heaps in charity, and doesn't gas about it—and a great believer in what they call the higher education of

women, as well as, curious though it sounds, the cause of temperance. Her eldest daughter, Clara, was no end of a swell at Girton, or Newnham, I forget which, before she came back to help her mother behind the bar. She is married to a rich stockbroker johnny now, who used to be a customer, and lives in a palace of a place somewhere on Wimbledon Common. Her three sisters are all teetotalers, like their mother—they are all thoroughly good sorts, and they all serve in the bar.

Mrs. D'Urbeville takes what seems to me rather a new view of the barmaid question. According to her, it is one of the duties a woman owes to society to be a barmaid during some part of her life, and so to help keep drunkenness down. She says that no man likes to make a beast of himself before a woman, especially if she is a lady, and that one word from a woman that he respects will do more with him than any number of sentences from a magistrate. According to her, if, instead of trying to abolish barmaids, all the reforming women would only take situations in public-houses themselves, they would do more to keep men temperate than all the teetotal societies taken together. I think, myself, that she goes rather far in saying this, but I know that there's something in it, from my own experience. I know if I was going to get drunk I would much rather that a dozen men should see me than one decent woman. And I expect it is the same with most fellows—to start with, anyway.

Jessie's aunt is especially down on the people who try to make out that a barmaid is more liable to temptation than other girls. As to taking to drink, she says that no end of them are teetotalers, and that any one who has served in a bar knows that you get to hate the sight and smell of alcohol before you have been serving it out very long. I don't know that I quite agree with her in this myself, but, after all, she is quite as likely to know what she is talking about as people who have never been in a public-house in their lives. As to their being led astray, she says that they are ten times as well looked after as servant girls, or mill hands, or the girls who work in City offices, and that there are figures to prove that they are about the straightest class of working women going. And I must say, as any fellow who has knocked about London a bit knows for himself, the average barmaid that you see in a London bar is no chicken, and knows how to take care of herself a lot better than most of her customers do. Jessie's aunt was especially down on some reformer-woman who talked a lot of rot about barmaids having to put up with coarse jokes for fear of offending customers. She said that any man who insulted a barmaid finds himself put outside in double quick time, and that the other customers would be the first to go for him.

Mrs. D'Urbeville was just warming to her subject when two of her daughters came off duty and put their oars in. Kitty, the elder of them, has just taken her B.A. or something, at Holloway College, I believe it is, and she quoted Latin at me until I had to tell her that I couldn't understand a word she was saying. Dolly, the youngest of them, is what they call serious-minded. I expect, myself, it's because she isn't as pretty as either of her sisters. She lived in a Settlement somewhere in the East End for a time, before she came to help in the bar, and she is no end of a swell over what they call social problems. So while Kitty kept flinging Hebe and Olympus and Ambrosia at my head, to say nothing of the Koran, Dolly kept up a regular fire of Scripture texts, all proving that barmaids were cracked up by all the wisest and most respectable authorities. I got quite dizzy in the end, until, fortunately, Dolly had to go off to keep an appointment with her fiancé, who's a young man studying for the Church that she met in the Settlement, and as serious-minded as herself.

I've been talking it over with Jessie since then, and from what she tells me—not to speak of things I've seen for myself—I should say that if you did away with actresses you would be doing a much better day's work, both as far as hard work and temptation go, than if you abolished barmaids. Though, after all, if you once start going in for those sort of reforms, I don't see where you're going to leave off. It seems to me that pretty well every kind of woman that works—and most of those who don't—must expect to rub up against this wicked world in some way or other nowadays. If you do away with barmaids and actresses, I don't see how you can stop there; you must do away with servant-girls, and typists, and factory girls, and Salvation Army lasses, and all the rest of them. You'd even have to do away with the Suffragettes themselves, and the Primrose League, too. In fact, you'd have to get back to the Turk's ideas and shut all your women up into harems so that they should be protected from the world, the flesh, and the devil altogether. And I don't suppose the reforming women would like that. That's what I think about the Barmaid question. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE New Monotony, dear Lady Betty, is appalling! Sameness is the dominant note in modern England. From Land's End to John o' Groats, English men and women of the time dress, talk, think, act, and live alike—making reasonable allowance for differences of circumstances; the same newspaper posters are on every railway-station platform, outside every newsagent's shop, and at the corners of every main street. On every bookstall are the same periodicals and publications; on every hoarding are the same advertisements; at every hotel and restaurant are the same regulations, charges, and dishes; every draper sells more or less the same stuffs and styles; every tailor displays the same patterns; and every shop-window is filled with the same commodities—according to its purpose—exhibited in the same manner.

England is now a small community organised out of all originality. The slightest departure from the ordinary is generally regarded with suspicion. Every artist has to paint according to the pattern of the moment, or starve; every author has to beware of excessive originality; every journalist must affect the same style, and express himself in the same words; every politician must adopt one or the other of the two main policies, or be denounced as a traitor, a maniac, or an anarchist, and every man or woman has to move with the stream or be swamped.

Nevertheless, we are changing, and rapidly; but we are changing collectively—most dreading to take even a single step unattended.

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In England, title does not run after intelligence; intelligence runs after title. Men who have distinguished themselves in literature, art, or science are seldom admitted to a fashionable West-End club; almost any candidate who has a title is elected without demur to the literary and artistic clubs. The situation might be described even more strongly. Were a man, who has attained distinction in literature or art, to submit his name for election at one of the fashionable London clubs it would, almost certainly, be objected that the institution was not intended for "celebrities" of the kind; were he to be proposed for a literary or artistic club, some enemies would endeavour to secure his rejection. On the other hand, Lord Tom Noddy or Fitzfoodle would be elected unopposed at every artistic or literary club in the town! It is fully time that the literary and artistic in this country should entertain a less modest appreciation of their merits, of the importance of intelligence, and of their social value. Judges, eminent lawyers, celebrated authors and artists, scientific men of world-wide renown, and great doctors are now seldom to be met with in our "society," and few of them are admitted as members to the best known West-End clubs. They delight, however, to attract to their houses even the tenth-rate titled men and women, and the Tom Noddys and Fitzfoodles make occasional incursions to their clubs—which the latter describe as amusing "Pot-houses"—and, when there, assume an air of superiority which is altogether ludicrous.

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A new regulation respecting the admission of women

to the precincts of the Houses of Parliament is to be issued immediately; it is to run as follows:—

"No women admitted unless under proper control."

* * * * *

The sorrows of Rosebery are apparently chronic. Most of his fellow-countrymen and women have long since forgotten the conditions in which he attained the Premiership, and subsequently lost the leadership of the Liberal Party, and even that he still has any political existence; but his occasional outbursts of grief remind them that he is amongst us, and has had a distressing past. Under cover of telling us what we should do, he continually taunts us with what we have done to him; we have forced him to be a "lonely ploughman," who trudges wearily along a "solitary furrow," an "Ishmael" who "stands outside the tabernacle," a "retired raven" who "croaks on a withered branch," and several other depressing things which are obviously seriously affecting him. Those long-continued lamentations, and the variety of characters he has assumed since affliction overtook him, justify his fellow-countrymen for having deserted him. It is because they perceived that Lord Rosebery imagined himself to be the all-important element in every situation, and was of a changeable disposition—did the change suit his purposes—that they withdrew their support from him. A croaking Ishmael sitting on a withered bough outside a tabernacle is scarcely the kind of person that the British public will attend to at a moment of such serious importance as is the present.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

ONE result of the passing of the Street Betting Act will certainly be an increase in the number of people attending race meetings, and during the last few weeks the cheap rings at all the fixtures have been much better filled than they were last year. The "stay-at-home backer" is abhorred by managers of meetings, who, of course, detest tape betting, and they would rejoice if all the starting-price establishments and other betting houses could be squabashed altogether. It has frequently been asserted that starting-price betting is the greatest curse of the Turf, and this is perfectly true.

I hear that in the course of this year a member of the Jockey Club will propose that all events for two-year-olds during the first five or six weeks of the season (until May 1) shall be selling races. The Jockey Club took an important step in the right direction when the value of the two-year-old stakes run before June 1 was cut down, as no greater sum than £200 can now be added to any such event. The French two-year-olds cannot run before August 1, and it would be a good thing if the same rule could be passed in this country, but this idea is Utopian, as the summer meetings (notably Ascot) would be seriously damaged.

Keystone II. has come on in a most satisfactory manner during the last four months, and she has trained into a magnificent mare. She will be quite fit to run for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap on May 11 if Lord Derby decides to start her for that race, her weight being 9 st. Gingal (7 st. 12 lb.) is being trained with a view to his starting for the Jubilee Handicap, but he may possibly run for the Doveridge Handicap at Derby, and at Kempton Park the stable would depend upon Meadow Rue, who will be greatly fancied if she starts.

Mr. Newton's Slavetrader (4 years, 8 st. 4 lb.) is being prepared for the City and Suburban, and so also is Sir E. Vincent's mare Cyanean (7 st. 8 lb.). Slavetrader has not been seen out since the Sandown Park July Meeting, when he gave Succour 4 lb. and defeated him easily over one mile and a half. Three days previously at Newmarket Saucy gave Slavetrader 7 lb. and beat him by a head over the same distance. Slavetrader won the Hastings Plate at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting in a canter, but he had really nothing to beat. Mr. Newton's horse does not appear to me to be well in at Epsom, and Velocity ought to beat him at 12 lb. if Mrs. Jackson's horse is then in his best form. Velocity was ridiculously backward at Lincoln. Cyanean won nothing last year, but she is believed to have come back to her early form, and she is certainly not over-weighted for a five-year-old.

I see it is stated that Troutbeck is expected to make a successful four-year-old début at Newmarket the week after next by winning the four-year-old heat of the Biennial. I shall be vastly surprised if the Duke of Westminster's horse is found capable of beating Radium, who will have a great advantage in the weights.

It has been several times stated lately in various newspapers that Polymelus is in good work at Newmarket for whichever of his spring engagements may be selected for him—the City and Suburban or the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. Polymelus, who is one of the most improved horses at Newmarket, could not by any possibility be got fit to run at the Epsom Spring Meeting, and I do not fancy he is intended to start at Kempton Park. He will no doubt be reserved for the Coronation Cup at the Epsom Summer Meeting, which will be a great race if it also brings out Keystone II., Velocity, The White Knight, Polar Star, and Troutbeck. Spearmint is entered, but, as was long ago stated in Truth, it is highly improbable that last year's Derby winner will get through another preparation. At Ascot Polymelus has two engagements on the Thursday—the Gold Cup, course two miles and a half; and the All Aged Stakes, distance six furlongs. I do not believe that Mr. Joel's horse would stay the severe Ascot Cup course, which so decisively settled Pretty Polly and Cicero last year. Polymelus will no doubt be kept after Epsom for the Princess of Wales' Stakes of £6,000 at the Newmarket First July Meeting, and, in the absence of Spearmint, this rich race appears a certainty for him. Black Arrow would have 12 lb. the best of the weights, but he could not stay the course.

I was rather amused with the slighting opinion expressed by a writer in a weekly paper as to the early two-year-olds, which, we are informed by this wiseacre, need not be seriously thought about, as they are sure to turn out moderate. The writer of this silly stuff must have forgotten that Polar Star, who won twelve races last season, and was never beaten, made his début at Liverpool, and among the Lincoln winners during the last twenty years have been animals which as three-year-olds carried off the Two Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger. Cyllene, who turned out to be the best of the horses of his year, who would have won all the classic stakes if he had been entered for them, also made his début at the Liverpool Spring Meeting. As to St. Elf, who is dismissed as being possibly a useful colt, he happens to be the highest tried two-year-old at Newmarket up to the present time, and he has both fine speed and good stamina. It will take a very smart animal indeed to defeat St. Elf. Another writer regards the victory of Mr. Wallace's colt as being a fine advertisement for his sire, St. Maclou; but that horse now belongs to the Prussian Government, and therefore does not stand in need of any such lift. It is a curious fact that directly a sire has been sold to go abroad, then his stock usually begin to win races, however badly they may have been doing previously. St. Elf, however, is the first stock of St. Maclou, who is by St. Simon out of Mimi, and he was bred at Sledmere by Sir Tatton Sykes in 1898. St. Maclou was purchased as a yearling by the late Colonel McCalmont, after whose death the horse was sold to Lord Howard de Walden. At the end of the season of 1903 St. Maclou was sent to the stud, his fee being £95, and not long afterwards he was sold to the Prussian Government.

I hear that Polar Star is to run for the Chippenham Plate of £500 on the last day of the Newmarket First Spring Meeting. Mr. Hall Walker's colt has no penalty, and this race ought to be a good thing for him, as the animals entered are exceedingly moderate, with the possible exception of Fra Diavolo, who is unlikely to be in condition to start for any race so

early as May 3. The Chippenham Plate is run over the last mile and a half of the Cesarewitch course, and last year this race produced a very fine finish, when Sarcelle defeated Picton by a head.

The Two Thousand will be run four weeks hence, but not a bet has so far been laid on this race, nor is there likely to be any extended speculation until a day or two before it is decided. Slieve Gallion has wintered as well as could be wished, but of course nothing conclusive is as yet known as to whether he can stay. I never attached a particle of importance to Slieve Gallion's defeat in the Middle Park Plate, as the colt had been seriously amiss, and it was a mistake to have sent him to Newmarket under the circumstances. The stock of Gallinule often gain stamina with age. Many good judges insisted last season that Slieve Gallion would turn out a non-stayer, but he did not indicate any lack of stamina when he won the New Stakes at Ascot in a common canter. I see it is stated that Lord Derby's colt Olympian will not be ready for the Two Thousand, but he ought to be in good trim by the Derby day. Olympian has not a 100 to 1 chance for the Derby, as he is the very last horse in the entry to do well over the Epsom course. He is much more likely to win a race at Ascot, or Lord Derby may send him over to France to run for the Grand Prix, if he does well during the next two months. I long ago expressed the opinion that Baltinglass will be Major Loder's best colt for the Derby, and not Galvani, and this view now appears to be generally taken. Galvani was extravagantly overrated last autumn, for his defeat of Slieve Gallion in the Middle Park Plate, over which such an elaborate fuss was raised, was really due to the fact of the Beckhampton colt being all wrong, and not to the winner's own superior merits as a racer. On the Kempton Park running, a week before the Middle Park Plate, Galvani was but very little better than Olympian, and the winner was then thoroughly fit, whereas the second was a big, backward, baby of a horse. The laurels gained by Galvani through these two victories were grievously tarnished when Polar Star galloped away from him in the Criterion Stakes. Baltinglass is engaged in the Two Thousand, and he will no doubt start for that race. This colt was originally entered for the Greenham Stakes of £1,000 at the Newbury Spring Meeting, but he was unluckily withdrawn from that race when the minor forfeit was declared. If Baltinglass really has any pretensions to be a Derby horse he would have walked in for this race. As matters stand, his only engagement before the Two Thousand is the Wood Ditton Stakes of £300 at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, and this event should be a good thing for him. The running during the Craven week is likely to influence the Two Thousand and Derby considerably, as there is a probability that one of the Kingsclere three-year-olds will start for the Biennial, either Lord Falmouth's St. Martin or the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, each being entitled to the 7 lb. maiden allowance. Putting aside My Pet II., who is in France, there is nothing better in the Biennial than Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's colt Simon Square, who has incurred a 5 lb. penalty, and it is inconceivable that he could give either of the Kingsclere colts 12 lb. Meadow Rue has been withdrawn from the Column Produce Stakes, leaving the Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite, Mr. A. James's Plum Blossom, Lord Derby's Glacis, and Lord Wolverton's Prince of Orange and The Welkin the best of the public lot. Slieve Gallion is entered for the Craven Stakes, but he certainly will not run. St. Martin is also engaged in this race, the best public form being represented by Simon Square, Mr. E. Dresden's Saxham, Lord Cadogan's The Sun, and Mr. Freeman's Hexagon.

I see it is stated that M. E. Blanc will have a dangerous candidate for the Derby in Ouadi Halfa. Some misguided mooncalves have already been so infatuated as to back this colt, but, after the eccentric manner in which M. E. Blanc's horses have been managed with regard to their English engagements, it seems inconceivable that anyone with a particle of common sense can put money on Ouadi Halfa for the Derby until his number is up. If Ouadi Halfa is really a smart colt he will certainly start for the Prix du Jockey Club, which is run at Chantilly on the Sunday before the Derby. A horse cannot reasonably be expected to show his best form in England on Wednesday if he has run in France on the previous Sunday. I expect the odds are really very considerable against Ouadi Halfa seeing the post at Epsom, and it is significant that M. Blanc withdrew him some time ago from his engagements in the two £10,000 races, the Eclipse Stakes and the Jockey Club Stakes. M. E. Blanc has also left in Myram for the Derby. This colt is own brother to Jardy, who would have been the winner at Epsom two years ago if he had been all right. There are several French entries in both Derby and Oaks, and in the fillies' race M. E. Blanc, who originally had five engaged, has accepted with Zahra, by Flying Fox out of Bass, and with Hélène, own sister to Ajax and Adam. If either of these fillies is tried to be smart, M. E. Blanc's colours will no doubt be seen in the Oaks, as twelve days elapse between the Prix de Diane at Chantilly and the Epsom race.

Mr. Vanderbilt's horse Maintenon is to make his first appearance as a four-year-old next week at Maisons Laffitte, when he is to start for the Prix Eugène Adam (formerly Prix Boiard), which is a stake of £2,000. Maintenon's running will be noted with much interest, as he is engaged in the Ascot Cup, and I hear that Mr. Vanderbilt intends to send his horse to England for this race. If Maintenon is in his best form on June 20 he ought to win the Gold Cup, unless The White Knight has made a great improvement. It seems to me that Colonel Kirkwood's horse is the most hopeful of the English lot, most of which have no pretensions to stay the course. Of course, Sagamore and Polar Star may discover themselves to be Cup horses, but I shall be surprised if either the one or the other turns out to be sufficiently well endowed with stamina to win this race at three years old. The fact is that an animal may win the St. Leger, or the Doncaster Cup, or the Jockey Club Cup, and may yet prove hopelessly incapable of staying the Ascot Cup course. Several of the animals which have been entered for the Ascot race will be preposterously outclassed, and it is difficult to comprehend the object of entering a mere handicap horse for such an event as this.

I hear that Major Loder's dark filly, Adora, who has been mentioned by some harebrained enthusiasts as a likely winner of the One Thousand and Oaks, is never likely to distinguish herself much on the Turf. The sister to Pretty Polly is proving a somewhat difficult animal to train.

Lord Penrhyn's racehorses are to be sold at Newmarket during the Craven week, and the mares and other stock will be disposed of later on in the season.

His Eminence has been lame since he returned to Newmarket from Lincoln, so he has been struck out of his spring engagements, and I do not suppose he will be again seen out before Ascot, at the earliest. His Eminence is entered there for the New Biennial, the Rous Memorial Stakes (O.M.), and the All-Aged Stakes, all of which races are run on the Thursday. I expect, however, that he is more likely to win a handicap run over a course of from six furlongs to an easy mile than any of his weight-for-age engagements.

The spring edition of "Ruff's Guide to the Turf"—an indispensable work for all who take an intelligent interest in racing—has just been published by Messrs. Ashley and Smith, 139 and 140, Fleet-street, E.C.

Next week there will be racing at Warwick, Leicester, Bogside, Eglinton Hunt, and Newbury. The best sport will be seen at Newbury, where the programme promises some really good racing. There is sure to be an enormous attendance at this meeting, as the train service from Paddington is superlatively good.

Mr. de Rothschild has Pastry, who finished second for the Brocklesby Stakes, engaged in the Kineton Stakes at Warwick, and his filly, Selaginella, winner of the Lincoln Cup, is entered for the Grove Park Plate. Beattie, who has several times disappointed his friends, is engaged in the Swan Meadow Plate, along with a lot of dreadfully bad wretches.

Twenty-four three-year-olds are left in for the Green-

ham Stakes of £1,000 at Newbury, the best public performer in the list being Baron de Forest's Bellatrix, who has incurred a penalty of 5 lb. Knight of Tully will also carry 5 lb. extra, but he ran badly at Liverpool. The entry for the Carnarvon Stakes includes Sir John Thursby's Counterfeit, who, however, has incurred a penalty of 12 lb. for winning the Brocklesby Stakes. The Spring Stakes for maiden three-year-olds has also a large entry, including Camlarg and Jovial, both of which animals disappointed their friends last season. There are seventy-five entries for the Beckhampton Two-year-old Plate of £200, including Counterfeit, who again has to carry 12 lb. extra, which is much too severe a penalty so early in the season. There are thirty-two acceptances for the Newbury Spring Cup of £1,250, including Ob (9 st. 6 lb.), and I shall expect Crusader to win if he is all right.

C.T.C. BUNKUM.

I doubt if any organisation with an income of £10,000 a year, except the Cyclists' Touring Club, ever possessed officials who were so apt at supplying their members with bunkum as though it were sound argument. Last week I pointed out how the council had prevented an article by the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge from being published in the *Gazette*. They had an article in favour of the change in membership written by Mr. Kendall Burnett, the chairman, and an editorial by the astute editor-cum-secretary, Mr. Shipton, to the same effect. The exclusion of Mr. Coleridge's article was animadverted upon by Mr. Justice Warrington in anything but favourable terms. And yet Mr. Shipton had the insolence to say in the January number of the *Gazette* that if the members were asked what was their most cherished privilege they would say the *Gazette*, because "we are allowed a latitude of criticism unknown in other cycling journals." But they are not allowed criticism when the vital affairs of club management are concerned. The individual member is sternly suppressed. He is given no chance of protesting against the council's wasteful ways. Undeterred by the criticisms of Mr. Justice Warrington, the council are up to their old dodges. There is a postal vote to be taken in May on Mr. Coleridge's successful amendment as to reform. The council has resolved that Mr. Coleridge be asked to submit a statement for the May *Gazette*, and that, except his statement, the report of the general meeting where his resolution was carried, and a statement of the view of the council, no other reference to the matter shall be allowed in the *Gazette*. The individual member is again squashed. The council will have the last say, and will, as usual, be able to provide their members with bunkum.

In order that members may realise the value that should be put upon the council's statement, I invite them to consider how Mr. Kendall Burnett put the case for the change in constitution in the *Gazette* to the members and how he put it to the court on oath. To the members he said that at the time of the boom large sums were expended in upholding their legal rights. He tells the court that the money was practically wasted, for he says the reduction in legal charges was due to the council not contesting a large number of applications for light railway orders or private Bills, the results being very small compared with the expenditure involved. He further tells the court that the cost of legal aid to members is very considerable—that is, I suppose, in contradistinction to parliamentary expenses. In 1903 it was £58, in 1904 £28, and in 1906 £97 0s. 7d., and this last sum included parliamentary expenses. He tells neither the court nor the members that since 1899, when the councillors first had their fares paid in order to attend council meetings, the average sum a year paid in fares is £515, and for legal charges, including parliamentary waste, is £231. If members think they are going to get legal aid in accidents they are mistaken. The average income of the club during that period has been over £10,000 a year. He tells the court that the cost of road books is heavy. He tells the members that no considerable trading profit is derived from road books. He tells neither that the council has locked up £1,761 in these road books that he depreciates. He tells the members that touring is not as pleasurable as it was, that the tourist is now the motorist, and that the status of the *average* cyclist is not what it was formerly. (Incidentally I agree that the cads on castors have become road hogs.) He swears to the court that it is a matter of notoriety that the use of the bicycle is now dangerous on the main roads owing to motorists. It would seem that more legal aid would be required. But not in the chairman's view. The great club is going to compose the differences between the two classes of riders. He admits to the members that the great influx will come from motorists. The men who are making highways dangerous are to join. He (the chairman) is not a motorist. It is so very likely that men are going to join a club run by a non-motorist. But perhaps the editor is an ardent motorist. He, at all events, regards his chairman as doing donkey work on the bicycle. It is hardly necessary to refer any further to Mr. Kendall Burnett's affidavits. I doubt if purer bunkum was ever offered to a court of law. They represented, I suppose, the joint views of the council. They were destructive of the case they were supposed to support.

It does seem to me monstrous that a chairman, a council, and an editor who have squandered the club funds on such a puerile petition should challenge a reform resolution by a postal vote. Mr. Kendall Burnett was originally opposed to the change. He swears to the court that the change is vital in the interests of the club. He says the privilege and advantages of members will be lessened, and the club's influence grievously diminished, if the alteration is not made. His editor backs him up. I do not inquire which is the master and which is the tame cat. One gets his railway fare from Aberdeen, the other gets £700 a year, and is now willing to take £500. One is a motorist, the other is not. Neither is, to my mind, capable of running an organisation with an income of £10,000 a year and vested money to the tune of £20,000. They now turn round and say, "We can still make the concern a success. Every member must get one new member." The sort of twaddle a curate talks at a missionary meeting! All this could have been done before the petition. The fleshpots of office are dear to the souls of the councillors. Power at any price, so far as our convictions go, is their cry. They are wobblers and wastrels, purveyors of tricks and bunkum, and only the want of energy on the part of the members will keep them in office.

I am told that the reformers are quite willing that Mr. Shipton should receive a pension. The hon. secretary of the reform movement is Mr. E. Symons, 3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, E.C.

I have received some comments on the rowing in the Oxford and Cambridge boat race by an old Oxford Blue. He says:—

The exposition of oarsmanship offered by the Oxford crew during the tideway practice was about the least creditable to university rowing that has been seen on the Thames since 1882, when Cambridge fouled the water on the recovery, three strokes out of four.

Inferiority of pace need not be accompanied by elementary faults in individuals, nor by want of decently uniform action. Coaches cannot make oars at all times out of broomsticks, but they are expected to diagnose and to know how to remedy elementary faults which would be subjects for observation if perpetrated by a freshman tubbed in a pair.

Now in the Oxford crew this year, the two men who otherwise should have been first class, Nos. 7 and 6, had, since the summer, contracted faults not seen in them last year, nor in their Eton career. No. 7 rowed hopelessly deep, No. 6 never straightened his inside arm. Each of these insidious lapses from standard orthodoxy represented about an 8 per cent. depreciation of racing value. This self-depreciation of the two most valuable men would of itself suffice to lose four races out of five, against rivals of decent calibre, and this loss of power was accentuated by irregular sliding among three or four of the others, notably stroke, sliding too hurriedly, and leaving the body with no leg support when bringing the hands home to the chest, tending to weaken his finish to make him wash out, and so not to give length to big men behind him. This foible, as against the almost uniform leg drive of Cambridge, would, independently of the aforesaid faults in 7 and 6, go a long way to ensure defeat.

On the other hand, Oxford, while thus faulty individually and losing power by their faults, somehow retained collectively two

important and good features of sound style, in which Cambridge were deficient—to wit, springy recovery of hands after the finish and of hips for the return swing. Here they excelled as against Cambridge, who had a dead recovery and a tendency to bucket on the return swing, faults which insidiously had crept into their style since their September victory over Harvard.

These are his views. I can only say that the coaches did diagnose the faults, and did their best to correct them, and that these faults were less marked than at Henley. Indeed, Kirby has improved since he went stroke side. A good many men would be first-class oars if they had not some bad faults. Then as to Gladstone at stroke, no one pretends that he is first class. The crew, collectively and individually, did their best, and so did the coaches, who certainly know as much about rowing as most men. As for Cambridge, their lack of beginning and dragged out finish was more marked than against Harvard. If they had had a good beginning they would have been a very fine crew.

Association footballers will be delighted to hear that the Football Association has decided that a man with a wooden leg may play if his leg is not dangerous.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

AUTOMOBILISTS will be glad to notice that there seems every likelihood of the Bill to render compulsory the carrying of tail lights on all vehicles at night passing into law. Practically no serious opposition is being offered to it, and Major Renton confidently anticipates, therefore, that his most desirable measure will get through in due course. Then motor driving after dark in country districts will be a considerably less risky affair than it is at present.

"The Scientific Regulation of Traffic" was the title of an excellent paper read by Earl Russell at the Royal Automobile Club last week, the only objection to which was the extremely Utopian character of its proposals. The speaker prefaced his remarks, indeed, by frankly recognising the fact that his recommendations had no prospect whatever of being carried into effect. He was fully aware, he said, that the scientific regulation of anything, and the application of the principles of logic to legislation, are naturally abhorrent to the mind of every Englishman, and hence he did not dare to hope for a moment that his suggestions would ever get translated into facts. It may be hoped, however, that when we get that long-desired Traffic Board established, any well-considered proposals will obtain consideration, and those of Earl Russell among others. Lord Russell is very thorough-going indeed. In the case of London and other large towns, he would have regulations for defining or limiting the classes of traffic to be allowed along particular streets; for compelling traffic to flow in one direction only; for prohibiting the loading or unloading and stopping of vehicles in the street; for regulating the routes and stopping-places of omnibuses; for marking the centres of streets and the angle at which corners may be turned by vehicles where necessary; and so on. Of these suggestions, the most drastic is that as to allowing only traffic going one way in certain streets. The advantage resulting would undoubtedly be great in many respects, but very careful regulation would be required to avoid inconvenience arising from the necessity of taking roundabout routes to get at a given destination.

Earl Russell suggests, however, that this particular rule need only be applied during stated hours—as, for instance, between 8.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. in the morning to facilitate eastward-bound traffic from the West End to the City, and between 4 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. in the afternoon when the tide sets in the opposite direction. Thus Class A (or fast) traffic going east during the morning hours would have at its disposal the Victoria Embankment, Marylebone-road and Euston-road, and other main arteries; Class B (or moderately fast) traffic, including tradesmen's carts, light vans, 'buses, and so on going in the same direction would be confined to the Strand and Fleet-street route; while Class C (or slow) traffic, such as heavy vans, market carts, and so on would be prohibited altogether. At the same time, separate westward routes would be provided for each class of traffic during the same hours. Thus traffic B would have to leave the City by way of Princes-street, Gresham-street, Aldersgate-street, Clerkenwell-road, Theobald's-road, Bloomsbury-square, Great Russell-street. Presumably, therefore, a tradesman's van requiring to get from Moorgate-street to Queen Victoria-street would have to make a round of some miles in order to do this. I am afraid it would cause dissatisfaction. But perhaps this is only a matter of properly applying a principle for which there is no doubt much to be said.

Motoring Illustrated is responsible for the interesting announcement that it is proposed to transfer the quarters of the Royal Automobile Club from its existing premises in Piccadilly to no less historic a building than that which has hitherto been the quarters of the old War Office in Pall Mall. For some time past it has been known among the members of the club that a move was in contemplation, and the committee would seem to have been lucky in securing new quarters so favourably situated. A considerable amount of adaptation will no doubt be necessary to fit the ex-Government office for its new purposes, but there can be no question as to the excellence of its situation in the very heart of clubland. Another convenient feature of the premises from the motorist's point of view is the courtyard in front, where there will be accommodation, it is said, for twenty or thirty cars at once. This, it is suggested, might be covered by a glass roof. As to the accommodation inside, it is stated that this is ample, though few of the rooms are of very great size.

Mr. J. W. Stocks, whose position as manager of De Dion-Bouton, Ltd., entitles him to speak with authority on the point, has raised a question of considerable importance to the motoring trade by his recent letter as to the utility of the provincial motor shows. In effect, his view of the matter seems to be that these cost a lot of money to the makers who go to the expense of exhibiting at them, and yield very little in return. "The time for the exhibition of motor-cars for the purpose of inducing people to buy them has gone," he suggests. "They are useful merely as a general mart if practically all makes can be seen together at the same time. Immediately they cease to have this importance their value has gone, except from the show-promoter's point of view." Mr. Stocks's view is borne out in rather amusing fashion by Mr. Sydney Dixon, who writes that at the recent Sheffield motor show, where he exhibited a Napier, a Spyker, a Metallurgic, an Isotta Fraschini, and three Darracqs, the only inquiry received on one day was from a lady who wished to know the price of a settee and chair on the stand. At the same time, it is probably a mistake to assume that such local shows do not benefit the motor trade indirectly, even when not many orders are booked on the spot.

In reference to a recent paragraph in this column Mr. S. F. Edge writes:—

> I have read with interest your remarks in regard to the binding penalty of delay which my firm give in regard to Napier cars. In regard to one method of it being possible for a firm to escape on the question of delivery, even on this point customers of S. F. Edge, Limited, are safeguarded, as not only do we guarantee delivery of their car, but we give its specific works number, and we give customers the right of entry into the works so that they may see their particular car in course of construction, and they can satisfy themselves how it is getting on, that it is not neglected, and that it will be out to the time promised.

This is no doubt the right way of doing things, though I can readily credit Mr. Edge's further statement that it is not one generally adopted.

Some useful information is published in the current *Autocar* regarding the interchangeability of tyres. The average tyre maker's catalogue is a most confusing document, with its innumerable particulars of covers and tubes of slightly varying sizes, weight, and so forth, some of which are interchangeable, while others are not. No difficulty would arise in the ordinary way if motorists invariably stuck to one size of tyre and one only. But, of course, it often happens that experience suggests the fitting of larger sized tyres than those

originally supplied with the car, and then the question arises whether the same rims will serve, or whether the former tubes will fit the new covers. Messrs. Michelin draw attention in this connection to one consideration sometimes overlooked, namely, that when wheels are transformed to take stronger—that is, larger—tyres, the actual diameter of the wheel (*i.e.*, wheel fitted with inflated cover) should be maintained, otherwise the gear will be either raised or lowered. In the case of ordinary cars with plenty of power, the consideration is not one of great importance, perhaps, though where those of the other kind are concerned it is certainly one worth bearing in mind.

The fascination which seems to be possessed for some motorists by an enormously powerful car with two seats only is rather incomprehensible. Even if it is never occupied at all by a passenger, a body of some sort is of the utmost convenience for the conveyance of the numberless articles which accompany the well-equipped motorist on his travels, and its place is by no means adequately taken by the box or boot which is usually made to do duty instead on cars of the kind referred to. One advantage of a sort such cars do, indeed, possess from the standpoint of certain owners, in the fact that a superfluity of passengers is thereby rendered impossible. But whether it is this which accounts for their popularity I will not pretend to say. In a general way there is nothing more uncomfortable than a car without sufficient accommodation for rugs, wraps, spare tyres, jack, petrol, etc., and those contemplating the purchase of two-seaters—whether large or small—would always be well advised to think twice before doing so on this account.

The Anglo-American Oil Company, Limited, who sell the well-known and excellent "Pratt" brand of petrol, have issued a very handy road atlas suitable for motorists, covering the whole of England and Wales. By employing the atlas form the adoption of quite a good size scale has been rendered possible without any of the inconvenience resulting from the use of a large-size sheet map, while the clearness of the marking and printing leaves nothing to be desired. Motorists can obtain copies free on application to the company, whose headquarters are in Billiter-street, E.C.

MAMMON.

The Settlement—A Satisfactory Ending—The Stock Exchange Again Gives Remarkable Evidence of its Stability and Co-operative Spirit—The Market Outlook.

WRITING a week ago of the then forthcoming Settlement, I ventured the opinion that "as the result of a good deal of arrangement between certain firms and their creditors, matters appear to have been smoothed out sufficiently to avoid serious trouble. That there will be some failures is almost a foregone conclusion, but apparently the area of trouble will be restricted to the smaller fry." This prediction, I am glad to say, was well founded; the number of defaulters, even among the smaller men, was fewer than expected, while the difficulties of larger houses, and particularly of two firms whose affairs had caused members a good deal of concern, have been tided over, thanks to the support given by strong people, and the forbearance shown by the creditors. This result is distinctly satisfactory, and says much for the inherent strength and harmonious working of the London Stock Exchange. More unfavourable conditions than those against which the House has had to contend lately could hardly be imagined, the decline in values, while most sensational in Americans, having been common to all markets. Fortunately, there is good ground for believing that the worst is now over. Money may remain comparatively dear for some time, and on every rally we must be prepared to see derelict stock come out, but these are matters that will probably not prevent most markets making a fair amount of headway in the course of the present year, having regard to the bargains now offering to the real investor.

Yankee Rails are likely to be shunned more than ever by the British public. I do not deny that prices in this market offer scope in several instances for a turn upwards, on the score of their yields, but, generally speaking, the outlook governing earning conditions in the States is not favourable, as I have shown at length in recent weeks, and, moreover, confidence in the integrity of the men who control the market has had another nasty jar. Perhaps the fresh distrust engendered may make investors pay more attention to Home Rails, which, whatever their demerits, are not in danger of withering in the night. This market, it is true, has undergone a very serious decline for many years, but that is the very reason why it should receive attention now, particularly as the dividend position—speaking as a whole—is better than for a long time past. In another column I have dealt with the outlook for railway prior charge stocks, a group which offers solid attractions to the investor wanting to buy safe stocks on a basis that leaves room for a fair margin of capital appreciation.

Home Railway Prior Charge Stocks—Why they have Fallen so Severely—The Present Situation Altogether Abnormal—A Recovery Inevitable—An Opportunity for Investors.

In no single department of the Stock Exchange has depression been so continuous or in its aggregate effect so great as in that for Home Railway stocks. I do not refer merely to the limited group of Ordinary issues, which, in some instances, have been brought down within recent years by causes affecting their intrinsic value, but include that great mass of fixed interest securities—debentures, guaranteed, rent charges, and preferences—that come within the category of "gilt-edged" investments. The great bulk of these securities are in British names, locked away in the strong boxes of public and private trustees. The shrinkage in values has been attended without the popular excitement caused by a collapse in speculative markets; it has not been a case of a sensational break occurring within a few weeks, but a steady decline spread over the past ten years. The situation is a particularly trying one for those in charge of trust money, and with a view first to assisting them to form a judgment and second to guiding would-be investors, I propose to briefly deal with the causes that are responsible for the present low range of values and to arrive, as far as possible, at an estimate of the outlook.

During the last week or two one or two critics have declared in the correspondence columns of the daily press that we are arriving at a permanently altered standard of valuation; that, in consequence of the growing currency needs of the world, there is no prospect of a return to the lower yields given by stocks in the immediate past. This is a purely gratuitous assumption, and, happily, the logical conclusion based upon the factors that have contributed to the fall in prices is distinctly the other way. I am quite ready to admit that there is little prospect of our witnessing a return to the state of affairs that ruled from 1894-1897, when the Bank rate for a twelvemonth at a stretch was 2 per cent., and the demand for securities so outstripped the supply that 2½ per cent. became a standard basis of yield. That those times will never recur I should be slow to assert. History has a strange knack of repeating itself, and although at present one can hardly imagine conditions that should lead Mr. Punch to again caricature the Old Lady of Threadneedle-street sitting in the Bank vaults bewildered by the pile after pile of gold being heaped around her and begging that no more of the "nasty stuff" be brought in, yet they may be nearer than many people credit. However, while admitting that the years immediately preceding the Boer War were abnormal years in the money market and that there is no likelihood of their early recurrence, must it not also be admitted that the existing state of markets is abnormal? The only parallel I can think of to the present situation is that which obtained in the years immediately succeeding the Franco-German War of 1870, though the stringency now prevailing in the Inter-

national money market is more pronounced than was the case some thirty odd years ago. Then, as now, the leading monetary centres, after being severely taxed by the burden of war expenditure, had to face the additional strain of a widespread trade revival that developed with the dawn of peace, and which brought its usual concomitant in the shape of a big outbreak of speculation.

On the present occasion the boom in trade has truly been world-wide, involving a tremendous rise in the prices of all leading commodities, and in turn fostering speculation not only in certain classes of securities, but in metals and produce and real estate, in support of which last-named contention I would point to the great rise in land values that has recently occurred in Canada, the United States, Egypt, and Argentina. In addition, a matter that has materially contributed to accentuate the international monetary stringency and thereby to depress investment stocks was the San Francisco earthquake, which involved enormous losses to insurance companies and compelled them to realise large lines of securities. If we try and estimate the influence wielded by this combination of economic forces, need there be any wonder at the depression that has ruled in the investment market during the last eight years? and, to come to what interests investors more, is not the altogether abnormal situation that exists the best augury for the future? All of us hope that the lessons taught by the South African and Russo-Japanese struggles have been sufficient to make the nations keep the peace, at any rate for a good many years to come. It is therefore, reasonable to look for a long rest from war borrowing. As regards the activity of trade, experience shows that trade booms run in cycles, and while there is no reason to take a pessimistic view, it is fairly certain that a slackening of the pace in certain directions will shortly succeed the recent remarkable boom. Already there are signs in America of the crest of the commercial wave having been reached, and a slowing down in that quarter would soon begin to tell elsewhere. Then we may look for a gradual decline in the prices of raw materials as consumption decreases, and this slackening of trade and reduction of commodity values will have a marked effect upon the demand for capital, the outcome being seen in a steady piling up of cash at the various international monetary centres.

The sequel to all this must be a big increase in the demand for investment securities, and we shall then find prices as readily move upwards as they have lately moved downwards. In considering the fall that has occurred in Home Railway senior stocks, it is as well to bear in mind that it has been out of all proportion to the actual amount of realisations. For years, owing to the high value of money, all low-yielding securities have been a drug, and with a complete absence of demand the dealers have only consented to take stock at a sacrifice. Under the present state of the law regarding deceased estates, the market is seldom without a little stock on offer, and though in normal times this would be absorbed without trouble, the sales in recent years have all contributed to send prices steadily backwards. During the last twelvemonth offerings of this kind have, as we know, been unusually large, in consequence of the number of millionaires' estates that have had to be realised. There is one other matter of importance that is likely before long to exert a good deal of influence upon the market for gilt-edged stocks, and that is the resumption of the National Sinking Fund. Already the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to have made a start in the redemption of funded debt, and as the amount available for Sinking Fund purposes is very large, a distinct influence should before long be produced upon the price of Consols. The sentimental and practical effect produced by a higher standard for Goschens would quickly be communicated throughout the range of other high-class securities, for Consols are still the barometer of the investment market. In the following table I show the yields obtainable on some of the best Home Railway fixed interest bearing securities. I cannot, of course, attempt to give an exhaustive list, but the stocks selected are typical of the attractions offered in this department to the investor wanting safety, and the prospect of an ultimate increase in capital value:—

Stock.	Price.	Yield.
Caledonian 4 per cent. Cons. Pref.	111	£3 12 1
Central London 4 per cent. Debs	105	3 16 2
Furness 4 per cent. Cons. Pref., 1881	107	3 14 9
Glasgow and South Western 4 per cent. Pref.	110	3 12 8
Great Central 3½ per cent. Second Debs.	94	3 14 6
Great Eastern 4 per cent. Cons. Pref.	110	3 12 8
Great Northern 3 per cent. Pref., 1896	83	3 12 3
Great Western 5 per cent. Cons Guaranteed	141	3 10 11
Lancashire and Yorkshire 3 per cent. Cons. Pref.	84	3 11 5
London, Chatham, and Dover 3 per cent. Debs., 1890	79	3 15 11
London and North Western 4 per cent. Cons. Pref.	114	3 10 2
London and South Western 3½ per cent. Pref.	99	3 10 8
London, Brighton, and S. Coast 5 per cent. Cons. Pref.	136	3 13 6
Midland 2½ per cent. Cons. Pref.	71	3 10 5
North British 3 per cent. Cons Lien.	83	3 12 3
North Eastern 4 per cent. Guaranteed	116	3 9 0
North London 4½ per cent. Debs.	123	3 10 4
North Staffordshire 3 per cent. Pref.	83	3 12 3
South Eastern 4½ per cent. Cons. Guaranteed	125	3 12 0
Taff Vale 4 per cent. Pref.	110	3 12 8

General Recovery in the Mining Markets—Kaffirs Among the First to Improve—Jagers Dividend and Premier Diamond Prospects—Oroya Dividend Policy—The Rio Tinto Report.

The mining markets have not been slow to reflect the improvement that has occurred in general conditions. On the whole, the volume of business transacted has not been of large dimensions, the holidays having tended to restrict dealings, but the general trend of values has been in favour of holders, and in a number of cases the recovery in prices has been substantial. As was expected, Kaffirs were among the first to develop a rallying tendency under the influence of better feeling entertained as to the general outlook. In these descriptions there is reported to have been some buying of an influential character, and although French speculators are stated to be dissatisfied with the policy with regard to Rand labour announced by the new Transvaal Ministry, the general impression on this side is, as I mentioned last week, that the mining industry will not be seriously interfered with, and the outlook being less uncertain than hitherto, it is thought we may reasonably look for some revival of speculative interest in the share market. It is to be borne in mind that the last few years Kaffirs have been under a cloud and market values have depreciated considerably. So far only a very small portion of the ground lost by quotations has been recovered, although the outlook has brightened and there have recently been satisfactory developments in connection with several of the mines. The Diamond group has continued pretty active, and quotations have fluctuated widely. The Jagersfontein dividend is now officially announced, and the amount, 6s. per share, is in accordance with the forecast I was able to give some weeks ago. This is at the same rate as the previous distribution, but I understand there is good reason to expect that the next dividend will be larger. Premiers have been helped by the statements made at the meeting held at Johannesburg at the beginning of last month, when the chairman said that calculations based upon recent results justified him in predicting a substantial increase in the number of loads to be treated, diamonds to be produced, profit to be earned, and dividends to be paid during the current year.

The chief point of interest in connection with the Westralian market during the past week was the issue of a circular by the Oroya Brownhill Company foreshadowing a reduction in the rate of future dividends. In previous notes I dealt with the position of this mine, and my readers have been prepared for the policy now announced. For three and a quarter years dividends at the rate of 4s. per quarter have been paid, but the directors propose after this month to reduce the output so as to allow of distributions of 2s. 6d. per quarter, or 50 per cent. per annum. For a little time longer rich ore could be selected and the past rate of dividend maintained, but the policy to be pursued by the management of taking poor ore with rich is the sound one. As the Company has over 10s. per share in cash in hand, and holds a third of the share capital of the Oroya Black Range, there seems no reason why shareholders

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

should be anxious to realise, the reduction in dividends having already been discounted by the recent fall in the price of the shares.

Broken Hills have taken a decided turn for the better. Last week I pointed out that times of depression afforded opportunities to mining investors to pick up bargains, and expressed the opinion that the Broken Hill group was not the least attractive of the mining sections in that respect. Although the development of the mines has, on the whole, continued favourable, and the prices of the metals they produce have not fallen to any extent, share values have been brought down by forced liquidation, and it is only natural that with the depressing influence removed a reaction should occur. The same remarks apply to the Australian copper issues. The past week has witnessed a heavy fall in the prices of copper and tin, but there is reason to expect that the quotations will recover most, if not the whole, of the ground recently lost, the decline having been principally due to the unsettlement of the stock markets, and not to intrinsic conditions having undergone any material change for the worse. The Rio Tinto report caused disappointment, but the price of the shares, with the quotations of other copper favourites, has recovered from the worst. So far from confirming the recent market statements as to a considerable expansion of production being contemplated, the Tinto report states that if no rain falls before the end of May the directors fear that a reduced output of copper for the year 1907 must be expected. This has damped the ardour of the "bulls," while the "bears" have been helped by further sales from the Continent. It is to be borne in mind, however, that a reduction of the Tinto output would be a "bull" point for other copper shares, as tending to keep up the price of the metal.

The Robinson Group of Mines.

In view of the recent political changes in the Transvaal, and their importance in connection with the outlook for the mining industry, I think it will be of interest to my readers if, as occasion permits, I review the position and prospects of the mines of leading Kaffir groups. As the reports are now to hand of the various Robinson companies, a start may be made with these. Additional interest attaches to the results achieved in the past year by the mines of this group and to the prospects held out to the shareholders concerned, by reason of the attitude taken up by Mr. J. B. Robinson on the labour question. It is not many months since this group seceded from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and it will have been noticed that this and other actions on the part of Mr. Robinson have been the subject of frequent comment in Parliament recently. While other Rand groups have supplied themselves with Chinese in order to keep their mines going, with the result that about 42 per cent. of the gold production of the Transvaal is now contributed by those companies employing coolie labour, only one of the properties of the Robinson group is using that class of labour. Mr. Robinson has quite recently declared that he has no difficulty in obtaining all the native labour necessary for the mines of his group. The scarcity of workers has been the main difficulty in the past, but there is now no reason, then, why the properties should not be energetically worked and the Randfontein district hum with activity. In addition to the twelve Randfontein subsidiaries there are the Langlaagte Estate and Block "B" companies and we will consider these two first.

Langlaagte Estate and Block "B."

A substantial increase in earnings was achieved by the Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company in 1906, although during the greater part of the year a scarcity of native labour was experienced, so that an average of only 180 stamps were in operation out of the 200 installed. Not only was the revenue per ton a little better than in 1905, but the working costs were further reduced to a satisfactory extent. The increase of not far short of £40,000 in the total profit was also due in part to the new slimes plant being in operation during the year. The results for the last two years are set out in the table below:—

Year.	Ore Crushed.	Gold Yield.	Wrking Profit.	Revenue, per Ton.	Costs, per Ton.	Profit, per Ton.	Dividend.
	Tons.	ozs.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
1906	340,585	110,246	163,088	27 7·44	18 7·57	8 11·87	20
1905	314,068	66,089	114,331	27 2 37	19 11 01	7 3·36	20

The ore reserves of the Langlaagte Estate are estimated at 611,568 tons, as against 575,044 tons at the end of 1905. As the average value of the ore is not stated the computation is not of much value. Moreover, in estimating the prospects of the Langlaagte Estate one has to bear in mind that from the beginning of 1907 the property of the Block "B" Langlaagte is to be worked in conjunction with that of the former company. Under this arrangement one-third of the profits will be payable annually to the Block "B," and the Langlaagte Estate undertakes to provide funds for development and to pay off the preference shares. A special loan of £50,000 has already been arranged, pending the issue of £200,000 debentures. It is proposed to extend the treatment plant, the object of the management being to crush from 40,000 to 50,000 tons of ore per month, and it is thought that requirements under this head will be met by installing tube mills. Up to the end of 1906 the Block "B" had about 200,000 tons of ore developed. The lease of the Block "B's" area by the Langlaagte Estate is for a period of twenty-five years, and the life of the latter (already estimated at about a dozen years) will thereby be protracted by that extent.

The Randfontein Subsidiaries.

Out of the twelve subsidiaries floated by the Randfontein Estates four only have so far reached the producing stage, but there is every prospect of others becoming contributors to the gold production of the Transvaal before much more time has passed. Their development and equipment have been so long delayed for the reason that the management has hesitated to embark upon any scheme of expansion, and the locking up of a large amount of capital until they are assured that sufficient native labour would be forthcoming to permit of the commencement of crushing operations after the development of the mines had been sufficiently far advanced. At the recent meeting of the parent company the chairman (Mr. J. W. S. Langerman) made the following remarks on the labour position:—

> I am happy to state that the native labour problem, which has been the constant bugbear of South African mining undertakings in the past, promises, as far as this group is concerned, to be nearing a solution. In this connection we are supported by the success that has already attended our independent recruiting, inasmuch that for the first time during many years we have now an ample supply of all work in hand. Moreover, we have the assurances of our reliable labour agents that the supply can be maintained and augmented to meet our further requirements.

In consequence development operations have been resumed already on two of the properties—the Block A Randfontein and the Mynpacht Randfontein—and, according to cabled advices, it is proposed to amalgamate these two concerns with the West Randfontein. The Block A has machinery and plant and a 100 stamp mill, and the Mynpacht also has hauling and pumping machinery, and their properties have already been opened out to a considerable extent, but at the West only surface prospecting and diamond-drilling has been done. All three concerns, at the end of 1906, had used up practically all their issued capital, but two of them had reserve shares, and under the proposed amalgamation no doubt arrangement will be made for a further supply of funds. On the East, Ferguson,

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

Van Hulsteyn, Johnstone, and Stubbs Randfonteins (which, with the West, were formed in 1899) little work has so far been done, but it is announced that a comprehensive scheme for the development and equipment of these mines is in hand. But it will, of course, be a good time before they commence contributing to the gold output. So far the shares of these companies have not been quoted on the London market, the scrip, or at any rate the bulk of it, being held by the parent concern.

The four producing mines were at a disadvantage on account of shortage of labour during the earlier months of the past year, but in the aggregate their profits for twelve months were £86,000 in excess of those for 1905, and with the prospect held out of a sufficiency of natives in the future this sum should be improved upon in the current year. The results are dealt with individually below:—

North Randfontein.

The North Randfontein has, I believe, the distinction of being the only mine of the Robinson group to employ Chinese labour, and it is interesting to note that its working costs are practically the same as the Porges, and lower than those of the South and Robinson Randfontein. The features of the past year's results were increased revenue and profit per ton and improvement in the ore reserves position, ore of exceptional richness having been exposed during the year. The results of the last two years are set out below:—

Year.	Ore Crushed	Gold Yield.	W'rking Profit	Revenue, per Ton.	Costs, per Ton.	Profit, per Ton.	Dividend.
	Tons.	Ozs.	£	s. d	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
1906	178,854	73,101	93,883	31 6·61	24 0·66	10 5·98	10
1905	175,675	68,407	77,286	32 10·13	24 0·54	8 9·59	10

It will be observed that at this mine working costs were practically the same last year as in 1905, but it must be borne in mind that they were considerably higher in 1904, the average for that year having been 30s. 2d. per ton. As regards ore reserves the North Randfontein is in a stronger position than either of the other three producing subsidiaries. The estimated amount of ore in sight in this mine at the end of 1906 was 425,968 tons, of an average assay value of 12.3 dwts. over a width of thirty inches, and 58,749 tons of 4.9 dwts. value over the same width. These figures compare with 375,074 tons, of an average value of 11.14 dwts. and 63,085 tons averaging 5.17 dwts., both over thirty inches width, at the end of 1905. The result of the past year's development was to improve the average value of the whole mine to the extent of 4s. 8d. per ton. The life of the mine is officially estimated at forty-five years from June, 1905.

Porges Randfontein.

The Porges Company is in a different position to either of the other Randfontein subsidiaries by reason of the fact that, in addition to its own mine, it has a large interest in the South Randfontein, holding 100,000 shares in the latter. On this interest the Porges receives an annual dividend of £10,000, which is nearly sufficient to meet its own debenture interest. In 1902 Porges shareholders received a distribution of South Randfontein scrip, and they have agitated on more than one occasion since for a further distribution, but the directors have thought it wise to retain this asset. At the meeting a year ago the chairman referred to the question of a distribution of scrip, and said they were not out of the wood with regard to labour, "and it is absolutely necessary we should use our judgment in a matter of this kind, and not deprive the company of the strong position which it holds, merely for the sake of gratifying shareholders by a distribution of assets which at some future date might be absolutely necessary to the company." In view of the reason given—viz., the uncertainty of the labour outlook—it is particularly interesting at this juncture to note the latest views of the board on this point. At the meeting held recently at Johannesburg the chairman said that since they withdrew from the Native Labour Association they had been able to make good the deficiency, "and now we have sufficient natives for all our requirements, which we believe will be fully maintained." Noting this change of tone shareholders may think they are reasonably entitled to look for a scrip bonus before very long. They must not, however, be too hopeful, as at the close of the meeting a year ago the chairman observed that he did not think there would be any immediate necessity for distributing a share bonus while good profits were being made and regular cash dividends were in view. A feature of the past year's results of this company was an increase in working costs, as will be seen from the comparative figures set out below:—

Year.	Ore Crushed.	Gold Yield.	W'rking Profit.	Revenue, per Ton.	Costs, per Ton.	Profit, per Ton.	Dividend.
	T ns.	Ozs.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
1906	169,828	74,127	109,298	36 10·71	23 0·25	12 10 46	10
*1905	66,976	28,850	43,505	36 2 34	23 4·54	12 9· 8	10

* Five months only.

No explanation is given of the increase in the cost of winning the gold. As regards ore reserves, the quantity of higher grade material opened up is much larger than twelve months ago, while the tonnage of low grade ore is about half the amount previously reported. At the end of 1906 there were 357,670 tons, of an average assay value of 11.2 dwts. and 63,839 tons at 4.6 dwts., compared with 257,543 tons averaging 12.3 dwts. and 135,542 tons averaging 4.6 dwts. at the end of 1905. A satisfactory feature is that the value of the ore in the Porges mine is stated to show improvement at depth. The life of the mine is officially estimated at 25½ years from June, 1905.

Robinson Randfontein.

The Robinson Randfontein has the largest capital (including debentures) of the four producing subsidiaries, but its earnings have not been proportionally as good as those of the other three. Last year the revenue per ton was practically the same as in 1905, but working costs were lower and the profit consequently better. The comparative results are given below:—

Year.	Ore Crushed.	Gold Yield.	W'king Profit.	Revenu, per Ton.	Costs, per Ton.	Profit, per Ton.	Dividend.
	Tons.	ozs.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
1906	131,246	68,524	68,956	31 11·52	24 4 21	7 7 31	10
1905	175,829	66,726	62,169	32 0	24 11·15	7 0·85	10

At the annual meeting a year ago the chairman commented upon the comparatively low grade of ore. He said the scarcity of native labour had restricted sorting and that water difficulties often rendered the best stopes inaccessible. He added: "With the installation of the requisite pumping plant to cope with the water at all times, which is now completed, the opening up of the sixth and other levels and a higher sorting percentage, we anticipate a considerably higher grade during the present year with increased profits." The sorting percentage last year was higher, but it will be seen that the anticipated improvement in revenue per ton was not obtained, and but for a reduction in working costs, the profit would have been a shade less instead of better. Shareholders are now told that "shaft sinking is being vigorously carried on, and as the levels are being opened up the effect should be felt in an improvement of the grade of ore crushed and an increase in the profits." It is to be hoped that anticipations will not again fail to materialise. The ore reserves at the end of December last were 193,050 tons, averaging 10.4 dwts. per ton and 71,189 tons averaging 4.4 dwts., compared with 236,136 tons assaying 9.93 dwts. and 114,738 tons at 5.47 dwts. at the end of 1905. It will be noted that the ore in this mine is of lower grade than that of the other three producing subsidiaries. The life of the mine is officially estimated as thirty-eight years from June, 1905.

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper. Thin paper edition for foreign post.

South Randfontein.

The South Randfontein is the only company of the four producing subsidiaries which reports a smaller profit for 1906 than for 1905. This was due to a falling off in the grade of ore treated, the reduction effected in working costs having been insufficient to counterbalance the decrease in revenue per ton. The results of the company's operations during the last two years are given in the subjoined table:—

Year.	Ore Crushed.	Gold Yield.	Working Profit.	Revenue per Ton.	Costs, per Ton.	Profit, per Ton.	Dividend.
	Tons.	Ozs.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
1906	171,892	69,686	67,097	33 8·42	26 0·34	7 8·08	10
1905	165,315	63,775	69,820	35 1·37	26 8·02	8 5·35	10

The only explanation given of the decline in revenue is that it was "owing to temporary causes, which have now been overcome." On the subject of working costs, however, the management is much more explicit. At the recent meeting the chairman pointed out that although there had been a reduction, the working expenses of this mine were still 2s. per ton higher than those of the neighbouring mines. This he attributed to high expenditure for pumping, but the plant has been extended, and it is expected that the costs for the current year will be considerably less than those of the last twelve months. This mine, exceptionally, shows a falling off in the ore reserves position compared with twelve months ago. At the end of the past year the South Randfontein had opened up 377,712 tons of ore assaying 10.7 dwts. and 187,139 tons averaging 5.4 dwts. per ton, whereas the quantity at the end of 1905 was 424,070 tons assaying 10.7 dwts. and 150,799 tons at 5.5 dwts., both computations being on the basis of a width of thirty inches. The life of this property is estimated at twenty-nine years from June, 1905.

It will, I think, be gathered from the facts and figures set out above that the shares of the North and Porges companies are the best selections out of those of the four producing mines. With their present equipment of 100 stamps each it would seem that annual dividends of 10 per cent. are about as much as can be expected from them, but there is a likelihood of their rate of production being increased before very long, as, owing to the satisfactory results that have attended the experiments with tube mills at the North Randfontein, these adjuncts to the stamp battery are to be installed at the other mines. The tube mills will serve to augment the output of gold by increasing the crushing capacity and giving a better extraction of the gold contents of the ore. In the market North Randfonteins are valued so that they yield about eight per cent. per annum, but the return on the market price of Porges is only about six per cent. Those content with such yields might do much worse than pick up the shares referred to, as there is every prospect (assuming a sufficiency of labour) of a steady return of at least that amount for a large number of years. As speculations for a moderate profit in a good Kaffir market the other quoted Robinson stocks dealt with above are not without attraction. How the prices of the best-known shares of the group have moved during the last four years is shown by the subjoined table:—

Share.	1906.		1905.		1904.		1903.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
Block A Randfontein	1½	½	1 3/16	5/8	1 3/16	5/8	1½	¾
Langlaagte Estate	3	2 3/16	4 1/4	2½	4 1/4	3½	4½	3 3/16
North Randfontein	1 13/16	1 5/16	2½	1 3/16	2 5/16	1 3/16	2 5/16	1 3/16
Porges Randfontein	1 15/16	1 3/16	1 3/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	1 1/16	2 3/16	1½
Robinson Randfontein	1½	15/16	2	1	2 3/16	1 7/16	1 15/16	1
South Randfontein	1 3/16	1	2 1/16	1 3/16	2½	1 3/16	3 1/16	1

Over-stoutness is not difficult to permanently cure when the right remedy is found. Antipon is now in universal favour. The *Methodist Recorder* says:—"It is satisfactory to know that Antipon is the practical result of a specialist's researches and discoveries, so that reliance can be placed upon its efficacy." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The Antipon Company, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

On Getting Insurance Advice—The Prevention of Corruption Act—Solicitors as Insurance Agents.

The Prevention of Corruption Act came into force at the beginning of this year, with the result that some solicitors have since reconsidered a practice which some of them always thought reprehensible. It has been a very common custom for solicitors to charge clients for giving them advice about insurance, and then to send the proposal on to the insurance company, and receive a commission for the introduction. The great majority of solicitors know practically nothing about insurance, especially about life assurance, so that in most cases their advice is not worth taking, much less worth paying for. A solicitor is generally an agent for one particular company, which is quite likely to be sound and respectable, but it by no means follows that the policies which it issues are anything like so good as could be obtained from some other offices. The advice of the solicitor, however, is to insure in the office of which he is an agent. At the same time, as he is an agent of an insurance company he is also the agent of his client, and to take a commission from the company seems quite clearly to bring him under the Corrupt Practices Act, and the law is now interpreted in this way by most members of the legal profession.

It appears, however, that Mr. Arthur Tarling, "Consulting Specialist for Life Assurance," is prepared to help the lawyers out of the difficulty created by the Corrupt Practices Act. A solicitor to whom he sent a circular kindly forwarded it to me. The circular is such a gem of grammar, punctuation, and impudence, that I print it complete.

CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.

Private and Confidential.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in sending you my booklet, "Unbiassed Advice on Life Assurance."

In view of the new Act, whereby anyone acting in a fiduciary position cannot be an agent (receiving commission) for any Insurance Co. and in consequence placing many professional men (at present holding an agency for some Life Office) in a very awkward position, I should be pleased to have an opportunity of discussing the situation regarding any of your clients, who may now, or at any future time be placing their Assurances through your firm, it would only be necessary under these circumstances, to hand your client my book, and he could either Phone, call or write me, when I would be pleased to advise him as to the best form of Assurance to take up at his particular age, thus by putting your client into direct communication with me the probable result would be, that I should complete a much larger amount of Assurance than if you carried the matter through yourselves, thereby benefiting your firm to a greater extent than under existing conditions.

My position towards your firm would be the same as the Assurance Society has been to you in the past, with the difference that you would not be acting as agent for any company, nor would you know which Society I advise for any particular form of Assurance, thereby securing your firm in every respect. I should be pleased to give you as references the names of several members of your profession, whose assurance contracts I have had the pleasure of completing, also the name of my bankers, and I should be glad to have an opportunity of seeing you at an early date to discuss the situation.—Yours faithfully,

Arthur Tarling.

It will be seen that the proposal is that solicitors should become agents for Mr. Tarling, and receive commission from him, instead of being agents for insurance companies and receiving it from them. By what process the Corrupt Practices Act can be held to sanction the former course and prohibit the latter, I fail to perceive.

Mr. Tarling enclosed a booklet with his circular, which he calls "The Advantage of Income Tax." The first five pages are an almost verbatim reproduction of a small pamphlet signed by a well-known insurance writer; but no hint is given that Mr. Tarling has appropriated this matter from another source, though a few lines from Mr. Gladstone, and a few from Max O'Rell are duly acknowledged.

Looking through the pamphlet, the only indication of the advice likely to be received from Mr. Tarling is afforded by some figures which are given about annuities. These suggest to me that Mr. Tarling and I would recommend different companies from which to purchase annuities, and that the company he favours is one which is well known for the exceptionally liberal terms of commission which it pays. On the whole, I

do not think many solicitors are likely to become agents for Mr. Tarling, and certainly the solicitor who sent his productions on to me will not do so; his comments are too uncomplimentary for publication.

The question of where to go for good advice about life assurance is by no means an easy one to answer. An agent, or even a high official, of any particular company, is not the best person to apply to, since his business is to sell the policies of his own office, which may not be the best for any purpose, and which almost certainly are not the best for all purposes, and it makes a very great deal of difference to a policy-holder whether he selects his life assurance well or badly. I have not the slightest wish to in any way discredit insurance brokers as a body; especially in connection with fire insurance their work is very important and of extremely great value to their clients. In some cases they are little short of indispensable, many of them are firms of old and high standing, and nothing but good can come from placing insurance through them. Somehow the case seems different with people who make a special feature of life assurance. In some respects expert advice is even more necessary in this matter than in fire insurance. I do not profess to know all the independent experts in life assurance, but I have seen a good deal of the advice given by many of them, and I nearly always notice the peculiar coincidence that the best office for a client's particular purpose happens to be one which pays very high rates of commission, and I usually have no difficulty whatever in at once pointing out some other company which gives a policy that is far better for the purpose required. After all, these insurance brokers are insurance broking for the purpose of making money, and perhaps it is hardly to be expected that they would advise a policy which would yield them £50 in commission when by different advice their commission would be £100. Still less can it be expected that they would recommend offices like the Clergy Mutual, the Old Equitable, the London Life, and the Metropolitan, none of which pay any commission at all, and consequently give extremely good results to their policy-holders, some of which are better than can be obtained elsewhere.

Another alternative is to consult newspapers which make a special feature of insurance, and which give some indication that the writer is well acquainted with his subject. I know as a fact that the insurance contributors to some papers act as insurance brokers, and sometimes earn very considerable sums in commission by recommending correspondents of the paper to insure in a particular company. Especially since the Corrupt Practices Act came into force, it seems to me probable that no respectable newspaper would allow its insurance contributor to receive commission. The writer might fairly be considered the agent of the correspondent, and as such it would probably be illegal—and, to say the least of it, improper—for him to receive any commission. I certainly hold this view, and should not allow anyone connected with Truth to receive commission, and I know that the same view is held and acted upon by some other papers. To encourage people to write to Truth, or to any other paper, is to add considerably to the work of the staff; sometimes the replies to correspondents can be given quite easily and with very little trouble, but at other times the giving of the best advice about life assurance involves a good deal of research, and the writing of several long letters. Still, taking it all in all, I think the best plan for people who wish to assure to the best advantage is to write to papers in which insurance is written about in a practical and capable way. For my own part, I am entirely pleased to continue in connection with insurance the practice of replying to correspondents about this and other subjects, which has long been a feature of Truth.

A Canadian Wild Cat.

"It is seldom our good fortune," write Wm. Freeman and Co., 76, Cornwall-road, Bayswater, W., "to offer such a remarkable opportunity to investors to join a syndicate, coming in on bedrock terms, participating in the huge profits which, it is apparent to us, are as certain to ensue as night to follow the day." This is the preliminary flourish in a circular relating how "a well-known mining engineer and prospector" has discovered "huge bodies of minerals of almost inestimable wealth" in a "hitherto unknown district beyond the mountains which mark the confines of civilisation" in the Dominion of Canada. Of course, the position of the district is a secret, and so is the name of the prospector, but details are given of the "enormous quantities" of gold, silver, copper, and iron which he found. After his first discovery the prospector, it is stated, came back "and returned again with instruments and appliances to enable him to assay and test the value of the mineral deposits by excavating considerable quantities." Assistants accompanied him, but they were "taken to the place by a circuitous route and have also been sworn to secrecy." Still, it must not be supposed that the district has the drawback of inaccessibility, as a trunk railway now under construction will pass near the property. On the strength of this very convincing narrative, Wm. Freeman and Co. exhort you to subscribe for shares in the G.N.W. and General Syndicate, Limited, of Carlton House, Regent-street, W.C., which is to equip and despatch "a staking-out expedition" to secure possession of the property whose value is modestly estimated at "many millions of pounds sterling." The offer is manifestly based on the assumption that you will believe all that you are told by this Bayswater firm—in other words, that you are an unmitigated ass.

Yankee Sharps and British Flats.

The mean and dirty business of gammoning people in humble circumstances to put their hard-earned savings into a concern styled the British Development and Exploration Company, "incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona, U.S.A.," is still being carried on by a gang of sharps operating from Craven House, Kingsway, W.C. Originally they masqueraded as the London Stock and Bond Exchange, and then they came out as "Martin and Church, fiscal agents." In the latter character they issued a couple of months ago a big newspaper-like circular packed with Yankee flapdoodle about the fortunes that have been made out of gold mines, the object being, of course, to persuade the ingenuous reader that he, too, might amass wealth by subscribing for shares—sixpence each, payable in three instalments—in the above-named company. Practically the same circular is again being distributed from the same address under the title of the *Western Mining News*, but the name of Martin and Church has now disappeared from it, and some other changes have been made. As I pointed out on February 13, the whole thing is a palpable ramp. The fact that the victims are mostly poor and ignorant people—one whose case I cited was a private soldier who had been induced to buy 180 of these worthless shares—makes it doubly reprehensible, and it is a pity that the police have not yet acted upon the hint which I gave them.

The Benevolence of Wm. Murray.

A beautiful trait in the character of the genuine City philanthropist is the unruffled, unwearying magnanimity with which he persists in his efforts to do you a good turn after you have repeatedly shown him the most churlish ingratitude. Look at this touching circular from Mr. William Murray, manager of the London and Counties Exchange, Imperial-buildings, New Bridge-street, E.C. The specialty of this institution is a method of "bi-marginal investment." Murray assures you that for the past two years an "operation" has been successfully carried out once a fortnight. Not only have the shareholders never once yet failed to make a profit, but "our arrangements have now been so perfected that we regard a loss as practically impossible"—in fact, this infallible method of operating easily withstood the strain of "the recently extremely agitated condition of the American market, which was sufficient to test the efficacy of any style of dealing." Time after time you have been invited—nay, implored—to let the Exchange make money for you (as it is ready to do) free, gratis, and for nothing. Time after time you have

turned a deaf ear to these importunities. Still you have not exhausted Murray's patience and generosity. "We regret to find," he writes, "that we have not yet been favoured with your instructions," but, with the mild reproach implied in those words, he passes over your unkindness and gives you yet another chance "to participate" in these wonderful operations. Through the reading of Truth, however, you are—unfortunately for Murray and the rest of his tribe—steeled to resist the temptation to join in any such blind pool, and so you pass on the circular to "Vigilant" as an addition to his fine and large collection of bucket-shop literature.

"References Avoided."

There is an unconsciously humorous paragraph with the above heading in a publication entitled "Hints to Speculators and Investors," which is being widely distributed by Laurie and Vincent, 70, Queen-street, E.C. It is suggested that many people labour under the delusion that "there is a great deal of formality to go through by those who want to open an account with us." On the contrary, Laurie and Vincent explain, it is a very simple matter—"all that is necessary for the operator to do is to send us a deposit in accordance with the nature of the operation desired to be entered into." Laurie and Vincent require no references—only cash! No doubt the noodles who are inveigled into this bucket-shop—one of the most disreputable class—say to themselves, "what a nice confiding firm," and it is only when they have lost their money that it dawns upon their minds that, though they did not give, they ought to have demanded references, or, rather, to have made independent inquiries about Laurie and Vincent.

The Mining Manual

Mr. Walter R. Skinner, 11 and 12, Clement's-lane, E.C., has just issued the 1907 edition of his "Mining Manual," a standard work of reference now in its twenty-first year of publication. The manual has a well-established reputation, alike for the comprehensiveness and the accuracy of its information, which covers every section of the mining market. In the present volume particulars are furnished of 3,054 companies, of which 410 are Australian, 1,033 African, and 1,611 miscellaneous. Alphabetical lists of mining directors and secretaries and a dictionary of mining terms are included, and there are tables of the individual crushings of South African, Australian, and Indian mines. In his preface Mr. Skinner gives an interesting review of the mining year.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Railways.

Mexite.—Hold the shares. I know of no special reason for the decline, which is probably quite temporary. *Tortoise.*—Both are quite untried concerns, the lines in neither case being completed. A purchase of the companies' securities must therefore be regarded as speculative, and certainly unsuitable for a lady. *Bucks.* 1. A sound stock, but it would perhaps be wisest to choose something not South American this time, on the principle of spreading the risk. 2. United of the Havana Five per Cent. Irredeemable Debentures (1906) would be suitable. I referred to this issue in last week's article. 3. No; the arrangement should improve the position of the bondholders.

Mines.

Loyal au Mort.—I have not a very high opinion of either, but you may be able to realise to better advantage by waiting a little. *An Exile.*—a. You may as well keep these for dividends. b. The rate of dividend is to be reduced to 2s. 6d. per quarter, but this is no more than was anticipated, and I think you might continue to hold your shares. c. Prospects depend mainly upon the result of future development, so that the shares must be regarded as a speculative holding. d. I do not see much attraction in these at present. *J. B., Croydon.*—As you suggest, developments may improve, but you could make a more attractive selection at present than these shares. *Poor.*—I do not see much attraction in No. 1 or No. 6, but No. 2 appears a hopeful holding, although the company has not yet reached the dividend-paying stage. 3. There is a chance of better ore being struck at depth, but the shares must be considered a speculative holding. 4. A moderate rise in the near future seems likely. 5. Dividends of 2s. 6d. per quarter are being paid. Prospects, as in the case of No. 3, depend mainly on the result of development at depth.

Mixed Securities.

County Cavan.—1. They might be held for the time being. 2. They may have some recovery in a better market. 3. Fairly satisfactory. *Cleopatra.*—1 and 2. The first is not very attractive, and I have only a moderate opinion of the second. 3 and 4. The water stock is fair, but you might improve upon the others. 5. It is obviously a system of gambling—not investment—which you had better leave alone. 6. Might be held. *Stuart.*—1 and 2. I should give the preference to the 4½ per cent. bonds. 4 and 5. Both satisfactory. *Cockscomb.*—1. Hold. 2. It is a pity you did not take the handsome profit you might have secured not long ago. However, you might hold now, as some recovery is possible. 3. I would hold Randfonteins. As to your other questions, I do not know the firms named, and in any case I cannot make recommendations. *Liven.*—No. 5 do not seem very promising, but 2, 3, and 4 might be kept for the present. Both the Argentine and Japanese bonds are worth keeping. *Rengu.*—1. Fair, and might be held. 2. I have not a high opinion of these. 3. See my reference to Chillagoes last week. 4. A gamble. 5. Somewhat speculative, and dividends problematical. 6. General market depression to a large extent, but see also this week's comments. *Fidelis.*—1 and 2 make good investments. 3 and 4. Could, I think, be improved upon. 5. Keep your Great Western Ordinary. 6. A doubtful holding. You might do well to transfer the money to something else. *Karlsruhe.*—1. The company has naturally suffered from a cessation of the Far Eastern war, which augmented profits abnormally. Provided you put the proceeds into something with great promise a sale would be a good policy. There are, of course, risks to face, and Easterns as a holding are quite good. 2. Hold for a recovery. 3. Not a stock I care for. You might exchange into something more promising. *Quilp.*—It would be prudent to sell the shares you mention at a favourable moment, and, allowing for the risk you recognise, the debentures would be all right.

Insurance.

Sergeant F. S.—See my Insurance Notes of March 6. If you continue you are very unlikely to get what you expect, and, unless you have paid for some years, I should drop the policy. *Lady Godiva.*—1. This accident society is quite good and satisfactory in every way. 2. This corporation is of little worth, and if you contemplate insurance you could do better elsewhere. *J. B.* and *Neptune.*—I shall deal in an early issue with the question of servants' compensation insurance. There is no need to take out a policy for the present, as the Act does not come into force till July 1. *Ben.*—I do not recommend it.

Miscellaneous.

Risborough.—Associated Cement Preference are speculative, but not altogether unattractive. Apollinaris Ordinary make a fair, high yielding investment, and the other is attractive. *Steel.*—They stand at such a low price that it might be desirable to hold for a possible recovery. They are not devoid of speculative qualities. *A. P. B. R.*—1. They make a good holding, and you would not be far wrong to increase the number by taking the new shares. 2. They also make a good holding. 3. The proposed exchange seems wise enough. *Cato.*—1. No doubt you saw my reference to the promoters of this concern last week. I know nothing as to the progress of the liquidation. 2. April 1 and October 1. *H. B., Leeds.*—I am making inquiries about this promoting syndicate; meanwhile, on the strength of what I have already heard, I advise you to have nothing to do with it. *Jones.*—Probably you can, but you had better consult a solicitor. *Cap.*—By this time you will have seen that it was just as well for you that they did not buy at that figure: there was a severe fall a few days later. *Medico.*—The Bank shares might be held. As to your second question, I cannot make any recommendation. *T. T. C.*—It looks suspicious, and might be avoided. *Columio.*—The fact that the last dividend on the Ordinary shares was made up by a contribution from the founder of the concern is surely a sufficient indication of the state of affairs. You do not say whether your shares are Ordinary or Preference. It might be worth while to hold the latter, but not the former. *R. C. J., Devonport.*—Have nothing whatever to do with the International

Securities Syndicate. It is a concern of the bucket-shop type, and its charges for premium or lottery bonds are enormously in excess of their market value. *Cape.*—1. See answer to *R. C. J.* 2. There is a fair chance of a moderate recovery in the price, but the shares are a very speculative holding. 3. Not very attractive. *A. M., Perth.*—In spite of the "reference" which you cite, the business is manifestly risky; in any event, you would deserve to lose your money if you put it into such a disreputable and mischievous concern after being informed of its true character. *Beauchamp.*—I do not know the concerns you mention, but see Rule 8. *C. C.*—So far as I recollect, I have not previously heard of the firm you name, but all the touting lottery agents style themselves "bankers." The circulars, as I have frequently explained, are grossly misleading. *J. S., Holland Park.*—A bucket-shop firm, against whom I have warned the public.

*** *Owing to the Easter holidays, my replies to a number of inquiries are held over till next week.*

Miscellaneous Market More Cheerful—Some Attractive Industrials—Breweries at a Standstill—Dock Companies and the Port Bill.

Though it cannot be said that any very substantial improvement has yet actually occurred in the Miscellaneous market, there is certainly a more cheerful feeling, and the prospect of a broadening out of public interest and general expansion of business is now brighter than it has been for some time past. The trade of the country remains wonderfully prosperous, and among the leading industrials there are a number of shares which, at the present prices, are very attractive. Once or twice recently I have alluded to the flourishing condition of some of the great companies engaged in the steel and armament, shipbuilding and engineering trades. On the current quotations, Vickers, Sons and Maxim ordinary shares offer a yield of 6 per cent., and Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.'s, a little over 5 per cent. Cammell, Laird and Co. have had a remarkably good year, the net profit being £273,780, as compared with £231,807 in 1905, and the directors continue to pursue a sound financial policy. On the basis of the 10 per cent. dividend declared for the last two years the ordinary £5 shares, now standing at about 8¾, return 5⅞ per cent. Stewart and Lloyds, Limited—an amalgamation of several firms of iron and steel tube manufacturers—have also had a record year, the profits having risen from £226,218 in 1905 to £263,174 in 1906. For the ninth year in succession the ordinary dividend is 10 per cent., which, on the market value of the shares, affords a yield of about 5 5-16 per cent. The outlook for all these companies is very promising, and though such investments obviously involve some degree of speculative risk—5 or 6 per cent. cannot be obtained without it—the shares are well worthy of attention. The textile industries are likewise booming, and in this section, too, a favourable opportunity for hopeful investments now presents itself to those who are ready to take the same speculative risk. Bradford Dyers ordinary shares, for instance, should be a good purchase at the current price of 23s. 6d.—24s., which shows a yield of 5⅞ per cent. Among motor shares, Darracqs, Argylls, Daimlers, and Humbers have all had slight advances. Brewery securities have been more or less inert—a condition which is, at any rate, an improvement upon the monotonous dropping of prices that has been recorded for the past few months. It is obviously futile to expect any recovery, at least, until something definite is known with regard to the proposed new Licensing Bill, but there are now rumours afloat that the measure may not after all be brought forward this year.

In connection with a rise in London and India Dock Deferred, I have received an inquiry as to the prospects of the company's Bill relating to the Port of London, the second reading of which is expected to be taken this month. By a reduction of shipping charges, the Bill secures the support of the shipowners. On the other hand, by the imposition of new dues on imported goods, it arouses the hostility of practically the whole of the trading and manufacturing community, and a number of representative bodies are now organising a determined and powerful opposition to the measure. According to the estimates that have been published, the loss that the company would incur by the lowering of shipping charges would be converted into an enormous gain of revenue from the proposed new dues on goods. From the shareholders' point of view this is, of course, a highly laudable scheme; but Parliament necessarily has to consider other interests. The urgent need for improvements in the accommodation and reform in the management of the docks is generally admitted. But the Royal Commission reported in favour of public ownership, the last Government endorsed the policy of public control, and it is scarcely to be expected that the present Government and the present House of Commons will recede from that position by allowing this Bill to become law. Any hopes that are being built upon the passing of the Bill seem to me, therefore, to be doomed to disappointment.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A PIMLICO MYSTERY.

THE difficulty of making away with the dead body of a murdered man is universally known. The following story relates an extraordinary discovery made some while ago by the police while pursuing investigations in a case of this description.

The Earl of Kirkcudbright, K.T., had, in the days of his youth, achieved some distinction in politics, and had been rewarded for his services to his party with the coveted "Thistle," but later on in life he somehow evaporated, and, having spent in the meanwhile the bulk of his originally considerable fortune, retired to a small place he had in Aberdeenshire, and there passed a recluse existence among his few remaining retainers.

For upwards of twenty years he never left his remote Scottish home. Then one day he suddenly electrified his housekeeper, Jeannie McTaggart (the Earl was a bachelor, and had no near surviving relatives) by announcing his intention of taking a trip to London, where he expected to remain for some two or three weeks.

The good woman received this intelligence with evident concern. She knew nothing of London except by repute, never having herself travelled farther south than Edinburgh. But from what she had heard of the great metropolis, she believed it to be a terribly dangerous and wicked place, given over to the dominion of Satan and his legions. All the male population, according to her notion of it, were rogues, profligates, or criminals; all the female population were—— Well, no better than they should be. For her part, she'd as soon have adventured herself into the bottomless pit as into London, and she shook her old head over her master's madness in going thither, with sorrow, disapproval, and foreboding.

"What can ail the laddie?" she said to herself (she always spoke of her master as the laddie, for she had nursed him when he was in frocks, and to her, in spite of his sixty years, he was still a mere boy). "What can ail him to gang awa' to that city o' the deil? I ken weel what 'twull be. He'll fa' into the hands o' rogues and thieves and hussies, wha'll strip him of a' he's got left. Oh, laddie, laddie! hae ye gane clean daft?"

So the old woman expressed herself about the Earl's projected visit to London, the scene of his former political triumphs, now long forgotten by the public; the scene, too, of the extravagant and ruinous expenditure by which he had been reduced to comparative penury. I do not know whether she possessed the quality, real or imagined, which the Scotch describe as being "fey." If, however, her forebodings of disaster were merely vague and speculative, it was at least a remarkable coincidence that they were destined, in no long time, to be more than realised, and that the unfortunate Earl should disappear (to use a euphemistic term) under circumstances which pointed unmistakably to foul play.

One is bound to admit—from what afterwards transpired—that his lordship to no small extent brought his fate upon himself. In the days of his youth, even while cutting a considerable figure in the public life of the

metropolis, he had been what so many young men about town are. These things are not talked about in mixed company. They cannot be more than discreetly hinted at in a respectable newspaper. Enough to say that the young Scotsman had made himself much too familiar with the seamy side of a certain phase of London life. But, on his retirement to his northern home, he had pulled himself together, abjured all excesses, and settled down into a perfectly moral and reputable middle life.

Now, however, after twenty years, the old evil leanings and impulses had suddenly come back to him with irresistible force. Such lapses, or rather relapses, are really far from uncommon. They afford one of the most painfully interesting problems to the student of moral psychology—this "throwing back" (as it is called), in mature age, to the long laid aside follies of youth. I do not propose to embark upon any discussion of the phenomenon. I am content to leave that to moralists, to make what they can of it. I have merely to record the well-established fact that such relapses do occur, and that to a relapse of this kind the unfortunate Earl fell a victim. The impulse was beyond his power to withstand. He felt (if I may use a vulgar, but forcible, expression) that he must go "on the bust" or die. So "on the bust" he went. That is the long and short of the matter. I need not add, of course, that he kept his disreputable intentions strictly to himself.

He took with him all the ready money he had—about £100. He also took with him something else, which he never let out of his personal possession. This was his much valued insignia of the Thistle, which always, since it was first conferred on him, he kept carefully under his own eye. It was a foolish thing to do—thus to take it with him to London, especially in view of the circumstances under which he was going thither, for the insignia was of considerable intrinsic value, and likely enough to prove a temptation to the class of person into whose company he should be thrown. But that aspect of the matter did not, apparently, present itself to the Earl, or, if it did, the force of habit overrode every other consideration. At any rate—which is the material point—he *did* take his Thistle with him to London on that fatal journey. I mention the fact because it was the subsequent discovery of this insignia in other hands that first drew the attention of the police to the Earl's disappearance and made it abundantly clear that the unfortunate man had been the victim of foul play.

The Earl, on his departure from home, had informed his housekeeper that he should not return for three weeks, at least, and that possibly his absence might extend to a fortnight beyond that period. He should write to her, however, a day or two before his return, so that she should have ample time to air his bed—a precaution about which his lordship was almost most particular. It was when he had been absent just over four weeks that the good woman had the first hint of the realisation—the worse than realisation—of her forebodings. She received a call from a highly-placed police official in Aberdeen, who had come over to make some inquiries in consequence of an urgent message from Scotland Yard.

The circumstances which led to the visit were these: A few days earlier an insignia of the Thistle had been offered, in pledge, to a London pawnbroker (whom I will call Mr. Isaacs), carrying on business at an address near Victoria Station. The appearance of the man who presented the insignia was such that the pawnbroker's suspicions were immediately aroused. He questioned him closely as to how it had come into his possession; and the fellow told a cock-and-bull story of having picked it up in a sale-room several years ago. Further questioned as to the locality of the sale-room, his replies were so vague, confused, and unsatisfactory that the pawnbroker very properly (while dissembling his suspicions and pretending to make out the contract note), sent for a police constable, and upon the latter's arrival immediately gave his customer in charge. Thereupon the fellow assumed a blustering and excited tone, declared vehemently that his explanation of the way in which he had come by the Thistle was perfectly true, and that if they dared to detain him he would make it hot for them. The constable, however, noticing the shifty expression in the fellow's eyes, and the evasiveness of his answers when questioned, treated this blustering assumption of innocence with the contempt it deserved, and insisted on conveying him in a cab to the nearest police station, the pawnbroker accompanying them. The upshot of it was that he was detained in custody for the night and brought up next morning, when the magistrate remanded him for a week, pending further inquiries.

The name and address which he had given to the pawnbroker proved, on investigation, to be purely fictitious. That was, of course, only to be expected. Thieves who pawn stolen property are never such fools as to give their real names and addresses. But an envelope found upon his person, when searched, fortunately provided the necessary clue. The police went, in plain clothes, to the address there given—that of a house in a rather shady street in Pimlico—where the door was opened to them by a notorious woman, who had more than once come under their notice in connection with robberies at her house (which she was always changing), though she had hitherto managed to escape conviction. This woman, beyond asserting that she knew nothing of the man in custody and had never heard of the Thistle which was the subject of the charge, declined to give them any information.

It was, however, pretty obvious to the officers that the woman was lying, and independent inquiries made among the neighbours and in other directions amply confirmed them in this opinion. They ascertained that the man in custody, whose real name, or at any rate whose latest alias, was Richard Wilkes, *was* an associate of the woman's, and had been seen about with her in places of public resort. More important still was the information supplied to them by an elderly cabman, who happened, just then, to be laid up in hospital, as the result of an accident, but, having read about the case in the papers, wrote to inform the police that he had an important statement to make to them. The officer in charge of the case attended at the hospital and took down the man's statement, of which the following is the substance:

It appeared that this cabman, who had been upon the London streets for over thirty years, had, more than once, in bygone days, driven Lord Kircudbright from his club to the Houses of Parliament; and only a fortnight ago, by a curious coincidence, an elderly gentleman, whose face cabbie seemed to remember, though he couldn't at the time put a name to him, had hailed him in Regent-street, late in the evening, and had been driven by him to a certain address in Pimlico—that of the house, in fact, which has been mentioned above. It was not until some days had elapsed that the identity of his fare—whose likeness to some one whom he had seen before had, in the meanwhile, exercised him a good deal—at length flashed upon cabbie. But he was now quite positive on the subject.

Clearly this was a circumstance of the highest importance. The Earl of Kircudbright practically identified as having been seen to enter that notorious person's house five days prior to the offering of a Thistle in pledge by one of the woman's known associates! Couple with this the fact that the Earl was a K.T., and had an eccentric habit of always carrying the insignia of his Order about with him, and it was pretty evident that the Thistle offered in pledge was his property, and that he had been robbed of it by one or other of the gang with whom the woman was mixed up.

It was at this point that the message was transmitted to Aberdeen from New Scotland Yard instructing the police in that city to make inquiries at his lordship's country house; for so far as the C.I.D. could ascertain he had not been seen or heard of in London since the cabman had set him down at the door of that address in Pimlico; and the first thing to arrive at now was whether he had returned home, or, if not, whether his people at home were cognisant of his whereabouts.

When the officer from Aberdeen had heard what the Earl's housekeeper had to tell him—viz., that she had not heard a word from her master since his departure for London more than four weeks previously, he lost no time in communicating the information to Scotland

Yard, where it was at once seen that a new and grave significance was now imported into the case. The unfortunate Earl had not only been robbed; he had also disappeared. In other words, considering the circumstances of the case, and the character of the house, there was strong suspicion that he had been made away with.

In view of the gravity of the situation, a search-warrant was obtained by the officer in charge of the case, and the Pimlico house was raided by the police. The woman appeared to have anticipated something of the kind. At any rate, she had decamped, and the house was empty. But in searching the premises several significant discoveries were made—to wit, a number of pawnbrokers' duplicates, relating to various articles of jewellery pledged during the last few weeks, and—most important of all—a silk pocket-handkerchief marked with the ill-fated nobleman's monogram. Inquiries at the various pawnbrokers' further established the fact that a pair of valuable sleeve-links and a gold watch, each bearing his lordship's crest, were among the articles recently pledged; and the man Wilkes was identified in both cases as the person who had pledged them. On the score of robbery, therefore, the case against him was irresistibly complete.

At the next hearing of the case before the magistrate, after evidence on the minor charge of unlawful possession had been tendered, a remand to that day week was asked for, with the intimation that a more serious charge would probably then be preferred. Wilkes, who declined to say anything, except that he should reserve his defence, was accordingly remanded in custody.

In the meanwhile, the Earl's housekeeper was brought up from Scotland, by the police, to identify her master's property, and strenuous efforts were made to discover what had been done with the ill-fated man's body. For that he had been foully murdered by those who had robbed him no longer admitted of much doubt.

It was generally agreed that the discovery of the corpse was only a matter of time, for nothing is harder, in London, than to make away with a dead body, so as to obliterate all trace of its existence. The theory of the police was that it had been thrown into the river—from which the house where the murder had been committed stood only fifty yards away—and if this theory were correct, it must sooner or later be washed up. The river police received particular instructions to keep their eyes open for such a contingency.

But, in point of fact—as soon afterwards came out—it was not into the river that the unfortunate nobleman's body had been thrown. Its disappearance had been effected by methods very much less obvious and commonplace—methods, indeed, so unique and remarkable as to take the police (when they stumbled upon the discovery) by complete surprise. I use the phrase "stumbled upon" advisedly; for they ran their heads against the solution of the mysterious problem just when and where they least expected to do so.

The revelation was brought about in the police-court, at the next hearing of the case, and was the result of an involuntary and strikingly significant ejaculation into which the prisoner was surprised, in the course of the proceedings.

Old Jeannie McTaggart, the ill-fated Earl's housekeeper, had just been called to identify her master's watch and sleeve-links; she stared, as if petrified, at the prisoner; who, on catching sight of her, was instantly startled out of the dogged composure which he had hitherto maintained.

"Jeannie!" he ejaculated.

"May the de'il tak me!" she cried out, throwing up her hands in a gesture of the utmost amazement; "if it isna my ain puir laddie's ain dear sel'!"

* * * * *

So it was. Lord Kirkcudbright, in order to conceal his identity while seeing life in London, had adopted the alias of Richard Wilkes, had further guarded himself against possible identification by purchasing a ready-made outfit, on which there were no marks to give any hint of his real personality, and, having come to the end of his £100 sooner than he had expected, had been driven to pledge, one by one, his various personal effects, and when, at length, suspicion had been aroused by his offering his Thistle to Mr. Isaacs, he had refused, from sheer shame, to clear himself of the criminal charge by giving the true explanation, and so disclosing his identity. He calculated that the police would have great difficulty in bringing the supposed crime home to him, and that it would probably end in his being discharged for want of evidence. On this account, he had abstained, in the meanwhile, from exculpating himself by an admission that it was always open to him to make in the last resort.

The decamping of the woman with whom he had associated was so far a coincidence that it had no immediate connection with the present charge. Doubtless, her guilty conscience in reference to other matters had made her uneasy and impelled her to retire for a while into obscurity. That, however, is immaterial. The whole interest of this extraordinary case lies in the fact that the police should have spent nearly a fortnight in hunting for the dead body of a man whom they had, alive and in custody, all the while under their very noses.

ART NOTES.

I AM writing this in the country, with I do not quite know how many miles of green fields and budding hedge-rows between me and the nearest picture gallery. What is more, I have brought neither catalogues nor notes of any kind, so that I have only pleasantly vague recollections of the shows I have attended during the last week, and of which I ought to be writing now. I remember some Austrian paintings by Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Stokes at the Leicester Galleries, I think, and I know that they were good because I have such a pleasant recollection of them. And I remember some cat and dog drawings by Miss Muriel Hunt (I hope I have the name correctly) which I think must have been good, too, because I remember that I was not sorry I had been at the trouble of going there. But this may have been partly because I like cats. They are at a gallery in Mount-street, Grosvenor-square—Mr. Grundy's, if I am not mistaken. I remember, too, going into several galleries in Bond-street; in one of them—I am afraid to name it, lest I should make a mistake and give unintentional offence—there were some clever paintings by a New Zealand lady, though I am ashamed to say that her name has altogether escaped me. I make this open confession, and I cannot honestly say that I am penitent, because I do not feel at all inclined to write about picture galleries to-day. I would much rather expatiate upon the glorious view over which I can gaze, in the intervals of writing, and of the glorious weather which makes it possible to have tea on the lawn, even though March is hardly over. There is a bank of white violets close to me that scent the air very agreeably, and I should like to write about them—perhaps in verse. But, after all, this is not a column of Nature notes, so I am driven back to considering the perennial problem—why do people paint pictures? Some, no doubt, paint because they like it. I can understand that it would be a very delightful profession which allowed one to sit out of doors on a day like this and paint pictures of spring blossom and so forth, especially if one had an independent income. Some, again, though they must be in a very small minority nowadays, paint for the glory of Art—because it is in them to paint, and they cannot help it. Some, no doubt—who must be very optimistic—choose painting as a means of social advancement. My father, they argue, was a small shopkeeper—if I become an artist I shall be the next thing to a Gentleman (with a large G), even although I do not make a quarter of my father's income. (A party of excursionists with a concertina and beer have just passed down the lane at the back of the cottage. They are of both sexes, and very affectionate. And they would prove, very conclusively, to my supposititious artist, that one can be extremely happy in this world without being gentlefolk.) But the greatest number paint because, like most of us, they want to make a living. Things being as they are, this is sufficiently surprising in itself; but not nearly so

much so as are the means in which they set about it. Art is, I suppose, the one profession left in the world in which the surest road to success is believed to lie in the forcing down the public throat of things which it does not want. I do not mean to say that it does not want pictures—personally, I believe it would be only too glad to get them—but the artist says, in so many words, You do not know what you want; still less do you know what you ought to want; you have got to want what I want you to want or else go without. And he starts out and invents a new school, whose main tenet is that human beings shall always be painted with pale purple faces of surprising ugliness. He has no lack of disciples—nobody ever has who starts a new artistic school—and they all paint hideous purple faces; and because the public does not buy their pictures, they abuse the public and call upon the Government to subsidise their noble aim of making England artistic whether it likes it or not. If a journalist, or a grocer, or a tailor carried on his business on such lines we should call him a lunatic. The only people who can really afford to do it are doctors and lawyers and clergymen; and they are all co-partners in trusts which control the supply of commodities which the public cannot, or thinks it cannot, do without.

Even supposing that the supporters of the Hideous Pale Purple Face School are right, and that theirs is the one only genuine brand of art goods, why can they not be a little more business-like in their methods of forcing that great truth home? (Exactly the same argument applies to Academicians, and, in fact, to each and all of the proprietors of all the original and only genuine art "schools.") Whence comes their resolute disregard of all the improvements which modern discovery has put into the hands of the business man? Consider the methods of any other kind of producer. He does not manufacture his goods and then store them neatly in a back room, and wait until the public comes along to buy them. He does everything in his power to impress them on the public mind. Take the question of price, again. If a cycle manufacturer finds that his prices are too high, he lowers them until they come within the financial reach of his customers. Does the Artist? Are there not thousands and thousands of us who would be only too glad to buy pictures if we could afford them? Does the artist ever think of catering for this vast army of potential customers? Not a bit of it. He continues to ask prices which put his work beyond the reach of any but millionaires, and then abuses the public because it does not buy. Accordingly the public, driven back upon reproductions and photographs, finds that it can get on very well without pictures, and does so. What would the Official Receiver have to say about a cycle manufacturer who had carried on his business on artistic lines, I wonder!

There is an enormous fortune awaiting the artist, or body of artists, who first realise the business potentialities of Art. He, or they, will, in the first place, organise a limited company, with sufficient capital for the needs of the enterprise. They will appoint an efficient sales manager, while they busy themselves turning out the stock as, and how, required. First of all the company will reduce prices by some 75 per cent. compared to prevalent rates. Its motto will be "Small profits and quick returns." It will advertise. Already, in my mind's eye, I can see the hoardings covered with such announcements as:—"What is Home without Vandyke Brown's Landscapes?" "Why buy Old Masters when you can get a genuine, brand-new portrait of yourself and family by Dauber, R.A., for next to nothing?" or "Avoid cheap, foreign-made pictures. Buy Pallet's real oil still-lifes and support Home Industries." The company will understand the art of tempting the public. It will publish full-page advertisements in the *Daily Mail*:—"Great Sale! Astounding sacrifices!! Real, hand-painted pictures by all the leading artists!!! Being sacrificed at one-quarter the original marked prices, to make room for new season's lines." Or, "Astounding offer. A real, heavily Dutch-gilt frame, in all the latest styles, given away absolutely free to every purchaser of paintings by members of the New English Art Club." It will have magnificent show-rooms in the leading shopping thoroughfares, so that intending purchasers can judge for themselves how the various paintings harmonise with various styles of wall-paper and furniture. It will send pictures on approval to any railway station in England, carriage paid one way. It will sell pictures on the hire-purchase system. It will make a specialty of second-hand pictures. It will—but there are no limits to the new notions it will introduce into the picture business. And it will pay dividends of several hundreds per cent. annually, and absolutely drive all competitors out of business. It will—but I hear that a band of holiday-makers have just broken into the copse at the bottom of the garden and are making hay of the primroses, and I am called upon by a superior power to repel them *vi et armis*.

MUSIC.

THE REVOLT OF THE CORNSTALKS.

PROFESSOR FRANKLIN PETERSON, Ormond Professor of Music at Melbourne University, sends me an interesting letter on the subject of the Australian musical examinations controversy, in which he has taken from the first such a leading part. The question at issue, it will be remembered, is simply whether Australia should henceforward do its own examining or continue to rely on the services of itinerant examiners representative of the Associated Board, Trinity College, and other bodies from the Old Country, and, according to Professor Peterson, there can be little doubt as to the ultimate outcome of the Home Rule movement set on foot within recent years. So far as Victoria is concerned, Professor Peterson writes that "We are this year examining at least 1,500 candidates throughout the State—more than the Associated Board and Trinity College put together. In Melbourne itself, where, of course, the old-established schemes have their strongholds, the exact figures of passes are: Associated Board, 392; University, 396. As our supplementary examination in May has invariably shown a proportion of not less than a fourth, we may put our pass list for the year at 495; and our proportion of passes to entries is not higher than that of the Associated Board." Further, Professor Peterson adds that against the half-dozen country centres visited by the Associated Board's examiners the National University scheme has over fifty centres, while the action of the Education Department and of the new Registration of Teachers Board in bestowing official recognition on the latter has thrown still more weight into their scale.

There would appear, therefore, every reason to anticipate that the activities of the Associated Board will be seriously diminished, if not terminated entirely, in the near future, so far as Australia is concerned; and, looking at the matter from the standpoint of the Australians themselves, there seems not the least reason to regret the circumstance. It is admitted by all, including the leaders of the secessionists, that the British examiners sent out under the joint auspices of the Royal College and Royal Academy have done excellent work in the past—even if the same can hardly be said for those representative of less distinguished institutions, who have also found a happy hunting-ground at the Antipodes; but this is no reason why, now that Australia is capable of undertaking its own examining and of turning to useful account the fees derived thereby, it should not adopt this course. I believe I am right in stating, indeed, that this view is shared by more than one of the examiners who have represented the Associated Board, though even if they held the opposite opinion this would be only natural and would scarcely affect the question at issue.

It is argued by some that it is very wicked and avaricious of the Australian musicians to wish to take the work out of the hands of the Old Country, and to pocket the plunder themselves, and music throughout

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Australia, it has been predicted, can only go to the dogs if the inspiring influence of the clever young gentlemen sent out from Tenterden-street and Prince Consort-road is suffered to be withdrawn. The outsider may, however, be permitted to suggest that a good deal of exaggeration, not to say bunkum, enters into the arguments advanced under this head. What, at any rate, is not a pleasing feature of the existing system is the prostitution of the names of the Royal College and Royal Academy which is at present largely carried on in Australia without apparently the smallest protest on the part of the distinguished institutions concerned. As an Australian correspondent puts it in a letter recently received, "numerous advertisements in the public press and on brass plates announce, amongst qualifications for teaching, 'gold medallist,' 'student,' 'exhibitioner,' and even "diplomée,' of the Royal Academy of Music, London, and of the Royal College of Music, London, when the holder of the distinction has been no nearer London than the local examination room of the Associated Board in Melbourne for one glorious quarter of an hour. The L.A.B. (Licentiate of the Associated Board, *i.e.*, Certificated Teacher, formerly called C.T.A.B.), which recipients and teachers here pretend is on a level with the Metropolitan examinations, has been conferred, for example, on a clever little lassie of fourteen years, who is thus one of these aforesaid 'diplomées' of the Royal Academy, Royal College, etc."

Complaint also is made of the practice of the Associated Board in entrusting all subjects of examination to one man, who has frequently to examine seven hours a day for several days together, in allowing the results to be made public before the examiner's signed report has reached headquarters, and in permitting teachers or other interested persons to remain in the room while the examination is being conducted. In fact, while allowing every credit to the British examiners for their good intentions, there would seem no reason whatever for supposing that the art of music in Australia will suffer total eclipse if their ministrations are suspended or curtailed. For that matter, so far as art is concerned, the whole squabble is, as that eminent representative of music in Australia, Professor Marshall Hall, recently put it, something of a storm in a teacup. Whether the aspiring young ladies of Melbourne, Sydney, and elsewhere are examined by a musical professor imported from England, or by one trained in Australia, is, after all, not one of those issues which decide the fate of nations. But this is only another reason why, if they prefer to conduct such exercises for themselves the Australians are thoroughly entitled to do so.

I am sorry to hear disquieting accounts of the health of Dr. Joachim. The veteran violinist, who is now nearly seventy-six, was seized with illness while fulfilling recently a concert engagement in Vienna, and, according to report, is not making that satisfactory recovery which was anticipated. All of Dr. Joachim's multitudinous friends and admirers in this country will earnestly hope that more reassuring advices may soon dispel their anxiety.

The unfortunate termination of the recent season of German opera at Covent Garden would seem to have served merely *pour encourager les autres*. In addition to the forthcoming venture at the Adelphi, where the members of the Berlin Comic Opera Company are to appear in Offenbach's "Hoffmann's Erzählungen," it is now announced that there is to be a season of light French opera during the coming months under the management of Mr. Robert Arthur at the Coronet Theatre, where, it may be remembered, Messager's "Véronique" was first heard in London. The operas which it is talked of doing here include such things as "La Fille de Madame Angot," "Les Cloches de Corneville," and "Les Mousquetaires au Convent," which many will certainly be glad to renew, or make, acquaintance with. But it would be idle to overlook the fact that the public for comic opera in a foreign tongue — whether French or German — is rather a limited one in London. The thought comes home forcibly when reading of the heavy outlay contemplated in the case of the proposed German season above referred to. It is stated, indeed, that the Adelphi will need to be absolutely crowded every evening if the enterprise is to pay its way. Apparently, however, the promoters of the undertaking are confident of success, and every one will certainly hope that they may not be disappointed.

Talking of the latter season, the Amalgamated Musicians' Union is threatening trouble again, I notice, on behalf of our native instrumentalists, over the importation of German orchestral players along with the other members of the company. But public opinion will, I fancy, hardly support them in this instance. In the case of a special enterprise of this kind, involving the visit of a complete company en bloc, it is absurd to maintain that there is any valid objection to the orchestral players who obviously form an integral and very important part of the organisation, coming too. When some years ago "The Mikado" was given by an English company in Germany, I believe I am correct in stating that the Savoy orchestra went with them as a matter of course, and I certainly do not remember any protest against this procedure either in Germany or in England. Obviously, it would make all the difference to the enterprise if our forthcoming German visitors had to start in the first instance rehearsing with British players totally unfamiliar with the works to be given. In fact, the contention is ridiculous. We want to hear the German orchestra as well as the German singers, and by all accounts both are quite exceptionally good.

The question of teaching the young idea how to wield the conductor's bâton continues to excite considerable discussion, in the course of which I notice a disposition to dwell rather unkindly on the fact, which I ventured gently to hint at last week, that a preliminary difficulty would be to discover suitable instructors to impart the art in the ranks of our native musicians. No doubt we have quite a number of conductors capable of directing an orchestra without actually coming to grief, but if it is a case of finding those who have displayed real genius under this head it must be regretfully admitted that the list is limited indeed. Few concert-goers probably are aware how restricted are the capabilities in this regard of some who essay the art at times. One needs to hear the opinions of an orchestral player who has "sat under" such to learn the facts. Of our leading composer-conductors Sir Charles Stanford and Sir A. C. Mackenzie are probably the most efficient, even though neither suggests, perhaps, when wielding the bâton that he is actually consumed by the sacred fire. Sir Edward Elgar rather resembles Schumann (of whom it was said that he could hardly bring himself to give the signal to start sometimes), in that he tends to lose himself in the enjoyment of his own creations and thereby to lose touch to some extent with the players. Sir Hubert Parry, on the other hand, has a captivating beat as viewed from the audience—bold and vigorous and hearty, like the man himself; but in conducting, as in other things, appearances are sometimes deceitful. The performances which he obtains are only mediocre.

The *Morning Leader's* musical gossip, who is usually well informed, revives the interesting report that Puccini's next opera, namely, the setting of "La Femme et le Pantin" of Pierre Louys, on which he is at present engaged, may possibly obtain its first performance at Covent Garden next season. Puccini has had such good reason to incline favourably towards Covent Garden that it would be a graceful thing on his part if he were to accord them the privilege of producing his latest work. But in any case, of course, it is safe enough to be heard there sooner or later.

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A Covent Garden season nowadays without plenty of Puccini would be quite unthinkable. The libretto of this opera, by the way, Puccini received from an entirely unknown writer, whose work so pleased him that he decided to utilise it forthwith. Here is hope, therefore, for rejected librettists. The story is of a Spanish nature, somewhat after the character of "Carmen." If Puccini writes operas on all the subjects, by the way, which he is said to have been contemplating during recent years, he should be kept busy for some time to come. Such diverse themes as a tale of the Roman Empire, Marie Antoinette, Cyrano de Bergerac, a novel by D'Annunzio, and one of Bret Harte's Californian stories, have all been mentioned within the last few months in this connection.

Mme. Eames, with whose matrimonial affairs the American newspapers have been busying themselves, has not been heard in London now for some little time, though a few years since she appeared regularly every season at Covent Garden. Mme. Eames is an American by birth, though she was born at Shanghai. She has her permanent abode, however, in Paris, where she is very popular. She has a delightful villa, too, in Italy, to which she flies when the season is over, and where she delights to go about, as she confided to an interviewer once, in a slouch hat, a man's coat, and hob-nailed boots. But it is hard to imagine one who is famous for the statuesque perfection of her beauty and the exquisite taste of her costumes—which have often been designed for her by her husband—in such a get up. Mme. Eames was one of those who went through the horrors of the San Francisco earthquake.

The so-called Soame's Strad, about which I had something to say a short time since, was sold by auction last week by Messrs. Glendining for £500. It is a good round sum, though not a very large one in comparison with some of the prices at which on previous occasions instruments reputed to be of historic value had been knocked down at the auctions of the same enterprising firm; but, even so, I should hesitate to say that it was any too little for the instrument in question. As I pointed out before, the instrument is a small-sized fiddle, which, of course, greatly diminishes its value, since its volume of tone is necessarily reduced thereby, and this is not a quality which is likely to commend it favourably to performers. Moreover, though it has been referred to in various inspired paragraphs issued preliminary to the sale as one of great note, little or nothing is known as to its antecedents in point of fact, so that on the whole its former owner may consider that he has not done badly.

"Do London ladies sing?" was the somewhat cryptic subject of discussion in one of the papers last week. It arose apparently from the suggestion that most of the members of the chief London choral societies hail from Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Midlands, Wales, or Scotland, coupled, as I gather, with the further theory that the greater vocal excellence of the ladies coming from those parts of the country might be associated with the more generous proportions of their waists as compared with those of their Metropolitan sisters. Whether the reputation for vocal prowess will be regarded by the ladies in question as adequate compensation for the imputation of big waists I will not pretend to say, but the theories in question are, at any rate, interesting. As to the former suggestion, there should not be much difficulty in ascertaining the facts, but in regard to the dimensions of their waists, the investigation might prove a more delicate matter. I am sure, however, that Sir Frederick Bridge and Mr. Arthur Fagge will gladly co-operate in any measures which may be requisite to ascertain the truth on this important matter. Perhaps the long-standing mystery of London's choral deficiencies may then be solved at last.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

My dear Mr. Wyndham,—Sir Owen Burne's "Memories" (1), though written originally to be read only by his own family, is as discreet and modest as it is interesting. It is amiable also, for apparently Sir Owen, like Elia, "could never hate anyone he knew." The one passage in the book which jars upon you—Sir Owen's flippant and even impudent gulling of Gladstone—was most inadequately provoked by Sir Owen's disappointment at the great man's failure to recognise him as an expert on Indian politics and policy:—

> Instead of asking me about India, as I rather expected, Gladstone descanted eloquently on Dr. Carpenter's deep-sea fishing, a matter then much to the front on account of the exploring expedition of the *Challenger*. At last I had my chance. Partly in anger and partly in sorrow, I spoke of the deep-sea fishing in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean as something very different. As I went on I invented every fable I could devise as to the colour and size of the fish and the depths of these seas, adding a little about monsoons, typhoons, and laws of storms till Mr. Gladstone was dumbfounded and silent, and I was ashamed.

He might well have been. When he laughs at Gladstone's "credulity" in accepting all these monstrous fish stories, etc., he forgets that it never could occur to a man of Gladstone's age and position to suspect such impertinence. Perhaps the most interesting of Sir Owen's reminiscences are those recalling Lord Mayo and his assassination, and the most amusing those recalling Sir Owen's bear-leading of the Shah. Apparently, every precaution for securing the person of Lord Mayo had been taken by the authorities of the convict establishment, by shutting up all the worst characters, posting guards at every possible point of attack, and providing an armed escort of police and warders. It was, however, when the inspection was over and all danger also was apparently over, that the assassin, who had been dogging the Viceroy all day, found and took his opportunity. When Lord Mayo was on the very point of embarking, General Stewart, having to make arrangements with the overseer for the next day, had to pass through the guard in rear of the party, and his passage through them gave the assassin an opening. Before the guard could close up again, the Afridee rushed through them, and twice stabbed the Viceroy in the back. Lord Mayo, half-stunned, fell over the pier, followed by Sir Owen, to whom he cried out with his last breath, "Burne, they have done it!" Though the Government came to the conclusion that the assassination was an act of private vengeance for what the convict considered unmerited transportation, Sir Owen has no doubt at all that the vengeance was political, not private. In fact, the motive was the same as that for the assassination a short time before of Mr. Justice Norman, who was murdered because of his severe sentences upon the Wahabee fanatics. Indeed, Lord Mayo's assassin had given out, some time before, that "his brother had murdered Mr. Justice Norman, and that he was proud of the deed." Surely a man whom such a boast ought to have marked as dangerous "should have been shut up with the worst characters" during the Viceroy's inspection? Sir Owen's experiences with the Shah were as comic as his associations with Lord Mayo were tragic. As his Persian Majesty had set his heart upon seeing a prize-fight "where plenty of blood would be drawn," the Marquis of Queensberry was induced to arrange for one with gloves to take place in the stables of Buckingham Palace. But the prize-fight was arranged to take place just half an hour before another important business—the reception of a deputation from Lord Shaftesbury, the bishops, and archbishops in the interests of the Christians in Persia—was to come off, with the result that the two functions

(1) "Memories." By Major-General Sir Owen Tudor Burne, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I. (London: Edward Arnold. 15s. net.)

(2) "Dr. Gordon." By Mary E. Wilkins. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

(3) "The Country House." By John Galsworthy. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(4) "Daniel Quayne." A Morality. By J. S. Fletcher. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

(5) "What Might Have Been." The Story of a Social War. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

clashed. The Shah came down so late for the prize-fight that the episcopal deputation had already assembled in the reception-room when his Majesty appeared in it. So engrossed, however, was his Majesty with the prospect of the prize fight that he walked straight through the deputation, who followed him, wondering whither he was conducting them to an audience. They were not long left in doubt. They just arrived in time to form a ring round the prize fighters, who had already begun the battle! "A prize fight in the gardens of the Queen's Palace, forsooth!" shouted Lord Shaftesbury; "I will denounce you all over the kingdom!" He and the prelates hurried back, like a flock of frightened sheep, to the reception room, where they were soon joined by the Shah, whose rage, however, at the interruption of the prize fight was so savage and sullen that he had hardly patience to listen to Lord Shaftesbury's long speech. At its close the Shah turned to growl to Sir Owen and Rawlinson: "Hang the Christians in Persia! Tell them they are all right"; which Rawlinson proceeded to interpret into a long, favourable, and most flattering reply—so long, indeed, that the prelates whispered one to another: "What an expressive language Persian must be! Such wonderful promises in such few words from the Persian monarch!" In spite of the high and just reputation Sir Owen had from all his superiors for statesmanship, I cannot think the alternative policies he suggests for Ireland either opportune or brilliant. Ireland, he suggests, ought to be governed as India is governed; or, failing, that, "her people ought to be transferred to some earthly Elysium as far as possible from the British Parliament, and replaced by canny Scots."

Miss Mary E. Wilkins' "Doctor Gordon" (2) will be, I fear, a double disappointment to you in being a sensational novel, and, therefore, not of the delightful kind you expect from the author, and again, in being a poor sensational novel, for neither do you expect anything poor from so charming a writer. Your curiosity is certainly excited, sometimes eerily, sometimes feverishly, by the evil presence which haunts the heroine; but the explanation of the mystery is at once inadequate and prosaic. The other mystery of the euthanasia of Dr. Gordon's supposed sister is more satisfactorily solved. There are many delightful touches in the book recalling the Miss Wilkins you had loved, but they help only to make your disappointment with her new departure the more sensible. From "Dr. Gordon" to Mr. Galsworthy's "The Country House" (3) is a far cry certainly. I do not know when I read a more effective study of country people who live in a wholly artificial world, and are wholly helpless through their artificiality. You are now and then reminded of Thackeray's description of his characters in "Vanity Fair"—"dull pompous people, perfectly satisfied with themselves and with their own superior virtue." The Squire's son gets entangled in the web of a heartless married coquette, and the shock of the scandal awakes them all to the realities of life. Every character of the book is admirably drawn, but the drawing of the hero's mother is a masterpiece of sympathetic portraiture. She is the real heroine of the novel, and you follow her with an almost poignant sympathy in her distraction between her husband and her son. In a word, "The Country House" is one of the most notable novels of the year. You get upon a lower plane socially and morally in Mr. Fletcher's powerful novel, "Daniel Quayne" (4), whose heroine is a callous and calculating light-o'-love. She sells or gives herself apparently to any and every one, while engaged to the simple rustic, Daniel Quayne. When he discovers her to be his master's mistress he slays both and is hanged for their murder. It will not in the least spoil your interest in the story to be told its tragic close, since it is the characters rather than the incidents which engross your interest. "What Might Have Been" (5) is less a novel than an anti-socialistic satire, very smart, but in spite of its smartness rather tedious. Its moral is that England can be saved only by the replacement of household suffrage by "a £10 occupation qualification, with a plurality of voting power in multiples of £10 according to the rateable value of the premises occupied."—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

For some years past the Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P.—whose natural-history collection is well known—has been engaged in the preparation of a work giving an account of those birds which have become extinct in historical times, together with notes on a few which are now almost extinct. The book, "Extinct Birds," will be published by Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. at the price of £25, the edition being limited to 300 copies, each numbered and signed. An important feature of the work will be a series of forty-five coloured plates, after paintings executed expressly for this work from an unique collection of specimens. The coloured plates are printed in permanent ink on a special paper, employed for the first time in connection with the tricolour process, which will have the advantage of rendering them practically imperishable.

Mr. T. E. Keppel's volume of recollections, "Lord Beaconsfield and Other Tory Memories," will be published by Messrs. Cassell and Co. during the present month.

A new and cheaper edition of Mr. F. C. Selous's "A Hunter's Wanderings in Africa" is announced by Messrs. Macmillan. Since its original publication in 1881 this book has always held a distinguished place among records of sport and travel. It describes the events and impressions of nine years spent by Mr. Selous amongst the game of a region which, before the advent of railways, was rightly regarded as the far interior of South Africa.

When "A Pixy in Petticoats" appeared anonymously last summer many readers and reviewers of that Dartmoor story jumped to the conclusion that the author was a woman. The title page of "Arminel of the West," a new novel from the same pen, which Mr. Alston Rivers announces for immediate publication, reveals the fact that the author was John Trevena. In his new volume he forsakes the great moor for the less known territory in the north.

"The Brasses of England," by the Rev. Herbert V. Macklin, President of the Monumental Brass Society, is an addition to Messrs. Methuen's series of Antiquary's Books (price 7s. 6d. net). Mr. Macklin's aim has been to treat of monumental brasses from the human and historic, as well as the technical point of view. He traces the rise and decline of the art of brass engraving from the reign of Edward I. to the Caroline decadence, and special chapters are devoted to "architectural ornament" and "foreign workmanship." The volume has numerous illustrations of brasses from tracings, rubbings, and photographs.

Mr. G. M. Trevelyan's new book, "Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Republic," will be issued by Messrs. Longmans next week. It is a history of the great political and military events of 1849, which caused the final breach between the Papacy and Italian national aspirations, and made Garabaldi the national hero of Italy.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett have in the press a new novel by Miss Braddon, entitled "Dead Love has Chains." It is rather more sensational than her recent book, "The White House."

Mr. Noel Williams, whose previous biographical works have met with much success, has given the title of "A Princess of Intrigue" to a new volume, in which he traces the eventful career of Mme. de Longueville. The period—the last years of Louis XIII.'s reign and the early part of that of Le Grand Monarque—is one of the most fascinating in French history, and nearly all the great figures of the time play a part in the story. The book will be published by Messrs. Hutchinson and Co.

The most exacting lover of sensational fiction will surely be satisfied with the sensationalism of Mr. J. B. Harris-Burland's story, "The Gold Worshippers" (Greening and Co., price 6s.). It is true that it has no

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sort of relation to real life, but what of that? A multitude of readers want nothing better than to be thrilled, and here they have a "thriller" of the most effective kind.

"Some Old English Inns," by George T. Burrows, with illustrations by S. James Brown, is a chatty and interesting little volume in an attractive new series, called the "Leather Booklets" (price 2s. 6d. each), which Mr. T. Werner Laurie is publishing. Another is "The Pocket Cathedral Guide," by W. J. Roberts, with illustrations by the same artist.

The series of articles on the criminal law and its administration which Mr. E. Bowen Rowlands recently contributed to a daily newspaper has now been re-published in book form under the title of "The Liberty of the Subject" (Wyman and Sons, price 1s.). The author gives a very effective exposure of the many anachronisms, absurdities, and dangers of the existing system of criminal law, and advocates various reforms, including, of course, the establishment of a court of criminal appeal.

In the preface to the new volume of "Crockford's Clerical Directory" (published by Horace Cox, price 20s.) the editor discusses such matters as the law in regard to dilapidations, the payment of income tax on Easter offerings, and the education question. He also has one or two paragraphs in the lighter vein that has always been a characteristic of the editorial observations in this otherwise serious volume; but the preface, after all, is a small and insignificant feature of "Crockford." Its great recommendation is its reliability and completeness as a work of reference, and in these respects it fully maintains its high reputation.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Annice has a friend with her who is home from Malta for the season. Annice asked her to go to them while she looked for a furnished house or flat that would suit her; and she has been there a fortnight, and has done nothing but buy clothes. She seems set on having a complete outfit before she thinks of taking a house, and Annice says that her little home is so full of bandboxes and dress-boxes that she has to climb into her hall over them. She was making her little moan to us yesterday.

"You know, Madge dear, Mrs. Q. is really very nice, and she and I were at school together, but our house is so tiny, and Antony does not like piles of boxes in his smoke-room, and they come, and come, and come, all day long. They have the most heavenly things in them, and the tenth commandment is broken into powder by this time. It is really rather aggravating to have your house full of things you long to possess; it is like 'water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink.' But what can I do?"

"Can't you give her a hint?"

"I have given her a list of house-agents, and I point out every board with 'Charming Maisonette To Let' on it. I don't like to do more."

Bee had an idea, she said, that might help, and told Annice we were going back to tea with her. Bee never tells her little plots, because she says if she has a confederate, that confederate either gives her away or looks so abominably guilty that she makes her principal stammer. We went back with Annice, and found Mrs. Q. quite ready to talk about clothes, and Bee's expressed yearning to see new frocks soon brought about an offer to show the purchases. Then the campaign began. Mrs. Q. produced a delicious frock of blue and white striped silk, with faint darker blue cornflowers chené here and there across the stripes. The bodice had touches of cornflower-blue velvet, and a waistcoat of sulphur-coloured satin embroidered with cornflowers.

"How sweet!" said Bee. "Aren't you afraid it will get crushed in its box? I find nothing ruins—oh, what a pretty hat for it, with all those mauve and blue cornflowers—and the what's-o'clocks look so light and soft with them. It is good of you to let me see these things. I want my new spring things to be nice, and I hadn't a single idea about them."

"Of course, they are carefully folded," observed Mrs. Q. "I do not think keeping things in a box hurts them then."

"Oh, don't you?" said Bee, innocently. "Not even a delicious frilly thing like that coffee-coloured voile with the cherry-coloured satin ribbons? Yes, look, that upper frill on the skirt is lying quite flat. Frills so soon lose their crispness."

Annice slipped into a long coat of putty-coloured glacé shot with pink, with curious insertions of some open-work, lace-like stuff, but very heavy and regular. Inquiries elicited the information that this was made of a kind of sublimated boot-lace, knotted together into a trellis, and the trellis then worked with fine threads across the spaces. The pink lining shone through very prettily. Bee, with silent concern, was observed smoothing a crease at the back. Striped materials seem very fashionable, either for whole gowns or trimmings, and one of the frocks in black and white striped canvas had every seam masked with a broad mitred band of diagonally-striped glacé in the same shades. The vest of the coat was also of the glacé. Bee's diplomacy never ceased, and throughout her running fire of comments on the new sleeves that turn the elbows, the reign of very high collars, the small mushroom hats, etc., there was the constant thread of regret that such pretty clothes should be spoilt by being kept in boxes. We had a note from Annice this morning saying that at dinner last night Mrs. Q. asked Antony which was the best agent to go to for a nice flat with plenty of hanging cupboards. Would you have thought Bee so Machiavellian?

Every one is having new clothes just now. Linda's sleeves all end above the elbow—she has beautiful arms. Jean's, on the other hand, come halfway down the forearm, as a good many of the latest sleeves from Paris do. But then Jean has very thin arms. Her skirts scarcely hide her ankles, but you will remember what dear little feet she has. But Muriel K., who is slender and willowy, but whose feet are flat, has her gowns two inches on the ground in front and at the sides, and about a yard at the back. So you see the spring fashions are accommodating, and provide for every one's comfort and convenience.

English silks are going ahead. We told Norah to try a Saxon product for once, and she has obeyed, and has the sweetest indoor frock of primrose-yellow British silk, with a full skirt, and a bodice with long crossing lines turned back with equally long revers of brown silk embroidered by deft Chinese fingers in amber and blue and green and gold. Trust Norah that the vest is of Irish crochet!

Town is going to be very, very gay after the Easter holidays—weddings, dinners, dances, and charity functions are all announced for various dates after the first week of April. The Ladies' Kennel Association holds its dog show at the Royal Horticultural Hall on the 9th. In a very neat way the committee has put the members "on honour" by sending each intending exhibitor a declaration to sign that there is no known case of distemper in her kennels. There are 163 classes, and the prizes represent a valuable amount of silver articles. Toy spaniels have no less than fourteen classes, and bulldogs twelve. Pekingese have also twelve classes, and next in number are Pomeranians with nine. One can judge of the popularity of the various kinds of dogs by the number of their classes. Poodles have eight, dachshunds and Scotch terriers seven. I am surprised to see that Japanese have only five, in common with pugs, griffons, chows, and schipperkes. Fox terriers appear to be losing their popularity, like the Japanese, for they have only four classes. And yet, could there be a more delightful canine friend

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than a well-bred fox-terrier? He is so bright-spirited, so keenly interested in everything that happens, so friendly, so sympathetic, and so absurdly full of quaintest humour that his companionship is a real joy.

Another coming event is the At Home to be held by the Ladies' Association of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society on Friday, April 12, at the Royal Horticultural Hall in Vincent-square. It is under the patronage of Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and will be a smart affair. The hours are from 3 to 6. A selection of basket work and other articles made by the disabled soldiers and sailors will be for sale, and there is also to be a flower-stall. A very good concert has been arranged, and tickets for this can be secured in advance by applying to Mr. Ernest W. Gilchrist, 19, Milner-street, Cadogan-square. A long and attractive programme has been arranged, and on it appear the names of Mlle. Zélie de Lussan, Miss Teresa del Riego, Miss Ruth Vincent, Mr. David Bispham, Mr. Richard Green, and other well-known artists.

I have just been reading a novel by Anthony Trollope, and have found it such a rest after the fiction of the moment. In the latter one has to decide as one goes along, as to the right or wrong of some question raised. One's mind is kept in a condition of perpetual agitation, as on a see-saw, about the characters in the story. Are they all perfectly mad? Or merely unusual? Is the author a lunatic? Or simply the possessor of a temperament that turns black white, white black, and other colours lurid and livid? Now, in Trollope's story, "Mr. Scarborough's Family," the story marches on with an admirable steadiness, and the characters are consistent with what the reader expects of them after the first introduction to them. The bad man is a terrible villain; the good hero is a very fine fellow, and to balance these there is a likeable scapegrace. There is nothing subtle about any of them, as they pace through the pages, proceeding with their plans and revealing their characters in so doing.

But it is the girls that are really interesting. The heroine is perfect, of course, and among her excellencies is the negative one that "her hair was never redolent of peculiar odours." Of how many girls could that be said in these days of perfumed washes?

Another girl in the book tells her father her ideal of a husband. "In the first place, he must be a gentleman. He mustn't be ugly, and he mustn't be good-looking. He mustn't seem to be old, and certainly he mustn't seem to be young. I should not like a man to wear old clothes, but he mustn't wear new. He must be well read, but never show it. He must work hard, but he must come home to dinner at the proper time. He must never talk about his business at night; though, dear, darling old father, he shall do that if he will talk like you. And then, which is the hardest thing of all, I must have known him intimately for at least ten years."

What a perfect husband she sketched, this Dorothy. I may mention that the close of the book leaves her unmarried and unlikely to marry. Everybody is carefully finished off at the end. And here again is a tremendous contrast to the modern novel, which ends in the midst of things. The astounded reader turns over and finds the book finished just when he is getting interested in the characters. But the author has tired of them and abruptly puts an end to the creatures of his fantasy. Dozens of questions shoot up in the reader's mind. What became of poor Mary whom first the hero loved? Did Dick and Evelyn ever meet again? Why was Edwin introduced into a chapter and allowed to flourish mightily therein, if he was never to be heard of again? One might apply to him the epitaph on the infant:—

"If so quickly he is done for,
What on earth was he begun for?"

It is a way the modern novelist has. How it would have revolted Anthony Trollope and his peers, whose characters were as carefully labelled as a modern gardener's roses, and as neatly finished off as the labels.

Who is your favourite up-to-date novelist? Do you read Meredith? He is an acquired taste, but well worth any trouble in acquiring. He can pack more philosophy, real feeling, and humour into a sentence than any other writer. But, then, one has occasionally to read that sentence twice! A. E. W. Mason gave us a delightful heroine in "Miranda of the Balcony." She was worthy of a better successor than the horrid girl in "The Four Feathers." You remember Ethne? Hichens can write a wildly exciting novel, but I disliked his heroine in "The Garden of Allah," and a likeable heroine is so necessary in a book. All Mrs. Croker's and Mrs. Perrin's are charming. They are gentlewomen.

I have always had an affection for tussore silk, and now that it can be had in an English make, I feel free to indulge that affection. Striped with white, it is charming, either in groups of narrow strips, or in bands of equal width. Then there is brocaded tussore. Some of the designs are very attractive, embroidered tussore, with quaint five-sided spots at intervals, and a very tempting rough "suiting tussore," which would be serviceable and pretty made into many different kinds of frocks. It is difficult to choose among all the new washing materials. Messrs. Robinson Brown, of Macclesfield, in response to our request for patterns of "tussore and other washing materials," have provided us with specimens of the most fascinating things (and remember, good coz, they are *English*). There are brocaded cottons, brocaded lawns, brocaded zephyrs, all in most dainty designs, all really useful things, all excitingly inexpensive. There is one fine white lawn, with a little brocaded sprig, that is simply sweet. The cotton brocades are very pretty, too, and do not imagine, by their name, that they pretend to be silk; they are just remarkably pretty white washing stuffs, with no cheap pretence about them. The washing silks are in various colourings, and there is a new "Mersilda," in white, with coloured patterns, that is like silky linen. As for the printed lawn, I have never seen anything prettier than one which has groups of very faint mauve and pink flowers, with wee single buds scattered about. It deserves both those overworked adjectives, "sweet" and "dainty." What do you say to mercerised matting for frocks? It is like particularly soft crash, and makes up well for river and tennis dresses, and so on.

The patterns also include printed foulards, some of them in bold designs on coloured grounds, others in the dearest little patterns of tiny scattered blossoms on a fine white trellis. The taffetas chiffons are very light and soft; the prettiest are the shot ones, or those that have chené flowers. Why cannot one have a couple of dozen dresses on the first of every month? The only drawback would be that then there would be no opportunity for the English stuffs to show how much longer they wear than the foreign ones!

The same thing is true of the British silks from this firm's Royal Silk Warehouse at Macclesfield. They outwear the foreign many times, because they are unweighted, and are in all the smart colours, dark or pale. The prices begin at 1s. 6d. per yard, and the texture is in harmony with the present rage for soft, clinging materials, yet with sufficient substance to hold its own and retain its beautiful gloss. Do send for patterns, and thus encourage English manufacturers.

I have received the following from Mona:—

My Dear Madge,—There is really no secret about the cultivation of gloxinias. It is not difficult to grow plants with fine flowers, such as you admire at shows. You have a warm greenhouse; a little care should do the rest. Of course, it is necessary to start with good tubers. I put seed out of the question, because this should have been sown in February to produce plants large enough to flower well this year. But tubers are not expensive, and a couple of dozen will be as many as you are likely

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to want. Very large tubers are generally very old; the finest flowers are borne by those which are two years old, and they are of medium size. They may all be started simultaneously, or, if you prefer a succession of flowers, some may be kept cool and dry for a time and started later. In the case of gloxinias, as of most other pot plants, the management of the water supply is the chief thing to be learned. At the outset, before growth commences, the tubers are liable to decay if they are in contact with moisture; so many growers, instead of potting them immediately, lay them in boxes of cocoanut fibre on the surface and just spray them slightly at intervals. They must, of course, be placed in a warm house. A temperature of from 65 deg. to 70 deg. is better than a lower one, for the sooner growth commences the better; but this may easily be managed, even in an ordinary greenhouse, by supporting the boxes on bricks over the hot-water pipes. When the buds swell, the tubers should be transferred to pots just large enough to hold them comfortably. If they have begun to form roots some of the fibre will adhere to them and should be potted with them, in light rich soil over a fairly thick layer of broken crocks as drainage. The tops of the tubers should be about level with the surface, and when they are moved into larger pots they should be sunk rather deeper.

Gloxinias need very careful handling, the beautiful velvety leaves are so brittle, so easily broken. Cleanliness is important, for the minute hairs with which the leaves are covered prevent the removal of any dirt or dust allowed to fall on them, and hard water should never be used, as the white deposit of lime spoils their appearance. In the cultivation of these plants, as of most others grown in pots, more depends on the proper regulation of the water supply than on anything else. If they are given too much or too little, they are certain to suffer. And it should always be lukewarm, never cold. If, therefore, there is no tank inside the house, a canful should be brought there and left for some hours before it is used. In a moist warm atmosphere, with occasional spraying, the plants will grow rapidly, and, as soon as they have filled their pots with roots, they should be moved into larger ones. The same kind of soil may be used, and it should be pressed down rather firmly. The time to apply artificial fertilisers is when the flower buds appear. If they are applied earlier there will be a great quantity of foliage and very few flowers, though those few will be large in size. Shade is not necessary, except perhaps during the middle of the day in summer, but hot sunshine causes the flowers to fade much more quickly than they would otherwise do.

The flowers of the gloxinia, like nearly all others that are bell-shaped, naturally droop downwards. For this, as for everything else in nature, there is a definite reason. If they turned upwards they would be liable to be filled with rain or dew, and the pollen would be washed away. Hence they are either set at right angles to the stalks or more or less depressed, or else, if turned upwards during the hours of sunshine, bend downwards or close at the approach of night or wet weather. But this drooping habit is, from the gardener's standpoint, a defect in the gloxinia, for it prevents the exquisite flowers from being properly seen; and the hybridist has been at work to remedy the defect, with the result that we have now a magnificent race carrying its flowers erect. Here are a few of the named varieties: Mont Blanc (white), Defiance (scarlet), Empress Frederick (scarlet with white edge), Fireking (dark scarlet), Goliath (violet with white edge), Cyclop (carmine, white edge and purple-spotted throat), and Princess Maud (crimson shaded carmine, and violet edge with white spots). There are many others equally beautiful, but it is not possible to mention them all. Of course, unnamed varieties are cheaper, but if you only want a few for pots it would be a mistake to buy any but the best.

I mentioned the covering of minute hairs to which the foliage of the gloxinia owes much of its beauty. They might seem to be a disadvantage to the plant, and so they would be if it grew naturally anywhere near the smoky, dusty atmosphere of an English town. But it is a native of tropical America, where there is practically no dust, so the fact that the hairs do arrest foreign substances is no drawback. On the other hand, they serve a useful purpose—probably several. "They prevent undue transpiration," says Lord Avebury, in his "Notes on the Life History of British Flowering Plants"; "hence the hairiness of so many species of hot dry countries as the Riviera; they also protect the plant from too brilliant sunshine," which is probably the reason why gloxinias really need very little shade; "again, they keep moisture from clogging the stomata or breathing pores." And a little later he adds: "Water plants and those living in damp localities have no need of hairs, and are glabrous. Some species, such as Silene inflata and Polygonum amphibium, are glabrous in damp, and hairy in dry, places," which may be taken as a proof that a dry environment is the actual cause of the hairs. Here we get an important clue to the cultivation of plants like the gloxinia with hairy leaves. If they are to be grown under natural conditions—and in no other way can they be grown well—they must have a moist atmosphere. For this reason the gloxinia is not suitable for a house or window plant. The air of a room, even if it can be kept warm enough, is far too dry. Of course, a gloxinia may be brought inside for a few days while it is in flower, and will probably suffer no harm; but it should be taken out to the greenhouse again as soon as possible.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:

DEAREST MADGE,—The Easter holidays, coming as they do, at the most fickle season of the fickle year of our climes, are the most uncertain amongst the whole number of our holiday times, with regard to weather. At Christmas there is the certainty of winter in all its dour varieties; at Whitsuntide, of summer, in its infinite variabilities. But there is no certainty at all about Easter, except its uncertainty. We may have summer of a sort, as we had last week, or we may have winter of all sorts, as we had the week before; or, again, it may be that we have a "between" of spring. Our holiday preparations must be made with a view to all these things, somewhat in the spirit in which the White Knight prepared for eventualities. Last week it was evident that this spirit actuated the majority of the holiday makers; their cabs, wending their ways to the various railway stations in the capital, showed, in the heaped-up luggage, a wise forethought and provision for the "might be's" of Easter weather. For my part I love to watch the going forth of holiday wayfarers. An amiable interest, it might seem to be, in the happiness and enjoyment of one's fellow creatures. But, alas! the leaven of selfishness mars the amiability. I am no doubt glad that they are going, but undoubtedly still gladder that I am not. For is not the only good and complete way of enjoying a stay-at-home holiday to have the others go away? The change of atmosphere produced in the home is in its own sense just as enjoyable and salutary as the change of air aimed at by those who go far afield to take their holiday, after the usual fashion. What opportunities for a long suppressed individuality the stay-at-home member of a community gets when the rest of that community has dispersed. Especially if she

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be the one who mainly "runs the show." Her own individual tastes, so long stifled and thrust aside in the rush of life, can at last be indulged. All the books waiting to be read that can at last get their turn! The small domestic interests that can be looked after, the long and long-owed letters written to old friends. Above all those "things"—what woman does not possess them!—to be gone over and sorted and disposed of. And then the plans to be made, and, what might be called the wounded soldiers of the campaign—that is, the dilapidations caused by the wear and tear of the season—to be looked after and again put on the strength of the establishment. A holiday of activities in its own way perhaps, but "peace," too, "hath her victories." When all is said and done, the crown of the stay-at-home holiday at Easter remains, that it is independent of the weather. Let come what may outside, inside neither storm, rain, nor cold have power to disturb our peace, or put out our arrangements.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen were settled in the Viceregal Lodge last week, Lady Aberdeen's convalescence having allowed her to make the short move from the Castle. The two Viceregal residences are barely three miles apart, yet the differences in the healthfulness of their situations are very great. The Phœnix Park, with its wide stretches of grass, varied by sheltering woods, is one of the airiest places in the country. The principal apartments of the Viceregal Lodge face the ranges of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains, from which the winds blow across the intervening valley of the Liffey and the demesne lands of the Park. Lady Aberdeen has been improving so much since her change of residence that it is hoped she will be able to take part in the usual entertaining for Punchestown week, when a party of visitors is expected at the Viceregal Lodge. Sir Antony MacDonnell returned last week to the Under-Secretary's Lodge, and will no doubt, as usual, have a busy Easter holiday. What energy Irishmen, as a rule, get who spend the best part of their lives out of their own country. Only imagine what might happen supposing they were to make a great migration and people some distant land in their thousands. Such an accumulation of energy would develop a force which could not fail to have epoch-making effect in the world; and to think that, on the whole, we are so deficient in energy in our own island, as if, like many plants, we need transplanting to make us strong! One wonders if the climate is at fault in the matter. The "Department" might make useful experiments with regard to putting "grit" into the "bone idle" members of our community. The kind—we all know them over here—who cannot bear to work even when they are "tired resting."

Lord and Lady Ashbourne were both in Dublin last week. Rumour has it that Lord Ashbourne, who has no residence in his native land, is meditating the purchase of one. Lord and Lady O'Brien are not spending Easter in Dublin, but will return to Airfield, Donnybrook, for Punchestown week, when they will entertain a party of visitors for the national race meeting. Lord Rathmore pays his usual visit to Ireland at this time to the golf links of Greenore, on the breezy southern side of Carlingford Lough. Lord and Lady Grenfell have gone to Curraghmore, where Lord and Lady Waterford are entertaining visitors. Lord Monck is laid up with cataracts on the eyes, which at present make him blind, but will be soon removed by an operation. His only daughter, now become Lady Liverpool, has been laid up at her residence in the Castle Yard. Lord Monck's geniality makes him popular, and his many friends are anxious for his return to health. The season, with its sudden changes of temperature, has been a very trying one to most of us. But one feels hopeful of better things when the sun seriously sets about shining once again.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Next week for some nice recipes, dear.—Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

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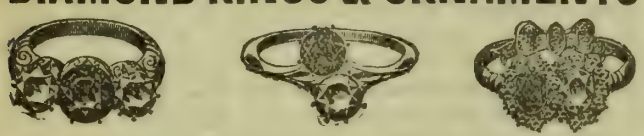

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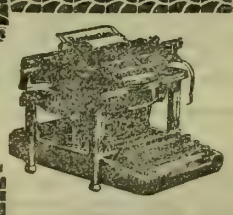

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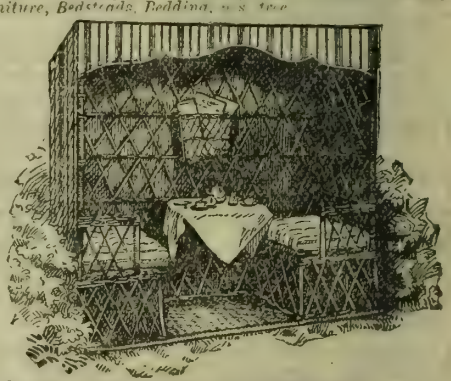

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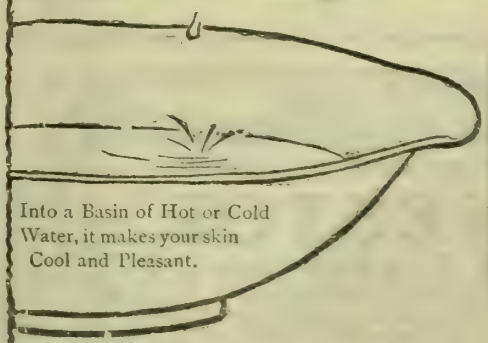

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14 letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,463.

EPIGRAMMATIC ESSAYS, SUPPLYING SOME PLAUSIBLE REASON FOR THE DECLINE AND FALL OF VALENTINE'S DAY.

The Prize of Two Guineas in this Competition is awarded to DERULA, whose Essay was printed in TRUTH of February 27th last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,464.

EXAMPLES OF A SMART AND APPROPRIATE PUNNING REJOINDER.

This proved a highly successful Competition, so many excellent examples being sent in that the Puzzle Editor's critical faculties have been severely exercised in adjudicating upon them.

On the whole, however, he has come to the conclusion that the example sent in by ALLEGRO is the best, and the Prize of Two Guineas is, therefore, awarded to that competitor. ALLEGRO'S example was printed in TRUTH of March 6th last.

Further Prize awards will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,471.

It was Thackeray, if I remember right, who once pointed out the possibilities of the advertisement novel, explaining what he meant by an example that ran somewhat as follows:—

"Lady Fanny entered the drawing-room, garbed in an exquisitely fitting tailor-made costume that bespoke the unrivalled handiwork of ———. Her little feet, cased in that dainty footwear of which Messrs. ——— alone have the secret, moved noiselessly over the soft pile of the magnificent carpet, the chef d'œuvre of ———, Limited, well known as the best house in the trade," etc., etc.

The above is not an exact quotation. I cannot, at the moment, put my hand on the passage. But it embodies the substance of the famous novelist's humorous suggestion, which, for present purposes, is all that matters.

Now I do not, of course, propose to set my competitors the mammoth task of writing an advertisement novel: but I do think an amusing and interesting Puzzle might result from asking them to construct an Advertisement Anecdote on such lines.

This week, therefore, I am offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas for

THE BEST "ADVERTISEMENT ANECDOTE," OF NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS, FRAMED ON THE MODEL GIVEN ABOVE, AND INTRODUCING THE NAMES OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FIRMS ADVERTISING IN THIS (CURRENT) ISSUE OF "TRUTH" (APRIL 3).

It is essential that the Anecdote, which may be on any subject, should be written in intelligible and grammatical English. Also the ingenuity of the manner in which the advertisements are introduced will be taken into account. But, subject to these conditions, and other things being equal, the Prize will be awarded to that Competitor who introduces the greatest number of advertisements within his limit of 200 words.

Competitors are requested to underline each advertisement, and to state the number which they claim to have introduced.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No competitor must send in more than one Advertisement Anecdote.

(ii) All Anecdotes must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, April 15, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EBORACUM.—Many thanks for so kindly wishing me the "Gaudium Paschale," and for your other complimentary remarks, which I much appreciate.

WINKLE.—The correction duly noted. Many apologies for the typographical error.

AGATHA.—Very pleased to welcome you.

WHIG.—I have, as you will see, duly substituted your amended paragraph.

ROLLING STONE.—Many thanks for your letter. I am glad that you appreciate our quarterly Puzzles for foreign competitors. In printing competitors' solutions, I have to be guided by the numbers sent in. But I shall hope to find space for yours when the time comes.

DEAFFY.—I am glad to hear that your perusal of TRUTH has led you to turn a deaf ear to the individual referred to. It is not surprising that he declined to undertake your cure on the "no cure, no pay" principle, as, in that event, he would never be able to claim your money, which is his sole object.

QUILP.—You raise an interesting point on which I cannot pronounce off-hand. For the moment, therefore, I reserve judgment.

WOODPECKER.—Your *nom-de-plume* duly registered.

NEALE.—I agree with you that it is an exacting Puzzle; but its popularity is evidenced by a phenomenal number of solutions received.

VALPARAISO.—Very pleased to welcome you. Your *nom-de-plume* duly registered. I think that our Foreign Puzzles bid fair to be a great success.

PRIOR PARK.—I will notify you of the dates of the issues of TRUTH in which the awards referred to are announced.

RIMABEL AND QU'APPELLE.—I much regret that your solutions of Puzzle No. 1,467 were received too late for inclusion.

ALPHA.—Your solution of Puzzle No. 2 Special Foreign duly received. I have noted your Penang address.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,468.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SHORT PARAGRAPHS IN WHICH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SURNAMES OF DISTINGUISHED LITERARY CHARACTERS ARE INTRODUCED.

N.B.—Owing to lack of space, it has been found impossible to print the "Keys" which most competitors have forwarded with their solutions. But such keys have all been carefully filed and will be consulted by the Puzzle Editor in his adjudication.

The usual winter gift of this young jewel of a landlord to the Goldsmith's son, took the form of hog, lamb, or bacon, with about eleven hundredweight [illegible] coals and coke; and a little (grey) grass-weed to cook with. Swiftly the ready porter [illegible] waistcoat carried home the news (57).—Bacon.

SPRING

Sterne winter rules no more; gray knight's shorter, sweet day smiles longer, murray black birds carroll overhead. Grand Phœbus speeds westward, brightening greenwoods, meadows, orchard lees. Sterne swallow and gay young duke wheedles coy step to church. "I'll be home," short say. Summer's charming, hawthorne's white. Lamb's deer lyte burns strongly upward (57).—Shamus.

STRANGE DELUSION OF A CRIMINAL LUNATIC.

Grey-haired pope, stern bishop, writer proud, hardwooden, locksmith, grim long fellow savage with jews when [illegible] Young [illegible] gay lighthearted [illegible] passed the swimming waters where [illegible] glass [illegible] and black scene, when [illegible] green [illegible] wood, and broom afford homes to lamb, sandmartin, hog or wolf (57).—Whig.

Savage blackamoors hopefully donning motley spensers, green, gray, lemon, white, brown, manifested hardihood, painfully fielding swift ball. About reposed hearty goldsmiths, grotesque highwayman, ploughman, locksmiths, millers, fowlers, bell-ringers, stonemasons, senior proctors, haggard tailors, canting priors, coopers, stowaways, carpenters, hairy warreners, strong castle wardens, marshalls, fletchers, soapboilers, gay, grand, salaried lady helps (56).—Sepe.

The stern, blind, white-faced locksmith wolfishly devours underdone bacon, pewter, crab, salmon, and lamb (which cook browning burns black). Prior like in grayish-brown spencer, this dire frenchman's boyhood, strangeness, and withering, steely smiles, tickle a gay, sharp, green-eyed, hardy, young millwright, a marvellous hardened who helps; blacking, painful, smarting button (44).—Lamb.

Long fellow's twain, hardy Scottish emigrants, in green hooded spencers (utter a military popish goldsmith), hopefully hunting, lit on reeds, canes, burns, black moorhens, and wild gray lambs. Browning bacon and oily shelly crabs with small etna. Each youngster, all smiles, partakes heartily: then, by running, hooked it swift [illegible] mewed (45).—Quip.

The browning wood pussy's the gay young lover swift to hope smiles. Merryman, standing under the hawthorn and crabbe, his hands [illegible] burns; he Cæsar cramming [illegible] green head at [illegible] spencer, eyes wells of truth, whiter swan [illegible] hands; he a grand longfellow, she little shrew (51).—Seventh Child.

FRAGMENT OF A LETTER.

Montreser, Christmas Day, 1907. I [illegible] home instead of Holland. [illegible] French cook, smart gardener, will [illegible] does [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] May [illegible] wild. Her lover will borrow [illegible] beggar. My [illegible] James [illegible] "O man has luck" (50).—Aster.

Quaint ground, sterne, haggard, butler who [illegible] fry young hogg [illegible] with pepp [illegible] pig, and wife's mare, [illegible] Burnham, shelling walnuts [illegible] crabbe, burns everything black. Norris be smart.

no hood or hatton his gray head, and a little hole in his green winter macktintosh would payn a savage taylor (35).—Mart.

The constant cook, in gay motley cotton spenser, and the hardy stern smith will marry at the white temple by the green hawthorne wood. The gray prior, in black hood with bede buckle, hazlitt the church. The grimm savage ussher smiles. "Lever," he praed. "Kant you hook it home and hyde?" (33). -Tony.

While the hardy gay cook burns the lamb and bacon, the stout stern dean, with a bright steel bar, helps the baker, painter, miller, and goldsmith hunt the swift wild wolf over the white snow. With a long brown cane the haggard young carpenter kills a peacock with little pain (32). -Ison.

A young gardiner in green spenser, and brown hood, smiles because a smith, a black longfellow, pursuing a swift white lamb over sand and burns, kant Cæsar from a grimm gibbon. Dickens! Scott! Howitt wood payne! Stern, wordsworth nothing. A cowper brings cable and cane, affording the twain more hope (33).—Bunny.

One wild, black winter knight, go-Verne-ss's young gray lamb stow-le a-cross moore, fenn, marsh and barr-en sand s, hall-ting a-long a swift brooke's green banks, haggard, haute-sick, payn-ed. Day fol-low-ing, grand-father's smart, poe-tly gardiner, a g-rously sterne, hardy, grimm, ridg-id, crabbe-d wood-landor, hope-fully pur-sue d, cumming ohn-et, more ro-ver, gay-zing va-kant-lee up-ward (48).—Belfastiensis.

Lamb, bacon, woodcock, crab consumed, the young knight hunts a grand hart across beck, burns, black moor, white shelly sand. Mason, smith, clerk, cooper's twain, long fellow's from savage pen join. The goldsmith in steel grey hood and spencer, locks his chambers and borrows a cane for his swift cob (37).—Westcliffe.

One wild winter knight a smart hardy young Scott, more sterne of harte than his butler, a gray longfellow in pain brought on by a bunyan, haggard after their hunt, seeking some dryden or sand pitt, lytton a mill. Smelling browning bacon and lamb they praed the miller grant swift admittance (30).—Jackpot.

MARVELLOUS STORY FOR YONGE TO READE.

Watts a lyte butler? Great Scott! spcke Lowe, the hall lodge burns swifdly! Longfellow tells howe we twain, saved bacon, raleighing cook and chamberlayne to open locke with sharp, steele hook, lever, crowe bar, savage knox on head and foote, and howitt was penned by (32).—Denmore.

A sterne, haggard, longfellow, in gray hood, green mackintosh, and steel buckle, burns bacon, while canning shelley crabbe in a dryden. A whittier, hardy, young tailor cried, "Watt's browning? Law! howitt howells. Palmore swift." Phillpotts-merriman. Watson whose wordsworth hawthorne a thorne. (Barr Caine) wood cook moore hogg." Bosswell? Addison (had his son) a bunyan? (40).—Bridget.

MR. HOGG OF CHICAGO AND ENGLISH EVELYN.

With gay harte, without payn or thiers, Evelyn bids her mudie, haggard lover lever. Yet he came, baring-gould, good stirling coyne, amassed by canning bacon. Her willis to marryatt home; and hermann, we hope, is some more juvenal swain, neither gray nor grimm, but a young, hardy, martial merriman (29).—Eboracum.

A stern brown hog to a gay, young, white lamb: "Home; hark, a sharp rustle; the grim, wild, savage wolf on the hunt!" "Croaker! where? North—south eh?" "The southern wood. More swift! Past rooks, burns, black pit, and moor to the green mead, with church, hall, and mill. Miller helps" (34).—Blair.

Young, gay, lyly-white cook, in steel gray spenser and greene hood, is canning suckling lamb, savage hogg, swift hare, wilde kyd, black nird, brown crabbe, and bacon. A sterne, grimm butler helps, handing about lemon peele, browning rice, and currie (Violet Fane). 'Shaw! kant speke more—sharp pain, akenside—howitt burns! (43).—Oberon.

A hardy young scott and a haggard goldsmith, whose bunyan burns, steele bacon, crabbe, onions, and a black hogg from the white mill. Gay miller and sterne butler marvell howitt is donne; borrow caine and barrow, locke and barr their holmes, and hunt through hawthorne wood and moore (50).—Allegro.

Hay winter day, gray and black, a smart yonge sergeant, haggard, white, and grimm, witn armstrong, lytton a suffragette. "Lord! howitt burns with payn," she said. "Hugo to Kingston and lever hatton," shouted Brenda alexander lover, a sharp mann from Carlyle. Stowe it, green horn, wood you hunt a trollope? (33) - Neale.

The browne, shelley sand, whereon the swift, martial, yonge Scot(t), a gay merriman, all smiles, treads, burns the bunyan of the grimm, sterne, Pope, wearing a spenser and steele gray hood, eating a plato bacon and marot, and swearing with payn. Burke more wordsworth nothing you kant, but rousseau carroll (29).—Nest.

In the barr sit smart sergeant, hardyscott, sterne clarke, haggard chapman, black colman, gay young baker, gray hared butler, white miller, taylor, cooper, carpenter, locke smith, and goldsmith. No trollope is yonge Suc; with swift smiles she helps to phillpotts fuller with meade. On steele hobbes bacon is browning (38).—Busy Bee.

A child in gray green hood stands upon the shelley beach. She smiles regarding her crabbe. A sterne sailor enjoying a bacon sandwich beams into her black eyes. "Tory," lisps the lamb. He yarns of Italy and the Pope. "More," a lanky, long fellow approaches with swift steps. "Daddy!" "Hog!" (15).—Puck.

Across black London swift bowls my landau, past hall, gray temple, sterne lawyer, goldsmith, haggard tailor, mason, locksmith, butler, hardy scott, trollope in gay, motley spenser, shawl, and hood of peacock hues. Read, rather, of green woods, white hawthornes, brown moors, poetic burns, lambs on knolls, young lovers' hopeful smiles (43).—Prak.

Evelyn Campbell's lover, Terence Buchanan, was a hardy young Scot, clever but wild. Swift of foot he strode the marshy moor, donned in marvellous and martial greene, his harte gay with hope, for words worth more than goldsmiths' pearles. Alas! a pater gray, sterne, and haggard, said, "Villon," out (Hugo" (33).—Owain.

Great Scott, lyctou, howe haggard read looks; did hall came nim? "No," said Vaughan the bright. Rice made him smart for taking Besant's lever off the hook in the ward. "The dickens!" he yelled, "howitt hurts!" We wood not interfere, till Bunyan, with a few wordsworth hearing, turned frounds into smiles.—Deaffy.

Swiftly donning lack and gray spensers, we gaily hied to the prior's cooks to ask 'em for lamb and bacon pies, for which we'd a marvellous mania. The deserving butler, a new man, helps. While browning, one tray-ful burns. Stern, then crabbe'd, he savage ly knocks out the dried 'uns (28).—Amsty.

"Now the lamb is browning," said cook one day, in tones stern(e) and swift. "Borrow more green bacon from the gay young gardener, but bar ham—you know what his word's worth! Then prepare the crab (be) and lemon peel(e) while that hardy Scot(t) helps the pater hunt the grey hare (25).—Amicus.

Little child, ure lover hazlitt on a gay day! Disraeli a grimm story! When coke, a newman, burns plato bacon black, kant boyle lamb wright, butler knox bowles crashaw swift young cobbe won't foxe-hunt more, orr ken watts landor brooks. Hood marvell howitt wood lever wiseman haggard, with gray hare? (50).—Minos.

Look, mark well, sillily, wistful, erring woman, who declares, unappalled, great priceless homer, shocking crabbed poet indeed; locker, wittier, but more exhausting. What shall reward such critical thought. "Hopeless, black cook Evelina, young trollop generally reads love romances day and night, burns leveres instead of browning with her simple sage (44).—Scotus Viator.

The sun burns fiercely, browning the hawthorn A young, black lamb doth steal into the grey shadows. A hardy, wild, gawky savage, haggard, stern, brown-faced, ignorant of tailor, pope or goldsmith, comes to hunt the shelly crab. I, gay nature's lover, marvel at his swift progress o'er the sands (26).—Cybele.

I steal a cane, and, donning brown hood and black spenser, with stern, grey, haggard face, swift seek the mill amid the hawthorn and crab trees. My bunion burns with grim, savage pain. I ache inside, and rent in twain, heed no more the young lamb bleat, nor bird carol (25).—Arachne.

A black, haggard with pain, prayed a hardy goldsmith to weed a ridge, saying:—"I would be merry, man, and carol hopefully, but a bunion brought on by a stern long fellow with a steel bar, burns like the dickens. What's more, I go swiftly to marry at church" (25).—Padre.

When the fire, lit on the hearth, burns, and cook is browning the bacon, and putting more rusk in the oven, what say you to shop an hour and buy lamb and a hare; or shall we play tennis on the green, or will you go to the goldsmith? (15).—Snob.

Ouida Whittier Story Ovid to Reade in "Blackwood."—Stevenson Herbert Sydney, hardy young goldsmith, left Shorthouse, Sand Holmes, gray, haggard, sterne, and pain at harte, to marry at Yorke his lover, May Fielding. Hope makes gay, so merriman merrimée, southey crossland, to "Green Bell," Newtownsmith, for bacon, lamb, and stale porter (42).—Fox.

Cook, "Hook the black bacon hog on the leaver, be smart," I read. Robert burns a rusk in browning a lamb, so hunt for some more. Then borrow some sand from the miller, and trench it by the hawthorne in the wood, where the haggard lover smiles at pain when hearts are twain (25).—Woodpecker.

Grim and haggard, the stern, savage Scot, on his couch of pain, prayed for light. Behind, his butler—a merry man, and hardy as steel—began to read a gay riddle to himself. Robins on the green hawthorn outside in the wood chattered on. Hope was black within his heart (24).—E. Rolfe.

The gardener takes the smart young cob, swift as a hare, from the stables to the smith. He jumps the brook, has lit on the mill banks, alarming the black swan by the ford. The twain race in wood and mead, and come in just as more rain falls (23).—G. Rolfe.

Adam's grand young hope as a smart gardiner was to raleigh (rally) green hawthorne and white rosebery in meade, fenn, beaconsfield, and wood. The browne homer, shelley crabbe, ceasy crowe, gray foxe, swift hare, hardy hocking hogg, motley fielding lamb, and black swan, but more, wilde, haggard winter, aristotle (are his total) bain (39).—Alpha Beta.

A fox will steele lamb, but howitt burns to reach home without payn. Hog makes bacon, and cook helps to brown it when bell rings for breakfast amid gay smiles. Why marry at all if you are only to receive black knox? Watts more, I marvel at the dyer idea (22).—Canning.

The campbell sounded, and John's son, haggard and white, yet stern, crossed the swift burns toward the gray moor of Perthshire. He heard a dickens of a noise. Great Scott, what's that, he cried with hope. A hardy lamb? Howitt makes me long for home again (19).—G. V. T.

Olivia smiles gaily, her Bert returns home soon. Her hopeful heart how it burns! Her young lover swiftly crosses the field in which she reposes, scattering the grey lambs. A long fellow this Scot, stern and haggard. They will hunt or play tennis on Monday morning. Words worth millions follow (24).—Oiseau.

John's son, a grey long fellow Scot, would marry at Beacon's field. Thacker raised the dickens, as hoped at green moor. Neighbours granted landaus, cobs, lambs, black cock, harts, and borrowed canes and spencers. Young hardy martins, shelly crabs and rusk in bacon brought on the haggard lovers appalling pain (35).—Early Morning.

Stern winter departs, March steals in, no more sharp black frost. Gay little lambs rush swiftly round the hawthorn. The shepherd, a smart long fellow, smiles, and cane in hand (which he shakes spear like), helps them home. His had been no grey childhood of knocks, pain, and shocking burns (32).—Echo.

Tom's son, Sydney, writes home regularly from Henley. He lodges with the butler, near the lock, grey mill, and hawthorn green. He has hope of stealing more cricket, with swifter fielding, prior to sterner work. Ben's son has the hardihood of a scot, and is gay, young, merry man (25).—Nurse.

Paragraphs have also been received from:—The Girl, St. Moritz, Salsillo, Dudhope, Asthore, Penny, Northlander, Little Jim, Petite, Neptune, Carl, Senga, Sheila, Wensleydale, Divitiacus, Juvenis, Mascotte, Robin Hood, Sceptic, Phreda, Klondyke, P. T. O., Spartan, N. D. P., Melchora, West Park, Hyde, Elim, Singher, Envoy, Grannie, Crescendo, Faulty, Biscuits, Neophyte, Agatha, Caw, Carrots, Winkle, Quis, Ethna, Crevan.

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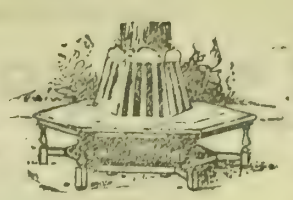

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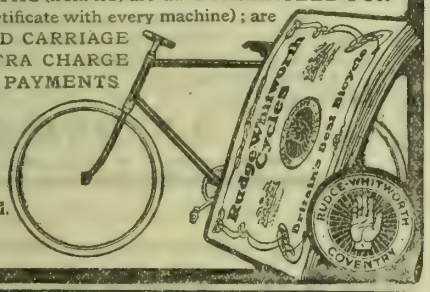

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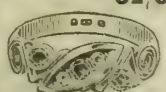

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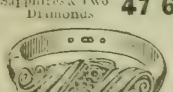

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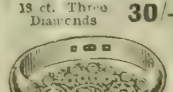

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1580. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, April 10, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I HAVE to thank a great many of my readers for their response to the tentative appeal which I made the other day for assistance in continuing the late Sir Francis Barry's gift of sixpences to the London workhouse children in connection with the Truth Toy Fund. I have received numerous promises of donations and several gifts in cash. I am not prepared to say offhand what I will do in this matter, but I hope to make a definite announcement on the subject next week. In the meantime it would greatly assist me in coming to a decision if I could receive a little more evidence that the whole 11,000 sixpences are likely to be raised, and I shall be very glad to hear from other ladies and gentlemen who will be willing to contribute. I should be very sorry to see this annual treat to so many poor children dropped, and I hope that enough people will share that feeling to prevent such a catastrophe.

The statement that the King and Queen are to cruise in the Mediterranean "for several weeks" is nonsense. His Majesty is to return to London before the end of this month, so that his cruise cannot last more than sixteen days at the longest after the *Victoria and Albert* leaves Cartagena. The King will not stop in Paris on his homeward journey, but he is to travel direct to Calais from the port at which his cruise terminates, which will probably be Naples or Genoa. The Queen will not return to England for about three weeks, as her Majesty and Princess Victoria are coming back by sea, and will land at Portsmouth. The King and Queen are to visit Malta during their cruise, and will probably arrive there towards the end of next week.

The King and Queen of Denmark will be the guests of their Majesties both at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor Castle during their visit to England, which is now expected to take place directly after the Whitsuntide holidays. It is probable that King Frederick and Queen Louise will be present at the fourth Court of the season, and a State Ball and a State Banquet (the latter followed by a diplomatic and official reception) are to be given at the Palace in their honour. There will also be a gala performance at the opera. It is understood that the King and Queen of Denmark will stay in England until after the Ascot meeting, and that they are to be the guests of the King and Queen at Windsor Castle during the race week. King Frederick is expected to visit Oxford, Cambridge, Southampton, and Portsmouth during his stay in England, and he will go to the Isle of Wight in order to inspect the Royal Naval School at Osborne.

It is understood that the King of Denmark and the King of Norway will pay an official visit to Paris during the last week in May, but, according to the latest arrangements, neither Queen Louise nor Queen Maud will go there. The King and Queen of Denmark and the King and Queen of Norway are expected to visit the Court of the Netherlands at The Hague just before the two Kings proceed to Paris, Brussels being visited by them *en route*. It is probable that while King Frederick is in Paris Queen Louise will remain at The Hague, rejoining his Majesty on his arrival in London, while Queen Maud will come at once to England, when her husband leaves for Paris, on a private visit to their Majesties.

Lord Althorp has attended the King and Queen on their yachting cruise by invitation of his Majesty, and Sir Charles Hardinge is officially in attendance. Sir Stanley Clarke and Major Ponsonby (who relieved Sir Arthur Davidson on Saturday) are the equerries-in-waiting on the King, and Major Ponsonby is acting as

private secretary to his Majesty. The Queen is attended by Lady Antrim, Miss Charlotte Knollys, and Mr. Sidney Greville. Admiral Sir John Fisher is on board the *Victoria and Albert*.

At the Council which the Prince of Wales held the other day for the King at Marlborough House, an order of the Sovereign was formally approved which gives authority to the Bishop of Ely to sell Ely House, the episcopal residence of the see in Dover-street. There is certainly no object in the Bishop of Ely keeping a town house, and its maintenance must involve great and utterly useless expense. Formerly, the Bishop of Winchester had a large house in St. James's-square, but it was sold about 1874 after the death of Bishop Wilberforce, and the price (about £40,000) was devoted towards the endowment of the new see of St. Albans. This diocese was formed out of Rochester, which then relieved Winchester of a considerable area.

Prince Arthur of Connaught has been staying during the last ten days at the Château de Fabron on a visit to the Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. A paragraph has appeared in numerous journals which states that Prince Arthur's "recent visit to Berlin" was connected with a project for his betrothal to a German Princess. This is a mere invention. As a matter of fact, Prince Arthur has not been anywhere near Berlin. He spent three weeks at Stockholm, and made a short halt at Copenhagen on his homeward journey to England.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught will take up their residence at Clarence House, St. James's Palace, when they return to England next week, and are to be in town until Whitsuntide, when they will go to Bagshot Park for the holidays. Prince and Princess Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden are expected to spend the month of June in England as the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

The Empress Marie's plans have been changed several times, but she finally decided to go for a short time to Biarritz, to join her daughter and son-in-law, the Grand Duchess Xenie and the Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch, who have been staying there for several months. The Empress Marie and the Queen have arranged to meet again in Denmark early in September, when they will reside for a few weeks at their recently purchased villa on the Sound near Klampenborg, which is within a walk of the Royal châteaux of Bernstorff and Charlottenlund. It is probable that the Queen of Norway will join her mother in Denmark, instead of the Queen herself visiting Norway again this year.

For Appeals, see page 926.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 920.
For Special for Ladies, see pages 921, 922.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 919, 920.
For Amusements, see pages 916, 917.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 925, 926.

One of the ceremonials during the visit of Prince Fushimi of Japan will be a State investiture of the Order of the Bath, which is to be held by the King in the Throne-room at Buckingham Palace. His Majesty intends to confer the First Class of the Bath (G.C.B. Civil Division) upon Prince Fushimi. The principal members of the Prince's suite will also be decorated by his Majesty, probably with the Second Class of the Royal Victorian Order.

Princess Henry of Battenberg will go to Germany for a few weeks when she leaves Spain, and she intends to take a course of waters at Kissingen, besides paying some visits. Prince Alexander of Battenberg is on a visit to the Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at the Château de Fabron; Prince Leopold, who is in the Canary Islands, is going to Magdalen College, Oxford, when he returns to England; and Prince Maurice is staying at Cumberland Lodge with Prince and Princess Christian. Princess Henry of Battenberg is not expected to return to the Isle of Wight until towards the end of July, when she will resume her residence at Osborne Cottage for two or three months.

A weekly contemporary announces, on the alleged authority of "a foreign diplomat," that at a recent "Court function" at Madrid, King Alfonso "clambered down from his throne, and proceeded to mount one of the huge golden lions that crouch at its foot." The "foreign diplomat" has been grossly hoaxing my contemporary, and he probably wonders whether there are any limits to the gullibility of the conductors of certain journals. Of course, no such incident has occurred at Madrid. Some such tale was circulated about a century ago concerning the mad King of Denmark, but it is rather hard that King Alfonso should be credited with such a crazy freak, for which only insanity or intoxication could account. Whatever branch of trade may be dull there is certainly much activity in the business of fabricating fictions of the "lie circumstantial" order about great people, both at home and abroad.

CASTLES IN SPAIN.

In Spain they're rather previous
About the unborn heir;
'Twere time to start such public fuss
When little stranger's there.

But p'rhaps I'm foolish to complain.
'Tis in the Spanish air.
We know what "castles built in Spain"
Still are, and always were.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen had a restful holiday time at the Viceregal Lodge, where a small family party was assembled. This week some Viceregal entertaining will be done in honour of the National Race Meeting, as usual. Lord Aberdeen's sympathy with horse-racing is not as pronounced as are his many other Irish sympathies; attendance at "Punchestown," however, comes within the boundaries of an Irish Lord-Lieutenant's duties, whatever his individual tastes may be.

At the beginning of next month Lord Aberdeen, with Lady Aberdeen and a large Viceregal party and suite, will open the Irish International Exhibition in State. It is built in Herbert Park, mainly on the Pembroke estate, quite close to Ball's Bridge, so well known in connection with the Royal Dublin Society's Horse Show. In old days the historic Donnybrook Fair, with its truculent traditions, used to be held in this neighbourhood.

Mr. Birrell's visit to Ireland at Easter, with Mrs. Birrell and his son, began by a stay in the South, at Queenstown, near Cork, with Admiral and Mrs. King Hall. Like most of his predecessors, Mr. Birrell has taken the opportunity of a holiday for getting his first object lessons in the country whose destinies are mainly in his hands. His vigorous speech in Dublin during the week pleasantly suggests that he dares "do all that may become a man," and an Irish Chief Secretary. He reminded the people that a "Question" is not a mere Irish specialty. Every country may be said to stock one of its own. Nevertheless, the Irish "Question" has some special features which distinguish it from the other "Questions." For one thing, Ireland is all "Question," and for another it is one that has never as yet had an answer. Such, at least, is the opinion in Ireland. The Chief Secretary has not as yet set up his residence in the official Lodge in the Phœnix Park, but has given a few days to learning Dublin Castle as the man on the spot.

The Dowager Lady Scarbrough, who died last week, only survived her brother, Sir Victor Drummond, for ten days. She was a daughter of the late Mr. Andrew Drummond, of Cadland Park, Hants, and (through her mother) a granddaughter of the fifth Duke of Rutland. She was married in 1846 to the ninth Earl of Scarbrough, who died in 1884. Lady Scarbrough was very popular in society, and a charming hostess. In her day, Sandbeck Park, the family seat in Yorkshire, was a most popular entertaining house. During her widowhood she divided her time between Lumley Castle, near Durham (her dower house) and her cottage at Fawley, on Southampton Water. She leaves two sons and four daughters—Lady Zetland, Lady Bradford, Lady Grosvenor, and Lady Bolton.

Sir Henry Elliot, who has died at the age of ninety, had a long and successful career in the Diplomatic Service, but he was more indebted for his professional good fortune to family interest than to his own superior merits. Sir Henry was a younger son of the second Earl of Minto, and one of his sisters was the second wife of Lord John Russell. He commenced life in 1837 as aide-de-camp to Sir John Franklin, then Governor of Tasmania, but returned to England in 1840, when Lord Palmerston (willing to oblige his colleague, Lord John, then Home Secretary) pitchforked him into the Foreign Office as a précis writer. A year later, just before the Whigs went out of office, Lord Palmerston perpetrated quite a series of jobs for the benefit of relatives of his colleagues, and Sir Henry Elliot became paid attaché at St. Petersburg, where he remained until 1848. Lord Palmerston then transferred him to The Hague, whence he proceeded to Vienna as Secretary of Embassy. He became Minister at Copenhagen in 1858, and a year later Lord John Russell (now Foreign Secretary) appointed his brother-in-law to be Minister at Naples. He was afterwards employed on a special mission to Athens.

In 1863 Lord John Russell excited general indignation by recalling Sir James Hudson, who had been for many years the very efficient Minister at Turin, and afterwards at Florence, in order to make a vacancy for Sir Henry Elliot, who was transferred by Lord Stanley (the late Lord Derby) to Constantinople, in 1867, where he remained for over ten years. He was removed by Lord Derby to Vienna at the end of 1877, and stayed there for six years, and he then retired from the service on a pension. Sir Henry Elliot was severely criticised by the Liberals in 1876 and 1877, as it was thought that he had been by no means energetic in denouncing the Bulgarian atrocities, and he was regarded as a decided friend of Turkey with a considerable sympathy for the troubles of the Porte.

Sir Willian Hulton, who died at San Remo last week, was the head of a very old family, although his baronetcy dated only from December, 1905. The Hultons have been seated in Lancashire since the Conquest, and they have lived at Hulton Park, near Bolton, since the estate was acquired by Blethyn de Hulton during the reign of Henry II. Sir William owned a large estate, and he was the possesser of extensive and very valuable collieries. He had been for forty years most actively associated with Lancashire public affairs, and he had exercised great influence on the County Council. Sir William, who was a Conservative and a staunch Churchman, was a man of remarkable ability and high culture. He took much pride in the office of Constable of Lancaster Castle, the keys of which he held, and he ceremoniously received in person the armorial shield of each new Sheriff of Lancashire to add to the interesting collection of these memorials in the Shire Hall within the Castle.

No less than forty-six States will be represented at the forthcoming Conference at the Hague, and the problem of finding accommodation for the diplomatists and their staffs, together with the crowd of journalists, international busybodies, and mere sightseers who will follow in their train, will tax the resources of the little Dutch capital to the utmost. One result of this will be to bring much grist to the mills of Scheveningen, which is only a quarter of an hour's run by electric tram from the scene of the Conference. Several of the delegates are arranging to take up their quarters at Scheveningen, and no doubt their example will be extensively followed, so that in addition to the immediate influx of visitors the charms of the North Sea watering-place will receive a world-wide advertisement. Those who have ex-

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1a, Finsbury, London.

perienced the benefits of a holiday at Scheveningen may even hope that its delightful effect on mind and body may do something to promote the cause of international peace and goodwill.

TO LORD LISTER,

On his Birthday, April 5, 1907.

'Tis meet to-day that Science weaves
Her choicest bays to deck his hair—
His, but for whom half-helpless were
The skill of Playfair or of Treves.

As Newton to the starry sphere,
Columbus to the unknown West,
So to his Art he stands confessed
Its epoch-making pioneer.

For though, perchance, be found there may
Those who the Master now outshine,
'Twas but by following out his line:
The glory his who showed the way.

It is very gratifying to an editor to know that he is regarded as a sort of universal adviser, the unfailing and infallible guide, philosopher, and friend of the public on every conceivable point. Sometimes, however, even an editor finds himself perplexed, not to say floored, by the questions that he is called upon to answer. Here, for instance, is a letter which reached me a few days ago:—

I contemplated visiting London in order to be present at the Final of the Football Association, but as I do not know anybody in London I rather fear I should be lost.

I would esteem it a great favour if you would tell me how to proceed when I arrive at the station.

I should allot say, £1 for expenses of keep during my stay in London, which would be about a week.

No, my hasty readers, you are wrong. The letter is not from a cautious Scot determined to avoid the awful fate of his countryman of "bang went saxpence" fame. It is from an Irishman and he writes from Dublin. What on earth am I to tell him? I suppose that I must not send him to the Ritz or the Carlton, and he might not be satisfied with Rowton House. The sovereign is apparently intended to cover all the expenses of his week in London. On the whole, I think I had better advise him to remain in Dublin.

Apropos of a recent paragraph, a correspondent points out that banks are not singular in requiring receipts to be forwarded before delivery of the documents, receipt of which is acknowledged. The Inland Revenue authorities follow the same practice. If taxes have to be repaid, the receipt is sent first, and when it has been signed and returned, the money which it acknowledges is forwarded. I suppose it is not likely that, having got a receipt out of a creditor, Somerset House would refuse to pay over the money; but the course of procedure is irregular and unbusinesslike, and there is no more excuse for adopting it in the business of a Government office than there would be between two parties in private life.

The other day I was asked for advice by a lady who had obtained a temporary engagement as a governess through an agency conducted by Miss Lennox Carr, at 120, New Bond-street. The lady really went to the situation on trial, and left at the end of the first three months, whereupon Miss Lennox Carr demanded a commission on a year's salary. The claim is apparently based on conditions printed on Miss Carr's prospectus, which are as follows:—

A temporary engagement is one made for any term under two months. . . . .

Should a temporary engagement last longer than two months it becomes a yearly one, and subject to a commission at the usual rate as mentioned above.

Consequently, a governess engaged for three months "on appro.," and leaving at the end of that time, is expected to pay 5 per cent. on nine months' salary which she has never received. Miss Lennox Carr evidently thinks that a court of law will uphold this claim, as she is threatening the unfortunate governess with her solicitor; but I should not advise any one to pay such a claim until its legal validity has been established; and, whether good or not in law, it seems a very harsh kind of extortion.

I have been interested to learn from a copy of the *Central African Times* which has been sent to me that the recent Queer Story Competition in Truth has been providing amusement for the British Colony at Blantyre. Being too far off to join in the competition in the usual way, some of the residents at Blantyre got up a sweepstakes on their own account, with a half-crown entrance fee, for the benefit of the competitor who should successfully elucidate the fate of the unhappy young woman, Amy Beadle. Judging from a metrical solution of the mystery which I have also received, and have handed over to my Puzzle Editor, the winner is likely to have been pretty near the mark, and I hope he got plenty of half-crowns. It has always been a matter of regret to me that the many readers of Truth in distant parts of the Empire are unable to compete for the prizes offered weekly in my puzzle column, and in conjunction with my Puzzle Editor I have lately arranged to run special competitions for their benefit. But the method adopted at Blantyre seems to offer a simple means by which any British Colony may get up Truth competitions on its own account.

It has been my misfortune to incur the wrath of a lady, owing to my unsympathetic attitude towards "Votes for Women." The wrathful dame says that she is not a Suffragette herself, but she does not like to hear unkind things said about those who are. She must find her newspapers rather unpleasant reading nowadays, and I do not know why she has singled me out for reproach above all other male journalists. But she tells me that I am no gentleman, and she holds up to me the example of Mr. Labouchere, who, though opposed to the political ambitions of the other sex, "never forgot that he was a gentleman when speaking of them." Should this meet the eye of the gentleman referred to, he may possibly think, even if too gentlemanly to say it, that in those days ladies never forgot that they were ladies. But it is not only "Votes for Women." "Your paper has become," says the lady, "not only in this, but in its general

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

tone, deplorably *vulgar*." By way of raising its tone, the good woman is going about persuading all her friends not to dress dolls for children in the hospitals and workhouses next Christmas, and she has good hope of achieving a success which will teach me a lesson. I fear I should only make matters worse if I said what I think about this; but my opinion of the ladies who read Truth is such that I have no fear about the dolls.

I am curious to know whether any reader of Truth has had any experience of a Mrs. Davis, of Helebridge, Bude, who seems to do a considerable business in supplying newspapers and magazines second-hand. A lady who recently paid Mrs. Davis £2 9s. 6d. in order to be supplied weekly with the *Illustrated London News*, the *County Gentleman*, and *Hearth and Home*, received the papers very irregularly for some time. Her son wrote to complain, whereupon he received an abusive letter from Mr. Davis, who stated that he had opened his wife's letter, and that he was in a position to prove that the papers had been posted regularly, adding that unless he received a full and complete apology, "you will neither hear from me again, nor receive any papers for the future." Apparently this threat has been carried out.

The Editor of *Hearth and Home* appears to have heard of other cases in which customers of Mrs. Davis, or Mr. Davis, have had equally unsatisfactory experiences. I trust that no reader of Truth has been equally unfortunate. The practice of obtaining weekly and monthly periodicals in this way is very general, and those of us who are interested in the sale of such publications have no particular reason to complain of it, for no doubt it enables many people to obtain them who cannot afford to buy copies for their sole use. But this is not the first time that I have heard of money having been paid without getting value in return; and it seems desirable in all these cases to know for certain with whom you are dealing before you part with your cash.

I have received the following letter from a friend learned in astronomy, in reference to a recent paragraph in Truth on the question of providing a house for the Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford. Since that paragraph appeared the question has been very fully discussed in the *Times*. From that discussion, I gather that there is a difference of opinion at Oxford as to how far the Professor is bound to be an "observer" rather than a teacher; though there seems no room for doubt as to the value of Professor Turner's work in the former capacity. The argument that an astronomical observer must reside close to his observatory may be valid enough in itself, but so is the objection to further building in the Parks, even within the Observatory grounds; and I suppose that the University authorities considered that it might be possible to find lodgings for the Professor near enough to the scene of his labours for all practical purposes:—

The proposal was simply to build a house in the Observatory enclosure, which would in no way encroach on the park, and it is worthy of note that the heads of all the departments of the University Museum, except the Regius Professor of Medicine, who was away at the time, expressed the hope that a residence might be added to the Observatory, "so as to give the Savilian Professor the facilities for the direction of observation which are provided in the case of every University and State Observatory known to us." They added "the necessity for a residence, which is thus universally recognised, is a natural consequence of the conditions under which astronomical work must always be conducted"; and this can scarcely be questioned.

It seems to be suggested by some people that observation is no necessary part of the work of the Savilian Professor. It is, however, specifically and emphatically enjoined by the founder, whose ideas have been confirmed by subsequent enactments. Doubtless, the teaching work of the Professor is of the highest importance, but practical observation cannot fail to add to its value, and observing work of the kind that has been done by the present Savilian Professor is admitted on all hands to have been of much importance to astronomy and a great credit to Oxford.

You suggest that the Savilian Professor of Astronomy might use the Radcliffe Observatory. This was done up to about 1839, when the use of that Observatory was refused by the Radcliffe Trustees, and many years later the University built its own Observatory. The field of modern astronomy is so vast that there is ample room for both, and their work does not clash; indeed, a great deal of meteorological work is done at the Radcliffe, and this does not come within the scope of University Observatory work at all.

The truth probably is that the opponents of the scheme for adding to the efficiency of the University Observatory have little sympathy with science in any shape, and are equally indifferent to and ignorant of the conditions and requirements of observational astronomy.

Archdeacon Emery has resigned the Archdeaconry of Ely, to which he was appointed by Lord Palmerston in 1864, and he is to be succeeded by Dr. Cunningham, the well-known Vicar of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge. The stipend is £600 a year. Archdeacon Emery retains the residentiary stall in Ely Cathedral to which he was collated by Bishop Harold Browne in 1870. He has most efficiently filled the onerous office of Honorary Secretary to the Church Congress for forty years. Bishop Chase's selection of Dr. Cunningham for this preferment meets with general and hearty approval, and it is hoped at Cambridge that it is a stepping-stone to higher promotion. Dr. Cunningham is a noted scholar and a learned theologian, and he has also written largely on a variety of economic and industrial questions.

Dean Wace was to have left Canterbury on Easter Monday for a holiday on the Continent, but he was obliged to postpone his departure, as he found himself the only member of the Chapter in residence, all the six Canons being absent. Archdeacon Smith, who was the Canon-in-chief at the Cathedral last month, had gone abroad; and Canon Moore, who was to have replaced him on March 25, is laid up at Rome with influenza. The Bishop of Dover and Canon Page-Roberts are in Cornwall, Canon Mason is abroad, and Canon Stuart (the newly appointed residentiary) cannot be installed until the 26th, when he will at once go into residence.

The Bishop of London, who has been residing for several months at London House, is now staying at Bournemouth for a short time. The Bishop will settle at Fulham Palace on Thursday, the 18th. He is leaving England on August 31 to spend two months in the United States and Canada. He will go to Richmond, Virginia, to attend the General Convention of the American Episcopal Church, which will then celebrate

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its tercentenary, and he is to be present at the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Cathedral at Washington. The Bishop of London contemplates a visit to Russia next year.

Canon MacColl was a most strenuous and untiring controversialist, and for forty years he had been constantly engaged in political and theological pamphleteering and newspaper correspondence. He was the son of a sheep-farmer in Inverness-shire, and was, of course, brought up as a Presbyterian, but after he had been ordained in 1861 he developed into a High Churchman of the advanced school. He deserved immense credit for the success with which he overcame his lack of University training by many years of very hard and difficult work. He was eloquent and interesting both on a platform and in the pulpit, and his table talk was as excellent as it was varied and inexhaustible. He was kindly and genial, and very hospitable, and all who knew him liked him, for he was a charming, and in many respects an original, personality.

Canon MacColl was an intimate friend and an enthusiastic supporter of Mr. Gladstone. After serving several curacies in or near London, he was presented by Mr. Gladstone, in 1871, to the Crown living of St. George's, Botolph-lane, which church was closed many years ago, the incumbent receiving the income of the benefice until his death. In 1884 Canon Birch (who was tutor to the King in his boyhood) happened to die during a vacancy in the see of Ripon, so the appointment to his stall in the Cathedral fell for that turn to the Crown, and Mr. Gladstone nominated Mr. MacColl. He was the only High Churchman in the Chapter, and he did much to improve both the services and the position of the Cathedral in the diocese. Some years ago he was complimented by his colleagues by being elected their Proctor in Convocation, where he soon became a prominent figure.

A correspondent writes:—

Your statement in this week's Truth that the late Earl of Liverpool, after his removal to Kirkham Abbey, usually read the lessons in *the parish church* is, I think, not quite correct, for my impression is that Kirkham Abbey is what is known as "extra-parochial," and owes allegiance to no ecclesiastical parish. By the way, can you tell me how the peculiarity of being extra-parochial arose? I have heard the late Earl read the lessons at Whitwell Church, and very well he read them too; but Whitwell is in the North Riding, and Kirkham Abbey is across the Derwent in the East Riding.

I have always supposed that the peculiarity of being "extra-parochial" arose from the church being, or having been originally, a private institution, or controlled by a religious order. In the case above referred to I should guess that the church belonged originally to a monastery, and has remained independent of any parochial authority. But I am a child in these matters.

A late secretary of one of the principal London hospitals writes:—

In Truth of March 20 you comment somewhat unfavourably on the practice of resident officers at our general hospitals refusing to give information, without first receiving a fee, to a solicitor making inquiries on behalf of a client who is meditating a claim for injuries received in an accident. Are you quite just in your comments? I do not defend discourtesy, but I would ask why should a doctor be asked to give an opinion without remuneration? Will the solicitor make no charge to his client for advice on the case? Only recently a solicitor resented the action of a doctor in declining to report on a case without a fee, stating that his client was a poor man. To this the doctor replied that if the solicitor was willing on this account to forego his charges he would do likewise. No answer has been received to this proposal.

My correspondent, like the doctors, seems to miss the whole point of the complaint. A solicitor may not be content to forgo his fees, but if the client is a poor man, he generally has to wait for his remuneration until the case is finished, and to finance his client in the meantime. At the most he only asks the doctor to do the same, since, if the doctor's evidence is really required, he must be paid his usual fee, and probably in advance. The question is whether a solicitor, who is merely making preliminary inquiries in getting up a case, should be precluded from doing so unless he is willing to pay a doctor's fee out of his own pocket, in complete ignorance as to whether he will get any information that is of the slightest use to him. Every witness who gives evidence in court expects payment, but I never heard of a witness in any other walk of life insisting on payment before he will even tell a suitor what evidence he can give.

I am asked to mention that the annual dinner in support of St. John's Foundation School, Leatherhead, for the free education and maintenance of the sons of the poor clergy will take place at the Merchant Taylors' Hall on the 23rd instant. Lord Addington will preside. The Rev. Sutton Patterson, 17, Queen's Mansions, Victoria-street, S.W., is the secretary of the charity

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MARRIAGE AT THE SEA-SIDE.

(A Word to Mothers.)

Statistics they've lately been taking
Of marriage at sea-side resorts,
And certes—unless they've been faking—
Most sinister are their reports.
For the damsels who live by the brine O,
From chicken to toughened old hen,
Can't marry—or so they repine O—
Because of the shortage of men.

At Worthing, for instance, the females
To the men are as three is to two;
And what, understocked thus with he-males,
Is the surplus of damsels to do?
Yea, how can poor Katie or Carry,
Though they long for him never so bad—
How, I ask you, a man can they marry,
When there isn't a man to be had?

But why are the men gravitating
From Worthing, or Brighton, or Hove,
And leaving the girls who'd be mating
Bereft of their presence and love?
Can't say. Still, the facts thus remaining,
Don't worry your head with the "whys,"
But accept, without need of explaining,
These practical words of advice:

"O, take you to Mocha your coffee,
To Newcastle carry your coals,
To Everton pack off your toffee,
To Dover consign you your soles;
To Bath send Chalybeate waters,
To Ceylon forward shiploads of tea,
But don't, O ye mothers of daughters,
Don't carry your girls to the sea."

Lady Henry Somerset writes on Nervousness, and How to Overcome it, on page 924.

A correspondent writes:—

With reference to your remarks of March 27, I venture to point out that there is one fatal objection to Mr. Haldane's scheme, and that is, that it will wipe out an old element of the Volunteers altogether—*i.e.*, the gentry, professional men, and shopkeepers. As you point out, the Volunteers have for some time been recruiting men of the Militia type. Mr. Haldane's scheme will make the territorial army entirely of this one class, with the result that no other class will take any active part in the defence of their country. How this result can appear satisfactory to Radical or Conservative I am at a loss to understand.

It is astonishing to see the confidence with which people are able to predict precisely what is going to happen under Mr. Haldane's scheme. My correspondent, who knows so much about it, might at least have informed us why Mr. Haldane's scheme should have this particular effect. Only last week I published a letter from another gentleman who was equally confident that Mr. Haldane's scheme would make volunteering impossible for working men. Both of them cannot be right, though it is by no means improbable that both are wrong. The County Associations which will have the raising of the territorial battalions will probably do their best to enlist men of all classes; and I should have thought that under such management the tendency that the Volunteers have shown to recruit themselves more and more from the working classes is quite as likely to be checked as increased. Although the writer of the above letter considers that it would be a "fatal objection" to Mr. Haldane's second line if it is recruited entirely from one class, it seems to me quite a secondary consideration from what class it is recruited, provided the requisite number of men are forthcoming.

Another correspondent, writing on the same subject, notices that "no provision seems to be made for the payment of officers transferred from the Militia to the Reserve." This is an old grievance which has more than once been referred to in Truth. A Reserve officer who joins from the Militia is obliged to do his annual training at his own expense, without either pay or allowances, whereas a Regular officer in the same position receives the pay and allowances of his rank during training. The details of the new scheme are rather *in nubibus* at present; but, seeing that under it the Militia practically disappears, I do not quite understand why this grievance will not disappear with it. Presumably entirely new arrangements will have to be made with regard to officers who may join the Reserve from the Territorial Army, if such a thing is contemplated at all.

I was interested to see a letter the other day from Sir Edward Chapman, urging that the duty of obtaining recruits for the Regular Army as well as the second line should be entrusted to local civil authorities. For a long time past this reform has been advocated in Truth, and though one cannot prophesy confidently in any matter of this kind, it seems to me to promise the best solution of all difficulties in regard to recruiting. Indeed, the system of voluntary enlistment can never be said to have had a proper trial until this plan has been tried. The War Office is not in a position to get at the men it wants, and its recruiting machinery is primitive in design and inefficient in action. The local authorities have a far better opportunity of getting at the men, and could easily obtain the means of offering inducements to enlistment which are at present out of the question.

In the recent orders respecting the discharge of N.C.O.s on completion of twenty-one years' service, some provision was made, if I remember rightly, that boys' service should not count in calculating the period. Apparently no such principle is recognised in the Army Ordnance Corps. I heard the other day of a case in which a man, originally enlisted as a boy, was compelled to take his discharge on the completion of twenty-one years' total service, and this seems to be the general rule in the A.O.C. In the above case it means that the man leaves with 4d. a day less pension than he would have received had he completed twenty-one years' service. I have always favoured a pretty strict enforcement of the twenty-one years' limit of service, but this is practically going beyond it. A man who has served so long ought to have the opportunity of making his full pension, and a boy soldier, who becomes a man at eighteen, will still be on the right side of the "too old at forty" rule when he has completed twenty-one years' man's service.

Can any of my Service readers in England or India enlighten me on the following point? If a soldier in India takes a furlough home, does this break in his Indian service disentitle him to transfer to the home establishment at the date when he would otherwise be able to claim it? The point has arisen in one or two cases within my knowledge, and I understand that it is causing discussion in many places in India. To give such an effect to a mere furlough seems quite contrary to the spirit of the regulation with regard to transfer home, and a War Office letter issued last June seems to expressly preclude that view of the matter. But apparently the Indian authorities entertain doubts on the point.

I have received from a Service correspondent a lengthy indictment on army school inspectors as a class. I ought to mention that the writer is neither a schoolmaster nor a schoolmistress. If half he states is true, the inspectors themselves stand much in need of inspecting, and there is room for considerable doubt whether the system of promoting schoolmasters to inspectorships is altogether desirable. There has been some talk of placing all army schools under the Board of Education, and I should think that the proposal is well worth Mr. Haldane's consideration.

The expected appointment of Rear-Admiral Jellicoe, Director of Naval Ordnance, to succeed Sir Percy Scott as Inspector of Target Practice, has given much satisfaction in Service circles, as he is thoroughly qualified to carry on the excellent gunnery work which has been established by his predecessor. They are both very able officers, and gunnery work has enormously improved in efficiency under their guidance during the last two years. Sir Percy Scott is to succeed Rear-Admiral Neville in the command of the First Cruiser Squadron, which is really a part of the Channel Fleet, so he will be under the command of Lord Charles Beresford.

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I have been urged to support the protest which is being made against the sentences which were last week inflicted upon Captain Grogan and other colonists at Nairobi, British East Africa. Before I could do this, however, I should require much better reasons for the protest than those that have been put forward in the telegrams and correspondence in the *Daily Mail*. It is alleged that some natives had insulted white women, "and had gone, in the eyes of the colonists, unpunished by the authorities." Apparently this does not mean that they were not punished at all, but only that the colonists deemed the punishment inadequate. So much feeling was aroused that a great crowd assembled, and Captain Grogan publicly flogged the natives. For this Captain Grogan, as the ringleader of an unlawful assembly, has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500; three other colonists have been sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, and a fourth to seven days' imprisonment.

Whether the authorities really were unduly lenient or not in their treatment of the native offenders is a question upon which it is impossible to form an opinion without further information. In any case, the action of Captain Grogan, and those who aided and abetted him, seems to me to be indefensible. The natives very likely think that white offenders are sometimes let off too lightly for assaults on blacks. What would be said and done if in such a case the natives resorted to lynch law? For British settlers to take that course is clearly to set a dangerous example, and if it had been passed over it must have been a heavy blow to the prestige of the administration. The natives can hardly be expected to respect the law, and the officials who administer it, if they see that the white settlers treat both with contempt.

Lord Elgin handles a public scandal with characteristic flabbiness in his despatch on the undesirability of ex-Governors of Colonies identifying themselves with the organisation or direction of companies "formed to develop for profit the natural resources of the territories which they have administered." In a passage more creditable to his heart than his head the Secretary of State expresses his belief that "the strongest motive" which actuates an ex-Governor who becomes a promoter or a director of such a company is a desire to benefit the colony with which he has been officially connected, the idea that he may benefit himself being a secondary consideration. Still, his lordship seems to perceive that the circumstances are calculated to produce a different impression on less charitable minds, and so he gently suggests that retired Governors "would be well advised in most cases to refrain from taking a prominent part" in the management of any commercial undertakings of such a character. In view of the abuses to which it may easily lead, the practice in question calls for stronger action than this. The retired Governors are pensioned officers of the State, and their association with such companies ought to be not merely deprecated but absolutely prohibited.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

In Ceylon Lord Elgin's mealy-mouthed allusions to the matter will be received with a good deal of amusement. Last week the secretary of the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers—of which Sir J. West Ridgeway, an ex-Governor of the Colony, is chairman—published a statement showing that up to April 1 the proceeds of the present season's fishery had amounted to £67,406. The leasing of this valuable fishery from the Government of Ceylon to the Company at an annual rent of £20,666 was a flagrant example of the scandal which is so lightly dealt with in Lord Elgin's despatch.

Lord Minto has lately involved himself in great odium and unpopularity at Barrackpore by restrictions that have been placed on the public use of the park—a fine enclosure about two miles long by three-quarters of a mile wide, which was presented to the public by a private citizen, and vested in the Government for its protection. The park is much frequented, and, besides the opportunities that it offers for riding and driving, it contains a golf course and a tennis club. An official residence for the Viceroy was built in one corner, and a portion of the park was enclosed with it as a garden, which may or may not have been within the donor's intentions. The main entrance to the park adjoins the Government House, and a road runs through its length from this point.

Lord Minto, however, has lately closed this main gate, and also a road leading into the park from the tennis club, thus compelling all residents in the west end of the town to go about two miles round to the other entrance. Not content with this, he has allowed a steeplechase course to be laid out over the golf links, one of the jumps being ingeniously arranged to land right on the second green. It would seem, therefore, that there has been a deliberate endeavour to annoy every class of the public, from nurse-maids and children to golfers. It is the misfortune of Anglo-Indians that public protests against proceedings of this kind are impossible, because the official class dare not lift up its voice against the Government and the Viceroy. Apparently the Government appreciates this and takes full advantage of it.

A "THICK" YARN FROM THE STATES.

Five suits of clothes and blankets eight!
  Yet—so a Yankee journal saith—
The wretch who wears this ponderous weight
  Of garments freezes still to death.

His circulation must be bad;
  The paper's, too, must be amiss
Whose columns they're compelled to pad
  With "thick" and woolly yarns like this.

Apropos of a recent paragraph in Truth, a solicitor nolding an appointment as Clerk to a District Council sends me an instructive letter on the difficulties which such officials encounter when, in the performance of their duties and the fulfilment of the law, they come into collision with the interests of members of the Council or their friends. He cites his own experiences. For many years he held his clerkship without the slightest friction arising. On the instructions of the then Council he prosecuted a local builder for a breach of the building by-laws, and the builder was convicted and fined.

This builder was subsequently elected a member of the Council, and, as the owner and frontager of certain property, he became liable for a payment for street works. He contested his liability, and when the magistrates decided against him he appealed to the High Court. The appeal, however, was dismissed, and he had to pay the costs of the Council for whom the clerk acted. "Since then," continues my correspondent, "I have been subjected to all sorts of insolence and nothing short of persecution by this man and the friends (mostly tradesmen who supply him with goods) whom he has managed to get in the Council, and now I am threatened with dismissal or decreased salary for simply performing my official duties."

This is not by any means an isolated case—indeed, the Local Government Board has just issued a most illuminating report on a proposal of the Trowbridge District Council to dispense with the services of the inspector of nuisances, whose execution of his duties had, it turned out, brought him into conflict with various members of the Sanitary Committee, including two butchers on whose premises he had seized unsound food. Poor-law officers cannot be dismissed except with the sanction of the Local Government Board, and it is even more necessary that the same security of tenure should be afforded to the officers of local sanitary authorities. To some extent this is already done in the case of medical officers and sanitary inspectors of the District Councils, but obviously all the officers, including the clerks, engaged in the administration of the Public Health Acts ought to be completely protected from any risk of arbitrary dismissal at the instance of interested councillors. Until they have this protection it is hopeless to look for anything like a satisfactory enforcement of the law—at any rate in those districts, far too numerous, in which the folly and the indifference of the ratepayers result in the return to the Council of men concerned in the perpetration of abuses.

It is not often in these days that one can agree with Lord Rosebery. I am, therefore, the more pleased to find myself in accordance with him in his protests against the dumping of L.C.C. lunatics at Epsom—I do not mean Moderates or Progressives, but their mentally-afflicted constituents. Indeed, I go further than his lordship, for the evil is not confined to Epsom, but threatens to extend all along this range of the Surrey hills. A few years ago the County Council put up a huge asylum at Cane Hill. They are now building another of equal dimensions about a mile from it, on the east side of the Brighton main line. This new asylum is only about three miles distant as the crow flies from the melancholy establishment of the Metropolitan Asylums Board at Caterham.

The district selected for these operations is one of the most beautiful and rural, as well as the most healthy within the same range of London; but the inevitable effect of the planting of such establishments in it is to ruin it for residential purposes. This may be seen wherever the new asylums spring up. I do not know whether experts have decided that the air of the Surrey hills is peculiarly beneficial in cases of mental disease; but the lunatics have little opportunity of enjoying their surroundings, and, though no one has more sympathy for them than I have, it seems to me that they would be just as well off in districts which are less worth preserving from their influence. It would be impossible, of course, to allow a local veto on the erection of public asylums, but the interests of the rest of the community ought to be considered more than they are in the selection of the sites.

It is a pity that the Prevention of Corruption Act should have been put in motion for the first time in such a trumpery case as that which came before the Manchester Stipendiary on Friday. The defendant, a clerk to a firm of merchants, was convicted of "corruptly" giving a shilling to a carter, the servant of a firm of carriers, as an inducement to him to deliver three bundles of cloth goods at different places at which he had no occasion to call on the business of his employers. The Stipendiary imposed a fine of 20s., with ten guineas for special costs. Considering the nature of the offence and that it was the first prosecution under the new Act, this seems to me to be a somewhat excessive penalty. No doubt the evidence pointed to the existence of an abuse which ought to be checked; but after all the Act was primarily aimed against a much more serious system of paying secret and corrupt commissions, and it would be more satisfactory to see it in operation in cases of that description.

A curious revelation with reference to the Paisley Licensing Bench was made in a case heard by Sheriff Lyell in the Small Debt Court last week. The Bench appointed a deputation of two magistrates, Mr. McNaughton, a joiner, and Mr. Kilpatrick, a plumber, to inspect various licensed premises in the burgh; and they reported that considerable structural alterations were required at a public-house occupied by a Mrs. McKellar. To avoid the risk of the licence being withdrawn these alterations had to be carried out to the satisfaction of Messrs. McNaughton and Kilpatrick, and in order, no doubt, that they might be satisfied in their capacity as magistrates, they were employed in their capacity as tradesmen to do the work. The matter came before the Sheriff in consequence of a dispute between Mr. Kilpatrick's firm and Mrs. McKellar over one of the items in the account.

In his judgment the Sheriff commented upon the manner in which Messrs. McNaughton and Kilpatrick, as magistrates, made what were practically orders for certain work and then, laying aside the mantle of the magistrate, donned the apron of the tradesman and undertook the execution of the work for the owner of the licensed premises. The Sheriff said he had never before heard of such a state of affairs. Personally, I cannot go so far as that, for I have previously come across similar cases. But the impropriety—to use the mildest word—of the proceedings of the two magistrates is obvious, and it may be hoped that the Bench, as a body, will see that in future the duty of inspecting licensed premises is not delegated to individuals who, as tradesmen, may get the job of carrying out the alterations they recommend.

This week there appears in my Legal Pillory another outrageous example of the absurdity of inflicting a fine for systematic cruelty to a child, similar to the one with which I dealt last week, and I am not surprised that a large number of correspondents should have called my attention to the fatuous action of the Bromley Bench. My Pillory is also rich in illustrations of the vindictive punishment awarded the crime of poverty, the most notable being the case at Basingstoke, for the arguments which may be urged in favour of imprisonment for the tramp who selects a rick or barn for his dormitory, cannot apply to the vagrant who seeks a couch in the open air. A typical instance of class prejudice is supplied by the two cases heard before the Malmesbury Bench, where the labourer who tries to catch a rabbit is awarded exactly the same punishment as the hunting "gentleman" who makes an unprovoked assault upon his groom.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Gray. W. Westwood charged with assaulting his wife by seizing her by the throat and biting her hand. Previously convicted. Fined 30s. or twenty-one day's imprisonment.

Grangemouth Police-court. Before Judge Hendrie. John MacNab, charged with assaulting a policeman by striking him in the face, and kicking him on the head. Fined 21s.

Loughborough Police-court. Before Aldermen Bumpus, Mayo and Moss, and Messrs. Winser, Charles, and Ince. George Black, charged with assaulting his sister-in-law by punching her in the mouth, and knocking two of her teeth out. Fined 30s.

Barnsley West Riding Police-court. Before Mr. W. Batty and other magistrates. A. Mosby and H. Fane, charged with assaulting a police constable. Taylor was knocked down and badly kicked about the legs and body. Each fined 20s. and costs.

Malmesbury Petty Sessions. Before Sir R. H. Pollen, Col. Turner, Col. Haydon, and other magistrates. Frank Day, charged with assaulting his groom. After using very foul language he struck him with a hunting crop. There was no defence. Fined £1 and costs.

Stamford Police-court. Before the Marquis of Exeter and other magistrates. W. Burton, charged with assaulting Ellen Betts. He went to her house, and when she got away from him he threatened her with a pistol. He admitted behaving improperly. Fined 20s. and costs.

Bromley Police-court. F. Leadbetter, an ex-policeman, charged with cruelty to the illegitimate son of the woman with whom he cohabited. The six-year-old boy was covered from head to foot with weals, the result of frequent beatings. He had been forced to exercise on a trapeze, and when he fell and injured his shoulder he was beaten for falling. Fined £5 and costs.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Shennan. C. Turnbull, C. Combe, and J. Smith, charged with day-poaching. The two former were in prison for a similar offence, and in their absence they were fined £2 and costs each, or twenty-eight days' imprisonment.

Andover Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Harman and Messrs. Miles, Bailey, and Nicholl. John Gibbs, a youth, charged with begging for food. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Ipswich Police-court. Before Messrs. B. H. Burton, S. R. Anness, and A. Gibb. George Young, charged with failing to do his task while an inmate of the casual ward at the workhouse. He pleaded illness. One month's hard labour.

Chester Police-court. Thomas Rowen, charged with stealing a pair of boots, value 5s. 11d., hung outside the doorway of a shop. The bench, after commenting on the temptation to theft afforded by the practice, sentenced Rowen to a month's imprisonment.

Malmesbury Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates, Frederick Stoneham, labourer, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. Fined £1 and costs.

Rotherham Police-court. Richard Woodward, charged with stealing a plant pot, value 3d. Six weeks' imprisonment.

Lymington Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and Mr. F. Schreiber. G. James, charged with sleeping out in a pigstye. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Romsey County Petty Sessions. Before the Rt. Hon. E. Ashley, Admiral Sir J. Hopkins, and Col. Griffiths. Lot Sillence, charged with damaging a public house counter, when he was asked to leave the house where he had been drinking. One month's hard labour.

Taunton Police-court. H. Adams, charged with stealing a brass tap, value 1s. Two months' hard labour.

Swaffham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Mason, Taylor, Culling, and Colonel Herring. Israel Turner, coal dealer, charged with cruelty to a horse. It was lame in both fore feet, there were large sores on the shoulders, the eye was discharging, it was old and in poor condition. Fined £1 16s. 6d. inclusive.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Ald. Pyatt and other magistrates. John Halton, charged with cruelty to a pony. A witness "had never seen a horse beaten in so unmerciful a manner," and the flesh under the collar was raw. Fined 40s.

The magistrates inflicted a similar penalty on Leonard Bailey, convicted of cruelty to a donkey found dying from starvation in a stable.

Basingstoke Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Powell and Cannon. George Smith, charged with sleeping by the roadside. Twenty-one days.

Towcester Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Stops and Jepson. T. Cowley, charged with wilful damage to a window to the amount of 5s. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Kesteven Police-court. James Poucher, charged with stealing a copper kettle, value 3s. 6d., of which he was the bailee. He sold it for a shilling. One month's hard labour.

Ilkeston Petty Sessions. George Taylor, charged with obtaining sixpence by false pretences from the landlord of an inn, by stating that he was collecting towards the burial of a child of another man. One month's hard labour.

A correspondent forwards a report of a County Court case the other day in which Messrs. Crawter, surveyors and house agents of Cheshunt, were sued by a builder for the return of £1 1s., which he had been required to deposit with defendants on their furnishing him with plans and specifications for the purpose of a tender. He had returned the plans and specifications, but the defendants' manager contended that there was no undertaking that they should pay back the guinea to the builders whose tenders were not accepted, and in other instances they had not done so. In answer to the judge the manager said that the guineas from the tenderers would go towards paying the architect's fees; but his Honour appeared to think that this was not a fair or proper arrangement, and judgment was given for the plaintiff with costs. It would be interesting to learn whether this ingenious method of getting an architect's fees paid is commonly practised.

A fact of considerable interest to the ratepayers of Portsmouth was elicited during the trial at the Quarter Sessions on Friday of a labourer charged with stealing a quantity of rags from the Corporation "tip" at Baffins. For some years past a contractor has paid the Corporation £30 a year for the right of sorting the house refuse at the "tip" for rags, bones, metal, bottles, or anything else that is worth removal. The contractor, who was the prosecutor in the case, admitted in cross-examination that even if he paid the Corporation £800 per annum "there might be a little profit left." Not only have the Corporation accepted a paltry £30 a year for this lucrative concession, but, in order to protect the property of "the golden dustman"—the place, by the way, should surely be called "Boffins," not Baffins—they recently erected a fence round the "tip" at a cost of £400. One must, of course, assume that the members of the Corporation responsible for this contract believed that they were making the best bargain that could be made for the ratepayers. But in that case—seeing that the substantial aggregate value of the unconsidered trifles that can be picked up by sorting house refuse is well known—one must also assume that the ratepayers have chosen very foolish and incompetent representatives.

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand. Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations. Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

In a recent paragraph anent the refusal of the Shaftesbury Bench to grant some vaccination exemption certificates, I referred to the presiding magistrate as Mr. H. A. Dunstan. The name was given incorrectly, the gentleman in question being Mr. F. W. Dunston. He has sent me a long letter, from which I take the following:—

Your paragraphist charges me with having endeavoured to beguile one of the two applicants into expressing a general objection to vaccination, with a view to enabling myself to reject his application on that ground. Behold "the lie with circumstance" indeed. In point of fact, I neither wished to refuse the certificate nor did I endeavour to induce the applicants or either of them to express a general objection. The difficulty would have been to *prevent* them doing so, and when I did what I could to satisfy myself that the objection on which each based his application was particular to the particular child, they were careful to abstain from saying anything calculated to give me such an idea; and rightly, for it was obvious that their objection to vaccination was a general one only, and that they were therefore disentitled to the relief sought. As a man, I would willingly have joined in granting them the desired certificates. As a magistrate I had a conscientious objection to doing so.

Mr. Dunston's disavowal of any wish to refuse the certificates is certainly surprising in view of the interrogation to which he subjected the applicants. Though the Bench drew from both of them an expression of a general objection to vaccination, each applicant also made a statement of his conscientious belief that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child, and on that statement a certificate ought to have been granted. The cross-examination as to "the particular child" was simply a matter of hair-splitting. It is easy enough for magistrates to baffle and bewilder conscientious objectors by sophistical questioning, as was done on this occasion, but the course adopted by Mr. Dunston has been—as I pointed out—condemned by the Lord Chief Justice and the Home Secretary, and even if it be not contrary to the letter of the law, it is a distinct violation of its spirit.

An advertisement for fifty ladies and gentlemen to undertake some work, the nature of which was not specified, recently appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*. Those who answered it received a printed communication from Alfred T. Tagg and Co., Enquiry Emporium, Hatley-road, Finsbury Park, N. The following is the substance of it:—

Dear Sir,—Now this work is very simple, but at the same time requires tact and energy to save injuring our business by those we give the work to. We have published a book at considerable expense, being a guide to the methods by which the work can be done. Now, as we have had a number of people making application more for curiosity sake than for work, we have been compelled to adopt a plan to protect ourselves from curiosity seekers after the expense we have gone to in publishing our book.

After careful consideration of your application we have decided to start you on our work. By perusal of the margin you will glean the nature of same. For instance, we may want you to make an inquiry for a solicitor, for which we pay you from 10s. upwards; we may want you to get an address of a person who has moved, for which we pay you from 5s. upwards; we may want you to shadow someone, for which we will pay you from 20s. per day; or watch a business place at 15s. per day, etc.

Our plan is that we will sell you the book for 2s. 6d., and with it we will send you £2 10s. worth of work to start on. . . . .

"Perusal of the margin" indicates the nature of Tagg and Co.'s work to be "Solicitors' Inquiry Agents. People shadowed for the purpose of divorce proceedings. Inquiries made for all kinds of trades. People traced for tradesmen. Businesses watched before purchasing. Men and women sent abroad for special cases."

I fear that I belong to the class of "curiosity seekers" against whom Tagg and Co. state that they have found it necessary to protect themselves. After reading their letter, my curiosity led me to send a gentleman up to Finsbury Park to make a few inquiries about Tagg's Enquiry Emporium. Hatley-road is a modest thoroughfare, the residents in which appeared to be mostly of the working class. The Enquiry Emporium bears no outward sign of its existence, and as there is no number on Tagg's circular, my representative had some difficulty in finding it; but he eventually made his way to a house where he was told Mr. Tagg lived. Mr. Tagg was not at home, and the Enquiry Emporium appeared to be in sole charge of a female, who told my representative that if he had any business with Tagg he had better write. He expressed a desire to inspect the book which Tagg and Co. have "published at considerable expense," with a view to purchasing a copy. The woman said she would try and find one, and, after a lengthy search, she returned with a small pamphlet. My representative did not, however, think it worth 2s. 6d., and left. A good many people have probably been taken in by the above-mentioned advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph*, and I mention these facts for the information of Scotland Yard, for it strikes me that Tagg's own business is just one of those referred to in his circular which need watching.

Numerous warnings have been given in Truth against a concern called the Nutriola Company, the enterprise of an individual named E. F. Hanson, who describes himself as "the Hon.," and as Mayor of Belfast, Maine, U.S.A. By means of promises of huge returns on a trifling investment of money—advertised in connection with a pamphlet called "A Guide to Full Pockets"—Hanson endeavours to obtain cash for shares in a business which is said to be engaged in manufacturing and retailing various quack remedies, the idea being that the investors shall themselves undertake the sale of the goods, thus pushing the business for their own benefit. I am told that Hanson obtained upwards of £57,000 from people all over the world by this expeditious road to full pockets.

Some time ago the business was practically stopped in the United States by that beautiful and effectual instrument, a Post Office fraud order, which practically deprived Hanson of the use of the Post Office for his business. Thereupon a company called the Nutriola Company, Ltd., was registered in England, with a capital of £125,000 in 5s. shares. These shares are now being busily pushed, and as the price is within the reach of all, and the shares are puffed by the most extravagant misrepresentations, it is to be feared that a great many flats are being induced to part with their 5s. It seems almost impossible to save people from throwing away their money on humbug of this kind, but it may perhaps have some effect in that direction if I mention that at the present time Hanson, the prime mover in the business, is appealing in the United States against a sentence of one year's imprisonment, coupled with a fine of $5,000. Even if the Post Office fraud order is not sufficient to deter people from filling his pockets further, they would still do well to defer parting with their money until this appeal has been decided.

An appreciative reader of Truth in New Zealand forwards the following paragraph from a recent issue of the *New Zealand Times*:—

The Postmaster-General (Sir Joseph Ward) notifies in this week's "Gazette" that no money-order shall be issued in New Zealand for the Nutriola Company of Chicago, the Chicago Silver Company, or the Nutriola Company of London. It is stated that there are reasonable grounds for supposing that the companies named are engaged in promoting or carrying on a fraudulent concern.

There are two points worth notice here. The first is the confirmation by the New Zealand Post Office of the action which the United States Post Office has taken against Mr. Hanson and his Nutriola Company. The other is the adoption in New Zealand of the American practice of closing the Post Office to swindlers. The idea of refusing the issue of money-orders in favour of a firm which is on the Postmaster-General's black list is an excellent one. How long will it be before St. Martin's-le-Grand condescends to take a hint in this direction from the Post Offices of more progressive countries?

W. J. Vincent, 19, St. Dunstan's-hill, E.C., is a cool hand among the touting bookmakers. If you take no notice of his first circular, he sends a "follow-up" informing you that he wrote "with a view of being favoured with a reply," but that "up to the present he has not had the pleasure of hearing from you," etc. It is, of course, useless to remonstrate with such pests as Vincent on the annoyance they cause. The only thing to do—until Parliament makes the distribution of betting circulars illegal—is to consign their communications to the waste-paper basket.

Apropos of the recent articles in Truth on the Betterment of London Association, I understand that the name of Dr. T. B. Hyslop was inserted in the list of Vice-Presidents and Council without his knowledge or approval. As I have now heard from three gentlemen to this effect, none of them ever having heard of the existence of the council of which they were supposed to be members, it is quite evident that the list which Bowden Green is using is a bogus one. If the remaining gentlemen whose names appear on it have authorised the use of their names, I can only say that it is their duty to call Green to account both for the liberties he has taken with other gentlemen's names, and for the financial irregularities to which attention has already been called. In the meantime I would advise nobody to subscribe a penny to the Betterment of London Association or the Street Noises Abatement Committee.

A reader at Penang sends me the following announcement from the *Straits Echo*. It shows that the theatrical managers of the West have much to learn from the East in the way of advertising:—

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!!

Dedicated to the loving memory of our beloved
WM. SHAKESPEARE.
THE OPERA INDRA PERMATA COMPANY OF SELANGOR
Will Stage the Sensational Tragedy
PRINCE HAMLET.
By the best actors and actresses procurable in Java.
OUR CLOWNS ARE WITHOUT RIVALS!

This is actually the best representation of a European Opera by a Native Company.

CHOW CHONG, Proprietor.

The following extracts from a letter which I have received from Hamburg in reference to the labour dispute at that port are rather interesting:—

I have been ten years in Australia, where I learned to know and appreciate your paper. At the present time in Hamburg I am taking part in the struggle between the ship-owners and dock-workers now raging here. You will understand it is pretty hard on us to see thousands of Englishmen coming over to Hamburg as "scabs." It is a question of principle on our side, because we are fighting against a 36 hours' stretch of work. The workers of England would never work a stretch like that themselves, yet they are taking sides against us. But it is not on our behalf alone that I appeal to you. The English workers are all led astray. They are deceived. They came to Hamburg on the understanding that there was neither strike nor lock-out. They were to receive free board and lodging, 5s. a day, and 1s. an hour for overtime, and to be sent back to England free of charge. Once here, they found that there were 5,000 workers locked out. Further, they found that the food was very bad, and that they were actually kept prisoners on board ship, and would have to pay their own passage if they wanted to go home.

Now, what do you call this? Englishmen cheated by ship-owners on one hand; on the other hand, the German workers struggling hard against a 36 hours' stretch of work. Do you call this fair? I appeal to you now. Cannot you help us? Help both the English and German workers? I believe you could, by using your influence to put the engagement of labourers for foreign countries under Government control.

The last suggestion is, of course, out of the question, if my correspondent means by it anything more than that the Board of Trade should take some steps to warn men going abroad under such circumstances of the conditions under which they will probably find themselves. But it is clearly not to the interest of any section of the community in this country that the Hamburg dockers should be beaten by the importation of "blacklegs" from England; and the facts of the situation cannot be too widely known. What has been going on in Hamburg is not a strike, but a lock-out. As the above letter indicates, the question at issue is one of hours. I have not heard before of the men being kept on as long as thirty-six hours at a stretch, but it is certain that during busy times they have been required to work at least double their normal hours; that they have refused to work beyond a certain time; and that they have been locked out in consequence. The ship-owners have endeavoured to coerce them by importing labour from all parts of Germany, and neighbouring countries, but they would have failed altogether had they not been able to obtain some thousands of men from England.

It is not easy to understand precisely for what the employers are fighting so keenly. Apparently the reason for the dispute is that the necessity for this heavy overtime which the men object to only arises at certain seasons of the year when the port is exceptionally busy, and the shipping and dock interests desire to avoid keeping up all the year round a staff of men which would only be fully employed at intervals. But if they can import casual labour at a pinch to support a lock-out, it would seem that they could equally well obtain it when the normal supply of dockers is unequal to the demand. At any rate, it can only be a question with them of saving expense and having the labour they want always ready to hand. No one in this country can be interested in assisting them to gain their end, for the more cheaply the port of Hamburg can be worked, the more advantageously it must compete with British ports. We cannot possibly prevent Englishmen accepting any

jobs abroad that they choose to take, but we can make sure that they understand all the circumstances before they go, and it is worth our while to do so—apart from the desirability of preventing any workman from being enticed to a foreign country by false pretences.

Mr. Keir Hardie and some of the members of the Independent Labour Party seem to regard Mr. John Burns as a traitor, in comparison with whom Judas was a faithful friend. But whom has he betrayed? In the last Parliament he had the sense to see that the working men can only hope to better their lot by legislative action if they act with the Radicals. At the General Election he preached this doctrine. When the Conservatives were driven from office he was offered a seat in the Cabinet. It would have been a ruinous mistake to refuse it. In the Cabinet the Prime Minister is a sound Radical, and so are most of his colleagues. A few of them are not so Radical. Would the cause of Labour have gained had one of these latter been made President of the Local Government Board? Mr. Burns's presence in the Cabinet is a guarantee that the pledges and assurances made by the Liberals when in Opposition will not be ignored. Since he has been President of the Local Government Board he has shown himself an able administrator, and he has made his presence felt as a social reformer. His crime in the eyes of Mr. Keir Hardie and his friends is simply that he has acted as a practical reformer and that he has not accepted all their crude demands.

These gentlemen are Socialists. They know that they represent a very few of the working men, and the Independent Labour Party has far more representatives in Parliament than it is entitled to by weight of numbers. They managed to get a good many more seats surrendered to them by Liberals at the General Election than they had any claim to. If the working classes were polled to-morrow as to whether they are with Mr. Burns or Mr. Keir Hardie, 90 per cent. would vote in favour of Mr. Burns. A good deal of the popularity of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is due to his having boldly offered a seat to Mr. Burns, and—with the exception of the Premier himself—he has been the most conspicuous success in the present Ministry.

Mr. Keir Hardie is an interesting personality; but he has always done his best to harm the Liberal party. He has announced that he is prepared to put forward candidates at by-elections with a view to hinder Liberals from winning the elections; and he is probably ready to use Conservative funds for this purpose. If he had his way, therefore, the verdict of the country at the last General Election would be reversed. I heard him make many speeches in the last Parliament, and followed his career with curiosity from the day that he drove down to take his place in Parliament, seated in a gig, carefully and picturesquely got-up in the fancy dress of a working man in Sunday garb, and with a friend playing the "Marseillaise" by his side. And as I am myself in favour of a full recognition of the legitimate demands of labour, I regretted that it was rendered ridiculous by this masquerade. In the present Parliament, though I see no reason why the Labour representatives should not have their organisation and act together, I have always doubted the practical wisdom of those of Socialistic views breaking away from the rest of the Labour Members; and when they did, I was surprised at their selecting Mr. Keir Hardie as their leader, rather than some man like Mr. Shackleton, who is a hard-headed, practical man with nothing theatrical about him.

It would seem that the Socialists are very angry just now because Mr. Burns is not prepared to waste money in attracting men to London by spending public money recklessly and lavishly upon the unemployed. As a Minister charged with the supervision of all such money, he is not prepared to squander it in schemes which he does not deem to the advantage of labour. As the Socialists have passed a resolution that every able-bodied man is entitled to be employed at a fair wage—a doctrine which, if acted upon, would in a few years ruin the richest country in the world—I suppose that they favour all unemployed being given good work and a fair wage. But this doctrine is not yet accepted by the country, and, so far as I can see, it will be many years before it becomes the creed of the majority, if it ever does at all. The reason is, not that all would not rejoice could it be put in practice, but that remunerative and well-paid labour is limited by ever-changing circumstances which are beyond all legislation. Of this Mr. Burns is, as a sensible and practical man, well aware.

THE SUPERFICIAL LOGICIANS.

A Man—we'll call him Edward Green—
Not long a Widower had been,
Ere he, to cheer his lonely Life,
Espoused a buxom second Wife.
Now some expressed Surprise and Pain
That he should wed so soon again,
Vowing the Fact most clearly proved
That he his First had never loved;
Else would he not have made such Pace
To fill the Lady's vacant place.
But others forward came to say
It pointed just the other Way;
For (so they held) unless the Dame,
Who shared at first his Hearth and Name,
Had proved herself a Pearl of Price
And been uncommon sweet and nice,
It might with Confidence be reckoned
He'd ne'er have taken on a second.
While both the Parties thus contest
And either deem their Case the best,
The second Wife of Richard Green
Appeared herself upon the Scene:
"My Friends, I cannot help but smile
To hear you reason in this Style
And either prove, cocksure, your Cause
By Logic's Formulas and Laws.
Yet from your Argument, *sans* Doubt,
The most essential *Fact* leave out.
Ned didn't marry me," she said,
"At all: *'Twas I who married Ned.*"

Moral.

No Argument, however strong,
Holds Water if the *Facts* are wrong.

SCRUTATOR.

BUSINESS, SENTIMENT, AND THE COLONIES.

A FAIR estimate of Lord Milner is that he understands finance, and would make a very good permanent official at the Treasury, but that he is a failure as a statesman dealing with men and great national issues. There is an article by him in the *National Review*. In it he has given his views in regard to our relations with our Colonies. We, and each of our large Colonies, are to have a double patriotism. A Canadian is to be proud of being a Canadian, and Canada is to be his fatherland. But he is also to be proud of being a citizen of the Empire. Thus he is to have a dual patriotism. Now I do not myself believe that this is possible. A Canadian will feel that he owes allegiance to Canada, an Australian to Australia, and so on. This must be the outcome of self-government, and of the fact that every man's personal interests are necessarily centred in his place of residence. Such patriotism becomes a powerful sentiment. In regard to the Empire, it is not a question of sentiment, but of material advantage. A Canadian considers that it is to his interest for his country to form part of a great empire. But whenever he comes to the conclusion that his interests would be better served by cutting loose from the Empire, he would not hesitate to do so. The Empire is an artificial bond; it must be justified as a business proposition. Speeches are made in which the flag is exalted to a fetish. Dinners are given, articles are written in newspapers, and every effort is made to create the idea of an Imperial patriotism. But it never really catches on, and it is in the nature of things that it never will. Lord Milner points to the German Imperial patriotism, and to the local patriotism of the States which form the German Empire. He greatly exaggerates the local patriotism. The Empire has been formed under the hegemony of Prussia. The Germans of many of the little States which have either been absorbed into Prussia or still retain a quasi-independence under her supremacy, never cared, and do not care now, for their local independence. In the main the States that still retain this independence are independent for dynastic reasons. In South Germany Prussia is disliked, and this is specially the case in Bavaria. These Germans prefer not to be Prussian. They, however, recognise that a German Empire is in their interests; they see the advantage of unity. Speaking broadly, therefore, the patriotism of Germans means attachment to the Empire, and not to the particular State, whilst in the case of the British Empire the state of things is the exact opposite. Sir Wilfrid Laurier explained when the Boer war broke out that the Canadians were prepared to aid us because they approved of the war. But he added that he by no means admitted as a general rule that, if we went to war, Canada is obliged to join us. Each war, so far as the action of Canada was concerned, was to be judged on its particular merits. A doctrine such as this would be scouted by Germans. It is one that reduces the bond that unites us and our Colonies to a mere alliance conceived in the interests of all. This, I think, is the feeling of most of our Colonies, and it seems to me to be a perfectly reasonable one. It is one that before Jingoism became rampant was recognised by all our statesmen. So far as speeches are concerned, the Colonies are quite ready to vow that they love us and that they have the same feeling towards the flag as we have. But all this does not go beyond words.

This being so, we should realise it. There is no reason why the tie between us and our Colonies should be weakened. So long as it lasts, we pay for the defence of the Empire, including the Colonies, and the latter are able to borrow money on a low rate of interest. But the tie will only last so long as we do not endeavour to draw it tighter, and so long as we no more interfere with them than they interfere with us. Mr. Chamberlain and his friends would have us unite in a fiscal league by means of which we are to create ties of commercial interest between ourselves and the Colonies. This—even assuming that it would be advantageous to both—is impossible so long as we believe in Free Trade and our Colonies believe in Protection. The Colonies export corn. We want bread to be as cheap as possible in Great Britain. To give an advantage to the colonial produce we have to commence by putting a duty on corn, and thus raising its price to the British consumer, and then to allow colonial corn to be imported free of duty. This may be an advantage to the Colonies. But it obviously is no advantage to us. The Colonies offer to give us commercial advantages as a *quid pro quo*. If they let in all our manufactured goods free of duty, or, in other words, Free Trade within the Empire were the equivalent, the bargain would be worth considering. But what is the equivalent offered? The Colonies are to impose duties on all manufactured goods, whether coming from us or from foreign nations, and these duties are to be sufficiently high to protect their local industries, but they kindly offer to make the duties higher against foreign countries than against us. What is the use of that so long as the reduced duty against us is really a Protective duty? The Colonies are one and all determined to protect their own industries by keeping out British goods which compete with their own. As long as their tariffs are effectual for that purpose, what benefit is it to us that foreigners are also excluded, even though it be by a higher tariff.

What is most astonishing about this idea that the Empire can be united by fiscal arrangements is that it has been tried in practice and has failed miserably. The idea of fiscal preference for the Colonies was no new idea of Mr. Chamberlain's, any more than the idea of enriching the country by a general tariff on foreign goods. A complete system of colonial preferential tariffs, all that the most enthusiastic tariff reformer could desire, was in force up to 1846. What effect it had was pointed out again and again during the late fiscal controversy. It laid intolerable burdens on British consumers of colonial produce; it did more harm than good to the Colonies. But its most conspicuous effect was to create a universal feeling in Great Britain that the Colonies were a costly and useless encumbrance. Disraeli expressed that feeling in his famous phrase about "the wretched Colonies" which were "a millstone about our necks." He had good

reason for that view, and had the preferential tariffs lasted much longer, they would have killed the Empire outright. Those who would revive them to-day imagine that they can devise a system under which no party to the arrangement will feel that it is getting the worst of the deal, and each will be, and believes itself to be, a clear gainer. The difficulty of doing that is shown by the questions that arise as to where the balance of advantage would lie directly the details of the scheme begin to be discussed. It is obvious that there must always be such questions, and the attempt to adjust tariffs between States that will satisfy each party is bound to lead to incessant jealousy and wrangling. Like all political quackery, therefore, this nostrum is likely to do harm rather than good, to create friction and ill-will between the various States of the Empire rather than harmony and unity. That anyone should believe in it is incomprehensible, for there is nothing in history or in the circumstances of the present day to suggest that peace and goodwill are promoted between States by the development of their mutual trade. Germans and Englishmen do more business together to-day than any other two peoples on the face of the globe. That their mutual affection is thereby developed has not been apparent up to now.

The Colonial Conference is a legitimate and useful institution. It tends to promote good feeling, and there are many matters of mutual interest that may be discussed and arranged at it to the benefit of all concerned. But we shall best promote its usefulness by clearing our minds of cant. We shall only get into trouble and do mischief by cultivating the notion that the Colonies have—or can have—any sentimental love of the Empire, or that they will ever have any idea in any treaty or arrangement they may make with us except to serve their own interests. The worst danger arising out of the Conference at present seems to be that it may be used as an attempt to supply the Unionist Party with a little of the political capital that it now lacks so badly. Some of the London papers have already done all they know to use the Colonial Premiers as pawns in the party game, and to convert the Conference into an instrument with which to beat the Government. This shows once again that the *soi-disant* Imperialists are quite the worst enemies of the Empire, and the Colonial visitors cannot show any Imperial patriotism they may possess better than by discountenancing all efforts to exploit them for party purposes.

THE COMPULSORY SERVICE CRAZE.

If the manifesto of the National Service League which was sent round to the press last week makes any impression upon public opinion, it can only be due to the signature of Lord Roberts and the other noblemen's names attached to it. There is no argument in the document which should have that effect, and a little "clear thinking" should satisfy anybody that if the proposals of the League were carried out, the results would be wholly mischievous—from the military point of view and regardless of all but military considerations.

The idea at the bottom of the proposals of Lord Roberts and his League is that it is necessary for our national safety that we should possess a home service army of such a size that it can only be filled up by universal compulsory service, and so trained, equipped, and organised that it will be ready immediately on mobilisation to meet highly trained Continental troops in the field—"the only troops, be it remembered, which a home defence army would be called upon to encounter." They therefore beg the whole question of national defence which has been the subject of so much debate and difference of opinion in recent years. They assume a state of things in which we have lost command of the sea, while simultaneously the whole of our first military line has been sent abroad, notwithstanding the imminence of an invasion from one or other of our immediate neighbours, and against this they insist that we must prepare. The assumption has in itself the fancifulness of a nightmare. But let us suppose that we take it as the basis of a practical policy; to what will it lead? It is out of the question that an army in which every man in the country will have been trained up to the standard of the best troops of Germany will be turned out at a less cost than the German army. Deduct from this what would otherwise be spent on the second line under such a scheme as Mr. Haldane's, and the figure will be reduced to about 25 millions per annum at the lowest estimate. Remember that you have not only to train the individual man, but to provide staff, officers, artillery, and every other detail of equipment and organisation on the standard of the best troops on the Continent. The present Regular Army, as reformed by Mr. Haldane, will remain, and so will its present cost. So will that of the Navy. Under these three heads we shall have to spend at least 80 millions per annum, and this irrespective of the cost of maintaining another army of about 225,000 regulars for the defence of India, which the Indian taxpayer has the privilege of paying for.

If anyone outside a lunatic asylum expects that this or any other country will ever commit itself to such an expenditure, his proper place is inside an asylum, and it would be waste of time to argue with him. Were it conceivable that the Government should amend its Army Bill in accordance with the suggestion of Lord Roberts and his friends, and then proceed to create in the course of the next few years a "national army" organised on the scale and standard of efficiency which they have in view, the inevitable result would be the abandonment of all further preparation for defending the country on the sea. No country will consent to burden itself with the cost of a double line of defence, the second to act in case the first fails. As soon as Lord Robert's national army was brought to the requisite size and perfection, the necessity for an invincible navy would be as little apparent as the necessity for an invincible land army is to-day, and the financial burden would at once begin to operate in the reduction of the Navy Estimates. With the disappearance of our naval supremacy would necessarily go the visible utility of maintaining an expensive regular army for foreign service. An "expeditionary force" is of no use unless the road for its expeditions is open. The temptation to reduce the foreign service army would

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therefore be irresistible; and the business of "preparing for war" would resolve itself into arming and drilling the whole population for the purpose of repelling any foreign enemy who could effect a landing on our coasts.

That is what may be expected—with ulterior consequences to our international position which the reader may think out for himself—if the ideal of the National Service League were realised. But no one capable of "clear thinking" will suppose that the mere passing of an Act to enforce universal military training will bring about the realisation of that ideal. Looking at the matter by the light of all our past experience in military affairs, what is pretty certain to happen after the raw material for the manufacture of the home defence army had been provided by Act of Parliament, is that the money necessary for completing the process would never be voted; that proper machinery for adequately training the men would never be provided; that the provision of artillery and cavalry would be postponed indefinitely; and that a dozen other necessary details of organisation and equipment would go the same way. In short, the ideal of the National Service League—a national army, ready at a moment's notice to give battle in Essex or Surrey to the best troops of the Continent—has not a chance of being realised, even under compulsory training. The incentive to that end which confronts every Continental nation at close quarters would be lacking in our case; and the whole traditions of our military administration must be abandoned and renewed from the root upwards before the thing is possible. The "national army" designed by Act of Parliament would repeat over again the history of the Militia and the Volunteers, but on a larger scale, and with the important difference that in the attempt to create it we should inevitably be compelled to starve the Navy and reduce expenditure on the Regular Army, sapping the only trustworthy defences we have for no result but a huge addition to our mob of unorganised, half-trained troops. Will any one with the slightest knowledge of military administration in this country in time past deny that this is the course of events which may naturally be expected? If not, how can any one doubt that universal compulsory military service is of all proposals that have ever been put before the public the most foolish and the most dangerous?

After all the discussion that has taken place on this question, in Parliament and outside it, there is no excuse for this folly. If we once accept the proposition that this country is to be defended on the sea, which hardly any Englishman disputes, the functions of a home defence army are easily apparent. It is by this force that an enemy must measure his preparations for invasion. In order to achieve any decisive military result he must land sufficient troops to make him certain of being able to deal with it. On the size and efficiency of our land defence force consequently depends the whole character of the task which the Navy has to perform in preventing an invasion. Moreover, it is well to be prepared against the annoyance of mere raids by small forces which do not contemplate a prolonged occupation of the country or serious military operations. And it is also desirable to make some provision for "expansion outside the Regular Forces of the Crown" in the event of a protracted war abroad. The size and the quality of the organisation which we need for these purposes are a matter which must necessarily be left to the judgment of naval and military experts in consultation. Such consultations have been held, and, so far as the problem of home defence is concerned, Mr. Balfour, as the President of the Committee of Defence, practically stated the result to Parliament shortly before he went out of office. There is no reason to doubt that in fixing the size of his proposed Territorial Force at 300,000, and in making the arrangements which he has for its training and organisation, Mr. Haldane has followed the guidance of the experts. Common-sense tells us that so far as numbers go, the proposed army should be amply sufficient for its purpose. There is no good reason for doubting that these numbers can be obtained by voluntary enlistment, for they do not exceed the number that such enlistment has yielded hitherto to the Auxiliary Forces; and it is by no means certain that inducements to serve will not be greatly increased under the new scheme. If time, which alone can decide the question, proves that the requisite number of men cannot be obtained by voluntary enlistment, there will be a strong argument for resorting to compulsion. At present there is none whatever, but, on the contrary, the very strongest reasons for avoiding it. And even if it should ever be found necessary to apply compulsion, every one who appreciates the force of the considerations indicated above will desire that it should be limited strictly to procuring the minimum number of men that the best naval and military opinion may pronounce to be necessary, under the peculiar conditions which we have to deal with. The moment we attempt to create a home service army which shall be more than the indispensable complement of our scheme of naval defence, we create dangers far more serious than any that are in sight at present—outside the office of the National Service League.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Suffragette's Catechism.

(For the Use of Would-be Voteresses.)

Question: Who are you!

Answer: A Suffragette.

Q.: What is a Suffragette?

A.: A female who fearlessly employs the Faculties with which Nature has endowed her, in championing the Sacred Cause of Woman's Rights.

Q.: What are the Faculties with which Nature has endowed you?

A.: Teeth and nails.

Q.: What are Woman's Rights?

A.: Votes.

Q.: Who gave you these Rights?

A.: Nobody. I mean to take them.

Q.: How will you take them?

A.: By biting and scratching.

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Q.: Whom will you bite?

A.: Bannerman and Asquith.

Q.: Whom will you scratch?

A.: Policemen.

Q.: What are policemen?

A.: Hireling Ruffians who maintain, by violence, the Tyranny of Man under the guise of the so-called Laws.

Q.: What are the Laws?

A.: There are no Laws.

Q.: How so?

A.: Because I did not make them.

Q.: What is Parliament?

A.: There is no Parliament.

Q.: How is that?

A.: Because I do not sit there.

Q.: What are the Constituencies?

A.: There are no Constituencies.

Q.: Why are there no Constituencies?

A.: Because I do not vote in them.

Q.: What is a Magistrate?

A.: A black-hearted usurper of the Seat of Justice.

Q.: What are the functions of the Magistrate?

A.: To dispense Martrydom-While-You-Wait to suffering Suffragettes.

Q.: What is Martyrdom-While-You-Wait?

A.: Fourteen days in Holloway.

Q.: What is a Wardress?

A.: A Renegade woman who aids and abets the tyrant man in opposing her own sex.

Q.: Does the Wardress want a vote?

A.: No.

Q.: Is it strange that, being a woman, she should not want a vote?

A.: No; because, in point of fact, the majority of women do not want votes.

Q.: Why, then, should they have votes if they do not want them?

A.: Because it is for their good.

Q.: Who says so?

A.: I do.

Q.: Who is Dora Thewlis?

A.: The baby-Suffragette.

Q.: Should babies, then, have votes?

A.: Certainly—if they are girl babies.

Q.: But what if they are boy babies?

A.: Boy babies do not count.

THE THEATRES.

"The Truth," at the Comedy.

Taken as a whole, Mr. Clyde Fitch's play touches the high-water mark of his achievement, so far as I am acquainted with it. Having said this, I add that his work, until last night's performance, had seemed to me instinct with crude, not to say vulgar, realism, representing a state of melodramatic, catchpenny, ranting cheapness which fairly disgusted me of the American playwrong.

But there is only one truth as regards the stage—namely, that you can never tell what may happen, and I admit that on Saturday night I was taken greatly by surprise. Instead of a group of magenta-clad women, with the voices of macaws and all the jewellery of the Palais Royal upon their insufferable persons, I found Miss Marie Tempest and Miss Grace Lane arrayed in the most simple extravagance, speaking quite passable prose. The story was evident from the first flourish of Miss Tempest's skirts, from the drooping elegance of Miss Grace Lane. It hardly needed the appearance of Mr. Dawson Milward, who carried off with graceful assurance the onus of all the trouble, to make one certain that the piece would develop on the lines of an intrigue between him and Becky Warden (Miss Marie Tempest). A jealous wife has Mr. Milward in the play, and this lady collects evidence of their meeting at various places, such as Prince's and Queen's, by means of a detective agency. Becky's husband is not jealous, having full confidence in his wife. As it turns out, this confidence is not misplaced, for she has not even gone the length of allowing a kiss to this lover, with whom she makes daily assignations. It seems a little odd that they should take such infinite pains to meet secretly, all to talk about potatoes. But the author gives us to understand that Becky is immaculate as to the lips in one sense—of kissing—but those rouged lips of hers are stained with millions of lies. She lies about everything, and even remarks once apologetically that she has been surprised into telling the truth. Miss Tempest excels in the rendering of this empty-headed little chattering liar, with her mania for hats and for her husband, whom she really loves all along. Also her disreputable father. She excels in the scene of successful bamboozling Tom Warden; she again excels when the weeping Eve has appeared with a batch of notes from the detective agency, and she is faced with inexorable facts. Her mimicry of the hysterical little creature sobbing down the telephone to her friend was really superb. So also was her playing of the scene where the would-be lover, having irrevocably quarrelled with his wife, returns at Becky's bidding, and, very naturally supposing that she intends to relent, bestows upon her all of a sudden an ardent embrace. Nothing could exceed the realism of the shocked surprise wherewith Becky, who has done all she could to encourage the unhappy lover, orders him out of the house, and informs him that her husband had said that he would most probably end by kissing her. The return of the husband, who comes in for Becky's last crop of lies and her first truth—namely, that there has been nothing between them, save the snatched kiss—is among Mr. Allan Aynesworth's opportunities, and here, as elsewhere, he gives a good account of the confiding husband, who on this occasion, however, is convinced against his will of his wife's guilt, and leaves his house for ever.

The last two acts pass in the lodgings of Becky's father, where, beguiled with piquet and landlady, he passes the evening of his quite uninteresting life. Mr. Boucicault played this parent mostly with great skill, and I liked all his work on this occasion save his interview with Tom Warden in the first act, where he vainly tries to borrow money. This I thought was overdone, and it stood out against the subdued excellence of the rest of the cast. Miss Filippi made the landlady a living personage, though I fancied that the deep-laid plans of this "real" lady were not quite what she best likes to play. After far too much talk between the parent of Becky and the landlady, enter Becky, and then ensues an interminable conver-

sation between father and daughter about past times, he refusing to take her in, she insisting that he must. These last two acts are not on the same level as their two predecessors, and although I followed every movement of Becky and her father with interest, yet I could have wished that Mr. Fitch had given us another sight of the lover and of his unhappy wife, who disappear after the second act. The arrangement of the sham sick-room by the father, who has telegraphed to his son-in-law to announce the desperate illness of his wife, was rather tiresome, the more so as it was very evident at once that, sick or well, the one thing the husband wishes is to clasp his sinless wife to his bosom and forget that he has married a liar.

But I was interested in the play as a whole, and think it is worth seeing, as much for the fine acting as for itself. *Diri!*

"The Palace of Puck," at the Haymarket.

"The Palace of Puck" opens very merrily with its benighted stockbroker and his lovely wife and daughter in the clutches of Mr. H. V. Esmond, who owns this fairy palace over-channel, where boys and girls can flirt and be happy, where champagne is ever on the flow, and the arts are all at home. Certainly no more extreme contrast to the willowy agility of Mr. Esmond could be contrived than the solid phlegmatic insolence with which Mr. Kerr as the stockbroker (or merchant of some sort) marches about the house, insults "the witch" (with whom, in the fair shape of Miss Miriam Clements, he falls in love later on), and finally, refusing to have meals with the rest of the party, orders his family dinner in the drawing-room, where are bound, regretfully, to remain with him his daughter, who has discovered the young man with whom she has been in love in London, and his wife, who gets on very well with a musician. Wife and daughter, indeed, would be very happy in this passable fairyland, which is a sort of idealised Dieppe; the husband and father has sworn not to allow this; but a mightier than he, namely, the aforesaid witch, has also sworn to lead him captive to her charms. His sternness gradually melts under her moony rays, and he is finally bewitched into wearing fancy dress at the ball in the last act. So fanciful and freakish, indeed, does this middle-aged merchant become, that he is for eloping with the witch; his wife, not to be outdone, with the musician, and their beloved daughter with the penniless young artist. This triple elopement, much growled at by a chauffeur lifted straight from the Shawite drama, comes, of course, to nothing, save in the case of the young couple, who have just got clear off when Miss Marion Terry gives the alarm. "Softly, softly," her husband whispers to her, changed into her lover; "let them go. I would not deprive them of this delightful memory in the future. I shall, of course, forgive them, and buy all the young man's pictures." I must apologise for paraphrasing the author in inverted commas, for I think those are some of the best lines on the daintiest theme of the play.

Frankly, it is too thin, or we are not gossamer enough to float through the whole evening. I caught myself "nid-nid-nodding" more than once when I should have been engrossed in the multifarious doings of the stage. The actors have been held partly to blame, but although Mr. Charles Hawtrey would have doubtless made us laugh more than Mr. Kerr, yet the latter took his part in the only way possible for him, and I must say Mr. Fred Kerr's stage snarls have a special charm for me. Mr. Ben Webster was with Mr. Esmond in the true key of the irresponsible, Miss Terry extricated herself from an improbable situation as a rather unreal character with diplomacy, and Miss Miriam Clements would make a yet more attractive witch if she would discard the jarring hues of the red hat and violet blue dress of the first act for something more like her attire in those following. I would also recommend to her the study of the part of Carmen, which might give her some hints as to how to let oneself go and yet retain all the charm.

"Patience," at the Savoy.

"Patience" sprang upon one like the spring. Hardly had I sat upon my stall for a moment than I was whisked out of it by the whimsical eddies of Sir Arthur's muse; I was floating light-hearted upon waves of sound, and if at any moment I was in danger of disappearing into the empyrean, then the extreme realism of Mr. Gilbert was there to pull me back, a swallow by the swallow-tail.

Of the three operas produced recently by Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, "Patience" certainly excels "The Gondoliers" and "The Yeoman of the Guard." It seems to have been written and composed by one person, so uniquely well do sense and sound contribute to our pleasure. It has that inevitability of art perfect in its kind, that almost obviousness, which makes one feel: That is the way I should have done it. Then one smiles at the chasm between this work, with its elasticity of ever verdant turf and the thousand and one operettas (to use a generic term), some clever, but mostly bad, which one has seen since the "Patience" of 1881.

Mr. François Cellier produced the opera, and is to be congratulated upon a first performance which went without a hitch and delighted a large mixed audience of the kind not too easily pleased. Miss Clara Dow made a dainty, sweet-voiced Patience, with a pretty petulance in her comedy scenes which carried one very pleasantly over those light bridges between the music. This young lady practically makes her début as Patience, and deserves congratulation upon her first performance. Mr. Workman had all his work cut out for him to impersonate Bunthorne, and well he achieved a most difficult piece of work. His success is the more noticeable, as the part is a little aside of his natural gifts, which were so well suited in the "Yeomen of the Guard." The idyllic poet was not very happily cast, but the military side of the entertainment found in Mr. Frank Wilson a fine voice and presence, and the other officers were up to the mark, save that Mr. Wyld begged to be excused from being hoarse as the Duke of Dunstable. But surely a Duke may be a trifle hoarse, if it please his Grace.

"Patience" has evidently the eternal youth of a masterpiece. Quite enough water has flowed beneath the Westminster Bridge since 1881 to have swamped and outmoded a thousand skits that were not more than skits. Yet "Patience" remains, and not a bad defini-

tion of genius, which everyone fails to define, would be "an infinite capacity for making Patience"—"and playing it," Mr. Workman might add.

* * * * *

You should go and see Miss Ada Reeve at the Empire. Her new songs are original, and the old ones are at once old and new, for they come upon one as a pleasant surprise, and then one remembers and is pleased to meet them again. "Change" is the favourite of the moment, and Miss Ada Reeve voices "the mutability of things"—and people—uniquely well.

* * * * *

Hengler's bursts forth into Easter novelties this week, and I shall perhaps have a word to say next week as to "Beauty and the Enchanted Prince," which reads very exciting. Children, I find, always like Hengler's.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE MONTAGNINI DISCLOSURES.

THE Montagnini papers are more exciting than we could have thought from the early dribblets given in the journals. They must revolutionise diplomatic traditional methods and place diplomacy on an American footing. Saint Peter's See gains nothing from their publication. What I greatly fear is that the pleasureable excitement with which these papers are read will make the French forget the *Iéna* catastrophe and the tons of white powder that lie in the holds of all their war vessels.

Not a few of the diplomats have been passing an uneasy time. Any of those who had expressed too freely to Monsignor Montagnini what they thought of France and her Republic would have passed sleepless nights. Their apprehensions cannot be entirely set at rest until the whole collection of the Montagnini papers comes out. Sir Francis Bertie had the luck to speak as King Edward, I dare say, thinks, and so remains on the safe side.

Jonkheer Stuers, of course with the warm concurrence of the Dutch Government, has utterly denied to M. Pichon the report of opinions said to have been expressed by him in the Montagnini correspondence. This is conclusive to M. Pichon and his free-thinking friends. To the *dévots* it is not. It is an article of their theological casuistry that nobody is bound to tell the truth to his own injury. Self-preservation is the first law of nature. To go against this canon is suicidal. *Ergo*, Montagnini himself would have to absolve the Dutch Minister for denying a conversation brim-full of treason against, not the Republic only, but France herself. Were he to admit it, he would have to retire from his present enviable post. It might be, as there are no doubt other Montagninis in the Nunciatures, a safe precaution for their diplomatic colleagues not to call on them unaccompanied by witnesses. Montagnini was all things unto all men, and especially to all clerics—the better to draw them out. An eminent priest, the Abbé Débrig, whom he thus led to unveil himself and then denounced to Merry del Val, now speaks of his method as *fourbe et douteuse*. He may be less *fourbe* than he appears, and had to follow instructions in writing letters which, if shown to the Pope, would keep him in the path which Piou, Emile Ollivier, and Monsignor Merry del Val wanted his Holiness to follow.

Leo XIII. sent to Paris as Nuncio Monsignor Lorenzelli, now a bishop somewhere in Northern Italy, because as a learned professor he might be *persona grata* to a Republic which had just had for its Minister M. Dupuy, who had filled a professorial chair in the Marseilles Elysée. When he went as Nuncio to Belgium, Montagnini, *il bello giovane* as he used to be called, was chosen as the best person to deal with *le monde distingué*. He has the fine animality of the Roman type, and soft insinuating manners, and made himself extremely useful in keeping rich ladies generously disposed towards the Holy See. As he had graduated at the academy of the nobility, he could serve as a show guest at dinner parties. He enjoyed the goodwill of Merry del Val, who stood by him in the affair of the Pontifical Chamberlain MacNoutt, and who judged well, when diplomatic relations were broken off between the French Republic and the Vatican, to appoint Montagnini Papal Agent at the *ci-devant* Nunciature. They hoped at the Vatican for the return of Rouvier to the Premiership, when they might expect renewed diplomatic relations. In the meantime the Papal Agent could keep on taking soundings, stimulating the zeal of the wealthy Catholic ladies, and reporting on the variations of the political compass. He was as good a man as could be for the old-fashioned kind of diplomacy and the financial objects of the Holy See. Nobody better understood how to refuse with unctuous softness an appeal for pecuniary relief from some broken-down aristocrat who had still *belles relations*. He represented in touching terms the impoverished state of the Holy See, and passed on a Pontifical benediction which could not fail to bring with it temporal as well as spiritual gain.

Monsignor Merry del Val was never tired of urging Monsignor Montagnini to action. He has constantly warned him to hide his tracks, not to let himself be found out, and, so to speak, make his cartridges in a dark cellar, to be fired in the open by others apparently unconnected with him. The Secretary of State neglected the lesson of Cardinal Gonsalvi, to wit: "The first duty of a diplomat is never to confide to paper a secret of any importance." In neglecting it, the hidden hand of Rome in French politics became too patent. It was seen to be a busy hand and dexterous, but less so than reputed. All the time Monsignor Montagnini stayed at the Rue de l'Elysée this hand busied itself with anti-Separation riots, strikes, the manipulation of electoral wires, the collecting of war funds, the rubbing down of the backs of irascible Lyons ladies who had well-filled purses, and with plans of campaign against General André, Pelletan, Combes, and other enemies. The front door of the Foreign Office having been closed, attempts were made to open back doors, and not without some success in Rouvier's

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time. M. Denys Cochin, as Deputy, had every right to enter by the front door and ascend to the Minister's room by the grand stairs. He and Rouvier preferred the back stairs and nocturnal meetings. What is more, Rouvier, after a conversation with M. Cochin, took him, candle in hand, by devious passages to a very private door, saying, as he showed him out: "The *radicaille* enter, when they call, by the front door. This door is for my particular friends." "*Radicaille*" is a word to express contempt, and is about equivalent to "rascally radicals" or "radical *canaille*." One cannot give the lie to M. Denys Cochin. His silence may be taken as confirming what the Papal Agent wrote on this subject.

Merry del Val led the game played by Montagnini. He called for *indiscrétions* for informing gossip, or, as they say here, *potins* and *ragots*. The Secretary of State was brought up in a sphere—the diplomatic in London, and the *ultra mondaine* in Madrid, Brussels, and Paris—where they only think of futilities, and regard the influence of the *talon rouge* as eternal. Had Montagnini gone into those quarters of the city where the *talon rouge* is of no account, and written of what he saw there, his chief could not have understood his letters.

The ex-Papal Agent adopted the telegraphic style of his chief in regard to the naming of French personages. The "Monsieur" and "Monsignor" are dropped. They are simply Loubet, Fallières, Denys Cochin (he would be Cochin had he not a brother Henri, also a Deputy), Piou, Clemenceau, Fuzet (Archbishop of Rouen), Fulbert-Petit (Archbishop of Besançon). The exceptions are M. le Comte d'Aubigny (French Minister at Munich); M. Le Marchant, a good friend at the Foreign Office, where he hung on, though officially Minister to some South American Republic, and Canon Pisani, another good Corsican friend, and brother of Colonel Ferri Pisani, who, as aide of the late Prince Napoleon, had such a thorough knowledge of *le monde de la galanterie*.

Emile Ollivier is resurrected in the seized papers. That stormy petrel appears in them as priming and loading the Papal Agent. Some of his old power to persuade appears to survive in him. He seems to have been in some degree the cause of the rejection of the Cultual Associations clauses in the original Briand Law. Up to the time that the report of his conversation reached Rome, the Holy See had been undecided. Ollivier's besetting sin is vanity. He had predicted to some interviewer that the Pope could not, and never would, accept the Cultual Associations clauses. I dare say he went to the Rue de l'Elysée to make sure of the fulfilment of this prophecy. It is so delightful to a prophet to be able to say, "What did I tell you?" Perish Nineveh rather than the name of Jonah as a soothsayer! They can have no idea at the Vatican that what the soldier said is not evidence. In the seized papers, the soldier is always saying something through the mouths of Denys Cochin, Piou, Pisani, some Ambassador, Minister Plenipotentiary, resuscitated Orleanist or Bonapartist, or simply some busybody. Cochin manages to throw no fat on smouldering fire. Piou makes the embers flare up into a fine blaze. He is the tell-tale of the Catholic world, and softly and with nice innuendo enlightens Monsignor Montagnini on the manners and morals of possible rivals and actual foes. He is a Mr. Candour.

This Piou is a rather clever advocate, more fluent than eloquent, the son of the First President of the Court of Appeal of Toulouse, and la Présidente Piou who, angry about questions of precedence, led the Maréchale Niel such a life when the Marshal commanded the Army Corps of Languedoc. Mme. Veuve Lebaudy sprang also from this nest, which is rather chameleon in regard to politics, but of fast colours in regard to Roman Catholicism. Piou is a believer in small expedients, instinct leading him towards them. If he had not the deep-lying passion of la Présidente Piou for taking the *pas* on every one else he would have been more successful. Among those vain Catholics of *le monde élégant et dévot* he was too much of a Papal viceroy in the political sphere. Otherwise he has address in worming his way through and round obstacles enough to frighten a braver man. Piou and Leo XIII. understood each other. This Papal politician hardly improves with increasing years, and when old age comes upon him will not be a fine ruin. He used to enter, in the days of Grévy and Carnot, into job alliances with the Radicals to upset Opportunist Ministries. His relations with them, and with Clemenceau among the number, began and ended at the Palais Bourbon.

This brings me to Clemenceau as he figures in a passage in the Montagnini papers. I mean the one in which Piou, through the Papal Agent, advises the Holy See to give Clemenceau, with, of course, the very utmost secrecy, a big sum to tame his hostility to the Church in the debates on the Separation Bill. At the time Piou made this move he and Clemenceau had not seen each other for twelve years, nor had any relations, public or social. It was an American lady, a friend of both, who had a notion to bring them together at a lunch in her studio—for she is an artist. She may have wanted to earn the red ribbon, so coveted by painters, on the one side, and on the other a commission to paint the Pope, and so rank with Chatrain, or to obtain some valuable medal or intaglio, or some nobiliary title. The brain of an American lady when ambition stirs it can be fertile in smart notions and combinations. It is due to her to say that she told both Piou and Clemenceau whom each was to meet at her table. The latter saw no harm in meeting Piou, and why should he see any? So far from the conversation between them lasting two hours, it only lasted a few minutes in the embrasure of a window. Clemenceau's theory is that in recommending the Pope to send him a big sum wherewith to tame him, Piou wanted to bleed the purse of His Holiness for his own advantage. He had spent a good deal of money on elections, and would have to spend a good deal more to secure a seat in the next Chamber of Deputies. He follows those theologians who teach that we may disregard truth to save our lives' fair fame or fortune. Last year he denied with an air of injured innocence, when his election came before the Chamber, that the Church helped him in any way. We now see that it strained all its resources to bring him and other candidates into Parliament. He also declared there was no truth in the

account of the lunch at the American lady artist's which appears in the Montagnini papers. Without following "La Lanterne" in calling him Basile, I may paraphrase the old French maxim, "Donner et prendre ne vaut," into "Nier et affirmer ne vaut."

Was the Vatican ever known to pay for services in cash down? A Marquise, in the Montagnini papers, is spoken of as sending a hogshead of her finest vintages to the Holy Father. He returns the filial present with indulgences for five hundred days. Somebody sends to Merry del Val a cask of *fine champagne* brandy and two tubs of bordeaux. The Secretary of State at once writes that his Holiness would be deeply touched by a similar testimony of devotion. The hint is acted upon. Indulgences, benedictions, and other favours that cost nothing, are showered in return. The Secretary of State hints to Montagnini that chocolate lozenges, and especially the Swiss kind, would be welcome to the Pope, and that he himself would be glad of digestive mint lozenges. Boxes of these delicacies are obtained and are paid for in the way usual at the Vatican. The Holy Father holds M. Piou's faith in too great respect to think of giving him money for any past or expected service. This, say the Clemencists, is a reason the more why Piou should have advised him to spend a big sum in buying off the hostility of a Senator of talent who would treat benediction and indulgences as *monnaie du Pape*—no longer in circulation.

The Easter fashions show once more how success brings success. A few years ago there was talk of Japanese taste affecting the modes launched in the Place Vendôme. One of the *grands couturiers* then derided the idea. "Our Parisiennes," he said, "will never suffer those far off *insulaires* to dictate to them." "Who speaks of dictation?" somebody observed. "The *mousmés* are too gentle and too *gentille* (our Fashion's high priest speaks English) to dictate to anyone. But *vos élégantes* may follow the Stock Exchange, which goes in for Japanese Bonds, both as investors and in their dress." This has come to pass. The Japanese influence is seen in tissues. The kimono is followed in corsages, and there is something of Japan in the ball-room sash. Easter eggs, painted at Kiloa and Tokyo and filled with tiny curious picked up there, are the great rage this year. Skirts are still sweeping; but Japan has nothing to do with this. The awkwardly long garments are an indirect consequence of the athletic sports which girls have followed for the last twenty years—those cross-country walking matches, at which the Duc de Chartres acts as umpire, and the masculinising of the ornamental sex. When short skirts were worn feet, possibly, were too much squeezed, with the result of deformity. A *grande couturière* assures me that she now knows but two ladies whose feet retain their natural shape. They are both American. One is a marchioness living at Versailles, the other, the wife of an Irish M.P. residing in Chelsea.

Dark eyes now call for fair hair and blue eyes for black hair or very dark brown. I do not know whether oxygenised water is still in favour with the would-be blonds. The best wash for those who aspire to dark tresses is a preparation of henna. Some preparations of this oriental drug give a mahogany red or chestnut tint. There are others which produce the hue which gives the tails of the Shah's white thoroughbreds their peculiar pinkish tinge.

Scotch farmers ought to rejoice at a discovery made in those temples of beauty here where washes are sold. It is that oatmeal in a canvas bag is, if ground coarse, preferable to bran for baths. I am myself a believer in plain water, and soap that contains more palm oil than potash. But it does appear that oatmeal cleanses and gives satin smoothness to the skin. Breton dairymaids use it to wash their hands before they make butter. It prevents this substance sticking to the hands and cleanses. The use of soap would render the butter unmarketable. The face wash of these Bretons is buttermilk in which oatmeal has been steeped for a short time. This is supposed to give the cheeks, and perhaps does, the rose-petal softness and gloss which at Pardons and other fêtes go so well with bright eyes, bright teeth, and delicious lace and muslin caps of the Breton lasses. It is called in the Breton tongue "the face wash of Duchess Anne." Brantôme, to be sure, speaks of the matchless complexion of that great heiress, and of her bonnie black eyes. It occurs to me as I write that she was a grand-daughter of Isabella Stuart. That princess may have taught the Bretonnes the virtue of oatmeal as a skin purifier. What a time it has taken for Paris Lumière to awake to this fact!

A PEER AMONG THE HOUSEMAIDS.

I AM not at all sure I ought to tell you what I am going to, because I only got to know of it in a private conversation, which certainly wasn't meant to be made public. But, on the other hand, I wasn't definitely told not to use it, and now that I am a journalist it seems to me I ought to do as other journalists do, and not worry about old-fashioned ideas of that sort when there's a scoop to be made. (I'm rather proud of "scoop." It sounds so technical. What?) And this is really no end important. I shouldn't be in the least surprised if there was a revolution or something in consequence; and it ought to do the paper no end of good being the first to publish it. I got to hear of it from a lady I met at an aunt of mine's a day or two ago. I've been making inquiries about it since then, and there isn't the slightest doubt it's true. It's about housemaids, chiefly, and particularly charwomen. I expect you've heard there's a new Act coming into force on July 1 about compensating servants if they get hurt while they're in your service. I can't for the life of me make out how *we* let it go through; but I remember at the time being told by some one—I really forget who it was; possibly Norfolk, or Arthur Balfour, or some one of that set—that I wasn't to vote against it. So, of course, I didn't. I remember whoever it was gave me some reason—something about wanting to knock some more important Bill on the head, I think—but I didn't pay much attention to it at the time, because if you know the way you've got to vote, I never see much good in worrying about reasons. Anyway, it was passed all right, and now it seems the whole country—or all of it that matters and some that doesn't—is up in arms about it.

This lady who told me about it made out that it is going to have all sorts of results that nobody ever thought about when they drew up the Bill. She gave me two or three examples, and I must say they strike me as being a bit thick—if they're true. It seems that, say you live in the country, and one of your

servants is going off for a holiday, and rides into the nearest town on a bicycle, and some one in the house asks her to look in at the grocer's on the way back and bring a pound of butter back with her and she falls off her bicycle and breaks her arm on her way back—then you're liable. Another thing, if you've given her a month's notice, and tell her she needn't wait till the end of the month, but just pay her her wages and get rid of her, and she goes and lives at home, and a week before the end of the month falls downstairs and hurts herself—then you're liable. Another thing, if you put a man and his wife as caretakers in an empty house and they both drink and bash each other's heads in with the poker, and say they did it tumbling down the area steps—then you're liable, unless you can prove that they were drunk, which you can be pretty sure they're not going to be jugginses enough to let you prove. I could tell you no end of such stories, and it doesn't much matter whether they're true or not, because pretty well all the women in England believe them, and that's the chief thing. It seems, too, according to this lady—and she's been looking into it pretty closely—that it isn't going to be so easy to insure against it. Her husband got forms of policies from half-a-dozen different companies, and according to him they're all full of restrictions and ways of catching you out, so that half the time, when you think you're insured all right, you'll find you're not. I was talking to my man, Fitzsimmons, about it, and according to him the people that are going to be hardest hit of any are the charwomen, because every one they work for, even if it's only one day a month, will have to insure them, and they just won't do it, and hundreds of them are telling their charwomen that they won't employ them after the 1st of July. Fitzsimmons says they aren't to be allowed to insure themselves either, or get round it any way like that.

I thought I had better explain to you what the people, and especially the women who keep servants, are thinking about this new Act, because then you'll understand better the piece of "exclusive" news (that's another technical word. What?) I've got for you. It is that they're organising a regular strike, on the lines of a secret society. They are working it uncommonly well, too, as far as I can make out, and they've managed to keep it a dead secret till now. I expect half the people I know will cut me for letting it out now, but I look upon it as a sort of a duty, especially as I couldn't find anything else to write about this week. Of course, by the way, if you are afraid to put it in and prefer to use that article I wrote about the Suffragettes instead, I shall quite understand. Anyway, this is the plot. On the 1st of July they are all going to sack every servant they've got in their houses, and all the rest of the employees that come under the new Act—curates I mean, and people like that. But that isn't nearly all. Wherever they are they are going to pay the servants' fares up to London—all on the same day—and they're going to explain exactly why they've had to sack them, and get them all down to Westminster to demonstrate against the Government until they repeal the Act. I tell you, the Suffragette business is going to be a fool to it! There are all sorts of points about this, but I'll only tell you one, just to show you how cunningly they've laid their plans. They are going to form up all the cooks in front, because they say that policemen are always in love with cooks and when they see their sweethearts they'll refuse to act and just let them play Old Harry with the House as much as they please. They say there is absolutely no limit to the number of servants there will be in the procession. They have got more than 2,000 people pledged to sack their servants—of all classes—some with thirty or forty, right down to those who only keep one "general." And hundreds are joining every day. Fitzsimmons tells me that the charwomen are organising another demonstration of the same kind on their own account that's being financed by the first League, and that there's not the least doubt they'll amalgamate the two.

Of course, it isn't my business to tell the Government what it ought to do, especially as it's a Radical Government, and the more messes it gets into, the better I'm pleased; but I'm afraid it's really going to be a serious affair, and if somebody doesn't warn them I shouldn't be in the least surprised if it led to bloodshed. I remember quite well a cook we had, when I was a small boy. Something made her lose her temper, and she laid out the butler and the housekeeper and two of the footmen with a rolling-pin before they could master her. And when it comes to, perhaps, 5,000 cooks, with 5,000 rolling-pins—well, I shouldn't like to be in the Government's shoes, I know that. I hope at least they'll have some of the County Council steamboats moored near the House, so as to give them some chance of escaping when the time comes.

As a matter of fact, even if nothing serious happens in the way of riots, I expect the Government is in for a bad time when this Act comes into force. It's going to set every woman in the country that keeps any kind of a servant dead against them. I didn't say that the Act is not a fair one, or that it's going to prove as bad as people think. But all the women do think so—not the shrieking suffragette sisterhood kind of women, but every woman who lives in a £30 a year villa in the suburbs, or who's got a husband with a vote. And that husband's not going to get any peace until he votes against the Government that passed the Servants' Compensation Act. If he doesn't, Heaven help him! That's what I think about it. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE New Fame, dear Lady Betty, is a product of the time. The following story requires no further introduction:—

There is, in the village of Chalfont St. Giles, a house known as Milton's cottage, a cabin to which the poet fled to escape the plague, and hundreds visit this each year.

Some days ago a big motor-car halted at the wicket, and a large, florid-faced man, wrapped in a great fur coat, stepped into the cottage. He paid to the caretaker the sixpence for admission, and was shown into Milton's sitting-room. There the visitor stood for a moment in a reverential attitude, and then he said:

"And this is Lipton's cottage?"

"Milton's, sir," said the caretaker.

"Milton's?" he exclaimed, savagely; "I thought it was Lipton's; it is most disappointing!" and he strode out of the house forthwith.

* * * * *

In England we are in a condition of advanced stupidity; notwithstanding the enormous increase of freedom of thought and action, education and experience, we are still cramped by the system which was developed in the Dark Ages! We still occasionally describe the multitude as "The common people;" it is a significant circumstance, however, that the use of the phrase is daily becoming less frequent. Every condition which was formerly not affected by the hereditary superior amongst us is even now described contemptuously; the "Low Journalist," "Poor Artist," "Common Actor," "Worthless Actress," "Dirty Jew," "Snivelling Dissenter," "City Shark," "Pettifogging Attorney," and "Swindling Shopkeeper," are expressions that occur at once to the memory. On the other side of the social chasm are "The Noble Lord," "The Reverend Gentleman," "The Gallant Officer," and "The Honourable Member"! The iniquity of this situation is far more serious than it appears to be on the surface. The "Noble Lord" has to be convicted of a vast amount of villainy before the efficacy of the descriptive adjective is ever diminished; enormous success must be achieved by the "Poor Artist," "Low Journalist," "Dirty Jew," "Common Actor," and "Swindling Shopkeeper" before the latter are absolved from the unnecessary consequences of not being born of the class that inherits superiority! To the "Noble" Lord and his connections were allotted the best opportunities, and the system provided numerous checks to prevent them from sinking to the social depths—unless they were traitors to the

cause. Those on the other side of the artificial gulf had not only to make their own opportunities, but to succeed mightily in spite of a multitude of obstacles cunningly devised to check their advance. The greater part of this villainous machinery still exists. Those who support progress and reform here are "agitators," "demagogues," and "socialists" yet. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was all three until he allied himself to the hereditary party.

* * * * *

The almost idolatrous attitude we have now assumed in this country towards the rich is somewhat excusable when considered in that light. The acquisition of great wealth by inheritance, marriage, effort, fraud, or any other form, at once frees the "City Shark," "Common Actor," "Swindling Shopkeeper," "Dirty Jew," "Snivelling Dissenter," "Low Journalist," and the rest from the malign influences of their former condition. There is a frantic rush for wealth and its baptismal advantages. Would it not be wise simply to remove the disqualifications which the folly of our ancestors elaborated?

* * * * *

"The wisdom of our ancestors" is a ridiculous expression; their portion was folly almost undiluted. For long centuries the condition of the race scarcely improved; an increase of freedom of thought and action, persistently opposed, led at once to advance in every direction. Our ancestors could have had almost every scientific and mechanical contrivance we possess, and all the accompanying prosperity and advantages of these, had they not discountenanced education, suppressed liberty, coerced the mind even, and maltreated the enterprising who reasoned, discovered, or invented. The great liberty of thought and action accorded by America to its citizens almost at once caused Progress to bound up like a balloon released from its moorings, and the whole of Europe will be dragged forwards—however reluctant the old-world "Governing Classes," who benefit by existing circumstances, may be—by her.

* * * * *

"Only a woman" is a phrase which is in general use. When, for instance, a woman fabricates a scandalous story concerning a man, he is, almost always, recommended to ignore the matter, as the detractor is "Only a woman"—and this, notwithstanding that life-long experience has proved to all that such calumnies continually do enormous and often irreparable mischief. Were men to enable women to attain positions of great responsibility in the State, are the latter to retain the privilege of irresponsibility in other directions? The question is especially interesting in consequence of the following circumstances. *(a)* A woman cannot be physically punished for such conduct; *(b)* this form of "gossip" is the current coin of the conversation of many, and, were legal proceedings taken against a woman for uttering a slander of the kind, the judge and jury might treat her leniently on the ground that she is "Only a woman"; and *(c)* did the new circumstances cause the Courts to be more severe, ordinary men cannot afford to frequently venture the large amounts required for legal expenses, and cannot devote much of their valuable time to continual proceedings of the sort—for the number of such slanders that are fabricated each day is enormous.

There is, obviously, but one way to overcome the difficulties of the situation: woman must correct herself of the failing, and she must learn not to pronounce judgment on men without having given reasonable consideration to the two sides of each case; for almost every woman conceives it to be her especial province to decide offhand—according to her temporary and personal condition of mind—any matter that presents itself. When woman has established for herself a responsible character in the ordinary circumstances of life, man will no longer be able to refer to her as "Only a woman," and she will have a claim to attain positions of responsibility in the government of the community. A barrel of gunpowder wrapped up in a petticoat is not a desirable occupant of the Treasury Bench—even if she is described by so fascinating a term as "Suffragette."—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT was announced in Truth several weeks ago that Lord Durham would be requested again to accept the office of Steward of the Jockey Club when Colonel Baird retires. I am very pleased to hear that Lord Durham has consented to serve again, this being his fourth term of Stewardship. It is the very best possible arrangement which could have been made under the circumstances. Colonel Baird's term of office expires next Wednesday, when the annual financial meeting of the Jockey Club is to be held at Newmarket.

I am sorry to hear that Lord Cadogan is retiring from the Turf, which will be a great loss to Newmarket, as he has always been a liberal and staunch patron of that town. Lord Cadogan's horses in training are to be sold at Newmarket without reserve on May 1, being Wednesday in the First Spring Week.

It was stated last week in one of the papers that Mr. Hall Walker made a great mistake when he paid the minor forfeit for Polar Star for the Derby. As a matter of fact, Polar Star never was engaged in the Derby. If the colt had been entered for that race he certainly would not have been withdrawn when the minor forfeit was declared last year on March 27, as he had by that time been highly tried, and three days later he won the Sefton Park Plate at Liverpool in a canter, having started with odds of 2 to 1 betted on him, in a field of eight. Polar Star was not much thought of as a yearling, so that he was then entered for only minor races, none of his engagements being events of the highest class. There have been other instances of the best horse of the year having been left out of the Derby, notably the Duke of Devonshire's Morion, in 1890, and Mr. Rose's Cyllene, in 1898. There have also been many cases in which the flyer of the season was a filly, but she had not been engaged in the Derby. Seabreeze could have beaten Ayrshire in 1888, and Memoir would have made short work of Sainfoin two years later, while in 1904 St. Amant would have stood no chance against Pretty Polly. The winning owner at Epsom on June 5 may have good reason to be thankful, not only for the omission of Polar Star, but also for the absence of Sagamore, who was disqualified by the death of Sir James Miller.

I hear that My Pet II. is to run at Longchamps next Sunday for the Prix Hocquart, and it will be interesting to see how Mr. Raphael's colt gets on in that race, which was won last year by Maintenon. If My Pet II. should be defeated easily he might after all be sent over to Newmarket to start for the Two Thousand, as, if he is beaten on Sunday, being fit and well, it will be obvious that he cannot have much chance for the Poule d'Essai on the 28th, so there would be no object in keeping him in France to run for that race. The performance of My Pet II. on Sunday will be anxiously awaited by owners of horses engaged in the Ascot Derby, as if Mr. Raphael's colt appears to be out of the Grand Prix, he would no doubt run at Ascot, and he has no penalty for the stake named. My Pet II. is entered besides for the three-year-old heat of the Biennial, which is also run on the Wednesday, but in that race he has a penalty of 8 lb.

It was announced in Truth last week that Polar Star is intended to run for the Chippenham Plate at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, a race which appears to be at his mercy, as he has no extra weight to carry. A sporting paper asserts that Mr. Hall Walker's colt "is expected to win both this race and the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap." If Mr. Hall Walker really contemplates starting Polar Star at Kempton Park, the colt is unlikely to run at Newmarket, for success in the Chippenham Plate would involve a penalty of 5 lb. in the Jubilee Handicap, and his present weight (7 st. 12 lb.) is quite enough for a three-year-old. As matters stand, Polar Star would meet Keystone II. at 16 lb., whereas on the weight-for-age scale the mare ought to give him only 15 lb., deducting the sex allowance.

A writer in one of the sporting papers tells us that "the real founder of the French Turf" was "Lord Sey-

mour." The individual known at that period as "Lord Seymour" was afterwards the twelfth Duke of Somerset, and he neither knew nor cared anything about racing. Reference is intended to be made to Lord Henry Seymour, the putative brother of the fourth Marquis of Hertford and of Sir Richard Wallace, who spent all his life in France.

His Majesty's mare Laodamia, who is in foal to St. Simon, has been sent to Gallinule. Laodamia was expected to turn out a great success at the stud, but her failure has been complete and ignominious. After the cross with Persimmon had been proved a blunder it was a great mistake to persist in sending the mare to that horse, and there was not much improvement when she was despatched to St. Simon, the blood being practically the same. It may be hoped that the Gallinule cross will turn out more successful.

When the entries for the Goodwood Cup were made nearly three years before the race was run the winners were usually animals of exceedingly poor class, and the event excited no general interest whatever. A salutary change has been made this season in closing the race a little over four months before the day of running, and the entry of thirty-seven includes many of the best horses in training. The allowance of 12 lb. for four-year-olds and upwards which have not won a race of a mile or upwards, is excessive, and it should be reduced next year to 7 lb., while the 5 lb. allowance for three-year-olds in the same position ought to be abolished. These allowances only favour bad horses, and they bear hardly upon the "cracks," which usually have their full share of extra weight to carry. His Majesty has entered Cheverel, who is very bad, and he has probably been engaged only in order that the King's name might appear in the list. Lord Derby has Keystone II., Bridge of Canny, and Glasconbury. The horse escapes with a 5 lb. penalty, whereas Keystone II. will have to carry 12 lb. extra. Bridge of Canny and Keystone II. have both improved considerably since last season, but I fancy that the horse would be the more dangerous of the pair over two miles and a half, supposing there to be anything of a pace from start to finish. Major Loder has entered Spearmint and Weathercock, but I do not believe that last year's Derby winner will stand a preparation for any such race as this, and Weathercock is not likely to turn out a flyer. This colt is not thought to have improved during the winter. Mr. Bass has engaged the four-year-olds Sancy and Gold Riach, and one of Mr. Buchanan's pair is Noctuiform, the Australian horse about whose supposed merits such a prodigious trumpeting was heard last autumn. Noctuiform can certainly stay well, and probably his miserable exhibitions last autumn were all wrong running. Mr. Dalgleish enters Buckminster, and Mr. G. Faber is represented by Malua, who has been marked out by some good judges as a likely horse to win an important handicap, probably during the autumn. Mr. Hill's Mondamin, Lord Howard de Walden's Poussin, and Mr. A. James's three animals will all find themselves outclassed. Colonel Kirkwood's The White Knight has incurred a penalty of 5 lb. only, and he will be very dangerous, for he can really stay well, besides having fine speed. Mr. Neumann's Llangibby is not likely to stand training for a Cup race, and Mr. Singer's Challacombe appeared to have trained off last season. He is a sorry specimen of a St. Leger winner. Mr. L. de Rothschild has two entries, one being Radium, and one of Captain Woods' pair is Roseate Dawn. Sir E. Cassel has Killeagh, who is expected to retrieve his reputation this season. Only two French owners have entered horses for the Goodwood Cup. M. Caillault has engaged Hautbois and Mortier, while M. de Monbel is represented by Storm, who was much fancied for last year's St. Leger, but he lost many lengths at the start, a mishap which entirely extinguished any chance which he might have possessed.

Baltinglass, who was expected to turn out the best of his owner's lot for the Two Thousand, has been suffering from a cracked heel, a visitation which will not improve his chance on May 1, as he was not sufficiently forward in condition to allow of his being rested for even two or three days. He is a handsome and racing-like colt, and has made a vast improvement since last autumn, but, of course, nothing conclusive is as yet known as to his stamina. A colt may gallop strongly enough in appearance over a mile or a mile and a half, and yet when he comes to be seriously tried he discovers himself to be a non-stayer. All Black is undergoing a special preparation at Newmarket for the Two Thousand, and he is doing well, but there is an idea that he will prove to be deficient in stamina, and that six furlongs will be found his best course. Linacre has also pleased the observers of his gallops, but he is likely to run next week, and the same may be said of Simon Square. I shall be surprised if either Saxham or Galleot turns out to be capable of winning the Two Thousand for their owner. The Egerton House stable is not likely to be dangerous. Prince of Orange will probably represent Lord Wolverton, whose promising colt Larig will not be properly fit for several months. Lord Rosebery's colours will be seen on Bezonian, and this colt is expected to run well. It is quite on the cards, indeed, that Bezonian will turn out to be the best of the Newmarket lot. Traquair is not likely to run either for the Two Thousand or the Derby. It will be a judicious policy to keep this colt for T.Y.C. races, and if all goes well he will be hard to beat over five furlongs, as he has immense speed. I hear that he is to "go for" the Princess of Wales' Handicap at Sandown Park on the 26th.

After their tragical experiences over the Lincolnshire Handicap, it is amazing to find backers so prematurely meddling with the City and Suburban, but their fatuity is boundless and bottomless. There will be no genuine or extended speculation on the race until the first day of the Epsom Meeting, and it had very much better be left alone until the latest possible moment. Succour is the last Newmarket tip for the Epsom event. It is said that there was a good excuse for his miserable exhibition at Liverpool.

I observe that a sporting writer indulges in some hysterical rhapsodies concerning the "wonderful" performance of Polymelus in the Cambridgeshire. It seems to me that the merits of this victory have been preposterously exaggerated. Polymelus won in a common canter, but he certainly had not much to beat. St. Amant's day was over, and Velocity was actually the only really good animal in the field. Mrs. Jackson's horse was giving 6 lb. to Polymelus, and was unplaced. Kaffir Chief, who finished second, was receiving 2 st. from the winner, but at Lincoln Ob gave Mr. Barnard's horse 16 lb., and cantered away from him with extreme ease. Polymelus figures in the City and Suburban betting at 16 to 1, but any bookmaker might safely offer 50 to 1, for the horse will not start at Epsom, and even if he did run he could have no earthly chance, as he would not be half fit. There is a disposition to write up Mr. Joel's horse for the Jubilee Handicap, but I shall certainly be astonished if he proves capable of giving Keystone II. 12 lb. Polymelus will probably be kept for the Coronation Cup at the Epsom Summer Meeting.

I hear that Gingal is to run for the Doveridge Handicap at Derby on the 19th, and that Meadow Rue will represent the stable at Kempton Park.

Lord Derby's mare, Gourd, winner of the Derby Cup, has accepted for the Great Metropolitan Handicap at Epsom, but I am told that she is to be reserved for the Chester Cup. Gourd is of no use on hard ground.

Orwell, who looked like winning the One Thousand on last year's two-year-old form, is not likely to be in good trim for that race, and she is more likely to distinguish herself in the Oaks. Bellatrix, who has been undergoing a special preparation for the One Thousand, is described as looking very light indeed. It is unfortunate that Mr. Musker (her breeder) should have withdrawn this filly from the Oaks when the minor forfeit was declared.

The cackle about Slieve Gallion being a non-stayer still continues, the fact being that nothing certain will be known as to his powers until he has been tried. Darling does not appear to share the doubts which are so largely entertained as to Slieve Gallion's stamina. Judging from the work which the colt is doing at Beckhampton, I expect we shall see him win the Two

Thousand, unless he is defeated by the dark Kingsclere colt, Lord Falmouth's St. Martin.

The racing of last week was of no general interest, only excepting the victory of Bridge of Canny in the Queen's Prize at Kempton Park. Lord Derby's horse only won by a head, but a defeat would have been dreadfully unfortunate, as it was obvious that he ought to have won very easily indeed. The horse got shut in, and Maher certainly did not shine in this race until the last few strides, when he redeemed his previous blunder by a very powerful finish. Bridge of Canny was highly tried as a two-year-old, but he started seven times without winning, and was ultimately denounced as an arrant rogue. However, this horse "came on" wonderfully between three years and four, and during the last twelve months he has won ten races of the value of nearly £11,200. Bridge of Canny's performance at Kempton Park was a very good one, as he was giving 13 lb. to Nightfall and 35 lb. to Cadwal, who were respectively second and third. If the ground is hard at Chester, Bridge of Canny might yet win the Cup, for which handicap his weight is now 9 st. 5 lb.

Attraction, who was defeated by Pom at Liverpool, was a great favourite for the Rendlesham Plate, and Mr. James's colt was unlucky in being beaten by Opal, for he was considerably interfered with during the race, and with a clear course it is probable that he would have won cleverly. Bucolic ought to win a race for Lord Falmouth in a few weeks, when he will be more forward in condition. He will probably be seen out at Chester.

There will be some good racing at Newmarket next week, and there are many people who still regard the Craven Meeting as being the real opening of the season. Twenty-six horses were left in for the Biennial after the minor forfeit had been declared, and I shall predict the success of the Kingsclere representative, which will be either Lord Falmouth's St. Martin or the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, each colt being entitled to a 7 lb. maiden allowance. The Column Stakes on Wednesday has thirty-eight horses left in, and Lord Derby's colt Glacis ought to win if he starts. The best public form is represented by the Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite and Lord Wolverton's Prince of Orange, but both these animals have incurred the extreme penalty of 10 lb., so that Glacis will have 18lb. the best of the weights. A very poor lot of animals are engaged in the Wood Ditton Stakes, putting aside Major Loder's Baltinglass, who will not run, but his stable companion, Adora, may be able to win. If this filly has won her trial she will, of course, be well backed. The Bennington Stakes on Thursday may be left to Hillsprite. There are sixty-two entries for the Craven Stakes, and St. Martin should win if he is kept for this race.

The four-year-old heat of the Biennial may be interesting if Troutbeck starts, but I shall expect to see him beaten by Radium, who has a stone the worst of the weights. Mr. de Rothschild's horse is not entitled to the 7 lb. allowance for never having won a race of a mile, for he won the mile Nursery at Doncaster at two years old.

As to the two-year-old races next week, the Fitzwilliam Plate may bring out Pom and Counterfeit, in which case I shall expect the Liverpool winner to beat the Brocklesby Stakes form. Mr. D. Baird will probably win the Granby Plate with Pietra, who has been well galloped. In this race the owners' subscriptions (or entrances) exceed the advertised value of the stake, so nothing will be really added from the fund. The Double Trial Plate may be left to Colonel Baird's Carpathia, who has won her trial.

THE ANCHOR STROKE.

The anchor stroke has made quite a stir in the billiard world. It has been a seven days' wonder. It has come, it has been seen, and it has been conquered. It has served its purpose as a useful little advertisement. But by its success it has been killed. Having put up a record score of well over six thousand, Dawson has been quite content. Twice in his match with Lovejoy he has deliberately broken up the position after making well over fifteen hundred points. He has realised that the public is tired of the anchor cannon. The people may go once or twice to see it played, and then they will not come again. This has been appreciated by Harverson and Williams, who have limited sequences of ball-to-ball cannons to fifty. In other words, they are content that people should have a chance of seeing what can be done without being wearied by vain repetitions. Reece, in an interview reported in the *Chronicle*, does not think that the stroke should be barred. The position is difficult to get, and when once obtained extreme delicacy of touch is needed to retain it, and on the ordinary table the conditions are not conducive to the play. As to the difficulty of position, Dawson has soon shown that he can get there, and the inference I draw from the performances of the crack players is that they can get there on match tables with sufficient frequency to make the performance boring. In other words, they can, by their ability to control the ball, reduce the game to a farce. Now, if the game is to retain its hold on the public for exhibition purposes it must be played under such rules as may be applicable, not merely to professionals, but to amateurs. The spectator's interest is reduced to vanishing point in a very short time if he cannot compare the play of various players in different matches. It is for this reason that I strongly object to players making special regulations, as Harverson and Williams have done, or as Reece and Weiss did. These last-named players spotted the balls after each break. In this way not only is safety play doomed, but there is a certain break left for the striker. Of course, there is nothing to prevent players making what rules they like. But under such circumstances the game is not billiards, a fact which the public will quickly appreciate. I have said sufficient to indicate the necessity of a code that shall be applicable to all players of exhibition matches, and the fact that both in the old spot and new anchor strokes players have temporarily to make special rules in order to avoid tiring the public, or else to break up perfectly legitimate positions, indicates the lines on which the necessary amendment should be made. It is quite conceivable that other strokes of a similar character may be evolved. By similarity I mean strokes which, when once a certain position is obtained, are capable of such indefinite repetition as to make the game farcical. But before I consider the amendment necessary to meet these conditions, I would point out that the amateur—that is, the ordinary visitor at these exhibitions—necessarily demands that he should play the game under the rules that are applicable to the professional. Both classes must play billiards, and every one of Reece's objections to the anchor stroke being barred to amateurs may be met by the observation that the average amateur on the ordinary table is just as capable of stringing up sequences of centuries by all-round play as he is of making thousands by the anchor or spot stroke. In other words, rules limiting the number of strokes affect his play less than they would the professional player.

The only way to deal with these limitless strokes is to make a general rule that no identical stroke should be allowed to be made on a billiard table for more than a given number of consecutive shots. If a man were making losing hazards in either the middle or top pocket such a rule would be no handicap, as he could, when he got near the limit, easily put the ball over the opposite pocket, when he could go on afresh. Similarly in the case of cannons, he could play from the red to the white or vice versâ. Once let the general rule be passed, and there would be more variation in the game. As to what should be the limit I do not pretend to say. But unless some such rule is passed there will be, from time to time, the necessity for passing rules barring one stroke or another. It is far better that no strokes should be

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barred. It is only their repetition that should be prohibited. The fact that such a prohibition as I have indicated is called for in billiards is a tribute to the ingenuity of the professional player and a confession of the relative incapacity of the amateur.

I am much amused to read in the *Field* the solemn lecture that is given to Mr. Gilbert Coleridge for having summoned a special general meeting of the Cyclists' Touring Club at Birmingham to confirm his reform resolution, which the egregious councillors by a requisition challenged. Fifteen of these fluffy-minded gentlemen—for really, after reading their affidavits in their great action, I can find no better description—demanded a postal vote. By the rules a special confirmatory meeting binds the council. The writer in the *Field* says Mr. Coleridge should leave the matter to the postal vote. He should do nothing of the sort. He has shown that he can get 200 members to demand a meeting. He has shown that there are members ready to put their household in order and make the C.T.C. a valuable organisation. The stay-at-home nincompoop who swallows the twaddle of Mr. Shipton and Mr. Kendall Burnett sends up his voting paper for dear Mr. Shipton, the gospel of whose *Gazette* is his fascinating infallibility, assisted by his disciples on the council. The truth of the matter is, the club needs to be reconstituted. I have no patience with reformers who write to me about electing consuls and all that sort of twaddle. All of those offices are utterly useless. The club is over-officered and over-staffed. The letters from members show the idiots that belong to it. One says all wearing the badge should salute each other, and the correspondence column is filled with the most utter balderdash that any person ever penned. These samples of correspondence show how easily people can be gulled by the bunkum of the C.T.C. officials. As soon as the members call themselves the Cyclists' Protection Association, and rid themselves of all club twaddle, and work with an efficient salaried staff on the lines indicated by such a title, they will find their membership increase. Their precious privileges are very small. The reduced tariff is scarcely worth the paper it is written on. No self-respecting cyclist ever goes near a C.T.C. house unless he expects to get a reduction on a penny bottle of ginger beer. He is surprised that there is no discount. I heard of such a case the other day.

In Association football England drew with Scotland, and so Wales is at the top of the tree so far as Association football goes. Nearly all the Scottish team were selected from English League football clubs. It was a good game when once the English forward line really started playing. The defence on both sides was excellent, and in the last quarter of an hour the English goalkeeper surpassed himself.

I am very pleased to learn from the report of the Essex County Cricket Club that its period of acute financial depression seems to be overpast. At the same time, more members are needed. The county must support the county team.

In Lancashire the clubs in the cricket league keep men who would elsewhere be playing for the county. The authorities are now regulating the circumstances under which amateurs can take collections for making over fifty runs. Of course, in any other game they would be professionals. But there is no reason why anybody should interfere.

At Oxford I hear that several of the colleges are ordering Belgian oars for their crews in the summer eights. I have no doubt these young men are keen Protectionists. There is a little lesson in Free Trade for them in this transaction. There is also a lesson to be learned in rowing. It is no use working with another man's tools unless you work in his style. If Oxford adopts the Belgian style we shall see some funny happenings on the river. A well-known oarsman is much impressed by their style. They were not a particularly fine set of men, and yet they finished the course in times which would have exhausted a good English eight, and they did not appear to be done up.

I am told that the A.R.A. will select the crews to represent England at the racing which will be held in connection with the so-called Olympian games.

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MAMMON.

Cheerful Stock Markets, but Undue Enthusiasm Checked by Wreckage—The Change in the Monetary Situation—Reduction in the Bank Rate Talked.

THE past week has, on the whole, been a satisfactory one in the Stock Exchange. Members on returning from their Easter holidays on the Tuesday gave vent to their relief at the removal of the serious difficulties surrounding the end-March Settlement by bidding stocks up in all departments. It was soon demonstrated, however, that prices were not going to move upwards without hindrance. In the first place, the volume of public buying had not yet assumed sufficiently big proportions to permit the professionals taking liberties; in the second place, there were the Settlements on the Paris and Berlin Bourses still to be arranged (and in both cases, although failures were averted, some heavy liquidation became necessary); and in the third the House got a reminder that the process of helping lame ducks had left a lot of stock in the hands of people who were merely nursing it for disposal on the first fine day. These circumstances combined to restrain undue enthusiasm on the part of the House, but it is significant of the more hopeful views entertained of markets that the prevailing tendency of prices throughout the week was upwards. The easier conditions that have developed in the Money Market with the turn of April have done much to engender a feeling of hopefulness. The end of the March quarter this year had been an unusually trying time from the monetary point of view at all the leading international centres, and particularly in London, New York, and Berlin. The return of the Imperial Bank of Germany for the week ended the 30th ult. was of a sensational character. The cash holding declined to 38¾ millions sterling, and the note circulation expanded to 86½ millions, being 20 millions above the legal maximum, as against 7¼ millions below it in the previous week. In fact, so strained a position had perhaps never before been shown by the Reichsbank at this season. Fortunately, there is every reason to expect a rapid recovery now that the quarter has turned, while as regards New York, the measures taken by Mr. Secretary Cortelyou to increase the currency facilities of the banks have already been reflected in a decided improvement in the situation. The sharp recovery in New York Exchange that resulted from the action of the United States Treasurer had a dramatic sequel in the London market last week. On Tuesday, of the £900,000 bar gold that had just arrived here from the Cape and elsewhere, £550,000 had been bought for export to the States at 77s. 10½d. per oz. Exchange, however, moved up so swiftly that by Friday the export of the metal had become out of the question, and those who had engaged it cut their loss by reselling the parcel to the Bank of England at about a penny per oz. below the purchase price.

Naturally the incident has had a marked effect upon our Money Market, which had already been witnessing a rapid melting of discount rates, owing to the big increase in loanable supplies entailed by the release of the April dividends. If, as seems not unlikely, the United States demand for gold upon us is off, the Bank of England should rapidly improve its position, for the South American demand, which has accounted for over £6,000,000 since the beginning of the year,

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has been about satisfied, and gold is flowing in at an average rate of £600,000 a week. Already the City has begun to talk of a reduction in the Bank rate, whilst the open market rate for three months bills, which a few weeks ago was 5⅛ per cent., has fallen below 4 per cent. Seeing that dear money has been the one real evil from which most markets have suffered of late, an improvement in this respect can hardly fail to be quickly communicated to the prices of securities, and, providing nothing untoward occurs to mar the normal progress of events, it will be surprising if high-class investment stocks do not make some recovery in the course of the next few months. The present seems to me to offer a splendid opportunity to the buyer of gilt-edged stocks, including those in the home railway fixed interest group, with which I dealt at length a week ago. Home railway ordinary stocks also look ripe for a recovery, having regard to traffics and yields, as well as to monetary prospects. Canadian railways, too, still make a strong appeal to the speculative investor, and in the foreign railway group Argentine issues ought to come in for a greater share of attention on the score of their yields. In fact, there is no lack of bargains offering at the present time in most markets to the investor willing to exercise ordinary discrimination.

In the foreign market, Peruvian Corporation issues have during the last few days returned to favour. It is reported that a settlement between the Corporation and the Peruvian Government has already been effected, and that the ordinary is being bought for the purpose of voting power, to enable the scheme to be carried into effect. Up to the time of writing no details of the alleged settlement have leaked out, but I shall be surprised if the Corporation succeeds in wringing any cash out of the Government. The main provision of any arrangement likely to be concluded will probably be the obtaining by the Corporation of the railways in perpetuity. Under existing conditions, the lines revert to the Government in 1956. Such a concession would of course be important from the point of view of permanent holders of Perus, but it would hardly provide much of a lever for the speculator concerned merely with snatching an early turn. Russian bonds, considering the inflammatory stories about the coming dissolution of the Duma and abdication of the Czar, have kept comparatively firm. In inside circles the tip has lately been passed round to buy, and certainly to the speculative investor there is something attractive about the bonds of a Great Power when they can be picked up to yield 6½ per cent.—which is the return now obtainable on the Fives of 1906.

Underlying Strength in Home Rails—Good Friday Week Traffics—Earnings for the Quarter—A Splendid Record—The Market Outlook Generally Favourable.

Once or twice last week determined efforts were made to rally the Home Railway Market. Members returning to town last Tuesday with the memory of brilliant weather and crowded trains fresh upon them, commenced to bid quite eagerly for stocks, and with jobbers not anxious to part, prices at first scored a substantial improvement. Later on it was found that the volume of public buying was not sufficient to justify such a rapid upward movement, and as, moreover, the rally was taken advantage of to distribute stock "taken over" at the last Settlement, prices afterwards showed a yielding tendency. However, the market seems to be gradually working its way to a higher level, despite constant false starts and disappointments, and towards the end of the week buyers predominated again. The easier tendency of the Money Market, as usual at the beginning of April, tended to foster a better sentiment, and the trickle of real investment support that has been steadily going on for months past, albeit its effect has been frequently obscured by forced sales, was accelerated by the release of the dividend and interest payments that fall due at this season.

As regards the traffic returns, which covered the long distance holiday takings, the record was in one or two instances not quite up to expectation, but in the majority of cases the companies did exceedingly well, as the following table indicates:—

TRAFFIC RETURNS GOOD FRIDAY WEEK.

Company.	1906.	1907.	Increase + or Decrease −.
	£	£	£
Great Central	75,000	81,800	+ 6,800
Great Eastern	109,500	109,100	− 400
Great Northern	111,400	114,500	+ 3,100
Great Western	257,500	255,200	− 2,300
Hull & Barnsley	9,700	10,400	+ 700
Lancashire & Yorkshire	129,100	131,700	+ 2,600
London Brighton & South Coast	71,800	72,300	+ 500
London & North-Western	293,000	305,000	+12,000
London & South-Western	107,700	110,700	+ 3,000
London, Tilbury, & Southend	10,100	10,800	+ 700
Midland	231,300	242,600	+11,300
North-Eastern	195,100	201,700	+ 6,600
North Stafford	18,800	20,000	+ 1,200
South-Eastern & Chatham	103,200	97,800	− 5,400
North London	8,200	7,900	− 300
Metropolitan	15,200	13,600	− 1,600
District	6,800	7,000	+ 200
Central London	5,700	5,200	− 500
City & South London	2,300	2,400	+ 100

In making comparison with Good Friday week of 1906 the advantage as regards conditions lies with the previous year, because, while the weather in the holiday just over was all that could be desired, it was also brilliant a year ago, when Easter fell a fortnight later, thereby tending to increase tourist traffic. All the heavy lines, with the exception of the Great Western, have done very well, while the Great Central and Great Northern also show useful increases. In the southern group the results are less imposing, though any falling off in long-distance traffic ought to have been compensated for by the takings on Bank Holiday, when the short-distance excursion traffic was of a record character. The fact that the Brighton managed to slightly improve upon last year's Good Friday week earnings attracted notice in the market because of the recent unfavourable showings of the company, and Brighton A was quick to respond. The tube and other railways serving the Metropolis displayed, on the whole, a slight falling off, as was to be expected with business holidays on practically two days of the week. It is, by the way, well to bear in mind that the Metropolitan ought now to have come to the end of its long spell of heavy traffic decreases, because traffics are now beginning to run against the period when the Great Central traffic was diverted to the new route—the altered arrangement coming into force at the beginning of April, 1906. The Metropolitan will not, therefore, suffer any longer from an unfair basis of comparison, and although the present dividend position is not anything to boast about, those who have stuck to their "Mets" through the recent lean times may, at least, hope for a moderate bettering of their lot now that dual traction has been abolished, and the board is consequently able to show more fully the economies that result from the adoption of electricity.

The earnings of our railways are now available for the first quarter of the year, and a perusal of the results bears out the opinion I expressed at the start of the period regarding the cheapness of the leading stocks. Some of the increases reported are specially noteworthy, as, for instance, the following:—Great Northern, £39,500; Lancashire and Yorkshire, £66,400; Midland, £103,000; North-Western, £114,000; and North-Eastern, £122,900. The Hull and Barnsley's increase of £18,500 should also not be lost sight of, for proportionately it is about the best of the bunch. Under such conditions, and with every reason to expect a continuance of expansion in gross receipts, the ordinary stocks of the lines I have mentioned ought to be well worth looking at by the investor. The yields on the Heavies average 4½ per cent., without allowing for the possibility of any advance in the rate of dividend next time, while Hulls give 4¾, and York Deferred, on the basis of the 1906 dividend, gives 4⅜ per cent., but making allowance for savings under the head of "compensation" (the charges in connection with which were considerably swollen last year by the Grantham disaster), the dividend for 1907 should be at least ¼ per cent. more,

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making 2 per cent., which would afford a yield of 4¾ per cent. to a present purchaser. York Deferred has during the last year or two displaced Berthas and Doras as the leading speculative favourite in the Home Railway Market, and in any market rally it should take a prominent place. My usual table of prices is appended:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 28. 1907.	Apl. 6, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅜	67¾xd	67¼xd	− ½
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	29½xd	29¼xd	—
Central London	96½	82¼	69	69	—
City and S. London	47½	39	42	41	-1
Furness	69¾	61¾	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅝	37¼	36xd	36xd	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅜	69	59¼	59½	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	28¾	28¾	—
Do. "A"	19½	15½	13¾	14¼	+ ⅜
Great Eastern	90¾	79½	75¼	75½	+ ¼
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	97	97	—
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	40½	41½	+ ¾
Great Western	144	122⅜	125¾	125¼	− ½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	47¼	46¾	− ⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	102	102½	+ ½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111½	98¾	99	+ ¼
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	14⅛	13⅞	− ¼
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	82	82	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	49	49	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	146¼	146½	+ ¼
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	50	50	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	45¼	44½	-1¼
Metropolitan District	37½	18¾	13	13	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅝	64	64½	65	+ ½
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	62¾	63¼	+ ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78¾	72½	67xd	67¼xd	+ ¼
Do. Def.	47½	38¾	35¼xd	35¼xd	+ ⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	137½	139	+1½
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96¾	97	98	+1
South-Eastern "A"	55¼	44¾	41¼	40½	− ¾

Substantial Rally in American Rails, but the General Outlook Unchanged—The Increase in the Atchison Dividend Unfavourably Received—Southern Pacific's Fine Statement—Other February Earnings Poor—The Coming Trade Reaction.

As I hinted at a week ago, the American market has during the last few days experienced a very sharp rally after its recent severe slump. Whether the upward movement was merely the result of covering by the short interest, or whether it was part of an organised attempt on the part of big banking interests to infuse more confidence into the market with a view to the distribution of new issues that have already been offered publicly without success, is a debatable point, but in any case the violence of the recent decline in itself made a recovery—however temporary—inevitable, and on the news that the settlement here had gone through without serious trouble, Wall Street quickly put a better complexion upon the market, as the following table testifies:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	March 28, 1907.	April 6, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅜	89	91¼	99⅞	+ 8⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	97	99	+ 2
Baltimore and Ohio	129¼	109⅞	98½	105	+ 6½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	94	93	− 1
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	41	43	+ 2
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152¼	134xd.	142½xd.	+ 8½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	30	31½	+ 1½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93½	85½	76	77½	+ 1½
Erie	52¼	40	24½	26½	+ 1½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	62	62	—
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	39	43	+ 4
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	146	152	+ 6
Louisville	160¾	143½	119	124½	+ 5½
Missouri, Kansas	45⅝	31 7/16	34¾	38½	+ 3¾
New York Central	159½	130¾	121	126	+ 5
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57 5/16	45½	37½	40	+ 2½
Norfolk and Western	100¾	87½	77½	81½	+ 4
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	82	84	+ 2
Northern Pacific	235	190½	129	141½	+12½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75¾	63¾	62½	65¾	+ 3½
Reading ($50)	85⅝	59⅞	52½	58½	+ 6½
Southern	43⅜	33	21⅞	23⅝	+ 1⅞
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	74 xd.	74 xd.	—
Southern Pacific	99 5/16	64⅜	78½	86⅝	+ 8½
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	137½	145¾	+ 8⅜
U.S. Steel	52½	33⅜	35¼	38⅜	+ 3
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	100	103½	+ 3½

Beyond the fact, however, that prices were comparatively low, and yields, based upon the results of the past year's dividends, unusually high, there was little in the general situation to warrant a change of front. The Atchison's declaration of a half-yearly dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., as compared with 5 per cent. in the previous half-year, and 4 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1906, while it would have been a strong "bull" point six months ago, only served as a fresh subject for criticism. The outlook for American Railroads has changed so much in the last few months that the market cannot see why the Atchison board should have consented to an expansion of the dividend unless it were for effect. A theory which finds many believers is that the board's object was to facilitate the raising of necessary capital for improvements, and it has been stated that the directors intend, if possible, to avoid the issue of short term notes, favouring the placing of stock or of convertible bonds, if conditions allow the adoption of such a course.

Among the February revenue statements, a good deal of attention has been paid to that of the Southern Pacific, which certainly was a very good one. Gross receipts amounted to $10,056,000, an increase of $2,055,000, while the net earnings were $3,161,000, an increase of $1,149,000. It cannot be said, however, that the Southern Pacific's experience is typical of how the railroads generally are faring. Even the Union Pacific, which hitherto has gone ahead at a wonderful pace, had to put up with a small net decrease, the figures being gross receipts $5,053,000, an increase of $325,000, and net receipts $1,882,000, a decrease of $56,000. The Illinois Central, too, shows that a small gain of $61,000 in gross earnings during February was turned into a net decrease of $188,000, while the Southern continues to fare very badly, a gross gain of $75,000 being converted into a net decrease of no less than $483,000. It should be borne in mind that to a large extent these unfavourable results are due to causes which have come to stay, at any rate for a time, namely, the compulsory reduction in passenger rates enforced by a number of States and the advances in wages and materials, particularly the former. Moreover, what is seriously perturbing the minds of those concerned with American railroad finance is the effect that is likely to be produced upon trade, and therefore on traffic returns, by the present difficulty of raising capital. As I have pointed out in recent articles, the policy of retrenchment in railroad construction now announced by the leading roads, and, in fact, forced upon them, must show itself upon general industry before very long. Its effect will doubtless not be discernible immediately, because there is much work now on hand that must be finished, but when existing contracts are completed, and are not replaced by fresh ones, the outcome must be a general slowing down of trade activity. That the difficulty of raising funds for railroad purposes remains a very real one has been freshly exemplified by the experience of the Erie. This company has just placed through Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. an issue of $5,500,000 one-year notes to refund the $3,000,000 that fell due on Monday and the $2,000,000 maturing in July. The new notes have been offered to the public on a 7 per cent. basis, which means that the company is paying to the issuing house about 8 per cent. for its accommodation.

"Bear" Squeeze in Canadian Pacific—Record Traffics by both the Canada and the Grand Trunk—Mexican Rails Before the Dividend—Argentine Rails Still Out of Favour—Their High Yields.

The fluctuations in Canadian Pacifics were one of the leading features in the Stock Exchange last week. At the end March carry-over it was noted with interest that the contango was only 4 per cent., indicating a substantial short interest in the shares, and Stock Exchange men predicted that the "bears" who had classed Canadas along with Yankees, and who had sold so vigorously, would not find it altogether plain sailing to get back their stock. The truth of this prophecy was forcibly borne out, seeing that Canadas, which left off here on Good Friday eve at 174—a price which already represented a recovery of $10 from the worst touched on March 23—were bid up in New York during the holidays to the equivalent of nearly 190. Dealings on the re-opening of the London Stock Exchange commenced at 184—and the price subsequently hovered around 180. In the recent severe drop that occurred in Canadas there was undoubtedly heavy selling by "bulls," who were forced to lighten

their load, and this knowledge induced a boldness on the part of "bears," for which many of them must have paid dearly. Wall Street evidently did not make sufficient allowance for the growing demand that exists on the part of British investors for Canadian Pacifics, a demand that appears to have increased tremendously since the fall of a few weeks ago. Meanwhile, the company is again forging ahead in the matter of gross earnings at a phenomenal rate. The traffic for the last ten days of March, namely, $2,099,000, an increase of $453,000 as compared with the corresponding ten days, has only once been exceeded. It is true that the February statement published the other day showed a net decrease of $584,000, following upon a falling off of $719,000 in January, but exceptional weather was in both cases very largely responsible, and the March record should show a sensible change for the better, seeing that there was a gross increase for the month of $1,118,000.

Like the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk also published a remarkable traffic for the last ten days of March. In view of the fact that there were only eight working days this time as compared with nine a year ago, the dealers were prepared for a small decrease. Instead, they got an increase of £36,000, which was, perhaps, the largest ever recorded by the company. The traffic brings the Trunk's gross increase for the first quarter of the year up to the substantial total of £161,700. Of this amount £99,500 was gained during the first two months, of which only a paltry £3,400 was retained as additional net revenue. However, under the improved weather conditions obtaining in March the burden of working costs should be lightened, at any rate to some extent, and although it is advisable, in view of the recent warning given by the general manager, not to indulge in extravagant hopes, the rapid expansion in gross revenue and the saving of £56,000 made in taxation this year still leave good ground for hoping that the third preference will get its full 4 per cent. for the current twelvemonth. According to the Trunk report for the second half of 1906, which was issued a few days ago, gross receipts advanced in the period by £295,000, of which £187,600 was contributed by freight business and £96,300 by passenger traffic. The average fare per passenger rose from 3s. 6¾d. to 3s. 8½d., but the average rate per ton of freight fell from 5s. 4¼d. to 5s. 4d. Earnings per train mile rose from 81.60d. to 86.52d., whilst the expenditure per train mile moved up from 58.19d. to only 61.82d. The total increase in operating costs was £215,800, most of this occurring under the head of maintenance of equipment. On maintenance of way and structures £111,400 less was spent, the saving being chiefly in respect of road bed and renewals and repairs of bridges and culverts. The extra outlay on equipment was absorbed chiefly by repairs and renewals to locomotives and freight cars, on which £127,000 extra was disbursed. The report states that the Lake Superior Branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific will be completed during the year to the point of junction with the main line, but it is feared the section of the railway between the junction and Winnipeg being constructed by the Government will not be in a sufficiently forward state to connect the Lake Superior Branch with Winnipeg before 1908.

In the Foreign Railway group the stocks of the old Mexican line continue to pretty well monopolise speculative interest. Dealers are eagerly awaiting the dividend in respect of the second half of 1906, which should be declared on Thursday of the present week, and estimates are still of a sanguine nature. At the time of writing a payment of from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. on the second preference is commonly talked about, while some people even predict a distribution on the ordinary. A fair-sized "bull" account has been built up in the junior stocks of this line, and, therefore, if estimates prove to have overshot the mark, there seems room for a sharp set-back. In the Argentine division not much notice has been taken of the recently declared dividends, no doubt because they were of the pleasant humdrum character to which the market has become accustomed for several half-years past. The dubious prospects for the maize crop are, of course, tending to check a recovery in Argentine Rails, and as several companies admit that about 50 per cent. of the crop has been destroyed, the point is of importance. At the same time, as I have before pointed out, the companies are in such a strong financial position and already have such a good lead in the matter of gross earnings during the current year, owing to a bumper wheat crop, that it is doubtful if the maintenance of dividends is seriously endangered. On the score of present yields the market appears to me to offer some bargains. Both Buenos Ayres and Pacific and Buenos Ayres and Rosario give a yield of 6 per cent. to a present purchaser, while Great Western Ordinary returns £5 18s., and the stocks of the two southern systems, the "Bags" and the B. A. Western, which are the most strongly entrenched of all from a financial point of view, offer yields of £5 13s. to £5 15s. According to the report of the last-named company for the half-year ended December 31 last gross receipts of the railway were £935,000, an increase of £130,200, and the working expenses amounted to £554,700, an increase of £104,200, leaving a working profit of £380,100, an increase of £26,000. The ratio of working expenses to gross income rose from 55.99 to 59.34 per cent., the higher cost of operation being due to more stations and additional lines being brought into use, to bigger wages, and to dearer fuel for locomotives. My usual table is appended:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Mar. 28 1907.	April 6, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	174⅜	181½	+6¼
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25½	29⅛	31⅜	+2⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105¼	101½	101¼	101⅝	+ ⅜
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114⅜	120½	121	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	110⅜	112	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	70½	73⅝	+3⅛
Mexican	50⅝	22¼	56⅜	57	+ ¼
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅝	141½	141½	–
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅞	49½	93	93½	+ ½
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11½	11¼	—
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	116	—
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78¼	84	85	+1
Do. First Incomes	30	18	23	23½	+ ½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	90	90	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	66½	76	78	+2
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	52	54	+2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19⅜	22	23	+1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180⅝	162	154	154	—
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅜	15½	14¾	- ⅜
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	105	107	+2
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	74½	75½	+1
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	115½	116	+ ½
Do. and Rosario	120¾	111	105½	105½	—
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	125½	126½	+1
Do. Western	138¾	123½	122½	123½	+1
East Argentine	120	87	115	116½	+1½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	65	64½	- ½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅜	85	88½	88½	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	87½	88½	+1
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	11	11½	+ ½
Leopoldina	86½	69½	76	76½	+ ½
San Paulo	214¾	190½	215	216	+1
Central Uruguay	92½	82	90½	90½	—
Costa Rica	29 11/16	25	27½	27	- ½
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80¼	78	76	73 xd	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76¾	76½	77	+ ½
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76½	82½	82½	—
Manila 6 p.c Debs.	126	112	112	112	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	43	44	+1
Cuban Central	7 11/16	5⅝	6⅝	6⅝	—
United of Havana	193	105⅝	107½	108	+ ½
Western of Havana	15 5/8	12⅛	12⅝	12¾	+ ⅛
Mashonaland Debs. (2nd issue)	94⅜	87½	88½	89	+ ½
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅝	76	78½	78	- ½
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19¼	22¼	22¼	—

Kaffirs Cheerful—Anticipating a Bumper Transvaal Gold Return for March—Leading Diamond Shares Active—Jagers Again in Favour—Premier's Recent Results.

On the whole a cheerful feeling has continued in evidence in regard to Kaffirs, though the hopes entertained of dealings becoming brisk immediately after the Easter holidays did not materialise. At one time, as a matter of fact, it looked as though Kaffir gold shares were going to take a downward plunge, as French speculators depressed this and other markets by liquidation in connection with their settlement, but the weakness was only temporary, and operators on the other side of the Channel have since given the market a little support. Prices do not have to decline much to attract buyers, and for this the heavy depreciation that has occurred in share values in the last few years, and the change for the better that has recently occurred in regard to the outlook for the mining industry, are no doubt responsible. The new account, which commenced

on Monday, has opened in good style, and when business generally becomes more brisk, it seems probable that the Kaffir gold descriptions will come in for a fair share of it. The Transvaal gold output for the past month is due to be announced to-day, and it is expected to constitute a record. The figures should tend to stimulate speculative interest in the market, and I think that those of my readers who may have bought some of the selections I mentioned recently will have an opportunity before very long of securing satisfactory profits. Meanwhile diamond shares have been receiving chief speculative attention, and substantial movements in prices have occurred among these during the past week. The following table gives the quotations which ruled on the eve of the holiday and those of Saturday last:—

Share.	March 28, 1907.	April 6, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Pref.	17⅜	17⅜	—
,, ,, Def.	26⅛	27⅜	+ ⅛
Jagersfontein Pref.	4¼	4¼	—
,, Def.	9⅞	10⅛	+ ⅛
New Vaal River	6¼	6¼	— ¼
Premier (Transvaal) Pref.	8¼	8¾	+ ½
,, ,, Def.	13¼	13⅜	+ ⅛

Jagers have been in favour again, having been bought—so market rumour states—both by French speculators and by people on this side who should be well informed as to the company's prospects. It is said they are to be put up to a still higher price, and I shall not be surprised if this assertion ultimately proves correct, for, as has already been stated in my notes, there is reason to expect that the next dividend will be larger than the last. Premiers have also been a pretty good market, though the price given in the table above is not quite the best touched. The buying of these shares has apparently been stimulated by the chairman's forecast at the recent meeting which I mentioned last week. In this connection it is interesting to note that the March production was largely in excess of previous monthly outputs during the current financial year, which commenced in November last. The figures for the last five months are set out below, and the return for October—the last month of the financial year 1905-6—is given for purposes of comparison:—

Month.	Ground Washed. Loads.		Diamonds Recovered. Carats.
October	428,412	.....	112,478
November	475,413	.....	119,165
December	487,587	.....	113,056
January	460,373	.....	113,246
February	450,514	.....	113,422
March	622,243	.....	157,037

For the whole of 1905-6 the yield was 868,890 carats, and in the first five months of the current year over 600,000 carats have been secured, so that the chairman's prediction of a largely increased output this year is in a fair way of being realised. To what extent shareholders will benefit remains of course to be seen. There is some talk in the market of a distribution of 10s. per share being announced in a couple of months' time, but it will need dividends of £1 per share per annum to give a yield of about 7 per cent. on the current price of the shares.

In Rhodesians there has been little speculative interest displayed of late, but the Banket group has been helped by news from the Eldorado mine which is apparently continuing to open up in a gratifying manner. Rhodesians usually reflect the tendency of Kaffirs, so that with the prospect of improvement in the latter, the former may be considered to have some attraction for the speculator.

Fair Business in Westralians and Prices Generally Maintained—Deep Leads Still Awaiting "Deep" Results.

Interest in the Westralian market seems to be reviving a little. At any rate, the past week is reported to have witnessed a trifle more business than for some time past, and the operations have been spread over most of the leading shares, instead of being confined to one or two specialties. During the recent depression Westralians maintained their position quite as well as, if not better than, any of the other mining groups, no doubt on account of the fact of the open position being of insignificant proportions compared with the speculative account in some of the other sections. No special news has come to hand during the week to attract attention to the Westralian market, and it will be seen from the table of prices given below that share values have not materially changed, but it would seem as though mining investors are awakening to the fact that encouraging developments have taken place in one or two of the principal mines of late, and also that the dividends being paid warrant attention being directed to some of the shares:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 28, 1907.	Apl. 6, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1⅛	1⅜	1⅝	+ ⅛
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	—
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/9	4/9	—
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6½	4½	7⅛	7⅛	— ⅛
Great Boulder (2/)	28/-	20/3	23/9	23/3	— 6d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/-	6/3	+ 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6¾	2½	1⅞	1⅞	— ⅛
Hainault	1⅛	1½	1⅜	1⅝	+ ⅛
Ivanhoe (£5)	7½	6⅛	7⅜	7½	+ ⅛
Kalgurli	12½	8⅜	11⅜	11⅜	—
Lake View Consols	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅝	— ⅛
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	14/3	14/6	+ 3d.
Oroya Brownhill	3½	2	1⅝	1¾	+ ⅛
Sons of Gwalia	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	—
South Kalgurli	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3⅛	1½	1½	1⅝	— ⅛
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	½	⅛	4/6	4/6	—
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2⅛	⅛	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛

It will be observed that Ivanhoes show the chief improvement on the week. There has been a steady investment demand for these shares since I drew attention to the strength of the company's position a few weeks ago, and I should not like to say that they have touched top yet, as at £8 apiece they would yield 15 per cent. The Deep Leads group is still without signs of recovering from the state of inactivity and dulness into which it has relapsed. Further news has come to hand during the past week in regard to the Loddon Valley's operations, but the results given are from the banks of the lead, and not from the deep ground, the testing of which the market is awaiting with chief interest.

The Relapse in Copper—Views of Authorities on the Outlook—Rio Tinto Meeting and the Question of Production—Promising Speculative Selections.

The position and prospects of the copper market are of particular interest just now, especially as copper shares are one of the most active of the mining groups. Recently there have been violent fluctuations in the price of this metal, and share values have also been very erratic. A month ago copper was up to £110 per ton, but it has since been down to nearly £90, and the leading shares have also suffered a heavy depreciation, Tintos having relapsed from the highest this year of 109½ to nearly 83 quite recently. The latest copper statistics show an increase in the visible supplies of the metal, but, as I have pointed out before, the fall in price has been principally due to the unsettlement arising out of the conditions of semi-panic prevailing in New York, which has caused forced liquidation and encouraged "bear" selling. Copper, be it noted, is not the only metal which has suffered from these conditions, though the others have not given way to the same extent as copper, which, however, commands more speculative interest. The outlook for this metal appears to be subject to two main conditions, both tending towards a somewhat lower level of prices, as compared with those recently ruling. There is the prospect of a steady increase in production, and the possibility of a temporary decline in the demand. A leading firm of metal brokers has summed up the general situation in the following terms:—"Broadly speaking, the outlook seems for some relaxation of the pressure resulting

(*Continued on page* 899.)

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· TRUTH ·

SPECIAL MOTOR SUPPLEMENT.

No. 1,580. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1907.

THE CORDINGLEY SHOW.

THE annual Motor Show organised by Messrs. Cordingley, now in progress at Islington, is not such a representative exhibition as those to be seen at Olympia, but this is by no means to deny it an interest of a kind. To the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Mr. Cordingley is a bold bad man for daring to run an exhibition on his own in this way, but the general public is content to go where it finds things to interest it, and cheerfully accords its patronage to the Islington Show without the smallest regard for the feelings of "the trade." And thereby it shows its good sense. For, after all, the motor industry is a pretty big one, and it would be absurd to maintain that everything of interest connected with it can be seen at Olympia. The justification of the Cordingley Show is, in fact, its continued existence. So soon as it ceases to serve a useful purpose it will come to a natural end.

But that time is evidently not by any means at hand just yet. It is stated, indeed, that the number of exhibitors at this year's exhibition is larger than ever before, and if the number of striking novelties to be seen is not very great this is no necessary reflection on the quality of the exhibition. Striking novelties are, indeed, no longer to be looked for at every motor show. Steady progress on well established lines represents the present stage of the industry. Of the several new cars exhibited at the present show nearly all follow the recognised practice in essentials. It is, indeed, astonishing how many new cars continue to be put forth differing in no appreciable degree from those already on the market. Who buys them all? It is a standing mystery. The courage of the historic individual who swallowed the first oyster was hardly greater than that of the man who buys an untried motor-car. Already it is difficult enough to make choice among those of established repute. Why should anyone deliberately go out of his way to tempt destiny by investing in one of the other kind? Yet every year, almost every month, sees new cars added to the list, and presumably they are bought and sold. Now and again, of course, their credentials are obviously such as to command respect.

Such, for instance, is the S.P.A., from the hand of the designer who has hitherto been responsible for the well-known Itala cars. This was exhibited at the last Paris show, but has not previously been seen in England, and very slight scrutiny is sufficient to reveal the fact that it is a thoroughly well-considered article. Two chassis are shown, one with a 40 h.p. four-cylinder engine, and the other with a six-cylinder engine giving 60 h.p., and both bear all the marks of clean design and fine workmanship which have come to be associated with the best Italian cars. Another new comer which already enjoys a good name abroad is the Horch, a German car, which had the distinction of winning the Herkomer trophy last year. This is one of the best known German cars, and one which should have no difficulty, therefore, in winning friends and admirers over here. Another German car with a good reputation which is also being introduced to England for the first time is the Adler, the agency of which has been acquired by Messrs. Morgan and Co., the coach-builders. Cars of 50 h.p. and 20 h.p. are shown, and if elegance of design is not perhaps their most striking characteristic, inspection reveals many interesting details making for strength, solidity, and, one would imagine, smoothness of running The Nacke and Ruppe are yet other cars of German make exhibited. Indeed, quite a feature of the show as a whole must be reckoned the number of cars from the Fatherland which it contains. Evidently the Teutonic makers are of opinion that the Mercédès has too long monopolised the British market as the representative German car.

New or unfamiliar cars of native origin displayed are mostly of the smaller kind. Such, for instance, is the Riley, a 9 h.p. two-cylinder car selling at 160 gs., for which great claims are advanced. The tri-cars made by the same firm have been favourably known for many years, but they have taken to the making of cars more recently, though they are able to point already to many notable successes secured in various open competitions—results which they ascribe largely to the excellence of their transmission system, by a central chain from a V-shaped two-cylinder engine situated in the middle of the chassis. All engineers are agreed as to the enormous loss of power involved when it is transmitted round a corner by the agency of bevel gears, and the remarkable hill-climbing achievements to which the Riley car can point go certainly to justify the contention of its makers that their system secures exceptional efficiency. In other respects the design of this car shows thought and ingenuity, and those on the look-out, therefore, for a light car at a moderate price, might well do worse than give it attention. Another British car shown of about the same class is the Clyde, which, having enjoyed a considerable local reputation in the Midlands for some time, is now about to make an active bid for wider custom. The 8-10 h.p. two-seated car of this make, fitted with a White and Poppe two-cylinder engine sells at £186, and looks like good value for the money. Other British cars which yet have their name to make are the Roydale, Leander, All British, Dawfield-Phillips, and Hurmid, the latter claiming distinction as the cheapest six-cylinder on the market. But all of these were not to be seen on the opening day of the show.

New cars from France are the Astahl (known, however, on the other side of the Channel as the Helbe), a four-cylinder, 10-12-h.p., four-seated car selling at £290, fitted with magneto ignition and all the latest improvements, and the Mira, rated at 15-h.p., and selling at 300 guineas. In the way of American cars of about the same capacity the Reo exhibit is worth attention. A 10-h.p. car of this make can be obtained for £165, and seeing that it claims ability to carry four passengers to Brighton and back on its top gear all the way there should be little question as to its efficiency.

Great claims have been made of late on behalf of mixed petrol-electric systems, and two or three examples of cars of this type are shown. Of these, the best known at present is the Pieper Auto-Mixte. The advantages claimed for the Auto-Mixte are—no gear-box or change-speed gears, no starting handle or cranking of engine, no separate levers to regulate ignition or mixture, no accelerator pedal, no multiple brake and clutch pedal. It is maintained, indeed, that cars of this type possess all the elasticity of steam or electricity without the disadvantages of either, together with unrivalled hill-climbing capacity. Normally the car is run on petrol, a reserve force of electricity being simultaneously generated which can be drawn upon for hill-climbing purposes. There is no question as to the excellence and ingenuity of the design of the particular car named, of which a good deal more is likely to be heard in this

country. In Belgium it is already well and favourably known. Other cars embodying the same principle are the Mercédès-Mixte and the Hart-Durtnall, the latter being of British origin and embodying many ingenious features designed to render it specially applicable to the needs of heavy public-service vehicles. In the case of the Mercédès-Mixte a 45-h.p. Mercédès petrol engine drives a dynamo inside the flywheel developing the electric current, which is carried by a single cable on each side of the frame to the electric motors on the hind driving wheels—clutch, gear, differential, chain, live axle, and change speed lever all being dispensed with.

Commercial vehicles have always been well represented at Cordingley's, and the present show is no exception to the rule. Messrs. Robey and Co., Alley and MacLellan, Ltd., Durham, Churchill and Co., Savage Bros., Yorkshire Patent Steam Wagon Co., Mosa and Woodd, Tasker and Co., and Fodens, Ltd., are only a few of the well-known firms exhibiting. In the same connection may be mentioned that unique invention, the Renard road train, which goes over the roughest roads and negotiates the sharpest curves and corners with the ease of the lightest touring car. The exclusive manufacturing rights under the Renard system throughout the world, outside France, have been acquired, it may be noted, by the Daimler Motor Co., and this is perhaps the best possible testimony to the merits of the system and the future which is anticipated for it.

In the gallery, accessories are an excellent show From the practical point of view this is often the most useful section of a motor exhibition so far as the visitor is concerned who is already provided with a car, but is always ready to add to its fittings and equipment. Such things as lamps, horns, pumps, jacks, dashboard watches, speedometers, and the rest, are well represented, together with many other more out-of-the-way and novel articles of the kind whose cleverness is often in inverse ratio to their practicability. Consider, for instance, the "Suchanek" cartographs and speed-indicators of Messrs. J. C. Lyell and Co.—the cartograph map feeding itself automatically in the interior of the apparatus, and showing the road at any particular spot. Further, "it announces by an alarm bell and disc all permanent obstacles on the road," while recording at the same time on a paper band the speed of the car, the number of miles traversed, and the time taken. Could the force of ingenuity further go? The connection between motoring and type-writing is not, perhaps, very obvious at a glance. Even that ardent automobilist, Mr. Max Pemberton, could hardly write his novels on the road. Yet many a busy man is glad to have his writing machine with him on his travels, and to the needs of such the neat "travelling" Blickensderfers exhibited, in leather cases, with compartments for stationery, etc., all complete, are excellently adapted.

But, for the majority of visitors, probably the most interesting feature of the whole show must be reckoned that devoted to the display of airship and flying machine models under the auspices of the Aero Club. Aeronautics obviously constitute a branch of automobilism, though at present the "mobile" rather than the "auto" element has been chiefly conspicuous in the multitudinous contrivances of one sort and another by means of which the solution of the problem has been attempted. Periodically it is announced that at length the impossible has been achieved, and the models to be seen at the Agricultural Hall at present indicate the lines on which the latter-day inventors are moving. Most of them appear to the uninitiated contrivances such as could by no conceivable possibility fulfil the purpose designed, but it is hardly necessary to say that this is not the view of their fond inventors. There is, in truth, something not a little pathetic in the enthusiasm and faith in their own devices displayed by those in charge of these grotesque-looking inventions. Some are obviously the product of absolute cranks possessed of the crudest notions alike of mechanics and aerostatics, while others look more workmanlike, if few, perhaps, are such as to suggest to the average sceptical visitor that the age-long secret, which the birds have hitherto kept so resolutely to themselves, has at last been wrested from Nature.

Perhaps the most extraordinary model of all is that taking the shape of a large parachute (gorgeously decorated in red, white, and blue), surmounting a drum, in which, the inventor explained, air was automatically compressed in the process of flight and then expelled through a series of tubes in such a manner as to provide a sufficient motive power to drive the machine through space. The precise number of miles per hour which he expects it to realise he did not state, but as to the soundness of the general principle of this wonderful airship he manifestly entertained no sort of doubt. In fact, one on these lines now in process of construction was, he explained, designed to take not merely one passenger, but two or more if required. Then there are shown various "gliders" of the albatross order and dozens of aeroplanes of various degrees of impossibility. But as a means of gaining a compendious notion of the various methods by which it is being sought at the present time to accomplish the long delayed conquest of the air, the interest of the collection is undoubted.

The exhibition remains open till Saturday next.

SOME HINTS ON TOURING.

As to the car in the first place, there is nothing much to be said in the way of general advice, save this—that whether it be great or small it should at all costs fulfil two requisites, to wit: (1) It should be good of its kind; and (2) it should be a good hill climber. As to the first point, to go touring on a cheap or inferior car is to court certain mortification and annoyance; rather stay at home or go by train. As to the second, the wisdom of the counsel is equally obvious. At all hazards have a car of ample power for hills. Even if it is only a small one it is simply a matter of having it suitably geared to ensure this. No matter if it is not very fast—be sure at least that it will get up any hills you can possibly encounter, and derive therefrom an enormous sense of comfort and confidence which must otherwise be lacking. No amount of speed on the level is compensation for the humiliating dread of possible failure on a hill. In the case of most modern cars of any size the warning, of course, is hardly necessary. The advice still holds, however, in the case of smaller cars. No car can be reckoned satisfactory in this respect which will not take its full load up a gradient of one in six without flinching.

With regard to equipment over and above the ordinary requisites of the road, plenty of rugs and wraps go without saying. In the hottest weather it is often cold when driving. A luncheon and tea basket is also very useful, and quickly pays for itself in the saving of hotel charges which it effects. And parenthetically it may be remarked that there is no more irritating form of extortion than the hotel "tea." The hour is five o'clock. You have had a substantial lunch, perhaps, at half-past one. You are to dine again at seven or eight. Therefore you want little to eat. But you require a cup of tea; only that, and nothing more. Can you get it? At the average hotel seldom or never. Instead, a baronial spread of cake and jam, and large plates of bread and butter, and watercress, and such-like sundries, is laid before you, and you are charged 1s. or 1s. 6d. or 2s. a head all round for that which no one wanted, which no one asked for, and which no one touched. To millionaires such things are of no importance; others, unfortunately, are less happily circumstanced. The tea-basket saves this particular form of imposition, besides yielding further the additional delights of a meal *al fresco*.

Plenty of spare parts and all requisite accessories will be taken by the provident as a matter of course, including an adequate supply of sound inner tubes and spare outer covers. There is no feeling more uncomfortable than the fear of a puncture or burst with no spare tubes or covers in hand. A Stepney wheel is also well worth having. A simple and convenient device for carrying wraps and rugs, which are apt to be a nuisance when not in use unless properly stowed, is a stout leather strap, with a buckle in the middle to enable its length to be varied, slung across the car behind the driver's seat. This is a convenient position, also, for carrying spare covers if straps are pro-

vided for keeping them in place—unless it is preferred to carry them on the step by the driver, in which case entrance to the driver's seat from that side is necessarily barred. Extra lockers are a great source of comfort, and these, like every similar receptacle and drawer on the car, should be provided with locks, preferably all opened by one key. The number of odds and ends which it is useful to take while touring is astonishing.

Let all these and such-like matters, including any repairs and adjustments which may be necessary, be attended to betimes. The wise will lay their plans well in advance if they wish to avoid disappointment at the last. Motor engineers are often dilatory folk, with the result that things are left over, and then done hurriedly or not at all. Parts and accessories, again, are not always obtainable immediately, and it may be quite certainly assumed that something or other which you require will be "out of stock." Then, again, investigation of one derangement may reveal another, and possibly a bigger one, not previously suspected, and generally it is a sound rule to look well ahead where motors and motoring are concerned.

On the same principle it is advisable to arrange for an early start on the appointed day. I say "arrange for" advisedly. Make it nine o'clock, and if you actually get under weigh with wheels going round by eleven or twelve you may reckon you have done well. But one thing it is quite fatal to do, and that is to start in a hurry. Better weigh anchor an hour or three hours later than proposed than get off in a fluster, leaving this and that undone or scamped, tyres not properly pumped up, lubrication overlooked, and so on. To avoid such contingencies the ideal is, of course, to complete all preparations overnight. Then the miracle of a veritably punctual start may even be achieved. But this is a counsel of perfection.

With respect to routes and distances, these will be determined naturally by individual tastes and requirements, but it is a rather common mistake, perhaps, to try to cover too much ground in the day. Obviously, a good deal depends on the size and power of the car, but with large and small alike too much is more often than not attempted. Without actually driving at excessive speed too extensive an itinerary is sketched out, and in place of a pleasant tranquil run, allowing of ample opportunities to enjoy the scenery en route, with a stop now and again for closer inspection of church or ruin or quaint old village, the day's journey partakes throughout of an uncomfortable and unnecessary race against time. A liberal margin for contingencies will always be allowed by the judicious.

For kindred reasons it is a great mistake to make definite engagements, to order rooms in advance, or otherwise commit one's self, when on a motor tour. To be bound to reach a particular destination by a given time is a certain invitation to discomfiture. Modern motor-cars are marvellously trustworthy, but roadside troubles and delays must still be expected now and again, and an almost infallible method of ensuring them is to enter into definite engagements. Take things quietly and independently therefore, and let your motto be "Hasten slowly." Likewise stop in good time for meals. Resist the suggestion to "go on to the next place" when the hour for lunch or dinner is at hand. Before you get there you may have a puncture and get your lunch as a consequence at half-past three instead of half-past one, with resultant indigestion for some and discomfort for all. In this case again leave a margin. In fine weather the luncheon basket affords, of course, the happiest solution of this particular problem.

Nor are delays from tyre troubles or derangements the only ones to be reckoned with. There is always the possibility of losing your way, and no one who has not experienced it knows how fatally easy it is to do this when motoring, unless you happen to be possessed of that enviable bump of locality which makes you independent of maps and other aids to knowledge, including the average rustic. The difficulty of obtaining information as to routes and distances in the country districts is sometimes unbelievable. Wherefore thoroughly good maps are indispensable. Those of Bartholomew to a scale of four miles to the inch, reduced from the Ordnance Survey, are a convenient size. Invaluable also are Gall and Inglis's series of Contour Books—a marvellous compendium of accurate and detailed information as to routes, distances, gradients, etc., covering practically every motoring road in the kingdom. But with the best of maps and the utmost care, you will certainly go astray at times.

As to actual roadside troubles, even with the best of cars the possibility of such can never be wholly disregarded. Sooner or later they are bound to come, and usually, as above suggested, at the least convenient moment. What motorist does not know that unpleasant sensation when something goes wrong and a halt is required? It may be the most trifling derangement which can be rectified in a couple of minutes. On the other hand, it may be some malady more subtle which may defy all your efforts at diagnosis. Then, what position more unpleasant? If you are lucky enough to be near a town assistance can be obtained, and even if it comes to the ignominy of being towed, you can be extricated from your plight. But it may not always happen so. The present writer well remembers being stranded once on the top of a Yorkshire moor a good five miles from the nearest human habitation, where eventually the car and all its contents had to be left until the morning, when another could be obtained to fetch the derelict home. Happily, in this case the route was anything but a frequented one, and everything was found intact.

But such experiences are getting rarer and rarer nowadays, though even yet they must still be looked for at times. Motors are still kittle cattle, and the amateur, at all events, has to be uncommonly well up in the business to be able to guarantee that he will never be nonplussed. Motoring differs, indeed, from all other forms of enjoyment in this respect—in its swift transitions from joy to gloom. From the seventh heaven of delight you may be plunged, in the twinkling of an eye, to the lowest depths of woe, and the contrast is poignant indeed. What a few seconds ago was a luxurious chariot speeding through the countryside on wings of fire, the embodiment of luxury and power, has become in a flash an intractable mass of costly machinery, inert and immovable, and you, its occupants and owners, a forlorn and fortuitous concourse of atoms on a dusty and deserted country road. But then, what joy when at last the monster yields to your persuasions, the merry rattle of the engine resounds again, and with all on board once more the journey is resumed! It was almost worth the earlier misery to experience the subsequent delight.

Naturally it is the novice who most fears these little incidents, and to him a few words of advice may be addressed. Let him, for one thing, use brain as well as hand in locating the fault. Better spend a couple of minutes in thinking things out than work aimlessly in the dark for the sake of "doing something." On the other hand, it is equally a mistake to jump to conclusions without adequate cause. It is a waste of time and labour, for instance, to take your carburetter down under the assumption that your petrol flow is choked when the trouble is due all the time to a faulty electrical connection, which closer examination would have revealed at once. It is on these occasions that the amateur regrets his mis-spent opportunities in the past, and registers a solemn vow that before he next puts forth on the road he will really master the most elusive mysteries of his car's internal mechanism in every detail; and this, of course, is the only real way to ensure a safe issue from all such straits.

Yet it is astonishing with how little knowledge it is possible to be a motorist nowadays. A paradoxical outcome of the perfected car is the imperfect driver. Thousands of cars are driven to-day by owners who, a few years since, would never have dreamed of undertaking such responsibility. The astonishing reliability of the modern motor-car has made it possible. Formerly it was only the real enthusiast with a genuine bent for mechanics who was bold enough to essay what was reckoned at that time the perilous experiment of taking out a motor-car on the public roads. Nowadays the least experienced have no such qualms. If the

worst comes to the worst, are there not always fellow motorists more experienced to lend a helping hand? It is rather galling, no doubt, to have to accept such aid, but it is foolish to refuse it when offered. Two heads are better than one, and a fresh mind often works wonders in solving a knotty problem.

From which it follows, as an obvious corollary, that it is the bounden duty of every motorist to offer help in turn to others in distress. More than once it has been complained of late that motorists are less ready nowadays to come to one another's aid in this kindly fashion than of yore, and certainly it is a fact that car after car will at the present time hasten by another in distress without proffering assistance. This should not be, and though as often as not such help may not be needed the right-thinking motorist will none the less always slow up to ask if haply he can be of aid. Nor is this the only way in which good feeling towards fellow motorists, as well as towards other road users, may be displayed. By driving slowly through towns, by slowing up when passing carriages, by leaving ample room when meeting them, by using the horn with moderation, the considerate and gentlemanly driver will also reveal himself.

SOME DON'TS FOR NOVICES.

Don't try to start the engine without turning on the petrol.

Don't look for a leak of petrol with a lighted match; it is too expeditious a method.

Don't forget to take the brake off and blame your car for having a "fit of the slows."

Don't, if you meet with trouble, leave too many tools on the road.

Don't blow your horn as if it were the last trump.

Don't forget to pump your tyres; a pump in time saves ninety and nine.

Don't, when driving, wear a worried look; it attracts the attention of the police.

Don't forget the feelings of your passengers; their views on speed may be different from your own.

Don't kill more dogs than you can help; it is bad, not only for the dog but also for the car.

Don't start out in a hurry; you will reach your destination sooner if you take things more quietly.

Don't rely too implicitly on the word of the dealer who tells you that the car he is selling will "climb any hill that does not overhang."

Don't forget that on the road it is usually the unexpected that happens.

Don't forget that even pedestrians have their rights.

ABOUT TYRES AND THEIR CARE.

Tyres are the curse of motoring; also its primary requisite. You may be sure of your car in every other respect but this. The pneumatic tyre is the uncertain quantity which upsets all calculations, abaseth proud reason, and brings down the mighty from their seats. It is an abomination—but absolutely indispensable; an eternal source of terror—but a *sine quâ non*; at once "ower bad for blessing and ower good for banning." One may say of it, further, that when it is good, it is very good, but when it is bad it is horrid. There is nothing more satisfactory than the thoroughly good pneumatic tyre whose valve is holding well and giving no trouble. There is no more diabolical contrivance than one of the other kind. Even the telephone must yield supremacy to the pneumatic tyre at its worst as an engine for the promotion of unchristian sentiments and unlovely language. Your lordly owner of his £2,000 Daimler or Mercédès with hired slaves to do his bidding, knows none of these things, of course. To such, a puncture or a burst is only a pleasant wayside incident to be accepted with philosophical resignation, tempered by a cigar. It is the humbler owner, who scorns the aid of mechanician or chauffeur, who knows to the full the fell possibilities of the erratic, invaluable, impossible, indispensable pneumatic.

Infinite indeed are the possibilities of woe which lurk within its unassuming exterior. To hearken to the warnings of the various makers is, indeed, to be lost in wonderment that tubes or outer covers ever survive the treatment which they are called upon to withstand at all. For be it clearly understood that tyres, without exception, are shockingly maltreated by their owners, who then, in the most inconsiderate and ungentlemanly manner, round upon the makers and hold them responsible for the results of their own misdoings. So, at least, say the companies, without exception—and they ought to know. It is very foolish of the motorist, of course—for he suffers in the end; and very magnanimous of the companies to point it out—for theirs is the ultimate gain; but so the case stands. The makers are ever girding at the owners to take more care of their tyres; and the owners are ever neglecting the valuable counsel that is offered them by the makers.

On one point in particular the makers are absolutely unanimous. Inflate! Inflate! Inflate! is the first and last word of one and all. Hardly any tyres are really properly inflated, if one may believe them. Even when they are supposed to be, and really seem to be, the pressure gauge, as often as not, shows that they are nothing of the kind. The pressure gauge is an ingenious contrivance employed for the undoing of the unconscientious chauffeur, and designed to enable the methodical owner to discover by precisely how much the former is shirking the back-breaking labour of "pumping up." "But why," it may be asked, "this necessity for so much inflation?" For the most obvious of reasons. It is the cushion of compressed air alone which protects the cover, as it rolls over the unequal surface of the road, from the shocks and jars and pressure on the rim, which quickly work fatal results. So lay to heart, good motorists all, the injunction of the boatswain in "The Tempest," and "blow till thou burst thy wind" if you would reach your journey's end without delay.

Unfortunately, it is not enough to blow alone. Otherwise tyres were vastly simpler propositions than in fact they are. There is the problem of retaining the air when you have got it in, and that is often another pair of sleeves entirely. If the pneumatic is the weak spot of the car, the valve is the weak spot of the pneumatic. It is a most cleverly designed piece of mechanism, but it will not always resist a pressure of 75 or 100 pounds to the square inch, and that ominous sound which every automobilist knows too well is the result. It may be very slight; hardly a bubble per second, perhaps, when the valve is immersed in the tell-tale tumbler. The orifice is certainly not so wide as a church door nor so deep as a well, but it will serve to let all the wind out inevitably enough in time, and the wise motorist will not proceed till he has made all tight. So to the pump again therefore, again, and yet again, till, by renewal of washer or valve pin, or, if necessary, substitution of new tube entirely, the leak has been stopped and it is safe to sally forth.

But how much of toil and trouble and exasperation is implied by such exercises! Is it wonder that some are turning to any sort of substitute which promises relief from such harassments—to spring wheels and pneumatic hubs; to tyres filled with strangely yclept substances such as Elastes and Patin possessed of all the virtues, it is avowed, of compressed air, with none of its embarrassing possibilities. Yet, with all its faults at the worst, where, it may be asked, is the tyre to beat a good pneumatic? For weeks at a time, perhaps, no thought of mishap or misadventure will so much as cross the mind. Hardly will pumping be needed, so stoutly the valves are holding, while punctures are unknown. Then how lightly and easily the heavy car glides or floats over the rugosities of the road, with every shake anticipated, and the biggest jar absorbed. Then is it one is tempted to rise and call blessed the name of Dunlop, to whose inventive genius the pneumatic tyre of to-day owes its being. Not the least wonderful feature of the modern motor-car, when all is said and done, is the pneumatic tyre.

ACCESSORIES.

Accessories is an elastic term which may include anything from a split pin at a penny a dozen to a Cape cart-hood at £50. It would be quite possible to buy a car for £200 and spend as much again on fitting it up with extras. There is, in fact, no limit to the accessories of one sort and another—some useful, some ornamental, and some neither—which the ingenuity of the inventor has brought into being wherewith to tempt the pocket of the automobilist. Putting aside such more serious items as hoods and wind screens, there are countless smaller articles which add to the completeness of the motorist's equipment and lengthen to a corresponding extent his motoring account. To glance over the catalogue of one of the leading firms dealing in these things is a fascinating occupation, but dangerous. The strong, perhaps, can turn a deaf ear to all such blandishments, but they are the few; the majority are conquered.

Certain accessories all must have, of course. Such things as jack and pump and horn and lamps and tools are naturally indispensable. These must be reckoned as part of the most economical motorist's necessary equipment, and pretty heavily some of them have to be paid for. Those gleaming head-lights, for instance—how many outside those who have had to buy them know that they may cost from £5 to £20 a-piece? Good horns, again, are not cheap, and you may pay anything up to £5 for the privilege of letting folks know that you are coming. You can get a bicycle complete for a smaller sum nowadays, and it seems a lot of money to pay for such an article. Yet there is no alternative if you are content with nothing other than the most expensive. These things are the essentials.

Then comes a second category of what may be reckoned things useful and desirable rather than strictly necessary or indispensable, such as speed indicators, distance recorders, clock, water guage, tyre vulcaniser, electric hand lamp, tyre tester, and the like. All of these things are of service, and, if money is no object, will add to the interest or comfort of their owner. It is very nice, for instance, to know your speed and your mileage, to have the time of day on your dashboard, to be able to do your own tyre repairs, to know by exactly how much your tyres are under-inflated, and so on, and some of these extras may, indeed, almost be reckoned in the first class of indispensables.

Finally come luxuries pure and simple, which, though in the nature often of sheer superfluities and even positive encumbrances, exercise, none the less, a strange and horrible fascination over some who reckon it among their highest joys to add still further to their number. But even among these there are degrees, too, and some will certainly be possessed by all who can afford them. Here is a useful article, for example, in a mechanical tyre inflator, to be worked off the engine—an excellent idea, saving much labour. Or you may attain the same end by the employment of Parson's sparklet inflators, consisting of strong metal bottles, containing air under pressure which will blow up the largest tyre in less than no time by the simple turning of a tap. A portable blast lamp for roadside repairs would doubtless come in useful at some time or other, and still more often would prove of service in the stable. An oil economiser is a convenient fixture in a motor house, costing from fifteen shillings to a couple of pounds, according to size.

In the way of recording instruments and the like, there are gradometers, tachometers, hydrometers, altitude meters, densimeters, compression indicators, etc., all of which have their interest for those who take their motoring seriously. Then there are such things as petrol pourers, puncture indicators, back lamp tell-tales, dashboard mirrors, carburetter ticklers, foot muffs, ear guards, down even to goggles for canine motorists, which all help to swell the brave and bewildering array of the accessory maker's catalogue and add still further to the motorist's temptations. As a whole, the accessory industry is a very important one, and motorists owe not a little to the ingenuity and invention of those who minister to their needs in this way.

A PUNCTURE-PROOF TYRE-TREAD.

The Belmont non-skidding tyre-protector is the name of a new invention about to be placed on the market, of which great things are promised. Means of protecting the outer cover of a pneumatic tyre from punctures, while at the same time preserving its resiliency, have long been sought, and it is claimed that the device named fulfils this purpose in the most effectual manner. It consists simply of a tread made of a special fibrous material the nature of which is such as to render it virtually unpuncturable; at the same time, it will not fray, stretch, or shrink, its outside surface becoming indeed, harder and more lasting and more difficult to penetrate the longer it is used, while, further, it possesses valuable non-skidding properties. The material in question is, it appears, a kind of hemp cultivated almost exclusively in Spain, and from the peculiar nature of its construction its wear-resisting qualities are said to be quite extraordinary. As the inventor puts it, small stones or nails simply find their grave in its surface and there remain without going through, and instead of doing damage serve only to increase the protective qualities of the band and add still further to its non-skidding properties.

At the same time the material is extremely light, is only made harder and more resistant by wet, radiates heat very quickly and therefore runs very cool, and is quite inexpensive. The mode of attachment to the tyre is simple and ingenious. The material having been thoroughly stretched in the first instance, is lined with stout non-stretching canvas, covering the greater part of the tyre, with "wings" or lugs at intervals, by means of which the whole is fastened firmly to the wheel through the agency of phosphor bronze wires on each side of the rim capable of being adjusted to the requisite degree of tightness by right and left handed screws. Then, with treads in position and properly adjusted, it is claimed that the owner of the heaviest car should be able to regard himself as absolutely proof against punctures. The device has, I understand, been subjected to exhaustive tests, and if it succeeds in achieving even half of the good results claimed on its behalf there should certainly be a big future for it. The prices of the treads, which are sold by the Belmont Tyre Protector Company, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, range from £1 11s. 6d. upwards, according to size of wheel—comparing in this important respect extremely favourably, as it is hardly necessary to point out, with the charges asked for most of the metal-studded leather bands, aiming at achieving the same ends, at present on the market.

BOOKS ON MOTORING.

Books for motorists abound. They come, not single spies, but whole battalions. Hardly a day passes but one or more is added to the pile. Books for experts, books for novices, learned tomes, elementary treatises, books theoretical, books practical, books general, books special—there is no end to the output, and the earnest student of automobilism, anxious to keep himself abreast of the movement and to be up in its latest developments, may well feel bewildered by the choice which is offered him under this head. From a good modern text book as much can be learnt as from the best oral teaching, and he who neglects such aids to knowledge is a fool for his pains. In the following jottings a few of the more useful works which have been issued for the automobilist's benefit are briefly indicated.

For a beginning, perhaps, one might fairly take the Badminton volume on "Motors and Motor Driving" (Longmans), a new and revised edition of which was published this year. It is edited by Lord Northcliffe, with contributions by Lord Montagu, Sir David Salomons, Sir J. H. A. Macdonald, Mr. S. F. Edge, the Hon C. S. Rolls, and a host of other recognised authorities, and as a general survey of the subject of automobilism in all its branches, it is a most useful volume.

Another work also giving a comprehensive account of the automobile and everything appertaining thereto,

is Mr. Filson Young's readable volume "The Complete Motorist" which provides a volume covering the whole ground of the construction, maintenance, and the use of motor cars, as adapted at the same time to the understanding of the motorist having no technical knowledge of his subject. Sometimes, it is true, Mr. Young rather tries one by his somewhat mannered literary style, and now and again one notes exaggerated statements which would have been better avoided, but there is a prodigious amount of useful information in the work concerning cars of all kinds and classes.

In the way of serious technical information for the use of experts nothing better is obtainable than Mr. Worby Beaumont's monumental work "Motor Vehicles and Motors; their Design, Construction, and Working, by Steam, Petrol, and Electricity," published in two massive volumes by Messrs. Constable. This is a book primarily for the engineer and the professional student of matters motoristic, and though, with the present rapid march of events in the motoring world, a work of this kind necessarily tends rather quickly to get out of date, it is likely to hold its place for a long time as the standard publication of its kind.

Another work of a severely technical nature is "Petrol Motors and Motor-Cars," by T. Hyler White, A.M.I.M.E. (Longmans). This is intended expressly for the use of engineers, designers, and draughtsmen, and in its way is an altogether excellent work, if hardly one to be recommended to the average amateur, for every page bristles with diagrams, formulæ, and tables of one sort or another. In the workshop or drawing office the work should, however, prove most useful.

In the way of dictionaries and pocket cyclopædias more than one useful volume has been issued. Of these perhaps the best known is "O'Gorman's Motor Pocket-Book" (Constable), a handy-sized, close-printed little volume, packed with information under every conceivable head in relation to motoring and arranged in alphabetical order. A new edition of this work has not long been published, and, at the price of 7s. 6d., it is a marvellously cheap short cut to automobilistic omniscience.

Another work of a similar nature is Mecreedy's "Dictionary of Motoring" (Iliffe and Sons), in which, if all the subjects are not treated quite so exhaustively, the faults of Mr. O'Gorman's volume are, to a considerable extent, avoided. A particularly useful feature of this work is the long section devoted to repairs and adjustments.

NOTES.

The recent fine weather has raised, in its acutest form and at a period of the season earlier than usual, the most serious and difficult of all questions involved in automobilism—to wit, the dust problem. Thanks to the recent dry weather, the dust evil of late has been hardly less in evidence than during the height of summer, and one and all must agree as to the urgent need of remedying a condition of things from which motorists themselves suffer hardly less severely than the general public. In a word, the evil is, in the time-honoured formula, one which is great, is growing, and ought to be abated. But how and by whom? And at whose cost? The dust demon could be speedily laid if seriously tackled. If all the main roads of the country were remade in a proper fashion with dustless material, and with the further aid of one or other of the various surface preparations which have been invented, the difficulty would disappear forthwith. But who is to undertake the work and find the money? There's the rub.

Some time ago Lord Montagu put forward an ingenious scheme, under which all the money raised by the taxation of vehicles would be devoted to this purpose, plus the produce of a special Customs and Excise duty of two and a half per cent. *ad valorem* on all motor-cars, British and foreign. In this way, he estimated, a sum of between £300,000 and £400,000 would be quickly raised which could be applied for the purpose under the direction, as he further suggested, of a Central Highway Board responsible to Parliament for the control of all the main roads throughout the country. It is revealing no secrets, perhaps, to express the belief that this scheme will not form part of Mr. Asquith's forthcoming Budget statement. But it is certain that only in some such radical fashion is the problem ever likely to be satisfactorily solved. Meanwhile, the duty of motorists in the matter is manifest enough, namely, to do all that is possible by considerate driving to mitigate the evil. Much more may still be done also by manufacturers in the same direction. Cars differ greatly, according to the details of their construction, in their dust-raising qualities, and in the interests of one and all it is vitally important that more attention should be paid to this particular consideration by designers than is usually bestowed on it.

When is some practical step to be taken in regard to the employment of alcohol as fuel? Alcohol possesses advantages in almost every respect over petrol. But at present it cannot be manufactured at a profit in this country, because of the very stringent and costly Excise regulations, devised solely with regard to the production of alcohol designed for drinking purposes. To the production of alcohol in its de-natured form no exception whatever need be taken. On the contrary, there are here all the makings of a gigantic new industry, which is deserving of every encouragement on that account alone. Meanwhile, according to a correspondent of the *Autocar*, there is much to be said for benzol as a substitute for petrol, and it is announced that a firm of tar distillers is about to put this on sale for motor fuel purposes at a price which it is believed will be about 1s. 3d. per gallon retail. Benzol, it may be explained, is a more or less perfectly rectified spirit obtained during the distillation of coal tar, which in its turn is usually a by-product obtained during the manufacture of gas from coal, and therefore it can be produced by British makers in unlimited quantities, while it is said to give results to all intents and purposes the equal of those of petrol.

Another new fuel to which attention is being directed at present is one in which patent rights are being secured, consisting of a combination of the vapour of alcohol and acetylene gas. This, according to articles in the papers, is the invention and discovery of a Scotchman and an Englishman at present residing in New York, and, according to the particulars furnished, it is likely to attract much attention. The gas in question is formed, it seems, by bringing a spray of atomised alcohol diluted with water into contact with calcium carbide. The only addition required for existing petrol cars to admit of the employment of the new gas will be a metal cylinder about eight inches long and four inches wide, with necessary connections to the carburetter and combustion chamber. This cylinder will contain the carbide by means of which the acetylene is formed, the combination of which with the alcohol vapour provides the requisite explosive mixture, which has been given the not very happy name of alcoethine. It is said to possess a higher explosive power than ordinary petrol, and to work out at a lower cost.

Are there openings for ladies as professional drivers? The advent of the feminine cab driver in Paris has brought the question up again. The answer, however, can hardly be in doubt. It is one thing to drive a car which has been nicely tuned up and with a chauffeur alongside to do any dirty work that may be required, but quite another to undertake the responsibility of a professional mechanician, almost the least of whose functions is the actual driving of the car. And to take this view is by no means to deny the skill with which many ladies manage their cars or to question the expert knowledge which they frequently possess. Women chauffeurs are no more likely a development of the future than women coachmen—though, so far as mere driving goes, many ladies are, of course, most expert. Instance the letter recently received by Messrs. Humber from one of their fair customers:—

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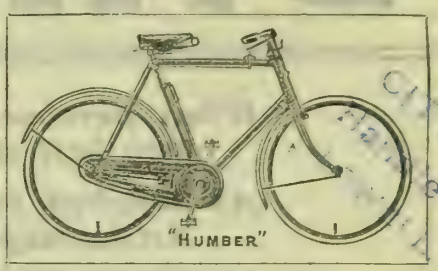

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(*Continued from page* 898.)

from exceptional industrial activity, whilst production is gradually increasing." But there is no apparent reason to expect any material change in the conditions of supply and demand. Fresh mines are joining the list of contributors to the output, and existing producers are extending their operations, but it is anticipated by those in the best position to form an opinion on the subject, that after a possible temporary slackening of the demand for copper there will be a steady development of consumption, with which production may find it difficult to keep pace. At the Rio Tinto meeting last week, the chairman naturally had something to say in regard to the outlook for the metal, and in view of the importance of the matter to all concerned in copper shares the remarks of that authority will doubtless be of interest to many of my readers. The Tinto chairman said:

> Industrial enterprise is active in all countries; copper is therefore in great demand. All new machinery and ships, and most other constructions, need copper in a greater or lesser degree. It is rapidly becoming realised that it is more economical to create power at centres in large units, and distribute by electric current to the points where it is used, than by the old-fashioned method of numerous little steam engines working locally. This has, even in heavy railway work, gone beyond the experimental stage in the United States, and a commencement is being made with some branch passenger railways in Europe. Probably, therefore, the "Electrical Age" has hardly commenced, and we must hope, even if new sources of supply are found, that our copper will continue to fetch remunerative prices.

Last week I mentioned that the Tinto report had caused disappointment in market circles in consequence of the fact that it contained no confirmation of the recent market rumours as to an expansion of production being contemplated. At the subsequent meeting, however, the chairman said that an extension of the smelting plant was being built, "and had there been sufficient rainfall to supply the blast furnace water jackets, we had expected to somewhat increase the quantity of ore so treated this summer." But owing to the succession of dry seasons the water supply at the mines is at present giving the Board much anxiety, and unless the average amount of rain falls this month and next a reduced output of copper must be expected in the last half of the year. So far as permanent holders of Tintos are concerned, however, there is not much cause for anxiety, for, as the chairman pointed out, one summer's scarcity of water merely postpones for a few months their profits. In view of the possibility of a reduction of the output there seems little likelihood of Tintos recovering in the near future to the neighbourhood of the highest price touched so far this year, but no doubt they will continue to fluctuate within pretty wide limits, and thus afford speculators chances of securing satisfactory quick profits. Elsewhere in the copper group there are shares which have been depressed by forced liquidation and which have not had any substantial recovery so far, and the discriminating speculator should be able to make a selection affording promise of a satisfactory return when general conditions are more settled. On any material relapse Mount Lyells appear a pretty safe purchase for a quick turn, and Great Cobars and Arizonas also have their supporters when the prices are knocked down, as they have been at times during the past week by forced liquidation. Among the smaller-priced descriptions I still fancy Chillagoes. These shares and Munganas have been in strong demand recently, and those of my readers who followed the lead of the colonials as indicated in my notes a few weeks ago have no reason to find fault with the result. The further information to hand with regard to Chillagoes is of a satisfactory character. The extension of the company's railway to the Etheridge goldfields is being proceeded with, and meanwhile the receipts from the line already working are steadily increasing. The approximate figures in connection with the working of the line for the first three months of this year show a net increase of over £6,000 compared with the returns for the corresponding period of last year. The company's smelting business is also increasing..

New Pension Scheme.—5s. a month will secure a pension of £20 a year guaranteed by Norwich Union Life Insurance Society. Sole issuing House, London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., Basildon House, E.C. Prospectus on application.

Broken Hills Quiet but the Tone Cheerful—The Latest Zinc Corporation Announcement—Indian Gold Output—Balaghat Position—Ashanti Goldfields Resumes the Payment of Dividends.

Business has not been very brisk in Broken Hill descriptions during the past week, but on the whole a firm tendency has been in evidence, although when Paris was liquidating in other sections this group reflected the general dulness. There has been some hesitation about increasing speculative commitments to any extent pending the general outlook becoming more assured, but in the event of this settlement passing off satisfactorily business should improve, and as I have said before, the Broken Hill group is not the least attractive of the various mining sections. Share values in several cases are now well below the highest that have been reached, and the depreciation has not been due to any adverse change in intrinsic conditions, but to forced liquidation in order to meet losses incurred in other directions. Further official information as to the position of affairs in regard to the Zinc Corporation is now available, and the statements recently made by the chairman in the interview which I quoted a fortnight ago will have prepared shareholders for the news, which is to the effect that the original process is a commercial failure, but the alternative system—the Cattermole process—is a proved success. One unit of the plant has been adapted to this system, and it is treating 140 tons of tailings per day. The balance of the plant is being altered to the Cattermole system, and it is hoped that in about a month it will be working at the rate of 500 tons per day. It is not calculated to please shareholders to learn that after all the time which has been taken the first process has had to be abandoned, but the announcement that the company is now actually producing and shipping good grade concentrates should reassure them in regard to the prospect of ultimately receiving dividends on the money invested. It now remains to be told what the cost of treating the tailings will be when working on a large scale, but that a satisfactory return will be forthcoming on at least the current price of the shares there seems little doubt. The process now being employed by the Zinc Corporation has been used for some time by the Sulphide Corporation with, it is understood, very satisfactory results, and this fact should further reassure those interested in Zincs.

The production of the Indian gold mines in March was 1,888 oz. in excess of the February output, as will be seen from the statistics given below:—

	1903	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz
January	48,080	51,583	52,157	52,009	49,010
February	46,268	50,151	50,660	49,576	43,224
March	48,434	51,634	52,688	49,040	45,112
April	48,573	50,609	53,374	46,033	—
May	48,971	51,242	52,174	48,515	—
June	49,368	51,606	52,717	47,816	—
July	50,989	51,233	52,191	47,247	—
August	50,717	51,517	52,017	46 817	—
September	51,714	51,666	52,039	49,638	—
October	51,824	51,233	52,291	47,101	—
November	52,016	51,664	51,906	46,487	—
December	54,457	52,690	54,201	49,981	—
Total	601,411	616,838	628,415	577,260	137,346

The Coromandel has dropped out of the list of producers, its mill having been finally closed down, as it is abandoning its Kolar property. On the other hand, last month the Dharwar Reefs contributed to the total for the first time, this company's output being 510 oz. from 1,494 tons, or an average of slightly under 7 dwts. These figures, however, do not include the returns from the cyanide treatment, and as the tailings from the mill are reported to assay a little over 4 dwts., it would appear as though yields of about half an ounce per ton are to be expected. This is much less satisfactory than the trial crushing made at the end of 1905 led shareholders to look for, and it is to be hoped that as operations at the mine progress better results will be attained. The annual report of the Balaghat Gold Mining Company is now to hand. While it shows an increased profit compared with the previous document, and the rate of dividend is maintained, it does

not read very favourably as regards the mining position. It is true the ore reserves are larger than at the end of 1905, but they represent little more than a year's supply for the milling plant, and as I have pointed out in former notes, the monthly returns of gold have had to be reduced in the current year owing to the fact that the general grade of the ore developed in the latter part of 1906 was lower than that previously found. However, there is a chance of a better ore zone being encountered, and shareholders may be able to derive some encouragement from the fact that some years ago, when development work had given disappointing results, the hopes of improvement expressed by the management were soon fulfilled. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and it would seem that the market valuations of some mining shares mainly represent hopes rather than anything more substantial. In the case of the Balaghat mine, however, there is ground for the hope entertained of better results being obtained, as the lowest level in the vicinity of one of the shafts is stated to be showing improvement, and at a few shillings below par (£1) the shares would seem a fair purchase as a pure speculation, on the chance of the improvement continuing.

It may be remembered that a few weeks ago I mentioned that there had been some buying of Ashanti Goldfields by people who should be well informed as to the company's position and prospects. I added that hopes were being indulged in of the early declaration of a dividend and recalled the statement made on the point by the chairman at the meeting last December. The good buying is now explained, the expectation of an early resumption of dividends being fulfilled. The company has issued a circular announcing that the directors now feel themselves to be in a position to resume the payment of dividends, and, accordingly, have declared one of 10 per cent. in respect of the current year. This is equivalent to 4 4-5d. per share, so that, like the nurse's baby, it is "a very little one," but the wording of the official announcement will encourage shareholders to expect further distributions in respect of the current year. This is the first return to shareholders the company has made since the 50 per cent. paid on account of 1903-4, and there are not so many West African companies paying dividends that one, however small, is likely to be overlooked. The announcement has helped the price of the shares a little, as will be seen from the following table:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Mar. 28, 1907.	Apl. 6, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/	16/6	+6d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/16	1 1/2	1 5/16	1 5/16	—
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/4	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Wassau	1 1/8	1/2	5/8	5/8	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/9	1/6	-3d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	2/-	2/-	—
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	24/6	24/9	+3d.
Esperanza	5 5/16	2 1/4	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/16	1 3/16	- 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	39/4 1/2	38/11 1/2	-1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 1/16	4 1/2	4 3/8	- 3/32
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	26/6	26/3	-3d.
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 5/8	11 5/8	12 3/8	13 1/4	+1 1/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	48/-	47/-	-1/0
Mount Morgan	4 3/8	3 1/4	4 1/8	4	- 1/8
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/8	63 5/8	87	89 1/4	+2 1/4
Dolcoath Tin	20/6	10/-	23/-	23/-	—
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	18/-	17/6	-6d.
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	11/9	12/3	+6d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	6	6 1/16	+ 1/16
Siberian Mines	2 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8	—
Siberian Proprietary	16 1/4	3 1/8	4 1/8	3 7/8	- 1/8
Waihi	9 12/16	6 7/16	8 3/8	8 3/8	—

A Motor-'Bus Company's Affairs.

"I do not think that we have had a fair run for our money," writes one of the shareholders in the Edinburgh and District Motor Omnibus Co., Ltd. Letters that I have received from other shareholders are to the same effect, and in view of recent incidents and disclosures, the dissatisfaction that prevails is not at all surprising. The story of the company is curious and instructive. It was formed in February, 1906, with a capital of £200,000 divided into £1 shares. The directors went to allotment on subscriptions for 28,569 shares, though it ought to have been recognised that this would not provide a sufficient amount for the purposes set forth in the prospectus. In February last an unsuccessful offer of debenture stock was made, and the company having come to the end of its resources, the shareholders were summoned to a meeting on March 20 to consider a resolution in favour of a voluntary winding-up. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Hyman Herman, 9, Wool Exchange, E.C., addressed a strongly worded circular to his "co-shareholders," and, considered in the light of subsequent events, the following extracts will be found interesting:—

> Having regard to the fact that the Directors have not yet issued any accounts or given you an opportunity to discuss the finances and position of the Company in General Meeting, I am justified in saying that the present proposal looks very like a strong desire on the part of the Board to obviate giving an account of their stewardship and the management of your moneys. In short, I wish to emphasise the fact that the whole proceedings are extremely unsatisfactory. . . . . They only desire to wind up the Company in order to form some other concern. It seems to me that there is no reasonable ground to suppose that the present management will succeed any better with a new Company than with our present unfortunate Company. It is obvious, furthermore, that the proposals when put before you will include some sort of assessment to be levied on our shares, and it is with *special reference to this danger* that I think it is your bounden duty to protest against the Resolution put before you. . . . .
>
> If you agree that your Company should not be so abruptly wound up without a thorough investigation of the management to date, and of the manner in which your moneys have been expended, and desire me to act as your Proxy at the Meeting, I will send you a stamped Proxy Form.

To this the directors issued a counterblast which drew from Mr. Herman a still more strongly worded circular, in which he repeated that it was his intention to vote against the voluntary liquidation, and in favour of a thorough investigation. On the strength of these statements Mr. Herman obtained the support of a considerable number of the shareholders. At the meeting on March 20 the chair was occupied by Mr. C. E. Hogg, who was not a director of the company, nor apparently even a shareholder. Mr. Hogg explained that two of the directors had asked him "to assist in helping to pull matters through." This gentleman has certainly had considerable experience as a director of unsuccessful gold mining companies, but it is questionable whether the shareholders in those concerns would recommend him as an expert in pulling matters through—that is, so far as the interests of shareholders are at stake—and it is at any rate not easy to perceive any reason why he should be deemed specially fitted to extricate a motor-'bus undertaking from its difficulties. However, Mr. Hogg took the chair, and submitted a reconstruction scheme, under which a new company would be formed with a capital of £50,000 to take over the business, the shareholders in the existing company being called upon to pay 5s. in respect of each share that they held. After payment of the debts, this assessment, Mr. Hogg stated, would give the new company £9,000 for working capital. It was against any proposal of this kind that Mr. Herman had fulminated in the above-mentioned circulars. At the meeting, however, it was announced that, "owing to various facts that had come to his knowledge," Mr. Herman's opposition to the directors' proposal had been "converted into support," and the resolution to wind up the company voluntarily was carried unanimously. Mr. W. E. T. Price (secretary of the Klerksdorp Gold Mines and other companies with which Mr. Hogg is connected) was appointed liquidator, and he issued a circular to the shareholders enclosing a statement "of the way in which the money subscribed has been expended." According to this statement, the payments comprised £6,745 to the promoters; £18,248 "expended on construction of cars, garage, and fitting up same"; £2,243 "management account in Edinburgh"; £907 directors' fees; £451 managing director's remuneration; and other smaller items, making a total of £29,286. The receipts were £28,413 from shareholders, and £1,090 from traffic receipts. In Mr. Hogg's speech the debts of the com-

pany were put at about £3,000. As to the present value of the rolling stock and garage, no information has been furnished.

Unlike Mr. Hyman Herman himself, a good many of the shareholders still adhere to the opinions which were so forcibly expressed in Mr. Herman's circulars. This was made manifest at the meeting which was held last Wednesday to consider a resolution for the sale of the assets of the company to the projected new company. The resolution was defeated, and a proposal was then made for the appointment of a committee of shareholders to investigate the affairs of the company, but, on the remarkable ground that "so much hostility had been shown," the Chairman, Mr. Hogg, refused to put this second resolution, and declared the meeting at an end. The whole case in regard to this Edinburgh and District Motor Omnibus Company clearly demands a searching investigation, and the shareholders ought to insist upon having one. The present reconstruction scheme is plainly undeserving of any support. There is, indeed, little doubt that for the shareholders it would simply mean throwing good money after bad.

Insurance Notes—Insuring Income—Immediate Annuities —Annuities for Invalids—Incomes for Widows— —Provision for Children—Old Age Pensions.

One of the great advantages connected with life assurance and annuities is that when properly selected they can be made to exactly suit almost any requirements. To people in general the value of capital really depends upon the income that it yields, and there are many circumstances in which a man or a woman is entirely justified in receiving for himself, or herself, the largest possible income without troubling to leave the capital at death to somebody else. In such a case the obvious thing to do is to sink the capital in the purchase of an annuity, to commence immediately, and to continue so long as the annuitant lives. Immediate annuities of this kind are quite familiar to everybody. There are a few old-fashioned people who think it is better to buy annuities from the Government than from life assurance companies, but as a matter of fact it is very foolish to adopt this course; a good life office is every whit as secure as the British Government, gives better terms to annuitants, and dispenses with many irksome formalities which the National Debt Office and the Post Office insist upon.

The life annuity that can be purchased for £100 varies, in the case of males, from about £7 15s. at age fifty-five to about £13 at age seventy, while for females of age fifty-five the annuity is about £7, and at age seventy about £11 15s. If an individual were to say to himself, "I will spend the whole of my interest and part of my capital each year," it is quite possible that before he died he would find that his capital had disappeared, and that his interest amounted to nothing a year; thereafter the only refuge might be the workhouse. On the other hand, a man may buy an annuity to-day and die very shortly afterwards, thus receiving little or no benefit from the annuity. The ingenuity of actuaries has devised a method for meeting this objection. Certain companies will agree to pay a man a rather smaller annuity so long as he lives, and if he dies within a specified number of years will return to his estate a stipulated proportion of the purchase price which he paid. For instance, a man of sixty, by paying £100 could make sure of receiving £6 a year so long as he lived, and if he died at any time within fifteen years part of the purchase-price would be returned to his estate, the amount returned depending upon the time during which he had enjoyed the annuity.

The longevity of annuitants is proverbial, and the general experience is that people do not buy annuities unless they are likely to live to an advanced age. The Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation has a most fair and happy method of making the advantages of annuities available for people in inferior health. They ask their doctor to examine a man just as for life assurance; if it appears to the doctor that the annuitant is not likely to live long they will pay him a much larger annuity than they would to a man in first-rate health.

Deferred life annuities of various kinds are particularly well suited to certain cases. The chief concern of a man who has no family may be to make certain that his widow will have an income so long as she lives. He is not concerned that any capital shall be left to friends or relatives when his widow dies, his whole desire being to provide the maximum income for her. This is perfectly possible in various ways. He can, for instance, take a policy, which he pays for by annual or half-yearly premiums so long as he lives, and which provides that, in the event of his death before that of his wife, an annuity of, say £100, will be paid to his widow so long as she survives him. If the wife dies first the payment of premiums ceases, and it can be arranged that in such an event all the premiums paid prior to the death of the wife are, or are not, returned to the husband. Of course, a similar scheme can be utilised to provide for a child, or a sister, or for anybody else. This is about the cheapest possible plan for making a definite provision of an income that can be devised; the cost depends upon the ages of the man who pays the premium and of the beneficiary. The insurance of an income in this way is in some respects better than an ordinary life policy, which insures the payment of a lump sum in cash. Of course, the cash could be used by the widow to buy an annuity. If the husband died when his wife was young the cash would only provide a small income for life, but if he died when the wife was old the cash would provide a large life income. If the wife is the only person to be thought of, it is better to let the insurance company take the risk of the income being small or large and to make sure that a definite income is available for the whole after lifetime of the widow, rather than a lump sum in cash, which may yield a big income or may yield a small one

Sometimes there are two or three people that it is desired to provide for. It is, of course, possible to apply the plan just described to, for instance, each of three daughters. So long as the three of them were living together they might get along comfortably on £100 a year each. If one of them died the two survivors would be much less comfortable on £200 a year, and when two of them had died the remaining one might be very pinched with only £100 a year. It is perfectly possible, and in some cases greatly preferable, to provide for, say, £300 a year while the three of them live, £250 a year while two of them are living, and £200 a year during the lifetime of the last survivor. Annuities of this kind can be paid for either by a single payment or by annual premiums, either for a limited number of years or during the whole lifetime of the father.

Another form of annuity which in certain cases has many attractions is one which practically provides an old-age pension, and may be purchased by either men or women. A man or a woman may feel confident of being able to earn an income up to age sixty or sixty-five, or any other selected age. By making annual payments until the age of retirement is reached, a fixed income from retirement until death can be secured. Deferred annuities of this kind have many advantages. Each payment that is made secures its full proportion of the benefits, whether the payments are continued or not. A person aged thirty commences to buy an annuity payable at sixty, thus involving thirty annual payments; if after paying for ten years it is convenient to stop further payments, the ten premiums already paid secure an annuity of one-third of the amount originally contemplated. Policies of this kind have the further benefit that the policy-holder can at any time up to the age at which the annuity commences surrender the policy for a cash payment, which is equivalent to all the premiums paid with interest in addition.

The variety that is possible in assurance and annuity business is so great that the above examples must only be considered as specimens of what it is possible to accomplish. In every case the precise conditions depend upon the ages of the people concerned, while an indefinitely great number of other circumstances can be met to perfection by means of somewhat similar policies. Given any set of conditions concerning money

and the duration of human life, and life assurance, in one of its many forms, will "fill the bill" more safely and more profitably than any other financial transaction.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

Lady Godiva.—The Bulgarian stock is somewhat speculative, as the high yield indicates, and it is hardly a desirable holding for a lady. The Isle of Man Debenture stock is an investment of the first rank.

Railways.

Thistle.—The company is paying 6 per cent. out of railway earnings and 1 per cent. from the interest derived from proceeds of land sales. Hold the shares as an investment. *Warnos.*—The fall has been due largely to the general reasons with which I have already dealt at length in recent articles. As far as my recollection serves me, there has also been a substantial deduction on account of rights to new stock. I do not recommend a purchase; the general outlook is too unsatisfactory. *Parrot.*—1. The broker should have sold as instructed, but whether you could make him legally responsible is doubtful. 2. I do not recommend holding either on borrowed money. *Calcutta.*—If you are a real holder better keep both. The company has probably seen the worst. *Atholl.*—1. Both promising speculative purchases. 2. I do not recommend. *Brownhill.*—The shares were ex. div. on February 28. If you purchased the call prior to that date, the dividend deducted from the price will be credited to you, but if you bought subsequently you have no claim to the dividend. *Tortoise.*—If you are a holder of the debentures you might keep them. In both cases there are subsidies. The speculative risk will, of course, fall in the main upon holders of the share capital. *Faiths.*—While, generally speaking, I do not care for Americans, No. 1 is one of the soundest of the group, and might be held, while No. 2 may have a further recovery in the next month or so, and should therefore be retained for the present. The others are very fair investments.

Mines.

Rusticus.—I see no reason to expect an early substantial rise in the shares. *Exile.*—See my notes this week on the copper position. Ivanhoes, Robinson Deep, and Wit Deep appear good holdings for dividends and possible appreciation in value. *Pauper.*—1 and 6 are hopeful holdings, but I have not a very high opinion of the others. *C. B. C.*—The shares may have a little recovery later on, when the market becomes more active, but I see no reason to expect a substantial advance. *Enquirer, Bristol.*—You may as well hold what you have for a recovery. *Ceetch.*—There is little attraction in a purchase. I have not seen a recent price. *Bridge.*—There appears little likelihood of dividends being maintained for more than a year or two, and I think you had better put your money into something else. *Cork.*—Look again; the coupon appears every week at the bottom of the third page of the coloured cover of Truth. *Boffin.*—Ivanhoes are a less speculative holding than either of the other shares you name, and I should prefer to make the exchange. *Bugle-Major.*—You might put some of the money into New Kleinfontein or Wit Deep, with a view to dividends.

Mixed Securities.

Zomba (Nyasaland).—Your Government and railway holdings are all sound and worth keeping. Nos. 1 and 3 should also be kept. Of the alternatives to No. 4 you suggest, I regard Johannesburg Fours as the pick. *Altonia.*—1. Of the railway stocks, Hull look the more promising. The threatened legislation has affected all brewery securities, but you might hold those you have. *Mezzotint.*—Your Government and railway stocks are a sound lot, and I should not care to advise parting with any of them. They will go better as monetary conditions improve. The other shares are also worth holding for the present. *Sergeant-major, Shorncliffe.*—1. No. 2. Sell. 3. Yes. *E. B. B.*—For the present, yes. *A. J. S., Taunton.*—1. The Third Preference is understood to have the right to participate with the Deferred in any distribution of surplus assets. 2. The new Four per Cent. Debentures of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad should meet your requirements. *Dans.*—You could get nearly 4½ per cent. on excellent security by buying the new Four and a Half Preference shares of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway. *Subaltern.*—1. Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds, Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, National Railroad of Mexico Four per Cent. First Mortgage bonds, Buenos Ayres Western Railway new Four and a Half per Cent. Preference. Spread the money over the four. 2. A good purchase. *Lynxes.*—1. Hold on for a possible recovery in the near future. 2. A purchase still offers good prospects of turning out well, though it would be advisable to take the shares off the market. *Cabin.*—1.-4. The mining shares are hopeful speculative holdings. They are all of the nominal value of £1. 5. They are fair. 6. Worth holding. *L. G., Dublin.*—Johnnies might be bought, but neither of the others are attractive. *Mona.*—All three would make fairly attractive investments. They are controlled by Canadians. *Beacon.*—They would make fair investments. *Whitefield.*—1-5. They are fairly attractive. The land shares have been run up materially recently on the strength of the prosperity of the country. 6. I do not recommend it. *Cato.*—1. I know of no reason for the decline. 2. Ask the secretary. *Q. L. A.*—1. They are likely to recover further in the near future. 2. They are a pure gamble. The possibilities are somewhat doubtful. *H. T. S.*—They are all fair, but can scarcely be called first-class securities. *Enelpis.*—1. Keep these for the present. 2. Worth holding. 3 and 4. These should have some recovery eventually. 5. There seems no immediate hurry to sell, but if they go much better you might secure your profit on the chance of getting in again lower down. *Irex.*—1. Fairly good. 2. I do not advise a purchase of these bonds. They are guaranteed only as to interest until 1915, and what will happen after that it is impossible to say. 3. As a speculative purchase the new 5 per cent. bonds look the cheapest. 4. Give the preference to the 4½ per cent. bonds, which enjoy special security. 5. These bonds are probably all right, but little is known about them on this side. 6. A very fair investment. *Pack.*—On the whole your list is a very fair one, and I should not be inclined to part with any of the securities, at any rate for the present. *Farway.*—Argentine Great Western new Debentures should suit you as well as any of the stocks mentioned. *Bombay.*—1. The Canadian railway bonds look good enough, but you might perhaps be content with the amount you already have in them. 2. Simply due to the all-round fall in such securities. 3. These debentures are a somewhat speculative holding, and I do not advise a purchase. 4. Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (First Series), Argentine new Fives, and Buenos Ayres Western Railway new Four and a Half per Cent. Preference would give the required yield with good security. *Maskee.*—They are very speculative, and I do not care to recommend you to buy them.

Miscellaneous.

Novice.—I cannot recommend any firm. See Rule 8. You had better, however, have nothing to do with such a system of speculation. The motor shares are a fair commercial investment. *H. T., Malta.*—Not an investment, but a gamble. Moreover, the concern mentioned is one to be avoided. *Motor.*—I have been unable to obtain any information; write again to the secretary. *H. R., Brentwood.*—You will see that I am referring to the company this week. *Bull.*—1-2. I do not consider them an attractive holding. The dividend is likely to come down rather than be advanced. 3. Apollinaris Ordinary would give you 7¾ per cent., and seems more hopeful. 4. Leave it severely alone. *Jackson.*—1. I believe it is sound. 2. Yes. The business is a mischievous and disreputable one. *Rover Cycle.*—I cannot recommend any firm; see Rule 8. Do not, however, delude yourself with the idea that there is "little risk" that you will lose your money by doing business on the cover system. *Patsey.*—1. No. 2. See Rule 8. I do not recommend such a purchase now. *Enrique, Chile.*—Have nothing whatever to do with the Arnold and Butler bucket-shop. Do the business through a member of the Stock Exchange. *G. A. A., Bromley.*—Read the preceding answer. The secretary of the Stock Exchange will supply you with a list of members. *E. J. E. Y.*—Warnings against Cunliffe, Russell and Co. have constantly appeared in Truth. The pamphlets and circulars are grossly misleading, and the prices charged for the bonds are greatly in excess of their market value. *C. C. W., T. C. P., Rangoon, R. R., East India,* and others.—The preceding answer about Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. also applies to the International Securities Syndicate. *L. A. P. R.*—Apply to the Crédit Lyonnais or to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle Street, E.C. *W. M. H.*—Thanks for the booklet; will make inquiries. *Grand Merci.*—1. See my remarks in another column. 2. In the circumstances you may as well hold in the hope of a renewal of market interest in the shares later on. *Why Not.*—I have not had any reason to criticise it, but I cannot make a recommendation. See Rule 8; also rule as to a coupon.

Insurance.

J. S. H.—The company is within its rights in declining to renew the policy. A policy that cannot be discontinued by a company involves more risk and a higher premium. You cannot expect the same benefits for a low premium as a high one. *Tom.*—I believe this particular bond company is sound, and think you might safely continue the payments. *Dubious.*—I have not a high

opinion of the company you mention, and should not advise you to join it. If you have already paid for some time it may be advisable to continue, but this depends on how much you have paid. *Dab.*—I think if you were to ask the insurance company to survey your property and explain the state of things to them you would have no difficulty in effecting a satisfactory settlement should the necessity for doing so arise.

Miscellaneous Market Improving—Anglo A's Rise—Hudson's Bays—The Turkish Match Gamble—Breweries and Legislation—Argentine Meat Companies—Increased Cunard Dividend.

In the Miscellaneous market the better tone which began to manifest itself on the eve of the holidays has been well maintained, and what is hopefully regarded as a sure if slow increase in the volume of business appears to have set in. One of the features of the past week was a revival of activity in Anglo American Telegraph Deferred. For the first quarter of the year dividends of 15s. and 30s. per cent. on the ordinary and the preferred stock, respectively, have just been announced; but though these distributions are only at the usual rates, it is rumoured that the company's traffic receipts benefited substantially—it's an ill-wind, etc.—from the excitement aroused by the recent course of events in Wall Street. With three-quarters of the year still to run this is obviously a slender foundation on which to build up expectations for the deferred, but anyhow there has been a steady buying of the stock, which is two points up on the week. Hudson's Bays have fluctuated more or less in sympathy with Canadian Pacifics, but since the publication of an official statement of the sales of farm lands and town lots during the year ended March 31, a gain of between two and three points has been recorded. The sales amounted to £334,000, payable over a term of years, and cash receipts to £328,700, as compared with £401,400 and £297,000 respectively for 1906. There has also been a rise in the shares of the Western Canada Land Company on the issue of a satisfactory return of sales. I am still inclined to think, however, that investors ought not to count so confidently, as many are doing, upon an uninterrupted continuance of the land boom in the Dominion; and in spite of the anticipations of an increased dividend, I should not recommend a purchase of "Bays" at the present price. In connection with the New Founders' Association, another letter from the Foreign Office has been published to the effect that although the British Government is not at present prepared to withdraw its opposition to the Turkish match monopoly scheme, "the subject might possibly be considered should commercial negotiations with Turkey be resumed." This has led to a little revival of the gamble in these shares, though the possibility of the concession being sanctioned is still clearly very remote, while even if it were sanctioned it would remain a question for consideration whether in actual working it would prove worth the price paid for it.

For the moment, at least, the fall in brewery securities has been stayed—indeed, in some cases the unfamiliar spectacle of a slight recovery has been witnessed. This can scarcely be attributed to the formation of a brewery debenture-holders' committee to agitate against "unjust legislation," or even to a calculation that the much-discussed pro-alcohol manifesto which a number of medical men have signed, will tend to increase the consumption of beer. The fact is that the opinion is gaining ground that there is not much likelihood of a Licensing Bill being passed this Session, and that even at the worst the effect of such a measure on the intrinsic value of brewery securities has already been quite sufficiently discounted. In textiles and in iron and steel shares no noteworthy changes have occurred. The motor section has also been somewhat dull. The condition of the trade, however, continues highly prosperous, and at the present quotations Argylls, Darracqs, and Humbers are well worth attention. A discouraging account of the state of the Argentine frozen meat business was given by the Chairman of the River Plate Fresh Meat Company at the meeting last week. He suggested that the best palliative to the present unsatisfactory position of the trade would be an arrangement among the different Argentine companies to adjust the quantities brought over here more closely with the requirements of the market. Meanwhile, this statement has brought about a slight drop in the River Plate shares, and also in James Nelson's. The Nelson dividend is due immediately, and a reduction of the 10 per cent paid on the ordinary last year is feared. A further improvement in Cunard Steamship shares has followed the publication of the most satisfactory dividend announcement that has been issued for some years past. Not only is the dividend increased from 4 to 5 per cent., and £50,000 again added to the reserve, but the insurance fund gets £120,000 as compared with £2,669 last year, and the carry-forward is £54,411, against only £7,285 brought in. The directors have displayed commendable prudence in dealing with the profits, for although there is no anticipation now of another "rate war," the possibility of another struggle of the kind ought always to be kept in view. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

UNCLE PETER'S POUCH.

I HAD never taken to my Uncle Peter, even when I saw but little of him; and when I had to go and live with him for a whole twelve months, my aversion soon assumed a more active shape. This was during the period that intervened between my leaving school and my being taken over by my father, on his final return from the colony of which, for the last six years, he had been military governor.

Now don't be shocked, please, at what I am going to say; but I really hardly know which of the three I disliked most—Miss Jevinson, the prim and acid headmistress of the school I had just quitted, Uncle Peter, my temporary guardian, or my father, the General, to whose tender mercies I was to be finally consigned.

I was naturally a high-spirited—Miss Jevinson said "rebellious"—girl, who liked to be my own mistress and enjoy life in my own way. I had, moreover, the good, or ill, fortune—accordingly as you consider it; Miss Jevinson considered it the ill fortune—to have a pretty face and an attractive personality, which was constantly leading young men to lose their hearts to me.

I was thus drawn into more than one affair that resulted in unpleasant ructions and saddled me with a reputation for frivolity—Miss Jevinson called it impropriety—that I certainly did not deserve. The consequence was that, after the third of my harmless little escapades, my father—who happened just then to be home on leave—was sent for and gave me a terrific wigging, threatening, if I ever flirted with a young man again, to send me to a convent school in France. And this I knew to be no idle threat, for my martinet of a parent always made a point of keeping his word.

In the meanwhile, as he did not consider Miss Jevinson capable of controlling me sufficiently, he removed me from school and placed me under the roof of his brother, my Uncle Peter, a retired naval captain with the most stringent possible notions on the subject of discipline. Indeed, so stringent were his views on this point, that he had actually provoked three separate ships' crews into mutiny before "My Lords" thought it advisable to place him on half pay.

While I remained in his charge, he kept the tightest of hands and the most dragon-like of eyes upon me. And this—had he understood my character in the very least—was the worst course he could have pursued. For I was just one of those girls upon whom undue restraint acts rather as an irritant and a stimulus than as an extinguisher. Indeed, the knowledge that I was being spied upon to prevent my doing a certain thing always made me feel, at once, determined to do that thing; and the more I was subjected to oppressive restrictions, the more was my pride aroused and my ingenuity challenged to circumvent and evade them.

Only the meanest natures will stoop so low as to deceive parents and guardians who trust them and put

them on their honour. But where, instead of being trusted, one is exposed to constant espionage and surveillance, even those of naturally frank disposition are inclined to see no harm in turning the cunning of the oppressor against himself. Such, at any rate, was my view; in fact, so far from seeing any harm in my conduct, I discovered almost a virtuous satisfaction in giving my old lynx of an uncle the slip.

My ingenuity in this direction presently received a further stimulus for, when I had been at Uncle's about three months, I fell—for the first and last time of my life—seriously and desperately in love. I was then just turned eighteen.

The man to whom I thus lost my girlish heart was Horace Urquhart. He was the son of a parson in the neighbourhood, and was some seven years my senior. In appearance he was—but perhaps I am a little prejudiced—the handsomest, manliest young fellow I have ever seen; and his disposition matched his appearance. Indeed, he was a man whom it was difficult not to fall in love with, even if one tried to resist his personality, and I certainly tried to do nothing of the kind. On the contrary, I surrendered pretty nearly on the first summons, feeling too proud and happy in his love to make any disguise of my sentiments. We swore eternal fidelity and made solemn vows that nothing should ever come between us. But soon trouble arose.

Horace said that, as a man of honour, he must acquaint my guardian, Uncle Peter, with the state of our affections. I tried to persuade him to defer that process, knowing only too well what the result of it would be. But he insisted on doing so—no doubt he was morally right—with just the consequence I had anticipated.

Uncle Peter wouldn't hear of him as a suitor for my hand, treating him with the utmost rudeness, calling him an impudent pauper and other offensive names, and finally ordering the butler to show him out of the house and never to admit him again.

Then I was sent for, and Uncle Peter proceeded to walk into me in his best quarter-deck style. I won't repeat his language. Truth is a family paper, and, very properly, makes a point of never inserting anything that might be considered unsuitable for household reading. But, in the course of his remarks, he let out one fact of which I was not until then aware, viz., that my father, the General, had already arranged an eligible match for me, of which I should hear more at the proper time.

"If that is so, I call it cruel and shameful and wicked!" I cried. "Does my father think that he is the Grand Turk, to give his womenfolk away to any man he pleases? But there! I do not care what arrangements he has made for me. I will never—never marry any one except Horace!"

"Oh, you won't, won't you, miss?" sneered my Uncle Peter. "Well, we shall see."

"We shall," I rejoined.

"In the meantime," he said, "you will consider yourself confined to the house and garden, madam, until I have your promise to give up this disreputable young journalist."

"That you shall never have," I cried. "And he is not disreputable. He is——"

"Pooh!" interposed my uncle, in his knock-you-down, sweeping way. "All journalists are disreputable; and this fellow is a beggarly pauper, into the bargain."

"That is false," I exclaimed. "He is making three hundred a year."

"Even if he is, madam—what's three hundred a year, especially when earned in so precarious a profession?"

"He is rapidly making his mark," I went on. "Before long he will be earning double or treble. Every one says his prospects are splendid."

"Oh, bosh! What are prospects worth?" retorted Uncle Peter, derisively. "About as much as next summer's strawberry crop, or the good resolutions fools form on New Year's Day. Your father would never allow you to marry on prospects, my dear child; setting aside the fact that he has already made other arrangements for you. So you may dismiss that idea from your silly head at once."

"I mean to marry Horace," I said, with fierce determination.

"Very well, madam; while you maintain that defiant attitude, you will please consider yourself confined to your ship—ahem!—I mean, to the premises," said my Uncle Peter.

"Oh, you may shut me up in my bedroom, if you like," I cried. "It will make no difference."

"It may come to that," snarled my Uncle Peter. "At present, I'll content myself with milder measures."

"Thanks, awfully," was my ironical reply.

Uncle Peter coloured angrily.

"By G—d, miss," he said, "if any one in the service had talked to me in that tone of voice, I'd have clapped him in irons in less than no time. . . . You may thank your stars that you're only a woman and on shore. Now go; and mind what I have said, or it will be the worse for you."

In spite of my uncle's precautions, I managed to get one or two stolen interviews with Horace; but these were only few and far between. Generally, I was too closely watched. I would have run away with him if there had been half a chance; but no such chance arose. Indeed, the restrictions to which I was subjected became more and more severe, until at length our utmost ingenuity to arrange secret meetings availed us nothing, while my old tyrant of an uncle further took such steps as completely baffled all attempts at epistolary correspondence.

Thus the weary months went by, until the time came for my father to return to England, and Uncle Peter received instructions to take me up to London and hand me over.

Uncle lived in the neighbourhood of York, from which station we entrained per G.N.R. for King's Cross, where my father, the General, was to meet us. It was a cold, sleety day in January. Few people were travelling, and our first class "smoker" (uncle, I should tell you, was a slave to his pipe, and always travelled in a smoking carriage) contained only one other passenger besides ourselves—a fat, hairy, spectacled old gentleman, transparently of Teutonic nationality, who entered the carriage at York just in front of us, and, having settled himself in the most comfortable corner, with his back to the engine, proceeded to fill and light an enormous meerschaum, at which he sat puffing stolidly.

I should not have mentioned this uninteresting individual at all, but for a trifling incident that presently occurred, in which he showed more civility than you might have expected from his somewhat hoggish appearance.

It was this way. My uncle Peter having finished his first pipe, knocked out the ashes and blew down the stem, preparatory to loading up a second time. Then he thrust his hand into the side-pocket of his overcoat, feeling for his pouch, which he always carried there, but apparently feeling in vain. At least, all that he managed to unearth therefrom was a box of safety matches and one or two old letters. With a puzzled frown, he next thrust his other hand into the other side-pocket of his overcoat; but with no better result. Then, with the frown on his brow ever deepening, he anxiously rummaged all his other pockets, even his trouser pockets, standing upright in order to do so the more thoroughly. By this time the expression of his face, never amiable at the best of times, was lowering, not to say lurid, with annoyance and anger. His pouch was nowhere to be found, and here he was, shut up in a railway carriage, with a long journey in front of him, and not a scrap of tobacco to solace the tedium of travel.

To all smokers such a *contretemps* would have been annoying. But to so inveterate a chimney as my uncle Peter it was simply intolerable.

'D——n!" he muttered at length, in a wild fever of dismay. "What the —— can I have done with my pouch?"

He hunted about on the seat, and I helped him hunt, for I was almost as anxious as he was that the tobacco should be found. Uncle was not an agreeable travelling companion even when he was in a good temper; and when he was in a bad temper, as he

always was when deprived of his pipe—well, he was simply beyond words. It was, therefore, with a sinking heart that I found our utmost efforts of search to be ineffectual, and was forced to the conclusion that uncle must have left his precious pouch in the refreshment-room at York, where he had last had occasion to use it.

It was at this point that the stolid German came to the rescue with unexpected civility. I suppose the fact was that, a slave to his pipe himself, he was quick to enter into the feelings of a fellow slave in distress. There is a sort of freemasonry, I have often noticed, among smokers, as there is among anglers and cricketers. In fact (to adapt Shakespeare), one touch of tobacco makes all smokers kin.

"Ach, mein Herr," said the plethoric and hirsute Teuton, smiling sympathetically at my uncle and politely offering his own huge and bulging pouch, "you haf lost your tabac. I feel for you. I offer mine, mit moch pleasure. Pray take ein fill."

Uncle Peter hesitated for the fraction of a second. As a general principle, he regarded any advance on the part of a stranger in the light of a liberty and an impertinence; moreover, being intensely insular, he entertained a particular objection to foreigners. But the temptation of the tobacco was, under the circumstances, too much for him, and he availed himself of the German's offer; though I noticed that he took care to satisfy himself of the quality of the tobacco, by inspecting it and sniffing at it, before he deigned to load up his pipe. Fortunately both for the obliging foreigner's feelings and also for my own—since I had been rendered not a little uncomfortable by this ungracious conduct on my uncle's part—the tobacco proved to be of unexceptionable brand; and my worthy relative, having helped himself liberally, handed back the pouch, with an expression of thanks that, for him, was almost genial. Then he lighted his pipe, puffed at it vigorously until it was well under way, and looked quite happy. I could see by his face that the tobacco was of the very best.

Presently, as was often the way with him when travelling, he began to show signs of drowsiness and, after a little, sank into a comfortable nap.

By this time we were nearing Grantham, our first and only stop. Just as the express was slowing up before running into that station, the hairy German suddenly leaned forward and laid his hand on my arm.

I started and nearly screamed. But a well-known voice quickly reassured me, causing my heart to leap and every pulse in my body to thrill and tingle with inexpressible joy.

"Ethel—darling!"

The face and the form were those of a plethoric Teuton. But the voice was the voice of Horace—my own, Horace.

"Sh!" I ejaculated, placing my finger on my lips and glancing apprehensively at my uncle, who might wake at any minute.

"Oh! that's all right," replied Horace, possessing himself of my hand. "I don't think your uncle is likely to wake much on this side of King's Cross. In the meanwhile, we get out here, go back to York by the next train, and reach that city just in comfortable time to be married before three o'clock. I have the licence and have made all the necessary arrangements."

"Oh, Horace! How splendid of you! But if uncle *should* wake up," I whispered, nervously.

"No fear, my own. He has smoked sufficient opium in that last pipe of his to keep him sound asleep for two hours at least. I took good care of that."

"What! You mixed opium with the tobacco, on purpose?"

My dear boy nodded. Just then the train pulled up, and he and I alighted safely, leaving my Uncle Peter still serenely snoring.

It was not until we were well on our way back to York, that it occurred to me to ask:

"But oh, Horace! How could you tell that uncle was going to leave his pouch behind? If it had not been for that lucky chance, your whole plan would have broken down."

My dear boy kissed me fondly on the lips.

"You sweet innocent," he exclaimed. "As if I should leave a thing like that to chance. In point of fact, I have your respected uncle's pouch on me, at this moment."

"Oh! Horace, you don't mean——"

"Yes, I do, sweetheart. For your darling sake I have turned pick-pocket. I seized a favourable opportunity at York Station *and deliberately pinched it.*"

MUSIC.

OPERA AS SHE IS SPOKE.

IN the *Musical Times* for April there is reproduced an interesting letter written by Wagner to an Australian admirer in 1877 in which the following passage occurs: "May you be enabled to have my works placed before you in English, for only then can they be thoroughly understood by an English-speaking public." Here, surely, is rank heresy, if our British practice is anything to go by. Yet perhaps Wagner's opinion is worthy of consideration—more especially as it coincides with the practice of every other country but our own. It is only in London—and New York—that opera is given in every language but the vernacular. In Germany all operas are performed (speaking generally) in German, in France in French, in Italy in Italian, and so on all round. In England and America alone the polyglot practice of giving opera in every tongue save the language understanded of the people prevails, and it can hardly be doubted that the fact has had not a little to do with the limited amount of interest taken in opera in this country by the public at large.

No doubt the practice of giving every opera in the original tongue has its advantages from the standpoint of audiences sufficiently cultivated to follow such performances. Unfortunately, candour compels the admission that as a race we, of all others, are least equipped for this purpose with the requisite linguistic powers. In the case of some other nations the same might not apply. The average German audience, for instance, would certainly be better circumstanced in this respect than any to be found in London. Yet Germans would never dream of adopting our practice in the matter, and there can be little doubt that they are right. Half the boredom experienced in the case of the average English audience at an ordinary operatic performance results from inability to follow the dialogue, and when, in addition, the latter-day practice of keeping the auditorium in total darkness is adopted, so that even the translation in the book of words cannot be followed, matters are obviously not bettered. The assumption that every one is sufficient of a linguist to dispense with such aids is, of course, simply humbug, which, however, has the unfortunate effect of preventing many people from following with the book, even when they are given the opportunity, from the snobbish fear of suffering thereby in their neighbours' esteem.

The argument is sometimes advanced in this connection that English is an unsuitable language for singing, but this, of course, is utterly absurd. Opera, we are to understand, may be appropriately sung in French, German, Italian, Russian, Dutch, or any other European language, but English alone is unsuitable for the purpose. "Don Giovanni," which was written in Italian, may be given in German, but not in English. "Die Meistersinger" may be translated into French or Italian, but in the language of "Hamlet" or "The Tempest" would be out of place. The language which does for the "Messiah" is not good enough for "Faust" or "Cavalleria." Such notions need only be set down to stand condemned. As it is, we have the pathetic spectacle of native composers writing operas in foreign tongues as the only means of getting them produced either at home or abroad, and the ludicrous situation of works by English composers being actually produced in French or German before British audiences at Covent

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"Gas can be used for warming purposes efficiently without prejudice to health."—*The Lancet*. A Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate should have a gas fire in their bedroom."

Garden. To realise the absurdity of which arrangement one has only to imagine how they would regard it in Berlin if a German opera were brought out there in English with the aid of performers from all parts of Europe save Germany.

Happily signs are not lacking that sounder sentiments on the subject may eventually prevail, in which connection the projected performance of the "Ring" in English next winter at Covent Garden under Richter is not to be overlooked. It is well known that such a performance has been a pet notion of Dr. Richter for many years past, and it will be interesting in the extreme to note what amount of success attends the venture. Then in addition there are to be the Carl Rosa performances, given in co-operation with the Royal Opera Syndicate, and these may be regarded also as an obvious step in the right direction. Further, there is the steadily extending list of capable English-speaking operatic artists to be borne in mind—a factor in the situation which should indeed help more than any merely theoretic consideration to promote sounder practice in this matter. It has been idle preaching the claims of opera in English hitherto, with hardly any singers of the first rank available to take part in such performances. Slowly, but surely, however, that state of things is beginning to remedy itself, and this is so much to the good. No one is foolish enough to suppose, of course, that opera in English is ever likely to become the rule at Covent Garden, the truth of the matter being that such an arrangement would not appeal at all to many who greatly prefer to hear the stars from all the leading opera houses of Europe singing in their own tongues. For opera given permanently in English we shall have to wait until the establishment of another opera house appealing more directly to the multitude. But this is not to say that the claims of the native article might not be recognised occasionally, and to a limited extent even at Covent Garden.

The Easter musical recess this year has not been a very long one. Mischa Elman set things moving again on Saturday with his concert at the Queen's Hall, when he played marvellously as ever, Miss Amy Castle, the vocalist of the occasion, singing brilliantly also. Among several concerts announced this week, one of more than usual interest should be that which is being given by M. Maurel on Friday evening at the Queen's Hall, when the programme will include the first and second acts of Verdi's "Otello," along with other more or less novel features. For the immediate future many other attractive concerts are announced. Admirers of Dr. Joachim will have been sorry to note, however, that it has been found necessary to postpone those of the Joachim Quartet in consequence of the veteran violinist's ill-health. At the same time, it is satisfactory to learn that he is now making a satisfactory recovery from the attack of influenza which recently laid him low.

The proposed Manns scholarship for conducting has not commended itself to the heads of the profession as quite the most suitable mode of perpetuating the memory of that estimable musician. Instead, the foundation of a Manns Benevolent Fund, to assist talented and necessitous students in any branch of music, is suggested, and, with the co-operation of the distinguished folk behind the proposal, this will doubtless find general support. Musicians and music-lovers desirous of contributing are invited to send their names and donations to Mr. F. Corder (Chairman of the Society of British Composers), at 309, Oxford-street, W.

Interesting particulars of Wagner's famous interview with Rossini are given in the *Musical Times* for April in the shape of a review of a booklet on the subject which has recently been published in Paris by M. E. Michotte, who was, it appears, the intermediary through whose agency the two composers were brought together. Wagner, we are told, required some persuasion before he could be induced to visit the older composer, on account of the many hard things and biting witticisms which the latter was reported to have uttered at his expense. In the event, however, he found him much more favourably disposed than he had imagined, and the conversation which passed, of which M. Michotte had the foresight to preserve notes, seems to have been of the most amicable and interesting character. One of the passages quoted is equally delightful and characteristic. Wagner, who was often much more diplomatic than is usually supposed, gratified the old master by referring to this and that passage in his operas which particularly pleased him, and pleading for the freer style of melody which he himself favoured, pointed in illustration to a passage in "Guillaume Tell" ("Sois immobile," Act III., finale), where melody of this type was to be found. To which Rossini wittily replied, "So that I have composed 'music of the future' without knowing it?" and Wagner as readily retorted, "You have made music for all time, maestro, which is better still!"

Mr. Mark Hambourg has been discussing the question, "Does it pay to become a pianist?" and it is much to be hoped that some of the aspiring young folks who aim at emulating the achievements of Rosenthal and Paderewski will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest his answer to the question, and thereby save themselves (to say nothing of their hearers) from the pains and penalties likely to attend their misdirected efforts. There is, indeed, no branch of the musical profession in which the struggle for life is more severe and the outlook for the unsuccessful less encouraging. There are, in fact, far more pianists of the highest talent before the public already than can possibly hope to make any sort of a successful career thereby, while every season sees dozens, if not scores, added to the list. How they all contrive to make a living it is impossible to imagine, and one can well believe Mr. Hambourg when he states that the proportion of those who really do well at the game is absolutely infinitesimal. As for the rest, what is their position? Unless possessed of private means, the dreary drudgery of teaching is the only resource that remains, and that is certainly not the goal which most set before themselves at the outset.

Who says that it is only in Germany that opera is to be obtained at moderate prices? Mr. Charles Manners has been giving particulars of the rates at which the performances of the Moody-Manners Company can be witnessed in the provinces. Thus at Middlesbrough, he writes, his company recently gave operas ranging from "Tannhäuser" to "Maritana" to a fourpenny gallery, while he adds that during the same week Mr. Waller's "Robin Hood" company could have been seen at another theatre for the same sum—to say nothing of a couple of music-halls, the admission to which could be procured for an outlay of half that amount. For the rest, Mr. Manners adds that his companies repeatedly play to houses whose charges range from 4d. to 3s., and he asks why the same thing cannot be done in London. Covent Garden will doubtless take due note of the suggestion.

What should be the relative takings of composer and librettist in the case of an opera? It is a point which has been often discussed, but which has usually been settled in actual practice to the greater satisfaction of the man of music than to the man of letters. The miserable fees which have been too often paid to librettists go far, indeed, to account for the wretched quality of most of their work in the past, and therewith for the failure of not a few operas which, from the musical point of view, were worthy of a better fate. Recognition of this fact has no doubt largely contributed to the conception of juster views on the subject by modern composers, so that nowadays it is not unusual for the poet and musician to take absolutely equal shares of the profits. This is the arrangement, it is stated, which has been entered into in the case of the new opera "Camicia Rossa," upon which Leoncavallo is engaged, the book of which has been provided by Arturo Colautti.

One of the minor arts of the musician not always quite perfectly mastered is that concisely known as "turning over." The frivolous reflection suggested itself during a recent concert at which Mr. Joseph

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—Oxford-st., and Orchard st., London, W.

Holbrooke was one of the executants, and not the least praiseworthy feature of a performance otherwise excellent was the manner in which Mr. Holbrooke, scorning the services of an assistant, did his own turning over. Perhaps the work in question is printed more considerately from this point of view than is always the case. It was, at any rate, worthy of note how skilfully the player negotiated each "turn," notwithstanding the demands of a piano part calculated to make the feat more than ordinarily difficult. It used to be said of the late Mr. W. T. Best, the organist, that he had developed his skill under this head to such an extent that it was quite impossible to perceive when he turned the page—the thing partook of the nature of veritable legerdemain.

An eminent living practitioner of the art is Mr. William Saunders, whose proud function it was in the palmy days of the "Pops" to perform this important office for all the famous performers who visited us. How unobtrusively, yet with what unfailing dexterity and address, did he discharge his responsible duty! Nor did he confine his ministrations always to one performer only. Perhaps the work would be a duet or trio, and then it would be now Mme. Schumann at the piano, then Joachim, and then, again, Piatti who would requisition his services. And never, so far as recollection of the oldest "Pop-goer" serves, were they ever sought in vain. A cool head as well as light fingers were surely needed here. Of Mme. Schumann, by the way, an amusing record is extant in this connection. "Mr. Saunders," it was her practice to say as she prepared to ascend the platform, "will you please come and turn me over?" And Mr. Saunders never failed to execute that feat to her entire satisfaction.

What is the value to the concert-giver of the long lists of distinguished names which make such a brave show on concert programmes sometimes, as those of people who have given their "patronage" to the entertainment? Judging from observation, I should be inclined to say precisely nil. Certainly, it is not to be disputed that concerts commended to the public in this way more often than not fail to secure any considerable amount of support. There was a striking instance recently when a really attractive concert given by a distinguished performer, "under the patronage" of some of the greatest in the land, drew a quite surprisingly poor audience.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Dr. Heinrich Brode's somewhat confused and incoherent life of "Tippoo Tib" (1), which has been translated by Mr. Havelock, is practically an autobiography, with supplementary biographical and historical details contributed by the doctor. Tippoo Tib's own account of his eventful career must be taken with many grains of salt, as a traveller's, as an Arab's, and as a savage's tale—all three proverbially given to boastful mendacity. For Tippoo Tib, it must be remembered, had much of the savage in him hereditarily, being of mixed Arab and negro descent—the negro, judging by his portrait in the frontispiece, showing itself as the overwhelmingly predominant element in the mixture. Among other staggering statements in the autobiographical portion of the volume is Tippoo Tib's account of his accession to the Sultanate of Utetera. This account, which struck me when I read it as being incredible as a fairy tale, is admitted by Sir Charles Eliot, who contributes a preface to the volume, to be a little staggering. Tippoo Tib, having heard casually from a Shensi savage that the two sisters of the aged monarch of Utetera had been abducted years ago by a more powerful potentate, took it into his head to personate the grandson of one of these ladies, and to claim the throne of Utetera in right of this collateral relationship to the reigning Sultan. The reigning Sultan—according to Tippoo Tib—was so touched by the pretender's narrative of his pilgrimage through deserts and forests, and all the dangers of famine, pestilence, and war, only to see the home of his grandmother and the face of his grand-uncle, that he resigned to him his throne the very morning after the pilgrim's appearance! In this romantic version of his peaceful and graceful accession to the Sultanate of Utetera, you cannot help the misgiving that Tippoo Tib is imposing upon you a fabrication as monstrous as that he boasts of having imposed upon the reigning Sultan. But if Tippoo Tib is lying here, where he could be romancing only for the sake of the romance, what reliance is to be placed upon statements of his made either in his own justification or in his own glorification? By the way, you are not told whether Tippoo Tib's ascent of the throne of Utetera was consecrated by the imposing ceremonies which accompanied that of the friend, Pange Pondo, who assisted him in his imposition, and whom he rewarded for this assistance by replacing him in a Sultanate he had forfeited.

Then was Pange Pondo restored to his inheritance with great pomp. The coronation was performed in this way. His subjects, having clapped moist clay on his head and strewed flour over it, proceeded to hang round his neck a chain with ten living chickens—an ornament he had to wear for ten days, without regard to the fact that the birds died off meantime.

It was during his reign as Sultan of Utetera that Tippoo Tib met and helped Cameron, Stanley, and Wissman, and it is his relations with these famous explorers which give its chief interest to his autobiography. It is, again, his account of these relationships which made me lay stress upon the question of Tippoo Tib's veracity or unveracity. Are we, e.g., to believe, on Tippoo Tib's sole evidence, that Stanley lied unconscionably in some of the most material points of his narrative? Tippoo Tib, whether justly or unjustly, thought that Stanley repaid most scurvily his invaluable service to that explorer, and the sense of this ingratitude may have inspired Tippoo Tib's denunciations of the discoverer of Livingstone and the rescuer of Emin Pasha. At the same time, I am glad to think true Tippoo Tib's contradiction of that appalling story of Stanley's which horrified all Europe some sixteen years ago—that his lieutenant, Jameson, having bought a slave girl, had her killed and devoured by cannibals under his very eyes:—

Tippoo Tib was beside himself when he heard of this charge against Jameson, and gave vent to his feelings in the following terms:—"The story is a lie. I was not there, certainly; but I neither saw nor heard anything of it till to day among you. That he, Jameson, could do such a thing is absolutely impossible. Or do you think that I would tolerate such a thing? But I have never seen a European or any other fellow that could lie like this Stanley."

When you turn from Tippoo Tib's account of his relations with Stanley to Dr. Heinrich Brode's account of Stanley's relations with the Belgian Government, you get a hardly more favourable picture of the great explorer. After the utter failure of Stanley's first splendidly equipped Belgian commercial expedition to the Lower Congo, he returned to Brussels and persuaded the Government to establish political stations there.

Rights of sovereignty were acquired from the various chiefs, and the newly created stations sprang up like mushrooms from the soil. Forty of them were to be counted as far as the Stanley Falls. Their establishment, it is true, cost £600,000, and after a short time all but a few of them were given up, and Stanley was superseded in the conduct of these Belgian enterprises by the English Colonel, Sir Francis de Winton.

Probably King Leopold justifies to himself his blood-stained exactions on the Congo by the remembrance of the immense sums Stanley induced him to fling fruitlessly away there.

I wonder on which side will your sympathy be enlisted in Miss Willcocks' "The Wingless Victory" (2). Some side it must take vehemently, so singularly powerful and so intensely powerful are its portraits of hero and heroine. For my own part, I could not help

(1) "Tippoo Tib." The Story of his Career in Central Africa. Narrated from his own Accounts by Dr. Heinrich Brode, and translated by H. Havelock. With a Preface by Sir Charles Eliot, K.C.M.G. (London: Edward Arnold. 10s. 6d. net.)

(2) "The Wingless Victory." By M. P. Willcocks. (London: John Lane. 6s.)

(3) "Conflict." By Constance Smedley. (London: Archibald Constable and Co. 6s.)

(4) "The Long Road." By John Oxenham. With a Frontispiece in Photogravure by Harold Copping. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(5) "A Rock in the Baltic." By Robert Barr. (London: Hurst and Blackett. 6s.)

being repelled by what seemed to me the selfish flirtations and the morbid self-tormentings of the heroine, but both at least are almost hysterically feminine. Her very soul is vivisected under your eye, and you recognise the naturalness even of that part of it which seems to you diseased. Then, all the other characters, including that of the much-tried hero, the doctor, are admirably drawn, while the West-country atmosphere of the story is no less skilfully rendered. "To be up and doing—clean, brave, and strong; out in the glare of the highway, out of the heavy-scented garden where the flowers languished for their captor—man," cries the heart of the heroine of "Conflict" (3), and the cry adequately suggests the moral of this fine novel. Business and the stress and strain of an absorbing life are a moral tonic to the heroine, while giving her a wider and wiser view of life than that which left Mrs. Ellestree a victim to the fascination of such a brute as Cuvier and to her own brute passion—"raw, elemental, hideous." This outburst of brute passion is wonderfully well described, and no less skilful is the contrast between the luxury-bred weakness of this woman and the self-contained strength of the heroine due to her more bracing environment. Here are two Russian stories which will, I think, interest you, though in different ways, Mr. John Oxenham's "The Long Road" (4) and Mr. Robert Barr's "A Rock in the Baltic" (5). "The Long Road" is founded upon a decree which, however incredible, was, Mr. Oxenham assures you, really promulgated by a satanic Governor of Siberia—that an innocent victim of his malice should never be allowed to stay anywhere more than ten days. The story is terrible, as Russian stories usually are, but its sepulchral gloom is relieved by the charming love scenes between its hero and heroine. Surely Mr. Oxenham might have spared his hero and us the deaths of the heroine and of their two children. Mr. Barr's story is much brighter in itself and in its ending. It is a kind of Monte Cristo tale of the imprisonment and the escape from their prison on a Russian rock of a young English officer and a Russian prince—a thrilling tale well told—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours, very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

President Roosevelt contributes an introduction to the book in which Commander Peary relates the thrilling story of his endeavours to reach the North Pole. He managed to get nearer than any of his predecessors—hence the title, "Nearest the Pole." The volume, which will be published in England by Messrs. Hutchinson and Co., will have numerous illustrations from photographs taken by the author.

"The Escorial" and "Murillo" are two volumes (price 3s. 6d. net each) just issued in Mr. John Lane's new Spanish series. This series of volumes, which is under the editorship of Mr. Albert F. Calvert, the author of "Moorish Remains in Spain," will deal with the country in its various aspects—its history, its cities, its monuments, and its art—and a special feature will be the copiousness of the illustrations. Mr. Calvert's historical and descriptive account of the Royal Palace and Monastery of the Escorial is, for example, accompanied by no fewer han 278 admirable illustrations, while the biography and appreciation of Murillo is embellished with over 165 reproductions from photographs of his most celebrated pictures.

Though the title page of "Pen, Patron, and Public" (Greening and Co., price 5s.) bears no author's name, the reader will probably not be mistaken if he ascribes the book to one of the most brilliant writers of "the leading article of the old régime" whose disappearance he laments. Whoever the author may be, this "critical survey" exhibits an intimate knowledge of journalistic life in London during the last thirty or forty years. He does not attempt to conceal his detestation of the changes that have occurred, and on the subject of "the syndicate boss who personifies the new type of newspaper proprietorship," he writes with special bitterness:—

> By two expedients the Fleet Street operator of the twentieth century has safeguarded himself against the risk of social rivalry on the part of the poor devils of scribblers whom he sweats; he has not only disestablished the leading article as an institution; he moves his writers about so quickly from one of his journalistic properties to another that none of his staff has the time for making his mark upon any particular journal of the group; to-day the writer is at work on the *Banner;* to-morrow he is told off to *Buttered Buns* or the *Keyhole Autolycus.*

However, it is for its interesting sketches and anecdotes of the old journalism and the Bohemian journalists of the Victorian age, rather than for its acrid reflections on the new order of things in the newspaper world, that the book will be generally read.

Mr. Guy Eden is the author and "Bush Ballads" the title of a volume of poems mainly dealing with Australian life which is announced by Messrs. Sisley.

In a story entitled "The Fool Hath Said," which Mr. John Long is publishing, the author of that popular book, "When It was Light," deals with the New Theology identified with the name of the Rev. R. J. Campbell of the City Temple. The author's view of the New Theology may be gathered from his allusion to "the second-hand heterodoxies of Holborn Viaduct."

"'Oh, no, madam!' said the draper to the customer at the clearance sale, 'there is nothing against these pieces except that they are what we term odd lengths. They are quite our best materials—you can see for yourself. Just odd lengths.'" It is with this little introduction that Mr. W. B. Maxwell's new volume "Odd Lengths" (Methuen and Co., price 6s.) is submitted to the reader. In this volume the author of that clever and successful novel "Vivien" presents a collection of stories, long and short, grave and gay.

Mr. J. A. R. Marriott's "Life and Times of Lucius Carey, Viscount Falkland," is published by Messrs. Methuen this week. It is a critical estimate of the political career and personal character of one of the most fascinating and romantic figures upon the stage of the Puritan Revolution.

Mr. S. Baring Gould's "A Book of the Cevennes," which Mr. John Long is publishing, is uniform in scope and size with the author's well-known volumes on Cornwall, Brittainy, the Riviera, etc. There will be forty illustrations on art paper, printed in sepia, with eight plates in colours.

Mr. John Lane has issued the first number of the *Albany Review*, a half-crown monthly which takes the place of the *Independent Review*. Mr. Charles Roden Buxton is the editor, and among the contents of an excellent number are a poem by Thomas Hardy and articles by Mr. G. W. E. Russell, Mr. Andrew Lang, Mr. Harold Spender, and Mr. Oscar Browning. In politics the *Review* is on the side of Liberalism.

One of the most interesting literary events of the season will be the publication (by Mr. Murray) of Walter Savage Landor's "Commentary on Charles James Fox," which has been reprinted from the only existing copy of the original edition, which was carefully suppressed. This copy, which belongs to Lord Crewe, had been given by Landor to Southey, after whose death it was purchased by Lord Houghton, and it was for many years regarded as one of the most interesting of the numerous curiosities in the library at Fryston.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Has spring ever rushed out in such a hurry in any previous year? On a recent Wednesday the syringas and the rose-bushes were brown without a hint of green. On the Wednesday following they were green with hardly a trace of brown. Spring is always a miracle, but in this good year of 1907 it seems more miraculous than ever. It seemed as though she had wakened suddenly from her winter sleep, and said: "Why, Easter's here," and thereupon proceeded to hurry up her daffodils, her primroses, her tulips, and her hyacinths. "Get into your green frocks," she whispered to the rose-trees, and "Busk ye, busk ye" to the larches, the chestnuts, and the lovely almond blossom. It has all been an enchantment down here by the river, and the loveliness of everything is indescribable.

I always think, though, that we humans worry Nature dreadfully about her grass. She intends it to grow long, to run to seed, and when the seed is ripe enough to have it scattered by the wind ready to make more grass for next year. But what do we do? We turn it into turf by clippings and coercings, mowings and rollings, and chop off the heads of even the daisies directly they open their eyes upon a world militant. Have we not a special tool for rooting the poor things out? Pathetic is the persistence with which they come up again and again, forgiving us until seven times seven, only to find us down upon them remorselessly.

Our gardener was watering the rose-trees, and, noticing that he left two of them unwatered, we pointed his omission out to him. "They's furriners," was his explanation. When we had recovered from this surprise I said: "But they are just as thirsty as the English. Won't you water them?" "English roses is good enough for anybody," he remarked, as he disdainfully flicked a few drops upon the poor "furriners." And, after all, they were foreign in name only. But does not the little incident illustrate the British frame of mind towards anything that is not British? I only wish it would spread to manufactures and industries.

Richard and I were sowing mignonette the other evening in all our favourite spots, and we noticed that the robins and blackbirds and thrushes actually left off singing, so that they might give us their full attention and accurately note the precise localities where they would come next morning to eat the seeds. Richard has fed them all through the winter, and his reward is that they eat our flower seeds, and, later on, will have all the best of our fruit. And yet we cannot call them ingrates, can we?

What an effect our clothes and ornaments have on us! We dined with the Freddie Fontenelles last week, and for a long time I could not imagine what had come to my hostess. Instead of being fluffy and restless, she held her head steadily and erect, and wore her hair slightly parted in the middle and piled on high. The improvement was immense, and it all sprang from her new hair-ornament! Freddie gave her on her birthday a lovely thing—a wreath of long, slender leaves, in dull silver, clasping a great blister pearl in front. So, of course, she had to do her hair to show it, and she has done too much in private theatricals not to assume the right manner, too. She even used less slang than usual. She has a pendant to match, and she showed us the third portion of her present—a comb in green "Venus ear" pearl, mounted as wings. They are the work of an English lady, Mrs. Palotta, and Mrs. Freddie raved so about them when she saw them at the English Women's Home Industries Exhibition, of which I wrote to you, that her model husband quietly went off to 76, Upper Gloucester-place and got all the particulars from headquarters. Mrs. Freddie looks much nicer in her new little air of stateliness, to say nothing of the ornaments themselves. We are swayed by trifles, particularly sartorial trifles. Chester, for instance, always talks louder in tan boots than black. I have often noticed it.

We have all been reading a book by a French lady about England, and our conversation is sprinkled with "Pierre de Coulevain says so-and-so in 'L'Ile Inconnue.'" Although the book is in its fifty-second French edition, and has been translated into all European languages, it is only now being prepared for publication in English. We admire the generosity involved in the warm reception given to it by the French, for "Pierre de Coulevain" does not spare her countrymen. Even if it is flattering to one's reputation as a gay dog to be accused of sensuality, it cannot be anything but annoying to be told one does not wash enough! The author is evidently very desirous, as she wittily puts it, of being just to the English, and impartial to the French—"c'est bien plus difficile!" She wholeheartedly approves of our fresh air, our policemen, our nurseries, and our bathrooms, which astonish her very much, but not so much as the "enormous" cisterns which "render possible a bath every day." I read that out to Richard, to see what would happen. After an expressive glance, he asked me if I remembered the pretty little cream-jug and saucer provided for his daily bath in the hotel at St. E—— three years ago. I do remember it well, because when he tried to wash his hands he became so unmanageably homesick that he cast a gloom over our first evening away.

It was unfortunate that Pierre de Coulevain should have encountered at luncheon a party of English who stiffened when they heard she (Pierre is a woman) had been staying at Wimbledon, and warmed when they learned she was then putting up at Claridge's. For the honour of Britain one would have preferred her to fall in with some of the ordinary English folk, who can hear without excitement that a fellow-guest is staying even at such a home of kings as Claridge's, or who have at least the elementary self-control which would enable them to hide their increase of cordiality. But Mme. de Coulevain is much impressed with the prevalence of "le snobisme" in England. However, she finds an excuse for it in the high standard of manners it imposes on the middle classes. Some of the Gallicised exclamations made us laugh. Can you imagine any Englishman in ordinary unmoved conversation saying "Ah, bah!" or "Là . . . là!"?

But often the author is not at all fair. She relates her experiences at a private view of gowns named after erotic emotions, and then calls it "cette exhibition si anglaise." Nothing could well be less English, even according to her own very interesting analysis of the English character. Nor is it fair to describe us as Anglo-Saxons, without taking into consideration that the United Kingdom contains nationalities as widely varied as those between the Basque and the Belgian provinces. In analysing French character allowance is made for this complexity, but "les Britishers" (dreadful phrase!) are described as one race. Think of the man from Cork, the man from Glasgow, and the Cockney, being put in one class. I wonder which would be the most disgusted? The author finds us very male, in distinction to the Latin femininity, which she is careful to distinguish from effeminacy.

But in spite of a broad outlook, and a liking for the English, and a high opinion of Englishwomen, Mme. de Coulevain is hardly flattering to us. For instance, her unbounded admiration is given to the directors of the Lyceum Club for "risking a hundred thousand francs of rent yearly, to be paid *only* by the brains of women!" It seems curious that the placard, "Silence Room" should displease any one, but our critic finds it not only impertinent, but, among women, satirical. It is very broadening to see ourselves through the eyes of our neighbours, and find out which are the things that seem strange to them. Naturally, there are some points which do not please us, but Mme. de Coulevain gives us credit for more charms than France has willingly conceded to England until the *Entente*. Englishmen, in her pages, appear as large, rather dense persons, good-natured, sensitive, mildly humorous, devoted to their country and the welfare of their race, solid but not stolid, born fighters, very lordly but very kind to their womenfolk, very vain, and astoundingly clean. Englishwomen are big, rather clumsy, badly dressed, sensible, devoted to sport; passionate, but quiet; domestic, inclined to be stupid; without humour, with a leaning to sarcasm—and astoundingly clean! The English, taken as a whole—which "les Britishers" could not be—are hospitable, charitable, snobbish, kindly, proud, brave, plain, ungraceful, reserved, good-hearted, well-bred—and, above all things, CLEAN! Is the rest of the world wallowing in dirt, or are we really batho-maniacs? Mme. de Coulevain has a fascinating way of getting to the back of things, and looking at the pattern from there. Thus she finds that nature, not religion, presided over the sailing of the *Mayflower*, and that, the exiled portion of the race having acquired fresh

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energy, the present feminine American invasion is merely the second part of nature's plan for re-charging the ancient English stock with vitality. But oh! what would America say, at being thus denied any independence of action? How the eagle would shriek, to be told that it was a lion-cub all the time! Just the same, the theory is illuminating. You must read the book for yourself; it is exceedingly interesting, and what Mme. de Coulevain calls "very Latin." I hope, when the corresponding volume is written by an English author on France, that it will be as kind to Gaul as "L'Ile Inconnue" is to England; but I am afraid, if it is as unflattering to England as Mme. de Coulevain is to France, that it will not run to fifty-two editions here!

When out driving the other day we met Ethel on her Rudge-Whitworth, and admired the way in which she skimmed down a steep hill like a bird. We overtook her, however, on the corresponding upward slope, and remarked on her prowess. She told us that she has had her bicycle for over ten years, and that it is just as good to-day as it was when she first bought it. It has saved her endless money in railway fares, and done wonders for her health, for who could compare the air in a railway carriage, even when your fellow-passengers allow you to keep the windows open, with that of the free and breezy out-of-doors? Fred told her that if she ever should want to sell it she would get good money for it, as the Rudge-Whitworth bicycles are made of such good materials that they wear practically for ever. We recommended her to make it an heirloom, but I suppose the next generation will be getting about in air-machines.

Whenever I visit Waring's I think that the motto of this firm ought to be "Home-making made easy," that task is so greatly simplified by an inspection of the ready-furnished rooms of every kind to be seen in the unparalleled new galleries in the great Oxford-street house. One of the achievements of the firm is the combination of comfort, good taste, and beautiful colour and design in their furniture. In the case of young couples who are making their home nests quite a world of trouble must be saved. Waring's lists of requisites for the complete equipping of a house are invaluable, and, being graded to suit all varieties of income, are as indispensable to the owner of a moderate income as to the wealthy. One of the charms of Waring's is the flood of new ideas on home-making that pours in on the mind in a single saunter through the premises. And then everything necessary can be bought there, even down to glass cloths and dusters and roller-towels.

I see that Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who is a great lover of cats and has a valuable collection of them, visited Miss Muriel Hunt's exhibition of pictures of cats and dogs at Messrs. Grundy and Robinson's, 89, Mount-street. Her Highness bought one of the pictures called "The Angel Cat," owing to the seraphic expression of the Persian pussy portrayed. The exhibition closes on the 20th. Part of the proceeds are to be devoted to the rebuilding fund of Lower Brixham Parish Church.

An old bachelor friend has sent me a collar of very pretty lace made in far away China. He wishes it to be compared with British work of a similar kind, and I am writing to tell him that it is in no way inferior. The variety of the stitches is just as great, and the fineness of the work most admirable. The design, too, is pronounced by an expert to be "clear and coherent, with a single thought running through it and cleverly elucidated." The finest drawn thread-work I ever saw came from Swatow, so the Chinese must, I think, be as clever with the needle as the women of the Faroe Islands, whose work is so wonderful. Perhaps one reason of the superior skill of the Chinese may be that with their poor cramped feet, they are more willing to sit still for hours than we, their Western sisters, whose energies are apt to run to walking. The lace collar is lovely work, and I am greatly pleased with it. I am writing to ask "Old Bachelor" if the braid in it is hand-made. Even the expert could not say. If it is really made by hand, the lace is quite a triumph of needlecraft.

Here is a delicious letter received by an English lady in India, all in the way of business:—

Vaniste,—We hope you will be happy and healthy, and we are, too.

Kindly we draw your attention towards one sum of Rs. 51 annas 8, owing to you.—Yours faithfully, ——

To the regret of many members the Green Park Club, 10, Grafton-street, is being dissolved, the proprietress, Mrs. Luther Munday, desiring to be relieved of the duties of management, which she has carried out with so much success for the past thirteen or fourteen years. An arrangement has been made which will enable members to transfer their membership to the Grosvenor-crescent Club, Hyde Park Corner, where they will have the advantage of more spacious premises. In recognition of the services of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Munday to the old club a complimentary theatrical and musical matinée is being organised by a committee of ladies. Applications for tickets should be addressed to Constance, Countess of Romney, President of the Green Park Club, at 10, Grafton-street.

I have received the following letter from Mona:—

My Dear Madge,—You ask me whether it would not be better to leave your roses unpruned. There are many questions to which it is impossible to return a plain "Yes" or "No," and this is one of them. To answer it I should have to ask you to tell me, among other things, which you prefer—a small number of large flowers or a large number of small flowers. The latter is the object generally aimed at in the treatment of climbers, for, as they are high up, masses of flowers are of more importance than individual size. For this reason it is usual to prune them very little, though even in their case some pruning is advisable. For the habit of the rose is to keep on throwing up young shoots from the base, and as these form the easiest channels for the sap, it naturally follows the lines of least resistance, and in time the older and harder shoots are starved to death. But long before this stage is actually reached there must come a time when such shoots are worthless—when they are giving no adequate return for the sap which they are taking from more profitable wood—and it is just here that the gardener should step in with his knife and remove them. In other words, his business is to encourage strong flowering shoots and to cut away all others. If there are too many of them he must thin them out, not merely to prevent an excessive dissipation of the sap, but also to let in light and air, which are essential to the ripening of the wood and therefore to flowering; if some are badly placed they also must be sacrificed. It is not possible, however, to lay down any general laws which are applicable to all roses, for different varieties, and sometimes even different individuals, have different peculiarities, which can be learnt only by careful study. For example, while many flower on the old wood, some flower on the new, the wood of the previous year. Among the latter is the beautiful Maréchal Niel, the finest yellow in existence, though more satisfactory in the conservatory than in the garden outside. Here, if you cut away last year's wood, you lose your crop of flowers.

There is another important point in the management of climbing roses, and that is the distribution of the flowers over the whole area covered by the plants. It is quite common to see them only high up, yet with care this fault may be avoided. Some varieties, it is true, have a natural tendency to bloom near the extremities of the shoots, among them being Crimson Rambler, Carmine Pillar, and Aglaia. As the shoots cannot be shortened without a corresponding loss of flowers, the best thing to do is to bend some of them down and to train them underneath. There is one alternative—to combine with them some of the less vigorous climbers, such as the Austrian Briars, Grüss an Teplitz, and l'Ideal, which naturally flower near the base. Gloire de Dijon and other very strong growers of the same class, such as Gloire Lyonnaise, may, if you wish, be treated differently. If the thick shoots which issue from the base every year are left to themselves they also will flower mainly towards the tips, but if they are cut back to different lengths, the plants will be furnished with flowering wood from bottom to top.

Important to Ladies. — You can get the real genuine Horrockses' Longcloths and Flannelettes if you insist on seeing this stamp on the selvedge: 'Horrockses.' Obtainable from the principal Drapers. Over a century's reputation.

Corset Krutoid.—The latest *nouveauté Parisien* in tricot forms an elegant and smart up-to-date contour and lengthens the waist line.—Write or call at Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., The Royal Anatomical Corsetières. 280, Regent-street, London.

In the case of dwarf or standard roses grown for garden decoration and not for exhibition, much the same principles apply. Severe pruning is not advisable for them any more than it is for climbers. If ever you have a doubt as to whether to cut or not, give the plant the benefit of it. That is what I tell David, for though Brada and I, with thick gloves on our hands, do most of the pruning ourselves, we are obliged to let him do a little, so that if at any time it should be necessary he may be able to do it all. The first thing is to clear away all dead wood, then old and useless wood, and then badly placed wood, which crosses and frays other branches or shuts out light and air. When that is accomplished it will be easier to determine how much more pruning is wanted. As a rule, last year's shoots may be reduced to from four to eight buds, according to their strength and the object in view.

This may seem terrible waste, especially when a good deal of new growth has already been made. But it concentrates the energies of the plants on the strongest shoots, and thus produces better results than would otherwise be possible, and even the new growth is not wasted, for it serves in the early months of the year as an outlet for the sap, and in this way enables the buds nearer the base to remain dormant until pruning is done, when they may start without much risk from frost. When the pruning is deferred until early April, as it should be in the case of the tender teas and hybrid teas, it must sometimes happen that very few buds are dormant. In this case, should all the buds that have started be cut away? One of the largest growers in the kingdom advises against it. He says it would cause such a severe check to the roots that the plant would be injured, and he consequently recommends that, under such circumstances, some of the newly-started growths should be left "to draw the sap." I would suggest another reason for leaving these growths, and, indeed, for not pruning at all a shoot or two on some, at least, of a collection of roses. They may gradually prolong the flowering season. There is, of course, the possibility—it may be, the probability—that they will be damaged by frost; but if they escape they will come into flower long before the shoots which do not start until after pruning. This prolongation of the flowering season is surely worth striving for in every possible way. One way in which I manage it is by bringing into the conservatory a strong shoot of a Devoniensis which is growing outside, and this shoot produces its beautiful flowers more than a month earlier than the rest of the plant. In this case, you see, I am not afraid of frost.—Your affectionate cousin,

MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—If only we all did our duty habitually, with as much nobility as the past Easter did, we should not find the world so full of hard ways to walk through. "No sun upon an Easter day" ever kept more faithfully to his tradition of dancing, nor shone throughout the whole day with a better grace and heartier goodwill. And even the appearance of fickle April on Monday had no influence on his sunny mood. Such steadfastness in amiability was glorious. Do not think that the Easter sunshine was only a thing of joy to those who went forth on their holiday; it was a delightful accessory to a stay-at-home holiday as well. It got one into the very frame of mind most suitable for quiet contemplation and the activities of peaceful solitude. The sunny mood in which everything seems to be for the best in the best of all worlds, and the future full of hope and cheerfulness. Indeed, it is an undoubted advantage which the stay-at-home holiday has over the more active one; bad weather has no penitential or disturbing effect on the former as on the latter, whilst sunshine considerably heightens its attractions. And then the stay-at-home need only have the world with him or her, according to special taste. Books are as modest and unselfassertive as violets, and newspapers, even in a pushful world, have limits to their pushfulness; they cannot force our attention; their world-searching records of all the worlds within the world are for us to read or not at our own good pleasure.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen had a quiet week at the Viceregal Lodge, where Lady Aberdeen, under the influence of the Easter sunshine, made good progress towards convalescence. The Secretary of State for Scotland and Lady Marjorie Sinclair were with the family party at the Viceregal Lodge, as were also Miss Grace Ridley, Miss Drummond, and Mr. Dudley Gordon. Lady Aberdeen has had a severe attack of rheumatism.

The Fairy House race meeting assembled together the festive elect and many others of the sporting world. A very numerically great world it is in this country, and one in which all variations of politics mingle pleasantly together, orange and green, with all the different shades lying between. If only we could combine in the cause of ourselves, as we do in that of the horse, might we not perhaps make as great a success of ourselves as we have made of the horse. Other race meetings of Easter week which were of social importance were the Point-to-Point Races of the 11th Hussars held on Thursday at Ratoath, in the county of Meath, and the Phœnix Park races on Saturday. These meetings were entirely suitable to a week, which, when all is said and done, is chiefly regarded as a prelude, a period of preparation for this, the historic "Punchestown Week." The weather at the end of last week was very disturbing, in particular to our sex, with regard to arrangements and preparations for Punchestown. What to wear on the occasion—always a crucial question—became as acute as our national one almost, in some of its critical phases. It required a very hopeful nature to prepare for a return of Easter sunshine. Many of us are hopeful, however, and Punchestown has a renowned fair weather tradition, besides which we like to get new frocks, weather or not. Even though it may be too dainty and delicate to face rough weather, the consciousness that the latest thing in smart costumes is lying safely in one's wardrobe is never otherwise than pleasant. Dublin is crowded for this week, of course, the hotels are full, and visitors in many houses. Lord and Lady Pembroke, with several members of their family, have taken up their residence at Mount Merrion, some four miles from Dublin on the south side. They have a party for Punchestown, as Lord O'Brien also has at Airfield, two miles nearer the capital, on the same high road. Lord and Lady Massareene have taken a house in Dublin for the week, where they will entertain a large party of guests. Lord and Lady Grenfell are also entertaining at the Royal Hospital. The record of Irish hospitality is well kept up throughout the week, entertaining being the order of the day, and of the night as well. The ball given on Monday evening by General Lawson was a farewell one, as he is leaving Dublin shortly. His departure is much regretted, his friends being many over here, where his father was a distin-

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Sir,—Seeing a notice of Dr. Alabone's treatment of Consumption in your paper, I must cordially endorse the opinions therein expressed.

I have personally watched cases of tubercular disease which had been pronounced as "*absolutely incurable*" by our greatest specialists completely recover under his treatment. I trust the time is not far distant when Dr. Alabone's discovery will be unanimously adopted by our profession. Such a procedure would be a boon to many sufferers who can now only look forward to a lingering death.—I am, yours faithfully, W. D——, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

Bloomsbury, W.C.

Sir,—No less than ten different doctors pronounced me to be suffering from "rapid Consumption," and simply prescribed medicines "*to ease my last moments,*" as my case was "*incurable and hopeless.*" Finding no benefit I placed myself under Dr. Alabone's care, and was indeed agreeably astonished to find a change for the better, which continued. I am now quite better and a wonder to all who knew me.

Yours faithfully, J. CONWAY.

We would recommend those of our readers who may unfortunately be suffering in Consumption to write to Dr. Alabone for particulars of his treatment, which he has kindly consented to send on application.

* "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh, Loss of Voice, illustrated by numerous cases" (pp. 320), by Arthur Alabone, M.D.Phil., D.Sc., ex-M.R.C.S.Eng., late House Physician, Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, 38th edition, 175th thousand, price 2s. 6d., post free. Author: Arthur Alabone, M.D.Phil., D.Sc., ex-M.R.C.S.Eng., late House Physician, Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, Consulting Physician, Alabone Institute, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. By the same Author: "Testimonials of Patients, with Comments on the Open-Air Treatment," price 1s.

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guished member of the Irish judiciary. On Thursday the Lord Chancellor and Lady Walker give a ball in their fine residence, Pembroke House invitations being issued "to have the honour to meet Their Excellencies." Next week you shall hear of Punchestown and Leopardstown.—Yours truly, CLARE.

Do you like veal? If so, try it dressed à la Marian, a new recipe:—

Take from 3 to 4 lbs. of loin of veal, remove the surplus fat and fill the flap part with a farce made of pounded veal, mixed with 2 oz. of butter, 2 oz. of pounded, shred, beef suet, 4 oz. of scraped fat bacon, all seasoned with pepper and salt. When it is well mixed and smooth, mix in 2 whole eggs and 2 tablespoonfuls of mushroom purée, secure the flap so that the farce does not escape. Remove the skin from the top of the fillet and lard it with alternate strips of fat bacon and strips of pickled gherkin. Fry the veal with vegetables and butter in a stewpan until it acquires a golden colour, add half a pint of white wine, a quart of stock, and vegetables and herbs to season; cover it with a buttered paper, and braise it in the oven for about 3 hours. Remove the paper to dry the larding, strain the stock, (taking off the grease), and convert it into sauce with chopped mushroom. Simmer it for 20 minutes, squeeze it through the tammy, and re-heat it, adding a squeeze of lemon juice. Glaze the veal and serve it garnished with artichoke bottoms, alternately filled with purée of mushroom and scallops of cooked cucumber.

These escallopes de Veau à la Valenciennes will certainly please:—

First prepare a border thus: Fry a minced shalot with an ounce of butter, without allowing it to brown, add a gill of tomato purée and 3 gills of stock, and when it is boiling shower in 4 oz. of Carolina rice, replace the lid, and simmer it incessantly, without stirring, for two hours, when the rice should have absorbed all the stock, season it and put it into a well-greased border mould. Trim six small round scallops of veal, dip them in well-beaten egg, sprinkle them thickly with chopped tongue, then with bread crumbs, and fry them in hot salad oil. Arrange the scallops on the border with alternate scallops of cooked red tongue, previously warmed between two plates in the oven. Pour good tomato sauce round it, and garnish the centre with mushrooms dressed in this way: Peel a pound of white mushrooms, chop them finely, sprinkle them with lemon juice to preserve the colour, cook them with butter in a stewpan, add a spoonful of thick white sauce, a spoonful of bread crumbs, salt, pepper, of squeeze of lemon juice, and a little cream.

Timbale of macaroni à l'Indienne is a welcome change for vegetarians:—

Boil 4 oz. of Genoa macaroni until tender, but not broken, strain, and cut it into pieces half an inch long, beat 2 eggs with a gill of milk, adding salt, pepper, and a pinch of cayenne pepper, and a tablespoonful of grated Parmesan cheese; add the cut macaroni and steam it in a well-buttered timbale mould. Serve with curry sauce poured round. To make which, fry a large minced onion with 2 tablespoonfuls of salad oil in a stewpan until brown, add a large apple, cut in quarters, and a large ripe tomato, cover closely, and cook on the stove until the fruit is soft, then mix in a dessertspoonful of curry powder, one of curry paste, a tablespoonful of chutney, a dessertspoonful of Worcester sauce, a tablespoonful of flour, and a tablespoonful of French vinegar, stir in a pint of milk and a little water, stir until boiling, and simmer until reduced to half a pint; rub through a hair sieve, or the tammy, and re-heat in the stewpan, with the addition of half a gill of cream.

And finally, here is a delicious pain de fruit and cream:—

Mash a couple of pears from a tin of "pears in syrup," add the pulp of an orange and a couple of bananas, rub the fruit through a hair sieve, and mix the purée with a gill of strained rhubarb syrup, mix in half an ounce of dissolved gelatine, sufficient cochineal to make it a delicate pink colour, and half a wineglass of old sherry. Set it in a pipe mould, and when turned out, serve whipped cream in the centre.

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LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

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PAUL MORTON, President.

The following are the principal figures from the Society's Annual Report.

TOTAL ASSETS at Dec. 31, 1906	**£89,223,607**
SURPLUS OVER ALL LIABILITIES, including amounts held awaiting apportionment upon deferred bonus policies	**£14,122,028**
CASH BONUSES PAID TO POLICY-HOLDERS in 1906, being the largest amount of Cash Bonuses ever paid by any Company in a single year	**£1,523,771**
TOTAL PAYMENTS TO POLICY-HOLDERS in 1906	**£9,163,644**
THE NUMBER OF POLICIES ISSUED and PAID FOR during the year was 34,717, representing new assurance amounting to	**£17,127,013**
A Decrease has been effected in Commissions of	**£474,255**
and in General Management expenses of	**£348,166**
Making a TOTAL DECREASE IN EXPENSES of	**£822,421**

The ratio of expense to premium income was reduced from 22·6% to 19·34%.
The ratio of total expenses to total income was reduced from 17·38% to 14·48%.

Income from Interest, Dividends, and Rents in 1906	**£3,751,245**
The Income from Interest increased by	**£357,710**

The rate of interest on Society's Funds showed an increase from 4·03 to 4·26 for 1906.
The Society's accounts for 1906 have been verified and certified by Messrs. Haskins & Sells, Accountants, of London & New York.

Extract from President Morton's recent circular to policy-holders:—"THE EQUITABLE SOCIETY has never, since its existence, been in better financial condition than at the present time. Its assets were never more securely invested."

Before increasing your assurance send postcard for full particulars of the Society's new Standard policies, drafted by the New York State Legislature solely in the interests of the policy-holder, and including more privileges than ever before offered to assurers.

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ALASSIO.—HOTEL MEDITERRANÉE. Large garden. Sea view. Sheltered position. Auto. Garage. Moderate charges.—E. BOGLIOLE, Prop.

ALASSIO.—THE SALISBURY. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN CONGREVE.

BADEN-BADEN.—HOTEL REGINA. Latest creation. The most up-to-date, elevated position.—J. LIPPERT, Proprietor.

BADEN-BADEN.—HOTEL STEPHANIE. Allee of Lichtenthal. The leading Hotel.

BAD NAUHEIM.—HOTEL BRISTOL AND DÉPENDENCE. First-class. Facing baths and Sprudel. Occupying finest position.

BAD NAUHEIM.—HOTEL PRINCE OF WALES. HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.

BÂLE.—GRAND HOTEL and HOTEL EULER. First-class. Close to Central Railway. Situated in a quiet position.—Prop. A. S. BUCHER.

BÂLE.—GD. HOTEL VICTORIA and NATIONAL. Opp. central Stn. First-class. Private apartments with bath.—Pr., PAUL OTTO.

BÂLE.—GRAND HOTEL DE L'UNIVERS. Leading hotel. Suites of rooms with private baths.

BORDIGHERA. — HOTEL ANGST. Leading hotel. Patronised by English Society. Luxuriously furnished. English sanitation.—Proprietor, ADOLFO ANGST.

BORDIGHERA.—HOTEL ROYAL. High-class hotel. Full South. The most fashionable house. Garden.—L. PALOMBI, Prop.

BORDIGHERA.—HOTEL BELVEDERE LOMBARDI. The favourite English hotel.—Prop., G. WUNSCHMAUN. Madame is English.

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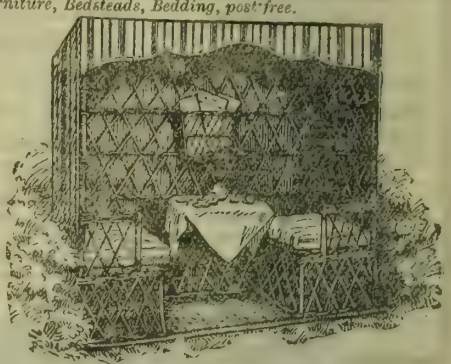

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Distribution to Shareholders registered on the 31st December, 1906, and to Depositors of Share Warrants to bearer, of a portion of this Company's Capital Assets, consisting of 300,000 Randfontein Estates Trust Limited Shares.

Referring to Public Notice of the 21st December last, Shareholders registered on the 31st December, 1906, are hereby informed that the above distribution having been duly confirmed, the proportions due to them will be sent from this office by registered post to their registered addresses on Monday, the 18th March.

Depositors of Share Warrants to Bearer are also informed that the proportion due to them is in course of preparation in the order of dates of Lodgment of Warrants, and will be sent to their addresses by registered post as soon as ready.

By order,
J. H. TILEY,
Transfer Secretary.

Head Transfer Office,
Mayfair and Robinson Buildings,
Johannesburg, March 14th, 1907.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY

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No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

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LETTERS FROM CELEBRITIES.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET ON NERVOUSNESS.

"Industrial Farm Colony,
"Duxhurst,
"April, 1907.

"Dear Friend,—Your letter is one of many which I constantly receive begging me to tell of something which can help to restore tired nerves and over-worn strength, and you ask me to do so because I come in contact with so many who for these very reasons fail in the race of life, having sought the wrong remedy for such loss of nerve-power.

"The description which you give me of your difficulty scarcely varies from that of which I am so often told. Work has become a drudgery, and life a heavy thing. You tell me that you go to bed feeling tired, and that you wake in the morning almost equally tired, that your food is distasteful to you, and that little things which used to sit lightly upon you have become heavy burdens; that even pleasure is toil. I know you have worked hard through many years, and have had much mental strain. This may in a measure account for your weakness, which is not brought about by any condition of actual disease, but which seems to arise from an even greater trouble—namely, that your nerve-force is seriously overspent.

"It is important to understand that in these days of worry and over-excitement, the over-work (mental and physical) to which most of us are subject calls forth an undue expenditure of strength, and that to recuperate the vigour we have lost we must consider what sort of food or remedy we require.

"Of course, the whole question of proper nourishment requires much thought and experience. Many forms of food and many restoratives are recommended, but having had to do with a great many people who have impaired their digestive organs and whose nerve-power has been seriously undermined, I do not think that I have come across anything which I believe a more suitable nutrient for all forms of weakness than Sanatogen. I do not know if you have tried it, but it seems to me, under the conditions such as you have described, an ideal preparation, because it provides a valuable tonic-food in the most suitable form. It consists, I believe, in the nourishing element of pure cows' milk, incorporated with which is a special nerve-tonic containing phosphorus. It has an invigorating power on worn-out nerves, and gives tone to exhausted tissues to a surprising extent. The feeblest system and the poorest digestive organs are able to assimilate it when they can really touch little else. I am strongly of opinion that you cannot do better than begin a course of Sanatogen if you wish to regain your strength.

"Sanatogen undoubtedly restores sleep and invigorates the nerves, and it braces the patient to health, for I have noticed that with the restoration of the digestive organs the mind becomes more quickly active, and work, both mental and physical, becomes more easy, and the freshness and keenness which such people have lost (apparently altogether) return gradually, and bring with them an enjoyment of life and a feeling of hopefulness not hitherto experienced.

"When the body is subjected to a course of Sanatogen the blood condition improves, the skin assumes a more healthy colour, the invigorated nerves are braced to a more healthy tone, and the whole human machinery is made fit for exercise and work and for fulfilling its functions in the most perfect manner. . . . ."

The above is an abstract from a letter addressed by Lady Henry Somerset to an intimate friend. In view of the public interest associated with the subject of the letter, the recipient has obtained her Ladyship's gracious permission to make the contents more widely known. Additional information and interesting literature on the same subject may be obtained free of charge on application to the Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C. Sanatogen is sold by all chemists, in packets, at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. 6d.

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLES, No. 1,465 & 1,466.

The awards in the above are unavoidably held over to next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,472.

The question of Capital Punishment its desirability or otherwise—has been freely mooted, of late, in the Press, in connection with a recent murder case, and has evoked a wide-spread interest. I do not propose to express any opinion on the particular case out of which this discussion has arisen, nor am I asking my Competitors to do so. But it would be interesting to hear what they have to say on the question of Capital Punishment generally, regarded as one of abstract principle.

I offer, therefore, the usual Prize of Two Guineas, this week, for

THE BEST ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "IS THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER DESIRABLE?"

Competitors are required to answer the question either with simple "Yes" or "No," and then to set forth, as pithily and pointedly as possible, the reasons which have guided them in forming their opinion.

No "Answer" must contain more than one hundred words, all told. And the Prize will be awarded to that Competitor who adduces the best reasons for his "Yes," or his "No," as the case may be, within these limits.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i) No Competitor must send in more than one "Answer."
(ii) All "Answers" must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, April 22, at latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BEL DEMONIO.—Your real name and address were printed in TRUTH of March 27 last

QA' APPELLE.—I much regret that your solutions of Puzzles Nos. 1,467 and 1,468 were received too late, in both cases, to be included in the competition.

R.Y.H., PEREGRINE, TIP-TOP, NEMO.—I much regret that the solutions of Puzzle No. 1,468 sent in by the above four competitors were received too late for inclusion.

DIANA, MILLINER, SPHINX, MARY, CRANK.—I have been compelled, though with much regret, to exclude the solutions sent in by these five competitors for Puzzle No. 1,469, as each of them has forwarded *two* lists of greatest men; whereas, by the published conditions of the Puzzle, *only one* was allowed. I am sure the competitors mentioned will understand the paramount necessity of my insisting strictly on the conditions laid down.

ENOCH.—There is something in what you say; and possibly, at some future date, I may set a puzzle of similar character, to be adjudicated upon in the manner which you suggest. At the same time, the responsibility of pronouncing upon so large and comprehensive a question is a thing only to be undertaken with fear and trembling—even by a Puzzle Editor who admits, to some extent, the soft impeachment of having received a tolerable education. Moreover, though the judgment of the *hoi polloi* on the greatness, or otherwise, of their contemporaries is often at fault, I think that in reference to that of historical characters it is, in the main, usually right.

RIMABEL.—Thanks for your amusing letter. You will have seen by my note in last week's TRUTH that your solution of Puzzle No. 1,467 was received too late for inclusion.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,469.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

THE FOUR GREATEST MEN IN HISTORY PRIOR TO THE CHRISTIAN ERA; AND THE FOUR GREATEST MEN IN HISTORY SINCE THAT DATE.

N.B.—Ten Competitors who have sent in solutions of the above have included the name of Jesus Christ in their lists. For this reason I am not printing their solutions, as I am convinced that the mention of the Saviour's name in this connection is, to say the least of it, undesirable.

Before: Moses, Socrates, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Shakespeare, Isaac Newton, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Eboracum.

Before: Moses, Homer, Socrates, Julius Cæsar After: Shakespeare. Newton, Cromwell (the Protector), Luther.—Pagan.

Before: Moses, King David, Alexander the Great, Homer. After: Julius Cæsar, Mahomet, Napoleon, Shakespeare.—Djalli.

Before: Ramesès II. (a Pharaoh), Moses, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Christopher Columbus, Martin Luther, Shakespeare, Napoleon I.—Denmore.

Before: Homer, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Alfred the Great, Columbus, Luther, Shakespeare.—Eillom.

Before: Archimedes, Plato, Julius Cæsar, Homer. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Frederick the Great, William Pitt (younger).—Carpathia.

Before: Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Homer, Plato. After: Shakespeare, Michael Angelo, Newton, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Hermione.

Before: King David, Alexander the Great, Socrates, Homer. After: Wilberforce, Nelson, Wellington, Lord Beaconsfield.—Puck.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Hannibal, Sophocles, Buddha. After: Shakespeare, Nelson, General Booth, Gladstone.—Wings.

Before: Homer, Abraham, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Mohamed, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Nurse.

Before: Buddha, Pericles, Socrates, Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Martin Luther, James Watt, Drake.—Viking.

Before: Alexander, Plato, Julius Cæsar, Homer. After: Napoleon, Shakespeare, Newton, Michael Angelo.—Hawksure.

Before: Homer, Socrates, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, Sir Isaac Newton, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Pan.

Before: Moses, Homer, Alexander the Great, Confucius. After: Raphael, Galileo, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Fish.

Before: Moses, Homer, Aristotle, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Darwin.—Enoch.

Before: Alexander the Great, Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus major, Julius Cæsar, Socrates (as a philosopher). After: Alfred the Great, Nelson, Wellington, Shakespeare (as poet).—Simplex.

Before: Siddartha (Buddha), Moses, Pericles, Julius Cæsar. After: Mohammed, Napoleon I., Shakespeare, Goethe.—Cabul.

Before: Moses, Homer, Plato, Alexander the Great. After: Martin Luther, Napoleon I, James Watt, Columbus.—Caw.

Before: Moses, Confucius, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Luther, Columbus, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Mab.

Before: Moses, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Nelson.—Golliwog.

Before: Buddha, Mahomet, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: Napoleon Bonaparte, Frederick the Great, Alfred the Great, George Washington.—Windhill.

Before: Moses, Buddha, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Napoleon, Shakespeare, Christopher Columbus.—Petite.

Before: Homer, Socrates, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Antoninus Pius, Cortés, Shakespeare, Wellington.—Sceptic.

Before: Confucius, Moses, Julius Cæsar, Aristotle. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Voltaire, Abraham Lincoln.—Myrmidon.

Before: Leonidas, Socrates, Plato, Cæsar. After: Sir Francis Bacon, Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Napoleon Bonaparte.—J. McGrigor Allan.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Plato, Homer. After: Napoleon Bonaparte, Mahommed, Shakespeare, Darwin.—Espérance.

Before: Homer, Buddha, Moses, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Shakespeare, Napoleon, George Stephenson.—Polly Wog.

Before: Confucius, Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Peter the Great.—Popacoo.

Before: Homer, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Moses. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Mahomet, Luther.—Bert.

Before: Homer, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Moses. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Mahomet, St. Paul.—Alicujus.

Before: Moses, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar, Socrates. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte, Gladstone, Milton.—Churchill.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Socrates, Alexander, Plato. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Michael Angelo, Sir Isaac Newton.—Petronille.

Before: Moses, Homer, Socrates, Alexander the Great. After: St. Paul, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Darwin.—Nest.

Before: Homer, Confucius, Plato, Julius Cæsar, After: Mahomed, Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Napoleon.—Sheila.

Before: Homer, Alexander the Great, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Richelieu, Nelson.—Peter Pan.

Before: Homer, Confucius, Buddha, Plato. After: Mohammed, Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare, James Watt.—Gimcrack.

Before: Buddha, Homer, Plato, Confucius. After: St. Paul, Mahomet, James Watt, Nelson.—March Hare.

Before: Homer, Moses, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Mahomet, Napoleon, Saint Paul.—Will.

Before: Moses, Alexander, Plato, Gautama. After: St. Paul, Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Asthore.

Before: King Solomon, Julius Cæsar, Socrates, Alexander the Great. After: St. Augustine, Charlemagne, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Erbie.

Before: Isaiah, Gautama Buddha, Plato, Augustus. After: St. Paul, Mahomet, Martin Luther, Charles Darwin.—Forest.

Before: Homer, Archimedes, Socrates, Hippocrates. After: Sir Isaac Newton, Shakespeare, Copernicus, Columbus.—Clerici.

Before: King Solomon, Julius Cæsar, Socrates, Alexander the Great. After: St. Augustine, Charlemagne, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Pilly.

Before: Pericles, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar, Cicero. After: Cromwell, Frederick the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte. George Washington.—Sincérité.

Before: Moses, Solomon, Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great. After: Columbus, Martin Luther, Shakespeare, Nelson.—Omega.

Before: Homer, Plato, Hannibal, Alexander the Great. After: Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Napoleon the Great, the Duke of Wellington.—Queensholme.

Before: Alexander the Great, Socrates, Hannibal (the Carthaginian), Pythagoras. After: Shakespeare, the Emperor Charles V., Wellington, Sir Isaac Newton.—Stow.

Before: David (King of Israel), Demosthenes (the orator), Alexander the Great, Caius Julius Cæsar. After: Martin Luther, Oliver Cromwell, Duke of Wellington, Napoleon the First.—San Fil.

Before: Moses, Mahomet, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Caxton, Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Cantab.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Plato, Hannibal. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Sir Isaac Newton, Lord Bacon.—Renwick.

Before: Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Homer, Hannibal. After: Charlemagne, Alfred the Great, Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Hypatia.

Before: Moses, Homer, Plato, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Luther, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Pyrrhus.

Before: Homer, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Sir Isaac Newton.—Verbam Sat.

Before: Moses, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton.—Verbum Sat.

Before: Julius Cæsar, King Solomon, Homer, Cicero. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte, Michael Angelo, Goethe.—Spartan.

Before: Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Homer, Marcus Tullius Cicero. After: W. Shakespeare, Martin Luther, Michael Angelo, Napoleon Bonaparte. Rhody.

Before: Moses, Socrates, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Nelson, Napoleon.—Pibwob.

Before: Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Alexander the Great After: Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Napoleon.—Rimabel.

Before: Homer, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Milton, Napoleon the First Bonaparte.

Before: Moses, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Nelson, Napoleon.—Rowrah.

Before: Moses, Homer, Alexander the Great, Socrates. After: Mohamet, Luther, Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Hopscotch.

Before: Moses, Solomon, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Alfred the Great, Christopher Columbus, George Washington, General Booth.—Echo.

Before: Moses, Homer, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Napoleon Bonaparte, the Duke of Wellington.—Thersites.

Before: Socrates, Aristotle, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar. After: Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Napoleon.—Shelmartin.

Before: Buddha, Alexander the Great, Plato, Socrates. After: Paulus (the Apostle), Luther, Shakespeare, Columbus.—Duesseldorf.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Buddha, David. After: Washington, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Christopher Columbus.—Bob Nick.

Before: Socrates, Alexander the Great, Homer, Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, "General" Booth, Marconi.—The Prebend.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Socrates, Moses. After: Washington, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Charlemagne.—Vigo.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Solomon, Mahomet. After: Alfred the Great, Shakespeare, Washington, Napoleon.—Tommy.

Before: Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Moses, Plato. After: Gladstone, Napoleon, Nelson, Shakespeare.—Bibbs.

Before: Homer, Gautama Buddha, Confucius, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Napoleon Bonaparte, Mahomet.—Ainsty.

Before: Moses, Solomon, Elijah, Hannibal. After: King Alfred the Great, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Bismarck.—Six Knobs.

Before: Homer, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Isaac Newton, Napoleon I.—Zagobla.

Before: Alexander the Great, Cæsar, Homer, Socrates. After: Napoleon, Cromwell, Shakespeare, Michelangelo.—Asinine.

Before: Moses, the Founder of Buddhism, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Charlemagne, Martin Luther, Napoleon.—Stoke.

Before: Moses, Alexander the Great, Homer, Plato. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon, St. Paul.—Northlander.

Before: King Solomon, Socrates, Homer, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, William Shakespeare, Lord Nelson, Duke of Wellington.—Cherrypicker.

Before: Moses, Alexander the Great, Confucius, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomed, Charlemagne, Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Early Morning.

Before: Homer, Alexander the Great, Moses, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Hobbinol.

Before: Moses, Homer, Buddha, Confucius, After: Julius Cæsar, Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Klondyke.

Before: Moses, Confucius, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Michael Angelo, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Westcliffe.

Before: Plato, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Charlemagne, Newton, Napoleon, Darwin.—Tony.

Before: Moses, Gautama Buddha, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Martin Luther, Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Beginner.

Before: Moses, Homer, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Charlemagne, Shakespeare, Newton, Napoleon.—Etwall.

Before: Buddha, Confucius, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon I.—Alpha Beta.

Before: Homer, Socrates, Hannibal, Alexander the Great. After: Shakespeare, Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon the First.—Margate Hoy.

Before: Moses, Julius Cæsar, Socrates, Hannibal. After: Napoleon, Shakespeare, St. Paul, Sir Walter Scott.—Dobbin.

Before: Abraham, Moses, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Luther, Cromwell, Napoleon.—Frances.

Before: Moses, Buddha, Socrates, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Dante, Charlemagne.—Davy.

Before: Moses, Virgil, Aristotle, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon the Great, Michel angelo, Christopher Columbus.—Almaviva.

Before: Alexander, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar, Scipio Africanus. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Nelson, Beaconsfield.—Loretta.

Before: Moses, David, Elijah, Julius Cæsar. After: Paul, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Wellington.—The Mac.

Before: Demosthenes, Cicero, Julius Cæsar. Alexander the Great. After: Nelson, Pitt, Gladstone, Stevenson.—Neale.

Before: King Solomon, Homer, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Alfred the Great, Charlemagne, Shakespeare, Napoleon I.—A. M. E. L. M.

Before: Moses, Buddha, Homer, Plato. After: St. Paul, Mohammed, Shakespeare, Dante.—Iris.

Before: Adam, Abraham, Moses, Solomon. After: Columbus, Napoleon, Nelson, Wellington.—Game B.

Before: Adam, Abraham, David, Solomon. After: St. Paul, Martin Luther, John Wesley, General Booth.—Mrs. Game B.

Before: Moses, Mahomet, Homer, Alexander the Great. After: Gutenberg, Columbus, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Leaf Rule.

Before: Homer, Archimedes, Euclid, Virgil. After: Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Copernicus, Edward Jenner.—Turtle.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander of Macedon, Homer, Socrates. After: Napoleon, Shakespeare, Sir Isaac Newton, Oliver Cromwell.—Quilp.

Before: Moses, Pericles, (Junius) Brutus, Julius Cæsar. After: Chrysostom, Columbus, William the Silent, Washington.—H.

Before: Solomon, Homer, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Alfred the Great, Shakespeare, Napoleon, Wellington.—Sclanidge.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Homer, Solomon, David. After: Napoleon I., St. Paul, Nelson, Shakespeare.—Japstang.

Before: Socrates, Julius Cæsar, Confucius, Solomon. After: Peter the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, Nelson, Shakespeare.—Muz Muz.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Elijah, King David, Socrates. After: King Alfred, Raleigh, William Pitt, Jun., Napoleon.—Trammy.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Homer, Socrates. After: Napoleon, Shakespeare, Washington, Nelson.—Israfil.

Before: Buddha, Confucius, Solomon, Alexander the Great. After: Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Frederick the Great.—Tom Nissed.

Before: Moses, Pericles, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare (or, if literary celebrities are not eligible, Gladstone), Oliver Cromwell, Napoleon, Bismarck.—Minos.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Moses, Confucius. After: Shakespeare, Washington, Napoleon, Alfred the Great.—Student.

Before: Joshua, Samuel, Joseph, Moses. After: Shakespeare, Wolsey, Wellington, Dickens.—Celt.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Moses, Buddha. After: Shakespeare, Washington, Napoleon, Christopher Columbus.—Scotus Viator.

Before: Moses, Julius Cæsar, Buddha, Alexander the Great. After: St. Peter, Charlemagne, Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare.—Bob.

Before: Homer, Buddha, Plato, Alexander. After: St. Paul, Mahomet, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Jackpot.

Before: Homer, Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar. After: Martin Luther, Shakespeare, Horatio Nelson, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Burbage.

Before: Moses, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: St. Paul, Charlemagne, Shakespeare, Napoleon.—Barmarbo.

Before: Homer, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Alfred the Great, Shakespeare, Milton, Frederick the Great.—Hyde.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Socrates, Moses. After: Napoleon, Nelson, Pitt, Shakespeare.—Passe.

Before: Moses, Homer, Pericles, Julius Cæsar. After: Martin Luther, Shakespeare, the first Earl of Chatham, George Washington.—Arundo.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Homer, Archimedes. After: Napoleon, Charles V of Spain, Sir Isaac Newton, Pitt.—Dora.

Before: Julius Cæsar, Homer, Alexander the Great, Solon. After: King Alfred, Napoleon, Shakespeare, Duke of Wellington.—Bee.

Before: Moses, Alexander the Great, Homer, Archimedes. After: Michael Angelo, Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Christopher Columbus.—Ricardo Hess.

Before: Moses, Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Virgil. After: Caxton, Columbus, Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte.—Robin Adair.

Before: Moses, Julius Cæsar, Mahomet, Hannibal. After: St. Paul, Napoleon I., Nelson, Shakespeare.—Dullard.

Before: Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Alexander the Great. After: Mahomet, Bonaparte, Shakespeare, Martin Luther.—Outsider.

Before: Moses, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Mohamed, Washington, Napoleon.—Blair.

Before: Moses, Hannibal, Alexander, Cæsar. After: Luther, Shakespeare, Nelson, Napoleon.—Nemesis.

Before: Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Socrates. After: Shakespeare, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Darwin, Marcus Aurelius.—Khayyam.

Before: Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Julius Cæsar. After: Mahomet, Bonaparte, Shakespeare, Martin Luther.—Togo.

Before: King David, King Solomon, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Nelson, Emperor Napoleon.—Sugar.

Before: Homer, Alexander the Great, Moses, Buddha. After: Columbus, Mahomet, Newton, Lord Kelvin.—Bucks.

Before: Socrates, Alexander, Hannibal, Julius Cæsar. After: Alfred, Cromwell, Napoleon, Wellington.—Nemo.

Before: Moses, Hannibal, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar. After: Shakespeare, Frederick the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, Admiral Nelson.—Dick Maisch.

APPEAL.

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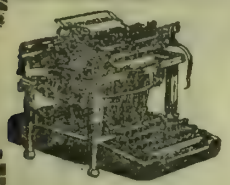

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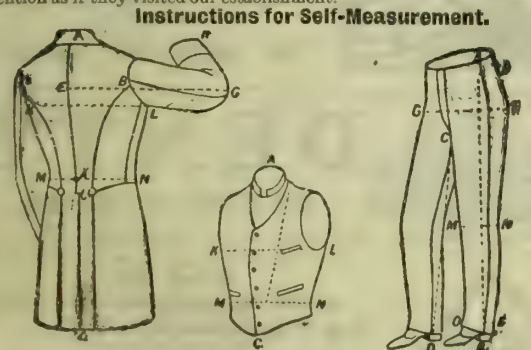

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C ,, D..... ,, waistcoat.....Inches.
E ,, B..... ,,
B ,, G..... ,, Waist, over
G ,, H..... ,, waistcoat ..... ,,
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FOR TROUSERS AND BREECHES.

Side from A to N.....Inches. Round seat G H.....Inches.
,, ,, A ,, B..... ,, Round knee M to N ..... ,,
Leg seam C ,, D..... ,,
Round waist A ..... ,, Round foot O ,, P ..... ,,

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King is expected to arrive at Buckingham Palace from the south of Europe about Friday, the 26th, or Saturday, the 27th. His Majesty will probably go to Newmarket on the morning of Wednesday, May 1, for the last three days of the First Spring Meeting. If the Queen and Princess Victoria come home by sea they will land at Portsmouth about Thursday, May 2.

His Majesty's rank of Captain-General in the Spanish Army is rarely conferred upon foreigners, and it had previously been held by only two Englishmen (Irishmen really), the first Duke of Wellington, and his contemporary Marshal Beresford, upon whom it was conferred in recognition of their services during the Peninsula War.

The Court ceremonials of the season will include two State Balls at Buckingham Palace, for each of which invitations are to be issued by the Lord Chamberlain for about 2,200 guests; also two more Drawing-room Courts, and two State Banquets, each of which will be followed by a diplomatic and official reception. The King will hold a large Investiture at Buckingham Palace about the middle of July. At St. James's Palace there are to be two more Levees, both of which will be held by his Majesty. The first State Banquet will be for Prince Fushimi of Japan, and the second is to be in honour of the King and Queen of Denmark.

There is to be a review at Aldershot in honour of the Japanese Prince on Thursday, May 9, which will be attended by the King and Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and other members of the Royal family. It is expected that Prince Fushimi will be present at the Naval Review in the Solent on Saturday, May 4, and during his stay at Portsmouth he is to be conducted over the dockyard.

The King has lent Barton Court House, the Royal residence on the Osborne estate, to Lord and Lady Suffield for a few months. Barton Court is a picturesque gabled house, which was rebuilt by Queen Victoria, but the fine old fronts were not meddled with. There are pleasant gardens and grounds, and the place commands extensive views, while Osborne Park affords endless and very charming walks. The manor of Barton was owned by the see of Winchester, until Bishop Waynflete presented the property to Winchester College, to which it belonged until it was purchased by Prince Albert for the Queen about sixty years ago. It was on the Barton estate that Prince Albert established his once famous model farm of 800 acres, which was admirably managed on a thoroughly practical system, based upon scientific principles.

The statement that the Prince of Wales is expected to visit Newmarket the week after next during the First Spring Meeting is incorrect. The Prince goes to the Isle of Wight on Wednesday, May 1, when he will accompany Prince Edward to the Royal Naval School at Osborne. The Prince of Wales is to stay at Osborne until Saturday, May 4, and before returning to London he will witness the naval display in the Solent on the occasion of the visit of the Colonial Premiers to Portsmouth.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will reside at Marlborough House until Saturday, May 18, except from Monday, the 22nd, until Friday, the 26th, when they are to be absent in Scotland on a visit to Lord and Lady Blythswood at Blythswood House. The Prince and Princess will spend the Whitsuntide holidays at

Frogmore House, where they are expected to stay for ten days, and they will be again in residence there from Saturday, June 15, until Monday, the 24th, for Ascot race week. Last year the Prince and Princess were away in Norway during the race week, and Frogmore was closed. Their Royal Highnesses are not expected to return to Sandringham before the middle of October, and they will spend about five weeks from the end of August at Abergeldie Castle.

Blythswood House is situated in a district of great industrial activity. The old house of Blythswood, which dated from the middle of the seventeenth century, was pulled down in 1820, when the present handsome and comfortable mansion was built by Major Archibald Campbell. There are pleasant "old-world" gardens and grounds, which are surrounded by fine woods extending to the river Cart. Blythswood is a place with many historical and literary associations, and it has long ago earned a wide reputation for kindly and abundant Scottish hospitality. Queen Victoria stayed at Blythswood during her last visit to Glasgow in 1886, and the Prince of Wales was himself a guest there in 1876, when he accompanied his parent to Glasgow, and the King (then Prince of Wales) laid the foundation-stone of the new post office in George square.

Lord Blythswood is a son of the late Mr. Archibald Douglas, who assumed the name of Campbell on succeeding to the Blythswood estates, which are enormously valuable, the property lying in and round Glasgow. He was made a Baronet in 1880 by Lord Beaconsfield, and Lord Salisbury raised him to the Peerage in 1892. He is married to a sister of Lord Carrington, but they have no family. The peerage will pass under a special remainder to Lord Blythswood's brother, the Hon. Sholto Douglas-Campbell, of Douglas Support, Lanarkshire, who is heir to the family estates. He is a son-in-law of the late Lord Alfred Paget.

I hear that the King will commission the Duke and Duchess of Connaught to represent his Majesty and the Queen at the celebration of the golden wedding of the King and Queen of Sweden, which is to take place at Stockholm during the first week in June. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught will be accompanied to Stockholm by Prince Arthur and Princess Patricia.

The King and Queen of Sweden were married on June 6, 1857, at the well-known Schloss of Biebrich, on the banks of the Rhine, one of the seats of her Majesty's brother, the late Grand Duke of Nassau. One of the Queen's sisters was the late Princess of Wied, and another was the late Princess of Waldeck-Pyrmont, mother of the Duchess of Albany and of the Queen Dowager of the Netherlands. It is believed at Stockholm that King Oscar intends to abdicate in favour of the Crown Prince after the celebration of his golden wedding.

For Appeals, see page 977.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 985.
For Special for Ladies, see page 987.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 984, 985.
For Amusements, see page 983.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 989, 990.

The *Daily Mail* published on Saturday a telegram from Paris announcing that the Duke of Connaught is to be appointed Commander of the Garrisons in the Mediterranean, and it was added that the arrangement "has the concurrence of the French, Spanish, and Portuguese authorities." Why such news should come from Paris is not apparent, and it is something quite new to hear of foreign Governments expressing "concurrence" in our military appointments. The selection of the Duke of Connaught for the Malta command has been talked of for months past, but the rest of the story is obviously nonsense.

It was announced in Truth a fortnight ago that the Emperor William will probably visit Cowes in August during the regatta week, and an account was given of the contemplated arrangements during his stay in England. The paragraph was appropriated by some of the Berlin papers, and I was amused last week to see it generally reproduced in our own press, as it had been telegraphed from Berlin to a news agency, and here it was quoted from the German journals. Nothing is definitely settled as to the Emperor's visit to Cowes, but it is quite certain that if he comes to England he will not visit either London or Windsor.

TO THE COLONIAL PREMIERS.

Welcome, ye children of Albion's daughters,
Welcome, our kinsmen from over the waters,
  Welcome to home, whence your sires once went forth!
Welcome, or come ye from mainland or island,
From tropical plain, or from ice-prisoned highland,
  From East, or from West, or from South, or from North.

The seas, which divide, in dividing, requite us:
They roll not to sever, they roll to unite us;
  For Ocean's our highway and ours are the keys.
From shore unto shore, whencesoever you're hailing,
You come by the road where our flag flies prevailing,
  The flag of your parent, the Queen of the Seas.

Then meet and confer ye, as brother with brother;
Yea, meet ye, at peace, in the House of your Mother;
  Let factions and jealousies stand far apart.
Not meagre self-interest the true, lasting tether;
Not tariffs most surely shall bind us together,
  But the heart that goes out to the answering heart.

Punchestown week in Ireland was not favoured by the weather this year. Considering the bad days which followed, the national race meeting was lucky in experiencing neither rain nor storm on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was, as usual, largely and fashionably attended, society in its modern enthusiasm for fresh air being inured to the enjoyment of outdoor pastimes, however severe the climatic conditions may be. The Lord Lieutenant, with a large viceregal party, attended Punchestown on both days in State.

The Leopardstown Race Meeting met with a much more unlucky fate; arctic temperature on both days,

and in addition on Saturday storm and heavy rains, in spite of which many enthusiasts filled the stands on each day. Although the distresses of a distressful country in bygone times are held accountable for the destruction of industrial tastes in Ireland, they had no malign effect on the taste for sport. The sporting industry required no spur to its activities, and no extraneous sympathy to develop them.

The Chief Secretary did not remain in Ireland for the Punchestown week, but left for the opening of Parliament, after his short holiday visit, rather than holiday, in the country. Sir Antony MacDonnell also left for England at the same time. Mr. Birrell, with his family, is expected to take up his residence at the Chief Secretary's Lodge, when the Parliamentary Session is over. The Viceregal Lodge, the Chief Secretary's, and Under-Secretary's Lodges are within a few minutes walk of each other in the Phœnix Park.

Last week was also "Synod week" in Dublin. Dr. Alexander, the Primate, presided at the meetings of the Synod of the Irish Church, which were held daily. Most of the leading dignitaries of the Church were present. Dr. Alexander officiated with great dignity, and spoke, notwithstanding his great age, with unfailing eloquence and energy.

Everybody who knew "Jimmy" Davis will have been sincerely grieved at his unexpected death. I never knew anybody of whom it might be said more truly that he was nobody's enemy but his own. He had an extra share of the cleverness of a very clever family, and but for the lack of any serious purpose in life—except to spend every shilling he earned as soon as he earned it, and, if possible, sooner—he might have achieved something much better than the invention of musical comedy. When I first knew him he seemed to have in him the making of a highly successful solicitor. When he gave up the Law and started the once famous *Bat*, I thought, for about a fortnight, that he was going to make a highly successful journalist. When he facetiously christened himself "Owen Hall," and produced the "Gaiety Girl," I thought he was going to eclipse Mr. W. S. Gilbert. So far as brains went, he was capable of any of these things.

I shall always remember Davis as having the greatest gift for getting through money of anybody I have known. I knew him when he was making none and when he must have been making a great deal, but I never knew him when he was not in want of it. Whether he was up in the world, however, or whether he was down, he was always cheery and witty, and the best of company. I should imagine that he enjoyed himself thoroughly all through life, and he certainly helped his friends to enjoy themselves—except when he borrowed money of them. If he had written his reminiscences they would have made a most entertaining volume. He once told me that when he was running the *Bat* one of the evening papers used to keep the heading, "The *Bat* in Trouble Again," always standing in type ready for use; and no journal ever packed more excitement into an equally brief career.

The flight of the *Bat* terminated in consequence of criminal proceedings for libel, which necessitated the retirement of the proprietor to Paris for a year or two. When he came back he was an undischarged bankrupt, and he seemed thoroughly to enjoy that position. He told me on one occasion that the status of an undischarged bankrupt had many advantages, and he went on to explain that he found it much less difficult to obtain credit in that character than when he was ostensibly solvent. When ordering any costly article that he fancied he was always careful to disclose his legal status, and the straightforward honesty of his confession so captivated tradesmen that they never hesitated to supply the goods. There may have been a little exaggeration about this, for he was a man of vivid imagination; but when I hinted my suspicion of this he offered to back himself to obtain, without committing an offence under the Bankruptcy Acts, any article I chose to select from a jeweller's window in Bond-street. I did not take the bet, for I had not the slightest doubt that he would have won it.

The early death of Major Adam, Scots Guards, Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India, is deeply regretted by a large circle of friends. He was a very able man, and an excellent and most popular officer. Major Adam belonged to an ancient and highly distinguished Scotch family. He was the third son of Mr. W. P. Adam, who died in 1881 when Governor of Madras, and younger brother of Sir Charles Adam, of Blair Adam. His father sat for many years in the House of Commons, and he most efficiently filled the office of Liberal Chief Whip. The triumph of the Liberal Party at the General Election of 1880 was due, in a great measure, to Mr. Adam's excellent management, and Mr. Gladstone's candidature for Midlothian was originally suggested by him.

Mr. Albert Pell, who died at Torquay last week, sat in the House of Commons as Tory member for South Leicestershire from 1868 until 1885, when he retired. He was a frequent speaker in Parliament on agriculture, local government, and Poor Law administration, these being subjects which he thoroughly understood. His name is permanently associated with the excellent Casual Poor Act of 1882. He was really a great agricultural authority, and a warm but thoroughly practical friend of that industry. Mr. Pell did good work in Northamptonshire as a very active Guardian of the Poor in the Brixworth Union. He was most zealous in his efforts to abolish outdoor relief, of which he most strongly disapproved, and he severely censured careless and indiscriminate charity. Mr. Pell was a frequent attendant at agricultural meetings, and at Church Con-

Know HUMPHREYS, and be well dressed. HUMPHREYS, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

gresses. He will be much missed in Northamptonshire, as for over half a century he had been one of the most prominent and useful public men in the county, having constantly devoted himself to administrative work.

I knew the late Mr. Thomas H. Wakley of the *Lancet* for a great many years, but only in the later of them have I come across him regularly. The most striking thing about him in that period was his amazing vitality. Unlike the majority of men, he made no secret of his advancing years, but was uncommonly proud of them. He used to boast of them and of his health whenever one asked him how he was, and well he might, for there was little sign of infirmity about him until his last illness set in, and that was only a few weeks before his death—at the age of eighty-six. He always seemed extremely keen on his business, and remained in close touch with it to the last. He was a shrewd and genial man, with an inexhaustible fund of conversation, and though he devoted himself entirely to medicine until he was past forty, I should say that he developed into a thorough journalist.

I am glad to see that the manner in which registered baggage has for several years been opened and rifled whilst in transit in Italy has been discovered. As was obvious to any one, except the Government, it must have been done by the railway employees. Now a highly respectable guard has been arrested with a mass of false keys and an instrument to pick locks in his possession, and it has come to light that there was an association amongst the railroad employees to rob in this fashion.

In Italy, the lines and the rolling stock of a railroad were formerly the property of the Government, and they were let to companies at a fixed rent. Whether they were in good or bad condition did not affect the rent paid. The Government, therefore, scamped everything. There was one line of rails where two were needed, the sidings were few, and the rolling stock was not sufficient for requirements. Now that the State has ended the leases and itself works the railroads, it is admitted that a loan of at last twenty millions will be needed to put things in proper order. The sooner that the money is spent the better it will be for the country. Trade is impeded by the delays in forwarding goods, whilst many travellers avoid Italy, because they do not like to risk life and limb, to be usually a couple of hours or so late in reaching their destinations, and to have their trunks broken open and goods abstracted.

SLIP THE ANCHOR.

The Anchor Cannon will, I think,
  Except some law they pass
Restricting it, make billiards sink
  To just a sorry farce.

As once before 'twas needful found
  To cut the spot-stroke canker,
So now they'll run the ship aground
  Unless they slip the anchor.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st, W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

Our friends across the Channel have long held a reputation for thrift, which they are determined not to lose. Such, at least, I take it, is the moral of a pleasant story which is being told of the Paris Bar. It seems that, in order to honour worthily the funeral of the great chemist, M. Berthelot, the President ordered that all the magistrates of the Courts should attend it in their robes. To enable them to follow the procession thus attired, and to take part in the ceremony at the Institut, it was obvious that carriages would be needed. And to take all the magistrates, thirty landaus would have to be hired at a cost of 900 francs. Now the *Cour de Paris* understands the virtues of thrift, and legal eyes and hands were raised in horror at such extravagance. Long and anguished consultations were held, and at last it was decided that only sixteen counsellors and four members of the Parquet should attend, the whole twenty being packable into five landaus, the hire of which would be but 150 fr. Any others who wished to go must do so unofficially, and pay their own cab fares, which was done accordingly. Are bills of costs prepared upon similarly thrifty lines in Paris, I wonder?

Unfortunately, it does not always seem so easy to economise, even in France. Recently an ukase was given out to the heads of the permanent staff in the various Ministries that something must be done to reduce expenses, in view of budgetary deficiencies. Accordingly, the Under-Secretaries wrestled mightily with the problem. What is more, they even, in the end, saw daylight—though not much. There was one possible economy they decided, and only one. It was that official letters, from the various Ministers to senators, deputies, and others, should be written, in future, upon single, instead of double, sheets of notepaper. "Nascitur ridiculus mus!"

The late lamented M. Thomas, whose gigantic thefts from the Beaux Arts collections entrusted to his care, have caused such a nine days' wonder in Paris, seems to have had a sense of humour. One of the causes, I am told, which gained for him the absolute confidence of successive Governments, was the severity with which he punished the slightest dereliction or carelessness on the part of his subordinates. About ten years ago it was found that several rare volumes which appeared in the Library Catalogue had disappeared. M. Thomas instituted an exhaustive inquiry, severely cross-examined the librarians, and although they were able to prove themselves innocent of any share in the robbery, reduced several of them and reprimanded the rest. The missing volumes have now been found—in M. Thomas' collection!

Reference was made in Truth a few weeks ago to a concern called the Where-to-Stay Bureau, Limited, of Baker-street, and in consequence of it I have received several further communications respecting this company. The Gordon Hotels issue, under the title "Where to Stay," a very useful little handbook, which is practically an hotel guide for the whole world, or at any rate those

parts of it which are frequented by tourists. As the name of the Where-to-Stay Bureau and the various local handbooks which it issues correspond so closely to that of the Gordon Hotels publication, the hotel company who were the first in the field, have naturally objected to the use of the title by the Baker-street office; but their remonstrances have been in vain. In another case that I have heard of, the Where-to-Stay Bureau has treated copyright illustrations in the same unceremonious style.

In my former paragraph it was mentioned that a lady who had been induced to invest £100 in the Where-to-Stay Bureau in order to obtain an appointment as secretary, threw up the appointment because the business was conducted in such a way that she did not care to be further connected with it, and that she lost her £100 in consequence. A case heard last week before Judge Emden shows that the business is not always conducted in a manner satisfactory to the customers. The action was brought by the Bureau against a customer who objected to pay for an advertisement. The defence was that the advertisement was ordered for a special publication which Mr. Powell, the proprietor, was promising to bring out, and that it had been placed in one of his local handbooks, the promised publication not having been issued at all. The Judge found for the defendant. The remarkable thing about the case is that Powell should ever have brought it into court at all, and I repeat that all the proprietors of hotels and boarding houses who are advertising through this company would do well to satisfy themselves what they are getting for their money.

THE PERPLEXED TIPPLER.

I read the papers yesterday,
  Wherein some doctors made it clear
They'd nothing but what's good to say
  Of moderate use of wine or beer.

But now to-day those papers swarm
  With other doctors' letters thick,
Who, cocksure, state that any form
  Of alcohol's the very Nick.

When doctors wise thus disagree,
  Who shall decide the question nice
If drink a wholesome virtue be,
  Or if a pestilential vice?

Myself, at meals I always take
  A glass of burgundy or port,
And eke, before for bed I make,
  Some whisky of the "special" sort.

So till agree these doctor men,
  Methinks I'll still thus mildly tope,
And then, I vow, though not till then,
  To go and join a Band of Hope.

Mr. H. C. Lea called attention last week to the fact of Mr. Thomas Kingscote acting as representative of an eminent Rheims champagne firm while occupying rooms in St. James's Palace by virtue of his position in the King's Household. The thing does not look quite *comme il faut*, but, of course, the propriety of it depends entirely upon the use which the gentleman makes of his position outside the Royal Palaces. I do not understand Mr. Lea to suggest that Mr. Kingscote is doing a general wine business. It was different some years ago, when he was a partner in the London firm representing Messrs. Moët and Chandon. As a matter of fact, I was thinking of calling attention to the matter in those days, but the partnership was dissolved at the moment, and although Mr. Kingscote afterwards became connected with Messrs. Mumm, the position seemed to have become different. The Royal Warrant was transferred at the same time from one firm to the other, but that was a matter chiefly concerning the taste of the august personages who might drink the wine, and I should hesitate myself to decide between the rival merits of Mumm and Moët and Chandon.

Prince Robert de Broglie and his "Princess" have not had a warm welcome at a music hall in Rome. The Prince was considered to be led by the orchestra rather than to lead it, and the voice of the "Princess" did not find favour. After a few performances at which there was a good deal of rioting, further performances were forbidden by the police. At the last one, according to the Italian papers, the "Princess" met the demonstration against her by putting her thumb to her nose and extending her fingers towards the audience, which, as the papers say, was hardly the habit of Princesses.

The Prince was married to his first wife in France by a priest. The father refused to give his assent, and as the son was not twenty-five the civil marriage could not take place. Why the father did refuse his consent is not clear, for the lady was wealthy and most respectable. The pair therefore came over to England and were legally married here. Then the Prince deserted Number One, and picked up with Number Two. They went to America and were married there. Assuming the marriage to have been legal in America and the Prince to have fulfilled all the requirements of the French law, the second marriage would be legal in France. But in every country except France, Number One is his wife and not Number Two. The only legal marriage is the first one. Those, therefore, who went to hear the "Princess" de Broglie sing in a London music hall because she was a Princess heard no Princess, whilst the Prince who conducted the orchestra was a bigamist, illegally passing off a lady as his wife when he had been previously married to another lady who is still alive.

The Board of Manufacturers at Edinburgh have now ceased to manage the National Gallery of Scotland, which will in future be under the control of the Government. Mr. Gibb, who has been the very efficient curator of the gallery for twelve years, has retired, and he is to be succeeded by Mr. J. L. Caw, the present curator of the Scottish Portrait Gallery, on the recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland. The selection of Mr. Caw has given much satisfaction, as he is a distinguished authority on art, and he has published some excellent monographs, including one on Sir Henry Raeburn.

Under the old system this office could be held only by a member of the Royal Scottish Academy, but this inconvenient restriction has been abolished by the National Galleries Act.

During the last few weeks many people in London have been annoyed by having a bulky volume left at their doors, accompanied by a circular from the Granville Press, Limited, of Eagle-street, London, W.C. The circular says:—

> We are taking the liberty of sending you herewith a copy of "Pannell's Reference Book," which has caused so considerable a sensation in the book market. . . . . We send the book for your kind examination, firstly, because no mere description of it can give an adequate idea of its comprehensive character and practical value; and, secondly, because the price at which it is issued leaves no margin of profit for extensive advertising. . . . .
>
> Our representative will call in a few days, and in the event of your deciding to purchase a copy, the money (10s.) can be paid to him, and he will give you a receipt on one of our official forms. . . . . .

How a volume which has not been put on the book market in the ordinary way can have caused a considerable sensation in that market, is not evident; and, as a matter of fact, it must cost as much to hawk volumes from house to house in this way, and call for them again afterwards, as it does to issue them through the trade and advertise them. The method which the Granville Press adopts has the further disadvantage of causing widespread trouble to householders; and the best way in which they can protect themselves is by refusing to assist it in any way.

The Rev. J. W. Rhodes, Vicar of Whaplode, Lincolnshire, has issued a pamphlet setting forth the grievances of himself and his parish against the Governors of Uppingham School. He calls it "The Uppingham-Whaplode Church Scandal," and the title does not exaggerate the character of the case. The facts in relation to this matter were fully set forth in Truth in August, 1903. The great tithe of the parish of Whaplode, now valued at £1,600 a year, is vested in a body of Rectors, who are practically identical with the Governors of Uppingham School, and the income forms part of the endowment of that school. The parish is impoverished for all ecclesiastical purposes by the diversion of this money; the Rectors recognise no responsibility for the maintenance of the parish church or the Vicar's work; and, as Mr. Rhodes puts it, "this poor, dilapidated, but otherwise grand Norman church, and the miserable group of tumble-down cottages around it are such as they are, because the great and affluent have given their sons an expensive education under cost price at Uppingham Schools (which were founded and endowed for poor scholars, but which have been 'annexed' by the rich), and poor Whaplode Church has been made to pay some of the difference out of the endowments given for its maintenance."

It is interesting to note that among the *ex officio* members of the Uppingham Trust are the Bishops of London and Peterborough, the Deans of Westminster and Peterborough, the Archdeacon of Northampton, and the Masters of Trinity and St. John's, Cambridge. Mr. Rhodes states that he has represented the case to them individually and collectively, but without result, and two of the most eminent of the dignitaries above mentioned were unaware that they were Rectors of Whaplode until he called their attention to the fact!

Canon Lonsdale, who died last week at the age of eighty-nine, had held a residentiary stall in Lichfield Cathedral for nearly fifty-two years. He was a son of the well-known Bishop of Lichfield, and a brother-in-law of the late Lord Grimthorpe. Canon Lonsdale, who was warmly interested in education, held the office of Secretary to the National Society for seventeen years, and he was then actively concerned in the protracted negotiations between Church dignitaries and successive Governments in reference to subsequent legislation. He was Canon Ainger's predecessor as Reader in the Temple Church, and held that post for fifteen years. He was a very able man, and a thoroughly sound scholar, and inherited a full share of the shrewd common sense for which his father was so eminently distinguished. His standing as a theologian was proved by the fact that he acted as examining chaplain to four successive Bishops of Lichfield: Dr. Lonsdale, Dr. Selwyn, Dr. Maclagan (the present Archbishop of York), and Dr. Legge. Residing constantly at Lichfield, Canon Lonsdale was successful in reviving the activities of Cathedral life, and in giving it a prominent place in the work of the diocese. He was much aided in this task by Dean Bickersteth and by the present Dean. He was greatly beloved at Lichfield, and was held in the highest esteem by all classes and parties.

The stall in Lichfield Cathedral which Canon Lonsdale's death has vacated is worth £500 a year, with an excellent prebendal house in the Close, and is in the gift of Bishop Legge.

The Bishop of London has filled up the vacant prebends of St. Paul's Cathedral. The Rev. Algernon Lawley, rector of Hackney, a younger brother of Lord Wenlock, succeeds to the stall of Chamberlainewood, vacant by the death of Prebendary Kempe. Prebendary Stuart, who has been appointed by the Crown to a canonry in Canterbury Cathedral, is replaced in the stall of Mapesbury by Dr. Wood, head master of Harrow. In the old days a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral was worth from fifteen hundred to seven thousand a year. When leases fell in on property annexed to the stall very large sums were paid in fines and other dues to the Prebendary in possession. In 1856 Bishop Percy, who held the stall of Finsbury along with the see of Carlisle, received £80,000 in consequence of the leases on the prebendal estate falling in, a windfall which took place only a week or two before his sudden death.

The announcement that the vacant canonry at Ripon is in the gift of the Prime Minister is incorrect. The

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Readers will do well to secure a copy of the Business Blue Book. A glance at the contents set on page 979 of this number will clearly demonstrate its usefulness.

patronage falls to the Bishop of Ripon, the stall being worth £500 a year. A house is provided only during the three months of residence, this arrangement being the same as at York. Mr. Gladstone appointed Canon MacCall because Canon Birch happened to die during the interregnum between the death of Bishop Bickersteth and the enthronement of Bishop Boyd-Carpenter, so the patronage passed to the Crown for that turn.

It was mentioned in Truth last week that Dean Wace was to have left Canterbury on Easter Monday, but was obliged to postpone his departure on finding himself the only member of the Chapter in residence. If I may believe a correspondent in Canterbury, the departure of all his colleagues at this juncture was by no means accidental, but was designed to signify their disapproval of the abolition of the three hours' service on Good Friday, which the Dean has arbitrarily effected without regard to the views and wishes of the Chapter generally. I gather from the same source that the Dean himself has become conspicuous beyond all the Chapter by his absences both from Canterbury and from the Cathedral services, and that the method taken by his colleagues of indicating their sentiments by leaving him in the lurch during the Holy Week and Easter services, and on the eve of his contemplated departure for the Continent, is regarded in the locality as rather a good joke.

The *Hospital*, which has hitherto been primarily devoted to the interests of hospitals and the nursing profession, has enlarged its sphere of usefulness, and comes out this week as a "modern medical journal," retaining all its traditional features, but giving a wider attention to general scientific and professional questions, and laying itself out specially to serve the general practitioner. The paper has always been very ably conducted. It has been less apt than some of its older contemporaries to regard the world as made for the doctors, and to treat the interests of the medical profession as identical with the interests of Cavendish-square and Harley-street. In its more ambitious character, therefore, it is likely to be of service to the public as well as the profession.

No doubt many old Etonians of a later generation than mine will remember "the little dark-eyed assistant who was for twenty-five years in Kitty Fraser's shop at Eton," and who is now Mrs. Mary Uffindell, of 77, Canbury Park-road, Kingston-on-Thames. Mrs. Uffindell, who is helpless through rheumatoid arthritis, will be a candidate at the May election for the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney, and I have been asked to give further publicity to the appeal for votes that has been issued in her interest. A subscription of half-a-guinea to the hospital will secure two votes. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Duke of Leeds, the Duke of Wellington, and some other old Etonians have already responded to the appeal, and it is hoped that many more will yet do so.

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions. London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

The only point worth notice in the debate on Mr. Haldane's Bill was Sir Charles Dilke's contention that the new scheme means a good deal more expenditure. Mr. Wyndham's speech merely fulfilled the constitutional function of an Opposition, chiefly from the point of view of the Militia. Mr. Arnold-Forster's merely fulfilled the traditional function of Mr. Arnold-Forster, which is to denounce everything relating to the Army which Mr. Arnold-Forster has not proposed. But Sir Charles Dilke's view that the Territorial Force must cost some millions more than the forces which it absorbs, supposing that it is to be any more worth its keep than they have been, has good reason behind it, and it will be important to see what Mr. Haldane has to say in answer to him.

By a curious coincidence, while Mr. Arnold-Forster is convinced that Mr. Haldane is about to destroy such army as we at present possess, an officer who has read last week's article on "The Compulsory Service Craze," puts Mr. Arnold-Forster into the box as a witness for Mr. Haldane against the National Service League. He refers to the passages in his recent book, "The Army in 1906," where the late Secretary of State argues that what we want is "quality not quantity," and reckons up the number of men in the United Kingdom who have been trained to arms under the voluntary system of enlistment.

The passages referred to are to be found on pages 309-10 of the book in question, and are well worth bearing in mind by all who dislike, for whatever reason, the compulsory service propaganda. Mr. Arnold-Forster shows that in 1906 the number of men serving in the Regular Army, Army Reserve, Militia, Imperial Yeomanry, and Volunteers, after deducting colonial and native troops, was in round numbers 767,000. There were also 129,000 men in the Navy, and over 52,000 in the Naval Reserve and Volunteers, giving a grand total of 948,000 odd. He calculates, I should say correctly, that for every man actually serving, there were three who had been trained in these forces, which would give a total of 3,792,000 of men trained to arms in one shape or another under the voluntary system in the British Isles. To talk under these circumstances of voluntary enlistment being a failure, and of the necessity of enforcing military training upon the whole population, sounds like the ravings of delirium. What we need is not more men, but improved training and organisation, and to gain these it would be well worth while to submit to a substantial reduction of numbers.

In turning up Mr. Arnold-Forster's book for the figures given above, I came across the chapter in which he condemns the regimental system in its relation to the officering of the Army. I suppose Mr. Haldane has got enough on his hands for the next year or two without tackling this question. But it strikes me as the most important step now awaiting the army reformer of the future. Like others who have considered this question, Mr. Arnold-Forster makes a

strong point of the difference between the Army and the Navy which the regimental system creates, and there can be no question that the example of the Navy is all against the present Army system. The example of foreign armies points in the same direction. There is probably no reform that is more certain to arouse intense and bitter hostility in the Service. Nevertheless, the change would be entirely in the interest of officers—at any rate, of all who mean business, and desire to rise in their profession.

A retired Indian officer, who has always interested himself keenly in the natives of the country, sends me the following letter. Between European and Asiatic there is always a gulf fixed, and not less between conquerors and conquered. But it is our obvious interest to bridge over the gulf as far as possible, and this ought to be understood by the Government and all its servants:—

A native gentleman in India writes to me by this mail: "I am afraid you are right in thinking that the gulf between Europeans and natives is widening, and for this perhaps Europeans are more to blame than natives. With a little tact and sympathy good results can be achieved, for there is no people in the world so easily satisfied as the natives of India. But the members of the British bureaucracy do not seem to realise this, or do not care to."

As I have been living in India most of my life, and agree with the above, and am sure that many old Anglo-Indians are of the same opinion, I write to you on this subject. The natives of India were all delighted to meet the Duke of Connaught once again during his recent visit, and they thoroughly appreciated the kindness and courtesy of the Prince of Wales last year. What they fail to understand is why the treatment they receive from civil and military officials should differ so much from that which they receive from our Royal princes. The higher ranks and the better educated class of natives resent keenly, though quietly, the little snubs they so often get from our public servants—chiefly junior military and civil officers—snubs not justified in any way, and quite out of place. It is this more than anything else that causes discontent and the widening of the unnecessary gulf between the British and native subjects of the King in India. Everyone resents snubs—especially from snobs.

A recent letter in the *Pioneer* draws a startling comparison between the pay of officers in the Indian Army and in the Forest and Police Departments. The writer gives a table showing the pay in each department year by year. In the first year the pay in the Army is Rs.225, in the Police Rs. 300, and in the Forests Rs. 380; and so on down to the twentieth year, when the three stand: Army Rs.800, Police Rs.1,600, Forests Rs. 1,250. As between the first and third, the aggregate difference in twenty years amounts to Rs.6,435; and it must also be remembered that the examination for the Army is far stiffer than for the other departments, and that a man who goes into the Police begins to earn his living at once after passing his examination. Nothing that has yet been said as to the insufficiency of Army pay in India is more convincing than this. Of course, the value of an officer, as of any other article, is what he will fetch, and as long as the Government can get the men it wants, it has no strong inducement to raise their pay. But it seems doubtful whether the men would be forthcoming if all the facts were sufficiently appreciated.

For a long time past there has been great dissatisfaction in the Indian Post Office at the favour shown to the Civil Service in the appointments as Postmaster-General. There are six of these appointments in India, and five of them are now held by members of the I.C.S., so that it may be taken to be the policy of the Government to reserve these billets exclusively for that service. The soundness of this policy seems open to much question, apart from considerations of justice to the postal service. The position of an Indian Postmaster-General, of course, bears no analogy to that of the Cabinet Minister who holds that position in England. He is a working head of the department, and there is no principle on which it is possible to justify the selection for such a post of a man who has previously been employed, say, as a magistrate or in the Revenue Department.

The Rev. W. Weinandy, who styles himself director of the Sodality Educational League, 3, Dhurrumtollah-street, Calcutta, is addressing a private and confidential circular to Army officers and N.C.O.s in India, inviting them to purchase tickets in his annual Derby sweepstakes "for poor and destitute children." In previous years I have called the attention of the police at Calcutta to the violation of the law by this reverend gambler. On the present occasion it would be more hopeless than ever to do this, for in view of the huge public lottery which was recently carried out under Viceregal patronage in Calcutta, it is manifestly difficult for the police to put the law in motion against a minor offender like the Rev. Mr. Weinandy. At the same time I may point out to the recipients of the circular that as a charity the Sodality Educational League shows itself quite unworthy of the support for which it appeals—indeed, if it is true that, as the promoter states, 80 per cent. of the money received will be distributed among the buyers of tickets, it is obvious that after payment of the heavy expenses of advertising, printing, and posting, practically nothing can be obtained for "poor and destitute children."

A correspondent in Egypt writes that a great many sergeants on coming out to join the Egyptian Army find on their arrival that the conditions are materially different from what they have been led to expect, and he mentions one or two points which may be worth noting. The first is that the pay of a sergeant in the combatant branches is actually below that of a private or corporal of a departmental corps; indeed, my correspondent states that the pay is the same for privates, corporals, and sergeants, which seems an extraordinary state of things. A second point is that no lodging allowance is granted in the event of quarters not being available, which sometimes happens. This seems to be contrary to the official terms of service, but my correspondent asserts that men who have not got quarters are never able to obtain lodging allowance in lieu. Another inconvenience mentioned is that all

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

ranks, from warrant officers down to privates, in the Egyptian Army have to use the same mess-room—a state of things naturally very distasteful to a British N.C.O. Assuming these facts to be correct, it is well they should be understood beforehand by men thinking of exchanging into the Egyptian service.

The burden of the rates seems to be a universal grievance. The latest outcry has arisen in the Lucknow Cantonment in consequence of the United Provinces Government levying a water rate upon the occupiers of bungalows and other premises within the cantonment. Years ago a water supply was introduced for the benefit of the troops, and standpipes were placed in the public roads, though this convenience was not required by householders, as every house possesses at least one well in its compound. Now, however, it has been ordained that whether the public supply is used or not, the occupier of every house within 300 ft. of a standpipe—which means practically every house in the cantonment—shall pay a water rate of 7½ per cent. on the annual value of his premises. Rents are so high that this will be a serious charge upon Army officers and other tenants; and the fact that the proceeds of the rate are being appropriated by the Government instead of being given to the cantonment funds adds to the discontent which its imposition has aroused.

My attention has been called to the result of a district court-martial held a few weeks ago at Ranikhet, which illustrates the draconic punishment which occasionally follows a casual lapse from sobriety in the Army. The prisoner was a sergeant of the South Lancashire Regiment, with nearly twelve years' service—over nine years' as an N.C.O. He was charged with neglecting to obey a battalion order and with drunkenness, was found guilty on both charges, and sentenced to be reduced to the ranks. The conviction on the first charge was not confirmed by the General, but the punishment was allowed to stand. I understand that the prisoner had had no previous entry for drunkenness during his service. He had re-engaged to complete twenty-one years at the time of the court-martial; and it certainly seems a most monstrous thing that a man in this position should have his whole career in the Army ruined, and his chance of a pension forfeited, by a single indiscretion of this kind after he has served with credit for twelve years. In no other sphere of life would such an offence lead to such a punishment, and it is quite out of the usual course in the Army, for, as a rule, a man charged with drunkenness for the first time is merely admonished—and quite enough, too.

By an R.G.A. order published the other day at Sheerness it is laid down that in future "the passes of N.C.O.s granted permission to leave the station in plain clothes are to be initialled by the regimental sergeant-major." The effect of this seems to be that the discretion of a commanding officer to grant such a pass is made subject to the approval of the sergeant-major. In this particular instance the order is strongly objected to, for the simple reason that the regimental sergeant-major is personally opposed to the wearing of plain clothes by the men under his authority; and, rightly or wrongly, the opinion prevails that the warrant officer in question is at the bottom of the issue of this order. Whether this is so or not, it seems an odd way of carrying out the regulation which empowers the commanding officer to authorise the wearing of plain clothes. There are four companies of R.G.A. at Sheerness, each of them commanded by a major; and apparently the regimental sergeant-major is now empowered to veto any permission to wear plain clothes which these officers may grant to their N.C.O.s.

One of my Service readers points to the Dublin Fusiliers as a striking example of the obstruction of promotion in the non-commissioned ranks by the retention of men on the Permanent Staff for inordinate periods. He states that on the staffs of the Militia battalions there are at present twenty N.C.O.s with service ranging from twenty-five to twenty-nine years. As a result of this, men in the line battalions are debarred of all chance of earning a sergeant's pension, and one case is mentioned in which a man fully qualified for promotion in every way has actually held the rank of lance-sergeant for eight years. It is astonishing that more effectual measures are not taken to remove, or at least diminish, this grievance, which prevails in all parts of the Army, and is the more indefensible because it cannot be pretended that the retention of men of twenty-five or thirty years' service bears any relation to efficiency.

The regulations as to wearing plain clothes have lately been "reprinted for guidance" at Cape Town, with the notification that the words "camp and quarters" in King's Regulations, paragraph 1,955, mean "Cape Town and its suburbs (including Wynberg), and Simonstown." From a communication which I have received from Cape Town, I gather that for twelve months past N.C.O.s have enjoyed the privilege of wearing civilian clothes in this district without special permission, so that the order in the above shape really curtails this privilege considerably. There does not appear to be any special reason for this step, and it is difficult to understand why a much-valued privilege like this should be granted and then be capriciously cancelled at the end of a year or so, unless it is with a view to creating dissatisfaction.

A correspondent asks, "Will not compulsory training fill the ranks of the Territorial Force with men devoid of military or patriotic spirit, and thereby weaken its efficiency and fighting value?" It might not actually "fill" them, but it would introduce a considerable percentage of material of inferior value. That is the strongest point, of course, against compulsory service. One volunteer is worth a dozen pressed men; and there

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of Imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky) Sold Everywhere.

are not a few pressed men whose room would be far more serviceable to an army than their company. For this reason no rational being would dream of raising soldiers by compulsion until he had made sure that he could not get them voluntarily.

An officer in the mercantile marine writes to express cordial approval of the proposal made by one of his comrades in these columns the other day for an old-age pension fund for sailors. He expresses the opinion that such a measure would have a valuable effect in attracting men to the Service, which is at present discredited by the fact that so many sailors are to be seen dependent on charity or the rates in their old age; and he points out that at present sailors have little opportunity or inducement for saving, while the circumstances of their life tend to make them improvident. He agrees with my previous correspondent that a contribution of 1d. a day from wages, from all ratings, supplemented in the way previously suggested, would be effectual for the purpose, but he points out that it would have to be compulsory, and authorised by statute, which was what I understood the original suggestion to be. He suggests that my first correspondent should elaborate his suggestions a little further. Unfortunately, he wrote to me from a distant port, and there is no saying in what part of the world he may be at the present moment, but should this meet his eye, possibly it may encourage him to go further into the question.

A naval paymaster forwards a circular received from a Liverpool concern called the Mead Cycle Company, inviting him to take up an agency for the sale of their machines on commission. If he is not disposed to undertake it himself, the company would be obliged if he would kindly pass the offer on to a friend. The paymaster asks whether the firm is within the law in making him such an offer. I know of no law to prevent them, but I suppose that an officer would not be within the King's Regulations if he accepted the job. The fact of such a proposal being made to a naval officer is chiefly interesting as showing the indiscriminate fashion in which advertising firms of this class chuck about their circulars.

A HINT TO A. CARNEGIE.

So Robert Crow has shot himself—
  Hear his sad case, I beg 'ee—
Because he'd not got so much pelf
  As wealthy A. Carnegie.

If this should move the millionaire
  To share his money gains out,
Lest other lads, in like despair,
  Should also blow their brains out,

I know a most deserving youth
  Who'd help friend Andrew "blow" it;
Which his address is "Care of TRUTH"—
  And mark the cover "Poet."

By the last mail from Dominica I have received particulars of the remarkable termination of the remarkable case of Davies *v.* the Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands, which was discussed in TRUTH a couple of years ago. Briefly, the facts were as follows:—In 1862 the Escheator-General of the Crown in this colony sold to a firm of merchants an escheated estate of 144 acres at the price of £152. The purchasers paid the money, and were given a title deed, but having no use for the land at the time, they allowed some years to elapse before they sought to take possession. It was then found that the land was in the occupation of other persons, who could not be removed. In 1880 the Government of the Colony settled the dispute that ensued by agreeing to convey to the purchasers 144 acres of Crown lands in a different part of the island, in lieu of the property for which they had paid.

In spite of their previous lesson, the purchasers, good, easy-going people, did not secure the possession which is nine points of the law, but accepted an official assurance that the land, which had been surveyed by the Surveyor-General, was at their disposal whenever they wanted it. Matters drifted on until 1900, when all the original members of the firm having died, the executor of the last survivor sold the 144 acres comprised in the grant of 1880 to Mr. W. Davies. This gentleman claimed the property, but it was then discovered that since 1880 the Government had granted it over again to other persons! The story seems almost incredible, but the facts were proved in an action which Mr. Davies brought against the Government in Dominica, and which, after much delay, due to official obstruction, was tried in 1904. The jury gave a verdict in his favour for the return of the £152 originally paid by his predecessors in the title in 1862, together with £255 for interest on that amount, and £50 for special damages. The Judge, however, disallowed the £255 on the ground that interest could not be awarded against the Crown.

There was a right of appeal to the Appeal Court of the Colony, but, having regard to the difficulties he had already encountered in getting a trial, Mr. Davies proceeded by way of petition to the Privy Council, and the case was eventually argued before the Judicial Committee last July. Lord Macnaghten expressed the opinion that interest ought to be paid to Mr. Davies, and the case was adjourned with a view to a settlement, but no settlement could be arrived at, and accordingly the petition again came before the Judicial Committee a month or two back. Judgment was then given for the Crown, on the ground that Mr. Davies ought to have appealed to the local court, and furthermore that the subject matter was not of sufficient importance to warrant the granting of his application by the Committee. In character with the rest of the proceedings in the case, this appears to be an extraordinary decision. From the point of view of the Crown the affair may have been of small importance, but to the petitioner the interest on the £152 was a substantial consideration, and it certainly seems monstrous that the Government of the Colony should have had the money for over forty years without paying for the use of it.

I was interested to see the other day the following notice in the *Board of Trade Journal*, for it seems to imply that Truth is read as it ought to be in Mr. Lloyd-George's Department:—

> The attention of the Board of Trade has been drawn by recent cases in the Bankruptcy Court, particularly in London, to the large number of aliens (principally Jews) of various nationality, who come to this country and commence trading on credit, and without capital, ultimately finding themselves in the Bankruptcy Court. Their stock has by this time disappeared, and as a consequence of the absence of books—which may or may not have been kept, but at any rate are not forthcoming—all attempts of the Official Receiver and the Court to obtain accounts of their dealings are met by the plea of inability; and while in many cases there may be strong grounds for suspicion as to the disposal of the goods which have been obtained, it is only in very exceptional instances that any evidence is obtainable which results in the recovery of any assets for the creditors.

The notice seems to be intended as a sort of warning, like those issued from Scotland Yard. In this sense no doubt it will be useful. But I trust that it also implies that the Board of Trade, having realised the extent of this evil, will take the earliest opportunity of promoting legislation on the subject. When the opportunity will come must, of course, depend upon the general legislative arrangements of the Government; but the Cabinet will do well to note that the reform of the bankruptcy laws is a question in which a very large and important section of the community is deeply interested.

Probably it is owing to the preoccupation of the public mind with the Thaw case that no public agitation has yet been commenced on behalf of Lord William Nevill. This unfortunate nobleman seems in every way a suitable object for public sympathy. When one takes into account his honourable ancestry, his public school education, his fairly comfortable circumstances, and his previous conviction, it is obvious that he must be a victim of uncontrollable criminal impulses for which he cannot justly be held responsible. Probably he suffers intermittently from "brain storm" of the same type as that which enveloped Thaw when he beheld Stanford White at the Maddison-square Theatre. Or it may be that "exaggerated ego" caused him to think that he had a perfect right to the jewellery which he had pledged, and that when a pawnbroker had the word of a Nevill for the repayment of his advance two pieces of coal were quite good enough as collateral security.

NURSERY RHYMES REVISED.

See-saw! Murder by Thaw!
Agree can't the jury upon it;
Which, with Rayner's reprieve,
Almost makes one believe
That the world's got a bee in its bonnet.

Mr. Cecil Coward is to be congratulated upon the lesson he has given to Lewis Teller and Sampson Jacob Goldberg, the usurers trading under the alias of "F. Lawrence and Co.," 119, Regent-street. Mr. Coward's youngest son, an undergraduate of Cambridge, not yet twenty years of age, fell into the toils of these harpies, borrowing £200 on a promissory note for £300, payable in four quarterly instalments of £75 each. The note contained the usual default clause, whereby on failure in the payment of any one instalment the whole amount outstanding became due at once, the interest in that event working out at 200 per cent. per annum. When Mr. Coward heard of the transaction he informed "Lawrence and Co." that his son was a minor, but they persisted in bringing an action against him, doubtless expecting that the father would pay rather than have the matter made public. That is an expectation which is generally fulfilled in these cases. Mr. Coward, however, refused to pay, in the hope that his refusal would be a lesson to such sharks as Teller and Goldberg. Accordingly, at the trial of the action on Saturday the Infants' Relief Act, 1874, was pleaded, and Mr. Justice Lawrence gave judgment for the defendant with costs, the promissory note being declared null and void.

It is to be hoped that in similar circumstances other parents and guardians will follow the example Mr. Coward has so courageously set. Bloodsuckers of the breed of "F. Lawrence and Co."—a firm which, by the way, has figured in my Cautionary Lists for the past two or three years—are encouraged to deal with minors by the ease with which they can extort the money from the relatives of the youthful borrowers. Many seem to be deterred from resisting such demands, not only by a foolish fear of an exposure in court, but by a mistaken idea that honour requires that the debt should be discharged. Really, the usurer's claim is as indefensible morally as it is untenable legally. No consideration whatever ought to be shown towards rascals who deliberately inveigle young fellows into ruinous loan transactions, and the loss of their money is a penalty that these pests richly deserve.

One or two correspondents have drawn my attention to a case before the Melrose J.P.s last week when a farmer in the neighbourhood was prosecuted at the instance of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for having ill-treated and starved a cow, a horse, and ten pigs. It was alleged that the cow and the horse had died from starvation, and that the pigs were in a famished condition, but the J.P.s found that each charge was "not proven." The case is not one that can very well be tried over again in a newspaper. In view of the evidence that was given, however, I am not surprised to learn that the judgment of the magistrates is being severely criticised by supporters of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

At the Newark County Petty Sessions last week the Bench granted a vaccination exemption certificate to a conscientious objector, but the Chairman intimated that in future cases "they would expect evidence—and possibly medical evidence." Of course, their worships will have no right to do anything of the kind—indeed, the idea of requiring medical evidence in support of a conscientious objection is palpably absurd. To save the magistracy from making such fools of themselves as well as to prevent the injustice that arises from their muddle-headed misinterpretation of the Act, Mr. John Burns really should not any longer delay his promised Bill on this subject.

As a rule the magistrates who preside at Quarter Sessions do not exhibit the marked leniency to offenders against the person as compared with their treatment of poachers, petty thieves, and vagrants, which marks the administration of justice in the lower courts. But that there are exceptions to the rule is shown by the two cases which head my Legal Pillory this week. Though neither of the sentences can be described as either ferocious or vindictive, yet their comparison affords an admirable illustration of the point of view of many of the great unpaid whose names figure week by week in this column. A particularly glaring instance of misplaced leniency is supplied by the case heard at the Mansfield Police-court. To treat highway robbery with violence as a trivial offence adequately punishable by a paltry fine betrays a fatuousness rare even amongst the great unpaid.

Anglesey Quarter Sessions. Sir R. R. Williams-Bulkeley, Bart., presiding. Owen Thomas, charged with an indecent assault. Convicted of a common assault. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Anglesey Quarter Sessions. Before the same bench. Solomon Taylor, charged with stealing 11lb. of pork. One month's hard labour.

Nairn Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff-Substitute Lightbody. A farm-servant and his wife, charged with cruelty to their five children. The children were clad in a few rags, they were covered with vermin, and their bed stank. Fined 10s. each.

Hants Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. W. Holding and other magistrates. Albert Edward Smith, charged with stealing rags, value 2d., from a refuse heap belonging to a dust contractor. Six months' hard labour.

Southampton County Petty Sessions. Before Col. F. Willan and other magistrates. W. H. Meacher, charged with assaulting his mother-in-law. Her face was badly disfigured as a result. Fined 10s. and costs.

Bearsted Police-court. Before Mr. C. Whitehead and other magistrates. Joseph Brown, charged with damaging underwood to the extent of 1s. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Yeovil Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. J. K. Whitby. Arthur Chislett, charged with assaulting his mother. He struck her in the face and gave her a black eye. Bound over to keep the peace.

Fordingbridge Petty Sessions. Before Lt.-Col. Greenwood and Mr. R. Tindall. George Compton, charged with sleeping out. One month's hard labour.

Holt Petty Sessions. Before Mr. E. Bowyer Sparke, Sir A. Jodrell, Mr. C. J. T. Lynes, and Mr. W. Leggatt. F. Willimott, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her in the face with his fist. Fined 5s. and costs.

Bourne Police-court. Before Col. De Burton, and Messrs. Johnson, Mays, and Griffith-Dearden. J. Marvel and A. Woodward, charged with night-poaching. Marvel fined £2 and costs, Woodward one month's hard labour.

Mansfield Police-court. C. Musgrove and H. Riley, charged with stealing a number of articles from the person of Albert Mellor. Mellor was knocked down and robbed in the street. Each fined 21s., or a month in default.

Lymington Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor and Mr. Schreiber. G. James, charged with sleeping in a pig-sty. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Rotherham Police-court. J. F. Gill, charged with stealing two trowels. Two months' imprisonment.

St. Helens Police-court. Before Sir C. Gamble and other magistrates. Peter Travis, charged with being drunk and disorderly. He attacked a passing cyclist, trying to knock him off his bicycle. Fined 10s. and costs.

Gloucester Police-court. Hugh Jones, chauffeur to Prince Hatzfeldt, charged with driving a motor-car at a speed dangerous to the public. Evidence showed the car to be completely under control. Fined £20 and costs.

Romford Petty Sessions. Before Capt. H. J. Stone, Messrs. J. G. Broodbank and J. Smith. W. Butcher, W. Shaw, T. Potter, and C. Oxley, charged with cruelty to six cows and a bull. The beasts were prodded with an iron-pointed stick, their tails were twisted until they crouched down with pain, and they were cruelly beaten. Butcher fined 20s., and the others 10s. each and costs.

Dorchester County Police-court. Before Mr. H. B. Middleton, Col. the Hon. C. H. Law, and Messrs. A. R. Pope and E. W. Young. Samuel Willis, charged with fish-poaching. He caught a brace of trout with a piece of wire on a stick. One month's imprisonment, in default of paying a fine of £1 and costs.

Barnsley Police-court. Samuel Owen, charged with breach of colliery rules, and B. Smallbridge with cruelty to a pony. Smallbridge tied a thin rope round the pony's tongue and lower jaw, and while in this condition Owen worked it for two hours. Owen fined 10s. and costs, Smallbridge 40s. and costs.

Thingoe Petty Sessions. Before Rev. J. White and other magistrates. Percy Ford and William Ford, charged with using a gun for the purpose of killing a pheasant. One month each, in default of payment of a fine of 40s. and costs.

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

The prosecution of Edwin Phillips, of *Railway Supplies Journal* notoriety, resulted last week in a further sentence of nine months' hard labour. I hope it will do him good, but seeing that the result of the same sentence imposed upon him for the same offence in 1904 was only that he started at his old game as soon as he came out of prison, the hope is little more than a pious aspiration. From what I have heard of this old gentleman, I fear that he is incorrigible. At the same time, the people on whom he preys are themselves very much to blame.

It was stated by the police at the London Sessions last week that Phillips had obtained money from at least one hundred persons in all parts of the kingdom for notices in the *Railway Supplies Journal*. All these people supposed, on the strength of Phillips' circular, that they were going to get an advertisement which would be worth at least 10s. Even if he had brought out the paper, which he appears to have only done once in the many years that I have known him, the advertisement would have been worthless. As long as people are ready to spend money in this way on advertising, without the slightest attempt to ascertain for themselves the value of what they will get for their money, there will be people like Phillips ready to impose upon them. And I may point out that this form of imposition is not practised exclusively by the proprietors of non-existent publications. Many obscure journals which make their appearance regularly are no better than frauds on the advertisers who keep them going.

The Secretary of the Manchester Team Owners' Association has written to me with reference to the local prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act on which I commented last week. It will be remembered that it was a case in which a clerk to a firm of merchants was convicted of "corruptly" giving a carter a shilling to deliver "three bundles of cloth" at different warehouses, for which purpose the carter used his employers' horse and lorry. My correspondent explains that there were really twenty-eight (not three) bundles of cloth, weighing about a ton, and that the carter was engaged on the job for four hours, his employers losing his services and the hire of the lorry and horse for that time. This certainly shows that the offence was more serious than might have been supposed from some of the newspaper reports, and in view of the Secretary's statement that there has been a practice in Manchester of arranging with carters to carry goods without the knowledge of their employers, I am inclined to agree that the penalty inflicted by the stipendiary was not, after all, excessive.

Readers of Truth are familiar with the M. A. Winter Company, of Washington, which offers to anybody whose name it can get hold of "the chance of a lifetime," which

is to be realised by retailing for the said company "the best and cheapest family medicines on earth." The communication which offers this matchless prospect begins:—

Dear Friend,—Your name came into our possession from such a reliable source that we do not hesitate for a moment in making you the proposition to become an independent representative for our goods in your vicinity. From what we have learned about you we are confident that you are just the person we are looking for. . . . .

Another communication now being circulated by the M. A. Winter Company explains precisely the nature of the "reliable source" from which the firm gets hold of the names of the peope to whom it addresses the above blarney:—

Gentlemen,—We would like to know if you have any old letters or postcards with the writer's full name and address given thereon that you would care to dispose of. If so, it is very probable we would like to purchase them, to use in our circularising department. We circularise extensively with names and addresses we take from old letters and cards to advertise a family or household remedy that we are endeavouring to introduce into the homes of your country. . . . . .

The names and addresses thus obtained—usually in the handwriting of their owner—are, of course, to be cut off and attached to the first-mentioned circular, in order to persuade the "Dear Friend" who receives it that the M. A. Winter Company really has been making inquiries about him, and has some reason for supposing him to be "just the person we are looking for." Is it not amazing to see the laborious ingenuity that is now devoted to the art of catching flats?

One more example of the same sort of thing is furnished by a circular, of which dozens of copies have been sent to me lately, issued by one William Ross, otherwise the Brahmo Lever Watch Company, now of 96, Newgate-street. The following is the substance of the document, which has attached to it in each case a slip of paper bearing the signature of the person to whom it is addressed:—

Esteemed Friend:—

We are anxious to obtain agents for our goods everywhere, and in order to introduce our high-class lines of watches and jewellery in your district we have decided to issue a gratuitous prize-list open to purchasers of our goods. We are pleased to be able to inform you that you have been fortunate enough to have your name therein.

We find on consulting the list that your prize is a Brahmo-Gold Watch—a real beauty. It has fine movement, with dust-resisting case, and very heavily cased, and should wear and last for years, having the appearance of a magnificent 18-carat Solid Gold Watch, and looks well worth £10. . . . .

Now, as a special offer to you, and as your name is on our prize-list, this watch is absolutely Free, subject to the easy conditions mentioned below—a gift from us. . . . . All you have to do is to send us 6s. 11d. for one of our finest quality Brahmo-Gold Chains to wear with the watch. These magnificent chains are warranted British made and are the admiration of everyone. . . .

Heartily congratulating you on your good luck, we are, etc.

Remember—We have no connection with any other firm in a similar line of business. The above offer is a strictly Genuine one, under a penalty of £100.

The concluding admonition is quite called for, inasmuch as all the tricks of the numerous "firms" in a similar line of business are incorporated in this circular. There is first the time-honoured trick of the "free" watch presented as a bonus to every purchaser of the chain; secondly, the more modern formula informing the mystified dupe that he has in some way unknown to himself become a prize-winner in the firm's list; thirdly, the latest up-to-date contrivance of enclosing his own autograph by way of suggesting to him that some letter he has written to somebody has been the cause of his receiving this valuable privilege. The meaningless flourish about the offer being "strictly genuine under a penalty of £100" is also no novelty. It is a pity that there are no penalties on the perpetration of elaborate hoaxes of this class, but the artfulness of the gentry engaged in such business is nowhere shown more clearly than in the skill with which they keep on the right side of the law.

A Mr. Leon Kendell is advertising largely at present as an expert delineator of character from thumb prints. The boobies who spend their money on such self-evident humbug are not deserving of much sympathy, but two of Mr. Kendell's delineations, which I have before me, reveal the swindle of the business. One is founded on the thumb prints of Mr. S., the other on those of Miss C. Both are in identical terms from beginning to end. They appear at first sight to be type-written, but are certainly reproduced by a reduplicating process, and no doubt many more dupes have received the same response from the oracle. Like all such oracular pronouncements, it is designed to suit all cases. This is the sort of thing:—

This is a strange and complex nature—one that would not be easily understood or appreciated by those around you. You are reserved and reticent, yearning for love and sympathy, but are not very demonstrative yourself. . . . .

There is respect for old age and customs; you would conform to rule and discipline, are very tenacious, love order and method. . . . . You have a love of power, fame, and public recognition; are impressionable, somewhat impatient, self-possessed (outwardly), emotional, imaginative, and self-reticent. . . . .

There is a tendency to get "the blues," and become depressed, which you must avoid. There are indications of a long life, yet you must never worry or become anxious, as the stomach is most easily affected, and gastric troubles, constipation, defective circulation, and rheumatism are ailments that you would be subject to. . . . .

I find much that is likely to be interesting and eventful in this life, but I cannot go fully into detail in this short free chart, as you will understand. I am making you, however, a special offer of an extended reading, particulars of which you will find enclosed.

Your Astral Colours are Green and Russet Brown. These should be worn, as they contain electric vibrations which attract to you the most beneficial planetary currents. . . . .

A gentleman who, I should say, has been studying the Truth Cautionary List, calls my attention to an interesting article in an old volume of *Punch*, which shows the antiquity of the home employment swindle. The article in question appeared so far back as November 23, 1861. It describes various sharpers' tricks, which still continue to flourish, and particularly the trick of swindling poor ladies of limited means by offering them remunerative employment subject to a preliminary payment of a few pence or a few shillings. The writer refers to a recent police case, in which a man named Graham had been perpetrating this swindle from an address at a tobacconist's shop, but he apparently had not been captured, and Mr. Punch thus expresses his views on the case:—

To expose a sneaking humbug and to smash a swindling scheme is a duty to Society that Mr. Punch will never shrink from, and if "Mr. Graham" will oblige him with his photograph, it shall be copied in these pages as the portrait of a scoundrel who lives by telling lies and cheating honest people who are in want of work. The fact that "Mr. Graham" and rascals of his breed aim mainly to impose upon poor, weak, and struggling women, who would eke out a small income by their own handiwork, adds a number of degrees to the hot wrath of Mr. Punch, and as he is at times of an irritable temperament, the chances are that if he catches any "shabby-looking" gent coming out of a tobacconist's with a short pipe and lots of letters, he will pounce upon the party as an advertising swindler, and will kick him all the way to the most distant of police courts, and there leave him to be dealt with as the law directs.

I do not know whether our old friend Mr. P. is as pug-

nacious in these days as he was in 1861, but there are plenty of parties carrying on the same game to-day, from tobacconists' shops and other addresses, who are well deserving of his attention if he feels in want of a little healthy exercise.

As I expected, it turns out that a great many people have had occasion to regret ordering newspapers from Mrs. Davis, lately of Helebridge, Bude, besides the victims whose case I mentioned last week. In one instance, I am sorry to say, a Liberal club ordered its TRUTH of the lady, in addition to other papers, and only received the papers for about a month. The most interesting communication I have had on the subject comes from the New Victorian Club, in Sackville-street. It shows that Mrs. Davis victimised impartially not only those to whom she sold papers, but those of whom she bought them. In consequence of an advertisement which she issued, the New Victorian Club undertook to supply her with TRUTH and four or five other weeklies when taken off the reading-room table. She was to pay monthly, but only paid for one month, and the club let the account run on till she owed £1, when, as she failed to respond to applications for payment, the supply was discontinued. Mrs. Davis and her husband have now left Helebridge, and I shall be obliged to any one who can say where they are to be found, as some of the victims are not disposed to "take this sort of thing lying down."

Curiously enough, one of my readers mentions that some time last year his wife was led by an advertisement in the *Lady* to order a paper of a Mrs. Staniland Davis, of Stratton Hall, South Petherton. The paper was paid for, but arrived very irregularly, notice of change of address was ignored, and complaints were answered by impertinent letters. Finally, delivery ceased altogether some time before the subscription ran out. If this is another Mrs. Davis, the resemblance of the *modus operandi* as well as the name is a singular coincidence.

When a "banker," of the name of Paul Goldenberg, writing from Hamburg, solicits your patronage on the ground that he is "a Britisher himself," you are naturally inclined to be sceptical—especially when you see your exiled compatriot displaying his familiarity with his mother tongue in sentences of this sort:—

> Don't hesitate please and consider you must very often risk hundred times the amount upon quite dubious business specs. without getting a comparatively fractional portion of an equivalent or the prospect of such.

As may be guessed, this self-styled "banker" is really one of those German lottery touts who, thanks to the complaisance of the English Post Office, are enabled to inveigle simple-minded Britishers into throwing away their money on practically hopeless gambles. The circulars issued by these gentry are grossly misleading, and the same remark applies to those emanating from Charles Kiss and Co., of Budapest, and other agents of the Hungarian lotteries. All of them dilate upon the number of the prizes, but, of course, none of them explains that the vast majority of these prizes are trumpery sums which only just suffice to pay for a ticket in the next drawing or class. A whole series of drawings, involving an outlay of from £6 to £10, in entrance fees, must be gone through before the punter gets his chance of winning one of the really big prizes, and then, owing to various ingenious conditions, the odds against him rapidly mount up in tens of thousands—indeed, the odds against him in the case of the biggest prize of all are usually over 100,000 to 1. I should be sorry to encourage betting. Really, however, the backing of any racehorse, chosen haphazard, is a sensible and promising method of gambling in comparison with that offered by these foreign State lotteries.

Viewed as gambles, the Irish ecclesiastical lotteries are open to the same objection; but in those cases the promoters appeal to your charity as well as to your cupidity. I referred some weeks ago to the lottery which is being got up "to aid the Vincentian missionaries to complete their church of St. Peter's, Phibsboro', Dublin." The Rev. Joseph Geoghegan, of this church, is now sending out books of tickets addressed to "The Foreman" at factories in all parts of England and accompanied by a circular expressing the hope that the recipient "will kindly assist us in the good work in which we are engaged," and promising an allowance of 2s., together with two complimentary tickets, if 10s. worth of tickets are disposed of. The foremen are, of course, expected to earn their reward by unloading the tickets upon the men working under them. It may surprise this worthy priest to learn that a great many people—including Roman Catholics—look upon this as a most undesirable and even disgraceful proceeding. But though it may surprise the reverend gentleman, I have not the least expectation that the practice will be stopped.

Next to the clergy, the committees of rowing clubs seem to be the busiest promoters of lotteries in Ireland. I alluded a few weeks ago to the widespread distribution of tickets for a Derby sweepstakes which is being held in aid of the funds of the Newry Rowing Club. Not content with this, the committee also made facilities for gambling one of the principal attractions at a bazaar which took place a few days ago, and the local paper gives a glowing and admiring account of the success of the roulette tables, a wheel of fortune, and other devices which "showed how many people approve of chance when it means doing good." If the police were to do their duty—but they will not—most of the local magistrates, clergy, and professional men who were present would be prosecuted in respect of these illegalities.

Your amateur moneylender is often a worse extortioner than the professional usurer. At Liverpool the other day, Eliza Kennedy, of China-street, was fined £5 and costs for failing to register herself under the Act of 1900. It seemed that she was in the habit of making small advances to working class borrowers at a charge for interest which was the equivalent of 866 per cent. per annum. Eliza set up the unsuccessful defence that she was not a professional but only an amateur who simply lent money in the way of kindness "to oblige

neighbours." I wonder what rate of interest this female Shylock would expect on a loan granted in the way of business?

Not content with the distribution of circulars a blood-sucker named Edward Stewart, 1, Castle-street, Cardiff, has lately adopted the impudent course of sending a canvasser to the local schools with the object of inveigling the teachers into his toils. Complaints on the subject have been made to the Education Committee, and at the last meeting a suggestion that any such tout entering the schools should be thrown out neck and crop was heartily endorsed. Before he is ejected, however, the most muscular teacher on the staff ought to give him a good thrashing, and if the same treatment can be extended to Stewart himself, so much the better.

On one or two occasions warnings have been given in Truth against a business carried on by the Irish Pictorial Card Company of Cork. This firm induces people to buy picture postcards in order to retail them among their friends, and earn a "present" for themselves. It is the sort of business which, of course, is chiefly carried on at the expense of children; and it has several times come under my notice that, having failed to sell the postcards and returned them, the children have been badgered for the cash value of them, the climax of the badgering taking the shape of a printed communication from "Holmes and Holmes, Debt Recovery and Inquiry Agents," of George's-street, Cork, notifying that if the money is not paid within seven days "we shall serve you with a debt recovery writ."

In the latest case that has come to my knowledge, the Cork company had to deal with a very intelligent youth on this side of St. George's Channel, who noticed that the promise to give him a present was printed on the back of the form on which he was to notify his remittance of 6s. for the postcards and his selection of a present from the firm's list. He accordingly kept this form as evidence of the contract, and when he had sold six-shillingsworth of postcards, he wrote to the company informing them that he had the money and would remit it on receipt of an air-gun, which was the particular present he had selected. No notice, however, was taken of this communication, and for several weeks the youth has received at intervals postcards from Cork, demanding the money or the return of the goods, and winding up with the above-mentioned communication from Holmes and Holmes. It is perfectly evident that the last communication has been filled in and directed by the same hand which wrote the previous communications from the Irish Pictorial Card Company. Either, therefore, the firm of Holmes and Holmes is a myth, or, if the firm exists, it supplies the Pictorial Card Company with these threatening notices to send out to its customers. I hope that mention of these facts may lead people to keep their children from having any dealings with the Cork firm.

A letter appears in the *Northern Whig* calling attention to the observations in Truth upon the Betterment of London Association, in view of the fact that an individual has been at work at Portadown collecting subscriptions for the National Thrift Society. I trust that this letter will check the operations of the individual in question, who is, of course, merely a paid collector on behalf of Mr. Bowden Green. Anybody desiring to know more about the National Thrift Society cannot do better than follow the advice given him by the writer of the letter and communicate with the Editor of Truth.

In the meantime, I may mention that when some two or three years ago Bowden Green formed a company for the purpose of doing the printing and publishing of the Betterment of London Association, he actually transferred to this company the "goodwill" of the National Thrift Society. A more frank confession than this of the true character of the concern in question would be impossible. Green simply treated it as a profit-earning business, and himself as the "beneficial owner." Since that date he has established another concern of the same character called the National Thrift Society of Scotland, which I believe has its headquarters at Glasgow. I am interested to hear that he has collectors at work in Ulster, for it shows that he is busily pushing a swindle which I had supposed to be practically extinct.

A publication called the *Domestic Advertiser* is issued at 7, Beak-street, Regent-street, W., for the benefit of people requiring servants. It contains three or four pages of servants' advertisements, and is delivered post free for a subscription of 5s. per annum. In the issue of March 9 appeared an attractive advertisement of a parlour maid. A lady wrote to the address given, and received in reply a letter from the mother of the girl she had written to, stating that her daughter had obtained a situation a month previously through the medium of an advertisement in the *Morning Post*. This letter was written on March 30, but nevertheless the same advertisement re-appeared in the issue of the *Domestic Advertiser* for the same date. The advertisement is therefore obviously a bogus one, reprinted from the *Morning Post* in the first instance, and repeated subsequently in order to fill up a column, regardless of the inconvenience which must thereby be occasioned. The troubles of people in search of servants are not likely to be materially alleviated by practices of this kind.

Mr. H. J. Blight, of the Middlesex and General Conservative and Unionist Registration Office," is once more appealing for subscriptions. He writes on the margin of his circular, "Don't allow my name to discourage you!" No doubt he has good reason to fear that it may have that effect. But the fault is not so much with the name as with the owner. Since this Blight fell on the party, he has been repudiated by the official organisation in Middlesex, and his services to the "cause" have been a minus quantity. As a mere politician I should desire them to continue, but as an editor who regards the interests of all his readers with an impartial eye, I feel it a duty to warn my Conservative and Unionist friends against the blighter.

LORD CROMER.

All Britons, be their views whate'er
In Party warfare's jealous strife,
Consenting own 'tis hard to spare
This calm, strong man from public life—

This man, whose keen, perspective eye,
Whose steadfast, firm, impartial hand
Brought Order out of Anarchy,
Of desert made a smiling land.

Who found oppression, slavery, crime,
And all the evil things that lurk,
Like reptiles in congenial slime,
Beneath the Upas of the Turk;

Who leaves—but what he leaves 'twere not
The task of language to portray;
His record's writ in every spot
From Suez to Khartoum to-day.

Be this his monument alone,
Which elements nor years can tame:
Bronze may corrode, and crumble stone;
While Egypt lives, lives Baring's name.

Whatever one may think about the future of Egypt and the British occupation, there can be no two opinions about the marvellous ability with which Lord Cromer has guided the administration of that country. Few men have ever taken up a more difficult task than that which Egypt presented when he went out in 1883. The finances and the general administration of the country were in a state of chaos, the Government was covertly hostile, the Soudan was in revolt, the French element and the French Government were on the look out for the first opportunity of upsetting the British *régime*. It was a position in which a single false step meant disastrous failure and, possibly, a fresh international crisis. Lord Cromer overcame all difficulties by a rare combination of qualities—sound judgment and foresight, unfailing tact and good temper, indomitable tenacity of purpose, and, above all, imperturbable patience. It may be doubted whether a single statesman has ever accomplished more striking results in any country, and, remembering what the Egyptian question was five-and-twenty years ago, it must be acknowledged that he has rendered services to Europe generally as well as to Egypt.

Sir Eldon Gorst possesses many of the qualities which have made Lord Cromer so successful, and both by character and experience is probably better fitted than anyone else to carry on the Cromer tradition. It is a question, however, whether that tradition has not now served its purpose, and whether the time is not coming for a new departure. We are pledged not to reduce Egypt permanently to the position of a protected Indian State, and we have no valid reason for aiming at such a result. Admitting, as we must, that our tutelage is only temporary, the end of our policy must be to teach Egypt to stand on its own legs.

Unless in merely clearing the ground, Lord Cromer has done nothing in that direction. He has remained to the last firmly opposed to anything in the shape of "nationalist" aspirations, and for this reason the Egyptians are to-day the only people who have anything to say against him. Their sentiments are only natural, but a good sign, for no people with any inherent vitality will ever submit willingly to the rule of foreigners, however well the foreigners may do their work. Sooner or later a beginning must be made with the work of teaching Egypt to rule itself, and there is no reason against making a beginning now which will not exist, and be equally plausible, in all time to come. Indeed, the longer the beginning is deferred the more certain it is that discontent will grow, and will breed seditious movements, which will afford a pretext for deferring indefinitely any experiment in self-government.

In an article on Lord Elgin's circular, the *Saturday Review* boldly argues that it is a desirable and praiseworthy practice for ex-Governors of Colonies to associate themselves with the promotion or direction of joint-stock companies formed to exploit the natural resources of the colonies which they have administered. With even more boldness, the writer of the article, referring to the leading case of Sir J. West Ridgeway, and the Ceylon pearl fishery, commits himself to the following statement:—

> In the hands of the Government the Ceylon pearl fishery lost money; in the hands of the company it has made money. These we understand to be undisputed facts, from which certain inferences are drawn.

It would be difficult to imagine a more complete travesty of the "undisputed facts," which are on record in a Blue Book published last year. For many generations the Ceylon Government derived a profit from the working of the fishery. Barren seasons sometimes occurred, and there was an unusual succession of such seasons down to 1902, but a scientific investigation, which was made during Sir J. West Ridgeway's Governorship, showed that by improved methods of dealing with the oyster beds any repetition of these occasional failures could be avoided, and the productiveness of the fishery vastly increased. The truth of this was soon demonstrated. In 1903 the Ceylon Government drew from the fishery a net profit of Rs. 829,348; in 1904, Rs. 1,070,467; and in 1905, Rs. 2,510,727. It was after this huge net profit—approximately £150,000—had been secured by the Government in 1905 that Mr. Lyttelton, on the very eve of the resignation of Mr. Balfour's Ministry, granted a twenty years' lease of the fishery to Sir J. West Ridgeway's company at a rent of £20,666 per annum. Those are the undisputed facts—not the *Saturday Review's* amazing perversion of them—on which the granting of the lease has been condemned as a scandalous job.

The two following passages appeared on the same page of the *Evening News* of April 12. They afford a striking example of the inconsistencies and contradictions which bring the Protectionist propagandists to grief at every stage of their progress. The first extract is from a leading article entitled "Get Away from Free Trade!" The second is from an article descriptive of

his boyhood by Mr. Thomas Holmes, the police-court missionary:—

If Free Trade is to be judged sanely and impartially, it must be judged by its results, and its results are these. . . . .

"The Good Old Days!"

I can now realise what those days were. Wages were very low, food was dear, very dear. The very necessities of life were scarcely eatable. The very flour of which our bread was made was typical, for when made into dough it would not "rise," so it had to be made into flat cakes, and when baked these could be stretched like india-rubber. . . . . Bread went up to a shilling per loaf. Tea was six shillings per pound. Sugar was sevenpence, and other things were in proportion. . . . . Father was as good a workman as ever took tool in hand, and though the leading man at the foundry, the wages he received in those days were not equal to a road sweeper's of to-day.

THE EARLY PEA AND THE LATE PEA.

Once in a Field, where Peas were grown,
Two Species side by side lay sown—
The One was of the Early Kind,
To bear a forward Crop designed;
The Other, late; not timed to sprout
Until uncertain April's out.
Now March, that Year—the Month reviled—
Belied its Fame with Weather mild,
So when the Early Pea broke through
And saw, above, the genial Blue,
Kissed by the Sun's soft Warmth and Light,
She cried: "What ho! This *is* all right!"
And, pitying, she deplored the Fate
Unkind of her more backward Mate,
Who buried still in Torpor lay
Beneath the Surface of the Clay.
"By Peasticks! How I pity you,
Thus hid from Sun and Welkin blue,
While I enjoy this Weather fair
And revel in the Upper Air."
The other Pea—the backward Sort—
Just answered with a drowsy Snort:
"Be careful how too soon you revel,
For April's oft the very Devil!"
Came April in. 'Twas warm at first,
And all the Trees began to burst.
But soon things took another Tack,
Belated Winter Frosts came back
And turned the forward Green-stuff black.
Thus Early Pea, erstwhile so gay,
Now parched and withered Litter lay;
While, safe from Frost's Destruction kept,
Her Friend in Earth's warm Bosom slept,
Murmuring: "Ah, me! what risks they run,
Who court too soon the fickle Sun.
Better to face a longer Gloom,
Secure in Earth's protecting Womb,
Nor germinate in early Days,
While faithless still the Weather's Ways,
Than, springing up too quick and bold,
Succumb untimely to the Cold!"

Moral.

Precocity in early Prime
Withers too oft before its Time;
In the long Run, they farthest go
Whose Minds develop sure, if slow.

SCRUTATOR.

PENSIONS AND TAXES.

IT is generally understood that the coming Budget will be marked by some attempt to start a State fund for providing old-age pensions. Whether the outcry in favour of old-age pensions is a genuine one, in the sense that the majority of the working classes are strongly bent on this provision for their old age, I regard as very doubtful. They are, of course, ready to accept a deferred gift for what it is worth, and they would in truth be foolish to refuse it, if it costs them nothing. But my own impression is that in the main they would prefer something more immediately tangible. When, however, orators and associations assert that every person in the United Kingdom has a right to a pension on reaching a certain age, it is time for Radicals to protest against any such notion. A community is bound by the laws of charity to take care that no one forming part of it dies of starvation, or from want of a habitation to protect him against the elements. Against this, he may be made to work, if work can be found for him, which will repay the State what it spends on him. If he is in advanced age and past work, then he should be exempted from it. But this is a moral obligation based on humanity, and not on political economy, or any abstract right possessed by the individual. Practically, this is the present state of the law. But it is now proposed to give a pension to all those who have attained a certain age, whether they have been useful citizens or the reverse, whether they have been in good wage and saved, or whether they have squandered their wage; whether they are in actual want or able to provide for themselves, or have children or not who can provide for them. Practically no distinction is to be made, according to the professors of the doctrine of right, between the recipients. To this doctrine I, for one, am not prepared to subscribe. I take the world as it is. I would encourage thrift, and I would reward it as the best method to encourage it, and I would leave those who do not practise it to the operation of the present law. It is said that the money employed ought to come from the rich, and that it is a ransom that they must pay for being allowed to be rich. This is nonsense. A State can only be maintained by levying contributions to its necessary expenditure in the form of taxes. It is desirable that those who can best afford it should be highly taxed in comparison with the imposts on those who are not so well off. But so long as taxes have to be levied, it is senseless to earmark them for a special purpose. If the tax is a legitimate one in its incidence of collection it goes into the general fund to meet State expenditure. If the result of a fair apportionment of burden enables some particular tax to be taken off, the community is collectively the gainer, and a wise Legislature taxes off that tax which presses the most heavily on those who are bearing the burden. For instance, sugar may be regarded as a necessity. By all means levy a tax on the rich, and take off the tax on sugar. But when a new tax is created, it cannot be said that any new item of expenditure that is introduced is paid out of this new tax any more than out of the other taxes.

Now, I take the liberty to assert that the vast majority of working men are able to make some provision for their old age, whether they have families or whether they have not, by the exercise of reasonable self-sacrifice. If those with large families assert that they have not, they should remember this before having large families. Take a man earning 25s. per week. Will any one say if he has a wife and a couple of children, he cannot put by a trifle every week that

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

he is in work? If that be true, he obviously is not receiving a fair wage. Naturally he has in any case to exercise a good deal of self-denial. I should rejoice were political economy to allow him to demand double this wage. But the wage must depend on the amount for which the fruit of his work can be sold. It is the consumer that regulates this, rather than abstract justice. And in a manufacturing country like ours, we can only secure customers by producing articles at a price which will enable them to compete with those produced elsewhere. I know that it is said that the share of the capitalist is too great in proportion to that of the worker. When such is the case it is properly rectified by a strike. But, speaking generally, in the present days of competition, the capitalist has a hard struggle, and must be a person of very sound commercial ability to get such a return for his capital as will induce him to incur the risks of trade, instead of buying securities that give him a small but certain income. In the struggle some become very rich, whilst many go to the wall. A Socialist would reply that no individual should possess property. To the State all property should belong, and by State capital and individual labour there would be enough for all to live in comfort by devoting a few hours to work each day whilst they can work, and being maintained by the community so soon as they cannot; and it is because Socialism is based upon unpractical theories such as this that I am not a Socialist.

I have a plan for old age pensions which I think would be workable—if it be admitted that they are to be granted. I would make them dependent upon the individual. Let the State declare that it is prepared to sell to everybody an annuity of double the amount which the purchase money would yield on a 3 per cent basis. A person might subscribe this amount when and how he pleases. If a working man were temporarily out of work, he would not subscribe, but only when he is in good work. The amount of his savings would be that which he has paid, with compound interest added to it. No one would be allowed to subscribe more, under the condition that the annuity to which he is entitled would be doubled by the State, than would enable him, by his own efforts, to purchase an annuity of 3s. per week. And this annuity would, by the aid of the State, become 6s. per week. To make it clear what I mean, and how the system would work, I will suppose a man generally in good work. He would, when in good work, pay in something per week to the fund, as he can do now to the Post Office Savings Bank. When out of work he might draw the whole or any portion of it out. One year he might pay in more than another. On his reaching the age fixed for a pension, this pension would depend upon the amount then standing to his name. A great many persons are thrifty. A great many working men are not. I would reward those who are. But I see no reason why the thrifty should pay for the unthrifty. An employer of labour might himself pay in for his working men. A son who has emigrated and is doing well might make a payment for his father. Old servants might thus be provided for. I have no doubt that there are persons who, from no absolute fault of their own, are always unfortunate, and who never would be able to make the payments. But these are the minority, and a very small minority. They, and those who preferred the little bird in the hand to the big one in the bush, should be maintained, as they are now, when past work. They would be our paupers to whom we extend charity. The great advantage of my scheme would be that it would encourage thrift, and be a premium on it. As it is, we are not — as statistics show— as thrifty as most other nations, and especially as the French and the Germans. This ought to be altered in the real interest of all working men.

I have said that it is idle to ear-mark taxes. But in the case of old-age pensions I would go so far as this: No one is obliged to drink beer or spirits. I am no fanatic in regard to prohibition, but I believe that a man is quite as healthy without alcohol as with it, and, in many cases, more healthy. Speaking collectively, the amount spent on liquor is monstrous. I would, therefore, impose a special tax on intoxicants (apart from all contemplated temperance legislation). This tax would be paid into the old-age pension fund. If this reduced the amount spent in liquor and the yield of the tax diminished in consequence, so much the better. Whatever it did produce would go to the pension fund, and the rest would be made up from general taxation. Thus every one would be able to think, when drinking beer and spirits, that even if he would be wise to eschew them, he was at least contributing to the benefit of others by indulging in them. Even the drunkard, when fined for being drunk and disorderly, would have this satisfaction. I venture to contend that my plan is a reasonable one. It makes each person's old age dependent largely on himself. If he prefers not to be thrifty, he would become an aged pauper. If he prefers to be thrifty he would—in addition to all else that he might save—have a nice little pension, one half of which he had himself earned, and one half of which would be granted to him by the community. I have always regarded the parable of the wise and foolish virgins as a remarkably sensible one. Whether in regard to virgins or in regard to working men, I am against the wise and thrifty sharing bread or oil with the foolish. The sooner we recognise that a person must lie on the bed that he has himself made, the better it will be for us. And the sooner we put it out of our heads that every one has a right to work at a good wage, whether there is work for him or not, and whether he can do a good day's work or not, the more likely are we to really legislate for the benefit of the workers in a spirit of common sense, instead of adopting quack nostrums aired by impractical enthusiasts.

DIVORCE AND ARMY REFORM.

The letter which appears below reached me a good many weeks back. That it has not been published before is to be attributed to my conscientiousness—over-conscientiousness, possibly—in the discharge of my editorial duties. The subject is new to me, and raises a difficult problem. I felt that it behoved me to express some opinion of my own upon it, but I did not feel equal to expressing one off-hand. I have

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1a, Finsbury, London.

now thought the subject out to the best of my ability, and the result may be found, for what it is worth, at the end of the letter:—

Dear Sir,—Divorces in this country are far too common, especially among military people. In Oriental countries men lock their wives up, treat them kindly, as a rule, and do not have any reason to make themselves anxious about their conduct. They can thus devote all their whole minds and energies to their work, without domestic care to harass them.

Among ourselves in the present day too many wives think that their chief vocation in life is to "have a good time" at their husband's expense. This is especially true in Army life. If the husband objects, or if it seems likely that some other man could give them a better time, the wives argue that they have only to misconduct themselves in order to effect an exchange—still entirely at their husband's expense. I have heard of women actually demanding divorce as a right after conducting themselves in this way.

In the Army the wives who are bent on "having a good time" want to be always out at dances and other frivolities. If the husband's heart is in his work, he may not have the time or inclination to join in these dissipations. His wife then goes gadding about with his chums—or hers. Husbands grow suspicious and unhappy under these circumstances, and cannot properly devote their minds to their duties.

Of course, ladies in this country cannot be kept under lock and key. But if we only agreed with Roman Catholic divines, and many of the Church of England and other denominations, that divorce is contrary to Christian teaching, and that only judicial separation should be allowed, our women would not be so ready to play up for a divorce.—Yours faithfully, Onlooker.

The Army has filled so large a space in our thoughts for some time past that the passages in this letter dealing specially with the relations between the Service and the Divorce Court naturally arrest attention at once. There will be no dispute, I take it, about the assertion that divorce is especially common in military circles. I have made some attempts, but ineffectually, to obtain statistics bearing on this point; but there are unfortunately no records available to the public showing what number of decrees *nisi* have been pronounced and made absolute between officers and their wives. I found, however, that of the cases reported in my favourite newspaper during one month of last sittings the proportion in which either the petitioner or the co-respondent, or both, held his Majesty's commission was one in five. This is considerably above the proportion of Army officers to the rest of the adult male population, even when one has made allowance for the fact that a divorce case with a military element in it is more certain of getting into the papers than one in which the domestic affairs of mere civilians are involved. It is not my business to look for an explanation of the phenomenon, but I suspect that military tailoring has a good deal to do with it. Many years ago the deserted soldier in Hood's ballad complained to his faithless sweetheart that

> The love that loves a scarlet coat
> Should be more uniform!

But the poor fellow evidently missed the point, for if it is the scarlet coat that has won the lady's heart, the more uniform her disposition the more apt will she be to transfer her affection to another garment of identical pattern, regardless of who wears it. This trait in feminine nature may possibly explain the frequency with which, when an officer is seeking a divorce from his wife, a brother officer of the same regiment figures as co-respondent. It is altogether opposed to the traditions of the Army for two regiments to be concerned in one divorce case. If the petitioner is in the Blues—as he well may be—you do not find the co-respondent in the Life Guards. If the respondent married into the Rifle Brigade, you do not find her bolting with a Lothario in the Grenadiers. All this shows pretty conclusively that the fatal attraction of one uniform for one woman is the cause of all the trouble.

But let us get back to Army reform, for it is on this question that the above letter has its most important bearing. The Army reformer is not in the first instance concerned with the reform of Army morals. His business, as we all know, is with the preparedness of the Army for war; but my correspondent shows with irresistible force how closely the business of preparing for war may be connected with that of preparing for the Divorce Court. He shows us, on the one hand, the married officer who, in spite of all temptations, has achieved the one thing needful in his class—keenness in his profession; on the other hand, the butterfly wife who has joined the Army only as the most likely means of "having a good time." They are like Jack Spratt and his wife, she wanting all the fat, he caring only for the lean. Whenever he wants to prepare for war, his better half wants to get ready for a picnic or a ball. The poor wretch is torn between the conflicting claims of love and duty. If he goes with his wife, farewell to preparation for war. If "keenness" triumphs, and he hands the conjugal duty over to a "pal," there he sits in his lonely bungalow till she comes back in the small hours, vainly endeavouring to concentrate his attention on tactics and strategy, with the sound of a waltz in his ears, and his wife always dancing before the page with another man's arm round her waist. As my correspondent justly observes, "husbands grow suspicious under these circumstances, and cannot properly devote their minds to their duties." In other words, they might just as well be dancing with their wives themselves so far as preparation for war is concerned—indeed, very much better, for in that case the "pal" might be preparing for war, which neither warrior is doing as it is. It must be remembered that, from the point of view of military efficiency, the influence of the lady is doubly mischievous. A co-respondent may have in him the making of a first-rate officer as well as a petitioner. The giddy respondent distracts both their minds from the stern pursuit of duty, and gives us in place of two budding Wellingtons or Marlboroughs a pair of good-for-nothing candidates for the next sensational Army Divorce case. Only when we get proper statistics of the petitions filed by or against military men shall we know the real extent to which our national preparedness for war has been undermined by this cause.

When Mr. Haldane asks himself, as he will have to sooner or later, how this evil is to be arrested, he will do well to consider how far "Onlooker" is right in assuming that we cannot keep wives under lock and key. I do not suggest—knowing well what a mess I should get into if I did—that husbands, even Army husbands, should be entrusted with this power, although there is more to be said than you might think for the advantages of married life in Oriental countries, to which my correspondent refers in his opening remarks. But it is well worth considering whether officers' wives might not be brought to some extent under military discipline. No woman is compelled to marry a soldier. It might

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Metal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues free.—South Audley-street, London.

be as well for her, not to say the soldier, if she were discouraged from doing so; and if the King's Regulations plainly stated that in the event of her taking this step she might be brought up at orderly room or tried by court-martial if she caused trouble in the regiment, she would know what she had to expect when she went to the altar, and would have no right to complain afterwards. "Playing up for a divorce" in the manner described by "Onlooker" is obviously conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. If it could be dealt with as such, the fun of the thing would very soon evaporate. I do not suppose that it would often be necessary to resort to cells or even C.B. When a husband found that his wife's flirtations interfered with his performance of his duty and his preparations for war, he would just make a complaint to the C.O., and a few judicious words from that officer would probably bring the lady to her senses. All that is necessary is to strengthen the C.O.'s hands by investing him with the necessary disciplinary powers if a paternal hint does not have the desired effect.

The only other means I can think of for keeping officers out of the Divorce Court is to prevent them marrying. There are other reasons besides this for restricting marriage in the Army, and that policy has been recommended before now in these columns. I would extend to the commissioned ranks the principle of requiring a man to obtain leave before he marries. If a man married without leave he might be forbidden to take divorce proceedings as long as he held his commission. The prospect thus opened up might cause a good many men to think twice before committing the rash act. But, of course, no restriction on marriage in the Army will prevent officers being brought into the Divorce Court at the suit of civilians. That is a weak point about it. It may even be that the fewer officers marry the more of them will figure in divorce cases. I have not space to pursue these speculations at the moment, but the whole question offers material for a useful debate in the Army Council, in whose hands I leave it.

KILLING NO MURDER.

The Thaw trial has provided the British Pharisee with a means of "improving the occasion" of which he has availed himself liberally. Americans who read English newspapers will have learnt during the last few days a great deal that they did not know before about the superiority of British morals, British legal procedure, and British public opinion to their own. In the matter of criminal procedure we possibly have the advantage over America, as over most other countries. We dispatch our prisoners, whether to the gaol or the scaffold, with most business-like speed. There is consequently little time in this country for public opinion to work itself up while the judgment of the court is still pending into such a state of feverish excitement and indecent partisanship as has prevailed in America during the Thaw trial. But another consequence is that as soon as the sentence is passed we are liable to fall into a state of doubt as to whether a mistake has not been made, which leads at once to a public agitation on the prisoner's behalf, and a retrial of the charge by the newspapers. In such cases, British public opinion has generally shown itself quite as irrational and hysterical as anything that America has produced. A pretty but frail woman like Mrs. Maybrick, or a morbid, egotistical wastrel like Rayner, is immediately converted into an object of perverted sympathy, and public sentiment once aroused, a dozen fantastic arguments about sanity and responsibility are at once forthcoming to give it the semblance of reason. Thaw and his wife have had their counterparts among us over and over again. As for public morals, there is not much in the story of the relations of Mrs. Thaw with her two millionaire admirers which cannot be paralleled either here or in any country where wealth is accumulated in the hands of men who have no use for it except to indulge their own tastes and propensities without restraint. The divorce courts and criminal courts of Europe are constantly exemplifying the results of this state of things upon the relations of men with women, our own courts not less conspicuously than any other.

The one point of public interest in the Thaw case is that, whether in Europe or America, there should be any serious difference of opinion about the moral and legal gravity of Thaw's offence. That he killed Stanford White deliberately is not in dispute. In all the evidence that has been given during the eleven weeks that the trial has lasted, what is there to differentiate his crime from dozens of others for which murderers are executed every year in America and in England? Thaw is a millionaire who, while travelling in Europe, got into many scrapes and rendered himself ridiculous in many ways. He suffered no doubt from "exaggerated ego" in the sense that he believed that pretty nearly everything was permissible to a millionaire, but in that he is not peculiar among his class, and it is certainly not to the interest of the rest of the community to encourage millionaires in the idea that the laws are not made for them. The victim, White, was another commonplace type of *nouvel enrichi*. He was free and easy in his relations with women, gave "artistic" suppers, and was a providence to ballet girls. Amongst others with whom he was on too friendly terms was a girl of the name of Evelyn Nisbet. Her mother lived on the money that she earned by posing as an artist's model, and dancing at a music hall. There seems to have been a feud between White and Thaw about this girl. Eventually she left New York with Thaw and her mother. On the arrival of the party in Europe, the accommodating mother disappeared, and the happy pair travelled about as man and wife. Eventually Miss Evelyn returned to New York, and consulted White as to her position with Thaw. White took her to a lawyer, and there she made an affidavit that during her travels with Thaw he often thrashed her with a cow hide, after taking off her clothes, because she would not bring false charges against White. After this, however, on Thaw's return to America, she married him. Not long afterwards Thaw came across White in a music hall and shot him at sight, killing him with the first shot, and afterwards putting two more bullets into him to make sure of his work.

The motive for this crime was supplied by the evidence of the wife at the trial. She explained that during her excursion to Europe with Thaw she had confided to him the whole story of her previous relations with White—beginning with the familiar story of the drugging with

a glass of wine. This confession was made in consequence of Thaw having asked her to marry him, and she begged to be excused on the ground that she was not worthy of him. In what her unworthiness consisted I have never been able to understand, for there does not seem to have been much in the story which Thaw did not know or could not have guessed, and at the time of the confession she was cohabiting with Thaw, so that in point of ethics it would seem that they were pretty evenly matched. However, on this story of the lady the defence was built up that the disclosure of White's depravity so outraged Thaw's ideas of right that he had a brain storm, which lasted until his return to New York, and continued after his marriage down to the killing of White. From this "brain storm," however, he had now entirely recovered, and was perfectly sane according to the evidence of his own experts, and according to the finding of a Commission appointed by the Court. Brain storms, according to this evidence, are of frequent occurrence with young men. But the tendency to them wears off with increased years. In the end, however, Thaw's counsel practically threw over all the nonsense about brain storms, and called upon the jury to acquit his client on the ground that he had not violated the law, but only carried it out. The law would, he said, have punished White for his conduct. But proof was difficult. Thaw, therefore, stepped forward in the interests of public morals and slew him. In so acting he was only following the example of the knights of old, who were always ready to defend innocence, and to slay those who took advantage of it.

It is pretty clear that Mr. Jerome, the Public Prosecutor for the State of New York, inclined to the opinion that Thaw was a dangerous and incurable lunatic—or, at least, there was such a possibility of this that he was prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt, and not demand his condemnation as a murderer, if his insanity were admitted by the defence. This however, did not suit the defence, for it would have necessitated imprisonment for life. They therefore took refuge in the theory of a temporary aberration from which the prisoner had entirely recovered. That with the issue presented to them in this way the jury should have become fogged, with the result that they were unable to agree upon a verdict, is not altogether surprising, but at the same time it is only the reflection in the jury-box of the same flabbiness of mind in weighing acts like Thaw's which prevails so widely among the public. That Thaw is a sane man in the normal sense may be doubtful. His crime was apparently motiveless, and his wife's story does not supply any adequate motive. The story which she told in her affidavit about his practice of flogging her while in Europe would, if it stood, help to establish the view that he is constitutionally subject to uncontrollable fits of insane violence, and therefore a criminal lunatic. But she herself repudiated this affidavit, and it was seriously discredited by other circumstances. All that can confidently be said about Thaw is that he is a man of vicious habits and little mental balance, no doubt without strength to resist any evil suggestion or impulse. So are hundreds of human beings, and of such men the bulk of our criminals of all degrees is composed. All criminals are mad in the sense that they are unable to control their instincts, impulses, and passions; it is as true of those of the merely predatory class as of those who indulge in crimes of violence. Only in the case of murderers—and even then only in the case of those who possess great wealth or influential friends, or who are "interesting" to the sentimental portion of the public on other grounds—is it ever seriously contended that the criminal impulse is itself evidence of that degree of insanity which involves complete moral irresponsibility. The rule by which they should be judged is that if a man kills another with the full appreciation that he is violating the law, and that he will himself be killed in consequence, he is guilty of murder, and entitled to no mercy. If the murderer is actuated by hatred of his victim, and deliberately plans the murder, no extenuating circumstances can be pleaded for his crime. A murderer is hanged, not because society seeks to revenge itself on him, but in order to bring home to all that those who take life will have to pay the penalty for doing so. The knowledge of this penalty prevents many of those who are what are called "degenerates," those who are naturally vicious and wanting in moral sense, from committing murder. If the views in regard to murder which are now gaining currency represent the public conscience and judgment, any one who has an aunt given to liquor, or who believes that killing is no murder when some crack-brained motive can be pleaded for it, or who suffers from occasional brain storms, or delirium tremens, or who chooses to believe or assert that he is the instrument of an avenging Providence, will slay those with whom he quarrels in the sure and certain conviction that he is safe not to be killed himself.

THE THEATRES.

"Votes for Women," at the Court; Or, A Plea for the Harem System.

The East is smiling at the West. I hasten to add that the second title of the "dramatic tract" is mine, and not Miss Elizabeth Robins'. It occurred to me after listening for a long time to her discursive eloquence on female suffrage. Certainly Miss Robins cites many cases in which the law might be amended with advantage. Piccadilly, for instance, as she truly says by the mouth of Miss Wynne Matthison, her protagonist in the fight, is not fit for a decent woman to walk in alone late at night. On the Continent they manage these things differently, and the state of our great thoroughfares at night is certainly disgraceful, but all the same it is an outcome of the insistence of the liberty of the subject. Another saying which occurs in the last act touches the root of the matter as regards the low wages of women as compared with men: "It is a question of economics." But the male descendants of those men who abolished slavery at so great a cost may be trusted to do what can be done as regards the question of the economic condition of women, and the rhapsodies of a few exceptional women like Miss Robins and the hysterics of the majority of suffragettes will never be able to carry the day against the great mass of the opinion of both sexes. In the "tract" economic, social, and sexual issues are confused. I may quote, in conclusion, as regards this contentious dramatic tract, a few words from the late philo-

sopher Weininger: "The history of the woman movement during the Renaissance and its complete disappearance contains a lesson for the advocates of women's rights. Real intellectual freedom cannot be attained by an agitated mass; it must be sought for by the individual. Who is the enemy? What are the retarding influences? The greatest, the one enemy of the emancipation of woman is woman herself." From the above it is apparent that this philosopher believed in periods of women's agitation to be put on an equality with men, owing to a larger number of women with masculine characteristics being born in certain periods than in others. He cites the tenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. The abortiveness of these movements is also commented upon.

Touching the artistic side of the "tract," let me say at once that the most striking thing about it is the scene in Trafalgar-square of the second act. The movements of the crowd, the eloquence of the orators of both sexes (especially of Mr. Stephen Gwynne and Miss Matthison), were above praise. The story of the seduction of the suffragette leader when a helpless girl, by the leader of the Government, is commonplace where it is clear, but mostly it is rather obscure, and has but an artificial bearing upon the politics of the whole. There is a deal too much of it, also, in the last act, though Mr. Aubrey Smith's art did much to make one tolerate the politician. Miss Matthison was also excellent as the suffragette leader.

Many people will go to see this "dramatic tract," and most will come away of the same opinion still as regards the political side of the question debated, though as regards the merit of the rendering there can be no two opinions. It is excellent.

The East is smiling at the West.

* * * * *

The latest peach-blossom upon the bough at Daly's Theatre is Miss Denise Orme's singing to her own accompaniment on the harp. This golden interlude finds place in the second scene of the second act. The golden harp stands at the side of the stage. It seems to incline towards her golden head while she leans and listens to the thrilling and throbbing of the strings beneath her hands, to the "blue bird" singing of babyhood and green orchards, of youth and of spring. A charming combination, indeed, of all that appeals to the higher senses is this beautiful young actress and singer wooing the harp, so sadly neglected in our day.

The performance of "The Lady Dandies" goes brilliantly as heretofore. Mr. Fred Kaye has developed the stentorian qualities of his voice, and is humorous from his legs upwards. In combination with Mr. Huntley Wright, laughter is irresistible. Mr. Berry, Mr. Warde, and Miss Gabrielle Ray embroider the story delightfully with their dialogues and dancing, which latter is now much more than formerly in evidence. Miss Evie Greene is in full, tuneful operatic voice. Those who have not seen Mr. Huntley Wright in the part of St. Amour should do so, if occasion serve, for his place may conceivably be taken ere long by another comedian. He is quite unique in his own way.

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Mr. Sothern's and Miss Julia Marlowe's manager forwards me a long prefatory screed anent the forthcoming production of "Jeanne d'Arc," at the Waldorf. If it be true that there has been any manifestation of "ill-timed vehemence" against these visitors to our shores, all I can say is that such vehemence is deplorable. But Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe may rest assured that if they have a really fine play and produce it adequately, they will have an absolutely fair hearing of it in London, the most cosmopolitan and the most hospitable of great cities.

* * * * *

I passed an interesting evening at the Court Theatre last Monday week, and can safely recommend those of my readers who do not mind realism pushed very far to witness Mr. Galsworthy's "Silver Box," which is now about half-way through its brief season of three weeks.

Only at the Court Theatre can one hope for such a harmonious cast as held the balance of justice between rich and poor in "The Silver Box." The play is very ingeniously constructed, and "makes one think furiously," as the French say. Certainly the law is different in its concrete application for rich young Mr. Barthwick, who steals for a joke the purse of the gay lady after supper, to what it is for poor Jones, who appropriates the silver cigarette-box out of spite and without the intention of getting money for it. For this he is condemned, not for stealing the purse, part of the contents of which he had made use of to pay his rent.

One rises from the contemplation of this play with the feeling that all private property is detestable, and Communism the sole solution, but the thought then forces itself upon one that Communism, wherever it has been tried, has proved a failure. Nature abhors equality as much as it does a vacuum. Can man create artificial equality? That is the question of the future.

* * * * *

Hengler's offers a dainty dream-play in "Beauty and the Enchanted Prince," but you must go there with the wings of your imagination spread, for the circular arena presents the action at all sorts of quaint angles, and the coming and going of the different personages is without the illusion of the regular stage. As I said last week, children, whose imagination has not yet had time to be much tarnished, are sure to like this, and there are plenty of realistic juggling and acrobatic performances to follow, concluding with the Filmograph animated pictures.

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I can safely recommend those who, like myself, still enjoy the thrill of melodrama, to visit the Lyceum Theatre and to witness "Her Love Against the World." For melodrama of a very superior order it is, and the sophisticated title of "romantic play" suits the astonishing adventures of the Earl of Strathmere in foreign parts less well than the word melodrama. It is well played throughout, Mr. Norman Partridge as the Earl being wonderfully plausible, and conferring a sense of reality to the most surprising doings, though I must admit that the third scene of the third act, where, armed with a revolver, the Earl forces that admirable villain Prince Ulric (Mr. Mayne) to don the handcuffs and to bluff his own guards, stretches my credulity to the utmost. In the scene where Miss Valli Valli, the Earl's brother, tells of his boyish battle with two young Austrians, whom he forces to admit that the Union Jack is

the greatest of all flags, while laughing with the lips at the absurdity of the circumstances, one had tears in one's eyes for the higher truth of patriotism thus naïvely revealed.

Miss Nora Kerin plays Princess Iris, whose "love against the world" had excellent sympathy, when I witnessed it, from a large audience of young and old.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST:

The Medical Catechism.

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A fashionable physician.

Q.: What is a fashionable physician?

A.: A fashionable physician is a doctor who practises among the upper ten.

Q.: What qualifications are required of you as a fashionable physician?

A.: To live in a smart neighbourhood, to keep up a good establishment, and to charge high fees.

Q.: Are there any other requisite qualifications?

A.: Yes; one other. I am required to have some knowledge of the art of medicine.

Q.: From what complaints do your patients chiefly suffer?

A.: From idleness, self-indulgence, and appendicitis.

Q.: Then are all your patients idle?

A.: Nearly all.

Q.: Are they all self-indulgent?

A.: With few exceptions.

Q.: Do they all have appendicitis?

A.: All who can get it. It is more sought after than any other complaint.

Q.: How do you treat appendicitis?

A.: I do not treat appendicitis. I pass the patient on to a fashionable surgeon, who performs an operation.

Q.: And does the operation always reveal the existence of appendicitis?

A.: It does not always reveal the existence of appendicitis.

Q.: What does the fashionable surgeon do in this event?

A.: He sews the patient up and says nothing about it.

Q.: What is disgraceful professional conduct?

A.: Advertising.

Q.: What is advertising?

A.: A crime almost entirely confined to men in the lowest ranks of the profession.

Q.: Quote me a typical example of this crime of advertising.

A.: A typical example is seen in the case of the obscure general practitioner who allows his name to be mentioned on the prospectus of a poor man's Benefit Club.

Q.: How is he punished for so odious a crime?

A.: By being struck off the Medical Register.

Q.: Do fashionable physicians advertise?

A.: Fashionable physicians never advertise.

Q.: Are their names ever mentioned in the papers, when they happen to be attending some distinguished patient?

A.: Yes, always.

Q.: Is this advertising?

A.: No.

Q.: Who determines what is, or is not, advertising?

A.: The General Medical Council.

Q.: Of whom does the General Medical Council consist?

A.: Of Fashionable Physicians.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A CANDIDATE FOR THE GOLDEN ROSE.

THE proposal by the ex-Papal Agent, in one of his letters to Cardinal Merry del Val, of Baroness de Brigode for the Golden Rose, has turned attention to that lady. She is interlinked in all kinds of ways with the Mérodes, Montalemberts, Arenbergs, Ursels le Hons, and is a Belgian and a Vilain XIV. by birth. What the Vilain XIV.s did for their country or the world I have no idea, but I know that they hold their heads as the uppermost nobility at Brussels. The Parisian career of the Baronne dates from the Congress of Paris, which followed the Crimean War. She is Catholic and reactionist in a Belgian manner, not at all theatrical, is said to have *faro* beer instead of quick blood in her veins, and has been called a gilded slow coach in a time of motor-cars. Montagnini extolled her generosity, prudence, and devotion to the Holy See. Her present that he mentions shows a Belgian care for the Pope's creature comforts. This ex-candidate for the Golden Rose is in politico-religious affairs a great ally of M. Piou. Unfortunately she is aristocratic without that amiable levity and inconsistency which renders the pride of birth or of visiting-card distinction tolerable in the French. The ladies (so many of whom have no birth to speak of) of the Dames Françaises League hate the Baronne de Brigode. It was owing to this hostility, and most of all to that of the Lyons branch, that Pius X. withdrew a promise to send her the Golden Rose. He, however, put her off by writing with his own hand a long and paternal letter, stuffed with words of benediction and encouragement. Mme. de Brigode is a woman of sense. She prefers the advice of MM. Piou and Cochin to that of M. Grousseau, Deputy for Lille, one of the quixotic hot-heads of the Catholic Party, a champion of unsuccessful causes, and, though the bearer of a vulgar name, picturesque as a knight of old. Grousseau and the Dames Françaises are united in spirit and faith. His counsels are followed at the Vatican for reasons in no respect quixotic. The Nord is the richest Department in France. It is not infected with Voltairianism, and its semi-Flemish inhabitants must eat meat all the year round. Their industrial energy depends on this. They contribute the largest proportion of French monetary offerings to the See of St. Peter. The sums paid for meat indulgences in Advent and Lent by those hard workers of the Nord are incredibly great.

La Baronne de Brigode does not talk of her ancestors to the wives of Lyons men of business and of successful Paris tradesmen. Her bearing, slightly haughty and condescending, betrays consciousness of her superiority. The *grande dame* rather hides the saint. Portraits of the ancestors give the grand saloon where conferences of Catholic ladies are held the aspect of a family portrait gallery. These forefathers and foremothers go back as far as Charles the Bold, who had one foot at Ghent and another at Dijon. The Duc d'Aumale longed for some of them to come to the hammer at the time he busied himself forming his Chantilly museum. Porbus, pére et fils, Mytens, Vandyke, Rubens, and Philippe de Champagne fixed on canvas traits, features, and belongings that marked the opulence and high standing of these Hainault and Fleming nobles.

Mme. de Brigode is faithful to the Faubourg St. Ger-

main, but now finds herself so *dépaysée* that she may migrate to some newer part of the town. The law courts have decided that the heirs of that Duchesse de Charost, who made a deed of donation of the Sacré Cœur to the community of nuns that had to leave it last year, cannot legally claim it. It will therefore be sold or turned into a school for industrial apprentices. In the latter Mme. de Brigode will have about her the *gavroches* and gutter sparrows of the Faubourg St. Antoine. The palace of her venerated friend, the Archbishop of Paris, in her street is now Le Palais du Travail, and is being fitted up for the atheistical Viviani and his staff. This dowager lives in a style at once snug and imposing. Belgian snugness is handsomer than English, and follows fashion much less, if at all when fashion favours what is trumpery. She came to Paris on the morrow of the Congress of Paris which followed the Crimean War, and before De Morny had broke off from the Comtesse Le Hon, wife of the Belgian Minister. The social link formed by the marriage of Louise d'Orléans and Leopold I. had not yet worn away. The Franco-Belge nobles had wealth and spent freely, while the French aristocrats of the Faubourg hoarded the milliard that Charles X. gave to them as an indemnity for the estates confiscated in the Revolution. You may easily guess on what side there was most influence. The Baronne de Brigode is one of the very few survivors of the Franco-Belge aristocrats who filled so great a place in the great world here in the reigns of Louis Philippe and the Emperor who came after him.

This old lady is ill-disposed towards those street demonstrations against the Combes Government which the Baroness de Reille and the Comtesse de Mun headed. She nipped in the bud another one last year. Some Dames Françaises had at Moselle recruited a female mob which they intended to head in the Place de la Concorde, and then march against the Chamber of Deputies. The recruits were *tripières*, street sweepers, Belgians, Hessians and Prussians from the valley of the Moselle mostly, able-bodied, and not afraid of being laughed at, hooted, or knocked about. The leading ladies had asked the Baronne to lend the authority of her prestige and the protection of her grey hair to the demonstration. She at first thought of doing so, but thought better of it on reflection, and even decided to oppose a step which could not but cast ridicule on a sacred cause. If the poor women who had been recruited were maimed or killed, who was to indemnify them and look after their children? This should be thought of in time. Madame de Brigode, as Présidente of a Paris branch of the French Ladies' Association, countermanded the demonstration in a placard which she signed. She soon found herself deserted. The support of the Papal Agent, of M. Piou, and of M. Denys Cochin were of no avail. The troops now lead the leader. The Baronne will, it is to be feared, have to wait a long time for the Golden Rose.

The first act of the Montagnini affair was the expulsion of the Papal Agent and the seizure of his papers. The second, the sorting; the third, the communications of many of them to the newspapers; and the fourth, the debate on the Jaurès motion ending in the nomination of the Select Committee.

The second act embraced the trial of the Abbé Jouin, who was supposed to be deep in some treason, of which evidence lay in the seized papers, but which did not contain a word about him or capable of being construed as bearing on his case. The third act is yet to be played, and it will give the judgment and the handing over of the papers to the President of the Select Committee. The journals which spoke of the court being crowded with society notables trusted to their imaginations. There were possibly eight or nine ladies, mostly elderly and the patronesses of parochial undertakings of the Abbé Jouin, the traverser. With them were the ex-vestrymen and some of the leading parishioners of St. Augustin's, some eminent advocates on the Catholic side of the Bar, also a few on the Republican side, the usual number of young barristers, and of journalists when there is something on likely to furnish interesting copy, and about half-a-dozen members of the Committee of Inquiry. Nothing, it appears, remains for them to inquire into. Danet, bâtonnier of the Paris Bar, defended the traverser—that is to say, he directed in a long speech a raking fire on the Government. If the affair had not been politico-Papal, his intervention would have been quite needless, the Abbé Jouin being so well able to defend himself. I think I must have spoken of him as an up-to-date priest, who did not come into the views of the Archbishop of Paris, a cautiously moderate prelate, who abominates in matters ecclesiastical every sort of up-to-date staginess. He is for the Gregorian chant in churches, hostile to those charity fairs in which actresses who are professionally pretty sell, sing, and beflower the buttonholes of gentlemen's coats, in company with the highest ladies. He likes liturgical gravity. He decidedly objected to the curé of an important parish being more of the operatic manager than M. Gailhard. The Abbé Jouin is a dramatic author, and brought out emotional pieces combining the play and the opera at the theatre which is now the Théâtre Réjane. They had, of course, a religious bent. One of them exemplified the comforting doctrine, "Que tout chemin mène au ciel." This is true theologically, but there is the *manière*.

There have been always curés at Saint Augustin's remarkable for their profane scholarship and accomplishments. One of the first Hellenists of his time filled that post through the seventies and the eighties. He had a vicar who might have written as finely critical a book as the Abbé Loisy, were it not for his humility and obedience to Archiepiscopal wishes. Both, however, draw crowds of young men to lectures on classical subjects more or less connected with early Christianity. The Abbé Jouin thought to stimulate piety in another direction. He is short, broad-shouldered, thick-set, and singularly vivacious, with a thick head of curly grey hair, and evidently an accomplished actor. It would be impossible to throw him off his guard, or to confuse him, or to trip him up. No matter how unexpected the question, a plausible, and often a "cool," answer comes pat to his lips. He is said to be an excellent card at a dinner-party. I should not at all class him in the genus "Bounder," though his spirits are exuberant and his manners must have been neglected in youth. He and two other curés were charged with having preached seditious sermons touching the inventories,

and with having published in the *Bulletin* of St. Augustin's parish a call to revolt. The two cases against the two others never went further than the *juge d'instructions*. That against the Abbé Jouin led to the seizure of the Montagnini papers. The appeal in the *Bulletin* is open to a double meaning, but if taken as a call to revolt, hot and strong. Its author contended that it was merely metaphorical. So was the "Marseillaise," which set France aflame, and led to the massacres of September. However, the song of Rouget de l'Isle fell on fertile ground, and the rhetorical prose of the Abbé on a stony soil. He insisted that he had been prosecuted to afford the Government the opportunity to lay its hand on the papers of the Papal Agent and translate and read them at leisure. The Abbé had a right to full copies of these documents, and he exercised it. The De Cassagnac family are his parishioners and friends. As a consequence, *L'Autorité* could cull from his *dossier* the most crisp of the letters and telegrams that passed between the ex-nunciature and the Vatican. This created a demand among the other journals. As money was to be made by communicating them, the publicity became so great that one might now fill a thick volume from those which have appeared.

If the object of the Government was to prove to a certainty that the Vatican manipulated the elections, it has fully succeeded. The Public Prosecutor seemed inclined towards leniency, and the judges to treat the affair as a clever joke. It half accepted the metaphorical sense given by the accused party to his war cry. The Abbé spoke of his people as needing a sharp goading. They are sluggish and supine. What the Socialist Deputy said of them is too true: "The Catholics only whimper and lament, and are good for nothing but to make the fortunes of the casinos which they haunt."

A PEER AMONG THE REFORMERS

I HAD meant to write something this week about the Colonial Premiers, and about Botha and Jameson being over for it together, because it would be nice and easy and obvious, but it struck me that all sorts of other fools would be writing about it too, and saying the same things, and that as likely as not you would have something about it in another part of the paper. So, as I happened to read about their sacking a lot of workmen from Woolwich Arsenal, I've made up my mind to write about that instead, because, for one thing, it's a proof of something I've felt for a long time—and it shows so clearly about the biggest danger this country has got to face in the next few years. I mean the danger of being reformed out of existence. It's quite a real danger, only you can't get most people to see it, because they are all too busy reforming something or other already. But if you think about it a little, you'll see I'm right. Jessie does already, and I'm rather proud of it, because she's generally much quicker in seeing things than I am; and I thought of this all off my own bat. Now, for instance, they are all talking about peace and doing away with war by Act of Parliament. And the very first moment they begin to order less guns and things they ruin a whole town—and send half the people of Woolwich into the workhouse. That's even before they've got any nearer to Universal Peace than talking about it. Suppose they really did do something at this Hague Conference—every one seems quite certain they won't, thank goodness—and really did away with war; they'd ruin half Europe. First of all you'd have millions of soldiers cast off and looking round for a job, when every one knows there isn't enough to go round already. Then all the gun-makers and powder-makers and army-contractors and military tailors and all the thousands of men they employ and all the wives and families depending on them—and all the War Office clerks and messengers and charwomen—and all the sailors and warship-builders and Admiralty clerks—why, there would be no end of them, all thrown out of work at the same time, and wandering over the world looking out for some way of keeping themselves alive.

And now just suppose—and it is quite as likely the one thing as the other—that at the same time that you did away with war, the Reformers got the whip hand of Parliament and carried all the other big reforms at the same time. There'd be drink, of course. That would throw all the brewers and distillers, most of the big chemical works, and coopers and bottle makers, and maltsters, and hop growers and importers—all the publicans and barmaids and potboys and manufacturers of beer-pulls and things and fitters-up of public-houses, not to speak of secretaries of Temperance societies and paid Temperance speakers and writers—they and every one that depended on them would all have to go and join the unemployed, too. Then, of course, there'd be gambling. That would be done away with, and all the jockeys, and trainers, and saddlers, and bookies, and racecourse attendants, and sporting journalists, and ha'penny evening newspaper proprietors, and the printers who print them—they'd all go, too. Not to speak of the Stock Exchange and everybody that has anything to do with it, down to the pedlars that sell oranges and chocolate to the office boys in Throgmorton-street. Then, when you'd done away with war and drink and gambling—as any Reformer will tell you—you would have done away with three-quarters of the crime in the country. We will say half, to be on the safe side; so you would have to shut up half the police stations and prisons, and take away the livings of half the lawyers and police-court reporters, and policemen, and judges, and magistrates, and gaolers, and Black Maria builders, and any amount of others, and all *their* wives and families. That's not nearly all, because half the disease in the country comes from drink, we are told. So you must put half the doctors, and chemical manufacturers, and chemists and chemists' assistants, and patent pill proprietors, and the people who write unsolicited testimonials for them, and medical newspaper proprietors and writers and printers, and pill-box manufacturers, and so on, with all *their* wives and families, out of the running as well.

Meanwhile, with all the rest of the Reformers doing so well, you can be quite sure that Father Bernard Vaughan will have polished off Smart Society. So all the swagger dressmakers, and milliners, and tailors, and beauty-doctors, and jewellers, and toy-dog dealers, and moneylenders, and blackmailers, and society journalists, and so on—they would all lose their jobs as well. I suppose, too, that the vegetarians would come in with the rest of the other Reformers, and do all the butchers and potted meat and beef-tea makers out of existence. And the House of Lords would be done away with, and all the coronet makers and coronation robe tailors and State coach builders along with it. What's more, as each particular reform was put in operation, that particular set of Reformers would have no more work to do either, and they'd have to go and join the unemployed into the bargain.

I have only mentioned a few of the most prominent reforms that are in the air; while, as you know as well as I do, there are hundreds and hundreds of them going, from the Reform of Parliamentary Procedure to Rational Dress, and not one of them but means ruin to somebody if it is ever put into force. I am not much good at figures myself, so I got a very clever accountant chap to work it out for me. He's a friend of a brother of Jessie's who's a clerk in the City somewhere. He is no end smart at figures—the accountant chap, I mean—but he has been out of a job for two years now, and isn't

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likely to get one again by his own account, because his hair has turned grey through worry at seeing his wife and kiddy starving. He used to be bookkeeper to some man who kept a lot of confectioners' shops in one of the big provincial towns—Manchester, I think. Anyway, wherever it was, the Town Council went in for the reform of Sunday trading, and made some sort of a law that shops must not be opened on Sundays. It knocked the confectioner's business clean out, because nearly all his trade was done on Sundays, so Jessie's brother's friend lost his situation and, as trade was bad, because of a sugar tax or something, he couldn't get another. Well, I gave him the job of working out the figures, and he tells me that if only one in every ten of the current reforms was to be put in practice, more than half the men in this country would lose their chance of making a living. I shouldn't be surprised if he exaggerates it a bit, because, of course, he feels rather bitter on the subject; but even if you divide it by half, it would mean the ruin of the country. I don't know how it strikes you, but it seems to me a really awful look-out, and I think it's time something was done to stop it. How would it be if you were to start a Society for the Reform of Reformers, or something like that, just to show all these Peace people and Temperance people and the rest of them what they are likely to let us in for if they don't reform in time? I expect you would get lots of support, if you ran it in Truth, and I wouldn't a bit mind acting as secretary—for a very small salary—if you thought my name would be any help.

I don't pretend to be much in the way of a philosopher myself, but it does seem to me that the more you think about it the clearer it grows that the greater and more civilised a nation is, the more reforms it wants, or perhaps I ought to say, doesn't want. The only creatures that haven't got anything that wants reforming are the dumb animals. Next to them come the savages, who've only got a few things that ought to be reformed, and so on. And it seems to me that the more reforms we get put into actual practice the nearer we shall come to turning savages again.

I am sure that those poor devils who are going to lose their jobs at Woolwich, if we go in for reducing armaments any more, will feel pretty savage. (Rather good, that. What?) That's what I feel about Reformers. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE French, dear Lady Betty, are more immodest than immoral; the English, more immoral than immodest. The writer has published the epigram before; it is repeated to make clear the hypocrisy that prevails in this country.

Perfection on an island is the condition which we are convinced has been conferred upon us. Our fellow-creatures on the Continent are collectively "Dirty foreigners." Each nation is accorded an adjective that indicates in which direction it particularly differs from ourselves; there are the "Vicious French," the "Vulgar Americans," the "Coarse Germans," the "Superstitious Spaniards," the "Treacherous Italians," the "Barbarous Russians," and the "Cowardly Belgians"!

There are, moreover, portions of our own community that are unsatisfactory; they are the "Beggarly Scotch," the "Mad Irish," the "Thieving Welsh," the "Idolatrous Catholics," the "Canting Methodists," and the "Psalm-Singing Dissenters" generally.

Another step has to be taken to reach the inner John Bull. The populace is the "common herd," the "swinish multitude," that should not be educated, should not participate in the government of the Empire, and should be induced to emigrate; and the "loathsome middle-class," that must be kept at a distance.

We have now reached the core of creation: the English—not British—territorial magnates who, by inference, are virtuous, refined, enlightened, honourable, civilised, brave, generous, sane, honest, orthodox, and of a superior creation to the rest of the multitude that composes the British Empire.

It may be opportune to mention that this element is the heart of "society" the group that is so continually denounced by preachers, philosophers, and writers.

* * * * *

The arrival of General Louis Botha has disquieted the other Colonial Premiers who are at present in England. Their condition resembles that described in a poem in "Sylvie and Bruno":—

"He thought he saw a banker's clerk
Descending from a 'bus;
He looked again, and found it was
A hippopotamus.
'If this should stay to dine,' he said,
'There won't be much for us!'"

* * * * *

Love is a disposition woman experiences for the man she—cannot marry.

* * * * *

Ambition for the million is a development of the times in this country which is causing disturbances in many directions. The middle-class woman in England now generally affects to be superior to the social position she occupies; she endeavours to dress, live, and act up to the higher standard she has adopted as her own. This attitude, and its attendant circumstances, eventually induce the ordinary middle-class husband to regard her as socially superior to himself. In time, from this cause, he becomes little better than a footman to his own wife; it is almost irritating to see him on every occasion attending to her with an anxious look on his face, as if dreading to be dismissed at a moment's notice. Presently he becomes possessed of this "footman's spirit," and is obsequiously polite to every pretentiously dressed woman—and these women, on their part, get to be convinced that their husbands are socially inferior to them! These middle-class wives then attach themselves to West End men—as being more suitable to the condition the former affect—and homes are destroyed.

* * * * *

Is the conscience of woman as sensitive as is that of man? It is a curious circumstance in this direction that the case of a woman giving herself up for a murder scarcely ever occurs. The contention is that woman has an admirable company conscience—a companion to "company manners"—but that it has not more depth.
—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT is said that there has been a considerable increase in the attendance of the public at the race meetings of the last month, and that the cheap rings have been very much more crowded than they were at the same period of last season. This change is attributed to the operation of the Street Betting Act.

I hear that the pari-mutuels (which some misguided noodles desire to see introduced into this country) bid fair in time to ruin racing in France. Owners now find it utterly impossible to back a horse for even a moderate sum at anything like a reasonable price. The animal is at once made a false favourite. The mutuels have produced a gambling mania in France, and many working people, who would formerly no more have dreamt of betting than of throwing themselves in the Seine, now invest every sou of their wages which can possibly be spared. Betting among stable employees was practically unknown in France until recently, but now every franc they can scrape together goes to the mutuels. It seems probable, as time goes on, that a very much larger number of French horses will be sent to run in England, so our Turf will be benefited by the fuddling fatuities which are so reasonably exasperating the principal owners in France.

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

A meeting of the Doncaster Town Council has been held, at which a recommendation from the Race Committee, that the Corporation should again apply to the Jockey Club for an additional meeting, was carried by eight votes to seven. I hope that the Stewards of the Jockey Club will refuse this most unjustifiable request. The cupidity of a section of the Race Committee appears to be insatiable. Certainly it is true that *l'appétit vient en mangeant* in this case. There are now six days' racing at Doncaster—two in the spring and four in the autumn—under Newmarket Rules, which is surely an ample allowance. York has only five days, and is content therewith. The Corporation are to beg, not only for an additional meeting of two days, but also for the addition of a third day to the Spring Meeting. All things considered, the demand is a most audacious one, and it is certainly unseasonable, considering the difficulty there has been of late years in adjusting the annual List of Fixtures. The arrangements of the Stewards invariably produce strong protests from managers of meetings which are thought to have been harshly treated, and no annual List of Fixtures has yet been published without being greeted in many quarters with execrative cackling. The fact is that the task of the Stewards is analogous to that of a man who endeavours to get a quart into a pint bottle.

The betting quotations published daily in the papers are wholly unworthy of notice, and should be carefully ignored. There is practically no speculation on the City and Suburban, which for many years past has been in reality a purely post-betting race. I cautioned my readers against the blunder of attaching any importance to the early betting on the Lincolnshire Handicap, over which such an elaborate fuss was got up in certain quarters, and the present dealings over the City and Suburban and the Derby are of no significance whatever. The transactions, which are utterly paltry and contemptible in amount, merely represent the harum-scarum fancies of eager, greedy backers. I am quite sure that not one farthing has been invested in the way of a genuine commission. The fact is that all business on the account of an owner or of the stable is now deferred until the latest possible moment for several good reasons, one of them being that there is really no adequate market until the day of running arrives.

The reported betting on the Derby is only worthy of a lunatic asylum, so far as the backers are concerned. All Black is alleged to be supported at 10 to 1. This colt started three times last summer without winning. He was said to have been highly tried, but his best form was running Traquair to a head at Sandown Park, when he had 9 lb. the best of the weights. How can anyone suffered to go at large accept 10 to 1 about a colt with such exceedingly moderate antecedents? All Black is regarded at Newmarket by many good judges as a non-stayer, and only a mooncalf would back such a colt at any price whatever until his stamina has been conclusively tested. The horse will presumably start for the Two Thousand, and he has two other engagements before the Derby, the Payne Stakes at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting, and the Red Rose Stakes of £1,000 at Manchester.

Quite as preposterous is the position of Wool Winder in the betting, for Colonel Baird's colt certainly has no pretensions to figure at 11 to 1. There was no Derby form about his performance at Warwick, and on his two-year-old running he was fully a stone behind Slieve Gallion and Galvani. Wool Winder appears to be a very nervous colt. He runs at Chester for the Dee Stakes, a race which he will win in a canter if he has any real pretensions to high-class form. He was mentioned by me many weeks ago as being a promising outsider, but his proper price would be not less than 33 to 1.

Another extravagant absurdity is the crazy rushing of Orby to 20 to 1 for the Derby. It seems inconceivable that any sane and sober person could accept double the quoted odds about this colt. Any three-year-old which now wins any trumpery little race at once becomes *ipso facto* a leading favourite for the Derby, according to some of the papers.

I have been struck by the persistent writing up of Ouadi Halfa for the Derby, and this colt is reported to have been backed at 11 to 1. Nobody with a grain of common sense would now back any animal belonging to M. E. Blanc for the Derby without stipulating for a start. It is simply mendacious nonsense for writers to announce that Ouadi Halfa "is to be M. Blanc's candidate at Epsom," the fact being that it is considerable odds against his crossing the Channel. It should be added that nothing is known as to this colt's present form.

I am told that Lord Derby will keep Gourd for the Chester Cup, and that Keystone II. is a certain starter for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap.

Polymelus had a sharp stripped gallop over seven furlongs the other day, in presence of his owner, and he went as well as could be desired, but he is exceedingly backward. I hear that Polymelus will be reserved for the Coronation Cup at Epsom. It would surprise me vastly if Mr. Joel's horse proved capable of giving 12 lb. to Keystone II. in the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap.

Sagamore has grown into a grand colt, and he is a splendid galloper. Mr. Raphael made a remarkably good bargain when he gave 1,650 gs. for Sagamore last April at the sale of Sir James Miller's racing stud. If Sagamore starts at Kempton Park for the Jubilee Handicap, I shall expect him to beat Polar Star, who has to give him 6 lb., and Mr. Raphael's colt is quite likely to prove the most dangerous opponent to Keystone II., whom he will meet with an advantage of 4 lb. on the weight-for-age scale, allowing 3 lb. for sex. The Burwell Plate at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting will be one of the most interesting races of next month if Sagamore and Polar Star both start, and supposing them not to have met at Kempton Park. They would meet at even weights, unless one of them had won the Jubilee Handicap, the penalty for which would be 8 lb. It is very strange that Sagamore should have been left out of the Coronation Cup at Epsom, and his Ascot engagements have been oddly arranged. Owners certainly move in mysterious ways sometimes. Last October Sagamore was entered for the New Biennial on the Cup day, while on January 1 he was engaged in the Gold Cup. This is decidedly remarkable, for not only are both these races run on the same afternoon, but the distance in the one is five furlongs, while in the other it is two miles and a half. During the week after Ascot Sagamore has an engagement at Sandown Park in the Sandringham Stakes, the entry for which race includes Polar Star, Baltinglass, Fra Diavolo, Meadow Rue, and Bellatrix. It is curious that Mr. Raphael's colt should not have been entered for the Goodwood Cup, and his omission from that race is really unaccountable under the circumstances.

The King's filly by Persimmon out of Loch Doon was galloped at Newmarket on Thursday over half a mile, and she won her trial very easily. The Loch Doon filly was entered as a yearling for no fewer than forty-three races. She has two engagements this week at Newmarket, and one at Derby, while at the Epsom Spring Meeting she is entered for both the Westminster Plate and the Hyde Park Plate.

Mr. George Faber's filly, Height of Bliss, by Cyllene out of Stolen Love, split her off fore pastern while galloping at Newmarket last Wednesday. This filly cost 2,000 gs. as a yearling. A non-sporting paper deplores Mr. Faber's bad luck in losing "so valuable and promising a two-year-old." As a matter of fact, Height of Bliss is three years old, and there was no reason for expecting that she would distinguish herself on the Turf in any special way. She may be saved for the stud. Last season this filly started only once, which was at Kempton Park in August, when she was unplaced in the race when Galvani so easily defeated Jubilee.

A morning paper has printed a rhapsody on the subject of the Russian horse Hammurabi, who is engaged in the Ascot Cup, and he is described as "no ordinary horse, but a racer of extraordinary action and staying capacity." Hammurabi, who is now in training at Beckhampton, may have proved himself to be Gulliver in Lilliput when running in Russia, but I expect it

will prove to be a case of Gulliver in Brobdingnag when he comes to meet some of the best English and French horses at Ascot. If Hammurabi has any real pretensions to be a flyer of high class he ought to find no difficulty in winning the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap with 8 st. 5 lb. The statements as to the "interest" of the Emperor Nicholas in bloodstock are altogether erroneous, for he cares nothing about the matter. The Grand Duke Michel (younger brother of the Emperor), and his cousin, the Grand Duke Dimitri, are the members of the Imperial family who interest themselves actively and personally in breeding and racing affairs, particularly the latter.

Sir E. Vincent has tried a nice two-year-old at Newmarket in the colt by Stoccado out of Principality, who won the gallop in fine style, and he is likely to turn out very smart indeed. Unluckily the Principality colt has only eight engagements this season, the first being the Newmarket Two-Year-Old Plate at the First Spring Meeting, and then he is in the Hurst Park Foal Plate of £1,500, which is run on the Friday before Ascot. Pom, winner of the Molyneux Stakes at Liverpool, is entered for this race, his 4 lb. penalty being more than extinguished by a breeding allowance of 10 lb. Sir E. Vincent's colt has a similar allowance, so he certainly ought to win this race, as a victory at Newmarket would not involve any penalty. He is entered at Ascot only for the Windsor Castle Stakes on the Friday, and he was unluckily withdrawn from the Seaton Delaval Plate of £1,200 at Newcastle when the minor forfeit was declared. A note should be made of this colt, as he will be worth following.

The King's "dark" colt Perambulator, who has been mentioned by some addleheads as likely to carry his Majesty's colours prominently in the Two Thousand and Derby, is not in the least likely to distinguish himself in either of these races. Perambulator wants time, and when he is really fit to run it is most probable that he will turn out to be exceedingly moderate. He has no fewer than twenty-five engagements, and he will no doubt be reserved for some race in which he will have the benefit of a maiden allowance, while the best of his opponents will be carrying extra weight. The King's colt is in five races at Ascot, but he might be started for some race at Newmarket, as he would doubtless be benefited by a sharp gallop in public.

The sport at Warwick was not of much interest, apart from Wool Winder's race. Colonel Baird's fine colt is a nervous animal, and the Epsom crowd would scare him to death. It will not surprise me if Wool Winder proves to be deficient in stamina. His superior class would carry him through successfully in last week's race. The Brocklesby form came out badly in the Kineton Stakes, when Pastry (on whom slight odds were betted) failed to finish in the first three, the winner being Captain Forester's Bracelet, by Collar, who was not at all fancied. There was no excuse for Pastry's ignominious defeat, as she got very well away. Selaginella, winner of the Lincoln Cup, compensated Mr. L. de Rothschild for the failure of Pastry by easily winning the Grove Park Plate. It is obvious that the home trial before Lincoln must have been all wrong, according to which Pastry is much superior to Selaginella, or else the latter has greatly improved, while the former has gone off.

At Leicester The Cherub, who had finished second in Wool Winder's race at Warwick, was a hot favourite for the Durham Plate, but was beaten by Billidere, who was also well backed. The winner, who was formerly owned by Lord Carnarvon, was sold at Newmarket last December for 1,050 gs. to Mr. G. D. Smith.

There was a very large attendance at Newbury on Friday, although the weather was utterly detestable, and there was an excellent day's racing. A useful practical lesson may be drawn from the defeat of Bellatrix in the Greenham Stakes, which is that nothing can be more asinine than to back a three-year-old merely on the strength of its excellent two-year-old running. Unless the animal has been properly galloped in a businesslike manner, it pays in nine cases out of ten to leave it alone. Of course, on public form Bellatrix was a good thing, but, as I remarked last week, she had appeared lately to look "very light indeed." Considering that Baron de Forest's mare is bred a non-stayer, it was sheer folly to plunge on her in a field of sixteen when running over a mile on very heavy ground. There was a most exciting finish for this race, Donna Caterina winning for Lord Rosebery by a head from Stick Up, both being extreme outsiders. The winner, however, was a strong Newmarket tip, as she had been going uncommonly well in her gallops, but she was scarcely backed at all. Bellatrix collapsed grievously, being dead-beat at the distance.

The Newbury Cup was a great success, there being a large field, with plenty of betting. Larino was favourite, but Champ d'Or was also very heavily backed, as there was a report that she represented Ob at a ridiculous weight. This was doubtless all a flimflam. A considerable sum of money went on the Australian horse Dalkeith, who won cleverly. There has been a rumour for some time past that this animal would be sure to bring off a handicap during the spring.

Maintenon has evidently trained on in a very satisfactory manner, for he found no difficulty in winning two races last week, one at Longchamps and the other at Maisons Laffitte, and in the latter (the rich Prix Eugene Adam) he "lost" Pernod, who had been regarded as the best of the French three-year-olds, but on this occasion M. Aumont's colt refused to gallop. The ground was very heavy indeed. I am informed that Maintenon is a certain starter for the Ascot Cup if well, and if he is then in his best form he will win that race. It is quite clear that his running in the Grand Prix de Paris was all wrong, judging from his performances since that race, and if Spearmint is got to the post in the Gold Cup I shall expect the French horse to beat last year's Derby winner.

Next week will be devoted to Epsom and Sandown Park, and there are sure to be large fields for most of the events at both of these meetings.

If Gourd starts for the Metropolitan I shall expect her to win if the ground is really soft. In the absence of Lord Derby's mare Mintagon might be successful.

As to the City and Suburban nobody can yet tell how certain dangerous stables will be represented. Slavetrader would probably have won this handicap if all had gone well with him, but he has been stopped in his work, and was said to be lame in the early part of last week. However, he has since been backed again. I shall predict the success of Slavetrader if he comes to the post fit and well, but if he is absent Succour may win. This horse did not give his best running when he was beaten for the Liverpool Spring Cup. Dinneford should run well, but this handicap ought not to be meddled with by backers until the day.

THE C.T.C. ON ITS TRIAL.

The bicycling writer in the *Field* opines that any great accession of bicyclists to the Cyclists Touring Club is hardly to be expected until the two parties in the club have composed their differences, though some may be attracted by the greater entrance facilities offered. Some years ago I showed the waste of time and money involved in the election of members. Now a candidate gets a provisional ticket, and I suppose afterwards a permanent one admitting him to the fold. This is double expense and waste of time and money. But it does not seem to be fair to the public that a paper of the reputation of the *Field* should not warn the public against joining the club at the present time. The club is spending money on advertising the glories and benefits of its existence like any other trading concern. As such I deal with it. If the club advertised that its governing body through Mr. Kendall Burnett, its chairman, and Mr. Shipton, its secretary-cum-editor, had recently made oath and said to a judge of the High Court that unless motorists were admitted the club could not afford to grant its members its present privileges, I do not think any rational person would join. Certainly no person who has the nerve and intelligence now requisite to ride a bicycle on the public highway. This feat, one would judge from Mr. Kendall Burnett's affidavits, is one of great peril. No doubt it is

because of this danger that Mr. Shipton is a motorist. Nor would the public join if they knew that the secretary and council employ a clerk who assaults a member under such circumstances that the magistrate considers an apology necessary, and yet he does not apologise, and the vice-chairman of the club (Mr. Beatty) and the secretary are present in court and will not give an apology.

Nor would the public join if they knew that the secretary-cum-editor regarded those who do not use either motors, as he does, or motor-cycles, as doing donkey-work. It is of men who write in this way of cyclists that road hogs are made. I have no doubt that Mr. Shipton is a careful motorist, but he sets a very bad example to his wealthy brethren by writing in this impertinent and offensive manner about cyclists in his own *Gazette*. I am absolutely certain that no man or woman who knew that the council had resisted a committee of inquiry into the management of the editorial and secretarial departments of the club by every means that lay in their power would think of joining such a club. On these two departments the club spends some £8,000 a year. There is clearly gross waste and mismanagement somewhere. The councillors and officials cling to office and refuse inquiry in every way, shape, and form. They burke discussion in the columns of the *Gazette*. Why this fear of public inquiry by independent members who are not tyros at the work? And this brings to my mind another point. The vice-chairman, Mr. Beatty, at the recent general meeting issued a special appeal to members not to hand over the club to inexperienced persons. This was his method of getting votes against Mr. Coleridge's amendment in favour of reform. The fact is that every one of the persons nominated to act for the reformers has served on the council of the club. One has been solicitor to the club. They have been behind the scenes. They have seen what goes on. They know that there is a good deal that requires to be thoroughly overhauled. They have a grave suspicion that if the whole affairs of the club are gone into, much that is at present hidden will see the light. Whether or not their suspicions are justified I cannot say. What I do say is that by their own acts and admissions the present chief officials, salaried and honorary, are utterly incapable of running to advantage an organisation of the character of the C.T.C. They have shown themselves utterly incapable of doing anything but waste a great part of the huge income of some £10,000 a year that the club has. When they strenuously resist inquiry and seek support by misleading documents, as Mr. Beatty did, then naturally everybody asks, What is wrong? They must be hiding something that they wished to be hushed up. That is the only inference that one can draw from the facts of the case as presented by themselves. If they have nothing to hide, if everything is above board, why not court immediate inquiry? After their grotesque behaviour their bare word is not sufficient. They have sworn they cannot run the club on its present lines unless they admit motorists. They have pledged their oath to their own incapacity. If, in fact, there is nothing to conceal, then they have only put the coping-stone to their policy of bluff and bunkum by further wasting money on a postal vote and a special meeting at Birmingham. This is the apotheosis of wastrelism.

But it may be said: Why are certain papers so kind to the C.T.C.? I know nothing of the personalities of the contributors to either the *C.T.C. Gazette* or other journals on bicycling matters. I can, therefore, only suggest that there are wheels within wheels. The editor of the *Gazette* boasts of the high prices the *Gazette* pays for special articles to writers who presumably do not confine their work to the *Gazette*. Naturally, they do not wish to quarrel with their bread and butter. They only pray for peace and further orders for well-paid articles. I do not blame them. I sympathise with them. I might do the same thing if I were in their shoes. I admire the policy of Mr. Shipton in paying his contributors high prices. It tends to allay criticism outside the *Gazette*. He and his council know the ropes sufficiently to prevent criticism in the columns of the *Gazette*. The high-priced article is well worthy of the gentleman who has so skilfully made the C.T.C. a one-man show. He has forgotten one little natural history fact, and that is that even donkeys kick at times. I strongly advise the members of the C.T.C. to continue kicking until everything is overhauled. They will have an opportunity at the meeting at Birmingham, and also on the postal vote. The meeting is at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on April 27, at 3 p.m. Railway tickets at five shillings (return) each may be obtained from Mr. G. Symons, 3, Plowden Buildings, Temple, E.C.

I see that there is some talk of a New Zealand team coming over to play the Northern Union clubs who now play a bastardised form of Rugby football. The visitors will, of course, be professionals. Neither their own Union nor the Rugby Unions of the four counties at home will in any way recognise them. The tour will probably not be a financial success. The Association game has made great headway in what were the strongholds of Rugby football in pre-Northern Union days. Such a visit—or, rather, the talk about it—seems to be a final effort to give the professional game a little life and interest. It needs it badly. Rugby football is essentially not a game for paid players or broken timers. No better evidence is needed for this proposition than the fact that the Northern Union do not play Rugby football.

Whenever the light allowed, the representatives of Oxford and Cambridge and the public schools played racquets at Queen's Club last week. Goodness only knows why reasonable notice is not given of the University match. It seems to come off anyhow and anywhere. There is still a Foster playing for Oxford, who won very easily. The Cambridge pair were not playing nearly as well as they did a year ago. Wellington beat Malvern in the final of the public school games. There was a Foster playing for Malvern. He kept a very good length with his service. Rugby played some uphill games well, and Simpson has all the makings of a class player. Brougham's service was admirable for Wellington, and he was probably the best player of the lot.

In Association football, matters are settling themselves. Newcastle United are certain to be top of the First Division, and Chelsea and Notts Forest will go up from the Second Division. West Bromwich Albion have unfortunately to stay behind. With the increase in numbers in the League, three changes should be made.

Aitken, Dawson, and Lovejoy have been making anchor cannons. As the public like it, I suppose they are wise to go on with this game. But the press-reading public is losing all interest in their performances.

MAMMON.

The Stock Markets and Easier Money—Further Reduction in the Bank Rate Expected—The Bright Prospects for Gilt-Edged Securities.

ALTHOUGH the volume of commission house business doing in the Stock Exchange still gives rise to complaints from brokers and jobbers, there was much in the general developments of last week to foster a spirit of greater confidence in the market outlook. The fortnightly carry over disclosed a more healthy position than had existed for probably some years past. Owing to the pressure recently put upon American speculators who for months past had been running big lines of stock on this side, Yankee scrip appeared to have been shipped back to New York wholesale, while, as usual, in most other departments of the House the open account was almost a negligible quantity. In consequence everybody, for once in a way, appeared to be a "taker in" of stock, and contangoes were distinctly light. The better sentiment thus engendered was stimulated afresh on Thursday when, as expected, the Bank of England reduced its discount rate from 5 to 4½ per cent. It was a pleasant coincidence that the decision was made at the first weekly Court presided over by Mr .W. M. Campbell

in his new rôle of Governor, and we may all hope that the reduction is but the forerunner of an early further decline to 4 per cent. The relief which a lower official monetary standard has brought to the City—and not alone to the City, but to the commercial community throughout the country—is very real. The 5 per cent. rate had been in force since January 17, and previous to that 6 per cent. had ruled since October 19, 1906. Now, to the trader accustomed to pay 1 per cent. over Bank rate for loans from his banker, a 5 per cent. official minimum—let alone a 6 per cent.—presses almost as grievously as a shilling income tax in time of peace.

What the high Bank rate has meant to the Stock Exchange there is no need to dwell upon—the story of liquidation and declining prices is too fresh in everybody's memory. Suffice it that the recent period of strain and stress appears to have passed away, and that there is now a reasonable prospect of some months of comparatively easy money, which will permit of a restoration of security prices to something nearer the normal. That money is immediately going to become dirt cheap it would be too much to expect, in view of the continued activity of trade the world over. However, there is every reason to anticipate a 4 per cent. Bank rate within the next two or three weeks, and that will, in a relative sense, come as a boon and a blessing. Owing to the relief measures taken by the Washington Treasury, money rates in New York, and, in turn, the New York Exchange on London, have undergone a distinct improvement, and it is this change which has made the reduction in our Bank rate possible. The position in Berlin is not all that might be desired, but it is improving, and although the Continental exchanges have recently moved against us they are still at a high level. Consequently the Bank of England bids fair to retain free command of the gold market for some weeks to come, and as the arrivals of the yellow metal from the Cape and elsewhere now average £600,000 a week, the Threadneedle-street establishment ought soon to build up a strong position.

The influence that a 4 per cent. Bank rate should have upon the market for gilt-edged securities is a very practical one. There are at the present time dozens of securities of the first rank paying 3½ per cent. and more. With the Bank rate 4 per cent., the rate allowed by the joint stock banks to their depositors would be reduced to 2½ per cent. Thus there would be a clear 1 per cent. margin between deposit rates and gilt-edged stock yields, and if this does not lead to a better demand for investment securities some of us will begin to ask what is the matter. The statement that one often reads in the money articles of the daily press about the change in the Bank rate proving to have been discounted because prices do not immediately respond to the news expresses less than half a truth. When a reduction is expected in the Bank rate, there are always a certain number of speculators who buy with the object of getting a turn on the news being publicly notified, but the momentary effect produced by profit snatching on the part of these punters is a matter of small importance compared with the gradual readjustment of values that sets in with an alteration in the official monetary standard. Another factor that should have a stimulating effect upon the stock markets is the Budget, to be made public this week. I do not pretend to know in advance the proposals of Mr. Asquith, but that he will have a substantial surplus to apply to the reduction of the National Debt is good news enough for the Stock Exchange to go on with.

Easier money in London and on the Bourses led to an all-round improvement in International stocks last week. Japanese bonds continue to be steadily absorbed by investors, and Russian issues, particularly the Fives (the high yield upon which I alluded to a week ago) have enjoyed a fair measure of support. Argentine issues have been most favoured in the South American group, and it is worth noting that the new Five per Cent. loan, offered a few weeks ago at 97½—which was sold down to three discount—has returned to within a fraction of "par." The market has been, and up to the time of writing, is still eagerly awaiting the terms of the settlement understood to have been arrived at between the Peruvian Corporation and the Government. If all the stories that are going around be true the arrangement should be a much more satisfactory one than at first seemed likely. According to the rumour-mongers there is to be not only the handing over of the railways to the Corporation in perpetuity, but also the promise of a subsidy, conditional upon the Corporation undertaking new obligations connected with railway construction. Further, a reorganisation of the company's finances, involving the redemption of the debentures, is said to be part of the programme. As, however, the signatures of the respective parties are understood to be all that has to be obtained to complete the agreement, the market should not much longer have to content itself with guessing the terms.

Home Rails and their High Yields—Trunks and the Meeting—The Mexican Railway Dividend—Argentine Rails and the Outlook.

The Home Railway market during the past week has been somewhat irregular, attempts to put prices better having been frustrated to some extent by paucity of public business. There is, however, little doubt that the market is working into shape for a recovery, along with the gilt-edged brigade. Some disappointment was expressed at the traffics for Easter week; the figures as a whole, however, were not really bad, while so far as the aggregate results for the half-year are concerned the companies, with one or two exceptions, have done splendidly. The strong point for the Home Railway market is that stocks on the basis of last year's dividends will give yields of 4½ to 5 per cent., without making any allowance for the increases foreshadowed in some cases by the continued growth in gross revenue. American Rails during the last few days have relapsed into a dull and uninteresting condition; dealers on this side have been doing very little, while the volume of trading in Wall Street has shown a considerable falling off. The market has, in fact, fallen into that state of exhaustion that good judges said would succeed the recent whirl of excitement. The heavy liquidation has been accomplished, but the process has, for the time being, crippled some of the leaders, who are therefore compelled to take a rest. The public, too, appears to be holding resolutely aloof from the market; it would not buy when prices were from $20 to $50 higher, and it shows no inclination to purchase now that values have come down from sky level—the distrust awakened by the recent Harriman investigation, the uncertainty over the dividend outlook caused by the hostile attitude towards the railroads assumed by the State Legislatures, and the tremendous rises in operating costs brought about by dearer labour and materials still combining to keep buyers away. The weakness of copper was another "bear" influence last week, as it tended to increase talk about a coming industrial reaction.

"Bulls" of Grand Trunks obtained some useful ammunition from the half-yearly meeting, where Sir Rivers Wilson considerately refrained from repeating the practice adopted at the previous two or three meetings of springing unpleasant surprises upon the stockholders. The decision of the Canadian Railway Commissioners to reduce the passenger fares in Ontario to 3 cents per mile does not, it turns out, affect the Grand Trunk at all, as its present charges are below that level. Another pleasant piece of news imparted by the chairman was that the elevators are choked with grain, and that even if the coming harvest was less bountiful than its predecessor, there would be 20 per cent. more grain land under cultivation, which would make up any deficiency. In the foreign railway group, Mexican Rails have been very lively, in connection with the dividend announced on Thursday last. Writing a week ago, I expressed the opinion that, in view of the large "bull" account that had been built up in Mexican railways, there was room for a sharp set-back in prices should dividend estimates prove to have overshot the mark. As events turned out, the

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

prophets were too sanguine, and the posting of the dividend was followed by a break of 5 to 6 points in the quotations for Mexican ordinary and seconds. Yet, looked at dispassionately, I cannot see how the dividend can be regarded as other than extremely handsome. The board, by paying at the rate of 3⅞ per cent. on the second preference, as against nothing a year ago, when only 6⅛ per cent. was paid on firsts, is distributing £45,000 more than in the corresponding half-year. Yet the increase in gross traffics as published was only about the same amount. With railway operating costs everywhere else showing substantial increases, it is really remarkable to find the Mexican reducing its ratio sufficiently to retain the whole of its gross increase as extra net profit. Evidently we have begun to see the outcome of the agitation started by the Stock Exchange some time ago against what was considered to be the undue conservatism of the management. In view of this change of policy, it is not unlikely that Mexican rails will continue in favour with speculators during the next few months, particularly as gross earnings are still mounting at a rapid rate, and there is talk of substantial savings being effected by the use of oil in place of coal as fuel. At the same time, the market, by its vigorous "bull" campaign of the last few months, has already made a fairly good allowance for prospects.

The Argentine railway market has continued out of favour, dealers waiting to see how traffics shape when the maize comes forward. Probably earnings will not be greatly affected until a month or so later, for the effect of the maize shortage will be hidden to some extent by the carriage of other grain—the bumper wheat harvest having left a fair quantity of that cereal still to be carried. I have received the following letter from a correspondent signing himself "Critic," that has a useful bearing upon the subject under discussion:—

Sir,—Referring to your remarks last week *re* Argentine railways and the poor maize crop, the only line carrying any very big quantity of maize is the Buenos Ayres and Rosario, and this is the only line whose dividend can by any possibility be affected by it. I have not the report just issued before me, but for 1905 the maize carried was 1,456,236 tons.

The following are the 1905-6 figures for the other leading railways:—

Buenos Ayres Western, 418,261 tons.
Buenos Ayres Great Southern, 362,717 tons.
Buenos Ayres and Pacific, 179,787 tons.

Thus the Rosario carries far more maize than the aggregate carried by the other three lines. In fact, I may say so far as the three 7 per cent. lines are concerned, and more particularly as regards the Great Southern and the Pacific, that if they did not carry a single ton of maize their present dividends could be easily maintained.

Since my correspondent wrote, the Rosario report has come to hand, and it shows that the maize tonnage handled by the company last year was no less than 1,771,600, an increase of 315,400 over 1905. The matter assumes greater importance when we notice how enormously working costs on the Rosario system have increased. Of an increase in gross receipts amounting to £536,000, no less than £493,000 was absorbed by the extra cost of operating. Coal cost £94,000 more, and wages and materials were all substantially dearer. The Rosario's traffics will probably be affected later on, not only by lighter grain receipts, but by the damage done to the grazing industry through the recent visitation of drought and locusts. Fortunately, owing to the good wheat and linseed harvests, the company already, since January 1, shows an increase in gross receipts of £93,000, or 7½ per cent., which should be further augmented before the leaner times set in. Besides this its receipts from general traffic are steadily growing, and the expense ratio last year leaves a fair margin for savings. Sooner or later, too, the amalgamation with the Central Argentine ought to be ratified by the Government—a matter that in itself will permit of some useful economies. And it must not be forgotten that "Rosies" have already fallen to a level which, allowing for the dividend now carried in the price, makes the yield on the 1906 dividend basis practically 6 per cent.

While discussing railway finance, I should like to draw my readers' attention to a very handy little statistical work published at 1s. 1d. post free by Messrs. F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall-avenue, E.C. This manual, which can be caried in one's pocket, gives a mass of figures relating to all the well-known railways at home and abroad, the information covering the past twenty years. It shows the capital of the companies, their earnings, dividends, highest and lowest prices, and a lot of other information of vital interest to the stockholder.

Railway Fixed Interest Stocks—Some Sound English, American, Colonial, and Foreign Securities that Yield from 4 to 4¾ per Cent.

If there is one thing more than another that has struck the financial writer, whose work has brought him into close touch with the investing public during the last few years, it has been the wholesale craving after securities "reasonably safe that yield between 4 and 5 per cent." My correspondence column for months past has bulged with replies to such queries. There are probably a number of reasons responsible for this general hunt after stocks outside the pale of strict trustee investments. To some extent, perhaps, the capitalist classes, owing to greater luxury in their mode of living, have been compelled to exchange from absolutely gilt-edged securities and to seek higher yielding stocks. But in the main, the explanation lies, firstly, in the fact that owing to dearness of money, borrowers with really high-class credit to pledge have had of late to pay extraordinary high rates on new issues; and secondly, in the remarkable forward movement that has been going on in the New World, which has raised the standard of many securities that a decade ago were mere speculative counters to the dignity of high-grade investments, although the returns available upon such securities still look generous when compared with those offered by the strict Trustee group. That there will always be a distinct margin between Trustee stocks and those not admitted within the charmed circle is inevitable. Further, as I showed in an article a few weeks ago, it is the stocks of the first water that have suffered most from the monetary stringency of the last few years, and, therefore, if, as seems likely, we are at last entering upon softer times in the Money Market, the gilt-edged group ought to soon begin showing signs of recuperation. However, my present object is to endeavour to cater for the many investors who want, first of all, an average of not less than say 4 to 4½ per cent.; second, as big a margin of safety as is compatible with such a yield; and third, securities that offer promise of going up. By attempting to fulfil this task I hope, not only to answer many present inquirers, but to save replying to a larger number of prospective querists. First, I would draw attention to fixed interest securities amongst British Rails that can be bought to yield about 4 to 4½ per cent., and have selected a dozen which are listed below:—

I.—HOME RAILWAY STOCKS.

Stock.	Interest per Cent.	Yield per Cent.
Barry Preferred	4	£4 1 9
Caledonian Preferred	3	4 8 6
Central London Preferred	4	4 6 6
City and South London 1903 Preference	5	4 10 6
Furness 1899 Preference	4	4 2 3
Glasgow and South-Western Preferred	2½	4 0 9
Great Central Preference 1879	5	4 4 0
Great Northern Preferred	4	4 1 9
London and South-Western Preferred	4	3 19 6
London, Brighton, and South Coast Preferred	6	4 7 6
Midland Preferred	2½	3 18 6
North British Preferred	3	4 8 6

To the investor who likes to have his investment, as it were, under his own eye, these stocks should make a strong appeal. The interest in all cases appears to be amply secured, while as regards "prospects" it is worth noting that only a year ago—which was hardly a period of inflation—not one of the group could be bought to yield 4 per cent. Cheaper money, therefore, ought to mean a fair levelling up of prices before we are much

The Danger to Health of obesity is not sufficiently emphasised. Stout people should know that "fatty degeneration" of the heart and liver is a constant menace to them. The *Sketch*, in writing about Antipon, says:—"This pleasant, rational, and most efficacious remedy may be warmly recommended to stout persons, as much for health's sake as for the attainment of perfect elegance of figure." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The Antipon Company, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

older. The stocks of the two leading Scottish lines look specially cheap. They have been brought down lately in sympathy with the deferred issues, which were depressed by unfavourable earnings, but nobody would suggest that there is a likelihood of the preferred interest going short, and before long the efforts being made to economise by more harmonious working between the two companies should have a beneficial effect upon the joint finances of the two concerns. Brighton preferred, too, now that it yields 4⅜ per cent. looks tempting, for although the dividend on Berthas may have to be pruned this year the matter is not one that seriously concerns holders of the preferred. The stocks of the two tube lines included in my table have also suffered to an unreasonable extent from the depression caused by the recent fight for metropolitan traffic.

I next come to the American Railroad area. My readers are fully aware of my objection to the common stocks of Yankee railroads as investments, but there is no reason why the bonds of the better class railroads should not be bought; those who confine their attention to this group need not be afraid that their action will provoke insomnia. The following table lists a baker's dozen of the bonds of railroads familiar to investors on this side:—

II.—AMERICAN RAILROAD BONDS.

Bond.	Interest per Cent.	Redeemable.	Yield per Cent. £ s. d.
Atchison Adjustment	4	1995	3 19 3
Baltimore and Ohio (Pittsburg Lake Erie)	4	1941	4 2 6
Chesapeake General Mortgage	4½	1992	4 5 3
Denver and Rio Grande 1st Mortgage	4	1936	4 1 9
Erie General Lien	4	1996	4 14 3
Louisville 1st Mortgage Collateral	5	1931	4 5 9
Missouri Kansas 2nd Mortgage	4	1990	4 15 3
National of Mexico 1st Cons. Mortgage	4	1951	4 13 6
New York Central (Mich. Cent. Col.)	3½	1998	4 0 0
Norfolk and Western 1st Consol.	4	1996	4 0 9
Northern Pacific General Lien	3	2047	4 1 0
Reading General Mortgage	4	1997	4 1 0
Southern Pacific (Central Pacific)	4	1949	4 9 6

In making my selection I have chosen only those bonds that have long "lives." Several of the issues run for nearly another century, while in the case of Northern Pacific General Liens the date of maturity has been relegated to 2047. The yields in seven instances do not exceed 4⅛ per cent., but, having regard to the enormous margin of income at present received in excess of fixed charges, the rate offered to the investor is distinctly generous. Erie Four per Cent. General Lien ought to be worth locking away now that they give a return of almost 4¾ per cent., while another bond that pays a similar rate to a present purchaser is Missouri Kansas Four per Cent. Second Mortgage. The margin behind this bond is small compared with that upon, say, New York Central bonds, but the road has lately given very gratifying evidence of progress, and in time, as the credit of the company improves, its bonds should stand at a higher level. Another attractive bond in the list is National of Mexico Four per Cent. First Mortgage. I have classed it with United States issues, as the company has its offices in New York, and its securities are dealt in along with Yankees. During the last few years the earnings of this road, along with those of other Mexican lines, have expanded at a remarkable rate, and the margin behind the bonded debt is now ample for all ordinary contingencies. The fact, too, that the Mexican Government itself has a controlling interest in the road is a point that adds a lot to the desirability of the company's securities from the investor's point of view.

(To be continued next week.)

KAFFIRS STILL QUIET, BUT A LITTLE "INVESTMENT" DEMAND NOTICEABLE—THE TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT FOR MARCH CAUSES SOME DISAPPOINTMENT—DIAMOND SHARES LESS ACTIVE.

The hoped-for influx of buying orders for Kaffirs from the investing public has not yet materialised, and the fact seems to have caused some disappointment among dealers in those descriptions. The Kaffir Market, however, is not the only department of the Stock Exchange in which business has been on a small scale during the past week, and when the public does decide to become more active in connection with Stock Exchange dealings, South African securities should receive a fair share of the attention. There is certainly more justification for picking up Kaffirs now than at any time during the last few years. The outlook for the mining industry is brighter, and, at the same time, share quotations are at a more attractive level, having depreciated considerably during the long period of uncertainty as regards the political outlook. As I mentioned in last week's notes, the Kaffir Market commenced the current account in good style. The demand, however, has not been maintained, and so prices have reacted to some extent. Market men had been anticipating a bumper Transvaal gold return for March, and the announcement of the figures caused some disappointment. Though satisfactory, the statistics were not as good as had been looked for, and the effect upon the tone of the market was adverse, professionals hastening to secure the profits available upon the commitments they had opened. While, however, the leading speculative counters have failed to maintain the best prices recently touched, the deep level group and the generality of the outcrop descriptions have been pretty firm, and here and there prices have improved as a result of "investment" demand. Most of the shares I specially mentioned a few weeks ago have been in request recently, and I still consider them worth attention. Below I give my comprehensive table of prices, showing the movement on the month:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	March 9, 1907.	April 13, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Angelo	5 7/16	2½	3½	3 5/16	+ 3/16
Anglo-French	2¾	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 13/16	- 1/16
Apex	6¾	2⅝	3½	3 7/16	- 1/16
Boksburg	1 7/16	11/16	⅝	⅝	- 1/16
Cinderella Deep	2⅝	1⅜	2 1/16	2⅛	- 1/16
City and Suburban (£4)	5½	3½	3⅜	3⅜	—
Consolidated Goldfields	6⅜	3	4½	4 13/16	+ 5/16
Consolidated Main Reef	1 1/16	⅝	1 3/16	1 3/16	—
Crown Deep	13½	10¼	12½	12	- ½
Crown Reef	13	7½	8½	8½	+ ½
De Beers Pref. (£2 10s.)	18¼	16⅜	18¼	17¼	- 1
,, ,, Def. (£2 10s.)	24 11/16	16⅜	21½	20⅜	-2⅛
Driefontein	3 1/16	1½	2 1/16	1 15/16	- ⅛
Durban Roodepoort	4	2⅜	2⅜	2½ xd	-3/-
East Rand Proprietary	7 3/16	3⅜	4 13/16	4 11/16	+ ⅛
Ferreira	20¼	17½	19	18⅜	- ½
Ferreira Deep	5⅝	4½	5⅜	5½	- ⅛
Geduld	5 1/16	1⅜	2⅛	2	- ⅛
Geldenhuis Estate	4⅜	3 3/16	2 15/16	2 15/16	+ 1/16
General Mining and Finance	2 1/16	1⅜	1 7/16	1 7/16	—
Goerz A. & Co.	3⅜	1 3/16	1 3/16	1½	- 1/16
Henderson's Transvaal	16/3	7/-	9/9	9/9	—
Jagersfontein Def.	10⅜	7 7/16	10 1/16	9¼	- ⅜
Johannesburg Con. Inv't	1⅜	1	1 1/16	1½	+ 1/16
Jubilee	3½	1½	1½	1½	- ⅛
Jupiter	2 3/16	15/16	1⅜	1⅜	+ 1/16
Knight's	4½	2 5/16	3 1/16	3⅜	+ 1/16
Langlaagte Estate	3	2 1/16	2⅜	2⅜	—
May Consolidated	3 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	- 1/16
Meyer and Charlton	4⅛	3⅜	4⅛	4⅜	- ⅛
New African	1 1/16	⅜	1	1	—
New Comet	3	1⅜	1 1/16	1½	- 1/16
New Goch	2½	⅞	1 1/16	1½	- 1/16
New Heriot	4½	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜	—
New Kleinfontein	1⅝	1⅜	2	2 1/16	+ 1/16
New Modderfontein (£1)	8 1/16	4 1/16	6 1/16	6⅜	+ 1/16
New Primrose	3½	2⅜	3 1/16	2⅜	- 1/16
Nigel	3¼	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	+ ⅛
Oceana Consolidated	1⅜	⅝	19/3	19/6	+ -/3
Premier Dia'md Def. (2s 6d.)	19⅞	8	12½	13¼	+1
Randfontein Estate	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 3/16x	+ 2/10½
,, North	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ ⅛
,, Porges	1 1/16	1⅜	1 1/16	1⅜	+ 1/16
,, Robinson	1½	⅝	1 1/16	1½	- 1/16
,, South	1⅜	1	1 1/16	1½	- 1/16
Rand Mines (5s. sh.)	7 1/16	5⅜	6 3/16	6 3/16	—
Robinson (£5)	8⅛	6⅞	9½	8⅜	- ⅜
Robinson Central Deep	6 1/16	4⅜	5 1/16	5⅜	- 1/16
Robinson Deep	5 1/16	4 1/16	5⅜	5⅛	- ⅛
Roodepoort United	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1½	- ⅛
South African Gold Mines	6	1⅜	1⅜	2	+ ⅛
South African Gold Trust	4⅜	1 3/16	2½	2½	—
Simmer and Jack	1 11/16	1½	1 1/16	1 3/16	- 1/16
Transvaal Consd. Land	2 1/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	- ⅛
Transvaal Est. and Dev'mt.	21/3	9/6	13/9	13/9	—
Transvaal Goldfields	1⅞	15/16	1⅛	1	- 1/16
Treasury	2⅜	15/16	1 1/16	⅞	- 1/16
Van Ryn	3⅜	2⅛	2 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16
Village Deep	3¼	1⅜	2⅜	2¼	- ⅛
Village Main Reef	4⅞	3¼	3 1/16	3⅛	- 1/16
Violet	2⅜	⅞	1 1/16	1	- 1/16
Welgedacht	6	2⅜	3¼	3 1/16	- 1/16
Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/16	2 1/16	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Wolhuter	3⅜	2⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16	—

ROMANO'S RESTAURANT, STRAND.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire."

"FINANCE."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

On the whole, business in the leading Diamond shares has been rather less active during the past week than hitherto, and the quotations of the leading shares have experienced a decline. This would appear to have been mainly due to rumours of difficulties in the diamond trade on the Continent, but nothing definite has transpired in that connection. New Vaal Rivers have come in for more attention and the quotation of the shares has fluctuated widely, having been nearly two points below the last making-up price at one time. No special reason for the severe relapse was forthcoming; on the other hand, the cables published in regard to the operations on the company's area read satisfactorily. Water is now available, and, according to a message dated Friday last, "greatest activity prevails amongst diggers on new area." A scarcity of labour, however, is reported.

As was to be expected, the Transvaal gold output for last month was largely in excess of the February return, the latter month being three days shorter, while in addition the Chinese holidays interrupted operations. The March figures are slightly better than those for January, but at first sight the latest return will not appear to constitute a record, as the October and December statistics are higher. It must be borne in mind, however, that the totals for those two months include large amounts representing gold reserves declared and extinguished. Under this head, 19,115 oz. figured in the December return, and if this amount is deducted, it will be seen that the March output is a record. The following table gives the monthly yields in fine ounces:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638	537,633
February	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668	493,542
March	217,405	308,242	399,823	443,723	538,497
April	227,871	305,946	399 166	439,243	—
May	234,125	314,480	416,395	461,202	—
June	238,320	308,219	412,317	475,975	—
July	251,643	307,940	419,505	491,793	—
August	271,918	312,277	428,581	503,115	—
September	276,197	312,286	416,487	505,111	—
October	284,541	325,625	415,527	540.609	—
November	279,813	336,167	424,757	533,373	—
December	286,061	362,264	431,594	550,167	—
Total	2,963,749	3,776,621*	4,897,221	5,786,617	1,569,677

* Includes 7,949 oz. or £33,786 not declared in year.

The monthly gold production is given in sterling in the subjoined table:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	846,489	1,226,846	1,588,508	1,820,739	2,283,741
February	834,739	1,229,726	1.545,371	1,731,664	2 096 434
March	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815	2,287,391
April	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	1,865,785	—
May	994.505	1,335,826	1,768 734	1,959,062	—
June	1,012,322	1,300,231	1,751,412	2,021,813	—
July	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	2,089,004	—
August	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	2,162,583	—
September	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	2,145,575	—
October	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	2,296,371	—
November	1,188,571	1,427 947	1,804.253	2 265,625	—
December	1,215,110	1,533,800	1,833,295	2,356,961	—
Totals	12,589,247	16,054,909	20,802,074	24,579,987	6,667,566

Individual results are set out below, and the satisfactory features will be noticed that substantially increased profits were earned last month by the East Rand subsidiaries, while for the first time the Robinson Deep ranks second highest in the list of the Rand's principal profit-earners, having (as I recently foreshadowed) passed the Simmer and Jack. On the other hand, the Robinson, which is at the top of the list, reports a somewhat smaller profit for March than for February:—

COMPANY.	January.		February.		March.	
	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £
Angelo	13,372	24,912	10,311	16,987	14,125	28,417
Bonanza	2,155	3,049	2,037	2,528	2,053	2,476
Cason	18,110	35,848	16,009	28,969	18,160	36,155
City and Suburban	10,159	16,570	9,262	14,342	10,091	16,658
Comet, New	7,842	7,838	6,790	4,991	7,842	6,363
Consolidated Langlaagte	6,859	7,722	6,700	7,585	7,238	8,479
Consolidated Main Reef	6,727	7,915	6,016	7,448	6,277	7,420
Crown Deep	13,808	24 250	12,956	24,100	14,356	26,600
Crown Reef	10,771	22,545	10,316	22,608	10,814	22,597
Driefontein	7,592	5,727	7,063	4,170	7,698	6,310
Durban-Roodepoort	4,498	5,900	4,203	5,950	4,598	—
Do. Deep	4,209	2,150	3,633	1,750	4,093	2,200
Ferreira	13,146	30,503	12,603	30,507	12,900	30,184
Ferreira Deep	13,664	34,350	12,813	32,150	13,442	34,550
French Rand	6,521	5,020	5,223	3,526	6,483	5,009
Geldenhuis Estate	6,641	3,921	6,191	12,745	6,581	13,957
Geldenhuis Deep	10,392	13,650	9,732	13,300	10,630	13,700
Ginsberg	2,445	1,538	2,531	2,490	2,679	2 443
Glencairn	5,152	6,174	4,844	6,116	5,027	6,069
Glen Deep	7,824	10.750	6,409	8,409	7,360	9,800
Glynn's Lydenburg	1,544	4,011	1,458	3,322	1,619	3,673
Goch, New	7,852	8,681	6,505	4,878	6,658	5,019
Heriot, New	3,900	4,703	3,904	5,006	3,897	4,727
Jubilee	1,698	—	1,718	3,322	1,855	—
Jumpers	5,796	7,490	5,330	6,090	5,831	7,086
Jumpers Deep	6,921	3,750	6,102	3,700	6,683	4,000
Kleinfontein, New	13,461	21.345	11,910	17,491	13,069	20.002
Knight's (Witwatersrand)	10,703	15,304	10,085	16,678	10,635	16,796
Knight's Deep	11,448	16,646	10,490	14,939	11,725	18.317
Lancaster	4,964	5,918	4,229	4,574	4,208	3,189
Lancaster West	2,232	1,811	2,143	1,753	2,340	2,082
Langlaagte Deep	11,038	11,000	10,314	10,200	10,960	10 550
Langlaagte Estate	10,194	15,500	9,250	13,800	10,031	16,000
Luipaard's Vlei	5,201	7,088	4,619	6,485	5,268	7,318
May Consolidated	5,874	11,991	5,666	11,656	5,818	11,771
Meyer & Charlton	5,874	11,339	5,434	10,470	5,902	11,818
Modderfontein, New	6,904	8,009	6,370	7,834	8,163	9,959
New Unified	2,658	1,132	2,535	1.148	2,646	1,333
Nigel	4,004	6,500	3,702	5,935	4,126	6,611
Nigel Deep	1,910	1,052	1,833	1,043	1,933	1,363
North Randfontein	6,146	6,600	5,370	5,500	6,317	7,200
Nourse Mines	13,059	17,000	11,745	16.450	12,741	17.800
Porges Randfontein	6,409	8,200	5,876	8,000	6,003	7.500
Primrose, New	7,985	16,286	6,997	13,714	7,295	13,956
Princess	3,929	5,178	3,463	3,471	3,844	4,721
Rietfontein, New	9,679	17,056	9,005	15,328	9,678	17.533
Robinson	22,090	60,468	21,514	60,461	22,250	60,424
Robinson Central Deep	11,232	31,752	10,577	30,208	11,287	31,103
Robinson Deep	20,047	40,939	18,513	36,014	42,919	44 032
Robinson Randfontein	5,353	3,500	5.595	5,800	6,008	6,800
Roodepoort Central Deep	2,922	2,004	2,787	2,240	3,243	3,693
Roodepoort United	5,659	7,202	4,872	5,331	5,888	7,322
Rose Deep	10 020	11,900	9,291	11,000	10,359	13,000
Salisbury	1,770	1,755	1,720	1.870	1,840	1,850
Sheba	2,100	—	2,332	1,720	2,345	—
Simmer East	11,081	9,000	10,053	7,040	10,633	5,316
Simmer & Jack	24,419	47,078	21,100	39 542	23,143	43,852
South Randfontein	5,648	4,500	5,248	5,100	5,723	6,600
Transvaal G. M. Estates	4,266	6,010	4,048	5,541	4 642	—
Treasury	2,823	1,051	2,592	480	2 931	1,003
Van Ryn	10,304	19,772	8,616	16,343	9,975	19,131
Village Deep	9,050	8,750	7,367	4,765	8,464	5,250
Village Main Reef	15,400	24,155	14,552	24,008	15,578	25,007
Vogelstruis Estates	2,504	2,671	—	—	2,457	—
West Rand Central	963	450	905	430	909	475
Windsor	1,383	207*	1 330	*106	1,424	2
Witwatersrand Deep	11,682	19,302	11,393	19,877	12,358	21,029
Worcester	1,393	—	1,019	—	1,063	—
Wolhuter	5,750	4,208	5,498	3,399	5,576	4,020

* Loss.

Now that the returns are to hand for the first quarter of 1907, it is interesting to see how some of the mines are doing in relation to their capitalisation. Some weeks ago I gave a short list of what I considered promising selections among Kaffirs, and included in this list were the shares of five producing mines, namely, Glencairn, Knights, New Kleinfontein, Robinson Deep, and Witwatersrand Deep. Having suggested these shares to my readers, I have collated their returns for the last three months, and in the table below show the rate per annum being earned in each case on the issued capital:—

Mine.	Issued Capital.	Profits Earned First Quarter, 1907.	Rate per Annum on Issued Capital.
	£	£	Per Cent.
Glencairn	550,000*	18,359	13
Knights	425,000	48,778	45
New Kleinfontein	900,000	58,838	26
Robinson Deep	980,000	120,935	49
Witwatersrand Deep	500,000*	60,208	48

* Also debentures.

Of course, the above percentages are to be considered as no more than an approximate guide as to to dividend

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CURIO CLUB.—The London Opinion Curio Club will be open after April 15th. For terms of membership apply, Curio Editor, *London Opinion*, 36, Southampton-street, Strand.

prospects, the calculation being on gross earnings, from which the profits tax will have to be deducted, and, in the case of three of the companies, debenture interest also. Still, the figures should be of interest as indicating that dividends should be forthcoming which would represent a satisfactory yield on the current market values of the shares. In this connection it is interesting to note that at the annual meeting of the New Kleinfontein Company, a report of which is just to hand by mail from Johannesburg, the chairman referred to the increased dividend paid for the past year, and said he had every reason to anticipate that the distribution for the current year would show a still further improvement. It appears that the directors of this company have in view the erection of twenty additional stamps with a corresponding increase in both cyanide and slimes plants, it being estimated that the profit will thereby be increased by over £2,000 a month. The management, however, is awaiting a definite statement in regard to the retention of the Chinese before proceeding in the matter. If the scheme is to be carried out the necessary funds will be raised by means of a loan to be repayable over a period of time out of the additional profits earned by the additional plant; this will obviate interference in any way with the profits at present earned. The annual report of the African and European Investment Company is just issued, and it shows that active prospecting operations have been continued on the company's farms in the Pietersburg district. Numerous reefs have been located, and development work carried out on the most promising. Prospecting for diamond deposits has also been undertaken, and some discoveries have been reported from the Zoutpansberg district. Among the company's interests is a holding in the Roberts Victor Diamonds, a promising proposition in the Orange River Colony, which has just declared its first dividend.

Interest in Rhodesians Centred upon the Banket Group in view of the Eldorado Developments—Globe and Phœnix Position.

In the Rhodesian market the amount of business transacted during the past week was small, but the shares of the Banket group again came in for some attention in view of the news to hand from the Eldorado mine. This is undoubtedly the best mining proposition whose shares are quoted in this section of the mining markets, and in view of the information to hand as to the way the property is opening up, it is not surprising that the shares of the companies interested attract notice. The cable announcing that assay value of the reef at the fourth level is high has been followed by a message that at the same level the parallel reef has been intersected. The assay value of this body is low, but as development proceeds it may be found to improve, as has been the case at the level above. The mail report for February now to hand shows that at the second level the ore shoot had there been proved for a distance of 697 ft., the average value being 22.7 dwts. over a width of 62 in., while at the third level at the date of the report the ore body was 465 ft. in length, and of an average value of 25 dwts. over a width of 58 inches. It should not be long now before the Eldorado joins the list of gold producers, and in view of the ore values mentioned satisfactory profits should be earned. The annual report of the Globe and Phœnix Company is now issued, and while it shows a maintenance of dividends at 4s. per share, it is not, on the whole, a very pleasing document compared with that for 1905. More ore was treated in the last twelve months, and working costs were lower by 3s. per ton, but the net profit amounted to £39,540, as against £50,264 for the previous year. The ore reserves are larger in quantity than a year ago, but less in value; and as regards the development of the mine, the outlook is very uncertain. Were the position more assured, the shares would appear a promising purchase at the present price, but as things stand they must be considered decidedly speculative. I append a table of prices showing the movements on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 6, 1907.	Apl. 13, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	7/8	8/8	8/8	—
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2½	1 7/8	1 13/16	1½	+ 3/16
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	4/6	4/6	—
Globe & Phœnix	1 1/8	1/8	3/8	3/8	—
Lomagunda Development	2½	3/4	27/32	27/32	+ 1/16
Mashonaland Agency	1/2	3/8	7/-	7/-	—
Northern Copper	2 1/16	1/8	1 25/32	1 13/16	+ 3/16
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	3½	1 7/8	1 15/16	1 15/16	+ 1/16
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/8	1½	1 13/16	1 15/16	+ ⅛
Rice Hamilton	1½	7/16	29/32	½	+ 3/32
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	3/6	3/6	—
Tanganyika Concessions	8 1/4	3⅛	4 3/4	4 13/16	+ 1/16
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	7/-	6/9	- 3/8
Zambesia Exploring	2⅜	¾	1½	1 5/8	+ 1/8

Fair Interest in Westralians Maintained—Spurt in Great Fingalls—The Golden Horseshoe, Boulder Perseverance and Ivanhoe Annual Reports.

The slight improvement in business conditions recently apparent in the Westralian market has been maintained during the past week. It will be seen from the table of prices below that the chief movement has occurred in Great Fingalls:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 6, 1907.	Apl. 13, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	5	1 1/8	1 5/8	1 5/32	- 3/32
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1⅜	7/8	25/32	¾	+ 3/32
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/9	4/6	- 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6⅜	4¾	7 3/16	6⅜	- 3/16
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	23/3	23/9	+ 6d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/3	6/-	- 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 9/16	2½	1 1/2	2⅛	+ ⅛
Hainault	1 1/2	1¼	1⅛	1⅛	—
Ivanhoe (£5)	7¾	6 1/16	7½	7 1/2	+ 3/16
Kalgurli	12½	8⅜	11⅜	11½xd.	+ ¼
Lake View Consols	1 7/16	¾	1 1/16	1 3/32	+ 1/32
L. & W. A. Exploration	21 10½	8/6	14/6	13/-	-1/6
Oroya Brownhill	3¼	2	1 31/32	1 31/32	—
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	—
South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1/4	5/8	21/32	+ 1/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 5/8	1½	1 3/4	1 7/8	- ⅛
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	½	⅜	4/6	4/-	- 6d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1 1/16	⅜	- 1/16

The spurt in Great Fingalls has not been accounted for by the receipt of any specially favourable news from the mine, though there was talk on the market at the time of Colonial buying of the shares. It will certainly require a very good mining development to justify the rise in the market value of the shares. While Fingalls have been on the up grade, Horseshoes have moved in the opposite direction, the directors' report not confirming the highly favourable rumours recently circulated as to the company's position. As a matter of fact the report makes a less satisfactory showing than that for 1905. More ore was treated during the last twelve months, but the revenue balance amounted to £248,816, as against £305,604 for the preceding twelve months, and the dividends paid in respect of the past year totalled 16s. per share, as against 18s. per share for the previous year. Working costs have been reduced by nearly 2s. 6d. per ton, and the manager anticipates that he will be able to effect a similar reduction in the current year. It is worthy of note that the management of this mine has at last discontinued sending ore to the smelters for treatment, the whole of the output now being obtained from ore treated on the mine. If this policy had been adopted earlier the company's profits would have been still larger, and, so far as I am aware, there is no valid reason why this company should not have dealt with all its ore on the spot, as the Ivanhoe and Great Boulder, whose mines adjoin the Horseshoe, have done. The consequence has been that the Horseshoe's working expenses have been in excess of those of the Ivanhoe and of the Great Boulder, and now that the practice has been abandoned, there should not be any difficulty in effecting the further reduction the manager foreshadows. As regards the value of Horseshoes, the yield on the basis of the past year's dividends works out at 11.6 per cent. per annum on the market price of the shares. The first interim dividend on account of the current year, however, is 6s. per share, against 5s. per share a year ago,

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, N.—£7,000 owing to Bankers. £10,000 needed annually from voluntary sources.—Lewis H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

and in the event of the larger rate being maintained the shares will yield 13 per cent. But even with this prospect, Horseshoes are not so attractive as Ivanhoes, the yield on the latter being larger, while as regards ore reserves the mine is in quite as good a position as the Horseshoe, the tonnage opened up in each case representing fully four years' supply. The report of the Ivanhoe for the past year shows that a smaller profit was earned than in 1905, but the rate of dividend is maintained at 24 per cent., and the company is adding £10,000 to reserve. Working costs were reduced during 1906, and in the first quarter of the current year the amount has been lowered still further. With improvement also in the percentage of extraction, it is expected to steadily maintain profits, and on the basis of the distributions in respect of the past year, the yield on the shares at the current price works out at 15.6 per cent. per annum. The Great Boulder Perseverance reports a profit of £105,789 for the past year, as against £142,152 for 1905, and the dividends paid on account of the last twelve months have amounted to 1s. per share, compared with double that sum in respect of the previous year. Perhaps the most satisfactory feature disclosed by the annual report is the economy that has been effected in connection with the treatment of the ore. Not only have working costs been reduced by over 3s. per ton, but the percentage of extraction has been improved. Moreover, the manager is confident that working costs will be still further reduced, and an even better rate of extraction obtained. The ore reserves position of this mine I commented upon some weeks ago, and expressed the opinion that the shares were over rather than under valued at the price then ruling. Since then the quotation has declined, but even at the present level there does not seem much attraction in a purchase of the shares, as the profit in sight represented by the ore reserves is only equivalent to about 50 per cent. of the current market price.

Copper Shares Generally Quieter, but Great Cobars an Active Feature—"Props." in Favour Among Broken Hills on Dividend Anticipations—West Africans Revive—Champion Reef's Reduced Distribution.

Speculative interest has not been fully maintained at the recent rate in the Copper group during the past week. The leading shares, however, have experienced some large movements in their quotations. They have fluctuated mainly in sympathy with the quotation for the metal, which, after showing a tendency to improve, broke away sharply. As regards the shares, a feature has been the activity in Great Cobars, which were bid up about a point one day, only to lose the bulk of the advance in the following session. The spurt was attributed to Colonial and Continental buying, and in the market on this side the talk as to the prospects of an early dividend was revived, but the optimism was quickly damped, a cable coming to hand from the property announcing a labour strike, as a result of which, it was stated, production had been suspended, and only pumping was being carried on at the mines. This trouble, however, has been overcome, according to the latest message from the property. Other Australian copper shares have been affected by liquidation in connection with the Settlement, but Mount Morgans have been a cheerful exception, having been in persistent demand.

Apart from the weakness of Zinc Corporations, which is mainly attributed to liquidation from the North, the Broken Hill has continued cheerful in tone. Chief speculative attention recently has been paid to Props, which have been bought in expectation of the next dividend being at an increased rate. Such anticipations have been indulged in on previous occasions, and have not been fulfilled, but this time there is good reason to think that the hopes are well founded. At the last meeting of the Broken Hill Proprietary, it may be remembered, the Chairman said the financial position was stronger than it had ever been, and the board was of opinion that, with the accumulation of £250,000, sufficient strength had been reached to provide a reserve for every reasonable contingency. He added, "in future profits will be available for dividends." In view of this official declaration, it is thought the directors cannot very well keep the next dividend down to half-a-crown per share. Market men are consequently looking for at least 3s. per share. In the event of the rate being increased to and maintained at this amount, the yield on the shares at the current price will be about 13 per cent.

West Africans have come in for more attention than for some weeks past, and prices have not been slow to reflect the better feeling in the market. The March returns of some of the mines have given satisfaction, and recent developments in one or two properties have been of a character calculated to encourage speculators, but whether the public will feel disposed to take an active part in this section of the mining market remains to be seen. Already prices have had a fair advance, as the following table shows:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 6, 1907.	Apl. 13, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1⅛	1 7/16	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/6	16/6	—
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/16	1½	1 15/16	1⅞	+ 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	2⅛	+ 1/16
Wassau	1⅜	½	⅝	11/16	+ 1/16
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/6	1/6	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	2/-	2/-	—
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	24/9	24/6	-3d.
Esperanza	5 5/16	2⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1⅜	1 1/16	+ 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	38/1½	40/-	+1/10½
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5⅞	3 7/16	4 1/16	4 1/8	+ 3/16
Zinc Corporation	2⅛	1 1/16	26,3	18/6	- 7/9
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15⅝	11⅛	13¼	13	- ¼
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/16	3	68/-	66/6	- 1/6
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4⅜	9 7/16	10½	+ 1/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	47/-	47/-	—
Mount Morgan	4¾	3⅛	4	4 1/16xd	+4/9
Rio Tinto (£5)	91¼	63⅜	89½	86½	- 2½
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	23/-	22/6	- 6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 9/16	¾	2¼	2 1/16	- ⅛
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	17/6	16/-xd	- 3d.
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	12/3	10/3	- 2/-
Mysore (10/-)	7⅛	5½	6 1/16	5 5/16	- ⅛
Siberian Mines	2⅛	1 1/16	1½	1⅛	—
Siberian Proprietary	16⅞	8⅛	3¾	4¼	+ ½
Waihi	9 1/16	6 7/16	8⅛	9 1/16	+ 1/16

Among other mining descriptions, a sharp relapse in Champion Reefs was one of the features of the past week. This was due to disappointment at the much-reduced dividend declared by the directors, the first in respect of the current financial year. The amount is 4d. per share, as against 9d. per share this time last year. My readers, however, have been prepared for the reduction, which is due to the comparatively poor results that attended development work at this mine for some time past. One or two of the other Indian shares are also easier, though there has been some demand for Balaghats, whose report I commented upon last week.

Insurance Notes—Cheap Life Assurance—Policies for Short Terms—Convertible Policies—Without Profit Assurance—Discounted Bonus System.

The great need of many people is to obtain the largest possible amount of life assurance at a given annual cost. Perhaps, therefore, I cannot do better than explain, as simply as may be, various methods of providing, say, £1,000 at death in return for a very small annual premium. Since matters of this kind are much more clearly understood by the help of concrete illustrations than they are by mere general descriptions, and since the cost of life assurance depends upon the age of the person insured at the time of taking the policy, I will show precisely what can be done by a man who is aged thirty-five at the time he takes the policy.

The very cheapest policy of all is what is called Term insurance. A man can pay a premium annually, or if he prefers half-yearly or quarterly, throughout a short term of years, and if he dies within the term £1,000 is paid to his estate; if he survives the term the transaction is at an end; nothing is paid to his

estate and no part of the premiums which he has paid are returned to him. Under a policy of this kind my typical man can pay £9 5s., and if he dies within one year his heirs will receive £1,000. If he wants the policy to run for five years instead of for only one year, he can pay £11 5s. a year, and if he dies within the five years his family receives £1,000. If at the end of the five years he is still living, he has paid £56 5s. altogether, no part of which is returned to him.

Term policies of this kind are seldom of much use except perhaps in connection with loans and other special circumstances; but they serve to illustrate in quite effective fashion a very important feature in life assurance, which most people generally overlook. I mean the protection against the financial loss which might be involved by premature death. If 1,000 people insure their lives for £1,000, which is to be paid if they die within one year, some out of the 1,000 are sure to die, and the payments made by those who survive will provide the funds for paying the claims on the policies of those who die. Put in this simple fashion, most people can realise not merely that such insurance protection necessarily involves cost to an insurance company, but that the chance of their family receiving £1,000 has both a mathematical and a commercial value, in exactly the same way as the protection afforded by a fire insurance policy is worth what it costs, even if we do not have a fire, and as a ticket in a fair lottery is worth the price paid for it, even if we do not win a prize.

Except in very special circumstances Term insurance of the kind which I have just described is not at all a good kind of policy for people to take. By the time the term agreed upon has expired the policy-holder may be in bad health, or may be no better off than he was before, and further insurance may be impossible. There is no known method of providing life assurance for nothing, and the absolutely impecunious man must perforce do without it; but if a man has a small income to-day and reasonable expectations of a larger income a few years hence, he can make very good use of Term insurance in a slightly modified form. He can, for instance, at age thirty-five, pay £14 10s. a year, and if he dies at any time within fifteen years—provided he has kept up the payment of the premiums—his family will receive £1,000. This "Convertible Term" policy, as it is called, gives him, however, a very valuable option. At any time within the fifteen years, and without any further medical examination, he can change this Convertible Term policy for some more satisfactory, if more expensive, kind of assurance. He can, for instance, take a policy, subject to the payment of annual premiums so long as he lives, for any amount not exceeding £1,000 (or whatever the amount of his Term policy may be), upon which he has to pay annual premiums at an increased rate so long as he lives. If he prefers to take a policy for £1,000, under which the sum assured is paid when he reaches the age of, say, sixty-five, or at death if it occurs before, he has the right to do this, but it involves the payment of a still higher premium. Whenever he changes his Term policy for one of a more permanent and valuable kind he has to pay the premium on the new policy appropriate to the age at which he makes the change. The Convertible Term policy simply guarantees the amount of the sum insured in the event of his death within the specified term, and confers upon him the right to change to some other kind of insurance without any further medical examination. This latter point is one which may prove to be of inestimable value. These Convertible Term policies are very suitabe to a man who has others dependent upon him and whose income is very limited for the present, although there are reasonable prospects of his being able to afford to pay more a little later on; they give the option of changing to other forms of insurance at any time within the agreed term of years. The sooner the man can make the change, the better it is for him.

If the future holds but little prospect of an increased income, the best plan is to take a policy, subject to the payment of premiums at an uniform rate throughout the whole of life. In these circumstances two different kinds of policies claim consideration. In the first place there is an ordinary Whole Life policy, that does not share in the profits of the insurance company; at age thirty-five a man would have to pay £22 a year so long as he lived in order to make sure that his family would receive £1,000 whenever he died. This contract is certain and unalterable; neither the premium nor the sum assured will vary in the least. The insurance companies have been very materially modifying their charges for policies of this sort, and several of the best companies now issue these policies at very low rates of premium, and when taken from a good company at a low annual premium there is much about them that is very attractive.

There is, however, another plan, by means of which policies which share in the profits of the company can be obtained at an even lower annual cost. Instead of paying £22 a year to assure £1,000, a man can pay £21 a year with the possibility that if he lives for some years the sum assured under the policy may be slightly more than £1,000. This result is arrived at by a process of "discounting bonuses." The system is this: The actuary of a life office says that he expects the bonuses in the future to be at a certain rate, and instead of letting the policy-holder pay a higher premium than is necessary, and giving part of it back when the actual profits of the office have been ascertained, the actuary anticipates these future bonuses, and allows them from the outset in the form of a reduction of the premium which the policy-holder has to pay. The life office discounts the anticipated future bonuses in the same way that a banker discounts a bill. If the actual bonuses declared by the company are larger than the actuary has calculated for, then the difference is paid to the policy-holder; if, on the other hand, the declared bonuses are smaller than the bonuses discounted, the difference has to be paid by the policy-holder; it is because of this latter provision that the annual premium on these discounted bonus policies can be at a slightly lower rate than the premiums for policies which do not participate in the profits.

In choosing a life assurance company from which to take a discounted bonus policy, it is important to select an office which shows good prospects of maintaining in the future the rate of bonus which has been calculated upon: it is disappointing to a policy-holder who thinks he is assured for £1,000 to find after a few years that the amount for which he is assured is perhaps only £950 or £900. He is not really any worse off than any other policy-holder who buys a policy which shares in the profits of the company, and who finds that the bonuses are less than he expected they would be, but in the ignorant, irrational way in which most people think about life assurance, it proves exceptionally exasperating when a policy which is nominally for £1,000 really assures only a smaller sum. The reduction is in accordance with the contract, and the assured has no real cause of complaint, but in this case, as in all others connected with assurance matters, the choice of an appropriate policy in a good company betters expectation rather than disappoints anticipation.

There are sundry other methods of assuring at low premiums for, as an example, the first five years with a definite increase in the premium after that time; but on the whole these and other kindred plans are somewhat less satisfactory for policy-holders in search of cheap life assurance than the various other policies which I have described.

The London Scottish Bucket-Shop.

Here is a concrete case in substantiation of what I have repeatedly said concerning the "stock unions" (a euphemism for "blind pools") of the London Scottish Stock and Share Exchange, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C. Deluded by the usual mendacious prospectus, a lady—the sex provides these bucket-shop keepers with their easiest prey—put £20 into one of the so-called "unions." In due course she was informed that the operation (in Eries) had been closed at a total loss; but unfortunately though once bit she was not twice shy, a speciously-worded explanation inducing her to try her luck again to the extent of £10. It is almost superfluous to say

that the result was the same. According to the "letter of advice" and "closing note" from A. Murray, manager of the London Scottish Exchange, the £10 vanished in a deal in Southern Pacifics on a one per cent. margin, the transaction being—so it was alleged—opened on March 28 and closed the same day "owing to the margin having became exhausted." Murray exhorted the lady to join yet another "stock union," about to be formed "with a view of reimbursing our subscribers," but her faith, like the margin, had become exhausted. The story scarcely needs any comment. Obviously, Murray is either a fool or a rogue—a fool if he actually opened these operations in American Rails, at that time in a very jumpy condition, on a one per cent. margin; a rogue if he simply pocketed his dupes' money and then informed them that it had been lost. I leave it to my readers to solve this conundrum.

Since writing the above, I have heard from another lady who has been victimised by the same bucket-shop. Her letter is interesting as an example of the innocence of the people on whom such sharks as Murray prey. "I received," she writes, "a prospectus inviting me to buy shares in a stock union. There was nothing to suggest that the shares could not be sold—in fact, that the money would not be returned. A 10 per cent. commission on profits only was to be their 'only remuneration.'" Gulled by the prospectus into believing that she was making a sound investment, the lady forwarded £10 for one share, and next day she received a wire to the effect that the market was very favourable, and that she could have more shares, whereupon she forwarded another £10. Her £20 was, of course, lost. After this story, it is absurd to beat about the bush in speaking of A. Murray.

To Readers East of Suez.

I am afraid that my readers at home must be rather weary of warnings against the touting dealers in foreign premium or lottery bonds. I can assure them that I am myself quite tired of writing such warnings. Nevertheless, I feel bound to pen another for the special benefit of many correspondents in India and elsewhere in the East. India, which has long been a happy hunting ground of the notorious Paris firm of Cunliffe, Russell and Co., is now being raided by the rival crew of kindred tricksters who call themselves the International Securities Syndicate, 23, Westminster Palace-gardens, S.W. The latter are now following up their extensive advertising campaign in the newspapers here by a similar outburst in the Anglo-Indian press, and every mail from the East brings me a budget of letters of inquiry concerning this "form of investment." It may therefore be useful to state once more that the advertisements in question—which, by the way, appear in some of the papers in the guise of editorial matter—are a delusion and a snare. The bonds offered are not, properly speaking, an investment at all but a gamble, and a poor one at that. Of course, fortune may smile on any purchaser of a bond—or it may not. The other day I heard from a man who was gulled into paying between £90 and £100 for a "combination" of bonds actually worth about £56. He was dazzled by the prospect that he might draw a big prize. He wishes now that he had ascertained what the odds were against his doing so. It is nearly eight years since he bought his bonds, but though one was drawn for repayment at its par value (less than he paid for it) he has never gained any premium—a fact which he desired me to commend to the notice of people who count upon getting, as the advertisements promise, "all the excitement of speculation without any of the attendant risks." What they are much more likely to experience is the hope deferred that maketh the heart sick. But apart from any question as to the speculative merits of the bonds, dealings with touting firms like the International Securities Syndicate ought to be avoided for the simple reason that they charge prices enormously in excess of the current market value of the bonds. The syndicate has a high-sounding title, but who are the parties behind it? What is their record? I should be much surprised if an answer to these questions did not afford an additional reason for giving this concern a wide berth.

Notes on New Issues.

Only two of the prospectuses of the week call for notice. Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co. have invited applications for an issue of £327,642 sterling four per cent. debentures of the City of Winnipeg, at par. According to a statement by the comptroller, the city has outstanding debentures, including this issue, totalling $9,699,525, but of this $5,906,998 is represented by remunerative undertakings, leaving a net debt of $3,792,527. The debentures are redeemable by sinking funds. Winnipeg is a progressive Canadian city, and this seems to be a fair municipal investment. The Vogelsfontein Diamond Mine, Limited, has been formed with a capital of £300,000 to acquire a mining area in the immediate neighbourhood of the well-known Jagersfontein mine in the Orange River Colony. The present issue consists of 80,000 shares of £1 each. Certain mining operations have already been carried out on the property, and a favourable report is made by Mr. W. G. Churchward.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

Lady Godiva.—It is possible that the stock is not dealt in sufficiently often to warrant an official quotation. I do not see, however, what bearing this matter has upon the quality of the investment. *Elmbank, Glasgow.*—You could get fully another ¼ per cent. on what is virtually the same security by exchanging from Consols to Irish Land stock. The price of the latter constitutes an anomaly that cannot last indefinitely. With regard to your last question I must refer you to my rule, No. 8.

Railways.

R. L. B.—Yes; see last week's comments. *Welshman.*—Pending the issue of the first report I am unable to form a proper idea of the company's position. The fall in the price of the debentures has been due, I understand, to rate-cutting between the company and a rival concern. *Colwyn Bay.*—Of those you name Atchison Preferred, Reading Preferred, and Norfolk Preferred would be fair selections, but I do not care for the others. *Beacon.*—Nos. 2 and 3 would be fair, but I do not see much attraction in the others. See this week's article on Railway fixed interest stocks. *Simon.*—1. See answers under "Insurance." 2. The stock should go better in sympathy with the market as a whole, and I would therefore not be in any hurry to get out.

Mines.

Whitevale.—1. The Westralians named should have some recovery later on, but you might do better by transferring the money to something more active at present. 2. Hold. *Tugela.*—I should be inclined to realise and put the proceeds into shares with an active market. *Glenthorne.*—I have no record of the company you mention having been absorbed by any other undertaking. *J. J. C.*—A fair speculation for a moderate profit in view of the expected early commencement of production. *S. C.*—There is no reason at present to anticipate a substantial advance in the price of the shares, but you may as well keep them for the dividends. There is, of course, a chance of a favourable development occurring in the mine, in which event the price would be likely to improve. *Burlington.*—The first two are very speculative, and for a holding I should much prefer the others. *H. C.*—I would hold in hope of some recovery when business becomes more active.

Reader, Amsterdam.—1. The shares should have some recovery in time, but I would not put too much money into one concern. 2. They are 10s. shares. 3 and 4. If you mean to buy them you may as well do so at once.

Mixed.

Ubique.—All the railway issues are sound investments, and I would not part with any of them. No. 2 should also be held. *Patsey.*—1. I see very little attraction in these. 2. A hopeful speculative holding. 3. Yes, for the reasons mentioned at length in recent articles. *Cestria.*—You have been well advised, and I doubt if I could improve on your list. If the sum be large spread it over the six. *Brigade Major.*—1. In the absence of an official report I do not care to express an opinion upon these bonds. Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are sound enough to keep. 5. I have a poor opinion of these. *Barroom.*—1. The stock is officially quoted at 2—3, but it is, of course, quite a nominal market. I see no prospect of a recovery from this rubbish price. 2 and 3. Yes. *Vaga.*—1. I have anticipated the requirements of yourself and others by an article on railway fixed interest securities, which appears in this issue. You ought to have no difficulty in making suitable selections from the lists given. 2. I do not anticipate any substantial improvement. *E. B., Leeds.*—The cost price would be £1,315 1s. 3d. *Rachim.*—1. Of their class they are fairly attractive. 2. If the country continues to prosper they might be worth holding. *Lodor.*—They could, I think, be improved upon. *Bankerd.*—Ask your broker to find a market. If he cannot, then you may consider the stock hopeless. *S.*—It is understood that the concern continues prosperous. If you are doubtful you had better cut the loss at once. *W. G. B.*—The fall is due to the unsatisfactory financial position of the undertaking. Sell the shares on any temporary recovery. *Banto.*—Port of Para bonds were called 3 to 1 discount on that date. As to the others they are not quoted officially, and you had better inquire of your broker. *Illustrious.*—1. Fair of its class. 2. Are talked still higher. 3 and 4. Are fairly attractive investments. *Triumph.*—The Bank shares ought to be held for an improvement in South African conditions. 2. They make a fair speculative purchase. 3. Vickers and Armstrongs are the best of the three. *Cognitio.*—In the case of Bank shares the possibilities of an advance in values are remote. The liability in respect of uncalled capital is very small. The shares named are not unattractive as pure investments. As to money lending, you had better consult a solicitor.

Insurance.

J. W. O.—The Equity and Law is an excellent society, in which you can have the utmost confidence. It is not so good as it was, but still it is very good. *Simon.*—1. The company you inquire about is a respectable Colonial office, but I should prefer an English company. *E. C. B., H. W.*—There is no particular objection to the arbitration clause in policies issued by good companies, which offer better security than individual underwriters. *Bugle Major.*—1. This question was answered last week under "Mining." 2. Insurance against every form of sickness is very expensive. Try the Profits and Income Insurance Company, 9, Fleet Street. *Felix.*—1. The transaction is unlikely, but you might apply to the Eagle Insurance Company, Pall Mall. *Fides.*—1. I should not apply for these shares. 2. The head office of the Essex and Suffolk is at Colchester; the London office is at 58, New Broad Street. *Satara.*—The best course for you largely depends upon your age and that of your wife; also upon whether you are likely to remain long in India. The best terms can be obtained from a company which does not do business in India. If you will reply to me on these points I will let you know the exact terms.

Miscellaneous.

E. G., C. D. R., Bombay Duck, Sergeant-Major, Cautious, Bonds, and others.—The only advice I give with regard to these premium or lottery bonds is that you should leave them alone. Read my remarks in another column on such touting firms as Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and the International Securities Syndicate. *X. O. O. X.*—1. They are members of the London Stock Exchange; but see Rule 8. 2. "The Stock Exchange," published in Methuen's "Books on Business" series, price 2s. 6d., would be useful. 3 and 4. I cannot recommend any newspaper for financial advice—except Truth. *A. M.*—It is not worth joining. *G. R., Newcastle.*—The Laurie and Vincent bucket-shop has already been noticed in Truth. *Margin, Northants.*—Not a "safe investment" at all, but a system of speculation by which you would be almost certain to lose. Put your savings in the Post Office Savings' Bank. *B. C. F.*—I know of nothing against the concern, but see Rule 8. It is, however, better to deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. *G. M.*—So far as I know, it is trustworthy for the purpose mentioned, though the business must be more risky than that of an ordinary bank. *Calamus.*—Do not join any such "blind pools." *Clifton.*—No. *Mervino.*—Probably the firm might be relied upon for the purpose; the complaints against them are based on other grounds. Still, it would perhaps be more prudent to collect through some other channel. *Kismet.*—I have had no occasion to criticise the concern mentioned; but you would be unwise to deal on that system, especially as you are so far away. *Sir J. S.*—Thanks for the documents; you will see my remarks on the case. *Duns.*—It would be easy to ascertain—no doubt your bank would tell you—whether you were overcharged. I have had no occasion to criticise the firm. *Ignoramus.*—1. Eastwood and Co. are bucket-shop keepers, with whom you should have no dealings; see the article headed "Heads we Win, Tails you Lose," in Truth, March 6. 2. I have not had occasion to criticise this concern; but I cannot make any recommendation. *J. W. G.*—Thanks for your letter. *Gael.*—It is impossible to express a definite opinion without seeing the exact form of the contract notes, etc. Judging from what you say, however, I am afraid the Gaming Act could be successfully pleaded, and in any case I doubt whether it would be worth while to sue such a firm. If you will send me the papers I will repeat the warning I have previously published against this swindling bucket-shop. *E. D.*, and other correspondents.—Wm. Tyler and Co. have frequently been pilloried in Truth. *G. C. A.*—Nearly all the shares are worthless, unsaleable rubbish. If you will forward the booklet in question I will put the public on their guard against this scheme. *Puck.*—A rise is very probable. *L. C. B.*—Read my remarks in another column. *Week-Ender, A. T.*, and others.—Your inquiries shall be answered next week. *Felix.*—1. See answers under "Insurance." 2. Try a stock broker. 3. As an investment they could be improved upon. 4. Yes, provided the question and also merits are thoroughly studied. *Fides.*—1. and 2. See answers under "Insurance." 3. Fair speculations for ultimate improvement. 4. I do not see much attraction in joining the reconstruction.

Industrials Still Improving—Textiles in Demand—Iron and Steel Shares—Drapery Companies—Motor Shares Going Higher—Exaggerated Fears Regarding Breweries.

For Industrials generally all the auguries continue to be favourable. The Board of Trade returns for March again show a large growth in the foreign trade of the country, and, as before, the outstanding features are the increases on the one hand in the exports of manufactured articles, and on the other, in the imports of raw industrial materials. There is no sign whatever of any abatement of the extraordinary prosperity of the principal industries, and with the setting in of a period of comparatively cheap money, securities in this department are attracting more attention than they have done for a long time past. Already a welcome amount of investment buying has been noted, and an improvement from week to week is now confidently anticipated. Considerable activity has been exhibited in cotton and textile shares, and advances have been recorded in Coats' preferred and ordinary, and in English Sewing Cottons, Fine Cotton Spinners, Calico Printers, and Bradford Dyers. The cotton trade, in particular, is flourishing exceedingly, and, in the opinion of the best authorities, is likely to do so for a long time to come. The shares of the great iron, steel, and armament companies have also been in request, and in view of the very satisfactory reports that several of them have lately issued it will be surprising if the movement upward does not speedily become more pronounced. Armstrong Whitworths and Vickers, Son and Maxims seem to be tempting at present prices, and so likewise are South Durhams and Cargo Fleets. Contrary to the conclusion that had been drawn from the discouraging reports of other companies engaged in the Argentine meat trade, the directors of James Nelson and Sons announced a dividend on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent., 1906 being the third year for which a distribution at this rate has been made. Though the 10 per cent. dividend has been maintained, however, the report shows that the net profit fell from £85,300 to £45,200. In catering descriptions no changes have occurred beyond a fractional advance in Lyons' and Aerated Breads. Having regard to the satisfactory position and prospects of the company, the former, at the current price of 5 15-16, offer a promising commercial investment. The recent tragic death of the founder of the business imparted exceptional interest to the report of the directors of William Whiteley, Limited. The late Mr. Whiteley has been succeeded in the chairmanship of the company by his elder son, Mr. W. Whiteley, who has been actively engaged in the business for the past twenty years. Though the company's trade was maintained, the profit for the twelve months to February 28 showed a diminution owing to the expense of additional advantages that have been given to customers, including reduced terms of free carriage. The dividend on the ordinary shares is 7 per cent., as compared with 9 per cent. for the previous year. At the meeting of John Barker and Co. the chairman was able to congratulate the shareholders upon an increase in the net profits for the year of £12,000, and also upon the fact that the reserve fund has now reached an amount sufficient, with the sum of £11,000 carried forward to next account, to liquidate the whole of the goodwill.

On the ordinary shares of this company the dividend is again 12½ per cent.

With few exceptions motor and cycle shares are manifesting a tendency to higher prices, and the leading companies are known to be doing so well that the movement is likely to continue. Argylls, Darracqs, Daimlers, and Humbers have all scored slight advances, and even now the shares of all these prosperous companies are well worth attention. Among tramways and omnibus companies the most conspicuous feature has been the further recovery of London General Omnibus ordinary stock, which has gained 7 or 8 points since the end of March. British Electric Traction issues have also had a slight recovery, after being in the dumps for some time past. Brewery securities have not so far benefited from the general recognition of the fact—to which I drew attention some weeks ago—that it is now practically certain that no Licensing Bill will be passed during the present Session of Parliament. On this subject the *Economist* has administered a strong rebuke to the committee of brewery debenture-holders whose circular was published a fortnight ago. The suggestion in the circular that the fall in the price of these debentures is due solely to the fear of new legislation is proved to be entirely wrong. By means of a table comparing the prices now and ten years ago of good brewery debenture stock and good railway debenture stock respectively my contemporary shows that the brewery debentures have not fallen at all disproportionately to the railway debentures. Indeed, when one bears in mind how unsatisfactory the finance of brewery companies has often been, and how wildly they have speculated in the purchase of "tied houses," these securities have suffered, if anything, less than might have been expected in the general downward movement. The opposition of debenture-holders and other investors in breweries to legislation which will adversely affect their interests is perfectly reasonable and legitimate; but such exaggerated statements as to the existing situation, and such extravagant predictions of impending ruin as those that have been put forward, can only have a bad effect. One thing that the circular has already helped to do is to send down the prices of a number of debentures. "Stinking fish" is not a good cry. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A SMUGGLING OPERATION.

THE reader is asked to transport himself backwards more than forty years, to a period shortly preceding the unification of the German Empire under the iron hand of Bismarck. At that time, James Jellicoe, representative of an eminent firm of Irish whisky distillers, was engaged in trying to open up new markets for his employers' produce among the petty kingdoms and grand duchies of Central Europe.

James Jellicoe was an old and experienced traveller, both in the commercial and the ordinary sense of the term. He could speak five languages. He was familiar with the markets of at least ten capitals, and there was hardly a mile of railway in Western and Central Europe over which he had not, at one time or another, passed. With the officials on all these systems he was *persona grata* by reason of his open-handedness. For James Jellicoe liked his comforts in travelling, and was prepared to pay for them. Moreover, he was well aware what a timely bribe of a few marks or francs would often do in the way of inducing the railway officials to turn a blind eye on certain little irregularities by which his business undertakings largely profited. The firm, knowing their man, allowed him practically whatever expenses he asked for, confident that he would lay the money out in such a manner as to pay them over and over again. Nor was their confidence misplaced. James Jellicoe, free as he was with his tips, seldom disbursed a franc out of which his employers did not ultimately profit to the tune of some hundreds per cent.

Yet to look at Jellicoe, you would have thought him the last man in the world to be guided by perpetual considerations of the main chance. The expression of his chubby, pink little face was open to the verge of simplicity. His smile was blandness itself. Altogether, you would have said, a good-natured, guileless little individual, overflowing with the milk of human kindness, and gifted, if anything, with rather less than the average amount of brains. Such was the opinion entertained of him by all who had not tried to get the better of him in business. And such was the opinion entertained of him by Herr Hermann Slickwitz.

Herr Slickwitz, I must tell you, was the presiding genius of the Custom-house at X, an important frontier station of the Grand Duchy of Y, which is here separated from the Kingdom of Z by what in larger countries would be called a brook, but is there dignified by the name of a river.

The Grand Duchy, however, though small in area, was very big indeed in self-importance. Every one, from the Grand Duke downwards, had an excellent opinion of himself, and no one more so than Herr Hermann Slickwitz, of the Grand Ducal Customs. He was a great, swaggering, slashing, knock-you-down fellow, with a pair of enormous black moustaches that added not a little to the truculence of his demeanour. But his manner, though at all times ferocious, was never quite so terrific as when he detected some would-be smuggler of contraband *in flagrante delicto*. Women caught by him in the possession of undeclared lace or eau-de-cologne were said not infrequently to have fainted away beneath the ferocity of his scowl. Even the hardiest men had quailed before him. How many—if any—dishonest persons had ever succeeded in getting contraband past him I cannot say. But, taking his own version, the number of such people amounted to precisely zero. Indeed, it was his constant boast that there was nowhere in the world such an efficient Customs service as the Customs service of the Grand Duchy, and in that Customs service there was no such lynx-eyed official as himself. And if the man was born who could elude his vigilance—well, Herr Slickwitz would like to see him; that was all.

James Jellicoe, who often crossed the frontier into the Grand Duchy by that route, and sometimes passed a night or two in X, was well acquainted with this boastful personage in his official capacity, and had also met him in private life. He had no particular reason to love Herr Slickwitz, whose contempt for foreigners in general and for Englishmen in particular led him to treat this mild-mannered little Anglo-Saxon with even more than his wonted insolence. But Jellicoe, whether from discretion, good temper, or pure indifference, never took any notice of the other's rudeness, or betrayed the smallest sign of resentment. Indeed, whatever the truculent officer of Customs might do or say, our little friend smiled on him always with the same bland, affable expression that was seldom absent from his cherub-like features.

One evening, when Jellicoe was spending a few days in X, Herr Slickwitz, with two or three cronies, came swaggering into the café where the former was discussing his *petit souper*, and seated himself at the same table. He nodded, patronisingly, to Jellicoe, and called, in thunderous tones, for lager beer, which an obsequious waiter made haste to bring.

Herr Slickwitz swilled himself liberally with the amber fluid, then he lighted a big cigar, and, glaring contemptuously at Jellicoe, proceeded to exercise his facetious wit at the little man's expense.

"So, my pigmy," he began, "and how's bog-water?"

"Pretty fair, thank you," piped Jellicoe, in his squeaky, high-pitched voice, smiling seraphically at Slickwitz, as if quite unconscious of the intentional rudeness of the question.

"Sorry to hear it," rejoined Slickwitz. "Such rot-gut stuff ought to be banned in every civilised country; though it may be a fitting drink enough for the savages of Ireland."

"There are savages elsewhere than in Ireland," squeaked little Jellicoe, still beaming with placid and seraphic affability on the insolent German.

Herr Hermann Slickwitz breathed hard and glared searchingly at Jellicoe, as though scenting a personal

allusion. But the other's face was so serenely placid and innocent that it simply disarmed suspicion of anything more than a vague and harmless general statement, and, as such, Herr Slickwitz let it pass, without annihilating him.

"If I had my way," he announced, "I would put a prohibitive tariff on the muck, to keep it out of the Grand Duchy."

"In that case, we should have to find some means to circumvent you," piped little Jellicoe, with the same innocently cherubic smile.

"Circumvent me! Ha!" (And Herr Slickwitz laughed the laugh of ferocious and unutterable scorn.) "I would like to see the Mephistophelised foreigner who could circumvent me. Yes, I would give a great deal to see that Mephistophelised foreigner."

"Nevertheless, I think it could be done," smiled little Jellicoe.

"So! You think that, do you?" scoffed Herr Slickwitz, divided between rage and amusement at the ridiculous audacity of the Briton's opinion.

Little Jellicoe, still beaming with affability, nodded a placid affirmative.

"Gott in Himmel! Perhaps you think you could do it yourself, you grinning little sucking-pig?" thundered Slickwitz.

"I think I might, if I tried," piped little Jellicoe, serenely affable as ever.

"Well, you had better try, that is all," retorted Slickwitz, with his most portentous scowl.

"I do not propose to try while the tariffs are what they are," said little Jellicoe, blandly. "It is not worth while."

"Bah! That is you English all over," ejaculated the great Slickwitz, mockingly. "You talk—Donner und Blitzen—you talk the very Omnipotent. But when you are taken at your word, then you climb down and become little mice, at once."

"I have my duty to my employers to consider," replied the other, deprecatingly. "I cannot honestly run unnecessary risks at their expense."

"Oh, you English have always a plausible excuse ready when you are called upon to make good your boastfulness," answered Slickwitz, tauntingly.

"I had no intention of boasting," piped little Jellicoe, with humility. "I merely indicated what I thought I could do, at a pinch—if there were anything adequate to be gained by it."

"Ha! Did I not say so? You are as full of excuses as a common lodging-house is of fleas. But I will remove this excuse. I will offer you something to make it worth your while to try. How now? Let it be a wager. I will bet you—ach! I will bet you two thousand marks you do not succeed in smuggling one gallon—no, not one solitary gallon—of your filthy bog-water through my Custom-house."

Little Jellicoe made no haste whatever to jump at this sporting offer. Indeed, he looked rather taken aback and, as it were, sorry for the rashness of speech that had trapped him into such a corner.

"I—I—do not think the—the bet, as it stands, is quite fair," he stammered, hesitatingly.

"Not fair? How, not fair?" demanded the hectoring Slickwitz.

"Well, you see, mein Herr, as you would be especially on the look out for me, I should be a marked man, and so should be at a much greater disadvantage than the ordinary smuggler."

"Ha! You are afraid. Did I not say so? I say again it is you English all over," sneered the exultant and overbearing officer of Customs.

"No, mein Herr, I am not afraid," protested little Jellicoe, mildly; "and to prove that you are wrong in thinking so, I will agree to take your bet—on conditions."

"Oh! you English. You are the very eels to wriggle. What conditions?" demanded Slickwitz, scornfully.

"That you give me a week in which to make the attempt, and during that period allow me to cross the frontier three times," replied little Jellicoe.

"Ach! You may cross it six times in the week, if you will," retorted Slickwitz, with swaggering confidence.

"Three times will be enough, thank you," answered little Jellicoe, with a quiet meekness that was in strong contrast to the other's boastful cocksureness. "Of course, I do not say whether I shall make the attempt on the first, second, or third journey. That will be for you to find out, mein Herr."

"Yes! Yes! You may leave that to me. I will make it my business to see to that," answered Slickwitz, with the triumphant laugh of one who already saw his opponent's two thousand marks in his own breeches pocket. "But, stay," he added; "it is understood that you attempt the smuggling in your own person—that you do not depute any confederate to convey the contraband. That's clear, is it not?"

"Perfectly," piped little Jellicoe, in his squeaky treble. "I am myself to convey this gallon of whisky across your frontier. I agree to that. And perhaps these gentlemen" (turning to Slickwitz's two cronies, who had played the part of silent audience to the foregoing conversation) "will kindly act as umpires, in case any dispute as to the terms of the wager should arise."

"Ach! That I will," said crony number one.

"And I also," added crony number two.

"I, at any rate, shall make no attempt to wriggle out of my contract," remarked Herr Slickwitz, with a sneering and triumphant laugh.

He felt perfectly confident, now, of landing the bet. Little Jellicoe had undertaken, in the presence of witnesses, to convey the gallon of whisky past the Customs himself, and a gallon of whisky was not exactly the sort of thing he could hide in a secret pocket or in the lining of his hat. He could not even adopt the evasive expedient of carrying that quantity of the potent liquor in his stomach. For no stomach would hold so much or survive the effects of the undiluted spirit, if it could. Herr Slickwitz, therefore, saw himself in the satisfactory position of having his money on a dead certainty. His only anxiety was lest Jellicoe should elude him by not putting in an appearance at all. But in that case, also, he should have won his bet—even if he did not get paid—and would have demonstrated, in the most complete manner, his own unrivalled reputation for lynx-eyed vigilance, and the shabby dishonesty of the perfidious Briton. Come what might, in brief, he was bound to have the crow. Soothed by this comforting assurance, he called for another quart of lager beer, and swigged and smoked, in high elation, for the rest of the evening. Little Jellicoe, however, looked less happy. He smiled, indeed. He always did that. But his smile seemed transparently half-hearted and perfunctory, as though he realised that Slickwitz had got him in an inextricably tight corner.

Next morning he crossed the frontier of the Grand Duchy into the kingdom of Y. But his absence was of short duration. That evening's mail express carried him back as one of its occupants to the frontier town of X. It was a cold, cheerless winter's night; a cutting east wind blew shrewdly, and snow fell at frequent intervals; but the indefatigable Slickwitz and his myrmidons, though cursing and grumbling at the weather, were at their posts, and they boarded the express, as it pulled up, like an army of locusts.

The word had been given to keep a sharp look-out for little Jellicoe (who was well known by sight to all the Custom-house officials), and there, sure enough, he was found in a first-class compartment of the train, bundled up in rug and overcoat, with a small portmanteau on the seat at his side.

Slickwitz, who had given particular instructions on this point, was at once informed of his presence in the train, and he came swaggering along, tugging the while complacently at his huge moustache, to attend to little Jellicoe personally.

"Anything to declare, my friend?" he inquired, with a sardonic grin.

"You remember the terms of our wager, mein Herr, That is for you to discover," chirped little Jellicoe.

"Yes; and I will soon do that. Kindly hand me that portmanteau and the key of the same," answered Herr Hermann Slickwitz.

Little Jellicoe complied with this request, and the contents of the portmanteau were bundled out pell-mell on to the seat—all sorts of clothing and various articles of toilet. But no sign of any whisky—not so much as a half-pint flask.

"Now, if you please, divest yourself of your overcoat and rug," commanded Slickwitz.

Little Jellicoe did as he was bidden. Herr Slickwitz carefully felt in all the pockets of the big overcoat, fingered it, and slapped it all over. No bottles of whisky there. Then he shook the rug. Nothing concealed in that. Then he went on his knees and looked carefully under both seats. Nothing stowed away there.

"You have no luggage in the van?" he demanded.

"None," said little Jellicoe.

"Or in any other compartment of the train?"

"By no means, mein Herr. That would not be in accordance with the terms of our wager," piped the little man.

"Ach! Then I may take it you are not attempting to win your two thousand marks this journey?" remarked the swaggering Slickwitz.

"I have still two other opportunities open to me, by the terms of our bet," smiled little Jellicoe.

"And you will have to make the most of them," replied Slickwitz, as he left the compartment, banging the door behind him.

Little Jellicoe resumed his rug and overcoat, and sat smiling seraphically. Presently, when the Custom-house officials had completed their examination of the passengers' luggage, the train began to steam slowly out of the station.

It was then that little Jellicoe thrust his head through the carriage window and called up Herr Slickwitz, who was standing near at hand upon the platform.

"A word with you, mein Herr," he piped. "Jump in here, I beg, and give me the pleasure of your company to the next stop. No, no, you must not refuse, else I shall assuredly have to ask you to pay me two thousand marks."

The train was already moving quite fast. Herr Slickwitz had no time to hesitate or wait for more detailed explanation. So, burning with the suspicious and angry curiosity that the Englishman's words had suddenly aroused in him, he sprang into the compartment.

"What do you mean? Be good enough to explain yourself," he demanded.

Little Jellicoe beamed upon the scowling Slickwitz. His smile was even more than usually cherubic.

"By the terms of our wager," he chirped, "I have won your two thousand marks, mein Herr. But I am not going to demand payment. It has merely been my intention to prove to you that you are not quite so clever as you thought. I have the gallon of whisky here with me, and I will now show you where it is."

"Where?" ejaculated the crestfallen, though still truculent, Slickwitz.

Little Jellicoe drew aside his travelling rug and pointed a fat forefinger downwards towards the foot-warmer on which his small toes rested.

"It is in there, mein Herr," he said, with an angelic smile.

ART NOTES.

I HAVE read a good deal about Art in my time, but I do not remember to have read any comment upon the astounding carelessness which seems to have been the common heritage of all the Old Masters. I do not mean in their painting, but in the really remarkable way they went about losing their pictures as soon as they were painted. The ordinary man makes a fuss if he loses an umbrella or a briar-pipe, but the Old Masters were continually punctuating Europe with lost canvases, some of them of enormous size, without being in the least worried or annoyed about it. There is another even more striking fact about these lost pictures. Most of them have been lost for hundreds of years, yet of all the many thousands of them I doubt if fifty were found until a few years back, when their values began to rise, when the American picture-buying millionaire loomed up before an astonished world, that is to say. But now that Mr. Pierpont Morgan has made him a familiar figure, those lost pictures are beginning to come out of their hiding-places as though they were sunflowers and he the sun. I have never been privileged to look through Mr. Morgan's correspondence, but I very much doubt if any day goes by without his being offered at least two absolutely genuine lost Old Masters. It is the most striking instance of the power of personal magnetism on record.

There are some other strange things about these lost Old Masters. One is the curious hiding-places they have chosen for their long and lonely vigils until Mr. Morgan should be born. They have nearly always loved the humble dwellings of the poor; they have decorated the little back parlours behind shops, or the attic bed-rooms of Grimsby fishermen. I should not be surprised to hear of one, or half-a-dozen, being found at the bottom of a coal-mine. There they wait in patient darkness until the reporter of a local paper, or perhaps some unattached tourist, of æsthetic tastes, shall penetrate into the back-parlour or the attic-bedroom. When he does come, so astounding is their artistic merit, that he recognises them at once as being masterpieces of Rubens, or Vandyke, or Gainsborough, or Raphael—usually of Raphael, though. I do not know why Raphael should be so ubiquitous, unless it be that he was unusually careless, given to dropping in upon the humble and industrious poor about tea-time and forgetting a 38-ft. square canvas when he went away. But so it is. They are always masterpieces, and the reporter always recognises them as such and buys them from the honest fisherman for half-a-crown down and a pint of four-half, and carries them away to a local expert. It is another curious fact that there always is a local expert, even in the smallest and remotest village, and he always specialises in lost old Masters. As soon as his visitor comes in he at once recognises the value of the find, and prices its exact value, to the last penny, which, as an expert, he is easily able to do. No sooner are the brown paper and string cleared away than he says: "It is a lost Raphael. It is worth £38,397 14s. 7d. Wire full particulars to the *Daily Mail*." And thus the new Old Master comes into the busy world once more, and has paragraphs written round it, and is shown at a West-End gallery and offered to Mr. Pierpont Morgan. Then somebody sits down and writes an angry circular letter to the papers, pointing out the irreparable loss that such a masterpiece would be to England were it allowed to pass into the hands of the foreigner and proposing a national subscription to retain it for Trafalgar-square. Sometimes the £38,000 odd is raised—more often it is not—and if the owner is wise he accepts the £47 15s. actually realised instead. If he is not wise he has the Old Master put up to auction, and it fetches about £5, less the auctioneer's commission and expenses—and even then he realises a substantial profit on his original investment.

But these subsequent adventures of the recovered treasure-trove are, after all, commercially interesting, rather than artistically. To the artist the most surprising part of the affair is the astounding industry thus credited to Raphael, Rubens, and the rest. I have made a calculation—only very roughly, it is true—and I find that, including all the recently recovered Old Masterpieces, each of the seven most prominent painters of the past must have turned out, on an average, three great works per diem from the age of four until his death. Raphael did even more, but he died young—and no wonder. These figures, of course, only include the works which have been re-discovered up to date. Very likely there are still thousands and thousands more lurking in lonely farmhouses and public-houses, waiting until the reporter shall come along on his bicycle to restore them to the world. If we make an allowance for them we are forced to a very melancholy conclusion indeed—that the Old Masters did not produce real, hand-painted pictures at all, but that they had some sort of machine, all knowledge of which has since been lost—which turned out a continuous roll of Masterpieces, something on the lines of a Hoe printing

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press. I have sometimes had my suspicions of this when I looked at some of the newly recovered Old Masterpieces which have been held up for our admiration in recent years; I am at last beginning to feel sure of it. Indeed, the only possible alternative is—but far be it from me to harbour suspicions so unflattering to modern human nature as that.

The whole fascinating subject has been brought very near to my heart in the last few days, because the *Evening News* has discovered a Lost Raphael, which shows how widespread is the interest in Art matters taken in this country to-day. It is called the "Madonna del Divino Amore," and it is being shown at the Doré Galleries at the moment. I think it is, that is to say, but so many are the re-discovered Raphaels just now that it is quite likely I have got confused, and that the Doré Gallery Masterpiece is not the *Evening News* Masterpiece, but another equally beautiful, genuine, and valuable. There it is, anyway.

MUSIC.

THE NEW YORK OPERA SEASON.

WITH our own opera season just about to begin, it is interesting to scan the record of that just ended in New York, where it would seem that the cut-throat competition of rival houses has begotten the usual result of financial unsuccess. Neither at the Metropolitan nor the Manhattan, it is said, have expenses been cleared. Mr. Conried, it is stated, took over £200,000 in receipts at the former, but still finds himself with a balance to the bad, a result ascribed to the closing down of the "Salomé" performance and the cost of making good the scenery lost in the earthquake at San Francisco. Mr. Hammerstein's rival show at the Manhattan, of course, had nothing to do with the matter. As regard the works given, it is still somewhat of a shock to read the bald statement that "the season came to a close with a performance of 'Parsifal'"; and Frau Cosima, who is only human after all, will doubtless find a chastened joy in the fact that Mr. Conried's shameless appropriation of that sacred work, which an imperfect copyright law has availed not to protect from his sacrilegious hands, has been attended only with the discomfiture which is sometimes, even in an imperfect world, the fate of the unrighteous. "Parsifal" and "Salomé"! The contrast is piquant. But it would seem that neither served to avert a debit balance.

We are told, indeed, that German opera has for the present received a set-back in New York, and that after long years the Italians have once again carried all before them, with Puccini at their head. "La Bohème," "La Tosca," and "Madama Butterfly" were all given many times. The last-named, in particular, would appear to have found no less favour in New York than in London (despite the unflattering rôle assigned to its American hero, Lieutenant Blummy Pinkerton), for in addition to the crowded houses which attended its representations at the Metropolitan, the work has also been given in English by Mr. Henry Savage's company with an equal amount of success. On both sides of the Atlantic, therefore, Puccini's star is clearly in the ascendant at present. Verdi's "Aïda" was another drawing card, while Giordano's "Fédora," which we are to hear again during the coming weeks at Covent Garden, also appears to have found favour. When it comes to talking of "the discomfiture of German opera," however, this seems to be putting the case rather high, seeing that the "Ring," "Lohengrin," "Tannhäuser," and the rest secured, after all, twenty-four performances, which is not perhaps such a very discreditable showing.

More serious seems to have been the disfavour displayed towards the works begotten on the other side of the Rhine. That staunch musical chauvinist, M. Vincent d'Indy, will read with regret that if German opera has temporarily declined in popularity, that of his compatriots has fared even worse. Berlioz's "La Damnation de Faust," whose shortcomings have just been exercising the pens of Berlin critics, did not commend itself any more, it appears, to its American audiences, though presented with all the adventitious aid of a gorgeous *mise-en-scène*. Délibes' "Lakmé" (which we may be shortly hearing at the hands of the Berlin Comic Opera Company at the Adelphi) proved a world too small for the heroic spaces of the Covent Garden of New York; while Meyerbeer's "L'Africaine" "fell hopelessly flat." Mr. Conried should have followed the course once adopted by a manager in Russia. The opera season was going badly, so he mounted "L'Africaine," and chartered a troop of Dahomeyans, who happened to be visiting the town, to take part in the attack on the ship and join the ballet. Result—a crowded house, great enthusiasm, and splendid receipts. How long is it since Meyerbeer's work has been heard in London?

With respect to the singers, Caruso's triumph at the Metropolitan seems to have been equalled, if not surpassed, by that of Melba at the Manhattan. As regards the latter, indeed, it is necessary to go back to the spacious days of Patti, if one may credit all one reads, to parallel the scenes attendant on her farewell. "The audience," we are told, "cheered for twenty minutes. The great singer appeared before the curtain and said, 'If you will remain a few minutes longer I will sing a few little songs for you.' This she did, accompanying herself in some of Tosti's songs on an old stage pianoforte which was rolled on the stage. Many of the audience, and the singer herself, were moved to tears." The pathos of it! Mr. Hammerstein, more matter of fact, has announced that his receipts for the fourteen performances at which Melba sang amounted to £26,000. No wonder he gave the diva a complimentary dinner. At Covent Garden we take matters more phlegmatically. Yet there we hear both Melba and Caruso—and in one and the same performance, too. What would the New Yorkers say to that?

Among a good many interesting concerts given lately that conducted by Nikisch at the Queen's Hall on Saturday was as enjoyable, perhaps, as any. Brahms' fourth symphony had not previously been heard under Nikisch in London, and it was interesting to note what he made of it. Perhaps on the whole he was hardly so successful as in other works more congenial, it may be suspected, to his temperament. There was too much of a disposition to make unnecessary points. As an interpreter of Brahms he is certainly not so impressive as Steinbach. Earlier in the week Nikisch figured as accompanist at the recital of Miss Elena Gerhardt, the wonderfully gifted singer who was first heard in London last autumn. Few vocalists before the public to-day produce a more powerful impression. She is essentially an interpreter of the words as well as of the music of her songs; her voice itself, though strong and pure, is somewhat lacking in individual charm. A vocal concert of a different kind was that given on Friday by M. Maurel, with the aid of some of his pupils, and others. Truth to tell, there was too much of the pupil element and too little of M. Maurel for the taste of a good many. Some selections from Verdi's "Otello," in which M. Maurel resumed his old rôle of Iago, were the least tiresome portion of the entertainment. Among several notable fixtures this week Nikisch was down to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra again at the concert in honour of the Colonial Premiers on Tuesday, and this (Wednesday) evening Mme. Clara Butt sings at the Philharmonic concert.

Apropos of Nikisch's conducting of the Choral Symphony for the first time in London, it is interesting to recall that this famous conductor was, in his younger days, one of those who played among the first violins in the wonderful orchestra which came together on Wagner's birthday to play the same great work under the master's own direction at the laying of the foundation-stone of the Bayreuth Theatre. In this orchestra,

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the quality of which has probably never been surpassed, there were no fewer than ten of the foremost violinists of the day, Wilhelmj, then in the plenitude of his powers, being the leader. Nikisch had previously come in closer contact still with Wagner as spokesman of a deputation of students who waited on the composer to present him with a silver goblet entwined with laurel. The fellow students who accompanied Nikisch, it is interesting to recall, were named Felix Mottl and Emil Paur. "We found Wagner in the best of spirits," Herr Nikisch has recalled, "and in a most jolly frame of mind. Although I was very nervous, I managed to get through my task without any serious difficulty, and I was greatly pleased when Wagner told me how much he had enjoyed my speech and the whole function. That moment, when I came face to face with the mighty master, will never leave my memory."

In connection with the Poor Students Fund which it is proposed to found in memory of the late August Manns the question has been raised as to the manner in which it is contemplated administering this; and the inquiry is not unreasonable. It is a good deal more easy to propose a scheme of this kind than to work it out in detail in a satisfactory manner, but obviously in the case of a project in which support is invited from musicians at large there must be nothing of narrowness or exclusiveness or the favouring of individual institutions.

Not a little good-humoured surprise has been expressed at the abandonment of the proposed revival of the "Mikado," and the cause assigned for it. There is nothing, however, like trying to enter into the feelings of others in cases of this sort, and to this end it is not difficult to imagine how certain of our ultra "patriotic" journals and their readers would take it if a comic opera were produced in a foreign country in which the King of England were, in however good-humoured a spirit, made the subject of ridicule. It might be that seeing that the opera in question has now been played so long as almost to have attained the dignity of a classic, to say nothing of the fact that it has been performed quite recently in the suburbs, the recent objection raised suggests a rather belated sense of injury on the part of those concerned; but this, after all, does not alter the fact that we should probably, rightly or wrongly, adopt precisely the same attitude if the situation were reversed.

The Kaiser has been attracting attention once again in his familiar rôle of musical critic, and his adoring hearers are lost in wonderment once more at the wisdom of his utterances. Among other things, it appears, he expressed the profound opinion that in Berlioz was to be found the beginning of all the modern tricks of instrumentation. Further, he said he was quite able to understand that Berlioz's contemporaries found his harsh and rugged music somewhat strange. "But," added the Kaiser, "that he should have suffered from actual poverty and want, that, I consider an especial injustice of fate." Prodigious! Here be epoch-making thoughts indeed. Can one wonder that his Majesty's hearer (M. Günsbourg, of the Monte Carlo Company) was smitten with amazement? Harken to the awestruck words in which he confided his feelings to a prostrated interviewer:—

"The conversation seemed to me to be of only one minute's duration, but it lasted at least twenty. And you want to know what impressed me most? It was the erudition of this man. It is a mystery to me that I cannot understand how a man whose field of work is so wide as that of the Emperor can yet find time to busy himself with literature and music with the technique of instrumentation and interpretation of rôles. And he must have busied himself with all this, or"—here M. Günsbourg threw up his hands with a gesture of unutterable amazement.

Then the interviewer indiscreetly asked: "What did the Emperor say?" with the sequel above noted. A pity! For if the Kaiser's remarks had only been left to the imagination we should all have been impressed.

Continuing his breezy "Musical Impressions" in the *Musical Standard*, Mr. Joseph Holbrooke waxes rhapsodic in his latest instalment over the claims of Fritz Delius, the Yorkshire composer with a foreign name, who has been referred to for years past now as one from whom great things may be expected. According to Mr. Holbrooke he has, indeed, long since accomplished them. He speaks with special enthusiasm of some of his songs. "Full of the most lovely and original atmosphere; I know of *no* English music like it. Emotional to a degree, with all the poet's rapture; such harmonic mastery is not exceeded by Richard Strauss, and they contain all his loveliness!" Many will remember a concert of his own compositions given by Mr. Delius at St. James's Hall a good many years ago, when the originality and interest of his music were generally recognised. Since then, however, surprisingly little has been heard of him. For years he buried himself in a tiny little village on the skirts of the forest of Fontainebleau and seemingly made no effort to obtain a hearing for his works. More recently, however, one of his operas, "A Village Romeo and Juliet," was brought out with some success at the Komische Opera in Berlin. Another of his works, a setting for solo, chorus, and orchestra of Walt Whitman's "Sea Drift," has been included in the programme of the Sheffield festival of 1908. But many would be glad to have an opportunity of hearing more of his music before then.

There is an interesting article on "The Best Way to Study the Piano" in the April *Strand* by Paderewski, whose advice is much more practical than might have been expected. Among other things he insists on the supreme necessity of methodical study:—

The fault most general, not only with girl students, but with professionals, is that of sitting at the piano as a pastime instead of working seriously. There is no instrument that offers such inducement to idle away time as a piano. Instead of taking the study of it as a very earnest one, many fall into the way of looking upon it as amusement, idling away hours in passing agreeably from one thing to another. These mis-spent hours end in a smattering of knowledge and a certain amount of faulty fluency of no solid use when it comes to practical application.

Sound advice is offered also on another point:—

Only too many think that they display a vast deal of feeling if they make frequent ritardandi and long pauses on single notes. I would call this over-sentimentalism simply the abuse of rhythm. The only way to avoid this is to keep as strictly as possible to the rhythm and the tempo. Nothing is to be gained by such affectations but distortion of the composer's ideas. Under this same head comes the exaggeration of the rubato, so deplorably frequent in the plays of Chopin. This springs from the same mistaken notion that it adds feeling and character. The only remedy of the fault is to stick closely to both rhythm and tempo.

Students—and others—please note.

A new opera recently produced at Magdeburg has, I notice, been described by its composer as a "Bühnensymphonie"—or symphony for the stage—because each of its four acts corresponds in a sense with the movements of a symphony. This recalls the fact that a similar analogy has sometimes been suggested in the case of the several sections of the "Ring," though the resemblance is not perhaps very obvious in this case. "Das Rheingold" certainly does not correspond in either scope or importance with the first movement of a symphony, there is nothing particularly suggestive of a slow movement in "Die Walküre," "Siegfried" only by a vigorous effort of imagination can be regarded as a scherzo, while "Götterdämmerung" resembles a symphonic finale only in the sense that it comes at the end of the work. The Magdeburg "Bühnensymphonie" may, perhaps, show a better justification for the new title, but such essays in nomenclature are perhaps more fanciful than helpful. A still more formidable term of the same order was that invented by Wagner when he described "Parsifal" as a "Bühnenweihfestspiel"—or "Sacred Stage Festival Play."

While we are told on all hands of the wonderful undiscovered geniuses suffering neglect at the hands of an undiscerning public, it is rather disconcerting that in connection with the prize offered by Mr. Mark Hambourg for the best pianoforte solo written by a British-

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born subject, the judges, after carefully perusing the many works sent in, have "reluctantly come to the conclusion that there was no work of sufficient importance to warrant their awarding the first prize of £20." It was therefore decided to bestow second and third prizes only. Now the fact that this was the result in the case of a single competition need not be made too much of. It may be that only our less talented composers elected to compete for this particular prize, or even that the greatness of some of the works sent in, which future generations will hail with delight, was not perceived by the arbitrators; and of the two alternatives, the latter will, I fancy, most commend itself to those who competed. But whatever the explanation, the facts as they stand certainly furnish food for thought.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Everard Cotes' "Signs and Portents in the Far East" (1) gives the opportune impressions of an Indian journalist of China, Manchuria, Korea, and Japan, considered especially in their possible relations to the future of India. The two questions which will probably interest you most are, first, is China likely to become westernised, like Japan, to the peril of the West? and, secondly, are China and Japan likely, to the peril of the West, to form a lasting anti-European alliance? If China is becoming westernised, the process seems as slow as that by which the Kiang-Nan gun factory turns out Mauser rifles of the 1888 pattern—about three hundred a month. I fancy that if it were not for the infection of Japanese example and for the intense and intelligible anti-foreign feeling in China, the Celestial Empire would not rouse herself even to this effort. Nor is this effort as formidable, even, as it seems, since these Chinese guns are ammunitionless!

My polite curiosity about the ammunition could not be gratified upon the guard-boats any more than in the city, where several of the sentries consented to my examining their rifles, but could not show me a single cartridge. Ammunition is not considered necessary in central China for keeping up respect for the military arm.

And, if the military equipment of the Chinese is far from Japanese in its extent and efficiency, still farther from that model is the military material.

The Chinese is a man of peace. As a trader and manufacturer he is certain to become an increasingly serious competitor of the European. As a soldier he possesses many merits, including that of passive fatalism, which makes him a difficult adversary to dislodge from a position; but he lacks altogether the *élan* which makes his fellow-Mongolians, the Gurkha and the Japanese, formidable on the offensive.

In a word, and it is the word not only of Mr. Cotes, but of such an expert as Colonel Wingate—General Gaselee's intelligence officer at the relief of Peking in 1900—the present Chinese army is useless for the protection of the country from outside aggression, and is formidable only as an ever-present menace to the hated foreigner resident in China. In order to render this menace ineffective, Mr. Cotes suggests that China should be coerced into the prohibition of the importation of arms and ammunition. Do you wonder that anti-foreign feeling in China should be so universal and intense, when such an agreement was forced on the Peking Government by the treaty of 1901? As to the second question—whether China and Japan are likely to form a firm anti-European offensive and defensive alliance—Mr. Cotes's description of the mutual relations of these Yellow Powers reminds me of a proverb which, though I heard it in Ireland, is of eastern origin: "My neighbour's neighbour is my friend." There never was much love lost between China and Japan, while the failure of the Japanese to hand back Korea to China has intensified the Celestial's anti-Japanese fervour. As for the Koreans, their hatred of Japan is intense. The few Koreans Mr. Cotes talked to were violent, and even venomous, in their expressions of antipathy to their Japanese masters; while another Englishman found himself at dinner on the most charming terms with his highly educated Korean neighbour, until he happened incidentally to mention that he had lived long in Japan. The Korean, saying that it was inconceivable to him how any civilised human being could live long amongst such a people, turned his back upon his English friend and put him in Coventry for the rest of the evening. It must be admitted that both the Korean hatred of the high-handed Japanese, and the Chinese hatred of the high-handed foreigner, are amply justified. That there is no inter-racial hatred between the Chinese and the foreigner the frontispiece of Mr. Cotes's book, subscribed "The Black-hatted Statue in the Heart of Canton," suggests.

"Canton" (writes Mr. Cotes, in the closing sentence of his admirable book), "has the worst reputation of any city in the Far East for antipathy to the occidental, yet in the temple of the five hundred Genii in the heart of Canton, within easy reach of mob violence, may be seen to-day the life-size statue of an elderly European in gilt clothes and black hat, which the Chinese have cared for and preserved from generation to generation, because the original, Marco Polo, was a friend to their kind."

There is one more impression deeply left on the reader of Mr. Cotes' volume—that the Japanese are at least as formidable as rivals in commerce as they were as enemies in war. Indeed, "all's fair in war," seems to be their unscrupulous motto in their conduct of the war of trade. By the way, talking of their conduct of war, I do not remember seeing in contemporary accounts of their reckless heroism on the slopes of 203 Metre Hill, Port Arthur, anything so grim and gruesome as this that Mr. Cotes tells you about the demolition of some Japanese parapets. They had to be demolished because they were constructed not only of earth and stones but also of the bodies of the dead and *wounded* built into them in the frenzy of men sheltering themselves anyhow from overwhelming shell-fire! Mr. Cotes' book is the most interesting and suggestive I have yet read upon the fascinating Far-Eastern problem. Are you to read "Indiscreet Letters from Peking" (2) by the light of its closing sentence, and interpret it as a feverish nightmare? "Here," runs this closing sentence, "the MS. becomes more and more incoherent, and after a few pages suddenly comes to an end." You cannot help hoping that the account given in these letters of the maddening mismanagement and muddle of the Legations and of the rival generals during the siege and sack of Peking in 1900 is a sick man's dream. Yet more sickening is the description of the wholesale rape and murder committed by the soldiery of *all* nationalities during the sack of the city, and of the wholesale suicide of girls in their horror of a worse fate. However, I think you may take these letters with as many grains of salt as you must take their writer's account of his having single-handed discomfited four armed and gigantic eunuchs who had surprised him in the Emperor's harem. Perhaps "Q." in "Poison Island" (3) does not abandon himself with the whole-hearted boyishness of Stevenson in "Treasure Island" to the quest of the ropes of pearls and emeralds and cascades of precious stones of all kinds which flowed down and flooded the floor of the grotto in the cliff in such abundance that the foot stumbled over them as amongst shining pebbles upon the shore. But if "Q." lingers longer by the way than a boy would like, he beguiles the length of the way as only he could. For my own part, I willingly lingered in the company of the ever-delightful Plinny. "With thee conversing I forget all time"—to be appropriately poetic in speaking of the author of "The Voyage: With an Englishwoman's Reflections on her Favourite Element." In fact, I would gladly exchange all the treasures of Poison Island for a few more verses of that enchanting epic. In a word, there is enough of thrilling adventure in "Poison Island" to satisfy the boy, and enough of "Q." to delight the man. In Mrs. Blundell's "Stepping Westward" (4) you have a collection of short stories made up of the simplest elements, but put together with the grace which

(1) "Signs and Portents in the Far East." By Everard Cotes. With Twenty-five Illustrations. (London: Methuen & Co.)

(2) "Indiscreet Letters from Peking." Edited by B. L Putnam Weale. (London: Hurst and Blackett. 7s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Poison Island." By "Q." (A. T. Quiller-Couch). (London: Smith Elder and Co. 6s.)

(4) "Stepping Westward." By M. E. Francis. (London: Methuen and Co. 6s.)

(5) "The Toll Bar." By J. E. Buckrose. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s.)

gives them the charm of wild flowers arranged in exquisite bouquets. I like the wild flowers best, for though such a story as "Lady Lucy," which has to do with actors masquerading in the parts they played upon the stage, is skilfully constructed, it has not the charm of such rustic love idylls as "Tranter Sally," "Ann-Car'line," or even the "April Fools," who turned the laugh against the mockers. In a word, "Stepping Westward" is worthy of the author of "Dorset Dear." Very different in style, subject, and treatment is Mr. J. E. Buckrose's "The Toll Bar" (5), whose hero is in love with a girl whom he supposes to be the daughter of his father's murderer. Perhaps the reason for this murderer's adoption of the son of his victim is inadequate, but for the rest the story is at once probable and exciting, while its characters are cleverly drawn.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours, very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The new memoir of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu by "George Paston," will be issued by Messrs. Methuen this week. By permission of the Earl of Harrowby a number of hitherto unpublished letters are printed from the Wortley Montagu MSS. at Sandon Hall. The book has twenty-four portraits and other illustrations.

Miss C. W. Mackintosh's "Coillard of the Zambesi" (Fisher Unwin, 15s. net) is an account of the lives and work and travels of François Coillard and his wife, Christina Coillard, of the Paris Missionary Society. M. Coillard's labours in South and Central Africa from 1858 to 1904 covered the period of the most rapid development of those regions. The first twenty years were spent in Basutoland, the last twenty in Barotseland, north of the Victoria Falls—a vast territory, first explored by Livingstone, in which M. Coillard and his wife, a Scotch lady, were the first Europeans to settle. The intervening years were chiefly spent in travel and exploration among the Mashona and Matabele tribes. Although the book is largely a record of mission work, it is also interesting for the side lights which it casts upon the native question in South Africa and upon the way in which first Basutoland and afterwards Barotseland came under the British Protectorate.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus are bringing out a new edition of Mr. Richard Davey's book, "The Sultan and His Subjects." Mr. Davey has revised and partly rewritten it.

Mr. Zangwill's new volume of stories, "Ghetto Comedies," with four coloured illustrations, will be issued by Mr. Heinemann this week. Miss Emma Brooke, whose first story, "A Superfluous Woman," was such a distinguished success, is publishing through Mr. Heinemann a new novel, entitled "Sir Rlyot of the Woods," which will be ready about the end of the month.

Mr. Walter P. Wright's book on "Beautiful Gardens: How to Make and Maintain Them" (Cassell, price 6s.), may be commended to all who can enjoy what a famous writer described as the purest of human pleasures. The author, who is the horticultural superintendent under the Kent County Council, not only shows how gardens can be made beautiful, but how this result can be accomplished in the most economical manner. The value of the book is greatly enhanced by a series of plans, diagrams, and illustrations.

Major-General Baden Powell's "Sketches in Mafeking and East Africa" (Smith, Elder and Co., price 21s.) is a delightfully unconventional book of travel. He describes it as a record of "scraps and impressions gathered by the way in an ordinary unimportant little trip of three months round South Africa, Rhodesia, and East Africa." The text is lively and entertaining, and it is studded with illustrations from the author's drawings which reveal him as a clever artist whose rare gift of humour is particularly evident in his pictures of native life. Besides the numerous illustrations in the text there are nine coloured plates.

There is a bold attack on Trusts and their organisers in a novel entitled "The Giant's Strength," which Messrs. Harper and Brothers are about to publish. The book is by Mr. Basil King, author of "Let Not Man Put Asunder."

"Sweden's Rights" is the title of a book which will be published shortly by Mr. Fisher Unwin. The author, a Swede, discusses the historic relations of Norway and Sweden since 1814; gives statistics of the population and trade of the two countries; brings forward reasons for deploring the dissolution of the union; and predicts a possible reunion under certain conditions.

Messrs. Hutchinson are bringing out a translation from the German of Dr. Max Lenz's biography of Napoleon which, it is said, demolishes several accepted legends and throws much new light on what may be termed the Emperor's "First Phase." Yet another contribution to Napoleonic literature is being published by Mr. Lane—"The Fall of Napoleon," by Mr. Oscar Browning. Beginning with Napoleon's return to Paris after the Russian disaster, Mr. Browning gives a complete narrative of the campaigns of 1813, 1814, and 1815, and concludes with a minute account of Napoleon's surrender at Aix.

M. Escoffier, the famous chef of the Carlton Hotel, is the author of "A Guide to Modern Cooking," announced by Mr. Heinemann. The preparation of food is dealt with from a scientific standpoint, and M. Escoffier gives a large number of recipes, many of them new ones of his own.

A volume of short stories by Miss Marie Corelli is to be brought out by Messrs. Constable. "Delicia," the first of the stories in the collection, will give the title to the book.

Mr. Walter Long contributes an introduction to a book by Mr. E. B. Iwan-Müller entitled, "Ireland, To-day and To-morrow," which Messrs. Chapman and Hall are about to publish. The author is a leader writer on the *Daily Telegraph*, and, needless to say, he writes of Ireland from the Unionist point of view.

Messrs. Blackwood have just added "Romola" (price 3s. 6d.) to the new popular edition of George Eliot's works.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Do you remember the story of the boy who, being rebuked for talking about his corns at meals, came down to breakfast one morning limping very much, and remarked, as he sat down: "My K's is awful!" I have often thought of him during the past few weeks, for this, it appears, is a K. season. Even those whose feet have up till now behaved with perfect decorum, and given no cause of complaint to their proprietors, have had reason to remonstrate seriously this spring, and to take these troublesome ebullitions to the chiropodist. Wearers of tight boots have endured such miseries that bootmakers' shops are becoming quite accustomed to sudden rushing visits from clients of both sexes, who fling themselves on chairs, crying: "Take off my shoes most carefully and fit on a very easy pair." One wonders why the human foot should grow crops of corns with such displeasing unanimity this spring. Can you suggest any reason?

The sale of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society at the Horticultural Hall on Friday was extremely well attended. Two sides of Vincent Square were lined with smart carriages and motors, so when we drove up in our hansom we knew just what to expect. Nor were we disappointed. Crowds of nice-looking, well-dressed women were busily buying and selling for our poor soldiers and sailors who are incapacitated from further service and unable to follow any other employment. The Help Society has its headquarters at 122, Brompton-road, where the workshops can be inspected at any time. Children would be enchanted with the toy soldiers and sailors made by these poor, disabled men of the two

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services. As you may imagine, the uniforms are correct to a button, and there are eighteen or nineteen different regiments represented, including the Camel Corps and the Egyptian Army. A naval landing party with a gun is interesting.

The men make an enormous variety of baskets, all of a useful kind, and in every size from a handy little key basket to those capable of holding luncheon for four with the necessary plates, dishes, etc. Here you may buy a travelling basket for a dog, a wicker cradle for a bottle of wine, baskets for work, for sending wedding cake, others padded and containing a tin hot-water can (a capital notion!), and wastepaper baskets of every kind. The men also make furniture, such as revolving book stands in oak or mahogany, sometimes tastefully inlaid, book shelves, carved mahogany candlesticks, with brass tops, some fitted for electric light, wired and all ready, chairs, dolls' house furniture (a deck chair for a travelling doll is a curiosity, price 8d.), hat-racks, folding card tables, and trays with basket edge, besides many other useful things.

The plan of the society is to give each new member eight week's tuition and to maintain him during that time, this costing £4, at the rate of 10s. a week. He afterwards receives his earnings weekly, the amount depending on his own industry. It is a good and kind idea, practically carried out. The King is patron and Princess Christian is president, much of the work being done at her Royal Highness's Homes at Brookwood, Surrey.

One of the features of the sale was a bower of flowers which occupied the middle of the room, with a young and handsome presiding goddess, who was assisted by a smart little midshipman. Some of the basket makers were at work in one corner of the Hall. There were, too, excellent concerts, arranged by Mr. Ernest W. Gilchrist, and the room was crowded each time with people who were delighted with the programme.

You have heard of the Atlantic Union? Yes, I remember telling you about a pleasant day we spent with members of it at Windsor as the guests of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones. The report of the Union for 1906 has just appeared, and proves that this Association for enabling Colonials and Americans visiting England to see us in our homes and become acquainted with us personally has caught on to a considerable degree. The various gatherings are all arranged with this idea, and, judging from the photographs in the report, they seem to have been very well attended. The subscription for membership is a guinea, with entrance fee of two guineas, but guests from America or the Colonies may be elected temporarily without fee on being introduced by a home or visiting member. They then become eligible for invitations to the gatherings. In the list of visitors during last year I notice many from Canada and a goodly number from Australia and New Zealand, in addition to the American guests. A few hail from South Africa. Several of these are corresponding members, some of whose letters are of the highest possible interest, and well calculated to improve the *entente cordiale*. As the Union becomes more widely known it will become an important factor in promoting friendly feeling between ourselves and many pleasant people from all over the world. It was founded by the late Sir Walter Besant. Lord Monkswell is Chairman, Mr. T. Driffield Hawkins Secretary, and the address is now 13A, Cockspur-street, Trafalgar-square.

I thought the best way to answer your question about the fashions was to go to Messrs. Humphreys and have a look at their gowns for myself, knowing that their great idea is to cater for gentlewomen, and to combine utter smartness with refinement and distinction, as well as very moderate prices. All these qualities are what you love in gowns—small blame to you. The presiding spirit is a man who is a true artist. To the masterpieces of painters he has gone for studies of colour, and to Nature herself for exquisite gradation of tint and those ineffable subtleties of softening greys and blues and dusky effects that only the true student notices. The result is that each gown, from the richest and most elaborate down to the dainty and inexpensive linen river frock, is a complete conception in itself, and absolutely novel as well as chic. There is no danger with this firm of seeing the counterpart of your gown on some one else, as sometimes happens when a Paris model is brought over here by the representatives of two different houses. The secret of this is that every dress is designed and made by the firm itself. The best wits, the most original yet delicate designs, and the highest skill in realising such conceptions, combine to produce enchanting results. I saw, among dozens of others, a dove-coloured crêpe de chine made in the apron-dress style and trimmed with Cluny lace and palest gold embroidery. The skirt, like all those shown me, was very full and softly falling, and had its share of the pretty trimming. A short Greek sleeve, like that of a chiton, fell over longer, full ones of snowy lisse embroidered with silver dots and made with bands of dove-tinted tinsel, held back by diamond buttons. You cannot imagine a more graceful gown.

Another lovely evening gown was a colour study after Boucher in tones of softly suffused yellow, some of it pale as the edge of a summer rain-cloud, some slightly more emphatic in tint. A wide band of painted muslin in flowers of softest pink and mauve contrasted yet harmonised with the soft yellow, and an artistic touch of the highest value was a band of green panne at the edge of the skirt, the tint that of the youngest newborn leaf in early spring.

Lovely, too, was a Princesse de Lamballe Empire gown in the softest white lisse, the lines crossing at the back just above the waist in a peculiarly graceful way. Delicate lace veiled some small blue satin bows that afforded a glimpse of colour.

Marquisette still holds a foremost place among materials, and a gown of it in cream colour was painted with dreamy blue and pale mauve flowers. The pale rose-pink lining gave admirable effect to these colours, and in your mind's eye add touches of Malines lace, pale gold embroidery, short sleeves, and drooping ornaments of pale green ribbon.

You will be glad to hear that there is a great demand for Macclesfield silks, not only in Paris, where British materials are appreciated more highly than they are at home, but also here in London as well. I saw a very sweet frock of this silk, striped blue and white, and pleated cleverly so that only the blue lines showed at the top of the skirt. The sleeves were Empire lace with the silk Greek sleeve falling over them. These are a modified and very graceful form of the kimono sleeve of which we have heard.

I wish I had more space to describe a gown of Amasis cloth relieved with pale blue silk, another in a tiny check in blue and white with a becoming plastron front and some wonderful embroidery on the shoulders; a smart brown Shantung with coat to match; a white and primula foulard check, and several smart costumes with three-quarter coats of the tailor-made genre but most decoratively treated.

A large house-agency firm announces that the demand for country cottages is so unprecedented that they have opened a special office and issued a register two months earlier than they have ever done before. This, I suppose, is partly owing to the furious burst of summer weather at Easter and for a week after; but there is no doubt that the country cottage idea grows more insistent every year, and especially in the early spring months, when we all long for a sight of trees and turf and growing things. We have been helping Lilla to choose paper and furniture for her sweet cottage by the river, a delicious five-gabled, two-storied thatched roof love of a thing, with large rooms and large windows. These latter are very

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difficult to find in old-fashioned houses, but then Lilla's is only pseudo-old-fashioned. She has built it herself from designs planned and elaborated by Fred and her during the winter. The architect treated these plans with considerable disrespect, but that is a way that architects have. Lilla has a useful stubborn side to her character, and she brought it into play in this instance with great success. To be sure, she has to pay a higher fire insurance premium because her roof is thatched, but she does not mind that very much, and as neither Fred nor anyone else is likely to sit on the roof to smoke, and as they are not even within sound of a railway engine, there does not seem to be any great reason for fearing fire.

On the old part of her garden wall there is a japonica. It was in full bloom last week, but is now falling. From its soft and delicious tones of glowing pink Lilla evolved the idea of a japonica dining-room, and has carried it out. The walls are in the two shades of the flower, and the carpet is in a very slightly deeper tone. The Sheraton sideboard, bought at Oetzmann's, is a wonder at the price; but then, they have a sale on which is leading all lovers of real bargains to Hampstead-road. The reason of the unusual and most attractive cheapness of this sale is that the business has been converted into a joint stock company, and one of the arrangements is the selling off of £150,000 worth of new and attractive furniture at reductions varying from 10 per cent. to 50 per cent. Who that loves nice furniture could resist this? Certainly not Lilla—and most certainly not your cousin Madge. So behold us, in the immense premises in Hampstead-road, plunging heavily in our own quiet way. The artistic character of this furniture is one of its most prepossessing characteristics, either next after its low prices, or just before them, according to the idiosyncrasy of the customer.

With their fascinating little illustrated price list, "Bungalows and Cottage Homes," in her hand, Lilla went from furniture to carpets, then to china, plate, and glass departments, and after an hour's enjoyment of one of the most agreeable of occupations, behold her country cottage practically furnished. She had taken the measurements of rooms, recesses, windows, and fireplaces beforehand, being a most practical person, and it was amusing to see her applying a tape measure to the various wardrobes, washstands, and chests of drawers. Tell any one you know who is furnishing to send for an illustrated catalogue.

Jack is one of the most generous of men. He has just had notice of a big bonus on his life assurance in the Sun, and he has promised us presents all round. He prefers to realise, he says, receiving a smaller amount in ready money which he can enjoy, instead of the larger sum—£150, I think—which would not be paid until too late for him to deal with it, being "payable at the same time as the sum assured," as the insurance office politely and guardedly puts it. Jack's notion of enjoying himself is GIVING. There never was such a Greatheart, and we are fortunate to have such a cousin. He remembers little things that we have admired or expressed a wish for, and on birthdays or at Christmas there they are, after we have forgotten all about them. You may imagine that we have learned to be cautious in admiring anything in his hearing, lest he should immediately go and buy it for us.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—We would have given a great deal could we only have had Easter weather for Punchestown. But it was not to be; we were a week too late. The sun elected to take a rest after his strenuous holiday shining, and we had to get on as best we could without his beneficent presence. The occasion being a national one, we rose to it bravely and with a bold front defied the gloomy weather conditions, determined on wearing a festive spirit, whether or not it proved a case of scorning delights and living laborious days, at the race meeting on the open plains of Kildare. The situation had one mitigation too, and a really considerable one. We were relieved from all doubts from the beginning; no harassing vacillation about dress perturbed our minds. There was no shilly-shallying on the part of the weather, no question even of winter lingering in the lap of spring; the latter had just simply been put out of court, thrust ruthlessly aside by winter's hard iron hand. Also our chastened spirits, grateful for small mercies, found comfort in the fact that we had neither storm nor rain. "It might have been worse," we cheerfully said to each other from an envelopment of furs and warm wraps, "What else could be expected from early April?" And so we enjoyed ourselves making the best of what we had got. The grand stand and enclosure were crowded each day, especially on the first. On Tuesday Lord Aberdeen brought a large Viceregal party and suite, which, as usual, drove up the course to the stand attended by an escort of the members of the Kildare Hunt. Lady Aberdeen was, of course, unable to be present. Lady Clementine Waring, whose husband is one of the Viceregal household, had a party of her own at the Private Secretary's Lodge, in the Phœnix Park. Lord and Lady Mayo brought a large party from Palmerstown, near Naas; and Colonel C. Crichton brought a party from Mullaboden. Lord and Lady Grenfell and Lady MacDonnell also had parties. Lord and Lady Massereene brought a party from Dublin, where they had taken a house in Fitzwilliam Street, for the week. An excellent idea for Punchestown entertainers, as our capital is within easy reach—specially easy, or is it uneasy? motor reach—of the race course.

The stand and enclosure were well filled each day, but most crowded on Tuesday. The dressing was chiefly of the tailor-made style, and frequently in its most glorified variety, as one saw, when our sex in the shelter of the stand and luncheon tents had the opportunity of emerging from their wraps. Many velvet and soft silk dresses were worn. The bride, Lady Portarlington, wore blue cloth, with a picturesque hat and lovely chinchilla furs; Lady Constance Butler was in dark blue velvet; Lady Donoughmore's furs were conspicuous and seasonable looking; Lady Massereene, under the comfort of a long black coat, had a soft grey dress of summer suggestion. Her hat had vivid red feathers. Hats were universally the most striking part of the feminine toilets, and gave the brightest notes of colour to the scene. They were to be seen in an infinite variety of shapes, both small and large. Lady Inverclyde wore black chiffon cloth with a black hat and many feathers. Lady Arnott had beautiful sables with a black and white velvet costume; Lady Walker was also in black and white with a mole's skin coat; Lady Wicklow's peach tweed was made with a short coat and directoire collar, her hat was black; Lady Grenfell wore grey with chinchilla, and Lady

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Annesley pale fawn colour, also with chinchilla; Lady Margaret Orr-Ewing was in dark blue with gardenias in her hat.

Hospitality was as usual very freely dispensed, and luncheons and teas were very popular and cheering under the chilly weather conditions. Although there were few who did not nobly "wear a face of joy" on Tuesday and Wednesday, one fancies, though it may hardly be whispered even, that the most joyful incident of the occasion was the return home on the last day. What is sweeter than the consciousness of having done a duty, which has not to be done again for another year?

On Thursday evening the ball of the Lord Chancellor and Lady Walker was a brilliant success in their spacious residence, Pembroke House, Mount Street. The Lord-Lieutenant, with a large Viceregal party, was present, and Lord and Lady Grenfell with their party. The elect of society assembled in Dublin for Punchestown week mustered in great strength. Many beautiful costumes were worn. Lady Walker wore a lovely dress, pale blue, trimmed with beautiful lace and blush roses, and many diamonds. Lady Massereene looked very handsome in a silvery dress, her crown of diamonds adding height to her tall slight figure. Lady Annesley's Empire-trained white satin dress, her malmaison carnations and jewels were magnificent. Other wearers of lovely dresses were Ladies Grenfell, Wicklow, Blanche Seymour, Arnott, Powerscourt, and MacDonnell. The Lord-Lieutenant opened the ball with Lady Walker and the Lord Chancellor with Lady Annesley. Lord Grenfell's partner in the quadrille was Lady Massereene, and Lady Grenfell's the Lord Chief Justice.

Space does not allow me to tell of the sorrowful joys of Leopardstown.—Yours ever, CLARE.

And now for recipes. You will find this a very nice dish. Fillets of sole à la Vatel:—

Make 6 oz. of raw whiting into quenelle by pounding it with a tablespoonful of cold bread sauce, 2 oz. of butter, and salt and pepper to taste, work in an egg, and rub it through a wire sieve, mix in a tablespoonful of purée of mushroom, and spread the inner side of the fillets of a pair of soles, roll them, and pack them in a buttered sautépan, so placed that the ends will not uncur'. Moisten them with fish stock, cover them with buttered paper, and cook them about twenty minutes in a moderate oven. Make a nice sauce with the fish stock, adding two spoonfuls of cream, the yolk of an egg, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Dish the fillets in a circle, garnish the centre with the remainder of the force-meat, made into tiny quenelles, pour the sauce over them, and put a ring of truffles on each fillet.

Try these pork kidneys with Madeira:—

Mince small six pork kidneys, put them into a stewpan with a lump of butter, pepper and salt to taste, and a little ground nutmeg, some parsley, and six shalots, all minced fine, stirring them the whole time over a clear fire. When nearly done add a little flour, then see it is of a smooth consistence; add a glass of Madeira, let it simmer two minutes, then dish it, serving with it sippets of bread and half lemons.

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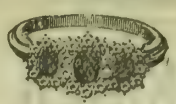

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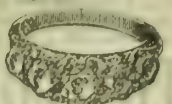

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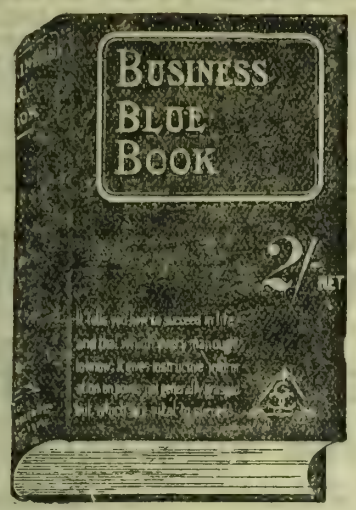

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THE AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT COMPANY, LTD.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.—To be submitted to the Shareholders at the Third Ordinary General Meeting of the Company, to be held at the Company's Offices, Lewis & Marks Building, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, 7th day of May, 1907, at 12 noon.

JOHANNESBURG,
To the Shareholders. 18*th March*, 1907.

Your Directors beg to submit their Second Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of the Company for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1906.

CAPITAL.—Since the closing of the year under review arrangements have been made for the increase of the capital of the Company, to enable the agreement entered into with the Transvaal Proprietary Limited to be carried into effect. The resolution authorising an increase of 250,000 shares was passed at a Special General Meeting held in Johannesburg on the 29th January last, but as, for legal reasons, it was found impossible to obtain registration of this increase, a further Special General Meeting has been called for 7th May next, at which resolutions will be submitted for the rescission of the previous resolutions and to authorise the increase of the capital by 200,000 shares only, viz., to £1,700,000. Should this resolution be passed, the total issued capital of the Company, after completion of the purchase of the assets of the Transvaal Proprietary Limited, referred to hereunder, will be 1,538,592 shares, which will leave a balance of 161,408 shares in reserve.

PROPERTIES.—The land holdings of your Company at 31st December last were practically as set out in the last Annual Report, with the exception that certain farms in which your Company had a partial interest have been transferred to three subsidiary companies, the L. & B. Exploration Company Limited, the Zand-Rivier Exploration Company Limited, and the Snymans Drift Exploration Company Limited, which have been formed with the object of developing the properties acquired.

The area of freehold ground owned by your Company, including the properties being taken over from the Transvaal Proprietary Limited, comprises a total of 1,011,037 acres, the following being a summary:—

No. of Farms.	District.	Extent. Morgen.	Sq. Roods.	No. of Farms.	Districts.	Extent. Morgen.	Sq. Roods.
49	Marico	157,042	247	4	Lydenburg ...	15,069	10
2	Pretoria	2,906	139	5	Waterburg ...	19,694	515
1	Middelburg .	2,714	272	1	Ermelo ...	2,334	528
29	Rustenburg .	72,220	93	3	Zoutpansberg	7,468	388
10	Bloemhof ...	25,092	484	3	Boshof (O.R.C.)	13,589	485
4	Wolmaranstad	9,414	311	2	Vredefort (O.R.C.)	2,236	52
44	Lichtenburg .	134,834	346				
3	Potchefstroom	11,674	283	160		477,692	553

In addition your Company will, when the necessary registrations and transfers are completed, hold 30,000 shares of the nominal value of £1 each, being the whole of the issued capital of the Bechuanaland Farms Limited, a company which has been formed to acquire the following freehold ground, viz:—

No. of Farms.	District.	Morgen.	Sq. Roods.
8 ...	Mafeking (British Bechuanaland) ...	12,634	95
34 ...	Vryburg " " ...	106,499	318
		119,133	413

equal to 252,146 English acres.

A map showing the position of the farms owned by the Company in the western districts of the Transvaal, where the greater portion of its property is situated, is enclosed with the report.

SHARE INTERESTS.—During the severe depression that existed in the South African market last year your Directors took advantage of the opportunity which occurred of making further investments, whereby the average cost of the shares previously held by the Company was considerably reduced. They have also during the year considerably increased the Company's share interest in Roberts Victor Diamonds Limited, the holding in that company now showing a very substantial appreciation in value.

The debenture and share investments held on 31st December last, stood in the books at a cost of £784,433 0s. 1d., of which £503,926 18s. 6d. was represented by shares which had a quotation on the Stock Exchange. The balance of £280,506 1s. 7d. is represented by shares for which there is at the present time no Stock Exchange quotation.

Your Directors have every hope that during the present year more settled conditions will prevail in the Transvaal under the new Responsible Government, and should these hopes be realised, your Company, in view of its large and important holdings in various South African land and mining companies, should benefit to a very great extent in the general prosperity which they confidently anticipate will result.

ROBERTS VICTOR DIAMONDS LIMITED.—The results obtained by this Company during the past year have in every way justified the expectations formed by your Directors as to the great promise of the mine. From the commencement of washing operations in June last up to 31st December, a total of 9,967 loads were washed which produced 20,406 carats of diamonds, an average turn of 68 carats per 100 loads, the diamonds being of high quality. The turn for the months of January, February and March, 1907, have yielded 29,511 carats of diamonds from 39,503 loads washed, equal to nearly 75 carats per 100 loads, so that the yield from the beginning of washing operations up to the end of February, 1907, has been 49,917 carats from 69,470 loads, equal to 70 carats per 100 loads washed.

An interim dividend of 5s. per share has just been declared by the Company.

TRANSVAAL PROPRIETARY LIMITED.—The Shareholders have been advised by the circular of 7th December last of the land interest, investments and cash assets which have been acquired from the Transvaal Proprietary Limited. The properties taken over are, in the opinion of your Board, of very considerable value, and will greatly strengthen the powerful position already held by your Company as the largest landowner in the Western Transvaal. Many of the farms acquired adjoin those previously held by your Company, and the consolidation of these land interests will considerably decrease the cost of supervision and facilitate any scheme which may be decided upon for the settlement of the land.

The Company also acquires by this purchase certain stocks and shares of high class character, the value of which was at 31st December last approximately £60,000. These stock and share assets do not appear in the balance sheet, as the purchase was not completed at the end of the year.

MINING DEVELOPMENTS.—Active prospecting operations have been continued during the year on the Company's farms in the Pietersburg District. Numerous reefs have been located on the properties, and development work carried out on the most promising of these. On the Farm Snymans Drift, one of the reefs, which has been followed at surface for about 400 feet along the strike, has been opened up for some distance by means of adit levels, the developments having proved a quantity of payable ore. Plans are now being drawn up for the development of this mine on a larger scale, and in the meantime prospecting operations are proceeding to prove the value of other reefs on this and the adjoining Farm Zand-Rivier.

Prospecting for diamonds has been undertaken on the Company's properties in the Boshof District of the Orange River Colony, particularly on the Farm Elandsfontein, which adjoins the Roberts Victor Mine, but no pipe has so far been located.

Some discoveries of diamondiferous alluvial have been reported from the Zoutpansberg District, and these discoveries are receiving the attention of the Board.

The Company has many farms in the Marico District, in the neighbourhood of the Malmani Goldfields; in the Bloemhof District, in the vicinity of the Abelskop and Botmansrust Mines; and in the Lichtenburg District near the Madibi Goldfields, from which very favourable developments have recently been reported. If the work now being carried out on these properties continues satisfactory, your Board will consider the question of starting prospecting operations on some of the Company's farms in the neighbourhood.

FARMING OPERATIONS.—Increased attention has been given to the agricultural possibilities of the many valuable farms owned by the Company, more especially in the western district of the Transvaal. The Marico District in particular is one of the most favoured parts for agricultural purposes, being well watered and rich in grass land, and the soil being prolific in the production of crops such as wheat, oats, barley, tobacco and fruit and vegetables of all kinds. The opening of the Krugersdorp Zeerust Railway, which may be expected very shortly, will greatly increase the value of land in this neighbourhood, by facilitating transport of market products to the various centres, and the Marico District will then bid fair to be one of the great market growing centres of the Transvaal. Your Company are the freehold owners of a very large extent of land in this district, namely, 380,000 acres, and as it possesses great mineral possibilities as well as good agricultural value your Directors consider this block of farms as one of their most valuable assets. Endeavours are being made to obtain white settlers, and assistance is being offered them in reinstating the homesteads and in putting down wells for water, while rewards will be offered for the discovery of any payable reefs on the properties leased to them.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.—It will be seen from the Profit and Loss Account that after writing off £19,357 3s. 1d. for Administration and Office Expenses in South Africa, London and Paris, £4,422 3s. 9d. for engineering and other expenses incurred during the year, and £1,185 11s. 9d. from Preliminary Expenses, the balance of receipts over expenditure for the year amounts to the sum of £7,103 13s. 6d. This, with the balance of £2,609 14s. 10d. brought forward from last year, making a total of £9,713 8s. 4d., it is proposed to carry forward

DIRECTORS.—Three of your Directors, namely, Messrs. J. N. de Jongh, Samuel Marks and Julius Weil, retire in accordance with Article 105 of the Articles of Association, but are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—The Auditors Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, Annan & Co., also retire, but are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election. The Shareholders are asked to appoint Auditors and to fix their remuneration for the ensuing year.

By order of the Board,
G. D. MASSEY, *Secretary.*

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FOUNDED 1871. **FUNDS £1,452,925.**
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Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. **2½ per cent. Interest** allowed on Deposit Accounts. **2 per cent. Interest** on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.—C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

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RADIATES HEALTH.
Used in Court and Cottage. Supplied by
ROYAL COMMANDS
To The Royal Family, The Empress of Russia, The King of Greece, The Queen of Roumania, The Dowager Empress of Russia, The Crown Princess of Roumania, and the principal royalty and aristocracy throughout the world.

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In the Vapour Emission Trials held in London on March 19th under the auspices of the Royal Automobile Club, the Lanchester obtained first place, and was awarded the Club's **GOLD MEDAL.**

On Easter Monday, in the Midland Automobile Club's Reliability Trials the "Lanchester" made a **NON-STOP RUN** and was awarded **FULL MARKS.**

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OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 2, SPECIAL FOREIGN.

Original Parodies of Tennyson's "Break, Break, Break." A selection of these will be printed next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 3, SPECIAL FOREIGN.

The great national—I may even say the great imperial—game of cricket undoubtedly forms a common subject of interest and bond of sympathy between Englishmen in all parts of the world, and in this interest, from the spectator's point of view at any rate, the majority of English women also share. So I am proposing, this quarter, to exploit the subject for the benefit of my foreign readers, in connection with the forthcoming tour of the South Africans in this country.

To that end I offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that competitor who shall select

THE BEST ALL ENGLAND XI. THAT CAN BE CHOSEN TO UPHOLD THE GLORY OF THE OLD COUNTRY UPON THE CRICKET FIELD AGAINST UNITED SOUTH AFRICA.

The name of any living cricketer, qualified to play for England, is eligible for inclusion in such Eleven, whether, in point of fact, he is able to turn out this season or not.

The Prize will be awarded on a plébiscite basis: i.e., it will be given to that competitor whose Eleven tallies most nearly with the "Ideal Eleven" arrived at by collating all the Elevens sent in, or, in the event of ties, the prize money will be equally divided.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) This Competition is only open to readers residing *outside Europe*.
(ii.) No Competitor must send in more than one All-England Eleven.
(iii.) All "Elevens" must reach TRUTH Office, Carteret-street, London, S.W., on or before July 31, 1907.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,465.

COMBINATION OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR ENGLISH WORDS CALCULATED TO TAX A SPEAKER'S POWERS OF ENUNCIATION.

This has been an exceedingly difficult competition to adjudicate upon. After mature consideration, I have decided to divide the Prize between QUERY, ISSOR and THE RASCAL, each of whom, therefore, will receive 14s.

QUERY'S "Combination" was: "Soldiers Shrugging Shoulders."
ISSOR'S " " "Six Thick Thistle Sticks."
THE RASCAL'S " " "She chews Sue's shoes."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,466.

I much regret that I am imperatively obliged to defer this award for one more week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,467.

ALLITERATIVE AND EPIGRAMMATIC DESCRIPTIONS OF A TYPICAL ENGLISH BANK HOLIDAY.

The Prize in this competition is divided equally between CHERRYPICKER and BRAD, whose epigrams were printed in TRUTH of March 27th last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,473.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston has been recently calling attention to the fact that there is no public memorial, either in London or Calcutta, to perpetuate the name of Clive, the great founder of our Indian Empire. His lordship considers the omission a national disgrace, and suggests that it should be remedied as soon as possible, pointing out that the present year, in which falls the 150th anniversary of the battle of Plassy, affords an admirable occasion for putting the matter in hand.

Now assuming that Lord Curzon's suggestion is translated into practice and that a public memorial is erected to the famous soldier and statesman, some suitable inscription would, of course, have to be devised. And it seems to me that a really interesting competition might result from inviting readers of TRUTH to see what they can turn out in this direction.

Of all such inscriptions now in existence, I think no nobler or more effective can be found than Tennyson's famous four-lined verse inscribed upon Sir John Franklin's cenotaph:

"Not here; the White North has thy bones; and thou,
Heroic sailor soul,
Art passing on thy happier voyage now
Towards no earthly Pole."

I quote this, not as a model to be parodied or imitated, but only as an example of how much can be said, and said well, in so short a compass.

Of course, I have no expectation of finding a Tennyson among my competitors; but I do know that quite a number of them have the gift of neat and appropriate verse, and, in confident hope that some of them at least will rise to the occasion, I now offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas for:

THE BEST INSCRIPTION, IN FOUR LINES OF RHYMED VERSE, SUITABLE FOR ENGRAVING UPON THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IN HONOUR OF ROBERT, LORD CLIVE, THE HERO OF PLASSY AND FOUNDER OF OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.

Competitors are not restricted to any particular metre, save that each line of the four must rhyme with at least one other line, and that no line must exceed twelve syllables.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one Rhymed Inscription.
(ii.) All Inscriptions must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, April 29, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of SINCERITÉ, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,458, is Miss Saralata Chaterjé, Champs, Yonne, France.

*** The real name, with the address, of DERULA, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,463, is A. Bilderbeck Esq., 3, Queen's Terrace, Stockmore Street, Oxford.

*** The real name, with the address, of ALLEGRO, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,464, is Miss Winifred German, 30, Nelson Road, Southsea, Hants.

WHIG.—I duly note your corrections. Very sorry for the misprints, for which perhaps the pressure consequent upon the Easter holidays was, to some extent, responsible.

KORAH.—Your correction duly noted.

MART.—Also yours. For explanation see answer to WHIG above.

A COMPETITOR.—The points which you raise have not escaped my eye and are under careful consideration.

FREDA.—Your *nom de plume* duly registered.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,470.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

HUMOROUS POEMS SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY A "LITTLE BEAST" OF A PET DOG IN ANSWER TO FATHER VAUGHAN'S DIATRIBES.

A TOT TERRIER'S PROTEST.

Good Father, when you call us names our
temper's hot you rouse.
Why use such beastly language to society's bow-wows?
But that your cloth's against it, one might really think, perhaps,
You envied our siestas in such pretty women's laps!
Now should the transmigration of what mortals dub their souls
Change yours from priest's to puppy's—how the thought my mind consoles—
I may see you run the gauntlet yet of those you now assail,
With a transmigrated kettle tied to your post-mortem tail!
Kismet.

You call me "little beast," O Father Vaughan!
'Tis not my fault that I am "little" born;
But have you never read, or heard men say,
That "Parvis in est sua gratia"?
I bark on four legs, and you growl on two;
I wag my tail—a thing you cannot do.
I love my mistress, and she loves me well.
Her virtues praise, her failings do not tell!
Allos.

My name was "Fido" formerly,
But now, alas! a change
Has come upon me unawares
And I no more have mange
The food so much I used to eat
Has, to my sorrow, gone—
And learning I'm a "little beast"
She's called me "Father Vaughan"
Libra.

O, worthy Father, cease to storm,
You're really too audacious,
If I had oratorial form
I would not be pugnacious.
My mistress loves "that manly priest"
(She here alludes to you, sir),
'Tis 'cause I'm such a "little" beast
That there is room for two, sir.
Petronius.

Of ladies' pets, staid Father Vaughan,
You've late become a hater,
Your allegations false we scorn,
And spurn the allegator.
Still, little dogs shall have their days—
Unchecked their owners' passion—
While you, a mere ephemeral craze,
Will soon be out of fashion.
Amolycus.

When Father Vaughan expends his hate
Upon the softer sex,
As cleric and as celibate,
His satire no one checks:
But weaker things why thus attack?
'Tis mean, to say the least',
To hit those who can't hit him back
And dub me "little beast"
Herm. me.

O, ghostly Father! why this wrath?
It ill beseems thy sacred cloth
Thy fellow creatures to revile—
The lesser "beasts" less prone to guile:
Because the fair ones us caress,
And to their bosoms sometimes press,
Is it envy? oh, at thy age,
Would thy reverence were more sage!
Sincérité.

Sir Preacher, when in search of quarry new
Our present quarrel was begun by you,
You recked not I, source of unhallowed joy,
Was capable of dire revenge, my boy:
But, as your fellow-craftsman, Bishop Hatto,
Supplied a toothsome meal to many a rat: O!
So will my teeth find in the calves of Vaughan
Most tasty mince meat or well spiced brawn
Oscam.

I am only a poor "little beast," Father Vaughan,
But 'tis hard in this time of social reform,
When feelings of sentiment so rule the land
That 'tis very great trouble to get a man hanged,
That you from the pulpit should against me inveigh,
And talk against me in this scandalous way.
However, the only effect that I see
Is that Mistress is fonder than ever of me.
Dora

I'm only a little pet dog, dear Father,
But yet I have a warm, true heart of my own.
Which beats with a love so untold, that rather
Methinks 'tis the love that for much shall atone.
Despise not the "little beast" then, but remember
That He, who data note all the sparrows that fall,
Looks down with compassion on devotion so tender
To one of His creatures, no matter how small.
Vesta.

I am dubbed "little beast" by an eloquent priest
Who denounces my cushions of silk,
And who thanks that, at least, he'er a dog for his feast
Should I require silver saucers for milk!

With a true canine scorn, I thee now, Father, woo
Not to utter a libel so mean,
Lest you find, one fine morn, that your cassock is torn,
And that your "little beasts'" teeth are keen.
Pyrrhus.

"Ce qu'il y a de meilleur dans l'homme, c'est le chien."
If I have snapped, sir, at your rev'rend shins,
If I have yelped, sir, at your rev'rend toes,
Remember oft you've said my lady sins,
And that those who attack her are my foes.
Not able to retort by speech or pen,
You should, most worthy Father, grant at least,
That in comparison with certain men,
I am in very truth but "little" beast.
Riparian.

Dear Father, with feelings of sorrow
And pity I've heard of your case,
Unmingled with fear for the morrow,
Despite your attacks on my race.
"Little beasts" are quite legal, and surely,
Whate'er your intentions to vex,
One axiom defeats you demurely—
"De minimis non curat lex!"
Isobar.

Dear Father, in your bold attack
On doggies, who can't bite you back,
The rude expression, "little beast,"
Is one not suited in the least
To mouth of grave and reverend cleric,
Whose utterances should be Homeric.
I do not care a jot or tittle,
But it makes you look "beastly little."
John.

Oh! cruel man, to say such things,
A "little beast," indeed!
Why should my mistress not love me,
And pet and fuss and feed?
I would not interfere with you,
But be silent as a log,
If I were but a Cardinal
And you a little dog!
Dagmar.

Though you slang me, Father Vaughan,
From fall of eve till morning dawn,
I shall not mind it in the least,
Though you call me "little beast"!
My lady goes to hear you preach,
She's much amused by what you screech!
Your diatribes I've ne'er regretted,
For after each I'm still more petted!
Alpha Beta.

"Love me, love my dog"—so ran
The proverb of our youth,
And from the cleric's gibes we can
Inversely prove its truth.
Our ladies can themselves defend
From dogmatising priest;
But why attack a harmless friend,
The faithful "little beast"?
Miranda.

Bow-wow! bow-wow! you'll pardon me,
But though I am a "little darling,"
Kind reverend sir, I do not see
Why that should set you at me snarling.
The mighty Shakespeare did no more,
With all his brains, than physic throw me,
And why should you see fit to pour
Such venom on and hatred show me?
Walfred.

Bow-wow! bow-wow! I'll bark at least,
Tho' I am but a "little beast."
Perchance 'twill startle Father Vaughan
To learn that he and I are drawn
From the same pattern, and do still
The same design in life fulfil.
We bark, and snarl, and bark again,
But find the noise is wholly vain.
Snap.

I feel pugnacious—in a pet—through all your pulpit twaddle!
Some say I am a lady's duck—is it because I waddle?
I grant you are a talker (tall cur), sir—a poor short cur am I,
And, when you in your pulpit stand, of course you do not lie.
Reverse me and I am a god! what says the human preacher?
"That dogs delight to bark and bite"—but what of human teacher?
You preach and prate: Your needs to-day the ladies all are puzzlin'—
Pets, silks, and satins you dislike, p'r'aps what you want is muzzlin' (muslin).
Felixicus.

A poor "little beast" from the wicked West End,
Even I can't escape a good whipping.
On her lap I lie passive, my mistress's friend,
So how can I then be caught tripping?
Oh! Father, pray why are your wishes so ill,
That you'd fain have my mistress reject me?
Leave her missus's duties at least to fulfil,
For 'twere far greater sin to neglect me.
Asthore.

Oh, Father Vaughan, a little beast!
Although this may be true,
Of one thing I am sure at least,
That I've offended you,
So as above there'll be no bones,
I don't intend to go,
Instead, I'll try and make atones
By joining you below.
Petite.

Your scathing comments, Father Vaughan,
On ladies' little pets,
Are surely somewhat overdrawn;
Your Reverence forgets
We faithful to our mistress stay,
We cherish, love her, and obey:
More than your Reverence thinks, at least,
Of many a human "little beast."
Padre.

My mistress loves me, Father Vaughan,
No sermon will affect my fate,
But love, the target of your scorn,
Inspires a faithful heart to hate.
So "cave canem" in Mayfair,
And "cave canem," in the Park,
Your cloth shall not protect you there,
My bite is deeper than my bark!
Mirabel.

Upon my head my mistress pours
Her fond and true affection,
The Father at my mistress roars
To swell his church collection.
That wealth of love which I enjoy,
He never may have tasted;
Transferred to him without alloy
'Twould certainly be wasted.
Mart.

Oh! Father Vaughan, you little know
The good your cruel words bestow.
More pity now, more love at least,
Is poured on me poor "little beast."
With eyes so soft, and hair so sleek,
How could you so against me speak;
But you may say whate'er you dare,
It only increases love and care.
Portia.

"A little beast"—yet love of such may prove a saving power;
And love from e'en "a little beast" soothe many a darkened hour.
And even "little beasts" may teach some lessons worth the learning,
Of trust, affection, constancy, of sympathy discerning.
A little light, tho' poor it be, is better far than blindness,
And kindness shown to "little beasts" may grow to broader kindness;
For still the poet's words hold true, O! worthy, caustic priest:
"He prayeth best who loveth best both man and bird and beast."
Tom Nissed.

Dear Father V.—It seems to me
It's hardly (canine) cricket
To ask a "Skye" to have a try
At great St. Bernard's wicket.
But still I'll say—and if the cap
Your head should fit, pray don it—
Far better dog on daughter's lap
Than bee in Father's bonnet!
Cashier.

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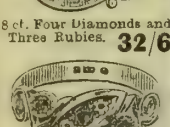
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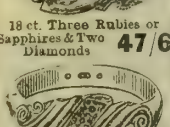
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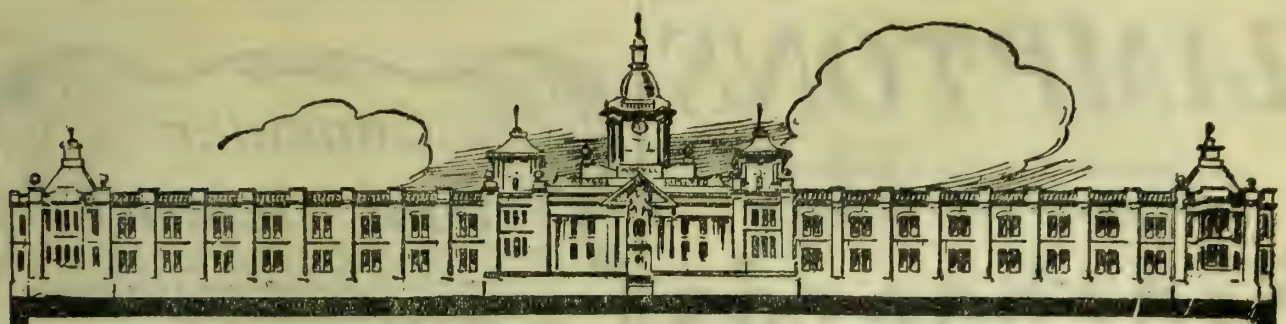

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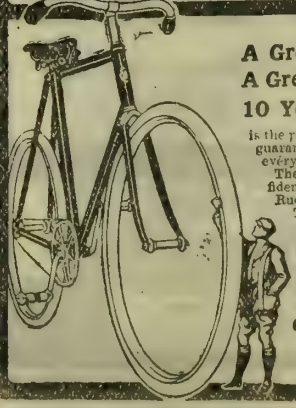

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King is to arrive in London on Friday from the Continent, and Buckingham Palace will be the headquarters of the Court until Saturday, May 18, when their Majesties are to leave town for the Whitsuntide holidays.

It is understood at Lincoln that the King, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught and Prince Arthur, and Prince Christian will all visit that city during the last week in June, when the show of the Royal Agricultural Society is to be held there. The show ground, which extends over 103 acres, being two miles in circumference, is on the West Common, which adjoins the Carholme where the racecourse is situated. The Royal Pavilion, which is a most imposing structure, has been erected on the south side of the ground facing Alderman's Walk. It is not known yet what arrangement will be made for the visits of the King and of the various Princes, but it is expected that his Majesty will stay at Belton Hall, near Grantham, as the guest of Lord and Lady Brownlow; and it is known that house parties will be entertained during the week by Lord and Lady Yarborough at Brocklesby Park, by the Duke and Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey, by Lord and Lady Londesborough at Blankney Hall, and by Lord and Lady Heneage at Hainton Hall.

The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland and Princess Olga of Hanover have been staying at Naples during the last fortnight, and they met the King and Queen when the Royal yacht arrived on Thursday. It is expected that the Duke and Duchess and Princess Olga and Prince George will come to England this year on a visit to their Majesties, but they will not come until November, when they will be the guests of the King and Queen at Sandringham and at Windsor Castle. The Duke of Cumberland has not visited England since he attended his father's funeral at Windsor Castle in June, 1878, and the Duchess has not been in this country since her marriage.

The health of the young Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha has been causing some anxiety of late. The Duke was always delicate, and he has been suffering severely from gout and rheumatism, and derived very little benefit from a "cure" at Wiesbaden. He has now gone to Italy for a trial of the baths at a Tuscan spa. If this experiment proves a failure the Duke will probably spend a month at Bath before long, in order that he may go through a course of the waters, which have frequently proved most efficacious in similar cases.

The Duchess of Albany, who has returned to Claremont Park after spending a week at The Hague with her sister, the Queen Dowager of the Netherlands, has been joined by the Princess of Bentheim-Steinfurt, who has arrived in England from Germany on a visit to her sister. The late King of the Netherlands proposed for the Princess of Bentheim after he had been rejected by Princess Thyra of Denmark (now Duchess of Cumberland), but she decisively refused his addresses, as she was privately engaged to the Prince of Bentheim, whom she married soon afterwards. King William then proposed to her sister, Princess Emma of Waldeck-Pyrmont, who at once accepted him, and the marriage turned out most happily.

It was announced last week by a morning paper that the "ceremonial programme" for the visit of Prince

Fushimi of Japan "is nearly complete," and that it includes a lunch at Buckingham Palace; which is quite wrong. The programme was complete before the King left England, but there may be alterations, so it will not be issued by the Lord Chamberlain until after his Majesty has returned to London. There is no such item as "lunch at Buckingham Palace." A State banquet will be given at the Palace for Prince Fushimi, who will also be present at the first State Ball, and while in London he is to pay visits to Windsor Castle, Aldershot, Portsmouth, and Osborne. It is very improbable that the King will command "a special theatrical programme" (*sic*) for the Prince, whose official visit to the Court will not be of long duration. Such visits are often limited to three days, and they never exceed a week. Prince Fushimi, however, will stay in England for some time after the termination of his official visit to the Court.

Queen Carola of Saxony (widow of King Albert) will arrive in London from Paris early next month, and she will probably stay in England until Whitsuntide. Her Majesty will very likely spend a week at Torquay. Queen Carola's visit to this country is to be private, but she will be entertained to dinner at Buckingham Palace by the King and Queen, and at Marlborough House by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and she will probably be present at the first State Ball if that event takes place while she is in London.

Lord de Ros is to be the Gold Stick in Waiting on the King during May, replacing Lord Wolseley. There will be plenty of duty for the members of the King's military household next month, as there are to be several Court ceremonials, at which their attendance will be required. During the last two months the duty of the Gold and Silver Sticks and their subordinates has been on paper only.

Lord Knollys comes this week to his apartments in St. James's Palace from Windsor Castle, and on Friday he will resume his duties as private secretary to the King. Sir Arthur Davidson acted as his Majesty's private secretary during March, and Major Ponsonby has been on duty since April 1. Lord Knollys has an excellent residence in St. James's Palace, which was granted to him by Queen Victoria on the death of Mrs. William Ashley. That lady's husband had been a member of Queen Adelaide's household, and she occupied these apartments for about half a century.

Lord Aberdeen has been busily fulfilling the duties which are always at hand for Viceroys, and unassisted by Lady Aberdeen, who is not yet equal to social exertions. During the week, in addition to other engagements, he dined with the Colonel and officers of the 11th Hussars, and attended the military entertainment and tattoo got up by them for the benefit of military charities. The sports took place at the Marlborough Barracks, to the north of the Phœnix Park. It was there that the late Duke of Clarence spent some time when with his regiment in Ireland. This week Lord Aberdeen is in London for his son's marriage. Since Lord Aberdeen's holding of office in Ireland, two of his sons have married. In neither case has the bride been Irish, notwithstanding the tradition of beauty and charm which attaches to the daughters of Erin.

The King has approved of the appointment of Lord Overtoun to be Lord-Lieutenant of Dumbartonshire, in the place of the late Sir James Colquhoun, of Luss. Lord Overtoun, who is a son of the late Mr. James White, was raised to the Peerage by Mr. Gladstone in 1893. The family wealth has been principally derived from the Rutherglen chemical works. Lord Overtoun, who has always been known as a staunch Liberal, is a prominent member of the United Free Church, and a warm supporter of many Evangelical societies. He owns considerable property in Dumbartonshire, which was purchased by his father.

Lord Midleton, who died last week at the age of seventy-seven, had been for some time in failing health. He was a Conservative of the old school, and a most staunch Churchman, and for a great number of years he was an active member of the Evangelical party. Lord Midleton was an hereditary Low Churchman, his father having been a prominent and influential leader of the Evangelicals, and for many years he was Rector of Bath, and afterwards Dean of Exeter. Lord Midleton was very popular in Surrey, as he entered most heartily into both the public and the social life of the county, and his hospitalities were as profuse as they were pleasant, for he was an excellent host. His estates in England and the South of Ireland are extensive, and he was well known as a considerate and liberal landlord, and was held in the highest esteem by his tenantry. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey for nine years, and filled that office with dignity and efficiency, and since his retirement had been presented with his portrait by the magistrates and the members of the County Council. Lord Midleton was an elder brother of the late Warden of Merton.

The late peer resided principally at Peper Harow, his place near Godalming, which is situated in a most picturesque district. The house, which is both handsome and comfortable, was built early in the reign of George III. from designs by Sir William Chambers, and was afterwards enlarged by Cockerell. The old-fashioned gardens are very charming, and they contain some magnificent cedars of Lebanon, and fine conservatories. The deer park, which is large and well-wooded, is intersected by the Wey. The church at Peper Harow, which is near the house, was restored about sixty years ago from designs by Pugin, and con-

For Appeals, see page 1040.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1045.
For Special for Ladies, see pages 1050, 1051.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 1044, 1045.
For Amusements, see page 1047.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1053, 1054.

tains the Midleton chantry. There are several interesting monuments, and some very good stained glass.

Lord Haliburton, who died at Bournemouth on Saturday, was associated during the whole of his official life with War Office administration, and he was a staunch adherent of the Wolseley-Cardwell régime. Only a few months before his death he publicly attributed the recent "disastrous administrative failures and serious losses" to the destruction, through party feeling, of Lord Cardwell's "great reform." Lord Haliburton was an able and zealous official of the old school. His connection with the War Office extended over forty-four years, and he was raised to the peerage by Lord Salisbury (on the recommendation of Lord Lansdowne) when he retired in 1898.

THE DEFEAT OF GENERAL BOTHA.

Long fought he for his nation's rights
On many a stricken field,
Nor ever in those hard-fought fights
Was Botha forced to yield.

But now in London's banquet-halls
He owns us British winners.
Unconquered by our swords, he falls
A victim to our dinners.

A man named Wilmot, of 73, Holland-road, W., has lately been writing letters stating that a Bordeaux firm called Regère, Heribel, and Co. had endeavoured to establish an agency in London, but, not having been successful, were prepared to dispose of their stock of clarets at an alarming sacrifice. Anybody desirous of utilising this great opportunity must do so instantly, as the wine was very soon to be sold by public auction, "probably to-morrow." Having heard of this great opportunity, I sent one of my staff to see Mr. Wilmot. He found the address to be a very modest house, with no appearance of business about it, and he was received by a female, who told him that Mr. Wilmot was not yet up, although it was close on mid-day. He explained that he wanted to see Mr. Wilmot about the purchase of some wine, to which the woman replied that Wilmot had given up the business, as it did not pay.

There is nothing very novel about all this, and probably most of my readers have before now had communications from gentlemen bearing a family resemblance to Mr. Wilmot. I happened to hear, however, that a certain club in Pall Mall received one of the above-mentioned communications, and, anxious to embrace the great opportunity offered, the committee gave an order for forty dozen of St. Estèphe 1904, at 10s. per dozen. They subsequently agreed to pay an extra 6d. per dozen for bottling and delivery on account of the smallness of the order, and sent a cheque for £21. The wine was duly delivered, and, according to my information, it was collected by the carman from an obscure establishment in the neighbourhood of Brixton. As this had occurred prior to my representative's visit to 73, Holland-road, I conclude that the club really relieved Regère, Heribel and Co. of the whole of their stock. My information being confidential, I am not at liberty to mention the name of the club; but if the members of any Pall Mall club should happen to be struck by the St. Estèphe 1904 which has just been added to the wine list, the foregoing facts may help them to appreciate the peculiar merits of the vintage.

There is at least one thing that they seem on the point of managing better in France—even if they do not do so already. The *Chambre Syndicale des Patrons Coiffeurs de Paris*, which is to say the Paris Hairdressers' Association, have decided, in future, to increase the salaries of their assistants and to suppress the *pourboire* habit by all means in their power. I have often wondered why some enterprising London barber, or Association of Barbers, has not started anti-tip hairdressing saloons. Of all forms of licensed petty blackmail the barber's tip is the most annoying. The barber does not do nearly so much for us as, say, the waiter—yet he expects a tip of just three times the size, relatively speaking. The waiter is satisfied, that is to say, with, roughly speaking, 10 per cent. on the amount of your bill; for a threepenny shave the barber expects a penny. What is more, if you revolt, you have just to find another barber, so ferocious becomes the attitude of the razor-armed extortioner.

I knew a man who was a conscientious objector to tipping barbers, and could not shave himself. He told me once that, according to careful calculation, he had been forced to travel considerably more than 100 miles during one year in order to find new barber-shops where his unbending attitude on the tip question was unknown, and to spend rather more than £5 in bus and cab fares in doing so. Finally, having exhausted the whole of inner London and most of the suburbs, he had to give up the struggle and grow a beard.

Referring once more to the "Where to Stay Bureau, Limited," of Baker-street, which has come under notice lately in Truth, I have learned that within the last month Mr. Powell, the virtual proprietor of the company, has been again endeavouring to obtain an investment of £100 in shares as a condition of the appointment of a lady secretary. Whether he has been successful I cannot say, but I hope it is not too late to repeat the warning already given against any such investment. To one lady who responded to his advertisement a few weeks back Powell stated that in the event of her resigning her postion in the office, her shares would be transferred, if she desired it, to her successor. This, however, was not the experience of the lady whose case has already been described; on the contrary, she has been unable to obtain a return of her money to this day. The applicant for the appointment also

received from Powell a balance-sheet of the company, showing a profit for the year equivalent to a 5 per cent. dividend and a balance over. I understand that the "auditor" who signs this balance-sheet is an employee of the company, and that Powell keeps his own books, which somewhat detracts from the value of the document. It is quite possible, in view of what is already known, that the Bureau is making profits; but how long they will continue is very problematical.

A "CUP" PROBLEM.

Oh! "Everton" *those* call themselves;
Themselves *these* "Sheffield" call;
Though why so dubbed such hybrid elves
I cannot see at all.

From Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales
Recruited are their ranks;
But quite a small percentage hails
From Yorks or yet from Lancs.

There are few books that I find more interesting than those dealing with the history of London, especially when illustrated with pictures of the place as it looked in the days of our forefathers. Mr. Austin Brereton has made an admirable addition to this class of literature in his "Literary History of the Adelphi," just published by Messrs. Treherne. I can cordially recommend it to all Cockneys who care for the history of their native place. The history of the Adelphi itself and of its literary associations is, of course, only an affair of the last hundred and fifty years. But Mr. Brereton has gone back far beyond that, and given an interesting account of old Durham House—originally the London residence of the Bishops of Durham—on a part of the site of which the Brothers Adam erected the Adelphi, pretty much as it stands to-day. Durham House was one of the most ancient of the line of riverside palaces that extended of old from the Savoy to Westminster. The "literary history" of the site begins with Sir Walter Raleigh, who lived and worked—and smoked—at Durham House, in a room overlooking the river. It was a somewhat different prospect that he looked out upon from what we see to-day from Adelphi Terrace or the Hotel Cecil. If he could see it now, would he think it had changed for the better?

The highest price realised during the two days' sale of Sir Henry Mildmay's library from Dogmersfield Park was £1,300, which was paid by Mr. Quaritch for a superb fifteenth century Book of Hours, containing between fifty and sixty miniatures. The most interesting lot, however, which came up on Saturday, was a copy of the very rare first edition of Shakespeare's Sonnets (1609), consisting of thirty-eight leaves. This was sold to Mr. Quaritch for £800, and he paid £680 for the First Folio Shakespeare, which is an imperfect copy, several of the most valued leaves being missing, including the one opposite the title with the verses.

Certain questions asked last week by Mr. Middlemore should serve to recall attention to the Chantrey Fund scandal, which attracted a great deal of notice in 1903 and 1904, only to be shelved and forgotten through the medium of a House of Lords Committee. Among other things, Mr. Middlemore wanted to know whether the Government would introduce a Bill to reform the Chantrey Trust if they had adequate assurance from the other side of the House that it would be treated as non-contentious. Mr. Runciman, to whom the question was put, was of opinion that no such Bill would go through the House unopposed, but invited the questioner to communicate to him details of his proposals. If Mr. Middlemore is keen on this question, I recommend him to put his proposals into a Bill and introduce it at once.

It is rather a pity that this step was not taken a little earlier. The annual Royal Academy job at the expense of the Chantrey Fund is by this time in process of incubation, and will be hatched out in the course of a few days. Hitherto the trustees have been simply contumacious. Whether they have thought that the storm had blown over, or that by departing from the long established practice they would be giving themselves away, they have treated with contempt the public protests against the perversion of the trust and the report of the House of Lords Committee, and the Chantrey Fund has continued, as before, to serve as an annual prize at the Burlington House Show. It must be supposed, therefore, that the trustees will only be dislodged from their present position by legal procedure, or the summary remedy of a "short Act." Before the short Act is passed, however, its appearance on the table of the House might possibly have a wholesome effect on the minds of these Academical jobbers, and for that reason the sooner it is introduced the better.

I am asked to mention that the annual festival ball in aid of the Italian Hospital, Queen-square, W.C., will be held at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, on Monday, May 6. Tickets may be obtained from the secretary at the hospital.

A cherished popular delusion is very roughly handled in an article in the *Monthly Review* by Mr. H. W. Horwill, who contends that the Americans are a race not of hustlers but of dawdlers. In proof of it he refers to what he has seen of the leisurely habits of their business men, the amount of time devoted to holidays and sports, the "painful trial of patience" involved in all shopping transactions, the slowness of traffic in the

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—F.C.——, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I., writes: "One lady in particular, whom I sent to London some five years ago to undergo Dr. Alabone's method of cure, is now in perfect health and is loud in his praise. Before she went under his care she had been pronounced an "*utterly hopeless case*" by two highly qualified medical men, both possessing an excellent reputation for accurate diagnosis."—"*The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh*," *price 2s. 6d., by E. W Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.*

streets, the defects of the railway and postal services, the intolerable slowness of legal procedure, and so on. He even finds that the American newspapers are not as well up-to-date as our own! The American has gained his reputation as a time-saver, according to Mr. Horwill, simply because he makes more noise than anybody else over his work, and if he can only make a noise he is convinced that he is busy. After reading this article, I was very much struck to find in my *Morning Leader* a few days ago an interview with Mr. A. W. Gamage, who, after a visit to the United States, recorded precisely the same impression in almost the same words:—

> It is a superstition that the Americans hustle. In reality they only make more noise over less work. They will rush for one hour to make up for having wasted three.

The concurrence of testimony is striking and not a little comforting to us old-world people, who are always afraid that we are being left behind.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston is to be formally admitted to the office of Chancellor of the University of Oxford at a Convocation which will be held in the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday, May 11. The last occasion on which a Chancellor was admitted at Oxford was in September, 1715, when Charles, Earl of Arran, succeeded his brother, the Duke of Ormonde, in that office. The installation of a new Chancellor, which is a most elaborate ceremony, always takes place at his first Encænia, when he confers the honorary degrees. This year's Encænia is fixed for Wednesday, June 26.

Canon Holland is to be the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during May, replacing Chancellor Newbolt. Dean Gregory, who has been very unwell, is better again. The Dean of St. Paul's is in his eighty-eighth year. He was appointed to a canonry in the Cathedral by Mr. Disraeli in November, 1868, and in December, 1890, Lord Salisbury promoted him to the deanery, after the death of Dean Church.

The annual festival service of the Sons of the Clergy is to take place at St. Paul's Cathedral on the afternoon of Monday next. There will be the usual elaborate musical service, with a largely augmented choir, and a band and chorus. The anthems are to be Beethoven's "Hallelujah Chorus," and a new work, composed for the occasion by Dr. Lloyd, of Eton College. The sermon will be preached by Canon Carnegie, rector of Birmingham Cathedral, who has earned a great reputation as a pulpit orator.

What was suggested in Truth last week as to the strained relations between the Dean of Canterbury and the Chapter is confirmed from several quarters. "The suppression of the Three Hours service on Good Friday," writes one correspondent, "is only one among many causes of dissatisfaction. The Dean's narrow and out-of-date Evangelicalism is a cause of offence to many, but is less widely resented than his lack of all effective interest in the religious life of the city." Another writes: "That a Deanery which only a few years ago, under Dean Farrar, was a centre of social and religious activity, should now produce nothing better than an attempt to force Evangelicalism of the Black Gown type upon the local clergy is a deplorable result of a most unfortunate appointment. . . . Some of the preachers summoned to the Cathedral pulpit from country villages have, I assure you, been worthy of a museum for extinct birds." Another correspondent "desires to add his testimony to what has been stated about Dean Wace's absenteeism"; and so on. These criticisms seem of weight because they cannot be attributed to the *odium theologicum*, for Dean Farrar was anything but a High Churchman.

Bishop Bromby, who died last week at Clifton at the age of ninety-three, was the oldest of Anglican prelates, having been consecrated for the See of Tasmania by Archbishop Longley in 1864. He remained in Australia for eighteen years, and then returned to England, in 1884, when he became Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Lichfield under the present Archbishop of York. In 1892 he removed to the diocese of Bath and Wells, where he assisted for nine years, and he did not retire from active work until he had passed his eighty-seventh birthday. Bishop Bromby was Vicar of St. Paul's, Cheltenham, from 1843 until 1864, and Principal of the Training College, and was the last Colonial Bishop appointed by the Crown. He was an able man, and he did his work thoroughly everywhere, while he was always much liked and warmly esteemed. He was a strong High Churchman, but, having both tact and wide sympathies, he worked with zeal and harmony with men of all parties both in the Colonies and at home. In politics he was a decided Liberal. The Bishop originated the well-known "Papers for the Schoolmaster," and he published both educational and theological works. His eldest son is the well-known Vicar of All Saints', Clifton, where Mr. Bromby succeeded the late Dean Randall.

The Rev. G. F. Hodson, who died the other day, in his eighty-sixth year, at North Petherton, Somersetshire, was the son of the well-known Principal of Brasenose, and a godson of Lord Grenville, and of Mr. Richard Heber, M.P. for Oxford University, the famous book collector. Mr. Hodson, who was Rector of Michelchurch for over forty years, was at one time a prominent and very popular figure in Somersetshire society. He was a keen sportsman, and in the early days of dog shows his services were in great request as judge in all parts of the country. He was one of the original members of the Kennel Club, and his decisions usually met with general approval. For many years he was the owner of a very fine mixed kennel of mastiffs, deerhounds, and bloodhounds.

The Lincolnshire papers of last week report a very forcible sermon delivered by Mr. Rhodes, the Vicar of Whaplode, with reference to the grievance of his parish

and himself against the Governors of Uppingham School. The matter is one of very much more than local interest. In addition to the complaint about the diversion of the great tithe from the parish, the Vicar of Whaplode has a personal grievance against the Governors in the fact that a few years ago they distrained upon him for tithe. On the face of it, the exaction of tithe from a vicar is a proceeding which only express legal authority would warrant, and in this particular case it appears that a document clearly exempting the Vicar from liability for tithe was in the possession of the solicitor to the tithe owners. This incident was presumably due to some mistake or oversight, but it helps to show the attitude of the Uppingham Trustees towards the parish from which so much of their income is derived. The whole story is a conspicuous example of the abuses which have resulted in many country parishes from the appropriation of tithe to extra-parochial purposes.

A firm at Worcester forwarded to the Secretary at the General Post Office a packet of lottery tickets, addressed to "The Foreman" at their works, which had been received through the post from the Rev. Joseph Geoghegan, of St. Peter's Church, Phibsboro', Dublin. As I mentioned last week, books of tickets similarly addressed have been distributed broadcast throughout the country. The protest of the Worcester firm has elicited the following communication from the Secretary at the G.P.O.:—

> In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, concerning the delivery to you of an open packet containing circulars and tickets relating to a prize drawing, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that it is not the practice of this office to interfere with the transmission of such packets, when the circulars relate to drawings promoted for religious or charitable objects.

This is a new and, it seems to me, a very serious declaration of the policy of the Post Office in regard to the use of the post for the transmission of lottery tickets. The Postmaster-General, we now learn for the first time, takes upon himself to exempt from interference tickets relating to lotteries for religious or charitable objects. By what right does he do this? The object with which a lottery is promoted does not in any way affect its illegality, and in England, at any rate, it is a new departure for a Government Department to hold itself entitled to overlook a breach of the law if it considers that the law is being broken in the cause of religion or charity. In this instance it is an Irish Roman Catholic lottery. But would the Postmaster-General permit the same privilege in the case of a lottery promoted by a church or a charity in England? If he did he would be deliberately aiding and abetting the commission of an offence for which the principals could be prosecuted by the police. The idea that the law against lotteries should be set aside when there is —or is alleged to be—a religious or charitable object in view is quite indefensible, and I hope that some member of the House of Commons will call attention to the matter.

I have to acknowledge £5 from Rhino, and $5 from G. W. towards the Toy Fund.

The Irish Militia is to remain unaffected by Mr. Haldane's reforms. It might be as well, therefore, if attention were given to the way the system of billeting is worked in the 3rd Royal Irish Rifles. According to evidence that I have received from Newtownards, as many as six or eight recruits are packed into houses that have only accommodation for two or three at the outside. The state of things described is, in fact, such that if it arose in England one would expect the sanitary authorities to interfere. This is said to be the normal state of things, repeated year after year, and, apart from other objections to it, one would think that it can hardly help to stimulate recruiting. Why not put up a few huts for the men? An incidental objection to the billeting system is that the recruits' rations have to be shared in some instances with the families on whom they are quartered.

In reference to the question asked in Truth the other day as to whether a soldier serving in India forfeits his right (such as it is) to transfer to the home establishment by taking a furlough in England, I am told by several correspondents who have been good enough to write on the subject that according to the general practice in India the answer to the question is in the affirmative. It does not seem altogether fair—at any rate, the rule ought to be made clear, and the attention of men ought to be called to it before they apply for furlough. It is quite certain that at present a great many men have come home on furlough without the slightest idea that they were thereby condemning themselves to detention in India for at least six years after their return to the country.

An officer writing on this subject says:—

> The six years period is really a bit of a fraud. It used to be eight. The regulations still require a man to re-engage *before* he can register for transfer to the home establishment, while the Army Act does not allow a private to re-engage until he has eleven years' service. The names are sent in about June. Most men enlist in the winter months, when employment is scarce and times are hard. Thus, a man who joined in December, 1900, and went to India between October and February, 1902, could not apply till June, 1912, and might come home during the following trooping season, when he would have had between ten and eleven years abroad. I write "might come home," because, in point of fact, only about 1 per cent. of the establishment are allowed to come. A second man, who enlisted at the same date, might get a billet at home, and not go out to India till February, 1906. He also could submit his name for transfer in June, 1912, and might come home again at the same time as the first man.

I have had a lengthy statement calling attention to the unsatisfactory position of "acting" sergeant-majors on the permanent staff of the Volunteers, who hold the Army rank of colour-sergeant, with pay and allowances of that rank, but for pension and clothing rank as quartermaster-sergeants, while in many cases they combine with the ordinary duties of sergeant-major those of orderly-room-sergeant, armourer-sergeant, and quarter-

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master-sergeant, not to say quartermaster. This is an old-established grievance, and there have been suggestions for giving these men honorary warrant rank, and so forth. But I take it that if Mr. Haldane's Bill is carried, everything connected with the staffing of the Auxiliary Forces will have to be radically reformed, and that it is waste of time to discuss grievances of the Volunteer permanent staff just at present.

The sergeant-major of an Irish infantry depot recently failed to pass after going through the musketry course at Hythe. Without any desire to reflect on the warrant officer personally, the incident seems a most instructive one, and deserving of careful notice. According to my information the man has been about fifteen years at the depot. He joined it as a corporal. For about five years he was employed as a clerk in the recruiting office. For another five years he was orderly-room clerk. He was then promoted to depot quartermaster-sergeant, and in September last he became sergeant-major, on the occurrence of a vacancy.

That a man with all this service should be going through the Hythe course at all seems rather an absurdity. But that he should be placed in a position where an important part of his duty is to train recruits and instruct them in drill and musketry, and that he should then be found incapable of passing the musketry course is a downright scandal. The foregoing case shows in the most convincing way how incompatible it is with true military efficiency that men should be allowed to spend the best part of their time in snug depot appointments, and then be jobbed into important positions, which ought to be filled by smart, practical soldiers. The infantry depots will never be anything but homes of sloth and incompetence until the principle is enforced that appointment to them, from the highest rank to the lowest, is only to be earned by meritorious regimental service, and only to be retained by the maintenance of efficiency. As the depot of the future is to be, under Mr. Haldane's scheme, the nursery and training ground of the "special contingent," which will be practically a militia force, it is more important than ever that this should be recognised, and the present system of staffing be reformed root and branch.

Some observations were made in these columns a few weeks ago on the distribution of certain obnoxious Protestant literature in connection with services at the European Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Gibraltar. A naval chaplain writes to point out that the institution in question is quite unconnected with the Church of England, and is managed by Presbyterian ladies. There are several Soldiers' and Sailors' Institutes in Gibraltar, but none are specially connected with the Church of England.

Apparently the resolution moved last Wednesday by Mr. Bellairs, seconded by Mr. F. E. Smith, and squelched ignominiously, represents the Parliamentary demonstration, so long and loudly threatened, which was to rescue the Navy from the mischievous policy of Sir John Fisher and his colleagues. If that view is correct, *nascitur ridiculus mus.* In support of the formidable indictment expressed in his motion, Mr. Bellairs had nothing to offer but vague and unsubstantiated insinuations; petty criticisms of recent changes, like the nucleus crew system; a complaint against the First Lord being in the Upper House, which has much reason in it, but no novelty; and the sort of observations on the shipbuilding programme which outside "experts" can always supply in quantities exceeding the demand.

Mr. Smith was even more disappointing. He seemed to have really got hold of something promising when he pointed to the increase of expenditure on "naval literature," and for a moment the House thought that something over £40,000 per annum had been spent in recent years on Sir John Fisher's Machiavellian measures for advertising his policy and humbugging the press. But when Mr. Robertson explained that the one publication which Mr. Smith was most concerned about had cost the Admiralty £35, and that others under suspicion represented an expenditure of a few hundred pounds, the scandal assumed the character of a mare's nest. The official Opposition very naturally washed their hands of Messrs. Bellairs and Smith, and the House took no interest in the discussion. The debate was of some use in showing how little substance there is in the campaign against Sir John Fisher, when the attacking party comes into the open. At the same time, the Admiralty needs criticism, and plenty of it, and it is a pity that the principal critics now in the field should have discredited all criticism by the absurd way in which they have overstated their case.

With reference to a statement in last week's Truth as to a naval officer having been invited by the Mead Cycle Company of Liverpool to sell bicycles for them on commission, I am informed by that firm that they never sent such a communication, and that the officer who supposed himself to have received it had really got hold of a letter intended for another gentleman of the same name, but different initials, who had been on the books of the company for some years. From correspondence submitted in proof of this, I gather that it was really the case.

In connection with the dispute which occurred some time ago between the Walmer lifeboat crew and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, some hostile criticism was directed against the Rev. T. S. Treanor, the honorary secretary and treasurer of the Goodwin Sands and Downs Branch of the Institution. This, as I explained at the time, was due to a misconception of the part Mr. Treanor had taken in the matter. For a quarter of a century this gentleman has rendered very

Know HUMPHREYS, and be well dressed. HUMPHREYS, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

valuable services to the Institution, and the announcement last week of his resignation of the honorary secretaryship has been received with much regret in Deal and Walmer.

Many readers in India have sent on to me a postcard advertisement of "an extraordinary locket" which is being widely circulated by R. T. Meheta, of Bombay. This miraculous charm, says the veracious vendor, "presents before our Sight the Past, the Present, and the Future, gives us information of Heaven, the Court of India, Kylas and other mysterious places, the results of cases pending in the courts, profit or loss in trade, future rates of speculations," and many other things; also "the present on goings of friends at home and outstations can be clearly seen." Evidently the very article for a suspicious-minded husband or wife! But the locket does not seem to have enabled R. T. Meheta to perceive that he was throwing away a lot of money in printing and postage when he embarked on this advertising campaign.

Lord Curzon, following a well-established tradition, spoke of Lord Clive recently as "the Founder of our Indian Empire," and I should have thought that the justice of the phrase was hardly likely to be questioned in these days. But an old Indian officer of my acquaintance has another candidate for the honour:—

> The true founder of that Empire was General Stringer Lawrence, the first Commander-in-Chief in India, and "the father of the Indian Army." Clive belonged to the Madras European regiment, now the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, which he joined in 1749. Stringer Lawrence, who formed that regiment from the independent companies of Englishmen then in the Company's service, and was their first colonel, was in command of the regiment when Clive joined, and it was under Lawrence that Clive learned his duties as a soldier.
>
> Lawrence fought the French with his regiment in Southern India from 1751 to 1754, and defended Trichinopoly with it during that time. He also fought many a hard action in the neighbourhood, especially the battle of Bahoor, where his regiment crossed bayonets with a French regiment, and at the Golden Rock, when he defeated a greatly superior French force. After the Marquis Dupleix's recall in 1754, hostilities were again renewed, and Lawrence defended Fort St. George against a great French army under the celebrated Lally in 1758-9, when the enemy raised the siege on the approach of reinforcements by sea.
>
> Had Trichinopoly or Fort St. George fallen, or had not the battles above alluded to been fought and won, France and not England would now be supreme in India.

With all respect to my correspondent, he seems to exaggerate his hero's achievements in comparing them with Clive's, and I certainly do not think there is much in the observation that Lawrence taught Clive his military duties. If ever a born soldier lived on this earth, I should say it was Clive. He won his spurs by the defence of Arcot, and broke down Dupleix's schemes when Lawrence—then Major Lawrence—was absent in England, and it is a commonplace of history that when he performed those extraordinary feats of arms he was practically a civilian, without military training. But when we speak of him as the Founder of the Indian Empire what we chiefly think of is the virtual conquest of Bengal at Plassy, and of all the work he performed in that region in subsequent times, down to the end of his last administration. The battle of Plassy really marked an epoch in the history of Asia and the world, and few men have written their names bigger in history than Lord Clive, with all his faults. By all means let him have his monument, and let it be worthy of him.

Although they are placed in competition in the above letter, Clive and Lawrence seem to have been the best of friends, and it is to the credit of Lawrence that he was one of the first to recognise Clive's genius. Later on, when he was enriched by his triumphs in Bengal, Clive showed an equally worthy appreciation by settling £500 a year on his old commanding officer. Lawrence was a gallant soldier and an able officer, and in a sense he may be correctly described as "the Father of the Indian Army." But is it at all correct to speak of him as "the first Commander-in-Chief in India"? The title he certainly never bore, and as for the fact, did he ever exercise any command except in what afterwards became the Madras Presidency?

In some of the comments that have been published on the Nairobi affair an attempt has been made to minimise the severity of the floggings. It has been insinuated that, after all, the natives only received a little gentle chastisement at the hands of Captain Grogan and his fellow floggers. This is certainly not borne out by the description of the scene in the *Star of East Africa*, which relates with evident approval how "these niggers" were "triced up securely" and "soundly flogged"; how "Captain Grogan himself laid 'twenty-five of the best' on the first boy," and how Mr. Russell Bowker and Captain Thord Gray performed "a similar duty" on the other two. Not only were the floggings of a brutal character, but the whole business was carried out in front of the Nairobi courthouse, in deliberate defiance of the authorities, the protests of the magistrate being ignored, and a police officer being forcibly removed by the crowd. It seems to me that the sentences of imprisonment which have since been passed on these law-breakers were thoroughly well deserved.

I always thought that the Parliamentary borough which Dickens immortalised as "Eatanswill" had been pretty closely identified with Ipswich. However, it seems that Sudbury lays claim to this distinction. Some of its inhabitants have formed themselves into an association called the Eatanswill Club, and are publishing a journal called the *Eatanswill Gazette*. The Editor has kindly sent me a copy. He seems to be carrying on the Potts tradition very ably. I hope no Winkle will appear on the scene to disturb his domestic bliss. No doubt somebody else will carry on the joke, such as it is, by producing an *Independent*. For this reason

Stammering cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. Schnelle, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

I ask to be excused for saying more in praise of the *Gazette*. I would rather not find myself, like Mr. Pickwick, between the fire of the rival editors.

The special Act of Parliament which the Sandgate District Council obtained a couple of years ago for the regulation of the notorious Jones Homes does not seem to have been of much use, judging from the evidence in a case heard last week by the Elham Bench. Mr. P. H. Jones, the son and successor of John James Jones, the founder of the business, was summoned under the Public Health Act for permitting overcrowding at Ontario House and Cambridge House, two of the so-called convalescent homes where patients from poor-law infirmaries in London and elsewhere are received. It was shown that at both houses the inmates took their meals in rooms where they were overcrowded in a manner that was injurious to health, and some of the evidence suggested that in other respects the management is far from satisfactory. In each instance the Bench, holding that a nuisance had existed, and was likely to recur, made an order prohibiting its recurrence. The making of such an order is all very well, but these establishments are quite unfitted for the purpose to which they are put, and under any really efficient law for the protection of the public health they would long since have been closed.

The Enniscorthy Asylum Board had to appoint a head attendant last week. Four members of the staff applied for the berth, two of them being first-class attendants with twenty and seventeen years' service respectively, while the third was a second-class attendant of seven years' service. The other candidate was an attendant of the third class, a young fellow of twenty-five, with only four and a half years' service in the asylum. In spite of the medical superintendent's reminder that the head attendant ought to be an experienced first-class man, the youthful third-class candidate was elected. The latter happens to have an uncle among the members of the Board.

ON THE APPROACHING CLOSING OF LUDGATE HILL STATION.

(By a Much-married Season Ticket Holder.)

Familiar Ludgate Hill, good-bye!
How often there have waited I,
With weary frame;
Yes, waited long and waited vain,
Still waited patient for the train
That never came.

And yet at times thou stood'st my friend
When I post-prandial home did wend,
And wife she chid:
"The train, my dear—'tis truth I state—
Left Ludgate Hill just two hours late."
(Most like, it did!)

Farewell, then, scene of lingerings drear—
Some true, some pious fictions mere—
Thou had'st thy use.
Henceforth, when late from clubland back,
My addled brain I'll have to rack
For fresh excuse.

The Attorney-General claims that the new Bill to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal is an improvement upon the Lord Chancellor's Bill of last Session; and, from the account he gave of the Bill in introducing it, there seems good ground for supposing that this is the case. One of the great objections to the last Bill was the unlimited right of appeal which it created. The new Bill proceeds on the principle of allowing an appeal on points of law as a matter of right, transferring to the new Court the jurisdiction of the Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved; and making an appeal on questions of fact subject to the leave of the Appeal Court itself. This course combines the interests of justice and public convenience. Another important feature of the Bill is that there are to be no new trials, but the Appeal Court can hear fresh evidence, so that it can really hold a supplementary trial whenever necessary, which, with the power of reviewing the original finding of fact, is all that justice requires.

So much depends upon the precise terms of the material clauses, that it is premature to express any definite opinion on the new Bill until one has seen the text of it. But, speaking generally, it would seem that the Attorney-General has successfully met the principal criticisms which last year's Bill provoked, and it may be hoped, therefore, that it will be possible to get the new Bill passed this Session. Personally, I should say that there is no measure before Parliament at the moment for which "urgency" may be more fairly claimed, and this ought to be recognised by members of all parties. It may be supposed that no one will recognise it more keenly than the Home Secretary, who, with the possible exception of the prisoners under his jurisdiction, has more cause than any one living to long for the end of the present state of things. But I do not see how this or any Bill for the same purpose, which is to do what is expected of it, can be worked without a substantial addition to the strength of the Bench. Seven Judges are assigned to the new Court of Appeal by the Government Bill. It may be reasonably expected that there will soon be enough work to keep all of them at work for a good many weeks per annum, and no one familiar with the Law Courts will assert that they can be withdrawn to that extent from their present work without a breakdown in the business of the Courts.

The creditors in bankruptcy of a Mr. Lazarus Aarons have just received the trustee's statement, showing that the estate had realised £965, of which £560 had gone in costs of one kind and another, while £352 odd was available for payment of a first and final dividend of 1s. in the pound. In addition to the usual toll levied on the estate in the shape of Official Receiver's, Board of Trade and Court fees (over £60 in this instance), trustee's remuneration (£125), and minor pickings, the costs are swollen by an item of £261 11s. 4d. for solicitors' taxed costs. This item

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Lady Henry Somerset writes on Nervousness, and How to Overcome it, on page 1052.

is apparently explained by the following note of the trustee:—

> Creditors in this matter will recollect that at the onset of the proceedings instructions were given to the solicitors and me to fully investigate the facts appertaining to this particular matter and to report same to the committee of inspection with a view to further proceedings. I and my firm's clerks were engaged for a very considerable time investigating the whole matter, and long reports were laid before the committee of inspection from time to time, which had their most careful and minute consideration. Such reports were subsequently laid before eminent counsel, who advised that, although the case was one of grave suspicion, he did not feel justified in advising the trustee and committee of inspection to take further proceedings.

Except for this note there is no explanation of the huge bill for law costs. As a matter of fact, a motion seems to have been made against one creditor with the result that £75 was recovered from him, but the taxed costs of this motion, £30 2s., are entered separately in the trustee's statement.

I call attention to this case in the hope that it may meet the eye of Mr. Lloyd-George, who may see in it a glaring instance of the monstrous way in which costs in bankruptcy are piled up, under the existing system. The whole of the assets in this case consisted of stock-in-trade to the value of £877 odd and the above mentioned item of £75 recovered by motion. It therefore comes to this, that to dispose of stock to the value of £877 and to distribute it among the creditors costs £560. It is utter nonsense and humbug to suggest that no machinery can be devised which will work more cheaply than this; and the worst part of the scandal is that after the creditors have been charged with upwards of £60 for Board of Trade and Court fees, they should have to pay for every single item of expenditure connected with the administration of the estate, including the remuneration of a trustee at £125. With his legal and official experience Mr. Lloyd-George ought to be able to effect a complete reform of this scandal. And his reform ought to include some means whereby, when there are suspicious circumstances requiring investigation, and possibly further proceedings, the cost of such investigation and proceedings shall be borne by the Court, or the Board of Trade, and not by the creditors.

In the newspaper reports of a moneylending case tried by Mr. Justice Grantham, on Saturday, the plaintiffs are described as "Messrs. W. Stanley and Co.," of Leeds. This, however, is merely an alias masking the identity of Sydney Jack Samuel and Stuart Samuel, two members of the tribe of bloodsuckers hailing from Cardiff, whose doings in the character of "Fieldings, Limited" (now simply "Fieldings") were investigated by the Select Committee on Moneylending. One of the worst defects of the Moneylenders Act is that it not only permits a moneylender to register a "trade name" (otherwise an alias), but, owing to clumsy draftsmanship, affords him an easy method of getting round the prohibition against the use of more than one such alias.

The Act was intended to put an end to the trick of the same usurer preying upon the public in a number of different names—a trick of which the late Isaac Gordon was a conspicuous exponent. But unfortunately the Act, though it provides that one person shall trade as a moneylender only in one name, does not prevent the same person from trading in partnership with other persons under as many aliases as they choose to assume. All that it is necessary to do is to register in each case a differently constituted partnership, which may, moreover, be a mere bogus arrangement of names for this purpose. For example, in combination with various relatives and other persons, the above-mentioned Sydney Jack Samuel is registered as "Fieldings," "W. Stanley and Co.," "F. North and Co.," and "Sydney Mostyn," while other members of the family are registered singly or in partnership as "Charles Stevens and Co.," "George Simpson," etc

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The defendant in the action on Saturday was a Yorkshire lady who had received two advances amounting to a total of £339 10s. from "W. Stanley and Co." Including a so-called "bonus" of £25, she had paid back £365, and "Stanley and Co." sued her for a further sum of £160, the balance due on a promissory note. The interest worked out at the rate of 125 per cent. per annum. In view of all the circumstances, Mr. Justice Grantham held that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable, and he accordingly cut down the interest, giving the plaintiffs judgment for only £55 without costs, or £105 less than they claimed. This part of the Act at least is capable of being enforced to good purpose, and it is especially gratifying to see it employed so effectually in paring the claws of such rapacious harpies as the Samuels.

By way of warning to others, a borrower narrates his experiences with those rapacious usurers, "Seymour and Whiteman" and "Cox and Co." "Notwithstanding the value of the security offered," he writes, "every advantage is taken of a borrower's temporary difficulty to extort interest at exorbitant rates, especially if he happens to be, as I am, in a responsible permanent situation." This is an old story, especially in connection with the firms named, whose methods of intimidating debtors have frequently been condemned in Truth as morally indistinguishable from a system of blackmailing. My correspondent's letter is, however, interesting on account of the fact that whilst he was still in the toils of "Seymour and Whiteman," he fell into the clutches of "Cox and Co." The latter, when granting him a loan of £10, insisted that out of this sum he should pay off a balance of £3 which the owed the former—a condition with which he had to comply. He says that "Cox and Co." were so anxious that "Seymour and Whiteman" should be paid off that he suspects there is some connection between them. There is. "Seymour and Whiteman" is the registered trade name of two brothers, William Herbert and Arthur George Whiteman; "Cox and Co." is the registered trade name of Arthur George Whiteman alone—another illustration of what I have said above regarding the failure of the Moneylenders Act to prevent the use of misleading aliases.

I am not surprised that a large number of correspondents have directed my attention to the case heard at the Cardiff Quarter Sessions which appears in my Legal Pillory below. No doubt the learned Recorder who is responsible for the draconic sentence would urge in his own defence that the old woman was a hardened offender to whom leniency would be misapplied, but it is impossible for any one who is not absolutely deaf and blind to the ordinary dictates of humanity to acquiesce in the propriety of the sentence inflicted. The picture presented by this old woman of eighty-two years of age tottering into the dock to plead guilty to a theft of a pair of boots, and supporting herself by clinging to the warder while sentence of twelve months' hard labour is passed upon her, is in striking contrast to the punishment given to the brutal ruffians in the cases of wife assault chronicled in the opposite column. A number of Scottish Bailies are again responsible for some of the most pronounced examples of this misplaced lenity, while English magistrates supply a similar incapacity in adequately punishing atrocious brutality to animals:—

Bo'ness Police-court. Before Bailie Rankin. James M'Menemy, charged with wife assault. He dragged her about by her hair, struck her in the face and kicked her. Fined £2.

Partick Police-court. Before Bailie Mundy. John Scrimgeour, charged with assaulting his wife. He pulled the woman out of bed, where she was lying ill and gave her a severe thrashing. Fined £2 2s.

Perth Sheriff Court. Before Acting-Sheriff Nicholson. John Florence, charged with assaulting his wife. He knocked her down in the street and kicked her on the head and face. Fined 10s.

Pontypool Police-court. T. Dibble, charged with assaulting J. Silmore by blackening both his eyes, cutting his face and biting his thumb. Fined 40s.

Ashby Police-court. Before Messrs. Moore, Hassall, Sutton, and Major Hatchett. E. Wright, charged with assaulting Elizabeth Woods. The man burst open the door of the woman's house and struck her a violent blow on the eye. Fined £1 1s.

Rotherham Police-court. Before Mr. C. B. Clark and other magistrates. J. Richardson, charged with cruelty to a horse. As the shaft-horse to a dray loaded with three tons of steel refused to pull he put a chain around its neck and attached two horses to it. He also struck the animal with a steel bar. Fined 40s.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before Messrs. Enfield, Tidmas, Smart, Godfrey, Whyatt and Jacklin. E. Lovegrove, charged with cruelty to a greyhound. He knocked it over with a brick, fastened it up with a leash and kicked it for twenty minutes. Fined 21s.

Cardiff Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. Jane Jones, 82 years of age, charged with stealing a pair of boots. She tottered into court and supported herself by clinging to the warder. Twelve months' hard labour.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Shennan. Charles Combe, charged with two poaching offences on two occasions. Fined £2 and costs in each case, £7 10s. in all, or sixty days' imprisonment.

Worksop Police-court. Before Messrs. Towne and Ledger, Emma Bednall, an elderly woman, charged with stealing a plate value 2d. Ten days' hard labour. She had already been in custody four days.

Wonford Petty Sessions. Frank Barding, charged with stealing a quantity of bones from a field. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Barnsley Police-court. Samuel Edge and A. Evans, charged with night poaching. They had a gun and were after pheasants. Evans three months' imprisonment and a further three months' in default of finding securities. Edge one month.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. G. Baker and other magistrates. George Ball, charged with stealing a tame rabbit. Three months' hard labour.

Bedford Petty Sessions. Before Dr. Robinson and other magistrates. S. E. Edge, charged with stealing a hair brush. Two months' hard labour.

Epsom Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Farmer, Henderson, Aston, Wootten, and Col. Lambert. Alfred Bear, charged with trespass in pursuit of rabbits. Fined 40s. or a month.

Daventry Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Mr. C. Rodhouse. W. Bessenden, charged with sleeping out. Seven days'.

Bakewell Police-court. Before Mr. Nixon and other magistrates. W. O'Neal, stud-groom, and F. H. Lindley, owner, charged with ill-treating a horse. It met with an accident at a steeplechase, and was walked seven miles to the railway station in the greatest agony. The animal had to be destroyed afterwards. Fined £1 and costs each.

Preston Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. H. Francis and W. Gregory. A. Haydock, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal was struggling up a hill with a heavy load, and Haydock was lashing it violently with a short handled whip striking ten or twelve blows every time it stopped. Fined 10s. and costs.

Winchester City Police-court. Richard Maher, a lad, charged with sleeping on enclosed premises without visible means of subsistence, and with stealing a spirit level, value 1s. 6d. Seven days' imprisonment for the first offence and three months' for the second, to run consecutively.

Thrapston Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Col. Stopford Sackville, and Messrs. J. W. Jellis and George Smith. Horace Lord, charged with begging. Three months' hard labour.

J. Tiney and A. Howe, charged with game trespass. They shot a hare. Each fined £2 3s. or a month's imprisonment in default.

The solicitor who recently complained of the difficulty he experienced in obtaining information from hospital surgeons in anticipation of litigation in accident cases, writes again as follows:—

On p. 874 of your issue of the 10th inst., the secretary of one of the principal London hospitals writes, *inter alia*: "Only recently a solicitor resented the action of a doctor in declining to report on a case without a fee, stating that his client was a poor man." I should like to state that in the case to which I called your attention I settled the matter without obtaining a report from the doctor, who, however, furnished one to the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, for which, I presume, they had to pay; and also that I am not the solicitor to whom the suggestion was made to forego his charges conditionally upon the doctor doing likewise. Personally, I should always entertain a suggestion that I should receive no fees myself until the doctor had been paid.

I may also mention that I quite agree with your comments on the secretary's letter. In the case to which I referred, which is only one amongst many, the total costs charged by me, including out-of-pocket expenses, came to £2 2s., and the probability is that if I had paid for a report of the doctor I should have had to defray the expenses of the report out of my own pocket.

The hon. secretaries of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters have written to me in reference to the betting circular which is being addressed to assistant masters by a person signing himself "Ludor Beecher," of 48, Sheen-park, Richmond. The circular in which this touting bookmaker represents that he is a University man, and that he has been an assistant master, has already been noticed in Truth, and I am afraid that it is hopeless to expect that comments of mine, however severe, will put a stop to its distribution. Beecher is, indeed, only one of a host of similar pests from whom many classes of people besides members of the teaching profession need protection. I do not look upon betting as a sin, or think that it ought to be or could be suppressed by Act of Parliament. But the facilities that are nowadays given for the backing of horses are undoubtedly productive of a great deal of mischief, and the Legislature would be perfectly justified in making it illegal for bookmakers and tipsters to issue circulars or newspaper advertisements inciting or inviting people to bet.

By the way, I have received several letters concerning a new tipster's sheet entitled *The Man in the Moon*, which is being advertised in many provincial papers.

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

It is manifestly yet another addition to the long list of mendacious publications with which the many-aliased E. W. Beston, of Birmingham, gammons credulous backers. Beston is such a Protean rascal that some people are now disposed to recognise his hand in nearly every tipster's circular that makes its appearance. The other day, for instance, a correspondent suggested that a certain A. Taylor, 13, King's-place, Baker-street, W., is probably Beston in a new disguise. Taylor's circular is certainly a choice specimen of brag and blarney, but I scarcely think that it really emanates from Beston. After all, the same arts are practised by a horde of kindred harpies.

Some weeks ago I referred to a circular in which Harry Hyams, bookmaker, intimated that in consequence of the Street Betting Act having driven him and his runners from the purlieus of Camden Town, he had opened an office at Flushing where commissions would be executed on the deposit system "for peer and peasant from one shilling to any amount." Apparently the shilling minimum has been found too high for peasants, or peers, or both—at any rate, Harry Hyams is now prepared to take the still more modest sum of one penny. In his latest prospectus, issued in the name of "the proprietors of *Sporting Problems*," and headed, "One Penny May Win You a Fortune," he explains that in order to give a chance to "small punters" he has started a series of guessing competitions on the results of races, the entrance fee being a penny for each guess. There is, of course, no limit to the number of guesses that may be sent in by those opulent punters who are prepared to put down more than one penny. It is a very good thing that bookmakers have been banished from the streets. In view, however, of the circularising activity of a number of these gentry who have betaken themselves to the Continent, I doubt whether in the long run the indulgence of the masses in gambling will be very much lessened.

Sundry inquiries have reached me during the last few days about a concern called the South-West London Tradesmen's Provident Society, Limited, of 328, Balham High-road. The concern is a company "limited by guarantee," and its principal object seems to be to run a sort of premium trading business among its members, eked out with "legal aid" and insurance under the usual heads. As the thing is only a few weeks old there is not much to be known about it at present, but the following paragraph in the articles of association tells me all that I should want to know if I were invited to become a member and subscriber:—

28. The Directors shall be elected annually by the Society in General Meeting, except the Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Rackham, the Originator and Founder of Tradesmen's Provident Societies (which have been copyrighted by him and entered at Stationers' Hall), who shall be the first Managing Director, and hold the office for a period of ten years, at a minimum salary of £200 per annum and 25 per cent. of all subscription fees, such remuneration shall be deemed to accrue *de die in diem*, and any such further sums or commissions as the Members in General Meeting may determine.

This Mr. Rackham has repeatedly come under notice in Truth in connection with queer undertakings under the Companies Acts, and anybody wishing to know more of him may refer specially to what was said about him in October last, when he was associated with a mysterious venture called the Registered Societies Sickness and Accident Association. In view of his record, the prospect of any concern engineered by him developing into a sound business enterprise is somewhat nebulous. Moreover, the fact of his having, as above-mentioned, not only originated and founded "Tradesmen's Provident Societies," but copyrighted them and entered them at Stationers' Hall, plainly implies that he regards them primarily as a business to be worked for his own profit. The following bit of humbug, written upon the printed prospectus inviting tradesmen to join, is characteristic and instructive:—

The Directors have carefully considered the applications from Tradesmen in this district for a concession, and in consequence thereof have decided to elect New Members upon payment of One Guinea, instead of Three Guineas, the usual initiation fee.

THE CULT OF THE PRIMROSE.

We all have heard of Peter Bell,
Of whom did poet Wordsworth tell
(I quote from Memory's store):
"A Primrose by the river's brim
A Yellow Primrose was to him,
And it was nothing more."

A sort of Peter Bell am I,
For when a Primrose I descry,
No other thought it wakes
Than that of Knights and Damsels pert,
Who whiles, in Primrose dalliance, flirt
O'er washy tea and cakes.

The report of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Records drew attention to the necessity of measures being taken for the preservation of old manor and other court records. It was pointed out that by an adequate examination of such documents much more light could be thrown upon local history and upon land customs and the economic side of land tenure; and the opinion was expressed that in this direction valuable help could be given by learned societies. As an outcome of that suggestion a number of archæologists and antiquaries interested in the study of mediæval manorial and agrarian history have established the Manorial Society. The preservation and study of manorial court rolls and other documents will be among the main objects of the society, which has a council composed of some sixty manorial lords, ladies, and stewards, and it is hoped that many local antiquaries

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Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st, W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

will enrol themselves as associates or corresponding members. Information with regard to the Society can be obtained from the Registrar, Mr. Charles Greenwood, 1, Mitre-court-buildings, Temple, E.C.

In the Prime Minister's vigorous speech on land reform I was glad to read a scathing allusion to the growing excess of game preservation and the supposed rights of the landowner "over his pheasants and his hares"—an aspect of the land question to which I gave attention in some articles a year or so ago. Here is a story of the way in which one noble landowner exercises his "rights," which is peculiarly interesting in view of the position he holds as a member of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Ministry. This nobleman's estate in Hampshire is noted for the abundance of hares. One of the tenants, who had held a large farm on the estate for over thirty years, had always exercised his right, under the Ground Game Act, to shoot hares. It was absolutely necessary that he should do so for the protection of his crops, but being a thorough sportsman himself he had always shown proper consideration for his landlord's sport, and left a good stock for breeding.

There was never any complaint—as there is on so many estates—of a scarcity of hares on the farm, and the landlord invariably made a good bag. His lordship, however, became dissatisfied with what he got, and his agent was instructed to inform the tenants that—notwithstanding the Ground Game Act—they would not be permitted to kill any more hares. The farmer to whom I am referring replied that the hares were so numerous on his farm that if not killed down before the breeding season his crops would suffer great damage. He asked if in that event compensation would be given him. The noble landowner himself then wrote a letter containing the following passages:—

. . . . . If you or any other tenant insist upon your power under the Ground Game Act of constantly disturbing the land in pursuit of ground game, I must at once and frankly say that I must adopt the only remedy which I possess of changing tenants or farming the land myself. . . . . The sum and substance of the whole matter is this, which no interview or talking over can affect, that if you cannot accept in good part the advice which Mr. ——— proffered, with, I can assure you, the most friendly intention, it would be fairer to both parties for you to arrange to leave, which I trust would be conducted on both sides with perfect courtesy and consideration.

Nothing more happened at that time, but a couple of years later the farmer, who had continued to shoot hares as before, received twelve months' notice to quit—an unusually short notice which caused him a serious loss when he left. The farmer himself, I may add, has not given me these facts. He is, indeed, averse to the ventilation of the matter in the press, but I agree with my informant that the above letter deserves publicity as an example of the manner in which the rights of tenants under the Ground Game Act are practically over-ridden by game-preserving landowners. The landowner who wrote the letter was the Earl of Portsmouth, the Under Secretary of State for War.

TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Yes, Asquith, you're right to assist—that's quite clear—
Poor devils who earn their few hundreds a year.

I speak, sir, with feeling, for I am a mere
Hack-poet, who draws but a pittance each year.

But I think (though to me this applies not, I swear)
You'll find the Returns of the forthcoming year

Show thousands who all, by coincidence queer,
Make incomes of one-nine-nine-nine pounds a year.

During the past week I have been privileged to listen to speeches by all the Colonial Premiers who have been most in evidence. General Botha, who has become the lion of the party, is the least impressive as a speaker, not because he addresses his audience through an interpreter, but for the simple reason that he is obviously a man of few words. As is generally the case with men of action, his few words are invariably direct to the point, and no one who hears him will ever doubt that he means what he says. He has a most captivating manner, especially when he smiles, and you need not be long in his company to learn that he is the sort of man whom it is better to have for a friend than an enemy.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the most attractive speaker among the visitors, as well as the most picturesque figure. His speech, manner, and appearance are suggestive of a French abbé who has been dumped in the States and acquired a slight American varnish. Sir Joseph Ward, on the other hand, might have been reared on the Stock Exchange. He is terse, businesslike, and seems immersed in affairs. Of the whole party the one who approaches most closely our idea of a democratic politician is Mr. Deakin. He has all the qualities that go to make a successful platform speaker in this country—not gaseous or flowery, but fluent and forcible, never at a loss for a word, always using the right one, very clear and definite in statement, a trifle dogmatic, with just the right amount of feeling or sentiment to command sympathy, and now and then a touch of real eloquence.

I should judge Mr. Deakin to be a nasty adversary to tackle in debate, and that he is not without some of the qualities which put Mr. Chamberlain in the forefront of politics. Of all our visitors, he is the one who seems most impressed with the importance of his mission, and most desirous of teaching the Mother Country how to run an Empire. But each of the English-speaking Premiers is, I should say, convinced that his own State occupies the first place in the family circle. This is natural, not to say becoming. I do not suggest that

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any of them overdo it, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the nicest about it.

At the Eighty Club dinner to the Premiers, Sir F. W. Borden caused amusement by asking defiantly, "What's the matter with the Empire?" He followed up the question by reciting the epitaph in which the deceased is made to say, "I was well; I wished to be better; I took physic; and I am here." As an old medical man, the Canadian Minister intimated that he had known such cases in his own experience, and he advised the Empire and its counsellors to lay this experience to heart. It was refreshing to hear this homely common sense from the Colonies amid so much nebulous rhetoric. The Empire is, no doubt, doing very nicely. The worst danger that threatens it at present lies with the medical gentlemen who are anxious to physic it. Mr. Chamberlain told us some time ago that we were likely to lose Canada shortly. He told us in the same way that iron had gone and that cotton was going. He had the patent remedy applicable to all such cases. Now that he has left the scene—I trust not for long—other members of the faculty are equally anxious to diagnose and prescribe. Give them a free hand and they will ruin the soundest Constitution. The only disease that I myself can see any sign of in the patient is a slight tendency to hypochondria.

The resolutions that the Conference has come to—not without considerable difference of opinion between the two most important Colonies—are a matter for satisfaction, because things might so easily have been worse. I think that if Mr. Deakin had had his way, a harmless, not to say necessary, Conference would speedily have been converted into a legislative, possibly executive, council, armed with powers of doing infinite mischief, and possibly very little else. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier has saved us from that, it is not the least of his services to the Empire.

The Conference is no doubt a body with certain possibilities of practical usefulness about it. The mere fact of its meeting from time to time, eating so many dinners, and making so many speeches about the Flag, is calculated to remind the man in the streets of London how much he has in common with the man in the streets of Toronto, Melbourne, Cape Town, and Auckland, or *vice versâ*, and thereby to keep alive the spirit of kinship and solidarity, which everybody wishes to preserve. There may be also a certain amount of business which can be better discussed at a personal conference of Ministers than by correspondence from the other side of the globe. By all means, then, let the meeting be called an Imperial Conference. By all means let it meet regularly. By all means let the Prime Minister take the chair. By all means let it have a permanent secretary and an office to itself. I would not even grudge it a dining-hall and a *chef* of its own, if desired. Let us make as much of it as we can in reason, but let us remember its inevitable limitations as between a number of self-governing States, and the fatal dangers of overstepping them.

Chills are frequently caught through leaving a warm sitting-room to undress in a cold bedroom. Avoid this danger by having a gas fire in every bedroom. **Comfortable, Convenient, & Healthy**

THE WRECKER TURNED PILOT.

On Cornwall's Coast, in Days long fled,
Dwelt an old Rogue, called "Wrecker Ned,"
Than whom no wilier Knave was found
At luring passing Ships aground.
Of this bad Art, for Years, he made
A thriving, if nefarious, Trade,
Till up the Shipping Interest woke
At length, and vowed his Wheel to spoke.
The Owners met, in Conclave sat,
And One said this, and One said that;
One "Shoot him!" said, and One said "Lag him!"
And One said "Flog!" and One said "Scrag him!"
But, last of all, an Owner rose
This odd Suggestion to propose:
"Nay, pay this Ned a handsome Fee
To take our Pilot's Job," said he.
They sat aghast. "Art cracked? Good Lord!
As Pilot take this Wretch aboard,
Whose Breast no other Project owns
Than sending Ships to Davy Jones!
'Tis Madness sheer."
"Not so," he cried.
"'Tis Wisdom. Try." And,—well, they tried.
They gave him Gold and Pilot made
Of the best Clipper in the Trade;
Whereon behaved the Wrecker Ned
Just as that Owner shrewd had said;
Planned not the Ship, with all her Store,
To run for Booty on the Shore,
But steered her safe the Coast-line round,
From Michael's Mount to Plymouth Sound.
The Owners meet him, as he lands,
And shake him warmly by the Hands:
"Well done, good Ned. And yet 'tis strange—
This sudden and surprising Change!
How was't that you, on Wrecking bent,
Who many a Ship to Doom have sent,
Did, when yourself the Wheel controlled,
And us might easily have sold,
Forbear your old destructive Sport,
And bring our Clipper safe to Port?"
Grinning, he scratched his grizzled head,
As answered thus the Pilot Ned:
"'Tis one thing Ships to lure aground,
When on the Land you're safe and sound;
But quite another, Sirs, to wreck
'Em, when you stand yourself on Deck,
And, by such Pranks, would risk your Neck!"

Moral.

The Ship of Government wouldst save
From some too restless, factious Knave?
No wiser Course you can pursue
Than give him Office and a Screw.

SCRUTATOR.

CONSERVATIVE LIBERAL FINANCE.

THE more enthusiastic eulogists of the Chancellor of the Exchequer describe his budget as "bold." In what its boldness consists I do not quite see. "Cautious" is the epithet I should be more inclined to apply to it. Mr. Asquith spoke on Thursday for about two hours and a half, with admirable lucidity and perfect command of his subject; but his speech, so far as it went beyond the mere exposition of accomplished financial facts, was a homily in praise of prudence and economy, and his

proposals for the future, so far from having anything bold about them, practically leave existing fiscal arrangements untouched. Of all the innumerable claimants for a remission of taxes, the man who pays income-tax on an income under £2,000 a year which he earns himself is the only one who is not sent empty away. The poor, who are hungry for old-age pensions, are certainly not filled with good things, and Mr. Keir Hardie, as their self-appointed spokesman, has even been moved to describe the Budget as "brutal." The differentiation between earned and unearned incomes is a new departure, which may lead to extensive re-adjustments of the incidence of taxation, but it does not go very far at present. Mr. Asquith reckons that he is sacrificing a million and a quarter of the yield of the tax, and allows in the first year as much as two millions of his prospective surplus to meet the loss. He puts down nothing, however, on the other side of the account for the possible results of exacting from employers returns of the salaries of all their employees, nor for the effect of that tightening up of the machinery on Scotch principles, the threat of which has sent a shiver through the whole kingdom south of the Tweed. A good many people are saying that notwithstanding the 3d. remitted, the income-tax for the current year may yield as much as its predecessors; while at the same time Mr. Asquith has given us the pleasant assurance that the change he has made is designed entirely for the purpose of establishing the tax as a permanent feature in our national institutions. Probably Mr. Keir Hardie is not the only person who regards him as brutal. If the Budget has any boldness about it, it is in its disregard of all the expectations directed towards a Chancellor of the Exchequer who has a handsome surplus to dispose of.

Personally, I am no more averse than my neighbours to a little remission of my taxes; nor have I any doubt that the country is being taxed, at present, beyond its fair capacity, and that it is suffering to some extent in consequence. But I am perfectly certain that Mr. Asquith is right in keeping the screw on for the present, and this seems to be the general opinion of the country, except where attempts are made to play up to this or that section of aggrieved taxpayers for party purposes. The keynote of Mr. Asquith's financial policy was struck in his observations on the cry for a remission of the "war taxes," still amounting to about twenty millions per annum. "A war tax," he said, "is not a tax that is put on to last during a war and to come to an end the moment peace is concluded and your army is withdrawn from the field. It is a tax which is put on to meet the extra burden imposed on the country by waging war; and so long as that extra burden remains —and it remains, as I have shown to the Committee, to the tune of something like £130,000,000 of extra debt —the claim of a war tax to be removed is, in my opinion, an inadmissible claim." This is the only view compatible with sound finance, and sound national policy. From the purely financial point of view the reduction of debt is of more consequence to the nation than the remission of current taxes. Every million paid off a war loan is a million withdrawn from unproductive investment and set free to swell the industrial capital of the country, to earn its own interest instead of forming a dead charge on the taxpayers. Again, every repayment of debt tends to raise the value of the public securities, and in that way to improve the "national credit," the decline of which has lately inspired such absurd attacks upon the present Government. The higher the credit of the Government, the stronger the national position *vis à vis* a possible enemy, and though it is to be hoped that no more wars are likely to be coming upon us just yet, it is quite as important, from the point of view of national security, to strengthen the national credit in time of peace as it is to keep up the Army and Navy. The only valid excuse for reducing the repayment of debt would be that the industrial and commercial position of the country was such that it would be more profitable in the long run to temporarily ease the pressure of taxation upon trade. Of this there is not to-day a sign that any Chancellor of the Exchequer would be justified in regarding; on the contrary, there is every evidence that we are passing through a cycle of fat years, and the most elementary prudence suggests that we should use them to reduce our liabilities, and thereby provide against the lean years which, according to all experience, must inevitably follow. Lastly, there is the vital consideration which every statesman worthy of the name should keep before him, that the generation which makes war should pay for it. Nothing is more conducive to going to war with a light heart than the feeling that the bill can be paid in drafts on posterity, and in repudiating the notion that war taxes should be withdrawn as soon as peace is declared, Mr. Asquith establishes a precedent which ought to be held binding by all his successors in all time to come.

In the slang of the City the word "conservative" is now used as synonymous with "safe." In this sense Mr. Asquith's is a conservative Budget. He takes his chief pride for the past year in the fact that he has effected a net reduction of debt to the amount of £9,825,000. The first task which he sets before himself for the current year is to effect a further reduction of £13,400,000. When he says that for this purpose he "must have" all that he is getting at present, except for the two millions sacrificed to the income-tax payer, no reasonably prudent man will grudge it to him. The present Government took office with no more pressing duty before it than that of reorganising the national finances and repairing the consequences of ten years' spendthrift administration. That work is being done in the only way in which it is possible, namely, by looking to the future rather than to the moment. No passage in Mr. Asquith's speech is more worthy of commendation than that in which he disclaimed the idea that a Budget should be framed exclusively for the year to which it applies, and insisted that it is the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to frame a policy for the future and adapt each year's finance to it. This was the principle of the great Liberal financiers of the last century, but abandoned with disastrous results of late years in favour of the policy of living from year to year and from hand to mouth. In the few practical

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

reforms to which Mr. Asquith has committed himself, the differentiation of the income-tax, the transference of the local taxation account to the Consolidated Fund, and the progressive increase of the death duties on estates above £150,000, he is simply performing "spade work" in preparation for building operations to come. And this is not only the prudent course from the national point of view, but the expedient course from that of party interest, for the simple reason that it is the only way in which the foundations can be laid for anything worth looking at in the shape of an electioneering Budget. For a Government in a healthy condition and with a normal expectation of official life, the Budgets of 1910 and 1911 will be of more moment than that of 1907. What Mr. Asquith has in his mind for those years, if they still find him in office, he pretty plainly indicates. He hopes by judicious economy to find the means of social reform in the shape of old-age pensions, and at the same time by a great reduction of debt to be able to effect a corresponding reduction of taxation. That is how I read his combination of "budgeting for several years" in conjunction with his aspiration to prove that "social reform" is quite compatible with Free Trade. How far he will succeed the future alone will show. But at least the policy he has laid down will enable the Government to face the country as wise stewards of the national exchequer, which is more than any Government has been able to do for many years past.

THE SECOND-HAND NEWSPAPER SWINDLE.

I am fairly astonished at the quantity of information that I have received during the last week or two in reference to the swindling business in weekly newspapers that has been carried on by "Mrs. Davis," of Helebridge, Bude, and other addresses. By every post letters have arrived from different parts of the kingdom relating to similar experiences to those which were first described in Truth. It is clear from all this evidence that the game has been played on an extensive scale, and that the profits must have been considerable. It has been going on for the last twelve months, if not longer. During that time the changes have been rung on four names and addresses: Mrs. Forestier-Walker, of Westeria Lodge, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire; Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Lewis, of West End Lodge, Bidford; Mrs. Staniland Davis and Mrs. Walker, Stratton Hall, South Petherton, Somerset; and Mrs. Davis, Helebridge House, Helebridge, Bude. The three houses mentioned have been rented furnished during this period by a lady giving the name of Davis, or her husband. The earliest date in my *dossier* is February 28, 1906, when the newspaper vendor was Mrs. Staniland Davis, of Stratton Hall. In March of that year another lady purchased papers of Mrs. Walker of the same address. In June or July, Mrs. "Forestier-Walker," of Bidford, appears on the scene. In December and January the scene shifts to Helebridge, Cornwall, where we find both Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Forestier-Walker. On February 11 the lady is back again at Westeria Lodge, Bidford, and immediately afterwards newspapers were also being sold by Mrs. Lewis, of West End Lodge, in the same village. The last variant of the name and address is significant. As the reader may easily test for himself, it is easy to write the name "Davis" so that it looks like "Lewis," and with a little slurring, "Westeria" may be made to look very much like "West-end." There is no such house as "West End Lodge" in Bidford. The house occupied by the lady in question—it is quite a small one—is styled "Westeria." It would seem that when the operators returned to Bidford in February, they found it desirable for some reason to drop the old name and address for business purposes, and adopted that of "Lewis, West End Lodge," in the full assurance that letters so addressed would be delivered at "Westeria," as in point of fact they were. In one case Mrs. Forestier-Walker stated that Mrs. Davis was her sister—this was in explanation of her offering a cheque signed "Davis" in payment of an account. Only one lady has been seen at any of the addresses mentioned, although it appears that "Mrs. Forestier-Walker" was at Helebridge nearly all the time that "Mrs. Davis" was there, and Mrs. Staniland Davis and Mrs. Forestier-Walker obviously write the same hand. I infer, therefore, that the same party has been carrying on the business throughout, but whether there was one woman or two is really immaterial. Mr. and Mrs. Davis appear to have been residing together at all the addresses. I may here mention that I have just received a long letter from Mr. Davis himself, protesting against the observations that have already been made in Truth about his wife's newspaper business. As he maintains that every customer has received all papers paid for, and that his wife is the person who has suffered loss in the business, it is impossible to accept his statements in the face of the immense quantity of evidence before me, and I cannot take any further notice of his letter. Mr. Davis has certainly interfered in the business, and, as already mentioned, has written abusive letters to customers when they made complaints.

The business has been carried on by means of advertisements offering to supply newspapers at reduced prices a day or two after publication. Almost every weekly paper has been offered, but the largest business seems to have been done in Truth, *Hearth and Home*, and the illustrated sixpenny weeklies. In some cases people have ordered several papers for business purposes—for example, one victim is the proprietor of tea-rooms in a country town—and subscriptions have been paid in advance for all periods up to twelve months. The payments have, therefore, ranged from a few shillings up to a couple of pounds or so. The experience of all customers seems to have been much the same. The papers were delivered for a time, more or less punctually, then they became irregular, and finally stopped. It was mentioned in last week's Truth that a West-End ladies' club supplied Mrs. Davis with second-hand papers for a time, and discontinued the supply when her payments fell into arrears. Probably papers have been obtained second-hand in the same way from other quarters. But the principal supply for some months came from Messrs. May and Williams, of 106, Piccadilly. This firm knew their customer as "Mrs. Forestier-Walker," of Westeria Lodge, Bidford, and from August last onwards they despatched on her instructions considerable quantities of papers to various persons whose names and addresses

she supplied. They naturally wondered what her business was, or how she made it pay, and were only partially enlightened when she explained in one of her letters that she sent the papers in exchange—"mostly for cats." Of course, they understand the business better now. It is the correspondence with Messrs. May and Williams which shows that "Mrs. Forestier-Walker" was residing at Helebridge simultaneously with Mrs. Davis; and it was to them that she explained that Mrs. Davis was her sister, when paying them with Mrs. Davis's cheques. These payments seem always to have been in arrear, and at the end of December the lady owed about £20. She subsequently paid a part of this, but in March she owed about £27, including the price of an advertisement which had been published for her, and Messrs. May and Williams then stopped further delivery. It is interesting to note that immediately after this, Mrs. Davis, and likewise Mrs. Lewis, departed from Bidford, where she then was.

It is highly probable that other people have cause to regret their dealings with Mrs. Davis, or whatever her name may be, besides those who have bought newspapers of, or sold newspapers to her. People who dodge about from one furnished house to another, eking out their means by devices like the above, are generally undesirable customers in all forms of business. Both Mrs. Davis of Helebridge and Mrs. Forestier-Walker of Bidford use an imposing coat of arms, surmounted by a sort of imperial crown, with the motto "Nil Desperandum." When selling newspapers a year ago from Stratton Hall, Mrs. Staniland Davis writes a note to one of her customers on a handsome visiting-card, indicating that she is at home on "2nd Friday," and one document from this address bears a crest in the shape of an heraldic monster, with the motto "Turris fortissima Deus." When negotiating with another customer from Stratton Hall in the name of Walker, she stated that the house was "our own," and that her husband was a solicitor. In view of these little circumstances, it is not surprising to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Davis left debts behind them at Helebridge. A still more instructive incident comes to my knowledge while I am writing. When residing at Stratton Hall last spring, Mr. Davis ordered a few shillingsworth of goods from a firm in London, explaining that he did not remit payment, as he did not know whether the terms were for cash. A few weeks ago, the account never having been paid, the firm sent Mr. Davis an application for payment by registered letter. The letter was re-addressed by the Post Office, but refused on delivery at the second address, and in due course returned to the sender. The second address is the one from which Mr. Davis has just written to me. A man does not as a rule refuse to take in a registered letter when tendered to him; but in this case the envelope bore the name and address of the firm who despatched it, and the refusal of the addressee to receive it under these circumstances is a proceeding which speaks for itself. It is pretty evident that Mr. and Mrs. Davis are a couple who ought to be brought to book, and if any of their numerous creditors who have written to me are disposed to co-operate for that purpose, I shall be pleased to put them in communication with one another.

There seems to be a great demand for weekly papers at reduced terms, and it leads to a great deal of barefaced swindling. Concurrently with the above revelations, I have had a communication from a gentleman in the provinces who, as the result of an advertisement which he saw in the *Exchange and Mart*, paid 3s. a few weeks ago to one H. Norman, who gave an address in London. For this sum Norman was to supply Truth on the day after publication for three months. He never supplied it at all, and I find that the address he used was a small shop which is now shut up. On the face of it, an offer to supply Truth at less than half-price on the day after publication is open to some suspicion. I have no objection to people obtaining the paper at reduced prices, if they can, and the large business that is done in selling or exchanging weeklies second-hand is a perfectly legitimate one, and probably advantageous to the proprietors of the papers. But I would point out to all my readers that it is desirable in these cases to ascertain with whom you are dealing before remitting cash, and the more so when payment is requested for six months or a year in advance.

THE GRAVENEY CHURCH SCANDAL.

Numerous warnings have been given in Truth against the begging letters of Mrs. Hanham, wife of the Vicar of Graveney, Faversham. For upwards of twelve years past this lady has followed the profession of an habitual mendicant, and she is so active in the business and so successful in her operations that it is time some serious attempt was made to put a stop to the scandal which she is creating. A long correspondence which has just been handed to me affords a typical illustration of her *modus operandi*. In the early part of 1906 she appears to have addressed herself to a benevolently-disposed lady, telling—as usual with her, at portentous length—a moving story of domestic distress. In former times the narrative has generally included some definite statements as to her husband having got into difficulties through becoming surety for somebody else's debt, and being threatened in consequence with an execution and sale of his effects. In the present instance she refrains from going minutely into details, possibly under a consciousness that she is being watched, and that too great preciseness in misrepresentations of fact may get her into trouble. She merely states that "we are now in a sad state of distress, not through any misdoing, but as a result of untoward circumstances over which we have had no control, and unless we can find £20 and pay it within four days from now, our furniture will be seized, and sold to realise that amount." This is the basis of her appeal, supplemented by a long history of her husband's illness and other family troubles. She explains that she is expecting money shortly, and merely asks for a loan to enable her to tide over a temporary difficulty, thus:—

> Will you forgive me, dear Madam, for asking if you will help me with the loan of the sum we need in time to free us from these people? I would give you a properly signed and stamped agreement to repay the loan in two quarterly instalments, and with 5 per cent. interest upon it. I would also give you an undertaking that in the event of my not fulfilling my word as to repayment, you might claim my "Encyclopædia Britannica," which cost me £35 with the book-case.

Whether influenced by the tale of distress or the alleged value of the Encyclopædia Britannica and book-

case as security for the advance, the good lady thus appealed to lent the £20. She received a profuse acknowledgment, together with a promise to repay the money with interest by two quarterly instalments, written over a penny stamp, which Mrs. Hanham apparently regards as a "properly signed and stamped agreement"; but she does not appear to have received any lien upon the "Encyclopædia Britannica." On the very next day Mrs. Hanham is "asking for more." Like all of her class, the prompt success of the appeal encourages her to repeat the effort, and the victim is favoured with the following story:—

I have sent the amount on to these people, expecting that would end the matter, but I have just received a communication from them that unless they receive, on or before Monday next, the sum of £5 10s. for expenses, they will proceed as they had intended. I do not know what to do, for I have no means here of getting this money together. Will you, dear Madam, help me this once more? I truly will not trouble you again, except to return the money, etc., etc.

Again the good lady parted with her money. Again she received profuse thanks, accompanied by another "properly signed and stamped agreement" of the same character as before. This document was dated April 2. By April 6 Mrs. Hanham has made up her mind to try again, and the pretext for her next appeal deserves quoting in full:—

Dear Madam,—Last night, after post time, I was amazed to have this man come back again, bringing your cheque with him. It appears they had returned it from Lloyds', because you had written out the cheque as if my name was "Hamham," and I had not noticed it, and so endorsed it, as I always do sign my name, "E. G. Hanham." The bank people had printed on the cheque "Irregularly endorsed," and I had to endorse it afresh, as much like your writing as I could, "E. G. Hamham." However, the man has charged me £2 2s., as expenses for returning till to-morrow, and says that unless I pay him the £2 2s. to-morrow, he will have to stay over Sunday, and charge me 10s. per day while he stays.

I really have not the money, and if he does not go to-morrow it will be more and more expense heaped up. Will you once more help me with just this £2 2s. by telegraph money order to-morrow, Saturday? I would not ask it, but I do not know whatever I shall do if I have this worry all Sunday. I will return the £2 2s. in a fortnight from now, if you will only help me in this way *in time*. Please forgive me for asking this after your recent kindness, and please *do* help me *in time*.—I am, yours gratefully,

Eva G. Hanham.

Once more the good lady allowed herself to be imposed upon, and sent the money, having thus parted with over £27 in the course of a week. At the end of a fortnight (April 20), when the last advance was to have been paid, Mrs. Hanham writes promptly, but, needless to say, not with any remittance, on the contrary, with a fresh appeal. Without any apology or explanation for her failure to keep her previous promise she begins:—

Please forgive me for troubling you again, but I am in such distress. I have only just got together over £6 for these people, for the expenses which have accumulated since I last wrote to you, and this amount I realised by privately selling some things. There is still another £2 10s. to be met, for the things I sold did not realise so much as I thought they would, and now these people say that unless this £2 10s. is paid by 2 o'clock they will send a sheriff's officer into the house till it is paid. . . . . My husband is so unwell again with the recurrence of the gout in his feet that I am at my wits' end to know what to do with him.

Will you help me in this trouble, dear Madam, by wiring me £2 2s. before 2 o'clock? I promise faithfully to repay it in or within a fortnight, and I will faithfully keep my word, etc., etc.

Whether the victim parted with a further £2 10s. on this last appeal, I do not know, but I should judge that she did not, because after this she heard nothing more of Mrs. Hanham for three months, and there is no doubt that the woman would have kept on applying for fresh loans until she found that there was no more to be got. Before the end of the three months she ought to have paid not only the last two loans, which were to have been repaid within a fortnight, but the first instalment of the original advance, and the lender seems to have written to remind her of this. Here is a *précis* of Mrs. Hanham's subsequent letters:—

July 31, 1906.—So sorry not to have returned your kind loans earlier. Am only just getting better after an operation. Hope and believe I shall have the money within the next fortnight. Will forward it as soon as I receive it. Payment has been delayed, c. you would have had it before.

August 2, 1906.—Am sorry there is still a delay, but I cannot send to you till I receive some money.

October 22, 1906.—Am honestly regretting the delay, but I have truly not been in a position to send the money earlier. Nothing has ever been further from my thoughts than to defraud you. Please forgive me, I will send it some time this week truly, and without fail.

November 26, 1906.—Am sorry there has been so long a delay in returning your money, but if I had only had the money to send, you should not have been kept waiting a day longer than was specified. I never was "a fraud" yet, I and all belonging to me have always paid 20s. in the pound, I am thankful to say, and I hope we always shall. You shall have your full amount on or before Saturday next.

December 1, 1906.—Cannot get the cash for the amount which I have just received, and which is so long overdue, until Thursday next, as it arrived too late to-day to send it to the bank. On Thursday, as soon as I receive it, I will wire the money to you. Hope you will not blame me for extra delay. Have just a little over 10s. to provide all that is needed for the family till next Thursday.

December 11, 1906.—Am sending you the money on Friday, 14th inst. I truly could not manage it earlier.

December 28, 1906.—Hope to make you the promised payment within a week or two. Really have not it in my power *at once*. Have had such a sick house, and my husband is now in bed with a severe attack of bronchitis. Am just up after influenza.

March 14, 1907. [Evidently the lender had been expostulating during this interval.—Ed.]—Have delayed sending an answer, because I have been hoping to be able to send an enclosure too. Cannot do so now, however, for I have not yet the money in hand. Shall have some in a short time, however. Assure you you shall have every farthing of the amount. Am not an impostor or a cheat. Mr. Hanham has not left his bed for a month. All the five children only just recovered from influenza and measles.

March 16, 1907.—Am sending you part of your money on Thursday. Cannot get it any earlier.

March 21, 1907.—Owing to an error in the figures on my cheque, which was corrected, but the correction was not initialled, the payment has been delayed for a few days. The mistake was not discovered till the cheque reached the London branch, and it has had to be returned to the sender now to be initialled. I am told I shall have it on Saturday or Monday, and I will forward it to you directly it reaches my hands.

You see it really is not due to any fault of mine that this delay has been caused. . . . . .

It is unnecessary to comment on this correspondence, for the character of the woman is revealed at every stage of it; and it is entirely of a piece with all the previous letters from her pen that have been noticed in Truth. Mrs. Hanham is perpetually engaged in this trick, and even if in the above case she had kept any of her promises to pay the money, they would only have been kept by swindling some fresh victim in the same manner. The position of herself and her husband has been already explained in these columns. Mr. Hanham's living has been sequestrated, his licence has been withdrawn, and the parish has been placed in charge of a curate by the Archbishop of Canterbury, but the vicar remains in possession of the house. He and his wife have little means of subsistence beyond the proceeds of Mrs. Hanham's begging letters. It is solely the fact that she is able to write from Graveney Vicarage that gives the lady's appeals an air of plausibility, and enables her to impose upon benevolent people. That a country vicarage house should be systematically used for such a purpose is nothing less than a scandal to the Church—and the more so when it is remembered that her methods are such that she is well within the reach of the law if anybody would take the trouble to prosecute her. It seems to me that this is a matter in which the Archbishop of Canterbury ought to take very decisive action, both for the sake of the Church and for the protection of the public.

THE THEATRES.

"Tom Jones," at the Apollo.

Tom Jones was sitting, about mid-day some weeks ago, at a small table in the bar at Romano's. His looks were not very promising, for he bore an air of having been up all night. His dress clothes shone with unpleasant brilliancy in response to the sun's invitation. His hat was in every sense a crush hat. The fact was that Tom Jones had been at the Covent Garden Ball on the previous evening, where, to his mighty surprise, he had met Blifil. Blifil on his side expressed at once surprise and regret at seeing Tom Jones leading a life of unrestrained pleasure, as the latter began suddenly to dance a *pas seul*. This had been too much for Tom Jones, who had again raised his hand to Blifil, and on this occasion given him so sound a pummelling, though Tom had but one arm to do it with, that Blifil swore he would never visit such places again, even with a view to raising their moral tone. Blifil was last seen being sponged by that sympathetic soul, Mrs. Ormiston Chant. As for Tom Jones, the myrmidons of the law had ejected him from the ball-room, after a pretty tussle, and Tom, not knowing his way about modern London, had wandered up and down the Strand and to and fro over the Bridge until it was possible to obtain liquid refreshment. This he had done at several less notable establishments, and now sat turning over and over in his pocket his last crown at Romano's.

"I wish I were dead," said Tom to himself, feeling far from well, and dimly realising the unpleasantness of being penniless in town.

"It's not much good wishing that, because you know you're immortal," came from a bluff-looking gentleman at his elbow. "You'll feel better after you've had some lunch. Come and have some with me."

Tom Jones rose and followed his unknown friend into the restaurant, where they found another individual, a strapping young man, with a ruddy countenance.

"This is Tom Brown, who has finished his school days and now writes lyrics for the stage and does the boxing for the *Sportsman's Life*," said the unknown.

Tom bowed, and in return asked who their entertainer might be.

"That's a good joke to crack," laughed the bluff man. "Not know me, why I'm Tom Smith, see?"

Upon Tom Jones confessing that he did not clearly see, Tom Smith explained that besides making the best crackers he also composed music, which never failed to go with a bang.

"Now," said Tom Smith, "what I wish to suggest is that we should act you, Mr. Jones. We want you up-to-date. Tom Brown here has a pal, Dan Rolyat, who'll do Partridge ever so much better than Partridge can do himself in your dad Fielding's book. He'll also put in all the good new wheezes—he's got one about 'Lizzie the leech' that fairly fetches 'em; pit, gallery, stalls, and boxes. All you've got to do is to hide behind Mr. Hayden Coffin as much as you can. He'll be there to sing the part I've called after you, and a very fine voice he has, too, and looks quite the gentleman, so you needn't look haughty."

"I'm not haughty; but who's going to be Sophia?" said Jones, with determination. "I won't lend my name to anything of the kind until I see her with my own eyes."

"Well, you've not far to look; there she is, sitting at the next table with the fair gentleman," said Tom Smith.

Jones gave one glance in the direction of Miss Ruth Vincent, and, turning to Smith and Brown, clasped each warmly by the hand and swore he would do his utmost to make the entertainment a success. At this moment Mr. Tom Davis, lessee and manager of the Apollo Theatre, came in by appointment to meet Mr. Tom Smith, and all business arrangements were soon completed. Tom Jones, it was decided, should remain a great deal in the background and let Mr. Hayden Coffin do the singing. Tom, however, insisted upon having a go at the detested Blifil in the first act, but, as was remarked upon the occasion of the first performance, behaved in every other respect like a perfect tenor.

Sophia, when she heard Miss Vincent sing, readily resigned her personality and removed into the shadow; there to converse with Tom Jones, while her maid, Honour, frisked about the stage with Miss Carrie Moore.

Squire Western alone refused altogether to be Mr. Ambrose Manning, so, of course, Mr. Manning had to be Squire Western. And a very good gouty, swearing old squire he was. I am sure that if he had caught Mr. Dan Rolyat pretending to be Partridge and looking for "Lizzie the leech," under the table, he would have broken every bone in his body.

I took my Fielding to the first performance. Sophia vowed Miss Vincent sang as sweet as any dove (I added, "as any hundred doves"). Tom Jones was, as I have said, on his best behaviour after Act I. That plaguy villain, Blifil, said that Mr. Arthur Soames seemed too reckless and rollicking a young man for him (a gross injustice, as usual, you sneak, Blifil: Mr. Soames was duly mean and decorously perfidious). Squire Western was quite beside himself with rage, and in every other respect, and very nearly caught Mr. Dan Rolyat under the table. As for the latter, he was observed flying before the infuriated Partridge, who amusingly enough was enraged on his side at being made into a mere mountebank (another gross injustice: Mr. Rolyat is an amusing comedian).

P.S.—As I conclude this plain but well-varnished account of the performance at the Apollo Theatre, a friend looks over my shoulder who is possessed with a love of accuracy. He insists upon it that Mr. Tom Smith, of "cracker" fame, and Tom Brown, of "School Days," had nothing to do with the performance, that Mr. Taylor wrote the lyrics, Messrs. Thompson and Courtneidge the book, Mr. German the music. It may be so from his point of view. But points of view are numerous, and I prefer the cast and the creators as I saw them.

"Tales of Hoffmann," at the Adelphi Theatre.

"Make haste, make haste, to mount my piece; I am in a hurry, and have only one wish in the world—to see the first performance of my 'Stories of Hoffman.'" Thus spoke the aged Offenbach of his swan song, which

the company from Berlin is at present performing at the Adelphi Theatre.

Let me say at once that I think the opera and the performance both, taken individually and as a whole, admirable. I would strongly recommend all who enjoy good music and good acting to hasten to the Adelphi, while the Germans are with us. Their visit will be brief, and we are not likely again to have such an opportunity for some time. The foreign language is hardly, if at all, a bar to the enjoyment of this beautiful work, for in the first place the synopsis, handed together with the programme and translation, sets one right at once as to the story, and in the second place, that story, or rather set of stories, is so very clear in the telling that even without such aid one could hardly go wrong.

* * * * *

Although there is some admirable comedy of the lightest sort in the first act, when Hoffmann, to whom Coppelius has given the spectacles that make inanimate things seem real, becomes enamoured of the dancing doll, the handiwork of Niklaus, yet here, alone in Offenbach's work, we see that he could be divinely serious if he tried. To my mind we see nothing less than that this much applauded yet little esteemed vaudevillist had more than a touch of genius. The words I quote at the beginning of this article are to my mind proof of this. He knew in his heart of hearts that here he had done something that would survive him, because in it his genius had for the first and last time found expression. It is sad to think that his wish was not gratified, for he died October 5, 1880, and the opera was not produced before February 10, 1881. It was played on that occasion for over one hundred nights at the Opéra Comique, Paris, was afterwards given in Germany, and it was as the first few bars of it had sounded through the Ring Theater, Vienna, that the terrible cry of fire echoed through the building, which was destroyed and many lives lost. I have not space to do more than mention the gay fantastic airs of the first act, the passion of the love-duet between Hoffmann and the Courtezan of the second act, and the wonderful singing and orchestration of those fantastic scenes of the third, where the father of the singer, the devil, Hoffmann, and the young singer herself rivet and entrance the attention from beginning to end. Do not fail to go and hear the Swan Song of Offenbach.

* * * * *

"The Judgment of Pharaoh" must, I am sorry to say, be unfavourable. At the Scala Theatre Mr. Alfred C. Calmour's play was produced with exquisite taste and a nice sense for colour values in the great scenes of "The Temple of Osiris" and "The Court of Concubines." Artists, however, are almost the sole class of the community who are likely to extract much pleasure from this very serious attempt to give us a picture of Judæa-Egyptian life.

Although nothing was spared in the shape of dance and music to heighten the general effect and impart to the performance that spirit of lightness and beauty so much to be desired, an undeniable feeling of weariness crept over the audience at an early period of the evening, and this only gained more ground as the performance proceeded. I could not contrive to get up an interest in the double love-affairs of the audacious young Jew who comes to beard Pharaoh in his hall. And even the beauty and passion of Miss Nora Lancaster's Miriam failed to rouse me. To say that Mr. Brandon Thomas played Pharaoh, is to say that it was played with all due majesty and propriety. Yet none of this and of much else in the way of artistic effect served to drag the cart of comedy out of the rut.

"Popular" prices are the order of the day at the Scala, but I fear these will not avail much, until some form of entertainment be discovered that shall get the better of the architectural qualities of the theatre. The Scala, especially with the beautiful new decorations of the ceiling and the brighter tone of the other parts of the house, remains a psychically chilly auditorium. The players never seem able to set up that magnetic current with the audience which makes for success. In fine, I can only hope that Dr. Distin Maddick may eventually hit upon some means of kindling the enthusiasm of audiences at the Scala, but I cannot honestly advise my readers, save enthusiasts for colour, to betake themselves thither until this be achieved.

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Last week witnessed a considerable number of new performances, among which Mr. Lewis Waller's of Tom Taylor's old play, "Clancarty" at the Lyric Theatre was important. Mr. W. Mackintosh made a hit as William III., and Mr. Waller carried his special public with him as the adventurous Jacobite servant to James II. Miss Evelyn Millard afforded the feminine counterpoise which the virile genius of Mr. Waller asks. In Miss Adrienne Augarde as Lady Betty Noel we had a very dainty recruit from the Gaiety Theatre. I shall possibly have occasion to dwell at greater length upon this production when there is less pressure upon time and space.

* * * * *

Mr. Tree seems to have had a pleasant personal reception in Berlin, though the critiques of his Shakespearean productions have been justly severe. A harmless little tale of Miss Viola Tree's first interview with the Kaiser has, perhaps, not yet found its way into print. The Kaiser remarked that he had seen her while he was riding in the Thiergarten and had rejoiced at being on horseback, "for it is not right that Emperors should look up to little girls." I do not know that this has much to do with dramatic art; but I am not sure that our leading actors have much to do with it either. They are mostly too much occupied with social or political or financial intrigue to be able to afford to their art that whole-souled devotion which every art worthy of the name demands of its votaries. These remarks may sound pessimistic. I wish they were not also true.

* * * * *

Mr. Bourchier thinks (every week) that some doing of his will interest my readers. This week the news is that Mr. Bourchier and Miss Vanbrugh will be playing in "The Merchant of Venice" at Stratford-on-Avon, on April 29.

* * * * *

At the Hippodrome this week is to be witnessed an exhibition of tree-felling by two axe-men of Australia. The great rapidity of their work is apparently one of its most notable characteristics, and I hope to find time to

see a tree of sixty-three inches in girth cut through in one minute eleven seconds. Certainly the tree must be a special tree or the axe-men special axe-men to make such a feat possible. I prefer to believe both tree and axe-men genuine. Amateurs of the late Mr. Gladstone's favourite pastime are invited to compete, but I fancy that Londoners will not shake the lists with much furious competition.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Journalistic Catechism.

(For the use of the Halfpenny Press-man.)

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A halfpenny journalist.

Q.: What is a halfpenny journalist?

A.: A man who purveys news to the halfpenny public.

Q.: What is the halfpenny public?

A.: The largest and most gullible section of the community.

Q.: What is news?

A.: News is of two kinds; the prosaic, and the romantic.

Q.: Do you purvey much prosaic news?

A.: Very little.

Q.: Do you purvey much romantic news?

A.: A great deal.

Q.: Quote me an example of romantic news.

A.: The recent abdication of the Czar, and the engagement of Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein to the Grand Duke Michael of Russia.

Q.: Whence did you get this romantic news?

A.: Out of my own head.

Q.: Why did you do that?

A.: Because I calculated that it would sell my papers.

Q.: Did it sell your papers?

A.: Yes; like hot cakes.

Q.: What is correspondence?

A.: Letters written to my papers.

Q.: Who writes them?

A.: I write the bulk of them myself.

Q.: Do you write them over your own name?

A.: No; over various *noms-de-plume*.

Q.: Mention some of these *noms-de-plume*.

A.: "Fairplay," "Paterfamilias," "Anti-humbug," "Anxious Mother," "One Who Knows," and "Common Sense."

Q.: What is public opinion?

A.: The opinion which I express in my leaders.

Q.: What relation does it bear to the real sentiments of the public?

A.: None whatever.

Q.: What is an advertisement manager?

A.: The man who receives and examines all advertisements sent in to my papers, and rejects such as are unsuitable.

Q.: What advertisements does he reject as unsuitable?

A.: Those which are not accompanied by a remittance.

Q.: Are all advertisements accompanied by a remittance suitable?

A.: Certainly. The remittance is the one thing needful.

Q.: What is the education of the public?

A.: The instruction of my readers in my views.

Q.: What are your views?

A.: It depends in which of my papers I am airing them.

Q.: How so?

A.: I mean that my views on any given subject as aired in the *Daily Looking-glass* do not necessarily coincide with my views as aired in the *Evening Intelligencer*.

Q.: Illustrate by an example.

A.: I will. For instance, in the *Daily Looking-glass* I strongly advocated the reprieve of Rayner; but in the *Evening Intelligencer* I strenuously denounced the outcry in his favour as mawkish sentimentalism.

Q.: Which was your real view?

A.: Both.

Q.: But how is that possible?

A.: All things are possible to the halfpenny journalist.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

SECULARISING JOAN OF ARC.

THE prohibition of the Joan of Arc cortège in its usual form at Orleans has been the occasion of a mighty outflow of ink. That form was till the end of the first decade of Louis Philippe's reign purely civilian, although he had in that period Conservative Prime Ministers. The names of Casimir Perier, De Broglie, and Comte Molé figure in the list. The Comte's Ministry was known as the "gentleman's Cabinet." When Louis Philippe wanted to secure Neapolitan, Brazilian, and Spanish heiresses for his younger sons, and among them Isabella II., he and the Calvinist Guizot decided to give the Joan of Arc celebration a sacerdotal character. The Second Empire went further in this direction after a State visit of Napoleon III. and Eugénie to Orleans. They wanted to conciliate Bishop Dupanloup, whose arch hobby was Joan of Arc, and who was not indifferent to the "temporalities" side of her exaltation. The vestries of Orleans were the first to see that a fortune lay in the Maid.

The great changes from the last celebration will be the addition to the cortège of the masonic bodies of the Loiret, with their emblems, and of the artillery of a whole division, the withdrawal of the *pas* from the Church, the bearing of Joan's banner at the head of the troops, who will open the march, a regiment of cavalry in gala uniform leading. The artillery is to bring up the rear. The history of the siege of Orleans has been a good deal rectified in late years. We now know that the raising of it was mainly due to the artillery created by the Brothers Bureau with funds provided by Yolanda, Duchess of Anjou, born Princess of Aragon-Trinacria (the old name for Sicily) and aunt-in-law and mother-in-law of Charles VII. She sold the county of Nice to the Duke of Savoy to obtain them, and she caused the command to be entrusted to Baron de Rais, whom we know as Bluebeard, and the great friend of the Maid through her whole campaign. It is, therefore, as it should be for the artillery to have a prominent place in the cortège. As to the Freemasons, in the Middle Ages the Church was, and still is, indebted to them for those grand cathedrals of Orleans, Rheims, and Rouen which we associate with the career of Joan of Arc.

The official programme has not been drawn up in a Diocletian-like spirit. It is the result of a compromise

between the Government and the civic authorities of Orleans. The former wanted to mark the change brought about by the Law of Separation. The latter feared that if the clergy were excluded as a body the town might lose a golden harvest. It is the same at Orleans as it was at Ephesus, when the Great Diana gave so much employment to the silversmiths. The two days of festivity bring about 500,000 fr. to the hotels and those townspeople licensed for the nonce to let lodgings. The market people and dealers in souvenirs profit greatly, and it is as if the sluggish, sleepy town were raised to liveliness by the kiss of a Prince Charming. M. Rabier, the advanced Deputy, whom the clergy, in obedience to Monsignor Montagnini's orders, so hotly opposed at the last elections, is for giving the Church every inducement to appear in the procession. He talked round the Prime Minister to rescind (as Minister of the Interior) his rule against pontifical and other vestments, the "exposure" of relics, which never are exposed, but carried in cases or *chasses* of precious workmanship and generally in precious metals and be-jewelled. The Bishop, should he honour the cortège with his presence, can fly his banner and hoist his pastoral crook. The cross will, however, be taboo, probably from a regard for Viviani, the Jews, and the bearers of the Masonic triangle and compass. I suppose they think the line must be drawn somewhere. We live, do we not, in a queer world?

Yielding to M. Rabier and the Mayor of Orleans, M. Clemenceau has also decided that the procession is to start from the Town Hall instead of from the Cathedral of La Sainte Croix, but it is to halt in front of the latter and to leave a space open for Bishop, Dean, Chapter, and other clergy, immediately behind the Prefect and local civil authorities. These comprise the judges, the rectors of the boys' and girls' lyceums, and the professors, some of whom are ladies. The board school teachers and their pupils are to have an honourable place in the procession. So should have Professor Thalamas, whom the Combes Ministry treated so harshly for reading to a class at the Lycée Condorcet some pages of the rectified history of the siege of Orleans. A young grandson of Berry, the reactionist coachbuilder and deputy, made a row about the professor's ears to protest against his "blasphemous lesson." The Minister of Public Instruction had the weakness to shift M. Thalamas, "as a punishment," to the Lycée in the Faubourg St. Antoine. I read the lesson, and thought it as temperate as true. Authorities were pointed out, and the pupils advised to search them up for themselves, so as to form a quite independent judgment. This might not be so spectacular as burning Pierre Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais, in effigy, in his pontifical vestments; but it would be an act of higher justice.

The band of the Republican Guard is to charm the ears of spectators. Foresters employed by the Domain have been instructed to furnish the Mayor with what greenery and wood flowers he may want. We are not sure whether there will be the usual cavalcade of the young men of the leading families, *le monde chic* being clerical. The cavalcade I saw at a procession got up in Bishop Dupanloup's time boasted wealthy nobles from the châteaux along the Loire, on their hunting mounts, a Montpensier, a Catholic Saxe-Coburg, two Bavarian Princes, and a lot of heavy swell cavalry officers who had been educated near Orleans. They had had good riding masters, rode blood horses, and in their fifteenth-century costumes were a taking feature.

A movement is on foot to bring the Orleans celebration into accord "with historical truth." One of its promoters submitted it last week to the Minister of the Interior, and he may "bite" if the Bishop continues to take offence at the changes I have mentioned. *L'Aurore* approves. The idea is to materialise the tragical close of Joan's career. Thus, the burning in effigy of Pierre Cauchon is proposed. I cannot understand how "Joan of Arc's judges," all Churchmen, can now be brought, even ignominiously, into a procession in her honour. There were at her trial over two score, and they comprised the Grand Inquisitors' Deputy, and many bishops, deans, canons, Dominicans, serving as assessors to the Deputy Grand Inquisitor, and Doctors of Divinity of the Sorbonne. As they rode to Rouen on horses and mules, an Antoine could turn them to good account in a circus spectacle, but hardly in the streets. They had been convoked by the Deputy Grand Inquisitor. Bedford had no hand in the matter beyond giving safe conducts. Each Churchman of eminence had his men-at arms, secretaries, chaplain, pack-horses, and servants, probably dressed as the knaves on packs of playing cards. There were so many as to cause, along the road, provisions to run up to famine prices. The only English bishop present at the trial was that Cardinal Beaufort, of Winchester, who, in dying, "gave no sign." So far from backing up Pierre Cauchon and the Deputy Grand Inquisitor, he tried to save Joan, and wept and sobbed from sympathising pity during her examination. Duruy, in his history, bears witness to the weeping. He had come to France with a heavily laden money chest and 23,000 soldiers, on his way to Bohemia to fight the Hussites. His great desire at Rouen was to get Joan off and give her, with himself, the joint command of his host of warriors. It was one of those plans that God disposes of, not as man proposes, though there are erudite historians who believed that he must have so far succeeded as to save Joan.

I do not at all suppose that any judge was in bad faith or more cruel than the average man or woman of his time. The drowning, burning, or hanging of a witch was an ordinary event, or, rather, circumstance. The chroniclers of Joan's time record such burnings on the French side as precisely for having set up to rout the English by infernal arts. A semi-idiotic shepherd's boy suffered even as Joan did for this crime. To accuse anyone of dealing in the black art was to sentence him or her to a disgraceful death. The healing of ague by simples might be construed into working with the help of the Evil One. A sister-in-law of Bedford, the wife of the Regent of England, "Good Duke Humphry," had to walk in a white sheet and bare-footed through the streets of London and to go to prison for life, on the charge of raising evil spirits.

Are we never to get to the end of the Montagnini papers? There are upwards of 3,000 to be examined. A sub-committee had been named to lighten the labours of the committee named to report on them. As Rome

threatens to publish any that may be held back out of regard for Republicans, it has been decided to print all, and give it in a volume annexed to the report. When this reading may take place it is hard to say, as the President of the Committee has gone to Nice, and hopes to remain there until the Chambers meet. The rule of secrecy is to be observed. This has not prevented some amusing revelations as to the private inquiry business of the Papal Agent. He kept records of the secret doings of *les gens du monde, et du meilleur*, of officers and their families, and of Republicans of mark, and he busied himself as a match-maker. He rendered a good service to an illustrious German house, whose daughter had a romantic disposition, and paid the penalty. The idea struck one of her relatives here that Monsignor Montagnini could, if interested in the young lady, help her to make an honourable match. To this end he got hold of a Catholic officer socially ambitious, and negotiated with Rome for the speedy purchase of a title for him—that of Comte. He so warmed to the business that he was almost in a fever of apprehension lest they might spoil things at the Vatican by not making haste. A wedding at the last moment was to be avoided for obvious reasons. This is not the only wedding *in extremis* which he arranged. The Committee have decided not, in such matters, to give full names or other indications beyond initials. The Deputy who charged his wife to recommend a candidate for a bishopric must feel rather foolish, as he is a member of the Committee. He declares that she never asked his leave. He had no idea of her interest in the curé she named, who happens to be rich and to cultivate drawing-room graces.

A few of Montagnini's worries were the theft in the transport of bottles of champagne, liqueurs, fine wines, and delicious bonbons. The number of the bottles never corresponded to the invoices the donors sent by post. The barrels of choice wines had evidently been tapped in transmission. What has been said of late in Truth on Italian railways might be studied with advantage at the Vatican. They seemed to think there that false invoices had been sent. Montagnini recoiled from notifying the "suction" of the barrel of wine of 226 litres and the withdrawal of ten Château Lafittes from three dozen. He could feel sure of the devotion of those who sent these and other vintages to the Holy Father, and of their truthfulness. He did notify to two what had happened, and it made them furious.

We hear from the Montagnini papers that M. Berteaux had but one recommendable quality. He hated Edgar Combes, and refused to meet him at a dinner party. The person the ex-War Minister declined to meet was M. Paul Loubet. Was it because of this enmity that Rouvier brought M. Berteaux into the War Office, in spite of all the efforts made to keep M. Etienne there? In the last year of his Presidency M. Loubet's path was bestrewn with thorns. The Papal Agent was instrumental in casting some of them in the way. He and *le très bon* Piou believed Doumer to be ripe for the presidency, and thought it good policy to make sure of Loubet's retirement, though re-election were offered.

We ought, when we have fairly good reason to be satisfied, to be well satisfied. The fairly well may last long; the very well never can. The efforts of the Papal Agent in this way hastened the fall of the Combes Cabinet. He and Piou obtained from Mme. Lebaudy money enough to buy those secret reports on officers in active services which had been collected in pigeon holes of the secretary of the Grand Orient. They afforded "*le très bon* Syveton" an excuse to blacken the eyes of General André. His friends losing their heads, the General had to resign. This led to the dislocation of the Combes Cabinet and its fall. Combes, a *ci-devant* priest, would have considered the *canonical* bearings of the Separation, and in disposing of them have given what satisfaction he could to the Holy See. The Clerical Party lost the moderating influence of Loubet. They missed the triumph they looked for when they and Doumer entered into an accord and they got Fallières as President and Clemenceau as Prime Minister. His bark is often worse than his bite, but the Papal Agent and his friends so managed that he must bite as well as bark. From the standpoint of the *bloc* the seizure of the Montagnini papers and the expulsion of Montagnini was a master stroke. Only Clemenceau would or could have taken both steps. Fallières has no other ambition than to lead an easy, kindly life as constitutional President, giving now and then, with a twinkle in the eye or a grave face, a word of advice at a ministerial council or in private talk with a Minister. He passes all the time he can now that Parliament is up at Rambouillet. The sylvan air is tonic and agrees with him. If some Imperial or Royal visitor is to be received at the Elysée he comes to town in his motor. The motor brought him here when he wanted to open the Champ de Mars Exhibition.

The charming position King Edward fills here as friend, Boulevardier, and the most sympathetic of crowned heads seems to have made the German Emperor emulous. William II. boasted to Massenet at the lunch he gave him of his French tastes and Coligny blood which to some degree makes him a Frenchman. He has announced his gracious intention of sending the rarest flowers in his gardens and greenhouses to the Horticultural Show to be held in the Cours de la Reine next May. He will have as rivals the Egyptian Prince Tussun, the Shah, whose rose gardens at Tabriz are incomparable, and the gardener of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg. The Emperor was all sunshine in receiving M. Cambon. This does not prevent things looking unpleasant in Morocco. The French complain that the Germans, in their engineering works at Tangier and El Arisch, go further than the ruling of the Algeciras Conference warrants, and they run on too fast not to be able to plead the accomplished fact shortly. The great honour done to the Prince of Monaco by William II. is in payment of an outstanding bill for secret diplomatic services. News communicated by the Prince two years ago caused the scare, the fall of Delcassé, and the *frousse* that cost France about 250,000,000 fr. for hastily made military preparations.

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., London, W.

A PEER AMONG THE PROLETARIAT.

I AM not really in a fit state to write an article for you this week. I am much too happy, too deliriously, overwhelmingly happy, to think about anything but how happy I am. I dare say it won't interest you as much as it does me, or your readers either—and I don't care whether it does or not—but Jessie and I are married! We were married on Thursday, at a registry office, and there's not a soul knows a word about it yet. Isn't it wonderful? Isn't it—it is not a bit of use my trying to tell you how deliriously happy I am. You couldn't understand—nobody ever could—because you don't know Jessie. If it wasn't that she says I must sit down and write something, I'd see you at—but, any way, I dare say it will interest you to know how we began our honeymoon—especially as you are more or less responsible for its having come off so soon. You see, your people sent me a cheque for some of my articles, and it was so much bigger than anything I had expected that I didn't see why we couldn't get married right away. I have been rather worried, too, because a low beast of a millionaire creature has been making himself objectionable to Jessie in the last week or two, and she has twice broken off our engagement within ten days. So I didn't say anything about it to her, but just made my own preparations, and on Thursday morning I asked her to come motoring, and drove her straight down to the registry office. I was in a blue funk the whole time lest we should skid or something, a thing I've never felt before, and it wasn't until we were at the door that I told her what I was taking her there for. And she was as sweet about it as——

[The next two columns, being more of private than of general interest, have been omitted.—Ed. Truth.]

Of course, I wanted to take my darling right off to the Riviera, or somewhere, but she wouldn't hear of it, said that she wouldn't break her contract for anything, and that in any case I must write my article for you first. Naturally, I didn't feel like writing articles—hadn't got an idea in my head. And so she suggested the whole thing. It seems she had been reading about the Football Cup Final, and felt that she would like to see it, for one thing. So we spent Friday getting ourselves ready for it. We got everything ready-made at one of the cheap tailors. I don't think our own mothers would have known us when we were in our full war-paint. My darling had frizzled all her lovely hair out into a great fringe, and got a cheap sailor hat stuck right down over her forehead, and a coat of black velvet with jet things all over it, and a great bunch of blue and white ribbons on it. She had found out that one of the teams had blue and white as their colours—I don't know which to this moment, and it doesn't matter much, anyway. And I had got a cloth cap, light brown with big checks on it, and a ready-made suit that positively screamed, it was a sort of electric blue, and a blue and white silk handkerchief round my neck instead of a collar, and light yellow boots about eleven sizes too big, and a great blue and white paper rosette stuck in my buttonhole. You never saw anything like it in your life, and it was all Jessie's idea. And we got a sixpenny mouth organ and an earthenware jar, that I was to carry, filled with beer. We spent Friday evening trying the things on and practising the North-Country dialect. Jessie hadn't had time to get it all up, but she had got a lot of technical words together, and we arranged that I was to keep my mouth shut as much as possible, and she was to do the talking. If any one asked me, I was to say I came "frae Sheffield," and to any other questions I was to say, "I dunnot knaw," I think it was. "Chezow" was another word. I think it means "whether you like it or not," but I'm not sure. And I was to call the cup "t' coop," and bring it in as often as possible. And to say, "Poor old Toffee," and "What price the Tykes" every now and then when I got the chance.

I may as well say at once that we never got to the Crystal Palace. I had some idea of pretending we had, and writing it up from the evening papers, as, I am told, lots of swagger journalists do, but Jessie says No; and, of course, that settles it. What with rehearsing our parts and getting our clothes to look natural, we weren't ready much before 11. Jessie insisted on our walking, though I would much rather have cabbed it to Victoria. We didn't attract nearly as much attention as I had feared, though I am sure we looked odd enough, and just by Piccadilly-circus we came on a band of about a dozen men—all dressed very much as I was, and all with blue and white paper rosettes in their button-holes. We followed along close behind them, so as to be taken for some of their party, and I was getting a bit sick of it, though I didn't say so, for my darling wife was enjoying it no end, when just at the bottom of the Haymarket a brake passed us, with four horses and about a dozen men with cloth caps and blue and white rosettes on it. There was a tout hanging on to the back steps, who shouted something to us, and before I knew what was happening, Jessie had stopped him, and we had clambered on to it. We neither of us knew where it was going, but that didn't matter much as long as the others were there, for we supposed they must be going to the Crystal Palace too. We got very good seats, just behind the driver, who was explaining things as we went along. He drove us all round the West End, and it was really no end amusing.

We very soon found out, however, that the driver didn't know half as much as he pretended, and Jessie enjoyed herself no end pulling his leg. She made him take us past my place—it is let to Guggenheimer, the South African gold man, now—and he told us that it was where the Duke of Westminster lived. It was through the amazing lies the fellow was telling that the most extraordinary part of the whole thing came out. He was driving us past one of the clubs in Pall Mall, and he told us it was where Mr. Carnegie lived when he was in town. Suddenly a man who was sitting half asleep in a line with us, on the other side of the gangway, seemed to wake up. This man was a red-faced-looking fellow, about forty—the sort of man who leans up against public-house walls all day, to look at—but he suddenly sat up, and snapped out: "Rubbish, man. That's the So-and-so Club." The curious thing was that he said it in English as good as yours or mine. My dear girl laughed outright, which annoyed the driver, who evidently thought he was making a great impression on her. He turned round to the other fellow and sneered out: "Garn, cocky. A lot you know about it. Wite till yer get the 'ayseed arter yer 'air, 'fore yer talks ter me," or something like that. "Why, you fool, I'm a member," the red-faced man answered, getting in a paddy himself. He saw his mistake, just a moment too late, and all the rest of us, except two, burst out into a roar of laughter.

Then it came out that out of the fourteen of us on the brake, besides the driver and the tout, there were only two genuine Cup excursionists. The rest had all made themselves up for it, just as Jessie and I had. The red-faced man was—well, he was a very well-known M.P. indeed. Then there were six journalists, all doing it for different papers. Another was Algy Bevenish, so well made up that I should never have spotted him. He swore he had known us all the time, though nobody believed him. The other two were a parson and a fashionable doctor, who once attended my poor old dad. When we found out there were so many journalists among them, Jessie suggested to me that it might be a good idea to ask them to lunch. I made the brake-driver run us round to the Savoy, and ordered lunch for fourteen there and then. We had some trouble at first, until I could make them understand who I was; but we had a splendid time afterwards, and the two real excursionists enjoyed themselves no end, and didn't a bit mind having missed the match.

I've been looking into the matter since then, and I don't believe that of the 100,000 or so excursionists that the papers tell us came up to London for the Cup Final more than 10,000 or so were genuine. The rest were all journalists or people like ourselves—made up for the part to see what the North Country tripper really was like.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

FOOLS build Empires, dear Lady Betty, and wise men live on them. It has always been an upper-class contention in England that the elder son lives on the estate; the younger sons on the State—principles which account for the Tory support of Protection and Imperialism.

. . . . .

"We are here to make a newspaper holiday," a Colonial visitor is reported to have said. "In England they make trifles of the things that are serious, and take seriously those that are trifles. . . . There is much that is different here from the conditions we are accustomed to. The English enlist patriotism in the cause of personal ambition; the Colonists enlist personal ambition in the cause of patriotism. The Conference is a circumstance of the London Season; more important than the Boat Race, less important than the Derby. . . . . The rival parties will endeavour to make capital of it; 'society,' consideration; the others, cash. The only Constitution that will be materially affected will be the constitution of the respective Premiers!"

. . . . .

It is a feature of the English in their relations with the Colonies that they have flashes of amiability. England is not a Fatherland; it is a Motherland. It is as capricious as a woman.

. . . . .

"England is an indulgent parent," a well-known Imperialist is said to have stated pompously.

"Or is it an indigent parent?" was the malicious suggestion.

* * * * *

"Too much woman" is a phrase which is being employed with increasing frequency in this country; majorities will out, and the permanent majority of over a million that woman possesses in England is asserting itself in every direction. It is a significant development of the time here that the shops which appear to thrive the most are those that provide commodities for women; the newspapers which address themselves exclusively to women have a growing sale; paragraphs that praise or blame woman are extensively quoted; political questions which seriously affect women cannot be postponed; and criminals who attract the sympathy of women have exceptional mercy extended to them.

. . . . .

The Forty-Seventh Annual Report recently issued by the Society for the Improvement of Women is peculiarly interesting in these circumstances. The committee is confident that the increase of education will eventually have satisfactory results in this direction. For the purposes of the Report, it divides minds into two classes, the warehousing and the manufacturing, and comes to the conclusion that woman possesses a greater ability to "warehouse" information than man does, but has far less facility in "manufacturing." She has a retentive memory, little imagination, and has great difficulty in applying the information attained. "When the examination is passed, the appointment obtained, or the purpose of the initial effort achieved, the elaborate education does not seem to lead to progressive improvement." These Societies have a habit of enveloping invidious observations in irreproachable phrases.

"The expected improvement in general conduct is not as yet noticeable," the Report continues. "The number of women accused of various offences has not diminished throughout the country during the past year, and the number of Decrees Nisi obtained by husbands is regretably on the increase. . . . We are decidedly of the opinion that the material condition of woman in this country has substantially improved, but this is not so much the result of education, as a consequence of the greater prosperity of man."

* * * * *

Ours is the Age of Reproductions. We reproduce Old Masters, artistic furniture, the work of the able engravers of the past, and the china which is treasured in cabinets, and seldom attain more than a superficial appearance of the objects imitated. Reproductions of "gentlemen" and "ladies" are equally common amongst us at the moment, and they, generally, have defects which correspond to those which the other imitations have. The ignorant in the latter case, as in the former, are deceived by general appearances, which do not impose upon the experienced. The London of to-day is flooded with these human reproductions—living in big houses, driving in expensive motor-cars, dressed extravagantly, uttering the sentiments affected by those who have inherited prejudices together with properties, and over-elaborating in every direction. This peculiarity of over-elaboration should be a sure sign to the ignorant in this matter, as it is in old-world work.

The reproductions in question are lowering the public taste, its sense of the correct, and, unfortunately, there is no museum for the display of the "gentlemanly" and "ladylike" as there is for the genuine in art. It is proposed to establish an institution for the purpose, a project which would not only be of service to the community at large, but would provide a new means of earning a livelihood for the increasingly numerous pauper peers, peeresses, and their connections, who would be paid by the State for exhibiting themselves at this museum. The suggestion has advantages.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT was announced last week by more than one of the papers that the Newmarket Craven Meeting "suffered" this year from the absence of the King. It so happens that his Majesty has never yet attended this particular meeting. The Craven was a most successful meeting, and the racing of last week was far and away the most interesting that has been seen this season, while there was a refreshing absence of the crowd and hurly-burly which are now an inevitable feature at nearly every meeting.

When writing a fortnight ago about the Craven programme I predicted that the Biennial would be won by the Kingsclere representative, St. Martin or Dusty Miller. Lord Falmouth's colt was withdrawn, but Dusty Miller won with extreme ease, and the Duke of Westminster, who has seldom visited Newmarket, was present to see him run. The favourite was Mr. Wyndham's Dripsey, who was a general tip at Newmarket on the strength of a satisfactory trial with Nairobi, who has since been running well in public. She performed very badly indeed, and ran like a non-stayer. Dusty Miller won all the way, but he really had nothing to beat. He is engaged in the Two Thousand, and the £2,100 stake at Chester appears to be a good thing for him. He is entered for the Triennial and the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot, and for the Eclipse Stakes, and he now appears to have a fair chance of winning the £10,000 race at Sandown Park, but a victory at Chester would involve a 7 lb. penalty. Dusty Miller is entered for the St. Leger, but he is not engaged in the Derby. It is a curious fact that the winner of the Newmarket Biennial has never yet been successful at Epsom, but horses which were beaten in the earlier race have several times won the Derby.

Prince of Orange was a general selection of the papers for the Column Stakes, but it seemed inconceivable that Lord Wolverton's colt, who is certainly no flyer, could give 18 lb. to Glacis and 13 lb. to Acclaim. The Duke of Devonshire's colt won cleverly, and he was thoroughly fit; but he is only moderate.

Baltinglass was included in the field for the Wood Ditton Stakes, but he is so big and generally backward that he might as well have remained in his stable. Some infatuated simpletons must have backed Major Loder's colt for a good deal of money, as he actually started at 3 to 1, but 300 to 1 would more nearly have represented his chance of winning any race whatever in his present condition. I mentioned a fortnight ago that Baltinglass had been suffering from a cracked heel, and had therefore been stopped in his work for several days. The race was won in a canter by Bilton Park, who is better known as the Crosshaven gelding, and he was a general tip.

I predicted that Pom would win the Fitzwilliam Stakes, and he was so much fancied that only the

slightest shade of odds could be obtained in a field of twelve. Mr. Hall Walker's colt won with extreme ease, in spite of his 7 lb. penalty. Lord Londonderry's Pearmain was backed freely, and she was a strong tip of "the sharps." Pom's hollow victory was the more creditable inasmuch as he did not get away well. He is a very smart colt, and has evidently improved considerably since his successful début at Liverpool. Of course, Pom is now extolled as "by far the best two-year-old that has been out this season," which seems to me to be nonsense and rubbish, as there is no line whatever between this colt and either Little Flutter or St. Elf, who won a good trial before Liverpool, and nothing could have been more hollow than his victory in the Sefton Park Plate. The pair can meet in the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, but Pom has a previous engagement in the Salisbury Foal Stakes, when his 7 lb. penalty is more than extinguished by a 10 lb. breeding allowance.

There were seventeen starters for the Ashley Plate, which was won by the favourite, the well-galloped filly by Cherry Tree out of Svelte, who cost 125 gs. as a yearling, while the beaten lot included Rambling Rector, by Florizel II. out of Wise Flower, whose price at the sale of Lord Londonderry's yearlings was 2,000 gs. This colt is not yet properly fit. I am disposed to fancy that Vega ought to have won this race, and shall be surprised if she does not reverse the running with Svelte filly if they meet again.

Peter Bell was a "boiling" tip for the Maiden Plate on Wednesday, and there was a frantic rush on him directly the numbers were up, but backers had reason to repent of their impetuosity, as he was soon displaced by the Duke of Devonshire's filly by Tarporley out of Lady Sneerwell, who had been well tried at Beckhampton, and she won in a canter, having 7 lb. the worst of the weights with the original favourite.

There was a large field for the Granby Plate, which was declared to be a good thing for Bolted, while Peter Parley was also heavily backed, but the King won this race with Pearl of the Loch, the filly by Persimmon out of Loch Doon. I mentioned last week that she had won a trial, but her friends were presumably frightened by the flaming tales about the form of the favourite, as she started at 10 to 1, and carried very little money. Her trial, however, was not a high one.

Sir Ernest Cassel's filly by Love Wisely out of April Morn had won a trial with Lord Sefton's Duegna and other animals, and she was everybody's tip for the Double Trial Plate on Thursday, and started with slight odds betted on her in a field of eleven, the tragical result of this plunge being a bad beating. Prieska, who won easily at the finish from Taal, was not backed for sixpence.

Nearly all the papers went for Troutbeck for the Biennial, and odds were lavishly betted on the Duke of Westminster's horse, but he had no chance with Radium, who won easily. A fortnight ago I confidently predicted that Troutbeck would be beaten by Radium, as it seemed quite impossible that the St. Leger winner could give a stone to Mr. de Rothschild's horse over this severe course.

The Craven Stakes was the race of the week, and the result was highly satisfactory to me, as I have always derided the idea that Slieve Gallion is a non-stayer, and have several times pointed out the absurdity and folly of attaching any importance to his defeat in the Middle Park Plate, as he had been seriously amiss for some time before that race was run. A fortnight ago I expressed the opinion that "we shall see Slieve Gallion win the Two Thousand, unless he is defeated by the dark Kingsclere colt, Lord Falmouth's St. Martin." Slieve Gallion won his race in a common canter, simply losing his opponents. The Craven Stakes, moreover, has been decided over the R.M. since the An.M. was abandoned, so that Slieve Gallion was running over the Two Thousand course. He has palpably improved in every respect during the last six months. This race was a conclusive public trial of Slieve Gallion's stamina, for everyone knows that the R.M. is a more severe track than the Derby course. There was a lot of cackling about Galvani at Newmarket, but Major Loder's colt will never beat Slieve Gallion again, and his defeat of the Beckhampton colt in the Middle Park Plate was utterly wrong, as has always been maintained in Truth. Slieve Gallion's engagements are the Two Thousand and Derby, and six races at Ascot, where he will, no doubt, be reserved for the St. James's Palace Stakes on the Cup day. His only engagement between Ascot and Doncaster is at the Liverpool July Meeting, and after the Leger he is entered for the Kingsclere Stakes at Newbury, and the Champion Stakes at the Newmarket Second October Meeting, which last will be one of the best races of the season if it brings out Captain Greer's colt (supposing him to have won the great three-year-old stakes), Keystone II., Orwell (if she wins the Oaks), Polymelus, The White Knight, My Pet II., and Polar Star. Spearmint is entered, but we have yet to learn whether he will stand another stiff preparation.

Olympian was very much fancied for the Craven Stakes by people at Newmarket, but I do not believe that the stable had any real expectation of success. Olympian is an enormous horse, and I hear that many good judges are of the opinion that he will develop into a roarer before long. He is still backward. Some weeks ago I expressed the opinion that Lord Derby's colt has not the slightest chance for the Derby, and the manner in which he performed on Thursday confirms me in this view. He cannot get down a hill at all comfortably. If he can stay (which is exceedingly doubtful), Lord Derby's best course would be to follow the policy which Mr. Vyner adopted with Minting, and withdraw the colt from the Derby, in order that he may be kept fresh for the Grand Prix. If, however, Olympian lacks stamina, it would be useless to send him over to France, and he might more profitably be kept for the Duchess of York Plate of £1,300 at Hurst Park, a race which is run on the Saturday before Ascot.

Linacre is a handsome colt, but I do not fancy he is well endowed with stamina, and in any case Slieve Gallion clearly holds him safe enough after last week's running. Saxham has not been doing well lately, and even when he is at his best he cannot be trusted. The Ardvourlie colt was backed for a good deal of money, on the strength of a gallop with Pane and Zarifer, but he need not be thought of in connection with the classic races, as Slieve Gallion gave him a stone, and could have given him two stone.

The Crawfurd Plate was won cleverly by the Hungarian horse, Bon Marché, who started favourite. He is a son of Bona Vista, the sire of Cyllene, and is a very nice horse indeed. I suppose Bon Marché will run at Sandown Park on Friday for the Princess of Wales's Handicap (five furlongs), his weight now being 8 st. 13 lb., and he ought to win this race. He is entered at Ascot for the All-Aged Stakes, but I am told that he always shows his best form during the spring, and that after May he is not likely to be dangerous in any race. He was much the best-class horses in the field for the Crawfurd Plate.

Dalharco (who won at Lincoln) and Zarifer were very heavily backed for the Babraham Plate, but Killeagh won after a most exciting finish with Banana. It was a good performance, as Sir E. Cassel's horse had very much the worst of the weights with the two favourites. When referring, a fortnight ago, to the Goodwood Cup entry, I stated that Killeagh "is expected to retrieve his reputation this season," but I had thought that the Irish horse would "go for" a more important handicap than the Babraham Plate. Zarifer has not much stamina, and he could not stay the course on Wednesday.

Polymelus has been struck out of the City and Suburban. Truth announced many weeks ago that Mr. Joel's horse certainly would not run at Epsom.

Lord Rosebery and Lord Durham witnessed a trial of Bezonian and Traquair over the R.M. on Friday. Traquair was dead beat at the end of six furlongs, and he will be wisely reserved for T.Y.C. races. Bezonian is a very nice colt, and it is quite likely that he will prove the best of the Newmarket lot both in the Two Thousand and in the Derby.

Whenever the King wins a race the successful animal is at once magnified into a flyer of high class. Last year there was a deal of hysterical ranting about the merits of Victoria, after she had won a race at the Epsom Summer Meeting, but she started three times afterwards, and was always beaten. Now we hear the same braying concerning Pearl of the Loch, and one gander describes her as a probable One Thousand and Oaks winner. His Majesty's filly is smart over four furlongs, but she is never likely to distinguish herself over any course beyond an easy five furlongs, and she is a mere pony. Two of the animals which finished behind Pearl of the Loch last week will beat her the next time they meet. Pearl of the Loch is likely to be run through for her spring engagements, as she is now probably a much more useful animal for racing than she will be two months hence.

The ignominious defeat of My Pet II. in the Prix Hocquart at Longchamps must have considerably disconcerted those wiseacres who have been indulging in florid eulogies of Mr. Raphael's colt. It seems to have been thought that My Pet II. would win any races in France for which his owner decided to start him, and he was described as a good thing for the Prix du Jockey Club. My Pet II. simply cannot stay, and his breeding (by Perth out of My Mary) is certainly not indicative of stamina. There was no other reason for his defeat last week, as he was quite fit and perfectly well. He cannot get beyond a mile, and he obviously stands no chance whatever for either the Prix du Jockey Club or the Grand Prix. He will win plenty of races over six furlongs or an easy mile, and if his owner is well advised he will not run the risk of impairing his colt's fine speed by having him trained for any long-distance event.

Gingal did not start for the Doveridge Handicap at Derby, for which race Rachel was declared to be a certainty, and so freely was Mr. Craven's mare supported that odds were finally betted on her in a field of six, everything being more or less backed. Camisard, who won in a canter after having made all the running, improved to an astonishing degree on his miserable exhibition in the Newbury Cup, when he was well backed.

Little Flutter gave Attraction 10 lb. in the Sudbury Stakes, and won with exceeding ease. He is evidently a very smart colt, and has the fine speed which is a marked quality in the stock of Missel Thrush. It may be hoped that Little Flutter and Pom will meet at Salisbury in the Foal Stakes on May 31. Pom would have 4 lb. the worst of the weights, and the distance is five furlongs.

Next week will be devoted to the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, and if the racing is as good as it was last week nobody will have any reason to complain. There will be a largely increased attendance, and it is understood that the King will come down in time for the races on Wednesday, and that his Majesty will stay at the Jockey Club until Friday afternoon.

There are fifty-four entries for the Hastings Plate on Tuesday, and the colt by Ladas out of Ardvourlie ought to be able to win, while Glacis has another chance. The Chippenham Plate on Friday is a good thing for Polar Star.

As to the two-year-old races, three of last week's disappointments will have a chance of retrieving themselves in the First Spring Stakes—Bolted, Peter Bell, and Little Goose. The Newmarket Plate on Thursday may be left to St. Elf and the dark colt by Stoccado out of Principality, the latter having 10 lb. the best of the weights. St. Elf will have to give 5 lb. to the Lady Sneerwell filly. The May Plate on Friday has fifty-three entries, and the filly by Love Wisely out of April Morn may win, as her bad running on Thursday was so far below her private form that it must have been all wrong.

There are 106 entries for the Two Thousand, but I shall be surprised if there are more than twelve starters. It is no use to enter upon a prolix discourse concerning the form of the various candidates. In my opinion Slieve Gallion will win the Two Thousand, unless the dark St. Martin is a flyer, and Waugh will find no difficulty in galloping Lord Tweedmouth's colt now that he has a line through Dusty Miller's victory in the Biennial. If the brother to Quintessence is decidedly superior to the Duke of Westminster's colt, he would be a dangerous opponent to Slieve Gallion. Dusty Miller is himself likely to run well if he represents the Kingsclere stable. As to the Newmarket lot, it is clear that the stables there will have to find something considerably in front of their candidates for last week's three-year-old races. The best of the home-trained lot may turn out to be All Black or Bezonian. I hear that Linacre may very likely be reserved for the Newmarket Stakes. All Black won a trial on Friday over the R.M., and this is a course which will suit Mr. Bailey's colt admirably, whereas he is not likely to find himself at home on the Epsom gradients. Not a bet has yet been laid on the Two Thousand, and I do not suppose there will be any genuine speculation until the numbers are up. The chances of some likely starters may depend to a considerable extent upon the state of the ground.

The One Thousand can be left alone until next week. Bellatrix does not appear to have much chance after her poor display at Newbury. Orwell, who is the best of the fillies on public form, was far behind in All Black's trial on Friday, and I do not fancy she will be fit before Epsom. Dripsey ran so very badly in the Biennial that her admirers at Newmarket insist that she must have been amiss, and if she comes to the post all right and in her best form on May 3, she is expected to run prominently for the One Thousand. The Kingsclere stable may be represented by Lord Falmouth's Frugality, by St. Frusquin out of Wise Virgin. The Duke of Westminster has nothing entered, and the only one left in of the Duke of Portland's lot is the dark Caroline Roche, by Carbine out of La Roche, who, I believe, has been relegated to the stud. Lord Rosebery's Caterina, who won at Newbury, may turn out the best of the Newmarket lot, and Mr. Hall Walker's Witch Elm should be dangerous if she has trained on.

THE C.T.C. AND THE PROPOSED INQUIRY.

I have received the April number of the *Cyclists' Touring Club Gazette*, and I have read in last Saturday's *Daily Mail* a letter by Mr. O. H. Beatty, the vice-chairman of the C.T.C. It will be remembered that the council have, by means of a postal vote, challenged the demand for a committee of inquiry which was passed at the general meeting in London. After the resolution in favour of the inquiry had been passed it was proposed that the committee should consist of five members of the council and five non-members. The suggested members of the council who were present, with one accord, begged to be excused, Mr. Gurney, the treasurer of the club with an income of £10,000 a year, saying that he was not now able to devote the time to coming up to London and going through the office expenses and so forth. That was why he would not serve on the committee. The day after the general meeting a council meeting was held, and at this meeting an offer was made by the Reform Committee that the council should nominate all the members of the committee of inquiry. The council resolved to take no action and to proceed with the postal vote. Mr. O. H. Beatty was present at this meeting. In the face of this offer Mr. O. H. Beatty writes to the *Daily Mail* and says, "The Council have no objection to inquiry by *any representative* and *unbiassed* committee." The words are italicised in the *Daily Mail*. In view of the facts that I have stated I can only say that Mr. Beatty is guilty of a blazing indiscretion, or a gross terminological inexactitude. Does he admit that the council cannot produce a representative and unbiassed committee from its own body and the members of the club? This is surely an admission of incompetency which would scarcely be discreet. Yet if this is not the case Mr. Beatty has been guilty of an egregious travesty of the facts of the case in order to secure the votes of the members. The only other alternative is that he has been suffering from a singular mnemonic lapse. On the facts of the case it is as clear as daylight that the council neither wants nor courts

inquiry by any committee whatever. It is also clear that the chairman and the treasurer will not assist in the inquiry. It will be idle for Mr. Beatty to urge that the council has changed its policy from the day when the offer was made. The offer has not been withdrawn by the Reform Committee. The offer held out prospects of a peaceful solution. The council has declared war. Why is there such an objection to an inquiry? Why do the treasurer and chairman refuse to help? What is the good of a treasurer who has no time to devote to the affairs of the club? Why does he not resign? What is the reason for all this obstruction? The matter must be cleared up.

With this exposure of the real facts of the case, Mr. Beatty's attempt to catch votes by discrediting the nominees of the Reform Committee falls to the ground. He says the committee of inquiry was pledged to get rid of the secretary, assistant secretary, and perhaps others. He threatens a postal vote on that issue when, if ever, it comes to pass. Perhaps by that time the mystery of the relationship that exists between not only the chief officials, but leaders of the council as well, will be cleared up. There are one or two outstanding matters that require explanation. A few years ago Mr. Shipton, on his own initiative, deleted the words "cyclists" from the declaration form, the form of membership that had to be filled up. Was he ever surcharged with any expense that the club was put to in that respect? How is it that neither in the *Gazette* nor in Mr. Beatty's letter is there any reference to the conduct of the chief clerk, Mr. Cladish, who was fined for assaulting a member? It is a piece of gross effrontery for Mr. Beatty to ask members to support a council which retains the services of a clerk who has so conducted himself. Mr. Beatty, referring to the opposition, says: "By their fruits ye shall know them." The present council are known by their fruits, which are waste, bluff and bunkum, garlanded by a grotesque travesty of facts, the prize product of the Vice-chairman of this Council.

A final warning to the members of the Club. The council has fixed a special council meeting for the same day as the special meeting at Birmingham. This means that the councillors will have their fares paid and travel free to squash reform. This is the way the Club funds are squandered.

In fine weather, with a strong wind and a light ball, Sheffield Wednesday beat Everton in the final tie for the Association Football Cup. It was not a great game. But it was a typical final match. It was one of those games that show that the players are human beings over-anxious to win, not merely for money, but for the honour and glory of lifting the cup. To see the professional players in a cup-tie final is to convince those who write about them as mere salaried circus performers that such criticism is wrong. It was a game full of excitement to the players and spectators, and the huge multitude was carried away when, a few minutes before time, Sheffield scored the winning point.

By the way, counsel's opinion has been taken, and it is that professional players come under the Workmen's Compensation Act, which applies not only when they are playing but when they are practising. I wonder what the effect of the Act will be upon the financial stability of clubs. Cricketers will also come under the Act. The insurance companies will probably not push for this class of risk. The Hon. Alfred Lyttelton might really have mentioned the matter when his fellow member, Mr. Marks, got domestic servants included.

For the second time Devon and Durham have played a drawn game in the final for the County Championship of Rugby football. This match was played at Exeter, when the Durham forwards showed just as fine form as they had done in the previous match, where, with a little help from their threequarters, they would have won.

There has been some excellent play at the Covered Court Lawn Tennis Championships at the Queen's Club. Wilding won the final of the singles against Caridia, who would be a most valuable player if he did not make so many bad mistakes. He has some brilliant strokes, but he needs steadiness. In the doubles Wilding and Ritchie had a fairly easy win against Gore and Caridia. Gore had been short of practice, but by the time the week was out he had quite recovered his form. He played superbly, and if he had shown such form in the singles Wilding would have been more closely pressed. Miss Eastlake Smith won the ladies' singles.

Dawson has run up a break of over 23,000 at billiards. This was the upshot of his match with Lovejoy, with whom he had a match of 25,000 up to be played in a week. With the anchor stroke the audience dwindled away. That is a sure sign that the stroke is not merely dead but—the additional word that Lord Beaconsfield applied to Protection.

Cambridge won the golf match against Oxford, and the result has raised all the arguments as to whether the game should be decided by holes or the result of each match. The University match is decided in the old way, and that is by holes. Cambridge won by one hole, and lost four matches to three, one being halved. Barry, the ex-amateur champion, became very steady when he found himself being beaten by Durham-Robertson. The result of the match depended on the last hole. Allen was leading Bruce by twelve at the sixteenth; he won the next, and in spite of a fine attempt on the last green Bruce could only halve the hole. Of course, the Southerners cannot understand why matches should not decide the scores. The metaphysically-minded but as yet untutored golfer of the north in the old days regarded the team as being but an entity, and it was this entity against the other entity that was engaged in match play. The essence of match play is "holes." The players are but component parts of that abstract entity for which they have to win holes. Their individualism is sunk in the team. People educated in the atmosphere of Knox had no difficulty in regarding the team as an actual living entity. Andrew Lang would no doubt regard this case as an instance of anthropomorphism.

MAMMON.

Idle Stock Markets—A Revival Checked by New Issues—The Outlook—Easy Money and a Generous Sinking Fund—The L.C.C. Loan Success—The Straits Settlements as a Borrower.

Pronounced idleness was, perhaps, the chief feature of the Stock Markets throughout the week. There was scarcely a really strong feature in evidence anywhere, and those who laid in stocks a few weeks ago in anticipation of an early revival following the reduction in the Bank Rate have shown a disposition to get out rather than go on paying contangoes. Money has remained very easy, and the House has just heard the promise of Mr. Asquith, given in his Budget speech, that fifteen millions of debt will be redeemed in the current national year. Both these are strong "bull" points which cannot fail to have a very direct influence upon the Stock Exchange in the course of the next few months. For the moment, however, markets, both in London and abroad, are held in check by the knowledge of large impending new loans. Against the competition set up by fresh securities which, necessarily, are having to be placed on terms more attractive than those offered by existing stocks, the Consol market is, for the present, unable to contend, and the bad example set by the Funds, in the existing backboneless condition of the House, is quickly communicated to other sections. Doubtless, too, the legacy of wreckage left by the troubles of March is still a force, unseen but none the less effective, in preventing a revival. If cheap money has come to stay awhile, and there is reason to expect that it has for some months, at any rate, markets cannot fail to derive sensible benefit. An impetus will be given to the purchase of securities generally, which will be reflected in a steady appreciation of values, and houses that are still nursing stocks "taken

over" from people who recently got out of their depth will have an opportunity of distributing them amongst the public. Thus the outlook is for a gradual readjustment of values to a more normal basis, and a clearing away of the congestion that now prevails in certain places.

A little disappointment was perhaps felt in some quarters last week that the Bank rate reduction from 5 to 4½ per cent. of the previous Thursday was not followed by a further fall to 4 per cent. It is, however, unusual for the official minimum to be lowered two weeks in succession, and the probability is that the reduction to 4 per cent. will come in the course of the next week or two. It is true that owing to the fall in open market rates here the Bank of France has commenced to withdraw gold, and that the process may continue, but the weekly arrivals of the yellow metal from South Africa and elsewhere are now so large that the matter ought not to prevent our Bank rate coming down to 4. The exports to France will probably be in moderate amounts spread over the next month or two, and, looked at in its proper light, the despatch of coin from London is reassuring, indicating that Lombard Street is regaining more complete independence, and that funds sent here by the Bank of France to assist us in weathering the recent period of strain and stress are no longer required.

The principal financial event of last week—apart from the Budget—was the issue of the London County Council loan. This took the form of Three and a Half per Cents. at 97, of which £2,500,000 was placed privately, and a similar amount offered to the public. The terms were certainly attractive—though, I might add, not more attractive than it was desirable to make them in order to be sure of success—and the portion of the loan issued to the public was covered many—some say twenty—times over. Due consideration was shown to applicants for small amounts, those applying for £100 getting in full, but the big subscribers were allotted no more than 3 per cent. of the amounts asked for. The London County Council issue has been followed by one on behalf of the Straits Settlements, which also requires £5,000,000. The terms, as announced last Saturday, were Four per Cent. Five-year bonds at 99 per cent.; these may be converted at any time during the next five years into Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed stock, the conversion terms being £105 stock for each £100 bond to those who convert within the first year, £104 stock per £100 bond to those who convert within two years, and so on, with the bonus diminishing by 1 per cent. each year. The money is required in connection with the acquirement of the Tanjong Pagar Docks, which will provide a valuable base for our fleet in the East. This is the first loan offered here on behalf of the Straits, and though the amount is large, the money is for works that will be essentially of a revenue-earning character. Bearing this in mind, also the fact that the new issue is a strict trustee investment, there is no question that the scrip is yet another addition to the numerous bargains that of late have been placed before the pampered investor. Probably the Indian Government will be the next borrower to really concern the London market, a sterling loan of £3,000,000 being under consideration. I do not forget the German and Prussian loan for £20,000,000, of which £15,000,000 is being offered publicly this week, but it is doubtful if any material portion of this issue will be taken by the English public.

Home Rails Idle and Dull—Central Londons and Scottish Stocks Exceptionally Firm—Formation of a Scotch Railway Shareholders' Association—The Hull and Barnsley New Issue—Americans Still Taking a Rest—Wall Street Preparing for a Long Period of Dulness—The Crop Killer Season.

So far as the leading English lines are concerned, the Home Railway market last week was about as disappointing as other departments of the Stock Exchange. The traffic returns were up to the best anticipations, but with no increase of public business the tendency was for prices to go back on sales by the professionals who had laid in a little stock in the hope that the reduction in the Bank rate would awaken a better demand. There was a modest inquiry for Central London ordinary, in anticipation of the board adopting a system of graduated fares, in order to meet the competition of the motor 'buses. At present, of course, the uniform fare of twopence, while having much to recommend it on the score of simplicity, severely handicaps the company in the struggle for short-distance traffic, and the recent run of traffic decreases has forced upon the Board the necessity for an alteration in its method of charging. Another feature of the week was the demand for Scotch railway stocks, and particularly the preferred issues, which, it will be remembered, I drew attention to a week ago. There seems reason to hope that before long the agitation for the abolition of useless competition between the three leading Scotch lines will result in tangible benefit to the stockholders. The various boards have already confessed to the need for retrenchment, and apparently they are to be spurred on by the stockholders themselves, judging by the fact that already a large body of dissatisfied proprietors have agreed to form a Scottish Railway Shareholders' Association, having for its aim the protection of the rights of the shareholders. The association will, it is announced, select from time to time well-known commercial men, and put them forward for seats on the directorates. It hopes to attract thousands of proxies which are usually placed in the hands of directors, and thereby prove a factor in the direction of economy and the cutting down of unnecessary competition. How Home Railway prices have moved lately may be seen from the following table:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Apl 13 1907.	Apl. 20, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	68	69	+1
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	29⅛	28⅛	-1
Central London	96½	82½	73	77	+ 4
City and S. London	47½	39	42	42	—
Furness	69⅜	61⅜	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅛	37¼	35½	35½	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81¼	69	59¼	62	+2½
Do. "B"	40⅜	32½	23¼	28½	+ ¼
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14½	14½	—
Great Eastern	90⅞	79½	75¼	74⅜	- ⅜
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅜	99	99	—
Do. Def.	48⅞	39½	41⅜	41	- ⅜
Great Western	144	122⅜	126½	125	-1½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42¼	47	47	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	102½	102¼	—
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	101	100	-1
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¾	13	13⅜	13⅜	- ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	82	82	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	49	50	+1
London and North-Western	163½	147½	149½	148½	-1
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	50½	49½	-1¼
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	47	47	—
Metropolitan District	87½	18¾	14	14	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	65¼	65¼	- ¼
Do. Def.	74⅞	62½	64¼	63¼	-1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	68	68½	+ ½
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	35⅞	34⅝	-1¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	139¾	138¾	-1
North Staffordshire	105⅜	90⅜	98	98	—
South-Eastern "A"	56¾	44¾	40¼	40	- ¼

Induced by the easier tendency of the Money Market, the Hull and Barnsley has just decided to issue £400,000 of the £750,000 preference stock that was sanctioned at the meeting held in February. The new stock bears interest at 4 per cent., and ranks after the existing 3½ per cent. preference stock. A novel feature about the issue is that the company reserves to itself the right to redeem at 110 on giving six months' notice. However, as the stock is being offered at par, the provision does not make it appear less attractive. Existing stockholders, to whom the issue is in the first place offered, need not ponder long as to the desirability of taking up their pro ratâ allotments. The Hull and Barnsley is one of the most progressive lines in the country; for the past twenty years its gross earnings have grown almost continuously, along with the development of the port of Hull, and it is in order to provide extra dock accommodation and more rolling stock to cope with the rapid increase in the traffic that the present issue is being made. The addition to the company's capital does not cause me to really modify what

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

I have said for some months past regarding the attraction of Hull ordinary stock. Eventually the new preference will entail an addition of £16,000 a year to the company's fixed charges, but very little of this will fall upon the current year, and not all of it upon 1908 (the instalments being spread over a twelvemonth, and interest being met only on the amounts paid up). Moreover, the company's earnings are increasing so rapidly that the dividend, which for 1906 was 2¼ per cent., ought to be raised by at least another ½ per cent. in respect of the current twelvemonth. On that basis the yield at 55—eight points over the present quotation—would still be a clear 5 per cent. It is worth noting, by the way, that a dividend of 2¾ on "Hulls," which calls for £90,000, would mean that the full interest on the new four per cent. preference stock was covered nearly six times. The latter stock is quoted by the Stock Exchange at quite a nominal premium, and those of my readers who are not shareholders, and have, therefore, not been offered an allotment, might well try and pick up some of the scrip in the open market.

The American railroad department, so far as last week's doings are concerned, calls for little comment. While the enormous liquidation effected in the first quarter of the year, and involving a shrinkage in values estimated at somewhere about $2,000,000,000—has undoubtedly restored the market to a comparatively healthy condition, the process has effectually scared away the public. The big leaders, too, are still resting after the excitement of the previous few weeks, partly from choice dictated by the dubious outlook in several important directions, and partly from necessity arising from personal injuries of a financial character sustained in the recent conflict. New York houses, indeed, have given evidence, by the wholesale discharge of clerks, that they are preparing for a long period of dulness. Last Friday the sales in the New York Stock Exchange aggregated no more than 312,000 shares, and in the first quarter of an hour only fifteen transactions were reported—a state of affairs that is almost unprecedented. Possibly we shall have to wait for the next decided movement in Americans until more definite news of the crops comes to hand. It is, of course, too early to form any pronounced judgment, and for the present the professional "bulls" and "bears," who now monopolise the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, will each in turn be able to score off one another by means of varying advices regarding the condition of the new crops. Last week some attention was paid to a special report issued by Bradstreet's Agency, to the effect that unfavourable conditions prevailed in the wheat and oats areas, owing to cold weather, drought, and the ravages of insects. Spring wheat seeding had been delayed, and the cotton crop, according to this report, had also sustained serious damage. The report may be placed on record, but it should be remembered that this is the season of the "crop killer," and "bears" who attempt to take liberties on the strength of premature information may have cause to regret their action. My table follows:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	April 13, 1907.	April 20, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	97¼	96¾	– ⅜
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109¼	101	99½	99	– ½
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅞	102½	100½	–1⅞
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93⅛	93	92	–1
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	43½	42½	– ¾
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	139½	137½	–2
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	31¼	29¾	–1⅜
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅝	78½	77½	–1
Erie	52½	40	25	24½	– ¾
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	57	56	–1
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	40	39	–1
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	150	150	—
Louisville	160⅜	143¾	121	120	–1
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	37½	37⅛	– ⅜
New York Central	159½	130⅜	123xd.	122xd.	–1
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	39½	39	– ½
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87½	80	77½	–2½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref	96½	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	138xd.	136xd.	–2
Pennsylvania ($50)	75½	63⅜	64½	64½	– ½
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅞	56	54½	– ½
Southern	43¾	33	22	21⅞	– ⅛
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	67	67	—
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64⅜	86½	85½	–1
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	142½	140⅜	–1½
U.S. Steel	52⅛	33¾	39	38⅛	– ⅞
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅛	103½	103½	+ ½

Canadian Railway Earnings—Why they should Continue to Show Bumper Increases—Quebec Centrals—The Rosario Meeting—Reassuring Statements—Set Back in Mexican Rails.

During the past week there was a fair amount of quiet buying in Grand Trunk Railway stocks, and on any improvement in the general House atmosphere these stocks should be among the first to move. The encouraging points made at the half-yearly meeting, to which I referred a week ago, have helped to stiffen the market, while dealers could scarcely help being impressed by the recent traffic returns, which have repeatedly made the most confident estimates look paltry. Moreover, there is reason to believe that the Trunk will continue to enjoy bumper traffics for some months to come. According to a Canadian contemporary the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa has received an official report from Winnipeg stating that the amount of last year's wheat crop in the West still remaining to be shipped is placed at 36,739,000 bushels. In interior elevators on February 28 there were 21,239,000 bushels, and the amount yet to be marketed was estimated at 15,500,000 bushels. In order to ship out all this wheat between March 1 and August 31 the railway companies will have to move an average of 200 cars per day for the whole six months. For the same period last year the average amount moved by the railways was 690 cars per week. In addition there must be taken into account the transportation of oats, barley, and flax, which, combined, almost equal the wheat crop. The same contemporary adds: "It is a matter of general relief all round to find that the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway have lifted the embargo on grain, and it has at last started to move out after having been held up from three to four months. There is an active demand for all kinds of grain in Europe and a heavy movement to Atlantic ports is about to take place." Here we have to a large extent the explanation of the fine traffics reported by both the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk during recent weeks, and what is of more interest to the market a virtual promise of their continuance until the new harvest is ready to be moved.

A minor Canadian railway that has derived its full share of the prosperity ruling in the Dominion is the Quebec Central. Rather more than a twelvemonth ago I drew attention to the bright prospects for this line and ventured to predict that the Income bonds would receive their full 7 per cent. in respect of 1906. The prophecy has been borne out, and, according to the report, the 7 per cent. dividend (which compares against 5½ per cent. in respect of 1905) has been earned after making liberal allowances for the upkeep of the property. Gross earnings showed an increase of $115,600, of which $61,100 was retained as extra net revenue. A sum of $27,800 was charged against net revenue for alterations and improvements as compared with $15,000, and out of the surplus remaining after payment of dividends ($47,700 against $26,500), $29,000 has been applied to replacement of two locomotives and $6,000 to car renewals, against $15,000 applied to betterments, leaving $12,700 to be carried forward against $11,500 brought in. There is now good reason to hope that the Income bonds will continue to receive interest at the full rate, though, bearing in mind the fact that the bonds are redeemable at par in 1922, the present quotation of about 120 seems high enough for the present, as the yield, allowing for redemption, is not more than 4½ per cent. To those wanting a likely gamble the $25 ordinary shares, standing at 11, might be worth locking away. It takes $33,800 to pay 1 per cent. on these shares, and during the last three years the net revenue of the company has been expanding at an average rate of $40,000 per annum.

Stockholders in the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway who have been rendered nervous by the recent tremendous rise in expenses and the doleful news about the maize crop should derive a measure of comfort from the statements of the chairman at last week's meeting.

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

After mentioning that of the total increase in operating costs £185,000 came under the head of wages, £154,000 under stores, and £94,000 under coal, Mr. Morrison went on to point out that it was not the rise in wages, *per se*, that had swollen their working expenditure, but the large amount of useful work done on maintenance, which in the long run would be in relief of future contributions to the renewals fund. It was the same story with regard to the big outlay on stores. While there had been during 1906 a rise in the cost of many of the stores and in the freight, what had affected this item as much as anything was the increased amount of work done on maintenance and the greater volume of traffic handled. This explanation gives point to the remark I made last week about the scope for savings in lean years, and the statement applies in greater or lesser degree to all Argentine railways. As regards the traffic outlook for the Rosario, the cablegram received from Buenos Ayres on the 16th is reassuring. The message read:—

"Wheat crop and linseed crop have turned out excellently well. The increase from these will in a great measure compensate for the loss in the maize crop, estimated at 50 per cent. Recent rains have fallen opportunely, assuring winter feeding for cattle, and facilitating tilling operations, which are proceeding rapidly. Area under cultivation greater than last year. Sugar plantations are reported to be in good condition, and increased tonnage may be expected. General goods and passenger traffic continue brisk. Every reason to anticipate another satisfactory year's working."

Since the dividend announcement Mexican rails have experienced a sharp reaction. The market last week was disturbed by the various reports concerning earthquakes in Mexico, one story, which was afterwards declared by the company to be without foundation, being that the line had subsided in several places, and that traffic on a portion of the system was suspended. Owing to the big "bull" account that has been built up in Mexican rails, the stocks naturally proved vulnerable to adverse rumours, particularly as there is a feeling that the pace has lately been a little too fast. The market is now being reminded of what the chairman said in May last about the provision required to be made from revenue for relaying some 150 miles of line, a matter that was expected to cost £1,000 per mile. The absurdity of the rumour about savings of from £50,000 to £80,000 per annum by the substitution of oil for coal as fuel has been demonstrated by the reminder that the company's annual bill for coal, coke, and firewood only comes to about £100,000 all told. Below will be found my usual comparison of prices:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Apl. 13, 1907.	Apl. 20, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	180½	180¾	+ ¼
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	31 3/16	31⅜	+ 1/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105¼	101½	102	102¼	+ ¼
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅝	114½	121½	121¼	− ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	112½	112⅝	+ ⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	74	74¾	+ ¼
Mexican	50⅞	22⅛	53	47½	−5½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅝	143½	140	−3½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅜	49½	96	89½	−6¼
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11⅞	11⅝	− ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	116	—
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	7 1/16	85	85	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	24½	24	− ½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 7/16	91	91	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65⅝	81	80	−1
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	37½	56	54	−2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅝	19½	24	23	−1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	150	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	122½	—
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	154½	152½	−2
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	15½	15½	—
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	108	108½	+ ½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64⅜	77	78	+1
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	116½	117½	+1
Do. and Rosario	120⅞	111	105½	105½	+ ½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅝	123½xd	123½xd	+ ½
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	121 xd	121½xd	+ ½
East Argentine	120	87	118	119	+1
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	66½	66½	+ ½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅜	85	88½	88	− ½
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	90½	90	− ½
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	11½	11⅝	+ ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69½	77	76¾	− ¼
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	217	217	—
Central Uruguay	92½	82	88½xd	88½xd.	—
Costa Rica	29 1/16	25	25	29½	+ ½
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	73½	73½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs.	88½	76½	77	77	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¾	82½	82½	—
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	110	110	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	85	52½	49	-3½
Cuban Central	7 7/16	6⅛	6 7/16	6 7/16	—
United of Havana	103	105⅜	106 xr	106 xr	—
Western of Havana	15⅜	12½	12¾	12½	+ ⅛
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87¾	87½	86	-1½
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅜	76	78	77½	- ⅜
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19½	21½xd	21½xd	—

Railway Fixed Interest Stocks—Some Sound Securities that Yield from 4 to 4¾ per Cent.

(Continued from last week.)

In last week's issue it will be remembered that in dealing with the subject of promising Railway fixed interest stocks, I confined my remarks to securities in the British and American markets. A third group that may profitably engage the investor's attention is that comprising the senior issues of British railway companies operating abroad—in Canada, South America, and elsewhere. The wonderful reign of prosperity enjoyed by Canadian and foreign railway companies has, of course, been accompanied by a substantial advance in prices, but there is a comparatively large number of stocks of the soundest quality that still return very attractive yields. Below I give a list of twenty such stocks; of course, these must not be regarded as in any way exhausting the bargains offered by the Foreign and Colonial group; they are, like Mr. Chamberlain's arithmetic, simply illustrations:—

III.—COLONIAL AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Stock.	Interest per Cent.	Yield per Cent.
Antofagasta and Bolivia Deb	4½	£4 7 6
Argentine Great Western Irred. 2nd Debs.	4	4 3 3
Bahia Blanca Guaranteed	4½	4 12 3
Buenos Ayres and Pacific 1st Cum. Pref.	5	4 13 0
Buenos Ayres and Rosario Consol. Pref.	7	4 6 9
Buenos Ayres Great Southern Pref.	5	4 3 9
Buenos Ayres Western Pref. (new)	4½	4 8 3
Canadian Northern Quebec Debs.	4	4 2 6
Grand Trunk Pacific Debs.	4	4 0 9
Grand Trunk Second Pref.	5	4 12 6
Cordoba and Rosario 1st Debs.	4	4 12 6
Cordoba Central Irred. Deb.	5	4 6 6
Cuban Central Mort. Debs.	4½	4 9 6
Great Western of Brazil Perm. Deb.	6	4 14 6
Leopoldina Deb.	4	4 9 0
Mexican Perpet. Debs.	6	4 6 3
Ottoman 1st Debs.	4	4 9 0
San Paulo Non-Cum. Pref.	5	4 6 3
United of Havana Irred. Deb. (1906)	5	4 14 0
Western of Havana Deb.	4½	4 4 0

It will be seen that a buyer who spreads his money over a few of the above selections will have no difficulty in obtaining an average of 4½ per cent. As with the American bonds given in my second table I have, when choosing redeemable stocks, selected only those with long periods to run, so that buyers need not worry themselves about the question of redemption. In the case of Ottoman Railway first debentures the company has the option of paying off at any time at 110 per cent., the year of final amortisation being 1935. As, however, the present price of the bonds is nearly 10 discount, premature redemption would in this instance involve an acceptable profit. Western of Havana debenture stock is also redeemable at any time, on the company's option, but at 120 per cent.—which compares against a present price for the issue of about 107. If the company does not choose to pay off at a premium of 20 per cent., the stock remains irredeemable. Among Canadian issues there can surely be no question about the solid character of Grand Trunk Pacific debentures, seeing that they enjoy the full guarantee of the parent company. The recently issued Canadian Northern Quebec Fours, which are guaranteed by the Canadian Northern, are only a whit behind in point of merit. Trunk second preference was, up to a few years ago, an investment with a distinctly speculative flavour, but the line has made great strides of late, and so far as the outlook can be judged the margin behind the stock should steadily increase. Last year the interest was covered nearly three times, and earnings are still "swellin' wisibly."

In the South American section I would give first place to San Paulo Five per Cent. Preference. There is no need for me to urge the merits of this stock; I will let the figures talk. The amount of the preference issue is £1,000,000, therefore 5 per cent. calls for £50,000. For five years the company has paid not less than 12 per cent. upon its £3,000,000 ordinary stock. If it should pay more than 12 per cent. for two consecutive years, the Government claims the right to reduce tariffs. The result of this dividend limitation policy

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has been that the company has, after spending enormous sums on raising the physical standard of its property, piled up accumulated reserve funds of no less than £1,364,000, of which £946,000 is general reserve, £300,000 is placed to the credit of rolling stock renewals, and £118,000 represents provision for income-tax. This is without including the balance in hand, which in the last accounts was £321,600. In the last completed half-year the margin of income behind the preference stock was over £800,000, which meant that the dividend on that stock was earned seventeen times over. It may be noticed by some people that the 5½ per cent. debentures of the company show a similar yield to that on the preference. I might, therefore, mention that should the Brazilian Government expropriate the line in 1927, which it has the power to do, the debenture stocks would be paid off at par, thereby involving a loss to those who bought at the present prices. The rights of the capital stock holders, however, should not be prejudiced by Government purchase, as the clause dealing with the point stipulates that the proprietors shall receive "such an amount of stock as will secure a return equal to the average dividends of the five previous years, but not less than 7 per cent. per annum."

Of the other stocks included in my table it would be a matter of some difficulty to place them in exact order of merit. Selection must become largely a matter of individual fancy. Eight out of the twenty stocks are those of Argentine railways, and in view of the great progress made by the Queen of South American Republics during the past decade—thanks to a period of stable government and wonderful crops—the credit of Argentine railways now stands higher than ever. The management of the leading lines have worthily upheld the best traditions of British conservatism, and, helped by the enforced limitation of dividends, the companies have placed themselves in a position to withstand a lot of rough weather. During the next few months the market will be watching with a good deal of interest to see how traffics are affected by the big shortage in this year's maize crop. This, however, is hardly a matter that concerns prospective buyers of the senior issues, which I have detailed above; in fact, short of a revolution or an earthquake, I do not see how the interest on these stocks can possibly be defaulted upon. Buenos Ayres and Pacific First Preference looks distinctly cheap, seeing that it returns rather over 4⅝ per cent., while Bahia Blanca Four and a Half per Cent. stock, which enjoys the Pacific Company's guarantee—ranking just ahead of Pacific Preferences—gives an almost equally generous rate. Buenos Ayres Western Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, which returns £4 8s., is another undoubted bargain; it is safe to say that the shares would not be obtainable at their present price were it not that the issue had to be made quite recently, when the state of the Money Market was about as unfavourable for the borrower as it could be.

With the attractions of United of Havana Five per Cent. Debenture stock of 1906 I dealt specially a fortnight ago, but for the benefit of new readers I have added it to the group now under consideration. Here, again, the fact that the stock is a comparatively new creation, and that the company has just made a further issue, largely explains why the yield is so high as £4 14s. per cent. By way of conclusion, I would suggest to those with capital to employ, that it would be a good plan to spread their money over the three groups to which I have drawn attention, choosing one stock or more from each, according to the amount of the principal. After all, the motto that it is not good to have all your eggs in one basket should be borne in mind, particularly when the investor steps outside the ring of Trustee stocks. By a little judicious distribution amongst the various securities enumerated, the capitalist may reasonably hope to obtain an average of 4 to 4½ per cent., and stand secure against all the financial winds that blow.

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

Activity in the Kaffir Market Confined to the Leading Diamond Shares—The Leaders of the Mining Industry and the New Government—Rhodesian Gold Output for March.

Business in Kaffir gold descriptions has been anything but brisk during the past week. Though there was recently some outside demand for shares of the "investment" class, public interest has, on the whole, been very limited. Latterly the professionals have had the market practically to themselves. The result has been that the quotations of the leading gold shares have been marked down slightly almost every day, and perhaps it is something to be thankful for that prices have not materially relapsed. The "bears," however, are not so daring now as they used to be in respect of Kaffirs, for the reason that prices have been brought down considerably in the past few years, while the position of the market is such that it does not take very much demand to cause a spurt. The quietness of Kaffir gold descriptions in face of the brighter outlook for the mining industry has given rise to disappointment amongst those interested, but, of course, this is not the only department of the Stock Exchange in which dealers are complaining of the dearth of business. That there is a disposition on the part of the public to pick up Kaffir gold shares at the current level of prices is evidenced by the correspondence to hand from my readers, and this fact tends to strengthen my belief that when Stock Exchange business generally revives Kaffirs will share in the activity. Of course, there still remains some uncertainty in regard to the mining industry and the labour question, but it should not be long now before we have a definite announcement on the matter by the new Government, the chief point at issue at present being the retention of the Chinese. Meanwhile, it is of interest to note the attitude of the leaders of the mining industry towards the new Ministry, and a cabled summary to hand during the week of Mr. George Albu's remarks at the meeting of one of his companies supplies useful information on this point. Speaking for all the mining houses, Mr. Albu declared that the industry was prepared to assist the new Government in every possible manner, and extend its most hearty support in solving the numerous difficult problems which had defied even the genius of the late Government. He added that the assurances given by the new Government satisfied him that no step would be taken to disorganise the industry or prejudice its future expansion. He asked, however, that a definite policy should be decided upon without delay, for, as he rightly observed, theories and estimates would not keep the mills running.

While Kaffir gold shares have been very quiet, the diamond descriptions have experienced a fair amount of activity during the past week, but the general effect upon quotations has not been of a nature calculated to please holders of the shares, as the following table shows:—

Share.	April 13, 1907.	April 20, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Pref.	17⅞	17⅞	—
,, ,, Def.	26⅝	26⅜	– ¼
Jagersfontein Pref.	4¼	4¼	—
,, Def.	9⅞	9 1/16	– 3/16
New Vaal River	5⅛	4 15/16	– 3/16
Premier (Transvaal) Pref.	8¼	8¼	—
,, ,, Def.	13¼	12¾	– ½

Paris has been a source of weakness in respect of its favourites, and there have also been realisations in connection with options which were opened for the end-April account, and which, therefore, matured on Monday last. New Vaal Rivers have continued an active counter, and the quotation has suffered a further substantial decline, having been under £4 at one time, but beyond talk of forced liquidation, no special reason has transpired for the weakness of these shares.

Apart from a little fluctuation in the shares of the Banket group in which interest has been recently stimulated by the news to hand as to the development of the Eldorado mine, speculation in Rhodesians has been at a very low ebb during the past week, and it would seem

that this section is waiting for the Kaffir market to revive and thus lead the way. The Rhodesian gold output for March was largely in excess of that for February, as was to be expected, but the latest return is disappointing in that it does not compare favourably with the January figures, as will be seen from the following table:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950	47,048
February	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037	40,482
March	19,626	17,756	34,927	44,574	46,887
April	20,727	17,862	33,268	42,423	—
May	22,137	19,424	31,332	46,729	—
June	22,166	20,402	35,256	47,664	—
July	23,571	24,339	34,693	48,485	—
August	19,187	24,669	35,765	50,127	—
September	18,741	26,029	35,785	48,410	—
October	17,918	24,919	33,383	45,644	—
November	15,714	26,183	32,861	48,503	—
December	18,750	28,100	37,116	48,529	—
Total	231,872	267,715	407,048	551,875	134,417

However, the returns for the first quarter of the current year exceed those for the corresponding period of 1906 by no less than 8,856 oz.

Westralians Rather Dull—Kalgurlis a Feature with a Substantial Relapse in the Quotation—A Chance for Mining Investors—The Great Fingall Report and the Company's New Interest.

The Westralian Market has been rather dull, though as regards most of the leading shares there has been no particular pressure to realise. The feature of the week has been the substantial fall in the price of Kalgurlis, which, it will be seen, show a loss of nearly a point on the period, after changing hands under £10 apiece at one time:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 13, 1907.	Apl. 20, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 1/16	- 1/16
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/8	11/16	1	1 1/32	+ 1/32
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/6	4/3	- 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/8	4 1/2	6 1/4	6 1/4	-
Great Boulder (2/-)	23/-	20/3	23/9	22/9	- 1/-
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/-	6/3	+ 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 5/16	2 1/4	2 1/4 xd	1 15/16 xd	- 1/4
Hainault	1 1/32	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 3/8	- 1/8
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/2	6 1/4	7 1/16	7 1/8	- 1/16
Kalgurli	12 3/4	8 1/4	11 1/4 xd.	10 3/8 xd	- 3/4
Lake View Consols	1 1/16	7/8	29/32	31/32	- 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10 1/2	8/6	13/-	12/9	- 3d.
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	1 21/32	1 5/8	- 1/32
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 1/2	—
South Kalgurli	1 1/32	11/16	29/32	29/32	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 5/8	1 1/4	1 1/16	1 1/8	- 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/2	4/-	3/9	- 3d
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	- 1/8

The relapse in Kalgurlis has not unnaturally given rise to some nervousness amongst shareholders as to the mining position, but it would appear that the condition of the market in the shares largely accounts for the heaviness of the fall, no great amount of selling having taken place. As a matter of fact, I understand only a few hundred shares have actually changed hands, but dealers were not anxious to put such comparatively high-priced stock on their books, and, as the lot on offer had to find a home, the market price was considerably reduced. On the other hand, it has taken little demand since to cause a moderate recovery, and it seems to me that those on the look-out for a mining holding giving a good yield might do worse than take advantage of the fact that the relapse has not been fully regained to pick up some of these shares. Dividends of 7s. 6d. a quarter are being paid, which represent a yield of over 14 per cent. per annum on the current market price.

Great Fingalls have not been able to maintain the recovery to over £2 to which I alluded last week. The annual report of this company has just been issued, and has served as a reminder that the position of the mine is none too satisfactory. Although over 40,000 tons of ore were treated last year in excess of the 1905 tonnage, the net profit for 1906 was not much more than half the amount earned in 1905, the average grade of the ore having been 25s. 6d. per ton less. Consequently the past year's dividends amounted to 18s. per share, as against 30s. 6d. per share for 1905. It is estimated that the ore reserves are sufficient to maintain the present output for about 2½ years, and as the rate of dividend is now 2s. 6d. per quarter, the amount in sight may be put at about 25s. per share, beyond which the outlook is very uncertain. The results of work at the lowest levels have proved disappointing, but there is a chance that the experience of improving values below the poor zone which occurred in the mine at the Nos. 2 and 3 levels may again be repeated. Work is in hand with a view to proving whether or not the hope is well founded. The future of the company, however, is not to depend solely upon its gold mine in Western Australia; it is announced that the directors have secured a working option on the well-known Burra Burra copper mines of South Australia, with the ultimate view of purchasing the property, and immediate steps are to be taken to prove the mine in depth by diamond-drilling. This is not the first West Australian gold-mining company to take an interest in another mining field, the Lake View Consols having led the way in this respect.

Recovery in the Copper Group—Zinc Corporation Affairs—Lengthy Official Statement—Broken Hill Prop. Dividend Disappointment—West African Recovery not Maintained.

A steady recovery in the price of copper has had a favourable influence upon the shares of the leading producing companies during the past week, though Tintos were at first sold from Paris, where there seems to have been a good deal of wreckage to clear up. On the other hand, in addition to the improved metal quotation, Tintos have been helped by a rumour as to satisfactory rains having fallen at the property, which has raised the hopes of the "bulls" that the production in the current year will not show a falling off. For the present, at any rate, it would seem that the copper favourites have seen the worst, and the outlook for the share market being mainly dependent upon the metal position, I shall not be surprised if the recovery makes further progress in the immediate future. In the market, as a matter of fact, a recovery in Tintos to 100 is being predicted. Apart from Great Cobars the Australian copper descriptions have been somewhat quieter of late, but in the event of the recovery in the metal quotation being maintained these descriptions will no doubt come in for more speculative attention, and with the weeding out of the weak "bull" element that has recently occurred such shares as Mount Elliotts and Mount Lyells should be among the first to benefit from improvement in general conditions. The following table shows how prices have moved on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 13, 1907.	Apl. 20, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	- 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/6	16/-	- 6d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/32	1 1/2	1 3/8	1 7/16	- 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/4	1 1/16	2 1/4	2 1/16	- 1/16
Wassau	1 3/8	1/2	1/2	1/2	- 1/8
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/6	1/3	- 3d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	2/-	1/3	- 9d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	24/6	23/6	- 1/-
Esperanza	5 1/16	2 1/2	2 1/16	2 1/2	+ 1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/16	1 1/2	+ 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30 7/8	40/-	38/9	- 1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 1/8	3 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	- 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	18/6	16/6	- 2/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	13	12 1/16 xd	+ 9d.
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/2	3	66/6	64/6	- 2/-
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4 3/8	10 1/2	10 3/8	+ 1/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	47/-	46/-	- 1/-
Mount Morgan	4 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/16 xd	4 1/16 xd	+ 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/8	63 3/8	86 1/2	89 1/2	+ 3
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	28/6	28/6	+ 1/-
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	3/4	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	16/- xd	14 6xd	- 1/6
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/3	10/6	+ 3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	5 1/8	5 3/8	- 1/8
Siberian Mines	2 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 1/4	3 1/8	4 1/4	4 1/4	—
Waihi	9 13/16	6 5/16	9 5/16	9 1/8	- 1/16

In the Broken Hill group there has been a large business transacted in Zinc Corporations. The shares have been heavily sold, and at one time the price dropped away to nearly 14s., but there has also been a good deal of "bear" covering, and during the week the quotation has fluctuated considerably. The position has been cleared up somewhat by the issue of a lengthy official circular, signed by Mr. F. A. Govett, the chairman of the London Committee, who, it will be remembered, was elected to that position when Mr. Daly, the managing director, resigned about nine months ago. The chief point about Mr. Govett's statement is that it confirms the market rumour as to the company needing money. Owing to the delay in arriving at the stage of commercial production, working capital has had to be used—instead of profits, as was hoped would be available—to meet instalments due on the purchases of tailings, as well as for the preliminary experimental work and installation of an expensive plant. Consequently "the capital provided will not be sufficient to carry the company right through until the No. 1 plant of 1,000 tons per day will be in work." A few large shareholders have advanced £50,000, but a debenture issue at a later date is foreshadowed, and Mr. Govett anticipates no difficulty in effecting this "when the proper time arrives." As regards the important matter of the plant and process, the circular gives little fresh information. It it hoped that in the course of a few weeks the three units forming the No. 2 plant will be at work treating about 500 tons a day, but no figures are given as to the results being obtained with the first unit, which has been adapted to the Cattermole process. It still remains to be seen, therefore, what the costs and profits under this method of treatment will be. But in view of the results that have been and are being achieved with the same process by the Sulphide Corporation, there is no reason to think that the Zinc Corporation will not be able to work at a profit, although the latter has to allow for an expenditure of about 4s. per ton more than the former, the sum mentioned representing the original cost of the tailings purchased from other companies, whereas the Sulphide Corporation is treating its own material. It will be some months yet before the results of work on a commercial scale are obtained by the Zinc Corporation, and pending the arrival of these the price of the shares may not experience much recovery. The advancing of £50,000 by a few large holders at this juncture must, however, be considered a very practical demonstration of confidence in the ultimate success of the enterprise, and it would certainly appear that the worst is now known, in which case it is not a time for real holders to throw their shares on the market. If the company does obtain results equal to those which the Sulphide Corporation is now reported to be earning with the Cattermole process, there should ultimately be a substantial recovery in the price of Zincs. Among the other shares in this section of the mining markets Broken Hill Props. have continued to receive chief attention. A sharp relapse in the price has followed the recent improvement, as the dividend just declared is at the old rate of 2s. 6d. per share, whereas the market had looked for at least 3s., and the most optimistic for 3s. 6d. per share. As I pointed out last week, there seemed good ground this time for the hope of an increased distribution, having regard to the chairman's statement at the last meeting, and in the face of this it is wondered what reason the directors had for continuing to pursue a very conservative policy—ultra conservative, it is considered in many quarters. However, sooner or later shareholders must surely benefit from the increased earnings, seeing that the company has built up a large reserve out of profits, and advantage might be taken of the opportunity afforded by the relapse in the quotation to pick up cheap stock.

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

The recent recovery in West Africans has not been maintained, the public not having responded to the call of the dealers, who, by the way, might certainly have chosen a more opportune time for making an effort to obtain outside support for the Jungle market. With the public disinclined to increase commitments in the principal departments of the Stock Exchange, it was hardly to be expected that it would be induced to take much interest in West African shares, notwithstanding the fact of share quotations being at a comparatively low level. However, there is ground for the hope that, sooner or later, business in "Jungles" will expand to some extent, intrinsic conditions having improved. Railway rates have been reduced, which should favourably affect working costs at the mines, and recent work at some of the properties has been attended with better results. The Abosso and Prestea Block A in particular are developing satisfactorily, as is evidenced by the fact that the management of each concern has considered the question of increasing the capacity of the treatment plant, and the directors of the Abosso have already ordered an additional twenty head of stamps. It is cheering, too, to see that the Wassau mine, which has been the cause of much disappointment in the past, is improving in value at depth.

"A British Goldfield."

Under the above heading in Truth of February 20 last I commented on the Stock Exchange gamble in the shares of the Chastan Syndicate, the founders of which were reported to have discovered the existence of many miles of gold-bearing formation somewhere in Great Britain. The affair was "wrop in a mystry," and it seemed to be a case of mystery lending enchantment to the undertaking, as the £1 shares had been run up in price to £5 10s. apiece. I pointed out that this was not the first mysterious syndicate on whose shares a big premium had been established, and I added: "Whether the Chastan will prove less disappointing than the others when the air of mystery no longer surrounds its affairs remains to be seen." With the unveiling of the mystery, interest in the shares of the Chastan Syndicate died down, and they became a nominal market at about £2. It appears that the property is in the Forest of Dean, and a report made by experts for independent shareholders is anything but favourable in regard to the important question of the payability of the auriferous deposits. "Wherever sampled they are disappointing in that no values, even approaching to anything that might be considered payable, were located." But the directors are not content to take this as conclusive. "No satisfactory or conclusive test," they say, "can be applied until the reef is opened out at a depth and bulk crushings made." And on the strength of the flight of imagination indulged in by the managing director at the first meeting of the syndicate held on Monday, the price of the shares picked up to about £3 10s. This is rather reminiscent of the history of the ill-fated Etruscan Copper, whose directors persistently counselled shareholders to disregard expert opinion of an unfavourable character. Etruscans were once up to about £5, but are now not worth as many shillings.

More City Philanthropy.

There is evidently a widespread belief in this country that the City is an abode of philanthropists whose only aim in life is to enrich other people so that they may themselves enjoy, as their only reward, the luxury of doing good. Obviously this must have been the simple faith of all who swallowed the story related in a circular issued last week by Hamilton Smith and Co., "stock and share dealers," 80A, Fenchurch-street, E.C. This eminent firm invited remittances "without a moment's delay," for "an investment" in certain mining shares on which a dividend was recently declared. It was represented that on an "investment" of £50, "commanding" 100 shares, "the dividend alone represents a profit of £110," and, as though this were not sufficiently tempting, "we undertake to say, within the next three months, we shall be able to show you a profit (including the dividend) of something like £250 to £300." Hamilton Smith and Co. left their intelligent

clients to assume that they were ready to do all this out of pure benevolence. There was not a hint that they wanted any remuneration for themselves, nor was there—needless to say—the remotest reference to the possibility that the "cover" on which the shares were to be bought might run off—indeed, it is probable some innocents would not understand from the circular that the operation was to be on a cover basis at all. Still more dazzling was the prospect held out by Wm. Tyler and Co., Pinners' Hall, Old Broad-street, in a circular which also recommended a purchase on a cover basis of some shares in another mining company. In this case, also, a dividend has been declared, and "on a £100 investment made at once, calculated on a moderate estimate of only a 7 point rise, the account would stand approximately thus: Dividend £300, profit £700, cover returned £100." In other words, you would pay Tyler and Co. £100, and they would pay you back £1,100, "charging no commission." The gullibility of the public who send money to these bucket-shops must indeed be boundless and bottomless.

A concern styled the Consolidated Securities Company, 10, Drapers'-gardens, E.C., is trying a different tack. It points out very forcibly the risks of speculation on margin. "You buy, say, twenty-five Southern Pacifics at $97 each with £5 margin. Now, every fluctuation of one point means £5. Therefore your deposit of £5 will be wiped out on a drop of only one point." This warning against the cover-snatching bucket-shops is given with the disinterested object of persuading you that an investment in low-priced shares, taken up and registered in your own name, "is both safe and profitable, and constitutes an open door to small investors whereby they may with ease and security avail themselves of the opportunities hitherto restricted to the magnates of the money and stock market." The company furnishes a list of nearly 150 industrial and mining companies whose shares it will sell at from threepence to five shillings each—such very promising investments as Colombian Hydraulics at threepence, British Mutoscopes at ninepence, Niekirks at a shilling, and so forth. For a small sum you can buy quite a lot of these valuable securities, and as they will be your very own, you will be "placed in the privileged position of being able to wait until it is possible to get the higher price aimed at." Some examples are cited of shares that have had a big rise from as low a level, and the purpose of the Consolidated Securities Co. is to convince you that if you act upon its advice you also may make huge profits—say, a trifle of £691 17s. 6d. on an outlay of £46. Think of the poor deluded gulls on whom this company unloads its worthless rubbish locking up the shares and waiting patiently for the predicted profits, under the impression that they are enjoying a precious privilege "hitherto restricted to the magnates of the money and stock market"!

Insurance Notes—Life Policies and the Budget—Death Duties—Income-Tax—"Exposing" a Life Office—Estimates and Results.

In this column I only talk insurance, not politics, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer has introduced various points which have a distinct bearing upon life assurance, and call for comment. The arrangement that extremely wealthy people are to pay Death Duties at a higher rate than before naturally reminds us that life assurance is the best way of providing for the Death Duties. By means of a policy, which can be paid for annually, the money for these duties is available whenever it is needed, and can be paid direct to the Inland Revenue Authorities by the insurance company without waiting for probate and without realising other investments. These annual payments are a much smaller strain upon an estate than the provision of the big sum which the Chancellor of the Exchequer demands.

There is a very simple way of seeing the cost of life assurance that would provide for the Death Duties. State in pence the cost of assuring £1 at death, and multiply this figure by the rate per cent. that has to be paid for Estate Duty. This gives the percentage of our total capital which is required to provide for the Death Duties. If, having got this result, we divide it by the rate of interest we are earning on our capital, we obtain the number of pence per £1 of income that Estate Duty would cost us; in other words, we obtain the equivalent of Estate Duty in the form of Income Tax.

Some of my readers are not very arithmetical, so perhaps I had better give an illustration of these simple rules. To start with I will give the cost per annum in pence of assuring £1 at death by annual payments, for the rest of life.

Age at entry	25	30	35	40	45	50	60
Annual cost in pence ...	3·8	4·3	5·0	5·9	7·1	8·7	13·6

Now take the case of a man of 45, who has an estate of £10,000 to £25,000. For each £100 of capital he has to pay an Estate Duty of £4, and as it costs him 7.1d. a year to assure £1 it will cost him 2s. 4½d. a year to assure £4; therefore the Estate Duty will cost him 2s. 4½d. per cent. per annum of the capital value of his estate. If we suppose that the estate is yielding an income at the rate of 4 per cent. upon the capital, and we divide this 2s. 4½d. by the rate of interest, which is 4, we find that it would cost him just over 7d. in the pound of income to provide for the Estate Duty. This is a convenient method of seeing the equivalent of Estate Duties in the form of Income Tax.

The fact that a man can deduct his life assurance premiums from the income on which he has to pay tax is a considerable boon to the holders of life policies, and helps to make life assurance the profitable investment that it is when properly selected. This is a point which I may illustrate in detail some other time, but in the meanwhile I should like to point out the effective reply to Mr. Asquith's critics, from an insurance point of view, when they complain of the distinction between earned and unearned income. We are given pathetic pictures of a widow with an unearned income of £300 a year being subjected to the hardship of paying tax at the rate of 1s. in the £ on £140 of this income—this amounts to £7; while a man who has an income of £300 derived from his own earnings has to pay a tax of only £5 5s. The obvious suggestion, to my mind, is that the man who earns his income and has no capital must pay a relatively substantial amount every year for life assurance in order to provide for his dependants, while the widow can leave her dependants a permanent income from capital. It therefore seems to me that instead of the distinction between earned and unearned income being in any way unjust, it would not have been open to criticism had the difference between the rates of income tax on earned and unearned income been considerably larger than it is.

A correspondent asks me to expose the New York Life Insurance Company because of the way in which it has treated him. I am disposed to comply with his request for various reasons. In the first place, my correspondent's case is typical of many others. The gist of it is that he has received bonus results on a policy, which for one thing he thinks are bad, and which for another thing are much less than it was estimated the bonuses would be when he took his policy. Another reason for referring to this matter is that I am always ready to listen to people's grievances, and if they are real to comment upon them with a view to obtaining redress if possible, or allowing them to serve as a warning to others. A third reason is that I have such a profound belief in the merits of life assurance that when I think people's grievances are not real I like, if I can, to prove this to them, in order that they may dismiss their discontent, and feel as satisfied as they ought to. In 1887 my correspondent took a policy for £1,000, on which he paid a premium of £47 19s. 7d. for twenty years. The policy guaranteed the payment of the sum assured at the end of twenty years or at the death of the assured if he died in the meantime; if, and only if, he lived for twenty years he was to receive a bonus. It was estimated at the time the policy was taken that this bonus would be £556, to be paid in cash along with the £1,000 assured. It is because this bonus is only about three-fifths of the estimated amount that my correspondent feels he has been badly treated.

I am very familiar with the estimates of future

bonuses which the American life offices used to issue, but which they do not issue at the present time. These estimates have done the companies a great deal of harm, and it is certain that in some instances, at any rate, the actuaries of the American life offices refused to have these estimates calculated in their departments, and they were arrived at—Heaven knows how!—by certain people connected with the Agency Department, whose chief business was to sell policies. While I always thoroughly disapproved of these estimates, it is only fair to say that the "estimate" my correspondent sends me says that the figures "are presented as estimates only, and are not to be considered as promises or guarantees." In all the circumstances, it is perhaps natural that a policy-holder should be disappointed at getting much less than he expects, but he goes on to complain that the results are decidedly bad, and although he might have obtained better results in a few of the best English offices, I do not see that he has anything to grumble at. If he had chosen to pay an extra £2 1s. 8d. a year, making his total premium £50 1s. 3d. a year, he could have had a guaranteed addition to his policy of £16 12s. a year, which would have converted his tontine assurance into an annual bonus policy that would have amounted to £1,332 at the end of the twenty years. Comparing this with a similar policy taken in an excellent and typical British life office, the Scottish Widows' Fund, the annual premium would have been £52 6s. 8d., or £2 5s. 5d. a year more than the New York Life premium. The New York Life policy would have guaranteed an annual addition to the sum assured of £16 12s. beginning immediately, and in the Scottish Widows no bonus at all would have been paid until the policy had been in force for five years. At the end of twenty years the Scottish Widows policy would have amounted to £29 more than the New York Life policy, but the assured would have paid the Scottish company £45 more than he would have paid the New York Life. I am not saying that this is the best result that could have been obtained for the money, and I am not justifying the former American habit of issuing estimates of future profits; it is all very well to say that people ought not to have been misled by these estimates, but as a matter of a fact they were misled, and in many cases they bought the policies in the expectation of receiving the results that were put before them. On the other hand, it is only fair to point out that even though the actual results prove much less than the anticipated results, the actual results are good in themselves, and are better than those of many first-class British offices. I feel sure from the tone of my correspondent's letter that he is a reasonably-minded man, and that on reading what I have said above he will realise that he has nothing to complain of except that perhaps his hopes were raised too high by the estimate which was given him. It is announced that a provisional agreement has been arrived at under which the Law Accident Insurance Society, Limited, will enter into association with, and pass under the control of, the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company.

Notes on New Issues.

An issue of 40,000 ordinary shares of £1 each at the price of £3 per share is announced by the directors of D. H. Evans and Co. For the last five years a dividend of 22½ per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares of this company; and the new shares will rank for dividend equally with those already existing. The increase of capital is required for the rebuilding of a new block of additional premises; and the premium of £2 per share, less expenses of this issue, will be placed to reserve. The Aluminium Corporation, Limited, has been formed to acquire certain freehold land and water rights in North Wales for the purpose of establishing works to manufacture aluminium and to carry on business in that commodity. The capital is £500,000, divided into 440,000 seven per cent. participating preference shares of £1 each and 60,000 ordinary shares. The latter are allotted to the promoting syndicate, and subscriptions are invited for 300,000 of the participating preference shares. These shares must be regarded as distinctly speculative.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

Disponendo.—The internal bonds you name are not officially quoted, and I know of no means whereby the record could be ascertained.

Railways.

Flo.—I do not recommend a purchase; in fact, I thought I had already made my views upon Americans sufficiently clear in recent articles. *Captain.*—Hold Canadian Pacifics as an investment. Trunk Thirds are good for a moderate rise in the course of the present year. At the present price Rosarios look cheap to buy for investment. *Byzantine.*—1. Hold National of Mexico Preferences. There is a fair chance of an improvement within the time you mention, though it would be better if you could regard them as investments to sit upon, say, for a year or two. 2. There is room for a rise of a point or two in this stock between now and the meeting, which is due in May or the beginning of June. But until something is done in the matter of the company's concession—a portion of the property, under existing arrangements, reverting without payment to the Government in about fifty years' time—the stock cannot be considered a good investment. *John.*—1. What is the use of calling the stock if such action involves a loss? As regards the limit you name, the shares are still some way from attaining it, but if you can get the figure mentioned, better take advantage of it. 2. It is very seldom the terms are attractive enough to make such a form of speculation desirable. If you could buy outright I would suggest Grank Trunk Third Preference.

Mines.

Rhino.—Many thanks for your letter and the subscription to the Truth Toy Fund which you are good enough to send as an acknowledgment of the value of the advice you have received from "Vigilant." The subscription is duly acknowledged in the "Entre Nous" columns. 1. They appear hopeful holdings for dividends, but I see no reason at present to expect much advance in market value. 2. The prospect is not very bright. 3. A good selection. 4. Ferreira Deep, Witwatersrand Deep, and Knights Deep should suit you. *E. B.*—I connot trace No. 1. As regards the other, I have no reason for doubting the honesty of the management, but I cannot say whether the directors have much mining knowledge. *Gull.*—1. It depends upon the articles of association. Presumably, in the matter referred to, the directors have power to sell the undertaking, and after all it is only a case of an old concern under a new name. 2. I am afraid that Klerksdorp Gold will never do any good for its shareholders. *Tanks.*—I would hold for a better market, though in view of the creation of a prior charge a recovery to the old high level cannot be looked for. *Dubitans.*—I think you might hold for some recovery. *Brigade Major.*—Keep all for a better market. *Bolus.*—1. The new shares seem a fair speculation. 2. A moderate improvement seems justified, but there is little market interest in the shares at present. *Union.*—The shares should improve in a buoyant Kaffir market, and I think you should hold for a recovery. *Calamine.*—1. I would hold for recovery. See my notes this week. 2. As it turns out, the not uncommon mistake was made of the market proceeding too early to discount results, and the delay has consequently caused a relapse in prices. Knowing the speculative character of such shares, those who bought have no particular ground for complaint, though the management might perhaps have been more communicative. 3. I think it very improbable. 4. I have no reason to think they are not. Obviously no one is infallible.

Mixed.

Discrimination.—1. I would hold, as satisfactory dividends should be ultimately forthcoming. The fall seems to have been overdone. 2. As you say, on the statements made, the shares

would seem very promising, but I do not care to advise a purchase except as a pure speculation. 3. I will make inquiries as to this concern. *Enquirer.*—The Brazilian and Japanese bonds should be good enough for your purpose. In regard to the Cuban bonds give the preference to the Five per Cent. Gold bonds, standing at about 102½. The debentures are a fair commercial investment. *Verdant Green.*—I see no reason to advise a sale of the securities you already hold. With regard to the employment of the £500 I have anticipated your requirements by an article on Railway fixed interest securities, which commenced last week, and is concluded in the present issue. *Calcutta.*—You are, in my opinion, making a mistake in putting all your capital into one security, particularly as the obtaining of 5 per cent. necessarily involves some risk. Better sell part of your present holding of the bonds, with a view to spreading your money over say six or eight different stocks. Read previous answer. *Ripon.*—There is nothing unusual about such a delay, which is the fault not of the broker but of the companies themselves. *Policeman.*—1. A reconstruction scheme was considered at the meeting held last month, the proposed assessment being 1s. per 4s. share. 2. A further purchase should turn out satisfactorily in the long run. 3. No. *Disgusted.*—1. Obviously a most imprudent policy. 2. Further purchases would be a fair speculation, but you would probably do better elsewhere at present. *Canute.*—1. Not much likelihood of it at present. 2. These are nearly at the price named, and should rise above it. 3. Some improvement in the position was reported at the meeting last week, but the prospect of a dividend next year is not very rosy. *Ecuador.*—There is no market in the shares, but you might see if your broker can obtain a price. *E. L. D., Carlisle.*—1. I would suggest your communicating with the English Association of American Bond and Shareholders, Limited, 5, Great Winchester-street, E.C., which would save you the trouble of collecting the dividends yourself. 2. A sound and desirable investment. 3. I have not noticed them. 4. Quite suitable. *Beacon.*—1. The Four and a Halfs (first series). 2. Brazilian (Western of Minas) Fives are as cheap as any. 3. The additional Kaffirs mentioned should improve when business becomes more active, but I prefer New Kleinfonteins. 4. No. 1 company's are quite distinct. East Rand Coals are quoted about 1s. 3d. *Paterson.*—Of those named I would select Japanese, Cammell, Laird, and Lever Preference. *Shield.*—1. Purely a gamble. 2. It might be genuine enough, but it does not add to the attractiveness of the shares. 3. I cannot trace it. If it circularises leave it alone. *Xem.*—Nos. 2 and 3 are the best of the four as investments. *Blenheim.*—None seem to possess exceptional speculative merits. The present price of No. 1 is about 22s. 6d., dividends being declared in January and June. Sulphides are fair, and the same may be said of South Durhams. Consult a Stock Exchange Year Book. *Solus.*—1. Could be improved upon. Say Paquins. 2. An option would not be attractive. *Bert, Weybridge.*—Would make a hopeful investment. The concern is believed to be participating in the prosperity of South America. *Dabbler.*—1 and 2. Are not worth averaging. In fact, No. 2 is scarcely attractive. 3. Sound enough. *Lavender.*—Would not advise any averaging. As to Electric Tractions, they may go higher within the near future. *G. M.*—1. Might be held. 2. I know of no reason for an advance. They are likely to hang about the present price even if the profits advance further. *Syntax.*—None are speculatively interesting, and most would make a risky purchase. *Thread.*—1. These should be held for an improvement. 2. Not very hopeful. *Ennis.*—1 and 2. Keep the shares you have for the present. 3. The dividend on these seems to be well secured, but you must not expect any considerable rise in price. *Oliver.*—Too risky for your purpose. See my articles last week and in the present issue on railway fixed interest securities. *S. L. C.*—I am referring elsewhere to this concern. *Peter* and others.—Your inquiries shall be answered next week.

Insurance.

F. Kent.—The company is genuine, but not worth investing in. I advise you not to pay any more. *J. L. H., Birkdale.*—For your purpose I should advise the Essex and Suffolk Equitable Fire Insurance Company, of 58, New Broad-street, E.C. *J. B. S.*—Yorkshire Insurance Company; Legal and General, or Northern. *Siwel.*—Insure with the Railway Passengers, 64, Cornhill; or the United Legal, 222, Strand. *D. Welch.*—I have never heard of the Association. I have been making inquiries, but have not yet heard the result. *Safety and other Correspondents.*—Your questions will be answered next week.

Miscellaneous.

Nemo.—Yes. *F. H.*—The Charing Cross Bank is really a usury-shop, run by a man named Carpenter. Have nothing to do with it, either as a depositor or a borrower. *R. C. F. C.*—Thanks for your note; I will make inquiries. *Glasgow, J. L. B., Anglo-Indian, Miss N.*, and other correspondents.—Warnings against the International Securities Syndicate have repeatedly appeared in Truth. Its advertisements are grossly misleading, and its charges outrageously exorbitant. *F. M.*—The article to which you refer is simply an advertisement. Read preceding answer. *Justitia.*—These are questions on which the advice of a solicitor should be obtained. *Speculator.*—1. No. 2. I cannot say, nor can I make any recommendation; see Rule 8. *Polly Parker.*—I am afraid that it is, to all intents and purposes, a swindle. About a year ago an American mining paper reported that it had been unable to confirm the existence of the alleged valuable property of "the Great Cariboo Cold Company," not even in the official reports of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia. *Llangedwyn.* — I replied to your former inquiry on March 27, to the effect that I could not undertake to fill up such a form, and that you had better get a stockbroker to do the business. As to your present questions, in one sense the bonds are "genuine," but their value is another matter. You could obtain them through Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle street, E.C., or the London branch of the Crédit Lyonnais. *Set Square.*—Read the latter part of preceding answer. I do not give advice as to the merits of different bonds of this class. *R. C. J.*—Both the mine and the bonds are extremely speculative, and therefore quite unsuitable for your purpose. You could get a better return than at present from an industrial investment, such as Imperial Tobacco Company's Preference or Bradford Dyers Ordinary. *Star.*—In June and December. *Caution.*—I believe the society is quite reliable. *Sergeant-Major.*—1. Extremely speculative. 2. A fairly promising purchase. *Horrey.*—1. A hopeful speculative lock-up. 2. I have no reason to criticise it, but see Rule 8. 3. Yes, by some investments. *Week-Ender.*—Might be best avoided. Try some good building society. *H. T. S.*—Neither is known in this country, so that I am not in a position to express an opinion. *C. J. S.*—Since the Cautionary List was published I have made two or three references to this new bucket-shop; plainly a swindle.

Miscellaneous—'Bus Shares Rise—Brewery Securities Stagnant—Textiles Weak Owing to Fears of a Labour Dispute—Babcock and Wilcox's Position.

In the Miscellaneous Market an outstanding feature of the week has been the continued advance in the ordinary stock of the London General Omnibus Company. There has now been a recovery of over twenty points from the low water mark to which the stock dropped in March on the appearance of the report, showing that £15,000 had to be withdrawn from the reserve fund for the payment of a five per cent. dividend. The shares of the London Road Car Company, which only a few weeks since passed its ordinary dividend for the first time in twenty years, have also had a substantial rise, and those of the London Motor Omnibus ("Vanguard") Company have likewise improved. These changes are chiefly due to a belief that at last there is a good prospect of the different companies concerned entering into an arrangement for the avoidance of the present system of cut-throat competition and the revision of unremunerative fares. Some informal meetings have been held to discuss the subject, and such an arrangement, if it can be carried out, would obviously be advantageous to all the companies. To what extent the gain in this direction would compensate the old companies for the losses which they are incurring through the introduction of motor traction is another question. No doubt the difficulty will be overcome in time, but the period of transition must inevitably be a trying one for the proprietors. In this connection it may be noted that the dividend on the ordinary shares of Thomas Tilling, Limited, is 5 per cent. for 1906, as compared with 8 per cent. in 1905 and 10 per cent. in the two preceding years. Though the higher price of forage is also mentioned, there is little doubt that the falling off in the sum available for distribution is mainly attributable to what the report describes as the considerable difficulties and consequent expense of the motor omnibus service. The vendor-directors of this 'bus company deserve credit for having, in view of the altered conditions of the trade, made over to the trustees ordinary shares of the nominal value of £25,000 in order to wipe out the amount at which goodwill for established routes stands in the books.

The fear in some quarters that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would impose some additional taxation on the liquor trade proved to be unfounded, but neither this fact nor the certainty that there will be no fresh licensing legislation this year has stimulated business in brewery issues. The market remains quite stagnant. In the textile section some uneasiness, due to rumours of possible labour troubles in Lancashire, caused a slight temporary weakness. It appears that the weavers have demanded an advance of wages, which the employers have refused, but there does not seem to be any reason for anticipating a serious development of the dispute. Daimlers have been the most active among motor and cycle shares, a sharp spurt occurring on the confirmation by the shareholders of the capital re-organisation scheme. The first advance was not fully maintained,

The Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall, S.W.—1593 Gerrard. Famous for its beautiful Restaurant and Grill Room. Under the same Direction as the Ritz Hotel.

but on the week both the ordinary and the preference shares are a trifle higher. Iron, steel, and engineering companies' shares have remained firm. Babcock and Willcox, Limited, the manufacturers of the well-known water-tube steam boilers, again pay the handsome dividend of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, which has now been distributed for three years in succession. With reserve and dividend equalisation funds now amounting to £445,000, or nearly half the paid-up capital, this company stands in a strong financial position, and the volume of its business so far during the current year has been increasing. On the basis of the 20 per cent. dividend, the ordinary shares at the present quotation give a yield of about £5 2s. 6d. per cent., while the six per cent. cumulative preference shares—whose dividend is covered fifty times over—return well over 4 per cent. Both may be recommended as sound industrial investments. James Nelson and Sons' shares have receded on the report which, as I indicated last week, shows a heavy drop in the trading profit, though the previous year's dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid. As the record of this company proves, the business of importing meat from the Argentine is liable to very wide fluctuations, a circumstance which some investors have lost sight of when a fat year has been recorded. Hudson's Bays have hardly moved during the week, but a severe fall has taken place in Canada North-West Land common shares. Elsewhere in this week's Truth is published the fifty-fourth report of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, which was presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly meeting at Yokohama last month.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A WOMAN'S LOVE.

LADY MILDRED BECKWITH was one of those women who pride themselves upon their wifely devotion; and in her case the pride was by no means without foundation. Her husband, Jervoise Beckwith, M.P. for one of the metropolitan constituencies, owed not merely his seat in Parliament, but even practically everything he had in the world, to her. The only daughter of a duke, and heiress of all her father's large personal estate, she had married Beckwith—then a briefless young barrister—from love pure and simple. The union, of itself, was sufficient to make him. But Lady Mildred did not rest content with that. She devoted herself, after marriage, to his interests with whole-hearted and untiring energy—the energy of an intense and absorbing love.

And yet that love—intense and absorbing as it was—had (though Lady Mildred was not aware of this) its limitations. You would have shocked her terribly if you had told her so. She would have repudiated the imputation with indignant heat. She would have declared, with perfect honesty, that no wife ever loved her husband more truly than she loved Jervoise, would have pointed to a thousand decisive proofs, in the shape of sacrifices she had made for him. But, for all that, the limitation was there—the limitation which, though now concealed as well from herself as others, it only needed the application of a crucial test to make apparent. Such tests generally come sooner or later. This one came to Lady Mildred Beckwith after ten happy years of married life.

* * * * *

Piccadilly-circus at half-past eleven on a cold, cheerless night towards the end of March. The scene how full of what is called "life"—of what might more truly be called living death! Much tawdry finery, much paint and powder, much bold laughter and outward mirth! But what a hell of aching misery behind it all! What a foretaste, here on earth, of the everlasting torments of the damned!

A tall, well-dressed man, of gentlemanly appearance, in young middle-life, stood in the full glare of one of the lamps outside Swan and Edgar's talking to a haggard, bedizened, but still good-looking member of the unhappy sisterhood. While he was thus engaged, an electric brougham, threading its way slowly through the throng of pedestrians, who here crowded the roadway, passed within a few feet of him. A handsome, fair-haired woman, wrapped in an opera-cloak, happened to look out of the window of the brougham at that moment, and saw the man talking to the unfortunate. A strange look—a look of mingled amazement, anger, pain, and unutterable scorn came over her refined face. She clenched her little white hands. She bit her lip. The colour faded from her cheeks. But she said nothing—made no sign. And the brougham passed on.

Shortly afterwards the man, too, proceeded on his way. He did not know that he had been observed. But, for some reason, his face was pale and troubled. His swinging steps carried him swiftly along the northern pavement of Picadilly, until he came to Bond-street, up which he turned, and then into Bruton-street. Here he stopped at one of the houses on the south side and let himself in with a latch-key. The man was Jervoise Beckwith, returning on foot, as usual, for exercise, from the House of Commons. The lady in the brougham who had passed him while he was talking to the unfortunate, and who, without his knowing it, had observed him, was Lady Mildred, his wife.

She had been to some social function at the Hotel Cecil, from which she was not expected to return until the small hours. It was with some surprise, therefore, that Jervoise Beckwith saw the electric light full on in the library, and, entering, found his beautiful wife standing by the fire.

"What, Mill! You back already?" he exclaimed, as he went forward to kiss her.

Lady Mildred drew herself up very erect—a commanding figure of young womanhood, and motioned him back with a gesture, more expressive than any words, of bitter contempt and disgust.

"Do not come near me, please. I decline to have anything to do with you."

And her proud blue eyes flashed and scintillated upon him in withering scorn.

"Why, what is the matter, Mill?" he ejaculated, amazed, it would seem, and almost paralysed by this freezing reception.

"If you want an explanation—though I should hardly think there is any need for me to supply it—you have only to carry your mind back to the occurrences of half-an-hour ago."

"What do you mean?" he demanded quickly, changing colour as he spoke.

"Ah! I see by your look that you understand me. Yes! I passed within a foot of you while you were talking to that—that creature at Piccadilly-circus; and I heard you asking for her address. . . . You might, at least, have spared me this loathsome insult, and yourself this depth of degradation. You might have looked a little higher for my rival—I do think—than to a common woman of the streets."

"Hear me, Mill. You are cruelly mistaken——"

"Mistaken? How very likely! Was not the creature's character clearly written in every line of her—in every daub of paint on her haggard face—in every flounce and frill of her tawdry attire?"

"The woman was an unfortunate. I do not dispute that. But I—I—only spoke to her out of—of—pity," he stammered.

"To be sure. And you only asked for her address out of *pity*, I suppose!" she retorted, with biting sarcasm.

"Yes. That was my sole reason," he answered, "I—I wished, if possible, to do something for her."

"And why should you wish to do something for her—a woman of such degraded and infamous character?" she cried, with flashing eyes.

"I will tell you," he said.

"No doubt you will make up a very pretty story," she scoffed.

"I give you my word I will tell you nothing but the truth. I knew that poor creature many years ago. She was engaged to an old friend of mine—a man I knew very well. He betrayed her, under promise of marriage. I believe he meant to keep his promise at the time when he made it. But he subsequently fell in love with

another woman, whom he married, and left this poor girl to her fate. She went to the bad, in consequence. How utterly to the bad I was not aware, until I met her and recognised her at Piccadilly-circus to-night."

He spoke hurriedly and with confusion, studiously avoiding his wife's eye. She was sure that he was trying to impose upon her with a trumped-up story, calculated to excite her pity, and her lip curled with a scorn even greater than before.

"Dear me! How very tragic," she rejoined, with cold, mocking irony. "But a little vague, don't you think? Surely, while you were about it, you might have added a few details to make the story more circumstantial. The name of your friend, for instance, and one or two other trifling particulars of that kind."

"What I have told you is the truth," he answered quickly, still, however, avoiding looking her in the face, "But I cannot mention names, because—because——"

"Oh, I quite understand your reason," she exclaimed. "If you mentioned names, it would at once furnish me with the means of testing your story, which no doubt would be highly inconvenient to you."

"You wrong me. Before Heaven you wrong me!" he ejaculated.

But the guilty confusion of his manner belied his words. She turned away from him in disgust and contempt. Then, not deigning him so much as another glance, she sailed proudly out of the room.

He still remained where he stood, as if stupefied. Presently, he sank into a chair, and buried his face in his hands.

In the meanwhile, Lady Mildred was pacing the floor of her bedroom upstairs, with pale face and clenched hands.

"I loved him—ah, how I loved him!" she muttered. "And now, in requital, he has insulted me and lied to me! I will never forgive him—never! never!" The test had, indeed, come, and Lady Mildred's love was unequal to the strain.

* * * * *

More than a week had elapsed—a week of bitter estrangement and misery for those two, when, one morning, a woman rang the door-bell of the house in Bruton-street and asked to see Lady Mildred. After some questioning, she was admitted, and was shown into the library, where Lady Mildred was sitting.

The woman was quietly dressed, and her manner was humble and diffident. But Lady Mildred recognised her in an instant, and an expression of indignant, withering scorn flashed at once into her blue eyes.

"You?" she ejaculated. "You? How dare you come here? How dare you contaminate my house with your presence?"

The woman's haggard, wasted, though still good-looking, face was very pale. She answered, humbly:

"Forgive me, my lady. I know I am not fit to breathe the same air with you. But I was driven to come, for I have something that I must tell you."

Lady Mildred's expression denoted the extreme of loathing and contempt, as she replied:

"No doubt my husband has put you up to come and tell me some pretty story."

"Indeed, no, my lady," answered the woman, pressing her thin hands tightly together. "I have only come to speak the truth—to corroborate what your husband has already told you."

"Ah, my husband has been at you, then? I am sure I congratulate him on his choice of a confidante," rejoined Lady Mildred, with biting scorn.

The woman bowed her head.

"God help me," she answered, in a low, broken voice, "I cannot resent what you say. I know I am one of those who have forfeited all claim to common consideration. But hear me, I implore you, for two or three minutes, while I tell you my true story."

"True? Ah, of course," said Lady Mildred, with a mocking sneer.

"I was once engaged to be married to a great friend of your husband's—a man——"

"You are repeating your lesson well," interpolated Lady Mildred.

"A man," went on the other, disregarding the taunt, "who was above me in station, a born gentleman, indeed, while I, although I had been well-educated, was only a poor shop-girl——"

"Dear me! Did you really begin life so respectably as that?" remarked Lady Mildred, with cruelly intentional insolence.

The woman winced. Her pale face flushed. But, except for that, she took no notice of the merciless sneer.

"But he loved me—yes, at that time he did love me," she continued, pressing her hands to her bosom. "And I—ah, God! How I loved him!"

"It is strange to hear these creatures talk of love," said Lady Mildred, as if speaking to herself and uttering her thoughts aloud. "Strange, and, when you come to think of it, rather sickening."

Again the woman winced. But again she ignored the interruption.

"I was so happy in his love," she went on, and, as she said the words, a sudden, wonderful light shone in her tired eyes. "He came into my life like an angel from Heaven——"

"Scarcely from Heaven, I should imagine," interposed Lady Mildred, with a sneer, "considering (for I assume you are going to repeat the pitiful story my husband has put into your mouth) the way in which he treated you."

The woman pressed her hands tightly to her bosom.

"It was my fault as much as his," she said. "I loved him so. I could refuse him nothing. Besides, he had promised to marry me——"

"And broke his promise, and deserted you to marry another woman. At least, that is how the fairy story went, to the best of my recollection," answered Lady Mildred, mockingly.

"No, my lady. There you are wrong," cried the unfortunate, earnestly, and again that wonderful light shone in her tired eyes. "He did not desert me for the other woman. I gave him up to her—of my own free will—because I loved him."

"Better stick to the authorised version of the fairy tale, I think," said Lady Mildred, with cold sarcasm. "For that, if not exactly probable, was at least within the bounds of possibility."

"I cannot wonder at your believing me incapable of such an action, my lady," said the woman, humbly. "I sometimes wonder whether it can have been true, when I look back on it, myself. Yet it was what I did. Yes, though my happiness, my reputation, everything that made life worth living, depended on his marrying me, I gave him up to that other, because" (and again that wonderful light in the tired eyes) "because I loved him."

"Possibly you could not help yourself," rejoined Lady Mildred, her lip curling in its incredulous scorn. "At any rate—according to the authorised version—the gentleman appears to have been very willing to be given up by you."

"Ah, my lady! You may mock. But hear me out. I will tell you just how it was. She—that other—was far, far above me in every way. She was a lady, pure, refined, beautiful and well-born—one who could enter fully into all his life—one who could make his career what it ought to be, what God had surely meant it to be. But it was not only that. He loved her. He did not tell me so. He would not have wounded me by any such admission. But I soon found it out. And at first I was jealous and angry. . . . And then, after a while, love showed me a better way. I would not let him marry me and make me an honest woman, though he would assuredly have done so, for he was a gentleman and a man of his word. But I gave him up—gave him up of my own free will—gave him up to her, for his sake—because I loved him."

The words flowed from the woman's lips in an eager, fervent stream that pulsed, in every tone, with reality and truthfulness. The wonderful light in the tired eyes shone brighter and brighter, shedding upon the poor haggard face a new radiance, and investing it, for the moment, with all, and more than all, the beauty that must once have belonged to it in the far-off days of youth and freshness and innocence.

Lady Mildred could not but observe this—could not but see that the woman was recalling a vivid personal experience. No other recollection could have called up

that look to her face—could have imparted that earnest thrill to her tone. Yet her ladyship tried to blind her eyes and to harden her heart to all this, and so far succeeded as to preserve an outward show of cold, incredulous disdain.

"You have really repeated these inventions very well," she said, with rather a forced sneer. "I must congratulate you upon your histrionic powers. If you should ever wish to lead a more respectable life, I would recommend you to try your fortune on the stage."

"Inventions?" exclaimed the woman, fixing her haggard eyes earnestly, almost fiercely, upon Lady Mildred's face. "Is your husband an invention—are *you* an invention?"

"What do you mean?" cried out Lady Mildred, quickly.

"I mean—though I had not intended to tell you this, but you have stung me into it—that the man whom I gave up was Jervoise Beckwith—that the woman to whom I gave him up was *yourself!*"

The truth was out. Lady Mildred knew it was the truth. She could not doubt it. She saw it written in every line of the woman's face; she heard it thrill in every tone of the woman's voice. She turned very pale. But she said never a word.

"Yes," exclaimed the woman—and the wonderful light shone brighter even than before in the tired eyes. "I gave him up to you—because I loved him. And I myself went right down to hell—because I loved him. And I am glad I went down to hell, for his sake—because I loved him."

"Forgive me. I have wronged you," said Lady Mildred, in a low voice, now finding words. And then, with a sudden, impulsive gesture, she put out her hand to the woman. . . . . .

When Jervoise Beckwith came home that afternoon, his wife went up to him, and, laying both her hands upon his shoulders, looked into his dark eyes.

"She has been here," she said; "and told me all the truth. Oh, Jervoise, why did you not tell me yourself, my husband?"

"Because," he replied, "I was ashamed to confess to you that I had once been mixed up with a woman of that sort."

A few hours before, Lady Mildred herself would have used much harsher language of the woman. But now her husband's words somehow jarred upon her. "Because I was ashamed to confess that I had been mixed up with a woman of that sort." . . . . "Because I loved him." . . . Lady Mildred was silent. The tragedy of it all came deeply home to her. "Ashamed . . . of a woman of that sort." "Because I loved him." The man's point of view, and the woman's, summed up in those two brief sentences. . . . Alas! In the heart's blood of how many poor women is this tragedy written; in how many a haggard and ghastly face does it cry aloud to Heaven from the streets of London every night!

ART NOTES.

THE NEW GALLERY.

ANYONE who is interested in ghosts and ghost lore should certainly pay a visit to the New Gallery. He will learn much about the relationship of ghosts to art, and quite a lot about ghosts who have nothing to do with art. He will learn, for instance, that you can have a ghost, or any number of them, long before you are dead. Mr. Sargent has several, and they seem to have been very industrious during the last few months. They have all been painting portraits and sending them to the New Gallery, where a lot have been accepted and hung. They are sensible and obliging ghosts who do not want to stand in the light of their living self, so they sign their portraits by other names, but you have only got to look at them once to recognise them as the work of some spiritualised portion of Mr. Sargent, weaker, naturally, with little of his life and go in them, but quite as much like his own work as some of his own work is, as for instance, two large portraits by his material hand which are hung in the North gallery, one of Dr. Warre, very fierce—as he might have appeared to an Eton boy with a guilty conscience—the other of Mrs. Harold Harmsworth, determined—if we may judge from the result—to look her very nicest now that she is having her portrait took by the great Mr. Sargent. Truth to tell, I should have been inclined to put this down to some ghost Sargent, so much is it below his usual work in virility and conviction, were it not for the signature, and for one of the hands, which is painted as only as the flesh-and-blood Sargent could paint it.

You cannot make any hard and fast lines about these artistic spooks. Some of them only come into existence after a painter's death, others seem to go out of it as soon as the painter himself dies, or very soon afterwards. Take Mr. Whistler, for instance. When he was alive he had almost as many spooks as has Mr. Sargent at this moment. As soon as he was dead his ghosts began to die, too, so that now you may enter half-a-dozen picture galleries, one after the other, and not see the work of so much as one of them. Burne-Jones, on the other hand, seems to have vitalised a much tougher breed of ghosts, who still persist in their artistic endeavours even to this day. There are several of them at the New Gallery at this moment, all very true to type; showing the same pale, discontented, anæmic, flat-chested, soulfully soulless young women, doing the same sort of impossible things in the same sort of impossible way. It is a curious thing that even the inanimate objects around them seem to have caught the trick of overcoming the laws of nature. There is one picture of this type—it is in the South Room—which fascinates me. It shows a number of young men—I think they are young men, that is to say, though they might be young women—taking the Holy Grail to Sanas. They and it are packed very uncomfortably in a very small ship, which seems to have been designed by a church architect with Gothic tastes, and which floats in obstinate resistance to all the laws of nature. They have set lighted candles around the casket and they are escorted by two angels. There is a high wind blowing; the sea is covered with neat little waves that look as if they have kept their foaming crests in curl-papers overnight, but not one feather of the angels' extremely ornamental wings is blown out of place, not one hair upon their heads is shifted by the wind. It may be, I admit, that they are spiritual and, therefore, not subject to being blown about. (Has anyone ever noticed whether a ghost's robes are blowable, I wonder?) But that does not explain the candles. They are not spiritual candles, for their flames are certainly bent over by the wind; but although there is no land in sight—which supposes that the journey has been going on for at least an hour, they have not gone out. It is idle to suggest that the young persons, or even the angels, can have relighted them; the period of the picture is obviously previous to the invention of matches. The whole thing is a fascinating mystery.

Next to this picture, I think the most fascinating part of the New Gallery show is the political portraits. There are several of them, and they all show us distinguished politicians trying to look like anything in the world but what they are. There is Mr. John Burns, for instance, painted by Mr. P. F. S. Spence, and doing his best to look like a cockatoo waiting for a lump of sugar. Quite close to him is Mr. Arnold-Forster, who for some reason seems to have impressed Mr. Harris Brown, who has painted him, as a would-be poet, composing spring anthems for the sixpenny magazines. And there is the Right Hon. John Edward Ellis, M.P., painted by Mr. Percy Bigland, and looking as if he found the operation extremely painful, but was determined to pass for an optimist or perish in the attempt. Talking about portraits, quite the most striking is Mr. J. E. Blanche's "Lucien Simon." It is not at all flattering—I should not be surprised if the sitter had felt rather annoyed when he looked at it—but it is astonishingly alive and astonishingly painted. Another fine portrait is Mr. T. Austen Brown's "At the Window." It is noble in tone and vivid in suggestion, though I must confess to being a little puzzled at the subject, which is of a fashionably-dressed lady gazing out of a window into a rather squalid French village street. Is

she a tourist waiting for a broken-down motor to be set right again? She is not dressed for the part. Is she——but it is a fine painting, any way.

While I think of it, I should like to notice one very remarkable thing about the present exhibition—that the hanging arrangements seem to have got disarranged. In one of the rooms, particularly, so many of the worst pictures shown are hung in the best positions—on the line—that it reminds me of the Topsy-Turvey House—I think it was called—at one of the exhibitions, wherein the ceilings were where the floors should have been, and so on. I quite admit that the Hanging Committee are entitled to hang their pictures as and where they like, and there is perhaps something to be said for varying the old convention and giving the bad painters a chance; but, after all, the primary object of a picture-show being to sell pictures, it would be as well, from motives of expediency, not to put so many of the smallest strawberries on the top of the basket.

Personally, I do not think the New Gallery is this year quite up to its usual level, but it contains some fine pictures, nevertheless. There are quite a number that I should like to buy if I had the money, which, as it happens, I have not. Here are a few of them. In the South Room, Sir James Linton's "Admonition"—not because I think it a very fine picture, but because it shows such refreshing evidence of care and knowledge—Mr. Byam Shaw's pre-Raphaelitish "Caged Bird," and two portraits, Mr. George Henry's "Miss Innes," because the grey dress is so finely painted, and Mr. Alfred Priest's "Clement K. Shorter, Esq.," which is one of the most convincing idealisations of "the literary gent." I ever saw in my life. Mr. Peppercorn has one of his powerful little landscapes here, but I should not care to buy it, because it is a shade too gloomy for my taste.

In the West Room, Mr. Alfred East's very fine and dignified landscape, "The Dignity of Autumn," arouses my cupidity; so does Mr. Charles Bartlett's "Mother and Child, Brittany"; and I think I should like Mr. George Wetherbee's "Uncharted Seas," because it has some very pretty mermaids in it, one of whom reminds me of somebody I know.

In the North Room I should be grateful for Mr. Lee Hankey's "Goose Girl," though it verges perilously close to the "pretty-pretty," and Mr. Hughes Stanton's big "Fontainebleau," and Mr. P. F. Walker's very restful and airy "Mouth of the Thames," which is unmercifully skied but is a fine picture all the same. And in the Central Hall there is a real Sargent, an "Architectural Study," quite masterly, which I would give a good deal to possess.

I come next to the pictures I would not like to possess at any price. There is, first and foremost—but I see that I have already exceeded my space, and must leave any consideration of this fascinating topic until next week.

MUSIC.

THE PITCH QUESTION AGAIN.

A RECENT concert room incident and subsequent controversy, brought about by the inability of a popular vocalist to sing certain songs set down to him at a pitch above the diapason normal, have brought up once more a bothersome question which has too long vexed the souls of British musicians. When, some sixty or seventy years ago, the makers of brass intruments in this country began screwing up the pitch of these for the purpose of gratifying the liking of the military bandmasters for the more "brilliant" effects thereby secured, it was not generally realised, probably, what confusion and inconvenience would ultimately result from their procedure. It was the old case of England preferring to be a law unto itself against the rest of the world. On the Continent the matter was long ago settled by general agreement on a satisfactory basis. From the time of Bach and Handel onward the pitch adopted by all the musical nations was practically uniform, and when the possibility occurred of undesirable deviation therefrom this was promptly checked. In 1834 a congress of physicists met at Stuttgart to consider the question, and their decision was practically identical with that afterwards adopted (in 1858) by the French Government, whose diapason normal (517 vibrations for C) has since become generally recognised and adhered to. But, of course, this was far too logical and sensible a course to commend itself to our insular ideas, and so it has come about that we are still worried with a problem which other nations have long since disposed of. While a few of our leading concert orchestras, including the Philharmonic, have, within the last ten years or so, conformed to the Continental standard, all the military bands, most of the provincial bands, and the greater number of the organs throughout the country, still adhere to the old high or "brilliant" pitch beloved of Costa, and any alteration of this unsatisfactory condition of things seems, at present, as far off as ever.

It is the cost which would thereby be entailed which chiefly stands in the way, of course. If the military bands could be persuaded to lead the way, the rest would soon follow suit. It is only because they have to rely chiefly on the services of the Army bandsmen for their brass that the ordinary provincial orchestras are unable to make the change. Is there any hope, then, of the military musicians moving in the matter? It is to be feared, not much. There are two arguments against the change from their point of view—the one musical, or perhaps one should rather say martial; and the other financial. The first is voiced by authorities such as Lieut. Rogan, the well-known bandmaster of the Coldstreams, who holds that for the particular purposes of military music the higher pitch is the better. Not only does it lend itself, he declares, to more brilliant musical effects, but also, and as a consequence, its carrying power is greater, and therefore it is better adapted to the needs of march and parade ground. To this the best reply, perhaps, is that what is good enough for France and Germany ought to do for us also. We need not try to be more brilliant than the French or more military than the Germans. Unfortunately, the second obstacle is less easily disposed of. This is, of course, the heavy cost which would be involved in making the change. What would this amount to? The sum has been variously estimated by different authorities in the case of the regimental bands throughout the country at from £10,000 to £30,000. Now the instruments of the military bands are provided, as every one knows, by the officers, and since they are not as a class consumedly interested in the pitch controversy it is hardly to be expected that they will put their hands in their pockets to find the needful funds. Neither is it any more likely in the present state of affairs that the War Office will make a grant for the purpose, and so it is to be feared that we must continue to rub along for the present under the existing conditions.

Indeed, we may think ourselves lucky in that so far as the principal concert orchestras are concerned the diapason normal is now the rule. It is now over ten years since the Philharmonic Society formally adopted (in 1895) the Continental pitch, which may now be regarded, therefore, as quite definitely established, to the great satisfaction of the many eminent singers and others who visit us from abroad. In earlier days the case stood very differently, of course. Sims Reeves, it may be recalled, gave up singing at the Handel Festivals solely on account of the pitch difficulty, while Mme. Patti was another who found it necessary to take an equally strong line over the matter. As regards the general adoption of the diapason normal, there are, as has been noted, not only the military bands to be reckoned with, but all the other brass bands throughout the country, representing a value of thousands of pounds, and nearly all the organs. Among the latter, one of the worst offenders at present is that of the Albert Hall, to adapt which it has been estimated would entail a cost of some £1,500, a sum which those concerned have not at present seen their way to provide. Consequently, certain works lying very high for the voice, such as

Beethoven's "Choral" symphony and Mass in D, can never be thought of by the Royal Choral Society. In other cases, where organs have been altered, the step has sometimes been regretted afterwards, when it has been desired to co-operate with bands still retaining the higher pitch, so that altogether the present state of affairs is eminently unsatisfactory.

In connection with the laying of the foundation stone on Saturday of the new concert hall to be erected in Great Portland Street, it is interesting to read the statement that the hall "is already well booked into 1908." Those concerned are certainly to be congratulated on this happy state of things, in view of the fact, which I recently referred to, that all the leading concert agents have pledged themselves not to have anything to do with the hall so long as it remains under the management of the firm at present associated with it. One of the reports of Saturday's ceremony in an esteemed morning contemporary contains, by the way, a delicious howler:—

Dr. W. H. Cummings, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, in inviting the Lord Mayor to lay the stone, said they were standing within a few yards of the place where Faber [!] composed "Oberon."

This reminds one of the undergraduate who wrote in his examination paper with judicial reserve of the writings of Bishop Barclay.

A good many interesting concerts have been given recently. At the Philharmonic concert on Thursday, Mme. Clara Butt was the heroine of the evening, and sang magnificently as usual. New works were also heard—a violin concerto by M. Tivadar Nachez, and a Coronach by Mr. John McEwen—but neither produced a very overwhelming impression. At the Queen's Hall symphony concert on Thursday Mr. Percy Pitt's sinfonietta, first heard at Birmingham, was an interesting feature of the programme. It is a trifle over long, but contains many happy ideas most skilfully treated. Kreisler's superb fiddling was another feature of this concert. Yet another recent orchestral concert of note was that given on the Tuesday previous in honour of the Colonial Premiers, the most memorable feature of which was the magnificent performance of the "Choral" symphony under Nikisch, and with the aid of the Sheffield choir. At the last of the London Ballad Concerts Mme. Clara Butt appeared, and enthusiasm ran high. Next season, as I stated some weeks ago, these concerts will be transferred to the Albert Hall—a somewhat striking departure on the part of Messrs. Boosey. Miss Elena Gerhardt and Mr. David Bispham are other well-known vocalists who have been heard again; Miss Evelyn Suart, who is one of the best of our latter-day native pianists, has given an enjoyable recital, while a word of welcome is due to the Hambourg Quartet, a new chamber music organisation which ought to do well.

The controversy over the question of musical examinations in Australia has, it appears, had a somewhat unfortunate sequel in the shape of threats of legal proceedings on the part of Trinity College, London, in respect of what that institution regards as reflections upon itself uttered in the course of the discussion. The following letter has, I understand, been addressed to Professor Franklin Peterson, Ormond Professor of Music at Melbourne University, and the leader of the "Australia for the Australians" movement, in this matter:—

Abchurch House, Sherborne Lane,
King William Street.
January 18, 1907.

Sir,—We have been consulted by Trinity College of Music, London, the members of its board, and its head officials, with reference to the defamatory statements made by you in a speech delivered in the Town Hall, Melbourne, on April 25 last, at the Conference of University Delegates representative of Australia and New Zealand, when you stated, amongst other matters, that Trinity College of Music was a mere commercial undertaking, owning no responsibility except to its shareholders, and that it came under the Trading Companies law, and had to put "Limited" on all its publications.

As there is not, and was not, the slightest justification for your unwarrantable attack on a great public institution and its members and officials, we are instructed to call upon you to immediately and unconditionally withdraw the statements complained of, and also to publish a full and unqualified retractation and apology (to be settled by us) in such Australian, New Zealand, and London papers as our clients may determine upon, and also to pay the costs and expenses of such respective publications and our clients' costs of and incidental to this application, and of the said retractation and apology

Should you decline . . . . an action for slander will be commenced against you without further notice.

(Signed) Phillips and Cummings.

To this Professor Peterson replied:—

March 13, 1907.

My letter of the 12th September, addressed to Trinity College, London, disclaimed responsibility for the statements in the *Age* of the date you mention (the letter was duly acknowledged), and on more than one occasion I have publicly denied making any such statements as that Trinity College is a Limited Liability Company, owning no responsibility except to its shareholders, or that it is compelled to put "Limited" on all its publications. I may refer you to, *e.g.*, the *Musical News* of October 20, 1906.

The history of Trinity College is, of course, well known. As originally constituted, it was, in fact, a limited liability company, and if any remarks similar to those quoted were made in regard to it, they were doubtless uttered by some one who had this circumstance in mind. In 1896 it was reconstituted, and in its present form it is not a limited company. Also it is well known that for many years now it has been doing much useful work. In fact, it is in a position which should enable it to disregard such polemical utterances as those cited, and doubtless after Professor Peterson's explanation the matter will be allowed to drop.

Among forthcoming concerts, quite the most interesting will be the Charles Santley Jubilee Concert at the Albert Hall on Wednesday next. Mr. Santley will be assisted on this occasion by some of the most distinguished artists of the time, vocal and instrumental, as well as the London Symphony Orchestra. During the performance a presentation will be made to Mr. Santley on behalf of the Charles Santley Jubilee Testimonial Fund, of which Lord Kilmorey is the hon. secretary.

May 8 is the date which has now been fixed for the production of Strauss's "Salomé" in Paris at the Châtelet Theatre. There was some difficulty at first, it may be recalled, over the requirements of the Société des Auteurs Dramatiques, one of whose rules forbids its members to take part in any performances of their own works at theatres with which they may be connected as managers or otherwise. The proviso is devised in the interests of authors and to prevent those in authority from utilising their positions to push their own works, but Strauss scented danger in it. As he put it:—

If the society saw fit it could forbid me to direct "Salome" at the Berlin Royal Opera. To be sure, my representative in Paris assures me that these statutes are not to be taken in a strictly literal sense, but as being friendly to the authors. He is not, however, in a position to procure for me a written assertion that this is so from the society, and my good judgment tells me that in a contract which binds my family for fifty years after my death it is not prudent to leave it to the will of the society whether or not they will some day use their legal powers.

From the fact that the performance has now been definitely announced it would seem that the difficulty has been overcome.

Following up previous successes in the same town, the Moody-Manners Opera Company are giving in Sheffield this week another series of special performances for the benefit of local charities. By the amalgamation of two of their companies, an orchestra of sixty and a chorus of nearly one hundred have been obtained, the works to be given consisting of "Aïda," "Lohengrin," "The Flying Dutchman," "Faust," "Tannhäuser," "Madama Butterfly," and "La Bohème"—a selection which could hardly be bettered by Covent Garden. What is so singular concerning opera in the provinces is that whereas some towns take to it with the greatest enthusiasm, in others perhaps not fifty miles distant precisely the opposite condition of things will rule. Thus, Glasgow is, I believe, excellent from the touring companies' point of view, while Edinburgh is hopeless. Each centre seems, in fact, to be a law unto itself in this.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

matter, so that crowded houses at Sheffield may be followed by a dismal frost at Leeds or Bradford. What is the explanation of this curious state of things?

"John Coates has returned from opera in Germany to concerts in England." Thus a recent advertisement. Is there anything more intended by the form of it than meets the eye? Are we invited, that is to say, to note the fact that whereas in Germany this popular singer finds success on the operatic stage, in his native land he is condemned to concerts? I do not know. I only ask for information. Anyhow, there would seem to be no doubt that Mr. Coates has once again found no little favour with his German hearers. Cologne was the place this time, and "Romeo and Juliet" one of the operas. "The way in which he used his voice and made it subservient to the work of art, his acting supported by his heroic and elegant appearance, vocally especially—a high compass, full of brilliance along with the vivacity of his passionate acting—all merit unreserved praise." Thus the *Kölnische Zeitung*, and if the syntax is doubtful the meaning is not. Mr. Coates may certainly be congratulated on having made such a good impression on his German hearers.

It is a pity that the recent case involving the question of the right to express disapproval of a public performance was not fought out, since thereby we might have obtained an interesting judicial decision on a point of no little interest. Perhaps it has been decided already. If not, it certainly ought to have been. Arguments may be adduced on both sides. In the recent case, counsel for the gentleman who hissed, and thereby got himself ejected, pleaded that, as the management did not object to applause, they had no right to resent demonstrations of the other sort; and the magistrate seemed disposed to take this view, though he eventually suggested a compromise and thereby escaped the responsibility of definitely committing himself. Yet there is certainly room for discussion as to the soundness of this reasoning. Thus the manager might argue that while he took no exception to a form of demonstration which did him no harm, he was not bound on this account to put up with that which tended to injure his business. One may accept a good without recognising a corresponding obligation to withstand a wrong. I imagine, however, that if the case had gone on, the disturber of the peace would have proved his case. Perhaps we are too chary as a rule of exercising our rights in this respect.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—In reading Mr. Lonsdale Ragg's "Dante and his Italy" (1) I recalled the following fine passage from "Froude's History":—

> And now it is all gone—like an unsubstantial pageant faded—and between us and that mediæval age there lies a gulf of mystery which the prose of the historian will never adequately bridge. They cannot come to us, and our imagination can but feebly penetrate to them. Only among the aisles of our cathedrals, only as we gaze upon their silent figures sleeping on their tombs, some faint conceptions float before us of what these men were when they were alive; and perhaps in the sound of church bells, that peculiar creation of mediæval age, which falls upon the ear like the echo of a vanished world."

Dante's "Inferno," *e.g.*, seems to us to-day, so far as its horrors are concerned, as much a nightmare of the imagination as Beckford's "Vathek"; yet Mr. Lonsdale Ragg's learned work suggests to you that when Dante said in a letter, "I found the original of my Hell in the world which we inhabit," he was uttering an unexaggerated truth. In fact, Dante modelled his Inferno upon the ideas of some of the gentlemen he placed there. Take, *e.g.*, Frederic II., whom Dante places in the red-hot tomb of the heretics, and his son-in-law, Ezzelino da Romano, who in the Inferno is immersed up to his coal-black locks in the boiling blood of Phlegethon, both are simply suffering the torments they delighted, when on earth, to inflict. "An eternity of torture," says Mr. Lonsdale Ragg of Ezzelino da Romano, "could not be too much for a man who had burned alive eleven thousand citizens, to the accompaniment of songs and military sports; who had literally blotted out all the noblest and most prosperous families in his dominions, sparing neither age nor sex, and subjecting his victims often to outrage worse than death itself." What an Irish Catholic bishop once said of some heretic, that "hell was not hot enough, nor eternity long enough" to punish the heinousness of his heresy, Dante and his contemporaries, not unnaturally, thought of such wretches as Ezzelino da Romano. Nor was his father-in-law, Frederic, much less diabolical.

> There was a famous diver, named Nicola, who, to please Frederic, performed prodigies of strength and skill in the dangerous waters of the Messina Strait. After a lengthy performance he declared that he had come to the end of his strength. Frederic, for whom he had already fetched up a gold cup thrown into the depths of the whirlpool, promptly sent him again to see him drown. Another story tells of a physiological experiment performed on two of his faithful knights, to whom he first gave an excellent dinner together, and then sent one off for a hard day's hunting, and put the other to rest on soft couches. All this that, by a most inhuman act of vivisection, he might compare the results in each case upon the human digestion!

An even more characteristic product, perhaps, of the age which inspired the Inferno was the Archbishop of Ravenna and Legate in Lombardy, who in his youth was rejected by a Toledo necromancer as too mild to be an apprentice to the Black Art. "You Lombards," he said to the future archbishop, after he had tested him and found him wanting in ferocity, "you Lombards are not made for the Black Art. Leave it to us Spaniards, who have more of the ferocity of the demon about us." The necromancer recommended his would-be apprentice to enter the Church as the milder of the two intermediaries between this world and the other, prophesying for him more success in theology than in necromancy. The Christian mildness of the boy stood him in such good stead that he became Archbishop and Legate, with despotic power over his dependants. How he used this power you can infer from the following instances of its exercise:—

> A servant forgot to put in the salt when the archbishop was starting for a river expedition to his country seat. The culprit was bound with a cord, flung into the water, and dragged all day long at the tail of the barge. Another member of his household he caused to be tied to a large spit and roasted slowly before the fire, while the rest stood weeping for very pity. A third, whom he accused of "wasting his goods," he threw into a dungeon to be devoured by rats. And these are but instances of numerous cruelties exercised by the archbishop on "those who were of his family."

For less offences—for such an offence, *e.g.*, as a false accusation—a man might be, and was, in that age, first flayed alive and then burnt alive! In a word, you have but to read Mr. Lonsdale Ragg's extremely interesting and suggestive picture of life in Italy in Dante's day to understand the poet's pleasure in creating such an Inferno as the most appropriate place for the gentry he consigned to it.

M. R. Huchon's "Mrs. Montagu" (2) is a Frenchman's natural and graceful tribute to a lady who was French in her *esprit*, and who emulated in London the example set her in Paris by Mmes. du Tencin, du Deffand, and Geoffin, of instituting salons where conversation took the place of card-playing. Mrs. Montagu is always associated in my mind with the peacock hangings of her own salon. She was vain, showy, and shallow, though unquestionably bright and witty. She was thoroughly French in her power of converting the solid meat she found in such critics as Johnson into light and exquisite dishes, and was yet more French in her readiness and wit. Could anything be readier than her witty retort to M. Suard of the French Academy, who said to her, apropos of Voltaire's "most blackguard and abusive in-

(1) "Dante and His Italy." By Lonsdale Ragg B.D. With Twenty-two Illustrations. (London: Methuen and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

(2) "Mrs. Montagu and Her Friends." By R. Huchon. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

(3) "Beside Still Waters." By Arthur Christopher Benson. (London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

(4) "Under the Pompadour." A Romance. By E. W. Jennings. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

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vective against Shakespeare," which she had just listened to, "Je crois, Madame, que vous êtes un peu fachée de ce que vous venez d'entendre." "Moi, Monsieur! Point du tout. Je ne suis pas amie de Monsieur Voltaire." Again, in allusion to Voltaire's plagiarism of Shakespeare, she said, when D'Argental's description of that poet's works—"un enorme fumier"—was quoted to her: "Ce malheureux fumier avait engraissé une terre ingrate." What a contrast between her style at its worst and that of Fanny Burney, from whom M. Huchon quotes the following characteristic description of sweeps:—"Those hapless artificers who perform the most abject offices of any authorised calling, in being the active guardians of our blazing hearths." Fanny delivered herself of this sentence apropos of Mrs. Montagu's last convivial party to chimney-sweeps with which the Queen of the Bluestockings wound up a life of numberless charities and lavish hospitalities.

I have not often read a book with an apter title than Mr. Arthur Christopher Benson's "Beside Still Waters" (3). They are the essays of a man who has been in the mad race and rush of life, has seen its futility, and stepped aside to commune with his own heart in stillness. His communings may not be either practical or profound, but they are delicately and eloquently expressed, and the expression is that of a philosophy which will appeal to an ever-growing audience. Even those condemned to live, and, by a still deeper damnation, compelled to enjoy life in that "dreadful obsession, London," can understand and sympathise with Hugh Neville's problems and perplexities, and even with his solution of them in his discovery of the great secret of happiness: "To be sincere and loving and quiet, that was the ineffable secret; not to scheme for fame or influence, or even for usefulness; to receive as in a channel the strength and sweetness of God." Such is the Quietist moral of these introspective essays, and even those whose lot or even liking has led them to live in a crowd and as the crowd, must feel sufficient dissatisfaction with the result in happiness to make them love to linger if only in thought with Hugh Neville "beside still waters." You are transported far enough from still waters in Mr. Jennings' "Under the Pompadour" (5), which is almost bewildering in the number and variety of its characters and of its incidents. In a word, if you are in a mood for a stirring story of smugglers, highwaymen, press-gangs, intrigues, and treacheries, hair-breadth escapes, and harrowing recaptures, etc., by all means read "Under the Pompadour.'—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

Mr. Frederic Villiers' "Peaceful Personalities and Warriors Bold" (Harper and Brothers, price 10s. 6d. net) is an eminently entertaining book of reminiscences. In what he describes as his "vagrant wanderings" in different parts of the world during the last thirty years or so, the famous war artist-correspondent has made the acquaintance of a host of distinguished and remarkable men, and gathered a rich store of personal impressions and anecdotes. His recollections of his campaigns since the days of the Russo-Turkish war, in which he began his career, would alone have provided Mr. Villiers with ample materials for a readable book, but peace scarcely less than war has favoured him with varied and interesting experiences. His memoirs are illustrated from his own sketches.

Just now the Empire is so much with us in the newspapers, we are so surfeited with speeches and gorged with leading articles, that I am a little doubtful whether this is an opportune moment for mentioning any book on the same theme. Still, it ought to be, if the Conference is making any real impression on the public mind and bringing about—as we are assured is the case—a more serious study of the questions with which it is concerned. In this connection Mr. Walter Meakin's volume, "The Life of an Empire," recently published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, price 6s., is well worthy of attention. He sketches the growth and present organisation of the British Empire, and discusses the diverse and complicated political and social problems which confront it in different parts of the world, in a manner at once interesting and instructive, though one may not necessarily agree with all his views. In regard to Imperial Federation, for example, Mr. Meakin seems to have an imperfect conception of the difficulties that stand in the way of any possible scheme.

Probably the very title of M. André Siegfried's book, "The Race Question in Canada" (Eveleigh Nash, price 7s. 6d.) will come as a shock to a good many readers here, it is so often assumed that all differences between English and French Canadians have been obliterated and the two races united in one happy family. M. André Siegfried deals with the question from the point of view of a Frenchman, but with an evident desire to be just to the British, whose supremacy in the Dominion is, he admits, assured not only by mere numbers, but by the weight of history, economic forces, and social forces. "Canada will not become French again." In a struggle between two types of civilisation the English has been victorious because, though "commoner and more material," it was incontestably better adapted for the needs of a new country. The author thinks that Canada will remain indefinitely a British colony. Canadians, English and French alike, will not hear of annexation to the United States. "It is not the American nation that menaces the Canadian nation; rather, it is the American form of civilisation that threatens to supplant the British." The book should be read by all who wish to obtain a clear understanding of the political situation and outlook in the Dominion.

One of the most valuable books about our Eastern Empire that has appeared for a long time past is Abdullah Yusuf Ali's "Life and Labour of the People of India" (Murray, price 12s. net). The author, a member of the Indian Civil Service, gives a singularly well-written and interesting description of the life of the people in town and village, their customs and habits, social tendencies, and economic condition, and on the subject of education he has some especially illuminating chapters. The volume is illustrated.

In "The Real Australian" (Fisher Unwin, price 6s.) Mr. Alfred Buchanan attempts "to mirror in some fashion the social life, the literary life, the individual life, the present day life of a developing Continent and four millions of people." Globe-trotting authors have essayed the task after a hurried visit of a few weeks. Mr. Buchanan is not an author of that class, but a resident who writes of Australian characteristics and aspirations with knowledge and insight.

"Merry Garden and Other Stories" is the title of a new volume by "Q." (Mr. A. T. Quiller-Couch) which Messrs. Methuen and Co. are publishing. The same firm announce a cheap edition of Miss G. E. Mitton's "Jane Austen and Her Times," which first appeared a few months ago.

Many readers will remember a beautiful book about country life entitled, "Idlehurst," by John Halsham, which was published several years ago. Mr. Halsham is publishing with Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. this week a new volume, "Lonewood Corner: A Countryman's Horizon," which may be regarded as a counterpart to "Idlehurst," although it follows its predecessor at a safe distance. There are natural differences in the outlook now and then, and the author has intended his spy-glass to take in a wider sweep of the horizon.

In a handsome volume, price one guinea net, Messrs. Cassell and Co. have published a revised and enlarged edition of Mr. R. Kearton's "British Birds' Nests." One of the new features is a series of fifteen beautiful coloured plates of typical birds' eggs, and there are, in addition, six Rembrandt plates of birds and over 400 half-tone illustrations from photographs taken direct from nature by Messrs. Richard and Cherry Kearton. When it first appeared Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, of the British Museum of Natural History, described this as an epoch-making work, and, in the eleven years which have since elapsed, the Messrs. Kearton have secured a great number of additional photographs of rare birds and nests. The book will interest and delight every student of ornithology.

"A Free Solitude," by Alice Perrin (Chatto and Windus, 2s. 6d. net), is an admirable picture of the corner of life which the author has made peculiarly her own. The solitude is the Siwâla Valley, a paradise for sportsmen lying among the southern spurs of the Himalayas, where Benjamin Wade has settled down to a contented existence. Into the paradise enters a serpent, feminine naturally, to destroy his serenity. Under her influence he is about to end his peaceful and beneficent life when fate intervenes. It is not the happiest intervention possible, but it suffices. Mrs. Perrin has many delightful descriptions of life in the Siwâla Valley, and in particular the picture of the family life of an Eurasian household is brilliantly delineated. But the book is chiefly notable for its atmosphere, the intangible something which is the breath of life to the creations of the novelist's brain.

Mrs. Harold Gorst has chosen to follow up the success of "This Our Sister" with another novel in the same vein. "The Soul of Milly Green" (Cassell, 6s.) is an admirably observed study of fatuous femininity. Milly is the spoilt child of the lower middle class. She has been foolishly brought up by an adoring mother, and marries in haste her cousin Arthur. He is a backboneless person, quite incapable of protecting his girl wife from the temptations to which she is exposed, and to which she eventually succumbs. Step by step her progress is traced downwards, until she drops into the abyss which inevitably awaited her. It is a powerful story, realistic in the best sense of the word, and it makes an indisputable appeal to every one who can appreciate truth in their fiction.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Have you ever noticed how different people look from what one would imagine them to be? The most good-natured, kindly face I know belongs to a man who spent most of his life as governor of a prison. Then there is Quentin, who, if the conventions would only oblige him to wear his hair longer, would look the ideal knight of romance, plus his delightful sense of humour, in which some of the troubadours and cavaliers occasionally seemed lacking. Yet Quentin is the shrewd, long-headed man of affairs, strong of will, though gentle and courteous. Then there is that dear little man, Georgicus, who is the very soul of chivalry, but is belied by an almost grotesque appearance. Were he to look what he is, every one would admire and many love him. As it is, no one gives him a second glance. Yet we who know the soul of him not only admire, but reverence him. Outsiders would never suspect that there was anything beyond the merest commonplace residing within the insignificant frame. This is real tragedy in its way; infinitely pitiful.

The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland are always kind in lending Stafford House for charitable functions, and on May 9 a concert will be held there at 3 p.m. in aid of the Royal Ear Hospital. It is under very distinguished patronage, and the artistes include Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Ivor Foster, and Mr. Charles Capper. Tickets, at a guinea and half a guinea, may be obtained from Stafford House.

Another philanthropic forthcoming event is in connection with the Gordon Hospital in Vauxhall Bridge-road. It is to be a sale of work and other useful articles held in the Hospital itself on Tuesday, June 11. This is under the immediate patronage of Princess Victoria and Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, the Ranee of Sarawak, the Duchess of Rutland, and many other ladies of exalted position. Money is wanted for the sadly needed renovation of the wards, and it is hoped that the sale may produce a goodly sum. It will be opened by the Ranee of Sarawak, and the two sister Princesses have promised to be present. Lord Buchan, President of the Hospital, is also taking a lively interest in the sale.

When cows first heard that they were to be milked by machinery they must have had a horrid shock. They are not unacquainted with machines. Have they not seen a steam-plough careering round the fields, and breathing noisily the while? They must also have watched the grass being slain by a steam-mower, and these performances could not fail to shake the poor cows to the very soul with an agonised prophetic tremor at the idea of anything so coercive being applied to themselves. I see that in America one of these machines enables the operator to milk two cows at once.

Marvellous country, America! Did you see that an American wife applied for a divorce because she could not stand her husband's jokes? I thought of this the other day when at luncheon we made the acquaintance of a man whose whole conversation was a series of ancient anecdotes and remarks that he evidently intended to be facetious, for he laughed heartily at them himself. At first I thought he was merely imbecile, and wondered why our charming hostess had invited him to join our fairly intelligent circle. But the poor man was endeavouring to be funny and failing every time. It was then that I remembered the American lady and compassionated her plight, for the judge refused her a divorce, remarking that a man cannot be prevented saying stupid things in his own house. But just imagine what it must be to listen to a succession of banalities at every meal from a man who thinks one has no sense of humour if what he calls jokes do not provoke one's laughter. This man that we met seemed one mass of quotations, producing one at regular intervals like minute guns and applying them in a manner meant to be facetious. He was for ever apostrophising his "prophetic soul," and observing that "by the pricking of his thumbs something wicked this way comes" whenever anyone entered the room. You probably know the type. It seems such pure waste to spend half an hour in the company of a man whose spirit is so dilapidated. When we were leaving, my hostess said in a low voice: "I'm afraid Mr. —— has bored you. He's rather silly, but he's very rich, and he is looking for a wife."

I suppose he will find one. A rich man has not often much difficulty in doing so. But just think of what it would be to be married to a package of hackneyed quotations and worn-out old jokes. I really think I should prefer a barrel organ playing all day in the house.

Does your laundress ever lose your things? We had an experience of the kind some time ago, and are rather glad now that it so happened, since it led to our making a change, and discovering a much more satisfactory laundry than we ever had before, the Britannia Hygienic Laundry Company, the works of which are in Gowlett-road, East Dulwich, but it has several branches. Not only do they wash clothes admirably, but they clean or dye costumes, blouses, skirts, dressing gowns, golf capes, feathers, stoles, boas, hats, men's suits and overcoats, and all kinds of curtains, hangings, carpets, etc. Silk, satin, or velvet gowns are dry-cleaned, and the Hygienic Laundry makes a specialty of cleaning officers' dress, undress, and mess uniforms, and also hunting coats, which, as you know, get sadly splashed and stained in bad weather. Even furs are beautifully cleaned by this capital laundry, which also undertakes to repair and re-line them. White or light coloured shoes are cleaned, as well as gloves. This is pretty complete, isn't it? The beauty of it is that with the dry cleaning process it is unnecessary to unpick the garment. I always think that many a gown that would be well worth the cost of being cleaned would never repay the additional expense of being re-made. Don't you?

I almost forgot to say that they clean holland blinds, eiderdown quilts, and tapestry table covers, and glaze

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chintz; all those little etceteras that bother one so every now and then, and which it is such a comfort to send away with the washing on a Monday instead of making into parcels, tying them up, addressing them, and getting the carriers to call for them.

We are going on May 10 to hear a lecture by Mr. Oliver Bainbridge, traveller and explorer, on Native Life and Customs in Southern Seas, illustrated by pictures. It is to be at the Society of Arts, John-street, Adelphi, under the auspices of the Society of Women Journalists. How I wish the owners of the Hall would alter its decorations. The mysterious mural painting that disfigures it at present is unintelligible to most persons, including your cousin Madge. Besides, it is extremely hideous, with all due respect to the Society of Arts.

What a bold spirit has she who ventures to choose a man's tobacco for him! And even bolder still—his ties! I was with Sybilla the other day, when she blithely stepped into a tobacconist's shop and bought cigars as a birthday present for Jack. She spent a couple of sovereigns on them, and I silently wondered what Jack would really think of them. I pondered the question whether, in the event of their turning out his very particular detestation in tobacco, he would sacrifice himself, as a woman probably would, and smoke them. I admit that such a course of conduct is a great mistake. Would it not lead to future presents of a similar kind? And yet what courage would be needed to reveal the truth? "My dear Sybilla, it was most kind and thoughtful of you to buy me these, but I must be honest and tell you I would not smoke them for a kingdom!" Poor Sybilla! She has all the rashness of the newly-married. But time will cure her, with the help of what may be described as a firm and judicious husband. Jack is very good, and very conscious of being very good—in fact, he ought not to be called Jack, but John.

I say again, poor Sybilla!

Among other responsibilities which have to be brought to the door of bridge is that of people having to consume tea full of tannin. Whatever time tea may be served, there are sure to be some players who must just finish the rubber, which often means a matter of a quarter of an hour or more. Result: tannin tea—otherwise slow poison. Now, I do not want to poison my bridge enemies, let alone my bridge friends, and I have been worrying myself how to get over this tannin tea trouble. Ingenuity and invention have come to my aid. Some clever person has invented an anti-tannin teapot. It is quite a lovely invention. The pot is divided into two sections, and the tea-leaves are held suspended, which not only prevents them from stewing, but also prevents them from getting into the spout. The pot, too, pours so beautifully, which is such an advantage when one is "negotiating" for a big party. I am very proud of my Lyceum tea-pot, which is the name given to my newly discovered treasure.

Vanishing London is disappearing so rapidly that we hardly have time to say farewell to our pet bits before they are gone. Mrs. Baillie Saunders, author of the prize novel, "Saints in Society," has collected in a booklet some very interesting recollections of Marylebone during the last fifty years. It is difficult to realise that in 1857 many of the smaller shops were still lighted by candles, and that counters had not only to be set back but hollowed out to leave room for the crinolines! In a draper's shop in Marylebone High-street three ladies so filled the available space that to let one out the other two had to leave the shop! Hertford House was then a quaint white house embowered in trees, to which Louis Philippe fled in 1848 disguised as a sailor. Manchester-street boasted a fine row of elm trees as a boundary to its pavement, and a wooden hustings stood at the end of Portland-place. Mrs. Baillie Saunders tells a delightful story of Gladstone, who, when his house in Harley-street was attacked one Sunday by thousands of working men, who were only driven off by a double line of mounted police, gazed upon the débris of his hall, and wearily remarked that "the mob had broken the Sabbath!"

Useful though we find American colloquialisms, we still use them in inverted commas, and bar them from the serious press. In fact, we use them as slang, but across the Atlantic they are part of the language. In a serious account of a concert in Boston, a paper of that city says "the *nub* of the concert was the Grieg concerto with Katharine Goodson as the pianist," and goes on to say of her that "the tremendous technique was only a means to an end; *back of it* were poetry and musicianally (*sic*) intelligence." These phrases would not be admissible here. By the way, throughout the tour from which Miss Goodson has just returned, the press has sounded a curious note. After exhausting the vocabulary of appreciation, the notices nearly all remark that "her performance was a revelation to many whose preconceived notions of English virtuosi have been formed from the performances of 'favourite' English singers," or "her reception by her associate players showed that her advance heralding was unlike that of some artists from across the sea, where more fancy than fact appeared in the preliminary notices." If this is really so, it is fortunate that Miss Goodson has gone to redeem the musical honour of England.

How we are advancing in the great business of dining and lunching well in London. I do not say that we have an *embarras de richesse*. This there cannot be in a city of millions, to say nothing of a city of millionaires, as there is room for all who will cater for our requirements in the way of food. Even in the matter of mere feeding every one likes a change, and a change, too, not only in what is actually consumed, but in the surroundings amidst which one consumes it. The surroundings are, in the present day, almost as important as the food, for unless they are agreeable, a good dinner cannot be appreciated—to say nothing of digested, or even enjoyed. I am, therefore, going to give you a hint, which I know you will find valuable, and for which I also know you will thank me. Try the Hotel Dieudonné, in Ryder-street, St. James's, and if you are not more than satisfied—well, I will give you a luncheon at Pearce and Plenty's, as it will be evident that you prefer quantity to quality, the rough-and-ready to the delicately refreshing and refined. M. Guffanti, the energetic proprietor, has just had the whole place redecorated in the best taste, and the food is what it always has been—as good as you can get anywhere. It is a great advantage, for the eye to be at rest and the body comfortable, while the inner man—or woman—is being more than satisfied and gratified. This you will get at Ryder-street, and you need not be a millionaire to enjoy it.

I have received the following from Mona:—

My Dear Madge,—Chrysanthemums in small pots are, as you say, most useful for room decoration—ordinary plants are much too big, except for corners or a few special positions—but you cannot produce them satisfactorily by the means you suggest, which practically amounts to starvation. If you attempt to keep in small pots plants raised from cuttings at the usual time—in December or January—they will still grow, but the growth will be thin and weak, and the flowers will be small and worthless. There are several methods of producing these charming dwarf chrysanthemums. One of the best for the present time is to select plants which have made their first "break," to wait until their shoots are long enough to use as cuttings, and then to strike them in the greenhouse. As soon as they are rooted they should be potted separately, and eventually transferred to six-inch pots. They will need very careful watering during the summer, for, of course, the soil naturally gets dry more quickly in pots of this size than it does in larger ones. Each should be allowed to carry only a single flower at the extremity of the shoot, but with good cultivation it will be large. This method is recommended by one

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of the leading growers in the kingdom. By another method which you may try later in the year—in August—even smaller plants with large flowers may be obtained in three-inch pots. It involves sacrificing a big plant or two, but that does not matter, as several can be set aside for the purpose. When the buds have been "secured"—a technical expression which means selecting those that are to be left for growing into flowers, and rubbing off all the others—a notch is cut in each stem, about eight inches below the bud on it. The stem is then slit at the notch in the same way as carnations are for layering, and a small pot broken in halves down the middle is fitted round it, supported by being tied to a stick and filled with moist sandy soil. As soon as roots have formed, the stem is severed immediately below the pot. These cuttings make delightful little plants. People who do not know how it is done wonder how they have been grown to carry such large flowers.

At the same time, I must confess that we often treat our chrysanthemums in a very unnatural way. If you have read Miss Jekyll's "Wood and Garden," you may remember how she worried the exhibitor of an artificially trained plant, and how he could only say, "Well, they think it a nice variety." "And when I press him further," she goes on, "and say I consider it a very nasty variety, and does he think nasty varieties are better than none, the question is beyond him, and he smiles vaguely and edges away, evidently thinking my conversation perplexing and my company undesirable." There can be no question that while flower shows have their advantages, they are also responsible for much that is wrong in horticulture—for stiffness of form, crudeness of colouring, and especially the craze for size. Unfortunately, the chrysanthemum lends itself readily to such extravagances. Whether, when we got it from the Japanese, we adopted their treatment of it, I do not know, but in their country formality reigns supreme. I have been reading, in the Royal Horticultural Society's Journal, a very interesting article on the subject, by a Japanese writer, Mr. N. Hayashi. Nothing, I gather from it, is left to the individuality of the cultivator; nothing is allowed for the individuality of the plant; every detail is governed by conventional rules, which are as rigid as the laws of the Medes and Persians were. There must be something lacking in Eastern races, something which makes them distrust their powers of initiative, something which causes them to dread exceptions. And in the cultivation of chrysanthemums, no exceptions are permitted; all, according to the method selected, are grown precisely alike. There is the single stem method, similar to our own for exhibition, with one huge flower, but the petals must conform to definite rules as to shape, number, curve, and so forth. These plants attain an extraordinary size, often sixteen or seventeen feet high. But it is in the method called zukuri, or giant plant, that conventionality reaches its extreme limits. The object here is to produce on each plant 1,080 flowers, no more (quite enough, one would think) and no less. This is managed by stopping it first, so as to cause eight shoots to break; each of these is stopped so as to produce three; each of these three, and so on (some of the weaker shoots being left alone towards the end), until at last the right number is obtained. "Staking these shoots," we are told, "requires the most skilled management"—a statement easy to believe. I have not mentioned the rules as to manuring, and so forth, but I have said enough to show that gardening of that pattern might as well be done by a machine. And that is really the criticism which might be applied to many of our own exhibition plants—they look as if they were machine-grown.

It is time that you were making preparations for getting your early-struck chrysanthemums into their flowering pots. The first week in May, or even the second, will be soon enough, but everything should be got ready. For drainage, many of the large growers use old mortar or crushed oyster shells, as the lime which they contain is beneficial to the plants. The finer portion is mixed with the soil, and the coarser put at the bottom of the pots. A mixture of fibrous loam, leaf mould, and coarse sand, with a little crushed charcoal and a sprinkling of any good artificial fertiliser, makes an excellent soil. It should be moist enough to hold together when pressed in the hand, but not so moist that it will not crumble easily, and it should be rammed lightly into the pot with a wooden rammer. This is important, for if the soil is loose the growth is soft and sappy, an unfavourable condition for the production of good flowers. For them, you want short-jointed hard wood. For this reason, too, the plants must have as much light and air as possible. If they are in a cold frame, the glass should now be off all night, as well as all day, unless severe frost threatens. Or they may be stood outside, with a framework of poles round them, so that mats can be hung over them in case of need.—Your affectionate cousin, Mona.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

My Dearest Madge,—Great social quiet reigned here last week, the inevitable reaction after the strenuous Punchestown week. It was just as well that it should be so, for the strenuousness of the weather, in keeping with everything else during the week, left an aftermath which included many aches, pains, and catarrhs, to say nothing of more serious ills of the kind. However, those who are inured to open-air pastimes in woful weather must also further inure themselves to their consequences. We women are such offenders in the matter of bringing evil on ourselves that we ought to have acquired the habit of bearing it with a good grace. How absolutely reckless of consequences most of us are where fashion is concerned. Think of the very ignoble army of martyrs that have been, are, and seemingly always will be, in the cause of the small waist. What suffering and distress are endured in the present, with a certainty in the future of greater evils. One wonders how the idea of an hour glass figure ever caught on with women. It is so much against every ideal of beauty and health. It can hardly be supposed that its gruesome association—a suitable one, too, unfortunately—with Death, had anything to do with the matter. Fred always says, when he notes any of my friends compressed within the limits of seventeen-inch waists, or even less, that they are "waisting away."

The Spring Cattle Show of the Royal Dublin Society, held at Ball's Bridge, made Dublin full last week. Lord Ardilaun, the president of the society, came from the country for the occasion and received the Lord-Lieutenant when he paid a State visit to the show. All the light and leading amongst those who farm were present, and our sex were well represented. Do you not think that the sight of hundreds of fat cattle is enough to make one take to the "simple life"? How horrible to think that these unwieldy-looking beasts are being fattened up for us to eat. There is something so savage and unrefined in the thought of eating meat when it is brought before us so realistically. However, we had horses to look at and jumping competitions in the enclosure, and over here we never tire of the horse in all his circumstances.

Lord Aberdeen left Ireland at the end of the week, going to London for the marriage of his son this week. Lady Aberdeen remains at the Viceregal Lodge, the weather having been too

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bad to allow of her going with Lord Aberdeen. Although very well now she has to guard against a return of her illness. How terribly recurrent the chills and colds of this year have been. Lady Liverpool was laid up for a long time at Dublin Castle, and has only lately been able to move to her father's place at Enniskerry for change of air. Lord Liverpool is not as yet going to give up his place of Lord Chamberlain in the Viceregal household. Mr. Birrell has lent him his official residence in the Phœnix Park for a few months, as the Chief Secretary's Parliamentary duties will not allow him to take up his residence there until the end of the session.

Next week the Irish International Exhibition will be opened with much ceremonial by Lord and Lady Aberdeen, who will be accompanied by a large Viceregal suite. It has sailed through troubled waters from the first moment of its inception, for which reason we think it may possibly prove a great success. Things over here, which, like the course of true love, never run smooth, frequently triumph in the end, also like true love. We like a bit of a struggle about most things, it is our way; we rarely miss an opportunity in that direction. And after all, opposition is the best tonic in the world, the greatest stimulant to the energy which leads to success. The weather has been mostly in such a mood of severity during April that we feel justified in nourishing hopes that May will come to us with a smiling face. We expect many visitors to our island from across many waters; on the whole, if there is anything left of us to be discovered we shall, no doubt, be fully found out this year.

The Royal visit will bring many again to Dublin; there is always excitement attendant on the movements of the Kings and Queens, who, even in a democratic age, excite human interest more than any other human beings, however great or gifted, as their position makes them, in a manner, supernatural. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire are coming to spend some weeks in Ireland, at Lismore Castle, their beautiful place on the Blackwater. Lord and Lady Londonderry are expected to return to Mount Stewart, in Down, about Whitsuntide. Lord and Lady Shaftesbury have been staying at their residence overlooking Belfast and its Lough. Lord Shaftesbury has to do his duties in the northern capital this year as its Lord Mayor. Lord Hemphill has been spending the Easter holidays at his residence in Merrion Square. Lady Plunket, who lately gave birth to a baby in Dublin, will shortly visit her mother, the Dowager Lady Dufferin, at Clandeboye, where Lady Hermione Blackwood is also staying.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Here are a couple of recipes for you. The first is potted veal:—

Use any veal that has been nicely cooked, beat it into a paste with a little butter. Season it with pepper, salt, and grated nutmeg, then add a little rasped cooked ham. Press it down into pots, and cover it over with clarified butter.

The other, petits pains de Merlan à la Riviera:—

Pound 8 oz. of the scraped flesh of whiting, adding 2 oz. of butter, 2 oz. of cold bread sauce, a spoonful of cold white sauce, the yolks of two, and one whole egg, and salt and pepper to season; pass it through a fine wire sieve into a basin, and work in half a gill of very thick cream. Fill six or 8 dariole moulds, previously buttered and decorated with truffle, and, with a teaspoon dipped in hot water, press the centre to form a cavity, which fill with chopped lobster or shrimps, mixed with a little sauce and the yolk of an egg; cover all with the remainder of the farce, twist a buttered paper over them, and steam them for half an hour, without allowing them to boil. Turn them out on a hot dish, garnish the centre with shrimps, scallops of truffle, and mushrooms dressed in a little sauce, pour the remainder of the sauce round.

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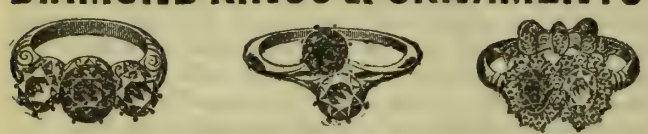

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FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT of

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED

(YOKOHAMA SHOKIN GINKO),

Presented to the Shareholders at the Half-Yearly Ordinary General Meeting, held at the Head Office, Yokohama, on Saturday, March 9, 1907.

Capital Subscribed—Yen 24,000,000. Capital Paid Up—Yen 21,000,000. Reserve Funds—Yen 14,550,000.

President.—KOREKIYO TAKAHASHI, Esq.

Directors.

NAGATANE SOMA, Esq. | KOKICHI SONODA, Esq.
RIEMON KIMURA, Esq. | ROKURO HARA, Esq.
IPPEI WAKAO, Esq. | YUKI YAMAKAWA, Esq.
MASUNOSUKE ODAGIRI, Esq. | VISCOUNT YATARO MISHIMA
TCHUNOSUKE KAWASHIMA, Esq. | HYOKICHI BEKKEY, Esq.

Auditors.

NOBUO TAJIMA, Esq. FUKUSABURO WATANABE, Esq.

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BOMBAY. KOBE. NEWCHWANG. SHANGHAI.
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HANKOW. LYONS. PEKING. TIENTSIN.
HONG KONG. FENGTIEN (Mukden). RYOJUN (Port Arthur). TOKIO.

Head Office.—YOKOHAMA.

GENTLEMEN :—

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

The Directors submit to you the annexed Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank, and of the Profit and Loss Account for the Half-year ending December 31, 1906.

The Gross Profits of the Bank for the past Half-year, including *yen* 793,908.04 brought forward from last Account, amount to *yen* 10,447,288.75, of which *yen* 7,436,141.51 have been deducted for Current Expenses, Interests, &c., leaving a balance of *yen* 3,011,147.24 for appropriation.

The Directors now propose that *yen* 350,000.00 be added to the Reserve Fund, and *yen* 500,000.00 to the Special Reserve Fund. From the remainder the Directors recommend a dividend at the rate of Twelve per Cent. per Annum, which will absorb *yen* 720,000.00 on the old shares and *yen* 540,000.00 on the new shares, making a total of *yen* 1,260,000.00.

The Balance, *yen* 901,147.24, will be carried forward to the credit of next Account.

YUKI YAMAKAWA, Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, March 9, 1907.

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	Y.
Capital paid up	21,000,000.000
Reserve Funds	13,700,000.000
Reserve for Doubtful Debts	32,412.016
Reserve for Depreciation of Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, &c.	202,448.070
Notes in Circulation	7,285,224.088
Deposits (Current, Fixed, &c.)	122,963,332.060
Bills Payable, Bills Rediscounted, Acceptances, and other Sums due by the Bank	109,526,737.071
Dividends Unclaimed	5,277.077
Amount brought forward from last Account	793,908.004
Net Profit for the past Half-year	2,217,289.020
	Yen 277,726,581.032

ASSETS.	December 31, 1906. Y.	Y.
Cash Account—		
In Hand	18,779,045.073	
At Bankers	11,528,692.069	30,307,738.042
Investments in Public Securities		20,623,682.031
Bills discounted, Loans, Advances, &c.		102,195,645.014
Bills receivable and other Sums due to the Bank		121,844,798.037
Bullion and Foreign Money		806,688.060
Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, &c.		1,948,028.048
		Yen 277,726,581.032

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	Y.
To Current Expenses, Interests, &c.	7,436,141.051
To Reserve Fund	350,000.000
To Special Reserve Fund	500,000.000
To Dividend— *yen* 6.000 per Share for 120,000 Old Shares = *yen* 720,000.000; and *yen* 4.950 per Share for 120,000 New Shares = *yen* 540,000.000	1,260,000.000
To Balance carried forward to next Account	901,147.024
	Yen 10,447,288.075

	Y.
By Balance brought forward June 30, 1906	793,908.004
By Amount of Gross Profits for the Half year ending December 31, 1906	9,653,380.071
	Yen 10,447,288.075

We have examined the above Accounts in detail, comparing them with the Books and Vouchers of the Bank and the Returns from the Branches and Agencies, and have found them to be correct. We have further inspected the Securities, &c., of the Bank, and also those held on account of Loans, Advances, &c., and have found them all to be in accordance with the Books and Accounts of the Bank.

NOBUO TAJIMA,
FUKUSABURO WATANABE, } *Auditors.*

London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow

Assurance Company, Limited.

Established 1881.

A Comparison of the 16th with the 26th Year.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

	1896.	1906.
Number of Policies issued	1,423	2,959
Sums Assured	£134,362	£267,221
New Annual Premium	£7,241	£14,227
Total Premiums received (New & Renewal)	£29,301	£81,084
Total Number of Policies in force at end of year	5,986	18,934
Annual Premiums on Policies in force at end of year	£29,162	£82,450

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

	1896.	1906.
Premium Income for the year	£242,174	£431,656
Policies in force	463,279	730,175
Annual Premiums on Policies in force	£274,216	£473,738

ACCIDENT BRANCH.

	1896.	1906.
New Policies issued	1,097	2,340
New Annual Premiums	£2,886	£6,282
Total Premium Income (New & Renewal)	£11,983	£23,134
	1896.	1906.
Income from Interests, Dividends, & Rents	£5,198	£29,616
	1896.	1906.
Total Assurance Funds on December 31	£140,012	£819,201

ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REQUIRED.
To Suitable Men Good Terms.

Head Office : Insurance Buildings, Farringdon-street, London, E.C., March, 1907. Apply, **THOS. NEILL**, General Manager.

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(LIMITED),

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUISE, DUCHESS OF ARGYLE.
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBURG.
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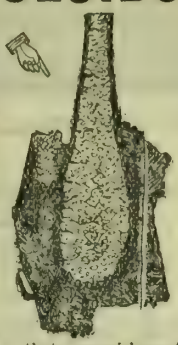

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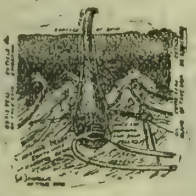

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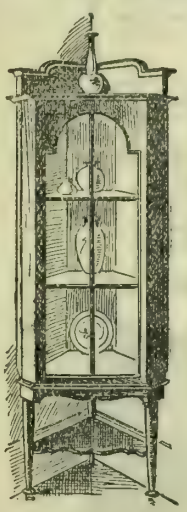

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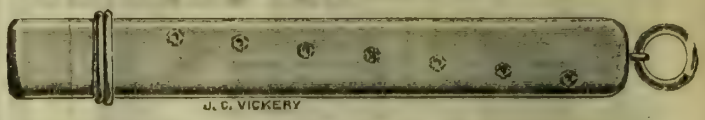

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Fish Napkins, 2/11 per doz.
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Linen Sheeting, 2 yards wide, 1/11 per yard. Surplice Linen, 10½d. per yard. Dusters, from 3/3 per doz. Glass Cloths, 3/11 per doz.

N.B.—To prevent delay, all Letter-orders and Inquiries for Samples of these goods should be sent direct to 40, W. Donegall Place, Belfast.

LETTERS FROM CELEBRITIES.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET ON NERVOUSNESS.

"Industrial Farm Colony,
"Duxhurst,
"April, 1907.

"Dear Friend,—Your letter is one of many which I constantly receive begging me to tell of something which can help to restore tired nerves and over-worn strength, and you ask me to do so because I come in contact with so many who for these very reasons fail in the race of life, having sought the wrong remedy for such loss of nerve-power.

"The description which you give me of your difficulty scarcely varies from that of which I am so often told. Work has become a drudgery, and life a heavy thing. You tell me that you go to bed feeling tired, and that you wake in the morning almost equally tired, that your food is distasteful to you, and that little things which used to sit lightly upon you have become heavy burdens; that even pleasure is toil. I know you have worked hard through many years, and have had much mental strain. This may in a measure account for your weakness, which is not brought about by any condition of actual disease, but which seems to arise from an even greater trouble—namely, that your nerve-force is seriously overspent.

"It is important to understand that in these days of worry and over-excitement, the over-work (mental and physical) to which most of us are subject calls forth an undue expenditure of strength, and that to recuperate the vigour we have lost we must consider what sort of food or remedy we require.

"Of course, the whole question of proper nourishment requires much thought and experience. Many forms of food and many restoratives are recommended, but having had to do with a great many people who have impaired their digestive organs and whose nerve-power has been seriously undermined, I do not think that I have come across anything which I believe a more suitable nutrient for all forms of weakness than Sanatogen. I do not know if you have tried it, but it seems to me, under the conditions such as you have described, an ideal preparation, because it provides a valuable tonic-food in the most suitable form. It consists, I believe, in the nourishing element of pure cows' milk, incorporated with which is a special nerve-tonic containing phosphorus. It has an invigorating power on worn-out nerves, and gives tone to exhausted tissues to a surprising extent. The feeblest system and the poorest digestive organs are able to assimilate it when they can really touch little else. I am strongly of opinion that you cannot do better than begin a course of Sanatogen if you wish to regain your strength.

"Sanatogen undoubtedly restores sleep and invigorates the nerves, and it braces the patient to health, for I have noticed that with the restoration of the digestive organs the mind becomes more quickly active, and work, both mental and physical, becomes more easy, and the freshness and keenness which such people have lost (apparently altogether) return gradually, and bring with them an enjoyment of life and a feeling of hopefulness not hitherto experienced.

"When the body is subjected to a course of Sanatogen the blood condition improves, the skin assumes a more healthy colour, the invigorated nerves are braced to a more healthy tone, and the whole human machinery is made fit for exercise and work and for fulfilling its functions in the most perfect manner. . . . .

Isabella Somerset"

The above is an abstract from a letter addressed by Lady Henry Somerset to an intimate friend. In view of the public interest associated with the subject, the recipient has obtained her Ladyship's gracious permission to make the contents widely known. Additional information on the same subject may be obtained from the Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C. Sanatogen is sold by all chemists, in packets, at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s 6d.

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supplies the nerve cells with health-giving life force, restores strength and induces restful sleep without the use of dangerous drugs.

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,466.

FORECAST OF THE RESULT OF THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE.

The Prize of Two Guineas, in this competition, is awarded to RAM, whose forecast was printed in TRUTH of March 20th last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,475.

It is a long while since I have invited my readers to construct an enigma, so I think, perhaps, that it is now time to set a Puzzle of that character. And I will ask Competitors to take for their model that good and exceptionally clever old enigma, which runs as follows:—

"I went to India. I didn't go there. I stopped there. I came away from there, because I never went there."

ANSWER: A watch.

It will be noticed that the whole point of this enigma lies in the double meaning of which the verb "go" and its tenses, and also the verb "stop," are susceptible. Taking the ordinary primary meaning of these verbs, the enigma makes paradoxical nonsense. Taking the special secondary meaning, it makes excellent sense.

Now there are plenty of other English words which are thus susceptible of a double meaning. And I invite readers of TRUTH to select one or more such and to work them up into an enigma.

Putting it concisely, I offer this week the usual Prize of Two Guineas for

THE BEST ENIGMA, IN NOT MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE WORDS, TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS THE EXAMPLE QUOTED ABOVE.

In order, however, to facilitate the efforts of Competitors, the "double-meaning" words may be any parts of speech, not necessarily verbs—provided the effect of intelligible sense underlying apparent nonsense is produced.

Nor need Competitors' enigmas be in the precise form of the model. All that is required is that they should be on the same principle.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one enigma.
(ii.) Every Competitor must give the solution of his enigma.
(iii.) All enigmas must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, May 6, 1907, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VERBUM SAT.—Many thanks for your letter. I have duly noted the correction.

OISEAU.—I have read your long explanatory letter with great interest. I quite appreciate your point of view and never suspected either you or any other Competitors, who included the name of Jesus Christ in their lists, of irreverence. But at the same time I am convinced that the inclusion of the Masters' name in a Competition of this character would give offence to a large number of readers. And on that ground I decided not to print those lists which mentioned Him.

NESTOR.—I much regret that your solution of our "greatest men" Competition was received too late for inclusion.

DERULA.—You will have seen your name and address printed in last week's TRUTH. The Prize cheques are sent out periodically in batches.

COYOTE (C. S. Bengough).—Will you kindly adopt another *nom-de-plume*, as I find that "Coyote" is already appropriated. You will see I am printing your verses this week over your surname.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 2—SPECIAL FOREIGN.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL PARODY OF TENNYSON'S "BREAK, BREAK, BREAK."

AN ADDRESS TO THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Bore, bore, bore,
'Neath thy old, white cliffs, oh sea;
For in future my bread and butter
Will no more arise in me.

I have seen the fisherman laugh
As he sucked at his well-blacked clay;
I have noted the sailor lad
Take his swig in the alley-way.

And till lately, ships lurch on
With their gurgle and grind and grill.
Forgotten the stench of a varnish can,
And the sound of a voice that is ill.

Bore, bore, bore,
'Neath thy bed of old bones, oh sea;
But the smell of grease, and a dog that is dead
Will no more come over me.

Hakim.

Wake, wake, wake,
Thou island of the free,
For I hear a distant mutter,
From the lands across the sea.

Oh well for the Russian and Pole,
Who all are coming this way,
Oh well for the German Jew,
Who works for half your pay.

And the sweating den goes on
In spite of the "Aliens Bill,"
But where is the work for an English hand
At bench, or saw, or mill?

Wake, wake, wake,
Oh souls of the island free,
Oh, a living wage for ever and aye,
Is lost, lost, lost to thee.

Forzay.

Quake, quake, quake,
Thou men of the Franchise free,
For there comes an exciting flutter
Of femininity.

O well for the lodger bold
Who has things all his way.
O well for the married man,
Whose votes the elections sway.

And the portly brewers smile
As they sign themselves "M.P."
But O! for the vote of the female band,
In the Parliaments to be.

Quake, quake, quake,
Thou men of the House of C——.
The suffragette will triumph yet,
And make short work of thee.

Shaliwar.

On the 27th June, 1888, Lord Randolph Churchill laughed the Channel Tunnel Bill out of the House of Commons.—("Life," Vol. II., p. 381).

Wake, wake, wake,
From thy cold grave, Randolph C.!
For we would that they tongue could utter
Thy thoughts on the Channel T.

O well for the foreigner's joy,
That he shouts at his "ballon d'essai"!
O spell of the traitor fad,
That may bring us to nought in a day!

And it greatly rests upon
Thee, our craven blunder to kill;
But Oh for the touch of a master hand,
And the sound of the Noes to the Bill!

Wake, wake, wake,
Tear the project to rags, R. C.!
Lest a slender space in an ocean bed
Fill with ruin and rack our E.

* Prompted by fear of "mal de mer"?

Makhila.

Wreck, wreck, wreck,
On your blinded course, O Peers;
And I would I could dare to reckon
The scope of my hopes and fears.

Oh well that the Land Purchase Bill
Had appeared in a happier hour;
Oh well for all sweeping schemes
When the Tories themselves are in power!

But the stately farce goes on
When a Liberal rules at the helm,
That similar measures and milder schemes
Must be wrecked "for the good of the realm!"

Wreck, wreck, wreck,
In a blinded party cause,—
Thus hasten the day when the People's House
Will, alone, make the People's Laws.

Entebbe.

ENGLAND.

Awake, awake, awake,
In the old way foams the sea,
And I would that the throng in the gutter
Caught the tide of liberty.

Is it well? For the hitherman's boy,
Flouts our brethren's love of fair pay.
Is it well that the sailor's sad
As he slings in his boat to-day.

And the statesmen's slips go on
In their "havers" over a Bill.
But it's "only more Dutch," to the famished band
Aground on a choice of ill.

Awake, awake, awake,
Look to thy flags o'er sea.
But tender the race: and they when once fed,
Will level some track for thee.

Cus-Cus.

"CULTORES VERITATIS FRAUDIS INIMICI."

(Lines suggested by reading "Thirty Years in TRUTH Office."—TRUTH, Jan. 9, 1907).

Strike, strike, strike,
At abuse and evil, O TRUTH;
And I'm glad to see you still hitting
As hard as you did in youth.

Oh! ill for the Horners and Moyles,
That they feel the full force of your fist.
Oh! ill for the swindling quack
That he enters your Cautionary List.

And libel actions go on
To the same conclusion still.
But oh! for a sight of the vanquished band,
And a peep at the lawyer's bill.

Strike, strike, strike,
At the root of all wrong, O Truth,
For the enduring strength of your paragraphs
Weekly recalls my lost youth. Coyote.

Strike, strike, strike,
At those old, gay drones, M.P.;
And the words that I long to mutter,
Ought not to arise in me.

Oh! well 'twere to wish a man joy
When his Suffragette sister's at bay,
Oh! well to hail her as mad,
When she shrieks for a vote all the day.

And sedately the "Bips" go on
To leaven with blunders the Bill;
But oh! that all such were a banished band,
And their astounding noises were still.

Strike, strike, strike,
And boot out those drones, M.P.;
If you end the days of the House that is head,
Bills never come back to thee. Bengough.

Shake, shake, shake,
In this seismic zone of ours.
Trembling we stand 'midst ruined homes,
Cracked walls and ruined towers.

Oh! well may the Frank and British
Bore a tunnel 'neath the sea.
Oh! well may the Spanish nation
Greet an heir to their dynasty.

With bombs do the Russian eagles
Try to tear themselves apart;
Whilst the ever-thoughtful Fatherland
Trains its youth to the war-like art.

Work, work, work,
Though the tremblings will not cease;
For two cities fair must rise again,
Ere the Pacific may have peace.

Valparaiso.

Break, break, break,
Our battalions both new and old;
To save a few pence to-day,
Oh Haldane, alas! you're too bold.

Army advisers rush on,
Heedless of precedents ill;
Oh for the touch of a Wellington's hand,
The sound of a voice that is still.

Break, break, break,
You'll break our Army, I fear;
Is it well to wait for a war
To show you danger is near?

'Tis well for favour'd men's sons,
'Tis well for titled wife's hub;
What chance has the soldier who works,
For the poor man, Captain, or Sub?

R. Dupp.

TO THE LORDS.

Pause whilst you may
In your headlong rush on fate,
Certain it is that you'll touch bedrock soon
If you go on at this rash rate.

Slow is the tide
But sure, in its ebb and its flow,
And sure is the might of the people when roused,
The people who want to know—

Why should a man
Whose ancestors ruled in the past
Enter by right in the House of the Lords,
Instead of by worth; by votes cast?

Pause whilst you may;
Should they rise in their angry hordes,
Throwing a sop to the people won't stop
The reform of the House of Lords.

River Digger.

Break, break, break,
On the Portsmouth Strand O sea;
Would that my thoughts could utter
What I think of "Down on your knee."

'Tis well for the Mercantile boy,
As he shouts on th' *Exmouth* at play;
'Twas well for the old sailor man
Who fought in Trafalgar Bay.

And *our* stately ships go on,
With most of the fittings ill-found;
Torpedoes, with all hands go down,
And a First-class oft goes aground.

Break, break, break,
Our "Handy Man" down on his knee;
But oh for Nelson again,
Or soon there'll be none go to sea.

Sailor Man.

Break, break, break,
The wastrels in silver and gold;
Oh would that my thoughts dare utter
The reasons why out here we're "sold."

'Tis well if you've money or "favour,"
Or petticoat influence, too;
For others, the chance of a life time
Through merit comes to but few.

Shake the Pagoda by all means,
But mind, native soldiers have pride;
Drilled all day long for a mere song,
Housed where fowls might abide.

Break, break, break,
The hearts of Ghurka and Sikh;
Oh for the help of a Roberts!
Or a Gordon with nought but his stick.

Sikh.

Break, break, break,
On India's shores O sea;
Would that the trees could utter
Our grievances! Ah, me!

'Tis well for the Simla clerk,
And the money'd Sahib at play;
And the Man on the Staff can laugh,
The luck has come his way.

The British officer's life,
Midst fever, cholera, plague,
In a native corps, is hard,
Costs much, with promotion vague.

Break, break, break,
I can't but break I say;
'Twixt servants, and mess, and rent,
There's nothing left of my pay.

Bajana.

Brake, Brake, Brake,
No brake on the Brighton-road;
I heard no shouts of the "bobby"
Concealed in a "trappy" abode.

'Tis well for the villager's boy,
As he shouts at the others at play;
'Tis well for the village infants,
The motor is now safe away.

This motor goes bounding along,
To the ship away by the sea;
Scudding round corners, thro' lanes,
Much too quickly for me.

Brake, Brake, Brake,
When on the parade by the sea;
Safe at old Bacon's again,
The first and the last ride for me.

B. Hive.

Slaves, Slaves, Slaves,
Imported from China's shores,
And I would that my ear could hear
Your ideas of English and Boers.

Oh! well for the Radical Press
To demand your return to Cathay.
Oh! well for the shareless man
Who views this without dismay.

The stories and lies flow on
In an inexhaustible stream.
But oh for a say of real truth
And light on the labour theme.

Slaves, Slaves, Slaves,
Who come from far China's land,
I doubt if the gas we listen to here
Will get you expelled from the Rand.

Alpha.

ENGLAND WELCOMING THE MEMBERS OF THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

Come, come, come,
Over the wild rolling sea;
For we are anxious that you and all
Should co-operate with me.

Oh! well for the Englishman's joy
At the thought that his rights are secure,
Oh! well for we are all glad
That our efforts are not premature.

And England's trade will go on,
Bringing greater grist to her mill:
For lo! there's help from her colonial boys,
Who can never forget Dover's hill.

Come, come, come,
To your good old Mother Country,
And we'll welcome you with a hearty huzza,
Though our clime may sultry be.

Rolling Stone.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE King's return to England, which was originally fixed for Friday last, was postponed for a week, when his Majesty left Malta for Naples. The King is now expected to come back from the South of Italy by Milan and the Simplon Tunnel route, and his Majesty will arrive in London on Saturday evening. The King will reside at Buckingham Palace until the morning of Tuesday, the 14th, when he goes to Newmarket for the Second Spring Meeting, returning to town after the races on the following Thursday. The Court will leave London on Saturday of that week to spend the Whitsuntide holidays at Windsor Castle.

His Majesty will give a dinner to the members of the Jockey Club at Buckingham Palace on the evening of the Derby Day, Wednesday, June 5. The announcement has been made in some of the papers that the Queen and Princess Victoria "will dine with the Duchess of Devonshire at Devonshire House, and a small party will be invited to meet them, while there will be a ball afterwards." This is all the very purest conjecture, no such arrangements having been made. The Queen has more than once dined at Devonshire House on the Derby Day, and there has been a ball afterwards, but it is by no means a matter of course that the same programme will be followed this year, especially as the King and Queen of Denmark and the King and Queen of Norway will then be in London.

A weekly journal announces that "society is enlivened by the prospect of a garden party at Buckingham Palace early in the season." As a matter of fact, there will be no garden party at Buckingham Palace at any time this season. It is possible that the King and Queen may give a garden party at Windsor Castle during the visit of the King and Queen of Denmark and the King and Queen of Norway to England, but nothing is yet settled. If there is a garden party at Windsor it will probably take place either on June 22 (Saturday in Ascot week) or on the following Monday, June 24.

In addition to the two State Balls at Buckingham Palace this season, the King and Queen will give a ball at Windsor Castle on June 21, being Friday in Ascot week. Invitations for about 2,200 guests will be issued by the Lord Chamberlain for each of the State Balls. The invitations for the Windsor Ball will be sent out by the Master of the Household, the guests being selected from a special list.

Prince Fushimi of Japan, who is to arrive in London next Monday from Paris, will be received at Dover by the Prince of Wales, with whom he is to travel by special Royal train to Victoria Station. Directly after his arrival in London Prince Fushimi will pay a formal visit to the King at Buckingham Palace, and an hour or two afterwards his Majesty will call on the Japanese Prince at York House, St. James's Palace. Prince Fushimi is to spend Saturday, the 11th, at Windsor Castle, when he will visit Eton College, and he is to leave London on Monday, the 13th, for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, when he will be the guest of Sir Andrew Noble at Jesmond Dene until Wednesday, the 15th, when he goes to Edinburgh. The Prince goes on Friday, the 17th, to Buchanan Castle, the beautiful domain of the Duke and Duchess of Montrose on Loch Lomond, where he is to be a guest until Monday, the 20th, when he will proceed to Barrow-in-Furness. Prince Fushimi will afterwards visit Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, and Southampton before he leaves England. The King has appointed Mr. Arthur Walsh (one of his Majesty's Grooms of the Bed-

chamber) to be in attendance on Prince Fushimi during his stay in England. Mr. Walsh will accompany the Prince on his provincial tour.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the West of Scotland went off with complete success, and the very long programme of engagements on each of the three days of their stay at Blythswood House was got through without any difficulties or mistakes. The Prince and Princess will pay another public visit to Scotland during the second week in July, when they are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace, and they will visit the show of the Highland and Agricultural Society at Prestonfield, near Edinburgh, on Wednesday, July 11, and on Thursday, the 12th.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, who are now at Clarence House, spent a week at the Hotel Ritz, Paris, on their homeward journey from the East, and were joined there by Prince Arthur, who had been on a visit to the Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at the Château de Fabron. It is expected that the Duke and Duchess and Princess Patricia and Prince Arthur will leave London at Whitsuntide for Stockholm on a visit to Prince and Princess Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, in which case they will stay there until after the celebration of the golden wedding of King Oscar and Queen Sophia on June 6, returning to England in time to spend Ascot race week at Bagshot Park.

The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who have been staying in Italy for several weeks, are to arrive in England shortly on a private visit to the Duchess of Albany at Claremont Park, after which they will join their yacht at Dartmouth for a cruise in home waters. The yacht will proceed to Dartmouth from Hamburg, where she has been laid up during the winter.

The daily papers informed us last week that the King had granted an unusual honour to Sir Frederick Treves and Sir Francis Laking, in recognition of their professional services to his Majesty, and went on to specify "that honourable augmentation to their arms, in the form of an addition to their shields of one of the lions from the Royal arms of England, had been granted by Royal warrant." Many of them then described this grant as "unprecedented," which is rubbish. Within the last century similar Royal augmentations were granted to Sir Henry Halford, physician to George III. and to George IV.; to Sir James Clark, physician to Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent; to Sir William Gull, Sir James Paget, and Sir John Williams. It was said some years ago that Sir William Jenner had more than once declined this honour, when it was offered to him by Queen Victoria.

Count Albert Mensdorff Pouilly is to return to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy this week from Vienna, and he will be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle during Ascot race week. Count Mensdorff spent two days of last week at Prague, where the Emperor Francis Joseph is staying for a fortnight. During the absence of Count Mensdorff from England Count Louis Szechenyi is acting as Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen have taken an active interest, since their arrival in Ireland, in the Irish Exhibition which opens this week in Dublin. Lady Aberdeen's illness did not interrupt her energetic promoting of industrial interests in Ireland in connection with the Exhibition, and in especial where women's work is concerned. The Exhibition will be opened by the Lord-Lieutenant and Lady Aberdeen on Saturday, the 4th inst.

Mr. Birrell is fortunate amongst Irish Chief Secretaries in the opportune moment at which he will bring in his Irish Bill. Ireland has been thoroughly discovered, the people of the country have been found out to be very much as any other race would be under the same circumstances. They object to having no voice in the management of their own affairs, and are not loyal when loyalty is made impossible to them. The example of General Botha must have a powerful effect on them; it comes at the critical moment. They can go and do likewise—grasp in friendship and brotherhood the hand of a former enemy when real friendship and brotherhood are established between them.

THE BLUSHING BRIDE.

Upon a Suffragette, Miss G.,
The truth has dawned with sudden rush;
And, plain as daylight, she can see
What prompts the "blushing bride" to blush.

'Tis just from very poignant shame,
To feel the folly of her plan,
In yielding up her hand and name
To such a specimen as man.

But viewing what those women be,
Whose type in Suffragettes is found,
Methinks, ere very long we'll see
A turning of the tables round.

No red the bride's bold cheeks will flush
For him, the wretch, to whom she's tied;
'Tis he, the bridegroom, who will blush
(And with good reason) for the bride.

Few people will dispute the recommendation of the Home Office Committee that there should be an official roll of baronets. There seems to be a disposition in many quarters not to take baronets seriously. From any such tendency I desire to dissociate myself, and I wonder that it should be visible in newspapers, seeing how extensively and honourably the Baronetage has been reinforced from the press. As every French recruit was said to carry a marshal's bâton in his knapsack, so every recruit in the ranks of journalism may feel in these days that he has a baronet's blood-red hand in his pocket. As a potential, if unworthy, mem-

For Appeals, see page 1105.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1111.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1115.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 1110, 1 11.
For Estates, Auctions, 1105.
For Amusements, see page 1109, and Supplement, page 8.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1117, 1118.

ber of the Order, every one of us must earnestly desire that it should be kept select, and that the difference between the genuine and the spurious rank should be authoritatively certified. This is what the official roll is to do. That something of the kind is required in the public interest cannot be doubted, for the files of Truth, as well as the records of the criminal courts, bear testimony only too convincing of the extent to which innocent people are preyed upon by bogus baronets. If I were not treating this subject seriously, I should be tempted to say that other people besides rising journalists have felt baronet's hands in their pockets.

One advantage of official rolls is the opportunity they offer for striking people off. One naturally thinks of solicitors when advocating the institution of a Baronets' Roll, and it is rather surprising that the Home Office Committee has not done so. There is a great deal in the report about putting baronets on the rolls, but nothing about striking them off. This omission should be rectified when the necessary legislation comes under the consideration of Parliament. The bad baronet's power for evil would be in a great measure destroyed if, when he fell foul of the Companies or the Bankruptcy Acts, he could be reduced to plain "Mr." In the case of bankruptcy the title might be suspended till the debtor obtained his discharge.

Another measure which I would strongly advocate is that it should be made a penal offence for any man to use the title of a baronet until he was on the roll. The penalty should be specially heavy if it were shown that the offender was using the title to obtain money or promote companies. If a man desires to practise as a baronet he ought to be registered, like a doctor. While we are legislating on this subject it would be just as well to extend these provisions to the peerage. A bogus baron is quite as dangerous to the public as a bogus baronet. I have in my mind two individuals who have conferred peerages on themselves and are perpetually mixed up with all sorts of shady practices. They should be required, under a penalty, to prove their qualifications and register. I do not know why the same principle should not be applied to University degrees, and academic honours of all kinds. The law provides security for the genuineness of the marks on goldsmiths' and silversmiths' work. Is it less necessary to protect the hall-marks of social rank or intellectual attainments?

Mr. Rolle, who died on Saturday at Argeles, was a conspicuous territorial magnate, for he was the owner of two of the largest estates in the West of England, one of which includes extensive urban property of great value. He was an admirable man in every relation of life, holding high ideals of duty, endeavouring to realise them, and regarding himself as a trustee of his wealth, which he employed most liberally in works of beneficence of all kinds. He was a model landlord—indeed, few men would have spent money so lavishly on estates of which he was merely tenant for life—and he was also a devoted Churchman. He built three handsome churches in Devonshire, and restored several others.

Though a strong old-fashioned Tory, Mr. Rolle never played any part in politics, for he had no taste for the turmoil of public life, but he exercised much influence in a quiet way, for his position was exceptional, combining great wealth, unblemished character, and the regard and respect of people of all parties, it being universally known that he had no personal objects to pursue. He was a very hospitable man, but he liked quiet and retirement, and never cared for the hurly-burly of general society. He was very fond of music, and his taste in literature and art was excellent. Hunting was his favourite sport, and for a great number of years he maintained a smart pack of fox-hounds on his North Devon estate, but he was also a fine shot. His death is an irreparable loss to his family and friends, to whom he was always most kind and generous, and he will be sincerely mourned and long missed in Devonshire.

Mr. Rolle was a younger brother of the late Lord Clinton, and (through his mother) a grandson of the sixth Marquis of Lothian. In 1842, when he was seven years old, he unexpectedly succeeded to the vast property of the celebrated Lord Rolle, who had married his aunt late in life. The estates included the domains of Stevenstone and Becton, the former being noted for its large and picturesque deer park, while the latter is famous for its gardens and arboretum. Mr. Rolle married Lady Gertrude Douglas, daughter of the eighteenth Earl of Morton, and sister of the late Lady Fitzwilliam. He leaves only two daughters, and the estates (which were left by Lord Rolle in the strictest settlement) pass to his nephew, Lord Clinton, who has the whole property absolutely, as the entail will now lapse. It is curious that the present Lord Clinton has come in for three large successions—the Barony of Clinton estates, the extensive Scotch estates of his maternal grandfather, Sir John Stuart Forbes, of Fettercairn, and now (by far the most important of all) the great Rolle property.

Mr. Antony Gibbs, who died last Wednesday at Tyntesfield, his beautiful place near Bristol, was the grandson of the Antony Gibbs who established the well-known firm which still bears his name, of which Lord Aldenham is now the head. His father, Mr. William Gibbs (who married a daughter of Sir Thomas Crawley-Boevey, of Flaxley Abbey) purchased the Tyntesfield estate, rebuilt and enlarged the house, and improved and considerably extended the gardens and grounds. A notable feature at this charming place is the private chapel, which was built by Sir A. W. Blomfield in imitation of that of Exeter College, Oxford. The Gibbs family have been widely known for their munificence in contributing to Church objects, and for their gifts to Keble College. Mr. William Gibbs presented the chapel to Keble, and Mr. Antony Gibbs (and his brother, Mr. Martin Gibbs) gave the hall and library. The family also purchased several advowsons which were given to Keble College.

For Approved Charities, see page 1113.

The late Mr. Gibbs was most kind and liberal to his tenants and employees and to his poorer neighbours, and he was a great benefactor to the neighbouring parish of Wraxall, as also were his father and mother. He will be sincerely lamented and long missed throughout the district. He was all his life a staunch Conservative, and was lavishly generous in his pecuniary support of the party in Somersetshire. Over and over again he was requested to come forward for one of the county seats, and he would certainly have been returned at any election between 1868 and 1906 if he could have been induced to stand, but he had no wish to enter the House of Commons. His eldest son, who is a son-in-law of Mr. Walter Long, succeeded Sir Michael Hicks Beach (now Lord St. Aldwyn) as Member for Bristol West.

The Prince of Wales has consented to take the chair at a dinner to be held at the Hotel Cecil on May 14, in aid of the National Association for the establishment of Sanatoria for Workers Suffering from Tuberculosis. The object in view is to raise funds for the completion of the sanatorium at Benenden, Kent, a section of which has already been opened. It is desired to provide accommodation there for 200 patients, and the maintenance of the beds will be guaranteed by the friendly and other societies which are supporting the movement. Tickets for the dinner can be obtained from Sir A. Douglas, Bart., 18, Lowndes-square, S.W.

I am asked to mention that a ball in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Onslow District Ladies Committee) will be held at the Grafton Galleries on Wednesday next. Tickets can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Hylton Dale, 60, Onslow Gardens, S.W.

TO MISS EDNA MAY.

(On her retirement).

Farewell! We men of every age,
From callow youth to veteran grey,
Deplore your quittance of the stage,
Where long you've charmed us, Edna May.

'Twas less your histrionic art,
That won you such unquestioned sway;
(We loved the player, not the part),
'Twas just that you were Edna May.

My attention has been called to a practice which has lately been introduced in connection with the teaching of music at Charterhouse, and to which both parents and music teachers seem to have good reason to object. It was formerly the practice for the music teachers to send in their accounts to parents through the house masters. Under the present Headmaster the whole of the musical staff, with the exception of the bandmaster, were dismissed, somewhat summarily, and a new organist was appointed, through whom the accounts were rendered. Under the new arrangement a fixed charge of four guineas per term is levied, of which, according to my information, £3 goes to the music teachers, and the balance to the organist. The music teachers are obviously entitled to claim the whole of a charge which is ostensibly made to the parents by way of special payment for their work. But the parents have still more ground for complaint that a tax should be levied upon them in the form of a charge for teaching their sons music, which in reality goes into the pocket of the organist, who takes no part in that teaching. The salary of the organist is a charge which ought to be spread over the whole school indiscriminately, and there is no reason why a special charge for his benefit should be made to those parents whose sons learn music. I am under the impression that something of this kind is done at a good many other public schools besides Charterhouse, but it seems entirely indefensible.

Balliol College has received a very handsome gift from Lord Newlands, who has founded two "Jowett Fellowships," each endowed with £500 a year, which are to be awarded to two tutorial Fellows as additional emoluments. Lord Newlands has himself nominated the two first holders of these Fellowships, but future appointments are to be made by the Visitor, the Master, and a representative of the founder. Mr. T. A. Brassey has also been a generous benefactor, as he has not only founded a studentship in Historical Research, but he has collected a considerable endowment fund for the college from old Balliol men. This is a most seasonable gift, as Balliol is a very poor college.

There has been much speculation in Church circles for several weeks as to the new appointment to the historic vicarage of Hursley, near Winchester, vacant by the death of the incumbent, who succeeded John Keble in 1866, and who was presented to the living by Sir William Heathcote. Sir George Cooper, who purchased the Hursley Park estate a few years ago, has presented the Rev. H. C. Percival, who has been for fourteen years vicar of St. Peter's, Southampton, and who is well known in Hampshire as a zealous worker and an eloquent preacher. He is a High Churchman, so the Hursley traditions will be maintained. Mr. Percival was for some years curate at Wragby to the late Canon West, who was generally known as the Keble of Lincolnshire, and he was afterwards for nine years a chaplain of the Episcopal Cathedral at Edinburgh under Dean Montgomery.

Bishop Legge has nominated Archdeacon Hodgson to the vacant residentiary stall in Lichfield Cathedral, in the place of the late Canon Lonsdale. Archdeacon Hodgson, who is a moderate High Churchman, is one of the most popular and most highly esteemed ecclesiastics in the diocese, in which he has been working ever since his ordination in 1868. Between 1872 and 1906 he was successively vicar of West Bromwich, vicar of Walsall, and rector of Handsworth, and in 1898 he was appointed Archdeacon of Stafford by the present Bishop of Lichfield. His preferment to the vacant canonry has given much satisfaction, and meets with the hearty approval of both the clergy and the laity. The stipend is £500 a year, with a pleasant house and garden in the Close.

The Archdeaconry of Brecon has been placed at the disposal of the Bishop of St. David's by the resignation of Archdeacon Bevan, who was collated to this office in 1895 by Bishop Basil Jones. The Archdeacon has been working continuously in the diocese of St. David's for sixty-two years. The stipend of the post is £400 a year.

A distinguished Freeman of Canterbury sends me the following, which I am pleased to publish. I only know what I am told, and when I am told quite contradictory things I know nothing. But when my latest correspondent refers to one previous sinner, I must point out that there have been about half-a-dozen of them. I referred to three last week, and I did not put it as strongly as some of them. I cannot believe that all were inspired by nothing but a desire to make mischief:—

> Your correspondent who seeks to defame the good Dean of Canterbury, and to cause dissension in the ranks of Churchmen of High Church and Broad Church views, will not escape being pilloried. He does not speak the truth. I solemnly aver that there are no "strained" relations in the Chapter of Canterbury. It is ridiculous to suggest that plans made for the private and family convenience of the Canons were due to a decision on the part of the Dean. As a matter of fact most of the Canons had departed before anything had been said by the Dean. As to the conduct of the Dean, he is one of the kindest, most inoffensive, hardworking and most popular of our citizens. He is President of the Board of the Canterbury Hospital (at which he is a constant attendant), the Simon-Langton Schools, Smith-Payne Schools, and other institutions. We all go to him for advice and assistance in trouble. He has not been absent from his post for six Sundays since last October.

At the recent synod of the Roman Catholic diocese of Southwark, Bishop Amigo read a legal document relating to the Dawes Trust, the effect of which was, I am told, that the trustees are fully empowered to make use of the Petworth endowment for any diocesan purpose. It is difficult to believe that in endowing a mission Mr. Dawes, or anybody else, would give his trustees a free hand to disendow it whenever they pleased; and it is not less incredible that if such were the terms of the trust the fact would have been kept secret throughout the public controversy which has arisen over the Petworth endowment, and in which the Archbishop of Westminster has publicly joined. It is possible that the trust may have contained an alternative provision for the application of the Petworth endowment in certain contingencies, but that would be a very different matter, and would have no bearing on what has actually occurred. Bishop Amigo conveyed to his clergy the impression that this document was communicated confidentially, which is somewhat futile, for there can be no effective secrecy in proceedings at which about a couple of hundred persons are present. Nor does the attempt to avoid publicity make the justification of the Petworth doings any more convincing.

In a speech reported in the *Carlisle Journal*, the Rev. J. H. Cartwright, a Wesleyan minister, stated that "in Wetheral Council school, just before the Easter holiday, the Rector of Wetheral invited all the Church children to go to the rectory to receive an egg and an orange, but no others." Mr. Cartwright's audience received the statement with a cry of "shame," which is echoed and emphasised in a letter that has been addressed to me on the subject. It is assumed that the Rector's design was not only to give a treat to the Church children, but to fill the little Dissenters with pangs of envy and regret that they, too, are not of the faith that is sustained by eggs and oranges at the rectory. Let us be charitable, however. The reverend gentleman may have feared that if he extended his invitation to all the children he would be accused —and I have no doubt that he would have been— of seeking to bribe and proselytise those outside his own flock. Nonconformists are sometimes too ready to attach an exaggerated and sinister importance to a trifling incident of this kind. At the worst, they could at Wetheral easily counter this supposed piece of Anglican artifice by giving their own youngsters eggs and oranges. They might even go one better by substituting toffee for eggs.

Just before the end of the season at Monte Carlo a committee issued a circular appealing to the English and American residents and visitors for contributions to a fund for purchasing a site and building a new Anglican church. The circular has been severely criticised by a correspondent of *Barnett's Weekly*, Nice, and it is certainly a very unbusinesslike and unsatisfactory document. Though asking for money for the purpose named, the committee reserve to themelves the right to apply it to the improvement of the existing church if at the end of three years the amount obtained is insufficient for erecting a new one on a fresh site. This is a perfectly reasonable condition, but the committee proceed to say that the residue, if any, may be applied to augmenting salaries in connection with the present church, and then, in a passage obviously inconsistent with the preceding portion of the circular, they add that "in the meantime," if the "sustentation fund" in course of collection by the chaplain be not sufficient for what is required, part of the new church fund may be, at their discretion, expended upon keeping the old building in proper order.

In other words, it may quite possibly be discovered at the end of the three years that the bulk, if not all, of the money collected to build a new church has been diverted to the patching up of the old one. It seems to be thought locally that the chaplain has an ample revenue at his disposal for the latter purpose, and however that may be, the uncertainty as to the use that will be made of the money is scarcely calculated to bring a liberal response to the committee's appeal.

A firm in the City inquired of me the other day whether the criticism that has been directed in TRUTH against the Metropolitan and Provincial Association of London and Brighton still stands good. After seeing the accounts of the said association for last year, I have

NOTICE.—The BRITANNIA HYGIENIC LAUNDRY CO. have opened a West End branch at 306, Vauxhall Bridge road, South Belgravia. High-class work. *Flannels specially treated.*

KNOW HUMPHREYS, and be well dressed. HUMPHREYS, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

no hesitation in saying that it does. When I last referred to this charity, about two years ago, it was collecting about £800 a year at a cost of over 5s. for every pound collected, and spending another twenty-five per cent. of its income on salary and office expenses. The result was that it could boast of having given about 350 children a few weeks' change of air at Brighton at an expense vastly in excess of the cost of similar work under the Children's Country Holiday Fund, and of distributing 36,000 "free meals" in London, the value of which was extremely problematical.

The accounts for 1906 show precisely the same state of things. During the year £779 was collected. The bulk of it seems to come through collectors who evidently receive 5s. in the pound on their takings. This poundage and other expenses brought the mere cost of collecting £779 up to £211, and this without reckoning an expenditure of £58 on printing, stationery, etc., a great part of which can only be explained on the assumption that it relates to the circulation of appeals. The secretary receives £130, and with this and other items the total expenses of collecting and office administration for the year came to over £426. After allowing for the balance in hand from the previous year, the association only had £445 left to spend upon its home at Brighton and its free meals. In its report it boasts that it gave free meals during the year to 30,342 children, and that it took 414 children to Brighton for periods of from one to four weeks. The accounts only show an expenditure of £227 on food in London and Brighton. Deduct from this the cost of feeding 414 children for periods of from one to four weeks, and it will be seen that the 30,342 free meals in London must have been of a very exiguous character, unless some miracle was performed in the shape of feeding a multitude with a minute quantity of provisions.

The best way to test the value of a charity of this kind is to see what the actual relief alleged to have been given ought to have cost. The Children's Country Holiday Fund gives its children a fortnight in the country at a cost of 10s. per head. The 414 children whom the Metropolitan and Provincial Association sent to Brighton in 1906 could therefore have been dealt with by the Children's Country Holiday Fund at a cost of £207. The sort of "free meals" that are given to poor children by charitable agencies working in the slums of London rarely cost more than 1d. a head, at which rate 30,342 meals would cost £126. Even if we allow 2d. a head for these meals, the utmost value of the work done by the association during the year in question does not exceed £460. The actual expenditure during the year was £872. From this any one can see for himself that in subscribing to a piffling little charity of this class he is wasting half his gift, and that he could double the value of his charity by bestowing it on the Children's Country Holiday Fund or one of the excellent funds for feeding school children.

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's speech denouncing Mr. Haldane's Bill from the Labour Party point of view is said to have impressed the House of Commons, but it must have been owing to something which does not appear in the speech as reported. It is simply nonsense to rave about "militarism" in connection with a scheme which really aims at nothing but knocking into efficient shape the very small amount of military material which we already possess; and equally so to speak of it as a step towards conscription when it studiously preserves the element of voluntary enlistment. Conscription will only come when the people refuse to furnish the two or three hundred thousand partially trained civilian soldiers who are essential to national security, and the only thing that is likely to make them refuse this amount of service is the preaching by their leaders of such doctrines as Mr. Macdonald's.

Personally, I am as much opposed to "militarism" as any Labour Leader, and as anxious for the era of universal peace and brotherhood. But, like the majority of people who share the same views, I am not disposed to throw away my weapons while all my neighbours are armed to the teeth. This is only the policy which has to be followed in all relations of life. Most professing Christians would like to see the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount carried out in its entirety. But, nevertheless, if a man sues them at law, whether for the purpose of taking away their coat or any other portion of their property, they consult a solicitor. I know I do. Soldiers and solicitors are inevitable evils as things are at present, and as long as we find it necessary to employ them, they must be fit for their business, whether it is to win battles or win actions.

Neither is it any use to declaim against class influence in the officering and administration of the Army, and to suggest that ploughboys are quite competent to lead our armies against "the best troops of the Continent." Here, again, my opinion is as strong as anybody's that in the ideal army there will be no class or social distinctions in the ranks, and that merit alone will conduct the private to the officers' mess, and in the fulness of time to the House of Lords. I don't think we have done half as much in this direction as we might. But it is no use blinking the fact that as things are an officer must spend a good deal of money, that his education is an expensive one, and that if the State is not to incur an enormous addition to its military expenditure, it must take for its officers for the most part men who can provide some of these necessary expenses themselves. It is very deplorable, but so are the taxes, and even tariff reformers have not yet promised to provide us with an army in which every officer will be commissioned from the ranks. Utopia is a very nice-looking place. I hope we shall all get there, and I am all for moving in that direction. But I am sure that the road is a long one, and that there are no short cuts—except into quagmires.

The Labour Party, if we are to judge by its accredited spokesman, is all wrong in its attitude to the Army,

and it is best to say so plainly. The Labour men must recognise, as a great section of Continental Socialists do, first, that we cannot yet do without soldiers; secondly, that soldiering, as a form of employment, is a labour question of the first magnitude, to be considered in a practical spirit like any other working-class question. There is a great deal in the relations of the State to soldiers which is altogether wrong, and which it is the business of Labour M.P.s to put right. But this will never be done by visionary talk about the evils of militarism, or the superiority of ploughmen to highly-trained officers.

On the subject of General Stringer Lawrence's services in India, the correspondent whose letter I published last week writes again, as follows:—

> Lawrence was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the *Indian Army* by King George II., as can be testified on application at the India Office, and he certainly exercised that command, for it was expressly stipulated that in the event of his visiting either Bombay or Bengal he was to be on the Council of those places, which, I think, at that time could hardly have been called Presidencies.
>
> If Clive is entitled to a statue (and I am one of those who think that he richly deserves all the honour a grateful country can bestow), surely the man whose splendid achievements against a powerful European foe alone made the subsequent successes of Clive possible, is also worthy of his country's gratitude and remembrance.

Surely it is a somewhat strange arrangement for a sergeant-major to occupy permanently the position of manager of a regimental mineral water factory. This appears to be the state of things in an infantry regiment stationed at Poona. The sergeant-major took over this post about four years ago and has held it ever since. Prior to that date the manager was relieved periodically, like the canteen sergeant or the holders of most billets of the same sort. That is the practice in most battalions, and there seems to be more in favour of it than against it.

Apropos of something that was said in TRUTH the other day about the use of the coupon on the cover of TRUTH for the purpose of correspondence with the Editor, a "Tommy" writes with a curious grievance. He states that he bought a copy of TRUTH and cut out the coupon for his private purposes, having occasion, I suppose, to ask for advice about his investments or something of that kind. An active and intelligent sergeant noticed the paper in his possession in this mutilated condition, and since that date he has felt himself "a marked man." What that means I need not particularise. The fate of a man suspected of communicating with the Editor of TRUTH respecting the conduct of the sergeant-major, or anything else you like, may be best left to the imagination.

Beyond declaring solemnly that this poor fellow never did write to me (unless about his investments) until the day when he told me of his troubles over the coupon, I do not know what I can do for him. But I would point out to my friends in the Army, whether in positions of authority or not, that they are troubling themselves quite needlessly about coupons. The Editor of TRUTH has an open ear for anybody who wishes to confide in him. He does not want everybody who writes a letter to the office to send him a coupon. He only requires it from people who want advice about their investments, or who propound all sorts of puzzling conundrums for his solution, expecting replies by return of post, if possible, not to say by telegram. I hope this will be understood, not only in the Army, but everywhere else. When a soldier confides to me his trouble about his issue of boots or the shortcomings of his beer, or a working plumber asks me how to deal with a drunken wife, and encloses a coupon, it makes me unhappy. I feel that I ought to send him his sixpence back, and yet I do not want to hurt his feelings.

For several years I backed up the movement in favour of granting pensions to those members of the staff of the Ordnance Survey who, though classed officially as temporary civil assistants, were to all intents and purposes permanent employees. Last November the Treasury sanctioned a scheme which makes any man who has served for fifteen years as a temporary civil assistant eligible for transference to the establishment with the right to a pension on his retirement. On the whole, this scheme seemed to be a fair one, and I hoped that it would put an end to the discontent that existed. But some people are never satisfied, and I have now been invited to support a fresh agitation on the ground that any period for which a man has served as a labourer or chainman before ranking as a temporary civil assistant ought to be included in the qualifying fifteen years. As a reason for doing this, it is urged that men joining the Ordnance Survey from the Royal Engineers are allowed to count their military service. It appears to me, however, that this is a case in which the State can quite legitimately give a preference to soldiers, and it may save trouble if I say at once that I have no intention of advocating a further concession in the matter of their pension for the temporary civil assistants.

Profound disgust and resentment have been created among the clerical staffs of the various naval establishments by the Admiralty scheme for dealing with the complaints of the writers, which has just made its appearance. This scheme is the outcome of an agitation extending over about fifteen years, the basis of which is that the position of the writers in regard to pay and prospects has remained unchanged for a generation or two past, while every other branch of the naval service has its position improved, to say nothing of the corresponding class in the service of private employers. It is no exaggeration to say that of all the grievances that have been specifically put forward by the men during that time not one is really redressed by the new scheme, and the feeling is very general, if not universal, that the staff all round will be worse off under the new arrangements than it was before.

The result is not in the least surprising, for the scheme has been evolved by a committee of permanent officials who have deliberated with closed doors, taken no evidence at first hand, and made no intelligent

attempt to understand the real troubles and desires of the men for whom they were to legislate. As mentioned in these columns not long ago, the Admiralty are ostensibly dealing with a memorial or petition three or four years old, and the most plausible explanation of the conclusions now arrived at is that the Committee has forgotten—if it ever knew—precisely what it was inquiring into. The best thing the writers can do now is to get their case ventilated in Parliament. It is a matter which some of the Labour M.P.s ought to take up, for the men concerned are working men to all intents and purposes, and it is only because they are of humble status and are scattered about in a way that makes concerted action difficult for them, that they are treated so shabbily and contemptuously.

It is some years now since I had occasion to refer to the superabundance of Ceylon "creepers." So many youths were being lured out from home to learn the art and mystery of tea planting that when they had completed their apprenticeship it was constantly found that they had simply wasted their own time and their parents' money, the supply of appointments being quite unequal to the demand for them. The statements that were published had a good effect for the time being, but it has again become desirable to sound a note of warning. "Creeper-mongering" is so profitable that officials on tea and rubber estates are sometimes tempted to take pupils without much regard to their future prospects. In a recent article on the subject, the *Times of Ceylon* demurs to the suggestion of a correspondent that the planting profession is already absolutely overcrowded, but admits that it is at least "well-filled," and adds:—

> We agree that the legitimate opportunity of the creeper-recruiter in England of last year has now passed away, and if Truth and other home papers will mention this fact it will be useful.

Truth mentions the fact, accordingly, for the guidance of parents who think of putting their sons into this well-filled profession.

Some of my Anglo-Indian readers have passed on to me a "private and confidential" circular with which they have been favoured by R. S. Kapure, who styles himself honorary secretary of the Punjab Orphanage Club, Amritsar. The purport of it is that the club is promoting a Derby sweep, tickets for which are issued to members only, but that if any outsider desires "to take part in this benevolent work"—in other words, to join in the orphanage gamble—he has only to forward the cash for as many tickets as he would like at one rupee each, and the club will at once qualify him for the purpose by electing him as an honorary member. I do not know whether there really is such a concern as the Punjab Orphanage Club. Anyhow, it is a transparent absurdity that a gamble of this sort should be permitted in spite of its illegality, simply because it is alleged that it is being promoted for a charitable object.

From a gentleman whose position enables him to know a good deal about such matters, I hear that the notorious Mrs. Henville is again writing begging letters. It is, therefore, desirable to repeat the warning recently given against her appeals, and those of her family. The party appear to have removed to Oxford, as they were talking of doing when I last heard of them, and their present address there is Hughenden Cottage, 88, Fairacre-road.

PUBS AND CLUBS.

[*General Bruggins, in the smoking-room of his Club, airs his views on the Rev. J. R. Gamble's recent observations. Time: one o'clock a.m.*]

What? Call those accurst institutions, the pubs,
A "social necessity," "working-men's clubs"!
Of what can this Gamble be thinking?
When the scourge and the ruin—deny it who can?—
Of the working-class woman and working-class man
Is the bestial habit of drinking.

I'd close all these villainous beer-selling shops.
Let Hodge be content with cold tea and weak slops,
Nor let him, at nightfall, be roaming,
When his duty's to sit, as morality bids,
Like a right-minded man with his wife and his kids,
And to do the domestic his home in.

It's——(*Eh? One o'clock! You don't say so, by Heaven! And I told Mrs. B. I'd be in at eleven.*)
That vicar he ought to be shot, sir!
(*Hi! Waiter there! Yes, sir.*) My goodness! What are
Things coming to? (*Right, sir. A shilling cigar
And a glass of the usual—hot, sir.*)

The protest of the Regent-street shopkeepers against the design for the rebuilding of the Quadrant has a good deal of reason in it. A shop-front of the most approved modern type may not be a beautiful architectural feature, but it has a well-defined value as a commercial asset, especially in a thoroughfare which is essentially a promenade of people more or less bent on shopping. For a firm which has built up a large trade in such a thoroughfare, largely on the strength of its windows, it is a very serious matter to be suddenly reduced to the window space provided by Mr. Norman Shaw's design—not only a very limited space, but recessed between heavy piers of masonry, so that the contents of the window are only displayed to a person standing immediately in front. And if loss of trade is threatened by this alteration of the frontage, the Crown, as the ground landlord, as well as its tenants and sub-tenants, will suffer in the long run, though it may not do so immediately.

The shopkeepers are rather late in raising this question, because the façade of the Piccadilly Hotel is now practically completed, and there will be a very strong feeling that the continuity of the architectural design should be preserved all through the Quadrant, as it is in the old design. But would it be difficult to insert in the stone framework of the windows an ornamental bay window which would improve the design from the shopkeeper's point of view, without raising any æsthetic objections? There are plenty of highly ornamental shop-fronts in London of the style that I have in my mind, and an accomplished architect could carry out the idea in a way that would be an embellishment of

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st, W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

the general design. If necessary, the frontage of the remaining buildings could be set back two or three feet, in order to make room for such windows. There would be no reasonable objection to the hotel projecting to this extent beyond the adjoining houses.

If the height of the new hotel is to be that of the whole Quadrant, it strikes me that the whole design is open to criticism on the ground that the buildings will be too high for the width of the street. The hotel certainly looks overpoweringly huge, at present, not to say heavy and clumsy. This, of course, may be merely a false impression created by the contrast between the building and its neighbours. But when one pictures the whole street rebuilt on this scale and in this massive style, one cannot help wondering whether it is wide enough to stand it. Whatever the architectural effect, it strikes me that by the time the rebuilding is completed the shopkeepers will find a new cause of complaint in not getting enough daylight in their premises.

I was interested to see that the astonishing history of the Parsonstown and Portumna Bridge Railway came up last Friday before the Commission on Irish Railways. The whole story was told in detail in Truth of August 21, 1902, under the heading, "A Derelict Railway," and I would recommend the Commissioners to look at the view of the case there set forth. The points which require their special attention are the action of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company in regard to this line, the defeat of attempts to get in the uncalled capital by the extraordinary statement that the list of subscribers had been lost, the relations of Lord Clanricarde to the scheme, and the refusal of the Treasury, when the Public Works Loan Board were in possession as mortgagees, to assist the contractor (who had never been paid) in raising the amount needed to reinstate the line and set it working. The "stealing" of the railway piecemeal by the neighbouring inhabitants is only a picturesque detail in a story, the like of which surely never happened anywhere outside Ireland.

APRIL'S VAGARIES.

A fickle month was April e'er,
And never to be trusted;
But lately it has, fair and square,
Its own best records busted.

An August sun last Wednesday burned;
Our sweat ran down in rivers;
On Thursday, lo! to March it turned
And froze up all our livers.

Then Friday, with its cold and wet,
Was absolute December;
And p'rhaps this week—who knows?—we'll get
The fogs of drear November.

No! April doesn't know its mind;
'Tis governed by no *lex*, sir;
Wherein a likeness strange we find
To what is called "the sex," sir.

Of months the Latin grammars say,
"To *mascula* assign 'em."
This month, at least—my head I'll lay—
Is "*genus femininum*."

The result of the libel action brought against the *Standard* by the late members of the Highways Committee of the L.C.C. shows the need of more drastic and summary procedure than the ordinary machinery of the law of libel to restrain defamatory personal imputations at election times. No municipal election in this country has ever given rise to so much lying and slander as the last L.C.C. election. For the most part it was of the scientific electioneering type, which keeps within the limits of the law. But the *Standard* indiscreetly overstepped the safety line by charging the Highways Committee specifically and generally with "bribing" by the method followed by "Tammany" in New York, namely, "taking care of its friends and seeing that they are given well-paid billets." The specific instance mentioned of this general practice of bribery was the spending of 50 per cent. above the market value of certain tramway work, with a view to "put that money into the pockets of the friends of the executive."

The *Standard* now explains that this plain accusation of fraud and bribery "did not convey what we intended," and that "the last thing in the mind of the writer was to suggest that any act done by members of the London County Council or their friends was with a view of personal advantage to themselves *or their friends*." In other words, the writer said the exact opposite of what he had in his mind. With some years experience both of journalism and the law of libel, I should regard a gentleman with so little ability for conveying what he has in his mind as a dangerous member of a newspaper staff; and it is somewhat strange that the editor should have passed his copy without detecting the discrepancy between what was intended and what was said. The *Standard* is lucky to have got out of the mess with the publication of this singular explanation and a suitable expression of regret, and the payment of the plaintiffs' costs.

When the fight is over, and passions have cooled on both sides, no one can blame the plaintiffs for accepting the apology and dropping the action. At the same time it is regrettable that weapons of this kind can be used for electioneering purposes with impunity. What the *Standard* said, intentionally or not, in its libel, was said or insinuated in a dozen quarters, though in such a way that no individual Councillor or group of Councillors could allege that he was personally libelled by it. And it had its effect. To what extent it influenced votes no one can say. But plenty of people—ignorant, but certainly not uneducated people—at the time of the last election firmly believed that what they read about the raising of rates and the piling up of debt and loans by the County Council meant that the ratepayers were being plundered for the personal benefit of the Councillors and their "friends," and that in voting for the so-called "Municipal Reformers" they were striking against the system of municipal corruption described in the *Standard* libel as "Tammany." For this reason the result of the action against the *Standard* shows that not a particle of justification can be found, even when a specific instance of "Tammany" methods has been cited by the libeller.

Some weeks ago I noticed some interesting revelations in the Birmingham County Court concerning the methods of business of J. A. Palmer and Co., "C. A.," Colmore Chambers, Newhall-street, Birmingham, who circularise tradesmen against whom judgments are registered, offering their services "in protecting your estate from executioners." A still more instructive exposure was given in the Bangor County Court last week. Palmer—who has explained that the letters "C. A." appended to his name mean "corporate accountant," not "chartered accountant"—got himself appointed trustee under a deed of arrangement with some of the creditors of a tradesman at Llanfairfechan. This was in January, 1903, and between that date and February, 1906, the debtor paid Palmer altogether £287, which was actually £68 more than the amount of his original indebtedness. The creditors, however, had received nothing like the sums to which they were entitled. The dividends that were paid were paid very irregularly and after long delays; Palmer's returns to the Board of Trade were inaccurate, and the Judge found that in various ways he had committed serious breaches of trust. His Honour ordered Palmer to pay into Court a sum of £94 1s. 8d. still remaining in his possession, deprived him of all the remuneration that he claimed, and removed him from the trusteeship. Evidently tradesmen who are in financial difficulties might just as well leave themselves to the mercies of "the executioners" as seek the protection of J. A. Palmer and Co.

In answer to the solicitor who has been complaining of the difficulty experienced in obtaining information from hospital surgeons in preparing claims for compensation in accident cases, I have received a long letter setting forth the case from the surgeons' point of view. The most effective point in it is that the majority of these cases are settled without litigation, and that very few come into Court. This answers, up to a point, what I have said as to the doctor being sure of his fee if he is eventually wanted as a witness. But I cannot see that it justifies the refusal to give a solicitor any information about a case without payment in advance, and my present correspondent, though writing at considerable length, really does not address himself to this point.

The doctor is justified in putting himself in the same boat as the solicitor; that is to say, if it is a case for compensation, he is entitled to be paid a fee for his opinion. But the question is whether he is justified in requiring the solicitor to pay this fee out of his own pocket before the latter knows whether there is a case worth his while to take up. The natural result of this attitude on the doctor's part is that the solicitor, if he has any doubt about the strength of the case and the solvency of the client, will refuse to pay, and the patient may suffer in consequence. The evil consequences to the patient are not confined to the cases here and there where for this reason a good claim may be dropped. What is to my mind the more serious consideration is that the solicitors who are disposed to take up cases of this class for working men, and finance them out of their own pockets "on spec.," are the least desirable representatives of the profession, and the men who take the heaviest toll out of any cash their clients may recover. Everything that adds to the necessary preliminary disbursements of the solicitor before he knows what sort of a case he has got tends to drive the injured workman into the hands of this class of practitioners. I feel rather strongly on this point, having seen a great deal lately of the shady practices of certain solicitors in workmen's compensation cases.

Of course, the doctor may say that he too must protect himself against the shady solicitor, which is best done by following the principle of "cash with order." But surely the doctor can sufficiently protect himself by stipulating expressly with the solicitor for the payment of his fee in due course. If the case is a genuine one, the compensation is a certainty, and unless the solicitor is a downright rogue there is no reason why he should not see all the costs paid out of it. If he is a downright rogue he will not be able to catch the doctor a second time. My medical correspondent draws a moving picture of a house-surgeon going his rounds or assisting his chief in an operation, and called away at any or every moment to see somebody who wants information in a compensation case. But does he mean that the inconvenience of this will be less if a fee is paid? Or does he mean that to insist upon a fee chokes off such inquiries? The latter alternative confirms my view of the matter.

After all, it is as well to remember that a hospital is a charitable institution designed for the benefit of the patients and nobody else. It seems to me that the hospital managers should deal with this matter. In many cases all the information that a solicitor requires in the first stage of an accident case could be supplied by a secretary or clerk as well as by a member of the medical staff. In such cases it could be supplied for a very small payment, of which the hospital would get the benefit.

Brutality is cheap at Birmingham—at least, the brutality which is vented upon policemen. Mr. A. M. Chance, the chairman of the City Justices, drew attention to the matter at their meeting last week, and urged that more severe sentences should be passed for the protection of the police. He showed that over three hundred charges of assault upon policemen are dealt with every year, and that the great majority of the offenders are let off with fines of ten or twenty shillings, the option of such fines being given even in cases in which officers have been injured so seriously that they have had to be off duty for periods ranging from a week to a month, or longer. It was agreed that a similar return should be obtained with regard to assaults upon women, and probably it will be found that this form of violence is treated with equally misguided leniency. In Birmingham, as elsewhere, the magistrates rarely hesitate to inflict a term of imprisonment for an offence against property, however trifling it may be; but, as my Legal Pillory shows, they generally seem to think that it is sufficient to impose a small pecuniary penalty for any outrage on the person, and more especially for the kicking of a woman or a policeman.

The most outrageous sentences recorded in my Legal Pillory this week are those inflicted by the learned Recorder of Colchester upon three boys charged with petty theft. The most muddle-headed magistrate on the bench could hardly hope to rival the fatuousness of the sentences in question, and I trust that they will be forthwith brought before the Home Secretary for revision. An extraordinary manifestation of the motor-phobia to which the occupants of county benches appear peculiarly prone was given at Newbury, where a motorist was fined £5 and costs for not producing a licence which he had forwarded to another Bench for endorsement. In this case, and in those heard at Coventry, King's Heath, and Swindon, an interesting comparison is afforded as to the punishment awarded motorists for purely technical offences and that given to drunken drivers of horses whose actions on the highway had proved a real menace to the safety of the public:—

Perth Police Court. Alexander Paton, charged with assaulting Mary Ann Wilson by striking her in the face and kicking her. Fined 30s.

Birmingham Police Court. Before the Stipendiary and other magistrates. H. Parker, charged with assaulting Ada Hickman. He struck her several times in the face, blackening both her eyes, and damaged her hat and jacket. Fined 20s. and costs, and 2s. 6d. and costs for the damage.

Hertford Police Court. James Simpkins, charged with assaulting Celia Grumball. He knocked her down several times and struck her with a poker. Bound over to keep the peace.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Tabrum, Roberts and Tomlinson. Warwick Trivett, charged with assaulting F. T. Robinson. Robinson was knocked down several times, his head cut, and his eyes blackened. Fined 20s. and costs.

King's Heath Police Court. John James, charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and trap. He was driving at a furious rate and narrowly escaped a number of accidents. Fined 20s. and costs.

Swindon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Stote, Chandler, Deacon and Riley. W. Pitt, charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and trap. He collided with and overturned one trap, and smashed the splash board of another. Fined 10s. and 5s. costs.

Loddon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Holmes, Crisp, and the Rev. H. Thursby. A. Williams, charged with cruelty to a horse. It was starved to death in a stable. Fined £1 and costs.

Alton Petty Sessions. E. H. Peddle, farmer, and A. Peddle, his son, charged with cruelty to over 400 head of cattle, sheep and horses, by starving them. A. Peddle fined £5 and costs, the case against E. Peddle dismissed because of want of evidence of guilty knowledge.

Perth Police Court. Before Bailie Isaac. David Donald, charged with begging. Twenty days' imprisonment.

Liverpool Police Court. Before the Stipendiary. Michael Kelly, a youth, charged with stealing a pocketful of rags, value 6d., belonging to the Dock Board. One month's imprisonment.

Barnsley Police Court. Albert Marshall, charged with game trespass. Fined 40s. and costs.

Ilkeston Petty Sessions. Ann Riley, 76 years of age, charged with stealing a pair of cycling shoes. Fourteen days' imprisonment.

Needham Market Petty Sessions. Before General Phillips, General Martin, and Messrs. Snell and Tidswell. George Thompson, charged with stealing a live fowl, valued at 2s. 6d. Three months' hard labour.

Newbury County Police Court. Before Mr. M. H. Best, and other magistrates. Mr. N. Wood, charged with failing to produce his motor-car licence when called upon. It had been sent to another Bench for endorsement, and not returned. Fined £5 and costs.

Coventry County Petty Sessions. Before Lieut.-Col. Beech, Messrs. W. Johnson, M.P., Taylor, Hollick, Woolton, and J. Marriott. J. W. F. Crouch, charged with exceeding the speed limit on a motor car. Fined £5 and costs.

Malmesbury Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. T. L. Hinwood and the Mayor. William Exell, charged with refusing to do his allotted task at the workhouse. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Colchester Quarter Sessions. Before Judge Philbrick, K.C. George Brooks, H. Collins, and C. H. Skully, charged with stealing various small articles, the property of J. Lilley. The two first were boys under 14 years of age and Skully was 16. Skully two months' imprisonment, Collins and Brooks one month each, and a birching.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Aberayon Petty Sessions. Evan Davies, farmer, charged with cruelty to sheep and lambs by starving them. They were simply skin and bone, and some were too weak to walk. Fined 1s. and costs.

Rhondda Petty Sessions. H. Clifton, charged with stealing a clipping machine and pair of scissors. He borrowed the article and afterwards sold them. One month's hard labour.

Retford Borough Police Court. Before the Mayor, the Rev. T. Morgan, Messrs. Hirst and Fletcher. George Cant, charged with causing a horse to be worked in an unfit state. It was attached to a dray loaded with hay, and fell on the shafts. When examined it was found to be suffering from old-standing lameness, and was totally unfit for work. Fined 10s. and costs.

I have pilloried a good many examples of Scottish justices' justice in the columns of TRUTH at one time or another, but have never yet met with a more astounding example than is disclosed in the following extract from the report of a case of theft of a pair of boots which appeared last week in the *Glasgow Herald*:

At the Northern Police-court on Friday, the lady and the two gentlemen were sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment each. William Sutherland, who gave evidence for the defence, impressed the magistrate the wrong way, with the result that his Honour (Bailie Wallace) sentenced him to 21 days' imprisonment for concealing the truth.

I have consulted an eminent legal authority on the subject, but he, like myself, had never heard that "concealment of the truth" by a witness was an offence punishable summarily in a Scottish police-court. Unless, therefore, the report is a mere piece of imagination on the part of the reporter, I should be glad to be further informed concerning the provisions of the Scottish law which place such drastic powers in the hands of the bailie.

An application was made the other day to the Birkenhead magistrates to grant a licence for a Sunday concert in aid of a summer camp for poor children. The promoters had, however, been injudicious enough to have advertised the concert before obtaining the licence, and when the application came before the worthy justices they rejected it with a great show of moral indignation on Sabbatarian grounds. Far be it from me to suggest that in this instance the shock to the magisterial dignity had more to do with the refusal than the shock to the magisterial conscience. The only moral to be drawn from the incident is to take nothing for granted where Shallow is concerned, for he is just as likely to prove deaf to the pleadings of philanthropy as he is blind to the claims of justice.

WHO WAS "SAMUEL"?

The Samuel whose spirit came—
As we've read in the papers—
And in the Jewish prophet's name
Cut such amazing capers,

He can't have been, from what befel,
The solemn Hebrew feller.
More like he was that Samivel
Whose other name was Weller.

With reference to a recent case before the Melrose J.P.s, in which a charge of cruelty against a farmer was found "Not proven," I have received a letter from the Chairman explaining the reasons why the Bench came to this decision. It was alleged that the accused starved a number of animals, and, as I stated in a paragraph a fortnight ago, the failure of the magistrates to convict him was sharply criticised by some of the local public interested in the S.P.C.A. Having regard,

however, to various facts in favour of the defence, to which my correspondent now draws attention, I am inclined to think that the decision of the magistrates was a proper one, and I regret that exception was taken to it.

A member of the legal profession sends me the document printed below. Those of my readers who know the record of the Imperial Art Supply Company will readily guess the circumstances under which it was written. A lady desirous of home employment had paid 7s. 6d. to the rascal trading under this name for the "outfit" with which she was to colour prints or photographs for him, had been put off week after week with the usual intimations that her work "showed promise," and that this or that little detail required alteration, until she recognised how she was being fooled, and requested the return of her money. The following is the reply, and it is a frank, if unintentional, admission of the character of the trick:—

In reply to your letter, if you will be so good as to refer to the order form, you will see that the outfit is only returnable when your first effort shows no promise, and as your first effort did show promise, we expect you to keep on until the prints are correctly coloured.—Yours truly,

p.p. The Imperial Art Supply Company.

It is no exaggeration to say that there must be thousands of women, mostly in reduced circumstances, who have been defrauded of their money by means of this trick. The innumerable warnings that have been given in Truth are in great part futile, because the people on whom the trick is played are not in a position to read sixpenny newspapers, and still more because the newspapers which they are more likely to see persist in publishing the advertisements of the Imperial Art Supply Company, and a host of similar swindles, perfectly well knowing their fraudulent character. The only way of checking such frauds is by making an example of the swindlers individually, and as the gentleman who forwards the above document is a lawyer, I suggest this course for his consideration. The amount of evidence respecting the Imperial Art Supply Company in my possession is quite sufficient to secure a conviction, and is at the service of anybody who will move in the matter; and I think there is enough of it to justify a request that the Public Prosecutor should take up the case, if anybody else will take the first step.

For the information of the American police, if they take any interest in this matter, I may mention that the latest communication from the gold-brick gangs received in this country was dated from New York on March 28, and that the address given for reply was 215, Reid-avenue, Brooklyn, the writer calling himself H. Charles Cambell. The letter in this case fell into the hands of the widow of the deceased gentleman to whom it was addressed, and I am told that she was completely taken in by it, but fortunately consulted the vicar of her parish, "who is a reader of Truth, and recognised the swindle at once." This just shows how important it is that country vicarages should be supplied with Truth. I know that the clergy feel this, and act upon it to the best of their ability, but seeing how limited are their means in too many cases, it is worth considering whether some arrangement should not be made to pay for the paper out of parochial funds. I commend the matter to the consideration of churchwardens.

I suppose that nothing will ever eradicate the belief of a host of greenhorns in the existence of an infallible betting system. Here is an interesting specimen of the letters which I continually receive:—

Would you kindly let me know, *re* the enclosed—is this system worth the five guineas, and could you send me particulars of how same is worked? I hope you will kindly let me know full particulars per return. I may tell you I have before paid pounds for worthless systems, and I hope this time, through your private information, that I will either purchase a good system or be saved five guineas.

The enclosure is a prospectus from "James Brown"—one of the innumerable aliases of E. W. Beston, of Birmingham—in reference to what is described as "The Longshot Certainty Method," which "successfully and consistently lands brilliant outsiders," and enables the backer "to win big profits with small stakes" at every meeting. Though "the system itself is worked without telegrams," James Brown includes in the price of five guineas "a week's two-horse wires," for which (he says) his ordinary charge is £5.

It does not seem to have struck the writer of the above letter as curious that the inventor of this "miraculous method," worked without telegrams, should lay stress on the fact that he gives away with it a series of "wires," which, on his own showing, would be superfluous. Nor does he appear to have considered it very strange that James Brown should be content to remain a touting tipster instead of devoting himself to the piling up of big profits by "backing triumphant long shots." My ingenuous correspondent evidently thinks it quite possible that I can tell him how a fortune can be made by this system, but let me assure him that if I knew I should use the knowledge for my own benefit rather than his. I do not know precisely what it is that Brown, otherwise Beston, calls "The Longshot Certainty Method." But I know enough of betting systems, and Beston, too, to be quite sure that it is a swindle.

A sufferer from the plague of moneylending circulars writes:—

May I claim your protection from the fraternity of moneylenders, in whose "interest" you exert the power of your pen? "I owe no man anything and I give tithe of all I possess," and yet this comfortable position is assailed by the money lenders week in and week out. In letters directed to my town and country houses they implore me to borrow any sum from £5,000 to £10,000 on my note of hand without any inquiries, and at little more interest than would be charged by my banker, from whose inquisitive spirit I must be anxious to conceal any temporary want of hard cash. One philanthropist reaches the high level of being "at home" from 4 to 6, and if I will confide to him my trouble he will relieve it within an hour. It is no exaggeration to say that these letters, marked "Private," reach me in such numbers as to suggest to my servants that I am carrying on a domestic or political intrigue of serious dimensions.

There are a good many of us who would like to be protected from this annoyance. At my own humble

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

abode I have just received an offer of an advance of from £50 to £5,000 from "John Weston and Co.," 30, Duke-street, Piccadilly, though it is only a week or two ago since I explained in these columns that this is the newest alias of an unprincipled bloodsucker named Pockett. He is, however, too parsimonious a rascal to send out his circulars as private letters; they are distributed in open envelopes with half-penny stamps, so that one's servants may read them. Another of these sharks, "Mr. F. Watts" (otherwise David Feedman), 95, Jermyn-street, last week directed one of his circulars to Mr. Labouchere at TRUTH Office. That shows how hopeless it is for any one to expect to escape the attentions of these pests.

Here is the latest from Professor Harris Edison, the "Practical Astrologer" of Binghampton, U.S.A., whose trade circulars have already been noticed in TRUTH:—

DEAR FRIEND,—There must be some good reason why you have not sent me your order for a Yearly Horoscope or Daily Guide for 1907. . . . .

Possibly your expenses, which are, of course, heavier than usual at this time of year, has [*sic*] interfered. If such is the case I shall be very glad to help you.

From what I have seen regarding your indications I should not feel right in my own mind to let you go along a day further in a blind haphazard manner, for I certainly want to see you succeed this year, and do not wish to feel that you are losing any more opportunities for lack of knowledge.

My price for a Yearly Reading is four shillings, and I shall not reduce that price; but here is a way in which I can help you. I am willing to wait for my pay and profit until you feel perfectly willing to fully pay me. I figure that it costs fully 2s. 6d. to fill an order for a Yearly Reading, and this doesn't cover my work or profits. . . . . If, therefore you will send me 2s. 6d. in penny stamps or money order to pay me this expense of putting up your horoscope I will send on your Yearly Horoscope Reading at once and you can pay me the other 1s. 6d. any time before next September. That is, if you have derived benefit from it and are ready and willing to pay me. . . . . If you do not feel at that time ready and willing to pay me the balance you need not pay me another cent.

The American astrologers seem to have invested their ancient art with a sort of family likeness to the confidence trick.

Several inquiries have reached me during the last few weeks respecting a firm called the Auto-Fountain Company, of Cowcross-street, Smithfield, which advertises a small fountain for the purpose of table decoration. The inquirers, having ordered and paid for the said fountains, have been unable to obtain them. On communicating with the Auto-Fountain Company, I found it to consist of a man in no very large way of business, who explained that he made the things himself, and that he was rather overdone with orders, which had caused delay in delivery. He promised to attend to the dissatisfied customers, but week after week has gone by, and I hear that he has in no case kept his promise. Whether he intends to or not is really immaterial, for no tradesman has a right to take cash in payment for an order which he is unable to execute within a reasonable time. I mention the matter for the information of any of my readers who may contemplate ordering "auto-fountains" through this advertisement.

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

THE BUTTERFLY AND THE ANTS.

One August Morning, warm and bright,
Dame BUTTERFLY winged forth her Flight,
Now lingered dallying here, now there,
And revelled in the Sunshine fair.
But as she flitted to and fro,
Having no special where to go,
Her roving, circumspective Glance
Descried a Host of busy ANTS,
Who, laden all with Foodstuffs, pressed
Towards their subterranean Nest.
"Poor Things!" the pitying Dame declares,
"How far my Lot excelleth theirs,
Who Labour's Trammels never leave
From early Morn till dewy Eve;
While I enjoy these Gambols gay,
And please myself the livelong Day!"
She spake, and aimless onward sped
Where'er her vagrant Fancy led,
Now sipping of some honeyed Flower,
Now resting in some shady Bower;
And still not yet the Summer Sun
Through half his circling Course had run.
But now no more the Welkin bright
Avails to keep her Spirits light;
No more the Sight or Scent of Flowers,
No more the Cool of shady Bowers
Can kill, for her, the tedious Hours.
Yea! Sick of mere Enjoyment's Quest,
By Pleasure sated, cloyed, depressed,
She lades with Sighs her every Breath,
And owns she's simply bored to Death.
'Twas then, as on her Homeward Way
She sped, no longer blithe nor gay,
Her Wings Dame BUTTERFLY have borne
Past where she'd seen the ANTS that Morn.
But they, their arduous Labour done,
Were now, some basking in the Sun,
And some—more active Insects—played
At Games, and sported in the Shade;
But all, 'twas very plain to see,
Were happy as they well could be.
At whom the jaded Trifler gazed,
Envious in Part, in Part amazed:
"How is 't that you," she loud exclaims,
"Can thus enjoy your homely Games,
While me, my far more copious Store
Of rare Enjoyments simply bore?"
Whereto an Emmet made reply,
Cocking the while his small, black Eye:
"You're bored, 'cause Play without Cessation
Soon palls through too much Recreation."

Moral.

Pleasure alone spells true Enjoyment,
Which comes as *Respite from Employment.*"

SCRUTATOR.

THE KING AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

WHENEVER the King goes abroad it is now the practice of the sensation-mongers of the London press and their Continental competitors to discover some deep-seated diplomatic scheme as the reason for his taking a holiday. The climax of the nonsense promulgated in this way was the circumstantial account of an Anglo-Spanish naval and military alliance with which the *Daily Mail* kept up its reputation last Thursday. His Majesty makes a friendly call on a young sovereign who has married into his family, and forthwith Spain is going to construct a powerful fleet under British supervision, and to fortify four harbours for our use in time of war; we are going to finance the Spanish debt on a "Goschen" basis; and the two nations are to band together their navies and armies against all comers—particularly one whose name may or may not begin with W. Nothing

like this has been sold for a halfpenny since we had the revelation of our agreement to co-operate in a forthcoming Franco-German war by seizing the Kiel Canal and marching on Berlin through Holstein. Again, the King of England continues his holiday cruise and meets the King of Italy. The newspapers are at once equally convinced, and equally well informed, of the deep international significance of the event. The two sovereigns discussed, we are told, not only the mutual relations of their countries, but the attitude of Italy towards proposals at The Hague for a reduction of armaments. A general agreement was arrived at between them. Finally, as the outcome of the whole tour, journalistic inspiration has crystallised into a League of Mediterranean Powers, for the further discomfiture of the aforesaid W.

By Englishmen of average intelligence and education, the constitutional position of the King is too well understood for them to believe all this trash. Our King acts on the advice of his Ministers, and his Ministers are controlled by the majority of the Members of the House of Commons. Our policy is, therefore, thus decided by the will of the nation, and whether that majority be Liberal or Conservative, the King adopts it, and acts on it. This is what is meant by self-government, and the King is far too constitutional a Sovereign, and far too wise a man, to seek to impose his views—whatever they may be—on his Ministers. But abroad it would seem that our scheme of government is not so well realised. All these stories, therefore, of the intrigues of our King when abroad are listened to, and are often accepted as gospel truth. The consequence is that at present most foreigners are under the impression that the King of England holds that the best manner to prevent war is to isolate Germany by uniting the Continental powers in a sort of alliance against her, and that he is actually engaged in giving effect to this idea.

Naturally, this does not conduce to a friendly feeling on the part of Germany towards us. It is most desirable, therefore, that the Germans should clearly understand that these stories are the mere irresponsible chatter of newspaper scribes, without one scintilla of truth. Unfortunately, we have a number of very silly people amongst us who are always determined that there shall be at least one country filling the position of our natural enemy. A few years ago it was France, and then these fools lavished their favour on Germany. Now that we are on the best and most friendly terms with France, the natural enemy with them is Germany, and they never cease from seeking to stir up ill-feeling between us and the Germans. As the relations of the British and German Governments are perfectly friendly and correct, and no rational cause of quarrel between the two nations can be discovered, it is by no means easy to persuade the public that there is any real ground for antagonism between England and Germany, outside the daily need of a newspaper to supply the public with highly spiced reading matter. Hence the attempt is made to represent the King as the exponent of the idea that Germany is the enemy, and so unscrupulous are the mischief-makers on our side that they do not hesitate to suggest that his Majesty is moved by his personal sentiments to overstep his constitutional functions, and to engage on his own account in an intrigue against a foreign Government with which his own is in perfect friendship. No one has more cause to resent this than the King himself. It is, indeed, a gross libel upon him, and the more gross because his position precludes his denying the acts and motives attributed to him. It is the duty of loyal subjects, therefore, not merely to discredit all such insinuations, but to protest against them as forcibly as possible.

Southampton.—South-Western Hotel.—The new Dining room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

LORD PORTSMOUTH AND HIS TENANT.

The following letter from the Earl of Portsmouth, Under-Secretary of State for War, was published in the *Times* of Tuesday:—

I have just heard that reference has been made to my conduct towards one of my tenants.

I am reluctant to appear to concern myself with personal attacks or to intrude any private affairs of mine upon public attention: but I am told that, in justice to myself, I ought to say that the tenant in question did not leave his farm because I desired to have it overrun with excessive ground game, seeing that the farm was at once taken by an adjoining tenant, who must have known all the circumstances of the case, at an increased rent.

What Lord Portsmouth has been told that he ought to say is no answer whatever to the statements which were made in last week's Truth, and which were the subject of questions to the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on Monday. "The tenant in question," says his lordship, "did not leave his farm because I desired to have it overrun with excessive ground game." He left, of course, because he received twelve months' notice to quit. This notice was given subsequently to a dispute that had arisen beween him and Lord Portsmouth with regard to the killing of hares on the farm. The Ground Game Act entitles tenants to kill hares. Lord Portsmouth's agent informed this tenant and others that they must cease to do so. The tenant in question refused, pointing out that if the hares were not kept down his crops would suffer great damage. He also inquired whether, if he did give up his right under the Act, compensation would be allowed him for the damage to his crops. This question was not answered, but Lord Portsmouth himself addressed to the tenant a letter containing the passages I quoted last week. In view of what has been described in some quarters as his lordship's "denial," I now give the letter in full. It will be observed that there is a reference to "the common." This land is not, in fact, a "common" in the ordinary meaning of the word, but a part of the farm for which the tenant was paying rent:—

Hurstbourne Park, Whitchurch, Hants.
January 25, 1903.

Dear Sir,—I have seen Mr. Asprey, who appears to have desired to have had a friendly talk with you, which I hoped would have settled the question.

I have no intention to make a mountain out of a molehill, nor am I concerned about the trumpery loss of a few hares. To suppose any such thing would be an entire misconception of the matter.

I do not understand that you deny your having been in the habit of constantly shooting the hares over your farm and of having come into the common which is almost a part of the Belts, and killed several hares there. My keepers know that I neither listen nor appreciate being bothered by frivolous complaints. I have no intention, let me say in my own interests, of having my property destroyed by excessive ground game, but if you or any other tenant insist upon your power under the Ground Game Act of constantly disturbing the land in pursuit of ground game, I must at once and frankly say that I must adopt the only remedy which I possess of changing tenants, or farming the land myself.

I have no intention to listen to tales of one tenant against another, or to allow my keepers to be bringing me constant grievances; but having satisfied myself that in this case I have reasonable ground for complaint, the sum and conclusion of the whole matter is this, which no interview or talking over can affect, that if you cannot accept in good part the advice which Mr. Asprey proffered with, I can assure you, the most friendly intention, it would be fairer to both parties for you to arrange to leave, which I trust would be conducted on both sides with perfect courtesy and consideration.—Believe me, yours truly,

PORTSMOUTH.

As I stated last week, this tenant, though he had exercised his right to shoot hares, had always done so with due consideration for his landlord's sport, and there had never been any scarcity of ground game on the farm. Lord Portsmouth did not adopt his "only remedy" at once, and the tenant continued to shoot hares as before. In 1905, however, he received twelve months' notice, expiring last Michaelmas, to give up the farm, which he had occupied for over thirty years. Unless Lord Portsmouth can deny the authorship of the above letter—which I do not think that he can do—it seems idle to suggest that there was no connection between the tenant's insistence upon his rights under the Ground Game Act and his expulsion from his farm.

MR. RHODES AND UPPINGHAM SCHOOL.

The grievance of the Vicar of Whaplode against the "Rectors" who hold the great tithe of his parish was stated in my recent account of the matter somewhat unfairly to Uppingham School. One of the Uppingham Trustees has been good enough to forward a full explanation of the position of the school in relation to Whaplode; the Uppingham Trustees, as shown by their accounts, which I have before me, for two years receiving nothing directly from Whaplode parish. What they receive is an annual payment of about £620 (the amount seems to vary) from the Governors of Archdeacon Johnson's Hospitals. I gather that the last-named charity is a sixteenth century foundation, under which Uppingham and Oakham Schools benefit in connection with certain hospitals founded by Archdeacon Johnson. Further, the endowment of Uppingham School is inconsiderable, amounting to only £957 per annum in all, and the school is fully self-supporting. The school fees amount to £16,000 or £17,000 a year, or more, and the amount spent on exhibitions was £2,445 in 1905, which was more than four times the income received from the Johnson Trust in the same year.

It will be seen from this that when Mr. Rhodes talks, in the pamphlet which I quoted on April 17, about his parish being impoverished "because the great and affluent have given their sons an expensive education under cost price at Uppingham Schools and poor Whaplode Church has had to pay some of the difference," he is talking somewhat at random. Assuming that the £1,600 per annum derived from Whaplode tithe goes to the Governors of Archdeacon Johnson's Hospitals, less than half of it eventually finds its way to Uppingham School, and the number of those to whom it can be said to afford an education under cost price, that is to say the holders of exhibitions either in the School or at the Universities, is very limited, three-fourths of the exhibitions being provided out of the profits on the working of the school.

Nor is this the whole extent of the Vicar's mistake. He gives in his pamphlet a long list of gentlemen who are presumably the trustees holding the Whaplode tithe, and he states that "these practically represent the Governing Body of Uppingham Schools." This statement was followed in TRUTH of April 17. The Trustees of Uppingham School—there is no body known as Governors—are a different body of gentlemen altogether. It is true that nine of those mentioned by Mr. Rhodes are Uppingham Trustees, but they are only half the board, and there remain twelve on Mr. Rhodes's list who have apparently nothing to do with Uppingham School. It is also obvious that the Trustees of Uppingham School, collectively, have no responsibility, legal or moral, towards Whaplode parish. Even if they receive a portion of the tithe from the Governors of Archdeacon Johnson's Hospitals, they have no concern with it, and no power to deal with it, except in accordance with the terms of their own trust. The trustee who gives me this information states that during the fifteen years that he has held this office, no communication from the Vicar of Whaplode has ever come before the board to his knowledge, nor has he any personal knowledge of the Vicar's grievances. If Mr. Rhodes, however, had made any application to the trustees, it is clear that they could have done nothing for him.

Although Mr. Rhodes has been hitting somewhat wildly, as country parsons sometimes do, the grievances of himself and his parish are none the less substantial. But as I have indicated before, they are only the common grievances of all parishes the tithes of which have passed in bygone times into lay hands, or been otherwise appropriated to extra-parochial purposes. I presume that if Mr. Rhodes confines his attention to the actual Rectors of the parish, who may or may not be the governors of Archdeacon Johnson's Hospitals, he will be met with much the same difficulty as if he appealed to the Trustees of Uppingham School. A trustee has no legal power to spend the trust money in any way but as the terms of the trust direct. In the eye of the law he is a machine without reason and without conscience. The abuses that have grown up in connection with ecclesiastical property, and tithe more than anything else, can only be effectually remedied by legislation, and one of the great difficulties in the way of legislation is that those who are interested in the maintenance of the abuses are more powerful than those who suffer by them. Remedial legislation, therefore, is only likely to come from the Government, and only from a Radical Government. Some day, no doubt, a Radical Government will tackle the question, but I do not suppose it will be the present one, and I fear that the result will not be agreeable to the Church at large.

THE DAVIS NEWSPAPER TRICK.

During the past week a great deal of additional information has come to hand respecting the doings of Mrs. Davis, alias Walker, in the retail newspaper trade. There seems to be no end to the people who have been victimised by her, and they all tell the same tale, with immaterial variations. In one case a victim states that on complaining that she was not receiving the papers she had paid for, she received a letter explaining that Mrs. Davis was ill. This is capped by another witness who, on making a similar complaint, received a letter from Mr. Davis informing him of "my wife's unexpected

decease." This letter, which is in the same insolent tone as other letters from Mr. Davis to aggrieved customers of Mrs. Davis, was written in the first week of March, and bore the address, c.o. Mrs. Flood, 96, Pershore-road, Birmingham. It is evident that the couple were then in that neighbourhood, because other letters written by Mr. Davis about the same time bear a Birmingham post-mark, but probably the address was only a temporary one. As I said last week, I do not suppose that the people who paid for newspapers are the only people who have cause to regret their dealings with Mrs. or Mr. Davis; and I have heard from a firm who supplied a small quantity of goods to the lady when she was at Stratton Hall, South Petherton, in the early part of last year, and have never to this day been able to obtain payment.

In view of all that has now come to light, it may interest those who have had dealings with this worthy pair to see the letter with which, as mentioned last week, I have been favoured by Mr. Davis. It strikes me as an amusing example of the sort of bounce to which such people resort when they feel themselves getting into a corner:—

Norton, Stoke-under-Ham,
Somerset.
April 20, 1907.

The Editor,
Truth Newspaper,
Carteret Street,
Westminster, S.W.

Sir,—My attention has only just been drawn to your paragraph regarding Mrs. Davis.

I wish to say that it is perfectly true Mrs. Davis received money from various persons for forwarding papers, and for twelve months has done so without complaint.

Of course you are not aware of the arrangements, and I am only sorry you inserted the paragraphs which bear such a damaging complexion to me, especially without enquiry as to the true circumstances.

As a matter of fact, Mrs Davis, when the whole of the transactions are collected together, is the person victimized, as she not only sold but purchased papers, and I can show many cases where people received very good exchange or cash in advance for papers never sent them at all. Mrs. Davis had to purchase therefore *over again new*. . . .

I wish to point out to you this very important fact: that in all cases the persons complaining have received copies of papers to the full value of their subscription at least, and in the majority of cases a great deal more, so your remarks as to their being "victimized" is incorrect.

I have in my possession receipts for all papers purchased, and the cost has *far* exceeded the amount which Mrs. Davis received.

The persons who buy papers second-hand are undoubtedly the most unreasonable people to deal with.

In many instances papers were discontinued on account of disgraceful postcards which are sent when a paper does not arrive by a particular post, and I think you will agree with me there are always circumstances to prevent a paper or anything sent through the post being delivered by a certain post.

You may be surprised to learn that postcards of this description are used as a means of blackmail, and I had to leave my friend's house where I stayed when I left Bude in consequence of postcards of this nature.

The method employed by these persons is very simple. They pay a subscription perhaps for two or three papers, and when they have been forwarded for a considerable time, probably six months or more, make a complaint and then demand the whole subscription returned on a postcard containing threats. This procedure is universal, and I have come to the conclusion that Mrs. Davis is not the first person who has been treated in the same way.

You will excuse this long letter, but with my assurances that any matter of complaint which you may receive can be fully explained by me, and I shall ask you to be good enough to give me particulars of any such.

I will not comment upon your paragraph, as I feel the statements which must have been put before you, doubtless on the face of them, justified your action, but I think you will agree with me, when you have investigated the matter and made fuller enquiry, that your remarks were somewhat premature.

In no case has the amount paid to Mrs. Davis been more than 3d. a copy, to include extra numbers and postage for 6d. papers, and 1½d. a copy for 3d. papers. This is apart from the cost of correspondence entailed.

You will gather from this that in the event of the papers having to be purchased *new* the loss soon becomes very considerable.

I enclose one postcard for your perusal. This person started on 1st October, paid 7s., to include postage and double numbers.

I have made no secret of my whereabouts, and all letters have been forwarded, but as previously stated, I was staying with friends who desired me to leave, and who have not been friendly since in consequence of these postcards.

The statements which you have published have brought about a state of things which you could not foresee, as a number of people who have been forwarding papers have returned balance to me and declined to send for the future.

I do not know why you should single out Mrs. Davis in particular as a transgressor in connection with the sale of second-hand papers, as there are in my possession a number of letters from different people who state they have on previous occasions paid for papers and never received any. I also have the names and addresses of some of these persons who are evidently doing the same thing now, but nothing has previously appeared in your columns regarding *their* "modus operandi."

The persons I refer to are "swindlers," and Mrs. Davis is not, which is quite easy to prove.

With regard to the whole of the transactions Mrs. Davis herself arranged them all, and I was not concerned in any way, and she always fulfilled her engagements.

It might interest you to know that a considerable number who subscribed received their papers regularly and renewed their subscription. Does this strike you as a swindle? You can have names and addresses if necessary.

In any case, before denouncing persons in this manner as birds of prey, and referring to their "victims," you should always make enquiries.

In conclusion I must ask you not to connect my name in any way with the transactions.

The best way to bring about a satisfactory settlement with the persons who are aggrieved is for you to send me the names and addresses to the enclosed address, and I am willing to do my best to meet them reasonably.—Yours truly, p.p. R. Davis.

It will be readily understood why I said last week that I could not accept the statements in this letter in the face of the mass of evidence I had respecting the game that Mrs. Davis had been carrying on. For the same reason the letter is not worth discussing now, and all the less so since Mr. Davis has not thought fit to offer any explanation of the numerous facts which were given in Truth last week. In point of fact, the only explanation he could give, so far as he himself is concerned, is that his wife had been playing all these tricks without his knowledge, and that she has even gone the length of writing letters to the customers in his name, including the one which gave the intimation, at the beginning of March, of her own recent decease.

Not the least amusing part of Mr. Davis's letter is the allusion to the inconvenience which he has suffered in consequence of the customers complaining to him on postcards, and the consequent unpleasantness that has arisen between him and the friends in whose houses he has been staying. This sounds very big. I suppose one of the friends was Mrs. Flood, of Pershore-road, Birmingham, mentioned above; but I note that he now instructs me to address him at Stoke-under-Ham to the "care of Mrs. Thomas Sweet," so perhaps this hostess is not so squeamish about the newspaper business. If Norton, Stoke-under-Ham, is not his own house, it is rather curious that Mr. Davis should have given this address to the Post Office for the re-direction of his letters. This happens to be the address to which, as mentioned last week, a registered letter from one of his creditors, enclosing their little account, was re-directed by the Post Office, and at which the said registered letter was refused, although Mr. Davis is writing to me from the same address a week or two later. Another curious fact is that this letter to me, though dated from Stoke-under-Ham, was posted at Catford. It would seem that Mr. D. was temporarily staying with another friend there, and he had apparently taken a typewriter to his friend's house at Catford, as the letter is typewritten, even down to the signature. One result of this is that it deprives me of the opportunity of comparing Mr. D.'s handwriting with that of various

letters which may or may not be his in the correspondence with discontented customers. All these little points have their peculiar suggestiveness in relation to Mr. Davis's assumption of injured innocence.

One or two of my correspondents have expressed willingness to take proceedings against Mrs. Davis if others will co-operate, and I shall be glad to hear from any who will do so, in order that I may put them into communication with one another, as it is certainly a case where it is desirable to make an example.

THE TALLYMAN AND THE COUNTY COURT.

Two cases heard last week at Grimsby County Court, before Sir Sherston Baker, illustrate in a striking way the mischievous results of credit trading in working-class homes. The plaintiff in both cases was a local tradesman named Jacob Alge. The name apparently indicates both a foreign and a Semitic origin, and the employee who appeared as a witness to prove the debts for Mr. Alge is described by the reporter as "a Hebrew who could not read the book entries unless they were written in the Hebrew character." The two defendants were a dustman and a working painter, and were sued for the price of clothing sold to their wives. In each case the goods were sold by a touting agent who called on the women in their husbands' absence. The dustman's wife was alleged to have purchased in this way a costume at £1 10s., a skirt at 18s. 6d., and a quilt at 9s. She paid one instalment of 3s., and then disappeared. The dustman stated that she had gone off with the children, and he had no idea where she had gone to. She had, very considerately, left behind her the pawn-tickets for his Sunday clothes and his boots. He gave her 22s. a week for housekeeping out of his 24s. a week wages, but he only allowed her to have a weekly account at one shop. He had given her a new costume at Christmas, and he was not aware that she possessed the clothing supplied by the plaintiff. The painter's case presented still more interesting features. He was sued for the price of a lady's coat supplied to his wife. In the absence of his wife, who was ill, he stated in the box that one day when he came home, his wife showed him a coat which had been left at the house by a canvasser. The lady explained that she had told the man that her husband did not approve of such transactions, and the canvasser had insisted on leaving the garment in order that the husband might see it, promising to call the next day and take it away if the husband was not sufficiently charmed by its appearance to authorise the transaction. The husband proved obdurate, but when the man called again he refused to take the coat away, saying that his "boss" would not allow him to do so, and he actually offered to pay the first instalment of 3s. out of his own pocket if the woman would keep the garment. The man gave no address, and consequently the coat could not be returned.

In both these cases, after hearing the evidence, the Judge gave judgment for the defendants, making at the same time some strong observations upon the system of trading disclosed in the evidence. His Honour also intimated, no doubt on the strength of his judicial experience, that there was a great deal too much of this sort of thing in Grimsby. The observation is strongly confirmed by the *Grimsby Daily Telegraph* in reporting the cases. The writer states that there prevails in the town a general system of purchasing goods on "the one shilling per week system," adding that though the extent of the trade cannot be accurately estimated, "it provides employment for a large number of touts and collectors, some of the latter having, according to the branches of the trade with which they are connected, from 300 to 700 names—which we know of personally—on their books to be called upon weekly." I do not suppose that this state of things is in any way peculiar to Grimsby. It is merely an indication of the extensive growth of credit trading among the working classes all over the country. As long, of course, as a working man is in regular employment and earning good wages, tradesmen will naturally allow him and his wife to run weekly bills for household necessaries, as they do their larger customers of the middle class. But the development of the instalment system of payment, coupled with the enormous growth of the system of giving credit in this way to perfect strangers by means of newspaper advertisements and transactions by post, has undoubtedly caused the working classes of the present day to contract debts more freely than any other class, and to an extent more disproportionate to their means, the disproportion being aggravated by the fact that in a vast number of cases the working man's income is far more precarious than that of the class above him.

This state of things is undoubtedly a social evil, but by far the worst part of it arises from the practice of tempting wives into debt by means of house-to-house canvassing, which is so strikingly exemplified in the two cases described above. The tallyman has always been a curse to working class homes. Wives who contract debts behind their husbands' backs are of course, common to all classes of society, from the highest to the lowest; but the lower you go in the social scale, the easier it is to tempt a woman into debt, because the greater is her difficulty in supplying the harmless and legitimate needs of herself and her household out of her small available cash. With the increasing competition of credit traders, the tallyman—or his successor, the canvasser for orders on the shilling a week instalment system—increases and multiplies, and at the same time becomes more and more unscrupulous in his methods. When he fails to obtain a firm order, he has at his command a dozen fraudulent dodges of faking up a bogus transaction, like that described by the painter in the Grimsby case; and the fact that the customers are poor and ignorant people, with little knowledge of the law and an exaggerated fear of the County Court, gives the opening for extorting payment by bluff and threats even where the claim might be successfully resisted. For every working class husband who comes into court to fight the case out, like the two men mentioned above, there must be hundreds who tamely submit to be fleeced on the strength of transactions by their wives, by which they are not legally bound, or of downright fraudulent claims for which neither husband nor wife could be successfully sued. The whole system is a prolific source not only of domestic misery, but of a vast amount of systematic swindling.

It would be visionary to expect that means will ever

be found of preventing people getting into debt, to whatever class of society they may belong. But in the case of the working classes there has grown up the peculiar evil that people are encouraged to get into debt wholesale who have no visible security to offer for the credit given them. This is the fault of the County Court system, and, so far as the County Court is concerned, the evil is remediable. Of the huge sums recovered every year from small debtors by County Court process, the proportion recovered by the actual levying of execution is insignificant. I cannot find any return which gives the exact amounts; but it is certainly no exaggeration to say that in nine cases out of ten where a debt is recovered it is recovered by an order for payment by instalments under a judgment summons, and the whole effective force of this procedure is derived—not, as in the case of a High Court judgment, from the impendng seizure of goods under execution—but from the committal order, suspended so long as the instalments which the Court orders are paid. In other words, the system of debt recovery in the County Court rests upon imprisonment for debt. Upon this is built up the whole fabric of working-class indebtedness, with its incidental evils. If the abolition of imprisonment for debt, which has been evaded by the fiction of imprisonment for contempt of court, were made a reality, a man would only be able to obtain credit in proportion to his tangible assets available for seizure in execution; the giving of credit on the strength of the debtor's ability to pay in process of time out of his future earnings would disappear; and neither working men nor working women would be tempted to mortgage their wages in perpetuity by continually buying goods to-day which they can only hope to pay for to-morrow. This I have pointed out again and again in connection with the various evils to which the present County Court procedure gives rise, and I regret very much to see that, although the Lord Chancellor has brought in a Bill recently for the amendment of certain minor points in connection with County Court practice, he has not ventured to touch what is by far the most important matter of all. There is, however, no man in the present Government with sounder views on the subject of social reform, and one can only hope that before he vacates the Woolsack his attention may be seriously directed to this great evil, which lies entirely under his jurisdiction, and, unlike many social evils, can be remedied without any expenditure of money—on the contrary, with a very great saving of money to every one concerned.

THE THEATRES.

"The Duel," at the Garrick.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier appears for the second time, at least, in a spiritual capacity. But whereas the bishop of "The Bishop's Move" was a more or less companionable person, in the moral duel between the two brothers, which forms the theme of M. Henri Lavedan's play, which Mr. Bourchier has eviscerated for the English stage, Mr. Bourchier has attempted the character of the ascetic. Sincerity was the quality looked for in Father Daniel, the monk, and sincerity compels one to lament its absence. This is not to be wondered at, and Mr. Bourchier is to be congratulated all the same upon his bold attempt to storm the fortress of Asceticism. But the creator of Blagden has not managed to convince as the creator of Father Daniel. He does all that cleverness can do and, indeed, sometimes a little more, when, as at the end of the play, he bestows words of advice which should come from the lips of Monsignor Boleyn upon his spiritual inferior. All this proves that even actor managers are only mortal, but they should always try to be artistic, and it does not enhance the value of Father Daniel's part to be suddenly put into the shoes of Monsignor. The quarrels between the two brothers, both during and in the absence of the Duchess, were the most effective part of the play, for Mr. Bourchier can be angry effectively whether as priest or layman, because loss of self control puts every one upon the same level. Miss Violet Vanbrugh gave us a plaintive Duchess. One felt that the Duke beat her. One felt that she was a real person, and yet, with the best possible of excuses for falling in love with Sir Paul Forester, M.D., there yet remained a feeling of dissatisfaction with the association of the couple. Can one blame the actress or the actor? If anything, Mr. Cyril Keighley was a little too matter-of-fact as the eminent physician. Neither the matter nor the manner of his wooing seemed to me very interesting, and one missed in this love affair the sense of the thing that might have been. Mr. Sydney Valentine was by far the most realistic of the characters, giving to the part of the Bishop *in partibus* all the verisimilitude imaginable, and showing how firm is his grip of the character, how strong and supple the art which he uses in its portrayal. Habited in what looked like pontificals, Mr. Valentine continued to be natural, and even the overstrained adoration of the Chinaman in attendance upon him hardly jarred upon one.

I have not seen the play in the French, but am credibly informed that Mr. Bourchier has added to it the superfluous character of Major Townley, who appears at odd moments and keeps the audience informed of the plot. He also makes one or two remarks about borrowing his tutor's knife at Eton "to vivisect a cat," which one may safely set down as alien to M. Henri Lavedan's intention. "Foreign classics as curtailed, added to, and adapted by theatrical managers," would form an interesting theme for some quarterly reviewer with a sense of humour.

"The Sunken Bell," at the Waldorf Theatre.

Mr. Sothern and Miss Julia Marlowe were not well advised in opening their London campaign with Hauptmann's "Sunken Bell" in an American verse translation. The play itself is an elaborate German allegory, with all the repetitions and redundances into which almost all German writers fall, save, perhaps, Nietzsche and Heine, neither of whom, by the way, were dramatists. The translation must, therefore, not be blamed for being lengthy, and often very fatiguing to hear. It contains some creditable lines, and if the total were reduced to about one-third we should very likely enjoy the whole. As it is, Miss Marlowe's attempts to bewitch the audience as she bewitches Heinrich signally fail,

and Mr. Sothern, for all his gifts, also fails to save us from ennui. There is a sense of unreality about Heinrich's fall on the mountain; his healing by the elfish maiden has little to convince, and one is more interested by Heinrich's wife, a part not intended by the dramatist to stand out. That is because we feel that she, at least, is a human being. As to Heinrich's dealings with the Sprite Rautendelein and the dwarfs of the mountain, it may be very subtle allegory, but we are not sufficiently interested in Heinrich or in his elfin mistress to care very much what they do. I very much doubt if modern audiences can be made to enjoy these elaborate poetical allegories. This one, at any rate, was well mounted; and, indeed, what gave me most pleasure during the evening was the beautiful waterfall cascading among grey boulders with the sense of towering mountain over all, which was the scene of the first and penultimate acts.

Joan of Arc.

I do not know why Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe selected two plays both with foreign plots, and one altogether foreign, for their first week's performance. True, they conclude it with Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," incomparably their best performance, as it is altogether out of comparison as a play to its predecessors on their programme. They should have begun at the end. This version of Joan of Arc's story takes the form of a five-act tragedy, the work of Mr. Mackaye. Without being especially notable for its quality, the blank verse was pleasant enough to the ear, and sufficiently often broken into with dialogue of every day not to pall.

Mr. Mackaye has allowed himself full licence, and bestowed a couple of lovers upon the maid, one of whom is distinguished as the student Mr. Sothern. Mr. Mackaye has also had recourse to every sort of mechanical device for heightening the effect of his play. But it may be doubted whether the constant apparition of denizens from another world does not rather upset the audience in their contemplation of the players, their pleasure in the writing of the play. Bastien Lepage, it is true, has given us an immortal picture of the Maid harkening to the voices in the orchard at Domrémy. Mr. Mackaye might perhaps have done better to limit himself to this, and rely upon legitimate effects for his impression. Personally, I prefer to believe that seers of visions, like the Maid of Orleans, really do see what they profess to see, but I do not think that their visions should therefore be visible to the eye of any one. I should, therefore, have preferred to hear Miss Marlowe say, "My voices," and to listen and be satisfied with that. The general effect produced by this well-mounted tragedy was that of what the French call a *succès d'estime*. On Friday we were still wavering uncertain as to the full extent of the powers of our visitors. On Friday evening we were satisfied.

Twelfth Night.

Here Miss Marlowe and Mr. Sothern for the first time showed beyond cavil that their claims to distinction are real. Yet Miss Marlowe set one at first a little against her, owing to the peculiar blue raiment in which her Viola emerges from the tempest-tossed seas. Mr. Sothern's rendering of Malvolio was quiet and restrained, yet he soon made it clear that he knew the character in all its shades, and had made a careful selection among alternatives. Less salient as regards the other characters of the play than the Malvolio of Mr. Tree, Mr. Sothern's conception is not less satisfactory. Miss Marlowe's method was also quiet, and it was not until about halfway through the play that one realised how remarkably fine a performance hers was. She is an actress who should be seen two or three times in order to appreciate her thoroughly. Miss Kate Phillips's Maria and the Sir Toby Belch of Mr. Buckstone were notably fine performances, and this production of "Twelfth Night" will certainly rank high in the theatrical history of "Twelfth Night."

"Mr. George," at the Vaudeville.

"Mr. George" may be dismissed in few words. "Mr. George" is a lady, senior partner in a firm of Boston merchants during the war of 1773. How a young and pretty girl like Miss Billie Burke becomes senior partner to Mr. Charles Hawtrey is Mr. Louis Parker's little joke. He reveals this to us in the first act, by means of letters from the young lady's father, deceased. It must be admitted that it is a very mild, as it is a very harmless, little joke. There are two prim old maidenly sisters to dislike the advent of Mr. George in petticoats when they hoped for trousers. There are clerks in attendance on "Mr George" and Mr. Hawtrey, there is the young Englishman whom "Mr. George's" father wishes to marry his daughter, but, of course, she loves, and eventually marries, Mr. Hawtrey. Then there is the other young lady, Miss Russon, who comes on just often enough to make "Mr. George" jealous, and has the extrinsic interest of having also played "The Belle of Mayfair." Mr. Parker lets off a little joke at intervals like the popping of the cork of a soda-water bottle. For instance, there is a partition between the two partners in the office, and Mr. Hawtrey contrives to give some moments of himself by peering round its corner. But it is the sparkle of soda-water, and one cannot help regretting that Mr. Hawtrey had not shaved off his moustaches in a better cause. These adornments of the male figure will be sadly missed, and, unlike whiskers, have not a sworn enemy in Mr. Frank Richardson. Miss Billie Burke looked and played very daintily, confirming the impression she gave me as "The Belle of Mayfair," that she has in her the makings of an actress of comedy.

"Mrs. Wiggs, of the Cabbage Patch," at Terry's.

This play is an adaptation from a novel of the same title, which title has had great vogue in both forms in the United States. An American company, headed by Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, who plays the part of the omnipresent Mrs. Wiggs, is now presenting it at Terry's Theatre. The performance gave me rather the impression of scraps cut from the book and rapidly pieced together with a view primarily to raising a laugh. There is, no doubt, a good deal of humour and some wit about this extraordinary group of people living "down South." The humour is generally forced and the wit apt to degenerate into very tiresome plays upon words. But

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, N.—£7,000 owing to Bankers. £10,000 needed annually from voluntary sources.—Lewis H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

I am bound to admit that this seemed to amuse the audience on the first night. I am not surprised that Mrs. Carr Cook found favour as Mrs. Wiggs, and I felt about several of the other players that, given the chance, they would prove excellent comedians. But the personages were so grotesque, and such obvious efforts were made to make the ridiculous ultra absurd, that one could not persuade oneself, even in the pathetic moments, which were numerous in connection with pretty "Lovey Mary," that the whole thing was not a joke from beginning to end. But the Stubbins of Mr. Frederick Burton remains in the memory as a very vivid impersonation of a happy-go-lucky wanderer, with more than the ordinary sense of humour. I repeat that the players are more than competent, but the play appeared to me—well—child's play.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Royal Academy Catechism.

(For the Use of Visitors to Burlington House.)

Question: What is the Royal Academy?

Answer: The first important function of the London season.

Q.: Is it a very important function?

A.: It is a fairly important function; less important, indeed, than Ranelagh, or Hurlingham, but rather more important than Molesey Regatta.

Q.: Where is the Royal Academy held?

A.: At Burlington House.

Q.: By whom is it held?

A.: By the Royal Academicians—called, for short, the R.A.s.

Q.: Who are these R.A.s?

A.: Painters who are entitled to have their pictures hung in the best positions, or, as it is technically termed, "on the line."

Q.: Where are the pictures of the other exhibitors hung?

A.: Wherever they can be squeezed in without inconveniently crowding the pictures of the R.A.s.

Q.: Who goes to the Academy?

A.: Everybody.

Q.: What do they go for?

A.: A few go to see the pictures; more go to see the people; yet more go to be seen themselves; and most of all go that they may be able to say they have been there.

Q.: What styles of pictures are exhibited at the Royal Academy?

A.: All styles.

Q.: Name some of the more characteristic of these styles.

A.: The bread-and-butter style; the spasmodic-daub style; the allegorical style; the aldermanic-portrait style; and the Paris Salon style.

Q.: What do you mean by the bread-and-butter style?

A.: I mean the representation of some mildly interesting feature of domestic life, in which the innocence of infancy or the beauty of grandparental affection usually plays a conspicuous part.

Q.: What do you mean by the spasmodic-daub style?

A.: I mean the pigmentary gymnastics of some conjurer in colours, who, with a few desultory strokes of the brush, can instantly transform a blank canvas into the likeness of anything in the Heavens above, the Earth beneath, or the Waters under the Earth.

Q.: Can you always see what particular likeness is intended?

A.: Always. It tells you in the catalogue.

Q.: What do you mean by the Allegorical style?

A.: I mean a picture that, having no intelligible meaning on the face of it, must be supposed to convey some deep underlying truth. This is the most admired of all the styles.

Q.: Why is it the most admired?

A.: Because nobody understands it. People always admire what they do not understand.

Q.: What do you mean by the Aldermanic-Portrait style?

A.: I mean the counterfeit presentment of Jonathan Jones, Esq., Mayor of Mudborough-on-the-Marsh, arrayed in civic robes, or of Thomas Browne-Cox, Esq., solicitor, in the full uniform of a Volunteer Colonel.

Q.: What is the value of such paintings?

A.: Seven hundred guineas—to the painter.

J.: What do you mean by the Paris Salon style?

A.: I mean the picture of a young woman, unrobed for the bath, at which bishops and other respectable persons are careful not to look, though they frequently stop to admire the merits of some landscape, or other inoffensive painting, in its immediate vicinity.

Q.: What is the R.A.'s definition of Art Critic?

A.: A man who, having failed in the practical construction of pictures himself, applies his energies to the verbal destruction of the pictures of others.

Q.: What is the Chantrey Bequest?

A.: A Bequest for the annual purchase of the best works of art produced in Britain.

Q.: What do you mean by the best works of art produced in Britain?

A.: I mean the works of those contemporary artists who are *personæ gratæ* to the administrators of the Bequest.

Q.: To what classes of persons is the Academy most useful?

A.: To the diner out, whom it supplies with a fresh conversational opening between the *hors d'œuvre* and the soup, and to the clerk of the weather, who is thereby enabled to take his one little well-earned annual holiday.

Q.: Is the Academy of benefit to any other classes of the community?

A.: Yes; to one other class.

Q.: Who are they?

A.: The makers of picture-frames.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE EMPRESS MARIE IN FRANCE.

NOBODY could have imagined on seeing the Empress Marie Feodorowna at Le Bourget that Russian Fours are at seventy-three. She came in a train of five palace cars and five non-palatial for the lower domestics and culinary staff. The personnel of the train, sixty in number, acted under the direction of an experienced railway official assimilated to a general and wearing an imposing uniform. The servants of H.I.M., bath attendants, dressers, *femmes de chambre*, door guards, one of whom has, also by assimilation, the grade of brigadier-general, bring the number up to eighty. Above these are the Grand Master and Grand Mistress of the household or their deputies, the lady and maid of honour, the chamberlain, aide-de-camp, and secretary, and adjoined to them the attendants

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Alexander. No dog appeared; nor did we see a cow in a special compartment, as when the Emperor and Empress, with their baby Olga, came here eleven years ago. They had one of those magnificent Schleswig cows that are bred at Gatchina and house-fed seven months in the year in a byre, steam-heated and tapestried with doubled Japanese mats. The cooking staff was well in view at Le Bourget and busy as it could be preparing the mid-day meal. Magnificent was the show of silver and of copper utensils. The Tsar is inclined to look close to culinary matters. He has spent £60,000 in bringing the kitchens of the Winter Palace up to his standard, and would have had all the coppers lined with silver on the bi-metallic system if silver did not blacken vegetables rich in sulphur. One of these is cabbage, which so greatly enters into the tschi soup and other Russian dishes.

The Imperial train halted at Le Bourget—a place that we couple with a sortie of besieged Parisians in 1870—to be shunted to the Northern line and enable the Empress to become acquainted with M. Fallières. She wanted particularly to thank him for the many official attentions, as considerate as kind, which she had received at Biarritz. He greatly wished to pay her his respects, and through her to present *ses hommages* to the Empress Alexandra and *son bon souvenir* to the Tsar. The *hommages* are a chivalrous expression of inequality, the *bon souvenir* of equality with Nicholas. You will admire the two nice distinctions.

The train which halted at Le Bourget is not the one that took Nicholas and Alexandra from Cherbourg to Versailles, from Dunkirk to Compiègne, was too massive to take them by cross railways from Compiègne to Rheims, and had such a disastrous effect on sections of the Northern line. All the ten cars are roofed with some white glazed substance that can bear frequent washing with a hydrant, and might be taken for porcelain. The bodies of the cars are finely varnished and the Imperial Russian arms emblazoned on the panels. One is struck with the luxurious smartness of the general make-up.

The Mayor of Le Bourget had leave to place his municipal councillors and some of his relatives, neighbours, and other friends on the platform at a civil distance from the place where the car of the Empress Dowager was to stop. But the engine driver misunderstood, and just missed over-shooting the pointsman some distance in front. This enabled the people outside the station palings to have the best view of all that went on, and of the personages who exchanged official compliments. The President and the Empress Dowager did this in the most friendly way. M. Pichon has the seriousness of his medical education, and has learned to be ceremonious in the world of diplomacy. He did not feel called upon, we may assume, to change his manner. In not doing so he kept on the safe side. No blinds were anywhere drawn down. The sun was on the side farthest from H.I.M.

Equal rights had a fine victory in the Imperial train. If Una did not this time lead a lion, feminine *gentillesse* commanded giants, for such were the three Grand Dukes, the generals by assimilation, and, indeed, most of the whiskered and bearded creatures. The whiskers were full and long, and trimmed *à la Skobeleff*, leaving the point of the chin bare.

Those French who have seen the Empress Dowager speak of her as *une gentille petite femme*. She is still *mignonne*, gives the impression of a light step and light figure, though stouter than she used to be. If not exactly pretty, she was always, and still is, *mieux que jolie*, and has grace, animation, amiability, and one of those irregular faces that express so charmingly passing moods and emotions—pensive, bright, gay, affectionate, or merely futile. She is good company at a picnic or one of those shooting parties that Russian Empresses attend, and at which the Tsar is not above taking a turn at the gridiron or with the toasting-fork. H.I.M. is *gourmande* enough to enjoy vastly the meals in the open air. There is nothing of Bourbon appetite in the *gourmandise* which is her *péché mignon*, and which her mouth denotes. The Empress Dowager is attached to the companions, the fashions, and to some extent to the ideas current around her in her youth. Her manner of dressing her hair has never changed since her children were all in the schoolroom. Nor has the general make-up of her toilettes altered. It is neat, easy, and stamped by her personal taste. The face is more full than it used to be in the late Tsar's lifetime, but keeps in the right form—a proof of excellent health, no matter what the others say—and the face has likewise escaped heaviness. At Le Bourget, her well-hung black skirt scarcely hid the lightness of her movements. The corsage, in the nature of a blouse, and also black, might have been of Chinese crêpe. A light chain, with good-sized pearls at intervals of perhaps three or four inches, fell to the waist as if holding a watch. Passing round the neck it formed a long necklace from which a pearl and diamond ornament was suspended.

Every one noticed how natural were her movements and gestures, and the good-child graciousness of her manner. I have to coin this expression to convey one of her most attractive characteristics. She acted less as the Empress than as the hostess, unaffectedly glad to see her visitor and only desirous of making him feel at home. Without actually leading M. Fallières to the fauteuil next her own, she held out her hand as if doing so until she was seated, and then, pointing to a chair set for M. Pichon, begged him to sit down. It was dexterously and very nicely done. The chit-chat seemed to the outer spectators, for all went on in a glass house, agreeably brisk, and lasted a quarter of an hour by the station clock, when the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Alexandra came forward to be presented to the President.

As the President left, the Empress-Dowager asked his leave to snap-shot him, ran back for her camera, and, in coming to the door, pushed aside with a quick little movement the giant keeping guard. The station-master then touched his hat to announce that the time for compliments had passed, gave the signal, and the long, white-roofed train steamed off, the Imperial lady waving her hand from the platform of her saloon until it had swept round a curve.

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

The Empress-Dowager is not a woman of genius, or possibly of mind, but a rare being. She has nothing of that fixed type that one finds in most members of Royal families, has good sense and wakeful wits that are never at a disadvantage. It appears that her nerves have been greatly shaken by the frightful state into which Russia fell through the war. The cheerfulness of Biarritz and the Atlantic breezes had a beneficial effect on her health and spirits. She said at Le Bourget that she hoped to revisit a place which had done her so much good.

The Montagnini papers show the Holy See in a new character—that of landlord or *propriétaire* of houses let in flats in Paris. All the law courts that had to deal with the will of the late Marquise de Plessis Bellièvre, leaving her town house in the Place de la Concorde to the Pope for a nuncio's residence, judged that his Holiness could not hold real estate in France. The reason they gave was his being a temporal sovereign, whether judged according to the Italian Law of Guarantees or his own contention as against the State of Italy. His counsel naturally asked: "How, then, can the Emperor of Austria, under the will of the Duchess of Galliera, hold as a residence for his ambassador her house in the Rue de Varenne?" The answer was that her undoubted heir did not contest its possession by his Apostolical Majesty. If he had done so, French judges must have admitted his right. The Emperor Francis Joseph holds by toleration. He could not sell the house in the Rue de Varenne if he wanted.

However, there are reliable agents of the Pope who have been holding real estate for him and allowing the management to remain in the hands of his more direct representatives. There are also estates that he holds because no claimant has sprung up, as the Emperor of Austria keeps on at the former residence of the Duchess de Galliera. Monsignor Montagnini, when there was a nunciature in Paris, and up to the eve of his expulsion, discharged the office of steward of the Papal estates. Had he had Irish tenants to deal with, I am afraid they would have given him but a short shrift. He had here for nothing the services of learned counsel, notaries, *avoués*, and other members of *la basoche*—that is to say, he paid them with *monnaie du Pape*. This encouraged him to be litigious when tenants resisted his too hard methods, and outran in his exactions the legendary Monsieur Vautour. Monsignor Montagnini in business transactions with tenants saw with equal eyes Jews and Catholics, rich and poor. Thus a community of nuns supplicated him to allow them, according to the custom of Paris, to enter into the possession, as tenants on a short lease, of a house belonging to the Pope in the Avenue de Beaucourt. He had made payment in advance of a quarter's rent a condition. All rents are paid quarterly in Paris, but never in advance save by shopkeepers whose goods are not a guarantee. The Superior represented that the affairs of the convent from which she had been expelled were in the hands of an official liquidator, but that there would not be a very long delay in receiving the sum which he had agreed to pay over to her. She had always served the Holy See with zeal, and she trusted with discretion. The answer was, "5,000 fr. down, or no further correspondence."

As a match-maker the ex-Papal Agent still affords amusement. The negotiations for the marriage of a princess nearly related to all the Northern Courts ought to furnish subjects to Capus or Octave Mirbeau. "*Tout s'arrange*" is the motto of Capus. This marriage of a high young lady on one side and the thickly-gilded and rather handsome heir to a patent medicine on the other side could have hardly taken place without the good offices of Monsignor. He obtained the titular *savonnette de vilain* for the young man, whose appearance would tell in his favour at a court ball or a diplomatic reunion. The life of this new-fledged nobleman had been mixed up with that of the unacknowledged but authentic daughter of a Queen before his marriage, and he had committed himself since to flirtations with her. She had made a princely match before he did. It was desirable to repair the breach in the *ménage*, but a delicate matter to do so. Naturally the Queen thus mentioned is interesting as a rebus to the butterflies of Paris-West. There were so many queens *délaissées* at the time the seductive Princess drew her first breath that no satisfactory guess can be made. Somebody has revived the talk about *la quatrième fille du roi Léopold*, but without having more than idle talk to go upon. As to Isabella II., she would have scorned any concealment. We may possibly hear of *la fille unique du Maximilien et de Charlotte*, whose birth had been hidden from family motives, springing from avarice. One can imagine a large crop of *prétendantes* to Royal birth springing out of the Montagnini papers.

Meanwhile, the Toulon Arsenal is fired, some say to destroy papers the Committee of Inquiry into the *Iéna* explosion had got hold of; Rente falls, and strikes are universal, or nearly so, while a vast trade in powdered talc for the adulteration of bakers' flour has come to light. Freethinkers and Catholics are in a state of fever about the Joan of Arc fêtes at Orleans. The questions raised on this subject have been narrowed into two: "Are the Freemasons to be admitted to the procession; and if so, will the Bishop and his clergy join it?" No Government could now afford to vex the Freemasons. Orleans, should the Ministry of the Interior give them satisfaction, will incur a heavy monetary loss, and possibly show ill-humour at the next municipal and legislative elections. The tradespeople there have been looking forward to an unheard-of influx of Catholic and Royalist manifestants behind Joan's banner. This meant an influx of money to private tills and rich *octroi* gains. The Catholic education the French have had through the ages makes them attach a significance to symbolical things (though they no longer symbolise anything) which Northern nations cannot understand. Freethinkers really act as Catholics in so vehemently insisting on the compass and triangle having a place of honour in the procession.

Talc, the substance I have mentioned in connection with bread adulteration, is used also as a powder to protect the face from sunburn, and to calm a skin

irritated by eczema. It gives statuesque whiteness to neck and arms, and a satiny smoothness and gloss. It may be in its place as a help to beauty. It certainly is not in a baker's kneading trough. Thousands of tons of talc, I hear, are imported into England yearly. Is it for the bakers or the beautiful women? Most of the habitués of the Opéra who cannot resign themselves to a diminution of their charms are talced. The way they use it is first to apply it with a swansdown *pouf*, and then to rub it off. Enough always remains to whiten and smooth the skin.

A PEER AMONG THE PATRIOTS.

I AM writing this from a little town in Germany and I only hope you get it in time. Jessie and I have come here on a honeymoon—by a bit of good luck the piece she was playing in collapsed last week, and she'll get a fortnight's holiday, any way, before she starts rehearsing for the new one. We thought we would just slip off quietly and not let any one know where we had gone. Of course, that meant that we couldn't go to any of the regular places where everybody goes, so we settled to come here instead. We are in a little town not far from Hamburg; hit upon it quite by accident, stuck a pin into a Continental time table and took the place it stuck into. Jessie's idea—and a very good one, too, I think. What? It is as dull a little place as any I ever saw in my life, but, of course, we don't mind that. And as we are here Jessie thinks I ought to write something about the ructions that they are always trying to get up between England and Germany.

The funniest part of it all to me is how astonishingly like Englishmen all the Germans are—about here, any way. When we got to Hamburg we noticed it at once. We might easily have been—so far as the people went, I mean—in London, or rather, not in London, because that is much too cosmopolitan, but in some English town that is very English indeed and where they dress very badly. I never in my life saw such clothes as some of these Germans wear, they quite take your breath away. Another funny thing is that they speak a language that is exactly like English in sound, though you can't understand what it means. We heard a couple of labourers quarrelling—about the dock strike, I expect; they talk about nothing but the dock strike here, I'm told, and the only way I could tell that they were not English was because they don't use the one word that you can always be sure of hearing an English labourer use every time he opens his mouth. But as I was saying, in everything but their clothes, the people in Hamburg and round about it are more like Englishmen than most Englishmen are themselves nowadays, and the idea of going to war with them seems just about as funny as if Devonshire was to declare war on Essex. It isn't as if they wanted too, either. We have been talking to a lot of them about it in the train, and so on—at least, Jessie has, because she speaks German beautifully. She can do everything well. It only shows you how clever she is when I tell you—but about these Germans. She talked to them and translated to me and I took my hat off every now and then and smiled, and we got on famously. Quite a lot of them could speak English, too. We very soon found out that it is in Germany just as it is with us. They haven't the slightest idea of making war on us, but they are afraid we mean to make war on them sooner or later. Of course, it is all the newspapers; we have seen some of the articles they print, and I assure you, from the tone of them, you wouldn't know that it wasn't the—one of the London daily papers, perhaps I had better say, if it wasn't for the language.

We talked to one old chap in the train coming here from Hamburg, who thought it was rather a good thing for the two nations to bullyrag each other. He could speak English, had lived a long time in Liverpool, and according to him, as long as the newspapers made the two countries afraid of each other there would not be any fighting. In the old days, he said, people used to make war just because it never entered their heads that the other side could be nearly as strong as they were. But now, when the German papers are always pointing out that the English Navy is invincible, and the English ones always say that the German Army is much too big for us to tackle, there is much less chance of our ever really coming to blows. He told me one queer thing which I never knew before, though perhaps you did—that in the whole course of history the English and the Germans had never been to war with each other, though they had frequently backed each other up against a third party. He said a great deal more which I wish I could remember, because it struck me as being very much to the point; but there was a confounded little idiot of a German officer in the other corner of the carriage, with idiotic moustaches that curled up over his eyebrows, who kept making eyes at Jessie, and I wanted to kick him so badly that I didn't properly attend to what the other man was saying.

One thing he said was, I remember, that we English always made the mistake of thinking that every German was a Prussian, when, as a matter of fact, a Prussian was scarcely a German at all, but more than half Russian. According to him, it would be a much deadlier insult to ask a native of Bavaria or Hanover if he was a Prussian than to mistake him for an Englishman. And even if there were a few army contractors in Berlin who would like to go to war with us on the chance of making a fortune, there were I don't know how many millions of other Germans who would give half their fortune to stop such a thing. "Why don't your English newspapers quarrel with the Prussians, if they want to," he said, "and leave the rest of Germany alone? It is exactly as if we Germans were to quarrel with the Isle of Man about something, and then want to drag the whole British Empire into the dispute." He afterwards mentioned casually that he came from Hanover himself, and as we found out that Hanover was conquered by the Prussians about forty years ago, and has been trying to get its own rightful king back ever since, we thought perhaps he was exaggerating a bit. But it was perfectly true, what he said about Germany being not one country, but half a dozen. It gets a little confusing sometimes. For instance, Hamburg is a republic, and its lord mayor considers himself every bit as good as the King of Prussia, though he is perfectly content to be considered the same man's subject as German Emperor. Germany's rather a confusing place in many ways. For one thing, instead of being a despotic Empire, full of soldiers who all want to fight England, it turns out to be, as far as Jessie and I can make out, nearly all Socialists, who only serve as soldiers because they can't help it, and hate the Imperial Government nearly as badly as the English newspapers do. And in spite of that, all the men that you see try to make their moustaches grow as nearly like the Kaiser's as they know how to.

There is one thing, coming over here for a bit makes me realise what an awfully fine thing it is to be English. When you are at home you do nothing but read of how inefficient we are and how we are getting left behind by other nations, dropping down hill, and all the rest of it. But as you get further away, England swells up and up, until she is ever so much the biggest figure in the world. According to the German newspapers, she has the most wonderful Government, that spends its whole time successfully checkmating German policy. Fancy our poor old Government checkmating anybody? What? And our fleet is invincible, and our commerce—in fact, I am beginning to find out that you have no idea of what a fine thing it is to be English until you give up living in England.

There is one story about England that we have heard since we've been over here that makes you feel awfully proud of being English. I've never heard it before, though I daresay you may have, but Jessie insists on my putting it in anyhow. It was told us by a German who didn't like England at all, so I expect its true. He told it us as proving that England means to make war on Germany one day or other. It seems that two years ago, at the time there was some fuss about the Channel Squadron going for a cruise in the Baltic, it

was expected to visit some German seaport. The sea is very shallow there, and the entrance to the port is very dangerous, because there is only a narrow channel through the sandbanks. When the British fleet was known to be coming, the German authorities had all the buoys taken up—I suppose because they didn't want our people to learn too much about the way in, and arranged for two German boats to lead them in. But the British Fleet arrived twenty-four hours before it was expected, and steamed right in, without worrying whether there were any buoys or not, as if it had come in and out every day for years and anchored off the port and fired a salute. Not being expected, there wern't any guns ready to return it, and they had to be sent for in a hurry from Dantzic, I think it was, and the salute couldn't be returned for five hours. And the best joke was that when the German vessels came in—having missed the Channel Squadron in a fog—one of them ran aground, and the British Admiral signalled to know if he couldn't help her off. Of course, the Germans made out that we had no right to know the way into German ports like that, but I think it shows that our Navy is pretty efficient, at any rate. What?

I started out to try and prove that a war between England and Germany would be impossible, and I still think so. I like the Germans—what I've seen of them—and, as far as I can make out, they like us, or most of them do. The only people who want to make trouble on either side are a few journalists, who think there is money in raising war-scares and a few politicians who can see their way to making party capital out of it. But there is one other point which it seems to me makes for peace, which you can't ever realise while you are at home, but you learn before you've been a week in any other country. There is no nation living that is going to go to war with England if they can help it, because England is much too strong, and powerful, and efficient, and wealthy for them to tackle. The only people who run down England are the English themselves, and they only do it because they don't know anything about other countries but what they read in newspapers. We may have a few motes in our own eyes, but they aren't a patch on the forests of beams that block up those of the rest of Europe. That's what I think about it, now that I am in Germany; and so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THERE are two forms of madness, dear Lady Betty: the madness we call sanity, and the madness we call insanity. Those who have the former badly, succeed; those who have the latter badly, we put into a strait-waistcoat.

. . . . .

The chief purpose of "society" is to manufacture temptations.

. . . . .

The conventionalities are more attended to than the Commandments.

. . . . .

No woman is so good as she looks; to know that is the first step towards the attainment of knowledge of the world.

. . . . .

The next, to know that few men are so bad as they seem.

. . . . .

No woman is complete without virtue; and few women think a man complete without vice.

. . . . .

Every generation has its own "modesty"; there is a fashion in virtue as in velvet.

. . . . .

Fine sentiments do not make fine characters.

. . . . .

Most women go to church to attract men, and to distract each other.

The funeral of the greatest is a holiday for the greatest number.

. . . . .

In the art and the literature of the moment peculiarity is the best policy.

* * * * *

"Who steals my purse steals trash . . . . .

. . . . .

But he who filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him
And makes me poor indeed."

It is evidence of how far we have travelled since Shakespeare wrote, that more would prefer to lose their good name than their cash.

* * * * *

Class contamination is a serious matter. "A Class in the Unmaking" is a study for the philosopher and the politician. Circumstances have greatly impoverished the "Upper-class" in this country, and it is endeavouring to subsist on the "Middle-class." The names of the rich in the latter, in London and the Provinces, are eagerly sought for by members of the former, who then strive to get acquainted with these "obscure" wealthy. To these rich they attempt to sell art treasures; from them they endeavour to obtain subscriptions for charities and various undertakings; they cultivate their sons and daughters for matrimonial purposes; they introduce them to their tradesmen to receive a commission; and they exploit them in every direction—and laugh at them for their anxiety to attain social distinction! Meanwhile these "Middle-class" magnates abandon the simple qualities which made them a force in the community, and adopt the follies of the West End. A bridge has been built across the gulf which separated the two classes—and the West End extracts a toll from all who cross it!

* * * * *

The Fatted Class dreads that it will be killed for the return of the Radical.

* * * * *

It is the custom of the Tories to play upon the noble instincts of the many for the ignoble purposes of the few.

* * * * *

It is said there is a scarcity of money; are we suffering from Imperial Poverty?

* * * * *

The solid life or the soufflé life; the country is apparently deciding which it is to be. Light literature, light journalism, light entertainments, light conversation, light furniture, light treatment of even the exceptionally serious; on almost every side in England to-day the tendency is towards the light. There was a corresponding movement in the eighteenth century, but the progress of Liberal legislation, and the developments caused by the application of steam, stemmed the tide, and the nation returned to the solid. There is much to be said for both systems. The serious element in the present condition is that the English are inclined to make light of everything but—light money.

. . . . .

Moreover, when our predecessors in the eighteenth century adopted the soufflé style there were those amongst them who had the genius of the condition. There were painters who produced masterpieces of the kind, engravers, decorators, authors, poets, and wits; are we deserting the solid merely because it is tiresome without having the qualities which should accompany the soufflé system? From wit at its best to wealth at its worst is a far step.

. . . . .

There is a famine in fancy here at the moment; that has to be borne in mind. Imagination appears to have deserted us; the author seldom produces a classic; the painter, a masterpiece; the wit, a phrase that shall live; the orator, a speech that shall be quoted in after times; even in the small circumstances of life the existence of this famine in fancy is obvious!—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

MR. HALL WALKER, who had three entries for the Woodcote Stakes, has withdrawn two of them, one being Pom. He is now represented in the Epsom race only by the dark White Eagle, by Gallinule out of Merry Gal, who presumably is better than Pom at the weights. White Eagle is engaged in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, and he would not have any extra weight to carry in that race for a victory at Epsom. This colt is grandly bred, and he must have been highly thought of as a yearling, for he was entered for nearly fifty races. His first engagement was the John o' Gaunt Plate at Manchester on May 23, but he has paid forfeit for that race, so he is to be reserved for Epsom, and Mr. Hall Walker has certainly given the public a very plain tip for the Woodcote Stakes. Pom has also paid forfeit for the Great Surrey Foal Stakes on the third day at Epsom, his owner being now represented in that race by the dark Master Magpie, colt by Gallinule out of Meddlesome, who has nearly thirty engagements. Pom is to be kept for the Hurst Park Foal Plate of £1,500, which is run on the Friday before Ascot, and he there has the benefit of a 10 lb. breeding allowance. Mr. Hall Walker has left in two for this race, the other being Wild Honeycombe, by Count Schomberg out of Honeydew, who is allowed 7 lb. He is represented in the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park on July 20 by White Eagle and Royal Realm, own brother to Colonia, while Master Magpie has been struck out.

The King's colt Slim Lad, who greatly disappointed the Egerton House stable last autumn after he had been well galloped, has discovered himself to be a non-stayer. I predicted some time ago that he would turn out to be of no use except in short distance races, and he is not likely to win any of the twenty-one engagements which were made for him two years ago.

Lord Wolverton's colt Larig, by Florizel II. out of Pitcroy, is still backward, but he will be worth remembering if he is kept for the Prince of Wales' Stakes at Ascot, as he will have a maiden allowance of 7 lb. in that race.

His Majesty's colt Perambulator is expected to make his début the week after next in the Newmarket Stakes, for which race forty-one horses are left in, the best known of the lot being Linacre, Olympian, Acclaim, Simon Square, Dripsey, Knight of Tully, and Lord Wolverton's three colts. There are neither penalties nor allowances in this race, which will be worth over £2,200. Perambulator is also engaged in the Payne Stakes a day later, along with All Black and Polar Star, but this race appears a certainty for Mr. Hall Walker's colt if he is in form. If the King's colt is beaten for the Newmarket Stakes he will no doubt be reserved for one of his Ascot engagements, when he would have the benefit of a maiden allowance.

Maintenon has broken down, and he goes to the stud at once. The removal of this horse from the Turf will deprive the race for the Ascot Cup of much of its interest, as the first appearance of Maintenon on an English course had been eagerly awaited. Mr. Vanderbilt is not likely to receive any sympathy from sensible people, as it was desperate fatuity to start such a horse three times in one week when the ground was heavy, and Maintenon was by no means fit. A man who so grossly overworks a horse which has already won him such a number of races does not deserve to own a flyer. If it was intended to bring out Maintenon for all his French engagements, willy nilly, there is no reason to regret his being scratched for the Gold Cup, as he must inevitably have become stale and jaded by the middle of June, and there would have been no chance of his showing his best form. Maintenon was beaten at Longchamps, where he ran his third race within a week, by Querido for the Biennial, the distance being fifteen furlongs. It was a fast-run race from start to finish. It is probable that Querido is one of M. Caillault's sealed nominations for the Ascot Cup, in which case that race may yet go to France, as he is a good horse, and a really stout stayer. Most of the English lot are certainly lacking in the stamina which is an absolutely necessary element if a horse is to win over this severe course, and it may be assumed with confidence that if Querido is engaged, his owner's other sealed nomination will turn out to be some animal capable of making strong running throughout. It will be remembered that essential service was thus rendered to Bachelor's Button last year by St. Denis, who made the pace such a cracker from the start that Cicero was dead beat a long way from home, and Pretty Polly's chance had been practically extinguished after two miles had been traversed.

I hear that Lord Derby has decided to reserve Keystone II. for her weight-for-age engagements, so she will not start for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. She is certainly the pick of the top weights, and I have always thought that whatever beat her on the 11th would be the winner. I am told that Keystone II. is to start for the March Stakes to-morrow, and she ought to win that race, after which she will be reserved for the Coronation Cup at Epsom. Now that Maintenon has disappeared from the Ascot Cup entry, Keystone II. will no doubt start for that race. I shall be surprised if Lord Derby's mare proves capable of staying the Gold Cup course in a fast-run race. The defeat of Pretty Polly demonstrated the folly of the notion that a winner of the St. Leger is sure to stay the Ascot Cup course, and, indeed, Major Loder's mare had won the Jockey Club Cup, distance two miles.

Sagamore, who has been undergoing a preparation for the Jubilee Handicap next week, has been scratched for that race, and there is something wrong with Mr. Raphael's colt. Sagamore was favourably handicapped for the Kempton Park race, as Polar Star had to give him 6 lb., and it seemed to me that if in his best form he would beat all the middle and bottom weights, the race appearing to be a match between this colt and Keystone II. I hope Sagamore's ailment, whatever it may be, will not interfere with his preparation for the Ascot Cup, but we have yet to learn that he can stay the mile and a half. If Sagamore is all right three weeks hence he will no doubt be entered for the Gold Vase at Ascot, and he would have no extra weight to carry in that race, whereas such dangerous candidates as Keystone II., The White Knight, and Polymelus have all incurrd penalties.

There will be some excellent racing next week both at Chester and at Kempton Park. The Chester meeting is likely to be a great social success, as there are to be large parties at Eaton Hall, Wynnstay, Cholmondeley Castle, and other country houses in the neighbourhood. The Chester Vase of £2,100, a new race at this meeting for threes and fours, distance one mile and a half, closed in November, 1904, with eighty-seven entries, but only twenty-four horses are now left in. The field may include the Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller (7 st. 13 lb.), Mr. W. Bass's Sancy (9 st.), Mr. Fairie's Jubilee (7 st. 1 lb.), Mr. W. Hall Walker's Black Arrow (9 st. 5 lb.) or Knight of Tully (7 st. 2 lb.), and Mr. Joel's Earlston (7 st. 6 lb.). Dusty Miller ought to win this race, but he may find Mr. Hall Walker's candidate a dangerous opponent. The course will just suit Black Arrow, if this horse is now in form.

The Chester Cup has over forty horses left in, and there ought to be a large field. Lord Derby will be represented by Bridge of Canny (9 st. 5 lb.), unless the ground is heavy, in which case Gourd (7 st. 9 lb.) will start instead. In my opinion the Chester Cup is a good thing for M. Caillault's Querido (4 yrs., 8 st.). Querido is a smart horse, and a really good stayer, and this race appears a positive certainty for him after his recent running in France. Twenty-four three-year-olds are left in for the Dee Stakes, and Wool Winder ought to win easily if he has any pretensions to be regarded as a Derby horse.

As to the minor events, Jubilee or Jovial may win the Eaton Plate. The entry for the Badminton Plate includes Bucolic, Opal, Selaginella, and Counterfeit, but I shall expect the race to be won by Llangwm. Pastry has another chance of retrieving her reputation in the Ormonde Plate. Both Quelpart and Llangwm are engaged in the Stamford Plate, and probably the Sandown winner will be reserved for the Badminton Plate, leaving

the other race for Mr. de Rothschild's colt. The Duke of Westminster's Buttercraig, who is engaged in the Mostyn Plate, in the Badminton Plate, and in the Ormonde Plate, is own brother to Dusty Miller. The Duke's Rydal Water, who is entered for the Stamford Plate, is half-sister, by Orme, to Troutbeck. Any two-year-old from the Kingsclere stable which runs at Chester, and which is fancied, is quite sure to be worth following.

The Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap can be better dealt with next week. It is now said that both Polymelus and Velocity will start, and I would expect Mr. Joel's horse to defeat the City and Suburban winner at even weights, but they both seem overweighted. Gingal was withdrawn from the Doveridge Handicap at Derby in order that he might be kept for this race, but surely Malua can give 8 lb. to Mr. Clark's horse. Polar Star has quite enough weight already with 7 st. 12 lb., and he will probably incur a 5 lb. penalty by winning the Chippenham Plate. Mr. Hall Walker's colt could not give 21 lb. to Meadow Rue, who has all along been a strong tip at Newmarket for this race, but I now hear that she will not run.

I am informed that M. E. Blanc's best colt will certainly start for the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) at Chantilly on June 2, and that the animal in question will then be reserved for the Grand Prix on June 16. If, therefore, M. E. Blanc's colours are seen at Epsom on the Derby Day they will be carried by his second string. He has two colts left in, Ouadi Halfa (who has been backed down to 11 to 1 by some infatuated mooncalves), and Myram, own brother to Jardy. If, however, Slieve Gallion wins the Two Thousand easily, and therefore appears a practical certainty for the Derby, it is highly improbable that M. E. Blanc will be represented in the Derby.

A well-informed French correspondent tells me that he considers the Oaks very much more likely to go across the Channel than the Derby. The field at Epsom on June 7 will probably include M. Michel Ephrussi's Procéda, by Brio out of Primrose, and one of M. E. Blanc's fillies, of which five were originally entered for the Oaks. Three of these were struck out when the minor forfeit was declared, but he can start either Zahra, by Flying Fox out of Bass, or Hélène, own sister to Adam and Ajax. We shall know all about the French fillies after the race for the Prix de Diane at Chantilly on May 26.

A writer in a weekly paper predicts that if Fra Diavolo starts at Newmarket on Friday for the Chippenham Plate, he will "bustle up" Polar Star, as Mr. Hall Walker's colt will be giving 10 lb. As a matter of fact, the pair would meet at even weights. If the writer of this nonsense had taken the trouble to read the conditions of the Chippenham Plate he would have discovered that there are no penalties except for winners this season.

I had expected that Gourd would win the Metropolitan, but Lord Derby's mare was not sent to Epsom, being in reserve for a later engagement. Mintagon was made a very hot favourite, the Cesarewitch winner being regarded as quite a good thing, but he ran miserably, and was really never in the race. Father Blind, who was not backed for a penny, won after an exciting finish with Turbine, who is certainly no flyer, and he was giving 18 lb. to the winner. Such a handicap has seldom been won by a worse horse, but Father Blind can stay, and he finished in very game style.

The City and Suburban has excited very little interest this year, and it is highly satisfactory that one of the most important of the spring handicaps should have been won by the best horse which has started at any meeting so far as the season has gone. Velocity, who was well backed at the finish, was in very much better condition than when he ran at Lincoln, when he was preposterously backward, as was also the case last year. He was the pick of the field, not only in class, but also in appearance, and he went better than anything in the preliminary canter. He won very easily indeed, and his victory was the more creditable inasmuch as he did not get off particularly well, and he nearly fell over one of the horses which had tumbled down in the course. Larino was made a great favourite at the last, there being a general rush on him, but he is exceedingly moderate, and has been extravagantly over-rated. The running proved that Velocity is some 3 st. 5 lb. superior to Larino, for whose defeat there is no excuse, and he was very well ridden by Wootton. There was an excuse for Dinneford, who was badly kicked at the post by Velocity. Slavetrader is not yet properly fit, and Cyanean had better be kept for T.Y.C. races. Newmarket people had become perfectly infatuated about Larino, and it is obvious that the handicap horses now trained there must be wretchedly bad.

The two-year-olds which ran at Epsom are all moderate. Opal and Pearl of the Loch were the favourites for the Westminster Plate, but they were both beaten by Lucian, a colt bred and owned by Lord Rosebery, who had lost several lengths at the start. Bolted, who had so grievously disappointed his friends at Newmarket, was again well backed for the Hyde Park Plate, being joint favourite with Mr. L. de Rothschild's Quelpart, the latter winning easily from Flitaway, who is half-sister, by Flying Fox, to Ouadi Halfa. Bolted appeared to be well beaten after going half a mile. Quelpart, by Grey Leg out of Guava, is a nice colt, and he had just failed to win a fairly high trial, but the form was justly regarded as being quite good enough for this race. Captain Forester ought to win at Bath with Flitaway, who cost 1,500 gs. as a yearling.

The only event of general interest at Sandown Park on Thursday was the Esher Plate, which was regarded generally as being at the mercy of Donna Caterina after her victory at Newbury, but Lord Rosebery's mare made a deplorable show of herself. The Irish colt Hayden, recently purchased by Mr. Croker for £2,500, was backed by most of the clever people, and many good judges regarded him as having been very unlucky in being just beaten by Doryanthes.

St. Cyril was favourite at the finish for the Cobham Plate in a field of sixteen, but the best money was on Llangwm, who was said to have been tried better than Opal. Be this as it may, Llangwm won in a canter, and I fancy he will turn out the best of last week's two-year-olds. He is a son of Missel Thrush, who is one of the best-bred horses at the stud, being by Orme out of Throstle.

The Sandown Park Stud Produce Stakes is the most valuable of all the spring two-year-old races, but it was contested by a grievously poor field of twelve, and Loates may think himself fortunate in having won a stake of nearly £900 with so utterly common a filly as Pendule. The wet weather must have affected the intelligence of backers when they tumbled over each other to take 9 to 4 about Hymettus for the Tudor Plate in a field of twenty-two, and the favourite was easily beaten by the unfancied St. Petersburg. His Majesty's colt Slim Lad ran fast, but he cannot stay. The course was very heavy, and the afternoon proved a very Moscow campaign for plungers, who must have been addle-brained to bet under such conditions except in trifling sums. There was a crash over the Princess of Wales' Handicap, the gambling being very heavy, and Bon Marché and King Sapphire were both backed for large sums, but Syphon, who had been beaten at Epsom, where he started favourite for the Great Surrey Handicap, won by several lengths. I suspect that Bon Marché would have been successful if Syphon had not been in the field. The winner had the race in hand a considerable distance from home. He got off very badly at Epsom.

The One Thousand will be contested on Friday by a very moderate lot of fillies, and it is a race which wise people will carefully leave alone. Orwell, who is the pick of the entry on public form, is backward; Bellatrix cannot stay the course if her Newbury running was correct; Donna Caterina's performance at Sandown Park was contemptibly bad; and Dripsey severely disappointed her friends by her defeat in the Biennial. His Majesty's filly Victoria has won a trial, but I do not fancy it was a high one. However, Victoria is quite likely to prove herself the best at present of the Newmarket lot. It seems to me, however, that Silver Heeled ought to win if she can beat Witch Elm. Mr.

Cunliffe's filly, who is by Florizel II., out of Game Chick, cost 2,000 gs. as a yearling. She only ran twice last season, and her second race was the Moulton Stakes at Newmarket, which she won cleverly from Galleot, who was giving her 18 lb. The One Thousand is a very dangerous race this year, for in a helter-skelter field of moderate fillies anything may win.

I desire to call the attention of the Lawn Tennis Association to an interesting advertisement that appears in their official journal. An enterprising firm offers a guinea racket or article of equal value to any player winning a club singles or handicap with the firm's racket. I congratulate the firm on its enterprise, but it does seem to me that the acceptance of such an offer would be contrary to the spirit of amateurism. The present Council is so shocked at the idea of trade influence that I feel sure it will legislate in the matter. I can quite undertand how the proprieties of Surbiton would be upset if any member of a local club took advantage of the offer.

All lawn tennis players will regret to hear that neither of the brothers Doherty will play in the championships this year at Wimbledon. The champion has decided on a year's rest. *Lawn Tennis* makes this statement definitely. Altogether, England's prospects in the Dwight-Davies Bowl Competition are not too bright. For I hear that Risely is suffering from a troublesome arm, and his partner, Smith, is none too strong in health.

A short time ago Mr. C. E. Green vigorously attacked the policy of playing Colonial cricketers in County Cricket. He has received the unqualified support of Lord Hawke. No doubt the speech was to some extent inspired by the fact that Mr. Marshall, the Australian, will probably play for Surrey. If County Cricket means anything it should mean that the players all belong to the county. I strongly object to players from the Colonies being engaged as professionals for home teams, and I as strongly deprecate the importation of players from other counties. The ideal of every county should be to have a genuine county team. Some counties prefer the commercial side. The gate-drawing powers of a champion team are not to be despised, and if you have that team it is childish nonsense to worry about whence the players come. It is no doubt easier to let your own county men slip through your fingers and then become virtuously indignant than to practise what you preach.

One had hoped that the Football Association was going to behave fairly to the amateurs. But with the return to power of the chairman of the council the old policy of repression and coercion is to be resorted to again. How the followers of the chairman beslavered him with praise when he retired! Napoleon has come back from Elba, and his faithful friends are on the warpath again. But everything is to be done decently and in order. At the general meeting the council will seek power to compel the recalcitrant Middlesex and Surrey Associations to take over the professional teams and to control and manage them. If these amateurs refuse to take over these duties then they will be cut off from the Football Association. Such a step will undoubtedly mean the secession of the amateur players from the Football Association. This body owed its existence to amateurs; it has been worked up by amateurs. Now that it is wealthy it has cast over the miserable and despised amateur, and has set itself to legislate solely in the interest of—not the paid player, but the men who run professional teams. For it is of paramount importance to remember that the paid player can neither serve on the council nor vote for the election of members. The object of the council is to take over the whole machinery of the Association and its large funds, and utilise them simply and solely for the benefit of those who directly or indirectly add to or make their living out of professional teams. The amateur is a nuisance, and he is not wanted. He does not even come under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

It is as clear as possible that the council are determined to crush out of existence those organisations which have all their work cut out to look after amateur interests. Unless the object is to capture the Association for professionalism it is difficult to understand why the present course is insisted upon.

The Association football season is over, and the destinies of league championships are settled. The South has not done badly. Bristol City, newcomers to the First League, have finished off second in the list, only three points behind the leaders, Newcastle United. Derby County and Stoke go down. I believe this is Derby County's first relegation to the Second Division. A correspondent some few years ago used to send me notes about the team. He said that the club always kept a good middle place in the list, and he was proud of the fact that the players were taken from the neighbourhood and not bought up from all parts of the country. I know not if this policy is still followed. I hope it is, and I hope the club will go up. I know that when the Corinthians used to go on their big Christmas tours the Derby match was always the most enjoyable. No team played a cleaner or harder game. In the Southern League Fulham just head Portsmouth, but the latter are probably the stronger team. Crystal Palace, the heroes of the cup-tie, are last but one in the list. Of course, Fulham's next-door neighbours are very pleased at going up into the First Division of the League in company with Notts Forest.

The Canadian lacrosse players continue their successful tour. The standard of English play is improving, but we have not enough room (terrestrial) for another winter pastime. All vacant spaces are needed for football and hockey.

By a large majority the members of the Cyclists' Touring Club carried the demand for a committee of inquiry at the meeting held at Birmingham. There were over 500 present, and only five hands were held up against the motion. I congratulate the members on the spirit they showed in going out of the way to be present at the meeting. The councillors who were as a body against the motion had their fares paid at the expense of the club. The simple device of calling a special council meeting was resorted to in order to frank the travelling fares of the councillors. This waste of club funds was absolutely scandalous. The councillors had the sense not to vote. Under the constitution of the club this resolution compels the council to go on with the committee of inquiry. It is nonsense to say the meeting is of no value compared with a postal vote. It is not for the council to challenge the constitution of the club in this way. The improbability of any persons having sufficient energy to carry out the demand for such a meeting was no doubt present to the minds of the framers of the constitution. But such people have been found and have succeeded, and the council has been thwarted in its scheme for burking inquiry.

Any possible trouble will be prevented if the members support the meeting by the postal vote. I would particularly call the attention of the members to the fact that those who say that the reformers are agitating for a biassed clique on the inquiry committee are mistaken. The Reformers gave the council the opportunity of selecting every member of the committee of inquiry. In the face of this offer Mr. Beatty, the vice-chairman, has the effrontery to say that the council has no objection to an unbiassed and representative committee. Furthermore, they have a treasurer who says he could not give the time that such an inquiry would make on his services. I notice that in the West Riding it is said the members object to London being so fully represented on the committee. I was quite prepared to see an attempt made to play off London against the provinces. Let me point out that the head offices are in London, that the inquiry will take up time, trouble, and money. If members on the spot are willing to do the work, surely those at a distance should be thankful that there are members of the club ready to devote their time to these labours. Furthermore, let them remember that the council could have named all the members of the select committee.

I have to thank a member and former contributor to the C.T.C. *Gazette.* for some interesting information. The sums paid to contributors are not on the lavish scale that I imagined from statements in the *Gazette.* He considers new members should join to force the

necessary reforms through. My advice is for people to stick to their money until they see a policy of peace, retrenchment, and reform firmly established in the club.

One councillor, who is reported in the *Times*, said that the Reform party were making use of funds that had been subscribed for the recent action in the courts. This scandalous charge of misappropriation of funds is absolutely unfounded. Every subscriber to the "action" fund was written to and his assent obtained before a farthing of his money was used for reform. Only a few wanted their money back.

The Cambridge University journal, the *Granta*, has a singularly vigorous attack on certain writers in the press who can see no good thing in Cambridge rowing. The style of the writing and the knowledge displayed indicate that the writer is no novice at his work. The advice to Cambridge oarsmen is to go on and prosper. The writer ridicules the sculling theory.

The fascinating volumes on "Great Batsmen," "Great Bowlers and Fielders," "Great Golfers," and "Great Lawn Tennis Players," in which Mr. George W. Beldam illustrates the play of the leading exponents of the three games by means of action-photographs, are being reissued by Messrs. Macmillan at the reduced price of half-a-guinea each.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

THE COST OF KEEPING A CAR.

WHAT is the lowest outlay on which it is possible to keep a motor-car? There is no question which the motorist is asked more frequently. "What can I do it on?" is the form which the inquiry usually takes, prefaced as often as not by a plea of utter inability to entertain such a ruinous suggestion. Yet there is much misconception on the point. People who live in fine houses and enjoy handsome incomes often run away with the notion that the delights of motoring are not for them, when they could afford a car perfectly well if they only went to work in the right way. The mistake is in assuming that the thing need be done in the ambitious manner usually assumed to be necessary. Naturally, if it is proposed to go in for a big and expensive car, with a man to look after it, an elaborate motor house and all charges in proportion, a pretty good banking account will be required. Buy a moderate-sized second-hand car in the first place, look after it yourself, share stabling accommodation with a friend, and your motoring need not cost you, with reasonable luck, more than £70 or £80, or, say, at the outside, £100 a year. Yet plenty of people who would think nothing of spending that amount on a grand piano or a trip to the Continent still cherish the delusion that motoring is a pastime only for millionaires.

And let it be emphasised that all the essential delights of motoring can be had for such a modest outlay as that named. For anything between £150 and £200 a thoroughly sound second-hand car can be bought to-day, and therewith the freedom of all the joys of automobilism. True, a more powerful and more costly car will go a good deal faster, climb hills quicker, and cover more ground, but how little these things amount to! It is, indeed, remarkable what slight real advantage your millionaire motorist obtains for his lavish outlay. His 60-h.p. Mercédès or 35-h.p. Daimler takes, as a rule, only the same number of passengers as the humbler automobilist's 8-h.p. De Dion or 10-h.p. Humber, and yields not a scrap more real enjoyment. Certainly he pays out of all proportion for such superior benefits as he does obtain.

"But is it really safe," some would doubtless be disposed to ask, "to get a car second-hand?" The inquiry is perfectly natural. Beyond question there are second-hand cars and second-hand cars, and circumspection is required in choosing between them. But given reasonable care and judgment, a second-hand car may be as safely acquired nowadays as one bought brand new from the makers. It is only a matter of finding the right article, and, with an almost unlimited number to choose from, there need not be the slightest difficulty in doing this. The advantage gained thereby from the pecuniary point of view it is hardly necessary to point out. Few articles of commerce depreciate more rapidly than a motor-car. In the case of a new car, the moment you take possession of it you may reckon that it has forthwith dropped in value by anything from 20 per-cent. to 50 per cent. There is enormous gain, therefore, from a buyer's standpoint, in getting one second-hand in the first place. Then if the car is a good one, and it has been properly looked after, it will often be possible to sell it again after a year or so's wear for almost as much as was given for it. From a practical point of view, also, it is infinitely better to get a good second-hand car than a second-rate new one at the same price. A good modern motor-car is almost indestructible if properly cared for, and should last its owner years. Many wealthy motorists are always buying new cars—greatly to the profit of those who pick up their discarded ones—but there is no longer the slightest necessity for doing this, and the wise owner nowadays will get a good car in the first place and stick to it.

As to the actual cost of up-keep, that depends, of course, on many circumstances—on the size of the car, the amount of use it gets, and so on. Certain preliminary inevitable charges, however, fall alike on one and all. Registration will cost £1 (happily this is not an annual charge). Somerset House demands in the shape of carriage tax: £2 2s. for a small car and £4 4s. for a big one, with 15s. a year additional for a driver if one is kept; driving licence costs 5s. a year; so that altogether the lowest annual charge under these various heads cannot be less than £2 7s., while it may be as much as £5 4s. Proposals have been made greatly to increase these imposts, but sufficient unto the day are the charges thereof. Insurance is another highly essential item which may be classed with these preliminary, and, so to speak, unproductive, outgoings. In the case of a small car, from £7 to £10 may be set aside under this head—certainly not any less. Then comes the question of stabling, and this in London is usually a pretty heavy item, though it may sometimes be reduced, as above suggested, by dividing the expenses with a friend. If, however, it can be managed, a separate stable is certainly to be preferred. In the suburbs adequate accommodation can usually be got for about £1 a month; in town from £20 to £25 a year would probably be nearer the mark. Certainly for a small car it should not be necessary to pay more than £20.

The next biggest item will be tyres. Tyres are an uncertain quantity in more ways than one. Nature of car, mileage, quality of tyres, character of driving, nature of roads, chance, and luck, are only a few of the several factors affecting this particular item. All that is quite certain is that under the best of circumstances the outgoings under this particular head cannot fail to be very considerable. Of one eminent automobilist it is said that his tyre bill amounts annually to something like £1,000, and the statement is by no means so extravagant as it sounds. In the case of a small car, run, perhaps, 200 miles a week on an average—that is, not every day, but chiefly on Saturdays and Sundays only—it would hardly be extravagant to allow £20 a year for renewal of inner tubes and outer covers. If the car is driven carefully, and the tyres are properly looked after—a most important consideration—the cost need not be quite so much, perhaps. But, speaking generally, it will hardly be less unless solid tyres are used.

Petrol may be put down in the case of such a car as that supposed—*i.e.*, one of from 8 h.p. to 10 h.p.—at, say, another £20. Oil is a further cause of expenditure not to be overlooked, amounting, say, with grease, carbide, and paraffin for the lamps, to about £4 per annum. Repairs and replacements are, like tyres, an uncertain quantity. It may, however, be taken for granted that the better the class of car the less will be the average outlay required under this head. The facetious epithet of "repairers' pets" serves to indicate, on the other hand, the sort of bills which the luckless owner is likely to incur who has the misfortune to have a car of the less reputable kind. Even with the best cars, luck and chance may have a good deal to say in the matter. An undetected flaw may necessitate the renewal of your

driving shaft, lubrication may be overlooked or go wrong, and result in a seized piston, gear wheels may wear badly, springs may break, cylinder jackets may be cracked by frost—in fact, there are a thousand and one things, great and small, which may happen, every one of which will mean expenditure more or less serious to set right. Still, in a general way, and barring serious mishaps not recoverable through one's insurance, from £10 to £15 should see a small 8-h.p. or 10-h.p. car through twelve months' incidents of this kind, including, in addition, all ordinary every-day renewals and repairs. Remains only "miscellaneous," in the shape of tips, washing car, charging accumulators, garage charges when on tour, and a hundred other odds and ends which keep the motorist's hand pretty often in the neighbourhood of his pocket. It would not be excessive, perhaps, to put aside £5 for these.

How, therefore, does it work out? Taking stable at £20, taxes at £2 7s., insurance at £10, tyres at £20, petrol at £20, repairs and replacements at £12, and sundries at £5, a total is arrived at not far short of £90 as something like the amount which a car of the sort assumed and used to the extent suggested might be expected to cost an owner driving it himself. In addition, of course, there should, strictly speaking, be brought into the account the further items of interest on capital and depreciation; but these do not entail actual out-of-pocket disbursements, and, with fine disregard of orthodox, account-keeping, may therefore be left aside on the present occasion. It is enough to know that for something less than £100 a year a four-seated motor-car can be run and maintained without difficulty. To which it may be added, of course, that if the owner were content with a smaller car still—say, a 6-h.p. Rover or a 6-h.p. De Dion—the total outlay involved would be proportionately lower.

MAMMON.

THE STOCK MARKETS AND CHEAPER MONEY—HIGHER SECURITY VALUES ALMOST INEVITABLE—TWO INFLUENCES CHECKING A RALLY—NEW ISSUES AND "WRECKAGE."

THE event of outstanding importance for the Stock Markets last week was the further cheapening of money rates. We have had declines in the German Bank rate from 6 to 5½ per cent., in the Dutch rate from 5½ to 5, and in our own official minimum from 4½ to 4. So far, Throgmorton Street appears to have derived no benefit at all from the process. Consols, indeed, when the decision of the central establishment was made known last Thursday, promptly declined, leading a humorist to remark that the stock had fallen "in sympathy with the Bank rate." But to declare that the lower monetary standard has already been discounted because prices have not immediately responded betrays a want of knowledge of the proper relationship that exists between the value of money and the price of securities. Providing of course, that lower discount rates have come to stay, there must as surely be a responsive move upward in the value of stocks as there was a move downward in stocks in answer to the stringent monetary rates that prevailed throughout the latter half of last year and the first quarter of the present. The installation of a 4 per cent. Bank rate has involved a reduction in the deposit allowance of the joint-stock banks to 2½ per cent. This must tend to bring considerable sums into the stock market, as depositors more generally awake to the fact that they can obtain at least 1 per cent. better terms upon the best securities than by allowing their money to lie in the banks.

Moreover, although by comparison with 6 and 5 per cent. a 4 per cent Bank rate seems low, it is still above the average rate for the time of year. Whether we are to witness a further reduction in the near future depends upon developments that cannot yet be definitely determined, but it is at least as likely as not that a 3 per cent. official minimum may be established between now and the early summer. The danger set up by an inflated "bull" account in Americans has been dispersed, and at the present time speculation in stocks of all kinds is almost a negligible quantity. Argentina, too, is no longer a drain upon us for gold; indeed, it would not be surprising if later on a portion of the vast amount of yellow metal—£28,000,000 within eight years—accumulated by that country should flow back to this side, having regard to the big alteration in the trade balance of the River Plate that will be caused by this year's smaller maize crop. The world's trade is still at high-water mark, it is true, but in some directions signs of a reaction have already set in, and if the tide is really about to turn, the money market will be quick to feel the change, because of the heavy increase that during the last year or two has taken place in the production of gold. On an average, £600,000 comes into the London open market weekly from Africa, Australia, and India. At the present time the Bank of England owes about £2,000,000 to the Bank of France upon bills that will mature within the next six weeks, but, unless something unforeseen occur, Threadneedle Street ought to be able to liquidate this indebtedness, and at the same time continue to add to its bullion stock.

No doubt two factors that so far have tended to offset the beneficent influence of cheaper money upon stocks have been the rush of public borrowers to place new issues of stock and the continuance of quiet selling by those who took over "wreckage" at the troublous March settlements. The new issues are necessarily tending, for the time being, to distract the attention of investors from existing stocks, but the bulk of the money recently raised on new securities will remain in the country. Even with the new Straits loan nearly four-fifths will go to the shareholders in the Tanjong Pagar Docks, a large number of whom reside in Great Britain. Thus it is easily possible for the Stock Exchange to exaggerate the effects of the present activity in the raising of new loans. The Straits Settlements, by the way, did not achieve the popular success of the London County Council. Of the £5,000,000 offered for subscription the underwriters have been left with 44 per cent. There was no question about the cheapness of the terms on which the issue was made, and the result serves to prove that the public appetite for gilt-edged fare is, for the present, not robust. Public borrowers will do well therefore not to force the pace. The Chinese Railway loan for £1,500,000 offered last week went like hot cakes, the lists only being open a few hours, but that was hardly surprising in view of the big demand that still exists for well secured investments yielding 5 per cent.

HOME RAILS FIRM—SCOTCH STOCKS A FEATURE—CITY AND SOUTH LONDON AND THE EUSTON EXTENSION—THE GENERAL TRAFFIC POSITION.

On the whole the Home Railway Market last week did not shape at all badly. Business in this department has been in a moribund condition for so long that the dealers are thankful for small mercies, and there has been evidence during the last few days of a little nibbling on the part of the public. To what extent it has moved prices may be seen from my usual table:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Apl 20. 1907.	Apl 27. 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	69	70	+1
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	28½	29	+ ⅜
Central London	96½	82½	77	76	-1
City and S. London	47½	39	42	42	—
Furness	69⅜	61⅜	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	35½	36	- ½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81¼	69	62	62	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	28½	28½	- ¼
Do. "A"	19½	15¼	14¼	14½	+ ⅜
Great Eastern	90¾	79½	74⅜	74⅜	- ⅛
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	99	99¼	+ ¼
Do. Def.	48⅞	39½	41	41⅜	+ ⅜
Great Western	144	122⅜	125	125½	+ ½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	47	47⅜	+ ⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	102½	102	- ½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111¼	100	99	-1
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	13⅜	13⅞	+ ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	82	81	-1
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	50	50	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	148¼	148¼	—
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	49½	49⅞	+ ⅜
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	47	46	-1
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	14	14	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	65½	65	- ½
Do. Def.	74⅞	62½	63½	63¾	+ ¼
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72½	69½	70	+½
Do. Def.	47⅞	38¾	34⅜	35	+ ⅝
North-Eastern Consolidated	147⅞	134½	138¾	139	+ ¼
North Staffordshire	105½	96½	98	99	+1
South-Eastern "A"	55⅞	44⅞	40	40½	+ ½

Perhaps the leading feature was again the demand for Scottish railway stocks, the market evidently looking forward with some confidence to the outcome of the desire expressed by the respective boards to amend their ways in the matter of unremunerative expenditure, stimulated as they will be by the newly-formed Shareholders' Protection Association. It will require a good deal of patience before the return to the "simple life" re-instals Caledonian deferred into the ranks of cheap stocks, seeing that the present yield on the stock is not quite 2½ per cent., but any improvement in the company's credit must tell directly upon the three per cent. preferred. This stock can now be bought to yield about 4⅜ per cent., and as the full interest is already amply covered, it is one that may be comfortably "sat upon" by the investor for an ultimate rise. North British three per cent. preferred, which gives an almost identical return, is another stock to which the same recommendation applies. In the English group Great Northern Deferred has made up the fall that occurred in the previous week, and remains one of the most attractive amongst the low-priced stocks. Hulls, too, have benefited from a further absorption by investors, who are recognising the bright dividend possibilities for the current year, with which I have dealt several times of late. In the Underground group there has been some reaction, which is not unnatural, bearing in mind that the market had recently been forcing the pace, and that the benefits, arising—in the case of the Central London from graduated fares, and in that of the Metropolitan from more economical working and a possible revision of competitive 'bus fares—have yet to be determined.

City and South London ordinary has been firm in anticipation of the opening of the new extension to Euston, which will be formally effected on May 11 by Mr. Percy Harris, chairman of the London County Council. The company will then be linked up with the London and North-Western, the Midland, and the Great Northern Railway systems; also with the Piccadilly Tube at King's Cross and the Hampstead Tube at Euston. Thus the City and South London ought to give a good account of itself, and in the view of Mr. Stuart Wortley, M.P., the chairman, there is every reason to expect that the company will reap a substantial profit on the money spent in connection with the latest extension. As upon the basis of the dividend for 1906, the company's ordinary stock returns £5 9s. per cent., it appears to leave room for a fair levelling up. The company has just obtained powers to raise £200,000, either in preference or ordinary stock, on terms to be arranged later, and this sum ought to be sufficient to complete the financing of the new line. Among steady-going stocks to yield 4½ per cent., City and South London five per cent. preference of 1903 is worth bringing to the public notice. There is little doubt about the soundness of this security, and but for the fact that the price was affected by the new issue made last year, which had to be placed on unduly unsatisfactory terms because of the dearness of money, the stock would not be standing where it is now. If, as there seems good reason to hope, we have really entered upon a fairly lengthy spell of comparative ease in the Money Market, there will be an increasing demand for bargains of this type, and the competition among buyers cannot fail to affect values.

The stocks of the heavy lines have shown little movement during the week, this group, in the absence of public business, merely reflecting the dulness of Consols. Meanwhile the companies continue to pile up traffic increases at a rate which should enable them to retain substantially larger sums in hand at the end of the half-year after making due allowance for the extra cost of materials, and the customary increase in expenses that an enlargement of gross revenue entails. The position may be gathered from the following table, showing the aggregate receipts for sixteen weeks, the increase or decrease in 1907, and the increase or decrease registered at the corresponding date in 1906:—

Company.	Total 1907. (16 weeks).	Increase or Decrease in 1907.	Increase in 1906.
	£	£	£
Great Central	1,210,200	+ 37 500	+ 43,400
Great Eastern	1,505,800	− 6,400	+ 17,700
Great Northern	1,743,300	+ 35,500	+ 39 500
Great Western	3,590,200	+114,500	+ 32 400
Lancashire & Yorkshire	1,701 800	+ 46,800	+ 53,600
London & North Western	4,362,000	+132,000	+137,000
London & South-Western	1,315,000	+ 11,500	+ 20,700
London Brighton	852,000	− 28 600	+ 6,100
Midland	3,616,400	+119,000	+ 93,000
North-Eastern	2,865,700	+111,800	+147,900
South-Eastern & Chatham	1,268,400	+ 14,200	+ 9,200

The manner in which gains have been scored on top of substantial improvements a year ago is really remarkable, though, perhaps, no more than might be expected from the evidences given by the Board of Trade returns and other reliable sources of the vitality of trade at our leading industrial centres. For the present, at all events, there is every reason to look for a continuance of bumper traffics, and with this in view, and given a continuance of monetary ease, Home Railway stocks ought to come in for a larger share of attention from the public.

American Rails Quiescent—Wall Street Leaders on Holiday—The Market in the Hands of the Professional Punter—Serious Damage Reported to Winter Wheat—More Big Capital Issues Foreshadowed.

The American Market throughout last week remained in the subdued state that has characterised it since the upheaval which culminated a month ago. Prices have had such a severe fall in the past three months, and the "bull" account has been liquidated in such wholesale fashion, that the "bears" have been disposed to act with greater caution than of late. But the fact remains that, despite the comparatively high yields offered by stocks on the basis of last year's distributions, nobody seems willing to buy. Those who take the view that the decline has run its course refer in the same breath to the dangers of "bulling" the market at present—what with the aggressive attitude of the Government and State Legislature towards corporations, the threatened industrial reaction, the unfavourable reports from the crop centres, and the fear of further new issues. Others hold the belief that stocks must drift to a lower plane yet before the public will consent to re-enter the market, and they claim, in support of this view, the opinion of Mr. James J. Hill, head of the Hill Railroad Systems, who is said to be privately predicting dire stress among the dividend-paying corporations within twelve months, and also the assertion of Mr. George J. Gould that the enforcement of the two cent passenger rate must involve a reduction of railroad dividends. Whatever happens, the market seems as far off a boom as it could possibly be. Wall Street's leaders evidently share this attitude, for during the last few days there has been quite an exodus of magnates from New York to Europe for a spring tour, the number including Mr. H. H. Rogers (of the Standard Oil Company), Mr. George Gould, Mr. Blumenthal (Lazard Frères), Mr. Francis L. Hine (Vice-President of the First National Bank), and Mr. Paul Warburg (Kuhn Loeb and Company). With the "bosses" either absent or apathetic, the market has been left to the smaller professionals, or floor traders, as the New York reporter chooses to term them, and as the enforced motto of these sportsmen is "small profits—quick returns," prices have bobbed up and down serenely within about a dollar limit, the features of outstanding

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

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interest being strictly limited. The net result of the week's movements is shown below:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	April 20, 1907.	April 27, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114½	89	96⅞	97⅝	+ ⅞
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	99	99¾	+ ¾
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅝	100½	101½	+1
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	92	92	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68¾	54	42½	43¼	+ ¾
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	137½	139	+1½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	29¾	30¼	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93¾	85⅞	77½	88	+ ½
Erie	52½	40	24¼	24⅝	+ ⅜
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	56	56½	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65¾	39	39	—
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	150	151	+1
Louisville	160¾	143¾	120	123	+3
Missouri, Kansas	45⅝	31 7/16	37½	37¾	+ ¾
New York Central	159½	130¾	122xd.	122½	+ ½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57 7/16	45½	39	39	—
Norfolk and Western	100¾	87⅛	77½	79	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96¼	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	136xd.	139	+3
Pennsylvania ($50)	75½	63⅝	64½	65	+ ½
Reading ($50)	85⅝	59⅞	54½	56½	+2
Southern	43¾	33	21⅞	22⅝	+ ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	67	70	+3
Southern Pacific	99 5/16	64⅜	85½	86⅝	+1¼
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	140⅜	146½	+5⅞
U.S. Steel	52½	33⅞	38⅛	38	− ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅝	103½	104	+ ½

Union Pacific has been rather sought after by the "bull" clique. The specially high return given by this stock naturally renders it susceptible to favourable influences, and the market was last week treated to the news that the Inter-State Commerce Commission would not press its investigations into the Harriman group for the present, while there was also a story that a holding company was being formed to take over the Union Pacific's investments—with the ulterior object, it was said, of circumventing the Commission should the Union's ownership of the Southern Pacific be declared illegal.

Attempts made to lift United States Steel Common on talk of an increase in the dividend have not been very successful. Recently there had been talk of the stock going immediately upon a 3 or even a 4 per cent. basis, but the market is now veering round to the opinion that there will be no advance upon the present rate of 2 per cent., admitting the improbability of a bigger distribution now that people are all talking of a general trade reaction. Perhaps the paramount influence upon prices last week was the more generally unfavourable news regarding winter wheat. It is now apparently accepted that the early crop has suffered considerable damage through cold weather and insects, while there has also been delay in planting corn and spring wheat through adverse climatic conditions. It will, of course, be impossible to estimate for some months yet what the total grain yield is likely to be, but the market's sensitiveness to crop news is easily understood, for this is likely to be a critical year for the United States. Given a good harvest and the reactionary tendency of trade may be checked, if not arrested altogether, but a poor harvest will set the seal upon the backward movement. So far as the Money Market is concerned, time loans in New York are now being arranged on easy terms, thanks to the release of funds by the Treasury, but it is noteworthy that advances to railroads are still fetching very high rates. The fact is that bankers and financiers in New York already have more railroad scrip than they can conveniently take care of. From authentic figures it seems that in the first quarter of the year the total of notes, bonds, and stocks authorised by railroad and industrial corporations came to the huge sum of 670 million dollars, of which about 400 million has been issued. Of the authorised amount, 187 millions was in notes, 107 millions in bonds, and 374 millions in stocks. Nearly all the notes and bonds thus authorised have been issued, but only about 66 millions of the stocks. Thus, should money conditions get more favourable, there is every likelihood of a recommencement of the era of heavy railroad borrowing.

"FINANCE."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

GRAND TRUNKS AND BUMPER TRAFFICS—THE MEXICAN RAILWAY REPORT—HEAVY REVENUE OUTLAYS FORESHADOWED—A BOMBSHELL FOR THE MARKET—FAVOURABLE MEXICAN SOUTHERN DIVIDEND—UNITED OF HAVANA—DISAPPOINTING INTERIM DISTRIBUTION.

In the Canadian Railway group the recent remarkable succession of traffic increases is having its effect upon Grand Trunk stocks, and particularly upon the third preference, which stands to derive the most direct benefit. Since the reopening of lake navigation a month ago the carriage of traffic held back by weather conditions has caused a gross increase on the Trunk system of no less than £116,700, making the aggregate gain since January 1 £226,500. With so much old grain still waiting to be carried, as I mentioned last week, and with traffics likely to be further swollen by the transport of building material for the new Pacific road, there is reason to look for a rising Trunk market for some time to come. Canadian Pacifics have moved within comparatively narrow limits. Activity in these shares has been checked by the strike of coal miners in Alberta. This trouble appears to have had some effect on the company's earnings, for the last traffic, although showing an increase of $96,000, was not up to the high standard to which the line has conformed since the advent of milder weather. At the time of writing the news from the mining district reads more hopefully, and it is probable that the trouble will be smoothed out before long. The matter, in any case, is hardly one that need seriously concern Canadian Pacific shareholders.

The Mexican Railway Market, which was upset by the recent dividend announcement because dealers had flown their kite too high, received a bomb-shell from the report published last Wednesday evening. The paragraph, upon which all eyes were turned, is worth giving in full:—

> In view of the greater weight of new engines and the age of the bridges, a careful examination and testing of these structures has been carried out by an independent expert in bridge construction, who reports that reconstruction will in most cases be necessary to fit them for present traffic conditions. The cost of this, together with that of relaying the upper section of the road with heavier rails, after taking into account the value of old materials removed, and charging due proportions to capital, may involve a charge against revenue approximating £300,000, which it is proposed to spread over a period of years.

The terms of the announcement left the market much mystified, for without knowing over how many years it was proposed to spread this expenditure operators were unable to estimate what the effect would be upon the dividend outlook. Possibly the point will be cleared up at the meeting, though even if it is the fact remains that the board, in drafting its report, might have been more explicit. There would have been less room for a break in prices had the pace made by speculators lately been more moderate. Weeks ago, when the ordinary was in the sixties, I ventured the opinion that the "bulls" were over-discounting the future, and the setback in the stock to 42, which was touched last Thursday, serves as confirmation. Only in May last the chairman expressly stated that it would be necessary to relay 150 miles of road with heavier rails at an estimated cost of £1,000 per mile, and that the charge was altogether a revenue burden. He also told the proprietors that the era of heavy expenditure on ordinary maintenance of way and of rolling stock was drawing to a conclusion, but the era of large special renewals was about to commence. Some people, in the wave of optimism that was spread by the late run of handsome traffic increases, appear to have quite forgotten the warnings of the board, but they have now received a sharp reminder, which will modify, at any rate, for some little time to come, extravagant estimates of dividends on the ordinary.

Rather different to the effect produced upon the stocks of the old Mexican Railway by the half-year's dividend was that wrought upon Mexican Southern Railway ordinary by the results for the year 1906. In both cases the showings were very good, but whereas in the one the market had been over sanguine, in the other there had been no speculation worth speaking about. The Mexican Southern Railway is distributing 3 per cent.

for the year, which is ½ per cent. better than the rate paid in either 1905 or 1904, and is the best in the company's history. It is true that £2,000 less has been carried to contingency fund, and nearly £4,000 less carried forward, but against these items must be set the fact that the company in 1906 felt the full loss arising from the repayment two years ago of the 6 per cent. Subvention bonds of the Mexican Government. This matter involved a loss last year of £19,000, whereas the company in 1905 suffered only to the extent of £5,500. So far as the current year is concerned the line has started off in a manner which suggests that the dividend will be maintained if not increased, and as the ordinary can be bought at about 59, and moreover carries 3 points of dividend in the price, the stock looks a bargain. The dividend declared by the United railways of the Havana was not up to expectations. The actual rate was 5 per cent. per annum, as compared with 9 per cent. per annum, but, of course, the stock in the last twelvemonth has been "watered" to the extent of 50 per cent., therefore on the old basis the dividend is equal to 7½ per cent., as against the 9 per cent. declared a year ago. It is only an interim distribution, and for detailed information as to the company's position we must await the report due in October. But as the market had been talking about a payment of 6 per cent., which would be the equivalent of last year's payment of 9 per cent., the announcement has naturally had a damping effect upon the ordinary stock. My usual table follows:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Apl. 20, 1907.	Apl. 27, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	180¾	180⅝	- ⅛
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	31½	31⅛	+ 1/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101⅛	102½	100½xd	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅜	114¾	121½	118½xd	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	112¾	111xd	+ ⅜
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	74⅜	72¾xd	+1½
Mexican	50⅞	22½	47⅛	44½	-3⅜
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144½	118⅞	140	141	+1
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅞	49⅛	89½	88	-1½
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 11/16	0	11⅜	11¼	+ ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs	124	109	116	115½	- ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	85	85	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	24	24	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	91	91	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65⅛	80	80	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	37½	54	56	+2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	23	23	—
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	150	155	+5
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	122½	120	-2½
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	152½	140	-12½
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	15⅛	15½	- ⅛
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	108½	107½	-1
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅛	64½	78	78	—
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	117½	115xd	+ ½
Do. and Rosario	120½	111	105½	103½xd	+1½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	123½	124	+ ½
Do. Western	138¾	123½	121½	121¾	+ ¼
East Argentine	120	87	119	119	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅝	66½	67½	+1
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108¾	85	88	88½	+ ½
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	90	91	+1
Great Western of Brazil	16⅛	12½	11⅝	11½xd	- 1/16
Leopoldina	86½	69½	76¾	77½	+ ½
San Paulo	214¾	199½	217	213½xd	+2½
Central Uruguay	92½	82	88½	91	+ 3
Costa Rica	29 1/16	25	29½	29½	—
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80⅛	78	73½	73½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76¾	77	77	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¾	82½	82½	—
Manila 6 p.c Debs.	126	112	110	109	-1
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	49	53	+4
Cuban Central	7 1/16	5⅝	6 1/16	6 1/16	—
United of Havana	193	105⅝	106	99½xd	-4
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12½	12½	—
Mashonaland Debs. (2nd issue)	94¾	87¾	86	87½	+1½
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅝	76	77½	78	+ ½
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19½	21½	21½	—

Recovery in Kaffirs Checked by the Uncertainty as Regards the Labour Outlook—Conflicting Reports Circulated—The New Vaal Diamonds the Centre of Activity During the Past Week.

Although the past week has witnessed some improvement in business conditions in the Mining Markets, Kaffir gold shares have not benefited to any extent. With the opening of the new account, the tone became more cheerful, and prices showed a tendency to improve, but the recovery was nipped in the bud. The reason for the quietness and dulness of Kaffirs seems to be the uncertainty as to the immediate labour outlook, despite the assurances that have been given that the new Government would not seriously hamper the mining industry. As I reminded my readers last week, the chief point at issue at present is as to the retention of the Chinese. The contracts of the first batches of coolies to arrive on the Rand three years ago begin to expire next month, and unless action is taken these workers will have to be repatriated. Conflicting reports have been circulated during the past week as to the intention of the Government in respect to this important matter. On the one hand we have been told that General Botha and the Rand magnates have come to a satisfactory agreement; that the mineowners would secure the success of a large loan required by the new Government, and in return General Botha would undertake that the latter should not interfere with the mining industry. On the other hand, a cable from Johannesburg asserts that the Chinese are to be repatriated without delay as their contracts expire, and adds: "There is no possible hope of retention, and the decision is final." In the face of such conflicting statements it is not to be wondered at that the share market has not made headway, and until a definite authoritative announcement on the matter is issued, improvement in business conditions in the Kaffir market is hardly to be expected. It is to be hoped, therefore, that General Botha will see his way to clear up the question at to-night's banquet, which is being given so that he may meet the London representatives of the Transvaal banking, commercial, and mining interests.

As a rule, the leading diamond shares have not been quite so freely dealt in during the past week as hitherto, but New Vaal Rivers have attracted a good deal of attention. The recent substantial fall in the quotation of these shares has been followed by an appreciable advance, as will be seen from the following table:—

Share.	April 20, 1907.	April 27, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Pref.	17¾	18	+ ¼
,, ,, Def	26⅜	26	- ⅜
Jagersfontein Pref.	4½	4½	—
,, Def.	9¼	9 1/16	—
New Vaal River	4 5/16	6 7/16	+2⅛
Premier (Transvaal) Pref.	8½	8½	—
,, ,, Def.	12¾	12⅞	+ ⅛

The spurt in New Vaals would appear to be entirely the outcome of market manipulation. The arrangement of the settlement last week disclosed the existence of a "bear" position in the shares, there being a backwardation instead of the usual contango, and evidently advantage has been taken of the circumstances to "squeeze" those who had sold short.

Rhodesians generally have continued to move pretty much in sympathy with the Kaffir gold descriptions. Business has been on a slightly better scale in this section during the past week, but prices, as a rule, have not materially altered. At the close on Monday, however, activity suddenly developed in the shares of the Banket group, and Eldorado Bankets were in request up to 3, which price compares with the quotation of 1¾ ruling a few weeks ago. The improvement thus recorded is accounted for by the satisfactory reports that have come to hand as to developments—to which I referred at some length in recent notes—and by the fact that the crushing stage is expected to be reached very soon now. Those of my readers who bought the shares have an opportunity to secure a handsome profit, and I think they may as well take advantage of it, unless they wish to keep the shares for ultimate dividends.

Rand Mines, Limited, and its Extensive Interests—Points from the Annual Statements—Record Dividend Income from Subsidiaries in 1906—Comparison of Past Two Years' Results—Increased Dividends Foreshadowed—Highest and Lowest Market Prices for the Last Three Years.

In accordance with the promise I made a few weeks ago to review the position of the principal mines of the Rand, I am devoting a portion of my space this week to a number of deep level mines, the subsidiaries of Rand Mines, Limited, whose annual report has recently reached me by mail, together with a full account of the proceedings at the meeting held at

(*Continued on page* 1089.)

(*Continued from page* 1088.)

Johannesburg at the end of March. The importance of the Rand Mines' subsidiaries may be gauged from the fact that the mines which are producing the precious metal were last year responsible for close on 5 per cent. of the total gold output of the world. In order to show briefly how these companies did individually in the last two financial years I have compiled the following tables:—

COMPANY.	1906. Ore milled.	Gold produced.	Net profit.	Dividend.
	Tons.	Fine ozs.	£	%
Glen Deep	212,902	79,428	105,887	15
Rose Deep	315,650	111,377	139,706	20
Geldenhuis Deep	303 325	116,832	159,868	40
Jumpers Deep	214 739	75,277	32.940	—
Nourse Mines	334,485	142,016	182,096	25
Ferreira Deep	251,721	150,909	380.435	35
Crown Deep	341.464	135,678	246,840	80
Langlaagte Deep	265 460	94,218	86,065	—
Durban Deep	128,177	46,176	20,573	—

COMPANY.	1905. Ore milled.	Gold produced.	Net profit.	Dividend.
	Tons.	Fine ozs.	£	%
Glen Deep	331,667	134,771	101,336	10
Rose Deep	114,430	51,099	141,432	25
Geldenhuis Deep	210,484	134,980	195,792	50
Jumpers Deep	281,785	122,543	21,621	—
Nourse Mines	183,230*	74,045*	103,521*	15*
Ferreira Deep	188,333	65,311	318 922	30
Crown Deep	235,502	82,014	249,474	70
Langlaagte Deep	173,450	81,723	73,358	—
Durban Deep	304,353	106,012	39,919	—

* Nourse Deep results. Co. now amalgamated with Henry Nourse.

At the end of the past year the Glen Deep had cash and cash assets on hand amounting to £53,900 in addition to £8,717, the value of the gold reserve. The working profits so far during the current year have been above the average for the past twelve months. Rose Deep had £33,059 cash and cash assets available at the end of the past year, while the gold in reserve represented a value of £429. In the case of this company the prospect is held out of an increase in the rate of dividend. The developments in the mine south of the Simmer dyke have disclosed better values than have been mined during the last two years. This will increase the tonnage treated this year and it is expected that profits will be proportionately enhanced, in consequence of which, it is officially announced, "somewhat larger distributions of dividends may be looked for—probably in the current year, but in any case, for 1908." Geldenhuis Deep was not in so satisfactory a position at the end of the year as the two companies above mentioned. It had a cash liability of £10,080, against which gold in reserve amounted to £3,632, leaving a net liability of £6,448. A satisfactory feature, however, is that the company's liability in respect of debenture redemption has now been entirely liquidated, which means, of course, that in future all net profits will be available for distribution on the share capital after liquidating the cash liability mentioned. As regards the Jumpers Deep, the cash and cash assets (including the value of the gold reserve) were practically the same at the end of the past year as at the beginning of that period, the net profit earned being rather more than counterbalanced by capital expenditure. This company only last month rejoined the list of dividend payers. Since the beginning of 1906 the Nourse Mines has taken the place of the Nourse Deep, the latter having been amalgamated with the Henry Nourse. At the end of the year cash and cash assets amounted to £106,393 and the value of the gold in reserve was £9,174.

The Ferreira Deep had £79,784 on hand at the close of 1906, and the gold reserve was valued at £20,318. The directors of this company have decided upon a capital expenditure of about £117,000 for the purpose of increasing the crushing capacity by some 10,000 tons per month, but the financing of this operation is to be done out of current profits without interfering with the present rate of dividends. Ultimately the expansion of production should result in increased distributions, and it is officially stated that an advance in the rate of dividend may be looked for in about eighteen months' time, after which date it is anticipated that the company will be able to gradually increase its dividends to 50 per cent. per annum. The Crown Deep had cash and cash assets amounting to £68,011 at the end of 1906 and reserve gold of a value of £7,074. Some further capital expenditure may be necessary during the current year, but it is confidently anticipated that the rate of dividend will be somewhat increased. The Langlaagte Deep is expected before very long to enter the dividend list. The enlarged equipment of 200 stamps is now in operation at this mine, and the profits for the current year show a marked improvement upon the average for the past twelve months. It is anticipated that the company will reach the dividend paying stage at the end of the next financial half-year (July 31), but certainly not later than January 31 next. It will be a relief to Rand Mines, for, as the chairman remarked at the meeting, the financing of the Langlaagte Deep has at times been a severe strain upon the parent company, its indebtedness having at one time been as much as £600,000. That the feeling of relief will be quite as fully felt by Langlaagte Deep shareholders, there is little reason to doubt. The profit earned last year by the Durban Deep was unsatisfactory, barely sufficing for the repayment of the debentures and premiums. The extension of the crushing plant to 100 stamps and tube mills is to be taken in hand at an early date. A cable recently to hand reports the striking of the south reef in the eastern shaft, and it is satisfactory to note that the values are better than the average results of development on the same ore body in the western section last year.

As regards the finances of Rand Mines, Limited, itself, it is to be noted that the net profit for the past year amounted to £518,677, compared with £667,798 for the preceding period, although the income from dividends from subsidiaries was a record, namely, £576,913, or £92,430 in excess of the amount derived from that source in the previous year. From the statements above in reference to the prospects of some of the subsidiaries it will be gathered that there is reason to expect that the parent company will receive a still larger sum in the form of dividends on its shareholdings in the current year. The position of Rand Mines at the end of 1906 was that it had available cash and cash assets amounting to £757,244 after providing for all liabilities, with the exception of the £500,000 outstanding debentures. The balance mentioned is available for the redemption of debentures, the financing of subsidiaries or other companies, and, should occasion arise, the provision of working capital in connection with its claim holdings. A portion of the annual report of this company which is always of particular interest is that which refers to the changes that have taken place in its shareholdings during the period under review. This year it is shown that the company's holdings in the Glen Deep, Crown Deep, Village Main Reef, and Paarl Central have been slightly increased, while it would appear that none has been reduced. The directors have reverted to the practice of paying dividends half-yearly, and the last half-yearly distribution was 3s. per share for the six months ended December last. On the basis of dividends of 6s. per share per annum, the shares at the current market price yield under 5 per cent., but Rand Mines shares are dealt in as a favourite speculative counter, not being as yet seriously considered as an investment for dividends. Altogether, Rand Mines is interested in more than a score of mines, but its principal holdings are in the ten which comprise its own subsidiaries. Nine of these are producing and seven are now in the dividend list, and the facts and figures concerning them summarised above will, I venture to think, be of some assistance to those of my readers who are already interested in the companies referred to, and to others who may be thinking of becom-

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ing interested. Ferreira Deep appear to be "the pick of the basket," the prospective dividend return representing a yield of practically ten per cent. per annum on the current market price of the shares. The following table gives the highest and lowest prices touched during the last three years by the shares of the nine producing mines whose results are reviewed above:—

Share.	1906.		1905.		1904.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
Crown Deep	13¼	10½	17	12½	16½	11½
Durban Deep	2 7/16	1	3½	1¾	3 7/16	2¼
Ferreira Deep	5⅝	4½	6½	5	6½	5
Geldenhuis Deep	8½	4⅝	11½	7¾	12	9⅜
Glen Deep	3¾	1⅝	5 7/16	3¼	5 7/16	3⅜
Jumpers Deep	3⅛	1¼	2¼	1⅜	3⅜	2
Llanglaagte Deep	2¾	1¼	3⅜	2	3 7/16	1¾
Nourse Mines	3⅝	2	5¼*	3¼*	5¼*	3⅜*
Rose Deep	5½	2¾	9⅛	4¼	9⅛	6¾

* Nourse Deep, before amalgamation with Henry Nourse.

Better Tendency Among Westralians—The Spurt in Associated—Ivanhoes and Sons of Gwalia—Deep Leads Firmer.

A little more interest has latterly been displayed in connection with the Westralian market, the issue of the annual reports of several of the principal companies having served to attract attention to the group. Some mining investors have awoke to the fact that good dividends are to be obtained on the shares of a few of Western Australia's leading gold mines, but apart from Ivanhoes, to which the attention of my readers was specially drawn in these columns when the price of the shares was only a trifle over £7, the quotations of the "investment" shares have not materially advanced, and still afford opportunities for satisfactory investment. Chief activity during the past week has been displayed by Associated, consequent upon the news to hand by cable from the mine as to developments, and it will be seen from the subjoined table of prices that these shares have had a good jump:—

Share.	1906.		Apl. 20, 1907.	Apl. 27, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
	Highest.	Lowest.			
Associated	3	1 7/32	1 7/32	1 3/32	+ 3/32
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1⅜	1 1/16	2 3/32	31	+ 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/3	4/3	—
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6⅜	4⅝	6¼	6 1/16 xd	-7/9
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	22/9	23/3	+ 6d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/3	6/6	+ 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 9/16	2¼	1 25/32	1 31/32	+ 1/32
Hainault	1 13/16	1¼	1 9/16	1 9/16	—
Ivanhoe (£5)	7¾	6 5/16	7⅝	7 1/16 xd.	+2/9
Kalgurli	12⅝	8⅝	10⅝	10	- ⅝
Lake View Consols	1 7/16	¾	1 1/32	¾	+ 1/32
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	12/9	12/9	—
Oroya Brownhill	3¼	2	1⅝	1⅝	—
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1¼	1 1/32 xd	+4½d.
South Kalgurli	1 7/16	¼	3/32	1/16	+ 3/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/16	1½	1/16	1 1/16	+ 1
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	½	¼	3/9	4/-	+ 3d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	⅛	1/8	+ 1/8

Seeing that the dividends paid by the Associated the last two years do not justify anything like the present price of the shares, and that the ore reserves represent a profit in sight of, at most, 10s. a share, it will be gathered that a good deal depends upon the outcome of developments. The Associated has been expected to prove the continuation in its property of the famous Iron Duke chute, which has enabled the Oroya to pay such handsome dividends. This chute has been worked right up to the Associated boundary, but so far it has not been definitely located in Associated ground. A well-known mining engineer was sent out by the company at the beginning of the current year to direct operations, with a view to locating this important orebody, and he has just cabled that he believes it has been cut. Hence the revival of speculative interest in the shares, for should the chute be proved to extend through the Associated property and to be of as good value as it was in the Oroya, the outlook for Associated shareholders will be bright indeed. Kalgurlis have been kept back by the accident to the mill engine, which has caused a temporary curtailment of treatment operations, but there should be some recovery in the quotation before very long.

Ivanhoes are now ex the 9s. balance dividend for the past year, which made 24s. in all for the twelve months. Although they are not as cheap as when I reviewed the company's position some weeks ago, mining investors have still a chance of securing them at a reasonable price. At the annual meeting of the company last week Mr. F. A. Govett, the energetic and popular chairman, was unfortunately unable, through ill-health, to be present, but the exhaustive review of the position he had prepared was read to the shareholders by another member of the board. It may be remembered that the estimate of the ore reserves showed four and a half years' supply. But the position of the mine is really much better than this implies, as in that computation no ore below the 1,373-ft. level was taken into account. Mr. Govett says shareholders can make sure of the lodes 150 ft. below that level, and I quote the following paragraph from his address as summing up the position as near as possible at the present time:

> After our long and intimate knowledge of the reliable character of these wonderful lodes, I think you may add on two or two and a-half years for these two levels without putting any undue strain on the probabilities, and make fairly sure of your conclusions. That looks something like seven years down to the 1,670 feet level. I am not prepared to speak in any way of the grade of the ore between the 1,370 and 1,670 feet levels, but as far as we have gone there is no evidence of any material change. Lastly, in making your estimate of the probable intrinsic value of your property you must remember that, taking in the bullion reserve, we have over £100,000 of cash reserves, and you have to allow for the probable value of the mine below the 1,670 feet level. I do not care to place a figure on this probable value, but it would be no small sum.

Seven years' dividends at last year's rate would be equal to £8 8s. per share, while the cash reserves at the present time represent fully another 10s. per share. Another share in this market which is worthy of attention at the present price is Sons of Gwalia. Quarterly dividends of 1s. per share are being paid, which represent a yield of 18 per cent. per annum on the current quotation. The ore reserves above the No. 14 level on the main chute are estimated to be sufficient to maintain the present output for over two years, and before that date, of course, further development will have been done. Some weeks ago I referred to the discovery of a new ore chute to the south in this company's property, and it is to be observed that the annual report presented at the meeting on Monday last describes this discovery as "the most important development in the mine for some years." So far this ore body has been opened only on the seventh level, but the ninth and thirteenth levels should reach it in the current half-year, and, with the favourable results anticipated, the ore reserves should be greatly increased.

Deep Leads, after some weeks of depression, have taken a turn for the better, and at the present level of quotations certainly seem worth picking up as pure speculations. Further news from Loddon Valley may come to hand at any time, and, in the event of a favourable report, share values would doubtless experience a quick spurt.

Large Business in Copper Shares and Substantial Improvement in Prices—Mount Lyell Position and Dividend Prospects—Continued Activity in Zincs and a Further Cablegram.

The Copper group has enjoyed chief activity among the mining sections during the past week, and appears likely to continue to be favoured with a good share of business in the immediate future. The steady advance in the price of the metal to well over £100 per ton has naturally stimulated speculation in copper shares, and those who operated on the hints given in my notes last week have already had chances of securing satisfactory profits. Tintos, as the following table shows, have had a substantial rise, and have about as much more to gain

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to reach the 100 mark to which they are being talked in the market:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 20, 1907.	Apl. 27, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/8	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 1/4	+ 1/32
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/-	15/9xd.	+2d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/4	1 1/2	1 7/8	1 15/16	+ 1/8
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/4	1 1/4	2 5/16	2 1/4	+ 1/16
Wassau	1 3/8	1/2	3/4	3/4	+ 1/32
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/3	1/3	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1/3	1/6	+3d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	23/6	24/-	+6d.
Esperanza	5 5/16	2 1/4	2 1/8	1 3/4xd.	+6d.
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/2	1 7/8	— 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30 7/8	38/9	40/-	+1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 1/8	3 5/16	4 11/16	4 3/8	+ 3/16
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	16/6	16/9	+3d.
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	12 11/16	12 13/16	+ 1/8
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/2	3	64/6	68/6	+4/-
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4 3/8	10 3/8	11 1/4	+ 11/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	46/-	48/9	+2/9
Mount Morgan	4 3/8	3 1/4	4 3/8	4 7/16	+ 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/4	68 5/8	89 1/2	94 1/2	+5 1/2
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	23/6	25/-	+1/6
Pusing Lama Tin	3 5/8	3/4	2 11/16	2 11/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	14/6	19/-	+4/6
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/6	10/9	+3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	5 3/4	5 7/8	+ 1/8
Siberian Mines	2 1/8	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 1/4	+ 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 1/4	3 1/8	4 1/4	4 3/8	+ 1/8
Waihi	9 5/16	6 5/16	9 1/8	9 3/16	+ 1/16

A feature in connection with the Copper group has been the revival of activity in the Australian issues, and it may be remembered that in my last notes I mentioned Mount Elliotts and Mount Lyells as likely to be among the first to benefit from improvement in general conditions. Both these shares have had a good advance during the past week, Mount Elliotts having been up to about 3¾ and Mount Lyells to 50s., and I shall not be surprised if they go above these prices in the near future. Mount Lyells have come into favour again on dividend anticipations, the next distribution being due to be declared about the middle of the current month. It is calculated that the company has earned £40,000 to £50,000 more profit in the past half-year than in the previous six months, and it is thought that, in the event of the Copper Market position continuing favourable, the directors may see their way to distributing 3s. 6d. or 4s. per share. The last distribution, it may be remembered, was 3s. 3d. per share. Some interesting information concerning Mount Lyell affairs has reached me by mail during the past week. I learn that the company has decided to erect another smelter, and that this furnace will be of much larger capacity than any of the five now in use. Further, the company proposes to erect large superphosphate works at Port Adelaide at an early date, these to be capable of dealing with not less than 20,000 tons per annum. As regards the mining position, Colonial advices state that the appearance of the North Mine (which contributes the payable ore) at and below the 700 ft. level is of a very bright character, "and the report which the directors will be able to submit at the next half-yearly meeting should be in the highest degree satisfactory to shareholders." Among the smaller priced Australian shares Chillagoes and Munganas have been in good demand on Colonial account, and I still hold a favourable opinion of the outlook for the former. As regards Munganas, the company is doing very well and is expected to still further improve, but I do not think the market anticipation of an early dividend of 2s. or 3s. per share is likely to be fulfilled. My information, from a quarter which should be well informed, is that if a dividend is declared next month it is not likely to be more than 1s. per share, while in the event of the declaration being postponed till September the amount might be 1s. 6d. per share. However, the company is stated to be earning profits at the rate of about 4s. per share per annum (100 per cent. on the capital), and when smelting is in full swing it is expected to reach the equivalent of 5s. per share, so that on any relapse in the quotation the shares should be worth picking up with a view to holding them.

Business in the Broken Hill group has not been very brisk apart from Zinc Corporations. These shares have been a rather better market during the past week, and although the quotation has not made much headway on balance there has been a fair amount of "bear" covering under the impression that the worst is now known. A cable to hand as to the results being obtained with the Cattermole process is of an encouraging character, in that it indicates that a gradual improvement in the rate of extraction is being obtained. Having regard to the Sulphide Corporation's results with the same process, the Zinc Corporation should be able to obtain a satisfactory margin of profit, and when it is definitely shown what can be done in this respect the price of the shares should further recover.

A Preposterous Prospectus.

Quite the most extraordinary prospectus of the past week was that published by H. de Vries and Boutigny, Limited, a company formed to acquire the business of stockbrokers, bankers, and estate agents carried on at Cairo by the firm of Messrs. H. de Vries and H. Boutigny. The capital is £300,000, divided into 297,500 ordinary shares of £1 each and 50,000 founders' shares of one shilling each. This business was only established in April, 1905. Now, after it has been in existence for just two years, the purchase price is fixed at £150,000, of which no less than £148,000 is for goodwill! An accountant's certificate states that in those two years the firm have made gross profits to the amount of £329,407 from land and share transactions and other sources. Whether their speculations will continue to be thus successful is, of course, quite another question. But if fortune should continue to smile upon them Messrs. de Vries and Boutigny would still take the lion's share of the profits. The articles of association entitle them to salaries in the dual capacity of directors and managing directors, those in the latter capacity being £3,000 each per annum. After payment of five per cent. of the profits to a reserve fund, Messrs. de Vries and Boutigny are to take 2½ per cent. of such profits (but not exceeding £10,000) as additional remuneration. The balance is first of all applicable to the payment to the holders of the ordinary shares, now offered for public subscription, of a cumulative preferential dividend of five per cent., while of the surplus then left the managing directors draw another five per cent. (but not exceeding £15,000) as further "additional remuneration," 50 per cent. goes to the ordinary shareholders, and the remaining 45 per cent. is allocated to the holders of the founders' shares, which are to be allotted to the promoters. Comment upon these arrangements would surely be superfluous.

"Threepence Per Share."

Sixpence per share is the levy usually proposed by "Lawson and Co., accountants and auditors," Chancery Lane Station Chambers, 31-3, High Holborn; but in one of their latest circulars, addressed to the shareholders of the Attasi Mines, Limited, they ask for threepence only. The circular is the customary appeal to shareholders to join in a combination with the object of taking proceedings for the return of the money subscribed to the various companies which were amalgamated into the Attasi Mines, and there is the customary assurance that those doing so will not incur any liability whatever beyond the proposed contribution of threepence per share. It is stated that counsel's opinion has been taken on the latter point. If this be so, counsel's opinion is incorrect. The judgment that was given in Spooner v. The Gresham Gold Syndicate makes it clear that every shareholder who joins in such a movement can be held personally responsible, not merely for his own proportion, but for the whole of the costs that are incurred in any action that may be started. Possibly the shareholders of the Attasi Mines have good grounds for an action against the directors and other persons. Be that as it may, however, "Lawson and Co."—this is only one of several names under which they

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have done business—should certainly not be employed for any such purpose. They are professional agitators, whose operations are generally far more profitable to themselves than to the shareholders whose cause they are so anxious to champion. The Attasi shareholders will, therefore, be well advised to have nothing to do with this firm; and the same remark applies, of course, to the shareholders of Clintons Gold Concessions and of the Goldfields of Matabeleland, who are also being circularised with a view to similar proceedings.

Since writing the above, one of the shareholders in Niekerk, Ltd., has handed me some circulars in reference to a proposed action against the directors which are being issued by Mr. Inglis Kaye. I observe that this gentleman's address is the same as Lawson and Co.'s; but that, of course, may be a mere coincidence. There is, however, the further similarity that Mr. Inglis Kaye solicits subscriptions of sixpence a share, and cites counsel's opinion—which is valueless in view of the judicial decision that has been given—to the effect that no contributor would be liable to any further amount beyond the sum agreed upon as his *pro-ratâ* contribution. Here, again, I recommend the shareholders not to take part in the movement Mr. Inglis Kaye is promoting, no matter how strongly they may feel that the management of the company requires investigation.

A Scholastic Co-operative Society.

"That Co-operative Societies pay (and pay well) is an established fact." Prominence is given to this statement in the prospectus of the Scholastic and University Co-operative Society, Limited. With equal truthfulness it may be added that although some co-operative societies pay well others have been miserable failures. The opinion I have formed upon its prospectus is that this new society is—to say the least—quite as likely to figure in the latter category as in the former. The matter is not worth discussing in detail, but I give that opinion here because I gather from my correspondence on the subject that advice may be useful to the schoolmasters, schoolmistresses and others who are being invited to subscribe for shares in the company.

Recent Publications.

A new book that will be both useful and interesting to investors or speculators is "The History, Law, and Practice of the Stock Exchange," published by Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, price 5s. net. The rules, customs, and practice of the Stock Exchange are clearly described by a member, Mr. F. H. Carruthers-Gould, while Mr. A. P. Poley, of the Inner Temple, gives an excellent exposition of the law relating to the purchase and sale of stocks and shares. There is a particularly valuable chapter on speculative and gambling transactions with outside brokers which come within the provisions of the Gaming Acts.

Mr. Stephen H. M. Killik's "Manual of Argentine Railways" for 1907 has been issued by Mr. Effingham Wilson, price 2s. 6d. It is a most serviceable publication for all who are interested in Argentine railway companies.

Insurance Notes—Rival Life Offices—The North British and Mutual of New York—Comparison of Annual Accounts—The Folly of Transfer.

The two life assurance companies which attracted the largest amount of attention last year were the Mutual of New York and the North British and Mercantile; they both received a large amount of adverse criticism. The Mutual of New York was criticised because of the much-talked-of scandals, and the North British and Mercantile because of its adoption of the practice of policy-twisting by attempting to take advantage of the troubles of the Mutual, and obtain the British business of the American office for the benefit of the North British shareholders. We naturally turn to the annual reports of the two companies to see how they fared during the year. The result must be sorry reading for those British policy-holders in the Mutual who were persuaded to transfer to the North British and Mercantile. We should imagine, also, that the action of the North British directors will give rise to some strong comments at the annual meeting of the company. It is just possible that the action of the North British might have been condoned by the shareholders had it met with success, but since it has proved a conspicuous failure eminently calculated to do the company permanent harm, the directors are little likely to have their conduct approved.

It will be remembered that the North British engaged the services of Mr. Haldeman, formerly the British manager of the Mutual; that Mr. Haldeman and the Policy-holders' Committee had a list of the British policy-holders in the Mutual; and that this list was used for sending out North British prospectuses. Mr. Haldeman also took over to the North British a number of the Mutual agents, and the most strenuous efforts were made to persuade Mutual policy-holders to transfer to the North British. The opinion of the insurance community was unanimous in condemnation of the action of the North British, which was regarded as hitting below the belt in a fashion hitherto avoided by respectable British offices. The annoyance of actuaries was increased by the fact that Mr. Cockburn, the actuary of the North British, was at the time, or had been just previously, the President of the Institute of Actuaries, which is supposed to count for much in maintaining a high standard of professional conduct in the life assurance world.

The immediate consequence of this action by the North British was to give publicity to certain facts about the company anything but calculated to extend its business. It was widely pointed out that as a bonus-paying office the North British and Mercantile is vastly inferior to a great many other English and Scottish life offices. The company is a big one, its name is well known, and the tendency of the public is to think that they cannot go far wrong in buying their life assurance from it. Everybody, more or less, was reading about its policy-twisting, and consequently everybody, more or less, became aware of the inferiority of the North British from a policy-holder's point of view. Then there was a second fact to which a great deal of publicity was given, tending to dissuade the general public from assuring in the North British. The peculiar nature of the terms upon which life assurance was granted to members of the Civil Service was recalled to mind. If a man happens to be a Civil Servant, the North British will sell him exactly the same policy for £83 to £85 that one of the public has to pay £100 for, so that the public became aware of the fact that if they took policies in the North British and Mercantile part of their money was being used to give exceptional terms to members of the Civil Service, and to increase the business of the company for the benefit of the shareholders. Quite inopportunely for the North British, it had to publish the results of a quinquennial valuation last year, from which it appeared that the shareholders received £140,704, which in a mutual office, like the Mutual of New York, would have gone to increase the bonuses of the participating policy-holders. Reflecting policy-holders, considering that Civil Service schemes, and wholesale efforts at policy-twisting, were introduced for the benefit of the shareholders to the detriment of participating policy-holders, began to wonder what advantage they derived from giving the shareholders something over £4 out of every £100 paid in premiums for participating policies. They saw that if it were not for the shareholders their share of the profits would have been increased by about 14 per cent., and that their profits would have been

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larger still in the absence of the Civil Service scheme introduced solely in the interests of the proprietors. It seems to me that the publicity given to these facts about the North British must have had its effect upon the assuring public, who seem to have been very reluctant to take policies in the company. In spite of the tremendous efforts made to secure the Mutual policy-holders, and in spite of the addition of at least £10,000 a year to the salary list in consequence of engaging Mr. Haldeman and other representatives of the Mutual, the North British were only able to issue fifty-one more new policies in 1906 than they did in 1905. When the Civil Service scheme was introduced, the annual report of the North British stated for some years the number of policies issued under it each year, but the success of the new policy-twisting scheme was evidently not such as to make it palatable to the directors to follow their previous practice and give this information.

It is now interesting to put the records of the Mutual of New York and the North British and Mercantile side by side and see how they compare. It will be remembered that Mutual policy-holders were advised to transfer because they were to gain by the change: of course, everybody who knew anything about the subject told people not to transfer because they were certain to lose. Even while scandals and extravagance were prevalent in the Mutual of New York, the results under the latter company's policies were in most cases better than those under the North British policies. Reforms, economies, and improvements were taking place in the Mutual, and there was no evidence of improvement in the North British, but rather of the reverse. As compared with 1905, the expenses of the North British increased from £129,563 to £145,629, an increase of £16,000, with really nothing to show for it. It is misleading to state the expenses in proportion to premium income, since the North British received a large amount in single premiums as the result of drawing the surrender values of policies in the Mutual. The apparent increase in the expenditure is therefore small; but the extra expenses will continue in future years when the single premiums will not be there to carry the burden of them. As compared with this increase in the North British the expenses in the Mutual have decreased by more than 7 per cent. of the premiums paid. On commission and expenses the North British spend 14 per cent. of the premiums, and pay 3 per cent. of the premiums to the shareholders, making a total expenditure of 17 per cent. of the premium income, a distinctly high rate of expense for a British company. The rate of interest earned by the North British decreased by nearly 2s. per cent., and the life and annuity funds are debited with £80,000, carried to the investment depreciation account. The rate of interest earned by the Mutual showed an increase of 4s. per cent. and an increase in the value of investments to the amount of more than £171,000. The North British, at its last declaration of bonus in 1905, maintained the same rate of bonus as before, while the Mutual of New York shows an increase of 20 per cent. as compared with the bonuses of one year ago, and of 50 per cent. as compared with the bonuses of two years ago. I hope the number of policy-holders who were foolish enough to transfer from the Mutual to the North British has been very small. They would have lost heavily by doing so had the two companies continued working under their previous conditions, but with the Mutual getting rapidly and vastly better, and with the North British tending rather in the other direction, the magnitude of their loss will steadily increase as time goes by. Unfortunately, the twisted policy-holders cannot change back again to the Mutual on realising their folly. If they ask the North British on what terms they can surrender they will find yet another significant contrast, once more to their disadvantage, between the North British and the Mutual.

MORTLOCKS. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—OXFORD-ST., AND ORCHARD-ST., LONDON, W.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER-BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Brighton.—The Four and a Halfs are specially secured upon the tobacco monopoly, and the Six per Cent. bonds now being redeemed were secured upon the Customs. The others rank equally as a charge upon the country's general revenues. For the detailed particulars regarding redemption I must refer you to the "Stock Exchange Year Book." *Lady Godiva.*—I do not understand your allusion to discrepancies. That the credit of the public authority in question is of the highest is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that the issue about which you inquire was raised practically on a 3 per cent. basis, and that it is available for English trustees. Why the stock is not quoted in the Official List I cannot say off-hand; but I can only repeat that this is a matter that has no bearing upon the quality of the stock as an investment. The smallness of the total issue makes a narrow market for it inevitable, but there should be no real difficulty in disposing of such a gilt-edged stock, if you ever wished to sell.

RAILWAYS.

Canada.—The matter you refer to is quite a common one, and in practice it works well enough. You need not fear that by holding the shares in this manner you would be done out of any prospective "rights." *J. B.*—Under the guarantee the bonds ought to be all right. The fall has been due partly to the unfavourable results shown by the railway and partly to general market conditions, but a recovery is not unlikely before long. *R. L. B.*—The dividend depends upon the revenues of the whole system, though in the case of the Western branch the effect is only felt indirectly. *Dewdrop.*—The broker should have furnished the customary stamped receipt, but otherwise there is nothing unusual about the circumstances you relate. It not infrequently happens that there is some delay in getting stock where the market is a comparatively narrow one. Meanwhile the broker retains your money to hand over to the jobber when the bargain is completed. You can claim to have the stock "bought in" against the dealer, but this would be an arbitrary course to pursue, if, as there is every reason to believe, the delay has been unavoidable. Though you are without the actual transfer, you were legally the owner when the contract was made with the broker, and are therefore not prejudiced in selling at any time if you wish to do so. But, as I have said, you ought to hold a receipt for the money paid to your broker. As to your last question, the debentures are redeemable in 1936, or earlier if the Government exercises its option of purchasing the line. *Brigade-Major.*—The shares are worth keeping as an investment. There is a probability that they will go better when, later on, the company takes steps to deal with the accumulated revenues derived from its lands.

MINES.

Medicus.—I have no information respecting No. 4. The others should be realisable to better advantage by waiting. *Cadena.*—1. I should prefer to exchange into a longer-lived mine, and would suggest New Kleinfonteins or Knight's Deep. 2. A fair holding, but I think the two shares mentioned above are relatively cheaper. *Leviathan.*—They should all improve in an active market, and I would hold for the present. *Royton.*—1. There is a fair chance of Mount Lyells having a rise to about the price mentioned in the event of copper keeping up. 2. Dividend prospects do not appear to justify a substantial recovery, but they would be likely to have some improvement in an active market. I reviewed this group in my notes about a month ago. *North Antrim.*—Both are very speculative, and there is not much market in them. You could employ your money more hopefully elsewhere. *Deep Deep.*—None of the South Africans is near the dividend-paying stage, but the shares are fair speculations for a moderate profit in an active market. There is a fair chance of a dividend on the others before very long, and the shares are worth holding. *Clyde.*—

Developments have not been so satisfactory as had been hoped, but I think you might hold for some recovery. *Rix.*—1. At least 9s. per ton should be obtained. 2. A purchase to average should turn out well eventually. *Marmo.*—A hopeful speculation, nothing more. *Paddie K.*—1. Nine years. 2. About the same. 3. I prefer Casons. An early dividend is looked for.

Mixed Securities.

Arabis.—Abbontiakoons are a hopeful speculation among the smaller-priced West Africans. I should not advise a purchase of the other shares you mention. *Camac.*—1. They are all well secured, but I would hesitate to call them safe. The Russian bonds look attractive as a speculative investment, particularly the Fives. 2. The company has a large indebtedness to wipe off before profits will become available for dividends. 3. You could get 4⅝ per cent. on Grand Trunk Seconds, but it would be a difficult matter to obtain 5 per cent. in the group you mention with good security. 4. I know nothing of the business. 5. I believe the property has promising prospects. *Surrey.*—Better sell No. 1. You might hold No. 2 in hopes of a rise of a point or two. The stock is unlikely to go much lower. 3. Get rid of these. 4. A hopeful holding. 5 and 6. There is not a very active market in these, and you would probably do better if you were to exchange into something else. *J. J.*—1. Yes, a good investment, possessing possibilities of a further rise. 2. Both excellent. There is perhaps more to go for in the Railway Preferred stocks. As to Nos. 3 and 4, I do not think an advance very likely. *Help.*—1. I have a poor opinion of these. 2. Hold. 3. These bonds are not particularly attractive. At present a portion of the dividend is paid out of the proceeds of Government bond realisations, but this source of income will probably give out in 1909. The line is progressing, it is true, but the Income bonds can only be regarded as a very speculative holding. 4, 5, and 6. These should be kept. *Cognito.*—I could not advantageously advise you now which shares it will be best to sell next July; write again later on. *Snap.*—All are worth holding. *Jumbo.*—1. I do not see much attraction in them at the present price, and at best they can only be regarded as a speculative holding. 2. Yes. *Yerrow.*—1. Yes, I still think Arizonas a promising speculative holding. 2. Might be sold. 3. Not by any means attractive. *Mahratta.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are high-class investments. No. 3 are a fair commercial holding. Nos. 4 and 5 are risky in view of the possibilities of fresh legislation. 6. A decent holding of its class. *Ajax.*—1—5. A fair selection, and there is a chance of a recovery in capital values in certain stocks, especially the first and the last. 6. See my reply (3) to "Help" respecting this stock.

Insurance.

Redpath.—Thank you for your letter and information; I will refer to the matter. *F. C. B.*—Write to the Equitable Life Assurance Society, Mansion House-street, E.C., for details of their deferred assurances for children. *Enquirer.*—The majority of insurance companies pay commission through their agents, but it is dealt with as a general expense of the company and is not charged to each policy-holder separately. *Enquiries.*—Write to the Norwich Union Life and the Economic for their terms, stating the exact ages of the proposed annuitants. *W. F.*—The company is being taken over because its fire business was unsuccessful, and because the shareholders can realise a considerable sum for goodwill. The life policy-holders will be just as secure as before, and no worse off in the matter of bonuses. *Rag.*—There is no good company that complies with your condition (a). Condition (b) is observed in most satisfactory fashion by the Essex and Suffolk Equitable Fire Insurance Society, of 58, New Broad-street. *B. W. J.*—1. This company is thoroughly sound and good. 2. The first-named office is the better of the two for participating policy-holders. 3. You should certainly not withdraw; the company is getting better every day. *Trojan.*—The offer made to you is a disgraceful one; you would only lose heavily by accepting it. The original company is extremely good, while the other one is quite new as a life office, and its future prosperity an entirely unknown quantity. It certainly cannot be anything like as good as the company you are already a policy-holder in. *A Reader,* Shorncliffe.—The company is one of the best, and the rumour you have heard must certainly be devoid of all foundation. *C. M.*—It is true that few policies are satisfactory for this purpose, but you will be quite secure if you go to the London and Lancashire Fire Co. *F. E. F.*—I am afraid the company is in rather a bad way, but as the payment of your policy is so nearly due, you ought to keep up the payment of premiums. Take a copy of your premium receipt book and send the book in a registered envelope to the head office of the company, asking them to return it to you. Do this each time a premium is due, and if you have any further trouble let me know at once. I think you ought to be able to get your money all right.

Miscellaneous.

Jinks.—It appears to be a sound society, but I have, of course, no local knowledge of it. *A. Tram.*—You must send a coupon; see my rules. *Gael.*—There is a judgment of the Court of Appeal ("In re Gieve") on a similar contract containing an identical condition. The Court held that in view of the other conditions it was a gaming transaction in spite of an option to purchase the stock being given. I have returned the contract notes, and when the matter is closed I should be glad to see the correspondence with the firm for the purpose of publishing another warning against them. *P. G. M.*—The bank named in your second letter is sound. *St. Briar.*—There is no doubt that the drawings take place. Whether, however, you should complete the payment for the bonds (for which you have been charged a most excessive price) or sue Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. for the return of your money is a question for your own decision. As desired, I am sending the name of the Paris collector. *M. G., Disley.*—The only way of recovering the money is by suing Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. in Paris, and if you think it worth while to do this I will give you the name of a solicitor there. *Stoney.*—Laurie and Vincent are a bucket-shop firm of the worst class. I have had no reason to criticise the other concern; but I cannot make a recommendation. *R. S. P., Mab* and *Ted.*—Both the International Securities Syndicate and Cunliffe, Russell and Co. charge outrageously excessive prices for the bonds; have nothing to do with these or any other touting firms. *G. H. N.*—I have repeatedly warned my readers against William Tyler and Co. *Innocenza.*—I believe the firm would pay if you made a profit, but I strongly advise you not to engage in such methods of speculation; you would be almost certain to drop money. *Wide-Awake.*—I will give these people another notice. *D. H. M.*—The prospectus is referred to in another column. *A. B. A.*—It would be advisable to get rid of such stock, but by waiting a little time you may be able to do so more advantageously. There is no immediate prospect of legislation. *Bunthorne.*—1. Apply to the secretary for a new certificate, which is obtainable on certain conditions. 2. They are a trifle speculative. 3. Could be improved upon as an investment. 4. The valuation strikes me as being rather high, and I do not consider the shares particularly attractive. *Tory.*—As commercial investments they are mainly attractive because of the high yield obtainable. *Exonian.*—If a sale is at all possible it would be a matter of negotiation. The value is trifling. *Continental.*—Your best plan would be to get your own bank to give you an introduction or recommendation. *H. T. S.*—Neither of the concerns is known in this country, and I am therefore unable to advise you. *Esmond* and others.—Your inquiries shall be answered next week.

Industrials Generally Stagnant—Darracqs Active—Iron and Steel Shares and Textiles—Allsopps Rise on a Change of Management—Rally in Nitrates.

It cannot be said that the Miscellaneous market has derived any visible benefit from the further improvement in the monetary position—indeed, there is something like a relapse into the condition of lassitude from which this department lately seemed to be emerging. For the time being, at least, there is little or no investment demand for industrials, and speculation is at a standstill. Such a speculative favourite as Anglo "A" is quite neglected; Hudson's Bays exhibit scarcely any movement; and Pekin Syndicate shares show no signs of recovery from the level to which they fell a month or so back. Among motor and cycle shares, Darracqs have been the most active, and in view of the prosperity of the company a further rise both in the ordinary and the preferred issues may reasonably be expected. At the current quotation the preferred shares especially, yielding well over 8 per cent., make a promising purchase. The only other noteworthy feature in this group has been a sharp rise to 15s. of Riley Cycles, a small concern which is reported to be doing better now that it has turned its attention to the motor industry. Practically no changes have occurred in the leading iron, steel, and engineering companies' shares, and this section continues to afford several favourable opportunities for a good commercial investment. At the present prices Vickers, Son, and Maxim's ordinary shares return a trifle over 6 per cent., and Armstrong-Whitworth's and Babcock and Wilcox's 5 per cent.; and all three companies are in a strong and flourishing condition. In textiles almost the only alterations have been a fractional advance in Fine Cotton Spinners, and a similar decline in English Sewing Cottons. At the moment Bradford Dyers ordinary shares, at 24s. 3d., appear to be as attractive as any in this market, for reasons which I gave some weeks ago. Since its formation in 1898 this company—a combination of all the principal Bradford dyers—has never paid less than 7 per cent. on its ordinary shares, and the trade is still so prosperous that any reduction is extremely improbable, while an increase of profits even above the record figures for last year is quite possible.

The rare spectacle has been witnessed of an advance of two or three points in Allsopp ordinary and preference—the result of a change in the management, and a belief that the company is now doing better. Having regard to the past history of the company it would be unwise to be very sanguine, but for the sake of the shareholders it may be hoped that the assumption of the sole managing directorship by Mr. W. Gardner Sinclair will bring about the improvement in the fortunes of this brewery which is being counted upon. Other brewery securities have remained almost station-

ary, which is perhaps as much as can be expected in existing circumstances. It is, by the way, interesting to observe that at the meeting of the Cincinnati Breweries last week the chairman, in referring to the difficulties with which the company had to contend, mentioned the trebling of the taxation on "saloons" in the city, while the country trade had suffered owing to several towns having adopted local option and prohibited the selling of alcoholic liquors. Holders of English brewery shares have, at any rate, the cold comfort of knowing that this is not the only country in which the trade is hit by taxation and legislation. Nothing more has been heard of the rumoured agreement of the traffic companies in London for putting up fares, and meanwhile London General Omnibus ordinary stock has gone back a couple of points—after its substantial gain in the previous week or two. On the other hand, London Motor Omnibus shares and Road Cars are a fraction higher. The London Port and Docks Bill, promoted by the companies, met with the fate which I predicted for it. There never was the faintest chance that it would be passed, and its rejection having been at length recognised as inevitable produced scarcely any perceptible effect on the market. Nitrates have displayed more strength than for some time past, the outcome partly of a rise in the price of nitrate of soda, and partly of one or two satisfactory dividend announcements, whilst a cablegram reporting that the directors of the Chilian Nitrate Combination are consulting their associates as to the desirability of extending the convention has also had a favourable influence. In the new edition of his useful little work, "Nitrate Facts and Figures" (published by Messrs. F. C. Mathieson and Sons), Mr. A. F. Brodie James urges the directors of the various producing companies to issue periodical official statements giving the production of each oficina, and other details which would help investors in these undertakings to ascertain the real value of their investments. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

SEED TIME AND HARVEST.

SHE was only a child, frightened, helpless, bewildered, and she came to his arms sobbing her heart out, her red lips, that were made for kisses, quivering pitifully, her big violet eyes drowned in tears.

"Tell me what to do," she sobbed; "I—I'm so frightened and miserable. You must help me, Jack. I can't help myself."

Jack Dunraven helped her according to his lights. That is to say, he laid down the law of honour, as he understood it, at some length and in the plainest of plain words. It was a somewhat strict law, because his code of honour happened to be strict, but it seemed to him the only one possible. He always followed it unflinchingly himself, and he expected other people to follow it unflinchingly too. When they did not, as sometimes happened, he was very much hurt and disappointed, and railed passionately at the weakness of human nature and the vagaries of Fate. It never occurred to him that it might be wise to modify the strictness of his code a little, departing somewhat from the letter of his law, on those occasions when the exigencies of human nature and the situation seemed to require it; and in any case he would have scorned such a course of action. He was a man who knew only black and white; grey, which, like charity, covers a multitude of sins, did not appeal to him.

"You see, Rosette," he explained, as tenderly as he dared, "we have both been awfully wrong. I have been more wrong than you, because I'm a man and ought to have helped you to do right, and found strength for both of us. I ought to have seen where we were drifting, but somehow I didn't. I have been blind, and this is the end of it. I have brought bitter unhappiness into your life, dear. My own life doesn't matter so much because it is my own, but yours, you see, isn't your own. It belongs to—some one else."

His deep, quiet voice shook a little in spite of his efforts to steady it, and the girl looked piteously up in his face.

"Oh, Jack!" she sobbed, passionately, "must it belong to some one else? Jack! Jack!"

Her little soft, warm hands clung to his arm, the gold-flecked waves of her hair were very near his face as she leaned towards him. He drew a long, deep breath. Just for a moment black and white seemed to be becoming inextricably mingled, just for a moment honour seemed to be fading away to a shadow; but it was only a moment, and it passed.

"Rosette, little Rosette," he said, his hand caressing her hair, "things can't be altered, you know, and they must just be accepted as they are. Oh! my dear, my dear, it was a bad day for you when we met. If you had never known me you might never have known the unhappiness that I'm afraid you will know now."

He sighed as he spoke, his thoughts flashing back over the last month and all it contained. How strange Fate was, he mused, and on what small things life's tragedies hinged. For instance, if Lord Bellefield had not invited him to shoot over his noted coverts in Yorkshire, or he had not accepted the invitation, he would not have met Rosette; and if he had not met Rosette his life and hers would have been free from the shadow of sorrow and regret that darkened them both.

It had been love at first sight, such love as comes to few men and women. Jack had looked at Rosette's little lovely face, with its soft cheeks like pink roses, its curved mouth like a red Japonica flower, its great innocent eyes like purple violets, and suddenly all his world had changed. It never would be the same again, he knew—never could be. Something had gone from it, something had come to it; life would be different henceforth and for ever. He had fought against his love, crushing it down in his tortured heart, hiding it from all the world, until the moment had come when he had seen its reflection in Rosette's eyes, heard its echo in her voice, and known that she loved him as he loved her. Then—then—He bit his lip in shame and remorse as he remembered what had happened then. For a moment he had been mad, utterly, blindly, helplessly mad, and his passion for the pretty child who was not for him had swept him away like a straw on a stream. For a moment he had held her in his longing arms, tasted the sweetness of her kisses, poured passionate love words into her ears, listening to her shy, faltering replies with a very ecstasy of delight. Then remembrance had come, and with it shame and torture unspeakable. Rosette was not for him, and he had tainted her honour and his own. The kisses that he had taken from her lips were stolen kisses, the love words he had listened to were stolen too—stolen from another man. He was nothing but a thief, for he had taken that which was not his to take.

The thought lingered with him, filling his heart now as he stood looking down into Rosette's tear-dimmed eyes, listening to her heart-broken sobs, and caused his sense of duty to be even more unflinching and unwavering than usual. Some men would have helped the girl to break the hated chains that bound her, counting it no wrong to take her away from the man to whom she was promised in marriage, Lord St. Clare, whose name was a byword in London society, but whose rank and wealth had given him the first choice of the beauties of the marriage market; but not so Jack. She was only a helpless child, sold by an unscrupulous father to a dissolute roué, before she knew the meaning of love and marriage; but her promise had been given, and to Jack that meant everything. Nothing could break her promise, or alter her fate now. She was Lord St. Clare's so long as life lasted. Though it broke her heart and his own he would not save her from her doom.

"I—I hate Lord St. Clare," Rosette sobbed; "I'm frightened of him, and I love you, Jack. Oh! can't you save me? Won't you? You love me, too, and—and somehow love seems more than honour when honour is so—so empty and horrible. Do save me, Jack!"

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

Her words stabbed his heart just as her clinging hands thrilled his soul, and for a moment he stood speechless, dumb. Then he shook his head.

"Nothing is more than honour, Rosette," he said; "not even love. My dear, I can't save you. Oh! if I only could—if I only could!"

She looked wistfully up in his face with hurt wondering eyes, like the eyes of a child who is punished unjustly for something not its fault, and, meeting her look, he wondered if life could hold any more maddening torture. Then she turned away, wringing her little white hands together with a gesture of intolerable pain, and he stood and watched her go.

* * * * *

She was no longer a child but a woman, and she looked at him with a brilliant smile, half frivolous, half mocking.

"It seems," she said, in her light society tone, "quite an age since we met. Do you, by chance, remember just how long it is?"

"Three years," the man answered shortly.

His eyes rested on her lingeringly, drinking in with the old passionate admiration all the dainty loveliness of her uplifted face; the loveliness that was just the same as when it had first flashed into his life, and yet so different, with a difference that made him sick at heart.

In the days when first he had known her she had been a child, pure, innocent, stainless as the sweet white lilies in her garden. Now she was a woman of the world, one of Society's leaders, fast, reckless, daring, her conduct a scandal even in the ultra-smart set that claimed her for its own. Three years of life had changed the girl whom he had reverenced as a saint, worshipped as a queen among women, into something that it hurt him to think of. Rosette—the little Rosette he had known and loved—was dead, and Lady St. Clare reigned in her stead.

"Three years?" she echoed, raising delicately pencilled eyebrows quizzically; "you have a better memory than I, Jack. Ah! well; three years is a long time. The world doesn't stand still nowadays; men and women don't stand still either. I've learnt a good deal since I—married. I'm not likely to forget the lessons."

He turned to her swiftly, speaking on a sudden impulse.

"Rosette, little Rosette," he said, in his deep, quiet voice, "do you remember the first time we met? Do you remember the sunshine in the garden, the glory of the roses, the scent of the lilies, the peace and innocence and purity of it all—or have you forgotten?"

"Peace, innocence, purity!" she mocked; "what have they to do with me? I left them all behind me when I went away from the old home, out into the world to meet the fate that you—that you wouldn't save me from. I'm not 'little Rosette' now, I'm Lord St. Clare's wife; a very different thing, I can assure you."

"Rosette," he said again, stung by her tone to bitter remorse, "I couldn't save you. I——"

"You had only to put out your hand," she flashed, interrupting him, "only to say one word, and you would have saved a woman's soul from shipwreck. But you wouldn't put out your hand, you wouldn't say the word, and so—and so— Oh! how dare you sit in judgment on me, how dare you condemn me in your thoughts, as I can see you do—you who wouldn't use your power to save me, you who have made me what I am? Do you know what it is for an innocent girl to marry a man like St. Clare, and be plunged into the whirlpool of such a set as the one I am in? Have you any idea what a thing it is? I tell you it's a thing that breaks a woman's heart, ruins her soul, stains her womanhood. That's the thing you could have saved me from and wouldn't, and whatever comes—whatever comes, will lie at your door."

He bit his lip, drawing a long deep breath, his eyes still lingering on the fairness of her face, the gold-flecked waves of her hair.

"I don't sit in judgment on you," he said, very low, "I don't condemn you. It's myself I judge and condemn. I was wrong, Rosette, and I'm sorry——"

"Sorry!" she mocked again; "what good is it to be sorry? Can being sorry undo the past three years, and give me back all I have lost? Can it give me back one even of the things I have lost? You know it can't. You know I can never again be what I once was; what you could have kept me if you had chosen. Never again!"

"I am sorry," he said again, putting out his hand to touch hers.

But she brushed it aside, laughing frivolously.

"Nobody is ever sorry in the world I live in now," she said; "people are a great many things, but never sorry. It's evident that our worlds are quite different."

"Quite different," he assented, gravely, his eyes still on hers.

She flashed him a smile, dazzling, provoking, tantalising.

"In that case," she suggested, "suppose we say good-bye? The two worlds, yours and mine, don't seem to agree very well, do they, and—oh, is that you, Captain Graham? How clever of you to find me out in this quiet nook. Our dance? Oh, yes, I'm quite ready. Mr. Dunraven is such an old acquaintance that I needn't stand on ceremony with him. He will excuse me, I know."

She flashed another of those dazzling smiles, then laid her hand on the arm of the tall Guardsman who had come to claim her, and was gone.

Once again Jack Dunraven stood and watched her go.

* * * * *

"Violets, a penny a bunch! Violets, sweet violets!"

A girl stood patiently in the dull, cold spring day, her outstretched hands full of violets, a half-empty basket at her feet, a great weariness on her uplifted face.

"Violets, a penny a bunch! Violets, sweet violets!"

A slight, graceful figure, a little lovely face with a curved mouth that was like a red japonica flower, big violet eyes that matched the flowers in her hands. Only a girl of the pavement, a broken blossom flung up from the soiled mud of the London streets, and yet——

"Violets, a penny a bunch! Violets, sweet violets!"

Something in the haunting tones of the sweet, low voice fell on the ear of a man just passing with a strange sense of familiarity. He stopped short, turned round, came close to the girl, looking eagerly into her face in the dusky light, his own face growing white and set.

"Rosette! You!"

The violets dropped from her hands, falling in a scented purple shower at her feet. Her pale cheeks burnt suddenly scarlet.

"You!" she said, "you, of all men. I hoped—I prayed I might never see you again."

The man went closer still, looking at her with eyes in which a great pity and an overwhelming gladness contended for the mastery.

"I have found you at last," he said. "Oh! my dear, my dear, how I have looked for you; how I have wanted you. Why did you hide yourself from me? Did you think that I—I of all men—should blame, judge, condemn you? No, you can't have thought that, Rosette, little Rosette."

"Rosette, little Rosette!" How the words took her back over the days of her life, while memory painted strange pictures before her tear-blinded eyes. Once more in fancy she saw herself a child among the roses and lilies in the garden of her old home, sweet as the roses, pure as the lilies. The picture faded, and she was a girl with the realisation of love and its meaning just dawning within her heart; then the reluctant, unhappy wife of a man she hated, feared, despised. That picture faded in its turn, and she saw herself a faithless wife, flying from her husband's home with the man who had tempted her to her shame; afterwards, ruined, deserted, betrayed, an outcast, alone in London, alone in the world. After that—after that——

She turned away, catching her breath in a choking sob.

"Let me go," she said, very low, "let me forget that I've seen you—if I can. Why did Fate bring you into my life again? Oh, it was cruel—cruel."

"Rosette, little Rosette," he said again.

He caught her hand as she tried to pass him, but she wrenched it away, laughing bitterly.

"Rosette is dead," she cried. "There is no 'little

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., Convalescent Home, Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

Rosette' in the world now; only Rose, the flower girl, Rose of the streets. Let her go, Jack. She isn't fit for you to touch. Let her go. Forget her."

"Never," he said, through his set teeth; "I've found you again, Rosette, and I'll hold you against the world. Whatever you are I have made you. Do you remember how you said to me that whatever came would lie at my door? I haven't forgotten, and I want to atone. I love you, my dear, whatever may have been. If you have lost everything else in the world there's still—love."

"Love!" she echoed, under her breath. "Love!"

She stood, her face a little uplifted in the old familiar pose, her eyes shining with the light of the sweet, sinless days gone by for ever, her red lips quivering, parting, in breathless wonder. Just for a moment the echo of Heaven's music came to her from those far-off days, borne softly on the wings of tender memories, flooding her soul with perfect harmony. Then the shrieks of the Legions of Hell rang once more in her ears.

"Love!" she cried again, her voice ringing with all the passion and tragedy of a lost soul. "Love!"

A peal of discordant laughter broke wildly from her lips. She sprang away from him and out into the crowded roadway, just where the traffic was thickest.

He started after her, but it was all over in a moment. A hoarse shout from the crowd, a startled, terrified horse plunging madly, a faint cry of agony, then stillness, silence, a motionless figure, a white, lifeless face, a shower of purple violets in the mud.

* * * * *

They carried her to the pavement, laying her almost at his feet; Rose the flower girl, Rose of the streets. And as he looked down at her it seemed to him that the marks of sin, sorrow, shame, faded away from her face, leaving it the face of the girl he had known in far-off years, sweet as the roses, pure as the lilies.

Rose the flower girl, Rose of the streets, was dead. But Rosette, little Rosette, lived again in the days of long ago.

ART NOTES.

I HAD meant to devote myself this week to considering those pictures now being exhibited at the New Gallery which I should not like to possess at any price. Considerations of space, however, prevent my doing justice to this great subject, and, instead, I should like to draw my readers' attention to a very interesting little exhibition of portraits now being held at the Carfax Gallery in Bury-street. It is the work of a Mr.—or perhaps I ought to say Herr—Max Beerbohm, who is, if I may judge by his name, a German artist. With so many exhibitions being held at the present time, there is always the danger that work, however interesting and valuable, which is not the work of a painter with a well-known name may be overlooked, and these portraits, though it is true that they speak more of promise than of performance, are of very definite interest. Their chief attraction to me, I must confess, lies in the insight which they give us into Continental ideas of England and the English. It is quite obvious that Herr Beerbohm has lived—or at least has stayed—in this country for some time, and has given himself up seriously to studying our institutions and our prominent men. Nevertheless, he makes so many mistakes in his treatment of both that, did we judge merely by the titles of his several works as given in the catalogue, we might suppose that they were Teutonic attempts at the humorous, were it not that such would be altogether foreign to the laboriously studious Teutonic temperament. Before I go any further, let me meet the very obvious sneer of the hypercritical, who, being led by the perusal of this article to visit Herr Beerbohm's exhibition, may contend that his draughtsmanship is defective. I know it is. I have already stated that his work is promising rather than presently effective. But that is a defect which a few years'—even a few weeks'—careful study at any of the many excellent schools of art which now abound will easily rectify. And, in spite of everything, I maintain that Herr Beerbohm's portraits, defective, rough, unfinished though they may appear (I should not be surprised to hear them dubbed caricatures by the superior person, especially if he happen to be included among the sitters)—I maintain, I say, that they show definite promise, and that it would be to the last degree unfortunate did they not obtain that critical appreciation from the press which they deserve.

To return now to the pitfalls which beset the path of even the most intelligent foreign student of English manners and customs, and which are reflected with such fascinating naïveté in Herr Beerbohm's series of portraits. I will mention a few instances, which may be trusted to speak for themselves. To choose one of the entries in the catalogue at random, we have "Lord Northcliffe suggesting a headline to Mr. Gosse." Here we have an excellent example of the dangers attending a little knowledge. Herr Beerbohm has quite evidently heard that the eminent littérateur and critic, Mr. Edmund Gosse, for a time held an appointment on the *Daily Mail*—an appointment which, I understand, he has recently vacated, amid universal expressions of regret. Herr Beerbohm, hearing this, and appreciating the literary excellence of the *Daily Mail* headlines, has at once leapt to the conclusion that Mr. Gosse was engaged by Lord Northcliffe to compose them. We know, of course, that he was nothing of the sort. But the intelligent foreign student, hearing of the bald facts of the case, leaps at once to an erroneous conclusion, with the result now visible at the Carfax Galleries. I should think it quite likely that he has actually seen both of the personages he depicts, for, allowing for the faulty drawing, it is quite easy, even with the slight data provided by the painter, to differentiate between the hair of Lord Northcliffe and that of Mr. Gosse. But this, of course, only makes the mistake the more pathetic.

Let me take another example. He gives us a portrait of Mr. A. W. Pinero, the famous dramatist—certainly one who has acquired an international reputation. He depicts him as saying, wistfully: "Perhaps I shall get an European reputation now." It is very likely that Mr. Pinero, before he had attained to his present eminence—when he was producing his first play, for example—made some remark of this kind. Such sayings are often recorded of great men in after days. We have, for instance, Disraeli's well-known "Some day you shall hear me!" What has the German painter done? He has in some extraordinary way confused Mr. Pinero with Mr. Bernard Shaw, who, as every one knows, is one of the most modest and retiring of men, whose one object in life is to shrink from that international reputation which his talents have, as it were, forced upon him. Could anything be more ludicrous? I could add instance to instance of the mistakes made by Herr Beerbohm in his speculations into the life and manners of our great men. I will mention only two more. Here is one entry in the catalogue: "Mr. George Moore, preacher to Lord Howard de Walden." Comment is superfluous. But perhaps the cream of the whole is that he has actually attempted a German version of Mr. Henry James's well-known and properly esteemed literary style. He shows us Mr. James in a London fog, and to it suffixes what is no doubt his own retranslation of some German translation of one of Mr. James's works. I will quote only a portion of the extract: "It was, therefore, not without something of a shock that he, in this to him so very congenial atmosphere, now perceived that . . . ." I think I have said enough to show that Herr Beerbohm's collection of portraits has a very definite interest, if only that it shows how difficult is the path of those who are endeavouring to make the nations of Europe understand each other. I could say much more to the same effect were it not that I wish, before I close, to draw attention to another exhibition which also points a very definite moral. It consists of a number of paintings, drawings, and coloured reliefs by Mr. R. Anning Bell, now being shown at the Fine Art Society's Galleries in New Bond-street, and it serves to show us to what extreme lengths specialisation has been carried in modern art. Mr. Anning Bell is notoriously a very clever painter. He has studied the pre-Raphaelites to some purpose, and

he has studied the Early Florentine and the Venetian and several other schools. He can paint well. I should think he could paint anything he liked. As a matter of fact, he prefers to specialise in shoulders. He is continually painting shoulders—he cannot, I suppose he does not want to, get away from them. In every one of his pictures—or nearly every one—there is an agreeable young woman—more or less classical in feeling according to circumstances—and she always wears a costume which displays at least one, and generally two, extremely pleasing shoulders. Whatever she be doing, whatever her station in life or temporary circumstances, whether she be a heathen goddess, a pastoral nymph, or a more or less modern young person, her shoulders are always to the front, and worthily so. There are very few male characters represented in this collection, nor are their shoulders ever in prominence—probably because they are less artistically pleasing. Certainly, if all the great artists of all the ages could possibly be brought together to paint one supremely great picture in which each should do only that part which he was most capable of doing to perfection, Mr. Anning Bell could claim without fear of refusal the right of limning shoulders.

MUSIC.

MR. SANTLEY'S JUBILEE.

MANY years ago a small boy was taken to the Albert Hall to hear "Elijah," and disgraced his belongings by asking in a loud voice, "Is Santley tenor or bass?" It was many years ago, but the small boy has never forgotten the incident, and it is still quoted against him. It did, indeed, represent almost the ultimate limits of musical ignorance, and, at any rate, the small boy never had occasion to make the same inquiry again. To-morrow some thousands of Mr. Santley's friends and admirers (including the small boy) are to assemble in the largest building available for the purpose in London with the object of assisting in the celebration of his professional jubilee. What has been the secret of Santley's success? Putting aside his voice I should be inclined to say his sincerity. A well-known anecdote tells how, on one occasion, he stopped a fire panic in a theatre by stepping forward and adjuring the audience not to make damned fools of themselves. It was advice which he has never failed to act upon himself. His art has always been manly and unaffected. There has never been any humbug about it. And the qualities of the man were reflected to some extent in his voice. It always had a certain roughness which gave it character and virility, and constituted one of its greatest charms. This was certainly due, however, to no defect in Mr. Santley's vocal method. He learnt his lessons well, under Nava at Milan in the first place, and later with Garcia, and reaped his reward to the full in the length of years during which he was able to practise his art. Even to-day it is still a pleasure to hear him.

Marvellous, indeed, has been Mr. Santley's career. Yet young singers of to-day may take comfort from the fact that he had his early struggles like the rest, and he himself has recorded that when he first settled in London after studying in Italy, the prospects of his liquidating the liabilities which he had incurred were none too bright. Chorley, however, introduced him to Costa, who gave him an opportunity in opera, and thenceforward his success was assured. It is so long now since Mr. Santley abandoned the stage that one is apt to forget how great were his earlier triumphs in that sphere. His actual operatic début he made at Covent Garden as Hoel in "Dinorah" in 1859. Later he was the first Flying Dutchman in this country, while every one knows, of course, that when Gounod's "Faust" was first produced in London he was the Valentine. In connection with his playing of the latter part when on tour with Tietjens, Trebelli, and Sims Reeves, Mr. Santley tells, by the way, an amusing story. In the death scene, just as he was about to expire, a gallery boy called out, "Unbutton his weskit," thereby convulsing the house. It was for Santley that Gounod added the number, "Dio possente." Mr. Santley was also the first Danny Man in Benedict's "Lily of Killarney," while it may be noted further in connection with his operatic career that it fell to his lot to sing (in "Don Giovanni") the last note heard in the old Her Majesty's before it was burned down. As to the famous singers with whom he appeared, they would make an imposing list. There were giants in those days. He himself has placed it on record that the most perfect Marguerite he ever heard was Christine Nilssen. Patti's best part was, in his judgment, Dinorah.

When Santley abandoned the stage for the platform regret was universal, but the opera's loss was the oratorio's gain. There never was a finer Elijah, and if any one at the present day can sing "Why do the nations?" and "For He is like a refiner's fire" as he did in his prime, it would be pleasant to know his name. Oratorio singing was never found dull or soporific when Santley was one of the soloists. With how many famous songs, too, will his name be imperishably associated for all who heard him in them. Whether in a tragic ballad such as the "Erlkönig," a passionate love-song like "To Anthea" (one of the finest songs ever written by an English composer), or in such rollicking old ditties as "The Vicar of Bray" and "Simon the Cellarer," Santley was equally great and unapproachable. "Father O'Flynn" is another famous song with which his name will always be associated. The story of that song has often been told. When Mr. Alfred Percival Graves adapted a set of new verses to fit the old Irish tune, "The Top of Cork Road," he certainly had little idea that in the space of a few years the ditty would come to be regarded by most people as a classic which had come down through the centuries. It has been stated, indeed, that there was considerable doubt as to the advisability of including it in the collection of Irish melodies edited by Sir Charles Stanford, in which it was first published. It was so included, however; some years later Mr. Santley got hold of it, and to-day it is world-famous.

Mr. Santley, it may be noted in this connection, has nearly always shown good taste in the choice of his songs—which goes to explain, perhaps, why he has such little respect for certain more modern effusions, some of which, he once waggishly observed, suggested nothing so much as that they have been ground out by a typewriter. He has also published one or two songs of his own, and likewise an excellent treatise on singing, containing much sound advice conveyed in commendably simple and straightforward language. The three requisites for a singer bent on pleasing the public are, according to Mr. Santley, a good voice and ear; industry and perseverance to cultivate them; and finally musical and dramatic taste and feeling to apply them when cultivated. If he were not the most modest and unassuming of men, Mr. Santley might have added with truth that few have ever possessed these requisites, and others, in more abundant measure than himself. Every one will join in hoping that the grand old singer may live many years yet to enjoy the respect and affection in which he is held by his multitudinous admirers throughout the English-speaking world.

With the opening of Covent Garden on Tuesday the "season" proper has fairly got itself under weigh, and for the next three months there will be little respite for those whose duties require their presence in opera house and concert room. It is, of course, quite the least suitable period of the year for indoor entertainments. In an ideal state of things concerts and plays would, indeed, be absolutely unknown, if not actually forbidden, during June and July. But this has often been pointed out before, and since our social leaders have not at present shown the slightest disposition to adopt the advice which has been tendered them on the subject there is nothing for it, I am afraid, but to accept the inevitable and make the best of the situation.

There is, however, one direction in which reform is possible, if not, perhaps very probable, and that is with

respect to the multiplicity of concerts which will shortly be inviting attention once more under conditions fatal to success. So far as concerns the many foreign performers who visit us, it is well known, of course, that every Continental artist, whether vocalist, violinist, pianist, or what not, who has appeared in his native land without actually breaking down considers that he has only to scrape together money enough to take him to London in order to make his fortune, and long years ago, it may be, something like this really was the case. Unfortunately—for the foreigner—that happy condition of things has long since passed away. But the tradition survives, and hence the invasion which every summer witnesses. Many of these visitors—even those least known to fame—are, of course, quite talented and notable artists whom at any other time we should be glad to hear. But frankly, when they come in the season with its innumerable counter distractions they are little likely to benefit themselves, and it is the truest kindness, therefore, to advise them to remain at home.

Recent concerts have not included many of much importance. Even that of the London Symphony Orchestra on Saturday contained only familiar works, though it is certainly not often that they are played as they were on this occasion. Tchaikowsky's Francesca da Rimini went as brilliantly as anything perhaps. There was an enormous and highly enthusiastic audience. Nikisch was in evidence also as accompanist at the recital of his protégé, Mr. Glenn Hall, an American tenor with a fine voice, a well-trained method, and highly cultivated interpretative powers. Vocalists have, indeed, been numerous just lately. Another was Miss Feilding Roselle, also an American artist, though hardly one so gifted as Mr. Hall; a third was Miss Marie Stark, a Swiss artist who uses a good voice in a very artistic manner; and a fourth was Miss Grainger Kerr, who, greatly daring, is giving a set of recitals devoted to living composers. Pianists heard have included Mme. Adeline de Lara and Mme. Else Gipser (whose energy is not always tempered by discretion), and a pleasing new violinist who appeared was Frl. Valérie Knoll. On Monday Mme. Liza Lehmann introduced another of her pleasant song cycles, "The Golden Threshold," and that very sound violinist, Mr. Sigmund Beel, was heard at the Bechstein Hall.

Many attending the Philharmonic concert on Thursday will be disappointed not to have the pleasure of seeing M. Sibelius, who has telegraphed regretting his inability to be present, but there should be compensation in the presence of that great pianist, Mme. Sophie Menter, who has not been heard in London for many years. Since she actually first appeared in this country it is now rather more than a quarter of a century. She is probably the greatest pianist that the world has ever known, though some would, perhaps, place Mme. Schumann before her as representative of a different school, while among present-day players Mme. Carreño certainly runs her hard. It will be interesting to note to what extent her playing still appeals, though, seeing that she is now nearly sixty years old, allowance will, of course, have to be made under this head.

Cilèa's new opera, "Gloria" by name, which has just been produced at La Scala, does not seem by all accounts to have achieved a very pronounced success. The music of the work is described as elegant and refined, but the opera as a whole hardly appears to have been received with ungovernable enthusiasm. But then it may be, of course, that it is too good for its public, for it must be remembered that in the case of an opera there are always two causes of possible failure. It may be too good or too bad, though it must be admitted that composers as a rule contrive to steer clear of the former danger.

Paderewski has revealed himself in quite a new rôle by the publication of his letter in a Viennese paper replying to the aspersions which Björnsterne Björnson has, it seems, been casting upon the Poles. We have always been accustomed to regard the fellow-countrymen of Chopin, Paderewski, and the brothers De Reszke, as a gallant and high-souled race rightly struggling to be free, but nowadays no delusion is sacred, and so we find Björnson denouncing them as the enemies of society and the oppressors of their fellows. No wonder Paderewski was aroused. But who would have suspected him of such polemical powers as he has seemingly disclosed? His letter, says a correspondent, reveals in the author a remarkable gift for political journalism. Can it be that the famous pianist has missed his vocation?

Mr. Carl Deichmann, who has just been fêted in honour of his eightieth birthday by some of his compatriots in London, is a veteran orchestral player whose reminiscences, if he could be induced to publish them, ought to make interesting reading. They would include recollections of music in England as long ago as 1848, and anecdotes of Wagner, Spohr, Mendelssohn, Schumann, von Bülow, Liszt, Joachim, and countless other notables of the past. For more years than some of the oldest concert-goers can recollect Mr. Deichmann has figured as leader of the second violins in some of the foremost English orchestras—or, to speak by the card, orchestras in England—and by his professional colleagues he has always been regarded with the greatest affection and esteem.

"The Morris Book" (Novello and Co.) is the title of an exceedingly interesting little volume by Cecil J. Sharp and Herbert C. Macilwaine, which has been published with the object of helping forward the movement aiming at the revival of the old English folk-songs and folk-dances. For some time past now efforts have been made in this direction with surprisingly successful results. All over the country, and in London as well as in the provinces, the movement has caught on in a manner which has exceeded the fondest anticipations of its promoters. But hitherto no work on the subject has existed giving information and instruction. Messrs. Sharp and Macilwaine, therefore, set about them to supply the need. The volume contains a history of the dance and detailed particulars of its different forms, from which those interested should be able to teach themselves; and as evidence of the extent of the interest which has been developed in the subject, the authors state that they have received inquiries even from Japan.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"The restless analyst," to use Mr. Henry James's own most appropriate description of himself, is at work with a vengeance in "The American Scene" (1), and the analysis is exquisite at once in its minuteness and in its expression. The very subtlety, however, of its minuteness and of its expression baffles continually the reader who lacks the time or the intelligence, or both together—as in my humble case—to master it. "Style," says Schopenhauer, "is the physiognomy of the mind, and a safer index to character than the face," and Mr. James's style is the man himself—superlatively subtle, analytic, microscopic at once in its introspection and in its observation. His attempt, therefore, to convey to you an adequate impression of his impressions of such a stentorian, so to say, city as New York, is like the attempt of a man with an ear so fine as to be able to hear the grass grow, to describe the effect upon him of the blasts of a steam-organ. He takes his revenge upon it by a sort of antiphrasis—by expressing his horror of it in a style as subtle as his subject is brutal; and it is this style which continually baffled and sometimes bewildered me. I do not carry my modesty so far as to say that I failed to understand the following typical sentence; but I have to confess

(1) "The American Scene." By Henry James. (London: Chapman & Hall. 12s. 6d. net.)

(2) "Life of Lord Chesterfield." An Account of the Ancestry, Personal Character, and Public Services of the Fourth Earl of Chesterfield. By W. H. Craig. With Twenty-eight Full-page Illustrations. (London: John Lane. 12s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Her Son." A Chronicle of Love. By Horace Annesley Vachell. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

(4) "The Flying Cloud." By Morley Roberts. (London: Hurst & Blackett, Ltd. 6s.)

that it took me more time to understand it than I could well spare to it, or even, perhaps, than it deserved to have devoted to its translation:—

"This sense of dispossession (by the alien), to be brief about it, haunted me so, I was to feel in the New York streets and in the packed trajectiles to which one clingingly appeals from the streets, just as one tumbles back into the streets in appalled reaction from *them* that the art of beguiling or duping it became an art to be cultivated—though the fond alternative vision was never long to be obscured, the imagination exasperated to envy, of the ideal, in the order in question; of the luxury of some such close and sweet and *whole* national consciousness as that of the Switzer and the Scot."

That is an average sentence which an ordinary intelligence like mine can take in even at first reading, if it be read as a schoolboy slowly renders Greek; but there are other passages which even a second careful reading did not make distinctly clear to me. The result is a double irritation; irritation at my own stupidity, and irritation with the writer who brought it home to me, perhaps unnecessarily. Perhaps unnecessarily, I say, because I imagine that Mr. James could have expressed his meaning, however subtle or elusive, more intelligibly if he had chosen to dispense with his inversions, parentheses, and the habit, to use his own frequent simile, of starting hare after hare, pursuing each for a little but pursuing none to the death. Mr. James's general impression of America seems to be that it is a fine country—to live out of, for the man, at least, who lacks the American greed of money and faculty for money-making. This was specially brought home to him by the articles in the shops and by the manners of the shopkeepers. The "protected" articles are so dear and poor, and the take-it-or-leave-it manners of the shopman are so repellent—even in Boston—that "the customer asks himself if he can really bear the combination of such general manners and such general prices, of such general prices and such general manners. He has a helpless bewildered moment during which he wonders if he mightn't bear the prices a little better if he were a little better addressed, or bear the usual form of address a little better if the prices were in themselves—given the commodity offered—a little less humiliating to the purchaser." But the commodity offered in every shop bore the impress of "an economic law of which one had not for years known the unholy rigour, the vision of 'protected' production and of commodities requiring certainly in many cases every advantage Protection could give them." These two considerations alone—American bad manners and American dear and bad protected goods—helped to explain to Mr. James the immense number of absentee Americans. Only those who can make enough money to compensate them for the uncomfortable conditions of American life, can endure to live there. "To make so much money that you won't, that you don't 'mind'—don't mind anything—that is absolutely, I think, the main American formula. Thus your making no money—or so little that it passes there for none—and being thereby distinctly reduced to minding, amounts to your being reduced to the knowledge that America is no place for you." It is a place, in fact, only "for the upper sort who can build their own castles and move by their own motors," and for the lower sort who can make money enough to enable them to enjoy their ideal of felicity and prosperity, which is "to rush about in promiscuous packs and hustled herds." I suppose no one with an acuter sense of all that is brassy, blatant, tawdry, and sordid ever visited, or rather revisited, America than Mr. James, and certainly no visitor has ever expressed his impressions in a style so exquisitely super-subtle as to be the very antithesis of the crudeness it records.

"Do you hear?" cries Hamlet to Polonius, "let the players be well used; for they are the abstract and brief chronicles of the time; after your death you were better have a bad epitaph than their ill report while you live." Certainly what in a later than Shakespeare's day corresponded to the player—the popular journalist or author—can make or mar a reputation through partiality or prejudice. Here, e.g., is Mr. Craig's excellent "Life of Lord Chesterfield" (2) trying to overtake and confute the universal impression of that statesman derived from Johnson's famous letter on patronage, and from his still more famous epigram on his lordship's letters to his son as "teaching the morals of a prostitute and the manners of a dancing master." Mr. Craig leaves you in no doubt that Lord Chesterfield was one of the most capable and sagacious statesmen of his age. His prediction of the French Revolution alone vindicates his sagacity:—"All the symptoms which I have ever met with in history previous to great changes and revolutions in government now exist and daily increase in France." His capacity as a statesman was put to a crucial test in Ireland, where he governed admirably—from an English and Protestant standpoint—and impartially even from that of an Irish Catholic. To him, too, we owe our belated acceptance of the reformed Calendar, the Bill for which he piloted through the House of Lords with a tact that was as statesmanlike as his ability. Then, in the days of Walpole, when almost every conscience was supple and every politician saleable, neither money nor place could purchase Lord Chesterfield. Even the famous, or infamous, "Letters to his Son," which were never intended for publication, give other and better—incomparably better—advice than Johnson's vindictive epigram would suggest. Mr. Craig's Life is as interesting as it is admirable.

I have not seen the stage version of Mr. Vachell's "Her Son" (3), but I hope its heroine is more probable than she appears to me to be in the novel. It is incredible that she should make the compact exacted from her by her lover's mistress—to have no communication with him for a year—it is even more incredible that she should adopt his and this woman's abandoned child as her own; and most incredible of all that she should masquerade as a widow, to the scandal and estrangement of all her friends. Whether Dorothy Fairfax appears more probable on the stage I cannot say; but I can well understand from the ingenious plot of the novel that the story in its dramatic form may abound in interesting, striking, and even melodramatic situations. Mr. Morley Roberts' "The Flying Cloud" (4) is an excellent story of a sea voyage under the unusual conditions of an opium-eating captain in command! There is no love interest, nor, indeed, interest of any other kind than that you feel in the fortunes of a ship's crew and passengers under such singular circumstances. I ought to say, though, that the opium scenes and the effects of the drug on the captain are vividly described, and, that the whole voyage reads like a faithful record of its mate's, Mackintosh's, real experiences.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

Richard Cobden was a municipal reformer as well as a fiscal reformer. Before he became imperishably identified with the Free Trade movement, he had played the foremost part in ridding Manchester of the shackles of the preposterously antiquated and grotesquely inefficient system of local government through a manorial court—a survival from feudal times—in which that great town was actually held till the year 1838. A tract from Cobden's pen, called "Incorporate Your Borough," had a powerful influence in the struggle, which ended in the granting of a municipal charter to Manchester. For more than half a century no copy of this tract could be traced, but Mrs. Cobden Unwin at last discovered one among some family papers, and it is now reproduced in facsimile in a book entitled "Cobden as a Citizen," which Mr. T. Fisher Unwin has just published. Mr. William E. A. Axon has written, by way of introduction, an account of Cobden's career and services as a municipal reformer; and as an appendix a complete Cobden bibliography is given. The volume is bound in vellum and printed on hand-made paper, and is embellished with several photogravure plates and other illustrations. It is issued in a special limited edition, price 21s. per copy.

Mark Twain's humour shows itself time after time in his book on "Christian Science" (Harper and Brothers, price 6s.), but in the main he devotes himself to a serious criticism of that remarkable creed. On the sordid commercial aspect of the Eddy imposture he is particularly severe. The Dollar is the single material

thing in the world whose reality is admitted by Christian Science. "The Dollar is hunted down in all sorts of ways; the Christian Science Mother Church and Bargain-counter in Boston peddles all kinds of spiritual wares to the faithful, and always on the one condition—*cash*, cash in advance." Mark Twain is unfortunately driven to the conclusion that the Christian Science organisation is likely to become increasingly strong in America; and, judging from all that one hears, its dupes in London are becoming more numerous, in spite of the exposures that have taken place. It is a mad world.

The "Personal Opinions Publicly Expressed' by "Rita" in the volume bearing that title (Eveleigh Nash, price 6s.) are usually very strong opinions expressed with a good deal of force—in some cases, too, with a good deal of bitterness. All sorts and conditions of men and women—especially women—come under the lash of "Rita's" criticism. About editors and reviewers she makes some particularly unkind remarks. Whether one praised her book or condemned it, one's motive would probably be misunderstood, and perhaps, therefore, the best thing will be to say nothing more about it.

The two volumes of "Dramatic Opinions and Essays by Bernard Shaw," just published by Messrs. Constable and Co., price 10s. 6d. net, are composed of a selection from the criticisms which Mr. Shaw contributed to the *Saturday Review* ten years or so ago. In his "author's apology" he explains that if the decision had rested with him, these articles would have been allowed to sleep in the files of the journal in which they first appeared. Other people, however, intended to reprint them in America, and, being powerless to prevent this, Mr. Shaw has been forced—"not, of course, very unwillingly"—to make the best of the situation by inviting his own publishers to anticipate the pirates.

Mr. Frederic Harrison's new volume, "The Creed of a Layman: Apologia Pro Fide Mea," is a "plain tale" of his religious and philosophical development. It contains, the author says, nothing in any way sensational, spasmodic, or original, but as a story of how spiritual rest might be achieved it may "prove useful to some perturbed spirit in our troubled times." The book is being published by Messrs. Macmillan.

Two more volumes (price 4s. net) of the new copyright edition of "The Collected Works of Henrik Ibsen," revised and edited by Mr. William Archer, have been published by Mr. Heinemann. Volume IV. contains "Peter Gynt," and volume VIII. "An Enemy of the People" and "The Wild Duck." Mr. Archer furnishes a biographical and critical introduction to each play.

That good sportsman, Colonel R. F. Meysey-Thompson, has followed up his "Fishing Catechism" and "Shooting Catechism" by another little volume entitled "A Hunting Catechism" (Edward Arnold, price 3s. 6d. net), which ought to prove equally popular. The author explains that, like its predecessors, it was suggested by the instructions given to his own children from his own past experience, which extends over a period of forty years.

Mr. Anthony Hope's "Tristram of Blent," and Mr. A. T. Quiller-Couch's "Fort Amity," have been re-issued by Mr. Murray in popular half-crown editions. Messrs. Longmans, Green, and Co. have published at the same price a new edition of Eyre Hussey's "Miss Badsworth, M.F.H.," the best novel of hunting life that has appeared in recent years.

A couple of volumes have recently been added to Messrs. Newnes's popular "Art Library" (3s. 6d. net per volume), one containing a second series of forty-nine reproductions of paintings by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, and the other "The Landscapes of George Frederick Watts"—eighteen plates, with a portrait of the artist. Each volume has a descriptive and critical introduction, M. Arsine Alexandre writing on the works of Burne-Jones, and Mr. Walter Bayes on Watts's landscapes.

Mr. C. M. Knowles, of the Middle Temple, is the author of a volume on "The Law Relating to Compensation for Injuries to Workmen," published by Stevens and Sons, price 6s. His lucid exposition of the Act of 1906 should be useful not only to lawyers, but to employers and every one else who may have to deal with claims to compensation.

I have received the 1907 volume of "The Foreign Office List and Diplomatic and Consular Year-Book," edited by Mr. Godfrey E. P. Hertslet, of the Foreign Office, and published by Messrs. Harrison and Sons, price 10s. 6d. In common with other editors, Mr. Hertslet finds that a policy of cutting down must be adopted if this official publication is to be kept within reasonable limits. One of its features is a statement of the services of persons now serving, or who have served, under the Foreign Office at home or abroad. It includes references to a great many subordinate or temporary officials whose connection with the Department ceased years ago, and whose names would be ruthlessly expunged by any editor with a free hand. But an official editor has to walk warily in these matters, and so in the present volume Mr. Hertslet gives formal notice to a list of two or three dozen ex-officials—vice-consuls, consular constables, legation messengers, and so forth—that their names will be removed from future editions unless in the meantime information is received to warrant their retention.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London seems frightfully noisy. In addition to all our other enemies in this way, we have now the painters, masons, and bricklayers at work to an enormous extent. Almost everybody seems to be having their house done up or added to. A rage for building and rebuilding has seized upon the land. Nobody seems to take a house as it stands nowadays. There must be alterations. A very favourite one consists in taking away the wall of the passage on which the hall door opens, and in this way throwing the ground floor room into the hall. This is sometimes an improvement, but not always. In a climate like ours a draught is an enemy to be avoided. One never knows of what atrocity it may be capable—what form of annoyance it may inflict. Therefore, why destroy one's only defence from the cold wind that is only too delighted to rush into a warm house the very moment the front door is opened? In summer, or in Spain, or in the South Sea Islands, nothing could be better. We were dining with the Smith-Joneses the other evening, and they have had the wall taken away from their nice, wide hall, and a kind of glass case constructed round the hall door itself. It is all very quaint and pretty, and the glass case was in beautiful colours, made radiant by pale pink-globed electric lights; but when the postman knocked, everybody jumped, so near did it sound, and an express messenger's rat-tat, rat-tat, was responsible for a heavy breach in the conversation.

The Abercies cut away last year their drawing-room wall at the head of the staircase. The summer was very hot, and the constant aëration of the large room was very pleasant. But when that very cold weather came in in December, they were put to it to find hangings thick enough to keep away the breezes that blew upstairs from the ground floor and down stairs from open bedroom windows. Screens, too, were commandeered, and at last the open space at the head of the stairs began to look like a barricade in a French revolution. The last time we dined there some one asked Mr. Abercy if the house was his own. "No," he said, "and we have not even a long lease of it. Couldn't get one." "Shall you be obliged to replace this wall?" was the next question. "I suppose so," was the rather chilly reply. No man likes to be convicted of rash outlay.

We all, by the way, listened for the answers, though we wholly disapproved of the questions. They are such bad manners. We did not object, however, to have our

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curiosity gratified when it was some one else who was guilty of a social fault. Perhaps some of us even, in our thoughts, took very high rank indeed by quoting inwardly the saying that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

So I forgot to give you the address of Humphreys, where I saw all those lovely frocks. It is 14, Onslow-place, just opposite South Kensington station.

Mim is back in town again. She raves about the beauty of Donegal and the delightful hotel she has been staying at, the Drumaweir, on the shores of Lough Foyle, at Greencastle. It is literally on the very shore, only a smooth, turfy lawn between, so that velvet sea-breezes enter at every window. The quiet of the place enchanted her. There are good golf links, which pleased Henry very much, and so did the excellent cooking and the moderate terms. Mim has made us long to go. She describes the drives as the loveliest she has ever had, with their mingling of seascape, mountain, and green valleys, with beautiful skies and marvellous sunsets. And the ladies who keep the hotel are so nice. "Just like amiable private hostesses," says Mim.

Jim gave me a birthday treat last week—a dinner in the East Room at the Criterion and a play after. There were four of us, the ideal number for a dinner, and we were very gay. Jim fairly sparkled with Irish wit, and he has that agreeable gift of bringing out all that is brightest in others. The old line tells about "a feast of reason and a flow of soul," but who ever expects anything so high-falutin' in these degenerate days? We had a feast of humour and a flow of fun, and surely that is as high as any one can expect to get. It was good enough for us, any way, and everything was nice—the pretty room, the low music, the delicious food, and the Widow, iced to a turn and most excellently dry.

Jim told us that one afternoon last week he took a girl to tea at the Criterion and could not get in! Their teas have caught on wonderfully, and it is now "the thing" to have your cup that cheers at the Cri. So every one seems to think; so the great rooms are filled to overflowing with a well-dressed crowd. I like looking at people and guessing all about them, don't you? Wondering why the girl with the yellow hair wears red; whether that absorbed young couple are only engaged or newly married; whether the large man who groans when he moves can possibly be the husband of that pretty girl, scarcely more than a child; and whether that furtively whispering couple is planning an elopement. Human nature is the most interesting study that there is.

Jim took us on to the Duke of York's, where we enjoyed seeing Miss Irene Vanbrugh take snuff, and hearing her wild sneezes just when she so earnestly wants to say something, in "The Great Conspiracy." The Empire gowns were most becoming. I suppose our eyes have become trained to them in some degree by the number of modified Empire modes to which we have lately become inured.

I hope you admire the latest of what Bert calls his "capital ideas" in practical jokes. On Edith's wedding morning he was inspired to scatter a few nails in the avenue just before she and her father were to start in the motor for the church two miles away. You can guess the consequences—Bride half an hour late for church; bridegroom purple with agitation, not knowing the cause; bride's father equally purple, if not purpler; Bert going off in smothered explosions of guffaws all through the service; every one else hating him heartily. Now what real pleasure could he have got out of this performance? It is a fact that he did get pleasure out of it. It lasted him all day, and when we left he was still enjoying himself, though every one showed the most intense dislike of and contempt for him.

Do you remember the day he slipped a bit of soap into the mayonnaise that cook had left for a moment on the scullery table? That piece of fun lasted him for a week. How curiously constructed he must be! He does not in the least mind the hatred and indignation he excites, and as for the inconvenience and annoyance he causes to others he simply enjoys them. When any one remonstrates he merely says: "Oh, well, a practical joke, you know—and some of mine are rather clever." Bert really ought to be suppressed. I am sure that even his mother must dislike him at times, perhaps always.

We were favoured with an invitation to Mrs. James Stuart's reception of the Colonial Premiers on Friday evening in the Whitehall Rooms, and were delighted with the opportunity of seeing our very interesting visitors at close quarters. The whole affair was well organised, and though over 2,000 guests poured into the beautiful cream and gold room, there was not the smallest confusion, and no overcrowding. One reason of this was that a succession of interesting performances was given in the Entertainment Room, so that many drifted off there. We, however, found our best entertainment in standing near the door, listening to the names as they were announced, and studying their owners. We knew Sir Wilfrid Laurier by his grand forehead, before his name was pronounced. He looks very kind and gentle as well as supremely clever. Lord Strathcona's shaggy white eyebrows add to the keen outlook of his piercing eyes. They have a kind of watchful expression that is not often seen in cities. More than half the House of Commons was present. The Premier wore his usual air of bonhomie, as one who has no cares. And yet he must surely feel the burden of the State press heavily at times. General Botha has a strong face, lit up with a smile that is almost merry. We had all pictured him so differently. His daughter looked as fresh as possible. She is a handsome girl, looks simple and unspoilt. Her aunt, Miss Botha, has a very fine face, with much character in it.

Some of the Colonial ladies were superb of stature. Several were beautiful, in a stately way; others had apparently never heard of the grand manner, and rolled into the room anyhow. We loved them for it. Some of the girls were all a-gaze, much more concerned with the impression things were making on them than with the impression they themselves were making on others. That is always so engaging. So many of us, nowadays, are self-conscious.

How we wished that everybody had been labelled. As we moved through the rooms after the thickest of the human stream had poured through the door, and noticed stars and orders and ribbons, we should have liked to have handed a copy of "Who's Who" to several of those present and begged them to find themselves in it and hand it back to us. Wouldn't it have been rude—and very pleasant? Canada, as you know, is our pet colony. We know such delightful Canadians, and to know them is to love them. Therefore, we should have liked to be able to single out all present who were from Canada and to shake hands with them. This would have been surprising conduct. The rooms were all beautifully decorated with flowers, and the reception was a brilliant success. I noticed the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and his brother-in-law, Lord Tweedmouth, in the crowd, and Lord and Lady Haddo were of the family party. Mrs. Herbert Gladstone was a graceful figure. She was with her husband. There were several judges present, some bishops, many Royal Academicians, so you can imagine that the atmosphere was one of mingled law and learning, politics and pleasure, art and statesmancraft. Had we had time to think of ourselves, we must have felt small amidst so much that was great, or, at least, important, but we were much too interested to waste a thought on our own insignificance.

We admired our host and hostess (the latter in a lovely white satin and lace) for their endurance in shaking hands 2,000 times. They really seemed to like it, and our Colonial friends can shake hands heartily.

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They give a grip that means cordiality, and then they shake you like anything just to show they really mean it.

We are feeling rather superior—a very comfortable but unfortunately rather rare attitude of mind for us—because we got our spring cleaning over before any one else. I am surprised that you, so excellent a manager, are so late as this, but no doubt there is some good reason for it. Send for Liberty's book on "Furnishing Fabrics," a perfect boon to the country housewife possessing artistic taste. In it there are exact reproductions in colour of their chintzes, cretonnes, linens, tapestries, brocades, and curtains, so that you know exactly the tints of what you are ordering without the fag of sending for patterns and spending an hour of indecision over them. Do not forget, either, that you can have wood panelling from them at an extremely low price, should you want to give one of your rooms an old-world charm. You should see Enid's lovely flat, with its outlook on the Thames. It is all wood-panelled to a considerable height, then filled in with a creamy moulding, which she has had shaded in a most æsthetic manner. But, then, dear Enid possesses absolutely perfect taste.

We stayed last week at the Riverbank Club at Amerden Bank, Taplow, and mean to do so often again. It is really ideal. It is quite near Bray Lock, and the soft murmur of the weir is pleasant to hear as one sits on the lawn. The house is a quaint and picturesque one, and as both men and women may be members there is abundance of companionship, both masculine and feminine. We know two men who go and stay there when they want to work, one at writing books, the other at painting pictures. The quiet is beyond everything delightful. The house is heated throughout with warm air, the cooking is good, and the terms are very moderate. It is so nice to have this quiet retreat within half-an-hour of town. Boats and carriages are provided by the management, so that each member gets his or her full two-guineas' worth. Seems cheap, does it not?

A pleasant proof of the success of the recent sale of the Irish Industries Association at the Ritz Hotel is afforded by the announcement that the sum taken in the two afternoons was no less than £1,897. The total amount the Association has realised by its sales for the benefit of the poor cottage workers in Ireland is now brought up to £143,000—a record of which all concerned have good reason to be proud. In particular, congratulations are due to Mr. J. S. Wood, the honorary organiser, for this sum, added to other funds which he has started or worked, completes a grand total of a quarter of a million which he has been largely instrumental in raising for various charities.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:

DEAREST MADGE,—Poets are born, not made; one wonders if many baby poets are now, in these early years of the century, resting in their cradles or playing in their nurseries. If there are many such, how lucky for the poet babes that they only are babes just now, for surely no era was ever more unpoetic or less idealistic. Ours is essentially a world of prose and realism; in the rush of the motor and the crush of the crowd, who cares for the muses? A hurrying world turns from them with absolute indifference; there is not money in them, and what else matters? These ladies with their antiquated ways would be impossible in the "smart" set, or even amongst the suffragettes. Their inspiration is out of date; we want utilities, not idle dreams and inutilities. What is the music of the spheres, or what are the voices of nature to us in towns? The "call of the spring" is but a whisper, a murmur hardly heard in the home of humanity's "mighty workings." Only at odd moments something in the air, or the skies stirs our pre-occupied minds and flutters our hearts. But we have no time for poetic emotions and thrills; they are not in the day's work. No doubt the reaction will come some day; we shall all turn leisurely and sentimental. The baby poets of our time have a future possibly before them such as was not for the generation which preceded them. They will get an opportunity and exultantly rise to it; we must take care not now to repress the lisping in numbers when the numbers come.

The coming of May naturally brings the neglected poets to our minds, though not a spirit in harmony with theirs. Last week the weather forecast anything rather than the advent of a "merry month." On most days winter was in the air and the skies, forcing itself on our notice, whether or not we had time to attend to its inconsiderate loitering. Though we resolutely went on with our later spring, or summery shopping, we shivered as we bought the lovely light airy materials which pre-suppose sunshine and breezes without the bitter bite of the north and east.

Lord Aberdeen was in London for the marriage of his son, and other important things. Lady Aberdeen remained at the Viceregal Lodge getting happily through the difficulties of convalescence in changeable weather, the changes of which never went far in the direction of comfortable and pleasant ones. Does not downright winter suit the recovery from influenza almost better than a betwixt and between time suits it? We get no temptations then to relax our precautions against a mean enemy that is always lurking round the corner. Nothing lures us from the safe stronghold of a warm and comfortable fireside. Lord Aberdeen has returned to the Viceregal Lodge for this week, when he opens the Dublin International Exhibition in State, and accompanied, it is to be hoped, by Lady Aberdeen. Lord and Lady Grenfell will also be present, and there is to be quite a military display on the occasion to lend it ornament. Many personages are expected to be present. Lord and Lady Pembroke, with several members of their family, have been staying at their Irish residence, Mount Merrion, some few miles from Herbert Park, Lord Pembroke's property, on which the Exhibition Buildings are built. Lord Pembroke is the owner of a very large property in Dublin, and its most flourishing suburbs. The Pembroke family has long held a leading place amongst the great absentee landlord families of Ireland. Sir Antony MacDonnell is also expected to return to the Phœnix Park this week to attend the Exhibition ceremonial, and to join Lady MacDonnell at the Under-Secretary's Lodge. Sir Horace Plunkett was so much identified over here and in society with the "Department," that it is hard to imagine it without him, or him without it. We, who have nothing to do with the politics of the subject, nor with the "economics," nor anything else of the "Department," would be sorry to lose such a popular and genial personality from society as Sir Horace Plunkett. But ignorance is nothing if not confident and hopeful, so without any why or wherefore, we, after the manner of our sex, look to seeing him reappear later on in some position which will

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give scope to his industrial tastes and talents. Sir Horace now inhabits the fine house he built for himself at Foxrock, seven miles or so south of Dublin, from which he daily motored to his office in Merrion Street. Lord and Lady Ardilaun are coming in early May to stay, as usual, at their residence, St. Anne's, Clontarf. The spring gardens there are beautiful and in every variety. They have been staying at their Connemara place, on the shores of Lough Corrib, where Lady Ardilaun has lately been ill. As we all have the defects of our good qualities, so has a picturesque country of mountains and lakes the inevitable drawback of a damp, misty atmosphere, which gives many ills and chills when the weather is in a specially unamiable mood.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Macaroni à la St. Denis is a pleasant dish:—

Simmer 4 oz. of large Naples macaroni in salted water, so that it is not broken, strain and cut it in pieces three inches long. Pound 4 oz. of lean white veal, adding 1 oz. of butter, 2 oz. of bread panada, 1 egg, seasoning of salt and pepper, and rub it through a wire sieve, working it afterwards with 2 tablespoonfuls of cream. Put the forcemeat into a bag with a plain pipe, and with it fill the pieces of macaroni. Arrange them in layers in a buttered grating dish, with thick tomato sauce, and a sprinkling of grated Parmesan cheese between each layer. Mix an ounce of grated Parmesan with a little cream, pour it on the top, and bake it a nice colour.

This is a delightful spring salad:—

Wash and scrape a bunch of young carrots, boil them in salted water to which a little butter has been added. Cut a bundle of asparagus into points, keeping the heads separate; cut some boiled new potatoes into slices. Make a close, firm border of the carrots on a dish with the points to the centre, and using a little worked butter to keep them from slipping, arrange the slices of potato, as an inside border, with the green stalk parts of the asparagus on this; and make a nice bouquet with the asparagus points at the summit. Mix 3 tablespoonfuls of salad oil with a scant dessertspoonful of chopped Tarragon, chives, and chervil, and pour it over the salad at the moment of serving.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—We have just come from the very pretty wedding of Mr. and Mrs. George Edwardes' charming daughter, Evelyn, with Mr. Cuthbert Sherbrooke. The bride looked sweet in her Romney satin and lace, followed by her two young sisters, also in Romney frocks, looking perfect pictures. The reception at Claridge's included some of the prettiest women in London, and even the three immense reception-rooms were crowded with guests. There was an unusual number of handsome presents, and a small framed list showed the names of friends who had given cheques. I thought this such a good idea.—M.

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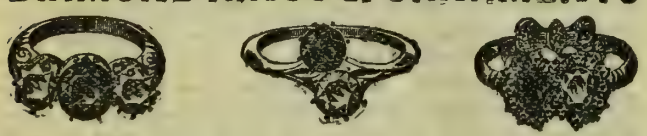

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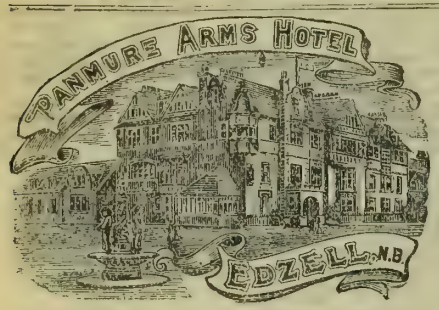

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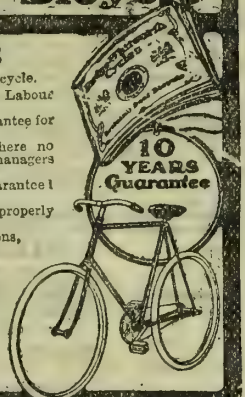

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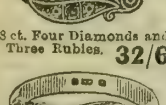
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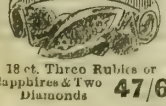
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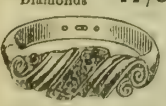
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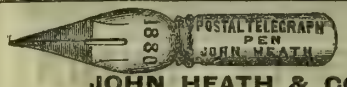

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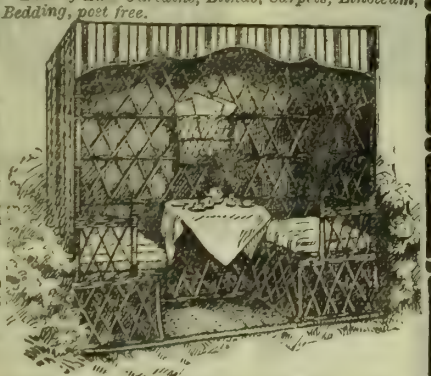

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Sold in TWO STRENGTHS:
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0298

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to "the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLES Nos. 1,468 & 1,469.

The awards in above will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,476.

In pursuance of my laudable desire to keep our Puzzles up to date, by dealing, as far as possible, with events of the moment, I propose this week to set a Competition upon a subject which is certain to be one of the stock topics of conversation during the next few weeks—viz., the Royal Academy Exhibition.

After mature consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the most convenient form for such a Competition to take will be that of an Anagram.

So I offer, this week, the usual Prize of Two Guineas for

THE BEST ANAGRAM OF THE WORDS "ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION OF PICTURES AT BURLINGTON HOUSE."

The Anagrams sent in by competitors should, like all good Anagrams, contain an appropriate reference to the subject in hand—viz., should be, in some way, descriptive of the Royal Academy.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one Anagram.
(ii.) All Anagrams must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, May 13, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of ISSOR, winner of one-third of TRUTH Prize No. 1,465, is Miss Rossi, 33, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.

*** The real name, with the address, of QUERY, winner of one-third of TRUTH Prize No. 1,465, is G. C. Stanley, Esq., 79, Northgate Street, Gloucester.

*** The real name, with the address, of CHERRYPICKER, winner of one-half of TRUTH Prize No. 1,467, is Lce.-Cpl. W. M. Lummis, A Squadron, 11th Hussars, Marlborough Barracks, Dublin.

ARRAGON.—Your *nom-de-plume* duly registered.

QUERY.—Many thanks for kind suggestions, which I will consider.

FOX.—I have made a note of the misprint to which you call my attention.

A. HEMMING.—Many thanks for your letter. Your suggestion of a "greatest women" competition is a good one; and before long I shall hope to avail myself of it.

MYRMIDON.—I will, with pleasure, accede to your request.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,471.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT ANECDOTE, INTRODUCING THE NAMES OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FIRMS ADVERTISING IN "TRUTH" OF APRIL 3, 1907.

Rudge Whitworth, I, and daughter came to town, purchased *Truth's Cautionary List* to make safe, called *Knowles'*, *Robinson's*, *Hampton's*, *Hackney Furnishing*, *Catesby's*, *Spink's*, *Samuel's*, *Vickery's*, *Norman & Stacey*, and *Belgrave Agency*, passed *Royal Exchange Assurance* at one o'clock by *Dent's*. Husband took *Singer's Cycle* to *Evans & Co.*, *Mutual Life*, *Law Guarantee*, and *Prudential* for terms of business, bought *Nestor* and *State Express Cigarettes*, picked up *Lyon's Powder*, *Beecham*, *Wellington's Plates*, *Sanitas*, *Jewsbury's Paste*, *Globe Polish*, *Celestine*, *Hieratica*, *Southall's Towels*, and *Erasmic Soap*, *Allen & Hanbury's*. Next *Bailey's Hotel*, lunch with daughter, *Apollinaris Water*. Husband later sampled *Buchanan's*, *Dewar's*, and *Cambus Whisky*, and obtained *Phosferine*, *Clarke's Mixture*, and *Electrolysis* for nurse, and consulted *Goodman's*. *Mazawattee Tea* for us, *Fry's Cocoa* for child. Used *Taylor's Typewriter* for patterns of *Noble's Serges*, prospectuses from *Copland & Nye* and *J. P. White*, *Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund*, *Alcoholic Excess* and *Keeley Cure* for inebriate friend, *Barnardo's Homes*, *Waifs & Strays*, and *Hospital for Incurables*. Next day *Birkbeck*, put a bit on *London and Paris Exchange*, hired *Lanchester Car*, rode to *Brighton Railway Station*, child flung out, tried *East London*, *North-Eastern*, and *Hospital for Sick Children*—admitted there, ordered *P. & O.* sea voyage (61).—Canning.

Hampton's lace curtains and *Knowles's wall-papers* supplied by the *Hackney Furnishing Co.* decorated the *Truth Publishing Office* where representatives of the *Royal Hospital for Incurables*, *Rugged School Union*, *Royal Maternity Charity*, *Waifs and Strays forward movement*, *Dr. Barnardo's Homes*, *Church Army*, and *Great Ormond Street Hospital* discussed philanthropic enterprises. The first naturally recommended *Shaw's Cure of Cancer*, *Hauser & Doepfner's Grand Hotel, Naples*, the *Prudential Assurance Co.*, and *Himrod's Cure for Asthma*: the second *Copland & Lye's Tweeds* and *Noble's Serges*; the third "*Sterile Marriage*" (*Shelley & Co.*); the fourth *Tussaud's Exhibition*, *Hengler's Circus*, *Maskelyne & Devant's Mysteries*, *Empire*, and *Palace* theatres; the fifth *Sanitas Oil*, *Ashton & Parsons's Phosferine*, *Fry's Cocoa*, and *Beecham's Pills*; the sixth *Turvey Treatment for Alcoholic Excess*, *Peebles' Hydropathic Hote*, *Ingram & Royle's Vichy Cerstine*, and *Mazawattee Tea*; the seventh *Children's Competitions* (*Eva Martin*), *Allenbury's Diet*, *Clarke's Blood Mixture*, *Erasmic Soap*, *Lyon's Tooth Powder*, and *Goodman's Inexpensive Artificial Teeth*. The chairman wrote minutes on *Hieratica* with his *Taylor Typewriter*, consulted the *Benson* office clock and his *Dent* watch, handed round *Nestor* cigarettes, *Wolfe's Schnapps*, *Cambus Whisky*, and *Apollinaris*, ordered his *Lanchester Motor*, the *Rudge-Whitworth* and *Singer* cycles, and invited his colleagues to the *Alhambra* or *London Hippodrome* (59).—Whig.

Wilkins made a hurried toilet with the aid of *Erasmic Soap*, *Southall's Compressed Towels*, *Oriental Tooth Paste*, and *Seeger's Hair Dye*. He wore *Viyella* underclothing, his linen was *Robinson & Cleaver's*, and his well-fitting suit by *Evans & Co.* His ring was from *Samuel*, his scarf-pin from *Reason*, and his watch one of *Dent's*. Having lit a *Nestor* cigarette, he proceeded to *Claridge's* in his *Lanchester* motor. He found Lord Blankney reading "*Finance*" in a sitting-room with *Ronuk* polished floor laid with *Linola*, a *Hampton* wall-paper, and furniture by *Norman & Stacey*. "Delighted to see you," cried Blankney. "What will you drink? *Dewar's*, *Cambus*, or *Buchanan's Whisky* and *Apollinaris*, *Wolfe's Schnapps*, *Cherry Whiskey*, *Mazawattee Tea*, or *Fry's Cocoa*? I am seedy to-day, and have taken *Beecham's Pills*, *Clarke's Blood Mixture*, *Vichy Celestins*, and *Phosferine*." "You should try *Sanitas Oil*, *Allenbury's Diet*, or *Antipon*," said Wilkins. "But the *Keeley Cure* is what you really need." Blankney smiled, displaying a handsome set of *Goodman's Artificial Teeth*, and lit an *Astoria*. "Where shall we go to-night? To the *Alhambra*, *Empire*, *Palace*, *Hengler's*, *the Hippodrome*, *Daly's*, *the Garrick*, *Gaiety*, *Vaudeville*, *Savoy*, *Lyric*, *Aldwych*, or *the Playhouse*"? "First to the *Criterion* for dinner," said Wilkins (50).—"Tony."

Robinson & Cleaver stopped their *Lanchester* at the *Criterion* to test the merits of *Dewar's*, *Cambus*, and *Buchanan* whiskies with *Apollinaris*, smoke a *State Express Cigarette*. At *Claridge's* they met Ethel, who had visited *Norman & Stacey's*, *Dent's*, *Jeffries*, *Hampton's*, *Knowles*, and the *Hackney* previous to house-furnishing. She wore a *Viyella* blouse and a *Noble's Serge*. Fragrant with *Eau de Cologne*, her skin as only *Erasmic Soap* can make it, her hair dyed by *Hinde* and teeth from *Goodman's* resplendent with *Jewsbury & Brown's* or *Dr. Lyon's Powder*; a ring from *Vickery's* or *Samuel's*, brooch from *Spink's*, and one of *Benson's* chains caught my eye. "I have decided on *Linola*," she said. "*Charing Cross Hospital* use it, and clean with *Scrubb's Ammonia*, and polish the wainscot with *Ronuk*, sprinkling with *Sanitas*." Ethel suggested a tour by the *Great Western*. She had been polishing her *Singer* and Gertrude's *Rudge-Whitworth* with *Globe Polish*, and got some *Wellington* plates for her camera. The men ordered *Wolfe's Schnapps* and *Nestors*, but Ethel preferred *Mazawattee* or *Fry's Cocoa* in *Mortlock's* or *Goode's* beautiful china. "After this, you will require the *Turvey* or *Keeley Treatment*, or a course of *Phosferine* and *Beecham's*," she remarked (48).—Electron.

Luxuriating in a *Belvoir Arbor* at the *Felix* enjoying *Truth*, the *Nineteenth Century*, a *State Express Cigarette*, and a *Cherry Whisky* and *Apollinaris* in a superb *Goode's* tumbler, my wife near wearing a *Viyella* frock trimmed with *Frilled Butter Muslin*, reading *Memories* and drinking *Fry's Cocoa*, we discussed *Queer Stories from "Truth."* The *Compressed Air Carpet Cleaners' Co.* working at *Claridge's* found an immaculately dressed gentleman in an *Evans' suit* and *Robinson & Cleaver Shirt*, unconscious through mistaking *Scrubb's Ammonia* or *Seeger's Hair Dye* for *Dewar's White Label Whisky*. On him were found *Halford's Adviser*, *Daniel Quayne*, the *Monthly Review*, some *Nestor Cigarettes*, a bill for *Diamonds from Spink's*, a *Mutual Policy*, and *Hieratica* notepaper headed *Ritz* and *Royal Bath* Hotels. *The Palace* and *The Playhouse*. He was conveyed in a *Lanchester Motor*, preceded by a porter on a *Singer's Cycle* to *Charing Cross Hospital* (the *G. N. Central* being overcrowded), where he received excellent treatment (*Phosferine*, *Yanatas*, *Allenbury's Diet*, and the *Keeley Cure*), but soon expired. The interment has been kindly undertaken by the *R.S.P.C.A.* and the *Rugged School Union* (41).—Mart.

Israel Rank and *Julie de Lespinasse* were married from *Bailey's Hotel*. Unconventionally dressed, he wore a suit of *Copland & Lye's Scotch Tweed*. She had a *Redfern Costume*. They caught the *Great Western Cornish Express* for Torquay, staying at *The Imperial Hotel, Torquay*. They took *Rudge-Whitworth* and *Singer Bicycles* and *Wellington Photo Plates*, but a telegram from *Hamlet & Dulake's*, Oxford, about a house, recalled them—they took it, and went up to the *Ritz*, dined at *Claridge's*, and went to the *Savoy Patience*. Next day they chose papers from *Knowles'* in *Chelsea*, linen from *Robinson & Cleaver*, blinds from *Hamptons*, furniture from *Norman & Stacey*, and *Linola* from *Catesby*. Among their presents is *Mazawattee Tea*, a *Spanish Neck ace* from *B. M. Archer*, *Taylor Typewriter*, *4711 Eau de Cologne*, *Clocks* from *Dent's*, *Buchanan's Whiskey*, and a *Lanchester Motor*. He gave her a *Brilliant and Ruby Ring* from *Benson's*, and *Diamond Ornaments* from *Spink's*. She says he is *An Obliging Husband*. They are abroad, and going to the following places:—*Grand Hotel, Bale*; *Hotel Europe, Lucerne*; *Hotel d'Angleterre, Vevey*; *Grand Hotel, Territet*; *Savoy Hotel, Rome*; *Hotel Continental, Naples*; *Grand Hotel, Pisa*. They return, and take *Canadian Pacific Line to Canada* (37).—Qu'appelle.

The *Lancaster* motor stopped at *Bailey's Hotel*. "We'll lunch here," said Jack, "and afterwards you can drop me at *Evans'*, while you shop at *Harrods'*. I'll get the bicycles, a *Singer*, and a *Rudge-Whitworth*, go to *White's* for the garden things, and *Dent's* about the clock, and then we'll meet at five at the *Hackney Furnishing Co.'s*." "Oh! no, *Norman & Stacey's*, Jack." "Very well. Ask Harrod's to send up some *Watalu plates*, *Nestor*, and *State Express Cigarettes*, a dozen *Apollinaris*, and some *Dewar's* or *Buchanan's Whisky*. Or *Cambus* would do. Oh! yes, and some *Wolfe's Schnapps*." "My dear Jack! You'll be ready for the *Keeley* or *Turvey* treatment." Jack laughed, and laughed more on hearing the result of her campaign. *Hieratica stationery*, *Erasmic Soap*, *4711 Eau de Cologne*, *Jewsbury & Brown's* and *Lyon's Dentifrices*, *Fry's Cocoa*, *Mazawattee*, *Globe Polish*, *Sanitas Oil*, *Phosferine*, *Beecham's Pills*, and *Clarke's Blood Mixture* made up a surprisingly mixed bag. She found time to write to *Catesby*, *John Noble*, *Gorringe Heath*, and *Copland & Lye* for patterns, and look in at the *Irish Distressed Ladies' Depôt* before five. Before dining at the *Criterion* the unhappy Jack was taken to *Hampton's* and *Knowles'* to view wall papers, the *Belgrave Agency*, *Robinson & Cleaver's*, *Benson's*, *Vickery's*, and *Spink's* (45).—Sapper.

Mr. and Mrs. *Charles Knowles* were seated in their *Belvoir Arbor*, he in an *Evans' Lounge Suit*, studying "*Truth*" *Cautionary List*, she, gowned in *Copeland & Lye Tweed*, sipping *Mazawattee*, typed on *Hieratica* with *Taylor's Typewriter*, commissions for her maid (hired through *Belgrave Ladies' Agency*) who had placed on *White's Garden Table* a tray holding bottles of *Cambus*, *Black and White*, and *Apollinaris*. Glancing at her *Dent Watch* Mrs. Knowles said, "Mary, having finished the *Globe Metal* polishing, please ride your *Singer* to *Allenbury's*. I'll read list. Box of *Beecham's Pills*, *Jewsbury & Brown's Tooth Paste*, *Lyon's Tooth Powder*, *Clarke's Blood Mixture*, *Yanatas*." Twenty minutes later, having used *Erasmic Soap*, Mary, dressed in a *Noble* costume, started. Passing *Vickery's* shop she collided with a young man trying to light a *Nestor Cigarette* on his *Rudge-Whitworth*. He carried her into *Hampton's*, bound her head with *Robinson & Cleaver* handkerchief, sprinkled her with *Eau de Cologne* 4711, and poured *Wolfe's Schnapps* down her throat, then conveyed her home in a *Lanchester Motor*. Arrived there, her master exclaimed: "Thank goodness, I insured her to-day in the *Ocean*." Finale—an engagement ring from *Benson's*, and a wedding ring from *Spink & Son* (35).—Veronica.

Wife and self came to town by *G.N. Railway* from *Fashionable Felixstowe*, stayed at *Carlton Hotel*, dined *Dieudonné's*. *Dewar's Whisky* and *Apollinaris*, *Fry's Cocoa*, *Nestor's Cigarettes*, *Gaiety Theatre*, supped *Ritz*, *Buchanan's* and *Vichy Water*, *State Express Cigarettes*; *Lanchester Motor* to *Carlton*. Bedroom furnished *Norman & Stacey* with *Hackney Furnishing Bedstead*, *Beecham's Pills*, *Lyon's Tooth Powder*, *Viyella* nightshirts, *Himrod's Asthma Cure*, and *Sanitas Oil*. Morning *Seeger's Hairdye*, *Scrubb's Ammonia*, *Erasmic Soap*, *Globe Polish*, *Jewsbury & Brown Tooth Paste*, *Clarke's Blood Mixture*, *Phosferine*, *Robinson & Cleaver's Handkerchiefs*, with *Eau de Cologne* 4711. *Evans' Suit*, *Noble's Serge Dress*, *Krutord Corset*, *Redfern Underclothing*, *Mazawattee Tea*, *Allenburys' Diet Food* off *Mortlock's China*; Papers, *Truth* and *Albany*. Inspected jewellery, *Spink's*, *Benson*, *Dent's*, *Vickery's*, bought *Cycle at Singer's* and *Rudge-Whitworth*. Saw dinner-service at *Goode's*, furniture at *Hampton's*, *Polished Floor Ronuk's*, a *Wolfe's Schnapps*, viewed *Doré* and *Shepherd's Gallery*, lunched *Criterion*, *Cambus Whisky*. Concert at *Queen's Hall*; *Birkbeck Bank*; donation *Royal Hospital* and *Barnardo's*; prospectus from *Mutual*, *Royal*, and *Prudential* Assurances, *Goodman's Teeth*. Bought *Taylor's Typewriter* and *Garden Seats at White's*, dined at *Claridge's*, *Cherry Whisky*, *Alhambra*, *G.W. Rail-*

way, for *P. and O.* tour with *Yanatas*, *Watalu Plates*, *Finance Paper*, and some books published by *Chatto & Windus* (73).—The Prebend.

"*Hieratica Paper* and *Taylor's Typewriter*, I bet," she murmured, holding a note, and displaying rings from *Samuel* and bracelets from *Spink*. A *Gorringe Arbour* sheltered her, lounging on a *White's* garden-chair. Removing her *Copeland & Lye* cape, she showed a *Noble's* serge fitted by *Redfern* over a *Sykes* corset. A *Gorringe* hat set off a complexion creditable to *Erasmic Soap* and *Madame Tensfeldt*. *Eau de Cologne* 4711 from her *Robinson & Cleaver* handkerchief overpowered the aroma of *Sanitas Oil* supplied by *Allen & Hanbury*. A table from the *Hackney Furnishing Co.* held a *Benson* spirit-case (containing *Dewar* and *Buchanan*), *Vichy*, and boxes of *Ardath Co.* and *Nestor* cigarettes. Glancing at her *Dent's* watch she entered a *Linola*-floored hall, rendered spotless by the *Compressed Air Cleaning Co.*, and artistic by *Knowles* and *Hampton*. A *Singer Cycle* and *Wellington Developing Plates* indicated the occupier's taste. On a *Norman & Stacey* table stood *Mazawattee Tea* and *Fry's Cocoa*, while *Wolfe's Schnapps* and *Apollinaris* betokened man was expected. Hark! A *Lanchester* Car! Swallowing a *Phosferine Tonic* and seizing *Chatto & Windus's* latest, she waits! . . . . . "Guess I hooked him safe as *Birkbeck Bank*," she exclaimed, a smile advertising *Lyon's Tooth-powder* and *Jewsbury and Brown's Paste* (42).—Detinu.

A Treatise on Options.—In a *Belvoir Wicker Arbour* at the *Peebles Hydropathic*, smoking a fragrant *Nestor*, clad in *Noble's Serge* suiting, an *Apollinaris* and *Cambus* within reach, sat a bridegroom, a member of the *Stock Exchange*. Opposite reclined his bride, dressed in *Copeland & Lye's* '*Kelvindale*,' drinking *Fry's Cocoa*. *Benson Gems* sparkled on her fingers as she took out a *Dent's Watch*. They had returned from bicycling, his *Rudge-Whitworth* and her *Singer* shining with *Globe Polish*. Opening a letter, addressed by a *Smith-Premier Typewriter*, she exclaimed: "A cheque on *Birkbeck's* for £1,000! Shall I buy a new *Lanchester?*" "You must decide, darling; but we have one motor," and he handed her *Truth*, opened at p. 859. She read of the children's needs, and went indoors. Presently she returned with cheques to *Barnardo's Homes*, *Invalid Children's Aid*, *Great Ormond Street Hospital*, *East London Children's Hospital*, *Waifs and Strays*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Children*, *North-Eastern Children's Hospital*. Kissing her bridegroom, she said, "You are *An Obliging Husband*. You have given me a better pick-me-up than *Schnapps*, a better tonic than *Phosferine*. I have reserved a little for *Truth's Toy Show* and *Truth's Sixpences*" (31).—Sebrof.

Clarke's Blood Mixture, *Ashton & Parson's*, *Ltd.*, *Phosferine Tonic*, *Vichy Celestins for Gout*, *Himrod's Asthma Cure* long defied "mors." *Rudge-Whitworth* and *Singer Bicycles* he discarded, substituting a beautiful *Lanchester Motor Co.*'s car. *Allenburys' Diet* and *F. S. Turney's Cancer Cure* procured longevity. *Treatises on Options* interested, "*Truth's*" *Queer Stories* amused "*Truth*" *Cautionary Lists* guided him. *Chatto & Windus's* publications, *John Lane's Albany*, *John Murray's Reviews*, *Taylor's*, *Ltd.*, *Typewriter*, *Hieratica*, and *John Heath's Birmingham Pens* adorned his table. He died. Investments with *Mutual Life Insurance Co.*, *New York*, *Accident and Guarantee Corporation*, *Law Guarantee and Trust Society*, the stud's sale by *W. & S. Freeman of Aldridge's* provided for Reginald his son. *Finsbury Distillery Co.'s Wolfe's Schiedam Schnapps*, *Dewar's Whiskey*, *Edinburgh Distillers Co.'s Cambus Scotch*, *Buchanan's Black and White* abundantly (neglecting *Apollinaris*, *Mazawattee Tea* or *Fry's Cocoa*), *Ardath Tobacco Co.'s* State Express and *Nestor Cigarettes* to excess necessitated *Kelly's* and *Turvey's Cures for Drink and Drug Habit*. *Starkie's Yanatas for Seasickness* not required. What cures love? At *Mischa Elman's Concert*, *Queen's Hall*, they met. *Criterion's Eastroom* heard love whisperings. Alice in *Noble's Cream Serge*, a *Vickery's Novelty Brooch*, complexion enhanced by *Erasmic Soap*, illuminated by *Godman's Artificial Teeth* was beautiful. Our blessings! (40).—Businecz.

Lady Betty looked smart in a costume from *Copeland & Lye's*, the sleeves lined with *Gorringe's Frilled Butter Muslin*, smoking a *Nestor Cigarette*, and idly playing with her handkerchief from *Robinson & Cleaver's* scented with *Eau de Cologne*, her fingers adorned with rings from *Spink's*, *Benson's*, and *Samuel's*, and wearing a *Vickery's Novelty Brooch*. She was staying at *Bailey's Hotel*, *London*, whose rooms were furnished by the *Hackney Furnishing Co.*, the walls papered by *Chas. Knowles*, and the comfortable chairs supplied by *Hampton's* and *Norman & Stacey*. Glancing at one of *Dent's Clocks*, hastily got her *Heath's Pen* and *Hieratica Notepaper*, and writing to Madge, asked if she would come on her *Singer's Cycle*, and have a cup of *Mazawattee* or *Fry's Cocoa*, and bring her husband on his *Rudge-Whitworth*, as his *Lanchester* was broken, he could be supplied with *Dewar's* or *Buchanan's Whisky*, but he said on arriving if he could not have either *Cambus Pure Scotch* or *Wolfe's Schnapps*, he would drink *Apollinaris*. Madge, who looked well in one of *Noble's Serges*, and complexion bright with use of *Erasmic*, explained how ill her husband was, and had been taking *Allenbury's*, *Phosferine*, *Beecham's Pills*, and *Himrod's Cure for Asthma* (33).—Neale.

Advertisement Anecdotes have also been received from:—Mirabel, G. V. T., Ethna, Longshanks, Dagmar, Pegtop, Hobbima, Caledon, Fish, Echo, Toby, Celt, Carpathia, Isabel Winter, Jack, Fosco, Early Morning, Morman J. Gourlay, and Ino.

The following also sent in advertisement anecdotes, but did not comply with the condition that they should underline their advertisements:—Little Toad, Gaywood, Nemo, Dick Maisch, Westcliffe, Northlander, Busha.

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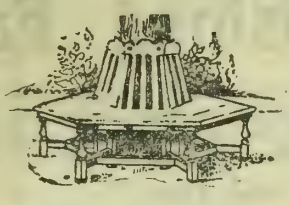

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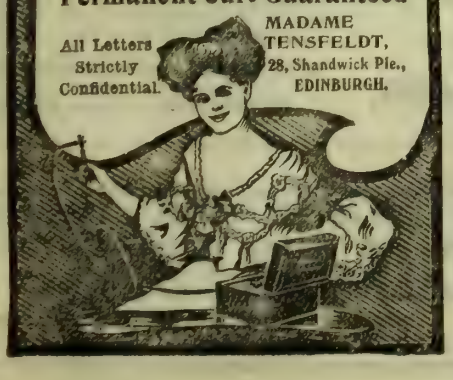

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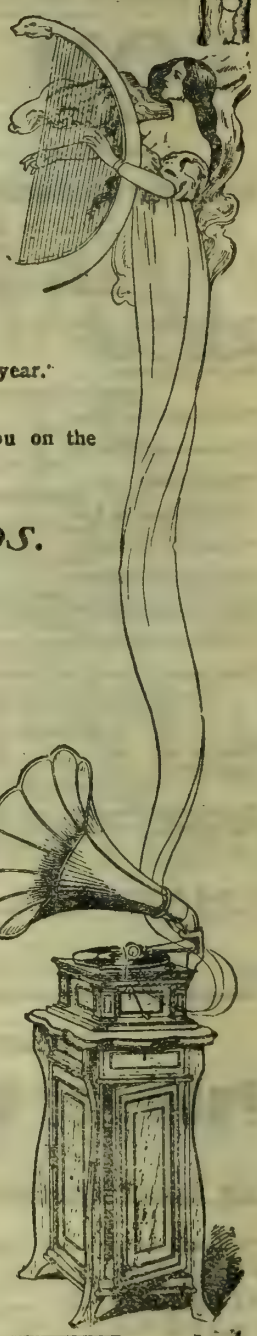

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COVENT GARDEN AND ITS OPERA.

OPERA has begun, and by all the tokens it is going to be a very interesting season. We are having the "Ring" again and "Die Meistersinger" à la Bayreuth, and new works (to London) such as Catalani's "Loreley" and Mascagni's "Iris," and old-new ones such as "La Gioconda" and "Hansel und Gretel," and plenty of Puccini, and Melba and Caruso (to name only a few of the "leading lines"), and, altogether, if there is not something for every one in the Bow-street lucky-bag this year it will certainly not be the fault of the management. We all criticise Covent Garden at times, but, when all is said and done, it is really a very wonderful institution. One fact in particular should always be borne in mind, though it is sometimes overlooked. Covent Garden is the nearest approach which we have at present to a national opera house, but it is run very differently from those of the Continent. With us subscription takes the place of subvention, and on the principle that those who pay the piper have a right to call the tune, it follows that the wishes of the subscribers can never be neglected by the management. When, therefore, this and that opera is proposed, which there is reason to believe would not enjoy general favour, it is just as well to bear in mind that even the best-intentioned directorate has not an entirely free hand in these matters, but, on the contrary, is compelled to consult the greatest happiness of the greatest number.

This is, of course, the defence of the management when it is complained that they do not give more attention to native opera. Without pretending to be in the secrets of Bow-street, I have not the slightest doubt that Mr. Higgins and his coadjutors would be only too delighted to mount and run English opera if they could only find one which would draw. Nay, not only at Covent Garden, but all the world over, the same principle holds. Berlin and Paris would welcome a really remunerative opera, whether it came from England or Peru, just as readily as Covent Garden. The unfortunate part of the matter is that the chances of one country or the other producing such a work seem at the present time about equal. It is said that when at rare intervals native works have been produced at Covent Garden they have not been properly pushed. Sufficiently persistent efforts have not been made, it is asserted, to ensure them permanent favour.

To this there are two replies. In the first place, it is urged, and the cogency of the argument is hard to resist, that an opera house such as Covent Garden, relying solely on its aforesaid subscribers and the general public, cannot fairly be expected to mount works time after time which fail to attract. In other words, Covent Garden is a business enterprise which, though not conducted primarily with a view to dividends, cannot afford to disregard financial considerations entirely. Secondly, it is replied that the hard logic of the counting-house does not support the suggestion that by a policy of sticking to it in these cases the management would eventually "win through." It costs between £800 and £900 to "lift the curtain" every night at Covent Garden, and without disclosing any state secrets, few probably will be surprised to learn that when English operas have been presented the receipts have not been on a corresponding scale. Nor have they in the case of subsequent performances revealed that upward tendency which might have justified a policy of pegging away. Otherwise, one may be sure the management would have been only too pleased to adopt the latter policy in the hope of getting some of their money back. But if it only means throwing good money after bad they can hardly do this.

Somewhat similar considerations apply in the case of native singers. The Syndicate gladly employ these when they can get hold of the right article, but they cannot afford to run any risks. They can only make use of thoroughly trained artists whose capabilities are assured. There is no room for amateurs or novices in a season run under Covent Garden conditions. The thing can only be done with the aid of the most experienced artists, ready to undertake their parts at a moment's notice, if necessary without even a rehearsal, and the number of such to be found in the ranks of our native singers is unfortunately strictly limited. In the meantime we have such admirable artists as Mme. Kirkby Lunn and Mme. Agnes Nicholls to go on with and to encourage others to come and do likewise. As for the rest, they hail from all quarters. The only difficulty is to sift the good from the bad, and get hold of the right people. Year by year Mr. Pitt hies him to the Fatherland with splendid optimism, in the hope of discovering at last a German tenor who can really sing, while other trusted representatives of the Syndicate report on all the most promising new arrivals elsewhere. It is the rarest thing for any vocalist to appear at Covent Garden who has not withstood this preliminary test, for experience has shown that local reputations are apt to prove misleading if relied on too implicitly.

Then when the songbirds have all been mustered, the next problem is to fit them all in so as to get the full benefit of their services, and this is by no means so easy a task as might be supposed. The question is sometimes asked whether the répertoire is decided on first and the singers chosen accordingly, or are the operas picked to suit the artists? It rather suggests the problem of the chicken and the egg, but the answer is, I imagine, that now one and now the other course prevails. What is, at any rate, certain is that an opera cannot be given without the requisite singers. Every artist engaged supplies a list of the parts which he or she is prepared to undertake, and I have heard it rather wickedly asserted by those experienced in such matters that the extent of the répertoire boasted is usually in inverse ratio to the capability of the performer. Certain it is that few are called on to appear in more than a limited number of the parts on their list. All the leading artists are guaranteed so many performances, and it is one of the problems of the managerial mind to ensure that they get the requisite number of appearances, seeing that these have to be paid for in any event. On the other hand, when from any cause an artist is prevented from appearing, he in turn suffers loss of his fee for that night—a circumstance which, if more generally understood, would perhaps go to mitigate some of the indignation aroused when this or that unfortunate artist is compelled to disappoint an audience. On the other hand, the arrangement may possibly help to account for the fact that on the whole such disappointments are so few.

From the managerial standpoint, the task of accommodating all the different singers is at times exceedingly complex. So many performances, so many artists, and so many operas—it sounds simple enough, and doubtless, if such things as colds and "indisposition" were unknown, the whole thing could be worked out quite nicely before the season started, and carried through without a hitch. In practice, however, it falls out very differently. This or that leading artist will be unable to appear on a given night, and therewith upset the whole scheme projected. Then, too, there are the subscribers' requirements always to be borne in mind. If the Wednesday and Saturday folk get better fare than those of Tuesday and Friday, the management will soon hear of it. There must be a suitable ringing of the changes, too, on the various classes of opera, and so on. Matters are further complicated, moreover, by the question of rehearsals. Artists will not rehearse when they are singing in the evening. Some even will not rehearse on the day before and the day after, while others go further still, and specially stipulate for so many days' rest before and after such and such a part, so many before and after such another one, and so on. It is easy to understand the additional difficulties thus introduced. Yet again, scenic considerations have often to be borne in mind. As it is, the stage hands have not infrequently to be working all through the night to make the requisite changes.

How many of those who sit at their ease in stalls and boxes appreciate these and other trials which beset a long-suffering management? Here, as elsewhere, it may be truly said that to know all is to excuse all. If Covent Garden, like every other human institution,

sometimes falls short of perfection, the wonder must be to any one acquainted with the facts that, as a whole, it does so well.

SINGERS THEN AND NOW.

Vocally, the singers of to-day may or may not equal their predecessors, but in one respect at any rate they fall below the latter. They are certainly less entertaining. Whether it be due to their superior education, greater respect for the conventions, or less genius, it would be rash, perhaps, to say; but certainly our latter-day song birds indulge as a rule in few or none of those eccentricities of conduct for which so many of their predecessors were renowned. For that matter, audiences and performers alike would seem to have fallen away from the earlier standard in this respect. Where are the opera-goers of to-day to take up the cause of contemporary rivals as did those who supported the claims of Cuzzoni and Faustina in an earlier age? These were the singers, it will be remembered, on whose behalf partisanship ran so high that when they appeared in the same opera neither could be heard for the mingled demonstrations of friend and foe.

The situation was profitable for a time, but eventually became a nuisance to the management, who brought it to an end in an ingenious manner. Cuzzoni had taken a solemn oath that she would never accept less than her rival, and knowing this, the managers cruelly offered her one guinea less per annum than they were paying Faustina, and thereby effected their dastardly purpose. Yet of the two Cuzzoni seems to have produced the greater effect. How would Mr. Neil Forsyth take it, for instance, if to-day some ardent galleryite rose in his place and shouted concerning one of our latter-day *prime donne*, "Damn her! She has a nest of nightingales in her belly"?

But Cuzzoni was, of course, only one of many singers of an earlier time who called forth like demonstrations —both vocal and otherwise. The utterance of the lady who rose in her box and exclaimed, "One God and one Farinelli" is, of course, historic. The story of Caffarelli may also be recalled under this head. While he was singing at Naples he was told of the arrival of Gizziello at Rome, and posted all the way to hear him, and having done so, rose in his seat, exclaimed, "Bravo, bravissimo Gizziello! E Caffarelli chi te lo dice!" and fled precipitately from the theatre. What would not the halfpenny papers make of such an event if it happened nowadays! This was the Caffarelli, too, who had proclaimed himself the equal of "two Farinellis," who complained that the snuff box sent him by Louis XV. was not the equal of those given to ambassadors (remarking perfectly truly that "All the ambassadors of the world would not make one Caffarelli"), and who inscribed over the gateway of his palace, "Amphion Thebas, ego domum."

Of Gizziello in turn it is recorded that when he first heard Farinelli he burst into tears, and then, whether from chagrin, despair, or joy is not quite clear, fainted right away. I wonder if any modern tenor listening to, say, Signor Caruso, has been similarly affected. Still more striking was the triumph of Farinelli when he appeared for the first time on the same stage with Senesino. Senesino, we are told, had the part of a furious tyrant to represent, and Farinelli that of an unfortunate hero in chains; but in the course of the first song he so softened the obdurate heart of the enraged tyrant that Senesino, forgetting his stage character, ran to Farinelli and embraced him in his arms. No doubt the sensation was great. One can picture the situation, perhaps, by imagining what would happen if, in "La Tosca" Scotti as Scarpia was similarly overcome by the seductive strains of Caruso's Cavaradossi.

Senesino was one of the last of the detestable male soprani, and he was also, like General Bangs, "a most immoral man," differing greatly in this respect from Farinelli, whom he so greatly admired. But it was not always with admiration for one another's talents that the old-time singers were affected. Of Ansani, for instance (to whom through various masters the late Manuel Garcia traced his artistic lineage), it is told that the sweetness of his voice was equalled only by the unloveliness of his temper, with the result that he could not hear his humblest rival without signifying

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his contempt and scorn. Nay, even his own wife was not exempt, so that when she was appearing he would betake himself to the pit and hiss.

In scanning the records of these earlier days, one thought always obtrudes itself. How much can one really believe of the strange proceedings and marvellous achievements ascribed to these singers of the past? Did they really produce such astounding results as we are bidden to believe? Or were audiences more impressionable then than now? It is difficult to say. Nor is it necessary to go back so very far to reach the region of the fabulous in this regard. Consider, for instance, that striking anecdote which used to be told by the late Julius Stockhausen concerning the singing of his mother, and the celebrated J. B. Cramer. "At a concert rehearsal in London my mother was singing Mozart's Recitative and Rondo, 'Ch' io mi scordi di te,' with orchestra and pianoforte obbligato. Cramer, then already advanced in years, was at the piano; towards the end of the performance he was so overcome by the delivery of the singer that he fell upon his knees and continued to play his part in that posture. 'These are sounds from above, sounds worthy of adoration,' he said, when my mother had finished." It is fortunate, perhaps, that all singers do not produce such powerful effects—or that all accompanists are not so impressionable. The spectacle of Mr. Hamilton Harty, say, succumbing to his emotions in like fashion while playing a difficult accompaniment by Brahms or Strauss would certainly provoke astonishment.

An anecdote which may pair off with the foregoing, perhaps, is that narrated by Mr. Hermann Klein in relation to Jenny Lind, who, he says (in his volume of musical reminiscences) was so carried away by her singing of Agathe's prayer from "Der Freischütz" at a concert at Norwich on one occasion, that she fell on her knees on the platform, and so finished the air. Why do such things never happen nowadays?

THE BITTER CRY OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

[By One of Them.]

Let me admit at once that I am not a "star"—even of the fourth or fifth magnitude. Not for me are the triumphs of Caruso or the fees of Melba; in a word, I am one of the rank and file, and bitterly am I made to realise that fact. Formerly there was a place for me and my like. Being possessed of what the reporters call a prepossessing appearance and agreeable manner, I specialised in "at homes" and minor musicales, whereby I contrived to earn an honest if exiguous existence. My engagements in the season were numerous. I obtained my two, three, or five guineas in each instance, and with a small teaching connection in addition (recruited mainly from the offspring of the more opulent tradesmen of the genteel suburb in which I dwell), I contrived to keep my creditors at bay and even on occasion to put a trifle by. Alas! how differently stands the case to-day! My drawing-room engagements are in the nature of a rapidly vanishing quantity, and but for the noble resolve of my grocer's daughter to emulate the flights of Melba and the equally resolute determination of her friends to outshine the efforts of Mme. Clara Butt, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Kennerley Rumford, and the rest, my position at the present time would be precarious indeed.

Yet, as I venture to declare in all humility, my voice is as good as ever, and I employ it no less tastefully than before. My moral character no breath of scandal has ever touched. I have never failed to conduct myself with the strictest propriety, and in the consumption of stimulants, when such have been provided, I have been aghast at my own moderation. In all other respects, moreover, I have been the soul of discretion and circumspection. When my hostess has mistaken me for the head waiter and consulted me as to the quality of the ices, I have never displayed the smallest resentment. I have laughed immoderately at the crudest witticisms of my most offensive hosts. I have never committed the error of singing Strauss where Sullivan was preferred, or of giving that Bacchanalian ditty "Drinking" to an audience sighing for the more recondite strains of Debussy. In a word, I have left nothing undone to secure my advancement in the calling which I have made my own. Yet my experience has been that recorded—my popularity has waned, my engagements have diminished, and bid very soon at the present rate to vanish altogether. Moreover, and it is this which lends pathos to my tale, my case is only one of many. On every hand, where two or three singers of my class are gathered together, the cry is the same. The musicale market has never been more depressed. The slump in drawing-room entertainments within recent years has been perfectly appalling.

What is the explanation? Alas! it is only too obvious. Two fell and sinister agencies have worked our ruin—the motor-car and the bridge party. In June and July Mrs. Dedley Boreham's "At Home (Music 4—7)" seems more than usually unattractive to the possessor of a smart Daimler or Mercédès offering such limitless possibilities of escape therefrom. And, in the same way, who does not think twice and even thrice of inviting his or her friends to such a form of entertainment who has ready to hand a means of enjoyment so infinitely more seductive? What wonder, therefore, that the vocal artist withers while the motor is more and more?

As for bridge, that diabolical pastime completes the ruin which the automobile has begun. The youthful hostess of West Kensington or South Hampstead, who formerly invited her friends to a little music and requisitioned for their entertainment the services of such modest and inexpensive professionals as myself, to-day finds a bridge party at once a simpler, less costly, and more attractive entertainment, and, in the result, the minor musicale would seem to have become almost a thing of the past. Others have been hit, I am told, equally hard in the same way. Ask the West-End tradesman for one. The art of shopping, he will tell you, bids fair to become a lost one, and all on the same account. The all-devouring automobile and the seductive bridge party engage to-day exclusive attention.

But with this aspect of the matter I am not concerned. The decline of the musicale is the burden of my tale of woe. Is it idle to add the hope that it may not fall on ears rendered wholly deaf by the clatter of the petrol engine and the curses, not loud but deep, of the bridge table?

SOME FORTHCOMING CONCERTS.

Concerts seem likely to be numerous as ever during the next few weeks, beginning with the Santley Jubilee concert at the Albert Hall to-day (Wednesday). Kreisler will be heard at the Queen's Hall Orchestra's Symphony concert on Thursday afternoon, and in the evening that great pianist, Mme. Sophie Menter, will make her reappearance after many years' absence at the Philharmonic concert; Herr Jan Sibelius was also to have come, but he has disappointed. On the same evening at the Bechstein Hall Mr. Mallinson gives the first of a series of song recitals. On Saturday the reappearance of little Von Vecsey (now, we are told, a sturdy youth scorning knickerbockers) will have interest for many, and Godowsky will be heard for the last time this summer. Another prodigy in little Pepito Arriola will play again at the Albert Hall on Sunday. Monday brings another London Symphony Orchestra's concert under Safonoff, "the bâtonless wonder." Miss Myrtle Elvyn, who makes her début on Tuesday, is a pretty American girl, and a pupil of Godowsky, of whom report speaks favourably. May 8 will be a melancholy date for many, since De Pachmann, the one and only, then takes leave of his London admirers for the terrible space of two years. On the same afternoon Mlle. Landi gives a recital at Leighton House, and on the 14th she will be heard again at the Bechstein Hall, when her programme will include some songs in Spanish. On May 11 the first of two Saturday afternoon concerts by the London Choral Society will constitute something of a new departure. Saint-Saëns' "Samson et Dalila" is the work to be given.

On the 13th the London Symphony Orchestra will be

heard again under Safonoff (still bâtonless), while on the 15th Mr. Mark Hambourg and Mme. Sophie Menter both give recitals. On May 16 Mischa Elman will play the Beethoven violin concerto at the Philharmonic, and Strauss's "Don Juan" will be given "for the first time at these concerts." Little Vivien Chartres is down to perform on May 18, and a prodigy of another kind in Kussewitzky, who is said to do wonders on the double-bass, will be heard on the 22nd. Mlle. Chaminade, most popular of latter-day lady composers, gives a recital of her own works on the 23rd, and for those who like more solid fare there will be a London Symphony Orchestra concert on the same afternoon under Señor Arbos. On this date also a new violin prodigy, Edith von Voigtländer (aged thirteen), of whom rumour says much, is to make her first appearance. On May 25 Mme. Kirkby Lunn gives an afternoon recital at Bechstein Hall, Mr. Backhaus will assemble his admirers at the Queen's Hall, and in the evening Mme. Marie Brema is to sing at a concert given by Miss Mathilde Verne, with the Queen's Hall Orchestra. Mlle. Landi sings again on the 28th, and on the following day Mischa Elman gives a concert with the London Symphony Orchestra under Herr Fiedler, of Hamburg, who has not visited London before, as conductor. Miss Beatrice Harrison, sister of the clever young violinist Miss May Harrison, and described herself as a most promising 'cellist, makes her début on the same afternoon with the Queen's Hall Orchestra. The next day will be a busy one, with a Queen's Hall Orchestra concert in the afternoon (at which M. Raoul Pugno will play), another Gerhardt-Nikisch recital, and the last Philharmonic in the evening, at which Lady Hallé will be the chief soloist. Miss Nellie Curzon-Smith, who makes her début on the following day, comes from Berlin, where she has studied at the Hochschule by all accounts to excellent purpose.

So much for May. For June the record is at present less crowded, though a good many fixtures have already been arranged. Mrs. George Swinton, Miss Ethel Leginska, Mr. Boris Hambourg, Mr. Percy Grainger, Mr. Hugo Heinz, and Mischa Elman are some of many artists giving concerts in the earlier part of the month. On the 14th, Mme. Yvette Guilbert will be with us for the first of a series of her fascinating matinées, Mlle. Johanne Stockmarr, the clever Danish pianist, giving a recital on the same afternoon. On the 16th, M. Edouard de Reszke will sing at one of the Albert Hall Sunday concerts, and the following day the first of the postponed Joachim Quartet concerts will draw the faithful to the Bechstein Hall. An interesting feature of the programme of these concerts this time will be the inclusion of nine of the string quartets of Haydn, and also some rarely heard works of Mozart. The remaining concerts of this series will take place on June 21, 24, 26, and 29, and July 1, at the Bechstein Hall, and June 19 at the Queen's Hall. On June 18 a recital by M. Paderewski, who has not been heard in London for quite a long time now, will be an event of note; on June 25, Mr. Gervase Elwes has arranged to give a recital of English songs at the Bechstein Hall, while right at the end of the month, on the afternoon of the 29th, the farewell concert of Mme. Clara Butt and Mr. Kennerley Rumford is safe to draw a huge audience to the Albert Hall.

As time runs on many other interesting appearances will doubtless be arranged, but those above referred to are sufficient to indicate that the needs of the concert-goer will be amply provided for during the next two months.

NOTES.

Now that the "Ring" under Bayreuth conditions has become a hardy annual at Covent Garden it is amusing to recall some of the fears and misgivings which attended the first performance of the work in this manner in 1898. The notion of doing "Das Rheingold" without a break in particular excited the gravest fears, while the suggestion of adopting the Bayreuth plan and excluding late comers caused many worthy folks to foam at the mouth. People who arrived late and could not get in, it was declared, would certainly demand the return of their money, while those who wearied of the gods and their troubles and could not get out would invoke *habeas corpus* and have the law on the syndicate—for which purpose the proximity of Bow-street police court would obviously be a great convenience.

On the stage as well as off those early "Ring" performances had their humorous features. For particulars of one such Frl. Ternina herself was authority. This was the substitution of the chorus director for the corpse of Siegfried at the end of "Götterdämmerung." Herr Krauss, it seems, with a sad lack of enthusiasm, objected to play the part of a dead man, while Ternina bemoaned his fate in Brünnhilde's long-drawn accents, so the gentleman who directed the chorus, nothing loth, hastily assumed the hero's garments and took his place on the bier—thence supervising matters in ease and comfort. But it was hardly surprising that the arrangement did not commend itself to Ternina.

"I enclose voice and photo." Has it really come to this? An American paper says so. Operatic artists in future, when negotiating with distant impresarios, will simply enclose a gramophone record containing two or three of their happiest efforts, and the contract will be concluded without further difficulty. Well, well! What next?

Apropos of "canned music" (as Sousa called it), some of the latest records of the Gramophone Company must be heard to be believed. Slowly but surely, and not so slowly either, the mechanical processes involved have been perfected, until nowadays the results achieved partake of the miraculous. Close your eyes in some cases, and it is almost impossible to believe that one is not listening to the original, so completely has the effect of any reproducing medium been eliminated. Hear those selections from "The Gondoliers" and "The Yeomen of the Guard," for instance, by the Coldstreams Band, and you may fancy yourself in Hyde Park or at Earl's Court without the smallest effort. The Symphony Orchestra, of La Scala, Milan, is responsible also for some fine orchestral numbers, while as a *tour de force* "The Coming of the Year," played by church bells with organ accompaniment, is quite amazing in the volume of sound produced—or should one say suggested? Some remarkable "spoken" records have also been recently issued, including a recitation of "The Bells" by Canon Fleming, which is as astonishing in its way as any of the musical items. What would we not give to have the voices of some of the great ones of the past preserved in similar fashion?

PERSONALIA.

It has often been stated of Richter, who is once more the hero of the hour at Covent Garden, that he can play every instrument in the orchestra. But that is, of course, an exaggeration, though he certainly knows how every instrument ought to be played, and in earlier days was master himself of, at any rate one—to wit, the horn. He studied the violin, too, in earlier days, and that he is also a good pianist may be gathered from the fact that at the age of ten he appeared in this capacity at a concert given by his mother—a well-known opera singer of her day.

Richter can be stern at times, and he also knows the value of satire. During the rehearsal of a certain musical festival the famous conductor was disturbed by someone in the hall beating time on the floor. Richter endured it for some time and then, turning round, requested the offender in his broken English to desist. "You see," he explained with a smile, "when I am conducting I cannot always keep time with your foot."

Leopold Godowsky, who gives next Saturday his last recital in London for the season, has now been playing in London for the best part of twenty years, though it is comparatively recently that his extraordinary talents have been generally recognised. For sheer mastery of the keyboard he is probably the greatest of all living pianists. Even Rosenthal can hardly have performed such

wonders. With wrists of steel he has fingers of velvet, and the brilliancy of his execution is equalled only by the amazing delicacy and beauty of his touch.

Godowsky, who was born at Wilna, is at home in every European capital, and has spent a good many years, too, in America, where he was director for some time of the Chicago Conservatoire. He is married, and has a delightful little daughter, of whom many quaint stories are told. Once she was asked by her mother: "Why do you pack away your toys so carefully?" "I am going to save them for my children," answered the little girl. "But suppose you should never have any children?" continued Mrs. Godowsky. "Oh, then I'll give them to my grandchildren," was the unexpected reply.

Mischa Elman, whose appearances are to be numerous during the coming season, was once asked how he had learnt to play as he does, and his reply was characteristic—for this amazing youngster has a keen sense of humour: "I mustn't tell you, for then you would be able to play as well as I can!" Mischa was good enough to admit, however, that he had benefited greatly from the "Ten Commandments" of his master, M. Auer, and for the rest confessed to his method of studying a new work. "I read it and think of it till I know it by heart before I play a note. Then, when I come to give it in public, I force myself to imagine that there is no other composer and no other such piece in the world."

But Mischa is anything but a youth of one idea. In his school days at St. Petersburg he headed all his comrades in mathematics. Pushkin is his favourite author and cycling is his delight. At the same time his tastes are simple, though he has the means nowadays to do whatever he chooses. Mischa Elman's father, by the way, was offered £30,000 a year or so ago for the temporary control of his son's musical services. That offer was, however, declined with thanks, and with very good reason. Since then Mischa has received as much as 400 guineas for a single performance at a private party. He is, in fact, in a fair way to amass the largest sum in fees ever acquired by an executive musician since the beginning of the world.

Mme. Yvette Guilbert, who will soon be delighting us again, began her career in the trying-on department of one of the big drapery establishments in Paris. Now she gives some people fits elsewhere. But she never will have it herself that her repertoire is not beyond reproach. Her songs, she declares, are not naughty, but merely *un peu légère. Voilà tout!*

All may not know that it was not in Paris but in Belgium that she made her first success. For some time she had appeared in minor Parisian theatres and second-rate music-halls without attracting attention. She was even dismissed from the Eldorado because she "did not sing like the others." Then she went to Liège, where her rendering of the songs of Xanrof so entranced the students that she was asked to go to Brussels forthwith, and when she reappeared in Paris again it was for very different fees from those she had received before.

A singer of a very different order, who will also be visiting us shortly, is Camilla Landi. In the opinion of many there is no greater vocalist before the public to-day. Others may have finer voices, but who can sing as she does? In grave and gay, sacred and secular, her art is equally consummate and individual. Yet how little the general public knows of her. Her fame has not yet reached the suburbs.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King arrived at Buckingham Palace on Saturday evening from Paris, en route from Naples. His Majesty has been absent from England for nearly nine weeks, as he left London for Paris, on the way to Biarritz, on Monday, March 4. The King will reside at Buckingham Palace (except for a brief absence at Newmarket next week) until Saturday, the 18th, when the Court will remove to Windsor Castle until Monday, the 27th.

I hear that the King is to be the guest of Lord Yarborough at Brocklesby Park when he visits the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Lincoln during the last week of June. Lord Yarborough is this year the President of the Society, and he will hold the office until June 26, when he is to be succeeded by Mr. Victor Cavendish. The King and Queen (then Prince and Princess of Wales) were the guests of Lord Yarborough and his mother, Victoria Lady Yarborough, at Brocklesby when they visited Great Grimsby in July, 1879, for the purpose of opening the Alexandra Dock. It is expected that the Prince of Wales will be the guest of Lord Londesborough at Blankney Hall during the show week.

As the Queen has lengthened her stay in the South of Europe there will be neither a Court nor a State Ball at Buckingham Palace before Whitsuntide. I hear that the two remaining Courts are to be held during the first fortnight of June, before the King and Queen leave Buckingham Palace to spend Ascot race week at Windsor Castle, and the King and Queen of Denmark will be present at one of these ceremonials. The first State Ball will be given during the same period while King Frederick and Queen Louise are in London. The second State Ball is to take place early in July.

Her Majesty has prolonged her cruise on board the *Victoria and Albert* for the sake of Princess Victoria, who has been in delicate health for some time past, and it is hoped that she may derive increased benefit from her stay in the south of Europe by spending an additional fortnight in the Mediterranean.

The home engagements of King Frederick and Queen Louise will oblige them to limit their stay in England to five days, during which period they will be the State guests of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. The King and Queen of Denmark will land at Portsmouth from the Royal yacht on Saturday, June 8, coming most likely from Cherbourg after their official visit to Paris. On leaving England they will embark at Port Victoria for Flushing on Thursday, the 13th. A State Banquet and a State Ball are to be given at Buckingham Palace during the visit of King Frederick and Queen Louise, and probably there will be a garden party at Windsor Castle. It is expected that Princess Thyra and Prince Harold of Denmark will accompany their parents to England.

The Prince of Wales stayed at Kent House, the residence of Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, near East Cowes, during his visit to the Isle of Wight last week, and the Royal yacht *Alberta* was placed at the disposal of H.R.H. On Thursday the Prince of Wales called on Lord and Lady Suffield, who are staying for some time at Barton Manor, the Royal residence in Osborne Park, which has been lent to them by the King.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to leave town for Windsor on Saturday, the 18th, and they will stay at Frogmore Lodge for about ten days. The Prince and Princess will be again in residence at Frogmore

from Saturday, June 15, until Monday, the 24th, when they are to entertain a small party for Ascot races.

Lord Aberdeen returned from England, at the end of last week, in time for the state opening of the Dublin Exhibition. Lady Aberdeen has recovered from her severe attack of rheumatism, and will probably soon go for a cure and change of air from the Phœnix Park.

The Irish International Exhibition, which was opened with much pomp and circumstance in Dublin last week, bids fair to prove a great success. The ways which lead to success in Ireland are always hard ways, beset with difficulties, both home grown and otherwise. The Irish are perhaps least versed of all people in the art—or craft—of agreeing to differ. It is the defect of their admirable quality of enthusiasm in whatever cause they espouse. However, all is well that ends well; the Irish International Exhibition is national enough as well to suit all views and tastes. The enthusiasm shown at its opening on Saturday was spontaneous and well deserved. The Exhibition has the rare advantage of standing in a park, within view of the mountains, from which fresh breezes rarely fail to blow. No doubt it will contribute to the gaiety of nations, and especially of the nation which, according to so many critics of late years, needs the stimulating effect of gaiety.

The visit of a portion of the Channel Fleet to Kingstown, under the command of Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Custance, took place under very adverse circumstances as regards weather. A gale blew for several days, and as the "roads" at Kingstown are very open, the public were not able to visit his Majesty's ships as usual, which caused much disappointment.

TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS.—A WELCOME.

O welcome to our fields of play,
Ye cricketers from far S.A.!
Who spoke of "flanneled fools"?
'Tis they who, from whatever land,
Unite to form that Empire grand
Where old King Willow rules.

So mock their pastime as you please,
In high-falutin' Kiplingese;
Your jeerings idle fall.
The "brotherhood of man" 's outclassed;
No brotherhood cements so fast
As that of bat and ball.

Professor Ingram, like many a learned and cultured man, led a retired and quiet life. His home was in Dublin, where he had many friends. He was possessed of much personal charm and geniality, as well as of great erudition. Rightly or wrongly, it was believed in Dublin that he would have filled the Provostship of Trinity College, but for the poetic indiscretion of his youth, the renowned, "Who fears to speak of '98?" Trinity College has produced more than one patriotic poet, but practical patriotism has never yet been in fashion there.

Sir Alexander Wilson, who died last week, was one of the most prominent commercial men in Sheffield, where he had resided for nearly half a century. After he left Edinburgh University, in 1857, he went to New York as representative in the United States of the well-known firm of Charles Cammell and Co., but two years later he returned to England and settled at Sheffield, the headquarters of the business of the Cyclops Works, which was converted into a limited liability company in 1864. The concern has for many years employed over 10,000 hands, armour plates having always been a leading feature of its output. Sir Alexander invented the Wilson compound armour plate of iron and steel, but the firm has since produced a plate made entirely of steel 18in. thick, whereas the original plates rolled at the Cyclops Works early in the sixties were only $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. Sir Alexander Wilson was twice Master Cutler of Sheffield, and during his second term of office Queen Victoria visited the town and conferred a baronetcy on him. He was a staunch Tory of the uncompromising Scotch type, but took no active part in politics. He was a keen sportsman, and was widely known for his love of golf long before that game became fashionable. He was an excellent shot and a remarkably expert angler.

Lord de Ros, who died suddenly in Ireland last week, served for many years in the 1st Life Guards, and he rose from cornet to colonel commanding the regiment, of which he was appointed Colonel-in-Chief in 1902, replacing the late Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar. Lord de Ros was a *persona grata* at Court during the last reign, and he was for eight years Equerry-in-Ordinary to Prince Albert, and afterwards Equerry-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria, and finally a Lord-in-Waiting under Lord Beaconsfield and in Lord Salisbury's first two Governments. In 1859 Lord (then Lieutenant-Colonel) de Ros went to Berlin with the late Lord Raglan to represent the Queen and Prince Albert at the christening of the Emperor William. He was an able and a very popular officer, an excellent landlord, and a general favourite in society.

The late peer's mother was a daughter of the fourth Duke of Richmond, who died comparatively young when Governor-General of Canada. The late Lady de Ros lived to celebrate her ninety-sixth birthday, and died in 1891. She was engaged in a controversy towards the close of her life with the late Sir William Fraser concerning the scene of the ball given at Brussels by her mother, the Duchess of Richmond, on the night before the Waterloo campaign opened.

Lord de Ros was Premier Baron of England, his peerage dating from 1264, and he did homage for his rank at the Coronation in 1902. His title to be Premier Baron has been disputed by Lord Mowbray, on the ground that the writ of summons of Henry III., under which Lord de Ros sat in the House of Lords did not create a peerage. The death of Lord de Ros creates a vacancy in the Order of St. Patrick, and this will be the first blue ribbon which has fallen to the gift of Sir

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For Appeals, see page 1168.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1175.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1183.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 1174, 1175.
For Estates, Auctions, 1186.
For Amusements, see pages 1172, 1173.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1185, 1186.

Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Lord de Ros was decorated by Mr. Balfour in 1903, and he received the second class of the Royal Victorian Order from Queen Victoria when her Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1897. His death vacates the colonelcy of the 1st Life Guards, to which the office of Gold Stick is annexed, which involves four months of annual waiting, but except during the London season the duty is usually on paper only.

The annual London meeting of the members of the R.Y.S. is to be held on Saturday, when the arrangements for Cowes Regatta will be discussed and completed, and there is to be a ballot, as there are several candidates for election. The regatta is to commence on Tuesday, August 6, which is the date of the annual house dinner of the club at the Castle, West Cowes. The Emperor William will be present at this dinner if he comes to Cowes, as is expected, and in any case the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught will attend it. It is probable that the King and Queen will spend ten days in the Solent on board the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, arriving on the evening of Friday, August 2, and leaving on the morning of Monday, the 12th.

The fuss that has been made over the "Mikado" seems rather absurd. Foreign potentates have been represented upon the stage in a ridiculous light often enough without any susceptibilities having been wounded; and the Japanese Government must be morbidly sensitive if it took offence at Mr. Gilbert's fooling. To do it justice, no reason appears to exist for supposing that it is likely to have any such feeling, and, that being so, the Lord Chamberlain would have done better to leave the matter for public opinion to decide. It seems a national misfortune that the Japanese alliance should prevent this generation hearing again the best of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Cannot Mr. Gilbert get over the difficulty by changing the venue of the action to some fabulous realm where there are no politics?

I have had rather an alarming letter from Lord Crawford in reference to the remarks in last week's Truth on the design for the rebuilding of the Quadrant. Referring to the sacrifice of stability in contemporary shop architecture by the carrying of the whole superstructure on steel columns, his Lordship observes:—

> There are many corner houses, the whole of the upper portion of which is borne by one or two slight columns at the angle. Were one of these to break suddenly—say, by a motor 'bus charging into the window—the result would be lamentable. There is another eventuality which ought not to be overlooked. The crust of the earth seems to be at present in an unstable condition, and we learn from the papers of constant shocks of earthquake. The present form of construction is not calculated to resist transverse strain, and should London be visited by as serious a shock as occurred in the Eastern Counties a few years ago, the ruin and loss of life would be appalling. Any wave of motion at right angles to the frontage of the shops would send a whole street of houses toppling into the road.

Earthquakes are a capricious form of visitation which it is difficult to be on your guard against. Unless you adopt Japanese architectural methods, it seems to me the only thing to do is to insure, and there is not much safety even that way, for if London were visited by a serious earthquake a good many insurance offices would probably come down with the other establishments. The skidding motor-bus is a more immediate danger and more easily guarded against. I would suggest that the danger spots in all big plate-glass structures should be guarded by stout buffers.

AN ECHO OF THE ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS.

Witch-Elm, *ash*-uredly, 'tis *plane*
(*Yew*'ll p'raps forgive my jokes),
A *poplar* victory *wood* gain
If *fir*-st home in the *Oaks*.

An Anglo-Indian forwards the following postcard, received by his wife at Cawnpore, whose name and address had been evidently obtained from a newspaper announcement of a family nature:—

> Have you read this risqué but exquisite romance from the secret lives of two well-known people? —— —— has treated their peculiar infatuation with consummate art and delicacy. We are "en auto" for Biarritz. Hope you are well. Love from M.

On the other side of the postcard—which was posted in France—is the portrait of the lady novelist and an advertisement of her book, which is published in London. No doubt many other ladies, and men too, have been favoured with similar postcard puffs of the *risqué* but exquisite romance. It is a very stale and transparent trick.

The principal of an educational institution in Ireland lately asked me for information respecting a concern called the "Literary and Artistic Development Society," of 46, Guilford-street, W.C. Circulars advertising the advantages of this society have been addressed to pupils of the Irish institution, and the principal observed that he finds it very necessary to protect his pupils against people who run mysterious organisations in London. I can easily believe it. In this case the "Society" proclaims that its objects are:—

> The organisation of the rising literary and artistic talent of the United Kingdom with a view to stimulating, encouraging, and developing it, and the production and publication of work of a high standard of excellence.

This is to be accomplished (1) by paying a subscription of 2s. per annum; (2) by competing for prizes for stories, verses, and black and white sketches, and paying in this connection an entrance fee of 1s. or 1s. 6d. Obviously, if he can rope in a few hundred flats as members, this will afford, if not exactly a competency, a pleasant addition to whatever income the promoter may possess from other sources. No less obviously it can serve no other purpose whatever. The business is apparently run by an individual who lodges at the address given in Guilford-street.

The list of sufferers by the newspaper business of Mrs. Davis, alias "Walker," continues to grow. During the past week I have heard from many more, and in two of these cases the announcement of Mrs. Davis's death has been used as an excuse for stopping delivery of the papers without returning the money paid. To heighten the illusion, the bereaved husband seems to have employed deep mourning stationery in notifying the sad event to the customers of the firm. The lady apparently died at Bidford, but I have not heard that any funeral has yet taken place. Several of the victims express a desire to use their legal remedies, and I can only hope that steps in that direction may be taken.

In this connection I hear from Colonel G. Forestier Walker, of Amesbury, that for several years past a pair of adventurers have been personating him and his wife, and also his brother, Major E. Forestier Walker, and his wife. "When my brother is abroad," says Colonel Forestier Walker, "he personates him, and when I was abroad he so honoured me." The pair have used stationery stamped with the Royal Artillery crest, and appear to have been living mostly in furnished houses taken on short tenancies. Whether they are identical with Mr. Staniland Davis and his wife I have no means of knowing, but the circumstances above mentioned, and the fact of Mrs. Davis having used the name of Forestier Walker, as well as the motto of that family, together with the other circumstances above mentioned, rather point to that conclusion. At any rate, I should think it unlikely, after what has now happened, that Colonel Forestier Walker and his family will be further troubled by this annoyance.

A great deal of stupid, ignorant nonsense has appeared in certain journals on the subject of what they describe as "the King's snub to the Royal Academy." It has always been the rule for a list of the works relating to members of the Royal family to be sent to the Sovereign by the council, with a cross against those which have been rejected by the Hanging Committee, and the commands of the Sovereign thereon are asked for. Works have constantly been included or excluded by command, particularly during the period when Prince Albert was practically the supreme authority. On the present occasion Mr. Dressler's bust of the Queen of Spain had been rejected, and when the usual list of Royal subjects was sent to the King he expressed a wish that it should be exhibited at Burlington House. The attempt to get up a sensation on the subject is idiotic.

AN OLD RHYME ADAPTED FOR A NEW TIME.

"Where are you coming from, down-to-date maid?"
"I'm coming from Burlington House," she said.
"What were you doing there, down-to-date maid?"
"Doing the Academy, sir," she said.
"How did you do it, down-to-date maid?"
"I sized up the womenfolk's frocks," she said.
"What else attracted you, down-to-date maid?"
"Algie and tea and flirtation," she said.
"And what of the pictures, down-to-date maid?"
"Oh, I couldn't be bothered with pictures," she said.

In reference to the question of the Whaplode tithes I have received a lengthy letter from the Vicar of Whaplode, in answer to what was said in last week's Truth on that part of his case which specially relates to the Uppingham School endowment. Owing, however, to pressure of other matters, I regret that I am compelled to hold the letter over till next week.

The Simeon Trustees have presented the Rev. Francis L'Estrange Fawcett, who has been for eleven years Vicar of St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmund's, to the rectory of Cheltenham, which is one of the most important livings in their gift, and of the net value of nearly £600 a year, with house. The vacancy at Cheltenham has been caused by the preferment of Canon Roxby to the rectory of Tiverton, which is said to be now the most valuable benefice in Devonshire, on the presentation of Lord Harrowby.

The following passages in the proceedings of the Lower House of Convocation last week present a curious conflict of ideas:—

1. *Recommendation of Joint Committee on the Moral Witness of the Church.*—That more attention should be given in the public teaching of the Church to the exposition of the duty of the Christian to his neighbour. . . . .

2. *Gravamen presented by the Archdeacon of Oxford with reference to the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, and adopted by the House.*—That . . . nothing contained in the Act (if the Bill should become law) shall relieve the clergy from obedience to the law of the Church now prevailing, or shall subject a clergyman to penalties for *refusing the privileges of Church membership to persons who have contracted these unions.*

Apropos of my paragraph last week, the Rev. J. H. Cartwright of Carlisle writes that he did not object to the Rector of Wetheral giving oranges and Easter eggs to his Sunday school children. His objection was that "by giving the invitation to attend at the rectory for these presents in the Council day school the Rector turned a praiseworthy act into an occasion for emphasising sectarian differences even among little children." It appears that emphasis was placed upon the point that only Church of England children were invited, and as the invitation had already been given to them in the Sunday school, there was, as my correspondent observes, the less need for it to be repeated in the day school. Mr. Cartwright seems to think that I made a charge of lack of charity against him, but that was not intended. In the circumstances, the Rector's conduct was certainly open to censure, and Mr. Cartwright's protest against it fully justified.

It might be worth the consideration of the President of the Local Government Board whether it is desirable that a medical officer of health should receive a capitation fee on admissions to an infectious diseases hospital in his district. Obviously, cases may arise where this arrangement creates a conflict between the interests of the medical officer and those of the public. Here is an example of what I mean. An outbreak of infectious disease, including scarlet fever and diphtheria, occurs in a country school. The managers think that the school should be closed. The medical officer of health thinks not. The school is kept open till the next holidays, by which time eighteen cases of scarlet fever and three of diphtheria have occurred. No one suggests that a medical officer in such a case would not exercise his judgment honestly. But the point is that the judgment of the most honest and scrupulous of mankind may be unconsciously influenced by his private interests or prepossessions. We are all equally liable to this; and if you put a public official in a position where his decision one way or the other may affect him financially, it is only natural to expect that where the pros and cons are pretty evenly balanced the benefit of the doubt will be given rather on the side of the private than the public interest.

The account given in Truth of the 24th ult. of the begging operations of Mrs. Hanham, of Graveney, suffi-

ciently indicated that this lady possesses plenty of assurance. The same thing is shown by a letter which she has written to me, in which she asserts that every statement in the correspondence that I have published is true, and that she has never swindled anybody in her life. As the correspondence spoke for itself clearly enough, and is merely one specimen of a course of conduct extending over many years, it seems unnecessary to discuss the issue which she thus raises. She incidentally denies, however, that her husband's licence has been withdrawn, and as I may have been misinformed on this point, and I have no desire to reflect upon the Vicar of Graveney, I am quite willing to accept her statement on that point. It has no bearing on the question of her own proceedings, and I only mentioned the Vicar's circumstances in order to explain how a lady is able to boast that she is the wife of a beneficed clergyman and at the same time carry on the trade of a begging-letter writer.

In contrast to the Metropolitan and Provincial Association, and other insignificant charities of the same class, a correspondent sends me from Carlisle the report of a fund for giving poor children an outing at the seaside which has been in operation in that city for the last thirteen years. This little fund obtained in subscriptions last year £76 odd. It spent some £67 in taking children to Silloth, and another £2 6s. 6d. in printing and stationery, carrying forward the balance to the current year. No less than 1,656 children had a day by the sea for this expenditure. Compare this result, and the £2 6s. 6d. spent on printing and stationery, with the expenditure of £426 of the Metropolitan and Provincial Association in order to dispense benefits of about the same value, and you see the difference between two classes of public charities—the one class in which the charity is worth practically 100 per cent. of the income, and the other class in which it is worth about fifty per cent.; the remaining fifty per cent. being consumed by officials, collectors, and working expenses.

A REASONABLE INFERENCE.

And so when the collector axes,
The ladies will not pay their taxes,
  Until a vote they gain.
At least, that's what, with angry snarlings,
They threaten, these ferocious darlings,,
  Who've suffrage on the brain.

Yet since—a little bird has told me—
(If wrong, responsible don't hold me)
  A woman's "Nay" means "Yea,"
'Twould seem their strenuous negation
Is but the strongest affirmation
  That they, in fact, *will* pay.

Apropos of the old-age pensions question, my attention has been called to the work done by a very flourishing little organisation called the Silver Trade Pension Society. The society does not profess to be on a self-supporting basis. It receives £400 a year from the Goldsmiths' Company, and a good many annual subscriptions from firms in the trade, as well as occasional legacies; and it has an income of £435 from investments which it has accumulated in the course of some seventy years. But it is now paying to members and their female relatives £1,173 a year in pensions, besides disbursing another £20 in gratuities, and it had a balance of £362 in hand at the end of last year. It is therefore in a very strong financial position. The treasurer and hon. secretary are members of firms in the trade, but the cases are considered and the pensions assigned by a committee of workmen, who look after the general administration of the fund. The secretary receives 30s. a week, and the total managerial expenses come to about £117 per annum.

Now what this society does is to grant to a member, when he becomes eligible for pension, and when his case has been passed, or to the member's widow, an annual pension of from 12s. to 15s. a week, supplemented by an annual sum equivalent to half the amount of his total contributions to the fund. For example, a man may have subscribed one guinea a year for ten years—the majority of members, I understand, subscribe at least as much as this. He will receive in due course a pension of at least 12s. per week, *plus* £5 5s. a year. If he had subscribed for twenty years he would receive £10 10s. a year in addition to his weekly allowance, and so on. A man may become eligible at fifty-five, but his claim will be considered on its merits; and, of course, in a trade where men earn good wages there is no inducement to a man to give up work before he is compelled when he can invest small savings with such enormous future advantage to himself.

It will be seen at a glance that there is no pretence here that the assessment of pensions is on any actuarial basis. The scale adopted has only been arrived at by experience of what the fund will stand, and the accounts show that it works quite satisfactorily on this basis from a financial point of view. The society is really a benevolent one; but the point that deserves notice is that with a certain amount of benevolent assistance, coupled with prudent management, it should be possible to secure to workmen and their widows such a handsome provision for old age. The contention of the gentleman who called my attention to the fund is that there is no reason why the same thing should not be done in any trade. As regards that, it must be remembered that the Goldsmiths' Company's annual subscription of £400 a year is an essential item in the solvency of the fund, and that few trades can obtain benevolent assistance of such magnitude from one single source. But the position of this society certainly shows that a great deal may be done by well-directed voluntary effort, and it is a useful example of what the State, with its larger resources, might effect towards encouraging thrift.

May I commend to the notice of my neighbours in Westminster the appeal for funds which is being made on behalf of the Westminster Ladies' Association for the Care of Friendless Girls? Every one acquainted with Westminster must be aware of the need there is for this association, which is carried on in connection with the London Diocesan Council for Preventive and Rescue Work. The Dean of Westminster is the president, and the hon. treasurer is Sir J. W. Buchanan Riddell, Bart., St. Paul's Chapter House, E.C.

A gallant officer who is a member of the National Service League asks my permission to "say a few words" in answer to recent observations in Truth on the propaganda of the League. Although the few words would fill the best part of a column, I would make an effort to oblige if any of them answered the arguments I have used, but they really make no attempt to. They merely state over again the case for compulsory service, which everybody knows, and which many of us consider is not made out. Here are a few extracts which will sufficiently show this:—

It is only after bitter experience, especially brought to light by the late South African War, that Lord Roberts, and all thinking soldiers who have deeply and earnestly considered the matter, have been forced to the conclusion that we can no longer depend upon the voluntary system for the men we require in a national emergency. . . . .

If men in sufficient numbers would come forward of their own accord to undergo a certain amount of military training, not longer than in the Swiss Army, no one would want compulsion. But they do not come forward. . . . .

Of course, no one proposes compulsory service for our Regular Army, which has to serve abroad and garrison our over-sea possessions. But Mr. Haldane is trying to fill the ranks of the other branch, the Auxiliary or Territorial Army, by volunteers. Well, we shall see whether or not it is to be done. . . . .

The great need in addition to being able to shoot and knowing enough drill to be moved about in companies and battalions without confusion, is expressed in that magic word, "discipline," without which an army is no more than a crowd; and the habit of discipline is only to be acquired by men acting together in large numbers under authority for some considerable time. It will be found very difficult—most likely impossible—to get young men in sufficient numbers to subject themselves to the necessary discipline to make them of any use without some measure of compulsory service. . . . . .

The arguments which I used in my recent article on the National Service League manifesto were these: (1) That to give to every man in the country a period of training on the Swiss model, and to maintain an organisation under which they will form an efficient army during the period of their liability for service, will cost at least 25 millions a year; (2) that if this expenditure is to be incurred on a home defence army it will inevitably involve a corresponding reduction of expenditure on the Navy and the Regular Army; (3) that all experience tells us that though compulsory training might be enacted by Parliament, the really efficient army would never be created. The conclusion is, that in the attempt to create two lines of defence—a thing no country has ever yet attempted—we should simply destroy the one which has always served its purpose, and, getting nothing equally efficient in its place, end by falling between two stools.

It will be seen in a moment, from the quotations given above, that the spokesman of the National Service League makes no attempt to answer these arguments. And what he does say is disputable at every point. The Boer war certainly showed that if we require a trained and organised army of two or three hundred thousand men at a moment's notice for service in some country abroad outside India, we do not possess it; but we did not need the Boer war to tell us that; and the "national emergency" under which such an army would be required can only be an emergency of our own creation. Moreover, the proposals of the National Service League do not promise to provide such an army. It is not true that "all thinking soldiers who have deeply and earnestly considered the matter" agree with Lord Roberts and his league; and we have been told the precise opposite by Mr. Balfour and by Mr. Haldane in the name of the Committee of Defence and the Army Council. There is ample military authority for holding that every contingency which we have any justification for anticipating will be sufficiently prepared for if we can mobilise an efficient army of 150,000 for foreign service, and possess visible means of reinforcing it for six months ahead; and if we possess behind our Navy a fairly well-trained domestic army of the numerical strength of the existing auxiliary forces.

On that view of the matter the only practical question remaining for solution is whether a number of men equivalent to that of the old auxiliary forces can be enlisted under the stricter terms of service which Mr. Haldane's Bill contemplates. The National Service enthusiasts may assert that voluntary enlistment will not stand the strain, but no prophecy of this kind is of any value. As my correspondent says, "We shall see." But if we see 250,000 men enrolled in a home-service army, fairly well trained, and properly officered and equipped, we shall see all we need to see. And I, for one, should be uncommonly sorry to see more, for anything beyond the minimum necessary for safety will involve danger to the maintenance of our naval supremacy, and an addition to burdens which are already too heavy for the nation to bear comfortably in time of peace.

In consequence of discharges of men over twenty-one years' service, there has lately been an acceleration of promotion in certain artillery units. The question has thus been raised whether a man who has been for several years recommended for promotion ought not to have the preference over men only now put forward, although they may be senior to him. For example, I happen to know of a battery, R.H.A., in which a sergeant was recommended for promotion to staff rank six years ago, and has done the work of a staff-sergeant off and on during that time. Senior men are now being recommended, and are apparently likely to be promoted before him. As a matter of principle, this seems altogether wrong. For a long time past it has been a grievance that recommendation for promotion has led to no practical result, and when an opportunity arises of redressing the grievance, surely the men who have been suffering under it should be attended to first.

A few weeks back I published a letter from a correspondent in South Africa, who complained that N.C.O.s in certain corps serving abroad have lost the opportunity of re-engaging as required by the terms of the proficiency pay order, owing to the necessity of sending their re-engagements home for ratification. I had a difficulty at that time in believing that arrangements had not been made to get over this difficulty, but I now learn from South Africa that the result complained of has come to pass in several instances with the grossest injustice to the men concerned. There are at least three cases of men in the Army Service Corps who have lost their service pay for this reason, without getting any equivalent; and it is possible that many other men have suffered in the same way either in South Africa or other stations abroad. This is really a matter which ought to receive attention at the War Office.

To show exactly the sort of thing that has happened, here is one specific case of which I have particulars. Early in August a staff-sergeant re-engaged to complete twenty-one years, signing the usual form, and passing the medical examination. Had the man been serving in England his re-engagement would, in the ordinary course of things, have been approved in the course of a week. This would have been more than a month before the issue of the proficiency pay order, and two months before anything on the subject was known in South Africa. But owing to the necessity of transmitting the re-engagement form to the Record Office in England, the man's re-engagement was not notified in the regimental orders until October 4, and as it only took effect from that date, the man forfeits his service pay of 7d. a day for the rest of his time. Obviously, his re-engagement has been obtained under false pretences. When this difficulty was first referred to in Truth at the end of last year, I was informed on good authority that arrangements had been made by which it would be obviated; but the fact remains that the man just referred to has made representations on the subject through his commanding officer, and the official reply is to the effect that previous decisions on this subject must stand. Whatever may have been intended, therefore, at Headquarters, effect has certainly not been given to it locally, and the whole result is altogether scandalous.

Apropos of a question asked in Truth a few weeks ago as to the propriety of relieving a sergeant of all military duty in order that he may be employed as a canteen waiter, an Indian correspondent writes to point out that it is the regular practice in India to allow Army men of all ranks to accept paid employment which takes them away from military duty. The instances he gives relate to employment outside the Army, which is a somewhat different matter; and none of them seems to be incompatible with military duty, which was the ground of objection to the sergeant's employment as canteen waiter. One of the cases mentioned is that of an officer who is allowed to manage a club, where he receives board and lodging; but it does not appear that he is at the same time relieved of military duty. Another example is that of men holding appointments as clerks at race meetings; but this again only means withdrawal from military duty for a few days per annum.

The same remark applies to the case of officers and men employed to manage the totalisators at race meetings. There is a valid objection to this practice, but it arises from the fact that such employment has occasionally involved disastrous results to the employed. Whether military men should or should not be allowed to earn pay or perquisites from civilian jobs, which are not inconsistent with the due performance of their military duties, is a question for the Government, and must be determined very much by local conditions. Local conditions in India are not the same as in England, and this no doubt explains why Army men are allowed to do things there which would cause a violent outcry here.

Ask—and you will find that in business offices where the use of the best ink is essential, Stephens' Ink is used. You should use it at home—it costs no more. Absolutely refuse substitutes.

The document printed below speaks for itself. The bandsman referred to in it is a native soldier studying at Kneller Hall, who was proposing to purchase a watch from Masters, Ltd., on the instalment system. Although the document is typewritten, the fact of its being sent for the signature of the pay-sergeant and the customer indicates that the proposed course of business is an ordinary one, and the matter deserves attention at Headquarters. There ought to be definite regulations forbidding pay-sergeants to co-operate with firms of the Masters type in getting soldiers into debt, and the War Office would do well to ascertain how far N.C.O.s are at present acting as debt collectors for such people, and what they get for it:—

J. N. Masters, Ltd.,
Hope Stores, Rye, Eng.

I, ... Pay-Sergeant, Kneller Hall, Hounslow, undertake to deduct and forward the sum of 5s. monthly, with the consent of Bandsman ———, 1st West African Regiment, until the amount of 30s. is paid.

(Signed) .....

I consent to the sum of 5s. being deducted and forwarded monthly as above.

(Signed) .....

In connection with the recent granting of pensions to temporary civil assistants of the Ordnance Survey, a late employee belonging to this class calls attention to his hard case. Owing to the reduction of the staff he was discharged last year after thirty-three years' service as a so-called "temporary" civil assistant. If he had been kept on till the end of November he would have been entitled, under the new scheme, to a pension. As it was his discharge took place on August 31, with the result that instead of a pension for life he received only a trumpery gratuity of £66. This is undoubtedly a very hard case indeed, but, unfortunately, hard cases are almost certain to occur wherever any scheme affecting pay or pensions in the public service comes into operation, and I am afraid that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Treasury to know where to draw the line if they once began to make exceptions to the rules that must be laid down.

A remarkable plea of impecuniosity—remarkable, at least, in the case of a Government Department—has been put forward by the Local Government Board in connection with some recent litigation concerning the making of some new streets at Portsmouth. The owners of a building estate there considered that the requirements of the municipal authority as to the new street levels were unreasonable, and held that the Portsmouth Corporation Act of 1883 gave him a right of appeal to the Local Government Board. That body denied that it had any jurisdiction, and opposed the application which the property owner made to a Divisional Court for a mandamus. The Divisional Court decided that the Board was not bound to hear the appeal. The property owner then carried the matter to the Court of Appeal, which reversed the previous decision, and made an order upon the Board to hear and determine the appeal in question, costs being awarded to the appellant.

In this situation the Local Government Board, it is reported, has now called upon the Portsmouth Corporation to pay its legal expenses, on the ground that it has no funds for the purpose! The Corporation is

hardly likely to pay the Board's law costs. Why indeed should it be expected to do so? Unless, therefore, the Board finds the money—I dare say that can be managed somehow—we may see an execution levied in Whitehall, or possibly the committal to prison of Mr. John Burns for the debts of his hard-up Department.

Extraordinary scenes took place at Exeter last week on a sale of goods seized in execution for income-tax at the house of Mr. Harry Hems, the head of a well-known and old-established firm in Exeter, and one of the most highly respected citizens of the place. From a statement of the facts furnished to me by Mr. Hems himself, it seems that he refused payment, and submitted to the incalculable annoyance and indignity of a seizure and sale of his effects, on public grounds and as a protest against an arbitrary assessment by the local surveyor. He had had his return for income-tax prepared by a well-known accountant of Exeter, himself a Justice of the Peace, paying a fee of ten guineas for this purpose. The surveyor, as these gentry occasionally do, refused to accept the return, and made what he conceived to be a higher assessment, on which the tax was demanded, which Mr. Hems refused to pay.

Mr. Hems does not state why he did not appeal against the official assessment, as I presume he had the right to do. But if he objected to the procedure of going before the local Commissioners of Taxes, especially when forced upon him by the arbitrary action of the surveyor, he would only be on common ground with many thousands of aggrieved income-tax payers engaged in business. It is to be hoped that the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be directed to the protest which he has made, and to the public scandal created when a citizen who has discharged all his obligations faithfully all his life, and is highly respected by his neighbours, feels himself impelled, at an advanced age and while ill in bed, to defy the Inland Revenue authorities and suffer the fate of a "passive resister." If the income-tax in its new shape is to be a permanent feature of our fiscal machinery, Mr. Asquith ought to seriously undertake the improvement of the present system of assessment.

In the case of men in trade more particularly, the present system of appeal to commissioners is more distasteful than submission to an arbitrary and excessive official assessment. Instances of this have been given in these columns again and again. Such a state of things is a public danger, for it places every tradesman at the mercy of the surveyor of taxes. I believe the majority of those officials to be thoroughly fair and considerate, and I have never had any difficulty with any of them myself. But there are bound to be exceptions. Cases naturally arise here and there where a pushful and enterprising surveyor, with an eye to his own advancement, proceeds to put the screw on all round, in order to increase his returns. Against such a man there is at present no protection worth the name, and the only way of providing it, if the power of rejecting the taxpayer's return and making an official assessment is to be retained, is to give a right of appeal to some authority unconnected with the Revenue service, and a right which can be used without reluctance, and without the necessity of the appellant disclosing all his business affairs to neighbours, and possibly to creditors or trade competitors.

A disgraceful story of the treatment of a dying old woman of eighty was related at an inquest at Poplar last week. The parish doctor ordered her removal to the Poor Law infirmary. Both the driver and the attendant of the ambulance which fetched her were drunk, and when carrying her from the house they dropped the poor old creature on the pavement, while when they arrived at the infirmary they could not open the ambulance door for twenty minutes because they had mislaid the key. It was stated by the Clerk to the Guardians that the salaries of both men had been reduced and that they had promised to sign the pledge; but this seems to be a very inadequate method of dealing with such gross misconduct. Such men clearly ought not to be left in charge of an ambulance.

Recently a correspondent drew the attention of the Postmaster-General to the extremely objectionable character of a circular which he had received through the post in an open cover from a man named John Mellinger, of Palmer's-road, New Southgate. The secretary to the Post Office replied:—

> I am directed to inform you that Mellinger was prosecuted by the Postmaster-General in January, 1906, for sending similar circulars by post in open covers, but at the subsequent Middlesex Quarter Sessions the [Grand] Jury threw out the Bill.
>
> The Postmaster-General regrets the annoyance occasioned to you, but in the circumstances he fears that no further action can be taken in the matter.

The Post Office has so often been criticised—I have been one of the critics myself—on account of its seeming indifference to the mis-use of the postal service by such pests as Mellinger, that it is only fair that the fullest credit should be given to the Department for its action in this case. The sufferers from the annoyance will know now that the parties to blame are not the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand, but the Middlesex Grand Jury, who thus stamped with their approval the employment of the post for the distribution of literary garbage. This Grand Jury must have been a nasty-minded lot. I can scarcely believe that a second jury would be found ready to endorse their decision, and if there is no legal obstacle in the way, I trust that the Postmaster-General will institute a further prosecution.

Apropos of a bankruptcy case noticed the other day, a correspondent calls my attention to some figures which he has taken out of the official report of the Inspector-General in Bankruptcy, showing the different results obtained in the administration of bankrupt estates by private trustees and by official receivers. The figures are worked out in the report for eighteen classes of cases, graduated according to the value of the gross assets. I give below a few instances in which the contrast between the cost of administration by private trustees and official receivers is most striking. The first column gives the amount of the gross assets, the

Lady Henry Somerset writes on Nervousness, and How to Overcome it, on page 1184.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

second the percentage of costs to assets in cases administered by trustees, and the third the same percentage in the case of official receivers: —

Assets.	Costs (Trustees).	Costs (Official Receivers).
£50— 100 ...	90.13 ...	42.39
£200— 250 ...	52.79 ...	28.47
£400— 500 ...	37.47 ...	21.89
£900—1,000 ...	33.09 ...	20.85
£2,000—3,000 ...	24.46 ...	15.31

The mean average percentage of costs in all cases is: for trustees, 41.18; for official receivers, 22.12.

It will be seen that these figures bear out what I have always contended—namely, that an official system of administration can be made very much cheaper than administration by a trustee. At the same time, I am quite certain that the official administration might be very materially cheapened. There is, of course, an inevitable minimum of expenditure which cannot be reduced. I should be sorry to have to administer an estate worth £100 for an expenditure of less than £30 or £40; but as the value of the assets rises beyond that point, a very small percentage on the first irreducible minimum of expenditure ought to cover all costs, unless in cases involving litigation or other exceptional difficulties. Where it is a case of a tradesman with an estate worth a few hundred pounds, and nothing to do but sell his stock, get in his book debts, and distribute the proceeds, I would undertake to do the whole job, taking one case with another, for a commission of 20 per cent. on the assets realised, and to get a comfortable profit for myself out of it. Nor do I think it would be difficult to devise an official system under which the same result could be arrived at.

Pending any reform in that direction, it is well worth the while of creditors generally to look at the evidence given above as to the comparative cost of administration by trustees and official receivers, for it rests with them to decide which procedure is to be adopted. The gentleman who sends me the above figures reckons, after applying the above percentage to the whole quantity of assets administered during the year to which the report relates, that creditors lost in the aggregate nearly a quarter of a million of money by employing private trustees in place of official receivers. That is a fact worth bearing in mind when complaint is made of the wastefulness of the present system. The appointment of a trustee is frequently due to wire-pulling, mostly by solicitors concerned in the case; but it is really the fault of creditors if such manœuvres are successful. My correspondent seems to suggest that some amendment of the law is necessary in the way of "removing the restrictions which in large cases usually fetter the creditors in the choice of a trustee." I do not quite appreciate the point of this suggestion; but I have no doubt he is right in the further observation he makes that creditors are much to blame for not attending meetings and looking after their interests personally, instead of leaving matters to be settled by special proxies, which in nineteen case out of twenty have been "solicited."

It is only fair to add, however, that there are trustees and trustees. I feel bound to add this in view of a circular that has reached me, having been issued last week by Messrs. Oscar Berry and Co., of Monument-square, E.C., to the creditors of an estate which they have been administering. The creditors have already received dividends of 17s. 6d. in the pound, and in paying a final dividend, making up the full 20s., Mr. Oscar Berry calls attention to the valuable assistance he has received from the debtor during the three years that it has taken to accomplish this result, and suggests that the creditors should show their appreciation by making a rebate on the amount of their debts. Let us hope they will. If they look at the above evidence of the too common results obtained by creditors, they will feel grateful to the "inspector"—this is not a case of trusteeship in bankruptcy—as well as the debtor.

In the newspaper reports of a case heard in the Wandsworth County Court last week the defendant, Frank Burton, is described—and seemingly he so described himself in the witness box—as a "licensed moneylender and auctioneer," of 1, Greyhound-lane, Streatham. This is a mis-description which it may be as well to correct. Moneylenders are not licensed but registered, which is not by any means the same thing. If Burton were licensed it would obviously be the duty of the authorities at Somerset House to withdraw his licence, in view of the revelations of his methods of business which were given in this case. He was mulcted in £20 damages for an illegal seizure of furniture under a bill of sale, which was void by reason of the fact that the consideration, though stated as £30, was really only £20, the borrower having had to hand back £10 the moment the document was signed. This trick for getting round the Bills of Sale Act—which requires that the actual consideration shall not be less than £30—is not at all uncommon, and it cannot be too widely known that it renders the document absolutely invalid.

A rather foolish liberality was displayed by the victim of the usurer trading as "J. Harmsworth" in a case heard by Mr. Justice Channell on Saturday. "J. Harmsworth" is the alias of one Lewis Levene, who has been frequently criticised in these columns on account of his systematic attempts to enmesh railway stationmasters, to whom he addresses a special circular. In the present case the borrower was a licensed victualler at Newbury, who on a loan of £50 was charged exorbitant interest, and treated in a most harsh and oppressive manner. Levene sued for a balance of £43 remaining due to him, and defendant asked that the transaction should be re-opened under the Moneylenders Act. Mr. Justice Channell agreed that it should be re-opened, and on behalf of the defendant it was suggested that the plaintiff should be allowed a sum of £35. His lordship pointed out that "even that figure made the rate of interest nearly 100 per cent.," but as it was offered by the defendant, judgment was accordingly given for the plaintiff, though without costs. The borrower would have been much better advised to leave the rate of interest to be settled by the Judge, who would probably have awarded a good deal less than this.

In another moneylending case before Judge Edge at Clerkenwell County Court last week, Arthur George

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Whiteman, alias "Cox and Co.," had charged interest at the rate of 60 per cent. per annum on a small loan amply secured by a bill of sale. His Honour taught this notorious bloodsucker a lesson by cutting down the interest to 10 per cent. I observe that under cross examination Whiteman denied that he had traded in the name of Seymour, saying that he only did so as "Cox and Co." This is a sort of half-truth, the fact being that he is registered in partnership with his brother, Wm. Herbert Whiteman, as "Seymour and Whiteman."

On one day last week three cases were heard in the Liverpool Police-court in which the offences were, directly or indirectly, attributable to the pernicious influence of female moneylenders. In the first a woman, charged with drunkenness, attributed her offence to recklessness at being dunned to pay 10s. a month interest on a loan of £1. In the second a woman was charged with attempted suicide in despair at being unable to pay 8s. 4d. interest weekly on a loan of £5. The third case differed from the others, inasmuch as the borrower appeared in the witness-box to charge the moneylender with assault. In each of these cases the moneylender was a woman. I do not know whether Liverpool is especially infested with harpies of this type, but the foregoing is certainly an astonishing record. The probability is that not one of them is registered, and as the Liverpool police have already shown a keen desire to enforce the Moneylenders Act in these cases, I trust they will give their attention to the parties concerned. As to the rate of interest charged, it is enough to make the mouths of the Samuels and the Levenes and the rest of the registered fraternity absolutely drip with desire.

The prejudice of the County Bench at Lancaster against motorists has frequently been manifested in the infliction of heavy penalties for trumpery offences. Their worships have now taken an opportunity of showing the same prejudice in a case in which two cattle drovers deliberately obstructed the highway to prevent a motor-cyclist from passing. The men were summoned on the information of a policeman, who said that their herd of cattle occupied the whole of the road, and that they refused to make a way for the motorist to pass, one of them, when he was asked by the officer to do so, replying, with an oath, "No fear!" The policeman himself had to get the cattle to the side of the road.

The defendants had aggravated their offence by giving the officer false names and addreses, with the result that he was engaged for two days in tracing them. This alone, in the case of a motorist, would have been deemed an ample reason for coming down upon the offender with the utmost rigour of the law, and I dare say that it would, too, have weighed against the drovers if they had impeded the progress of a magistrate's carriage and pair. As, however, it was a motor-cyclist whom they had obstructed, the Bench let them off with fines of five shillings each, which were immediately paid by a J.P. named Barton. Apparently it was only for the sake of appearances that any fines at all were imposed, Mr. Barton and his colleagues obviously regarding the conduct of these two road hogs with a good deal of sympathy.

At the Central Criminal Court last week, Lionel Jacobsen pleaded guilty to one count of an indictment charging him with a series of robberies perpetrated in the character of a public-house broker, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Some of my readers may remember the name of the prisoner, which has been mentioned in these columns several times during the last twelve years. I find that I first showed him up in October, 1895. At that period he was by way of carrying on business in Marylebone under the name of Jackson as a house agent, or an agent for the sale of businesses. He swindled clients right and left by sticking to the deposits or purchase-money which he received. When sued, he evaded service by the plea of illness or other excuses. When a creditor succeeded in recovering judgment, it was only to find that there was nothing to levy upon, the debtor's establishment being his wife's, or covered by bill of sale, or what not. His name was as well known in the Marylebone County Court as that of the Judge or the Registrar, but for reasons which I never thought sufficient the Judge refused to make a committal order against him.

Since 1895 I have repeatedly heard of Jacobsen in connection with transactions of the class above described, and as a swindler of tradesmen, a dodger of landlords, and a chronic undischarged bankrupt. At his trial last week four cases of larceny were alleged against him, the sums misappropriated ranging from £20 to £80. In these circumstances the trivial sentence imposed upon him really seems deplorable. The Judge, of course, did not know as much about the man as I do; and Jacobsen, under clever legal advice, pleaded guilty to one count, thereby preventing the rest being gone into, and set up by his counsel an ingenious explanation of this transaction, accompanied by a strong certificate from the prison doctor as to the sad state of his health. But a Scotland Yard officer gave the Judge an account of the prisoner's record, which should have shown his lordship the class of man he had to deal with, and if the man's health has not prevented him living by his wits for twelve years, it ought not to relieve him from a term of penal servitude. It was only owing to the fact that in his latest transactions he has put himself at the mercy of a powerful trade protection society that he was brought to justice. As long as he was robbing single individuals he was sure of impunity, and it may be added that a great many of his victims have been women, and frequently poor women. Such a scoundrel, when he is brought to justice, certainly deserves no mercy.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

The presence of the most notable case included in my Legal Pillory this week can, I imagine, only be due to some temporary aberration on the part of the learned Stipendiary who dispenses justice at the Pontypridd Police-court. Speaking generally, the magistracy, even the unpaid, are to-day almost unanimously of opinion that cases of gross cruelty to children cannot adequately be punished by a mere pecuniary penalty, and it is therefore a little startling to find a stipendiary magistrate letting off a well-to-do woman who unmercifully beats her three-year-old step-daughter with a paltry fine. A curious example of the leniency which the county magistracy too often show in cases of cruelty to animals is disclosed in the proceedings before the Watton Bench chronicled below. According to these Solons, the hardened ruffian who ventures to play a game of cards on a Sunday afternoon is a greater offender than the man who ties a pig up in a sack, throws it into a ditch, and leaves it to starve.

Pollokshaws Police-court. Before Provost Macdougall. Thomas Bannan, charged with assaulting his wife with a poker. Fined £2.

Wrexham Police-court. George Davis, charged with assaulting Alfred Chatham in a railway train by striking him several blows and knocking him senseless. The attack was unprovoked. Fined £2 and costs.

Watton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Hemsworth, Alexander, Frost, Capt. Randolph, Hon. C. B. Hanbury and Buscall. H. Page, charged with cruelty to a pig. He put it into a ditch tied up in a sack and left it for three days. Fined 10s. and 13s. costs.

Boston Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Thompson, Beaulah and Porter. H. Smith, charged with a savage and unprovoked assault on a man whom he struck with some sharp instrument, cutting his temple open. Fined 20s. and costs.

Doncaster Police-court. H. J. Williams, pig-dealer, charged with cruelty to pigs. He sent eight pigs from Essex to Dodworth in a crate 45in. long, 26in. wide, and 16in. deep, and the pigs were 24in. long and from 9in. to 10in. broad. Fined 20s. and costs.

Skipton Police-court. S. Murray and J. Ireland, charged with assaults on police constables, who were knocked down and kicked. Owing to the increase in assaults on the police, the Bench was asked to deal more severely with the offenders. Murray fined 10s. and costs, Ireland 25s. and costs.

Cardiff Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Cory and T. H. Stephens. D. Murray, charged with assaulting the landlady of a public-house and a police constable, who afterwards arrested him. He struck the woman because she refused to serve him, and afterwards stripped to the waist and struck and kicked the constable. Fined 20s. and costs.

Kilmarnock Police-court. W. G. Christie, charged with driving a motor car at a speed beyond ten miles an hour at Seamill. The speed was 18 miles an hour. Fined £7.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Smallwood and Harris. A strong looking man, charged with refusing to perform his allotted task at the workhouse. One month's hard labour.

Watton Petty Sessions. Before the same bench. Nine working men, charged with gaming at cards on the highway on Sunday, April 14. Five of the defendants fined £1 10s. 6d. each, and the others, who did not appear, £2 0s. 6d. inclusive.

Reepham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Gay, Innes Watson, W. R. Collyer, W. E. Norris, and J. E. Cremer. Robert Fuller, charged with stealing a shirt, value 2s. 6d. One month's hard labour.

Welshpool Police-court. David Evans, charged with night-poaching. He was one of a party of three men who fired five shots and bagged five pheasants. Four months, and in default of finding a surety of £20 five months' hard labour. Also 14 days' for having no gun licence.

Mansfield Borough Police-court. Before Col. L. Coke, and Messrs. Taylor, Bonser, Coupe and Dr. Palmer. Three boys, charged with damaging a wall belonging to the Duke of Bedford. They threw some stones from it into water to make rings. The eldest fined 20s. and costs, the second, 10s. and costs, and the youngest discharged.

Haywards Heath Petty Sessions. Thomas Harris, charged with smashing six panes of glass in a cell window at the Cuckfield Workhouse. Six weeks' hard labour.

Scunthorpe Police-court. Before Messrs. Fletcher, Foster and Cliff. H. Jackson, charged with game trespass on October 25. Fined £2 and costs.

Ilkeston Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Sudbury, Tatham and Maltby. Robert Booth, charged with cruelty to a calf and stirk by starving them. They were simply skin and bone, and the chairman, after viewing the animals, declared it to be a case of great cruelty. Fined £3 and costs.

Pontypridd Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Mrs. Roberts, a smartly dressed young woman, charged with cruelty to her stepdaughter, aged 3½. The child was unmercifully beaten. There were eight bruises on the face in addition to a black eye, and the body was one mass of bruises, which were impossible to count. Fined £3.

Cromer Police-court. Before Messrs. E. Denham Spurrell and F. H. Barclay. H. Dickerson, an aged inmate of Beckham Workhouse, charged with refusing to clean the knives. Fourteen days' hard labour.

East Grinstead Police-court. William Smith, charged with sleeping out. Three months' hard labour.

Neath Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. Phillips, Teague and Jones. Thomas Llewellyn, charged with obtaining goods by false pretences. He obtained some articles of clothing by representing they were for his father. A strong appeal was made to give him another chance. Six weeks' hard labour.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

For the past two or three months the Spanish Prisoner has been rather quiet—indeed, any one less familiar than I am with the rascal's habits might have jumped to the conclusion that he was giving up business. I knew better. He was merely taking a little holiday—perhaps he went to Monte Carlo to dissipate some of his ill-gotten gains—and now he has returned to his labours like a giant refreshed. Every day copies of his harrowing letters from Madrid and Barcelona are reaching me with suggestions that it may be useful to publish another warning against this venerable swindle. Hence this paragraph, though I know very well that, in spite of all the warnings that can be published, the Prisoner will always find greedy and gullible fools to prey upon.

An officer writes to relate how a small boy in whom he is interested has been taken in by the Dereham Road Cycle Co., of Norwich. This swindle has been several times referred to in TRUTH. The firm issues to the prospective customer a circular, distinctly implying that its machines are supplied on credit, to be paid for by monthly instalments. It is headed conspicuously, "Yours to ride and enjoy from 5s. monthly. Pay while riding." On the circular is a form for the order and remittance of first instalment. When the dupe has filled up this order and sent his money, he receives an acknowledgment in another printed circular, in which he is informed, "as stated on circular which we sent at your request, the cycle is sent on the last payment." So far as I can see, nothing of the sort is said in the first circular, and every means is used to convey the exact opposite. In addition to the words quoted above, the original circular invites the customer to "note reduced credit prices," and this is obviously intended to deceive, since the person who is to give the credit is not the company, but the purchaser, who is to pay his money month by month for a year or more until he gets his machine. I am very glad to do my best to show up swindles of this kind, but those who complain of them would do far better to address themselves to the papers which publish the advertisements of such firms.

A touting Irish moneylender, rejoicing in the name of R. Cantwell, seems to have persuaded himself that he may find likely victims among English solicitors holding appointments as Clerks to Petty Sessions, Clerks to District Councils, and so forth. I have a considerable pile of circulars, which he has lately addressed to such officials, dated from 6, Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin,

and transmitted in unsealed envelopes with halfpenny stamps, though endorsed "personal." For the credit of the profession it is to be hoped that this Dublin bloodsucker is mistaken in supposing that men of that class will be so imprudent as to fall into his toils.

Mr. William Taverner, of old-age pensions notoriety, has migrated from Greenhithe to Congleton, where he appears to have taken a substantial freehold edifice called West House, which is to serve as headquarters of his National Old-Age Pension Trust. I have received one or two communications on the subject from different quarters, but I can only refer those who are interested in Taverner's doings to what has already been said about him and his Trust in the columns of Truth since 1904, when he commenced operations. The story is too long to go into again, and if, in spite of all that stands on record against Taverner, including the observations of Mr. Justice Kekewich in dismissing his last appeal in the litigation with the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society, silly people persist in subscribing money to this "Trust," they will deserve to pay the penalty of their own folly and carelessness.

A good example of the reckless language with which Taverner imposes upon people is to be found in a letter that he wrote the other day to the *Congleton Chronicle*. In this he explains that an "auxiliary scheme" has been suggested by which needy women may be enabled to rent rooms at 1s. or 1s. 3d. per week, and that West House, Congleton, has been selected as a "cosy spot" for a start, "though it was hoped to have similar settlements in other parts of the country, maintaining West House as the headquarters." In other words, as if the pension scheme were not sufficiently handicapped by its own inherent financial rottenness, he proposes to invest funds in purchasing freehold houses for the purpose of providing lodgings for women on a charitable basis. Having explained this, he proceeds to say:—

> Sir, there goes out from West House several million pounds annually in the form of pensions to the utmost corners of the Kingdom, and needy women and maiden ladies are made comfortable here in their declining years.

Observe the use of the present tense. He treats his visionary scheme, which anybody with the slightest knowledge of such matters can see at a glance has not the slightest hope of living for a dozen years, as though it were already an accomplished fact. The most charitable view to take of him is that he is really not responsible for his own utterances. Unfortunately, that does not make him less dangerous, as the subscribers to his scheme will find out to their cost in due course.

A CHOICE OF EVILS.

(By a Wimbledon Liberal.)

Although I'm vowed to Free-Trade laws,
And hate Protection's rot,
I shall, next week, make common cause
With Chaplin's little lot;

Because, while barring him who'd set
A ring round Britain's riches,
Still more I bar his foe, who'd let
The women wear the breeches.

It is an ingenious move of Lord Courtney and the advocates of proportional representation to put their scheme in the form of a permissive Bill for the use of municipal corporations. No one can seriously object to such a Bill being passed, and if it became law, and any municipalities chose to adopt it for the purpose of local elections, it would bring proportional representation to the test of practical working, with the certainty that if the experiment were successful this method of election would soon take its place all round in our political institutions. I do not myself see how any one, whatever his political views, can object to Lord Courtney's scheme on principle, for it ensures that candidates will be returned at the poll in exact accorddance with the preference expressed by the electors collectively, and protects equally the rights of majorities and minorities.

There has hitherto been an idea that this is impracticable, but the scheme of the Proportional Representation Society makes voting a perfectly simple matter from the point of view of the elector, and whatever difficulty there may be in working out the arithmetical results falls solely upon the returning officer and his staff. The experimental poll which the Proportional Representation Society recently carried out is said to have shown that these difficulties are not very great, and that a longer list of candidates than would ever be presented in actual practice can be dealt with in a very few hours.

Where this scheme will probably incur most hostility is among the existing party representatives and organisations. There is a prevalent idea that proportional representation would make away with our present party system altogether. This I doubt, for the existing party divisions have struck their roots down very deeply into national life. But undoubtedly proportional representation will introduce novel complications into electioneering, and serious difficulties into the organisation of parties in the constituencies. It is also likely to make an end of very big party majorities, such as have been the rule in Parliament of late years, and to check to some extent the excessive swing of the pendulum at general elections. This would not be an evil. Much the same result would follow from the payment of election expenses from public funds, coupled as it must be with the second ballot. Lord Courtney's scheme has the great advantage over the second ballot that the issue as between all candidates is decided once for all at a single poll.

What we have witnessed during the past week in connection with the Preferential Trade proposals of the Colonial Premiers ought at least to bring home to every one with the welfare of the Empire at heart, the vast possibilities of mischief involved in the scheme. It was a foregone conclusion that the Home Government would resist the motion, and in doing so it was bound to state its reasons. It would have been false to the first principles for which it fought at the last general election had it taken any other course. In stating its reasons the Home Government was no less bound to contend that the colonial proposal, whatever advantages it may promise to the Colonies themselves, offers material disadvantages to the Mother Country. Mr. Asquith stated the case from our point of view as considerately and politely as was possible without abandoning his case. But however sweetened by mildness of language or geniality of sentiment, the unpleasant fact remains that Australia and Canada ask us to do something, and that we refuse; that they profess to be actuated solely by disinterested

regard for the solidarity of the Empire, and that we have to point out in reply that they stand to gain by their generosity, and we stand to lose.

Outside the Conference the debate thus started is continued without ceremony or any restraint of politeness. The Opposition press seizes the occasion to hold up the Government to scorn as snubbing the Colonies and disregarding the interests of the Empire. The supporters of the Government develop the case against the Colonies, and point out the delusive character of the tariff reductions they have already offered, and the further advantages they would gain at our expense if their proposals were accepted. The attempt to make party capital out of the business on one side is necessarily met on the other by representing the Colonies as interfering in our domestic affairs, and seeking to do a good stroke of business for themselves under cover of promoting Imperial unity. When this state of discord is created by the mere discussion of the abstract principle in the Conference, one can get some idea of the bitterness of the questions that would arise if it ever came to settling a preferential tariff between the Colonies and the Mother Country.

In a forcible letter to the *Times* the other day, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P.—who looks at the matter from the Labour point of view, and by the light of a recent tour in Australia—went through all the preferential items of the Australian tariff, pointing out in detail their individual insignificance and their collective futility. He may be right or wrong, but imagine a complete series of tariffs drawn up for the Home Country and each Colony and submitted to this process of criticism. The criticism would be inevitable, and would be expressed with brutal frankness, for not only are men of business predisposed to believe that they are getting the worst of every bargain which the Government makes for them, but there would be in each country an active and intelligent Opposition, bent on proving that the Government had made a mess of it. In the Colonies it would be declared and believed that colonial interests had been in a dozen particulars sacrificed to those of the United Kingdom. At home it would be declared and believed that to an equal extent the Colonies were gaining at our expense. A more certain method of promoting discord and ill-will the mind of man can hardly conceive. Yet this is what is offered to us as the infallible specific for binding the constituent States of the Empire together in an unbreakable union!

Two leading journals in Canada and New South Wales last week published articles, the substance of which was that in view of the last general election, the proposal of a Tariff Reform resolution at the Conference is an interference in the domestic affairs of this country, that could do nothing but harm, and that the Colonial representatives had no mandate or excuse for taking such a course. This is a striking proof that there are people in the Colonies who see the mischief that must follow from raising a Party issue in an Imperial Conference, and identifying the representatives of the Colonies with one or other of the parties at Westminster.

Mr. Deakin and Sir Wilfrid Laurier were careful to say that they have no desire to interfere in our domestic politics. They could not say less, but a man must take responsibility for the natural consequences of his own acts. The natural consequence in this case has been to furnish Opposition speakers and writers with a useful cry against the Government, and to give their Leader an opportunity of winning enthusiastic cheers at a Primrose League meeting at a moment when his popularity with his party was rather under a cloud. This sort of thing is hardly calculated to inspire amiable sentiments towards the Colonies among Englishmen, the majority of whom are for the present on the side of the Government. If the consequences are not really serious it is only because Liberals are not accustomed to treat Imperial interests as party assets, and are therefore ready to take this sort of thing lying down.

The following letter which I have received from a well-known public man, quite unconnected with party politics, has some bearing on the foregoing remarks:—

Dear Truth, In common with many others who believe in Free Trade and voted accordingly at the last election, I somewhat resent the action of the Colonial Premiers in raising the question of preferential tariffs at the present Conference and furnishing picturesque headlines to the *Daily Mail* and the *Morning Post*. It is not as if they could have any doubt about the reply they would receive on behalf of the Government. They know on what issue the Government came into power. Why then raise the question at all?

Let me put a parallel case. As well as a Free Trader, I am, as you know, a strong Churchman. As such, I have an idea that the Church of England furnishes one of the strongest links which unite the Empire. The Church in the Colonies is practically one with the Church at home, and the tie is strengthened by the fact that the Mother Church in England supplies the daughter Churches in the Colonies with Bishops and with a large number of the parochial clergy. I am also a firm believer in the principle of State Establishment. I hold that England would be the worse for Disestablishment, and that the Colonies would be the better for State Established Churches. Further, it seems to me that if the Church of England were an Established Church in the Colonies as at home, it would act far more effectually than it does at present as a tie uniting the Colonies to one another and the Mother Country, in a word, as a bond of union between the whole Empire.

I have never preached this idea. But suppose it preached authoritatively, and taken up with enthusiasm by many, as it doubtless would be, and a league formed, and furnished with unlimited funds to give effect to it. Suppose that the movement grows in England and the Colonies, until at last we come to an Imperial Conference, at which a representative of the Home Government moves that it is desirable in the interests of Imperial unity that the Church of England be set up as a State Establishment throughout the Empire. Will any one say that such a resolution would be wise or expedient? Would it not be resented by the Colonies as an impertinence, and an interference by the Home Government of their right to manage their domestic affairs in their own way? I have omitted to put down as part of the hypothesis, that prior to the Home Government moving this resolution at an Imperial Conference, the question of establishing the Church had been fought out at general elections in all the Colonies and decided in the negative. This is necessary to make the parallel complete.

Will any Protectionist, native or colonial, explain how this hypothetical case differs from what has just taken place in London?—Yours obediently, Gamma.

THE INDISCRIMINATE SLOGGER.

The Subject of my this Week's Song
Is Swipes, a Batsman bold and strong,
Who, scorning Caution's Arts as tame,
Would rival Gilbert Jessop's Game.
So when he to the Wicket went,
He's all engrossed with this Intent—
To swell by Leaps and Bounds the Score
And trounce each Ball he got for Four.
But good though his Intentions were,
Therewith Performance didn't square;
More oft than not, before he's set,
Some Trimmer he would chance to get—
Such Ball as not a man alive
Could slog and the Attempt survive.
Thus, Victim of his uncontrolled
Impatience, he was beat and bowled.
Dejected, then, and gloomy-faced,
Pavilionwards his steps he traced,
Threw peevishly his Willow down
And cursed his Luck with moody Frown.

"'Tis sinful rough that I should aye
Fall Victim to my sporting Play,
While Men who hit with equal Dash
And out, as I do, reckless lash,
Get all the Luck to me denied.
There's Jessop ——"
"Ah!" a Friend replied,
"When Jessop for the Bowling goes
He some *Discrimination* shows—
Calls to his Muscles' Aid his Wit,
And picks the proper Balls to hit."

Moral.

Full many a Risk must needs be faced
By Punters who'd grow rich in Haste.
Yet while none such their Thousands make
Who know not when a Risk to *take*,
None, either, e'er have Fortunes won
Who know not when a Risk to *shun*.

SCRUTATOR.

THE TERRIBLE TEUTON.

MANY efforts have been made of late to arouse this country to a proper sense of the awful danger which threatens it every moment from the direction of Germany. None of them, however, has been so calculated to convince even the most indifferent as a letter which the *Globe* published last week. The writer was a military man—Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Heath—and his professional knowledge of military matters, no less than the impossibility of supposing a bearer of the King's commission to be a prey to imaginary fears, lends additional weight to his specific statements. A previous writer had used the columns of the *Globe* to warn the nation of the presence of 90,000 German Reservists in the British Isles. The Colonel supplements this alarming information. He warns us of the impending seizure, not only of our powder magazines and "other important points," but, worse than that, "the person of his Majesty himself," by a sudden movement of the foreign legions lurking in our midst. From his own observations he gives the following significant evidence of the imminent ripening of the plot:—

> The streets of London, as any one must observe, swarm with Germans. Where do they go? They appear in no hurry. [Of course, they are simply waiting for the signal.—Ed. Truth.] They are comfortably dressed and well nourished. Undoubtedly soldiers. I have noted them with interest for years. They are unusually numerous now. We shall awake one morning to find all important commanding points in London held by armed Germans, the railways cut, bridges blown up, and points destroyed. Our War Office officials must be well aware of this great danger to the nation, but their hands are probably tied, and they dare not speak with a Government in power such as ours.

What shall we do to be saved? The gallant Colonel recommends that ammunition sufficient for immediate action when the blow falls should be at once issued to every soldier and volunteer in London. That would be better than nothing. But there is the difficulty pointed out by the Colonel that the War Office can do nothing with Ministers in power who naturally desire to be turned out of office by German bayonets, and to see the person of their Sovereign consigned to a German dungeon in order that the Kaiser may reign at Westminster. The first step, therefore, is for the patriotic "War Office officials," who know what the Kaiser is up to, but are afraid to mention it, to seize the persons of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and his colleagues, and consign them to the Tower. That done, the ammunition can be served out instantly, and all other necessary precautions taken. Hyde Park, the Bank of England, the Zoological Gardens, and other strategical points should be strongly fortified; mines should be laid in all the sewers and tube railways; the Channel Fleet should be anchored in the Pool, and submarines should patrol the river above London Bridge, as well as the lakes in the various parks. No measure that prudence and common-sense suggests should be omitted.

The most terrible feature of our situation is the difficulty of opening people's eyes. I have had myself a number of communications about Lieutenant-Colonel Heath's disclosures. One of them—I am sorry to say the writer is a soldier himself—suggests that the Lieutenant-Colonel is a practical joker, pulling the leg of an innocent editor in order to make fun of those who seek to frighten us into our senses. Another falls foul of the editor of the *Globe*, whom he denounces for publishing nonsense calculated to make Englishmen the laughing-stock of the rest of the world. Such is the reward of a patriotic journalist striving to save his country from impending destruction. For my part, I have no fear of ridicule. When the German legions now loafing aimlessly in the streets of London get the signal to mobilise at Charing Cross, there will be no more laughing. I should like, therefore, while there is yet time, to help the *Globe* by calling attention to the frightful dangers incidental to the German opera performances at Covent Garden. Under cover of a "Wagner Cyclus"—such is the diabolical treachery with which we are assailed—a small battalion of German infantry may be, and probably is, mustered every night in the heart of London. I have myself studied these sinister foreigners, both the principal artists and the chorus. As Colonel Heath so acutely observes of the other warriors he has detected, "they appear in no hurry." They sometimes keep the game up from 4.30 p.m. to close on midnight. "They are comfortably dressed and well nourished," some of them a trifle over-fed. "Undoubtedly soldiers"! Look at Herr Kraus—the very figure of a Pomeranian Grenadier, though perhaps a little made-up at one place to disguise the truth. Incredible as it may appear, he is actually permitted, in the character of Siegfried, to forge a sword on the stage, and brandish it, uttering bloodthirsty cries in German! Very possibly one of these nights he will cry, "Krieg—Mobil!" and give the signal for which all the Kaiser's soldiers in London are waiting. And the only force we have at hand is a couple of sentries outside the theatre, and a few policemen at Bow-street station over the way! This is the sort of thing that goes on "with a Government in power such as ours." It only shows what an intrepid race we are that the *Globe* continues to be published night after night within a stone's throw of a spectacle calculated to strike terror into the bravest. But there is a point at which courage becomes mere foolhardiness. One can only trust that the Editor of the *Globe* has acted on the warning he publishes, and served out ammunition to all his staff, in readiness for the worst.

It will not have escaped observation that Prince Bülow last week delivered a speech full of pacific assurances, and strongly deprecating the violent language of certain German speakers and writers in

regard to the alleged designs of this country and its King. I call attention to the significant fact that this speech was delivered *within twenty-four hours of the publication of Colonel Heath's letter in the "Globe."* The milk in the Chancellor's cocoa-nut is thus explained. Through their army of spies in this country the German War Office have their eyes on the gallant British Colonel and the Editor of the *Globe*. They recognised in a moment that their designs were unmasked and in danger of defeat. At all costs means must be found of preventing the issue of ammunition to the sentries at Buckingham Palace and the London Volunteers. Hence the Macchiavellian speech to the Reichstag. Are we going to allow ourselves to be fooled like this? Heaven forbid! It is the duty of the sapient officials at the War Office to disregard all delusive official declarations at Berlin, and proceed relentlessly with their preparations. Other insidious means of disarming our suspicions have been adopted by the Kaiser. At his instigation German newspapers affect to be afraid of an attack from England. German Heaths are put up to talk about a surprise attack on the German fleet by the British, and to pretend that the Germans may wake up any morning to find their sea-power destroyed for ever, and the Union Jack flying at Kiel. No one can suppose that an intelligent and well-informed nation believes this sort of rubbish, and the inference is obvious, that it is merely designed to throw dust in our eyes. The same motive evidently inspired the German politician who made such an alarmist speech about the designs of King Edward. He pretended to see the King of England everywhere, plotting at all points the destruction of the Fatherland, just as Colonel Heath sees the Kaiser's men rendezvousing in Regent-street. As if any one, especially in Germany, could seriously entertain such suspicions about an English Sovereign. It is all part of the plot to throw us off our guard. Let us look at facts. The Wagner Cyclus is still in full swing. Well-fed Germans still perambulate the streets of London without interference from the police. We must allow no dust to be thrown in our eyes. I was very glad to see that the *Times* published last week a letter warning British journalists of the danger of accepting at this crisis the invitation that has just been given to our pressmen to come over to Berlin and fraternise with their German colleagues. That is the right spirit in which to meet the treacherous Teuton when he offers us his hospitality. Who cannot see through his game? He hopes to "nobble," with his wretched *sauer-kraut* and *blut-wurst*, the men who, like the Editor of the *Globe*, have detected and are unmasking his designs. It may even be a part of his infamous scheme to seize the moment when some dozens of the bravest and stoutest patriots among us are withdrawn from their posts, to strike his blow in London, and possess himself of the person of his Majesty. Picture the fate of the nation if the whole of the company at Covent Garden should break loose while the staff of the *Daily Mail* and the *Globe* are dozing unsuspiciously in a Berlin beer-garden! No, no. Whatever happens, the press must not be caught napping. This is no time for international junketings. It behoves us to arm to the teeth, and let the world know that Britons do not know what fear is, nor even nervousness.

LORD PORTSMOUTH AND THE GROUND GAME ACT.

The Earl of Portsmouth has written two further letters, one to the Prime Minister and another to the *Times*, in reference to the case of his late tenant, Mr. Charles Parsons, which was first ventilated in Truth a fortnight ago. Not being in a position to deny the authorship of the remarkable letter in which he threatened Mr. Parsons with expulsion from his farm if he continued to exercise his rights under the Ground Game Act, his lordship carefully avoids any allusion whatever to that damaging document, and seeks to make it appear that the notice to quit was given for entirely different reasons. It is only natural that Lord Portsmouth should be anxious to divert attention from the letter, for it constitutes the most important piece of evidence in the whole affair. What are the facts? Mr. Parsons had been the tenant of a large farm on Lord Portsmouth's estate in Hampshire for some twenty-seven years, when at the beginning of 1903 he was informed by the agent that he—in common with other tenants—must cease to kill hares. The Ground Game Act gives a tenant the right to do this, and ever since the passing of the Act Mr. Parsons had exercised this right. He had shot hares quite openly, but not until after his landlord had enjoyed his sport, and he had always left a good stock for breeding. There had never been any complaint of a scarcity of hares on the farm, and as a rule Lord Portsmouth made the best bag of the season when he shot there. Mr. Parsons refused to give up his right under the Act, except on the condition that compensation should be allowed him for the damage that his crops would suffer if the hares were not kept down. The very reasonable suggestion as to compensation was ignored, and Lord Portsmouth addressed to Mr. Parsons a letter—published in full in last week's Truth—containing the following passage:—

> . . . If you or any other tenant insist upon your power under the Ground Game Act of constantly disturbing the land in pursuit of ground game, I must at once and frankly say that I must adopt the only remedy which I possess of changing tenants or farming the land myself. . . . The sum and substance of the whole matter is this, which no interview or talking over can affect, that if you cannot accept in good part the advice which Mr. Asprey proffered, with, I can assure you, the most friendly intention, it would be fairer to both parties for you to arrange to leave, which I trust would be conducted on both sides with perfect courtesy and consideration.

In answer to this letter, dated January 25, 1903, Mr. Parsons wrote two days later that after considering the matter he had decided that in the circumstances it would, perhaps, be better that he should, as his lordship suggested, give up the farm that year. "My quittal," he added, "will necessarily be somewhat irregular, but I have no doubt it can be arranged, as you say, 'with perfect courtesy and consideration.'" Lord Portsmouth did not take Mr. Parsons at his word—in fact, the latter was told by the agent that he would hear no more about it, "as it would never do for it to be said that he was turned out for shooting a hare"—and the matter quietly dropped for the time being. Mr. Parsons continued to shoot hares, but did so, as he had always done, with a due consideration for his landlord's sport, and nothing more happened till August, 1905. Lord Ports-

Wiesbaden Hotel, Nassau.—Recognised as the Most Fashionable and Refined Home of English and American Society in Wiesbaden.—Telegraphic Address: "Nassauerhof, Wiesbaden."

mouth then gave Mr. Parsons notice to quit at Michaelmas, 1906, when he accordingly left his farm after an occupation extending over thirty years.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, which was read in the House of Commons last week, Lord Portsmouth says:—

> . . . Mr. Parsons, had truly been a tenant on my estate for many years; but he had only been enabled to occupy the farm so long, because my father and I had from time to time given him very substantial assistance in abatements and remissions of rent. He was not given notice to quit for any *bonâ fide*, fair, and reasonable exercise of any rights under the Ground Game Act, but because, owing to his impecuniosity and absence of stock, the farm was rapidly deteriorating.

As I have previously explained, it was contrary to the wishes of Mr. Parsons himself that publicity was given in these columns to the circumstances under which he quitted the farm. But Lord Portsmouth's letter concerning the Ground Game Act was in other hands, and when it was placed at my disposal it seemed to me that in view of the light it throws upon an important aspect of the land question it ought to be made public. Though Mr. Parsons, however, had no desire to rake up the scandal of his expulsion—for a scandal it was—Lord Portsmouth's attack upon his credit and reputation as a farmer has naturally aroused his resentment, and brought him out into the discussion. It is a grossly unfair attack. In the *Times* of Monday Lord Portsmouth gave particulars of what he describes as the very substantial assistance that he and his father gave Mr. Parsons in abatements and remissions of rent. The abatements were only such as, during the years in question, were being granted by landowners in all parts of the country. As to the remission of arrears, Mr. Parsons took the farm on a ten years' lease at a very high rent—the highest that had ever been obtained for it—in 1876, just on the eve of that period of depression from which agriculture has never yet fully recovered. Not only were there rapidly falling prices for agricultural produce, but there came what a Royal Commission declared to be an unprecedented succession of bad seasons. It was impossible for the land to bear the rent that Mr. Parsons had agreed to pay, a fact which the then landlord acknowledged by making a reduction in 1881, when, in accordance with a provision of the lease, Mr. Parsons had given notice to terminate his tenancy. Even then the rent was found to be too high, but though a substantial amount of arrears undoubtedly accumulated, Mr. Parsons was evidently considered a desirable tenant, and at the end of the first ten years he was granted another lease for a similar term at a further reduction, while subsequently to that the arrangement was, by his own wish, altered to a yearly tenancy. Lord Portsmouth mentions the amount of arrears which he remitted in 1893, but he omits to mention that those arrears covered a period of ten or twelve years, during which every landowner in the country was suffering losses of rent; that Mr. Parsons paid down a sum of £250 towards the amount of the arrears, and that the balance was remitted as an inducement to him to continue his tenancy. At the time he received notice to quit Mr. Parsons had long been clear of all arrears and his rent was punctually paid down to the date when he left. The accusation of impecuniosity now made against him is, therefore, ungenerous if intended to refer to the difficulties which, like every agriculturist, he had encountered in former years, and unfounded in reference to the latter period of his tenancy. Lord Portsmouth also speaks of the absence of stock on the farm. Mr. Parsons affirms that the farm was stocked to its fullest capacity, and that he left the land in a thoroughly good, clean condition. The suggestion that it was rapidly deteriorating is, indeed, refuted by Lord Portsmouth's own further statement that he was at once able to let the farm at an increased rent. The fact, too, that immediately he quitted Lord Portsmouth's estate he obtained the tenancy of a larger farm from another noble landowner in the same county is a conclusive proof that Mr. Parsons is not regarded as a bad or impecunious farmer.

To my mind, Lord Portsmouth's explanation of his treatment of this tenant is anything but convincing. Although he implies that the question of the shooting of hares had nothing to do with the serving of the notice to quit, I observe this passage in his letter to the *Times*:—

> As to the manner in which he exercised his rights under the Ground Game Act I maintain that he abused them, and he says he did not, and there the matter must rest.

Read in conjunction with the letter of January 25, 1903, this is certainly significant as an indication of his lordship's views on the subject. Certainly, too, it seems to bring him within the category of those landlords whom the Prime Minister had in his mind when, in a recent speech, he alluded to the exaltation of the interests of sport at the expense of agriculture. In the circumstances I am not surprised that this disclosure of Lord Portsmouth's conduct as a landlord has created an impression that he is hardly in his right place as a member of a Ministry pledged to deal thoroughly with the whole land question.

THE ATOMIZER AND THE SOLICITOR.

In Truth of March 13 the following paragraph appeared:—

> One of the latest additions to my list of Yankee medicos with specifics for various complaints is N. Tucker, M.D., Mt. Gilead, Ohio, U.S.A., who is represented over here by A. Q. Tucker, of "Onaway," Half-moon Lane, Herne Hill, S.E. The Tuckers present an asthma specific to the asthmatic public for £3, this including an atomizer and 4 oz. of an inhalant. As a very good atomizer can be purchased at any chemist's shop for 3s. 6d., the charge for the treatment on the face of it seems exorbitant. Some people even describe it in much stronger terms. Dr. F. J. Waldo, the City Coroner, for instance, in the course of an inquest held at the beginning of the year upon a labourer who died from consumption, and who had been dosing himself with "Dr." Tucker's specific, stigmatised this kind of dealing as a fraud.

It will be seen that my criticism was entirely directed to the fact that the specific is sold at the price of £3. On the appearance of this paragraph I received a letter from Mr. Francis Henry Venn, of F. Venn and Co., Solicitors, 13, Gray's Inn Square. Mr. Venn said that he thought "the strictures were not supported by the facts"; that the Tucker Atomizer was "very different from the scent spray articles sold at comparatively low prices"; and that he had "used the Atomizer and fluid for three or four years with the greatest benefit." He also offered to show me the instrument if I cared to see it, and concluded his letter with these words:—

> I know nothing of Mr. Tucker personally, or of the company with which he is connected, and I have had no communication with him on the subject.

As the result of this letter I deputed a gentleman to see Mr. Venn and the instrument. He reported to me

that Mr. Venn considered himself to have been highly benefited by the Atomizer, but he said nothing in regard to the nature and price of the instrument and the inhalant which led me to think that the TRUTH paragraph required modification. On April 19 Mr. Venn wrote again as follows:—

TUCKER'S ATOMIZER.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the previous correspondence in this matter, your representative called on me on the 28th of last month, when I produced the Atomizer for his inspection, and gave him what information and assistance I could. I was informed by him that a paragraph would appear in TRUTH of the 10th instant, qualifying the strictures contained in the paragraph in TRUTH of March 13. I have not seen any reference to the subject in TRUTH of the 10th or 17th instant. If I have missed it will you kindly refer me to the page?

If no such reference has appeared, I shall be obliged by your informing me whether any further reference to the paragraph appearing in TRUTH of March 13 is intended.—Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS HY. VENN.

My representative who saw Mr. Venn denies that he informed him that such a paragraph as he mentions would appear, and as he had no authority to do so, Mr. Venn's impression on this point must be the result of a misunderstanding. In reply to Mr. Venn's letter I wrote to him on April 22 that as I had received no communication from Mr. Tucker, I saw no occasion to refer to the matter further, adding that possibly Mr. Tucker might prefer that I should not do so. This letter was written on April 22. I heard no more from Mr. Venn, but on April 30 I received the following formidable epistle from Mr. Tucker:—

"Onaway,"
Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, S.E.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in TRUTH of the 13th March last, commenting upon Dr. Tucker's Asthma Specific and Atomizer, and Mr. Venn has sent me a copy of his correspondence with you on the subject.

I am the General Manager in charge of the Distributing Office for Europe for Dr. Tucker.

Mr. Venn, in his letter to you of March 15, has correctly described the manner in which the Specific and the Atomizer are introduced to prospective purchasers. The articles are sent, in the first instance, on request, and on approbation, without payment or deposit, and are accompanied by a pamphlet containing all material information. There is, of course, no concealment or misrepresentation. One of the pamphlets is enclosed with this letter. The terms of trial and purchase appear on page 80.

If the person to whom the articles are sent derives no benefit from the treatment, or considers the price excessive, he returns the articles, having incurred no expense or liability beyond the return postage.

The Specific is a very special preparation and is to be judged by results. As to these, I refer you to the pamphlet.

The Atomizer is a scientifically constructed instrument, specially adapted to the purpose for which it is intended, and is the result of much care and study. It is patented, and has been improved on from time to time. I observe from the correspondence that one of our Atomizers was produced by Mr. Venn to your representative.

A very serious cause of complaint against you arises in consequence of the imputation or suggestion of fraudulent dealing contained in the following words of the paragraph read with the context: "Some people even describe it in much stronger terms," and in the reference to an inquest on a labourer who died from consumption, in which Dr. J. F. Waldo, the City Coroner, is said (with reference to the Specific) to have "stigmatised this kind of dealing as a fraud."

I had no notice of the inquest, and consequently no opportunity of satisfying the Coroner that the imputation of fraud was groundless. I have been informed that a doctor present at the inquest told the Coroner that his remarks were not justified. There was, in fact, nothing approaching to fraud or misdealing on my part in connection with the matter.

I wish to speak with respect of a gentleman holding an official position, but I am entitled to say that it is not in accordance with justice or fairness to make a public charge of fraud in the absence of the party charged.

The words, "One of the latest additions to my list of Yankee medicos," are also very offensive and objectionable. I understand that the list referred to is that appearing on page 4 of your "Cautionary List."

The paragraph complained of is immediately preceded by one relating to a person described as a trickster, and followed by paragraphs relating to persons against whom charges of dishonourable conduct are made or suggested.

The mention of Dr. Tucker's name and my own in such a connection is, in itself, a great indignity.

Dr. Tucker's professional title is given in inverted commas, suggesting that he uses a title to which he has no right. There is no ground for this suggestion. Dr. Tucker is a regular graduate of the Allopathic School of Medicine, known as the Bellevue Medical College of New York City, and has been engaged in practice for about 27 years at Mount Gilead, Ohio. He is duly authorised to use the titles of Dr. and M.D. The Specific was perfected more than 15 years ago. It has become well established in the United States and Canada, and, later, in Great Britain and Europe. The London Office was opened in 1899, since which year I have acted as General Manager in this country. I have occupied "Onaway," at Herne Hill, the house in which I now reside and carry on business, since 1902. The business is an extensive one, and has been honourably conducted since its commencement.

If you had had the fairness, prudence, and courtesy to communicate with me before making the reckless imputations appearing in the paragraph, it would have been made quite clear to you that there was no ground for any animadversion.

As it is, a very great injury has been done to Dr. Tucker and myself, both in reputation and property.

The injury may be lessened to some extent, but not undone, by a full apology and withdrawal of all imputations, and I call upon you to publish such an apology and withdrawal with the least possible delay. If it does not appear in next week's number of TRUTH I shall instruct my solicitors to commence proceedings for obtaining redress.

Please address your reply to this letter to my solicitors, Messrs. F. Venn and Co., of 13, Gray's Inn Square, W.C.—Yours obediently,

A. Q. TUCKER.

The Editor of TRUTH.

I have much pleasure in publishing Mr. Tucker's letter, but I regret that I do not see my way to comply with the request with which it concludes. The point of the original paragraph was that "the charge for the treatment on the face of it seems exorbitant," having regard to the price at which very similar articles can be bought at chemists' shops. Whether the price is exorbitant or not is a matter of opinion. Mr. Tucker is at liberty to hold his own opinion on this point, and every tradesman is entitled to put what price he pleases on his own goods. But I am equally entitled to my opinion as to whether the price is exorbitant or not, and nothing in Mr. Tucker's letter leads me to modify it. With regard to the observations of Dr. Waldo at the inquest, they were made publicly, and Mr. Tucker is entitled to answer them. He appears to have left them unanswered for many weeks, in fact some months. I do not know the exact date of the inquest, but the *Lancet*, from which my information as to the Coroner's remarks was derived, referred to it in its issue of March 9, and in doing so endorsed the Coroner's observations with very much stronger remarks than any to be found in the TRUTH paragraph. Mr. Tucker's letter implies that he knew something about this inquest. He did not, however, think it necessary to offer any public reply, either to the Coroner or to the *Lancet*, until April 29. He only did so then, as he himself states, in consequence of somebody having called his attention to what had been said in TRUTH seven weeks previously. It seems to me that in the absence of any reply from Mr. Tucker, either to Dr. Waldo or the *Lancet*, he cannot fairly complain that another newspaper should, at a later date, have referred to Dr. Waldo's observation; and that I have done all that he is entitled to ask for, or that justice requires, in publishing now what he says above in reply to Dr. Waldo's remark. Mr. Tucker can hardly expect me to take him seriously when he says that a very great injury has been done to him in reputation and property by a paragraph of which he knew nothing until somebody else informed him about it some six weeks after its publication and only a few days before he wrote this letter to me. Men who find their property injured are not generally so long in discovering the cause of it. But even if Mr. Tucker had suffered as he alleges, the natural explanation is to be found in the observations of the Coroner, and their

repetition in the *Lancet*, and in his own failure to offer any reply to them for several months, not in a mild reference to them in another journal many weeks after they were delivered. At any rate, Mr. Tucker—thanks to the gentleman who called his attention to the Truth paragraph—has now had his opportunity of answering the Coroner, and if the result is not all that he could desire the fault will not be mine.

As regards Mr. Tucker's other complaints about the paragraph, they appear to have no relevancy to the point which I raised. He can have no reason for "understanding," as he says he does, that in speaking of "my list of Yankee medicos" I referred to the "Truth Cautionary List," for, if he has consulted that publication, as he purports to have done, he must have seen that it is merely a précis of matter that has already appeared in Truth. I am sorry that the reference to "Yankee medicos" is not to Mr. Tucker's taste, but that is not my fault. His letter shows clearly that Dr. Tucker *is* a Yankee medico, and the business which is carried on in connection with the Asthma Specific only illustrates the very wide difference between a Yankee medico and a qualified medical practitioner in this country. I am pleased to know and to make known the degree which the Doctor bears; and I am ready to believe the best of the "Allopathic School of Medicine known as the Bellevue Medical College of New York City." But Mr. Tucker must know as well as I do that it is not the custom of reputable medical practitioners in this country to trade in proprietary specifics, and that no one holding an English degree of M.D. would be allowed to remain on the Medical Register for long if he resorted to such a practice. In this country, therefore, Dr. Tucker is only a "Dr." in the American sense, which is the reason why I put his title in inverted commas. I see that in the pamphlet which explains the virtues of the Asthma Specific, the Doctor publishes a certificate that he is a "regular graduate of the Allopathic School of Medicine," "in good standing in the profession," "a gentleman possessing the highest moral character," and "worthy the confidence of all." This certificate is signed by about twenty individuals and business firms. Like the Doctor, they no doubt mean it for the best, but Mr. Tucker would do well to understand that the publication of such a document by a medical practitioner in this country is calculated to convey precisely the opposite impression to that intended.

The other complaint about the paragraphs in Truth in juxtaposition to that about the atomizer did not, I feel sure, originate with Mr. Tucker. It is an objection which I have frequently met with in dealings with lawyers who are hard driven to make out a case, and think that "every little helps." In this instance it happens to be most offensive and unjust to the firm whose business was referred to in the paragraph which followed that about the atomizer. They are a perfectly respectable firm, and no suggestion whatever of "dishonourable conduct" was made against them in the paragraph referred to. That they themselves did not consider it so is sufficiently shown by the letter I subsequently received from them in reply to the paragraph. I am almost tempted to wonder whether the gentleman who called Mr. Tucker's attention to my remarks on the atomizer is thinking of turning his attention next to this other firm.

For all these reasons I must decline to publish the "full apology" which Mr. Tucker asks for, and I take the liberty of adding that I do not think he is well advised in asking for it, accompanied as it is by the reference to his solicitor. On receipt of his letter I wrote to ask him who it was that had called his attention to the Truth paragraph. The reply comes from Messrs. Venn and Co., and states that Mr. Venn sent "our client" a copy of his correspondence with me on April 23, and that "our client" first saw the paragraph on April 29. Mr. Tucker therefore despatched his letter to me on the same day that he saw the paragraph. The letter itself bears every appearance of having been written by somebody else and presented to him for signature. In the original draft even the date had been left blank, and it is filled in in Mr. Tucker's handwriting. The letter, as drafted, ended with the words, "I shall instruct my solicitors to commence proceedings for obtaining redress." Mr. Tucker has himself written in the concluding paragraph, "Please address your reply to this letter to my solicitors, Messrs. F. Venn and Co., of 13, Gray's Inn-square, W.C." In view of these circumstances, and the fact that Mr. Tucker had down to April 29 offered no public reply to Dr. Waldo's observations, I find it difficult to regard his demand upon me for an apology, and the threat with which it is accompanied, as the result of his own spontaneous volition. His letter, with its lawyer-like statement of every point that can be made to tell in presenting a case, bears every indication of having been "inspired" by somebody else. It reminds me of the "meaning thereby" which I have occasionally seen in documents bearing the signature of a member of the Junior Bar, and placing constructions upon perfectly just and reasonable observations which fill with amazement the man who wrote them. Instigated and prepared as it has evidently been, and put forth when much stronger observations upon the Asthma Specific in other quarters have been left unanswered for weeks and months, I cannot look upon it as the spontaneous utterance of a man who feels that he has a just grievance. Nor do I think that any one else is likely to do so.

NEAR AND FAR EAST AT EARL'S COURT.

The Great Wheel has had its day and ceased to be, but the list of attractions at Earl's Court is so long and varied, that after all a little thing like that is scarcely missed, and the management have wisely left unmoved, if not untouched, the rest of the old familiar amusements in which year after year a multitude of visitors find an unceasing delight. To a good many people Earl's Court would not be Earl's Court unless they could revel once more in an exhilarating rush down the water chute or along the switchback railway, enjoy again the giddy gyrations of the Maxim flying machines, or indulge in the less exciting experience of a voyage round the lake in a gondola. But though these and other pastimes can be enjoyed as of yore, it must not be supposed that there is any lack of novelties for those desiring them. On the contrary, there is this

year a more than usually liberal provision of new side shows, so that those hardy country cousins who swarm to Earl's Court during the excursion season and spend ten or twelve laborious hours in a conscientious attempt to see everything that there is to be seen, will still leave for their midnight trains lamenting the fact that the programme is too full to be got through in the time. There are visitors of another class for whom the chief charm of Earl's Court is not an endless round of all sorts of entertainments, but an evening's *al fresco* enjoyment in the Western Gardens—a good dinner at the Quadrant Restaurant or the Old Welcome Club, and an hour or two pleasantly wiled away in listening to the strains of one of the crack military bands and watching the crowd of promenaders in the brilliantly illuminated grounds. Here, by the way, a vast improvement has been carried out by the removal of some of the buildings in the corner near the restaurant, and the formation of a pretty Italian garden with a fountain in the centre.

It is just as well to mention these things first, because they are really the most important in the estimation of a large proportion of the Earl's Court public. Still, there has to be an exhibition of some kind, so many people want it as a pretext for going to what they would otherwise regard as a too frivolous place of entertainment. It pleases them to think that they have been drawn there by the exhibition, even if they bestow but scant attention on the exhibits. No doubt there are also visitors in whom the ostensible object of the whole show does awaken a serious interest. On the present occasion it is a Balkan States exhibition, and the idea of holding it was suggested to the Earl's Court management by the Balkan Committee in London. It was a very happy idea. The Balkan Peninsula is vaguely known to the man in the street as a place where there have been heroic struggles for national freedom, where political troubles are always brewing, where another war is said to be imminent every spring, though fortunately it does not come off. Beyond such hazy notions he knows little or nothing of the different countries and peoples, so that this exhibition introduces him to an entirely new world. The Governments of Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro have all warmly supported the scheme, and the result is a display of the arts and industries and products of those States which is a welcome revelation of the peaceful progress they are making. From the point of view of international trade the exhibition will have its uses, while the merely curious visitor will see plenty of things to interest him, and, in particular, the "working exhibits," where workers brought over from the Balkans are plying different handicrafts, are sure to be centres of attraction. So, likewise, will be the troupe of native peasant dancers and singers, accompanied by a genuine Tzigane band, whose performances are given in the theatre in the Balkan Village. That is, of course, the old village which has figured under other names in previous years, but which has again been cleverly transformed by the scene-painters in keeping with the character of the rest of the exhibition, or rather, the rest of it with the important exception of the entertainment in the Empress Theatre. For this the management have boldly gone on from the Near to the Far East, rightly heedless of any charge of irrelevance or incongruity. Neither Servians, nor Bulgarians, but Japanese, are in possession of the theatre, which has been skilfully converted into a picturesque representation of an old Japanese village, with its Buddhist temple—a faithful reproduction of a portion of the temple of Nikko—pagoda, and monuments, its tea-house garden, with an arbour of wistaria, and its foaming waterfall splashing into a pond of lotus. In a row of village shops Japanese fan-makers and fan painters, wood carvers and engravers, and artificial flower makers are at work, exhibiting their extraordinary skill and dexterity, and on the stage of an open-air theatre, Japanese dancers, acrobats, and jugglers give some remarkable performances to the accompaniment of a Japanese orchestra. Altogether, "Old Japan" is as beautiful and interesting a show as any that has been produced in the Empress Theatre, and certain to contribute very largely to the success of this year's exhibition at Earl's Court.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

THE THEATRES.

"Brewster's Millions," at the Hicks.

Go and see "Brewster's Millions." I will tell you why you should. Because, although you may not be in the least inclined to laugh on arriving at the Hicks Theatre, you will certainly do so before you go away. And what is there in this world better than genuine laughter, stirred neither by the misfortunes of others nor by any other than legitimate means? It is one of the pure pleasures spoken of by the Greeks, and prized as being free of that terrible element of passion which counts for so much in so many things. But pray do not run away with the idea that "Brewster's Millions" is a comedy which carries one into the sphere sublime of Platonism. On the contrary, the plane upon which Brewster squanders so conscientiously the £250,000 with which he is encumbered, is essentially mundane, not to say Stock-Exchange-cum-Racecourse.

Largely, the success, the notable success, of the new comedy at the Hicks Theatre, new to London last Wednesday evening, is due to Mr. Gerald Du Maurier. For he it is who works so hard to distribute this large sum within the brief limits of the time appointed by the millionaire. It must be explained that the vast sum of two millions comes to Montgomery Brewster if he shall have spent a quarter of a million without giving it away, in the given time. This is almost all the plot there is, and one would not have believed there was so much fun to be got out of so simple an idea. I have not read Mr. George Barr McCutcheon's story, from which it is dramatised by two gentlemen previously unknown to me, so that I cannot say exactly how much of the astonishing variety of incident is due to them and how much to Mr. McCutcheon. Should they or the author like to send me the original work, I shall be pleased to pronounce upon that knotty question.

Mr. Du Maurier, then, is from the beginning working full steam, at first in the hall of Montgomery House, where he has the bad fortune at once to win heavily on a rank outsider and to buy for the fall in the most risky of American insecurities. The outsider wins, and

the stock rises so rapidly in the market that the unhappy Montgomery Brewster has to close his account at a heavy profit. This fills with joy the souls of his fiendishly friendly staff of clerks drawn from the ranks of his boon companions. For, like good fellows, they cannot bear to see their chief squandering his fortune, and the miserable Montgomery is bound by the terms of his eccentric agreement not to divulge the method in his madness. Petticoats, of course, come into this story, as they do into most stories worth having, and many that are not. A scheming vixen lays her toils for Montgomery, and a "nice girl" winds his memory round her heart, and looks on at his ruin with tearful eyes of love. When this is almost achieved on the s.s. *Flitter*, whereon Mr. Brewster and his friends have been touring at the former's expense, the two girls have a scene, in which Peggy proves that hearts are trumps.

Of course, all comes right in the end, though Montgomery is within less than an ace of losing his two millions, and finding himself also penniless. Those who have not ascertained from the papers how near a thing it was, will do well to wait in blissful ignorance until they go to the Hicks Theatre and see for themselves. I am sure that I enjoyed the first night's performance the more for having been careful not to inquire how it all ended.

One very important ingredient of Wednesday evening's success was the admirable setting and stage management of the storm, on board the yacht. The vitreous green waves were rendered in a nauseating manner as the yacht began to heave with the swell, and they rose higher and higher as the tempest increased and the wind howled. Mr. Winchell Smith, one of the adapters of the play, is I see, credited with the staging also. Perhaps it is he who should be congratulated. In any case, the other adapter, Mr. Byron Ongley, has a clever colleague.

Shakespeare, at the Waldorf.

The past week has been nowhere more completely filled than at the Waldorf Theatre, where our American visitors have indeed given us a taste of their quality. Let me say at once that Mr. Sothern and Miss Julia Marlowe have proved in their highly interesting, thoughtful, restrained, and sympathetic renderings of Shakespeare that they are both in the great tradition, yet in no slavish manner, for they bring to the interpretation of the text, as it were, a breath of the fresh Western breeze from over Atlantic. In their single performance of "Hamlet" Miss Marlowe's Ophelia grew upon one, as the play advanced, and in the great scene where Hamlet turns and curses her, she touched every heart in the theatre. Mr. Sothern's was what one might call an intellectual Hamlet. His rendering was extraordinarily alert. In "As You Like It" Miss Marlowe is perhaps temperamentally not an ideal Rosalind, her gaiety now and then appearing a trifle forced; but the excellence of her Juliet, which is the best performance so far given by our visitors at the Waldorf, caused one to regret that she and Mr. Sothern did not open their brief season with this ever young and ever beautiful tragedy. It was surprising to note how carefully this rendering of "Romeo and Juliet" was put on the stage, running, as it did, without a hitch, and displaying such refined taste, both in scenery and costumes. Nothing was here *overdone*. It is difficult to select from so uniformly fine a performance, but in the potion scene Miss Marlowe rose to a great tragic height. Mr. Sothern, as Romeo, was a trifle dull in the opening scene, failing also to declare his passion in the balcony scene with any ardour; but, on the other hand, he put much vitality into his scene with Tybalt, and reached his acme of excellence in the scene with the Friar. Mrs. Brooke's delightful Nurse, and Mr. Vibart's admirable Escalus, Prince of Verona, stand out from an otherwise adequate cast.

* * * * *

At the Hippodrome, I have witnessed the genuine and successful exhibition of tree-sawing and the swinging of those potent axes which are used by Australian bush-rangers. The great deep-toothed double-handed saw tears through the hard wood of the blue-gum tree trunk, placed upon tressels in the arena for the purpose, in an astonishingly short space of time. The champion McLaren has a colleague, a man of mighty thews, who saws or hews with the aspect of an angry Titan escalading heaven. I recommend him to artists seeking a mould of angry pertinacity. A very large audience witnessed with interest this exhibition, which is varied as much as possible each time.

* * * * *

The Countess of Cromartie's little play, "The Finding of the Sword," produced last week at charitable matinées at "The Playhouse," is taken from her story of the same name. The strange story of the exhumation of the sword of the hero, who follows his weapon, was listened to with interest by a large audience on the afternoon of its first performance. Mixed up with the archæologist and student of Keltic, keen on his idea, is the story of the dreamy Keltic girl, who reveres the ashes of the dead heroes, and would not for all the world that they be disturbed. Not able to prevent this, she is the centre of attraction to the spirit of the dead hero, who returns to earth, and whom she remembers as having once in a former life been her master, when she was his slave. Finally she wills to be united to him again at all costs, and in a flash like lightning the ghost disappears, and the girl is found, presumably having attained her desire in spirit, but at any rate dead in fact. This whimsical tale, which reads more charmingly than it acts, suffers from a certain vagueness of presentment, and also from a strong sense of unreality, which was what really stood between oneself and enjoyment of it on that Tuesday afternoon. In the story, the authoress is able to add a thousand little touches which serve to attain the end, namely, that of this magical transmigration of a soul. In the crude limelight of the stage, these touches were largely absent, or when present were marred by the environment.

* * * * *

"Spectres of the Sanctum," Mr. Maskelyne's latest contribution to mediumistic exposure, now takes the form of a mistake in the identities of Chicago Smith, the millionaire, and one of the other Smiths, by profession a piano-tuner. Mr. Maskelyne himself plays the male "spirit medium," who is thus unconsciously fooled by

the (intoxicated) piano-tuner, while believing that he is performing a similar operation upon Chicago Smith. The emergence of the "astral" wife of Smith from the side of Mr. Maskelyne is a marvellous optical delusion, and that of the "Mahatma" from India, who appears in full Oriental fig and then fades away gradually, growing fainter by degrees and "beautifully less," is also an exceedingly skilful example of what can be done with draperies, limelight, and intermittent darkness. The rest of the programme, all of which precedes "Spectres of the Sanctum," contains one number which seems to me a remarkable feat of artistry. I refer to Mr. Percy French's graphic display. He recites an absurdly amusing old monkish legend, of which he illustrates the episodes with chalk on a large piece of white paper. At the conclusion, he suddenly inverts his drawing, and we have before us a far more attractive work, containing sheep, a setting sun, a snowy landscape, and all the ingredients of sentiment. In Mr. Barclay Gammon, poor Corney Grain finds no slavish imitator, but an amusing successor, and the afternoon is pleasantly filled, for young and old, with other brief yet brilliant feats of "magic," music, and legerdemain.

* * * * *

The performance at King's College of "A May-day in Shakespeare's Time" was doubly memorable. In the first place, the object of the entertainment was worthy of all praise. "The Guild of Play" and "The Guild of the Brave Poor Things" (these latter cripples) work hand in hand for the benefit of poor children. They appear to be doing excellent work in Bermondsey, and those who may be desirous of assisting, pecuniarily or personally by the telling of stories or the teaching of singing and dancing, can obtain all the information required from Mrs. C. W. Kimmins, Dame Armstrong House, Harrow-on-the-Hill. In the second place the performance itself was noteworthy. A crowded audience enjoyed a variety of old English songs and dances, among which the May-pole was perhaps the most effective, and the appearance of Queen Elizabeth visiting the Earl of Sussex and Sir Walter Raleigh, who spread out his cloak on the ground with historical accuracy, was the moment of much applause. The traditional singing games, such as "Round and round the village," "Old Roger is dead," were most charmingly enacted, and the curious dumb show of the performance of "Apple Tree," for instance, where the child is the tree, probably reflect a very early period of the drama, while they make one think of the cast of the "Midsummer Night's Dream." The minuet at the conclusion was followed by the old song "Here's a health unto his Majesty," and a march in which all the performers took part. I hope this innocent yet erudite, this charitable and at the same time highly entertaining performance, may often be repeated in the future, with such variations as ingenuity may suggest.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The County Championship Catechism.

(For the Use of Would-be First-class Cricketers.)

Q.: Who are you?

A.: A County Cricketer.

Q.: What is a County Cricketer?

A.: A man who plays for his own, or more frequently for some other County.

Q.: For what other County?

A.: For the County that offers him the most attractive terms.

Q.: Into how many classes may County Cricketers be divided?

A.: Into four: The Amateur-Amateur, the Salaried-Amateur, the Imported Colonial, and the Professional.

Q.: What is the Amateur-Amateur?

A.: The gentleman of means, who plays cricket for love, *plus* hotel and travelling expenses.

Q.: What is the Salaried-Amateur?

A.: The gentleman without means, who plays cricket also for love, and at the same time discharges the onerous duties of deputy-assistant-sub-secretary to his County Club at a salary of three hundred a year.

Q.: What is the Imported Colonial?

A.: The player especially shipped over from South Africa or Australia to become the pride and the glory of an English County.

Q.: What is the Professional?

A.: The candid individual who is frankly paid to play, and makes no attempt to conceal the fact.

Q.: Is this the only respect in which the Professional differs from the other three varieties of cricketer?

A.: No; there are two further points of difference. When he goes in to bat, he leaves the Pavilion by a sort of back door; and his initials do not appear before his name on the score sheet.

Q.: What is the Champion County?

A.: The County that sometimes without, but more often with, the aid of imported Colonials, or other outsiders, wins the greatest number of matches during the season.

Q.: What is poaching?

A.: The infamous practice of enticing the promising young players of one County to throw in their lot with another.

Q.: Are all the Counties guilty of this infamous practice?

A.: All, except one.

Q.: Which is that one County?

A.: One's own County.

Q.: What is a fast bowler?

A.: A fast bowler is of two kinds—the fair trundler and the unfair thrower.

Q.: Define the fair trundler.

A.: The fast bowler who is on your side.

Q.: Define the unfair thrower.

A.: The fast bowler who is against you.

Q.: When is a batsman "out" l.b.w.?

A.: Never—in his own opinion; sometimes—in the umpire's opinion; and always—in the bowler's opinion.

Q.: Describe the conduct, respectively, of (*a*) the batsman, (*b*) the bowler, when one of the latter's deliveries just misses the former's wicket.

A.: The bowler clutches his top hair with both his hands, and the batsman walks solemnly out and pats the pitch.

Q.: Why do they indulge in these proceedings?

A.: The bowler—to indicate his sense of the batsman's extraordinary luck; and the batsman—to indicate where the responsibility for his weak stroke really rests.

Q.: Does the responsibility for the batsman's weak strokes always rest upon the pitch?

A.: Not always. They are sometimes to be accounted for by the bad light.

SAVOY HOTEL & RESTAURANT, LONDON.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

WE had a phenomenal May-Day, in the alternations of high wind, hail, rain, sleet, snow, and a few short bursts of sunshine, one of which came in time to welcome King Edward after his long journey in the most wintry weather. He had left behind in Italy an almost summer climate tempered with the freshness of spring, and he came into a Polar one directly he had shot through the Simplon tunnel. It was, if possible, more inclement at Pontarlier and through the Burgundy hills. As he approached Paris the sun began to show itself. The mood of the capital which the King knows so well and loves so dearly answered to the meteorological sulkiness. He found Paris almost in a state of siege, dissimulated, it is true, as much as could be by the police authorities, and in a fit of black ill-humour. All traces of gay and elegant life had disappeared from the Boulevards, which had only crowds of aimless, ill-dressed men on strike. They embraced *garçons de café*, cooks, scullions (whom we call plongeurs), hairdressers' assistants, and journeymen bakers. The cafés and their *terrasses* were empty, landlords moved about in them in solemn silence, chasing with their napkins the few flies that had dared to face the foul weather. Thinking that perhaps the King's visit might bring them customers if things at once reverted to the normal, they had the day before yielded to Jules, Achille, Auguste, Emile, and Joseph in the matters of *pourboires* and the freedom of the upper lip from the razor. But as they had refused to negotiate through the secretaries of syndicates, the strike went on. Hence the forlorn aspect of restaurants, cafés, and beer saloons. The King could not have felt at home in his old haunts. They were as a house in which a death recently took place, and where, the heir not yet having entered into possession, everything remains hung up.

Edward VII. arrived here officially incognito, but openly, and evidently very much himself, and with his usual surroundings. To be incognito is not to put on a disguise or to enter into another skin. It is simply to notify that the regal personage, in going incog., wants no fuss to be made about him. On this point the French Government complied strictly with King Edward's wishes save in one respect—that of sending M. Lane with the Foreign Minister and the Prefect of Police to receive him in the name of the President as he stepped out of the train.

The sun had come out as the Royal train drew nigh, but the last fall of sleet had been too recent for a West-End crowd to gather round the Bois de Boulogne station. Nursery maids and children had, however, come out. No flags fluttered anywhere. A thick mat had been laid down on the platform and the stairs up to the station house, and a carpet laid down over it. This and the group of official notabilities, which Sir Francis Bertie joined, were all that announced the expected Royal visitor.

The King is more bronzed than when he came here with the Queen, is less stout—a good sign, taken in connection with the healthiness of the complexion and an air of well-being. He received the compliments of M. Lane, the official secretary of M. Fallières, of M. Pichon and of the Prefect of Police, standing on a step of his saloon carriage. Their top hats had been doffed, and remained in their hands. The King's light-brown "melon" remained on his head. It could not have been otherwise, as he had to hold his cane and to shake hands. It was noticed that he leans less heavily on his cane than a few years ago—another good sign.

Motors awaited Edward VII. and his party. The instant he entered the foremost one, off it started, *en route* for the Hôtel Bristol, where King Leopold has been staying to be more in the shade than in that transparency the Elysée Palace Hotel, where the Argus eyes of Americans, Britishers (home and colonial) were all the time focussed on him just as though he were a Shah.

The Royal motor goes first in a string of motors, contrary to the rule observed in cortèges made up of horse-drawn vehicles. It would never do to subject the chief personage to receive full in the face those petrol puffs the motor gives out.

The strikes have fizzled out, sinews of war failing from reluctance of strikers to contribute any longer from their invested savings to a fund. Three-fourths of them have money in Russians. The best French stocks are lower than when waiters, bakers' assistants, and others who struck, invested in them. Better times are hoped for. The wisest course meanwhile would be to return to work and add, if possible, to savings. The landlords had offered two days before the end to yield on the *pourboire* and moustache question, but refused to negotiate through secretaries of syndicates. The conclusion concludes nothing, but I hear that an easier rein will be given in regard to freedom of the upper lip from the razor.

I have been asking a waiter why his corporation so much insisted on this freedom. He said that the obligation to keep a clean-shaved upper lip had many serious disadvantages. The shaving came to a good round sum at the end of the year. It was gone through early in the morning, a severe grievance in cold weather, when waiters had to stand each waiting for his turn in long files at the barbers' shops. To be sure of getting through the operation in time for punctual attendance at one's café, one had to rise too early after a short night's rest. Few waiters at the late cafés or beer saloons can be in bed before half-past one in the morning. Another consideration—when Jules, Achille, and their brethren go out on their seventh-day holiday, ladies to whom they offer their arms know them to be, from their shaved upper lips, not landlords, but *garçons*, and treat them accordingly. This is galling. It often spoils the holiday. One returns to one's café with bile in one's blood. Another drawback: When a waiter laughs inwardly at a customer, his shaved upper lip betrays him if he is not a hardened stager. The shaved upper lip is too frank for the business of constantly trying it on—*pour l'art de plaçer des crevettes*. The customer who fancies the waiter derides him finds fault with everything, especially with the bill, and forgets to give a *pourboire*, or gives a contemptibly shabby one. This tells against the man with his fellows and the *patron*, and he gets a bad name in the business and only finds bad situations when out of place.

Again, the amiabilities of waiters to ladies who frequent cafés are often thrown away. They think the shaved upper lip a badge of servitude, which it is in

a time when all but priests and actors wear the moustache. The popular notion is that landlords forbid the moustache to prevent the "suction" of heel taps of fine wines remaining from dinners in *cabinets particuliers*, and the eating on the stairs of left-off delicacies. What can be more galling than this notion? It reduces the waiter to the level of a low pilferer with whiskers. The worst reproach that M. Jules Ferry ever met with was that of resembling a *garçon de café*. Directly he married Mlle. Risler she made him grow a moustache to do away with the likeness.

Again, when there is anything the matter with the skin of the upper lip—a cold-blister, a mosquito bite—the moustache hides it, whilst the razor would irritate it. Very few town-bred men reared on poor food have good teeth. The moustache conceals bad teeth. Normans generally have gaps in the front of their mouths. It was Norman waiters who led the way to the Bourse du Travail to declare the strike.

I remember when no advocate could wear a moustache without incurring the censure of the *bâtonnier* and losing the ear of the court. Most civilians kept the upper lip shaved before the Crimean war. Conversation used to be greatly helped by the visible play of the upper lip, as the effect of stage dialogue still is.

The increased number of fine art salons reduces the interest and value of those of the Champ de Mars and Champs Elysées—both held at Le Grand Palais, as you may know. The great mortality among the original members who exhibited at the former has made sad changes. We also miss the light and simplicity of the Palais de l'Industrie, and of the no less demolished galleries at the Champ de Mars, and begin to find out and suffer from the defects of Le Grand Palais. The want of light in the ground floor galleries, the inconveniently arranged stairs, back-stair corridors, and the depressing court make it an undesirable place for pictorial exhibitions on a great scale. In the square rooms or the garden-court of the Palais de l'Industrie, one could take in at a glance all the notable or interesting people, who went more to see and be seen on the private-view day than to gaze at the paintings. If one only saw heads in the square rooms one saw the whole figures in right perspective in the spacious court. One at once perceived how bonnets harmonised with flounces, how character asserted itself unconsciously in dress, gait, and manner; took in *le dernier cri de l'élégance*, triumphs in things sumptuary enough to make Carolus Duran despair, or Blanche to fling his maulstick at some Anglaise on the canvas before him. One never suffered from want of air. This kept off headache, to which one is so liable in trying to bring away a correct general impression of a Salon immeasurably spread. Each visitor to the Grand Salon now complains of being *assommé* there. Effects are so broken and dispersed that he must run hither and thither for a whole day, or days, to see as much as one took in at the Palais de l'Industrie in a dozen glances or so.

The king of the Champ de Mars Salon is President Fallières, by Bonnat. This is a portrait worthy of its precursors in the Bonnat series of the Republican Presidents of this Republic. This series began with Thiers, skipped MacMahon, Casimir-Perier, and found subjects for masterpieces in Grévy, Loubet, and his successor. Every man of intellect differs greatly from every other. The generic resemblance of all is thrown into the shade by purely personal qualities. They are rather Europeans than Frenchmen, though there is something French in every one of the five—their attitudes, their clothes, their way of wearing them, and the spirit which leads each to reveal his idiosyncrasy, which if strong is reticent. This reticence in individual determinism (not determination) is one of the general features, but the least so in M. Fallières. He sits in an arm-chair looking straight forward, with his hands resting on his thighs. It is prodigiously like to the model or subject. One might almost fancy M. Fallières seated on the terrace at Lupillon, with neighbours who had come to tickle the muse of light, gay poetry and to taste of his famous white wine. And yet he has a very serious character. He is very much the good fellow, shrewdly intelligent, and, as President of a highly civilised democracy, the right man in the right place. This is so apparent that I fail to see why the hanging committee, on second thoughts, had the vis-à-vis picture removed on the eve of the official private view. This painting represents a Palestine "she ass and her colt" (*Anesse et l'anon*), by Bareilles, and now hangs in Salle 31. They are just the thing for a scene in a Passion Play giving the triumphal ride into Jerusalem. The name of the *anesse* is Rigolo and that of *l'anon* Bijou.

M. Détaille had again this time the honour of taking King Edward over the Champs Elysées Salon, and a redoubtable one he must have felt it, as his Majesty had but an hour to spend there. The selection of paintings worthy of being admired had, therefore, to be severe. When many are called and few only can be chosen, there must be weeping and gnashing of teeth, and particularly among artists, a class with not much culture outside of their art, and extremely vain. The King could contemplate the President of the United States in a light grey suit, and replacing, as the vis-à-vis of his good brother Fallières, Rigolo and Bijou. He is not sufficiently Teddy R. the matchless, the *impayable*, the man who has best represented the prodigiously vast West, with all its prospects, realities, and possibilities, at the White House. This presentment of one of the strongest personalities of the United States is from the pencil of a lady. She is American and a Marquise by the Pope's grace. The Montagnini papers have given her an enigmatic interest which does as well to gather a crowd of *salonniers* as any other. They all wonder was it she who had the very *rigolo* idea of bringing M. Clemenceau and M. Piou together at a lunch at her house. Queen Alexandra had the amiability to sit to her. Her Majesty's portrait is also exhibited at the Grand Palais.

The keenness of competition between the studios may be measured by the attention paid to journalists and by artists of high merit. No less than thirty-six portraits of notable or simply active journalists hang in the good places at the Artistes Français Salon (Champs Elysées), to say nothing of those at the Champ de Mars. They figure in the painting of the Augurs, of whom there are thirty-two, by Lassement. Ferrier's portraits are worth looking at again and again. They are this year of women only. It is an article of his artistic creed that the women of the Third Republic

are incomparably more interesting, often more beautiful, and sometimes of a much more heady charm, than those of the First and Second Empires. In his double portrait of a mother and daughter by adoption he gives a lady verging on the pensively sad autumn of life. She places her hand on the shoulder of the girl beside her in an attitude of protection. The latter is the picture of ingenuous innocence and fresh and unassuming as a field flower. The portrait of a Madame X. is that of one who receives the homage of universal admiration as due to her intoxicating loveliness.

Jules Lefèbvre's Giovannina is a splendid young Italian wench, good for a model, brim full of vitality, and ready to flare up into a Vesuvian fire of passion, but possibly without any soft sentiment. Italians are more passionate than sentimental. J. P. Laurens, who so often covers acres of canvas, has painted, as if for a wager, quite a small portrait of his little grandson Pierre, a boy in his seventh year. Master Pierre is engaged, all alone, in a game of "only suppose." He is dressed as a mediæval *ritter*, and may fancy himself one of those German nobles who forced their Emperor to go to Canossa, and then reviled him for going. The little fellow is done with a crisp touch, and his budding genius for theatrical personation rendered with amusing cleverness and to the life. A fellow picture is of Pierre's sister, who might be eleven or twelve, and belongs to the Merovingian time. She is reading a monkish chronicle edged round with illuminated illustrations. This descent of a brush that is most at ease in the fresco style to the diminutive picture greatly interests.

A PEER AMONG THE PLAYERS.

I HAVE always been interested in the stage myself, and now that I've married Jessie, of course, I am a sort of an actor by adoption. Not that I was ever quite fool enough to put any money into it, even if I'd had any; and so I told an uncle of Jessie's that we found waiting on the doorstep when we got back to the flat on Thursday. He really seems to be a genuine uncle, a brother of her mother's who went to the bad and got on the stage that way. Jessie had to drop him long ago; he took to borrowing half-crowns of her dresser, for one thing, so we were not altogether pleased to see him—the more so that it was a pretty evident sign that people have been talking about us. I couldn't very well kick one of my wife's relations into the street, to begin with, and to tell the truth I found him rather amusing, even though I had to refuse to put any money—it's all Jessie's, really—into his scheme. Though I shouldn't wonder if there was something in it, and if you felt inclined to speculate, his (stage) name is Roderick Macalister. I don't know his address—probably hasn't got one—but he is a tall, thin, dark man, with rather long hair and a frock coat, that he always wears tightly buttoned, and that's gone green at the seams. He is always to be found at the bottom of Bedford-street, Strand, and I believe he makes quite a decent income borrowing half-crowns from fellow-actors that happen to pass, and forgetting to pay them back. Anyway, he's not altogether a fool, and he got his idea through two things that were in the papers during the week. One is the stopping of the "Mikado," and the others the living statuary boom. To put it shortly, he wants to bring out a play about Adam and Eve before anyone else does, and get a sort of trust in it; I didn't quite make out how.

He thinks that stopping the performances of the "Mikado" means the end of the stage, as it is run now. He calls it the thin end of the wedge. If they won't let you do a play about Japan, for fear of hurting the Japs' feelings, he doesn't see that they can very well let you do one about France, or Russia, or America, or any other country. He points out that in the old legitimate the villain was always a foreigner, so you've got to bar out all plays of that kind, lest you hurt the feelings of the particular brand of foreigner that's villain. And all Shakespeare has got to go, too. He's always sneering at foreigners somewhere. The Danes might very well kick at "Hamlet" because it makes their Royal family such a queer lot; and the French are bound to object to nearly all the historical plays, because they are always being beaten in them; and the Italians, to say nothing of the Jews, would object to "Othello" and the "Merchant of Venice," and "Romeo and Juliet" and, in fact, you've got to give up Shakespeare. Macalister has gone through I don't know how many hundreds of plays, and he can't find one that's really safe. Old and new, they've all got some mention of foreigners somehow. It isn't only foreigners, either; there's the stage Irishman, and the Welsh—there's one in Shakespeare somewhere, Jessie tells me—and the Scotch. The next thing will be that Mr. Redmond and Mr. Lloyd-George, and Lord Rosebery himself, will begin to protest against them, on quite as good grounds; and, in fact, the stage is doomed. Because, even if a play should get through, you'll never get a manager to put it on, when there's always the chance of his being jumped on and made to take it off at a moment's notice.

On the other hand, as all this living statue business shows, they don't a bit mind your putting as many naked people on the stage as you like as long as you bring in some blithering clap-trap about it being art. It's wonderful, by the way, what your British public will stand in the way of clap-trap. What? The idea of all the bar-loungers and cheap clerks and corner-boys—not to speak of Members of Parliament (the Commons, of course)—crowding into the music-halls to see a lot of naked women, or so nearly naked that you can't tell the difference, because of their love of art is rather rich; but if you read the papers you'll find that there are all sorts of respectable old females of both sexes, especially those that happen to have once won a chromo-lithograph in a raffle and called themselves patrons of the fine arts ever since. You'll find, I say, that lots of them swallow it like milk and write the papers attacking the Philistines that want to banish art from the music-halls, and arguing that the popularity of living statues is a sign of the great increase in the appreciation of art in this country. Some of them ought to just knock about among a music-hall audience and hear the way the art-lovers talk. I'm not a Puritan myself—not by a long way—but I hate cant and hypocrisy, and I'd just like to ask some of the music-hall shareholders how they'd like to see their own wives and daughters doing the living statue business on the music-halls. But about the Adam and Eve play. Macalister's idea is to have it brought out at a big West End Theatre and get some well-known artist to design—not the dresses exactly, but the scenery and decorations and things—so that he can work the high art dodge for all it's worth and silence the opposition. He has worked it all out very carefully, even to arranging the minor details. He tells me that he was a bit gravelled at first, because he didn't see how he was going to get more than two leading parts into it, unless he treated the serpent allegorically. But, by a bit of good luck, when he was in a public-house somewhere off Museum-street, he ran across one of those queer people who spend all their lives reading up stuff that nobody else does in the British Museum—or did, before it was shut up. Macalister stood him several drinks—or says he did, though I doubt that part of the story myself—and found out that the old chap had made a special study of the Garden of Eden quite recently. Had had to read it up for some sort of a crank who wanted to start a new sort of city somewhere in the country, as far as I can make out, and base it on the way the Garden of Eden was laid out. The old chap had read all there was to be found out about it—in the Bible and the Koran and all sorts of other books—and he told Macalister that Adam certainly had two wives and probably quite a lot more. Macalister's idea would be

to make them into the chorus, with a topical song, that he's written himself, about Free Trade and that sort of thing. Then, according to the old chap, there were all sorts of other people who could be brought in—earth-spirits and demons and creatures of that kind. After all, as Macalister says, historical realism doesn't really matter, because it's the costumes that will interest the audience most, and nobody knows exactly what did go on in those days really, and if any objections should be made, he knows a queer sort of parson chap that he thinks he could get to start a new religion, bringing in all the characters he wants, and boom the play that way. Macalister is a born enthusiast, but he believes that what between this parson and the artist man he would engage, he would get the whole bench of bishops, and all the leading Nonconformists to come one night—he'd have to send them free seats, of course—and all the Royal Academicians another, and that they'd write letters to him afterwards praising it up to the skies. He'd make it realistic, too—have dogs dressed up like lions (as they have at one of the theatres now), and a dragon like the one they have at Covent Garden in "Siegfried."

I see I have forgotten to mention one of the chief points upon which Macalister depends to make his scheme a success. It wouldn't offend any nation at all, because nobody knows exactly what country Adam and Eve really did belong to, nor exactly where the Garden of Eden was. So there wouldn't be any danger of the Lord Chamberlain's stopping the licence, or anything of that sort. In any case, the play isn't written yet, and when it is he's going to take special care that whoever writes it—he thought of asking Mr. Bernard Shaw or else Mr. Hall Caine, either of whom he thinks would write it quite as well as he would want it, and be able to see that it was properly boomed in the press as well—shall not bring in a single reference to any person or anything that has happened since the Flood, so that no nation can feel offended because its ancestors are libelled or any rubbish of that sort. But, as he says, the book doesn't matter much, he believes in gagging, and plenty of songs by the chorus, and dancing, and that sort of thing; I didn't really hear the whole of his scheme, because before he had finished he had drunk too many whiskies and soda, and ended up by offering to let me play the part of the Missing Link, which he thinks of introducing to attract the scientists. So I had to kick him out. But, considering what the public really does seem to like, I shouldn't wonder, I say, if there was money in it. And Jessie thinks so, too.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

WHETHER it was the English that made England, dear Lady Betty, or England that made the English, our condition is equally disquieting. If it was the former, and American, Continental, and modern influences are materially injuring our character, there is cause for alarm; if it was the latter, and scientific and mechanical developments are dispossessing England of the advantages she enjoyed as an island, the situation is disturbing.

. . . . .

The sea is the backbone of England; are we within measurable distance of the last of the sea? When a current of electricity can cause a seaquake that will sink every ship in its course, and winged man shall skim through space, the ocean will give us little else but fish and fresh air!

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It may be said that good Premiers make bad Leaders of the Opposition; judged according to that process, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is, certainly, an admirable Prime Minister, for Mr. Arthur Balfour has not distinguished himself as an opponent of the Government, nor has he given satisfaction to his followers. The fight for power now in this country is no longer carried on in the House of Commons and by Members; it is the newspapers that are the chief combatants, and the Cash Kings that control them as shareholders. The House of Commons of to-day is a mere ballot-box enlivened—or otherwise—by an occasional chatter-box.

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The malicious story is told that recently the Woolsack was missing when the Lord Chancellor was to take his seat, but that the Lords put their heads together to provide an immediate substitute.

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The rage for the sensational in this country has undergone a further development. The long-continued sensation, the mysterious murder, the slow-moving divorce case, and the procrastinating scandal, are now considered tiresome; the nation craves for Startletts. It is almost a New Human Nature that needs the misfortunes of others in tabloid form.

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The sorrows of a connoisseur have been singularly ignored; they are described in the following letter that has been addressed to the present writer by a newly-married man:—

"Sir,—Some two months ago the announcement of my approaching marriage was published, as is the custom. Knowing that I am an art collector, my many friends sent me old prints, china, furniture, silver, and ornaments of various kinds and every sort. As most of those friends are inexperienced in the direction of art, I have now a store of absolute trash that distresses me indescribably, for many of these presents have cost large sums which are altogether wasted. Eighteen prints were sent to me at an average price of ten pounds; only two of them are genuine! The value of the other sixteen may be estimated in pence! It is the same with the china—most of it is imitation! Of the seventy odd presents I received, there are only twelve I can possibly place in my collection; the rest, if there, would cast doubts upon the hundreds of genuine specimens I possess. Imagine the amount of money that has been wasted! Besides, those friends who miss their gifts when they visit me will be pained, and I cannot tell them how grossly they have been deceived by the dealers.

"I have a suggestion to add to that which may be of some value. There are now many women who have taste, and considerable knowledge of the old, and are anxious to increase their income. Were they to act as art advisers to those who give old-world productions as presents, it might be of advantage to all concerned but the unscrupulous dealers. Were such a woman required to purchase for a customer a present of the kind not to cost more than ten pounds, she would probably find a desirable object for the price, and would secure a sufficient commission for her trouble.

"It has been calculated that David Cox must have painted for forty-eight hours in the twenty-four since he was six months old to produce all the water-colour drawings which are attributed to him, and that Turner must be still living, and working ceaselessly, to account for the pictures that are associated with his name! Two water-colours by David Cox and one by Turner were amongst my wedding presents—all spurious!"

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There are thousands of conventional errors that it is time, in this enlightened age, to abandon; the centre of education in England has shifted—the "educated" class is uneducated, and the "uneducated" classes are educated; the men and women of the West End do not talk epigrammatically; the clubs are not palaces of pleasure; and this is not by any means so wicked a world as it is generally represented to be. It is a mischievous habit to label the world as wicked, when the experience of all who are observant proves there is much more good in ordinary human beings than evil. As a matter of fact, it is one of the most surprising circumstances of life how much good there is, and in the most unexpected quarters. There is a story, however, that may be told here to make a contrast between the contention and the undoubted selfishness which prevails. Two men were recently in the morning-room at a West-End club. One fell, seized with a stroke of paralysis; the other forthwith sat down, and wrote to the committee to complain of members having strokes in the club!—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Two Thousand has excited very little interest, and the betting on the race was on an exceedingly limited scale. It was decidedly the tamest Two Thousand day ever known at Newmarket, and the attendance was dolefully meagre, the weather being wretched in the extreme during the morning. When the numbers went up odds of 9 to 4 were asked for about Slieve Gallion, while 8 to 1 was offered bar one. As there was no general disposition to back anything except the favourite, the odds quickly rose to 11 to 4, and as much as 3 to 1 was betted in some cases, while 11 to 1 and 100 to 9 were generally offered bar one, Bezonian being nominally second favourite. Slieve Gallion won very easily at the finish, the running with Bezonian in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster being accurately confirmed. There was one momentary excitement during the race, as Slieve Gallion either swerved or stumbled at the Bushes, while Higgs appeared to give him a cut with the whip, but in a few strides he was all right again, and the race was practically over. He came away after passing the Ab. M. winning post in fine style, and the manner in which he galloped up the hill was not indicative of any lack of stamina. The going was very heavy indeed, which must have been considerably against the favourite. Slieve Gallion is a remarkably handsome horse, but he is certainly a most excitable animal, and very easily upset. Captain Greer's colt was thoroughly well trained, and his admirable condition was most creditable to Darling. He made all the running, and he was always well in front. If this horse is beaten at Epsom it will not be for lack of stamina, but because the hill will not suit him. I have always expressed the opinion in Truth that the Middle Park Plate running was entirely wrong, and that it ought to have been ignored when discussing Slieve Gallion's chance of winning the Two Thousand and Derby. The colt had been seriously amiss, and it was obvious that he was not up to the mark when he ran at Newmarket in October. If he had been in his Ascot or Doncaster form on the Middle Park Plate day he would have defeated Galvani just as easily as he had beaten Bezonian in the Champagne Stakes. Slieve Gallion's next engagement is the Derby, and he is entered for five races at Ascot, where he will no doubt be reserved for the St. James's Palace Stakes.

Bezonian was mentioned by me last year as certain to turn out Lord Rosebery's best three-year-old, people being at that time generally infatuated about Traquair. Bezonian had undergone a careful preparation for the Two Thousand, but he is still capable of improvement. The tale that he could have been much nearer to the winner if he had been hard ridden is all nonsense and rubbish, and people who indulge in such cackle overlook the fact that Slieve Gallion certainly was not hard ridden at the finish, and showed no sign of tiring.

Linacre was supposed to be the best of the Newmarket horses by many good judges there, and if there had been another quarter of a mile to go he would probably have beaten Bezonian, for Mr. Clark's horse appeared to be running on, and he was certainly going faster at the finish than Lord Rosebery's animal.

All Black ran respectably, but he is an over-rated colt. I pointed out some time ago the outrageous folly of backing this animal for the Derby at the ridiculous price at which he was quoted, considering that he has never won a race. All Black was fit enough, and he had done well in his stripped gallops, but he is not a colt of high class. He can have no chance for the Derby while the animals which finished in front of him last week keep well. His next engagement is in the Red Rose Stakes of £1,000 at Manchester, and I should fancy he will now go for that race. He is in the Duchess of York Plate of £1,300 at Hurst Park on the Saturday before Ascot, from which race Linacre was withdrawn when the minor forfeit was declared about thirteen months ago.

Galleot, who had beaten Hymettus in a trial, was much fancied at Newmarket, but he was hopelessly outclassed, as also was the Kingsclere candidate Apponyi, and the Duke of Portland's colt is not likely to win any of the "heavy" races for which he has been left in. This colt is own brother to Pamflete. The Welkin was also outclassed, and Weathercock was so extremely backward that he might as well have remained in his stable.

The Derby betting now reported is as fantastical as the recent quotations on the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. There is absolutely no genuine market on any future event whatever. Can it be credited that any sane and sober backer would be now found taking 4 to 1 to any considerable sum about Galvani for the Derby after Slieve Gallion's victory in the Two Thousand, and considering the poor running of Mr. Gilpin's horses so far as the season has gone? All the horses in this stable are backward, and the public exhibitions of Baltinglass and Weathercock have certainly not been calculated to encourage the friends of Galvani. I saw it stated on Friday that four monkeys had been taken about Galvani, which is a really incredible transaction. I do not believe in this animal as a Derby horse, and it is very doubtful indeed whether he can possibly be got fit by June 5. Then we find the French colt, Ouadi Halfa, quoted at 100 to 8 for the Derby, although it is actually all those odds against his starting at Epsom. The fact is that p.p. betting is absolutely extinct. The transactions now reported, about which so much elaborate fuss is raised, are altogether beneath contempt, being utterly paltry in amount, and representing only the harum-scarum fancies of foolish backers. Stable commissions are held back until the latest possible moment, and there is often no attempt to execute even a large one until the numbers have been up for several minutes. Heavy betting on the great weight-for-age races appears to be also a thing of the past. There was not nearly so much speculation over the Two Thousand as often takes place on a selling plate or a trumpery little handicap.

An owner of racehorses sends me an extract from the sporting article in a morning paper, and expresses himself in strong language as to the impudence of the "mischievous inventions" contained therein. The writer discourses on starting-price betting, and relates a truly wondrous tale of the client of a firm of bookmakers, who lays out "quite £100" every day that there is racing, and who bets on every race! The friends of this client had better look after him, unless, indeed, he is evolved out of the fertile imagination of the writer, and one is led to this conclusion when one finds it stated that he has won several hundreds of pounds this year. Only an idiot can believe such rot. There is another magician who is alleged to have won largely last year by laying odds on certainties but who had the marvellous good fortune not to speculate when Bachelor's Button was beaten at Newmarket and Pretty Polly at Ascot. This is the sort of gibberish one finds in a racing novel written by a woman. I agree with my correspondent that the circulation of even such preposterous fictions as the aforesaid is eminently calculated to induce eager and unsophisticated simpletons to make ducks and drakes of their money (most of them not being really in a position to waste a shilling) by following in the footsteps of this miraculous backer. No doubt there is an immense daily business in starting-price betting, and it is true that "legislation has had no effect on large credit transactions," but it is full time that legislation sufficiently drastic and comprehensive to stop such speculation altogether should be taken in hand. There is not a particle of "sport" in connection with starting-price betting by stay-at-home backers. It is pure gambling,

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and the horses are mere counters, and it would be easy to pass a Bill which would squabash the innumerable "Turf accountants" who so audaciously advertise themselves in many of the papers, and in several of these journals some such bookmakers are permitted to insert florid puffs of themselves and their business. Any measure to stop starting-price betting would certainly be supported by all the members of the Jockey Club whose approval would be of any value. If gambling of this pernicious kind were abolished, one result would be a considerably increased attendance at race meetings by the higher class of starting-price backers. Nobody having the very slightest practical knowledge of such affairs will believe misleading gibberish about backers indulging in constant speculation with the result that at the end of a season they have won "packets of money." The starting-price backer who finds himself a winner after two seasons of daily betting is a creature yet to be discovered, and as a rule he is decisively "settled" in a few weeks.

It is stated at York that arrangements have been privately made for the Corporation to lease Knavesmire to the Race Committee for a term of ninety-nine years, the rent being £800 a year, rising to £1,000. It is said to be contemplated before long to establish steeplechase meetings, in which case a course will have to be laid out. It has been rumoured that the racecourse is to be enclosed in order that it may be converted into a gate-money meeting. This is denied, but it is admitted that the present enclosures will be enlarged, which doubtless means that nobody will be able to obtain a view of the races without paying. A Bill to enable the Corporation of York to acquire Knavesmire for recreative purposes is now before Parliament, and it would be as well, in the interests of the general public, if the new arrangements concerning the racecourse were thoroughly investigated before the aforesaid Bill is passed.

Entries close next Tuesday for the Ascot Stakes, and the weights are to be published on June 6, being the day after the Derby. It is much to be regretted that £2,000 should still be added to this handicap, for an endowment of £1,000 would draw fully as many entries, and there would be quite as large a field. The Ascot funds should be principally devoted to weight-for-age stakes, which may be expected to bring out the best horses in training, and it is silly in the extreme to waste £2,000 on a handicap which is not likely to be contested by a single flyer. Nobody goes to Ascot desiring to see fields of platers. Last year Pradella won the Ascot Stakes, while in 1905 Sandboy was successful, and on neither occasion was there a single really good horse in the field.

Only twenty horses have been entered for the Somersetshire Stakes of £400 at Bath. There was a very much larger number of entries when this race was a sweepstakes with £100 added, and indeed it was then quite an important event among the second-class handicaps of the season. The most notable names in the list are those of Mr. Purefoy's Lally and Captain Orr-Ewing's Song Thrush.

The Salford Borough Handicap of £1,000 at the Manchester Whitsuntide Meeting has done very badly, only twenty-eight horses having been engaged. Considering that the distance is six furlongs, this is an astonishing failure, and not many years ago there would have been three times as many entries. Lord Howard de Walden's Lincoln failure, His Eminence, was entered, but he has met with an accident, and he will never run again. Sir E. Vincent has engaged both Ulalume and Cyanean. Mr. Neumann's Nero is entered, and so is Mr. Goodchild's Crusader, who is sure to win a handicap before long.

Nine horses have paid the minor forfeit for the Coronation Cup at Epsom, including Meadow Rue, Bilton Park, and the Russian horse Hammurabi. This race is run over the Derby course, and it will be the great event of the season if it brings out Keystone II., Velocity, Polymelus, Spearmint, The White Knight, Radium, Polar Star, and Troutbeck.

Backers demonstrated their incurable fatuity by eagerly accepting 11 to 8 about Lucian for the First Spring Stakes in a field of eighteen, but Lord Rosebery's colt is not a quick beginner, and, having got off badly, he was never really in the race. Littledale, who won cleverly for Lord Sefton, was not backed for sixpence. This colt, who is by Melton out of l'Ideale, was bred by Mr. Musker, and he cost 350 guineas at Newmarket last July. Stron Ard and Larig were favourites for the Hastings Plate, but Hymettus, who was so heavily backed at Sandown Park, won easily. Larig ran very badly, and it was a silly absurdity to back Lord Wolverton's colt because he was believed to be far in front of Slim Lad, who had run prominently at Sandown.

It was a mistake altogether to start Keystone II. for the March Stakes on Thursday, and for any one to back her in her palpably backward condition was sheer insanity, but the mare was positively made favourite. She ran very badly indeed. There was a lot of money for Gold Riach, but Mr. Bass's mare could not stay the course. The White Knight won cleverly at the finish from Slavetrader, who had 7 lb. the best of the weights. The White Knight is not yet properly fit, and it was a most creditable performance. This horse is no doubt the smartest four-year-old in training, and months ago I predicted that he would prove the best of the English lot in the Ascot Cup. Olympus had been well tried for the Newmarket Plate, but Lord Rosebery's colt got off badly, and the Duke of Devonshire won another race with his useful filly by Tarporley out of Lady Sneerwell. Olympus will win a race before long.

On Friday Polar Star was withdrawn from the Chippenham Plate at the very last moment, leaving this race a good thing for Bilton Park. Little Goose, who had been beaten earlier in the week, found no difficulty in winning the May Plate, for which race Cinderello had been put about as a real good thing. There were seventeen starters for the One Thousand, and Witch Elm was certainly the pick of the field. She won very easily from Frugality, and I do not see what is to beat her for the Oaks among the English fillies. Silver Heeled, however, had been amiss since she arrived at Newmarket, so her poor running may be ignored. Frugality is engaged in the Oaks, but she is far more likely to win the rich Coronation Stakes at Ascot.

Galvani has not made any considerable improvement since last autumn, and he has not given satisfaction in his recent gallops. It is a matter of absolute certainty that Mr. Gilpin's stable is at present altogether out of form. I have no belief in Galvani's Derby chance, and in my opinion Wool Winder will be the best of the Newmarket horses at Epsom if all goes well with him. Major Loder's colt can scarcely be got thoroughly fit by June 5.

I hear that Keystone II. will be prepared for her Epsom and Ascot engagements, and that after running for the Gold Cup she is to be turned out of training, with a view to her having a long rest before she goes to the stud next season.

I expect that Malua will win the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap on Saturday. This horse certainly ought to be able to beat Polymelus, Velocity, Gingal, and Polar Star at the weights. I fancy that Sagamore would have won this race if he had kept right.

Next week will be principally devoted to the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting, but there are also fixtures at Gatwick and Haydock Park. It may be hoped that there will be a considerable improvement in the weather at Newmarket, and there is sure to be a much larger attendance, as the King will be down for the meeting.

There were sixty entries for the Newmarket Stakes when this race closed in October, 1905, and forty-one horses were left in after the minor forfeit had been declared last July. The race will be worth £2,230. The field may include Perambulator, Linacre, Olympian, Simon Square, Knight of Tully, The Welkin or Prince

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of Orange, and Dripsey or Maya. I shall give a plumper for Linacre. There are fifty-four entries for the Payne Stakes, including Perambulator and Victoria, All Black, Earlston, St. Petersburg, Polar Star, Maya, and Larig. Polar Star ought to win, and All Black has the next best chance.

As to the two-year-old races, Vegor has a good chance in the Somerville Stakes, the entry for which race includes Cinderello, and St. Elf ought to win the Spring Stakes on Wednesday. The Bedford Stakes has thirty-two left in, including Malwood and Quelpart, and Mr. de Rothschild's colt ought to win this race. There are fifty acceptances for the Breeders' Stakes, and Quelpart is again entered here, his owner being also represented by Pastry, and each animal has a breeding allowance of 9 lb. The early two-year-old races are very dangerout to meddle with, and particularly at Newmarket, and they really excite very little interest, as the best animals in the various stables (or what are supposed to be the best) are of course in reserve for the Epsom and Ascot meetings. I hear of two animals in particular which are confidently expected to prove flyers of high class which are being kept for the New Stakes at Ascot.

THE COLONEL AND THE C.T.C.

I have received a long letter from Lieut.-Colonel R. Bazett, late R.A., in defence of the council of the Cyclists' Touring Club. He wants me to publish it in full. I cannot do so. But as he declares I am guilty of inaccurate statements and blackguardly conduct, I propose to deal with the writer at greater length than I should otherwise do. He tells me that he has been a member of the council for some years, and of the club for about twenty, and has been behind the scenes in the whole course of this acrimonious discussion. He proceeds—and the logical working of the Colonel's mind is stupendous—"I am, therefore, all the more surprised at seeing a journal with the reputation of Truth lending itself to the onesided and inaccurate statements as published in the issues of March 20 and 27." These articles he has only just seen. I strongly advise him to read some subsequent articles in Truth. Having accused me of inaccurate statements he does not point out a single one. This is grossly unfair. No doubt the Colonel considers my statements onesided. In dealing with the conduct of such a council as that of the C.T.C. they can be nothing else. There is only one side to the question. The Colonel does not give a single argument in the council's favour. He says the council only carried out the expressed wish of about three-fourths of the members in their action to enlarge the membership of the club. This is a gross misstatement. Only a third of the members voted, and while of this third 10,433 voted for, over 2,000 voted against the scheme, and the judge came to the conclusion that the voting did not represent the views of the club. As the Colonel has the effrontery to accuse me of inaccuracy without giving a single instance, I regret that it is my painful duty to have to correct him. His second argument is that when the application failed "the council decided not to appeal, although they had a large reserve fund to fall back on had they been so minded." I can only tell the Colonel that if the application did represent the wishes of three-fourths of the members, and if the council were advised that the judge was wrong, they should have appealed. I would remind him that the reserve fund was the money, not of the council, but of all the members of the club, to which neither he nor any member of the council is entitled in any greater sum than any other member of the club, and that to speak of that fund as belonging to the council is inaccuracy number two. As a matter of law, the appeal would have been hopeless. It would have been simply squandering club money to appeal. There is therefore no virtue in not appealing. He says the council resented what was practically a vote of censure (that is to say, a committee of inquiry) demanded by gentlemen who had been on the council not many years ago, who had assented to the council's methods, but who did not come forward for re-election, and so "other representatives more trusted by the membership were sent to the council." The sublime confidence displayed in that concluding sentence is superb. I refer him to the *Daily Mail*, April 29, where in an editorial on the result of the vote at Birmingham it is written: "More emphatic condemnation of a body of directors by the members of a company could not be shown," and I may add that after such a vote no self-respecting councillor would remain on the council. The present councillors are, as the meeting has shown, not trusted. No member of the committee of any respectable club would retain his seat after such a vote. The Colonel is no more justified in assuming that the past councillors assented to the methods of the council than I should be in assuming that he does. In fact, he admits that he does not approve all the actions of the council. The inference I draw is that the past members learned enough to realise that reform was urgent, and that inquiry was imperative, and to effect these ends it was necessary for them to have a free hand, and stir up the members to action. He considers the council act *con amore* for the interests of the club. This is, I presume, indicated by the fact that the council declined to nominate a committee of inquiry, and now protest that they do not object to inquiry by a representative and unbiassed committee. That protestation is pure hypocrisy. The same *con amore*, I suppose, made the chairman and treasurer refuse to serve on the committee. The same *con amore* has induced the council to refuse the committee of inquiry access to the club books. The fact is, the council works not *con amore*, but *con* Mr. Shipton, who, the Colonel says, is only the servant of the club, and therefore permitted to jocularly refer to his masters as donkeys.

Under article 37 the council is *at all times* to be bound by and to act in accordance with a resolution passed under such circumstances as was the one at Birmingham. Under article 56 a postal vote only binds the council for six months, or to the end of the current years, whichever may be longer. It is therefore clear that the vote at Birmingham binds the council absolutely. The postal vote, if not in favour of reform, is merely dilatory. It is a genial waste of £65. Why does the council want six months' grace? The refusal of the council to disclose the club books until after the result of the vote is known is a piece of sharp practice that one might expect from the directors of a company that was in Queer-street. In their own interests as well as in the interests of the club I hope this decision will be reversed.

The Colonel is very angry about the attacks on Mr. Shipton, who is also the editor of the club's paper. Mr. Shipton is quite capable of looking after himself. I may mention that I was asked to give my permission to the publication of certain articles from Truth relating to the business of the club in the *Gazette*. I gave it, and I am told the necessary fifty signatures from members were affixed and the articles sent in. In breach of the resolution of the general meeting in 1902, they were not published. The Colonel's friends are as adept in the arts of gagging as they are in those of burking inquiry. I can only assure the Colonel that if he had defied the letter and spirit of the Queen's Regulations as he and his colleagues do those of the C.T.C. he would have been cashiered long ago. He considers the decline in the membership of the club is due to cycle touring going out of fashion, and not to any action of the council, that the action of the Reform party is doing great harm, and that unless the postal vote backs up the council the club will receive its death blow. What an admission to make! Unless the council, which could have nominated its own committee of inquiry, can get a reprieve for six months the club will die! What must be the real condition of a club that so dreads an inquiry into its finances and management as to fear death?

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That is, I suppose, the reason why the books are not produced. That is the reason why the tremendous expense on postage is not gone into. In 1905, exclusive of the cost of the postage of the *Gazette* and Handbook and Farmhouse List, £754 14s. 9d. was spent. That is to say, the average for every working day was 590 penny letters, or a total of 181,127 penny letters a year. And this expenditure is not worth inquiry? He says to object to the £500 or £600 spent on councillors' fares is shabby. There are sixty of them. If he is right in his statement of the expenses the accounts are wrong. I consider the money absolutely wasted. A company with the capital and income of the C.T.C. is a business proposition, and must be managed from headquarters. There should be six directors appointed, with an annual fee of £25 each if they attended. They should meet quarterly. A strong finance board should be appointed to meet monthly—say, three members with additional fees. A finance committee that meets only three times a year, and only once in London, is quite unable to control the business at headquarters. This trotting about of the council I consider one of the worst features of the club. It lends itself to waste.

Now I come to a personal matter and I quote the Colonel; "Every one who knows Mr. Kendall Burnett knows that he is the most strict and high-principled man living, and anything he stated in his affidavit, referred to in your issue of March 27, he believed. I should like to find any one who has ever been on the council who would deny this statement. The slander, therefore, against him is all the more blackguardly." I quite accept all the attributes the Colonel gives to Mr. Kendall Burnett, the chairman. I have never heard it said that even the biassed Reformers speak in any other way of him. The only wonder is the attitude he has adopted in this matter. No man who desires to retain such a reputation should be a party to the refusal of the books to the committee of inquiry, or have permitted the statement to go unchallenged that the council welcomed inquiry by an unbiassed committe, when the council might have nominated its own committee. Unless the chairman desires to forfeit the respect of his fellow-members he must resign. The postal vote will not whitewash acquiescence in such conduct. I know not what to think of a chairman who is responsible for the employment of a clerk who assaults a member and does not apologise and is fined, and whose vice-chairman boasts that he is responsible for the line of action adopted at the trial. The chairman can believe what he likes. He swore that cycling was now dangerous on main roads because of motorists. The suggestion was that motoring was frightening cyclists. I know cycling is often disagreeable, but it is not dangerous. The danger was when there were no fore and aft rim brakes, and every horse driver tried to annoy cyclists. The chairman swears that the cost of legal aid to members is considerable. There is not a single item in the accounts for 1905 and 1906 allocated to legal aid to members. The only item is legal and Parliamentary expenses incurred on behalf of members and cyclists generally. The suggestion was that specific aid was given to individual members. In 1905 the legal and Parliamentary expenses item was £362 4s. 4d., and in 1906 £97 0s. 7d. not very large sums in a club with an income of £10,000 a year.

Men of the highest integrity and profoundest learning are often children in business matters. I do not cast any reflections on Mr. Kendall Burnett's integrity, but only on his business capacities. In conclusion, I regret that a retired officer of his Majesty's army is so blind to what is due to his position as to continue to serve on a council whose conduct after such a vote of censure would be a scandal if pursued by the directors of any business company in the United Kingdom.

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MAMMON.

INACTIVE STOCK MARKETS—SOME CAUSES OF THE PRESENT DULNESS—THE COMPETITION OF NEW ISSUES—BIG TRADE REQUIREMENTS—THE DISTRIBUTION OF DERELICT STOCK—THE SITUATION GRADUALLY RIGHTING ITSELF.

APART from a little animation in one or two individual shares, the amount of business transacted in the Stock Markets last week was again disappointingly small. On the face of it, the public appeared to be doing nothing either of an investment or speculative character. That the speculative spirit is dormant there is no room for doubt, in view of the disclosures made at recent Settlements, but it is probable that the investment appetite is larger than many people are aware of. Lately, it is true, the Stock Exchange has derived small enough benefit, but that is due largely to the fact that people have been subscribing for new issues, and thus avoiding toll in the shape of brokers' commissions. The average man dearly loves to think he is doing business on "wholesale" terms, and apart from the question of middleman's profit, there is no getting away from the admission that in the issues that have recently been offered to the public some unusual bargains have been obtainable. The Indian Government loan advertised at the end of last week is the latest case in point. The new scrip, which amounts to £3,500,000, took the form of 3½ per cent. stock at 98½, with a slight turn to the subscriber in the fact that a full quarter's interest will be paid on July 5, whereas the loan may be paid up by instalments spread over the next three months. While, however, allowing that a fairly large business in securities has lately been going on behind the back, as it were, of the Stock Exchange, it cannot be said to fully explain the dulness ruling in the House. The activity of trade throughout the country probably has much to answer for in keeping brokers and jobbers idle, for all past experience goes to show that boom times in trade are by no means boom times in the Stock Exchange. Merchants and manufacturers need to devote all their attention and surplus funds to the development of their own businesses, and the Stock Exchange for the time being must take second place. It is when trade slackens that the security market begins to reap the benefit. Money that has been locked up in industrial and commercial enterprise then gradually comes out, to find employment in other channels, and the result is ease in the money market and a general rise in investment stocks.

In addition to the two factors I have touched upon as explaining the slackness now prevalent in the stock markets, a third may be added in the shape of the derelict stock that has been on the market since the semi-panic times of March. Perhaps those who have grown impatient over the leaden aspect of the Stock Markets have not made enough allowance for the bad legacy left by the troubles of six weeks ago. Those troubles, it is true, did not cause the financial earthquakes that were predicted by outsiders, but they, nevertheless, involved some very heavy shifting of stocks, and those houses that "took over" securities from people in temporary difficulty have no doubt been doing a quiet amount of distribution in recent weeks. Altogether, then, a little reflection suggests that the time has not yet come for the House to despair. The new issues are, it is true, a nuisance from the House man's point of view, but the pace set lately cannot be kept up much longer. The recent rush was, perhaps, inevitable, bearing in mind that during the first quarter of the year the placing of gilt-edged stock was altogether barred by a prohibitive Bank rate, and that, consequently, the number of public borrowers on the waiting list had accumulated. The big requirements of trade are still a handicap, but as the country, from an industrial point of view, has already had several fat years, it is possible that before long there will be some reaction to quieter times. Already there are slight

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indications that industrial expansion has about reached the zenith, and though these come principally from the United States, they have a direct bearing upon the situation at home. Money, at any rate, has taken a distinct step towards becoming cheap, and it is not unlikely that the present 4 per cent. Bank rate may give place to a lower standard in the course of a few weeks. Easier money will in turn materially assist those who have wreckage seeking a haven, and thus the way looks like being paved, slowly but none the less surely, for brighter markets.

Home Rails on the Shelf—The Market Sagging From Want of Business—Merits Ignored—Scotch Preferred Issues a Bright Exception.

In the Home Railway market business during the week has remained virtually at a standstill, and prices have fallen, as the dealers say, from their own weight. The record may be gathered from the following table:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 27. 1907.	May 4, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	70	71½	+1½
Do. Def.	42½	28⅜	29	28½	- ¾
Central London	96½	82½	76	76	—
City and S. London	47½	39	42	42	—
Furness	69½	61⅜	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅛	37½	36	35	-1
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅞	69	62	62	—
Do. "B"	40⅜	32½	28½	28	- ½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14½	14½	- ⅛
Great Eastern	90⅞	79½	74½	73	-1½
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅝	99½	99	- ½
Do. Def.	48⅜	39½	41⅜	41½	- ⅛
Great Western	144	122⅜	125½	124½	- ½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	47½	47½	- ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	102	101½	- ½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅛	111½	99	96½	-2½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	13⅜	13⅜	- ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	81	81	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	50	50	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	148½	146½	-1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅛	49⅜	48½	-1⅛
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	46	46½	+ ½
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	14	14	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	65	64½	- ½
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	63⅜	63½	- ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	70	70½	+ ½
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	35	34½	- ½
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	139	137½	-1½
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96⅜	99	99	—
South-Eastern "A"	55⅜	44⅜	40½	40	- ½

The Scotch preferred stocks, the cheapness of which I called attention to in an article on Railway Fixed Interest Securities that appeared on April 17, have again been sought after by investors, and the prices have since then put on about three points. But the strength here only serves to give prominence to the backboneless condition of the market as a whole. There was talk last week of a further rise in the price of coal, and this was given as one of the reasons for a backward movement in prices. It would be easy, however, to pay too much attention to the alleged adverse factors for the Railway market at the present juncture; were the market not so entirely shunned by the public, the points that lately have done duty to explain declines would disappear, for they are little better than lame excuses. Home Rails have, in fact, been doing little else but fall for the past two years, although the general dividend position during that period has been steadily improving. Dearer coal was one of the things reckoned with at the beginning of the current year, but as regards most of the companies, traffics have lately been on such a grandiose scale that the probability of a somewhat higher expense ratio has no terrors. There is indeed, with the exception of one or two companies, no doubt about the maintenance of dividends, and several, among which the Great Northern and Hull and Barnsley stand out most prominently, should be able to increase their distributions. For the present, however, it is like flogging a dead horse to expatiate upon the merits of Home Rails, and apparently the market will have to possess its soul in patience, and hope that the advent of still cheaper money and the approach of the dividend season may give some stimulus to business in this department.

Union Pacifics Buoyant—Persistent Rumour About a Holding Company for the Union's Investments—Yankees Generally Quiet—Crops and Railroad Earnings—Atchison Bond Issue—Steel Trust Dividend.

The widespread attention given to Pacific Railroad issues served to awaken the American market last week from its recent spell of somnolence. Unions especially have been extensively bought on a reiteration of the rumours about the formation of a holding company to relieve the Union Pacific of its investments in the Southern Pacific and other railroads, with the avowed object of getting round the law should the Inter-State Commerce Commission rule that the Union Pacific's retention of these securities is illegal. The story is declared by some authorities to be without foundation, while others think it unlikely after the experience of the ill-fated Northern Securities Corporation. Whether, however, the Courts would regard the relation of the Union Pacific to the Southern Pacific in the same light as that of the Northern Pacific to the Great Northern may be doubted, because whereas the two latter roads are distinctly competitive, the two former only parallel each other at such great distances that their spheres of influence in the main are quite distinct. From the persistence with which the report of a holding company has been circulated it would be rash to assert that it is merely a "bull" canard; some people declare that the whole scheme is cut-and-dried, but that it will only be put into execution should the Inter-State Commerce Commission assume an antagonistic attitude towards the Union Pacific Company as now constituted. Meanwhile the market remains in an expectant mood, believing that any division of the Company's investments from its railroad assets by the issue of new bonus stock to represent the former would show up the present price of Unions in a favourable light. Of course, nothing must be taken for granted, but the possibility of "melon cutting" is likely to keep Unions on the move for some little time to come. Union Pacific preferred has shared in the rise with the ordinary on the theory that the two stocks would participate equally in any distribution of bonus stock.

Apart from Pacific issues, there were few features of individual interest in the market last week. Reading Common, from time to time, was taken in hand, the old belief in the coming separation of the company's railroad from its mineral assets being stimulated by the Government agitation against Trusts. Norfolk derived some benefit from expectations of increased business resulting from the Jamestown Tercentennial Exhibition. But the two factors that have operated most generally were the crop advices and the revenue statements, and these have largely served to offset the stimulating effect of the speculation in Unions. The movements in detail may be gathered from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	April 27, 1907.	May 4, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114½	89	97⅛	98	+ ⅞
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	99⅜	99½	- ⅛
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅝	101½	103	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	92	92	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	43½	43⅞	+ ⅜
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	139	141½	+2½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	30½	30	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅞	78	78	—
Erie	52½	40	24⅜	25½	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	56½	58	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	39	41	+2
Illinois Central	188⅜	171	151	152	+1
Louisville	160⅜	143⅜	123	123½	+ ½
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	37⅜	38⅜	+ ⅛
New York Central	159½	130⅜	122½	122	- ½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45⅛	39	39	—
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87⅛	79	81	+2
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	139	141	+2
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅛	63⅜	65	66	+1
Reading ($50)	85⅜	69⅞	56⅜	58½	+1½
Southern	43⅜	33	22⅜	22⅜	—
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	70	70	—
Southern Pacific	99⅞	64⅜	86⅜	88½	+2½
Union Pacific	203	144⅜	146½	152½	+6
U.S. Steel	52½	33⅜	38	38⅜	+ ⅜
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	104	105	+1

Distrust unscrupulous dealers who try to substitute inferior inks. Ridicule the excuses "out of stock," or "just as good," and—buy elsewhere. Insist on having Stephens' Ink.

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

As regards crops, last week's Government report confirmed the recent reports of damage by cold, abnormal weather being reported in the grain area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. There is little doubt that winter wheat has suffered considerably, and the strength of the Chicago grain market is an indication that the outlook is not regarded as particularly cheerful. Of course, any deficiency in the early crop may be made up by an increase in the amount of spring sown wheat—which is now being planted—while as regards the total cereal production the most important crop of all, that of maize, may turn the scale in the right direction. All the same, the year, from an agricultural point of view, has opened badly, and the point is of the more importance seeing that general trading conditions in the States are on the turn.

Traffic statements last week on the whole had an unsettling effect. The New York Central's showing was frankly bad, and afforded fresh evidence, if that were needed, of the unwisdom shown by the management in increasing the dividend last year. For the first quarter of the current twelvemonth gross earnings amounted to $21,778,000, an increase of $497,000, while net earnings were $3,586,000, a decrease of no less than $2,259,000. This means that the ratio of operating expenses rose 9 per cent. as compared with the March quarter of 1906. The Union Pacific, during March, managed to save $151,000 in net out of a gross increase of over a million dollars, but the Southern Pacific, while showing a gross gain of $1,116,000, reported a shrinkage in net of $569,000. The Chesapeake converted a gross increase of $104,000 into a net decrease of $29,000, while the Southern continues to wallow, net earnings for the month showing a falling off of $498,000. The actual net revenue for the month was no more than $813,000—left out of a total gross take of $5,014,000. Atchison have not been materially affected by the announcement of a new issue of 5 per cent. ten year convertible bonds to a total of $25,000,000, which have been offered to the stockholders to the extent of 12 per cent. of their holdings as registered on May 10. The issue forms part of a total of $98,000,000 recently created, and the money is required for equipment and extensions. English holders of the company's stock may subscribe through Messrs. Baring Bros. and Company, Limited, 8, Bishopsgate-street Within. The terms seem attractive enough, though the company may perhaps be congratulated on being able to place 5 per cent. bonds at this juncture, seeing that quite recently some of the largest American roads have had to issue short term bills bearing distinctly higher rates of interest, because the issue of bonds on anything like reasonable terms was impracticable. Payment for the new scrip is spread over a full twelvemonth. From a general standpoint the Atchison's action is not relished, as the market fears that the issue will be the forerunner of others of a similar character, and already the financial houses in New York, as I demonstrated by figures a week ago, have more scrip on their hands than they can conveniently take care of.

In accordance with the belief of all but the ultra-sanguine, the United States Steel Corporation has made no change in its quarterly rate of dividend, which remains at 2 per cent. per annum. The statement was undoubtedly a very fine one, the earnings for the quarter totalling $39,122,000, as against $36,634,000 for the corresponding period of 1906, $23,026,000 for the same period of 1905, $13,445,000 for the first quarter of 1904 (the record lean year), and $41,745,000 for the December quarter of 1906—which so far is the high record. The surplus after payment of the dividend works out at $18,185,000, or a decrease of $639,000 against that of December last. As foreshadowed by the annual report recently issued, the unfilled orders on hand have lately shown a falling off, the present total being 8,044,000 tons, as compared with 8,490,000 tons at the close of last year. As the decline in fresh contracts is likely to become more accentuated later on, in view of the slowing down of construction work in the United States, there is no likelihood of higher dividends in the common stock for some time to come. This robs the junior issue of attractiveness, though in view of the big margin behind the fixed charges the Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, which stand slightly under par, and the Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preferred, which offers a yield of £6 17s. 6d., look worth the investor's attention. The first-named are a high-class investment, and in spite of the prejudice felt by many people against American Industrials, I have for some time wondered why the bonds have been allowed to remain so long around their present figure. The Preferred stands in the semi-speculative category, but a yield of 6⅞ is not to be lightly refused, and the shares might be worth picking up for mixing purposes.

CANADIAN PACIFIC MARCH STATEMENT—A RETURN TO NORMAL WORKING CONDITIONS—GRAND TRUNK EARNINGS—EXPLANATION OF THE CONTINUED HIGH EXPENSE RATIO—THE BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR THIRDS—MEXICAN RAILS AND THE MEETING—REASSURING NEWS.

Although the trouble on the Alberta coalfield (now understood to be over) continued last week to check "bullish" activity in Canadian Pacific, the shares on balance made a modest improvement, thanks in a measure to the revenue statement for March. It may be remembered that, as a consequence of the severe weather, which reduced gross receipts while adding considerably to the expense ratio, the line during January and February reported decreased earnings of respectively $719,000 and $584,000. The March statement shows that, with an increase in gross earnings of $1,040,000, net takings advanced by $401,000, which comes on top of an increase of $662,000 a year ago. The proportion of expenses to receipts was 63.38, or a trifle less than in March, 1906, and compares against 87 and 88 in January and February of the present year. On the nine months the aggregate net earnings have increased by $1,497,000—equal to 9 per cent. Now that normal weather has again returned—and it is worth noting that navigation on the Upper Lakes was finally opened about a week ago—the Canadian Pacific is going ahead at a faster rate than ever, and with no doubt about the maintenance of the dividend—even if a higher payment from railway earnings be unlikely in the early future—holders of the shares are likely to rest satisfied with their investment, and await with patience the action that sooner or later will be taken in regard to the company's huge land assets, which alone are estimated to be worth from 15 to 20 millions sterling, whereas the entire common stock of the company is only about 24 millions sterling.

After the substantial improvement of a week ago Grand Trunk issues have eased off slightly on eagerness to secure profits, but the reaction is not likely to be more than a temporary one, having regard to the splendid earnings of this system. The March statement, showing that of a gross increase of £62,400 only £9,600 was saved as extra net revenue, was, perhaps, nothing to boast about, but the Trunk market has been accustomed for some time to see the bulk of the company's additional gross takings absorbed by extra working costs, and the figures, therefore, did not come as a disappointment. Even £9,600 saved out of £62,400 is an improvement upon £3,400 saved out of £99,500—which was the outcome of operations during January and February—and the position as regards the relation of net to gross increases should be further bettered during the next three months, as the ratio of expenses invariably declines in the second quarter of the year. The fact that out of a gain in gross revenue of £161,900 during the first three months only £13,000 has gone to swell net receipts, while not relished by those who have bought Trunks for an early "turn," may be used as a "bull" argument by those who hold the company's securities as investments. The fact is that the Trunk management, pursuing the policy adopted for some years past, is taking advantage of the present spell of prosperity to raise the physical standard of its property. With the traffic required to be handled growing every year at such an enormous pace, this conservative policy requires no

"FINANCE."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

justification, and while the greatest benefits from it lie in the future, the company is already deriving big advantages from the high credit which it enjoys, and the consequently low rates at which it can raise funds. At the moment the chief drag upon the Grand Trunk is its most recently acquired branch, the Canada Atlantic. Doubtless one day this will prove its worth as a feeder to the main system, but for the present, owing to the need of practically relaying the track, the line is not paying its way, there being a debit balance on the past three months of £4,600. Still, after making due allowance for the large proportion of earnings that will continue to be put back into the road, there is no reason to take aught but a bright view of the dividend outlook, so far as the immediate, as well as the more distant, future is concerned. Last year Trunk Third preference got 3 per cent. To pay another 1 per cent. calls for £72,000. Towards this £13,000 has already been contributed, as a result of three months' working, while there must be included a sum of £46,000 which the company has in hand on account of the non-repetition of last year's item, Michigan taxation arrears. Thus £59,000 out of the £72,000 is already available, leaving only £13,000 (plus a small sum as extra guaranteed interest) to be provided during the remaining nine months. Thirds should, therefore, in respect of 1907, get the full 4 per cent. to which they are entitled, with a fair margin to spare, and as the stock on the basis of a 4 per cent. dividend would give a yield of over 5½ per cent. to a present purchaser, it ought to be good for a rise of, say, ten points in the course of the current year.

In the Foreign Railway Market there was plenty of excitement last week in the Mexican Railway section in connection with the meeting held on Thursday last. Stockholders naturally turned up in force to hear how the company proposed to meet the £300,000 which the report had announced would be required from revenue for the purpose of bridge renewals and the relaying of a portion of the road. From the Chairman's speech it appears that the total expenditure upon physical improvements estimated to be spent within the next few years is as much as £630,000, divided as follows: New rails £200,000, sleepers £200,000, bridges £75,000, engines £70,000, cars £70,000, and sundries £15,000. This is enough to take the stockholder's breath away, but Mr. Pryor showed that so far as extra burden upon revenue was concerned the total amount proposed to be taken was at the outside £80,000, divided into eight half-yearly instalments of £10,000. The remainder of the large total would be derived by the sale of investments £116,000, sale of Vera Cruz terminals, and the compensation in respect of loss of business there, £146,000; realisation of old rails, £130,000; and as to the rest, by a continuance of the special appropriations from revenue that have been a feature of Mexican Railway finance for several half-years past. All this is exceedingly satisfactory, for it means that at the end of four years the company will have an up-to-date system, capable of properly coping with the heavier traffic that it is now being called upon to handle, and that the change will have been effected without adding to capital account, and with only a moderate increase in charges out of current revenue. But it makes it still harder to understand why the Board should have gone out of its way to alarm the shareholders with its cryptic reference to fresh revenue expenditure of £300,000, and I was not surprised that the meeting was productive of some heated comments from some of the proprietors. It would have done less harm had the report contained no reference at all to the matter of new special expenditure, and had the Chairman reserved the full explanation for the meeting. But obviously the duty of the Board, if it alluded to the subject, was to have set forth the position clearly, and not in so ambiguous a manner as to frighten shareholders into throwing away their stocks. So far as the outlook is concerned, the new charge of £20,000 per annum need not necessarily entail a cutting down of the dividend on the Second Preference, for already in respect of a third of the year the company shows an increase in gross receipts of about £36,000. But the market will now probably give up talking for a time about dividends on the ordinary. My usual table follows:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	Apl. 27, 1907.	May. 4, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	180⅝	183	+2⅝
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25⅛	31⅜	31⅝	− 1/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101⅛	100½xd	100½xd	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅛	114⅜	118½xd	118½xd	− ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	111xd	111¼xd	− ⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60⅛	72⅜xd	72½xd	− ⅛
Mexican	50⅞	22½	44½	47	+2⅜
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅜	141	142⅜	+1⅜
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¼	49½	88	91⅜	+3⅜
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11½	11⅜	+ ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	115½	117	+1½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90⅛	78¼	85	85	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	24	24	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	91	91	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65½	80	80	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37¼	56	55½	− ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	23	23	—
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	155	158	+3
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	120	119	−1
Antofagasta Def.	130⅛	162	140	143	+3
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	15½	15	− ½
Argentine Great Western	130¼	111	107½	109	+1½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83⅛	64½	78	78	—
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	115xd	115½xd	+ ½
Do. and Rosario	120⅞	111	103½xd	103 xd	—
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	124	122⅜	−1½
Do. Western	138⅜	123½	121⅜	121½	− ½
East Argentine	120	87	119	119½	+ ½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	67½	67½	—
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108¼	85	88½	88½	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	91	91½	+ ½
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	11½xd	11⅜xd	+ ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69¼	77½	76⅞	− ⅜
San Paulo	214⅞	199½	213¾xd	214 xd	+ ⅛
Central Uruguay	92¼	82	91	91½	+ ½
Costa Rica	29 15/16	25	29½	29½	—
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	73½	73	− ½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76¾	77	77	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76⅜	82½	80 xd	—
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	53	49	−4
Cuban Central	7 1/16	5⅝	6 7/16	6⅜	− 1/16
United of Havana	193	105⅝	99½xd	102½xd	+3
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12½	12½	—
Mashonaland Debs. (2nd issue)	94⅜	87⅜	87½	87½	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅝	76	78	76 xd	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19½	21½	21½	—

See-Saw Tendency in the Kaffir Market—Business Still on a Small Scale, Awaiting a Definite Statement Regarding Labour—General Botha's Assurances—Results and Prospects of Ferreira and Robinson.

Business in the Kaffir Market has remained quiet. During the past week prices have been mainly influenced by the operations on behalf of French speculators, and on balance show no material change. There does not seem much to go for speculatively in this market at the moment, the quietness being expected to continue in evidence pending a definite statement as to what is to be done in regard to the Chinese whose contracts expire in the next few months. The hope that General Botha would see his way to make an announcement on this matter at the banquet last Wednesday was not fulfilled. He said he was not in a position to make a detailed statement, but hoped soon to be able to do so. The market, however, was temporarily cheered by the fact that the Transvaal Premier renewed the assurances he made before and directly after the elections that his party desired to do justice by the mining industry. "My Government," he remarked, "will use its best endeavours to make the mining industry the success of the Transvaal, and a great success at that, because I know the prosperity and progress and the welfare, not only of the Transvaal, but of the whole of South Africa, are materially dependent upon the development of that industry." And, in concluding his speech, General Botha said: "I can assure you we shall do nothing [in regard to the labour question] without having instituted a drastic inquiry." This allusion to the Commissions the Government has appointed to inquire into the various phases of the labour problem serves as a reminder that the Premier is not likely to be in a position to make a definite statement on the question until their reports have been drawn up and considered. The question is: Will a decision be arrived at before the expiry of the contracts of the first coolies to arrive on the Rand three years ago? It certainly seems doubtful, and, in the event of their having to be repatriated—as they will have to be unless the Government takes action and so makes it possible for them to be re-engaged—the first

mine to suffer will be the New Comet. It would appear that the hopes of the new Government are that, by taking the control of the native labour recruiting into its own hands, it will be able to ensure a better supply, and thus supplant the Chinese; but, as I have pointed out before, the leaders of the mining industry are not likely to be satisfied with an equal number of natives in the place of the Chinese. The latter class of labour is superior to native labour by reason of its continuity, and those in a position to express an opinion on the matter consider that to replace a given number of Chinese the industry would require two or three times that number of natives. This is a point, however, which the Commissions will doubtless consider and report upon, and those interested as shareholders must needs continue to exercise patience. In face of the Transvaal Premier's repeated assurances, it is difficult to conceive of the interests of Rand shareholders being allowed to suffer. The gold production of the Transvaal is an important factor in connection with British commerce as a whole, and serious interference with the operations of the mines would concern many besides holders of Kaffir shares. This is, to a certain extent, a safeguard, and it seems to me that, at the worst, any action taken by the Government would be of a character least likely to affect the principal mines steadily producing the precious metal.

The annual reports have just reached me of two Rand mines which were among the earliest contributors to the Transvaal gold output, and whose returns are to-day at or near the top of the list. I refer to the Ferreira and the Robinson. Their properties adjoin, and both have remarkable records in respect of dividends distributed. The Robinson started with the modest capital of £50,000, but this has since been increased to £2,750,000, whereas the Ferreira's capital is £95,000. Last year Ferreira earned a profit of £351,114, as compared with £313,554 in 1905, while interest and other revenues increased the totals to £363,168 and £324,917 respectively. The past year was, in fact, a record one in the history of the company, both in regard to the profit realised and the sum distributed amongst shareholders, the dividends in respect of the past twelve months being equivalent to 300 per cent. This represents a yield of over 15 per cent. on the current price of the shares, and it is worthy of note that the monthly profits so far for the current year have been above the average of last year. The reason for the shares not being valued at a higher price in the market is doubtless the fact that the remaining life of the mine at the present rate of working is unlikely to be long. But as the chairman pointed out at the recent meeting, though the seeming life of the mine is limited to, say, six or seven years at the present high pressure, shareholders can reasonably look forward to quite a respectable period of work after that with profits on a smaller scale. An interesting point in respect of this mine is that it is a favourite with the natives. The Robinson's working profit amounted to £632,382 in 1906, as against £547,236 for the preceding year, and in the case of this mine also I believe the past year's results constitute a record in its history. Sundry revenue in 1906 was £20,383, compared with £7,427 in 1905, and the dividends declared were equivalent to 20 per cent., as against 17 per cent. On the current market price, the yield on the basis of the 1906 dividends works out at nearly 12 per cent. In the current year, however, the monthly profits have averaged £60,000, as compared with the average of £52,700 in 1906, and the management has confidence that, provided the labour supply is not interfered with, this rate of profit can be maintained. It is calculated that the Robinson has about nine years remaining life in respect of the contents of the two rich reefs, while in addition, like the Ferreira, it may be expected at the end of that period to derive profits from working the low-grade ore. The annual reports of the New Primrose, New Rietfontein, and Glencairn companies are also just to hand, and will be found in another portion of this issue. I propose to deal with these and the other mines of the Barnato group in an early issue.

In diamond shares there has been a fair amount of business transacted during the past week, chief attention having been paid to De Beers and New Vaal Rivers, as the following table of prices indicates:—

Share.	April 27, 1907.	May 4, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Pref.	18	18⅜	+ ⅜
" " Def.	26	26⅞	+ ⅞
Jagersfontein Pref.	4¼	4¼	—
" Def.	9⅛	9 11/16	—
New Vaal River	6 9/16	5¼	- 1⅜
Premier (Transvaal) Pref.	8½	8½	—
" " Def.	12⅞	12⅞	—

New Vaals have quieted down somewhat, but it is quite on the cards that activity will be resumed at any moment, as it is rumoured that there are two cliques at work, each desirous of obtaining the control of the undertaking. But the shares are not a suitable medium for the speculator who is not in a position to face the possibility of a pretty big loss, as the recent violent fluctuations in the quotation have demonstrated. Premier Diamonds have been comparatively idle of late. An announcement is made by this company which shareholders are hardly likely to appreciate, it being to the effect that in future returns will only be published half-yearly, "in accordance with the agreement between the company and the Government." Why the Government (which, by the way, is interested in the mine to the extent of six-tenths of the profits earned) should require this is not at all clear, and it would be interesting to have an explanation.

In the Rhodesian section the activity which sprang up at the beginning of the past week in Eldorados and the other shares of the Banket group quickly subsided, and prices gave way slightly, but it is rumoured that this group is to be taken in hand again by parties interested. In the event of the prediction being fulfilled and a moderate advance in prices being scored, it is not improbable some holders will be tempted to realise, and I do not think the improvement likely to be long maintained, though the approach of the time for the commencement of crushing at the Eldorado may be made the most of to stimulate speculative interest.

Speculative Interest in the Westralian Market Centred Mainly Upon Associated—Disappointment Causes a Sharp Relapse—Cosmopolitan's Cornish Interest—The News From Loddon Valley.

Business has not been very brisk in the Westralian market during the past week, but there has been some further "investment" inquiry for the shares of leading dividend-paying mines, notably Kalgurlis, Ivanhoes, and Sons of Gwalia. The prospects of the last-mentioned I commented upon last week. The present price, ex dividend, for Ivanhoes, is almost the equivalent of £8 cum dividend, which represents an appreciation of nearly £1 per share in the last month or so, but even at that figure I do not think the shares can be considered over-valued, having regard to the strength of the company's position, and the fact that last year's dividends represent a yield of 15 per cent. on that price. Speculative activity in this market has continued to be chiefly displayed by Associated, and it will be seen from the subjoined table that a relapse has followed the recent substantial recovery in the price of the shares:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 27, 1907.	May 4, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 7/32	1 31/32	1 15/32	- 1/32
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/32	1/8	31/32	1/8	- 3/32
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/3	4/9	+ 6d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6⅜	4 3/32	6 7/32	6¼	+ 1/8
Great Boulder (2/-)	23/-	20/3	23/3	23/3	—
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/6	6/3	- 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 9/16	2¼	1 31/32	1 15/16	- 1/32
Hainault	1 1/32	1¼	1 1/32	1 1/32	- 3/32
Ivanhoe (£5)	7⅜	6 1/16	7 5/16	7 5/16	+ 1/16
Kalgurli	12¾	8⅜	10	10¼	+ ¼
Lake View Consols	1 1/16	2/32	3/32	3/32	- 1/32
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	12/9	12/-	- 9d.
Oroya Brownhill	3¼	2	1⅝	1 31/32	+ 1/32
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 3/32	1 5/32	+ 1/16
South Kalgurli	1 1/32	1/16	1/16	1/16	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/32	1¼	1 1/16	7/8	- 1/16
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	½	¼	4/-	3/9	- 3d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1/8	½	- 1/16

The further news to hand by cable during the past week as to the developments in the Associated mine disappointed speculators, and they hastened to secure their profits; but it does not follow, of course, that there is now no chance of proving the continuation of the famous Iron Duke chute in this company's ground. Among the small-priced Westralian shares, Cosmopolitans have received attention in view of the official announcement that the company has, with the Hannan's Proprietary, secured a Cornish tin property. The mine is known as the Phœnix United, and is situated near Liskeard. In the past the property was a large producer, but had to shut down in 1897 because of the low price ruling for tin and the antiquated methods then in use which rendered profitable mining impossible. With modern methods, and the good price for the metal now ruling, it is thought that handsome profits may be expected. The mine has been secured under lease direct from the Duchy of Cornwall, and no time has been lost in arranging for its exploitation; plans and specifications for the necessary plant for its unwatering have been prepared, and a large portion of the machinery ordered. The amount to be provided for the development and equipment of the property by the two companies interested is £75,000. This acquisition adds to the speculative attractions of "Cosmops," which, I think, are a promising purchase at the current price, having regard to the extent of the company's cash resources and the possibility of developments again improving in its Westralian mine.

The recovery in the Deep Leads group has been checked by the receipt of a cable from the Loddon Valley containing the news that it will be impossible for a week or so to continue the cross-cuts into the lead itself from the 454-ft. level, owing to a sand rush, gas, and water. An encouraging feature, however, is that the message also reports average assays of the wash at three points, and two of the values are of payable grade, assuming the anticipated cost of working on a large scale to be correct.

Copper Group Continues Active—Statistics Favour the Bulls—Tintos Fulfil Market's Prediction—Great Cobar Dividend Rumours—Broken Hills Quiet—The Waihi Position—Cobalt Introductions—Indian Gold Output.

The Copper group has continued the most active section of the Mining markets, though on the whole there has not been quite so much doing in some shares of this class during the past week as there was in the preceding period. The older favourites have again been largely dealt in, especially Tintos, which, it will be seen, show a further appreciable gain on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	Apl. 27, 1907.	May 4, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	15/9	16/-	+3d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	—
Taquah and Abosso	2⅜	1 1/16	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Wassau	1⅜	½	2/3	2/3	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/8	1/8	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1/6	1/3	-3d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	24/-	24/-	—
Esperanza	5 5/16	2½	1⅞	1⅞	—
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 7/8	1 7/8	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	40/-	40/-	—
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5⅞	3 7/16	4⅜	4 1/16	- 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2⅛	1 1/8	16/9	17/6	+9d.
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15⅜	11⅛	12 13/16	13 1/16	+ ⅛
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3⅛	3	68/6	66/6	-2/-
Great Cobar (£5)	9⅛	4⅜	11½	10 15/16	- 1/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	48/9	48/6	-3d.
Mount Morgan	4⅜	3⅛	4 7/8	4 7/8	—
Rio Tinto (£5)	91¼	63¾	94⅜	96½xd	+4⅜
Dolcoath Tin	20/6	10/-	25/-	24/6	-6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	19/-	18/-	-1/-
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/9	10/9	—
Mysore (10/-)	7⅛	5½	5 1/8	5 1/8	—
Siberian Mines	2 1/8	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	—
Siberian Proprietary	16⅞	8⅛	9⅜	4⅜	- ⅛
Waihi	9⅛	6⅛	9⅛	9⅛	+ 1/16

On Monday Tintos were run up to over 97, and, allowing for the dividend of £3 per share, have thus touched the 100 mark to which they were predicted to recover. The copper statistics published last week favoured the "bulls," showing a reduction of 572 tons in stocks and 822 tons in visible supplies during the preceding fortnight, while for the month a decline was exhibited of 1,299 tons in stocks and 2,049 tons in supplies. The publication of these figures caused a sharp rise in the price of the metal, but there has since been a relapse from the best. The Australian copper descriptions have been somewhat quieter, and in some cases quotations have drooped, but with a continuance of a good price for the metal fresh buyers for the shares will doubtless come along. Great Cobars have given way, but have since recovered part of the ground lost. Interest in these shares, as well as in Mount Lyells, has latterly been stimulated by dividend anticipations. On Great Cobars it has been predicted in the market that a distribution of £1 per share might be expected next month, but the latest rumour is to the effect that a dividend is not to be looked for until about the end of the year. One of the latest introductions in this section of the markets is the Queensland Copper Freeholds, a report of whose statutory meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue.

There has not been a great deal doing in Broken Hill shares during the past week, though Zincs have continued to attract a fair amount of attention. The recovery in Zincs has made a little progress, thanks chiefly to "bear" covering, part of which is attributed to Colonial speculators. The management has issued a further cable, giving the results of a week's run with the one unit of plant that has been adapted to the Cattermole process. It is to be hoped that such information will be regularly supplied in future, and that as soon as possible an official statement as to working costs will be issued.

The annual meeting of the Waihi Gold Mining Company, New Zealand's premier gold producer, is to be held to-morrow, and judging from the nature of the report for the past year shareholders are likely to be in a good humour. The gross profit of £502,073 for 1906 compares with £416,593 for 1905, and in addition to quarterly dividends of 3s. per share, holders are receiving a bonus of like amount, bringing the full return for the past year up to 15s. per share, or 75 per cent., as against 65 per cent. for 1905. To reserve £10,000 is being added, making the total under this head £130,000, and after these appropriations a sum of £18,175 remains to be carried forward. The company is also in a satisfactory position as regards the ore reserves opened up in its mine; at the end of 1906 they were estimated at 1,029,658 tons, an increase of nearly 100,000 tons on the previous year's figures, and equivalent to over three year's supply on the basis of the tonnage dealt with in the past twelve months. As regards the developments, the position is summed up by the directors in a sentence to the effect that on the whole they "seem to point to a long continuance of the prosperity of the company." While, however, the position is strong and the outlook promising, it seems to me that Waihis are quite high enough at 9¼, the yield on this price being only about 8 per cent., which is not a large return on a mining share.

The past week has witnessed the introduction on the market of the shares of one or two companies formed to exploit property in the Cobalt-mining district of Canada. So far little speculative interest has been taken on this side in this new field, but in some quarters the opinion is now held that there is likely to be an active market in a number of Cobalt stocks in London before very long. One of the companies just brought to the notice of British investors bears the title of "England's Premier Cobalt Mining Company, Limited," but I see that it is incorporated in Toronto, and its head office is in that city. The capital is £220,000 in £1 shares, of which only 20,000 shares represent the working capital, so that apparently the remaining 200,000 have gone to the vendors. I am left to make this assumption as the printed particulars issued do not contain a definite statement as to the purchase price.

The gold production of the Indian mines for April was only 86 oz. less than the output for March, despite the shorter month, but it was a thousand ounces below the return for the corresponding month last year:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz
January	48,080	51,588	52 157	52 000	46,010
February	46,268	50,151	50,660	49,576	43,224
March	48.434	51,634	52.688	49,040	45,112
April	48 573	50,609	53,374	46,033	45,026
May	48,971	51,242	52 174	48,515	—
June	49,368	51 606	52,717	47,816	—
July	50,989	51,233	52,191	47,247	—
August	50,717	51,517	52,017	46,817	—
September	51,714	51,666	52,039	49,628	—
October	51,824	51,238	52,291	47,101	—
November	52,016	51,661	51,206	46,487	—
December	54,457	52,690	54,201	49,931	—
Total	601,411	616,833	628,415	577,260	179,372

YANKEE OPERATORS IN THE BRITISH GOLDFIELD.

There is a British goldfield in which ingenious Yankees have struck an infinitely richer ore than any the Chastan Syndicate is ever likely to discover in the Forest of Dean. The auriferous deposits are found in the pockets (or the stockings) of small investors, and for their extraction the most necessary equipment is a certain degree of proficiency in the art of flapdoodling. Conspicuous among the practitioners of this art are A. L. Wisner and Co., "bankers," of New York, who when I last had occasion to refer to them were kindly giving people over here the inestimable privilege of acquiring the one dollar shares of a Californian mining company, combining "perfect safety with large certain profits," at the ridiculously low price of fifteen cents each. From Finsbury-pavement House, E.C., these American financial magnates—potential customers are led to understand that they are a very big firm—are now sending out batches of long-winded circulars—one being in the guise of the *Investment Herald*—on the subject of what they are pleased to describe as "an unprecedented offer." It is represented that they have in hand a scheme for the consolidation of four "excellent enterprises"—two gold mine and two oil companies—into the Amalgamated Mining and Oil Company, "organised under the laws of the territory of Arizona." One of these enterprises is the Murchie Gold Mines, and the present combined profit-earning capacity of the four companies is sufficient—so A. L. Wisner and Co. assert—to pay a six per cent. dividend immediately. The scheme provides that each holder of shares in the Murchie Company shall receive in exchange not only an equal number of shares in the Amalgamated, but the same amount over again in gold bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest, and redeemable "at par, with 5 per cent. added, at any time after five years from date of issue." Therefore, it is pointed out, the holder of Murchies will "at once have a yield of 12 per cent."; by the redemption of the gold bonds of the Amalgamated—securities, by the way, of a class on which "almost any bank is ready at any time to loan money"!—he will get back his capital in full with a profit "after five years"; and even then he will still retain "as so much additional clear profit" the shares, "whose dividend-paying possibilities it would be hard to forecast or limit." Finally, as though all this were not enough to satisfy any reasonable man, A. L. Wisner and Co. "have guaranteed to protect the shareholders against loss at all times." Such is the statement on the strength of which this eminent banking house, following the well-known practice of eminent banking houses, is now touting Murchie shares among the British public at 4s. 2d. each. The British investor is, of course, expected to believe everything that he is told. It is evidently assumed that he will not pause to inquire why these wonderful bargains in mining shares have not been snapped up in America, or even to ask who guarantees the guarantors.

For a great many of the dupes of the Yankee share-pushers one can feel but little sympathy. They ought to know better. Not infrequently, however, I hear of cases which excite one's pity for the victims and indignation against the sharps into whose hands they have fallen. The other day a correspondent wrote to me on behalf of a poor old woman who had been gulled into putting £20 into "The Great Cariboo Gold Company," which was alleged to have phenomenally rich mines somewhere in British Columbia. The woman and her husband, both getting on for eighty years of age, have only £20 a year to live upon, but they scraped together £20 to invest in this venture, in the belief that it meant a certain big increase of their income. The address of the company was given as 1,135, Broadway, New York; "transfer agents, the Standard Finance Company," of the same address. Not receiving the anticipated dividends, the woman, after some months had elapsed, wrote to the office, and in reply she was informed that "operations in the mine had been delayed owing to the non-delivery of machinery." Another six months passed, and then she wrote again. This time the answer came from the manager of "The American Commercial Exchange," which also appears to be located at 1,135, Broadway, and the effect of it was that the Great Cariboo Company had encountered serious labour troubles at the mines, but that there were still "splendid prospects," so that no shareholder should be discouraged. Meanwhile, the woman was exhorted to take advantage of another "ideal investment" by buying some of the bonds of the American Commercial Exchange, which were "as safe as a bank." By way of proof the manager added:—

> In order that you may not be in doubt, I enclose sample bond for your inspection. You will note the bond pays 6 per cent. guaranteed interest, and returns one-tenth of the principal yearly; however, the 6 per cent. interest is paid on the full amount ($100) right along during the ten years. By this method you actually realise 18 per cent. yearly profit on the investment during the ten years.

The fact that a "sample bond" is used in this way to gull a poor ignorant old country-woman is a sufficient indication of the character of the parties calling themselves the American Commercial Exchange. As to the Great Cariboo Company, so far as can be ascertained here, it has no mines in British Columbia or anywhere else.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

RAILWAYS.

W. J. B.—They are a poor holding, and although the concern has been doing rather better lately, I am afraid the dividend prospects are still somewhat remote. You might, on the whole, employ your money to better advantage elsewhere.

MINES.

Adew.—I cannot say when the dividend will be increased, but ultimately distributions should be on such a scale as to represent a yield of fully 10 per cent. on the current price. See my notes in issue of February 27 last. I would hold the shares. *D. K. M.*—1. I do not think a reconstruction probable. 2. The shares dealt in are fully paid. 3. Shareholders might be given a chance to subscribe the capital, or some of the vendor shares might be distributed amongst them; but it is obviously impossible to make a definite statement at this juncture. 4. Hold in hope of a small profit. *Aliquis.*—Hopeful speculations for a rise in an active market. *Nightshade.*—You could do better than put more money

into the Lydenburg shares, but the others might be averaged. *Spontini.*—I know nothing against the management. The enterprise is, of course, a speculative one, and, so far as I am aware, there is no market in the shares. *Carter.*—1. They are a fair speculation among low-priced mining shares. They are fully paid. 2. See reference to Cosmopolitans in my notes this week. *Heidelberg.*—1. I think you might average. You appear to have overlooked the fact that Sulphide Corporation Ordinary are of the nominal value of 15s., and there are Preference in front of them. 2-5. I should prefer Ivanhoes to any of these. They are less speculative, and give a good yield. *Mac.*—I am not aware that there is any fixed scale of commission; it is a matter of negotiation in each particular case. *Primus.*—1. The writer certainly seems to have got mixed up. 2. A further purchase would be a fair speculation, but you should not put too much money into one concern. 3. I have no reason to think it is not properly conducted. *Haven.*—I have not a good opinion of the prospects of the concern, but having joined the reconstruction you are legally liable for the remaining calls, and even forfeiture of your shares would not release you from the liability.

Mixed.

Olga.—1. Prospects are very speculative. 2. A hopeful holding. 3. There may be a recovery. 4. A fair speculation for a small profit. 5. I do not see much attraction in these at the current price. 6. They seem more likely to decline than advance. *Lambert, Kilkenny.*—The mining shares are very speculative selections, but should have some improvement when business becomes more brisk. Neither of the others is particularly attractive. *Gag.*—1. The company appears to be still in existence, but I have no recent information regarding its affairs. The shares are quoted about 1s. 2. For the present. *Slump.*—I should not buy any of them with a view to an early rise or certain dividends. *G. G. P.*—1. Your list is not a bad one, and by spreading the money as suggested the lady ought not to come to much harm. 2. Very little is known of this concern on this side, and I am unable to express an opinion. If you are in want of a likely 5 per cent. American bond, why not choose the Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds of the United States Steel Corporation? See this week's comments. *Wulk.*—1. Worth taking up. 2. Divide your money between Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series), Grand Trunk Second Preference, and United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds. *Infelix.*—1. So far as I am aware, no particular significance is to be attached to the movement. It is impossible to fix a price at which you ought to sell; my advice would be to keep such an eminently sound stock as an investment. 2. Yes. *R. S.*—Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference, San Paulo Railway Preference, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series), and Imperial Tobacco Five and a Half per Cent. Preference. Divide the money between the four. *Ademic (India).*—You could not obtain such a return as you suggest without taking a good deal of risk. I would not recommend you to try for more than about 5 per cent., and even then you cannot get, what may be called off-hand, "safe" securities. However, by spreading your money over the following half dozen, you ought to be able to command an income of rather more than £60 a year without seriously endangering your capital:—United States Steel Corporation Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Anglo-American Telegraph Preferred, Brazil Five per Cent. bonds (Western of Minas), Atchison Railroad Five per Cent. Preferred, Japanese Five per Cent. bonds, and Aerated Bread Ordinary. *Matjiesfontein.*—1. Give the preference to the 4½ per cent. bonds, which are specially secured on the Tobacco Monopoly. 2. The second issue of Fives was guaranteed as to principal and interest, while the bonds of 1897 are guaranteed as to interest only, and that not beyond 1919. I do not consider either, and particularly the latter, a desirable holding. 3. Wait. *York.*—1. Not very attractive. 2. These should be taken. 3. Will reply to this question next week. 4. You may as well hold in hope of some recovery. *Legolium.*—1. You could do better if you require 5 per cent. Nos. 3 and 4 may have some improvement in an active market, but I am afraid Nos. 2 and 5 are hopeless. 6. Interest is in arrears, and the shares appear hopeless. *Depot.*—1. A poor gamble. 2. With any improvement in the condition of the country they are likely to benefit. 3. In the long run the proposed exchange might prove profitable. *Investor.*—1. Hold for the present. 2 and 3. By no means attractive as investments. 4. A good holding. 5. If you prefer not to risk the promised proposals of the next few months better try to realise. 6. A fair speculative investment. *Gledhill.*—The Borneo share is a fair lock-up, but Dumont Coffees are not attractive. The other share is a wild gamble, and nothing better. *Esmond.*—The furniture shares might be realised on any market recovery. Wm. Hill's Preference are not very hopeful. The other is not attractive. *Notlow.*—1. Its prospects are regarded as very good. 2. A further purchase might turn out well, but it is impossible to estimate the life of such a concern. 3. Yes, a fair speculation.

Insurance.

A number of answers to correspondents under this heading are unavoidably held over till next week.

Miscellaneous.

Kismet.—I replied to your first inquiry on April 17. As to the mining shares, there is a fair chance of a recovery to about the price at which you purchased. *A. P., Karshi.*—1. The bank is regarded as safe, and the society is still in existence. 2. I have published innumerable warnings against the International Securities Syndicate. Do not buy such bonds, either from this or any other touting firm. *Hull.*—Have nothing to do with it. *Ghel.*—Not very attractive, especially in view of the report just out. *Montana.*—A number of people have successfully sued Cunliffe, Russell and Co. in Paris; the name of the solicitor has been forwarded. *A. S. C., Gibraltar.*—No; a common usury-shop, not a "bank." *Ignotus.*—A sound investment. *G. E., Highbury.*—I have not had occasion to criticise the firm; but see Rule 8 above. It is better to do business through a member of the Stock Exchange. *G. D.*—1. Read preceding reply. 2. It is certain that it is not philanthropy. I will try to find out something about the concern. *J. S., Cardiff.*—No doubt you saw my remarks last week about "Lawson and Co." The firm mentioned in the cutting is a different, but equally shady, one. *Will.*—Thanks. *Verdant.*—It would be much wiser to put your £50 into the Post Office Savings Bank; but, any way, have nothing to do with any system of so-called "investment" on a marginal basis. You would be almost certain to lose your money. *Hope.*—Do you not understand that you cannot gamble with your money without risking the loss of it. The probability is that you would lose it. *Excel.*—1. No; a cover-snatching bucket-shop. 2. I know nothing about it or the parties who give the guarantee. What is their guarantee worth? *Rye.*—It might be best to realise and put the proceeds into something with decent prospects. *Sunderland.*—The debentures are redeemable only at the option of the company on six months' notice, after 1910, at 115. They are the "premier" securities of this company, but that counts for nothing. Sell and put the proceeds into something hopeful. *Verbena.*—1. Let them drop. 2. Sell on any recovery in the market. 3. Safe investment. *Chaplain.*—1. They will probably recover further before long. 2. A fair holding. 3. Might be held. 4. Hopeless. I will look through the letters if you send them. *B. W. E. and M.*—Would not recommend you to average, but you might hold for a recovery in capital value following the reorganisation sanctioned. There is a possibility of a resumption of interest payments on the reduced preference capital. *Gardenia.*—I do not consider the outlook for the concern very hopeful. Use your own discretion. *Perplexed.*—Read preceding reply; thanks for the papers. *Victim.*—Laurie and Vincent. have already been "shown up." *New Coal.*—Do not take them. *C. C. C.*—Its prospects are very good. *Parel.*—I know nothing about them except that they are not members of the Stock Exchange. See Rule 8. *Lancaster.*—Much will depend upon to-day's meeting. *Pater, Lisna,* and other correspondents.—Your questions shall be answered next week.

Industrials—English Sewing Cotton Sensation—Motors Drooping—A Prosperous Margarine Company—Another Fright for Brewery Shareholders—Reaction in Allsopps.

In the Industrial Market the one small sensation of the week was the remarkable circular of the directors of the English Sewing-Cotton Company in reference to certain proposed alterations in the articles of association which are to be considered at an extraordinary meeting to-day (Wednesday). One of these alterations, if adopted, will give the board power to remove any director who in the opinion of three-fourths of his colleagues is acting injuriously to the interests of the company. There are some precedents for this, but it does not follow that it is a desirable arrangement—on the contrary, it is conceivable that circumstances might arise in the affairs of any company when this drastic power could be employed by a majority of the directors in their own interests rather than in the interests of the shareholders. Evidently friction has occurred among the directors of the English Sewing-Cotton Company, but whether there is good reason for the expulsion of any member of the board or not, the shareholders will do well to consider whether the necessary power ought not to be kept in their own hands. The circular intimates that a statement will be made in regard to various unauthorised rumours concerning the position and prospects of the company "and the recent manipulation of the shares on the Stock Exchange," as the directors think that the shareholders should be warned against the present speculation. The statement is awaited with a good deal of curiosity, for the recent advance in the shares seemed to be warranted by the company's position and the prosperous business it was believed to have been doing. As was inevitable, this disquieting circular caused an immediate sharp drop in the shares of seven or eight shillings. Other textiles have remained practically unchanged. In iron and steel companies issues there has been less activity than of late, and motor shares have also been slack, the movements recorded being generally towards a lower level. Argylls, Daimlers, Darracqs, and Dunlop ordinary have all suffered a slight relapse, which holders may, however, safely

Romano's Restaurant, Strand.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire."

disregard as of no significance. Among the catering companies, both J. Lyons and Co. and the British Tea Table shares have had a modest gain, while Aerated Breads have declined. A satisfactory report is presented by the directors of Van den Berghs, Limited, the manufacturers of margarine. The raw materials employed in the production of this popular butter substitute were more costly during the past year, but the output was substantially increased, and the company is again able to pay a dividend of 16 per cent. on the ordinary shares, after adding £11,700 to the reserve, which now stands at £122,400, and leaving no less than £227,000 to be carried forward to the next account. At the current quotations the A and B preference shares of this company yield about 5¼ per cent., and both can be recommended as an industrial investment, while to any one inclined to take a little more risk, the ordinary shares, returning between 7 and 8 per cent., should be decidedly attractive.

The chairmen and officials of brewery companies certainly do their best to make their shareholders' flesh creep with dismal predictions respecting the effect of the alterations in the licensing laws which it is assumed that the Government intend to propose. Precisely what the alterations will be is not yet known, but neither their ignorance on the point nor the fact that the Licensing Bill is not to be proceeded with this session discourages these prophets of evil. Last week the secretary of Worthington and Co., in sending out the warrant for the half-year's dividend on the preference shares, exhorted the shareholders to use every effort to resist legislation, which "must have the effect of seriously depreciating the capital value of all brewery securities, and may even affect the power of directors to continue payment of dividends on their share capital, both preference and ordinary." This stupid circular, as was inevitable, scared a number of people into selling Worthington preference shares, and the result was an immediate depreciation of the capital value of those securities. Allsopp ordinary and preference have given way somewhat, but on balance remain higher than they did before the announcement of the changes in the management, to which reference was made last week. There are no signs of any revival of speculative interest in Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred, nor do Hudson Bays seem to be attracting much attention for the present.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. AGNES.

COURTLEIGH LICKFOLD sat in the studio attached to his Bayswater residence, smoking the inevitable briar pipe, that was seldom absent from his lips, and applying desultory touches to a small canvas that stood on an easel by his side. He did not appear to be paying much attention to the job, nor, indeed, was he, his thoughts being entirely engrossed with other matters. Not the most agreeable matters, either, if one might judge by his puckered brow and general air of moodiness and worry. It was the old story with Courtleigh Lickfold—a woman and money. He was generally suffering from the one or the other of these fruitful sources of masculine trouble. Just now, as it happened, he was suffering from both.

The money part of the business was represented by various pressing liabilities, against which his only immediate asset was an exiguous balance at the bank. The woman was represented by Hilda Mountjoy.

He had certainly behaved badly to Hilda Mountjoy, as, sooner or later, Courtleigh Lickfold pretty generally did behave to any woman with whom he embarked on an *affaire*. Possibly, he could not help the fickle ardour and inveterate selfishness of his affections. Indeed, I really think it was constitutional with him and in the blood. But that did not make it any better for the women whose hearts he won by his ardent, and at the time genuine, love-making, but to whom he afterwards cooled and whom he ultimately cast aside. This was how he had treated Hilda Mountjoy.

Hilda, I should tell you, was a lady born; but she had been thrown on the world by the death of her parents, who had been unable to make any provision for her, and compelled to earn her own living—a meagre little living, too—as a teacher of music. The very fact of her being friendless and unprotected made Lickfold's conduct the more abominable. If she had had a father or brother to look after her, Lickfold would doubtless have been called upon to explain himself before the girl's affections were compromised, and would have had either to make a definite and honourable offer for Hilda's hand or else to cease his attentions. But she, gentle, trustful creature, never suspecting but that her lover was in earnest and meant marriage, surrendered her heart to him without demur. When, therefore, she found that he had only been amusing himself with her, the shock was more than her tender, sensitive heart could bear. It resulted in an attack of brain fever to which she succumbed.

Only that morning Courtleigh Lickfold had been apprised of her death by the landlady of her lodgings, who also brought him a pathetic little note, scribbled by the poor girl in pencil during her last brief moments of lucid consciousness, in which she assured him of her forgiveness for the wrong he had done her, and implored him never again to treat any other woman as he had treated her.

Unprincipled and selfish flirt though he was, this touching little letter, evidently written in his victim's heart's blood, aroused in Courtleigh Lickfold several unusually sharp twinges of remorse. He still had some conscience left and some sort of apology for a heart. Of course, he tried to excuse himself to himself. "After all, I stopped short of actual wrong. No real sin can be laid at my door. Why will women take these things so seriously?"

Why? . . . . Why will the sun shine? Why will the birds sing? Why will the fruit trees blossom? Why, when the clouds are full of rain, will they empty themselves upon the earth? . . . . Because their Creator has fashioned them so. Because God has made the loving heart of a pure woman at once the strongest and the tenderest thing in all the world. It is like the soft shoot of the young asparagus, that one breath of frost will blast and wither, and yet that can force its way upwards through asphalt or macadam.

But Courtleigh Lickfold understood none of these things. Himself merely skimming upon the outer surface of life, he was incapable of penetrating its inner realities. To play at love with a woman was excellent good fun while the novelty of it lasted. But it soon palled—if you played it too long with one woman. That the woman should not view matters in the same light struck him as unreasonable. That she should turn light comedy into heavy tragedy (as Hilda Mountjoy had done), and behave so absurdly as to sacrifice her life on the altar of his fickleness, thereby placing him in an undeservedly culpable position, seemed to him to constitute an act of downright injustice.

Why had she done this thing? Why had she, in effect, made him appear a heartless and unfeeling brute? No great harm in flirting with a pretty girl, after all. And yet, now that she was dead, there would be ridiculous persons, probably, who would stigmatise him as her murderer. He had seen a look indicative of that in the stern, reproving eyes of the landlady who had brought him Hilda's last letter. It was beastly annoying to be placed in such a position. In fact, he really tried to persuade himself that he was an aggrieved man.

But, all the same, the voice of conscience, though he thus made every effort to stifle it, still would make itself audible—the reproachful face of the dead girl would keep rising before him and coming between him and the work in which he was endeavouring to engross himself. No wonder the touches of his brush upon the canvas were fitful and desultory; no wonder his face was moody and troubled.

However, his uncomfortable thoughts were soon

broken in upon by an enforced interruption—an interruption for which, just then, he was sincerely thankful. The door of his studio was hastily thrown open, and in, like a whirlwind, rushed his young friend and fellow-artist, Frank Lascelles.

"I say, Court.," exclaimed the young man, whose face denoted considerable agitation and excitement. "I'm in the deuce of a fix, and I've come to you to lend me a helping hand."

"What is it, young 'un?" inquired Courtleigh Lickfold. "Not money, I hope. For, if so——"

"No, it's not money," interposed Lascelles. "At least" (he corrected himself), "I do want money, and want it badly. But that's not what I've come to ask you for. The fact is this: I've got several judgments for debt out against me, and I'm expecting the bailiffs in at my place any minute. They're welcome to anything they can find there except one, and that's my picture—my *magnum opus*—which I've just finished for the Academy. I tell you, Court.," cried the enthusiastic young man, "I look to make my name and my fortune with that picture. And, come what may, these beastly bailiffs shan't take it in execution and dispose of it at some knock-out sale for an old song. So I want you, old man, to give it warehouse room here, until it's time to send it along to Burlington House."

"Certainly, my dear boy. With the greatest pleasure," answered Courtleigh Lickfold, always ready enough to oblige a friend where he could do so without personal inconvenience. "Send it round here whenever you like."

"Oh, I've got it on a cab outside now," answered Lascelles. "I didn't dare leave it behind, lest the bailiffs should be in before I got back. P'rhaps I may ask the cabbie to give me a hand in with it, at once—eh?"

"By all means," nodded Lickfold.

Lascelles lost no time in acting on this permission. And the picture, enclosed in a large wooden crate, was soon got in. Then Lascelles, having duly paid and discharged the cabman, proceeded to unpack the picture and to exhibit it to his friend with evident pride.

The subject of the work was the martyrdom of St. Agnes; and it was carried out not only with marked technical skill, but also with rare spirit, originality, and breadth. Courtleigh Lickfold (who, though a commonplace, if fairly successful, painter himself, yet knew good work when he saw it) was surprised into an expression of admiration at the sight of the picture:

"I say, old man! This is miles in advance of anything you've done hitherto. There's—damme—there's inspiration in that. Yes! You'll make your hit, right enough, at this year's Academy, anyhow. Excuse my saying so, but I didn't know you had stuff of such quality in you."

Young Lascelles coloured, doubtless with pleasure at Lickfold's undisguised expressions of praise.

"I can't quite tell you how it was," he said. "But it all seemed to come to me by a sort of intuition."

"That's just how the best things do come," nodded Lickfold. "And—well, I wish I could get a few intuitions of the kind; that's all."

"I dare say I shall never get another," replied Lascelles, modestly.

"Even if you don't, you can still make your fortune by judiciously exploiting this one gold mine," remarked Lickfold. "The artistic public is much like the musical public. When once they have associated an artist with a particular style—the style that first won their notice and favour—they don't mind how often he repeats himself, with slight variations, on the same theme. Indeed, they rather prefer it, as making less demand on their limited æsthetic intelligence."

"Still that's not art—the art by which a man's name lives," said Lascelles.

"Possibly not. But it's money—by which a man's body lives," replied Courtleigh Lickfold. "Wasn't it Napoleon who said that an army marched on its stomach? Well, you might adapt the dictum to our profession and say that a painter paints on his stomach. For my part, I confess I'd rather be well-fed and easy-circumstanced, at the expense of Art with a capital 'A,' on this side of the grave, than sacrifice those solid advantages for immortality beyond it."

"Ah! you always were frankly material," said young Lascelles.

"Well, any way, I'm practical," answered Courtleigh Lickfold.

"But, I say, I haven't come to the end of asking favours yet," remarked Lascelles, returning to the object of his visit. "There's something else I want you to do for me, old man."

"What's that?" inquired Lickfold.

"Well, you see," explained Lascelles, regarding his friend tentatively, "in the present acute state of my finances, with all these judgments out against me, and possible bankruptcy ahead, should my creditors think it worth while to incur the expense—it might be rather dangerous, don't you know, to exhibit in the Academy, under my own name, a picture which I have furtively removed from my studio to defeat my creditors. I spoke to a friend of mine, a solicitor, on the subject, and he said they'd be pretty sure to kick up a dust about it, and also to do something which he called 'following the asset.' That means, as I understand him, they'd claim the picture as part of my effects. Now I don't want that to happen on any account, not only because of the public disgrace of it, but also because I am sure it would prejudice the selling value of the picture—buyers never thinking much of the work of any johnny who's down on his luck. And that brings me to the particular favour I want to ask of you. Could you—would you—old man, send the picture to Burlington House *in your own name?*"

Courtleigh Lickfold whistled.

"Oh! I say! That's too dangerous," he answered. "If the authorities found out, Lord knows what they wouldn't do. Warn us off from all their future exhibitions at the very least."

"But how should they find out?" objected young Lascelles. "Only we two should be in the secret; and neither of us would give away the show, you bet."

"But surely other people have seen this picture of yours, while you were engaged upon it?"

"Not a soul. I have kept it a dead secret. When I have not actually been at work on it, it has been carefully concealed in a cupboard in my studio. And when I have taken it out to work upon it, I have always done so with locked doors. You see, I wanted it to come as an absolute surprise to everybody," he explained.

"But your model—*she* must have seen it," exclaimed Lickfold.

"I had no model. The whole picture—every detail of it—was so vividly present to my mind, that I felt I could carry it out better without any such tangible object before me," answered Lascelles.

"Still, even assuming that we are safe against discovery," answered Courtleigh Lickfold, regarding his friend's masterpiece with enviously admiring eyes, "I hardly think you can realise what such a course involves—I mean, from your own point of view. You said, just now, that you looked to this picture to make your name and fortune (and 'pon my Sam, I think it's good enough to justify your anticipations); but if I exhibit it in my name, *I* shall get all the kudos of it——"

"Yes, yes. I know that. But how else can I save the picture from my judgment creditors, and exhibit it under conditions conducive to its fetching a good price? And a good price I must get for it, Court., I tell you that. In my present circumstances, that is the most important thing of all," he added, energetically.

Courtleigh Lickfold smiled.

"Ah! I see you are really of my way of thinking, after all," he said. "When it comes to a choice between money and fame, you prefer the money."

"I do not say I prefer the money," answered young Lascelles. "I merely say that I must have the money; whereas——"

"You can manage to exist without the fame, I suppose?" interjected Lickfold, laughing. "Well, my dear boy, it amounts to the same thing, in effect, when all's said and done. However, seriously—do you really propose that I should exhibit your picture in my name, receive the purchase money for it if it finds a buyer, and hand it over to you?"

"Yes, that is exactly what I do propose," answered young Lascelles, eagerly. "And, I say, do manage it

for me, if you can, old chap. You don't know what it means to me."

Courtleigh Lickfold hesitated a moment or two before replying. Like most men who are destitute of moral courage, he was good-natured to this extent, that he found it difficult to say "No" to any friend who importuned him with a *vivâ voce* request. But it was not only his dislike of saying "No" that caused him to hesitate. There was another reason. Although he might depreciate fame in words, in fact he was as covetous of it, in his indolent way, as any man alive, and he knew that "The Martyrdom of St. Agnes" was bound to be one of the hits of the forthcoming Academy, and that the name of its painter would be on everybody's lips for some time to come. The prospect of himself enjoying that honour, with its accompanying advertisement, was distinctly alluring to him. But—well, it was risky. And he still temporised awhile before actually committing himself.

"You are absolutely certain, old chap, that no other living soul has seen the picture?"

"Absolutely," replied Lascelles, with confidence.

"And that you have mentioned it to no one—discussed it with no one?"

"Most decidedly not. I have kept the whole thing a jealously-guarded secret in myown bosom."

"Then there's not the most remote contingency of this little arrangement leaking out?"

"Not the most remote," answered young Lascelles. "If there were, I shouldn't have thought of asking you."

Courtleigh Lickfold hesitated a moment or two longer. Then, making up his mind, he said:

"Very well, my dear boy. Simply to oblige you, I'll take on the job."

"Thanks awfully! It's really deuced good of you. I shan't forget your kindness," answered Lascelles, gratefully.

It was about the end of March that the above interview took place. Ten days, or so, later Courtleigh Lickfold had a hasty and rather incoherent note from Lascelles, to the effect that he had found it expedient to go abroad for a while, to evade the attentions of his innumerable duns, and that he should probably be absent for several months. This was the last Lickfold heard of him for some time.

In the meanwhile, pursuant to his arrangement with Lascelles, he took the latter's picture (in his own name) to Burlington House, where it was accepted by the Committee and hung in an excellent position on the line. The work, as anticipated both by Lascelles and Lickfold, at once attracted attention, and was soon installed one of the most talked-about exhibits of the year. Nor was it merely a *succès d'estime*. The admiration it evoked took practical shape. In the course of a fortnight, Lickfold received at least half-a-dozen offers for the picture, and eventually closed with that of a millionaire manufacturer, who bid the handsome sum of £800, and, immediately upon Lickfold's acceptance of the offer, sent him a cheque for that amount.

As Lascelles had left him no address nor given him any clue to his present whereabouts, Lickfold paid the money into his own bank pending his friend's return to claim it; and, had the latter turned up at that conjuncture, he would no doubt have duly handed it over to him. But Lascelles still lay low in his hiding place on the Continent, and, while he lingered, Courtleigh Lickfold's own finances, seldom very prosperous, became perilously rocky. Funds had to be found for this, that, and the other pressing necessity, with the result that Lickfold, though not naturally dishonest in money matters, found himself trenching heavily upon the £800 held by him, in trust, for his friend. It was only borrowing, of course. He should make it good all right, somehow or another. So he honestly assured himself. So doubtless honestly assure themselves nine out of every ten men who use money which does not belong to them. And perhaps one out of the nine does manage to replace it. But how about the other eight?

The first intimation Courtleigh Lickfold had of Lascelles' return to England was conveyed to him in a letter of the most astounding character—a letter which, at first, he could only believe to be some stupid, far-fetched hoax.

It purported to come from a firm of solicitors in the City, and ran as follows:—

1,001, Cannon-street, E.C.
July 4, 19—.

SIR,—Our client, Mr. Francis Lascelles, who has just returned from abroad, has learnt with the utmost astonishment that you have exhibited in the Royal Academy, under your own name, and sold for a large sum as your own property, his picture, "The Martyrdom of St. Agnes," which, before his departure, he left with you for safe custody.

Before taking the necessary steps to call you to account for this gross and scandalous breach of trust, our client desires us to give you the opportunity of offering an explanation of the same, which we hereby request you to do without delay.—We are, sir, your obedient servants, JEFFREYS AND HYDE.

Courtleigh Lickfold, Esq.

To say that Lickfold was amazed by the letter, would be feebly to express his feelings. At first, as has been said, he persuaded himself that it must be some stupid practical joke. But, as to that, he was soon undeceived. For, calling upon Jeffreys and Hyde to know what the deuce they meant, he was informed by one of their clerks that they declined to see him and that anything he had to say must be put in writing.

Intensely bewildered and furiously indignant, he went round to demand an explanation of Frank Lascelles. But Lascelles, it appeared, had given up his rooms some months ago, and the landlady had no knowledge of his present address. A visit to his friend's club proved no more satisfactory; for he was informed by the steward that Mr. Lascelles had not been there for some time. Lickfold, therefore, as the only way of getting at Lascelles, was obliged to write to him under cover of the latter's bankers, whom he happened to know, requesting them to forward his letter on at once.

Two days later, he received a curt reply from Lascelles, couched in the following terms:—

I decline to hold any communication with you. Be good enough to address all further correspondence to my solicitors.

F. LASCELLES.

Courtleigh Lickfold, more astounded than ever by this amazing and insolent reply, and now seeing that the practical joke theory was untenable, could only come to the conclusion that Lascelles' financial troubles must have turned his brain, and that he had gone staring mad. But of this idea, also, he was speedily to be disabused.

Having failed to comply—through inability—with a peremptory demand from Jeffreys and Hyde for the repayment of the £800 which he had received for "The Martyrdom of St. Agnes," he was arrested, two days later, on a warrant, and brought up at Marlborough-street, charged with the fraudulent conversion of the money.

Then, and not till then, did he fully realise the perilously awkward situation in which he stood. There was not a scrap of writing to offer in evidence of his verbal arrangement with Lascelles, and if the latter chose to repudiate it in the witness-box, then his (Lickfold's) position would indeed be an awkward one.

And this, in fact, is precisely what Lascelles did. He repudiated, on oath, and in the most convincingly indignant manner, Lickfold's version of the affair, deposing that he had merely left the picture with his friend for safe custody during his absence abroad, and that so absurd and dishonest a notion as that of arranging with Lickfold to exhibit the picture in his own name, had never entered hs head. He also made the damaging assertion that, when he last saw Lickfold, he had given the latter to understand he was going to Australia, and probably should not be back for twelve or eighteen months; and that it was only owing to his sudden change of plans and return to England so unexpectedly soon that he had been made aware of the fraud practised on him.

With this false evidence a good deal of truth in the shape of evidence as to Lickfold's pecuniary embarrassments was artfully mixed up. Lascelles' version of the affair—so much more probable on the face of it than Lickfold's seemingly far-fetched story—was accepted by the magistrate, who committed the prisoner to the Old Bailey, fixing prohibitive bail; and the upshot was that the unfortunate man was convicted and sent to hard labour for eighteen months, the Recorder remarking that it was one of the worst cases he had come across for some time.

It was not until after he came out of prison, at the expiration of his sentence, a broken, ruined, and utterly discredited man, that Courtleigh Lickfold learnt, from Lascelles' own lips, the true explanation of his perjured evidence.

Lascelles sought him out in the garret to which he was now reduced, and seemed to gloat over the wreck of his once friend, whom he had so foully injured and betrayed.

"You broke the heart of the woman I loved better than my life, Courtleigh Lickfold," he said. "And murdered—yes, in the sight of God you murdered—her. I vowed vengeance on you. I have executed it. Now you understand."

"What do you mean, you—you—devil?" cried the wretched Lickfold.

"I mean what I have said," answered Lascelles, gazing at the broken creature before him in fierce, pitiless exultation. "It was *her* death that inspired me with my theme of 'The Martyrdom of St. Agnes,' that urged me to employ it, as I employed it, to make you taste the bitterness of being betrayed by one you trusted, and to force to your lips the same cup that you yourself forced to the lips of Hilda Mountjoy."

ART NOTES.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

First Notice.

THERE is, I take it, only one reason why every critic will not this year acclaim the R.A. show as quite the worst which has ever been held in Burlington House. It is because he fears that every other critic will say exactly the same thing; and in these days of precarious journalistic tenure, it is above all things necessary to be distinctive. As a matter of fact—and it is one of the charms of the R.A. that this should be so—whatever he says is nearly certain to be more or less right. It were perfectly right to acclaim it as the worst exhibition on record; perfectly right to contend that it is about up to the usual annual average; perfectly right, again, to say that it is rather better than usual. These be not paradoxes, rather points of view. Let us consider the standard of criticism by which the Academy is judged. There is the critic who argues, very justly, that the beauty of a picture is in the eye of the beholder—so far, at any rate, as the popular press is concerned. He knows that the public likes a certain style of artistic cookery—something sweet to the taste, not heating, distinguishable as to its flavouring—the works, in fact, of the Old Brigade of R.A.s. To him the present show will prove, I take it, distinctly disappointing, because, although the Old Brigade have not by any means been driven from the field, they are very evidently harassed by the fire of a number of revolutionary sharpshooters, who have seized strong positions on the Academical flanks, and seem quite likely to sooner or later carry the whole position. There are those critics, again, to whom the very mention of an Academical name is as a red rag to a bull. They should look upon the Academy of 1907 with lenient, almost with approving eyes, for it is emphatically an "outsiders'" year. Lastly, there are those—and I am of their number—who hold that the average level of the pictures shown varies little or nothing as the years roll by. It is almost impossible that it should, if we consider the circumstances under which the exhibits are selected, which come to something as near pure chance as need be. Consider. The selection lies with a number of more or less elderly gentlemen, well-meaning enough, and knowing, less, indeed, than the critics, but something about pictures. Before them passes, escorted by carpenters, a long procession of paintings, usually somewhere about 15,000, speaking broadly. Would it be possible for a committee of Archangels to choose out from them the 2,000 or so which are most deserving of admiration? How much less so, then, for Academicians. Consider how disastrous is the effect upon eye and brain of closely considering the merits of even 150 paintings. Consider, again, that only a certain limited amount of wall-space is available, and that the proper fitting together of the canvas-mosaic which is to cover it demands the genius of a committee of mathematical experts, and that one picture, not of the proper size or shape, may throw the whole into confusion. Is it not perfectly evident that the one quality in a painter which can secure the acceptance of his work is luck? And luck being merely the logical conclusion of the law of averages, it follows that the pictures hung are, as nearly as possible, a fair representation of those submitted, as far, at least, as would be a basket of apples, picked at random from a barrel, of its contents. And as the average artistic level of the country changes only very slowly, if at all, it should follow that one Academy Show can differ very slightly indeed from its immediate predecessors and successors. The real unknown quantity, upon which the popular and critical verdict depends, rests in perhaps half a dozen paintings every year—those which are known as "pictures of the year." Their vogue has, as perhaps I need not mention, little or nothing to do with their artistic excellences, or the reverse. They usually, of recent years, include one or more of Mr. Sargent's portraits—not because Mr. Sargent happens to be a very able painter, but because the great "artistic" public have come to realise that he is so considered, and find in their knowledge thereof a safe and certain recipe for being "in the movement." For the rest, very much depends upon the news- and sub-editors of the ha'penny daily press. You may generally, I mean, obtain a fairly good idea of which they will be by watching the "snippet" columns and seeing which item of "art" gossip is most persistently quoted. Naturally, as we are a loyal nation, those into which the name of Royalty can be introduced are the most eligible, from this point of view. There are two very good examples of this sort of thing in the present exhibition. One is Mr. Cope's portrait of King Edward; the other Mr. Conrad Dressler's statue of the Queen of Spain. Mr. Cope's picture, which is quite up to the average of Royal portraits, has been hailed by a perfect chorus of "snippet" paragraphs, evidently inserted by some one who knows everything that passes in the Royal Household and the Royal brain. They deal with the preliminaries which attended the bestowal of the commission upon the able and fortunate painter. It seems that the painter was expected to attend at one of the Royal residences for the necessary sittings. But Mr. Cope (I speak entirely on the authority of the ha'penny press) being a man of mettle and having a proper regard to the dignity of his profession, replied somewhat as follows: "No. England has had a long succession of Kings, and but one Arthur S. Cope, Associate of the Royal Academy. If any one is to do the calling, it will not be the Associate." Upon this being reported to the King, his Majesty burst, as it were, into tears, applauded the noble independence of the Briton and the artist, and repaired to his studio as often as was required. This is a very touching anecdote, redounding to the credit of all parties concerned, and if Mr. Cope's canvas be not one of the "pictures of the year," it will certainly not be the fault of the original reporter, whose name, I should think, is very likely Vincent Crummles.

Mr. Conrad Dressler's portrait-bust is an example of another sure road to public favour, in that it was in the first place rejected by the Royal Academy. As it had the additional merit of being afterwards reinstated by Royal command, a fact which became subsequently known to another, or perhaps the same, lynx-eyed reporter, its popular success was and remains assured. I take it that the Royal command was issued upon political rather than artistic grounds; but that is a detail. Certainly the sculptor is warmly to be congratulated; otherwise I doubt very much if the bust would have been noticed at all, for, with the best intentions in the world, I have been able to descry nothing in which it differs from the ordinary Royal bust of the ordinary Royal personage, and it is not, to my mind, a particularly striking example of that. I have no doubt there are several other pictures and statues of the year, but as I have not, since the private view, studied the ha'penny papers as closely as I could desire, I am quite unable to say which those pictures and sculptures are.

One of the most likeable points about the Royal Academy is that you always know exactly what you are going to see before you see it. The same artists, or most of them, always send exactly the same kind of work year after year, and, given but a copy of the catalogue, you are able to survey the whole exhibition at your leisure, without going within ten miles of Burlington House. You know, for instance, that there are certain to be a number of Mr. Sargent's portraits of titled ladies. You know, too, exactly how they will be painted, and you are perfectly well aware—if you study the latest fashions, that is to say—how they will be dressed. Similarly, it is quite unnecessary to see the canvases to be able to apply the appropriate adjectives—according to your artistic leanings—of "brilliant," "superficial," "powerful," "masterly," or "flashy." Accordingly, opening your catalogue, and finding entries referring to portraits of "Lady Speyer," "Lady Sassoon," "Lady Eden," or "The Countess of Essex," you require to be told nothing further, except, indeed, that Lady Eden is emphasising the virtue of Patience with a pack of cards, and that Lady Speyer is playing the violin and putting into it some very notable wrist-work. Both of these points are merely details, however, as is it that the "Lady Sassoon" is much the best of the works shown by the most fashionable of portrait painters this year.

Before you open your catalogue again you may run over in your head the names of a few of the more prominent exhibitors, and decide what they have in all probability sent in. There is, first of all, the President. You will remember that Sir Edward Poynter has, of recent years, shown a penchant—to my mind a wise one—for small pictures. In all probability, you decide, he will have one, or more, small classical compositions, rather cold, rather hard, very competent, not quite inspired. You will be right. This year he has a couple, "Lesbia and her Sparrow," a draped Greek girl against a vine trellis, more attractive in colour than you will have quite expected, and "Fishing," a title which, being strictly non-committal, may puzzle you a little. Nevertheless, it is quite according to type: a young lady, who for some reason prefers not to wear any clothes—and is, accordingly, classical—fishing in a stream. The surrounding atmosphere is damp, and the young lady is risking a severe chill, if not rheumatic fever—but that has really nothing to do with the picture. You will also be on the look-out for some of the beautiful little water-colour landscapes which contain much of the President's best work; nor will you be disappointed, for he exhibits three of them.

Still without troubling to visit Burlington House—and thereby escaping the inevitable crush of the first few days—you may re-make the acquaintance of quite a number of old friends—always through the catalogue. Mr. A. W. B. Davis' pleasantly particular landscapes, for instance, animated, it is safe to guess, by sheep; and Mr. G. D. Leslie's studies of stagnant water, in a green haze suggesting duck-weed; and Mr. Stanhope Forbes' fishing-boats; and Mr. Waterhouse's more or less classic nymphs, very nicely painted, and yearning after the Burne-Jones Convention; and Mr. Leader, and Mr. Farquharson, and Mr. Marcus Stone, and Sir Luke Fildes, and Mr. B. W. Leader—are not their works and styles and subjects already as familiar as household words?

After the certainties, you will come to the consideration of the probabilities. You will expect to find a "great religious painting," but in this you will be mistaken. Probably this is because there are already so many "great religious paintings" touring the provinces according to custom, that there are no further opportunities for advance bookings this year. But there is a splendid study in didactics, instead. It is by Mr. Sigismund Goetze, and it is called "Greatest of These," and, I think, it is a facer for the Suffragettes. It shows us a mamma in stage costume nursing her baby, and surrounded by a party of lady friends whom she resolutely ignores. One of them, sad to say, is smoking a cigarette, and some are motorists, and others have banners inscribed, "Votes for Women," or words to that effect, and altogether the canvas fulfils a great moral purpose. It makes you laugh, too, which is another point in its favour, and I think I can see the suburbs rallying round it—but seriously, and with bated breath.

Of course, you will expect to find an indictment of the sins of society by Mr. John Collier, who has fairly earned for himself the title of the Bernard Vaughan of Art. This time you will be right. It is called the "Mariage de Convenance," a title which, if I remember aright, has been already plagiarised by a painter called Hogarth. Mr. Collier shows us a lady dissolved in tears and in a very charming lace bed-gown, weeping by the side of a bed on which is displayed her wedding-dress. As she is weeping, her hair is, of course, hanging desolately about her shoulders. Leaning against the mantelpiece is another lady, whom I surmise to be the first lady's mamma, though she looks almost young enough to be her sister. In general suggestion she reminds us of that immortal play, "The Worst Woman in London," so unkindly does she sneer, and involuntarily the words of the Cockney lover rise to our lips: "Not so 'orty, please." Any mamma who, after seeing this picture, refuses to let her daughter marry whomever she likes, be he dustman or dancing-master, without regard to income, will be nothing less than a cat.

Naturally you will expect to find at least one large historical subject, and if you are an observer of current history, you will not be surprised if it turns out to have something to do with Joan of Arc. It does. It is by Mr. Frank Craig, whose smaller painting, "The Heretic," was purchased for the Chantrey Bequest last year, and it is called "The Maid." It shows her charging at the head of Gallic chivalry, on a very active horse. The Gallic chivalry are armed with very new red lances, so neatly kept and bright that they look as though they might have been bought from the property-room not half an hour previously. With them they are attacking a row of English archers, lining a ditch, and for the most part regarding Joan with an air of polite, if distrustful, interest, evidently being unused to, and more than a little shocked by, such pressing advances from a lady, French though she be.

Of course, you will expect to find the usual number of more or less naked studies of the nude. You will find one, called "Roses of Youth," by Miss Henrietta Rae—a figure of a young lady who, having donned a wreath of roses, as recommended by the poet, seems to be wondering if she has not forgotten something. And there is another, "An Island Festival," by Mr. Charles Sims, which shows us a whole prehistoric village (I trust it is prehistoric, that is to say) dancing round the contemporary substitute for a maypole, in the costume of the naked truth. It is one of the best-painted pictures in the exhibition, to my mind. Then there is—but I have already allowed my enthusiasm to carry me too far, and must reserve any further reflections until next week.

MUSIC.

A GOOD START AT COVENT GARDEN.

THE opera season has made quite a good start. Well-behaved little boys and girls are always told that they must dispose of a certain quantity of bread and butter before they indulge their appetite for cake, and in somewhat the same spirit Covent Garden requires its supporters to dispose of the "Ring" before addressing themselves to the lighter fare which will subsequently be provided. It is an excellent arrangement, which has the advantage of bringing all with appetites unimpaired to that portion of the banquet which certainly makes the most serious demands upon the musical digestion. One of the papers, I notice, speaks of "the gloom inseparable from the 'Ring' performances," but that remark could, of course, be intended to apply only to the lighting arrangements, which convert the opera house into a camera obscura during the representations of the tetralogy—and, indeed, of all the other works in which the German language is employed, for the same rule was observed in the case also of "Bastien und Bastienne" and "Hänsel und Gretel." The

weaker brethren may cry out and complain that they can neither read their books nor see who is in the boxes, but the management, unmoved by the paltry gibe which attributes their action to a desire to keep down their lighting bill, have hardened their hearts and turned a deaf ear to all appeals on the subject. What is really remarkable, perhaps, is the fact that they should be able to do this. Hardly anything could indicate more forcibly the distance which we have travelled since earlier days, when the opera house was regarded as merely a rendezvous for the fashionable and the frivolous. A few of this class are still to be seen, of course, here and there, at Covent Garden, but the "Ring" is sufficient answer to those who would suggest that they and their like are the only ones to whom grand opera appeals to-day.

The performance of the first cycle concluded on Monday, and without attaining any miraculous heights of excellence it could, on the whole, be heartily praised. Once again the orchestra under Richter has borne off the lion's share of the honours, and in this connection it is worth recalling again, what is not always realised, that the Covent Garden band is one of the oldest permanent orchestras which we have in London, to which fact, no doubt, not a little of its excellence is due. Many people who think of it as more or less a scratch affair would be surprised to learn how few have been the changes in its personnel during the last twenty years or so. Under Richter it has once again done great things in the "Ring," and will no doubt continue equally to distinguish itself during the remainder of the season. Some capital singing was heard, too, though the performances of the second cycle, which begin to-day (Wednesday) with Van Rooy as Wotan, will probably be better still in this respect. Herr Whitehill did very well, but he is not a Van Rooy, nor were, for that matter, all the other artists quite the equal of some who have appeared in former seasons, though doubtless the best procurable. Among the newcomers Herr Bechstein has been properly complimented on his Mime, while Herr Stockhausen did quite well, too, as Donner and Gunther. The others were mostly old friends, among whom it was particularly pleasant to hear again that fine artist Mme. Gulbranson, who has not been with us for some little time. Her Brünnhilde was superb, and quite the best individual performance so far witnessed. Would that one could speak in like terms of Herr Kraus's Siegmund and Siegfried! But that is an old, old story. Herr Zador's Alberich has been praised by some, and it was certainly vigorous enough, though it was rather too suggestive of a pantomime ogre for my liking. Herr Jörn's Loge was much more acceptable in its self-restraint and subtlety. Among the several English artists who appeared Mme. Kirkby Lunn had most to do, and did it very well, as Fricka, while nearly all the Walküren were born on this side of the Channel, though I am afraid this hardly justified the enthusiastic headline of the *Daily Mail*, "Almost a British cast."

Besides the "Ring," we have had the other operas above named, and both were interesting to hear, especially "Hänsel und Gretel," which was given in excellent style, with Frl. Fiebiger and Frl. Hempel—new-comers both—as the two children. Frau Tolli, who has also come to us for the first time this season, did well in this, too, as Gertrude, as she had done previously in the "Ring." Humperdinck's lovely work is always a joy to listen to, and it would be pleasant to think that henceforward it will find its place regularly in the repertory. Many would be glad, too, if the management could give a hearing to some of Humperdinck's later operas. The production of "Bastien und Bastienne" is, of course, rather a satire on the fact that the only other work of Mozart which we hear in the ordinary way at Covent Garden is "Don Giovanni." Musically, its interest is almost purely historical. But if it serves to remind us of certain other and later works from the same hand which we would gladly hear, it will not have been produced in vain. Mozart died young, it is true, but he was not cut off at twelve. For Tuesday Nicolai's "Merry Wives" was announced, and the rest of the week will be repetitions.

A good deal of curiosity is being felt in musical circles just now as to the management of the new concert hall in Great Portland-street, the foundation-stone of which was recently laid by the Lord Mayor. It will be remembered that the leading concert agents have entered into a common undertaking not to give any concerts at the hall so long as it remains under the management of the firm (Messrs. Vert and Sinkins) at present connected with it, and, presumably as a consequence of this action, it was recently stated that a new manager would shortly be appointed. Those concerned are awaiting with interest, therefore, a further announcement on the subject.

Meanwhile, it will have been noticed that Messrs. Vert and Sinkins were the plaintiffs in an interesting case heard at the Westminster County Court last week, in which they sued the Orchestrelle Co., the proprietors of the Æolian Hall, for commission in respect of certain bookings of the hall. The defendants, however, counterclaimed for the hire of the hall on certain dates which Messrs. Vert and Sinkins had booked but not taken up, and the decision was in their favour. There had been no written contracts, it appeared, between the parties, the arrangements having been made by telephone, but Messrs. Vert and Sinkins had advertised concerts at the hall on the dates in question, and Judge Woodfall took the very natural view that this was sufficient to establish the Orchestrelle Company's claim, and gave judgment accordingly. It would, of course, be an exceedingly unsatisfactory state of things if concert agents could book dates, thereby forestalling their rivals, and afterwards repudiate liability.

The concert season is in full blast now, with the result of poor audiences in most cases. Even at the Santley Jubilee concert last week there were whole blocks of empty seats. But even so, there were, of course, many thousands present to acclaim the hero of the hour and make the affair a success. At the Philharmonic concert on Thursday it was pleasant to hear Mme. Sophie Menter again. Despite her years she played as brilliantly as any one could wish. In the afternoon Herr Fritz Kreisler was the soloist at the Queen's Hall Symphony concert and played magnificently, despite the handicap of a sprained ankle which was bad enough to cause considerable suffering. He was heard in works by Mozart, Max Bruch, and Saint-Saëns, and in one and all delighted his hearers. Another violinist of note lately heard has been Franz von Vecsey, who, after some years' absence, proved that he has grown in musical as well as in physical stature. His playing in Mendelssohn's concerto was, indeed, a wonderful achievement for a lad of his years, and it can hardly be doubted that he will become, in due course, one of the greatest violinists of his time. Herr Godowsky, who gave his last recital of the present season on Saturday, astounded all his hearers once again by his diabolical technique. Sir James Crichton-Browne, who has been deprecating the cultivation of ambidexterity as an attempt to fly in the face of nature, should compare notes with Godowsky. On Monday M. Safonoff was the conductor at the London Symphony Orchestra's concert and made a great effect, as on a previous occasion, with Tchaikowsky's Pathetic symphony. Many other concerts and recitals have been given which I have no space to refer to.

Many will learn with interest that Mr. Lionel Monckton has resigned his position as musical critic on the *Daily Telegraph*. For some considerable time past now Mr. Monckton's health has not been satisfactory, and it is understood that this has led to his withdrawal. Happily, Mr. Monckton, as one of the most popular composers of the day, is quite independent of the poor rewards of journalism, and in his case at any rate the classic definition of the critic as one who has failed at the trade which he criticises has certainly not applied. As a critic, too, Mr. Monckton has always done excellent work, the soundness and

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penetration of his judgments having been no less conspicuous than the literary felicity with which they have been expressed.

Apropos of the pitch problem, Mr. C. A. Hankey writes as follows from the Reform Club:—

I am pleased to see TRUTH advocating the general adoption of the "diapason normal," and that the charge for the regimental bands is estimated not to exceed £30,000, and for the Albert Hall organ £1,500. It appears to me that if a subscription were started this sum would before long be obtained. Possibly some wealthy individual strongly favouring the change might find it all. Concerts also might be given, for which eminent vocalists and instrumentalists would gladly give their services without payment. I hope that you will not let the matter drop, but give it your powerful support.

The suggestion pre-supposes, I am afraid, greater general enthusiasm on the subject than actually exists. From this point of view, indeed, it would probably be easier to secure such co-operative action as my correspondent suggests if, so far as ordinary concerts go, the diapason normal were not now pretty generally established. It is the military bands which, as I explained, stand in the way. At the same time, if something could be done on such lines as those suggested, if only a little, it would be a step in the right direction, and if a beginning were made, the rest might follow more quickly than some suppose. There is, I believe, one regimental band already provided with instruments at the lower pitch, namely, that of the Grenadier Guards, who had a set specially made when they visited America some time ago.

I have received the following important announcement, to which, in the interests of the musical community at large, I gladly give publicity:—

PRIZE FOR A SIMPLE MELODY.

Feeling that modern Music is becoming far too complex and noisy, ERNEST NEWLANDSMITH (Missioner of the Laresol Society; Associate of the Royal Academy of Music; Author of "The Temple of Art"; "The Temple of Love"; "Art Ideals"; Editor of "The Laresol Review"; etc., etc.), offers a Prize of

THREE GUINEAS

for the best composition by an amateur or professional in the form of

A SIMPLE MELODY.

The Melody must be written in accordance with the spirit of the article which appeared in THE LARESOL REVIEW for November, 1906, entitled "A New Order of Art," and must be suitable for performance at a Service as described in THE LARESOL REVIEW, February, 1907.

No ENTRANCE FEE.

The Review can be obtained from Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls, or from Leslie Hibberd, 17, Hanover Square, W.

N.B.—The melody may be grave or gay; with or without accompaniment; in the form of a set piece or merely a simple tune, as the composer feels disposed; and it may be either vocal or instrumental, or quite apart from any fixed idea as to the method of performance.

All the MS.S. should be sent with the Name and Address of the Composer to Mr. Leslie Hibberd, on or before June 30th next.

The Prize will be awarded for the Melody that is considered to be most in keeping with the articles above referred to, and will be given to either an amateur or professional without any preference whatsoever.

Who shall say after this that music offers its votaries no prizes? The result of the competition will, I imagine, be announced in due course in the *Laresol Review*, two earlier issues of which, I notice, must be procured as a condition preliminary to entering for this most alluring competition. Mr. Newlandsmith is I believe, an apostle of the "simple" life. Wherefore his quest of a "simple" melody from (I suppose) "simple" musicians. O sancta simplicitas!

Mr. Thomas F. Dunhill, who is one of the cleverest of our younger composers, writes to announce his intention to give a series of chamber concerts in London very shortly, a special feature of which will be the performance of British works which have been previously heard and pronounced good. Quite truly Mr. Dunhill observes that such works are too frequently given once, "with the idea," as he candidly puts it, "of attracting the chief musical critics by performing a new work for the first time," and then shelved for ever. Hence the familiar legend "first time" will have no place in his programmes, but instead works will be repeated which have previously proved their claim to further hearing. He adds, too, that each programme will also contain certain standard compositions of acknowledged excellence, as counterweight to the novelties. The scheme seems quite a good one, but I should advise Mr. Dunhill to postpone its execution till the autumn, when concerts of this nature would be more likely to receive attention than at such a busy time as the present.

The announcement that Gustav Mahler has completed his seventh symphony moves a contemporary to inquire when we are likely to hear more of his music in England. As it is truly observed, there are those who hold it in high esteem in Germany, though it cannot honestly be said that such works from his pen as have hitherto been given in London have induced a very exalted opinion of his work here. It is alarming to reflect, however, what would happen to anyone who ventured to convey such an estimate of his music to the composer himself, for Mahler is a man of volcanic temperament, and the anecdotes are many going to illustrate the violence of his methods when aroused. Like von Bülow (of whom it was said that he would have his own way if it meant the death of his players), Mahler is a conductor who gains his ends, not after the Nikisch method of sweet reasonableness, but by the exercise of the sternest discipline. It is emphatically not all done by kindness in his case, and singers and instrumentalists alike—nay, even Hof-Intendants and more august personages still have to adapt themselves to his imperious will. But there is no denying the genius as well as the deadly earnestness of the man, and so he holds his own. Whether, however, his music is great is another matter.

A correspondent writes:—"Would it be possible to start a Brahms-Cherubini Society for supplying scores, parts, and English versions, etc., to choral and orchestral societies? At present 'Lodoiska' and 'Faniska,' with their wealth of melody, harmony, and dramatic power, are mere names to most Britishers; Brahms's 'Rinaldo' and 'Triumplied,' little more than names, while even the four symphonies are played far less often than they might be." I am afraid such a society would not obtain very much support, and I am not sure that it is really needed, so far as Brahms is concerned, at any rate. Why, indeed, Brahms and Cherubini should be linked together I do not quite know, since they certainly do not stand on the same footing in the matter of popularity and general appreciation.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mrs. Sellar's "Recollections and Impressions" (1) is dedicated to "my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren," for whom alone, indeed, it was originally written, and its undress character is still further indicated in its preface, where the punning title suggested by a friend, "Cobwebs from an old Cellar," is appreciated for its appropriateness. But Mrs. Sellar not only writes in undress herself, but exhibits in undress some of her famous friends, much to your gratification. "He that is never a fool is always a fool" is an excellent proverb, and you think the better of Tennyson, Browning, Matthew Arnold, etc., for their child-like or childish intervals. With the remembrance of the stained-glass window Tennyson presented to you in his son's biography of the poet, it is refreshing to find him rattling off such preposterous nonsense verses as these as fast as his tongue could utter them:—

They found her buried in the moor,
Shut out from every hope;
And her bonny little noseling
Was brown as Windsor soap!

(1) "Recollections and Impressions." By E. M. Sellar. (London: William Blackwood & Sons. 10s. 6d. net.)

(2) "The Mystics." By Katherine Cecil Thurston. (London: William Blackwood & Sons. 3s. 6d.)

(3) "Where Love Leads." By Charles Garvice. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Married in Haste" By E. Everett Green. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

(5) "Petronel of Paradise." By Mrs. Fred Maturin. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

Tennyson could be complimentary, too, in impromptu verse, which, when you remember Max Muller's account of the poet, you hardly expected. When he spent an additional day with the Sellars, owing to his having missed a trip to Skye, he said:—

If he did not see Loch Coruisk,
He ought to be forgiven;
For though he miss'd a day in Skye,
He spent a day in Heaven!

He pronounced "Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon" the most simple and beautiful love-song ever written, which no doubt it is. Altogether he made a most favourable impression on every one with whom he came in contact, except, indeed, the Gaelic boatman who rowed him and Palgrave fifteen miles to Oban. "Robert," said Mr. Sellars to this old Charon, "you are taking over to Oban one of the greatest men in England." "What!" he exclaimed, "that black-a-vise, Mr. Tinsmith, that came with Mr. Pancake! Well, well!" It is no less refreshing to find the very superior Matthew Arnold putting off his grand manner and going down, so to say, on all-fours like a child with children. When Mrs. Sellar met him in London at dinner, he shouted across to his host, who, he supposed, was wondering at his hair being untouched by time, "Ah, Sandars, you are jealous! You think it is a wig! But pull it, Sandars, pull it!" Another friend, upon meeting Arnold in Bond-street, asked him where he had been. "At Douglas's, having that perpetual miracle, my hair, cut!" You get a very pleasant glimpse of Browning, who told Mrs. Sellar that when he sent his godson (Tennyson's grandson, called Alfred Stanley Browning) a present, reminding him of his three great sponsors thus, "You have three names: one glorious, another good, the last that of an old friend who takes great interest in you," he received the following reply from the boy: "But are not you, too *rather* glorious?" Herbert Spencer seems, indeed, the only friend who did not, because he could not, relax even in the genial company of Mrs. Sellar. Once, when they sat next to each other at a wedding breakfast, and were recalling together the many years of their friendship, she said: "Yes, Mr. Spencer, we have lived and loved together through many a changing year!" "We have *lived*," he corrected, with decision. "He was," says Mrs. Sellar, "full of fads and theories about his health, and was afraid to get into an argument lest it should disturb his 'somniferous faculties.'" Once, when Mr. Jowett was staying with us and we were going to spend the afternoon at Achranich, so great was his fear of an encounter of wits that he lay down with india-rubber balls on his ears—an invention of his own—which proved so successful that he fell asleep, and when he awoke Mr. Jowett had come and gone!" Herbert Spencer need have had no fear of Jowett's loquacity, since the famous Master of Balliol hated talk so intensely that, after listening to a torrent of it from that pioneer of medical education, Miss Jex Blake, he said to a friend, "As *lex* is the Latin for law, I suppose Jex is for jaw." This is not a brilliant *mot*; for such sallies you must look to that witty Scotch judge, Lord Young. When there was some delay at his house in serving the soup at dinner, he whispered to Mrs. Sellar: "An appropriate grace would be, 'Lord, make haste to help us!'" When a hair-splitting clerical deputation waited upon him he asked, were they Free Church? "Well, not exactly," they replied, hesitatingly. "'U.P.s' then?" "That was nearer the mark, but they differed from them in some points." "Then," said Lord Young, out of all patience, "I shall write you down as split peas." Surely, by the way, the sarcasm, here attributed to Lord Young, upon the gift of half a million to the Church of Scotland by an unworthy son of that communion, as "the heaviest *insurance against fire* ever heard of," is of older date? It is odd to find Mrs. Sellar attributing to Jowett Johnson's famous phrase, "Keeping his friendships in repair," and forgetting that it was O'Connell who said of Peel's chill smile that "it was like the silver plate on a coffin." Here is an amusing anecdote of the father of the present Archbishop of Canterbury. Coming down the stairs of his own house he met a young woman coming up whose face he did not know. "Who are you?" he asked. "Please, sir, I'm between the cook and housemaid." "God help you!" he sighed, and passed solemnly on. One more specimen of this chatty, charming volume, and I have done with it. When Dr. Lushington's partial condemnation of the Colenso judgment was reversed by Lord Westbury, Lord Bowen wrote on the margin of his copy of the Chancellor's judgment, "Hell dismissed with costs." Here is a riddle of that witty, amiable, and able judge: "Why is a step-father an inexpensive article?" "Because *ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte.*"

Mrs. Thurston's "The Mystics" (2) is a most disappointing book. The Mokanna of the Mystics is neither a credible nor a creditable hero, while these fanatics themselves are too silly to be worth the elaborate pains he takes to impose upon them. He swears solemnly to his dying uncle not to touch his body or anything belonging to his body till the Arch-Councillor of the Mystics comes; yet no sooner is the old man dead than, in his rage at being left by him only £500, he takes from the corpse the key of the cabinet that held the Bible of the sect. From it he learns how, when, and where the Prophet expected by the Mystics should appear, and this knowledge enables him to personate the Messiah successfully. It is a vulgar cheat from a vulgar motive, and your sympathies are so estranged from the impostor that you rather hope for his exposure than fear it. How it comes and how he escapes its consequences I must leave you to discover for yourself, as in this denouement lies the chief interest of the story. You have incident enough and to spare in Mr. Charles Garvice's "Where Love Leads" (3), though perhaps the author plagiarises himself a little too often. The hero is no less than twice knocked on the head by the villain, while the heroine is no less than thrice rescued by the hero from robbers. Then you have a treasure island sown with rubies which the hero discovers by the aid of a chart, and of which he is subsequently robbed by the villain. I should not like to say how often in fiction the hero turns out to be the very man the heroine is bound to marry, and not his rival, who had all along been supposed to be her destined husband. Thus she can at last give, with the consent of both her conscience and her heart, her hand to her fisher boy. Miss Everett Green's "Married in Haste" (4) keeps the startling promise of its opening sentence, "Will you marry me?" the proposal of a young girl to an aged colonel to whom she never had spoken in her life before. He does marry her, and then follow all kinds of murderous plots—most of them, to say the truth, rather childish—to wreck their happiness, and even their lives. I fancy, however, that young girls would enjoy this rather old-fashioned novel. I cannot say I care for the kind of humour with which "Petronel of Paradise" (5) opens. There's nothing exquisitely funny in taking a kind old lady out of her depth "till two legs with two feet at the ends ornamented on each small toe with Allcock's corn plaster appeared waving a last frantic adieu to the world." Then the heroine's pre-existence, her elaborate somnambulism, and her elopement with the hero, are all wildly improbable, while their melodramatic death together fails to affect you.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The memoirs of the Comtesse de Boigne, 1781-1814, are probably the last of the great French memoirs hitherto unpublished. Mme. de Boigne, the intimate friend of Mme. Récamier, and the head of one of the smartest Salons in Paris, frequented by Mme. de Stael and Chateaubriand, wrote her memoirs late in life, at an age when ripe reflection and the wisdom of a woman of the world who had seen and known every one enabled her to draw a clear picture of society at the turn of the nineteenth century, and on through all the years of Napoleon. The first volume has just appeared in France, and an English edition will be brought out

The Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall, S.W.—1598 Gerrard. Famous for its beautiful Restaurant and Grill Room. Under the same Direction as the Ritz Hotel.

An Eminent Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate, especially on the chest, should have a gas fire in the bedroom. Not one atom less healthy than coal."

immediately by Mr. William Heinemann. Mme. de Boigne, who was of half-English extraction, lived for many years in Yorkshire and in London, and an interesting feature in her book is the picture she gives of English life and English society of the period.

Messrs. Greening and Co. will issue this month "The Tangled Skein," a new novel by the Baroness Orczy, the author of the wonderfully successful "Scarlet Pimpernel." Among the other new novels in the same firm's list are "The Mascotte of Park Lane," by Lucas Cleeve; "Love the Criminal," by Harris Burland; and "The Dupe," by Gerald J. Biss.

Mr. Bertram Mitford, who has written several stirring stories of life in South Africa, tells of a rising of the blacks against the whites in his new novel, "The Black Hand and the White," to be shortly published by Mr. John Long. Trickling through the exciting incidents of the story is a love romance.

"Fräulein Schmidt and Mr. Anstruther: Being the Letters of an Independent Woman" is the title of a new volume by the author of "Elizabeth and her German Garden," which Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. are publishing this week.

Christian Science is dealt with in a new novel by Mr. E. F. Benson, entitled "The House of Defence," which Mr. Heinemann has in preparation.

In "Round About Wiltshire" Mr. A. G. Bradley gives the record of a recent summer's ramble in that county. He writes in his well-known allusive manner of matters historical and archæological, of the natural beauties of the county, its social and pastoral life, old customs and traditions; of the Downs, their white horses, chalk streams, and matchless pre-historic remains. The book, which Messrs. Methuen are publishing, will have a number of illustrations in colour by Mr. T. G. Gotch.

A new volume by Miss M. Betham-Edwards, entitled "Literary Rambles in France," is announced by Messrs. Constable and Co. Miss Betham-Edwards has an unrivalled knowledge of provincial France and is certain to prove a delightful and interesting guide.

Mr. Murray will publish immediately "The Life and Letters of Sir James Graham (1792-1861)," edited by Mr. C. S. Parker. It is the first life of that statesman, based on the family papers and documents, which has appeared.

Miss Marjorie Bowen's first book, "The Viper of Milan," enjoyed quite exceptional popularity, and the announcement of the appearance of a second novel from her pen, entitled "The Glen o' Weeping," has excited much interest. The new book—a story of the Glencoe massacre—is being published this week by Messrs. Alston Rivers.

Motoring does not seem to have checked the cult of the caravan—indeed, every summer an increasing number of people take to the road, gipsy-fashion, and the general verdict of those who have tried it is that it is a most delightful way of spending a holiday and seeing the country. Mr. Bertram Smith's book, "The Whole Art of Caravanning" (Longmans, Green and Co., 2s. 6d. net), not only confirms this impression, but contains much useful information for the guidance of intending caravanists.

"Richard Hooker," by the Very Rev. Vernon Staley, Provost of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Inverness, is the first volume of the Great Churchmen Series which Messrs. Masters and Co. have just started. The price of these monographs, which are illustrated, is 3s. 6d. each.

Mr. Maurice Baring's "With the Russians in Manchuria" was one of the best books on the late war. In a new volume, "A Year in Russia," which Messrs. Methuen are about to issue, Mr. Baring gives the impressions of an impartial eye-witness who had the opportunity of mixing with Russians of all classes during that most eventful year in Russian history which followed the declaration of peace.

As a fitting commemoration of her stage Jubilee, Miss Ellen Terry—so she will always be known to her innumerable admirers, though she has now become Mrs. Carew—began last year the writing of her autobiography—a task in which her chief difficulty was due to the embarrassing abundance of her interesting experiences, which would easily have furnished material for many books. The work has now been completed, and it will first be published in the columns of *M. A. P.*, commencing on June 6, under the title, "The Story of My Life."

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The season proper has begun. The three signs and tokens are the opening of the opera-house, the opening of the Royal Academy, and the return of the King to England. The opera is quite as fashionable as ever, and the first nights beheld wonderful gatherings of beauty, dress, and jewels. There could scarcely be a better frame for lovely faces than the dark red house against which the light, filmy frocks of the hour find full relief. The Romney or Empire gown, with its soft folds and classical draping, is admirably suited for opera wear, much more so than satins and velvets. A poet or artist must delight in the sight of these artistically gowned women with their flashing jewels and the pastel tones of their draperies. It gives one an æsthetic pleasure to see them, their hair shining and perfectly arranged.

We heard "Hänsel und Gretel" for the first time, and loved it. For once, the libretto is as charming as the music. Bee did not care for the angels, but I liked them. It is just like a child's dream, and so is the witch's house, all made of different kinds of cakes.

The new exhibition at Earl's Court is both interesting and picturesque, even in the incomplete state in which it was opened on Saturday. It seems strange to have an exhibition not dominated by the Big Wheel, but on its site there are new and wonderful amusements, all relying on speed and "up-and-downness" for their attraction. All the side-shows promise well, and the "Old Japan" entertainment ought to be very popular just now. But these are the frivolities; there is much solid interest in the exhibits. Embroideries of every kind are shown, and the costumes that can be studied, both in cases and on the peasants who work or sing or dance in various parts of the exhibition, are varied and wonderful. We were very much interested in the demonstration of tobacco manufacture, tracing the leaf from its natural state to the completed cigarette. This is in the Servian section. The workers have fine faces, broad brows, pale olive skins, and straight, glossy, dark hair. In the same section is a demonstration of carpet-weaving. It is extraordinary to see how unerringly the weavers, who work by hand, plan out their pattern with different coloured wools long before the longer threads are woven to the same place.

The carved furniture here is delightful, and is adapted to practical bedroom purposes very cleverly. We saw a couch, too, covered in bright colours, which looked the acme of comfort. There are some very interesting sketches of the method of fishing employed in Servia, showing the shapes of the nets, and the fish entering them; and on the surface of the blue water little dark fishermen in long pointed boats, rather Japanese in effect. We liked these utilitarian sketches, quaint and naïve, better than the ambitious paintings in the art section. Under them hung a beautifully written framed placard headed: "Species of fiches fiched in the Danube."

In the Balkan Village there is an open café, at which one can have refreshment while watching groups of Bulgarian peasants dance and play on a neighbouring platform. The musicians, wearing baggy white trousers and embroidered zouaves, stand back to back in the middle, playing on violins and 'cello wild tunes of endless repetition. Round them the peasants, hand in

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hand, revolve in rings, first one way, then the other, the men wearing embroidered suits, the women with embroidered zouaves or else loose, Burmese-looking coats, over dark embroidered skirts. Beneath these, which are short, hang longer petticoats of pale gauze worked in silver and gold. The Orient tinges strongly the clothes of all these Eastern Europeans. We hope to go again and study the exhibition more closely, for only a hurried visit was possible on Saturday, the opening day.

One reads surprising things in the papers sometimes. For instance, the account of the fascinating Frenchwoman who ran away from her husband with another man and stole some money. Her husband went after her, regained her society for a few days, and, taking her crime on his own shoulders, was convicted of theft and imprisoned. What does the lady do next? She goes off with yet another man, and sues for divorce from her husband on the grounds that he has been convicted of theft!

It reminds me of a case I read in the papers years ago, where a husband of the working classes knocked his wife's eye out and shortly after kicked her because she had only one. What a rankling sense of bitter injustice the poor victims must feel in such cases.

The Park is lovely just now, in its freshness of green. The grass has in some lights that hint of blue that is so exquisite, and the baby leaves on the trees look all the fresher and brighter by contrast with the perfectly black stems and twigs, darkened by London smoke. The flowers, too, are in themselves quite beautiful; but they do not look quite happy set out in formal rows and ranged in order of colour as they are. Why not a little harmony with the character of flowers themselves? They do not grow exactly like each other, and no one ever saw two roses arranging themselves in mathematical order on the parent bush. A little carefully studied disorder would be much more effective. The Park gardeners give the idea that they would like to coerce the tulips, daffodils, hyacinths to grow by rule, and have an equal number of leaves on every side.

Down in the country the apple-blossom is showing abundance of pink folded in little close, rounded petals among the pale, soft bright green. The glory of the plum bloom is long over, and but a few of the pear trees have preserved their whiteness since the recent storms of wind and rain. The rose bushes are covered with buds, and very soon we shall have roses. Meanwhile the wallflower perfumes the air, and the bees begin their happy murmur in the apple trees. It is a lovely time, the Maytime. Why cannot we all enjoy it, far from towns and cities?

"There is great trade depression in riverside hotels." Thus a Thames Valley solicitor, giving evidence in a law case. And whose the fault? The hotel-keepers', and none other. If they make exorbitant charges, how can they expect customers? These heavy charges simply drive them away. It ought to be possible to have a moderate tariff and yet make a fair profit, with good management. Confronted with West-End restaurant prices for a menu that cannot compete with that of a West-End restaurant, the visitor eats his luncheon or dinner, pays his bill, and determines never to go again. Old-fashioned cookery à l'Anglaise is now so popular that it ought to be possible to please customers without engaging a very expensive chef. Shall we take a hotel and make our fortunes?

On Thursday, the 16th (next week) a matinée will be given at The Playhouse (by kind permission of Mr. Cyril Maude) in aid of the Girls' Realm cot in the Great Ormond-street Hospital for Children. It is under very distinguished patronage, including that of the Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal, and several of our duchesses. The Girls' Realm Guild of Service and Good Fellowship have worked hard for years for their cot, and have made £700 themselves without public appeal. They now want to complete their £1,000 for endowment for ever. The hospital is in dire need of funds, and wards will have to be closed if immediate help is not forthcoming. The performance begins at 2.30 on the 16th and includes the screen scene from the "School for Scandal," by Miss Winifred Emery, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. Ben Webster, and Mr. Cyril Maude; "The Friend in the Garden," by E. F. Benson, with another first-rate cast, "Compromising Martha," and a French play acted by Miss Aimée Lowther and Mlle. Jolivet. There are several other attractions, so the performance ought to be a great success. I hope it will.

If you know any young mother who is worried about her infant child not thriving as it should do, recommend to her a little pamphlet called "Baby's Welfare," issued by Allen and Hanbury, 37, Lombard-street, E.C. It is full of the most valuable hints about the food and management of small babies, always such a responsibility to those in charge of them. The advice about minor ailments is so excellent that I wish the County Councils all over England would distribute the book free among inexperienced mothers of the class that cannot afford to get doctor's advice every time the child is ill. The chapter on general management should be posted up in every cottage. The value of air is inculcated, and equally the danger of draughts, and so on. The ignorance of young mothers about bringing up babies is simply appalling. School-board instruction could scarcely be expected to cover the subject, but one would imagine that the teaching there would at least open the minds of the children to the perception of their ignorance and to the reception of knowledge on general matters. A copy of "Baby's Welfare" will be sent post free on application as above.

The private view of the Royal Academy was a tremendous crush. It disturbed the traffic of Piccadilly for some hours. The people inside were far more interesting than the pictures, enthralling as some of the latter are. There were many artists and their wives and daughters, most of whom talked shop and criticised the pictures from the technical point of view. There were several actors and a few actresses. Other ingredients of the moving mass were clerics, politicians, members of Parliament (I caught sound of a glorious brogue I had once heard in the House!), legal luminaries, famous doctors, authors, and, above all, pretty women. Wherever one turned there was a pretty woman nicely dressed. Mr. Frank Richardson says that any woman who is not absolutely hideous can achieve the reputation for beauty if she only acts as though she were really pretty. He must mean a poise of the head that says, "Look at me," a glance of the eyes that also invites inspection, and in a way rewards it by a peculiar conscious softness; and a pose of the whole body that unmistakably carries the owner's impression that she is the centre of admiring eyes. I have seen all these things most successfully winning a place in the ranks of beauty. It is interesting to watch, but this conquering way needs one more qualification beyond those I have mentioned, viz., skill in choosing and wearing nice clothes, and the art of concealing that one is conscious of them.

I did not particularly notice this kind of pretty woman at the Private View. There were so many of the genuine sort. A lovely girl in white and pale green was immensely admired. I do not know who she was. A well-known authoress also wore white and pale green, and looked too handsome to be as clever as she is. Brains and good looks are not supposed to go together in our sex. They often do in the other.

There seemed to be an emulation as to who should wear the longest feather. A blue one hung about half a yard down its wearer's back. A grey one stood straight in the air and caused almost as much comment of a startled sort as Mrs. Brown Potter's portrait. A third feather was terracotta and green, the colours skilfully mingled and adorning a charming head. Many of us tried not to covet an Indian scarf, pale green of ground and any colours you like to mention in the border. I

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always compromise with such mean and envious promptings by saying I wish I had "one like it." I do not feel quite so wicked then and can admire the beauty of whatever it may happen to be. Isn't it a good plan? Or is it a specious self-deception?

I noticed some strange unions of colour in the crowd. A violently mauve hat was worn with a pink gown. Under a red gown peeped a petticoat of purple silk and lace. Rather nice was a mauve voile over bright blue silk and with a chené belt in the two colours deftly mingled. I saw a scarlet toque with a purple feather, and the contrast was strong enough to make me blink. Still more surprising was it to find, when I got near enough through the crowd, that the dress was in a tone of red that swore at that of the feather. It was an insult to take such an arrangement among the pictures.

There is a great sale on at Mortlock's and there are the chances of a lifetime in bargains of glass and china. If you do not mind a missing plate or dish, you can buy an incomplete service for a trifling sum. Don't you love good glass? There are beautiful sets for the table at very low prices during the sale. The white engraved with gold is so pretty, and the large, quaintly-shaped bowls for flowers look lovely on the dinner table, the water in them shining like diamonds. I like to see the graceful stalks of flowers through the glass, don't you? If you want to lay in a small store of wedding presents run up to town one day and we will spend an hour together in the Mortlock galleries.

One reason among many others, why I like Erasmic soap so much is because the dark sort is easily found in the bath, owing to its colour. Soap has a way of going off on its own just when it is wanted, and the paler varieties become invisible, so that one has to grope all round for them. The slipperiness of the article makes it annoyingly elusive, too, and I cannot bear wasting time looking for anything. Can you? In fact, I think some clever person ought to invent a way of stringing soap on a line so that it could simply be hauled in like an anchor when it has been lost sight of. Some American will probably do it some day.

H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, has promised to open the annual sale of the North Bucks Lace Association, which is to be held—by permission of Lord and Lady Battersea—at Surrey House, Marble Arch, on Tuesday and Wednesday next. The beautiful laces for sale have been made by cottagers in Bucks and Bedfordshire, and a demonstration of lace-making will be given, while in an annexe a loan collection of rare and historical laces will be shown.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—What a fraud May-day was, with regard to the ideas woven around it by tradition and the poets. We had most severe wintry weather, with gales that would have made short work of Maypoles, and rains and hails which would have washed away any May Queen and her crown. It was not a merry, but decidedly a mad, day, in which latter respect alone it fell in with the late Laureate's view of the occasion. Prose has had a decided triumph over poetry in sending May Queens out of fashion. How dismal would have been their coronations last week, their crowns those of sorrow rather than of joy. Only think of revellings on soaking village greens swept by glacial winds! And of the sorry attempt to wear faces of joy, whilst otherwise wearing bedraggled flower garlands, ribbons, and all sorts of summer finery. Nothing wants more rearrangement than do the traditions and "properties" at present appertaining to many of our festivals. For instance, how comfortable the Yule log, which is so frequently superfluous at our green Christmas times, would have been last week; May Queens might again come into fashion and have a really good time by its blazing glow. May would have some claims to be "merrie," with Christmas dances and jollifications round its Maypoles, set up in indoor comfort, warmth, and safety from the vigour and arctic severity of the weather.

The only consolation we had, under the circumstances, was a sorry one—that is, that most other countries, with more pretensions to climate than ours, were just as badly off, or even more so, than we were. We found the "something which does not displease us" in the adversities of others.

Last week was a quiet one in Dublin, and, indeed, in the whole of Ireland. We were all more or less waiting for this week, which may be "big with the Fate" of our part of the kingdom. Even we women who take no part in politics have to interest ourselves in them, when they intrude themselves into the innermost circle

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of hearth and home, though, of course, we are a little inured to Home Rule Bills by this time, and have fallen into a way of taking them in the day's work. The metaphor, however, of the lull before the storm would be singularly inappropriate for the week, since never did wilder May winds blow, day and night. One fears that many who came across the water for the opening of our international exhibition must, like the Istrian traveller of very long ago, have found it "a wearisome labour to arrive at Ireland." Let us hope, however, that they may also find, like him, "there is no experience, however horrible, that does not contribute to some good end."

Lady Aberdeen's recovery was happily advanced enough to allow of her accompanying Lord Aberdeen to the opening ceremonial on Saturday last of the International Exhibition. The weather, fortunately—though, to say the least of it, still breezy—was fine and sunshiny, which was a fit, as well as an auspicious, omen. The scene inside the buildings was a gay and pretty one, the opening ceremonial short, and the music very effective. The Viceregal party arrived in three State carriages, with escorts. In addition to their Excellencies and their Viceregal officials, military and civilian, were the visitors, Lady Ormonde, Lady Annesley, Lady Constance Butler, and Sir Reginald Custance, who was in command of the part of the fleet then in Kingstown "Roads." The procession to the daïs was a pretty one, owing to the uniforms worn, which did not leave our sex to contribute all the brilliant effect. The Ulster King-at-Arms fulfilled his usual mission as a "thing of beauty" and ornament, and officially proclaimed the exhibition open, after the reading of the King's telegram and the address and short speeches. The wear of our sex on the occasion was mostly a wisely chosen one of unmitigated winter garments and furs. Wrapped in their comforts one felt amiably towards all the surroundings, and had a hopeful spirit for the future.

Lady Shaftesbury is to have the experience of receiving a silver cradle from the County Council of Belfast, in honour of the birth of her daughter lately at Belfast Castle, she being Lady Mayoress of the northern capital. Lady Grosvenor, her mother, has been paying her a visit.—Yours ever, CLARE.

I am seeking some nice recipes for you next week.—Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

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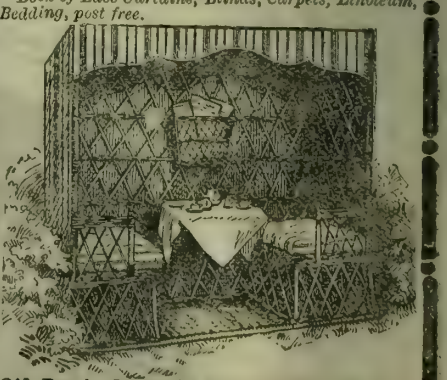

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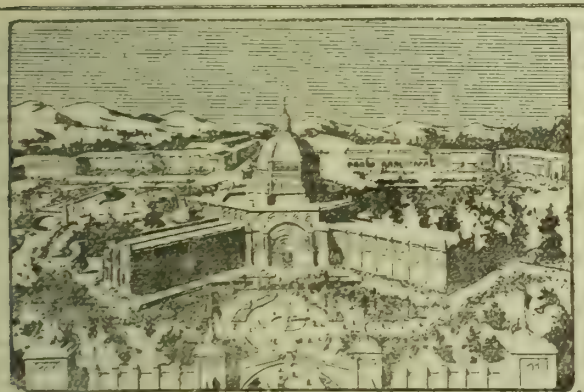

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Act II.—Mary's Apartments in Bridewell House, London.
Act III.—Great Room of the "Bow and String" Inn, Bristol.
Act IV.—Scene 1: Room in the Palais des Tournelles, Paris, France. Two months later.
Scene 2: Room in Greenwich Palace, England.
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SCOTLAND	Friday, May 17th.
Carlisle; Leeds and Manchester Districts	Friday Nights, May 17th and 24th, and Saturday Mornings, May 18th and 25th.
Morecambe; English Lake District	Friday Nights, May 17th 24th, and 31st, and Saturday, May 18th.
Liverpool; Isle of Man; Blackpool	Friday Nights, May 17th, 24th, and 31st, and Saturdays, May 18th and 25th.
Birkenhead; Chester; North Staffordshire; Blackburn and Rochdale Districts	Saturdays, May 18th and 25th.
South Wales	Saturday, May 18th.
Birmingham District	Saturday, May 18th, and Monday, May 20th.
Rugby; Northampton	Saturdays, May 18th and 25th, and Monday, May 20th.
North and Central Wales and Cambrian Line Stations ...	Saturday, May 18th, and Friday Nights, May 24th and 31st.
MANCHESTER (for Races); Stockport	May 22nd, afternoon and night. ,, 23rd, morning and night. ,, 24th, morning.

Week-End Tickets will be issued on Friday and Saturday, May 17th and 18th, to many Seaside and Inland Pleasure Resorts, and to a number of Stations in Scotland, available for the return journey on the following Sunday (Train Service permitting), Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

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FREDERICK HARRISON,
May, 1907. *General Manager.*

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Boulogne	3	21/-	—	12/6
Do.	8	30/-	25/-	17/10
Brussels (via Calais or Boulogne)	8	48/4	34/2	—
Do. (via Ostend)	8	38/-	27/3	18/4
Amsterdam	8	37/1	25/6	—
The Hague	8	32/10	22/5	—
Calais	3	22/6	—	14/-
Do.	8	31/6	26/6	20/6
Ostend	8	28/9	20/3	13/8
Le Touquet (Paris Plage)	5	34/9	28/7	20/5

TICKETS AVAILABLE BY ANY TRAIN (Mail and Boat Expresses excepted) will be issued from LONDON to the undermentioned Stations on 17th, 18th, and 19th May, available for return on 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd.

	RETURN FARES. 1 Cl.	2 Cl.	3 Cl.		RETURN FARES. 1 Cl.	2 Cl.	3 Cl.
Ashford	14/-	9/-	7/-	Margate	16/-	12/-	8/-
Bexhill	14/-	9/-	7/6	Ramsgate	16/-	12/-	8/-
Broadstairs	16/-	12/-	8/-	St. Leonards	14/-	10/6	8/-
Canterbury	14/-	10/6	8/-	Sandgate	17/6	12/6	9/-
Deal	18/6	12/6	9/-	Sandling Junction	17/6	12/6	9/-
Dover	17/6	12/6	9/-	Sandwich	18/6	12/6	9/-
Folkestone	17/6	12/6	9/-	Shorncliffe	17/6	12/6	9/-
Hastings	14/-	10/6	8/-	Tunbridge Wells	8/6	5/6	4/6
Herne Bay	14/-	10/-	7/-	Walmer	18/6	12/6	9/-
Hythe	17/6	12/6	9/-	Westgate	16/-	12/-	8/-
Littlestone	16/-	12/-	9/-	Whitstable Town	14/-	10/-	7/-

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13 DAYS FROM £12 12s. "MIDNIGHT SUN." Two Berth Cabins, Luxurious Accommodation. Sailing June 8, 22; July 6, 20; Aug. 3, 17. Visiting Sand, Odde, Bergen, Fretheim, Gudvangen, Loen, Marok, Naess, and Molde.—Apply ALBION S.S. CO., LTD., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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WHITSUN HOLIDAYS

QUICKEST ROUTE

BETWEEN

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WEYMOUTH	13/6	BUDE	21/0
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TRIP from SOUTHAMPTON to LISBON and BACK. Leaving May 17 by R.M.S.P. "Clyde," returning to Southampton May 25 by R.M.S.P. "Aragon." **£10** return ticket. For particulars apply as above.

From East to West.

TWO GREAT CENTRES.

By A. DOUGLAS.

To-day we are nothing if not progressive. Nothing will serve us but that the maximum of advantage shall be obtained at the minimum of expenditure in time. Do we need anything, we must needs go to a centre, somewhere where a choice can be made, and where we are sure the article we desire can be obtained, if, indeed, we may not have set our minds on the unattainable. At the same time, we have not the least intention of foregoing one of the advantages which can be obtained anywhere else.

A live business firm recognises this demand and provides accordingly. Acting on this principle, the Hackney Furnishing Company have just opened extensive premises—93, 95, 97, and 99, Oxford-street—for the better accommodation and economy of time of their West-End customers, who have been a very growing number on their books, since the advantages of their enormous selection, expert judgment, low prices, and exceptionally favourable trading system have become generally known. At their new address the Hackney Furnishing Company, having during their thirty odd years' trading made Hackney a centre of the furnishing industry, and knowing that the more wealthy patrons have in many cases hesitated to go so far to see the goods they contemplated purchasing, have gone straight for the latest and undoubtedly most convenient centre for the same trade in the West End. There is now no need for the dweller in the West to go further than the bottom of Newman-street to receive the most courteous attention, the largest selection offered by any firm in the world, and the most fair terms possibly attainable; as there has been no need in the past for the dweller in the North or East to go further than Hackney. At both these establishments the firm undertake Furnishing for every one.

"Furnishing for everyone," the reader may remark, is a very bold proposition. To undertake to supply rich and poor alike is to do that which at first sight seems beyond the means of any ordinary firm. There is not merely the enormous variety of class in furniture, artistic, economical, and serviceable, but there is the necessity of meeting the varying financial positions of the would-be purchasers. For anyone to make such a boast, it must be essential that he possess a thoroughly efficient and enormous organisation, perfected through years of experience. The Hackney Furnishing Company, of which Mr. A. M. Stewart is the Founder and Managing Director, the originators of the system of deferred payments, make this assertion. At Hackney, their original home, they have over 6½ acres of showroom area, being one of the largest furnishing stores in the metropolis. Their new premises, Nos. 93, 95, 97, 99, Oxford-street, have been described as "the prettiest shops in London." The management has been entrusted to Mr. Michael Pearl, whose great reputation in the North is known to all. In these two establishments can be seen furniture fit to grace the most elegant mansion, and also furniture fit to withstand the hard and constant wear of the artisan's home. The whole are supplied at strictly moderate prices, either for cash or upon the Hackney Furnishing Company's Improved "Model" System.

In these go-ahead times it is wholly unnecessary for any middle-class home to be meanly furnished. The clerk or artisan can stock his home with artistic treasures such as his forefathers never dreamed of possessing. He can surround himself with the products of best workmanship—products which are the last word in artistic design, high quality, and durability.

When, some years ago, Mr. A. M. Stewart founded the Hackney Furnishing Company, it was looked upon by some in the light of a hazardous experiment, but the system he then inaugurated, and which is described by the whole Press as the "Model System," was destined to fill a public want.

By the Hackney Furnishing Company's system, the young man in a clerkship, or the warehouseman, enjoys the same terms of credit as those obtained by people in a much higher social position. He is not obliged to be content with an inferior article, one which will be a constant reproof to him, because that is the best his ready cash will run to.

No deposit is required. The prospective customer can drive in the firm's private motor or brougham to the magnificently appointed showrooms, and select at leisure from the largest and most artistic display of furniture in the Kingdom, and he has also the great advantage of Mr. Stewart's personal attention and advice—advice based upon many years' sound practical experience in the furnishing of houses of all classes. His purchases are then delivered to him, free of all charges, whether he resides in London, or miles away in the country. If he has not yet decided upon his place of residence, or for any other reason, the firm will store his goods for a period up to six months free.

The terms of payment are most advantageous—twenty pounds' worth of goods can be obtained on payments of eleven shillings per month, thirty pounds' worth for seventeen shillings, fifty pounds' worth for twenty-eight shillings per month, one hundred pounds' worth for forty-five shillings per month, five hundred pounds' worth for eleven pounds five shillings per month, and so on, in proportion. A free fire insurance policy is issued with all purchases, so that no loss by accident need be apprehended, whilst, by a system of life insurance, if the purchaser dies before completing the instalments the goods become the property of the widow or next-in-kin, without further payments. If a cash transaction is preferred, the purchaser enjoys a cash discount of ten per cent.

Their new premises in Oxford Street is a veritable treasure palace, a wonderful seven-storey building, replete with every modern contrivance for comfort and elegance.

Electric lifts convey the delighted visitor to floor after floor crammed with everything in furniture and home appointments the heart of man or woman can desire.

Great floods of dazzling light from splendid arch windows illumine a number of model rooms, each furnished with taste and elegance, price in all cases plainly marked. The feet of the visitor sink into rich pile carpets, upon which are arranged the finest quality Louis XVI. suites, Empress suites, embroidered suites, suites in oak, walnut, &c. Upon every wall hang the latest and best products of art and craft, in every nook and cranny some fresh marvel asserts itself. The keynote of the whole is absolute durability and expert workmanship. The customer can have any article taken almost to pieces if he so wish, to test the claims of the firm in this direction. A service of well-appointed motors is in attendance to convey purchasers to the new seven-floor West-end branch or the enormous parent warehouse at Hackney. One of the latest enterprises of this mammoth firm is house-reclaiming. You can buy an old dilapidated house, and hand it over to the care of Mr. Stewart. He will rebuild it for you, fit up electric light, and artistically furnish it to suit your every whim.

Write to-day to the Hackney Furnishing Co., Town Hall Buildings, Mare Street, Hackney, N.E., or to 93, 95, 97, and 99, Oxford Street, W., for the superbly illustrated catalogue, sent you post free. You will be astonished at its completeness. It would be practically impossible to name anything pertaining to the furnishing or decoration of a home which the firm do not stock, and of which they cannot offer a large selection. In fact, when you have paid them a visit, or, failing that, looked carefully through their catalogue, you will assuredly say, "Here, indeed, is Furnishing for Everyone."

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY, AND NOT FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

PARTICULARS OF

ENGLAND'S PREMIER COBALT MINING CO., LTD.

Nipissing District, Coleman Township, Province of Ontario.

Incorporated and organised under the Laws of ONTARIO, CANADA.

ALL SHARES ARE FULLY PAID AND NON-ASSESSABLE.

CAPITAL - - - - - $1,100,000 (£220,000),

Divided into 220,000 Shares of $5.00 (£1) each, of which 20,000 Shares represent the Working Capital, $100,000 (£20,000).

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM LAING MALCOLMSON, President (late Vice-President of the United States Banking Co., Mexico City, Mexico; President of Green Mountain Copper Co., of New York); 22, Criffel Avenue, Telford Park, London, S.W.
H. DE FONBLANQUE COX (Partner in "The Field," "The Queen"; Director of the Diesel Engine Co. Ltd.), Trafalgar Buildings, London, W.C.
J. S. KING, of Toronto (Vice-President Buffalo Silver Mining Co.; Director of the Home Life Insurance Co.).
W. J. MORRISON (Vice-President and General Manager of Merrall's Machinery Co., New York and Toronto).
PERCY H. TEMPLE, Toronto (of R. H. Temple and Son; Ex-President of the Toronto Stock Exchange).
CHARLES FREDERICK MAY, Gentleman, Toronto.
RALPH E. REVILLE, Proprietor of the "Brantford Courier," Brantford, Ontario.

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Solicitors.
COATSWORTH AND RICHARDSON, Temple Buildings, Toronto, Canada.

Brokers and Transfer Agents.
R. H. TEMPLE AND SON, Toronto, Canada.

Secretary and Offices.
P. H. TEMPLE, Temple Buildings, Toronto.

London Brokers.
BUCKLER AND NORMAN, 4, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

London Offices and Secretary.
C. S. JARVIS, Trafalgar Buildings, 1, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.

England's Premier Mine consists of 40 acres situated in the Nipissing (Portage Bay) district of Cobalt, where the finds have been both numerous and rich. It has the same formation as the Nipissing Mine and other well-known properties in the same district.

Mr. Ralph W. Foster, Resident Consulting Engineer at Cobalt of Francis Cox and Co., Ltd., reported to them as follows on April 2nd:—"This property is ideally situated for development by tunnel work. . . . . The rich veins on the adjacent properties can readily be traced on to England's Premier, and I have no hesitation in saying that by vigorous work we ought within the next 90 days to make as good a showing as any of our rich neighbours. . . . I consider that you have every chance of a very quick return."

Mr. A. J. King, of Toronto, Canada, a well-known mining expert, who has just arrived in London, direct from Cobalt, Ontario, and who inspected England's Premier Mine, has brought with him some rich samples of ore showing native silver which he obtained on the property himself. He states that average, unselected assays of ore on the property run from **300 to 900 oz.** of pure silver to the ton. He states further that he has no hesitation in saying this is one of the best prospects in the camp, and that in a few months it will be, like its rich neighbours, one of the most important producing mines in the Cobalt district.

The value of the ores in the Cobalt field are maintained at depth; in the opinion of the best Engineers in the camp the values will be maintained to a depth of 1,000ft. Two shafts have been sunk on England's Premier property. Considerable stripping on the surface has also been done, and seven rich veins have already been located. The work already done has shown splendid results, and arrangements have already been made to erect the necessary machinery and plant to carry on operations with all possible speed. On the adjoining property assays show 3,000oz. of silver to the ton; equally good results may be looked for from England's Premier Mine, and dividends may confidently be expected during the present season. The average cost of mining in the Cobalt district does not exceed 10 per cent. of the values won, and in many cases is much less.

At the present time there are 30 mines in the Cobalt district shipping rich ore to the smelters, and 25 more mines have purchased machinery for the active development of their properties.

England's Premier shares are now dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, and application will at once be made for a settlement.

Intending purchasers should apply to their own Stockbrokers, or Messrs. Buckler & Norman, 4, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C., or to C. S. Jarvis, the Secretary of the Company, Trafalgar Buildings, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.

GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

Mortgages.] ESTABLISHED 1837. [Annuities.

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Lord ARTHUR CECIL, Deputy Chairman.

H. E. DUKE, Esq., K.C.
Hon. R. C. GROSVENOR.
WILLIAM MULLER, Esq.
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Double advantage policies issued securing TWO PAYMENTS of the amount assured—one payment on the attainment of a specific age, and a second payment at death thereafter.

Advances made on Reversions, vested or contingent, and Life Interests, and on Personal Security in connection with a Life Policy.

JOHN ROBERT FREEMAN, *Manager and Secretary.*

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY

(LIMITED),

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
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The Best Tonic

For the restoration of energy and vitality; the relief of mental and nervous exhaustion, impaired digestion or appetite, there is no remedy so beneficial as

Horsford's Acid Phosphate

(Non-Alcoholic.)

It is a scientific and carefully prepared preparation of the phosphates that provides the tonic and nerve food needed to improve general health.

If your chemist does not have it in stock he can obtain it from Bovril, Ltd., 152 Old Street, London, E. C.

BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. 2½ **per cent. interest** allowed on Deposit Accounts. 2 **per cent. interest** on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.—C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

QUEENSLAND COPPER FREEHOLDS (LIMITED).

THE STATUTORY MEETING

of this Company was held at their registered offices, 2 Broad-street-place, on April 30.

On the motion of Mr. JAMES T. T. PAXTON, seconded by Mr. C. HENRY McEUEN, Mr. Thomas Gilbert Scott was voted to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, I call upon the secretary to read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certified report.

The SECRETARY (Mr. C. D. Comrie) accordingly read the notice and the report of Messrs. Futcher, Head, and Co., chartered accountants.

The CHAIRMAN then said:—Gentlemen, I beg to ask you to allow me to trespass on your time to a greater extent than is usual at a statutory meeting, because my co-directors and I think the shareholders may be glad to learn something of the history of their Company and to hear full particulars of the properties and undertaking in which they have invested. Before commencing I would like to explain to the shareholders that in taking the chair to-day I am what I may describe as an unwilling impostor, because owing to one director having only lately joined the Board, and another having been compelled to go abroad for some weeks, we have not at present selected our chairman; and as I very reluctantly undertook this duty at somewhat short notice, I trust you will grant me a very ample indulgence. The Company was registered on January 31, 1907, with a capital of £300,000 in £1 shares; 125,000 shares have been allotted to cash subscribers, 125,000 are to be allotted as fully paid to the vendors, and the remaining 50,000 shares are under option at a price of £2 per share. The purchase price payable by the Company is £200,000, as to £75,000 in cash (provided out of the present issue of £125,000) and as to £125,000 in fully paid shares. This provides for the present a working capital for the Company's general purposes of roughly £50,000, and when the option over the unissued 50,000 shares at £2 per share is exercised, the Company will have £150,000 at its command. As you will see, the auditors' certified account, submitted to this meeting, shows that the sum of £30,582 payable in respect of the 5s. called up on the 125,000 shares has been received. The balance will be payable—5s. on June 3, 5s. on July 8, and 5s. on September 2 next. The date fixed for the completion of the purchase is July 25.

THE CLONCURRY RAILWAY.

Before passing on to our own properties, it is perhaps hardly necessary for me to allude generally to the Cloncurry district as likely to become a great copper-producing centre of the future. Directly the Queensland Government finally settled to extend the railway from Richmond to Cloncurry, a distance of some 180 miles, a great activity sprang up, with the result that far more information on the subject has been forthcoming, and it is apparent from reliable reports that the development of this district has been simply lying dormant till the arrival of the railway became a certainty. I think a statement in a report by Dr. R. Logan Jack, late Government Geologist of Queensland, made in 1901, when he believed a scheme to build a railway to Cloncurry from the north was about to be carried out, expresses the opinion held for years past by every one qualified to judge. He says:—"It is my firm conviction that few of the greatest of known mining fields, before they were opened, presented a more promising outlook than does the Cloncurry district. Fresh discoveries have been made from year to year, even though the prospectors knew that their only hope lay in railway extension. The railway was bound to come. Only political considerations and the jealousies of contending interests have prevented its coming sooner." Now, gentlemen, I cannot yet say that the railway actually has come, but our latest information from Queensland is that the construction of the railway is being pushed on at a great pace, and that it will probably be in Cloncurry by the end of the year, when transport of railway material for extension of our properties will be possible. The North Queensland Railway Company have obtained tramway leases and intend connecting the various mines with the Government railways at Cloncurry.

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED.

To pass on to our own possessions, we own eight freehold properties known locally as Malbon, Argylla, Rainbow, Chinaman, Diagonal, Yamamilla, Crusada, and Dobbins, containing an area of about 378 acres; we also have a third of the shares of the Mountain Home Copper Co. (Limited), of Queensland, owning an area of some 600 acres, and a half interest in Sutherlands selection of 40 acres at Cabbage Tree Creek. These were all purchased about 25 years ago by Mr. Archibald Coats, of Paisley, and the Australian Copper Syndicate, of Glasgow, in which Mr. Coats also holds a large interest. I may mention that Mr. Coats is largely interested in this Company, and one of our biggest shareholders. I wish to draw particular attention to the fact that our properties are all freeholds granted by the Government with none of the onerous labour conditions attached to a mineral lease. The Queensland Government for about the last 20 years have refused to grant any more mining freeholds, and it has only been possible to obtain mineral land on lease under stringent conditions which often prove exceedingly inconvenient and expensive. In this respect we have a great advantage, especially as we own a large area of mining land, for we shall be free to start work on some properties and suspend it on others entirely at our own discretion. Mr. Coats and the Australian Copper Syndicate expended a considerable sum of money many years ago in purchasing these properties, believing that when a railway was constructed they would become very valuable; for in spite of the fact that the land was known to contain a quantity of copper ore of very high percentage, it was impossible to carry on mining at a profit till the railway arrived, owing to the great distance from the coast.

THE MALBON AND ARGYLLA MINES.

Acting on the advice of our managing engineers, we are at present confining our attention to developing the Malbon and Argylla. Both these properties are reported to contain large and valuable lodes, and some preliminary work has already been done in opening them. In the Malbon, when visited in 1903 by Mr. Stewart, of Messrs. Alex. Hill and Stewart, a shaft about 25 ft. deep had exposed a small lode of solid copper glance ore, widening from 2 ft. at the surface, where red oxide and carbonate were found in the outcrop, to 3 ft. 7 in. of glance at the bottom of the shaft. An assay of glance at the bottom of the shaft yielded a result of 51 per cent. copper. Mr. Stewart, who reported on many properties in the neighbourhood, said, "This is the best defined and highest grade lode visited in the district, which, although somewhat narrow at surface, shows good prospects of becoming much wider in depth." In addition to this lode we have on the Malbon a second and apparently larger one outcropping almost continuously; the outcrop merely shows about 1 ft. 6 in. of carbonate and oxide ores, but a trench has exposed 7 ft. 2 in. of 33 per cent. ore in a lode of a total width of 11 ft. This mine sent to the Wallaroo Smelting Works some time ago 80 tons, averaging 39·4 per cent. copper, 4 dwts. gold, and 2 oz. 4 dwts. silver. Various parcels have been sent away since of about equal value, and at the present time a parcel is at the smelting works which is expected to yield a return equal to that already referred to. The Argylla mine is described by Dr. R. Logan Jack in a report taken from a Queensland Parliamentary Paper as follows:—"The Argylla mine is a wide belt of copper bearing country. The dominant feature of the belt is a wide reef of rather open and friable quartz, standing up as a crest on a hill-top for about three-eighths of a mile, and nearly 80 ft. above the general level of the slate country. The western side of the quartz reef at its north end is stained with carbonate of copper, its numerous caverns being conspicuous from a long distance, owing to their bright green colouring. Traced to the south the whole hill is seen to be a belt of copper lodes, generally running parallel to the dominant quartz reef. We saw a good deal of green carbonate of copper, often radiated and fibrous, and of the highest possible percentage. We could knock out, and pick up, on the hillside, or in the gullies, heavy boulders of red oxide of copper and gray ore."

DR. J. R. M. ROBERTSON'S REPORT.

Dr. J. R. M. Robertson, who was specially engaged by Mr. Coats to examine these properties, speaking of the Argylla in his report, says:—"This is, to all appearance, the most valuable copper freehold discovered. The surface outcrops are the thickest, richest, and longest yet seen. The main body of the lode, over 500 yards in length, is composed of a wall of string red oxide, possibly averaging 45 per cent. The largest lumps of copper ore, now in Helvingrove Museum, were blasted by myself out of this part of the lode. The walls of the lode are defined and smooth, and intersects the greywacke slates. Branching off the main lode at various angles are strong carbonate lodes. The main lode is defined over a length of 500 yards. Towards the southern end the lode is 12 ft. thick, and rests against capel. Beyond this it has not been prospected. A few feet north 10 ft. thick of solid red oxide is exposed, but the further thickness has not been ascertained; 100 ft. north it is equally strong. For 350 ft. it shows at intervals strong solid masses of ore. At this point the lode is 14 ft. thick, of which 7·6 is red oxide, the balance gossan tile ores and carbonates. The red oxides will average 45 per cent. Towards the north a large branch from the N.E. joins it. North of this the lode apparently expands, but much labour is required to prove its character. I know of no mine that gives such evidence of value. No work has been done to prove the character or extent of these rich ores in depth. For a space of 30 yards wide solid capel, which may merge into copper or copper ores, intersect the slate and suggest quarrying or open face workings."

THE COMPANY'S OTHER PROPERTIES.

As to the remaining properties, the following brief extracts from Dr. Robertson's report may be of interest, as indicating the favourable opinion expressed concerning them:—"The Chinaman.—The lode has been opened over a space of 350 yards. About 30 tons of 12 per cent. ore is on the surface. The lode has a promising appearance, but requires prospection. The Diagonal.—One of the lodes 3 ft. thick has been exposed, and from it 8 tons of 18 per cent. ore (estimated) have been taken. The Rainbow.—A strong lode can be traced on this for a distance of 200 yards. A shaft, 16 ft. deep, exposes a lode of 5 ft. thick, carrying pockets of rich ores I estimate at 50 per cent. Along this lode capel, a recognised favourable index of copper, is seen. The Yamamilla.—Enormous blocks of carbonates and oxides have rolled down from the outcrop, which at its highest part measures 15 ft. 6 in. thick. The gangue is quartz. Evidently large quantities of good ore—say 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. quality—could easily be obtained, while its position lends itself to easy adits into the lode from the north. No mining work has been done in this selection. Cabbage Tree Creek.—Strings and lodes of copper can be traced, and have been exposed in trenches over a distance of 200 yards. The ores are liver coloured and red oxides, but further work is necessary before positive opinions of its value can be offered. The Crusader.—The lode is very strong, and intersects a tumbled mass of tilted slates, grey gossan, and joints filled with silicate of copper. A shallow cutting reveals solid ore for 10 ft. or 12 ft., intermixed with gossan. Here the lode appears to be 30 ft. thick, if not more. To the south its width appears to be 54 ft. For 180 ft. every foot shows copper ore, and from this point it tapers off. Much thoughtful prospecting is required to prove the value of this deposit, but in doing so very large quantities of rich ore will be gotten. The prospects of a large deposit of rich ore are very bright. Dobbins.—The lode is solid, and varies between 6 ft., 10 ft., and 16 ft. thickness. To the north the lode divides, but no work has been done to trace the branches or to prove continuity in depth. From several open cuts over the course of the lode possible 100 tons of high-grade ore has been taken, the major portion of which is still on the ground. The quality will average 35 per cent. I hold a very high estimate of the value of this lode. It unquestionably contains very large quantities of high-grade ore."

THE MANAGEMENT AND PRESENT OPERATIONS.

I think most of the shareholders are aware that we have engaged Messrs. Alex. Hill and Stewart to act as our consulting and managing engineers, and I need hardly say we have absolute confidence in their ability to develop our properties with the utmost skill. Mr. Hill is now at Cloncurry, and will inspect the whole of the Company's properties, with a view of advising the directors as to future operations. Contracts have already been let for sinking a vertical shaft 150 ft. on the Malbon, from which the lodes will be worked, and on the Argylla for an incline shaft on the red oxide lode, and a vertical one on the malachite lode. Also a contract has been let for boring 2,500 ft. with a diamond drill on this property, so that the ore bodies may be quickly located at depth. We have asked Dr. R. Logan Jack to visit our properties and report to the board. Dr. Logan Jack was for many years geologist to the Queensland Government, and his opinions on mining matters carry very great weight in the Commonwealth. So much has been said lately in the Press on the probable production of copper in the future and the market outlook, that I do not consider it necessary for me to touch on this subject. Whatever may be the course of the copper market during the next few years, I think we are more than justified in pushing on the development of our properties with the greatest possible despatch. The experts who have examined our properties, extracts from whose reports I have read to you to-day, seem to be unanimous as to the great value of many of the lodes already exposed, and I think the shareholders will agree with me in considering our prospects of success exceedingly bright. Gentlemen, I have nothing more to add, except to thank you very much for your kind attention. (Cheers.)

Mr. TURNER.—Gentlemen, I desire to move a vote of thanks to the chairman for so ably presiding to-day, and in doing so I would move also that the directors be requested to see that a complete report of this meeting be published, so that the shareholders may always have by them the details which have been so ably and so lucidly put before them by the chairman to-day. Perhaps some one will kindly second that.

Mr. GILL: I beg to do so.

Mr. TURNER put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Thank you very much. As a matter of fact, we had already had Mr. Turner's suggestion made to us, and I think the directors have practically settled that we will publish a report of the meeting and circulate it among the shareholders.

The proceedings then terminated.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LTD.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS Submitted at the Fourteenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders held in the Board Room, Consolidated Building, Fox Street, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, the 27th day of March, 1907, at 3.30 p.m

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS,

Gentlemen.—Your Directors beg to submit their Report for the year ended 31st December, 1905, together with the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account, duly audited for the same period.

The Reports of the Consulting Engineer and Manager are also submitted herewith.

PROPERTY.—No alteration has taken place in the Company's property, which consists of some 143 Claims, 47 of which are North of the Main Reef on the Witwatersrand Goldfields.

CAPITAL.—The Capital also remains unchanged, viz., £550,000 in £1 shares, all of which are issued

ACCOUNTS.—The last Accounts adopted by the Shareholders were those to 31st December, 1905, submitted at the General Meeting held on the 9th May, 1906.

The Accounts now submitted are for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1906, and may be summarised as follows:—

ASSETS		
Plant, Excess Development, Water Service, Railway siding, buildings, Shafts, etc., as at 31st December, 1905	£258,969 16 4	
Additions made during 1906	77 12 6	
	£259,047 8 10	
Less Depreciation written off	24,378 5 6	
		£234,669 3 4
The whole of the Plant has now been scheduled and re-valued and carried to the Balance Sheet in a condensed form		
Property		326,404 11 2
Stores, Sundry Debtors, Share Investments, Gold in transit and Cash on hand		79,396 1 1
Total Assets at 31st December, 1906		£640,469 15 7
LIABILITIES.		
Issued Capital	£550,000 0 0	
Debentures Unredeemed	20,000 0 0	
Sundry Creditors	5,923 14 2	
Debenture Interest accrued	200 0 0	
Dividend No. 7, of 5 per cent.	27,500 0 0	
Total Liabilities at 31st December, 1906		£603,623 14 2
Balance to next Account		£36,846 1 5

The Revenue and Expenditure may be summarised as follows:—

REVENUE.		
From Gold	£223,547 5 0	
Gold Reserve Transferred	2,521 0 0	
From other sources	2,207 19 3	
	£228,276 4 3	
Add Balance from last Account	17,542 5 7	
		£245,818 9 10
EXPENDITURE.		
Working and General Expenditure	£154,906 15 1	
Debenture Interest, Premiums and Expenses	2,187 7 10	
Dividend No. 7, of 5 per cent.	27,500 0 0	
	£184,594 2 11	
Add Depreciation written off	24,378 5 6	
		£208,972 8 5
Credit Balance to next Account		£36,846 1 5

DIVIDEND.—During the year Dividend No. 7 of 5 per cent. was declared, absorbing an amount of £27,500.

MINE.—The Consulting Engineer's and Manager's Reports, containing detailed information as to the year's operations, are attached.

DIRECTORS.—Messrs. Harold F. Strange and John Munro retire in terms of the Company's Articles of Association, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. John Moon and J. P. O'Reilly retire, but offer themselves for re election. You will be asked to fix their remuneration for the past audit.

MANAGEMENT.—Mr. R. A. Alston continues to manage the Company's operations to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

HAROLD F. STRANGE, Chairman,
E. BRAYSHAW,
CHAS. MARX,
JNO. MUNRO,
} Directors.

Johannesburg, 25th February, 1907.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Dr. BALANCE SHEET at December 31, 1906. Cr.

LIABILITIES.				**ASSETS.**		
To Capital fully issued in 550,000 Shares of £1 each fully paid		£550,000 0 0	By Property			£326,404 11 2
Debenture Bonds as per last Account	£40,000 0 0		Mynpachts Nos. 316 and 325.			
Less 6th Drawing, May, 1906	20,000 0 0		Machinery and Plant, £130,100 19s. 9d.; less depreciation, £13,010 1s 11d.	£117,090 17 10		
	20,000 0 0		Buildings, £47,939 11s. 4d.; less depreciation, £4,793 19s. 9d.	43,145 11 7		
Debenture Interest accrued to date		200 0 0	Dams and Reservoirs, £5,273 5s. 8d.; less depreciation, £527 6s. 6d.	4,745 19 2		
Sundry Creditors		5,923 14 2	Permanent Works, £29,194 11s. 6d.; less depreciation, £5,839 18s. 4d.	23,354 13 2		
Dividend No. 7 of 5 per cent. declared payable to Shareholders registered December 31, 1906 (payable about 10/2/07)		27,500 0 0	Development	41,000 0 0		
		£603,623 14 2	Railway Siding, £1,500; less depreciation, £150	1,350 0 0		
Balance (Profit and Loss)		36,846 1 5	Mine Hospital, £569 10s. 7d.; less depreciation, £56 19s.	512 11 7		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.			Livestock, Vehicles, etc.	469 10 0		
8/- per share on 640 Native Labour Association Shares	£256 0 0				231,669	3 4
42/- per share on 1,485 Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency Shares	3,118 10 0		Stores on Hand		7,657	10 6
£9 per share on 127 shares, Rand Mutual Assurance Company, Limited	1,143 0 0		Share Investments		2,313	6 9
	£4,517 10 0		Sundry Debtors		1,807	17 1
			Cash on Deposit	£61,824 18 4		
			Cash at Mine	1,761 4 10		
			Cash at Bank	147 4 8		
			Gold in Transit	13,883 18 11		
					67,617	6 9
		£640,469 15 7			£640,469	15 7

H. F. STRANGE, Chairman,
E. BRAYSHAW,
CHAS. MARX,
JNO. MUNRO,
} Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LTD., Secretaries.

We hereby certify that we have examined and compared the Books and Vouchers of the Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, Limited, and that the above Balance Sheet is a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs at December 31, 1906.

JOHN MOON,
J. P. O'REILLY,
Incorporated Accountants,
} Auditors.

Johannesburg, February 25, 1907.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for 12 Months ended 31st December, 1906. Cr.

To Mining Expenses	£60,476 10 7	By Gold from Battery, 30,786.888 oz.	£130,774 7 0	
Development Expenses	17,483 8 2	Gold from Sands, 21,840.565 oz.	92,772 18 0	
Hauling and Pumping Expenses	9,980 11 9			
Tramming Expenses	21,163 1 4			
Ore Sorting Expenses	4,256 9 1			
Mining Expenses	19,067 11 11			
Cyanide Treatment	15,338 0 1			
Gold Realisation Charges and exchange	1,604 6 2			
General Charges	5,551 10 0			
	£154,906 15 1			
Balance, Profit on 12 months' working carried down	68,640 9 11			
	£223,547 5 0		£223,547	5 0
Balance carried down	£71,161 9 11	Balance brought down	£68,640	9 11
		Gold Reserve transferred	2,521	0 0
	£71,161 9 11		£71,161	9 11

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

To Depreciation written off	£24,378 5 6	By Balance brought down	£71,161 9 11
Debenture Coupons	1,600 0 0	Balance from last Account	17,542 5 7
Dividend No. 7	27,500 0 0	Revenue from other sources	2,207 19 3
Debenture Expenses	187 7 10		
Debenture Premium	400 0 0		
	£54,065 13 4		
Balance to next Account	36,846 1 5		
	£90,911 14 9		£90,911 14 9

H. F. STRANGE, Chairman,
E. BRAYSHAW,
CHAS. MARX,
JNO. MUNRO,
} Directors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LTD., Secretaries

Examined and found correct.

JOHN MOON,
J. P. O'REILLY,
Incorporated Accountants,
} Auditors.

Johannesburg, 25th February, 1907.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS submitted at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders held in the Board Room, Consolidated Building, Fox-street, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, the 27th day of March, 1907, at 11 a.m.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

Gentlemen.—Your Directors beg to submit their Report for the year ended December 31, 1906, together with Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account, duly audited. The Reports of the Consulting Engineer and Manager are also attached.

PROPERTY.—During the year negotiations for an exchange of ground with the Rose Deep, Ltd., was all but finished, and it only remains for some details to be completed, by which we give up our Mynpacht ground equal to 1 morgen. 220 square roods, 36 square feet, and get in exchange portions of three Claims Nos. 1,820, 1,821, and 1,822, adjoining our Southern boundary. The property otherwise remains unchanged.

CAPITAL.—The Capital remains as before, viz., £325,000 in £1 shares, all issued.

ACCOUNTS.—The last Accounts adopted by the Shareholders were those to December 31, 1905, submitted at the General Meeting, May 9, 1906.

The Balance Sheet now submitted is for twelve months ended December 31, 1906, and may be summarised as follows:—

ASSETS.

Machinery and Plant, Buildings, etc., as at December 31, 1905	£192,421 4 8	
Additions made during 1906	11,587 11 4	
	£204,008 16 0	
Less written off for Depreciation	18,967 11 4	
		£185,041 4 8
The whole of the plant has now been scheduled and re-valued and carried to the Balance Sheet in a condensed form.		
Property		209,384 4 6
Stores, Sundry Debtors, Cash and Gold in Transit, etc.		241,199 0 9
Total Assets at December 31, 1906		£635,624 9 11

LIABILITIES.

Issued Capital	£325,000 0 0	
Dividend No. 27 of 25 per cent.	81,250 0 0	
Bonus of 25 per cent.	81,250 0 0	
Sundry Creditors	6,059 16 8	
Gold Profits Tax to December 31, 1905	12,796 14 0	
		£506,317 10 8
Credit Balance to next Account		£129,276 19 3

The Revenue and Expenditure are as follows:—

REVENUE.

From Gold	£369,289 10 3	
Gold Reserve transferred	27,554 0 0	
From other sources	6,454 17 5	
	£403,298 7 8	
Add Balance from last Account	173,125 17 6	
		£576,424 5 2

EXPENDITURE.

Working and General Expenditure	£187,704 8 7	
Dividend No. 26	65,000 0 0	
Dividend No. 27	81,250 0 0	
Bonus, 25 per cent.	81,250 0 0	
Gold Profits Tax	12,796 14 0	
Short paid, 1905	178 12 0	
	£428,179 14 7	
Add Depreciation written off	18,967 11 4	
		447,147 5 11
Credit Balance to next Account		£129,276 19 3

DIVIDENDS.—During the year two Dividends and a Bonus were declared, totalling 70 per cent., and absorbing £227,500.

MINE.—The Manager's Report, attached, contains full information of the year's work, and this is supplemented by a Report from Mr. J. Harry Johns, the Consulting Engineer.

DIRECTORS.—You will be asked to elect Directors in the place of Messrs. H. F. Strange and Charles Marx, who retire in terms of the Articles of Association, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. John Moon and F. W. Diamond retire, but offer themselves for re-election. You will be asked to fix the remuneration for the past audit.

MANAGEMENT.—Mr. A. E. Payne continues to manage the Company's operations to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

HAROLD F. STRANGE, Chairman,
JNO. MUNRO,
CHARLES MARX,
E. BRAYSHAW,
} Directors.

Johannesburg, February 23, 1907.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December, 1906.

Dr. Cr.

LIABILITIES.

To Capital fully issued in 325,000 Shares of £1 each, fully paid		£325,000 0 0
Sundry Creditors		5,621 12 5
Unclaimed Dividends		428 18 3
Dividend No. 27 declared payable to Shareholders registered 31st December, 1906, payable about 15th February 1907, of 25 per cent.		81,250 0 0
Bonus declared payable to Shareholders registered 31st December, 1906, payable about 15th February, 1907, of 25 per cent.		81,250 0 0
Gold Profits Tax for 1906		12,796 14 0
Balance (Profit and Loss)		129,276 19 3
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.		
42/- Per Share on 1,980 Shares, Chamber of Mines Labour Import Agency, Ltd.	£4,158 0 0	
8/- Per Share on 640 Shares, Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.	256 0 0	
£9 Per Share on 175 shares, Rand Mutual Assurance Co.	1,575 0 0	
	£5,989 0 0	
		£635,624 9 11

ASSETS.

By Property—		
104 Claims, 8 Machine Stand		£209,384 4 6
Machinery and Plant, £121,817 7s. 5d.; less depreciation, £12,181 14s. 9d.	£109,635 12 8	
Buildings, £34,725 5s. 8d.; less depreciation, £3,472 12s. 7d.	31,253 13 1	
Dams and Reservoirs, £5,400; less depreciation, £540	4,860 0 0	
Permanent Works, £12,285 18s. 1d.; less depreciation, £2,457 3s. 6d.	9,828 14 7	
Development	26,250 0 0	
Railway Siding, £2,619 7s. 5d.; less depreciation, £261 18s. 9d.	2,357 8 8	
Mine Hospital, £540 18s. 2d.; less depreciation, £54 1s. 9d.	486 16 5	
Live Stock and Vehicles	368 19 5	
		185,041 4 8
Stores on Hand		6,845 5 11
Shares in Other Companies		2,664 5 9
Sundry Debtors		696 12 0
Cash on Deposit	£2 5,136 15 0	
Cash at Mine	2,259 13 11	
Cash at Bank	613 2 4	
Gold in Transit	2,925 9 10	
		230,994 19 1
		£635,624 9 11

We hereby certify that we have examined the Books and Vouchers of the New Primrose Gold Mining Company, Limited, and that the above Balance Sheet is a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs at the 31st December, 1906.

H. F. STRANGE, Chairman.
J. MUNRO,
CHARLES MARX,
E. BRAYSHAW,
} Directors.

JOHN MOON,
F. W. DIAMOND,
Incorporated Accountants
} Auditors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LTD., Secretaries.

Johannesburg, 23rd February, 1907.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for 12 Months ended 31st December, 1906.

Dr. Cr.

To Mining Expenses	£69,851 19 4		By Gold from Battery, 52,826.419 ozs.		£224,390 17 9
Development	8,365 8 8		Gold from Tailings, 24,305.680 ozs.		103,243 17 0
Hauling and Pumping	22,402 6 10		Gold from Slimes, 5,334.379 ozs.		22,658 19 6
Trimming Expenses	11,340 16 11		Gold from Accd. do. 4,471.987 ozs.		18,995 15 0
Ore Sorting Expenses	4,361 6 10		86,938.475 ozs.		
Milling Expenses	24,097 6 6				
Cyaniding Expenses	21,156 18 6				
Slimes Treatment	7,873 2 9				
Accumulated Slimes Treatment	6,122 8 11				
General Charges	9,484 0 8				
Gold Realisation Charges	2,648 13 5				
	£187,704 8 7				£369,289 10 3
Balance carried down being profit on 12 months' working	181,585 1 8				
	£369,289 10 3				
Balance carried down	£209,139 1 8		Balance brought down		£181,585 1 8
			Gold Reserve transferred		27,554 0 0
	£209,139 1 8				£209,139 1 8

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

To Depreciation written off		£18,967 11 4	By Balance brought down	£209,139 1 8
Dividend No. 26		65,000 0 0	Balance from last account	173,125 17 6
Dividend No. 27		81,250 0 0	Revenue from other sources	6,454 17 5
Bonus		81,250 0 0		
Profit Tax, 1906	£12,796 14 0			
Do. short paid, 1905	178 12 0			
		12,975 6 0		
Balance to next account		129,276 19 3		
		£388,719 16 7		£388,719 16 7

HAROLD F. STRANGE, Chairman.
J. MUNRO,
CHAS. MARX,
E. BRAYSHAW.
} Directors.

Examined and found correct.

JOHN MOON,
F. W. DIAMOND,
Incorporated Accountants.
} Auditors.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LTD., Secretaries.

Johannesburg, 23rd February, 1907.

NEW RIETFONTEIN ESTATE GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS, submitted at the Tenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, convened for 27th March, 1907, in the Board Room, Consolidated Building, corner of Fox and Harrison Streets, Johannesburg.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS,

Gentlemen.—Your Directors have pleasure in submitting to you their report, together with the reports of the Consulting Engineer and Manager, and the Audited Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts for the year ended 31st August, 1906, together with Supplementary Accounts to 31st December, 1906.

CAPITAL.—The Capital of the Company remains as last reported, viz.: £625,000 in 625,000 shares of £1 each, 610,084 of which are issued and 14,916 in reserve.

PROPERTY.—Your property comprises the following:—

(a) Mynpachts Nos. 211, 212, 213, in extent 198 morgen, 87 sq. roods, equal to 285.3288 claims. (b) 408.8174 claims held under 448 licenses. (c) 60 Vergunning Claims. (d) 2 Mining Stands. (e) 2 Water-rights. (f) Freehold of three portions of the Farm Rietfontein, No. 145, District of Heidelberg, together in extent 1,981 morgen, 268 sq. roods, or 4,193.82 English acres, including a piece of ground containing a plantation, in extent 168 morgen, 127 sq. roods. (g) Freehold portion of Farm Witkopje, No. 157, in extent 45 morgen, 83 sq. roods, including Mynpacht No. 529, in extent 3 morgen, 283 sq. roods.

During the year a block of claims, equal to 8.6692 claims, which was open ground, was pegged on behalf of the Company, it being considered advisable to acquire the block. The claims are held under 10 licenses. The Property Account, however, remains as before, nothing having been debited to this account for the claims acquired.

ACCOUNTS.—The Balance Sheet shows that a further sum of £181,482 16s. 10d. was expended during the year on new equipment and additions, the various heads under which the expenditure was made being detailed in the statement presented. The Profit and Loss Account is divided into two sections, the first showing a profit on the year's working of £105,370 14s. 3d., and the second section showing the two dividends paid during the year, and sundry other expenditure and revenue.

The Balance Sheet may be summarised as follows:—

ASSETS.

Property		£260,330 6 6
Plant, Development, Buildings, Shafts, etc.		442,062 3 7
Shares in Rand Mutual Assurance Company, Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, and Witwatersrand Native Labour Association		4,477 0 0
Stores, Sundry Debtors, etc.		21,788 19 1
Cash and Gold in Transit		103,157 3 2
Total Assets		£831,815 12 4

LIABILITIES.

Capital Issued	£610,084 0 0	
Share Premium Account	171,231 3 11	
Sundry Creditors and Profit Tax	18,676 18 3	
Total Liabilities		£799,992 2 2
Credit Balance		£31,823 10 2

The Revenue and Expenditure may be summarised as follows:

REVENUE.

Profit on year's working	£105,370 14 3
Balance from last account	111,464 2 4
Rent, Interest, etc., received	10,100 13 0
Total	£226,935 9 7

EXPENDITURE.

On Farm	£133 18 9	
Advances to Coolies, irrecoverable and now written off	3 15 6	
Profits Tax	4,783 14 1	
Dividends Nos. 3 and 4	122,016 16 0	
Total		126,938 4 4
Credit Balance		£99,997 5 3

MINE. The year's working and the results obtained are fully reviewed in the reports of the Consulting Engineer and Manager, and in the schedules accompanying them. The full new mill of 120 stamps was started near the end of August, 1906, and is running well, but, as the requisite staff of unskilled labourers was not obtainable earlier, the average number at work during the year was only 66.45 stamps. The re-equipment of the mine is now entirely completed, with the exception of the railway siding in course of construction.

DEVELOPMENT.—88,680 tons have been added to the estimated ore reserves, which now stand at 382,267 tons. It will be noted from the Accounts that the amount of £125,513 15s. 1d., which, at the end of your financial year, stood to the debit of the Ore Reserves Account, has now been written down to £57,340, the latter amount representing the re-valuation at the rate of 3s. per ton. This course was decided upon by your Directors after a careful consideration of the matter with the Consulting Engineer.

DIRECTORS.—In accordance with the Articles of Association, all the Directors, viz.: Messrs. H. F. Strange, S. B. Joel, H. A. Rogers, J. Friedlander, E. Brayshaw, C. Marx, and J. Munro retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. John Moon and Henry Hains retire. You are asked to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix the remuneration for the past audit.

MANAGEMENT.—Mr. R. Clarkson continues as Manager of the Mine under the direction of Mr. J. Harry Johns, your Consulting Engineer, and to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

HAROLD F. STRANGE,
P. RICHARDSON,
J. MUNRO,
CHARLES MARX,
G. C. FITZPATRICK,
H. A. ROGERS,
E. BRAYSHAW,
} Directors.

Johannesburg, March 15th, 1907.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st August, 1906.

To Capital Account—			
625,000 Shares of £1 each			£625,000 0 0
Less 14,916 Shares of £1 each in Reserve			14,916 0 0
610,084 Shares of £1 each Issued			£610,084 0 0
Share Premium Account, Balance at 31st August, 1905	£204,456 5 1		
Less Depreciation on Machinery, Plant and Buildings written off since 31st August, 1905	33,225 1 2		
		171,231 3 11	
Sundry Creditors			14,320 12 9
Transvaal Government Estimated Profits Tax at 31st August, 1906.			4,356 5 6
Balance (Profit and Loss Account)			31,823 10 2

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.

£9 per share on 143 shares Rand Mutual Assurance Co., Ltd., of £10 each	£1,287
£2 2s. per share on 3,300 shares, Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, Limited, of £3 each	6,930
£1 per share on 660 Shares, Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd., of £1 each	264
Total	£8,481

DEPRECIATION.

By Machinery and Plant	£232,826 14 2	£17,462 0 1	£215,364 14 1
Buildings	86,524 1 4	6,489 6 2	80,034 15 2
Dams and Reserves	7,370 11 2	120 11 2	7,250 0 0
Development (Ore Reserves)	125,513 15 1	68,173 15 1	57,340 0 0
Permanent Works	90,331 18 1	9,033 3 9	81,298 14 4
Furniture	290 0 0	—	290 0 0
Live Stock and Vehicles	604 0 0	120 0 0	484 0 0
	£543,460 19 10	£101,398 16 3	£442,062 3 7

Property Account		240,330 6 6
	Claims.	
Mynpachts Nos. 211, 212, 213	285.3288	
Claims	408.8174	
Vergunning Claims	60.0000	
	754·1462	
Two Mining Stands and two Water Rights.		
Freehold Estate		20,000 0 0
1,981 morgen 268 square roods, Farm Rietfontein 145. 45 morgen 83 square roods, Farm Witkopjes 157.		
Rand Mutual Assurance Co., Ltd., Share and Profits Account (143 Shares of £10 each, at 20s. paid up, £143; at 20s. towards profits, £143)	£286 0 0	
Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, Limited	2,970 0 0	
3,300 Shares of £3 each, 18/- paid up.		
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd., Share and Deposit Account (660 Shares of £1 each, at 12/- paid up, £396; at 25/- deposit, £825)	1,221 0 0	
		4,477 0 0
Stores Account		16,485 16 11
Sundry Debtors		4,296 6 1
Licences and Insurance: Paid in advance		1,206 16 1
Gold in Transit	£11,099 11 8	
Deposits and Interest Accrued	90,941 14 5	
Cash in Bank and at Mine	1,115 17 1	
		103,157 3 2
		£831,815 12 4

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., Secretaries.
per FRANK HALL.

HAROLD F. STRANGE,
JOHN MUNRO,
CHARLES MARX,
} Directors.

We hereby certify that we have examined the books and vouchers of the New Rietfontein Estate Gold Mines, Limited, and that the above Balance Sheet is a true and Correct Statement of the affairs of the Company as at 31st August, 1906.

Johannesburg, March 4th, 1907.

(Signed) JNO. MOON,
HENRY HAINS,
} Auditors.

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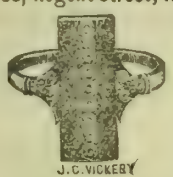

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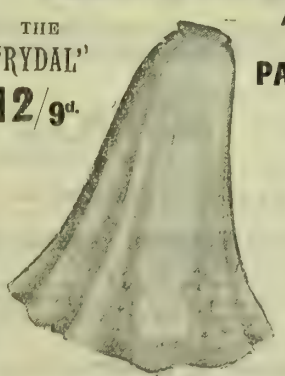

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LETTERS FROM CELEBRITIES.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET ON NERVOUSNESS.

"Industrial Farm Colony,
"Duxhurst,
"April, 1907.

"Dear Friend,—Your letter is one of many which I constantly receive begging me to tell of something which can help to restore tired nerves and over-worn strength, and you ask me to do so because I come in contact with so many who for these very reasons fail in the race of life, having sought the wrong remedy for such loss of nerve-power.

"The description which you give me of your difficulty scarcely varies from that of which I am so often told. Work has become a drudgery, and life a heavy thing. You tell me that you go to bed feeling tired, and that you wake in the morning almost equally tired, that your food is distasteful to you, and that little things which used to sit lightly upon you have become heavy burdens; that even pleasure is toil. I know you have worked hard through many years, and have had much mental strain. This may in a measure account for your weakness, which is not brought about by any condition of actual disease, but which seems to arise from an even greater trouble—namely, that your nerve-force is seriously overspent.

"It is important to understand that in these days of worry and over-excitement, the over-work (mental and physical) to which most of us are subject calls forth an undue expenditure of strength, and that to recuperate the vigour we have lost we must consider what sort of food or remedy we require.

"Of course, the whole question of proper nourishment requires much thought and experience. Many forms of food and many restoratives are recommended, but having had to do with a great many people who have impaired their digestive organs and whose nerve-power has been seriously undermined, I do not think that I have come across anything which I believe a more suitable nutrient for all forms of weakness than Sanatogen. I do not know if you have tried it, but it seems to me, under the conditions such as you have described, an ideal preparation, because it provides a valuable tonic-food in the most suitable form. It consists, I believe, in the nourishing element of pure cows' milk, incorporated with which is a special nerve-tonic containing phosphorus. It has an invigorating power on worn-out nerves, and gives tone to exhausted tissues to a surprising extent. The feeblest system and the poorest digestive organs are able to assimilate it when they can really touch little else. I am strongly of opinion that you cannot do better than begin a course of Sanatogen if you wish to regain your strength.

"Sanatogen undoubtedly restores sleep and invigorates the nerves, and it braces the patient to health, for I have noticed that with the restoration of the digestive organs the mind becomes more quickly active, and work, both mental and physical, becomes more easy, and the freshness and keenness which such people have lost (apparently altogether) return gradually, and bring with them an enjoyment of life and a feeling of hopefulness not hitherto experienced.

"When the body is subjected to a course of Sanatogen the blood condition improves, the skin assumes a more healthy colour, the invigorated nerves are braced to a more healthy tone, and the whole human machinery is made fit for exercise and work and for fulfilling its functions in the most perfect manner. . . . ."

Isabella Somerset

The above is an abstract from a letter addressed by Lady Henry Somerset to an intimate friend. In view of the public interest associated with the subject, the recipient has obtained her Ladyship's gracious permission to make the contents widely known. Additional information on the same subject may be obtained from the Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C. Sanatogen is sold by all chemists, in packets, at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. 6d.

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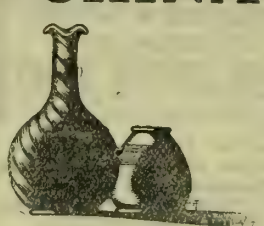

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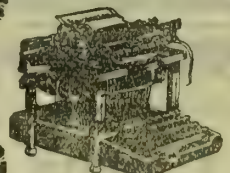

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OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,468.

This has been a very difficult Competition to judge, owing to the fact that the two conditions of "distinguished literary characters" and "intelligible English" have been interpreted by many competitors on the most elastic principles.

After careful deliberation I have decided to divide the Prize equally between WHIG and BUSY BEE, whose paragraphs were printed in TRUTH of April 3rd last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,469.

This award is unavoidably held over to next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,477.

I propose to set a puzzle which will appeal not only to my sporting competitors, but also to many others, who, though not usually taking much notice of horse-racing, probably feel some interest in the great annual struggle for the "Blue Riband of the Turf," now so near at hand.

To be explicit, I am this week offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that competitor who shall prove most successful in

NAMING, IN THEIR PROPER ORDER, THE 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD HORSES IN THE FORTHCOMING DERBY.

I may add that the scores made by competitors will be calculated on the following basis:—

Two marks will be awarded for the correct winner and one mark each for the correct 2nd and 3rd horses; while half a mark will be awarded for any horse correctly given among the first three, but given in its wrong order.

The Prize will go to that competitor who, on this basis, gains the highest marks.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one Derby forecast.
(ii.) All Derby forecasts must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, May 20, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of THE RASCAL, winner of one-third of TRUTH Prize No. 1,465, is Frederick J. White, Esq., 55, Kelmscott Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

THE RASCAL.—Although I do not usually discuss Prize awards, yet I will make an exception in the present instance, as the point at issue is one of fact rather than one of opinion. RAM'S forecast was adjudged better than yours by half a point for the reason that while you were nearer the official time by a few seconds, you were still a good way out; whereas in the relative position of the boats at Barnes Bridge (the other point of discrepancy between you) he gave the precise distance, viz., six lengths. Is it possible that you have been misled by the fact that some papers reported the margin between the boats at Barnes Bridge as five *clear* lengths, which, of course, represent six *actual* lengths? In reply to your other query: Winners of part of a Prize are still qualified to win part of a Prize, to an amount not exceeding the difference between the sum they have won and the full sum of Two Guineas. Thus you are still qualified up to £1 8s.

MINOS.—Your inscription *was* duly signed.

GLADIATOR.—Many thanks for your obliging suggestion, which I think may come in useful later on.

STANDIAN.—Thanks for your letter, with interesting particulars of Clive's childhood, which I do not remember to have seen elsewhere.

RIMABEL.—Possibly we may be able to have a non-initial alliterative Puzzle at some future date; though I doubt whether it might not be too subtle for the average competitor.

AUTOLYCUS.—I much regret that your solution of TRUTH Puzzle No. 1,472 was received too late for inclusion.

UNSIGNED.—I hope this may catch the eye of the competitor whose answer to Puzzle No. 1,472 is printed first of those immediately below. The answer was type-written and bore no signature. I shall be obliged if the writer will communicate with me, rectifying this omission.

DISGUST.—The Editor has handed me your letter in which you take exception to two of the poems recently printed in our last "Special Foreign" competition. I may remind you that our Puzzle competitors are at liberty to express any opinions they please, political or otherwise, provided they do not transgress the laws of decency or morality. But, at the same time, it is distinctly understood that such opinions must only be taken for what they are, viz., the private opinions of individual competitors—and not as by any means bearing the *cachet* of the Editorial assent. Personally, I frequently find myself in disagreement with the views expressed by my competitors; but, as an impartial Puzzle Editor, I do not, on that account, exclude them from our Puzzle columns; which, as I have already said, are open to persons of every shade of opinion. Having thus made clear to you the general principle, I have only to add that any discussion of your detailed criticisms would be superfluous.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,472.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION: "IS THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER DESIRABLE?"

No. The primary object of punishment is to deter. There is no doubt that the death penalty is feared more than any other. There can, moreover, be no doubt that murder deserves death. If then the death penalty is the greatest deterrent, and if it is deserved, why should it be abolished? Death is also the most effective manner of protecting society from a repetition of the crime. Under the present system, extenuating circumstances may produce a reprieve, but the abolition of capital punishment would prevent the execution of men for whose brutal acts even death is an inadequate punishment.—Unsigned.

No. 1. Capital punishment was ordered under the Mosaic Law (Exod. xxi., 12), and recognised in the New Dispensation by St. Paul (Rom. xiii. 4). Wherever capital punishment has been abolished the usual result has been an increase of murder. 2. A criminal, knowing he is about to die, is more likely to seriously consider and repent of his crime than one to whom death seems distant. 4. The sanctity of human life is diminished if any penalty save the greatest is thought sufficient punishment for one who wilfully destroys a life.—Pedro.

Yes. Because it is at least doubtful whether the death penalty is sanctioned by Divine authority. Because the experience of those countries where it has been abolished suggests that life imprisonment is just as efficacious a deterrent. Because, if a miscarriage of justice takes place by the execution of an innocent person, the law can make no reparation. Because, apart from humanitarian sentimentalists, educated public opinion favours the reform.—Shelmerdin.

No. Because Almighty God gave this law to Moses: "The murderer shall surely be put to death." (Numbers xxxv., 16.) And because this was confirmed by Christ when He said: "One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law."—A. P.

No. There are cases where the dread of capital punishment is the only deterrent to a potential murderer, especially where revenge is the primary motive. But capital punishment should be reserved for murderers whose crime has been carefully planned and carried out with callous deliberation. When a murder is unpremeditated, or committed in a fit of anger, or as the result of extreme provocation, capital punishment should not be enforced. The question is full of intricacies, and the ultimate tribunal is "vox populi," which is generally wise and just.—Strabus.

No. He who commits murder (and especially if he makes his crime worse by brutality) does not deserve to be let off too lightly. The world is better rid of such an inhuman monster. Leniency in punishment would naturally tend to increase crime. Capital punishment is the only penalty meet for him who takes another's life. In exceptional cases the sentence should be commuted to penal servitude for life, as at present, but every reason for a decision should be carefully considered. A reprieve should not be granted merely to satisfy the clamour of a few tender hearted but misguided sentimentalists.—Cherrypicker.

Yes. Because there is always the danger of committing an irreparable act of injustice by taking away the life of a person who may be really innocent, and who, if merely sentenced to penal servitude for life, could at any time be restored to liberty on proof of his or her innocence being forthcoming. Imprisonment for life would surely be as severe a punishment as immediate death, for the prisoner, if guilty, would have to suffer the lifelong torments of an accusing conscience. Besides, capital punishment does not effect the true object of all punishment—the reformation of the criminal.—Belfastiensis.

No. All murderers are either mad or extremely vicious, consequently they can be no comfort or pleasure to their friends or relations by still remaining in this world; and they cannot be set at liberty, so they are no use; and why should the country be burdened with the expense of keeping them in a living death? Providing they are given the opportunity of repenting by religious instruction, the sooner they are out of the world the better for everybody.—Dagmar.

No. While living in Italy, I have been threatened with the knife, being reminded by the man that in Italy they don't hang for murder as in England. Several years afterwards many cases occurred in the Italian army of officers being murdered by soldiers. The death penalty was temporarily restored, and two men shot for the crime, after which the murders entirely ceased. I believe that the death penalty is the best deterrent against murder, and that, although brutal and repulsive, it is really kinder to the criminal than a life-long imprisonment, which is only a prolonged torture.—Almaviva.

Yes. "I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, therefore turn yourselves and live ye," is the Church's teaching in the "Special office for attempt at suicide." We have passed from the days of belief that death by order of the State spiritually cancels crime, and know too little of its mystery to take a responsibility which hurries the murderer after his victim. A life sentence protects the community, and leaves the greater issues of the soul to the mercy and judgment of the God who gave it.—Munster Girl.

No. And firstly on the plea of humanity, for the only adequate substitute is *real* lifelong imprisonment, life cut off from all love, hope, liberty, and pleasure which is torture; yet milder punishment must inevitably cheapen life. Concerning the fear of taking innocent lives, it is surely better that few innocent should suffer than that many guilty should survive to do other foul deeds? It is laid down in the Holy Writ, demanded by the principles of justice, and required for the welfare of the community, that for the wilful taking of a life a life must be the penalty.—Oiseau.

Yes. Insanity does not merit death, therefore, murder, being an insane act, should come under the same category and be punishable by confinement (imprisonment for life. This, while adequately fulfilling the purposes of the capital sentence (punishment, prevention, and example), has the additional virtue of being revocable in a miscarriage of justice, while capital punishment places its victim beyond recall, thus sparing the condemning judge and jury the agony they must experience at discovering that they have condemned the innocent for the guilty. It, therefore, deserves adoption even on the principle of sparing many guilty to avoid sacrificing a few innocent.—Scrutator.

No. Emphatically no! Two reasons will suffice to support this apparently inhuman conclusion. Firstly, murder would undoubtedly become more rampant in all cases, especially in murders of specific types, such as those where the culprit has lost all interest in his own life, and those actuated by sheer revenge or in an hour of passion. Secondly, the abolitionists desire it for humanity's sake, but the idea derides itself, as just as murder would increase there would be a proportionate increase of inhumanity. As the idea of the policeman minimises robbery, so must the idea of the scaffold minimise murder.—Nero.

No. For premeditated and deliberate murder there is no adequate punishment but death. An overwhelming majority of murderers are shedders of innocent blood, and this no earthly judge has a right to excuse or pardon. After a fair trial, the convicted criminal (unlike the victim, hurried out of the world in a moment) has time given for preparation and repentance. Every palliation—passion, drunkenness, or provocation—is considered. Outside these comes capital punishment. Long may it come, for the safety of people's lives.—H.

Yes. The extreme penalty of the law is against reason and humanity. It supplies no correction. As the means of prevention or reformation it is a failure. The real motive is to strike terror and arrest the criminal in his evil designs. This is not effective. The good old days of Tyburn and Newgate are full of the most powerful illustrations, in opposition to executions. It was like a heroic period of public rejoicing, and raised crops of assassins, young and old, to be hanged one day. The present time affords no security for the relief of society from crime.—Sphinx.

No. Dread of death being the greatest of all human fears, the death penalty, properly considered as a warning to mankind rather than as a punishment of the offender—is the strongest imaginable deterrent to the commission of premeditated murder. "Murders," it is argued, "do occur despite the death penalty, therefore capital punishment does not deter, is merely vindictive, and is useless." Such an argument leaves out of account the murders that are not committed, and that would be committed, by those who, willing yet afraid to strike, would, but for the death penalty, not scruple to take human life!—Quilp.

Yes. Hanging has never reformed people. Neither morals, manners, nor persons have been purified. Wild temper and ferocity of nature have not been restrained. Crimes have been committed, wholesale, in the shadow of the gallows. It has no merit for crushing, through fear, the evil designs of the ill-adjusted part of humanity. In former days he was a hero, no matter about

his crimes, if he died with Spartan courage in sight of the mobs. As long as man remains the animal creature that he is, his annals will be stained with crimes, more or less, in his struggle. —Crank.

No. To abolish it would be tantamount to removing one of the safeguards of society. Of course, it is founded on the divine law, Gen. IX., 6, and the universal exemption from the death penalty was soon proved to be a failure in France, and murders were more than doubled. Yet the death sentence should be very carefully considered, and the jury's recommendation, especially if supported by the judge, should carry great weight. The final decision should hardly be left to the Home Secretary, who may be biassed by popular feeling, but rather to a higher court of judicature. —Simplex.

Yes. The rope, the guillotine, the electric chair fail in their mission to subdue murderous deeds. Criminals still flourish. Death has no terrors for them. The punishment in view is endowed, as it appears, with a halo of romance. Look at the civilised nations of the earth, with their horrible and appalling records of crime, where the fatal pendulum is ever on the swing. Incarceration for life, with years of solitary confinement. This would be real chastisement; and would, when its terrible severity became known, result in reformation, and enormous reduction in the sacrifice of life. Reason would then prevail. —Mary.

Yes. Because in most murder cases the evidence is circumstantial, and there is a great risk of innocent persons being convicted. Capital punishment allows of no opportunity of establishing innocence which time might afford. All punishment should have as its object "reformation." Capital punishment, of necessity, renders this impossible. Penal servitude would be a greater deterrent to a person so constituted as to be capable of taking away the life of his fellow. In the last analysis, capital punishment tends to lessen the value of human life.—Mid-Ulster.

1. No. 2. Because it is the Mosaic rule: "Whoso sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." 3. Because there is no security of life, and any one with a grievance, fancied or real, can take the law in his own hands. 4. Because, as in the case of Mr. Whiteley's murderer, public sentiment through the daily press overrides the laws of England. 5. If capital punishment is to be done away, let Parliament do so, but as the law is at present, the law should be enforced.—Dorset.

No. It has been practically tried. About fifty years ago it was almost an established precedent to bring in a verdict of insanity. Consequently, murder became a popular recreation. When they began hanging again, murder went out of fashion. Every man is mad at the moment he commits unlawful homicide. The question to decide is, Was it culpable or invincible insanity? —Libra.

Yes; on the ground that it is notorious innocent men have been hanged for crimes which they never committed. In these cases, had the sentence been one of penal servitude for life, some sort of reparation could have been made for what was nothing more or less than judicial murder.

I have also in mind TRUTH'S "Queer Story," "The Hanging of Martin Dadso," which was founded on one of these deplorable cases. Casaio.

All men are cowards, more or less. Fear is calculated to be deterrent alike in the mind of the criminal and the virtuous. There is no condition so wretched which most men will not accept provided they may live. The death penalty must therefore be accepted as the only alternative to certain deeds of violence. The fear of it teaches one to hesitate on the borderland of crime, to every one concerned it offers a vital lesson, and in the case of the evildoer himself it may encourage an otherwise unwilling penitent to secure his one only chance of redemption. Canning.

Answers have also been received from the following:—R. Y. H., Togo, Pacificus, Tom Nissed, Arragon, Detinu, Belfastonian, Excise, Allos, Khayyám, Ox Short, Game B., Mrs. Game B., Merton, Echo, Dick Maisch, Outsider, Nemo, Lex, Djalfi, Dullard, Mais n Blanc, Thersites, Scot, Espérance, Mart, Heather, Little Toad, Oscar, Loistonian, Lengthington, H. S., Jam, Arch G., Alfred Bevisham, Oaf, Sincérite, Renoops, Coral, Eldibee, Felicité, W Americus, Northlander, Insaf, Petite, Vox, Mary Diggers, Frances, Pyrrhus, Never Despair.

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The Shooting is first-class, the covert and woodland of about 650 acres holding a large head of game, which has been well maintained, and hunting can be had with two packs.

Messrs. TROLLOPE, in conjunction with Messrs. LOFTS & WARNER, will offer the above by Auction, at the Mart, E.C., on Friday, June 14th. Particulars of E. Ward Oliver, Esq., Solicitor, 1, Corbet Court, Gracechurch Street, E.C.; of Messrs. Trollope, Auctioneers, 14, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, and of Messrs. Lofts & Warner, Estate and Land Agents, 130, Mount Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.

NORTH FORELAND ESTATE, BROADSTAIRS.

Important Sale of the remaining lots on this beautiful estate, which enjoys the grandest sea views and the finest air of any estate on the English coast. All the residences on the estate are occupied and more are now wanted.

MESSRS. COCKETT & HENDERSON are instructed by the Broadstairs Land Syndicate to offer the remaining Lots by Auction, in a marquee on the Estate, on TUESDAY, MAY 21st, 1907, at 4 o'clock precisely. —Particulars of the Auctioneers, 72, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., and Station Gates, Broadstairs.

TATTERSALLS.

Messrs. Tattersall beg to give NOTICE that their **Thursday Sales** have commenced and will be continued during the Season.
Sales every Monday and Thursday.

If you are visiting
PARIS AT WHITSUN
go via NEWHAVEN
AND
DIEPPE.
THE PICTURESQUE AND CHEAP ROUTE. SPECIAL WHITSUN EXCURSION, MAY 16, 17, 18 & 19.
Apply "Continental," L. B. & S. C. R. London Br.

HITCHING'S GOLD MEDAL BABY CARS

Under the Patronage of the English Royal Family.

LONDON.
86, NEW BOND STREET; 329, 331, OXFORD STREET (Corner of Bond-st. and Oxford-st.); 45, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.

LIVERPOOL.
74, BOLD STREET.
165, DUKE STREET.

MANCHESTER.
15, ST. MARY'S GATE.

BANKERS:—
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.

HITCHINGS, Ltd., are the Premier Manufacturers of High Grade Baby Carriages in the World, having special facilities for the supply of High Grade Carriages at the lowest prices.

BABY CARRIAGES from **3** to **25** Guineas.
BABY CARS from **2** to **20** Guineas.
Pictorial Lists Post Free.
Telegrams: "HITCHING, LONDON." Telephone: 2543, GERRARD.

"Fellowship among men is nowhere more harmonious than among smokers, since the weed seldom fails to create an atmosphere of the greatest peace and goodwill."

In order to get all the comfort, satisfaction, and hearty pleasure that tobacco can give, smoke

Gallaher's "Gold Bond" Mixture

It contains to perfection that sweet, delicious flavour, that free, even burn which all smokers delight in. Try "Gold Bond" Mixture to-day.

Sold in 1-oz. packets, and 2-oz. and 4-oz. tins.

TESTING SAMPLE FREE.
If you will send us *your* name and address, and also give us the name and address of your tobacconist, we will send *you*, post free, a Testing Sample of "Gold Bond" Mixture.

GOLD BOND CIGARETTES.
The Cigarette with the indefinable charm.

GALLAHER, LTD. (Dept. 121), BELFAST.
We belong to no Ring or Combine.

TENSFELDT

Electrolysis

HOME TREATMENT.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR.

Everything that *grows* in nature depends upon a *root for its growth*, and until that root is destroyed the growth will continue.

When ladies realise this thoroughly, they will know how *useless* all liquids, pastes, &c., are for removing hair *for ever*.

The "Tensfeldt Apparatus" is Electrolysis *simplified*, and with it you can in the *privacy of your own home* kill the roots without leaving the slightest mark or disfigurement.

On receipt of 1d. stamp for postage, I will forward a copy of my book *"The Face Perfect"*—giving full particulars of this treatment—to all sufferers from this dread scourge of superfluous Hair.

Permanent Cure Guaranteed

All Letters Strictly Confidential.

MADAME TENSFELDT, 28, Shandwick Pl., EDINBURGH.

Est. nearly Quarter of a Century.

W. EVANS & CO.

Telephone: 327, Mayfair.

TRUTH says :—"Our latest discovery in tailoring is Evans, 77, Great Portland-street, London, W., who can actually fit."

We have a large *clientele* at home and abroad, and have received thousands of testimonials.

The following just to hand (original can be seen).

"Dear Sir,—I am much obliged for your prompt attention. For some years I have been dissatisfied with the various Tailors that have supplied me. I could get none to give me a good fit. I am therefore very pleased to find that you answer to your advertisement, and shall in future be at no loss to know where I can get so well supplied. "Yours truly, (Signed) W. C.

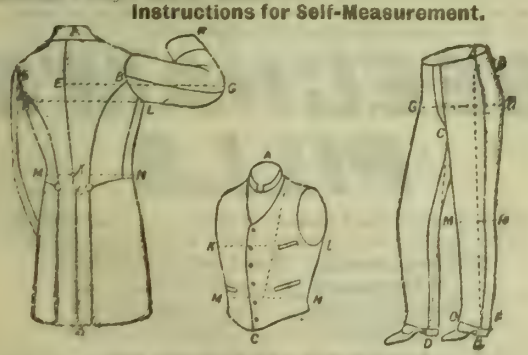
"W. Evans & Co."

COUNTRY ORDER DEPARTMENT.

Customers sending for any of the following clothes, stating colours, and the kind of garments required, enclosing a draft or P.O.O. (crossed London and South-Western Bank, Ltd.), will save considerable time, as all orders will be executed and despatched in about a fortnight from the date of receiving same.

Gentlemen living in any part of the world can rely on having same fit and attention as if they visited our establishment.

Instructions for Self-Measurement.



FOR COATS OF ANY DESCRIPTION.

A to C ..... Inches. Breast, fairly tight, over
C ,, D ..... ,, waistcoat ..... Inches.
E ,, B ..... ,,
B ,, G ..... ,, Waist, over
G ,, H ..... ,, waistcoat ..... ,,
FOR WAISTCOATS : A to C ..... ,,

FOR TROUSERS AND BREECHES.

Side from A to N ..... Inches. Round seat G H ..... Inches.
,, ,, A ,, B ..... ,, Round knee M to N ..... ,,
Leg seam C ,, D ..... ,,
Round waist A ..... ,, Round foot O ,, P ..... ,,

ADDITIONAL FOR KNICKERBOCKERS AND BREECHES.

Round small, just below (tight) knee ..... Inches. Round widest part of Calf ... Inches

Desirable to know: Height, weight, whether erect or normal.

Tweed and Blue Serge Suits, £3 3s., £3 15s., £4 4s., £4 15s., £5 5s.
Norfolk Jackets, £2 2s. 6d., £2 15s., £3 5s.
Knicker-Breeches, £1 5s., £1 10s., £1 15s., £2 5s.
Riding and Hunting Breeches, £2 5s., £2 15s., £3 5s.
Evening Dress Suits, silk lined, £5 5s., £6 6s., £7 7s., £8 8s.
Morning Coats, £2 15s., £3 5s., £3 15s., £4 4s.

77, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, London, W.

(Adjoining Queen's Hall.)

When the roots are not healthy and strong, or when they are affected by germs, YOUR HAIR will not—indeed, cannot—grow. That is why

NOTHING CAN be ANY GOOD for

HAIR

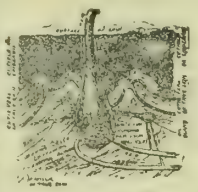
which is FALLING OUT or prematurely GREY

EXCEPT CAPSULOIDS

Magnified diseased hair as seen through the microscope, showing how all the connections at the bottom were destroyed by germs, after which it became loose, and simply fell out. This hair is now under the microscope in the Capsuloid Company's office.

Magnified, strong, healthy hair, as seen through the microscope, showing how its healthy root was so firmly fastened at the bottom that when it was pulled it tore away all the surrounding tissues from the bottom of the follicle. This hair is under the microscope in the Capsuloid Company's office.

LOOK AT THIS PICTURE OF A HAIR GREATLY MAGNIFIED, and learn how your hair grows, why it becomes prematurely grey, why it does not grow well, and why it falls out. The whole hair is produced by the multiplication of those growing cells which lie at the bottom and form its roots. They rest upon the little blood vessels which carry the blood from which the cells draw all their nourishment. You can easily see from this picture that when the harmful germs settle in those growing cells and go on multiplying they will injure the cells, which causes the hair to loosen and fall out, or become prematurely grey. If those germs are not checked they will in time quite destroy the cells, and as the roots would then be dead, it is clear no hair could ever grow from a dead root.



Those germs must, then, be killed quickly, and the only medicine ever discovered which will do it is—

C-A-P-S-U-L-O-I-D-S

"87, High-street, Portmadoc.

"Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in testifying that your Capsuloids is a wonderful remedy for the hair. I have taken them for several months, and my hair is now thick and glossy. I shall recommend Capsuloids to all my friends, and you are at liberty to use this testimonial if you wish.—Yours faithfully, "J. J. THOMAS."

FROM ALL CHEMISTS. Price **2s. 3d** per box.

Special Sample given when this coupon is enclosed, and three boxes are ordered direct from us. Larger Sample with six.

Send for valuable Free Hair Booklet which gives full Explanations.

THE CAPSULOID CO., LTD., 47, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

COUPON TRUTH, 8/5/07

MAPLE & CO

The Carpet Warehouse of the World

BRITISH CARPETS

WILTON
AXMINSTER
BRUSSELS
SAXONY
MAHRUD
WOODSTOCK
BOSPHOR

ALL NEW PATTERNS

Prices quite different from those quoted elsewhere

LONDON BUENOS AIRES PARIS

HAMPTONS

Hand-made and Inexpensive

Bedroom Suites

are tasteful in design and afford the maximum of convenience.

For many examples see Hamptons' Catalogue B 224 sent free.

Wooden Bedsteads.

In view of the growing demand for bedsteads to harmonise with their bedroom suites, Hamptons have designed and manufactured a large number of bedsteads with wooden heads and footends.

For many examples of unusual artistic merit see the new Catalogue B 226 sent free.

Bedding.

Every article quoted in their new Bedding List, sent post free, is manufactured in Hamptons' Model Bedding Factory, Battersea Park, and is guaranteed to be made under ideal conditions and from only the most carefully selected materials. Customers may, therefore, rely upon getting thoroughly satisfactory, well-made, and hygienically perfect bedding at the lowest prices at which equivalent goods are anywhere to be obtained.

Hamptons pay carriage to any Railway Station in Great Britain and deliver free within 30 miles of Charing Cross.

Head Offices & only Showrooms:

PALL MALL EAST, LONDON, S.W.

DENT'S

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE KING.

WATCHES & CLOCKS.

Makers of the Great Westminster Clock "Big Ben," and Sole Custodians Since its Erection.

Send for NEW ILLUSTRATED C & W CATALOGUE FREE.

DENT

TRADE MARK

No instrument, from No. 38,000 upwards, is genuine without the above Trade Mark.

CAUTION.

E. DENT & CO., Ltd.,

Find it necessary to inform the public that their ONLY ADDRESSES are—

61, STRAND, and 4, ROYAL EXCHANGE, E.C.

A DINING ROOM

floor covering runs the risk of serious damage from liquids accidentally upset. To avoid such risk of expense, cover the floor with LI-NOLA—Catesbys' Bordered CORK LINO. It withstands all such accidents.

FREE sample pieces, together with fine book of coloured designs, sent by post.

CATESBY & SONS, Dept. **12,**

"Shipping Dept.," Tottenham Court-road, London, W.

"This is Genuine Cocoa."—The Lancet.

SCHWEITZER'S

Cocoatina

THE BEST ON EARTH.

GUARANTEED ABSOLUTELY PURE SOLUBLE COCOA ONLY.

The

Most Nutritious and Perfectly Digestible Cocoa

For Invalids and Children, as well as for the Strong and Healthy.

In daily use at the Imperial and Royal Courts of Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Greece, &c.

Of all Grocers and Stores, at Home, India, and Colonies.

Consider Your Health!

When you consider how much depends upon it, what can be more important to you than the state of your health! If you are troubled with bad or indifferent health your capacities for work or pleasure are affected—even your life is threatened. Thousands know by old experience that

BEECHAM'S PILLS

are a blessing in the household and in every country of the world. No other medicine exercises so marked a control over

Biliousness, Sick-Headache, Nervous Prostration, Indigestion, Constipation

and other painful forms of stomachic troubles.

BEECHAM'S PILLS are good alike for man, woman and child, if taken according to directions. They are pre-eminently a family medicine—a remedy to have by one in readiness for every occasion when need arises.

There is yet another point in this connection that you should mark on the tablet of your memory. BEECHAM'S PILLS, in addition to their acknowledged value in Kidney, Liver, and Stomach disorders, have a specially beneficial effect in such ailments as are peculiar to women, many of whom endure needless pain and ill-health through ignorance of this important fact.

Sold everywhere in boxes, price 1/1½ (56 pills) & 2/9 (168 pills)

Printed for the Proprietor by Love & Malcomson, Ltd., 4 & 5, Dean-st., High Holborn, W.C., & Published weekly by H. Labouchere at 10, Bolt-ct., Fleet-st., E.C., in the City of London. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to Reginald E. Booker, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-st., Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.
Entered as Second Class Matter at the New York, N.Y., Post Office, 1903.

· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1585. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, May 15, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

A SPECIAL Insurance Supplement, to which I desire to direct the attention of my readers, is included in the present issue of Truth. It contains, among other features, an article dealing at length with the question of insurance against the liabilities in respect of accidents to domestic servants, which are imposed upon employers by the new Workmen's Compensation Act.

Their Majesties are to give a State Ball at Buckingham Palace during the visit of the King and Queen of Denmark to London, probably on Wednesday, June 12. Invitations will be issued by the Lord Chamberlain for about 2,000 guests.

The Queen and Princess Victoria have been staying for a week at Athens on a visit to the King and Queen of the Hellenes, and the Royal yacht was anchored in the Piræus. It is now probable that her Majesty will return to England by sea, landing from the *Victoria and Albert* at Portsmouth in about a fortnight. In this case the Queen will halt on the homeward passage at Gibraltar and at Cadiz, where her Majesty is to stop for a day for the purpose of paying a brief visit to the Comtesse de Paris at the Château of Villamanrique, unless H.R.H. has by that time left Spain on her return to France.

The Court would have been removed to Windsor Castle for Whitsuntide if the Queen had returned to England before the holidays, but now their Majesties are not expected at Windsor until Monday, June 17, when they will reside at the Castle for a week.

The King is to pay a visit during the Whitsuntide holidays to Captain and Mrs. Ronald Greville at Reigate Priory, where his Majesty is expected to arrive on Saturday afternoon. This charming place, which belongs to Lady Henry Somerset, was let until the end of April to Lord Curzon, who has removed to Hackwood Park, Lord Bolton's picturesque old seat near Basingstoke. Captain and Mrs. Greville have taken Reigate Priory for the summer months. The Queen Anne house is very attractive, and contains a few good pictures and some fine old carvings. The grounds are extensive and well wooded, and they adjoin the beautiful heights known as Reigate Park. The house is built on the site of an ancient priory of Augustinian canons. The estate was long owned by the Howards, from whom it reverted to the Crown, and it was granted by William III. to Lord Chancellor Somers.

It was announced in Truth some time ago that the King would confer the first class of the Order of the Bath upon Prince Fushimi. The report that he would receive the Garter was ridiculous nonsense. The last Royal personage who was created G.C.B. was Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, but until last week the President of Mexico was the junior Knight of this class of the Bath.

The Prince of Wales is this year the President of the Bath and West and Southern Counties Agricultural Society, and the annual show is to be held at Newport, Monmouthshire, on Wednesday, June 5, and following days. The Prince and Princess are to be the guests of Lord Tredegar at Tredegar Park from Saturday, June 8, until the afternoon of Monday, the 10th. When the Prince and Princess arrive at Newport from Paddington on the evening of Saturday, the 8th, they will be presented with an address from the Corporation at the station. On Sunday, the 9th, there is to be a special service in the show yard, with sermon by

the Bishop of Llandaff, and the Prince and Princess are to attend it, with the other guests staying at Tredegar Park. The Royal visit to the show is to take place on Monday, the 10th, and it is expected that the Prince and Princess will lunch in a pavilion on the show ground before they leave Newport, late in the afternoon, on their return to London.

Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll are to leave Kensington Palace next Tuesday on a visit to Sir George and Lady Armytage at Kirklees Park, Yorkshire, whence they will proceed on Thursday, the 23rd, to Roseneath House, their place in Dumbartonshire. On Wednesday Princess Louise will pay a public visit to Brighouse, where she is to formally open a new art gallery. On Thursday, the 30th, H.R.H. is to christen the King's new yacht *Alexandra*, which is to be launched on the Clyde from the yard of Messrs. Inglis at Pointhouse, where she has been built.

A PERPLEXING CONUNDRUM.

Alfonsy, Piey, Christy,
And Teddy, Franky, Will,
And Charlie, Harry, Johnny,
Their little tums would fill;

Eke Tony, Ferd, Venanc'or
(Which up to twelve they tottle),
Yet all—Come! Guess the answer—
Had but one baby's bottle.

General Lord Grenfell, who succeeded the late Lord Chelmsford as Colonel of the 2nd Life Guards, is to replace the late Lord de Ros as Colonel of the 1st Life Guards, to which post the office of Gold Stick in Waiting on the King is annexed. Major-General the Earl of Dundonald, who is to succeed Lord Grenfell as Colonel of the 2nd Life Guards, is to be the Gold Stick in Waiting on the King during June, when there will be several Court ceremonials at which his attendance will be required.

Admiral Sir Leopold Heath, who died last week at his residence near Dorking, at the age of ninety, served in the Navy for over forty years. He was very fortunate during the early part of his professional career, as he became a commander before he was thirty. Sir Leopold's first war service was on the West Coast of Africa, when he took part in the destruction of Lagos. He greatly distinguished himself during the Crimean war, and as Captain of the Port of Balaclava he rendered most valuable public services. He was afterwards employed in the West Indies, and he did good work in connection with the Abyssinian Expedition, for which he received the thanks of Parliament and the second class (K.C.B.) of the Order of the Bath. Sir Leopold Heath retired from the Navy early in the seventies, and about ten years ago he published a very interesting volume of Crimean reminiscences.

Dr. Hamilton Ramsey, who died at Torquay last week at the age of eighty-three, was during forty years Pursebearer to ten successive Lord High Commissioners of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and during the annual session he was a prominent and picturesque figure at the Holyrood ceremonials and entertainments. He was the son of Mr. Peter Ramsey, an Edinburgh banker, and his mother was a daughter of the seventh Baron Belhaven and Stenton, and granddaughter of the chief of Clanronald who commanded the left wing of the Jacobite army at Culloden. Dr. Hamilton Ramsey worked in the Edinburgh and Glasgow Infirmaries for many years, and in 1863 he was house surgeon to Lord Lister at Glasgow. For more than forty years he had resided at Torquay, and his sub-tropical garden has long been one of the great sights of the place. He entertained the Queen (then Princess of Wales) and her daughters when they were staying at Torquay in 1886, and among his other visitors were many Royalties, including the late Queen of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchess Catherine of Russia.

Dr. John Watson, best known under his *nom de plume* of "Ian Maclaren," was one of the most prominent ministers of the Presbyterian Church, and distinguished as a most eloquent preacher. He was for twenty-five years the incumbent of Sefton Park Church, Liverpool, where he enjoyed great popularity, and his fine sermons drew very large congregations. He was an active figure in the social, educational, and philanthropic life of Liverpool, and worked with zeal and success on behalf of the Presbyterian College at Cambridge. Dr. Watson was as Broad a Churchman as was consistent with his position, and his well-known work, "The Mind of the Master," was regarded by many austere Presbyterians with dislike and suspicion, so that his election as Moderator of the Synod in 1900 caused some surprise, but he had well earned any honour which his Church could confer on him by his valuable and manifold services.

Dr. Watson's novels, which belonged to the so-called "Kailyard School," were uniformly successful and popular. The first of these works, "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," published in 1894, was eagerly read from one end of Scotland to the other, and by all classes of the population, and this book (and its successors) captivated the public not only at home, but also in the United States and in the Colonies. They were overdone with sentimentality, but there was also much genuine humour in them. Dr. Watson would probably have been elected President of the Cambridge Presbyterian College but for his premature and unexpected death. He literally killed himself by over-work in lecturing and writing.

Where shall one go at Whitsuntide? Somewhere, of course, far away from the rush and worry of town, but whither—to the seaside, to some pleasant rural retreat, to the Continent? The great difficulty is to make your choice from the innumerable alluring invitations that are thrust upon your attention by the various railway companies. All sorts of advantages in the way of cheap and convenient excursions are arranged to tempt you here, there, and everywhere. If you contemplate a little trip abroad, the Great Eastern offers you special

facilities for visiting Brussels or The Hague, Scheveningen, and Amsterdam. The South-Eastern will take you at a ridiculously small charge to Paris or Boulogne; or, if you prefer it, the London, Brighton, and South Coast Company's programme enables you to visit Dieppe, Rouen, and Paris. For Paris, Normandy, and Brittany there are, too, the excellent services of the London and South-Western Company.

Perhaps, however, you are not inclined to go to the Continent this time. In that event the South-Eastern offers you the attractions of the watering-places on the Kentish Coast, and the South-Western tempts you to the Sunny South in Cornwall and Devon. By the new route viâ Fishguard the Great Western is running various excursions to Ireland, and for all parts of the West of England also the same line will serve you. Ireland again, and Scotland likewise, figure in the programme of the London and North-Western, in addition to North Wales, and many parts of England, not forgetting the Lake District. The Great Eastern will convey you to many bracing resorts on the East Coast. There are others, moreover, that can be reached by the Great Northern, which also makes, of course, a special feature of its fast trains to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. Finally, the Midland Company invites your notice to the exceptional facilities it provides for the enjoyment of "comfortable travel and picturesque scenery." It will book you at reduced fares from London to any one of upwards of 500 places in the Midlands, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man.

BOTHA'S FAREWELL.

Farewell! Too hospitable land!
I leave thee for my native Rand,
Feeling like flour that's just been milled,
And only not by kindness killed.

Two years I bore the weary strain
Of arduous war's severe campaign
With all its hardship, all its risk,
Yet still emerged alert and brisk.

But just one month in Britain spent,
On pleasure's strenuous business bent,
Has wrought in me unmeasured fag
And left me like a wrung-out rag.

Farewell! And though I p'raps no more
Shall visit thy too generous shore,
Thy memory will, while flows life's river,
Dwell ever in thy Botha's—liver.

Lord Fitzhardinge entertained his tenants at his audit dinner the other day with a comic speech on the new Workmen's Compensation Act. The point of his joke was that on July 1 every one of them must either bet (with an insurance company), or "gamble on their own hook." His lordship drew a lively picture of a bishop opposed to betting going to an insurance office and saying, "I wish to back my cook capsizing the kettle and scalding herself; at the same time I wish to take odds on the housemaid coming a cropper over her slop-pail." Having pointed out that while a street bookmaker was liable to be run in by a "bobby" and fined by a "beak," an insurance manager was "supposed to be a public benefactor," Lord Fitzhardinge confessed that "he was so fatty-headed that he really could not see the difference between the two betting-men." Really?

Judging from the following advertisement in the *Irish Times*, servants must be less particular about the scope of their duties, and a good deal easier to find on the other side of St. George's Channel than on this. It is significant that the advertiser does not even think it necessary to mention what wages he is prepared to pay a "general," who is to be coachman, groom, gardener, butler, footman, and valet, and also to give satisfaction in such matters as weight, height, and religion It would really be interesting to know:—

WANTED, General Man, drive single harness, care horses, carriages, harness, work garden, cut grass, clean knives, lamps, boots, windows; if possible attend table, valet. Address, enclosing copies references, religion, age, height, weight, terms, "Z 4350, General," this office.

The following letter is an example of a curious, and apparently flourishing, industry:—

Analytical Laboratory, 11 and 12, Great Tower-street,
London, April 25, 1907.

Messrs. Jas. Leslie and Co.,
Brewery Buildings, Sandy-row, Belfast.

Dear Sirs,—

Re Analytical Report on your "Sparkling Vitaqua."

I shall be glad if you will see your way to submit to me for chemical analysis a sample of this aërated water, with a view of giving you an analytical certificate as to its purity of composition, freedom from all undesirable admixture, and generally as to its merits and valuable qualities for publishing and advertising purposes.

I am convinced that you would find such a certificate as I should give that would be of considerable good in your business, and assuring you of my best services.—I am, yours faithfully,

Granville H. Sharpe, F.C.S., Analyst.

With this letter Messrs. Leslie and Co. send another received from the same gentleman a few years ago, in much the same terms, but mentioning that his charge for analysis and report is two guineas, and that if samples are sent at once the report will be in time for the present season. Mr. Sharpe may say that he was quite confident when addressing this particular firm that his reports would be of a favourable character. As he is a Fellow of the Chemical Society, his reports must, of course, be above suspicion, and I presume that he does not offer to supply them for advertising purposes unless he has reason to know beforehand that they will be of a satisfactory character. There are, however, individuals calling themselves analysts who offer such reports, with full assurance that they will be found useful for trade purposes, but without having any reason to know beforehand that such a report can be truthfully made; and it seems to me that scientists who make a business of supplying such documents would do better to refrain from offering them before they are asked for, if they desire them to be considered as of any independent value.

For Appeals, see page 1242.
For The Truth Hotel List, see page 1241.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1245.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 1240, 1241.
For Amusements, see page 1238
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1249, 1250.

Stephens' Blue Black Writing Fluid has been held in the highest estimation for over 70 years, and improvements have accentuated its superiority. Resolutely refuse substitutes.

Some account was given in these columns a few weeks ago of the doings of an individual calling himself the Rev. Forbes Jones. He had been connected with two ephemeral business concerns called the Church, School, and Estate Agency, Ltd., and the Illustrated Directories, Ltd., and he victimised certain poor parsons—how many he only knows—by getting from them subscriptions in advance to an illustrated clerical directory which never made its appearance. I asked if any one knew anything about him, and an answer has come from a gentleman, who, in consequence of an advertisement which appeared last November, entered into a partnership agreement with Jones for the production of a paper with the attractive title of *Church and Empire*. He was to put in £250, and to own one-third of the paper, and Jones was to put into the partnership certain printing machinery, type, etc., and all his rights in the proposed paper, for which he professed to have already obtained orders for advertisements. The partners were each to draw three guineas a week salary.

Under this agreement Jones's partner paid a first instalment of £50, and went to work under Jones's direction. Jones drew his full three guineas a week—the other partner smaller sums. By the time the £50 had been exhausted in this way, the other partner found that Jones had grossly deceived him. The printing plant was claimed by a creditor, and the alleged advertisements had never been promised. Accordingly, when the £50 was all gone and Jones asked for more, his partner very wisely refused to pay, and the partners separated, Jones firing off an insulting and abusive letter as a parting shot. It will be seen from this that Forbes Jones—the basis of his title "Reverend" is not evident—is a person to be regarded with considerable distrust.

The last few weeks have witnessed an almost unprecedented outburst of literary activity on the part of the Rev. George Brooks. One can only compare the spectacle to that of a great volcano in a state of eruption. Favoured individuals, mostly in the peerage, have been receiving their two or three letters in the course of a month, each one running into half-a-dozen or so of typewritten folios, and each striking out some novel line of appeal. One of the most effective begins:—

My Lord,—Those who treat me personally with discourtesy and my appeals on behalf of my work with disdain fall under the following categories:—

1. Those who think that they have done their fair share in supporting the work, and that others ought now to take it up and do their share.
2. Those who plead that other claims are so numerous and insistent that they can give no attention to this.
3. Those who think that Socialism is bound to grow to a head and do much mischief in the meantime, through which mischief people will be taught practically its dangerous nature. . . .

And so on through 4, 5, 6, 7, down to 8:—

Those who imagine that I have been guilty of some undefined enormity, that I am personally base, dishonourable, ignoble, an adventurer, a trickster, an impostor; in short, a thorough-paced hypocrite, and a scoundrel of the deepest dye.

After which the eight categories are dealt with seriatim and remorselessly.

It strikes me that there is a ninth category which Brooks has entirely overlooked, but which probably contains the bulk of the discourteous and disdainful sections of society, namely, those who regard the reverend gentleman as an egotistical wind-bag, and his "work" as indistinguishable from any other form of mendicancy. Personally, I belong to this category. After reading some of these recent appeals, it really looks to me as if Brooks' idea that he has established a claim to be clothed, boarded, and lodged by anybody in the upper classes whom he chooses to apply to has quite overmastered his reason—assisted possibly by the fact that he has had to sell his furniture again, and only got £45 11s. out of it, instead of the £80 on which he reckoned. In justification for this view, I append a passage in which he answers by anticipation those who complain that every appeal he issues is always the last:—

Note on the Finality of the Fund.

To those who object that I have before, more than once, spoke of *finality*, I reply:—

"True. And according to strict legality to the letter of the law, you are justified in pinning me to my words, and refusing further aid. But those who do only what they are compelled to do by law are happily few, and I don't think you are one of them. There is such a thing as going beyond law, and doing more than is required by law, as *of grace*, and it is when we do this that we touch the Divine. Had God dealt with us on the basis of strict hard law, where had we been? But the All-Merciful, in His Bounty and Grace, freely gave up His only Son for us all. And with Him doth He not also freely give us all other things? And should those who owe all to God's grace deny grace to all their fellow men?"

This would not appeal to any man, or every man, or to many men, but I hope it will appeal to you.

It so far appeals to me that I begin to wonder whether this singular man is quite responsible for all he says.

NURSERY RHYMES ADAPTED.

(To a Suffragette.)

Babble, babble, little Suffy,
How I wonder why you're huffy;
Shrieking on the Platform there
Like the cats that spit and swear.

Rather an interesting function took place last week at Warrington in connection with the laying of the foundation stone of the new Palace Theatre and Hippodrome, and the luncheon which followed the event was graced by the presence of the Rector of Warrington (Canon Willis) and a representative of the Roman Church, the Rev. Father Byrne. Both of their reverences made very wise and suitable speeches on the value of amusement and the power of the theatre for good; but doubtless many worthy people have been deeply shocked by their words and by their presence in such company. One such has even appealed to me to denounce the scandal. I am sorry for this, because I fear I may lose the good opinion of an admirer. But if the Hippodrome is as bad as my correspondent thinks, it seems to me that the more the clergy patronise it the better. Are the puritans going to tell us that it is un-Christian for a clergyman to lunch with publicans and sinners?

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi Metal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues free.—South Audley-street, London.

Dr. Edward Caird, who has just resigned the Mastership of Balliol in consequence of ill-health, succeeded Jowett in that office in 1893, when he went to Oxford from the Chair of Moral Philosophy in Glasgow University. Dr. Caird has thoroughly maintained the very high standard of Balliol traditions, and has well justified the great reputation which he had acquired at Glasgow. He was in some respects an improvement on his predecessor, who was afflicted with a positive mania for exalting and extolling "the nobility," both young and old. Dr. Caird has worked with tact, ability, and practical common sense, and he has been a most stimulating teacher. His deep and wide scholarship and his eminence as a philosopher are well known. His loss will be very greatly felt at Oxford, not only in the University and in his own College, but also in the social life of the place. It is expected that Mr. Strachan Davidson, Dean of Balliol, will be elected to the vacant Mastership.

Mrs. Hobhouse, who died at Wells last week at the age of eighty-eight, was a daughter of Dr. Gaisford, Dean of Christ Church, and widow of Mr. Henry Hobhouse, of Hadspen, the head of a very old Somersetshire family, many members of which have sat in Parliament. Since her husband's death in 1882 she had lived at Wells, where she was greatly esteemed and beloved for her kindness and charity. Dean Gaisford, who was singularly rough and unpolished, was one of the greatest Greek scholars of his day, and he had a European reputation. He was appointed by Lord Liverpool to the Greek Chair at Oxford, and his wife's uncle, Bishop Van Mildert, afterwards collated him to a golden stall in Durham Cathedral. In 1831 an exchange of preferment was somehow managed between Gaisford and "Presence-of-mind" Smith, Dean of Christ Church. Gaisford was delighted to return to Oxford, and he reigned at Christ Church until his death in 1855. He was indebted for his success in life to the famous Cyril Jackson, who detected his abilities soon after he went up to Oxford, and gave him a studentship of Christ Church.

There was nothing clerical about Dean Gaisford, and his periodical sermons at Christ Church were singular productions. The peroration of one Christmas Day discourse is still remembered at Oxford:—

> Nor can I do better, in conclusion, than impress upon you the value of the study of Greek literature, which not only elevates above the vulgar herd, but leads not infrequently to positions of much dignity and considerable emolument.

The Rev. L. W. Denman, who died last week at the age of eighty-six, was the thirteenth child and youngest son of the first Lord Denman, who was for about eighteen years Lord Chief Justice of England, succeeding Lord Tenterden, and being himself replaced by Lord Campbell. Mr. Denman was educated at Shrewsbury and at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and he rowed in two successive years in the University Boat Race. He wrote a pamphlet on rowing many years later, laying down principles for his University which were generally adopted, and he claimed that his suggestions had been efficacious in stopping the long run of defeats of Cambridge by Oxford. Mr. Denman was for forty-six years rector of Willian, Hertfordshire. He was an Evangelical of the old school, and was most highly esteemed by his parishioners and neighbours. In early life Mr. Denman received desirable preferment from his father's friend, Bishop Maltby, the last prelate who held the see of Durham with the old endowments and privileges.

The annual session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is to open at Edinburgh next Tuesday. Lord Kinnaird, who has replaced Lord Colebrooke as Lord High Commissioner, is to arrive on Saturday at Holyrood House, where he will reside with his family and suite for about twelve days. The Lord High Commissioner is to hold a Levee in the picture gallery at Holyrood on Tuesday morning before his State procession starts for St. Giles' Cathedral. There will be the usual round of big dinners and receptions during the session of the Assembly.

The Lord Chancellor has made an excellent appointment to the canonry in Rochester Cathedral which has become vacant by the preferment of Dr. Jelf to the Mastership of the Charterhouse, in the place of the late Dr. Haig Brown. Prebendary Edward Bickersteth Ottley, who belongs to a well-known clerical family, is an elder brother of Dr. Ottley, Regius Professor of Pastoral Theology at Oxford, and Canon of Christ Church. He commenced his clerical career at Hawarden, where he was curate to the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, and afterwards he was for three years Principal of the Salisbury Theological College. Since 1883 he has been incumbent of Quebec Chapel, where his predecessor was the late Canon Holland. In 1894 this chapel was converted into the Church of the Annunciation, and a district of Marylebone was assigned to it as a parish. Prebendary Ottley, who is a son-in-law of the late Bishop Hamilton, is a High Churchman, and an earnest and interesting preacher. The stalls at Rochester were formerly worth £1,000 a year, but agricultural depression has reduced the income of the Chapter, and the stipend is now about £650 a year, with house. Dr. Jelf, who was the senior member of the Chapter, was appointed in 1880 by Lord Chancellor Selborne.

The work of the London Spectacle Mission Society, which I have frequently commended to the support of readers of Truth, continues to grow and prosper, and I see from the last report that no less than 2,632 people were relieved last year. The work is done at a very trifling expense, and as those who benefit by it are all poor people, who need glasses in the course of such work as they have, the money is all usefully bestowed, especially in the numerous cases where medical advice in fitting the glasses is of importance. For the guidance of those who are ready to assist this useful little charity I may mention again that Miss C. Waring, of 197, Sutherland-avenue, W., is the hon. secretary.

Claridge's Hotel, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance Situation ensures perfect quiet.

At the annual meeting of the Association for Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers Lord Lansdowne laid stress upon the necessity for educating soldiers in preparation for their return to civil life. This point is pretty clearly brought out in the annual report of the Association. The Association has again done an excellent year's work, and has found permanent employment for over 8,000 men, and temporary employment for 2,500 more. But in looking at the analysis of the nature of the work to which the men have been introduced in this way, one cannot help being struck by the fact that it is almost all unskilled work. Out of 8,179 men provided for during the year there are fifty-nine chauffeurs, sixteen gymnastic and drill instructors, twenty-six musicians, and 669 under the head of "various," which includes "trades, etc.," and possibly, therefore, a certain amount of skilled work. At a stretch one might possibly add to these 142 clerks and 240 grooms and coachmen, who have probably received training useful for such employment in the Army. But, all told, there can hardly be 1,000 men out of 8,179 who owe their employment to anything that they have learnt in the Army.

This, I quite admit, is not a full statement of the case. There are some hundreds of men who have found work in the Police, the Post Office, and in asylums and hospitals, and possibly in a few other positions, which is no doubt in some part attributable to the fact that Army men are specially qualified for such employment by the habits of discipline which they have formed, and the good characters that the Army is able to give them. But all these posts can equally well be filled by civilians; and it cannot therefore be said that the Army has supplied the men with any special qualification for them. It must also be remembered that the Association, with all its efforts, has only found employment for about 50 per cent. of the men on its books. The failure in the case of the other 50 per cent. gives the real measure of the extent to which the Army fails to qualify men for their return to civil life. Lord Lansdowne is therefore quite right in insisting on the necessity for further efforts to train soldiers for civil work; and the point cannot be too strongly insisted upon.

There remains the other point, which I have so frequently insisted upon myself, namely, the duty of the State and of public authorities generally to find openings for soldiers in the public service. I suppose it may be taken that the returns of the National Association cover the whole of the men who are at present provided for in this way. What does the result come to? 1,409 men employed by the Post Office, 140 in the Police service, an uncertain number—probably less than 200 at the outside—employed in public asylums or hospitals, and another uncertain number—probably about the same—employed on public tramways. The total under all these heads cannot amount to 2,000 out of 8,179 who found work through the Association and 16,343 registered during the year on its books. Apparently the number of soldiers discharged from the Army in the year, and subsequently provided for in any branch of the public service, does not much exceed 10 per cent. If it were 50 per cent., I should not think the proportion as high as it ought to be, and it is in this direction more than in any other that the solution of the problem of providing employment for soldiers on discharge is to be found.

According to a statement which reaches me from Rangoon, two men in a company of Garrison Artillery were lately found to have made free with a sergeant's signature on chits for boots obtained on credit at the shoemaker's shop, and were let off by the C.O. with a verbal reprimand. If this course had been taken on the strength of the exemplary record of the offenders, no fault might have been found with it. But, according to my information, that was not at all the state of the case. It is a fact—as this incident shows, not for the first time—that there is a public opinion among the rank and file which resents undue leniency towards men who do not deserve it, especially where they are guilty of underhand or dishonourable conduct; and it is strange that this opinion in any unit should be at variance with the opinion of the C.O. The current opinion in this instance seems to be intensified by the fact that a few days previously in the same company a gunner was sentenced to 168 hours' hard labour for a small offence, quite insignificant from the moral point of view by comparison with the one above-mentioned.

An order has recently been issued laying down that when destroyers in commission with nucleus crews are at their home ports, the commanding officer and engineer officer are each to sleep on board two nights a week, and the gunner the remaining three. Hitherto it has been the practice for a single officer to be responsible for a group of such craft lying together, and the new order is a restriction of the reasonable liberty of officers in port for which it is difficult to see a shadow of justification. Destroyers and torpedo boats are usually berthed in dockyard basins, so that there is no reason founded on danger or possible sudden emergency to require the presence of an officer on board each boat every night, and such craft in an odoriferous basin are not a sleeping place that any one will use if he can avoid it. There is a prevalent notion that the officers in this branch of the Navy are being treated just now a good deal too much like boys in training ships.

When H.M.S. *Carnarvon* returned to Devonport at the end of last month, and reduced to a nucleus crew, the men were invited to vote whether an English or a Maltese contractor should have the canteen. They voted unanimously for an English one. No sooner, however, was the result announced than the captain vetoed it, stating that he had arranged for a Maltese contractor. It seems a queer proceeding to take the opinion of the crew in the first instance, and then directly over-rule it, the more so as the Maltese firm to whom the contract was given was not the one which had been running the canteen while the ship was in the Mediterranean. As the ship is to be stationed at Devonport for the present, the desire of the men to be supplied by an English contractor is natural enough, and if there was to be a new contractor appointed, it would be interesting to know

what reason there could be for selecting another firm at Malta. Incidents of this sort create widespread dissatisfaction, and give rise to all sorts of suspicions, probably baseless; and it is to be hoped that they will come to an end with the report of the Committee on Naval Canteens.

QUIS CUSTODIET IPSOS CUSTODES?

The Guardians who guard the poor
  At Hammersmith, it seems,
In spending money thus galore
  Are running to extremes.

Aye! If the truth be as we read
  About their building plans,
Some special Guardians they'll need
  To guard the Guardians.

Some of my readers will doubtless be familiar with the name of one A. Rosenstrauch, otherwise Abraham Hornstein, a begging-letter writer, trading on his alleged character as a Christian missionary to the Jews. He was included with others of his class in the last Truth Cautionary List, and to this fact I presume I am indebted for the following communication, and the legal proceedings referred to in it. It reached me some three weeks ago, in an envelope playfully addressed to "Labby's Editor, 10, Carteret-street, Westminster." In view of the concluding paragraph I have kept it by me, in expectation of the further proceedings threatened, but having heard nothing further from Rosenstrauch, I conclude that this threat was merely one element in the series of practical jokes which he is perpetrating:—

AN UNJUST AND PARTIAL DECISION.

Herr A. Rosenstrauch
v. Plaintiff.
Labby and Editor
Defendants.

On March 14 and 18, 1907, respectively, I filed two affidavits in the High Court of Justice (Crown Office) (refuting completely Labby's fables and deliberate lies) in support of an application to commence criminal proceedings against the above Defendants for publishing libellous and defamatory matter on February 6, 1907, for objects of notoriety and money-making.

The Crown Office issued the Summons (Judge's Summons) on the strength of my affidavits and by leave of the Judge in Chambers.

The case was heard and my affidavits read before Mr. Justice Sutton in Chambers on March 18, 1907.

"Why don't you take proceedings for libel in the Civil Court?" questioned the Judge. "Criminal proceedings only will deter these two self-righteous individuals from indulging in extravagant defamation of others," I replied.

Defendants have not filed any affidavit to substantiate a single item of their libel or refuted a single line of my affidavit, giving them the lie direct in the open Court, but took refuge in a trick, to which I called the Judge's attention in a subsequent letter.

Counsel for the Defendants produced a letter which they allege I am the author of, and begged the Judge to suppress its contents, as they have suppressed the entire proceedings. He also produced some typewritten letter (both withheld from Plaintiff in the above action) referring to a similar application I made against Morgan and Scott, a few years ago. Mr. Justice Darling then held that it was a libel for the Civil Court only, and on that ground only Defendants escaped from taking their seats in the Police Court Dock.

It is rather cowardly on the part of these professional libellers to shelter themselves by such a mean trick, it would have been more manly, had they filed an affidavit to substantiate their libels or refuted my affidavits, but that was impossible, I admit, and involved perjury, either way.

Being unable by Legal rules of the Court to appeal against the decision of the Judge in Chambers (however unjust and partial) in criminal matters, I have but one alternative to take action for libel in the Civil Court only, as suggested by the Judge.

It is the fact, as stated in this curious document, that Rosenstrauch did, in March last, apply to Mr. Justice Sutton, in Chambers, for leave to commence criminal proceedings against "Labby and Editor." It is also a fact that his application was refused, and, as I believe, that counsel on my behalf did, among other things, exhibit to the learned Judge an unsigned letter from Rosenstrauch received at this office before he took his proceedings. Proceedings before a Judge in Chambers are absolutely private, and Rosenstrauch's present suggestion that counsel on my side "begged the judge to suppress" the contents of this letter is therefore a self-evident absurdity, as is also the observation that I have "suppressed the entire proceedings." The letter in question was undoubtedly written by Rosenstrauch, and was of a grossly obscene nature. He has been in the habit of writing abusive letters to this Office ever since he first came under notice in Truth. Under legal advice I have hitherto refrained from mentioning the proceedings in Chambers, but as Rosenstrauch himself now complains that the facts have been suppressed, he can have no objection to my giving full publicity to what has passed, and his own version of it in the above document. I presume that the explanation of his proceedings is that he desires to persuade people from whom he begs that he has taken vigorous notice of the warnings that have been given in Truth against him. My own view is that they only help to make clear what sort of person he is.

I was very glad to see the reports of a meeting held the other day at the Mansion House for the formation of a genuine Legal Aid Society for the benefit of poor people. A great deal has been said in Truth lately about the mischief done by bogus workmen's legal aid societies, which are mere touting agencies for a shady class of solicitors. Poor people easily fall victims to manœuvres of this kind, and every Act passed by Parliament conferring new rights or immunities upon working-men and their families increases their need of protection against the harpies who are ready to use such legislation for the purpose of plundering poor and ignorant people. The Central Legal Aid Society which has now been started will find incidentally a great opportunity for usefulness in suppressing a few of the touting agencies already in the field. The fact that the council formed at the Mansion House includes eminent lawyers like Sir Charles Mathews, Sir John Macdonell, Mr. Stanger, K.C., and others, should insure its making itself really useful both in this and other directions.

The Lord Advocate, I am pleased to note, is putting an end to the mischievous and illegal practice which has arisen in Scotland of suspending the operation of the Lottery Acts in the case of lotteries promoted, or purporting to be promoted, for religious or charitable purposes. Answering a question in the House of Commons last week, he pointed out that the only authority which could properly sanction these exceptions to the general law was the authority of an Act of Parliament, and he had no such authority, but was bound to administer the law irrespective of whether the delinquents were or were not actuated by philanthropic motives. Appeals to permit violations of the law have reached the Lord

Advocate from churches and clubs, and in at least one instance from a local trades council, but he has refused all of them, and intimated that in future offenders will be prosecuted without further warning. This is as it should be. There is no reason whatever why breaches of this law any more than any other should be tolerated simply because the law-breaking is professedly done with a good object.

The Lord Advocate's remarks with reference to the impartial enforcement of the law against all offenders, regardless of their motives, may be specially commended to the consideration of his colleague, the Postmaster-General. A few weeks ago, when a correspondent protested against the delivery through the post in open covers of packets of circulars and tickets relating to a Roman Catholic lottery at Dublin, the Secretary to the Post Office replied:—

> I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that it is not the practice of this office to interfere with the transmission of such packets when the circulars relate to drawings for religious or charitable objects.

In other words, the Post Office connives at the infringement of the law if the lottery is supposed to have a religious or charitable object—I say "supposed," because the postal officials can only judge from the statements of the promoters, which are not necessarily true. The practice of the Post Office in this matter is wrong in principle, and contrary to the law, and ought to be at once discontinued.

By the way, scores of circulars from various Continental lottery touts have been sent on to me in the past week or two with suggestions that the Post Office ought to prevent their delivery. One batch emanating from H. Langenhahn and Co., Bremen, was posted in bulk in London, the envelopes bearing the "paid" endorsement instead of postage stamps. In this case, at least, an ordinary degree of alertness on the part of the Post Office officials must have resulted in the arrest of the person or persons who by despatching these advertisements of a lottery rendered themselves amenable to the criminal law. Paul Goldenberg, of Hamburg, another of the touts, has also had a large quantity of circulars brought over here to be posted. For the purpose, however, of evading inquiries at the Post Office he has used ordinary penny postage stamps on the envelopes and had them posted in batches at different offices in Manchester, Liverpool, and possibly other towns.

R. H. Schroder, of Copenhagen, has adopted another dodge. His circulars relating to a Danish lottery are posted in Germany, and the envelopes in which they are enclosed are adorned with a small picture of a young woman with a luxuriant crop of hair. Around this work of art is the legend, "Mr. J. ——'s Haar-Farbemittel," Schroder's object evidently being to delude the postal authorities into supposing that the envelope contained an advertisement of a hair dye. Besides the above-mentioned firms, Korda and Co., of Budapest, are also among the most active of the lottery circularisers just now. It is, I hope, almost superfluous to add that I strongly advise my readers to have nothing to do with any of these touts, whose statements regarding the conditions of the gambles in which they offer tickets are grossly misleading.

The extraordinary difficulties that beset all legislation on the subject of trade-marks are shown by the question which Mr. Justice Kekewich had to decide last week as to whether the word "Apollinaris" is one that can be registered as a distinctive trade-mark in connection with the well-known mineral water bearing that name. To the ordinary man it would seem that there ought not to be much doubt on the point, especially under an Act passed within the last two years. But the Board of Trade had objected to register the word, and a bewildering amount of legal ingenuity was spent in arguing the pros and cons of the case in reference to the exact words of the Act, when the matter came before the learned Judge. However, the end of it was that the proprietors of the spring were held to be entitled to register the word as their trade-mark, subject to an undertaking given by them that if they should ever sell any other water they would not apply this trade-mark to it. The decision seems to be in accordance not only with the interests of the company, but that of the public, whose principal concern is that when they ask for Apollinaris they should be sure of getting it.

A choice exhibition of Justices' justice was given at the County Petty Sessions at Carlisle the other day when two youths named Hudson and Skinner were charged with maliciously doing damage to the amount of one shilling to growing grass belonging to Mr. W. B. Maxwell. It was alleged that both of them were among a party of about fifty youths who were playing football in a field. Hudson pleaded guilty and was fined half-a-crown and costs. Two policemen deposed that they saw the other defendant in the field, but Skinner swore that on the Sunday afternoon in question, at the time of the offence, he was at a "P.S.A." meeting, of which he was a member. Two witnesses who were at the meeting corroborated this, and Skinner's solicitor was prepared to call two more, but the Clerk to the Justices said they had heard sufficient. The Bench then retired and on their return the chairman announced that there was "an element of doubt" as to the guilt of Skinner, and he would be given the benefit of the doubt by the dismissal of the summons but without costs.

To talk about an element of doubt in the case was nonsense. There was no shadow of doubt whatever. Skinner had an absolutely perfect and conclusive alibi, and it was obviously a case of mistaken identity on the part of the constables. Before the hearing it was intimated that the complainant, Mr. Maxwell, wished to withdraw the summons against Skinner, but he would not pay the latter's costs, and so the case proceeded. Mr. Maxwell is a magistrate and was present on the Bench, though he did not adjudicate. Can it be that this fact had anything to do with his fellow magistrates' grudging dismissal of the charge and refusal to award costs to the wrongly-accused defendant? It is, at any rate, difficult to discover any other explanation of this palpable injustice.

As may naturally be expected at this season of the year, the influence of the game preserver on the county benches of magistrates is made strikingly manifest. A couple of instances out of a large number which have been brought under my notice appear in my Legal Pillory below. Shallow may have a tender heart for the ruffian who beats his wife, his fount of sympathy towards the brute who delights in torturing dumb animals may not be dry, but let the scoundrel who dares glance upon a game-egg be brought before him, and he may be assured that the justice accorded him will be untempered with mercy. I should like to impress upon the minds of the worthy magistrates who deal severely with these offences that it is persons of their own class who are mainly responsible for their multiplication. The labourer who takes the eggs, and even the dealer who buys them from him, is, after all, only the tool of the game-preserver who is anxious to stock his own coverts.

Hamilton Police-court. James Paterson, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a hatchet, inflicting a serious wound. Thirty days' imprisonment.

Barnsley Police-court. J. T. Harryman, charged with assaulting his wife. He beat her, knocked her down, and kicked her in the face. Fined 5s. and costs

St. Rollox Police-court. Before Bailie R. S. Brown. John Kerr, charged with assaulting a young woman in the street by striking her in the face and knocking her down. Fined 42s.

St. Rollox Police-court. Before Bailie Hunter. Patrick Morton, charged with assaulting his wife and his stepdaughter. He struck both women several times in the face. Fined 21s.

Wishaw Police-court. Before Provost Thompson. William Skimmins, charged with wife assault. He beat her unmercifully, and an enamelled dish and a shovelful of coals were included amongst the missiles he threw at her. Fined £2.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. A. Woodiwiss and W. Richardson. S. Crisp, charged with assaulting his wife. He turned her out of the house, and the following day he punched her in the face, cut her eye, and hurt her wrist. Fined 10s. and costs.

Hartismere Petty Sessions. Before Sir T. Tacon, and Messrs. Freeman and J. Tudor Frere. J. Smith, charged with assaulting Mary Paterson. The young woman struggled for half an hour with the man, who attempted to indecently assault her. He had previously been convicted for a similar offence, and was described as a pest to the neighbourhood from which he came. Fined 15s. and costs.

Glasgow Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Davidson. E. M'Kechnie, a young lad, charged with stealing a watch chain and sovereign case entrusted to him to pledge by a sailor. Four months' imprisonment.

Bodmin Police-court. Before Messrs. Cardell, Marshall, and Carhart. W. H. Stephens, charged with stealing five cabbages, value 7d., from a garden. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Newton Abbot Police-court. Before Messrs. H. St. Maur, Hacker and Watts. J. Tozer, charged with leaving the workhouse without permission. One month's hard labour.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Peebles. Peter Watt, J. M'Connolly, and Cecilia Campbell, charged with sleeping out in a straw shed. Fined 15s., or seven days' imprisonment.

Colchester Police-court. Before Messrs. Marshall, Prior, and Benham. A. Boreham, charged with taking corporation water from a drinking trough for a traction engine. The engine was in danger without the water. Fined 30s. and 11s. costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the same Bench. William Woodhouse, charged with stealing a lead bowl. One month's imprisonment.

Bridlington Police-court. W. Brown, formerly a member of the District Council and Board of Guardians, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessions. Before Rev. J. White, Lieut.-Colonels Josselyn, Anderson and Newcome, and Messrs. Burrell and Thornhill. Jabez Gathercole, gamedealer, charged with unlawfully having in his possession 413 pheasants' eggs and 68 partridges' eggs. He was convicted with regard to 265 eggs, and a fine of 2s. 6d. per egg and costs imposed, in all £33 12s., or two months' hard labour.

Cullompton Petty Sessions. Herbert May, George Harper, and Frederick Harper, charged with cruelty to a cat. They set their dogs on to it, there were bites all over it, and all its bones were broken. Fined 12s. each inclusive.

Mansfield Petty Sessions. Before Col. Coke and Messrs. Wallis, Stevenson, Shacklock, and Buck. G. Willett, charged with assaulting Lily Ward. He came behind her, knocked her into a hedge, and struck her twice in the face. Fined 10s. 6d. inclusive.

Chester Occasional Court. Before Mr. A. Smith. T. Dolan, charged with hawking laces without a licence. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Wem Police-court. Before Mr. J. Taylor. J. Ryan, charged with hawking without a licence. Seven days' hard labour.

North Walsham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. M. Taylor, J. Gaymer, H. R. Ladell, Major Petre, and Dr. Gordon. George Chase, charged with being in possession of a pheasant's egg. Fined 10s. and 10s. costs.

The Kent Education Committee cut a very discreditable figure in a case in the Westminster County Court last week, in which Miss Pooles, the late headmistress of the infants' school at Halling, sued the Committee for £39 10s. salary in lieu of notice. The Committee summarily dismissed the plaintiff because in their opinion she "had been guilty of conduct incompatible with her position as head teacher of a school, by incurring debts which she was unable to meet, by having committal orders against her in the county court, and by having furniture seized by the sheriff in her house." It appeared that the plaintiff had got into debt owing to the fact that she had been supporting her aged parents and an invalid brother, and that last year she had a long and expensive illness, during which part of her salary was stopped. Unfortunately, she was driven into the clutches of moneylenders, and judgments were obtained against her, but she made a full and frank disclosure of her position to her employers, and suggested that a portion of her salary should be allocated to the liquidation of her debts. Instead of showing her the sympathy which her difficulties might have been expected to excite, the Committee summarily dismissed her, though it was admitted that she bore an excellent character, and was an efficient teacher. Judge Woodfall gave Miss Poole judgment for the amount claimed, and it is a pity that the Committee could not be mulcted in a further substantial sum for damages for their harsh and unjust treatment of this poor schoolmistress.

Judge Taylor, of the Liverpool Court of Passage, is apparently one of those judges who take the narrowest possible view of their powers with regard to the revision of moneylending transactions. A borrower applied to his Honour for relief under the Moneylenders Act from a bargain with a usurer named Cameron who had charged him interest at the rate of 125 per cent. per annum on a loan for which he had the security of the title-deeds of some freehold property. The Judge refused to interfere on the ground that the borrower must show something more than excessive interest—something in the nature of fraud—to make the transaction harsh and unconscionable. This is a mis-interpretation of the first section of the Act which has been repeatedly corrected, and in the present instance, on the

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

borrower's appeal, the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial of the case.

A grasping usurer named Wm. Griffin, of the Minories, Birmingham, found a Daniel come to judgment in the Shrewsbury County Court last week. Griffin lent a local miller and his wife £40 on their joint promissory note, which had been renewed several times. Altogether they had paid back £73 10s. Griffin sued them for a further sum of £14 10s., but the defendants' solicitor asked that the terms of the transaction should be revised on the ground that it was harsh and unconscionable, and Judge Harris Lea thereupon directed that an account should be taken on the basis of allowing the plaintiff interest at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum. The effect of this was that, instead of being permitted to squeeze more money out of the defendants, Griffin was compelled to disgorge some of the plunder he had already obtained.

In connection with the "gold brick" swindle it has once or twice been mentioned that mysterious letters are sometimes written from America warning possible victims in this country of the impending operations of the swindlers. Here is a curious example of one of these letters, addressed, like the "gold brick" letters themselves, to a lady deceased in this country. Although dated from Denver, it bears the New York postmark:—

To the Heirs of the Deceased:

You are liable to receive a letter addressed to her telling of the discovery of a fabulously rich gold mine, and for her to come or send a representative to look after her interests, and take charge of the gold mine now on hand. The party who I think will write to you has some knowledge of your connection with us and our mines. If receiving a letter it will be from an impostor and swindler. Have nothing to do with him, or answer any correspondence by cable or otherwise. As soon as I can arrange our business, and make everything secure here, I will come to England and see the heirs personally.—I remain, yours sincerely,

William.

It is pretty evident here that "William" is himself an operator in the "gold brick" line, who desires to "queer the pitch" for his rivals generally, with a view to commencing operations on his own account at a later date by means of a personal interview on the subject of "our mines." Instances have already been mentioned in Truth where the swindle has been attempted by means of a personal call from a representative in this country of one of the numerous firms in the American trade.

Apparently our old friend Tanquerey, of Paris, has exhausted his lists of people in the United Kingdom who can be successfully caught by postal circulars, for he is distributing a fine illustrated advertisement to the press. The advertisements are being offered by an agent in Holborn, and my information on the subject comes from Ireland. It seems rather surprising that at this time of day a London agency should be found willing to do work in furtherance of the "free portrait" swindle, and one can only hope that newspaper proprietors will have a sufficient sense of their duty to their readers to refuse Tanquerey's seductive offers.

Further evidence of the swindling business carried on in the name of the Croydon Local Time Table Company, Ltd., has just reached me. The witness gives a list of ten or a dozen tradesmen in his neighbourhood who have been taken in by tricks of one kind or another on the part of the canvassers for advertisements in these time tables. He himself, after refusing an order more than once, was eventually caught by consenting to write down his address for the canvasser in case he should subsequently think better of it and forward an order. The signature thus obtained was subsequently used in the Croydon County Court as evidence that the order had been given. In the vast majority of cases, of course, the company rely on the smallness of the amount and the distance which has to be travelled in order to defend a county-court action, to prevent tradesmen resisting the demands made upon them. But the whole of this business, which has now been conducted for years on the same lines, depends upon the readiness of the Registrar or the Judge of the Croydon County Court to accept the evidence of the company or its canvassers, and in view of all that is known about these people, it seems to me that the County Court authorities are more to blame than anybody else for the success and permanence of the swindle.

It is rather disappointing to find an employment agent, who is duly registered by the London County Council, pursuing the old game of advertising an attractive berth, and demanding fees from those who respond as the price of being put into communication with the advertiser. This discovery arises in connection with an advertisement issued only a fortnight ago by Miss Nina Braithwaite's Ladies' Employment Bureau, 23, Margaret-street, W. The post offered was that of "lady-companion secretary to an elderly gentleman, at a salary of £50 a year," with the prospect of "wintering on the Riviera, and all travelling and entertaining expenses paid," the only qualifications being "sound education and ability to write a good letter." This is the sort of advertisement to which dozens, and possibly hundreds, of girls are pretty certain to reply; yet on a girl answering this advertisement she receives a prospectus of the terms of the Bureau, with an intimation that the elderly gentleman's name will only be imparted on payment of a booking fee of 5s.

Assuming the bona fides of such an advertisement as the above, the course adopted is nevertheless as un-

The original Blue Black Ink was invented by Henry Stephens in 1834. It has been frequently imitated but never equalled, and is to-day by far the most fluid and reliable ink in the world.

Hereford.—The lovely Wye Valley, superb country scenery. Ideal tourist centre, ancient cathedral, Norman churches and Border castle. Excell. boating, &c. Booklet free.—Town Clerk.

justifiable from the point of view of the employer who commissions the agency as of the employees who are thus forced to pay fees, with the certainty that all but one will pay for nothing. But what has also to be remembered is that this style of advertisement can always be "faked up" by an unscrupulous agent, and that wholesale frauds have been perpetrated in time past by such means. It was to check all such business that the Bill providing for the registration of employment agencies by the County Council was passed. I do not know whether the Council has made any rules for regulating the business of registered agents, or under what circumstances the registration may be revoked. But nothing can be more undesirable than that practices like that described above should be carried on by parties who are able to announce their business as having a sort of sanction and approval from public authority.

FOR LADIES ONLY.

A lady to the papers writes,
Suggesting that, for girls, at nights,
From business bound by rail,
The companies should all provide
Compartments where these fair could ride
Secure from presence male.

Methinks the dame's suggestion good,
Provided that such damsel's would
In "Ladies only" go.
But would they? That's the point. And I,
From what I've oft observed, reply
With an emphatic "No!"

So e'en though carriages are set
Apart for girls, it won't, you bet,
The sought-for object win;
For still the greater task remains—
A task of Herculean pains—
To get the darlings in.

In reply to the letter signed "Gamma" in last week's TRUTH, Lieut.-Colonel Dunscomb writes to dispute the proposition that the last General Election was fought on the issue of Free Trade. He says:—

> It was fought in the main on three issues—(i.) the clinging to office of a Government that had exhausted its energy and outlived its popularity; (ii.) the Taff Vale decision; (iii.) Chinese slavery. (i.) was settled by the result; (ii.) has been dealt with; (iii.) has been proved a deliberate terminological inexactitude.

Granting all this—though it is all arbitrary assumption which no one but a keen partisan will either put forward or believe—what answer is it to my previous correspondent? He imagined the case of a movement originating in England for uniting the Mother Country and the Colonies by means of an Imperial Established Church, and a motion being made by the Home Government in an Imperial conference recommending that each of the Colonies should establish the English Church as a State Church as a matter of Imperial policy. What he asked was how this would differ from the Colonies moving in the Conference that we should establish a protective system of tariffs for their benefit.

The question really is whether it is useful or conducive to Imperial harmony that questions of domestic policy, which each constituent State of the Empire claims to decide for itself, should be raised at these conferences, and made the subject of recommendations addressed by one State to another, whether by a Colony to the Mother Country, or vice versâ. What a pretty outcry there would have been in certain quarters if the Home Government had brought forward a resolution at the Conference recommending the Colonies to promote Imperial unity by admitting British goods to Colonial markets on the same terms as those on which Colonial goods are admitted to our own, that is to say, free of duty!

I thought the speech of Mr. Lloyd George the most practical of those delivered at the Colonial Conference. He did not discuss the rival merits of Free Trade and preferential tariffs, but spoke as the exponent of the views of the United Kingdom, as expressed at the last General Election. They were in favour of Free Trade, and specially against any tax on imported foodstuffs or raw material. This being so, the British Government could give but one reply to a proposal of the Colonies that these articles should be subjected to an import tax in order that Colonial produce might be protected in our market against competing produce from other countries; nor could the Colonies complain that we act upon what we believe to be essential to our interests, any more than we could complain that the Colonies did not act upon our Free Trade views, and let in our products duty free.

I confess, however, that I did not quite understand Mr. George's utterances in regard to our readiness to cheapen the price of colonial produce in the home market by an improvement in transport facilities. This he seemed to consider not beyond the resources of British statesmanship, though, at the same time, he pronounced against subsidising merchant shipping. But how else can over-sea transport be improved by the State except by such subsidies? It passes the art of man to reduce the distance between us and the Antipodes. The freight to Australia and to New Zealand would be less were it not for the Suez Canal dues. But we could not differentiate in these dues between foreign ships and ours, and if the dues disappeared to-morrow, Canada, which is the most important of our Colonies and the greatest producer of corn, would not benefit. Mr. Lloyd George appeared to have some hazy notion

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DIEUDONNÉ HOTEL AND RESTAURANT, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

that all countries, wherever situated, could be—so far as freights are concerned—placed in an equal position when sending their produce to us. This, however, is as difficult as it is to square the circle, unless some one is prepared to do so by paying any excess above the cost of transport from our nearest Colony.

Only forty-eight peers were found to vote against Lord Cawdor's proposal for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider all suggestions that have from time to time been made for increasing the efficiency of the House of Lords as a legislative machine, and in the debate that took place on this proposal their lordships made many protests against any reduction of the legislative powers of their House, although they let it be understood that they might be inclined to consider some plan to alter its composition, provided that they themselves were allowed to decide what peers are to sit in it. On such terms they even went so far as to hint that they might be inclined to admit a few nominated members. Lord Rosebery, who on this occasion masqueraded as a Conservative, declared that a reduction of the legislative powers of the House could only be effected by a revolution.

The Government very rightly declared that it would have no part in such a Committee. It could hardly have done otherwise if it is in earnest in its assurances that it intends to limit the power of the Upper House. It is obvious that it is desirable first to agree as to what the powers of an Upper House are to be before deciding how it is to be composed. I only hope that there will be no compromise of principle. Provided that the veto of the Upper House be limited to one Session, it is a matter of comparatively small importance how the House is to be composed.

But will these noble legislators listen to a word of well-meant advice from a Liberal? There is no doubt that there is a large majority in the country in favour of a limitation of the veto. To effect this a revolution is not necessary, although possibly it may involve a dissolution *ad hoc*. Knowing as they must know this, is it wise for them to create trouble by a refusal to assist the inevitable? Most Liberals would have no objection to an Upper House composed of men of light and leading, outside all party politics, who would have an opportunity to pronounce an opinion upon any measure before it has passed the Commons, with the knowledge that the country would have the time to consider this pronouncement before the measure becomes law. Were I, therefore, a noble lord, I should not run my head against a stone wall, but I should concentrate all my efforts to bring into existence an Upper House, so composed that its solemn protest against a Bill, emphasised by compelling the House of Commons to go over it again, would cause many supporters of the measure to reconsider their views about it. I believe that this would act as a strong barrier against hasty, impulsive legislation, and against any majority in the House of Commons legislating in defiance of electoral pledges, or in defiance of a change in public opinion that might have occurred after the General Election. But hereditary legislators are utterly at variance with the spirit of the age, and any legislative chamber, composed even in part of such survivals of the past, would always be without influence on public opinion.

Presumably the Irish Council Bill gives us the principal features of the scheme which was all but hatched out two years ago under the joint care of Lord Dudley, Mr. Wyndham, and Sir Antony MacDonnell, with the friendly supervision of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour. Every one remembers how the birds were suddenly scared off the nest, and endeavoured to pretend that there was never an egg in it. On no account would I question Mr. Birrell's parental rights in the fledgling which he is now mothering so affectionately. Of course, he has not hatched out Mr. Wyndham's egg, though he has been sitting on the same nest. But every fowl that escapes from the shell has a father as well as a mother, and grandparents as well; and in this case it is useful to bear in mind the pedigree of the little stranger.

If Mr. Wyndham had been permitted to complete the process of incubation, no doubt there would have been a few different markings on the wings and tail, and perhaps a little more orange tint in the plumage generally; but the general structure and habits would have been identical, and if the two could be placed side by side the expert, especially if he were an Ulsterman, would unhesitatingly have pronounced them to be of the same breed. It is necessary to remember this, because it is by no means impossible that Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Balfour, and Lord Lansdowne will at once set upon Mr. Birrell's chicken and endeavour to peck it to death. This will not only be an exhibition of pitiful jealousy towards a more successful mother, but an unnatural outrage upon the claims of natural affection.

Mr. Birrell has not expressly apologised for his progeny, or protégé, on the ground that it is "a very little one," but he might have done so truthfully; and, listening to his speech, the thought seemed to be in his mind. The only people who have a right to object to the Bill on that ground are Mr. Redmond and his party, but it was left to Mr. Balfour, of all people, to put the objection forward on their behalf. The Nationalist view seems to be that a little one is better than none, and that the bantling may grow in time, of which Mr. Birrell also held out hopes. This is a reasonable view for a Home Ruler, Irish or English, to take—especially while

Know Humphreys, and be well dressed. Humphreys, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

CITY LIBRARY Handle Cabinet LOWELL, MASS.

the House of Lords has still to be reckoned with. But it is a view unfortunately incompatible with any enthusiasm for the measure.

The aim of the Government has obviously been to devise a mere scheme of administrative reform, so modest that no serious agitation can be got up against it in England, and that the House of Lords will have no excuse for rejecting it. But they thus run into the opposite danger that the Bill will have no driving force behind it, and that the Lords may thereby be emboldened to massacre the innocent without fear of the consequences. This is the danger of all half-measures for a Liberal Government under present conditions, and to a majority like that which now dominates the House of Commons half-measures are peculiarly dispiriting and distasteful. The present Ministry seems to need a little of the *l'audace et toujours l'audace* spirit. The Party will probably thrive better with less food and more seasoning.

That Lord Cromer was a great and able pro-consul, no one can dispute. To him it is largely due that Egypt is prosperous and well-governed. His mistake —as it seems to me—has been to consider that provided a country be well governed it is not desirable that its people should have any voice in its government. We obtained the assent of Europe to our exercising sway in Egypt on the distinct pledge that this sway was to be temporary, and that we would endeavour to teach the Egyptians to manage their own affairs. The latter part of the undertaking we have not attempted to carry out, and Lord Cromer has not only admitted this, but urged his successor to continue his system. Thus, whilst Egypt has benefited materially by our rule, the population does not love us, and the number of fairly educated Egyptians who claim the same rights which we ourselves boast of possessing is annually on the increase.

This creates for us an unsafe position, and is at variance with all our doctrines in regard to the government of the people by the people. Lord Cromer seems to be of opinion that any Egyptian who claims a voice in the government of his country is a graceless and thankless rascal. But should we be prepared to allow ourselves to be ruled even by angels from Paradise, if they were not British citizens? Should we deem those who rebelled against this angelic rule noisy, blatant demagogues who did not understand what was best for them? I do not say that we should at once establish in Egypt the degree of self-government that we have at home. But we ought to make some endeavour to train the Egyptians in the principles and habits of self-government, and this can only be done by giving them some sort of a representative Assembly, with some sort of rights. I trust that Sir Eldon Gorst will adopt this course.

The Ladies' League (under Royal patronage), 2, Princes-street, Cavendish-square, W., successfully Recommends Gentlewomen for responsible Positions in every capacity. Telephone, 1,025 Mayfair.

There is really no room for any serious difference of opinion as to the necessity of "resolute Government" in India, whether at the present juncture or any other. We hold India by the power of the sword; we shall never hold it by any other power; and we mean to hold it. Granted so much, it follows that nothing in the shape of a seditious movement or tendency can be tolerated, and if it arises it must be suppressed by main force. To deal with the present situation on any other principle would be not only a blunder, but a crime of appalling magnitude, involving consequences compared with which a few summary repressive measures, even if they inflict hardship or injustice on a few individuals, are insignificant. When you discover a fire smouldering in a powder magazine you do not, if you are of sound mind, stop to inquire into its origin, or to reflect upon the value of fire as a servant of man. You do not even regard the damage that will be done by turning on the hose.

It is an example of life's little ironies that Mr. John Morley should be the Minister who has to direct the hose in this instance, and suppress meetings, hurry off agitators to gaol, and warn journalists. He will be able to "Remember Mitchelstown" without the assistance of Mr. William Redmond. It is another irony of the same order that India, the biggest unit in the Empire, should have obtruded itself on public notice in this uncongenial way in the midst of the Imperial junketings in London. If the intention had been to remind us that there is a British Empire outside the parishes of Mr. Deakin and Sir Wilfred Laurier, the moment could not have been better chosen. There is, however, an advantage to be hoped for from having Mr. Morley at the India Office at present, provided he recognises the necessity of preserving order at all costs, as he seems to do most thoroughly. The policy he has now to execute will be thoroughly distasteful to him, as everybody must recognise. His record is a security that the policy will not be overdone, and should, therefore, disarm the opposition of those who dislike it as much as he does. It is also a security that the causes of the present movement will in due course be carefully investigated, and that so far as they arise from administrative errors or genuine grievances they will be honestly dealt with.

THE LOGICAL BELINDA.

Belinda was a pretty Maid
In Wealth of bounteous Charms arrayed,
Who plighted had her Troth to marry
A nice young Artisan named Harry.
But Jack—a gay Lothario he—
Chanced one fine Day the Girl to see,
And, smitten with her pretty Face,
Pursued her hard in amorous Chase.
  Long Time the Fellow's bold Insistence
She met with obstinate Resistance,
Declaring that her Maiden's Heart
No more was hers wherewith to part,
Nor would she falsify the Vows
She'd pledged to Hal, her promised Spouse.

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"Nay, come," he urged, "bewitching Miss!
No Harm, at least, in just one Kiss."
"A Kiss? The Right's to you denied.
My Lips are Hal's alone," she cried,
"Who'd hold, and hold me well, untrue
If I should yield their Sweets to you."
"Ah, but," persists the ardent Beau,
"Your Hal, you see need never know."
"Avaunt! I neither ought nor shall.
I'd scorn to thus deceive my Hal."
But still his Suit Lothario pressed,
Still with fond Pleas the Maid addressed,
Until, at length, she acquiesced,
Gave to his Lips her blushing Face,
And yielded to his warm Embrace.
Nor ends the Matter, well I wis,
Between them with one stolen Kiss;
But Jack and she, Belinda fair,
Ere long devoted Lovers were;
And he grew most amazing jealous
Did she but speak to other Fellows.
Nor without Cause, as it appears,
He entertained such jealous Fears,
For one Day, as I've been advised,
The faithless Damsel he surprised
Lending her Waist's symmetric Charm,
Submissive, to another's Arm.
Down on his Sweetheart fierce he pounced,
And thus her Perfidy denounced:
"You vowed that you were all mine own,
And henceforth pledged to me alone.
Yet now you let another Man
Your willing Waist unlawful span.
How dare you, Jade, deceive me so,
And faithless cheat your faithful Beau?"
To whom, with bold, unflinching Eyes,
And mocking Mien, the Girl replies:
"*You* taught me to deceive my Harry,
The Man whom I was vowed to marry,
And proved I might sans Wrong or Harm
Submit to your encircling Arm.
And if I might, Sir, for *your* Sake,
Harmless my Troth to Harry break,
No Harm can be ('tis plain inferred)
In cheating you to kiss a Third."

Moral.

Teach Folk no moral Law they break
In cheating others for your Sake,
You can't, with Reason or with Rhyme,
Complain if, at some future Time,
Your Logic they too well apply,
And do you also in the Eye.

SCRUTATOR.

WANTED—ELEVEN THOUSAND SIXPENCES!

As many of my readers will remember, it has been suggested that an effort should be made to continue the annual gift of new sixpences to all the children in the London Poor-law institutions, which has been made for so many years by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry in connection with the Truth Christmas Toy Show. Before coming to any decision in this matter, I have endeavoured to ascertain what support the idea is likely to receive. The only reason why I have hesitated is that the Truth Toy Fund has necessarily the first claim on my regard, and I do not wish to commit myself to the collection of a considerable sum for a collateral purpose without seeing some prospect that this money can be obtained independently of the Toy Fund, and without drawing off subscriptions from it. The promises of support that I have received since the suggestion was first made justify me in hoping that the sixpences may be provided without hurting the Toy Fund. I have therefore inquired of Sir Edward Barry whether an attempt to perpetuate his father's donation would be agreeable to him and to his family generally, and whether they would approve of the late Sir F. Tress Barry's name being associated with a fund for that purpose. I have had a cordial reply in the affirmative, and, under these circumstances, I have decided to do my best.

I am therefore in the position of wanting eleven thousand sixpences. It may be that I shall want more, but certainly not less, for unhappily the number of children in the London workhouses is ever growing, and Sir F. Tress Barry increased his donation several times before it reached the final figure of eleven thousand sixpences. I hope it is not necessary to expend many words in commending my appeal to the public. The condition of a child brought up, perhaps even born, within the walls of a workhouse speaks for itself eloquently enough to any one endowed with an average store of the milk of human kindness. We have done something to improve the condition of such children since the days of Oliver Twist, and Mr. Bumble survives to-day, it may be hoped, only in name. But at the best, the children of the Poor Law know nothing of the associations of home, even in its humblest shape, and are cut off by an impassable gulf from all that offers most joy to childhood—all this through no fault of their own. To bring pleasure into these forlorn little lives is at once as useful and as kindly an act as charity can perform. That, I take it, was the feeling that the late Sir F. Tress Barry had in his heart, when he first asked the Editor of Truth to assist him in presenting a new sixpence at Christmas to every child in a London workhouse. Whatever may be done by those in charge of them to brighten the existence of these little ones, there is one pleasure that they can scarcely ever know, and that is the satisfaction of possessing money of their own, even but a few pence, and spending it according to their own fancy. Thanks to Sir F. Tress Barry, all the child-paupers of London have known this pleasure at Christmas-time for many years past. I ask all whom my words can reach to unite in securing to them the same pleasure in the Christmases to come.

The money that is required for this purpose is, from the point of view of a public subscription list, quite insignificant. Three hundred pounds will more than suffice. Not a few people who will read these words could give the whole amount and scarcely miss it. If every one who reads them would send a single sixpence, just the price of one copy of Truth, the amount would be raised over and over again. I hope it is not necessary to say more. For the reason mentioned above, the "Tress Barry Fund," as I propose to call it, will remain open until the end of July. After that date it will soon be necessary for me to appeal for subscriptions to the Truth Toy Fund, which, of course, covers a much larger field, being designed for the benefit of children in the hospitals as well as those in the workhouses, and the two funds must not clash. The only reason why I propose to keep the new fund open to subscribers even as long as that is that readers of Truth in India and other distant parts of the Empire may have an opportunity to contribute. I hope that those

nearer at hand will subscribe promptly, and that the whole of the money required may be raised in the course of the next few weeks. I shall be glad to receive the subscriptions at once, but if it is more convenient to any subscribers to defer payment, I shall be equally pleased to receive their promises now and their payments any time before December. It is my hope to distribute the sixpences, as heretofore, with the toys and dolls provided by the TRUTH Toy Fund, and in accordance with Sir Edward Barry's suggestion, I shall endeavour to obtain new sixpences from the Mint for the purpose, in order that Sir Tress Barry's idea may be carried out in its integrity. Will every reader of TRUTH now kindly put his or her hand into his or her pocket?

THE PARISH AND THE TITHE-OWNER.

The following is the letter from the Rev. J. W. Rhodes, Vicar of Whaplode, which I was compelled to hold over last week:—

DEAR SIR,—I am most grateful for your article in this week's TRUTH on the Uppingham scandal.

Your informant, a trustee of Uppingham School, says that the Whaplode matter has not been before the Uppingham Trustees for fifteen years. As a matter of fact it has been before them continuously ever since I have been Vicar of Whaplode, nine years ago; and I believe I am right in saying it has never once been before the Johnson Foundation. If ever it has been before the Johnson Foundation it is since my formal printed statement complaining of this very grave irregularity.

In proof of this, I enclose one of the letters of the clerk to the Board, saying that my letter was placed before "the Uppingham and Oakham Governors," and I would gladly forward the whole of Mr. Finch's letters, if you care to see them, all of which say that my letters have been placed before the Uppingham Governors.

Now as to the amount of money taken from Whaplode. Your correspondent has not noticed the words of my printed statement, namely, that "the Great School (and its sister institution) has sucked something like £1,600 per annum for nearly 300 years," of which the great part goes in equal shares to Uppingham and Oakham Schools, and a fragment goes to the hospital. But does the amount affect the question of the honesty of the transaction? I have been strictly accurate in my statement as to the amount and as to its destination and use. Whatever the Trustees take for Uppingham and Oakham schools, do they use it as the trust directs? That the income from other sources is so large, and the Whaplode contribution only as a drop in the bucket to them, is surely a reason why they should find it easy to fulfil their trust, and do that which to *us* is of such vital consequence.

You, Sir, will find on examining your informant's explanation, that my statement that "the great and affluent have given their sons an expensive education under cost price. . . . and poor Whaplode Church has to pay some of the difference," is strictly accurate, referring as it does to both Uppingham and Oakham schools.

I think you will find it difficult to name a parish treated as Whaplode is treated by a board of trustees representing a great foundation, be it school, college, or hospital, and composed largely, as this board is, of great Church dignitaries. Guy's Hospital has *built* a large church, and *endowed it*, not ten miles from here; and the funds of Guy's Hospital minister to the very poor in the greatest distress, not to the well-to-do. We only ask for the same treatment as is meted out by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the hundreds of parishes of which they hold the great tithes.

That trustees have to act "as a machine without reason and without conscience" is one of our strongest contentions. It is exactly the treatment we ask for, and it is in this particular that these gentlemen have erred. They have observed one part of their trust, and neglected two parts. They hold our tithe and chancel in trust, and your informant has fixed your attention on the Uppingham responsibility to the exclusion of the other. . . .

My contention is:—(1.) The terms of the trust under which this foundation appropriated our tithe distinctly specify that the ancient obligations to the chancel are first to be discharged, and then they may take the balance to Uppingham. This they reverse. They spend practically all on their foundation in Rutland, and utterly neglect Whaplode Church. (2.) But even so, the discharge of their duties in Rutland is singularly unfortunate, for the money ought to be used in educating "poor scholars." It is notorious that they do not fulfil that obligation, and in order that they may carry on their disregard of obligations both to Whaplode and to poor scholars, they dismiss from their foundation the very members of it who were put on *ex officio*, in order to see that the terms of the trust were impartially fulfilled. . . .—I am, Sir, yours obediently, JOHN W. RHODES, Vicar of Whaplode.

Mr. Rhodes is a trifle hard on my previous correspondent, and I have taken the liberty of eliminating one or two passages of his letter for that reason. My first correspondent only knew of Mr. Rhodes's pamphlet from what he had seen in TRUTH, and the passage which I quoted did not contain the reference to "the sister foundation." He cannot be blamed, therefore, for having understood that the Vicar's observations referred to Uppingham School exclusively. Nor can there be any justification for doubting his assurance that during the fifteen years that he has been a trustee of Uppingham School he has never heard anything of Whaplode parish and its grievances. At the same time, it is pretty clear that he must be rather an exception among the Uppingham Trustees, and it is certain that all of them cannot plead that they know nothing of the responsibilities of the several foundations in regard to Whaplode parish. The truth seems to be that there are three boards dealing with these charities, and that they are all closely mixed up together. In addition to the two bodies mentioned in TRUTH of May 1 (the Governors of Archdeacon Johnson's Hospitals and the Trustees of Uppingham School), there is also a board of Trustees of Oakham School; and though I have not a list of the last-mentioned, I gather that just as a number of Archdeacon Johnson's Governors are on the Uppingham board, so a corresponding number are on the Oakham board. The Uppingham trust is constituted under an order of the Charity Commissioners, dated, I think, in 1872, and I suppose the Oakham trust was regulated in the same way about the same time. In a further communication, Mr. Rhodes mentions that the Johnson, Uppingham, and Oakham Trustees are accustomed to meet at the same place and on the same date, and that it is the common practice to allude to them collectively as the "Uppingham Governors." There cannot be much doubt about this, in view of the letter enclosed by Mr. Rhodes, in which the clerk to the Trustees, in reply to an official communication from the Vicar, distinctly states that the matter has been "considered by the Governors of the Oakham and Uppingham Foundation at their meeting yesterday." Under these circumstances, it does not look quite fair either for the Uppingham or Oakham Trustees to disclaim all knowledge of Whaplode and its grievances, whatever may be the fact in regard to certain individual members of these boards.

The real point of this business seems to me to be contained in Mr. Rhodes's concluding observations, from which it appears that £1,600 per annum in the shape of tithe is taken from his parish under a trust, which expressly vests the chancel of the church in the tithe-owners, and lays upon them the duty of maintaining the chancel, making it a first charge upon the trust fund. This is the first time that I have heard of the existence of an express trust to such an effect; but that such a duty exists, and has been recognised by the Board of Rectors up to a point, is clearly proved by the fact that they *did*, many years ago, rebuild the chancel of the church. They seem to have done the work in such a shabby style that it has really been a disfigurement to the church, and that it now requires doing again. The condition of the chancel to-day is at the bottom of the Vicar's agitation. On this statement of the case it would seem that there must be some legal remedy for the purpose of compelling the Rectors to discharge their duty. In the addresses that he has recently delivered Mr. Rhodes has discussed this ques-

tion, but I see that in the last of them, which is reported in the *Spalding Guardian* of May 4, he says that in 1900 a petition to the Bishop of Lincoln was prepared, that the Bishop wrote to him requesting that it might not be presented, and that his hands are consequently tied by respect for the Bishop. This seems rather to shift a shade of responsibility for the present state of affairs on to the Bishop of Lincoln.

Mr. Rhodes thinks it will be difficult to find a parallel for the situation in his parish. That may be true, having regard to the fact that the trustees of whose conduct he complains include several bishops, deans, and other dignitaries of the Church. But there would be no difficulty in finding other instances in which tithes have been assigned to lay or other rectors, subject to the performance of duties to the parish which have been in a greater or less degree neglected. Owing to the recent references in Truth to Lord Portsmouth's relations with one of his tenants, my attention has been called to a state of things in a Devonshire parish of which Lord Portsmouth holds the rectorial tithe, and where there is a state of things closely parallel to, and from the point of view of the Church actually worse than, that prevailing at Whaplode. The parish in question is that of Coleridge, North Devon, and a statement of the facts was given in a leading article in the *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, of April 26. The article states that the Earl of Portsmouth, as Lord of the Manor, "is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the chancel [of the parish church], in return for an income of about £150 per annum, which he derives as lay impropriator of the rectorial tithe of the parish." The chancel has fallen into a dilapidated condition through sheer neglect, and for some years past its state has been considered dangerous. Two years ago one of the diocesan architects reported that it required to be practically rebuilt. Shortly before last Christmas the choir and organist declined to continue their services, owing to the personal danger which they were incurring; and in consequence of this the church has been entirely closed during the winter months, though since the weather improved arrangements have been made for conducting services in the nave. I learn from the Rev. H. G. Lowe, who is Vicar of Coleridge and Rector of the neighbouring parish of Nymet-Rowland, that for ten years past appeals have been made to Lord Portsmouth to repair the chancel, and the report of the diocesan architect referred to above was communicated to his Lordship two years ago, but all without result. "I have appealed," says Mr. Lowe, "to the Bishop of Exeter, and my Archdeacon; but it appears that a lay rector can do 'little or nothing' in the way of repairs, as he thinks fit." Lord Portsmouth evidently thinks fit to do nothing, although the chancel has been repaired by his predecessors from time immemorial, and although he draws rents from this district in addition to the rectorial tithe.

Presumably the obligation on the lay rector in the last-mentioned case rests upon custom or common law, not on the express terms of a trust, such as Mr. Rhodes alleges exists in the Whaplode case. But however the duty may arise, it is obvious that there ought to be definite and accessible means of enforcing its performance, which apparently do not exist at present. To say, however, in relation to any ecclesiastical scandal, that this thing or that "ought to be done" is of little assistance towards getting it done; and while I am glad to do anything in my power to let daylight in upon grievances like the above, and wish that good results may follow from that process, I confess that I regard all such cases with something like despair. Abuses unknown in any other religious community flourish unchecked in the Church of England, because they are rooted deep down in the legal constitution of the Church and its relations with the State, and because the spiritual heads of the Church dread the disturbance of the soil, without which such weeds cannot be eradicated. The attitude of the majority of Churchmen, including practically all the higher clergy, towards scandals in connection with ecclesiastical property is that of timid persons towards sleeping dogs, and from their own narrow point of view it may be that the timid policy is the wise one. In this state of things the only sort of remedial measures which will do any good are outside the sphere of practical politics. The best that can be hoped, therefore, for the present, is that the influence of public opinion upon individuals when the facts are made known beyond the limits of the small local community affected, may do something to check the grosser abuses of the rights of property at the expense of the parochial clergy and their congregations.

A DANGEROUS DEBT-COLLECTOR.

For several years past warnings have appeared in Truth against a firm styled I. A. Hardy and Co., otherwise the United Kingdom Colonial and Foreign General Accountancy Offices, of Chancery-lane. Hardy and Co. advertise themselves as debt-collectors, and the warnings that have been given in Truth have been founded partly on the difficulty which clients have experienced in collecting the debts from Hardy and Co. after Hardy and Co. have collected them from the debtors, and partly on the outrageous charges which have been made by Hardy and Co. for such services as they perform. The firm professes to collect debts for a small poundage, but when matters come to be settled up, the poundage is generally swollen by preposterous charges under the head of "postage." Two cases were recently mentioned in Truth, in one of which, after charging 2s. for collecting a debt of 10s., Hardy and Co. added another charge of 3s. 9d. for "postages," while in another they charged 5s. under this head, in addition to a commission of 3s. 6d. Another trick is to charge 2s. in the £ when a debt is withdrawn from their hands, although their prospectus of terms states that no commission is chargeable on unrecovered amounts. I have made numerous attempts to interview the firm personally with a view of ascertaining what they had to say for themselves in cases to which my attention had been called, but whenever a representative of Truth has visited the alleged United Kingdom Colonial and Foreign General Accountancy Offices in Chancery-lane he has found the place shut up. Some weeks back I mentioned that a firm of solicitors who had been in communication with Hardy and Co. found that all the letters they received from them bore the postmark "Finsbury Park," which bore out the suspicion I had long entertained that the address in Chancery-lane is

merely an "accommodation" one for the receipt of letters.

I have lately received from an accountant in the North of England particulars of lengthy negotiations which he has had with this firm on behalf of the executors of a client who had entrusted Hardy and Co. with a debt to collect. The first thing which this correspondence shows is that the inference which I had already drawn as to the character of the alleged offices in Chancery-lane is perfectly correct. In 1905 my informant, Mr. Wall, of Oldham, issued a County Court summons against Hardy and Co., failing to obtain a settlement from them by other means. The High Bailiff of Westminster County Court reported that he could not serve the defendant, that the office was always closed, and that nothing could be found out about Hardy and Co. Mr. Wall also ascertained from the High Bailiff that there had been a similar difficulty about the service of process in a great many other cases. Having found that Hardy had never been seen at the block of offices which he uses as his address, that he paid his rent by post, and that he also had a private letter-box at the West Central District Office, Mr. Wall wrote a statement of the facts to the General Post Office, and asked to be informed to what address Hardy and Co.'s letters were forwarded. The Postmaster-General replied that the letters were forwarded to Mr. I. A. Hardy, at 113, Mount View-road, Stroud Green. Further inquiries elicited that no one named I. A. Hardy was known at that address, but that the house had been occupied for about four years by a Mr. Frederick William Hardie.

While these inquiries were in progress, Mr. Wall had been corresponding with Hardy and Co. viâ the address in Chancery-lane. The following are specimens of letters written by Hardy during that period:—

Sir,—We have received your ridiculous, impudent, libellous postcard.

You are absolutely wrong in supposing (if you now really do suppose) that there exists any reason why we should not meet you or any one else. On the contrary, we will be very glad to do so, by appointment, at our office as above. It is, however, not convenient to wait all day long on the chance of meeting you or others, and we have not hitherto found any necessity for it.

If you are the authorised person to receive the amount due to the alleged Exors. of the late ———, we must have their authority to pay you, as it is not at all clear how the matter came into your hands. You have not inspired us with any confidence in you, your methods being grossly illegal, and will get you into trouble ere long.—Yours obediently, I. A. Hardy and Co.

N.B.—This correspondence must now cease. Let the necessary authority be submitted, and the amount due and *proportionate* costs will be sent.

After receipt of this Mr. Wall called at Chancery-lane without seeing Hardy, and wrote to him to that effect, adding that in consequence of inquiries that he had made, he should take some more serious steps unless he received the sum of £3 8s. and costs due to his client by a specified date. The following is Hardy's reply:—

Sir,—Your letter of yesterday's date to hand. Very sorry we did not see you on Tuesday when you say you called, as it would have saved trouble and waste of time.

You appear to have been making yourself remarkably busy with our affairs of late, with your inquiries, your grossly libellous letter to the Post Office, your groundless accusations, and your further insult by this morning's post.

We *do not* owe Mrs. ———'s Exors. £3 8s., as you must know quite well. What we do owe we are quite wiling to pay to you on receipt of the Exor.'. authority to do so, but their legal right to give you such authority will first have to be inquired into.

As to the summons you refer to, we have not received it, and were quite unaware that such had been issued until we heard from the Post Office. Until yesterday (Friday) we were quite unaware that the late Mrs. ———'s name appeared on our books, and it was only after most dilligent [*sic*] search that it was at length discovered, the matter being over five years old, during which time no application had been made until March 18 last. This was replied to, asking for our reference number, or the date when the case was submitted to us, as we could not find the case on our books. There was no reply to this, and we heard no more of it. The office at Chancery Lane not being open perhaps so much as is customary is not due to fraudulent purposes as you have stated, but to the fact that about 12 years ago it was found not to be large enough for requirements, and for that reason the bulk of the business was transferred to a suburban office, and there is no ground or justification for your charges or accusations.

We suppose that the reason the summons was not served was because personal service was required.

The balance of the late Mrs. ———'s account will be sent on the receipt of the necessary authority, as aforesaid.—Yours obediently, I. A. Hardy and Co.

Mr. Wall replied to this that on receipt of the address of the alleged "suburban office" he would communicate with Hardy and Co. again, and he suggested that in the meantime they should call at the Westminster County Court and receive the summons there awaiting them. Needless to say, this was not done, and after a further delay of some months an order was obtained for service of the summons by post. Ten days later Hardy paid into court the full amount of the debt and costs.

The final result sufficiently shows the emptiness of the pretences for refusing payment set up in the letters given above. By his own showing, Hardy had collected this money and stuck to it for five years. At the time when he wrote the second, if not the first, of the above letters, he knew that a County Court summons had been issued, and that the bailiffs had been unable to serve it. He was invited after the second letter to call at the County Court and receive the summons, or to furnish his true address. He did not do so, but lay low and allowed several months more to elapse, until he was hunted down and served with the writ by post, when he finally gave up the game and paid the money. I have gone into these transactions fully, first, because they show clearly the character of the business which is carried on from the address at Chancery-lane, and secondly, because they will show other persons who have difficulty in getting money out of Hardy how to corner this individual. From what has been stated by the authorities at Westminster County Court, it is evident that many creditors have been defeated by the ingenious system which the man has devised for carrying on his business, and at the same time concealing his whereabouts. But with knowledge of the above facts, anybody can now find him, or trace him, if he removes from his address, 113, Mount View-road, Stroud Green. I hope that others will now succeed in making him disgorge, and also that nobody for whom he may collect debts will in future submit to his impudent methods of levying toll on such money as he accounts for.

MR. TAVERNER AGAIN.

Mr. William Taverner has favoured me with a letter in his usual style, in response to the observations in last week's Truth on his latest doings in connection with the Old Age Pension Trust. It begins:—

We have a clear indication of the careless manner in which you make your statements in your issue of this week, printing anything that a correspondent pleases to send you without the slightest regard to authenticity. You have never yet published a truthful article about the Pension Trust, and so long as you will not take the trouble to investigate, I fail to see how it is possible for you to put the "truth" before your readers. . . . .

The reader may take the measure of this individual's impertinences by referring to last week's Truth, where it will be seen that the whole of my observations were founded upon a letter of his own in the *Congleton*

Chronicle. He seems to have represented the state of the case pretty accurately in suggesting that I ought to have investigated further if I wanted to put the truth before my readers, instead of accepting his own statements about his own doings.

He goes on to say that the passage which I quoted from his own letter beginning, "Sir, there goes out from West House several million pounds annually in the form of pensions," was misprinted, and that he wrote "if," not "sir," and holds a letter from the editor of the *Congleton Chronicle* expressing "his deep regret" for the printer's error. I have no objection to give him the benefit of the correction, but on the principle that he has himself laid down for my guidance, it would seem that I ought to make independent investigations before taking his word for this statement. He says that it is "not his intention to provide lodgings for women on a charitable basis, as the sum we charge yields a 5 per cent. interest on the investment." He is going according to his own statement, to provide women with "rooms" at 1s. a week rent, and as I do not believe that he can get 5 per cent. interest on any investment on that basis, I can only explain his calculation by the same arithmetical hocus-pocus which he has used to demonstrate the soundness of his pension scheme.

I am reluctant to trouble my readers at any length by bandying words in public with this man, but as he is still busily pushing his schemes, and his dupes are innumerable, I hope I may be excused for giving a further example of the shuffling and prevarication to which he resorts when making a show of answering criticism. I referred last week to the observations of Mr. Justice Kekewich in dismissing his last appeal in the litigation with the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society. The words of the learned Judge were quoted in Truth when the case was reported. Taverner now says:—

> As I have never had an appeal in connection with any litigation with the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society, neither Mr. Justice Kekewich nor any other Judge has ever yet dismissed an appeal on any subject with which I have been associated or the Sermon Society either. . . . [I omit a passage in which a gross libel is made upon somebody else in relation to circumstances of which I know nothing.—Ed.] As the *Daily News* was the only paper which so misled its readers as to make them believe that there was a trial before Mr. Justice Kekewich, much less an appeal, it is obvious that the above is the source of your misleading observations, unless you are in league with my late fraudulent. . . . [More libels.—Ed.]. If you, too, are bent on protecting the guilty, then further expostulation is useless.

I do not see what it matters whether I took Mr. Justice Kekewich's observations from the *Daily News* or any other paper, so long as the Judge made them, which, it will be noted, Taverner carefully avoids denying. But, as a matter of fact, I have never seen any reference to the case in the *Daily News*, my knowledge of it was derived wholly from the long report which appeared in the *Times* of January 30 last. I have referred again to this report in the vain attempt to make out what Taverner means by denying that he was engaged in litigation with the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society. The *Times* report shows that an action was brought by Taverner against the Rev. W. Cuff and others, whom I understand to be the trustees of the Society; that the dispute was referred to arbitration; that the arbitrator found against Taverner on all points; that Taverner thereupon moved the Judge to set aside the award, and that the motion was refused. The only basis there can be, therefore, for Taverner's denials in the above passage of ever having had any litigation with the Society, or any appeal dismissed by Mr. Justice Kekewich, is that he is distinguishing between an action against the trustees of the Society and an action against the Society, or else that he means that a motion in Court to set aside an arbitrator's award is not an appeal. It is quite immaterial what he *does* mean. But it is decidedly material to see that the suggestion he now puts forward that Mr. Justice Kekewich never had an opportunity of censuring him, rests entirely on empty prevarication.

The words of Mr. Justice Kekewich, as reported in the *Times*, repeated in Truth of February 6, and again referred to last week, were as follows:—

> The arbitration was heard at great length, and his Lordship could well understand, after seeing Mr. Taverner in the box, that the arbitrator had a very troublesome duty to perform. When the plaintiff was asked a question he responded by making a long speech. *His evidence was full of inaccuracies and hopelessly untrustworthy.*

The reader, who has now had an opportunity, not of seeing Mr. Taverner in the box, but of seeing how he seeks to throw doubt on the fact that Mr. Justice Kekewich made these observations, can judge for himself how far his Lordship was justified in making them, and to what extent Mr. Taverner's inaccuracy and untrustworthiness when giving evidence in the witness-box are a sample of his general habits. I hope that the evidence he has now himself furnished may serve to enlighten some of the thousands of people whom he is fooling, in Congleton and elsewhere, as to the character of the person they are dealing with.

THE THEATRES.

"Strongheart," at the Aldwych.

I thought at first that I was in for an evening of emphasis and football leather, naught beside. Strenuous indeed was the talk, and wan my mood as I listened to the swagger of these youths at Columbia University, noting for future reference the slips of paper substituted one for the other. Both contained identical lists of signals to be used during the football match, impending like a thunderstorm. The question obviously is, who shall traitorously give them to the rival captain? We are, of course, misled for a time, as is the nature of this kind of rebus. With the advent of Act II. we are witnesses of what can be done by our cousins in lung power and asseveration. It was tremendous. A hullabuloo outside the dressing-room of this football team; a tornado within. For they have been worsted by their adversaries at half-time, and it is necessary to win at any cost in the next tussle. Manslaughter as justifiable homicide was the cheerful theme of the Columbia captain, and I was more interested in the ethics of Transatlantic football than in the ousting of the Red Indian Strongheart from the team. For he it is who is suspected of treachery. The close of this act represents an orgy of mudstained youths triumphant over their adversaries. The two following acts were more interesting, showing the development of the difficulties connected with the suspected traitor, "Strongheart." For he can, if he please, save his own character by incriminating another, and we are even given to understand that the lady of his strong heart will be his, if he stoop to betrayal. Of course, he comes forth victorious from the ordeal. But the ques-

tion of race is the pivot of the plot, and although he wins the love of Molly, and she is ready to follow him even to the ends of the earth, the call of his native tribe triumphs over his love. Duty's victory. In the last act, indeed, a Red Indian appears to summon his chief back to government of the tribe, his father being dead. Goaded to fury by the behaviour of his white fellow-collegians, this Red Skin shows his teeth at the end of the third act, yet resigns the lady at the end of the fourth and last. I believe his triumph would have been more convincing if the long scene between him and his Red Indian tribesmen could have been replaced by a letter or some brief communication, and the Red Indian been allowed the great moral victories over his love and over the race prejudice and suspicion of his rectitude which damn the doings of the latter acts. Mr. Robert Edeson gave a colourable rendering of this noble creature's soul. Nobility superior to the conquerors of his race spoke in every word and gesture. He did not stoop to some of the tricks used by the white men for attracting sympathy or a laugh. Melodrama was at the back of much of their doing, and facile appeals to sentiment. Those who do not object to the din of the first two acts, and are not displeased with the facile appeals above referred to, may be interested to watch the breaking of a strong heart on the wheel of circumstance.

The Empire.

"Sir Roger de Coverley," the new ballet at the Empire, deals in eighteenth century wares. Picturesque enough are the costumes of Miss Craske as that gay cavalier Fancourt, of the ethereal Adeline Genée as Lady Dolly, of Sir Roger himself, and of the numerous company that weaves its paces round the displeasure of that unhistorical personage. Mr. Adrian Ross has invented a story which does not tally with what is known of Sir Roger; he has, indeed, cut his coat according to the skirts of his ballet, rather than trouble about the homespun of historical accuracy. Yet I should have liked to see more than I did of Lady Dolly the unhistorical, of Lady Dolly the light of toe, the true of heart. There were two reasons for this, the first being that on this occasion Miss Adeline Genée does not fill so large a space of the entertainment as usual; the second and more conclusive, a cluster of ostrich plumes. Many such plumes waved upon the stage, but those I refer to operated in my immediate neighbourhood. They waved in the crowded rows of the stalls. If the matinée hat be an abomination, what shall be said of the evening ostrich plume? That vespertinal adornment concealed from me much of the happenings in the ballet of Sir Roger de Coverley, and convinced me that the only coign of vantage is the front row of the stalls, or of the dress circle, or a box. All else is perilous. Nothing amuses me more than the acidulated sweetness of voice with which one woman says to another seated in front of her at a matinée, "Would you please remove your hat?" I have never had the audacity to invade this feminine privilege, this triumph of the modest over the monstrous in matinée hats. "By how much the more, then," as Euclid would say, should I fail of the audacity required for the utterance: "Madam, kindly remove your head-dress and some of your stray curls"—for, as I understand, these do not nowadays always exist apart.

It was a beautiful arrangement of curls and feathers that luxuriated between me and the stage, occasionally allowing a glimpse of Miss Ada Reeve between the feathery curves; certainly I did not fail to catch every syllable sung by Miss Ruby Helder, the girl baritone, that eccentricity of nature; I seemed to detect the Perezoffs depending from the topmost plume, adroit jugglers as they are; while the great Le Pages turned themselves over a great many times between the blue plume and the white. I hope soon to see "Sir Roger de Coverley" again under circumstances less ornithological.

* * * * *

The children's performance of "Miss Hook of Holland" was an amusing afternoon's interlude of last week. The humours of Mr. Hook, as played by a young lady of sixteen, were set off by the luxuriance of Miss Gracie Leigh's understudy, of about the same age, who really triumphed as out-caricaturing the caricature of the market girl as given by Miss Gracie Leigh. The permanently unemployed were also well represented by a young gentleman hitherto unknown to fame, and the other amusers in Mr. Rubens' amusing musical play were mimicked most amusingly to their faces; for several of the principal performers dotted stalls and boxes, and seemed even more tickled than we with the humours of their juvenile diminutives.

The childish performance of "Peter Pan," given some months ago, can alone be placed in the same category with this, and that, it must be admitted, was even more guilelessly amusing than Miss Hook of Holland in very short skirts.

* * * * *

To another performance, also youthful, but of a serious and deeply interesting character, was I also invited last week. I refer to the mixed performance at the St. James's Theatre by the members of the Academy of Dramatic Art. The act from "The Merchant of Venice" was illumined with the talent and comeliness of the performers and the beauty of their costumes, excelling that from "As You Like It," which went before. Miss Beatrice Smith, however, was the triumph of the afternoon. Her rendering of the sleep-walking scene from "Macbeth" electrified the audience, both by reason of diction and grasp of the character. This young lady is likely to be heard of again ere long. The entertainment closed with an act from "The Ambassador," which was well rendered by Miss Smith and others.

* * * * *

At the Playhouse on Thursday afternoon, the 16th, a number of theatrical personalities are combining to give an entertainment under Royal patronage. Its object is to provide funds for the Girls' Realm Cot at the Great Ormond-street Hospital for Children. Mr. Cyril Maude himself will appear, with Miss Winifred Emery, and I see that Miss Camille Clifford, Miss Phyllis Dare, Miss Zena Dare, and Miss Billie Burke are among those who have promised to assist. Tickets may be taken at the Playhouse or at the Social Bureau, New Bond-street.

* * * * *

Mr. George Alexander has lent the St. James's Theatre for a matinée to be given on May 30, for the

benefit of Miss Fanny Coleman, who has just completed her fiftieth year on the stage.

* * * * *

At the Alhambra, during the current week, one may hear Senorita Maria Vincent, who comes to us with her Continental laurels fresh.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Domestic Servants' Catechism.

(For the use of girls going to their first "Place.")

Q.: Who are you?

A.: A Domestic Servant.

Q.: What is a Domestic Servant?

A.: A young person who is sometimes called a "Treasure," sometimes a "Minx," and sometimes "The Eternal Problem."

Q.: When are you called a "Treasure"?

A.: As long as I can keep on my mistress's blind side.

Q.: When are you called a "Minx"?

A.: When I have just been found out wearing my mistress's newest hat.

Q.: When are you called "The Eternal Problem"?

A.: When I have given a month's warning and my mistress is running from Registry Office to Registry Office in a feverish hunt after my successor.

Q.: What things do you learn in Domestic Service?

A.: Two things chiefly: my duty towards my mistress, and my Duty towards Myself.

Q.: What is your duty towards your mistress?

A.: My duty towards my mistress is to do as little work for her as I decently can, and, when she finds fault with me, to tell her I'd rather leave.

Q.: What is your Duty towards Yourself?

A.: My Duty towards Myself is to take high wages, to insist on having the best of food, at least two evenings out every week, and unlimited latitude in the matter of followers.

Q.: What are followers?

A.: Anything in trousers that appears at the area door.

Q.: For what purpose do they come to the area door?

A.: For gossip, flirtation, and refreshments.

Q.: Who provides the refreshments?

A.: I provide them. My mistress pays for them.

Q.: What is a cat?

A.: The most useful of all domestic animals.

Q.: Explain the chief use of the cat.

A.: To commit depredations in the larder.

Q.: When are such depredations usually committed?

A.: On the evenings when I entertain my followers.

Q.: For what purpose do glass, crockery, and other fragile articles exist?

A.: To come to pieces in my hands.

Q.: Do you ever break your mistress's old china?

A.: Never.

Q.: How is that?

A.: Because it was always broken before I came.

Q.: For what purpose does your mistress receive letters?

A.: In order that I may read them.

Q.: What is a character?

A.: Characters are of two kinds—my mistress's character and My Character.

Q.: What is your mistress's character?

A.: My mistress has little or no character, after I have done discussing it.

Q.: What is Your Character?

A.: A written testimonial to my incomparable excellences, with which it is the duty of every lady, who *is* a lady, to furnish me when I quit her service.

Q.: Do you meet with many accidents or injuries in domestic service?

A.: Hitherto I have met with none. But after the First of July next I foresee every prospect of sustaining them frequently.

Q.: Why so?

A.: Because after that date my mistress will have to pay me compensation.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"MONSIEUR ALPHONSE."

WHAT memories of the past are awakened by "Monsieur Alphonse"! I do not mean the Spanish heir, but the famous play which has just been revived at the Théâtre Français.

Thirty odd years ago, Alexandre Dumas the younger wrote "Monsieur Alphonse," a play which stirred the conscience of France to its depths, which helped the country, indeed, to shape itself a new conscience. The author handled in it the subject of conjugal infidelity and the rights of illegitimate children, and he did so with a boldness to which the public were unaccustomed. Zola had not yet made his mark, and the literary models of the time had formed their ideals among the snobs and upstarts of the Tuileries and of Compiègne. Alexandre Dumas' sincerity came at a moment when the country, just recovering from the shock of the war, thirsted for something different from the frivolity of the Second Empire. He was himself an illegitimate child in the eyes of the law, and yet privileged because, however born, Dumas the younger could feel proud in being the child of Dumas the elder. The attachment between father and son was tender and lifelong.

Yet Alexandre Dumas *fils* felt that he was by reason of his birth the champion of children unfortunate enough not to know their parents. His views on a wife's infidelity he set forth in a pamphlet which appeared about the same time as the play, and was soon out of print. His advice to the husband, "Kill her!" must be taken as a paradox. It meant simply that as long as French law refused to recognise divorce there must be hopeless situations in French families. His logic was pitiless in its form only. His real feeling he shows in "Monsieur Alphonse."

This play, which enriched the French language by a new word—an "Alphonse" is the lowest state of infamy to which a man may sink—and which, indirectly, enriched the French Statute-book by a new law, the Naquet Divorce Act, came out originally at the Porte Saint Martin Theatre in 1873, with Mlle. Blanche Pierson in the leading feminine rôle of Raymonde de Montaiglin. She was then in the early bloom of her creole—creole of Bourbon Island—loveliness, which was, above all things, remarkable for harmoniousness. Alphonsine, the comic actress of the Palais Royal, in the part of "Madame Guichard," relieved the long-winded dialogues of the leading personages with her side-splitting drollery and fun, which closely approached low comedy. Her humour was rather masculine than feminine, and full of good humour with no nervous effect.

She it was who suggested the title of the play. Alexandre Dumas was perplexed about the name he should give his hero, a very low sort of Don Juan—not even *a* Don Juan. He was afraid of actions at law from namesakes in real life. Alphonsine came to his help. "Since the hero is my lover," she argued, "you may call him Alphonse. As long as I do not object, I do not see who has a right to." And thus it came to be that the pale-faced, professionless individuals who prowl about the night haunts of *Paris qui s'amuse* are to this day called "Alphonses." "Monsieur Alphonse" was more than a play: it was a political pamphlet, a plea for divorce—a thing prohibited by the Catholic Church, and consequently forbidden in all Catholic countries—and also a vindication of the rights of illegitimate children.

This pamphlet has wrought its purpose: divorce now exists in France, children born outside the pale of marriage are no longer—or much less than formerly—social outcasts. Legislation is now quite different, public taste has altered. Yet I found "Monsieur Alphonse" not only as fresh as when I saw it thirty years ago, but actually improved by age. It was not so *outré*, startling, sensational. Alexandre Dumas, like Wagner, like Whistler, and like many others, was ahead of his times. His point of view was peculiar in 1873; it is now that of the man in the street.

You know the story of the play. Octave, a young ruined *bourgeois*, is a sort of Don Juan. He is what one would call nowadays a degenerate—a word that was not used thirty years ago. He is about to marry a former housemaid, the widow of a wealthy hotel-keeper who went through the form of marriage with her during his last illness, and left her his fortune. Mme. Guichard's ambition, with a fortune of several thousand a year, has been to marry a "gentleman," and in Octave, who is five or six years her junior, she has found her life's dream. The scene opens at the house of Captain de Montaiglin, of the French Navy. The Captain is getting on in years. He is leaving on the next day for a long cruise, which will be his last one, and then he will retire. He says to Mme. de Montaiglin, a former village schoolmistress, who is his junior by fifteen years: "Do not thank me for having raised you out of poverty. You have made my life worth living. For five years you have been my companion, and now, in my old age, you will be my friend."

In the first scene the author brings us into the heart of his subject. Mme. de Montaiglin is talking with Octave. Her swollen eyes show that she has been crying. Octave is shrugging his shoulders. They are talking about a terrible secret. It was a long, long time ago. Octave was not twenty years of age. He met the young lady who was to become Mme. de Montaiglin and fate took its course. There was a daughter, whose birth was kept a profound secret. She was sent to the country to be brought up by peasants. Mme. de Montaiglin sees the child as often as she can. Octave goes down to see her, too, from time to time, but under an assumed name as "Monsieur Alphonse." Now Alphonse has just become engaged to the wealthy Mme. Guichard. But she has no idea of the existence of this daughter. Octave is bent on getting the fortune as well as the hand of Mme. Guichard, and he now feels that his daughter, a girl of thirteen, is indeed an encumbrance. So he asks Mme. de Montaiglin to take his daughter off his hands. Octave tells the Captain a plausible story. The daughter's mother, he says, is dead. The Captain agrees to receive the girl as if she were his own child.

This arrangement is upset by the arrival of Mme. Guichard, whose part in the play is that of the "comic Irishwoman." This excellent lady was struck by certain mysterious absences of her *fiancé*. With the help of a private detective she traced him down to a country farm, whence he was seen to return to Paris with a little girl, and the pair were followed to the house of Captain and Mme. de Montaiglin.

The incidents of the plot now follow upon one another with a rapidity that leaves you no time to breathe. The Captain discovers that the little girl is his wife's daughter, and that Octave is the father. Mme. de Montaiglin drops on her knees awaiting her husband's sentence. He generously forgives her; as he says: "You have sinned, you have suffered, you have atoned, you have repented; what right have I to punish you?" Every sentence in this scene shows the hand of a master. The good Mme. Guichard now discovers the existence of the little girl. "I will adopt your child," she tells her *fiancé*; "I make this a *sine quâ non* condition of our marriage." Octave, or "Monsieur Alphonse," who was so anxious to get rid of his daughter, is now equally anxious to get her back. Too late, however. The Captain has adopted her, and "Monsieur Alphonse" loses, not only his daughter, but the large fortune he was to have secured by his marriage, because Mme. Guichard, dazzled at first by his fine manners, now sees the sort of scamp he really is and sends him about his business.

The part of Mme. de Montaiglin is not exactly one in which I would have expected to see Mme. Cécile Sorel, who is accustomed to lighter rôles. She was beautifully repentant and mother-like. The dress she wore in the three acts consisted of a white satin sheath laid over with a lilac kimono of very transparent silk muslin. Mme. Thérèse Kolb's rendering of Mme. Guichard reminded me very much of Mme. Alphonsine thirty-five years ago.

The Joan of Arc Eighth of May has been kept according to the new fashion, and has drawn more sightseers than ever to Orleans. But the châteaux—that is to say the châtelains along the Loire—who had engaged rooms for the fêtes, cancelled their contracts, proposing, however, to hold them good for the next Sunday—the date fixed for the religious celebration in the cathedral.

As a stage manager the Church is preferable to the Mayoralty, and more especially the Mayoralty of a stagnant and Bœotian place like Orleans, where the people are said to have neither blood nor wine, but plum juice in their veins. The serene and noble gravity of a religious procession takes hold of me like "God Save the King" or certain passages of the Anglican liturgy, when I hear them in England after a long absence abroad. The civilian French fête is now more in tune with "La Marseillaise," or even with "L'Internationale," and the general state of mind and nerves that brought them forth. The one drawback to the religious procession, from the stage-management standpoint, is

the stultified faces—stultified to disfigurement—of those tonsured waiters on the altar who intone the psalmody of litany.

The story of Joan's life ought to impress on young minds the incalculable power of personal initiative and pluck when exerted at the right time. A youngish vicar-general or a village damsel would have been a fitter person to bear her banner than a police sergeant in his regulation clothes and heavy shoes. The *flic* who served as ensign in the procession would certainly, if he had lived in Joan's time, have run her in as though she had been a Suffragette, and, considering the laws and ideas then ruling, with perhaps greater reason.

The brains of the Orléanais rarely sparkle with original thought, and are too lazy to innovate. His wits are in the nape of his neck, when they ought to be in the forehead ready to run into apposite speech. Perhaps when Orleans has had time to think out the details of a fête on the new, secular model she will seek out in the Orléanais a rosy-cheeked, well-built country girl to serve as banner-bearer.

The French common people like marching troops, military music with military movement, or any kind of action that goes pat to it. They had both at the festal Eighth of May. The sullen mood of the rich people, as shown in closed venetian blinds, escaped the notice of the multitude, embracing, perhaps, 30,000 strangers. Most of these were country folks, who, without being a bit religious, would have dropped down on their knees at the sight of a bishop scattering benedictions with two up-raised fingers. There being no bishop present, they applauded the Freemasons and "Monsieur Fernand," the name by which Deputy Rabier is known in the Loiret. Their ears did not in the least suffer from occasional discords of the many bands and fanfares, the ringing out of the cathedral chimes, and of sundry cracked bells in other belfrys. The lively, rattling, screaming, trumpet-blaring noise delighted, after the dull silence of homesteads and hamlets. If the sightseers regretted the absence of red cardinals, mauve bishops, ermined canons, the jewelled splendour of reliquaries, episcopal crooks, croziers, and mitres, they had the school children, fresh as May flowers and in their best bibs and tuckers. The old banner alone reminded them of the close of the Gothic time, with its fierce combativeness, romance, bright day-dreams, noontide nightmares, spirituality, and knavish *canaillerie*. Philippe de Comines, I recollect, belonged in youth to the Joan of Arc period, and in his later years to that of Louis XI. He was the father of Macchiavelli and a precursor of Richard Crookback.

Joan's banner is a copy made more than fifty years ago of a copy executed in the reign of Francis I. under the supervision of Queen Claude, Duchess of Orleans in her own right. Bishop Dupanloup supervised day by day, and under a magnifying glass, the progress of the second copy, counting the threads in the figures and other objects represented. They are God the Father seated on clouds, with two kneeling angels as "supporters." Fleurs de lys serve as sprigs on the "field." Each angel holds a larger lily in its right hand. The words "Jesus Maria" serve as a motto. The silk, once a pure white, is now time-stained and the colour of old ivory with sepia blotches. The mayor had had this relic of the Dupanloup episcopate fetched from the Cathedral on the eve of the fête. He wanted General Millet, the commander of the troops at Orleans, to take it in charge and transport it in military state next day to the Town Hall, to present it to the Town Council there. Leave had been asked of the War Minister, who gave it, but at the same time authorised the General to act as he might think fit. He declined the honour, because a Protestant. It would ill become him to do anything which might wound the feelings of his Catholic brethren-in-arms. Gentlemanly, this!

In birth, breeding, speech, appearance, Joan remained to the end a peasant girl, free spoken, saucy, and ever ready with a prompt and not always a courteous retort. The town of Orleans last week admitted the low birth of Joan, and saw in it a reason for giving the foremost place to trades corporations. A young blacksmith led off in the processional pageant as bearer of the white and yellow flag of Orleans. Fine-looking supers might have been better for spectacular purpose than the notables and magnates who marched behind him—senators, deputies, town and county councillors, masonic venerables, university dons, hospital surgeons and physicians, and what not. The band of the Garde Républicaine, fetched purposely from Paris, divided the sections sacred to the Maid from that representing the upper grades of the Civil Service and the elected bodies. Fanfares screeched out clarion-like notes of jubilant triumph. What in the way of sound is so stirring as a French military fanfare? It raised her out of herself, and out of the humdrum of a Court in which everything went by rule. The Maid's section embraced *la crème*, all in robes or uniform. Ushers sent down from the Foreign Office saw to the marshalling of the many notabilities. The garments of the Foreign Office usher only differ in the steel chain round his neck from black Court dress. They were hedged round with artillery. Draw from this what inference you please. The young gentlemen from the Artillery School of Fontainebleau walked behind the guns at the rear of this section. They found themselves immensely popular.

The birth of the new heir to the Spanish throne obliges Prince Charles of Bourbon to lay down the courtesy title of Prince of Asturias, and throws his two children farther into the background. It invests the young Queen with increased importance as a possible regent. They say here that she intends to be the wet nurse of this heir apparent. A Navarrese woman would discharge the function better. Navarre produces magnificent viragoes. They are prompt to avenge themselves with the knife on faithless lovers or husbands, but are devoted to their offspring or any nurslings who may be entrusted to their care. The wife of Salamanca, the Spanish railway king, had twenty-four children and always hired Navarraises to nurse them. She sometimes had as many as three of them at a time in her service, but took care never to favour in the least one above the other. A shapely lady-like figure is now of great importance to a Queen of Spain. That lay figure aspect of Queen Christina rendered her good service whenever she opened the Cortes.

A PEER AMONG THE PLOTTERS.

I KNOW you like having exclusive information about what is going on, and I have got a piece of news for you that I expect will send your circulation up no end. It is about America, and it is about a huge conspiracy to change the Constitution there. I am one of the conspirators—or Jessie is, which comes to the same thing—and of course she has taken the most terrific oaths of secrecy, which is how I come to be able to tell you about it. I expect you know that my brother William is married to an American girl—Miss Hook she used to be, one of the old Knickerbocker families, and a millionairess, of course. She never cared for me much, because I did her rather a bad turn by recovering from an attack of typhoid that I had just about the time they were married. I have always suspected that Billy made it out as being worse than it was—anyway, she married him. But only last week she came along to Jessie—who she ought to hate, of course—and wanted to kiss and be friends, and all that sort of thing. Jessie soon found out the reason, which is that she expects to have a much higher title than Countess inside of a year or so, and that she thinks we can help her to it.

I expect you read in the papers a day or two since about a movement they've started in Boston to make Roosevelt perpetual President of the United States, with power to appoint his successor. That was the first step of the conspiracy, which is altogether about the queerest and most up-to-date sort of plot I've ever heard of. In the first place, all the conspirators, or nearly all, are women, and in the second they are all millionaires. What they want to do is to turn the United States into an Empire, and they are going to try to do it by starting a huge limited company or trust. As far as I can make out, their argument is that you can buy anything in the States, if only you've got money enough; you can buy a judge or a policeman, or a Senator or a State Legislature or the United States Senate—it is only a matter of price. Of course, I don't know whether this is exactly the case, but from things I've heard I shouldn't wonder if there was something in it. Anyway, they think so, and they are so sure of it that once their preliminary arrangements are made, they aren't going to keep their conspiracy a secret at all, but rather the other way, to boom it in the newspapers for all they are worth. The conspiracy is simple enough, so far as the details go. They are going to raise a capital of a thousand millions of dollars—or as much more as may be necessary—and buy up the United States in order to turn it into an Empire with Mr. Roosevelt as the first Emperor and Miss Alice Roosevelt—Mrs. Longworth, that is to say—as the second. When I say buy up the United States, of course I mean that part of it which has any say in running things. Of course, they aren't going to worry about what they call the Common People over there. Nobody cares what they think, because, it seems, they always do what their Ward Politicians—sort of local party organisers—tell them to do, and, so far as I can make out, pay them so much a head for doing. But they are going to buy up both the political parties, and all the officials and army officers, and Senators, and saloon-keepers, and Labour Union officials, and judges, and all that sort of person, get their lowest price out of them and pay it without grumbling, meaning, of course, to get their profit when the Empire is firmly settled. Of course, all the Trusts will help them, because most of the money will be found by them, indirectly, and they have everything to gain by the change. As soon as the financial end of it is fixed up, they will just have an election—so as to make everything legal—crown the Emperor Theodore I., and start reorganising things on the new basis.

The first thing they are going to see about is granting themselves titles. Only shareholders in the Conspiracy Trust will be eligible, and their rank will be according to the amount they've subscribed. There isn't to be any title below a Duchess, and you must have taken up at least one million dollar shares to get that. Then they will rise up, through Grand-Duchess, Arch-Duchess, Arch-Grand-Duchess, Imperial-Duchess, Imperial-Arch and Imperial-Grand-Duchess, and Imperial-Arch-Grand-Duchess, till they get to Princess, and so on, through the same sort of grades up to the highest, or Imperial-Arch-Grand-Princess. That, of course, will be reserved for the biggest shareholders, and there will never be more than two at a time. They meant at first to have only one, but that threatened to wreck the whole thing, because two ladies—a Mrs. Robfellow and a Mrs. Carnifix I think their names were—each insisted on having the highest possible title, and vowed that if they couldn't they would use all their influence to keep the conspiracy from ever being properly boomed. So they are each to have it, and to pay two hundred million dollars for it.

You will have noticed that the titles are all to be on the female side, and they are to descend through the daughters instead of the sons. Mr. Roosevelt is to be the first Emperor, but only because he is popular and rather a vigorous sort of person, and they feared that, being in possession already, he might make things rather awkward if they tried to get rid of him. But at his death the crown is to go to Mrs. Longworth (*née* Roosevelt) and to her female descendants. I don't know if this means that they are working in with the Suffragettes over here—Jessie rather thinks it does—or that their husbands are too busy making money to care about conspiring. But those are the facts, and I must say that they are putting a lot of energy into their scheme. For instance, they are going to have a shot at getting foreign capital as well as American. That was one of the reasons why Billy's wife, who is one of the ringleaders, came along to Jessie. They think we can both help them no end in England. First of all, they want me to join the English Board of Directors, because they think a title always attracts English capital (I only wish I had found it so). Then, again, they want Jessie to bring in "gags" about it in all the parts she plays and popularise it that way. And they want me to organise their English Press Bureau, which is to work the English Press and make it puff them up. They have got it into their heads that I must be a great swell in the journalistic world because I write for TRUTH, and it isn't my business to undeceive them. And they are going to try to get the clergy, of all denominations, to preach in favour of it by offering them, or those that haven't got them already, honorary D.D. degrees in American universities without any entrance fees. And all that sort of thing. They expect that the press will be disposed to be favourable because they are going to insert full-page ads. in every paper in the three kingdoms on the day they float their scheme, and once a month afterwards until it comes off. They are not forgetting the other European countries either. They are quite sure of getting the Kaiser's benevolent interest by offering to set up a life-size statue of him in the Capitol at Washington, with an inscription setting out that he is not only the greatest European that ever lived, but the greatest everything else as well. And they expect to get the French on their side by offering to guarantee that a certain number of American tourists shall visit Paris every year, once the American Empire is proclaimed—at least twice as many as go now, and each to spend at least twice as much as their present average.

I could give you ever so many more details, showing how carefully they have arranged their conspiracy—even to the exact amount of profit that will be available for dividends during the first year after the declaration of the Empire. They are going to put a tax of one cent in the dollar on everything that is either bought or sold in the United States, and they expect to be able not only to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but to find the Emperor's Civil List out of it as well. They have some sort of idea of widening the sphere of their operations when they've got things properly fixed up in America—setting up subsidiary Trust Empires in other Republics, and replacing unpopular Emperors of the old kind by new ones of their own manufacture; but that part of it is only in the air at present. There is only one point they are at all doubtful about, and that is how Mr. Roosevelt will take it. They haven't approached him about it, officially, as

yet. But they have some sort of idea of offering to guarantee that if he accepts the Crown, every American family shall have at least six children in future, under penalty of banishment, and getting round him that way. That's all I know about the company so far, but if you look at the front page of all the ha'penny papers about six weeks hence, and then read how they all crack up the proposed New American Empire in their leader-columns, I expect it will astonish you. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Pilgrim Fathers, dear Lady Betty, crossed the Atlantic, and founded New England; the Pilgrim daughters have re-crossed the Atlantic, and have created the New English. It is a composite John Bull that occupies this country now, who might more correctly be described as Jonathan Bull. It would be difficult to separate the elements that mainly compose his character at the moment; those that are his by inheritance from those he has acquired from Jonathan.

. . . . . .

There are two scenes in this performance in the immediate past.

Scene I.—Thirty years ago there was one community that the English abominated more than any other: that of the United States. That is saying much, for we abominate all our fellow-creatures—especially each other. America was a British colony that had rebelled successfully, had humiliated the Mother Country, and had been formed by obscure emigrants; was Republican; was supposed to be in sympathy with the Fenians; was new in its principles, conduct, and methods; and was essentially "Vulgar" in its instincts. "Vulgar" is an abusive word which is characteristic of the narrow-minded—and is mainly used by them, and is as capricious as they are; a person, a mannerism, a condition, a custom, or a thing may be "vulgar" to-day, and most felicitous to-morrow—or the reverse may occur.

. . . . . .

It was some thirty years ago that the day-break of new circumstances in England caused the value of land to diminish here, and the importance of the rich manufacturer and contractor to increase in the eyes of the Government. Those circumstances entailed the undermining of the "Upper class" by the "Middle class."

Several beautiful, and reputedly wealthy, American women had attained considerable social prominence in Paris in the late 'sixties, many had married well, and some of their successors had made substantial alliances in England. It is a generally accepted proposition here that an English title must be kept up, even if that has to be done at the expense of—others. Several Peers married American women, and boat-loads of the latter were unshipped at our ports during the next ten years. The Republican woman of the United States is Republican in everything—except her love for the Republic.

It was imagined that it was a tidal-wave of wealth; it may have been, but, in that event, much of the specie has not been surrendered yet!

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Scene II.—The American woman, as a peeress, has had the courage of her characteristics. She has not adapted herself to her surroundings, but has adapted her surroundings to herself. Independence was improper; she has considerably increased the independence of her English sisters. Intelligence was an affectation, amongst women; it is now an admirable quality. Extravagant dressing was discountenanced, publicity was avoided, and ambition ceased at marriage; the American woman has altered all that. She has created a new English girl, a new English wife, and a new English mother.

. . . . . .

Change the woman, change the man. There is a new Englishman as the outcome of that development, and of contemporary circumstances. He, too, is partly formed on the American pattern. His mind, time, and activities are absorbed in the accumulation of money; his standard of value is money; he prefers to gamble for money to obtaining it by mere manufacturing or ordinary trading; he aims at hitherto unthought-of amounts; he is increasingly inclined to be unscrupulous; and he tolerates almost any circumstance, or conduct, that has money to support it.

. . . . . .

There is this material difference between America and England that must not be ignored; America is a new country with the faults of a new system; it is steadily forming its national character, and removing the failings of its condition as a beginner. England is an old country with the faults of an old system. Its character has been formed through the ages by climate, the Constitution, class distinctions, its insular condition, and many other circumstances. The failings of the incomplete in New England added to those of the complete in Old England may make a not wholly satisfactory condition.

. . . . . .

It does not say much for the stability of our system, our faith in its perfection, or the resisting power of the English woman that a few boat-loads of intrepid Pilgrim daughters, supported by a few bag-loads of dollars, should have—even with the assistance of contemporary circumstances—so completely remodelled the character, conduct, and customs of our women and of our men. There has been a second surrender of Cornwallis; the last, not to Washington and Green, but to the American woman and green-backs.

* * * * *

Those who wish us ill may be divided into three classes: friends, enemies, and relations—and the last are the worst.

. . . . . .

Many hate their friends more than their enemies; they can forgive the injuries the former do them, but cannot the slights of the latter.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

I WROTE as follows a fortnight ago about the Chester Cup:—"In my opinion the Chester Cup is a good thing for M. Caillault's Querido. He is a smart horse and a really good stayer, and this race appears a positive certainty for him after his recent running in France." It was really a case of he who runs may read, and yet nearly all the papers ignored Querido, and predicted the success of either Torpoint, Bridge of Canny, or Bibiani. It was simple lunacy to suppose that Lord Derby's horse could give 19 lb. to such a horse as Querido, who, indeed, would probably beat Bridge of Canny at even weights over this distance. I never remember more infatuated folly, and the fancy of the press for Bridge of Canny was certainly not shared by that horse's stable. It was beyond all possibility for Bridge of Canny (or any other horse in England) to give such an amount of weight to Querido. The fact is that the French horse was ridiculously handicapped, considering his highly respectable form of last year. It was also a flagrant error in the conditions that there should be no penalty for winning any weight-for-age race except the Two Thousand or the One Thousand, which was altogether an absurdity of the most foolish kind. Querido won with extreme ease, and it would be difficult to estimate the amount of weight which he had in hand. The winner was most judiciously ridden by J. Reiff. I am informed that Querido is one of M. Caillault's sealed nominations for the Ascot Cup, and whatever beats him in that race will be the winner. The Chester race was run at a good pace, for Fairburn made running at his best speed for nearly two miles, when he was beaten. His jockey was abused for "riding his horse's head off," but any such criticisms are in the highest degree asinine. Of course, a four-year-old with only 6 st. 7 lb. to carry must make hard running from the start, when his most formidable opponents are horses which are all giving him a lot of weight. Bibiani ran creditably, but in my opinion Bridge of Canny was second best, and with Querido

out of the way he would have won cleverly. We shall not see much more of Bibiani on the Turf, as she has been covered by Lord Bobs, and will be relegated to the stud in a few weeks. Torpoint, who, at the finish, was really the hope of those backers who would not go for Querido, ran respectably, considering his weight, but, instead of his giving 4 lb. to the winner, I fancy that M. Caillault's horse would find no difficulty in giving him 14 lb. One sporting paper announced on Wednesday that in point of class Bridge of Canny "stands right out," but it is impossible to understand how the "class" of Lord Derby's horse can by any hugger-mugger argument be shown to be superior (or equal) to that of Querido. The Chester winner ran last season against the best of the French and English three-year-olds, and he made Maintenon gallop at Chantilly and Spearmint at Longchamps. The fact is that there is nearly always a mulish prejudice against French horses when they come over to run in this country, and it is very seldom indeed that backers are encouraged by the sporting press to back them. One writer expressed the opinion that Querido was more likely a plater than a flyer, which was idiotic drivel, and really a quite unpardonable aberration, considering the horse's form in France.

It has been stated that the only winning horse hitherto sent over from France to run for the Chester Cup was Vasistas, who carried off this handicap for the late Baron Hirsch in 1891. Vasistas was a French horse, but when he won at Chester he had been trained for a considerable period at Kingsclere by J. Porter. He was purchased for an extravagant price by Baron Hirsch shortly after he had won the Grand Prix of 1889 for M. Delamarre, who bred him.

Since Ouadi Halfa's victory in the Poule Essai he has figured in the nominal Derby betting at 8 to 1. Only a crack-brained noodle will back this horse until he has arrived at Epsom. I have more than once warned admirers of Ouadi Halfa on no account to invest a penny on him unless they back M. Blanc's colt with a start. Ouadi Halfa is now in reserve for the Prix du Jockey Club, which is run at Chantilly on June 2, being Sunday in the Derby week. If the horse wins that race he will almost certainly be put aside for the Grand Prix on June 16, but, whether he wins or loses at Chantilly, it is altogether beyond belief that he can show his best form in England on Wednesday after having run a race (probably a severe one) in France on the previous Sunday. If M. E. Blanc's colours are seen out in the Derby it is quite on the cards that they may be carried by Myram, own brother to Jardy, who had very bad luck last Thursday in the Prix Daru at Longchamps, for which race he was regarded as a certainty. Madrée, winner of the French One Thousand, who was also heavily backed for the Prix Daru, is engaged in the Oaks, and I hear that she is likely to be sent over to run at Epsom. Madrée, who is by Flying Fox out of Maskery, is owned by Count Scheibler.

My Pet II. has returned to England, as he obviously has no chance of winning any of his more valuable French engagements, and he will be prepared at Newmarket to run at Ascot. It is quite certain now that Mr. Raphael's colt cannot stay. He has two engagements on the second day at Ascot—the Biennial, of £1,660, which is run over the Old Mile, and the Ascot Derby, the distance of this race being one mile and a half. My Pet II. has incurred a penalty of 8 lb. for the Biennial, but he would have no extra weight to carry in the longer race, for which there are forty-six entries, and it will be worth £1,800 even if only six start. All Black, Linacre, Slieve Gallion, Olympian, Simon Square, The Welkin, Prince of Orange, and Dripsey are the pick of the lot. Slieve Gallion certainly will not run for this race, and the others are an exceedingly moderate lot. The entry for the Biennial includes Linacre, Silver Heeled, Hillsprite, Hymettus, Sixty, Galvani (12 lb. extra), Bellavista, Stron Ard, Auber, Prince of Orange, The Welkin, Dripsey, and Maya.

Sagamore has recovered from his recent accident, and he has resumed work at Newmarket. The colt will not start for the Ascot Cup, as he could not be prepared for such a race, and, indeed, it is very doubtful whether he has any pretensions to stay the course. Sagamore may still be seen out on the Cup day at Ascot, as he was entered on October 30 for the New Biennial for two and three years old, which is run over five furlongs. This race will be worth about £1,160, and the entry includes Linacre, Silver Heeled, Bellatrix, Hill Sprite, Saxham, Slieve Gallion, Chestnut Sunday, Bilton Park, Stron Ard, Auber, and Jubilee. Slieve Gallion is not likely to be seen at the post, as he will (if all right) fulfil another engagement on that afternoon—the St. James's Palace Stakes.

I expect that both My Pet II. and Sagamore will be entered for the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot, and Traquair, Saxham, and Bellatrix are likely to be found among the three-year-olds engaged in that race, while the list of the two-year-olds will probably include Sheelah and Little Flutter. Sheelah is a very smart filly indeed, and Mr. Joel must considerably regret his tragical error in having so prematurely struck her out of several valuable races, including the Rous Memorial Stakes at Goodwood. Sheelah, indeed, has at present no engagement until the Hardwicke Stakes at Stockton on August 21. It is lucky for her owner that there is no minor forfeit in the Buckenham Post Stakes at the Newmarket First October Meeting, so Sheelah remains in that race, for which there are twelve subscribers, and the stake will be worth £2,700, even if there are only six starters.

Twenty-seven horses are left in for the Manchester Cup, which race is to be run on Friday, the 24th. This handicap is worth £3,000, and it would assuredly have obtained more than fifty-three entries but for the crazy policy of closing the race on the first Tuesday in January. The top weight is Llangibby (9 st. 6 lb.); but Mr. Neumann's horse is a very doubtful starter, and, in any case, he cannot possibly be got fit for any such race. Spate (7 st. 12 lb.) and Killeagh (7 st. 8 lb.) are both nicely weighted, nor is the Australian horse, Noctuiform, at all harshly treated with 8 st. 2 lb. If Mr. Buchanan's steed has now recovered his Australian form, he ought to win this race, and Killeagh appears to me to be the pick of the others. Sir Ernest Cassel's horse will be in better condition than when he won the Babraham Plate at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, and he will be well suited by the course, and is sure to stay the distance.

Entries close next Tuesday for some important races at Ascot. The Gold Vase, distance two miles, is worth £200, with £400 added for the winner, and £100 for the second. The White Knight, who won this race last year, will no doubt be again entered. He has incurred a penalty of 5 lb. for winning the Newbury Autumn Cup. Bridge of Canny may also be entered, but he will have to carry 10 lb. extra for winning the rich Gatwicke Stakes last October. The Royal Hunt Cup, one of the most popular handicaps of the year, and always a very picturesque race, has £1,500 of added money, with a piece of plate value £300. The deduction of £400 for second and third horses is extravagantly large. The Fernhill Stakes for twos and threes (five furlongs), has only £300 of added money, and the endowment of this race should be increased to £1,000. It is also difficult to understand why only £500 is added to the Wokingham Handicap (six furlongs), when £2,000 is fuddled away on the Ascot Stakes, a race which rarely brings out any horse of high class. The Wokingham, moreover, is the only T.Y.C. handicap in the programme.

The two-year-old races at Chester resulted precisely in accordance with my predictions, Llangwm, Quelpart, and Pastry winning the Badminton, Stamford, and Ormonde Plates respectively. Lord Sefton's Duegna was favourite for the Mostyn Plate, but she got off very badly, and never could catch Heredity, who won cleverly, thanks to the advantage which she had gained at the start. Pastry started at the satisfactory price of 11 to 2, thanks to the craze for Pearl of the Loch, who was beaten

OVER-STOUTNESS is not difficult to permanently cure when the right remedy is found. Antipon is now in universal favour. The *Methodist Recorder* says:—"It is satisfactory to know that Antipon is the practical result of a specialist's researches and discoveries, so that reliance can be placed upon its efficacy." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The ANTIPON COMPANY, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

by a head after a most exciting race. The running of the King's filly at Epsom had proved her to be very moderate, and there was no justification for the general plunge on her for the Ormonde Plate. I fancy that Llangwm was the only really smart two-year-old which ran at Chester.

The Chester Vase of £2,100, which stake was run for this year for the first time, cost the fund £1,051, but there was something to show for this outlay, as there was a fair field and a most palpitating finish, which ended in a dead-heat between Sancy and Earlston, and Mr. Bass's horse was certainly unfortunate in not winning outright. Sancy's performance was an excellent one, as he was giving Earlston 13 lb. over and above the ordinary weight-for-age. Dusty Miller was withdrawn from the Two Thousand in order that he might be kept fresh for this race, and he was heavily backed, but he ran miserably, and it is clear that he is an exceedingly moderate colt.

Wool Winder had only Doryanthes to beat in the Dee Stakes, and Colonel Baird's colt won with extreme ease. I expect that Wool Winder will turn out to be the best of the Newmarket horses for the Derby, in spite of all the eulogistic chatter about Galvani, whose admirers overlook the fact that absolutely nothing whatever is known about the present form of Major Loder's colt. As a matter of fact, Galvani's gallops at Newmarket have not been extended beyond one mile and a quarter, and the animals which have accompanied him are very moderate. He goes, however, well enough, and he has improved in appearance during the last month.

Galvani has been left in for the Grand Prix de Paris, the minor forfeit for which stake has just been declared. Major Loder is also represented by Adora, Weathercock, and Baltinglass. Olympian has been withdrawn, Lord Wolverton has accepted with Prince of Orange, and Galleot is left in. Among the French lot are Ouadi Halfa, Myram, Passeur, and Mordant II. (all these colts are engaged in the Epsom Derby), and Madrée, Perspicacité, and Pulchela are the fillies left in for the Grand Prix which are engaged in the Epsom Oaks.

The Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap has excited very little interest this year. The race promised great things when the acceptances were announced, but the fine field which was then a possibility collapsed entirely. I announced many weeks ago that Polymelus would not run, and the miserable performance of Keystone II. in the March Stakes at Newmarket showed that Lord Derby's mare was backward and out of form. Sagamore, who was regarded by many good judges as the pick of the handicap, met with a slight accident, and was scratched. Meadow Rue was withdrawn in favour of Gingal. Velocity's chance was considered by cool-headed critics to be settled decisively by a penalty of 10 lb. Malua, who at the finish was the hope of Newmarket, went "off" a few days before the race was run. Mr. Faber's horse, however, is sure to win a good handicap later on in the season. The way had been nicely cleared therefore for Polar Star, and Mr. Hall Walker's colt won easily from the Duke of Devonshire's colt by Marco out of Lady Villikins, while Dalkeith finished third, and this horse carried 10 lb. extra for winning the Newbury Spring Cup. The creditable victory of Polar Star will make the Coronation Cup at Epsom, a most interesting race, as Mr. Hall Walker's colt will there meet Polymelus and The White Knight, besides Beppo and Troutbeck, and most likely Keystone II., who will then be in better racing condition than when she was beaten at Newmarket. Velocity was giving two stone to Polar Star on Saturday, but at Epsom they will meet at 20 lb.

Next week there will be racing at Hurst Park (two days), Redcar (two days), Wolverhampton (two days), Birmingham (one day), Manchester (three days), and Brighton (two days). There ought to be some good racing at Hurst Park and at Manchester, but the sport at the other meetings is not likely to be of any general interest.

There were originally fifty-eight entries for the Whitsuntide Plate of £1,000 at Hurst Park, a mile race for three-year-olds, but only fourteen have been left in, Galvani being one of the lot. Major Loder may run his Derby colt in order to give him some sort of public trial, as Galvani will have no extra weight to carry. There is another three-year-old race on the second day, also of £1,000, distance six furlongs. Fifteen are left in, out of an original entry of sixty-nine. Traquair may be able to win this stake, in spite of a penalty of 10 lb.

Lord Rosebery ought to win the Laughton Plate at Brighton with Lucian. There is a remarkably large acceptance for this race, thirty-nine having been left in out of fifty, so that the subscribers contribute £128 towards the £200 which is the nominal endowment of the stake.

At Manchester, forty-three two-year-olds are left in for the John o' Gaunt Plate, the list being headed by his Majesty's filly Pearl of the Loch, but Littledale and Cinderello are the best of the public lot. The City Plate has an acceptance of thirty-seven, including Cinderello and Duegna. Twenty-one two-year-olds are left in for the Devonshire Plate, including Attraction. The Red Rose Stakes of £1,000 is a new race for three-year-olds, distance one mile and a quarter. There were fifty-five entries, and thirty-five are left in. Orby will win this race in a canter if he really has any pretensions to Derby form. If Mr. Croker's colt does not start, then All Black may be successful.

Now that the affairs of the C.T.C. are not so urgently pressing, I am able to devote my attention to one or two little matters to which correspondents have called my attention. Amongst these are a certain athletic affair at Birmingham University, the necessity of a second eleven for Surrey, and foot faults at Lawn Tennis.

At Birmingham, where there is a university, there is an undergraduate who, like unto Achilles, is swift of foot. He is also an International hockey player. He plays for England. Now this man has twice won a sprint race at his university, and if he had won it a third time he would have secured the challenge cup for himself. But the committee refused to accept his entry because the sprinter had played hockey for some other club instead of playing for his university. I am told that if the Amateur Athletic Association is appealed to it will be held that as he was the holder of the challenge cup he had, unless he had forfeited his amateur status, an indefeasible right to compete. The battle of Birmingham University, headed by the faithful seven against the A.A.A. would have been a glorious spectacle. I remember when the sports were started saying that I hoped no challenge cups would be won outright, and I advised the men of Birmingham to follow the example of those ancient and humble universities, Oxford and Cambridge. As a general principle I must say that I agree with the proposition that if a man is good enough to represent his university in one branch of sport and refuses to do so, then I would not let him take part in any other branch of sport. There is no other way of fostering and keeping alive the infant university spirit if men go gallivanting about and injuring the prospects of their university. For the same reason I was very annoyed with K. MacLeod, who, if he had properly trained, would certainly have won the sprint for Cambridge against Oxford. But he went on playing international football until less than a fortnight before the sports. When a man is at the university, whatever one it is, the university must come first. Otherwise the university is doing no good to him, nor is he doing any good to the university. If this simple proposition does not come naturally to men they must be taught it, and I do not care what any A.A.A. may say.

It is surely the affair of Surrey if the authorities choose to go to the expensive luxury of running a second eleven. It seems to be a luxury, and nothing more, for the policy of the county appears to be to include men in the first eleven who have not struggled upwards. Last year it was Hobbs, and this

Polished Floors.—"Ronuk," Ltd., are prepared to estimate for the polishing and maintenance of all kinds of floors in Mansions, Hospitals, and Institutions. Write for pamphlet.—Manufacturers of "Ronuk" Polish, "Ronuk," Ltd., Portslade, near Brighton.

year it is Marshal. The laws of cricket permit these things to be, and there is an end of it. At the same time, this policy must take all the life and go out of the second eleven, which can only be regarded as a training-ground for other counties. Surrey cannot complain if the colts wander afield and seek fresh fields and pastures new. A second eleven of Surrey men who would come on for the first team would be a grand scheme. It would help to make county cricket something more than a mere name. But that is not the policy of Surrey.

The foot fault has been freely discussed in lawn-tennis circles owing to certain play in the covered court championships, and there is a lively dispute as to whether or not the linesmen knew their work and did it. The present rule is badly worded. The server must have both feet on the ground immediately before serving. But he need have only one foot on the ground when he serves. At the same time, he may not take a walking or running start. The mischief of the rule is that it lets a man serve from one foot, and I defy any man who has ever done any sprinting not to get at once into his stride if he serves from one foot. Of course, I am not referring to the sprinters who go down on their knees, but to men who start upright, as Hutchings did. You get a lovely start. I think that the rule should be both feet on the ground at the time of serving, and such service to be from a stationary position. I make the suggestion because an old sprinter who used to be very fast off his mark explains to me the perils that arise from having one foot in the air. He would let the man who could nip off from the mark after striking the ball get all the advantage of his pace, if he started with both feet on the ground.

The Lawn-Tennis Association has suffered a great loss in the resignation of the presidency by Mr. Collins. It was his tact that sailed the ship through troubled waters. He has done a tremendous amount of work for the L.T.A., and I read in the *Sportsman* that he might have reconsidered his position if the request had been unanimous, but it was not. In the interest of peace and quietness, and because I know it to be his wish, I have no desire to go further into the matter. I will only say that ambitious gentlemen will some day learn that self-effacement is essential to the success of any one who would undertake the responsible duties that devolve on any president of the L.T.A. Mr. Collins never shirked responsibility, and I know that he has done a very great deal of work to make lawn-tennis a genuine amateur game, which is more than can be said of some of those who have a great deal to say about trade influence.

While heartily congratulating Mr. Jay Gould on his success in the Tennis Championship, one cannot help feeling rather sorry for Mr. Miles, who was short of practice, and yet won as many games as his younger adversary. At the same time, it does seem a matter for regret that our other amateurs have not taken the trouble to train on. Some of them have time and ability, but not perseverance. In professional circles Peter Latham has come into his own again. He has challenged and he has decisively beaten Fairs. The way in which he has recovered his form is remarkable.

The London Athletic Club must be congratulated on having provided a very interesting evening meeting, in the course of which Thompson walked seven miles in the first hour and ran ten miles in the second hour. He was nearly three minutes in hand at the finish, and he was paced by the walkers in a sealed five miles handicap, in which Thames Hare and Hounds men competed, and by Judson, who ran over in the club's ten-mile handicap. Thompson broke into a run as soon as he had finished his walk, and he did a very fine performance. Only a few years ago twelve miles was the limit for motors, and even now country J.P.s think the pace outrageous. They might ponder over Thompson's times.

The Amateur Athletic Association has decided that handicappers may not sit on the committee. The handicapper is paid, and I believe, under the rules, he cannot work for nothing even if he wishes to. This is absurd. There is a good deal to be said in favour of the change. At the same time, I trust the committee will regard the handicappers as being trustworthy persons who can really advise as to the genuineness of athletic performances. Some runners require looking after. I wonder if the committee will be a stepping-stone to the emoluments of the handicapper. Some men make a nice little income by handicapping, and they do their work wonderfully well.

The cricket season has begun in a regular mixture of spring, summer, and winter weather. Hayward has started off with a century, and Lees and Crawford bowling well, Essex were badly beaten. Lancashire look like having a bad time. MacLaren is not back from India, Spooner cannot spare the time, and W. Findlay (bat and wicket-keeper) is secretary at the Oval. At Cambridge there was not a single Etonian, and only one Harrovian in the Freshmen's match. Bottome looks like being a useful and punishing bat. He scored a century, and in college matches he has been making good scores. At Oxford the batting was much stronger than the bowling. If a little of the attention were given to bowling that is given to teaching batting what bowlers we should have! But then a youngster has not the stamina necessary for bowling at an age when he can become quite a useful bat.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Still Apathetic—Old Securities Neglected in Favour of New—Coming £5,000,000 Transvaal Guaranteed Loan—The Post Office and Irish Land Stock—A Public Issue Avoided.

THE Stock Exchange has spent another very quiet week, and the absence of public buying has caused dwindling prices in most departments. With business so slack, it was a relief to members to hear that the House would be granted a holiday next Saturday (Whitsun Eve). That speculative dealings have for the time being almost dried up needs no corroboration, but as I said a week ago, the public is no doubt investing on a fairly large scale, though the bulk of the business is being done outside the House, people subscribing direct for new issues. The Indian Government 3½ per cent. loan for £3,500,000 was understood to have been covered five times. The lists were closed just before the news of the native outbreak at Lahore, though whether that matter would have been sufficient to crab the loan is doubtful. Indian securities were temporarily marked down by the jobbers, but there was practically no selling, and at the end of the week the intelligence came through that, thanks to the prompt measures taken by the Government, including the arrest of the rebel leader, the revolutionary movement had been paralysed.

Following the Indian loan came an issue of £1,000,000 sterling 3½ per cent. bonds of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, the principal and interest of which were unconditionally guaranteed by the Egyptian Government. The issue price was 90, and, allowing for the fact that redemption is to be not later than 1949, the yield is just over 4 per cent. The scrip is not available for trustees, but is gilt-edged for all that, and really, while investors can obtain 4 per cent. with safety and between 4½ and 5 per cent. on sound "second row" gilt-edged securities, there is no reason why they should rush into the speculative arena and load themselves up with stocks and shares of questionable merit. A Cape 4 per cent. loan for £2,000,000 was also part of last week's programme, but as this issue only runs for four years, and represents a renewal of bills that will shortly mature, it is hardly one with which the general public is likely to be much concerned. The probability is that the people who hold the old bills will be quite willing to exchange them for the new scrip. In the near future there is likely to be offered £6,000,000 of stock bearing the guarantee of the Imperial Govern-

ment. Of this £5,000,000 will be on behalf of the Transvaal—which shows that General Botha has made good use of his time while in the Mother Country. The money is required for irrigation works, completing railway development, establishing a land bank, and other purposes. The remaining £1,000,000 for which the British Government will make itself responsible is on behalf of Jamaica, which requires to be put in funds to pay for the repairing of the damage wrought by the recent earthquake at Kingston.

The foregoing is a large enough catalogue of new public loans to go on with, and it is not surprising if the Stock Exchange still complains about the pace. A crumb of comfort for the House last week was the report that no Irish Land issue would be required for the present—£5,000,000 of such stock having been taken up by the Post Office. If the story be true, however, it means that the old Sinking Fund has been utilised to relieving the Post Office of an equivalent amount of Consols, in which case the dealers in Goschens who were hoping to see a good deal of the Government broker in connection with anticipated purchases in the market for Sinking Fund purposes, will not perhaps be altogether pleased. There can be no doubt of the wisdom of such an operation from the Government's point of view. The Post Office would derive needed benefit from the replacing of a 2½ per cent. by a 2¾ per cent. stock at a price that would bring the yield up to nearly 3 per cent., and the Government would also gain by the avoidance of another fresh issue of Irish Land stock upon terms which, in the present condition of the market, would necessarily have to be onerous. Among Internationals, a feature has been the increased demand for Japanese bonds, which received a fillip from the statement in a Paris newspaper that negotiations have been proceeding between the French and Japanese Governments with the object of concluding an agreement by which the two Powers should mutually guarantee the integrity of their possessions in the Far East. This agreement, the terms of which are not yet settled, will be a corollary of the Anglo-Japanese treaty of 1902, and of the treaty which Russia and Japan are negotiating at the present time, and which also has for its object the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Far East.

Home Rails and Public Apathy—Suggested Reasons for the Present Stagnation—Great Northern Prospects—The Anomalous Price of the Deferred.

The Home Railway Market still affords the most glaring example of the present apathy of the public towards Stock Exchange securities. Throughout last week there was hardly a sign of life anywhere, if I except a continued modest inquiry for one or two preferred ordinary issues—particularly Caledonian Preferred—and the tendency has again been for prices to drift. Movements may be gathered from the following table:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	May 4, 1907.	May 11. 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p c. Pref.	80	72⅞	71⅞	72	+ ⅛
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	28½	27⅞	− ⅝
Central London	96½	82½	76	73	−3
City and S. London	47½	39	42	42	—
Furness	69½	61⅝	61½	61½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅝	37½	35	33½	−1½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅞	69	62	62	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	28	26½	−1½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	14⅛	13⅞	− ⅛
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	73	72½	− ½
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅞	99	98	−1
Do. Def.	48⅞	39½	41½	40½	− ½
Great Western	144	122⅝	124½	123½	−1
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	47½	47½	− ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	101½	100	−1½
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	96½	95½	− ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	13⅜	13⅜	− ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	81	80	−1
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	50	50	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	146½	145½	−1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅛	48½	47½	−1
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	69	46½	46	− ½
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	14	14	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	64½	63⅜	− ⅛
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	63½	62½	−1
North British 3 p c. Pref.	78⅛	72⅜	70⅜	70½	− ⅛
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	34½	34	− ½
North Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	137⅜	137½	− ⅛
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96½	99	99	—
South-Eastern "A"	56⅜	44½	40	40½	+ ½

There seems a good deal of topsy-turvyism about the existing state of the market, for while traffic returns could scarcely be more brilliant than of late, and the Money Market has taken a decided turn for the better, the Railway Market goes on steadily drooping. It is not to be wondered at in these circumstances if people are puzzled and prospective buyers are deterred from entering the market for fear that something bad is about to happen. I have heard a good deal of irresponsible talk for the last year about the public being frightened away from home securities for fear of predatory legislation on the part of the present Government. That argument, however, if it ever had any plausibility, possesses less than ever now, for the public not only neglects domestic securities, but is doing next to nothing in any department of the Stock Exchange. Probably we get nearer the root of the matter when we remember first, the continued phenomenal activity of trade and industry which is locking up big amounts of capital that in quieter times would find their way to Throgmorton-street, and, second, the bargains that investors have lately been offered amongst new securities. A fresh element during the last two days telling against the market has been the revival of labour fears caused by Sunday's Hyde Park demonstration held under the auspices of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. This matter appears to be given an exaggerated importance by the market, particularly when it is borne in mind what a small proportion the membership of the Society bears to the total number of railway men employed in the country; but the Stock Exchange is in the mind just now to make the worst of everything.

These factors, while effective for the time being in checking "bull" activity, cannot do away with the solid merits of home rails, judged by earnings and dividend prospects. When business in the House improves, as it is bound to do sooner or later, I cannot, for instance, think that speculators will continue to overlook such a likely stock as Great Northern deferred. Many of my readers are of the same opinion, as witness the following letter which has reached me from a Nottingham correspondent:—

Great Northern Deferred.

Sir,—As an investor I am quite at a loss to understand on what basis the market values the above at £41½, with four months' dividend in the price at that. The dividend for 1906 was £1¾ per cent. The Grantham disaster cost, so the Chairman stated, £30,000, and £5,000 extra was carried forward. These two items represent £35,000, and it only requires £42,000 to pay ½ per cent. on deferred. The traffics for eighteen weeks to (May 4) show £38,600 increase. Allowing for under-publication, and with nine weeks of this half-year still to come, the gross increase should approximate £70,000 at the end of June. Surely the company will make £7,000 extra profit out of all this (to say nothing of next half-year).

I notice London and South-Western Deferred is quoted at about £48, with only £10,000 increase in seventeen weeks, against Great Northern Railway's £37,500. Surely immediate prospects are greatly in favour of York Deferred at £41½. The quotations of Home Rails are very misleading, and I find from experience I cannot get a decent line of the stocks at Official List prices.

With the main contentions of my correspondent I am in full agreement. In regard to his statement about the Grantham accident, it is true that the chairman estimated the cost to the company at £30,000, but only £17,000 was specially allocated as compensation last year. However, allowing for the transfer of £10,000 to contingency fund, £7,500 additional subscription to superannuation fund, and the £5,000 increase in the balance forward, the total special items figuring in last year's accounts amounted to £39,500, which strengthens instead of weakens my correspondent's argument. An estimated gross increase for the half-year of £70,000 may be rather liberal, but a net gain of £7,000 is moderate enough, and of course only £2,500 is needed (assuming that £39,500 will be saved on special outlays) to show another ½ per cent. on the deferred. On the basis of a 2¼ per cent. dividend, York deferred could rise to 45, and still give a return of 5 per cent.

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

Even assuming that only 2 per cent. be paid in respect of the current year—an estimate which surely makes lavish allowance for increased cost of coal and materials and appropriations for betterments—York deferred would still give a return of 5 per cent. to those who purchased at the current price. My correspondent compares the quotation for York deferred with that of South-Western deferred, in order to demonstrate the relative cheapness of the former. But the anomaly becomes much more striking when Yorks are pitted against South-Eastern "A." South-Western deferred is a steady dividend-payer, the stock is well held, and if the immediate yield on the basis of the 1906 dividend is only 3½ per cent., there are "prospects" connected with the development of Southampton Port. Besides, last year was a bad one for the company, owing to the accident at Salisbury, which cost £30,000, equal to ¼ per cent. upon the deferred. Now as regards Dover "A." The stock at present gets nothing, it has in fact been without any dividend since 1899, and before it begins to participate another £20,000 net revenue is required to make up the interest on the preferred stock to its full rate of 6 per cent. It takes, in round figures, £40,000 to pay 1 per cent. on South-Eastern deferred, so that altogether £60,000 more is required in net before the stock gets even that beggarly rate. Yet Doras at the time of writing stand at 40½, or within ¾ of the price of Great Northern deferred. Why holders of the former, in face of these facts, should rest satisfied is to me incomprehensible.

GRAND TRUNKS STEADY WITH A STRONG APPEARANCE—CANADIAN PACIFICS—HOW THE SYSTEM HAS DEVELOPED—FOREIGN RAILS AND NEW CAPITAL DEMANDS—LEOPOLDINA PROSPECTS—BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC—WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN.

Allowing for the unsettled tendency of American Rails and the heaviness of markets generally, the fact that Grand Trunk stocks last week managed to keep steady is encouraging and the best indication that could be afforded of the latent strength of the market. The dealers continue to find their estimates of traffics pleasantly falsified; last week's gain of £28,000, for instance, was some £5,000 higher than speculators had gone for. I am inclined to look for an early turn upward in Trunk issues. The ordinary will no doubt move to some extent in sympathy with the senior issues, but those who are thinking of buying to take up—which is the most desirable course—will get value, not only prospective, but already proved, by purchasing the third preference. Canadian Pacifics have, as usual, felt the draught from the Yankee Market, though, in view of the steady absorption of stock by real investors in this country, Canadas are probably becoming gradually less subject to the baneful influences of Wall-street. It is a welcome sign of the times as indicating the growing demand for the company's shares on behalf of small investors, that it has been decided to abolish the minimum charge of 2s. 6d. transmission fee. Shares may now be sent into the company's office at 62-65, Charing Cross, for remittance to New York for transference into the buyers' names at a charge of 2d. per share. The insurance against loss of certificates, for which New York used to charge 2s. 6d. per cent. of value for the single trip from New York to London, the company now undertakes to cover, for both the outward and return journeys, for 1s. 6d. per cent., and the single journey for 1s. per cent.

Some interesting facts bearing upon the development of the Canadian Pacific system have just come to light by the publication of a letter from Sir T. Shaughnessy to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The former's statement is likely to have an important effect in connection with the outcry that arose, as an outcome of the recent tremendous increase in the amount of traffic requiring to be handled, about the alleged shortcomings of the Canadian Railways. Sir Thomas states that at the end of 1901 the Canadian Pacific had 732 locomotives and 22,475 freight cars. At the end of 1906, the company had 1,204 locomotives and 37,467 freight cars, so that in these five years there was an increase of 472 locomotives and 14,994 freight cars, or about 70 per cent. in each case without taking into account the fact that each locomotive and each car was of much greater capacity than those previously in service. Altogether, the company during those five years put back into the property cash to the large amount of $72,000,000, an average of over $14,000,000 per annum, or about two and a half times the sum that they had received during the same period in dividends on their shares. Moreover, the company has on order to-day rolling stock equipment to the value of $11,808,751, and it is hoped to have it all in service before the autumn business commences to move. Sir Thomas, after recounting these facts, states that there is no disposition on the part of the Canadian Pacific to shirk its responsibilities or to fill its coffers to the neglect of the country, a remark that is surely well based.

The malady of new issues seems common to all markets, and the Foreign Railway department is no exception. United Railways of the Havana have recently been disturbed by the fresh financing connected with the absorption of the Havana Central, though the stock has since made a fair recovery; and as there is a reasonable prospect of their getting 7 per cent. next October, making 6 per cent. for the year, Havanas do not seem extravagantly valued. The Antofagasta ordinary stocks have been affected by the proposal to create another £1,500,000 Five per Cent. Debenture stock, and further amounts not exceeding £2,000 per mile of additional line acquired or constructed, and Leopoldina ordinary has also been under the shadow of an impending new capital announcement. This latter fear, coupled with the fact that some speculators had previously bought on anticipations—not realised—of an advance in the dividend, caused a sharp fall in the company's stock. According to the report for 1906, there was an increase of £56,700 in gross receipts, bringing the total up to £1,182,800, but as working expenses (exclusive of the cost of repairs in connection with the damage done to the line by floods) advanced by £4,400, the gain in net receipts from traffic was only £9,300. Federal and State guarantees, however, brought in £17,500 more. The Company had again had to transfer £50,000 to reserve for redemption of debenture stock, while £45,000, on top of £35,000 a year ago, has been deducted for flood damage repairs.

The big increase in working expenses is an unsatisfactory feature of the report, though not surprising in view of the recent experience of South American railways generally. Otherwise the report is encouraging enough. The Board states that it has under consideration proposals to improve the accommodation afforded by the railway and to extend the system, while arrangements with the Government of Minas are also being considered to extend the date at which certain of the lines revert to the State from 1950 to 1999. As regards the current year's outlook, the Company, thanks largely to the fact that the comparison is with the flood period of 1906, shows the handsome gross increase for four months of £127,000, while traffic prospects, according to the report, are bright; the coffee crop in the Company's district is larger, while an increase in sugar and cereal traffic is also expected. Further, assuming there be no more floods, the company already may be said to have £45,000 in hand towards an increase in the dividend, and it only takes £55,000 to give Leopoldina another 1 per cent. For these reasons the stock undoubtedly has excellent speculative possibilities, and the present dulness connected with the forthcoming capital emission ought to be the buyer's opportunity.

A matter of great interest for the Argentine Railway market, though in the present condition of the House it has passed almost unheeded, is the news that a Government decree has been issued approving the agreement whereby the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company leases for a term of twenty years the Argentine Great Western, and also the Transandine Railway, which at present is operated by the Western. Negotiations to this end were commenced last autumn, and, in view of the inordinate delay experienced by the Rosario in getting its amalgamation with the old Central Argen-

tine ratified, the authorities this time may be said to have acted with comparative promptness. At the same time, the present agreement differs from that of the Rosario-Central, in that it is not an absorption, but only a working arrangement between the two systems, devised, as the Pacific chairman has put it, "for the improvement of the joint service to the benefit of ourselves and the public." The Buenos Ayres and Pacific has during the last few years worked wonders in strengthening and consolidating its system: whereas the original line, which the company was formed to work in 1882, had a length of 685 miles, the company will now, through the building of extensions, the acquirement of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western, and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railways, and the agreement just entered into with the Great Western, control some 2,000 miles of line in one of the richest parts of the country. Although full details are not yet to hand, there is every reason to expect that the latest contract entered into will be beneficial to both parties, as it removes all danger of rate cutting, and should permit of a more economical working of the combined systems. My usual table follows:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	May. 4, 1907.	May 11, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	183	180	-3
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25⅛	31⅜	31¼	- ⅛
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105¼	101½	100½	100½	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114⅜	118½	118½	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	110¼	110¼	—
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 11/16	72¾	72	- ¾
Mexican	50⅜	22¼	47	47	—
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144½	118⅞	142⅜	142½	- ½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93½	49½	91⅞	91½	- ½
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11⅜	11⅜	- 1/16
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	117	116½	- ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90¼	78½	85	83½	-1½
Do. First Incomes	30	18	24	22½	-1½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	91	91	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65½	80	80	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61¾	37½	55½	55	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	23	23	—
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	158	158	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	119	119	—
Antofagasta Def.	180¼	162	143	142	-1
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14½	15	15	—
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	109	109	—
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	78	77½	- ½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	115½	114⅜	- ⅜
Do. and Rosario	120¾	111	103	101½	-1⅜
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	122⅜	121½	-1
Do. Western	138¾	123½	121½	120½	- ½
East Argentine	120	87	119½	119½	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	67½	66½	-1
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108½	85	88½	87½	-1
Entre Rios First Pref.	98	85	91½	91½	- ½
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	11⅜	11¼	- 1/16
Leopoldina	86½	69½	76¾	74½	-2½
San Paulo	214⅞	199½	214	217	+3
Central Uruguay	92½	82	91½	91½	—
Costa Rica	29 11/16	25	29½	29⅜	—
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	73	72	-1
Colombian Nat. Second Debs.	88½	76⅜	77	74	-3
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¼	80xd	80xd	—
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	49	49	—
Cuban Central	7 11/16	5⅝	6⅜	6 5/16	-1 1/16
United of Havana	193	105⅜	102½	101½	-1
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12½	12⅜	- ⅛
Mashonaland Debs. (2nd issue)	94⅜	87⅜	87½	89½	+2
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	81⅜	76	76xd	76xd	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19½	21½	21½	—

AMERICANS AND THE LATEST HARRIMAN SURPRISE—BIG NEW CAPITAL ISSUES BY THE UNION AND SOUTHERN PACIFIC—A BEARISH GOVERNMENT CROP REPORT—NEW YORK CENTRAL—HOW THE ENORMOUS INCREASE IN EXPENSES WAS ARRIVED AT.

The event of the week in the American market has been the big new capital announcement on behalf of the Pacific roads. According to an official notification made last Thursday, the Union Pacific is to offer $75,000,000 Four per Cent. bonds at 90, convertible into common stock at 175 at any time between three and five years, and the Southern Pacific will offer to stockholders $36,000,000 of preferred stock at par to the extent of 15 per cent. of their holdings. The news came upon Wall Street like a thunderclap, and was responsible for a sharp break in Pacific issues. Had Mr. Harriman forgone for once his penchant for the dramatic and broken the news to Wall Street more gently—instead of allowing all rumours of additional capital raising to be semi-officially denied—he would not have been subjected to the torrent of criticism—much of it unreasoned and unjust—which his action produced. Mr. Harriman, in fact, has a financial past, and if he has any desire to live it down he is going the wrong way to work by seeming in any way to avoid taking the public, and more particularly the shareholders in his companies, into his confidence.

So far as the issues themselves are concerned, Mr. Harriman, in his statement to the New York reporters, who seem to be eternally dogging the footsteps of the Wall-Street magnates, had one or two remarks to make which go far to justify the new proposals. He estimates the Union Pacific's net earnings for the current financial year, after payment of taxes, at $32,465,000, compared with $30,318,000 for the preceding year, and the receipts from investments at $12,323,000, against $10,330,000. These results would give a surplus after the payment of dividends of $12,000,000. The Southern Pacific's surplus, after payment of the full year's dividend at 5 per cent., is figured out at $13,106,000. Mr. Harriman also stated that 1,628 miles of the Union Pacific system are not mortgaged, and that the company has $243,000,000 of free assets. Judging from the position as thus set forth the maintenance of dividends does not appear to be seriously prejudiced by the new capital proposals, and the respective boards, evidently as an intimation to Wall Street that Union Pacific and Southern Pacific common stocks are now definitely on a 10 per cent. and 5 per cent. basis respectively, have commenced to distribute the dividends quarterly.

Apart from the excitement in Pacific stocks, there was practically no feature of outstanding interest in the American Market last week. The persistent circulation of unfavourable crop reports kept alive a "bearish" sentiment, though trading was again on a narrow scale. How prices have moved may be seen from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 4, 1907.	May 11, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	98	97⅛	- ⅛
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	99½	99	- ½
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅝	103	100⅝	-2⅜
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93¾	92	92	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	43⅜	42	-1⅜
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	141½	137	-4½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	30	29½	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅞	78	77½	- ½
Erie	52⅞	40	25½	24¼	-1¼
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	58	57½	- ½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅞	41	40½	- ½
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	152	149	-3
Louisville	160⅜	142¾	123½	120½	-3
Missouri, Kansas	45⅝	31 1/16	38⅜	37½	-1½
New York Central	159½	130⅜	122	117½	-4½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57 1/16	45½	39	37½	-1½
Norfolk and Western	100⅞	87½	81	79	-2
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96¼	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	141	137	-4
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63⅜	66	64½	-1½
Reading ($50)	85⅛	59⅞	58½	55	-3½
Southern	43⅞	33	22⅜	21½	-1½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	70	68	-2
Southern Pacific	99 7/16	64⅜	88½	86⅜	-2½
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	152⅞	147⅞	-5
U.S. Steel	52½	33⅞	38⅜	37½	- ⅞
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅛	105	104½	- ½

The monthly report of the United States Department of Agriculture, published last Friday, practically confirmed the pessimistic advices obtained through private channels. The area of winter wheat remaining under cultivation on the 1st inst. was 28,132,000 acres, compared with 29,623,000 acres last year, while the general average condition was 82.9 per cent., which compared with 89.9 last month and 91 last year. On this basis the total yield of winter wheat works out at 405,101,000 bushels, as compared with an actual yield last year of 492,888,000 bushels, so that, according to the indications at the beginning of the month, this year's harvest will show a decrease of 87,787,000 bushels. The publication of the figures produced considerable excitement on the Chicago grain market, and prices advanced to record figures for the season, while the reflex action of this movement was seen at New York by a general decline in stocks. It is not surprising that the crop news should seriously disturb the Stock Exchange, coming as it does at a time when most of the barometers are pointing to a contraction in the country's trade and industry,

"FINANCE."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

and when, owing to the successful demands of railroad employees for higher wages and shorter hours and the legislation recently enacted by the various States for a limitation of passenger fares to a maximum of two cents per mile, the proportion of net to gross earnings should exhibit a serious decline. The New York Central's revenue statement for March, upon which I commented a week ago, is still taken as a text by Wall Street when discussing the outlook. Of the increase of $2,755,000 in operating expenses for the month, higher wages accounted for $800,000, while $1,500,000 was paid out to additional forces of men employed chiefly on account of the reduction in hours of labour, together with the high rate of pay conceded at the beginning of the year. The balance of the increase — namely, $450,000—was attributable to the higher cost of fuel. Altogether, with the general earning outlook so impaired, and with the new capital output by the railroads again working up to a pitch that is surely taxing the resources of the finance houses, it would be unwise to look for any sustained rally in Americans yet awhile.

RATHER MORE BUSINESS IN THE KAFFIR MARKET—THE STRIKE OF WHITE MINERS ON THE RAND, AND THE QUESTION OF EFFICIENCY—INFLUENTIAL MINING DEPUTATION TO GENERAL BOTHA—TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT FOR APRIL—NATIVE LABOUR POSITION—THE RANDFONTEIN AGITATION.

Some improvement as regards the volume of business transacted in the Kaffir Market has been noticeable during the past week, but the effect upon prices has not been of a character calculated to give much pleasure to holders of that class of security. Having regard, however, to the nature of the chief influence upon the tone of this market of late, those who are hopefully awaiting a steady appreciation in values have something to be thankful for, in that quotations, on balance, have not changed materially for the worse in the period under review. On the first news as to the strike of white miners on the Rand, the tone not unnaturally became depressed, but though the next few cables showed the movement to be spreading, no serious relapse in share values occurred, while on the receipt of rather better news the market was by no means slow to show an improved tendency. The course of prices during the past week has, in fact, afforded further evidence of the stability of this market and of the disinclination of the once very venturesome and successful "bear" element to remain uncovered for any time.

The strike of white miners is reported to be due to the Gold Fields group reducing the wages of its employees below the standard paid by the other groups and endeavouring to get three drills worked in the place of two. The men of a dozen of the producing mines are on strike, but other workers have been found to take their places, and gold production is still proceeding at these properties. Attempts on the part of the strikers to get the men at other mines to join them have failed in some cases, but it is too early to say that the trouble is not likely to assume larger proportions. It is stated, however, that in the Transvaal there is little public sympathy with the movement, the strikers' pay having averaged £2 per shift, and the annual wages earned by the machine men being from £450 to £700. The representatives of the various mining groups regard the present depressed times as a favourable opportunity to settle the thorny question of white labour and enabling the proportion of white to coloured labour to be reduced to suitable economic limits. For some time past there has been dissatisfaction in regard to the efficiency of the white miners on the Rand, and the strike is the outcome of the measures taken with a view to getting more work done for the high rate of wages paid by the mining companies. Employers on the Witwatersrand pay the highest wages of any mining community, but the efficiency, it is stated, is the lowest on record, excepting, perhaps, that of India. At the recent meeting of Rand Mines, the chairman had to complain that, so far from matters having improved during the last twelve months compared with 1905, there had been a decrease in efficiency. Comparing the skilled labour force of the Rand Mines group, he stated that the efficiency of the skilled white men had been reduced by 3½ per cent. in 1906, or, in other words, it had been necessary to employ 104 more skilled men to do the work than would have been required in 1905. On the other hand, the average monthly wage was £29 19s. 10d. in 1906 as against £29 7s. 8d. in 1905. Thus the work of the skilled men on the properties of this group cost in all £57,081 more than the same amount of work would have cost in 1905, an increase of 5.8 per cent. It is not surprising that the managements are unwilling for this state of things to continue. It is not the rate of wages paid that is complained of—the high cost of living on the Rand compared with that in other mining centres calling for a higher scale of pay—but what the employers do claim is that, in return for every sovereign they pay in wages, they are entitled to have twenty shillings' worth of work done. The other phase of the labour question—the matter of the retention of the Chinese or their replacement—has been the subject of an important address to General Botha during the past week. Lord Harris introduced to the Premier of the Transvaal a deputation of representatives of the leading Rand groups, but General Botha did not add anything to what he had already said in regard to the Government's attitude towards the mining industry. He assured the deputation that as soon as the Transvaal Parliament reassembled a definite statement would be made, and, if possible, he would endeavour to make a statement on this important matter before then.

Market men anticipated that the figures of the Transvaal gold production for the past month would make a comparatively good showing, and they have not been disappointed. The return shows that last month's output was only 1,478 oz. less than that for March, and this must be considered satisfactory, having regard to the fact that April was one day shorter than March. If the daily production is worked out, it will be seen that the April average is above that for the preceding month. The following table gives the monthly yields in fine ounces:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638	537,638
February	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668	493,542
March	217,465	308,242	399,823	443,723	538 497
April	227,871	305,946	399.166	439,243	537,019
May	234,125	314,480	416,395	461,202	—
June	238,320	308,219	412,317	475,975	—
July	251,643	307,840	419,505	491,793	—
August	271,918	312,277	428,581	509,115	—
September	276,197	312,286	416,487	505,111	—
October	284,544	325,625	415,527	540.609	—
November	279,813	336,167	424,757	533,373	—
December	286,061	362,264	431,594	550,167	—
Total	2,963,749	3,776,621*	4,897,221	5,786,617	2,106,696

* Includes 7,949 oz. or £33,766 not declared in year.

The monthly gold production is given in sterling in the subjoined table:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739	2,283,741
February	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731,664	2 096 434
March	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815	2,287,391
April	967,936	1,209,576	1,695,550	1,865,785	2,281,110
May	994.505	1,335,826	1,768,734	1,959,062	—
June	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	2,021,813	—
July	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	2,039,004	—
August	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	2,162,583	—
September	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	2,145,575	—
October	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	2,296,371	—
November	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804.253	2 265,625	—
December	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295	2,356,961	—
Totals	12,589,247	16,054,909	20,802,074	24,579,987	8,948,676

As regards the individual results, the satisfactory feature is to be noted that all the East Rand subsidiaries —the Angelo, Cason, Driefontein, and New Comet—all show improved profits, the Cason's figures being a record for that mine. The Driefontein's profit is better by as much as £3,000, and the Angelo's earnings are

nearly £2,000 higher, although less ore was treated and fewer ounces were recovered than in March. On the other hand, the latest return from the Robinson Deep is disappointing, the profit showing a drop of over £9,000 on the month. This is officially stated to be due to "decreased value of ore from some of the richer stopes." The individual returns for the last three months are given in the subjoined table:—

Company.	February.		March.		April.	
	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £
Angelo	10,311	16,987	14,125	28,417	13,890	30,110
Bonanza	2,037	2,528	2,053	2,476	2,326	3,743
Casou	16,009	28,969	18,160	36,155	18,260	39,910
City and Suburban	9,262	14,342	10,091	16,658	9,985	16,655
Comet, New	6,790	4,991	7,842	6,863	7,842	6 894
Consolidated Langlaagte	6,700	7,585	7,238	8,479	7,413	9,061
Consolidated Main Reef	6,016	7,448	6,277	7,420	6,358	7,459
Crown Deep	12,956	24,100	14,356	26,600	14,660	27,600
Crown Reef	10 316	22,008	10,814	22 507	10,355	22,000
Driefontein	7,663	4,170	7,698	6,310	8,320	9,369
Durban-Roodepoort	4,203	5,950	4,598	5,960	4,352	—
Do. Deep	3,633	1,750	4,093	2,200	4,091	2,550
Ferreira	12 603	30,507	12,900	30,184	13,142	30,043
Ferreira Deep	12,813	32,150	13,442	34,550	13,189	33 150
French Rand	5,223	3,526	6,483	5,009	6,515	5,096
Geldenhuis Estate	6.191	12,745	6,581	13,957	6,629	14,028
Geldenhuis Deep	9,732	13,300	10,630	13,700	10,760	13,859
Ginsberg	2,531	2,490	2,679	2 443	2,696	2,118
Glencairn	4,844	6,116	5,027	6,069	4,866	5,609
Glen Deep	6,409	8,400	7,360	9,800	7,492	10,500
Glynn's Lydenburg	1,458	3,322	1,619	3,673	1,523	3,005
Goch, New	6,505	4,878	6,658	5,019	6,921	7,324
Heriot, New	3,904	5,006	3,897	4,727	3,997	5,121
Jubilee	1,718	3 322	1,855	—	1,653	—
Jumpers	5,330	6,090	5,881	7,086	5,968	7,003
Jumpers Deep	6,102	3,700	6,683	4,000	6,760	4,500
Kleinfontein, New	11,910	17,491	13,069	20 002	12,925	20,030
Knight's (Witwatersrand)	10,085	16,678	10,635	16,796	10,860	16,815
Knight's Deep	10,490	14,939	11,725	18.317	11,513	18,263
Lancaster	4,229	4,574	4,208	3,189	4,210	2,937
Lancaster West	2,143	1,753	2,340	2,082	2,270	1,856
Langlaagte Deep	10,314	10,200	10,960	10,550	11,174	10,250
Langlaagte Estate	9,250	13,800	10,031	16,000	10,049	14,000
Luipaard's Vlei	4,619	6,485	5,268	7,318	4,884	6,509
May Consolidated	5,666	11,656	5,818	11,771	5,672	12,041
Meyer & Charlton	5,434	10,470	5,902	11,818	5,820	11,593
Modderfontein, New	6,370	7,834	8,163	9,959	8,571	11,105
New Unified	2,535	1,148	2,646	1,333	2,751	1,831
Nigel	3,702	5,935	4,126	6,611	4.105	6,388
Nigel Deep	1,833	1,043	1,933	1,363	2,086	2,152
North Randfontein	5,370	5,500	6,317	7,200	6,034	7,400
Nourse Mines	11,745	16 450	12,741	17,800	12,933	18,150
Porges Randfontein	5,876	8,000	6,003	7,500	6,173	8,700
Primrose, New	6,997	13,714	7,295	13,956	7,914	14.810
Princess	3,463	3,471	3,844	4,721	3,564	3,500
Rietfontein, New	9,005	15,328	9,678	17,533	9,648	17,306
Robinson	21,514	60,461	22,259	60,424	22,612	60,424
Robinson Central Deep	10,577	30,208	11,287	31,103	11,217	31,175
Robinson Deep	18,513	36,014	42,919	44 032	18,802	34,966
Robinson Randfontein	5,595	5,800	6,008	6 800	5,766	5,600
Roodepoort Central Deep	2,787	2,240	3,243	3,693	3,335	3,255
Roodepoort United	4,872	5,331	5,588	7,328	5,853	6,838
Rose Deep	9,291	11,000	10,3 9	13,000	10,669	13,050
Salisbury	1,720	1 870	1.840	1,850	1,720	1,225
Sheba	2,332	1,720	2,345	—	2,455	—
Simmer East	10,053	7,040	10.633	5,316	10,441	5,432
Simmer & Jack	21,100	39,542	23,143	43 852	23,741	46,308
South Randfontein	5,248	5,100	5,723	6,600	6,002	6,900
Transvaal G. M. Estates	4,048	5,541	4 642	7,761	4 567	6 482
Treasury	2,592	4 0	2 931	1.003	2,877	703
Van Ryn	8,646	16,343	9,975	19,131	9,914	19 503
Village Deep	7,367	4,765	8,464	5,250	7,199	1,304
Village Main Reef	14,552	24 008	15,578	25,007	15,030	25 007
Vogelstruis E-tates	—	—	2,457	—	2,624	—
West Rand Central	995	430	909	475	906	425
Windsor	1 330	*106	1,424	2	1,416	3
Witwatersrand Deep	11,393	19,877	12,358	20,882	12,393	20,892
Worcester	1,019	—	1,063	—	1,175	—
Wolhuter	5,498	3,300	5,576	4,020	5,907	4,605

* Loss.

The native labour statistics for April are less satisfactory than for some months past, although 983 additional workers were obtained on balance, the returns for the earlier months of the year having shown a larger net gain. However, it was not to be expected that natives would continue to flock in at the recent rate. The supply of this class of labour usually improves during the first and last quarters of the year, and it will only be in the usual order of things if the number recruited falls off during the next few months. At the present time the working mines on the Rand which are members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have as many unskilled labourers as they can employ, and as the chairman of the Association observed at the annual meeting held last month, this condition of things is not unprecedented, though it is not usual. It is a condition likely to recur from time to time with any fluctuating supply of labour, which militates against the extension of working facilities for the very reason that the labour is not permanent. A similar condition of affairs was experienced in April, 1905; then there were more natives than could be found work for, but four or five months later many mines were short of labour. Similarly, it is not impossible that when the large numbers of natives who have been contracting themselves during the last few months begin to go home, a shortage of labour will again be felt, unless, indeed, a failure of harvests in one or several districts forces out a sufficiently large number of natives to make good the wastage. I append my usual monthly table of Kaffir prices showing the movement on the period:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	April 13, 1907.	May 11, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Angelo	5 1/16	2 1/4	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/4
Anglo-French	2 3/4	1 7/8	1 13/16	1 15/16	– 1/16
Apex	6 3/4	2 3/4	3 7/8	3 7/8	– 1/8
Boksburg	1 3/16	3/16	3/8	9/16	– 3/16
Cinderella Deep	2 3/4	1 3/8	2 1/4	1 1/4	– 1/4
City and Suburban (£4)	5 1/4	3 3/8	3 3/8	3 1/16	– 5/16
Consolidated Goldfields	6 3/8	3	4 13/16	4 5/16	– 1/2
Consolidated Main Reef	1 3/8	1/2	15/16	15/16	– 1/16
Crown Deep	13 1/2	10 1/4	12	11 3/4	– 1/4
Crown Reef	13	7 1/2	8 1/4	8 3/8	– 1/8
De Beers Pref. (£2 10s.)	18 1/2	16 3/4	17 1/4	18 1/2	+ 1 1/4
,, ,, Def. (£2 10s.)	24 3/8	16 3/8	26 3/8	26 3/8	+ 1
Driefontein	3 1/16	1 1/2	1 15/16	1 13/16	– 1/16
Durban Roodepoort	1	2 3/8	2 1/2	2	– 1/2
East Rand Proprietary	7 3/16	3 1/8	4 1/16	4 7/16	– 1/16
Ferreira	20 1/2	17 1/2	18 3/4	19	+ 1/4
Ferreira Deep	5 5/8	4 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	– 1/8
Geduld	5 1/16	1 7/8	2	1 7/8	– 1/8
Geldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	3 3/8	2 15/16	2 13/16	– 1/8
General Mining and Finance	2 9/16	1 3/8	1 7/16	1 1/2	– 1/16
Goerz A. & Co.	3 3/8	1 1/8	1 1/2	1 3/8	– 1/8
Henderson's Transvaal	16/3	7/–	9/9	9/3	– /6
Jagersfontein Def.	10 1/4	7 7/8	9 1/4	9 1/4	– 1/4
Johannesburg Con. Inv't	1 3/8	1	1 1/4	1 5/16	– 3/16
Jubilee	3 1/4	1 7/8	1 7/8	1 15/16	+ 1/16
Jupiter	2 1/8	7/8	15/16	15/16	– 1/16
Knight's	4 1/2	2 5/16	3 3/8	3 1/2	– 1/4
Langlaagte Estate	3	2 3/8	2 3/8	2 7/16	– 1/16
May Consolidated	3 5/16	2 1/16	2 3/8	2 1/4	– 1/8
Meyer and Charlton	4 1/4	3 3/4	4 1/8	3 7/8	– 1/4
New African	1 3/8	3/4	1	7/8	– 1/8
New Comet	3	1 3/8	1 1/2	1 1/2	+ 1/8
New Goch	2 3/8	1 3/4	1 1/2	1	– 1/2
New Heriot	4 1/2	2 3/8	3 3/4	3 1/2	– 1/4
New Kleinfontein	1 3/8	1 3/8	2 1/16	1 3/4	– 5/16
New Modderfontein (£1)	8 1/2	4 1/16	6 3/4	6 5/8	– 1/16
New Primrose	3 1/2	2 3/8	2 7/8	2 3/4	– 1/8
Nigel	3 3/4	2 3/8	2 5/8	2 7/8	– 1/8
Oceana Consolidated	1 3/8	1/2	19/6	17/3	– 2/3
Premier Dia'md Def. (2s. 6d.)	19 1/4	8	13 1/4	12 3/4	– 1/2
Randfontein Estate	2 1/8	1 1/8	1 3/4	1 11/16	– 1/16
,, North	1 15/16	1 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
,, Porges	1 15/16	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	– 1/8
,, Robinson	1 1/2	15/16	1 1/8	1 1/16	– 1/16
,, South	1 1/2	1	1 1/4	1 1/4	—
Rand Mines (5s. sh.)	7 15/16	5 3/8	6 13/16	6 11/16	– 1/8
Robinson (£5)	8 3/4	6 7/8	8 1/2	8 3/8	– 1/8
Robinson Central Deep	6 3/8	4 3/4	5 3/8	5 1/4	– 1/8
Robinson Deep	5 9/16	4 5/16	5 1/2	4 13/16	– 11/16
Roodepoort United	2 3/8	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	– 1/4
South African Gold Mines	6	1 5/8	2	1 1/4	– 1/4
South African Gold Trust	4 3/8	1 3/4	2 1/4	2 3/16	– 3/16
Simmer and Jack	1 1/16	1 1/4	1 5/16	1 1/4	– 1/16
Transvaal Consd. Land	2 1/16	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	– 1/16
Transvaal Est. and Dev mt.	21/3	9/6	13/9	13/3	– /6
Transvaal Goldfields	1 1/8	15/16	1	15/16	– 1/16
Treasury	2 1/4	25/16	7/8	1 1/16	– 3/16
Van Ryn	3 3/8	2 3/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
Village Deep	3 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/4	1 7/8	– 3/8
Village Main Reef	4 3/8	3 1/2	3 3/4	3 1/2	– 1/4
Welgedacht	6	2 5/8	3 3/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/8	2 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
Wolhuter	3 3/4	2 1/8	2 1/16	1 15/16	– 1/8

The formation in London of a Shareholders' Committee and the passing of resolutions by that body in regard to the cost of management of the Randfontein Companies and the non-payment of cash dividends by the parent undertaking have drawn a lengthy statement from the board of the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company in Johannesburg. The full text of the cable will be found elsewhere in this issue, from which it will be seen that the directors plainly state that they will not allow any interference with their policy, "nor will they submit to any dictation from an irresponsible coterie of shareholders who know absolutely nothing of the conditions of things prevailing here." The policy of the management seems sound enough and it is pretty evident that energy is now being shown in connection with the development of the extensive property of the companies comprising this group, but it is unfortunate that the board couched the reply to its critics in such strong terms, as the attitude taken up is, to my mind, calculated rather to swell the ranks of the dissentients than otherwise.

Westralians Quiet and Generally Dull, but Sons of Gwalia Further Improve on News as to Developments.

Operations in the Westralian market have been on a small scale during the past week, and the general

(*Continued on page* 1221.)

· TRUTH ·

SPECIAL INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT.

No. 1,585. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1907.

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THE OCEAN ACCIDENT & GUARANTEE CORPORATION LIMITED.

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RICHARD J. PAULL, *General Manager & Secretary.*

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INSURANCE in all its forms is a matter of such vital importance to so many people that for a long time past I have been writing about it regularly every week. There is, however, so much to be said that I have decided to deal with the subject in a special Supplement; but even the space which this gives is far too scanty for adequate treatment. Perhaps, therefore, it will be well to refer to some of the articles which have appeared in the past twelve months, in which permanent aspects of the matter, as distinct from comments on current topics, have been dealt with. These articles may be regarded as filling some of the omissions from this Supplement, which would otherwise appear incomplete, especially in its treatment of fire and life insurance.

American Life Offices... July 4, Sept. 19, Feb. 13, May 1.
Surrender Values..... July 11, March 6.
Mutual and Proprietary Companies..... July 25, Oct. 17.
Insurance Legislation..... Aug. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 26.
Advice about Insurance..... Sept. 12, April 3.
Life Assurance as Investment..... Oct. 3.
Sources of Profits in Life Offices..... Oct. 10, Nov. 7.
Policy Conditions..... Nov. 14.
Assurance by Limited Payments..... Dec. 12.
Advantages of Assuring Young..... Dec. 19.
Points in Fire Insurance ..... Feb. 20, March 20.
Insuring Income..... April 10.
Cheap Life Assurance ..... April 17.

At the moment the matter about which everybody is asking for information is that of liability to domestic servants and other employees, and to this subject, therefore, I now turn.

THE NEW LIABILITY TO DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

Before July 1 every householder who employs a domestic servant ought to see that he is in possession of a policy which takes off his shoulders the risk to which he then becomes liable. The new Workmen's Compensation Act provides for very substantial payments being made to employees who are injured by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment. Let me say, at the outset, that I am quite sure that the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act to almost all employees is a thoroughly good thing, and beneficial on the whole to both the employers and the employed. As a mere matter of drafting the Act is probably one of the worst that has ever been passed, and it will need an enormous amount of litigation before a meaning is given to it by the judges. Since it directly concerns such a very large number of people, I will try to explain briefly what it does involve in regard to certain points, what it may involve in regard to others, and the best methods to adopt for providing against the liability.

The Nature of the Liability.

With the exception of industrial diseases, resulting from certain trades, employers are only liable in the event of injury by accident: they have nothing to do with illness. The cook may get the measles, but the employer is no more and no less responsible than he was before.

We are concerned with accidents which have three kinds of results: death, permanent incapacity, and temporary incapacity. Where death results from the injury the compensation depends upon three conditions. If the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings, the compensation is a sum equal to his earnings during the three years next preceding the injury. If this sum does not amount to £150, then the compensation is to be £150. If three years' earnings amount to more than £150, then the earnings are the basis of compensation, except that the maximum payment is £300. From the capital sum that has to be paid the employer is entitled to deduct any compensation previously paid to the employed under the Act. I do not know what this latter clause means; presumably it refers to compensation during incapacity prior to death, which results from the same accident that caused the death. I scarcely imagine that if one of my servants had received compensation during past years to the total amount of £150, as the result of previous accidents, I should consequently be freed from any liability if some fresh accident proved fatal. I should certainly have to pay during incapacity resulting from a fresh accident, and so I suppose I should have to pay in the event of fatal injury. This reasonable interpretation of the Act does not, however, appear to be the verbal one.

If the workman does not leave any one wholly dependent upon his earnings, but leaves people partly dependent upon them, the amount payable is such as may be agreed upon, and in default of agreement, the amount is to be determined by arbitration. A dependant is defined as a member of a somewhat extensive family; it runs to wife, husband, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, step-father, step-mother, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson, step-daughter, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, together with, as far as I can make out, illegitimate children and illegitimate parents or grandparents, though I am not quite sure what the latter are. An illegitimate wife—say, for instance, a deceased wife's sister, who has been married in defiance of the law—is not apparently considered a dependant, an arrangement which seems entirely inappropriate.

If the workman leaves no dependants, the employer is only responsible for the reasonable expenses of medical attendance and burial, not exceeding £10.

The way in which the members of this numerous family are to get their compensation distributed among them seems somewhat complicated. It does not, however, much concern the employer, who can pay the money into court, and will be well advised not to pay anybody anything until at least six months after death, for fear of other dependants turning up.

It has been suggested that this provision in regard to dependants will make it difficult for people with families to get work, because employers will give the preference to unattached blessings, so that liability may be limited to £10, instead of possibly extending to £300. Inasmuch, however, as every sensible person will insure against the risk, and since insurance companies will not consider the number of dependants of an employee, I do not think there is much force in this suggestion.

If the accident results in incapacity which lasts less than two weeks, no compensation shall be payable in respect of the first week. This is a direct inducement to malingering. If a workman in the receipt of £2 a week were fit to go back to work at the end of the first week, he would get no compensation for the first week, and £2 for working during the second week; if he can prove incapacity for two weeks he will get £1 a week for compensation and be just as well off at the end of the fortnight as if he had done a week's work. The average workman prefers a week's holiday if the financial result to him is the same.

In the event of incapacity lasting more than a fortnight, compensation has to be paid from the date of the accident, at the rate of half the average weekly earnings, not, however, exceeding £1 a week; this payment may have to continue for life, and this life annuity of £52 is the heaviest burden for which an employer may become liable. In the event of only partial incapacity the amount that a man can earn is to be taken into account in settling the compensation.

In determining the amount of the wages upon which compensation is based, they are to be "computed in such manner as is best calculated to give the rate per week at which the workman was being remunerated." It seems clear that in the case of domestic servants, for instance, the value of board and lodging must be added to the wages paid in cash, so that a servant who is receiving wages of £20 a year would probably be regarded as in receipt of earnings at the rate of something like £40 a year.

To Whom are We Liable?

I can ask this question but I certainly cannot answer it. Under the head of definitions the Act says: "Workman does not include any person employed otherwise than by way of manual labour whose remuneration exceeds

two hundred and fifty pounds a year, or a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business, or a member of a police force, or an out-worker, or a member of the employer's family dwelling in his house, but, save as aforesaid, means any person who has entered into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, whether by way of manual labour, clerical work, or otherwise, and whether the contract is expressed or implied, is oral or in writing."

There is no doubt that under this definition workman means a domestic servant in regular and permanent employment, as well as such people as curates, clerks, and assistants in shops. It is generally recognised that a charwoman who comes at regular times would have a valid claim upon her employer in the event of injury by accident, but there is no unanimity of opinion as to whether a charwoman, jobbing gardener, or window-cleaner coming at irregular times to do occasional work, would have a valid claim against an employer. Personally, I think it is more than likely that the courts will give the Act as wide an interpretation as possible. The avowed intention of the Act was that pretty nearly every employee would be entitled to claim against somebody or other, and I do not mean to run the risk of having to pay an annuity for life to anybody who does any work for me. Even if a chimney-sweep or a plumber has no legal claim against me, he might possibly get into the hands of a shady lawyer who would work up a case which would involve me either in defending it or in paying something: I intend to let an insurance company take the chance of an action and of the meaning of the Act.

It seems quite likely that the words "otherwise than for the purpose of the employer's trade or business" may give rise to many disputes. If I tip a boy to post a private letter, perhaps I am not liable if he meets with an accident on the way, but if he is posting a proof for Truth I should probably be responsible. If a porter is temporarily engaged to carry the baggage of a commercial traveller, the traveller would probably have to pay for the results of an accident; but if the same man is going on a private visit the porter would not be employed on his employer's trade or business, and could claim no compensation. I feel by no means sure that the courts will uphold distinctions of this character, and it seems to me foolish to run the risk of having to defend claims or pay compensation.

Similar considerations apply to boarding-house keepers. Casual workers, who in a private house might have no claim against the owner in the event of accident, would have a valid claim against the boarding-house keeper in identical circumstances, since in the former case he would not, and in the latter case he would, be employed for the purposes of the employer's trade or business. A possible example of this is a cabman engaged by the proprietor carrying luggage downstairs for a visitor.

An "out-worker" means a person to whom articles or materials are given out to be made up, washed, repaired, and so on in his own home or on other premises not under the control of the person who gives out the articles; wherefore I conclude I am not liable to my laundress.

It will be noticed that while I, as an employer, am responsible to each member of the extensive family of any servant, I am not responsible to any member of my own family dwelling in my own house: I am responsible for my charwoman's grandson, but, except through me, she has not to make any provision for him, even though he works and earns money for his grandmother.

Other cases in regard to which I am not at all clear are the employment of a police-constable when off duty, and the employment of soldiers as officers' servants. "A member of a police force," and "persons in the naval or military service of the Crown" are excluded from the benefits of the Act. I do not know whether they are excluded from the benefits of the Act only when acting as policemen, soldiers, or sailors, or whether they are also excluded when cleaning windows or doing other odd work in their spare time. Once again it seems to me that employers should see that insurance companies carry the risk.

Yet other conundrums occur in connection with apprentices and articled clerks. The definition of workman which I have quoted above plainly includes them, but how on earth is their compensation to be determined? If an articled clerk dies through injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, the employer is liable to pay £150 if the clerk leaves any people wholly dependent upon him; but can a person who is earning no salary have anybody dependent upon him? Again, if an articled clerk is incapacitated by accident, and if he is under twenty-one years of age, with average weekly earnings of less than 20s., the employer must pay compensation equivalent to the full wages, not exceeding 10s. a week, but if the injured clerk has no wages the equivalent compensation is nil. We have not yet done with the injured articled clerk. The Act provides that "any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman," and "that where the workman was at the date of the accident under twenty-one years of age and the review takes place more than twelve months after the accident, the amount of the weekly payment may be increased to any amount not exceeding 50 per cent. of the weekly sum which the workman would probably have been earning at the date of the review if he had remained uninjured, but not in any case exceeding £1." Now, verbally this provides for what is to happen when a weekly payment is reviewed. If an apprentice earning nothing is entitled to compensation to the extent of 100 per cent. of his earnings he receives no weekly payment for compensation, and what does not exist cannot well be either viewed or reviewed. This seems to be the result of what the Act says, but what the Act may be found to mean I really have no idea.

It would be possible to keep on raising questions of this kind, which are of very distinct importance to a great many people, without being able to give any decided answers. There is, however, one further case to be mentioned which, like many other provisions of the Act, would be extremely hard upon employers were it not that insurance enables all the risks to be covered at a very small cost. "If it is proved that the injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall, unless the injury results in death or serious and permanent disablement, be disallowed. My gardener uses a ladder which I have warned him is unsafe, and not to be used; he gets a fall and is permanently incapacitated. My chauffeur smokes while seeing to the motor, and is seriously injured for life, whereupon I may be saddled with a payment of £52 a year so long as they live as a result of their disobedience of my orders. This provision at least has the redeeming virtue of being clear, whatever else may be thought about it.

This disobedient workman has the whip-hand over me in every way. In the event of my bankruptcy, his claim will be a preferential payment, and my other creditors would have to stand aside in order that he might be paid; on the other hand, the weekly payment, or a lump sum paid by way of redemption thereof, cannot be assigned, charged, or attached, and shall not pass to any other person by operation of law. He could get his compensation at the expense of my creditors, but his creditors could get no part of it from him.

Points about Policies.

Happily insurance is available to relieve us of all liability, but for the most part the policies hitherto issued by the insurance companies have not been of an entirely satisfactory nature. There is no complaint to be made of the cost of insurance, which, to cover the legal liability, is only 2s. 6d. a year for each indoor servant. This is an addition to the wages bill which few employers will cavil at. It is, however, very necessary to make certain that the policy which is taken really

removes all liability off the employer on to the insurance company.

Compensation may involve an annuity for life, and should the insurance company at any time, even after paying for twenty or thirty years, fail to keep up the payments, the injured servant can, of course, claim from his master. It is, therefore, of the first importance that the financial stability of the company should be beyond question. There are a great many accident companies whose position is all that can be desired. Hitherto there has been nothing to prevent anybody starting an accident company, and there are many new small offices whose present position is financially weak, and others, which may be all right for the present, whose future is entirely uncertain. These doubtful companies can offer no advantages over strong and well-established offices, and these latter should alone be selected for employers' liability insurance.

Another point to which employers should give careful attention is the nature of the clauses in the policy and the prospectus which apply to casual labour. If a policy is limited to "domestic servants only," it would scarcely appear to be adequately comprehensive, even for a private householder, and if the meaning of casual employees is defined and limited by such words as "charwomen, gardeners, etc.," the insurance company would seem free, if they chose, to refuse to defend the claim made by a plumber or a carpenter and to refuse to pay the claim if it were proved a valid one. It may prove that such limitations as these leave the private householder fully protected against all liabilities; but a policy with limitations is not at all what the public want; the public should not be satisfied with them, and the insurance companies would be well advised to issue policies which are adequate and absolutely comprehensive.

If the companies think that the liabilities under the Act are less extensive than some people imagine, they should be prepared to satisfy the wishes of these cautious people—with possibly erroneous views—without making any extra charge. If, on the other hand, they think that a more comprehensive contract would involve extra cost, then they can adjust their rates of premium to anything they please, and the public will pay. The public want, and are right in wanting, a contract which will make certain that in no circumstances whatever can they incur a single penny of expense beyond the payment of the annual premium, as a result of injury by accident to any one who is working for them.

Of course, these policies usually provide that the insurance company practically steps into the place of the employer. The company pays all expenses, and has the right to take action in the employer's name; the employer must assist the company in every way he can, and must do nothing in regard to a settlement without the consent of the company.

The clause as to the employer notifying a company immediately an accident happens needs to be examined. Such a clause as "the insured shall give notice to the company of any accident within a reasonable time after the accident comes to the knowledge of the insured, and of every written notice or information as to any verbal notice of claim and all proceedings" is fairly satisfactory. A provision that notice must in any case be given within six days of the accident, and that the policy is invalidated if this is not done, is not satisfactory if it is meant to be adhered to. An accident may seem quite unimportant at the time of its happening, but serious consequences may follow, and, provided the employer has given reasonable notice of accidents as soon as he has any cause to think that any claim is likely to arise, the insurance company should be satisfied. Doubtless all respectable companies would take reasonable views in regard to such a point as this, but it is not to the advantage of the insured to take a policy containing unnecessarily stringent conditions, which might, if strictly interpreted, invalidate their claim against the company.

Another point that should be looked to is whether or not it is necessary to give notice to the insurance company as soon as any extra servant is engaged. A householder pays for, say, three servants, and for occasional and casual employees; in the course of the year he takes on a fourth regular servant. In some of the earlier policies issued by the companies it was necessary to send notice of the engagement of this extra servant, who would otherwise not be covered by the policy. I cannot pretend to have seen all the latest policies of all the companies, but I believe this condition no longer exists in most of them. The point should, however, be specifically mentioned in the policy, a satisfactory clause being such as the following:—"The insured shall supply the company with a correct statement of all employees employed during any period of insurance within one month from the expiry of such period, and if the total number employed shall exceed the number on which premium has been paid, the difference in premium shall be met by a further proportionate payment to the company."

Some, at any rate, of the policies provide for compensation being paid only in the event of the servant meeting with an accident while engaged in the United Kingdom. As far as I can see, there is nothing in the Act which would exonerate an employer from liability if, for instance, his chauffeur, engaged in England, met with an accident on the Continent while in his master's service. I am without an opinion as to whether it would make any difference if the chauffeur were engaged in France, but even if he were a Frenchman engaged in France, it is quite possible that his English employer might be liable. People who are at all likely to take their servants out of the United Kingdom should therefore make sure that, whether they are legally liable or not, the insurance company runs the risk of defending and, if necessary, paying the claim.

A good many policies are issued which provide for benefits of one kind or another in excess of the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. By the payment of a slightly higher rate of premium it is possible to provide for half the cash wages of the servant, not exceeding £1 a week, and not continuing for more than twenty-six weeks, in the event of disablement from certain specified illnesses, such as fever, small-pox, measles, etc. A still higher premium will provide for medical expenses within specified limits, and many other extra benefits of one kind or another can be obtained by paying for them. In regard to such points as these, it must be remembered that employers usually pay their servants full wages in the event of temporary incapacity through illness, and, while I am not prepared to say this is a legal obligation in all cases, it is perhaps just as well that the insurance company should bear the expense in return for a very small annual payment by the employer.

Finally, it must be borne in mind that the Act prohibits contracting out—that is to say, a master and a servant cannot agree among themselves that the Act shall not apply in their case. Nothing whatever that a servant could say or sign could prevent him in the event of accident having a legal claim for compensation, either personally in the event of incapacity, or through his dependents in the event of a fatal accident. The only exception to this is when a special scheme, applicable to a considerable number of people, is adopted with the consent of the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

I have dealt with this subject at some considerable length, because it concerns so many people, both employers and employed. There is much in connection with the Act that I have not referred to, such as making claims and settlements and other points of procedure, as well as such matters as compounding by a capital payment for weekly compensation during long-continued or permanent incapacity; moreover, I have purposely refrained from any reference to seamen and employees in various unhealthy trades who can claim compensation for industrial diseases.

My main object has been to make clear the liabilities of householders, shopkeepers, and commercial firms; to show the imperative necessity of insurance and the practical points which ought to be considered in the selection of a satisfactory policy.

ACCIDENTS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

The possibility of an accident involving financial loss is by no means limited to the case of servants. In certain cases we are liable to strangers for the consequences of our own actions or those of our servants. A carriage or a motor-car may injure some one, and we may have to pay. The cover of our coal-chute may be out of place, a passer-by may break his leg, and the expense may fall on us. And so in dozens of other cases unexpected things may happen which involve us in a liability to pay something to some one else. With the perversity that seems to characterise things in general, these events come off at the most inconvenient time, and then, of course, we wish that there was some one else to pay instead of us. The chances of injury to third parties are small, with the result that the cost of insuring against the loss they involve is infinitesimal. This suggests some considerations that apply to all forms of insurance and which are well worth attention: insurance of every kind is a plan of making small regular payments in order to avoid the possibility of occasional heavy payments. A sensible man's argument is that if a thing is extremely unlikely to happen, the cost of insuring against it is so small that it is wisest to insure; while if an event involving heavy loss is fairly likely to occur, and consequently involve a relatively heavy payment, the necessity for insurance is so imperative that the money for the premium must be found.

Accidents to ourselves are of even more frequent occurrence than accidents to third parties, for which we are responsible; a personal accident policy costs a mere nothing, but may prove an inestimable boon to either ourselves or others. People in general have the quaintest ideas about the frequency of accidents and the circumstances in which they most usually happen. Something like 12,000 males die annually in Great Britain from accidental injuries, and a lot of people suppose that a railway train or a steamship are the most likely places in which to meet with an accident. This is very far from being the case, and it would be easy to quote from the records of insurance companies any number of curious claims. People may seem fairly safe in bed, but in many instances a hot-water bottle causing a burn has resulted in the receipt of a cheque from an insurance office. It is not long since a man woke up to find his ear was bleeding and discover that he had been bitten by a rat; perhaps he did not mind very much since a cheque for £20 was the result. In these days of lifts to take us to underground railways, people's toes are often trodden on; a man who suffered in this way with a tumour as the result was awarded £70 under an accident policy.

By a curious survival of an old custom the compensation under accident policies is generally doubled, except in regard to weekly pay during disablement, when the injury results from accident to a train or a tramcar. A policy which guarantees to pay £1,000 in the event of death, or the loss of both eyes, or two limbs, or of one eye and one limb; and to pay £500 for the loss of one eye or one limb, in addition to £6 a week for twenty-six weeks at the most, in case of total disablement, and 30s. a week in the event of partial disablement, can be obtained for about £4 a year; while a very slight extra payment covers incapacity from various specified diseases.

In regard to policies which provide payments to ourselves or others in such contingencies as these there are, as in all other cases, important points to be attended to. One matter which correspondents not infrequently complain to me about is that an insurance company has refused to renew the policy. This is a quite reasonable provision on the part of insurance companies, since a man's condition may alter and the risk become considerably greater than it was at first. Nowadays, however, some offices issue policies which cannot be terminated till a certain age so long as the insured continues to pay premiums. This involves more risk to the companies, and it is appropriate that they should charge a higher rate of premium.

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ANNUITIES.—Special Rates are quoted for those whose prospects of longevity are impaired.

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Domestic and Estate Servants.

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WHAT ABOUT ILLNESS?

I have never quite been able to make up my mind about policies which afford complete protection against financial loss in the event of illness of every sort and kind. I am entirely clear about the advantages of policies which, besides giving compensation for accident on the lines I have just been talking of, also give substantial payments, it may be, continuing for a year, in the event of certain specified illnesses. The annual cost of these policies is small and the advantages great; they cover, for instance, a substantial payment, say, £1,000, in case of total and permanent blindness or paralysis, even when not caused by accident. But a policy which would insure against illness of every kind, and which would continue so long as the resulting incapacity lasted, although frequently asked for, is scarcely a desirable contract. The cost would of necessity be extremely heavy, and, take it all in all, would hardly be worth paying for, even if there is such a comprehensive policy as this to be had.

INSURANCE FRAUDS.

Honest people fail to recognise the necessity for the conditions which appear in insurance policies. I am myself all in favour of abolishing restrictive clauses whenever possible, but I recognise the necessity of conditions which afford the companies adequate protection against fraud, and I know that it is perfectly safe to trust to the fair dealings of good insurance offices in regard to such points. The business is not really workable unless insurance offices of all kinds, especially perhaps fire insurance companies, are thoroughly protected against fraud.

When I get tired of detective stories I turn to a portly volume, published in America, full of thrilling swindles, and attempts at swindles, on insurance companies. The records in most cases are based upon proceedings before the law courts, and each one of the many hundreds of swindles which are described is substantially true.

Of course, accident policies afford a cheap method of trying to gain by an insurance fraud. There are two favourite methods employed, pretended death and self-mutilation. One young man in a good position reckoned he saw his way to get £2,000 for the loss of his left hand; he was quite ready to part with it at the price, and, having purposely shot it, claimed that the injury was an accident, which happened while loading a revolver preparatory to celebrating the Fourth of July. He had policies in several companies, and the officials, on comparing notes, found sundry discrepancies in the "corroborative detail calculated to give verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative." The ingenious youth had a bad quarter of an hour under cross-examination, and ultimately owned up.

In another case a man took accident insurance to the tune of over £5,000, and accidentally, in the dark, with no one by, had his left arm crushed by the wheels of a passing train. Some of his policies were merely one-day tickets, of course costing very little; the circumstances were suspicious, and his explanation that he took so much insurance because he was "afraid of dogs biting him" seemed a little thin.

Occasionally, but I believe very occasionally, people will commit suicide in order that the insurance money may be paid to their families. Of course, an equally lucrative, and not so unpalatable, arrangement for getting money out of both Life and Accident insurance offices is pretended death. One of the cleverest attempts of this kind was made by a man called Joel Pieper. He was shortly to appear on trial for burglary, but was out on bail. He had two respectable brothers-in-law, with whom he went in a boat on the Mississippi. These witnesses swore that he fell overboard while changing seats, that he only rose once some distance from the boat, and was never seen again. Counsel for Pieper's widow said he had investigated the case, and felt sure it was a bonâ fide one, and the company, who had issued a big accident policy on Pieper's life, very nearly paid up. An official of the company, however,

Your Executor.

The Executor of your Estate should be competent, experienced, and thoroughly reliable, and we call your attention to the importance of appointing A CORPORATION to act in this capacity, rather than an individual. An individual may die or be prevented from properly performing the duties.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE (Incorporated 1720) is willing to act as your Executor, and with its wide experience and resources offers

Security for the Proper Administration of an Estate at a Minimum Cost.

FUNDS held by the Corporation as Trustee are not liable for any of the debts of the Corporation as a trading concern.

WILLS appointing the Corporation Executor are received for safe custody.

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started inquiries, and employed a man who knew Pieper well to act as a private detective, and tried to trace him. This man Brown started on the trail, and after a time began to hear news that Pieper had been seen since the accident. Finally, a long way from home, he came across Pieper, and wired to the insurance company without revealing himself to the drowned man, Pieper was arrested, and his wife and brothers-in-law were charged as participants in the fraud. Pieper claimed all the glory of the attempt for his own, the others were exonerated, and, needless to say, the company did not pay the claim.

It is not very long since the manager of a life office told me a story which, so far as I am aware, has not yet appeared in print. A highly respectable banker in a Continental city died and left two sons; one succeeded his father in the business, the other joined the Army, and was entitled to an income from the bank. The banker son speculated and got into difficulties, the officer was extravagant, and claimed from the bank advances which practically wiped out all his interest in the father's estate. The officer was enamoured of another man's wife, and a wealthy tradesman's daughter was enamoured of the officer. One Christmas time the officer went to his banker brother, demanding more money, and threatening to sell his interest in the bank if his claim were refused. The banker could not afford the disclosures that would follow such a sale, and promised to provide £1,000 a month for thirteen months if the officer would promise to marry a rich wife or commit suicide within that time. The banker thereupon took out two large policies on the officer's life. As the fateful thirteen months drew to a close the brothers again met, and the officer was reminded of his promise. His love affairs were in the same position as before: he could not marry the wife, he would not marry the tradesman's daughter; the banker suggested that the alternative was suicide. The officer, driven to desperation, persuaded the wife to promise to elope with him, agreeing to meet at a certain time and place. The banker, through a confidential servant, discovered the arrangement, and telegraphed to the officer in the lady's name, appointing a fresh rendezvous, whither the officer went. Finding no lady there, he supposed himself deserted by every one, and shot himself, in accordance with the banker's expectations. After decorous delay, the banker claimed on the insurance companies; but the lady who had meant to elope with the officer discovered the banker's plot, and without implicating herself revealed the facts to the insurance companies, who agreed to contest the claim. One company, however, paid up, while the other fought the case, with the result that the second office did not have to pay the claim, and the banker received a well-merited sentence of imprisonment.

Fire insurance companies are even more subject to attempted fraud than life or accident offices, and the stories which are both true and well founded are illimitable in number. I believe it is perfectly true that a man installed an elaborate set of fire-extinguishers warranted to put out the fiercest fire. In view of this precaution, the fire office reduced the rate of premium. One day a friend called, and, noticing the innovation, inquired what object there was in putting out a fire, since it is much more profitable to let it burn. His curiosity being whetted and still unsatisfied, he inquired what was in the cylinders, whereupon the proprietor replied: "Petroleum, my friend, petroleum."

"Moral hazard" is, in fact, a very serious matter for the fire insurance companies, and the only practical way of guarding against it is by the insertion of clauses in the policies which may seem objectionable to the ordinary policy-holder, but which are, nevertheless, necessary, not merely in the interests of the insurance companies, but also in the interests of the honest policy-holders who object to them.

INSURANCE CANS AND CAN'TS.

I doubt if there is anybody who could draw up a complete list of the things it is possible and impossible to insure against. I am quite aware this is rather loose

THE

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION,

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CAPITAL, £1,000,000. **PREMIUM INCOME, £800,000.** **RESERVES, £1,000,000.**

Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

EVERY LOCAL AUTHORITY, EVERY HOUSEHOLDER, EVERY SHOP KEEPER,
EVERY PUBLIC INSTITUTION,
EVERY ASSOCIATION, CORPORATE OR INCORPORATE,
EVERY JOINT STOCK COMPANY,
EVERY PRIVATE, PROFESSIONAL, OR BUSINESS MAN,

Is liable to a payment for injury by accident to any person employed by him.

In case of DEATH ... ... 3 years' wages.
" " TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABLEMENT ... ½ weekly wages until recovery.
" " PERMANENT DISABLEMENT ... ... ½ weekly wages for life.
or value of an ANNUITY which may cost £1,000.

The Benefits of the Act are immediately secured for—

DOMESTIC SERVANTS ... ... Indoor, 2/6, Outdoor from 5/- each.
CLERKS ... ... 3/- per £100 Salary.
SHOP ASSISTANTS ... ... from 4/- per £100 Wages.

For full particulars apply to the District Offices, Local Agents, or to the General Manager,

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language, and that, speaking strictly, you cannot insure against fire, or death, or accident. What you do insure is the payment of a sum of money when the contingency said to be insured against happens. Thus it is perfectly possible, and not very uncommon, to insure against the birth of twins. Such a policy provides that in the event of twins being born and both of them surviving a twelvemonth, an agreed sum of money is paid.

Eminently cautious insurance companies occasionally take what seem to be most extraordinary risks. The secretary of a well-known office once told me of a proposal which he received from a lady who would lose a substantial sum of money in the event of her marriage. She wanted to take a policy under which an equivalent amount would be paid to her if she committed this indiscretion. The obvious reply would be that the company might issue the policy to-day and the lady might marry to-morrow, but on reflection the lady was asked to send her photograph. It was produced at a meeting of the directors, and the chairman, after careful examination, passed it round the board, with the remark, "I think, gentlemen, we might take the risk." And they took it. The premium has been paid for many years, and no claim has yet arisen.

Among well-known subjects for insurance are, of course, such things as burglary, with or without responsibility on the part of the insurance company for larceny and the connivance of servants; insurance of bicycles and motor-cars; provision, at an extremely small cost, against accidents while travelling, together with compensation for damage caused by the explosion of boilers and the consequences of accidents from lifts and machinery.

Another large class of insurable subjects may be grouped under the head of "Investment Insurance." This title by no means covers all I mean, but then it is notoriously difficult to describe a complicated subject in a few words.

Among other things, mortgages and debentures may be made secure as to both capital and interest by means of an appropriate policy. The loss of legal documents, defects in title, forged transfers, and the infidelity of trustees and employees can all be insured against so as to provide for the financial loss being made good by an insurance company.

Even more remote contingencies can be guarded against, as, for instance, the financial consequences of a lunatic recovering sanity, a missing beneficiary turning up to receive what would otherwise come to us, or the loss of fortune through somebody marrying again or having children, so interfering with our legitimate expectation of coming into a nice little sum. We can even make sure that over-zealous teetotallers cannot inflict financial loss upon us by cancelling the licence for our public-house; and, as one of the most important modern features of insurance, we can insure against loss through fraudulent or incompetent executors, trustees, or solicitors.

I have had much to say at various times about the importance of the legal profession adopting adequate measures for protecting the public against the frauds of dishonest solicitors. Little by little, improvements are coming, and perhaps in the course of time things will be put on a more satisfactory basis than they are at present. If solicitors as a body are reluctant to take proper steps, the public seems equally indifferent. Some time ago, when there was a regular epidemic of frauds among solicitors of high standing, one of the insurance companies sent out many thousands of copies of a prospectus which seemed to me altogether admirable. The contemplated policy provided for the making good of any loss which might arise in connection with the policy-holder's estate or trust. A man was to appoint his own trustees to administer the estate, and his own solicitors to do the legal work; the insurance company was to have the right of inspecting all documents connected with the estate whenever they chose, and to guarantee the maintenance of the property intact and the punctual payment of the income. To disarm possible criticism, the company prefaced the prospectus with the sage quotation: "Inasmuch as I do none the

THE MUTUAL LIFE

Insurance Company of New York.

The progress of the Company in the year 1906 has been eminently satisfactory, especially from the standpoint of the policy holder.

The new paid-for business was	£17,935,787	5	5
The Company had in force at the end of the year	311,551,782	6	10
The amount received in premiums during the year was	11,974,921	5	3
The total funds held in trust for policy holders aggregated	101,820,256	11	9

THE TOTAL LIABILITIES WERE AS FOLLOWS:—

Net reserve on outstanding policies and other legal liabilities	£84,442,714	9	2
Reserve for dividends on existing policies as dividend periods are completed	13,250 416	15	6
Reserve for dividends payable in 1907	827,515	8	0
Reserve for possible depreciation of securities and other contingencies	3,299,609	19	1

IN GAINS FOR POLICY HOLDERS THE COMPANY HAS BROKEN ALL RECORDS.

It earned in interest, rents and net miscellaneous investment profits	£4,571,958	4	6
Its gains from mortality, loading, surrender charges and annuities were	2,138,379	14	9
Total	£6,710,337	19	3

This is over fifty-six per cent. of the entire premium income, a remarkable showing, rarely, if ever, approximated by any other company.

IN ECONOMY OF MANAGEMENT THE COMPANY TO-DAY STANDS PRE-EMINENT.

The expenses of the year were paid entirely from the loading provided for that purpose, with a surplus over for policy holders of	£601,184	3	9

The Annual Bonuses declared in 1907 show an increase averaging more than 20 per cent. over those of 1906.

The Expense Ratio shows a reduction of over 7 per cent.

Send for particulars of "1907" form of contract providing for "Annual Cash Bonuses" with "Annual Options."

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

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J. H. HARRISON HOGGE, *General Manager.*

wrong to mistrust any, I do myself the right to trust none." At the time this prospectus was issued, the papers were full of frauds by eminent solicitors, and I could scarcely believe the secretary of the company when he told me that his admirable scheme had not produced a single inquiry, let alone resulted in the issue of a policy.

FORMS OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

Practically everybody is familiar with fire insurance, and as I recently devoted the whole of a weekly article to various practical points in connection with it, there is no occasion for me to refer to the matter in any detail now. I imagine it will be more useful to my readers to have told them everything that is necessary about domestic servants' insurance, and to have given a brief sketch of the advantages of many less familiar forms of insurance.

Somewhat similar considerations lead me to deal but briefly just now with the question of life assurance. I have much to say about this week by week, and in order to do the subject even approximate justice, life assurance would need a supplement to itself. The different kinds of policies that can be obtained are so varied, and the circumstances that can be met to the best advantage by means of life policies are so numerous, as to be practically inexhaustible; almost each case has to be dealt with on its merits. There are, however, a few characteristics of all forms of life assurance which are worth special attention. The first thing is the extraordinary security it affords. Professor de Morgan said long ago: "There is nothing in the commercial world which approaches even remotely the security of a well-established life office." Perhaps few people, except those who have given the subject special attention, realise the absolute convincingness of the reasons which make this statement literally accurate. They are worth considering. The vast majority of life assurance contracts depend upon mortality, and the records of the past enable us to foretell the future in this connection without chance of error. An insurance company has liabilities to meet, many of which do not fall due till a more or less remote future, and, within very narrow limits, the time and the amounts for payment are known. A life office, therefore, cannot be subjected to any extensive sudden claims in the same way that a bank is when there is a "run" upon it. This makes possible the investment of funds in permanent securities of a kind which are unsuitable for banks, and, moreover, the permanence of the investment tends to prevent a loss through depreciation in capital value—at least, in many instances. The market value of securities may fall, but a life office has no need to sell at low prices; it can hold the securities until they recover their value. Of course, this remark does not apply to all investments, but it is true in regard to a great many.

As regards the fulfilment of contracts under life policies, the security is uniquely strong for another reason. Every life office from time to time makes a valuation of its liabilties. This consists in calculating how much money it ought to have in hand now in order to pay the sums assured under the policies as they become due. Clearly these amounts will only be payable if the policies are kept in force by the payment of premiums; it therefore calculates the present value of the future premiums that it will receive, and deducts the present value of the receipts from the present value of the payments; this gives the net liability of the company at the present time.

In making these calculations two very important sources of security come in. If I have to pay £1,000 at the end of thirty years, I must have £477 in hand at the present time if I can only obtain compound interest upon it at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, in order to meet my liability when it becomes due. If, however, I could be sure of earning 4 per cent. per annum, it would be enough for me to have £308 in hand at the present time; it will thus be seen that it makes an enormous difference whether I reckon that I shall receive a low rate or a high rate of interest.

METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Established 1835.

ALL SURPLUS DIVIDED BY WAY OF REDUCTION OF PREMIUM.

The Rates of Reduction for Current year range from 75% to 35%

Apply for Particulars of the Society's

Discounted Abatement System.

ANNUAL PREMIUM, FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS, reduced in anticipation of future distribution of surplus, for Whole-Life Policies or Endowment Assurances of £100.

AGE NEXT BIRTHDAY.	ASSURANCE PAYABLE.		
	At Death.	At Death or Age 55.	At Death or Age 60.
25 ...	£1 12 3	£2 10 7	£2 3 1
30 ...	1 16 9	3 3 7	2 12 8
35 ...	2 2 9	4 3 2	3 5 11
40 ...	2 9 10	5 16 0	4 6 0

After 5 years the Policies under this scheme participate in any reduction of Premium declared in excess of 33 per cent.

NO COMMISSION. NO SHAREHOLDERS.

Office: 13, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Copied from Policy dated 1726.

The Oldest Insurance Office in the World.

SUN FIRE OFFICE

Founded 1710.

FUNDS IN HAND, £2,788,638.

Head Office:
63, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Branches in London.
60, CHARING CROSS, S.W.
332, OXFORD STREET, W.
40, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.
42, MINCING LANE, E.C.

Insurances effected against the following risks:

FIRE.
PERSONAL ACCIDENT, SICKNESS and DISEASE, FIDELITY GUARANTEE, BURGLARY.
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, including ACCIDENTS TO DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

The estimate that I make of the future rate of interest does not affect my ultimate liability, and I might quite possibly be able to pay £1,000 at the end of thirty years if I set aside £308 for the purpose, but I am much more sure of having the £1,000 thirty years hence if I set aside £477. This is the sort of thing that good life assurance companies do, and that makes their financial position so exceptionally strong.

There is another source of strength as well. A policy-holder, in order to keep his policy in force, has to pay a premium of, say, £30 a year until he dies, but the insurance company, in calculating its liabilities, reckons that it will receive not £30 a year but only £24; the difference of £6 a year is technically called "loading," and is set aside as a provision for future expenses and profits. The future premiums that the company estimates it will receive are the net premiums, without any provision for expenses, and the actual receipts will be the commercial or prospectus rates of premium. The difference between the two in a good office is always considerably more than the actual expenses are likely to be, and thus constitute an additional source of security.

These points at once lead to another consideration, in which life assurance is different from anything else, namely, that in companies where the security is the greatest the profits are the largest. When a company, in its calculations, assumes that it will meet all its liabilities if the funds yield interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, and the company actually earns 4 per cent., there is a margin of £1 10s. per cent. per annum of the funds in excess of what is necessary for meeting the liabilities. This margin, or surplus, is available for distribution among the policy-holders in the form of bonuses. Then again, if a company calculates that it will only receive £24 a year from each policy-holder, while it actually receives £30 a year, there is a balance of £6 a year, or 20 per cent. of the total premiums for expenses and profits. The expenses only amount to perhaps 10 per cent. of the premiums, or £3 a year for each policy-holder, with the result that the remaining £3 a year—the remaining 10 per cent. of the premiums—is surplus available for bonuses. Thus in both these ways, and in other ways that might be mentioned as well, the margin, or surplus, constitutes a source of exceptional security, and the bigger this margin for security is, the larger are the bonuses which are available for the policy-holders.

SCIENCE v. LUCK.

Many of my readers will remember Mark Twain's account of how they decided in Kentucky that "Seven Up," or "Old Sledge," was not a game of chance. Some of the boys were indicted for playing this game of chance; counsel urged it was a game of science. The testimony on the point was equally balanced, and a jury of twelve was empanelled to settle the question. Four deacons and two dominies represented the luck theory, and six inveterate old "Seven Up" professors played for the science side of the issue, and this was the verdict: "We, the jury, have carefully considered the points of the case, and tested the merits of the several theories advanced, and unanimously decide that the game of "Seven Up" is eminently a game of science and not of chance. In demonstration whereof it is hereby and herein stated, iterated, reiterated, set forth, and made manifest that, during the entire night, the 'chance' men never won a game or turned a jack, although both feats were common and frequent to the opposition; and furthermore, in support of this our verdict, we call attention to the significant fact that the 'chance' men are all busted, and the 'science' men have got the money. It is the deliberate opinion of this jury that the 'chance' theory is a pernicious doctrine, and calculated to inflict untold suffering and pecuniary loss upon any community that takes stock of it."

For "luck" read "non-insurance." For "science" read "insurance," and hold it true that the uninsured "are all busted," that the insured "have got the money," and that the uninsurance "theory is a pernicious doctrine."

THE

Equitable

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

OF THE UNITED STATES.

PAUL MORTON, President.

TOTAL ASSETS at Dec. 31, 1906	£89,223,607
SURPLUS OVER ALL LIABILITIES, including amounts held awaiting apportionment upon deferred bonus policies	£14,122,028
CASH BONUSES PAID TO POLICY-HOLDERS in 1906, being the largest amount of Cash Bonuses ever paid by any Company in a single year . .	£1,523,771
TOTAL PAYMENTS TO POLICY-HOLDERS in 1906	£9,163,644

SOMETHING NEW AND GOOD.

The New Policies of

The EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY of the UNITED STATES.

These NEW POLICIES have been drafted by the New York State Legislature for the ADVANTAGE OF POLICY-HOLDERS.

LOOK AT THE RESULT:—

(1) Unrestricted as to travel, residence and occupation from the outset.
(2) Bonuses payable annually.
(3) Liberal Loans and cash surrender values.
(4) Policy at maturity is payable:—
(a) in Cash. (b) by instalments for an increased amount.
(c) The assurance may be converted into an Annuity. (d) the money may be left with the Society at interest until required.

The BONUSES may be:—

(1) drawn in Cash.
(2) used in reduction of Premiums.
(3) left with the Society at interest until required (and drawn on any anniversary date of the policy).
(4) applied to purchase paid up additions to the policy.

Before increasing your assurance send postcard for full particulars of these new policies.

BRITISH BRANCH (Established 40 years). All the advantages of a local office. Policies issued and claims paid from London. Payments to British Policyholders in 1906 over £400,000.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, 6, Princes Street, Bank, London, E.C.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

Fire, Life, Annuities,

Burglary, Accidents to Servants, &c.

TOTAL FUNDS—

£17,800,000

ANNUAL INCOME—

£4,000,000

Absolute Security. Liberal Conditions. Prompt Settlements.

Chief Offices :

61, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 64, PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH.

ECONOMIC
Life Assurance Society.

ESTABLISHED 1823 for the purpose of granting

LIFE ASSURANCE

on first-class lives of the Upper and Middle Classes

At Minimum Premium Rates.

Chairman—The Right Hon. Viscount ST. ALDWYN.

Pamphlet, giving rates of Forty Leading Offices, free on application. Write for one and compare the premiums.

6, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.

Printed for the Proprietor by LOVE & MALCOMSON, Limited, 4 and 5, Dean-st., High Holborn, W.C., and Published by H. LABOUCHERE at 10, Bolt-ct., Fleet-st. E.C. in the City of London. Cheques and Post Office Orders should oe made payable to REGINALD E. BOOKER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-st., Queen Anne's-gate, S W. Entered as Second-Class Matter at the New York, N.Y. Post Office, 1903.

(*Continued from page* 1220.)

tendency has been dull, as the following table of prices indicates:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 4, 1907.	May 11, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 7/32	1 13/32	1 5/16	- 3/32
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/32	7/8	7/8	7/8	—
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/9	4/6	- 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/4	4 3/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	—
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	23/3	23/-	- 3d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	6/3	6/-	- 3d.
Great Fingall (1/-)	6 9/16	2 1/4	1 15/16	1 3/4	- 1/16
Hannaut	1 1/32	1 1/4	1 7/32	1 9/16	+ 3/32
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/2	6 3/16	7 1/16	7 1/8	+ 1/16
Kalgurli	12 3/4	8 3/4	10 1/4	10 1/16	- 3/16
Lake View Consols	1 1/16	1/4	15/16	15/16	- 1/32
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	12/-	11/-	- 1/-
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	1 13/16	1 5/8	- 1/16
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 15/16	1 15/16	+ 3/8
South Kalgurli	1 1/32	1/8	1/16	1/16	—
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/8	1 1/4	3/4	3/4	- 1/8
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	1/8	3/9	3/-	- 9d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	7/16	3/4	7/8	- 1/16

Ivanhoes and Sons of Gwalia, however, have continued to present a firm appearance, the latter being helped by the further cable to hand during the week as to developments on the new southern ore chute, the importance of which I have mentioned in previous notes. At the No. 9 level this chute has just been struck in a crosscut, and is of good width and value, while at the same level a very satisfactory section of payable ore on the main chute was recently struck. It is believed that the southern chute will be proved to extend from the No. 4 to the No. 13 levels, and the effect will be to give the mine a new lease of life. Even at the higher market price now ruling for the shares, the dividend yield is nearly 16 per cent. per annum, and, having regard to the promising prospects, I shall not be surprised if the price makes further progress in the upward direction.

COPPER GROUP DEPRESSED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE FURTHER FALL IN THE METAL—GREAT COBAR AND MOUNT ELLIOTT RUMOURS—THE RISE IN WEST AFRICANS.

The further fall in the price of copper has exercised a depressing influence upon the market in the shares of companies producing, or formed to produce that metal, both as regards the volume of business passing and the trend of quotations. The drop in the metal to nearly £100 per ton is attributed to easier reports from the United States, where the demand for electrical purposes appears to be on a smaller scale than of late. This, as a prominent firm of metal-brokers have observed, may, of course, be only a passing phase, but otherwise it would seem to foreshadow a shrinkage of the consumptive demand for copper. The price has, however, seen some recovery from the lowest level touched during the week, and share values in the case of the leading speculative counters have rallied in sympathy. How prices have fared on balance the subjoined table shows:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest	May 4, 1907.	May 11, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 3/8	1/16	1 1/8	1 21/32	+ 9/32
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	16/-	16/-	—
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/8	1 1/2	1 15/16	1 7/8	+ 7/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/4	1 7/8	2 1/4	2 1/2	+ 1/4
Wassau	1 3/8	1/2	23/32	7/8	+ 3/32
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/3	1/3	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1 3	1/6	+3d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	24/-	24/-	—
Esperanza	5 1/16	2 1/4	1 1/4	1 13/16	- 1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 7/8	1 7/8	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	39/7½	40/-	38/9	- 1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 15/16	4 1/4	4 1/8	- 1/32
Zinc Corporation	2 1/2	1 7/8	17/6	16/6	- 1/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/4	11 1/8	13 3/8	12 15/16	- 3/8
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/2	3	66/6	66/-	- 6d.
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/4	4 3/8	10 5/16	10 1/2	- 7/8
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	48/6	49/6	+1/-
Mount Morgan	4 1/2	3 1/4	4 7/8	4 7/8	—
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/2	63 3/8	96 1/2	94 1/2	-1 1/2
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	24/6	24/-	-6d.
Fusing Lama Tin	3 5/16	3/4	2 11/16	2 3/8	- 1/16
Blaiaghat	36/-	22/6	18/-	17/3	-9d.
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/9	11/-	+3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	5 7/8	5 15/16	- 1/4
Siberian Mines	2 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 3/8	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 1/4	3 1/2	4 3/8	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Waihi	9 3/8	6 5/8	9 1/2	9	- 1/2

Last week in dealing with Great Cobars I mentioned the market rumour that the announcement of a dividend would be postponed until the end of the year. This story is now contradicted, and I am told that by the end of next month a distribution will be declared. "Bear" speculators certainly seem to have been doing their utmost to get the price of these shares down, for not only was the dividend postponement rumour circulated widely, but a report has been spread about of the main shaft having caved in. The report, I may add, is not confirmed. At the carry-over on Friday last there were indications of a fair "bear" commitment in respect of these shares, so that it would probably not take much favourable news to cause a sharp recovery—a smart rally in the metal would very likely be sufficient to frighten the short interest into repurchasing. As regards other Australian copper descriptions, Mount Elliotts have been depressed by a rumour that the company intends making a fresh issue of capital. It is, however, pointed out by well informed people that some months ago 40,000 Mount Elliotts were placed on this side at £4 each, and it is calculated that, in all, the company must have some £200,000 cash in hand. The working capital raised by the issue mentioned is apparently being held in reserve for the time when the Government railway reaches the vicinity of the mine, when the company intends to erect a connecting tramway and smelting plant. Meanwhile, it is pointed out, the money being realised by the shipments of rich ore goes a long way towards paying for the development of the mine. I think a recovery in Mount Elliotts may reasonably be looked for, and I also expect Mount Lyells to come in for increased attention again in the early future, in view of the approach of the time for the declaration of another dividend. Elsewhere in this issue will be found a circular issued by the Mining Exploration Company, giving the result of the investigations made by Mr. R. Gilman Brown, who recently joined the Board as technical director. The company, it may be remembered, owns copper properties in Chili, the one on which work has been concentrated being known as the Choicas. It will be seen that Mr. Brown recommends that this property and the Victoria mine be treated as one, and that he calculates by the time the smelter will be operating at its full capacity of 36,000 tons of ore per annum the company will be able to produce matte giving a yearly profit of £110,000 on the basis of copper at £90 per ton.

One of the principal features of the past week's operations in the Mining Markets has been the steady improvement in prices that has occurred in the West African group. Some weeks ago dealers made an attempt to attract more speculative attention to "Jungle" securities but were not successful. The time chosen was anything but propitious, but in commenting upon the fiasco I expressed the opinion that there was ground for the hope that sooner or later business in the shares of this group would expand, intrinsic conditions having improved. It may be remembered that I mentioned the Abosso and Prestea Block A in particular as developing satisfactorily, and I am interested to note that the shares of these two concerns have taken a prominent part in the upward movement during the past week in consequence of the cables to hand from the mines. But, as far as I can ascertain, dealers have not been very successful as yet as regards attracting public support to West Africans. I am told by people in close touch with the market that the rise in prices has been mainly due to professional operations, and unless the public does come along and help to keep the ball rolling it is hardly likely that the improvement will be long maintained.

COTTON ON THE COVER SYSTEM.

A firm named Barclay and Co., styling themselves "cotton brokers and dealers," 11, Spring-gardens, Manchester, and 4, Featherstone Buildings, High Holborn, W.C., are sending out a booklet designed to gammon unsophisticated people into entrusting them with money

DISTRUST unscrupulous dealers who try to substitute inferior inks. Ridicule the excuses "out of stock," or "just as good," and—buy elsewhere. Insist on having STEPHENS' INK.

for gambles in cotton "futures" on the cover system. This is the sort of silly, ungrammatical twaddle with which the subject is introduced:—

> But there is a vast difference in speculating in Stock Exchange ventures and in the realities of buying cotton. Although many people regard the Stock Exchange as a necessary evil, yet to millions the Cotton Exchange is an absolute necessity. The Cotton Exchange really means that the industry of millions of people are *(sic)* focussed within its walls. . . . Why should not we combine in England? Why should we not let our patriotic feeling govern us to keep the cotton industry in our own country? Patriotism would then be awarded *(sic)* with profit to yourself and others.

Barclay and Co. then proceed to explain their system of speculating "in the realities of buying cotton" in very much the same terms as those that are employed by bucket-shops recommending similar transactions in "Stock Exchange ventures," the principal difference being that the margin "controls" so many bales of cotton instead of so many shares. "There is hardly a day passes," says this booklet, "without it being possible to make a profit." There may be a possibility of profit for some people, but there is a practical certainty of loss for the poor dupes of Barclay and Co.

A Lairage for Lamb-like Shareholders.

I have received a letter from a shareholder in the International Cold Storage and Lairage Company, Ltd. (Southampton Dock), with reference to a circular inviting subscriptions to a 6 per cent. second mortgage debenture stock. He expresses the opinion that his fellow-shareholders will be acting very foolishly if they allow themselves to be again driven like sheep into a lairage where they have already been rather badly shorn. In view of the melancholy history of the concern, this seems to be a sound opinion. The company has done nothing but drop money—and drop it heavily—ever since its inception, and there is not the least likelihood that it can be converted into a commercial success. Judged from the shareholders' standpoint, it is practically as dead as frozen mutton.

The Bucket-Shop Brigade.

While business on the Stock Exchange remains practically at a standstill, the bucket-shops are rather more active than usual. So at least I gather from the stream of circulars that has poured through my letter-box during the past week or two. The Stock Exchange may bemoan the indifference of investors and the shyness of speculators, but the bucket-shop brigade can cheerfully pursue the even tenor of their way, in the sure and certain hope that gulls are always plentiful. Nearly all the circulars are from old acquaintances, though some of them have been hiding their light under a bushel for the past few months. Milne, Son, and Hamilton, 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., are among those who have just come out on the warpath once more. They recommend an operation in "Canpacs" on a 1 per cent. margin, but should it prove unremunerative, they "guarantee to refund one-half of the cover." Even with the guarantee—whatever that may be worth—this is a very poor sample of philanthropy in comparison with the magnificent offer of the rival firm of Hamilton, Smith, and Co., 80a, Fenchurch-street. "It is not every day a dividend of 22s. can be picked up on every 10s. invested." Indeed it is not, but Hamilton, Smith and Co., instead of selfishly picking up the money themselves, are ready to transfer it to your pockets. All that you are asked to do is to send them £50 to "command" 100 shares in a gold mining company which has declared a dividend of 22s. per share. "The dividend alone represents a profit of £110." In case, however, this should not be sufficiently tempting the firm "undertake to say within the next three months, on an investment of £50 we should be able to show you a profit (including the dividend) of something like £150 to £200." I have no doubt that if Hamilton, Smith and Co. thought that your credulity would be equal to the strain, they would just as glibly "undertake to say" that the profit would be £150,000 to £200,000.

In its latest effusion the National Share Exchange, 22, Great Winchester-street, disclaims any pretensions to "the gift of prophecy or the art of the necromancer." This seems to be a false modesty, because, according to its own account, this institution is continually making predictions which enable its clients to secure handsome profits by dealing in shares on the cover system. Not only is this so, but, as the Exchange declares that it acts as principals in all these transactions and charges no commission, it must, on its own showing, be losing the thousands of pounds which its fortunate clients are making. It sounds a very unlikely story, but there are apparently any number of simpletons prepared to believe in the existence of such boundless benevolence. Another concern practising upon the innocence of the public in precisely the same manner is The Stock Exchange Investment Corporation, 8, Union-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Recently I related the experiences of two misguided ladies, who, between them, had lost £50 in the "stock unions," otherwise "blind pools," run by the London Scottish Stock Exchange, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C. But, unfortunately, exposures in the press produce little or no effect upon businesses of this class, and "A. Murray," of the London Scottish, is still busily engaged in roping in fresh victims by means of the same mendacious statements of the enormous profits that he secures for his clients. So, also, are the London and Counties Exchange, St. Swithin's Chambers, E.C., whose blind pools are called "bi-marginal investments," and the National Securities Corporation, 181, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., which employs the euphemism of "combined stock operations." Laurie and Vincent, 70, Queen-street, E.C., give prominence in their latest circular to one delicious bit of unconscious humour—"We make money with your money." Lots of fools have discovered this after parting with their cash, getting neither the promised profit nor that return of their capital which is "guaranteed" by Laurie and Vincent. The latter are, in fact, conducting their business in such a manner that it is amazing that they have not yet received the attention of the City police.

A Sign of the Times.

Half a column of the *Times* of Friday was occupied with a puff, from which I take the following:—

> Within the last few weeks there has been an almost overwhelming demand for a remarkable book—a book dealing concisely, but with a masterly completeness with a subject of absorbing interest. . . . It enlightens, informs where hitherto was misconception or perhaps ignorance. . . . To have missed reading its thrilling, fascinating pages is to have missed part of one's education. No one can read the book without benefit, and the possibilities it opens up so incisively and so unmistakably are immeasurable.

No; though it reads like it this was not an advertisement of one of the wonderful bargains of the *Times* Book Club. The remarkable, absorbing, thrilling, fascinating, masterly work in question is the pamphlet given away by the bucket-shop firm of Arnold and Butler for the purpose of bamboozling greenhorns into a belief that they can obtain a profit of ten, twenty, or thirty per cent. on their money with scarcely any risk if they will only follow the firm's advice on the subject of "marginal investments." Though the great publishing houses no longer send advertisements to Printing House Square, it is a decided shock to find that the *Times* has now been reduced to the extremity of accepting the patronage of such cover-snatchers as Arnold and Butler.

Notes on New Issues.

The Renard Road and Rail Transport Corporation, Limited, has been formed with a capital of £250,000, divided into an equal number of preferred and ordinary shares of £1 each. Subscriptions are invited for the whole of the preferred shares, which are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 7 per cent. per

Treatise on Options.—Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "The most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system, although very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject, which will be sent post free on application to The Secretary, London & Paris Exchange, Ltd., Bankers, Basildon House, Bank, London, E.C., or from any of its Branches.

annum and, in addition, to one-third of the net profits remaining after payment of a similar dividend in any year on the ordinary shares. The company acquires the patent rights for the United Kingdom and other parts of the world for the Renard train and also the business of Ed. Surcouf et Cie, of Billancourt, Paris. The Renard system of road trains, invented by the late Colonel Renard and improved by Messrs. Surcouf, has been in commercial use in France for more than eighteen months; and the orders in hand—which, it is stated, will give a profit more than sufficient to provide the preference dividend for the first year—include three trains for the French War Office. An agreement has been entered into with the Daimler Motor Company for the manufacture of the Renard train for Great Britain and other parts of the world outside France.

Bitulithic Quarrite, Limited, is a company formed with a capital of £300,000 to acquire and develop patents, processes, and works now held by the Northern Quarries Company, Limited, of Grange-over-Sands, England, and Warren Brothers Company, of 93, Federal-street, Boston, America. It is stated that the company will be in a position to meet the requirements of public authorities in connection with dustless road construction, and will also be in a position "to treat any sound macadam and convert it into a dustless road paving by agencies previously unknown and the success of which has already been established." The prospectus, however, contains no figures showing the commercial results of the business which the vendor companies have been carrying on for the past six years.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities

Delta.—1. The bonds are to bearer, therefore there is no question of a transfer. 2. I do not see any attraction.

Railways.

Cardew.—Personally, I doubt if you would be entitled to realise any portion of the holding, but in a matter involving trust money you ought not to act without laying the full facts before a solicitor. *Bonds.*—1. No. 2. The property is a poor one, and the price reflects the market's doubts about the continuance of interest payments.

Mines.

Minnehaha.—I would not advise you to subscribe any money in connection with the American Exploration Co. *T. E. H.*—Nos. 1, 3 and 4 are fair speculative holdings. No mining share can be considered a safe investment. *Township.*—I do not see that you have any claim on your brokers. In the event of a moderate recovery in the price you had better realise with a view to the employment of the money in something more promising. *Teduce.*—They are speculative, but might be held for some recovery. Colonial advices state that the mine is now opened up to a point admitting of a large output, and though the average value of the ore is rather lower, profits are assured. *W. H. T.*—The shares are a hopeful speculative holding for dividends, and would be likely to improve in sympathy with a recovery in the price of the metal. *Brigg.*—The shares are very speculative, and you could make a more attractive selection. *County Cavan.*—Subscribing more money must be considered a pure speculation, and I think you would do better to employ the amount elsewhere. *Reader, Amsterdam.*—1-3. The secretary is not to blame. Any one can obtain a list of shareholders by paying for it. As to the exact object of the sender of the circular, I cannot, of course, give a definite reply, but the fact that the shares are being thus puffed does not impress me favourably, and in the circumstances I think you had better take advantage of recovery in the price to realise. 4. I must refer you to Rule 8. *Investor.*—1. I think you would do better to put the additional money into something else 2. It is impossible to estimate the life of such a property. There is a fair chance of the shares having some recovery later on. *Watercress.*—Very speculative, and unless you are prepared to face the possibility of a further fall you had better realise. 2. In your circumstances I do not care to advise you to buy more, but they should have some recovery from the present level. 3. I am afraid there is not much hope for this. 4. You do not say what shares you hold, so that I cannot advise as to your chance of getting out without loss; but, generally speaking, an improvement in this market seems probable.

Mixed.

Stuck.—1. Better cut the loss. 2. Hold for some recovery. 3. These bonds are worth holding. 4. Sell on a moderate advance. *K. H.*—The Chicago Great Western bonds ought to be worth keeping. Both the bank shares are high-class investments, and I see no reason to part with them. *Dan.*—1. The market price is about 8s. It will be some time before the concern will be in a position to make any distribution, but the shares seem a fair speculative lock-up. 2 and 4. Better leave this form of speculation alone until you have acquired some knowledge of its intricacies. Leonard Higgins, on the "Put and Call" would help you. The price is 3s. 6d., and the publisher Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle-street, E.C. 5. I should prefer to regard the shares as an investment to be paid for outright. 6. Quite good. *Zoroaster.*—1. I have no means of knowing how the company has been doing for the past twelve months. 2. The shares have fallen because of the gradual exhaustion of the richest ore, but at the present price they seem a very fair speculation, having regard to the latest official statement of ore reserves. *Golf.*—All four are hopeful commercial investments, but if you do not want so many, give the preference to Nos. 4 and 2. *Inquirer, Bridgnorth.*—You ought to retain Nos. 2, 3, and 4, which are high-class investments. No. 6 is a small concern, but appears to be doing well enough, and I see no reason to advise a sale. The others are more speculative holdings, and you might do better elsewhere. An exchange into, say, Buenos Ayres Western Railway Four and a Half per Cent. Preference, Grand Trunk Second Preference, and Agricultural Bank of Egypt New Three and a Half per Cent. bonds should be worth making. I cannot answer for the outside institution named; generally speaking, it is advisable to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. *Cradock.*—The bonds are not quoted in the London Official List, but I will make inquiries in the market and reply next week. *Lambert.*—1 and 2. Both are fair purchases. 3. You might take them as a gamble. 4. You are legally liable for the call. *Wales.*—1. An early dividend does not seem likely, but I think you might keep your shares in hope of some recovery from the present level. 2. Keep them for the present. 3. I see no reason to advise an immediate sale. *Lisna.*—1 and 2. The only dividend paid by the company was in shares of a subsidiary enterprise, and it will probably be some time yet before it is in a position to make a cash distribution. At the present price, however, the shares are a fair speculation, with a view to locking them away for ultimate appreciation in market value. 3. I would not recommend averaging. Hold on to what you have. *Oxon.*—1. There is a fair chance of a recovery. 2. Keep Interoceanic Preference. 3 and 4. Also these. 5. I have no special information, but they seem to be very speculative. *T. W. W.*—1. A sound investment. 2. Keep them. *Tyke* and others.—Your questions will be answered next week.

Insurance.

G. H. P.—If you will send me specimens of the coupons and any notices in references to the scheme which appeared in the paper, I may be able to give you some useful advice. *Verb. Sap.*—The conditions of your policy seem to be quite different from those of most life offices, and I propose to comment on the matter in a week or two. Please let me know the exact nature of the policy. Was it a 30-year endowment assurance, effected at age 30? *Dingo.*—You can quite safely hold the shares. The future prospects of the company are good, and whatever happened the business could be sold to another office at considerable profit to the shareholders. *D. W.*—The association seems to me to give no guarantee of stability, and I should advise you not to join it. *D. W.*—1. National Provident Institution. 2. Clergy Mutual, Equitable Society, London Life, Metropolitan. 3. The policy is good, but not so good as can be obtained elsewhere. *Subultan.*—Write for the prospectus of the Clergy Mutual. If you have no relations, near or distant, who are clergymen, write to me again, and I will recommend another office. *Arrow.*—You should certainly keep your policy in force. The prospects of the company are much better than they were, and it took quite the right course in declaring no bonus at the last valuation. *York.*—These shares are a fair speculative investment. The company is vigorously managed, and may or may not be an ultimate success. It could probably at any time sell its business to another company at a profit to the shareholders. *F. J. C.*—You may feel the most absolute confidence in the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation. Any failure to pay the annuity now, or in the future, is inconceivable, and the terms offered are better than you could obtain anywhere else. You could quite safely buy the whole annuity from this corporation, but the Scottish office you mention is also perfectly safe. *Zampa.*—Quite reliable for your purpose. *A. Preuss.*—My note on this company appeared on October 31,

1906. The company did the right thing in declaring no bonus; the future prospects are good, and you should certainly continue the payment of premiums. *Rockingham.*—The Commercial Union is a perfectly sound and strong company.

MISCELLANEOUS.

M. O. M., Burton, W. H. C., O. R. S., Smyrett, Colonel, Thrift, White Heather, Perplexed, G. M. T., Colchester, Novice, J. W. T., New York, Assistant-Surgeon, Punjab, and other correspondents.—Many warnings have been published in TRUTH against the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., Melville, Glyn and Co., and other touting dealers in Continental government and municipal lottery bonds. Their circulars and pamphlets are grossly misleading, and they charge prices for the bonds outrageously in excess of those current on the Continental bourses, where dealings in such securities are recognised. I do not give advice as to the merits of different bonds, or in any way recommend this form of speculation. For the most part the bonds are a sheer gamble, a delusion and a snare to the small investors on whom they are unloaded. However, for the information of correspondents who still wish to buy such bonds, I may mention that they can be obtained through the London branch of the Crédit Lyonnais, or Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. *Finance, J. F. S.,* and *Digamma.*—The Charing Cross Bank is not, properly speaking, a bank at all, but a common usury-shop run by a man named Carpenter. Have nothing to do with it either as a depositor or a borrower. *C. H. S.*—Distinctly speculative. The concern has not yet shown itself a commercial success. *Shamrock.*—1. A fair speculation. 2. Yes, unless there was a stipulation to the contrary. 3 and 4. Freeborn, Franklin and Co., and Milne, Son and Hamilton, are bucket-shop keepers whom you should avoid; see TRUTH Cautionary List. *Nitrate.*—I have had no reason to criticise the firm you now mention. Seeing that you are in Chili, however, it would be especially imprudent of you to engage in speculations on "margin." You would be almost certain to drop your money. *Justice, J. M., C. H. C.,* and *M. E.*—The bucket-shops, whose circulars you forward, have already been noticed in TRUTH, but I will repeat my warnings. *F. S.*—1. Obviously it would be useless for me to attempt to advise you about this small local society, which is unknown outside its immediate neighbourhood. 2. According to the latest edition of the "Copper Handbook," the company named is a holding company only, "property consisting of two-thirds stock interest in the Dakota-Calumet Company, which is idle." *Cleopatra.*—Nos. 2, 3, and 4 are fair commercial investments, but I do not recommend the others. 6. It is imprudent to take the advice of such circulars; but as to the firm, see Rule 8. *Light.*—I know nothing of the company or its directors, and it is impossible to form an opinion upon the leaflet you send. *W. F.*—I will make inquiries. *J. P., Camberwell,* and other correspondents.—Thanks for the German lottery circulars, which shall receive another notice in TRUTH. *C. G.*—It would be useless to sue these swindlers; if you had been a reader of TRUTH you would have seen warnings against them. *Gilly.*—1. I have not a great opinion of the concern. 2. They are quoted at a small discount. 3. They might possibly improve with other motors. 4. I do not fancy it. *Pater.*—They seem a hopeless holding. *Anxious.*—1. I cannot trace the concern. 2 and 3. Very poor opinion of these. *Executor.*—It is a small concern of which little is known, and I regret my inability to advise you. *Firth of Forth.*—1. I know of no reason for anticipating an advance. 2. Next meeting is about a year off. 3. Impossible to ascertain. *Argent.*—No information is available respecting the concern. Why not write the secretary, demanding a report? *Cape.*—The shares might be held in the hope of an ultimate recovery, I think. The name would seem to signify confidence rather than anything else. *Miss N.*—1. If you do not want to pay the call, sell the shares, which, by the way, might ultimately improve with others in that market. 2. Hardly likely to recover their recent high price. 3. A poor speculation. *J. J. G., Cubitt Town.*—A bucket-shop of the worst type; you would certainly lose your money. See my remarks in another column. *Chaplain.*—I am afraid I cannot help you in the matter, but I should like to retain the correspondence for the present.

SMALL INVESTORS AND THE MISCELLANEOUS MARKET—PEKIN RISE — SEWING COTTON POSITION—"SLUBBERS"—THORNYCROFT'S DECLINING TRADE—MOTOR SHARES WEAK—ALLSOPP'S REVIVAL.

It is said that here and there the Miscellaneous Market is beginning to benefit from an increasing demand on the part of small investors, but the latter will have to show themselves much more freely to produce any perceptible general effect. At present, it must be confessed, the signs of any real improvement are few and far between, and the market as a whole continues in a state of suspended animation. The most curious and noteworthy movement last week was the sudden revival of activity in Pekin Syndicate shares, which had fallen into a more or less moribund condition. Quite a sharp rise occurred, but it is difficult to detect any justification for it in the report of the consulting engineers on the operations of the company in Honan during the past three months, while the talk about the probability of the concession being bought up by the Chinese Government does not appear to have any foundation. To my mind, at least, Pekins and Shansis remain a very unattractive speculation. Hudson Bays have been rather weaker, exhibiting a slight loss, and the same story has to be told of Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred. At the extraordinary meeting of the English Sewing Cotton Company the chairman declared that the directors were not aware of anything to warrant the recent rise of the shares to 42s., which he bluntly attributed to the market being "rigged." There is no suggestion that the company is doing badly—on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that the results for the current year will be satisfactory enough, but the chairman emphasised the fact that the policy of the board must be "to make substantial appropriations from revenue for reserves," and to place the undertaking in a position which will allow of "a reasonable and steady return" being made on the ordinary shares. In view of some of the alarming statements that had been published, the chairman's speech was not considered unfavourable, and the ordinary shares of the company have been fairly firm at 34s. The only other event of interest in this section has been the publication of the report of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Limited. A year ago, for the first time since its formation in 1900, this over-capitalised concern paid a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, but that startling new departure has promptly been abandoned, no distribution being made this time. However, nobody had been sanguine enough to count upon another dividend from "Slubbers," and the shares remained unchanged at 5s., which is assuredly quite as much as they are worth.

A decline in the ordinary and preference issues of John and J. Thornycroft and Co. followed the appearance of the report, which was even more unsatisfactory than that for 1905. In the past twelve months there was a heavy falling off in trading profits, and the preference dividend has to be passed. It is hoped that the completion of the arrangement for the transfer of the whole of the shipbuilding work from Chiswick to Southampton will result in considerable economies, but at the best the outlook for the ordinary shareholders of the company, who have received no dividend now for two years in succession, is far from promising. Motor shares have developed an unaccountable weakness, and Argylls, Darracqs, and Daimlers are all somewhat cheaper. All these appear to be good purchases at the present prices. An interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum has been announced by the Argyll directors, being the same as that paid for the corresponding period a year ago. Dunlops were adversely affected by some criticisms of the company which have been widely circulated, but the directors' reply was deemed entirely satisfactory, and the shares have fully recovered the ground that had been lost. In catering descriptions no movements worth mentioning have been witnessed. The British Tea Table Company's report has disclosed the fact that it cannot now pay either the preference or the ordinary dividend, but the shareholders seem to have received the announcement with comparative equanimity—at any rate, the shares suffered only a small and momentary relapse. Judging, however, from the directors' statement, some scheme for the reorganisation of the capital of the company seems to be desirable, and possibly one will be submitted at the meeting this week. Among Brewery securities Allsopps again stood out conspicuously by reason of another advance in both the ordinary and the preference. Better results seem to be confidently expected from the recent changes in the management, and the reported decision of the directors to follow the example of other brewery companies by supplying their tied houses with wines, spirits, and tobacco as well as beer. By the way, some of the comparatively small brewery companies achieve results which must excite the envy of the shareholders in

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various big concerns of the same kind. Nalder and Collyers, of Croydon, have just declared a dividend of 22½ per cent. for the seventh year in succession, while the Brampton Company, of Chesterfield, is paying 12½ per cent. for the sixth time. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

SOLD BY AUCTION.

SCENE: The billiard room of a well-known country house in the Midlands. Time: The hour of 1.15 a.m.

The last pool was just finished, and the men who had taken part in it were having a final gossip, before retiring to rest, with all that free and easy *abandon*, alike of subject and of phrase, which usually obtains in the billiard-room when the ladies have gone to bed and the whiskies and sodas are circulating freely.

Of those two eternal topics of conversation to which, when men are alone together, the talk always sooner or later comes round, viz., women and sport, it was the former that was now on the *tapis*. I do not mean that they were discussing the sex generally. At that hour of the night their brains were not in condition for any problem so complex and abstruse. But they were gossiping about one particular woman, Miss Maud Wallington, the belle of the house-party, a girl of the most up-to-date type, and as inveterate a gambler as ever sat down to a bridge table.

It was Teddy Bishopsford, a youthful subaltern of Grenadiers, who first introduced the lady's name.

"My eye!" he said. "Did you see how badly Miss Wallington got hit to-night? I was quite sorry for her. I'm told she lost six ponies."

"Only on paper, though," murmured Algie Carstairs, with a meaning grin. "I myself would lose ten times the sum, without turning a hair, if I could discharge the obligation as easily as she does—with a lead pencil and half a sheet of note."

"But I suppose she takes up her I.O.U.s sooner or later," replied young Bishopsford, simply.

At that ingenuous observation a ripple of cynical laughter ran round the room. It was evident that the idea of Miss Wallington redeeming her I.O.U.s in cash, as a matter of course, struck the assembled company as rather a rich joke.

"What are you fellows laughing at? What have I said ridiculous?" inquired Teddy Bishopsford, flushing.

"My dear boy," said Viscount Beddington (who sat next him), a hard-bitten man of the world, and one of the senior members of the party, "if you had as much experience as I and some others among us have of the fair Maud's paper, you would have no occasion to ask such a question, I can assure you."

"Do—do you mean she doesn't pay up?" ejaculated Teddy Bishopsford, looking quite aghast.

"I mean," replied his lordship, coolly, "that, at this moment, for my sins, I hold the lady's paper to the face value of more than three hundred pounds, for which I'd willingly take a tenner down and think I'd done a sound deal."

Teddy Bishopsford looked much distressed. Like most young men, and a good many older ones for that matter, he was more than a little in love with Maud Wallington's pretty face and winning ways; and this ruthless shattering of his beautiful idol really hurt him.

"But if it is as you say," he protested, evidently eager to find reasons for not accepting the popular verdict, "how comes it that Miss Wallington is received in society, is asked to all the best houses, and that people are still willing to play cards with her? Surely, if she were a known defaulter, she would be barred by everybody."

Again a ripple of laughter at Teddy Bishopsford's exceeding ingenuousness ran round the room.

"My dear chap," said Algie Carstairs, "even if we were not aware of the fact independently, your remarks would make it quite evident that you have not long left Sandhurst. By the time you have become rather more of a man of the world——"

"A man of the world?" interjected young Bishopsford, indignantly. "But I always thought that anything like dishonesty over card debts was one of the few things that even men of the world regard as unpardonable."

"Quite so—in a man," nodded Carstairs.

"But not in a woman?" demanded Bishopsford.

"It depends on the woman," answered Algie, in his lazy drawl. "If she is old and ugly, strict honesty is required of her. But if she is young and pretty—especially as pretty as the fair Maud—well, men are generally a good deal less exacting, don't you know."

There was such a world of meaning in Algie's tone above and beyond what his mere words conveyed, that Teddy Bishopsford was provoked into demanding, quite fiercely:—

"What the devil do you mean, Carstairs?"

Algie threw up his white, feminine hands, in a gesture of mock helplessness.

"Oh, take this dear child on and enlighten him, some of you," he murmured, appealingly. "He's beyond me. I'm not used to such innocence."

Teddy Bishopsford flushed angrily, and half rose from his seat, as if he contemplated going for Algie Carstairs. But Viscount Beddington laid a firm yet kindly hand on the lad's arm, and drew him back.

"All right. You mustn't mind Algie's chaff," he said. "He can't help rotting, you know. It's the nature of the beggar. And, after all, what he says, or implies, is perfectly true, in the main. There *are* hundreds of men who are not only willing, but positively eager, to take the fair Maud's worthless paper in discharge of her bridge debts, and so lay her under an obligation to themselves."

"But why should they wish to lay her under an obligation?" demanded young Bishopsford, scowling quite ferociously at his mentor.

"Because," replied Beddington, "when a girl owes you a lot of money that she can't pay, it naturally makes her awfully nice and sweet to you, don't you know. And it's no bad thing to have Maud Wallington awfully nice and sweet to you, as you may easily imagine."

"I don't believe that Miss Wallington is the sort of girl who'd behave in that way to any man, unless she cared for him," cried out young Bishopsford, indignantly.

Again a ripple of laughter ran round the room. Teddy Bishopsford, now very angry indeed, stood up and faced the assembled company.

"I tell you what it is, you men," he exclaimed, with flashing eyes and hot burning cheeks, "if you can see anything to laugh at in my defending a lady's character against these vile aspersions cast upon her behind her back—well, I'm sorry for you, that's all."

And he flung himself wrathfully from the room.

As the door banged behind his retreating form, Algie Carstairs, unobserved by the rest of the company, winked almost imperceptibly at Viscount Beddington.

But there was one member of the party who, though he had taken no part in the foregoing conversation, had listened to every word of it with intense interest. This was a stout, vulgar, consequential-looking person named Klopstein, a cosmopolitan financier of great wealth but doubtful antecedents, who had recently blossomed into a Society man. Nobody knew much about him beyond the fact that he was immensely rich; which was all, indeed, that anybody cared to know. He kept an ostentatious bachelor establishment in Mayfair, where he gave frequent and extravagant entertainments during the season; and he rented, besides, a large place in Scotland, with grouse moors and a deer forest attached, where he played host also *en garçon* to his sporting friends. But it was a matter of knowledge that he had a wife hidden away somewhere in the country—a timid, inoffensive person whom he had cruelly ill-used while she lived with him, and who had been willing enough to consent to an informal separation on the terms of a moderate annual allowance.

However, Society had nothing to do with Klopstein's personal character or domestic arrangements. If he had behaved like a brute to his wife—if he was known

to be destitute of morals and devoid, I will not say of every gentlemanly, but even of every decent, feeling—well, that was no business of theirs. As long as he was willing to lay out his money to Society's advantage, so long was Society perfectly willing to swallow him. He was an unusually big pill, but the pill was unusually well gilded.

The reason why Klopstein had listened with such interest to the discussion of Maud Wallington and her I.O.U.s was, as you might have expected of him, entirely the reverse of creditable. In his own coarse, animal way Klopstein was what may be euphemistically termed in love with Miss Wallington. He had made certain overtures to her, which had been coldly repulsed. For the fair Maud, if not more scrupulous than other hard-up Society girls in encouraging moneyed admirers, was still too fastidious to entertain, for one moment, the familiar attentions of such an odious beast as Klopstein. The girl's coldness had not only enraged him, it had also inflamed him the more. Consequently, he was burning to get some hold over her, by which he might compel her to climb down from her high horse and submit to his unwelcome addresses. And while he listened to the foregoing conversation, it had crossed his mind that if he could only succeed in laying hands on a sufficient quantity of the lady's paper, he should have an irresistible engine for applying the screw.

Presently he rose from his chair, and, strolling carelessly across to Lord Beddington, deposited himself in the seat just vacated by Teddy Bishopsford.

"That young fool seems to be rather far gone on the fair Maud," he remarked, with a leer.

"Yes, he's evidently badly hit," answered Beddington. "Not much good, though, I fancy. Teddy's fairly well off and not badly connected, of course. But the damsel's 'out' for bigger game than Teddy—you bet."

"It would seem so, from the airs she gives herself," said Klopstein. "In my opinion, she wants taking down a peg or two."

"I'm rather of your opinion," assented his lordship. "Perhaps you've noticed how she treats me when I try to make myself nice to her. Damme, it's all very well, you know. But that's not quite the way to treat a man who holds her paper to the tune of several hundred pounds, is it?"

"I should rather think not," snarled Klopstein. "You're too easy with her, my lord. Why don't you put the screw on and bring Miss Stuck-up to her bearings? I know I would, if I were in your place."

"I don't like to," replied Lord Beddington. "It's rather a difficult matter, you see, for a man to make himself nasty to a girl about money, though I admit she quite deserves it, and I shouldn't be sorry to see some one else take on the job."

Klopstein's eyes glowed. This was the very opening for which he had been spelling. He jumped on to it at once.

"Look'ee here, my lord," he said, "you remarked just now that you'd be willing to sell the lady's paper cheap to any one who offered you cash down. I think you named a tenner as the figure—eh?"

His lordship nodded.

"Well, I'll give you five tenners for the I.O.U.s," said Klopstein, pulling out the note-case which he always carried in his pocket.

Lord Beddington hesitated for a moment; and while he hesitated, Algie Carstairs, who was sitting near, and had been listening with pricked ears to all that passed, suddenly struck in.

"Eh? Going to do a deal over the fair Maud's paper, Bed?" he inquired, with a lazy smile.

"Mr. Klopstein has just made me a sporting offer of £50 for the stuff," answered his lordship; "and I was thinking of closing with it."

"Fifty pounds! Oh, you can do better for yourself than that, Bed," answered Algie, with a confidence for which Klopstein hated him on the spot. "Lay you six to one that Teddy, the chivalrous, would give you at least double the money."

Klopstein scowled. He could cheerfully have throttled Algie Carstairs at that moment. What the devil did the jackanapes want cutting in like this for and spoiling business?

"I guess my pocket has a deeper bottom to it than young Bishopsford's, my lord," he interposed, significantly.

"Damme," cried Algie Carstairs, clapping his hands suddenly; "I've just struck ile in the shape of a really brilliant idea. What rippin' fun it would be, and what a rise we should get out of young Teddy, by collecting all the lady's paper we can lay hands on and putting it up to auction here to-morrow night. Eh? What? Isn't that a bright idea, now? Hanged if I won't be the auctioneer."

"What's that, Algie?" inquired another member of the group, attracted by Carstairs' tone and manner.

"I was saying," replied Algie, turning to face the company, "what prime fun it would be to have an auction of all the fair Maud's I.O.U.s here to-morrow night—at eleven for twelve o'clock, as they say in the profession. Eh? What?"

"There wouldn't be very spirited bidding, I'm afraid," remarked somebody.

"Oh, I don't know," rejoined Algie. "Here's Mr. Klopstein itching to pick up some of Maud's paper; and unless I'm much mistaken, Teddy, the enamoured, will bid against him out of pure chivalry. There may be others, too, who, for reasons of their own, would like to get the whip hand of the fair damsel; and altogether I anticipate prime fun. So any of you men who want to have the chance of a lifetime in realising on your bits of paper—let me have 'em in time to put into the sale to-morrow night."

Algie's humorous, if not very manly, still less gentlemanly, proposal was greeted with roars of approval, in which Klopstein alone did not join. Indeed, the financier was furiously angry with the facetious young aristocrat who had thus put a spoke in his wheel; and he strongly suspected that it had been done on purpose, in order that holders of Miss Wallington's I.O.U.s might thereby be enabled to extort a better price for their paper. However, after all, he reflected, a few hundreds, more or less, didn't really matter to him. There wasn't a man in the party whom he couldn't bid to a standstill, and he made up his mind that, even if he had to give the full face value, he would take care that every scrap of Maud Wallington's paper that might be put up should be knocked down to himself. Indeed, on further reflection, he was by no means sure that this new turn of events didn't really tell in favour of his nefarious plans, after all, for the more of her paper he got into his hands, the stronger engine would he have for putting on the screw. He felt quite serene and happy, therefore, in the prospects of the auction on the morrow night. . . .

It was shortly before midnight next evening when the irrepressible Algie Carstairs, with a smile anticipative of coming enjoyment on his face and an ebony ruler in his hand, mounted the raised daïs at the end of the billiard-room.

"Ladies and Gentlemen—I mean gentlemen," he began, flourishing the ruler in his right hand, while in his left he held up a bundle of papers neatly tied together with blue ribbon; "allow me to call your attention to this exceedingly choice and valuable lot which I am now about to offer for sale, and which affords a unique opportunity to capitalists and others for a profitable investment. I hold here, gentlemen, a bundle of I.O.U.s, twenty in number, bearing the signature of Miss Maud Wallington, for varying amounts from £8 to £105, and making up a grand total——"

"Good heavens! What the devil does this mean, you cad?" cried Teddy Bishopsford, starting angrily forward.

"Order there! Don't interrupt the sale," said Algie, with mock sternness, as he blandished his ruler.

"Shut up, Teddy," whispered Lord Beddington, plucking him by the sleeve, "some of us poor devils who've been hard hit ourselves are obliged to realise on the paper we hold; that's all. And we've decided that an auction's our best chance of getting a decent price. Now do have some consideration for us and hold your tongue."

"Consideration for you?" ejaculated Teddy, turning upon him in hot indignation, "none of you deserve any consideration. It's the lady whose I.O.U.s you are hawking in this blackguardly way for whom I feel——"

"Needs must when the devil drives," interposed

Beddington, shrugging his shoulders. "How can we pay our card debts if we don't get paid ourselves? Besides, you can do no good by protesting. If you care to do Miss Wallington a service by buying up her paper yourself and making her a present of it, of course, that's quite another matter," he added, significantly.

"By G—d, and so I will!" cried the chivalrous Teddy, his eyes flashing scornful indignation on the assembled company.

"Now, then, when you two gentlemen have quite done," remonstrated Algie Carstairs, from the daïs, "I'll proceed with the sale. We have here, gentlemen, as I was saying, twenty of Miss Wallington's I.O.U.s, ranging in face values from £8 to £85, and making up a grand total of £1,100. Now, then, what offers? Don't all speak at once."

"Fifty pounds," bid Klopstein.

"Hundred," bid Teddy Bishopsford.

"Hundred and twenty-five," bid some one else.

"Hundred and fifty," bid Teddy.

"Hundred and seventy-five," bid Klopstein.

"Two hundred," bid Teddy.

Here followed several bids from other members of the company at a £10 rise per bid, carrying it to £250. Then Klopstein took up the running again.

"Two seventy-five," he bid.

"Three hundred," bid Teddy, defiantly.

By this time every one else had retired from the contest. It had evidently resolved itself into a duel between Klopstein and young Bishopsford.

"Four hundred!" roared Klopstein.

"Five hundred!" shouted Teddy.

"Six hundred" (from Klopstein).

"Seven hundred" (from Teddy).

So they went on, openly defying each other. But Klopstein meant to have the lot, and his longer purse won. Teddy was finally bowled out at £1,400, the outside limit of his immediate cash assets, and the I.O.U.s were knocked down to Klopstein for £1,450. He was very angry at having to pay so much money—actually £350 in excess of the face value of the paper—and he cursed young Bishopsford roundly, under his breath, for having run him up to such an extravagant figure. Still he felt triumphant, too; for he had gained his point. And, after all, £1,450 was a mere flea-bite to a man whose bank-balance was never inside five figures.

But his thoughts were interrupted by the drawling voice of Algie Carstairs, who with a practical promptitude hardly to be expected in so lack-a-daisical a young man, was reminding the purchaser that the terms of the sale were cash or cheque down.

"All right. I'm not a wrong 'un," answered Klopstein, rather irritably, as he produced his cheque-book with an ostentatious flourish from his pocket. "Here, let me have a pen, and I'll settle the business at once."

"Thanks awfully," drawled Algie. "And, I say, make it open, dear man. For I shall have to cash it to-morrow and distribute it among the various vendors of the I.O.U.s."

"As you like. Don't matter a brass button to me," rejoined Klopstein, in his swaggering way, as he wrote out an open cheque for £1,450, and tossed it over to Algie with a lordly air.

Algie took the cheque, examined it to see that it was in order, and then handed Klopstein the bundle of I.O.U.s.

In the meanwhile Teddy Bishopsford, nearly mad with rage and generous shame, had rushed off to his bedroom. Why had Klopstein been so keen on getting hold of those I.O.U.s? What use did he mean to make of them? In view of the fellow's known evil character, the nature of his object seemed only too apparent. Teddy hardly got a wink of sleep that night, but lay awake tossing distractedly on his bed, and wondering what he could best do to be of assistance to the woman whom he loved with all the fresh ardour of his boyish heart. At length, he resolved to seek the first possible opportunity of speaking to her next morning, of warning her that Klopstein had bought up all her I.O.U.s, and offering her all the available cash he had to help extricate her from the brute's evil clutches.

But next morning he sought in vain for his opportunity of getting a word with Maud Wallington. She did not put in an appearance at breakfast (nothing very unusual in that), nor, though he "drew" every likely spot in the course of the morning, could he catch so much as a glimpse of her. While thus looking out for her, he several times came across Klopstein prowling around as though in search of somebody, and who that somebody was the indignant Teddy had no difficulty in guessing. This, perhaps, it dawned upon him, was the explanation of Miss Wallington's keeping out of the way. Probably she had heard of last night's events, and was purposely avoiding her persecutor.

Luncheon time came, and still no Maud. Teddy appeared at the table looking very white and miserable. Klopstein's manner was glum and sulky. He drank copiously of champagne—more, in fact, than was good for him. After luncheon he drew Lord Beddington aside and requested a word with him.

"I say," he inquired, "What's happened to Miss Stuck-up? What's she lying low like this for—eh?"

"Ah! I wonder?" replied Lord Beddington, coolly. There was something so significant—so mocking in his lordship's tone, as he uttered the words, that Klopstein's attention was immediately arrested by it.

"Damnation!" he ejaculated, savagely. "You don't mean to tell me that the gal's bolted?"

"I don't know that I meant to tell you anything," replied his lordship, coolly. "But since you put the question to me directly, my answer is, 'Yes, she has.' She left with Algie Carstairs at eight o'clock this morning, when he went up to London to cash your cheque. They were to be married at ten o'clock, and by this time, I should say, are half-way across the Channel."

Klopstein's face was a study of pretty well all the evil passions to which human nature is liable.

"Ten thousand devils!" roared Klopstein, "this is some infernal conspiracy——"

"Well, you may call it a conspiracy if you like," interposed Lord Beddington, calmly. "At any rate, it is a friendly arrangement whereby an effective spoke has been put in your vicious designs, and poor stony-broke Algie has been provided with the necessary funds for his elopement—out of your pocket."

ART NOTES.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Second Notice.

QUITE the best time to pay a visit to the R.A. is about four p.m. on the Saturday after its opening. You are not able to see any of the pictures; but that, after all, is a small matter. You are able to see the people who are looking at them, and thus to understand how widespread is the love of art in this country. If you are interested in silk hats, you may, as it were, survey the whole history of the trade for at least the last ten years. It is really wonderful how beautifully many of them have been preserved. I suppose the truth is that they are kept in lavender all the rest of the year, and are only taken out for the one great annual artistic event. They are frequently worn in conjunction with a yellow-spotted purple tie, and occasionally with brown boots; they are almost invariably accompanied by a young or middle-aged lady, and they are universally surrounded by an atmosphere of solemn respectability—as of those who sacrifice to an uncertainly tempered god. But all this is a digression, and not at all what I am trying to write about. So it is to point out that Saturday afternoon is a bad day to study the R.A. detectives. Not because they are not in evidence. They are—very much so—threading their way through the assembled crowds with an artistic aloofness which could not be bettered, keeping one, ostensible, eye upon the works of art, and another, business, eye, upon the possible fingers of possible pick-pockets in a manner which would have delighted the heart of M. Vidocq. Nevertheless, Saturday is a bad day on which to study them, for the simple reason that the crowd is too thick to allow of your seeing their boots. Failing that, it is almost impossible to distinguish between them and the less preoccupied art-lovers

among whom they mingle. Year after year, as May comes round, these worthy officers gird themselves for their task; year after year they perambulate the galleries, from I. to XI., cast keen glances through the statuary, occasionally sidle abstractedly into the lonely Black and White room, or the Architectural Room, disturbing young lovers who have chosen those halls of solitude for the exchange of their tremulous confidences. Year by year—but what I want to know about them is, what do those lynx-eyed sleuths—such I understand is their technical description—what do they think of the pictures? Do they ever look at them, I wonder? Do they, in the intervals of their official interchange of views upon the advisability of keeping an eye upon the suspicious young person in mauve silk and a black picture hat or the bluff British farmer with the side whiskers and rosy cheeks—do they ever discuss the supremacy of Sargent, lament the decadence of the Academical tradition? After all, there is no reason why their opinions should be valueless. We know—for the ha'penny papers tell us so, year by year—that policemen and postmen and publican's assistants are included among the exhibitors at the R.A.; why should not a detective be competent to pronounce upon their work? It seems to me that the *Daily Mail* would be exactly the paper to obtain their views and to give them to the world, and I have much pleasure in presenting the idea to Lord Northcliffe and the more enterprising of his young men.

Quite apart from any question of artistic merit, those same respectable officers would certainly be exceptionally well fitted to dogmatise upon the most popular pictures of the year. Where are the popular pictures there are the crowds gathered together, and there, in the execution of their duty, are also the detectives. I admit that, at the time of my visit on Saturday afternoon the crowds were so thick that it was difficult to tell where they were thickest. But there were slight differences. Thus, in the first gallery it was easy to see that Mr. Leader still maintains his old position as the most generally popular of English landscape painters. There is a large "Evening"—it is a very characteristic Leader, indeed, and it contains water and a large tree. There was a very dense ring of admirers around it on Saturday, and the air was full of little sighs of admiration. Close to where I was standing there were a young man, in a silk hat, and his young lady. The young lady was very much interested, more so, I think, than was her squire. "What is it, Herbert?" she insisted, with careful aspiration. The young man, peering through a chink in the crowd, must have caught a glimpse of the tree. He turned to the catalogue and considered. "It's a Leader!" he said at last, with an air of awed conviction. "A Leader—oh!" echoed his companion, in similar tones. And, perfectly content, they left the outskirts of the worshipping throng and turned to where another band of enthusiasts surrounded Mr. Sargent's portrait of Lady Eden. These were, if possible, more solemnly enraptured, though a shade of perplexity mingled with their pæans. I found the key to it in the whispered inquiry addressed by an elderly lady, with black jet ornaments, to the eye-glassed daughter, who was acting as her *cicerone*. "Do you think she has really got a throat like that? It seems quite—quite unnatural, somehow." To which the superior daughter replied: "How can you be so stupid, mamma? Don't you know it's a Sargent?" There was another rather less reverent crowd before Mr. Arthur Friedenson's landscape, "Runswick Bay," drawn to it, I suppose, because of its purchase for the Chantrey Bequest. I heard one connoisseur declare that it looked as if it were painted with cobwebs; but whether he intended a compliment or the reverse I cannot say. Mr. Orchardson's fine portrait of Mr. Heaton-Armstrong, M.P., was another popular picture, to which some one referred in my hearing as, "Looks healthy, doesn't he?" and Sir Edward Poynter's competently dainty little "Lesbia and her Sparrow" shared Mr. Sargent's "Lady Eden" crowd, the two pictures hanging close together.

In the second gallery, as far as I could make out, the most popular paintings were Mr. F. G. Swaish's "Convalescent," a pretty little painting of a little girl, some fairies, and a very nice Indian quilt; Mr. Stanhope Forbes's "At their Moorings," some of his beloved fishing boats resting in the gloaming; Sir Edward Poynter's "Fishing," to which I referred last week; Mr. Edward Stott's "Cottage Madonna," which explains itself; Mr. Briton Riviere's "Portrait of an Elderly Gentleman," the said elderly gentleman being a Scotch terrier of reverend aspect; Mr. Denis Eden's "Peire of Valeria," a quaintly-shaped very pre-Raphaelite painting of a lazy jongleur idling under a hedge. No doubt one of the detectives will correct me if I am wrong in thinking these the most popular paintings in the room; I am quite sure they ought to be.

I might go through the whole exhibition in this way, singling out the best-thronged pictures of the year: Mr. Cope's portrait of the King's Coronation Robes; Mr. Sargent's "Lady Sassoon"; Mr. Alfred East's "Old Durham," a fine landscape, this; Mr. Cadogan Cowper's "Devil Disguised as a Troubadour"; Mr. Campbell Taylor's "Rehearsal," certainly one of the finest pictures shown, though, as it happens to have been bought for the Chantrey Bequest, I suppose quite a number of earnest critics will be unable to appreciate it; and so on and so forth. But I am not going to, because plenty of other people will have pointed them out already, and there are some other points about the show which I find much more interesting. For instance, why are there such a number of Indian portraits exhibited this year? They are dotted about everywhere—swarthy, moustached Highnesses, Nawabs, Rajahs, Dewans, and Maharajahs, busts, full-lengths, and statues—it is as though the most aristocratic section of the National Congress was holding a rather lifeless sitting at Burlington House. There are Indian ladies also—"Mrs. Ratan Tata," for instance, by Mr. J. S. Shannon—and children, a Chinese child at least, and a very fascinating one, standing at the knee of His Excellency Sheng Hsuan-huai (Sheng Kung-pao), painted by Miss Mary E. Leveson, in a very fine pelisse of sables, which I should think his Excellency's wife must regard with envious eyes. Why have these illustrious potentates all taken it into their heads to have their "photos took" at the same time, and exhibited in the same exhibition? Or is it a sign that portraiture is following in that same path of evolution as is landscape, and that just as the really advanced landscape-painter scorns to paint a blue sky, devoting his whole energies to winter and snow-scenes, so it will soon be held that, artistically speaking, a pink and white complexion is a concession to the "pretty-pretty," and that we must either have our faces painted with brown skins, or be considered out of the movement? I see I have forgotten to mention another dusky portrait, not that of a Highness this time, but of a regular little duck, in other words, "A Little Malay Girl—Singapore," painted, and very well painted, by Miss Gertrude Nutt. It is a peculiar feature of this little brown girl that she looks quite happy and at ease. It may be that in this fact lies the explanation of the new fashion of going outside Caucasia in search of sitters. I do not know enough about the habitual expression of high-class Hindustan to feel sure whether the resigned expression of the above-mentioned pictured and sculptured Rajahs, Dewans, and Nawabs, is that of extreme melancholy or of aristocratic toleration, but I am ready to swear that of all the many hundreds of pale-face portraits there are not more than half-a-dozen which look even remotely happy or at ease. In the case of many of the men there is some excuse for this, for quite a number of them are represented in fishing or golfing or shooting costume—I suppose it is a result of the "open-air" movement—and that a man should look at his ease when having his portrait painted in rough tweeds is perhaps too much to expect. But I do not think that all the sitters—male and female—can really look so miserably self-conscious; I think it must be, in a few cases at any rate, the fault of the artist, and I only hope that none, or very, very few, of these same portraits are intended to be hung in ancestral picture-galleries, side by side with pictured ancestors as immortalised by the great painters of the past. If they are, the number of Old Masters who will turn in their graves will be enough to produce a very fair imitation of an earthquake. I should like to point to one exception to this general air of *malaise*. It is

the portrait of Sir Andrew Noble, by Mr. Harris Brown, and it shows the distinguished scientist as quite at his ease. So far as I can understand the picture, he has just stabbed some unseen enemy with a deadly weapon, which may be either a spear or test-tube. The enemy has evidently fallen dead under the table, and the look of horrid exultation—if I may say so without impoliteness—upon the stern features of the victor, is really marvellously rendered.

There are a lot of other pictures I should like to write about if I could remember them. Instead, I will refer to two pieces of statuary, both of them, to my mind, of the first rank. The one is Mr. Alfred Gilbert's "Mors Janua Vitæ." I cannot pretend to altogether realise its meaning. It shows the bust of a man and a woman, supporting and gazing down upon a casket, on the lid of which are two small allegorical figures which I take to represent "Sleep and his brother Death." The two heads are beautiful in themselves, and in their expression. Still more beautiful is the manner in which they support and complete each other, in the set of their hands upon each other's shoulders, protecting love in their every line. It is a group which inspires thoughts that are worth thinking, and it would render the exhibition worth the visiting were every other room boarded up. The other one is a nude statue of a dancing child—"The Elf's Music," by Mr. Anders Olson—and the amount of life and action in the quaint little limbs and body are so vivid as to be almost startling, come upon suddenly in that cold mausoleum of prim, lifeless marble which they call the Lecture Room.

MUSIC.

WHERE ARE OUR GREAT COMPOSERS?

THERE is hope for musical England after all.

What I have maintained, do maintain, and always shall maintain, is that the English can compare very favourably with any other nation as regards musical taste and culture. Indeed, our country is second to none in this respect. Hitherto nearly all the greatest composers have happened to be born in Germany. That time, however, has now passed, and at the present moment the greatest living composers (I need not mention names) are Englishmen, though unfortunately only the most enlightened of their contemporaries seem to be aware of this fact.

Thus Algernon Ashton, the one and only. The testimony is certainly reassuring. Let Strauss, Reger, Debussy, and the rest hang their diminished heads. The Continent may make much of them and their like, but greater than these are to be found in what Mr. Joseph Holbrooke calls this lovely old isle of Great Britain. But what a pity that Mr. Ashton withholds so tantalisingly the names of these great ones. Here is surely a case for those "fuller and further particulars" beloved of lawyers. One of our immortals Mr. Ashton could not be expected to name, of course, for very modesty. But he need not be so reticent concerning the others. Seriously, what is the true test of a composer's greatness? Perhaps none better could be suggested offhand than his standing in relation to the musicians of other nations. The verdict of the foreigner, it has often been said, anticipates that of posterity, and this for the obvious reason that it is one delivered without fear or favour, and even in the teeth of adverse prepossessions. The latter circumstance may not conduce, it is true, to leniency of judgment. But at least it secures against too great a readiness to approve. At the same time, the anti-patriotic bias is less likely to operate to any undue extent in music than in any other art, since music is a universal language which makes its appeal with equal force to all. A German or a Frenchman might be forgiven for failing to penetrate the Eleusinian mysteries of Browning's poetry, or for lacking appreciation of Mr. Kipling's highly specialised prose. But there is no earthly reason why either one or the other should have difficulty in enjoying an Englishman's symphony, or a Scotchman's concerto.

Applying this test, then, can it honestly be said that Mr. Ashton's bold claim is borne out by the facts? It would be extremely pleasant to think so, but candour compels a negative conclusion. There is no disguising the fact that with very few exceptions, which merely emphasise the rule, English music is virtually unknown on the Continent. Here and there at rare intervals a daring German manager mounts an English opera in Germany. Now and again an instrumental work from a British pen is given in Paris or Berlin. But, speaking generally, it is a melancholy fact that British music is utterly ignored on the other side of the Channel. Is it possible seriously to maintain that there is no significance in this, or to put it down to nothing but vulgar Chauvinistic influences, which refuse to recognise genius where it exists? He would be a bold man who ventured to uphold so desperate a theory. We may be perfectly sure, as a matter of fact, that if any English composer had produced, let us say, the "Pathetic" symphony, it would have had just as much success throughout the musical nations of Europe as that of Tchaikowsky has enjoyed. The unfortunate part of it is that none of our native musicians has yet seen his way to give the world a work of this arresting character. Nor can it be, as one would be glad to think, the depth or difficulty of our native music which stands in the way of its acceptance. A Continental public which revels in Strauss and delights in Debussy is not likely to be deterred by the difficulties of such mild and blameless pages as our leading composers are accustomed to put forth.

But the case does not end here, for what is more painfully significant even than the determined neglect of our British composers by the musicians of the Continent is the fact that they enjoy hardly any greater favour among ourselves. It is an old, old story, of course, this scant appreciation of British music by British audiences, but it is idle to ignore the meaning of such a state of things, and from the standpoint of the impartial observer possessed with the single aim of looking facts squarely in the face, there is only one possible conclusion to be drawn from it. That conclusion may not be very flattering to our national pride, or particularly pleasing to the many erudite and estimable musicians among us whose works are so sedulously eschewed by their fellow-countrymen, but it would be the idlest self-deception to attempt to ignore it. Mr. Ashton hints darkly at the purblindness of the public which hinders them from appreciating the greatness of the unnamed geniuses to whom he alludes, but how many can seriously accept this as a true explanation of the matter? Was there ever a time when real genius had a better chance of obtaining recognition than at present? Was there ever a time when a sharper lookout was kept for the smallest suggestion of authentic talent? Are there not Palmer Funds for the young and provincial festivals for the mature? And do we not vie with one another in acclaiming the least considerable production which affords the smallest warrant for such a course? Why, therefore, put forward this fantastic notion of a dark conspiracy to ignore and overlook that which so many are eager to discover? What conceivable reason is there why British music-lovers should be less ready to welcome the work of a native composer than to do honour to and find delight in that which comes to us from foreign parts? Such notions are, in truth, childish to the last degree, and only calculated to induce amusement on the part of the outsider. Let Mr. Ashton try again, therefore, and find another and more reasonable explanation of a condition of affairs which, however much it may be regretted, is unfortunately not to be got rid of by the simple process of asserting that it does not exist.

At Covent Garden lately the "Ring" has been engaging chief attention, but by the time these lines appear the second cycle will have been concluded, and it remains now only to congratulate those responsible on the success which has attended the performances. The production of the "Ring" is a tremendous undertaking, and it is vastly to the credit of all concerned that the thing has been done so well. Finer singing has, perhaps, been heard on some former occasions, but from the point of view of all-round efficiency and smoothness of ensemble, and in particular in the excellence of the stage management, the recent performances

have seldom, if ever, been bettered. The singers were mostly the same as those of the first series, but there were one or two new comers, notably Herr Van Rooy, who sang as powerfully and acted as impressively as ever in his old part of Wotan. A new Siegmund was forthcoming, also, in Herr Cornelius, a Danish tenor new to Covent Garden, who made quite a favourable impression. This evening (Wednesday) lighter fare begins with "La Bohème," with Melba and Caruso, which is to be followed by "Madama Butterfly" on Friday.

It is thirty years this month since Dr. Richter, who is once again doing wonders at Covent Garden, first came among us, and the fact suggests reflection on the inestimable value of the services which he has rendered to music in this country throughout that long period. In the history of music in England during the past half century two names will always stand out pre-eminent, namely, those of Joachim and Richter, and it would be hard to say by whose labours we have benefited most. Enough that both, if their musical ideals have not been absolutely identical, have always been conspicuous for their championship of the best and noblest that the art has to offer, and that each has happily had his reward, not only in material recompense, but in the unlimited esteem and admiration of the musical public. The occasion of Dr. Richter's first visit to England was, of course, the famous series of Wagner concerts at the Albert Hall in 1877, when he shared the duties of conductor with Wagner himself, and of all the many eminent musicians who have helped in the Wagnerian cause since, none certainly has done more than he, to whom Wagner himself once referred as "the impossible-achieving, much-tried, for-ever-answering Hans Richter." Long may he stay with us.

Strauss's "Salomé" seems to have caught on surprisingly in Paris. There are the usual exclamations of astonishment, of course, over the amazing and unprecedented character of the music, but, at the same time, a note of genuine admiration seems to pervade most of the criticisms which have appeared. In Paris, at least, "Salomé" was safe against a repetition of the experiences which befell it in New York. Parisian audiences are used to strong fare. Meanwhile, it has been left for Saint-Saëns to provide the most picturesque description which has been so far forthcoming of the Straussian orchestra:—

> This orchestra quivers, sings, yelps, howls, breaks out, thunders, calms down, works itself into a passion, coughs, sneezes. . . . At one moment it sounds like the slish-slash noise of silk being torn; at another like the smashing of a pane of glass. Or it is the wind howling, or wood creaking; then it resembles a peacefully flowing stream, which finally hastens its course, falling over a precipice with a noise like thunder. The greatest freedom reigns; while one group of instruments is wandering about in one key, another, without hesitation, moves about in a neighbouring key, while the voices go off in another direction. Often sweet, rapturous passages, which succeed cruelly lacerating sounds, enchant the ear; and while I listened to all this, I thought of the beautiful aristocratic maidens of a Sacher-Masoch, who, while bestowing voluptuous kisses on the young men, are raking their ribs with red-hot iron; or of Mirbeau's "Garden of Tortures."

"Paris has ratified the verdict," says one correspondent, "that 'Salomé' is the greatest music drama since Wagner." When are we to have a chance of making acquaintance with Strauss's music in London? A stage presentation would offer difficulty, of course, on account of the Biblical text. But this would not apply to a concert performance.

Concerts lately have been more numerous than important. M. de Pachmann took leave of his admirers in characteristic style last week, and has seldom been in better form, either as pianist or farceur. He will certainly be missed while away. Another piano recital of some interest was that of Miss Myrtle Elvyn, a pupil of Godowsky, who not only plays with fine technique, but is obviously a musician as well. Lionel Ovenden, who has been heard again, is a prodigy who goes one better than some of his rivals by playing on both piano and fiddle, and also composing; but if he cultivated his talents in private for some time longer yet he would probably benefit in the long run. Another youthful violinist who has been appearing again is Joska Szigeti, whose talent is indisputable. In the London Choral Society's performance of "Samson et Dalila" on Saturday afternoon, Mme. Kirkby Lunn and Mr. John Coates took the principal parts, and a good all-round performance of the work was secured. On Monday M. Safonoff conducted the London Symphony Orchestra again, introducing for the first time a symphonic poem, "The Sunken Bell," by Metzl, and securing also a fine performance of Tchaikowsky's fourth symphony.

In connection with the coming Orlando Gibbons commemoration, Sir Frederick Bridge makes the apt suggestion that the celebration in the Abbey on June 5 should be supplemented by the performance of the old master's music in cathedrals and churches on the following Sunday. "The whole of the music we do at the service," Sir Frederick writes, "will shortly be published by Bosworth and Co., edited by myself, and the book will be found to contain a very varied selection. The various anthems, etc., will be published separately at a cheap rate, and this will, I hope, enable churches to add something of Orlando Gibbons to their stock of music. I should be glad if the idea of a general commemoration could be carried out." It will be interesting to note to what extent the suggestion is adopted. We are all ready to hymn the praises of our dead and gone worthies, but as to actually performing their music, that is the last thing which occurs to most. After all, centenaries and such-like celebrations too often serve mainly to show up our cheerful neglect of those honoured at other times.

Dr. Ludwig Wüllner, the well-known singer, has been appearing in Berlin in the unwonted capacity of violinist, and apparently with success. Without any pretensions to being a virtuoso, he has, we are told, a technique fully equal to the demands of Brahms's violin sonatas, while his playing is characterised by the same glowing temperament and the same high order of musical and artistic intelligence as his singing. Wüllner is, of course, not by any means the only vocalist who plays the violin as well, though, so far as public appearances go, the others have usually been confined to young ladies delighting in this way to exhibit on the stage or in the concert-room the diversity of their talents. As a singer Wüllner took part, it may be remembered, some years ago in the first London performance of "The Dream of Gerontius" at the Westminster Cathedral, on which occasion, however, his success was only moderate.

From a daily paper's list of Sunday services:—

> ST. THOMAS, Regent Street. 11, Rev. T. H. Passmore; 12, Lunch in F; 6.30, Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge.

"Lunch in F" at twelve is excellent. Is it that waggish printer again?

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I have never read in tale or history a more thrilling story than that Mr. George Macaulay Trevelyan tells in his "Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Republic" (1) of the hero's retreat with his four thousand through countries swarming with implacable enemies. Xenophon's Retreat of the Ten Thousand was a march past by comparison.

> All the hunters were out to catch the lion. In Tuscany and the Papal States alone there were some 30,000 French, 12,000 Neapolitans, 6,000 Spaniards, 15,000 Austrians, and 2,000 Tuscans, who had no enemy to contend with, and no other operation on hand but the chase of Garibaldi.

Even he could not have anticipated all that lay before him when he called for volunteers to accompany him upon the terms, "I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor provisions. I offer hunger, thirst, forced marches,

(1) "Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Republic." By George Macaulay Trevelyan. With Seven Maps and Numerous Illustrations. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 6s. 6d. net.)

(2) "The Romance of an Eastern Capital." By F. B. Bradley-Birt, B.A., I.C.S. With Thirty Illustrations and a Map. (London: Smith, Elder and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Princess Maritza." By Percy J. Brebner. (Christian Lys.). With Four Illustrations. (London: Cassell and Co. 6s.)

(4) "The Tracer of Lost Persons." By Robert W. Chambers. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

battles, and deaths." But the personal magnetism of the man was sufficient to enlist four thousand volunteers on these terms.

I had no idea of enlisting (said a young Italian artist to the Rev. H. R. Haweis); I was a young artist, and went only out of curiosity—but ah! I shall never forget that day when I saw him in the market-place, with his noble aspect, his calm, kind face, his high smooth forehead, his light hair and beard. He reminded me of nothing so much as of our Saviour's head in the galleries. I could not resist him. I left my studio. I went after him. Thousands did likewise. He had only to show himself, and we all worshipped him. We could not help it.

And eleven years later this artist recruit was still fighting by his side. A poor cobbler, who had sheltered Garibaldi during that desperate retreat, was at the point of death when years later the hero passed in triumph through his village. The sick man had even received extreme unction when he was roused by the shouts of the triumphal procession. Hearing it was Garibaldi who was passing, he tried to quit his bed to join the acclaiming crowd. Garibaldi, upon being informed of his devotion, hastened to see him, and his visit had the effect of bringing the man back to life! It must be admitted that Garibaldi sometimes abused the fanatic loyalty of his troops. Here is Emilio Dandolo's account of an enterprise, quixotic to craziness, on which Garibaldi despatched him.

"Go," said Garibaldi to me, "with twenty of your bravest men and take Villa Corsini at the point of the bayonet." Involuntarily I remained transfixed with astonishment—with twenty men to hurry forward to attack a position which two of our companies and the whole of Garibaldi's Legion, after unheard-of exertions, had failed to carry."

These devoted men, having run the gauntlet of the French fire with the loss of eight of their number, reached the villa—garrisoned by several hundreds of the French—which they, twelve strong, were expected to take with the bayonet! It is surprising that even six wounded men survived the insane enterprise. On the other hand, Garibaldi was as careful of the lives of his enemies as he was reckless of those of his men.

He constantly spared disguised military spies who, by the laws of war, had fairly forfeited their lives; while it was his special care to save the lives of his enemies in battle, and for the vanquished foe he was all tenderness and respect.

Again, his humanity to animals—far from a pre-eminent Italian characteristic—was exemplary.

The tenderest of the brave, he took thought not only for men and women, but for the joys and sufferings of animals; ever since the day when, as a child, he had cried over the wounded grasshopper, he was brother to every living thing. He could not endure that a bird should be caged, nor allow an animal to be struck in his presence. During his Dictatorship of Naples in 1860 he spent, in trying to remedy the condition of cab-horses, time which others thought should have been given to tasks of government; and in the following year, when he was the most famous man in Europe, he thought it natural to go out at night in the rain to seek a strayed lamb among the rocks and brushwood of Caprera.

The only fault to be found with this fascinating book, which was obviously a labour of love to Mr. Trevelyan, is that it gives you no glimpse of Garibaldi "as the most famous man in Europe." You feel the novel reader's thirst for the third volume, after you have come to the close—which is the close of the book—of Mr. Trevelyan's spirited account of Garibaldi's thrilling escapes. Of these I shall give you two average specimens. On one occasion, while Garibaldi and his companion were lying beside a clump of bushes, a section of the Austrian troops scouring the country for him passed on the other side. On another occasion, waking from a doze in an inn, he found beside him Austrian soldiers who at that moment were informing the hostess that "they had just come up 3,000 strong to catch the infamous Garipalda." Signing to the hostess to keep them in conversation, Garibaldi drew a cigar from his pocket, lit it at the lantern (which he so replaced on the table that its light left his face in shadow), and this he smoked tranquilly till the soldiers quitted the inn. But, indeed, no boys' book was ever fuller of heroic incident and of hairbreadth adventure and escape than this historic narrative, which is written in a style worthy at once of the subject and of the famous relative from whom Mr. Trevelyan derives his Christian name.

I was amused to see in a leading London journal that Mr. Bradley-Birt, in his "The Romance of an Eastern Capital" (2), threw a new and interesting light upon the life of the author of "Vanity Fair," who, it seems, "went out to India as a writer in the Company's service when he was seventeen and returned to England with his bride when he was twenty-six." Of course, the William Makepeace Thackeray mentioned by Mr. Bradley-Birt was the grandfather of the author of "Vanity Fair." "The Romance of an Eastern Capital" is extremely interesting, but as depressing as it is interesting. Here is a characteristic story from its blood-stained records. A prince having slain his father in battle ordered the eyes of all his stepbrothers to be torn out and presented on a salver to their mother! Yet this was the exemplary king of whom also the following tale is told: A widow complained to a judge that the king—whom she had not recognised—had accidentally wounded her only son with an arrow. The judge summoned the king before him and condemned him to compensate the widow for the accident to her son, which the king did royally. Then the judge prostrated himself at the king's feet, fearing his vengeance, whereupon the king showed him a sword he carried beneath his cloak and said: "Judge, in obedience to your commands as expounder of the Sacred Law, I obeyed your summons. If I had found that you had deviated one jot from its ordinances, with this sword I should have decapitated you." "King," replied the judge, laying his hand on the scourge which hung in the court, "I also swear by Almighty God that if you had not complied with the injunctions of the law, this scourge should have been laid upon your back as upon that of any other criminal." Fortunate is the young English hero of "Princess Maritza" (3) in winning the love of two such warrior women as the Princess and Countess Frina: but then the Britisher also is so stalwart a warrior that he can spit his adversary through a dead body, held up as a shield, transfixing both as two pieces of cat's-meat are transfixed on a single skewer. The Princess herself rather confirms my misgiving that if women had a vote we should rush more recklessly into war than we do even at present; but she is a charming as well as a Spartan heroine, and is besides the centre of such breathless adventures as keep your interest highly strung throughout. I get rather tired of the priggish, pragmatical, positive detective of fiction; nor does Mr. Robert Chambers's "The Tracer of Lost Persons" (4) help to reconcile me to their owlish omniscience. Indeed, to say the whole truth, such preposterous stories as that of the Pygmalion-like fascination of the creator of the "Gibson Girl"—I beg pardon, the "Carden Girl"—with the type of beauty he had drawn, rather exasperate than interest me. The tracer of lost persons finds his ideal for the artist in the person of a young lady doctor, who is persuaded to be interested in him as the subject of a unique disease and to marry him the day after her first interview with him as her patient. It is quite possible, however, that those who enjoy detective stories may like this burlesque of them.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The Terrible Teuton once more! Mr. John Long announces yet another story, "The Way of War," which is based on the idea of a German plot for the sudden and secret invasion of England. The author, however, shows more consideration for our nerves than some of his predecessors in the same kind of fiction. Instead of allowing the Germans to succeed, he shows how their secret designs are discovered and frustrated, through the adroitness and courage of the hero, and "the climax is reached in a naval battle, when the steel-clad might of England, being at length let loose, swoops down in

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In the "Short Cruises" which he takes in the new collection of Mr. W. W. Jacobs' stories bearing that title, the reader renews his acquaintance with some old favourites, conspicuous among them being the night watchman, with his inimitable yarns of Ginger Dick and other sailormen, and the oldest inhabitant of Claybury, with his entertaining narratives of the ingenious Bob Pretty's tricks upon his fellow yokels. Mr. Jacobs' humour is as irresistible as ever in these tales. The book, which is published by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, price 3s. 6d., has a number of illustrations by Mr. Will Owen, who is always happy in his delineations of Mr. Jacobs' quaint characters.

The new series of biographies which Mr. John Lane is publishing under the title of "Stars of the Stage" makes a happy beginning with a volume on "Ellen Terry" by Mr. Christopher St. John. He is lavish of praise in his sketch of her career, art, and personality, but who will dare to complain on that score? No living actress holds so high a place in the love and admiration of English playgoers, and no one could have been chosen so fittingly as the first of these "Stars of the Stage." The volume, price 2s. 6d. net, has some interesting illustrations. In the same series, of which Mr. J. T. Grein is editor, biographies of Mr. Tree, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Pinero, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, and other actors and dramatists, are promised.

In the introduction to his book on "The Naples Riviera" (Methuen and Co., price 6s.) Mr. Herbert M. Vaughan modestly speaks of it as a medley of history and imagination, of biography and of private comment. A medley, perhaps, but a very entertaining one—the outcome of a thorough knowledge of the history and associations, and a warm appreciation of the beauty of the places he describes, combined with literary skill in conveying his information and his impressions in a light and agreeable manner. The book has twenty-five illustrations in colours by Mr. Maurice Greiffenhagen.

In a novel, entitled "The Passing of Night" (John Long, price 6s.), Mr. J. Fovargue Bradley, a Congregational Minister, tackles the question of ritualism in the Church of England and the desirability of disestablishment—though not disendowment—in the interests of religious and social life. Apart, however, from the purpose running through it, "The Passing of Night" has considerable merit and interest as a story.

An elaborate and copiously illustrated treatise on trout fishing from the pen of Mr. Earl Hodgson is announced by Messrs. A. and C. Black. Believing that no stream can be injured by fair fishing of any kind, the author not only exhaustively deals with fly-fishing, both wet and dry, but expounds such methods as angling with the minnow, the worm, the creeper, the gentle, and the wasp-grub.

"Printers' Pie," the annual edited by Mr. W. Hugh Spottiswoode, is this year a richer dish than ever, full of good things by well-known writers and well-known artists. This annual makes a double appeal to the public. Not only is it in itself a capital shillingsworth, but its sale helps a most deserving charity, the profits being given to the Printers' Pension, Almshouse and Orphan Asylum Corporation.

Mr. Justin McCarthy contributes an article on "The Birth of the Provincial Daily Newspaper in England" to the new edition of Mr. Sell's annual, "The World's Press." It was at Liverpool that the first provincial daily paper was established, and it was as a member of its reporting staff that Mr. McCarthy commenced his distinguished career as a journalist. "The World's Press" contains other interesting contributions, and the usual carefully prepared lists and other particulars of British, Colonial, and foreign newspapers.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's career at home as a politician—a member of the Fourth Party and the originator of the Primrose League—and abroad as a diplomatist should provide him with a rich and varied store of reminiscences for the book which he is writing. The work will occupy two volumes and will be published by Messrs. Macmillan.

Mr. Aaron Watson has written a history of the Savage Club to which Mark Twain—a frequent guest of the Savages—contributes a chapter. The book will be published by Mr. Fisher Unwin. During the present week Mr. Unwin is issuing a volume on "Siena and Her Artists," by Mr. Frederick H. A. Seymour, author of "Saunterings in Spain." In the first part of his new book Mr. Seymour deals with Siena at the present day, her monuments and palaces, her churches and galleries, and her topography in general. The second part is a study of the Sienese School of Art from Duccio to Sodoma.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I am sure you must remember my describing the evening fête given last summer by the Legion of Frontiersmen. It is to be repeated on Empire Day under the patronage of the Duke of Connaught, and in the same place, the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, under the direction of the Earl of Lonsdale, President of the League, and Sir Henry Seton-Karr, Chairman of the Executive Council. The list of patrons has immensely grown since last year. It now includes the Colonial Premiers and Agents-General for the Colonies, and a great number of Generals. The programme for Friday evening (24th inst.) includes a presentment in costume of the duel in all ages, which ought to be very interesting. It will be under the direction of Captain Alfred Hutton and Captain Graham Hope, and a number of other well-known swordsmen will take part in it. The Japanese School of Ju-jitsu (please do not sound the last "u") is to give a display, and new songs will be sung round the bivouac and camp fire, probably the most picturesque portion of the whole proceedings. There is also to be a dramatic and musical entertainment.

John Fourstars, most insular of young Britons, has just come back from six months in Paris, clamouring to be shown "round, rosy, bouncing girls." His French godmother has introduced him to any number of pale, bewitching Parisiennes, "who all looked as if they wanted purple pills or crimson capsules or something," and, so stubborn was his indifference to their charms, that I believe he will marry the next girl he meets with a hockey-stick. He was with his people last week-end when we were there, and his conversation was all Union Jack, except when a French friend was in the room. He brought this young Antoine over to show him "what a jolly kind of girl ought to look like." The Fourstars are motor-mad, you know. They come down to breakfast half-swathed, and are out all day, getting back to nine o'clock supper, for which we were all too tired to dress. On the last evening, when talk had persistently run on motor-clothing, Antoine suddenly burst out in his remarkable English with: "Pouf! It is that I dislike this man, this what you say—this firm, this Gamage! Of how much use to come from Paris to see my little John's English girls? On their heads they wear caps with fe-laps (flaps) to hide their hair—from Gamage; round them to protect their face is chiffon and talc—from Gamage. The eyes are behind glasses—from this same what-you-call. Their divine figures, so straight, they, too, are clothed in do-not-be-afraid-of-anythings from Gamage. I see not the English women—I see for ever the armour of Gamage."

"Well," said Mrs. Fourstars, "if we did not wear that sort of thing we should not be worth seeing. Our

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'do-not-be-afraid-of-anythings' are really dreadnoughts (a more convenient name, my dear Antoine). What complexion I have left is due to my talc mask that clips to my hat. The flaps of my cap have banished neuralgia, and the chiffon head-dress keeps every atom of dust out, even when I turn the veil back. I have a lovely fleecy under-coat, over which I can wear any unlined tweed thing. It is much nicer than a detachable lining. Or I can wear my tweed without it, the one with the hood that draws quite close round the face; and you know well, Antoine, that in the middle of a hail-storm ten miles from home you said I had the expression I wear when I am sitting in my drawing-room. You also said that the hood that caused the expression was 'a delectable suiting.' Do not libel our clothes. They are pretty. What of the pale green check silk waterproof that you said ought to be made into a ball-dress? And Joan's white and pale blue tweed, with her pale blue crêpe-de-chine headdress let in with lace? And our loose extra wraps that slip on over everything, so easily that no man need leave his cigar to help us?"

"It is all true! I have wrong. It is not Gamage but the motor which I must have a duel with. I will embrace him and say, 'For me also make a do-not-be-dreaded-of-nought.' Where is he?"

"He is about a hundred yards of Holborn—rather a large armful for an embrace. You had better take John with you to see you through."

Yesterday the Fourstars drove up, Mrs. Fourstars wearing a most delightful and coquettish silk wrap over her well-cut undercoat, and Joan looking almost garden-partyish in white alpaca and close-drawn pink crêpe-de-chine. And on the front seat sat Antoine, cap, flap, talc, and do-not-be-afraid-of-anything, all complete, and a gleaming Gallic smile irradiating the whole costume.

"Now it is that I understand the English sport," he announced. "Never before have I really loved it, but now I, too, embrace motor-riding, and to the weather I say, Pouf!" We laughed at his conversion. It is not very difficult to love a pleasant occupation when you are guarded against all its unpleasantnesses and evil consequences, and withal have a handsome face and figure not obscured!

This is to be a quite tremendous year for motoring. In fact, all Britain is to be one cloud of dust, and to arm ourselves with motor clothing is simply a duty, as well as a pleasure.

Every self-respecting woman is now buying herself new frocks. It is the proper thing to do when all nature is donning her brightest and best; her "clearest of crystal and purest of green." The question always is, whether to buy material and have it made up, or buy something ready-made. If the querist happens to be "stock-size" (there are three stock sizes, I believe), she will probaby decide on the latter. If she should be so fortunate as to have a clever "little" dressmaker (the adjective "little" means "cheap" in this connection), she buys the stuff and possesses her soul as best she can until the "little" person finds time to make it up. Being both cheap and clever, she is naturally in request.

Another plan is to compromise, and buy the skirt ready made, interrogating one's *Innerste* as to the character of the bodice.

Nearly all the manufacturers of tweeds or textile fabrics have now a department for making-up coats and skirts, and some of these are astonishingly low in price. This is borne in upon me by a box of patterns just received from Copland and Lye, of Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow, whose Scotch homespuns, Caledonian winceys, and "Clachan" tweeds have such a reputation. They have a costume department, and one has simply to choose a material from among their numerous patterns and send off an order, receiving duly a well-cut skirt for a guinea, if tweed, or two guineas if in clan tartan. Their shirtings make delightful tennis suits, or merely skirts to be worn with a blouse. For this, too, their winceys are capital, especially the pure white, and so inexpensive. They begin at 1s. the yard. Bee is having a coat and skirt of one of these, and Maud has ordered a "Highland skirt" (which does not mean a kilt!) in our own beloved clan tartan. Send for a catalogue and box of patterns, and follow their excellent example.

As a man remarked to me many years ago (I remember telling you about it), "the vissitudes (*sic*) of life is awful." I am often reminded of him, and was so for the hundredth time the other day, when I saw a gown of the Royal Stuart tartan on a poor, dilapidated woman who, with a jug in her hand, was evidently making for the nearest public-house. The gown had once been fresh, and probably had once been worn by a dame of high degree. Even in its decay it showed signs of having been cut with skill, and some glossy black braid of the fashionable sort testified to erstwhile smartness. Richard, who was with me, laughed at this current of ideas, part of which I framed in words, and said it was a lucky thing that ladies' old gowns did descend in the social scale, to be of use to poor women who could not afford to buy new ones.

The Loughborough Hospital ball at the Wharnecliffe Rooms on Wednesday was a great success. They do things so well at the Great Central, and then Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen had taken any amount of trouble to organise it, with her usual result. There were plenty of dancing men, and, as to the music, it was Mr. Alfred de Rothschild's private band, so you can imagine how perfect it was. Everybody was happy, even before supper, and, of course, after it, for it was excellent, and the champagne well iced. How is it that scarcely any one else can manage to give a really good hot supper with champagne for a guinea ticket and yet hand over a substantial sum to the charity?

Among the pretty frocks was a white chiffon trimmed with graduated bands of silver; a gold tissue embroidered with gold and trimmed round the shoulders with shaded pansies; a pale blue taffetas very simply made,

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but beautifully cut and trimmed with violets; a soft blue chiffon very full and bordered with a band of blue silk to match; a lace in creamiest cream colour embroidered in pale gold and worn over gold tissue, and a black lace over white, which was inimitably worn. There was one successful Empire gown. It looked in near the end of the evening. Some other soi-disant Empire frocks were failures, chiefly because there was an insufficiency of material in them. Josephine, Empress, knew how to combine an apparent skimpiness with a graceful flow of folds, à la grecque. It was from Greece that the Empire fashions originally came.

It is a long time since I told you anything about men's dress, an important topic that should not be neglected. Why, for instance, should you be left in ignorance of the fact that morning coats have but a single button? That the white evening waistcoat has three? The shirt two studs? I am sure that you will feel more worthy of your country and your class now that you have imbibed this information.

At the opera a few men carry about a gold or silver-headed stick. This seems to me an idiotic fashion. What do they propose to do with their sticks? They carefully carry them in foyer and from stall to box when they call upon their friends. As you know, the pretty women like to have the front of their box surrounded by admirers. Sometimes these are so thick about it that they look like a hedge or fence painted black picked out with white. The men outside glare enviously at the "callers" who are inside, and the favoured insides resent the turning on them of a lovely shoulder as its owner converses with the outsides. So runs the world away. Beauty disperses her favours and her snubs, while envy and jealousy rankle under the starch of a two-studded shirt.

Apropos! There is one man (not Bernard Shaw) who frequents the opera and wears a soft-fronted shirt. I hate starch, but could almost love it when I see that man, so dispiriting is his appearance.

Jim, who is always perfectly dressed, turned up at the ball in a dark purple coat, the latest whisper in evening garb. I liked it. The colour was so insidiously subtle that only when his broad shoulder was between me and the light could I detect that the cloth was not black. I hope this new fashion may prove the thin end of the wedge, and that men will soon wear, in the evening at least, some of the brilliant colours that once they revelled in—pontiff purple, cramoisie, violet, puce, deep green, and so on, with ruffles and jabots of old lace. I said so to Jim, who promptly called upon his aunt, as men are wont to do nowadays when anything surprises them, or when they have no sensible remark at hand. In a pause of the conversation at a dinner-table one hears the ejaculation, "Oh, my immortal aunt!" and wonders for the fiftieth time how on earth it originated.

When you tire—one often does—of the ordinary breakfast food, try this marble veal:—

Boil, skin, and cut a dried tongue into slices, then beat it well with half a pound of butter and a teaspoonful of pounded mace, until it is of a smooth paste. Have ready some well-stewed veal, and beat it in the same manner. Season it with pepper, salt, and a dust of cayenne. Put a layer of veal, a layer of tongue, and another of veal into potting pots, fill them very closely, press the meat down very hard, and screen it well with clarified butter. Be sure to keep it in a dry place. When required, cut it into slices. Garnish it with parsley.

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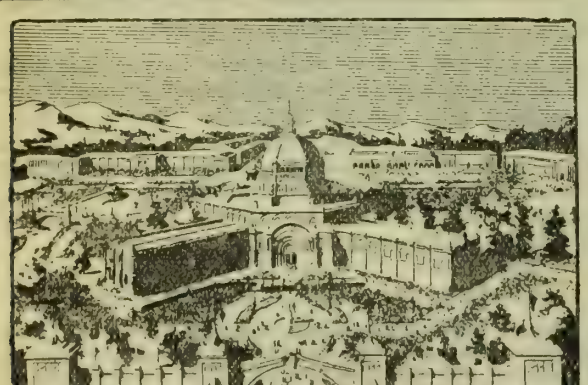

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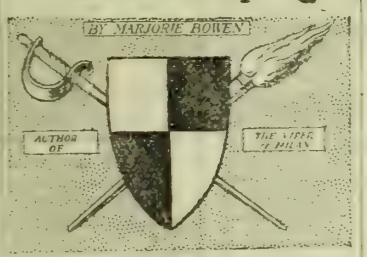

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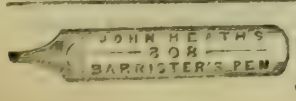

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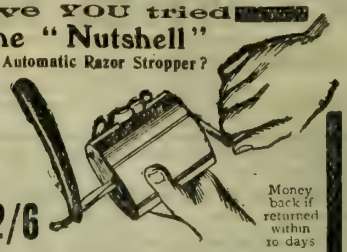

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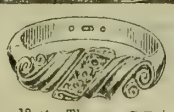
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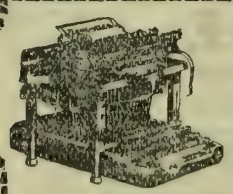

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Economics of Furnishing.

How a Renaissance in Popular Taste has been helped by Revolution in Trade Methods.

(By Mrs. MORRISON WILLIAMSON.)

There is not a trade in which such striking developments have occurred in the past five years as the furniture trade. Indeed, a complete revolution has been manifest in the methods of furnishing, and this has proceeded hand-in-hand with a conspicuous improvement in the quality and style of the goods offered to the public.

The elevation of popular taste in furniture is one of the most remarkable facts of our time. It is only natural that the names of individuals should be identified with this change. And particularly in this connection is the name of Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander concerned, for this house was established some few years since with the deliberate, open-eyed intention of fostering, leading, and profiting from the Renaissance in domestic furniture.

One of the instruments with which Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander have succeeded in accomplishing this is the new trade method they have invented. They have revolutionised the instalment plan of buying, and made the purchasing of furniture "out of income" a safe and honourable method, now adopted by all classes of the community.

The clergyman, the doctor, the schoolmaster, and the shopkeeper no longer hesitate to adopt this method. The idea that buying furniture on deferred payments is a disgrace, and only the resort of the unthrifty, is a grievous mistake. But it is not surprising that this idea became prevalent. There are certain houses which seek only a cheap grade trade. The terms and prices they advertise show conclusively that they carry only the commonest goods. It is not disgraceful to buy from such houses, but it is very expensive. There is probably no business house that does not many times in the year resort to using credit, or borrowing money. Many great enterprises are carried out on credit. So that buying furniture on this basis is just as legitimate as renting a furnished house, or a furnished room, or living in a furnished hotel or boarding-house, or as borrowing money at the bank.

Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander commenced their campaign by introducing the system of marking all furniture in plain figures. Then they said to the public: "You can select your furniture and either pay cash, or have it on the deferred payment system. In the latter case, whether the period be six months, or three years, we only make an addition of five per cent. to the marked price. *Not five per cent. per annum, or five per cent. per month—just five per cent. whatever period you decide upon.*

"For instance, suppose you want £100 worth of furniture and you do not want to pay cash down. Very well, we charge you £105, and all you have to do is to engage to pay either within six months, one year, two years, or three years."

In passing, it may be remarked that certain firms claim not to charge a penny more when goods are bought on the instalment plan. But the speciousness of this claim is made clear by the fact that the same firms advertise that they take "10 per cent. off for cash!" This is very much like the trade device of giving goods away with 1 lb. of tea. Only the very simple imagine that this is pure philanthropy and that the cost does not come out of the tea.

By the logic of their trade methods Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander are breaking down the extravagant custom of renting furnished flats. They point out that by taking a furnished flat you pay more for the mere use of furniture than you pay by taking an unfurnished flat and buying the furniture on their system of deferred payments. Your outlay per quarter is actually less, and the furniture is your own property.

There are probably no fewer than 5,000 men of the professional class in London to-day who are paying a rental of from £250 to £350 a year for the use of a furnished flat. It is a fact that they could obtain in every way similar flats unfurnished for from £75 to £120 a year. In addition, they could purchase better and more complete furniture than they now use on a payment of, say, £100 a year, and this furniture would be their own property at the end of, say, three years.

This, however, is only part of the revolution brought about by this progressive house, which has also organised an elaborate system of provincial representation in the chief centres. Within three hours of receiving a telephone call at the head office, or communication by post, an expert in furnishing, representing Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander, will call at any address in the principal towns and act for them just as if he were one of themselves. Nor does it matter how remote from a railway station an address may be, the firm are ready to send a representative anywhere. The transaction in view need not be a large one. It may be only an order for £20, £40, £80, or £100, but the attention to the customer will be the same.

In order that a purchaser living in the provinces should feel that he is having the same attention as those residing in London, Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander arrange to dispatch goods packed in their own van at their door, and only unpacked at the destination. By these means the trouble of packing and unpacking is avoided, and the goods arrive at a distance of 500 miles in precisely the same manner as they are delivered in London.

And, obvious to the eye of anyone who visits the many-storied many-acred establishment at 252, 253, 254, 255, and 256, Tottenham Court-road, are the beauty, variety, and originality of the furniture stocked by Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander.

It is in the general scheme of furnishing that the character of a furniture firm is seen. Anybody can sell furniture in a way. They can advertise chairs, tables, and suites much as they would sell potatoes. But the test of the furnisher is the manner in which he is prepared to complete the house. Nowadays, the intelligent man desires something artistic, satisfying, and distinctive in the treatment of hearth and window. Special attention to these and other details has been given by Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander, who, personally, and through their special representatives, are always ready to suggest and advise in any particular case. Nothing is charged for this attention to the customer's interests or tastes. Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander are certainly intent on present trade and turnover; but far above these they esteem the building up of a reputation, the further establishing of their good name.

There are more well-furnished homes in Britain than in any other country on earth. It is the most highly civilised country, and the homes that comprise it the best-furnished. Whether civilisation produces furniture or furniture produces civilisation is an open question. Certainly there is a refining influence about a well-furnished room. Aside from the aesthetic or artistic view of the case there is the consideration of comfort. Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander have designed their furniture for practical use, for comfort, and for convenience. Hitherto the man of artistic taste and only moderate means has had to associate the purchase of furniture on credit with furniture that only offends his artistic sense.

The heads of this firm have had extensive experience not only in England, but on the Continent and in America. There are not, indeed, two greater authorities in the trade, and their furniture represents the latest and best obtainable in all lands.

The huge catalogue published by Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander is really a complete guide to house furnishing of all kinds. It is an expensive production, yet the firm offer to send it post free on application. Besides the mere list of goods and the countless illustrations, it contains much useful information to the furniture-buyer.

If you are in the country write for this catalogue before buying furniture. If you are in London procure the catalogue, and also remember that Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander invite you to inspect their premises.

When the roots are not healthy and strong, or when they are affected by germs, YOUR HAIR will not—indeed, cannot—grow. That is why

NOTHING CAN be ANY GOOD for

HAIR

which is FALLING OUT or prematurely GREY

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CAPSULOIDS

Magnified diseased hair as seen through the microscope, showing how all its connections at the bottom were destroyed by germs, after which it became loose, and simply fell out. This hair is now under the microscope in the Capsuloid Company's office.

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LOOK AT THIS PICTURE OF A HAIR GREATLY MAGNIFIED, and learn how your hair grows, why it becomes prematurely grey, why it does not grow well, and why it falls out. The whole hair is produced by the multiplication of those growing cells which lie at the bottom and form its roots. They rest upon the little blood vessels which carry the blood from which the cells draw all their nourishment. You can easily see from this picture that when the harmful germs settle in those growing cells and go on multiplying they will injure the cells, loosen and fall out, or which causes the hair to become prematurely grey. If those germs are not checked they will in time quite destroy the cells, and as the roots would then be dead, it is clear no hair could ever grow from a dead root.

Those germs must, then, be killed quickly, and the only medicine ever discovered which will do it is—

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"Dear Sirs,—I have much pleasure in telling you I have derived great benefit from Capsuloids. My hair was falling out very much, but they quickly stopped it, and now new hair is growing fast. My hair is in a better and more healthy condition than it has been for some years. It still continues to improve, and other people are noticing it also. I shall always take Capsuloids when I find my hair falling, or out of condition. "Yours truly, (Miss) LUCY SELMES."

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A few drops sprinkled into a basin of hot or cold water will cheer and refresh you, and act as a SKIN TONIC.

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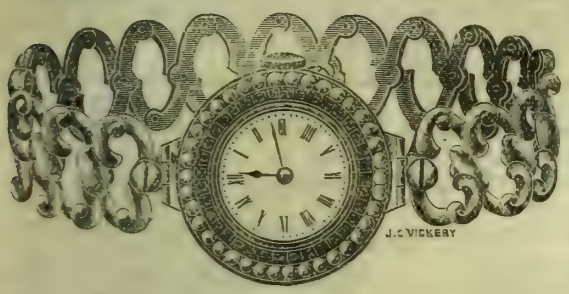

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Handsome Golf or "rainy day" Skirt in Stylish Checks and Plain TWEEDS.

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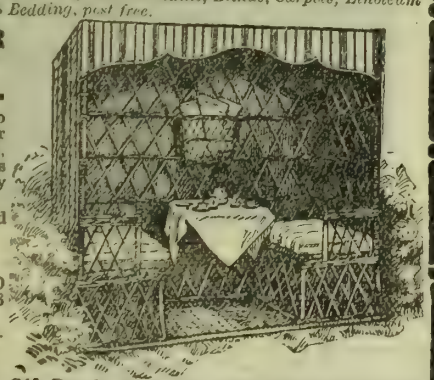

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Apollinaris
TABLE WATERS."

MINING EXPLORATION COMPANY.

The Technical Director endorses the policy of the Board.

The Secretary has issued the following circular, dated May 13, to the Shareholders:—I have pleasure in informing you that Mr. R. Gilman Brown, who recently joined the Board as Technical Director, has returned from his inspection trip to Chili. The result of his investigation is that the policy which your Directors have adopted in making provision for full transport facilities, providing for enlarged reduction plant, and pushing this work forward contemporaneously with the work on the mines, effecting thus the earliest realisation on your investment, is fully endorsed by him. By the time the smelter will be operating at its full capacity of 36,000 tons of ore a year, we shall be able to produce matte giving an annual net profit of £110,000 on the basis of copper at £90 per ton. The expectations are that by that time the mines can produce 72,000 tons annually of ore averaging 8 per cent., which will more than double this profit of £110,000; provision for the necessary increase in the capacity of the smelter has been made. In the meantime, our matte product will have reached a marketable value of £86,000, with copper taken at the same price as mentioned above.

CHOICAS.—Of the estimated tonnage of 72,000 tons, the greater part will come from the Choicas Mine. The reasons for this statement are as follows:—The ore taken out by the former owners and by ourselves has come from above a large fault—we have cut below this fault on the 10-metre level and have now showing 52 feet, averaging 11 per cent. During the present winter (May to September), we expect to open this up on the second adit level, which is 32 metres below the upper adit. It seems certain that the ore we have hitherto been mining has been broken off from the ore in the 10-metre level by the above-mentioned fault, and we are justified in expecting that on this lower unfaulted portion of the vein that ore will have at least the same longitudinal extent that is shown in the faulted portion. On this basis we expect that every 100 feet in depth will yield from 50,000 to 70,000 tons of ore. Once the second adit level has been driven in under the ore in the 10-metre level, thus showing the length of this ore body to be what we surmise, the future of the mine is as well assured as we can possibly wish. There is no reason to believe that the grade of ore will change before water level is reached, even if then. This point is as yet undetermined, but it is certainly not above the level of the canyon directly in front of the mine, and is very probably several hundred feet lower than that. This canyon is 180 metres (600 feet) below the No. 1 adit, so that we have as a minimum 600 feet, and as a maximum possibly several times this depth before the grade should be materially lessened. All the above calculations are made on the basis of 8 per cent. ore, whereas, as above stated, the ore in the 10-metre level averages 11 per cent. There are strong indications of the ore going further into the mountain towards the south, and steps will be taken as early as possible to prospect this part of the property.

VICTORIA.—This property is distinctly interesting as it presents a very long series of copper-bearing outcrops. On account of its unusual characteristics, development work at present has not definitely proved its condition at depth, but ore has been mined elsewhere in the same belt at a depth of several hundred feet, and there are small but promising showings of good grade ore in our Victoria tunnel 200 feet below the outcrop. We have determined during the next season (September to May) to drive the above-mentioned tunnel completely under the outcrop, and at the same time open up quarries on the surface at two or three points where outcrop indications are exceedingly promising. Here, as in Choicas, we have no reason to fear that the ore owes its copper values to the surface conditions, as the bottom of the canyon level (which must be water level) is certainly not less than 2,000 feet below the outcrops. This ore being disseminated in the form of bornite through the mass of formation will be treated by concentration in the neighbourhood of the mine, and the concentrates shipped to the smelter. If this concentrating ore is found to average only 3 per cent., very handsome profits can be made out of it. With regard to these two mines (Choicas and Victoria), our Technical Director strongly recommends that they should be treated as one property, and not formed into subsidiary companies, for the following reasons:—(a) The concentrates from the Victoria Mine will be eminently suitable for mixture with the Choicas ores and will simplify and probably cheapen smelting operations. (b) The full value and extent of the Victoria Mine being at present undetermined, the best interests of the Shareholders will be served by the development of both properties being kept in their own hands, at any rate for the present.

HUANACO.—The Huanaco and other properties will be worthy of investigation later, but for the present all our energies must be concentrated on the Choicas and Victoria Mines.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES GOLD MINING COMPANY,

WITWATERSRAND, LIMITED.

The London Agents have received the following cable from the head office of the Company in Johannesburg dated 7th May, 1907:—

"With reference to the Resolutions which it is stated were adopted in London on Friday last at a Meeting of Shareholders of Randfontein Estates Company, and which were published in the newspapers in London and cabled to the Press here, the Board of Directors of the Company deem it advisable that they should again place before the Shareholders the exact position of the Randfontein group of Mines; and they first of all give an emphatic denial to the statements made in a Circular which they are informed has been issued to Shareholders there by the conveners of the Meeting. The statements about the enormous cost of management charges in connection with the administration of the Randfontein Companies are absolutely false; the Board of Directors have a full statement of similar costs of Companies controlled by other groups, and there are none that can show the same favourable results as far as administrative and management charges are concerned. The Directors are doing their utmost to bring eight subsidiary Companies, in addition to the four now working, to a producing stage as soon as possible, and every effort is being made to achieve the object they have in view. The Chairman, Mr. J. B. Robinson, is giving his personal attention to all these matters, and is rendering the Companies every assistance. Financially, and in the recruitment of labour, it is beyond any doubt that the Robinson Group has never been in such a favourable position as it is to-day; the labour supply exceeds the demand, and the moment is being taken advantage of to push forward in the most energetic manner the development of the subsidiaries and their equipment. To achieve this desirable end money is required. The greater part of the funds held by Randfontein Company at the present time in cash and debentures was subscribed for the sole purpose of acquiring other properties and for developing its subsidiaries. The Directors have no right to distribute these funds as dividends to Shareholders. It is anticipated that, if nothing unforeseen occurs, Randfontein Companies will be producing in eighteen months or two years about seventy-five thousand ounces of gold per month. It is then that substantial dividends will be forthcoming and distributed among Shareholders. To interfere with the beneficial policy of the Directors at present would be to wreck the future of Randfontein. The Board may state at once that they will not allow any interference with their policy, which they consider to be for the best interests of Shareholders, nor will they submit to any dictation from an irresponsible coterie of Shareholders who know absolutely nothing of the condition of things prevailing here, and who, in their ignorance of these conditions, or through some other motive, seek to influence Shareholders to assist them in wrecking the Randfontein property; and the Board of Directors desire to impress upon Shareholders that if the proposed action which has been set on foot by the coterie is adopted, that it will not only result in a serious depreciation of their holdings, but that many innocent Shareholders, who are being misled, will suffer great loss through the designs of these men. It is well known that there is a bitter feeling entertained by certain men towards the Robinson Group at the success of its labour recruitment, and the opening up of so many new Mines on the Randfontein property. It is also quite clear that this extensive development for the good of the Shareholders is not appreciated by those whose policy is opposed for political reasons to any fresh development of mines on the Rand. It is most fortunate that the Directors have had the foresight to husband the resources of Randfontein, as it enables them to finance the new mines and bring them to a producing stage, thus enhancing the value of this extensive and valuable property. The Board has now placed before Shareholders its views on this important matter, and, in conclusion, the Board feels that it is in duty bound to again warn Shareholders that any attempt to restrict the operations now proceeding on Randfontein, or to interfere with the policy of the Board, will lead to disastrous results. The Board is now preparing a comparative statement of the administration and management expenses of the Randfontein and other groups on the Rand, and will post same to all Shareholders by next mail.

London Transfer Agency,
30 and 31, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.
8th May, 1907.

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EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
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Have issued a Prospectus, of which the following is an abridgement, and which states, among other things, that the Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. Applications will only be entertained on the footing of and with reference to the full Prospectus referred to below.

ISSUE OF 125,000 PREFERRED SHARES OF £1 EACH AT PAR, bearing 7 per cent. Cumulative Dividend and one-third of the surplus profits.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST OPENED on MONDAY, May 13th, and will CLOSE for Town and Country on or before WEDNESDAY, May 15th, 1907, at 4 p.m.

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TAYLOR, CALVERT and CO., Belfast.
WISE, SPEKE and CO., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

AUDITORS.

E. LAYTON BENNETT, and COMPANY, Chartered Accountants, 31 and 32, Broad-street Avenue, Blomfield-street, E.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

Colonel R. E. CROMPTON, C.B., R.E., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.E.E., Kensington-court, London, W.
B. H. THWAITE, A.M.Inst.C.E., 29, Great George-street, Westminster, London, S.W.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

HERBERT A. GRIMSDICK, 122, Victoria-street, Westminster, London, S.W.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the patent rights for the United Kingdom and other parts of the world for the Renard Train, and in conjunction therewith the business as a going concern of Ed. Surcouf et Cie, of Billancourt, Paris.

The Company will take over the works of Messrs. Surcouf, with the plant, machinery, fixtures, and stock.

To provide for the early execution of orders, &c., a manufacturing agreement will be entered into with The Daimler Motor Company (1904), Limited, thus ensuring excellence of manufacture and prompt delivery. The basis of the agreement will be a division of profits on sale between this Company and the Daimler Company. Commenting on this, the *Times* of March 11th, 1907, says: "The best guarantee of the value and potentialities of Colonel Renard's invention—shown for the first time in England, although it has been at work for a substantial period in France—is that the Daimler Company, one of the most flourishing and best-managed houses of Automobile Manufacturers in the world, has held it to be worth while to undertake the sole manufacture of the Renard Train, not for Great Britain only, but for the whole world outside France."

The works at Billancourt are now being enlarged in order to be capable of an output of about 100 trains per annum.

The system has been fully reported upon by the following eminent authorities: Colonel R. E. Crompton, C.B., R.E., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.E.E., &c., and Mr. A. A. Campbell Swinton, M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.E.E., &c.

The Company has also orders in hand to supply three Renard Trains for the French War Department.

The profit on the orders in hand will more than suffice to provide the Preference Dividend of 7 per cent. on the 125,000 Preferred Shares for the first year.

The rapid progress which this invention has made, within a short time, and the numerous negotiations in hand, as well as the inquiries from almost all parts of the world, justify the confidence of the Directors in a world-wide development of the business.

The Preferred Shares will be entitled not only to a Cumulative Preferential Dividend of 7 per cent., but to one-third of the surplus profits after the payment of 7 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares. Every additional £3,750 of dividend declared beyond £17,500 will yield a further 1 per cent. on the Preferred Capital.

Applications for Preferred Shares should be sent with a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share to the Company's Bankers, the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, or the Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, or any of their Branches.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, Broker, and Secretary.

Dated May 6th, 1907.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION FOR PREFERRED SHARES MAY BE USED.

(To be retained by the Bankers.)

Date ..... 1907.

To the Directors of

THE RENARD ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Please send me a full Prospectus. Meanwhile, I have paid to your Bankers the sum of £ ..... being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on ..... Preferred Shares of £1 each in the above named Company. I hereby request that you will allot to me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number that you may allot to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorize you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares allotted to me.

Name (in full) .....

Address (in full) .....

£ : : .....

Profession or Business .....

Signature .....

Cheques to be made payable to the National Provincial Bank of England or Union Bank of Scotland.

RENARD ROAD TRAINS

We are now prepared to give early delivery of Vehicles (manufactured by the Daimler Motor Co., 1904, Ltd.) for Goods or Passenger Traffic.

Orders in hand include complete trains for the War Department of the French Government; for the Societé Française des Trains Renard (under the subsidies of the French Government); and many others too numerous to mention here.

Press Extracts on the Renard Road Train.

The "Times," Jan. 16th, 1907:
"The most interesting self-propelled vehicle of modern times."

The "Daily Telegraph," Jan. 22nd, 1907:
"Of the highest importance."

The "Standard," Jan. 31st, 1907:
"Great possibilities."

The "Morning Post," Feb. 16th, 1907:
"A complete success."

The "Morning Leader," Jan. 12th, 1907:
"The marvellous motor train which will revolutionise rural traffic."

The "Daily Chronicle," Jan. 31st, 1907:
"Will revolutionise existing methods."

The "Financial News," Jan. 12th, 1907:
"English engineers are enthusiastic about this coming revolution in road transport."

The "Daily Express," Feb. 16th, 1907:
"Evoked general admiration."

The "Daily Graphic," Feb. 16th, 1907:
"A new carrier for passengers and goods."

The "Morning Advertiser," Feb. 16th, 1907:
"It will prove the salvation of industries now handicapped by inadequate rail and water facilities."

The "Tribune," Feb. 16th, 1907:
"The various uses to which such trains may be put are infinite."

The "Pall Mall Gazette," Feb. 15th, 1907:
"A great future."

The "St. James' Gazette," March 13th, 1907:
"The most interesting exhibit in the show (Olympia)."

The "Westminster Gazette," Feb. 16th, 1907:
"Remarkable evolution."

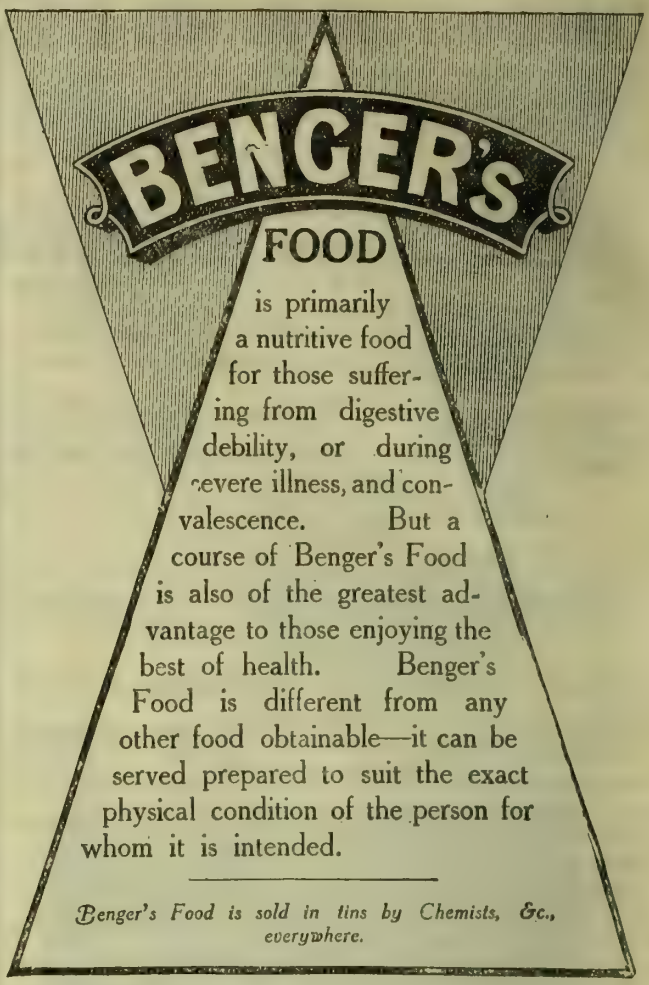
The "Weekly Sun," Feb. 23rd, 1907:
"A wide field of usefulness."

The "Mechanical Engineer," Feb. 2nd, 1907:
"The Renard Train possesses in a high degree the qualities of an ideal system of transport."

Full particulars on application to the Secretary.

The RENARD ROAD & RAIL TRANSPORT CORPORATION, Ltd.,

122, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.



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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,469.

THE FOUR GREATEST MEN IN HISTORY PRIOR TO THE CHRISTIAN ERA: AND THE FOUR GREATEST MEN IN HISTORY SINCE THAT DATE.

A collation of all lists sent in has produced the following "ideal" list, viz.:—

B.C.: Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, Moses, Homer.
A.D.: Shakespeare, Napoleon I., Mahomet, St. Paul.

Only two Competitors have sent in lists exactly corresponding with this ideal (viz., ALICUJAS and WILL). The Prize of Two Guineas, therefore, is equally divided between them.

It may be of interest to Competitors generally to know that SOCRATES and PLATO occupy fifth and sixth places among the B.C. great men; while among the A.D. great men ST. PAUL only scores by one point from COLUMBUS and NELSON, who, in turn, are but one point in front of ISAAC NEWTON and LUTHER.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,470.

HUMOROUS POEMS SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY A "LITTLE BEAST" OF A PET DOG IN ANSWER TO FATHER VAUGHAN'S DIATRIBES.

The Prize of Two Guineas in this Competition is awarded to KISMET, whose poem was printed in TRUTH of April 17 last.

NOTICE.

It has been suggested to me by an Oxford correspondent that, as TRUTH numbers among its readers many classical scholars, both at our universities and public schools, it might be a popular move to give them a turn one week by holding a competition in Latin verse.

But before I come to any definite decision on the point, I should like first to form some idea as to how far such a competition would be taken up. I therefore invite any to whom the suggestion appeals to communicate with me as soon as possible.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,471.

A competitor has suggested to me that in view of the widespread interest evoked by our "Greatest Men" Competition, some weeks back, it would form an interesting supplement to have a "Greatest Women" Competition. And as I rather agree with him, I am proposing this week to act on his suggestion by offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that Competitor who shall be most successful in compiling

A LIST OF THE SIX GREATEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

Competitors are not required, as in the "Greatest Men" Competition, to divide their lists equally between B.C. and A.D. history; but may take their "Greatest Women" from any period indiscriminately.

Furthermore, this Competition will not be judged on a *plebiscite* basis, but the Prize will be awarded to that Competitor whose list the Puzzle Editor considers to be the best.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one list
(ii.) All lists must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, May 27, *at latest.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SNOOKS.—Your new *nom de plume* duly registered.

JETHART.—I note the corrected spelling.

NOTE.—The Puzzle Editor is always glad to receive suggestions for Puzzles and hopes that any reader of TRUTH who may be inspired with a brilliant idea in this direction will not hesitate to send it on to him. He will also be pleased to receive and consider any criticisms Competitors may have to offer, with a view to the possible improvement of existing methods.

Competitors wishing for a reply by post are reminded that they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a "TRUTH" coupon, which will be found on the third page of the cover.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,473.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

INSCRIPTIONS SUITABLE FOR ENGRAVING UPON THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IN HONOUR OF ROBERT, LORD CLIVE, THE HERO OF PLASSY AND FOUNDER OF OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.

Strong son of the heroic days.
Thy life was for thine England spent,
At last awaking to thy praise,
She builds a tardy monument.
Camoens.

Nor all her sculptors' skill or poets' praise
Could voice Britannia's thanks to her great son.
One man alone thy monument could raise—
Thy worst task one.
Vox.

In memory of Robert Clive.
At Plassey and at Arcot, too,
He showed what British pluck could do.
Would more like him were now alive.
Poor Old Jeff.

England does tardy justice, and stones
For long neglect of him whose life for her was spent.
How poor the tribute of these sculptured stones:
Our Indian Empire stands, a worthier monument.
Gladiator.

To Clive are Britain's thankful praises due
For soon to Empire built beyond the sea—
An empire richer far than Cæsar knew,
Far greater, more united, and more free.
Cherrypicker.

Orme's halls and Plassey's field
To him a deathless glory yield!
In council wise, in battle brave,
An empire to his land he gave!
Minos.

Dark peoples without number knelt and told
The strength that nerved thy brain and edged thy sword.
Stern empire builder, who dost now behold
Light and Light's Lord.
Porphyria.

Heroes there are of various sorts and shades;
Some brave in bloody fields, some bold in raids;
True fame is theirs who sword with sense unite,
That fame is thine, Clive, this statue thy right.
Sincérité.

The East bowed down before this conquering son
Of Britain: great in war, in peace supreme.
He led the way to empire such as none,
Not even he, could measure in his dream.
Norfolk.

Foremost of England's heroes, he of India's strand
Ruler and overlord, o'er ocean and o'er land,
Rests from the toil of battle and affray,
Until the trumpet call on th' last great day.
Porthos.

Thy memory, Clive,
By that vast nation thou didst bring,
In Britain's heart shall ever live,
And thy sad death with mournful cadence ring.
Mart.

Heroic warrior, statesman bold,
No monument requirest thou;
Thy name and deeds will still be told,
When brass is tarnished, stone laid low.
Dullard.

Hero of Plassey, who founded our great Empire in the East,
Still lives—the golden chain of memory not broken in the least.
So to perpetuate his name, the nation, at this time, would found
A lasting monument to Clive (tho' late), with ev'ry honour, crown'd.
Effie.

Oh, shame to England that she has not crown'd before,
With fame, the hero Clive, who did so much, and more,
Than any soldier born, founding a kingdom grand,
Now to his praises, let all pay tribute in the land.
Jessica.

Statesman—soldier—patriot, born of Britain's will,
To be the nation's law in every clime;
His noble spirit lives in India's life until
The end of time.
Rimabel.

Lord Clive is gone, enshrined in stone, we mourn,
His labour o'er, world-wide fame cannot repay,
Tell me, whence are heroes borne.
Illustrious spirit, rest on till break of day.
Scot.

Your life-work closed ere it was scarce begun,
Your name is in our hearts enshrined,
And this your fame, "Lo, England's son,
Who gave unto his country, India!"
Djalfi.

"Heaven-born general," one of the best,
To thee this stone is raised on high.
Hero of Plassey, peacefully rest,
Thy name, brave soul, can never die.
Spartan.

Empire founder, thou art justly called,
By whose surpassing greatness were enthralled
Far India's myriads. God grant us such as thee,
To keep our Englands flag pure, strong, and free.
Oiseau.

Though empire builders builded on thy strength,
Thy name, deep carved, and lovingly, on plinth
Of Empire, makes memorial; this but stone.
Fair Ind we guard and Plassey, meaning one!
Caledon.

Daring in war! In council bold!
These lie deep-graved on corner-stone
Of England's greatness; God doth hold
Thy faults, thy wealth of gifts we own.
Brad.

"A heaven-born general," far surpassing all,
Hero of Plassey, and undying fame,
India thy valiant exploits would recall.
And commemorate thy glorious name.
Simplex.

Here by this marble to thy memory,
Great captain, homage proud and glad we pay.
Victor of Plassey, thou didst forge the key
Of England's Empire in the East to-day.
Pen.

Each son of Britain he his debtor made;
The gathering years have but the debt increased.
He dreamed of England's future fame and laid
The founding-stone of Empire in the East.
Quilp.

Thy genius won the distant East,
Undaunted warrior soul;
Whose will inspired the greatest, and the least,
On India's deathless roll.
Inca.

Though nations strive no more, and conflicts cease,
Thy fame shall still survive;
Foremost in war, and harbinger of peace,
England's immortal Clive!
Autolycus.

It is not framed by mortal hands,
Or in a pillared stone's extent;
Look eastward where an Empire stands.
Clive's monument.
Lugh.

Heroic Clive! on Plassey's field of fame,
A triple triumph was achieved by thee:
For England, Empire: for thyself, a name;
For India, peace and freedom to grow free.
Eboracum.

Young, dauntless, undeterred,
An Empire's base he laid;
That Empire here records,
Her debt—late paid.
Standian.

Victor of Plassey, thou who didst afford
Safety to India, in her hour of dread,
Quitting the desk to grasp the soldier's sword,
Then, worn with statecraft, join'd the noble dead.
Snap.

Some thirteen decades pass with footsteps slow,
And England wakens in a fervent glow;
Her patriotic ardour all alive,
She cries aloud, "A monument to Clive!"
Maliquant.

Brave, kindly, just; his only aim, the right;
Upholding law, or arming for the fight.
So India's Empire rose: our Clive alone
Fixing full firmly the foundation stone.
H.

The soldier may fight, and the pioneer travel
To heap up rewards that are glitt'ring and massy.
That no man, with honour or justice, may cavil,
This monument stands to Clive, Baron of Plassey.
Dick Maisch.

Vast dream of power! "Primus in Indus," great thy claim,
To found an Empire, worthy of the name.
Warrior and statesman, Clive, thy task was nobly done;
The Empire lives for ever—England thanks her son!
Kicta.

Who, bred to peace, yet born to rule, in youth
Crushed the fierce embers of a wavering war,
Then turned to gentler arts. Now we, in truth,
Behold that mighty Ind, which first, by faith, he saw.
Isobar.

The quiet Shropshire churchyard holds thy dust,
The stone above records thy mortal name;
England and India keep in sacred trust
The immortal glory of thy deathless fame.
Spinel.

Thou warrior, born full-arm'd in Britain's fateful hour,
When wavered, hesitatingly, her Empire-power;
Those laurels, superfluous to thy living brow,
With loving, lasting reverence we offer now.
W. Americus.

A humble civilian's post he went to try,
And hit upon the Imperial throne of Mogul race.
A poor official's pen he chose to ply,
And led twice to glorious victory our Northern race.
Dorset.

Clive, at thy feet, we laurels lay,
For victories won, though far away.
We laggards are. With roses decked
Now haste a statue to erect!
F. H. W.

Who would venture to try and match Robert Browning's "Clive"? I would not myself dare the attempt, but the four last lines of that stirring poem seem to me to be suitable.

"Comfort you, my great unhappy hero, Clive, in that I heard,
Next week how your own hand dealt you doom, and uttered just the word,
'Fearfully courageous!'—this be sure, and nothing else I groaned,
I'm no Clive, nor parson either; Clive's worst deed—we'll hope condoned."
Nemo.

To him, the warrior who "Peccavi" wrote,
When adding to our realm a province rare,
This bronze is raised: he dwells in lands remote,
A realm where is nor war, nor sin, nor care.
Almaviva.

After the storm of life has passed,
He rests in peace, who won renown,
And set the fairest jewel fast,
That ever graced an Empire's crown.
Podet.

A ruler born, a continent thy throne,
Bequeathed to England by thy able hand.
Out of thy strength a people's might has grown,
Thine all the honour, theirs a verdant land.
Val Venture.

An Empire-builder, bravest of the brave,
Who to his country once an Empire gave;
She knows to-day he battled for her good—
For her he shed his tears, then shed his blood.
Eggs.

He placed the richest gem on proud Britannia's brow;
He built an Empire in his life's brief span.
His name shall live for aye! A mighty nation now
Proclaims with one accord, "He was a man!"
Felixicus.

On Britain's brow the gem doth rest,
Which thou didst pluck from Asia's breast,
And in its fire thou livest still,
Thy mighty mission to fulfil.
Mary J. Diggens.

Empire in Hind sets forward from thy name;
The Hooghley, Plassey, Arcot blaze thy fame;
Unmoved by friends' dismay or foes' alarms;
Most truly great in council and in arms.
Quatix.

Here this bare tribute. There in Eastern clime
An Empire see—
A monument that will endure through time
To honour thee.
Det nu.

Though, strangely, century and half have rolled
Since Plassey proved the man of action bold;
Yet lapse of years has made it clear as day,
What India's millions owe to British sway.
Iere.

Great Eastern founder! hero, soldier, all—
Sublime thy gift to do thy country's call.
Arcot, and Plassey, ring thy victories won,
Burn bright thy memory, England's greatest son
Fish.

Just where he fell, what matters now?
Or where his bones may lie?
While India lives for England, how
Can such a memory die?
Walfred.

He held an Empire in his hands,
He left it to his country's care;
And no memorial demands
Whose deathless name is written there.
Dudhope.

The Orient is thy monument: untold
The varied wealth of India wisely won,
For Mother England's crown. O gallant son,
Her Koh-i-Noor set in barbaric gold.
Freda.

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GUARANTEED ABSOLUTELY PURE SOLUBLE COCOA ONLY.

The

Most Nutritious and Perfectly Digestible Cocoa

For Invalids and Children, as well as for the Strong and Healthy.

In daily use at the Imperial and Royal Courts of Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Greece, &c.

Of all Grocers and Stores, at Home, India, and Colonies.

ARE YOU TAKING

an everyday care of yourself? Prevention you know is ever so much better than cure. A little irregularity of the stomach seems such a trivial thing to-day, but next week it is a malady, ever getting more serious: little ailments soon become big complaints. Cure that little irregularity at once. Neglect it, and it leads swiftly to dyspepsia, indigestion, flatulence, constipation, biliousness, headache, and perhaps a train of greater evils. Even these will yield to

BEECHAM'S PILLS

but why run the risk of so much suffering? What folly to delay—waiting till one is ill.

A dose of these famous pills taken whenever the least weariness is experienced will effectually prevent any unpleasant developments. Don't wait till you have to be cured. Take an everyday care of yourself, remember always if you keep the bowels regular and the liver in working order you will never be troubled with indigestion and it's attendant miseries.

"Taking care" of course means that the standard remedy must be always at hand. In many thousands of homes BEECHAM'S PILLS are regarded as the family medicine and are kept in an appointed place always ready for use. When you notice a symptom you want to get rid of it at once: there is no time like the present. To be always prepared, you too, must keep a box of Beecham's Pills

AT HOME.

Sold everywhere in boxes, price 1/1½ & 2/9.

Printed for the Proprietor by Love & Malcomson, Ltd., 4 & 5, Dean-st., High Holborn, W.C., & Published weekly by H. Labouchere at 10, Bolt-ct., Fleet-st., E.C., in the City of London. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to Reginald E. Booker, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-st, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.
Entered as Second Class Matter at the New York, N.Y., Post Office, 1903.

· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1586. Vol. LXI. Wednesday, May 22, 1907. Price Sixpence.

TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 23s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I DESIRE to remind all readers of Truth that a fund is now open at this office called the "Tress Barry Fund." The object of it is to continue the donation of a new sixpence at Christmas to all the children in the London workhouses and workhouse schools, which the late Sir Francis Tress Barry made annually for twenty-three years before his death. The sixpences will be distributed, as they have been hitherto, in connection with the dolls and toys provided at Christmas out of the Truth Toy Fund; but in order that subscriptions may not be diverted from that fund, I must close the Tress Barry Fund at the end of July, though if it is more convenient to subscribers to give me their promises now, I shall, of course, be content to receive payment of the same any time before Christmas. The amount given by Sir F. Tress Barry in recent years has been 11,000 sixpences, and at least that number is required if the sixpences are to go round. Although it may seem a large number, in point of fact it only amounts to £275. The object in view must appeal to all, and if only all will respond—even to the extent of a few sixpences—the amount will soon be raised. I hope, therefore, that every reader of Truth will contribute something, and at as early a date as possible.

As already mentioned, a number of contributions were spontaneously offered before the Fund was started, and it was this which has encouraged me to make the appeal which I am now making to my readers generally. The number of sixpences promised in this way was over 1,200, in amounts ranging from one to four hundred. In addition to these promises, I have also received 1,029 sixpences in cash. The following is a list of these contributions, in sixpences, and future receipts will be acknowledged in the same way from time to time:—

Ascott Avenue	50
H. A. D.	10
J. Y. Pearson	80
M. T. H.	42
Ignotus	100
W. Sillmann	200
Mrs. Parker Jervis	400
Commander Evans, R.N.	5
D. W.	2
W. E. Norris	42
Two L's	4
F. S. Hamilton	84
T. E. H.	10

The King will hold a Levee in the Throne Room of St. James's Palace on the afternoon of Monday, June 3, and another (which will be the last for this season) either during the last week in next month, or on Monday, July 1.

The third Court of the season is to be held by the King and Queen in the Ball Room of Buckingham Palace on the night of Thursday, June 6. The fourth and last Court will probably be held by their Majesties either on Friday, June 14, or on Friday, June 28.

The King arrived at Newmarket last week on Monday evening just in time to dine with Sir Ernest Cassel at Moulton Paddocks. His Majesty stayed at the Jockey Club until Thursday afternoon, when he returned to London directly after the races. The King dined on Tuesday at Queensberry House with Lord Wolverton, and on Wednesday at Palace House with Mr. Leopold de Rothschild.

On Saturday evening his Majesty arrived at Reigate Priory on a visit to Captain and Mrs. Ronald Greville,

whose house-party consisted of Count Albert Mensdorff, Lady Sarah Wilson, Lord and Lady Brougham, Lady Norreys, Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel, Sir Ernest Cassel, Mr. and Mrs. Hwfa Williams, and Mrs. Naylor; besides Major Holford, who was in waiting on his Majesty. On Sunday afternoon the King drove to Polesden Lacey, the beautiful domain of the late Sir Clinton Dawkins, near Dorking, which has been purchased by Captain and Mrs. Greville, who will take up their residence there in the autumn. The King is expected to arrive at Sandringham this evening for a brief stay, after which he will return to Buckingham Palace until Monday, June 17, when the Court will remove to Windsor Castle for Ascot race week.

The King's visit to Lord and Lady Lansdowne at Bowood Park, Wiltshire, which has been twice postponed, is to take place in July, and will be a "week-end" affair, and, of course, quite private. The King will travel by special train from Paddington to Chippenham, and is to drive thence to Bowood, returning to town by the same route. Extensive improvements and alterations have lately been carried out at Bowood, and the house is now lighted throughout by electricity.

The Queen and Princess Victoria, who proceeded to Corfu on leaving Athens, are now on their homeward voyage from the Mediterranean, and they will land from the Royal yacht at Portsmouth Harbour when they arrive in England next week, and are to travel thence by special Royal train to Victoria Station, where they will be met by the King. Princess Victoria may possibly accompany the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife next month on a cruise in the Duke of Sutherland's yacht *Catania*, which they have hired for a few weeks.

The King and Queen of Denmark are to arrive at Port Victoria on Saturday, June 8, from Flushing, in the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, and they will be received on landing by the Prince and Princess of Wales. It had been proposed that King Frederick and Queen Louise should land at Portsmouth, but this arrangement has been altered, as their Majesties will embark at Portsmouth for Cherbourg when they leave England on Thursday, June 13. It is understood that the King and Queen of Denmark have finally settled to proceed to Paris, on their official visit to the President of the French Republic, after their stay in England, instead of going first to France, as was originally proposed. It is expected that they will pay a visit to Queen Wilhelmina and the Prince Consort of the Netherlands at The Hague during the first week in June, just before they come to England.

It is probable that a State banquet will be given at Buckingham Palace on Saturday, June 8, in honour of the King and Queen of Denmark. On Sunday, the 9th, there will most likely be a family dinner party at Marlborough House. On Tuesday, the 11th, there is to be a gala performance at the Opera. The State ball will probably be given on Wednesday, the 12th. As to the days, one will be occupied with a State visit to the City, another is to be devoted to a review and luncheon at Aldershot, and a third will be spent at Windsor Castle. If a garden party is given at Windsor this year by the King and Queen, it will take place on the only available day during the visit of the King and Queen of Denmark, but if there is no garden party, King Frederick and Queen Louise will probably spend the afternoon of Sunday, June 9, at Windsor Castle, in which case they will be accompanied from town by their Majesties and the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The arrangements for the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Lord Tredegar at Tredegar Park have been cancelled, and there is very great disappointment in South Wales at this change of plans. The Prince and Princess were to have stayed at Tredegar from Saturday, June 8, until Monday, the 10th, and on the Monday they were to visit the show of the Bath and Western and Southern Counties Agricultural Society at Newport. It seems that they must meet the King and Queen of Denmark when they land in England, and their arrival is now fixed for Saturday, June 8. The Prince of Wales is to visit the show at Newport on Thursday, June 6, when he will travel down in the morning from Paddington, returning to town late in the afternoon. His Royal Highness will not be accompanied by the Princess.

Princess Henry of Battenberg will proceed to Germany when she leaves Spain, and, after taking a course of waters at Kissingen, she is to pay a visit to her sister-in-law, the grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, at Schloss Rosenau. Princess Henry will return to England towards the end of June, when she is to take up her residence at Kensington Palace for a short time before going to the Isle of Wight for the summer.

Prince and Princess Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden are to arrive in England towards the end of the second week in June, and they will be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Clarence House during their stay in London, and will be included in the Bagshot Park party for Ascot races.

The Duke and Duchess of Sparta are expected to arrive in England from Greece about the middle of next month, and during their stay in London they will be the guests of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace, and they are to be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle during Ascot race week.

For Appeals, see page 1300.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1303.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1304.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 1302, 1303.
For Amusements, see page 1301.
For Estates, Auctions, see page 1299.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1309, 1310.

On leaving England, the Duke and Duchess of Sparta will proceed to Germany.

The appointment of Lord Allendale to the office of Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, in the place of the Duke of Manchester, resigned, has given much satisfaction in political circles, as he is the head of a family which has always supported the Liberal Party, and he is a very rich man, and exercises great influence in the North of England. The Duke of Manchester has been absent from England for several months on a tour round the world. The members of the Household who hold Ministerial places are now required to be most regular in their attendance in the House of Lords, which is in accordance with the system which was established by Lord Palmerston. The King does not sanction the absence of members of the Household from any ceremonials at which they are expected to be on duty, unless such absence is caused either by family mourning or by illness. There has been an end of the easy-going arrangements which had gradually become the rule during the later years of Queen Victoria's reign.

The Lord Steward of the Household and the Lord Chamberlain have always enjoyed special precedence, but no such privilege appertained to the equally important and dignified office of Master of the Horse until the anomaly was rectified the other day by special command of the King, formally issued through the Earl Marshal. The Mastership of the Horse is the most coveted of the Great Household offices, for the salary is £2,500 a year, and there are some valuable privileges and perquisites, including the use of the Royal horses and carriages, with the attendance of the servants belonging to the same. There is plenty of work for the Master of the Horse if he likes to do it, but if he is disposed to be idle all the routine duties fall to the Crown Equerry.

Major Alexander George Fullerton, who died last week at the age of ninety-nine, was a brother-in-law of the late Lord Grenville, to whose eldest sister (Lady Georgiana Leveson-Gower) he was married at Paris (where her father was then Ambassador) in July, 1833. At Eton he was next in school to Mr. Gladstone. Major Fullerton served for many years in the Royal Horse Guards and the 2nd Life Guards, and he commanded the former regiment at the funeral of George IV. at Windsor Castle, which ceremony took place at night by torchlight. Major Fullerton's only son died young, and he is succeeded in his estates by his nephew, Mr. George F. D. Fullerton, of Shenfield Hall. Lady Georgiana Fullerton was a very clever and remarkably accomplished woman and the author of several highly successful novels.

The sudden death of Mrs. John Dillon, at her husband's residence in Dublin, last week, is deeply regretted by all, even those who differed most widely from Mr. John Dillon's political views. Mrs. Dillon was intellectual and cultured; her personal charm was great, and the amiability of her character attached to her a large circle of friends, by whom her loss is deeply deplored. She was the eldest daughter of Sir James Mathew, late Lord Justice of Appeal in England, who is now an invalid. Mrs. Dillon was an enthusiastic supporter of her husband's politics, but, like most ladies in Ireland, took no public part in promoting them.

Colonel Fosbery, who died at Bath the other day, invented the Paradox gun and the automatic revolver, and for many years he devoted much attention to the improvement of machine guns. He served for many years in the Bengal Army, and greatly distinguished himself during the Umbeyla Expedition of 1863, when he received the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in successfully leading a forlorn hope. Colonel Fosbery belonged to one of the oldest families in Wiltshire, which has been seated at Fosbery since the Conquest.

Mr. Chick, of Compton Valence, Dorsetshire, who died a few days ago, was one of the largest farmers in the South of England, and widely known through his famous flock of horned sheep, which is probably the finest in the world. Mr. Chick was noted as a judge of sheep, cattle, and horses, and his services were in great request at many of the principal agricultural shows.

EYEBROWS—TEN AND SIXPENCE.

Oh! these advertiser's tricks!—
"Brows and lashes—ten and six—
Will defy detection!"
(Thus, at least, we're glibly told),
"Raven, auburn, flaxen, gold;
Unapproached selection."

All the girls and half the chaps
Will be writing soon, perhaps,
Postal orders, sending,
For the new hirsute disguise,
Which shall beauty to the eyes
(So they think), be lending.

But why can't some firm provide
Matter to adorn, *inside*,
Brow of Jack or Jenny;
That's what far, far more they lack,
Simple Jane and greenhorn Jack—
Brains—at half-a-guinea?"

A superb copy of the First Folio Shakespeare is to be sold next week at Sotheby's, and it will be interesting to see whether it excites more competition than the Locker Lampson copy, which fetched £3,600 a few weeks ago. This last copy was purchased about the middle of the seventeenth century by Colonel Lane, of King's Brom-

The Woodland Laundry, Park-rd. East, Acton. Tel. 629 Chiswick. "A really first-class laundry at moderate p ices."—*The Ladies' Field.* "It appeals to dainty people."—*The Queen.* Please apply for Price List, &c.

ley, Staffordshire, and it remained in the possession of his family until the sale of the Lane Library, about fifty years ago, when it was bought by the late Lord Gosford for only one hundred and fifty-seven guineas. The present Lord Gosford sold this copy in 1884 to James Toovey, the well-known bookseller, for £470. It is bound in red morocco by Payne. Lord Gosford certainly parted with the book for too low a price, although it was thrice as much as the ridiculous sum for which it had been purchased by his father. This copy carries the book-plate of the Lanes of King's Bromley, which was engraved by Hogarth. There is also a Third Folio (1663), which contains not only the seven doubtful plays, but also the portrait printed on the title, with the verses opposite. This was formerly in Sir James Langham's library at Cottesbrooke Park, Northamptonshire, and it is probably unique.

It is interesting as well as encouraging to find the head of a big firm enunciating certain principles in regard to newspaper advertising which have been constantly preached in Truth. Mr. A. W. Gamage did this last week in addressing the shareholders of his company. After pointing out the injury that is done to honest trade by dishonest advertising, he went on to say:—

> He hoped to see the press in general exercise at an early date a strict censorship over every advertisement, and laws passed making it a criminal offence to issue an advertisement which, upon its face, was likely to obtain money from the public on what virtually amounted to false pretences.

I presume he means that the law should have regard to the publisher of the advertisement as well as its responsible author, for the criminal law is already strong enough to deal with the actual advertiser who obtains money from the public by false pretences. It is the responsibility of the publisher that requires to be established, and, as I have often said, I should have no objection to an Act which made the publisher equally responsible with the advertiser for any announcement which has a criminal end in view.

But might I suggest to Mr. Gamage that it is open to question whether the law is not strong enough for that purpose? The recent conviction of the Editor of *Judy* for publishing an advertisement knowing it to have a criminal object seems to me to be equally applicable to advertisements designed to obtain money by false pretences. Not being a lawyer, I do not profess to speak with confidence on this point; but it strikes me that the principal difficulty in the way of obtaining the conviction of a newspaper, as the law now stands, for publishing such an advertisement probably lies in bringing home to the publisher knowledge of the criminal purpose—or what lawyers call "proving the *scienter*." There are plenty of cases, however—they are constantly being pointed out in Truth—in which no jury would hesitate to find that the publisher, or any one else with an ordinary knowledge of the world and his own business, knows perfectly well the character of what he is publishing. At any rate, it would be well worth the while of any one who feels strongly on this point to raise the question in the Law Courts.

There is another point in Mr. Gamage's speech which was made only a few weeks ago in these columns. Coming from a large advertiser, the passage is worth quoting:—

> The public confidence was a plant of such tender growth that the press and the adv rtiser should work together for mutual protection. Substitution in the shop was an evil, but wilful misrepresentation in a printed advertisement in the press should not be tolerated, and no price was too high to pay to any paper the readers of which had absolute faith in its contents. . . . There was a building in the City—a very fine building—and nearly all its offices were empty. He (Mr. Gamage) was told the reason was this: They had been unfortunate enough to get many long-firm swindles into that building. The consequence is the building has got a bad name, and people would not go there. If you applied that argument to the press it would be found in time that if people got tricked by advertisements in certain papers, as in the case of the offices mentioned, people would shun that paper, and would not take space.

This is precisely what was said in an article on "The Press and the Advertiser" in Truth of March 27. But what was pointed out there, and what requires to be remembered, is that this matter rests almost entirely with the advertisers. Apparently there are a great many who do not appreciate that the mere extent of its circulation is not a conclusive test of the value of a paper as an advertising medium. The amount of confidence which the readers place in the advertisements is an important element, and it stands to reason that when a paper habitually publishes advertisements of a more or less fraudulent character, involving every day the robbery of a certain number of its readers, the number who close their eyes to the advertisements it publishes must increase day by day.

Nothing astonishes me more in connection with the advertising business than to see that respectable firms will pay their money day after day and week after week for the exhibition of their announcements side by side with those of notorious swindlers. Only when they appreciate that such expenditure is likely to do them as much harm as good will newspaper managers find it necessary, as a matter of business, to exclude all fraudulent and doubtful advertisements from their columns. It is quite true, as Mr. Gamage says, that "no price is too high to pay to any paper, the readers of which have absolute faith in its contents." This truth cannot be too widely known. But it is equally true that no price is too low to pay to any paper, the readers of which have no faith in its contents. And this truth is very far from being adequately appreciated at present.

A correspondent writes:—

> In the arithmetic paper set at the Solicitors' Preliminary Examination this week—May 1—the following question was asked:—
>
> Q. 6.—If a cubic foot of water weighs 62.5 pounds, find the volume of water which weighs a ton, and the depth, to the nearest

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia. Price 1s per bottle. Beware of imitations.

inch, to which it would fill a square tank, each of whose sides measures 3ft. 3in.?

Seeing that a square tank, each of whose sides measures 3ft. 3in., has six sides of that (inside) measurement, the uppermost of which may or may not be open, the capacity of such a tank would be $(3.25\text{ft.})^3$, viz., 34.328 125 cubic feet.

Further, as one cubic foot of water weighs 62.5 pounds, one ton (2,240 pounds) of water would contain 35.84 cubic feet. Therefore the volume of one ton of water would exceed the capacity of the tank by 1.511 874 cubic feet; and to say what *depth to the nearest inch* to which it would fill the tank is impossible.

A Cambridge friend, to whom I have submitted this problem, points out that my correspondent assumes that the tank is cubical, whereas the question merely states that it is "a square tank," giving its area, but saying nothing about its depth. I presume that this is the explanation of the alleged impossibility. But it is a pity that examiners do not study the art of expressing themselves in unambiguous language.

From a gentleman who is familiar with the terms and circumstances of the Uppingham and Oakham trusts, but not a trustee or governor himself, I have received a letter disputing the accuracy of certain points in the letter of the Vicar of Whaplode published last week. He states that of the money in question "two-sevenths go to Uppingham School, two-sevenths to Oakham School, while three-sevenths go to the hospital, or rather the Bede house pensioners." He contends that Mr. Rhodes' words do not accurately describe this, but really this is a question of words rather than of substance. Again, he points out that under a scheme approved by H.M. in Council, May 15, 1875, "conditions are laid down in regard to exhibitions with special privileges to boys from elementary schools in Oakham and Uppingham," etc., which is by way of answer to the Vicar's complaint about "the great and affluent" profiting by the Whaplode tithes. As regards this point, Mr. Rhodes has already stoutly maintained that his words are justified by the facts, but whether they are or not is rather a side issue.

"The most important point of all, however," writes my present correspondent, "is that the Governors are strictly bound by the Trust, and limited by the Scheme of the Endowed Schools Commission." Undoubtedly. And that is the point to which Mr. Rhodes addressed himself last week, and to which my remarks were directed. Mr. Rhodes contends that the terms of the trust under which the tithes are held impose certain duties upon the Rectors, and that those duties have been neglected. That is the only point of any public interest, and surely it is a matter of fact which is capable of being pretty conclusively proved or disproved, without reference to the question whether Mr. Rhodes has or has not used too strong language about the destination of the educational endowments.

The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, have presented the Rev. M. Reed, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Nottingham, to the living of Ware (net stipend about £400 a year, with house), which has become vacant by the promotion of Canon Appleton to the Mastership of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

The Archbishop of Armagh, who celebrated his eighty-third birthday the other day, is to preach at Oxford, before the University, on Sunday, June 23. Archbishop Alexander was appointed to the See of Derry (which was then worth nearly £7,000 a year) in 1867 by Lord Derby, on the recommendation of the Duke of Abercorn, who was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He was translated to the Archbishopric of Armagh in 1896.

Sir Richard Graham, of Netherby, has presented the Rev. Henry Taylor, late Vicar of Wrockwardine, Shropshire, to the rectory of Kirkandrews-on-Esk, Cumberland, which is now one of the most valuable livings in the diocese of Carlisle, being of the net value of over £600 a year, with house.

Bishop Legge has collated Bishop Anson to the Chancellorship of Lichfield Cathedral, an office which was held by the late Canon Lonsdale for fifty years. The second residentiary stall in the Cathedral is annexed to the Chancellorship, so that Bishop Anson vacates the fourth stall, to which he was collated in 1898, and which has been filled by the appointment of Archdeacon Hodgson. Bishop Anson, who is a brother of the late Lord Lichfield, held the Canadian see of Qu'Appelle from 1884 until 1892, when he retired to England, having accepted the office of Warden of St. John's Hospital, Lichfield.

The appointment of Lord Kinnaird as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly has given much satisfaction in the North, because he is well known as a staunch Evangelical, and therefore an opponent of the movement of a section of the Presbyterian clergy for the development of the Church of Scotland along sacerdotal lines. The acceptance of the office of Lord High Commissioner by a peer of warm Evangelical sympathies is very popular among all the old-fashioned Presbyterians, and is also favourably regarded by the Free Church, and it has certainly been generally beneficial to the Government in Scotland.

I am asked to mention that the testimonial to Mr. John Kirk will be presented to him at a meeting at the Mansion House at three o'clock on Friday next, May 24, but the subscription list will remain open until Friday morning, and those who are still desirous of subscribing should send their donations to Mr. W. J. Osman, 10, Museum Mansions, London, W.C. As has been already mentioned, the King is to receive Mr. Kirk at Buckingham Palace on Thursday to congratulate him personally upon his work.

The views of working men on the subject of the Army are generally of interest, and the following letter which I have received from a Yorkshire town is no exception to the rule:—

As a working man, seeing that about half the produce of the workers' labour goes to the upkeep of the Army and Navy, and payment of interest on the National Debt, I think the workers are entitled to a run for their money. We pay our officers good salaries for doing nothing. We should like to see what sort of men they are in actual combat, so that we can weed out the unfit—say a thousand English generals versus a thousand Germans of the same rank, armed only with nine-inch daggers, the survivors to be awarded special distinctions. We want an International Tournament, run on the same lines as our football league matches, the finals to be fought out in the different capitals of Europe. It would give the people a good idea of how the brave die fighting.

This would be something like a military tournament, and no doubt it would do a great deal to popularise the Army in a certain sense. It will be noticed that my correspondent's military ideal is rather the opposite of that of the National Service League; in fact, quite that of the sportsmen whose sport consists in looking on at sports. I am afraid that we could not put a thousand generals into the field at present, whatever may be the case of Germany, but there is no saying what we might do in course of time. As a taxpayer, I should be opposed to the creation of a thousand generals *ad hoc*—it would make the international military tournament a little too expensive. Would my correspondent feel equally interested in the sport if we made up the deficiency by training a few hundred junior officers for the nine-inch dagger business? If he thinks that we really have a thousand generals on the list, perhaps that explains his idea that "half the produce of the workers' labour" goes to the up-keep of the Army and Navy, etc.

An officer sends me the following mysterious official document which recently passed through his hands:—

Regret to inform you that Pte. ———, admitted to hospital this morning, is dangerously ill, suffering from N.Y.D.

This may interest "the faculty" who are always on the look-out for new complaints. In point of fact, however, it seems that N.Y.D. stands for "Not yet diagnosed."

Judging from a description I have received of certain new cook-houses that have been put up for the benefit of officers and N.C.O.s at Kilworth Camp, domestic architecture still remains one of those subjects in which the Army is not particularly strong. An officers' cook-house, measuring about 18 ft. by 9 ft., has no ventilation except by two windows on one side and a door at the end; the range only contains one oven; and there is not a shelf in the apartment. Any one with the slightest knowledge of such matters can see that it is quite impossible to cook for a mess of from twenty-eight to forty men with one oven—to say nothing of the fact that there is no other place but the oven for warming plates, so that it is impossible to combine a hot dinner with hot plates. In the absence of proper ventilation, which should, of course, be in the roof, the place will often be as ill-suited for the cooks as for those whose meals they have to serve. These buildings are roofed with iron and lined with match-board, which again does not seem to be an ideal style of architecture for a kitchen.

Since referring the other day to the case of the dockyard writers, I have received a great deal of information about the details of their case; and I see that a meeting has been held at Portsmouth in which the "concessions" recently granted by the Admiralty were condemned, collectively and in detail. It would require more space than I can afford to discuss the various objections to the new scheme which the Admiralty has put forth. But, speaking generally and with full knowledge of the circumstances, I must say that these men seem to be most shabbily treated. They practically comprise the whole of the clerical staff of the shore establishments of the Admiralty, and the higher grades occupy positions of considerable responsibility, requiring a certain amount of education, and a great deal of special knowledge and experience. They are worked very hard, and excessive demands are frequently made upon them in the matter of overtime. But none of them occupy in point of emolument the position of a corresponding class of men in private employment, and the lower grades are worse off, both in pay and prospects, than any class of clerks doing similar work. The joint stock banks are a by-word for their sweating proclivities; but I doubt if any of their clerks are as shabbily treated as these servants of the Admiralty; and they may well chafe under the meagre and delusive scheme which has been evolved with so much delay and reluctance under the pretence of redressing their grievances. Considering how lavishly money is expended on the Navy, there is no excuse whatever for this state of things, and some attempt ought to be made in Parliament to impress upon "My Lords" tho meaning of the "model employer" doctrine.

A great disappointment has been caused to the Taw and Torridge fishermen by the decision of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries upon an application for an amendment of the by-law with reference to the size of the mesh of the nets that may be used. The men have long contended that the size insisted upon is excessively large, allowing a fish from 2½ lb. to 3 lb. to go through the mesh, and so preventing the catching in these rivers of quantities of mullet and bass from 1 lb. to 2 lb. in weight. With the permission of the Board in White-

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

hall, the Taw and Torridge Fishery Conservators had some experiments made with a mesh reduced in size to allow the catching of fish from 1 lb. in weight upwards. Not a single salmon was caught, but a quantity of coarse fish, and the Conservators then unanimously recommended the change in the mesh for which the men had petitioned. An inquiry was next held at Bideford by an Inspector of Fisheries, and the only opposition came from a gentleman who is not a resident in the district. In spite, however, of the fact that the men's demand was supported by the Conservators and everybody locally interested in the fisheries, the Board has now refused to sanction the proposed alteration of the by-law. It is difficult to believe that a Board in London can be better judges of the manner in which the fisheries should be worked than the authorities and the public on the spot, and the almost inevitable result of this will be that some at least of the men will become breakers of what is generally considered an unnecessary and unjust by-law.

With reference to the recent distraint for income-tax at Exeter in the case of Mr. Hems, a correspondent writes:—

> No doubt Mr. Hems did not think it worth while to appeal against the surveyor's assessment, for most district commissioners are appointed from that worthy clan, the county magistracy, whose knowledge of taxes is as exiguous as their knowledge of law, and they are consequently pulled by the tail by the attendant surveyor. These surveyors are, as a rule, sent out from London young, zealous, and pushful, and their stay in a district is generally limited to three years, when a new expert of the same type tries his hand on the taxpayers.
>
> It is the apathy and meekness of the taxpayers that is to be blamed for the extortion that goes on. In Russia, I am told, they have to use the knout; but nothing more is needed in this country than a peremptory demand for payment of a tax, and the obsequious taxpayer at once pays it, with nothing more than a grunt.

I may say that I have heard from Mr. Hems myself, in reference to my original remarks upon the case, that he *did* appeal against the surveyor's assessment, but, of course, without effect. His attitude towards the official extortioner is, therefore, altogether in contrast with that described in the above letter, and it is a pity that his spirit is not more prevalent among income-tax payers. Undoubtedly the strong public feeling against the income-tax is largely due to the abuses connected with its collection, and over-assessment is rendered more galling by the knowledge that so many people are under-assessed, or evade the tax altogether.

The West Ham Guardians have well earned all that they have got—many people will think that they have even earned more. But what we should all like to know is how far the practices that have been brought to light in their case are peculiar to West Ham. In a general way I am a believer in the purity of local government in England; but if the minor local authorities in London are all above reproach in this respect, human nature is better than I have taken it for hitherto.

It is interesting to look at the description of the West Ham convicts: Crump, stationer; Anderson, estate agent; Skinner, tool-maker; Watts, carman and contractor; Hill, printer. Small local tradesmen in a poor district of London may not be by nature of inferior moral fibre to the rest of the community. But they are peculiarly liable to temptation when managing other people's money and affairs. To protect them against such temptation what is needed is an intelligent interest in local affairs on the part of their constituents and neighbours. This rarely or never exists in London, either in rich districts or poor. The majority of ratepayers neither know nor care anything about matters of local administration; and do not even take the trouble to vote at local elections. The result is that small rings work the elections; and once elected, the Guardians, or whatever they may be, work more or less in the dark, and without any censorship of public opinion over their proceedings. The local papers are insignificant, and read by few ratepayers. They, too, are owned by small men, who are more likely than not to be in with the local wirepullers.

That scandals should arise under these conditions is inevitable, and when Londoners wax indignant over a West Ham case, or the recent revelations at Hammersmith in the other end of London, they should remember how much they are themselves to blame for it all. They, too, however, are in some measure the victims of circumstances. The truth is that, owing to its vast size, London is in some measure unsuited for the ordinary forms of local government. The sense of a common local life and interests which creates a local public spirit is wanting, and without it representative government is an artificial sham. That is one of the objections to the borough council system in its present shape, and one of the arguments for placing local affairs more under the supervision of the County Council, which, whether you are a Moderate or a Progressive, is a really representative body, elected on definite issues by big polls, watched by the press, criticised, more or less intelligently, by its constituents, and consequently pretty certain to run straight, whatever mistakes it may make.

A NEEDFUL LESSON.

I wouldn't kick a man who's down;
'Tis not my way; yet glad I am
To see stern Retribution frown
On those whose frauds disgraced West Ham.

For many, who in a private deal,
From sharpers' tricks would shrink averse,
No sense of wrong appear to feel
In pilfering the public's purse.

Too long these vicious views prevail;
High time to thrust them on the shelf;
That's why the lesson sharp I hail
Administered by Justice Jelf.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

Hereford.—The lovely Wye Valley, superb country scenery. Ideal tourist centre, ancient cathedral, Norman churches and Border castle. Excell. boating, &c. Booklet free.—Town Clerk.

A correspondent writes:—

Does not the case of the man Jacobsen, upon which you recently commented, cause you to think over your views upon the subject of imprisonment for debt? There are hundreds of fraudulent tricksters like him in London. How is a judgment creditor to get at them except by means of a committal order—no easy matter to obtain, I can asssure you? If you levy execution upon their goods you find that all their furniture belongs to their wives, and you have the cost of an abortive execution to pay. Their banking accounts are in their wives' names, and every other scrap of property they own. If you can personally serve a judgment summons on them, you may get a committal order, and then they pay, but not till then. . . .

There is a great deal more to the same effect, but it adds nothing to the argument, and my answer to the question is emphatically, No. It is no justification for the imprisonment of thousands of honest debtors that the fear of the same fate causes fraudulent debtors to pay up. According to the last County Court return, 11,405 debtors were imprisoned under County Court orders in 1905. It is incredible that all these people, or any considerable fraction of them, were guilty of fraud; and if they really were, it would knock the bottom out of my correspondent's argument, since his contention is that the fear of imprisonment causes the fraudulent debtor to pay up. The imprisonment of 11,405 debtors in one year is also a sufficient answer to the remark that to obtain a commitment order is "no easy matter"—especially when one sees (Table XII. of the same return) that the number of imprisonments has more than doubled in the last twenty years, and increased by over 3,000 a year in the last ten. The process is not only easy, but is becoming easier.

Imprisonment for debt, though the writer of the above letter seems to appreciate the fact imperfectly, was nominally abolished by Parliament in 1869. Yet we are faced with the fact that there are more people in prison for debt to-day than there were in the good old times of the Fleet and Marshalsea. There is no argument in the above letter, or anywhere else, for the perpetuation of this state of things which did not apply equally to the power which the King's Bench formerly possessed of imprisoning debtors, if necessary for life, until Dickens and others succeeded in abolishing it. And every argument which led to that reform applies with increased force to the state of things which the County Courts have set up, because this has led to the creation of a class of debtors, larger, poorer, and more helpless than that which existed under the old system.

Those who argue about the need of protecting the innocent creditor against the fraudulent debtor forget that no one is compelled to give credit unless he pleases. The crowd of debtors which fills our gaols to-day—at incalculable cost to the public—did not exist fifty years ago, because no one would then have dreamed of giving credit to such people. The credit is only given to-day on the strength of the power of imprisonment, and the huge extent of the social evil which has thus been brought into existence is shown by the fact that in 1905 warrants of commitment were issued against over 146,000 persons, of whom over 11,000 actually went to gaol. If the punishment of rogues who obtain credit by fraud were secured under this system, that fact would be but a small set-off against the existence of the widespread condition of chronic indebtedness throughout the poorest section of the community, with all its incidental evils, which these figures indicate. But as a matter of fact, no such result is secured, and the writer of the above letter goes on to describe the wholesale frauds which are perpetrated on tradesmen under cover of the Married Women's Property Act. A law which provided for the punishment of such frauds, and at the same time put a stop to the system under which people who have no property worth speaking of beyond their weekly wages are enabled to obtain unnecessary credit on the security of their own persons, would be of incalculable benefit to the community, and of great advantage to every tradesman who desires to do a sound and legitimate business.

Talking of Jacobsen, whose case gives rise to the foregoing remarks, I have heard a funny story from one of my readers who knows the man. Jacobsen has a brother who was associated with him for many years in the peculiar line of business he carried on. The brother has been mentioned in Truth, I think, under the name of Jamieson, which they both used. The pair were remarkably alike, so much so that it was often difficult to distinguish one from the other—a fact of which they sometimes took advantage. They used to frequent racecourses, and amuse themselves with betting. A bookmaker well-known in his day—the late Charley Head—having suffered from the likeness between the two brothers, after booking a transaction with one of them, surreptitiously marked him on the back with a piece of chalk. He used to congratulate himself afterwards on the success of this precaution.

The Brighton J.P.s have been nominated for a niche in my Legal Pillory on account of a case last week in which a man was summoned for persistent cruelty to his wife, who applied for a separation order. It was alleged that among other acts of cruelty he had struck her on the face with a chisel, tried to strangle her, thrown a lighted paraffin lamp at her, and repeatedly beaten her, blackened her eyes, and knocked her down in the streets as well as in the house. Such a brute clearly deserved condign punishment, and I am not surprised to find that among people unacquainted with the law the fact that the magistrates simply granted the complainant a separation order with an allowance of 7s. a week, and mulcted the defendant in costs, is regarded as a miscarriage of justice. In fairness to the Bench, it is therefore desirable to explain that they did all they were empowered to do on the summons for persistent cruelty which the complainant had chosen to take out in preference to bringing a charge of assault. No fine or sentence of imprisonment can be inflicted under such a summons, the cruelty having to be considered merely in relation to the application for a separation order.

The few warm days last week were responsible for a large increase in the number of vagrants brought before magistrates on sleeping-out charges, and no doubt bearing in mind the recent Home Office circular, magistrates have had no hesitation about inflicting heavy punishments, particularly outrageous examples being afforded by the cases at Ludlow and Swindon. The approach of summer is also heralded by the crop of motor cases due to the setting of police traps, and the Lancaster and Chichester benches have both distinguished themselves by their efforts to supplement county funds by the infliction of heavy fines for purely technical offences. A curious example of muddle-headedness is afforded by the Coventry magistrates in their discrimination regarding the punishment meted out to a man and a woman who were equally engaged in the commission of the offence with which they were charged:—

Coventry City Police-court. Before Messrs. Bethell, Loudon, Caldicott, and Gorton. Lily Timms, charged with indecency. Two months' imprisonment.

Coventry City Police-court. Before the same Bench. John Brandish, charged with aiding and abetting Lily Timms in committing an act of indecency. Fined 10s. and costs.

Lochgelly Police-court. John Foy, charged with assaulting his wife. The woman had two black eyes and her body was covered with bruises. Fined 32s. 6d.

Kirkwall Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Harvey. Two farmers, charged with illegally fishing for trout with set lines. Fined £4 each, and the boat used forfeited.

Exeter City Police-court. Jane Martin, charged with assaulting a boy, five years of age, the son of a widower, who lodged at her house. The child was severely thrashed with a cane. Fined 10s. and costs.

Chichester County Petty Sessions. Sir Hugo de Bathe, charged with exceeding the speed limit on a motor car. He was travelling at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour. Fined £10 and costs.

Hunstanton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Le Strange, Ingleby, Strachan, Lawson, and Willoughby. W. Thompson, mail cart driver, charged with illtreating a mare. It was old, half-starved, had suppurating sores, and was badly beaten. Fined £2.

Lancaster Police-court. Four motorists, charged with exceeding the speed limit. Richard Woodhead, for driving at thirty-six miles an hour, fined £15 and costs; G. Harrison, H. Wood, and T. Kennedy, each fined £5 and costs.

Peterborough Police-court. Before Messrs. Beeby and other magistrates. Charles Jenkinson, charged with cruelty to four horses by using them in an unfit state. He was a dealer engaged in exporting broken down horses to the Continent. Fined £2 and costs.

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessions. Before Lieut.-Col. Josselyn and Mr. R. Burrell. George Sturgeon, charged with being in unlawful possession of forty-six pheasants' and seven partridges' eggs. Fined 2s. 6d. per egg. and costs. In all £8 0s. 2d.

Colchester Borough Police-court. Before Col. Howard and Mr. E. J. Sanders. Charles Williams, charged with assaulting Elizabeth Turner and with living on her immoral earnings. He had lived with her for four years, did no work, and knocked her about. Seven days' imprisonment for each offence.

Ludlow Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. T. H. Atherden. E. Priest, charged with wandering abroad without visible means of subsistence. Two months' hard labour.

Swindon Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor, Messrs. Deacon, Longland, and A. Stote. Ada Theobald, charged with sleeping out. Twenty-eight days.

Derby County Police-court. Before Messrs. Mallalieu, Woodforde, Sale, Mugliston, Elsey, and Smedley. F. Shaw and J. W. Shaw, charged with cruelty to a horse by beating, overloading, and overdriving it. The animal was completely exhausted, and was being unmercifully thrashed with the whip. F. Shaw, fined £1 and costs, J. W. Shaw, who had been in custody a week, one day's imprisonment.

Grantham Police-court. Before Major W. Longstaffe and the Mayor. George Steward, a pedlar, charged with stealing two dressing combs, value 2s. Two months' hard labour.

Wem Police-court. Before Mr. E. Wood Bowcock, E. Edge, charged with hawking puzzle money-boxes in Wem without a licence. Seven days' hard labour.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Sir John Holder, Messrs. Lancaster, Pollack, Sambridge, Phillips, Hunt, Cook, and Barber. Stephen Bennett, charged with unlawfully wounding his wife. He struck her several blows on the head with a large paving stone, necessitating her detention in hospital. Fined 40s. and costs.

Birmingham Police-court. Before the Stipendiary, Messrs. J. Phillips, Lloyd, Walker, Mapplebeck, and Bishop. Agnes Harris and Beatrice Groves, charged with obtaining food and lodgings to the value of 2s. by false pretences. Twenty-one days' hard labour each.

Barton-on-Humber Police-court. Before Ald. Tombleson and Mr. H. Woodcock. W. Thirsk, charged with interfering with the comfort of railway travellers and assaulting a stationmaster. He made an unprovoked assault on a man in a waiting-room, used filthy language, kicked in a door, and attacked a stationmaster. Fined 30s. and costs.

Glastonbury Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. W. Hodge. H. Thomas, charged with sleeping in an outhouse without visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days' imprisonment.

Petersfield Police-court. John Fraser, a paralytic, charged with peddling without a licence. Fourteen days' imprisonment.

I was "a little previous" in suggesting last week that Tanquerey had worked out the postal circular line of advertising, for I have since heard that there has been a heavy fall of "free portrait" circulars from Paris in certain parts of the country lately. As the venerable—not to say putrid—forgery concocted by Tanquerey as an extract from TRUTH accompanies all these advertisements, I feel it a duty to warn all whom I can against this impudent rascal and all his works—literary or artistic. The provincial papers would be doing a real service to their readers by repeating this warning. Apparently this season of the year is considered a favourable one for this particular swindle, and not in England only. A reader in an out-of-the-way corner of Mexico sends me a specimen of precisely the same circular, done into very choice Spanish, but Tanquerey has apparently not thought it necessary to favour the Mexicans with the extract from TRUTH.

An interesting advertisement with reference to the Viavi business appears in a recent issue of the *Rand Daily Mail*. It seems that an ex-Viavi lady has secured a large quantity of the remedy at a "Customs seizure-sale," and she advertises that it is to be disposed of at greatly reduced prices. She adds a note in deprecation of rumours circulated by the Viavi Company disparaging the value of her stock, and she explains that at the aforesaid sale the company bid up to £1,425 for the goods which she is now offering, and, after she had outbid them, made an attempt to induce her to sell by private treaty. Taken with the revelations recently noticed in TRUTH, this throws some useful light on the profits of the Viavi trade. The lady in question still wants £3 10s. for a "three months' course" and £12 for twelve months', but if she were offering to give the stuff away, I doubt if it would be worth anybody's while to remove it. It is surely time that people in South Africa, not to mention other places, had their eyes opened to the character of this humbug.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

In the last issue of the TRUTH Cautionary List mention is made of the British Electric Institute, 23,

Holborn Viaduct, as "proprietors of one of the electric belt flat traps, called the Ajax Dry Cell." I have just heard of the case of a man who has undertaken to purchase one of these articles at the price of five guineas, paying two guineas down, and ten shillings and sixpence a month afterwards. This man had been suffering for eight years from a nervous disease of a serious type, and had been discharged as incurable from the Manchester Infirmary. Needless to say, he derived no benefit whatever from the belt. Equally needless to say, the Ajax people refused to release him from his bargain. If the victim were in a position to incur further expenditure, I should recommend him to sue for the recovery of his money. Anyhow, my advice to him and to all others who are duped in the same way is to refuse further payment when they have satisfied themselves of the worthlessness of the instrument. An expert to whom the belt was submitted in this case observes in regard to it, "the resistance of the human body is about 2,500 ohms, so you will understand the futility of wearing the toy these people have sold you. A bit of string would have been quite as useful, and much cheaper." The same remark applies to the majority of such appliances.

Another business of the same class is carried on by the Magnetic and Health Appliances Company, otherwise the Institute of Natural Therapeutics, of 73, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., under the name of the Odo-Magnetic Treatment. The Odo-Magnetic Treatment is effected by means of "Odo-Magnetic Apparel," in the shape of belts, leggings, knee-caps, and "insoles," or magnetic foot batteries. These articles range in price from 8s. 6d. for the foot batteries, up to £4 for a "gent's belt." I have just heard from a poor fellow who was caught by means of an advertisement in which the Institute of Natural Therapeutics undertook to cure varicose veins by means of magnetic leggings. Apparently when it came to business the victim was persuaded that there were peculiarities about his veins which necessitated the application of more than leggings, for he had, in addition to a pair of these articles for the lower part of his legs, another pair for his thighs, and also a magnetic "body shield." The price asked for the complete magnetic outfit was £6 10s., but, in accordance with the usual practice in all businesses of this class, the customer was allowed to have them at £3 5s., and by easy payments, out of consideration for his pocket. Having put them all on, and worn them, regardless of appearances, for about five weeks, the patient reported that the results were unsatisfactory, but was told to persevere. At the end of nine weeks his varicose veins still resisted the combined effects of the two pairs of leggings and the body shield. I can only repeat for his benefit the advice I have given to the victim of the Ajax Sell.

"Mr. Frank Rickaby, Holly Hall, Dudley," a racing tipster whose flights of fancy I have noticed in past seasons, is in fine form in his latest effusion. "During my time on the Turf," says Mr. Rickaby, "I have amassed A Huge Fortune." No doubt anybody who believes this will also swallow the following statement:—

> I am well in with the leading owners; in fact, I have a joint partnership in some of our greatest thoroughbreds of the day. It is only a small matter for me to run down to Kempton or Sandown Park in my motor and pick up £5,000 in one afternoon. Many of the punters smile when I step into Tattersall's, and rush up to give me a hearty shake of the hand, and their faces light up and fairly beam with joy to see England's greatest racing counsellor and champion punter of the modern age in their midst.

This is only one out of many equally impressive examples of Mr. Rickaby's courage in the handling of the long bow. Viewed as fiction, his account of himself is rather amusing. It is scarcely amusing, however, to reflect that large numbers of people in this country are so devoid of understanding that they actually credit mendacious stuff of this sort, and on the strength of it hand over their money to such sharps as Rickaby.

A member of the same fraternity named Tom King, of Kingsclere House, Hook-road, Epsom, is sending out a booklet containing what is vaguely described as a "press extract," which purports to narrate his romantic career as a sportsman and erstwhile owner of racehorses. It is solemnly asserted that he no longer keeps any horses in training because he "finds his time fully occupied in attending to the requirements of his numerous patrons." It is also represented that his predictions, based on information from sources "you would never find out if you lived to be a hundred," are so consistently successful that when worked on his system—of course, he has a system—"you can't possibly lose." As a "proof" of this, he prints a table of (alleged) results, showing that on a daily investment of £2 in the first month of this season a net profit of £61 would have been made. It evidently never strikes the dupes of Tom King as at all strange that he should be pursuing the disreputable vocation of a touting tipster, importuning all and sundry to forward him half-crowns for wires, when, according to his own veracious story, he could easily pile up a fortune for himself by backing his own selections for his own benefit.

Apropos of some paragraphs on the racing sweepstakes which are organised by charity-mongers in India,

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Notice.—The Britannia Hygienic Laundry Co. have opened a West End branch at 306, Vauxhall Bridge road, South Belgravia. High-class work. *Flannels specially treated.*

a correspondent remarks that these obscure individuals are not by any means the only similar offenders against the law on the subject. In India, as in England, such lotteries are illegal. Though the law in India is occasionally enforced, however, it is more commonly permitted to remain a dead letter, possibly because many of the officials responsible for its administration are themselves participants in the more or less public gambles which are organised by various clubs. Two of the biggest gambles of the kind are the Derby and the St. Leger sweeps run by the Calcutta Turf Club in the name of the Bengal Club. These sweeps are not club sweeps of the ordinary kind, large numbers of tickets finding their way into the hands of outsiders whose social position is very different to that of the members. My correspondent asserts that the traffic in the tickets among all and sundry is notorious, and these ostensibly private club sweeps have degenerated into a source of serious public demoralisation. It seems to be a scandal that merits the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Some of the country papers publish the following advertisement:—

VILLIERS, LIMITED,
19, Duke Street, Cardiff,

Dealers in Floor Coverings, etc., are prepared to advance their surplus cash to responsible persons on their promissory note, on life policies, or second mortgage.

No moneylenders' routine.

The managing director of Villiers, Limited, is one Wm. Powell. Until a year or so ago this individual carried on business as a registered moneylender in his own name at the above address. At that time he styled himself an auctioneer and valuer. In an action in the Cardiff County Court, before Judge Owen, Powell was ordered to pay £75 damages and costs for an illegal seizure of furniture belonging to a widow who had been tricked into signing a bill of sale and then handed considerably less than the amount that it had been agreed to advance her. It was shown in that case that Powell charged most exorbitant interest even when he had (or rather supposed that he had, for the bill of sale was eventually held to be invalid) ample security; and in consequence of this exposure of his practices he forthwith registered himself afresh in the alias of "Thomas Picton." Subsequently this bloodsucker seems to have come to the conclusion that he could mask his identity still more effectually by metamorphosing himself into a company, and hence the formation of "Villiers, Limited," to take over the business of "Thomas Picton." To all intents and purposes Wm. Powell is "Villiers, Limited," and the description of the company as "dealers in floor coverings, etc.," is a mere device to trap unwary borrowers into what is really a common usury-shop.

An impudent advertisement, against which all who take an interest in their gardens would do well to be on their guard, has lately been circulated in the name of the Kew Seed Company, Kew Gardens, Kew. I have a copy of it in the shape of a card circulated as an inset in a weekly magazine. It is headed "Fifty thousand pounds in free gifts. To introduce our famous Kew seeds. No money required; we trust you," etc. The point of it is that if you send 6s. to the Kew Seed Co., you will receive "thirty-six fourpenny packets of assorted seeds" at half-price, and any present you may select from a list which will be forwarded to you, including watches, diamond rings, clocks, cutlery, phonographs, and such-like articles used in connection with this sort of catch-penny trade. This is how the £50,000 is to be given away in "free gifts."

The firm who issue this advertisement are the same people who have been several times referred to in TRUTH under the name of the Kew Trading Association. They carry on a cheap-jack business by trick advertising methods, and a particularly delusive type of advertisement in which they dealt was noticed in an article in TRUTH a year and a half ago, when I questioned the contention of the police that the business was not within the reach of the law. The true address of the firm is 14, Victoria-parade, Kew, a small shop in a little street near Kew Gardens Station. The district, of course, is known as "Kew Gardens"; and what the firm have now done is to take advantage of this fact in order to start in the garden-seed line of business, leading unsuspicious people to infer that the address they give is that of the Royal Gardens at Kew. When a firm of this description announces that it is "prepared to give away £50,000 in free gifts," it ought to be understood that this depends on whether the customers are prepared to put them in possession of cash for the purpose. The "free gifts" themselves are, of course, the cheap class of shoddy goods which are sold by this sort of dodges, and the value of the seeds may be judged accordingly.

One of my readers forwards a copy of correspondence which he has had with a firm called Cycledom, Limited, in the Blackfriars-road, on behalf of one of his servants who had undertaken to buy a bicycle on the instalment system. An interesting feature in it is that by way of security the customer, in conjunction with a surety, has to give a joint and several promissory note for the payment of the price. £11 15s. is to be paid in this way—£1 down, and the balance by 12s. a month—for a machine priced in the catalogue at £9 5s. A little

MORTLOCKS. Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—OXFORD-ST., AND ORCHARD-ST., LONDON, W.

THOMAS GOODE & CO.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues free.—South Audley-street, London.

exercise in arithmetic will show that this is a rate of interest worthy of the keenest of practitioners in the money-lending business. The customer in this case seems to have made a preliminary payment of 10s., and then thought better of it. On my correspondent's intervention Cycledom, Limited, at first declined to refund the cash, on the ground that they had "been put to considerable expense in this transaction," but kindly offered to supply "lamps, bells, or phonograph sundries" to the value of 10s. However, when reference was made to other measures, they, in their turn, thought better of it, and disgorged 7s. 6d., deducting 2s. 6d. as "part of expenses which we have been put to regarding this matter." The whole of the expense would, of course, have been covered by a few penn'orth of postage stamps.

THE POET AND THE PRINTER.

(An incident of the Whitsuntide holidays

The poet at his table sat,
And scowled with moody frown
To think his pals, both men and gals,
Were all away from town
At blue sea's side, for Whitsuntide,
While he was left behind,
By fate's hard law, and, minus straw,
At metric bricks to grind.

The papers he perused to see
If aught there was to write on;
As blank were they as hunting day
When hounds no fox can light on.
They're filled with stuff that's dull enough
(The usual Whitsun padding)
To make men sleep and angels weep
And their insides feel bad in.

While sat our bard, his forehead scarred
With many a furrowed wrinkle,
In 's ear there rang, with strident clang,
The telephone's tink-tinkle.
"Art there?" "I am—the printer!" "D—n!"
"We're waiting for your copy"—
So now you spy the reason why
These lines read rather sloppy.

Every one is glad to see Mr. Chaplin back again in Parliament. Not only is he personally popular, but among those who do not know him personally—and even those who differ altogether from his opinions—he is universally respected as a man who has always been consistent and honest in his views, and who is quite above the baser tricks and subterfuges of party politics. In the days when Protection was regarded in Disraeli's phrase as "not only dead but damned," Mr. Chaplin adhered loyally to the lost cause; and now that a sort of resurrection has taken place, it is only fitting that he should be among the remnant who still uphold the Protectionist banner at Westminster. But he rather yielded to the intoxication of the moment, if he is correctly reported as having described his return as a crushing blow for the Government. A Government can hardly receive a blow of any kind in an election where there is no Ministerial candidate, and in which the official party organisation, local and central, takes no share.

No doubt, if a Ministerial candidate had contested Wimbledon, Mr. Chaplin would still have been returned by a large majority. The constituency is one of those the verdict of which is a foregone conclusion, and it could only give a crushing blow to anybody by unexpectedly changing its political allegiance. What really is interesting about the election is the fact that it is the first one that has been fought on the issue of Woman Suffrage. The show that their candidate has made on this occasion is hardly calculated to encourage the supporters of that movement. He called himself a Liberal, as do most of the Woman party in the House of Commons. It is to be assumed, however, that he received the support of many Conservatives, for the advocates of woman's rights are pretty well divided between the two political parties.

From this point of view how do the figures come out? Although Mr. Chaplin obtained a record poll, this is clearly attributable to the growth of the constituency in the last twelve months. Over 2,200 voters have been added to the register since the last General Election, and Mr. Chaplin's poll is relatively smaller than that of the Conservative candidate in 1906. His opponent, however, obtained over 4,000 less votes than the Liberal candidate at the General Election, and his poll was only about 500 less than that of the Liberal candidate in 1885, when Liberalism was at high-water mark and this constituency had many thousand less electors than at present. It is therefore obvious that the bulk of the Liberals and nearly all the Conservatives of the constituency refused to vote for a Woman Suffragist; and I have no doubt that the same thing would have happened in an election under similar conditions in almost any constituency in the kingdom. The little gang which is making so much noise at present, and which directs its animosity chiefly against Liberal Ministers, has no followers worth speaking of in the electorate, and those that it has are chiefly Liberals who are on this point at variance with the majority of their party.

There seems to be a growing impression that the experiment of applying the Land Transfer Act of 1897 to the County of London has been a failure. Personally I do not profess to know much about it, but so far as my knowledge goes the facts justify this opinion.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

Stephens' Ink writes a clear blue colour which develops into an intense black. It is pleasant to write with and follows the pen ungrudgingly even when much evaporated in the inkstand.

I have received from the town clerk of Kensington a copy of the lengthy report of the sub-committee of the Council of that borough, which has lately investigated the working of the Act. The conclusion of the committee is that the system of compulsory registration of title "has been found to add greatly to the difficulty, expense, delay, and risk of property dealings in London." What it must have added under the head of "expense" is shown by the fact that the fees paid in the seven years that the Act has been in operation amount to £288,928, which is practically in addition to the ordinary costs of transfer; and over and above this £265,000 has been paid out of public money for the upkeep of the new Registry. The system has thus cost upwards of half a million of money in seven years, and the benefits that it has afforded are doubtful, or, at least, "mixed."

This and much more to the same effect has been said before now by those who are personally acquainted with the working of the Act; but it has never been said with quite so much authority, and the time seems to have arrived when the attention of Parliament and the Government should be directed to the question. It is very possible that the circumstances of London are particularly unsuitable for the experiment that has been tried; but inasmuch as property changes hands more frequently in London than anywhere else, the experience of London strongly suggests that the Act is radically defective, wherever it may be applied. This view is borne out by the fact that, although the Act was passed ten years ago, London is the only place in which it has been adopted; and it was only adopted there in opposition to a very extensive and weighty body of opinion. It is pointed out in the Kensington report that in Middlesex and Yorkshire, which have had their own system of land registration for 200 years, the system is much more simple than that of the Act of 1897, and the cost quite insignificant. In Middlesex the registration fees are limited in every case to 5s. I see that on the last occasion when the Act was discussed in Parliament, on a motion condemning the system at work in London, the Liberal Whips told in favour of the motion. The present Government would, therefore, only be acting consistently in ordering now an inquiry into the working of the Act with a view to retracing the mistake that seems to have been made.

No doubt the Imperial Conference has done some useful work, such as can always be found for such meetings to do. But there must be many patriotically disposed people, including all those who are not red-hot politicians, who will feel that any good that may have been done has been dearly bought at the price. Personally, I should think that it would be far better for the Empire that this Conference should be the last, unless the Colonies can find representatives who will not identify themselves with party politics while they are in London, or unless newspapers of the *Daily Mail* type can be temporarily suppressed as long as the Conference is in the public mind.

The most useful thing that the Conference has done has been to demonstrate, to all who have the sense to see it, the fundamental difficulty which besets every attempt to create artificial ties between a group of self-governing States. For better or worse, our principal colonies have been granted practically unlimited rights of self-government. They have learnt to value these rights, and will tolerate no interference with them. They have no desire—so their representatives say, though their professions hardly accord with their conduct—to interfere with the corresponding rights which we possess, and we on our side could not tolerate any such interference. In such a state of things there can be no common political action except on matters which lie outside the sphere of local self-government, or on matters within that sphere on which all the States are collectively agreed, and on which there is virtual agreement among all parties within each individual State. Directly those limits are overstepped, the right of each State to manage its own affairs without interference from outside is infringed, and what is intended as a bond of union must inevitably become a cause of friction.

This is what has frustrated hitherto all the pious aspirations of those who hanker after "Imperial Federation" in one shape or another. A few years ago the Colonists cold-shouldered all movements in that direction, fearing that they involved a sacrifice of their independence. Now they favour such a movement in one particular shape, obviously because they think it will suit their interests, as no doubt it will. But they have in their turn to face the fact that the proposed scheme may not suit our interests, and that in a matter concerning ourselves we must be the sole judge of our interests, as they are of theirs. After a bitter fight, which is not yet ended, a Government has been installed in office in this country pledged up to the hilt to maintain the policy of free trade. The Colonies at this juncture take the opportunity of moving in the Imperial Conference that we ought to abandon free trade in the interests of the Empire. This means either that we are not the best judges of our own interests, or that if we are right, we ought to subordinate our interests to those of the Colonies, or, as Mr. Chamberlain frankly put it, "make sacrifices" (meaning thereby pay taxes) for the benefit of the Empire.

On any view of it, this doctrine is better calculated to subvert the Empire than to consolidate it. Preached

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A. Finsbury, London.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET writes on NERVOUSNESS, and HOW TO OVERCOME IT, on page 1308.

as it has been, its mischievous tendencies have been aggravated. Long before the Conference met, the tag-rag and bobtail of the anti-Ministerial press in this country made it clear that it was to be used as an opportunity of "getting at" the Government, and the game has been carried out to the end with all the resources of cheap newspaper sensationalism. The Colonial Premiers have thus been converted into a party asset and represented for the time being as the leaders of the Opposition in this country. They might themselves have done something to prevent this; but in several instances—Sir Wilfrid Laurier is an honourable exception—they have openly lent themselves to it.

The harm that has been done is not great, because the bulk of the Unionist press, to do it justice, has behaved with restraint and decency. But if this sort of thing is to be repeated every three years, it is bound to have, in course of time, the very worst possible effect. If a British Premier went to Australia or Canada to tell the Colonists what line they ought to take in the interests of the Empire on any question of domestic politics, every one would recognise that he was doing nothing but mischief. We may be more long-suffering than the Colonists in regard to what we ought to take lying down, but the worm will turn sooner or later in England, as in the rest of the world.

THE ARROGANT APE.

The Ape (though why it don't appear)
Thought of himself no Table Beer,
And boasted that whatever Side
With him in Battle was allied
Was bound the other Side to whip,
And smite, like Samson, Thigh and Hip.
  Now he, one Day, while out he strolled,
Met, quite by Chance, the Lion bold,
And, patronising, said: "Well met!
Whither away, my tawny Pet?"
  Dan Lion viewed his swaggering Air
With half-amused, half-scornful Stare.
Then said: "I go to fight the Bear."
  "You do?" the cocky Ape replied,
As visibly he swelled with "Side,"
"Well, I, too, hate old Bruin—dash him!
I'll come along and help you smash him.
Alone, you see, your Chance is quite
Uncertain in so stiff a Fight.
But if you've ME to back you up,
Success is sure. What ho, old Pup!"
  The Lion smiled a lazy Smile,
Deeming Rejoinder not worth while,
Then stalked majestic towards the Lair
Where lay his Enemy, the Bear,
The Ape, who wouldn't be denied,
Marching important by his Side.
  They reached the Lair, the Fight began;
But little did the Simian,
Save that he shrieked and howled in Plenty,
And made sufficient Noise for Twenty.
Yet when to Leo's single Strength
His stubborn Foe succumbed, at Length,
Our Ape assumed, with boastful Glee,
The Credit of the Victory,
And vowed that, if he'd not been there,
Success had rested with the Bear.
But Lion smiled a lazy Smile,
Still deeming Answer not worth while.
  Not long thereafter, as it fell,
Another Tale was there to tell,
When he, the Ape, this Time must try on
His Strength, not for, but 'gainst, Dan Lion,
And, with the spotted Pard allied,
Attempt to tame that Monarch's Pride.
  Old Leo grinned to see 'em come;
He said "Fee, Fi!" He said "Fo, Fum!"
Then springing on the Pard he threw him,
And in a Brace of Jiffies slew him,
While Monkey, in acute Alarm,
Swarmed, shrieking, up the nearest Palm.
  But Leo, chuckling in his Breast,
Looked up and thus the Ape addressed:
  "Hi, you, whose Help must needs prevail
To turn to Vict'ry either Scale,
And who, when on my Side you were,
Vowed you, not I, had thrashed the Bear—
How comes it now, my cocksure Card,
Your vaunted Help has failed the Pard?"

Moral.

The Suffs., who claim, with boastful Airs,
The Stepney Victory as theirs,
If wise, will all Allusions shun
To what befell at Wimbledon.

SCRUTATOR.

A COMPROMISE WITH JUSTICE.

THE fact that weekly journalists, in common with their printers, are accustomed to take holidays at Whitsuntide, makes it difficult at the moment to enter off-hand upon a detailed discussion of the report of the Home Secretary's Committee on the Edalji case which was published on Saturday. But there are two observations which may be put on record at once. The first is that, from my personal point of view, the report is so far satisfactory that it justifies up to the hilt everything that has been said about the Edalji case in TRUTH during the last three years. When an editor devotes column after column, month after month, to one subject in which only a limited number of people can be expected to take more than a cursory interest, he always has an unpleasant consciousness that he may be boring his readers. If any of my readers have been bored with the Edalji case, I trust that they will now forgive the bore, when they see that he has been fully vindicated by the result, and that his tedious persistency has contributed to the correction in some measure of a gross injustice. The other observation is that from the point of view of Mr. Edalji himself, and from that of the interests of justice, the conclusion now arrived at is extremely unsatisfactory. Mr. Edalji has received a "free pardon"—the only means which the British Constitution provides of officially admitting that he ought never to have been convicted. But he remains under the stigma of having brought his conviction upon himself by conduct not only stupid, but grossly unbecoming to a professional gentleman in his position; and on this ground he is refused that compensation which, as a matter of elementary justice, is due to every man who has been wrongfully convicted of a crime, and doubly due to one who has suffered in consequence a long term of penal servitude, as well as irretrievable damage to his prospects in life. I say irretrievable damage, because a professional man who loses four years of his life at the outset of his career, and is left under a serious imputation at the end of that time, must inevitably be handicapped in consequence throughout his life. Unless, therefore, Mr. Edalji was really guilty of writing the anonymous letters which are now made the

pretext of refusing him compensation, justice has not yet been done to him, and until justice has been done, the last word on the Edalji case has not been said.

The reason for this unsatisfactory result will be evident to every one who reads the report of Mr. Gladstone's Committee with full knowledge of the circumstances of the case. The evidence under which Mr. Edalji was committed fell under two distinct heads. There was a certain amount of circumstantial evidence tending to connect the prisoner with the mutilation of a horse; and there were a number of anonymous letters written to the police and other people, prior to the commission of the crime, which suggested that Mr. Edalji was connected with the previous crimes of the same kind which had been occurring for some months, and that he was meditating a further outrage of the same character. The theory of the prosecution was that the prisoner had himself written these letters, though from what motive, unless he were out of his mind, it was difficult for any reasonable person to understand. With regard to the first branch of evidence, Mr. Gladstone's Committee have absolutely endorsed every argument that has been used in these columns, as well as by Sir Conan Doyle and others who have publicly discussed the case. They point out that it rested entirely on the testimony of the police, and that the police had conducted their investigation "not for the purpose of finding out who was the guilty party, but for the purpose of finding evidence against Edalji, *who, they were already sure, was the guilty man.*" I call special attention to the words italicised, because they go to the root of one of the ugliest features in this case. The Committee show, briefly and cogently, that all this evidence was inconclusive, as well as discredited by the bias of the police witnesses, and by contradictions and gaps in their evidence. They conclude, finally, that it is "doubtful whether the jury would have convicted upon the circumstantial evidence alone if they had not been influenced by the case put to them regarding the anonymous or pseudonymous letters." It is, of course, impossible for anybody to say what conclusion any jury might or might not come to upon the evidence submitted to them; but in saying they consider a conviction upon the circumstantial evidence alone would have been "doubtful," the Committee imply that their own opinion is the same as that of everybody who has looked into the case carefully, namely, that this evidence quite failed to establish the prisoner's guilt. At the same time they concur in the general opinion, my own included, that the man would never have been convicted but for the anonymous letters, and the evidence suggesting that he himself wrote them. Thus the anonymous letters become the central feature in the case.

Now, how do the Committee deal with the question of the letters? They point out that two questions arise upon them—first, who wrote them? secondly, what is their value as evidence that Edalji was guilty of the crime for which he was tried? In regard to the first point they say:—

> The issue appears to have been fairly put to the jury whether the letters were written by Edalji or not. The jury had the letters before them, with others for comparison. They had the assistance of an expert witness. They considered their verdict for a considerable time, and we think they must be taken to have held that Edalji was the writer of those letters. We have ourselves carefully examined the letters, and compared them with the admitted writing of Edalji, and we are not prepared to dissent from the finding at which we think the jury arrived.

In regard to the second of these points, however—the significance of the letters, assuming that Edalji wrote them—the Committee point out, what every one can see for himself, that they are quite as consistent with innocence as with guilt. They think it quite likely "that they are the letters of an innocent man, but a wrong-headed and malicious man, indulging in a piece of impish mischief, pretending to know what he may know nothing of, in order to puzzle the police, and increase their difficulties in a very difficult investigation." This is the imputation which is thrown upon Mr. Edalji by this report, concurrently with the finding that he was convicted on insufficient evidence; and this is made the basis for the conclusion that he contributed to his own conviction, on which ground the Home Secretary, in his turn, decides that it is not a case where the prisoner is entitled to compensation.

Now I quite agree, as every one else must, that if Mr. Edalji wrote these letters, being a person of sound mind, he not only has no claim to compensation, but no claim to sympathy of any kind. On that assumption, he is simply a stupid practical joker who has deliberately manufactured evidence against himself for a lark, and got into trouble in consequence. The trouble may have been more serious than he contemplated, but as he has no one but himself to thank for it, no one but himself need be seriously concerned about it. But it has been from the first one of the chief grounds of objection to the man's conviction that the question of the authorship of the anonymous letters has never been properly investigated. By an unfortunate oversight, due to nothing but over-confidence, the prisoner's legal advisers omitted to employ an expert to examine the documents and answer the case for the prosecution upon the question of handwriting. Subsequently to the conviction, every application for permission to inspect the documents on the prisoner's behalf was refused by the Home Office until he came out of prison last autumn. Further, the letters in question are known to have been only one example of a systematic persecution of Mr. Edalji and his family by means of anonymous letter-writing, which had begun many years before the trial; and finally we had in January last a reappearance of the same phenomenon, in the shape of anonymous letters written to Mr. Edalji by some person calling himself "Martin Molton," and professing to have been the author of the previous letters, and to know the author of the cattle-maiming outrages. This extraordinary feature of the case was passed without mention or notice at the trial. In the report of Mr. Gladstone's Committee the anonymous writing prior to 1903 is again unmentioned. The Committee notice the Martin Molton letters of January last, but only to make upon them the non-committal remark: "We think it safer to express no opinion upon their handwriting."

It will be seen from this that there has been no attempt in the latest inquiry to investigate the question of handwriting, which is admittedly the most important question in the case. The Committee confine themselves to saying what anybody who looks at the letters can see, that the resemblance to certain features of the prisoner's handwriting which Mr.

Gurrin pointed out at the trial certainly exist; that the jury had therefore evidence on which they might legitimately conclude that the prisoner wrote the letters submitted to them, and that it cannot now be said that the verdict on this point was unjustified. The Committee cannot be blamed for finding no more than this; it is as much as any tribunal, or any independent critic, could say, until the whole of the letters bearing upon this case from 1893 down to 1907 have been submitted to investigation by a judicial tribunal of some kind, assisted by experts. An investigation of this kind was absolutely essential to any satisfactory solution of the problems surrounding the case; and it is because no such investigation has taken place that the labours of Mr. Gladstone's Committee have failed to yield any satisfactory result and have led to a compromise which is not justice. The question now is whether that compromise is to be allowed to stand.

CONSCRIPTION WITHOUT AN ARMY.

I have received from the secretary of the National Service League, Mr. G. F. Shee, a long letter in reference to recent obsrvations in Truth on the programme of the League, the point of which I think is sufficiently stated in the following extracts:—

Allow me to quote from the National Service League manifesto, so that your readers may see clearly what is proposed therein:—

"What we ask is that the six months' training, laid down by Mr. Haldane as necessary to make the Territorial Force fit for the field, should precede the crisis, and that it should be made compulsory on all able-bodied males of the military age. For the three years subsequent to that in which this training takes place, the men should come up for repetition courses of a fortnight in each year."

From the census of 1901 we find that the annual contingent of lads reaching the age of twenty in any one year is about 380,000. From this total must be deducted:—

For medical ejection and legal exemption	190,000
Required for the Navy, about	15,000
Required for the Army, about	35,000
Required for the Mercantile Marine	18,000
	258,000
Balance to be trained	122,000
	380,000

In round numbers then we have about 120,000 men yearly to be trained, and, as each man would receive training during four years when the scheme was in full swing there would be 480,000 to be trained in one year.

Now Mr. Haldane has shown, in his memorandum of the cost of his Territorial Army, that 312,000 men can be trained for about £2,900,000, and on this basis 480,000 men should be trained at a cost of £4,461,000. But Mr. Haldane's scheme provides only for training for fifteen days, whereas the proposals of the National Service League demand that the first year's recruits should be trained for six months. This involves an extra shilling a day for 120,000 men for 167 days, that is, to make up the difference between a fortnight and six months. This would cost an additional sum of £1,002,000, which, added to the total arrived at before, gives us a total of £5,463,000.

This is in answer to my observations that to give every man in the country a period of training on the Swiss model, and to maintain an organisation under which they will form an efficient army during the period of their liability for service, will cost at least 25 millions a year; and that if this expenditure is to be incurred on a home defence army, it will inevitably involve a corresponding reduction of expenditure on the Navy and the Regular Army. I do not think that the figures which Mr. Shee now gives are of the slightest value. As I have already intimated, I have little confidence in Mr. Haldane's estimate of the cost of the Territorial Army, if the scheme were ever to be carried out in its integrity. But even if the official figures could be accepted, they afford no basis for the further conclusion which Mr. Shee builds upon them. Between the fortnight's training which the Government Bill contemplates, and the six months' training which the National Service League proposes, there is the greatest possible difference. To mention only the biggest point, these 120,000 men can only be kept in barracks if they are to be trained for that time, and the barracks do not exist, but must be provided. The cost does not end, of course, with the mere bill for bricks and mortar. If the £4,461,000 which Mr. Shee arrives at were multiplied by two, I should regard it as a much more likely estimate of the little bill which would be presented to the taxpayer by the time his League's scheme was carried out. Again, I spoke of an organisation under which this force will form an efficient army during its period of liability for service. There is no provision for such organisation in the above calculation. To take only the most obvious point, look at the cost of the staff that must be maintained, if, in addition to 120,000 men undergoing their six months' training, 360,000 more are to come up for a fortnight's "repetition course" every year.

The most astonishing feature about this scheme is the insignificance of the results which it offers. We are to enforce compulsory military training on every man during a period of four years, regardless of the arguments and prejudices against it; we are to incur an additional expenditure of some millions per annum; and all we are to get in return is about 180,000 more men in four years than Mr. Haldane's scheme contemplates, and to have the satisfaction of knowing that they have all completed six months' training in case they are wanted. The only argument that I can see for conscription is that it will make us absolutely safe against being invaded and conquered, and relieve us of the necessity of spending upwards of 30 millions a year upon our Navy. The National Service League scheme will do neither the one thing nor the other, though it may very easily, as I have said before, lead to our falling between the two stools of sea defence and land defence. For conscription in this shape there is absolutely no argument at all. It simply means conscription without an Army—beyond such Army as we possess at present.

There is another passage in Mr. Shee's letter which I suppose I ought to deal with:—

As to your statement that experience tells us that, though compulsory training might be enacted by Parliament, a really efficient army would never be created, I confess I cannot understand it. The experience of Russia, Germany, France, Switzerland, Japan, Italy, and Austria shows that only when compulsion is resorted to are efficient and sufficient forces available for national defence, and what has been accomplished by almost every civilised nation in the world can surely be done by Great Britain. As regards establishing two lines of defence, very few nations require both a strong army and a strong navy, but Japan, which is situated in a very similar position to our own, can, and does, provide a strong army and a strong navy, while Germany has a strong army for the defence of her land frontiers, and is daily preparing a strong navy to protect her mercantile marine.

The point which Mr. Shee cannot understand is a very simple one. It is not a question of what Great Britain can do, but of what Great Britain is likely to do. The countries which he mentions have land frontiers to defend, and powerfully-armed nations on the other side of them. We are surrounded by the sea, and maintain, at gigantic cost, a huge preponderance of naval strength over all other nations, for the purpose of defending it. We consequently lack that incentive for keeping up an efficient army ready to repel attack

at any moment, which, as I said in the article which Mr. Shee is answering, "confronts every Continental nation at close quarters." It is for this reason that our home defence forces have always been in a nebulous and inefficient condition, and the argument which Mr. Shee is unable to understand is merely the argument that the cause which has produced this state of things in the past will continue to operate in the future. And common sense suggests that the greater the number of men you enrol for training for home defence, the greater will be the tendency, under pressure of financial exigencies, to maintain them in an inefficient condition and useless to meet any emergency at short notice, because there will always be the delusive paper totals of men under training to mislead the public. The case of Japan presents no analogy to our own case. Japan's army has been deliberately formed, and used, with a view to armed intervention on the continent of Asia to resist the designs of European powers upon China. The case of Germany will be analogous to our own only when the Germans propose to spend 30 millions per annum on their fleet, and put it on an equality with ours. At present their Navy is to them much what our Army is to us—except in point of cost. As long as we are spending annually upon armaments 25 per cent. more than the most heavily armed of foreign powers, there cannot be a shadow of justification for any measure that involves an addition to that expenditure.

DR. TUCKER'S ATOMISER.

Since the paragraph in my issue of March 13, and the article headed "The Atomiser and the Solicitor" in my issue of May 8, I have ascertained that I have unwittingly done an injustice to Mr. Tucker, which I regret. The newspaper report of the inquest shows that the Coroner did not impute fraudulent dealing to Mr. Tucker, but directed his observations to the system under which poor people are led to believe that the Government stamp on patent and proprietary medicines carries with it a guarantee of genuineness. I am told that Mr. Tucker did not see the *Lancet* paragraph referred to in my article until May 3, and I accept this statement. I also understand that many persons have been benefited by Mr. Tucker's remedy, and I have myself received letters since the paragraph appeared to this effect. I take this opportunity of saying so, and of withdrawing all imputations upon Mr. Tucker or on his solicitor, Mr. Venn, as to whom, I may say, I never intended any imputation.

THE MILITARY TOURNAMENT.

It was originally intended that a more or less realistic representation of a thrilling episode of the Indian Mutiny—the storming and capture of the Kashmir Gate at the siege of Delhi—should form the principal novelty in this year's Royal Naval and Military Tournament at Olympia. When some progress had already been made with the preparations, however, the War Office interdicted the performance, in consequence—so it is said—of the objection of the Secretary of State for India. This interference caused a certain amount of soreness and disappointment, but Mr. Morley's objection—if it really was Mr. Morley's—was not an unreasonable one, especially in view of the unrest that exists in India. Putting aside any question as to its inexpediency, the elimination of this item from the programme does not seem to me to be a matter for regret. Personally, as an old and enthusiastic supporter of the Tournament, I have always regarded the introduction of blood-and-thunder business to split the ears of the groundlings as a rather ugly blot on an otherwise charming entertainment. Officers on the staff of the Tournament have told me that the groundlings like it; but I doubt whether those pantomimic battles with savage foes, which used to wind up the show in the old days at the Agricultural Hall, were really so powerful a draw as was imagined. I have a better opinion of the taste of the shilling visitors than to suppose that they found any particular fascination in the smell of gunpowder, which was the most impressive feature of those performances. Certainly, as the success of last year demonstrated, the Tournament can afford to dispense with any such descent to the cheap devices of transpontine melodrama. However, this is a digression. What I want to point out is that the prohibition of the Indian Mutiny scene naturally placed the managers of the Tournament in an awkward position. But Army men are expected to be able to extricate themselves from awkward positions, and in this instance they did so with flying colours. The officers responsible for the programme at once set to work to fill up the gap that had been made, and by the opening day last week they had got ready a spectacle which ought to prove a bigger attraction than any sham fight the Kashmir Gate could have been.

"Ye Tournament in Ye Olden Days" supplements last year's "Tylting in Tudor Times." That was an exhibition of tilting only, but the tilting was not the only feature of a mediæval tournament. Before the chosen knights entered upon the "solemn joust," the common herd enjoyed their humbler, but more exhilarating, revels and sports, and on the present occasion the latter are represented. On this occasion, too, the popular idea of a mediæval tournament is satisfied by the presence of a Queen of Beauty and her attendants—a circumstance on which Major-General Sir F. W. Stopford, at the luncheon on Wednesday, made the comment that this was the first time in the twenty-eight years' history of these shows that ladies had assisted. Perhaps it was thought that this new departure should be made inconspicuously, or possibly it was deemed undesirable to submit the charms of the Queen of Beauty to too close an inspection, but anyhow, on her remote throne above "the main entrance to the Castle," she is for most of the audience a rather dim and distant vision. Filled with the crowd of retainers and villagers assembled for the tourney, the courtyard of the castle (otherwise the arena) presents a very bright and animated scene. Men and boys play various games; a jester mounted on a mule causes some diversion; there are bouts at quarter-staff and a fight between men on horseback, armed with terrible-looking but quite harmless dummy clubs; two teams have what is described as the mediæval equivalent of a modern tug-of-war, a pole being used instead of a rope; and finally comes a "solemn joust" between the Knight of the White Swan and the Knight of the Red Dragon. "Ye Tournament in Ye Olden Days" is not only a picturesque but a lively and amusing entertainment.

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There are other items in the programme which, though they have figured in it year after year, are a never-failing source of delight to the public. The musical double ride of the 1st Life Guards is as good as any that has been witnessed at these Tournaments, and that which is to be given on and after Friday by representatives of each of the six Lancer regiments in the service is not likely to show any falling off. A wonderfully dashing and inspiriting musical drive is provided by the "A" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. Men of the 2nd Life Guards play the diverting game of push-ball on horseback; and the Army Service Corps furnish another exhibition of their smartness in making and striking camp, dismantling their waggons, and putting them together again. In the naval field-gun display, for many years a deservedly popular performance, seamen from the barracks at Portsmouth, Devonport, and the Nore are taking part, and the competition in which the different crews are engaged makes them smarter than ever. A class from the Royal Naval School of Physical Training at Portsmouth contributes a display of exercises based on the Swedish system of physical training, and in the last week of the Tournament a similar display will be given by N.C.O.s from the Army Headquarters Gymnasium at Aldershot. Besides all these things, there are, of course, all the usual competitions, including those for artillery trotting and galloping, and each evening the programme concludes with a military tattoo. It is altogether a capital entertainment, and those who visit it will have the double satisfaction of knowing that they are not only ministering to their own pleasure, but affording much-needed support to a number of naval and military charities. Last year the Tournament raised the handsome sum of £8,000 for those institutions. I trust that this year it will be equally successful.

THE THEATRES.

"The Girls of Gottenberg," at the Gaiety.

A large number of authors' names appear on the programme of the performance at the Gaiety Theatre. Mr. George Edwardes, that popular caterer for pleasure, has reserved power to add to their number, and this is apparent in the book of the words, where, but not elsewhere, a Mr. C. H. Bovill's name appears as the author of the most ingeniously worded lyric of the piece.

> Won't you come and two-step,
> Little girl, with me?
> I can see that you step
> So delightfullee!
> Lightly as a feather,
> Let us go together,
> Putting quite a polish on the parquetrie!

That is the mood exactly in which the public goes to the Gaiety. It wants a two-step or a three-step: something quite simple, done quite nicely by people it knows.

On Wednesday night last I had the pleasure of seeing Miss Gertie Millar do a number of steps in various times and exactly fill the rules of the theatre in that respect, for she is a popular favourite, and will so remain if she stays on the stage till about 1950, when some habitués of the Gaiety may be inclined to say that she shows signs of having lost her pristine youth. In theatrical England it is extraordinary how easily among women and by means of careful advertisements in the illustrated papers and of picture postcards is acquired a reputation. As a matter of fact, the advertised individual has often no physical or other advantage ahead of many others of her contemporaries, save that of having known—Advertisement. This is a generalisation only, and I do not, of course, mean to imply anything against Miss Gertie Millar, who is as distinguished as she is talented. But I am merely providing a gilt frame, into which any one can place a number of different ladies, much starred in the fashion described, and as regards talent: nonentities.

With men it is different, and a reputation is not so easily acquired. Mr. Edmund Payne, for instance, has a great reputation, to which he added much at last week's first performance of "The Girls of Gottenberg," but it is easy to see at a glance that it rests on solid foundations. Mr. Payne is in the first place a humorist; he sees the world in grotesque, and no doubt was the originator of many of the exceedingly funny things he said, and of the yet funnier that he did. The exploding point in laughter with me is low, and it takes a great deal to get me off, but Mr. Edmund Payne did it in the second act of "The Girls of Gottenberg." He has been masquerading as the envoy of the Kaiser, ordering commanders of fortresses to imprison themselves, snubbing High and Mightinesses, and generally comporting himself in the manner of that German tailor who recently hoaxed the German army, and permanently proved himself the greatest humorist in action of our time. This by way of parenthesis, and the precise moment at which I exploded is best reached directly. Mr. Payne, alias Max Moddelkopf, is dining with the Burgomaster's daughter. Enter to them Mr. Nainby and Miss Gertie Millar. Mr. Payne and Mr. Nainby are placed, each with his lady, back to back, and almost touching, in the centre of the vast stage. Mr. Nainby considerably annoys Mr. Payne. The latter endures all for a time, awaiting his opportunity. It arrives with the upsetting of the salt. Mr. Payne remarks: "One should always throw salt over one's left shoulder, to remove the bad luck," and fitting the action to the word, throws a considerable quantity over his shoulder into the right eye of Mr. Nainby. Explosion on the part of Mr. Nainby, then of the audience, explanations between the two, ending in a song and dance.

I have mentioned this little incident as the culminating moment of Mr. Payne's efforts, which certainly deserved the success they achieved. He was admirable as the spurious envoy of the Emperor, and Mr. Nainby came next to him as the sergeant of Hussars, who alone detects the trick, but does not spoil the fun by divulging anything definite. Mr. George Grossmith is a Serene Highness in the play, and its part author. In his song, Otto of Roses, he expresses the Prince's philosophy of life:—

> What oh!
> They know that my heart never closes,
> If you don't like what you've got, oh,
> Pick another from the grotto,
> Is the motto of Otto of Roses.

Among the other songs that hugely delighted the audience, I remember Mitzi's (Miss Millar's) "Rheingold," which was a pretty piping quite dwarfed by Miss de Sousa's vocal efforts, yet quite as great a success with the Gaiety first-night audience. Then Mr. Payne and

the Burgomaster's daughter sing a sweet country idyll:—

The lark is out for an airing,
The hawk is out for a lark.

And Mr. Payne combines again with Mitzi to give us the true tale of the amorous sausages.

Of dancing we might with advantage have had more, and I always feel that I never see enough of Miss Kitty Mason, whose brief appearances were the heralds of rapturous encores. Especially she pleased me in the quintet, by force of contrast with two pretty new comers, not by any means her equals as votaresses of Terpsichore. Enough has perhaps been said to show my readers of what kind was the impression the play at the Gaiety made upon me. To sum all up in a word, I should say that it was an excellent example of what one expects to find at the Gaiety. The dresses, the beauty of the human and of the artistic accessories, left nothing to be sought by the imagination. The music of Mr. Ivan Caryll and of Mr. Lionel Monckton was very dancing in its quality, and where one could distinguish the two apart, as in certain of Mr. Monckton's songs, all could realise his especial gift of writing a tuneful and catching air. The present entertainment is far better worth seeing than its predecessor, and I have no doubt that it will prove a success with all, save perhaps with ultra-patriotic Germans, who may find that Mr. Payne makes rather too mad fun of the military hierarchy of their fatherland.

"When Knighthood was in Flower," at the Waldorf.

"By my halidom," quoth Henry VIII. to the future Queen, Mary Tudor, "an thou beest not wed to the King of France by Monday week, I will have thee flogged at Bridewell." "Rubbish!" exclaimed Mary Tudor, as she threw the pearls brought by the French Ambassador into that envoy's face. "Rubbish!" she exclaimed, as she scattered the various coloured silks about the apartment. And "Rubbish!" I was inclined to echo after an hour or so of this unhappy venture of Mr. Sothern and Miss Julia Marlowe.

Rubbish and the phrase in inverted commas at the beginning of these remarks are not precise quotations from the originals. They are placed rather as signposts that may warn the unwary, who are also lovers of historical verisimilitude, that they will not find much to please them in the present production at the Waldorf. The play is adapted by Mr. Paul Kester from a novel, and perhaps in the pages of fiction one may be able to put up with a good deal that seems very absurd on the stage. It seems a pity that Miss Julia Marlowe should have chosen to appear in this production. All her gifts are thrown away in trying to make us interested in the impossible Princess Mary. Mr. Sothern plays the future Duke of Somerset with dignity and quiet composure, and the other characters in the drama are by no means ridiculously filled, if they meant anything in particular. One conception—that of Henry VIII.—seemed to me to open the only door to success. Mr. Mawson, consciously or unconsciously, made the King appear so grotesque that one could not help laughing every time he opened his mouth. Had the other players only done likewise, the evening would have passed amusingly. The beautiful setting of Act I., representing the river landing-place in Windsor Park on May-day, 1513, consoled one to some extent during the first act.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Moneylender's Catechism.

(*For the use of aspiring West End usurers.*)

Question: What are your names?

Answer: Nathan Abrahams Clifford Montmorency.

Q.: Who gave you these names?

A.: My father gave me the two former. The two latter I gave myself.

Q.: What is your profession?

A.: I have no profession. I am a private gentleman with a large capital at immediate command.

Q.: Where do you keep this large capital?

A.: A small fraction of it in the hands of my bankers; the balance of it in my imagination.

Q.: What do you desire to do with the said large capital?

A.: I desire to invest it in sums of from £50 to £50,000 on simple note of hand, without security, at 5 per cent.

Q.: Do you ever vary your rate of interest?

A.: Never. I would scorn to go back on my advertised terms. I only vary the periods on which the interest is calculated.

Q.: Illustrate your answer by an example.

A.: I will. *E.g.*, I charge 5 per cent. per day, per week, per fortnight, or per month, according to the squeezability of the borrower. But it is always 5 per cent.

Q.: What is a borrower?

A.: Borrowers are of two kinds—the eligible and the ineligible.

Q.: Define an eligible borrower.

A.: A confiding or reckless individual, possessing an inalienable income or an absolute reversion, who deals with me personally and signs whatever is put before him without reading it over.

Q.: Define an ineligible borrower.

A.: A meagre and suspicious churl who will sign nothing whatever without first submitting it to his solicitor.

Q.: What is a Bank Clerk?

A.: A young man who will lose his situation if he is found out dealing with me, and may therefore be trusted to pay any demands I choose to make upon him.

Q.: What is a rate collector?

A.: A man who has the handling of large sums of public money, upon which he may be calculated to draw for my benefit, as often as I care to squeeze him.

Q.: What is a note of hand?

A.: That entirely depends upon the borrower with whom I have to deal.

Q.: How do you mean?

A.: I mean that if I am dealing with a country clergyman or unprotected maiden-lady, a note of hand is only a euphemistic name for an unusually stringent Bill of Sale. Whereas if I am dealing with a man who has some knowledge of business, a note of hand is merely a written promise to pay up—which may or may not be fulfilled.

Q.: What is the Register of Moneylenders?

A.: A Register kept at Somerset House in which a grandmotherly Government impertinently insists on my real name, as well as my assumed name and my business address, being inscribed.

Q.: Can you not, however, turn this impertinence to your own advantage?

A.: Happily I can. It enables me to describe myself on my circulars as being "Registered under Government," and so to convey to simple-minded persons the impression that my business has the official *imprimatur* of Downing-street.

Q.: What is a harsh, oppressive and unconscionable transaction?

A.: A ridiculous legal fiction, under cover of which borrowers are most unfairly given a loophole for evading their just debts.

Q.: What is the Daily Press?

A.: The Agency which prints my prospectuses on its advertisement pages, and at the same time frequently denounces my methods in its editorial columns.

Q.: Who is the Patron Saint of your fraternity?

A.: The late lamented Isaac Gordon.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

BLUE BEARD À LA MAETERLINCK.

IN "Ariane et Barbe Bleue," a lyrical play in three acts, now on at the Opéra Comique, Maeterlinck is more than ever the symbolist. Paul Dukas, the author of the score, tries to convey in it more than music can express; and so he sometimes falls into obscurity. Maeterlinck at first called his work, "La Délivrance Inutile," wishing to teach the uselessness of attempting to deliver souls that do not aspire to be their own deliverers. His dramas are fairy tales, often with a bitter pulp in a tempting rind. The lily-pale damsel, the rude knight, the grim giant, the tricky dwarf who is in the end too many for the steel-clad lord whose sword is ever ready to leap out of its scabbard, the good old dame and noble châtelaine, are so many virtues and vices. With Maeterlinck one lives in a country of allegorical beings. After all, who can say they are not more real than the people we see to-day, and who will to-morrow or the day after only live in our short memories? For my part, I find more reality in the "Faerie Queene" or the "Pilgrim's Progress" than in a whole library of biographies. But is allegory good to set to music when one has not a Gluck or a Wagner, but a Gluck rather than a Wagner, at hand? It certainly is no good to help out the controversy, and in some degree Maeterlinck's long lay is controversial. M. Dukas, the composer of the score, had this drawback to contend against. What could he do when he had to emphasise the abject fears of Blue Beard's five first wives, except fail?

Ariane, the born free woman, is the sixth wife. Blue Beard brought her home a bride after he had rid himself, not as might a Captain Murderer, but a gaoler of the quintette of preceding wives. The internal magnificence of his castle calls for smoked glasses to spare the eye its too dazzling effects. There are more jewels in its adornments than might suffice for the foundations of the New Jerusalem. This is in keeping with the true history of the wife and infant slayer of Tiffanges. He had a revenue of £60,000 a year, which would have been worth seven times as much in our time. His fantastic tastes were luxurious and theatrical, and he did not mind shocking the prejudices of his time in importing gipsies from Spain to dance at a Passion Play on the hill of Calvary. Maeterlinck, in getting up the subject of his lay, read deeply the chroniclers of the fourteenth century. He was struck with the military side of Blue Beard's career, with his companionship in arms with Joan of Arc, and the part he played in her campaign, thus drifting into his sixth marriage with *une femme soldat*—a free and emancipated amazon.

At the home-bringing of the sixth bride Blue Beard hands her a bunch of five silver keys and a gold key to attach in housewifely fashion to her girdle. Ariane can freely use the silver keys, but not the golden. Why, she asks herself, the interdiction? She is the lawful mistress of the house, and is going to have her own way, quietly and discreetly if possible, and otherwise if she meet with opposition. Curiosity is a noble passion, and the root of all learning. Thus mentally strengthened, Ariane avails herself of an absence of Blue Beard from the castle to go round its chambers and galleries on a tour of independent inspection. She scorns to use the silver keys herself, and directs her nurse to open successively the chambers which serve as treasure rooms. Rich people in Blue Beard's time invested their wealth in jewels and gorgeous vessels of precious metal, of curious workmanship, and bedight with gems. Behind the pile of diamonds in the fifth room Ariane, to the sound of moaning music which seems to threaten storm, espies a golden door. The notion flashes across her brain of the possible connection between this door, the golden key, and the mysterious fate of the five preceding wives. So she unlocks the door, sees a winding staircase in the wall, hears groans *de profundis* (score in keeping), descends, and in the next act reappears in a dungeon, lamp in hand.

The five wives are there, looking a little like the phantoms in "Robert le Diable," and as if seen through a haze—a fine piece of stage management. On closer inspection they appear emaciated and degraded beings, also a wonderful effect of scenic trickery. The visit of the new wife strikes terror into their abject hearts. Her comforting words, however, pick them up a little. She asks them to tell her briefly, each, her story. They are Selyette, Ygrauine, Melissandre, Bellagine, and Alladine, whom Blue Beard fetched from the far-off East, and who is unable to speak the tongue current in his castle. As Ariane in dumb show tries to teach her to free herself, the lamp goes out, and the emancipatress finds herself imprisoned by darkness. Symbolists will find pleasure in this. Peering about she sees a dim light coming in through a slit in the wall—a loophole, as it turns out, glazed with a dust-covered and cobwebbed pane. She climbs to this narrow window, which she breaks. A flood of pure sunlight pours in, revealing the aged and shrivelled faces of the other wives and their sordid belongings. This revelation shocks them, and they want to be again shrouded in darkness, until Ariane takes them one by one to the loop-hole to point out the flowers, the trees, and the cattle browsing on the mead, and bids them hearken to the songbirds. The music here gives the effects of a concert in an aviary, and is sweet, light, and gleesome. This gives them courage to follow Ariane out of the dungeon into the rooms the silver keys open. The poor creatures fall in love (music scherzando) with the jewels, the silks, satins, and Oriental embroideries, that are stored up. Their deliverer in vain exhorts them to borrow, by a life in the open air, the hues of the rose and lily. They stupidly laugh at her. Alladine, twist-

ing a bright Indian scarf round herself, dances a nautch measure, and then crowds bangles on her arms and ankles. The Christian wives follow her example, and deck themselves out with strings of pearls, rivers of diamonds, earrings, brooches, girdles bright with rubies, emeralds, and other gems. Presently there is the noise as if of a far-off fight, which comes nearer and nearer, and then subsides. Blue Beard enters. All save Ariane cower and run to hide in nooks and corners. She breasts the rising storm. He goes to seize her in a murderous clutch. The peasants whom he thought he had repulsed for good return to storm his castle. He pinions Ariane, and goes out to fight. She calls for help. It comes when Blue Beard is borne back fettered with cords. His captors cut those binding Ariane, and deliver over the monster to her justice. As he is wounded and a prisoner she cuts the cords with his dagger, which she has seized. The other wives, coming out of their holes and corners, take the ultra-sentimental view of their defeated tyrant and lavish on him their caresses. Ariane heaves a deep sigh. She kisses Blue Beard's forehead, not in sign of love, but of forgiveness, and departs to live out her own life in freedom far from the House of Bondage. As she leaves she calls on her sisters to follow. They plead their helplessness. It is the old story of the onions and water-melons of Egypt, but instead of these vegetables there are the jewellery and fine raiment, a shelter over their heads, and a sense of helplessness. May not Blue Beard, in his recent severe lesson, have learned to be kind, and to value mercy?

Not wives only, but nations, have thus acted towards their baulked tyrants.

Those who go to hear Miss Geraldine Farrar as Opera House prima donna will not be disappointed. She ought to rank now as tip-top on the list of American light sopranos. Miss Farrar, who studied under Lily Lehmann at Berlin, is true to her ideal, and gives her best artistic self to her hearers. I dare say that were she singing alone at her piano she would not be less faithful to the inner monitor, and would bring her finest sensibilities to bear upon her notes. She is more pensive, more intellectual, more appreciative, though with infinite grace and naturalness, than soulful. Appreciation is always critical, and holds the scales of judgment, looking at them carefully. It never suffers itself to be intoxicated by any sentiment or passion. Soul does, and, lark-like, warbling aloft in the blue, brims over with joyful, jubilant, adoring admiration of the impalpable firmament around it. There was much of the song bird in Patti, for whom "Romeo and Juliet" was really composed, though she first appeared in it in Paris when her artistic course had nearly run. She was, owing to her birdiness, the ideal Juliet, even then. Miss Farrar's sensibilities are at higher tension. She deals with them as might the most skilled violinist with a Stradivarius. This praise is great, but think it not exaggerated. Her culture is refined, healthy, and extremely varied. When she sang here three years ago for the benefit of some charity, President Loubet, an accomplished musician, said of her: "She might be one of the Graces who had deserted Cytheris for Athens." As to her voice, its ease, sweetness, and flexibility were marvellous. It can be soft as an echo. The brilliant vocalisations, while exciting wonder as *tours de force*, give the liveliest pleasure by their rare beauty. If not impassioned, they completely lend themselves in the tender, coaxing passages to the part of Juliet. And then the style is ample, and has a nobleness not often to be met with in the light soprano. Krauss had it; but she was a tragedy queen, or rather, the tragic muse lending herself to operatic effects. I do not remember to have heard any Swedish Nightingale who had this quality—the quality of all others which gives the stamp of mastery to an artist.

Before Miss Farrar left Berlin for her American tour the German Crown Prince and Princess had her to their residence to sing for themselves only. As she left, the Princess presented her with a sunshade having an ivory handle and a gold knob richly chased.

"Dogs delight to bark and bite." The five days' debate in the Chamber upon the thirteen interpellations, increased to seventeen, went on with terrible barking and biting and canine fury in fighting. If the warfare was not at bottom noble, the great talent on both sides and the eloquence of Jaurès lent it amazing interest as a "match." Jaurès is a big, bulky man, no longer young, and in appearance so vulgar as one might imagine—until one hears him in the tribune—incapable of any telling effect. I hate declamation, mistrust rhetoric, and lose patience with organ-music effects in oratory. A chaste style holds me down and gives me pleasure. Yet some great orators have lifted me out of myself, and among them Gambetta and Jaurès. They both enable me to believe in Orpheus. Gambetta had incomparable themes, full of interest to his hearers. Jaurès has to invent or create those on which he exercises his eloquence. I have often wondered what he might not do if he had, as had Gambetta, themes in which a whole nation was, before he opened his mouth, deliriously interested. He spoke through two days last week, the first day rather diffusely, but the second day with a *maestria* which the illustrious Burke himself could not have surpassed. It was an indictment against Briand, with whom I generally am, but who, I cannot help seeing, begins to think himself a necessary man, and to kick from him the ladder on which he has climbed.

Briand was indicted for preaching for years what he now wants to put down with a strong hand. This is true. But most politicians who have begun as "the people's friend" incur the same reproach, though not all, perhaps, in the same degree. The lycée education and the debating society destroy in them a proper sense of the meaning of words, or, at any rate, of the meaning attached to them by minds that have not gone through the same verbal course. The French working classes are extremely literal. They take as gospel, until they find out the humbug of it, what is said to them by *arrivistes* wanting to enter the Town Council of Paris or the Chamber of Deputies. Later Briand over and over again exhorted those who afterwards helped him to descend into the street, appeal to force, draw over the army to their side, and look to direct means for emanci-

pation from the bondage of capital. He was believed and got on. Had he spoken to men of his own culture they would have treated what he said as *jolie blague*, or complimented him on so cleverly expanding on a rhetorical theme, mighty hard to sustain. Hardly any one thinks of serious fiscal legislation of a liberating character. Since the death of Léon Say Méline tariffs, now fifteen years old, have driven trade from Marseilles. A director of the Nord tells me that they drive it apace from Dunkirk, on which, before and since the voting of the tariffs, endless millions were spent to extend the harbour and the docks. The Western Railway is in distress from the injury Mélinism has done to Dieppe and Havre. Bordeaux is no longer what it used to be, though the fine wines of the Gironde and Libourne enable her to keep her head above water.

The buzz and angry movement all over the South are another consequence of the tariffs which promised the *vignerons* their foreign markets without having to buy in return of foreigners. In short, the game of the tariffeers was in regard to France as against the rest of the world; heads we win, tails you lose. The exclusion of Spanish wines of the strong, cheap, sweet sorts, good for blending with thin acid French wines, has been the *coup de grâce* to the Southern *vignerons*. Nobody will now drink these wines even where they are made. They cannot travel and they do not keep. Horses and oxen it appears like them, and for a short time do better work from drinking them, but pay the penalty in soon breaking down.

Plenty of palliatives have been thought of which Léon Say would have scouted. We have the Caillaux palliative which was tabled at the beginning of last week's long debate. It is making the Government most unpopular, and it is of a piece with those measures which Jaurès threw the other day in Briand's face. The Caillaux palliative aims, perhaps not consciously on the part of Caillaux, at a return to the inquisitorial system of the *gabelle* tax. The author is a nervous, pleasure-loving man, impatient of contradiction, and, rather curiously, a son of the first Frenchman who took up the Channel Tunnel scheme. The *gabelle* had lived 500 years when the Revolution swept it off. The Caillaux method could not but revive it or fail to bring about a universal state of *espionnage mutuelle*.

A PEER AMONG THE PLUTOCRATS.

I WAS rather struck by a paragraph in the papers a day or two back about a Mr. Sobb or Blobb, or some name like that—an American millionaire person—because it proves something I've been thinking for some time past, but nobody else seems to have tumbled to. Mr. Sobb—I am not sure the name wasn't Swab, it is impossible to remember those queer American names exactly—has a house somewhere in Pittsburg, I think, that cost him £800,000, and now he wants to sell it for a tenth of what it cost and go away and live the simple life somewhere, because he says it bores him living like a gentleman. That is what he says—or the ha'penny papers say that he says—but his real reason, I feel pretty certain, is because he has got more brains than most millionaires, and he's found out that millionairism is about played out socially. The truth of the matter is that it's been overdone; there are too many millionaires about nowadays; you couldn't fire an air-gun down Bond-street at any time of day without bowling over four or five of them, and they are just beginning to realise it, the really clever ones, I mean. That is why Mr. Chobb is so anxious to go out of the business, and why the other man spends so much of his money building free libraries faster than books can be printed to put into them. At one time it was rather unusual to be a millionaire; that was about the time when the fashion papers got the idea of the man who could get into any sort of society he liked, no matter how vulgar a beast he was, so long as he didn't object to financing the needy aristocrats who acted as his bear-leaders. That may have been true enough once, when there were, perhaps, only half-a-dozen millionaires on the make, socially, at one time. But it isn't so any more, and hasn't been for some years past. Of course, the ha'penny papers tell you the contrary, and I've no doubt some of them try to believe it, because their proprietors are millionaires, or hope to be, and it's about their only chance of getting anybody to know them. But, as a matter of fact, there are too many millionaires nowadays and too few needy aristocrats to go round. I know at least a dozen families among my own relations who, twenty years ago, were practically penniless, and would have been only too glad of the chance of getting hold of a bonâ-fide millionaire. But by this time they've all married into millionaire families, or else gone in as partners in millionaire firms, or got enough money one way or the other out of their millionaire friends, until they are come to be so many Crœsuses, and can afford to cut the millionaire connection altogether and go in for being exclusive. And this season there are something like a couple of hundred millionaires, home-grown or foreign, who would bid up to almost any price for a needy aristocrat and can't find them for money, let alone for love. To be exact, there are four (needy aristocrats, I mean) left in England. One of them's an aunt of mine; and it is a solemn fact that, since she got back from Biarritz, she has had, directly and indirectly, an average of five applications a day from millionaires, positively praying her to take them under her social wing, and offering her practically anything she likes to ask. She is rather a clever business woman, and she expects to be able to pay off all her own and my uncle's debts and to have something like £10,000 over before the end of the season, and that without definitely taking any of them on. It only shows you what a pitch the thing has come to and why some of the cleverest of them are going out of the business.

Naturally enough, under the circumstances, it has become the proper thing to be poor, or to appear so. I found that out when we were dining with the Fitz-battleaxes on Thursday. Jessie was a bit surprised at them asking us at first because, of course, the stage is just about finished socially, and journalism has scarcely begun. But we found out afterwards that it was because we both work for our living, besides my being notoriously hard-up, so that we are really in the very front of the movement without realisng it. The Sangazure de Vere-Bloggs were expected. Of course, they've been about the oldest blood in England for at least three generations, and they were nearly an hour late. Lady de Vere-Blogg explained that they lived out at Tulse Hill now because rent is cheap there, and there had been a breakdown on the L.C.C. tram system which kept them, because it was too wet to walk, and they couldn't afford to take a hansom. As it happened, the story fell rather flat, because Mrs. Tollemache-Beauvoisin-Phibbs, who was wearing the famous Phibbs emeralds, capped it by pretending that they were only paste and that she'd had to pawn the real ones to pay her rent, and bursting out crying because she couldn't afford to buy better imitations.

Of course, this new movement has really become absolutely necessary, unless Society was to be altogether swamped out by the nouveau-riche element, and, like all really great reforms, it has just grown from the force

The Cure of Consumption.—J. Dawson, M.D., L.R.C.S., L.M., testifies as follows:—"I was very glad to see that notice has at length been taken of Dr. Alabone's treatment of phthisis and tubercular disease. From personal observation of more than one case which was pronounced "*incurable*" by well-known consultants, I can bear testimony to the very great relief and to al disappearance of the disease."—"*The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh*," *price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.*

of circumstances without any one engineering it specially. But it is really an uncommonly good move, because there is no way by which the millionaire person can get round it. The only real existence he's got is because of his money, and in order to get people to realise him at all he has had to boom his money for all it was worth. And now that nobody who wants to be anybody can possibly afford to have a ha'penny to bless himself with, the ground is just cut away from under the plutocrat's feet. Nobody ever would have known him but for his money, and now that he is known to have got money it will only be a fresh reason for not knowing him. So those who have arrived already will find themselves left behind again, and those who haven't will never get the chance of getting there at all.

It is only when you understand the real facts about the new movement that you get the key to the way some of the millionaires, especially the Americans, have been going on recently. We hear of a man who spends £10,000 on a dinner party or some tomfoolery of that kind, and we think it is only because he likes vulgar ostentation, or has lost his head or something. Really it's quite the opposite—it's more than a little pathetic if you look at it the right way. The poor devils are trying to pretend that they are ruining themselves, so that they may get a chance of being received in Society after all. The ways they set about it are rather queer, but that's only because they are Americans and only half-civilised. You remember that only a few weeks back one of them committed a murder. All sorts of reasons were suggested by the papers, but the real truth at the bottom of it—or so I believe—was that he knew that a murder trial in America is just about the most expensive luxury any one could undertake. By the time he's finished paying the lawyers and the jury and all the rest of them he'll have got rid of at least a million, I'm told. And then, when the one trial is finished they'll have another trial—they always do in America—and probably half a dozen more on top of that. So, by the time he's acquitted, he'll have been able to get rid of every farthing he's got in the world, and start right off at the very top of the social tree. I could give you dozens of similar instances. There's another man, for instance—about the richest of the lot, I'm told—who has actually set the whole legal machinery of the United States in motion to prosecute himself—for some infraction of the Trust laws, I think it is. He knows perfectly well that if things really become too hot to be pleasant, he can always stop it whenever he likes, because, of course, he can afford to pay well above the current rates for a verdict, but he expects to spend millions before that becomes necessary. And, of course, the free library trick and the paying over of anything that art dealers like to ask for spurious Old Masters are so often done now that nobody thinks anything of them except sub-editors who are at a loss for "copy." But it all comes to the same thing in the end—it has become bad form to be a millionaire nowadays—and whatever the millionaires may think about it, their wives and daughters are determined that they aren't going to let a few millions of dollars stand between them and getting into the most exclusive European society. If you have any money to spare I can tell you an absolutely certain and safe investment for it. Buy up all the small villas in the suburbs that you can lay your hands on. In the next year or two the American millionaires—not to speak of our own aristocracy—will be absolutely tumbling over each other to get them, and the rent will go up to almost anything before they are all suited. Jessie thinks so too.

[*Private.*—Of course, it wouldn't do for you to ever let any of your readers know it, but there isn't a word of truth in this article. It is really awfully subtle satire. To tell the truth, it seems to me that your fashionable intelligence is a bit dull, if you don't mind my saying so. You only give things that really do happen, and I don't believe the average outsider cares a bit for that. So I've been studying up the fashion articles in the —— (you know which I mean), and I think I've got the hang of them rather well. And, after all, if it isn't exactly true, it's quite as much so as what you read there—six days a week. What?]

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

WE insist, dear Lady Betty, that "money is the root of all evil," and behave as if it were the source of all good.

* * * * *

H—ll is paved with conventionalities.

* * * * *

They are a confusion of inconsistencies that we establish as a middle-course between conscience and convenience.

* * * * *

In England, the women scowl at all, and the men at each other.

* * * * *

It is an excellent country that has this defect; you cannot be happy here if not in "society," and cannot if in "society."

* * * * *

The ordinary man is at home in his own surroundings; the man of the world, in all.

* * * * *

In the London season people do not wish to see each other; they wish to show themselves.

* * * * *

Endeavour to create a good impression in Court; prepossession is nine points of the law.

* * * * *

The citizens of the United States have a curious grievance which has not been ventilated yet on this side of the Atlantic. It is no recommendation whatever in Europe to say of an American that he is clever, polished, amiable, or witty. Of the American woman it must be said that she is beautiful; of the American man, that he is a millionaire—any other description will fail to obtain for either a welcome from their Old-World fellow-creatures.

The American in his own country, however, welcomes a European visitor if the latter is well-connected, or has a reputation in the world of learning, literature, art, politics, industry, or fashion. That is also the course we generally adopt towards visitors from any country but the United States, and that we make the distinction in the latter instance discloses a sentiment of contempt, the existence of which is increasingly irritating to Americans.

* * * * *

Is Germany to be the America of Europe? It is greatly German intelligence, enterprise, and industry, in favourable conditions, that have raised America to the level of prosperity she has attained. Thousands of Germans have made fortunes in the United States and elsewhere, have returned to the Mother Country, and have with their wealth developed her resources and enormously improved her industrial circumstances. The wealth of Germany at the moment is surprisingly great. Rich, well-educated, intelligent, enterprising, industrious, and adapted to American methods, Germany may soon be a European America; a centre of the New in the heart of the Old. That is disconcerting to those who are new-shy.

* * * * *

There is a difficulty ahead that appears to be generally unperceived; most of us in England are becoming richer but the Sovereign! The labourer is earning increasingly higher wages, and is better-conditioned in every respect than were his predecessors. The members of the upper-lower and lower upper-middle classes are obviously improving in their circumstances; those of the upper middle class are attaining great wealth and consideration. There is a decennial increase in the number of our millionaires and multi-millionaires; but the income of the Sovereign remains stationary, though his expenses are almost doubled by the additional requirements of his condition. We are, therefore, apparently in sight of a situation in which there might be a dozen billionaires and a multitude of millionaires who could outshine the Sovereign in splendour, and influence the public, press, and Government with their money. Will the bookmaker then be the king-maker?

The thought leads to another in natural sequence. Throughout history the politicians have allied themselves to, and aggrandised, those who could be of most assistance to them. The crozier was in the ascendant—it was raised to a perilous height. The sword succeeded it—and successful generals became rich and powerful. The pen came next; there was little too good at the time for the satirist, pamphleteer, historian, wit, or poet. Money has replaced them all, the possessor of mere wealth now can obtain the highest titles and positions of great influence in every direction, and has to be considered in all political calculations.

It is a common complaint at the moment that we attend too much to mere wealth, and we throw the blame of this attitude on each other. It is not the public that is mainly responsible for the development, however, but the politicians, who are raising the rich to undeserved heights to obtain their financial support, as the politicians of one period raised the clergy, to get their spiritual support; those of another, the army, to have its physical asistance; and those of another still, the writers, to obtain their literary aid.

* * * * *

The acclimatisation of divorce in England is a matter that may deserve more attention than it is receiving. Until twenty years ago the general attitude of mind in this country as regards divorce was exceptionally severe; the divorced woman was little better than a social outcast, and the divorced man was avoided by many. The influence of America reappears in this direction, for recently our sentiments in this respect have enormously altered. That is the first step towards adapting our divorce customs to those common in some parts of the United States. America is like a huge octopus that has its multitude of tentacles spread over almost all our institutions, characteristics, customs, and methods.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT would be interesting to hear whether Newmarket has attracted the public in larger numbers during the spring meetings. Various efforts have been made during the last few years to render Newmarket a more popular resort, but they have not been rewarded with any large measure of success. As a matter of fact, the attendance of the general public is no larger than it was in the sixties and in the early seventies, when there were practically no railway facilities. In those days Newmarket was an ideal racing resort. Everybody went everywhere, there being nothing to pay, unless a visitor desired to bet in the old enclosure opposite to the D.M. winning post. The saddling paddock, then known as the birdcage, was open to every one of respectable appearance who cared to enter. Nothing was reserved except the old stand, which was, of course, open only to members. There was never any crowd. Now, however, there are enclosures everywhere, and a visitor desiring to see the racing in comfort of course pays for admission to the stand, and usually buys a ticket for the paddock as well. People are no longer allowed to walk about the Heath as they please. The last part of the R.M. is railed off, so that nobody is to be seen at the spot from which the best view of a race is obtained. Carriages are no longer permitted along the rails, whereas forty years ago there was a line of vehicles four or five deep for nearly half a mile from the winning-post. Visitors are now positively forced into the stands, and people do not care to be thus driven. The Heath all about the stand is now notable for a network of fencing. Newmarket, moreover, is not an accessible place, for the journey from London takes two hours.

The Stewards of the Jockey Club are eager to draw the public to Newmarket, as the spectacle of a thinly filled stand and of half-empty enclosures is not exhilarating, considering the enormous amount of money which has been squandered on the so-called "improvements," which, in the opinion of most people whose judgment is worth a potato-peeling, have been a huge error. In the old days there was no desire to see a crowd at Newmarket. Many members of the Jockey Club (notably Lord George Manners and Mr. Alexander) were furious when the Great Eastern presumed for the first time to run a cheap train from London on the day that Julius won the Cesarewitch. It was suggested to a very popular and highly honoured member (I do not mean Admiral Rous) that the Club fund would benefit if there were a greater number of auction races, with the winners to be sold at small prices, as country horses would thereby be attracted to Newmarket. The proposal was disdainfully dismissed with the reply, "Let them keep their d—d platers for Croydon or Kingsbury, we don't want them here, neither the horses nor their owners."

Last year it was suggested in the press that for the better satisfaction of "the public" all races should finish opposite the stand at the R.M. winning-post. It is most earnestly to be hoped that this most idiotic proposal will receive no consideration from the Stewards. A lot of lazy louts grumble because there are four winning-posts on the flat (the R.M., the Ab.M., the D.M., and the T.Y.C.), so that if any one wishes to witness the finish at three of these a short walk from the stand is necessary. People who take larger views of affairs appreciate, however, the great difference in these courses, as the lie of the ground varies considerably. A horse which will win easily enough on the up-hill finish at the stand may be of no use when the winning-post lies down-hill; while another animal does best over a tolerably flat course. All these are to be found at Newmarket, and there alone, for there is no other course in England which affords any such variety. Any horse's peculiarities can be accommodated on Newmarket Heath, and if it cannot win there it is simply because it is not good enough. There can be no excuse on the score of the course not suiting, if the owner and trainer know their business and place their animals judiciously.

One change at Newmarket would be a most salutary reform. The Second Spring Meeting should be removed from the R.M. to the July course, which ought to be used oftener, and especially as a large sum has lately been expended in extending and improving the stand accommodation. At present the July Course, one of the finest racing tracks in the world, is used on only seven days in the year, while twenty-two days are devoted to the R.M. On the July Course there are also finishes of an entirely different character, as nothing can be more varied than the Exeter Stakes course (which includes the T.Y.C.) and the Bunbury Mile, which is the finish of the Round Course, and which also comprises the Suffolk Stakes Course.

I hope that a rigorous revision of the pecuniary conditions of the Newmarket events of all classes will shortly be taken in hand. Many of the principal stakes could easily be rendered much more attractive to owners without any additional charge on the fund being involved. The conditions of many events are in the highest degree imbecile. In this department of Jockey Club business "the amending hand," which Lord Coke prayed might be "blessed," is urgently needed, and I commend it to the early and careful attention of Lord Durham and Lord Stanley, who will take a practical view of the matter.

The grovelling servility of Newmarket officials and of the racing people there generally towards the Jockey Club is quite comical, especially when contrasted with their singularly offhand demeanour to visitors, and, indeed, to most individuals who are not members, in dealing with whom they quickly conjugate themselves into the imperative mood. I am sure that any member of the Jockey Club accustomed to the slavish deference which he meets with at Newmarket might be pardoned, after leaving that place, for a temporary feeling of mortification near akin to that of Gulliver on his first return from Lilliput, when he warned people to get out of his way for fear he should walk over them.

I hear that Polar Star is not at all likely to start for the Ascot Cup, but that he will probably run at that meeting for the Rous Memorial Stakes, a race

which appears a good thing for him, as he has no extra weight to carry. During the week after Ascot Mr. Hall Walker's colt is engaged in the North Derby at Newcastle, a stake which will be worth £1,300 to the winner. Polar Star's penalty of 12 lb. is reduced by a breeding allowance to 9 lb., and the animals left in for this race are a very moderate lot. Mr. Hall Walker has a yearling own brother to Polar Star, and last autumn he sold their dam—Go On, by Isosceles—to Mr. Prentice, for £4,000. The mare has lately foaled a colt by Gallinule, and she has been sent to Desmond. Polar Star has a very nice engagement on August 24, in the Hurst Park Lennox Plate of £1,500 (the winner gets £1,250), and this race is a mere question of health for Mr. Hall Walker's colt, whose 14 lb. penalty is reduced to 5 lb. by a breeding allowance. The race for the Coronation Cup on June 6 will give Polar Star his first opportunity of proving himself to be a flyer, as he will then meet The White Knight, Polymelus, Troutbeck, Beppo, Velocity, and Keystone II. at weight for age. In the autumn Polar Star could meet most of the above-named lot in the Champion Stakes at Newmarket, and also Slieve Gallion and Galvani.

It is the decided opinion of many of the soundest judges at Newmarket that The White Knight will be the best "Cup horse" this year of the lot trained there, and it is expected that he will certainly defeat Polymelus if they meet either at Epsom or at Ascot. The White Knight has improved very much in appearance, and his three-year-old form was excellent, and proved him to be a good stayer. I expect that the finish for the Ascot Cup will lie between The White Knight and the best of the French lot, which will probably be Querido. I hope that Lord Derby will start Bridge of Canny for the Gold Cup, as it would be interesting to see how he gets on with Querido, running at even weights over this severe course. I would confidently expect the French horse to win.

I see it is stated that Ouadi Halfa was bred by M. E. Blanc. The colt was foaled at M. E. Blanc's stud farm near Paris, but the credit of breeding him belongs to Lord Clonmell. Yesterling, the dam of Ouadi Halfa, was in foal to Persimmon when she was sent to France to be covered by Flying Fox. She foaled Ouadi Halfa shortly after her arrival at M. E. Blanc's farm, and, but for the fact of the colt having entered the world in France, he would not be qualified to start for the Prix du Jockey Club, nor could he have taken part in the race for the Poule d'Essai, the stake which he won on May 5. I do not expect that Ouadi Halfa will be seen in England this year. M. E. Blanc's colt cannot have been highly thought of as a yearling, for he was then withdrawn from both the Eclipse Stakes and the Jockey Club Stakes.

I see a reference to the probability of another meeting between Querido and Spearmint in the Ascot Cup. There is not the ghost of the shadow of a chance of Spearmint being in any sort of condition to start for this race. I do not believe that he will ever get through another preparation, and even if he could be trained it is quite on the cards that his excellent form of last summer would be found to have departed. If Spearmint could by any possibility be prepared for a long distance race in the course of the next six weeks I fancy he would "go for" the Princess of Wales' Stakes of £6,000 at the Newmarket First July Meeting. This rich race at present appears to be a certainty for Polymelus, who would have to meet Spearmint at weight for age. Last year's Derby winner is nominated for this race by his breeder, Sir Tatton Sykes.

I hear that Lord Falmouth's dark colt St. Martin, own brother to Quintessence, will represent the Kingsclere stable in the Derby, but his chance will be truly forlorn unless he is vastly superior to Dusty Miller, whose Chester form was beneath contempt. The Duke of Westminster's colt, however, has always been regarded as exceedingly moderate by those who knew most about him. I suppose, in any case, we shall see St. Martin at Ascot, where he is engaged in the Princess of Wales' Stakes and in the Triennial, with a maiden allowance in each race. St. Martin has been left in for the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, and at Goodwood he is engaged in the Sussex Stakes.

The device of entering a valuable horse in a small selling plate, gambling recklessly over the race, and then buying back the animal at an exorbitant price, is very ancient, but it is not a form of sport (?) which long commends itself to even the most hare-brained plungers, as it always turns out disastrously in the long run, for nobody has ever yet been able to play this game at a profit. Even Captain Machell, who in his best days was a past master in the art of placing horses to advantage, found that gambling over selling races did not pay in the long run. The most sensational race on the first day at Newmarket last week was a two-year-old selling plate of £103, the entry for which included Mr. J. B. Joel's Billy Boy, who was entered to be sold for £200, the animal being probably worth quite £2,000 at least. A desperate gamble took place, Billy Boy starting at 6 to 4 in a field of sixteen, and the colt made all the running and won in a canter. He was afterwards bought in for 1,110 gs. Apart from bets, therefore, the owner received £103, and the fund and the owner of the second horse divided nearly £900 between them, this being the amount which Mr. Joel was out of pocket.

There was a very exciting finish for the Newmarket Stakes, which race was generally regarded as a good thing for Linacre, after his prominent running in the Two Thousand. Mr. Clark's colt was generally thought to have been somewhat unfortunate in being beaten by Acclaim as the race was run, but the Duke of Devonshire's colt has greatly improved, and he is very game, so it is a pity that he is not engaged in the Derby. Acclaim was originally entered for the great race, but he was withdrawn when the minor forfeit was declared, and his owner's only representative is Hillsprite. Acclaim's next engagements are at Ascot, where he is entered for the Prince of Wales' Stakes (5 lb. extra), and for the Triennial (10 lb. extra). Acclaim can stay well, and he is entered for the St. Leger. The Newmarket Stakes is the most valuable race which the Duke of Devonshire has won for a long time past, and it was a pity that his Grace and the Duchess were not present to see their horse win, as they are in Ireland. Olympian was supposed to have "come on" since the First Spring Meeting, but he ran very badly indeed, and he is not likely to start for the Derby. Olympian wants time, and long ago, when he was being backed at quite a short price for the Derby, I expressed the opinion that he had not a 100 to 1 chance, for even if Lord Derby's colt had won the Newmarket Stakes in a canter, his prospects at Epsom would not have been improved, as he is altogether unsuited for the peculiarities of the Derby course. Prince of Orange will presumably turn out to be a non-stayer. Linacre is touched in his wind now, and the course was too far for him, especially as the going was very heavy.

Maya's defeat of St. Petersburg in the Payne Stakes proved that her running in the One Thousand must have been all wrong, and it is evident that she can stay well. Neither St. Petersburg nor All Black is likely to be dangerous in the Derby. Mr. Bailey's colt ran badly for the Payne Stakes considering that he had 9 lb. the best of the weights with St. Petersburg.

I have always regarded Galvani as an extravagantly over-rated colt, never having attached the very slightest importance to his defeat of Slieve Gallion in the Middle Park Plate, and I have no belief in his Derby chance. The Clarehaven stable appears to be hopelessly out of form, and if it is true that several of Mr. Gilpin's horses were coughing a few weeks ago, their miserable running is, of course, readily accounted for. If the Derby goes to Newmarket, the winner will be either Bezonian or Wool Winder, and of the pair I would prefer the chance of Colonel Baird's colt, but neither of these animals appears likely to defeat Slieve Gallion.

There will be racing next week at Harpenden, Bath, and Salisbury in the south, and at York and Doncaster in the north. Captain Forester may win the Weston Stakes at Bath with Flitaway, who is half-sister, by Flying Fox, to Ouadi Halfa. She cost 1,500 gs. as a yearling. Lord Harewood's Malwood should run well for the Zetland Stakes at York, and St. Elf may win the Hopeful Stakes at Doncaster, while Mr. L. de Roth-

schild should win the Fitzwilliam Stakes with Quelpart. The Salisbury Stakes is a certainty for Llangwm if he runs, but the Salisbury Foal Stakes would have been a most interesting race if it had brought out both Pom and Little Flutter. However, Mr. Hall Walker's colt is to be kept for his very much more valuable engagement at Hurst Park on June 14.

I have never entertained a high opinion of the King's dark colt Perambulator, about whom much laudatory trash has been written and jabbered by simpletons who knew nothing whatever about him, but who nevertheless described him as likely to turn out "a second Persimmon." Perambulator was most ignominiously defeated the other day in a gallop over the R.M. trial ground with Coxcomb, Cheverel, and Mores, and the result was the more unsatisfactory inasmuch as his opponents are exceedingly moderate animals. There was no excuse for Perambulator, as he was fairly fit, and he appeared to have progressed in a most satisfactory manner during the last few weeks. Let us hope that the colt may improve later on in the season, but I fear it will take very clever placing to bring him back a winner for even one of his numerous engagements. After the collapse of Victoria in the One Thousand, there does not appear to be the very slightest prospect of his Majesty's colours being carried prominently in any of this year's classic stakes.

A second edition has appeared of Major H. P. Young's "Hints on Horses," published at Bryansford, Leamington. In this little book, which has been warmly commended by many distinguished cavalry officers and other authorities, the author gives in a pithy form a great amount of useful information on almost every point that can arise in connection with the management of horses, and also some practical suggestions on the training of polo ponies.

As an instance of sublime impertinence, I doubt if I have ever met anything more striking than the conduct of the Cyclists' Touring Club. I have had occasion to denounce in pretty stringent language the conduct of the council of that club in refusing to grant a committee of inquiry into its methods and management. I have condemned the means it has adopted to burke an inquiry which has been legitimately demanded, and yet I have received a typewritten circular with a card printed "With the secretary's compliments," asking "for the favour of insertion." The circular sets out the alleged advantages of the club, and with it is sent an expensively got up pamphlet entitled, "The C.T.C. at home and abroad. Dedicated to cyclists throughout the world, and issued *gratis* by the C.T.C." That is the way the members' money is wasted. Now, the C.T.C. says it loses money by its advertisements when the circulation of the journal exceeds 25,000 or 30,000. It was for that reason that the subscription was increased. Of course, it is merely a question of increasing the circulation sufficiently before another increase in subscription will be demanded. In the interests, therefore, of present members, I can advise no one to join the club. But I go further, and say that no one should join a club whose council has refused access to its books to a committee of inquiry that has been properly appointed. The pamphlet referred to contains the prospectus of the club. In large figures it announces that the membership is approximately 40,000. The figures are underlined. They are meant to catch the public eye. In the petition presented to the Court of Chancery last year it was stated that "the number of members has diminished, and is steadily diminishing, although there are still about 32,600 members." Mr. Kendall Burnett, the chairman, swore that this statement was true. The discrepancy in the figures is so striking that I must warn the public against accepting the figures in the prospectus.

The document I am requested to publish says, "It does not seem to be generally understood that the C.T.C. is now, as ever, devoting its energies to the interests of cyclists." It is very hard lines that the C.T.C. should be so misunderstood; but it really only has itself to blame. It lays itself open to misconstruction. I suppose it was devoting its energies to the interest of cyclists when it wished to throw open its doors to motorists and to give them the advantage of the club funds. It was a quaint expenditure of energy, because the motorists were the very people who have made cycling dangerous, according to the affidavit of Mr. Kendall Burnett. I suppose it is in the interests of cyclists only that the council is devoting so much energy to thwarting and burking inquiry into its financial position. It is with the same object that it employs a chief clerk who assaults a member of the reform party, and who will not apologise, and who is fined.

This attempt of the council to get a cheap advertisement is, I repeat, a piece of gross impertinence. The ways of the club are wasteful and extravagant. The council, for some incomprehensible reason, dreads inquiry into its management. Such an inquiry seems to me to be all the more imperative when it appeals to the public on figures so totally different from those it presented to the Court of Chancery. If the figures in the prospectus are correct, the attempt to get the Court to alter its constitution, on the basis of the other figures, was something worse than a waste of money.

Judging from a recent case, amateur swimming in Manchester seems to be conducted on lines which are calculated to arouse a good deal of friction. The facts of the case are that Lister, an International water-polo player, represents the Hyde Seal swimming club, which belongs to the Manchester and District Water Polo Association. When the players' list was presented to that Association the name of Lister was passed as fulfilling the necessary qualifications, according to the rules, by twenty votes to three. Mr. Baxter, who was President last year of the Amateur Swimming Association, was not present at the meeting, although he was entitled to be there. On his own initiative he lodged a protest with the Northern Counties Association for a breach of rules in allowing Lister to appear as a Hyde player. This seems rather remarkable, and his explanation was that he thought the rules required the protest to be lodged in a certain time. But this was not all that he had done. Lister is employed on the Corporation tram-lines, and some of the men employed have formed a tramway club which is proposing to enter the Association competition at the bottom of the list in junior matches. The Hyde Club is a champion club, and there Lister gets good practice. He has never joined the other club. It appears that Mr. Baxter interviewed Mr. McElvery, the general manager of the trams, and Mr. McMahon, another official, with regard to Lister. He obtained the introduction through Mr. Beattie, the claims clerk to the tram committee. Mr. Beattie is President of the Northern Counties A.S.A. All this came out at the meeting, and other members were naturally furious with Mr. Baxter for lodging the protest, and some considered it very unfair to seek out a man's employers in order to try and compel him to swim for another club. Mr. Baxter said all these introductions were to find out where Lister was stationed. He admitted that he told Lister that he had no doubt that the tramway club would, as the Hyde club did, pay his reasonable expenses of going to competitions. It seems, therefore, perfectly clear that he did in fact try to get Lister to play for the junior club, and it might certainly be that his employers, knowing of the circumstances, would throw in their influence to secure this. At all events, it looks as though Mr. Baxter hoped so. Now, I do not consider such proceedings, however good may be the motive, to be in the interests of sport. There is, according to the newspaper reports I have received, a feeling that certain officials wish to run the sports themselves, without regard to the wishes of the Association. It does seem to me extraordinary that a high official should interfere in the way Mr. Baxter did and should interview a man's employers and say that a junior club would pay his expenses, and follow this up with an official protest when his efforts have failed. If the man was wrongly on the list, that is one thing; to try to get him to play for another club is a different affair, and one entirely unworthy of any one holding a high position in amateur sport.

As the Belgians have decided to come over to Henley Regatta to defend their title to the Grand Challenge Cup, it is as well to know that Leander will put on a

good crew. The following have already promised to row: Johnstone, this year's Cambridge president, who is captain, R. V. and E. W. Powell, F. J. Escombe, the University coach, D. C. R. Stuart, Benham, and A. Graham, the old Oxford Blue and another. Stuart will stroke them.

Cambridge opened the cricket season well by beating Lancashire. Payne is in brilliant batting form. M. B. Elderton got rid of six men at the wicket, and Goodwin, with good length leg-breaks, and Lyttelton bowled admirably. Essex scored an easy win over Sussex, but the fielding was not quite up to the mark. Yorkshire had to go all the way to beat Gloucester. Rhodes can still bowl. Surrey continue to mop up unconsidered trifles. They have another Cambridge man playing for them—a bowler named Hitch. Northampton are doing very badly. Kent had some practice at their expense. Worcester scored their first victory against Yorkshire. A splendid innings by Palairet could not save Somerset against Kent, who played in championship form. Surrey are still undefeated, and Crawford is becoming the Jackson of the team. The batting was very interesting on both sides in the Hants and Middlesex match. Litteljohn will, I hope, play regularly.

Mr. W. Meredith Butler's "Golfer's Manual" (T. Werner Laurie, price 2s. 6d. net) is yet another addition to the library of books that have been written for the guidance and instruction of beginners at the game. It has the merit of conveying sound, practical advice with extreme lucidity, and the manual can be studied with interest and advantage, not only by beginners at the game, but by many who, though no longer beginners, play it with more zest than skill. Dr. Macnamara, M.P., contributes an introduction, in which he relates how Mr. Butler first brought him under the fascination of the game, of which he is now a devotee.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

PRACTISING for the Tourist Trophy race in the Isle of Man is now in progress, and a week to-morrow (Thursday) the race will be run. As most interested in such matters will be aware, in addition to the original Tourist Trophy race for light cars, another for heavier vehicles has been organised this year. Originally the two races were to have been held on different days, but it has since been decided to run both on May 29. Of the two, the old original "T.T." for lighter cars has attracted the larger entry, though neither has been patronised to the extent expected and desired by some. For both races special cars must be designed and constructed, and most makers apparently think that they can lay out their money more advantageously than in this fashion. Yet there is no denying that the test involved is a very stiff and searching one, and I do not know that from the standpoint of the average buyer a much better means of advertisement could be obtained. The fact remains, however, that the trade as a whole appears to view the matter differently, so that the entries for the Tourist Trophy race this year are only thirty, as against nearly fifty last year, while this number includes several cars of the same make entered twice or thrice.

Meanwhile, the craze for that form of advertising which takes the shape of long distance trials continues to rage with unabated vigour. The 40 h.p. Siddeley which recently concluded a little run of 10,003 miles (in the course of which it had only one involuntary stop) has been quickly succeeded by a 45 h.p. six cylinder Hotchkiss, which started on April 29 on a similar jaunt, under the watchful eyes of R.A.C. officials, who have also had a 40 h.p. Rolls-Royce and a 30 h.p. White steam car under their observation. It is to be presumed, of course, that in all of these cases the cars entered are identical with those supplied to the public, though it is not quite easy to see how this can be ensured. A car designed for an endurance trial of this kind might easily be constructed in a manner very different from that considered sufficient in the case of the ordinary commercial article, and the performance of the vehicle would not fail to benefit thereby. In the case of firms of such eminence as those named, no one would suggest, of course, that such a course has been adopted, since it is probably the literal truth that all employ, in their own interests, the finest materials and the best workmanship in the ordinary way. But this is by no means to say that this would always be so, and it is just as well, therefore, that the fact should be borne in mind. To carry absolute conviction, such trials should be run on cars picked haphazard out of the makers' stock by the R.A.C. or some other independent body.

It may well happen that an epoch-making development of automobilism may date from Mr. Brennan's wonderful invention of a means of maintaining the balance of a mono-rail vehicle by the use of gyroscopes. As has been pointed out, the gain in the case of motor-cars built on this principle would be at least as great as in that of vehicles running on rails, if not more so. By the substitution of one track for two, the mechanical gain resulting from the diminished friction would obviously be enormous, while in the matter of design and construction incalculable developments may be expected to result from the application of a principle of so novel and far-reaching a character. On the face of it, too, it would seem equally evident that here may be found at last the long-sought solution of the problem of aerial flight. But concerning these and other aspects of a fascinating discovery we shall all learn more in due course.

With the opening of the touring season motorists are finding themselves confronted once again with the nuisance of the "adhesive cyclist." How any one can find pleasure in pedalling in the wake of a motor-car, getting smothered in its dust, and swallowing all the fumes from its exhaust, is incomprehensible enough; but every motorist has, of course, experienced the annoyance caused by those addicted to this practice—annoyance which may amount to anything from the mere irritation caused by the presence of these uninvited hangers-on sweating away within a couple of feet of the passengers at the back, and possibly endeavouring at times actually to catch hold of the car, up to the serious damage which may result from a sudden stoppage on the part of the car and the cyclist charging, as a consequence, into the back of the vehicle. Yet the nuisance is one by no means easy to deal with, and a really effective method has yet to be devised of shaking off unwelcome companions of this description.

A question of considerable importance to motorists is as to the proper interpretation of the law in so far as it provides that motorists shall sound their horns "whenever necessary." While unnecessary horn-blowing is emphatically to be deprecated, and is usually the mark of the novice (who may be seen at times blowing his horn automatically in any emergency, whether the slightest good is effected thereby or not), neglect to take this precaution is an infinitely more serious fault, and of the two it is certainly better to blow too often than not frequently enough. But there is blowing and blowing, and one judicious blast is all that is necessary in most instances. There is a right way and a wrong way even of blowing a motor-horn. The point to bear in mind is that the horn should be employed as a warning—not as a menace.

At the same time, the notion that the horn could be entirely dispensed with is quite impracticable, and it was odd to find the assertion recently that "its disappearance would tend to increase at once the public safety and the public comfort." Such a statement is demonstrably absurd, since any decently quiet motor-car, running on rubber tyres, could not proceed at a speed of five miles an hour along any frequented thoroughfare without requiring some means of signalling its approach. Every motorist must have experienced the sense of utter helplessness resulting when his horn has become temporarily incapacitated, and seriously to suggest that it would be possible to dispense with its use is simply talking nonsense. The general public would be the first to complain if such a suggestion were adopted. The law, as it stands, enforcing the employment of a proper signal, is perfectly well conceived. It is only to its interpretation that exception is sometimes to be taken.

While the duty of the motor-car driver to the general public is constantly insisted on, his obligations as regards his passengers are sometimes overlooked. Yet there is a good deal that might be said on this point. Every one aspiring to drive a motor-car should qualify first as a passenger. This sounds a truism, but in point of fact the practice is seldom followed. As often as not the intending automobilist, having made up his mind to get a car, procures one forthwith, and straightway proceeds to drive it. Nor is there any reason why he should not do this so far as learning the art of driving is concerned.

But previous experience as a passenger is desirable in order that he may learn properly to appreciate the feelings of those who are being driven, which are not necessarily the same as those of the one who drives. The latter, knowing precisely what he can do and what he intends to do, has no tremors; his companions, on the contrary, feel no such assurance, and in too many cases a motor trip becomes a fearful kind of joy for those behind the driver simply because the latter fails to satisfy his passengers that he is driving with due circumspection and discretion. And even the best-intentioned automobilist, who would be astonished to learn the feelings of his companions, is liable to overlook this aspect of the matter unless he has actually had experience as a passenger himself. The ideal driver, in short, will not only drive with what he knows himself to be perfect safety, but will convince his passengers also that he is doing this.

People who sell their cars by auction should take care either to attend the sale themselves or send a representative thereto. A case which occurred not long ago illustrates the desirability of doing this. A car was disposed of in this manner, and the owner was informed that it had fetched such and such a price. Some weeks later the vendor was touring in another part of the country when he recognised the car which he had disposed of, and, getting into conversation with its new possessor, learnt, to his amazement, that the price actually paid for it had been something like £100 more than the sum which the vendor received. It is only necessary to add that the matter was placed in the hands of a solicitor at once, and that the sum in question was handed over without demur. It would, of course, be grossly unfair to suggest that such practices as this are general, but there are black sheep in all callings.

MAMMON.

Ruffled Stock Markets—Sharp Fluctuations in English Rails and Canadian Securities—A City Sensation—Heavy Defalcations by an Influential Firm of Solicitors—Encouraging Monetary News—Indian Gold "Unearmarked."

THE calm in Throgmorton-street was unpleasantly broken last week, markets being subjected to shocks of so violent a character as to remind members of the troubles of March. Home Rails and Canadian Rails were the storm centres, the former being upset by the labour agitation fostered by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants—a matter with which I have dealt in another column—and the latter being attacked by alarmist cables respecting damage to the crops. The break in these two departments naturally exerted a bad influence all round the House, and for the first three days of the new account the aspect of affairs was distinctly black. Fortunately, a better sentiment supervened before members departed for their Whitsuntide holiday. It gradually began to be recognised that the labour scare at home and the crop scare in regard to Canada had been overdone, and when the "bears" commenced to climb in again, prices, which had fallen to an extent out of keeping with the actual volume of selling, made a ready response. There is no doubt that a factor, in addition to the two mentioned, which had a considerable effect in depressing the market was the default of a firm of solicitors, who had been running a considerable speculative account in the Stock Exchange. The firm in question was among the oldest in the City, and it had acted for one of the most influential finance houses, besides several members of the aristocracy. Estimates of the losses incurred through speculation vary from £60,000 to £90,000, and it appears that the violent break last week in Hudson's Bays and in several other prominent shares was directly due to liquidation connected with this default. The trouble so far as the House is concerned is hardly likely to come to the surface, as it falls upon strong shoulders. It has been common gossip, however, that the Stock Exchange liabilities form only a small proportion of the firm's total defalcations. The episode has created a painful sensation in the City, and, coming as it does on top of several quite recent cases of a similar character, is likely to arouse widespread comment upon the dangers that attend the giving of unrestricted powers in the matter of the investment of money and the holding of securities to solicitors.

A needed tonic for the Stock Exchange was given last Thursday by the notification at the Bank of England that 420,000 sovereigns, hitherto set aside as part of the reserve against the Indian currency note issue, had been set free. The news possesses considerable significance for the Money Market, and seems like the turning point in the course of events for the next few months. During the past week or two the revival of the export demand for gold on Paris account had checked the downward progress of money rates and made some people dubious about a further reduction in the Bank rate. Now, however, that the Indian authorities have commenced to "unearmark" a portion of the huge pile (just over £8,000,000) of the gold they had accumulated at the Bank, the Threadneedle-street authorities ought, with the additional help of further bar gold arrivals from the Cape and elsewhere, and the post-holiday reflux of cash from the provinces, to speedily build up a strong position—sufficiently strong to permit of the Bank rate being lowered within, say, the next three weeks. Further parcels of gold will no doubt be sent back to Paris, but it is from all points of view desirable that the loan advanced us by the Bank of France during the period of stress ruling at the end of last year, should be liquidated as soon as possible. Exactly how much gold will be set free by the India Council it is impossible to say. There is, however, every indication that the demand for currency in the Dependency is slackening, as witness the reduction in the discount rate of the Bank of Bengal last week from 6 to 5 per cent. Some authorities estimate that from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000 will be "unearmarked," and there is nothing unreasonable about the prediction.

The improvement in the monetary situation has caused a moderate rally in Consols, which at one time dipped below the figure of 85—to which the joint stock banks wrote down their holdings a few years ago. The revival was directly due to "bear" covering on the part of one leading House firm. Whether the rally will go much further at present is, perhaps, doubtful, for there is the £5,000,000 Transvaal loan still waiting to be placed without mentioning Jamaica's £1,100,000 and the needs of a number of other important borrowers. At the same time, the general effect of a still further decline in the value of money must tell beneficially upon Stock Exchange securities as a body. In the Foreign Market there has lately been a fair amount of fluctuation in the junior issues of the Peruvian Corporation. A month or two back Perus were tipped all round the House on a report that the Corporation and the Government had come to terms and that an immediate announcement on the subject might be expected. No official communication has yet been made, and, as a consequence, there has lately been a stream of selling on the part of tired "bulls." So far as I can learn, however, the leading holders are not parting with their stocks, and they remain confident that a satisfactory arrangement will be effected before long. As I have previously stated, the idea suggested is a thorough reconstruction of the company's finances, as soon as the settlement has been effected, and the plan will no doubt provide for the redemption of the existing 6 per cent. debentures.

THE RAILWAY LABOUR AGITATION—EXAGGERATED FEARS OF A STRIKE—THE MEN'S IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS.

The resuscitation of the labour agitation has played sad havoc with Home Railway stocks during the past week, and the reign of passive weakness has given place to active weakness. The talk of a strike frightened a few real holders to play into the hands of the "bears" by throwing overboard their stocks, and practically the only support forthcoming was when the shorts chose to cover themselves. That the present outcry on the part of the men could hardly have come at a more inopportune time nobody with any knowledge of the conditions governing English railways will venture to gainsay. The railway shareholder, indeed, has received nothing but buffetings for the past decade. While gross earnings have, on the whole, shown a fair rate of expansion, the cost of operating, maintaining, and developing the railways has grown at an even faster rate, so that the return on the total capital invested has steadily shrunk, until in 1905 it averaged no more than 3¼ per cent. In other words, out of gross receipts amounting to £113,531,000, the amount distributed in dividends was no more than £15,800,000. Now to grant the demands for a standard eight-hours day and other concessions put forward on behalf of the men would, according to calculations that appeared in the course of an exhaustive survey of the situation by the *Railway News*, involve an increased expenditure of not less than £7,500,000. This would just about cut dividends in half, reducing the total average return on railway capital to 1⅝ per cent.

This fact alone goes far to demonstrate the impossible character of the claims embodied in what has been styled the "National Programme" of the Amalgamated Society. We often hear talk about the living wage, but the plea of the capitalist to a living return is seldom considered. No doubt most people argue that the capitalist is, or ought to be, able to look after himself. Yet what are the facts surrounding the Home Railway situation at the present time? The great bulk of the money invested in railway stocks represents the hard-earned savings of the middle and thrifty classes of the country, people whose business has brought them into personal touch with the particular railway in which they have staked their money, and who, up to a few years ago, bought railway stocks just as they might buy Consols, regarding them as sound securities which, while not returning much in the way of yield, yet had the advantage of not being liable to the ups and downs common to the securities of foreign countries. If confirmation be needed of the assertion that Home Rails are the investment of the middle-class rather than that of the class which the Hyde Park orator is fond of terming "millionaire bloodsuckers," it is supplied by the announcement made by the chairman of one of our leading railways that 50 per cent. of his shareholders held £500 or less in the concern.

Yet what has been the fate of those who embarked their savings in Home Rails? Concurrently with falling dividends, they have watched the principal grow steadily less, until at the present time the leading stocks stand at the lowest levels touched at any time during the past eighteen to twenty-five years. Throughout this time of adversity holders have manfully stuck to their stocks—it is still mainly true of the British investor that he never parts with Home Rails unless obliged—hoping against hope that the turn in the long lane of depression was about to be reached at last. Surely the case for the shareholders needs no further elaboration. Would any Government incur the grave responsibility that would attach to putting fresh burdens upon the companies? It is not only the question of justice to capital that is at stake. The Government in this case stands as the trustee of the thrifty. Also, there is the question of future railway development to consider. Mr. Lloyd-George, in a recent speech, said that Parliament ought to guard against doing anything that would tend to restrict the flow of capital for use upon necessary railway enterprise. Yet it needs no prophet to declare that any steps taken to force further expenditure upon railway companies will have a very serious effect upon the question of capital raising.

It is hardly to be expected, perhaps, that the bulk of railway employees should fully understand the impossible nature of the claims now put forward on their behalf, but those who profess to lead them suffer from no obscurity of mental vision, and the responsibility that attaches to them is therefore the greater. At the same time, it is worth noting that the Amalgamated Society, despite demonstrations, and the publicity recently given to it by a section of the Press, is still unable to speak for more than a small proportion of the railway men in the country. According to its last issued report, the membership was only 70,130, out of a total force of railway servants engaged in the United Kingdom of 581,000, so that, on the basis of these figures, nearly 90 per cent. of the men take no part in the clamourings of the Union for official recognition by the companies. Trade unionism, indeed, has never flourished in the railway world, and it is not difficult to understand why. The very nature of railway work, on the efficiency of which depends the lives of the public at large, has called forth the exercise of powers by the Board of Trade in the direction of supervising the conditions of employment such as exist in no other sphere of labour. These powers find reflection in the Railway Servants' Hours of Labour Act, 1893, under which, if long hours are persistent in the case of any company, the Board of Trade can not only make complete inquiries, but serve an order upon the offending company, which is enforceable by the Railway and Canal Commission. A return issued last year by the Government throws some instructive light upon the matter of complaints. During thirteen years the average annual number of complaints from the men was sixty-three. In 1905 they were fifty-seven, and in nineteen of this number the Board of Trade found that there was no case against the companies. A total of sixty-three complaints from a total body of nearly 600,000 men is not very formidable, the more especially remembering that the Society does its best to encourage dissatisfaction amongst the men, and the fact that no man with a grievance need be deterred from venting it by the fear of the consequences to himself—all communications of the kind being regarded as confidential.

The conditions of work and remuneration in the railway service, while nobody claims that they are ideal, will, indeed, compare very favourably with other forms of employment. The wages in the various branches of skilled labour are excellent, and where the labour is unskilled the pay is as high, if not higher than most other forms of work that call for no great exercise of skill. There is, too, a catalogue of advantages in the railway service, comprising regular employment, holidays without loss of pay, uniforms, free passes for the employee and his family, free cottages and land, sick pay funds, and old age pensions (without mentioning "tips"), which all have to be reckoned with when considering the matter of remuneration. Granted that in some instances the hours are long, but these must be considered in relation to the character of the work performed. In many instances the actual labour performed is by no means arduous, and where hours are nominally longest the work is of the lightest description. That there is no lack of men ready to enter the railway service is borne out by the statement made in February by the chairman of the Great Western, that in the course of 1906 his company alone had 19,285 applicants for vacancies on the staff over and above the number of hands actually required. From all points of view, then, it is hard to believe that the men seriously mean to attempt to force the hand of their employers, and I can only hope that the talk of a strike is nothing more than the expression of a needless fear. The various boards have at all times been quite ready to turn a sympathetic ear to any grievances uttered by their men direct, and the shrinkage in dividends, to which I have already referred, has been due very largely to concessions voluntarily granted. But railway directors can no more do impossibilities than other men, and the sooner this fact is recognised the better for all parties concerned.

HOW TO OPERATE IN STOCKS SUCCESSFULLY.—See HALFORD'S ADVISER (post free).—PALMERSTON HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. ESTABLISHED 1869. TELEGRAMS: "MONITOR, LONDON."

Americans Upset by the Legal Decision Against Mr. Harriman and a Rise in Wheat—Canadian Rails and Crops—Argentine Rails and their Attractive Yields—Leopoldinas and United of Havanas.

The unfavourable news regarding the crops, coloured as it has been by a rise in grain prices, had a bad effect upon American Rails last week, and tended to keep dealings within narrow limits. So far as London is concerned, speculative interest has been almost monopolised by Union Pacific issues. These shares at the outset were bid up on the understanding that arrangements for the underwriting of the $75,000,000 bond issue had been completed, but later in the week the market suffered a fresh shock from the publication of a document containing the recommendations of the lawyers acting for the Inter-State Commerce Commission in connection with the investigation of the Harriman companies. After reviewing the evidence that was given at the inquiry, the attorneys of the Commission find that railroad competition has been suppressed in an area equal to one-third of that of the United States, and that the contracts between the Union Pacific and Rock Island Railroads for the control of the Alton Railroad, as well as the contract between the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads, and the steps which were taken to secure the control of the Illinois Central and San Pedro Railroads, violated the Anti-Trust Law. They recommend the Attorney-General to institute proceedings to annul these agreements, and further advocate the enactment of effective laws to prevent the inflation of securities. They declare that the profits of the great railroads of the West have been used to buy control of the systems of the East instead of to build railroads for the development of the West as they should have been. This, of course, is not the complete finding of the Commission, but only the advice of its counsel. The Commission is, in fact, still investigating certain phases of the matter. The statement suggests that ultimately effective steps to frustrate the community of interest plan will be taken, but it need not be assumed that anything of a final nature will be reached for a long time yet. Probably, as in the case of the Northern Securities Corporation, there will be a long and tedious process of fighting in the Courts, which may take two or three years before the final adjudication of the Supreme Court is given. In addition to the unfavourable crop news, and the adverse legal opinion in the Harriman case, the continued output of new issues has told against the American market; the Chesapeake is mentioned as being among the latest prospective capital raisers. It is enough to give one pause to find that nearly $1,000,000,000 of new securities have been authorised since January 1, and fully $600,000,000 issued.

Canadian Rails last week moved about in lively fashion. At one time the market was very weak, on the statements as to the wheat crop having suffered serious damage from snow and late frosts. Later on, when it was found that the reports had been considerably exaggerated, prices made a natural recovery. In the circumstances Lord Strathcona performed a useful service by promptly publishing a statement showing how the actual position stood. According to the Canadian High Commissioner, who wrote on the 16th inst.:—

> The past winter has been one of exceptional severity, not only in Canada, but also in the rest of the American Continent, as well as in Europe. It is true that, owing partly to the abnormally heavy fall of snow, the spring has been a late one, and the farmers are backward in sowing the wheat crops. This they are now busily engaged in doing, and a Press cable, published to-day, shows that the bulk of the wheat will be sown by the end of this week, and that the weather is favourable. I have before me a recent cable from the Minister of the Interior, in which he estimates, from reports received from reliable sources, that the total acreage under all crops will not be less than last year—the wheat acreage may be reduced by 10 per cent., but this will be made up by other grain. It is, of course, altogether premature to speak of damage to a crop which is only now in the process of being sown, and I may, perhaps, add that the Canadian farmer regards a deep snowfall as giving the promise of a bountiful crop.

There is thus no ground for alarm, and investors in the two leading Canadian Railways would be foolish to throw away their stocks and thereby simply play into the hands of the "bears."

The Foreign Market has remained quite out of favour. Argentine Rails were inclined to give way slightly, traffics in several instances beginning to show the effects of a short maize crop. Now, however, that the ordinary issues have got upon a yield basis of from 5½ to 6 per cent., there does not seem much room for a further fall, especially seeing that there is little chance of dividends being reduced. The B.A. and Pacific and the Great Western, which carry very little maize, continue to show gratifying traffic expansion. The market has yet to learn the terms upon which the Pacific will work its Western neighbour. If, as many people think, it offers a 6 per cent. guarantee, Westerns should be well worth laying hold of, for at the present price the yield would be 5½ per cent. Mexican Rails have held their ground fairly well, but Leopoldinas and Cuban Rails were upset by big traffic decreases due in the first case to comparison with a very heavy take a year ago, and in the second to the fact that the sugar crop was harvested earlier this year than last. As regards Leopoldinas, I see no reason to modify the good opinion I expressed a week ago. United of Havanas are not likely to soar yet awhile, but at anything around par they ought to be worth picking up for investment.

South Africans Depressed—Forced Realisations and "Bear" Selling—The Rhodesian Gold Output for April—West African Revival Not Maintained—Recovery in Broken Hills—Block 14's Largely Increased Profit—Mount Lyell's Satisfactory Showing.

On the whole, conditions in the Mining Markets have been anything but cheerful. Business has been on a very limited scale in most sections, and the general trend of values has been in the downward direction. Although there has not been a large amount of selling in the Kaffir market, and prices have not given way materially, a feeling of depression has prevailed, and it is feared that until the uncertainty as to the labour outlook is removed by a definite statement on the part of the Transvaal Government, business will continue on a comparatively meagre scale. To a certain extent these descriptions are believed to have been affected by realisations in connection with the account of the firm of solicitors mentioned in a previous column, and, in addition, there has apparently been some "bear" selling, but a change for the better in the tone of markets generally would, no doubt, frighten the short interest into covering, for, as I have mentioned before, they are not so venturesome now as they were a year or so ago, when prices stood at a much higher level. The announcement that two ships have already been engaged to take back the Chinese whose contracts expire next month has served as a reminder that it is of immediate importance that a settlement on the labour question should be arrived at. General Botha is now on his way back to the Transvaal, and in the ordinary course it should not be many weeks now before a definite announcement is made. Meanwhile, apparently, those interested in Kaffirs must of necessity continue to exercise patience, hoping for the best on the strength of the repeated assurances of the Transvaal Premier that the new Government recognises the importance of the mining industry, and will study its welfare. The white miners' strike is still dragging on, but it is believed that good will be the ultimate outcome of the trouble.

As regards Rhodesians, attempts have been made to stimulate interest in the shares of the Banket group, but they have not been successful, and Eldorados have dropped back further, so that those who sold on the recent spurt, as I suggested, have reason to be satisfied. Much improvement in this section can hardly be looked for until the feeling as regards Kaffirs becomes more cheerful, although satisfactory influences may not be altogether wanting. One such is available in the form

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

of the aggregate gold output of the country for the past month, the return showing that the Rhodesian mines turned out nearly 3,000 oz. more in April than in March, and it will be seen from the following table that the latest figures are the highest since August of last year:—

——	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950	47,048
February	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037	40,482
March	19,626	17,756	34,927	44 574	46 887
April	20,727	17,862	38,268	42,423	40,772
May	22,137	19,424	31,332	46,729	—
June	22,166	20,402	35,256	47,664	—
July	23,571	24,339	34,693	48,485	—
August	19,187	24,669	35,765	50,127	—
September	18,741	26,029	35,785	48,410	—
October	17,918	24,919	33,383	45,644	—
November	15,714	26 183	32,861	48,503	—
December	18,750	28,100	37,116	48,529	—
Total	231,872	267,715	407,048	551,875	184,189

The recovery in West Africans has not been maintained. The public has not responded to the attempts of the professional element to stimulate outside interest in the market, and consequently the insiders have secured profits, with the result that prices have fallen back. In the event of a further relapse, however, some of the shares, such as Abossos and Taquahs, should be worth picking up by those prepared to take their purchases off the market.

As regards Australian descriptions, a welcome improvement in the Broken Hill list is to be noted. Colonial speculators, who have been quiet of late, have sent over buying orders during the past week, while interest has been stimulated on this side by the largely increased profit reported by the Block 14 Company in respect of the past half-year, the net earnings being £53,000, as against £23,000 for the previous six months. The Block 10 also shows improvement, its profits for the last half-year amounting to £62,000, compared with £53,000 for the six months ended September last, and it is not unnaturally assumed from these results that the other companies are benefiting considerably from the high prices of the metals. In this group I favour Proprietaries and South Blocks.

In the Copper group—which has continued to receive as much attention as any section of the mining markets—a good deal of interest has been displayed in Mount Lyells, consequent upon the announcement of the results for the last half-year. On the strength of the favourable showing made by the figures, the shares scored a further advance, but liquidation from the North caused a relapse. The total distribution announced on Mount Lyells is 3s. 6d. per share (1s. 3d. dividend and 2s. 3d. bonus), which compares with 3s. 3d. for the previous six months, and is in accordance with the best anticipations indulged in by market men. As a result of the increase of no less than £21 per ton in the price obtained for the copper produced in the last half-year, the company's profit was £265,000, an increase of £26,000 on the preceding period, notwithstanding the fact that the quantity of metal produced was 650 tons less. The increase in the amount to be distributed amongst shareholders will only absorb £15,000, so that the carry forward this time will be larger than last. As regards the mining position, the ore reserves estimate is satisfactory both in respect of quantity and grade, the latter being rather better than was stated six months ago, whereas some had feared that it would be lower. The official report also confirms the announcement I was able to make a few weeks ago as to the Mount Lyell Company having decided to erect superphosphate works at Port Adelaide, considerable quantities of that commodity having been sold in South Australia, and the outlook as regards further sales being considered promising.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is. 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.Os should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carterst-street, S.W.

The Mines of the Barnato Group—Working Costs Reduced and Extraction Improved—Knights and New Primrose Show Chief Expansion in Profits—Mining Prospects Generally Promising.

In accordance with my promise to review the principal mines of the Witwatersrand, I am devoting a portion of my space this week to the companies of the Barnato group, whose annual reports have recently come to hand. Eight of the mines controlled by this well-known Kaffir house are contributors to the Transvaal gold output, and their achievements in the past year are summarised in the subjoined table, the results of the previous period being also shown in order that a better idea may be gained of the character of the latest statistics:—

Company.	1906.		
	Ore Milled.	Gold Yield. Value.	Working Profit.
	Tons.	£	£
Consolidated Langlaagte	220 611	308,505	66,538
Glencairn Main Reef	184,532	223,547	68,640
Ginsberg	92 947	130,313	24,219
New Primrose	292.749	369,289	181,585
New Rietfontein*	115.850	270,948	105,371
New Unified Main Reef	101,552	126 487	6,065
Witwatersrand ("Knights")	374,000	501,044	139,225

Company.	1905.		
	Ore Milled.	Gold Yield. Value.	Working Profit.
	Tons.	£	£
Consolidated Langlaagte	137,090†	192,960†	36,267†
Glencairn Main Reef	167,868	208,081	57,827
Ginsberg	86,418	154,789	42,197
New Primrose	201,958	371,871	159,738
New Rietfontein*	39,193‡	85,133‡	34,704‡
New Unified Main Reef	106,232	156,898	21,075
Witwatersrand ("Knights")	287,740	391,936	61,062

* Financial year ends August 31. ‡ Five months. † Nine months.

It will be seen that two only—the Ginsberg and New Unified—have proved disappointing, the other six showing improved profits. The expansion is most marked in the case of the New Primrose and the Witwatersrand Gold, generally known as Knight's. A satisfactory feature revealed by the latest reports is that in nearly all cases it has been possible to reduce working costs, the extent of the reduction ranging from nearly 1s. per ton at the Consolidated Langlaagte to 3s. 7d. per ton at the Knight's. The percentage of extraction was also improved upon during 1906. It will be recognised that these are factors of importance not merely in respect of one year's work, but in connection with future earnings, for they enable a lower grade of ore than formerly to be profitably treated, and thus extend the payable career of the properties.

Dealing with the individual companies in alphabetical order, the Consolidated Langlaagte has considerably improved its position. Whereas at the end of 1905 it owed Messrs. Barnato Bros. £21,600, and during the past year it expended about £26,000 on machinery, plant, and buildings, at the end of 1906 it had cash on deposit and in hand amounting to £12,646. Prospects are for still further improvement in the position, providing the labour supply on the Rand is not interfered with to any extent. I gather from the chairman's remarks at the annual meeting that as soon as the directors consider the labour position sufficiently assured they will put before the shareholders proposals for the working of the company's area on a much more extensive scale in order that dividends may be resumed. Meanwhile, consolation is to be found in the fact that instead of the company paying interest on money lent by Messrs. Barnato, as in 1905, it is now receiving interest on funds invested, which helps to meet the payment of £15,000 per annum as interest on its debentures. Moreover, the monthly profits announced so far in respect of the current year are well above the average of the past year.

The Glencairn has been able to rejoin the list of dividend-payers as a result of its operations during 1906. The distribution made was a little one—5 per cent.—but it is the first since 1898, and there is every

prospect of the current year's results enabling the directors to make a larger distribution. The Board has had under consideration the question of erecting plant for the treatment of accumulated and current slimes, it being estimated that at the end of 1906 there were over 200,000 tons on the property, and that 5,000 tons are being added monthly. It is believed that the expenditure on this plant would result in increasing the company's profits, and the chairman at the recent meeting said he hoped it would be decided at an early date to put the work in hand.

The Ginsberg's results were anything but good last year. The grade of the ore milled was 2.2 dwts. per ton lower, and, despite a reduction in working costs and a slightly improved extraction, the profit per ton was little more than half that obtained in 1905. It will somewhat relieve shareholders to learn that recent development is stated to have opened up ore of better value in the Ginsberg section of the property, and that it is hoped the values in the lower levels of the Northern section will prove as good as the upper levels in the Ginsberg were. The management has a scheme in hand for bettering the position of the company; it is proposed to repair the mill, add twenty heavy stamps, and add to or alter the other plant as necessary. The estimated expenditure is about £26,685, the money for which will, of necessity, have to be found out of profits, and in addition the company has also to provide funds for shaft sinking on the Northern section. The alterations to plant, it is expected, will take about eight months. The immediate outlook for holders of Ginsberg is, therefore, not very cheerful, but the management says they may be confident that when the alterations to plant are completed the company will resume the payment of regular dividends.

The fact that the New Primrose distributed twice as much money amongst its shareholders in respect of 1906 as it did for 1905 affords good evidence of the nature of this company's results for the past year. Working costs at this mine were reduced by nearly half-a-crown per ton, and a marked improvement in extraction was effected, so that although the average grade of ore was lower, the profit per ton was nearly 2s. higher. The results achieved by the additional plant for treating accumulated slimes, which was brought into operation just before the close of 1905, have fully justified its erection. The chairman, at the annual meeting at the end of March, described the outlook for the company as good, and said he thought that at the next meeting the management would be able to record a maintenance of dividend distributions. On account of last year 45 per cent. in dividends and a bonus of 25 per cent. were paid to shareholders, and on the basis of the dividend alone the shares at the current price yield nearly 17 per cent.

The New Rietfontein in the twelve months ended August last was only able to run an average of 66 stamps owing to the scarcity of unskilled labour. But the full mill of 120 stamps was brought into operation at the end of that period, and the subsequent results (that is, those for the current financial year) are considerably above—practically double—the average of the period covered by the accounts recently presented. Shareholders may therefore reasonably look for further expansion in the rate of dividend, providing the labour supply of the company is not seriously reduced. So far as the mine is concerned, the chairman said at the recent meeting, the records show every promise and security of the continuation of the improvement in profits —"but all is subject to the qualification as to labour." On the basis of the dividends for 1906 the shares yield 11 per cent. at the current market price.

The New Unified Main Reef is the mine of the group which yields the smallest margin of profit; in fact, had not costs been reduced by 1.8 shillings per ton in the past year working would have resulted in a loss instead of a profit, the average grade of the ore having fallen off to a serious extent. The monthly profits for the current year are more than double the average for 1906, but it will take more than twelve months' earnings, even at the recent rate, to free the company from debt.

The Witwatersrand ("Knights") shows the most marked expansion in profits of any of the Barnato companies, its earnings last year being more than double those for the previous year. In addition to the profit from its mining work, as set out in the table above, the company derived £15,234 from interest, rents, and estate revenue, and was able to pay 25 per cent. in dividends for the year. Although the grade of ore treated was somewhat lower the extraction was nearly 10 per cent. better, while working costs, as mentioned above, were considerably reduced, the net result being an increase of 3s. 2d. in profit per ton. Further improvement in profits is shown by the monthly returns for the current year, and the outlook, so far as the mine is concerned, appears excellent. The only uncertain factor is the labour question.

[The Robinson group of mines was reviewed in Truth of April 3, and the Rand Mines subsidiaries in the issue of May 1.]

One of the Spiegel Bucket-Shops.

Several notorious bucket-shops have been run by members of the Spiegel family, whose own name, however, is apparently deemed unsuitable for the purpose of such businesses. For instance, Lawrence Spiegel sends out his touting circulars in the character of "A. Lawrence and Co., stock and share dealers," 38, Great St. Helens, E.C., and, as a rule, it is only when litigation ensues from a transaction that his actual patronymic is revealed to a customer. In the Swansea County Court the other day Spiegel brought an action against a local resident under the following circumstances:—Last October the defendant received a circular from "A. Lawrence and Co." advising a purchase of Tanganyikas on "the small margin" of 5s. a share "for a three-monthly account," and explaining that the sum payable as "margin" for 100 shares would be £25. The wording of the circular was obviously intended to convey the idea that the purchaser's liability would be limited to the amount of the "margin," and under that impression the defendant forwarded £25. When a fall in the shares exhausted this cover, he naturally concluded that the transaction was automatically closed, but on the expiration of the three months he had an unwelcome surprise in the shape of a demand from "A. Lawrence and Co." that he should take up 100 Tanganyikas at the price current when the account was opened, or pay a balance of £94 for differences. It was for this £94 that he was now sued by Spiegel, who in cross-examination admitted that during that period of the account he did not buy or own a single Tanganyika share. For the defence evidence was given bearing out the defendant's view as to the purpose and meaning of the "margin," and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the £25 he paid was the limit of his liability and also that the transaction was a gambling one. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendant with costs—a result which I commend to the attention of anybody else whom "A. Lawrence and Co." may be suing or threatening with an action under similar circumstances. For people who have not yet had any dealings with this firm the moral of the case is equally plain. Continue to avoid them.

A Word with My Readers.

Will my readers please note the fact that the "Insurance Notes" which have hitherto formed a feature of "Mammon" will in future be published under a special heading after this article? Answers to correspondents on the subject of insurance will also be given there instead of being included in "Vigilant's Letter-box." I may add that it will facilitate the work of dealing with the mass of correspondence which reaches Truth Office if readers asking for information or advice on several different subjects will be good enough to write questions relating to insurance on a separate sheet or half-sheet of paper. It would, indeed, be a great convenience if this plan were also adopted in regard to inquiries concerning distinct classes of stocks and shares and other matters. At present many of the letters which

New Pension Scheme.—5s. a month will secure a pension of £20 a year guaranteed by Norwich Union Life Insurance Society. Sole issuing House, London and Paris Exchange, Ltd., Basildon House, E.C. Prospectus on application.

I have to answer contain a jumble of questions about all sorts of things—railways, mines, industrials, bucket-shops, and so on and so forth all in one breath. Now "Vigilant" does his best to answer every reasonable question that is addressed to him. It ought to be recognised, however, that one man could not deal satisfactorily with the whole range of subjects covered in "Mammon" and the "Letter-box." "Vigilant," in fact, has the assistance of colleagues who are experts in their own departments, and the consequence is that when the same communication embraces a varied series of questions—some of them possibly involving special researches or personal inquiries in the City—it becomes a complicated business to sort them out, so that each one may be properly answered. For that reason I am always grateful to those correspondents who are good enough, as some are, to separate mixed inquiries in the manner I have suggested.

New Issue.

Subscriptions are invited by Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. for £1,000,000 of 5 per cent. debenture stock of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company, Limited, at £103 per cent. This stock, which will be repayable at £110 per cent. on January 1, 1940, has a general charge upon the undertaking of the company after the 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent. debenture stocks already issued. The company was formed in 1888 and its lines then consisted of 273 miles of railway, running through some of the most important mineral and nitrate districts of Chili. By the extensions into Bolivia, which were carried out in 1889 and 1892, and the subsequent construction of several branches, the company's lines have been increased to about 640 miles of railway. Other branches are now in course of construction. The net revenue for 1906 was about £380,000. After deducting from this the amount required to provide interest on the 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent. debenture stocks, there remains a balance of about £295,000, while the amount required for interest upon the present issue will be £50,000. The lists will close on or before Friday next.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

G. B., Gravesend.—1 and 2. Keep the two bonds, which are very fair investments. 3. Argentine New Five per Cent. scrip, issued at 97½ and quoted at about ¾ per cent discount, should suit you as an investment for the balance. *Constant Reader, Great Portland Street.*—I do not look for any material rise yet awhile, but a rally of say a point or two may occur in the course of the present year. *T. T.*—The Natal bonds are hardly suitable, being so short dated. The Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed stock would be better. Otherwise, I see no reason to criticise your list.

Savoy Hotel & Restaurant, London.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

Railways.

Ferns.—The bonds of a new line operating in an undeveloped country must necessarily be regarded as speculative, and until the company has had a chance of showing what it can do the market displays a proper sense of caution in refusing to rush up the price.

Mines.

Grove.—In the circumstances, you may as well keep the shares in hope of a renewal of market activity later on. *J. C.*—Subscribing more money in respect of this concern must be regarded as a pure speculation. I have returned the documents. *Nemo, Glasgow.*—The Kaffirs are worth keeping for a better market. The others are very speculative, and not particularly promising at present. *Royton.*—The shares named are quoted at a premium for a few days, but have gone to a discount. I was not favourably impressed by the particulars issued, as I indicated in my notes a week or two back. *Ailsa Craig.*—The shares have been depressed in sympathy with others of the group. They seem a hopeful purchase with a view to dividends. *Kennedy.*—I have not a high opinion of the shares. *Montana.*—The fall in the value of shares in which the company is interested, and to which you refer, is responsible for the decline.

Mixed.

Cheshire.—1. Keep the stock for a better price, but you need not trouble yourself about dividend prospects yet. 2. In Canada. At the recent meeting the chairman foreshadowed a further dividend before the beginning of July. The shares are not a very attractive speculative investment. 3. Speculative; the conditions of the trade have not been satisfactory. 4 and 5. Both hopeful purchases. Avoid any dealings with the circularising firm you mention. *Artex.*—You have made three good suggestions. United States Steel Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds and Atchison New Five per Cent. Convertible bonds are two others that should suit. Spread the money over the lot. *Solent.*—1. You could obtain 5 per cent. on very good security by exchanging into United States Steel Corporation Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds. It would be a pity to part with No. 2. *Tyke.*—They are all four sound investments, and by spreading your money over the lot you ought not to come to much harm. *Bobs.*—The new Three and a Half per Cent. stock of the London County Council should suit you. The stock is quite safe, and you can sell at any time. The bank you name is an institution of the first rank. *Cradock.*—The bonds are quoted at 23½. *Surrey.*—1 and 2 are good commercial investments, but I should not recommend No. 3. Of the mining shares, Broken Hill Props. would be best for your purpose, the company's position being strong. *Somerset.*—1. A fair commercial holding. 2. The concern is believed to have decent prospects, and the productive stage is close at hand. 3 and 4. They are purely local concerns. *Felstead.*—1. Understood to be safe, but why not invest in something gilt-edged in this country? 2. It will be a long time before the project is completed, and I do not consider the possibilities are very great. 3. I am unable to advise. 4. Highly speculative, and I should take advantage of a recovery to realise. *Leodensian.*—Your first question will be answered in "Insurance Notes." As regards the mining concern, prospects are not bright. I cannot say whether there will be much of a market in the shares. *Corbeau.*—1. You will have seen that last year the company did not even earn its debenture interest in full; but its prospects for the present year seem to be somewhat better. 2. Should be held. 3. There does not appear to be much likelihood of a recovery. 4. Hold for the present. It is, of course, impossible to say what form the Government scheme will take. 5. The stock is one of the soundest in the list, and should be held as an investment, but the general outlook for the market is so uncertain that I should not care to predict any material rise yet awhile.

Miscellaneous.

Inquirer.—They may ultimately be established on a higher basis if the increased dividend foreshadowed is realised. *Anglo-American Breweries.*—Various circumstances have combined against the undertaking. It is doubtful whether the syndicate suggested would do much good. Perhaps it might be best to realise and put the proceeds into something more hopeful. *Clachnacuddin.*—Better face the loss. *Bos.*—Little information is obtainable concerning the concern. They are highly speculative. *W. R. F.*—1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 12 are the best of the list. Of course you must recognise that with a high yield the security is not by any means gilt-edged. *Aida.*—Except for No. 3, they are a very poor collection, and you could do much better. *Kest Even.*—As a high-yielding commercial investment they are attractive. I have had no occasion to criticise the concern named, but see Rule 8. *Anxious.*—The nitrate shares might be held. The decline is due to some slight delay in reaching the productive stage. 2. Will improve when the long-delayed recovery in the market occurs. Hold. 3. The concern is progressing, and the shares are a fair holding. *Sailor.*—1 and 2. Yes. 3. I do not think so. 4. It is very doubtful. 5. Not so far as I have been able to trace the quotations. *Newcastle* and *J. P. L.*—The society is sound, and in view of the guarantee the debentures are a good investment. *Tenax.*—The National Share Exchange bucket-shop was dealt with in last week's issue. *F. M., Malvern.*—Thanks for the circulars; most of them had already been criticised, but I am always glad to receive samples of bucket-shop literature. *Rara, Spinner, S. T., S. G., Innocent, W. G. A., L. G. B., Brighton, H. J. W., Satana, Parva, J. T. F.,* and other correspondents.—I do not undertake to give advice in regard to the merits of different Continental lottery or "premium"

bonds, nor do I in any way recommend this form of speculation. I have published constant warnings against the International Securities Syndicate, whose advertisements concerning so-called investments (really gambles) in these bonds are grossly misleading. The prices charged by the syndicate and other touting dealers of the same class are enormously in excess of the current market value of the bonds on the Continental bourses where dealings in such securities are recognised. *H. H., Manchester.*—Not a bank, but a common moneylending concern, which you should avoid. *Rapid.*—I believe that in both cases you could successfully plead the Gaming Act. In another column I am dealing with an action brought by A. Lawrence and Co. *Mutando.*—Arnold and Butler are a cover-snatching bucket-shop firm. *Vincent.*—I believe both are sound societies. *Shamrock.*—1. Consult a solicitor. 2. I do not recommend any firm. See Rule 8. *Don.*—There were adverse criticisms of both concerns some time ago, but I do not think the interest and dividend payments are in any danger in either case. *T. H. B.*—Not at all promising.

*** *Owing to the holidays a number of answers to correspondents have to be held over till next week.*

Miscellaneous—Hudson's Bays Severe Slump and Prompt Recovery—Allsopp's Advance—Daimlers and Argylls—Fine Cotton Spinners' Increased Dividend.

The sensation of the week in the Miscellaneous market was the severe slump in Hudson's Bays, a drop of ten points to 93 occurring in a couple of days. The collapse was partly attributable to adverse crop reports from Canada, which have since been shown to be premature and misleading; but the chief factor was the forced liquidation in connection with the default of a firm of solicitors, to which reference has been made in another column. However, on the eve of the holidays a sharp recovery set in, and I have no doubt that Bays will soon turn the century again, though at the same time I hardly think that they are likely to get much above it for a long time to come. Another noteworthy movement was a rise of half-a-dozen points or so in Allsopps Three and a Half per Cent. debentures. A very sanguine view is being taken of the prospects of the company under the new management, but it is well to remember that similar hopes have been excited before only to be disappointed, and to my mind a purchase of Allsopps, or, indeed, of almost any Brewery securities just now is indicative of pluck rather than of prudence. Where other Brewery securities have exhibited any change at all it has generally been a change for the worse, the most conspicuous example being that business in Ind, Coope B preference £10 shares was marked as low as 15s. Among Motor shares Daimlers have been in demand, and advances were registered in both the ordinary and the preference shares. It is pretty well known that this concern is doing a vastly bigger trade this year than last, and people in close touch with it predict that the next dividend will be not less than 40 per cent., and probably nearer 50 per cent. The contract that has been secured for the manufacture of the Renard road trains is expected to be very profitable, and the Daimler Company has also just completed exhaustive trials with a new motor-'bus, which in some quarters is looked upon as the 'bus of the future. It certainly possesses one great advantage if, as is said, it is practically noiseless. The company's strong position is obvious when it is considered that it has a reserve, invested in land and works, of about £500,000, whereas its total issued capital, when the £100,000 of new 6 per cent. preference shares are placed, will be only £300,000. The recent set-back in the price of the shares was due to a good deal of ragged buying when they stood around 7½, but the weak "bulls" have now cleared out, and Daimlers look ripe for an improvement. Another motor company which is doing remarkably well is the Argyll. With the recent dividend warrants the directors sent out a circular giving the shareholders information as to the position and prospects of the business. According to this the sales for the six winter months exceeded the record figures of the corresponding period of last year by nearly 30 per cent., while, since the spring commenced, the ratio of increase over last year has been even greater.

In the textile group little activity has been displayed, and the most interesting event has been the publication of the report for the year ended March 31 of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association. The dividend on the ordinary shares for the past year is 10 per cent., the highest the company has yet paid. Including £15,507 brought in, the profit amounted to £839,343, which was nearly double that of the previous year. The reserve has been increased by £150,000 to a total of £850,459, and the substantial balance of £114,343 is carried forward. The figures in this report are certainly a striking proof of the extraordinary prosperity of the textile trade, which so far shows no sign of falling off. The present price of the ordinary shares of the company, which last year were as low as 22s. 6d., is 34s. At the meeting of the British Tea Table Company the chairman intimated that—as was anticipated in this column last week—a scheme for the reduction of the capital would be necessary. The suggestion was received with manifest disfavour, and the chairman's explanation of the causes of the present unfortunate position of the company was also regarded as unsatisfactory, a committee of investigation being eventually appointed. It may yet be possible to pull the concern round to some extent, but the outlook for the shareholders is decidedly discouraging. In other catering companies' shares hardly any alterations have been recorded. Lyons', which in my judgment are the most attractive of any of them, stand at a price which affords a return of about 5½ per cent. Among meat shares Eastman's had a slight gain on the strength of the scheme for the splitting of the preference and ordinary £10 shares into £1 shares, which will give them a wider market. Nelson's, now at about 20s. 6d., are quite inactive. VIGILANT.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

The annual meeting was held on Wednesday last at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., presiding.

The Chairman, having pointed out that the accounts were presented on that occasion in a slightly modified form, said that the figures for 1906, for the fourth year in succession, showed an improvement. It might not be so great as some proprietors might have hoped for, but the advance not only in gross earnings, but also in net revenue, had been steady and continuous, and, although the shipping trade was always liable to fluctuation, the prospect for the holders of the ordinary stock was brighter now than it had been for many years. The cost of bunker coals in 1906 was higher per ton than in 1905, but he was pleased to say that they had made some very favourable contracts for a large quantity of Welsh coal at considerably lower prices than those now current. The question of making proper provision for depreciation was of the utmost importance; and the directors had set aside £173,000 for that purpose, as compared with £141,000 in respect of the previous year. They were able, out of the available balance, to recommend the payment of 5 per cent. on the preference stock; in future the dividend on the preference shares would be paid half-yearly. The year before he became chairman the company not only passed the ordinary dividend, but also showed a loss on the trading. This was the fifth year that they had been unable to pay an ordinary dividend, but, if all went well, the directors hoped to be able to pay a dividend on the ordinary stock—of which, he mentioned, he was a considerable holder—at the end of the current year. He then referred to his visit on the company's business to South America, and remarked that the difficulty that shipowners had to contend with, both in Brazil and the Argentine, was that the shipping trade had increased much quicker than the facilities of the ports; but the Government of both countries appeared anxious to do all that was possible to relieve the present congestion of traffic at all ports. There had been a general revival of trade in Australia, and the Australian Government seemed desirous of doing everything in their power to increase the number of white immigrants, provided they were of a suitable class. He was of opinion that the great and fertile country of Australia only required to be better known in order to attract a much larger population. Referring to the company's West Indian main line service, he said that notwithstanding the fact that the last Government withdrew their mail subsidy of £81,500 a year, the company had been able to retain their hold on the trade. It had been very uphill work, and they had only been able to achieve success by persistent efforts and by continuing the voyages of their main line steamers from Jamaica to New York. If they were to go on employing high-class passenger steamers on their main line service to Barbadoes and Trinidad, it was imperative that the British Government should recognize the great Imperial service which this company had been doing for the Empire for many years past, and more especially during the last two years, in which period they had received the quite inadequate remuneration of £7,000 per annum for carrying the British mails across the Atlantic. A gradual development was taking place in their passenger and cargo trade from England and the Continent to Cuba and Mexico. The question of whether mail subsidies were or were not necessary was probably one about which there would be differences of opinion for many years. It was doubtful if any country gained by paying a subsidy to shipowners except for services actually rendered. If the payment for all mails was based on the poundage of

mails actually carried, like any other form of excessively valuable cargo, and if the rate of poundage was settled in each case with some regard to the nature and value of the services performed, he believed that it would in the long run be to the advantage of all concerned. Moreover, if the money saved by the Government was spent in improving and cheapening cable communications, the necessity for very fast mail steamers would disappear, as very fast steamers were not so comfortable for passengers as large steamers of more moderate speed. These remarks about subsidies did not apply to any service which was maintained solely on national and Imperial grounds, and where, as in the intercolonial service in the West Indies, there was no trade to justify any service at all on a commercial basis. Having stated that the board had received more proxies than ever in support of their policy, and that he would never rest satisfied till the company took its right place in the front rank of successful steamship enterprises, he moved the adoption of the report, and the the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference stock.

Mr. Spencer H. Curtis seconded the motion.

Mr. Denny expressed his dissatisfaction with the change which had been made in the form of the accounts, and contended that the proprietors had as great a right as the directors to the fullest information, to enable them to judge whether their shares were worth holding.

The Chairman, in reply, said that he had done his best to raise the company from the position into which it had fallen, and he regretted that Mr. Denny, who was a large proprietor, should have thought it advisable to make the speech that he had made. He thought that the new form of accounts was in the best interests of the stockholders, and, as already said, the board had received greater support than ever before. (Cheers.)

An amendment by Mr. Denny, to the effect that, in future, the working account should be published, was not seconded; and the original motion was then agreed to with one dissentient.

A special general meeting was afterwards held to settle the remuneration to be paid to Mr. Philipps as managing director. After a long discussion, in the course of which an amendment proposed by Sir Joseph Savory (one of the directors) to refer the matter to a committee for further consideration had been negatived, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Austen, seconded by Mr. Heald, that the managing director should receive ½ per cent. on the gross receipts in any year when 5 per cent. was paid on the ordinary stock and £3,000 in any year in which 5 per cent. on the ordinary stock was not paid.

INSURANCE NOTES.

How Money is Lost—Good and Bad Policies—Insurance Companies as Trustees and Executors.

THERE are two kinds of loss—the absolute and the relative. A good example of relative loss is afforded by the case of a correspondent, who finds that he has assured to less advantage than he might have done. He took some endowment assurance policies in the Sceptre Life Association, amounting altogether to £3,000, and after paying premiums for six years, and having bonuses of £232 in all added to the sum assured, he desired to surrender the policies for paid-up assurance: that is to say, he was to pay no more premiums, and a reduced amount would be payable on his attaining a given age, or at death if it occurred previously. On making application to the company he was reminded of a very unusual statement contained in the Sceptre prospectus. Having paid one-fifth of the original premiums, the policies for £3,000 could be surrendered for one-fifth of the sum assured, namely, £600. In almost, if not quite, every other company, the bonus of £232 already declared would be added to the £600, so giving a free or paid-up policy of £832. The Sceptre prospectus, however, says that "Free policies will be entitled to a proportionate share of bonuses already added." My unfortunate correspondent, therefore, finds that his bonus of £232 is reduced to £25, and this policy for £625 does not participate in future profits.

Turning to the prospectus of the Clergy Mutual Assurance Society, I find that in similar circumstances they would not only have given him £600 for the surrender of the original policy, together with the full amount of the bonus, but the policy would have continued to share in the profits. The words of the prospectus are: "If the original policy was entitled to participate in profits, any addition thereto by bonus would remain attached, and moreover the fully paid-up policy would share in subsequent divisions of profit." It is worth while to compare the results of this arrangement with those of the Sceptre. If a man of thirty took a policy for £1,000, payable at age sixty or previous death, from the Sceptre, and a similar policy in the Clergy Mutual, he would have to pay £32 10s. 1d. annually to the Clergy Mutual and £33 13s. 4d. to the Sceptre, or an extra of £1 3s. 3d. a year. At the end of six years the sum assured would have been increased by bonuses of £90 in the Sceptre and of £120 in the Clergy Mutual. If now the policy-holder wished to exchange these policies for paid-up assurance, he would obtain about £220 from the Sceptre, as against £320 in the Clergy Mutual. Should the policy-holder survive until age sixty, the Sceptre would only pay him £220, while the Clergy Mutual would have gradually increased the sum assured by a further £96, and would pay the policy-holder £416 on reaching age sixty, instead of £220, which is the amount to be obtained from the Sceptre. Not only are the annual payments lower, but the results to the policy-holder are much better, whether he continues the payment of premiums until the policy becomes a claim, or whether, like my correspondent, he decides to surrender his policy. The letter to which I have been referring also grumbles with good reason at the small amount of the surrender value. In this respect, also, the conditions of the Sceptre are very far from being good, though when my correspondent tells me that another office guarantees a cash surrender value of 75 per cent. of all the premiums paid, I have to remind him that this condition applies to endowment policies, and not to endowment assurances; on this point he is mistaken. He is, however, quite right when he talks of the importance of understanding a prospectus before and not after effecting assurance, and of seeing what other companies can do. The experience of this correspondent is of a kind which is continually being reported to me; people do foolish things, and then come grumbling to me. I am quite glad to receive their grumbles, especially if, as in this case, they are well founded, but if people will only lock the stable door after the steed is stolen it is not possible for me—at least in such cases as this—to help them recover their horse.

A relative loss of this kind is annoying enough, but an absolute loss is in many ways even worse. The best policy may have been taken or the best investments made, but unless the capital is well looked after, all previous efforts are of little use. A lot of people regard a sum of money as a sort of fetish, and think that when this financial fetish is provided, everything will go along quite happily and all right. Of course, capital is only of value for what it yields, and unless the beneficiaries receive an adequate income from the capital, the capital by itself is of comparative little use. The tendency of everybody is to say that his trustees, his executors, and his solicitors are capable and honest, and that the disasters which are continually reported as happening to other people will not happen in his case. To my mind this is a very foolish way of looking at things, especially as there is a simple and effective remedy available. Testators, beneficiaries, and trustees all have reason to disapprove of the prevalent arrangements, and to cordially welcome the appointment of a responsible insurance company to act either alone or in co-operation with relatives and friends as trustees. It seems to me that it is only necessary to contrast the relative merits of individual and of corporate trustees to see the superiority of the latter plan. A testator appoints a friend in whose ability and integrity he has every confidence; the friend may die, or go abroad, or refuse to undertake the duties, and then somebody else has to be appointed, of whom the testator knows nothing, and of whom he might have cordially disapproved. None of these contingencies can arise if the duties are entrusted to an insurance company.

Either with good or bad intentions, an individual trustee may speculate with the trust property, or invest it badly, or may commit a breach of trust which he is unable to make good. In any such case the objects of the testator are defeated. An insurance company is almost of necessity competent and businesslike, and in the improbable event of committing a breach of trust it has ample funds out of which to make good any deficiency.

Whereas an individual may never have acted as a trustee before, and the work be entirely strange to him, it is part of the regular routine of some insurance

companies, it is in charge of competent officials and under the control of a board of directors. It is not uncommon for individual trustees to mix up trust monies with their own accounts, and by no means always easy or pleasant for beneficiaries to request and to obtain information, accounts, and inspection of documents. Insurance companies keep separate banking accounts for each trust fund, as a matter of course supply regular accounts, and are always ready to supply information and produce securities.

Many people hesitate to ask their friends to undertake such a thankless task as acting as executor or trustee, and it seems to me that a quite appropriate reply of anybody who is invited to act in this capacity would be to suggest that the task should be entrusted to an insurance company.

Unfortunately there are sometimes legal difficulties in the way of an insurance company being appointed executor or trustee unless the appointment is definitely provided for by the testator; these arise from the absence of provision for remuneration to trustees. Even this difficulty may be got over to some extent, but by far the best plan is for the person who is settling or leaving the money to appoint an insurance company, or at least make specific provision for such an appointment should it prove desirable. The cost is very small, the benefits are very great, and it can scarcely be long before the foolish system that has prevailed in the past has entirely disappeared.

Answers to Correspondents.

[*Every letter containing an inquiry on the subject of insurance must be accompanied by a coupon cut from the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.]

Iona.—United Legal Insurance Society, 222, Strand. *Leodiensian.*—Atlas Insurance Company, Cheapside. *A. L. F. B.*—The case you quote involves hardships. This is inevitable in certain industrial policies. It affords no grounds for blaming the company. The policy was badly chosen. *Rag.*—Apply for quotations to Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation and Norwich Union Life Office. *Java.*—Tell me what the broker recommends. If his advice is good you can effect your assurance through him. *Labour.*—For convertible term policies, the Atlas Insurance Company. For discounted bonus, the Clerical, Medical, and General. "Life Assurance Explained," Cassell and Co., 1s. and 2s. 6d. *Benedict.*—Keep the policy in force. You can only lose by changing. The company is quite good.

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QUEER STORY.

EXPLOITING A "STAR."

MISS FAIRY RUBENS, long a considerable star in the music-hall firmament, had just reached that period of her career when she was beginning to grow a trifle stale. She still, indeed, retained her looks—by artificial light, at any rate; and her figure, thanks to judicious dieting and a skilled *corsetière*, was as good as ever it had been. But she had recently become conscious of a loss of the old grip upon her public, and the fact, very naturally, filled her with concern.

Already she was being billed in smaller type than various new rivals. Already managers, who in her zenith had been hat in hand to her, were treating her with quite an off-hand air. Already, instead of being inundated with offers of engagements, she was having to put her pride in her pocket and seek them out for herself. These were signs much too significant to be overlooked. Her popularity was on the wane, and unless something could be done to rehabilitate it, she felt that she would soon slip from the notice of the fickle public altogether. It was a mortifying—a disquieting prospect. No wonder Fairy Rubens felt very much perturbed.

It was one afternoon, about this time, that she received a call from Mr. Gillson Ferrier. Mr. Ferrier was not known to her personally; indeed, when she read his name on the visiting card which he sent in, she did not recollect ever to have heard it. But surmising, or at least hoping, that the "important business" on which he desired to see her might have to do with some offer of professional employment, she consented to see him.

Mr. Gillson Ferrier was a youngish man—apparently not more than five-and-thirty, very keen of face, alert of bearing, and brisk of manner. He was faultlessly attired in the latest sartorial fashions, and gave the general impression of being thoroughly up-to-date.

"Good morning, madam," he said, making the lady an elaborate bow.

"Good morning," she replied, then looked at him inquiringly, as inviting him to state his business.

"I have done myself the honour of waiting upon you," explained Mr. Ferrier, "in order to lay before you a proposition which may be of advantage to us both. I should tell you that I am connected with the Universal News Agency, an association recently formed for the collection and dissemination of the latest intelligence, upon lines more go-ahead than have been hitherto adopted in this country. Our methods, I may say, have already caught on, and we are in hourly communication with all the leading organs of the London press."

"I see. You want to interview me, perhaps?" smiled Fairy Rubens.

"Well, not exactly that," replied Mr. Gillson Ferrier, "although an interview might very usefully be worked in later on, as a follow-up. The truth is this, Miss Rubens: I have noticed of late with regret, and I may add with pain—for I have always been an admirer of yours——"

"Oh, never mind the soft soap," interposed the lady, though with a not ill-pleased laugh.

"I repeat, I have observed with regret and pain," continued Mr. Ferrier, "that for some unaccountable reason you are no longer quite the public favourite that you once were; that——"

"Well, well. And if I am not? We must all have our little ups and downs," broke in Fairy Rubens, rather irritably, for the subject was a sore one.

"Quite so," assented Mr. Gillson Ferrier. "But the more 'ups' and the less 'downs' the better. I am sure you will agree with me there. And when you feel yourself beginning to go on the downward grade, it's a sign that you want a fillip, something to bring you before the public notice, something to get you talked about. Now—forgive me for saying so—but I am convinced that you require such a fillip at the present moment, Miss Rubens. I am also convinced that the Universal News Agency is the best medium to supply it. You follow me?"

"I think so. You are suggesting that I should place with your agency a commission to advertise me?"

"Yes; that is what it comes to," answered Mr. Ferrier, genially. "I am, in fact, proposing that you should allow us to bring you before the public in connection with some interesting experience—say, an operation for appendicitis, a motor accident, or a sensational jewel robbery——"

"All imaginary, of course," smiled Fairy Rubens.

"Not more so than half the things you read in the newspapers every day," said Mr. Gillson Ferrier. "This is the era of imaginative journalism. A man who has not the mind of a ready romancer is no use whatever on our modern press. Such a mind, I may add without boasting, is peculiarly highly developed among the staff of the Universal News Agency."

"You are candid, at any rate," replied Fairy Rubens, laughing outright.

"I am always candid in business," said Mr. Ferrier. "We pull the leg of the public to any extent, of course. But we always run straight in dealing with a client. Coming back to the main issue, however, what do you think of my suggestion?"

"It strikes me that there is something in it," answered Miss Rubens.

"There is everything in it," declared Mr. Ferrier. "The appendicitis and the motor-accident lay are rather played out, for the moment. We've had too much of them. But a good, thumping, sensational jewel robbery hasn't been done now for some time. And I am of opinion that, if we played it just now, we should find it a sure card. 'Thieves' great haul.' 'Popular artiste robbed of £40,000 worth of jewellery'——"

"Forty thousand pounds! Oh, come, I say! That's opening our mouth rather wide," laughed Fairy Rubens.

"In these cases one always multiplies the value of the stones by ten," said Mr. Ferrier.

"But will the public swallow such a figure?" inquired Miss Rubens.

"The public—the halfpenny public, at any rate—will swallow anything it sees in print, provided the headlines are heavy enough," said Mr. Ferrier, with confidence.

"But will the halfpenny papers print such a tall story?" persisted Miss Rubens.

"The halfpenny papers will print anything that their public will swallow—and pay for," answered Mr. Ferrier.

"It's really rather funny," smiled Fairy.

"Well, it's journalism," replied Mr. Ferrier.

"I think, though, I should like to see what you say, before you put anything in the papers," she remarked, after a moment's reflection.

"You shall see a proof to-morrow, and may amend it in any way you please," he rejoined.

"And as to terms?" inquired Miss Rubens.

"Oh, I do not propose to make you any charge," said Mr. Ferrier, generously.

"You are very kind. But I would rather treat it as a matter of business and pay the usual fees," she answered.

"There are no usual fees in these cases," he assured her, with a wave of his hand. "We get well paid by the papers for the copy with which we supply them, and are quite satisfied with that source of profit. All we expect our private clients to do is to endorse what we have said about them, if interviewers, or other inquisitive persons, come to pester them with inquiries."

"I see," nodded Miss Rubens. "You mean—putting it crudely—you and I must agree to tell the same lie?"

"It is a word we never use in our business," answered Mr. Ferrier, deprecatingly. "But, in substance, your inference is perfectly correct."

Shortly afterwards, having in the meanwhile jotted down various items of circumstantial information about Fairy, with which the lady readily supplied him, Mr. Gillson Ferrier took his departure, promising to bring his proof round on the following morning.

This he duly did, and the flamboyant account of the imaginary robbery tickled the lady's sense of humour not a little. She suggested a few alterations here and there, which Mr. Ferrier at once embodied; and in this slightly amended form it appeared in most of that day's halfpenny evening papers, and also, next day, in the morning journals to which they were affiliated.

News happened to be scarce just then; so the robbery attracted a good deal of public attention. Of this Fairy Rubens was soon made practically aware, for she spent a good part of next day in receiving and replying to the questions of interviewers. It is to be hoped that she may be pardoned for all the fibs that she told these enterprising journalists. It is to be hoped that they, also, may be pardoned for the imaginative manner in which they subsequently embroidered them. Not that the subject of their interviews had any grievance against them on this account. Quite the reverse. The more picturesquely they presented her, the more romantic stories they attached to her stolen jewellery, the better she was pleased. But on this aspect of the matter I have no time to dwell. I must hurry on to describe to you an interviewer of a somewhat different character, who called upon the fair Miss Rubens on the day after the theft of her jewels was first announced in the papers.

This was a young American gentleman, who introduced himself as Mr. Cyrus P. Riley, representative of the International Assurance Company of New York, who were just then opening a branch office in London.

Mr. Cyrus P. Riley was a typical Yankee, both in appearance, manner, and accent. He also had the typical Yankee eye to smart business, as may be gathered from the astutely daring proposal which he had come to make to Miss Fairy Rubens.

"Say," he began, "I am from the International Assurance Company of New York. I see you've been robbed of two hundred thousand dollars' worth of stuff. And I calculated it might be of mutual advantage to us both if you were insured in our office."

"Not much good doing that now, I think," answered Miss Rubens. "Rather like shutting the stable door after the steed has been stolen."

Mr. Cyrus P. Riley smiled placidly at Miss Rubens. Then the lid of his left eye dropped, slightly, in an almost imperceptible wink, as he replied:

"Wa-a-l, miss, let's put it this way. I guess it might suit both you and my company very well if you were to *say* that you were insured with us for the full amount. . . . What?"

"I don't quite follow you," rejoined Fairy Rubens, looking, as she felt, decidedly puzzled.

Mr. Cyrus P. Riley dived into the breast pocket of his coat and pulled out a roll of Bank of England notes, which he threw down on the table near which he was standing.

"There are a thousand dollars there," he said; "and I guess they're yours, if ye'll do business on the lines suggested."

Fairy Rubens eyed the £200 avariciously. Her professional income had never been anything like as large as popularly supposed, and, though even the real amount was considerable, she had always lived fully up to it. The consequence was she was in a chronic state of being short of ready. At this moment she wanted money rather badly to pay some pressing debts with. So the bank notes were a decided temptation to her.

However, she was not going to commit herself by accepting the bribe (for bribe it obviously was) until she understood what was involved by so doing; and she answered:

"I must first ask you to explain what you mean, for I haven't the least idea what you are driving at."

Mr. Cyrus P. Riley raised his eyebrows in some surprise.

"Wa-a-l," he said, "I guess if you'd been an Amur-r-can, you'd have cottoned on to my meaning right away. But as it is, I must dot the 'i's a bit more plainly. See here, now. My company's just opening a branch office in London. We want an advertisement; and we're willing to pay you a thousand dollars for giving it us. Now, miss, can't ye see?"

Fairy Rubens nodded.

"You mean," she said, "that you are offering me a thousand dollars to say that my jewels were insured in your office, because you think it would be a good advertisement for you?"

"That's so," replied Mr. Cyrus P. Riley. "We want you to say that, and also to accept, or at least not to disclaim, the consequences incident to it—on paper."

And again he winked at Miss Rubens.

"What consequences?" she inquired.

"Wa a-l," he said, "assuming you to have effected a policy with us before the robbery, I guess that policy would now have become a claim. The public, therefore, when they hear you were insured in our office for the full value of your stuff, will naturally suppose that you are drawing £40,000 from us. And we don't want you to undeceive them. That's all."

"I don't quite understand you yet," said Miss Rubens. "How will it benefit you for people to think that you have had to pay me £40,000?"

Mr. Cyrus P. Riley fixed his eyes, in which there was a peculiarly knowing twinkle, full upon Fairy Rubens' own.

"It would be the greatest benefit to us—in fact, a tarnation advertisement of the first water," he replied, "if the public got to know that, the moment you preferred your claim, we'd settled up in full, on the nail, without a word of question or dispute. See?"

"Ah, now I understand," laughed Miss Rubens. "But how would the public get to know this?"

"Through the press. We'd take care of that," answered Mr. Cyrus P. Riley. "Wa-a-l, miss, I guess you've heard the offer and you've seen the cash. Shall it be a deal? What do you say?"

THE CARLTON HOTEL, PALL MALL, S.W.—1503 Gerrard. Famous for its beautiful Restaurant and Grill Room. Under the same Direction as the Ritz Hotel.

The sight of £200 in bank notes was a stronger temptation than Miss Fairy Rubens could resist just then. She took the money and clinched the bargain.

Mr. Cyrus P. Riley went away looking very well pleased with himself. He had no reason to do otherwise, for the advertisement thus obtained by exploiting the sensation of the Fairy Rubens robbery was uncommonly cheap at the money. Yes, indeed, though his company had, no doubt, to pay handsomely, in addition, for the various paragraphs in the daily papers which they took care to have inserted shortly afterwards, and which were really nothing but veiled puffs of the International Assurance Office—even so, I say, the money was well laid out. I don't know exactly how many ladies insured their valuable jewellery for large amounts in the Office during the subsequent fortnight, but I do know that the number must have run into several hundreds.

Curiously enough, it was not long before a large number of these policies matured into claims. . . What? You suspect that this is to be accounted for by the fact that the jewellery had been insured at fictitious values, and that the robberies on which the claims were based were merely bogus? Well, if that is your inference, you are entirely wrong. The robberies and the consequent claims were, in every case, quite genuine. The one bogus feature in the whole business was the International Assurance Company itself, as the unfortunate policy-holders very soon found out. Having sent in their claims and received no replies, they went to make personal inquiries. They then found the temporary offices from which the company had conducted its operations—four rooms on a third floor in Basinghall-street—shut up, and were told by the caretaker that the landlord was in for rent, and that the "Company" (which appeared to have consisted of two gentlemen) had suddenly departed a week or so before, leaving no address.

This was an unpleasant enough shock for the policy-holders in all conscience. But a worse was to come. For, when the matter was placed in the hands of the City Police, the Inspector in charge of the case, after making certain inquiries, paid a visit to Miss Fairy Rubens.

"May I ask," he said, when he had informed her that he was a police officer, and had explained the object of his visit, "whether that jewel robbery of yours was not a purely put-up affair, suggested to you, and arranged for you, by a man passing under the name of Gillson Ferrier?"

Miss Rubens, thoroughly frightened by the turn matters had taken, confessed that such was the case.

"And am I not correct in saying," the Inspector went on, "that the statements which appeared in the press to the effect that you were insured with the International Office, and that they paid up your claim for £40,000 without a murmur, was also a put-up thing, arranged with you by an American calling himself Cyrus P. Riley, and emanating in a proposal made to you by him?"

"It is all too dreadfully true," admitted Fairy Rubens, beginning to sob. "But I never guessed that the insurance company was all a swindle, and that they were exploiting me for fraudulent purposes. Indeed, I never guessed or imagined that!"

The Inspector nodded.

"I do not suppose that any one would suspect you of being an intentional party to the fraud," he said. "Though, in thus having allowed yourself to be used as a decoy, you have certainly placed yourself in a very unfortunate position."

"I'm sure I hope the wretch will be caught and punished," sobbed Miss Rubens.

"The wretches, you mean," said the Inspector, drily. "For surely by this time you must have realised that Ferrier and Riley were exploiting you in concert?"

"No, I had not realised that. You mean that Ferrier's visit to me was all part of this wicked insurance fraud?"

"Oh, the insurance fraud was merely a blind for something else," answered the Inspector. "These fellows were after bigger game than a few hundred pounds in the shape of insurance premiums. I have ascertained who they are; though, as they have got clear away, I doubt if we shall catch them. They are two of the smartest jewel thieves that ever came over here from the States."

"Jewel thieves! I do not understand."

"No? Let me explain, then. It was not, as I have said, the insurance premiums they wanted, but the names of ladies who possessed valuable jewellery, with full schedules and particulars of the same. With the information thus obtained, they were able to go straight to the right houses, and——"

"What?" cried out Fairy, "you mean that they themselves stole the jewels of the ladies who had insured with them?"

"Just so," said the Inspector. "That is precisely what they did."

ART NOTES.

IT is a fortunate circumstance that each picture-dealer, to say nothing of each painter, should have his own especial following, for thus only is it possible to contemplate the annual artistic harvest of Bond-street without weakening of the brain. As it is, there must be not one artistic public, as we usually suppose, but many of them, each knowing only of the Art which is provided at the particular gallery with which it is indissolubly linked, and with but one point of knowledge—that the R.A. shows are held in Burlington House—in common with the other publics. There are many proofs of this remarkable state of things. I will mention but one—that each of the many galleries has an artistic convention of its own to which it always adheres, and which its particular public no doubt regards as the only genuine brand of art. Thus at one gallery you will find only the rigidly revolutionary, at another only that sort of art which is universally associated with red dining-room walls and pianolas. At some galleries you know that you may always look forward to seeing at least moderately good work; there are two or three which are widely famous as housing—and, be it said, selling—only the very vilest of daubs. Is it possible to conceive that there is any one public which can assimilate all this artistic *olla podrida?* Of course not. There are dozens of them, each only realising the existence of one brand of art, and oblivious of the rest.

Take one example, Messrs. Shepherd's galleries in King-street. If you go there you may always be sure of finding one kind of picture—and one which happens to be among the best and most interesting—I mean Early British Masters. There are others, of course, but the chief fame—and, so far as I am concerned, the chief attraction—of the gallery lies in its appreciation of the fine work of our own School of Old Masters. Year after year exhibitions are held, and they always contain something of the first interest. This year, for instance there are a couple of canvases—not to speak of the rest—which are worth travelling a long way to see. One of them is a somewhat varied replica of the Van Dyck equestrian portrait of Charles I. in the National Gallery, of which there is a variant in the Royal Collection. It is attributed to Gainsborough, who was notoriously fond of copying Van Dyck, and who left at his death a number of copies which were said to be indistinguishable from the originals. If we consider the handling, especially of the sky, there seems little reason to doubt the attribution, and it is interesting to notice how much more life-like and anatomically correct is the Gainsborough horse than the snake-headed over-necked animal in the original. The other especially noteworthy picture is a fine R. P. Bonington, of unusual size and great beauty, "The Abbey of St. Bertin, St. Omer." I am somewhat at a difficulty about this picture, because I do not want to describe it as "pearly," which is a much-hackneyed adjective in this connection. But I cannot find another which is one-quarter so descriptive, so it must pass at that. On the whole, if I formed part of any one of the various artistic publics I think I should like to belong to Messrs. Shepherd's. At least, I

should feel that when I bought a picture I was not buying a pig in a poke.

Another public which may count on good guidance is that which revolves around the Dowdeswell Galleries in New Bond-street. They are more interested in the modern British school—but only on the safer side. So accordingly, although, as it happens, the exhibition which is now being held there does not appeal to me personally, I feel quite disposed to admit that there may be another point of view, which I certainly should not were the pictures being shown at some galleries I could mention. They are by Mr. Walter Crane, and they are a number of water-colours dealing with India and Ceylon. They are painted in a curiously thick way, and their colour is hard and cold, so that altogether they give the impression of being studies in brick-dust, the more so that several of them contain passages of a peculiarly irritating browny-purple. I like Mr. Crane's work much better when he composes himself to designing children's fairy books, because he then shows himself to be a master of his art, while in such sketches as these he is but one man among many. But at the worst his work is always deserving of attention, and of how few artists can that be said nowadays.

There are some galleries which carry catholicity of appreciation almost too far. The Grafton is one of them. You are never in the least sure of what you are going to see there. Just now you will find a vast number of paintings by members of La Société des Aquarellistes Français, and of La Société des Peintres de Marine. I do not know why these two societies should hang their works together, unless, indeed, because there is a certain watery suggestion about both of their titles. Neither do I see why the cover of the catalogue should be adorned by French and English flags and the magic words "Entente Cordiale," unless, indeed, it be a naïve attempt to make artistic hay while the political sun shines. It is not as if these were the first French water-colours and seascapes to be exhibited for sale in England. Not by a very long way. It is not even as if they were especially fine water-colours and seascapes, so that they might provide us with a more cordial understanding than hitherto of the highest French artistic attainments. They do serve, it is true, to show how much further advanced are British water-colour and sea-painters than are their French colleagues, but that, I take it, is scarcely the purpose of the show. There are a couple of military sketches by Edouard Detaille, a rather effective if theatrical "Wreck" by M. Tattegrain, and perhaps a dozen other paintings and drawings of note; but the general impression is one of superficiality. Most of the work is more or less clever, much of it attempts originality, of which we are all getting rather tired nowadays; a very large number of the water-colours remind us of mineral water advertisements, and, excellent as are mineral waters in their way, they are not what one wants to think about in a picture gallery.

Mr. D. Y. Cameron's etchings have, and rightly, a special public of their own, which will no doubt have followed them to Messrs. Connell's Gallery in Old Bond-street. Many of them are notoriously very beautiful, but there is no need for me to say anything further about them, because Mr. Frederick Wedmore has contributed an appreciation to the catalogue, which makes further comment superfluous. I notice, by the way, that this pleasant method of lightening the labours of the critic is on the increase. For instance, there is a collection of water-colours, by Mr. Arthur Reginald Smith, now being shown at the New Dudley Gallery. It deals with scenes in Tuscany, Umbria, and Rome, and to the ordinary mind does not appear extraordinary. But the ordinary mind is wrong in this, for some one, whose signature is "B. A. S.," tells us in the preface of the catalogue that "Mr. Smith is a perfect master of his medium, yet he never allows his dexterity to run away with him; he makes no brilliant display of technique for its own sake, all the means are subordinated to a sympathetic interpretation of his subject, and this he does with a simplicity and mastery that carries on the very best traditions of the English School of Water-Colour Painting." That is what I call handsome, and I do not know any newspaper critic that could have done it better, however much he had been paid for doing it.

There are so many exhibitions open just now that it is impossible to refer to half of them in the limit of any ordinary article. Here are a few which strike me as having points of interest, to their own particular publics, at any rate. At Messrs. Grundy and Robinson's there are a number of Venetian studies, in water-colours and oil, by Mr. T. Hodgson Liddell. Some of them are effective and not without their appeal, though they would be more so did they not convey the impression of being hurried and were the painter more sure of his colour schemes. At the same galleries are a number of paintings by M. François Brunery, extremely able in technique, if lacking in sympathy. M. Brunery has a nice eye for the colour possibilities in a Cardinal's robes, and he can put character into a head, as in the case of "A Gentleman of France." At Mr. Paterson's Old Bond-street Gallery is a very interesting collection of drawings and sketches of various of the more prominent of our younger artists, including Mr. D. J. Cameron, Mr. J. Paterson, Mr. W. Orpen, Mr. Clausen, and Mr. Rackham. Especially striking are some of Mr. Crawhall's animal studies; Mr. Rackham's brilliantly elusive "Poultry"; Mr. Cameron's "Afterglow," in which the artist shows himself unexpectedly sentimental; and Mr. James Peterson's pale and convincing "On the Forth."

At the Doré Gallery are shown paintings by Miss Fanny Farrer and water-colour drawings by Mrs. Philip de Crespigny, and at the Alpine Club Gallery, in Savile-row, are some extremely beautiful photographs of Alpine scenery.

MUSIC.

SOME CONCERT-ROOM BORES.

THESE are of many kinds. Apart from such obvious afflictions as the late-comer, the talker, and the like, there are others which, if less pronounced, are hardly less trying in their way. The enthusiast with a defective sense of rhythm, for example, who nods his (or more frequently her) head throughout the music hopelessly out of time. The superior person, again, who delivers judgment after each item, in that penetrating "head" voice affected by superior persons, for the benefit of his (or her) immediate neighbours—who has not endured too often that particular affliction? The sorrow's crown of sorrow in this case is perhaps the conviction which you know is cherished by your tormentor that he is exciting your secret admiration, and the utter impossibility of undeceiving him on the point. A bore of another sort is the individual who follows with special interest the fortunes of particular performers, and demands that all and sundry shall share his enthusiasm. People of this type make critics their special prey. "Did you ever hear anything finer?" "Isn't he immense?"—in such wise as this they ply their tiresome trade, as often as not doing far more harm than good to the cause thus injudiciously commended. Conversely, the rivals of their favourites are decried—with results which are probably equally contrary to those which they anticipate. "Save me from my friends!" might well be the wish of those who suffer at the hands of such self-constituted champions.

The blasé concert-goer who finds nothing to his liking is yet another bore to be found—and avoided—in every audience; the only source of wonder being the fact that under the circumstances he does not stay away from performances which to all seeming yield him nothing but distress. In point of fact, of course, it is his highest joy to advertise the acuteness of his perceptions in this manner; but if his impressions are really those which he reports, he is clearly an object

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for the sincerest pity. It is worth noticing in this connection that the most gifted musicians are seldom afflicted in this painful manner. Your great artist usually makes the most receptive and responsive listener. Then there is the chatty neighbour who insists on conversing, not only during the performance, but also on discussing each item exhaustively on its conclusion —who calls upon you to stand and deliver respecting each work performed, and—what is almost worse—expects you to give an equally attentive ear to his own impressions. These are usually people who do not go to concerts often. The experienced concert-goer generally takes what he has heard for granted, or at all events keeps his opinions to himself.

Another type who is often a nuisance is the earnest student with the score, who regards with pitying contempt his humbler neighbours content to enjoy the music without such aids, and resents with unbridled ferocity the least whisper or movement which disturbs his (or her) rapt enjoyment of the performance. Yet if such would only recognise it, they really derive the keenest delight from the joy of silencing their neighbours by the fierce "'Sh! 'sh!" which crushes the offender and proclaims their high-souled superiority. At the other end of the scale is the unabashed Philistine who has strayed by accident into a serious concert, the devotional atmosphere of which is painfully perturbed by his presence. He may often be seen at the Promenade Concerts, where he pilots a showily dressed companion to a place in the front row during the breathless silence attending a performance of, say, the "Charfreitagszauber," sublimely unconscious of the enormity of his offence. Indeed, orchestral music he regards only as a convenient background for conversation. On the other hand, he is, like Sir George Grove's historic policeman-friend, "a hog at the wocal," and if there is not plenty of singing in the programme he considers that he has been defrauded. A minor annoyance of another kind is the raucous-voiced programme-seller, who maintains a loud conversation outside the hall while the music is proceeding within. At such moments boiling oil with something lingering seems a penalty all too mild for the offender. But a complete list of all the woes of the sensitive concert-goer would make up an extensive catalogue.

An interesting event at Covent Garden next week will be the big matinée which the Duchess of Connaught is organising in aid of the funds of the Royal Albert Orphanage Asylum, Bagshot. The King, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and several other members of the Royal family will be present, while the programme will be quite on gala lines. Mme. Melba's appearance in the second act of "La Tosca" will be particularly interesting, since she has never been heard in the work before, while she is also to take part with Caruso in an act from "Traviata." Other artists who are giving their services include Mme. Destinn, Signor Scotti and Dr. Richter (who will conduct the second act of "The Flying Dutchman"), and altogether it will be rather surprising if a very handsome sum is not realised for the charity named.

As regards the gala performance at Covent Garden on June 11 in honour of the visit of the King and Queen of Denmark, arrangements are already in progress, though it is not possible at present to say much on the subject beyond that it seems likely to prove fully the equal in point of brilliance and attractiveness of any that have been given of recent years. A performance of this kind entails, of course, an enormous amount of work on the executive, but as they are enabled to get back a substantial return on their outlay from the high prices charged, the duty is undertaken with a cheerful heart. The same general arrangements in regard to the decoration and seating of the house will obtain as on former occasions —special boxes for the Royalties and their guests being constructed in the middle of the grand tier, the foyer being converted into a supper room, and so on.

In connection with the present opera season, by the way, one small reform has been introduced which deserves a word of grateful recognition. This is the addition of the little time-tables to the nightly programmes giving an idea of the duration of the acts and intervals. For some years the thing has been done in connection with the special "Ring" performances, in which case it was, of course, absolutely necessary, but it is an innovation as regards the others, and one which certainly makes for the general convenience.

Whitsuntide has brought its usual pause in the musical world, but several interesting concerts were given last week, notably the piano recital at which Mme. Sophie Menter appeared. She plays almost as marvellously as ever, and the reference is not merely to the prodigious volume of tone which she produces and her superb technique, but to the unerring taste and feeling by which her art is informed. On the same afternoon Mr. Mark Hambourg played at the Queen's Hall, and the contrast was rather striking. Another great woman artist heard was Mlle. Camilla Landi, who gave a recital at the Bechstein Hall. She was not in perfect voice, but sang superbly none the less, giving, among other things, "With verdure clad" and "He shall feed His flock" with rare charm and beauty of expression. Some excellent singing was heard also from Herr Paul Schmedes, a Danish tenor possessed of a capital voice, which he uses with a fine sense of style.

Dr. Richter's many admirers will be glad to notice that, in recognition of the thirtieth anniversary of his first appearance in London, the London Symphony Orchestra have arranged to give an orchestral concert at the Queen's Hall early next month. Dr. Richter will himself conduct, of course, and a bumper audience should be assured. It had been suggested, it appears, that precisely the same programme should be given as that of the concert which Dr. Richter first directed in London, but this notion has, it seems, been abandoned. There are, however, certain works which obviously suggest themselves in such a connection as those in which Richter has always been unsurpassable, though it would be hard to make choice among so many. In the way of Wagnerian excerpts, the "Meistersinger" overture and the prelude to the third act, the "Tristan" prelude and Liebestod, and, say, the Trauermarsch from the "Ring" could, however, hardly be omitted, while a Beethoven symphony and also, if possible, something of Mozart (say, the G minor or the "Jupiter") would also find a place of necessity in any thoroughly representative "Richter" programme.

Another forthcoming concert of a special character for which support is invited is that which is being organised by Dr. Charles Harriss, in conjunction with the Victoria League, in celebration of Empire Day (May 24) and for the benefit of the Victoria League and the Empire Education Fund.

Once again the grievance of the charity concert has been raised, and it is a very genuine one from the standpoint of the professional musician, who, like the rest of us, has his living to get. Musical performers suffer by these charity concerts in two ways. In the first place, their own concerts, given on a commercial basis, cannot hope to compete with entertainments in which half-a-dozen "stars" join forces without fee or reward to attract the public. Secondly, they suffer by being compelled, or virtually compelled, to give their services gratuitously on these occasions. To them does not even accrue that acceptable advertisement which the big folk obtain, since they are merely referred to, if named at all, as "others who contributed to the success of the entertainment," or in some equally satisfying manner. No wonder they are inclined to kick. A year or so ago a movement was started to insist on at least half fees for all appearing at such entertainments, but I fear little came of it.

Mr. Oscar Hammerstein, the intrepid impresario of the Manhattan Opera House, who is now paying a visit to Europe in search of talent, has been explaining to admiring interviewers who have complimented him on his New York success how it is done—as thus:—

When I started my scheme to give the people grand opera there was an opinion in New York that I was a fit subject for a lunatic asylum. But I have exploded the theory that grand opera can only be appreciated by multi-millionaires or those whom in this

country you would describe as the aristocracy. . . . . My idea has not been to erect a building with tier above tier of boxes to be filled by the rich, although they also come to my opera house, but I started to cater for the people with the best that the world can give. . . . . In England I have heard it said that grand opera is not popular with the masses. Have you attempted to provide proper accommodation for the people to hear grand opera? That is just what has not been done, and that is just my mission in the United States.

When shall we have our Hammerstein in London?

Some interesting impressions of his recent visit to the States which Dr. Saint-Saëns has contributed to a Paris paper are reproduced in the New York *Musical Courier*. From the musical point of view he speaks in praise of the standard of taste prevailing. "I have often found better taste in America than in certain towns of Europe that I will take care not to name. . . . I have found excellent orchestras in which there were often French artists, and often good conductors. It was necesary for me to find again the fingers of the past in order to play my concerto in G minor that everybody wished to hear executed by the author. This did not much please me, as to-day young men play it better than I do, and I myself prefer to play the fifth, that is more suitable to my present capacity. I played my G minor at Washington in the presence of President Roosevelt, who, after having graciously received me, did me the rare and signal honour of coming to hear me play. Yes, America pleased me, and I would willingly return to it. But should I like to live there? That is another question." Dr. Saint-Saëns, by the way, has recently been paying a flying visit to London.

Some remarks ascribed to Mme. Melba the other day in connection with the laying of the corner stone of the new factory that is being built at Hayes, Middlesex, by the Gramophone and Typewriter, Ltd., are sufficiently apt to deserve reproduction from the *Tribune*:—

The element of permanence which has hitherto been one of the great forces drawing men towards the arts of literature, painting, and sculpture seems likely to be added to the other attractions of the arts of music and singing by the perfecting of the gramophone. The singer's voice will no longer be something merely ephemeral, to be enjoyed by a single generation and then lost amid the mists of tradition. That is one of the reasons why I take so much interest in all that appertains to the gramophone and its development.

That is very well said, and the point is one which is sometimes overlooked by superior persons, who regard the so-called "talking machine" as a contrivance which has merely added a new terror to existence. The great vocalist of to-day, it may be stated as a literal truth, sings not for an age, but for all time, in virtue of this amazing invention, and though it may be some time yet before the reproduction equals the original in all respects, the vast improvement which has already been effected in this respect supplies the best reason for thinking that eventually the one will be almost indistinguishable from the other.

Herr Kubelik is surely the most litigious of all living concert artists, and what is worse, he seems usually to be on the losing side. Some years ago, it may be remembered, he brought an unsuccessful action for libel against a Frankfort musical critic, who had commented unflatteringly upon his personal appearance. More recently he was involved in a suit brought against his agent in respect of a poster which the latter had declined to pay for, and now the litigation which he has been carrying on for a considerable time past with M. Schürmann, the Parisian impresario, has resulted in his being cast in £80 damages for breach of contract during a tour in Spain and Portugal. Among other things, Kubelik declined, it appears, ever to play on two successive evenings, alleging sometimes as a reason that "the soul of his Stradivari was out of sorts," and generally sorely tried his manager, who wrote in desperation to M. Schürmann that "it would be easier to tame a cage of wild beasts" than this intractable child of genius. Now Kubelik will have to pay up. The artistic temperament is apt to get nasty rubs in the law courts.

Why do lady artists wear their hats at afternoon performances? It is an absurd custom which has its counterpart in the suède gloves of your conventional tenor. It always suggests that the performer is more concerned respecting his or her appearance than as to the music in hand. Really serious artists never condescend to such trivialities. Imagine Lady Hallé playing Beethoven's violin concerto in a bonnet! Yet this would not be more incongruous than Mme. Ada Crossley, say, singing Schubert's songs in a hat. The liking for wearing their hats indoors in this ridiculous manner seems to be shared by the more frivolous sort of lady vocalists with our old friends Mrs. Gamp and Mrs. Harris.

Should applause in the concert-room be abolished? There are always some super-sensitive souls to tell us that it is a relic of barbarism, and one such has, I notice, recently been propounding a novel remedy for what he denounces as an insupportable affliction. Despairing apparently of suppressing the hateful thing entirely, he suggests that "audiences should count inaudibly two bars before giving free rein to their clamant desire to reward the players." It is certainly a novel idea, and the spectacle of a large audience silently counting its two bars before giving vent to its feelings would be an inspiring one. The worst of it is that audiences are often very intractable in such matters—as Lord Kilmorey discovered the other day at the Santley Jubilee Concert, when he attempted to conduct a spirited rendering of that soulful chorus, "For he's a jolly good fellow." Apart from this, applause happens to be, in point of fact, the life and soul of public music. There is nothing more depressing than musical performances—those given in churches and cathedrals, for example—at which such demonstrations are prohibited.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"The Secrets of the Vatican" (1) suggests Protestant disclosures of Borgia horrors, but Mr. Douglas Sladen, in this interesting, sumptuously got-up, and elaborate guide-book to the palace of the Pope's, is as sympathetic as a broad-minded Protestant could possibly be in his treatment of his subject. He is, indeed, so impartially sympathetic as to insert as much of the Archbishop of Westminster's address to the Catholic Conference at Brighton as bore upon the current crisis of the Church in France—not itself, perhaps, a notably impartial statement of the case. Mr. Douglas Sladen's main aim, however, is to supply at once the tourist and the stay-at-home reader, whether Catholic or Protestant, with a description of those parts of the Vatican which are not generally visited, either because they are inacessible to the ordinary visitor, or because the ordinary visitor has no idea of their existence. Yet more interesting are Mr. Douglas Sladen's incidental chapters upon the homely daily life and "the sad splendour" of the death of a Pope; of the ceremonial of his election; and of the various functions of Cardinals, of the Sacred Congregations, and of the Pope's household generally. It may, perhaps, be as great a surprise to you as it was to me in my Protestant ignorance to learn that a layman may be, and has been, elected Pope.

According to the strict letter of the law any Roman Catholic male is eligible for the papacy. John XIX., elected Pope in 1024, and, perhaps, Hadrian V., elected Pope in 1276, were actually laymen. The Anti-Pope, Felix V., who reigned from 1439-1449 was certainly a layman, for he was Duke of Savoy. In the first eleven centuries of the Papacy deacons and priests were habitually elected Popes; in fact, up to the end of the ninth century only one bishop, Formosus (891-896), was elected Pope.

The greatest of all the Popes, Gregory VII., the Warwick of the Papacy, was a simple Deacon at his

(1) "The Secrets of the Vatican." By Douglas Sladen. With Sixty Illustrations and Plans, including Reproductions of the most Interesting Engravings in Pestolesi's Great Work on the Vatican. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Limited. 21s net.)

(2) "The Remnant." By Charles Marriott. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

(3) "Arminel of the West." By John Trevena. (London: Alston Rivers, Limited. 6s.)

(4) "A Gallant of Gascony." By Philip L. Stevenson. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Limited. 6s.)

(5) "The Husband-Hunter." By Olivia Roy. (London: T. Werner Laurie. 6s.)

election. Pius III. and the magnificent Leo X. were also only Deacons at their election. Since, however, Urban VI. (1378) only one Pope has been elected who was not a Cardinal. After the Great Schism (1378 to 1409) the Popes, with three exceptions—Calixtus III., Alexander VI., and Hadrian VI.—have been Italians. As the Dutchman, Hadrian VI., was elected under the influence of Charles V., the only two exceptions which count are Calixtus III. and Alexander VI., and as these Spaniards were the Borgia Popes, the precedents for the election of foreigners to the Papacy are not encouraging. Before the Great Schism, however, many foreigners were elected to the Papacy—twenty-two Oriental, seventeen French, a few Germans and Spaniards, one Dutchman, and one Englishman. For the last three centuries the Popes have been generally nobly born, but the magnificent Sixtus V. and the present Pope were both of humble origin. For the present Pope Mr. Douglas Sladen's reverence is profound, and, indeed, his account of Cardinal Sarto's sincere and saintly shrinking from the appalling responsibilities of the Chair of St. Peter—which for hours before the altar with tears and prayers he deprecated—would alone justify this reverence. Nor has promotion to that dizzy and dreaded height affected the singleness, simplicity, and humility of the Pope's character. When the Papal nobility begged him to make his homely sisters countesses at least, he replied, smiling, "I have made them sisters of the Pope." When the aristocratic Catholics of Lucca objected to the low birth of an Archbishop he had appointed to that see, he asked: "Am I then to understand that you would have rejected me as a man of low birth if I had been appointed a few months ago Archbishop of Lucca instead of Pope?" A poor priest who was similarly objected to when, as Cardinal Sarto, Archbishop of Venice, he would have appointed him to a vacancy in the Chapter of St. Mark's, when Pope he promoted as Patriarch to rule over the very Chapter of which he was deemed unfit to be a member. Mr. Douglas Sladen, in the excess of his sympathy with his subject, praises the authorities of the Vatican Library for their breadth of mind in exhibiting prominently the writings of Martin Luther. I fancy, however, you will see rather policy than tolerance in the exhibition as Luther's manuscript of a translation of the Bible, with the following prayer, in the same writing, appended:—

> O God, be graciously pleased to grant us clothes and hats, cloaks and gowns, fat calves and goats, oxen, sheep and bulls, many wives and few children. Bad meat and ill-drink make life uneasy.

We credit Catholics with so many incredible things that it is quite possible they, in their turn, should sincerely believe this prayer to be Luther's. The most amusing thing in Mr. Douglas Sladen's admirable book is the compromise made by a pious Pope, who begged the Sultan of Turkey to confer upon his mule the splendid decoration his conscience forbade him to accept for himself. The Sultan accordingly sent his Holiness's mule a gorgeous crimson velvet saddle and a caparison covered with diamonds. Then the pious Pope, after the diamonds had been duly consecrated by presentation to his mule, felt free to appropriate them to his own use! I have no doubt that Mr. Douglas Sladen's sumptuous volume is *the* book of the day at once for visitors to the Vatican in person and for those who must content themselves with visiting it in spirit.

Mr. Charles Marriott's "The Remnant" (2) contrasts the conventional and unconventional, or rather the tamed and untamed inhabitants of a Cornish village, which is in the grip of a masterful magnate, who insists upon making every one healthy, wealthy, happy and wise in his own despotic way. Among the untamed are his own imbecile father, his own high-spirited daughter, and even his own wife, who takes a secret and sensual pleasure in thrashing her little daughter with a horsewhip. By the way, I cannot think that a woman who took this sensual and Assyrian delight in the sight of the tears and blood of her own little helpless girl would suggest this dreadful lust to the hero at their first interview. "I should have liked living in Rome in the time of Nero; when I was in Spain I went to a bull-fight every Sunday," she confides to him; whereas such a monster would surely take the pains every one takes to efface all traces of his secret sin. Her devilishness, however, serves the purpose of bringing together in a way that would shock Mrs. Grundy into a fit, the hero and heroine. Both these characters are as convincing as they are interesting, incomparably more convincing and interesting to me than the spiritual apothecary, Dorothy, who transcends my gross apprehension. All the other characters of the story are drawn with the subtle insight you have come to expect from Mr. Marriott, while the Cornish scenes and atmosphere are rendered to picturesque perfection. You are in Cornwall also as well as in Devonshire in Mr. John Trevena's "Arminel of the West" (3), a heroine who says inadequately of herself that "she has conquered every one simply by being nice." And the "pretty low-born lass" has to conquer difficulties and prejudices of all kinds before she reaches the haven where she would be of the hero's heart. This hero is relatively, and perhaps absolutely, a poor creature, but your interest fortunately centres not in him, nor in the heroine's rival, nor in her monastic mummy of a father, nor in her heart-broken mother—all three rather incredible—but in Arminel herself, her people, and her fortunes. She is the most charming of heroines, and your absorbing interest in her dulls your pity for the misery of her ruined rival. Mr. Philip Stevenson's "A Gallant of Gascony" (4) transports you into a very different world, dealing historically, as it does, with an episode in the chequered career of Marguerite de Valois. Indeed, most of the characters and incidents in the novel are, says the author, historical, and you regret only that he did not do so much violence to history as to restore the half-hanged hero to life at the close. The stratagem of the friendly hangman ought either to have been effective or to have been untried:—

> Vex not his ghost: O let him pass; he hates him much
> That would upon the rack of this tough world
> Stretch him out longer.

If you are in the mood for a stirring story of the Dumas type you cannot do better than bury yourself in the pages of "A Gallant of Gascony." In "The Husband Hunter" (5) you are interested not so much in the attempts of a woman to catch a husband as in the scheme of a husband to capture the love of a wife who had married him for his money. You see through the husband's disguise long before his identity is guessed by Joanna March or revealed to Lady Chester. This, however, does not in the least degree diminish your enjoyment of a clever and brightly-written story in which there is much skilful character drawing.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The publication of a book containing a selection of Mr. Gladstone's letters and papers on ecclesiastical and theological affairs will fulfil an arrangement which was made by his literary executors at the time when Mr. Morley wrote his biography. It was found that owing to the mass of material which Mr. Morley had to deal with, it would be advisable to reserve these letters and papers for separate treatment. The executors have entrusted the selection of the letters and the preparation of the explanatory narrative to Mr. D. C. Lathbury, and the book will be published by Mr. John Murray.

Mark Twain has written a book entitled, "King Leopold's Soliloquy," which will help to swell the rising flood of public indignation against that monarch's misgovernment of the Congo State. In the form of a satire, it is really a passionate plea for justice for the oppressed natives. The book, which will be published by Mr. Unwin next week, contains a preface and some supplementary matter by Mr. E. D. Morel. By the way, a new shilling edition of "Red Rubber," Mr. Morel's own powerful exposure of King Leopold's Congo atrocities, is being issued by Mr. Unwin.

In a volume on "War and the World's Life," which Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. will have ready in a week or two, Colonel F. N. Maude treats of the psychology of war. His aim is to show that as in the human body the different parts are correlated, so the relation of differ-

ent parts of the national organism—army, navy, industry, etc.—must depend upon the environment of the particular country, if there is to be satisfactory power of attack and defence.

A novel entitled "The Spendthrift," which Mr. Heinemann announces, is from the pen of Miss Jessie Leckie Harbertson, whose last book, "The Stigma," was the subject of a copyright action. Another novelist was so much impressed by "The Stigma" that he boldly plagiarised a substantial part of it, the result being that the Court of Chancery granted a perpetual injunction against the further sale of his book. Miss Harbertson's new story is regarded as an exceptionally fine one, with an even more subtle piece of character-drawing than "The Stigma."

To their series of charming little volumes called "The Bibelots," admirably printed and tastefully bound in leather, Messrs. Gay and Bird have just added "Gems from Boswell" (price 2s. 6d.). A very good selection of passages from the "Life of Johnson" and the "Tour to the Hebrides" has been made by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, but many of the notes that he has appended to them could have been spared. Boswell's gems did not need the setting of such pointless comments by Mr. Fitzgerald as, for example, "Another of his amusing confessions," or "A pleasing picture, lightly touched."

Mr. Edmund H. New's illustrations constitute a special attraction of the volume of "Poems by William Wordsworth," which has just been published by Messrs. Methuen, price 7s. 6d. net. Dr. Stopford A. Brooke, who made the selection of poems, contributes an eloquent and stimulating appreciation of Wordsworth, in which he dwells particularly upon the manner in which his poetry was influenced by the scenery of Grasmere. The inception of the present volume was, however, due to Mr. New, who had for many years cherished the idea of making a set of drawings which would form a sort of pictorial commentary to Wordsworth's verses, and represent those scenes in the English Lake country which provided the chief source of his inspiration. In the pen and ink drawings here reproduced Mr. New's always delicate, delightful art is seen at its best. The pictures fall into four groups, beginning with Cockermouth, where Wordsworth's childhood was spent; next depicting Hawkshead and the neighbourhood, the scene of his schooldays; then Grasmere, so closely associated with his early manhood; and last, Rydal, his home from 1813 till his death in 1850.

Venice has been the subject of innumerable books, but for the appearance of another there is always the excuse that it is, after all, a subject of inexhaustible interest. Certainly there was room for the charming colour-book on "Venice," written by Beryl de Sélincourt and May Sturge Henderson, and illustrated by Mr. Reginald Barratt, A.R.W.S., which has lately been published (price 10s. 6d.) by Messrs. Chatto and Windus. Mrs. de Sélincourt and Mrs. Sturge Henderson have, wisely, not attempted to give a connected history of the city, or a glorified guide-book description of its charms. They have rather chosen to dwell upon the more important epochs and characteristic aspects of Venetian history and art and to convey their own vivid impressions of the beauty and the fascination of "The Bride of the Adriatic." In doing this they have displayed not only sound knowledge, good taste, and rare insight, but a gift for eloquent writing which places the text of this volume on a far higher plane than that of the vast majority of recent colour-books. Mr. Barratt's series of thirty water-colour drawings are beautiful pictures and have been beautifully reproduced.

Mr. Mortimer Menpes and his daughter, Miss Dorothy Menpes, have been jointly responsible for several of the most successful colour-books issued by Messrs. A. and C. Black, and this happy collaboration is repeated in a new volume on "Paris" (price 6s. net). Twenty-four paintings by Mr. Menpes, admirable examples of this artist's work, are reproduced in colours, and he also contributes numerous line drawings which are interspersed through the letterpress. The latter is by Miss Menpes, who gives a vivacious and enthusiastic description of Paris and Parisian life.

Messrs T. Sealey Clark and Co. have just published the 1907 edition of "The Green Room Year Book" (price 5s.), which, though only in its second year, has already established itself in public favour as an invaluable guide to the contemporary stage. The "Who's Who" section gives condensed biographies of the leading actors, dramatists, and critics; and among various other features are a review of the dramatic year, a synopsis of London playbills (including the full casts) for 1906, lists of the new plays produced in New York, Paris, and Berlin, and a series of genealogical tables of well-known English and American theatrical families. There are also articles on dramatic criticism and other subjects of interest to every one who is interested in the stage; and in addition the book contains much useful information for managers and artists.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is full of tourists. I see them everywhere I go. And by what marks do I know them? you will ask. First and chiefly, I reply, by a somewhat dingy waterproof hanging on the arm. Short tourists of either sex carry long waterproofs, and long tourists carry short ones. But sometimes, even before I sight the waterproof, I note the look of concentrated worry that betrays the tourist, as of one who knows not where he shall eat his next meal. He has to put aside his interest in the sights of London and thrust aside his happiness in seeing them, to think of trains, and what motor 'buses go where, to cogitate on the marvellous difference in the price of meals at one restaurant and at another, and perhaps to bear the aching of the money nerve, suffering from having had to pay 7s. 6d. each for his own and his companion's luncheon, when he had thought it would not come to nearly half that sum for both. And the thought torments him that both of them looked completely "out of it" among the smart, with their dusty boots and faces, their rough hair and their waterproofs.

I have a fatal weakness for a grey Homburg hat. I forgive much to the tourist who wears one. I pardon nothing to him who wears a cap. Apollo himself would have looked a cad in a travelling cap of the shape I mean. It cannot help its shape, for it lives in pockets, is often sat on, is thrown at wasps and mosquitoes, is crumpled in the hands in moments of forgetfulness or of nervous agitation, and in many ways is a scapegoat for its aristocratic relative, the silk hat. The more reverent a man's attitude to the latter, the more brutal will be his behaviour to his travelling cap.

The grey Homburg hat escapes much of this ill-treatment; and how beautifully it assorts with grey hair. I seldom go out without seeing some fine old face under one of these hats, and I often wish I knew the owner. The travelled man is the cultivated man, as a rule. He is cosmopolitan and one can often read his broad-mindedness in his countenance.

Have you ever noticed how much happier are the faces of the old than of the young? A lowering discontent too often spoils the handsome looks of girls and youths. They expect too much of life, I suppose, and are in a chronic state of disappointment; whereas the elders have won through with their experiences and have learned to be contented with the present.

Or is it, do you think, that young people have not yet discovered themselves amidst the rush and jar and bustle of life, and that they feel unsettled and moody, even irritable, until they do? I think there is

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something in this, and should like to have your opinion. Youth has to be egoistic in a great degree, and egoism leads to discontent. Yet how can a creature avoid egoism whose whole occupation is self-education, his own career, finding his niche in the world? Elders ought to be very patient with the youngsters, yet not so patient as to let their little faults grow into large ones. And oh, how very impatient some of the old ones are with the young ones. To see it, one would think they never had been young themselves; or had entirely lost the sweet memory of their bygone youth.

It is after youth is past that one is at leisure from oneself to study life and to discover how intensely interesting it is, crammed full of things that engage the attention and pique curiosity. I cannot understand how any one can ever be for a single moment dull or want to "kill time," the very worst form of killing next to murder of a fellow-creature; after good health and good friends time is our most precious possession. I suppose the persons who are bored with life are those who have allowed the little seedlings of interest in things to die down for want of cherishment. Here we are in the midst of incessant novelty, new circumstances, new acquaintance, new books, new plays, new pictures, such daily avalanches of fresh news from all over the world, that time fails us to imbibe it all. And how can any one be bored?

I often think of the words of a small daughter of one of our statesmen. When told she must go to sleep she said, "I can't make my thoughts sit down." Some people's thoughts never do sit down, while other people's hardly ever sit up. It takes all sorts to make a world.

I must snatch another moment to tell you of a lovely evening gown in very soft and lustrous cream satin, of the kind called Venus. It is half Empire shape, and is a real picture frock, with its beautiful folds and fine embroidery, its tucker of needle-run lace threaded with fine gold braid, and its softly falling panelled skirt.

And furniture! Is not furniture interesting? There are few occupations more enjoyable than turning a series of four bare walls into places of sweetness, comfort, and soft colour, where the atmosphere is agreeably congenial to such occupations as reading, writing, conversing with friends, eating, and sleeping. That we Londoners have no lack of opportunities of choice you are aware; and yet another has now been opened to us in Oxford-street. The well-known Hackney Furnishing Company has opened there a spacious furniture gallery, where series upon series of beautifully furnished rooms aid the choice of the purchaser, and stimulate his taste. The motto of the firm is said to be, "Best goods at lowest prices." This is encouraging, especially as they also pride themselves upon the quality of their workmanship and the durability of what they sell. In the basement there are immense spaces devoted to linoleum and other floor coverings, as well as a variety of miscellaneous goods. Upstairs there is drawing-room furniture, all shown upon luxurious carpets and in every possible period—Louis XVI., Empire, Chippendale, Sheraton, and all of those beautiful outlines which now so happily replace the heavy furniture of a few years since. And so on to dining-room, library, bedroom, and bathroom, with all latest ideas in fittings; and finally, still higher up, there is a huge carpet room, where the light is cleverly managed to imitate daylight, enabling the purchaser to judge effects at any hour of the day. Certainly things are made easy for us all nowadays, and there is no excuse for failure in furnishing tastefully and well. Mr. A. M. Stewart, managing director, has even organised a service of swift motors to convey purchasers from the West End house to the old-established one at Hackney.

The Duchess of Connaught will receive purses at the Rainbow bazaar, to be held at Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week. The charity to be benefited is the British Lying-in Hospital, of which many of our Royal princesses are patrons. Each stall is to have its special badge. I suppose that is why the bazaar is called "Rainbow." A cerise badge is to be worn by the ladies who assemble under the banner of the Dowager Countess of Longford to assist at the refreshment stall. Heliotrope is to be the colour at the basket, china, and pottery stall, and Constance Countess of Romney has chosen a pale green badge for the table linen and handkerchiefs that she will vend. The Marchioness of Salisbury, with a red and white badge, will sell servants' dresses, caps, aprons, and charity clothes, assisted by matrons and nurses of the hospital. Mrs. Whitelaw Reid takes charge of the American stall, which is to have fans, enamels, etc., for its wares and dark blue for its badge. Emerald-green is the very appropriate tint for that of the flower stall, and pale pink is chosen for the baby clothes and toys to be sold by Mrs. Claud Lambton. The Duchess of Somerset, assisted by the Countess of Yarborough, is to deal in sunbonnets, kimenos, soaps, sachets, scents, and the Marchioness of Tweeddale will sell sweets. Mrs. Cyril Maude undertakes stationery, books, menus, photographs, and will wear a primrose badge. The Countess of Darnley is to preside at the art stall, and Beatrice Lady Ellenborough at the advertisement counter. There is to be a fishpond under the care of the Marchioness of Hamilton. With all these attractions the bazaar should be a great success.

Is there anything that Beauty is more absolutely dependent on than the fine and perfect laundering of her clothes? In these days of diaphanous and filmy materials, of blouses that one could blow about like feathers, of lace transparencies, skirts of chiffon, ninon, lisse, and painted muslin, where would Beauty be without the finished skill that turns out all these things to absolute perfection? I wonder how many pretty women realise their indebtedness for the finish and *chic* of their appearance to the humble workers in soap and water, with iron and clear-starching? I thought of all this the other day when Lilla, whom I found packing for a run abroad, was admiring the exquisite laundering of some white lawn dressing-gowns, with their lace trimmings, of blouses, saut-de-lit, and fichus, which her maid was packing with infinite care and any quantity of pale pink tissue paper. I joined in her admiration and asked where her laundry is: "Such a pretty name," she said; "it is the Woodland Laundry in Park-road East, Acton. Marjorie told me about it one day when she found me in a rage over a lovely dressing-coat returned in rags and some other things not returned at all. Marjorie said that they had dealt with the Woodland for a couple of years, and that the system was so good that nothing of theirs had ever been lost in the wash. I have had great comfort with it; even lace gowns that I always used to send to the cleaner's I now send regularly to the Woodland, and they come home looking lovely."

And Lilla is rather hard to please, as you know. She showed me a pink china silk night-gown that looked like new. It had been washed seven times; and you know how fragile these garments are. One of the good things about the Woodland is that each family's things are washed separately and by hand. It sounds ideal.

I have received the following from Mona:—

My dear Madge,—The plant which you ask about, with large umbels of handsome orange or yellow flowers, is a clivia. It was formerly called an imantophyllum, in allusion to its leathery, strap-like leaves, and under that name it still appears in many horticultural catalogues. There are three species: C. Gardeni, with ten or twelve red and yellow flowers in an umbel; C. miniata, with about fifteen orange and buff; and C. nobilis, with about fifty red and yellow. All three have been introduced from South Africa. A large number of hybrids have been raised from them, and though they do not differ much from the original

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species, they are superior in some respects, and consequently are superseding them in gardens. The named varieties are rather expensive, but among the unnamed seedlings, which are much cheaper, will be found many not less beautiful, especially if you buy them before they have flowered in the nursery, because the best cannot then have been picked out and transferred to the named class. The plants are evergreen, a fact which adds greatly to their decorative value, whether for the conservatory or for the house. They are very easily managed. All that is necessary is to keep the foliage clean and to give them during their growing period plenty of water, occasionally with a teaspoonful of some artificial fertiliser dissolved in it. In winter, of course, they need less water, but the soil should never be quite dry. As they are seldom attacked by any insect or fungoid diseases, you will see that they give very little trouble. That they need repotting at intervals I need not say; they will insist on that themselves, for if left too long they usually burst their pots, disclosing an extraordinary mass of thick, white, fleshy roots, with no visible soil. It is not advisable, however, to disturb them more often than is absolutely necessary. Like many other plants, they flower better when they are pot-bound than they do when the roots have plenty of space. Any deficiency of soil may be made good by feeding, as I have already suggested. Clivias are much more hardy than is generally supposed. There is really no need to grow them in a warm greenhouse as is usually done, though, of course, they will there make more rapid progress than they would do under cooler conditions; but, as we have proved, they may be wintered quite safely in a cold frame—at any rate, in the southern counties—provided that the lights are covered with mats in exceptionally severe weather.

We have tried under the same conditions another group of the same family—the hippeastrums—the handsomest of the amaryllis lilies, but with them we have not been quite so successful. You know them, of course—the big bulbs half out of the soil, and the large five-petalled flowers, usually some brilliant shade of red with a stripe of white down the centre of each petal. Natives of tropical South America, they are naturally accustomed to a higher temperature than the clivias, but as many plants for which artificial heat is considered necessary can be grown without it, we thought we would experiment with some hippeastrums. As they lose their leaves in autumn, they are easily managed in winter. If the bulbs are kept dry, or nearly dry, and placed where frost cannot reach them, they are not likely to come to any harm. It is best, however, not to remove them from their pots, but to leave them in the soil until they are to be repotted in spring. It is at this time that the difficulty occurs. Without heat they are slow in starting, and if they are kept too moist, or if water lodges at the collar the bulbs are apt to decay. I do not, therefore, recommend you to try to grow them entirely in a cold house or frame, but if you can start them in heat—a hot-bed will do perfectly—they will afterwards grow there quite satisfactorily, and I am sure you will be charmed with them. By the way, the flowers appear before the leaves, so you should arrange to hide the pots either by grouping ferns or other plants around them, or by planting in them trailers, which will flower about the same time.

I know there is a prejudice among gardeners against growing two plants in the same pot, but the reason which they give—that one will starve the other—is not very sound; for different kinds of plants require different kinds of food, or—what comes to much the same thing—the same kinds in different proportions, so that they do not interfere with one another as two individuals of the same species would do. This is why the mixed border can be packed much more closely than would be possible in any single-plant bed, and it explains how the dense crowds of plants in our hedgerows manage to live. In pots, too, the soil is generally renewed every year, and while growth is proceeding the ingredients which have been abstracted from it are frequently replaced by the addition of artificial fertilisers. I do not think, therefore, that you need ever be afraid of growing two different plants in the same pot, and when the principal one is tall and rather bare at the bottom, another chosen for the purpose of covering the soil and hanging down around the pot is a very great improvement.

Don't you find it very difficult at this season to find room for all the plants that one wants to grow in the greenhouse? Bedding plants crowd the shelves, and everything else has to make way for them. It is the greatest comfort when one can move them into cold frames—and in many cases this is possible now—and there expose them to as much light and air as possible in order to harden them off. Our geraniums are already being subjected to this process. Oh, yes, many people still grow them, and very beautiful some of them are, admirable for a dry summer, though for a wet one much inferior to begonias. All the early flowers we pinch off, so that the plants may be at their best when they go into the beds. Another old-fashioned bedding plant we grow in great quantities is Gazania splendens. It has a trailing habit, and, being smothered with orange flowers throughout the summer, is charming for covering the ground between taller plants. It requires a light soil and a sunny position, but, given these conditions, it is as fine a plant of the kind as I know. Of course, it is not hardy, and it should be propagated afresh every year by means of cuttings; this is best done in August.—Your affectionate cousin,

MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—When it does come at long last is anything in the world better worth having waited for than a fine May day? How dainty, delicate, and altogether exquisite are the workings of Nature in the early youth of the season of beauty. Wherever Nature is at work we find ourselves in a transformed world. Not only what are commonly called "flowers" are in flower, so also are the trees and fields and hedges. Every growing thing is "a thing of beauty," even the poor things born to the sad future of a town garden, or the less ignominious fate of a suburban one, or a public park. If only we had time to look on at all the wonderful works that Nature is doing, the marvellous garments she is fashioning for the earth, in such infinite variety! But most of us are far otherwise engaged; Nature performs, as it were, to empty benches; our sex are, as a rule, too absorbed with the fashion of their own garb; more entranced and wholly taken up with the colour scheme of Paquin, etc., than with anything Nature may be showing in the wonders of colour. As for those that go down to the real country in motors, still less do they see any of its wonders. I shall never forget the contempt of a very "motorious" friend, who had made a motor "rush" through one of the most picturesque of counties, when congratulated on having seen such loveliness. "Good gracious, do you think we saw anything! Charlie has the latest thing in motors, and drives splendidly. It was as much as I could do to retain a sense of my own identity, let alone having any sense that there were mountains, lakes, fields, or moorlands anywhere

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about. Such pace! It was glorious!" The Danse Macabre of the twentieth century is indeed a very quick movement.

Whitsuntide has great possibilities as a holiday time, and not a few uncertainties when it happens to fall near the middle of May. If it's good, it is very good, but, alas! it can be very horrid. With the excellent example of Easter before it, we hoped and prepared for an amiable Whitsuntide, with the world all before us, "where to choose" a place of "rush" or rest, according to our various holiday tastes. How few is the number of those who seek recreation in anything but a change of activities. Restful holidays are less in favour each year. One cannot think that a cheap excursion for quiet wanderers, to be set down in remote places, on breezy moorlands and peaceful countrysides, would have a crowded and popular patronage. Yet what more restful and healthful to mind and body than Wordsworthian days, when the very real beauty around us would make us, with time to study it, feel the glory that was never yet "on sea or land." Only think what a thorough change a few poetic days would be for most of us. They would at least send us back to our prose with increased avidity and renewed energy if they did not put any permanent leaven of poetry into it. By the way, have you ever been in your own Lake country at the end of May? The peaceful loveliness of Windermere and Grasmere are enough to make the prosiest understand at least that poets of the Lake School could have existed, and might very well be going on still. The foliage, the bluebell woods, the sedges whispering by the lapping waters! A dream of prosperous, peaceful, English beauty. Beautiful in its characteristic English way, as Killarney in its wilder Celtic. Our holiday is over now, let us hope that it has given, one and all of us, pleasant memories

Lord and Lady Aberdeen were at the Viceregal Lodge last week. They are both very energetic in the cause of the exhibition, to which they pay frequent visits. We have supposed—not altogether unanimously perhaps—that it would be a success, and are now growing every day more sure that it will be. It is so enjoyable to combine instruction with amusement and to have mountain breezes in a pretty park so near to Dublin. But then our capital has always been renowned for what may be called the "countryness" of its immediate environs. We wonder what is to happen at the Horse Show time, with the double attractions, at Ball's Bridge. You know the exhibition and horse show grounds are close together, only the picturesque Dodder river running between. Lady Aberdeen was present during the week at the Alexandra College conference, when the Dowager Lady Dufferin was amongst other ladies who read most interesting papers on various serious subjects connected with woman's work. Formerly women were too idle to work at serious things, now it is generally found that they are too active. Golf and hockey, hunting and motoring, and so on give little time for other pursuits.

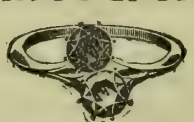
Lord and Lady Ardilaun are staying at St. Anne's, near Clontarf, where they usually stay for some weeks at this season, and give garden parties, which are the delight of their guests. Lady Ardilaun's gardens always show the latest ideas in gardening, as differing from mere gardener's gardens they may be called "My Lady's gardens."—Yours ever, CLARE.

Try this Salade à la Marie and tell me how you like it:—

Boil half a pint of green peas in salted water and strain them, turn a bunch of young carrots of an equal size, boil them in salted water about 20 minutes and strain them, finish cooking the carrots with a little white wine, adding a spoonful of white vinegar, a bouquet of herbs, including spring onions, and a small piece of butter. When the carrots are cold, dish them in a salad bowl, mixing lightly with them two tablespoonfuls of salad oil, half a teaspoonful of white vinegar, and a little salt and pepper. Season the peas in the same way, and with them make a border, sprinkle them very lightly with chopped parsley, and crown the summit with a bouquet of chervil.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

DIAMOND RINGS & ORNAMENTS



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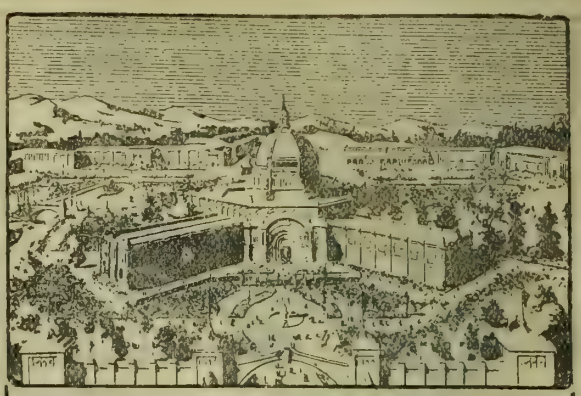

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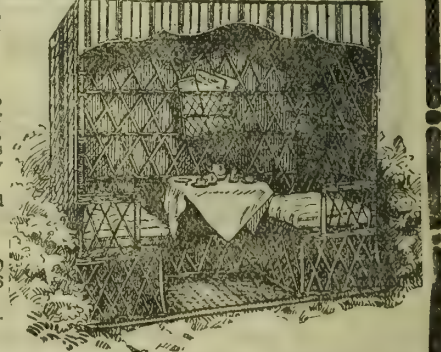

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A Good Complexion is Better than a Pretty Face.

J. PEPPER & CO., Bedford Laboratory, London, S.E.

The Subscription List will close on or before Friday, May 24, 1907.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) & BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886.

Offer of £1,000,000 5% Debenture Stock at £103%.

Repayable at £110 per £100 on January 1, 1940.

Part of an authorised Issue of £1,500,000 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, created under the authority of a resolution of the Company on May 16, 1907. The Trust Deed by which this Issue is secured stipulates that it can only be increased with the consent of the Trustees, and the approval of a General Meeting of the Company. In no case, however, can it be increased by an amount in excess of £2,000 per mile of additional line to be acquired or constructed by the Company.

This Stock has a general charge upon the undertaking of the Company after the 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent. Debenture Stocks already issued, and is secured by a Trust Deed, dated May 16, 1907, made between the Company and the Trustees, and will be repayable at £110 per £100 on January 1, 1940, but the Company reserves power to redeem before this date by purchase in the open market or by public tender. In the event of any liquidation for reconstruction or amalgamation the Stock will not be repayable at less than £110 per £100.

TRUSTEE FOR THE 5 PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS:—
BARON SCHRODER. FRANK C. TIARKS, Esq. JOHN ORR, Esq.

SOLICITORS TO THE TUSTEES:—
Messrs. HOLLAMS, SONS, COWARD & HAWKSLEY.

Messrs. J. HENRY SCHRODER & CO., having acquired the above-mentioned £1,000,000 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, beg to offer the same at £103 per £100 Stock, as follows:—

£5	per cent.	on	Application.
20	,,	,,	Allotment.
25	,,	,,	July 26.
25	,,	,,	September 10.
28	,,	,,	October 17.
Total ...	£103		

The Stock will be transferable in multiples of £1.

The instalments carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from their due dates till October 31 next, and scrip to bearer carrying a coupon for £1 per £100 will be issued after Allotment.

The Scrip will be exchangeable on and after 1st November next free of expense for Certificates of the Stock in the names of the scrip holders, who will be entitled to the interest accruing from the 1st November next. Interest will thenceforth be payable half-yearly on the 1st May and 1st November.

Allottees will have the option of paying up in full on Allotment, or on the date of any subsequent instalment, under discount at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

The failure to pay any instalment when due renders all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Where the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be applied towards the amount payable on Allotment. If no Allotment is made, the deposit will be returned without deduction.

THE Company was formed in the year 1888, and its lines then consisted of about 273 miles of railway, running from the port of Antofagasta in a N.E. direction through some of the most important mineral and nitrate districts of Chili. In 1889 an extension from the Chilian frontier to Uyuni, Bolivia, about 105 miles in length, was carried out, and in the year 1892 the line was extended from Uyuni to Oruro, Bolivia, a distance of about 195 miles. During recent years, several branches have been constructed, so that the Company's lines now consist of about 640 miles of railway, while other branches are in course of construction. In addition to these branches, new pipe lines for water from the Cordillera mountains are being laid, on completion of which it is anticipated that the revenue of the Company will be greatly increased.

On account of the enormous increase of the traffic of the Company, the receipts from which have risen from $5,439,153 in the year 1896, to about $16,845,000 in the past year, the port of Antofagasta has proved to be quite inadequate to deal with the imports and exports carried by this line, and the port of Mejillones, to which a branch has been constructed, is now being equipped with the necessary moles and appliances to relieve the pressure at the port of Antofagasta. As soon as these arrangements have been completed, it will be possible to overcome the existing difficulty of dealing economically with the ever-growing traffic of the Railway.

In spite of the increased mileage, and the great expansion of the business of the Company during the past ten years, its Debenture Debt has only been increased by the issue of £1,000,000, in 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock, and the proceeds of the present Issue are required for the above-mentioned construction, additional rolling stock and accommodation, and the general purposes of the Railway.

The net revenue of the Company for the last three years has been as follows:—

1904	£326,858
1905	£366,055
1906	£380,000*

* The final accounts for the year are not yet to hand.

After deducting the amount required to provide interest on the 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent. Debenture Stocks from the net revenue for 1906, as stated above, there remains a balance of about £295,000, while the amount required for interest upon the present Issue will be £50,000.

A Contract dated the 16th May, 1907, has been made between the Company and Messrs. J. HENRY SCHRODER & Co., for the acquisition from the Company at par of the Debenture Stock now offered, and this Contract, together with the Trust Deed for securing the Debenture Stock, can be inspected at the Office of Messrs. HOLLAMS, SONS, COWARD & HAWKSLEY, 30, Mincing Lane, E.C.

This offer is made to existing Members and to Holders of Debenture Stocks of the Company, and those desirous of subscribing for amounts in excess of their rateable proportions can apply on the forms accompanying this offer, forwarding the amount of Deposit payable on application.

Forms of Application can be obtained from Messrs. J. HENRY SCHRODER & Co., 145, Leadenhall-street, E.C., and from Messrs. W. GREENWELL & Co., 2, Finch Lane, E.C.

London, 17*th May*, 1907.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886).

SHARE CAPITAL.

5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Stock	£1,100 000
5 per cent. Preferred Ordinary Stock	1,650,000
Deferred Ordinary Stock	1,650,000
	£4,400,000

DEBENTURE CAPITAL.

ISSUED—4 per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock ...	£1,000,000
4½ per cent. Debenture Stock	1,000 000
PRESENT ISSUE—5 per cent. Debenture Stock.....	1,000,000
	£3 000 000

DIRECTORS.

EMANUEL M. UNDERDOWN, Esq., K.C., *Chairman.*
ALFRED FREWIN, Esq., C.E.
RICHARD H. GLYN, Esq.
SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN, K.C.S.I.
BERNARD GREENWELL, Esq.
DAVID SIMSON, Esq., M.Inst.C.E.

BANKERS.

Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, & Co., 67, Lombard-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & Co., London Wall Buildings, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

H. D. GREVILLE, 1, Broad-street Place, E.C.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.

Messrs. SLAUGHTER & MAY, 18, Austin Friars, E.C.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES GOLD MINING COMPANY (WITWATERSRAND) Limited.

The London Agents have received the following cable from the Head Office of the Company in Johannesburg dated 15th May, 1907:—

"Since the despatch of Directors' cable refuting statements made in connection with alleged enormous expenditure on administration fees of Randfontein Companies, the Board has received copy of *Daily Mail* newspaper by yesterday's mail, in which a false and misleading statement is published about the above matter. The above paper alleges that £107,044 per annum is expended on eleven Randfontein Companies for administration expenses alone, and upon this false statement certain shareholders have compiled the most misleading reports in relation to the administration charges of our companies. The true position is as follows. According to the audited details of the companies' books for the year 1906, there was expended by the Head Offices for administration charges, including Directors' and Auditors' fees and London and Paris Agencies and Transfer Office expenses, for:—

Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	£7,499
Porges Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,901
South Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,678
North Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,523
Robinson Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,743

making a total of £22,344, instead of £32,868, as alleged, and for the West Randfontein, £2,183; East, £2,183; Ferguson, £2,184; Van Hulsteyn, £2,184; Johnstone, £2,183; Stubbs, £2,133: making a total of £13,100, instead of £74,176 as alleged. The amount, £74,176, given by the writer of the statement in question, was taken by him as representing the cost of administration for the past year, whereas, it represents the total sum expended on that account since the inception of the six companies in 1899; the cost of administration, therefore, of the eleven companies referred to is £35,444 instead of £107,044, as wrongly represented. The Directors' fees as fixed by the Articles of Association of each company of the Randfontein group are £1,200 per annum, and the total amount is used by the company for the payment of Directors' and Managing Directors' salaries, who by an agreement with the companies are not allowed to engage in any business outside the group, but are bound to devote the whole of their services to the companies' work, each Director filling a department in connection with the operations of the group, thus occupying positions for which otherwise specially paid officials would have to be appointed. In justice to our Chairman, Mr. J. B. Robinson, the Directors are bound to inform shareholders that for the last ten years he has consistently declined to draw any fees or remuneration in any shape or form from any of the companies. Being the largest shareholder in the company he has during that time ungrudgingly given his valuable services and aid, both directorial and financial, entirely gratuitously. The Robinson group expenses for 1906 were as follows:—

Porges Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	£3,901
South Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,678
North Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,523
Robinson Randfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd.	...	3,743

The Directors wish to draw the attention of shareholders to the fact that, as far as the published reports of the other groups of mines are concerned, it would appear that their administration expenditure is higher than that connected with the Randfontein Group of Mines.

"With regard to our eight non-producing companies, the average head office (or administration) expenditure for 1906 was £2,236 each; the Directors have further to draw the attention of shareholders to the fact that the head office (or administration) expenses are given in the Managing Directors' report of each of our producing companies accompanying the annual reports now in the hands of Shareholders.

"The statements published by the *Daily Mail* to the effect that the administration expenses of the Randfontein Group amounted to £107,044 has brought about an agitation amongst the shareholders of the company, and in consequence of that statement of the *Daily Mail* the Directors are receiving by every mail, from shareholders, abusive and scurrilous letters about the appropriation of this vast sum of money: the *Daily Mail* statement is libellous, and a cruel injustice to Directors, who will deal as soon as possible in another form with the authors and publishers of the statement. It is quite evident that the success of the Randfontein Group of Mines in obtaining a large supply of native labour, and in starting eight new mines, has caused a good deal of resentment to those who do not wish to see any new mines opened and worked at the present time, and who are actuated by sinister motives in respect to these matters. So successful have been the efforts of the Randfontein Group in the recruitment of natives, that were all the Chinese on the Rand repatriated at once, there would be no difficulty in replacing them by natives: the Randfontein Group alone have been offered about 30,000 natives from the Cape Colony, and about 20,000 more from the different districts in the Transvaal; this is exclusive of the large number of natives which have been offered to the other mines; it also excludes that large field for native recruitment in Portuguese East Africa.

"It was stated here in a newspaper a few days ago that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association had relaxed its efforts in the recruitment of natives on account of the large supply now being offered to the mines.

"The Directors of the Randfontein Group have done their utmost to advance the prosperity of the companies, the Chairman, Mr. J. B. Robinson, having during the four months he has been on the fields exerted himself day and night to assist the companies financially, in obtaining labour, and in starting the mines for the good of the Shareholders, and thereby giving employment to those who were on the verge of starvation: he has also offered to assist the Group with £1,000,000, so as to bring the eight companies as soon as possible to a producing stage, and thus establish within the very short period of two years the value of the property, the moment being most favourable, as both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. W. S. Langerman, had successfully used their best efforts to bring labour to the mines; the strain which Mr. Langerman has undergone during the last few years in his anxiety to obtain labour, and to assist in the development of the mines, has seriously injured his health in the discharge of his duties.

"The Directors have now shown that the total expenditure for the year of the Randfontein subsidiaries, including Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Limited, referred to by the *Daily Mail*, does not exceed £35,444; they have also shown that the Directors' fees only amount to £1,200 per annum, and that these fees are used to pay salaries to men who are engaged to devote their whole time to the companies' affairs, so as to avoid engaging other officials to do the work.

"The Directors having now proved the falsity of the statements made by these men, they feel that the publicity which has been given to these statements in the press, and cabled to the newspapers in this country, compel them to take action without further delay. In the present disturbed conditions prevailing amongst the workmen on the mines, as well as the important questions of labour and financial assistance for the Randfontein Group of Mines, these systematic and unfaithful attacks by a cabal, aided by a certain section of the press, cannot possibly conduce to the welfare of the companies, and they realise that through these unscrupulous attacks their efforts to protect the interests of the companies in the critical times will be seriously weakened and that instead of having their hands strengthened in carrying out the good work they are doing, they are being undermined.

"This action is to a great extent unsettling the minds of the staff and workmen at the mines, and the result must have a serious effect on the future of the Randfontein properties; the Directors have, therefore, resolved to close down at once the eight new companies at Randfontein on which a considerable amount of work has already been done, and a large amount of money expended in connection therewith, and to discharge the white employees, as well as the natives who have been engaged on the work at these mines, in order to meet the wishes of shareholders who, according to the cabled statements from London to the local papers, demand that the cash of the companies shall be paid out to them as dividends; the Directors will therefore proceed to distribute the surplus assets to the shareholders, and have resolved to retire from the Boards of the companies as soon as the above measures have been carried into effect, as they feel that they cannot longer be associated with those shareholders who by their unjustifiable attitude have opposed the policy which has been inaugurated by the Board for the speedy development and equipment of all the subsidiary mines on the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company Limited property, and bringing them to a producing stage; there is no doubt that this opposition to the Board's policy is destructive, and has completely upset the financial arrangements the Board had in view to carry out the above work for the purpose of enabling the Randfontein Companies to produce about 75,000 ounces of gold per month within two years; shareholders would then have received satisfactory cash dividends, and would have been highly gratified at the value their properties had attained through the foresight which has been shown in the management and control of the Randfontein Group of Mines."

London Transfer Agency,
30 & 31, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.
17th May, 1907.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED),
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

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Chief Office: 103, CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

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Lord ARTHUR CECIL, Deputy Chairman.

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Hon. R. C. GROSVENOR.
WILLIAM MULLER, Esq.
CHARLES PRICE, Esq.
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London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow
Assurance Company, Limited.

Established 1881.

A Comparison of the 16th with the 26th Year.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

	1896.	1906.
Number of Policies issued	1,423	2,959
Sums Assured	£134,362	£267,221
New Annual Premium	£7,241	£14,227
Total Premiums received (New & Renewal)	£29,301	£81,084
Total Number of Policies in force at end of year	5,986	18,934
Annual Premiums on Policies in force at end of year	£29,162	£82,450

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

	1896.	1906.
Premium Income for the year	£242,174	£431,656
Policies in force	463,279	730,175
Annual Premiums on Policies in force	£274,216	£473,738

ACCIDENT BRANCH.

	1896.	1906.
New Policies issued	1,097	2,340
New Annual Premiums	£2,886	£6,282
Total Premium Income (New & Renewal)	£11,983	£23,134
Income from Interests, Dividends, & Rents	1896. £5,198	1906. £29,616
Total Assurance Funds on December 31...	1896. £140,012	1906. £819,201

ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REQUIRED.
To Suitable Men Good Terms.

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THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

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Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

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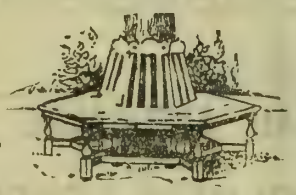

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£10 ...	£0 6 0	£30 ...	£0 17 0	£50 ...	£1 8 0	£200 ...	£4 10 0
£20 ...	£0 11 0	£40 ...	1 5 0	£100 ..	£2 5 0	£500 ...	11 5 0

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FROCK COAT from £2 15 0
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TRUTH says: "*Our latest discovery in tailoring is Evans, 77, Gt. Portland-street, W., who can actually fit.*"

77, Gt. Portland-st., London, W.

LETTERS FROM CELEBRITIES.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET ON NERVOUSNESS.

"Industrial Farm Colony,
"Duxhurst,
"April, 1907.

"DEAR FRIEND,—Your letter is one of many which I constantly receive begging me to tell of something which can help to restore tired nerves and over-worn strength, and you ask me to do so because I come in contact with so many who for these very reasons fail in the race of life, having sought the wrong remedy for such loss of nerve-power.

"The description which you give me of your difficulty scarcely varies from that of which I am so often told. Work has become a drudgery, and life a heavy thing. You tell me that you go to bed feeling tired, and that you wake in the morning almost equally tired, that your food is distasteful to you, and that little things which used to sit lightly upon you have become heavy burdens; that even pleasure is toil. I know you have worked hard through many years, and have had much mental strain. This may in a measure account for your weakness, which is not brought about by any condition of actual disease, but which seems to arise from an even greater trouble—namely, that your nerve-force is seriously overspent.

"It is important to understand that in these days of worry and over-excitement, the over-work (mental and physical) to which most of us are subject calls forth an undue expenditure of strength, and that to recuperate the vigour we have lost we must consider what sort of food or remedy we require.

"Of course, the whole question of proper nourishment requires much thought and experience. Many forms of food and many restoratives are recommended, but having had to do with a great many people who have impaired their digestive organs and whose nerve-power has been seriously undermined, I do not think that I have come across anything which I believe a more suitable nutrient for all forms of weakness than Sanatogen. I do not know if you have tried it, but it seems to me, under the conditions such as you have described, an ideal preparation, because it provides a valuable tonic-food in the most suitable form. It consists, I believe, in the nourishing element of pure cows' milk, incorporated with which is a special nerve-tonic containing phosphorus. It has an invigorating power on worn-out nerves, and gives tone to exhausted tissues to a surprising extent. The feeblest system and the poorest digestive organs are able to assimilate it when they can really touch little else. I am strongly of opinion that you cannot do better than begin a course of Sanatogen if you wish to regain your strength.

"Sanatogen undoubtedly restores sleep and invigorates the nerves, and it braces the patient to health, for I have noticed that with the restoration of the digestive organs the mind becomes more quickly active, and work, both mental and physical, becomes more easy, and the freshness and keenness which such people have lost (apparently altogether) return gradually, and bring with them an enjoyment of life and a feeling of hopefulness not hitherto experienced.

"When the body is subjected to a course of Sanatogen the blood condition improves, the skin assumes a more healthy colour, the invigorated nerves are braced to a more healthy tone, and the whole human machinery is made fit for exercise and work and for fulfilling its functions in the most perfect manner. . . . .

"

Isabella Somerset

The above is an abstract from a letter addressed by Lady Henry Somerset to an intimate friend. In view of the public interest associated with the subject, the recipient has obtained her Ladyship's gracious permission to make the contents widely known. Additional information on the same subject may be obtained from the Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C. Sanatogen is sold by all chemists, in packets, at 1s 9d, 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s 6d.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THE NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

NOTICE.

Owing to an error, for which I do not know whether the Puzzle Editor or that broad-shouldered individual, the printer, is responsible, the Puzzle announced in TRUTH of May 1st was wrongly numbered as 1,476 instead of 1,475; this error was perpetrated in TRUTH of May 8th, where the Puzzle was numbered 1,477 instead of 1,476: but in TRUTH of May 15th the correct numbering was reverted to, with the result that there appeared to be Two Puzzles (viz., those of May 8th and May 15th) numbered 1,477.

To make the matter quite clear I append the numbers as they should have been printed, from May 1st to May 15th, viz.:—

May 1st, No. 1,475.
" 8th, " 1,476.
" 15th, " 1,477.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,478.

IMPORTANT.

I was talking a few days ago to a friend of mine who is connected with the Great Eastern Railway Company and is also, like a wise man, a regular reader of TRUTH.

The conversation happened to turn upon our weekly Puzzles, and my friend said to me, half in jest, "By the way, some of those Competitors of yours are uncommonly ingenious. I wish you'd put them on to devise some appropriate catch name for our new vestibule corridor luncheon car service of trains which we shall be inaugurating in July, between London and the Norfolk Coast towns – including Cromer, Sheringham, Mundesley and Overstrand. At present, the united brains of the Company's staff can invent nothing better than the somewhat hum-drum title 'Norfolk Coast Express.'"

"Well now," I answered, "I really think that would make rather a popular Puzzle, and I've more than half a mind to act on your suggestion. But," I added meaningly, "if your Company want to pick the brains of our Competitors, it seems to me that they ought to offer some *quid pro quo*."

My friend laughed.

"Oh! That's reasonable enough," he replied. "What is the value of your usual weekly prize. Two Guineas, is it not?"

I answered in the affirmative.

"All right, then," said he, "We'll add another Two Guineas to it, for the best catch-name sent in, conditionally upon its being sufficiently good for the Company to adopt."

In the interests of my Competitors, I thought his offer too good to be refused, so I at once closed with it.

I am, therefore, in the position this week to offer A SPECIAL PRIZE OF TWO GUINEAS from the Great Eastern Railway Company, *in addition to* the usual Two Guineas presented by TRUTH, to that Competitor who shall send in

THE NEATEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE CATCH-NAME FOR THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY'S NEW VESTIBULE CORRIDOR LUNCHEON CAR EXPRESS, WHICH WILL START RUNNING IN JULY NEXT BETWEEN LONDON AND THE NORFOLK COAST TOWNS, INCLUDING CROMER, SHERINGHAM, MUNDESLEY AND OVERSTRAND.

To preclude any possible misapprehension, let me make it clear that, while TRUTH'S usual Prize of Two Guineas will be given in any event, the extra Two Guineas offered by the Great Eastern Railway Company will only be awarded if the best catch-name sent in is adjudged by the Company good enough for them to adopt.

For the benefit of Competitors, I append herewith particulars of the aforesaid service:—

DOWN SERVICE.

		P.M.
Liverpool Street	dep.	1 30
Cromer	arr.	4 25
Sheringham	"	4 43
Mundesley	"	4 34
Overstrand	"	4 48

UP SERVICE.

		P.M.
Overstrand	dep.	12 32
Mundesley	"	12 47
Sheringham	"	12 36
Cromer	"	1 0
Liverpool Street	arr.	3 55

Competitors are not limited to any length of Catch-name, but they are reminded that, other things being equal, the shorter the name, the more effective it will necessarily be.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) Every Competitor may send in four, but not more than four, Catch-names.

(ii.) All lists of Catch names must reach TRUTH Office by the *first post* on Monday, June 3rd, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of WHIG, winner of one-half TRUTH Prize No. 1,468 is J. M. Heathcote, Esq., Conington Castle, Peterborough.

HAKIM.—Many thanks for your kind suggestion, which I think admirable, and am filing it for use in the near future.

OISEAU. There is the making of good Puzzles in both your obliging suggestions; and I will give them my careful consideration. I had already noted error in the numbering of the Puzzle referred to. Many thanks for pointing it out.

WINKLE.—I much regret that your answer to our Conundrum Puzzle was received too late for inclusion.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,475.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ENIGMAS, IN NOT MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE WORDS.

'n the wood I got it. When I got it, I sat down
eek it. Brought it home because I couldn't
d it.
Answer: A thorn in my foot.—Frisco

incapable of walking, or of existing in a dry
mosphere, I widely traverse Asia and Africa on
t, seldom without a comrade, but always alone.
olution. Sole—(1) to the fish, (2) part of the foot,
solitary. Rhombus.

don't mind if I do mind; it's my business to
nd. So I never did mind. When there's nothing
mind, I do mind, and when there is something
mind, I don't mind.
nswer: A careraker.—Walfred.

ince I was beaten because I was not beaten.
ain I was not beaten because I was beaten.
olution: A racehorse (who needed the whip)—
rse.

gave a large dinner party to myself. I sent and
ived many invitations, acceptances, and refu-
I went, stayed away, and entertained a mul-
ude royally.
olution: Heat.—Knarl.

I wanted to have it, I found it, and then I lost it again, yet I had it all the while.
Answer: Time.—Sect.

I leave, yet I remain. If I didn't leave, I shouldn't remain long; but if I didn't remain long, I couldn't leave. And if I don't remain long, I remain longer than if I did remain long. And my best friends cut me if I leave for long; yet if I don't leave for long, I am cut dead.
Solution: A privet hedge.—Tom Nissed.

They are running hard, while I am standing still. Yet I walk in, and when I win I am sitting.
Answer: Member of Parliament.—Snooks.

"But up for sale, I was not put up; when dropped, was picked up; was rolled down, when rolled up; and never recovered, although re-covered."
Answer: An umbrella.—Bedder.

It grows and blows, but has no limit; it flies and dies, and cooks will trim it; it's everlasting, but not evergreen.
Solution: Thyme.—Woodpecker.

I attacked him, gave him a blow; he felt me, yet couldn't touch me, or see me. I helped him along, then stopped his progress.
Answer: The wind.—Hot Pot.

Every day of my life I am weeping; yet not a tear have I ever shed, because I have never wept.
Answer: A weeping willow.—Edelweiss.

I am always coming, but never stay. People run for me, but do not care to catch me up. I give all and go away empty.
Answer: Post.—Dalster.

What is it my father gave to me, yet never had himself, and could not take back if he wished?
Answer: My name.—Hyde.

I was laid in June, and hatched in May;
I'm a positive Yes and a certain Nay;
I'm always asleep and always awake;
Sorrow and joy at one time I make.
I was reckoned 2021,
Yet figures in double I never begun,
I'm worth a shilling, and worth a pound,
I'm always lost, and I'm always found.
Answer: A bet.—Northlander.

Light makes me; light cannot make me; in light I am visible and invisible. Darkness cannot make me; only darkness can make me.
Answer: A shadow.—Mormond.

I was attacked, but caught before falling. I faced my adversary again, was picked up speechless and insensible, and without a tooth in my body.
Answer: A cricket ball.—Canning.

I have an eye, but am sightless; I earn much, but don't possess a penny; I travel much, but don't move a muscle.
Answer: Needle.—Spartan.

I was born to hang; I run long sometimes, yet cannot run. Don't cut me dead! I do for all, yet do for none.
Answer: Banana.—Ox Short.

I can go up a stove-pipe down, or down a stove-pipe down, but I cannot go up a stove-pipe up, nor down a stove-pipe up.
Answer: An umbrella.—Hopscotch.

I tried to avoid a me, but I sat in me; I took me and gave me because I sat in me.
Answer: A draught.—Echo.

There was a man who was not born,
His father was not before him.
He did not live, he did not die,
And his epitaph is not o'er him. Jethart.

I went to work; I played. It was not play to me but work. I work when I play and play when I work.
Answer: A pianist.—Selah.

Entirely animal, purely vegetable, mineral, solid, hollow, smooth, rough. Grows: is manufactured. Upright: hangs down. Hard and stiff: absolutely pliable.
Answer: Trunk. An elephant's trunk, tree trunk, tin trunk.—Pupa.

When I was red I was not read. Now I am not red, I am read.
Answer: A re-bound book.—Sangoi.

What is it which the motor car makes, which is of no use to the motor, but which it cannot help making?
Most people will reply at once, a dust, a noise, or a smell. But that is not the answer, which is a scare.—Nemo.

All know that boots I wear,
That without wings I fly,
I'm often in the air,
But on the ground I lie.
Answer: A football.—Kieta.

If it goes, it runs; if it doesn't run, it goes.
Answer: A play.—Eldibee.

They didn't fall in the river, they fell in. 'Twas March! 'Twas April. Arms got wet. Arms weren't wet, they were right, they were left!
Answer: A company of soldiers.—Face.

Never in action, yet as good as twenty "Bobs." A noble example; to imitate me means imprisonment. A wealthy landed proprietor; not worth a guinea.
Answer: The Sovereign.—Thersites.

I was on a coach, was part of a coach, went round in a coach, was passed by a coach, and done by a coachman.
Answer: A box.—Almaviva.

I'd go up a chimney down, but would not go down up
Answer: An umbrella.—Mart.

I am operatic and pugilistic, though frequently sat upon; indispensable and of innumerable shapes and sizes; a plant and a contribution levied at Yuletide.
Answer: A box.—Autolycus.

I can go up the chimney down, or down the chimney down, but not up the chimney up, nor down the chimney up.
Answer: Umbrella.—Bee.

I do not lie, have never lied, and yet am lying here; I lie although I should not lie to tell a story queer.
Solution: Truth.—Neb.

I've seen her face, I've heard her voice, I've clapsed her hand, I know her well, I've known her long, I've never met her.
Answer: Myself.—Ethna.

I did not look for it; I found it. I then looked for it, but failed to find it, and so took it home.
Answer: A bee's sting.—Khayyam.

Footless, yet I dance.
I've eyes, but cannot glance.
Spoken, not said;
Shrouded, though not dead.
Gambler none, still I
Pitch and toss oft try.
Answer: A (sailing) ship.

Explanation.—"Eyes," "dead eyes." A ship's "shrouds" even a landsman has heard of.—Ainsty.

I've travelled over the greater part of Europe, and yet I am a fixture. I'm a leader in high society, although crossed by every class.
Answer: Bridge.—Odd Fish.

A fly can fly; I am a fly. I cannot fly because I am a fly.
Answer: A four-wheel cab.—Dagmar.

When I am new, I am worn out; I am always done up when you want to use me; but, nevertheless, you cannot go off till I go on. What am I?
Answer: A boot.—Oiseau.

Ever in front; ever behind; I hit hard without moving; often ridiculed; liked by a poet; quite occupied with drink; only half supporter of church.
Explanation.—Butt, a rifle butt in front; butt end of gun behind. Butt as a ram; not moving being a water tub. Butt, a person ridiculed. Butt of sherry given to the poet laureate. Butt—half of buttress, supporting a church.—Allos.

I am very wealthy, but my wealth is not my own. I pay much interest, but the interest is not mine. I am not a miser, but I give nothing away. I have a steel safe, but it is not safe to steal from me. I am a big trust, but I trust no man.
Answer: A bank.—Inca.

Laid by the heels I cannot be,
Though oft stuck by the head,
'Tis then to distant shores I flee,
Sticking, yet going ahead.
Answer: A postage stamp.—Korah.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,476.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ANAGRAMS OF THE WORDS "ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION OF PICTURES AT BURLINGTON HOUSE."

Pay shilling, examine or chat of art, buy bit, too, in due course.—Harts.

Pay shilling for run to examine choice art ideas; but, buy two.—Cassio.

Hail! you boon to painter tribe. Fun. Mixed society. Gala crush.—Emew.

Study expert art—"On the Line!" "Oh, if I go—I am such a 'baby' in colour."—Roy.

Thy colours coax amain, O thou idle painter! Be busy. Finger it!—Arachne.

Pictures, sculptures, good—a host— but bore, annoy, exhaust.—J. McGrigor Allan.

Oh, brush, coy pet! adoring beamy nature I toil. If so, I can exult!—La Plata.

Art is nature in perfection; they coolly bid. Ambiguous hoax!—Vox.

More foxy boulie *caricature oil-paintings by the thousand.—Foxy Molly.

* The grotesque caricatures at "La Boulie," the famous golf club near Paris, are too well-known throughout the world to need comment.

I.O.U. One shilling for hours' attraction, I expect may be dauby.—Tyro.

By May I expect indoors a high art tone in beautiful colours.—Tweeny.

Beauty, fashion, and entire public too, mix their gay colours.—Pioneer.

Oh! man, bird, fog. I paint you, tho' in curiously execrable taste!—Spartan.

Mix paintings—it? Oh, ye soulful dauber! Ban "Circe' too! Hot year!!—Rhody.

R.A. paintings in the room beautifully choice, so do buy extra.—Shieling.

"I choose to portray buxom lady. Is benefit uncertain? I laugh!"—Crescendo.

You exclaim, realistic paintings abound there for you both.—Tip-Top.

Big in art for the million. Chaps coax—ay e'en buy out outsider.—Verbam Sat.

O do truly examine colours, beauty of each British painting.—Peleus.

By fixed labour your most choice art is again put on the line.—Horace.

O, you note an excuse for publicly aiding British art at home.—Little Toad.

"I cab it. Chorus to me: 'Not unexhilarating display before you!'"—Khayyam.

O! by a big faith you extract colour poems hid in nature's line.—Cybele.

Portrait of a rich beauty—Lady S. I excuse hung on line. Boom it!—Wildcat.

Exhibit good, ability more than usual; none racy.—Echo.

Hung! Inimitable art next pious craft. O, choose by your ideal.—Wyandotte.

O critic, be irate. R. A.'s—oh, too many—fix ugly daubs upon the line.—Eboracum.

Secure pleasure by goodly art. Hi! Hi! Oh! Coax ambition in fun.—Sandstone.

Oh! but notice a painting, too—lady, or merry beaux. "Such is life."—Quercus

Oh! to buy some extraordinarily beautiful choice paintings!—Qu'Appelle.

Usual goodly "array" of eminent exhibitors, but paint choice.—Dullard.

Oh, no! base pot boiler! I, your artist chief, am unduly exacting.—Muz-Muz.

Exit colour beauty!. See poor handicraft, inimitably so, hung!—Red Ant.

Sargent Exhibit I count A.I.; so you call up for me B.H. to-day. Erin.—Sponge.

Mouth easy platitudes: rub "oil," "toning," "care," "coy," "fibre," in! Hoax!—Caledon.

An artist's palace set open to the public in an enterprising manner.—Jupiter.

To the ignorant growler on modern decandence. "Art might be extinct," you learn. Bah! I consider you a pius fool.—Oiseau.

An R.A. curiosity shop. Exceedingly beautiful art. "Boo" him not.—Autolycus.

You "do." Room "O." A fair British beauty. Such excellent painting."—Boots.

Boorish or rich, yet excludes too many a beautiful painting.—Redder.

Art is long. Life but a span. You die. Church rite, ext. O! boy. O! man.—Trita.

I(n) May Poynter excites England for such bo'(n)a (good) art built (houses). Hi. O I.O.U. See Royal Academy speeches.—Dorset.

Usual May. Bust Ena (chic)—pother—fix—on dit le Roi—R.A. obey—got in.—Iere.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

It was stated in Truth last week that the King's long arranged visit to Lord and Lady Lansdowne at Bowood Park is to take place in July. It is now settled that the King is to be accompanied to Bowood by the Queen, and their Majesties will stay there from Saturday, July 20, until Monday, the 22nd. The King and Queen are to travel on the Saturday afternoon by special Royal train from Paddington to Chippenham, whence they will drive to Bowood, entering the park by the gilt gates at the handsome arched lodge and tower which were designed by Barry, from which there is a beautiful drive of nearly two miles to the house through rich woods. The King and Queen are to occupy apartments on the south side of the house, from which there is a lovely view over the terraced gardens of the lake and the miles of woods, with the Wiltshire Downs beyond.

The Levee which the King is to hold at St. James's Palace next Monday will be a very full one, and a large attendance of the Corps Diplomatique is expected.

The King left Reigate Priory last Wednesday for Windsor, where his Majesty went over the Castle and walked through the gardens, after which he lunched at Frogmore with the Prince and Princess of Wales and returned to town later in the afternoon. The King left Buckingham Palace on Thursday for Sandringham, and came back to town on Monday. This is the first visit for several years which the King has paid to Sandringham during the late spring or summer. His Majesty will not leave town again until Monday, June 17, when the Court will remove for a week to Windsor Castle.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* was altogether wrong in announcing that the King's visit to Reigate Priory "is an honour which Captain and Mrs. Greville have not been accorded before." The King had previously paid three week-end visits during the last three summers to Captain and Mrs. Greville at Reigate Priory. Last year his Majesty was their guest during the last few days of the Whitsuntide holidays. This will be the King's last visit to Reigate Priory, as Captain and Mrs. Greville will terminate their tenancy in August, when they are to remove to Polesden Lacey, near Dorking, a large and picturesque domain which they have purchased from the executors of the late Sir Clinton Dawkins.

There is no truth whatever in the statement, copied by the morning papers of Friday from a Spanish journal, that the King contemplates building a château at Villagarcia, on the coast of Galicia, which is in future to be his Majesty's residence for several weeks every spring, "instead of Biarritz." It is added that the King of Spain is also to build a château at Villagarcia as a spring residence. It is amazing that the daily papers can complacently reprint such cock-and-bull nonsense. The King has no more intention of building, or purchasing, or renting, a residence at Villagarcia, or anywhere else in Spain, than he has of erecting a palace at Pekin or San Francisco.

The *Victoria and Albert* encountered very rough weather after leaving Corfu for Gibraltar, and the Queen abandoned her intention of returning to Portsmouth by sea, and landed from the Royal yacht at Naples on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 21st. Her Majesty and Princess Victoria made brief halts at Rome and at Florence, whence they travelled direct to Paris by the Simplon Tunnel route, and they arrived at the Hôtel

Bristol on Sunday evening. The Queen has been absent from England between seven and eight weeks.

It has been settled that the King and Queen of Denmark are to land at Portsmouth when they arrive in England on Saturday, June 8, and they will embark at Flushing the previous day on board the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, which vessel is to be met at Spithead by the Channel Fleet. King Frederick and Queen Louise are to land at the south railway jetty, where they will be received by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Royal party will travel by special train from the Harbour Station to Victoria, where the King and Queen are to meet their guests on the platform. The King and Queen of Denmark will embark at Portsmouth on Thursday, June 13, for Cherbourg.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have returned to Marlborough House from Frogmore Lodge, where they will again be in residence from June 17 till the 24th. The Princess goes abroad at the end of July, to spend about five weeks in Germany and Switzerland.

Princess Henry of Battenberg has changed her plans, having decided to return to England for a short time before going to Germany. Princess Henry will not now go to Germany until after Ascot race week, during which she is to be the guest of Prince and Princess Christian at Cumberland Lodge.

The Royal Counties Agricultural Show, which is being held this week at Maidenhead, under the presidency of Colonel Van de Weyer, is to be visited tomorrow by the Duke of Connaught and Prince Christian.

Princess Louise was received with great enthusiasm in the West Riding of Yorkshire last week. Her Royal Highness and the Duke of Argyll were the guests of Sir George and Lady Armytage at Kirklees Park from Tuesday evening until Thursday night, when they left for Scotland. On Wednesday the Princess opened a new Art Gallery which has been presented to the inhabitants of Brighouse by the present Mayor of that town, and on Thursday she paid a visit to Woodsome Hall, Lord Dartmouth's Yorkshire seat (now occupied by Lady Frances Legge), which is one of the most delightful old places in the county.

The Empress Eugénie, who has been residing on the Riviera for nearly five months, at the Villa Cyrnos, is expected to return to England early next month. The Empress will make a short stay at Farnborough Hill, after which she is going for a two months' cruise to Norway and the Baltic in her steam yacht *Thistle*, which is now fitting out at Cowes.

If I were a Sovereign, or a Royal Prince, I should keep clear of England. Even if I were eminent in any walk of life, I should do the same, unless I could pay my visit without being what the newspapers call "our guest." The so-called guest is worried to death by our hospitality, and if he goes out, he is dogged by the interviewer and the snap-shotter. Every sort of official body of men consider that they ought to do him honour by a repast, and even still more desirous of his presence at a repast are all the numerous political and social associations in search of an advertisement. At these feasts of food and unreason, the unfortunate victim is expected to make a speech reciprocating our kindness by a few well-turned platitudes, in which he vows that his country will rejoice to hear that they are honoured in him, and winding up with a few phrases which are intended to convey to us that never was, since the commencement of the world, a nation so wise, so noble, and so admirable as we.

I know, I am bound to confess, very little respecting Prince Fushimi. I have no doubt that he is an intelligent and patriotic Japanese Royal Highness. But I have been much bored myself during his visit by being unable to take up a newspaper without seeing the columns that are devoted in it to him. What "our guest," as he is termed in journalese, thinks on every sort of subject, and what he does, obtrudes itself on my eyes. I feel, however, that I have no right to complain, seeing that he must be himself bored by the attentions paid to him far more than by finding them paraded in every paper.

The late Lord de Ros was to have been the Gold Stick in Waiting on the King during this month, but there has been no Court ceremonial at which the attendance of the members of his Majesty's military household was required. It is the first time for a great number of years that May has been an absolutely blank month at Court, but there will be plenty of duty during June. Lord Dundonald, the new Colonel of the 2nd Life Guards, is to be the Gold Stick in Waiting during June, with Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson, 2nd Life Guards, as the Silver Stick on duty, and Lieutenant-Colonel Erskine, 1st Scots Guards, as the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting. They will all be in attendance on the King at the Levee which is to be held by his Majesty at St. James's Palace on Monday afternoon, and at the Court which their Majesties will hold at Buckingham Palace on Thursday night..

The King and Queen have promised to attend the concert and gymnastic display which will be given at the Albert Hall next Monday afternoon by the students of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind. It is to be hoped that this entertainment will be not only a great success in itself, but that it will help to direct more attention to the importance and value of the work which is being accomplished by this institution for the blind. How important and

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For Appeals, see page 1359.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1362.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1363.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see pages 1361, 1362.
For Amusements, see page 1360.
For Estates, Auctions, see page 1359.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1369, 1370.

valuable it is may be judged from the fact that between eighty and ninety per cent. of the College graduates are now earning their own living as the result of the training received at the College.

A correspondent writes:—

The *World* contains a letter from a writer who signs herself "Belle," and who certainly cannot be congratulated on the correctness of her social intelligence.

"Lord and Lady Lansdowne have gone to Bowood." They had really gone to stay with their daughter and son-in-law at Holker Hall, Lancashire.

"Lord and Lady Salisbury have gone to Hatfield, where they have a large family party." Lord Salisbury has been staying at the seaside, and Lady Salisbury went abroad for the holidays.

"Lord and Lady Desborough are at Taplow." Lord Desborough has gone abroad for a short time, and Lady Desborough spent Whitsuntide at Newquay.

"Lord Cadogan is selling all his horses, and is giving up racing altogether. He has just come back to England." Lord Cadogan returned to England several weeks ago, and his racehorses were sold at Newmarket just a month ago.

The *Daily Mail* last week reported the presence of Prince Arthur of Connaught at the opera, when he was really at Madrid. Another journal included the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire among the company at the opera, whereas they were in Ireland. The Duchess was announced by a weekly paper to be at Newmarket a week after she had gone to Lismore.

THE CULT OF THE BEARD.

They say the beard is coming in,
And grieved I am to hear it;
So little hirsute is my chin,
'Tis odds I'd never rear it;
Or if I could the appendage win,
'Twould take twelve months, or near it.

And while those dreadful twelve months ran
Their tedious daily races—
Why, troth, the unkempt vagrant man,
Who sleeps in open spaces,
Presents a visage spick and span
Compared with what my face is.

The dame whose scalp is bald till comes
Her head of hair from Truefitt's,
The wretch who chews his toothless gums
And 'waits his dental new fits,
May feel a woe, you'd think, that plumbs
The lowest depths of blue fits.

Not so. Sensations far, far worse
Await the hapless toff, sir,
Who (victim he of fashion's curse,
While all his people scoff, sir),
Lies low in dark back rooms to nurse
The beard that won't come off, sir.

Sir Benjamin Baker, who died suddenly last week, was an engineer of the greatest eminence. He was associated for many years with the late Sir John Fowler. Two of the most important undertakings achieved with complete success by Sir Benjamin Baker were the Forth Bridge and the dam across the Nile at Assouan. He was responsible for many other notable works, both at home and abroad, including Blackfriars Bridge, and he was employed to repair and strengthen Telford's famous suspension bridge over the Menai Straits. Sir John Baker was the author of several most valuable works relating to professional questions. He was a man of boundless energy, and his enterprise was well drenched with common sense. He invented the pneumatic shield, which is literally invaluable when constructing tubes or tunnels.

Sir Joseph Fayrer, who died at Falmouth last week, was officially employed at Lucknow during the Mutiny, and he rendered most valuable services to the refugees in the Residency during the siege. He worked for many years with conspicuous zeal and ability in the Bengal Medical Service. Sir Joseph was selected to attend the King (then Prince of Wales) during his tour through India in 1875. He was the author of an elaborate work on the venomous snakes of India, the result of many years of laborious investigations, which he presented to the Indian Government on condition that the book should be extensively circulated throughout the country.

Lord Young was certainly a link with the past, for he was born during the reign of George III., and he was in large practice at the Scotch Bar before the deaths of Jeffreys in 1850, and of Cockburn in 1854. He was a man of enormous ability and untiring industry, with an intellect of rare acuteness, but more distinguished for the *fortiter in re* than for the *suaviter in modo*, and was conspicuous in the Edinburgh Parliament House for over half a century by his scathing and mordant wit, which spared nobody. He was certainly feared by most of the judges, his colleagues, and also by the members of the Bar, with a very few exceptions, for he was ruthless in his criticisms. It was universally recognised, however, that he was an admirable judge, and he despatched the business of his court with a rapidity which electrified Edinburgh. He detested useless formalities, and sternly crushed the irrelevances and delays which are traditional in Scotch legal procedure. His mind was saturated with strong, shrewd common sense, and his judgments were often regarded as unconventional, but they were scarcely ever reversed. He was frequently in a minority in his division of the Court of Session, but his opinion was nearly always adopted by the House of Lords. It was well said of Lord Young some years ago that he had never suffered fools gladly, and he certainly never omitted an opportunity of inflicting a salutary and smashing snub.

Lord Young became Solicitor-General for Scotland in 1862, and he served under Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell, and for a short time under Mr. Gladstone. He succeeded the late Lord Moncrieff as Lord Advocate in the autumn of 1869, and held that office until his promotion to the Bench, which took place in February, 1874, just before Mr. Gladstone went out of office. He sat in Parliament as Member for the Wigton Burghs from 1865 until 1874, and he highly distinguished himself in the House of Commons on several occasions. He was all his life a staunch Liberal. Lord Young shared in the political ill-luck which has been the fate of most Liberal lawyers in Scotland. He was far and away the most eminent of the judges of the Court of Session, but it fell to the Tories to fill the offices of Lord President and of Lord Justice Clerk, and, of course, they promoted their own men. It must have been most exasperating for Lord Young to find men who

LAKMÉ, 22, DAVIES-STREET, BERKELEY-SQUARE.—Dressing-gowns and fine lingerie. American Novelties. Cotillon favours. 8674 Gerrard.

were notoriously inferior to him in ability and legal power elevated over his head. If he has left Reminiscences, they will be as entertaining as the famous Memorials of Lord Cockburn.

Sir Thomas Woolaston White, who died last week at Scarborough, where he had resided for several years, was the head of a family which has been settled for some four centuries in Notts. The manor of Tuxford was purchased by Thomas White during the reign of Henry VIII. Mr. Thomas White, of Wallingwells, near Worksop, was created a baronet in 1802. Sir Thomas served for twenty-five years in the 16th Lancers, retiring in 1872 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The title and estates pass to his nephew.

Mr. Finch, who died last Wednesday, after a very short illness, had been the Father of the House of Commons since the General Election, a position in which he is succeeded by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who has sat for Stirling Burghs since December, 1868. Mr. Finch was returned for Rutlandshire at a by-election in 1867, in the place of the present Lord Ancaster, who had vacated his seat on succeeding his father in the Barony of Aveland. Lord Ancaster was himself returned for Rutlandshire in 1856, when a peerage was conferred by Lord Palmerston upon his father, who had then sat for the county for thirty-six years. Mr. Finch was most regular in his attendance at the House, and the Tory Whips could always count confidently upon his vote. He scarcely ever spoke, and rarely asked a question; but he was an excellent working Member, and rendered valuable public service on Committees.

Very large estates in Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire, which formerly appertained to the Earldom of Winchilsea and Nottingham, were owned by Mr. Finch. He was a most generous and considerate landlord, and he was held in the highest esteem by all classes in the counties with which he was connected. He had taken an active part in local affairs for nearly half a century, and was warmly interested in many charitable institutions. His unexpected death is profoundly regretted in Rutlandshire, where he had spent the greater part of his life.

Mr. Finch was the owner of the magnificent domain of Burley-on-the-Hill, near Oakham, one of the largest and most conspicuous country houses in the Midland Counties. A squadron of cavalry could be accommodated in the immense stables. The Palladian house, which was built towards the close of the seventeenth century, is remarkable only for its vast extent and its curious colonnade quadrants which project from the front. It contains some valuable tapestry and a few interesting portraits. The park of 1,000 acres is finely wooded, many of the trees being remarkable for age and size. Burley was owned by "Steenie," Duke of Buckingham, who built a house which was demolished during the Civil War. The estate was sold by Charles, the second Duke of Buckingham, to Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham, who built the present house.

The most remarkable feature of the Sedelmeyer sale in Paris has been the high prices obtained for the works of Sir Henry Raeburn. The portrait of Mr. James Monteith, which realised £5,200, had cost its late owner £2,500. The portrait of Mrs. Pattison, of Kelvin Grove, fetched £4,480, having been sold at Edinburgh only three years ago for £2,730. The group of Colonel Ramsey and his wife sold for £4,280, having been officially valued just before the sale at £3,200. It is curious to recall the paltry prices which were obtained at the great sale of Raeburn's portraits in 1877, when forty-nine works realised only £4,700. The Lady Raeburn, which sold two years ago for 8,700 gs., then fetched only 950 gs.

A correspondent writes:—

I was rather surprised to see the reference in last week's Truth to the "Ajax Dry Cell" and the British Electric Institute, having only a few days previously noticed an advertisement of the firm in the columns of the *Times*. Surely there must be something wrong somewhere when a firm which figures in the Truth Cautionary List is able to obtain an insertion of its advertisements in the leading journal.

Yes; I should say there is something very wrong somewhere. I fear, however, that there is little room in these days for my correspondent's surprise. Time was when, if I found fault with one newspaper for publishing advertisements which had been the subject of Truth exposures, I was able to point to the columns of the *Times* as an example of the standard to which the press in general should conform. But that state of things has become very much a matter of ancient history.

It would really seem that in the matter of advertisements the managers of some Indian newspapers stick at nothing. In one page of the *Civil and Military Gazette* for April 16, there appears (1) a seductive advertisement of the Dr. Sanden belt swindle, specially addressed to "Society Ladies"; (2) an announcement of Cunliffe, Russell and Co., the Paris dealers in Continental lottery bonds; and (3) half a column devoted to the notorious Dr. Kidd, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who heads his advertisement "Free! Free! to the sick and ailing everywhere," and is in reality one of the most rapacious of the harpies who prey upon suffering humanity. At the foot of Kidd's advertisement is this notification:—

Note.—We know personally Dr. Kidd, and know that his methods and his offer are exactly as represented in every respect. Our readers should take advantage of Dr. Kidd's generous offer.

This is obviously intended as an editorial endorsement of all the humbug in the body of the advertisement. There is no point in it except on that assumption; and it is incomprehensible how any journal which professes to be respectably conducted can allow such a paragraph to appear in its pages.

The season has arrived when business firms are pestered with requests for subscriptions towards the annual excursions of the employees of other firms with which they do business. I have received one or two

Notice.—The Britannia Hygienic Laundry Co. have opened a West End branch at 306, Vauxhall Bridge road, South Belgravia. High class work. *Flannels specially treated.*

such circulars during the past week or two from firms which resent these applications. Here is a good specimen:—

DEAR SIR,—The employees of Mr. W. Nash, builder, etc., Kensington, propose going to Eastbourne this year for their annual excursion.

We take this opportunity of thanking you for your contributions of past years, and hope you will favour us on this occasion with a subscription.—Yours faithfully,

H. J. BROWN } Stewards.
J. POND }

W. Nash, Builder, 239, Kensington High-street.

If an employer allows his name to be used when his employees are touting in this way, I suppose the men cannot be blamed. But there are other objections to the practice besides its impudence; and seeing how strongly many firms object to it, I wonder that a combined stand has not been made against it.

A REVOLUTIONARY SUGGESTION.

(In Defiance of Natural History.)

The maidens say, though they'll meet half-way
The bachelor who's wishing
To take, for life, to himself a wife—
Yet the man must do the fishing.

Which seems to me as absurd to be,
As if you should ask the dace, sir,
His luck to try with the rod and fly
On bipeds of human race, sir.

For man was aye the finny prey,
And woman, the fair entangler—
In every part of the gentle art
As compleat as Walton's Angler.

Whatever view one may take of the living statue business at London music halls, I should think there can be no doubt as to the extreme undesirability of such exhibitions by European women in India. An Anglo-Indian correspondent sends me a letter animadverting in strong terms on the inclusion of an item of this description in the programme of a theatre at Calcutta. The importance of maintaining the prestige of the ruling race is constantly affirmed; "but," my correspondent asks, "what respect can the natives have for that race when women belonging to it are permitted to show themselves practically in a nude condition on a public stage?" There is a good deal of force in this, and it is rather surprising that the authorities at Calcutta have not prohibited the entertainment.

Before the current number of the *Nineteenth Century* is out of print, I would recommend every one who is interested in what is known as the Education Question—the question of the degree and character of religious instruction to be given to children—to read the article of Mr. Havelock Ellis on "Religion and the Child." It has been often said in these columns that the only religion which is worth anything to a man cannot be acquired before the threshold of manhood is reached; that whether this or that theological dogma shall be taught to children under fourteen years of age is a matter of no consequence to the children or anybody else, unless on the ground that it might be better to teach none; and that in wrangling over this question and neglecting altogether the spiritual welfare of the same children after they have reached the age of fourteen, the sects and Churches sacrifice the substance for the shadow. Mr. Havelock Ellis shows why this is so. His argument rests upon observation of the ideas of children and the psychological conditions of childhood; and I do not believe that his conclusions will be disputed by any one who understands children and is at the same time capable of approaching the question without religious bias or conventional prejudice.

A right understanding of this matter is of the utmost importance, for it touches the education of all children, and not merely those in public elementary schools. One of the most momentous points that Mr. Ellis raises is that the effect of making religion—in forms which only appeal to adult intelligence and emotion—a part of scholastic routine is likely to be the opposite of that intended. He combats the conventional view that children can be inoculated with ideas and beliefs that will be of value to them in after life, though they may not understand them at the time. Here are one or two suggestive extracts from this passage for the benefit of those who may not have the whole article within reach:—

The usual effect of constantly imparting to children an instruction they are not yet ready to receive is to deaden their sensibilities to the whole subject of religion. The premature familiarity with religious influences—putting aside the rare cases where it induces a morbid pre-occupation with religion—induces a reaction of routine which becomes so habitual that it successfully withstands the later influences which on more virgin soil would have evoked vigorous and living response. . . . The commonplace child in later life accepts the religion it has been inured to so early as part of the conventional routine of life. The more vigorous and original child, for the same reason, shakes it off, perhaps, for ever. . . . There are few among us who have not suffered from this too early familiarity with the Bible and the conception of religion. . . . For the majority the religious education of the school as effectually seals the Bible for life as the classical education of the college seals the great authors of Greece and Rome for life; no man opens his school-books again when he has once left school.

All this explains why the Bible is a book which everybody reverences and nobody reads—unless as a pious exercise. Also why the millions of working-class children educated in Church schools and Sunday schools grow up professing Christians and virtual heathens. Also, no doubt, why clergymen's sons are more ready to go to the devil than the sons of laymen.

The Bishop of Stepney is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during June, replacing Canon Holland, who has been on duty since May 1.

The Lord Chancellor has presented the Rev. E. C. Kirwan, vicar of York Town and Camberley, and chaplain of the Staff College, to the rectory of Guildford, vacant by the resignation of Canon Grant. Mr. Kirwan, who was formerly curate of Guildford, is to be instituted to the benefice on July 10 by the Bishop of Winchester.

Father Taunton, who died suddenly in London the other day, was distinguished among the English Roman Catholic clergy for his varied and profound learning

THE LADIES' LEAGUE (under Royal patronage), 2, Princes-street, Cavendish-square, W., successfully Recommends Gentlewomen for responsible Positions in every capacity. Telephone, 1,025 Mayfair.

and his wide knowledge of Church music, on which he was an eminent authority. He had written some valuable historical works, and was a recognised authority on Canon Law. Father Taunton, who was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him, was an enthusiastic admirer of the Benedictine Order.

Canon Hervey would be amazed to read in a weekly contemporary last week that he is the author of the well-known hymn, "The roseate hues of early morn." He might just as reasonably have been credited with the authorship of "Scenes of Clerical Life." The hymn in question was written by the late Mrs. Alexander, wife of the Archbishop of Armagh. The same paper is also wildly astray in its statement that Canon Hervey is the composer of "the well-known Funeral Service which is always used in St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey." At funerals in these churches "the well-known Service" of Croft and Purcell is used, and has been used for a very long time past.

Archdeacon Bevan is to be succeeded in the Archdeaconry of Brecon by his son, the Rev. E. L. Bevan, Vicar of Brecon, on the nomination of the Bishop of St. David's. The stipend is £400 a year. Archdeacon Bevan, who has resigned this office, has been working in the diocese of St. David's for upwards of sixty years.

Although I was assured the other day by one claiming to know all about Canterbury that the Dean's arrangements in regard to the Cathedral services are received with universal approval, a petition has just been presented to the Dean by nearly 300 of the congregation asking for some curtailment of the Sunday morning service. It is considered that a service lasting from 10.30 till 12.30, or, with the Communion Service, till 1.15, exceeds reasonable limits, an opinion which I should strongly share if I were called on to attend. This abundant measure of public worship is due to the inclusion of the Litany, Ante-Communion Service, and sermon, and what is desired is a return to the arrangement which prevailed under Dean Farrar of taking the first two items on alternate Sundays. The opinion also prevails that, probably with reason, the dimensions of sermons might be reduced with advantage. But this grievance is not peculiar to Canterbury.

There are evidently no bounds to the impudence of the Rev. Joseph Geoghegan, the organiser of the Roman Catholic lottery at Phibsboro', Dublin, which has already come under notice in Truth and also in the House of Commons. He is now inviting police officers in England to sell tickets for the lottery. The chief constable of a county has forwarded to me a circular and batch of tickets which he received from the reverend gentleman a few days ago. The envelope was directed to "The Chief Constable," so that it was not sent in ignorance of his position, and similar packets have been posted from Dublin to practically the whole of the members of the constabulary in the same county. No doubt other counties have been or will be similarly favoured. Mr. Geoghegan must know perfectly well that the sale of lottery tickets in this country is illegal; but, nevertheless, he coolly asks police officers to engage in this illegal practice, offering as an inducement a commission of one shilling, together with one complimentary ticket for every ten tickets disposed of. The same commission is also offered to "the foremen" at factories who, as I have previously mentioned, are being similarly circularised. The Postmaster-General has refused to interfere with the distribution of these tickets, though they are posted wholesale in open envelopes. In view of this attempt to involve the police in the business I would suggest that a question on the subject should now be put to the Home Secretary.

A paragraph in the *Times* of Monday announced that a motor-car, which a certain company has presented to the East London Hospital for Children, is to be raffled for the sum of £200. It was added that tickets may be obtained from the secretary of the hospital or the secretary of the company giving the car. One is naturally reluctant to say a word that could in any way damage so deserving an institution as this hospital, but it is really necessary to point out the objections to this method of raising funds. The most serious is the violation of the law. Lotteries for religious and charitable purposes are, we know, tolerated in Ireland, but in this country the authorities have not hitherto permitted the law to be openly broken in this way, though, of course, raffles on a smaller scale are constantly held under less public conditions at bazaars. To allow the sale of tickets to be carried on in the manner which is being adopted in the present case would virtually mean the abrogation of the Lottery Act. It would be practically impossible to restrict the privilege to deserving charities, or even to charities at all, and gambles of this sort would soon become a source of scandal and mischief.

I have received the following contributions towards the Tress Barry Fund for distributing sixpences at Christmas among the children in the London workhouses and workhouse schools. Following the plan which I adopted last week, the amount of each contribution is given in sixpences:—

	No. of Sixpences.		No. of Sixpences.
G. A. Z.	20	A. G. Ward	42
E. K. B. Tighe	40	A. Topham Bennion	20
C. H. Bridge	200	Sir Geo. Lewis, Bart.	400
Camac	20	Anon	400
G. and M. P.	10	J. G. M. R.	400
E. J. T.	10	R. G. M.	40
B. K. H.	20	W. Y.	200

The sum of £10 10s. from Fredk. Gorringe has reached me towards Lady St. Helier's Fund, while I have received the following amounts for the Toy Fund: G. A. Z., £2 2s.; T. Stevens, 1s.; N. Alexander, £1 1s.; Camac, 10s.

Know Humphreys, and be well dressed. Humphreys, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

The Woodland Laundry, Park-rd. East, Acton. Tel. 629 Chiswick. "A really first-class laundry at moderate prices."—*The Ladies' Field.* "It appeals to dainty people."—*The Queen.* Please apply for Price List, &c.

In TRUTH of January 9 an account was given of an action brought by a private in the Jersey Militia against his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bagnall, and other military functionaries, in respect of his illegal imprisonment. The man had been required to pay 2s. 6d. for cleaning his rifle, which had been returned dirty at the end of the training, but instead of following the legal course and suing him in the civil court, the C.O. ordered him to attend at the Arsenal—the man being no longer under military discipline—fined him 5s. for refusing to do so, imprisoned him for twenty-four hours when he refused to pay the fine, and on his release imprisoned him for another ninety-six hours for refusing to obey another unlawful order. On this ground the militiaman recovered a verdict for £5 damages against the C.O., and £1 against the other defendants, with costs.

I understand that these damages and costs have now been refunded to the defendants by the War Office; in other words, the British taxpayer has had to pay them. As a taxpayer, I protest against this course. An officer who by illegal conduct and excess of authority renders himself amenable to a civil court ought to pay the penalty; and the Jersey Militia is a local force, for the upkeep of which the War Office has no financial responsibility. If the money was to be refunded at all, it should have been refunded by the Jersey authorities. If the States refused to vote the money, the defendants should have been left to pay it themselves. It seems to me that the War Office has as much exceeded its authority as did the Colonel, and that Parliament should signify the same in the usual manner.

Under a War Office order issued a year or two ago acting N.C.O.s going through the gunners' staff course at Shoeburyness are only to draw their acting pay with the consent of the General Commanding their District. The ostensible reason for this is that they only go through the course for their own advantage, but this is obviously an untenable view of the matter, if only for the reason that every N.C.O. who improves his qualifications does it for the public advantage as well as his own. Apart, however, from that, the advantage to the man can only arise from improved prospect of promotion, which seems in this case quite visionary, seeing that the man who was at the top of the course in 1905 has not yet obtained any appointment in consequence, and has no immediate prospect of it; while, on the other hand, there is the hard fact that the men going through this course lose the pay of their rank as well as their specialist pay. Under these circumstances the inducement to go through the course becomes extremely exiguous. It is true that a man may be allowed by his General to continue in receipt of his acting pay while at Shoeburyness, and apparently the majority of Generals—no doubt appreciating the considerations mentioned above—appear to have authorised the payment. But as this has not been done in all cases, it only creates an anomaly which aggravates the grievance. The whole arrangement seems to need revision.

Another grievance of the R.G.A. is reported from Hong Kong, and relates to inconsistencies in promoting men to the rank of sergeant. On a vacancy occurring not long ago in one company it was filled by promotion of a corporal from another company, on the ground that he had a first-class certificate of education. When the next vacancy occurred in the same company two men who had first-class certificates of education were passed over, this time on the ground that promotion was to run through all the companies in the command, and not to be limited to individual companies. Yet another vacancy occurred, and this last rule was set aside. The conclusion naturally is that promotion is purely a matter of caprice, and that the reasons for the selection of one man rather than another are invented to suit each case. On the facts as above stated I do not see how any other view is possible.

There is a club at Madras primarily for the benefit of privates and N.C.O.s of the Ordnance Department, though men of other departments and civilians are eligible for election as honorary members. The president of the club is the Ordnance Officer in charge of Madras Arsenal; the vice-president is elected by the members each quarter. At the last quarterly meeting a new vice-president was elected by a majority of twenty-one to five. The new man had served some time ago as vice-president with great advantage to the finances of the club, and his election was apparently due to a general feeling that there was again room for improvement in the management. However, the president took upon himself to over-rule the votes of the majority and re-appoint the late vice-president. It seems that there is a rule that any proposition put before a meeting of the club and not approved by the president shall be null and void; but this can hardly be intended to apply to the election of a vice-president, or it would mean that this officer is merely to be the president's nominee. But whether the rules justify his action or not, the president seems to show very little discretion in over-ruling the votes of three quarters of the club in a purely domestic matter of this kind.

A very strong feeling exists in certain regiments in South Africa against a recent order, which lays down that a man must be a first-class shot in order to be qualified for first-class pay. In the case of one regiment the whole of the men who are affected by this order had extended their service before it was issued, and therefore on the understanding that they were entitled to first-class pay notwithstanding that they might only be in the second class in musketry. If a man contends that this change in the conditions of his pay is a breach of faith with him, I do not see what answer any one in authority can make. It is obvious that if you are going to make pay dependent upon certain qualifications or attainments, you must lay down one fixed rule and stick to it permanently. It is impossible to vary the conditions from time to time without committing in many cases what is equivalent to a

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

breach of contract. No doubt it is most desirable to improve musketry, but there are other qualifications for an efficient and useful soldier which ought to count for a great deal; and the correspondent who calls my attention to what has happened in South Africa, and who is not himself in any way affected by the order, asserts that among the men who have in this way had their pay reduced there are several of the best soldiers in the battalion.

I wonder whether we shall ever hear the end of the grievances arising out of the distribution of South African war medals. A gentleman who served in one of the colonial corps has recently obtained his medal, after, as he expresses it, "five years' persistent worrying"; and now that he has got it, it arrives without the usual pin. He sends a photograph of the medal and clasps, in proof of the statement. I can only recommend him to continue his worrying for another five years, and I should think that in the course of that time it might be possible to extract a pin from the War Office.

It is one of the minor grievances of the dockyard writers that their designation might be changed with advantage. Probably this is not a mere matter of sentiment, for it may reasonably be supposed that the labelling of them with a different name from all other men in the public service doing similar work helps the Admiralty to an excuse for making a corresponding distinction in their terms of service. This view will derive support from the peremptory refusal which Mr. Robertson gave the other day to Mr. Lamb's suggestion that the name should be changed. If you call a man a clerk you must treat him like other clerks doing similar work. If you call him a writer there is no standard by which to measure him, and you consequently may therefore treat him in any way you think appropriate to his nondescript status.

I believe I am right in saying that the work performed by a great many of the dockyard writers is of a more responsible nature than that of the majority of second division Civil Service clerks, though in pay and prospects there is no room for comparison between the position of the two. In the Naval Stores Department the men have to prepare all requisitions and estimates for stores required for the Navy, conduct all correspondence relating to them, and of late years actually place orders with contractors. Such orders run into many thousands of pounds annually, and until a few years ago this particular work was performed by highly paid officials in the Contracts Department of the Admiralty. Is it surprising that the dockyard writers are struggling to "better themselves"?

Not long ago I called attention to the deplorable failure of the Post Office to afford proper telephone service in the Willesden district, attention having been called to the matter by a firm who set up a branch establishment there, and were absolutely unable to obtain telephonic communication. Here is another complaint of precisely the same character, the complainants being a well-known firm of manufacturing opticians, doing a large business, not only in this country, but abroad:—

> We are manufacturers, who have recently moved our works to Neasden, near Willesden, while retaining show rooms in central London. We compete in all quarters of the world with energetic German and other foreign firms, who command all the help and patronage which their Governments can give them. When we moved to Neasden there was no telephonic communication, but we were informed that it would soon be established. Our new factory is only six miles from Charing Cross. We have been eight months in our new quarters, but we are still unable to speak by telephone to our central office, or to the shippers who despatch our wares to America, the Colonies, and the Far East.
>
> The Post Office authorities informed us that there was a difficulty about way-leaves. We have communicated with the local authorities and the principally concerned landowners, who will readily give all the necessary way-leaves in order that this important suburb may be linked in the usual way with the rest of civilisation. Still, the Post Office, though courteously acknowledging our inquiries, does not move, and while provincial firms and many of our Continental rivals can make bargains by telephone with London merchants, we, in suburban Middlesex, and the N.W. London postal district, are practically out of the commercial world.

It is scarcely necessary to emphasise the importance of this complaint. For well known commercial reasons it is becoming more and more the practice for manufacturing firms in London to move their works into the suburbs, and the Post Office has lamentably failed in its duty if it does not make arrangements for every extension of the telephone service which this process renders necessary. A telephone is in these days an indispensable adjunct to every business, and it is as essential that the Post Office should supply telephones when commercial establishments grow up on the outskirts of London, as it is that the local authorities should construct roads and sewers, or water companies lay down their mains. If the Post Office fails in this duty, business is hampered, and the natural and healthy expansion of London is restricted. Surely with a Liberal Minister at the head of the Post Office, it ought not to be necessary to point this out. If it is, however, I would suggest to my correspondents and their neighbours in the same district, a large number of whom are suffering in the same way, that they should point it out to the P.M.G. in Parliament through their local representatives.

Here is a sublime example of Orange bigotry at Belfast. The Works Committee of the Corporation were recently informed that the post of permit clerk was vacant, and they instructed the superintendent to exercise his discretion in filling up the vacancy, telling him that he should be guided by seniority coupled with merit. He did so. It turned out, however, that though the superintendent is himself a Protestant—that, indeed, goes without saying, for otherwise he would not be superintendent—he had actually so far disregarded the traditions of the Corporation as to give the clerkship to a Roman Catholic. The latter had been employed in a subordinate capacity for nine years, he bore an excellent character, and in the opinion of the superintendent he was the best qualified among the staff for promotion. But all this was, of course, immaterial in the eyes of the Orangemen. The Works Committee were exhorted and even intimidated not to let "a —— Papist" have the job, and at their next meeting they succumbed to this pressure, revoking the appointment of the Roman

Ask—and you will find that in business offices where the use of the best ink is essential, Stephens' Ink is used. You should use it at home—it costs no more. Resolutely refuse substitutes.

Catholic clerk, and putting a Protestant in his place. And it is from Belfast that we hear the most furious and indignant outcry against the alleged sectarian jobbery of Nationalist councils!

In view of the revelations during the prosecution of the West Ham Guardians I have been struck by a passage which appears in a recent agenda paper of the General Purposes Committee of the Bermondsey Borough Council. The passage is evidently a report from one of the borough officials. He mentions that a certain firm delivered a quantity of gold leaf supposed to contain 1,000 leaves, which on being counted was found only to contain 500. When the error was pointed out to them they apologised, and sent the other 500, but the gentleman who makes the report adds that the quality of the gold leaf is not up to his requirements, and that he is still in negotiation with the contractors.

The writer goes on to mention that the same firm delivered twenty cans of copal varnish, each of which was one quart short of its proper quantity, the total deficiency being 5 gallons. The cans being returned, a fresh consignment was substituted, in which each can proved to be half a pint short. On another occasion three dozen sponges were delivered and rejected as not up to sample, and on a fresh delivery being made nineteen only could be accepted, and this only because they were urgently required. Finally an alleged pound of oxalic acid was found on delivery to weigh half a pound. It would be interesting to know what notice the Borough Council takes of these little eccentricities on the part of its contractors.

THE TELEPHONE BELLE:

Cr the advantages of a musical voice.—*Vide* Daily Papers.

Do you pity the lot of your telephone Sis,
Whose days are eternally flurried
With "Hi!" "Are you there?" "*Do* connect me up, Miss!"
From customers testy and hurried?
Do you look on her life
As one harassing strife
By "Gerrards" and "Westminsters" worried?

If you do, you are wrong; for although it is true
At times she is cruelly harried,
Set off against that the unique opportu-
Nitees that she has to get married,
As the tones of her voice
With their music rejoice
The male men to whom they are carried.

For a musical voice (and my voice *must* be that),
Though out of sight a girl's face is,
Makes the hearts of susceptible youths pit-a-pat
With its dulcet acoustical graces;
So that amorous fire
They breathe me *per* wire,
And send telephonic embraces.

Then envy, don't pity, the Telephone Belle—
Her lot in life do not disparage—
Who wrings from the men, by her music's sweet spell,
The ring that's a token of marriage;
And prompt is to chime
In affirmative time
With the lover that offers a carriage.

The original BLUE BLACK INK was invented by Henry Stephens in 1831. It has been frequently imitated but never equalled, and is to-day by far the most fluid and reliable ink in the world.

The estimates of their assets by insolvent debtors frequently differ widely from the results shown on realisation; but the records of the bankruptcy courts do not often reveal a higher flight of imagination on the part of a debtor than is shown in the case of Major-General Barwell, whose Trustee has just issued his accounts. The Major-General estimated that his estate would realise £128,709 odd; the Trustee actually got out of it £916. The debtor imagined that he had a surplus of £24,959 from "securities in the hands of creditors fully secured." The actual surplus proved to be *nil*. He imagined that he had "book debts, good" to the value of £4,500, but the Trustee has been unable to recover a penny of them. Finally, the gallant officer saw in his imagination "interests in public companies" to the value of £99,250. The Trustee realised under this head a matter of £822.

The debtor seems to have been nearer the truth in his estimate of his liabilities, which he put at £348,146, for they actually came out at £328,705. After paying "costs on the usual scale" the Trustee had £489 wherewith to discharge this trifling indebtedness, and this sum has yielded to the creditors five-fourteenths of a penny in the pound. Major-General Barwell has cut a figure, of sorts, for many years past as a company promoter. I fear that many shareholders have as little cause to bless his name as have the creditors in his bankruptcy.

A correspondent sends me particulars of a case of cruelty to a horse heard by the Ipswich county magistrates last week, in which the employer was fined 10s. and costs, and the carter who was in charge of the horse at the time was fined 2s. 6d. and costs. "Surely," argues my correspondent, "if the master was proved guilty, the servant, though technically *particeps criminis*, might have been let off. We all know," he adds, "the conditions of country service, and no labourer would risk his place by refusing to obey his master's orders." There is a good deal of force in my correspondent's contention, but at the same time an appreciation of the carter's difficulties must not blind one to the fact that he is actually and not merely technically *particeps criminis*. Magistrates generally are ready to recognise the distinction between the respective responsibilities of master and servant in such cases in the fines inflicted, and I see no reason to quarrel with the Ipswich County Bench for their decision in this particular case.

A very wholesome lesson was given to butchers who attempt to trade in carrion by the Stockport magistrates last week. One William Henry Gardiner, who was described as having a number of shops in Stockport and as carrying on a large wholesale trade, was summoned for having in his possession unsound meat intended for sale. He admitted that the forequarters and carcass of a calf, which contained tuberculous deposits, were his property, and evidence was given to the effect that the meat had been stripped so as to remove traces of the disease. The magistrates sent him to prison for three months, with hard labour, without the option of a fine. If this method of dealing with

such offenders were more widely adopted there would be a great deal less of this filthy traffic carried on than there is at present.

The 60 per cent. bloodsuckers appear to have a good friend in Judge Emden, of the Lambeth County Court. A correspondent sends me particulars of a recent case in which interest at this rate had been exacted upon a loan of £30, though the lender had the security of a bill of sale on furniture worth three or four times that amount. When the borrower had paid back £24 7s. 6d. he fell into arrears with his monthly instalment, and under a threat that he would be "sold up" for the balance of the principal and interest, he took proceedings in the County Court to have the transaction reopened and revised under Section 1 of the Moneylenders Act. In many cases, both in the High Court and the County Courts, almost precisely similar bill of sale transactions have been held to be harsh and unconscionable—60 per cent. being manifestly an outrageously excessive charge on a well-secured loan—and the borrower has been granted relief by the reduction of the interest. Judge Emden, however, not only declined to exercise his powers under the Act, but added to the financial difficulties of the unfortunate borrower by ordering him to pay the moneylender's costs in connection with the application.

Recently I referred to some cases in the Liverpool Police-court which incidentally threw a light on the rapacity of various semi-professional female moneylenders whose business is done among working-class women. I suggested that the harpies in question might perhaps be found to be liable to prosecution for non-registration under the Moneylenders Act. From a communication that I have received, however, it appears that they were actually registered, the prosecutions that the Liverpool police had previously instituted having opened their eyes to the requirements of the law in this respect. My informant proceeds:—

> Probably the framers of the Act hardly contemplated a class of moneylenders like this, but the present system of registering anybody who will pay the fee amounts to granting licence to a most iniquitous trade, one which tempts women to drink, to bet, and to do other things which lead to neglect of home duties, and so increase the sum of misery which unfortunately is the lot of so many of the children of the poor.
>
> The protection given by the Act is only effective when the lender resorts to the County Court; but that is not the means of putting on the screw used by the slum moneylender, who, as the poor borrowers say, "thumps it out of them."

It is a lamentable state of things. Unfortunately, however, it is impossible to see how any remedy could be found for it in an alteration of the law with regard to moneylending. So far as registration is concerned it is obvious that it would be impracticable to attempt to exclude any particular class of lenders from the register. Besides, even if the difficulty of discriminating between them could be satisfactorily overcome there would still be the objection that such a system would lead people to think that those admitted to the register were persons whose methods of business had received the approval of the authorities.

The police deserve credit for their success in bringing to book at Bow-street last week a printer named Julius Schuneman, who was convicted of an offence, under the Lottery Act, in connection with the publication of circulars relating to a Saxon State lottery. It appeared that a firm of so-called "bankers" at Bremen employed the defendant to print 48,000 circulars, which were distributed in this country in December last, the firm's object being to save the cost of postage from abroad. As usual in these cases, the defendant pleaded that he did not know that he was committing an offence. Ignorance is no excuse for a breach of the law, and, moreover, in view of the secrecy with which orders of this kind are executed, I should doubt very much whether the printers, who carefully refrain from putting their imprints on the circulars, are quite so innocent in the matter as magistrates are ready to believe.

Mr. Fenwick fined the defendant £25 and costs. It is obviously absurd to expect that the offence will be suppressed so long as it is dealt with so leniently. The difference between the cost of foreign and inland postage on a big batch of circulars—a saving of three halfpence on each—is so substantial that the German lottery agents can well afford to pay such penalties as are imposed on their accomplices over here; and, seeing how constantly this offence is being committed, and how difficult it is to trace the offenders, the time has arrived when those who are caught ought to be punished far more severely. The magistrates have power to send the culprits to gaol without the option of a fine, and it would have a salutary effect if this were done.

A correspondent at Winnipeg is anxious that I should "take up the case" of an English emigrant named Fred C. Hawkins, who has been condemned to twenty years "in Stony Mountain penitentiary" for burglary. It was certainly a heavy sentence—in fact, a local paper says that it is the heaviest ever inflicted in the Winnipeg Municipal Court. Hawkins, however, pleaded guilty to no fewer than ten burglaries, and, according to his own account, "the sensation of robbing people in a daring manner worked upon him in such a way that he could not stop it." All sorts and conditions of men are advised to emigrate to Canada; but this sentence shows that burglars at least would do well to keep away from that country.

A WIFE'S PROTEST

(Against Mr. Fordham's Recent Observations).

What! John revise my calling list
And ride the gee-gee high
O'er me? On this or that insist?—
I'd like to see him try.

"And certain trouble always lights
On married people's lives,
Where husbands do not air their rights
To rule their wedded wives."

Well! well! To think a London Beak,
Who better ought to wot,
Should gravely *ex cathedrâ* speak
Such silly tommy-rot!

For trouble aye most surely lights
(Which John he knows it's true),
Not where the men *don't* air their rights
To rule, *but where they DO*.

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, N.—£7,000 owing to Bankers. £10,000 needed annually from voluntary sources.—Lewis H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

Nowhere in the United Kingdom are offences of violence treated so systematically with misplaced lenity as in the Glasgow police-courts, and rarely a week passes without the necessity arising for placing one or other of the presiding Bailies in my Legal Pillory. This week the case reported from the Southern Police-court supplies an example remarkable even in Glasgow records. To let off with a paltry fine ruffians who waylay peaceful citizens in the streets, throw pepper in their eyes, knock them down, and kick and maim their victims, betrays a lamentable condition of mind on the part of the magistrate before whom they were brought, and while Glasgow magistrates take such extraordinary views of what constitutes adequate punishment for crimes of violence the reputation which Glasgow is rapidly gaining as the most hooligan-ridden city in the kingdom, is likely to go on increasing.

Glasgow Southern Police-court. Two young men charged with assaulting three gentlemen in the street shortly after midnight. They were members of a gang who waylaid the complainants, threw pepper in their eyes, knocked them down and kicked them, one victim having his shoulder dislocated. Fined 2 guineas each.

Queen's Park (Glasgow) Police-court. Before Bailie R. S. Brown. William Ray, charged with assaulting his wife. He thrashed her with a cane because he could not find a key. Fined 42s.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Hudson, Mawbey and Hextall. E. Prince, charged with riotous behaviour. He was striking and kicking his wife in the street. Fined 5s.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Jelley and A. H. Franks. E. Cave, charged with assaulting his wife. He blackened her eyes and followed her down the street kicking her in the back. Fined 40s.

Coventry City Police-court. Before Messrs. Marriott, Lynes, Hill, Turrall and Cash. John Brown, charged with cruelty to a horse. He beat the animal about the head with a whip-stock, bursting the eye. Fined 40s. and costs.

Stradbroke Police-court. Before the Rev. T. S. Shaw, Mr. F. W. Ffrench and the Rev. F. French. O. Mills and A. Rowe, charged with assaulting G. Wilding. Wilding was knocked down and kicked until he became unconscious. Rowe fined £1 7s. 6d. and Mills £1 5s. inclusive.

Otley Petty Sessions. Lorenzo Massarello and John Lomas, two organ grinders, charged with assaulting a gentleman who asked them to go away from his house. They struck him in the face, blackening his eye, followed him to his house, stoning him all the way, and finally assaulted the complainant's wife and servant. Lomas fined 22s. 6d. and Massarello 17s. 6d. and costs.

Kinross Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff substitute J. Dean Leslie. Robert Sneddon, J. Lawson, R. Martin and J. Bonnar, charged with fishing with set lines. Fined £2 and 10s. costs each.

Glasgow Northern Police-court. Before Police Judge Martin. John M'Diarmid, aged 17, charged with stealing some brass handles and lead piping. Sixty days' imprisonment.

Paisley Sheriff Court. John Lothian, charged with being found on the highway with a hare in his possession which had been unlawfully obtained. Fined £5 or 30 days' imprisonment.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Crosse, Anderton, Kinch and Mayhew. James Alston, charged with absconding from the workhouse in Union clothing. Three months' hard labour.

Wells Police-court. Before Alderman Richards and Mr. Martin Vonberg. John Hill, aged 16, brought up on remand, charged with stealing half a sovereign from his employer. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Coventry City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Bill, F. W. Franklin and C. V. Pugh. Frederick Weston, charged with maliciously breaking an electric globe, value 15s. Twenty-eight days' hard labour.

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. J. White, Lieut.-Cols. Trafford Rawson and Anderson, Colonels d'Arcy Newcome and Fortescue, and Messrs. Burrell and Thornhill. Alfred Pettitt, charged with being in unlawful possession of 40 partridges' eggs. Fined £6 12s. 6d.

Romsey Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. George, Wheeler, Meddings, Coleclough, Guard and Houguez. Hudson Lutwyche, charged with driving a motor car at an excessive speed, 28 miles an hour. Fined £10 and costs.

Before Messrs. George, Tuck and Wheeler. S. Payne and W. Cross, charged with stealing chocolate, value 8d. Fourteen days' hard labour each.

Kesteven Police-court. Before Capt. Jarvis and Messrs. Morton, Nevile and Jackson. J. Wheatley, charged with assaulting Edith Page, aged 16. He went to her room when she was in bed and assaulted her. Fined 20s. inclusive.

Gloucester City Police-court. Before Messrs. R. G. Foster, E. Lea and N. B. Foster. J. Jauncey, charged with assaulting his wife. He caught her by the throat, dragged her across the road, stripped most of her clothes off her, and struck her. Fined 10s. and costs.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent and other magistrates. W. Gayford, charged on two counts with taking 8 and 14 partridges' eggs, and J. Hensley and T. Dickenson, charged with abetting both offences. Each fined £3 12s. for the first offence, and £2 9s. for the second, or two months' imprisonment.

Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Howard, Bailey, East, Musgrave and Greenshields. J. Miller and W. Redpath, charged with destroying their clothing while casual inmates of the workhouse. Miller, two months', Redpath, one month's hard labour.

I rejoice to see that the police have laid hold of the individual who has so long been trading at Winchester-avenue, Kilburn, under the name of Dorey Lester and Co. As to the particular charges that are now preferred against him I, of course, express no opinion. But so many have been preferred against him during the last few years in the columns of TRUTH, that I shall be greatly interested to see whether my opinion about him is or is not justified by the result.

Reference has already been made in TRUTH to the annoyance that has been caused in many parts of London by the delivery from house to house "on appro." of a directory issued by a firm called the Granville Press, of 31, Eagle-street. I have just had another letter on the subject from a gentleman who, like everybody else, objects to having goods dumped in his house in this way, and to his servants having the trouble of answering the door, and looking for the book and returning it when the publishers choose to send for it. He has therefore adopted a policy of retaliation by way of protecting himself against such dumping—evidently being, though he does not mention it, a student of the fiscal controversy. He has hidden the book, and concealed from his servants all knowledgs of its whereabouts, and he is now consoling himself with the fruitless efforts of the publishers to recover the book. He suggests that if householders generally would take similar measures, the annoyance would cease, and no doubt this is so. Most people object to this practice, but few have the courage or the sense to convey their objections in a practical manner. If they had, firms who can only unload their goods by this obnoxious method would speedily have to shut up shop.

An old friend re-appears in the following letter, written a few weeks ago from 48, Castle-road, Portsmouth:—

MY LORD,—I humbly apologise for addressing your Lordship.

I am a miniature painter in deep financial difficulties and struggling in vain with adversity, mainly owing to failing sight.

With a view of improving a little my position, I have drawn with pen and ink the enclosed portrait, which I humbly beg your Lordship to deign accept, if convenient, for one guinea.

Appealing to your goodwill and forgiveness for this intrusion, I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's humble servant,

GEORGE MARTIN.

George Martin is really a Frenchman named Cottrel or Cotrel. He was referred to in TRUTH so far back as January, 1897, when he was offering his work under the names of Marie Jansen, a French governess, and Olga Jansen, a Swedish governess; and I understand that

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

he has been writing letters more or less like the above from time to time during the intervening period. He evidently gets his living in this way, and as he appears to do the work which he disposes of, I suppose that he must not be condemned too severely. But it is as well that those who receive his communications should understand that this has been his regular mode of livelihood for the last ten years, and that he has no claim to charity.

It was interesting to observe the outburst of some of the Tory papers last week on the subject of the better regulation of the milk supply of London. The *Pall Mall Gazette* affirmed that the deaths of innumerable children from inadequate nourishment are directly due to the adulteration of the milk which is given them. The *Daily Telegraph* declared that it was absolutely necessary that more effective steps should be taken to prevent the adulteration or contamination of the supply, and the *Daily Mail* urged that there should be an unceasing agitation until the authorities are aroused to the importance of the matter. With all this I heartily agree. What makes the appearance of these articles peculiarly interesting, however, is the fact that the General Powers Bill of the London County Council, now before the House of Commons, originally contained the very provisions for the better regulation of the milk supply which are being so forcibly demanded. The Bill was drafted when the Council was Progressive; and one of the first things which the present Moderate majority did was to strike out the clauses in question—clauses which their supporters in the press tell us are absolutely necessary for the protection of the life and health of the community!

In common with most other people, I regret that a good many honest and skilful operatives should find themselves thrown out of work at Woolwich because we are not inclined to waste more money than is necessary in manufacturing warlike instruments of destruction. But I cannot agree with those who hold that we ought either to continue to manufacture such goods without having any use for them, or to find something else for the employees to make at Woolwich. I can, however, quite understand that these worthy fellows should uphold the doctrine themselves, and that it should be adopted by those Socialists who hold that it is the duty of the State to find work at a decent wage for every one in want of it. These men were engaged during the warlike craze that raged a few years ago, and it is possible that—given a state of war—a larger supply of lethal contrivances was then needed to slay the enemy. But that is no reason why we should continue to employ the men now. It might as well be contended that if we were in danger of an immediate invasion, and masons and others were employed to build works at some fortress, the men ought to be kept on at work after the fortifications had been completed, and all risk of the fortress being besieged had disappeared.

It is asserted by the friends of the men that some method ought to be found to utilise their skill in times of peace in peaceable work, and it is insisted that they should be employed at Woolwich because that town will suffer in its prosperity if all the houses that have been built there are not let. I am sorry for Woolwich house-owners, but I see no particular reason why the State should come to their aid. If the men themselves were to be employed in some new industry, it is evident that work would be taken from others, for we cannot control the quantity of any article sold, and consequently their gain would be the loss of other men equally honest and equally desirous of a job, whilst the employers of the latter would find a considerable portion of their capital outlay unremunerative, whilst the owners of houses where these private works are situated would be unable to let them. The question raises the issue between the State being the sole employer of labour, or the State leaving industries to private enterprise, and this ought not to be decided upon what is a mere local issue.

Where I think Mr. Crooks has made a point was in complaining that while the workers were discharged, yet the additional staff of supervisors was kept on at a war standard. The reductions ought to be carried out at a corresponding rate in all grades. Liberals are perpetually clamouring for economy, yet some of them adduce the reason for not discharging men at Woolwich who are in excess of requirements that we may possibly need them in case of some future war. It might equally be said that our Army ought to be on a war footing in peace times—a doctrine that is held by some crazy Jingoes, but can only be scouted by every Liberal.

King Leopold secured the sovereignty of the Congo State, not owing to any exertions of his own, or any sort of claim of a dynastic or personal character, but because the Powers thought fit to select him for the position. But he obtained it under certain conditions, which, if carried out by him, would, it was hoped, put an end to all international rivalries there, and secure to its natives good government and good treatment. Even assuming that there is some exaggeration in the accounts of the condition of the natives under the new rule—which is, to say the least, doubtful—there remains treatment which is a disgrace to humanity. The King seems to have regarded his kingdom as a sort of preserve within which everything should be subordinated to his personal greed. Unless he is greatly belied, he has been the promoter of numerous companies possessed of exclusive trading concessions over wide areas, and the most inhuman cruelties have been the rule towards the wretched inhabitants, practised by Government officials and the forces at their disposal in the interest of the Royal companies.

The Belgians are no more responsible for these than was the Parliament of Great Britain for the government of Hanover when the British Sovereign was the ruler of that country. Occasionally, endeavours have been made by the ruler of the Congo to hand it over to the Belgian nation. But for various reasons they have been declined. I can well understand this. King Leopold holds a vast number of shares in the

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companies that he promoted. One of the conditions of the transfer of rule would be that these companies should continue to exist, or, if either ended or deprived of their existing privileges, a heavy indemnity should be paid to them. Moreover, it is very doubtful whether under a proper system of government the acquisition of the Congo State would not prove a losing bargain to the Belgian taxpayer, however profitable it might be to some individuals.

The Belgians ought, therefore, clearly to perceive that the protests against the cruelties of King Leopold's myrmidons in Africa, which have been so strongly worded both in Parliament and in the press, are no evidence of any ill-feeling on our part towards them. If the Belgian State takes over the Congo State, with the full right to abrogate all concessions granted to King Leopold and his friends by King Leopold, I see no reason why it should not be well governed by Belgium, under full Parliamentary control and constitutional publicity. But we and other Powers cannot divest ourselves of the responsibility that we incurred in granting the Congo State to King Leopold, because he sells or gives rights thus acquired to a third party. The paramount right of the Powers to insist upon good government and proper treatment of the natives will remain, and this fact the Belgian nation must remember in considering the question of the transfer of the country from the King of the Belgians to the Belgian nation.

The general opinion amongst those Italians who, although they have rallied to the Kingdom of Italy, are Catholics, is that the selection of the present Pope has not proved a happy one. His predecessor, Leo XIII., was a man of considerable capacity, and understood fairly well the interests of the Church in the world. He was, indeed, a statesman, although, perhaps, not a first-rate one. In his long Pontificate he created nearly 200 Cardinals. In the early days of his Pontificate he had selected a considerable number of men of light and leading whose presence in the conclave was useful to the Church in its relations to the various centres over which it claimed a power spiritual. At the time of his death these men had almost all died out, and had been replaced by ex-nuncios, who claimed the Cardinalate as the reward of their services, and archbishops or bishops who were in almost all cases Italians, and ignorant of almost everything outside Italy.

On the death of Leo XIII. the only man who was —to translate an Italian word—"papable," probably, was Cardinal Rampolla. This the Cardinals themselves had the sense to perceive, and he would have been elected Pope had it not been for the Austrian veto. On Austria exercising it, they chose the then patriarch of Venice, a simple priest, whose elevation created no jealousies, who had not himself dreamed of his elevation to the Holy See, and of whom, if little was known, that little seemed to be to his advantage. It is entirely to his credit as a Priest that he understood nothing of the Papacy in its temporal aspect; indeed, he knew little of anything outside Italy. He was no statesman, and would have smiled had any one suggested that he was.

As Patriarch he had been popular at Venice, and he had lived on good terms with the rulers of the Kingdom of Italy. It was expected that he would break with the tradition of making the Cardinalate a mere step in the papal hierarchy—to be given to respectable nonentities rather than to the leading intellectual lights of the Church, or to men who were good on the Council from their capacity and knowledge of its needs and requirements. Since his elevation he has created thirteen Cardinals. But he has followed the old lines, except in one or two cases, in which his selection has been due to personal friendship. The only two who were men of any note are Merry del Val, whose selection as Secretary of State was not—all things considered—a particularly wise one, and Maffi, an able man, who is Archbishop of Pisa.

Pius X. has the very best intentions; but he has fallen into the illusion that he is able himself to direct the affairs of the Church. The result is what it always has been when a weak, well-meaning man undertakes a task for which he is entirely unfitted. He has become a mere instrument in the hands of a party; and in his case, unfortunately, that party is the most retrograde in the Church, and its leaders are, if more cunning and more ambitious than he, as little fitted for rule as he is himself. This at least is the opinion of unprejudiced and unbiassed Italian Catholics, and Italians are pretty accurate judges of character.

It has always surprised me that the leading men of the Roman Church do not seem to realise that the Chief Council of the Pope should not be almost exclusively comprised of Italians, and the selection of each new Pope left entirely in their hands, if the Church claims to be universal. When the Pope was a Sovereign reigning in Italy, there was some excuse for it. But now that this has ceased, and probably neither Pope nor Cardinals in their hearts believe that this temporal rule will ever be re-established, it seems hardly consistent with the interests of the Church that its head should always be an Italian, and also the vast majority of its Cardinals. This, however, concerns the Church more than it does me.

Were I not merely an Irish Home Ruler, but an Irishman, I am inclined to think that I should have voted for Mr. Birrell's Bill on its second reading, and at the same time have explained that I should only vote for its third reading if it were considerably altered in Committee. The first vote would simply recognise that administrative work in Ireland will be better done by an elected Council than by the Castle. The second vote—if cast against the Bill—would mean that the Council was so shorn of powers, and so dependent upon the English nominee who sits in state at the Council, that the Bill was a mere sham transfer of powers.

A scheme creating a Council elected by the votes of all Ireland, and granting some sort of legislative and executive powers, provided that it was of a

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workable character, and that the powers granted were real, would be a first step towards full Home Rule, for it would enable Irishmen to take some part in the government of the country, and permit them to show that they are as fitted for self-government as the English or Scotch. This would hardly, however, be the result unless the scheme were well thought out, and the Council not an assembly of marionnettes on wires which might be pulled at any moment by the Lord Lieutenant. Members of the Council should not be nominated by that nominee of the English Government, nor should he be able to veto its action. With a Liberal Cabinet in office such a restriction would be galling; with the Conservatives in office, bitterly opposed to the existence of the Council, and bent on rendering it an object-lesson against Home Rule, it would be harmful to Ireland and England.

Mr. Birrell is certainly not fortunate in his Bills. His Education Bill was satisfactory neither to the Conservatives nor to the Radicals, and neither to Churchmen nor Chapelmen, still less to the many who are against State teaching of any form of dogmatic theology. It was accepted by the majority in the Commons and in the country as a compromise. But compromises, although sometimes necessary, never arouse enthusiasm. That a few hundred peers and bishops should have had the effrontery to throw it out, was deemed a monstrous exercise of an indefensible right. But the indignation at that performance would have been far greater had the Bill itself been a better one. In seeking to please all, Mr. Birrell pleased no one, as is usual. His Irish Bill will fall dead, unless he promises to so amend it in Committee that it will find favour with the Irish and with the English Radicals—not, of course, as a final settlement of the Irish difficulty, nor even as a half-way house on the road to that goal, but as a first step in that direction. If he does this another Irish Convention would be pretty sure to reverse the decision arrived at last week. As the Government is taking another week before announcing its decision in regard to the Bill, it may be hoped that there is a prospect of its yet being made acceptable to the Irish, though my opinion of the Cabinet collectively does not lead me to regard that prospect hopefully.

How comes it that a Cabinet with a sound and honest Radical at its head, and a Radical Parliamentary majority behind it, submits measures to Parliament of so half-hearted a character? It is because some of its members are not Radicals, and insist on every Government Bill being spoilt to suit their own views. Some of them are able administrators and good debaters. There are particular issues in regard to which they are at one with the Radicals. There are others, however, on which they incline rather to Unionist than to Radical opinions. They are generals without an army, for I do not suppose that their following in the House of Commons at most exceeds thirty members.

If these gentlemen were to resign, the loss would perhaps be felt in debate and in administration, but the fortunes of the Government would not be endangered, for it still would have an overwhelming majority in Parliament and in the country. Whatever, therefore, the loss might be to the party, it would be amply compensated by having the Executive and the House of Commons at one in heart and spirit, and by the Government being able to bring in Bills to give effect to their views and aspirations without let or hindrance. If these gentlemen joined the Opposition, they would probably prove very doubtful allies; if they occupied a position of independence of all party ties, their fate would be that of their former leader, Lord Rosebery. I am convinced that we shall sooner or later have to shed them, and that the longer that this is delayed the greater will be the mischief. This probably is the view of nine-tenths of the Radicals, although they may not openly avow it.

We are shortly to learn the intentions of the Government in regard to the House of Lords. I trust that there will be no half-hearted action in this case, and that not one iota of what is necessary in order to put an end to the power of that House to defy the country and its representatives will be left untouched because a few Whigs may wish it. The veto of the Lords must be limited to one Session, and any Bill that has passed the Commons in two successive Sessions must become law without their having a right to interfere. This is the irreducible minimum of reform to which Radicals can consent, although many would go considerably further. If after the Lords have had their claws cut they propose any scheme to alter the composition of the Upper House, we will give it our best consideration. But on the veto there must be no shilly-shally, nor must we concern ourselves with reforms in the constitution of an existing branch of the Legislature before we know what are in future to be its powers.

I have been interested in a letter from one of my readers on the House of Lords question. He voted Liberal at the last election, "owing to the introduction of Chinese labour into South Africa;" but he did not approve of last year's Education Bill, and he is in favour of colonial preference. He thinks, therefore, that he only gave the Government a mandate to deal with the Chinese, and that the House of Lords should come to the rescue whenever it considers that a mandate has been exceeded, and that when it throws out a Bill there should at once be a general election. Personally, I should think it would be better to repeal the Septennial Act and have annual parliaments. The above suggestion seems merely to mean a referendum dependent on the will of the House of Lords, which is unthinkable.

The truth is that the "mandate" doctrine is a new constitutional notion developed within the last few years—chiefly, I should say, by journalists. A "mandate" can only be given decisively on one issue; but a

Lady Henry Somerset writes on Nervousness, and How to Overcome it, on page 1366.

Never ask for 'a bottle of ink.' If you do, the dealer may give you a substitute for Stephens'. Insist on having Stephens' Ink. It costs no more. Resolutely refuse substitutes.

Parliament is elected for seven years, and those who vote for the party which gets a majority must take the chance of what it will do, except so far as it may be pledged by its election addresses. That is the theory of the Constitution, and a necessary result of parliamentary government. Roughly speaking it works all right. The complainant in the above case must have known perfectly well that the first business of a Liberal Government would be to deal with the grievances created by the Education Act of 1902, and that they were pledged to resist colonial preference and tariff reform in every shape. I cannot see therefore that he has any grievance, nor if he had, how it is to be redressed. But, of course, there are thousands more like him who vote at every election on one ground without regard to others; and I suppose that is one reason why as a Government goes on more and more people are alienated from it. It is consequently turned out at the next election, unless, like Mr. Chamberlain in 1900, it can spring some novel issue which will again rally the masses to its standard.

THE HUMANITARIAN AND THE PLOVER'S EGGS.

Tom Tuck, while out once walking, found
Four Plover's Eggs upon the Ground,
In a slight Cavity depressed,
Which constitutes the Lapwing's Nest.
Now Tom, he was the Class of Man
That's called humanitarian—
Whose Principles, in Word at least,
Forbad to harm or Bird or Beast,
And all Unkindness to eschew
Towards Aught that ran, or swam, or flew.
Yet he, an Epicure, adored
The Pleasures of the festal Board,
And Naught his Palate's Sense—i' Fegs—
Tickled so much as Plover's Eggs.
Hence raged in him a dubious Fight
'Twixt Principle and Appetite,
As stood he, rooted to the Spot,
Debating an he should or not.
The Fight went on, until appeared
A sudden Light. Tom's Visage cleared.
"Tut! Birds *can't count.* No Odds 'twill make
If just one Egg, unseen, I take.
The Hen won't know, so can't be pained;
While I a nice *Bonne Bouche* have gained."
Quick stooped he down, one Egg he took,
Then turned as if to sling his Hook,
But, halting still, his Thoughts addressed
Once more to that terranean Nest.
"Since Birds can't count—now I've begun,
As well," he cried, "*take two as one.*"
He stooped, a second Egg he took,
And turned again to sling his Hook.
But no! His Wish still kept his Legs
Close to those twain remaining Eggs.
"Dash it! If Birds can't count," said he,
"*She'll never know if I take three.*"
So down he stooped, a third Egg took,
And turned, once more, to sling his Hook.
But no! Still lingered fond his Eyes
Upon that one remaining Prize.
"And if it's hatched—poor Thing," said he,
"*Just think how lonely it will be.*
Leave it thus lorn? Kind Heaven forbid!
I'll take it too."
And so he did.

MORAL.

However vicious, bad, or wrong
The Things for which our Hearts may long,
Sound Reasons we can always find,
To do them with an easy Mind.

SCRUTATOR.

JOURNALISM AND POLITICS.

THE protest of the Under-Secretary of the Colonies against newspapers of the *Daily Mail* type both directly and wilfully lying or distorting truth in matters affecting our relations with foreign States and our own Colonies was not a whit too strong. The press, with its boasted freedom, has now become—so far as regards London dailies—a close borough, belonging to a few individuals who use it for their own profit and glorification, with absolute disregard to the well-being of the community. No capital in Europe has so few daily papers as London in proportion to its population. This is due to the amount of capital that has to be invested in a daily paper with a view to a financial success that is always problematical. I am not blind to the merits of these journals. A good deal connected with them is well done, and so far the public gets the advantage. Moreover, there is no blackmailing in the English press, nor do political parties make any direct payment in return for support. With some rare exceptions, however, the London newspapers are financial undertakings carried on with the sole object of making money for their proprietors, regardless of the public weal. These owners are men of no political importance, and have no journalistic aptitude in its literary aspect. Their views upon men and things are not more likely to be correct than those of other tradesmen. Generally speaking, no doubt they understand their business thoroughly on its financial side. The aim is, of course, to secure a large circulation, a circulation being necessary in order to obtain advertisements, from which outlay is in the main met and profit secured. In order to obtain a wide circulation it is not necessary to obtain correct news of what is transpiring in the world; what is necessary is that the news shall be sensational and attract attention. False information, in some cases actually manufactured by the newspaper itself, is resorted to. This in home matters is bad enough, but when adopted in regard to matters which concern foreign countries and our Colonies is a positive danger to the country, for it inevitably breeds international friction and ill-will. Nor is the evil effect greatly mitigated by the correction of mis-statements, for, as that astute female politician, Catherine de Médicis, said, "It is sufficient for an untruth to be believed for twenty-four hours for it often to prove useful." This usefulness is all the more baneful when lying has become a habit, and when no sooner is one falsehood contradicted than another is launched. That the system is deemed sound from the business point of view by the astute gentlemen who practise it is in itself evidence that it really is so.

Outside public affairs, every man who publishes a statement harmful to another, which is not true in substance and in fact, and the publication of which cannot be shown to be to the public benefit, whether this may be due to deliberate untruth or to culpable negligence, is liable to heavy penalties. I think that a law might be passed which would lay the same responsibility on the publication of falsehoods for political purposes, when they are contrary to public interest.

I would even go further, as is the case in regard to private libels, for the injured party may, if he so pleases, prosecute the offender criminally. Were the proprietor of a newspaper to know that he might be sent to hard labour for six months if any false statement appeared in his newspaper, the publication of which was harmful to the country, this would have a far more deterring effect than a mere fine. It may be said that a newspaper which has recourse to these methods to attract attention to itself will lose in circulation, and consequently in advertisements. But, as I have said, it is unfortunately true that the reverse is the case, and the greatest offender is possibly the newspaper that boasts—and in this case with truth—that it has the largest circulation.

In regard to mere party politics, I do not quite agree with Mr. Churchill in his denunciations of the Unionist press because it distorts and misrepresents all that is done by its opponents. This is a charge that one party always makes against the other, and the sin is to a greater or lesser degree true in regard to all. We are so accustomed to the *ex parte* mode of representing facts that it is productive of small mischief. It is like the speeches of the lawyers appearing respectively for plaintiff and defendant in a court of law. There a judge sums up the rival speeches, and seeks to make clear to the jury what are the real facts. In the absence of any official to separate the corn from the chaff of party advocacy in newspapers, this has to be done by the public, and their verdict is the outcome of what is called public opinion. Not only do they deliver the verdict, but they pass sentence. When international relations are not affected, I would allow every one to say what he pleases concerning the merits or demerits of a party, and to distort facts as he pleases. To carry such tactics to excess is more harmful to the party for which it is done than to their opponents or the public.

I should like to see more daily newspapers, and to see those that exist have a more numerous proprietary. But we have to take the world as it is, and make the best of it. So long as a newspaper is a commercial undertaking, commercial considerations will be the mainspring, and so long as it is run by one or two individuals these individuals will not sacrifice private gain to public spirit. In this they are like most human beings, consequently I do not greatly blame them, for in the present age very little is done on millennium principles. Where I particularly agree with Mr. Churchill is in his condemnation of the action of the late Government in rewarding a journalistic supporter who had backed them through thick and thin, by creating him a perpetual legislator, with the power to hand over his legislative rights to a descendant when he disappears from the earth. I go, indeed, further. I would never grant any title to the proprietor of a newspaper. It is contrary to all journalistic independence. In the matter of such rewards I would leave him to make money, and to imagine himself, if he pleases, the member of a priesthood, without particularly inquiring why he indulges in this illusion. I am against all titles, but if I were in favour of them, and if I believed that they should be granted to journalists, I would award them to some distinguished writer on the press, rather than to the business gentleman, who is to the real journalist what the capitalist is to the inventor.

THE EDALJI SCANDAL.

I spoke last week of the Home Secretary's decision in the Edalji case as "a compromise with justice." The articles by Sir A. Conan Doyle, which have since appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, should be sufficient to convince every reader that the decision amounts to a gross injustice. Sir Arthur Wilson's Committee, while finding that the circumstantial evidence produced at the trial was insufficient to justify a conviction, held that there was evidence to prove that the prisoner wrote the anonymous letters which led to his arrest, and that the writing of these letters might have been the work of an innocent man perpetrating a practical joke in a spirit of "impish mischief." Mr. Herbert Gladstone, adopting this last view, made it the ground of refusing compensation to Mr. Edalji for three years' wrongful imprisonment, while granting him a free pardon, thereby leaving him under the stigma of having brought his trouble on himself by what would be grossly unbecoming conduct on the part of a professional gentleman, and gravely prejudicing his prospect of obtaining reinstatement in his profession and recovering his former position in life. What Sir Conan Doyle has now done is to show the weakness of the evidence that Mr. Edalji ever wrote the letters and the strong probability that they were written by somebody else.

If any one desires to appreciate the full weight of the argument upon these letters, I would refer him to Sir Conan Doyle's articles, in which typical specimens of all the handwritings are given in facsimile. But I should like to make it clear to those who have not the *Daily Telegraph* at hand exactly what Sir Conan Doyle's examination of the documents tends to prove. In the first place—as pointed out in Truth in the earliest stage of the discussion of the case—the theory that Mr. Edalji wrote the letters used at his trial in 1903 is beset with the strongest inherent improbability. The letters are certainly not in his ordinary handwriting—even Mr. Gurrin did not suggest that. They are in language and general style the compositions of an uneducated man. They betray familiarity with persons and incidents outside Mr. Edalji's knowledge—and the more so now that he is admittedly innocent of the cattle-maiming outrages. What motive he could ever have had for writing them it was difficult to see, remembering that he was a lawyer and that they would tend to convict him of atrocious crimes; and the motive of "impish mischief," now put forward by the Committee, is as incredible as any that has been suggested previously. All that is now known of Mr. Edalji's character, as uniformly quiet, well-behaved, and of studious habits, from boyhood upwards, is as inconsistent with his engaging in a series of vulgar hoaxes in the pretended character of an illiterate and criminal hooligan, as it is with the theory that he amused himself at night in the intervals of his professional work by roaming about the country maiming the cattle and horses of his father's parishioners. There is another point which the Committee can scarcely have had in their minds when they advanced the "impish mischief" theory. One of the letters attributed by Mr. Gurrin to Edalji was a postcard addressed to himself at his own office

in Birmingham, conveying the foulest imputation, not merely upon him, but upon a lady in the neighbourhood. Even granting that a spirit of impish mischief might move him to play practical jokes for the purpose of fooling the police in their hunt after the cattle-maimer, is it conceivable that a professional man would gratuitously address a libel of this character to himself at his own office, with the practical certainty that it would be read by other people in transit? And this postcard, be it remembered, was posted at Wolverhampton on a day when Mr. Edalji was able to prove conclusively that he was not in that town, having started very early in the morning on an excursion to Aberystwith, and returned late at night! In the face of these considerations it has always seemed to me that no weight whatever attaches to Mr. Gurrin's detection of two or three points of resemblance between the handwriting of the anonymous letters and the ordinary handwriting of Mr. Edalji, seeing that such resemblances might have been intentionally introduced, and that the writer was confessedly seeking to incriminate Mr. Edalji.

But this is only a portion of the case. The fact was never even mentioned at the trial, but is now common knowledge, that long prior to the Great Wyrley outrages of 1903, the Edalji family had been for a period of three or four years exposed to intolerable annoyance by the writing of anonymous letters to themselves and other people, the insertion of forged advertisements in newspapers, and practical jokes and hoaxes of a dozen kinds. The author of the anonymous letters of this period appeared to be inspired by demoniacal hatred of George Edalji, and his letters, often of portentous length, were full of appalling blasphemy and disgusting obscenity, suggesting at every point the ravings of a lunatic. The possibility of a connection between this phenomenon and the outbreak of anonymous writing at George Edalji's expense in 1903 suggests itself at once to anybody desirous of getting at the truth of the whole business, but from first to last, by the police who got up the prosecution, by the court at the trial, by the Home Office staff who have had the case before them off and on for three and a half years, no attempt has been made to follow up this line of investigation, and the clues arising out of it. Here it is that Sir Conan Doyle has come in. Laying hold of the clue furnished by the intrusion of a key stolen from Walsall Grammar School into one of the practical jokes played at Wyrley Vicarage in 1894—not impossibly a veritable key to the whole Edalji mystery—and following up this clue by careful personal investigations on the spot, he has unearthed a boy then in the school, an unruly boy of criminal tendency, who actually at that date gave evidence of what Captain Anson has called "propensity for anonymous letter-writing," and actually practised his hand on the headmaster of the school. Further clues connect an elder brother of this boy with anonymous letter-writing in the Edalji correspondence of the same period. A specimen of this handwriting reproduced in the *Daily Telegraph* of Friday last seems to me to present at least one remarkable point of resemblance to the writing of one of the letters used at the trial. Finally come the letters written to Mr. Edalji from Birmingham last January in the name of "Martin Molton," and an anonymous letter with which Sir Conan Doyle himself was favoured only a few weeks ago, and here we have the most striking resemblances to the handwriting of the Walsall Grammar School boy of 1894, and to certain of the letters attributed to Mr. Edalji at his trial in 1903.

Such is a brief indication of the nature of the case which Sir Conan Doyle has made out on the handwriting. He has discovered much more than this, including evidence bearing more directly on the cattle-maiming outrages. The time for going into this has not yet come, though it should be noted that a theory of the whole case, pointing directly to certain parties, was submitted by Sir Conan Doyle to the Home Office, and was presumably among the documents referred for consideration to Sir Arthur Wilson's Committee. But without going outside the mere question of the anonymous letter-writing, it is beyond all controversy that, thanks to Sir Conan Doyle, there is now definite evidence that the letters of 1903 were written by another party and not by Mr. Edalji; and this evidence, instead of being, like the evidence given by Mr. Gurrin, totally at variance with extraneous facts and inherent probability, is entirely consistent with all that can be proved about the character, habits, and history of the alleged writer or writers.

In view of this revelation the result of the last Home Office inquiry assumes the dimensions of a serious public scandal. It is quite certain that no critical examination of the handwriting in comparison with others bearing on the question of authorship ever took place before Sir Arthur Wilson's Committee; it is doubtful whether the committee ever had the materials for such an examination before them. Their procedure must be judged from their report, which merely says that they have examined the documents in evidence at the trial, that they see the points of resemblance which Mr. Gurrin indicated, that they "think" the jury "must be taken to have held that Edalji was the writer of those letters," and "they are not prepared to dissent from the finding at which they think the jury arrived." What is the value of these opinions if the Committee had not before them the materials on which alone the correctness of the finding of the jury can be disputed? And what is the value of an official inquiry from which the most essential evidence in the case is excluded? Yet it is on the result of such an inquiry that Mr. Gladstone finds Mr. Edalji to have brought his troubles on himself, and refuses him the compensation and the full exoneration to which justice entitles him.

There are other points in the finding of the Committee open to unfavourable remark. It is worthy of note how they confine themselves to "thinking" that the jury held Edalji to be the writer of the letters. The jury, of course, never gave any finding to that effect, and it was not the issue submitted to them. There was a further count against the prisoner, besides stabbing the pony, of writing a threatening letter to a policeman. This charge was founded upon one of the anonymous letters, and if pressed would have involved an express finding as to the authorship. But after the prisoner had been convicted on the first charge, this one was dropped. It has always been extremely difficult to find out exactly what took place at the trial; but I gather from Mr. Edalji himself that what hap-

pened in regard to the anonymous letters was this: They were referred to by counsel for the prosecution in opening as evidence that the prisoner was concerned in a cattle-maiming conspiracy. In order that they might be put in as such evidence, Mr. Gurrin was called to prove that the prisoner wrote them. He gave his evidence on the handwriting—such as it was—and then the letters were put in. They therefore went to the jury as forming, by virtue of their contents, part of the evidence against the prisoner on the charge of stabbing the pony. The jury may very possibly have accepted Mr. Gurrin's evidence, in the absence of any contradiction; but the question of authorship, so far as it was decided at all, was decided by the Court when it admitted the letters. Let no one think that this is a mere lawyer's point. It affords direct evidence of the mental attitude of the Committee towards the case. They could have ascertained as easily as I can how the letters came before the jury, and if they had done so they would not have been able to shelter themselves behind an imaginary finding of the jury, and in this way to assume that Edalji wrote the letters, and give Mr. Gladstone the pretext for the course he took. There was an excellent letter from Judge Parry in the *Manchester Guardian* of May 21, in which, though not having had the advantage of seeing Sir Conan Doyle's evidence, he strongly condemns the conclusions of the Committee about the anonymous letters. His Honour does not believe that the Committee themselves evolved the theory of the letters having been written by Mr. Edalji as "a piece of impish mischief." He asks how it came to be suggested, and wonders whether it originated with a policeman. In view of what we know of the official police theory of Mr. Edalji's character, he has cause for wondering. I wonder, too.

Seeing the unsatisfactory nature of the result arrived at, not only in the above but in other respects, it is impossible to close one's eyes to certain other facts. The conduct of the police in getting up the case against Mr. Edalji has been the subject of most unfavourable remark, and even Sir Arthur Wilson's Committee were forced to criticise it. For the action of the police, the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, Captain the Hon. G. A. Anson, is officially responsible, and language which he has used in regard to Mr. Edalji, long prior to the trial, and again subsequently to the conviction, suggests a strong bias on his part against that gentleman. In these circumstances, it is in the highest degree unfortunate, if nothing more, that Mr. Gladstone should have appointed a relative of Captain Anson as a member of the Committee which he commissioned to advise him on the case. Sir Albert de Rutzen is a cousin of the late Earl of Lichfield, and Captain Anson, the son of the late Earl, is therefore only his cousin one degree removed. Sir Albert de Rutzen's long and honourable record as a London magistrate, of course, places him above any suspicion of being actuated by personal considerations in a quasi-judicial inquiry; but in difficult cases, where pros and cons are pretty evenly balanced, and especially in a case like the present, where what is required is not merely a review of a judicial finding, but advice as to the next steps to be taken, the judgment of the best of men may be unconsciously swayed by personal prepossessions. The Committee in this case have put on record their opinion that the Staffordshire police conducted their investigations, "not for the purpose of finding out who was the guilty party, *but for the purpose of finding evidence against Edalji, who, they were already sure, was the guilty man.*" This expressly confirms what has been alleged again and again as to the police methods which led to Edalji's conviction, and fully justifies the reiterated public demand for an investigation which should include the conduct of the Staffordshire Constabulary; but not a suggestion is made in the report of the Committee that such a course as this is desirable, either in the interests of justice or for the protection of the public, or that any notice should be taken of a misconception of their duties on the part of the police which has exposed an innocent man to seven years' penal servitude. This is a strange omission. In the same connection, one cannot help noting that Mr. Herbert Gladstone himself is a cousin of the wife of Sir Reginald Hardy, who presided over Mr. Edalji's trial, and passed upon him the monstrous sentence above-mentioned—monstrous even if the man had been guilty, as Mr. Akers Douglas recognised when he remitted four years of it. Lady Hardy's father was the elder brother of Mr. W. E. Gladstone. I have been credibly informed that Mr. Herbert Gladstone is also a personal friend of Captain Anson, though I cannot myself vouch for this statement. But, whatever Mr. Gladstone's other connection with parties concerned in the case, it is singularly unfortunate that the Home Secretary, who is responsible for the unsatisfactory character of the inquiry that has taken place, and the apparent miscarriage of justice to which it has led, should be himself a near relative of the magistrate who conducted the trial, and should have appointed a near relative of the Chief Constable of Staffordshire to assist in the inquiry. Even if these features were absent, however, the case as it stands has developed into the dimensions of a public scandal—a scandal affecting directly the due administration of justice, the conduct of the police, and the Home Office method of dealing with cases involving these important questions. It is inevitable now that the whole business should be raised in Parliament. Before that is done it is to be hoped that Members of Parliament will endeavour to familiarise themselves with the cardinal facts of the case, and that when it comes up the House of Commons will deal with the scandal without regard to party or personal considerations.

THE CASH-ON-CREDIT-TERMS TRICK.

On May 8 a paragraph was published in Truth describing a case in which a boy had been taken in by the advertisements and circulars of the Dereham Road Cycle Company, of Norwich, having been led to buy a bicycle on the instalment system under the impression that he would receive the machine on the payment of the first instalment, the fact being that it was not to be delivered until the full payment had been completed. I have received a letter from the firm in question, of which I believe a Mr. Frederick George Potter is the sole proprietor, repudiating my construction of this transaction, and giving the following explanation:—

> You refer to a circular which we send out headed "Yours to ride and enjoy, from 5s. monthly," and that we invite pur-

chasers to note "credit prices," which are shown on the same circular. Please note at those credit prices we supply cycles on the *first payment* on credit. But with this circular we also send a typewritten letter, also another yellow handbill, on both of which we offer a bicycle at almost half the usual price—namely, £3 15s., by 5s. deposit, and fourteen further payments of 5s., making £3 15s. in all. At this price we only offer to send cycle on the last payment. Therefore, a customer can have a cycle from us on the first or last payment, whichever way he choose to order. Judging by the article in your paper, this officer, in our opinion, did not send you all the papers that we sent to applicant. Your article says, "so far as I can see nothing is said on the circular about sending the cycle on the last payment." Its true it does not, but it does on the typewritten letter that accompanied it. As you put it in your paper, the affair looks very black against us, and lead people to believe that we offer to send a cycle on first payment in order to get their money, and when we have got the money we send them a circular and tell them the cycle is sent on the last payment. This is altogether wrong, for we tell them at first how they can buy it on credit and how they can save pounds by paying for cycle before delivery.

It appears to be the truth that the "company" sends in the first instance a type-written circular containing the words, "We will send this beautiful machine to your address on receipt of 5s. deposit, and upon the payment of the last of fourteen weekly or monthly instalments of 5s. each, making a total of £3 15s. in all." But this very circular goes on to state, "Note our cash with order price is only £3 10s." This clearly implies that £3 10s. is the cash price, and £3 15s. the credit price. The truth is that the terms are wrapped up in such a mass of verbiage that it is extremely difficult for any one to understand precisely what really *is* meant. The phrase, "We will send this beautiful machine to your address on receipt of 5s. deposit and upon the payment of the last of fourteen weekly or monthly instalments" is itself calculated to mislead, because the machine is not sent upon payment of the deposit; and there is no sense in calling the first instalment a "deposit" (which implies that the payment is a security given against delivery), or saying anything about sending the machine "upon" this payment unless the intention is to convey a false impression. When to this is added that the cash price is £3 10s., but that for payment by instalments the price is £3 15s., the natural inference is that at £3 15s. the machine is supplied on credit. Why should the customer be charged an extra 5s. for the privilege of paying his money some weeks in advance of delivery?

Mr. Potter professes to be highly indignant with my observations on his advertisements, and uses in his letter threatening language, which it is not necessary to reproduce. The answer to him is that he states his terms in forms of words which are calculated to mislead; that similar forms are in common use among trick-advertisers; that in point of fact he has misled people by his ambiguous phrases; and that he makes it a rule to retain the money they have paid under a misapprehension, although they may demand their money back. I referred last August to the case of a customer who had been deceived in this way. The case mentioned on May 8 is of precisely the same kind; and I have independent evidence that many other people have been equally deceived. If, therefore, Mr. Potter desires to relieve himself from unfavourable remarks, either by his customers or by independent observers like myself, the best thing he can do is to cancel all these misleading documents and substitute for them plain statements which are not open to misconstruction, even by the boys and girls who are naturally large customers in this class of trade. Another thing which he had better do is to return money promptly when a customer complains that he did not understand the terms of the bargain. On one of his circulars he expressly states that "any order can be cancelled, but it is understood in doing so that the money paid is forfeited to pay for loss of sale, etc., as we cannot return money to allow customers to go and purchase elsewhere"; and on this rule he acts. This, again, is a common practice in this class of business, and it is not consistent with honest dealing when the customer complains that he has misunderstood the terms of the bargain. The trick of mystifying people by leading them to suppose that they are obtaining goods on credit, subject to payment by instalments, when in point of fact they are to pay the full price before the goods are delivered, is being extensively practised by unscrupulous advertisers; and a firm which does not desire to be suspected of employing the trick should avoid using the machinery by which the trick is ordinarily worked.

Another advertisement of the class just referred to emanates from Cray, Stewart, and Co., of Milton-street, E.C. It relates to our old friend the "beautiful tailor-made skirt," a picture of which adorns the advertisement, with the announcement conspicuously displayed at the side of it, "cash price 6s. 9d., or 1s. weekly." The letterpress reads, "made and sent to any address on receipt of 1s. DEPOSIT and 6d. for postage, with measures, and the balance, 6s., by instalments 1s. weekly, or cash with order price 6s. 9d." On receipt of 1s. 6d. for deposit and postage, the victim gets a printed circular notifying that the skirt has been "put in hand," and incidentally mentioning that "upon the balance being paid" it will be delivered. No unsuspicious person who has not already got an inkling of the trick is likely to read this advertisement without supposing that the article is to be delivered on credit. It is distinctly stated that the skirt is made and sent on receipt of the first payment; the words which follow the statement are not necessarily inconsistent with that reading; and any other construction of the terms is inconsistent with the notification that the cash price is 6s. 9d.—or 9d. less than on payment by instalments. This is the principle of the Dereham Road Cycle Company's terms over again. If the customer pays the whole of the money by instalments in advance of delivery, she is obviously paying cash, and is entitled, if anything, to better terms than the customer who pays the whole sum down in one lump for immediate delivery, seeing that the firm has her money in hand for use at least six weeks before the goods are to be delivered. There can be no conceivable reason, therefore, for charging 9d. extra to the customer who pays by instalments if the money is all to be paid in advance and no credit given. People are always writing to me complaining about advertisements of this class, but I wonder they do not address themselves to the papers which publish them, and which cannot possibly be unaware of the trick that is to be perpetrated by them. This is another good example of the encouragement of misleading advertisements by a certain section of the press—to the detriment of honest trade and honest advertising, and in the long run of newspapers also.

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THE THEATRES.

"The Last of His Race," at Drury Lane.

"The Last of His Race," among the Redskins, will probably not be the last of his race by many among similar heroes of the stage. Here, as in most productions at Drury Lane, every opportunity has been given to the writer, Mr. Donald MacLaren. The scenery, especially that of the Lily Pond of Namabin, is really beautiful, and the whole of the second act is a revel for the eye, a series of sylvan symphonies. Act IV. repeats in some senses the effects of its predecessors, and would for that reason be as well away, especially as the climax of the play is reached by the death of Niatawa at the end of the third act. The music which invades the action at its more emotional points is to the taste of the majority of visitors to Drury Lane, and here undoubtedly, as in works which do not rank high as literature or scale the more difficult heights of drama, has its great advantages. It covers up the rents that may have been made by the stage-manager, it helps the players out with their attempt to capture the emotional sympathy of the audience, and being in this case composed by Mr. Arthur Farwell, of Cornell University, who thoroughly understands the theme, and obviously has sympathy with the vanishing race of the Redskins, many will welcome such melodious appearances. Only on the heights of drama do I resent the intrusion of an alien art. I do not want Saint Saëns to play to me when I am admiring a Watteau, nor a Verdi to come with his thoughts about Othello when I am admiring another version of the theme, by Shakespeare. In "The Last of His Race" then, music is in its place, for although Mr. McLaren adopts the metrical decasyllabic form, occasionally lapsing into the pleasant sing-song of Longfellow's Hiawatha, he does not thereby achieve the presence of the Muse of Poetry, a shy immortal, apt to excuse herself from the feast, and to prefer picnicking on some little hill with any "careless boy" who "has learned to be content without her," and made no elaborate preparations for her entertainment; doting, as she does, upon "a soul at ease." Of literary quality there is little, of dramatic quality not much in "The Last of His Race."

The vanishing race must have often appealed to the present owners of American soil, and our neighbours have recently furnished us with two plays, both inspired with the same theme. I chronicled here my impressions of "Strongheart" only the week before last. In "The Last of his Race" we are all the time in the region of the Great Lakes, while in "Strongheart" the action passes at the University and elsewhere in surrounding civilisation. But the pathos of the two plays comes from the same source. In "Strongheart," the young chief has won the heart of the beautiful white American girl, but is forced to resign her hand at the call of his fellow-countrymen. Here we have no young chief, but a fair maiden, Adulola, the only child of Lonawonda. The first act passes in the attempt on the part of the old chief to secure for her the most worthy of husbands. The scene at the Lily Pond is full of innocencies, and it must be admitted that the eye is more interested in admiring the scenery of the forest than is the brain in watching the development of Matawagnon's jealousy of Lonawonda, leading him to dissent alone from the decision of the other chiefs, who agree to the terms of Lonawonda. This ends in his murder at the hands of the old chief, who becomes blind himself as he slays his enemy. I liked the performance of Mr. Austin Melford as the drunken old warrior Matawagnon, a sort of character which Mr. Melford has shown himself capable of rendering on more than one previous occasion. There is more than one effort made towards relieving tension by means somewhat trivial, such as the scene by the pond, where the young women are bathing, and where one of these loses her garments, replaced, after much palaver and apparently much difficulty, by the virgin Adulola. Miss Constance Collier as the chieftain's daughter added fresh laurels to the collection she has made in the past few years. She has rarely given a finer performance, certainly none equal to this since her Nancy in "Oliver Twist." Her love scenes with Mr. Basil Gill, who wins her maiden's heart, especially, were excellent on both sides, and Mr. Gill may be congratulated on looking his romantic part to perfection. When things go wrong, as they are bound to do in this kind of melodramatic romance before they can go right again, it appears that the beloved of Adulola has had an intrigue with a married lady before he met her. It is true that we are given to understand his ignorance of the marriage vows having been uttered by this lady, but that is all rather thin, and too obviously put in to make sure of the sympathy of the audience. Divorce proceedings are not the fashion among the Redskins, and the lady's husband procures an order for the burning of her lover at the stake. He is securely tied, and the flames are on the point of rising, when Adulola arrives and severs his bonds. He does not, however, escape his fate, but falls in battle, and with him falls the interest of the play, which, however, is spun out into three scenes which appeal rather to the eye than to the intellect. In this production the players, other than the few I have named, all fulfilled their parts adequately, the scenic effects, as I have said, were fine, and the literary and dramatic quality of the piece is most leniently described as mediocre.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Dressmaker's Catechism.

(*For the Use of Would-be Fashionable Modistes.*)

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A fashionable dressmaker.

Q.: What is a fashionable dressmaker?

A.: A native Parisienne, born in London, of English parents, who has lived all her life within the four-mile radius.

Q.: By what distinguishing features is your Parisian nativity made apparent?

A.: By my Parisian name, with its prefix of Madame, and also by the pure Parisian French with which I take care to intersperse my show-room conversation.

Q.: Do you speak your pure Parisian French with the pure Parisian accent?

A.: Yes—so far as my English customers are any the wiser.

Maloja, Engadine, Switzerland.—Palace Hotel, Kursaal, 6,000 ft. altitude. Completely renovated 1906. Private Baths. Golf. Tennis.—Edward Smart, Manager. Prospectus on application.

Q.: Who are your English customers?

A.: Some are ladies of the Great World; others, women of the wealthy and aspiring Middle Classes.

Q.: What is the difference between the two?

A.: In the latter case, it is always the women's husbands who discharge my accounts. In the former case it is usually the ladies' admirers.

Q.: How comes it that the husbands of the latter thus relegate their first marital duty—the discharge of their wives' dressmakers' accounts—to a third party?

A.: Either because they have not the money themselves, or, if they have, they require it for paying the dressmakers' accounts of other men's wives.

Q.: Illustrate by an example.

A.: *Avec beaucoup de plaisir*, as we say over in Paree. The Duke of X. dresses Mrs. Y. Z., and Mr. Y. Z. returns the compliment by dressing the Duchess of X.

Q.: Have you any objection to this system of mixed dressing?

A.: None whatever. On the contrary, it is all to my advantage.

Q.: How so?

A.: Because by letting me into these little family arrangements they place their reputations in my power, and so preclude themselves from kicking at the amount of my charges.

Q.: On what basis do you calculate your charges?

A.: On two bases—the husband-basis and the admirer-basis.

Q.: What is the husband-basis?

A.: To figure out the gross cost of material and labour, and then add on a hundred per cent. for the moral value of my name upon the skirt-band or bill-head.

Q.: What is the admirer-basis?

A.: The same as the husband-basis, with an additional hundred per cent. tacked on for secrecy.

Q.: What are the fashions?

A.: The styles which change year by year, and to which it is imperative for every woman who does not wish to be thought antediluvian to conform.

Q.: Who sets the fashions?

A.: I do.

Q.: By what consideration, chiefly, are you guided in setting them?

A.: By the desire to make them so unlike the fashions of last season, that it shall be quite impossible for any woman with a weakness for mean and petty economies to *réchauffer* her last year's frocks into this season's creations.

Q.: Are all frocks creations?

A.: All *my* frocks are creations. All other dressmakers' frocks are merely imitations.

Q.: What is a fictitious creation?

A.: A creation which is charged in the bill as a frock and supplied to the customer in the form of cash on loan.

Q.: Does the husband or the admirer always know what he is paying for?

A.: Very seldom. It is not well for the husband or the admirer to know too much.

Q.: Why so?

A.: Because, if he did, he would probably decline to continue a husband, and would certainly cease to remain an admirer.

Q.: Would you be sorry to see such a state of affairs come about?

A.: I should be very sorry.

Q.: For what reason?

A.: Because it is to the husband, and still more to the admirer, that I have to look for the payment of my lady customers' accounts.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

AN ACADEMICIAN FROM THE LAW COURTS.

THE new Academician, Maître Barboux, is seventy-three, and a singularly lively party. His mind is of the Voltairean complexion, but sweetened with natural amiability and favourable conditions. No dinner party could be dull, Maître Barboux present. He has nerve power enough to call back to life all the sleepers in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There is something of the sparrow in his temperament. He is remarkably well set-up, is always carefully dressed, though in a touring suit, and might be dapper were he not so prodigiously intellectual. He was never known to tell the same story twice, or to be without a first-rate story on the tip of his tongue ready to be reeled off with a flash of wit; and he can be pathetic. I heard him plead in this tone for a M. Décinge, a notary at Asnières, brother of Mme. Veuve Crespin, otherwise Du Gast, then the *fiancée* of the present Prince de Sagan. She was the image of the Empress Eugénie in her prime, had the prestige of the endless millions left her by her late husband, and a rather undesirable name as the owner of tenement working-class houses. She had had her brother up before the correctional tribunal on the charge of forging a will in her father's name with the intention of robbing her. The case against him broke down completely. As M. Barboux returned home, Prince de Sagan, who had lain in wait for him, assaulted him, to avenge the lady for her defeat, and a week or so later took his place on the *banc des accusés* in the Correctional Court. Maître Barboux scorned the vengeance offered him. The marriage announced on the occasion as impending has not yet taken place though three years have since come and gone.

Maître Barboux generally confines himself to civil affairs. He has no ambition save to excel at his profession and to cultivate his critical faculty as a scholar. A strong mind, a delicate and a refined taste, and a winged and playful fancy, render him a unique speaker. He was a great friend of Waldeck-Rousseau, and, without being a political ally, fell in with his political ideas and intellectual Republicanism. The cranium, forehead, brows, eyes, nose, mouth, and contour, his upright carriage and independent air, proclaim him one of Nature's aristocrats. There is so much charm in appearance and manner that nobody could envy him his success. The mouth is marvellously well shaped for the use to which he turns it. I have been, as I write, beating my brain to remember what face he reminds me of. A very fine engraving of the poet Moore rises in my memory. Maître Barboux is passionately fond of poetry, and believes that, had he been in youth too poor to go to the Bar, he might have had some success as a lyric poet. He is passionately fond of Victor Hugo's lyrical works. When *bâtonnier* of the Paris Bar he never tired of advising young barristers to read good poetry, and when they liked it to commit it to memory, not to quote, but to keep in mind something purely beautiful. Like most Parisians *pur sang*, he has certain guttural tones—they call it here a *grasseyement*. It has been said that they proceed from his having

picked up the pebbles Demosthenes used, and that in using them in turn, they stuck in his throat. He is kindness itself, and an affectionate friend. He pleaded in the civil side of the Merelli case, and Maître Henri Robert in the criminal proceedings.

The Confederation of Southern Vignerons, or owners of the vines they cultivate, is no flash in the pan. It may go farther than you imagine. The whole country from the Gironde to Béziers is in the movement. I know very well the south-west of the Rhone, and never went there without bringing away the conviction that any accident of widespread consequence might bring about Home Rule dislocation. The difference between the South and North of France is greater than between England and Ireland, whether as regards race, historical evolution, or affinities. The South still retains its Gallo-Roman character. Its retentive historical memory is sustained by the monuments which preceded the French conquest. The sight of them feeds enthusiasm for the greatness of former days. The revival of open-air plays at Orange, Béziers, Nîmes, Arles, Carcasonne, and other places, has aroused an autonomous sentiment supposed here to be dead, but only asleep. They are in the South a handsome, hearty, imaginative people, *un peuple de braves gens*, proud of their Venus of Arles, which surpasses in sculptural form the Venus of Milo, and of her fair descendants. In the way of serious, dignified beauty I know of no young women comparable to those of Béziers. Imperial race is really stamped on their appearance. I remember once winning a pair of gloves of a Belgian artist whom I defied to point out to me a single girl or young woman at the Sunday promenade on the Cours with an ill-shaped, or at all defective, mouth. Nearly every Southern who has not some strong personal interest for treating bygones as bygones complains of the oppression of the South by the North. You hear people talk of the monstrous ruthlessness of Simon de Montfort and Saint Louis, as you might in some parts of Ireland of that of Cromwell. Freethinkers of education let their imaginations run on the opportunity of effecting a great religious reformation that Saint Louis took from the South, as it turned out, for the glory and benefit of the German Luther. Protestantism coming out of a southern cradle would have been sunny, graceful, and delightful, with all the arts pressed into its service, and a religion of joy tempered with reason, instead of the disputatious wrangler that we know it. If Saints Louis and Dominic could come to life again in the South, they would have to put up with rude treatment. I have known of whole families refusing to attend the Corpus Christi procession because Innocent III., the persecutor of the South, "invented" the doctrine of the Real Presence. Otherwise they were fervent Catholics. Innocent preached the crusade into which Saint Louis threw himself, and sent Dominic to set up the Inquisition in the southern cities.

I do not see why the Federal system should not rule in France as in Germany. It would have ruled at the time of the Revolution but for the combined attack of the monarchies on the French Republic. The ideal of the Girondins was liberty in diversity. Robespierre represented barbarous pedantry and the Procrustean system in his France *une et indivisible*. The guillotine gave but a temporary solution to the Federal idea that is now leavening the South.

A friend who was about a good deal with the Colonial Premiers has been giving me his impressions of them. As individual men he thought highly of them, and saw in Sir W. Laurier the perfection of the silver-tongue type. The appearance of Sir Robert Bond struck him as a counterpart of that of Sir Michael Hicks Beach. But he did not like their keenness for preferential duties at the cost of the Old Country for the benefit of the New. "Give, give," seemed to him behind their every thought. He did not see Botha. The Premiers seemed to hope that Birmingham would have the last word in the controversy on preferential duties. This opinion has somehow gained ground abroad. In this connection the present fiscal condition of France is worthy of the closest study. Let me say something more about it as a warning to those who, from ignorance or indolence, may suffer Birmingham to lead them away.

On every side one hears complaints of the increased cost of living. The grievance is but too genuine. Discontent is rife everywhere. It would surprise me were there not a national crisis in two or three years more. The rise in prices was at first confined to overpopulous localities. It is now general, has affected necessaries of life, luxuries, raw materials, everything. In some cases—copper, for instance, and this reacts on pinchbeck jewellery, artistic bronzes, and much else connected with *l'article de Paris*—the dearness is international. In most cases, however, it is due to French conditions. Foremost among them are protection, militarism, improvident and wasteful finances, strikes, unionism, and labour legislation rushed with feather-headed levity.

The Méline tariffs began by demoralising politics. It was a combined attack of landlords and manufacturers, of the Cercle des Pommes de Terre and Notre Dame de l'Usine, on the public purse. Those who attacked could do nothing without voters. They created organisations, Conservative at bottom, with the Republican label to persuade the voters to return patriotic Deputies, promising them, if they did so, a share of the plunder in the form of higher wages. Wages did not go up. But the working classes have now got it into their heads that politics are a scramble for loaves and fishes, and in no other respect serious. They would now think the same in England had the last general election turned out differently.

More than one manufacturer has told me that he can trace the unrest and discontent of his operatives to the workings of the Méline tariffs, which were carried through their votes, while their employers got all the benefits. This feeling stimulated unionism, the latest embodiment of which has been the General Labour Confederation, whose attitude is one of hostility towards all employers. It is now the turn for employers to feel uneasy and dissatisfied. Labour unions have been a direct incentive to employers' unions. At the present hour trusts are being formed in every branch of manufactures. They are more or less occult, such combinations being illegal. The scramble, the signal for

which was given seventeen years ago by M. Méline, is continuing, and, notwithstanding the apparent success of the workmen, I rather think the employers have the better of it.

An example has just been given me by a friend in the cotton trade. He says that, owing to the dearness of raw material, the weavers have found their expenses increased by 10 per cent. But they recoup by increasing their profits to the extent of 25 per cent., and are just now piling up fortunes which M. Caillaux's income tax Bill promises to protect. All this is preparing a serious state of things, because there is an administrative burning of the candle at both ends. The word "deficit" ended the monarchical cycle. It may bring to a close the industrial cycle, such as has existed for the last eighty years.

The cotton manufacturer I have cited has just come from Germany. He says a similar state of things is springing up there, and that State credit—particular and Imperial, especially the latter—is everywhere shaken. Save in the ruined vineyards of the South, the French working classes are still better off in having better food than the Germans, who are sacrificed to the landlords both in town and country. But in the towns the German operatives are better housed. Indeed, they are better housed than middle-class people in France considerably above the Caillaux taxation line. They have, in spite of their swarming families, sufficient room (to speak only of Berlin and Leipsic), hot-water heating, electric light, and good culinary contrivances. But the food is atrocious. My friend saw the young Duchess of Saxe-Coburg go herself round the butchers' shops, with a lady at her side and a servant provided with a market basket following. She bargained just like a workman's wife, and did not disdain what is known in London as cats' meat, scrags of mutton, hocks of beef, and what the French term the *faleron* of the ox—that is to say, the part that poets might call the dewlap.

The same informant tells me that Coburg contains more old maiden ladies and cats than any other Saxon city. The cats have been disappearing, and doubtless serve in the cheaper restaurants in lieu of butcher's meat. The Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, in view of the dearness of meat, sees herself to the carving of portions for the different tables of her household.

M. Rouvier found a great situation on his last retirement from office as president of a joint stock bank. Probably the inability of M. Caillaux to bring *les grandes fortunes* within the net of his fiscal scheme may have a similar effect. It is hardly eighteen months ago since Rouvier tore a passion to tatters in defending in the tribune of the Palais Bourbon the "rights" of the Murats, Berthiers (Wagrams), and other nobles of Napoleonic creation to the sum of about 17,000,000 fr., for which they were ready to compound with him for their *majorats*, also of Napoleonic creation and a hundred years old. The Chamber thought the terms ridiculously high. The single argument M. Rouvier could adduce would have applied just as well to the ex-Empress and the sons of the late Prince Napoleon. It was: "These *majorats* (perpetual pensions to eldest sons) are inscribed in *Le Grand Livre*. Rather than dishonour this engagement I prefer to quit office." Though the Ministry trembled for its life and could not, every one knew, hold on much longer, the Chamber shrugged its shoulders and voted the money claimed by Rouvier for a wholly worthless nest of Bonapartists. The sum thus given away exceeded what M. Caillaux hopes to net (see his letter to Pelletan) on incomes in excess of 100,000 fr.

M. Caillaux has no such reverence for *Le Grand Livre*. In his letter, meant to explain to the committee presided over by M. Pelletan, he makes no longer any secret of his intention to clip rente, just, he might have added to forestall reactionist taunts, as Saint Louis and Philippe le Bel clipped the gold and silver coin of their day. Another of his avowals which must bring political ruin on Jaurès, who has been defending Caillaux tooth and nail, is that the middle-class must bear the weight of the two milliards a year that he hopes to raise through taxing their incomes. By middle-class the Finance Minister means the class below the 100,000 frs. line and slightly above starvation point. The taxable income from capital begins at 150 frs. and from land farmed personally by the peasant owner at 600 frs. M. Caillaux has waived the proposal to tax salaries in provincial towns of 1,300 frs., 1,500 frs., and 1,800 frs. respectively, but insists on bringing within his trawl-net salaries of 2,000 frs. in the provinces and of 2,500 frs. in Paris. He will be less inquisitorial in dealing with private banks, but refuses to mitigate the gabelle system of peering into private incomes—middle-class, of course, as above defined. Should that class suffer by the Caillaux fiscality, there will be reversion to the general state of France towards the end of the sixth century. All the Gallo-Roman slaves had then risen from serfdom and all the citizens, great and small, had descended to the situation of serfs. Above the huge mass of perfectly equal human beings were the caste of Frankish conquerors. We may one of these days discover in them foreshadows of the beer-saloon, railway, banking, gold, steel, and copper kings with Teuton names and throats whom the trawler Caillaux is unable to net.

A PEER AMONG THE POLITICIANS.

I DON'T know whether I am not rather a juggins to confess it, but I have made an ass of myself this week. I thought I had got on the track of something really startling, but it turned out to be a false scent after all, and so I got rather badly left. It was like this. I daresay you read that Lord Ampthill, in a speech last week, said that nearly all the Indian riots and things were got up in this country. I didn't quite see what he meant at the time, but it set me thinking whether I couldn't find out something about the people who got them up. I made inquiries, without giving myself away too much, of course, and I very soon got on the track of what looked as if it might turn out to be something. There is a sort of cousin of my mother's—an Indian major, returned-empty sort of person—you know the kind of man. I was talking about the Indian question to him, and to my surprise he told me there wasn't the slightest mystery about it at all, that all the Indian disturbances were got up at one of the big political clubs, one that I expect you would recognise if I told you the name, because it is quite close to Charing Cross. According to my mother's cousin, it is a notorious hot-bed for all kinds of treasons and rebellions and things, so much so that, in his own words—or as nearly as you would be likely to print them—if half the members—there are five or

six thousand of them altogether, I'm told—were led out on to the Embankment and shot down with Maxim guns, it would put back the breaking-up of the Empire for another three centuries. He told me a good deal more about the club and its members, and I got the idea that, if I could once get inside without being spotted, I might be able to find out all about the Indian rebellion, and perhaps save no end of trouble by publishing it all in Truth.

The difficult thing was to get inside, because, of course, whatever people might take me for, they would never think I was a politician. But, according to the major, you don't have to belong to the club at all to get inside, so long as you work it properly. All you have to do is to put on a cloth cap and a muffler and say you are a Labour Member, and they will let you go anywhere. So I talked it over with Jessie, and she thought out a way, which seemed safe enough. She made me up for the part in a ready-made suit of tweeds and a bowler hat three sizes too large for me and a bright red necktie and a very large imitation gold watch-chain. I walked down to the club—I should very much like to tell you the name, but, of course, I haven't got to the bottom of the plot yet—if there is one—so it wouldn't be wise. But it is quite close to Charing Cross. Jessie made me keep a small pebble in my mouth, so as to change my voice, and, of course, I dropped all the h's I could remember. We had hit upon the name of one of the North-Country members of Parliament who was a member of the club, and I was to ask for him; but when I got there, I found about a dozen other men, dressed like myself, in the front hall, waiting for another M.P., so I hung on to them, and it worked like a charm. I was supposed to be one of a deputation of Trades Unionists or something, and as soon as we got inside I slipped away, and nobody asked me any questions or anything. Took me for one of the members I suppose, which was what I wanted. It certainly is a queer club—all got up inside with enamelled tiles, like a milk-shop for one thing. And in the place where you wash your hands they've got a pair of nail-scissors chained to the wall with a long chain. Afraid some of the members will fall in love with them and steal them, I suppose. But that isn't what I really want to write about.

After I'd wandered about for a bit, trying to find where I was, I followed a couple of men into a huge smoke-room. It was really a splendid room, and crowded with members, and I realised at once that if I was going to find out the Indian plotters it would be there or nowhere. There were several things about the people there that struck me as suspicious. For one thing, scarcely any of them seemed to be speaking English. It was nearly all German; or when it wasn't, it was English spoken with a German accent. I thought I had got into an Empire League meeting or a Tariff Reform demonstration by mistake, at first; but the real truth is, I suppose, that the Germans—and especially the German Jews—are the people who take most interest in politics on both sides. Another thing that I noticed was that there were quite a number of clergymen, only nearly all of them wore little white ties, tied like German waiters, instead of the usual choky sort of collars, and I'm afraid I don't know enough about religion to know exactly where the difference comes in. One thing that made me feel that I was on the right track was that there were several coloured people of one kind or another scattered about the room. Two of them were negroes, very black indeed, and the rest were various shades of brown. They all wore European clothes, though, and seemed to be making themselves quite at home, so I suppose they were members all right. I think that was all that struck me about the club, except the waiters. There were a lot of little round tables about the room, each of them with a little bell on it that the members rang when they wanted drinks and things. They kept on ringing all the time, and the waiters kept on not coming. After a member had been ringing for half an hour perhaps a waiter would come near him by accident and take his order, and then go away and not come back at all. And the waiters had the haughtiest faces of any one I have ever seen, except perhaps an L.C.C. tram conductor. I expect they were politicians, too, and realised that the members daren't go for them, in case they should lose their votes.

I amused myself no end all the afternoon watching the politicians, but I'm bound to say I couldn't overhear anything like a conspiracy to turn us out of India. I got close to a couple of Parsees, I think they were, in one of the window alcoves, so as to overhear what they were talking about. But they weren't conspiring; they were arguing why it was that patent leather boots make your feet ache in hot weather.

Not very far away from them there were three men—one of them with a strong German accent—whom I thought looked promising, so I strolled near them in a sort of careless way. This was what one of them—the Germanified one—was saying: "I chust tell zem I don' care a snapp of ze finger for zem or zair zociety neizer, and if zey don' like ze waches I pay zem zey gan go elzewhere and get more. Zink zey gan dyrranize ofer me. Vy, for two pinz I glose down my Lunton vorks altogezzer, and take zem outside ze Lunton district. Trates unions, inteet. Pfui! I schow zem!"

It was the same everywhere. There were about a dozen men sitting in a big circle in the middle of the room—red-faced, beefy sort of people—and it struck me they might have chosen the most conspicuous place for conspiring, because it was the last sort of place you would expect to find them in. But they were only discussing what whisky is really made of, and whether it ought to be made in a pot-still or a patent-still.

Then there was one of the parsons—but I dare say lots of your readers have been to the place themselves, and know more about the sort of silly rot they talk there than I do myself. And any way, either I didn't hit upon one of their Indian conspiracy days, or else they spotted me and purposely changed the conversation when they saw me, or else Lord Ampthill and my mother's cousin have been talking a lot of rot, and Indian hooligan conspiracies are not hatched in big London political clubs at all. On the whole, I expect that that's about the truth of it. And so does Jessie. But I'm sorry my article didn't come off better, because I'm sure it would have made a big stir.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

A CRIMINAL Education, dear Lady Betty, is one of the urgent necessities of the moment in this country, especially at either end of the social system; amongst those who may not undertake ordinary work because they are too well-conditioned, and amongst those who cannot obtain ordinary employment because they are too ill-conditioned.

Our well-connected litter must be dealt with. There is a brilliant prospect for the educated burglar, the polished pick-pocket, the titled thief, and the "society" swindler; the successes of their immediate predecessors as directors of illegitimate concerns, assistants to fraudulent company promoters, and touts to unscrupulous stock-brokers prove that the necessary qualities are not absent.

The criminal profession has been much maligned, and this is the more difficult to explain as most of the founders of great families attained wealth and position by murdering their opponents, robbing their neighbours, and defrauding the community. Those who are occupied with the wholesale, however, always despise those who are occupied with the retail, and this affectation may partly account for the prejudice entertained against the ordinary malefactor. The day of the magnificent crime is past; it is only by the accumulation of petty

The Danger to Health of obesity is not sufficiently emphasised. Stout people should know that "fatty degeneration" of the heart and liver is a constant menace to them. The *Sketch*, in writing about Antipon, says:—"This pleasant, rational, and most efficacious remedy may be warmly recommended to stout persons, as much for health's sake as for the attainment of perfect elegance of figure." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The Antipon Company, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

offences that we can now secure fame, wealth, position, and influence.

The pursuit even of ordinary crime develops many of the qualities which are admired amongst us at the moment. The most commonplace burglar must possess courage, resource, endurance, enterprise, considerable foresight, and much self-control—all qualities which football and the other forms of sport so much cultivated by the well-connected in this country require and encourage. It must be remembered that as no examination is necessary to obtain employment in this direction, the ordinary athletic course common at all our public schools is sufficient training for the purpose. Moreover, favouritism will for long still be a considerable element in the situation so far as the well-connected criminal is concerned; the Government is disinclined to prosecute, family influence will be exerted to shield the offender, and the rich sufferers will generally welcome the titled or fashionable burglar, even if he visits them at the most inconvenient hours of the night.

The time, indeed, approaches when the following announcement may be read in "The Fashionable Intelligence" column in our newspapers:—

"Mr. and Mrs. Gorgius Midas entertained at daybreak yesterday a small party of impromptu visitors, amongst whom were the Duke of ——, Lord Charles —— ——, and the Hon Ferdinand ——. The burglar-alarm bells played admirably."

To be robbed by such a distinguished group would be a social success of the first magnitude. There are those who would even pay a considerable sum to such "criminals" to make an attempt upon their property.

The profession which is recommended here has another advantage; it provides for the unsuccessful. A commodious gaol, wholesome and sufficient nourishment, unremitting attention, the absence of the complicated cares which rage in the world without, the best medical advice free of cost, and highly-trained nursing—it is a pension to the incompetent. It has always been a British "Upper-class" principle that the elder sons of its members should live on the estate; the younger on the State. In gaol the latter admirable condition would still be fulfilled.

* * * * *

Love disagrees with many, except when taken *en aspic;* then it is unexciting.

. . . . .

A man is contented with a marriage that gives him nothing but a wife; a woman, with a marriage that gives her everything but a husband.

. . . . .

It is terribly dangerous in England to have a reputation for being clever; all the mediocrities imagine that you are going to pick their pockets.

. . . . .

They, however, take the opportunity to pick your brains.

* * * * *

A new translation of the "Odes of Horace," by a classical scholar of importance, has for ages past been a literary event, and it will be so long as civilisation continues. Dr. John Marshall, the Rector of the Royal High School, Edinburgh, has translated the Odes into English verse corresponding with the original metre, and the volume will shortly be published simultaneously by G. P. Putnam in New York and by J. M. Dent and Co. in London. The ode on "Old Times and New"—Book II., xv.—may be quoted here, not only for the charm of its rendering, but to remind the world that the cultivated Romans of the day deplored, as much as we do now, the activities of the villa fiend:—

"Soon few for tilth the acres will remain,
"Such princely piles we raise. On every side
"Fishponds, than Lucrine lake more wide,
"We'll see. The bachelor-plane

"Will oust vine-wedded elms; and violets blue,
"And myrtle's fragrance, and flower-scents untold,
"Will scatter sweetness, where of old
"The owner olives grew.

"Soon sultry sunshine by thick-planted bays
"Will be shut off. Not so taught Romulus' rule,
"Or the unshaven Cato's school,
"And old folks' simpler ways.

"With them men's private wealth was scant indeed,
"But great the common good. No colonnade
"With northern outlook yielded shade,
"To please a private greed.

"None dared for house-building chance turf eschew;
"Cities and public temples, these at most
"The laws bade deck at public cost
"With pomp of stonework new."

The fears of the Radicals of the time were justified; Rome and the Romans were more remote from disaster when:—

". . . Men's private wealth was scant indeed,
"But great the common good."

* * * * *

The well-known artist, Monsieur Jules Cayron, whose portraits of celebrated beauties in Parisian society were exhibited in London last season, is now showing a series of drawings of famous Englishmen and Englishwomen of the time, at the Graves Galleries, 6, Pall Mall. Amongst the latter are the portrait of Lady Dorothy Nevill, a reproduction of which figures as the frontispiece to her recently published and most successful "Reminiscences," a charming portrait of the Queen of Spain, drawn just before her marriage, and those of two most fascinating girls, Miss Janie Tuohy and Mlle. Amelot de Ségur. The portraits of Lord Carrington and of Lady Alexandra and Lady Victoria Carrington have already attracted much attention.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

NEXT week will be practically engrossed by Epsom, and, after so heavy a meeting, it is really preposterous folly for the Stewards of the Jockey Club to have sanctioned a one day fixture at Kempton Park. The most voracious appetite for racing will surely have been satisfied when Friday's card at Epsom is exhausted, and trainers and jockeys would be glad of a well-earned rest. However, there is the same fatuous arrangement in both Ascot and Goodwood weeks. The Saturday after a big meeting ought always to be left blank.

There were 100 entries for the Woodcote Stakes of £1,000 when this race closed last October, and forty-nine two-year-olds are left in; the list of animals withdrawn including Pom, whose owner is represented by the dark colt White Eagle, by Gallinule out of Merry Gal. This highly-bred colt must have been well thought of as a yearling, as he was entered for fifty races, the Woodcote being his first engagement. If White Eagle is backed by the stable it may reasonably be assumed that he has been well tried, in which case he ought to win, as Mr. Hall Walker has a fair line of the two-year-old form through Pom. The best public performers in this race are St. Elf and Cinderello. It is probable, however, that Rambling Rector will now be in better racing condition than when he ran at Newmarket a few weeks ago. The King, who had originally six entries, has accepted with Simpatica, own sister to Slim Lad, and with Perspective, by Persimmon out of Spyglass, but I do not fancy that either of these animals is likely to be dangerous. Lord Rosebery has three left in, one being Lauderdale, who is own brother to Lavengro, and another Alistair, by Ladas out of Alizarine, who won a trial the other day. Baron Maurice de Rothschild's Le Sage is half-brother, by Ayrshire to Sagamore, and he was purchased last July at the sale of Sir James Miller's yearlings for 710 gs. Sir D. Cooper may start Lesbia, whose début will be watched with much

The Buzzard Golf Ball has obtained a reputation amongst keen golfers. The latest and best. Increases your drive by 20 yards, and outlasts any other kind. 2s. each of Golf professionals and dealers.—Sample for P.O., from F. A. Johnson, 29, Paternoster-row, London.

interest, as she is own sister to Flair. Sir E. Vincent's Peradventure, by Persimmon out of Queen of the Rivers, has been well galloped at Newmarket. Mr. Raphael has Zaïda, by Sainfoin out of Aida, a filly bred by Sir James Miller, at whose sale she was purchased by her present owner for 1,200 gs. If White Eagle is good enough to win this race he will, of course, go also for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, as he would not incur a penalty by winning at Epsom.

There were 111 entries for the Caterham Plate of £200 on Wednesday, and no fewer than seventy-five animals are left in, the result being that the entrances paid by the owners amount to £261, so the race does not cost the fund one penny. Lucian and Littledale are the best public performers, but it will not need a flyer from the dark lot to beat this pair.

For the Great Surrey Foal Stakes of £1,000 there were 100 entries when the race closed in October, 1905, and forty-two are left in. Vega is said to have been reserved for this race. Lord Rosebery may be dangerous with Alistair if the colt is kept for this engagement. It should be noted that Pom was struck out of this race on March 26, and Mr. Hall Walker's only representative is Master Magpie, by Gallinule out of Meddlesome, who is sure to be dangerous if he is fancied by his party.

The Acorn Stakes of £1,000 has fifty-two fillies left in out of an original entry of ninety. The list of acceptances includes Duegna, Peradventure, Flitaway, Vega, Little Goose, and Lesbia. I hear, however, that Lord Rosebery is likely to win this race with Popinjay, who was highly tried at Newmarket the other day. This filly is half-sister, by St. Frusquin, to Traquair, and she is believed to be very smart indeed. It will be remembered that Traquair's brilliant début took place last year in the Woodcote Stakes, and he followed up his success at Epsom by winning the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, a double event which has been very often achieved, the coup being much facilitated by the fact that winners carry no extra weight in the Ascot race.

Twenty-three horses are left in for the Coronation Cup on Thursday, which race will be worth over £1,700 to the winner. This will really be the great event of the week from the purely sporting point of view, if it brings out Keystone II., Polymelus, Velocity, The White Knight, Troutbeck, Polar Star, and Beppo. The list of acceptances also includes Spearmint, Llangibby, Radium, and Challacombe, but their chances need not be considered. The best horses engaged will meet at weight for age, and the race is run over the Derby course. Keystone II. should be properly fit next week, but she was ridiculously backward when she collapsed so lamentably during the Newmarket First Spring Meeting in the race for the March Stakes. I suspect, however, that Lord Derby's mare has not trained on as well as can be desired, and a hint has reached me that Polymelus may not have retained his excellent form of last autumn. Polar Star is tolerably sure to start favourite for the Coronation Cup if he is all right, but I shall anticipate the victory of The White Knight, who is probably the best four-year-old now in training in England.

The Derby is not exciting much attention, as it has come to be generally regarded as a "one horse" race. Some of the papers continue to print beguiling fictions about Ouadi Halfa, it being stated that (1) his trainer has backed the French colt, (2) that M. E. Blanc has already ordered a special train to be ready to convey his colt from Chantilly to Boulogne directly after the race for the Prix du Jockey Club next Sunday. I am informed, on excellent authority, that it is exceedingly improbable that Ouadi Halfa will run at Epsom, no matter whether he wins or loses next Sunday's race. In any case it is impossible to believe that a colt can win at Epsom on Wednesday after having run at Chantilly (and probably a really severe race) on the previous Sunday, with a long journey by land and sea in the interval. M. E. Blanc cannot send Myram (the brother to Jardy) to England, as the colt is lame. Mordant, M. Ephrussi's candidate, cannot stay beyond a mile. It is the opinion of some of the best judges of racing in France that Ouadi Halfa will be defeated for the Prix du Jockey Club, and that the finish for this race will lie between M. Aumont's Pernod and M. Wysocki's Binion. The latter of these colts is a good stayer, and his recent form proves him to be very smart. Binion, who is by Le Pompon, is half-brother to Prestige, who defeated Pretty Polly for the Prix du Conseil Municipal. M. Viel Picard has just purchased a half share in Binon for 80,000 fr., and the colt will run at Chantilly in his name and colours. Slieve Gallion has been going on as well as possible since his race for the Two Thousand, and I hear that he has certainly improved during the last month. The Beckhampton stable is in such excellent form that if Darling desired to ascertain how Slieve Gallion stands in relation to Polar Star he would find no difficulty in doing so. I have always been of the opinion that Slieve Gallion would win the Two Thousand and Derby if he trained on, and never for a moment did I attach a particle of importance to his defeat in the Middle Park Plate. Galvani is going well enough in his work, such as it is, but he certainly has not been subjected to a severe course of training. Galvani has always appeared to tire towards the close of his gallops when going over a mile, and I expect Major Loder's colt will turn out to be a non-stayer.

All Black, Linacre, Charles Edward, The Welkin, and Earlston may all start next Wednesday, but they will be hopelessly outclassed, judging from their public form. Galleot's running in the Two Thousand is declared to have been all wrong, but I do not expect to see this colt figure prominently in the Derby. St. Petersburg is said to be a certain starter, in spite of his recent defeat by Maya, but this mare did not show her best form in the One Thousand, and it is likely that she will be a formidable opponent to Witch Elm in the Oaks if she comes fit and well to the post. St. Petersburg is a strong tip for a place, and it is at least certain that he will be in much better racing trim at Epsom than he was at Newmarket. He is a big, heavy colt, and wants a lot of work before he can be regarded as thoroughly fit. Last summer, when every one was thrown into hysterics of enthusiasm about the performances of Traquair, it was predicted in Truth that Bezonian would turn out to be Lord Rosebery's best three-year-old this season, and so it has come about. Bezonian is very much fancied at Newmarket, and he has been doing well on a very strong preparation. He appears to be well endowed with stamina. I see it is stated that Slieve Gallion will find Bezonian a very different horse at Epsom, so great has been the improvement in the Newmarket colt. People who cackle in this hare-brained fashion overlook the fact that Slieve Gallion may justifiably be expected to have improved also during the five weeks which will have elapsed between the two races. It is mere drivel to gabble about the improvement in some of the probable starters, apparently assuming that for their benefit the favourite will have been so obliging as to stand still at the point of form which he had reached on the Two Thousand day. I cannot see how Bezonian can be expected to defeat Slieve Gallion in the Derby, considering the hollow manner in which Captain Greer's colt won the Two Thousand, and it seems to me that the Epsom course will suit the one horse just as well as the other.

Orby, who is to be ridden by J. Reiff, has shown good form in Ireland, but he is more likely to win the £2,000 Atlantic Stakes at Liverpool in July than the Derby. A colt often gains a flagrantly exaggerated reputation by winning several races easily, but when one is considering the chances of such an animal for a classic stake it is above all things necessary to pay close attention to the class of the animals which he has beaten. I see it is stated that Orby is greatly superior to his stable companion, Hayden, who won in Ireland the other day, but such form as this cannot be regarded as conclusive by any practical man. In 1871 Mr. Chaplin's Steppe finished second to Hannah for the One Thousand. Her owner had a Derby candidate in The Pearl, a daughter of Newminster and Caller Ou, which he had leased from Mr. I'Anson. When The Pearl had given Steppe 2 st. and a beating she was so heavily backed for the Derby that on the day of the race she was at one time a better favourite

than Favonius. However, Mr. Chaplin's filly finished nowhere, the fact being that the trial was moonshine, as, not only could Hannah have given Steppe 2 st., but Favonius was himself a stone superior to the One Thousand winner. It is worse than useless to try for such a race as the Derby with rubbish, for a gallop of this description is only misleading. Wool Winder is a very good-looking colt, and his action has greatly improved during the last few weeks, being now much better balanced. Colonel Baird's horse gallops as if he would find no more difficulty in coming down the hill at Epsom than will Slieve Gallion. Wool Winder has two nice engagements at Ascot if he misses the Derby, the New Biennial (Old Mile) on Thursday, and the Triennial (Hunt Cup course) on Friday. My opinion of the Derby is that Slieve Gallion will win, and that Wool Winder may finish second.

A morning paper printed on Saturday some sensational rubbish about an alleged "great trial of Galvani for the Derby." A person who witnessed this "great trial" informs me that "only an idiot" would describe it thus. The colt was merely sent for an ordinary exercise gallop of one mile and a half on the Limekilns. The pace was slow for the first part of the gallop, which exactly suited Galvani, who was accompanied by Hammerkop, Baltinglass, and the Irish horse Armagh. If this was "far and away the best gallop" which the reporter has seen this year, he cannot have witnessed the sharp work of Bezonian and Wool Winder. The fact is that these two colts have both done a great deal more work, and very much better work, than Galvani, who has never yet been sent one mile and a half at racing speed from start to finish.

The admirers of Major Loder's colt were never wearied in the winter of discoursing on his defeat of Slieve Gallion, although Captain Greer's colt was well known to have been much below the mark when he ran for the Middle Park Plate. One heard nothing about Galvani's subsequent defeat by Polar Star in the Criterion Stakes. It seems to me, however, that the race which exposes the pretensions of Galvani to be regarded as a veritable flyer, when judged by his two-year-old running, is the Imperial Produce Plate at Kempton Park, which was run a week before the Middle Park Plate, when he was in his best form. Galvani then met Olympian at even weights, and only just won by a length and a half. It was maintained by many good judges who watched the finish that Olympian was unlucky not to win, and Lord Derby's colt was certainly no flyer, nor is he ever likely to be regarded as such.

It was a sign of great weakness when Galvani was withdrawn from his engagement at Hurst Park, which was a certainty for him if he really has any pretensions to Derby form. The chance of Baltinglass, who represented Major Loder, was apparently regarded as hopeless, for he was not backed for a penny piece. The poor class of the field was demonstrated by the fact that Billidere started favourite, and he gave Baltinglass 7 lb. and a neck beating. Freeborn, who was a Newmarket tip for this race, cannot stay beyond six furlongs. Olympus was supposed to be the best thing of the day, and Lord Rosebery's colt was heavily backed for the two-year-old race, but the swerving of Nile Green at the most critical point in the race settled his chance, and the utterly unfancied Damage won by a neck.

I hear that M. Aumont's three-year-old, Calomel II., will be sent to England to run for the Ascot Cup. Calomel II. has been doing very well in France lately, and last Thursday he won the Prix des Acacias at Longchamps. This colt is engaged in the Grand Prix, but his owner will probably be represented in that race by Pernod.

Sir Ernest Cochrane's filly, St. Griselda, half-sister, by St. Gris, to Falconet, is very smart, and her success in the Loder Plate at Phœnix Park was a most creditable performance, as there was a field of seventeen behind her. She was bred by Miss Knox Gore, but passed into the possession of Mr. C. M. Prior, who sold her to her present owner. I hear that St. Griselda is to run at Kempton Park next week for the Redfern Plate of £800, and she has a breeding allowance of 7 lb. in that race. It will be an interesting race if St. Griselda and Llangwm (10 lb. allowed) both start, and I should expect the colt to win.

Traquair was regarded as a certainty for the Hurst Park Yearling Plate, and there was plunging accordingly on Lord Rosebery's colt, but he is now a very bad roarer, and he cannot get six furlongs. Portland Boy, a good-looking and powerful colt, won all the way. He is probably uncertain in his running, as his sire certainly was.

The only event of general interest on the first day at Manchester was the Red Rose Stakes, for which All Black was considered to be a really good thing, and odds were recklessly betted on him, but he hopelessly failed to stay the course, and Jubilee won cleverly, and apparently she started unbacked. I warned the admirers of All Black months ago against the insanity of backing an animal, which had never won a race, for the Derby at the ridiculous odds which were then being accepted by some infatuated simpletons. All the money which then went on this colt is obviously lost.

The Duke of Devonshire won the John o' Gaunt Plate with Cheshire Cat, who is one of the smartest two-year-olds that has been out this season so far, and a great credit to her sire, Tarporley. It was the opinion of the late Duke of Westminster that this horse would have won the Derby if he had gone on all right. Cheshire Cat will run for the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot.

Beppo won the Manchester Cup with extreme ease, and Mr. de Rothschild's horse started favourite. Killeagh, who was the great fancy at Newmarket, might possibly have been successful if the winner had been absent. Beppo palpably had the race in hand some distance from home. Noctuiform ran well, and this horse will win a race before long.

When I was invited to send a representative to the formal opening of the new Edgware Golf Club's course at Canons Park, ten minutes from Edgware Station, I determined to do so, and for this reason: The course was not described as being the best, or one of the best, inland courses in the kingdom. This was a marked peculiarity demanding special investigation. Wherefore I sent a young and enthusiastic golfer to prospect. He has played over many courses, and I felt I could rely on him. After luncheon he played round, and, fortunately for the club, he was on the top of his game. He is therefore wildly enthusiastic. Had he been off his game, I should have known precisely how much allowance to make for natural depression. The course is 5,700 yards long. The short holes are very good indeed, one of them being one of the best cleek shots that my young friend has seen inland. I ascertained that he played a lovely shot at this hole. The general proposition, however, is accurate, and the long holes are really admirably planned. The course was laid out by Willie Park. It is on clay, with strips of gravel. Over £2,000 has been spent on drainage, and the course was in good condition last Thursday, when, as I may remind golfers, the majority of cricket matches were off owing to the effects of rain. It may safely be said that it is not a dry season's course. It will be good in winter time and wet weather. There are about 120 acres of land, and there is plenty of room for a ladies' course. At present all play over the same greens, and so the suffragettes are not likely to attack the place. This shows prudence on the part of the management, as the distance from the Marble Arch will be materially diminished in a few months, when the Cricklewood trams will run to the club gates. There are a good many trees on the estate, but the course has been laid out with a view to avoiding them. There are two or three that obviously ought to come down. The present members have been playing over the course since January. I am informed that the view from the clubhouse windows is unequalled amongst London clubs. When my young friend is as experienced a journalist as he is a golfer, he will understand that his expression is, in the words of the old pleader, bad for ambiguity. I must thank both the secretary and the members for giving him what he describes as one of the jolliest days' golfing he has ever had. He is quite anxious to become a journalist.

From time to time horrible accusations are made against me. A gentleman cricketer says I am facetious about amateur cricketers. He says they call themselves gentlemen, not amateurs, and have as much right to make money by cricket as their social inferiors. He adds: "If you think gentlemen are to pay for the game whilst cads make money out of it you are mistaken." I can assure him that I think nothing of the sort. The only cads who make money out of it are so-called gentlemen cricketers, who come out of one gate at the pavilion when they are being paid just as much money, if not more, than the player who comes out of the other gate and has not "Mr." on the scoring card before his name. My correspondent is fortunately anonymous. He does not say he has ever played for the county. I hope he never will. There are just as good fellows among the gentlemen as among the professionals. In many cases it would be indelicate to inquire as to the merits or the occupations of their sires. My position is very simple. So long as a man is paid, directly or indirectly, for playing he should go out of the same gate as the other players. The Yorkshire team all go out together. The gentleman is primâ facie an amateur. He is not paid for playing. If he is paid he should not play for the Gentlemen against the Players.

This eternal amateur question is for ever raising trouble. I have always said that what may be a good definition in one branch of sport may be useless for another sport. The whole question was raised with regard to rowing at a meeting of the Polytechnic rowing men last week at their headquarters at Regent-street, under the presidency of Mr. J. C. K. Studd. There is a Polytechnic Rowing Association, some of whose members are qualified to row under the peculiar definition of the Amateur Rowing Association, and some who are not. The A.R.A. excludes any one who has ever been engaged in manual labour for money or wages, or who is or has been by trade or employment for wages a mechanic, artisan, or labourer, or engaged in any menial duty. The Polytechnic naturally contains men engaged in all occupations, and those qualified under A.R.A. rules represented their club with credit in many of the Thames regattas. The A.R.A. rules did not prevent them. The A.R.A. was satisfied so long as this definition was complied with by the competitors. But then a movement was organised whereby the committees of the different river regattas were induced to refuse the entries of any clubs not affiliated to the A.R.A. The effect was twofold. It prevented men with houses on the river organising during the summer months fours or eights to row for private clubs like Fieldhead, Orkney Cottage, or the Vikings. Such clubs were valuable rowing nurseries. They kept the standard high. In fact, too high for a certain metropolitan club that shall be nameless. It also excluded the Polytechnic Rowing Association, as the members were of all classes. Thus the Polytechnic crew found themselves barred. Whether the boycott was aimed at them I do not propose to inquire. That the barring clause was undesirable in the general interests of rowing I am absolutely certain. However, the Polytechnic men have resolved to form a separate organisation of oarsmen qualified under the illogical rule of the A.R.A. This club will seek, and will, I hope, receive recognition.

But surely the time has arrived when the A.R.A. may well consider the class definition that has been adopted. It quite fails to effect anything rational. The grocer's assistant and the telegraph boy are eligible, but the highly trained head gardener or skilled chauffeur is disqualified. Let the test be affiliation to the A.R.A., and let the barring clause stop at the class or trade definition. An A.R.A. sub-committee consisting of representatives of the highest class clubs should be formed, and this body should decide whether a club is fit to belong to the Association. If a club misconducts itself, then it should be liable to summary dismissal. I would not let affiliated clubs necessarily have votes. For I firmly believe that the high tone of amateur oarsmanship is due to the fact that it is to so great an extent controlled by the old oarsmen of Oxford and Cambridge, Leander, Thames, and London.

With regard to the Leander eight, Bucknall, the Oxford president, will be the eighth man. He will row bow. The club will also put on a four, in which I am sorry that a place has not been found for Mr. Guy Nickalls. There was some talk of his rowing for Magdalen. But as that College has lost its place at head of the river, being bumped by Christ Church, who have gone up steadily for several years under Mr. Fletcher's coaching, I presume that Nickalls' old college will not go for the Grand. I hear that he will row in the London four. Jesus are said to be certain to go head at Cambridge. The Hall boat has fallen off, and is not doing as well as was expected. Third are not strong, but they have improved under Johnstone's stroking.

Having regard to the wickets that they have had to play on, I rather fancy that the South African cricketers have astonished those who regarded them as being scarcely first class. That their bowling is good is shown by the scores of Leicester and Essex. Their batting shows no sign of a tail, but some of the men show a tendency to poke at the offside ball, which is fatal with good slips. Surrey and Kent have tasted the bitterness of defeat at the hands of Notts and Lancashire. Surrey played a great uphill game, and Lees had bad luck in bowling. Notts cricket is now quite bright and merry. Kent made a fine struggle, losing by only six runs. Kent and Notts do not meet. It is a pity. Surely bygones might be bygones.

MAMMON.

Dismal Stock Markets—Not a Bright Spot Anywhere—"Bears" the Only Buyers—Dearer Money—The Rand Strike—Liquidation in Connection with a Large Deceased Estate.

THE recovery in the Stock Markets is a thing always to be, but never is. When members departed for their holidays some of them faintly expressed a hope that "after Whitsun" the tide was to turn, but Whitsun has been left well behind, and markets are still wallowing. Indeed, throughout the length and breadth of the Stock Exchange last week there was not one bright spot, and in the majority of cases the fall in values, which was fostered at the outset by a fresh downward plunge in American Rails, assumed substantial dimensions. Public support was a dead letter, the only buying apparently coming from the "bears," whenever those operators thought the time had come to secure profits. On the top of this has come the failure, just at the start of the settlement, of the old-established firm of jobbers, Messrs. Hubert Brunton and Co. The announcement of the default was unexpected, and fears of further trouble have naturally arisen, and these are not likely to be dispelled until the settlement is right out of the way. The failure was mainly the result of commitments in copper and South African shares. I have more than once lately dealt with what I believe to be the main causes affecting the Stock Markets within recent months, and will now merely mention one or two additional factors that came into operation last week. The first was a fairly marked rise in money rates, the movement here being partly a response to the hardening process going on at the two chief Continental centres, and partly the outcome of a transfer of funds from Lombard-street to the Bank of England. The French exchange has moved against London to an extent that has revived an active inquiry for gold on Paris account, and, with the Bank still in a comparatively lean state (the Reserve, according to last week's return, being only a little over 24½ millions), talk about an early reduction in the Bank rate has become less confident. Then there has been the disturbance produced by the strike of white miners on the Rand, a matter which, while, of course, directly influencing the Kaffir market, has aroused some misgivings over the question of gold exports from South Africa. Now, I have no wish to minimise the importance of the gold output from our chief source of supply in its relation to the Money and Stock Markets, for a curtailment of gold production in the present phenomenally active

state of the world's trade would be fraught with the most far-reaching consequences, but it seems to me that the present strike need not be taken too seriously. With the mine owners on their part determined to adhere to their claim, which is simply a fair day's work for a fair—I might almost say generous—day's pay, and with the men on their part lacking a war chest in the shape of union funds, the dispute can surely have only one end, and that probably before many weeks are over. However, it is the fashion in the City just now to apply a double magnifying glass to every conceivable "bear" point, and to look at "bull" points through the wrong end of the telescope.

Another main influence upon prices last week was some heavy liquidation, arising, so it was reported, from the realisation of a large deceased estate. The deceased capitalist referred to was a millionaire who had a known partiality for South American Railway stocks, and the fact that this section of the Stock Exchange was particularly depressed gives colour to the story. Naturally, with no buyers about, the offer of large lines of stock had an undue effect upon values. It is advisable to give prominence to this incident, as it may serve to reassure holders who may have been frightened into believing something had occurred to change the outlook for the lines in which they are interested. As a matter of fact, the South American Railway group, and particularly the Argentine and Brazilian section, contains some of the best bargains that are at present to be found in the Stock Exchange, and, rather than sell what they have, investors might with advantage add to their holdings. Among Government securities Consols still set a bad lead, and the price at the end of the week fell to 84⅝, which was really 84, after allowing for the fact that a quarter's interest will be deducted from the price at the June Settlement. Seeing that even now they do not return quite 3 per cent., it is difficult to call Goschen's cheap, having regard to the big disparity in the yield that exists between this stock and other high-class investment securities, and until money gets still easier and the Sinking Fund has had time to make its influence felt, it is apparently useless to expect any real recovery in the funds. The matter has lately had a depressing effect upon Bank shares, for the joint-stock banks which a few years ago wrote their holdings of Consols down to 85 will probably at the next half-yearly make-up of accounts find it necessary to allow for further depreciation. International stocks have been dull during the week, but declines have been comparatively small, even Russian bonds failing to go back far, despite the renewal of political outbreaks among the populace. The issues of the Peruvian Corporation were inclined to harden on the report—which I believe has good foundation—that a settlement with the Government has been arranged, and that only a few minor details have now to be agreed upon in order to round off the negotiations.

Home Rails Demoralised—The Bears in Possession Aided by Forced Liquidation—Traffics Considered—The Brighton's Unfortunate Position—Rumours of Fresh Capital Officially Denied—Some Attractive Yields.

For the greater part of last week the Home Railway Market was simply a target for the "bears." Public support from this department appeared to be almost entirely withdrawn, and prices fell without a show of resistance. Judging from the fact that there were very few sales of odd lots of stock, real holders were not throwing out their securities, though what appeared to be liquidation in connection with a large deceased estate served to give values a fresh cold douche towards the end of the week. If only the "bears" could be tempted to really take liberties it would be the best thing that could happen for the Railway Market, as the knowledge that a short account existed might easily constitute a spur with which to inaugurate a revival. But with speculation in Rails almost a dead letter operators for the fall are afraid to punt out of sight of land. So the market continues to drift, the monotonous tale of decline being varied only by a temporary flicker of recovery now and again, when members of the ursine fraternity choose to cover. In the early part of the week an excuse for depressing prices was found in the traffic returns for the pre-Whitsun period, the passenger lines having naturally suffered from the effects of the cold weather, which was reminiscent of Christmas more than the merry month. However, something towards restoring the balance was provided by the receipts published later by the heavy lines. The full results may be gathered from the following table, which gives the "estimated" figures for both periods:—

Company.	Pre-Whitsun Week, 1906.	Pre-Whitsun Week, 1907.	Increase + or Decrease −
	£	£	£
Great Central	81,000	83,700	+ 2,700
Great Eastern	114,200	113,300	− 900
Great Northern	119,100	122,500	+ 3,400
Great Western	265,000	285,600	+20,600
Hull and Barnsley	10,900	11,700	+ 800
Lancashire and Yorkshire	130,700	130,500	− 200
London, Brighton, and South Coast	77,200	62,500	−14,700
London and North-Western	328,000	320,000	− 8,000
London and South-Western	108,200	102,200	− 6,000
London, Tilbury, and Southend	10 500	10,700	+ 200
Midland	253,900	260,400	+ 6,500
North-Eastern	199,800	209,900	+10,100
North Staffordshire	19 100	19,900	+ 800
South-Eastern and Chatham	108 100	98,300	− 9,800
North London	8 400	8,500	+ 100
Metropolitan	15,800	15,000	− 800
District	8,500	7,900	− 600
Central London	6,200	5,800	− 400
City and South London	2,600	3,200	+ 600

The market was specially impressed by the Great Western increase, which had the additional merit of coming on top of a £13,000 gain a year ago. It may be conceded that the performance as a whole fell considerably short of what might have been had the Clerk of the Weather been kinder—and that no better results are to be looked for in respect of the Bank Holiday week—but if the market wishes to seriously study traffics it need not worry too much about the figures for one or two weeks, but should keep its eye upon the aggregate showings. These are set out below:—

Company.	Aggregate (20 weeks).		Increase or decrease.
	£		£
Great Central	1,529,000	.....	+ 57,900
Great Eastern	1,912,000	.....	+ 13,000
Great Northern	2,206,800	.....	+ 52,900
Great Western	4,628,000	.....	+191,200
Hull and Barnsley	225,900	.....	+ 28,200
Lancashire and Yorkshire	2,104,100	.....	+ 77,300
London, Brighton and South Coast	1,087,000	.....	− 29,500
London and North Western	5,557,000	.....	+198,000
London and South Western	1,692,100	.....	+ 24,500
London, Tilbury and Southend	176,600	.....	+ 8,800
Midland	4,570,100	.....	+ 39,500
North Eastern	3,068,100	.....	+192,100
North Stafford	369,800	.....	+ 9,800
South Eastern and Chatham	1,627,400	.....	+ 20,700
North London	178,200	.....	− 3,800
Metropolitan	301,700	.....	− 25,400
District	156,700	.....	− 3,200
Central London	123,300	.....	− 12,700
City and South London	59,000	.....	+ 1,500

Excluding the Brighton and the purely Metropolitan lines—which latter, with the exception of the City and South London, continue to suffer from competition amongst themselves and from other forms of traction—there is solid ground for satisfaction in a perusal of the above results. The Brighton has certainly been roughly handled of late, what with the competition set up by the London County Council's electric tramways and by the increased use of the motor-car and 'bus. For twenty weeks it has lost in gross receipts £29,500, so that if the same rate of shrinkage be shown for the rest of the year, the total falling off for the twelve months would be over £76,000. As expenses are bound to rule high during the current year, it is difficult to see how a serious cut in the dividend on Berthas can be avoided. The best that can be hoped is that the company will be able to make up some leeway during the summer months, and that its latest departure in the direction of cultivating the long-distance season ticket holder by the offer of more attractive rates will provide some compensation for the diversion of short-distance traffic. In any case the position is bad enough, without the manufacture of false rumours, such as that which

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

credited the board with contemplating an issue of £1,000,000 capital. As a matter of fact, the company has no intention of adding to its capital either this year or next. The market has already made pretty liberal allowance for the change in the Brighton Company's fortunes, for the quotation of 85¾ touched last Thursday represents a fall of 36 points since the beginning of the year, while it is within 7 points of the lowest figure touched during the last twenty-five years.

Reverting to the traffics of the heavy lines, such as the Great Western, North-Western, Midland, North-Eastern, and Leeds, the figures are sufficiently large to make holders easy in their minds about the forthcoming dividends. It should be possible, at least in the case of the Brum and Berwick, to pay increased dividends, after making liberal allowance for the increase in the cost of coal and other materials, but even assuming that the dividends be merely maintained, and that advantage be taken of revenue surpluses to increase reserve funds, the yields on the leading stocks, based upon last year's distributions, are by no means unattractive. For instance, Great Westerns and Leeds give 4½ per cent., while Brums and Berwicks return about 1-16 per cent. more. Then there are my two low-priced favourites, York deferred and Hulls, which are so exceptionally placed in the matter of earnings and dividend prospects that a present purchaser might count upon a yield of from 5 to 5½ per cent. in respect of the current year. In the Underground group, City and South London seems the pick of the bunch, for the yield on the basis of last year's dividend is over 5 per cent., and the line is only just beginning to show the beneficial results of the Euston extension. My usual table of prices follows:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	May 18, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	71½	70½	– ¾
Do. Def.	42½	28⅜	27½	26½	–1
Central London	96½	82½	71½	70	–1½
City and S. London	47½	39	41½	41	– ½
Furness	69¾	61⅝	61½	60½	–1
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	33	32½	– ½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅞	69	59	59	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	24½	24½	—
Do. "A"	19½	15½	13⅛	13	– ⅛
Great Eastern	90⅞	79½	72	70½	–1½
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅞	97½	97¾	+ ¼
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	39½	38½	–1½
Great Western	114	122⅜	123	122½	– ½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	46¾	46½	– ¼
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	100	100	—
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	92½	88	–4½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	13⅛	12¾	– ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	78	78	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	48	48	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	144½	143½	–1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅛	46½	45½	–1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	43	40½	–2½
Metropolitan District	37½	18¾	13½	13	– ½
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅝	64	63½	63½	– ½
Do. Def.	74¾	62½	62	60½	–1½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78½	72⅝	69½	68	–1½
Do. Def.	47⅛	38¾	32⅜	31⅛	–1⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	137½	135½	–2
North Staffordshire	105⅝	96⅜	98	95	–3
South-Eastern "A"	55¾	44½	40	38½	–1½

Continued "Bear" Carnival in Yankees—The Rise in Wheat—The Government and the Railroads—Declining Net Earnings—The Continued Output of New Issues.

The American Market seldom does things by halves, and since the "bears" assumed command of the situation at the beginning of the year they may lay claim to a run of brilliant success. Their triumphal career was continued throughout the greater part of last week, when the market was under the harrow of bad crop reports—which encouraged furious speculation for the rise in wheat—and further new issues. The report by Mr. H. K. Smith, Commissioner of Corporations, submitted to President Roosevelt upon the Standard Oil Company was another adverse factor, as it gave a fresh reminder of the hostility that exists between the Government and certain leading members of the capitalist class. According to the covering letter sent with his report, Mr. Smith maintained that "the history and present operations of the Standard Oil Company's interests shows throughout the past five years a substantial monopolisation of the petroleum industry of the country, the deliberate destruction of competition and the consequent control of that industry by less than a dozen men who have reaped enormous profits therefrom. The Standard Oil Company's commercial efficiency, while of the greatest, has been consistently directed, not at reducing prices to the public and thus maintaining its predominant position through superior service, but rather at crippling existing rivals and preventing the rise of others by vexatious and oppressive attacks on them, and securing for itself the most unfair and wide-reaching discrimination in transport facilities and rates, both as regards railroads and pipe lines, while standing in the way as far as possible of such facilities for all competitors." That the Government is laying itself out to deal deliberately with removing some of the worst evils that have grown up with the development of the Trust principle there can be no doubt, and the knowledge naturally helps to keep Wall Street in a state of unrest. So far as the railroads are concerned, we are not unlikely to witness some big enforced shiftings of stock within the next few years; the Union Pacific combination, we know, is now under the consideration of the authorities, and rumour says the Hill group is shortly to be made the subject of a searching inquiry.

At the same time, this is not a matter which need of itself unduly perturb the holder of American Railroad securities. In a speech made a week ago by Mr. C. A. Prouty, Chairman of the Inter-State Commerce Commission—which was accepted as having been inspired by President Roosevelt—emphasis was once more laid upon the fact that the Government has no intention to disturb vested rights in associated capital. Mr. Prouty, in venturing upon an explanation of the cause of the present lack of public confidence in railroad stocks, said:

> It is not the feeling of apprehension that the Government will confiscate the railroads which prevents the public from making such investments, but rather the uncertainty as to the future of those stocks. When once it becomes certain, however, that no railroad stock or bond can be issued without the consent of the Government, and, further, that every dollar derived from their sale shall be legitimately invested in the property, and when no inter-State railroad can buy a dollar's worth of stock in any other railroad company without the consent of the Government, then will railroad securities assume their proper place in public confidence.

These remarks are in a sense reassuring to railroad stockholders, though the fact that the Government means to curb the power of some of the magnates goes far to explain why Wall-street at present gives no sign of inaugurating a revival in stocks, because hitherto the lead in any "bull" campaign has always come from the small ring of New York capitalists whose financial policy is now challenged. Meanwhile, too, the declining tendency of railroad net earnings, the seriousness of which has been further threatened by the damage in the wheat belt, and the continuance of the stream of new issues remain a problem for the market, and make authorities hesitate to assert that the prices have yet gravelled, admittedly very low though they in most cases are. A good idea of the shrinkage in values may be obtained from the following table:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 18, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Fall.
Atchison	114½	89	92½	90⅝	1⅞
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	99	97	2
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅜	99⅞	97⅞	2
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	92	91	1
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅛	54	38	35	3
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	136	131½	4½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅛	28¾	25⅝	3⅛
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93¾	85⅞	76	72	4
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Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅛	103	101⅛	1⅞

(*Continued on page* 1343.)

· TRUTH ·

SPECIAL LITERARY SUPPLEMENT.

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THE FALL OF NAPOLEON.

"The Fall of Napoleon." By Oscar Browning. With Numerous Illustrations. (Lane. 12s. 6d. net.)

What strikes one most in Mr. Oscar Browning's admirable monograph on "The Fall of Napoleon," especially in its earlier chapters, is the blind-man's-buff character of a campaign in those days as compared with the relatively chess-board clearness of the great game of war to-day. Again and again you find, not the history of the campaign only, but the very history of Europe, turn upon the blank ignorance of a general of the whereabouts of the enemy, then perhaps within a few miles of him. Before his first abdication, e.g., Napoleon for days together was ignorant that the allies with an army 200,000 strong were marching on Paris, and fancied that he was engaged with the army of Schwarzenberg when he was fighting the forces of Blücher. Before his final abdication, he so miscalculated the movements of Blücher after his rout of him at Ligny as to lose Waterloo. Indeed, Waterloo would not have been lost but for the misreading by two of Napoleon's generals of ill-written pencil messages. During the battle of Ligny Soult sent Ney the following peremptory command:—

> The Emperor charges me to tell you that you must manœuvre immediately so as to envelop the right of the enemy and to fall upon his rear. This army is lost if you act vigorously. The fate of France is in your hands, so do not hesitate to make the movement which the Emperor orders, and march on the heights of St. Amand and Brye.

But this order, written badly in pencil, D'Erlon, who had 20,000 men at his disposal, misread by mistaking "sur la hauteur de Saint Armand" for "à la hauteur de Saint Amand," with the result that the Prussians escaped annihilation. Again, when the Prussians were thus enabled to come up at the crisis of the battle of Waterloo, Soult sent the dilatory Grouchy this peremptory but ill-written and pencilled despatch:—

> At this moment the battle is engaged on the line of Waterloo in front of the forest of Soignes. We think we see Bülow on the heights of St. Lambert. Do not lose a moment in coming to us and crushing Bülow.

Grouchy misread "la bataille est *engagée*" for "la bataille est *gagnée*"! Even as it was, Waterloo, as Wellington again and again expressed it on the day after the battle to Creevey, "was a near thing." "It has been a d——d nice thing; the nearest-run thing you ever saw in your life." "He repeated so often," adds Creevey, "it's being so nice a thing, so nearly run a thing," that I asked him if the French at Waterloo had fought better than he had ever seen them do before. "No," he said, "they have always fought the same ever since I first saw them at Vimeira." Then he said, "By God! I don't think it would have done, if I had not been there." Waterloo was a soldier's victory won by the bull-dog doggedness of the English, which astonished even Wellington, as you find in the same page of "The Creevey Papers," and which drew from Napoleon himself this despairing comment: "It has always been the same since Crecy." Perhaps the most striking incident in all the romance of war is that of Napoleon's facing alone in the defile at Laffray the battalion of infantry drawn up to shoot him down when he appeared on that wonderful march to Paris after his escape from Elba. Delessart, who was in command, resolved to do, and to compel the regiment to do, this dread duty. Napoleon having ordered the soldiers under his own command to carry their muskets under their left arms, advanced towards the hostile battalion. Upon his appearance Captain Randon cried, "There he is! Fire!" The soldiers were livid, their limbs shook, and their hands trembled. Napoleon, now advanced within pistol-shot, cried, "Soldiers of the Fifth Regiment, recognise me!" Advancing nearer yet and throwing open his overcoat, he challenged them thus: "If there is amongst you a soldier who wishes to kill his Emperor, he can do it. Here I am!" A great shout arose of "Vive l'Empereur!" The ranks were broken, the white cockades of the Bourbons strewed the ground; shakos were elevated at the point of the bayonet, the soldiers rushed to their Emperor, surrounded him, cheered him, knelt down before him, stroked his boots, his sword, and the hem of his garment. It was impossible so to write any part of the life of such a man as to make it uninteresting; but Mr. Oscar Browning has made, not the least, but the most of the romantic material at his command for the story of the fall of the greatest figure in history.

RECOLLECTIONS OF DIZZY.

"Lord Beaconsfield and Other Tory Memories." By T. E. Kebbel. (Cassell. 16s. net.)

The late Lord Rowton was severely blamed during his life and after his death for his failure to write the long-expected "Biography of Lord Beaconsfield;" but this censure, it seems, was as unreasonable as the demand made upon the Israelites to make bricks without straw. After Lord Beaconsfield's death, Mr. Kebbel, as he tells us in his interesting "Lord Beaconsfield and Other Tory Memories," went down to Hughenden with Lord Rowton to search through the papers and letters left at his secretary's discretion by the statesman to make what use he pleased of them for a biography. But in boxful after boxful of such documents absolutely nothing was found of the slightest biographical interest or importance. It is possible that the "Asian Mystery" may have fully revealed itself to Lord Rowton in the confidences of close personal intimacy, but, judging from the little Mr. Kebbel has gleaned from a quarter of a century's acquaintance with Lord Beaconsfield—who once designated him as his future biographer—even Lord Rowton probably did not get behind the veil. Froude says that Disraeli had but two intimate friends—his wife and Mrs. Willyams—and it is from one of these two that we get the most characteristic glimpses of the man, as distinguished from the statesman. On the night of one of his greatest parliamentary triumphs, when he was pressed by enthusiastic admirers to celebrate his victory with them at the Carlton, he went home with his wife. "Dizzy," she said, triumphantly, to Mr. Kebbel, "came home with me. I had got him a raised pie from Fortnum and Mason's and a bottle of champagne, and he ate half the pie and drank all the champagne and said then, 'Why, my dear, you are more like a mistress than a wife!'" Nothing could be more characteristic of either than that her "Dizzy" should intend this, and that she herself should accept it, as a compliment. "You know," said "Dizzy" to her once in the presence of the Dean of Salisbury, who reported the story to Mr. Kebbel—"you know I married you for your money." "Oh, yes; but if you were to marry me again, you'd marry me for love, wouldn't you?" "Oh, yes." Indeed, in her very first interview with Mr. Kebbel this candid old lady "told me of her first acquaintance with 'Dizzy,' as she always called him, of the sums she had spent in electioneering down to that date—I think she said a hundred thousand pounds—and that she was well rewarded by the devotion of so brilliant a husband." Of Disraeli the statesman, Mr. Kebbel, as one of the journalists whom he inspired, naturally knew more, but as he used Mr.

Kebbel as his mouthpiece to proclaim *urbi et orbi* his political principles of the moment, we are not sure that we get any nearer the politician than a perusal of his speeches would bring us. At the same time, it is only fair to Mr. Kebbel to quote this testimonial from Lord Rowton to his special knowledge of Disraeli's character and principles:—

Dear Mr. Kebbel,—It is now nearly twenty years since my dear old friend, Lord Beaconsfield, told me to read something of yours as the work of one who "understood him," as there were not many such at that time.—Yours very truly, Rowton.

At all events, Mr. Kebbel is always interesting and often entertaining. It is odd, by the way, to find such an accomplished journalist using the phrase "mutual friend," and attributing Swift's "sweetness and light," to be found in "The Battle of the Books," to Matthew Arnold.

A NOVELIST'S VIEW OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

"The House of Defence." By E. F. Benson. (Heinemann. 6s.)

Mr. E. F. Benson's "The House of Defence" might, perhaps, be regarded as a counter-blast to Mark Twain's and Mr. T. P. O'Connor's merciless exposure of Mrs. Eddy; yet there is nothing irreconcilably conflicting between these exposures of the Apostle of Christian Science and the apparently miraculous cures to which Mr. Benson testifies and on which his fascinating novel is founded. Mr. Benson explains his dedication of the novel to "C. E. M." by the undoubted fact that this friend was cured by Christian Science of a disease which, though of nervous origin, had become organic. It was already organic when the patient consulted the famous doctor (figuring in the novel as "Sir James"), who despaired to effect the cure, wrought afterwards by Christian Science. But this apparent miracle was outdone by another which Mr. Benson saw performed himself. "C. E. M.," from being a Christian Science patient, became a Christian Science doctor, and in that capacity cured an inveterate laudanum drinker:—

"I hope," says Mr. Benson in this remarkable dedication, "I shall never forget that which with my own eyes I saw you do. To save that drug-logged wreck, who was our friend, when you saw no other way of convincing him of the beastliness of his habit, you drank that which, by all that is known of the drug, should have killed you, and you drank it with complete and absolute confidence that it could not possibly hurt you. It is true—at least Sir James tells me so—that it is not quite easy to poison oneself with laudanum, because the amateur will usually take too much and be sick, or too little, and thus not imbibe a fatal dose. But you drank a good deal, and it appeared to have no effect whatever on you. I will go farther: It had no effect whatever on you. But it had the effect you saw on your patient. It cured him."

Nevertheless, Mr. Benson no more believes in Mrs. Eddy than Mark Twain or Mr. T. P. O'Connor. He believes that as the mind acts on the body in bringing on illness of one kind or another, that it also may act on the body in healing illness of one kind or another—the disease, *e.g.*, of drinking or drug-taking—since here it is the brain that is the seat of the trouble. But why did this mortal dose of laudanum have no effect whatever upon the Christian Science doctor? Is it because, as Christian Science teaches, there is neither healing nor hurt in material things? Not at all, answers Mr. Benson, it was because of "C. E. M.'s" absolute confidence that the drug could not hurt her—the body here obeying the order of the mind. Mr. Benson's explanation of the facts to which he testifies would not only explain miracles in the past, but would promise us miracles in the future. For this and other reasons "The House of Defence" will probably be the most widely-read and discussed novel of the season.

TALES OF MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE.

"The Diamond Ship." By Max Pemberton. (Cassell and Co. 6s.)
"The Secret of the Square." By William Le Queux. (F. V. White. 6s.)
"Captain Kirke Webbe." By F. W. Hayes. (Hutchinson. 6s.)
"The Quest of El Dorado." By Wilmot Waring. (Cassell and Co. 6s.)
"The Secret of the Moor Cottage." By H. Ripley Cromarsh. (Ward, Lock, and Co. 6s.)

A vivid imagination, a dexterous touch for characterisation, a disregard for superfluous detail, and a flowing pen—above all a flowing pen—are necessary to make the adventure novel a success. These are the qualities which have won success for Mr. Max Pemberton's previous novels, and which will undoubtedly make a success of "The Diamond Ship," the floating home of villainy, where the great criminals of the world find shelter under the protecting care of the repulsive Jew, Valentine Imroth. Imroth is a genuine Surreyside villain of the old sort, and so it is quite natural that Dr. Ean Fabos, who is the true hero of melodrama—gallant, impassive, determined—should, with the assistance of his faithful servant, the little Japanese Okyada, bring him to book. It is natural, also, that the incentive to his exertions should be all that is charming, sweet, and feminine, in two words—Joan Fortinbras. No one will desire to find fault with Mr. Pemberton's latest story, except the hardened realist and—well, Mr. Pemberton does not write for him.

Nor does Mr. Le Queux. Mr. Le Queux's mission is to amuse, and although he makes use of quite a different formula to Mr. Pemberton, he mixes his ingredients with so skilful a hand that he rarely fails of success. The ingredients of his last romance are simple. A stranger in a slouch hat, a young doctor, a fat man in a motor, a young married woman and a young unmarried ditto, and a quiet, sedate London square. One can imagine what Anthony Trollope would have done with these properties, but it would be nothing like the result Mr. Le Queux produces. Analysis of character is not Mr. Le Queux's forte. He scents a mystery in that sedate London square, and forthwith it encompasses all the characters and the reader, and does not allow any of them a moment's breathing space until it is solved in the last chapter. Evidently Mr. Le Queux possesses a flowing pen.

There is a smack of an older formula in Mr. Hayes's romance, for it takes one back to the good old times when the adventurous element to be found even amongst a nation of shop-keepers, instead of speculating on the Stock Exchange, put their savings into ships and guns, and speculated in the lives of men. A notable figure in such days was the redoubtable Captain Kirke Webbe, not perhaps the ideal patriot, but a very perfect pirate, for he engaged in his privateering with as much gusto under the French flag as under the English, and as le Capitaine Renaudin of *L'Espiègle* robbed the English with as much sangfroid as under his own name, and as commander of the *Scout*, he robbed the French. He is the central figure of Mr. Hayes's stirring story, which is full of the true romantic complications, and lacks not the essential happy ending.

There ought to be romance in a novel with a title like "The Quest of El Dorado," but, alas! the visions which are conjured up by the name which has lured so many adventurous souls to destruction are not given shape and substance in Mr. Waring's story. The El Dorado of which the author's puppets are in quest is a schoolgirl's vision, a vision of a bread-and-butter-fed imagination. The publishers announce that the name of the author, Wilmot Waring, is merely the *nom de plume* of a well-known writer, who desires to conquer the public afresh by a book on somewhat different lines to those he usually writes. If the new public he seeks to conquer inhabits the girls' schoolroom he will probably achieve his object, for Kathleen and Philip, Rosamund and Gavine, Uncle Tom and Uncle Mark, and Clifford Manton and all the rest of them are just the conventional people who live in girls' story books and never outside of them.

There is a strongly conventional flavour, too, about "The Secret of the Moor Cottage," and, again, the convention is an ancient one, almost as old, in fact, as Mr. Cromarsh's method of telling his story through the mouths of different actors in the drama. When two persons take possession of a retired country cottage, eschew local acquaintance, and give no hint as to their antecedents, they have, in fiction, always good reasons for concealing their identity. That is what happens to Mr. and Miss Clark in this volume, and the secret they conceal is well worth unearthing. But, unfortunately, Mr. Cromarsh does not succeed in exciting any particular interest in Mr. and Miss Clark. One feels that such very ordinary persons have no right to possess secrets at all.

LONDON PICTURED BY A JAPANESE ARTIST.

"The Colour of London." By W. J. Loftie, F.S.A. Illustrated in colour after pictures by Yoshio Markino. With an introduction by M. H. Spielmann and an essay by the artist. (Chatto and Windus. 20s. net.)

Though Mr. Loftie's letterpress is very readable, the illustrations by a Japanese artist naturally constitute the chief attraction of this handsome colour-book. Mr. Spielmann tells us that the artist, Mr. Markino, has been here for ten years, finding in London an irresistible and inexhaustible charm and fascination. The London streets, the London atmosphere, the London colour, hold him entranced. He loves even the fogs. In his essay as well as in his drawings Mr. Markino expresses his admiration of the city. Once or twice, indeed, he does indulge in a little gentle criticism, not of London, but of Londoners. It saddens him to observe that some ladies—he is a great admirer of English ladies—"mis-contrast the colours of their dresses." "What a pity," he exclaims, "to spoil their own natural beauty by their dresses! If they cannot understand about colour, they should be in black and white, which suits everybody." Still more distressing are some of the hats that he sees on Sundays and Bank Holidays. They are very inartistic; "some look as if they had bound up half a dozen boiled lobsters and crabs." He would rather see the wearers in a tam-o'-shanter, "which is rather naughty, but very pretty indeed." December is his favourite month in London. Then "the volume of thick mist which covers the whole town mystifies everything in the most picturesque way." Mr. Markino's pictures range over many widely contrasted scenes and aspects of London life, but he has an evident preference for mist effects and night studies, and it is with these that he is most successful. His wonderfully fresh and clever work brings out vividly beautiful effects in "the colour of London" which will be a revelation even to those who imagine that they have a thorough appreciation of it. The plates have been superbly printed, and the volume is altogether one of unique charm and interest.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

"Russia and Reform." By Bernard Pares, M.A. (Constable and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Red Russia." By John Foster Fraser. With Forty-eight Full-page Plates from Photographs. (Cassell and Co. 6s.)

"A Year in Russia." By Maurice Baring. (Methuen and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

It is a pity that the vast amount of solid information, patiently acquired, carefully sifted, and impartially presented in Mr. Bernard Pares' "Russia and Reform" was not compacted more coherently. It is rather thrown together than arranged logically and artistically. On the other hand, I know no recent book upon Russia with anything approaching the amount of first-hand knowledge shown by Mr. Pares in this encyclopædic volume. There is no subject which can interest a student of the Russia of to-day which is not dealt with wisely in this volume—Church or State, Tsar or people, nobles or peasants, the officials, the revolutionaries, the Zemstvos, Councils, Dumas, law and its administration, literature and the press, etc, are described and accounted for historically and politically by a man who seems to have given his life on the spot to their study. What is the conclusion of this patient and impartial expert? It is that the Russian reactionaries and revolutionists—the one the product of the other—are weak alike in number and in capacity. In fact, it is reaction alone which keeps revolution alive. The Reformers, on the other hand, are incomparably stronger in ability, in prestige, in number, and in character than the extremists on either side of them, and their movement will become invincible when they dissociate it publicly and universally from the methods of terrorism.

With or without convulsions the Reform movement is certain, sooner or later, to have its legitimate results. Underneath the great main factors are slowly but surely changing, and Russia will eventually issue on the path of a renewed life, with loyalty to the past and with confidence in the future.

Mr. John Foster Fraser would be pronounced by Mr. Pares no doubt as "one of those untrained correspondents who have, by their exaggeration, almost killed public interest in this great country"; nevertheless, his ominously named "Red Russia" is absorbing reading. It is, no doubt, full of horrors, such as that of the tortures of young girls stripped naked in Arctic cold and jeered at by Russian officers, who warm them by applying their lighted cigarettes to the nipples of their breasts. Or such, again, as this description given him by an English lady of what she had herself seen in the streets of Moscow when the Cossacks were running amok:—

The Cossacks were at all the street corners and shot at anybody who tried to cross. There was an old man, and he was so nervous. He got on his knees and tried to crawl. I watched him from our window. Then he lay flat. He slowly lifted his head to see if the soldiers were looking. He was afraid, and crawled back. He rolled himself in the snow, so he would be white, and then, very, very slowly, lying on his face, he pulled himself across. It seemed an hour. Oh, I did thank God when that old man got across. I thought a friend of mine was killed, and I went out to seek him. In the snow I found a baby's arm cut in two; the little hand blue with frost, nearly a yard from the arm. I think the baby must have been on its mother's breast when a mounted soldier cut at her.

Mr. Foster Fraser, in fact, has the natural eye of a popular writer for sensational incidents and accidents, and those who love excitement of this kind and, indeed, of all kinds, will thoroughly enjoy "Red Russia."

"I make no pretence of invincible impartiality," says Mr. Maurice Baring in his most interesting "A Year in Russia," "only I have seen and heard enough of both sides to learn one thing—that the two parties who are now engaged in Russia are both right or both wrong. I will try to the best of my ability to stifle my own feelings, and, like a piece of blotting paper which absorbs red or black ink indiscriminately, try to reproduce as best I can fragments of what I absorb." "Quot homines, tot sententiæ." The truth is there are so many Russias—Eastern and Western Russia, mediæval and modern Russia, the Russia of the peasant, and the Russia of the artisan, to say nothing of the Russias that are not Russian, but Polish, Finnish, Georgian, Jewish, etc.—that we should expect unanimity upon one point only—the helplessness and hopelessness of the present forcible-feeble Government of the country. Of the Russians proper, Mr. Baring, who was brought into intimate contact with all ranks, classes, and professions, has formed an opinion which seems in conflict with such atrocities as are recorded in "Red Russia"—that they are the humanest of peoples. But a nation, no more than an individual, ought not to be judged by moments of madness. In another chapter Mr. Baring describes an interview in the train with the gentlest, humblest, mildest-looking old man he had ever seen, and "who seemed an apostle in disguise." He was attracted towards him not by his appearance only, but also "by the extraordinary courtesy with which he prevented a woman with many bundles being turned out of the train by another moujik." "What are you?" asked Mr. Baring. "A convict." "What crime did you commit?" "Murder!" he answered, very gently. But on investigation it turned out to be a murder committed in the madness of intoxication. When very drunk he had set fire to a barn, and, upon the owner interfering, he had killed him. This old man seems to personate Russia in Mr. Baring's experience of her—ferocious only in moods and moments of intoxication. For the rest, "A Year in Russia" is the most impartial and one of the most suggestive books on that country in the present crisis that I have read, while it is as dramatic as it is impartial and suggestive. It is, so to say, a literary biograph of the scenes of the Russian Revolution, accompanied and explained by dramatic interviews with its leaders.

SOME NOTABLE STORIES.

"From One Man's Hand to Another." By G. H. Breda. (T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

"John Glynn." By Arthur Paterson. (Macmillan and Co.. 6s.)

"Sweet Rogues." By Owen Vaughan. (Owen Rhoscomyl.) (Duckworth and Co. 6s.)

"The Prince's Valet." By John Barnett. (Smith, Elder, and Co. 6s.)

"Windover Tales." By Halliwell Sutcliffe. (Smith, Elder, and Co. 6s.)

"The Glen o' Weeping." By Marjorie Bowen. (Alston Rivers, Ltd. 6s.)

"Our Lady of the Beeches." By the Baroness von Hutten. With Portrait by William Nicholson. (William Heinemann. 4s.)

"Dead Love has Chains." By M. E. Braddon. (Hurst and Blackett. 6s.)
"Nathan Todd." By Lucas Cleeve. (Digby, Long, and Co. 6s.)
"The Millionaire and the Lady." By Gertrude Warden. (John Long. 6s.)

"From One Man's Hand to Another," the latest issue of Mr. Fisher Unwin's "First Novel Library," makes an unfortunate start in Ireland, a country of which the writer knows so little that she speaks of the birth of an illegitimate child there "as common enough in a village where, like most other villages, no man concerned himself too closely about his neighbour's father." The author, however, is more at home when she gets to Vivian's London studio, where the boy hero falls in love with the presiding goddess, a woman twice his age, without beauty, grace, or character. "A lined and sallow face, a face that had no longer anything of youth in it. Or grace, or beauty." The staccato punctuation here is characteristic of a straining after effect noticeable in the novel itself. But it is unquestionably a clever novel, and, as a first attempt, of much promise.

Perhaps some of the characters and incidents of "John Glynn" are a little stagey, and of the Adelphi stage type at that; but it has the qualities of its defects, being a stirring story of the roughs of the East End of London, which goes with a gallop from the first page to the last. Its hero, John Glynn, "a man made in equal parts of indiarubber and steel," returning from the wild west of America, where he had made his pile as a cattle raiser and rancher, throws himself into the work of the regeneration of Relton, the most criminal hole in London. He and his chum, who had once saved him from being roasted alive by the Indians, are in love with the same heroine, a lady who also seems "to be made in equal parts of indiarubber and steel." She is the secretary of the movement for the relief and regeneration of Relton, and John and his chum fight many a battle for her and her cause. Indeed, John has a regular prize-ring fight without gloves with "the eighty-one-tonner," the champion of the desperadoes of the region—a battle Homerically described—in which he chivalrously ceded the victory to the man he had beaten: With a yet more generous chivalry he would have resigned the heroine to his chum, if the lady had not intervened to dispose of herself, and all ends as the reader would have it.

Wit and humour, thrilling adventures, hairbreadth escapes, two of the most charming of heroines, and two of the most gallant of heroes make Mr. Owen Vaughan's "Sweet Rogues" as enjoyable a novel as one would wish to read. "Sweetest nut hath sourest rind," and the two "sweet rogues" of the novel play the saucy part of Beatrice to their sorely-tried swains to perfection; but, when they do yield at last, it is with an enchanting grace. As for the adventures of the heroes, ducked now in cesspools, and anon threatened with being boiled alive in seething pitch, they keep you amused or enthralled throughout. The time of the story is that of the Cavaliers and Roundheads, and its heroes are in the immediate service of Prince Rupert, but it is with such an episode of the Civil War as no history records—the theft of a Roundhead dispatch—that we have chiefly to do. In a word, Mr. Owen Vaughan (Owen Rhoscomyl) has answered in "Sweet Rogues" the high expectation excited by his "Old Fireproof."

Perhaps the Prince is too much of a hero to his valet in Mr. John Barnett's "The Prince's Valet," but if we could forget the real character of Bonnie Prince Charlie—and the author does much to make you forget it—we should find all the romantic adventures of which he is made the chivalrous hero sufficiently exciting. Not the least interesting of these adventures is that where Bonnie Prince Charlie, en route to seek from Frederick the Great his sister and his help for the recovery of the throne, rescues this very sister from a band of desperate lepers who threatened her with contagion!

Mr. Halliwell Sutcliffe, in his "Windover Tales," does not produce his good wine at the beginning of the feast, for certainly the weakest story in the collection is the first. The strongest is, perhaps, "From the Heart of the Storm," where the moving bog buries alive in the Black House Rolf Norland, in spite of all the efforts of his worst enemies to save him. Then there is "The Sexton's Tale," of a man whose second sight made him free of the company of ghosts; and "A Midnight Bridal," the strangest of impromptu wooings and weddings; and "Dick of the Road," where a coachman plays the rôle of Tennyson's "Lord Burleigh," all admirable, and told in a style that suits each as an accompaniment suits a song.

Miss Marjorie Bowen, in her preface to "The Glen o' Weeping" seems to echo Walpole's "Anything but history, for history must be false," but especially false is the story of "the massacre of Glencoe." "It was a military execution performed on rebels who were outside the law; its details neither so horrible nor so revolting as those of the numberless crimes committed by the victims themselves, and every other clan in Scotland." This Miss Bowen undertakes to suggest in "The Glen o' Weeping," and whether she has or has not succeeded in reversing the verdict of history, she has certainly succeeded in stringing together a succession of exciting episodes.

The Baroness von Hutten's "Our Lady of the Beeches" is written half in letters and half in narrative, and the letters prepare their writers to fall in love, while the narrative relates the unsatisfactory result. Perhaps the letters hardly prepare you for the sudden, intense, if restrained, love scenes, though they are sufficiently pessimistic to forewarn you of the moral of the meeting:—

La vie est brève;
Un peu d'espoir,
Un peu de rêve,
Et puis—bonsoir!

Miss Braddon's sad story, "Dead Love has Chains," shows that the right hand of that veteran novelist is far indeed from having lost its cunning. For my own part, I should have liked a more cheerful theme than that of the miseries of a girl unfortunate at once in her father and in her lover, and through both in her life; but of the power and pathos of the novel there is no doubt.

Lucas Cleeve ranges the whole world over in search of subjects to add to her gallery of portraits of character, and when she finds a fresh one she draws her picture with the sureness of touch which characterises the perfect artist. "Nathan Todd" is the latest of them. Nathan is the product of old ideas and new environment, the offspring of quiet people subservient to laws, to constitutionalism, and with the shadow of a thousand puritanisms upon him. Only America could have produced Nathan, and perhaps only Lucas Cleeve could have presented so delicately limned a picture of his heart searchings and mental struggles in the days of his early manhood. Lucas Cleeve does not take the reader further than the close of his first romance, but she makes the story of that romance of exceeding interest.

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THE ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN.

"The Unveiled East." By F. A. Mackenzie. With illustrations and maps. (Hutchinson and Co. 12s. net.)

In this instructive volume Mr. Mackenzie says many things which will come as a shock to people who take the popular view of our alliance with Japan. He points out that Japan now occupies the position and pursues the policy which four years ago it was feared would be Russia's. While proclaiming her adherence to the doctrine of the "open door," Japan has in Korea and Manchuria adopted a policy of national preference and exclusive privilege; while nominally standing for the

integrity of China, she is maturing plans "that can have no purpose if they do not involve the passing of large parts of Chinese territory into Japanese hands." Japan does not threaten India from the north by the advance of armies, "but her teachers are stirring up unrest among some of the Indian peoples, and her official agents have for nearly two years been at work on a great trade campaign there directly aimed at Lancashire's most profitable market." In these and other directions, too, abundant reasons can be discovered in support of Mr. Mackenzie's prediction that the imperial and commercial policy of Japan must inevitably, if maintained, strain the present alliance to breaking point within a generation. Though valuable in that respect, Mr. Mackenzie's book is not simply a survey of the political situation in the Far East. It is indeed largely composed of personal experiences and observations there, which make it fascinating reading even for those who take no serious interest in the political and commercial questions with which the author deals.

A PASSIONATE WOMAN AND SOME OTHERS.

"Which Woman?" by G. B. Burgin. (Nash. 6s.)
"The Invader." By Margaret L. Woods. (Heinemann. 6s.)
"London Lovers." By Margaret Baillie-Saunders. (Fisher Unwin. 6s.)
"The Good Comrade." By Una L. Silberrad. (Constable, 6s.)

The passionate woman is a creation of Mr. Burgin's, but as the title of his novel denotes she is not the only woman who enters into the life of the irresponsive and cynical Hubert Mallinson, author. The passionate woman had some excuse for her passion. Was she not the young widow of a baronet who by testamentary disposition decreed that so long as his widow remained unmarried his three silk hats, three pair of gloves, and three overcoats, neatly folded, should be displayed in the hall of her house with the eyes of his portrait looking down upon them? Was she not a brilliant, bewitching personality, pulsing with life and waywardness? One regrets that Ernestine, "robed in white samite, mystic, wonderful," should have traversed her path, for she, too, is a charming specimen of womanhood, and the conflict between them for the possession of Mallinson necessitates the story ending on the tragic note. It is a brilliant novel, bubbling over with wit and humour, yet not destitute of the human interest which is never absent from Mr. Burgin's work.

Another sort of woman altogether is the heroine of "The Invader." She is the possessor of a dual personality. As Milly she is the domestic saint of the British fireside, while as Mildred she is a fascinating society beauty at whose conduct Milly is aghast. Milly, indeed, is at times possessed by the spirit of her great grandmother, the notorious Lady Hammerton, whose portrait bears an extraordinary resemblance to her. It is a difficult story Miss Woods has set herself to tell, but she conquers all difficulties with extraordinary ingenuity, and a most exciting romance is the result. The book gains in piquancy, too, from the fact of the principal scenes being set in Oxford, which gives Miss Woods' gift of deft characterisation many opportunities for kindly portraiture.

Some of the other women are to be found in "London Lovers," but they are not attractive specimens, and why their stupidities and their pettinesses, their follies and their vulgarities should have been detailed at such length passes the comprehension of man. For four hundred and twenty-four solid pages Miss Baillie-Saunders analyses and dissects her characters, describes their uninteresting doings, retails their vapid conversations until one feels murderously inclined towards every one of them. The climax is reached on p. 423 where the male lover takes the female lover in his arms under a cherry tree in Kensington Gardens and—shakes her. If he had only done so on p. 23, and so rendered the other 400 pages unnecessary!

Miss Silberrad also supplies a lengthy volume, but comparison between her work and Miss Baillie-Saunders' is impossible. Not one of the 366 pages of "The Good Comrade" is superfluous. She manages to give to her pictures of life the charm which is to be found in the paintings of the old Dutch masters. Her characters are neither models of impossible perfection nor grotesque masks of vice. She does not depend for her interest upon melodramatic situation, but merely upon the ordinary interests of every-day humanity, and this latest work cannot fail to add to a reputation already high.

NOTES.

Mr. Heinemann has issued in two volumes (17s. net) a translation by Mr. A. E. Zimmern of the first part of Signor Guglielmo Ferrero's important work on "The Greatness and Decline of Rome," which appeared in Italy some years ago, but has not hitherto been published in English. These two volumes contain a history of the age of Cæsar, from the death of Sulla to the Ides of March.

"With a Camera in Majorca" (Putnam's, 7s. 6d. net) is another delightful book of travel by Miss Margaret D'Este, of whose "Through Corsica with a Camera" many readers will have pleasant recollections. As in that volume, the illustrations are from photographs by Mrs. R. M. King.

One of the recent additions to Messrs. A. and C. Black's famous series of colour books is a volume on "Cambridge" (20s. net), with letterpress by Mr. M. A. R. Tuker and illustrations by Mr. William Matthison. Mr. Tuker gives an interesting sketch of the history of the university and the colleges, and includes a chapter on Girton and Newnham which have not previously been dealt with in an account of the University. Cambridge, he observes, cannot be otherwise than proud of its position as pioneer university in the higher education of the women of the country; the women's colleges count as one of its glories. "They belong to its atmosphere of vitality and growth; their presence adds something to that air of newness and renewal which has never been absent from the University town." Mr. Matthison's charming pictures, some seventy-six in number, have been admirably reproduced in colour.

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(*Continued from page* 1342.)

In the month of March, while the gross earnings of eighty roads exhibited the large increase of $18,558,000, expenses rose at an even greater rate, the net outcome being a decrease of $207,000. The railroads, as Mr. Clews pertinently observes, are really facing a serious problem—that of providing increased facilities when profits are diminishing and rates of interest advancing. Under ordinary circumstances they would recoup themselves by an advance in freight rates, but the present state of public opinion renders such a policy wholly inadvisable.

So far as new issues are concerned, only within the last week no less than eight companies have announced, or been credited with being on the point of announcing, important new loans. The issues actually decided upon include $15,000,000 by the Interborough Metropolitan, $5,000,000 by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, $10,000,000 by the Delaware and Hudson, $10,000,000 by the Rock Island, and $5,000,000 by the Erie—the last named taking the form of a one year advance from Messrs. J. P. Morgan, presumably because a bond issue was found impossible. Further, the Brooklyn Rapid Transit proposes to raise $25,000,000, the New York Central is understood to be negotiating for a loan of $15,000,000, and there have even been vague rumours that the United States Steel Trust is going to pass round the hat, in spite of the large cash balance shown in the recent report. This constant stream, one might almost term it flood, of new scrip would require some placing even if general conditions were most promising, and the public was in the market. But with things as they are, new loans could hardly be more unwelcome, and apparently they can only be taken up at the expense of further liquidation of existing securities.

Canadian Rails and the Crops—Grand Trunks—The Third Preference and Ordinary Compared—South American Rails and the Realisation of a Deceased Estate—Antofagastas, Havanas, and Leopoldinas.

Canadian Rails have not escaped the depression that was common to the Stock Markets generally last week, though this department showed more backbone than most, and the various attempts made to rally prices, while thwarted for the time being by surrounding conditions, are useful indications of what is likely to happen when the House recovers from its fit of the blues. The market has got over the fright administered a week previously by the crop scares. According to recent advices, the prospects are excellent, and farmers are sanguine of production being fully up to the average. The heavy snowfall of the past winter assured an abundance of moisture in the soil, which is an important factor. Winter wheat, of which a shortage is reported from the States, is not grown extensively in Canada. Seeding has by now been pretty well completed, and as wheat matures in from ninety to a hundred days, there is ample time for the crops to be harvested before any damage could result from early frosts. Although the acreage under wheat will probably not exceed last year's total, an increase is looked for in oats, barley, flax, and other secondary crops. To those in want of a likely Canadian Railway stock, I still regard Grand Trunk Third preference as one of the cheapest in the group. Making liberal allowance for increased working expenses, there can be little doubt that the full 4 per cent. will be earned upon this stock in respect of 1907, with a comfortable margin to spare. A buyer, therefore, at the present price may reasonably count upon a yield of 5½ per cent., while in view of the steady influx of immigrants to Canada, and the consequent increase year by year in the area of land under cultivation, the surplus margin should continue to widen.

As regards the ordinary it is necessary to speak with reserve. It takes £224,000 net revenue—which would mean probably more than three times that sum in gross revenue—to pay even 1 per cent. on Little Trunks, and that, of course, is after Thirds have received their full 4 per cent. Now, assuming Trunk ordinary gets 1 per cent. in the course of the next few years, will it be particularly cheap at the existing price of around 30? My readers may answer the question themselves, after observing that the yield would be only a little over 3¼ per cent., and it would require the surmounting of another Alps in the shape of £224,000 more net revenue (without allowing for any growth in fixed charges in the interim) before the next 1 per cent. was forthcoming. Yet what would be the position of the Third preference when the ordinary stock was in receipt of 1 per cent.? With a margin behind it of over £200,000, it would take its place amongst high-class investment stocks, and ought to stand in the neighbourhood of par. I have dealt with this aspect of the situation before, but in view of the many queries that still reach me as to the advisability of buying Trunk ordinary for investment, it is advisable to go over the ground again. Little Trunks, from the lowness of their price and the large amount of stock in creation (£22,476,000), will no doubt continue to be a favourite amongst the gamblers, but the man who wants a stock with proved merits, and one which also possesses good scope for capital improvement (the two primary considerations for every investor), will, of course, select Thirds.

In the Foreign Railway Market a severe shrinkage has occurred in prices during the week, due, I believe, more than anything else to forced realisations in connection with the estate of a recently deceased millionaire, who was known to have had a partiality for South American securities. The movements in detail amongst Colonial and Foreign Rails may be gathered from the following table:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	May 18, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	178½	175¾	2¼
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/2	30 5/16	29 7/16	¾
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	100½	100¼	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114¾	118	118	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅞	110	109½	½
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 1/16	71½	70⅜	1⅛
Mexican	50⅞	22½	46¼	45½	1¼
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅞	118⅝	139	137½	1½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93½	49½	90	87½	2½
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	11 3/16	11⅛	1/16
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	117	116	1
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	84	83½	½
Do. First Incomes	30	18	23	20½	2½
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	91	91	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65½	80	79	2
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	37½	54	52	2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31¼	19½	22½	21	1½
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	158	158	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	119	119	—
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	138	130	8
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	14½	14	½
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	109	107½	1½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	74½	73	1½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	115	114	1
Do. and Rosario	120⅞	111	101	98½	2½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	121½	119½	1⅞
Do. Western	138¾	123½	120	118½	1½
East Argentine	120	87	119	118½	½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	66	65	1
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108¾	85	87½	86½	1
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	91	91	—
Great Western of Brazil	16⅛	12½	10⅝	10⅝	½
Leopoldina	86½	69½	70	69½	½
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	216	210	6
Central Uruguay	92½	82	91½	89	2½
Costa Rica	29⅛	25	29	28½	½
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	71½	71½	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76½	73	73	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76½	80	80	—
Manila 6 p.c Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93¼	55	47½	43	4½
Cuban Central	7 1/16	5⅝	6	5⅛	⅜
United of Havana	193	105⅜	98½	93	5½
Western of Havana	15.5/8	12½	12⅜	12⅛	¼
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87½	89	88	1
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs	81⅝	76	75	74	1
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19½	21½	21	½

Antofagasta deferred recorded a further drop of eight points. The decline here has no doubt been facilitated by the new issue of £1,000,000 five per cent. debentures, though this is a matter that should benefit the company in the long run, as the money is being laid out on works that are likely to be highly remunerative, including the establishment of new pipe lines for water from the Cordilleras, and construction work at the relief port of Mejillones. The disclosure in the recent debenture prospectus of estimated net profits for 1906 of £380,000 was also rather disappointing to the market. If this figure be borne out by the accounts, due in June or July, it would mean that an expansion of £200,000 in gross receipts had yielded only £14,000 as extra net profit. After deducting debenture charges and 5 per cent. on the preference and preferred ordinary stocks, the balance remaining should be £157,000. This represents about 9½ per cent. on the deferred, without making

any allowance for reserve and renewal funds. Exactly how much the board will distribute is, of course, a matter of conjecture, but the dividend (inclusive of the 2½ per cent. interim payment) should not be less than 7 per cent. On that basis Antofagasta deferred would return a yield of 5½ per cent., which, with prospects thrown in, makes the stock by no means unattractive. The new debentures, by the way, are splendid value amongst good class stocks, returning nearly 5 per cent. They still stand around the issue price of 103, and redemption is at 110 per cent. in 1940, unless the stock is repaid sooner by purchase in the market or by public tender.

Another stock that has been roughly handled lately is United of Havana ordinary. No doubt the fall has been due partly to doubts as to how far the company's recent policy of expansion—which has involved a liberal addition to its capital obligations—is justified, but during the past fortnight the price has been directly affected by the traffic returns, which superficially look very poor. The fact of the matter is that the sugar crop was gathered earlier this year than last, and recent traffic comparisons have consequently not been on all fours. Taking the aggregate result from July 1, the company shows an increase in receipts of £403,700, which is good enough after making allowance for the big increase in the mileage. The estimate formed by some market men is that Havanas will get at the rate of 7 per cent. next October, making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. a total of 6 per cent. for the twelve months. The expectation is not an unreasonable one, and therefore the stock in the early nineties is hardly overpriced, especially in view of the prospects held out of a bigger sugar crop next season. Taking a jump from Cuba to Brazil, traffic returns have also had an undue effect upon Leopoldina ordinary. What some holders have lost sight of in looking at the recent falling off in earnings is the fact that at this time last year the receipts for the six weeks from the middle of April were quite abnormal on account of the carriage of traffic that had been delayed through the floods which occurred in the early spring. Up to the middle of April of this year the Leopoldina's traffics showed an increase of £142,000. This gain has since been reduced to £114,000, and a further shrinkage is likely during the next two or three weeks. After that the basis of comparison will be normal, and when the new coffee crop comes forward, in July, a fresh run of more or less substantial increases may be looked for. I therefore see no reason to modify the very favourable view I took of Leopoldinas in Truth of the 15th inst. As the chairman pointed out at the recent meeting, the ordinary stock would last year have got 5 per cent. but for the floods, which directly and indirectly cost £55,000. Consequently, barring accidents, the whole of the money saved as net out of the increase in gross receipts during the current twelvemonth will go to swell the surplus over and above 5 per cent. There is, too, the further "bull" point connected with the extension of the dates at which the company's lines in Minas revert to the State from 1950 to 1999. The full details of the arrangement have yet to be published, but the outcome will be a substantial reduction in the amount (at present £50,000) which has to be set aside as sinking fund.

Business in Kaffirs Quiet—A Dull Tendency Under the Influence of the Spread of the White Miners' Strike, but No Heavy Selling So Far—Rhodesians also Lower.

Once again it has to be written that conditions in the Mining Markets have been anything but cheerful. Business on the whole has remained on a comparatively small scale, and the general tendency has been dull. In the case of Kaffirs, the chief influence, of course, has been the strike of white miners on the Rand, and the cables to hand from day to day having shown the movement to be spreading, the disinclination to lend support to these descriptions has increased rather than otherwise. While, however, the general trend of share values has been in the downward direction, there has not been heavy selling of Kaffirs, and the temporary rallies that have taken place in the leading speculative counters have indicated that the "bears" are not willing to leave their commitments open for any length of time. News of the collapse of the strike would no doubt be heralded by a smart recovery in prices, but the outlook for the market, I may remind my readers, does not depend solely upon this phase of the labour question, there still being uncertainty to remove in regard to the retention or replacement of the Chinese. Before the next month is out, however, the anxiously awaited "definite statement" as to the intentions of the Transvaal Government should be made. Below I give a table of prices of the Kaffir speculative favourites, and it will be seen that the falls on the week are not very serious:—

Share.	May 13, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo French	1 1/16	1	− 1/16
Apex	2 15/16	2 15/16	− 1/8
Consolidated Gold Fields	3 1/4	3 1/8	− 1/8
East Rand Proprietary	3 31/32	3 31/32	—
Geduld	1 5/16	1 1/4	− 1/16
General Mining and Finance	1 1/8	1 1/16	− 1/16
Goerz and Co.	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1 1/8	1 3/32	− 3/32
New Modderfontein	5 15/16	5 3/4	− 3/16
Randfontein Estates	1 17/32	1 7/16	− 3/16
Rand Mines	5 3/32	5 1/8	− 3/32
S. A. Gold Trust	2 1/16	2 3/32	+ 1/32

With regard to the strike of white employees on the Rand, it is a satisfactory feature that, although the movement has spread, only a few stamps have, apparently, ceased working. Most of the mines which are contributors to the Transvaal gold output are affected, but so far little difficulty has been experienced in filling the places of the strikers, and the production of the precious metal continues on a somewhat reduced scale. According to a cable from the *Financial Times'* Johannesburg correspondent, a large proportion of the men who have struck have not done so from dissatisfaction, but have been influenced by terrorism. The question is whether the movement will continue to spread so that it becomes necessary to stop milling at a good many of the mines. This is an important point, bearing, as it does, upon the world's gold output and the money market, and the views that have been expressed by market men in regard to the possibility of a suspension of production by the mines of the Rand indicate that a very clear idea of the actual state of affairs does not prevail in some quarters. It should be recognised that the men who have struck are those who have been supervising the rock-drilling operations underground—the breaking down of the ore in order that it may be sent to the surface for treatment. These men did not do the work themselves, but merely overlooked the operations of the unskilled labourers, native or Chinese. It is because they were asked to supervise the working of three drills instead of two that they struck, and the tale has been put about that the object of the mine managements is to reduce the white labour complement. But as has been pointed out by an engineer who has an intimate knowledge of Rand affairs, this cry is not a very convincing one when the whole facts of the situation are known. As a matter of fact, a reduction in the cost of stoping by rock drills, which would be achieved if one man supervised three or four machines, would immediately create an increased requirement for rock-drill miners, because many companies which cannot afford to utilise rock drills to a great extent at the present prohibitive rate would more largely adopt this system if the cost fell within the limits of their means. It is not so much that the companies desire to reduce working costs as that they want more work done for the big wages already being paid; in other words, they want increased efficiency. Dutch recruits have been found to replace the men who have struck work, and so long as the strike is confined to the underground men the mines should be able to continue producing. Where the danger lies is in the possibility that the movement may spread to the engine-drivers. These have to be highly qualified men, and in the event of their joining the strike it would probably not be very easy to find substitutes, in which case the mills would have to stop running and gold production be suspended at the mines

affected. But I am hopeful that this drastic step will be averted by a collapse of the strike.

Further attempts have been made to hoist the prices of the shares of the Banket descriptions, but the general trend of prices in the Rhodesian section has been adverse to holders, as the following table of quotations demonstrates:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 18, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Bechuanaland Exploration	1	7/16	5/6	5/6	—
British S. Africa (Chartered)	2 1/8	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 3/32	- 3/32
Chicago Gaika	13/9	3/-	4/-	3/6	- /6
Globe & Phœnix	1 5/8	1/2	9/16	1/2	- 1/16
Lomagunda Development	2 1/4	3/4	2 1/4	3/4	- 1/4
Mashonaland Agency	1/2	1/4	6/6	5/6	-1/-
Northern Copper	2 1/16	1/2	7/8	3/4	- 1/8
Rhodesia Exploration & Development	3 1/4	1 5/16	1 13/32	1 5/16	- 3/32
Rhodesian Banket	3 1/8	1 1/4	1 15/16	1 13/32	- 3/32
Rice Hamilton	1 3/4	7/16	4/-	3/9	- /3
Selukwe	8/-	1/6	3/9	4/6	+ /9
Tanganyika Concessions	8 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/32	- 3/32
Willoughby Consolidated	16/-	7/-	6/-	4/-	-2/-
Zambesia Exploring	2 3/8	3/4	1 7/8	1 1/32	- 3/32

Eldorado Bankets have been offered under £2 apiece during the past week, compared with the price of £3 ruling a few weeks ago. As a speculative lock-up they seem a hopeful purchase about 1¾, the price at which they stood when I dealt at some length in my notes with the position and prospects of the company. Any time now news may come to hand of crushing having been commenced at this company's property.

Westralians Inactive But Not Devoid of Interest—Oroya Dividend Reduced—Great Boulder's Developments at Depth.

Although business in Westralians has not been very brisk during the past week this department has received more attention than some other sections of the Mining Markets, and the tendency has not been all one way. Here and there a little improvement in prices has occurred, as the following table shows:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 18, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 7/32	1 5/32	1 1/8	- 3/32
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1 3/8	1/2	1/2	2/3	- 1/96
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	4/3	4/-	- 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6 3/4	4 3/4	6 1/4	6 3/16	- 1/16
Great Boulder (2/-)	29/-	20/3	23/-	23/3	+ 3d.
Do Perseverance	13/-	7/3	5/9	5/9	—
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 9/16	2 1/2	1 15/16	1 7/8	—
Hainault	1 3/8	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 17/32	+ 1/32
Ivanhoe (£5)	7 1/2	6 1/16	7 7/16	7 1/4	- 1/16
Kalgurli	12 1/2	8 3/8	10	10 1/4	+ 1/8
Lake View Consols	1 7/16	3/4	1 1/16	1	- 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10 1/2	8/6	10/6	10/3	- 3d.
Oroya Brownhill	3 1/4	2	1 7/32	1 5/32	+ 1/16
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 3/32	+ 1/32
South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1/16	3/32	3/32	- 1/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 3/8	1 1/2	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	1/2	3/8	2/-	2/6	+ 6d.
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	1/2	3/8	+ 1/8

Interest in Associated which was revived a few weeks back has died down again in consequence of the further cable from Mr. Feldtmann reporting that as a result of his special exploration work he has found nothing to indicate any extension of the Iron Duke chute southerly, "other than on the line of inclined winze." This announcement has increased the fear that this famous ore-body has become impoverished after leaving the Oroya, but it may be remembered that difficulty was also experienced in tracing its course in that property. Some attention has been attracted to Oroyas during the past week by the dividend announcement, the amount declared—2s. 6d. per share—comparing with previous quarterly distributions of 4s. per share. But the price of the shares has not suffered, the reduction having been foreshadowed a few months ago, as my readers may remember. Even at the smaller rate the shares yield a return of nearly 30 per cent. per annum. How long it will be practicable to maintain distributions of 2s. 6d. per quarter it is impossible to say with anything like exactness, but I think those who have the shares may as well continue to hold, as in addition to its own mine the company holds over one-third of the share capital of the Oroya Black Range, which, according to all accounts, is a promising proposition.

Great Boulders have been in some request on the strength of the news received from the mine, and in a more active market the price would probably have gone still better, considering the nature of that news. The cable shows that at the north end of the 2,050 ft. level the lode is 8 ft. wide and assays as high as 25 dwts. per ton, while at the south end the value is 15 dwts. over a width of 5 ft. This announcement is of more than ordinary importance in view of the fact that the developments are the deepest on the Kalgoorlie Field, so that as well as making cheerful reading for Great Boulder shareholders the information is calculated to encourage those interested in the neighbouring mines. The cable mentioned also states that the major portion of the retreatment plant is at work. This refers to the plant erected for the treatment of the Great Boulder's slimes. As I pointed out some time ago, the Great Boulder has about half a million tons of accumulated slimes, and it is estimated that they will yield a net profit of about 4s. per ton. The plant when in full working is expected to treat about 400 tons per day, on which basis an additional profit of over £2,000 per month will be earned. For the past year the company paid 3s. in dividends (9d. quarterly), and on this scale the shares at the current price yield nearly 13 per cent. per annum. In view of the nature of developments at depth, to say nothing of the revenue to be derived from the slimes, Great Boulders certainly appear a good mining holding. The annual report of the directors should be issued any time now, and it will be interesting to see how the ore-reserves' computation compares with the previous estimate.

Continued Activity in Copper Shares, and Prices Generally Depressed—The Great Cobar Interim Statement and Mount Elliott Report—Broken Hill Position—Zinc's Progress—The Fall in Orses and Siberian Props.—Talisman Consolidated.

Speculation in Copper shares has continued on a very fair scale. During the past week operators for the fall have had the best of it, thanks to the general depression. The weakness of Americans contributed to the dulness of the copper favourites, and the movements in the price of the metal have also assisted the "bear" party. But a change for the better in general market conditions would no doubt lead to an improvement in this group. The subjoined table shows how prices have fared on the week:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 18, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 1/8	1 1/16	1 9/16	1 7/16	—
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	15/6	15/-	- 6d
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/4	1 1/2	1 11/16	1 5/8	- 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 1/4	1 1/8	2 1/16	2 1/8	+ 1/16
Wassau	1 1/8	1/2	13/16	3/4	- 1/16
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/3	1/3	—
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1 6	1/3	- 3d.
Camp Bird	33 6	22/-	22/9	22/-	- 9d.
Esperanza	5 5/16	2 1/4	1 3/4	1 7/16	- 1/8
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/2	1 7/8	- 1/16
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	40/7 1/2	39/4 1/2	- 1/3
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 7/8	3 5/16	4 7/32	4 3/32	- 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	15/-	14/-	-1/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 5/8	12 13/16	12 3/4	- 1/16
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/8	3	65/6	63/6	-2/-
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4 3/8	10 1/8	9 7/8	- 3/8
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	47/6	46/-	+1/6
Mount Morgan	4 3/4	3 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/8	63 3/8	93 3/4	91	-2 1/4
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	24/-	24/-	—
Pusing Lama Tin	3 1/16	3/4	2 1/2	2 7/8	- 1/16
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	17/-	15/6	-1/6
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/-	10/6	+6d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/2	5 1/2	5 3/8	5 15/16	- 1/16
Siberian Mines	—	1 1/16	1 7/16	1 1/16	- 1/2
Siberian Proprietary	16 1/2	3 3/8	4 1/2	3 3/8	-1 1/8
Waihi	9 13/16	6 7/16	9 1/16	8 1/2	- 1/16

Investor's Handbook.—The Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C., now offer this, which contains particulars of Highest and Lowest Prices, Dividends, &c., for a considerable period, post free to any applicant naming this paper.

On Monday quotations further declined, Tintos giving way to 88 mainly under the influence of the fall in the price of the metal and of the failure of a firm of jobbers referred to in a previous column. "Bulls" and "bears" of Great Cobars have been very active of late in the circulation of rumours to assist their operations. It will be remembered that some weeks ago there was talk of an early dividend being declared, £1 per share being the amount foreshadowed. Shortly afterwards it was asserted, on the other hand, that no distribution would be made until the end of the year. This, in turn, met with a denial in the market. Then the board promised a statement as to the company's progress, and this has been anxiously awaited. Now doubts are to a certain extent removed, the directors having issued an interim report, which contains no dividend announcement and does not give any idea when one may be expected. In view of the interest in the shares the following paragraph from the official circular is worth quoting:—

> The price of copper since the properties were taken over has been favourable to the company's operations, with the result that the copper which has been sold has yielded profits considerably in excess of those anticipated in the prospectus, while the cost of production has not been exceeded; but in view of the quantity of copper in course of treatment and of the labour troubles still existing the Board feel confident that they have the support of the shareholders in not announcing a date for the distribution of profits at the present moment, preferring to adopt a conservative policy and maintaining a strong financial position.

The mining position is strong, it being stated that the ore reserves are equivalent to 8½ years' supply at the present rate of extraction, or over 4 years on the projected scale of operations, while the result of development at depth is reported to be very satisfactory. The whole of the new plant, capable of treating 30,000 tons of ore per week (or more than double the present output), is expected to be ready for work early in the new year. But probably what shareholders chiefly want to know is when they may look for a distribution of profits, and as the directors did not see their way to make a statement on this point they might well have given some figures as to the profits that have been and are being earned, so that these interested could have gained some idea of the company's capabilities. Owing to disappointment caused by the official report, the shares have dropped back below £9, and may go still lower in the immediate future, but I am inclined to think a purchase about the present price would turn out well in time. It would, however, probably be as well to take the shares off the market. In view of the recent fall in the value of Mount Elliotts the report of the directors, which has just arrived by mail, has doubtless been read with interest in order to see whether the shares are over or under-valued. I think it will be recognised that they are fully worth the current market price on the basis of the ore reserves alone, these representing a "profit in sight" of over £3 per share, taking copper at £80 per ton. In addition, the company's cash resources represent 30s. per share.

The Broken Hill group, in respect of which I was able in my last notes to record a revival of speculative interest, has not been able to stand up against the general depression. Intrinsic conditions, however, seem favourable to some improvement in prices, and when a more cheerful feeling is entertained in regard to Stock Exchange affairs generally this group should not be slow to reflect the change. It is pointed out that winter is just commencing in Australia, and this is the season during which speculation is usually most active over there. Last week I drew attention to the increased profits earned by the Block 10 and Block 14 companies in the past half-year, and the announcement of these results has been followed by a dividend declaration by the Block 10, the amount being 5s. per share, as compared with 3s. per share this time last year. Zinc Corporations have been depressed by a little selling by tired holders, but the price of the shares has experienced a moderate recovery from the lowest point touched. The latest news to hand by cable as to the Corporation's affairs shows that work is making a steady advance towards the handling of a large tonnage. In order to get the best possible results, the accessories of the treatment plant are to be increased, and, unfortunately, this work is being delayed by the scarcity of labour on the field.

A little more attention has been directed to some of the Siberian descriptions during the past week as a result of the publication of a report upon the area being worked by the Orsk Goldfields. It may be remembered that in the Siberian "boomlet" which occurred some six months ago these shares were run up to nearly £3 apiece, while those of the Siberian Proprietary (the parent company) rose to nearly 17. The report of Messrs. Hooper and Speak, consulting engineers, on the Orsk property, now issued, does not indicate that there was any justification for the high premium established upon the shares by the market; on the contrary, it shows the scrip to be a speculative purchase even at the present much-reduced quotation. The area over which the company has the right of working during the term of its option to purchase is about twenty-nine square miles, but so far operations have been mainly confined to a comparatively small portion. Several reefs of a payable character are stated to have been proved in this section, but the experts in their report express the opinion that "the making of large profits at the moment should continue to be regarded as of secondary importance compared with the main business of demonstrating beyond doubt whether the company should exercise its option to purchase the property." In the event of the option to purchase being exercised (and the Orsk Company has, I believe, only another two years in which to decide), the Siberian Proprietary stands to receive about £150,000, less all sums paid as rent and from ore at grass, etc., having already received £375,000 in Orsk shares for the option. During the past week the parent company's shares have fallen considerably as a result of disappointment caused by the nature of the report above referred to, while Orsks have dropped to a level representing a discount of nearly 50 per cent.

The annual report of the Talisman Consolidated—a New Zealand gold mining company which was lucky enough to strike a "bonanza" chute shortly after reconstructing a few years ago—shows that the profits further increased during the past year. The surplus, after writing off the whole cost of mining development, amounted to £87,212, as compared with £72,237 in 1905, and the balance, after allowing for depreciation of plant, etc., is £69,811, which, with the amount brought forward last year, makes the total sum available £99,334. Four dividends of 1s. per share were paid during the last financial year, and on account of the current year two dividends at the same rate have already been declared. The ore reserves represent about eighteen months' supply on the basis of the past year's scale of operations. The position in this respect might well be stronger, especially as the mine is of the "patchy" order; but there seems no need for holders of the shares to dispose of their interest at present. They should, however, recognise the speculative character of the security, and should carefully watch the course of developments. The dividend yield on the shares at the current market price works out at nearly 14 per cent., the shares being 18s. 6d. paid up.

The Lotiery Bonds Scandal.

It was edifying to observe the prominence which the *Daily Mail* gave to the admirable remarks on the ethics of advertising which Mr. A. W. Gamage made at the meeting of the shareholders of A. W. Gamage, Limited. Mr. Gamage referred to the manner in which the public are tricked by means of advertisements composed of "wilful misrepresentations," and for the benefit of the press he pointed out that newspapers inserting advertisements of that description must, in the long run, be shunned by respectable traders. He appealed to the press to exercise a strict censorship over every advertisement, but being evidently doubtful whether this is likely to be done voluntarily he advocated the passing of a law "making it a criminal offence to issue an advertisement which upon its face was likely to obtain

Romano's Restaurant, Strand.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's. I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire."

money from the public on what virtually amounted to false pretences." I say that it was edifying to see these remarks in the *Daily Mail*, because that newspaper's continued publication of the misleading advertisements of the International Securities Syndicate furnishes as striking a proof as could be imagined of the necessity for the censorship Mr. Gamage advocated. Of course, many other daily and weekly papers insert the same advertisements, but the conduct of the *Daily Mail* in the matter is especially reprehensible, inasmuch as its own City Editor has repeatedly exposed and denounced the very business this International Securities Syndicate is carrying on. The flamboyant advertisements of this concern on the subject of Continental Government and municipal lottery or premium bonds—such as those headed, "The Question of Safe Investment," "Millionaires in the Making," "Governments Giving Away Fortunes," and so forth—are palpably designed to deceive and delude the class of small investors to whom they are particularly addressed. In effect they are advised to take their money out of the Post Office Savings Bank in order to "invest" it in premium bonds, and I have heard of many cases in which poor and ignorant people have been humbugged into doing this. The prices at which the bonds are unloaded upon them are greatly in excess of the current quotations on those Continental bourses where dealings in such securities are recognised, so that if a purchaser desires to sell he is at once faced with a heavy loss—probably from 25 to 50 per cent.—of the capital for which the Syndicate has promised him "absolute security." Here is an example. The Syndicate exhorts working men to pay £5 down or £5 5s. by instalments for certain bonds. "For your £5," the advertisement says, "you will get in return scrip, the par value of which is now £8 sterling." From this they ingenuously suppose that they are purchasing for £5 a security now worth £8. As a matter of fact, the bond in question can be bought through brokers in London for £3 12s. 6d. —the Syndicate's over-charge even for cash down being thus £1 7s. 6d.—and for its redemption at par the purchaser, who gets no interest in the meantime, may have to wait, if he lives long enough, to the year 1987. It is, of course, the assurance that they will "participate in the distribution of cash premiums" of enormous value that hooks the majority of the purchasers of bonds of this kind. They are told that by "investing" so much money in various bonds they will obtain so many "opportunities" of "earning a fortune." What they are not told and do not understand is that there are tremendously long odds against their doing anything of the kind owing to the number of the bonds that have been issued and the fact that the drawings in most cases extend over a period of fifty or a hundred years. It is true that some of the bonds—not all—bear interest, and are well secured, but the return is invariably much less than can be obtained from plenty of good English investments; and the man who has had £100 locked up in premium bonds for ten or twenty years without ever having the luck to draw even the most trifling prize, is apt to repent his folly in entering upon such a dreary long-drawn-out gamble instead of being content with some more humdrum but, in the long run, more remunerative use of his money in sound stocks or shares at home.

There are other touting dealers in premium bonds—conspicuous among them being Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. and Melville, Glyn, and Co., of Paris—who in the matter of misleading prospectuses and excessive charges are tarred with the same brush as the International Securities Syndicate. By reason, however, of its lavish expenditure on newspaper advertising, the syndicate has become far and away the most mischievous of the firms engaged in this objectionable business. There is an objection to it over and above the fact that the bonds are palmed off on ignorant buyers at outrageously exorbitant prices. It is clearly contrary to the public welfare that people of the class to whom these advertisements chiefly appeal should be gulled into employing their savings in what is really a system of gambling under the impression all the time that it is a safe and desirable investment. Until a few months ago it was always assumed that dealings in these so-called premium bonds were illegal in this country. In a prosecution at the Westminster Police-court last January, however, the magistrate expressed the opinion that the Lottery Act did not apply to bonds of this description; and since then the traffic in them has enormously increased. I would suggest to the Public Prosecutor that, in view of the seriousness of this scandal, he ought to take steps to obtain a higher opinion on the point than that of the learned magistrate. Quite possibly it may turn out that his worship was wrong, while if he was right it would be a matter for consideration whether the law should not be altered to prevent the advertising of the bonds in any form, let alone in the grossly deceptive manner which the International Securities Syndicate adopts.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Government Securities.

Miser.—As in your case safety should be the first consideration, I would suggest the new India Government 3½ per cent loan, upon which you could obtain a yield of about 3⅝ per cent. *C. L., Bilston.*—I would suggest the new India Three and a Half per Cent., which was offered at 98½, and stands at about the issue price, thus giving a yield of rather more than 3½. Consols are redeemable at par after 5th April, 1923, but only at the option of the Government.

Railways.

Hutch.—No. 7 is a poor holding and had better be sold. Nos. 4, 10, and 11 are also somewhat doubtful holdings, the maintenance of dividends not being assured, but after the heavy fall that has taken place I would be in no great hurry to realise, especially as in reinvesting you would be limited to low interest-bearing stocks. The others in your list ought to be worth sticking to as permanent investments. *Glasgow.*—Hold the stocks, which are two of the soundest in the group, but in the present temper of the market I should not like to say the bottom had been reached, and therefore would postpone a further purchase. With regard to your last question it is impossible to say what the effect would be without knowing something of the terms. *Hants.*—See this week's comments. *Naturalist.*—They are three good securities, and you ought not to part with them at present prices. *Como.*—1. The market still takes the matter seriously, and I am inclined to think it will have an important bearing upon prices for some time to come. 2. The American influence has to be kept in mind in attempting to gauge the course of the price, but the stock has such sound merits that you ought not to sell even should the price be further temporarily depressed.

Mines.

Jectona.—From the ordinary business point of view the firm is one of high standing *Coupon.*—I know of nothing wrong with the property, but for some time there has evidently been a tap on in the shares in the market. You might keep them for dividends for the present. *Tyro.*—1. I would hold for some recovery. 2. A promising lock-up speculation. *Cumberland.*—I have not a good opinion of the shares as a holding. *W. J. A. B.* Rubbish, like the rest of the "low-priced shares" which the Consolidated Securities Company offers as a "safe and profitable" investment. Evidently you did not read my recent remarks on the circulars issued by this concern. *A. H. B.*—See reference to Great

"Finance."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices published by the Central Stock Exchange, Ltd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

Boulders in my notes this week. I prefer these to the other shares named. *Bengal.*—I think you would be well advised to exchange into the shares of a longer lived mine.

MIXED.

Renfrew.—As regards the mine shares you might keep Strattons for the present, but had better take what you can for the others. The latter advice also applies to "Slubbers, but the other textile shares might be kept for the present. Have nothing to do with the syndicate or any other touting dealers in lottery bonds. *Cheshire.*—All of them good industrials. *Huntsman.*—1. There is more prospect of an early rise in Trunk Thirds. 2, 3, and 4. All sound investments. *Provisional.*—1. Not very attractive. 2 and 3. Hopeful holdings for dividends. 4. Speculative, and I think you would be likely to do better elsewhere 5. Hold. *Twickenham.*—Your securities are all of the right sort, and I see no occasion to advise the sale of any. *Provide.*—1 and 2. Neither is a first-class investment, but the security is fair, and the stocks should be good enough to buy for mixing purposes. 3. A fair commercial investment. 4. Not an attractive holding. *Dubitas.*—Nos. 2, 3 and 6 are excellent securities, and it would be a pity to sell now. No. 1 is a little doubtful, though the probability is in favour of the interest being maintained. In any case the stock has already had a substantial fall from the highest price touched recently. 4. An attractive holding of its class. 5. A recovery in the price does not seem improbable within the near future. *St. Cecilia.*—Speculatively, the "A" Debentures are fairly interesting, but I do not fancy the others. South Durhams would be a hopeful purchase. *Fortieth.*—You have made a wise selection, and I do not think you could do better than spread your money over the lot. *Corbean.*—1. Not an attractive holding, and I see no early prospect of redemption. On the whole I should be inclined to get out. 2. The brewery debentures might be held, but you are acting wisely in selling the preference shares. *Clinker.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are sound investments, and should be held. 3. Hold. 4. Hold for recovery. The outlook as regards the mines in which the company is interested is brighter now than during the past year, and if the labour trouble is soon brought to an end it should not be long before dividends are resumed. *Scarboro.*—1. You might hold for a partial recovery, but I do not look for any early return to the price at which you bought. 2. The stock is sound enough, and should go better when the labour position becomes more settled. 3. I would hold for some recovery. 4. With markets in such an unsatisfactory state I should not care to predict that the price will be touched in the near future.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aurora.—1. Yes. 2. Speculative, but a fair holding at the present price. *E. R. A., Berbice.*—Have nothing to do with the Arnold and Butler bucket-shop. Obviously it is not a method of "investment," but a system of gambling, the adoption of which would be doubly foolish in the case of a person living so completely out of touch with the markets. *Frankfort, J. B., Pendennis, Constant Reader (Bristol), Wheel of Fortune, Cestrian, F. A. B., South-African,* and other correspondents. — See my article this week regarding the traffic in "premium bonds" carried on by the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville, Glyn, and Co. *Ready Cash.*—I have no inside knowledge of the company's affairs; but the fact you mention was in itself significant enough. As to the second question, if there is some "secret cause," I am not in the secret. *E. H. P.*—This so called "bank" has already been dealt with in TRUTH. *Fabrius.*—1. I have not had occasion to criticise the firm; but see Rule 8. 2 and 3. No. 4. The tramway shares would be a fair commercial investment, but the others are extremely speculative. *Ilfracombe.*—Neither is at all promising, and you would be ill-advised to put money into breweries now. *Policeman.*—1. Yes. 2. See first part of answer to "Fabrius." *Solitary.*—1. There is such a lottery, but the circulars as to the prizes and the drawings are grossly misleading. 2. A cover-snatching firm which you should avoid. *J. L. N. A.*—The criticisms to which you refer were dealt with at the meeting reported in Friday's financial papers, when the chairman stated that the company was in a thoroughly sound position. *R. B. S.*—I think "The History, Law and Practice of the Stock Exchange" (Pitman and Sons, 5s.) would give you the information you require. *Curdridge.*—Better realise and put the money into something with greater promise. *Pad.*—Attempts are being made towards lifting the concern out of the mud, but it is doubtful whether they will prove successful. Better cut the loss. *O. E. A.*—It naturally means a considerable reduction in the return. Change into Chinese Fives. *Tankerton.*—Very little is known of the concern, but it is still in existence. *J. H.*—Thanks for your information. *P. L.*—See the answer respecting this concern under the head of "Mines." *Argyll.*—I am making inquiries, and I hope to answer your questions next week.

INDUSTRIALS STAGNANT—NEW FOUNDERS' FLUTTER—CALLENDER'S CABLES—DESIRABLE MOTOR SHARES—'BUS COMPANIES DOING BADLY—LYONS' SPLENDID RESULTS.

The change for the better which it was hoped (rather than expected) might come over the Miscellaneous market after the holiday is not yet visible. The condition of affairs generally remains stale, flat, and unprofitable. There are not a few good, sound industrials standing at a price which ought to tempt the genuine investor, but he shows little inclination to pick up these plums. Speculation, too, remains practically at a standstill. During the past few days there has been another small flutter in New Founders' shares, which have been put up on the strength of a report that a definite statement regarding the Turkish match monopoly will be forthcoming this week. Some people are evidently persuaded that the statement will be favourable, but even if all the difficulties as to the concession were to be at last surmounted—and this is a very big "if"—the shares would still be a gamble which I should be sorry to recommend. Pekin Syndicates and Shansis are unaltered, and here again some definite information from the directors is anxiously awaited. Hudson's Bays have had a further relapse on continued realisations. Anglo "A's" have exhibited some degree of weakness, in contrast to the improvement of Anglo "B's"—an improvement shared by several securities in the Telegraph group, for which there appears to have been a steady investment demand. In this connection reference may be made to the rise in the ordinary shares of Callender's Cable and Construction Company, on which a dividend of 15 per cent. for 1906 has been declared. There are necessarily considerable fluctuations in the profits of this concern, owing to the considerable fluctuations in the prices of the raw materials, including copper and other metals, which it uses. Since 1896, however, the dividend has never been less than 10 per cent., and during the ten succeeding years the average rate of distribution has been about 14½ per cent. The company's business is not confined to the manufacture of cables, but embraces the laying down of complete mains for the distribution of electricity for lighting, traction, and other purposes, so that it should benefit from the extension of electrical enterprise of all kinds. The ordinary shares, yielding at the present price a little over 7 per cent., seem to be an attractive commercial investment.

Motor shares have again been neglected, though on every hand one hears of the increasing prosperity of the industry. The advice that I have lately given still holds good, and at the existing quotations Daimlers and Argylls in particular are highly promising purchases. On the basis of last year's dividend Argylls, for instance, yield nearly 9 per cent., and the company is now in a stronger position and, it is believed, doing an increased trade. Among iron, steel, coal, and engineering companies' securities scarcely any movements have occurred, and in this department also some hopeful purchases can now be made. Considering the sound position of the company, Vickers, Sons and Maxim ordinary shares are well worth buying at a price giving a return of 6 per cent.; while South Durham Steels, on which the yield is about 10 per cent., also seem to be under-valued. London General Omnibus Company stock has had a very severe fall in the last fortnight, the outcome of the continued unsatisfactory traffic returns, which show a substantial loss since the beginning of the year. There has likewise been a decrease in the receipts of the Road Car Company; and meanwhile nothing more has been heard of the reported arrangement between the various old and new 'bus companies for levelling up unremunerative fares and abandoning or restricting the present system of cut-throat competition. The Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum Company reports a profit for the past year of £79,859, being an increase of nearly £10,000 on the preceding year, and for the sixth year in succession the ordinary shareholders receive a dividend of 15 per cent. This company was in serious trouble for some time after its formation, but after a drastic reduction of the capital it entered upon a career of steady prosperity, and at the existing quotation the ordinary shares, yielding over 6 per cent., may be regarded as a desirable industrial investment.

The event of the week in this market was, of course, the publication of the report of J. Lyons and Co., Limited. Other catering companies may be at a standstill, or even (as some are) on the down-grade, but Lyons, in spite of the keenness of competition, continue to do an increasingly large and profitable business.

CURIO CLUB.—All those interested in Curio-hunting for profit are invited to communicate with the Secretary of the London Opinion Curio Club, 107, Regent-street. There are many features of interest to those interested in Antiques and Works of Art. Prospectus gratis.

What an enormous and growing business it is may be gathered from the fact that the gross profits for the year ended March 31 last were £728,281, as compared with £666,550 in the previous year, while the net profits were £231,849, as compared with £192,646. The amount set aside for depreciation is increased from £42,294 to £50,177, and £40,000 has been placed to reserve, bringing that fund up to £440,000. For 1905-6 the dividend on the ordinary shares was 30 per cent., and there was a bonus of 2½ per cent. For the past year the total distribution is the same, but instead of being made up in bonus the dividend itself is 32½ per cent.—a fact from which it may perhaps be inferred that the directors fully expect to be able to maintain this figure. The remarkable results that have been achieved are a proof of the excellence and enterprise of the management, and in view of the important contracts that have been secured for this year and next it will not be at all surprising if the present wonderful record is beaten. There had apparently been an expectation in some quarters that out of the increased profits the company would this year pay an increased dividend; but the directors have acted quite justifiably in preferring rather to make a more substantial provision for depreciation and reserve. This prudent course ought, indeed, to deepen the confidence of the public in the company, whose shares I have repeatedly commended to the notice of my readers as a remarkably good commercial investment.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Hovis-Bread Flour Co., Ltd., was held yesterday at Westminster Palace Hotel, S.W., Mr. J. Browne-Martin presiding. In moving the adoption of the Report and payment of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum upon the ordinary shares, the Chairman said that during the year they had paid out of capital account £42,361, the main portion being expended on the equipment of the new mill at Manchester, the cost of which would be in excess by about £7,000 above the £60,000 for which an issue of debentures was authorised. As it had been difficult to obtain money this year the directors decided not to issue the balance of the £30,000 debentures to the public, and therefore they had made arrangements with their bankers for an overdraft on satisfactory terms, the bankers being secured on the issue to them of the £30,000 debentures. The net profit in trading had amounted to £36,079, which all must consider satisfactory. Having spoken of the nutritious character of Hovis Bread, especially in the dieting of children, the Chairman referred to the increased price of wheat, which he said would adversely affect them in the current year. They desired to keep their production at a regular standard, and they had found on previous occasions when the price of wheat had gone up, that it had been the best policy for them not to raise the price of Hovis Flour. As a set-off they had the prospect of a full year's work at their new mill with the advantages of great saving in cost and delivery. Mr. Helvey seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

VIGILANT.

INSURANCE NOTES.

A KNOTTY POINT AND THE REMEDY—THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLICIES—MAGNITUDE V. MERIT.

AN interesting question about the new liability to domestic servants is raised by one of my correspondents. His contention is that an insurance company indemnifies only against claims which can be made under various Acts or at common law, and he holds that there can be no claim against the company in respect of any payment before the contract of service is determined. This seems to necessitate notice to quit on the occurrence of an accident, and, until the expiration of such notice, usually one month, it does not appear that the company is liable for any payment. Most decent people would pay their servants full wages and provide them with board and lodging, at any rate for a time, and would not give them notice to quit because they had met with an accident. The question raised is whether an insurance company would pay the compensation to which the servant is legally entitled if the employer paid full wages and did not give the servant notice. My correspondent asks for my opinion on the point, which I am glad to give, though frankly my notions on the subject are rather vague. The Acts of 1897 and 1906 are so worded as to apply principally to workmen in trades where only short notice—frequently one hour—is required to terminate the contract. Domestic servants, who are usually subject to a month's notice, and clerks or secretaries, who might sometimes be entitled to three months' notice, are included under the Act, but sundry of its provisions fit such cases very badly. There are decisions under the Act of 1897 that the normal conditions of service, including payment of full wages, are either terminated or suspended by the happening of an accident, but so far as I can judge, in cases where full wages were paid during temporary incapacity, whether from accident or illness, the servant would not claim compensation under the Act, since it would be of no benefit to do so. The Act provides that in fixing the amount of the weekly premium for compensation regard should be had to any payment which the workman receives from the employer, and the workman cannot receive under the Act a total payment in excess of his normal wages. Thus my correspondent's point seems to resolve itself into this: If, irrespective of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the employer continues to pay full wages for, say, one month, the new Act imposes no extra liability upon him, and ordinary insurance policies would not yield him any compensation. So long as the employer pays full wages the servant would be a fool to make any claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act, unless the incapacity were likely to be permanent. Failing a claim being made, I do not see how the insurance company could pay; consequently we apparently arrive at the practical conclusion that the proper course is for an employer to agree with the servant that wages are on account of compensation. If possible, the consent of the insurance company should be obtained. Fortunately, there is a remedy, since most of the companies issue policies which cover more than what is supposed to be the mere legal liability, and pay full wages for at least a month from the date of the accident.

Last week I referred to a policy-holder who took an endowment assurance policy a few years ago which yielded him greatly inferior results to those he could have obtained from making a better selection, and I suggested the advisability of taking advice before assuring rather than afterwards. I suppose it was this note which induced a correspondent, aged thirty-five, to consult me before completing a proposal for life assurance which he was on the point of making. He contemplated paying £41 0s. 10d. a year for the assurance of £1,000, with profits in addition, at the end of twenty-five years or at death if previous. According to the last bonus declared by the company he contemplated going to, the bonuses would amount to £300 at the end of twenty-five years, so that if he lived till sixty he would receive £1,300. This company recently failed to declare a bonus, and neither its financial status nor its prospect for future profits is particularly good. In a much stronger company he can obtain a policy for an annual premium of £40 0s. 10d., which is practically certain to increase to £1,500 by the end of twenty-five years. Since he can save £1 a year in the premiums that he pays, and £8 a year in the bonuses that he receives, it is obvious that he would do well to reconsider his half-formed decision. The same premium paid to the better of the two companies would yield him, at the end of twenty-five years, £118 for every £100 he would receive from the inferior company, besides which the security and the prospect of maintaining the present rate of bonus is much greater in the better office than in the worse.

The differences between the polices issued by various companies are so great, as the above example, which is by no means an extreme instance of this, shows, that I cannot help wondering why the public does not recognise how much better they can do by going to a good office than to a bad one. Yet if we look at the amount of new assurances issued by the life offices, we find, on the whole, that the inferior companies do a much larger new business than the superior offices; in fact, in many cases it is the large amount of new business which makes a company inferior when judged by the results that it gives to its policy-holders. What with commission to agents, medical fees, and other expenses

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connected with the issue of new policies, a large new business is very apt to prove so expensive as to diminish the profits available for policy-holders. I am quite aware that managers who desire to make their companies big contend that the new business is well worth what it costs, because an influx of people who have recently passed a medical examination improves the mortality experienced by a company, and that what is paid away for increased expenses is recovered by an improved death rate. This is perfectly true within certain limits, but the limits are very narrow, and are undoubtedly exceeded by a great many companies whose craze for a big new business involves loss to the existing policy-holders.

Extravagant expenditure for the purpose of obtaining a lot of new policy-holders every year prevails among proprietary life assurance companies much more than among mutual offices. The proprietors nearly always take a share of the profits, and for the shareholders it is more remunerative to participate in a small rate of profit on a big business than in a high rate of profit on a small business; for the policy-holders the reverse is the case. It is entirely immaterial to them whether the company in which they are assured is large or small, but it is very important to them, if they participate in profits, that the bonuses should be good. I do not at all imply that this tendency to produce good results for the shareholders and bad results for the policy-holders is characteristic of all proprietary life companies; in many of these the welfare of the policy-holders is just as much the concern of the management as it is in mutual offices. To make it so is really the wisest course in the interests of the shareholders themselves. Sooner or later the foolish policy of seeking magnitude at the expense of merit is bound to be found out, and to reveal the disastrous consequences which it involves; then there comes trouble for the shareholders and the management: the policies cannot be sold on their merits, and additional expense has to be incurred in obtaining business. The best agents seek appointments with a company it is easier to work for, or they can only be retained by high salaries and big commissions. Then the public has to be tempted by the allowance of rebates on the premiums paid, the expenses go up still higher, the bonuses go down still lower, and so the process goes on. At last there comes a time when for five years or ten years there is no bonus at all, drastic measures have to be taken, and if the new management proves prudent, the company may recover in fifteen or twenty years, or, it may be, its inglorious career terminates in the sale of the business to another office.

These things happen solely because the public is so foolish: if people would but choose their policies well, the good companies would obtain a large new business at a very small cost, the bad companies would not be able to obtain a large new business at any cost, and would thereby tend to improvement and to better results for their policy-holders.

Answers to Correspondents.

[*Every letter containing an inquiry on the subject of insurance must be accompanied by a coupon cut from the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.]

W. F.—The cutting you send is a foolish screed. I had an article on Fair Fire Insurance on March 20. *W. E. M.*—1. U.K. temperance section. 2. U.K. (Tem. sec.), N. P., L. and G. 3. Sound, but continuance of present bonus seems to me unlikely. *Col. B.*—The annuity you want, to commence at your death, will involve a substantial annual payment while you live. Apply to the Norwich Union Life Office. *Megas.*—You should avoid the first three companies you mention. The Canada Life, Equitable U.S., and Mutual of New York are all financially sound. *Grainge.*—Much depends on age and sex. Let me hear from you on these points, and I will advise you. *Cynicus Calvus.*—United Legal, 222, Strand. *Shannon.*—Ascertain exact surrender value from assurance company, and then ask Foster and Cranfield, Poultry, E.C., whether they can obtain a larger sum by auction or private sale. *India.*—Clergy Mutual, if eligible, or National Provident Institution. *G. H. H.*—Royal Exchange. Ocean. Law Guarantee and Trust. *R. M.*—I know the company well and do not believe in it. I wrote on March 6 an article which might be useful to you.

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QUEER STORY.

PHILJIM'S DERBY.

Among the prominent horses in the Derby betting in the year of which I write was Reuben Sarsfield's bay colt Philjim, by The Joker out of Piebald Piety. This mare had been bred and reared by Sarsfield at his stud farm near Amesbury, and though she never did much on the Turf, she proved herself a decidedly useful animal at the stud.

Sarsfield's character, whether as a racing man or as a private individual, did not stand high. He was suspected of being utterly unscrupulous, and was known to be entirely godless; not with that careless sort of godlessness that is merely indifferent to all sacred things, but with that more aggressive kind which rather goes out of its way to flout and mock them. It was in this spirit that he had christened his mare Piebald Piety; it was in this spirit also that, when some friend had pointed out to him that May 1, the day of the colt's nativity, was the festival of St. Philip and St. James, he had, with facetious impiety, at once named the animal Philjim.

But, like many another man who derides what he considers the superstitions of Christianity, Reuben Sarsfield was himself, at heart, slave to a superstitious code which was not only incomparably more ignoble, but also incomparably more unreasonable. He believed (I do not say he admitted the belief, but there it was) in all sorts of omens and talismans—in the power of most trivial accidental circumstances to bring good or ill luck. He always avoided walking under ladders. If he spilt the salt at table, he usually contrived, when no one was looking, to throw a pinch of it over his left shoulder. If, when driving to the races, he saw a black cat sitting in a window, it at once elated his spirits and made him sanguine of a good day. If a crow flew across the road, it made him correspondingly gloomy and depressed. Such inconsistencies are, after all, common enough. There are thousands of persons in the same position as the historic *marquise* who expressed her mental attitude towards ghosts in the significant words: "Je ne les crois pas, mais je les crains." Such, towards the supernatural in general, was the attitude of the scoffer Reuben Sarsfield.

No doubt the life he had led, with its consequent heavy drains upon his constitution, had something to do with it. A man can't go the pace as Sarsfield had gone it without to some extent deranging his nerves. True, he had now for some time abandoned the excesses which had characterised his youth, partly because he was *blasé* with them, partly because he had at length found it necessary to do so on the score of health. But the effect of those excesses still betrayed itself in the comparative enfeeblement of his once iron nerve. The old air of reckless bravado was still kept up, but it was now, if I may adopt the metaphor, merely token money, of which, while the face value still appeared the same, the intrinsic value had depreciated at least fifty per cent.

Of the many bad deeds that had earned Sarsfield so unsavoury a reputation in his salad days, none was worse than his behaviour towards Lottie Gregson. Lottie was the only daughter of his father's coachman—a pretty village girl, engaged to be married to a young fellow in her own walk of life. Reuben had cast his evil eyes upon her, had stolen her heart away from her betrothed, and finally had persuaded her to go abroad with him. A few weeks before the child was born, he had deserted her in an out-of-the-way Italian town, and left her to her fate. It was not until some time afterwards that he learned—I am afraid with more relief than remorse—that she had died in giving birth to a little girl. What had become of the child he had neither heard nor taken the trouble to inquire. Probably it had followed its mother to the grave. He rather hoped it had.

All this, of course, was ancient history. It had happened twenty-five years ago. And never once during that long interval had the man's conscience been dis-

turbed by one inconvenient twinge. But now at length the memory of the shameful thing began to re-awaken in him, and to occasion him a good deal of latent uneasiness. It was not the uneasiness of remorse—still less of repentance. The cause was this: Reuben Sarsfield had for some years made the winning of the Derby the chief aim and end of his existence. To that object he had devoted his time, his thought, his money without grudge or stint. And now his strenuous efforts seemed likely to be crowned with success, for his colt, Philjim, though not exactly a great horse, had nevertheless, during his two-year-old career, proved himself the pick of a rather moderate lot of contemporaries, and had auspiciously inaugurated his three-year-old season by carrying off the Two Thousand Guineas. Apparently there was nothing in the Derby to beat him; and that such was the generally accepted view was proved by his position at the head of the betting. But all the same Sarsfield felt decidedly uneasy, and lived in mortal terror of something untoward happening to upset this seeming "dead cert," and the reason was simply this—the Derby was to be run that year on May 27.

Now May 27 was the date on which, twenty-five years before, poor Lottie Gregson had paid the penalty of her sin—the sin that lay at her heartless seducer's door—with her life. Sarsfield had a good memory for dates. They fixed themselves (even when connected with the most trivial events) in his memory unconsciously, and remained recorded there. And the coincidence of the Derby that year falling upon the exact date of Lottie's death appeared to Sarsfield in the light of an omen that Nemesis was at work. Indeed, what more in accordance with her methods of retributive justice than that she should select this day, and this opportunity, to pay him out for the old wrong?

He shuffled uneasily in his chair as he thought of it all; then, throwing his half-smoked cigar into the grate, rose and paced his library with a moody frown. "The 27th of May. D——n the date! Why in Philjim's year, of all years, did the Derby fall on that particular day? It meant mischief. He was sure it meant mischief? And yet—— At this point his reflections were interrupted by the entrance of his secretary, Henry Belmore, with a bundle of letters for signature.

"If you will just sign these, sir," he said, "I can get them off by to-night's post."

"All right," answered Reuben, sitting down to his writing-table and taking up a pen. "Let's have 'em. I'll knock 'em off in two or three minutes.' '

And he proceeded to sign letter after letter in his bold, sprawling hand, until the whole bundle was completed. Young Belmore took them up again, but, before leaving the room turned to his employer and said:

"By the way, sir, shall you want me any more this evening? If not, I should rather like to go out for an hour or two."

"D—n it, you're always wanting to go out," answered Sarsfield, in that rude, bullying tone which he usually adopted to his paid employees, his secretary not excepted. "What do you think I pay you two hundred a year for—hey?"

Henry Belmore flushed; but he answered civilly, even deferentially:

"Oh, if you want me, sir, of course I shouldn't think of going."

"Well, I don't want you this evening, as it happens, and so you may go," rejoined his employer, grudgingly. "But we mustn't have too many of these requests for leave off, Belmore, or else you and I shall have to part company. See?"

The secretary, like a wise young man, left the room without a word. While sealing up and addressing the letters, however, in his small office adjoining, he said a good many words to himself about his employer, by way of blowing off steam. When the letters had been sent to post, he went out. It was shortly after eleven o'clock when he returned, and, seeing the lights still burning in the library, he went in to ask if he could do anything more for Sarsfield before going to bed. His employer was by this time in a better temper, having soothed his irritability with three whiskies and sodas, and being now half-way through the fourth. It was not often that he indulged so freely, and the liquor, in addition to improving his temper, had also made him communicative. So he invited the secretary to sit down and join him in a cigar and a chat.

This invitation, which was tantamount to a command, Belmore of course accepted, seating himself in an arm-chair on the other side of the fender. He noticed that Sarsfield's face was unwontedly flushed and that his speech came rather thick. These two circumstances by themselves were sufficient indication to the secretary that his employer, for the first time since he had known him, was somewhat under the influence of liquor, and if any corroboration of the fact were wanting, it was supplied by the unprecedented unreserve with which Philjim's owner now began to talk.

"I say, Belmore," he remarked, apropos of nothing that had been said, but following out the train of thought that was working in his mind, and that, if he had been strictly sober, he would have kept concealed there, "do you believe in anniversaries—eh?"

"In what sense, sir? I do not quite understand," replied the secretary, looking rather mystified.

"Why, I mean, do you believe in the theory that, when fate, or destiny, or vengeance, or whatever you like to call the thing, means to pay a chap out for some past slip, it singles out some particular day especially connected with the slip on which to drop on him, by way of lending point to the operation?"

"Well, really, I can hardly say," replied Belmore, still rather puzzled by the character of the question. "I have never given the matter sufficient thought."

"Look 'ee here, Belmore," said Sarsfield, pursuing to still greater lengths his alcoholic confidences. "I've got something on my mind, the anxiety of which is nearly driving me mad; and I must tell it to some one, or I believe I shall go clean off my head. But this is between you and me, of course—strictly between you and me—eh?"

"You may rely on my discretion, sir. It shall not go beyond me," replied the secretary.

"Fact is," continued his employer, "when I was a young man, Belmore, I did a d——d silly thing. I ran away with the daughter of my father's coachman. She thought I was going to marry her. I may have led her to suppose so. A man is more or less bound to raise false hopes of that kind in the girl's breast on such occasions. It is part of the game. You understand me—eh, Belmore?" he added, with a knowing leer.

"Oh, quite, sir," rejoined the secretary.

"I didn't marry her, of course," pursued Sarsfield. "Silly young ass as I was, my silliness stopped short of that. I stuck to her for nearly a year, though, which is more than many men would have done. And then I got sick of her everlasting tearful appeals to me to make her an honest woman. In fact, I could stand them no longer. So I gave her the slip and came back to England (we were in Italy at the time), leaving her £50 to see her through her trouble—which, again, is more than many men would have done. That is the last I saw of her. But it came to my knowledge afterwards that she had died in giving birth to a little girl. And the day on which she died, as it happened, was the twenty-seventh of May. Now does it strike you that there is anything significant about that date, Belmore?"

The secretary, with a bewildered expression, shook his head.

"Come," went on Sarsfield, regarding him impressively. "Do you not realise that May the 27th, the day on which Lottie died twenty-five years ago, happens to be the very day on which this year's Derby is to be run?"

"Ah! Now you mention it, so it is," answered Belmore, who did not, however, even yet exactly follow the connection.

"And don't you think it possible," demanded Sarsfield, with a perturbed and anxious look, "that there may be something more than a coincidence involved in

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this circumstance—I mean that Fate may have waited for this anniversary on purpose to pay me out, by bringing about Philjim's downfall at Epsom, and so blasting my apparently certain chance—the only chance I may ever have—of gaining my heart's desire and carrying off the Blue Riband of the Turf?"

Then Belmore saw it all; read in Sarsfield's almost terrified look, even more than in his words, the secret of the superstitious fear—a secret of which he had till now had no inkling—that was working in his employer's mind. For the moment he was too much astonished by the discovery of such superstition in so notorious a scoffer to find words. But seeing that an answer was expected of him, he presently blurted out:—

"Well, sir, if such a thing were to happen, it would at least be a striking coincidence."

"Coincidence?" hiccoughed the perturbed and whiskyfied Sarsfield. "Don't talk to me of coincidences, Belmore. If this thing happens—and I tell you I've a most infernal strong presentiment that it's going to happen—it won't be a coincidence; it will be the finger of Nemesis—of Nemesis, do you hear?"

And he rose from his chair and paced the room agitatedly, Belmore's eyes following him with an interested gaze.

"I tell you," cried Sarsfield excitedly, catching at the back of a chair to steady his staggering gait. "I can't lose the Derby, Belmore; I won't lose the Derby. Something must be done—*must* be done to prevent such a tragic disaster. But the question is, what?"

Belmore thought for a moment; then he answered:—

"Perhaps, sir, if you were to make some reparation——"

"Reparation? How can I make reparation to a woman who's been dead these twenty-five years?" broke in Sarsfield.

"No, sir. But you spoke of a child——"

"D—n the child," muttered Sarsfield. "The little brat was the cause of all the mischief."

"Is she alive or dead?" inquired the secretary.

"I know no more than the man in the moon," answered Sarsfield. "Nobody ever brought me any information as to what became of her, and you may be sure I wasn't going to make inquiries on my own account."

"Possibly, however, you might now feel disposed to reconsider your position in the matter," said Belmore, thoughtfully.

"What the —— do you mean?" demanded Sarsfield.

"I mean," explained Belmore, "that it might now suit your purpose to institute inquiries for discovering your daughter's whereabouts—assuming she still lives—with a view to making her some substantial reparation. For my part, indeed, I attach no particular importance to this theory of Nemesis, and I am strongly of opinion that if your colt's good enough to win—which by all accounts he is—he will win on May 27 just as certainly as on any other day in the calendar. But then, I am not you, of course; and if I were in your place and had your feelings on the subject, I should undoubtedly do all in my power to appease the Powers of Vengeance by a propitiatory sacrifice. And if any sacrifice is likely to prove effectual, it will surely be an act of reparation to this unhappy girl."

"Ah! I believe you're on the right track, Belmore—if the girl still lives," hiccoughed Sarsfield, with a new gleam of hope in his eyes. "But if she's dead, what then—hey?"

"Of, if she's dead, of course you can do nothing, sir. Though, even then, the fact of your having interested yourself in the girl and made an effort to discover her might still be scored up to your credit. It would show that you wanted to do the right thing, anyhow, and might influence Nemesis into staying her hand."

"By G—d, there's some hope in that," exclaimed the excited Sarsfield. "But how am I to set about making inquiries for a girl who was born out in Italy twenty-five years ago, and whom I haven't heard of from that day to this? Where's a man to begin—hey?"

Belmore reflected for a moment, then he said:

"I'm afraid your chance of finding the girl—even if she's alive—is but a poor one, in any event. But the likeliest method of getting to work, as far as I can see, is to advertise in all the leading organs of the press. Such an advertisement, appearing in the chief London and provincial newspapers, would probably catch the eye of some one who could supply you with useful information—especially if you offered a reward."

"Well, I suppose it would," answered Sarsfield, putting his large hand to his forehead, as though to steady his half-intoxicated brain. "But, d—n it, Belmore, I don't want to have my name publicly associated with the affair. That would never do."

"And no need for it, either," rejoined the secretary. "You have merely to have answers addressed to a letter or a number at the various newspaper offices, which would keep your name entirely out of it, you see."

"Ah, to be sure," replied Sarsfield. "But, I say, Belmore. It only wants a fortnight to the Derby. There's not much time for inquiry, is there? The advertisement had better be drafted and sent round to the papers first thing to-morow morning."

"I can draft it for you to-night, sir, if you like," replied the secretary, "and take it round myself to the offices of the London papers, so as to get it in in their to-morrow morning's agony columns."

"All right," cried the agitated Sarsfield, who was evidently eager to lose no time. "Draft it now, then, Belmore; or rather, you shall write and I will dictate."

Belmore at once went over to the writing-table, sat down, and took up a pen. In a few minutes the following advertisement was in fair copy:—

£5 Reward.—The above reward will be paid to any one who can inform advertiser of the present whereabouts of the daughter of L—— G——, born at a provincial town in Italy, on May 27, twenty-five years ago, or who, if she is dead, can furnish proof of her death.—Apply to, etc.

In the first rough draft of this advertisement, the name, Lottie Gregson, appeared in full, and that of the provincial town (Quirino) was specifically stated, but at Belmore's suggestion, the vaguer form was substituted, as being quite sufficiently explicit for identification.

"You see," he explained to the muddled Sarsfield, "in publishing advertisements of this kind, you need to be on your guard against impostors. It is on the cards that some young woman, scenting a possible something to her advantage, might try to personate the girl for whom you are advertising. But by suppressing names, you protect yourself against such fraud; for while the girl's initials and the general allusion to Italy, taken in connection with the other details, are quite enough to put the young woman herself, or any one who knows the true circumstances, on to the right track, it effectually baffles any ignorant but astute stranger who might try to earn the reward by faked information."

"By G—d, Belmore! You have your head screwed on all right. I hadn't thought of that," cried Sarsfield. "Very well, then; amend the draft as you suggest; and, when you've fair copied it, take the thing round to the offices of the leading London papers at once. You will take a cab, of course," he added, with unusual generosity, "and charge it to me." . . . .

It was very much like drawing a bow at a venture thus to advertise for a girl, of whom nothing had been heard since her birth twenty-five years ago, and Sarsfield, in the sober light of next morning, felt considerably less sanguine of getting any response to it than he had done under the influence of four whiskies and sodas over-night. But, as it turned out, fortune favoured him unexpectedly. It transpired that his daughter was not only alive, but was, at that moment, in London, occupying the post of nursery governess in the family of a wealthy *parvenu*. She herself answered Sarsfield's advertisement, and, subsequently calling upon him by appointment, had no difficulty in satisfying him of her identity. Indeed, he himself was so anxious to believe that she was really Lottie's child (in order that he might propitiate Nemesis by making reparation to the young woman before the Derby) that he would readily have taken her word for it. But Belmore, more faithful to

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his employer's interests than Sarsfield perhaps exactly deserved, insisted, not only on testing the young woman's story by a searching cross-examination, but on requiring her to furnish tangible proofs in support of it. All this occupied some little time; so that it was only on the day before the Derby that matters were completed, and poor Lottie's child was rendered independent for life by a present of £5,000. Usually, Sarsfield parted uncommonly hard. But, on this occasion, his superstitious fear of Nemesis paying him out at Epsom on the morrow rendered him almost extravagantly generous in his propitiatory offering to that Retributive Goddess.

Strange to relate, Philjim did *not* win the Derby, as the records of the Turf testify. Sarsfield now believes in Nemesis more strongly than ever. His faith in the goddess was greatly strengthened when his secretary left him a few weeks later, and when he subsequently learned that Belmore had married the little governess who had been the recipient of his late employer's £5,000.

ART NOTES.

THE NEW ENGLISH ART CLUB.

THERE is, of course, no place in the world at which it is possible to obtain a clearer idea of the progress of the problem-painting than at the New English Art Club. There are other galleries at which it is impossible for the open-minded observer to tell what the painter is driving at—many of them. But nowhere else can you feel certain that the painter himself does not know in the least what he wants to do, and does not care in the least how he sets about it. This is, of course, the second phase of the problem-painting, just as the R.A. or the International is the first. This being so, it is disquieting, if not discouraging, to find that more than one of the new English artists have this year—in the exhibition just opened at Dering-yard, New Bond-street, that is to say—deliberately deserted their own ideals and gone in for working out definite theses, just as if they were so many school children. There are at least three exhibits which are only too certainly straws to show the way this ill-wind is blowing. There is Mr. Walter Sickert, for instance, who has long been recognised as amongst the most prominent of our Irresponsibilists. What do we find this year? He shows a painting called "La Vecchia." You do not have to look at it for ten minutes before you know the problem he has set himself to prove as well as he does himself. It is this. He has evidently been impressed by the recent appearances of spiritualism in the Law Courts, and he has set his mind to work upon its artistic possibilities. Gradually he has evolved the idea of Rameses the Great converted into a mummy. He has said to himself: "Supposing that the 'spook' of Rameses the Great, as a representative Egyptian potentate, converted into a well-preserved mummy, were to take it into its head to come to life again in the physical form of an old English woman, what, exactly, would he look like?" Given his problem he has at once set to work to provide its solution; and he has succeeded marvellously. The mummy lives again, upon the walls of Dering-yard. We have the flat, brown face, the leathery complexion, the general suggestion of lack of finish, which makes the mummy-room in the British Museum a continual joy, but beyond all that we have the soul of Rameses peering out of the eye-holes, with exactly the expression of hopelessness which would be natural to Rameses were he suddenly to find himself in the New English Art Club of to-day. But not to dwell too long upon Mr. Sickert's masterpiece and thus give the erroneous impression that it is the only problem picture worth looking at in the show, let us turn to consider one of Mr. A. E. John's contributions to the Missing Subject Picture Competition. Mr. John has chosen a more modern, though not less universally interesting, problem. It is this: "Given a young woman with a non-anatomical neck, struck with the unpleasant idea that she may be developing hydrophobia, what would she look like did she decide to let her hair hang loose about her shoulders?" How satisfactorily Mr. John has solved the problem every visitor can see for himself, if he will look among the pencil-drawings upon the screen to the right hand facing him as he enters the gallery. Mr. John has, by the way, an almost equally fascinating solution to another problem upon the wall exactly facing this screen. He shows us exactly what a young lady with no arms would look like if she pretended to have one arm held with the elbow pointing skywards so as to hide her right ear. The question looks a little confusing as I have written it, but Mr. John has provided a most satisfactory answer to it, which is the chief thing after all. This love of anatomy, as providing pictorial problems, is also evidenced in a painting by Mr. Albert Rothenstein, which shows us what a laundry-girl would look like if her left arm were of normal proportions, while her right arm were about five sizes too small. And, really, I cannot imagine any painting which could answer the question with more finality. Then there is a very effective landscape problem, introducing a child with a hoop, by Mr. Lucien Pissarro, but here I must confess that, although I know the painter has set himself a problem, I cannot make head nor tail of the answer.

Needless to say that, side by side with those painters who keep the banner of progress so resolutely unfolded, there are a certain number of waverers, doubters—I had almost written retrogressors. There is, for instance, Mr. David Muirhead. He exhibits a canvas called "The Dark Night," and what Mr. Muirhead was thinking about when he painted it, or what the Hanging Committee were thinking about when they accepted it, I cannot imagine. For, astounding though it may appear, "The Dark Night" is quite a beautiful picture—beautiful in suggestion and in execution, beautiful in line, in composition, and in colour. It might have been painted by one of those absurdly old-fashioned painters who believed that beauty in a picture was rather an advantage than otherwise. However, I suppose that when Mr. Muirhead painted the very beautiful figure of the woman who is gazing out into the night he had fully weighed the risk. Another strange phenomenon is Mr. Sargent's "A Balustrade," which might easily have been painted by one of the despicable Old Masters (so-called) and by one of them who was painting for the pure joy of it. Mr. Sargent has done very different work to this in some of his portraits of fashionable dames, as you can see if you go to Burlington House at the present time. I am very much afraid that, if he is often discovered stumbling from the path of progress, as he does when he paints "A Balustrade," he will very soon lose his vogue as the most fashionable painter of the day. Yet another painter who will get himself into trouble with the New English authorities unless he mends his artistic manners is Mr. W. G. von Glehn, whose "Gold and Lacquer" contains not only some very skilful colour, but a figure—a charming one at that, I grieve to say—of a young woman which is quite anatomically correct. How is it that Mr. von Glehn, and Mr. Muirhead, and Mr. Jamieson, and Mrs. McEvoy, and three or four more have not learnt that the one essential quality in art, as practised by the New English Art Club, is that it must be ugly, that if you can draw you must conceal it, and that any technical knowledge of the art of painting you may be unfortunate enough to possess must be kept resolutely hidden. I thought everybody knew that by this time.

There are a number of fine works by "French and Dutch masters of the nineteenth century" at Messrs. Obach's gallery and some modern Dutch paintings and drawings of interest at Mr. Tinson's gallery in Grafton-street, which I should like to write about, but they scarcely seem in keeping with the masterpieces of New English art, so I had better, perhaps, reserve them for next week.

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MUSIC.

SINGERS AND THEIR FEES.

WHAT is the largest sum which has ever been paid to a singer? The question is suggested by the particulars recently published of Signor Caruso's new contract with Mr. Conried. Some time ago, it may be remembered—that is, at the close of the recent New York opera season—it was stated that Signor Caruso had declined to renew his agreement with the manager of the Metropolitan unless his terms were considerably increased. The result of the subsequent negotiations have now been made known. Caruso has certainly done very well for himself. His engagement is, it appears, for four years, at £40,000 per annum, in return for which modest remuneration he undertakes to sing eighty times in each twelve months. Each appearance will, therefore, work out at a fee of £500. It is enough to keep the wolf from the door, but it is not, of course, by any means a "record" in these matters. Only the other day, for instance, it was given out that Mme. Melba was paid at the rate of £800 a night by Mr. Hammerstein during her recent season in New York, while even larger sums were received in her day by Patti, who probably obtained the biggest fees of any singer who has ever lived. Again and again she received £800 a night when appearing at Covent Garden. By the late Mr. Henry E. Abbey she was frequently paid £1,000 an appearance, and during one season at New Orleans in the eighties she received as much as £1,200 a night.

Yet it would be quite a mistake to suppose, of course, that these mammoth fees are entirely of modern origin. Catalani, for instance, was only one of several singers of an older day who realised enormous sums. On one occasion, it is recorded, she received 200 gs. for singing "God Save the King" and "Rule Britannia" at a London concert, and for appearing at a single provincial festival she got £2,000. She made, also £10,000 in less than six months by her appearances at Covent Garden in 1806, which, having in view the altered financial conditions obtaining nowadays, was perhaps an even more remarkable achievement than Caruso's £40,000 a year. Before Catalani's time the prices ruling were much more moderate. Farinelli's £5,000 a year would be reckoned only a modest pittance by some of our latter-day prime donne, Caffarelli was regarded as having achieved a record when in 1740 he received at Venice a salary of £720 for a season of three months, and Faustina had to be content with a beggarly £2,000 when she appeared under Handel's management in London in 1726. Such fees look small, indeed, by the side of those which have been received not only by Patti, but by scores of other singers of recent times. Among modern tenors, Sims Reeves, Mario, and Rubini all earned prodigious sums, as, of course, did Tamagno and Jean de Reszke, among others, of a later day. M. Jean de Reszke's top figure was, I believe, the £7,200 which Sir Augustus Harris paid him in one season for sixteen appearances at Covent Garden—a sum working out at £450 a night. Tamagno received at least double this fee during his many appearances in South America. But, of course, it does not do to believe quite all that one reads on these matters. Vocalists are not always restricted by a too slavish regard for literal truth when enlightening the world as to the value placed upon their services. Even the system of double contracts—one for show and the other for use—is not unknown, so that if slightly erroneous notions sometimes get about the fact is hardly to be wondered at.

What is certain, however, is that, as I ventured recently to point out, the enormous fees which are paid nowadays are decidedly to be deprecated, and it may be noted in this connection that, speaking generally, the sums paid in New York and London are out of all proportion to those prevailing elsewhere. It would not matter so much if opera were a prosperous and flourishing institution earning big profits and enabling the public to get their seats at the lowest rates. Unfortunately, as is well known, it is nothing of the kind. If it just pays its way without any profit to the shareholders and at high prices to the public this is as much as is ever expected, and it is the outrageous fees demanded by the principal singers which, more than any other single circumstance, is responsible for this unsatisfactory state of affairs. Meanwhile, the announcement of Caruso's exclusive engagement during the next four years should certainly stimulate the attendance on the occasions of his appearance during the remainder of the present season at Covent Garden, even though it does not necessarily follow that he will not be heard in London again during the next four years. The New York opera season, it must be remembered, does not conflict at all with that of Covent Garden, and Mr. Conried will probably be only too glad to sublet his "star" for a proper consideration. It is stated, indeed, that arrangements to this end with the Paris opera authorities have already been made. But even so, it is just possible that Mr. Conried may find before he has finished that he has, in Transatlantic parlance, bitten off more than he can chew.

Concerts are coming thick and fast now. On Saturday at the Bechstein Hall Mme. Kirkby Lunn's only song recital of the present season drew a very large audience. It is rare to be able to say of an English singer that she is heard to even better advantage in the opera than in songs, which is Mme. Kirkby Lunn's case. But how many, even so, would be glad to sing as she does in the concert-room? On the same afternoon Herr Backhaus played brilliantly and fluently as usual at the Queen's Hall, while in the evening, at Miss Mathilde Verne's concert, Miss Marie Brema brought forward a new song cycle, "James Lee's Wife" (based, of course, on Browning's poem), by Arthur Somervell, which contained many pleasant if some rather laboured passages. One of the advertisements of this work, by the way, rather amusingly described it as a "new song cycle selected from her poems by Robert Browning"—the compiler of which evidently considered that Mrs. James Lee was the writer of the words.

Miss Lola Rally, who gave a vocal recital earlier in the week, has a very agreeable voice, of which she will probably make still more with further study. Miss Alice Ripper, a clever young pianist who has also been appearing again, is another who may be expected to develop her powers considerably yet. A recent orchestral concert of note was that of the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Señor Arbos, at which Godowsky showed that he can play as perfectly in a concerto as in solos. A concert of a different kind which was a great success was that organised by the indefatigable Dr. Charles Harriss in recognition of Empire Day. This week a remarkable number of violinists are appearing. Mr. Francis Macmillen led the way on Monday, on Tuesday Mischa Elman and Mr. Theodore Spiering were announced to appear, on Wednesday Herr Kubelik, on Thursday Lady Hallé (at the Philharmonic), and on Saturday Herr Kreisler and little Miss Sybil Keymer.

M. Kussewitzky, the Russian double-bass player, upon whom the mantle of Bottesini and Dragonetti would seem to have fallen, is certainly a brilliant executant on his ponderous instrument—the quality of tone which he produces and the seeming ease with which he plays florid passages being equally astonishing. Probably indeed only a double-bass player is capable of fully appreciating the merits of his performances. Unlike his great predecessor Bottesini, he employs a full-size instrument with four strings, though he resembles the former in that he does not rely exclusively on fireworks for his effects, but plays always as a cultivated musician. Whether the thing is worth doing is another matter. In one respect, at least, the double-bass virtuoso has an advantage; his rivals are never numerous.

A rather notable instrumentalist of a totally different order who is visiting London just now is the Swedish

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ballad singer and lute player, Herr Scholander, who has come, it is said, in response to a suggestion of the Queen, who was much pleased by some of his performances during one of her visits to Denmark. If the double bass is one of the most powerful stringed instruments, the lute is probably the most delicate. Mr. Dolmetsch, at his concerts of the old music, used to provide concert-goers with the opportunity of hearing it sometimes, but most modern music lovers' acquaintance with it is probably confined to that which they derive from its employment by Herr Beckmesser in "Die Meistersinger." Yet there are enthusiasts who declare that no more beautiful stringed instrument has ever been invented. Mr. Scholander, the latter-day successor of the Gaultiers and other famous lutenists of the past, sings, and to some extent acts, as he plays, and all, according to report, in a very effective manner.

To cut or not to cut? That is an old question which has been raised anew by the recent unabbreviated performances of "Lohengrin" and "Tannhäuser" at Covent Garden. Is there any real reason why the *longueurs* of these particular operas should not be reduced. It is the fashion, of course, of some enthusiasts to declare that when the parts usually omitted are restored, the performance seems positively shorter on this account. But this is a transcendental way of looking at the thing which is beyond the capacity of most. The truth of the matter is that both "Lohengrin" and "Tannhäuser" cry aloud for the blue pencil. The point involved is really less an æsthetic question than the limits of human endurance. Four hours' solid music, whether good or bad, is too much for any one. Suppose the works as Wagner wrote them ran to five or six hours instead of four, would it still be maintained that every note must be endured? Yet, if cuts would be justified in that case, why not in the works as they stand?

It is a great pity, of course, that Wagner wrote at such length in the first place, but it was his besetting sin to overdo matters in this respect. Carried away by his subjects, he never knew when to stop. As it used to be expressed, he left nothing in his ink-pot. As a consequence, the enjoyment of the noblest operas ever written is marred for nearly all by the undue demands which they make upon the hearer's receptive faculties. If the highest art implies the perfect adaptation of the means to the end, it was really a serious æsthetic error which Wagner here committed. This being so, why not recognise the facts and reduce the works to more reasonable dimensions? The same reasoning applies in the case of "Die Meistersinger," though here it must be confessed there is little that could be spared without a pang.

The recent performances of the last-named work must be ranked among the finest ever heard at Covent Garden. Herr Jörn's Walther was particularly successful, while Van Rooy's Sachs is incomparable as ever. In "Lohengrin," Herr Cornelius increased the good opinions produced by his earlier appearances, and in "Tannhäuser" it was pleasant to hear Herr Knote again. Caruso drew a big house to hear "La Traviata" on Saturday, but Melba was unfortunately an absentee, as she was also in the case of "La Bohème" on Monday, Mme. Donalda proving an efficient substitute on both occasions.

The dearth of good tenors is once more a subject of discussion, and Dr. W. H. Cummings (a tenor of note himself in his day) has been giving the reason:—

> In comparison with baritones and basses, genuine tenors are rare, and are therefore greatly in demand. The result is that a tenor student, instead of waiting to be properly trained, and refraining from singing in public, say for three years, rushes off to secure engagements, and ruins what might have been a good voice.

There is no doubt an element of truth in this. Every one is in a hurry nowadays, and not tenors only, but all other vocalists come before the public before their voices have been half-trained according to the older ideals. It was, if I remember rightly, Von Bülow who declared that the tenor was not a man, but a disease; the complaint to-day would seem to be that the disease is not nearly so prevalent as might be wished. Meanwhile, Lady Milnes Gaskell declares that she has discovered a tenor possessed of the makings of a really great voice in the person of a Wakefield tram-driver rejoicing in the unromantic name of Potts, and the public are invited to contribute to a fund for his maintenance and training.

London seems to possess an extraordinary attraction for the foreign singing teacher. The other day it was M. Edouard de Reszke to whom welcome was extended, earlier still it was M. Maurel, and now it is announced that Frau Nikisch is shortly proposing to open classes here. Frau Nikisch, who was formerly an opera singer herself, has for some time past enjoyed a great reputation as a teacher. A native of Brussels, whose mother tongue is therefore French, she attended the Cologne Conservatoire while it was under the direction of Ferdinand Hiller, and studied singing and acting under the operatic tenor Schneider. In opera she herself played soubrette parts, but after her marriage with Nikisch, then conducting the Leipsic opera, she assumed the unusual rôle for a woman of régisseur, and became responsible in this capacity for the setting of all the Leipsic operas. Her opportunities, therefore, have not been slight, and seemingly she has turned them to good account.

A scholarship for drumming! It is Mr. Albert Visetti, who, whether in jest or earnest I am not quite sure, has made the suggestion. Good drummers, he slily suggests, are at least as likely to be turned out in this way as good conductors. The notion that any one can play the drum, or that the art is, at any rate, very readily acquired, is, of course, a delusion. Two qualities are essential to the good drummer—a perfect ear and a fine sense of rhythm, and no musician, at any rate, needs to be told of the enormous importance of the drum part in many modern works. Beethoven loved the drum, as he did all the other instruments which he made to do so much, and first gave it individuality, obtaining, indeed, some of his most wonderful and characteristic effects by its means—as in the opening of the violin concerto and in the scherzo of the Choral. Berlioz later made much of it, and no one needs to be reminded of the use to which Strauss puts it in "Ein Heldenleben." Elgar is another modern composer who has turned it to original account in his "Enigma" variations, in one of which the drummer is enjoined to lay aside his sticks and use instead, if I am not mistaken, a couple of pennies, whereby a quite distinctive effect is secured. But the number of notable drum passages which might be cited is almost endless.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The King is a reformer in more ways than one. It is to his Majesty that we owe the abbreviation of the once long-drawn-out dinner. For this it is impossible to be sufficiently grateful. Those who remember the 2½-hour dinner, and the atmosphere of even the best-ventilated dining-room as it neared the close, understand the dimensions of the debt of gratitude. His Majesty is also a reformer in the matter of colour in clothes. His taste rebelled against the monotony of black, grey, or dark blue for outdoor wear, with but a pale-tinted tie for relief, and possibly a white waistcoat. The Edwardian waistcoat is a thing of sweetness and light, and various as Cleopatra herself. A man's waistcoats are a real joy to him now. How he must bless his stars that he did not wear his youth in the dreary days when tailors merely made waistcoats (I have a haunting fancy that they call them vests) to match suits. And tailors themselves must be thankful to the King for initiating so profitable and agreeable a change. Profitable; that goes without saying. Agreeable? Yes; a tailor is a poet in his way, and what an

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airing he can give his fancy when he dwells on thoughts of waistcoats (vests) as they now may be! Tints borrowed from moor and sea, from sky and woody dale, from purple clouds and rosy dawns, pass in fair array before his mental vision, and charm his imagination. What chance was there of any Pegasian exercise of the kind in the old days when the waistcoat was cut from the same cloth as the rest of the suit?

I am so vexed with Charlie for not being able to tell me what kind of waistcoat the King wore at Kempton. He told me that his Majesty wore a grey suit, a brown bowler hat, a rose-pink shirt, and a lavender tie. And Charlie never looked at the Royal waistcoat!

Yes. The King is a cheerful dresser. It is his nature to. We often think of what a little Parisienne said to us in Paris last year. "Your King Edouard he knows to amuse himself; he is so—so—vary joyful."

I remember asking Charlie what the Queen had on once when he had the felicity of seeing her Majesty quite near. He said: "Something grey or blue or black, I can't quite remember, and a nodding thing on her beautiful head." What a description!

The river season began on Saturday about 10 a.m. in the most perfect weather imaginable, and lasted until about 3 p.m. The river season then left off abruptly, with a scurry of white-skirted girls and their flannelled friends. What a scene it was when the rain came down steadily and a flash of lightning was followed by thunder roaring in the distance. Nearly every girl on the river had a white hat, the material of which was far from well adapted to resist the wet. Yet many had come forth without even a sunshade. The white linen girls suffered most, their snowy shoes soon turning grey. It was quite pitiful. Jupiter Pluvius having intervened, the river season was unanimously adjourned sine die.

I have been taking Muriel (who is over from Canada) shopping. She is charmed with all she sees, and wants to order from each different house, as what she says is quite true; each seems to have an individual style of its own.

Poor Muriel, though, is rather worried over hats. She is a strong adherent to the smart little toque, and was so delighted to find Marie Tempest, in "Truth," sticking, as she calls it, to her jaunty little headgear, in spite of the rage for huge hats. 'Tis rather interesting going round to the various milliners in London (for we *have* been to all quarters of the Metropolis), and to find how "locality" influences the market, as Reggie says, we popped into a huge shop Leicester-square way, and found hundreds of hats to choose from, and very cheap indeed.

We walked up Regent-street to the very top, and I saw French models quite a guinea cheaper than at certain fashionable showrooms. We found such smart toques (and how difficult it is to get them now) in quite a small shop in Lower Belgrave-street; I think it was there or somewhere in that vicinity. Then at Harrod's Stores we were bewildered with the maze of hats, and such hats, ranging from 35s. to—well, I dare not even whisper it! But I must tell you of some of the wickedness of the age. Can you imagine any woman, no matter what her income may be, giving twenty-four guineas for a covering for her head? But, alas! 'tis true, and the people who sold it tell me that it was the exact price they gave for the model in Paris; it was only a plain straw hat, but the whole expense lay in the mass of osprey which trimmed the entire front. What would our kind Queen think of this, I wonder? I am afraid that her humane endeavours to prevent the use of the osprey for the adornment of our hats and coiffures have not met with much success. I notice that at the Opera several personal friends of the Queen still adhere to them and that even some of our Royalties themselves wear them in their hats and toques. Is it any wonder that poor, weak humanity follows in their wake? We, Muriel and I, were horrified at the utter impossibility of buying anything now at a reasonable price without the greatest tact and discretion; for instance, I thought to be very clever and copy one of the beautiful model hats I saw—it was only a mere straw hat with a huge bunch of Liberty silk bows and a "mount" of soft feathers. Well, the hat I wanted, untrimmed, was 39s. 6d., so I "let it stay at that," and did not even venture to enquire the price for the "little mount!"

I must tell you of some pretty frocks I saw at Bosworth's. You remember the beautiful long room at 9, New Burlington-street, where we saw the green cloth costume you admired so much? I wished you had been with me to see the long procession of lovely gowns that floated before us on graceful girls. You and I nearly always like the same things, so I am sure you would have admired a light grey check cotton voile made with a piece strapped down the front of the skirt, which fell full and in easy folds. A shaped piece was arranged in vandykes above the hem. The bodice was all pleats from shoulders to waist and the fronts were edged with Nattier blue velvet. A jabot, just like that of a cavalier of the olden days, filled in the space between. The belt had three bands of the Nattier blue velvet. The sleeves of this ideal summer gown came below the elbows and were finished with very dainty cuffs. A cream-coloured voile in kimono style was made over brightly-tinted satin, and it is useful to know that any combination of colours can be made up in this way. Straps of satin, in a rather more yellowish cream than the material of the bodice itself, trimmed the dress very effectively, the material caught in fine clusters of gathers between. The full bodice opened over a lace vest and the kimono sleeves did not hide much of the full net and lace ones that ended in elaborate cuffs near the elbows.

The sweetest little sleeveless coat was a feature of another cream-coloured gown striped in two shades, the skirt, disposed in pleats and strappings, so smart. A cream silk blouse, much frilled and fretted with Valenciennes, and a red scarf with white spots was knotted at the neck after passing under a little collar of embroidered lawn. The coat was embroidered and finished with lines of passementerie on the front and kimono sleeves. A lovely hat to be worn with this was in cream-coloured crinoline trimmed with shaded pink and aubergine roses. Then there was a fine voile, striped white and magenta, made with a very full skirt finished simply in a deep hem; a dark blue voile elaborately trimmed with black satin strappings and narrow black braid, the coat with a dear little basque, and with a pale blue silk collar.

I must not forget to tell you of the new Spanish cape that Bosworth is so successfully doing for this season. It is extremely full, being cut in a great circle but with wide corners that turn back to show the pretty lining, and finished with two or three buttons and silk loops. So useful for the garden on chilly evenings, or for the carriage when one expects to get back late. There is nothing to fasten. The cape holds on by reason of its cleverly planned corners.

Princess Christian presides over the Annual Summer Sale at the Royal School of Art Needlework, Exhibition-road, this week. It is a wonderful place for picking up beautiful and interesting things of every kind; old prints, old silver, glass, china and pewter, antique bronze and copper, furniture of the rarer sorts, old cabinets of every period and from every country, and endless choice of bric-à-brac. We never think of going anywhere else when we want to buy a wedding present. The Princess has now added a new department to the school, of which her Royal Highness is president, viz., that of embroidering dresses. The difficulty lay in getting orders for dresses without undertaking the further process of making them up. But now arrangements have been made with a dressmaking firm that is not only willing to introduce English embroidery on gowns, but eventually to use it exclusively, so that the work may all be done in England instead of being sent abroad, and good British money with it. As the demand

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for embroidery on dress increases yearly, there is every chance of a prosperous career for this undertaking. I have often wondered why the exquisite embroidery at the Royal School has not been applied to dress. The specimens shown this week will almost certainly produce an encouraging result. The Princess announces, too, that more than one theatrical manager has expressed an intention of joining in the experiment. This will give the work a great stimulus, for we all know that dresses on the stage are copied by thousands.

I see that the Summer Sale of the Working Ladies' Guild, Brompton-road, will be held on Thursday and Friday of this week at the Queen's Westminster Drill Hall, Buckingham Gate, by permission of Col. G. H. Trollope. It is announced that Princess Henry of Battenberg will open the sale at 2 o'clock and preside.

Some very excellent work is done in arts and crafts by members of the Lyceum Club. Such a number of girls now work in this direction, that the series of demonstrations to be given during the next month should prove interesting. They will deal with jewellery, bookbinding, leather work, colour blocks, lithography, etching, illuminating, weaving and spinning, lace-making, etc. Admission is free, the presenting of a visiting card being the only necessary formality.

At the interesting Travel Exhibition I had a little talk with John Strange Winter about her (she is Mrs. Arthur Stannard, you know) preparations that have met with such a genuine success. She told me some surprising things about the price of some of the ingredients she uses. One essence costs 9s. per ounce, another 12s.; and as the temptation to use some cheap and worthless imitation at 6d. per ounce might prove too strong for an employee, John Strange mixes with her own hands every bottle of the Temple Cream in which it is used. She attributes to this prudent care the remarkable success of the cream, the use of which is to induce hair to grow on the temples and eyebrows, avoiding the very ugly bald effect of thinning hair. No less than four gold medals have been awarded to Mrs. Stannard's Hair Food and other preparations. I remember telling you how delightful her Marquise soap makes the hands feel. I asked her about your hair falling out, and her answer was: "Tell her that trying first one thing and then another is simply loss of time and trouble." Not a word about her excellent hair food, which did such wonders for Nina's lovely hair when it fell out after her severe illness; and she only used two bottles. I suppose there is really nothing (except a blotchy complexion) more disfiguring than thin, weak hair. So get a bottle at once, and begin the treatment.

I have received the following from Mona:—

My Dear Madge,—Yes, I think you may safely plant your dahlias outside now. Being natives of Mexico, they are very tender, and in the north it would be prudent to wait another week or so, but in your neighbourhood there is not likely to be a frost severe enough to injure them. The general practice is to plant them in land which has been very heavily manured, but personally I do not recommend it; for while it undoubtedly causes dahlias to grow strongly, it for that very reason delays their flowering. Perhaps this needs some explanation. In plants of all kinds flowers are not produced at the same time as growth—at least, in any numbers; they either precede or follow it. In the case of shrubs and trees which bloom in spring, they are produced at the beginning of growth, often before it is visible; in the case of annuals, biennials, and the majority of herbaceous perennials which bloom towards the close of summer, they are produced at the end of growth. They are often regarded as causes of weakness, as in such plants as the bamboo, which dies after flowering, but they really are symptoms of weakness—or, rather, of a thickened condition of the sap, such as one might expect very early or very late in the year, before it has begun or after it has ceased to flow freely. Dahlias belong to the herbaceous perennial class. They flower so late that they have rarely, if ever, finished when they are cut down by frost. Obviously, then, our endeavour should be to force them into flower early, and so to extend their season as much as possible. This can be done by starting them in hothouses and keeping them there until it is safe to plant them out, but few can afford to give them the space which they require. The only other method is to treat them in the ordinary way, and, when they are planted out, to check their growth by limiting the supply of food and moisture—in other words, to plant them in soil which is not very rich, and to give them less water than is usually done. When treated thus, they very soon begin to flower. That is the time to feed them, not before. The ground around them should then be soaked with water two or three times a week, and some artificial fertiliser mixed with it once a week. If a mulch of litter can be laid over the roots it will check evaporation, and less water will be needed. In this way not only can a large number of flowers be obtained for a long time, but also they will be of a large size.

But thinning is essential. Grown as a dense bush, a dahlia wastes its energies on the growth of a great many shoots which are so crowded, so shut out from light and air, that they cannot but be useless, and the majority of the flowers which are produced are hidden by the mass of the foliage. It is impossible to lay down any general rule about thinning; it is more a matter of common sense than anything else. All I can say is that every shoot should have sufficient space for its future development, and that there should be very little overlapping of the leaves. As many shoots should be removed as may be necessary to satisfy this condition—completely removed, cut off close to the main stem. Each stem should be tied to its own stake. If several of them are bunched together, the object of thinning is defeated, and as they are very brittle, some are also sure to be broken. It is seldom safe to trust last year's stakes—at any rate, without testing. A full-grown dahlia offers a large surface to the wind, and in an autumn gale needs a very strong support to hold it erect. But do not, whatever you do, put ugly flower-pots on top of the stakes as earwig traps. If this were really necessary, I should not grow dahlias at all, for it utterly spoils the appearance of the plants. I know that earwigs are often very troublesome, but there are other and better ways of trapping them. If you will buy a few bamboo canes, not very thick, and cut them into short lengths, hollow from end to end, and hang them from the sticks so that they are hidden by the leaves, they will be quite as effective as flower-pots, and at the same time will not spoil the look of the plants. When they are examined, a sharp tap will cause any earwigs lurking in them to tumble out.

Your trouble with clematises is a very common one. They

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grow well for a time, then one shoot suddenly collapses, and then another, and finally the whole plant dies. The fault is due to grafting—sometimes an imperfect junction, sometimes an improper stock. Grafting, being the speediest method of propagation, is the one almost invariably practised, and, as you have found, the results are not always satisfactory. If you propose to buy any fresh clematises, try to get some which have been raised from layers or cuttings. They will cost rather more, but will be worth the extra money. As regards any plants that you still have, train some of the shoots along the ground and layer them before you finally take them upwards. In this way you will soon get them on their own roots, after which you are not likely to have any more trouble with them.

I do not think you would find a clematis satisfactory on a north-west wall. For that position I strongly recommend Tropæolum speciosum. If the conditions suit it—soil deep and moist and aspect cool—it is a magnificent climber, covered with scarlet flowers late in summer, and, though very fine on a wall, it really looks best when it is allowed to ramble freely among shrubs and trees, as it does in the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. It should be planted out from pots without disturbing the roots. It gives no trouble after it is once well established, but it is rather slow in getting accustomed to fresh ground. Many people who have tried to grow it have failed, and have given as the reason excessive warmth. I am inclined to think it more likely to be slugs. We could not grow this beautiful tropæolum at first, but after discovering that the tiny young shoots, soon after they came through the ground, were cut off by slugs, we took our precautions, and since then our plants have grown as luxuriantly as they do on the west coast of Scotland, where they are a sight worth going far to see in early autumn.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Here are some tempting recipes for you. Roman pie is an excellent réchauffé:—

Line a piedish with puff paste and fill it with alternate layers of shredded cooked white fish, pieces of boiled macaroni and grated cheese; when the dish is filled pour in sufficient good cream to moisten the contents, cover them with pastry, and bake the pie about an hour in a moderate oven. Turn the pie out on a dish and serve round it a little creamy white sauce made with the stock from the fish bones.

Try this pain de lièvre:—

Take the meat from the bones of a cold, roast hare and stew it with stock for an hour or longer. Chop the bones and draw them down in a stewpan with minced bacon, onion, and celery, herbs, and an ounce of butter. When they have acquired a nice colour, add a wineglass of sherry and simmer them for two or three hours, then strain them, reduce the liquor, making it into a little very good sauce. Pound the meat, which should have cooled, add the sauce, and half a gill of cold, liquid aspic, season it with salt and pepper, and put it through a wire sieve. Pour a little aspic into a plain mould, and when it is set, decorate it with truffle, place a large bottle in the centre, and when the jelly is firm fill the cavity with the farce. Pour a little jelly on the top, and, when set, turn it on to a dish and garnish with chopped aspic and dice-shaped pieces of seasoned beetroot and bunches of curled celery.

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PATRON—HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
Hospital Sunday, June 9, 1907.
Clergymen and Ministers of Religion who have not received the Official Posting Bills, &c., by Friday, May 31, are requested to make their wants immediately known to the Secretary, at the Mansion House, E.C.

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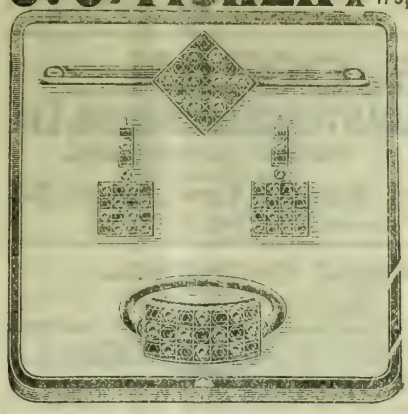

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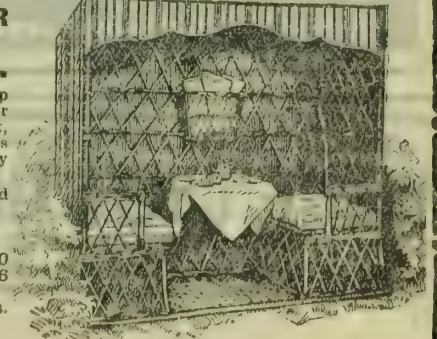

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ALLEN & HANBURYS, Ld., 37, Lombard-st., LONDON.

To H.M. THE KING.

CARPET CLEANERS
— THE —
Compressed Air Carpet & Tapestry Cleaning Company.
BROOK GREEN, W., and
135, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

TELEGRAMS: "PURIFYING, LONDON."
TELEPHONE: 93 HAMMERSMITH. 288 WESTMINSTER.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,
and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of
Himrod's Cure for Asthma.
Established over a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS, & CO., BUTLER & CRISPE, JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale houses.

ALCOHOLIC EXCESS

and DRUG HABIT cured at home in 3 to 7 weeks by the TURVEY TREATMENT without inconvenience. The only cure under British Medical Direction. Success tested by officials of the C.E.T.S. Mission, &c. Established 12 years. Over 5,000 recorded cases.—Write for Report of Public Test, or call. Med. Supt., TURVEY TREATMENT CO., Ltd., 24, Amberley House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London. Consultation to patients or their friends, free.

From East to West.

TWO GREAT CENTRES.

By A. DOUGLAS.

To-day we are nothing if not progressive. Nothing will serve us but that the maximum of advantage shall be obtained at the minimum of expenditure in time. Do we need anything, we must needs go to a centre, somewhere where a choice can be made, and where we are sure the article we desire can be obtained, if, indeed, we may not have set our minds on the unattainable. At the same time, we have not the least intention of foregoing one of the advantages which can be obtained anywhere else.

A live business firm recognises this demand and provides accordingly. Acting on this principle, the Hackney Furnishing Company have just opened extensive premises—93, 95, 97, and 99, Oxford-street—for the better accommodation and economy of time of their West-End customers, who have been a very growing number on their books, since the advantages of their enormous selection, expert judgment, low prices, and exceptionally favourable trading system have become generally known. At their new address the Hackney Furnishing Company, having during their thirty odd years' trading made Hackney a centre of the furnishing industry, and knowing that the more wealthy patrons have in many cases hesitated to go so far to see the goods they contemplated purchasing, have gone straight for the latest and undoubtedly most convenient centre for the same trade in the West End. There is now no need for the dweller in the West to go further than the bottom of Newman-street to receive the most courteous attention, the largest selection offered by any firm in the world, and the most fair terms possibly attainable; as there has been no need in the past for the dweller in the North or East to go further than Hackney. At both these establishments the firm undertake Furnishing for every one.

"Furnishing for everyone," the reader may remark, is a very bold proposition. To undertake to supply rich and poor alike is to do that which at first sight seems beyond the means of any ordinary firm. There is not merely the enormous variety of class in furniture, artistic, economical, and serviceable, but there is the necessity of meeting the varying financial positions of the would-be purchasers. For anyone to make such a boast, it must be essential that he possess a thoroughly efficient and enormous organisation, perfected through years of experience. The Hackney Furnishing Company, of which Mr. A. M. Stewart is the Founder and Managing Director, the originators of the system of deferred payments, make this assertion. At Hackney, their original home, they have over 6½ acres of showroom area, being one of the largest furnishing stores in the metropolis. Their new premises, Nos. 93, 95, 97, 99, Oxford-street, have been described as "the prettiest shops in London." The management has been entrusted to Mr. Michael Pearl, whose great reputation in the North is known to all. In these two establishments can be seen furniture fit to grace the most elegant mansion, and also furniture fit to withstand the hard and constant wear of the artisan's home. The whole are supplied at strictly moderate prices, either for cash or upon the Hackney Furnishing Company's Improved "Model' System.

In these go-ahead times it is wholly unnecessary for any middle class home to be meanly furnished. The clerk or artisan can stock his home with artistic treasures such as his forefathers never dreamed of possessing. He can surround himself with the products of best workmanship—products which are the last word in artistic design, high quality, and durability.

When, some years ago, Mr. A. M. Stewart founded the Hackney Furnishing Company, it was looked upon by some in the light of a hazardous experiment, but the system he then inaugurated, and which is described by the whole Press as the "Model System," was destined to fill a public want.

By the Hackney Furnishing Company's system, the young man in a clerkship, or the warehouseman, enjoys the same terms of credit as those obtained by people in a much higher social position. He is not obliged to be content with an inferior article, one which will be a constant reproof to him, because that is the best his ready cash will run to.

No deposit is required. The prospective customer can drive in the firm's private motor or brougham to the magnificently appointed showrooms, and select at leisure from the largest and most artistic display of furniture in the Kingdom, and he has also the great advantage of Mr. Stewart's personal attention and advice—advice based upon many years' sound practical experience in the furnishing of houses of all classes. His purchases are then delivered to him, free of all charges, whether he resides in London, or miles away in the country. If he has not yet decided upon his place of residence, or for any other reason, the firm will store his goods for a period up to six months free.

The terms of payment are most advantageous—twenty pounds' worth of goods can be obtained on payments of eleven shillings per month, thirty pounds' worth for seventeen shillings, fifty pounds' worth for twenty-eight shillings per month, one hundred pounds' worth for forty-five shillings per month, five hundred pounds' worth for eleven pounds five shillings per month, and so on, in proportion. A free fire insurance policy is issued with all purchases, so that no loss by accident need be apprehended, whilst, by a system of life insurance, if the purchaser dies before completing the instalments the goods become the property of the widow or next-in-kin, without further payments. If a cash transaction is preferred, the purchaser enjoys a cash discount of ten per cent.

Their new premises in Oxford Street is a veritable treasure palace, a wonderful seven-storey building, replete with every modern contrivance for comfort and elegance.

Electric lifts convey the delighted visitor to floor after floor crammed with everything in furniture and home appointments the heart of man or woman can desire.

Great floods of dazzling light from splendid arch windows illumine a number of model rooms, each furnished with taste and elegance, price in all cases plainly marked. The feet of the visitor sink into rich pile carpets, upon which are arranged the finest quality Louis XVI. suites, Empress suites, embroidered suites, suites in oak, walnut, &c. Upon every wall hang the latest and best products of art and craft, in every nook and cranny some fresh marvel asserts itself. The keynote of the whole is absolute durability and expert workmanship. The customer can have any article taken almost to pieces if he so wish, to test the claims of the firm in this direction. A service of well-appointed motors is in attendance to convey purchasers to the new seven-floor West-end branch or the enormous parent warehouse at Hackney. One of the latest enterprises of this mammoth firm is house-reclaiming. You can buy an old dilapidated house, and hand it over to the care of Mr. Stewart. He will rebuild it for you, fit up electric light, and artistically furnish it to suit your every whim.

Write to-day to the Hackney Furnishing Co., Town Hall Buildings, Mare Street, Hackney, N.E., or to 93, 95, 97, and 99, Oxford Street, W., for the superbly illustrated catalogue, sent you post free. You will be astonished at its completeness. It would be practically impossible to name anything pertaining to the furnishing or decoration of a home which the firm do not stock, and of which they cannot offer a large selection. In fact, when you have paid them a visit, or, failing that, looked carefully through their catalogue, you will assuredly say, "Here, indeed, is Furnishing for Everyone."

LETTERS FROM CELEBRITIES.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET ON NERVOUSNESS.

"Industrial Farm Colony,
"Duxhurst,
"April, 1907.

"DEAR FRIEND,—Your letter is one of many which I constantly receive begging me to tell of something which can help to restore tired nerves and over-worn strength, and you ask me to do so because I come in contact with so many who for these very reasons fail in the race of life, having sought the wrong remedy for such loss of nerve-power.

"The description which you give me of your difficulty scarcely varies from that of which I am so often told. Work has become a drudgery, and life a heavy thing. You tell me that you go to bed feeling tired, and that you wake in the morning almost equally tired, that your food is distasteful to you, and that little things which used to sit lightly upon you have become heavy burdens; that even pleasure is toil. I know you have worked hard through many years, and have had much mental strain. This may in a measure account for your weakness, which is not brought about by any condition of actual disease, but which seems to arise from an even greater trouble—namely, that your nerve-force is seriously overspent.

"It is important to understand that in these days of worry and over-excitement, the over-work (mental and physical) to which most of us are subject calls forth an undue expenditure of strength, and that to recuperate the vigour we have lost we must consider what sort of food or remedy we require.

"Of course, the whole question of proper nourishment requires much thought and experience. Many forms of food and many restoratives are recommended, but having had to do with a great many people who have impaired their digestive organs and whose nerve-power has been seriously undermined, I do not think that I have come across anything which I believe a more suitable nutrient for all forms of weakness than Sanatogen. I do not know if you have tried it, but it seems to me, under the conditions such as you have described, an ideal preparation, because it provides a valuable tonic-food in the most suitable form. It consists, I believe, in the nourishing element of pure cows' milk, incorporated with which is a special nerve-tonic containing phosphorus. It has an invigorating power on worn-out nerves, and gives tone to exhausted tissues to a surprising extent. The feeblest system and the poorest digestive organs are able to assimilate it when they can really touch little else. I am strongly of opinion that you cannot do better than begin a course of Sanatogen if you wish to regain your strength.

"Sanatogen undoubtedly restores sleep and invigorates the nerves, and it braces the patient to health, for I have noticed that with the restoration of the digestive organs the mind becomes more quickly active, and work, both mental and physical, becomes more easy, and the freshness and keenness which such people have lost (apparently altogether) return gradually, and bring with them an enjoyment of life and a feeling of hopefulness not hitherto experienced.

"When the body is subjected to a course of Sanatogen the blood condition improves, the skin assumes a more healthy colour, the invigorated nerves are braced to a more healthy tone, and the whole human machinery is made fit for exercise and work and for fulfilling its functions in the most perfect manner. . . . . ."

Isabella Somerset

The above is an abstract from a letter addressed by Lady Henry Somerset to an intimate friend. In view of the public interest associated with the subject, the recipient has obtained her Ladyship's gracious permission to make the contents widely known. Additional information on the same subject may be obtained from the Sanatogen Company, 83, Upper Thames-street, London, E.C. Sanatogen is sold by all chemists, in packets, at 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. 6d.

For Headache and Weariness.

Bathe your brows and wrist in a basin of water in which are a few drops of

No. '4711' Eau de Cologne

You will be instantly refreshed, and your cheerfulness restored.

CAUTION

Cheap impure Eau de Colognes injure the skin.

Be careful therefore to see that the Hall Mark of quality

No. 4711.

is on the blue and gold label on every bottle.

....

Of all Chemists, from 1/- upwards per bottle.

The quality of the tea is reflected in the quality of its patrons. Those who know good tea drink

Pearks' Tea

In Red Packets,
1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d. per lb.

Rudge-Whitworth
Britain's Best Bicycle

The Lightest Bicycle!
The Longest Guarantee!

To every 1907 Rudge-Whitworth is attached by Seal a Certificate of

10 YEARS GUARANTEE

and yet the prices are lower than ever and there is no extra charge for Easy payments. 81 patterns from £5; packed free and carriage paid.
Apply for the new 64 page Catalogue now ready, post free from

Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd.
Dept. 265 Coventry.

The REASON for TILIA

It is a popular idea that in order to be well nourished it is necessary to eat a large quantity of food.

This is a very great mistake. It is NOT the amount of food eaten that nourishes the body, but the amount which is digested and assimilated.

Many of our favourite dishes contain only a small amount of real nutrition. Even pure milk — one of the finest of foods — cannot always be taken, for it not infrequently causes indigestion and constipation.

is all nourishment

TILIA is a concentrated powder possessing all the life-giving qualities of the best food in their very essence.

TILIA sprinkled over porridge, vegetables, or any kind of food, boiled with soups and stew, incorporated with pastry, bread, and cakes—in fact, added to any and every possible food will immensely add to their nutritive properties.

TILIA PREPARATIONS are sold by Grocers, Chemists, and Stores throughout the United Kingdom at the following prices:—TILIA Powder, in airtight tins, 9d., 1s. 4d., and 2s. 6d.; TILIA Cocoa, in airtight tins, 9d., 1s. 4d., and 2s. 6d.; TILIA Biscuits, in airtight tins, 1s. and 2s.

FREE SAMPLES.

Every reader is invited to apply for samples of the TILIA preparations, which will be sent free in the U.K. if a penny stamp is enclosed for postage.

Address: Dept. T6, PEEK, FREAN, & CO., Ltd., 176, Drummond Road, London, S.E.

STEINWAY

VERTEGRAND

The attention of every householder is hereby directed to the fact that the pianos, Grands and Vertegrands, made by the house of STEINWAY, and sold by them through special agents at fixed net prices for cash all the world over, have a surrender value greater than that of the instruments produced by any other firm. The reason is not far to seek, viz.:—durability, general excellence in tone production, expensive workmanship in all minor details. The superiority of the STEINWAY creations in this respect is as marked as are all the other distinctive "STEINWAY" features.

Deferred Payments.

Hiring Arrangements.

STEINWAY Pianos may be obtained on hire at very reasonable rates, or may be purchased by deferred payments. If for any reason a purchaser on the Deferred Payment System is desirous of returning his instrument, the difference between the Hire Terms and the amounts paid under the deferred plan will be returned to him.

Write or call to-day for the Steinway Hire and Deferred Payment particulars, also booklet "P.," "Portraits of Musical Celebrities," post free on request.

STEINWAY & SONS
STEINWAY HALL

Exhibition of Spanish Art

WARING & GILLOW, Ltd., invite particular attention to this interesting and unique Exhibition. It includes not only a very fine collection of antique furniture, embroideries, tapestries, lace, statuary, jewellery, Hispano-Moresque ware, &c., but also a choice and representative selection of the works of the best living Spanish artists.

Illustrated Catalogue on application.

OPEN DAILY
From Monday, June 3rd.

WARING'S Antique Galleries

175-181 OXFORD STREET, W.

Diamonds.

The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, Ltd.,

The Choicest Stock of Necklaces in the World, from £5.

Fine Diamond Pendant Necklace, on Platinum, **£127 10s.** Chain Back.

invite inspection of the choicest stock in the world of

DIAMOND & GEM JEWELLERY

IN NEW AND EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS.

Moderate Prices.

NO IMPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE.

New Illustrated Catalogue of Jewellery Post Free.

Selections sent on approval.

The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, Ltd.

By Appointment to H.M. the King.

Show Rooms:—
112, Regent Street, London, W.

Lanchester Reliability.

Lanchester Cars are noted for their reliability, there is a reason for this. It is not only the perfection of design but the equally necessary *perfection in construction* which makes the Lanchester reliable. The design is simple and *every part of the motor is accessible.* A superior design added to the perfection of workmanship make a better motor car just as they make a better rifle or a better watch. Remember, a reliable motor car cannot be made "cheap." It is better to pay a good price for a good car than to buy a cheap one and spend all your time hunting round for repair shops. Practical demonstration is better than big talk and the Lanchester Motor Co. are always ready to arrange trial runs at any of their Depots. Catalogues giving detail descriptions of both the Four and Six cylinder Lanchesters may be had post free on application.

THE LANCHESTER MOTOR CO., LTD.,
Birmingham. Manchester. London.

50 Years

For over Fifty years

CAMBUS

pure Scotch Whisky has been made from the Patent Still (not the Pot Still)

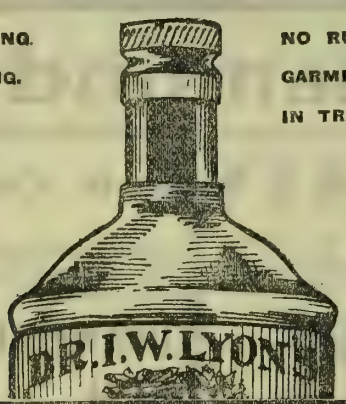
7 years Old. **3/6 a Bottle.**
Matured in Wood. **42/- a Case.**
"Not a headache in a gallon." *Ask your Wine Merchant for "CAMBUS."*

THE DISTILLERS CO., LTD., EDINBURGH.

London Distributors—
Messrs. BOWEN & McKECHNIE; W. H. CHAPLIN & Co., Ltd.; and MARSHALL & MARSHALL, Ltd.

NO BREAKING.
NO SPILLING.
NO WASTE.

NO RUINED GARMENTS IN TRAVEL.



DR. LYON'S
PERFECT
TOOTH POWDER

Cleanses, Preserves, and Beautifies the Teeth without injury; imparts a Natural Fragrance to the Breath.

Sold by all Chemists in dainty blue enamelled metal boxes, with Dr. Lyon's patent measuring tube very convenient for Tourists.

Price 1/-.

Prepared by the eminent Dental Surgeon,

J. W. Lyon, D.D.S.

157, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.

"THE EXQUISITE EGYPTIAN."

"NESTOR"
Cigarettes
(Nestor Gianaclis, Cairo).

Guaranteed absolutely free of all drugs or chemical flavourings, the peculiar aroma being due solely to the exquisite quality of the Tobaccos used in the Blend.

Imported in two qualities—
Surfine and Extrafine.

Specialities—Gold Tipped "King" and "Queen" Cigarettes. Also special packets of ten for Golfers and Card Players, including scoring cards, rules, &c.

Of all Tobacconists and Stores throughout the World, and 10, New Bond Street, London, W.

A Drink to be Grateful for.

Not simply a thirst-quencher, not merely a stimulant, but just the purest, most inspiriting, and most health-infusing spirit that has ever been produced. This is the beverage for all times and all weathers, for men or women, the healthy or the ailing.

WOLFE'S
Aromatic Schiedam
SCHNAPPS

Its action upon the system is wonderful. It imparts lasting exhilaration and need only be taken in small quantities night and morning. For giving tone and vigour to the system its reputation is unrivalled.

Of all Spirit Merchants and Licensed Grocers.
Wholesale—The Finsbury Distillery Co., London.

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,471.

THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT ANECDOTE INTRODUCING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FIRMS ADVERTISING IN "TRUTH" OF APRIL 3, 1907.

According to the conditions laid down for this Competition, I have had to take into account the ingenuity with which Competitors have introduced advertisements into their anecdotes, as well as the number of advertisements introduced.

Adjudicating on this two-fold basis, I have decided to award the prize of Two Guineas to ELECTRON, whose anecdote was printed in TRUTH of May 1 last.

I may add that the anecdote sent in by SAPPER was really the best, but unfortunately it exceeded the limit of 200 words.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,472.

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION: "IS THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER DESIRABLE?"

This has been an exceptionally difficult Competition to judge, owing to the fact that so many answers were nearly of the same level of merit.

After careful consideration, I have decided to divide the Prize of Two Guineas equally between UNSIGNED and BELFASTIENSIS, whose answers were printed in TRUTH of May 8 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,473.

INSCRIPTIONS SUITABLE FOR ENGRAVING ON THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IN HONOUR OF ROBERT, LORD CLIVE.

I find it impossible, in this Competition, to differentiate between the merits of the inscription sent in by CAMOENS and of that sent in by VOX. The Prize of Two Guineas is therefore divided equally between these Competitors, whose inscriptions were printed in TRUTH, of May 15 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,479.

I propose, this week, to set a Puzzle which I am sure will prove interesting to my readers of both sexes, dealing as it does with a subject of great practical importance to men and women alike.

To be specific: I offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that Competitor who shall send in the best answers to the two following questions:—

WHAT IS THE IDEAL AGE FOR A MAN TO MARRY?

WHAT IS THE IDEAL AGE FOR A WOMAN TO MARRY?

Only one answer must be sent in to either question, and each such answer must give a precise and definite age. Merely vague replies such as "from twenty to thirty," or anything of that sort, will not be accepted.

The ideal "ideal age," in either case, will be arrived at by averaging all replies sent in; and the Prize will be awarded to that Competitor or Competitors, whose answers come nearest to the result thus obtained.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

All answers to above must reach TRUTH office by the *first post* on Monday, June 10, *at latest.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of BRAD, winner of one-half TRUTH Prize No. 1,467, is the Rev. W. T. Wellacott, The Vicarage, Bradworthy, North Devon.

BRAD very kindly desires me to retain 10s. 6d. of the £1 1s. due to him for the Tress Barry Fund, for which I herewith ask him to accept my best thanks.

*** The real name, with the address, of RAM, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,466, is R. A. McEwen Haslam, Esq., Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

*** The real name, with the address, of ALICUJUS, winner of one-half TRUTH Prize No. 1,469, is W. H. Middleton, Esq., 236, High-street, Exeter.

*** The real name, with the address, of WILL, winner of one-half of TRUTH Prize No. 1,469, is C. E. H. Edwards, Esq., The Corner, Cassio-road, Watford, Herts.

*** The real name, with the address, of ENTEBBE, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1 Special Foreign is Mrs. J. F. Cunningham, British Residency, Uganda.

COMUS.—The difficulty in the way of your otherwise good suggestion is one of space. When the solution is a short one, it may be reprinted without much inconvenience. But, even as it is, I find it impossible to find room for the numerous answers to Puzzles received week by week, and am, therefore, reluctant to do anything which would further trench on an already insufficient space. However, I will bear your suggestion in mind.

OLGA.—Your *nom de plume* has been duly registered.

IERE.—I much regret the misprint in your lines on Clive and duly note your correction.

PIONEER AND TWEENY.—As you will have seen, there has been an error in the numbering of several recent Puzzles, which I pointed out and corrected in last week's TRUTH. But, in any case, the accidental misnumbering of a solution by a Competitor does not disqualify.

RIMABEL AND NORFOLK.—The corrections of errors in your lines on Clive are duly noted. I may, however, point out that, in nearly all cases, such misprints, or mispunctuations, are due to a lack of distinctness in the orthography of the writers, who—as they are necessarily unable to see proofs of their productions—should be careful to fair copy them with perfect clearness.

R. A. H. GOODYEAR.—I am desired by the Editor of TRUTH to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of your interesting little brochure, "Prize Competitions and How to Win Them."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,477.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

FORECAST OF FIRST THREE HORSES IN THE FORTHCOMING "DERBY."

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Orby. 3. Bezonian.—H. W.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Detinu.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Ice.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Westcliffe.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Cherry.

1. Woolwinder. 2. Galvani. 3. Slieve Gallion.—David J. Smart.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Francis.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder.—Mengo.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Galvani.—Raspboy.

1 Slieve Gallion 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Kinova.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Ouadi Halfa.—Aster.

1. Galvani 2. Ouadi Halfa. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Waterman.

1 Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Orby.—Togo.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Blot.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Stan Lad.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Harts.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Ouadi-Halfa.—Cassio.

1. Galvani. 2. Bezonian. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Gladiator.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder.—Electron.

1 Galvani. 2. Bezonian. 3 St. Petersburg.—Granger.

1 Orby. 2 Slieve Gallion. 3 All Black.—Milliner.

1 Slieve Gallion. 2 Woolwinder. 3 St. Petersburg.—Crank.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. All Black.—Sphinx.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Mary.

1 Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. St Petersburg.—Charper.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Dodo.

1 Slieve Gallion. 2 Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Eve Cranham.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Bezonian.—N. E. L.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Sugar.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 2. Woolwinder.—Alicujus.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Ouadi Halfa. 3. Galvani.—Felixious.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Eggs.

1 Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder.—Jean qui rit.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—F. Bentham.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Mushki.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Wyandotte.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Linacre. 3. Woolwinder.—Kingston.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. All Black.—Dean.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder. H. T.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Woolwinder.—Khayyam.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Bezonian—Canning.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Ubique.

1. Ouadi Halfa. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Knarf.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Galvani.—Moung Pho.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Bezonian.—The Mac.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Alfred Dench.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. St. Petersburgh.—Nemo.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Linacre.—Inca.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Bill Sykes.

1. All Black. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Linacre.—Provident.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Ouadi Halfa. 3. Linacre.—Sunday School.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Cantab.

1. Hillsprite. 2. Bezonian. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Zagloba.

1. Bezonian. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. St. Petersburg.—Blencathra.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Dullard.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. All Black. 3. Bezonian.—Ram.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Ouadi Halfa.—Autolycus.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Hindu.

1. Galvani. 2. Ouadi Halfa. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Eye-opener.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Jimmy Fat.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. All Black.—Bly.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—La Plata.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Northlander.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Linacre.—Oiseau.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Excise.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—A. J. H.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Rhody.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Linacre. 3. Galvani.—Spartan.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder. G. D.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. All Black.—Bad Luck.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Simplex.

1. Woolwinder. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Galvani.—Ba.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. All Black. 3. Bezonian.—Alpha Beta.

Slieve Gallion, Bezonian (dead-heat). 3. Galvani. Six Knobs.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Mormond.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian. Djalfi.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder - Union Jack.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Glynn.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian - Grenville.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Nero.

1. Bezonian. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Gossamer.

1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Hammerkop.—Gulliver.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Nettie.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Linacre. 3. Woolwinder.—Mart.

1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Oxo.
1. Orby. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Wildcat.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Merry Fox. 3. The Welkin.—G. E. F.
1. St. Petersburg. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Linacre. Etwall.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Stourton.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. All Black.—Jem.
1. Orby. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Dourt.
1. Ouadi Halfa. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. St. Petersburg.—Winkle.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Traquair. 3. Bezonian.—S. S.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—H. G. P.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Earlston.—Africanus.
1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. All Black.—Tom Nissed.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Rigor Mortis.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Linacre.—Minos.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Georgina.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Bogey.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Bezonian.—Renwick.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Ouadi Halfa.—Difisal.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Linacre. 3. Bezonian.—Leaf Rule.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder.—Early Morning.
1. Bezonian. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Baltinglass.—Rhamnus.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Sheen.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Margate Hoy.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder.—Knaresborough.
1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. St. Petersburg.—Game B.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—G. E.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Verbum Sat.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Linacre.—Dorset.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Bucks.
1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. All Black.—Terranova.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Renoops.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—J. Sutherland.
1. All Black. 2. Galvani. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Stella.
1. Bezonian. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Ernest Roberts.
1. Bezonian. 2. Galvani. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Cosmos.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2 Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Emily Smithin.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. All Black.—Dednun.
1. St. Petersburg. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Linacre.—Svonok.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Broughton.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—De la Viere.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Bezonian.—Cromwell.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. St. Petersburg.—Hyde.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Linacre. 3. Galvani.—Rimabel.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Myram.—Emew.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Orby.—Olga.
1 Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Neerg.
1. All Black. 2. Orby. 3. Ouadi Halfa.—Spectator.
1. Woolwinder. 2. Orby. 3. Galvani.—Lynx.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Linacre.—Owl.
1. Bezonian. 2. Galvani. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Sophia.
1. Woolwinder. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Galvani.—Alexander Smart.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Ouida Halfa.—W. J. Cheatle.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Orby. 3. Linacre.—Nemesis.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Keystone II. 3. Linacre.—Stansmore
1. Querido. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Polar Star.—Rho.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Ouadi Halfa. 3. Galvani.—Hogarth.
1. Galvani. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Woolwinder.—Korah.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Laddie.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2 Orby. 3. Galvani.—Vici.
1. Orby. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Galvani—Veni.
1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Orby.—Clapa.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian. Pro Bono
1. Bezonian. 2. Galvani. 3. Linacre.—Sandstone.
1. Bezonian. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Thomas Gibson.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Woolwinder.—Robert Waugh.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Galvani.—Mary White.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Woolwinder.—Jane Gibson.
1. Sheve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Ouadi Halfa.—Iodoform.
1. Sheve Gallion. 2. Woolwinder. 3. Myram.—Kieta.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2 Woolwinder. 3. Bezonian.—Tony.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Specular.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Petite.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani 3. Bezonian.—Pembroke.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. All Black. 3. Linacre.—Derula.
1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Mum.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Caw.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Galvani. 3. Bezonian.—Jethart.
1. Bezonian. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Linacre.—Roy
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Bezonian. 3. Galvani.—Vicamp.
1. Galvani. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Linacre.—Grosvenor.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Orby. 3. Woolwinder.—Muz Muz.
1. St. Petersburg. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Woolwinder.—Wasdale.
1. Bezonian. 2. Galvani. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Snaggard.
1. Woolwinder. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. St. Petersburg.—Selanidge.
1. Galvani. 2. Orby. 3. Slieve Gallion.—Duss
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. St. Petersburg. 3. Bezonian.—Madcap.
1. Ouadi Halfa. 2. Linacre. 3. Bezonian.—Noo Art.
1. St. Petersburg. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Bezonian.—Gapstang.
1. Slieve Gallion. 2. Orby. 3. Bezonian.—Trammy.
1. Bezonian. 2. Slieve Gallion. 3. Galvani.—Eboracum.

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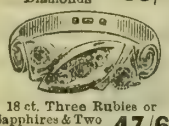
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TRUTH

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE first of a series of Travel Supplements, to which I desire to direct the special attention of my readers, is included in this week's issue of Truth.

The King and Queen are to be in residence at Buckingham Palace until Monday, the 17th, when they go to Windsor Castle for a week. Their Majesties will be in town (except for two or three brief absences) from Monday, the 24th, until Monday, July 29, when they go to Goodwood House, where they are to be the guests of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon during the races, and on the evening of Friday, August 2, their Majesties will arrive in Cowes Roads on board the Royal yacht.

The King has arranged to visit the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Lincoln on Thursday, the 27th. It was understood in Lincolnshire that his Majesty would be the guest of Lord and Lady Yarborough at Brocklesby Park during his stay in the county, but it is now probable that the King's engagements in London will oblige him to make a one-day affair of the visit to Lincoln.

The announcement in a contemporary that there are to be "Court concerts" when the King and Queen of Denmark are in London is incorrect. The two "Court concerts" which were given every season at Buckingham Palace during the reign of Queen Victoria have been discontinued, and these entertainments are not likely to be resumed.

The King and Queen are to hold the third Court of the season to-morrow night in the Ball-room of Buckingham Palace, and there will be a very large attendance, including the Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Henry of Battenberg, with a full Diplomatic Circle, and a crowded entrée. The fourth and last Court is to be held shortly after. Their Majesties return to town on Monday, the 24th, after spending Ascot race-week at Windsor Castle.

The Lord Chamberlain has issued invitations for about 2,000 guests, from lists sanctioned by the King, for the State Ball which is to be given at Buckingham Palace next Wednesday night in honour of the King and Queen of Denmark. This is the first ball which has been given at Court for two years. The guests are invited for half-past ten. The Yeomen of the Guard will be on duty in the hall, on the staircase, and in the promenade gallery, and a guard of honour will be in attendance. The Corps Diplomatique and all personages entitled to the entrée will arrive at the Pimlico entrance, for which special carriage tickets are to be issued from the Board of Green Cloth. The Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family will arrive at the Garden entrance, where they will be received by the White Staves, who are to conduct them to the Council Room, and thence to the White Drawing-room, where the State procession to the Ball-room is to be formed. The procession of the King and Queen, which will include the Great Officers of their Majesties' Households, and the other White Staves, and the members of the various suites, is to proceed to the Ballroom through the Bow Drawing-room, the Blue Drawing-room, and the State Dining-room.

When the King and Queen have taken their seats on the daïs a quadrille d'honneur will at once be

formed, his Majesty dancing with the Queen of Denmark, and the Queen having King Frederick as a partner. The Royal family will dance only at the top and bottom of the room, with Ambassadors and Ambassadresses (who have been previously summoned by the Lord Chamberlain) at the sides. The Gentlemen Ushers are to be on duty in the Ballroom, where they will be employed to keep clear the space in front of the daïs. Dancing will continue until supper is announced by the Lord Steward, when the Sovereign and the Royal family will be conducted (as on entering) to their supper room, followed by the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission and their wives. Supper will be served for the general company of guests in the Green Drawing-room and the two adjoining rooms. The whole of the Corps Diplomatique have been invited to the ball, and all individuals who are in office or who have ever been in office, and a great number of official and Service notables. The ball is regarded as an exceptionally important ceremonial, as it is given for the King and Queen of Denmark as the State guests of the Court.

Queen Louise has no taste for the glitter and turmoil of Court ceremonials, and she dislikes balls. She is an excellent woman of business in every department of affairs, and takes an active personal interest in practical household matters, which she has herself supervised ever since her marriage.

A contemporary is considerably astray when it refers to a report that another Chapter of the Knights of the Garter is to be held next week at Windsor Castle by the King, for the admission of the King of Denmark to the Order. As a matter of fact, King Frederick received a blue ribbon from Queen Victoria in July, 1896, on the occasion of the marriage of the present King and Queen of Norway. King Frederick had some years previously received the first class of the Order of the Bath (G.C.B., Civil Division) from Queen Victoria. The only English decoration which the King of Denmark can now receive is the Chain of the Royal Victorian Order, which is intended to be a peculiarly exclusive honour. It is in the personal gift of the King, and the number of holders (nearly all of them being Royal personages) is strictly limited.

It is expected, by the way, that the King will shortly confer the Order of the Garter upon the Crown Prince of Denmark, who, strangely enough, has never received an English decoration. Three heirs apparent to Crowns have received the Garter during the last few years—the German Crown Prince, the Crown Prince of Sweden, and the Crown Prince of Portugal, also the Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria. It is probable that the Crown Prince Christian and the Crown Princess will pay a visit to England before long. The Crown Princess of Denmark is a sister of the German Crown Princess and of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who is married to the second daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland.

The Prince and Princess of Bentheim-Steinfurt, who have been staying for several weeks at Claremont Park with the Duchess of Albany, have returned to the Continent. Their two daughters, the Princesses of Bentheim, are still staying at Claremont with their aunt.

A LITTLE MIXED.

(Lines addressed to the Tortoise at the Zoo.)

You poor old Tortoise at the Zoo,
How much I sympathise with you,
  Who leave your den, each dawn,
Expecting summer weather clear,
And in the sun, that *won't* appear,
  To bask upon the lawn.

You look in vain, and so do I,
For solar warmth and azure sky,
  Since neither ever comes,
But cold and soak and drip alone,
Which chills one to the very bone,
  And all one's frame benumbs.

We'd June in March, now March in June;
This comes too late; *that* came too soon;
  From which I seem to spell,
That, when The Weather's Clerk designed
This season's programme, he had dined
  Not wisely but too well.

A great deal of mystery has been made about Mr. Chamberlain's illness—not, it may be assumed, by himself, or by his own wish—and for this reason it has not evoked those public expressions of regret which would otherwise have been heard on all sides. When he went abroad the public was led to expect that a few weeks' rest and nursing in a southern climate would certainly restore him to his former health and activity. It is now certain that no such result has followed as yet, and every one will be unfeignedly sorry that it is so. Mr. Chamberlain has given and received many hard knocks during his political life; but when the heat of battle has evaporated even his bitterest opponents have never failed to recognise his great abilities and his perfect sincerity. There is no one who would not regret that his strenuous career should end in bodily breakdown and suffering, and everybody will cling to the hope that he may yet recover his strength sufficiently to take his place in Parliament again.

Mr. Frederick Leveson-Gower, who was known to his friends as "Freddy Leveson," died on Thursday at the age of eighty-eight. He was the younger son of the first Earl Granville (who was long Ambassador at Paris), and his mother was Lady Harriet Cavendish, sister of the sixth Duke of Devonshire, and daughter of the Duchess Georgiana. He was a clever man, blessed with a remarkably cheerful disposition, and he was an immense and universal favourite in society, being a noted and witty raconteur. From the period of his leaving Oxford he was a welcome guest everywhere,

For Appeals, see page 1416.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1425.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1427.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see page 1424.
For Amusements, see page 1423.
For Estates, Auctions, see page 1416.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1433, 1434.

and his uncle, the Duke of Devonshire, delighted in his company, and insisted on his spending months together at his various country houses. He had a reputation as a gourmet, his dinners were famous, and he was a charming host.

Except for a brief period, Mr. Leveson-Gower was a Member of the House of Commons from 1847 until 1885. He seldom spoke, but he did much useful practical work on Railway Committees. Mr. Gladstone, who was very fond of him, detected his very considerable talents early in his Parliamentary career, and twice offered him high office. Mr. Leveson-Gower was married in 1853 to Lady Margaret Compton, sister of the late Lord Northampton. It was a most happy union, for, as was well said by one of their friends after Lady Margaret's death in 1859, "No two people were ever better suited or more attached." Every one has read his very entertaining volume of reminiscences.

A complete set of "The Snob," a periodical printed at Cambridge in 1829, containing Thackeray's earliest literary work, and consisting of eleven numbers, was sold at Sotheby's on Thursday for £110. The last copy of this very rare publication came into the market sixteen years ago, and realised £51, so there has been a prodigious rise in its value. Thackeray's comic "Timbuctoo" appeared in "The Snob."

Writing the other day on the subject of newspaper advertisements, I referred in passing to "the recent conviction of the Editor of *Judy*." Needless to say, I meant the recent conviction of the recent Editor. The present Editor writes to point out that the paper changed hands and editors some months ago, and that as a matter of fairness I ought to have described the gentleman who got into trouble as the late Editor. I quite agree, and in saying so much I hope I have done what is necessary to put the matter right.

When the Grosvenor Hotel was first opened—it is painful to think how long ago—it was considered a marvellous addition to the hostelries of London. Things have changed a good deal in the hotel world since then. But the Gordon Hotels, Limited, have seized the opportunity offered by the reconstruction of Victoria Station for the extension of the hotel, and the additions that have been made to it, and which were opened on Saturday, once more place the Grosvenor in the front rank among its contemporaries. The new wing occupies the whole of the fine new front of the station, and contains, among other things, a hundred and sixty new bed-rooms, lit by electricity, heated by steam, sumptuously furnished, and fitted with every appliance conducive to comfort and luxury. The traffic at Victoria Station has increased, is increasing, and is certain to go on increasing, and the addition to the hotel accommodation will be a great convenience to travellers, as well as to people staying in London who want the best accommodation with the most central West-End situation.

For Approved Charities, see pages 1428, 1429.

THE GIRL WITHOUT A LAUGH.

"A wife without a smile" we've seen,
Unmoved by jest or chaff.
'Tis capped by Julia, maid serene,
The girl without a laugh;

Whom Alfred Gleed, her plighted beau,
Threw over in a pique,
Because she hadn't chuckled—no,
Not for a whole long week.

The jury held the reason not
Sufficient for the deed:
And so for damages they shot
The laughter-loving Gleed.

They say the two have now changed round,
Reversed is now their case;
The laugh on Julia's lips is found—
The gloom on Alfred's face.

It has sometimes been unkindly asserted that the missionaries sent abroad to convert the heathen are over paid. The following advertisement shows that the Gillespie United Free Church is determined not to lay itself open to this reproach in connection with its engagement of a missionary to work among the heathen of Glasgow:—

Missionary wanted for Gillespie U.F. Church, Great Hamilton-street, Glasgow; salary not less than £65.

Lord Scarbrough has presented the Rev. W. D. Maclagan, late Vicar of Ruswarp, near Whitby, to the living of Skegness, Lincolnshire. Mr. Maclagan is a son of the Archbishop of York, and he has been working in Yorkshire for many years past.

The death of Bishop Lloyd is a really serious loss to the Church of England, and he will be greatly missed and long lamented in Northumberland, where he was universally beloved and esteemed. His life was one of hard and successful work. He was not renowned as a scholar or as a theologian, but he was a wonderful organiser and an admirable preacher, and his genuine goodness, his fine tact, his genial manner, and his strong common sense, were highly attractive. He was absolutely free from fads or "side." He was a reasonable High Churchman, but never became a partisan, and his wide sympathies caused him to work well with Evangelicals, while he was always on excellent terms with the Nonconformists. His father had been a staunch Evangelical of the old school.

Dr. Lloyd first came into prominent notice during the late seventies, when Vicar of Aylesbury, and he went from there to Newcastle-on-Tyne, as Vicar, in 1882, and in 1894 was appointed Suffragan for the diocese of Norwich and Rector of North Creake, a valuable benefice in the gift of Lord Spencer. In 1903 he was promoted by Mr. Balfour to the see of Newcastle. His schemes of Church extension, cathedral development, and poor livings endowment have proved great successes, thanks to his boundless energy and the confidence felt in him by both clergy and laity. He

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

certainly shortened his life by hard and anxious work, which broke down his health about two years ago, but he continued to discharge all his duties to the last, and on the Sunday before his death he held an ordination in the morning, and preached in the evening to a vast congregation.

The see of Newcastle is worth £3,500 a year, and the episcopal residence is Benwell Tower, a very nice country place of reasonable size, which was a present to the bishopric from Mr. J. W. Pease, a well-known Quaker. The see, which comprises the whole of Northumberland, was formed in 1882 out of the diocese of Durham. Mr. Gladstone then appointed Dr. Ernest Wilberforce, who remained at Newcastle until 1895, when he accepted a translation to Chichester after the death of Bishop Durnford. The second Bishop was Dr. Jacob, who made a sacrifice in many ways in 1903 when he consented to transfer himself to the see of St. Albans.

One of my contemporaries is singularly unfortunate in its references to Canon Hervey. Last week I corrected two absurd mistakes it made in its account of that divine, but it has gone from bad to worse, for now it deplores the death of Canon Hervey, who will himself have the satisfaction of reading that "the earth should lie lightly" on him. The readers of my contemporary will be surprised to learn that Canon Hervey, Rector of Sandringham, is still alive. It is Prebendary Harvey, Rector of Navenby, who is dead. The two clergymen appear to have been confused.

The late Prebendary Harvey, who was one of the best-known ecclesiastics in Lincolnshire, had been working in that county for forty-six years. He was ordained by Bishop Jackson in 1861, being then mathematical master at Lincoln Grammar School. He held two important livings in the city of Lincoln between 1870 and 1893, and was also a priest-vicar of the cathedral. In 1893 he was presented to the college living of Navenby, and in the same year Bishop King collated him to a prebendal stall in Lincoln Cathedral. Prebendary Harvey was a familiar figure in the Lincoln district, and he was held in the highest esteem. He was for many years prominent as a most zealous supporter of the County Hospital, for which his exertions were most active. The rectory of Navenby, which is worth about £500 a year, with house, is in the gift of the Master and Fellows of Christ's College, Cambridge.

I have received the following letter from Lady St. Helier with reference to her Children's Holiday Fund, and I hope that my readers will read it carefully:—

DEAR SIR,—In sending you the Report of the Holiday Fund, I beg to thank you most gratefully for your continued help; indeed, in many cases I have to thank my subscribers for a double subscription. I was compelled to make a second appeal last year, as the funds came in very slowly at the beginning of the summer, and so many new organizations for promoting somewhat similar charities diverted help which I had hitherto received. My appeal, however, was so successful that we are able to begin this year with a small balance in our favour.

The holiday was most successful in every way, and there was not the smallest accident to mar the perfect enjoyment of the children. I sent the largest number of children to homes at High Wycombe, a delightful part of the country, where they can play on the downs, and commons, which surround the town.

The children were selected, as usual, from the poorest parts of London, and were recommended by teachers, district visitors and clergy, each case being personally known to the recommender. I had many requests to send away children who could not afford the expense of a change, and delicate children requiring longer rest than the usual holiday affords, and in every case the benefit was undoubted, and in the strong healthy-looking children who went back to London there was no trace of the sickly, puny little people who had come from the great city.

May I again plead earnestly for help. The cold and privation of the winter and spring have left traces in many ways, and on no class of the community more than the children of the poor in London. The change means so much to them, and the good it does is incalculable, and I depend on your kind help to give this much-needed and deeply-prized holiday. Every day brings petitions from the teachers and district visitors, asking that their children may go again this year; and if your kind help is not forthcoming, I shall be obliged to refuse to give them what is the one pleasure they count on from year to year.

All subscriptions should be sent to "Lady St. Helier, 79, Harley Street, London, W.," and cheques and postal orders should be crossed "Children's Holiday Fund, Cox and Co."—I am, Sir, faithfully yours, MARY ST. HELIER.

From the report which accompanies Lady St. Helier's letter, I see that she received during the year ending April last £1,365 1s. 8d., and expended the whole of it except a balance of £56 15s. 10d. This money provided country holidays for 1,929 children and 132 adults, and as the schools and parishes from which all the children came are specified in detail, there is no room for doubt about Lady St. Helier's statement that they were selected "from the poorest parts of London." The financial account shows that the receipts included £205 2s. 6d. from readers of TRUTH. I hope that they will, if possible, increase their contributions this year, and I shall be pleased to receive and forward them to Lady St. Helier as heretofore. Meanwhile, I have to acknowledge the receipt of £2 2s. from Mrs. Pears towards Lady St. Helier's Fund.

I have also received the following contributions to the Tress Barry Fund. I would remind my readers that this Fund, which is intended to continue the late Sir F. Tress Barry's donation of sixpences to the children in the London workhouses at Christmas, can only be kept open till the end of July, and that a good many thousand sixpences have to be collected in the few weeks that remain:—

	No. of Sixpences.		No. of Sixpences
Rev. E. L. Browne	40	G. C. Dunn	10
F. P. S., R.N.....	20	C. L.	1
C. H. F.....	40		

A schoolmaster writes:—

May I suggest that as the object of the Tress Barry Fund is to give pleasure to children, the matter might well be taken in hand by schools, whether boys' schools or girls' schools, public schools, or private schools? Probably in each scholastic centre somebody might be found to take the matter in hand and act as a collector. If you approve of the idea, I would gladly do so in this neighbourhood.

Certainly I approve of the idea, and if anybody is prepared to assist in carrying it out and to act as a collector, I shall welcome his or her services.

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

STEPHENS' TYPEWRITER CARBONS are sold in two weights medium and light; colours purple, black, and blue; foolscap or quarto at 1/6 per dozen. They are most durable and satisfactory.

The dispute between General Mends and the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society has been referred by the War Office to Counsel for the Treasury, and Counsel has now delivered his opinion. It may be remembered that General Mends fell foul of the Society mainly on the grounds that they were making a secret profit by retaining the discount allowed by brewers, and that they had no right to apply their profits on a contract in payment of losses previously incurred. Counsel's opinion on the first of these points is that by their contract the Society were under no obligation to supply goods at cost price, or even to disclose their profits, and that even if this were not so, a sufficient disclosure was made; and, on the second point, that as a co-operative society, and having regard to the terms of its rules and of the Act of Parliament, the Society has a perfect right to apply current profits in repayment of past losses. In conclusion, counsel observes, "I should like to add, if it is within my province, that the imputations made against the good faith of the Society are, in my opinion, on the documents before me, wholly without foundation."

The action of General Mends is the most conspicuous instance that has yet come to light of the disposition prevailing in many quarters to condemn the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society on the most unjustifiable pretexts. The Society was founded with a view of introducing the benefits of the co-operative system into the Army canteen business. Seeing its possibilities, I have always watched its operations with interest, and I have no hesitation in saying that it has always been conducted on strictly co-operative principles. But its promoters have naturally had to contend against violent opposition both from outside contractors, and from individuals within the Army whose interests were threatened by it; and unfortunately in this fight it has failed to receive the assistance that it was entitled to expect from officers who have, or ought to have, no interest in the matter except to promote the welfare of the soldier. For this reason and this only the development of the business has been hampered, and the institution has failed to do as much for the soldier as it would have done if it had been better supported by the Army itself.

The annual report of the Society issued last week indicates exactly how this process works out. Besides the direct loss of business in the Northern Command, it mentions that the Society has been much prejudiced during the year by the unfavourable rumours to which General Mends' action gave rise, and of which full use was naturally made by its competitors. In point of fact, it seems to have suffered to the extent of about £50,000 in reduction of sales. Through this, of course, every regimental institute dealing with it must suffer in some degree. Yet in spite of this the Society is able to report that it has paid during a year to regimental institutes, in the form of retail profits, £37,278. This figure shows clearly enough the benefits which the Army would receive, if a more intelligent and less prejudiced view were taken of its objects and management. It is to be hoped that, seeing the mischief he has done, no doubt with the best intentions, General Mends will now do his best to repair it by frankly admitting his mistake.

In this connection it is worthy of notice that under the Rules for the Management of the Garrison and Regimental Institutes issued with Army Orders of February 1, 1907, full provision is made for the supply and management of institutes on co-operative principles. The rules recognise all three prevailing systems, the regimental, the tenant, and the co-operative, and give directions applicable to each. The co-operative system is thus described (Par. 46, A):—

> Such societies make no guarantee of any specified rate of profit, but are under legal obligations to return all profits (less working expenses and five per cent. interest on capital) to the customer. The profits, then, will depend on the manner in which the business is conducted, and, therefore, a C.O. will first ascertain whether such society is properly registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, and whether, from its method of management and successes in similar undertakings, it is likely to make a reasonable return of profits to the customer.

It is very natural that a commanding officer should be more disposed to make terms with a contractor who offers a specific annual payment in return for his privileges than with a co-operative society which does not guarantee any fixed amount, but merely pays over such profits as it can make. But it ought to be remembered that the contractor has to make a profit for himself, while the profit of the co-operative society is limited to the payment of interest on its capital; that the publication of its accounts clearly discloses whether the financial management is satisfactory or not; and that the larger the amount of patronage given to such a society, the larger will be the profit divisible among the customers.

Colonel Bruce, the editor of the official journal of the R.A.M.C., has sent me a statement on the subject of Malta fever, which is exceedingly interesting as an object-lesson in the value of preventive methods in medicine. What is generally known as Malta fever is so called because it has worked its worst ravages in that island, though the disease is widely distributed in the world, and is especially familiar around the coasts of the Mediterranean. The garrison of Malta have been particularly liable to the disease. For a great many years the average number of sailors and soldiers falling victims to it has been 650, and as each patient stays about 120 days in hospital, this has meant a total of about 80,000 days of illness per annum. Three years ago the Royal Society, at the request of the Admiralty, the War Office, and the Colonial Office, appointed a small Commission, of which Colonel Bruce was Chairman, to investigate the causes of this fever.

As the outcome of exhaustive researches it was discovered that the goats in Malta are susceptible to this disease, and act, as it were, as a reservoir of the virus.

THE WOODLAND LAUNDRY, PARK-RD. EAST, ACTON. Tel., 627 Chiswick. "A really first class laundry at moderate prices."—*The Ladies' Field.* "It appeals to dainty people."—*The Queen.* Please apply for Price List, &c.

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

Practically all the milk used in the island is obtained from the goats, of which there are some 20,000. Half of these animals were found to be affected by the fever, and one-tenth of them to be passing in their milk the minute bacterium which sets up the disease in human beings. The remedy was obvious. Since June, 1906, goats' milk has been eliminated from the dietary of the naval and military forces in Malta, with the striking result that the cases of fever among the garrison have fallen to one-tenth of what has been their normal number. The money which this scientific investigation cost was certainly well spent, and if the Malta Government will take the necessary steps, the fever may be almost completely banished not only from the garrison but from the island.

An extraordinary story is current in South Africa with regard to certain proceedings of Brigadier-General Carter, arising out of the affairs of the Garrison Club at Harrismith. The Garrison Club is an exclusively military institution, and Brigadier-General Carter is in command of the garrison, having held the appointment since last November. It seems that in February last some of the members noticed that preliminary work was being done on the club enclosure for the construction of a croquet lawn, and put down in the club suggestion book a minute asking by whose orders and authority the work had been undertaken. The club, though not in debt, is not troubled with a plethora of funds, and the members were clearly entitled to full information respecting this expenditure, and it had been found impossible to obtain any such information before this minute was put down in the suggestion book. About a dozen officers signed the minute.

At this date Brigadier-General Carter was away, but on his return he called together all the officers of the garrison in the military theatre, and after delivering a somewhat severe lecture, he called upon those who had signed the minute to stand up, and subsequently ordered one of them to rejoin his regiment from the Mounted Infantry, another to be transferred to another station, and the remainder to have their leave stopped. This is the version of the incident which reaches me on good authority. If it is inaccurate, I shall be pleased to correct it—on equally good authority. But as it stands it is one of the most extraordinary stories that I have ever heard, and will be viewed in that light by every one in the Service. In view of the fact that certain officers have suffered in various ways by this action of the General, the matter seems one calling for the notice of superior authority.

From time to time there is an outcry in the papers over the case of some aged defender of his country who is found rusting in a workhouse or begging by the wayside, and eloquent disquisitions are published on the duty of the country to its old soldiers and sailors. The country collectively, as represented by the Government, has no absolute duty beyond the fulfilment of its engagements to its employees; but such cases appeal powerfully to individual benevolence. I would recommend that view of the matter to those who feel and speak warmly on this subject, and at the same time call their attention to the Army and Navy Veterans' Association, which makes a business of looking after old soldiers and sailors and assisting them in various ways. The last annual report shows how this has been done in specific cases, such as obtaining pensions for veterans who have fought in famous campaigns, getting children into schools, obtaining recognition of claims on the State that have been overlooked, finding employment for old men, and so forth.

The most astonishing feature in the report is that this work has been carried on for the last two years on an income for that period of £22 4s. 8d.—in other words, that the work has really been done for love. I think it will be generally felt that such work is deserving of more financial support, and those who agree should give practical evidence of their sentiments to Lieut.-Colonel Ridout, the hon. secretary and treasurer of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association, who is to be found at 101, Canterbury-street, Gillingham, Kent.

It seems that I did an injustice to the department of the War Office which is concerned with the issue of medals, when commenting last week on the grievance of an ex-warrior who had obtained the South African medal after five years' struggling, but "without the usual pin." Apparently the department does not deal in pins. I have this information from a Service correspondent who has received four medals in the last and present reigns, besides one from the Khedive, and he certainly ought to know.

For Mr. Asquith's sake, I hope that we shall not have a passive resistance movement against the income tax; but there seems to be a marked tendency in that direction. Following on the recent case at Exeter, there has just been another sale of a defaulting income taxpayer's goods at Barnsley, the victim having deliberately courted a sale by way of protest against the assessment that had been made upon him. His story, which was given fully the other day in the *Sheffield Telegraph*, is a very remarkable one, and deserves the personal attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for it is typical of hundreds of cases that occur annually in all parts of the country, and I am not sure that "hundreds" is not an inadequate estimate.

The victim in this instance was a Mr. H. Charlesworth, a provision dealer of Market Hill, Barnsley. He states that business in his particular trade has been very bad for some time past, and that he personally has made no profits for two or three years, living upon means which he possesses outside his business, and upon which income tax is duly levied. He paid income tax on his business last year under protest, and states that

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C., CONVALESCENT HOME, Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

he was wrongfully assessed, having made no profit. During the last financial year he says that he made a loss of £200, but he was assessed to income tax at £22 10s. It is interesting to note that he appealed to the Commissioners, explaining his business accounts, and offering to submit his books, but they replied that they could do nothing for him. He subsequently had communications with the local surveyor, and suggested an independent audit of his books, mentioning the names of three firms for the purpose. He employed one of them at the surveyor's suggestion. The audit showed a loss on each of the three past years, and that in February of the present year the business was insolvent to the extent of £200. The result was communicated to the authorities, but the reply was that it was too late. Under these circumstances, Mr. Charlesworth refused to pay, and submitted to a seizure of his goods.

The *Sheffield Telegraph* has interviewed the local Inland Revenue officials on these statements, and their answer was that Mr. Charlesworth's remedy is to apply to Somerset House for a rebate, and that they have no doubt that it will be granted. People outside the Inland Revenue Department will by no means share this confidence, and Mr. Charlesworth himself states that he applied last year under similar circumstances for a rebate, and did not get it. That is more like the usual course of things. But even if the process of recovering money from Somerset House when the tax collector has once got hold of it were more simple and efficacious than it is, that would be no proper remedy for the evil of wrongful assessment and unjust extortion.

What has to be remembered is that men in business are extremely reluctant—and naturally so—to reveal the fact that their profits are dwindling, or non-existent. In the case above mentioned, Mr. Charlesworth states that he knows that there are many men in his own line of business who have been as wrongfully assessed as he has, but they do not care to go before the Commissioners and disclose the truth about their financial position. This is easy to believe, and no doubt it is constantly happening. What is more, there can be little doubt that the income tax authorities take advantage of this fact to extort payment from men who are making little or no profits. I am not one of those who object to the income tax on principle; but I am quite certain that it is made at present, in many cases, an instrument of oppression and injustice; and the tax will always be unpopular, and always be kicked against until some Chancellor of the Exchequer finds means to improve the machinery of assessment.

A correspondent writing on the same question, points out that if a professional man makes provision for his old age by buying an annuity out of his earnings, or saving money the investment of which will secure him an income on his retirement, he pays a double tax; first upon the money as he earns it, and then on the income which he derives from it. In this case the grievance seems to be in the main imaginary. Income invested in the purchase of a deferred annuity is, like that spent in life assurance premiums, exempt from taxation. The rest of the grievance, such as it is, is inherent in the nature of an income tax, because all capital is accumulated out of income, whatever the motive which prompts its accumulation, and to that extent the profits arising from it may always be said to be "taxed twice over."

There are country districts in which the extravagances of local administration are quite as pronounced as any in town. Just now an agitation is being raised in regard to the cost of the surveyor's department of the Tonbridge Rural District Council. The surveyor of this body has a salary of £440 a year, and there are in addition allowances of £100 for travelling expenses, £307 for assistants, and £45 for an office, making a total of £892. There are 121 miles of road in the district. Many other districts with a much larger mileage pay a smaller salary, and make no allowances for travelling expenses or assistants. For example, the Faversham Rural Council, with 172 miles of road, give their surveyor an inclusive salary of £255, while the Uckfield Council, with 212 miles, pay only £175. The expenditure on the surveyor's department at Tonbridge certainly seems to be excessive, and it is a decided anomaly that the surveyor, who has such a big salary and is provided with three assistants, should be allowed to hold other paid appointments and also to serve as a member of the Southborough Urban Council.

It may not have escaped my readers' notice that Mr. F. W. Horner, late M.P. for North Lambeth, has at last been formally adjudicated bankrupt. I rather think that I am a defendant in a libel action at the suit of the debtor, so I must not make any remark of my own upon his affairs. But I understand that due respect for the High Court does not preclude my recording as a matter of news the proceedings that have taken place in the Bankruptcy Court, and in that belief I reprint the following summary from the pages of the *Daily Mail*:—

November, 1905.—Receiving order.

February 8, 1906.—First meeting of creditors. Telegram from Mr. Horner from South Wales, "Am now negotiating to pay all in full in few weeks, leaving very large surplus." Meeting adjourned to February 28.

February 28, 1906.—Mr. Horner reported "Suffering from severe nerve prostration. Needs absolute bodily and mental rest for the next few weeks. Adjourned to March 28.

March 28, 1906.—Further adjournment for three months asked by Mrs. Horner, "Mr. Horner seriously ill." Adjournment refused.

July 12, 1906.—Mr. Horner called for third time for public examination. Medical certificate states: "Highly detrimental to his health to undergo any legal examination prior to taking a sea voyage of six or seven weeks." Sitting adjourned till October 25.

October 25, 1906.—No attendance. Adjourned till January 24, 1907.

January 24, 1907.—Again called for examination. Medical certificate says: "Imperative for his health that he should take a sea voyage of ten weeks." Adjournment for a fortnight.

February 14, 1907.—"Physically unfit to attend." Official Receiver's application for adjudication in bankruptcy adjourned until May 31.

May 31, 1907.—Adjudged bankrupt.

THE LUXURY OF A BATH is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

SOUTHAMPTON.—SOUTH-WESTERN HOTEL.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

Mr. J. W. Willis Bund, Worcestershire's Pooh-Bah, Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions and of the County Council, of the Standing Joint Committee, and I know not what besides, is such a very truculent gentleman that one needs a good deal of courage to criticise anything that he says or does. Yet even at the risk of bringing down upon myself the thunder of his wrath I feel bound to notice his latest outburst. It arose in this way. At the County Petty Sessions at Worcester two or three weeks ago a village innkeeper was convicted of permitting drunkenness under circumstances which induced the Rev. C. Poyntz Sanderson, Rector of Doverdale, to write letters to the *Worcestershire Echo* and other local papers, protesting against the conviction. Mr. Sanderson was interested in the matter by reason of the fact that the innkeeper is one of his parishioners. Mr. Willis Bund was not one of the magistrates whose decision was impugned. Usually he is only seen on the Bench as Chairman of Quarter Sessions, but last week he descended from that judicial pedestal and took the chair at the Petty Sessions. He did this at the request of his fellow magistrates in order that he might on their behalf deliver a philippic designed to strike terror into the hearts of the audacious cleric who had questioned the justice of the conviction and the equally audacious editors who had ventured to publish his letters.

The gist of Mr. Sanderson's complaint was that the innkeeper had become a victim of vindictive persecution by the police, whose evidence was received with too much credence, while some evidence for the defence was unfairly excluded. Among other things the reverend gentleman remarked that there was no confidence in the administration of justice in the district from which this case came, and that the impartiality and fairness of the magistrates ought to be above suspicion. These remarks were the head and front of his and the editors' offending. "A grosser libel," Mr. Willis Bund declared, "it would be impossible to imagine. He did not want in any way to be thought threatening anybody, but"—and then he went on to intimate that Mr. Sanderson and the editors, too, might have been prosecuted for criminal libel, and that they certainly would be prosecuted if those libels were repeated. He proceeded:—

> It would not be civil proceedings for libel; it would be criminal proceedings for libel upon the Court and the administration of justice. They were proceedings which he need hardly say were very serious indeed . . . and much as he should regret to see a beneficed clergyman standing in the dock, he should certainly press—after the notice they had given—not for a fine, but for imprisonment. He firmly believed the Judge whom Mr. Sanderson had referred to (the Lord Chief Justice), if he tried the case, would inflict the punishment of imprisonment.

I do not profess to know what the Lord Chief Justice or any other judge might be inclined to do, but, after all a verdict of guilty has to be given before sentence can be passed, and the result of the last case of the kind—the prosecution of Sir Edward Russell at the instance of the Liverpool licensing magistrates—showed that a jury can be trusted to stand up for the right of public comment on the administration of justice, even in the face of a judge's unconcealed opinion that there should be a conviction. Mr. Willis Bund's menacing speech does not seem to have produced quite the sort of impression that he expected—indeed, from what has since appeared in the local papers, I gather that neither Mr. Sanderson nor the editors are a bit frightened. The talk about the criminal dock and the punishment of imprisonment was, in fact, a piece of bluster which has only had the effect of making the magistrates look ridiculous.

An amusing air of innocence was assumed by a Jew named Joseph Harris in a moneylending case in the Sheffield County Court last week. He is local manager for a bloodsucker named Mark Shaffer, who runs usury shops in a number of towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire under the style of "Maurice and Co." Harris, giving evidence in support of a claim against a farmer and his wife, was asked if he was aware that the interest charged on the loan, taking into account the reduction of the principal by instalments, worked out at the rate of 300 per cent. per annum. Harris replied that they did not work by the percentage. "But you know, of course," said the defendant's solicitor, "that when the principal is paid off week by week the interest increases enormously?" Harris appeared to be quite surprised. "I never thought of that before," he replied; "I am not an expert." However, this remarkable ingenuousness did not alter the fact that the interest worked out at the rate mentioned, and instead of being awarded the £67 10s. for which he sued, Shaffer was given judgment for only £35—a very satisfactory example of the usefulness of the Moneylenders Act.

It is rather an unusual experience to hear a complaint from the Automobile Association as to the smallness of a fine inflicted upon a motorist. Such a complaint has, however, come to hand in reference to a recent case in which the defendant, an officer of high rank in his Majesty's Service, was summoned for driving to the common danger. The penalty imposed was 20s., and if the defendant had really been guilty of the offence with which he was charged the punishment would have been absurdly inadequate. But he strongly maintained that he was unjustly convicted, and he was most anxious to appeal against the decision, though well aware that even if successful the appeal would be an expensive proceeding. No appeal can be entered if the fine is not more than 20s., and the defendant's solicitor accordingly urged the Bench to increase it by a shilling or whatever amount they pleased in order that the case might be fought out in another court. Their worships refused to do this, a circumstance from which it may reasonably be inferred that they were afraid a more competent and impartial tribunal would quash the conviction. It is an obvious anomaly that it should be open to magistrates to prevent an appeal in this way by limiting the amount of the penalty. In such a case the fact that the fine is light does not make an unjust conviction any the less grievous a wrong.

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Without presenting any very startling example of magisterial aberration, my Legal Pillory this week contains plenty of material for those who wish to study the methods adopted by the Great Unpaid in their administration of justice. Hard labour for the tramp who shies at his task of oakum picking, and a paltry fine for the ruffians who set about a man with sticks and boots; a smart dose of imprisonment for the petty thief, and a trifling pecuniary penalty for the callous parent who allows his children to starve amidst filthy surroundings; gaol for the woman who makes an effort to obtain subsistence without first providing herself with a hawker's licence, and a demand for payment of a few shillings from the brute who smashes a woman's nose. Such are the pleasing contrasts afforded during the past week by the modern representatives of Mr. Justice Shallow.

Dunmow Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Clapham and Norrin. A. Harris and C. Barnes, charged with assaulting A. Monk. The latter was knocked down with sticks and kicked while on the ground. Fined 10s. and costs each.

Dunmow Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Henry Clifford and Isaac Richardson, tramps, charged with refusing to perform their task at the workhouse, because the master would not give them a little hot water. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Reepham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Gay, Norris, Bircham, Watson, Collyer, and Cremer. E. Jimby, farmer, charged with cruelty to a horse. He was driving it up and down a ploughed field, thrashing and prodding it with a stick until the blood flowed. Fined 10s. and costs.

Reepham Petty Sessions. Before the same bench. Robert Buck, charged with stealing two and a half stones of hay, value 1s. 6d. He was caught filling a bag from a stack by the side of the road, and a second bagful was found in his possession. One month's hard labour.

Llanelly Police-court. John Watts and Jane Watts, charged with neglecting a child, aged two years. The baby was badly nourished and dirty. The home was filthy, the mattresses full of vermin, and the stench unbearable. Fined 20s. each.

Rye County Police-court. Before Major Vidler, Dr. Skinner, Messrs. Burra and Austin. John Coster, charged with stealing an overcoat, gloves, and handkerchief, valued at £3 4s. Six months' hard labour.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Peebles. Samuel Hooper, charged with assaulting two other men. One he struck in the face with his fists and the other he attacked with an axe, inflicting a severe wound on the hand. Fined 20s.

Albrighton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Lloyd, Llewellin, Barker, Lewis, Jones, and Sandford. Joseph Cox, John Harris, and W. Lloyd, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. Cox and Harris fined £2 and costs each, and Lloyd £1 and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Sir Edwin Ann and other magistrates. James Banks, charged with assaulting Kate Stevenson. He struck her in the face because she intervened in a quarrel, breaking her nose and necessitating an operation. Fined 40s. and costs.

Ashford Police-court. Before Alderman Watson and Mr. W. F. B. Jemmett. George Nuttin, charged with killing a young pheasant, which was found dead in a hedge which he had passed while walking with his wife and a perambulator on the high road. Fined £2 and 12s. costs.

Aberavon County Police-court. Samuel Evans, charged with neglecting his seven children. They were badly fed, ill-clothed, dirty, and verminous, and the home was filthy in the extreme. His wages averaged £2 8s. per week, and one boy earned 15s. per week. Fined 20s. and costs.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Widdows, Messrs. Crosse and Anderton. H. Huyton and J. Bradley, charged with game trespass. They were seen at a rabbit burrow in a wood with a dog. Huyton fined 40s. and costs and a warrant issued for Bradley, who did not appear.

Wincanton Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Bailward, General Ducat, Colonel Fownes, Messrs. Dyke and Pocock. A. T. Doble charged with assault. He went to a special service at a Wesleyan Chapel, where he struck one man in the face several times and created so much disturbance that the meeting had to be closed. Fined 10s. and costs.

East Dereham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. Bulwer, Colonel Hyde, Sir G. R. L. Hare, and Mr. Daniel. John Tuttle, charged with taking ten partridges' eggs from a nest. Fined £2 or 21 days' imprisonment.

Bedford Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Sarah Corby, charged with hawking without a licence. One month's hard labour.

Much Hadham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Pasteur, Mott, and Sworder. E. Smith, farmer, charged with cruelty to horses. He was working a mare and gelding that could only move a few yards at a time. They were old, weak, and diseased, and the mare was in such a bad condition that an auctioneer later refused to admit it to his sale yard. He had several times been previously convicted. Fined £3.

Littlehampton Petty Sessions. Before Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher, Captain Hills, Messrs. Henty, Mostyn, Harvey, and Tester. A. Horner, charged with cruelty to a goat. He was driving a trolley, with a goat tied on behind, so fast that the animal fell down several times and was dragged along. Its knees and sides were cut and bleeding. Fined 28s. inclusive.

Stowmarket Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Booth, Longe, Pretyman, Wade, and Colonel St. John Fancourt. George Last, charged with unlawfully having in his possession two pheasants' eggs and nine partridge's eggs. Fined £2 and 7s. 3d. costs.

Tiverton Petty Sessions. William Mogford, charged with sleeping out in a field. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Malvern Police-court. Before Colonel Heywood, Mr. Acworth and Colonel Twynam. Thomas Payne, plant hawker, charged with stealing two ferns from the garden of an unoccupied house and four ferns from the garden of another. Two months' hard labour on each charge.

Derby Police-court. Thomas Ward, charged with stealing an iron oven, value 2s. One month.

In view of certain circumstances that have come to my knowledge, I shall be glad to hear from any readers of TRUTH who may have had recent experience of the Imperial Art Supply Company, formerly of Great James-street, and now of Chancery-lane, and also of 17, Ranelagh-avenue, Fulham; or of the Albion Show Card Company, of 203, Strand. Both of these names will be familiar as those used by home employment swindlers who have been frequently referred to in TRUTH. For that reason I do not expect to find that any of my readers have had personal dealings with them, but they may happen to know of others who have, and if the transactions have occurred recently, I should feel obliged if they would communicate the information.

In the TRUTH Cautionary List will be found the name of a firm called Gerome and Co., of Fleet-street, vendors of "Happy Home Seeds." Their title to that honourable position is further strengthened by a recent circular, in which they state that they "have had over 100,000 unsolicited testimonials"; that they are "going to give away £50,000 in free prizes to their customers."; and that they "have been established over twenty years and have over a million customers on their books." Gerome and Co. are of opinion that this last statement is "a guarantee for our honesty and upright business methods." I should draw a somewhat different inference from it myself. The object of all this flim-flam is to get rid of flower and vegetable seeds, which Gerome and Co. state "are now ready." The seeds may be ready, but evidently the customers are not, or the firm would not have these vast quantities on their hands at the end of May.

That the distressed foreign artist referred to in last week's TRUTH under the name of "George Martin" is a thorough expert at the begging-letter business is further demonstrated by the evidence of the Norwegian Vice-Consul at one of our coast towns. To this gentle-

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man Martin writes in the character of "Mrs. Mary G. Martin," forwarding a portrait of H.M. the King of Norway, which it is hoped that his Majesty's Vice-Consul will accept at the price of 6s. In the letter which I gave last week the artist was "a miniature painter in deep financial difficulties, and struggling in vain with adversity, mainly owing to failing sight." "Mary G. Martin" is "a teacher of painting and drawing, in deep financial difficulties." There are certain unmistakable family resemblances in the work of all artists of this class which can be easily recognised, if those to whom they appeal would only allow their sympathies to be governed by a little common sense.

LIGHTNING PHOTOGRAPHY.

(A burglar's protest).

I sees at Deal, the other day,
A rummy thing occur,
Which in our trade—the trooth ter say—
'As made no end o' stir.

A lightnin' flash, wot charnced ter pass,
A vase snapshotted cleer,
And print it on a looking glass
As stood convenient nere.

Now, since 'twas but a vase, yer see,
The consikwence was slight;
But think, if it had photo'd ME,
While burglin' of a nite!

Which, wot with finger-prints, says I,
We've risks enuff and more,
Without them helements on 'igh
A-shuvvin' in their hoar.

Lord Milner's latest contribution deserves all the hard things that Lord Carrington has said of it, for it is singularly malevolent, singularly ill-timed, and from an ex-High Commissioner whose record is one of disastrous failure, in singularly bad taste. Lord Milner may be deeply convinced of the evils that Liberal policy is going to bring on South Africa some day, but before proclaiming his convictions he would do well to remember all that he did for that distressful country. His achievements might have been prophetically described by the late Laureate:—

> The children born of thee are sword and fire,
> Red ruin, and the breaking up of laws.

One is tempted to add:—

> And the Godless hosts
> Of heathen, swarming o'er the (China) Sea.

The first thing needful in a Government Bill is that it should satisfy all sections of the supporters of the Ministry. Mr. Harcourt's Small Holdings Bill fulfils this requirement, and it has the further advantage of being a difficult Bill for the other side to attack, except on side issues or insignificant details. It was quite time that the Ministry produced a first-class measure on which Liberals of all complexions can unite with genuine enthusiasm, and it is fortunate for them that the Bill thus produced should be a land Bill, for effective land legislation was one of the first things hoped for by the great mass of people who gave the Government its enormous majority.

I am not one of those who expect a social revolution from any agrarian legislation. Our land system is antiquated and defective enough, but it is not the only cause, nor the chief cause, of the depopulation of the rural districts which social reformers are so anxious to remedy. Even the unrestricted importation of food from the Colonies and foreign countries cannot be in any great degree responsible for that, for the same tendency is seen at work in countries where agriculture is highly protected—notably in Germany. Only a few days ago I was talking to an intelligent gentleman, following agricultural pursuits in this country, who had been passing some time on the estate of a great landowner in Silesia. He was there during the last harvest, and I was struck when he told me that there was just the same scarcity of agricultural labour in that part of the world that he had found in England, and that the obvious cause of it was the migration of all the best of the young people into the towns, leaving only the old folk and the wastrels in the villages. This seems to be the common tendency in every part of the world where there are towns big enough to offer the requisite attractions.

These attractions are rooted in human nature, and influence other people besides agricultural labourers. They cannot be removed by Acts of Parliament. All that you can do is to mitigate them by counter-attractions, and the only counter-attraction from which any substantial result can be expected is that of ownership, whether in a more or a less limited form. You can give the labourer an allotment on which he can work with the prospect of obtaining for himself the whole output of his industry, instead of subsisting entirely by selling his labour to another man at the miserable market rate; and you can give him the opportunity of acquiring by industry and thrift a holding large enough to furnish a decent home and a sufficient livelihood for himself and his family, with a security of tenure which will ensure his reaping for himself all that he may sow. Even under these conditions the life will always be a hard one, and the return scanty beside that which an equal amount of industry and self-denial may yield in other pursuits. But it is a healthy life for mind and body; it affords to the worker the satisfaction of being "on his own," and working for himself only; and for these reasons it appeals to many beyond all the attractions of town life.

Among this last class are necessarily the majority of those who still remain on the land in spite of all temptations to go elsewhere and all the disadvantages of their present lot. That "land hunger" does not exist extensively would therefore be incredible, even

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if it were not disproved by very clear and definite evidence. And it is an appetite which will grow with feeding, and with the opportunity of feeding. Mr. Harcourt's Bill provides that opportunity, striking away, as it does, all the causes which have made the last Small Holdings Act a dead letter. It may consequently do much good within the limits which extraneous circumstances place on the operation of all such measures. Its self-evident possibilities in that direction have already caused it to be warmly welcomed throughout the country, and if any attempt to carry out the customary process of emasculation is made in the House of Lords, it will be a very good measure for the purpose of trying conclusions with that Assembly.

After the Premier's statement on Monday, however, doubt may be felt whether the Bill will even get as far as the House of Lords this Session. The abandonment of the Irish, the Education, and other Bills, and the relegation of Licensing Reform to the unknown future still leaves the Government with an almost impossible programme for ten weeks, especially with a debate in prospect on the House of Lords question which is bound to be acrimonious and lengthy. The situation into which Government business has drifted furnished Mr. Balfour with some effective debating points, and there is a certain amount of justice in his criticism. It is not only useless to try to get a quart into a pint pot, but the attempt and the failure have an unbusinesslike appearance. What Ministers have to learn is that it is a mistake to attempt to do too much, and that the mistake is aggravated by wasting time over measures that are not certain to be acceptable to those without whose support they cannot be passed.

The debate on the second reading of the Court of Criminal Appeal Bill gave Mr. Gladstone an opportunity of defending the action of the Home Office on petitions against convictions, and of drawing a harrowing picture of the "unbearable" position in which a Home Secretary is placed by the present practice. With his general condemnation of the system of "trial by newspaper" most people will agree, and the position of a Home Secretary in those cases is always beset with so many difficulties that personally I always regard him with sympathy, and I wonder that any gentleman should have held the office for a month without bringing in a Court of Criminal Appeal Bill in self-defence. But Mr. Gladstone's defence of his Department overlooked all the more serious allegations that have been made against it at different times, and any one listening to it might have supposed that Mr. Gladstone had never heard of the Beck case and its result, and that he was unaware, when his own Committee reported the other day that the conviction of Mr. Edalji was indefensible, that the Home Office had for three years previously been refusing every application made to it on the prisoner's behalf.

Personally, in the course of a long connection with journalism, I have never devoted special attention to any criminal conviction but that of Mr. Edalji. I naturally form my opinion of Home Office methods from what I have seen of them in the course of that case. They seem to me radically wrong and inconsistent with the just exercise of the prerogative of mercy as now understood; and nothing in Mr. Gladstone's speech touches the reasons for that opinion. This aspect of the case will have to be discussed again before long, and this is not the time to go into it. But, to mention only one point, every argument for the prisoner's innocence necessarily reflected upon the conduct of the police who got up the case. Yet even to-day, when an independent committee of inquiry has reported against his conviction, and has expressly censured the police, the Home Secretary has indicated no desire to give effect to that censure, or, if he considers it undeserved, to have the issue satisfactorily tried by a further inquiry, and thus to give the police an opportunity of justifying their proceedings. Even the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, in a newspaper interview, has publicly protested against this course, and demanded a fuller inquiry into the conduct of the police. From his own point of view, he is fully entitled to do so.

Nor is this all. It must necessarily be assumed that in its inquiries into the case, the Home Office itself has had recourse privately to police evidence; in the correspondence between the Home Secretary and Mr. Edalji, Senr., subsequently to the first petition on the prisoner's behalf, this was practically admitted. The strongest observations that have been made in Truth on the Home Office procedure have had reference to this method of determining the issue raised by a petition on a prisoner's behalf by private references to parties who have a direct interest in upholding his guilt. The censure passed by Sir Arthur Wilson's Committee on the Staffordshire police adds tenfold force to this criticism.

Mr. Gladstone complains that the Home Secretary should be reviled for holding a "secret inquiry." Why? It *is* a secret inquiry. Evidence can be given at it which is not communicated to the other side. The Home Secretary alone ordains that this shall be so. Mr. Edalji, Senr., asked to be informed what evidence the Chief Constable of Staffordshire had furnished in answer to the petition on behalf of his son. The answer was that to give the information would be "contrary to the practice of this Department." No one can dispute that, adopted under such circumstances as the above, where the conduct of the police themselves is directly in question, the practice of the Department is an abominable one. Who is responsible for "the practice of the Department" but the Department itself and its head?

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SCRUTATOR.

THE CADET AND THE GRANDMOTHER.

THE influence of the grandmother in politics has been manifested in a striking way in relation to the modest clauses of the Territorial Forces Bill which touch on cadet corps. A memorial on the subject of such corps has been presented to Mr. Haldane by 150 of his supporters, and a deputation of thirty has interviewed him personally in support of the memorial. What the memorial said exactly is a secret between the memorialists and Mr. Haldane, but its general tenour may be easily guessed, and guessing is made easier by the visible result of the memorial and interview. It is clear that the 150 were deeply exercised over the demoralising influence of cadet corps on juvenile character, and Mr. Haldane has endeavoured to relieve their anxiety by adding a proviso to the clause of the Government Bill which has caused such a flutter in 150 Parliamentary bosoms. In its original shape Clause 2 enabled the county associations to "establish and maintain or foster and encourage cadet battalions and corps and rifle clubs." Mr. Haldane has consented to limit this power by a proviso that "no financial assistance shall be given by an association in respect of any person in a battalion or corps in a school in receipt of a Parliamentary grant until such boy has attained the age of sixteen." Already, however, some of the 150 are complaining that the concession is delusive, and "A Life-long Liberal," whom I should judge to be of the female sex, has written to the *Tribune* to explain that it amounts to "little or nothing," since the schools receiving Parliamentary grants and maintaining cadet corps are very few in number. The "Life-long Liberal" is also concerned that "no allusion has yet been made by Mr. Haldane" to the fact that drill and rifle shooting are made compulsory in many schools. How long the life of this Liberal may have been one cannot tell for certain, but the letter reads like that of quite an old woman.

No one has a higher regard than I have for elderly females, and I am not one of those who would speak with disrespect of his own grandmother, or anybody else's. But the same reasons which make me distrustful of the aspirations of the Suffragette prompt me to resist all intrusions of the female sex into those affairs which have hitherto been regarded as the exclusive business of men. The world cannot do without its grandmothers, but their sphere of utility is circumscribed. No one, I suppose, would desire to see them in the cricket or football field. I myself would not have them in Parliament, and I would sternly exclude them from the Army. I quite understand the grandmother's objection to cadet corps. To the female mind, when it is no longer young, and no longer moved to admiration by the mere contemplation of manly vigour, there is something very distressing in the spectacle of boys playing "Rugger," or knocking one another about with boxing gloves. That they should actually be entrusted with firearms is in the highest degree alarming. But though one may respect these apprehensions, one can no more take practical account of them than of the distress of the poor cackling hen when her brood of ducklings takes to the water. The world—or, at any rate, the Anglo-Saxon world—has always judged it desirable that the rough-and-tumble of life should have its counterpart and preparation in the boys' school. This judgment has been fairly justified by the results, and it cannot be reversed out of deference to the nervous apprehensions of old ladies. In the nursery the old lady may reign supreme, but the boy when he leaves it must pass out of her jurisdiction, like the hen-hatched duckling when he reaches the pond.

It is probably futile to argue seriously with apprehensions, or misapprehensions, begotten of nerves or temperament. But if Mr. Haldane has further trouble with the 150 grandmothers, there are one or two considerations which should supply him with sufficient weapons to annihilate the whole commando. In the first place, it is absolute nonsense to talk about "fostering the spirit of militarism" by giving military training to boys of fifteen years of age or upwards. If the spirit of militarism means anything that is repugnant to the British mind, it means the spirit which has always prevailed in Prussia, often in France, and occasionally in other Continental countries, the spirit which makes the military element supreme in civil life, and subordinates all public interests to those of the Army. That there is no necessary connection between this spirit and the military training of a people for national self-defence, even under compulsory conditions, is sufficiently proved by the example of Switzerland, where there is probably less of "militarism," in any obnoxious sense, in the national life than in any other country in the world—with the possible exception of China. Presumably what Mr. Haldane's 150 memorialists, and those who sympathise with them, have at the back of their minds is that to give boys any degree of military training will inspire them with a desire to sally forth and shoot some foreign enemy on the first pretext they can find. This is where the grandmother comes in, with her nervous imagination, conjuring up fanciful evils and overlooking or distorting plain facts. As regards mere Jingoism, which is what seems to be chiefly apprehended, the experience of this country and others shows that there is very little connection between the Jingo spirit and any desire for personal combat. There is even ground for saying that the liability of the civil population to military service acts as a preservative of peace, and that it is well to extend the liability on this ground. Again, whatever martial spirit may be developed among the rising generation by cadet corps can only take practical effect within the limits of the regular and territorial forces authorised by Parliament. To all this it may be added that, outside the public schools, cadet corps organisations may be made an invaluable agency for bringing healthy recreation, exercise, and discipline within the reach of the masses of working-class lads in towns who are beyond all such influences from the moment they leave school, and who deteriorate visibly in consequence in physique, morals, and manners. From that point of view it should be the business of the British grandmother, whether in Parliament or outside, to co-operate with county associations in "fostering and encouraging" them, and in supplementing their purely military purpose, rather than to seek opportunities of

limiting their usefulness from an irrational fear of "militarism."

The root fact of the situation is that we want some sort of serviceable home army, if possible on the basis of voluntary service, and that it is by no means certain as yet whether we shall succeed in getting one. In the creation of such an army, an efficient system of cadet corps must be a valuable factor. Cadet corps will not only stimulate the inclination for soldiering among those youths who possess it at all, but, if really efficient, will give lads a thorough grounding in the elements of military training and discipline before they join the territorial battalions, thus reducing, if not overcoming entirely, the great difficulty of turning out a really efficient soldier without taking him away from all other work for several months to go through a course of recruit's training. In fact, it may well be contended that if the territorial army contemplated by Mr. Haldane's Bill is ever to consist of adequately trained men, it will only be by virtue of the preliminary training which the bulk of the recruits will have received in cadet battalions before they join. On that view, the opposition to this portion of the scheme is as mischievous as it is foolish—and mischievous even from the point of view of the opposers; for if the proposed army fails to fulfil the hopes of its founders, everybody knows the alternative that will have to be faced next.

A MEDIÆVAL BILL.

A Bill has been presented to Parliament with the object of incorporating King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. After passing the House of Lords, and the second reading in the Commons, it is now before a Committee. When I read the Bill I rubbed my eyes and looked at it again, feeling sure that I had received some hoary document from the Middle Ages. But no, clearly enough there is "Session 1907" and an account of the formation of the Fund by his Majesty, then Prince of Wales, in 1897. Were it not inconceivable that so good a cause as King Edward's Fund could have any enemies I should imagine that this Bill had been promoted by some one in order to deprive the Fund of the public subscriptions upon which it is dependent. Certainly no more effective way of accomplishing this sinister object could be devised than the passing of the present Bill into an Act of Parliament.

Everybody knows that in 1897 his Majesty started this Fund and took the keenest interest in its welfare. The generous support which it received from the public was at once a tribute to Queen Victoria and to our present King, as well as a recognition of the good work done by the hospitals of London. The personal influence of the founder has been a paramount influence and benefit from the start. Much of the money subscribed was, in fact, placed at the disposal of his Majesty to do what he chose with, and he devoted it to his Hospital Fund. This personal aspect of the matter has been predominant throughout, and has been largely responsible for the success of the Fund. It is now proposed to make the benevolent despotism which, because of the personality of the despot, has worked so well, a legal despotism by Act of Parliament, which, in normal circumstances would remain the legal aspect of the matter for generations, if not for centuries. Whatever theories we may hold about matters political, most of us are ready to recognise that control by the right man, however great his powers may be, is a most excellent arrangement; but the rule of a despot by Act of Parliament, who may in time to come be anything but the right man, is not the kind of arrangement calculated to obtain voluntary support.

The Bill provides that the President and Council of the Fund shall be incorporated, and that the Corporation shall be given power to hold property and other usual powers of a corporation. The President is to be appointed by, and hold office during the pleasure of, the Sovereign; future Presidents are to be recommended by the Lord Chancellor, the Prime Minister, and the Governor of the Bank of England, or a majority of them, and to hold office during the pleasure of the Sovereign. The fatal defect of the Bill, however, lies in the extraordinary powers which are given to the President. He is to appoint new members of the Council, and no act of the Council is effective unless it has the approval in writing of the President; while the powers of the Council can be delegated to a Committee, in which case the President and the Committee have absolute control, just as if their decisions were those of the President and Council. Section 7 gives practically unlimited powers to the President for the time being. He may appoint committees "for the administration of the funds and property of the Corporation, or for any purposes of this Act, and may delegate to any Committee all or any of his powers under this Act as he may think fit, including the power of approval in writing," without which no act of the general Council is of any effect. This power, "if delegated to a committee of two persons, shall be deemed to be sufficiently exercised by each of such persons signing an approval of the act, approval whereof is required." Moreover, the President may appoint any treasurers, secretaries, auditors, and other officers, and fix their remuneration. "He may at pleasure remove any member of the general Council," and therefore the whole general Council, "or of any committee, or any officer, and may dissolve any committee." Yet further, "he shall have power in his sole discretion to direct the distribution and allocation of the funds and property of the Corporation and the income thereof . . . . and the application of the income and . . . . the capital . . . . for the support of the hospitals of London or such one or more of them to the exclusion of others, as he may deem expedient"; and "he may determine whether any institution does or does not fall within the definition of hospitals of London."

There is no objection to such powers as these being exercised by one who, by his commanding position and by his personal character possesses the confidence of the Council and receives the support of subscribers. But it must be remembered that if this Bill becomes an Act, it may remain in force for centuries, the invested funds may become enormous, and some day or other an unsuitable President may be nominated. An unsuitable President might only differ from his Majesty and from the Prince of Wales

in the fact that whereas they take the keenest personal interest in the Fund, he might not do so, and might delegate these unlimited powers to a committee of two, who might be unfit and unworthy of the trust reposed in them. Considering the present character of the Council it is really nothing less than an absurdity to limit their powers, as the Bill does, to making rules and regulations for managing, holding meetings, and the keeping of the corporate seal, but even for such purposes as these the approval of the President is required in writing.

Hospitals are among the few institutions which are universally recognised as deserving voluntary support. Many people specially interested in some particular neighbourhood would naturally give donations or leave legacies to the local hospital, but experience has shown that since the establishment of King Edward's Fund many benefactors have given money to the Fund, rather than to individual hospitals. This tendency is increasing, with the result that the controllers of King Edward's Fund, and of the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds, are acquiring more and more influence over the management of hospitals. For financial reasons, recommendations made by the controllers of these funds can scarcely be ignored by the managers of hospitals, even if they think, or know, that the recommendations are bad. With a despot by Act of Parliament in control of King Edward's Fund, mistaken judgment by himself or his nominees might be an extremely serious evil for the hospitals of London. Even supposing that the presidents in all future time are capable and interested, they may yet make mistakes. To a great extent the present Bill means that one man is to be given supreme power to dictate to all the hospitals of London what they are, and what they are not, to do; and moreover he has power in his sole discretion to delegate this dictation to others.

Of one thing I am very certain, and that is that the fundamental essential for the permanent prosperity of the Fund is representative control. Not only subscribers, but the managers of hospitals and medical men connected with the everyday work of their profession and practical questions of hospital management, should be represented on the Council of King Edward's Fund, and should be given real power. Owing to the way it has been worked hitherto, the Fund has attracted enthusiasm and won support. The present Bill is the exact reversal of the methods by which King Edward succeeded in one of the noblest of his works. Such legislation as is proposed is fraught with danger, and dooms to failure what has been hitherto a splendid success.

THE TROUBLE IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

From time to time correspondence breaks out in the *Times* or elsewhere on the affairs of the Royal Botanic Society. The public learns that a reform movement is on foot, and that it has raised the temperature to a degree which marks the melting-point of the decorum and good manners proper to a scientific association. This is a common result of reform movements, heat being a necessary element in the getting up of steam for all motive purposes. But in the case of the Royal Botanic Society no result has hitherto followed the increase of temperature. Dissatisfied Fellows hammer the Council. The Council hammers them back. Charges are made and denied. Reforms are demanded and resisted. And eventually the steam "blows off" and nothing else happens.

One of these periodical agitations is now on foot. Up to the present it presents all the features with which the public has become familiar. Whether it will end in the usual way remains to be seen; but from the point of view of the Society equally with that of the public it is becoming more and more evident that things cannot go on upon their present footing, and that the time is drawing nearer when the Society will have to be mended or ended. There are certain features in the situation which everyone can see for himself. The Royal Botanic Society is in form a learned society, constituted by Royal Charter nearly seventy years ago "for the promotion of botany in all its branches, and in its application to medicine, arts, and manufacture." It occupies one of the finest situations in London for such a purpose, an exceptionally beautiful garden in the centre of one of the Royal Parks, offering advantages from the financial point of view, which, if they were properly utilised, would be a valuable aid to purely scientific work. But, in point of fact, the Society has quite lost, if it ever really obtained, that position as a scientific body which its Royal Charter and its headquarters in the heart of London mark out for it. Practically what it has become is a mere social club, holding a charming garden in the West End for the personal convenience and delectation of a certain number of its members and their families. It is precisely in the position of a glorified West End square, of which the adjoining residents hold keys by virtue of an annual subscription. Here the nursemaids and children of the subscribers, with or without their perambulators, take the air and romp on the grass. Here the Fellows, with their families and friends, play croquet and lawn tennis. Archery used to be a favourite pursuit of the chartered botanists, but I believe that of late years it has gone out of fashion. Finally, the gardens are occasionally illuminated of an evening in order that the botanical Fellows may entertain their friends with seductive al fresco fêtes.

All this has little to do with the purposes for which the founders of the Society obtained a Royal Charter. But there is the further objection that it does not pay. It is conceivable that, as a mere club, the Botanic Gardens might be made a flourishing institution; but in that character it would have to face serious competition from other established institutions, and as a matter of fact the Gardens have been managed with less and less enterprise, considered as a mere pleasure club. On the other hand, no serious attempt has been made of late years to appeal to that large public which is interested in horticulture and botany, and to which it is the proper function of the Botanic Society to appeal. The result is that between the two stools the Society is gradually coming to the ground. For pleasure purposes it appeals only to those who live quite close at hand—the residents who use the "square" garden. As a scientific centre it appeals to nobody. Hence a marked falling off in the number of Fellows and the subscription list, and a proportionate growth of financial embarrassment. The

Society has a constant difficulty in paying its way, and it is burdened with a heavy debenture debt. Attempts are periodically made to "raise the wind" by letting the Gardens, or organising public entertainments, but they are frequently ill-judged, and have probably done more harm than good.

The truth is that dry rot has got deep down into the institution, and the reason for it is easy to see. The Council which ostensibly governs the Society is neither representative of the Fellows nor entitled to respect as a body of scientific gentlemen—nor even as the committee of a fashionable club. Vacancies on the Council are nominally filled up by election at the annual meeting of Fellows; but the interim vacancies are filled up by co-optation, and it has been the custom from time immemorial, a custom obstinately upheld by the Council in spite of repeated protests, to hold the annual meeting in August, the one time of the year when it may be confidently expected that the majority of the Fellows will be away from London. Elections to the Council under such circumstances cannot represent the choice of the general body of Fellows; but apart from that, the right of co-optation has certainly been abused. Resignations from the Council have tended to occur at any time except when they may be filled by election at the annual meeting, the most conspicuous example of this occurring last year, when no less than seven gentlemen resigned simultaneously very shortly after the annual meeting, leaving their colleagues to fill up their places. Many of the Fellows learnt with surprise for the first time a fortnight ago that Mr. J. R. Diggle is the Chairman of the Council, the information coming from letters which he wrote to the *Times* in that capacity. Mr. Diggle only became a Fellow of the Society last August, yet it would seem that he was a few weeks afterwards co-opted to the Council, and then promoted to the Chairmanship. It may be surmised that his well-known fighting qualities suggested his selection for these honours; if so, his letters to the *Times* will not have disappointed his backers, for they show that he still retains his old form as a controversialist. But whatever the motive which prompted his rapid promotion, it assuredly bore no relation to his eminence in botanical science. Perhaps the most striking example of the position taken up by the Council in relation to the affairs of the Society is to be found in the statement, which I do not think can be contradicted, that when the creditors of the Society have been unusually pressing, members of the Council have themselves subscribed the money required to discharge liabilities. Such a course is wrong in principle, because it conceals from the members the financial difficulties of the Society, and it is not credible that such a thing would have been done unless the members of the Council felt a strong personal interest in averting a crisis. It is characteristic of the general methods of management that up to the present moment the annual accounts, due last January, have not been issued, and this notwithstanding the public criticism to which the administration has been exposed, and the fact that a Fellows' meeting was held only a week or two ago, at which many of the matters at issue were discussed.

During the recent controversy, specific allegations of negligence and general incompetence have been made against the Secretary and the staff. In spite of Mr. Diggle's forcible denials and graceful retorts, it is clear that there are grounds for such complaints. But for any shortcomings of the paid staff the Council are responsible. It is inevitable that under a managing body which has allowed the institution to drift into its present position, the staff should follow the general drift; and equally inevitable that they should hang together and back one another up.

In such a state of things, reform from within is obviously most difficult, if not hopeless. The only chance of it lies in a combined movement among the Fellows to lift the institution out of the rut into which it has fallen. Among them are many who fully recognise the danger before the Society and the causes from which it springs, and it is not difficult to see the direction which reform should take. A clean sweep should be made of the gentlemen who have brought matters to their present position. The by-laws should be amended; a new secretary should be appointed; and a totally new policy should be laid down for the future. The aim should be to carry out the express intentions of the charter by making the Society primarily a scientific association for promoting the study of botany and the improvement of horticulture. Its Council should be largely leavened with men distinguished in those subjects, and capable of directing a society devoted to them, and its members or Fellows should be mainly recruited from that large and constantly increasing public which has tastes and interests in the same direction. This is the public from which the Society should draw its support; and concurrently with its appeal to members it should appeal to the same public, and to London generally, by developing the beauty of its gardens, by a constant succession of exhibitions worthy of its position, and by such use of the gardens as a place of public entertainment as is not inconsistent with the constitution and objects of the Society. If a substantial majority of the Fellows can be induced to combine for these ends, and to submit to the personal inconvenience of attending in London at the next annual meeting in order to take the first steps, there is no reason, judging from the example of the many other flourishing horticultural societies in existence, why the Royal Botanic Society should not be converted into a flourishing institution, fully serving the purposes for which it was founded. Failing that, it must go on down hill until it collapses from insolvency, or until the same authority which granted its charter takes steps to reform it.

AN UNWANTED CHARITY.

For a good many years past I have had suspicions respecting the association which has been known as the Church Society for Promoting Kindness to Animals. In point of fact, they were rather more than suspicions. The society was founded and entirely controlled by the Rev. Frederick Lawrence, formerly vicar of Westow, Yorkshire; and so long as he was at Westow the whole thing was run from his vicarage, as well as two other societies on the same lines—the Church of England Burial Reform Association, and the Church Sanitary Association. Some years ago, a clergyman who had

had an opportunity of observing the working of the business thought it his duty to tell me that he was quite satisfied from what he had seen that Mr. Lawrence was profiting substantially from his societies—particularly the one concerned with kindness to animals. It was, however, impossible to obtain such proof as would justify any public imputation on the *bona fides* of Mr. Lawrence, and I have consequently been compelled to keep my suspicions to myself.

In 1903 Mr. Lawrence resigned the living of Westow, and came up to London in order to establish the headquarters of the Society for Promoting Kindness to Animals in the Metropolis. It seems to have been the most prosperous of his undertakings, and at this point he buried the Burial Reform Association, and abandoned his efforts to improve the sanitation of the Church of England. He took a suite of offices in Vauxhall-park which he christened the "Settlement" of the C.S.P.K.A., and he appointed himself "Warden," in which capacity he lodged in the Settlement. About this time I ventured to make certain guarded observations upon the accounts of his society, as the result of which he communicated with me. He was a somewhat voluble and plausible old gentleman. He explained to me that he had given up his living and migrated to London because the work had become too much to be combined with his parochial duties; also that he was forming a committee, and putting the whole thing on a thoroughly businesslike basis. He thus succeeded in disarming criticism, though not in allaying my suspicions.

I now learn that these suspicions have been throughout fully justified, and it is necessary to state the facts plainly for the information of the public. The committee which Mr. Lawrence appointed when he removed to London was entirely composed of his own personal friends and acquaintances, all possessing unbounded faith in him. He himself filled the office of treasurer, and though he also appointed a finance committee, it exercised no control over the finances. One member of this committee was actually a paid servant of the society. In the spring of last year trouble arose through the appointment of a lady by the general committee as assistant-treasurer. The appointment was evidently inconvenient to Mr. Lawrence, and while the lady was absent from the office through illness he took upon himself to dismiss her. Subsequently this lady made certain disclosures to the committee from what she had learnt of Mr. Lawrence's relations with the association; the matter was taken up by one of the few independent members of the committee, and Mr. Lawrence was called to account. The aid of lawyers was invoked, and a sort of inquiry took place, with the result that it was agreed between the legal gentlemen on both sides that Mr. Lawrence should retire from all connection with the association, and that it should be amalgamated with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. After this an acting secretary was appointed, the "Settlement" at Vauxhall was given up, and a new office taken for the time. Mr. Lawrence, however, in spite of the termination of his official connection with the association, seems to have kept some sort of hold on it, and he actually found living quarters in the same building as the new office. It was not long before it was discovered that he had again contrived to make free with the subscriptions. The matter was considered by the new finance committee which had been appointed, and Mr. Lawrence seems to have offered some explanation, which the majority accepted; but one member expressly dissented from the minute which they agreed upon. At the same time, Mr. Lawrence finally agreed to renounce all connection with the association.

In the meantime, negotiations with the R.S.P.C.A. were in progress, and in December last a definite agreement for amalgamation was arrived at. This agreement, however, has never yet been carried out, owing, as far as I can ascertain, to the refusal of Mr. Lawrence's friends on the committee to part with the books—presumably from a desire to avoid disclosing Mr. Lawrence's part in the above transactions. This makes it necessary that the facts should be made known for the information of the subscribers, and also of any one who may be solicited to subscribe to any other undertaking of Mr. Lawrence. That gentleman is naturally in a somewhat difficult position, and from documents in my possession it is evident that he has meditated helping himself out of it by resuscitating his defunct Burial Reform and Church Sanitary Associations. After what has happened, any such design clearly requires to be nipped in the bud. As regards the Church Society for Promoting Kindness to Animals, its *raison d'être* has always been obscure, except as a means of providing the late "Warden" with a livelihood. At the best its work was bound to overlap that of the R.S.P.C.A.; as a matter of fact its practical performances seem to have begun and ended with the delivery of lectures and sermons by Mr. Lawrence in its name. In order to accomplish this result, for which it may be doubted if any living animal is appreciably better, it has collected and spent for several years about £600 a year, which might otherwise have gone to the R.S.P.C.A. and been usefully employed. There can be no excuse now for prolonging its existence or wasting further money upon it. If it cannot be amalgamated with the R.S.P.C.A. it had better be wound up at once, and the subscribers should see that one thing or the other is done.

THE THEATRES.

"My Wife," at the Haymarket.

The "entente cordiale" is perhaps responsible for this flood of adaptations from the French. Anyhow, it is quite certain that the critics of the distant future will rightly conclude that the French wrote the British drama of our day, just as, owing to the efforts of the Germans and Baconians, they will gather that Shakespeare was written by Bacon, Imperial Chancellor of the German Empire.

"My Wife" is rather better than she should be. I mean that her morality is maintained above suspicion, which is not absolutely the rule in the French drama of the day. But here we have the English version of what may be the reverse of proper over the Channel. Certainly there is no doubt about the talent and exuberance of Miss Marie Löhr as the youthful heroine, virginally married to her middle-aged guardian. She effervesces with girlishness all through the play, and when at the last she discovers that after all she really loves her guardian, Mr. Aubrey Smith, better than

the young man for whose sake she had arranged before marriage to divorce her middle-aged husband, we are not dumbfoundered. For Mr. Aubrey Smith gives dignity and manhood to all he touches in art, and, thanks to the humours of the original, provided us with an interesting five minutes when he challenges the would-be lover of his virgin wife. There is a good deal of rather tedious padding, as in the case of a friend of Mr. Aubrey Smith, who arrives in Switzerland in the second act, so fatigued that he can hardly keep his eyes open. Of his untidy costume and his sleepiness too much is made, though this is not the fault of Mr. Matthews, who plays the part sleepily and well. There is an amusing Frenchman, well rendered by Mr. Fred Lewis; there is an amorous Frenchman, admirably expressed by Mr. Atholl Forbes; there is the perfect representation of the omniscient butler by Mr. Holman Clark; there is the captivating English actress of Miss Millie Legard; and there is an amusing yet impossible story, which, in the capable hands of those to whom it has been entrusted by Mr. Frederick Harrison, serves to wile away an evening very pleasantly.

"A Woman of No Importance," at His Majesty's.

I looked in at His Majesty's Theatre one evening after the alarums and excursions of the first night of this revival had ceased to disturb the atmosphere. My object was partly to see how the general public of theatre-goers received one of Oscar Wilde's triad of comedies. Crammed with creamy satin and lace were the stalls, muslin roses and other etherealities of costume made the dress circle like a bed of flowers. Woman had come to look at themselves in the dramatist's glass in a proportion of three to one. Very well, I was pleased to see, were taken the brilliant lines with which this play abounds, like all of Wilde's mature work. A young Irishman who has read little but thought a good deal leaned forward and whispered to me: "Why, it's as full of quotations as 'Hamlet.'" The whirligig of time has indeed brought its revenges, and the writer of "Lady Windermere's Fan" is secure of his place among the *lucida sidera*.

* * * * *

This current week is notable rather for revivals than for novelties. Thus we have, for those who like the ultra-sentimental melodrama, Mr. Martin Harvey in "The Breed of the Treshams," at the Adelphi; the Follies are at the Royalty Theatre again, repeating, with variations, their admirable programme, which some time ago I extolled, and "The Walls of Jericho" at the Garrick. The Pigmies from the Congo Forest are to be visible at Earl's Court on Thursday, under the auspices of Lieutenant-Colonel James Harrison. This gentleman told me some time ago of a little episode, which, I think, never was in print. The scene was the garden of one of our big squares. A group of pigmies, observing a fat London pigeon in a tree, asked leave to shoot it. Leave being (unlawfully!) granted, an arrow was let fly, but, strange to say, missed its mark. The pigmies are expert bowmen, and great was their astonishment when the bird flew away untouched. The next point was to recover the valuable arrow. It had not fallen to the ground, and in one moment of time the pigmies were swarming over the tops of the trees in their search for it. Their agility was marvellous, and equally so the nicety of their calculation as to the weight which the slender branches from which they hung or sprung, would bear. Yet they never found their arrow. Perhaps the well-educated London pigeon had flown away with it in his beak to the South Kensington Museum as a curiosity.

As to the performance, it was interesting, but I felt might have been more interestingly done. One of the amusing secondary personages, the Ven. James Daubeny, D.D., might surely be in more skilful hands than those of Mr. Maurice. Mr. Maurice represents him as a farcical character, whereas the delicate satire of the part depended upon the unctuous suavity of the rendering. Mr. Eric Lewis would give delightfully these interesting details about "poor Mrs. Daubeny," whose mind is chiefly occupied with the events of her early childhood—I quote from memory. Mr. Tree, I think, takes the part of Lord Illingworth too slowly. Sometimes his pauses make one almost feel as if he had forgotten the words, a crime of which, I am sure, he would never be guilty. Otherwise he renders the *blasé* father of a strenuous son as to the paternal manner born. I tremble to think what this part would become in hands less expert than Mr. Tree's. Mrs. Calvert did pretty well as Lady Caroline Pontefract, but her vis-à-vis, Miss Kate Bishop, was not sufficiently gay and assured as the sister of the wicked Lord Weston; whereas graceful Miss Kate Cutler made a little gem of Lady Stutfield, in body, speech, and action. Miss Ellis Jeffreys' performance was less remarkable than her dress of gold paillettes or spangles, which captured one's gaze every time she made the slightest motion. I believe Mrs. Allenby was never yet so brilliant in dress as on this occasion. On leaving the theatre after their performance I felt that the mental difference between Wilde and Mr. Shaw is that between the Protagoras of the Platonic dialogues and the chauffeur into whom Mr. Shaw has breathed his own soul in "Man and Superman."

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Debutante's Catechism.

(To be carefully committed to memory by young girls who are entering on their first season.)

Q.: Who are you?

A.: A Society Débutante.

Q.: What is a Society Débutante?

A.: A girl of eighteen who is going through the important process of being brought out.

Q.: Who brings you out?

A.: My mother.

Q.: For what purpose does she bring you out?

A.: For the purpose of what is technically termed "getting me off."

Q.: Explain the meaning of this technical term, "getting you off."

A.: It means to convey me bodily, with all my contingent advantages, drawbacks, and expenses of maintenance, to the first eligible man who is willing to take an assignment of the property.

Q.: What is an eligible man?

A.: A man begins to be eligible at £10,000 a year, and his eligibility increases, upwards, in arithmetical progression.

Q.: Of what age is the eligible man?

A.: He may be of any age from twenty to eighty.

Q.: Of what appearance is he?

A.: He may be of any appearance from a Belvedere Apollo to an Ourang-Outang. But he more often inclines towards the latter appearance.

Q.: Of what character is he?

A.: He may be of any character; or, as is more frequently the case, of no character.

Q.: Of what nationality is he?

A.: The eligible man may be of any nationality, or (which is more usual), a conglomeration of all the nationalities, from Palestine Westward.

Q.: What is a Society wedding?

A.: A ceremony in the course of which, amid the most sacred surroundings and the most solemn formulas, the greatest possible amount of lies and perjury is compressed into the smallest possible compass of words.

Q.: Where are these perjuries committed?

A.: At the altar of a smart Church.

Q.: By whom are they committed?

A.: Both by the Bridegroom and the Bride, who, in the name of God, make all sorts of solemn promises that they have no intention whatever of carrying out.

Q.: Is there any sin in committing perjury under such conditions?

A.: There is no sin; but rather a virtue in so doing.

Q.: By what proofs can you support this?

A.: By the presence and approval of my dear father and mother, and by the benediction of the Bishop, or other high Ecclesiastical Dignitary, who performs the ceremony.

Q.: What is a detrimental?

A.: A good-looking but impecunious young man, whose attentions I have repelled coldly before marriage and shall encourage warmly afterwards.

Q.: What are children?

A.: The plague of married life, from which it is my most earnest and pious wish that I may be exempted.

Q.: What is the maternal instinct?

A.: A fashionable sentiment among our ancestors which went out with bonnets, chaperons, and table-centres.

Q.: What is a heart?

A.: An internal organ connected with the circulation of the blood.

Q.: What is love?

A.: A form of mental disease described by poets and writers of fiction, but only prevalent in the present day among the lower orders.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THEIR NORWEGIAN MAJESTIES.

NORWEGIANS should feel proud at having all to themselves the grand official stage of Paris for a whole week. They were not this time in the shadow of Sweden, and had a king more suitable to their notions and manners than Oscar II., who might have been the first tenor of his time had he not been the most showy and accomplished of monarchs. Haakon VII. is not showy, but produces at first sight a good impression. He looks the well-brought-up Northern man who went through a naval cadets' school and navigated in blue water. In the service he belonged to he passed for being "a very nice fellow," and so fair as to refuse promotion when he felt that it was offered to him as a *fils à papa*. On this ground he declined a captaincy not many weeks before he was first thought of as the best choice the Norwegians could make if they decided to break once and for all the link holding them to Sweden. Haakon VII. has a prepossessing countenance, and is said to resemble his grandfather on the Bernadotte side, but without, perhaps, his artistic sensibilities. He is much less dark than his photos make him out, is very tall and slender, and has something in the shoulders that the habit of sleeping in hammocks in youth gives. His French is correct, but the words come slowly, and do not seem an easy fit to his ideas. On making his first appearance on the Paris stage he wore a general's uniform, with a quantity of fluttering feathers on the helmet—as many as those on an Italian fusilier, but of a lively red. They are fond of bright feathers in Scandinavia. The Swedish generals are not less fluttering or voluminous, and are of sunset yellow. Haakon looks his best in a naval uniform. He is more at home in it than in the military one. Apart from the long habit of wearing the former, it allows chest freedom, and is not buttoned up to the throat. That buttoning up gives the pectoral padding helping, a pin-cushion appearance to the torso.

A touch of nature that made the democracy at the Hôtel de Ville feel akin to his Norwegian Majesty was his thrusting his hand into his cap for the sheet of paper on which his speech had been set down. He read it in a voice with a clear timbre, with careful and deliberate distinctness and emphasis. If he has not the facility of his great-uncle, he determined that there should be no mumbling or mouthing, as there might have been if he set up to improvise.

As to Queen Maud, beside Mme. Fallières she seemed extremely specialised. La Présidente comes from Nérac, and *est comme tout le monde à Nérac*—warm-hearted, frank, friendly, liking a good laugh, and quick to reflect popular joy or excitement. The spectators as she passed along at the side of Queen Maud exclaimed: "Quelle bonne et sympathique personne!" or words to that effect. Smiles more than wreathed the face. As she left to the young Queen the leading part, which was to bow and look gracious, she confined recognition of popular favour to very kindly laughter and to making signs of amity with a small nosegay that she held in her hand. She used the nosegay as the late Queen Isabella used to use her fan. The Queen of Norway's bouquet—a great sheaf of flowers—lay on her Majesty's lap. The dog was left at home.

Queen Maud is fond of white raiment. She entered Paris in a crême dress with a voluminous white feather boa and a white gauzy-looking hat trimmed with roses and violets, and really becoming. She is on foot not the same person as driving. On foot at the Bois de Boulogne Station, and advancing to shake hands with the Présidente, she seemed entirely her father's daughter, as cordial as he would have been, and uttering the necessary commonplaces agreeably. There was no *de haut en bas* nonsense—no "con-

MALOJA, Engadine, Switzerland.—Palace Hotel, Kursaal, 6,000 ft. altitude. Completely renovated 1906. Private Baths. Golf. Tennis.—EDWARD SMART, Manager. Prospectus on application.

WIESBADEN HOTEL, NASSAU.—Recognised as the Most Fashionable and Refined Home of English and American Society in Wiesbaden.—Telegraphic Address: "Nassauerhof, Wiesbaden."

descension." In the State carriage, where she would have felt herself, as it were, in front of footlights, she looked very much her mother's daughter, especially in her way of holding her head and neck, which is not short. Her style of dress is neat and rather elegant, and her whole person gives the impression of refinement. This is more suitable to her rank than *chic*. I do not remember to have ever seen a lady born in the purple with *chic*, but a few with an air of careful elegance, and not least Queen Maud's aunt, the Empress Dowager of Russia.

After the first shock of the Trianon accident was felt Queen Maud kept down emotion, though one of the three horses that had gone over the parapet of the bridge was still harnessed to the carriage. The water beneath looks deeper than it really is, and the mud much less so. It is absurd to take Royal and Imperial visitors about in carriages and four with jingling bells to which the horses are not used on the harness, and postilions equally unaccustomed to drive *à la Daumont* or *à la Long-jumeau*. There must be always great danger with such an equipage in turning a corner; and a very sharp one had to be turned at the foot of the Trianon Bridge—a toy affair as high arched as the one on the willow pattern plate. Mounting this bridge was easy enough, but in going down from the middle the whole weight of the vehicle came on the hams of the pair of horses nearest to it. In the turn of the road the pole ran against one of the leading pair. All grew at once skittish, and the one the pole knocked against jumped into the river. Two others jumped over the parapet, and the fourth fell down in trying to follow them. It is not certain that, if the carriage had gone over with Mme. Fallières and the Queen, a fatality would have ensued. But it might, and, at any rate, there would have been a dangerous souse in fœtid mud. The soldier of the escort who fell in as he cut the traces which held the third horse to the carriage was almost up to his throat in the mud. The Queen refused to leave until she knew his fate and could express her concern at the bath he had met with. Fortunately, pace had been slackened to allow her to linger in the Trianon Park, which in this late spring was in the freshest bloom and tenderest verdure. After the monotony of the Norwegian granite cliffs, long winter, and never-ending pine woods, it must have appeared to her as the very gardens of Armida, and the artifici village a poem. They have an artificial village in the Park of Drottningholm, which she probably saw, and a Trianon in the Park of Haga, but they are without charm, and want the amiability of a temperate climate leaning to the sunny side of nature.

I doubt whether Versailles and the Trianon picnic are in the fitness of a Royal visit to Paris. Are not both places in the nature of the *memento mori?* I could understand the Emperor of Annam, whom the Colonial Minister dethroned some months ago, being taken there by way of a serious lesson. If Louis XIV. created Versailles, the market women of Paris captured there the second Louis who came after him. Versailles, after figuring for a century as the seat of a despotic monarch, is now the starting-point of each President of the Republic. This is hardly flattering to Royal visitors, and it ought to be a cause of embarrassment to their host and hostess. There are at the Trianon as many souvenirs of a *galant* nature as in the Petits Apartements. A Hogarth might have found in both halting-places on the road to ruin, but M. de Noilhac, following his bent, which is that of a courtier, could only sentimentalise about them to the young Royal *ménage* rather to the confusion of King and Queen. The picnic was brought into the programme for entertainments for Royal guests on the occasion of the first visit of the Shah, Nasr-ed-Deen. As they are not inventive at the Foreign Office, they have retained it, notwithstanding its incongruities. A visit to Fontainebleau would take too much time, and the gardens and forest there are best seen in autumn. However, with eyes fresh from Christiania, a capital built in wood, Versailles and its orangery, terraces, and fountains, must have appeared enchanting, and the Mirrors Gallery glorious. After staying some time in Norway, one is so glad to see stone houses again and to enjoy a genial climate. The President promised to pay a return visit, but can fix no time until it is almost time for him to start.

The rise in prices to which I referred last week continues. The news this week is that wheat flour, and consequently bread, are going to be dearer. Mineral waters have gone up three sous a bottle. I had no idea that my prophecy would so soon come true about impending strikes as a consequence of the dearness of living. The whole seafaring population of France is now on strike. That this is due to economical conditions I have no doubt, for the latest piece of legislation concerning them, and accepted at the time by their delegates as satisfactory, is but a few months old. Sailors' widows cry out that it is no longer possible to live or even vegetate wretchedly on the 11 sous a day pension, with 2 sous for any child under sixteen. A not quite fresh egg costs more than the child's pension.

The "inscrits maritimes" who have gone out on strike include the whole population of reserve sailors and of those in the merchant service, who are also looked on as reservists. Every young man liable to military service may elect to serve on sea instead of on land. The time of naval service is longer than in the army. The "inscrit maritime," after being sent home, is free to go into the merchant service, but liable for twenty years to be called back to the navy. As a compensation for the longer service and after-liabilities, the "inscrits maritimes," thus called from the Register of Inscription created by Colbert, enjoy certain privileges. They alone have a right to employment in the merchant navy and in fishing vessels. Their families have the sole right to gather shell-fish on the open coast-places. The "inscrit maritime" is also entitled to a pension ranging from 12 louis to 40 louis. The latter is for a person who has been a captain in the merchant service and is sixty years old.

So far the advantages of the "inscription maritime" seem to have outweighed its disadvantages, for practically the whole sea-coast population elect to serve in the navy. For some years there has been trouble

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about pensions, and the discovery come upon the inscribed class that La Caisse Maritime was plundered by every Government since Colbert's death, under the pretence of loans never funded or refunded, and is now wholly inadequate to pay good pensions. Had it not been pillaged, it would be now worth about three and a half milliards. Louis XIV. took from it 468 millions, his successor 6 millions, the Convention 40 millions, the First Empire 80 millions, the Restoration 50 millions, and Louis Napoleon 162 millions. Since he fell there has been no further "borrowing." Those fancy balls at the Marine Ministry that dazzled the world, and afforded him opportunities for gallant adventures, were paid for out of La Caisse Maritime. La Caisse Maritime greatly facilitated the Coup. Pensions were slightly raised last year; but prices have since then bounded up, and times grow terribly hard for persons of cramped incomes. The strikers are powerfully organised, and can now ask for more with some prospect of success. The course is a novel one, but in striking they hit the companies. I sometimes think of words that I heard fall from the lips of the late Baron de Rothschild. They were: "Great changes are impending. I shall only see the beginning of them, but my children may live to see men of four thousand (cent mille francs) counted great money bags."

A PEER AMONG THE PROMOTERS.

I DON'T know much about the price of Consols and the Stock Exchange and all that sort of thing myself, but after the way every one has been talking and writing about them for the last week, it seemed to me that it was only right I should collect a few opinions from what they call eminent financiers myself, so that Truth shouldn't be left out in the cold. I made rather a false step to start with, because Jessie suggested that I should probably get more candid opinions if I went as a reporter rather than in my own character. So I started down to the City, to the offices of a man I know something about through a cousin of mine who is what they call a half-commission man. He (the financier, I mean) is the chairman—he was the promoter originally—of the—well, perhaps I had better call it the United Lunar Volcanoes Caustic Concessions, Limited, though that isn't its real name, and it has got offices that would just about fit into the first floor of Buckingham Palace, not far from the Bank of England. I went in. The place was all got up like a bank, with no end of haughty-looking office-boys and things, and at first I couldn't get any one to take any notice of me. But as soon as I said that I wanted to see Mr. Vanderfeller—that isn't his real name—and that I came from Truth, there was such a sensation as you never saw in your life. All the clerks and office-boys began to run here and there, kow-towing to me and shoving people out of my way, and in about two minutes I found myself alone with the financier in his private room. He was a queer-looking man, fat, with very little hair and a bulbous nose; but his complexion was what struck me most. When I went in first it was a sort of pale green colour, then it turned to a sort of dull purple, and when I spoke to him it went dirty white—rather in the way I've been told dolphins do when they are dying. I was so puzzled that at first I didn't know what to say, thinking he might be ill; and before I could pull my thoughts together he muttered something about, "It has come." I was just going to tell him what I had come for, when he stopped me. "You needn't speak," he said. "I know the game is up. What are you going to do?" I hadn't got my mouth open when he began again, almost as if he was speaking of himself: "Only three weeks and I could have got clear off." He pulled out a handkerchief and began to mop his forehead, which was streaming with perspiration. "Why couldn't you leave me alone? I'm no worse than others. There are hundreds of them. Look here, only let me off this once, and I'll tell you about dozens of them—Holbeagle, Droschkemann, any of them. But spare me—just this once. I'll turn over a new leaf—I swear I will. I have a wife and two little boys—such dear little fellows. Don't blast their father's name. I have done wrong, I confess it; but it was for their sake." Then he began to gabble quite incoherently to himself, until I thought he was going to have a fit, but at last he opened a drawer in a desk and got out a bottle of champagne and one of brandy. When he had drunk about a tumblerful of them mixed he seemed to get better.

Of course, I didn't understand a word of what he was driving at, and as he was quiet for a minute, I seized the chance of telling him what I had really come for. It had a wonderful effect upon him. He seemed to swell out to double his own size at once. When I had finished he sat still for a minute or two, looking at me in a sort of amazed way. "But I thought——" he muttered.

I was beginning to feel deuced uncomfortable, for, of course, I began to think that the fellow was mad, when suddenly he began to speak again, in quite a different voice. He leaned back in his chair and put the tips of his fingers together, and a sort of venerable, honest look came into his face, so that he seemed the sort of man you might have trusted with anything—as, of course, I understand he is.

"When you ask me my opinion as to the present low price of Consols," he began, "I can make but one reply. The cause is the present Radical, Socialistic, Anarchistic Government. Within the short time that it has been in power it has lowered the prestige of England all over the world, it has made us the laughing-stock of the Continent, it has made the name of Briton despised from Nova Zembla to Johannesburg. The Labour troubles in France, on the Rand, in the Argentine, the discontent of our own railwaymen, the increased price of bread, the attack of gout from which the Amir of Afghanistan is suffering, the organised attacks upon capital in the United States, the disturbances in India, the recent failures upon the Stock Exchange, the present unseasonable weather—all these things are directly traceable to the existence of a Liberal Government. Why, I give you my word, that even in the Lunar Volcanoes, where, as you know, the most valuable portion of this company's concessions are situated, our miners are in a seething state of discontent—so much so that our manager has aerotelegraphed us that unless a sound Conservative Government comes into power in the course of the next fortnight or so, he cannot answer for the consequences. And I need hardly tell you that such a step as closing down our mines would mean ruin, absolute ruin, to tens of thousands of small investors who hold shares in this company, and who would, and very likely will, owe their ruin to the disgraceful Government under which we are at present suffering.

"Take another point. So alarmed is capital by the revolutionary proposals of the Anarchistic gang which at present controls the Cabinet, that it is absolutely impossible to bring out any new companies, however unexceptionable, with the smallest chance of getting their capital subscribed. I have at this moment at least a dozen, any one of which would be certain of paying dividends of not less than cent. per cent., yet which it is impossible for me to float. Take the Catsmeat Corporation, which, as perhaps you know, has obtained a concession from the Spanish Government of the flesh of all the bulls killed in the national bull-fights, from which is produced a special concentrated catsmeat, to be put up in tins, of such excellence that, having once tasted it, cats will taste no other. The proposed capital of this most promising venture is a paltry two and a half millions, yet I venture to say that were it floated to-morrow not fifty pounds' worth of the shares would be applied for. To what can we attribute this appalling state of affairs? To nothing but the fact that a Liberal Government is in power. I do assure you, that unless the nation opens its eyes within the next few weeks, I,

for one—and I know of many other large capitalists who think as I do—shall shake the dust of this ungrateful country off our feet, and depart for Monte Video or some other place where the confidence of the investor has not been shaken to its foundations by the elevation to power of a corrupt ring with no other object but the total ruin of their country."

He stopped talking and rose to his feet. He seemed to have quite recovered himself, and he was smiling, a sort of fatherly smile that made me quite cotton to him. I asked him if he would be good enough to give me the names of any other eminent financiers whom it might be worth my while to interview. He looked at me with a sort of admiration in his face. "How long have you been a journalist, young man?" I told him. "Well, you take my advice. Don't you worry about going round interviewing people. You go back to your office and write up all the interviews you want right there. You can make him say exactly what you like, and if they do contradict you, nobody will see the contradictions, or believe them if they do. That's how they do it in the ha'penny dailies. Good morning!"

I've taken his advice, and since then I've worked up about a dozen interviews, with the Rothschilds, and Lipton, and Mr. Hooley, and the Governor of the Bank of England, and people like that. As I am not quite sure what you would like them to say, I've done them twice, one interview blaming everything to the Liberal Government, and the other cracking them up to the skies no end. I enclose them both, so that you can use either of them, unless you think I've done enough with Mr. Vanderfeller. That is all I know about the reason of the low price of Consols, and it seems to me that Mr. Vanderfeller knows quite as much about it as some of the other people who've been interviewed. Jessie thinks so, too.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE New World, dear Lady Betty, was added to the Old World as a punishment. The following letter, that has been addressed to the present writer by "An American Woman," shows how severe the correction is:—

"Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly.

"Sir,—For Europe this is the period of the Great Removal; we Americans are taking from there all that we can, and are altering all that we cannot remove. The masterpieces which the celebrated European painters produced are being transferred from every part of the Old World to the New, so are the exquisite furniture which delighted your ancestors, the valuable jewels which adorned the latter, the gorgeous brocades they worked, the delicate china they hoarded in cabinets, the rare volumes they collected, and most of the treasures your by-gone generations accumulated. Your past is crossing the Atlantic in a continuous stream. You will soon have little to show for your ages of efforts, sacrifices, and triumphs but ruined castles, stripped churches and homes, and the sites where you slaughtered each other in defence of principles which have since been discovered to be prejudices.

"Moreover, we are tapping your history; the great grand-children of Russian, Polish, German, and British refugees, exiles, paupers, and convicts have the blood of your most illustrious statesmen, conquerors, and heroes flowing in their veins—transferred there for cash. We are draining the 'blue blood' of the Old World into our children; and purifying it.

"The main complaint we Americans have now is that there is little left to buy in Europe. The cost of removing Vesuvius would be great; that alone causes one of our minor showmen to hesitate to add it to the curiosities he exhibits. The sale of the Tower of London is almost completed to another; he intends to have mimic executions every half-hour. We possess already most of the members of that strange mediæval institution, the House of Lords; the building itself is not of sufficient interest to tempt even the most enterprising. Representations of the Sittings, with real peers in a canvas reproduction of the House, will be given in New York in the autumn.

"This really is the moment of the Fall of the Upper-Class Angels!

"My husband is in London to obtain a concession to construct a pneumatic tube between England and America to convey rapidly and inexpensively to New York the multitude of titled British bachelors who wish to sell their names to New World heiresses. The marriage ceremonies, moreover, are to be performed by phonograph in batches; they are to be married in hundreds by machinery, as they slaughter pigs in Chicago!

"In a quarter of a century from this Europe will be a geographical expression.—Believe me to be, etc., etc.

"P.S.—When the catastrophe is complete, out of friendliness we might find a use for the British Isles. Moored off New York they might serve as buoys to attach little boats to."

* * * * *

We live under a new dispensation; there are the Ten Conventionalities.

. . . . .

There is the Old and the New Vulgarity. The old was the worship of the established; the new is the struggle to establish ourself.

. . . . .

Marriage is paved with good intentions.

. . . . .

Few women marry for themselves; they marry for each other.

. . . . .

The appearances of happiness are more sought for than happiness itself.

. . . . .

Genius is Nature's millionaire.

. . . . .

There is a time in youth when instinct asserts itself over instruction; that is the period of danger.

. . . . .

It is a sign of the time that to the Upper-class little is too low, and to the Lower-class little is too high.

. . . . .

Wisdom is the perception of the unimportance of the things we call great, and of the importance of the things we call small.

* * * * *

"The Millionaires' Aid Society" has been established by a combination of amiable West-End women, and well-connected destitute men, to assist the quickly-made rich to spend their money intelligently. No really rich man or woman will be rejected, whatever his or her past may have been, for true worldly charity enjoins that the sorrows of the wealthy shall be ours, and that the millionaire shall not be judged even as would the pauper. The members of the new Association have decided to devote themselves to the relief of the very rich; they will seek them out in the back-alleys of Belgravia, in the slums of the Suburbs, in the purlieus of the Provinces, and in the hot and fetid drawing-rooms, which all that are really fashionable would shrink from entering. It is a noble departure, and proves—if proof were needed—that beneath the undress of the most prominent woman of the world there beats a heart which feels for the rich. Could our obscure millionaires but be brought to play at bridge with the competent players of Mayfair, instead of hoarding their money in low securities, it is certain that a great step would have been taken in the direction of their relief; if they could be induced to buy spurious works of Art at prices only attained by the best of the genuine, much would have been done towards training them to appreciate the beautiful; and if led imperceptibly to pay the debts of prominent women, and to lend money to well-connected men, it would bind their interests more closely with those of the class to which the Empire owes so much, and which must be supported if Great Britain is to be saved from the impending ruin.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE annual London meeting of the Jockey Club is to be held at Lord Derby's house in St. James's-square on the 17th, being Monday in Ascot week. I hear there is to be a ballot on that occasion. It was formerly the custom to publish the names of candidates for the Jockey Club in the *Racing Calendar*, but on one occasion a man who had been blackballed complained bitterly of the inconvenience and mortification to which he had been subjected, as all the sporting world had been made aware that he was "up" for the Club and had been rejected. The publication of the names of candidates was then stopped, and now the proposer and seconder send formal notice to the Keeper of the Match-book, who forwards the particulars of the candidature to all the members at least a fortnight before the day on which the ballot is to take place. Nine members must ballot, and two blackballs exclude. There have been men who have encountered the perils of the ballot-box two and three times without success. The late Duke of Hamilton was blackballed when he first came up for election, and he was only admitted to the Jockey Club at the second time of asking because Admiral Rous made a personal appeal to the hostile members, pointing out the loss which would be sustained by the Turf generally and by Newmarket in particular if the Duke were again rejected, as he had announced his intention of giving up racing in England altogether. By the way, at one time dukes were nearly as numerous at Newmarket as jockeys, but now they are as rare as the unicorn. The Duke of Devonshire is the only one that is frequently seen there. The Dukes of Portland and Westminster own racehorses, but they are scarcely ever seen at Newmarket, or, indeed, on any racecourse whatever. The so-called "patrician" owners have considerably fallen off in numbers, and any adequate idea of the enormous weed-out of this class can only be formed by consulting the racing records of the period between 1820 and about 1890. The colours of the Dukes of Hamilton, Bedford, St. Albans, Grafton, Richmond, Beaufort, Leeds, and Rutland have long since disappeared from the Turf.

TRUTH was alone in pointing out the flagrant folly and absurdity of the egregious Racehorse Owners' Association when it was formed, and the opinions then expressed in this journal have been fully justified by the abject failure of the Association, which, having incurred general ridicule and contempt, is now to be wound up. It is difficult to imagine how any sane and sober person could expect that the managers of race meetings would provide free lodging and stabling, or that the railway companies would consent to carry racehorses at nominal rates. It was certainly funny to hear of the Jockey Club being "approached" on the free stabling question, for nobody ever heard any reference to such accommodation being provided at Newmarket. At a period when the so-called country meetings find it difficult to make both ends meet, it was preposterous to make so unseasonable a demand. As to the railway companies, the promoters of this crazy crusade might as reasonably have expected gold and silver to rain from the sky as that the rates for the conveyance of racehorses would be largely reduced. The common-sense view of the matter is that if a man cannot afford to pay such charges, or if it makes him howl with misery to do so, he had better give up the Turf altogether, for under such conditions he is not likely to derive either profit or pleasure from racing. I am afraid there are owners who are disposed to be as mean and huckstering as can by any possibility be managed, and who, like Sir Pitt Crawley, would desire to find their hands in everybody's pockets except their own. The Racehorse Owners' Association certainly received no sort of encouragement in its tiltings with race meetings and railway companies from the Jockey Club, as the Stewards seized every opportunity of snubbing it, but what was really the *coup de grâce* was the muddy-minded attempt to keep owners from engaging their horses in races at Sandown Park. When one recollects the glowing programme of the Racehorse Owners' Association and contrasts it with its achievements during the last two years, one is certainly reminded of the *mons parturiens* and the *ridiculus mus*. It has now come to an ignominious end, having achieved absolutely nothing whatever.

Spearmint is still on his legs, but there is no chance of his being in a condition to run for such a race as the Ascot Cup. He has been doing easy galloping work. I suspect that Mr. Gilpin is afraid to send him along at racing speed for fear of breaking him down. It is rumoured at Newmarket that a great effort will be made to get Spearmint to the post for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £6,000 at the First July Meeting. In this race Polymelus would carry 9 st. 7 lb., while Spearmint's weight would be 9 st. 5 lb., the pair meeting at weight-for-age, as the Derby winner's penalty is reduced by a 3 lb. breeding allowance.

It may be hoped that either Spearmint or Llangibby will be able to oppose Polymelus, or the field will collapse altogether, the entry consisting of mere rubbish, putting aside Black Arrow. This horse would have 9 lb. the best of the weights, his penalty being entirely wiped out by a breeding allowance. If Black Arrow is in any condition within measurable distance of racing trim he will surely be started for this race, if only on the off-chance. There is also the consideration of £800 for second horse.

Slieve Gallion has no fewer than six engagements at Ascot, but I hear that he will be started for only one race at that meeting—the St. James's Palace Stakes on the Cup Day. This race, which will be worth about £2,700, is run over the Old Mile, and there are no penalties, which is, of course, an immense advantage when it is a question of the winner of any great race. Bezonian is the only one of the Derby horses which is engaged in the St. James's Palace Stakes.

Captain Greer's colours ought to be successfully carried on the same afternoon in the All Aged Stakes, as there is nothing in the entry which is likely to beat Rocketter.

Bridge of Canny is undergoing a special preparation for the Ascot Cup, but I shall be surprised if Lord Derby's horse proves capable of defeating either The White Knight or Querido. Lord Derby's horse is a good stayer, and his performances since his two-year-old days have been excellent, but I fancy he will be outclassed by the two four-year-olds mentioned. It is true enough that Bridge of Canny had a stone the worst of the weights at Chester, but Querido won the Cup with the most extreme ease, and it would be difficult to estimate how much the French horse had in hand. Gourd is likely to win a long-distance handicap before the season is over, but it must always be remembered in connection with Lord Derby's mare that she likes deep going and a flat course. Neither hard ground nor an uphill finish will suit Gourd.

I have expressed the opinion more than once that Keystone II. is not likely to have a successful career as a four-year-old. The mare has been scratched for her Epsom and Ascot engagements. It was stated in TRUTH several weeks ago that Keystone II. would probably start for her last race at Ascot, but I am informed that she has gone wrong, and that no attempt will be made to train her again. If all had gone well with Lord Derby's mare during the last two months she would have been reserved for the Jockey Club Cup after running at Ascot. Keystone II. was very unfortunate in not winning last year's St. Leger, but, on the other hand, she was greatly favoured by luck in not having to meet Flair in the race for the Oaks.

Sixteen horses have been engaged in the Ascot Gold Vase, but the entry is disappointing, as the class of the whole lot is moderate. The only French horse in the race is M. Jean Stern's Mont Ménale. Killeagh, Maya, Lycœus, Glasconbury, and Hammerkop are probably the best of the lot. St. Petersburg's accident will

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probably prevent him from starting. I wonder that Wool Winder was not entered for this race if it is true that he is a really good stayer.

There are twenty-two entries for the Fernhill Stakes, the most notable names among the three-year-olds being Orwell, Traquair, Saxham, Hillsprite, and Witch Elm. The list of two-year-olds includes Cheshire Cat, Sheelah, Portland Bay, and Little Goose.

Forty-nine horses are engaged in the Wokingham Stakes, which is the only T.Y.C. handicap in the Ascot programme. The list includes Acclaim, Marcovil, Hillsprite, The Welkin, Nero (a very likely horse to win this race), Cyanean, and Ulalume.

Since the new racecourse at Manchester came into use the meeting has not flourished, and the handicaps have been doing badly. The Summer Cup would obtain a much larger number of entries if the date of closing the race were altered. It is nonsensical to require owners to enter horses on the first Monday in January for a handicap which is not run until the end of May or the beginning of June. This curiously silly arrangement ought to be changed next year. The entries ought not to close until after the Liverpool Spring Meeting.

The victory of Beppo, by the way, was by no means popular. Mr. J. A. de Rothschild's horse runs for the Ascot Cup, so I hear, and he is also engaged at Ascot in the Hardwicke Stakes, and for this race Spearmint, Llangibby, and Slieve Gallion are all entered. The Hardwicke is one of the best races in the programme, being worth £2,860.

I have frequently animadverted on the exasperating absurdity of the Ascot authorities persisting in the policy of throwing away £2,000 on the Ascot Stakes, instead of reducing the added money to £1,000, and then devoting the sum thus saved to one or two of the weight-for-age races which at present are poorly endowed, notably the Fernhill Stakes. There are only thirty-four entries, which is a truly miserable result, considering the extravagantly large endowment of this handicap.

The dark St. Martin was struck out of the Derby, so the Kingsclere stable is not likely to be represented, as Dusty Miller is not engaged; but, even if the Duke of Westminster's colt were included in the entry, it would not be worth while to start him after his ignominious collapse at Chester. I hope that St. Martin may be able to make his début in the Prince of Wales' Stakes at Ascot, and if Lord Falmouth's colt can stay, and presuming him to be fairly smart, he ought to be able to win that race with a maiden allowance of 7 lb., while the best animals in the entry have extra weight to carry. I fear that the brother to Quintessence is turning out a difficult animal to train. Lord Falmouth appears to have a good chance of winning the rich Coronation Stakes at Ascot with Frugality, who finished second to Witch Elm for the One Thousand. Neither Maya, Donna Caterina, nor Witch Elm is engaged in the Ascot race, for which there are fifty-four entries. The Coronation Stakes will be worth £3,450 even if only nine start.

Fifty-six horses have been entered for the Royal Hunt Cup, and the class is decidedly higher than in the Ascot Stakes lot. The list includes Mrs. Jackson's Velocity, Mr. Hall Walker's Colonia, Mr. F. Alexander's Andover (the winner in 1905), Mr. R. Croker's Orby, M. Ephrussi's Champ d'Or, Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite and Acclaim, Mr. G. Faber's Malua, Mr. W. Clarke's Linacre and Meadow Rue, Mr. J. B. Joel's Dean Swift and Prince William, Mr. R. Walker's Dinneford (who won this handicap last year), Mr. Farquharson's Dalkeith, Mr. Apcar's Auber, Captain Woods' Roseate Dawn, and Sir E. Vincent's Cyanean. M. Caillault has engaged Sourdene and Camisard. The weights for the Ascot Stakes and Royal Hunt Cup are to be published to-morrow.

The King is going to sell a number of his horses in training at Egerton House, and it is indeed full time these animals were weeded out of the Royal stud. Perambulator again did very badly in a gallop last week, and a couple of his Majesty's two-year-olds, which were expected to turn out smart, were beaten in a very moderate trial. The sale of the King's horses will take place at Newmarket on July 5, being Friday in the First July week. I hear that several mares from the Sandringham stud will be sold at Newmarket on the Monday in the same week. The failure of the two-year-olds Perspective and Simpatica in their trial is provoking, as they were so highly thought of as yearlings that thirty-four engagements were made for the colt, and the same number for the filly, who was generally considered last autumn to be the best-looking of the Sandringham yearlings.

The racing of last week was of very little general interest. Corinthian, who made a successful début at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting, won the Hopeful Stakes at Doncaster very easily indeed, although he had much the worst of the weights. Corinthian is a fine colt, and evidently very smart. His next race will probably be the Triennial at Ascot, but he may run at Lewes next week. At Salisbury Llangwm won the Salisbury Stakes without an effort from Morisa, a racing-like filly, who had 13 lb. the best of the weights. Llangwm ought to win the £800 stake at Kempton Park on Saturday, and I expect he will defeat Pom if they meet in the £1,500 race at Hurst Park on Friday, the 14th. Little Flutter, who cantered away with the Salisbury Foal Stakes, runs on the last day at Ascot for the King's Stand Plate, the entry for which race includes Rocketter, Quelpart, Stron Ard, and Bon Marché. It is amazing that only sixteen horses should have been engaged in a T.Y.C. race, with £800 of added money!

Mr. Wallace's smart colt St. Elf, who was selected by many of the papers to win the Woodcote Stakes, has gone seriously amiss, and he is not likely to be seen again on a racecourse for a considerable time. It is curious that St. Elf should have gone to pieces after making a brilliantly successful début early in the season, for precisely the same thing happened last year to his half-brother Gnome, who has never been of any use for racing since his illness.

At Epsom to-morrow the Great Surrey Foal Stakes should be won by Mr. L. de Rothschild's dark filly Tsu Shima, by St. Simon out of Top Hane, who has been well galloped.

On Friday the Acorn Stakes should be a good thing for Lord Rosebery's Popinjay, half-sister, by St. Frusquin, to Traquair, who won another trial last week, and she is evidently very smart indeed. Popinjay is intended to start for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, and a victory on Friday will not involve a penalty in the later race.

By the way, Mr. Hall Walker's filly, Call Bird, half-sister, by Gallinule, to Witch Elm, is to make her début in the Acorn Stakes.

There is likely to be a large field for the Oaks, which is considered by good judges to be a very open race. The best of the Newmarket fillies will probably be Lord Derby's Altitude, who has improved considerably, and she did well in a gallop a few days ago. Bellavista, Cornfield, Orwell, and Sixty will also be among the Newmarket lot, but I fancy the country stables will supply fillies capable of easily defeating these animals. Witch Elm won the One Thousand with extreme ease, but Frugality was then decidedly backward, and Maya certainly did not give her best running in that race. It will not at all surprise me if the Oaks is won by Frugality or Maya.

Next week there will be racing at Lingfield Park, Beverley, Lewes, and Hurst Park. It would be idiotic to attempt any predictions with the Epsom meeting going on this week. The meeting of Pom and Llangwm at Hurst Park will be the event of the week, and it may be hoped that both colts will run, and that Quelpart will be included in the field. All Black has another chance in the £1,300 race at Hurst Park.

Mortlocks. — Specialists in Luncheon, Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services. Old English and French Patterns and Models. Specimens sent on Approval. Carriage paid.—Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., London, W.

THE CANKER IN GOLF.

I was very much amused to read in one or more of the daily papers that it was a great pity that the finalists in the Amateur Golf Championship did not agree to postpone the event owing to the weather. The gale and rain were tremendous. But golf is golf, and the golfers of the old school would sooner have perished than abandon a match. It is only men of the new school who object to stymies and the rigour of the old rules, who postpone matches to play bridge. The austerity of the ancient game consisted not only in obedience to the rules, but also in the glorious boast that golf could and should be played in all weathers. If at St. Andrews, of all places in the world, there had been a postponement, then, indeed, it might have been written that the glory of the game had departed. And, indeed, the game needs some preserving. For in its progress it has gathered much evil. The modern golfer lives by pot-hunting and incidental sweepstakes, not to mention rich bets of an amount that make the game savour rather of the roulette board than the putting green. As for the amateurs, it is high time that they took steps to mend their ways. I see that it is openly stated that a qualifying competition will be enforced before two years are passed, so that every Dick, Tom, and Harry may not swamp the list by entering for the championship. That refers only to their playing qualification. But if the list were scanned, I wonder how many names would be struck out because they are not genuine amateurs. I have heard of a man wanting to improve his game, and offering to play a scratch or plus man for a considerable stake, which he was almost certain to lose. He calmly said that one could not expect a player of such skill to play for nothing. These incidents are common talk in certain golf clubs. Of course, if the man likes to part with his money it may be said that it is his own affair. That is true, but let him pay it like a man to the man who makes his living by the game, and not to the man who poses as an amateur. In fact, such amateurs seem to me to be very nearly akin to cardsharpers. They make a nice little income out of golfing mugs, men who have more money than sense. I know enough of what goes on behind the scenes in golf to say that there is a wretched canker eating into the genuine spirit of the game. The professional has a far higher standard of morality. He loves the game in all its moods. He plays it for its own sake straightly and honestly, and he makes a thoroughly honest livelihood out of it. But what shall be said of clubs that have holiday competitions where men foregather from London and where the names of the competitors are sold to the highest bidders at a mock auction, and the buyer of the winner makes so much out of the pool, and so much goes to the actual winner of the event? This is not sport. Golf does not need it. But the club may; and in this highly moral age the money rather than the game is the thing. These gatherings swell the coffers of the club. Why should the committee be purists? Why should the committee interfere if men are fools enough to pay plus men to play with them? I say they should, because a golf club should consist of honourable men engaged in an honourable game. A correspondent this week sends me full particulars of a recent competition in the Midlands, including the names of the club, the donor of the prize, and the winner. I have no wish to pillory this club without giving it a chance of amending its ways. The prize was a ten pound club debenture bearing four or four and a half per cent. interest. One hundred members, I am told, competed. This prize was played for over seventy-two holes on April 27 and May 25. Logically, I suppose it is hard to say that, so far as the winner goes, there is any difference between this form of competition and the ordinary sweepstake. To my mind the action of the committee in permitting such a competition is, in the interest of the game, absolutely indefensible. Every player in that competition was, from my standpoint, disqualified from ever competing for the Amateur Championship. Pot-hunters, sweepstake scoopers, and gamblers, let alone the paid scratch or plus players, are allowed to contaminate the game. It is high time that the matter was taken up by some responsible organisation. We find the effects of this system altering the character of the game itself. The foursome is old-fashioned. Better let there be a three or four ball match where side bets and stakes can be freely made. The stymie is a wicked and unjust rule. It is grossly unfair that the sovereign on the hole and the tenner on the match should depend on such a mean and contemptible stroke. And the player who may have to play and lay a stymie to save the hole is unfitted to be accounted a respectable person. It will be necessary, I fear, for legislation to be effected in order to sweep away the evils that I have referred to. There are a large number of golfers who loathe and detest the present methods. But they have no power to act. They would support reform, but club committees have enough to do in all conscience without looking after the golfing morals of their members.

To turn now to the Championship which Ball won for the sixth time after meeting in the final Palmer, who had not begun the game until he was thirty-six. The loser had not the freedom of swing of the champion, who had won his first Championship nineteen years before. But his approach play was excellent. Over a thousand people followed in the drenching rain. Of all the players Guy Campbell, who a year or two ago was Captain of the Eton eleven, made a great name for himself. His driving was superb, and until he met Ball his putting was excellent. Then, at the critical moment, those two foot puts went astray. He went to pieces on the green. May he have better luck next time. He first learned the game when he was little more than a baby. At St. Andrews one realises how truly golf is a national game, depending not on sweepstakes and gambling. There is Robb who plays for Scotland, an artisan, and another favourite for final honours was Gallacher, a waiter at the Royal and Ancient. There are numerous caddies in Scotland who are finer players than many club professionals. They prove that golf is a game worth playing for its own sake. Those who are always worrying about alterations in rules and complaining about the unfairness of the rules are the men who rely upon sweepstakes and bets to get what they can out of the game.

The secretary-cum-editor of the C.T.C., Mr. Shipton, has been writing to the Irish *Cyclist* on the club. He says he is not sanguine as to the future. The artizan and servant class are not likely to join for the intangible benefit it can offer them. The only course is for the club to continue its present policy of giving the best return possible to the rider who can afford to pay the subscription, and to trust to Providence that touring may become popular. This, I fear, is rather a poor look-out for Mr. Shipton and his connections on the C.T.C., especially as he adds that, unless the present strife is ended, there will soon be no C.T.C. to fight over. I am perfectly certain there will not be if the present mismanagement continues, and I feel more than confident in advising people not to join a club of which its secretary writes so dismally, notwithstanding its specious advertising pamphlet.

In Association football the split has come to pass. The amateurs have decided to form an independent association. The professional element on the council has triumphed. It is a great pity. But it is really sheer twaddle for these professional backers to write about all that they have done for the amateurs. They have given them an amateur cup, and given them amateur international matches, the expenses being paid out of money made by the professionals. After all, the paid player is not represented on the council. He is a mere chattel. Amateurs started the game, the association, and the cup. Everything has been captured by these organisers of the paid game, who are not elected by the paid players. The robbers are very virtuous, because the robbed refuse to be further coerced and to appreciate the sops that are thrown to them.

In between rain and hail there have been cricket matches played. The South Africans beat a fairly strong M.C.C. team after a match that varied in a most exciting way. They need a Duff or Trumper to go for the bowling at once. At the Universities it is satisfactory to note that the fielding in both teams is excel-

lent. Blythe had a great day with Northampton. That county must be getting quite tired of first-class cricket. Essex promptly avenged Kent by beating Lancashire, when Tyldesley played superbly to save his side. Middlesex, with its Colonial bowling, and Notts remain unbeaten. The County Championship is going to be exciting, and when the South Africans have fine weather they will probably add to the national gaiety.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

THE Isle of Man races last week were largely spoiled by the weather, which was about the most unpropitious imaginable. Rain fell, the course was sloppy and soddened, causing numberless accidents, and upsetting the fuel limit calculations, and generally the conditions were unfavourable all round. In the circumstances, however, all the more credit is due to those who succeeded in "winning through" in spite of them, and the congratulations will be none the less hearty in that in the case of both races a British car came in first. The Tourist Trophy race was won by a 20 h.p. Rover car at an average speed of 28.8 miles per hour, while a 30 h.p. Beeston Humber took the prize for heavy touring cars at an average speed of 28.7 miles per hour. A 16-20 h.p. Beeston Humber came in second also in the Tourist Trophy race, so that two of the leading British firms fairly divided the honours of the day.

At the same time, they would doubtless be the first to recognise that many of their rivals had rather hard luck. Mr. Algernon Lee Guinness, for instance, on his 18-h.p. Darracq, was pulled up less than two miles from the finish when victory seemed certain, through running out of petrol, though he had repeatedly covered the course under more normal weather conditions upon the prescribed allowance; and a similar fate attended that fine Belgian car, the Métallurgique. Mr. Napier's Arrol-Johnson, which was prevented from winning last year by persistent tyre troubles, had misfortune again this time, in the shape of a choked petrol pipe. But these and like mishaps are, of course, all part of the game, and while not to be overlooked, in no wise detract from the merits of the performances of the winning cars. But in the case of the "heavy" race it was unfortunate, of course, that the entries were so small and unrepresentative, nearly all the leading foreign makers, and most of the British ones, being conspicuous by their absence. It is just possible that if such cars as Mercédès, Renault, Fiat, De Dietrich, and other famous Continental makers, had been represented the result would have been rather different. Certainly the race would have been more interesting.

As it is, the support of this particular contest has hardly been such as to encourage its repetition another year. Indeed, the ultimate fate of both the "T. T." and "H. T." races would seem to be more or less in doubt at present. Apparently the trade think that they can lay out their money to better advantage than on building special cars to take part in them, and on the thousand and one other expenses incidental to competing. Under the circumstances, would it be absolutely impossible to arrange in future years for the races to be restricted to genuine touring cars, to be picked haphazard from stock by the R.A.C.? In this way the cost to the maker would be greatly reduced, and the results would be infinitely more instructive to the public. But how to work it? There would be difficulties, doubtless, but none, I fancy, of an insuperable kind.

The Manx races were a triumph, by the way, not only for British cars, but also for British tyres. In the "T. T." and "H. T." alike, Dunlops were practically the only wear—the winners and runners-up in both races, as well as many of the other cars, having been shod with them.

The official report of the recent 10,000 miles run on a 40 h.p. Siddeley car will be read with interest by many. It shows that on the whole the number of repairs and adjustments made during the run were commendably few, though some, perhaps, will have been surprised to note that they were not even fewer. From the fact that no previous reference had been made to these adjustments, which were being made from day to day under official observation throughout the progress of the tour, some appear to have jumped to the conclusion that none such were required from start to finish, and that the car had made its run of ten thousand odd miles not only without mishaps on the road, but without even being touched by a tool in the motor-house. Such a notion, however, was absurd, and, as the official report now shows, the car was, in fact, constantly overhauled in this and that respect, and in this way enabled to perform its remarkable achievement in the matter of miles completed.

The adjustments in question seem to have been, for the most part, such as stopping leaks in radiator, chain adjustments, adjusting brakes, wheels, magneto, etc., quite of the ordinary kind. The total amount of time consumed in this way during the seventy-eight days of the trial was, it seems (in the admirably precise terms of the report), 33 hrs. 6 min. 55 sec., or at the rate of less than twenty-six minutes a day—this total including 10 hrs. 5 min. spent in repairing a leaky radiator, and 5 hrs. 40 min. as the result of an accidental collision. As regards the condition of the car after its run, the report is exceedingly favourable. No play was noticeable in the bearings of the connecting rods, the valves (which had not been touched during the trial) were in good condition, and the only signs of wear were of an unimportant character. In respect of the Elastes tyres used, they seem to have entirely obviated tyre troubles, though in consequence of defects in the detachable rims used frequent changes seem to have been necessary. Taking the trial as a whole, while plenty of other modern cars would doubtless be capable of achieving quite as good results, the 40 h.p. Siddeley certainly proved itself a credit to its makers.

It is reported, I notice, that Mr. H. R. Pope, driving an Itala car from Monte Carlo to London, beat all previous records by 4 hours and 16 minutes.

So the Darracq racers will compete in the Grand Prix after all. M. Darracq, it may be recalled, in consequence of the capture of his champion driver, Wagner, by another firm, decided to withdraw from the contest. Messrs. Huntley, Walker and Co., Ltd., the principal English agents for Darracqs, and sole concessionnaires for the six-cylinder cars of that make, have, however, stepped in and acquired certain of the cars in question, which will accordingly take part, as originally intended, in the contest for the Grand Prix, Kaiser Preis, and other Continental contests. In the Grand Prix race Mr. Huntley Walker will drive himself, while it is stated further that he has also secured a new 200 h.p. six-cylinder racer from Messrs. Darracq which has been built purposely to establish world's records.

Nothing could give a much better idea of the substantial nature of the motor-car industry of to-day than the character of some of the catalogues issued by the leading firms, which are in many cases worthy of the title of works of art. Such is that which has just been put forth by Argylls, London, Limited, under the title of "The Care of a Car." Needless to say, the car in question is the far-famed Argyll, but the slightly delusive character of the title chosen may be overlooked, in view of the interesting character of the contents of the booklet, which, apart altogether from its advertising object, affords the most interesting and instructive insight into the principles of modern motor-car construction and the many ingenious details and refinements which go to make an up-to-date modern car such a marvel of efficiency and comfort.

Another publication of the same class, reflecting equal credit on its producers, is that which Messrs. Rolls-Royce, Limited, have just issued. In "The Rise of the Rolls-Royce" the history of this famous British car is picturesquely outlined, while in the subsequent pages particulars are given of the various successes which it has achieved and of the many special features

upon which its claims are based. By common consent the Rolls-Royce car is one of the most scientifically constructed and best thought out in existence, and one which, as a consequence, has no need to fear comparison with the best produced either at home or abroad. It is not without significance, as bearing on the trend of the times, that the makers are at present only cataloguing 40-50 h.p. six-cylinder cars.

MAMMON.

Another Difficult Week in the Stock Markets—Three House Failures—Embarrassment of a Large Outside Operator—Prices Mostly Lower—Poor Canadian Statements—Labour Troubles in Argentina.

THE Stock Exchange has spent another troublous week. There was next to no business doing—that is, business of the kind that makes for better markets. A fair amount of stock no doubt changed hands, but the sales were mostly of a forced character, and were connected with the difficulties encountered at the fortnightly Settlement. At the very outset the troubles of the House began by the default of a large firm of jobbers, mainly interested in copper shares, while two more failures were announced later in the week, one being that of a well-known and old-established firm of brokers. In the case of Mr. Frank Boyd May, who was hammered on Saturday, the default took a tragic turn, that gentleman committing suicide the same evening. Including one member who was expelled by the Committee, ten individuals severed their membership of the Stock Exchange during last week alone. Although actual failures were limited to three, at least six other firms were known to have been helped over at the recent Settlement. Fortunately, the speculative position open in all departments of the House is so small that the liabilities in all the cases mentioned were probably not very serious. In the case of the two large firms that were hammered a week ago, the net shortage was in one instance understood to be £6,000 and in the other only £1,500, and it is hoped that payment of debts will be made in full at an early date. The really important difficulty disclosed last week had its origin outside the Stock Exchange, a well-known operator, who had been granted extensive credits, defaulting to the tune of some £80,000. Owing, however, to the fact that the account was divided pretty equally between some twenty to thirty firms, grave trouble to individual members of the Stock Exchange was avoided. Attempts have been made to adjust matters by the formation of a Trust Company which will take over the assets of the operator concerned, but at the time of writing I am unable to say whether the arrangement has been finally agreed to by the creditors.

With all this actual trouble, and with a plentiful crop of idle rumours about alleged embarrassments, it was not to be expected that markets could make headway. The American department once again set a bad example, prices at one time falling without any show of resistance, though ultimately the market took an upward turn, upon "bear" covering. Canadian Rails suffered from the effects of poor April statements, which showed that practically the whole of the large increases in gross revenue had been absorbed by higher working costs. The showings bring forcibly to mind the prophecy of Mr. Hays, the general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, made at the beginning of the year, that the railways in 1907 would show big gains in gross receipts, but little expansion in net revenue. The Argentine Railway market has been upset by a strike amongst the engine-drivers and stokers, undertaken, it is said, for the purpose of forcing better terms from the Great Western. Fortunately the trouble was promptly met by the offer of arbitration on the part of the Great Western directors. This offer the men have accepted, and work is understood to have been resumed. The new issue of £1,000,000 debentures announced by the B.A. and Pacific, and an emission of £2,000,000 preference stock by the Buenos Ayres Great Southern tended to increase the market depression, though with real holders wisely refusing to sell their stocks, and reports regarding the general state of trade in the Republic continuing good, a rebound in prices should not be far off. Domestic securities, while unable to make much improvement, have been comparatively steady, despite the indifferent news from Lombard Street. Paris is still an active competitor for gold, and has followed up the purchase last week of £800,000 bars here by a further engagement of £300,000, in addition to its withdrawal of sovereigns from the Bank of England, and the import of £400,000 from the United States. In view of this foreign demand, and the fact that the Bank's reserve is under twenty-five millions, no reduction in the official discount rate can be looked for yet awhile.

Home Rails Steadier—Scotch Lines and Forthcoming Economics—The Whitsun Traffics—Striking Effect of the Cold Weather — Aggregate Earnings Satisfactory.

There were satisfactory indications last week that the fall in Home Railway stocks had about spent itself, for the time being at any rate. At one time prices took a fresh downward plunge, but subsequently the market pulled itself together, the understanding that no strike had yet been contemplated by the Amalgamated Society no doubt having some influence, and on balance values have in the majority of cases made a little headway, as the following table indicates:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	May 25, 1907.	June 1, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	70½	71	+ ½
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	26½	26½	+ ½
Central London	96½	82½	70	71	+1
City and S. London	47½	39	41	41	—
Furness	69¾	61⅜	60½	60½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	32½	32	− ½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅜	69	59	59	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	24½	25	+ ½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	13	13½	+ ½
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	70½	70½	+ ½
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅜	97⅜	97	− ⅜
Do. Def.	48¼	39½	38½	39	+ ½
Great Western	144	122¾	122½	124	+1½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42¼	46½	47½	+1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	100	101	+1
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111½	88	84	−4
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	12¾	12¾	—
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	78	77	−1
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	48	48	—
London and North-Western	163½	147½	143½	143½	—
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	45½	47	+1⅜
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	40½	40½	—
Metropolitan District	37½	18¾	13	11	−2
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	63½	64	+ ⅜
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	60½	61½	+ ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	68	68½	+ ½
Do. Def.	47⅛	33⅜	31⅛	32½	+⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134½	135½	137½	+2
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96½	95	96	+1
South-Eastern "A"	55⅜	44½	38½	38	− ½

Brighton "A" was an exceptional feature of weakness, the poor traffic record of the company encouraging further action on the part of the "bears," and leading to a certain amount of real selling. The improvement, speaking generally, might have been more pronounced, but for the fact that it was checked by the offer of a certain amount of bankrupt stock, of which there has been an unwelcome plenitude all round the House of late. The issues of the Scottish lines, after being depressed by the action for compensation brought by Mrs. Black, widow of the late Mr. Black, an M.P. who was killed in the Arbroath accident, were braced up by a fresh reminder of the steps that are being taken by the northern railway directorates to economise. A meeting having this object in view is to be held early this month, when the three principal railway companies—the North British, Caledonian, and Glasgow and South-Western—will be represented. Pourparlers have already passed, and high hopes are entertained that the negotiations will result in an agreement advantageous to all three companies. It is also understood that the question of an all-round advance in haulage rates is to be discussed, in view of the great increase in the cost of materials and in working expenses, though in official circles this suggestion is not creating much enthusiasm because of the unfavourable reception which the com-

panies met with from the Railway Commissioners on the occasion of a similar application in 1900.

The effect of the cold weather was strikingly shown in the traffic returns of our railway companies for the Whitsun holiday period. I gave a week ago the figures covering the long distance tourist receipts—which were disappointing all round—and the inclusion of the result for the Bank Holiday week does nothing to improve the situation. The showing may be seen at a glance from the following table:—

TRAFFICS.—WHITSUN FORTNIGHT.

Company.	Passengers.	Total Receipts.
	£	£
Great Central	− 1,900	+ 4,300
Great Eastern	− 13,400	− 10,500
Great Northern	− 8,800	+ 2,600
Great Western	+ 3,600	+ 19,400
Lancashire and Yorkshire	− 4,200	+ 1,700
London, Brighton, and South Coast	− 21,300	− 21,700
London and North-Western	− 21,000	− 8,000
London and South-Western	− 14,900	− 11,800
Midland	− 5,400	− 10,500
North-Eastern	− 11,300	+ 6,600
South-Eastern and Chatham	− 23,400	− 23,000
Metropolitan	− 900	− 1,400
,, District	− 900	− 800
Central London	− 1,000	− 1,000
City and South London	+ 1,200	+ 1,200

Only one of the leading lines (the Great Western) managed to increase its coaching receipts, and the merit of the performance is discounted by the fact that the company is operating seventy-seven miles more line this year than last. The little City and South London, which also put up an increase, was, of course, helped by the new Euston extension. To some extent the general falling-off in the coaching receipts is explained by the occurrence of Whitsun a fortnight earlier this year. But in the main the Arctic weather experienced at the recent holiday sufficiently explains the shrinkage, and the attempts to argue from the decline that people have less money to spend upon travel now than a year ago are unconvincing. Taking goods and passenger receipts together, the fortnight's results so far as the Heavies are concerned assume a different complexion, thanks to the continued vitality of trade at our chief industrial centres. Moreover, leaving results for the mere fortnight, and taking the broader basis of the aggregate earnings for the twenty-one weeks to date, there is no reason to take aught but a cheerful view of the position, as the following table illustrates:—

AGGREGATE TRAFFICS.—TWENTY-ONE WEEKS.

Company.	1907.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£
Great Central	1,597,800	+ 54,000
Great Eastern	2,012,200	+ 19,800
Great Northern	2,311,800	+ 49,000
Great Western	4,863,400	+ 195,900
Lancashire and Yorkshire	2,310,081	+ 116,400
Hull and Barnsley	236,300	+ 27,700
London, Brighton and South Coast	1,149,700	− 22,900
London and North-Western	5,826,000	+ 190,000
London and South-Western	1,787,900	+ 30,100
Midland	4,772,500	+ 153,200
North Eastern	3,882,500	+ 225,900
South Eastern and Chatham	1,716,500	+ 27,300
Metropolitan	317,700	− 25,100
,, District	164,600	− 3,500
Central London	128,700	− 13,700
City and South London	62,000	+ 2,000

The four biggest lines—the North-Western, Great Western, Midland, and North-Eastern—have each gains ranging from £153,000 to £225,000; while the Great Central, Great Northern, Leeds, and Hull and Barnsley have also come out extremely well, and the question with all of these lines is not whether dividends can be maintained, but whether they can be advanced. Personally, I do not look for much in the way of increased payments to stockholders, because of the probability of expenses having been materially increased during the current year by the rise in coal and materials and wages, and the policy lately inaugurated by the companies of disbursing more liberally upon the up-keep of their lines out of revenue during prosperous times. But seeing that stocks are now selling on a 4½ to 5½ per cent. basis, and that only in one or two exceptional cases is there any likelihood of the dividends for the current year being cut down, the Home Railway market ought surely to begin to show more stamina.

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ERRATIC MOVEMENTS IN AMERICAN RAILS—EFFECT OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH—VARYING CROP NEWS—THE ROCK ISLAND NEW ISSUE—GOLD WITHDRAWALS.

The American Market has experienced one of its now characteristic weeks of erratic movements. The "bears" have not failed to take full advantage of any adverse points, and although during the latter part of the week the market was not in such a depressed condition as in the earlier days, the net movements still remain in favour of the short interest, as will be seen from the following table of prices:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 25, 1907.	June 1, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114½	89	90⅝	90⅝	—
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	97	97	—
Baltimore and Ohio	129⅛	109⅜	97¾	96¾	−1
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101¼	93½	91	91	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	35	35⅞	+ ⅜
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	131½	130	−1½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅝	25⅝	25¾	+ ⅛
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93¾	85⅞	72	72	—
Erie	52⅝	40	22⅞	21½	−1½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85¼	77	56½	57½	+1
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅞	38	36	−2
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	142	141	−1
Louisville	160⅜	143⅜	115½	114	−1½
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	33⅛	32⅝	− ⅛
New York Central	159½	130⅜	113½	113	− ½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45¼	34½	33½	−1
Norfolk and Western	100⅜	87⅛	76¾	74½	−2¼
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96¼	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190¼	128	126½	−1½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63⅜	61⅛	61⅜	− ⅛
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅜	52⅛	51⅜	−1⅛
Southern	43⅝	33	19⅝	18⅞	− ⅛
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	63	59½	−3½
Southern Pacific	99⅜	64⅜	81	78	−3
Union Pacific	203	144⅜	141½	136⅝	−4⅝
U.S. Steel	52½	33¾	34¼	33⅜	− ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅛	101⅝	100	−1⅝

One of the principal events of the week was President Roosevelt's speech at Indianapolis on Thursday last, but crop news, rumours of fresh issues of capital, and withdrawals of gold from New York for Paris, have all played their part. The anticipations of what the President would say had a worse effect than the actual statement, although it cannot be said that the speech has given any very great satisfaction either to the "bull" or the "bear" party. On first consideration a favourable view was taken of the President's pronouncements, for they were considered to indicate that his attitude towards capital was less antagonistic than expected; but there were so many points in the speech which seemed to be of a contradictory character that, after maturer reflections, New York came to the conclusion that on the whole the President did not view the railroads with any too favourable eye. It was, of course, comforting that the President should say that the census reports on the commercial value of the railroads of the country, together with the reports made to the Interstate Commerce Commission by the railroads on their cost of construction, tended to show that, as a whole, the railroad property of the country was worth as much as the securities representing it, and that in the consensus of opinion of investors the total value of stock and bonds was greater than their total face value, notwithstanding the water that had been injected in particular places, and also that his policy in no way represents hostility to corporations. It was not so pleasing to Wall Street, however, to find that at the same time as making these reassuring statements he was also of the opinion that there was less jeopardy from the Socialist and the Anarchist than from the predatory man of wealth, and that full power should be given to the Federal Government because the conditions of railroad activity are such as to make the Central Government alone competent to exercise full supervision and control. Although doubtless anxious to reassure capitalists, President Roosevelt was also striving to please the American public, and he was probably more successful in the latter direction than the former.

The position in the American Market was aggravated

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during the early part of the week by the fact that exaggerated statements were cabled over to Wall-street concerning the troubles on this side, but matters improved somewhat before the Decoration Day holiday, the short interests helping to bring about a recovery by covering. The crop reports early in the week were also of a very discouraging character for the railroad market, but more favourable news came to hand on Friday. Better weather was reported in Kansas State and other districts, and the general prospects of the crops were stated to have improved. The shares of the grain-carrying lines naturally gained under these conditions, Atchison, in addition, being helped by a statement by the president of the line to the effect that the company will earn 16 per cent. on its common stock for the current year, which terminates on the 30th inst. The expectations of new issues of stock have continued to harass the market, and the issue has been announced by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company of $10,000,000 first and refunding mortgage four per cent. gold bonds at the price of 90 per cent. This issue could not well have been made at a worse time, for the prospectus appeared on Tuesday when the market was in a very depressed state, what with the fears regarding the settlement here, the bad crop reports and expectations of an unfavourable speech by the President. The bonds were offered both here and in New York, but it is very unlikely that very much support was forthcoming for the issue on this side. With the poor results which have attended the recent efforts to raise money of authorities much better known to the British public than the Chicago-Rock Island, I cannot see how the company could reasonably expect to obtain the favour of investors here. Rock Island stocks are very little known to British investors, and such market as exists in them here is an extremely narrow one. The New York and Ontario Company has been included among the concerns contemplating new issues, and it was currently reported last week that it had privately borrowed something between $1,000,000 and $2,500,000, but this rumour received prompt official denial. The withdrawal of gold to the amount of $2,800,000 from New York for Paris and reports that more is to follow have exercised the mind of Wall-street, but Saturday's bank statement giving the surplus reserve at $12,783,000 shows that a further moderate withdrawal would not cause very much inconvenience to the New York money market. Should there be an increase in speculation, however, loans would immediately increase and this would put a very different face on the position.

CANADIAN RAILWAY STATEMENTS—THE RISE IN WORKING EXPENSES—ARGENTINE RAILWAYS AND THE STRIKE—NEW ISSUES OF CAPITAL—BUENOS AYRES AND ROSARIO DEFERRED.

Canadian Rails, in addition to suffering with other securities in the general depression which prevailed during the greater part of last week, have had their own particular trouble in the form of disappointing monthly working statements. The returns for April in the case of both the Canadian Pacific and Grank Trunk companies showed a considerable advance in working expenses; in fact, the rate of increase in the outgoings during the month was at such a rate as to almost entirely wipe out the excellent improvements recorded in gross earnings. In the case of the Canadian Pacific, out of an increase of $901,000 in gross, only $24,000 was retained as extra net profit, working expenses having risen at the same time as much as $877,000. The ratio of expenses to gross receipts for the month works out at 62.9 per cent., as compared with 57.3 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1905. Canadian Pacifics, however, which dropped down to 170, soon got over the shock of the statement, and rallied sharply on buying for New York, where the "bears" had been taking considerable liberties with the shares, and had had a good innings. Had it not been for the liquidation of some five thousand shares on Canadian account while Wall Street was closed for its Decoration Day holiday, and further realisations of stock held by defaulters, the recovery would probably have been still more pronounced.

The Grand Trunk statement was perhaps more disappointing to the market than the Canadian Pacific. Out of an increase of £116,900 in gross earnings, the amount saved as extra net profit was only £4,100, the working expenses for the month being at the high rate of 72.7 per cent., as against 68.3 per cent. in April last year. The results of the main line were not so bad, the increase in the amount retained as net profit being £12,300, out of an advance in gross of £88,300, the working expenses being below the average for the whole system at 67.7 per cent.; but the branch lines made a poor showing. The whole of the increase of £26,900 shown in the receipts of the Western line was swallowed up by the outgoings, while the working costs of the Detroit section advanced by £6,000, although the gross earnings only improved by £1,600. On the Canada-Atlantic system the expenses again exceeded the receipts, there being a deficit on the month of £1,500; but in this case it has to be remembered that practically a reconstruction of the line is in progress. The increase in net receipts of the whole system for the four months to the end of April amounts to £17,100, out of an advance in gross of £278,800, but the present rate of working expenses is quite abnormal, and I see no reason to alter the opinion I expressed last week that Grand Trunk Third Preference at their present level are a good lock-up for investors.

Argentine Rails have had a particularly bad time just lately, what with the strike of engine-drivers and firemen and further new issues of capital. The following table shows the net movements which have taken place in Colonial and Foreign Rails during the past week:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	May 25, 1907.	June 1, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161¾	175¾	171¾	-4
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	29 7/16	28	-1 7/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105¼	101½	100½	100½	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123⅝	114¾	118	118	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105¾	109½	109½	- ½
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70¼	60 11/16	70⅝	69¼	-1¼
Mexican	50⅝	22¼	45½	43½	-2
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144¾	118⅝	137½	135	-2½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¾	49½	87½	85½	-2
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p c Pref.	11 15/16	6	11⅛	10⅝	- ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	116	—
Mexican Central 4 p c	90¼	78½	83½	82½	-1
Do. First Incomes	30	18	20½	20½	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	91	90	-1
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81¼	65⅛	79	77	-2
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37¼	52	51	-1
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅝	19½	21	21	—
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	158	148	-10
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	119	114	-5
Antofagasta Def.	180¼	162	130	135	+5
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14½	14	13½	- ½
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	107½	106½	-1
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	73	72	-1
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	114	111½	-2½
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	98½	98	-½
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	110½	120	+ ½
Do. Western	138¾	123½	118½	119	+ ½
East Argentine	120	87	118½	118½	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	65	63½	-1½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅜	85	86½	85½	-1
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	91	89	-2
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/8	12½	10⅜	10¼	- ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69¼	69½	69	- ½
San Paulo	214¾	199½	210	209	-1
Central Uruguay	92½	82	89	88½	- ½
Costa Rica	29 11/16	25	28½	28½	—
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	71½	71	- ½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76¾	73	69	-4
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¾	80	80	—
Manila 6 p.c Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	43	43½	+ ½
Cuban Central	7 1/16	5⅝	5⅛	5⅝	—
United of Havana	103	105¾	93	92½	- ½
Western of Havana	15 7/16	12½	12½	11½	- ⅛
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94¾	87¾	88	88	—
Rhodesia 4 p c. Debs.	8 1/8	76	74	74	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23¾	19½	21	21	—

So far as the strike is concerned, while the quarrel with the employees was only with the Argentine Great Western Railway, the whole of the railway systems of the Republic, except for a small portion in the north, were affected, for the drivers and firemen of other lines

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struck work in order to show their sympathy with the men of the Argentine Great Western, and to demonstrate their solidity as a trade union. The fact that the men are prepared to act with such unanimity is, of course, not very comforting, but even if the demands now made are granted, they will only entail an extra burden on the Argentine Great Western, for the other leading railways are already paying what is now asked by the Argentine Great Western men. As to the effect of the strike on the earnings of the railways, it should only be in the direction of passenger receipts that the lines have actually suffered, for the goods traffic has merely been delayed by the interruption of the train services. Even as regards the passenger side of the question, the services on the various lines were not by any means entirely suspended; in fact in some cases it was possible to run the regular trains. An interesting development in the position was the action of the Argentine Government. The attitude adopted by the Government should reassure investors in Argentine Railway securities who have had any doubts as to the feeling of the authorities in Argentina regarding foreign companies, for no attempt was made to force those lines which were involved in the strike through no fault of their own to maintain their full train services, or to threaten a fine for non-compliance, as might easily have been done had the Government been unfriendly to the railways.

The reports of new issues of stock, coming on top of the other adverse circumstances had a bad effect. The Buenos Ayres and Pacific company has announced the issue of £1,000,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Consolidated debenture stock, of which 60 per cent. is offering to the public, and the Buenos Ayres Great Southern is offering its shareholders £2,000,000 Five per Cent. preference shares. It cannot be said that the Buenos Ayres and Pacific company has chosen a good time to make a public issue, with the market depressed and the labour troubles. The stock itself, however, offers attractions for the investor who desires a steady security giving a fair return, for the price of £96 per cent. at which it is issued gives a yield of £4 13s. 9d. per cent. The last balance-sheet of the company showed that after paying all its debenture interest and guarantees there was a balance of £342,000, while its general reserves stood at £680,000, so that there is ample margin behind the present issue. Traffics have also steadily advanced, and to date show an increase of £394,000. The Argentine Great Western, the Buenos Ayres and Rosario, and the Buenos Ayres Western companies have all made new issues of stock within fairly recent dates, and the market naturally does not like the piling up of capital. These calls for more money, however, are the natural outcome of the enormous expansion in the agricultural industry of Argentina, and should not give rise to uneasiness among Argentine Railway shareholders. The money is wanted to extend the systems of the railways in order to bring in more business. Expenditure in this direction in the past has borne good fruit, and nobody can accuse the directors of the various companies of having spent money recklessly, while there is not the slightest doubt that those now issuing stock see their way to its profitable employment. I consider that at the present prices some of the Argentine Railway issues offer considerable attractions for investors. The following table shows the yields on six of the leading stocks on the basis of last year's dividends:—

	Yield per Cent. £ s. d.
Argentine Great Western Ord.	5 14 0
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Ord.	6 6 0
Buenos Ayres and Rosario Ord.	6 5 0
" " Def.	6 10 0
Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ord.	5 16 0
Buenos Ayres Western Ord.	5 17 0

Taken all round, I think Rosario Deferred the most promising for the man who does not mind taking a little risk. The risk, however, appears to be small, although, owing to a short maize crop, traffics have of late shown a falling-off, and working expenses have been rising. After paying 6 per cent. on the deferred stock for 1906, a sum of £50,300, or more than enough to have paid another 6 per cent., was carried forward. Out of the net earnings last year, also, a sum of no less than £105,000 was transferred to renewals and contingency fund, making the total now put by on that account £472,000, while £50,000 was placed to the general reserve account, bringing the total up to £430,000. The aggregate receipts for the current year also record an increase of £101,200. At the meeting of the company held as recently as the 18th of last month the chairman stated that the directors had always prided themselves on a conservative policy and the endeavour to keep dividends and the prices of the stock on the same level. He also pointed out that the reserve had been built up in order to provide for "rainy days." In the face of these statements and a reserve of £430,000 with which to carry out an avowed policy of maintaining dividends at a steady level, I cannot see that there is any likelihood of any reduction being made in the next dividend, even if the net earnings for the current year should show a falling off. In the matter of working expenses it was also stated at the meeting that it was not the rise in wages, *per se*, that had swelled the expenditure, but the large amount of useful work done which in the long run would be in relief of future contributions to the renewals fund. Apart from the matter of yield, there is also a very fair prospect of an increase in capital value, for, with a return of more normal times in the stock markets, Rosario Deferred will doubtless be placed on the level it merits. With regard to Antofagasta Deferred, to which I referred last week as an attractive purchase, it will be seen from the above table of quotations that a sharp rise has taken place in the price, in spite of the general depression that has prevailed.

Liquidation in the Kaffir Market, but the General Feeling Less Depressed—Favourable Rumours Circulated — The Miners' Strike and Engine Men's Decision—Collapse of the Movement and Benefit to the Industry Foreshadowed.

Although there has been a good deal of liquidation during the past week, and the mining markets have been chiefly affected by the difficulties experienced at the Settlement, the general tendency in these departments has not been so depressed as formerly. Repurchases by "bears" have to some extent offset the realisations in connection with weak accounts, while as a result of the more cheerful feeling entertained as regards the outlook, quotations have shown rather more resistance than they did in the recent period of depression, when almost every one seemed to take a gloomy view of the situation.

Kaffirs have been more active during the past week, and the leading speculative counters have fluctuated rather widely. On the one hand, there has been liquidation in connection with the financial troubles that have come to light; on the other, there has been "bear" covering by local professionals and a little support from Paris, induced by the better news to hand as regards the strike on the Rand. At the close on Friday Kaffirs were more animated, and displayed a stronger tone than for some time past, dealers bidding up the favourites on the strength of the favourable rumours in circulation, but the following day witnessed a renewal of liquidation, and the recovery was not maintained. On the week, however, the leading Kaffirs show some improvement, as will be seen from the subjoined table:—

Share.	May 25, 1907.	June 1, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-French	1	1 3/16	+ 3/16
Apex	2 11/16	2 3/4	+ 1/16
Consolidated Gold Fields	3 3/4	3 13/16	+ 1/16
East Rand Proprietary	3 31/32	4 3/32	+ 1/4
Geduld	1 3/8	1 1/2	+ 1/8
General Mining and Finance	1 1/8	1 3/16	+ 1/16
Goerz and Co.	1 1/16	1	− 1/16
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1 3/32	1 1/8	+ 1/32
New Modderfontein	5 3/4	5 3/4	—
Randfontein Estates	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/8
Rand Mines	5 3/4	6	+ 1/4
S. A. Gold Trust	2 3/32	2 1/8	+ 1/32

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The most satisfactory news to hand as regards the Rand strike is that the engine-drivers have decided against joining the movement. This is of considerable importance, for, as I pointed out last week, in the event of these men joining the strikers, it would probably not be very easy to find substitutes, in which case the mills would have to stop running and gold production be suspended at the mines affected. Moreover, the fact of their having decided to remain at work will doubtless have a good influence in respect to the miners on strike, and will help towards the collapse of the movement. General Botha, who has just returned to the Transvaal, has apparently little sympathy with the strikers, for in the course of a speech the other day he said he trusted the white miners "would soon regain their common sense and end the strike." That these men are not indispensable is demonstrated by the fact that their places have been filled, and the mines have continued to produce the precious metal, and it is quite on the cards that the strike will have come to an end by the time this issue is in the hands of my readers. It seems not improbable that, so far as the mining companies are concerned, good will be the ultimate outcome of this labour trouble. In one of his latest cables the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial Times* states that payment by the day is being substituted for existing contracts, "and the economy resulting from this alteration, which is variously estimated at from 18d. to 30d. per ton, may mean that exceptionally good profits will be shown, due to the elimination of excessive and unnecessary charges." This prospect adds to the speculative attractions of Kaffir shares, and while it is not possible to gauge the extent of the "wreckage" still awaiting a home, I think those prepared to take stock off the market might well pick up the scrip of some of the dividend-paying mines at the current level of quotations. In previous notes I have named shares I favour, but for the benefit of those who have not noted or do not remember the selection made I will mention a few. Among outcrops Glencairns and New Kleinfonteins are promising, and I think Casons might now be bought, while in the deep-level list Robinson Central Deep, Knight's Deep, Wit Deep, and Ferreira Deep are about as good as any. Of the leading speculative counters I still prefer Rand Mines.

One of the rumours which temporarily helped the market last week was to the effect that a dividend of 5s. per share on East Rand Proprietary might be expected in course of the current month, but the statement was not generally credited, and I am inclined to think the sceptics are right. Another story recently circulated had reference to the Chinese on the Rand. This was to the effect that none of the coolies would be repatriated for six months, but well-informed market-men regarded this rumour also as a case where the wish was father to the thought, in view of the announcement to which I referred a few weeks ago that ships had been engaged to take back the coolies whose contracts expire this month. Whether more than the first few batches will have to be repatriated remains to be seen, however, and in this connection the market is still anxiously awaiting the promised "definite statement" as to the Government's intentions.

FORCED REALISATIONS OF COPPER SHARES—THE OUTLOOK FOR THESE DESCRIPTIONS—BROKEN HILLS CHEERFUL—ENCOURAGING REPORTS FROM THE FIELD—BRISEIS TIN RESULTS AND PROSPECTS.

The failure announced at the beginning of last week caused a break in prices of copper shares, the firm in question having been chiefly interested in these descriptions, but not so much in high-priced shares as in things like Lloyds, Central Chilis, and Caucasus. The further fall in the metal quotation to nearly £98 per ton was also a depressing influence, and when the tone became more cheerful, partly as a result of a recovery in copper to over £100 again, liquidation once more set in, this time on account of a big French speculator. The list of prices given below does not show up very well, but the latest quotations given are above the lowest touched:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 25, 1907.	June 1, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	15/-	15/-	—
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3⅜	1½	1⅝	1⅝	− 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2¾	1 1/16	2¼	2 1/16	− 1/16
Wassau	1⅜	¼	¾	¾	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/3	1/6	+3d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1/3	1/3	—
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	22/-	21/3	−9d.
Esperanza	5 9/16	2¼	1 15/16	1 15/16	—
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 7/8	1 7/8	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	39/4½	37/-xd	+7½d.
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5⅞	3 7/16	4 5/16	4¼	+ 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2⅝	1 5/16	14/-	14/6	+ 6d.
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15⅜	11⅝	12⅜	11⅜	− ⅛
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3⅜	3	63/6	63/6	—
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4⅜	9 7/8	9½	− 3/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	46/-	46/6	+6d.
Mount Morgan	4¼	3½	4⅜	4 1/16	− 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91⅛	63⅜	91	89⅜	−1½
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	24/-	24/6	+6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 9/16	¾	2 7/8	2 7/8	+ ⅛
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	15/6	16/6	+1/-
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/6	10/9	+3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7⅛	5½	5 13/16	5¾	− 1/16
Siberian Mines	—	1 1/16	1 1/16	1¼	+ 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16¾	3⅛	3⅜	3¼	− ⅛
Waihi	9 13/16	6 5/16	8⅜	8 1/16	+ 1/16

On Monday, however, there was a fresh break in prices as a result of further liquidation and a relapse in the metal, Tintos dropping away to nearly 87. It looks as though the quotations of copper shares will continue to fluctuate rather than display a decided general tendency in one direction. Fluctuating markets afford plenty of scope for speculation on the principle of "small profits and quick returns," and I think that those who purchase at current prices will have an opportunity ere long of securing a moderate profit. Great Cobars, Mount Elliotts, and Mount Lyells seem to me to be good selections, while among the small-priced descriptions Chillagoes and Munganas are worth attention. As regards Great Cobars, it is satisfactory to learn that the strike is at an end. Apropos of the disappointment occasioned by the recent circular in that no dividend was declared, it is said by some that the announcement has only been postponed for a few weeks. Whether or not this statement proves correct, I think the shares a promising holding at the current level.

The Broken Hill group has not escaped from forced realisations arising out of the trouble disclosed at the Settlement, but on the whole prices in this section have presented a fairly firm appearance. Proprietarys have been depressed by sales on account of the outside speculator who was in difficulties, and who is stated to have realised 11,000 of these shares recently, but the price, which dropped under £4 during the week, has since recovered. Other members of the group have strengthened, the news as to good rains having fallen on the field being a stimulating influence, as there have been fears of a water scarcity. I stated in my last notes in reference to Broken Hill stocks that "intrinsic conditions seem favourable to some improvement in prices," and I still hold to this view, as the reports that have just reached me by mail show that the developments of the mines generally are being well maintained, and that close attention is being paid to treatment and labour-saving appliances, with a view to obtaining the best possible results.

A few months ago I directed attention to the high dividend yield obtainable on the shares of the Briseis Tin Mines at the price then ruling. The annual report of this concern is now to hand, and, as foreshadowed by the quarterly statements, the figures make a very satisfactory showing. For 1906 the profits were £128,500, compared with £58,000 for 1905, and in all 3s. 9d. per share was distributed amongst shareholders on account of the twelve months. On this basis the shares at the current price yield no less than 30 per cent. The directors have not divided profits up to the hilt, for in addition to distributing the amount mentioned they have written off £7,000 for depreciation,

In spite of high freights—in face of prohibitive tariffs, discriminating writers, the world over, insist on having STEPHENS' INK. It costs no more. Resolutely refuse substitutes.

paid £5,000 out of revenue for the new property acquired, added £20,000 to general reserve, and even then have £42,200 left to carry forward. Prospects are speculative, as the life of the area now being worked is estimated at only three years, and the value of the new property remains to be proved. But it is to be borne in mind that the Briseis, in addition to its own earnings, is entitled to 58 per cent. of the profits of the No. 1 property, and it seems to me that the present market price of the shares allows little for possibilities in regard to the new leases, which are stated to contain the northern extension of the Briseis lead.

A New Bucket Shop.

"Am I right in supposing," asks a correspondent, "that these sort of communications come from what are called bucket-shops?" The communications in question are three in number, dated May 21, 22, and 23, from Cameron and Co., 52, Cannon-street, E.C. The name of the firm is new to me, but their mode of business is old. On May 21 they intimated that they were expecting a special cable regarding Union Pacifics, and hoped to wire the information next morning. It was added that these shares, having fallen over fifty points in the last few months, "the time is now due for a substantial recovery;" that Cameron and Co. would require a margin of £30 for every fifty shares; and that "every point rise means a profit of £10 on every fifty shares." As may be guessed, the wire next morning strongly recommended an immediate purchase of Union Pacifics. No notice was taken of it, and on the evening of May 22 Cameron and Co. wrote expressing regret that an order had not been telegraphed to them. Their regret was doubtless quite genuine, for during that day Union Pacifics had had a drop which would have more than exhausted the £30 cover. However, evidently assuming that their intended dupe would be unaware of this trifling fact, they went on to tell him that if he made the suggested purchase he might "look for a quick rise at ten points before the end of next week, meaning £100 clear profit." To save him trouble, a telegraph form was enclosed, ready filled up, with the instruction: "Buy fifty Union Pacifics; posting £30 margin." But he again failed to rise to the bait, and on May 23 Cameron and Co. once more wrote, urging him to send an order, "however small," and enclosing this time a telegraph form, in which the amount of the margin was left blank. . . . Yes, my correspondent is correct in his supposition. The cover that he was asked to send would promptly have run off, and even if there had subsequently been the predicted advance of ten points in Union Pacifics, he would not have benefited by it.

Bull and the Blazing Bays.

That blatant member of the bucket-shop fraternity who calls himself Martin Bull, but whose real name is believed to be Brown, figured in a case in the City of London Court last week, which bears out everything that I have said respecting him. One of the familiar circulars from 7, Fenchurch-buildings, beguiled a Scotch distiller into sending Bull £20 as cover for a purchase of Hudson's Bay shares, which were "sure to rise." Bull at once exhorted him to increase his holding, wiring that Bays were "buoyant," and the distiller parted with another £20. Again Bull wired, reporting this time that Bays were "blazing," and a further sum of £30, making £70 in all, was forwarded. The distiller, whose name I am considerately suppressing, is a gentleman doing a large business in his own line, but quite ignorant of the wiles and ways of outside brokers. From the fact that the contract note provided that the transaction should be carried out "according to the rules and regulations of the London Stock Exchange," he ingenuously inferred that Bull was a member of the Stock Exchange. His disillusionment came when, owing to the advance of Hudson's Bays, he found himself entitled to a profit of £97. He could not obtain payment of the profit or even the return of his £70. Bull's game is, of course, to tip for a rise of stock which is more likely to fall, so that when the cover runs off he can keep his dupe's money without further question. On the other hand, if it happens—as it did on this occasion—that there really is a rise, it does not by any means follow that Bull will pay up. I have, in fact, more than once exposed his failures to do so. In the present case, on being sued for the £167, he set up the plea that the contract was for a three-monthly settlement, though the distiller had never agreed to that, and it was, moreover, contrary to the rules and regulations of the Stock Exchange which were to govern the transaction. When this plea had been brushed aside, Bull attempted to raise the Gaming Act, but owing to an informality on his part this defence also was rejected, and Judge Rentoul gave judgment for the distiller for £100—that being the extent of the jurisdiction of the court—with costs. The course that he took in this case is a characteristic example of Martin Bull's "heads I win, tails you lose," method of gambling.

Wm. Tyler and Co.

In view of the references which have been made in these columns to the bucket-shop firm of Wm. Tyler and Co., Pinners' Hall, Old Broad-street, it may interest my readers to learn that at the Guildhall last week Wm. Henry Dacre Tyler, carrying on business at that address, was charged on a warrant with obtaining money by false pretences. The solicitor for the prosecution said that the case against the firm was that they did no genuine business. The accused was remanded, and I am, of course, precluded from making any comment upon the proceedings at present.

New Issues.

Applications are invited for an issue of £200,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Perpetual Consolidated Mortgage Debenture Stock of the Shawinigan Water and Power Company. The price of issue is fixed at 90 per cent. The company is the sole owner of the water power of the Shawinigan Falls, on the St. Maurice River, Canada, situated midway between the cities of Montreal and Quebec. The company's power is the principal source of supply for the territory between Montreal and Quebec, including various manufacturing centres, and it is being taken by a number of important consumers. It is anticipated that the net profits for the current year will be sufficient to cover the annual interest on the present issue six times over.

The Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company announces an issue of £1,000,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock at 96, to which reference is made in my railway notes.

"Vigilant's" Letter Box.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

Railways.

Mango.—1. They are not an attractive investment. There is no guarantee as to principal, and the guarantee of the interest expires in 1919. As the line is not at present earning its fixed charges, I should be inclined to realise. 2. Quite sound, and should recover before long. The traffics in the near future may show some falling off because of the smaller maize crop, but the company ought to have little difficulty in maintaining divi-

dends. *Rhodesia.*—She first answer to "Mango." The same remarks apply to both lines. *Shareholder in India.*—Thanks for your letter, but I regret to say many of the statements you make are too libellous to be published in the form in which you put them. I will, however, keep the matter in mind. *California.*—Consult a solicitor at once. You might ascertain from the company's secretary at Euston Station whether the shares have been sold under the power of attorney. *J. B.*—I think you should be content with your present holding. At the present time you need have no difficulty in finding other high yielding investments at least equally attractive, and by spreading your interests you would, of course, be limiting your risk. *Old Ditcher.*—No. 1, despite the fall, seems still absurdly high compared with, say, Great Northern Deferred, and an exchange into the latter might be worth making. The others had better be kept at the present very depressed levels. *Trader.*—Thanks for your appreciative remarks. The suggestion you make is not an unreasonable one, although there are, of course, difficulties in the way of its adoption. However, if matters in regard to labour be pushed to extremes, the question of a revision of tariffs will no doubt come to the front. Evidently the address you require is Mr. Nathaniel Spens, Managing Director of the Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, 12 and 13, Nicholas Lane, E.C. *Channing.*—The fall is sufficiently explained by recent earnings, which suggest a reduction in the Preferred dividend. I would not buy more, and it is a question for yourself whether you sell at the present rubbish price or wait in hopes of an ultimate rally. *Beta.*—The shares are thoroughly sound and ought to be held. *Faith.*—Both sound stocks, and should be held.

MINES.

Omicron.—A financial undertaking which is understood to be largely interested in Mexican gold mines. The shares are quoted about 15s., and seem a fair speculative holding. *Orlando.*—The Zoroastrian was reconstructed for the third time in December last, and now figures under the title of Cardigan Mines, Limited. The Paringa is still in existence, and its property is being worked on tribute. *Felspar.*—Of your list I prefer Nos. 3, 4, and 5, which appear fair speculative holdings. *Welshman.*—1. A substantial advance does not seem very likely. 2. Yes. 3. At the present rate of sinking, the No. 1 shaft should reach the reef in about four or five months' time. 4. When the company's financial position is rearranged the shares should be worth more than the current price; but it is not possible to give anything like a definite statement pending the announcement of working costs and profits. *Inquirer, Scarboro'.*—Taking the new shares must be considered a pure speculation, and I am afraid the prospects of the concern are not very bright. *Land Agent.*—I have no information as to the standing of the promoting concern mentioned.

MIXED.

G. W.—I would suggest Japanese Five per Cent. bonds, United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway Five per Cent. New debentures, Scottish American Mortgage Five per Cent. "B" preference, Argentine Great Western Railway ordinary, and Grand Trunk Railway Second Preference. *N. L. B.*—Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series) should suit you as well as anything I could name. *Galen.*—1. Yes. 2. No special reason for the fall has transpired. You might keep them as a speculation for dividends. *Combe.*—1 and 2. Hold. 3. I am afraid the stock is hopeless, though it might fetch a point or two more when general market conditions improve. 4. Worth holding. Your further inquiry will be answered under "Insurance Notes." *Seek.*—1. Ivanhoes and Sons of Gwalia are promising speculative purchases, but I do not see much attraction in the others at present. 2. There is a fair prospect of a moderate improvement within, say, the next three months. *Fortunio.*—I have no recent information about No. 8, but the rest of your investments should be kept. *O. W.*—1 and 2. Purchases to average should turn out well eventually. 3. They are members of the Stock Exchange.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Seivad, B. S., Rhoderic Dhu, W. T., Beverley, Slieve Gallion, Investor, J. M. D., and other correspondents.—Repeated warnings against the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville, Glyn, and Co., have appeared in TRUTH. I dealt with the question of "premium bonds" in an article last week. *W. B., Seedley.*—Have nothing to do with either the syndicate or the Arnold and Butler bucket-shop. *H. P., West Hartlepool.*—Have nothing to do with H. Langenhahn and Co., or any other Continental lottery touts. The circulars are grossly misleading. *Felicia.*—Perfectly safe. *Nitrate.*—I know nothing about the firm, but you could yourself get repayment of the tax, if you are entitled to it, by sending a formal claim direct to Somerset House. As to the outside brokers whom you mention, I have had no occasion to criticise them. *F. J. S.*—Your questions are hardly within my province. However, the sacks should not be included in the weight, and the Weights and Measures Act (1889) entitles you to require a weighing "by any weighing instrument stamped by an inspector of weights and measures." Consult your local inspector. *W. J. A. B.*—Obviously it would be premature to express an opinion before the prospectus is published. *Argyll.*—I find that in the case of joint-holders, if one dies, proof of death only is necessary, as the shares fall to the survivor. As to duty, "Hanson's Death Duties" puts a hypothetical case thus:—"A transfers £500 Consols into the joint names of himself and his wife, and dies in his wife's lifetime; estate duty is payable on his death on the value of the Consols." *R. C. F. C.*—I would not recommend the concern. *J. R. O., Forest.*—The undertaking is suffering from the commercial depression afflicting the country. The proposed exchange might turn out profitable, as a dividend payment on the machinery Preference shares has been foreshadowed, but I do not favour the furniture shares. *Perplexed.*—1. An interim dividend, including 5 per cent. per annum on the deferred, has just been declared. You evidently bought at the times the shares were very active, but I would hold for a possible recovery. 2. No special reason for the decline. Hang on. *W. V.*—Of their type they are worth holding. The Far Eastern War inflated the profits abnormally, but still the position of the concern is hopeful. *Talana.*—Try to find a buyer and face the loss. Apart from active competition there is the threatened electric scheme, and the shares appear hopeless. *Gee Gee.*—Hold for a while in the hope of a recovery. The dividend outlook is not very encouraging. No new issue is likely. As a speculative investment the preference seem fairly attractive at the moment. *Countryman.*—Ultimately the company may be successful, but at present it is only in the experimental stage. 2. Price about 14s. 3. £1 shares fully paid. 4. Purely speculative. *Neophyte.*—You might hold until the concern reaches the productive stage. 2. They are a speculation, but would probably respond to a rally in South Africans. *Talab.*—It is not, properly speaking, a bank, but a concern registered under the Moneylenders Act by one Carpenter. *Lieutenant R. N.*, and other correspondents.—Thanks for the bucket-shop circulars. *R. B.*—I note what you say, but it does not affect my remarks concerning the touting firms. *Neglected.*—Go to a local bank, which would doubtless collect them for a small charge. *Patchwork.*—Read my article last week on premium bonds. The Government securities you mention should be kept, and also the printing company's shares. I have no special information as to the Brixton concern. *G. H.*—Thanks for the paper.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKET DULL—PROSPECTS OF HUDSON'S BAYS—PEKINS AND THE SHANSI GENTRY—LIPTON'S IMPROVEMENT—BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION.

The Miscellaneous Market has exhibited no signs of a general change for the better during the past week, though here and there a bright spot has been temporarily visible amid the prevailing gloom. That speculative favourite, Anglo "A," remained fairly steady at about 20, and the rest of the telegraph quotations are unaltered. In Hudson's Bays there have been such fluctuations at a drop of 5 points one day, a recovery of 3 points next day, and so on, with the result at the end of the week at 92-93 there was a net gain of ½ a point on the making-up price of the previous Tuesday. The final dividend declaration for the year is due almost immediately, and in spite of the relapse on Monday, it will not be surprising if the shares are soon up to about 100 again, though only the most sanguine speculator can expect to see them go much above that figure for a long time to come. Pekin Syndicates are lower. The settlement of the difficulties in regard to the development of the Shansi Concessions seems to be as far off as ever; and in this connection it is instructive to learn that in the opinion of a newspaper correspondent in the province "a more hopeless lot than the body of men who go by the name of the Shansi gentry it would be impossible to find." He adds that if the settlement is left to them the syndicate will have to wait until the millennium; and it has still to be seen whether the hostility of these "Shansi gentry" can be overcome by means of the pressure which the British Minister is said to be bringing to bear on the Chinese Government. Lipton's have been in some demand on a report showing an improvement in the position and prospects of the company. The dividend for the year is only 6½ per cent., as compared with 7 per cent. for each of the three preceding years. There has, however, been an increase of £6,658 in the total profits for the twelve months, and the directors state that the volume of business has been increasing since the making up of the accounts in the middle of March. It would have been quite possible to maintain the 7 per cent. dividend, but instead of dividing profits up to the hilt, the directors have preferred to keep a larger balance in hand, the carry-forward being £22,488 as compared with £11,435, and this policy will be generally approved. Among textiles, Coats's have been firmer, the preferred shares particularly being in request. At the meeting of the Fine Cotton Spinners' Association it was stated that there was no sign of any falling off in their prosperity, the first two months of the current year having been equal to the best two months of the past year, when a record net profit of nearly £590,000 was made. The Bleachers' Association has experienced a small falling-off in its earnings for the past year, but the ordinary dividend is maintained at 4 per cent., and

(*Continued on page* 1405.)

· TRUTH ·

TRAVEL SUPPLEMENT.

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THE BRITISH ISLES FOR BRITISH TOURISTS.

POSSIBILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS OF HOME TRAVEL.

THE British Isles are becoming every year more and more the resort of foreign travellers. From the United States alone the annual influx is prodigious, and the proportions thereof in the present season are, it is reported, likely to be greater than ever. The cry has even been raised that the hotels of London, big and numerous as they are already, are not yet big or numerous enough to accommodate all who would fain have lodgment in them when the "rush" is on. It is true that many of these trans-Atlantic trippers, representing the wealthier classes of American citizens, are birds of passage who come here, not only to see England, but to "do" Europe as well. There are, however, thousands of others, belonging to the great American middle-class, who cross expressly to visit the United Kingdom, either not going to the Continent at all, or else contenting themselves with a day or two in Paris, regarding that city somewhat in the light of a side-show. From their point of view, at least, the British Isles are *the* great attraction of the trip, and there are probably few of them who, on bidding "good-bye" to the friends they have made on this side, fail to say, "Well, we're just charmed with your country"—with a distinct emphasis on the word "charmed."

Then from Continental Europe we also have an increasing number of visitors year by year. French people, Germans, Dutch, and Belgians, especially, with representatives of other nationalities in fair proportion, come here, not merely to view the sights of London, but to see the natural beauties, and become personally acquainted with the many historical associations of our land. Nor should the continuous stream of visitors from Canada and far-off Australasia be left out of account. It is true that our colonial cousins may be influenced by a desire to visit friends or relations at "home," so that one must not regard them exactly as ordinary tourists; yet many of them also think that the Old Country is well worth visiting even for her own sake.

This world-wide and still increasing appreciation of the attractions to be found in the British Isles ought to suggest a keener appreciation thereof among ourselves. The presence and the compliments of so many visitors from other lands need not necessarily fill us with national pride, and lead us to assume that England is "the hub of the universe." But the practical testimony of swarms of visitors from elsewhere may well convince the British people that the said Isles are worth seeing—even by those who live in them.

Looking at the matter from this point of view, the question may reasonably be asked: "Does the average Briton know the British Isles as well as he ought, and as well as he might?" The answer must undoubtedly be given in the negative. The tendency with most of us, when we get a holiday, is to go further—to some foreign country—and perhaps fare worse. Apart from considerations of scenery we offer the excuse that by going abroad we have the benefit of "seeing other countries." Yet may not even that advantage be obtained in the British Isles?

Take, by way of illustration, the facilities offered by the lines of even a single railway company—the London and North-Western. Dining in London in the evening, one can join a Scotch express at Euston, and breakfast next morning in Scotland—a country whose traditions and characteristics are quite as full of interest, and quite as much deserving of study, as those of France, of Germany, or of Switzerland. As for natural beauty, Scotland presents attractions in the way of mountains, forests, lochs, passes, and wild grandeur which, as regards their own peculiar charm, could not be surpassed by any of the Continental countries, though the scenery of the latter—as in Norway, for example—may be on a larger, and hence on a grander, scale. But the special fact here to be borne in mind is that, from the point of view of the English tourist, and leaving all political considerations aside, Scotland does, to all intents and purposes, rank as "another country."

Suppose, again, that, instead of joining the Scotch express at Euston, the Englishman in question should take his seat in the express for Holyhead, cross over to Dublin, and make a tour through Ireland. There, again, he finds a land having traditions, customs, characteristics, and scenery all differing essentially from those both of England and Scotland, and offering to the tourist just as much scope for study, and just as many sources of interest, as a country in Continental Europe might.

Or, alternatively, let the traveller from Euston, instead of going to Scotland or Ireland, resolve to explore Wales. Still looking at the position from the point of view of the tourist, the same conditions apply there, and especially so when one gets away from the towns into the inner recesses of "wild Wales."

Should, again, the English tourist, indulging in home travel by way of a change to foreign travel, not feel happy unless he is struggling with a language he does not quite understand, he can try what he can do with Gaelic in Scotland, Irish in Ireland, and Welsh in Wales.

So we find that the chief advantage claimed for foreign travel, that of "seeing other countries," has already been afforded to us through one of our own railway systems, without any actual need arising to go beyond the limits of the United Kingdom; while such of the natural attractions and scenes of historic interest in England itself as can be reached by the same line of railway are so great and so manifold that, when one tries to realise their almost infinite variety, there is still less occasion for the Englishman either to wonder at the aforesaid steady influx of foreign visitors, or to assume that he must himself go to the Continent when he seeks to have an ideal holiday. If the charms and attractions to be found within the limits of our own islands were only on the Continent, instead of being at our own doors, there is little doubt that many an Englishman would visit them much more readily than he does, and be full of enthusiasm over what now, it may be, he more or less neglects.

Taking, then, the case not only of our foreign visitors, but also of home tourists, actual or prospective, it may be of advantage to remind them how wide are the possibilities offered by the line which holds the premier position among British railways—that of the London and North-Western Company—for visiting what are really the greatest of all among the many attractions and points of interest represented by that collection of different lands, diversified scenes, and varied peoples comprised in what are known as "the British Isles."

Scotland.

It is one of the commonplaces of transport literature that "steam has annihilated distance." But this phase of our advancement will be realised more clearly if one remembers that, from the point of view of the traveller, Scotland is nearer, say, to London to-day than Birmingham was in the pre-railway period, as shown by the fact that Edinburgh and Glasgow can now be reached, viâ the West Coast route, in as short a time as eight hours. The early-Victorian British citizen would have thought such a thing impossible. To-day it is regarded as a matter of course.

Then, while steam has been accomplishing these wonders, competition and combination among the railway companies have helped to bring about a succession of improvements in services, rolling stock, and general facilities, so that long journeys can now be accomplished, not only in a minimum of time, but with an amount of comfort which renders travelling on the main lines of the British railway companies to-day equal to that of any railways in the world.

The introduction of breakfast, luncheon, tea, and dining cars has alone sufficed to produce a revolution in railway travel. Leaving Euston in the morning, one can go in a through corridor carriage to Edinburgh or Glasgow, arriving in the early evening, or to Aberdeen, arriving there a little later, having had all one's meals, well served and at a reasonable cost, in the train *en route*. Travelling at night, one can go in a through sleeping saloon from Euston as far as Aberdeen, Inverness, or Oban, the charge made for such accommodation being only 7s. 6d. per berth in addition to the ordinary first-class fare. The sleeping-cars running on the West Coast route have been pronounced by experienced travellers the finest in Europe, while not only are they more comfortable than the ordinary sleeping cars on the American lines, but they may well be compared with the "special" compartment cars of those lines, for which extremely high supplementary fares are charged.

On many of the corresponding express trains on the Continent of Europe third-class passengers would not be carried at all; but here there is no such restriction. Not only are third-class passengers carried on these express trains, but luncheon and dining cars are provided for them as well as for first-class passengers; and, although third-class sleepers are impracticable, from a financial standpoint, the third-class passengers by night trains can borrow from the Company pillows and rugs at the nominal charge of sixpence each, and make a night journey more comfortably than is the case with the equivalent classes of travellers ("tourists," and other non-patrons of Pullman cars) on the railroads of the United States.

On this West Coast route, the London and North-Western Railway works in combination with the Caledonian Railway, the premier line in Scotland. The Caledonian engines are famous all the world over, and the West Coast corridor trains are unrivalled for their elegance and general comfort.

Everything possible having thus been done to deprive the journey to Scotland of any drawbacks with which it might seem to be invested on account of distance, the next question to consider is, What are the special attractions of Scotland which may be offered as a further inducement to tourists to make the said journey?

To answer that question aright would need a volume instead of a short article. Here, only a few leading features can be briefly indicated.

Beginning with Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, we have one of the most beautiful cities in the whole of Europe. In Edinburgh nature and art have combined to present charms which are unique in their way. Princes-street, for example, is incomparable. The traveller will recall the Rue de Rivoli in Paris, Unter den Linden in Berlin, Fifth Avenue in New York, Sackville-street in Dublin, or other famous thoroughfares in the world's great cities, but will be forced to admit that, for picturesqueness and actual beauty, Princes-street, Edinburgh, still takes the lead. What sources of delight, again, the traveller will find in the Castle, that ancient seat of Scottish kings, perched so boldly on its rocky summit; in Holyrood Palace, with its memories of Mary Queen of Scots; in the views from Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat; in the quaint streets, narrow wynds, and lofty houses of the Old Town; and in the many literary traditions which have deservedly made Edinburgh famous as "the Modern Athens!"

Glasgow may be essentially a modern city, busy with commercial and industrial interests, but she represents also the starting point for as glorious and as varied a range of excursions as any city on the face of the earth can offer. The literary pilgrim would begin, no doubt, with Ayr and the Land of Burns. The lover of the picturesque might prefer to start with short trips to the islands in the estuary of the Clyde and beyond, or with the tour of Loch Lomond, Loch Katrine, and the Trossachs, finishing up with Stirling Castle—a round which alone is worth a visit to Scotland. Then would follow a choice of longer tours. On the east the strong claims of Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, and the wild and romantic country situate between Aberdeen and Blair Athol would claim consideration. Alternatively, the tourist might go to Oban, explore from there the natural wonders of Staffa, and indulge in the historical associations of Iona (the island where St. Columba landed from Ireland in 563, when he began his missionary work in Scotland), and proceed from Oban by the Caledonian Canal (calling at Ballachulish and the Pass of Glencoe *en route*) to Inverness—a starting point for another fresh series of tours. The trip thence to the Isle of Skye and Stornoway can be most strongly recommended; or the visitor not pressed for time could go still further north, to Wick and Thurso, and so on, to the Orkney and Shetland Islands. Whichever of these two routes was taken, the tourist could see some of the grandest rock and coast scenery in Europe, bringing away with him mental pictures which, if the writer of these lines may judge from his own experience, would never fade from his memory.

So, altogether, there is much that has been missed by the English tourist who has hitherto neglected Scotland in order to visit the countries of Continental Europe; and, though these may have given him much pleasure, one cannot but think that, in regard alike to a complete change of scene, improvement in health in a thoroughly bracing climate, variety of natural scenery, and an absolute wealth of historical associations, opportunities for sport, and all else that constitutes real mental or physical enjoyment, Scotland might have afforded him an even higher degree of satisfaction.

Ireland.

During the last twenty years continuous efforts have been made to convince public opinion in England of the great claims of Ireland to the attention of tourists, and to promote an increased flow in that direction of the stream of holiday traffic which to-day crosses to foreign lands rather than to the Sister Isle. There are greater hopes for the present season, by reason of the additional attraction offered by the International Exhibition in Dublin, and it may be anticipated that the majority of those who go to Dublin will allow themselves sufficient time to make or increase an acquaintance with the interior of the country as well. But, although the flow of the said stream certainly is increasing, the possibilities of Ireland as one of the most attractive of resorts for tourists have still to be recognised by tourists in general to the extent they deserve.

First among those claims is the fact that Ireland, as a country, offers physical conditions and natural charms of a type and character not to be found elsewhere in Europe. The striking of the Gulf Stream on her south-west coasts gives her an equable climate which produces a most vigorous and varied vegetation; and this in turn—whether in the form of green pastures, prolific woods, rich foliage, or lovely flowers—invests with more or less beauty every spot where there is earth enough for verdure to grow. Incidentally, be it added, these same conditions render the South-West coast of "the Emerald Isle" an ideal winter resort for invalids and convalescents, who might find

themselves even better off here than in the sometimes changeable, if not occasionally treacherous, climate of the Riviera.

Then there is a much greater element of variety about Irish scenery than is met with elsewhere in Europe. Within a comparatively small compass one gets wonderful contrasts in the way of gloomy mountains and glorious vales; of placid lakes, reflecting a background of verdure-covered hills, and seas whose waves strike against rock-bound coasts with all the fury the Atlantic can give them; of gentle streams and broad rivers; of rich pastures and dreary moorlands; of ideal bays and bold headlands; of yellow sands and great rocks; while all alike are invested with wondrous variations of colour under a sky of such clearness, and in an atmosphere of such purity, that, in the words of so accomplished an artist as Lady Butler, the counterpart thereof would have to be sought in the Nile Valley itself. Turner once declared that the sun seemed to set more beautifully in Ireland than anywhere else. But well may the sun do so, for Ireland is a country of Nature's show-places—a garden-island where she must have experimented on some of her best handiwork, leaving the results as lasting examples alike of the loveliest and the wildest of her creations.

The records one finds in Ireland, however, are not those of Nature alone. Ireland is, besides, a land of legends, of history, of song, of poetry—and, also, of the sternest of prose. Her landscapes are not merely picturesque, for concerning each and every one of them there is a story to be told. Her legends are as numerous as those of the Rhine itself. Her history, illustrated by the mournful ruins of castles, of abbeys, and of tombs of kings that were already ancient when William the Conqueror came to England, goes so far back that one can hardly say where fiction ends and truth begins. Her literature—and especially her poetry—presents claims which the world has long since recognised. As for the sternness of her prose, let the tourist draw a kindly veil over that, and content himself, rather, with showing all possible friendliness to a people who, whatever their own faults and shortcomings, and whatever the faults and shortcomings with which they have been treated, are famed for their hospitality, and will be found readily responsive to the kindly words and sympathetic bearing of visitors whose only object it will be to admire the beauties of their land, and to show, in such practical form as they may, a generous appreciation thereof.

As regards the journey to Ireland, there is ample choice of routes; but, when in doubt, the traveller cannot do better than adopt the middle course, and keep to "The Old Highway" between England and Ireland, crossing from Holyhead to Dublin, either direct to North Wall, or by the mail route, viâ Kingstown. In this way a choice is offered of morning and evening boats in each direction by each of these services—a total of eight per day. Here, again, as in the case of Scotland, the traveller has all the advantages of luncheon and dining cars by day and of sleeping cars to or from Holyhead at night.

The entire journey takes about nine hours, so that, leaving, say, in the morning, the traveller reaches his destination in the evening. The open sea passage between Holyhead and either Kingstown or North Wall takes about three hours. Should the traveller wish to postpone his crossing on account of the weather, he will find accommodation at the hotels provided by the London and North-Western Railway Company both at Dublin and at Holyhead. Special arrangements are made at Holyhead for the supply of refreshments during the night. At North Wall the Company have a line of railway of their own, establishing, by means of through carriages, direct connection with the lines of the leading railways in Ireland, most of which have their termini in Dublin.

Should the traveller be proceeding to Belfast and the North of Ireland, he can avail himself of the service from Holyhead to Greenore, which is situated on the world-famed Carlingford Lough. In this case he will be able to dine *en route* from Euston to Holyhead, will have about four hours on the boat, and at Greenore will find awaiting him a through train to Belfast with breakfast car attached. At Greenore the London and North-Western Company have a comfortable hotel, amid very charming surroundings. Visitors at the hotel (the terms at which are very reasonable) have the free use of the excellent eighteen-hole golf links immediately adjoining, of croquet and tennis lawns, and also of a private steamer for excursions to various points of interest on the Lough. Greenore will be found, also, a convenient starting point for excursions through the Mourne Mountain district.

For travellers to the North of Ireland who do not object to a somewhat longer sea journey, there is the route from Fleetwood direct to Belfast; while those who wish for the shortest sea route of all, or who want to go to Ireland from Scotland—whether after a tour through the latter country or otherwise—can make the excellent passage from Stranraer to Larne.

When one asks what are the attractions that should be seen in Ireland, one finds them East, South, West, and North. The average tourist, in fact, would hardly be able to see them all in a single visit. He had better divide the country into sections, take one or more of them at a time, and return to Ireland in following years for the others.

Let us assume that Dublin is the starting point, and that the visitor, having done justice to the International Exhibition (with its palaces, pavilions, and grounds), to Dublin Castle, the Bank of Ireland, the University, the City Hall, the Four Courts, the Cathedrals, the National Gallery, Phœnix Park, and the other sights of the city, is about to start off on the "grand tour" of Ireland. Keeping, first, to the East coast, he may (unless he realises at once the full extent of his programme) feel disposed to linger at the popular seaside resort of Bray, or (after a glimpse of Wicklow) in delightful Glendalough and the famous Vale of Avoca, one of the finest of the Irish valleys worth visiting. The ancient town of Arklow and the old seaport of Wexford follow, with Waterford as a starting point on the South coast for Cork and the West. Alternately, he would travel viâ Kildare, Thurles, Tipperary, and Mallow to Cork, stopping at various places en route, or visiting others on branch lines, as time allowed.

From Cork he would visit the Castle of Blarney, and then go by coach viâ Glengarriff to Kenmare, either continuing thence direct to Killarney by the Prince of Wales route, or reaching the lakes by the grand coach drive viâ Parknasilla and Waterville to Cahirciveen, where the train to Killarney will be reached—an extension which, taken in either direction, should in no case be missed. From Killarney the visitor making "the round" would travel to Limerick, go by the Shannon river and lakes to Athlone, and there take train for Galway and Clifden for the coach drive, viâ Leenane, through Connemara to Westport. After a side-trip to Achill Island he would continue through Sligo and Enniskillen to the Donegal Highlands, a wild district where, as also on the extreme northern points of Ireland, he would find much to interest him. Making his way to Londonderry, he would go from thence to Portrush, see the Giant's Causeway, visit Belfast (should he resist the temptation to cross over to Scotland from Larne), make a stay at Greenore, and so on through Drogheda back to Dublin.

This is the barest possible skeleton of what might be done, and to the visitor who made such a round it would be a revelation that Ireland contained so much that was either beautiful or interesting. The ordinary circular tours of the Irish railway companies are, of course, arranged on a much less comprehensive plan, but any one of them will be found worth the taking. It need hardly be said that Ireland affords abundance of opportunity to golfers and anglers to indulge in their favourite recreation.

Irish travel has been regarded with a certain amount of prejudice by English people on the ground that the railways and the hotels both leave too much to be desired. Such prejudice is mainly the survival of conditions which existed ten or twenty years ago. On the main lines of railway the tourist finds trains—with corridor,

luncheon, and dining cars—equal in comfort to those on English lines, while at the principal points of tourist resort the Irish railway companies have themselves provided hotels which afford all the comfort, and even the elegance, of the best hotels in England or on the Continent. If, of course, the tourist goes to out-of-the-way places, where visitors are rarely seen, he may well find the train connections defective, and the hotel accommodation primitive, just as he would under like conditions in his own country.

North and Central Wales.

Nor does the excuse of the Englishman who goes abroad "to see other countries" hold good if he should have neglected the claims presented by the Principality of Wales.

Still leaving political considerations aside, Wales may, assuredly, also count, from the standpoint of the English tourist, as "another country." The Welsh had an origin essentially different from that of the Anglo-Saxons in England, and, though intermarriage has done much to break down the distinctions, the separate characteristics of the two types are still abundantly manifest. The Welsh, again, have a language of their own which ranks as the most vigorous of the Celtic tongues that survive. It is spoken generally—in many places exclusively—throughout Wales and Monmouthshire, and, also, is still favoured, as their native language, by many thousands of Welsh people living in England or the United States. It represents a language of great interest to philologists, and it has a valuable literature, ancient and modern, of its own, some of the Welsh poets, such as Dafydd ap Gwilyn (1300-1368), the "Poet of Nature," who flourished in "the Golden Age" of Welsh literature, having had no equal in literary England. Welsh, again, is taught in the University Colleges of Wales; many newspapers, magazines, reviews, and periodicals are published in Welsh; while the institution known as the Eisteddfod, at which Welsh bards and musicians meet in friendly rivalry, directly aims at the preservation and cultivation of the national poetry and music, together with the national customs and traditions, such gatherings being in themselves a survival of very early times.

In regard, further, to natural attractions, the claims especially of North Wales to the favour of holiday-makers in general, and of lovers of the picturesque in particular, must be admitted by all who have even the most casual acquaintance with them.

Of deservedly popular seaside resorts, North Wales certainly has a goodly number, and there is ample choice in the series stretching from Rhyl to Llandudno (the "Queen of Welsh Watering-places") and Bangor on the North coast, in the selection offered by the Isle of Anglesey, and in those on the West coast between Carnarvon and Aberystwyth. But the special charm of most of these places lies in the fact that they are not only seaside resorts which, as such, rank among the best in the United Kingdom, but possess the additional advantage of backgrounds of woods, hills, mountains and valleys, among which delightful walks or coach drives can readily be obtained, so that visitors to the coast have abundant opportunities for a change from sand and sea, piers and pierrots. Each place, in fact, is a starting-point for excursions into an interior possessing unsurpassed attractions.

As for the varied charms of this said interior (differing essentially from the charms of Scotland and of Ireland, as already told), how can they be adequately described, or even catalogued, in the space here available? One might easily spend a month or six weeks among them—without lingering unduly at any one spot—and then not see them all. What with mountains, passes, lakes, waterfalls, ancient castles, and scenery of exceeding beauty in so many different places, a choice is offered which becomes positively embarrassing to those whose time is limited, yet who would fain see all they can in that time. There is, for instance, Bettws-y-Coed, nestling in its basin of luxuriantly wooded hills, and presenting so endless a series of pictures that the little village may well be one of the most favoured resorts of artists. There is the wild and rugged grandeur of the famous Pass of Llanberis. There is the trip, now to be made by mountain railway from Llanberis, to the summit of Snowdon. There is the exquisite centre for natural beauties represented by Beddgelert—and those who have not been there to see the Pass of Aberglaslyn have missed one of the finest sights to be found within the limits of the British Isles. There is the journey that should, positively without fail, be made by the "toy railway" from Blaenau-Festiniog to Portmadoc or vice versa. There are the castles of Flint, Denbigh, Ruthin, Beaumaris, Conway, Carnarvon, and Dolwyddelan to be seen. There are, in addition to Snowdon, such mountains as Carnedd Llewelyn, Glyder Fawr, Moel Siabod, and Moel Fammau that will repay climbing by the active. Then, still in North Wales, one should see Harlech Castle, make a stay at Barmouth, and also at Aberystwyth—each a centre for many delightful walks and excursions—while the view from the top of Cader Idris may be strongly commended to those who are equal to what is really a very easy ascent.

These are merely a few of the chief points of interest offered by a tour in North Wales, reached so easily by the train services of the London and North-Western Railway Company, who now issue special "holiday season tickets," available for a week or a fortnight, and covering the district extending from Rhyl and Ruthin on the East to Holyhead on the West, and from Llandudno on the North to Blaenau-Festiniog on the South; while the abundant coach drives, run in connection with the train services, offer a means of getting from one point to another with a minimum of trouble and a maximum of enjoyment. In fact, when one considers how great and how varied are the charms to be found in this part of the Principality, and with what ease, comfort, and economy they can be visited, there is all the greater reason for surprise when the strong claims of North Wales are overlooked by English tourists who do not hesitate to make long, tedious, and more costly journeys to the Continent in that search for the picturesque of which such ample stores are available so much nearer to their own home.

In Central Wales will be found "The Land of the Welsh Spas"—Llandrindod, Builth, Llangammarch, and Llanwyrtyd. Long renowned among residents in Wales for the virtue of their waters, these spas are now becoming much better known to English people, and the London and North-Western Railway Company have recently sought to provide increased facilities for reaching them, so that to-day they are as easy of access as any other point on the company's system. Through corridor carriages from London, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester are run on the principal trains, and visitors from London, for instance, leaving Euston at 10.30 a.m., and taking luncheon in the car en route, can arrive at their destination about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The contrast—especially for those not in good health—between a journey such as this and the drawbacks necessarily attendant on the journey to a Continental spa, is self-evident, and the question naturally arises: Why go to the Continent if as much benefit can be obtained in Central Wales?

For matters of detail respecting the character of the mineral springs, and the complaints for which their waters are beneficial, the reader may be referred to a handbook issued by the London and North-Western Railway Company, entitled "Four Welsh Spas." The medical testimony there also given should lead to a conviction that the waters must be of altogether exceptional merit. But the virtues of the waters are greatly supplemented—from a health point of view—by the nature of the surroundings. The surface of the country constituting Central Wales ranges in height from sea-level to nearly 2,000 ft., and the Four Spas themselves are at elevations of 600 or 700 ft., with backgrounds of either hills or mountains. They have a mild and equable climate; winter frosts are almost unknown; the summer heat is tempered by mountain breezes; while the air is essentially bracing, and exercises as beneficial an effect on the nerves as the waters themselves do on the system. Then the whole country round about is most picturesque. It affords an abund-

ance of enjoyable walks, rides and drives, to which may be added excellent golf, fishing, and shooting, the open-air life thus led naturally forming an important part of the "cure."

The Mid-Wales Spas may be further recommended to those who do not need to "take the waters," but, nevertheless, can appreciate a quiet and essentially restful holiday among pleasant scenes removed from the streams of ordinary—and, perhaps, somewhat disturbing—tourist traffic. For persons who are merely "run down" after the fatigues either of a London season or of a too active business life, and wish to recuperate their energies rather than to see sights and climb mountains, these Spas will fully meet their requirements. As for accommodation, this is not only abundant, but ranges from first-class hotels, with pump rooms, bath and douche rooms, lounges, grounds, and every luxury, to "private hotels" and homely "apartments," visitors of moderate means being, in fact, catered for as successfully as the well-to-do.

The Isle of Man.

Might not the Isle of Man also be added to the list of those "other countries" which the English tourist may see without going beyond the limits of the United Kingdom? English is, of course, paramount on the island; but Manx is the native, and still living, language, in which (as well as in English) the Acts passed by the independent Legislature of the Isle of Man, known as the Court of Tynwald, must be promulgated on Tynwald Hill before they become law. The Manx people themselves are mainly of Celtic origin, and, though they have no native literature beyond a few songs and carols, they have a recorded history going back to a series of Welsh Kings, followed by a Norwegian conquest, a line of Scandinavian kings, and a transfer to England in 1290. Then, for an island which is only 33¼ miles long and 12½ miles broad, the Isle of Man has a great wealth of antiquities. It has numerous so-called Druidical remains and Runic monuments, including about forty Runic crosses (the latter being especially numerous at Kirk Michael); Tynwald Hill itself has been well described as "a perfect relic of Scandinavian antiquity"; Castle Rushen, founded in 947, is an incomparably fine specimen of the architecture of that period; while other noteworthy and most picturesque ruins are represented by Rushen Abbey (1154), and Peel Castle (twelfth century). To all this may be added a wonderfully bracing air; a climate so equable that myrtles, fuchsias, and other exotics are common objects of the wayside all the year through; a succession of charming landscapes, with rocks, glens, and mountain heights; coach drives, steamboat trips, boating, bathing, theatres, etc.; and yet, also, a choice of places with peaceful surroundings for those who wish to get away from the crowd of holiday-makers flocking to this island in the height of the season. Such persons, however, would do better to visit the Isle of Man somewhat earlier in the year, when, too, its natural beauties will be seen at their best.

The ports from which the main part of the traffic reaches the Isle of Man are Liverpool and Fleetwood, comfortable turbine steamers proceeding thence to Douglas and vice versâ. Passengers leaving Euston at 10.30 a.m. can lunch in the train, and arrive at Liverpool in time for the afternoon boat to Douglas, where they are due soon after six o'clock, in time for dinner.

The Charms of England.

Thus far reference has been made to places within the limits of the United Kingdom which those desirous of seeing "other countries" might, from this particular point of view, well bring within such definition. But let us turn, also, to some of the charms and attractions of England herself, capable of being easily reached by the system of the London and North-Western Railway Company, and see whether they, also, do not deserve to be visited by holiday-makers and lovers of the picturesque, apt to overlook that which is near at hand for places—not necessarily superior—under foreign skies.

The ancient city of Chester ought, most assuredly, to be regarded as a stopping-place in connection with any tour to Ireland, or to North Wales. It should on no account be missed by foreigners visiting England, even if they should not make the further tours beyond. There are, in fact, few cities in Great Britain which recall more thoroughly the history of the English people, for here we have what was an important Roman encampment in the First Century of the Christian era, destined in later years to be occupied successively by the Welsh, the Saxons, and the Danes. Then there is, probably, no city in Great Britain which to-day presents a greater degree of quaintness, and a more interesting admixture of the mediæval and the modern. However pressed for time, no traveller who is in the neighbourhood of Chester should fail to spend a day there in making the circuit (about two miles) of the old city walls, with their towers and buildings, each of which has its historic associations; in inspecting Chester's unique feature, the "Rows" of shops in two galleries or arcades, the one above the other, in admiring the many fine specimens of old timber houses which make the streets of Chester so quaint and picturesque; in visiting the Cathedral, which occupies a site sacred to Christian churches since the Second Century; and in driving the three miles to the Duke of Westminster's palatial residence, Eaton Hall, tickets for admission to which can be readily obtained. To those who would see one of the most stately homes of the English aristocracy, this visit may be strongly recommended.

Shrewsbury, the county town of Shropshire, or Salop, is passed through by travellers on the London and North-Western Railway to Central Wales, whether from London or the North, and will be found well worth a visit. The site of an ancient British town, its present points of interest include the Castle, built in the time of William the Conqueror (a fine view of the Severn, here crossed by four bridges, is to be obtained from the modern Watch Tower); the Abbey Church (which formerly belonged to a monastery built by the founder of the Castle), where there are various interesting monuments; a Seventeenth Century Council House, with an attractive half-timbered gateway; a house in which Henry VII. is said to have spent the night before the battle of Bosworth in 1485; the house in which Darwin was born, and a number of quaint habitations that recall somewhat the appearance the town must have presented many generations ago.

To praise the English Lake District is like gilding refined gold. Whatever may be said of the lakes of Italy and of Switzerland, those of Westmorland and Cumberland will bear comparison with them, from the fact that they have a character and a beauty all their own. They even surpass their foreign rivals in the element of picturesqueness, though, admittedly, not in respect to size or absolute grandeur. In any case, they present a first claim on the admiration of English tourists, while no foreign traveller who wishes to see the best that England can offer in the way of natural attractions should fail to spend at least a few days in a district whose beauties have been so well sung by Wordsworth and others of the "Lake School" of poets. A few days, indeed, will be found far too short a time in which to see all there is to see. The glories of Windermere, Ullswater, Coniston, Grasmere, Derwentwater, Rydal Water, and of the other lakes and meres are worth more than a passing glance from the top of a coach, however great the convenience such vehicle may afford in moving from point to point; and he will not have seen the Lake District aright who has not lingered among its charms, and got off, from time to time, the beaten track of the high roads. It is true that none of the lakes exceed 10½ miles in length, and that their breadth is not often more than a mile. But this very compactness adds to their gem-like charm and to the brilliancy, if not even, at times, to the wildness of their setting. As for the mountains, none of these, in turn, are much more than 3,000 feet high; but the visitor who, on a clear day, has seen the view from the summit of Scafell Pike, Scafell, Helvellyn, or Skiddaw, will have had a panorama he will not readily forget. Nor will the practised climber fail to find among the mountains of the district difficult ascents well worthy of

his powers. Then there are waterfalls such as Stockgill Force, the Rydal Falls, Dungeon Gill, and the Langdale Pikes which should be seen, while no visitor should miss the delightful village of Grasmere, with its quaint old church and its simple grave of William Wordsworth.

The facilities offered by the London and North-Western Railway Company for reaching the lakes could hardly be surpassed. The visitor from the South travels by the main line to Scotland as far as Carnforth, Oxenholme, or Penrith, according to destination (thus having all the advantages of smooth-running express trains, and luncheon or dining cars), and from those points the through carriage takes him on to Windermere, to Lake Side, or to Keswick, at each of which places he comes in touch with the splendidly organised coach and boat services operating in connection with the circular tours or otherwise.

The tourist pressed for time could not do better than proceed direct to Windermere, which is in the heart of the Lake District, and make his headquarters either there or at Bowness, immediately alongside the Lake of Windermere, or else go direct to Keswick by rail, where every facility exists for covering this interesting district in a comparatively short time.

The tourist who enters the Lake District by way of Ulverston and Lake Side skirts the shores of MORECAMBE BAY, and doubtless admires the broad stretch of sands and the wide range of views of land and water, hill and dale, cloud and sunset there obtainable. The bay is, in fact, a summer resort especially favoured by families or individuals desirous of indulging in sea-bathing, fishing, boating, and yachting, with only occasional incursions into the neighbouring lake-land. From this point of view the town of Morecambe offers every facility. It has, besides, an exceptionally long promenade, and, with a Winter Garden and various places of entertainment, it caters well for the visitors who bestow upon it a well-deserved patronage.

FURNESS ABBEY can easily be reached either from Morecambe or from Ulverston, and the morning or the afternoon spent in visiting one of the most extensive and most picturesquely situated ruins in England will be abundantly repaid. The abbey is a Cistercian foundation of the twelfth century. It was once extremely rich, and the Abbot virtually exercised the powers of a ruling prince, with almost despotic ecclesiastical authority in addition, over the country round about.

BLACKPOOL, situate on the same coast, is a sea-side resort which needs no recommendation to the people of Lancashire and Yorkshire, most of whom already know, by oft-repeated experience, the bodily invigoration afforded by its abundant ozone-laden breezes. But its attractions and advantages are, perhaps, not sufficiently appreciated by Londoners, who would often secure both a greater change and a more thorough bracing-up by spending their holiday in the North—and especially at Blackpool—than by going to the South Coast. Much has been done of late years to add to the popularity of the place by affording an abundance of opportunities for pleasure and enjoyment. In addition to the natural advantages of extensive sands and splendid sea air, Blackpool now has a fine esplanade, three piers, palatial buildings with ball-room, menagerie, aquarium, etc.; an Eiffel Tower, a gigantic wheel, three theatres, and electric tramways connecting Blackpool with St. Anne's and Lytham. At no sea-side resort in the United Kingdom, in fact, can a visitor get more pleasure for, say, sixpence than at Blackpool.

SOUTHPORT, on the same coast, aims more at securing the patronage of a select type of visitors, and at retaining the reputation of being essentially a watering-place of the first-class. It has undergone great improvements of late years, the construction, especially, of the Marine Park and Lake having fully atoned for the former drawbacks of the immense stretches of sand left dry by the sea at low tide. Lord-street, the leading thoroughfare, is one of the most charming of boulevards. Other features include the Botanic Gardens, a Winter Garden, a fine esplanade, an Opera House, an Art Gallery, and a pier, provided with a railway.

"All good Americans, when they die," Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote, "go to Paris." But, of the good Americans who come to England, the vast majority aim at seeing STRATFORD-ON-AVON before they die. A visit there constitutes an important item in their programme of life. Granted the aspiration to "do" either Europe in general or else merely our own small islands, they feel that, without Stratford-on-Avon, something would be lacking from their tour. So of the 30,000 pilgrims who pay for admission to Shakespeare's birthplace every year, one-fourth are Americans; and it is a matter for satisfaction that, owing to the watchful care of the custodians, this one-fourth has not yet taken the said birthplace back with them to America, in sections, by way of mementoes. Happily the house, with its birth-room and well-stocked Shakespeare Museum, is still there for people of all nationalities—English included—to see. Having seen it, the pilgrim will next proceed to the Church of the Holy Trinity, where the tomb of Shakespeare and so many other relics of the poet, of his family, and of his time are to be found; he should see, also, the Shakespeare Memorial Building, the Memorial Fountain and Clock Tower (the gift of an American citizen, George W. Childs, of Philadelphia), the ancient Harvard House, formerly the home of Katharine Rogers, afterwards Harvard, whose son founded Harvard University; New Place, where Shakespeare lived in his later and more prosperous days, and where he died; the Guild Hall, in the upper part of which the Grammar School attended by Shakespeare is still held; Anne Hathaway's Cottage; and then, should time permit, explore not only Stratford-on-Avon, but the villages round about, in order to gain such suggestions as they will afford (for time has dealt most gently with them) of the character of English rural life even so far back as Shakespeare's day.

From Euston to Stratford-on-Avon is a very easy journey. Every Wednesday and Saturday during the summer the London and North-Western Company run a special trip by train and coach through "Shakespeare's country." Leaving Euston at 9.20 a.m., visitors arrive at Kenilworth at 11.18, drive by coach to Kenilworth Castle, Guy's Cliffe, Warwick Castle, and Stratford-on-Avon, and return from Warwick, the inclusive charge for third-class rail and coach drive being only 13s.

Those who can devote only a single day to the district could not do better than take this trip, which is, assuredly, one of the most interesting that could well be made from London. Others who are not pressed for time would do better to take a week-end ticket from Euston to Stratford-on-Avon, and avail themselves of the privilege of returning via Kenilworth, Warwick, or Leamington, all three of which places are well deserving of more than a hurried visit.

KENILWORTH CASTLE, supposed to have been built in the Twelfth Century, is mostly known on account of its association with Queen Elizabeth, the Earl of Leicester, and Amy Robsart, as told in Sir Walter Scott's novel "Kenilworth." Destroyed by the followers of Cromwell, it still remains one of the finest and most extensive of baronial ruins to be found either in this or in any other country, while it certainly outrivals in historic interest for the Anglo-Saxon race any of the ruins that crown the heights even of Rhineland itself.

WARWICK CASTLE, described by Sir Walter Scott as "that fairest monument of ancient and chivalrous splendour which yet remains uninjured by time," occupies the site of an older castle destroyed by the Danes, and contains a great wealth of antiquities, treasures, paintings, etc., while the noble buildings, including chapel, armoury, great hall, and magnificent drawing-rooms, are replete with interest alike for the scholar, the antiquary, and the tourist who does not claim to be either. Warwick itself is an old-world city with crooked streets and quaint houses that seem to take one back at once to the mediæval times when the castle was in the full period of its glory.

A mile and a half from Warwick is LEAMINGTON, one of the principal Spas in England, and a town which, in addition to springs of far-famed healing virtues, provides its visitors with pleasant gardens, delightful avenues, and walks and drives innumerable. For these reasons, and for the facilities offered by the rail

accommodation, Leamington (reached in 112 minutes from Euston) is an excellent centre from which to visit Warwick, Kenilworth, Stratford-on-Avon, and the other towns or localities in the district that deserve to be seen.

For passengers from Manchester and the North, the London and North-Western route offers the best facilities for reaching Buxton, which ranks as one of the principal inland watering-places in England, while from Euston and the South a very excellent service is in operation. As a health resort Buxton has a great reputation, due principally to its baths—which were famous even in Roman days—but greatly increased by the pleasing nature of the town, the purity of the air, the provision made for the enjoyment of visitors, and the abundance of pleasant excursions afforded by an exceptionally beautiful district. Chief among these excursions is the one to Dovedale, easily reached from the London and North-Western Railway Company's station at Alsop-en-le-Dale. Those who have not visited Dovedale, beloved of Izaak Walton, have yet to see one of the choicest bits of typical English scenery. Though the dale is scarcely three miles in length, every turn in it offers a fresh picture for the admiration of the visitor, and on a fine day in summer no more delightful spot could well be desired.

For those unable to make up their minds as to where they should go, and who wish to have some general idea of what places are like, a good plan will be to send for the L. and N. W. series of coloured postcards (obtainable at any L. and N. W. station or town office), showing the principal points of interest in Scotland and Ireland in addition to the well-known resorts on their lines in England and Wales. Of these cards (representing 288 different varieties, and, in addition to giving views of scenery, illustrating every phase of the company's history and working past and present), no fewer than 6,100,000 have been sold.

The Moral of the Story.

The Notes already given do not in any way exhaust the list of attractive and historical places to be reached from the system of the London and North-Western Railway; but they may suffice just to indicate how much—apart from London itself—there is for the foreigners who visit us in such large numbers to see, and how much, also, there is which Englishmen themselves may find in the limits of the British Isles, without going abroad in search of either the picturesque or the historic. This was the main idea with which the writing of these Notes was started, and it is for the reader to say, in the first instance, whether or not the claims advanced have been established.

If so, then it may be hoped the result will be to increase the proportions of the stream of traffic to such places as those that have here been mentioned. It should, surely, be a part of the higher education of all British citizens to form the best possible acquaintance they can with the land in which they live. Yet, just as in the elementary education of the young, it is a common practice for the history and the geography of other countries to be taught, while the history and the geography of the British Isles are neglected, so the British citizen of maturer years often seems to think it incumbent on himself to spend his time and money on foreign rather than on home travel.

No one could wish that the British citizen should adopt the "insular" habits attributed to him in days gone by. But the amount of actual knowledge acquired of a foreign country—especially in regard to all-important economic and political considerations—in the flying visit paid thereto by the average British tourist, who may have only a very slight acquaintance with the language of such country (or none at all), is necessarily slight, and of very little value from an international standpoint. The question may well be asked, Would not the increased knowledge which the same individual might have gained, in the same time, of Scotland, of Ireland, of Wales, or of England itself, be of greater practical advantage, even regarding the matter as a purely utilitarian one?

It is doubtful, however, if the average British tourist is really influenced, in planning his holidays, by a burning desire to acquire knowledge at all. Theoretically he may be; practically he is not. Theoretically he goes abroad (as some persons think) to promote an *entente cordiale* with some foreign country or other; practically he goes there solely for his own pleasure. Thus we come to the further question: Leaving aside the claims and possibilities of increased knowledge, would not tours through the home countries be likely to afford as much actual pleasure to the average British tourist as visits to foreign countries? If he should really have seen all that is worth seeing in the British Isles, let him by all means go to "fresh woods and pastures new" in other lands. But, failing this condition, it might well be suggested that the woods and pastures, and the other attractions besides, of the lands at home would afford him just as much enjoyment as the others, and might, therefore, at least be seen first.

From a health point of view, also (and, surely, health is close akin to the pleasure of living?), home travel has superior advantages over a good deal of the foreign travel so often indulged in under present-day conditions. The fatigues of long Continental journeys (which a second-class passenger often makes under far less comfortable conditions than those of third-class travel by main-line expresses at home), the "rush" of sight-seeing, and the craze for "doing" as many countries as possible in a given number of days or weeks, too often combine to leave the tripper worse, physically, rather than better for the tour he has taken, and there comes over him a feeling that a second holiday—a "quiet" one this time—would be not unacceptable, so that he may recover from the effects of the first. Medical men could doubtless give many examples of ill-advised holidays spent at home. But they would be able to tell of still more cases of breakdown from "rush" tours through Continental countries; and it is obvious, from the very nature of the geographical conditions involved, that the risks must be greater in the latter case than they are in the former.

So these Notes, as the reader must have seen, resolve themselves into "A Plea for Home Travel"; and the greater reason may be suggested for this plea, not only because there is such ample justification for pressing the claims of home scenery and home attractions, but also because the craze for foreign travel may be, to a certain extent, prejudicial to the interests, not alone of the individual, but of our own country, or, rather, of our own countries. One cannot, of course, push this argument too far, as it might, naturally, be suggested that, if the Americans and other foreigners who themselves visit the British Isles remained in their own lands, we should lose the money they spend among us here. Nevertheless, we still come back to the original proposition: that, inasmuch as foreigners do come here so freely to see the attractions of our islands, therefore one may fairly assume (1) that those attractions are worth seeing by the islanders themselves; (2) that British holiday-makers should, at least, see them before they go abroad; and (3) that they will benefit their own country more by spending their money here—without any real sacrifice either of pleasure or of personal benefit—than if they take it across the seas to add to the prosperity of other lands.

England's Premier Railway Company.

Inasmuch as the facilities for travel offered by the London and North-Western Railway Company have here been especially referred to, it may be of interest to supplement the Notes already given by a few facts concerning that Company itself.

The London and North-Western Railway Company was originally formed by a combination of the London and Birmingham, the Grand Junction, and the Manchester and Birmingham Railway Companies, amalgamated under an Act of Parliament which received the Royal assent July 16, 1846. The total capital of those three companies at that date was £17,242,000. The present authorised capital of the London and North-Western Railway Company is £130,389,000, while the Company now represents a large number of companies (including the original Liverpool and Manchester Railway) which it has absorbed, leased, or agreed to work.

Of goods and minerals the Company carries over 51,000,000 tons in a year. The former are naturally of a most varied description, ranging from very small and extremely fragile parcels up to such consignments as (to mention a few which have been carried on the system) a girder 90 ft. long; 40 tons of silkworms' eggs, *en route* from Japan to Italy, carried from Liverpool to Boulogne for despatch thence by special steamer; and a 75 ft. launch, conveyed by special train from Euston to Lake Side Station, Windermere, and back, as the result of a wager, the owner travelling in the saloon.

Few persons, perhaps, would imagine that pigeon flying is carried on in England to such an extent that frequent special trains are run on the London and North-Western Railway to convey pigeons to the point at which they are to be liberated. On one occasion a large elephant, "Jingo," was taken by the London and North-Western Railway from London to Liverpool, *en route* for America. The animal was conveyed in a case which it had been induced to enter at the Zoological Gardens, case and elephant, weighing about 8 tons altogether, being placed on a trolley and taken to Camden Goods Station, there being lifted by a 20-ton crane on to a boiler trolley, on which the elephant travelled by special train to Liverpool. Special trains have also been run with 60 to 80-ton guns from the North to Woolwich; and with a ship's mast 100 ft. long (loaded on thirteen bolster wagons) from Glasgow to Southampton. Another consignment was a boa constrictor, which got loose from its case, causing the guard to take refuge on the footboard, and remain there until the train stopped.

As many as 6,250,000 separate consignments have been handled at the company's London goods stations in a year. While there are from time to time large or heavy consignments of the type referred to above, there is an increasing tendency for general merchandise to be sent in small packages.

Apart from the punctuality of the L. and N.W. service, which stands so high with the travelling public, the closest attention is paid to the details which conduce to smooth running.

More money is spent by the L. and N.W. on the upkeep of its permanent-way than by any other company. The ballasting of the track with granite chips, which entirely prevents dust; the long rails employed, measuring 60 ft. and weighing 95 lb. per yard; the pads of felt placed between the chairs and the sleepers to take up any inequalities in the latter; the simultaneous boring of the screw-holes in the sleepers, thus ensuring perfect alignment—these and other matters of detail, although apparently trivial, have helped to justify the L. and N.W. Company's boast that their permanent-way is the best in the world. The result is that the excellent meals provided in the dining cars can be partaken of with the greatest ease, even should the train be travelling at the highest speed, and the business man emerges from the car at the end of the journey as fresh as when he started.

Over 86,000,000 passengers, exclusive of season ticket holders, are carried on the system every year, and the railway tickets used by them in that period represent a total weight of sixty tons. The tickets issued in ten years, if placed end to end, would make a belt round the world 1¼ in. in width. Of meals served annually in the company's dining-cars the number is 750,000, a figure which fully proves the public appreciation of this most acceptable addition to the comforts of travel by rail. As many as 3,000 meals have been served in one day in the specials run on the occasion of the Grand National.

The provision of corridor carriages on long-distance trains is another great improvement in railway travel in which the London and North-Western Company has played a leading part. So, also, is the organisation of through services with other companies, bringing residents in the North, for example, in direct touch with favourite seaside resorts on the South Coast, and reducing practically the whole of the railways in Great Britain, more or less, to a single system as far as the traveller is concerned, since he need not trouble as to how many different lines he travels over in the course of a long journey, provided he is in a through carriage and has obtained a through ticket.

In the matter of speed, the improvements have been revolutionary; and here, again, the London and North-Western Railway Company has taken a leading part in the accelerations brought about. Take, for example, the journey between London and Birmingham. What this meant in the pre-railway days is suggested by the following reproduction of an old advertisement:—

BIRMINGHAM TO LONDON STAGE-COACH.

In Two Days and a half; begins May the 24th, 1731.

SETS out from the Swan-Inn in Birmingham, every Monday at six a Clock in the Morning, through Warwick, Banbury and Alesbury, to the Red Lion Inn in Aldersgate-street, London, every Wednesday Morning: And returns from the said Red Lion Inn every Thursday Morning at five a Clock the same Way to the Swan-Inn in Birmingham every Saturday, at 21 Shillings each Passenger, and 18 Shillings from Warwick, who has liberty to carry 14 Pounds in Weight, and all above to pay One Penny a Pound.

In the early 'forties the journey was accomplished by rail in eight hours, and this was doubtless looked upon as an enormous advance. To-day the London and North-Western Railway Company, in addition to numerous other expresses, run four non-stop trains in each direction between Euston and Birmingham, the time occupied by them on the journey of 113 miles being only two hours. A business man can leave London at 11.50 a.m., arrive in Birmingham at 1.50 p.m., fulfil an engagement, leave Birmingham at 2.45 p.m., and be back in London at 4.45 p.m., or he can leave Birmingham at 8.40 a.m., breakfast in the train, arrive Euston 10.40 a.m., spend over eight hours in town, and be back in Birmingham again at 8.55 p.m., having dined *en route*.

In the case of Liverpool, the journey from London, which occupied five hours thirty years ago, can now be done in three hours thirty-five minutes, passengers leaving Euston, for example, at 5.55 p.m. being due at Lime-street at 9.30 p.m. The train—to which dining cars are attached—has a non-stop run to Edge Hill (where tickets are collected), a distance of 192¼ miles, and within a mile or so of Liverpool. Then there are American specials which run direct from Euston to the landing stage at Liverpool (Riverside Station), performing the journey in under four hours.

Take, again, the London and Manchester service. One can leave Euston at 10.30 a.m., arrive in Manchester at 2.5 p.m. (taking luncheon in the train), have two hours five minutes in which to keep a business appointment, leave Manchester at 4.10 p.m., dine in the train, and be back at Euston by 7.40 p.m.

Then, on No. 6 platform at Euston, will be found a writing-room, where the business man can either write his correspondence or dictate to competent typists, use the telephone, engage a private room for interviews, see books of reference, etc. Thus a Manchester man may have breakfast in the train, afterwards going through his papers, and, on arrival at Euston, avail himself of the facilities of the writing-room, with the result that, before he returns to Lancashire, later in the day, he can sign all the letters, reports, etc., he dictated in the morning. Thus he suffers no waste of time, and he can spend the whole day in calling upon his customers.

Another inducement to make Euston a "port of call" is now provided by means of the new tubes. A passenger bound for the City, on arrival at Euston, simply has to walk down the platform and enter a lift which will convey him to the City and South London Railway Company's Station, where there is a three-minute service to the City, London Bridge, and the districts south of the Thames. A passenger can travel from, say, Liverpool to Clapham Common with only one change of carriage, and under cover the whole way. Further facilities for getting across London, or for reaching the London suburbs, from Euston station, will be available shortly with the opening of still another tube railway—the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead. A word should also be said about the comfortable tea-room and the station dining rooms. The well-known Euston Hotel is just opposite the station.

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(*Continued from page* 1404.)

the shares have been unaffected. The motor section has been somewhat inert, the most notable features being the advances in Humbers and Rovers, whose cars won two events in the Isle of Man races. The winning of a race, however, is manifestly in itself a very poor reason for a rise in the shares of the company making the car. Argylls had a slight decline on the sad announcement of the death of the managing director, but there was a quick recovery. I still regard these shares, and Daimlers also, as a very hopeful purchase at the current prices. London General Omnibus stock has picked up a couple of points after the recent heavy fall, while Road Car shares have declined. British Electric Traction securities have lately been stronger than for some months past. The subsidiary undertakings have been doing well, and the outlook for the parent company is now more promising, though it is, of course, possible that no dividend on the ordinary shares may be paid for this year. Following this article my readers will find reports of the meetings of the Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum Company, the Metropolitan Amalgamated Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, and Callender's Cable and Construction Company.

VIGILANT.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE GREENWICH INLAID LINOLEUM (FREDERICK WALTON'S NEW PATENTS) COMPANY, LIMITED.

The 13th Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., on Wednesday, May 29. The Chairman of the Company (Sir William Treloar, J.P.) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. D. S. Mackay) read the notice convening the meeting and also the auditors' report.

The Chairman (who received an ovation from the shareholders on rising) said:—Ladies and gentlemen, my task to-day is easy and pleasant. I have such delightful recollections of these annual meetings, and the generous and sympathetic manner in which I have always been received by the shareholders on all occasions, that it is an added pleasure to me to come before you to-day with the best result we have ever had—a net profit of £76,125 12s. 11d. (Applause.) I think your directors have reason to be proud, and you to be grateful and satisfied, with such a result, especially as it has been achieved when competition is keen, and prices have been ruthlessly cut down. During the year the prices of raw material have been steadily and continuously rising, and now at this moment Hessian is nearly 4d. per square yard, while a year or so back we paid for it only 2d. Linseed oil has gone up in the last six months 25 per cent., cork has risen 50 per cent., and so it is with all the ingredients we use in our manufacture. You may ask, wonderingly, how it is that under these circumstances we can show such a good result. It is by making good honest linoleum (hear, hear), and by getting a fair price for it. (Hear, hear.) Last year I told you that, although some firms who compete with us chose to offer their linoleum at a reduced price, we made up our minds not to do so, because it is impossible to sell a first-rate inlaid linoleum at a lower price than that at which we offer it, and the result of our year's trading has fully justified us in the course we adopted. We have maintained our prices, and have had more orders for linoleum than we could supply; and we are still in that happy position. All our energies are directed, and all our ingenuity employed, in trying to make our cloth more quickly, and we hope soon to be able to do this, so that our business may still go on increasing.

It is a source of much satisfaction to know that the Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum continues to grow in public estimation despite competition. Our home trade is steadily advancing, and our foreign and colonial trade is increasing rapidly. To-day the reputation of Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum is world wide, and it is a notable feature that during the last twelve months the Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum has been largely recommended by architects, and in nearly all the large public institutions it is stipulated that nothing but Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum is to be laid down. (Hear, hear.) The balance-sheet is the best evidence of our successful policy. After years of steady application, we have built up an excellent business, and by continuing the same prudent policy we hope to accumulate a tangible reserve fund invested outside of the business in some high-class securities which are readily negotiable. (Hear, hear.) The item of "upkeep and renewals of machinery" £7,709—may appear to some of you somewhat excessive, but it is only right that the shareholders should know that during the last year the inspection of the plant has been more rigorous than ever. In both our factories we have had new foundations placed under our boilers, and a considerable amount of money has been spent in overhauling and improving our engines and working gear, rendered necessary because of the very high speed at which we have been working, owing to the great and continuous demand for Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum.

Before fixing our debtors—that is, our book-debts—at £64,333 6s. 8d., good reserves have been created, and ample allowance made for bad and doubtful debts and other contingencies. You will notice that it is our policy to keep out of debt, and by buying keenly and paying promptly our trade creditors amount to the very small sum of £153 11s. 5d., whilst our cash on hand is over £50,000. (Hear, hear.) The stock of oil on hand and what is under contract will carry us well into 1908. So far as cork is concerned, we are in the same fortunate position. The jute market is somewhat uncertain, but I hardly think that the present extreme prices can be maintained. Notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, there is no reason whatever to fear diminishing profits during the present year.

As a last word let me just give you a résumé of the position by quoting the following figures:—At the start of the year we took into the accounts the balance from last year of £6,644 10s. 9d.; to this we add the profit for the year—£79,869 3s. 7d.—making a total of £85,513 14s. 4d., and, after deducting the periodical items of special expenditure—£9,388 1s. 5d.—we are left with a balance of £76,125 12s. 11d. With your permission, we now propose to dispose of this amount by the payments of the following, namely:—Interest on our Debentures, £5,400; interest on our Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preferences, £5,500; on our Ordinary shares a dividend for the year of 15 per cent., which absorbs £36,000; the reserve fund we propose to increase by, £20,000; then we add the directors' additional remuneration, £1,500. Altogether this amounts to £68,400, and when deducted from the £76,125 12s. 11d. it leaves a balance of £7,725 12s. 11d., which we propose to carry into next year's accounts. I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and after that has been seconded I shall be very pleased to do my best to answer any questions that may be put to me.

Mr. William Wright seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

The Chairman: It requires a resolution in order that we may pay a 15 per cent. dividend. I have great pleasure in moving that we may pay a dividend of 15 per cent. on the Ordinary shares.

Mr. William Wright seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: I have very great pleasure in moving "that Mr. Horatio G. Regnart and Mr. William Wright be re-elected Directors of the Company." They have both of them been directors of this concern ever since it was formed into a Company, and they are both always ready to take their share in the work. As a matter of fact, I may say that both of them have been very good to me this year; they have taken more than their share of the work, because for obvious reasons I have not been able always to attend the meetings, and, therefore, I have very much to be thankful for, not only to them, but to the other directors as well. I have very great pleasure in moving that these two gentlemen be re-elected members of the Board.

Mr. F. L. H. Collins seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. H. Horton, J.P.: I desire to say a few words, if this is a convenient time for me to do so. I am sure it has given us all very great pleasure to receive this magnificent balance-sheet, and we cannot be other than grateful to the directors and the staff generally for what they have done for us. I dare say many of us recollect that not many years ago this Company was in a very bad state; it was paying no dividend. Now, however, it is paying a magnificent dividend. Our position to-day is somewhat unique. We have the Lord Mayor of London as our Chairman, and I do not suppose that any of us will ever again see a Lord Mayor acting as Chairman of this Company.

The Chairman: There is an Alderman here. (Laughter.)

Mr. Horton: Then perhaps we may have another Lord Mayor in the Chair. We all know our Lord Mayor. (Hear, hear.) We all know the great many good gifts he has, because we see it every day in the newspapers; but the greatest of all his gifts is his charitableness. We all know his particular fad, if I may call it so—and a very good fad it is—is the benefiting of crippled children, and I was going to say that it would be a graceful act on our part—and we can very well spare it—to vote 100 guineas to the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund. (Applause.) After the way that you have received this suggestion, I will not dilate further upon it, but will simply content myself by proposing that 100 guineas be devoted to the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund.

Sir James Bailey: It gives me very great pleasure to second that resolution. Anything we can do to help the Lord Mayor in his laudable work, I am sure a successful Company like this will be only too pleased to do. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Arthur Skett then proposed that the auditors, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co., be re-appointed.

Sir James Bailey seconded the resolution, which was agreed to unanimously.

The Chairman: Now, if you will allow me, I will take what has passed as a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors of this Company, as it will obviate any necessity for any more speaking. I know that you mean to propose a vote of thanks to us, because you have carried by acclamation the generous gift of 100 guineas to the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund, and I should like to take the opportunity of thanking you very much for doing so. It is a very great encouragement to me in the very hard task which I have set myself to do during my Mayoralty. Many of you know that for the last 14 or 15 years I have come in contact with the poor crippled children of London every year, and all through those years I made up my mind if ever I became Lord Mayor of London that I would do my best to do something which should be of permanent benefit to these poor little cripples. (Hear, hear.) Within five days of my taking office as Lord Mayor I astonished the Fishmongers' Company at one of their banquets—where they are not accustomed to being appealed to for subscriptions—by giving an outline of what I was about to do; and ever since then I have been working very hard, and I feel quite certain that I shall, before my year of office is over, get the money that I want. It is very encouraging to me to find that you have, by acclamation, so generously given me this 100 guineas. I am sure no one could feel more grateful to you than I do, and for myself and my brother directors I can promise you that we will devote all our energies with a view to giving you an even better report next year than the one we have brought before you to-day. I thank you very much. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

Metropolitan Amalgamated Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, Limited.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held on Friday, May 31, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, Mr. Frank Dudley Docker (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Henry Walker) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said shareholders would, on perusal of the balance-sheet, have no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the steady progress which had characterised the Company since the amalgamation five years ago had, during the past twelve months, been adequately maintained. Their works had, throughout the whole year, been, generally speaking, fully employed, although, unfortunately, distribution of work had not been of quite such an even nature as they might have desired, and the pressure occasionally had been more than a trifle unequal. At times they had found themselves compelled to work at very high pressure, excessive overtime and unpleasant and undesirable things being sometimes absolutely necessary to enable them to comply with the urgent demands of their customers. As usual in such circumstances, the excessively busy times were occasionally preceded or followed by times comparatively slack. This kind of thing did not make for much in the way of profit, for work at extreme pressure was nearly always done at increased expense, and the increased output was not, as a rule, accompanied by a proportionate profit. He, however, was glad to be able to state that in spite of the circumstances to which he had alluded, the profit for the year had been £22,062 more than last year—(Applause)—and that in spite of the special outlay which the Directors had felt it incumbent upon them to incur in the direction of making their factories and workshops bigger, brighter, healthier, and more efficient. But for this increased outlay their profits would have been larger, but he hoped they would have their reward in more ways than one. They would be better fitted with a more perfect equipment to meet the difficult and dangerous times which came to every business, when there was not enough trade to go round, and altogether they would have occasion to congratulate themselves upon what they had done in putting their house thoroughly in order. (Hear, hear.) Their head works at Saltley were now in something like a state of completion, although it was impossible to predict how long such a state of things might continue, and how soon the necessity for still further alterations or additions might arise. At Wednesbury they were still spending money, but even here he thought he might say that the end was in sight, and while the Directors hoped and trusted that the expenditure had been wise and judicious, they found matter for great congratulation in the fact that it had been accomplished without the necessity of their approaching the shareholders to come to their aid by raising additional capital. (Applause.) On reference to the balance-sheet, it would be observed that their profit—including the sum of £86,131 carried forward—was £292,972. They suggested payments amounting to £99,679 in dividends; £100,000 to reserve, and a carry forward of £93,292. Their reserve fund thus became £250,000. They owed to creditors £141,533. On the other side their freehold land, &c., remained as last year by reason of the fact that the amount they had expended was practically balanced by the amount of their depreciation. Cash at bankers amounted to £202,574; their debtors owed them £236,281; their stock-in-trade stood at £231,558, and their investments came to £355,699. This was a balance-sheet which, he thought, they would approve of, as he might certainly claim for it that it was the strongest they had yet submitted. (Applause.) There had been reports in the Press of the shortage of rolling-stock all over the world, but his opinion was that whether shortage existed or not, they had not yet encountered any one desperately bent in providing the only remedy—in giving them the necessary instructions. (Applause.) A gentleman was reported to have said that he was prepared to buy a million pounds' worth of carriages and wagons if he could get delivery in twelve months, but when they cabled immediately offering delivery, they found that the gentleman had been incorrectly reported, and, so far, no business had come. (Laughter.) Italy was a country in which the shortage was said to be very pronounced, and they immediately took the necessary steps, and Rome was visited, but only to find that by reason of the Customs duties and the very much cheaper labour they could get no business. In various countries, and in various parts of the world, which he would not particularly specify, and where profitable business might reasonably have been anticipated, they had found cheaper labour one of the principal things they had to contend with.

There was another obstacle, however, to which he thought their particular attention should be drawn, although he did not intend on the present occasion to deal with it except in the briefest possible manner. They found the great assistance given by foreign Governments, foreign business and foreign commercial houses to the industrial enterprises of their respective countries had been a very potent factor indeed in this matter of securing business, and some were beginning to ask whether there was no prospect of undertakings in this country ever getting such assistance, and whether the day would ever come when gentlemen who came to London for money would find that one of the conditions of the loan would be that at least a portion of the money should be spent in this country. (Hear, hear.) He could assure them that this matter was becoming year by year a more important one. Our splendid isolation and superb cosmopolitanism was, no doubt, very pretty indeed, and very flattering to our vanity; but it was playing the very deuce with our business. (Hear, hear.) The time was coming, and was coming very rapidly, when this aspect of the case would call for the very serious attention of the manufacturers of this country, as well as of the great financial houses, including, of course, the bankers of the country. We should like to see our great commercial houses drawing more closely to one another for the common benefit in this matter. The game was in our own hands, and if we cared to assert ourselves, and if the existing financial conditions were not able to cope with the matter, there ought to be no great difficulty in establishing others which would meet the serious situation which was rapidly being created. (Hear, hear.) Proceeding, Mr. Docker expressed great regret that the Colonial Premiers were unable to pay a visit to Birmingham and the neighbourhood, and spend some little time in inspecting some of the world's great workshops. The one great result that he had been able to perceive from the Conference had been the more complete realisation that the Colonies, the children of the nation, were now fully grown up, and would have to be dealt with accordingly. These sturdy sons would have to be taken into partnership, or it was quite on the cards that before many years had gone by they would be making their commercial alliances elsewhere, and their political alliances would not be long in following. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by moving the adoption of the Report.

Mr. W. L. Hodgkinson seconded the motion, and reminded shareholders that the efforts of the Directors had been in the direction of maintaining a 10 per cent. return rather than to pay, say, 15 per cent. one year and 5 per cent. another.

Mr. Brady quite agreed that it was better to have a dividend which could be maintained, but there were times when the Directors might see their way to delare a bonus.

Mr. Lester congratulated the Chairman on his statesmanlike address on the position of large industrial works generally. Like Mr. Docker, he maintained that every loan that was made should have a stipulation attached to it that a certain amount, if not all, should be spent on the productions of this country. If they only heard more of such remarks at meetings of large companies it would be useful, inasmuch as it would turn the attention of the people to a point that was neglected.

The Chairman having stated that if it were possible to give a bonus or bonus shares, shareholders might be perfectly certain the Board would carry the idea into effect, the resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The dividend of 10 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares having been declared, the retiring Directors (Messrs. Cay, Churchward, Hazlehurst, and Kershaw) were re-elected, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Callender's Cable and Construction Company, Ltd.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of Callender's Cable and Construction Company, Limited, was held on Thursday, May 30, at Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, Mr. Henry Drake in the chair.

The Secretary (Mr. H. E. Harrison) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman briefly detailed the items in the balance-sheet, and stated that the results of the year enabled them to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, clear of income tax, being 10s. per share, and the payment of a bonus of 5s. per share. He concluded by moving the adoption of the Report and accounts.

Mr. C. H. McEuen seconded the motion, and Mr. George Allen and Mr. R. S. Bain having congratulated the Board on the satisfactory Report presented,

Mr. T. O. Callender, the Managing Director, addressed the meeting. He remarked that the year had been a very satisfactory one, but none the less it had been an exceedingly trying one to the management. They had had great difficulty in maintaining their position owing to various causes, most of them being well known to every person engaged in any description of manufacturing. No money was available for new enterprises, and he thought that difficulty with regard to money for undertakings still continued, and was even worse than it was last year. Added to that came the proposed legislation with regard to electric supply both in London and elsewhere, and that had considerably reduced the disposition of electric undertakers to extend or to go into new enterprises. On the top of that they had the difficulty with regard to the price of copper, which, in the early part of the year, was about £85 per ton, and at the end of July last £115 per ton. They could imagine that it was not a bed of roses to the Directors to carry on a business or to secure contracts when the main article in which they were dealing had risen no less than £30. In spite of all that they had not done badly. The English trade had been poor, the cables that had been laid having been for extensions of existing net-works rather than for new contracts, but there were so many net-works now in existence that the necessary extension of existing net-works amounted to a not insignificant sum in itself. In order to fill up the gap made by the want of natural increase in the new electrical supply companies and stations, they had devoted their attention very largely to foreign work, and in doing so they had endeavoured to hold their own, up to now, in a most effective manner. India and Burmah, Canada and South America, as well as nearly all parts of the Continent, had been visited with a view to introducing and extending their operations, and their Manager in India was leaving in a few days for China and Japan. Therefore, there were few parts of the world where cables were likely to be used in which this Company was not properly represented, and represented in a satisfactory manner. (Hear, hear.) Wherever they were doing work business was extended, and this was especially the case in India. The Directors believed that there was an immense future in the supply of electricity in bulk. Circumstances had, however, arisen which had stopped the business for the present, and had rendered it difficult to obtain the money necessary for carrying out new works and extending the enterprise, and they had to a certain extent suffered in their turnover by reason of the stoppage of the business which they anticipated receiving. They had met the difficulty by writing down very largely out of the profits of the year the shares held by the Company, so that in spite of troubles and anxieties which they had had in South Wales and elsewhere, they came before the shareholders quite satisfied that what they had done was the correct course to adopt. The shares which stood in the balance-sheet were at a fair and proper valuation, and he believed that before very long they would get very handsome returns from the forward policy adopted by the Board. With regard to the works at Erith, they had kept them in first-class order, and with regard to the coming year, it was, of course, impossible for any one to prophesy, but he could only say that they were doing everything they could to keep their business up to the high state of efficiency which it had been in in the past. In concluding, Mr. Callender said the original shareholders had received 325 per cent. on their money during twenty-five years, and the shareholders in the Company had received 157 per cent. during the eleven years that the Company had been at work.

The report and accounts were then unanimously adopted, and the dividends declared. Sir J. Fortescue Flannery, Bart., was re-elected a Director, and at an extraordinary general meeting, which was subsequently held, a resolution was passed increasing the remuneration of the Directors by the sum of £1,200 a year.

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INSURANCE NOTES.

Compensation Conundrums—Is Illness Accident?—Lodgings and Flats—Clubs, Hospitals, Nurses and Doctors.

ONE result of the Insurance Supplement which I published on May 15 has been a pleasant, if somewhat serious, bombardment with riddles of all sorts and kinds as to how the new Workmen's Compensation Act is likely to affect people in various described circumstances. None of my readers have pointed out one important point in which I am now disposed to think I was mistaken. I said, "with the exception of industrial diseases resulting from certain trades, employers are only liable in the event of injury by accident: they have nothing to do with illness. The cook may get the measles, but the employer is no more and no less responsible than he was before." It is perfectly true that the employer is only liable in the event of "personal injury by accident"; but I had overlooked the diabolical ingenuity of the law as decided in the case of Brinton's, Limited, v. Turvey. The decision is such that it would be quite appropriate for the defendant's Christian name to be Topsy. The House of Lords decided in this case that the contracting of the disease of anthrax is an "accident" within the meaning of the Act of 1897. The decision was founded upon the finding of fact by the County Court judge, who attributed the disease to "the accidental alighting of a bacillus on a part of the deceased person." If other judges and arbitrators find facts on similar lines, which, however, I am by no means sure many of them are likely to do, possibly measles may be held to be an accident, and if it is caught by the cook in the course of her employment, the master may be liable.

It will be remembered that people are or are not liable to "casual" workers—whatever this may prove to mean—unless such workers are employed for the purposes of the employer's trade or business. I pointed out that a precisely similar accident happening in a private house and in a boarding-house in the one case might, and in the other might not, involve liability to the employer. And now I am asked to decide whether people who have one or more "paying guests" are, or are not, to be considered as engaged in the trade or business of a boarding-house. I know of no legal definition upon this point: the nearest thing I call to mind in connection with it is a definition contained in an amusing little book on "Lodging-house Geometry." It is there stated that "a landlady is a parallelogram or other plain oblong angular figure, which cannot be described, and is equal to anything." I recognise that this flippant treatment of a serious subject exposes me to the charge of being superficial, but none the less I am tempted to quote Carroll's definition that "plain superficiality is the character of a speech in which, any two points being taken, the speaker is found to *lie wholly* with regard to those points."

Seriously, however, there are pitfalls for both the keepers and occupiers of lodging-houses, and many of the remarks that apply to them apply also to the owners and occupiers of flats. If a lodger, or the tenant of a flat, employs for his own purposes and himself pays a servant engaged by the keeper of the lodging-house, it seems to me entirely probable that if, in these circumstances, the servant were injured, she would be found to have a valid claim on the lodger or tenant. I should imagine there is considerable doubt about many such cases, each of which would have to be decided on its merits. It is certainly extremely likely that claims will be made upon tenants in circumstances such as these, and it would undoubtedly be the wisest plan to incur the small cost involved by insurance, so placing the onus of paying or defending a claim upon an insurance company.

The secretary of a football club has been asking whether it is necessary to insure professional players engaged by the club. I do not see how there can be any doubt about the club being liable, and insurance seems to me quite necessary. I do not know what rate of premium the insurance companies charge for this risk, but I should imagine it would be a substantial one. It appears that clubs in general ought to insure all their employees, whether regular or casual; this applies not merely to town clubs, but to amateur cricket and lawn tennis clubs as well. I do not imagine that any distinction can be made between a proprietary club, the carrying on of which is the trade or business of the proprietor, and a voluntary combination which in no way aims at making a profit. I should suppose that in the latter case, as in the former, the conduct of the club would be regarded as the business of the club, and that responsibility would attach for both casual workers and regular employees.

More conundrums come from the hospitals. Some nurses pay for their training and receive board and lodging, but no salary. Others are given board and lodging, but pay nothing and receive no salary. Others again are paid a salary, either as members of the indoor staff or as outdoor nurses. Sometimes nurses engaged in private nursing are paid by the hospital, and sometimes by the private patient. In all the above cases, except perhaps when a nurse is merely engaged through a hospital or nursing home, and is paid by the employer, I should imagine that the hospital authorities would be responsible in the event of injury by accident, and if this involves compensation in the event of disease, as is suggested by what I have said above, the responsibility of the hospital authorities is considerable. Sooner or later the law courts will find a way out of the next puzzle which has been presented to me. If I engage an ordinary nurse for my children, I am doubtless liable to pay compensation. If she is a specially trained children's nurse, presumably the training makes no difference. If a member of my family were mentally incapacitated and I engaged a trained attendant, presumably I should be liable in this case also. If I engage a medical or surgical nurse to nurse me through an accident or an illness, would not this also be regarded as a contract of service, and should I not be responsible in this instance as well? Yet if I am liable to a highly trained nurse, why should I not be liable to my medical attendant coming, not casually, but regularly, to see me through the same accident or illness? It is true that "workman does not include any person whose remuneration exceeds £250 a year." I know some nurses who altogether earn more than this, and some doctors who earn less, but the question is whether in such a case "remuneration" means the remuneration from the employer in whose service the accident happened, or the total remuneration from all employers.

Perhaps, however, there is another way out of my responsibility to my doctor. It may be that he is a "contractor," and not a "workman." The notion would probably be that he ought to do the job of either curing me or killing me in his own way, without my having any power to interfere; perhaps, therefore, although the fulfilment of the contract is practically paid for "by time" and not "piecework," he is a "contractor" to whom I am not liable, and not a "workman," to whom I am responsible. Still, if this is the case with the doctor, why is it not equally so with the nurse? And if it is so, there would arise all sorts of difficult questions as to the status of the various classes of nurses which I have just mentioned.

If the right of a man to do his work in his own way without interference from his employer is to be the criterion of distinction between a contractor and a workman—and there is some ground for thinking that it is—there arises the question as to whether a doctor, or a chaplain, or a schoolmaster, employed at a remuneration of less than £250 a year by local authorities or institutions could claim compensation in the event of injury. Most of the points here discussed have been put to me by correspondents, and, supposing them to have the slightest acquaintance with the complications of the Act, I cannot but feel flattered at the ability—not to say the omniscience—which is expected of me. As a bewildering puzzle, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, is nothing short of fascinating; if

it were not for insurance, its conditions, or what may prove to be its conditions, would be extremely serious. Since, however, insurance against the liability can be obtained at an extremely small cost, the exact interpretation of the Act becomes of relatively little importance to individuals. While I claim no infallibility in regard to my advice about the meaning of the law, I am quite certain that my advice is right when I say to all and sundry, "If in doubt, take a policy."

Answers to Correspondents.

[*Every letter containing an inquiry on the subject of insurance must be accompanied by a coupon cut from the third page of the coloured cover of* Truth.]

W. A. N.—The older company (a) is sound, and I think it is reasonably certain that (b) also will punctually fulfil all its obligations. You can find a good deal about both in the Report of the Royal Commission on Life Insurance, recently published by S. E. Dawson, Ottowa. *East Grinstead.*—All the four companies you mention are perfectly safe, and first class. Select which ever gives the best terms for your age. *Darius.*—The company you mention, though taken over, is quite all right to deal with. *N. Jackson.*—The policy you have taken is not wholly satisfactory in itself, but the company is a thoroughly sound and respectable one, and you may feel confident that your legal liabilities are adequately covered. *Combe.*—The Metropolitan Life Assurance Society is an extremely good and strong office, and the particular policy you mention is entirely satisfactory. *Essex.*—For endowment, Economic; for whole life, Clerical, Medical and General; for annuity, Legal and General. *W. B. M.*—The prospects have greatly improved. If you are already assured in this company keep your policy in force; if you are not already assured you can do better elsewhere. *M. F.*—The Corporation is quite sound and its policy affords reasonable protection against all legal liability. *Macer.*—The policy you mention is a good one. You probably have no liability to window cleaners hired from a firm, but if you insure against liability to casual employees you would be fully covered in any event. *Doubtful.*—Take the paid-up policy if it suits your purpose. The company is abundantly sound and strong. *Solicitus.*—Both the companies you mention are quite sound and satisfactory, but I prefer the one named in your letter to the one whose advertisement you send. In the circumstances you mention the charge for collection would probably be considerably less than 2½ per cent. The total cost would doubtless be less than in the case of a personal friend, if much of the work was done by a solicitor. The appointment of the corporation has the advantage of absolute safety.

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QUEER STORY.

THE DUCHESS'S DIAMONDS.

IT was generally agreed that no more ill-assorted couple could be found in the whole of the peerage than the Duke of Banstead and his young Duchess. The Duke was an elderly man, grave, sober, and methodical, careful to the verge of parsimony in financial matters, and strict to the verge of puritanism in his standard of life. The Duchess, on the other hand, was a spoiled, wayward young woman, twenty years her husband's junior, frivolous in her tastes, fond of pleasure and excitement, recklessly extravagant in money matters, and an inveterate gambler. Why the Duke, usually the most level-headed of men, had so far forgotten himself as to burn matrimonial incense at the shrine of a merely pretty face and superficial attractions was a puzzle to all who knew him. And yet these good people had no need to be puzzled. Love—that mightiest of human instincts—always was, is, and will be an unaccountable thing. And any attempt to reduce it within the four corners of logic or the laws of probability is simply waste of time. Men do not fall in love as Euclid expounded geometry. They simply fall in love, and that's all about it.

At the time of which I write their Graces had been married for some five years. They had no children, which was a source of deep disappointment to the Duke, but of considerable relief to his wife, who had no desire at all to be burdened with the care of a nursery. She liked perfect freedom to enjoy herself and amuse herself—a thing quite incompatible, in her opinion, with the discharge of maternal duties—and to have her house constantly full of lively, congenial people. In fact, nothing bored her so much as being left alone, even for a single day, with her grave, elderly, and, as she esteemed him, priggish husband. Her flirtations were many. She seldom, at any given time, had less than half a dozen good-looking young men in tow, whom she changed, however, whenever she tired of them, as lightly as one changes books at Mudie's. But there *was* one man whom she retained on a more permanent basis—to wit, Reggie Kibblewhite.

Reggie Kibblewhite could no longer be called young, having already completed his forty-second year. Nor was he anything more than just passably good-looking. But he had that which attracts women more than any mere youth or good looks—I mean, the air of possessing all the while, behind an apparently frivolous exterior, a strong reserve force of hidden character. Women always admire the strong in man, and are always fascinated by the inscrutable. They are naturally of an inquiring turn of mind (as was Eve, their first ancestress), and there is no surer way of attracting them than to set them some problem that stimulates, while at the same time it baffles, their curiosity.

It was this, I imagine, that accounted for Reggie Kibblewhite's influence over women in general and over the Duchess of Banstead in particular. He possessed also the further advantage that, while always being very nice and agreeable to women and flirting with them in a light-hearted sort of way, he was obviously indifferent, in any deeper sense, to feminine charms. Never in all his life had he been seriously hit. Never had he been known to make a fool of himself over a woman. Naturally, therefore, every woman was mad to have the credit of making a conquest where no other woman had ever yet succeeded. But they had directed their heaviest artillery against him in vain, until the Duchess of Banstead took him in hand; and she, at last, seemed to be making some slight impression.

You are not to suppose, however, that there was anything really wrong in their relations towards one another. The Duchess's code of ethics, though sufficiently elastic, was warranted not to stretch beyond a certain point. Her admirers might go so far as to kiss her hand. Under very exceptional circumstances, they might even respectfully salute her cheek. But that was the limit. The Duke was a tiresome old bore and an irritating prig. But she was his wife. She never forgot that, and she would not allow her admirers to forget it, either. Not that Reggie Kibblewhite ever needed to be reminded of that matrimonial fact. His manner and conversation, even when they descended to the sentimental, were always characterised by perfect propriety and decorum. Nor did he ever attempt to overstep the boundary line that divides the safe area of mere sentiment from the perilous domain of passion. It would seem, too, that the Duke of Banstead recognised that Kibblewhite was a safe admirer for his wife to have in tow. At any rate, he raised no objection to his frequent visits to the house, and was always quite civil and friendly to the younger man when they chanced to meet.

The Duchess not only liked Kibblewhite; she had also a high opinion of his judgment and *savoir faire*. Hence she confided in him to an extent not accorded to any other of her admirers, and consulted him about all the little difficulties in which her recklessness was perpetually landing her. The most serious difficulty of this description in which she came to him for advice is the one which I am now about to relate.

Kibblewhite, calling to see her one afternoon, about tea-time, was shown up into her boudoir. He found her looking unusually harassed and worried.

"Oh! I'm so glad you've come, Reggie," she said; "I'm up the most awful tree and don't know what on earth to do. You have never failed me in my difficulties yet, dear boy; and I look to you to help me out of this one now."

"I will do anything I can; you know that," he answered, pressing her hand gently; "what's the matter this time, Maudie?"

"Oh! the usual," she replied, "only in an aggravated form. I was playing bridge at the Bernstein's last night, and the stakes were frightfully heavy, and I had quite the most sinful run of ill-luck that could possibly be imagined. Never experienced such an absolute Moscow in all my life. I was simply panic-stricken

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when I came to total up my losses. Guess what they figured out at, Reggie."

"Don't know, I'm sure," he rejoined; "what were they? Seven hundred; eight hundred?——"

"Oh! much—much worse than that," she interposed, with an almost terrified expression. "They were within a pony of six thousand pounds!"

Kibblewhite gave vent to a prolonged, expressive whistle.

"Good Heavens, Maudie!" he said, "but that's serious."

"Serious? I should think so. If I don't pay up, there'll be a regular scandal. And yet how, with an overdrawn bank balance and my dressmaker pressing me for a long bill in addition, am I possibly to find the money?"

"You couldn't ask the Duke for it, I suppose?"

"Out of the question. You know what the Duke is. He would have a fit if I asked him for £6,000 to pay a gambling debt."

Kibblewhite nodded comprehendingly.

"And yet, of course, you must raise the money somehow," he murmured, rubbing his chin thoughtfully.

"Of course. That is self-evident," she answered. "The only question is—how?"

"I'd lend it you myself, if I had it," he rejoined. "But unfortunately such a sum is quite beyond my exiguous means. Umph. This is a matter that wants thinking out."

"I have thought it out, from every point of view; and it always comes back to this: I must borrow the money."

"Borrowing six thousand pounds is a good deal easier said than done," he replied. "No one would think of lending so much without security."

"Not a moneylender?" she inquired.

He shook his head.

"But I thought that was what moneylenders were for," she exclaimed, "to lend money without security."

Reggie Kibblewhite gave a rather cynical smile.

"You might well think so from their advertisements," he rejoined, "according to which they would appear to be the Don Quixotes of the financial world. But when it comes to doing practical business with them, you will find that they by no means live up to their philanthropic professions."

"Oh, I know, of course, that they make you pay through the nose in the shape of interest," answered the Duchess.

"Yes, and not only that. They won't advance a penny of principal to any one whose credit is in the least rocky—least of all to a married woman—unless the borrower can get them a substantial second name. And to get such a name on a bill for six thousand pounds is every bit as difficult as to get the money itself. No, my dear Maudie. There is no harm in trying, of course. But I am very much afraid that this is a case in which the Hebrews are no go."

"Well, what else can you suggest?" she demanded, with an expressive shrug of her supple shoulders.

He was silent for a few seconds.

"Have you no jewellery—diamonds, or anything of that sort, that you could pledge?" he asked.

"Well, there are the family diamonds," she said, "which the Duke gave me on my wedding-day. I had thought of dealing with them, in the last resort. But I do not wish to take such a step if it can possibly be avoided; not only because I have a weakness for fine stones, which makes me loth to part with them, but also because the Duke would be sure to miss them and want to know what had become of them."

"You can easily guard against that," he replied, "by having an exact imitation made in paste, which neither the Duke nor any other amateur could distinguish from the real stones."

"Yes; I suppose I could do that," she observed, reflectively.

"Of course you could. It is the simplest thing in the world. Half the women in Society are doing it every day. I do not speak at mere haphazard, either. For I myself have more than once been commissioned by ladies of my acquaintance to arrange such little matters for them."

"You have!" cried the Duchess, with perhaps a tinge of jealousy in her tone.

"Yes," he smiled; "and I can assure you I take it as the highest possible tribute to my discretion. I should not have been trusted in these delicate matters unless my friends knew that a secret was always safe with me."

"Well, certainly, you are not one to give your friends away. I have always known that," replied the Duchess, "otherwise you may be sure I should not have confided in you as I have done."

"Thank you, Maudie," he murmured, pressing her hand in grateful acknowledgment.

"And if I decide to pledge the family diamonds," said her Grace, coming back to the pressing and practical issue, "may I leave it with you to act as my agent in the matter?"

"May you? Of course you may. You know I am always ready to do any service for you, dear lady," he rejoined, with tender emphasis.

"So be it then, Reggie," she answered; "I confess I am loth to deal with the stones—especially as they have been in the family for so many generations. But it seems there is no other means of raising the money. Besides," she added in her sanguine way, "my luck at bridge must turn before long; and as soon as ever I am in funds, of course, I shall redeem the diamonds at once."

"Quite so. It is only a temporary affair, after all," said Reggie, "and in the meanwhile the paste imitation will preclude the discovery of your secret either by the Duke or anybody else."

On leaving the house half-an-hour later, Reggie Kibblewhite carried away with him the Duchess of Banstead's diamonds in his coat pocket. Fortunately, the Duke happened to be out of town for ten days, just then, so there was ample time to have the paste counterfeits made and delivered before his return. In the meanwhile, the man with whom the commission was placed made no difficulty about lending the money at once on the security of the real stones.

Everything, in fact, went off without a hitch. Reggie Kibblewhite brought her Grace six thousand pounds in bank notes on the following day, and a week later he came round with the paste imitations, which were certainly so like the originals as to defy detection. The Duchess wore them at a dinner party a few days after her spouse's return, and he happened to remark how well she looked in them, and what splendid stones they were.

Nearly a year passed—the period for which the loan had been effected—and the Duchess of Banstead found herself without any prospect whatever of redeeming the stones within the time prescribed. The circumstance worried her a good deal, and she was not then in a condition to stand much worry. The fact was—an event for which the Duke had long prayed, and which the Duchess had long dreaded—was now at last in a fair way to be realised. To put it plainly, her Grace was soon to become a mother.

In due course, an heir was born. But all the rejoicings which had been arranged in anticipation of that happy event were indefinitely postponed owing to the critical condition of the young Duchess, who lay for several weeks between life and death. During that terrible time the Duke's intense devotion to his wayward wife was, for the first time, made fully apparent. Naturally a shy, reserved man, under ordinary circumstances he was incapable of expressing the warmth and tenderness of heart that lay beneath his priggish exterior. But the agonising prospect of losing her whom he loved so dearly broke down all the barriers of his usual reserve, and long before she became convalescent (for, happily, she was snatched from the jaws of death) there was established between them an understanding and a sympathy that changed the whole character of their mutual relations.

Frivolous though she was, the little Duchess had a good heart at bottom, when you could reach it; and in that darkened sick room, with the solemn shadow of death brooding over it, and the patient brought, for the first time in her life, face to face with the most dreadful of all realities, the Duke reached his wife's

heart, took possession of it, and never again quitted his hold.

The first thing she did when she was allowed to talk was to make a full confession to her husband of the deception which she had practised on him in the matter of the family diamonds.

"It was very wrong of me," she sobbed. "I knew how you valued them. But I meant to redeem them. I did, truly. And oh, George, do, *do* forgive me. I'll never deceive you again, as long as I live."

The Duke's reply was to fold her in his arms and kiss her fondly.

"Tût, tut," he said. "Don't make yourself unhappy about the affair, Maud. Of course I forgive you, so far as there is anything to forgive. After all, I gave you the stones for your very own. They were yours, to do what you pleased with."

And he got up, somewhat hurriedly, and left the room.

In a minute or two he returned, carrying something in his hand—a glittering mass of something which he deposited in his wife's lap. They were the family diamonds.

"Oh, George," she cried, in amazement, "you had found out? You have redeemed them?"

"Hardly that, my dear," he answered, smiling. "For, in point of fact, the stones have never been out of the family. When you gave them to Reggie Kibblewhite to pledge for you, he brought them straight to me, by my instructions. The truth is, my dearest, that I had long been in mortal fear lest, in some of the difficulties in which your recklessness over money matters was always landing you, you might be driven to realise these diamonds, which had been my mother's and my grandmother's, and which I valued so much, and so I arranged with Kibblewhite, who, though you were not aware of it, was in my confidence from the first, to see that, if the stones were pledged with any one, they should be pledged with me."

"Oh, George!" cried his wife, "then it was you yourself who lent me that £6,000 on the diamonds?"

"It was," he smiled. "But I am not going to drive a hard bargain with you, dearest customer. You have given me an heir and you have given me your heart. So I feel that now I cannot do less than give you the diamonds, once more, for your very own."

MUSIC.

ORCHESTRAL PLAYERS AND THEIR PAY.

AN announcement which appeared in the papers the other day had considerable interest for orchestral players. This was in relation to a joint meeting of members of the Orchestral Association and the Amalgamated Musicians' Union to consider the position of professional instrumentalists, and to decide on joint action for protection of their interests. The mere fact of such a conference having been organised was in itself rather significant, since hitherto the two bodies have not worked together at all. On the contrary, there have been considerable differences between them, the Orchestral Association having always taken exception to the low scale of pay assented to by the members of the Union, and also to the inferior standard of musicianship obtaining among the latter. The Orchestral Association, in a word, has represented the aristocracy of the profession, and has admitted to its ranks only those capable of complying with a reasonable standard of efficiency. The Union, on the other hand, has been less particular, and numbers in its ranks accordingly players of all kinds, many of whom would seek in vain admission to membership of the Association; and it is these latter, of course, who accept the shockingly low salaries which only too commonly obtain, and thereby help to pull down the rates throughout the whole of the profession. These are the performers who take salaries at the music-halls and smaller theatres of 15s., 18s., and 20s. a week—playing for this at two performances a night, providing the regulation evening dress, and possibly travelling considerable distances to and from their work every day in addition. How they do it, Heaven only knows; but, of course, players of this class do the profession no credit, and they have always been regarded as the blacklegs of the calling by those better placed.

Then came the recent strike of the variety artists, with whom the orchestral players in the music-halls made common cause, and this has been the means of bringing about an understanding between the two leading bodies which did not formerly exist. At first the managers tried to play off the one against the other, and if they had been so disposed, the Orchestral Association could quickly have filled up most of the posts vacated by the members of the Union on terms quite satisfactory to themselves. With an amount of judgment and foresight, however, which does them considerable credit, they recognised that the interests of the industry as a whole were hardly likely to be furthered in the long run in this way, so the managers appealed to them in vain for help in their extremity. Later came the arbitration, at which the striking instrumentalists, represented by the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, put forward terms which can hardly be regarded as having been extravagant or exacting. At the subsequent conference referred to above, the justice of their demands has since been endorsed by the members of both bodies, and by the resolutions passed each society has pledged its members not to play for lower terms. In all three recommendations, drawn up by the two societies, were considered:—

(1) That the members of both societies instruct their respective executives to draw up a working agreement for joint action; (2) That both societies bind their members not to play for less than 36s. per week of six performances—extra performances *pro rata*; and (3) That after a date to be agreed upon by the executives the members of both societies agree not to play in company with any musician in any metropolitan theatre or music-hall who is not a member of either society.

After discussion, all three recommendations were unanimously adopted; and as the two organisations in question include the vast majority of instrumental players throughout the country, the importance of the decision come to, if the resolutions are not departed from, is not to be gainsaid, and it is sincerely to be hoped in the interests of the profession generally that the executives of the two bodies will see to it that in point of fact the resolutions are adhered to by their members. In this event the managers will have no alternative but to agree to their demands, and the lot of the instrumental player—though even under the revised conditions none too rosy—should at least become a good deal better than it has been. The third recommendation is, perhaps, of a more controversial nature. "Exclusive dealing" has never a very pleasant ring, though sometimes recourse to the policy indicated may be defended as a regrettable necessity. In this particular case it will be noted, however, that the recommendation is put forward more in the form of a hint than as a policy which it has been decided definitely to put in force. It is only "after a date to be agreed upon by the executives" that the recommendation is to take effect, and it may well be that the date in question may not arrive just yet. Meanwhile the award of the arbitrator is being anxiously awaited. It was to have been delivered last Saturday, but there has been some delay, it appears, and it is not now expected to be made known before the end of this week.

There is nothing like a centenary, or like celebration, for the extension of knowledge, and so it will come about, doubtless, that many will know a good deal more about Orlando Gibbons' music after this week's commemoration performance at Westminster Abbey than they ever knew before. Truth to tell, Gibbons' music possesses a somewhat ancient, if not fish-like, smell for modern hearers, but, listened to—as, of course, all such music should be—in the spirit of its time and with the ears of 1625 rather than of 1907, it no doubt deserves all of the praise which has been bestowed on it. Gibbons was one of the greatest of a long list of famous composers whose work illuminated the spacious days of the Virgin Queen, and though his music may no longer appeal to us as it did to his contemporaries, it was a happy inspiration to erect a memorial to his memory in Westminster Abbey, where

as organist he preceded his genial successor of to-day, Sir Frederick Bridge, by some two hundred and fifty odd years. Every one knows how high was the repute enjoyed throughout Europe by English music in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and not least among those who contributed to this result was the fine old master whose memory is being honoured this week.

At Covent Garden lately the most notable performance has been, perhaps, that of "Aïda," with Mlle. Destinn in the title part, and Caruso as Radames. This is an opera which Covent Garden always does particularly well, and as a spectacle alone is worth seeing. Radames is one of Caruso's finest parts, even though he does not make quite so much noise as Tamagno used to in certain passages, and Destinn's Aïda was a capital character study. Some of the other principals were hardly so noteworthy as those of former years—who can ever hope to approach Plançon's High Priest, for one?—but the performance as a whole was more than good, and did high credit to all concerned. On Saturday, the gloomy strains of the "Flying Dutchman" came as a decided contrast, but even the brilliant singing of Destinn and Van Rooy availed not to conceal the fact that Wagner's early essay in romantic opera makes rather tiresome hearing nowadays. The more the work is heard, the more the thought suggests itself that the whole opera is in the nature of an anti-climax to its superb overture. The performance of another early Wagnerian work recently given, namely, "Tannhäuser," had a pleasant feature in the appearance of Mme. Agnes Nicholls as Venus and of Mr. Griswold as the King. Both, I believe, studied at the Royal College of Music.

The programme for next week's Gala performance has now been finally settled by the management and approved by the King. It will consist of the first acts of "Madama Butterfly" and "La Bohème," and selections from the third act of "Die Meistersinger," a work for which, as is well known, the King has a special liking. Otherwise, perhaps, it would hardly have found a place in the programme of a gala performance. As it is, Puccini will engage the major share of attention, and on occasions of this kind, when the tastes of the non-musical as well as of the musical must be considered, this arrangement will doubtless make for the greatest happiness of the greatest number. The decorations of the house promise to be even more elaborate than those of recent galas, but in other respects the arrangements will be precisely the same as in former years.

As regards other coming events at Covent Garden, one of the most interesting productions will be that of "La Gioconda," for which, it is understood, great preparations are being made. It is said, indeed, that this will be one of the heaviest productions which have ever been undertaken at Covent Garden, and that is saying not a little. Is it always realised, indeed, how excellently Covent Garden discharges its obligations nowadays in the matter of mise-en-scène? Formerly matters were often scamped in this respect, but at present there is probably no opera house in Europe where things are done more lavishly. In this connection, by the way, the rather curious statement was made the other day that Mr. Charles Manners, of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, was going to Paris to study the mounting of "Madama Butterfly" at the Opéra Comique. If that work is mounted more effectively and artistically in Paris than at Covent Garden (where Puccini himself supervised the production), it must be very well done indeed. As a matter of fact, I believe I am right in stating that the Paris production is entirely modelled on that of Covent Garden, which M. Carré visited London expressly to see.

Mme. Patti's recent reappearance in Paris at the private theatre of M. Jean de Reszke in her old part of Rosina in "Il Barbiere" seems to have been an unqualified success. Mme. Patti herself was in excellent voice, and laughingly tells her friends, indeed, that she never sang the part better in her life. M. Jean de Reszke did not take part in the performance as had been originally contemplated when this remarkable "revival" was first mooted, but Signor Anselmi proved an excellent substitute, while Signor Ancona, Signor Pini-Corsi, and M. Edouard de Reszke completed a brilliant cast.

A correspondent writes:—

With respect to your article, "Singers and Their Fees," will you allow me to point out that your statement in reference to the sums paid to M. Jean de Reszke at Covent Garden is rather wide of the mark? That great artist's services were highly esteemed, but I am in a position to state that he never received anything like £450 a night. The highest sum which he ever obtained from Sir Augustus Harris was £200 a night, and this only during one season. During the others his fees never exceeded £160 a night. I venture to make the correction since, on the lines of your own observations, it is highly undesirable that inflated and exaggerated notions should obtain currency in these matters, seeing that they can only serve to induce other vocalists still further to increase demands already, in my humble judgment, and as I gather also in your own, excessive.

From another source I have received a communication to the same effect. The figure quoted in reference to M. de Reszke was evidently one of the "greatly exaggerated" order—illustrating the truth of the remark which I ventured to make when quoting it, that it does not do always to believe quite all that is stated on these matters.

An enormous number of concerts has been given lately, only a few of which can be mentioned here. A début of considerable interest was that of Miss Beatrice Harrison, the clever young 'cellist—she is only fourteen—who fully justified what rumour had said of her. Another interesting appearance was that of Herr Emil Sjörgren, the distinguished Swedish composer, who gave an attractive concert of his own compositions. His music is not very profound, but eminently pleasing and gratefully free from affectation. Three orchestral concerts of note were those of the Queen's Hall Orchestra, the Philharmonic Society, and the London Symphony Orchestra. At the first the delicious piano playing of M. Raoul Pugno was specially attractive. At the second the appearance of Lady Hallé, who first played at these concerts fifty-eight years ago, served to remind us that there were prodigies in the land before the days of Von Vecsey and Mischa Elman. At the third, Dr. Richter's thirty years' labour in England was worthily celebrated—though there ought surely to have been some Wagner in the programme of such a concert. As to the violinists who have been heard, merely to name them all would occupy some space. Kubelik and Kreisler were the most notable, and the former had a better audience than the latter—wherein there is food for thought. Two uncommonly clever young pianists heard were Miss Alice Ripper and Miss Nellie Curzon-Smith; Frln. Tilly Koenen was the best of several vocalists who invited criticism, and one of the best for that matter of all before the public just now; while Mlle. Chaminade's concert of her own compositions attracted, as usual, a large audience of that clever lady's admirers.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—The earlier part of "George Paston's" "Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Her Times" (1) is somewhat forbidding reading, since it is waterlogged with the love-letters of that incomparable prig, Wortley Montagu. What Lord Stanhope says of this worthy—"that he combined very moderate talents with most overweening vanity"—is written in every line of these pompous and egotistical letters; and what his lordship adds about a MS. speech of Montagu's intended to be read from his hat—that "it was marginally annotated with such hints for its delivery as 'Here pause a minute.' 'Here look round.' 'Cough here.' 'Here speak loud.' 'Here low.'"—is also borne out by these laboured love epistles, which were written and re-written, corrected and re-corrected over and over

(1) "Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Her Times." By George Paston. With Twenty-four Illustrations. (London: Methuen & Co. 15s. net.)

(2) "Ghetto Comedies." By Israel Zangwill. With Illustrations by J. H. Amschewitz. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(3) "2835, Mayfair." By Frank Richardson. (London: T. Werner Laurie. 6s.)

(4) "The Late Tennant." By Gordon Holmes. With Four Illustrations by James Durden. (London: Cassell and Co. 6s.)

again. The result of this over-elaboration is certainly not perspicuity; though the obscurity of the letters may in part be due to the caution of a calculating and suspicious lover. I am not at all as sure as "George Paston" that these suspicions of Lady Mary's coquetry were unwarranted, since a more arrant coquette than Lady Mary showed herself later could hardly be found even in that day. Not, perhaps, that she ever committed herself as Horace Walpole in a scurrilous letter, and Pope in an inexpressibly filthy couplet, suggest; for she was hardly the kind of woman to commit herself thus. Some of the maxims in her letters to her husband and to her only daughter suggest a calculating cynicism incompatible with such imprudence. "Anger and compassion," she writes to her husband, "are equal weaknesses, and a wise man never suffers himself to be influenced by either in an action of consequence." To her daughter she writes, "I shall only repeat the Turkish maxim, which, I think, includes all that is necessary in a *court* life: 'Caress the favourites: avoid the unfortunate: trust nobody.'" These are not precisely womanly maxims; but, then, Lady Mary would have resented nothing more rancorously than the charge of womanliness. "But one thing," she says, with her usual wit, "reconciles me to being a woman—that I am thus assured against marrying one of that gender." Here, again, is a characteristic extract from a letter written in her girlhood to another young lady, ridiculing at once her sex and the love-making of Vanbrugh, the architect and dramatist:—

I can't forbear entertaining you with our York lovers—strange monsters, you'll think, love being as much forced up here as melons. In the first form of these creatures is even Mr. Vanbrugh. Heaven, no doubt, compassionating our dulness, has inspired him with a passion that makes us all ready to die with laughing. 'Tis credibly reported that he is endeavouring at the honourable estate of matrimony and vows to lead a sinful life no more. Whether pure holiness inspires his mind, or dotage turns his brain is hard to find. 'Tis certain he keeps Monday's and Thursday's market—i.e., assembly day—constant; and for those that don't regard worldly muck, there's extraordinary good choice indeed. I believe last Monday there was 200 pieces of women's flesh (fat and lean). But you know Van's taste was always odd. His inclination to ruins has given him a fancy for Mrs. Yarborough. He sighs and ogles that it would do your heart good to see him; and she is not a little pleased that in so small a proportion of men among such a number of women, a whole man should fall to her share.

As mordant and malicious wit of this kind flavours nearly all her letters, it is staggering to find in one of them the maxim, "Nothing is more ridiculous than censuring the actions of others," followed by the Pharisaic boast, "as I never found any pleasure in malice, I bless the destiny which has conducted me to a part where people are better employed than in talking of the affairs of their acquaintance." There are, of course, letters that are witty without being malicious, that have the brightness of steel without its sharpness, and of these not the least interesting to you, with the suffragette storming of the House of Commons in your mind, will be that describing the siege of the House of Lords by the predecessors of these Amazons. It seems that a number of ladies, headed by two Duchesses—of Queensbury and of Ancaster—incensed by their exclusion from the House of Lords' Gallery during a Spanish debate, presented themselves at the door of that house at nine in the morning to demand instant admission. Sir William Saunderson respectfully informed them that the Chancellor had made an order against their admittance. "The Chancellor! A mere lawyer!" snorted the Duchess of Queensberry. "Admit us instantly and privately." Her manner was so irritating that Sir William swore, "By G—! I won't!" Whereupon the Duchess swore, "By G—! We shall come in, in spite of the Chancellor and the whole House of Lords!" Accordingly, the ladies spent the whole day till five in the afternoon—without food to sustain their strength—thumping and kicking at the door, till hardly a word said by the speakers could be heard in the chamber itself! When this failed, the Duchess suggested the infallible stratagem of a dead silence for half an hour, which the Chancellor of course considered impossible to a number of excited women. Assured of their retirement, he ordered the door to be opened, when in the women rushed pell-mell, and, shoving aside all in their path, they established themselves in the front row of the gallery. Here they remained till eleven at night—when the House rose—applauding and hissing as in a theatre, to the intense disgust and disconcertment of the speakers! If they had been mill-girls, I fancy there would in that day have been no scruple about their forcible ejectment. But Duchesses! "George Paston" seems to have made the most in this admirable volume of the Wortley Montagu MSS. at Sandon Hall, to which, by the courtesy of the Earl of Harrowby, she was allowed access.

Mr. Zangwill, in his note to "Ghetto Comedies," (2) disregards, he says, the old and crude conception that the sole distinction between a tragedy and a comedy lies in the ending—happy or unhappy. He seems to me to disregard also the accepted distinction between comedy and farce in such tales as "The Sabbath Question in Sudminster" and "The Yiddish Hamlet." The stories, whether you call them tragedies, comedies, or farces, have a double interest—as tales, and as studies of the character and of the point of view of the Jew. As a study of Jewish character and point of view, probably "The Jewish Trinity" is the most suggestive of these. The Jew, says Mr. Zangwill through his hero, is in every country a Trinity in himself—at once a patriot, a Jew, and an anti-Semite. In his heart of hearts he holds that he can never have a country of his own, because the Jews are all right only so long as they are under a foreign government; because left to themselves their quarrels would be internecine; and because left to themselves—and this seems the most weighty reason of all—"they could never live off one another." A community consisting exclusively of fleas is inconceivable! Jewish patriotism, in a word, when it is not a market matter of the country where most money is to be made, is either a sad memory or a pious aspiration. If you want at once the enjoyment of some extremely interesting tales and the instruction of some extremely shrewd glimpses into the mind of the Jew, whether British or Polish, you should read these "Ghetto Comedies." "2835 Mayfair" (3) is a clumsy and incredible Jekyll and Hyde story of a man who through mesmerism incarnated himself in the body of a woman, which he could tenant only for three days, on pain of his original body becoming corrupt and uninhabitable. She contrives that her dearest friend as a man should be her lover as a woman—to his unutterable disgust when he discovers the imposition. It would need more skill than Mr. Richardson possesses to make this plot credible or its characters natural. I cannot say that the characters and incidents, of "The Late Tenant" (4) are natural; but those who care only to have their curiosity roused and gratified by mysteries and their solution will find the dual personality of the villain and the tracking out of all the mazes of his villainies by the hero sufficiently exciting reading.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

With the publication of "The Roundabout Papers" and "Denis Duval" Messrs. Macmillan have completed their admirable edition of the works of Thackeray in three and sixpenny volumes. It consists of reprints of the first editions, with reproductions of all the original illustrations, and the editor, Mr. Lewis Melville, has included a great number of scattered pieces from Thackeray's pen, and illustrations from his pencil, which have not previously been given in any collected edition of his works. Some interesting facts respecting Thackeray's connection with the *Cornhill Magazine* are mentioned by Mr. Melville in his introduction to the "Roundabout Papers." When Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. decided to start the *Cornhill* in 1859 Thackeray was offered £350 for a monthly instalment of a novel, to be completed in twelve numbers; while for the "Roundabout Papers" and similar contributions he received the record price of twelve guineas a page. It was not at first intended that he should be the editor, but after the post had been refused by Tom Hughes and others Thackeray took it at a salary of £1,000 a year. He resigned the editorship in 1862, but continued a contributor to the magazine—which was from the first an immense success—till his death at the end of the following year.

Mr. Murray has in the press for publication in the autumn a book by Major Gambier-Parry which may almost be described as a history of Eton during the past seventy years. It is a history of the famous Eton house known as Evans's. Jane Evans, herself the head of the house for twenty-eight years, occupies a place in many hearts, and while the volume contains numerous extracts from her diaries and letters, there are also contributions from many of those who were at the house in her day as well as in those of her father and sister.

In the Spanish Series Mr. John Lane has issued "The Prado" (3s. 6d. net). The principal pictures in the famous gallery are described by Mr. Albert F. Calvert and Mr. C. Gasquoine Hartley, and the volume is illustrated with 220 reproductions from photographs of Old Masters.

Mr. C. C. Lynam, Headmaster of the Oxford Preparatory School and an enthusiastic amateur cruiser, is the author of a book entitled "The Log of the *Blue Dragon*," which will be published by Mr. A. H. Bullen. Mr. Lynam has sailed the *Blue Dragon* from Oxford down the Thames, round Land's End, and up the West Coast of Scotland, where for a dozen years she cruised among the Hebrides. The book is a jovial record of adventures by land and sea.

Messrs. Greening are issuing what should prove to be a popular series of useful handbooks at sixpence net, written by experts and covering a wide range of subjects. One book just out is by Mr. J. Whitehead on "Practical Fruit Culture"; another is on "Cricket," various features of the game being dealt with by Dr. W. G. Grace, A. C. Maclaren, A. E. Trott, W. J. Ford, and other distinguished players.

Miss Ellen Terry alludes to her experiences with the Keans at the Princess's Theatre in the first instalment of her interesting reminiscences, "The Story of My Life." It was with the Keans that she received her early training in Shakespearean parts. "During the rehearsals," says Miss Terry, "Mr. Kean used to sit in the stalls with a loud-voiced dinner-bell by his side, and when anything went wrong on the stage he would ring it ferociously, and everything would come to a stop until Mrs. Kean, who always sat on the stage, had set right what was wrong." Of Mrs. Kean, Miss Terry gratefully remarks that no woman ever gave herself more trouble to train a young actress. "The Story of My Life," which will delight the author's host of admirers, is appearing in the columns of *M.A.P.*

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is very gay and full, and invitations pour in from hospitable friends. It is a delightful time of year in town, before it gets too hot, and we are setting our minds to enjoy every day of it. A good resolution, is it not? And, unlike most good resolutions, very easy of accomplishment. There are several interesting functions coming off, and we have been buying gowns and hats wherein to do them honour. The worst of it is that, with weather so very changeable, one never knows what to wear. June, the dearest and most beautiful of all the months, arrived in torrents of tears. She wept twice round the clock—from her birth-moment at midnight until the same moment the night after; a bad beginning, but her smiles may be all the more sunny for her pluvial début.

On Wednesday of this week opens a garden fête at Aubrey House, Campden Hill, the beautiful and historic residence of Mr. W. C. Alexander. May the heavens be kind to it, for it is a beneficent undertaking, in aid of the funds of the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants, of which Princess Christian is President. Visitors are to be admitted to the lovely garden, and there will be performances of maypole and morris dances during the two days of the Exhibition. It is to consist of lace, embroidery, miniatures, and other objects of artistic or historic interest. The kindly Association was founded in 1874 by Mrs. Nassau Senior, and the girls befriended are chiefly those placed in domestic service from the various Metropolitan Poor Law Schools. There are eight training homes kept up by the Association and eleven lodging houses, where girls can go when out of place or in need of help or advice. In case you should feel inclined to send a cheque for an institution so worthy, the central office is 66, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge-road, S.W. Some cases reported in the papers prove that young servant girls are sometimes very badly in need of help, especially when they have the misfortune to fall into the clutches of a cruel, tyrannical mistress.

The proceeds of the Ascot Ball this year are to be given to the Maternity and District Nurses' Home at Plaistow. The date is Wednesday, June 26. There is a long list of distinguished patrons, headed by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The great charm of this annual ball is that, owing to the strictness of the entrée, hostesses of social position can make parties and entertain their friends on a generous scale at a cost that amounts to something like one-fourth of what it would cost them in their own houses. Each hostess can have a reserved rendezvous, and a special supper party. It is to be held, as usual, at the Wharncliffe Rooms. It is a lovely room to dance in, especially since the floor has been altered. Mr. Alfred de Rothschild is again lending his private band, conducted by Herr Carl Heubert. The charge for one of the eight large recesses, where hostesses can receive their guests, is twenty guineas, in addition to the tickets, which are 25s. each, including a champagne supper and refreshments, all of which they do so very well at the Hotel Great Central.

The League of Mercy is to benefit by two matinées, to be given at the Vaudeville Theatre on June 20 and 21, when a musical play, written and composed by Mr. A. S. Scott-Gatty, will be produced by Mrs. Wordsworth and her pupils. It is called "The Three Bears." Graceful little Beryl Hentschel is to be Golden Locks. Such items on the programme as Santa Claus Fairies, Snowflakes, Ballet of Kittens, all to be performed by children, are guarantees that both players and audience will enjoy themselves greatly.

Lilla gets all her lingerie at Lakmé's, in Davies-street. It is of the most luxurious kind, and the ladies who conduct the shop have quite given up dressmaking to devote themselves to "undies." Their blouses are the daintiest possible, and teagowns are of the order that may be described as simply "too-too." The petticoats match the rest of the tempting stock. Everything comes from Paris. You never saw such sweet night-caps, one a kind of mob in Valenciennes, with pale blue ribbon. Upstairs there are rooms full of the quaintest lamp-shades, cushions of every shape and size, revolving bookstands in painted velvet or brocade, and little chests of drawers with the fronts falling down, making it so easy to get at things without making hay of everything else in the drawers.

Are you going to the Oxford Pageant, to be held on the last three days of this month and the first three of the next? Richard gazes at the six dates as if he hoped by steady staring to divine which will enjoy the best weather. The programme is one of the most fascinating booklets I have ever seen, full of views of old Oxford, and maps, and with a poem by Robert Bridges and an article by "Q."—in fact, everything that can make you feel that Oxford is the one place that you long to see. The map that shows the way from the station has a red line running through the very heart of Oxford, and up "the High" of world-wide fame. The scenes have been written by a group of well-known people, ranging from Stanley Weyman to Laurence Housman; they have been arranged by masters like Beerbohm Tree and H. B. Irving, and clothed by a band of eminent artists, corrected and

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restrained by a number of distinguished authorities on heraldry, civic, ecclesiastic, and military costume, and the minutiæ of armour and weapons.

The pageant will take about three hours, and consists of fourteen scenes representing typical incidents in the growth of Oxford as a city and as a university. Those devoted to the Stuart period will be particularly full of incident, for Oxford was far from being "wrapped in scholastic peace" during those troubled times. The scene of the pageant is the spot where the Cherwell encircles the grounds of Magdalen College School, at the end of the Broad Walk, and the spectators will only have to raise their eyes from the performers to see the famous towers of Magdalen and Merton embowered in rich trees. It is a beautiful place, set in bright green meadows, and the scenes, from St. Frideswide's adventures in 727 to George III.'s visit to St. Giles's Fair, should be not only wonderfully picturesque, but interesting and stirring. Some of them will be accompanied by contemporary music, to heighten the illusion. And if our souls should for a moment desire a rest from history, there will be an extraordinarily interesting audience to study.

We had to go to Woolwich the other morning, and after a weary and expensive journey by train, we made a successful and delightful experiment, and came back in less time and for less than half the money by river. The tram from Woolwich put us down close to Greenwich Pier, where the boats start, and we played at being American tourists, and bought chocolate and a penny guide from an official little boy on board, and settled ourselves in the bow. That very morning we had seen the sleepy Thames, silver dappled with green reflections, slide under the grey arches of Maidenhead Bridge. Here we met our river on different terms. It was like meeting in his office a man whom one knows at dances. He wears quite a different expression, and women, instead of pleasantly ruling him, are interruptions, and to be dealt with quickly. No teasing and dalliance with this tawny flood in its office mood! We felt becomingly humble as we looked across at the brown wharves of the Isle of Dogs. Our penny guide, bought in fun, became a very Minerva (in an orange paper garment), and the adventures of Telemachus were not more interesting to him than ours to us. We saw for the first time places whose names we have always known—Wapping and Rotherhithe, and Shadwell. We looked upon Wapping Old Stairs, and the tower of Deptford Church, under whose shadow Marlowe, coldly called by the guide-book "Marlowe, the dramatist," is buried. And when, aided by our penny Minerva, we had recalled Saxon and Roman names, and come down the ages to Dickens, we left off the tourist-game, and became Londoners to the core. It is a fine sight, the Thames in its business mood, with Tower Bridge and St. Paul's looking down it to the domes of Greenwich. We passed by groups of shipping, some with strange foreign names; we skirted one or two leviathan steamers, pale grey giants with vermilion keels just showing above the water; and we wished that Mr. Rudyard Kipling, in an expansive mood, were on our fussy little steamer to translate to us the busy book that was open before us, written in a foreign language. However, Bee kodaked the chief things we wanted explained, with a view to receiving information from a sailor-cousin. We were sorry when we reached Charing Cross pier. The journey had been quick, cheap, comfortable, and picturesque, the worst point about it being the chocolate. We had been intensely interested, and besides, we know a great deal more now than we did before.

You would never guess how I have spent the last quarter of an hour. In watching six dozen new-laid eggs being laid away in a pail of waterglass for a few months' retirement from the world. The idea is to buy them at this time of year, when they cost 1s. for sixteen, and consume during the winter of our discontent, when each "new-laid" disposes of 2d. or 3d. Thrift is a wonderful thing.

Regardless of what people say, I do not think that bridge is losing its attractions. I am perfectly sure that the clerk of the weather is a bridge player, for anxious as we may be to "declare" for fine weather, we have to "leave it" to him, and judging from the weather he has been giving us lately, he means to go spades. We know, however, that it is an ill wind that blows no one any good, and certainly the winds we have been having have blown little good to any one but bridge players. Seriously, I believe that even Father Vaughan would admit that a little mild bridge is better than indulging in many of the evils against which he has been holding forth. Hearts and diamonds at bridge are much less harmful than hearts and diamonds in other directions. For these reasons I am glad to hear that bridge is holding its own. Apropos of this, you will be interested to know that the Berkeley Bridge Club, to which I referred a few weeks back, has found it necessary, owing to its popularity, to establish itself in larger premises, and has now moved from Upper Berkeley-street to 79, Knightsbridge. I mention this fact to show that the game is played by a large number of people for itself alone, and not for mere gambling purposes, as at the Berkeley Club the stakes are strictly limited to five shillings a hundred, while the usual stakes are only half-a-crown. I know that a great many people will declare that this modest limit is ridiculous, and that no really good players would care to sit down for such paltry stakes. On the other hand, an expert friend of mine assures me he has found in the majority of cases that the worse the player the higher the stakes he or she wishes to play. And, of course, this is the case where people only play, and do not pay.

I have received the following from Mona:—

My Dear Madge,—I really do think that the crush at the Temple Show was worse than ever. I was wedged in between four people at the entrance and remained wedged in until I was finally ejected at the other end. Then as there were long blocks, always just where you didn't want to be blocked, progress was very slow. The chief trouble is caused by people who want to buy. Every firm owning a stand should be compelled to provide little bays into which these people could be swept; the main stream would then pass on without interference. Again, everybody should be obliged to go in the same direction. When some are going one way and some another there is bound to be trouble. Some attempt is made at a later stage to direct the various streams, but it should begin with the admission of the first person and should allow no exceptions. Still, by dogged perseverance, I saw most of what was to be seen, and, in my opinion, it was quite the best show I have ever attended in the Temple Gardens. The orchids were extraordinary. Their fabulous value has been proclaimed in the daily papers, and I do not believe that such a collection has ever been brought together before. I suppose the firms who exhibited them hoped to find purchasers among the American millionaires who are said to be overrunning London. But as neither you nor I can afford to buy thousand-guinea orchids I will pass them by.

That the popularity of hardy plants is still growing was proved by the large amount of attention paid to them by almost every firm exhibiting. After the orchids they were the chief feature of the show. Last year I mentioned a new variety of Anchusa italica—the Dropmore, deep blue; this year I saw another—the Opal, pale blue, shown by Messrs. Ladham. It seemed to me to be well worth growing, as a companion for the former. Messrs. Wallace had a charming collection of lilies, irises, and ixias, and I was especially struck with a Heuchera—corallina—with flowers of a coral pink, paler and rather more effective than those of the better known Heuchera sanguinea. A very beautiful single pink pyrethrum, Margaret Moor, was shown by Messrs. Clark, the pink in this case also having a coral tint, the centre being, as usual, bright yellow. The Oriental poppies were extremely handsome. Formerly there was only a single kind, red blotched with black at the base of the petals; now there are an immense number of varieties of all shades of red. They are splendid plants for the back of the border, or for the outskirts of the shrubbery, but unfortunately, though they last longer than most other poppies, they do not retain their beauty very long. Do you like centaureas? Perhaps you call them perennial cornflowers. If so, two very fine new varieties were exhibited by Messrs. Jarman—one a soft rose, called the Bridegroom, and the other a creamy white, called the Bride. They are infinitely superior to the old blue. But of all the hardy plants I do not think any were more admired than the columbines, the new long-spurred hybrids, in a great

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variety of beautiful colours. At every stand where they were shown there was a block, and the booking of orders was brisk. Many firms assert that they exhibit only because others do, and that it does not pay them; but my experience of the Temple Show is that a vast amount of business is done there. Certainly, as the result of the last show, these beautiful columbines will appear in many gardens in which they were previously unknown. Among Messrs. Veitch's novelties was the handsome Meconopsis integrifolia. It was really introduced two or three years ago—their traveller originally obtained it in China—but it is still a rare plant in gardens. Its flowers are yellow in colour, the yellow of rather a strongly coloured Maréchal Niel rose, and they are not unlike those of a large poppy in shape. I think it is likely to become a favourite. As usual, Messrs. Veitch made a striking display of eremuri, and as several other firms followed their example these stately plants, with their tall spikes of flowers in various colours, were very much in evidence. Messrs. Pulham gave an interesting object lesson in the construction of rockeries—laid down great blocks of stone, planted alpines among them, and surrounded them with turf in such a natural manner that the whole thing looked as if it had always been a permanent part of the Temple Gardens. A still more elaborate rockery was made by Messrs. Cutbush, in order to serve as a setting for their fine collection of rock and water plants. How they managed it in the short time at their disposal I cannot imagine. At Kew the rock garden is the most popular part of the grounds, and there can be no question that the cultivation of rock plants—sedums, saxifrages, sempervivums, and many others—is very much in favour at the present time. Personally, I think there is not a more interesting class of plants, and when in flower they are very beautiful. The hardy rhododendrons and azaleas exhibited by Messrs. Waterer were a feast of colour. I cannot think why people grow laurels and other dingy things when they can have such shrubs as these, rather more expensive, perhaps, in the first instance, but not more troublesome afterwards, and infinitely superior. They must have peat, some say, but this is quite a mistake. Some magnificent plants were exhibited which had been grown entirely in loam. I have not said anything about the roses. I saw some very fine ones in the stands of Messrs. Paul, Cant, Mount, and other firms, but the end of May is rather early to see them at their best, especially in such a cold month as this has been. Caroline Testout was there, of course, and Mrs. John Laing and Liberty and Ulrich Brunner, all well coloured and perfectly shaped; the ramblers were also exhibited in great variety; but June is the month of roses, and in a few weeks' time we shall be better able to judge of the merits of any novelties. I must not, however, close without mentioning Frau Karl Druschski. The flowers which I saw of this rose certainly entitle it to be called the finest white in existence.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—How sad to have to say with a sigh of relief, "Thank goodness, May is over!" It is almost as if a person were to rejoice with an unnatural joy that his youth has come to an end. Yet who could have helped feeling glad last week that the mockery of the merry month was past and gone. In what a different spirit from one of sadness came the thought, it cannot always be May; not always a long succession of grey, gloomy, and glacial days. The merciless month that was such a traitor to tradition was gone, we might hope for sunshine and summer to rejoice us at last. With June's arrival surely the sun will come again. How much worse it is to have bad days in summer than in winter! They are so much longer, so much more showy, and under our observation. So much more interfering too with our scheme of life. What is more deplorable than a "life long summer day" of rain and gloom? We are entitled to expect so much from it, that deep disappointment sinks our hearts, to add to our other feelings of discontent. Last week we often would have wished the days many hours shorter, so that we might shut them out of sight, with a clear conscience, and betake ourselves to our firesides and bright lamp-light. We were not worse off, however, than were you, on your side of the water; we had at least the consolation of knowing that we had no special Irish grievance regarding the weather.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen have been staying at the Viceregal Lodge throughout the month, and Lady Aberdeen is now almost quite recovered. The weather, however, is very trying for all who have had the misfortune to get rheumatic colds. It is hard to shake off the grim grip of rheumatism in damp, cold weather. No doubt this season will bring a great harvest to the "cure" resorts in the coming months. Lady Aberdeen has been energetically devoting herself to promoting the interests of the Irish Industries section of the Exhibition, which was opened by Lord

AT THE TELEPHONE.

SHE: Hello! Who's that?

HE: Ahem!

SHE: Oh, it's you, is it? The usual thing, I suppose; detained, important business; can't get home to dinner; sorry, and so on.

HE: Right again, but I shall be home as quickly as possible.

SHE: Well, then, bring me a bottle of Odol.

HE: Speak louder, dear, I can't hear; a bottle of what?

SHE: Odol, O-d-o-l. Odol. Are you there?

HE: Yes, all there, darling, all there.

SHE: And you know what I mean?

HE: Of course I do. It's that lovely tooth and mouth wash I've heard the fellows at the club talking so much about lately. Since they've been using it, they do nothing but smile, to show their beautiful teeth.

SHE (*eagerly*): Yes, Jack, yes, that's it. (*Then more seriously.*) But I say, Jack, if you've heard so much in its praise, why haven't you bought me some before now?

HE: Well, you see, dear, I didn't think your teeth could be improved; besides, your smiles are perfection, and——

SHE: Don't be ridiculous, Jack. You don't understand. Odol is a serious matter. It isn't a tooth-powder or a tooth-soap, or any of those antiquated things which are useless for preventing fermentation which causes the teeth to decay. Odol gets into every crevice of the mouth and between the teeth and washes the mouth clean of every impurity. Odol is a liquid antiseptic dentifrice, and its refreshing effect lasts for several hours after using it. Odol is such a famous———

HE (*impatiently*): Well, well, it's all right; you shall have it, and I'll bring a bottle for myself as well.

SHE: Do, Jack, do; but I say, you must bring half-a-crown bottles; they contain twice as much as the eighteen-penny ones.

HE: How economical you are getting.

SHE: And bring the Sweet-Rose-flavoured Odol for me, please, Jack. The Standard with the stronger flavour, will perhaps be best for you.

HE: I'll not forget, my dearest Odol—idol I mean. Ta-ta.

They ring off.

Aberdeen last Saturday, she accompanying him. Although the Exhibition was opened many weeks ago, this particular section was not ready to open at the time. We are always so busy making history over here, that somehow or other, industrial things get into the background and are not always up to time. Lady Aberdeen won many prizes at the Irish Kennel Club Show last week. She has the most delightful Scotch terriers, and such crowds of them, one wonders if she can know them all one from the other. Are you fond of these intelligent, independent-looking creatures? Some of her white terriers are quite adorable amongst dogs. Lord Dudley paid a visit at the Viceregal Lodge, on his way to England from his fishing lodge in Connemara, which he continues to rent since the time of his Viceroyalty. Lady Dudley's illness called him suddenly away to England.

Lady Aberdeen made a most interesting speech on opening the Irish Industry section at the Exhibition, and, above all, was able to tell of the way in which so many of them had prospered since she gave them a send-off in the time of Lord Aberdeen's first Viceroyalty. Under her very active superintendence the section is extremely interesting and very instructive, not only in what we are in our own villages, but in what we might be. However much we love to differ on most subjects over here, we are all in agreement with regard to Lady Aberdeen's warm heart for our interests, and her untiring and amazing energy in promoting them. Only those who live in the atmosphere of an infinite variety of conflicting opinions, as we do, know the difficulties of many of the works which she undertakes and carries through. Sir Antony MacDonnell was last week at the Under-Secretary's Lodge, with Lady MacDonnell. They dispense much hospitality at this most pleasant of official residences in the Phœnix Park, Lady MacDonnell being a charming hostess. We women, who don't interfere in politics, take the rumours very badly that politics might so far interfere with us as to deprive us of such pleasant members of society. Is it not enough to make us all suffragettes when our social interests are not considered in high official appointments? Lord and Lady Grenfell's departure from the Royal Hospital will be regretted by their many friends. Lord Grenfell's successor as Commander of the Forces in Ireland, Sir Neville Lyttelton, was, in his early days, in Dublin, for some time, on the staff of his cousin, Lord Spencer, during Lord Spencer's first Viceroyalty, when the Viceregal Court was very brilliant under the most popular Viceroy who ever "reigned" at Dublin Castle, and the most beautiful Vice-Queen. The old people who talk of these brilliant days say, of course, that none such will ever come again. But somehow or other they do come again, to the young; perhaps because they know no better, or perhaps just because they are young.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Next week I shall have some nice recipes.—Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

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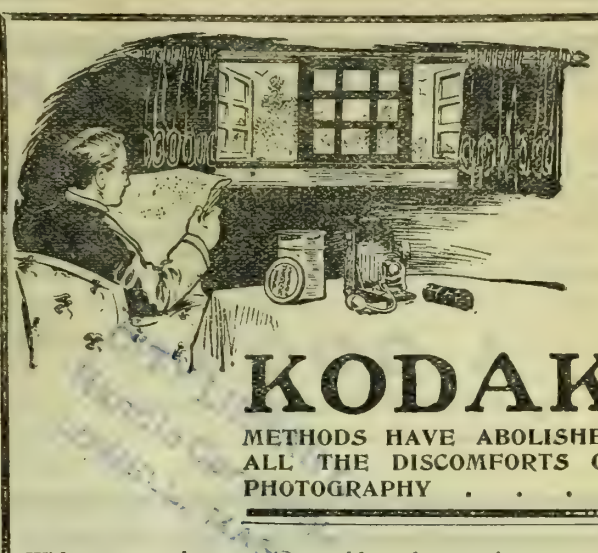

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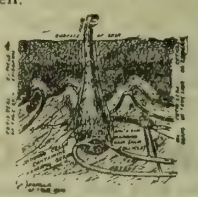

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TRUTH says:—"Our latest discovery in tailoring is Evans, 77, Great Portland-street, London, W., who can actually fit."

We have a large *clientele* at home and abroad, and have received thousands of testimonials.

The following just to hand (original can be seen).

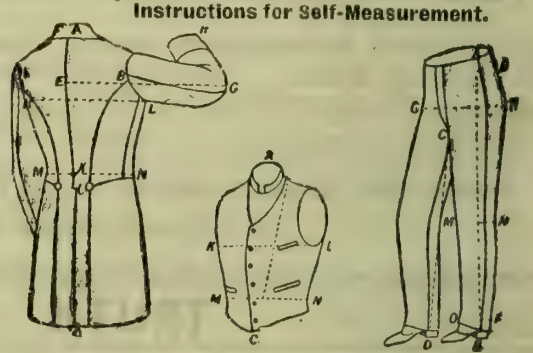
"Dear Sir,—I am much obliged for your prompt attention. For some years I have been dissatisfied with the various Tailors that have supplied me. I could get none to give me a good fit. I am therefore very pleased to find that you answer to your advertisement, and shall in future beat no loss to know where I can get so well supplied. "Yours truly, (Signed) W. C.
"W. Evans & Co."

COUNTRY ORDER DEPARTMENT.

Customers sending for any of the following clothes, stating colours, and the kind of garments required, enclosing a draft or P.O.O. (crossed London and South-Western Bank, Ltd.), will save considerable time, as all orders will be executed and despatched in about a fortnight from the date of receiving same.

Gentlemen living in any part of the world can rely on having same fit and attention as if they visited our establishment.

Instructions for Self-Measurement.



FOR COATS OF ANY DESCRIPTION.

A to C.....Inches. Breast, fairly tight, over waistcoat.....Inches.
C ,, D..... ,,
E ,, B..... ,,
B ,, G..... ,, Waist, over waistcoat ..... ,,
G ,, H..... ,,
FOR WAISTCOATS: A to C ..... ,,

FOR TROUSERS AND BREECHES.

Side from A to N.....Inches. Round seat G H.....Inches.
,, ,, A ,, B..... ,, Round knee M to N ..... ,,
Leg seam C ,, D..... ,,
Round waist A ..... ,, Round foot O ,, P ..... ,,

ADDITIONAL FOR KNICKERBOCKERS AND BREECHES.

Round small, just below (tight) knee.....Inches. Round widest part of Calf...Inches

Desirable to know: Height, weight; whether erect or normal.

Tweed and Blue Serge Suits, £3 3s., £3 15s., £4 4s., £4 15s., £5 5s.
Norfolk Jackets, £2 6s. 6d., £2 15s., £3 5s.
Knicker-Breeches, £1 5s., £1 10s., £1 15s., £2 5s.
Riding and Hunting Breeches, £2 5s., £2 15s., £3 5s.
Evening Dress Suits, silk lined, £5 5s., £6 6s., £7 7s., £8 8s.
Morning Coats, £2 15s., £3 5s., £3 15s., £4 4s.

77, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, London, W.

(*Adjoining Queen's Hall.*)

CIGARS

We will supply direct from our factories in HAVANA and Holland, Cigars at HALF BRITISH PRICES from 7/6 per hundred.

LA CUBA COMPANY,
11, N.Z. Voorburgwal,
Amsterdam, HOLLAND.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE **FREE**

A LOVELY CLEAR COMPLEXION

ensured by using

SULPHOLINE LOTION

The Standard Remedy for over 35 years. Quickly removes all Skin Eruptions—clears off every Pimple, Blemish, or Spot.

FREE TRIAL SAMPLE sent on receipt of 2d. to pay postage

Sold everywhere, in bottles 1/-, or on receipt of amount.

A Good Complexion is Better than a Pretty Face.

J. PEPPER & CO., Bedford Laboratory, London, S.E.

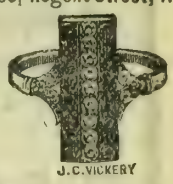
SPECIAL FOR LADIES.

"THE QUEEN OF Apollinaris TABLE WATERS."

J. C. VICKERY
Jeweller and Silversmith
To H.M. The KING and H.M. The QUEEN.
179, 181, 183, Regent Street, W.

No. M 240.
Diamonds and Rubies, £18.
Ditto, three rows Gems, £12 10s.

No. M 246.
Diamonds, Rubies, & Pearls, £16.
Diamonds, Emeralds, and Pearls, £18 18s.



No. M 244.
Diamonds and Rubies, Only £19 10s.

Novelties for Wedding, Bridesmaids', and Birthday Gifts in Jewellery, Gold and Silver Ware, Leather Goods, Watches, Clocks, Fans, Umbrellas, Walking Sticks, Dressing Bags, Suit Cases, &c.

FRILLED BUTTER MUSLIN
WITH NEW HEMSTITCH FRILLS, 3 yds. long, 8/3 per pair. PLAIN FRILLS, 6/9 per pair. *Sample book of Plain and Fancy Muslins on approval.* Carpets, Tapestries, Cretonnes, Art Silks, Art Serges. Patterns on approval. *Book of Lace Curtains, Blinds, Carpets, Linoleum, Furniture, Bedsteads, Bedding, post free.*

THE BELVOIR WICKER ARBOUR.
With let-down flap Table; Basket for Books, Needlework, &c. Being light, it is easily turned in any position.
Shelters from wind and sun.

Price Complete in Striped Tick... £3 5 0
Shower-proof 4 7 6
Made to fold flat, 15/- extra.
Catalogue Free.
GORRINGE & CO., 91A Dept., Queen's Walk, NOTTINGHAM.

Patterns and Illustrated Catalogues Post Free.

COPLAND & LYE'S
"CALEDONIAN"
SCOTCH TWEED SKIRT
21/- In Stock Sizes. 21/-
Carriage Paid in the U.K.
Made to Measure, 2/- Extra.
Handsome Golf or "rainy day" Skirt in Stylish Checks and Plain TWEEDS.
COPLAND & LYE'S
Famous SCOTCH TARTAN SKIRTS in the principal Clan Tartans.
Price 42/- Carriage Paid.
Scotch Winceys from 1/- per yard.
THE LEADING SPECIALISTS IN SCOTCH TEXTILES.
COPLAND & LYE, Caledonian House, Sauchiehall Street, GLASGOW.

PLASMON
BLANCMANGE
THE IDEAL
of Dainty and Delicious Food for Dainty Children.
3 Pint Box, 4d.

Jewsbury & Brown's
ORIENTAL
TOOTH PASTE.
In Pots and Tubes.

To H.M. THE KING.
CARPET CLEANERS
— THE —
Compressed Air Carpet & Tapestry Cleaning Company.
BROOK GREEN, W., and 135, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.
TELEGRAMS: "PURIFYING, LONDON."
TELEPHONE: 93 HAMMERSMITH. 288 WESTMINSTER.

Charities approved by the Editor of Truth.

FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. £40 Annually will support a Cot, £1,000 Names a Cot FOR EVER.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
GREAT ORMOND STREET, W.C.
President: The Duke of Fife, K.T. *Chairman*: Arthur Lucas, Esq.

THE FIRST & LARGEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL in the BRITISH EMPIRE.

E. S. Johnson, *Secretary.*

£3,060

represents the balance of a loan of £5,000 raised by the Committee of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields Eye Hospital) to tide over a time of great financial distress. They earnestly appeal for donations towards the repayment of the loan.

Donations, whether small or large, will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, City Road, E.C.

WAIFS AND STRAYS
Forward Movement.
£100,000
required to develop and strengthen the work of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND WAIFS AND STRAYS SOCIETY.

ALL WHO LOVE LITTLE CHILDREN are earnestly asked to give or collect 20 SHILLINGS to mark the completion of the FIRST QUARTER-CENTURY of the existence of the above Society, during which homes have been provided for more than

12,500 DESTITUTE, OUTCAST, AND CRUELLY-TREATED CHILDREN.

DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED and collecting books supplied by Rev. E. DE M. RUDOLF, Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, Savoy-street, London, W.C.

Please mark envelopes "Quarter-Century Fund."

Patron: H.M. QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

NORTH EASTERN HOSPITAL
FOR CHILDREN,

HACKNEY ROAD, BETHNAL GREEN, E.

125 BEDS IN CONSTANT USE.

Annual Expenditure £11,000

Endowed income under £300.

Surrounded by some of the poorest and most crowded districts of London.

T. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

62,312 Children Rescued from Misery, Trained, and Placed out in Life in 40 years.

About **8,000** Boys and Girls always under the care of the Homes.

2,928 new Admissions in 1906.

1,200 EMIGRANTS going to Canada this year.

HEAD OFFICES:—
18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, LONDON, E.

BRITISH SAILORS for BRITISH SHIPS.

The "ARETHUSA" and "CHICHESTER" Training Ships prepare British Boys for the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine.

80 Boys each Year enter Royal Navy.
6,000 have entered Merchant Service.
1,000 Children now being maintained.

No Votes Required.

18,000 *BOYS and GIRLS have been rescued and trained for useful service.*

SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.
Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received.
The National Refuges for Homeless and Destitute Children. [Incorp. 1901.
London Office: 164, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W.C.
Joint Secs.: H. BRISTOW WALLEN and HENRY G. COPELAND.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION AND SHAFTESBURY SOCIETY.

Founded 1844.

Patron—HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
President—The Marquis of NORTHAMPTON.

The COUNCIL APPEAL for YOUR KIND HELP, MONEY, CLOTHING, PERSONAL SERVICE—all are wanted in the work of lifting the poor little ones, including the Cripples, from well-nigh hopeless surroundings to a better life and good citizenship.

Thousands of cases are dealt with every year.

Send for Report, and give us your liberal and prayerful assistance.

JOHN KIRK, Secretary.
32, John-street, Bedford-row, W.C.

Patron—HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

THE
SURGICAL AID SOCIETY.

President—THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, P.C., G.C.M.G.

This Society supplies Spinal Supports, Leg Instruments, Artificial Limbs, Surgical Appliances, Elastic Stockings, Trusses, and every description of mechanical support to the poor without limit as to locality or disease.

36,474 Appliances given year ending September, 1906. Average of 700 per week.

Water Beds, Invalid Chairs, and Couches are lent to the Afflicted upon the Recommendation of Subscribers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS are earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received by the Bankers, Messrs. Barclay & Co., Ltd., Lombard-street, or by the Secretary, at the Offices of the Society, Salisbury square, London, E.C.

RICHARD C. TRESIDDER, *Secretary.*

Charities Approved by the Editor of Truth.

THE
POOR CLERGY RELIEF CORPORATION,
38, TAVISTOCK-PLACE, Tavistock-square, London, W.C.
(ESTABLISHED 1856.)

President.—THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

THE CONVALESCENT AND HOLIDAY FUND FOR THE POOR COUNTRY CLERGY.

The Committee of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation earnestly ask for CONTRIBUTIONS to their FUND FOR GRANTING HELP TO COUNTRY CLERGYMEN and to those in PROVINCIAL TOWNS suffering from overwork and weakened health, to enable them to obtain a few weeks' rest and change. Cases are frequent where for six, eight, or ten years—sometimes even longer—a clergyman has not had a single Sunday from his parish.

It is requested that all sums sent for this purpose may be marked "Holiday Fund."

The Society also makes large grants periodically from its general Fund in times of emergency, and is the only Institution of the kind which gives immediate assistance to the Clergy, their Widows, and Orphan Daughters IN ALL PARTS OF THE EMPIRE. At each fortnightly meeting of the Committee some hundreds of pounds are distributed in this way.

Cheques should be crossed "London and Westminster Bank," and made payable to the Secretary, Mandeville B. Phillips.

MANDEVILLE B. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Offices of the Corporation, 38, Tavistock-place, Tavistock-square, W.C.

TYPEWRITERS

MSS. Copied.

Great Bargains for Sale, Hire, or Exchange. Shorthand and Typists sent out with machines from **£1** per week.

Ring up—4881 Holborn.
8325 Bank. 7093 Central.

TAYLORS LTD., 74, Chancery Lane, London.
And at 92, QUEEN STREET, E.C. (Cheapside End).

PEEK, FREAN, & CO., Ltd.,

OFFER

A FREE TEST

of the many merits of TILIA on the condition mentioned below.

It is important that you should know all about TILIA, and we will gladly put samples of the Biscuits, Cocoa, and Powder at your disposal, and send with them printed matter of interest.

TILIA supplies what is too often lacking from our ordinary food, viz., NOURISHMENT, and can be added to meats, soups, vegetables, pastries, milk; in fact, there is hardly anything which we eat and drink which would not be vastly improved by the addition of TILIA.

TILIA is odourless and tasteless, and can only do you good.

Grocers, Chemists, and Stores sell the Tilia preparations, in air-tight packages, as follows: Tilia Powder and Cocoa, 9d., 1/4, and 2/6; Tilia Biscuits, 1/- and 2/-

FREE SAMPLES of Tilia Powder, Biscuits, and Cocoa, packed in air-tight tins, will be sent to all who enclose a penny stamp for postage. Address: Dept. T 6, PEEK, FREAN, & CO., Ltd., 176, Drummond-road, London, S.E.

METROPOLITAN
HOSPITAL = SUNDAY FUND.

35TH. HOSPITAL-SUNDAY
JUNE 9th.

9,000 Beds have been continuously occupied in the past year.

1,000 Beds have been empty for want of Funds, very many patients' admission being delayed.

The annual cost of a bed is about £100.

The cost of a patient is about £6.

Please give or send help **through a Place of Worship**, or to the Treasurer, The Lord Mayor, Mansion House, E.C., who, unless otherwise directed, will add it to **the collection** at St. Paul's Cathedral.

There is no sum too large. ***There can be none too small.***

SECRETARY'S OFFICE (in connection with the Mansion House),
18, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.

Bankers—THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.
The List opened on June 1st, 1907, and will CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, June 5th, 1907.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

SHARE CAPITAL.

5 per cent. First Preference Stock, issued and fully paid	£1,200,000
5 per cent. Second Preference Stock, issued and fully paid ...	1,000,000
Ordinary Stock, issued and fully paid	4,000,000
100,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each, issued and fully paid ...	1,000,000
100,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each, issued (£7 paid)	1,000,000
	£8,200,000

DEBENTURE CAPITAL.

4 per cent. First Debenture Stock, issued.....	£2,755,000
4½ per cent. Second Debenture Stock, issued.....	1,945,000
5 per cent. Debenture Stock, issued	1,250,000
	£5,950,000

In addition to which further amounts of First and Second Debenture Stock have been sanctioned, but not issued, at the rate of £1,700 and £1,300 respectively per mile of new line in course of construction, but not exceeding £170,000 First and £130,000 Second Debenture Stock.

Issue of £1,000,000 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.

Secured by a Trust Deed reserving to the Company the right to create further Debenture Stock, carrying interest at 4½ per cent. per annum and ranking in all respects *pari passu* with the above £1,000,000 Debenture Stock, for £4,000,000, and a further amount at the rate of £4,000 per mile of additional line hereafter acquired by the Company or of new line for the time being constructed or in course of construction, or about to be constructed (including the extra track taken at £4,000 a mile where existing lines are doubled) in excess of the mileage belonging to the Company now in operation, and also for such a further amount as shall be sufficient to redeem prior issues to an amount not exceeding the par value of the Stock for the time being redeemed and the amount of any premium payable on redemption under the terms of the issue thereof.

At 96 per cent., payable as follows:—

£5 on Application.
30 ,, Allotment.
20 ,, 15th July, 1907.
20 ,, 15th August, 1907.
21 ,, 14th September, 1907.

Total £96 per £100 Stock.

Scrip will be issued to be exchanged for Debenture Stock Certificates on completion of all the payments, the registered Debenture Stock being transferable in amounts not involving a fraction of £1.

The interest is payable by warrant to the Registered Holders of the Stock on 1st January and 1st July in each year.

The first payment of interest will be made on 1st January, 1908, and will be calculated upon the instalments as due.

Payment in full on Allotment and on the Instalment dates can be made under discount at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE BUENOS AYRES PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, have authorised THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED, and MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, as Bankers of the Company, to receive applications for £1,000,000 4½ per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock of the Company.

The whole or any part of this Stock is redeemable at any time at the Company's option after 30th June, 1920, at 110 per cent., on six calendar months' notice to the Stockholders. This Stock is secured by a charge upon the undertaking of the Company, subject to the existing issues, under a Trust Deed, dated 28th May, 1907, made between the Company and the Trustees.

The Company has the right to redeem after 30th June, 1913, at par, on six months' notice, the 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, and to redeem, at any time, on six months' notice, the Second Debenture Stock at 105 per cent.

The Company owns and has in operation 870 miles of broad gauge (5ft. 6in.) railway in the Argentine Republic, extending westward from the City of Buenos Ayres to Villa Mercedes, the main line forming part of the system which is to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Seaboards of the South American Continent. Beyond the branch lines already opened to public traffic the Company has under construction or is about to construct additional branches of a length of about 450 miles.

The Company also works under Agreement the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway (139 miles open) and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway (141 miles) and has entered into an arrangement (which has been approved by the Argentine Government) for working the Argentine Great Western Railway (464 miles open) subject, however, to the sanction of General Meetings of both Companies and of Meetings of the Debenture Stockholders of the Argentine Great Western Railway Company, Limited. The Company takes over the Argentine Great Western Railway Company's working arrangement with the Argentine Transandine Railway (110 miles open), subject to the approval of the latter Company, and will thus have under its control the whole of the transcontinental line from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso in so far as it is situated in Argentine territory. The Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company is building a line 290 miles in length to connect with this Company's system, 168 miles being already open to public traffic. The completion of the remaining portion of the line is being actively proceeded with, and by August next it is anticipated that this Company will have through communication with the Port of Bahia Blanca.

The remarkable development of this Company's system since 1900 is shown by the following table:—

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	1905-1906
Receipts ...	£600,878	£584,267	£718,001	£959,306	£1,263,636	£1,618,365
Expenses...	332,405	304,467	347,407	533,083	719,111	882,404
Profit ...	£268,473	£279,800	£370,594	£426,223	£544,525	£735,961

As compared with the corresponding period of 1905-6, the estimated receipts to the 25th instant are £1,850,846 against £1,456,635, an increase of £394,211.

The large increase in the traffic has rendered it necessary for the Company to order more Engines and Rolling Stock, and to provide additional stations and sidings. An independent access into the City of Buenos Ayres is also under construction, and land to provide the Company with adequate terminal accommodation there, both for Passenger and Goods traffic, has been secured.

The proceeds of the present issue will be applied towards meeting the amounts expended upon the construction and equipment of branch lines open to public traffic and the further equipment thereof, the supply of Engines and Rolling Stock, stone ballasting, provision of new 100 lb. rails for relaying, for facilities to meet the increasing traffic, and for the general requirements of the Railway.

Past expenditure of Capital has been abundantly justified by results, as will be seen from the statement tabulated above. Dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum have been paid on the Ordinary Stock and Shares of the Company since the year 1902-1903. The annual Interest on the Company's issued Debenture Capital is £260,225, which will now be increased by £45,000.

A preference in the allotment, as regards 40 per cent. of this Issue, will be given to applications from existing Shareholders and Debenture Stockholders of this Company, the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway Company, Limited.

Applications on the form accompanying the Prospectus, together with the deposit of £5 per cent., should be forwarded to the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, 5, Princes-street, London, E.C., or to Martin's Bank, Limited, 68, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction. Should a smaller amount be allotted than applied for, the surplus paid on application will be appropriated towards the balance due on allotment. Non-payment of any instalment upon the due date will render the amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

Application will in due course be made to obtain a Stock Exchange quotation for this Issue.

Apart from the contracts made by the Company in the ordinary course of business, the following have been entered into within the two years immediately preceding the date hereof:—

Contract dated 20th June, 1905, and made between the Company and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited.

Contracts dated 24th April, 1906, and made between the Company and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway Company, Limited.

Contract dated 16th May, 1906, and made between the Company and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, and the South American Light and Power Company, Limited.

Contract entered into on the 29th May, 1906, between the Argentine Government and the Company for the construction of lines from Bunge to Buchardo; from Chacabuco to the Alberdi branch; and from Rawson to a point near O'Higgins.

Contract dated 4th December, 1906, and made between the Company and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited.

Supplemental Trust Deed dated 12th December, 1906, and made between the Company and the Trustees for the 5 Per Cent. Debenture Stock securing £500,000 of such Stock.

Provisional Contracts dated 23rd April, 1907, and made between the Company and the Argentine Great Western Railway Company, Limited.

Trust Deed dated 28th May, 1907, and made between the Company and the Trustees for securing the 4½ Per Cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.

Contract dated the 30th May, 1907, and made between the Company and Messrs. Sheppards, Pelly, Price, and Pott, for underwriting the present issue.

The above Contracts may be inspected at the Office of the Solicitors on any day while the List remains open, between the hours of 11 and 4.

15,000 Deferred Shares of £20 each and 5,000 Second Preferred Shares of £20 each were allotted as fully paid in 1888, as part of the consideration for the construction of the Railway (subsequently converted into Second Preference and Ordinary Stock).

A Brokerage at the rate of a Quarter per Cent. will be paid by the Company on allotment made to the public in respect of applications bearing a Broker's stamp.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, Dashwood House, 9, New Broad-street, London, E.C.; of the Bankers; and of Messrs. Sheppards, Pelly, Price, and Pott, the Bankers of the Company.

Registered Offices:
Dashwood House, 9, New Broad-street, London, E.C.,
31st May, 1907.

TRUSTEES FOR THE FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED DEBENTURE STOCK.
The Rt. Hon. the EARL OF COVENTRY.
The Rt. Hon. LORD STANLEY.

DIRECTORS.
J. W. PHILIPPS, M.P. (Chairman).
T. PENN GASKELL, M.Inst.C.E.
C. E. GUNTHER.
EDWARD NORMAN.
Hon. ARTHUR STANLEY, M.P.
F. O. SMITHERS (Managing Director).

BANKERS.
THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, Limited, 5, Princes-street, London, E.C.
MARTIN'S BANK, Limited, 68, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

BANKERS IN ARGENTINA.
THE ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, Limited.

SOLICITORS.
ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP and CO., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

BROKERS.
SHEPPARDS, PELLY, PRICE and POTT, 57, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.
TURQUAND, YOUNGS and CO., 41, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

GENERAL MANAGER AND SECRETARY.
J. A. GOUDGE.

ASSISTANT-SECRETARY.
W. R. CRONAN.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED),
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000.

TREATISE ON OPTIONS.

Mr. Arthur Crump, late City Editor of the *Times*, described "Options" as "the most scientific and prudent way of operating on the Stock Exchange." This system of operating, although well known and very popular on the Continent and in America, is not so well known amongst Investors here as its merits justify. We have just published a new Treatise on this subject which will be sent post free on application to THE SECRETARY,

LONDON & PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD.
Bankers,
BASILDON HOUSE, BANK, London, E.C.,
Or from any of its Branches.

A PROSPECTUS is now being ISSUED, which contains (inter alia) the following information.—DOMINION OF CANADA.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST OPENED on MONDAY, June 3, 1907, and WILL CLOSE on or before 4 o'clock on THURSDAY, June 6, 1907.

The Shawinigan Water & Power Company.

(Incorporated by Statute of the Province of Quebec, Canada.)

ISSUE OF £200,000 4½ PER CENT. PERPETUAL CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK.

Authorised by Special Act of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, and part of a total issue, limited as below mentioned.

CAPITAL:

In Shares of $100 each:— AUTHORISED..... $7,000,000
ISSUED..... $6,500,000

Bonds, 5 per Cent. Consolidated Thirty-year Mortgage, AUTHORISED AND ISSUED ... $5,000,000

THE PRICE OF ISSUE IS 90 PER CENT., PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:—

5 per cent. on Application.
10 per cent. on Allotment.
20 per cent. on the 15th day of July, 1907.
25 per cent. on the 2nd day of September, 1907.
30 per cent. on the 18th day of October, 1907.
90 per cent.

or the whole may be paid up in full on allotment, or on any Monday prior to October 18th, 1907, under discount at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

Under the Statute authorising the issue the Debenture Stock is limited to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate 50 per cent. of the par value of the Common Stock outstanding, and the said Act further provides that no Debenture Stock in excess of $1,250,000, say £256,850 sterling, shall be issued unless the Company's average net earnings in the financial year preceding the date of such issue after payment of all operating expenses and interest on the Company's Mortgage Bonds, and other debts (if any), shall have been sufficient to pay twice over the interest upon the Debenture Stock then outstanding, and also upon the proposed further issue.

Interest on the Stock will be payable half-yearly, on the 1st day of June and the 1st day of December in each year, the first payment of a proportionate part of a half year's interest, calculated from the due dates of the instalments, will be made on December 1, 1907.

The Stock is secured by a Trust Deed in favour of the Royal Trust Company of Montreal. The Stock is by the above-mentioned Statute and the Trust Deed constituted a first charge upon the Bonds and Stocks, particulars whereof will be found in the body of the Full Prospectus, and a charge upon the undertaking, works, property, and effects of the Company (subject only to the above-mentioned first mortgage bonds of the Company, or other securities substituted therefor).

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is the sole owner of the water power of the Shawinigan Falls on the St. Maurice River, Canada, situate midway between the important cities of Montreal and Quebec. The Company's power is the principal source of supply for the territory between these two cities, including the city of Montreal, Three Rivers, Joliette, Sorel, Thetford Mines, Danville, and other manufacturing centres.

Shawinigan Falls, with the exception of Niagara Falls, is the greatest waterfall on the North American Continent, and is capable of developing, at all times, over 100,000 horse-power.

The Company's property includes the river bed of the St. Maurice, the adjoining land on either side of the river, and about 1,000 acres of land available for building purposes, all situate within the municipality of the town of Shawinigan Falls, a thriving manufacturing community with a present population of about 6,000.

The Company's plant consists of two hydraulic developments of a total capacity of, approximately, 100,000 h.-p., of which 70,000 h.-p. is completely equipped, 35,000 h.-p. being available for use locally in the form of water power, and 35,000 h.-p. for distribution in the form of electrical energy.

The Company's transmission system, which now serves some twenty cities and towns in the Province of Quebec, involves about 350 miles of line, and it is intended shortly to extend this system to include the City of Quebec and adjacent towns.

The town of Shawinigan Falls is served by two railway companies—the St. Maurice Valley Railway Company (Canadian Pacific system) and the Canadian Northern Quebec Railway Company (the Canadian Northern system).

The net proceeds of the present issue will be mainly applied in paying for the interests already acquired and to be acquired in various auxiliary companies, and in extending the Company's distributing system.

REVENUE STATEMENT. (Calculated at par of exchange, $4.86⅔.)

The gross revenue of the Company for the year ending December 31, 1906, was	$357,147 =	£73,386
The operating and general expenses, maintenance, &c., for the same period were	$52,128 =	£10,711
	$305,019 =	£62,675

The result of extensions made during the year 1906 is now being felt in the largely increased income.

The Directors are satisfied that the gross revenue of the Company for the year ending December 31, 1907, will not be less than	$600,000 =	£123,288
While the operating and general expenses, together with the interest on the existing mortgage bonds, should not, in the opinion of the Directors, exceed	$300,000 =	£61,644
Showing a profit of	$300,000 =	£61,644
A full half-year's interest on the debenture stock now offered would absorb	$21,900 =	£4,500
Leaving a surplus for the year above all charges of	$278,100 =	£57,144

or more than sufficient to cover the annual interest on the present issue six times over.

The above income will be derived from the sale of only 60,000 horse-power out of a total capacity of over 100,000 horse-power.

The full Prospectus contains material information which is omitted from this notice, and allotments will only be made upon the basis of the full Prospectus, copies of which (with Application Forms) may be obtained from the Bankers, the Bank of Scotland, Head Office, Edinburgh, London, and Branches; or the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, London, and Branches; or from the Brokers, Messrs. Kitcat, Mortimer, and Aitken, South Sea House, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.; or from the British Empire Trust Company, Limited, 28-31, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

Dated 3rd June, 1907.

OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY.—Hon. ROBERT MACKAY, President; J. E. ALDRED, Vice-President; HOWARD MURRAY, Treasurer; W. S. HART, Secretary.

DIRECTORS.—Hon. ROBERT MACKAY, Montreal, President (Director Bank of Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway, &c.); J. E. ALDRED, Montreal (Vice-president); J. N. GREENSHIELDS, K.C., Montreal; JOHN JOYCE, Boston, Mass. (Director American Distributing Company); WILLIAM MACKENZIE, Toronto, Ont. (President Canadian Northern Railway); THOS. McDOUGALL, Quebec (General Manager Quebec Bank); H. H. MELVILLE, Boston, Mass. (Vice-President Canadian Northern Quebec Railway); D. MURPHY, Ottawa, Ont. (President Ottawa Transportation Company); W. R. WARREN, New York, N.Y. (President Warren-Burnham Company).

BANKERS.—THE BANK OF SCOTLAND; THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

SOLICITORS.—In London: LINKLATER & CO., 2, Bond-court, Walbrook, London, E.C. In Canada: LAFLEUR, MACDOUGALL, & MACFARLANE, New York Life Building, Montreal, Canada.

BROKERS.—KITCAT, MORTIMER, & AITKEN, South Sea House, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

REGISTRARS AND GENERAL SECRETARIES IN EUROPE. — THE BRITISH EMPIRE TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED, 28-31, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

KUPFERBERG'S SPARKLING BERNCASTLER

This exceedingly light dry Moselle, being non-gouty and excellent as a digestive, has long enjoyed the high recommendation of the medical faculty.

KUPFERBERG'S BERNCASTLER is made exclusively from the choicest of the grapes grown in the famous Berncastle vineyards, and each bottle of genuine Berncastler (Nonpareil) bears the Kupferberg full brand and label.

Price 60/- per dozen bottles. 64/- per two dozen half-bottles. Of all Wine Merchants & Stores.

Wholesale Agents: Coverdale, Pohlmann, & Co. 5, Mark Lane, E.C.

Cool and Refresh you Face, Hands and Neck, during the **Hot Weather** by using

Rowland's Kalydor

"For *Your* Skin."

which nulifies the injurious effects of Dust and Heat on

The Complexion,

removes Freckles, Tan, Sunburn, Redness and Roughness, and makes the

Skin soft as Velvet.

Bottles 2s. 3d. & 4s. 6d. of Stores, Chemists, and ROWLAND'S, 67, Hatton Garden, London.

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VERTEGRAND

The attention of every householder is hereby directed to the fact that the pianos. Grands and Vertegrands, made by the house of STEINWAY, and sold by them through special agents at fixed net prices for cash all the world over, have a surrender value greater than that of the instruments produced by any other firm. The reason is not far to seek, viz.:—durability, general excellence in tone production, expensive workmanship in all minor details. The superiority of the STEINWAY creations in this respect is as marked as are all the other distinctive "STEINWAY" features.

Deferred Payments.

Hiring Arrangements.

STEINWAY Pianos may be obtained on hire at very reasonable rates, or may be purchased by deferred payments. If for any reason a purchaser on the Deferred Payment System is desirous of returning his instrument, the difference between the Hire Terms and the amounts paid under the deferred plan will be returned to him.

Write or call to-day for the Steinway Hire and Deferred Payment particulars, also booklet "P.," "Portraits of Musical Celebrities," post free on request.

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of this size.

BRAMAH LOCKS

FOR ALL PURPOSES can be made to a Master Key in suites, with subordinate keys for BUTLER, MAID or VALET, GARDENER, &c., &c., each suite independent of the other, but all opening to the MASTER KEY.

A choice selection of Despatch and Jewel Boxes, Travelling Requisites, strong and light, with real Bramah Locks, Steel Jewel Safes, &c., &c.

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Parties Furnishing should visit their West-End Premises, situated in the finest position in London,

93, 95, 97, 99, OXFORD STREET, W.

(Facing Newman Street).

Three minutes from Tottenham Court Road and Regent Street.

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Parties can furnish on their deferred payment system as follows:—

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Worth	Per Month	Worth	Month	Worth	Month	Worth	Month
£10 ...	£0 6 0	£30 ...	£0 17 0	£50 ...	£1 8 0	£200 ...	£4 10 0
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"You have a very fine thing indeed to handle. The engine is certainly THE LAST WORD in design and proportion, and the running the NEAREST APPROACH TO A TURBINE I have ever come across."

SIDE ENTRANCE, £650.

Limousines & Landaulettes

Immediate Delivery.

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OETZMANN & CO., in order to facilitate further development and extension, have converted their business into that of a Joint Stock Company.

GREAT INAUGURAL SALE

The Directors are giving their clients the full benefit of the very large discount off the actual cost of manufacture at which the Stock, amounting to about **£150,000,** has been transferred.

ALL Goods in Stock at Commencement of Sale reduced at least 10 per cent.,

Whilst in many instances the Reductions are as much as 50 per cent.

Write for SALE CATALOGUE, Post Free.

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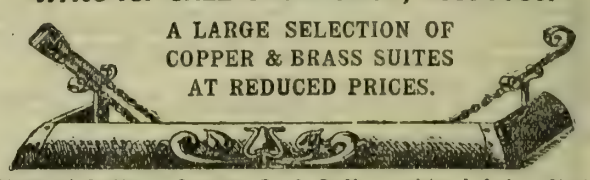

Elegant Antique Copper Curb Suite, registered design, fitted with wrought-iron Dogs, Poker, and small Tongs, as illustrated, any size up to 3 ft. 6 in., outside measurement, complete, **12/11**
Larger sizes up to 5 ft., **5s.** extra.
These suites are fully equal in style, quality, and finish to those usually sold at from 30s. to 40s.

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OETZMANN & CO LTD.

HAMPSTEAD ROAD. W.

Continuation North of Tottenham-court Road

OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 2.—SPECIAL FOREIGN.

ORIGINAL PARODY OF TENNYSON'S "BREAK, BREAK, BREAK."

I cannot congratulate my foreign Competitors on their efforts in this Competition, which are none of them up to the mark of what I expected.

However, the Prize of Two Guineas has to be awarded, and, on the whole, I have decided to award it to FEROZY, whose Parody was printed in TRUTH of April 24 last.

It must not be inferred from this that I in any way agree with FEROZY'S political sentiments as expressed in his Parody. But, as I have pointed out in a recent issue, "Our Puzzles," as such, have no political or sectarian colour, all solutions being judged impartially on their intrinsic merits.

'TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,480.

From time to time I receive suggestions from Competitors of subjects for Puzzles likely to be popular with our readers, and among such suggestions I now and then come across a really good one of which I am able to make use.

Now I take it that of the thousand and more ingenious Competitors who are regular participants in our Puzzles, there is not one who, if he, or she, would sit down and think the matter out, could not devise some more or less brilliant idea for a Puzzle Competition. But I recognise that I can hardly expect any general and systematic response to an invitation to my competitors thus to exert themselves, unless I hold out some inducement; so I am offering, this week, the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that Competitor who shall send in –

THE BEST SUGGESTION FOR A PUZZLE OF A NOVEL AND ATTRACTIVE CHARACTER, SUITABLE FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH OUR WEEKLY COMPETITIONS.

The suggested Puzzle may be of any kind, or deal with any conceivable subject, but it should contain some element of novelty, and should be of a character calculated to appeal to all classes of our readers. And it is by these two points that I shall be mainly guided in adjudicating upon them.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) Every Competitor may send in *three, but not more than three* suggestions.

(ii.) All suggestions must reach TRUTH office by the *first post* on Monday June 17, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of BUSY BEE, winner of one-half TRUTH Prize No. 1468, is Mrs. Vincent J. Ryan, 2, Harewood Hill, Darlington.

BUSY BEE.—Thank you for kindly explaining to me that your present address is only temporary. When you return to your permanent residence, perhaps you will kindly drop me a line.

CASSIO.—I note the misprint in your anagram, and will allow for it in the adjudication.

EDGERTON.—I think your suggested Puzzle has distinct possibilities, and I hope to make use of the idea at an early date.

LA PLATA.—I note the mispunctuation of your anagram, also the erroneous small "n" insfead of the capital. These shall be duly taken into account when the competition is judged.

PIONEER.—The idea, *per se*, is good, but it is too much on the lines of recent Puzzles to be used just now. However, I shall hope to make use of it in the future.

MYRMIDON.—Thanks for your letter *re* Competition No. 1469. There is something, no doubt, in what you say, though I am inclined to think you are a little too rough on Alexander, Mohammed, and St. Paul, all of whom were indisputably great men in their way, and (especially the two latter) have left their mark indelibly on history.

H. M. LEWIS.—You will have seen that the error of numbering, which you kindly point out, was corrected in TRUTH of May 22 last.

A. F.—Thank you for your letter. I agree with you that I have an arduous task before me, but I will do my best to rise to the occasion.

K. S. A.—I am afraid that such a Competition would not be sufficiently popular, but I will file it for further consideration.

SPONGE.—Thank you for your suggestion, which I will consider. I am quite agreeable that you should substitute GRASSHOPPER for your present pseudonym, and you will be registered, in future, under that name.

ALLOS.—I am glad to hear that you are in favour of the proposed Competition, to which you allude.

NORTHLANDER.—Thank you for your suggestion, which may, I think, be developed into a good Puzzle. In reference to the other point, I am not prepared to pronounce offhand; but I shall take the opinion which you and some other Competitors put forward into careful consideration.

ISRAFIL.—Thank you for your letter. *Vide* reply (latter part) to NORTHLANDER above.

W. W. T.—I note your change of address, also your suggestion *re* Latin Verse Competition, for which I thank you.

KENT.—Your pseudonym, as herewith, duly registered.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,477.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

LISTS OF THE SIX GREATEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

(i.) It will be noticed that a large number of Competitors include the name of the Virgin Mary in their lists of Greatest Women. Though I am printing the lists as they stand, I may say at once that, for reasons which many of our readers will doubtless appreciate, I have decided to treat the name of the Saviour's mother as *hors concours*. This does not mean that the lists containing The Virgin's name are disqualified, but that they will be treated as containing only five names instead of six. I have only arrived at this decision after the most careful consideration, and, while I admit that the question is a difficult one, I believe that on the whole I have taken the right course.

(ii.) Two unsigned lists sent in have been marked by me, for identification, with the letters "A. B. C." and "X. Y. Z." respectively.

Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Charlotte Corday, Katherine of Russia.—Chick.

Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra; Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt; Joan of Arc; Catherine II., Empress of Russia; Elizabeth, Queen of England; Catherine de Medici.—Green Pine.

Cleopatra, Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale.—Tom Nissed.

Joan of Arc, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Virgin Mary, Queen Elizabeth.—Tina.

Sappho, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Queen Victoria of England, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry.—Sheila.

The Virgin Mary, Ethefleda, Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, Miss Weston.—Mary Diggens.

Joan of Arc, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Esther, Florence Nightingale, George Eliot.—Northlander.

Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra; Joan of Arc; Queen Elizabeth; Catherine the Great of Russia; Queen Victoria; Elizabeth Fry.—Violet-Angela.

The Virgin Mary, Queen Zenobia of Palmyra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Queen Victoria of England, Florence Nightingale.—Freda.

The Virgin Mary, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Isabella of Castile, Catherine de Medici, Florence Nightingale.—F. M. K.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Cleopatra, Florence Nightingale, Joan of Arc, Mary Queen of Scots.—Bel.

Queen Boadicea, The Queen of Sheba, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria.—Winkle.

Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Maria Theresa of Austria, Catherine II. of Russia, Queen Victoria of England.—Mac.

The Mother of Jesus Christ, Mother Eve, Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Victoria.—Ecta.

The Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Grace Darling.—Rachraine.

Eve, The Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, Florence Nightingale.—Ixener.

Eve, Cleopatra, Helen of Troy, Queen Elizabeth, Florence Nightingale, Adelina Patti.—Almavivi.

Cleopatra (Love), Joan of Arc (Patriotism), Elizabeth Fry (Philanthropy), Elizabeth Browning (Poetess), Angelica Kauffmann (Artist), Queen Victoria (Ruler and domestic qualities).—The Prebend.

Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Catherine II. of Russia, Margaret of Anjou, Joan of Arc, Cleopatra.—Yendig.

Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Fry, Grace Darling, Catherine the Great, Florence Nightingale, George Eliot.—Queensholme.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Madame de Staël, George Eliot, Mrs. Hemans, Florence Nightingale.—A. B. C.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine I. of Russia, Joan of Arc, Anne Askew, Elizabeth Fry.—Bunga Malor.

Queen Victoria, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Helen of Troy, Florence Nightingale.—Dullard.

Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Grace Darling, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Florence Nightingale.—Renwick.

Zenobia, the Queen of Palmyra; Charlotte Corday, Elizabeth Fry, Miss Agnes Weston, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Miss Florence Nightingale.—Blencathra.

Sappho, Margaret of Navarre (author of "Heptameron"), Isabella the Catholic Queen of Castile; Queen Elizabeth of England, Joan of Arc, Georges Sands.—Asymptote.

Eve, Sarah, Deborah, Virgin Mary, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria.—Mrs. Game B.

The Virgin Mary, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Catherine de Medici, Queen Victoria of England.—Lisette.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale.—Sclanidge.

Queen Victoria, Joan of Arc, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Cleopatra, Florence Nightingale, Catherine of Russia.—Trammy.

Queen Victoria, Joan of Arc, Cleopatra, Carmen Sylva, Florence Nightingale, Catherine II. of Russia (The Great).—Snaggard.

Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Boadicea, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Cleopatra.—Gapstang.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, Baroness Burdett-Coutts.—Muz-Muz.

Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Jane Austen, Joan of Arc, Catherine of Sienna, Sappho.—V. C. Turnbull.

Semiramis, Joan of Arc, Catherine of Sienna, Queen Elizabeth, Charlotte Corday, Florence Nightingale.—Foula.

The Blessed Virgin, Cleopatra, Zenobia, Catherine of Russia, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth of England.—Will.

Joan of Arc, Mrs. Fry (prison visitor, etc.), Grace Darling, Miss Florence Nightingale, late Baroness Burdett-Coutts, late Majesty Queen Victoria.—Sandstone.

Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Catherine the Great, Joan of Arc, Boadicea, Cleopatra.—Creina.

Cleopatra, Helen of Troy, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Empress Catherine of Russia, Queen Victoria.—Asthore.

Joan of Arc, Sappho, Deborah, Queen Elizabeth, Isabella of Castile, Queen Victoria.—Fawcett.

Eve (original mother of all mankind), the Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth Queen of England, Victoria Queen of England, Florence Nightingale.—Railway.

Cornelia (the mother of the Gracchi), Zenobia (the Queen of Palmyra), Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, the Empress Katherine the Great.—Verbum Sat.

Hypatia, Boadicea, Catherine de Medici, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria.—Wildcat.

Joan of Arc, Victoria the Good, Boadicea, Florence Nightingale, Esther, Queen Elizabeth.—Mart.

Catherine II. (Russia), Florence Nightingale, Victoria (Queen of England), Cleopatra (Queen of Egypt), Isabella of Castile, Queen Elizabeth (of England).—Gem.

Cornelia, Zenobia, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale.—Provident.

Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, Lady Godiva, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Queen Boadicea.—Chance.

Queen Victoria of England, Queen Elizabeth, Miss Florence Nightingale, Joan of Arc, Cleopatra, Helen of Troy.—Harebell.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Catherine (mother of Peter the Great), Florence Nightingale, Boadicea.—Frances.

Cleopatra, Hypatia, Catherine of Russia, Elizabeth of England, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria.—Prior Park.

Joan of Arc, Queen Boadicea, Queen Eleanor, Miss Nightingale, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria.—Guilsborough.

Joan of Arc, Grace Darling, Mary Douglas, Queen Eleanor, Florence Nightingale, Queen Elizabeth.—Nettie.

Joan of Arc, Catherine of Russia, Queen Victoria, Boadicea, Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, Queen Elizabeth.—Cheedill.

Eve, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine II. of Russia, Queen Victoria.—Autolycus.

The Blessed Virgin, Zenobia, Catherine of Russia, Elizabeth of England, Victoria of England, Florence Nightingale.—Rubber Core.

Catherine of Russia, Elizabeth of England, Florence Nightingale, Georges Sand, St. Teresa, Mrs. Browning.—Forest.

Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth B. Browning, Madame Curie.—Cameron.

Sappho, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Boadicea, Hypatia, Queen Katherine of Russia.—Petite.

Lists have also been received from the following:—Beechwood, White Heather, Harold, Hopscotch, Kent, Dorset, Bucks, Allimac, Twig, X. Y. Z., Zagloba, Ass, Korah, Eboracum, Half Acres, Charles Burdett, Felsberg, Minos, Einnim, Ursellia, Djalfi, Veronica, Bip, Bad Luck, Nemo, H. R. S., Heja, Cheltonian, Fosco, Ainsty, Cercueil, Inca, Crank, Sphinx, Mary, Diana, Iere, Detinu, Golliwog, Mab, Coral, Nemesis, Grasshopper, Khayyam, Secundus, Grenville, Rigor Mortis, Bob, Scotus Viator, Ewa, Rimabel, Clement, Eillom, Alpha Beta, Bunny, Nest, Scot, Fish, Pupa, Midge, Red Dragon, The Mac, Esneb, Blot, Hypatia, Sherlock, Alicujus, Tony, Cantab, Dwarber, Leaf Rule, Canning, Asinus, Aster, Lou-Lou, Myra, Ba, Cherry-picker, Israfil, Hattie, Usbek, Gloucester, Early Morning, Glynn, Sugar, Denmore, Sincérité, La Plata, Jackpot, Spartan, Rhody, Echo, Cashier, Myrmidon, Langdale, Haron, Belfastiensis, Wac, Prospère, Beginner, Omega, J. McGrigor Allan, A. F., Turtle, Oiseau, Qui bono, inquam, Bim, Cow

By Appointment to H.M. The King.

IN SPAIN!

By Appointment to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

DAIMLER

On the 15th of May, during the period of the Madrid Exhibition, a 45 h.p. DAIMLER CAR, driven by Mr. E. M. C. Instone, ascended the celebrated GUADARRAMA PASS in the remarkable time of 8 minutes 58 seconds, as certified by an official Timekeeper. On the 22nd ult., the GUADARRAMA Hill-Climbing Race having been abandoned, Mr. Instone made a second attempt in the presence of the Marquis de Taracena, Marquis de Valdeiglaises, Count de Berberana, and other prominent Sportsmen, in 7 minutes 20 seconds, beating his previous record by 1 minute 38 seconds. The ascent was timed from the Pillars of the Alameda to the summit by the Duke de Zaragoza, Secretary of the Royal Automobile Club of Spain. A further trial was made from the village of Guadarrama to the summit, and the Official time recorded for this ascent was 8 minutes 15 1/5 seconds, beating all records for Touring Cars.

The Daimler Co. were extremely successful at the Madrid Exhibition, and have reaped their reward in securing several of the Spanish Nobility as customers for their Cars. Among their present clients are :—

Duke de Santo Mauro. Duke de Zaragoza. Marquis de Taracena. Marquis de Berriz. Senor Don Carlos A. Levison. Senor Don Juan Harvey.

At the Madrid Exhibition Daimlers were awarded a SILVER MEDAL for their luxurious Coachwork, and a BRONZE MEDAL for the decoration of their stand.

THE DAIMLER MOTOR CO. (1904), Ltd.

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THE G.W.R. Company's S.S. "ANTELOPE" will make

EXCURSIONS from PLYMOUTH

on MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS during JUNE to

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Return 20/- Fare.

For full particulars and Illustrated Historical Booklet (postage 1d.) apply Superintendent of the Line, G.W.R., Paddington Station, W. ; or the Superintendent, G.W.R. Docks, Millbay, Plymouth.

JAMES C. INGLIS, *General Manager.*

The Best Tonic

For the restoration of energy and vitality; the relief of mental and nervous exhaustion, impaired digestion or appetite, there is no remedy so beneficial as

Horsford's Acid Phosphate
(Non-Alcoholic.)

It is a scientific and carefully prepared preparation of the phosphates that provides the tonic and nerve food needed to improve general health

If your chemist does not have it in stock he can obtain it from Bovril, Ltd., 152 Old Street, London, E. C.

ALCOHOLIC EXCESS

and DRUG HABIT cured at home in 3 to 7 weeks by the TURVEY TREATMENT without inconvenience. The only cure under British Medical Direction. Success tested by officials of the C.E.T.S. Mission, &c. Established 12 years. Over 5,000 recorded cases.—Write for Report of Public Test, or call, Med. Supt., TURVEY TREATMENT CO., Ltd., 24, Amberley House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London. Consultation to patients or their friends, free.

BRAGG'S CHARCOAL BISCUITS
Cure Indigestion

Flatulence, Acidity and all disorders of the Stomach, and are very pleasant to take. Bragg's Charcoal Biscuits are supplied to the Royal family. Recommended by the *Lancet* and the medical profession, and used in their own families.

Bragg's Charcoal Powder and Lozenges are equally excellent.
Of all Chemists and Stores.

Royal Automobile Club.

International Heavy Touring Car Race.

ISLE OF MAN, MAY 30th, 1907.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 23s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

A SECOND Truth Travel Supplement is published with this issue, and will be found to contain a full description of the opportunities for holiday-making, both in England and on the Continent, provided by the Great Eastern Railway Company.

The King's visit to Ireland, short though it is to be, and perhaps just because it is short, is an admirable idea, worthy of King Edward. As an indisputable matter of fact, the King of Great Britain is also King of Ireland. It was not the fault of the Irish that they learned to forget this fact during the long reign of Queen Victoria, for Royalty forgot it too. The very rare Royal visits to Ireland were made, as if to a strange country, by a British sovereign. Royalty never found itself at home in Ireland as in England and Scotland. Common sense, so rarely used in dealing with Ireland, is at last having a chance. The sovereign who shows that he looks on himself as King of Ireland, and is at home in that country as in the other parts of his kingdom, will soon teach the people, in a pleasant and an undeniable way, that they have a King.

According to present arrangements the King and Queen will pay their visit to Dublin during the second week in July. Their Majesties will leave London on Tuesday, July 9, when they are to travel by special Royal train from Euston to Bangor, where they will stop for about an hour and a half in order that the King may lay the foundation stone of the new University College of North Wales. After this ceremony the Royal train will go on to Holyhead, where the King and Queen are to embark on the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, and they will dine and sleep on board. The yacht is to proceed for Kingstown at daybreak on Wednesday, the 10th. After their arrival the King and Queen will visit the Dublin Exhibition, and they are to take a drive round the city and through the Phœnix Park. Their Majesties are again to dine and sleep on board the *Victoria and Albert*, and Thursday, the 11th, will be principally occupied with a visit to Leopardstown races. The Royal yacht is to leave Kingstown at night for Cardiff, after a number of guests have been entertained at dinner on board.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen left the Viceregal Lodge last week for a short stay at Buxton. They return to Ireland at the end of the month. Definite arrangements regarding a Viceregal entertainment during the short visit of the King and Queen to Dublin have not yet been made, but it is expected that a Royal garden-party will be given at the Viceregal Lodge, the gardens and lawns of which are extensive and picturesque, with the wide view over the Phœnix Park, across the valley of the Liffey, to the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. The Royal yacht will stay in the harbour at Kingstown, which is barely a quarter of an hour distant from Dublin.

The King and Queen will arrive at Cardiff from Kingstown early on the morning of Friday, July 12. His Majesty is to open the new large dock of the Cardiff Railway, and a visit will be paid to the Town Hall, after which their Majesties are to drive to Cardiff Castle, where they will lunch with Lord and Lady Bute. The afternoon is to be occupied with an excursion to Caerphilly Castle, where tea will be served. In the evening there is to be a dinner party on board the *Victoria and Albert*. On Saturday morning the King and Queen will leave Cardiff by Great Western special Royal

train for Paddington, travelling by the Severn Tunnel route, and arriving at Buckingham Palace in time for luncheon.

His Majesty's visit to Lincoln is definitely fixed for Wednesday, the 26th. His Majesty will travel by special train in the morning from King's Cross to Lincoln, and he is to drive from the Great Northern station direct to the West Common, where the Royal Agricultural Society's show is to be held. The show ground, which extends over upwards of 100 acres, adjoins the Carholme, where the racecourse is situated. The King will visit the various departments of the show, and there is to be a parade of the stock. His Majesty is to lunch in the Royal Pavilion which has been erected on the south side of the show ground. There are 3,948 entries, as against 3,655 at Derby last year, and 3,477 at Park Royal in 1905. The last "Royal" show at Lincoln was held in 1854, when there were 1,059 entries. It is expected that the King will pay a visit to Lincoln Cathedral in the afternoon before he returns to the railway station from the show ground.

Some of the papers have been printing a lot of strange nonsense about the unusually brilliant Ascot meeting which is alleged to be in prospect, it being stated that the King and Queen of Denmark and the King and Queen of Norway are to be among the guests of their Majesties at Windsor Castle during the race week. As a matter of fact, the King and Queen of Denmark are to leave England on their official visit to France five days before Ascot meeting begins. The King and Queen of Norway are not coming to England this summer, and they proceeded to Copenhagen, on their way back to Christiania, when they left Paris. It is also untrue that the Duke and Duchess of Sparta and the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania are to be guests at Windsor Castle next week.

The King and Queen will attend Ascot races next week in state on Tuesday and on the Cup Day, driving from Windsor Castle through the Great Park to the entrance of the course, and thence up the New Mile to the Royal stand. On Wednesday and on Friday neither her Majesty nor the Princesses will go to the races, but the King and the Princes are to drive privately to the course, and his Majesty will use his motor-car on the "off" days. There will be a large luncheon at two o'clock every day of the races in the spacious dining-room of the Royal stand for the Windsor Castle house party, and a number of additional guests will be invited daily by the King. The Lord Chamberlain's officials have been engaged in redecorating the Royal stand, and several improvements have been carried out since the Queen's last visit to Ascot in 1905.

Small parties will be entertained next week for Ascot races by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Bagshot Park, and by Prince and Princess Christian at Cumberland Lodge.

The statement that the Queen of Denmark inherited an immense fortune from her father, King Charles of Sweden and Norway, is incorrect. Her fortune, which was estimated when she married at nearly eighty millions of francs, came from her mother, who was the daughter and heiress of Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, and at the time of his death he was said to be the richest member of the wealthy House of Orange.

The Lord Chamberlain has issued invitations for between six and seven thousand guests for the garden party which is to be given at Windsor Castle by the King and Queen on the afternoon of Saturday, the 22nd. The arrangements are to be the same as at the last garden party at Windsor Castle, which took place two years ago, a day or two before the marriage of Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Princess Margaret of Connaught. The company will assemble on the East Terrace and Slopes and in the sunk garden. A marble staircase has been constructed connecting the East Terrace with the Slopes and the sunk garden, which is a great improvement. Refreshments are to be served in a marquee and in the Orangery, which is now adorned with Queen Victoria's collection of statuary from Osborne. The King and Queen and the Royal family will come down from the Castle and walk in a quasi-procession through the lines of guests.

The King held a private investiture of the Royal Victorian Order last week at Buckingham Palace, when his Majesty decorated the Prince Dietrichstein von Nikolsburg with the Grand Cross (G.C.V.O.) with the customary formalities. Prince Dietrichstein has come to London (with his wife) on a visit to his younger brother, Count Albert Mensdorff, at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy. He is one of the great territorial magnates of the Austrian Empire, his largest estates being situated in Moravia, and he is a *persona gratissima* at the Court of Vienna. Prince Dietrichstein is related to the Royal family, his grandmother having been a Princess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and a sister of the Duchess of Kent, and therefore an aunt of both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Prince and Princess Dietrichstein von Nikolsburg and Count Mensdorff are to be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle next week for Ascot races.

The Court held by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Thursday night was very largely attended, but, apart from the Corps Diplomatique and the official contingent, there was no great show of the élite of society. There was an unusual number of presentations from the Diplomatic Circle, but otherwise the attendance of entrée company was not a full one. There was a larger Royal circle than usual on the daïs, including the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Henry of Battenberg, all of whom appeared at Court for the first time this season. The dresses were generally very handsome, and there was a splendid

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For APPEALS, see page 1498.
For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1495.
For SPECIAL FOR LADIES, see page 1499.
For Selected FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 1494.
For AMUSEMENTS, see pages 1492, 1493.
For ESTATES, AUCTIONS, see page 1495.
For OUR PUZZLES, see pages 1501, 1502.

display of jewels, and some remarkably fine lace. Lady Crewe acted as "the Lady of the Secretary of State," and she named the Ambassadresses and the wives of the other Chefs de Mission. The passing the presence took over an hour and a half. People are not now allowed to linger in the Ball Room, and any who appear to be disposed to stay are politely ushered out by the State pages. All the arrangements for these ceremonials are admirable, and the presentations are got through with a striking rapidity, but without any apparent hurry or bustle.

Directly the presentations were over the King and Queen and Royal family left in procession for the Chinese Room, where the supper was served. The Corps Diplomatique, who followed the Royal party, had supper in an adjoining room, and the general company refreshed themselves in the drawing-room which adjoins the Throne Room. The supper was served at a long buffet, and there was an excellent repast provided, with an ample supply of most praiseworthy drinks. The display of fruit was remarkable, and worthy of any public show.

The Prince of Wales is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Londesborough during a part of the week after next at Blankney Hall. There is to be a large party at Blankney for the Royal Agricultural Society's Exhibition at Lincoln, and it is expected that the Prince of Wales will visit the show ground on Wednesday, the 26th, and on Thursday, the 27th. Blankney was formerly the property of Mr. Henry Chaplin, but the estate passed into the possession of the late Lord Londesborough. The house is large and uninteresting, but there are some good rooms, and the interior is well arranged. The grounds and woods are extensive, and the principal avenue is four miles long. The King (when Prince of Wales) was more than once the guest of Mr. Chaplin at Blankney Hall.

The Duke and Duchess of Sparta, who are now in Germany, will arrive in England the week after next, accompanied by their children, and they intend to stay for some time at Seaford. The Duke and Duchess will be the guests of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace while they are in London, and they are to be present at the second State Ball.

Sir Charles Palmer had been removed to his house in Curzon-street only five days before his death from the Empire Hotel, Bath, where he had been lying ill for two months. Sir Charles was widely known as a builder of warships, and as the founder of the famous Jarrow shipyards and works, and also as one of the most enthusiastic and unswerving Liberals in the North of England. He commenced his long and brilliant commercial career as a colliery owner, and the Jarrow shipyard was started in 1851 in order to supply vessels for a regular sea service for the conveyance of coal from the Tyne to the Thames. During the Crimean war armour-plated vessels were built at Jarrow for the Government with a rapidity then quite unexampled. Sir Charles was a man of remarkable inventive genius, and he discovered the invaluable idea of rolling armour plates instead of forging them. An enormous number of warships have been built at Jarrow for the Admiralty and for foreign Governments, and the yards and works cover over 100 acres.

Sir Charles became the Liberal Member for North Durham in 1874, and since 1885 he had represented the Jarrow Division of the county. His seat was one of the safest in the House of Commons. It was generally understood that Sir Charles Palmer would be raised to the peerage on the 28th, when the King's birthday is to be officially celebrated. He was created a baronet in 1886 by Mr. Gladstone, of whom he was a staunch supporter. He had retired from business several years ago, and his firm was turned into a limited liability company, of which Sir C. B. McLaren, M.P., is at present chairman. Sir Charles himself was a just and liberal employer of labour, and he always took a warm interest in the town of Jarrow, which was really his own creation. Of late years he had resided principally at Grinkle Park, a place in the North Riding of Yorkshire which he had purchased along with a considerable estate. He was a generous and considerate landlord, and he farmed himself on a large scale, and went in for stock-raising extensively.

An exceedingly interesting and amusing exposé of one of the spiritualistic fraternity was published in the *Leeds Mercury* of the 6th inst. The "medium" selected was a man named Chambers, whose manifestations of the materialisation of spirits have been accepted in spiritualistic circles in the North with mingled veneration and rapture. Some of his dupes were so satisfied of the genuineness of the phenomena which were produced by his mediumship, that, with the idea of converting sceptics, they arranged for a photographer to be present at a private séance, with a view of securing negatives of some of Chambers' familiars. After the usual hocus-pocus on the part of the medium and the singing of hymns by the audience, the manifestations commenced, and from within the cabinet where the medium was concealed a variety of spirits made their appearance. One of these was a spirit known as "The Signor," who spoke broken Italian, and was announced as the medium's chief guide.

"The Signor" was persuaded to give a sitting to the photographer, and by means of a flashlight exposure a couple of excellent negatives of the spirit form were obtained. The resultant photographs were published in the *Leeds Mercury*, and admirably illustrate the bogus character of the manifestations. "The Signor" is obviously the medium himself, divested of his clothes and shrouded in a sheet, which he is holding in his mouth in order to conceal the lower part of his face. The quaintest element in "The Signor's" spiritual attire, however, is his headdress, which is formed out of a chest-protector which Chambers was wearing. I know that "the spirits" are frequently credited with a mischievous propensity for playing practical jokes upon seekers after light, but I cannot

believe that the feeblest-minded inhabitant of the spiritual plane would pose for a photographer clad in a sheet and a chest-protector.

I have been greatly interested in a book which has been sent to me containing the rules and regulations enforced on their assistants by a firm called Edmonds, Denham, and Goyder, Ltd. My correspondent has not sent me their address, but the name of the firm does not appear in the London Directory, and apparently they are engaged in the drapery line in the provinces. There are no less than forty-one rules in this book, many of them of the most arbitrary and oppressive character, and supported by fines ranging from 2d. up to 2s. 6d. Here are a few samples:—

8. Assistants must examine their Check Books before using, and see they are in numerical order, as in all cases Assistants will be held responsible for every missing duplicate. Fine, 2s. 6d.

9. In making up bills the Letter of the Department must be written in the left-hand margin opposite each article. This rule is most important for the purpose of dissecting. Fine, 2d.

12. Purchases made by Entry Customers must be entered in the Day Book and signed by the shopwalkers before the parcel is packed. Anyone omitting to enter a line in the Day Book will be Fined 2s. 6d.

16. For giving more or less than 36 inches to the yard. Fine, 1s.

18. As goods are cut off for customers the length and price must be marked on at the time. Fine, 2d.

21. For passing a duplicate into cash desk without having it signed, or for altering a duplicate without signature of the shopwalker Fine, 1s.

30. Young ladies are not allowed to go to their bedrooms between meal times without special permission. Fine, 3d.

40. After business hours assistants must leave the shop by the iron staircase, and not on any account by way of the shop doors. Fine, 1s.

41. A collection will be made for the Library of 9d. per month from the young men and 6d. per month from the young ladies.

It will surprise no one to hear that a young lady who recently entered the service of this firm had incurred fines to the amount of 2s. 6d. by mid-day on the second day, when she left. As her wages were to be 10s. a week, she would apparently have worked for nothing had she stayed on, and it seems by no means impossible that the firm would have had a claim upon her for a few shillings. This system of arbitrary fines on every trumpery pretext at the discretion of the firm is an iniquitous one, and it ought to be absolutely forbidden by law.

"FIRST CATCH YOUR SUN; THEN——"

(Lines suggested by a recent prophecy of Sir F. Treves.)

And so believes Sir Frederick Treves
The day's at hand when folks no more,
At every ache, their tums will make
A sort of walking chemist's store,
Nor Galen's tribe will drugs prescribe
Their sick and ailing patients for.

But sun and air and simple fare—
Dame Nature's remedies—instead,
To these they'll fly to put all ri'
The coated tongue or splitting head
Or frames that pine in slow decline
Or skins with fever blotched and red.

It may befall, and yet one small
Objection arises, hard to shun;
For while fresh air and simple fare
Are in the reach of every one—
In years like this, 'twould tax, I wis,
A Newton's self to find *the Sun*.

Sir Thomas Lawrence's portrait of Miss Julia Peel, afterwards Countess of Jersey, which was painted in 1827 for her father, Sir Robert Peel, the Minister, was sold in London on Thursday for £8,400, the purchaser being Mr. Charles Wertheimer. This picture was engraved by Cousins in 1833 under the title "Childhood's Innocence," and it was hung at Drayton Manor for more than seventy years. The price obtained was very much lower than had been anticipated, as it was expected that at least twelve thousand guineas would have been realised, and one enthusiastic admirer had valued the picture at £17,000.

The Duke of Fife's pictures from Duff House, which were sold at Christie and Manson's on Friday, were principally purchased towards the close of the eighteenth century by James, Earl of Fife, and they were described in the catalogue after the accounts of those works which that nobleman appears to have ingenuously accepted as correct. The portrait of the Duke of Richmond, ascribed to Vandyck, is a copy of the famous picture formerly at Corsham Court, Lord Methuen's seat in Wiltshire, but now in a public gallery at New York. One portrait of Charles II. was described as "James, Duke of York," and another as "Philip, Duke of Orleans." An individual in the attire of a French nobleman of the reign of Louis XIV. figured as that Sovereign. A lady in the costume of the early part of the seventeenth century was named "Lady Jane Grey," who had been in her grave for half a century when this picture was painted. The pictures realised very low prices, as was inevitable under the circumstances. Only one picture in this large collection of about 150 works ran into four figures, and this was a river scene by A. Van der Neer, for which Messrs. Dowdeswell paid 1,400 gs. For the portrait of Frances Howard, Duchess of Richmond, ascribed to Vandyck, Messrs. Agnew paid 325 gs., and this was the highest price fetched by any of the portraits.

The indefatigable Manning Press under his latest nom-de-plume of "Ernest Gaskell" must be doing uncommonly good business at the expense of the rural nobodies whom he is prepared to raise to the rank of County Leaders at three guineas a head. He seems to be getting through quite a county a month, and "Somerset Leaders: Social and Political" is the latest "exceptionally interesting and beautiful new County Illustrated Work" to be added to his valuable collection. The most astonishing feature about this game is that wherever he undertakes a new raid he is able to find the Lord-Lieutenant of the County ready to patronise the undertaking. Somerset is no exception, and the fact that "the Most Hon. the Marquess of Bath" is to appear among the Gaskell collection of "Leaders" is used, as usual, to bait the hook for the smaller fry. Is there no County Leader who will give a lead in the opposite direction?

Dr. Alexander Hill has announced his intention of resigning the Mastership of Downing College, Cambridge, after twenty-four years of office. Dr. Hill, who is a most distinguished scientist, did much valuable work as President of the Neurological Society of

London, as Chairman of the Home Reading Union, and as Treasury Commissioner to inquire into and report on University Colleges. At Downing he has been a most successful "Head," and he will be greatly missed at the College. Dr. Hill has always been keenly interested in rowing, and he has been a familiar figure on the banks of the Cam for many years. He has been connected with Downing for thirty-three years, having entered the College as a scholar in 1874, and he gained the highest honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1877. The new Master will be elected about the middle of this month, as Dr. Hill vacates the office at the end of the present term.

Dr. Routh, who died at Cambridge on Friday, was generally known as "the Father of Cambridge Mathematics." His early career at the University of London and at Cambridge was one of brilliant and unbroken success, and he came out Senior Wrangler in 1854, and was bracketed for Smith's Prize with Clerk Maxwell. Having been elected Fellow of Peterhouse, he at once commenced teaching, and became the most famous mathematical tutor ever known. Twenty-seven of his pupils were Senior Wranglers, and he "coached" forty-one Smith's Prizemen. He retired in 1886. Dr. Routh was very popular in the University, and he was much liked and highly esteemed both by his colleagues, the dons, and by his pupils.

The election of Mr. Strachan Davidson to the Mastership of Balliol, in succession to Dr. Caird, had been fully expected at Oxford, and he has well earned promotion to the office by many years of excellent work in the College. The new Master is highly distinguished as a scholar, his work on Roman history having made his name widely known. He is an excellent administrator. Mr. Strachan Davidson has been for a long time past one of the most popular and successful college tutors in Oxford. His promotion has met with general and hearty approval in the University.

The Chaplaincy of the Rue d'Aguesseau Church, Paris (the Embassy Church), which has become vacant by the preferment of Dr. Noyes to a valuable living in the diocese of London, has been offered by the Colonial and Continental Church Society to the Bishop of Honduras, who has accepted it. Bishop Ormsby, who has been working in Honduras for fourteen years, has a great reputation as an eloquent preacher, and he is tactful, and has a very pleasant manner. He is an Evangelical.

The Bishop of Lichfield has instituted the Rev. Leonard Tyrwhitt to the rectory of Rolleston, near Burton-on-Trent, which is of the net value of about £500 a year, with house, and in the gift of Sir Oswald Mosley. Mr. Tyrwhitt, who is a Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the King, has been for twelve years vicar of Fenton, an immense parish in the Potteries district of Staffordshire. He is a younger son of the Baroness Berners and a brother of Lady Knollys.

The death of Bishop Lloyd has not created a vacancy on the Episcopal Bench in the House of Lords, for he was the senior of the ten junior prelates who are waiting for seats. Bishop Lloyd is the only prelate who has died without becoming a member of the House of Lords. The next vacancy will now be filled by the Bishop of Manchester, and then comes the Bishop of Southwell.

No one can object to the Home Secretary's decision in regard to the proposed "tombola" at the Mansion House Fête for the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund. No doubt the decision was strictly in accordance with the law, and it is really quite time that the law was asserted against lotteries and other gambling enterprises for charitable purposes. Only a week or two ago I mentioned the raffling of a motor car for the benefit of one of the London hospitals. I have since heard that a precisely similar gamble is being run for the benefit of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, a leading firm having presented a £750 car for the purpose. Books of tickets at a shilling each for the drawing are being distributed by the thousand. Similar lotteries are going on every day all over the country, the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland being a perfect hotbed of them.

I have no goody-goody views on the subject of gambling myself, but if it is morally wrong, it must be equally wrong whatever the purpose to which the profits are applied. It may or may not be *malum in se*, but, so far as public lotteries and gaming-houses are concerned, it is certainly in this country *malum prohibitum*, and the prohibition has no reference to the motives of the gamesters. There are, of course, plenty of people who would object to play bridge for money, or still more, to bet on a horse race, yet who see no harm in taking tickets in a raffle in a charity bazaar. This can only be because they hold that the end sanctifies the means. But if the State recognises this doctrine, when the means are at variance with its own ordinances, where is it going to stop? There are really no limits to what may be condoned by spiritual authority where the interests of the Church are concerned. Religious houses abroad run distilleries—and distil uncommonly good liquor, too. Irish priests have before now got up Derby sweepstakes for the benefit of their churches. It is not fanciful, therefore, to assume that there are religious persons who would think it no sin to run an establishment of the Monte Carlo type for the benefit of their church. I would not take on myself to say whether there would be any sin in it or not; but so long as the State thinks it desirable to suppress such establishments, it must suppress them without regard to the motives for which they are conducted. The same principle applies to unlawful gambling in every shape.

Owing, I suppose, to the fact that the season for charitable country excursions is coming on—or should

JEFFREY & CO.'S ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

be in the ordinary course of nature—my old friend Reuben May is very busy collecting money for this purpose. I have received a great many samples of his appeals during the last few weeks, and nothing astonishes me more about them than the extravagant expenditure which Reuben must incur in the mere matter of printing. He issues voluminous sheets of advertisements, and they are literally packed with print, which must cost a big sum of money, apart from the expense of distributing it. The amount of sheer waste under these heads must be enormous; but one of the advantages of the system of publishing no accounts, to which May has rigidly adhered throughout his philanthropic career, is that nobody has any means of judging how much it costs to collect every pound he receives.

A "LIMERICK" FROM HEADQUARTERS.

There was a young yeoman of Limerick,
Who went to a farmyard to trim a rick;
But he clipped so each side,
All the neighbours they cried:
"Och, Bedad! Did you e'er see a slimmer rick?"

It has already been mentioned that the British colony at Blantyre got up among themselves a competition turning upon the TRUTH Queer Story Puzzle, "The Kenwig Street Murder." I now hear that prizes have been duly distributed in accordance with the TRUTH solution, and one of the organisers of the entertainment has kindly sent me a copy of the award. I am interested to know that it is the work of the local Judge assisted by a solicitor, so that I should hope everybody is satisfied. I often hear from people in out-of-the-way parts of the world who would like to participate in TRUTH competitions, but are unable to do so owing to the difficulty of communication with London; and the example of the colony of Blantyre may perhaps show some of them a way of getting out of their difficulty.

The following contributions have reached me during the week towards the Tress Barry Fund for providing new sixpences at Christmas to the children in the London workhouses. I am sorry to find that the sixpences are not coming in as freely as might have been hoped, and I venture to remind my readers again that the time during which the Fund can be kept open is running away very fast:—

	No. of Sixpences.		No. of Sixpences.
Rev. W. F. Wellacott	21	M. D. N.	4
M. C. S.	10	J. P. N.	2
M. E. M.	10	"For one of the least of these."	1
R. S. M.	10	Lady Nottage	40
A. C. R.	20		
W. H. R.	20		

I have to acknowledge the following amounts towards Lady St. Helier's Poor Children's Holiday Fund:—E. B., £1 1s.; Ascott Avenue, £1 1s.; A. C., £2; E. F. C., £3 3s.; L. T. C., £5; E. J. L., £1.

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

The dangers of trying to be funny over a serious subject are painfully brought home to me by a letter from a cavalry officer in India. The following extracts will sufficiently show why:—

SIR,—I have just read, and discussed with my brother officers, your article headed "Divorce and Army Reform." To say that I am indignant at its tone is to put it mildly. Hitherto, though not always agreeing with your political views, I have looked upon you, as Editor of TRUTH, as doing good work in airing the many just grievances of the British officer, but now you have undone all that good by the publication of this article of such dubious taste. I fail to see why it behoved you to express your views about a letter written by a man so singularly unfortunate in his choice of his friends and their wives. . . . My experience is that marriage increases a man's keenness for his profession, and that his wife does her best to help him. . . . The only reparation in your power is to apologise for the gratuitous insult to a body of men, who, although not plaster saints, do not foul their own nests or those of their friends. Finally, let me advise you to avoid in future quoting statistics, by your own showing inaccurate; to skip the divorce cases in the *Morning Leader*, or whatever your favourite daily paper may be; and to bear in mind that the pictures of Indian society drawn by Rudyard Kipling do not hold good in the present day.

I do not quite know what to make of this letter, for, according to my experience, the British officer is fond of a joke, and this may be only his fun. I do not like to think that I have lost a sincere admirer by an ill-timed jest. But of late we have all been exhorting our officers to take themselves seriously, and this may be an example of the spirit of deadly solemnity that has come over the rising generation in consequence. It is best to be on the safe side, so I will explain that I do not really think that military uniforms are the real cause of army divorce cases; or that the etiquette of the Service always requires an officer's wife to bolt, supposing she bolts at all, with a man in the same regiment; or that the safety of the country is imperilled by the philanderings of bachelor officers; or that it is desirable for all officers' wives to be placed under military discipline and brought up at orderly room when their flirtations attract attention. It is scarcely necessary, I hope, to add that my favourite newspaper is the *Daily Mail*.

Another Service correspondent writes:—

You are quite right to stick up for the cadet corps, but no harm will be done by refusing financial assistance in respect of schoolboy cadets under sixteen, and I would discourage them all round under that age. For the same reason that I say this, I think it would be just as well if Mr. Haldane and the War Office pronounced emphatically against compulsory cadet service in public schools. The fact is that boys under sixteen soon get tired of soldiering, and anything in the shape of compulsion aggravates that tendency. It is as likely as not to "choke off" boys who, if left to themselves, might later on in life have enlisted or joined the Volunteers without any pressure.

I have no doubt that this is quite true. It was confirmed in a striking way in a conversation I had the other day with the father of an Oxford freshman, who had been in the cadet corps at one of the leading public schools. The boy would not join the University Volunteers when he went up to Oxford. He said that he had had enough of it at school, and he added that this was the view of all the "men" who had gone up at the same time. Precisely the same thing was stated in TRUTH a few months ago on the authority of an officer of my acquaintance, who testified to the difficulty of getting ex-cadets from public-school corps to join a University Volunteer corps. As a matter of fact, he was speaking of Cambridge, so that one has the same evidence from both the Universities. Other evidence that I have had, from people who know what they are talking about, shows that in this respect the working-class boy does not differ from the public-school boy.

All this does not in the least conflict with what I said last week. It does not show that boys may not be put through their recruits' drill in cadet corps. But it shows that you must not attempt to take them in hand too young, and that you must not attempt to force them. In fact, the compulsion which so many worthy people dread from fear of fostering "militarism" is likely to have precisely the opposite effect to what they anticipate. It is very important that the truth about this should be understood at the War Office, if any good is to be done with cadet corps in connection with the coming Territorial Army; and equally important that it should be understood by the headmasters of public schools, who have been in many cases indoctrinated with Lord Roberts's gospel of universal military training.

It is easy for a schoolmaster who thinks a little military training a good thing, and who enforces "compulsory games," to jump to the idea that military training should be compulsory as well as cricket and football. But there is a great difference between the two things. A boy is forced to play games for his immediate bodily and moral advantage, not with the idea of preparing him to continue the practice when he reaches manhood. And as a matter of fact, no boy ever plays football or cricket after he has left school because he was compelled to do so *in statu pupillari;* on the contrary, boys who do not take naturally to the games hate them the more because of the compulsion, and drop them the moment it is removed, just as we hear of their dropping military service under the same circumstances. But the object of training a boy as a cadet is not to make a soldier of him while at school, but to prepare him for volunteering when he leaves. If you "choke him off" that, you have done more harm than good. The conclusion of the whole matter is that the value of the cadet corps should be judged exclusively by the number of recruits it furnishes to the adult battalions, and Mr. Haldane would do well to consider whether all grants to such corps should not be made on this basis.

We have heard a great deal of late about the improvement of the financial administration of the Army, from the point of view of the taxpayer, but there may be quite as much room for it from the point of view of Mr. Atkins. In proof of that, I call attention to the following recent occurrence in a certain infantry battalion. A man received at his monthly settlement 4s. 1d. short of the amount due to him as per the official company pay-list. He managed to look at the company "blue-book" containing an account of the stoppages, and saw there three small entries under specific heads, together with an item, "Other charges, 3s.," making up the total of 4s. 1d. stopped from his pay. This was the state of the book at the date of paying the company, *but the whole of the entries were in pencil.* Obtaining another look at the book a few days later, the man found that the items had been entered in ink, but with the omission of "Other charges, 3s.," and with the total shown as 1s. 1d. Although the original pencil figures had been more or less erased, traces of them were still visible on the sheet.

In the battalion in which this incident occurred the men have been groaning under similar extortion for some time, though, of course, they dare not give expression to their feelings, and I have good reason to believe that similar frauds are prevalent in other units. For this reason I would call the attention of the higher administration of the Army to the foregoing statements, which are susceptible of immediate proof or disproof, for there are special circumstances in the case which will make it easy to test the allegations, even if the alteration of the book is not still visible. If any one at Headquarters is disposed to have the allegations inquired into, my services are at his disposal for the purpose. It is not, I trust, necessary to dwell upon the seriousness of the matter. If a pay sergeant can on every settling day make a shilling or two out of every man in a company by fictitious entries in accounts, he is swindling the men out of a very handsome sum per annum, and it is intolerable that such practices should be perpetrated with impunity.

Whether or not any one in authority thinks it worth while to accept the invitation given above, steps ought at least to be taken to make such frauds impossible. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the practice of submitting figures in pencil for the purpose of the monthly settlement with every man in a company is utterly irregular, and it lends itself readily to fraud, and fraud which in nine cases out of ten (the above happens to be the tenth) cannot be detected. Under the existing system of account-keeping, the actual amount paid to each man is not shown in the company pay-list, but only the gross total. If, therefore, a man complains that a larger amount was stopped from his pay than is shown in the book recording the stoppages, it is simply a question of his word against the pay sergeant's, and he knows the respective weight of their two words in the scales of a commanding officer too well to make a complaint. Each pay-sergeant consequently has a free hand, unless his account of stoppages is kept in such a way as to ensure its accuracy.

The following observations of a correspondent on this matter are worth quoting:—

> The attention of the War Office should be drawn to the method of paying men in the Navy and Royal Marines, where the men are paid by the paymaster of their ship or station, and receive their full pay to a farthing, without any deduction of mysterious stoppages; company charges, if there are any, being explained to each individual, and settled up in cash. In the Army, on the other hand, a man never receives his full pay. Officers commanding companies are also at fault in not making themselves fully cognisant with the business side of their work. In many cases the frauds perpetrated are quite bare-faced, and would be easily suspected, if not detected, by any one with a little business knowledge. Too many officers consider that the mere signing of a document submitted to them is the beginning and end of their financial duty.

No business man will question that the best way of obviating all irregularities, as well as all suspicions on the part of soldiers that irregularities are going on, is that mentioned above—to pay them in full, and then present to them, for settlement in cash, an account properly vouched for and readily intelligible. The

SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—HINDE'S Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

account should be made up in ink, and should be signed or initialled by the company officer after it has been made up so as to preclude any suspicion that a bogus one has been substituted. And it would be quite as well that men should have the opportunity of making any objections to the account direct to their company officer.

My attention has been called to a recent article in the *Hampshire Telegraph* dealing with the question of the claims of certain naval pensioners to augmentation pensions at fifty-five years of age—claims hitherto repudiated on the ground that there are no funds to meet them. The writer suggests that in the absence of other funds these pensions should be charged upon various funds, all of which have come originally out of the pockets of the lower deck. Among such funds he mentions the pay and effects of deserters, fines for leave-breaking, unclaimed prize money, spirit ration stoppages, unissued rations, and so on. As, however, all these funds are used for other purposes already, it is clear that if they were diverted for the payment of pensions, the money would have to be voted by Parliament to replace them, and in all the circumstances of the case it seems to me far more proper that Parliament should vote the money directly for the object in view.

This matter has been frequently referred to in TRUTH in time past, and is really nothing short of a national scandal; and if the facts were understood by the public and the House of Commons, there would be a unanimous demand that the grievance should be redressed. Briefly stated, the facts are that by printed recruiting regulations issued prior to 1878 all men joining the Navy and Marines were promised that, subject to good character, the ordinary pensions of their rating which they might earn would receive an augmentation of 5d. a day at the age of fifty-five, and a further augmentation subsequently. As these men have reached the age of fifty-five, their applications for fulfilment of this undertaking have been refused with regret, on the ground that the Admiralty have no funds at their disposal for the purpose. That is practically what it comes to, but I believe that in point of fact the inadequacy of the Greenwich Hospital funds is what has been pleaded.

Obviously, when the augmentation was promised it was understood by the Admiralty of that day that the payments would in due course be provided by the Treasury, and that the money would be voted by Parliament. There seems to be no shadow of justification for this not being done; but the men are few in number, and perhaps not very clear in their minds about their rights; a new official generation has grown up which knows nothing of the recruiting conditions which prevailed thirty years ago; and so the claims of the men have been allowed to slide. But a more flagrant breach of faith with those in its service has never been committed by any civilised government, and if the matter were properly brought up in Parliament to-day, it is impossible to believe that the promised augmentation of pensions would not be at once granted. What is required is that the matter should be brought before Parliament with such a precise statement of facts in support of it that neither the Admiralty nor the Treasury can wriggle out of their obligations. It seems to me that this is a matter which might engage the attention of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association, to which I referred last week.

My dear Mr. Lloyd-George,—You are a very capable administrator and a very sound democrat. May I therefore call your attention to the hardship which has been done by a recent Board of Trade Order, which lays down that no sailor shall rank as an A.B. until he has been at sea three years? The order may be excellent in principle, but it has inflicted great hardship on many men owing to its operation being retrospective. My information comes from a sailor who has been sailing as A.B. for two years, but now loses that rank in consequence of this order, and as he possesses a wife and family the consequences are felt by others besides himself. I understand that there are many in this position; and I think you will agree with me that the order should not affect men already rated as A.B. at the time when it came into operation.

One or two Indian postal officials have taken exception to the statement in a recent paragraph that dissatisfaction prevails in the department at the favour shown to members of the Indian Civil Service in the appointment of Postmasters-General. It seems that there are now nine Postmasters-General in India, six of the appointments being held by members of the I. C. S. and the remainder by postal officials. My correspondents suggest that the majority of postal officials prefer to serve under Civil Servants rather than under men promoted from the ranks of the department, whose administration is much more apt to be marked by acts of jobbery and favouritism. It is contended, moreover, that from the point of view of the public as well as of the staff the I. C. S. has supplied the most efficient and successful Postmasters-General.

THE DANGERS OF KISSING.

So kissing is a dangerous thing,
  Which poisons while it pleases,
And lips convey, as close they cling,
  All manner of diseases—
From phthisis to the worm called "ring,"
  From eczema to sneezes.

A Yankee doctor tells us this,
  And p'rhaps he may have reason,
For though I've never known a kiss
  Hand phthisis or a sneeze on,
I oft *have* found the lips of miss
  Pass fatal HEART-DISEASE on.

A friend of mine has often defended his lack of attention to his correspondence by saying that most letters answer themselves if they are left unanswered long enough. This also seems to be the idea of the Town Clerk of Portsmouth. A working man named Graham was for some years the tenant of a piece of allotment land in that borough. The land was acquired by the corporation for a public improvement, and Graham was served with a notice to quit signed jointly by the Town Clerk and the solicitors to the late owners of the land. On January 1 he wrote to the Town Clerk claiming compensation under the Allotments and Cottage Gardens

Compensation for Crops Act. The Town Clerk did not send even a formal reply to this letter, or to a further letter in the following month, and Graham eventually had to take proceedings, as the result of which he obtained compensation from his former landlords.

In the County Court last week Graham sued the Corporation for £1 16s., being expenses to which he represented that he had been unnecessarily put owing to the Town Clerk's negligence in omitting to answer his letters. The Judge dismissed the case, but at the same time remarked that the Town Clerk should have answered the man's letters. It may be hoped that this judicial reproof will have a salutary effect. A private person can, of course, please himself whether he answers letters or not, but a paid public official ought not to be permitted to ignore in this contemptuous way correspondence on a matter affecting the business of his office, which, if only as a matter of courtesy, requires a reply.

There is some pleasant reading for Londoners in the report of the Medical Officer of Health at Portsmouth. He states that a systematic trade in diseased animals, principally tuberculous cows, is carried on in certain country markets in Hampshire and Sussex, but that owing to the system of inspection that has been adopted the meat no longer finds its way to Portsmouth. The carcases, it seems, are now usually sent to London, and from the number of cows that are sold in the markets at prices ranging from 5s. to 65s. each, it is obvious that there must be regular channels through which such meat can be readily disposed of. Occasionally one reads of the conviction in London of some farmer or butcher engaged in this filthy and dangerous traffic. But there is little doubt that in spite of the vigilance of the inspectors a good deal of diseased meat is brought into London and sold for human consumption.

Attention was called in TRUTH some two or three years ago to the free and easy way in which one of the taxing masters of the High Court attended to his duties. The little notice had a wonderfully good effect, but I hear from learned friends that the effect has now worn off. For some time past the Master's attendances have been flagging, and at the end of the Whitsun vacation he had such a bad relapse that he did not get back from the country until June 3, legal business having been resumed on May 22. Of course, he may have been ill, but the opinion in legal circles seems to be that he was only suffering from what is called "indisposition," and considering how liberal is the regular allowance of holidays in the legal world, an official whose holiday is extended for twelve days even by real illness might well be required to provide a substitute. A taxing master receives £1,500 a year, which works out at about £7 per working day. If he himself were "taxed" at that rate when absent from duty it might possibly be found to have a good effect on his health.

A solicitor in the provinces recently asked me for information about the Maritime Legal Aid Association, of Chancery-lane, of which a Mr. D. Morgan is the general manager. It seems to be a concern of much the same class as a good many other legal aid associations which are now offering their valuable services to working men under the Compensation Acts. It occupies the same offices as the Workers' Accident Compensation Association, Ltd., which is also managed, and in great part owned, by the aforesaid Mr. Morgan. This latter company was registered in January last, its object being to carry on all insurance business except life assurance. For this purpose the promoters apparently do not think that any substantial amount of capital is necessary, as the nominal capital of the company is only £1,000, and 300 shares were issued to Morgan as fully paid, which would only leave £700 for the purpose of "all insurance business except life." In point of fact, only shares to the value of £605 have been issued, according to the returns at Somerset House, and £95 of this went in preliminary expenses. Morgan holds 401 shares altogether, and a Mr. Burnell 200 shares. The former is appointed general manager at a salary of £300 per annum, which is to increase by £25 per annum up to £500.

I understand that the Maritime Legal Aid Association, which Mr. Morgan is carrying on in conjunction with the above company, has been giving assistance of some kind to Mr. Havelock Wilson in his financial troubles. The solicitor who came to me for information about the concern states that solicitors at seaport towns have been offered the appointment of local representatives of the association on the terms that they will lend the association £100 at 5 per cent., and divide with it the profit costs arising out of litigation. It would be interesting to know what the association proposes to do with the money thus advanced, for though capital is highly desirable in a general insurance business, there seems to be no need for it in the case of a legal aid association which proposes to do all its practical work through local solicitors, and only requires money for working its London office. I should recommend any solicitors who may meditate closing with the above-mentioned offer to obtain information on this point from Mr. Morgan before putting £100 into the legal aid business.

Mr. Justice Phillimore, in his charge to the grand jury at the Norfolk Assizes, found occasion to read a much-needed lesson to some of the Norfolk Shallows. One of the cases in the calendar was that of a man charged with breaking and entering a dwelling-house and stealing a piece of bread. The judge remarked that he could not help thinking that the case could have been met by fourteen days' or a week's imprisonment, whereas the man had been committed for trial, and had already been in prison for rather more than a month. Of course, a charge of housebreaking cannot be dealt with at Petty Sessions, but it was within the power of magistrates to reduce the charge to one of larceny, and thus to have brought it within their jurisdiction, though probably the mere suggestion of taking such a course would have horrified the worthy magistrates who committed the prisoner to the assizes.

This is to inform the readers of "TRUTH" that the HOTEL ROSE, WIESBADEN, is now rebuilt and refurnished. 200 rooms. 60 bathrooms. Apartments with private bath.

The motorphobia with which some country J.P.s are afflicted is well illustrated in the cases heard before the Oakham Bench which appear in my Legal Pillory below. There can be no doubt in the mind of any reasonable man that the drunken driver of a horse is a much greater danger to the public than the motorist who by inadvertence or accident is caught driving without a light at the back of his car, yet, judged by the action of the Oakham magistrates, such a belief is precisely the reverse of the truth. Interesting comparisons are also afforded by the cases heard at Govan and Glasgow, and at Torrington and Carlisle. From the case reported from Belfast it will also be seen that the Irish magistracy are just as prone as their British confrères to treat cases of atrocious cruelty to animals with ridiculous lenity:—

Oakham Police Court. Before Sir A. J. Fludyer, Messrs. Heathcote, Belgrave, Evans-Freke, and Nutt. H. Humphries, charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and cart, and with ill-treating the horse with a whip. Fined £1 12s. 6d. for the first offence, and £2 for the second.

Oakham Police Court. Before the same bench. J. A. Doran, charged with driving a motor-car not having a light at the back, and further with failing to produce his licence when asked to produce it. Fined £5 and costs in each case.

Derby Borough Police Court. Before Messrs. Woodiwiss, Russell and Richardson. J. Shearn, charged with assaulting Mary Ann Burk. He struck her on the arm with a poker, and hit her in the face several times with a coal rake. Fined 20s. and costs.

Derby Borough Police Court. Before Messrs. Longden, Norman, Bourn and Hart. Edward King, charged with wandering abroad. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Littlehampton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Bennett and other magistrates. Emily Bennett, charged with wandering abroad. One month.

Clydebank Police Court. Before Bailie Sinclair. Hugh Ferguson, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her on the head, face and body, knocked her down, and kicked her. Fined 30s

Grimston Petty Sessions. Before Capt. Digby, Capt. Bagge, and Mr. Wyrley-Birch. James Hudson, charged with sleeping out. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Govan Police Court. Before Bailie M'Fadyean. Archibald M'Cullock, charged with assaulting a young shop girl. She was walking home at night when she was struck on the forehead and became insensible. Fined one guinea.

Glasgow Summons Court. Before Sheriff Mackenzie. Andrew Seaforth, charged with supplying a customer with 3½d. worth of mutton chops after 10 o'clock on a Saturday night. Fined £1 6s. 6d. inclusive.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. R. Whyte, A. Hardy, and J. Higgins, charged with taking a pony from a stable and riding and beating it until it fell exhausted on the road. Higgins fined 12s. 6d., the others 7s. 6d. each.

Alton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Gathorne Wood, Knight, Mangles, Seawell, Spicer, General Hall and Capt. Stephens. J. B. Suttaby, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month's hard labour.

Sleaford Police Court. Before Major-General Sir W. M. Wilson, Capt. Reeve-King, Capt. Cragg, Messrs. Smith and Pattinson. A. Olive and B. Olive, charged with cruelty to a horse. It was aged, suffering from badly diseased fore legs, and though bought for exportation for £4, was set to draw heavy loads of manure. Fined 10s. each.

Pontesbury Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Tatham Warter, C. E. Jenkins, R. Blakeway Phillips and W. Swire. John Doogan and S. Blakemore, charged with having pheasants' eggs in their possession, and S. Mansell, charged with taking them from a nest. Mansell fined £3, Doogan 10s., and Blakemore 6s.

Torrington County Petty Sessions. Walter Isaacs and Grace Isaacs, charged with neglecting their three children. The eldest was five years old. They were verminous and covered with sores, their clothing putrid, and the house indescribably foul. They had been seen ravenously eating offal given to the dog of a neighbour. Fined £1 and costs each.

Carlisle Police Court. Before Sir Benjamin Scott and other magistrates. A lad named Nicholson, charged with stealing biscuits valued 3d. from his employers, and with assaulting the forewoman, who reported him for the theft. Fourteen days' hard labour for the theft, and fined 10s. 6d. and costs for the assault, or a further 14 days' hard labour in default.

Belfast Police Court. Two men, named Timoney and McGeough, charged with cruelty to a dog. Timoney held it by the tail while McGeough poured turpentine over it. Each fined 20s. and costs.

Llandudno Police Court. Before Dr. Dallon and Mr. Robert Roberts. W. T. Jones, cab-driver, charged with stealing a rug value 7s. He had been in the employ of a carriage company, and when he left the rug was found at his lodgings. One month's hard labour.

One of my readers forwards some correspondence which a lady relative of his has had with Cray, Stewart, and Co., of 25, Milton-street, whose advertisements were dealt with in my recent article on "The Cash-on-Credit Terms Trick." The grossly misleading language by means of which the aforesaid trick is worked is conspicuously shown in the following extract from one of the circulars sent out by the firm when their newspaper advertisement has been answered:—

OUR EASY PAYMENT TERMS. If it is not convenient for you to pay cash for goods, send your order along with 2s. deposit, and you can pay the balance by small weekly instalments. Credit customers receive the same careful attention as cash customers.

What is the proper name for this language, when the fact is that the firm intends to give no credit at all, and "easy payment by small weekly instalments" merely means payment in advance of the delivery of the goods?

The worst part of this trick, which is now in evidence everywhere, lies in the refusal of the parties practising it to return the first payment, or "deposit," when the customer discovers the real nature of the transaction. In the case mentioned above the customer demanded the return of her money on discovering that she was to give credit herself instead of receiving it, but Cray, Stewart, and Co. simply left her application unanswered. Many of the parties working this trick expressly declare that they make it a rule not to return money. The natural inference is that the object in view is simply to obtain and retain deposits from customers, who naturally refuse to complete the transaction when they discover how they have been had. It is the habitual advertising of tricks like this which, as Mr. Gamage pointed out the other day, tends to bring all newspaper advertising into discredit.

Here is another example of the business methods of J. N. Masters, Limited, of Rye, which have been so frequently referred to in TRUTH. The victim is once more a soldier, Masters laying himself out specially to catch men in H.M. Service. He ordered a watch at 30s., and to save trouble paid not only the deposit of 2s. 6d. required with the order, but a further 2s. 6d. which was only due on receipt of the watch. The watch not arriving, the man complained, and the reply was that it had been sent off and that Masters, Limited, "would make inquiries through their delivery company." This was at the end of March, and since that date the customer has been unable to extract any further information from Masters, although he has applied for the return of his money, and has even offered to take other goods in exchange for the watch. It would seem that soldiers are special sufferers from the operations of firms of this class—no doubt for the reason indicated above.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn st., London.

Among the firms which seem to do a large business in bicycles on the instalment system of credit is Edward O'Brien, Limited, of Coventry. Some months ago this business was referred to in TRUTH in connection with the experience of certain soldiers who, after paying deposits for bicycles, discovered that it was necessary for them to obtain the signature of their commanding officer or some other responsible person to guarantee the payment of the rest of the money. When they objected to this, O'Brien, Limited, refused to return their money. In a recent advertisement O'Brien proclaims, in capital letters, "I'll give you credit without bondmen or agreements." Notwithstanding this announcement, precisely the same trick has been played in another case quite recently; and when the customer protested against being asked for a guarantee after paying his first instalment, and referred to the advertisement, O'Brien replies:—

I think that everyone should understand that when I say "no bondmen or security required," I refer to those who are at least householders, and of full age.

There is, of course, no reason why anything of the sort should be understood, and even if the wording of the advertisement were not misleading, there can be no justification for sticking to money which has been paid under a misapprehension.

In the case above mentioned, the customer—it is a soldier again in this case—paid 10s. when sending his order. When he applied for the return of it O'Brien wrote:—

You will understand it is impossible for me to refund your money, as I am at a great loss over you cancelling your order. However, I want to settle the matter as amicably as possible, and I think the best thing for me to do will be to put you in communication with Mr. G. W. Robey, the World's Provider, of this city (Coventry), and I enclose two of his lists, from which kindly make a selection of articles to the value of your deposit, and I will have them sent on to you.

It would be interesting to know, first, how O'Brien loses 10s. by the cancelling of an order, whether or not obtained by a misleading advertisement, and, secondly, how, if he has sustained that loss, he will be recouped by the expenditure of the money with another firm—if it is another firm. It is really amazing to see the effrontery with which impositions of this character are now perpetrated—where the man is in a position which makes it unlikely that he will invoke the protection of the law.

Reference was made in TRUTH recently to the "Institute of Natural Therapeutics," of 73, Queen Victoria-street, which has gone one better than the electric belt vendors by introducing "Odo-Magnetic Apparel," by means of which the vitalising forces evolved from the imaginations of advertisement writers can be directly applied to any part of the human anatomy. One of my readers forwards one of the latest circulars of this particular firm. The circular calls attention to a "reprint from one of the oldest journals in the country" in praise of the Odo-Magnetic humbug, and adds, "no journalist of standing would insert such a notice without careful investigation, and we hope to receive your measurements (for the Odo-Magnetic apparel) and instructions without delay." The publication thus referred to is the *Gentleman's Journal*, which, so far from being one of the oldest publications in the country, is a new periodical which has appropriated an old and respected name; and the article reprinted from it by the Institute of Natural Therapeutics—which appears to be the trade name of a Mr. A. Dennison Light—is, of course, merely an ordinary advertisement.

One of my readers gives an instructive account of dealings which he has had with a firm calling themselves "Bell Bros., Wholesale Gunmakers," 93, Waterloo-street, Glasgow. Through an attractively worded advertisement, on answering which he was favoured with an imposing catalogue, he ordered two air-guns from this firm, and remitted the price, £1 14s., by cheque. Getting no acknowledgment, in spite of two further communications, he stopped the cheque, informed Bell Bros. that he had done so, and requested them to return his cheque. This was not done, and a week or two later the two air-guns arrived. They proved to be very inferior articles, and were at once returned.

Three weeks later another parcel arrived, and my correspondent, recognising that it was from Bell Bros., refused to accept it. Another three weeks elapsed, and then came an impudent letter from Bell Bros., stating that they were taking proceedings "for the recovery of the value of the goods," with a view to showing their customer that he could not "play the fool with them." My correspondent is now awaiting these proceedings, and I imagine he is likely to wait for some time. Inquiries of the Glasgow police have in the meantime elicited that "Bell Bros." is merely a middleman who buys goods from Birmingham, and has nothing in the shape of a factory of his own. His description of his firm as "wholesale gunmakers" is therefore totally indefensible, though apparently only in keeping with his general business methods. This seems another advertisement to which the attention of the proprietors and managers of London newspapers and magazines might be directed with advantage.

I do not know of any reason why the bloodsucking brigade should be exceptionally active just now, but, judging from the number of circulars that are being passed on to me, they seem to think that this is a favourable time for making their seductively-worded offers of cash accommodation. From one correspondent alone I have received a collection of about a score of circulars with which he has been pestered by various usurers whose names figure in my Cautionary List. This correspondent, however, is a beneficed clergyman, and the beneficed clergy have ever been among the favourite—because the easiest and the safest—prey of the cent.-per-cent. extortioners. "Fred Watts" (alias David Freedman) and "A. Masters" (alias Abraham Lazarus) are apparently the busiest of all the circularisers at the present moment. Lazarus is addressing his communications to married ladies, a course to which their husbands naturally object. One husband says that if he lived in

Buy STEPHENS' TYPEWRITER CARBONS because they yield sharp impressions, are clean to handle, and exceptionally durable. No favour is asked for them because they are British.

London he would pay a visit to 9, Old Cavendish-street, and give "A. Masters" a horse-whipping, but as he cannot do that he asks me to administer a verbal castigation. I am afraid, however, that it is quite useless to do so; Lazarus is a case-hardened old extortioner.

As to Freedman, otherwise "Watts," he is at present distributing two circulars which form a rather striking contrast. One is a severely plain, business-like communication from 150, Friar-street, Reading, in which "Yours obediently, Fred Watts," takes the liberty of drawing attention to the fact that "he advances cash from £50 to any amount." The other, dated from 95, Jermyn-street, W., intimates that "Mr. F. Watts wishes to invest capital in sums from £100 to £50,000, not as a professional lender, but as a private banker to ladies and gentlemen." This is a gorgeously got-up production in the dazzling style of the famous effusions of the late Isaac Gordon, the printing being in several different colours, with a thick underlining in gold. The gaudiness of the circular has created quite a sensation, and I am being inundated with letters suggesting that it deserves a special notice.

One letter, by the way, comes from the guardian of a boy to whom "Mr. F. Watts" had directed his circular. So many moneylenders' circulars are sent to this infant that his guardian has had printed the following form of reply:—

Sir,—As guardian of Mr. ———, who for many years to come will be a minor, I must beg you not to trouble to send any more advertisements to him.—Yours faithfully, ———.

This had been forwarded to "Mr. F. Watts" on a previous occasion, and another copy has now been sent. With all respect to the guardian, however, this is not the proper method of dealing with such a shark. The proper method is to prosecute him under the Betting and Loans (Infants) Act, 1892, as amended by the Moneylenders Act. The latter Act throws upon the moneylender the onus of proving that "he had reasonable ground for believing the infant to be of full age"; and, as was shown in a case some years ago against the tout who calls himself "H. Passmore," it is no answer to the charge to say that the offence was committed unknowingly through the infant's name being included in a list—taken from a directory or other publication. If a moneylender chooses to issue circulars to all and sundry he is liable to penalties whenever one reaches a minor, and in every case of the kind the guardian ought either to institute a prosecution himself, or else communicate with the Public Prosecutor.

Yet another example of the rapacity of the "slum moneylenders" of Liverpool came before the local magistrates last week, when a woman was charged with attempting to commit suicide. It seemed that for two or three months she had been in the clutches of a usurer who on a small loan (which she had spent in drink) exacted interest at the rate of 2d. per 1s. per week. In discharging the accused the Chairman remarked that the moneylenders in the poor districts were nothing less than vampires, and no effort should be spared in their exposure. Unfortunately, however, no amount of exposure is likely to put an end to this system of moneylending among women of the working class, which appears to be particularly common in Liverpool.

By the way, I see that a Moneylenders' Victims' Defence Association has been formed by the Rev. Herbert Williams, St. John's Clergy House, Tooley-street, S.E., who has for some time past interested himself in this matter. Mr. H. Carr Gomm, M.P., is the president of the association. Its main object will be to defend persons in poor circumstances from the extortion of usurers, and I have no doubt that a great deal of good work may be accomplished by such an organisation. The moneylenders whose business is done among comparatively poor people are an even more avaricious and unprincipled crew than the Shylocks of the West End, and they succeed in enforcing many harsh and unconscionable bargains from which the borrowers might obtain relief under the Act of 1900, if they only had assistance in bringing the matter before a court. Obviously, however, it will be necessary for the association to exercise a good deal of care and discretion in determining whether a case shall be taken up or not. There are, of course, borrowers who are quite undeserving of any sympathy, and some might even be encouraged to raise loans if they thought that they could rely upon the help of a philanthropic association in extricating themselves from the hands of the moneylenders.

A lady asks my advice as to whether she would do well to undertake home work for a firm described as the Lawrence Irwin Company, of University Chambers, Birmingham. As it appears that she is to begin her work by paying 6s. to the aforesaid firm for an "outfit," on the understanding that they will pay her so much for colouring photographs with their materials, my advice is, emphatically, "don't." My reason for it is, not that I possess any special information about the firm in question, but that business conducted on these lines is apt to prove unsatisfactory, and that it is frequently the most delusive humbug. But I may add, on the strength of the literature they distribute, that the Lawrence Irwin Company appears to be extensively engaged in the business of getting money from other people on promises of putting them in the way of making money for themselves—a business the profits of which are entirely on one side.

Another effective trick for extracting money from the pockets of the unwary has lately been pushed on a large scale by somebody calling himself the London Premium and Tea Company, of 56, Ludgate-hill, E.C. This is the old trick of informing you that you are to receive a present "absolutely free," provided you apply for it in twelve days, the explanation of this generosity being suggested by appending your own autograph, cut from some letter or document. The "absolutely free" present, which includes "a set of electro-

The Ladies' League (under Royal patronage), 2, Princes street, Cavendish-square, W., successfully Recommends Gentlewomen for responsible Positions in every capacity. Telephone, 1,025 Mayfair.

silver plated ware," and "one-eighth-pound package of our Premium Tea," is, of course, only to be obtained by paying for it, the price in this instance being 4s. 6d. A gentleman who went to inspect his present the other day, before paying for it, reports that the total value of the plated goods and the tea could not amount to half the price at which it is to be forwarded "free." I presume that the London Premium Tea Company is merely an alias of some party who has already worked this trick to a standstill under some other name.

Writing with reference to one of the above-mentioned circulars, which seem to have been sent out by thousands, a correspondent expresses his suspicions that the letter from which his autograph has been cut was written to one of my contemporaries, in connection with a competition that it has been holding. On behalf of the press, I should like to repudiate this suggestion with indignation, but in the present day it is unfortunately impossible to feel very confident on the subject. It is quite certain, at any rate, that the practice of selling old letters wholesale to parties who use them in connection with the above-mentioned game is now extensively adopted by many people who ought to know better.

The same trick is being worked, with all the same appliances, by the "John D. Macdonald Company," of 96, Newgate-street, the "present" offered in this case being a so-called "18-carat solid gold watch." The present will be forthcoming on paying 6s. 11d. for a "finest Asian gold chain." "I do not find," writes one of the fortunate recipients of this generous offer, "the name of the John D. Macdonald Company in your Cautionary List." That is so, but at the same address in Newgate-street will be found the name of the Brahmo Lever Watch Company, who have been practising the same trick busily for a long time past, and whose circulars, of which I have dozens before me, are precisely identical with those of the John D. Macdonald Company. The latest alias of this individual, or gang, will therefore, be duly noted for entry in the next edition of the Cautionary List.

Bunkum of a very different quality is employed by the many-aliased Beston, of Birmingham. He evidently finds that no pretensions can be too extravagant, no story too silly, for the egregious simpletons on whom he preys. In the character of the Midland Publishing Company, 21, Lonsdale-road, Harborne, he is circulating an article purporting to show "How Men make Big Money on the Turf" by taking the company's tips. These are the sort of fairy tales that it contains:—

Mr. E. P. Wilson, of Liverpool, was earning four shillings a day when he faced a proposition that now confronts you. He wanted to make money—not lose it—by his Turf investments, so his first step was to join the Midland Publishing Co. for a series of telegrams. He is now a general contractor, employing many men in his workshops.

The success of Mr. W. Green, of Exeter, would read like a romance if it were not actual fact, but being satisfied with his income and the information he had received from all other racing advisers in the country he enrolled with the Midland Publishing Co., who send four weeks' daily wires for £3 10s., or Twenty Occasionals for £5. Mr. Green is now one of the best known and wealthiest men in Devonshire.

Mr. George Morton was an engineer at £10 a month when he became a client of the Midland Publishing Co. He has now retired.

One cannot feel much sympathy for the flats who are imposed upon by such transparently mendacious twaddle as the above. Still, I agree with Lord Durham that in the interests both of the community and the Turf the law ought to suppress the practices of such sharps as Beston.

I had an interesting interview the other day with a gentleman who has a strong feeling, as everybody ought to have, respecting bogus philanthropic work, and has conceived a particular aversion to the Poor Children's Society, run by Mr. George Breton. I share this aversion, and from time to time have endeavoured to give expression to it, but my efforts now seem to me tame and ineffectual. The gentleman in question—Mr. James Day, of St. Mary Axe—deals in adhesive labels, and travels in the course of his business. He has had printed a series of adhesive labels warning all whom it may concern against the Poor Children's Society, and these he posts up in the course of his travels as opportunity offers. This is no doubt useful, but it is when he comes to Breton's collecting-boxes that Mr. Day really rises to the occasion. As soon as he sees one of these articles on a tradesman's counter, he smashes it with a stick, hands the money over to the tradesman for transfer to some more worthy object of charity, and forwards the mangled remains of the box to Breton with his compliments, and an intimation of his "address for service," if the society wishes to avail itself of any legal remedy for the outrage.

For reasons which can readily be understood, Breton and his society have adopted the policy of taking this sort of thing lying down. This naturally encourages Mr. Day to renewed efforts, and seeing that the bulk of Breton's revenue is derived from these boxes, there seems reason to hope that in course of time Mr. Day may smash the society as well as its boxes. He also tells me that, in view of recent observations in Truth, he is turning his attention to the collecting boxes of the Metropolitan and Provincial Association. An interesting correspondence has passed in consequence between him and the secretary of the concern. So far back as the beginning of March the secretary informs Mr. Day that unless he apologises and pays for the damage he has done to one of the boxes "a summons will be taken out next Thursday." Mr. Day replies "Come on." Although the correspondence has continued for nearly three months, and the invitation has been repeated, the secretary has not come on as yet, except by post. Mr. Day certainly seems to be a practical philanthropist, and a few more crusaders of the same robust type would really be useful.

Here is an instructive illustration of the justice of the warnings against the Continental lottery touts which

The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, W. — 8090 Gerrard. The Restaurant and Hotel overlook the Green Park. Magnificent suite of Ball and Banqueting Rooms. Under the same Direction as the Carlton Hotel.

I am continually publishing. A short time ago Colonel X., received a circular from the notorious firm of H. Langenhahn and Co., the self-styled "bankers," of Bremen, inviting him to take a ticket in Class III. of a Royal Saxon State Lottery. He did so, forwarding £3 and receiving in reply a letter enclosing an extra half ticket, price £1 10s., which he was urged to buy to get "a double chance." He took the half ticket, and in due course he received a circular purporting to give the winning numbers of the drawing, in which his were not included. H. Langenhahn and Co. at the same time pressed him to continue the speculation and remit £4 10s. for the draw in Class IV. This he also did, with the same result.

The Bremen people then invited him to go in Class V., asking this time for £4 12s., the extra 2s. being to cover "postage, etc." "I was ass enough," he says, "to comply, and by the return post I received a demand for £9 for the ticket and a half in Classes I. and II. which I had never heard of." He expressed his astonishment at this demand in very plain language, and Langenhahn and Co. replied in a letter which gave away the show. "We beg to draw your attention to the fact," they wrote, "that all tickets which are acquired at any stage of the lottery and which are to participate in the further course of the drawings must be paid in full, viz., including all the previous classes." In other words, the Colonel's subscriptions to Classes III. and IV., in the drawings for which he was supposed to have participated had really been null and void. Colonel X. claimed the return of the whole of the money that he had paid, and after some pressure he got back £4 16s. He is now trying to extract the balance of his £3 12s. from these Bremen "bankers." I hope, though I hardly expect, that he will succeed in doing so.

The foregoing is a characteristic example of the trickery of these Continental lottery touts. The prospectuses that are issued by these "bankers" from Bremen, Hamburg, Buda-Pesth, and elsewhere are grossly misleading. Hardly any of the purchasers of tickets in this country understand the complicated conditions on which the lotteries are conducted. They do not know that any ticket taken up after the first class is not entitled to participate in the drawings until the subscriptions for the previous classes have been paid. More often than not, indeed, they do not even realise that there is a whole series of drawings, with fresh subscriptions for each one, and they certainly have not the least notion that almost all the prizes in the earlier classes are so paltry in amount as to be hardly worth winning, while in the later stages of the lottery the odds against any individual winning a really big prize mount up from about 20,000 to 100,000 to 1. Against any of the very highest prizes coming to a ticket-holder in this country the odds are probably still longer, for many of the agents are quite unprincipled—in fact, the whole traffic in these lottery tickets reeks with trickery and even fraud.

A few weeks back certain observations were made in these columns upon circulars issued by a Mr. Granville H. Sharpe, of Great Tower Street, E.C., who signs himself "F.C.S.," and offers to supply analytical reports upon goods at two guineas to tradesmen who may find them useful for advertising purposes. The observations that I made were founded on the assumption that the initials "F.C.S." stood for "Fellow of the Chemical Society." I have since learned that this is not the case. Mr. Sharpe is not a Fellow of the Chemical Society. What the letters "F.C.S." stand for, he himself best knows; but whatever it may be, he is clearly not justified in using a designation which must convey to all who come across it an entirely false impression as to his status as a scientific man.

This little matter is of public interest in more ways than one. The use of the designation "F.C.S." by any one who chooses to assume it would be in any case an infringement of the rights of the Chemical Society; and used as Mr. Sharpe uses it, in the course of advertising a class of business which is open to obvious objections, it is calculated to bring that Society into discredit. Yet, as matters stand at present, the Society appears to have no remedy. This is another example of a most unsatisfactory state of the law. The degrees and diplomas of universities and other learned bodies having a recognised legal status serve a useful public purpose as the hall-marks of learning and education, or guarantees of definite scientific or professional attainments; but this purpose is in a great measure defeated if it is open to anybody to vamp up colourable imitations of these degrees or titles, and pass them off upon the public. This mischievous practice is growing in all directions, and ought to be checked in the public interest.

The Mr. Granville Sharpe above-mentioned is one of a small class of persons who make a practice of supplying tradesmen with certificates of the purity and genuineness of the goods they manufacture or sell. These certificates are intended to be offered to the public as trade advertisements. The parties who furnish certificates in this way may possibly possess the requisite scientific knowledge for making a correct analysis; but when, as most of them do, they spontaneously offer to supply firms with their certificates, and in doing so convey a definite assurance that the certificate will be everything that could be desired for advertising purposes, they lay themselves open to the suspicion that they are ready to give their certificates to any one who will pay for them, without too nice a regard for the precise results of their analysis. No scientific man of any standing would hawk about his certificates in this way. Hence the parties who follow this practice seek to convey that they really are scientists of repute and standing, by labelling themselves with worthless and even misleading titles, degrees, or diplomas. One of these gentlemen, who has frequently

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and a la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger. Open on Sundays.

been referred to in Truth, purports to be a distinguished ornament of about half the learned societies in Europe—the truth being that the said societies, if they exist at all, exist only for the purpose of supplying bogus scientific distinctions to those who have no others. The whole purpose of this traffic being to impose upon the public, why should it be permitted?

CRICKET CRITICS.

Last season, when 'twas fine and dry,
And turf set firm beneath the rollers,
And batsmen had the time that's high,
And tea were taking with the bowlers,

The arm-chair critics looked askance,
And swore 'twould be the death of cricket
Unless—to give the ball a chance—
We promptly should enlarge the wicket.

But now, when wickets wet abound,
And every match produces "hats"-men
In bowlers who, the case turned round,
Are taking Pekoe with the batsmen,

These self-same critics change their stance,
And ask, in solemn accents, whether—
To give the bat but half a chance—
We oughtn't to enlarge the "leather."

The representatives of the British press seem to have had an uncommonly good time in Germany; indeed, much more has been made of them than was made of their German colleagues who visited England last year. A man must be very suspicious and very churlish who does not recognise in the lavish hospitality bestowed on the visitors, and the cordiality of their reception wherever they have gone, a really friendly feeling towards this country and its representatives, and a sincere desire for a good understanding with us. It is easy to over-estimate the value of these international junketings, but a good many British journalists ought to return from the Fatherland with much more accurate ideas than they took with them of the general sentiments of the German people towards ourselves. If the result is seen in the attitude of the English press towards Germans, it will be something worth having.

Half the misunderstandings that prevail in this country about the Germans are due to the delusion that Prussia is Germany, and to ignorance of the wide gulf which frequently separates the policy and ambitions of the Berlin bureaucracy from the ideas and sentiments of the German people generally. I am not one of those who accept everything that our journalistic guides tell us about the motives and aims of Berlin; but even if half of it were true I should generally hesitate to accept the speech of a Prussian Minister or the articles of a Berlin editor as the voice of the inhabitants of all the States that make up the German Empire. We have, of course, to reckon with Berlin in international politics, but it is well to remember that the Prussians have always been a chauvinistic and rather arrogant race, while the mass of Germans outside Prussia are the precise opposite, and many of them cherish anything but cordial feelings towards Prussia and the Prussians. It is to be hoped that some inkling of this truth will have been borne in upon our journalists during their German tour.

The Nonconformists must understand that we have no intention to favour them in any special manner at the expense of the Anglicans in the reform of our scheme of national education. They were on perfectly sound ground when they protested against public funds being voted without the expenditure being under the control of those who furnished these funds. But when they want to subordinate the entire scheme to their particular views in regard to religion, they will have to understand that this will not be tolerated. My complaint against Mr. Birrell's Bill is that it did not go far enough in separating religious from secular teaching in tax or rate aided schools, and permitted what seemed good in the eyes of Nonconformists while it excluded what seemed good in the eyes of Anglicans.

The war of the sects will continue to be waged over the schools so long as the distinction is not recognised between what it is the business of the State to teach, and what should be left to the parents or pastors of the children who are to be taught. The State has to do with this world only; the parents and the pastors have to do with the world to come. The aim of the State is to make a good and useful citizen, the aim of parents and pastors is to teach the child that there is another world, in which human beings will be rewarded or punished if they believe certain dogmas and act on that belief in this world. In regard to these dogmas there is no unity of opinion, and consequently no teaching can be satisfactory to all. No sooner is an attempt made to devise a system of religious teaching based upon the assumption of this unity, than it breaks down in its practical working. Indeed, looking at the matter from the religious standpoint, it substitutes a mere vague verbal assent to certain dogmas that are not clearly defined, and may be understood in a dozen different ways, for real living belief in them.

What the common sense of the country desires is that education should not be impeded by the quarrels of rival sects, and I think that the number of those who realise that this can only be effected by the State occupying itself solely with secular education is increasing every day. When Mr. McKenna, as Minister of Education, adjures the Nonconformists to accept the Government compromise, and not to join the Anglicans in opposing it, he seems to me to be furnishing himself the best argument against all compromise, and all attempts on the part of himself and of Liberal officialdom to effect such a compromise, for experience, not only of the past but of the present, has shown that he might as well imagine that he can unite oil and vinegar. If we are to have a really good scheme of national education we must eliminate the bone of contention. So long as it is there we shall have the dogs snapping and snarling over it.

The *Daily Mail* has been rather severely handled by some of its contemporaries over the Sir Robert Bond incident. Evidently it was completely misinformed as to what took place, and we all know that when we are misinformed about important matters we have to "stand the racket." But it would be interesting to know the source of the misinformation. We may at least give the *Daily Mail* the credit of supposing that the source was outside the office, and that it was a source primâ facie entitled to credit for accurate information as to what went on inside the Conference Room. This is so obvious that rumours are current as to the identity of the person by whom the *Daily Mail* fiction was inspired. The *Daily Mail* promised at first to enlighten us further as to how it was misled, but on second thoughts it appears to have altered its mind—doubtless from patriotic motives. But, if only in justice to innocent parties who may fall under suspicion, I really think it ought to abandon diplomatic reserve and make a clean breast of it.

THE PERSEVERING "DEASER."

(Lines suggested by the recent fate of that hardy annual, The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.)

O poor little innocent! Wonder I do
If ever the Commons and Lords she'll go through.
Yea, if, like the spider,
When Robert Bruce eyed her,
Until success smiles she'll her efforts renew.

And if she *should* pass, then still wonder I do,
How many, when widowed, their "deasers" will woo
(Which odd verbal fraction
Is Oxford's contraction
Of Deceasèd-Wife's-Sister, as doubtless you knew).

"It is unfortunate," writes Ameer Ali in the *Nineteenth Century*, "that after nearly two hundred years of constant intercourse the Indian and European should not have come nearer; it is still more unfortunate that in some directions the gulf should have widened." There seems to be no doubt about the gulf having widened. A few weeks ago I published an extract from a private letter written by an educated Indian to an old Anglo-Indian in this country, who sent it to me. Almost precisely the same language was used in it about the recent widening of the gulf. Mr. Morley referred to the same sign of the times in his speech of Friday last, pointing out that the British administration has grown of late more out of touch with the native mind, and attributing it to over-centralisation, which he desires to correct.

It is interesting to note how completely in accord on this point are the Secretary of State and the distinguished Indian writer in the *Nineteenth Century*. The latter, it is true, seems in one passage to lay the blame on the English character, and the "unveiled assumption of descent from a higher sphere," which he finds that the average Englishman combines with "much natural kindliness of heart." But I doubt if he would find less of this obnoxious assumption in the average German or the average Frenchman in their dealings with subject races; and in subsequent passages he conveys the impression that the fault lies rather with the administrative machinery than with those who have to work it. Some of his remarks on this point are worth quoting at the present juncture:—

> The first duty, however, seems to be to bring the official classes in touch with the people in order to promote mutual understanding, and to neutralise, to some extent, the teachings of racial animosity. The aloofness of Europeans in their general relations with Eastern people, and the inaccessibility of British officials, had as early as 1787 formed the subject of criticism among the educated classes of India. . . . The example of Warren Hastings and many of his notable successors led to the adoption of a system of weekly durbars held by British officials for the reception of local magnates and prominent people. But as the administration grew more complicated it gradually fell into disuse. Nowadays the overworked officer has less time, and probably fewer opportunities, to come in contact or cultivate personal relations with the people over whom he is placed. The gulf which separates the two might be bridged if the old practice were resumed with broader sympathy and a better comprehension of the results that might be attained thereby. A day might be set apart by the head of the district or sub-division to receive not only magnates and persons of education and standing, but also headmen of villages. . . . I believe if some effort were made to bring about a change in the relations of the people with the official classes, it would prove of the greatest help in removing much of the ill-will that has recently grown up among certain classes against British rule.

In deciding to admit one or two Indians to the Viceroy's Council, and to establish outside it an Assembly of Notables, Mr. Morley is moving in the direction here pointed out, but it may be questioned whether he is not beginning rather at the wrong end. We want to establish an *entente cordiale* between the local administrator and the people whose affairs he has to manage, with the object of governing them as much as possible in accordance with their own ideas, and teaching them to look upon the British administration as their best friend under Providence; and for this purpose the regular interchange of confidences between the district officer and the local notables, down to the village headmen, as suggested in the above remarks, seems of more importance than even the voicing of Indian ideas in the higher functions of government. The commission which Mr. Morley proposes to appoint ought to keep this idea before it.

A great deal has been heard during the recent discussion of Indian affairs about the part which the spread of western education has played in the present discontent. But we cannot prevent the spread of western education in India, and we ought not to if we could. An excited Anglo-Indian declared the other day that London is the place where Indian seditious movements are hatched. Better informed people, however, believe that Indian students get into quite as much mischief in America, and Ameer Ali seems to think that Japan is quite as dangerous a place in this respect as either England or the United States. Even if we could prevent Indian students from coming to London, we cannot exclude them from Japan or America. What we can do, however, is to offer them more inducements for coming to London than going elsewhere, and to look after them while here in such a way that they will return with rational ideas as to what can be done to improve the political and social condition of their countrymen under British rule, instead of crazy notions about ejecting us "bag and baggage" and trying their own hands at running the Government.

The best antidote, however, to all such notions is that the Government, from its highest departments to its lowest, should acquire a hold upon the confidence and affection of the hundreds of millions of its subjects which will be proof against the arts of a handful of sedition-mongers; and this it will best do by keeping ever before it as the supreme aim of its policy the gradual training of India to the management of its own affairs. That is not an end to be gained in a few years; it may be the work of centuries. But on the ultimate doing of it will rest the sole justification of British rule, and it will never be done at all unless it is kept constantly in mind. The worst reproach that can be brought against our rule at present is that it has made no progress in that direction, and if it is true to-day that the gulf between rulers and ruled has perceptibly widened, this means that we are actually moving in the opposite direction. That is altogether wrong, and to that we must attribute it if we find that the progress of education brings us into hopeless conflict with the class of Indians who ought to be co-operating with us for the regeneration of their country.

THE BOY AND THE PUMP.

Wearing a Yoke, from whose twain Ends,
Both here and there, a Pail depends,
See hob-nailed Tommy Hodges stump
Important towards the Village Pump
To—as he would pronounce it—"drar"
Some Adam's Ale for his Mamma.
He reached the Spot, one Pail hung out
Upon the Pump's projecting Spout,
Then grasped the Iron Handle tight
And pumped with all his little Might.
But, try as hard as he could try,
No Water came. The Thing seemed dry.
Just then old Smockfrock passed the Place,
And, noting Tom's lugubrious Face,
Inquired: "What ails thee, eh, my Lad?
Thee looks as thee wur feelin' bad."
"It's that there Pump. 'Tis dry as Drought.
I can't a single Drop get out,
Which, if I don't," half-sobbed the Nipper,
"It means the Heel of Mammy's Slipper."
"Tut-tut," said Smockfrock, "doan't take on,
I'll make it right, my little mon."
And off he sloped to where there stand
Some Cottage Dwellings close at Hand.
Soon he returned and with him brought
A Jug of Water—p'rhaps a Quart—
Which, through the Pump's uncovered Top,
He poured in slowly Drop by Drop.
"*Now* pump, my little Lad," he cried;
And Tom the Handle seized and plied.
But lo! The Pump, that 'fore seemed dry,
Gave Water in ungrudged Supply,
Which copious from its Spout distilled
And quickly both the Buckets filled.
So Tommy scratched his puzzled Chump
And cried: "But yon's a funny Pump,
In which thee put *in* scarce a Quart
And *out* full Gallons five hast brought."
"Aye! aye!" says Smock, as off he stumps,
"For that's the Way, my Lad, with Pumps.
A Drop of Water, well applied,
Will draw from them a gushing Tide."

Moral.

The Cash that is discreetly spent
In sound, well-placed Advertisement,
Acts on a Public, coy to buy,
Like Water on a Pump that's dry,
And, drawing Customers galore,
Repays the Outlay ten times o'or.

SCRUTATOR.

BLACK AND WHITE IN THE TRANSVAAL.

I CANNOT be said ever to have gone out of my way to laud the mining magnates of the Transvaal. I never specially blamed them for making the acquisition of money their particular business, for it was for this that they betook themselves to the Transvaal, and I do not know that, in pursuit of this object, they were more or less unscrupulous than other financial and financing cosmopolitans to whom gold takes the place of country. What always surprised me, however, was that a sensible nation like ours accepted them at their own estimate, as patriots burning to extend the British Empire, and martyrs to our weakness in permitting the Boers to treat them as Helots. They understood more of money-making than of politics. Had it not been for this they would have thanked their gods that they had to do with a race like the Boers, who were not bitten with the mania of growing passing rich, and left them a pretty free hand to exploit the mineral wealth of their country. The greatest mistake that they made was to endeavour to substitute our direct rule for that of the Boers, and I take it that they have already realised that they jumped out of a very tepid frying-pan into the fire. Their dream of a mining oligarchy, subordinating everything to bringing out mines, good, bad, and indifferent, as companies in England, and subordinating everything in the Transvaal to their own interests, has been rudely dispelled.

But I see no reason why the Transvaal is to be converted into an Englishman's country. As the Boers settled there, and brought with them civilisation, I should rather say that if it is to be a white man's country, it should be deemed a Boer country. Primarily, however, I regard it rather as a black man's country than a white man's. The blacks vastly outnumber the whites, not only in the Transvaal, but in South Africa, and they cannot be said to be absolutely rude savages. Both Boers and British are intruders. Being there, it is only reasonable that they should be able to live under their own laws, and devote themselves to the businesses that brought them there, provided that the black race is in no way treated in a fashion that smacks of slavery. I am not so foolish as to urge that the blacks should become the ruling factor, nor do I believe that it would be possible to grant them even a share in the government, for the present, at least. They have not attained that civilisation that is requisite for such an experiment to prove successful. I object, however, to anything which may interfere with their natural or individual development, or to their being condemned to never rising above the level of manual labourers, working for the whites for an insignificant wage. The introduction of Chinese chattels under contract to compete with the blacks was a huge crime, which fortunately will soon cease. It would seem, however, that amongst the blacks many are to be found who might be employed in looking after the others. The mine-owners would employ them in this capacity, on economic grounds. At once the cry has been raised that this would throw

white men out of work, and to a certain extent Liberals have joined in it.

It is here that I find myself in accord with the mine-owners. I have no particular sympathy with those who have taken shares in Transvaal mines and now find themselves losers. Mines should never be regarded as a sure investment, and gold mines even less than others. Some mines return enormous profits, others none. It used to be said that every sovereign cost double its value to produce. The whole thing is a gamble, and it is precisely this gambling element that is the attraction. In the course of my life I have occasionally yielded to this temptation, and I think that I have lost more than I have gained. But I never looked on the purchase of a mining share as a permanent investment, or indeed as anything more than a bet, and if the bet proved unfortunate, I did not whimper, or deem myself an object for compassion. In the case of the Transvaal gold mines, the good ones have been almost invariably capitalised at too high a rate, or the market quotation of their shares has risen too high. A great many were worthless, for this cause or for that, as a paying proposition. Enormous fortunes had been made, by trading on the public credulity, by individuals. But it does not follow from all this that the production of gold from the earth is not a legitimate industry, and that where it can be produced at a profit, as in the Transvaal, it ought not to be so produced. One of the factors is the cost of labour. Whilst every one engaged in this labour should receive a fair salary, there should be no endeavour to grind down the natives, nor to condemn them eternally to the hard, rough labour to which convicts are condemned. If any of them can do better work, they certainly should not be excluded from it in order that white men—whether they be Britons or any other nationality—should secure that employment at a very high wage. Where white men alone can do the work, naturally employers would give the work to them. But to give it to them merely because they are white men is contrary to the most elementary ideas of business as well as of justice to the natives.

I confess, however, that I look on the question from a higher standpoint. I hold that it is our bounden duty to recognise that the Transvaal is primarily a black man's country. The blacks are in an overwhelming majority. Brought into contact with the whites, their ideas become enlarged, and they soon learn that they have rights. They will not long rest satisfied if the more intelligent amongst them are to be permanently treated as a servile race, without any hope of bettering their condition. This will lead to discontent and outbreaks on the one hand, and repression on the other; and colonies where this system prevails will be a source of danger to the Empire.

THE CONTROL OF THE PURSE-STRINGS.

Whether Mr. Gibson Bowles is at present a supporter or an opponent of the Government I do not know, but, however this may be, it is certain that he would have proved a good deal more useful as an independent financial critic in the House of Commons than the belligerent mariner who has replaced him as member for King's Lynn. He has just published a pamphlet in which he explains how public control is exercised over public expenditure, and what have been the attempts that have been of late made to free expenditure on the Army from this control, and he warns all and sundry that these attempts are not yet given up.

Every one is aware that the control of the purse by the people is the corner-stone of our liberties, and its preservation the only security that there will be no tampering with them. Few, however, really understand precisely how great and minute is that control. They have a general conviction that money cannot be raised without the consent of Parliament, and they rest satisfied with this conviction. Mr. Bowles commences by explaining how by successive improvements in our system it has become impossible for public money, when voted by Parliament, to be spent except for the purposes for which it has been voted. The first step is to obtain an Appropriation from Parliament. Estimates for the expenditure of the year, carefully made out for each department in the public service, are submitted to Parliament. These are approved separately in Committee of the whole House, and then they are passed separately by the House, in what is called Report stage. Having been thus voted, they are embodied in an Appropriation Bill, in which the amount granted to each department is separately detailed, and the money can alone be spent after the Bill has become law. But the control over the individual department, and over the Executive collectively, would not be secured were the scheme to begin and end there. Before the Estimates are submitted to Parliament, it does not rest entirely with the head of a department what his estimate is to be. He is subject to the control of the Treasury. The head of the department submits to the Treasury what he considers ought to be the estimate asked for. The Treasury—or, in this case, the Chancellor of the Exchequer acting in the name of the Treasury—takes into account the probable revenue of the year, and often cuts down the departmental demands. Thus it is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and not the head of a department, who finally judges the needs of the case, and the extent to which they can be provided for.

When the Appropriations are voted, no Minister can of himself make any change in the details of expenditure without the consent of the Treasury. There might, however, be collusion between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and one or more of his colleagues to evade control. A further system of checks has been elaborated which renders evasion almost impossible, and which is entirely independent of the action of Ministers. They consist of an Accounting Officer, the Controller and Auditor-General, and a Public Accounts Committee appointed by the House of Commons. The business of the Accounting Officer is supervisive, and it is for him to allow or disallow any expenditure that is being incurred. He points out to the official who makes the expenditure the limits and conditions outside of which no expenditure can be made. If the latter insists on making such expenditure, it is the duty of the Accounting Officer to report this to the head of the department, and then, if his view be not accepted, it can only be made by a written order from that head. The Comptroller and Auditor-General is an official who is appointed on behalf of the House of Commons to ascertain whether the payments made are supported by vouchers or proofs of payment, and whether the money

expended has been applied to the purposes for which such grant was intended to be made. The Public Accounts Committee receives a report from the Comptroller and Auditor-General in regard to any doubtful points or any irregularities which he has detected and which have not been adequately justified by the Accounting Officer. It personally examines the Accounting Officer on these points and on any others which may have escaped the Comptroller and Auditor-General, or may have been detected by the Committee itself. It then reports to the House of Commons the result of its examination, and recommends such changes in the form of the Estimates, in the methods of account keeping, in the system of expenditure, or in respect of anything else connected with the Public Accounts, as it may deem advisable, and in cases which it may deem improper as charged against the vote. Thus the chain of control is complete. The Accounting Officer renders the account. The Comptroller and Auditor ascertains that the expenditure has been duly incurred and properly applied. The Committee of Public Accounts examines and reports to Parliament. If the Accounting Officer were cut out of the chain, or if his accountability and responsibility were impaired, the chain of responsibility would be broken.

But our soldiers have sought to free themselves from this close control in regard to military expenditure, and this attempt culminated in the Report of the War Office Reconstruction Committee of 1904. After complaining that the doling out of money in compartments, with no discretion left to generals or other officers as to its allocation, is a serious evil, this Report proposed that civilian functions in regard to Army expenditure should be limited to examination of estimated cost and expenditure, criticisms on estimates, and advice tendered to the heads of the spending branches. "By these means," it continues, "the government of the Army by soldiers, which is the keystone of the policy we have laid down, will be secured. . . . The entire system of War Office expenditure, which has its origin in a distant past, is based upon the assumption that all military officers are necessarily spendthrifts, and that all their actions must be controlled by civilians." The Report, it is true, admits that there ought to be an Accounting Officer at the War Office to certify that the expenditure has been in accordance with the limitations which Parliament imposes, but, at the same time, we are told that the members of the Army Council will be responsible for expenditure within the amounts voted by Parliament, and will be subject to no controlling authority except that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If this were so, it is obvious that, so far as concerns money voted by Parliament for the Army, the control of the Accounting Officer, of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and of the Public Accounts Committee would be non-existent. General officers would be answerable to the military members of the Army Council, and the Army Council would be answerable to no controlling authority except that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The report of the Committee making these proposals was issued in three parts between January 11 and March 9, and was addressed to Mr. Balfour, with the demand that it should be formulated at once by an Order in Council, and a warning that "our scheme of reform has been conceived and elaborated as a whole, and that any interference with the principles on which it is based would necessarily destroy its benefits." Within a few months all the financial proposals were rejected by Orders in Council. Civil control, therefore, remains intact, but these financial proposals remain on record as evidence of a disposition which it may yet be necessary to resist. It is not conceivable, as Mr. Bowles says, that the present Parliament would succumb to a direct attack, but he points out that Mr. Haldane has exhibited in some of his speeches a dangerous readiness to assume that the military claim of immunity from Parliamentary control is reasonable, and should be admitted. In support of this contention, he gives an extract from a speech made by the Secretary of State for War last February to the London School of Economics. Here it is:—

> He spoke as a civilian, and he said that they would never defeat the soldier when he fixed bayonets against them on a matter of this kind. . . . They could not check him, they could not overrule him, they might inquire minutely into his estimates, and they might destroy and very probably impede things, but they would not do the work which he alone could do. There was a better method, and that was to say to him, "You shall be responsible, you shall be the economist, you shall take upon yourself the business of working out administration in its military details, you shall tell us how to make the money go furthest, and you shall have a pretty free hand in doing so." That was what they had been—he was glad to say to some extent in defiance of the traditions of red tape—trying to do this year at the War Office.

I consider that Mr. Bowles has performed a good service in raising a note of warning against all attempts—direct or indirect—to weaken the control of the taxpayer, whether by his representatives or by his officials, over the Army expenditure. We are not a military State. We may respect our soldiers without yielding to their demands. I regard our soldiers as quite as honest as our civilians. But I do not recognise the right of the one to be exempted from a financial control which is deemed expedient in regard to the other. Robbery is not the only way to get rid of money. It may be wasted through negligence or inefficiency. The only way to prevent this is by close and independent control. A good deal of time will be wasted each year in quarrelling over minor details of the service that are better understood by soldiers than by civilians. But on one thing, I think, we are pretty well all agreed. We are not going to be forced into any course by any Minister assuring us that we must yield when soldiers replace arguments by bayonets, and we are fully determined that not one iota of that civilian control over our Army which it has been the work of centuries to establish, and which culminated in Mr. Gladstone's Exchequer and Audit Act of 1866, shall be lessened.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE EDALJI CASE.

Several gentlemen interested in the Edalji case have written to me in reference to the Home Secretary's speech in Parliament on May 31, and there are at least two reasons for further notice of that speech. In the first place, the Court of Criminal Appeal Bill, if it should be passed, leaves the present jurisdiction of the Home Office over criminal sentences untouched, and Mr. Gladstone expressly recognised in his speech that when the Bill becomes law the prerogative of mercy will still be exercised through the Home Secretary.

The principles which govern the action of the Department when the prerogative is invoked, therefore, remain a matter of public concern, whatever the fate of the Bill. Secondly, it is now certain that the action of the Home Office in the Edalji case will be brought under discussion in Parliament at the earliest opportunity, and it is therefore desirable to appreciate beforehand what the Home Secretary has to say for his Department and himself in this connection. It is true that in his speech of May 31 Mr. Gladstone made no overt allusion to the case of Mr. Edalji, and at one point expressly disclaimed reference to any particular case. But it is impossible to read his speech without inferring that at several points he had this case in his mind—as, in the ordinary course of nature, he would have. My attention has been called to one passage which obviously refers to it, and seems to have been read in that sense by everybody familiar with the case who has studied the speech. As this passage relates to that portion of the case which affords the strongest ground for criticising the latest decision of the Home Office, I quote it verbatim from the *Times* report. It occurs in the course of a series of observations on the unjustifiable attitude of newspapers towards the Home Secretary:—

Even if a case was submitted to three distinguished legal authorities, what happened? Then perhaps the commissioner of a newspaper would set that aside with the cool statement that the case could not have been properly submitted, and that some material facts must have been withheld. *He spoke with knowledge on this subject, from what he knew had occurred.* All this might be excellent copy for a newspaper, but the Home Secretary was powerless. He could not reply. He could not keep the public straight. The particular newspaper had it all its own way. The case for the accused was set forth with every kind of literary and editorial garnishing; the case against him, perhaps, was not stated at all, or if it was stated it was stated only for the purpose of being knocked down. The public was deluded into the view that there was no case against the prisoner. . . .

The words which I have italicised make the reference to the Edalji case unmistakable. Mr. Gladstone is speaking from his own knowledge of a case which has been submitted to three distinguished legal authorities. The Edalji case is the only one to which this can apply, and, to clench the matter, it has been said in a newspaper that "the case could not have been properly submitted, and that some material facts have been withheld." This is practically what was said about the last Edalji inquiry in TRUTH of May 29, two days before Mr. Gladstone spoke. I rather think that something to the same effect was said by Sir Conan Doyle in the *Daily Telegraph*, but whether Mr. Gladstone had TRUTH or the *Daily Telegraph* in his mind is not material. He is repudiating the suggestion, for which I am quite prepared to accept responsibility, that the case was not fully submitted to the Wilson Committee.

In what I said on this point on May 29, I not only made the suggestion of which Mr. Gladstone complains, but I gave my reasons for it. The suggestion has reference to the anonymous letters. The Committee state that they had carefully examined the letters which were used in evidence against Mr. Edalji at the trial. Their report was that "they thought the jury must be taken to have held that Edalji was the writer of these letters, and that they themselves" (the Committee) "were not prepared to dissent from the finding at which they thought the jury arrived." Now, nobody has disputed that there are in these letters one or two features which appear in the ordinary handwriting of Mr. Edalji. Mr. Gurrin pointed them out at the trial, and Mr. Gurrin, though no more infallible than any one else, is an expert at this kind of work. But it is common knowledge that two handwritings not generally similar may here and there have features in common, and, what is of more importance, everybody can see that a person writing an anonymous letter with a mischievous motive, and disguising his hand, would be not unlikely to introduce peculiarities which might throw suspicion on somebody else. For these reasons, the features pointed out by Mr. Gurrin, and no doubt observed by the Wilson Committee, are far from conclusive as to the authorship; and their significance is reduced to a minimum when one of the letters thus attributed to the prisoner is a filthy libel addressed to himself which it is almost incredible that he could have written, and when he is able to prove by an impregnable alibi that even if he wrote it somebody else must have posted it. These observations arise on the letters as they stand, and would presumably occur to the Committee. But there is a mass of external evidence bearing on the authorship of these letters, which it is extremely doubtful whether the Committee had before them. Not only were other anonymous letters written at the time of the cattle-maiming outrage, in which Mr. Gurrin could detect no resemblance to the prisoner's writing, but at various dates extending from 1892 down to the last few weeks letters innumerable have been written to or about Mr. Edalji and his family, and to or about other people in the neighbourhood, all presenting similar characteristics, all apparently the work of, at most, two or three individuals, and reproducing peculiarities of style and penmanship found in those written at the time of the cattle-maiming outrages. That Mr. Edalji had any share in the writing of these letters is incredible, and there is not a particle of evidence to prove it, while there is internal evidence, as Sir Conan Doyle has shown, that all these letters, and the letters used against Mr. Edalji at the trial, were the work of one or two other persons, who can be identified. The contention on Mr. Edalji's behalf is that a proper scientific examination of the whole series of documents, or such as are still in existence, leads irresistibly to the conclusion that Mr. Edalji and his family have been for years persecuted by certain mischievous and depraved individuals in the neighbourhood, and that the letters used at the trial as tending to connect him with the cattle-maiming outrages were a part of this persecution. The evidence of this is so strong and clear that I do not myself believe that anybody with all the facts, and the documents, before him would judge Edalji to have written the letters used at the trial merely because the shaping of a letter here and there resembles his penmanship.

The question then is, did the Wilson Committee have all these facts and documents before them? My own information leads me to think that they did not; but

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LOWELL

apart from any information, their own language implies that they did not. There is not a word in their report on this branch of the case, not a word as to their having examined any anonymous letters but those used at the trial. Their report is rigidly confined to the letters handed to the jury, and all they say about them is that, after examining these letters themselves, they are not prepared to dissent from the finding at which they think the jury arrived. One is entitled to assume from this that the whole of the evidence which has led every non-official investigator of the case to dissent from the supposed finding of the jury on this point was not before the committee. If that assumption is wrong, it is easily rebutted. A question to the Home Secretary in the House will do it in a minute, and although Mr. Gladstone depicts so forcibly the helplessness of the Home Secretary in the face of those misleading insinuations on the part of newspapers, it will be news to me that a Minister has any difficulty in getting a question put to himself if he desires to correct any statement in the press about his department. At any rate, the question should be asked before any debate on the Edalji case takes place, and it should be so framed as to elicit precisely what anonymous letters bearing on the case were submitted to the Wilson Committee beyond those in evidence at the trial, and what assistance the Committee had from experts in making a critical examination of the writing. It is on the strength of the inability of the Committee to dissent from the supposed finding of the jury under this head that Mr. Gladstone has refused compensation to Mr. Edalji, and, while pardoning him, left him under the stigma of bringing his troubles upon himself by conduct utterly disgraceful to a professional man. The report of the Committee having been used in this way, we are entitled to know what opportunity the Committee really had of forming an opinion deserving of any respect.

A lawyer who has given me some help in this case, but is in no way professionally connected with it, writes at some length upon Mr. Gladstone's account of the Home Office method of "confidential inquiry." "In the interests of the prisoner," said Mr. Gladstone, "inquiries were continually being made which were of a confidential character, and information was given only because it was confidential." He went on to complain that the Home Office should be charged with holding a secret inquiry, insisting that the method adopted is entirely in the interest of the prisoner. My legal correspondent asks whether it is to be understood from this that this kind of confidential information is only received when it is favourable to the prisoner, and, if not, how it can possibly be in the interest of the prisoner that evidence tending to incriminate him should be invited under a pledge of secrecy by the Minister of the Crown who is considering an appeal for mercy on the ground of innocence. "Here," says the writer, "we seem to get the most damning revelation of the iniquitous procedure by which the prerogative of mercy is directed, and as the prerogative is untouched by the Bill, it behoves the House of Commons to insist upon an amendment of this procedure." I quite agree. It was pointed out in TRUTH last week that in the case of Mr. Edalji the procedure has resulted in statements being received from the police in opposition to the first petition on the prisoner's behalf, and information being refused to the prisoner's friends as to what these police statements were. We now have it authoritatively settled by the report of the Wilson Committee that the police gravely erred in the way they got up the case and presented their evidence. Does Mr. Gladstone mean to contend that a procedure which would enable the police, after such a breach of duty as this, to make confidential statements to the Home Office in support of the conviction, is a procedure designed wholly for the prisoner's benefit? It is difficult to believe that he is serious in making such a suggestion. He would have us believe that the Home Office is before all things the prisoner's friend, and that the remission of a sentence produces there a joy akin to that which arises in Heaven over the salvation of one sinner. Those who administer the prerogative of mercy should have the merciful instinct strong within them, and in a general way I dare say they have; but there is another characteristic of the Home Office which I have noticed in the Edalji case, and that is a rigid adherence to the "what I have said I have said" principle. If the Home Secretary goes so far as to say that when the Home Office has once said "No" to a petition, it still remains the prisoner's friend when the question is pressed further, either in the press or in Parliament, I join issue emphatically. After that point the Home Office is its own friend exclusively. Its first business is to defend itself, and if the pressure of public opinion becomes so strong that it has to give way, its first concern is how to save its face in doing so. That is the opinion to which I have been driven by the course of the Edalji case up to its present point.

A JUDICIAL "SAW-OFF" IN MANITOBA.

It has been said that the law is a sort of hocus-pocus science. I do not know whether this description is truer in the Province of Manitoba than elsewhere in the British Empire; but, judging from the curious termination of a recent case, the administration of the law there, if not the law itself, is characterised by a good deal of hocus-pocus. The case occurred at Winnipeg, and a local correspondent tells me that it has excited much indignant comment—a fact of which there is ample proof in the columns of two of the Winnipeg newspapers, the *Tribune* and the *Free Press*. It appears that for many months a man named George W. Wood had been running a bucket-shop in Winnipeg, enterprises of this kind flourishing in Canada even as in the City of London. Wood was eventually arrested on a charge of theft preferred against him by an Ontario man, and at the same time the Chief of Police made a further charge against him in connection with the bucket-shop business. Both charges were investigated by a magistrate and Wood was committed for trial before the High Court. Immediately after his committal, while he was out on bail, the police raided his office, and seized the whole of his books and papers, and the telegraphic instruments and other paraphernalia of the bucket-shop. Wood himself was re-arrested on yet another charge and again committed for trial.

At this juncture, when the whole affair was, of course, still *sub judice*, a paper called *The Telegram* came out with a sensational article in which Wood was denounced

as a thief and swindler, one of "America's Human Jackals," and the Attorney-General's Department was commended for its determination to put an end to these "bucket-shop thefts." Wood thereupon instituted both a prosecution for criminal libel and a civil action for damages against the editor of *The Telegram*. This journal is recognised as the organ of the present Provincial Government, and that circumstance is regarded as having had an important bearing on the course that was shortly afterwards adopted by the authorities. What seems to be known in Manitoba as "a saw-off" was arranged. A semi-official announcement was made that the Attorney-General's Department agreed to withdraw the various criminal charges against Wood on which he was awaiting his trial, while Wood, on his part, agreed to quit the country and drop the proceedings for libel which he had commenced against *The Telegram*. It was also stated that Wood's creditors in the province would be paid, and in an interview on the subject of this extraordinary arrangement the acting Attorney-General, Mr. Agnew, said that "he thought justice was satisfied and the public adequately protected by compelling the accused to make restitution to the persons he had wronged." In view of these facts it is not at all surprising that the conduct of the officials representing the Crown in the prosecution of Wood is being very severely criticised. The assumption may or may not be correct that the "saw-off," or "deal," was arranged primarily to relieve the Government newspaper from the consequence of recklessly libellous comments in reference to a case that was *sub judice*. Be that as it may, however, the abandonment of the charges against Wood, coupled with the acting Attorney-General's talk about "restitution," was a very suspicious proceeding. Wood may have had a perfectly good answer to the charges, but having been committed for trial he ought to have been brought before a judge and jury. The course taken by the Government is certainly not calculated to promote confidence in the administration of justice in Manitoba, and the official plea that "justice is satisfied" when a man charged with theft and fraud makes restitution to the persons he has wronged is decidedly startling. Would the acting Attorney-General hold that justice was satisfied by such "restitution" in the case of a burglar, like the poor wretch who, as I recently mentioned, was condemned by a Winnipeg Court to twenty years' imprisonment at Stony Mountain, the Manitoban Portland? The doctrine laid down would seem to be as sound in the one case as in the other.

THE THEATRES.

Mr. Shaw and His Betters.

Mr. Bernard Shaw is soundly trounced by "Z" in the current number of "Blackwood." Cudgelled until even his sinewy sides must ache, Mr. Shaw is driven forth, "a blue-behinded ape," into the limbo of the forest. Personally, I do not approve of the style of attack employed by "Z." Nor do I think that "Z" gives Mr. Shaw credit for his astonishing cleverness. After the first performance of "Man and Superman," I was almost alone in pointing out that Mr. Shaw owed an immense debt to Nietzsche, whose style and thought he had alike borrowed. "Z" now makes a point of this, but in his haste to damn Shaw, includes also the æsthetic German philosopher in his condemnation. This, I think, shows just the lack of balance of which he accuses Shaw. "To see life steadily and see it whole," is given to very few. Nietzsche was not one of those, but he certainly saw very much further than either "Z" or Mr. Bernard Shaw.

But I can pardon "Z" the indiscretion of his remarks about other writers in his desire to find bludgeons wherewith to slay Mr. Shaw. I can pardon him for the reason that it appears Mr. Shaw has been speaking irrespectfully about the Elizabethans. I must boast, gentle reader, of having realised at an early hour that Mr. Shaw had nothing new or true to tell me about the drama or about literature. Therefore, I did not read the unspeakable nonsense, which I gather from "Z's" quotations he has penned about Shakespeare and the great Elizabethans: Marlowe, Decker, Webster, Ford, and Massinger. I knew that Mr. Shaw had said disrespectful things about Shakespeare and others, but I always imagined that everybody saw that this was only one of Mr. Shaw's monkey-tricks. I have repeatedly given Mr. Shaw a handful of nuts in these columns, and do not regret it, for I maintain that he is a capital entertainer. He danced, perhaps, better when he was hungry, but that is generally the case with his tribe. Mr. Shaw is unworthy to lick the dust from the shoes of the lesser of the Elizabethans. I feel, as I write it, that this is a mere commonplace, yet I should doubtless have written it long ago, if "Z's" contention be true that there are some people foolish enough to believe in Mr. Shaw. Give him a red flannel jacket and plenty of nuts, and he will amuse us for some time yet. But to compare such a person with our great poets is too ludicrous.

This was clearly enough demonstrated for those who may not have previously recognised the fact by the performance of Mr. Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell" and "The Man of Destiny" at the Court Theatre last week. The former is a part of the play, "Man and Superman," which contains some most amusing scenes, and is probably, with "John Bull's Other Island," the best that Mr. Shaw has to give. The wisdom of the excision of "Don Juan in Hell" from "Man and Superman" was apparent last week. As a matter of fact, it is an enormous lump of undigested theology and of other people's criticism of the Bible, mingled with blasphemy, and, as usual, strewn with plenty of Neitzsche's aphorisms.

Don Juan, Dona Ana de Ulloa, the Statue of the Commander, and the Devil are throughout this interminable dialogue seated in a semicircle in Hell. In passing I must pay genuine ocular tribute to the beautiful effect obtained by the darkness of the stage, against which stood out the players in their picturesque costumes. The contemplation of Miss Lillah McCarthy in her pinkish crinoline, with its black lace adornments, her mittened hands outstretched upon skirts like a balloon, alone served to fill the eye and to kill tedium

Notice.—The Britannia Hygienic Laundry Co. have opened a West End branch at 306, Vauxhall Bridge-road, South Belgravia. High-class work. *Flannels specially treated.*

for a time. Mr. Granville Barker should have been the Don Juan, if it were absolutely necessary to produce the play, but possibly his instinct for what is effective on the stage was the cause of his not appearing, either in this part or in that of the Devil, which also he might have filled. I feel the danger of wearying the reader with a recapitulation of the reams of other people's remarks poured forth in rotation by the Devil, Don Juan, and the Commander. In the latter alone was there anything really humorous, and Mr. Michael Sherbrooke scored now and then a genuine point with the unhappy audience, doomed to two hours in Mr. Shaw's Hell. Mr. Shaw repeatedly rings the changes on the time-worn joke about the dulness of heaven, but if hell were to consist of ratiocinative Shaws, as did the Court Theatre, personally I should prefer "hymns and a damp cloud." Almost all was Shaw, reciting other men's thoughts. There was no real attempt at characterisation, save in the Commander, to whom I have given his due. Don Juan spoke in just the way Don Juan Tenorio would never have spoken; but it is simply vain to point out the countless absurdities of the piece from any point of view. The dulness of the dialogue was enlivened with jokes about Dante having been weak and contemptible enough to fall in love with Beatrice, about the length of "Paradise Lost," which, Mr. Shaw thinks, has never been read to the end by any one. (It is rather a short poem, considering its theme and scope.) Such wit is of the kind that a clever young undergraduate at the University might evolve to amuse his callow contemporaries. Mr. Shaw is essentially an uncultivated person, to whom all literature—or, indeed, original thought of any kind—comes as something new, as a great surprise to be announced by Shaw to an ignorant world. Thus we have the *disjecta membra* of the consulting-room in "The Doctor's Dilemma," the crude blasphemy of all that is great in theology and literature of "Don Juan in Hell," and lastly, the absurdities of the piece which concluded the afternoon's tedium at the Court Theatre. Mr. Shaw is doubtless aware that something is known about Napoleon, and so, in "The Man of Destiny," solely in order to astonish us, he makes of the Bonaparte of Arcola and Lodi a vacillating rhetorician, ready to waste any amount of his time in arguing with an imbecile and impertinent lieutenant, gulled to the top of his bent by an Austrian female spy. Bonaparte would have had the despatches seized in about two minutes from the time he knew of their hiding-place on the young woman's person; and as for the imbecile youth who had originally been fooled out of them, he would not have hesitated to have him put under arrest, and most probably shot at once, if not for incompetence, then for impertinence. As dull as ditchwater, wrong from every point of view, is "The Man of Destiny." To judge from his own utterances, Mr. Shaw appears to be absolutely without respect or admiration for anything human or divine. That is not, I think, an enviable characteristic, and excuses, I trust, the unwonted asperity of the above remarks.

The *Times*, I observe, compares Mr. Shaw to the common daisy (Bellis perennis). I should be inclined rather to liken him to the stinkweed (Datura stramonium), fortunately not so frequently met with as the other plant.

"THE MERRY WIDOW," AT DALY'S THEATRE.

My dissertation upon the dulness of Shaw has left me little space for lucubration upon the brilliant performance of Saturday night at Daly's. Yet I think that I can say all that is necessary to inspire my readers with a desire to see for themselves, which I hope may be effectual.

"The Merry Widow" comes to us with a cosmopolitan tradition. Sprung originally from the brains of Meilhac and Halévy, and called "L'Attaché"—a fact which seems generally to have been ignored—the merry widow may claim to be really a Parisian in disguise. But she early crossed the Austrian frontier and found a lover to drape her in the glories of opera. For the gorgeous robe she trails has in it as many musical embroideries of cloth of gold and silver as the robes of Miss Lily Elsie, the merry widow, Sonia. So it was as "Die Lustige Witwe" that the play made its fortune, for the original comedy had no great vogue. Over the English version there has been spilt much ink, at any rate, and I understand that the libretto as we heard it on Saturday evening is the work of Captain Basil Hood. This, it must be granted, is not a matter of grave importance, for although the witticisms would seem most lurid, especially when we are with the "sulphurous" ladies at Maxim's, yet they do not rise much above the level of that epithet and the geographical situation with which one connects it mentally. No, it is rather in the music, the song, and the dance that one finds satisfaction. Miss Elsie's singing of the lyric "Vilia," well versified by Mr. Adrian Ross, so far as I could hear in the absence of a book of the words, is in itself worth going to Daly's to hear, and when she dances with Prince Danilo to the lulling fascination of that waltz which one has heard for some time at all the restaurants, but now for the first time in its setting, then is all said, without need of words. Her "Silly Cavalier" song, and the graceful abandon of her appearances show the wisdom of her transference from the Gaiety.

The battalions of surrounding beauty were led by Miss Nina Sevening, who did well as the wife of Mr. Fred Kaye, and one of the amourettes which are laughingly woven around Prince Danilo, the much-desired. Mr. Joseph Coyne will doubtless develop the comic possibilities of this part, for it will be as well to let those of more serious import go by the board, and I look forward to seeing him soon again surrounded with the group of ladies from Maxim's, who strive so captivatingly to divert him from the widow. Mr. George Graves, as the Marsovian ambassador, determined to save the Marsovian finances by the Prince's marriage with the rich widow, has already (and we know how parts sprout in his hands) many good lines born of the British stage. In Mr. Fred Kaye, a born humorist, and in Mr. W. H. Berry, a humorist born (chronologically) a little later, he has a pair of most efficient adjutants. The operatic triumph of the evening owed much to the voice of Mr. Robert Evett, who is able to make musical love with the best of them, and sings his song, "If I might go with you," so as to leave little doubt that he would succeed in going where he wished.

The play will be the better of compression. It is

full of good things, and only needs Mr. George Edwardes to go round with a pair of pruning-scissors and a rake to remove superabundant vegetation. The dresses, that feminine vegetation, pruned in the upper branches, are beyond masculine pen, but I revelled in the cloth of gold and silver of Miss Elsie. The scenery of the grounds of Sonia's house is a triumph for Mr. Joseph Harker, and Mr. George Edwardes had an all-round triumph to himself on Saturday night.

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At the St. James's Theatre to-morrow (Thursday) Miss Fanny Coleman will be given a complimentary benefit matinée on the completion of her fiftieth year of professional work. It may be hoped that there will be a crowded house to show the esteem in which this well-known actress is held. The programme is a very attractive one, and among the artists who have consented to appear are Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, Mr. John Hare, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. Lewis Waller, Miss Marie Tempest, and Mr. Hayden Coffin.

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The Balkan States Exhibition at Earl's Court offers an attractive lounge for those who are fortunate enough not to be engaged at any of the countless other entertainments, public and private, which make June in London so like a flood in a river. Especially in the evening is it agreeable to wander among the coloured lights, and, if of an inquiring turn of mind, to visit one or other of the countless side-shows provided by an enterprising management. The Pigmies are still to be seen, but soon will depart for their Congo forest. I suppose they have not a drop of blood in common with any European. They seemed quite alert and capable of defending themselves among their forests with their bows and arrows, which they have a habit of handling as one examines them. They are without any sort of written language or any records, and verily belong to the night of the world. It is a curious sensation to pass from their presence into the glare of the modern life which throngs the Exhibition at this season. "Old Japan" with its theatre of fan-makers and many other industries, the stalactite cave, and the aerial emotions of various sorts, dear to the youthful mind and body, serve to fill an afternoon or evening here very pleasantly.

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Let me recommend such of my readers as have not seen Mr. Henri de Vries play the many characters in "A Case of Arson" (which long since I described in these columns) to be in time for the first piece at the Haymarket Theatre. It is well worth while.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Turf-Tipster's Catechism.

(For the Instruction of Novices in the Profession.)

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A Turf-Tipster.

Q.: What is a Turf-Tipster?

A.: A public-spirited philanthropist who, possessing valuable and exclusive information in the shape of stable secrets, does not selfishly make his fortune out of it by keeping it to himself, but retails it to all and sundry, at a merely nominal fee, for the good of the community.

Q.: How do you acquire your valuable and exclusive information?

A.: By the unique opportunities which I derive from the intimate friendship of all the leading owners, trainers, and jockeys on the Turf.

Q.: Where did you make friends with these distinguished and useful persons?

A.: In the recesses of my own lively imagination.

Q.: Where do you continue to cultivate it?

A.: In the advertisement columns of the Sporting Press.

Q.: What is a dead cert.?

A.: My special one-horse wire for any given race—beforehand.

Q.: What is a subject for discreet silence?

A.: The same special one-horse wire—afterwards.

Q.: What is a client?

A.: A confiding and ignorant speculator to whom I tip winners, on the usual terms.

Q.: What are the usual terms?

A.: They are of two kinds, comprising either the payment of a fixed cash fee beforehand, or an agreement with my client that he shall invest a modest sum, for my benefit, on the animals which I tip him.

Q.: Which of these two methods is your favourite?

A.: I am not particular. Any method that transfers money from my clients' pockets to my own is acceptable to me. But on the whole I incline towards the latter method.

Q.: Why so?

A.: Because it possesses the double advantage of impressing my clients with my bona fides in thus making my reward contingent on the success of my tip; while, at the same time, it insures me a pecuniary return equally certain and no less lucrative.

Q.: How is it possible to convert a mere contingency into a certainty?

A.: By a judicious application of the elementary principle that of all the horses running in a race one, at least, must come in first.

Q.: Explain your answer more particularly.

A.: I will. Assume that there are ten horses in a race, and that I have undertaken to tip the winner to two hundred clients. I tip every horse in the entry, each to a different set of twenty clients, and so make sure, in twenty cases, of landing the odds that have been invested for my benefit.

Q.: Have you any other ingenious method for impressing clients with your sagacity?

A.: Yes. I run a little periodical of my own, entitled "The Backer's Bradshaw."

Q.: What do you charge for this periodical?

A.: I charge nothing at all for it. I send it out broadcast, through the post, to every potential client whose address I can get hold of.

Q.: What are the contents of your periodical?

A.: They consist chiefly of (1) a list of the extraordinary number of winners I have tipped during the preceding month, with a carefully calculated return proving how every client who has followed me during that period must have made the sum of £285 15s. on an original capital of 10s. 6d., and (2) a detailed forecast of the names of horses which I prophesy will win at various race-meetings fixed for the day after the issue of my periodical.

Q.: Are these forecasts always correct?

A.: They are, in every case, correct.

Q.: When you send out copies of the paper containing these forecasts, do you not often find the postal authorities very dilatory in despatching them?

"Truth" writes:—"I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr. Lunn's Excursions." Tours to Switzerland, Norway Cruises.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh Gardens, N.W.

A.: I always find them exceedingly dilatory.

Q.: Quote me a proof of this.

A.: The fact that whereas the date of the paper's issue, and therefore, of course, of its despatch, is the day before the race-meetings in question, it invariably happens that the date of the postmark is the day after them.

Q.: What do you do when your clients call your attention to this?

A.: I naturally inform them that I cannot be held responsible for the vagaries of the Post Office.

Q.: How long are you able to retain the confidence of your clients?

A.: With any luck, for about six months.

Q.: What happens at the expiration of that period?

A.: I change my name and address, and get to work on a fresh circle of mugs.

Q.: Are all your clients mugs?

A.: Certainly they are, otherwise they would not be my clients.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF DENMARK.

THE King of Denmark will find himself, on his visit to France, treated as a sea king. He is to be spared the military review, but will witness a naval one in his honour at Cherbourg. His honorary staff will embrace three naval officers, including Vice-Admiral Caillard—a great-nephew, by the way, of Eugène Sue, the author of "Le Juif Errant" and "Les Mystères de Paris," novels that have still hundreds of thousands of readers as feuilletons of democratic papers. The military staff will be less *distingué*, its highest member being a brigadier-general, and its second and lowest Major Hepp, who belongs to the staff of President Fallières. The Danish colonies in the West Indies and the unfrozen parts of Greenland are so insignificant that King Frederick's navy—a highly respectable force, regard it as one may—is mainly wanted for coastguard defence, and that of the Belts and Sound.

The late King, before the breakdown of Russia, was constantly at variance with his Folkething (Chamber of Deputies) about naval and forts defences. He always ended by having his own way, through the exercise of the Royal prerogative the Constitution left him. The Folkething thought more seriously about immediate taxation than of the remote danger, as it seemed to them, of a second German invasion. In the bottom of their hearts they trusted more to what Russia and other Powers could do for them than to any self-defensive armour, military or naval, that Denmark could put on. Count Raben Levetsau comes with the King as Foreign Minister, and the Countess, his wife, with the Queen. The Count is a man of the world, of easy, obliging, and very gentlemanly manners, and his conversation reveals a sound judgment and a talent for putting complex questions in nutshells without any dryness. He chats agreeably. The care of his estate in one of the main islands in the Great Belt gives him a permanent interest in agriculture, dairy and poultry farming. His interest in yachting and fishing, owing to the extended seaboard of his property, is not less great.

The Countess Raben Levetsau, *née* Moulton, was brought up in the Rue de Courcelles and at Le Val, Seine et Marne, and is sister-in-law of that Countess von Hatzfeldt who was a good many years ago German Ambassadress in London. She is also daughter of Mme. Hagermann Lindencrone, whose present husband—her first husband was a Mr. Moulton, an American—had, when she moved in Parisian society, the prestige of a glorious contralto voice, of equally glorious dark eyes, and of a pale, clear, brunette complexion that matched them beautifully. The Countess Raben Levetsau is in many respects cosmopolitan, and is able to chat with ease and charm in nearly every modern language that can boast of a good literature. She claims that distinction for the Danish. In all respects she is well set-up, is very much herself, without any striking originality, *aime mieux être que paraître*, is *très philosophe sans s'en douter*, *très artiste sans s'y prétendre*, understands how with a mere nothing to give condiment to a plain toilette, and may be said to have completely adapted herself to the tone of the Court of Copenhagen. She is very fond of Denmark and of the quiet but interesting life she leads there, delighting in the pearl-greys of the waters on the Great Belt, and the sky and clouds they reflect, in the flashing silver white of the sea-gulls, and the air of peace which the beeches kissing the sea-water give to the coast. Nor, as a mistress of a large country house, is she unappreciative of the sea-gulls' eggs. They are as highly esteemed in Denmark as plovers' eggs are in England. I imagine that the fresh, bracing air of the Great Belt and the other waters that wash the Danish coasts must to some extent account for this.

Queen Lovisa's (I give the Scandinavian spelling) Beauharnais descent is recalled by the additional names of Eugénie Josephine. Some of the papers speak of these names being given her by the late Emperor Napoleon and the Empress Eugénie. To say so is to libel her late father, who very soon took the measure of both and of their "Vice-Empereur Rouher," whom he thought the dullest dog the French bourgeoisie perhaps ever produced. The Queen of Denmark received her names before the perpetration of the Coup d'Etat which made Louis Napoleon an Emperor. Her first name is that of her mother, her second that of her aunt on the paternal side, the much-loved Princess Eugénie, and her third name is that of Queen Josephine, *née* Beauharnais-Leuchtenberg, and wife of Oscar I.

Soon after the Coup d'Etat had resurrected the French Empire the Emperor proposed for the Princess Eugénie, alleging his admiration for her "person and character and his affection for the family of his grandmother and her great-grandmother, the Empress Josephine." She refused, as being too repugnant to her sentiments, the idea of marrying a man red-handed from the blood spilt on the boulevards in December in the preceding year. Not to offend him, she professed too great love for Sweden to be able to quit it permanently. That she loved Sweden with all her heart was true. She had every grace and accomplishment and saintliness besides. On inheriting the diamonds of her aunt, the Empress Dowager of Brazil, she sold them to build the orphanage called after her on the road from Stockholm to Drottningholm.

Queen Josephine transmitted to her children the Creole suavity for which her grandmother and god-

mother was so remarkable. The Princess Eugénie had it in the highest degree. Next to her came her eldest brother, the most seductive Sovereign of his time, and, finally, the present King, who has also great charm of manner, but not the kind that steals on one and captivates without any apparent wish to do so. The only member of the third generation of Bernadottes who shows this power to captivate is Prince Eugène. It is entirely wanting in the fourth generation, to which the Duke of Scania belongs. No doubt they have compensating qualities.

Why do people keep "golden weddings"? The silver wedding ought in reason to be enough. I never witnessed a golden wedding, save one, that did not chill me. The exception was that of a M. Boisdemoulin, brother of the Waterloo veteran, Colonel Boisdemoulin, who wrote a book with the taking title, "La Guerre s'en va," the most telling of any that I ever read on the same subject, but doomed to neglect and oblivion because written too soon. Well, the brother imagined that he had discovered a *fontaine de jouvence* in the guise of an elixir, with which he hoped to add to his fortune. The *tout-Paris* of the time attended the religious service. That of King Oscar and Queen Sophia must have been a sad anniversary, and I dare say they felt it so, inasmuch as they wished it to be as private as possible. The Swedes are too fond of festivity to obey their wish to the letter, and I dare say that they found in the date an opportunity for pleasure parties, lake excursions, concerts, and merry-making in restaurants and at Hasselbacker's circus. Stockholm is the most beautiful city in situation, and in every other way between itself and Venice. It is as rich in churches with high belfries as no matter what Dutch city. The belfries have bells of a deliciously clear timbre. They all rang out joyous chimes on the Golden Wedding Day. In the clear air of the Swedish capital the effect must have been intoxicating, except, perhaps, to the Royal family. Oscar II. is now seventy-eight. He has been for three or four years suffering from an illness that comes in "strokes." Each was heavier than the preceding one, and only a phenomenally good constitution could have rallied so often. On the eve of the great day the Crown Prince surrendered the powers that he had received as Regent, his father wanting to attend as King a religious service and receive some deputations and personal friends. He held himself erect, and those eyes of his like coals of fire flashed under the effect of passing excitement. The only trace of his different illnesses was in a slight looseness of one side of the mouth, which, however, the moustache partially concealed. It gave him lively pleasure to receive congratulations from the French Foreign Office, the Elysée, Pau, "the cradle of his family," members of the Academy, and French naval officers known to him and treated by him in their personal relations as brother seamen. The more he advanced in life the fonder he became of France. Four or five years ago he fitted up for himself a *pied à terre* in the house in which the Swedo-Norwegian Legation was then lodged, and he hoped often to stay there. The attention paid him by M. Pichon in calling on the Golden Wedding Day on the Swedish Minister to offer congratulations must have touched the King. The Danish Government decorated the port and public buildings of Copenhagen in honour of Queen Louise's uncle, and Norway showed every inclination to shake hands and be friends. I have not heard what they did at Carlsruhe or Luxemburg. The Crown Princess of Sweden, whose health is, and has been for years, chronically delicate, is the only daughter of the Grand Duke and Duchess of Baden. The Grand Duke of Luxemburg is Queen Sophia's nephew, but is a hopeless invalid made speechless by paralysis.

Miss Olga Nethersole and her company have come at the right time. The end of "la grande saison," the season that begins at Easter and ends in mid-June, is near. Paris is congested with idlers rich enough to spend money in amusing themselves. While awaiting the next royal visit and its attendant fêtes and the Grand Prix race, they fill the Sarah Bernhardt theatre, where Miss Olga Nethersole plays in English adaptations of French plays. The English and Americans admire her and are hardly conscious of the disadvantage under which she lies in giving Daudet and Dumas fils in British attire. I mean the disadvantage in the eyes of Parisian critics and playgoers.

The French are extremely bigoted as to their dramatic theories and practice. They think the plays now acted at the Sarah Bernhardt theatre "good for amateurs." "L'amateur" has in things comestible a special palate. Dishes *à haut goût* are to his taste. Otter or badger *à la royale* was invented for him. I knew of an amateur who revelled in dolphin stewed in port in the oven and then "smothered" in a bouillabaisse sauce—the most delicious sauce of all, the wealthy Marseillais who dine often at La Réserve will tell you. In London or New York Miss Olga Nethersole's simulations of passion would not be thought too unreserved—too much intended to fill the stage by the force and fire of action. We like here *couleurs rompues, bleus lavés, rose passé, lilas effacé, jaune vieil, or, rouges ombrés*, and have relegated the frank colours to the theatrical and fancy ball costumier.

Miss Olga Nethersole follows nature perhaps too closely to give complete satisfaction to critics who simply look on nature in dramatic art as a starting point, or the raw material for the artist. They may be right or they may be wrong, but for the time being they are what they are. They also like to be led or ensnared unknown to themselves into admiring, and not forced unless well disposed to surrender. Given the realistic style, Miss Olga Nethersole is judged worthy to fill the situation of a star, and is certainly an actress of talent, and has great power of expression.

Some of Miss Nethersole's effects remind me of those of the late Mlle. Croizette in "Le Sphinx," a play now as old as Queen Anne, "L'Etrangère," and "La Princesse de Bagdad." You may perhaps remember that Mlle. Croizette, not being able to find a human being disposed to commit suicide with strychnine for her sake, went to some laboratory for "scientific research" to see a baboon poisoned with that drug. She also received a course of lessons from an operator *in corpore vili* on the throes she proposed to simulate in the suicidal scene. With the help of limelight passing through a pale green medium, her ghastliness and convulsive

agony horrified the audience. There was no finer woman on the French stage than Mlle. Croizette at that time. She controlled the great fortune which the late Baron Stern had made in Italians, and she used to take airings on the sands near Tréport mounted on a well-known park hack of the late Duc d'Aumale. Her intense realism, therefore, made a noise, and led to endless disputes at dinner tables and among the theatrical critics. Those who held that sketchy indication of corporeal pain or of the physical effects of passion is preferable to the minutiæ of realism, came out of the controversy victorious. Their view should be taken in relation to French taste and traditions, just as the Dutch school of painting should be greatly judged in relation to the climate and conditions of life that govern in the Netherlands, or the Italian school to those of Italy, which lay down a totally different æsthetic standard.

We do not want here to see all the phases—the beginning, middle, and end—of a nervous attack. It is enough to throw out a suggestion and pass on, leaving the spectator to imagine more than meets the eyes. Having a thin skin, we prefer delicate to strong impressions, and are keenly appreciative of the graces that steal on one. I do not say that London, New York, or Chicago have the same standards. These cities are feverishly active business centres. The men there go to the play, not to think out social problems or to give the rein to the imagination, but to hear, to see, to be carried along, and, in short, to be amused or well stirred up. They are mentally fatigued after a day spent at high tension in business. It may be said that in such a state imagination is torpid, and that the one thing needful is a pick-me-up in the way of stage impressionism or sensationalism. The British public does not set up to be imaginative. It rather prides itself on being matter-of-fact. I came away with this impression from witnessing in London the success of a very great actor, Wyndham, in "David Garrick." He, to my Parisianised taste, terribly overdid drunken effects, and spent too long a time in reeling about and talking incoherently. Certainly, in Garrick's time the fine gentleman was too often a hard after-dinner drinker. Still, as one does not go to the theatre to judge of the erudition of an author, it might have been better not to emphasise the inebriety that reigned in the days of Garrick. The scene I speak of, however finely played by Wyndham, could have only excited repulsion on the boards of the Vaudeville, Porte St. Martin, or Variétés, and could not have been attempted at the Français.

Likewise, in playing "Sapho," Miss Olga Nethersole has been admired, but with many reserves. French playgoers hardly see the use of mining deep down into the life of a second or a third rate cocotte. Jane Hading only took into account the outcrop features. They were quite enough. She often conveyed with little touches much more than met the eye or ear. Her knowledge of *la fille* was not the result of study, but of early and scarcely conscious observation. She was an *enfant de la balle*, and had often strange associates in early youth. Her by-play had the wild spontaneous grace of field flowers. The touch-and-go manner sufficed in her personation of Sapho for those who had kept company with damsels like her, and was more than enough for those who had not. Jane Hading's motions, so feline in their ease, her heady beauty, though a little jaded, explained much more than the author Daudet dared to put in words. She was not a Mme. Potiphar, but a Phédre in modern Bohemian life—a pantheress in woman's form, following the bent of the lower instincts. The body as Mme. Hading plays the part is weak and the spirit not merely weak, but non-existent as a curb. Jane Hading, an *enfant de la balle*, drew, at the rehearsals under Daudet's eye, on her recollections of the queer associates of her youth. He, moved by joy and enthusiasm at her free treatment of the part, embraced her each time she withdrew into the wings. It sometimes is as great an advantage to have kept bad company as to have no character to lose. But say that to a London or a New York audience! How own before such a house in one's by-play that the dear companions of one's youth were social outcasts?

A PEER AMONG THE PUBLICISTS.

IT is rather a curious thing that, although I have been a journalist for quite a time now, I never met another to speak to, that I can remember—except, of course, people who wanted to interview Jessie—but you, and I scarcely look upon you as one, until last Thursday. I shouldn't have then, if it hadn't been for a letter I got that morning. It was one sent to me at your office, and that your people forwarded to me, and it was in a cheap plain envelope, so that it looked like a bill, and I wasn't going to open it at first, merely as a matter of habit, until Jessie reminded me that none of my creditors know that I have anything to do with you, so they wouldn't be likely to send letters to Carteret-street. It turned out to be something very different, from a man who owns several newspapers—I didn't know his name, though I dare say you would—asking me to call at his place, as he wanted to make a proposition to me. I was going to chuck it into the fire, but Jessie got quite excited about it, and said I certainly must go and see him. She was sure he was going to offer to make me editor of something, and although she didn't think I should be any good as an editor, if I got the offer I should have an excellent lever against you to make you pay me better for these articles. When she put it in that way, I saw at once that she was right—as she always is—so I went straight off to see the chap at the time he mentioned.

Judging from the offices he's got he must be no end of a swell in the newspaper line, and the way he talked showed that he had a thoroughly good opinion of himself, and rather put my back up. He began right off by cross-examining me about how much experience I had in journalism, until I hinted that, as far as I knew, it was no business of his, and that I wasn't accustomed to being talked to in that way by a commoner. I quite admit it was pretty low down on my part, but after all it wasn't as if I had come to ask him for a job, and there are some sort of men who regularly invite that sort of thing. Any way, it fairly made him grovel, and afterwards he came straight to the point. It seems he is running a ha'penny fashion-paper, called "Society Sniplets," which, as far as I can make out, isn't paying, though, of course, he did not say so. He was thinking of incorporating it into a new paper that was to be as nearly as possible an exact copy of Truth, only it was to be a Tariff Reform organ, and to keep the fashion notes more down to the level of that sort of public. He already runs one, on the same lines, that backs up the Liberals and Free Trade, and all the rest of it, and now he wants to catch the other side as well. He didn't want his own name to be brought in as having anything to do with it, the idea being that I should pretend to be the proprietor as well as editor. He wanted me to

run it under my real name and title, and have my coat of arms and coronet, and all the rest of it, on the cover, and wherever else it could be brought in. He offered me no end of a big salary, and said there would be little or no work for me to do—only to write an article about the fashions each week and act as figure-head, while he would get some one with more experience for a couple of pounds a week or so to do the rest. This sort of thing put my back up more and more; but I kept my face, because the salary was rather a temptation for one thing, and I felt it wouldn't be fair to dear Jessie to refuse it without talking it over with her first. But when he went on to say that he could only offer me the job on one condition, that I got the whole of the rest of the staff of Truth to come over with me, and wanted to discuss what was the least I could get them for, I thought it was getting a bit thick, so I told him I'd see him damned first, and came away. Because, of course, I knew it wouldn't be the slightest good my trying.

Some of the things he told me while we were talking gave me quite a new idea of journalism. When I say he told me, I mean that he just let them drop incidentally, as if they were so perfectly well understood that there was no need even to mention them. For one thing, he made out that no journalist nowadays cares in the least what opinion he personally holds about anything, but writes just what his proprietor tells him to. For instance, he mentioned one man, who is quite a well known writer on religious papers, who is a notorious atheist. And he said, too, that he—the man I was talking to, I mean—makes a practice of shifting the whole staff of one of his Tariff Reform papers on to one of his Radical ones, and vice versâ, every six months or so, because it makes them more quick-witted and keeps them from getting hide-bound. It seems, too, that whenever there is any big political question on, like Home Rule, or Tariff Reform, he always takes care to have two papers, one on each side, and as nearly alike in everything else as possible—because then he can catch all the readers whatever they think about it. He makes them attack each other no end, accuse each other of downright lying, and all the rest of it, because it makes everybody buy them both.

Somehow he got on the subject of advertisements, and incidentally he said that you were a fool because you refuse advertisements that aren't straight, although you've only got one paper. It was different, I understood him to say, if a man has several, because then he can run one on virtuous lines and get the kudos out of that, while all the while he can accept the swindling advertisements, which it seems always pay higher rates, for one of his other papers. As far as I could make out, the whole thing is worked on a regular system—the cheaper the price of the paper the bigger the swindles that you can afford to accept advertisements from, because the people who read them aren't so well educated, and are much more easily taken in. And quite the best sort of paper from this point of view is the cheapest kind of religious weekly, because its readers will swallow anything. He had had some idea of turning "Society Sniplets" into a farthing religious weekly, and keeping the same staff, at reduced salaries, but he had decided it would be better to start an entirely new one at a farthing. All the same, he wanted "The Eternal Verities," which he was thinking of as the title of the paper he was going to start for me, to have a strong religious tone, and he hinted that if I could see my way to become an eminent High Churchman, and go about speaking on platforms and abusing the Nonconformists, he wouldn't mind adding a hundred or two extra to my salary.

He hadn't finally fixed the price he was going to charge for it, and he had some idea of having two editions of it every week, one at sixpence and the other at a halfpenny, so as to get both sorts of circulations. He would have the letterpress the same in both, but with different advertisements, of course. He said I should have to make my fashion article a good deal more spicy than you have them in Truth, and keep on hinting at all sorts of scandals in society, and have weekly articles about such subjects as "What It Feels Like to be a Real Lady," or "How I Spend £10,000 a Year on Corsets," because that sort of thing goes down in the cheaper suburbs and among general servants, who are the sort of people his advertisement manager would want to get hold of. He said I needn't worry about the exact truth of what I published, as long as it wasn't legally libellous, if only it was sensational enough—and if anybody kicked I was to throw their letters into the waste-paper basket and never refer to the subject again. I was especially to remember this about the political articles, because the people who read them were not likely to read papers on the other side, and so even if the facts were contradicted none of my readers would know. One thing he insisted upon very strongly, that I must never mention any of a certain list of highly-placed people that he would supply me with, as being fashionable or in society, while he would give me another list every week of people that he wanted puffed up. I was telling Jessie about this afterwards, and she declares the explanation must be that he, or his wife if he has one, must be trying to get into society, and that the people he doesn't want mentioned are those that don't receive him. But I don't myself think there can be much in this, because he is much too clever a man to imagine that anybody would feel hurt by being boycotted by such a paper as that was going to be.

Of course, Jessie and I have been talking the whole thing over a good deal ever since, and she wants me to add that, although I have refused the fellow's offer so far, it is quite likely that it will be made again, either by him or by some other chap, very probably with an even bigger salary hung on to it. And that, of course, a man, whether peer or commoner, has to consider his wife's interests, and those of possible other responsibilities, and that there is no doubt that my articles are very clever and original, because all her friends tell her so who know that I write them; and that there are lots of men who aren't doing nearly such good work who get ever so much better paid for it than I do. (*Private.*—You needn't worry about this, but since dear Jessie has promised my mother to retire from the stage, she is feeling a little worried about the future, and it is quite right that she should keep her eyes open to the main chance. What?)

I must say that after what that fellow told me I am beginning to realise that journalism isn't nearly such an easy profession to understand as I thought it was at first—in fact, the writing seems the least part of it. And Jessie thinks so too.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE purpose of the Suffragettes, dear Lady Betty, may be described in a few words; for ages the world has been governed by old men; it is proposed to govern it now by old women.

. . . . .

A Colonial Premier has described his recent experiences of London "society" in the following epigram:—"Most of our hosts and hostesses asked us, whom they did not know, as an excuse for asking those who would not know them."

. . . . .

He has also recorded his impression of the situation here as follows:—"This is the period of the Financial Conquest of England; the aliens are in possession of the money. Interest is the only capital left to the 'Governing Class'; they are selling it to the conquerors."

. . . . .

His estimate of our "Imperialism" is frankly expressed:—"In England 'Imperialism' begins at home; were there no home politics in that country there would be no 'Imperialism.'"

* * * * *

There are two disorders that are affecting the condition of the "Upper-Class" in Great Britain; incipient insanity and incipient sanity—the latter is the more serious. So long as most of the members of the "Governing Class" here were convinced that they were

a superior creation, that the Divine Right of birth was unquestionable, that a Public-School education was unrivalled, and that the best form of intelligence was confined to themselves, their self-confidence was almost irresistible. Being afflicted with incipient sanity they are now beginning to perceive how irrational are their claims, and their own inefficiency—and the alteration renders them almost powerless. In politics they prefer to be led by a political "upstart," having more confidence in his judgment and fighting vitality than in the intelligence of a member of their own class. In business they defer meekly to almost every financier they encounter. Even on the Turf they are inclined to submit without hesitation to the guidance of the merest adventurer. Chronic self-sufficiency is being replaced by chronic diffidence; so rapid and complete a change has never occurred before in a combination which handled all the strings of power and enjoyed the respect of a community.

"Would that my father had been a successful bookmaker instead of the improvident Ambassador he was," some insist. "Why was I not given a rational education?" others despairingly cry. "What use are distinguished ancestors now?" moan others. "A penniless 'gentleman' is a pauper with the least opportunities," is another complaint. Incipient sanity is to be the chief circumstance in the removal of the present system.

* * * * *

The getting-on craze has complete possession of the British race of the moment; it is one of the main features of the time in this country. Political and social success were for ages the close preserve of one class, though, occasionally, there were some who contrived to overcome all obstacles, and to establish themselves in positions which the system did not contemplate their occupying. In those days even the most successful of them, however, were regarded with distrust and dislike by those for whom the enclosure was reserved, and, in a minor degree, by those from whose ranks the former had sprung. The Liberal legislation of recent times, the enormous increase of wealth amongst the middle class, the decrease of the value—and consequently of the importance—of land, the spread of education, and other circumstances, have virtually opened the enclosure, and there is a frantic endeavour on every side to take advantage of the opportunity. "You must get on," parents say to their sons, and the latter work diligently at school, take prizes and scholarships, and strain every nerve to distinguish themselves later in life. "You must marry well," is said to the daughters, and the latter aim at obtaining titled, well-connected, or rich husbands. "We must get on," say the wives, and they live in bigger houses than is necessary, dress extravagantly, entertain people who despise them, and neglect their obscure connections and former friends. "I must get on," say the husbands, and they devote themselves entirely to the making of money, and are not restrained by any principle in the endeavour. The "getting-on craze" is responsible for an enormous increase of worldliness throughout the community; everything is possible to the resolute, unscrupulous, and enterprising—the son of the crossing-sweeper, with those attributes and good fortune, may become a millionaire, a Premier, a prominent criminal, or purchase a peerage. There is another side to the picture; we hear much more frequently than did our predecessors of unhappy marriages, divorces, bankruptcies, scandals of every kind, and suicides, while madness is alarmingly on the increase. Happiness is a most important asset here; that seems to be overlooked for the moment.

"How marvellously that man has got on," was recently said of one in Hyde Park who, from being a pauper, had become possessed of two millions of money. The millionaire was a paralytic in a bath-chair, and half an imbecile!—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

The original Blue Black Ink was invented by Henry Stephens in 1834. It has been frequently imitated but never equalled, and is to-day by far the most fluid and reliable ink in the world.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Derby excites comparatively little public interest in these days, although strenuous efforts are made every year by some of the papers to get up an elaborate fuss about the race. I had expected that Slieve Gallion and Wool Winder would finish first and second, and may at least congratulate myself upon having from beginning to end regarded Galvani as an utter impostor when considered in the light of a Derby horse, nor could I believe that Bezonian would reverse the Two Thousand running with the favourite. The race was run in a very curious way, as the pace was exceedingly fast for nearly a mile, and it then became decidedly slower. Everything was against Slieve Gallion, who had run himself out about a quarter of a mile from home, when he was hopelessly beaten. The stable must have been convinced of his stamina, or his jockey would not have been instructed to make hard running, for it is to be presumed that he was riding to orders when he made every post a winning post. Many good judges thought that the favourite looked much lighter than when he ran at Newmarket. Bezonian was in excellent condition, and he had made considerable improvement since he ran for the Two Thousand. There was no excuse for the defeat of Lord Rosebery's horse. Wool Winder was the unlucky horse of the field, as he lost a lot of ground early in the race, and he was twice considerably interfered with. If Colonel Baird's horse had been favoured throughout with a clear course, it is highly probable that he would just have won. A good many people at Newmarket had a strange fancy for Galleot, and this colt was well backed for a place. Earlston is useful in moderate company, but here he was outclassed, and All Black might as well have remained in his stable. Orby won with apparent ease at the finish. He is a fine big colt, and a great credit to Orme. I do not believe, however, that he had anything in hand, and he was lucky in that the race was run in a way which just suited him, and which certainly did not suit his most dangerous opponent, and he was admirably ridden by J. Reiff. Orby's victory was satisfactory, as he has been fairly run out for his engagements, and his form was thoroughly exposed. There had, however, been nothing in his public running to lead any one to anticipate his winning the Derby, as he had never beaten anything of really high class. Orby has no engagement at either Ascot or Goodwood, nor is he in any race at the Newmarket July Meetings. His next engagement is the Atlantic Stakes of £2,000 on July 26. Mr. Croker's colt has incurred a penalty of 12 lb., but the lot left in for this race are very moderate. Keystone II. was withdrawn more than two years ago, and Altitude paid forfeit in March, 1906. I expect that Wool Winder will win the St. Leger if all goes well with him during the next three months. Orby is engaged in this race, but the extra distance will suit Colonel Baird's horse better than the Derby winner.

The most remarkable feature in connection with the Derby has been the persistent manner in which Galvani was written up day after day in certain quarters. People sometimes become quite insanely infatuated about horses, and this must surely have been the fate of the writer who on Wednesday morning described Galvani as "a real smashing colt." Reports of a trial alleged to have been won by Galvani have been audaciously published, although the so-called trial was merely an ordinary exercise gallop. It is too bad that it should have been stated that Galvani "had been doing very little work before the Middle Park Plate," considering that only one week before that race was run Major Loder's colt won an important stake at Kempton Park. Galvani was then in the pink of condition. The fact is that his victory over Slieve Gallion at Newmarket was as "wrong" as the defeat of Flying Fox by Caiman eight years earlier, and although one hears so much about that particular success of Major Loder's colt, his poor running ten days later with Polar Star in the Criterion was buried in oblivion. Galvani will presently prove himself to be a non-stayer, and he

is never likely to run up to his two-year-old form. There was no excuse for his defeat in the Derby, as he was well trained; and probably six furlongs will be found to be his best course. The Clarehaven stable appears to be altogether out of form, but when a tide of good fortune has been flowing for some years, the ebb, when it comes, is sure to be in proportion.

Polar Star collapsed ignominiously in the Coronation Cup, and so miserable was his exhibition that the colt must surely have been amiss in some way. If this was his best running it is clear that he is a non-stayer. I had fully expected the defeat of Polar Star, having written as follows a fortnight ago: "Polar Star is tolerably sure to start favourite for the Coronation Cup if he is all right, but I shall anticipate the victory of The White Knight, who is probably the best four-year-old now in training in England." I had, however, anticipated seeing Polar Star finish second, for it did not seem conceivable that he would be easily beaten by both Troutbeck and Polymelus. I have several times expressed the opinion that Polar Star's merits as a racer have been extravagantly overrated. The Coronation Cup was really a good sporting race, and more interesting to many people than the Derby. The White Knight was not long ago mentioned by me as certain to be the best English horse in the field for the Ascot Cup, and he is a really good horse, and endowed both with genuine stamina and with a fine turn of speed. He has improved vastly in all respects since last season, and his performance on Thursday fully justifies the very high opinion which I have always expressed of his merits as a racer.

Writing several weeks ago about the Woodcote Stakes, I pointed out that Mr. Hall Walker had given a wonderfully strong tip to the public by withdrawing Pom and another colt, and accepting only with White Eagle. A fortnight ago I expressed the opinion that White Eagle ought to win "if he is backed by the stable, as it may be reasonably assumed that he has been well tried." Mr. Hall Walker, of course, had a good line of the two-year-old form through Pom. White Eagle was so promising a yearling that he was entered for fifty races. He ran very green, but he won his race in a common canter. It is really nauseous to hear braying already about White Eagle being "the winner of next year's Derby," for surely the cackle-ganders who indulge in these crack-brained rhapsodies can scarcely yet have forgotten Traquair, of whom precisely the same thing was said twelve months ago, and where is he now? When Traquair's early performances were throwing people into hysterics last summer, it was predicted in Truth that Lord Rosebery's colt would show his best form as a two-year-old. I fancy it will be the same with White Eagle, who does not give one the idea of training on into a stayer. We shall probably see the best of this colt during the present season. White Eagle's next race will be the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, where he is also engaged in the Biennial. He is in two valuable races next month, the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park on July 20, and the £2,000 stake at Liverpool on the 25th. He is a grandly bred colt, being by Gallinule out of Merry Gal.

There was a large field for the Oaks, which most sensible people regarded as a very open race. Frugality lamed herself slightly on Friday morning, so she was scratched. This was a most unfortunate mishap, for Lord Falmouth's filly would probably have won this race. The dolts and doodles who tumbled over each others' heels to get anything over 2 to 1 about Witch Elm surely had not troubled themselves to inspect Mr. Hall Walker's filly before backing her. Most good judges were of the opinion that she appeared decidedly light and jaded, and by no means in such good condition as at Newmarket. It should have been disquieting to believers in the favourite that her stable companion Mimosa was backed down to 4 to 1, and I believe it was estimated that there is but little between the pair. Witch Elm got away well, but she was hopelessly beaten more than a mile from home, being apparently unable to go the pace. Mimosa ran prominently and finished fourth. It was evidently expected that Maya would improve on her One Thousand form, as she was backed for a great deal more money than any other filly from Newmarket, but she ran very badly. Altitude's trial a week before the race had been preposterously exaggerated, and she was not much fancied by the stable, but she justified my prediction last week that she would prove the best of the Newmarket lot. The betting on the race was simply idiotic, as there was no justification whatever for regarding Witch Elm as being such a good thing that 2 to 1 was a reasonable price to accept about her in a field of fourteen. The infatuation of backers was the more astonishing after the hollow defeat of Polar Star on Thursday, as it had been given out that he is 21 lb. better than the filly. The victory of Glass Doll was a veritable crash for backers, as Mr. Joel's filly had not been backed for a penny, and I believe she was only started on the off-chance, as she is in foal to Sundridge. Glass Doll is a daughter of Isinglass, and she has apparently inherited her sire's stamina, for she finished very strongly. The winner was most judiciously ridden by H. Randall, who came on with a well-timed run at the finish, to the consternation of the backers of Laomedia, who apparently had the race in hand. Mr. Singer's filly was stopping fast, and in a few more strides she would have been beaten by Lady Hasty, who had been a great tip in the morning.

The Oaks turn-up was a crowning disaster for the cautious backers who have one bet a day on a presumed certainty, as they had come to dire grief over Slieve Gallion on Wednesday, and over Polar Star on Thursday.

The good thing of Friday was supposed to be Popinjay for the Acorn Stakes, and she was so heavily backed (being regarded as a safe "retriever" after her trials at Newmarket) that she started at 6 to 4 in a field of thirteen. Popinjay was slow in beginning, but she would have won all right enough but for floundering badly at the tan road. She caught the field with wonderful rapidity, but it was too late, as she could not quite get up to Pretty Quick, who defeated her by three-quarters of a length. Of course, it was perfectly obvious that Lord Rosebery's filly ought to have won easily. Popinjay had cantered away from Alistair in a gallop over the Rous course trial ground at Newmarket, and the defeat of the colt in the Woodcote Stakes is attributed to his preferring five furlongs to six.

Mr. Raphael's filly, Zaida, who finished third for the Woodcote Stakes, wants time, but she is a very nice, racing-like filly, and will be worth remembering later on. She is in the July Stakes at Newmarket, and in the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood. Zaida, who is by Sainfoin out of Aida, was bred by the late Sir James Miller, and it was at the sale of his yearlings last summer that she was purchased by her present owner for 1,200 gs

Quelpart's victory in the Wallington Plate was a highly creditable performance, as he was most seriously interfered with. He is a very game colt.

The meeting at Kempton Park on Saturday might very well have been dispensed with, after four such very heavy days at Epsom. The only race of any importance was the Redfern Plate, and Llangwm won cleverly, as I had predicted would be the case. All things considered, the bookmakers were generous in accepting such moderate odds as 2 to 1, for not one of the colt's eight opponents appeared to be really fancied, and 6 to 1 bar one was always offered.

There will be abundance of racing at Ascot next week, but it is to be feared that some of the principal events in the programme will collapse considerably, as so often happens at this meeting. There are a couple of two-year-old races on Tuesday—the Coventry Stakes and the Biennial. There are 130 entries for the Coventry

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Stakes, which race will be worth £2,300, but the field will be a small one, as there are no penalties for previous winners, the result being that this event is frequently a mere reproduction of the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, and dark animals which have been well galloped are reserved for the New Stakes, in which race they meet winners of £500 with 7 lb. the best of the weights. The King is the largest subscriber to the Coventry Stakes, with six entries, but it is to be feared that his Majesty's two-year-olds are so moderate that his colours are not likely to be seen out. The finish for the Coventry Stakes will probably lie between Bracelet, White Eagle, Popinjay, and Llangwm, and there is no sort of line between these animals, so it is obviously not a race to bet on. The Biennial of £1,730 has 123 entries, including White Eagle, but Mr. Hall Walker's colt is sure to start for the Coventry Stakes. Lord Falmouth may win the Biennial with Bucolic, unless there is something smart among the dark lot. The New Stakes on Thursday will probably be won by either Tsu Shima or Royal Realm, both of these animals having been highly tried, and the colt is said to be better than White Eagle. There are 104 entries for the Windsor Castle Stakes on Friday, including Llangwm, Alistair, Pom, and Popinjay; but previous running during the week will probably indicate the winner of this race.

As to the three-year-old events, there are fifty-seven entries for the Prince of Wales' Stakes on Tuesday, including his Majesty's Perambulator and Slim Lad, Lord Derby's Olympian, Mr. E. Dresden's Galleot, Captain Greer's Slieve Gallion, Lord Rosebery's Bezonian, Duke of Devonshire's Acclaim, Duke of Westminster's Dusty Miller, and Lord Falmouth's St. Martin. If St. Martin has any pretensions to good form, and can stay the course, he ought to find no difficulty in winning this race. Slieve Gallion will not run. There are fifty-four entries for the Coronation Stakes on Wednesday. I expect that Frugality will win this valuable race for Lord Falmouth, and if she is not up to the mark, then Laomedia may be successful. There are forty-six entries for the Ascot Derby, which ought to be won by Lord Rosebery's Bezonian.

There are forty-two entries for the St. James's Palace Stakes on Thursday, and if only six start, the race will be worth £2,700. The list includes Bezonian, Duke of Devonshire's Hillsprite, Perambulator, Lord Falmouth's Lycœus, and Slieve Gallion, and this race ought to be a good thing for the Two Thousand winner, the course being the fairly easy Old Mile. There are fifty-one entries for the three-year-old heat of the Triennial on Friday, and Wool Winder ought to win this race without much trouble, the best of the lot engaged being Hillsprite, Acclaim, Frugality, Maya, Simon Square, Cargill, and Sixty.

Sixty-three horses are engaged in the four-year-old heat of the Triennial on Tuesday, but most of them are either out of training or hopeless non-stayers, and the course is two miles. Bridge of Canny or Troutbeck ought to win.

The Gold Vase has an exceedingly moderate entry, and I am surprised that Wool Winder was not engaged, as he could not have lost this race. Killeagh or Lycœus may be able to win. The Fernhill Stakes should be won by the Duke of Devonshire's Cheshire Cat. This smart filly will be too good for the three-year-olds or for the colts of her own age. The O.M. Biennial, on Thursday, has fifty-six entries, and Wool Winder is apparently a certainty for this race. There are sixty-eight entries for the Rous Memorial Stakes, and if Polar Star is all right he cannot lose. It is melancholy to notice the names of Flair, Pretty Polly, and Spearmint in the entry for this race. I observe that one writer has discoursed on the interest of a meeting over the Hunt Cup course between Polar Star and Slieve Gallion. The fact has been overlooked that Slieve Gallion would have to give Polar Star 10 lb. The All-Aged Stakes may be left to Rocketter. The New Biennial (five furlongs) will be won by Sagamore, if Mr. Raphael's horse is in any sort of form, and the market will afford indication as to whether he is really fancied by his stable. The King's Stand Plate of £800, on Friday, may be left to Little Flutter. There are eighty-six entries for the Hardwicke Stakes of £2,860, including Slieve Gallion, Beppo, Black Arrow, Spearmint, and Llangibby. Dusty Miller might be able to win this race for the Duke of Westminster, as he has escaped a penalty, and the field will be a poor one.

Several weeks ago I expressed the opinion that the finish for the Gold Cup would be between Querido and The White Knight. Colonel Kirkwood's horse will certainly be the best of the English lot, as was predicted some time back in Truth. Bridge of Canny, Sancy, Mintagon, Polymelus, Beppo, and Troutbeck may all start, as well as the Russian horse, Hammurabi, and the Hungarian horse Morpeth II. If The White Knight is beaten the winner will be the best of the French lot, and I shall be surprised if they send over anything better than Querido. Mordant II., winner of the Prix du Jockey Club, is engaged, but M. Ephrussi's colt would not stay this severe course, and he is not likely to be seen at Ascot, as he runs at Longchamps next Sunday for the Grand Prix. The Duc de Gramont intends to start Eider.

With regard to the Ascot handicaps, it is too soon to give any definite opinion, and I will only advise my speculative readers not to invest one shilling on either Stakes or Hunt Cup until the day of running arrives, as the early betting on these events is now all fiddle-faddle rubbish.

At Cambridge Trinity Hall has gone head of the river. I must admit that this result was rather a surprise. One has learned to discount modern sensational journalism. Jesus had been boomed in the press. Mr. Steve Fairbairn's new style was superlatively wonderful. Only one Blue in the boat and they were certain to go head. They would catch First with three Blues. As for Trinity Hall, with Stuart at seven, they were simply nonentities. They did not enter into the reckoning. Why should they? They were rowing in the rotten old Cambridge style that McKenna, Wauchope, and Escombe adopted; the sort of stuff that the University crew indulges in—and the crew only beats Oxford not because of any merit, but because Oxford happens to be exceptionally rotten. At least, this is what the critics said. And they are Oxford men, and they ought to know. An undergraduate paper, the *Granta*, started the term with an article on Cambridge rowing, telling the men the Cambridge style was all right. Let them row in that style, and eschew all the nonsense of the Fairbairn and sculling theory as evolved by the genius of the press. An eminent oarsman and rowing critic said it was written by some idiot who thought he knew a lot. Well, the tip has come true. First were upset by not getting Baynes into their crew until late, and they had Mr. J. B. Close to assist in the coaching. Hall had divers men without theories. Like other crews, they struck their bad patch in training. But they got over it. Third Trinity were most unfortunately weakened. The strength of Third is the strength of University rowing. For that reason one always likes to see them do well. They went down each night. On Friday First were caught by Hall 250 yards from the finish. They were splendidly stroked by Simpson. On the final day one could really estimate the value of all the nonsense that had been written about Jesus. Hall, First, and Jesus all rowed over, and there was the full distance between each crew. Of course, it must not be supposed that in anything I have written I bear any grudge against the Jesus men or the college. They are just as good fellows and just as keen about their college as other men. One has to look at the matter from the standpoint of University rowing. Cambridge rowing has suffered as Oxford never has from men with fads and fancies who have tried from one or two colleges to run a style to which others must conform to get their Blue. If the authorities do

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not acquiesce with the faddist, then he proceeds to make himself a centre of dissension and disloyalty. There were grave symptoms of such a revival when Mr. Fairbairn wanted to put on a trial eight composed of Jesus and Christ's men to test his style against that of the other men. That was the path of dissension. He has had his chance. His crew rowed in a procession. They gave their exposition of the famous Fairbairn form and they did not go head. I hope this is the last time that one will hear any more of this press-puffed nonsense. The University cannot afford to do without Jesus any more than Jesus can afford to do without the University.

With regard to Trinity Hall, I am especially glad that it has gone head. The death of the late Master, the Rev. Henry Latham, was a severe blow to the College. He had made the College. He had recognised that rowing men were the salt of the earth in sport long before Mr. Andrew Lang wrote essays. The College had persistently held its own in rowing as no other College had done. He was succeeded by a Master and tutors who had appreciated his traditions, and who were continuing to run the College on the same lines. Between them and the men at the College there never was and never is the distant relationship of tutor and undergraduate. They are the men's friends, to whom they naturally turn in any trouble. The old Master always spoke of the men at the Hall as his boys, and that was and is the secret of the relationship that exists. Of course, it was sure to be said, and I have heard it said, that the Hall is not what it was. For one thing, it was only third or fourth on the river. Now that Wranglers are abolished, there is only one way of testing a college, and that is by its place on the river. The Hall men have answered their critics. They have shown that the best traditions of the College are maintained, and they know that their Master and tutors were as keen about the doings of the boat and as happy at its success as the keenest oarsman in the College. The Hall is where it was.

The Rev. T. Maude is a deputy chief consul for the county of Devon on behalf of the C.T.C. He has sent a letter to the *C.T.C. Gazette*, pointing out that the work is concentrated in few hands. He says that, instead of a body of seventy men to look after the interests of the members, the work is in the hands of some half-dozen or so, and he urges reform. His letter was refused publication by the C.T.C. editor. It shows up so clearly the need for reform. Let me summarise it. There are sixty-nine councillors. There are eight standing committees of seven members each. Necessarily the work must be done on committee. Of the sixty-nine only twenty-eight sit on any committees at all. Of the twenty-eight, sixteen have one seat each, five hold two seats, five hold three, and two hold four seats. This only accounts for forty-nine seats. The remaining seven or 15 per cent. are held by non-members of the club, and of these seven seats four are held by one member, who is a paid official, and is supposed to give his whole time to the duties of his office. (I wonder if this is the versatile Mr. Shipton.) Well, these figures work out in this way: that of the twenty-eight men, three exercise as much control as fourteen, and one of these three is not a member of the council. I have to thank Mr. Maude for so clearly showing, on the figures, that the C.T.C. is a one-man show. The only touring part of the club is the council, which, with its committees, wanders as far from London as possible in order to avoid having any control over the management. Furthermore, Mr. Maude puts his finger on another Shiptonian indiscretion. That wily gentleman in the *Gazette* points out that the reformers are a little London clique, and he tries to run London against the provinces. It is very unkind of Mr. Maude to demonstrate that of the eight who sit on three or more committees six hail from London or Kent. These eight hold twenty-seven committee seats out of fifty-six. Seven of them are dead against inquiry. In other words, a little London clique is bluffing the whole club and burking inquiry in the *Gazette* in the way I have shown.

Just as TRUTH is going to press I have seen an announcement which makes it necessary to add a line or two to modify the last sentence in the foregoing paragraph. The little London clique has been bluffing the whole club and burking inquiry, but that game is now up. By a majority of practically two to one the postal vote of the members of the C.T.C. confirms the resolution of the general meeting appointing a committee of inquiry.

There has been another week's cricket in between showers. The bowlers have had a great time, and Notts is still unbeaten. Essex very nearly spoiled their record. Notts just got home by seven runs. There was one heavy scoring match, and in that game Hants beat Kent. Sprot and Hill played splendidly. If Hill played for a greater county he would bat for England. Hants seem to have come across a really useful bowler in Smoker. To beat Lancashire Worcester needed 170 runs, and H. K. Foster and Bowley made them without the loss of a wicket. Thanks to some forceful batting by Crawford and his excellent bowling, Surrey beat Leicester, and they followed up a hard fight by overwhelming Sussex. Crawford is certain of his place in the England team against South Africa. The finest innings of the week was G. N. Foster's century for Oxford against the bowling of Tarrant, Braund, and Trott. The M.C.C. won. Cambridge cut up very badly against Yorkshire. The bad weather must be putting a strain on the resources of many of the county clubs. The South African bats did not shine against Northampton.

I have received some newspaper cuttings relative to what I wrote about Lister and the Hyde Swimming Club. It appears that Mr. Baxter was not introduced to the Manchester tramways manager, Mr. M'Elroy. But he was introduced—as his friend, Mr. Beattie, stated—to certain officials. Mr. Baxter said he was anxious to find out, for the purposes of his protest, where Lister was employed. He certainly did endeavour to get Lister to leave the Hyde Club. I said Lister was not a member of the tramways club. I should have said he was not an active polo-playing member. These corrections are mere details. They do not touch what I have said. An effort to obtain evidence as to whether the rules had been infringed is one thing; an effort to get a man away from his club is another thing, and entirely contrary to the best interests of sport. If a man does the two things, and incidentally sees a man's employer, he is pretty sure to be told that he is trying to get the employer to bring influence to bear. That is the impression such interference is bound to create, although any such idea may not have been present to his mind.

Mrs. Sterry is playing splendidly at lawn tennis. She has followed up her defeat of the champion, Mrs. Lambert Chambers, at Surbiton, by decisively defeating Miss Sutton at Newcastle. Between the two meetings Mrs. Chambers has had her revenge.

Not the least significant among many signs of the growing popularity of golf is the prominence that is given to the game in any dissertation on the attractions of a holiday resort. Montrose, for instance, has other attractions for visitors—bracing air, a fine beach, picturesque scenery, good angling in neighbouring streams, plenty of places of historic interest within easy reach, and good roads for cycling or driving excursions. But I see that in the illustrated official guide issued by the Town Council the golf course is claimed as the main asset of Montrose as a holiday resort. A high authority has pronounced the course "one of the three best in Scotland," and the local patriots contend that the other two are inferior. A friend who has played there tells me that it really is a splendid course, and, what is more, the fees for visitors are ridiculously small. There are lots of very indifferent English links in which the charge is £1 a week. At Montrose it is only half a crown.

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MAMMON.

Another Week of Liquidation on the Stock Exchange—Trouble Inside and Outside the House—Default of an Old Established Firm of Brokers—The Outlook Still Obscured—Speculation Inadvisable—But a Golden Opportunity for Investors.

THE past week in the Stock Markets was very much like its predecessor. It has been a week of liquidation from all quarters, accompanied by reports—only too well authenticated—of financial difficulties inside and outside the House. To begin with came the announcement of the embarrassment of a leading stockbroker at Glasgow, who had, so it was understood, to make a composition with his creditors of 10s. in the £. This matter left its mark especially upon Grand Trunk and Mexican Railway stocks, which have been exposed to a steady stream of liquidation. Then came reports of the closing of the account of a prominent speculator on the Paris Bourse, which led to heavy sales of mining shares, and particularly Jagersfontein, De Beers, and Rio Tintos. Another vulnerable position was disclosed at Brussels, the failure of a financier involving losses put at £120,000. In London there has been trouble in connection with the affairs of a merchant engaged in the Far Eastern trade, who held some fair lines of Japanese bonds, while most sensational of all was the "hammering" last Friday of a well-known House firm of brokers—Messrs. Starkey, Leveson, and Cooke. Mr. Starkey, the senior partner, was one of the fathers of the House, having entered it in 1865. I have no wish to go into the painful details surrounding this default, although it is probable that more will be heard of the matter before long. So far as members of the Stock Exchange are concerned the losses are not likely to be heavy, though it may prove otherwise with some of the clients.

From the above epitome of events it may be readily understood that the House was not in a very cheerful mood during the past week. Once or twice, when the volume of liquidation appeared to have ceased, feeble efforts were made to rally prices, but each effort was met by fresh selling as some new trouble came to a head. The only department which really displayed resistance was that devoted to Americans, and here, thanks to organised support given by leading Wall Street interests, prices on balance made a very fair showing. The House is still sceptical about any long sustained revival in Yankees, and for good reasons, but members would welcome a rally none the less, as the Stock Exchange badly needs a tonic of some sort. At present things are in as hopeless a condition as could well be imagined. On the one hand, everybody agrees that prices are low—in many cases absurdly low—and that consequently investors have an unique opportunity of picking up bargains. On the other hand, the investor is doing next to nothing; probably he is waiting for a lead, but the people who usually give the lead are unable to see the way themselves, their recent experience having been that each little advance in prices merely encourages fresh liquidation on the part of people who have "taken over" stock to sell at the first favourable opportunity. For the public one thing is clear. It is not the time to speculate with the proceeds of borrowed money, for nobody cares to predict that we have yet quite reached the end of the lane of depression. On the other hand, those with money to lock away need have no fear of entering the market. They have now a chance of buying the best stocks at levels which have not been possible for a generation, and by getting in now they may count with practical certainty upon seeing their stocks showing handsome profits in the course of a few years. Granted that prices may in the immediate future fall a little lower, but even should they do so the decline can only be quite temporary, while it is equally possible that by deferring their purchases much longer the public may have missed the golden opportunity. It is just as unwise to postpone purchasing too long in the hope of getting in at the bottom as it is to delay selling too long in the hope of getting out at the top, and experience has shown that the man who always expects to get in at the basement is the man who usually climbs in at the garret.

Home Rails and the Nominal State of the Market—The Labour Question—Reassuring Letter from Lord Stalbridge—Scotch Rails and the Movement Towards Economy—Is the Ayrshire Standing Out?

Throughout last week the Home Railway Market remained in a very nominal condition. Prices were seldom tested, and when they were it was found in some instances impossible to deal at the ruling quotations, owing to the unwillingness of the jobbers to take stock, which, through the almost complete cessation of the public demand, they were unable to find an outlet for. Chatham Seconds are a case in point. The Official List quotation in the early part of the week was 47-9, whereas the offer of a very small amount of stock promptly caused a collapse to 40-3, the bargain being done at 40. Some critics have been disposed to quarrel with the jobbers for sending out what are termed fictitious prices, and others are of opinion that this practical refusal of jobbers to deal, except by negotiation, raises the whole question of the utility of the jobber as a factor in Stock Exchange business. As one who has frequently had occasion to censure the Home Railway dealers for the obsolete methods to which they adhere in the levying of contangoes, I am the more ready this time to say a word in their defence. If these were simply bad times in the Stock Exchange, there might be room for grumbling about nominal prices and the refusal of the jobber to take his customary risks. But these are not simply bad times; they are not even abnormally bad times; but rather abnormally abnormal bad times. Men whose experience of the City goes back a quarter of a century and more are in agreement that never do they remember such a condition of stagnation. It, therefore, seems hardly the time to lecture the unfortunate jobber. The whole matter of more real dealing prices rests with the public. As soon as business shows any revival, and there is a little ebb and flow about markets, we shall not find the jobbers wanting in the acceptance of the risks attaching to their calling. But, seeing that for years dealings in the Railway Market have been all one way, it is no wonder that the jobber is getting a little sick of the game and shows increasing reluctance to place stock on his books that nobody wants.

During the last few days less has been heard about the labour agitation on the part of the Amalgamated Society. People are beginning to ask themselves whether, after all, they have not been too easily scared, and whether the loud talk about a strike and the bold demands put forward in the National All-grades Programme meant more than a beating of the big drum by the Society, with the object of obtaining recruits. Before long we shall have an opportunity of hearing what the Companies themselves have to say in the matter. If, as it is to be hoped, they continue to stand firm in refusing to allow a third party—representing but a small minority of the total employees—to come between them and their men, the Railway market might easily show more backbone. The terms of the national programme, as I showed in an article that appeared on May 22, are so preposterous that the boards have ground on that score alone for refusing to negotiate with the Society. Useful light upon the position has been obtained by a Nottingham correspondent, who wrote to Lord Stalbridge, Chairman of the London and North-Western, suggesting that stockholders ought not to dispose of their investments until the next half-yearly meetings. Lord Stalbridge has replied endorsing this advice, and adds that he hopes the Chairmen of all the important companies will be able to make satisfactory and reassuring statements.

There has been a little quiet buying of Caledonian and British Deferred from the North, evidently in connection with the movement towards economy being made by the companies jointly. I have not heard that any definite working agreement has yet been arrived at, but proposals for the effecting of economies were put

forward by representatives of each company at a meeting held last week in Glasgow, and these proposals will be considered and afterwards discussed at a further meeting. The Glasgow and South-Western sent no representative to last week's meeting. It is sincerely to be hoped, both in its own interests and that of its two larger neighbours, that this does not mean refusal on the part of the Ayrshire to consider a scheme for the abolition of useless competition, because only by the display of a friendly spirit of give and take on the part of the three boards can any satisfactory arrangement be effected. My usual table follows:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	June 1, 1907.	June 8, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72⅞	71	70⅞	- ¼
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	26½	26½	- ¼
Central London	96½	82½	71	71	—
City and S. London	47⅛	39	41	41	—
Furness	69⅞	61⅞	60½	60½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅓	37½	32	31½	- ½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅞	60	59	59	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	25	25	—
Do. "A"	19½	15½	13½	13⅝	+ ⅛
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	70½	70⅝	+ ⅛
Great Northern Pref.	105	98⅜	97	96	-1
Do. Def.	48⅜	39½	39	38½	- ½
Great Western	144	122⅝	124	122¼	-1½
Hull and Barnsley	60	42½	47½	46½	- ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	101	100	-1
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	84	83½	- ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	12⅜	12⅜	- ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	77	75	-2
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	48	41½	-6½
London and North-Western	163½	147½	143½	141½	-1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	47	45½	-1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	40½	38	-2½
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	11	10	-1
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	64	64½	+ ½
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	61½	60½	- ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78⅜	72⅜	68½	68½	- ½
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	32½	32½	- ½
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134⅜	137¼	137	- ¼
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96⅜	96	95	-1
South-Eastern "A"	55⅛	44⅛	38	34⅛	-3⅛

Revival in Americans—Mr. Keene Understood to Have Been Employed to "Bull" the Market—Review of the Situation—Too Early to Take Down the Caution Signal.

The American market last week afforded evidence that at last some interests had awakened to the desirability of stopping the rot, and with the publicity that is given to all the plans of the New York "bosses" by the Yankee journalist, whether the latter is in the know or is merely guessing, London has been informed that Mr. James R. Keene has been employed by manipulative interests to bring about a rally. From the manner in which prices have moved during the last few days the story sounds at least plausible. There has been, since the demoralisation that characterised the opening of the week, a resistance about the market that has been lacking for a long time, and on balance, as the following table shows, quotations have made some headway:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	June 1, 1907.	June 8, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	89	90⅝	90⅞	+ ¼
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	97	96⅞	- ⅛
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅞	96⅜	96⅜	—
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93⅜	91	91	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅜	54	35⅞	36½	+ ⅝
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	130	130½	+ ½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	25⅞	26	+ ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅞	72	73	+1
Erie	52½	40	21½	22½	+ ⅜
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	57½	58	+ ⅜
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	36	37	+1
Illinois Central	188⅜	171	141	141	—
Louisville	160⅜	143⅞	114	115½	+1½
Missouri, Kansas	45⅞	31⅞	32⅜	33⅜	+1⅜
New York Central	150½	130⅜	113	114	+1
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅜	45½	33½	36½	+3
Norfolk and Western	100⅞	87½	74½	76	+1½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	236	190½	126½	128	+1½
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅞	63¼	61⅜	62	+ ⅜
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅞	51⅜	53½	+1⅜
Southern	43⅜	33	18⅜	19½	+1½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	106	97	59½	61	+1½
Southern Pacific	99⅞	64⅜	78	79	+1
Union Pacific	203	144⅜	136⅛	138½	+1⅞
U.S. Steel	52½	33⅞	33⅜	34½	+ ⅞
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	100	100½	+ ½

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

Mr. James Keene is known to act for powerful people in Wall Street, including the Standard Oil party, and it is not surprising if the leading capitalists are getting somewhat concerned at the way things are going, and are acting in concert to put the peg in, and even to woo the American public once again. There were one or two influences which were made good use of to foster the recovery. The most potent was the rumour that the Cabinet at Washington had been considering the disclosures made at the recent Inter-State Commerce Commission inquiry into the Union Pacific group of companies, and that the weight of opinion was opposed to any extreme measures being taken against Mr. Harriman on account of the bad effect that such action would probably have on the general financial and industrial situation. There is something peculiarly American about the idea of letting a man off because not to do so might disturb the stock market, but the story was pretty widely believed, and was made the basis for some extensive buying of Pacific stocks. Moreover, it gave rise to another curious rumour to the effect that a well-known American financial firm that recently dissolved partnership had been actuated only by the fear of a Government overhaul of its books, and that should the threatened proceedings against Mr. Harriman be quashed, the reappearance of the firm might shortly be announced. It has since been officially intimated that the Federal Government does not intend to prosecute Mr. Harriman.

The crop news, on the whole, was claimed as helping the argument for the "bulls." This can only be conceded in a negative sense, namely, that the latest information about wheat and cotton is of a less disastrous character than the market had expected, for indications up to the present foreshadow a serious shortage in the yield of both staples. The market was on safer ground in pointing to the continuance of fine railroad gross earnings, though even on this point Wall Street's concern is not so much with the present as the future, having regard to the certainty of a much smaller harvest, and the effect it is likely to have on the general trade of the country, which has already showed incipient signs of slowing down. With the enormous rise in working expenses that has characterised revenue statements since the beginning of the current year everybody is now familiar. Against this it may be urged that prices have already undergone so great a shrinkage that moderate reductions in dividends have in many cases been allowed for. This argument is sound so far as it goes, but there are too many unfavourable features about the financial situation for this to have free play. Besides the important effect which poor crops must exercise later on upon railway traffics, the effect upon the money market may be even more serious. If the United States suffers a serious shortage in her volume of cotton and grain exports next autumn, she may find it an awkward matter to meet the short-term obligations that will be commencing to mature in Europe. At the present time the monetary situation in New York is by no means reassuring. The surplus reserves of the associated banks amount to less than $6,000,000, which is the lowest figure at this date for twenty years, except in 1903 and 1890. Further, the New York exchange continues at a level which makes further gold exports to Europe probable. Already, since May 27, between ten and eleven million dollars has been secured for Paris, and the estimate is that the total will be raised to fifteen millions before the demand is satisfied.

Again, it is surely expecting too much to suggest that the finance houses in New York have yet recovered from the effect of the enormous output of new securities issued during the last five months. Since Mr. Hill's famous prediction last autumn that the railroads would need $1,000,000,000 per annum from the money market, the market has been doing its best to live up to such a nice comfortable figure. Within the past five months the railroads have put on the market no less than $792,000,000 in new securities, of which $326,000,000 is stock, $285,000,000 short term notes, and $180,000,000 bonds. In addition, industrial companies have put out $120,400,000 in new securities, consisting of $63,000,000

(*Continued on page* 1471.)

· TRUTH ·

TRAVEL SUPPLEMENT.—No. 2.

No. 1,589. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1907.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES.

LONDONERS of the present generation are far more alive than their predecessors to the attractions of the beautiful country which lies close to their doors. Railway enterprise is chiefly responsible for this, and no railway company has done more than the Great Eastern to provide London with ready access both to the sea and to an extensive and beautiful inland district. Nor is the benefit confined to London alone. Norfolk and Suffolk are as close to the manufacturing centres as to the Metropolis, and the Great Eastern system is, by its through express service to Lincoln, Doncaster, and York, now so closely linked with towns in the west and north of England that the journey from any of the great cities of the Midlands, Yorkshire, or Lancashire to Cromer, Yarmouth, or any point in East Anglia is as swift and comfortable as up-to-date railway enterprise can make it.

The country which the Great Eastern Railway has thus opened up was previously more unfamiliar to the majority of Englishmen than any lying within an equal distance of London. East Anglia—not being on the high road to anywhere in particular—has lain for centuries off the main current of national life, and to this fact it owes, with its old-world towns and its secluded rural districts, much of its charm as a holiday resort. But it is in many respects a most beautiful country, possessing many unique features, notably in its towns, its coast, the estuaries of its rivers and that splendid series of lakes—the Norfolk Broads. The best proof of its natural beauties is to be seen in the fact that it is the home of almost the whole of the classical school of English landscape painters—that is to say, of Gainsborough, of Constable, and of the Cromes—and every one who has in him the appreciation of English rural scenery ought to see for himself the country in which they worked.

A FEW BEAUTY SPOTS.

To notice only a few characteristic spots, there is the region of North Essex, known as Constable's Country, of which Dedham Vale and Dedham Village are the centre. It is best reached from COLCHESTER. A little further north on the borders of Essex and Suffolk is the typical English scenery which Gainsborough made famous, and which may be explored, either by road or by excursions up the Orwell, from FELIXSTOWE. The flat region of Suffolk and Norfolk, adjoining the sea-coast and extending northwards to the end of the BROADS, affords a very good counterpart of the scenery of Holland, on the other side of the North Sea, with its sluggish streams, and lazy windmills, its stretches of richly-coloured marsh and spacious common, and its seductive air of somnolent repose. For this region, ALDEBURGH and SOUTHWOLD, LOWESTOFT and YARMOUTH are the towns which will offer the traveller their hospitality. Finally, there is the now world-famous CROMER district, including not only Cromer itself, but SHERINGHAM, and a whole group of rising watering-places—a land of hill and dale, pinewood and heather, cornfields and wild flowers, rising high above the sea, and appealing to every taste and instinct of holiday-making humanity.

Nor should the famous inland towns of the Great Eastern line be forgotten. First and foremost stands CAMBRIDGE, with architectural and historical features unrivalled in England, unless at Oxford, and within an easy day's excursion of London; then ELY, with its beautiful Cathedral, and the fen country around it, rich in local colour and interest; and NORWICH, with another fine cathedral, and a great deal more worth seeing, as every visitor to the Broads should know. PETERBOROUGH, LINCOLN, and YORK, offering further objects of interest to all who appreciate mediæval towns and Gothic architecture, are also served by the Great Eastern Railway. Farther east there are BURY ST. EDMUNDS and IPSWICH, stored, like Yarmouth, with memories of Charles Dickens.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, it may be mentioned in passing, will be specially deserving of a visit this year, during the second week in July, when it is holding a great historical Pageant, illustrative of its mediæval life. An immense amount of labour, skill, and forethought is being bestowed on this undertaking, and the result cannot fail to be most interesting and beautiful. From July 8 to 13, when the Pageant will be on, special cheap fares will be offered by the G.E.R. to visitors, not only from London, but from all parts of East Anglia.

SUBURBAN ESSEX.

Before going further, it should be pointed out that it is not merely as a holiday-resort that the county, the gate to which lies at Liverpool Street Station, deserves the consideration of Londoners. In these days every place within an hour's rail of London, and even further than that, is a possible residential district for people who are tied to town by their daily business. The merits of Essex from this point of view have been strangely overlooked by those who are able to live in the outer suburban area. This is no doubt due to a vague impression that Essex is a flat and uninteresting county. There cannot be a greater delusion, as any one may discover for himself by an hour or two's walking or cycling almost anywhere beyond the fifth or sixth milestones from Liverpool Street. If Essex cannot offer the Londoner as lofty a residential site as the Surrey Hills, it has Epping Forest, the finest woodland district in the Home Counties, and all the best of the Forest suburbs lie within about half-an-hour of the City, viâ the G.E.R.—some of them much less. Again, it has a seaside suburban district growing up along the estuary of the Thames, in the neighbourhood of Southend, and others are likely to grow up on the Crouch and the Blackwater as the advantages of that district are better known. More will be said on that point presently. There are also charming rural districts in Southern Essex well within the limits of the daily journey to and from town.

Lastly, Essex has the great advantage that land is cheap and rents low, while the train service is good and also cheap. In no respect is the progressive spirit which the Great Eastern management has developed of late years more strikingly shown than in the development of its suburban train services. For this reason Liverpool Street has now the largest passenger traffic of any London terminus, and yet room for its further growth. With all this to recommend it, Essex is certain to grow more and more in favour with Londoners who live out of town.

EAST COAST CHARACTERISTICS.

Considered purely from the holiday-maker's point of view, it is, of course, by their long stretch of coast line that the Eastern Counties make their widest appeal to the population of our towns. It is a coast of infinite variety, each stretch having beauties of its own, from those of the marshy lands around the mouths of the Thames and the Essex rivers, to those of the splendid range of Norfolk cliffs which runs from Mundesley to Sheringham. But what, perhaps, distinguishes it

above all other characteristics is the tonic, health-giving virtue of its air. There are many people who declare that the seaside does not agree with them, on no better evidence than their experience of the South Coast, possibly in places that are notoriously relaxing. Let them turn their attention to the East, and it is ten to one that they will find, to their great profit and pleasure, that this is the antidote they have been seeking. And in giving this advice it must be pointed out that, while the sea and the sea-breezes are the same at every point, there are considerable varieties of climate on the East Coast. Clacton and Felixstowe, for instance, face almost due south; Yarmouth and Lowestoft, due east; Cromer and Sheringham almost due north. The range of average temperature consequently varies considerably. But at all points there is the same clear, invigorating, ozone-laden air, for all the slackness and ailments bred of town life probably the best restorative that Nature produces; and the same bountiful supply of sunshine, for there are places on the East Coast which boast of almost the highest sunshine records in the Kingdom, and sunshine has probably as much to do with health as any other remedy in Nature's medicine-chest.

There is one other indispensable feature without which no coast resort can make good its claims upon the holiday-maker, that is, the facility for sea-bathing. It is no exaggeration to say that in this respect the East Coast defies competition. This is chiefly due to the fact that nearly everywhere there is a sandy bottom, and for the most part a fairly level one. Shingle, which so many bathers object to—particularly ladies—is rare, and nowhere very extensive. Bathers are well looked after, and bathing tents and facilities for family bathing —now happily growing more and more in request— are a conspicuous feature almost everywhere.

The same reasons which make the East Coast so attractive to bathers make it a paradise for children. What children want at the seaside is a spacious beach with plenty of sand. What their parents want is that these advantages shall be supplemented by the absence of all danger, and the impossibility of getting into mischief, so that youngsters of all ages may be turned loose from morning to night, with the certainty of being able to amuse themselves while fattening on the sea air and browning in the sunshine, and without any need for their elders to be anxious either about their safety or their enjoyment. For all these ends the East Coast is adapted to perfection.

A Few Seaside Towns.

Several of the spots at which the general advantages of this coast may be most conveniently enjoyed have been already referred to in the foregoing remarks. But a few others may be briefly mentioned for the benefit of those who do not know the whole district. One begins, naturally, with Clacton-on-Sea, as the point most readily accessible from London. In the course of thirty years Clacton has grown into one of the most flourishing of coast holiday resorts—thanks largely to a speedy train service and facilities for cheap travelling, and to-day it affords all the customary attractions of seaside life, with plentiful hotel and lodging-house accommodation, to suit all purses. North of it, on the Essex coast, lies a group of smaller towns, appealing to those who like a quiet holiday, combined with first-rate bathing, boating, and golf—Walton-on-the-Naze, its rising neighbour Frinton-on-Sea, and Dovercourt. The last-mentioned resort, standing just outside Harwich Harbour, is specially favoured with the North Sea breezes, while sharing the advantages of Harwich as a yachting centre, and forming a convenient spot for excursions up the Orwell.

Felixstowe has made rapid strides in popular favour of late years, owing largely to its splendid sands and bathing, its sheltered situation, and the beautiful Suffolk country behind it, which has already been mentioned. The G.E.R. has now brought it within 1 hour 50 minutes of London. The town offers plentiful accommodation for all classes of comers, and the Felix Hotel may be specially recommended to those who find that hotel life under the most comfortable modern conditions adds materially to the enjoyment of a holiday. Northwards from Felixstowe lie Aldeburgh and Southwold, already referred to, and then Lowestoft, where the attractions of an up-to-date watering-place are combined with the local life and colour of a thriving fishing port, not to mention one of the highest sunshine records on the East Coast. Lowestoft, again, is well served by the G.E.R., and is also well supplied with hotels, among which the "Royal" deserves special mention. Of its neighbour, Yarmouth, it is scarcely necessary to make more than a passing mention, for few towns on the English coast are better known or have been more written about. But it should not be forgotten that both Yarmouth and Lowestoft have in late years acquired a new attraction as starting-points for the Broads, or headquarters from which that region may be explored. By a G.E.R. non-stop express Yarmouth is now 2½ hours from Liverpool Street, and by fast trains Lowestoft is only six minutes longer; and breakfast cars are provided on morning up-trains and dining cars on the afternoon down-trains every week-day.

Lastly, there is the beautiful group of watering-places on either side of Cromer, to which a new direct railway route from London has now been opened up by recent extensions of the G.E.R. The branch line to Sheringham, opened last year, now makes the Great Eastern the shortest route to that town, and the new Norfolk Coast Expresses, which will commence running in July, will perform the journey in 3 hours and 13 minutes, besides giving the best modern facilities for comfortable travelling in the shape of corridor trains and restaurant cars. Cromer, of course, shares in these advantages, as well as West Runton, where there is a station served by the new Sheringham branch; and the completion of the other new branch on the east side of Cromer extends them to Mundesley, Trimingham, and Overstrand. Hunstanton, which lies at the mouth of the Wash, is reached by the western main line of the G.E.R., through Cambridge. It is a rapidly growing place, with many advantages, of which some particulars will be found below in connection with the Great Eastern hotel service.

Yachting on the Essex Coast.

To the yachtsman the East Coast offers almost unrivalled attractions, especially him who is ordinarily tied to London. Within a couple of hours of departure from his London office the boating man may experience the keenest delight it is given him to know, the delight that comes to him when, moorings cast off, his hand on the tiller, he hears the musical ripple of water on the bows as his boat gathers way. To Harwich, Brightlingsea, and Burnham-on-Crouch the Great Eastern has just added a new yachting station by the opening of a pier and railway station at Tollesbury. This will increase the attractions of the Blackwater to yachting folk, for the possibility thereby afforded of being able to land or embark at all states of the tide without the necessity of donning seaboots is bound to be warmly appreciated. West Mersea, yet another yachting centre, is reached viâ Colchester by a service of motor omnibuses, which are run by the Great Eastern Railway in connection with their principal up and down trains. The fine broad estuaries of the Crouch and the Roach, the Colne and the Blackwater, and the Orwell must always appeal irresistibly to the yachtsman. The days, winter or summer, when it is impossible to sail, are comparatively few. Even when there is half a gale blowing outside it is possible to sail in perfect comfort up the broad reaches of the tidal waters. Racing is continuous through the summer, and at the regattas all the well-known yachts are to be seen. Yet it is not only to the owner of the smart racing yacht that the advantages of the well-protected Essex coast appeal. There is at every one of the spots mentioned a large and increasing water population, who have discovered that yachting is not necessarily a rich man's pastime. When it is remembered that for about £100 it is possible to acquire a boat which will comfortably accommodate from two to four persons living aboard, and that the cost of upkeep is inconsider-

able, the advantage of the boat over the country cottage for week-end and holiday purposes is manifest. If, for example, such a boat is moored at Burnham-on-Crouch, the week-end railway ticket costs only 3s. 6d., and the other yachting centres are equally well served as regards cheap fares and fast trains.

The Norfolk Broads.

It is not only to the yachtsman that the G.E.R. offers unlimited opportunities for the enjoyment of his favourite sport. Equal advantages for inland sailing, rowing, fishing, and shooting are offered in the wide expanse of the Broads—and also for cycling, for it is a point not hitherto noticed, but deserving of attention, that the Broads, like the greater part of the Eastern Counties, lie in an ideal cyclist's country. A whole literature has grown up round the Norfolk Broads, and at this time of day there is no occasion to enlarge on their characteristic features, beyond saying that nowhere in the world can the delights of an open-air existence under novel conditions and health-giving surroundings be enjoyed to more perfection than in a week or two's cruise on a Norfolk wherry—as lazy a life as you choose to make it, and yet with as much active exercise as you care to extract from rowing and "quanting," and pedestrian or cycle excursions to the innumerable places of interest in the neighbourhood. What is of more importance here is to point out, whether to those who already know the country or to those who propose to explore it for the first time, that the Broads have the advantage of the excellent train service to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Wroxham from Liverpool-street, and also of cheap week-end tickets and holiday season tickets.

Golf on the East Coast.

Golfers are another class of sportsmen for whom the Great Eastern Railway caters magnificently; in fact, nowhere in England are there to be found a larger number of typical seaside courses, offering all the features that the keen golfer most desires. In proof of this it is sufficient to say that there are golf links at nearly all the coast towns mentioned above, and within easy reach of the few that have not clubs of their own. To particularise as to their respective merits would be not only invidious, but futile, because every golfer has his own opinion of the merits and demerits of a course, and likes to form his opinion for himself.

Special Travelling Facilities.

Incidentally, many of the advantages which the Great Eastern Railway Company offers to its passengers have been mentioned in the course of the foregoing remarks, but there are a few points deserving more particular mention. First of all it should be remembered that there are Restaurant Cars on the express trains each way between London and the principal points beyond Ipswich, on the one main line, or from Cambridge to Hunstanton on the other, as well as on the through trains between the Eastern Counties and the Midlands and the North. Clacton-on-Sea is specially favoured with a Supper Car Train on Saturday nights, leaving Liverpool-street at 12.3 a.m. and reaching Clacton at 1.44 a.m. The new Norfolk Coast Expresses to Cromer and the adjoining district, which will be put on next month, will be corridor vestibuled trains, fully equipped with every requirement for comfortable travel.

Another convenience for tourists worth noting is the motor omnibuses, with which the G.E.R. have during the past two years been experimenting as feeders to the railway from outlying villages. The fares by these 'buses are arranged on popular lines, and some of the vehicles are provided with lockers for the conveyance of light parcels, etc. The principal points between which the motor 'buses are run are Lowestoft and Southwold; Norwich, Loddon, and Beccles; Ipswich and Shotley, on the estuary of the Stour; Colchester and West Mersea (already referred to as a yachting centre); Chelmsford and the outlying villages of Danbury, Writtle, and Great Waltham.

Attention should also be directed to the Great Eastern system of Seaside Periodical Tickets. These tickets are issued from Liverpool Street for periods ranging from a week to a year, and owing to the lowness of the rates they may be regarded as one of the most attractive features of the Great Eastern line, appealing specially to those who desire a spell of temporary residence at the seaside without actually taking a holiday. The price, of course, varies with the period and also according as the tickets are or are not available at intermediate stations, but the lowest rate is, roughly, on the basis of "ten miles a penny." Another novelty to be noted has recently been introduced by the G.E.R. management in the shape of "Holiday Season Tickets" available for a given period within certain specified districts. This enables the passenger to visit at will and as often as he pleases certain parts of the district at cheap rates.

It should also be mentioned that another recent innovation of the G.E.R. management is the issue of cheap week-end tickets, on the basis of a fare and a quarter for the double journey, between any two stations on the line, and also between Great Eastern stations and those on the lines of the neighbouring companies.

Tickets for Circular Tours, starting from Liverpool-street, can be obtained so as to cover all the most interesting and attractive spots on the Great Eastern system, and by applying in advance, the tourist can have these made up precisely as he wishes.

The Harwich Route to the Continent.

Hitherto we have been looking at the services which the Great Eastern Railway has performed in opening up the Eastern Counties to holiday-seekers from London and other great towns. There remains another most important branch of the Company's business—the Continental traffic viâ Harwich. In this direction the Great Eastern Company has practically created a new international highway, improved as it has been by the construction of a quay, at the Hook of Holland, on the right bank of the New Waterway, about a mile and a half from its entrance into the sea. The quay is provided with waiting rooms, refreshment rooms, and every other requisite for a first-class passenger traffic, the station and quay being lit at night by electricity. By the opening of the Harwich-Hook-of-Holland route the distance between London and Berlin was considerably reduced, and is now the shortest and practically a straight line of communication between the two capitals. The service to other towns is accelerated proportionately, and this route gives the most direct access to Holland, North and South Germany, and Scandinavia. The London-Harwich-Hook-of-Holland corridor vestibuled trains have accommodation for about 400 passengers. The carriages are provided with lavatory accommodation, built with side corridors, or, in the case of the Restaurant Cars, with centre corridor, and the whole of them are connected by gangways, by means of which access can be had to all parts of the train. They are electrically lighted, and in winter heated by steam. The Harwich route is even more serviceable to the North of England than to London, since it enables travellers from the Midlands and the North, whether on business or pleasure, to reach the Continent without first coming to London, thereby saving both time and money. On this service also corridor vestibuled trains, with dining and breakfast cars, lighted by electricity, are run between York and Harwich, and there are through corridor carriages from and to Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Leicester which run alongside the steamers. From Harwich, again, there is an excellent and quick service of steamers to Antwerp, bringing the North of England into direct communication with that port, and all the Continental districts which are reached from it. There is also a service between Harwich and Esbjerg (on the West coast of Denmark) three times a week by the Danish Royal Mail steamers of the Forenede Line of Copenhagen, and between Harwich and Hamburg twice weekly by the steamers of the General Steam Navigation Company.

The Great Eastern Company have built a quay at

Parkeston, with hotel and spacious waiting and refreshment rooms, which are connected with the landing stage by a covered way; and to meet the demands of the increasing Continental traffic they are extending the quay so as to provide three additional berths. The Company own a magnificent fleet of steamers, admirably adapted to the vicissitudes of the North Sea transit. They sail under the British flag, are fitted with the most modern accommodation for passengers, including dining saloons, separate sleeping cabins, smoking and ladies' saloons, and are lighted by electricity. A special feature is the large number of private cabins for two passengers. The catering on the steamers and trains is under the direct control of the Company's Hotel manager, and the highest standard of excellence is maintained throughout. A turbine steamer with all the latest improvements for the accommodation and comfort of passengers is now under construction for the Hook of Holland service, and is expected to be ready for next year's holiday traffic.

Everything has been done in the arrangement of the train service on the Continental side to develop the advantages of the Harwich route, whether for purposes of business or pleasure. There are two express trains which run in connection with the steamers from the Hook of Holland, with through carriages and restaurant cars, amongst other important towns to Berlin, etc., in the North, and to Cologne and Bâle in the South, also an express train to The Hague and Amsterdam.

Thus the passenger can leave London (Liverpool Street Station) at 8.30 p.m., or Manchester in the afternoon, dine in the train before reaching Parkeston Quay, have a good night's rest on the steamer, and walk from steamer to the train under a covered way, and arrive in Berlin at 6.30 the next evening, Cologne at midday, and Bâle in the evening, having breakfasted and lunched in the train en route. The Hook of Holland service to Holland is the quickest, Rotterdam being only 9½ hours, The Hague 10 hours, and Amsterdam 11 hours from London; and this has been recognised by the Postmaster-General, the mails being sent by this route to these and other Dutch towns. The actual sea passage between Harwich and the Hook occupies on the average six and a half hours. To the mouth of the Scheldt, en route for Antwerp, the passage is only half an hour longer.

Holland via The Hook.

A question which may well suggest itself to any one meditating a Continental holiday viâ Harwich is, why go beyond Holland? It is an ideal country for the man from London, or Manchester, or any other great modern town, who desires to see, with the least effort, something entirely different from the scenes of his everyday existence. It is possible everywhere to keep expenses within 12s. a day, and in the less frequented parts a careful tourist may do it on 7s. And it may be added, in consideration for the large number of Englishmen who do not know a word of Dutch, that English-speaking waiters are to be found in all the principal hotels, and French is generally understood where English is not. The best way to do the country thoroughly and keep travelling expenses within reasonable limits is to take one or other of the Great Eastern circular tickets, which can easily be obtained so as to embrace the principal points of interest, including The Hague and Scheveningen, Leyden, Haarlem, Dordrecht, Delft, Amsterdam, and the Zuyder Zee coast and North Holland.

For the sake of the tourist whose taste would lead him to combine the amenities of modern life with the old-world fascinations of Holland, special attention should be directed to Scheveningen (the Dutch Brighton) now among the most fashionable of Continental seaside resorts. A steam tramway takes you in a quarter of an hour to the Hague, and there is ready railway communication with all the principal points of interest in Holland. The hotel accommodation is not only first-rate, but exceptionally moderate in price.

The Hague itself is a delightful place for a short holiday, and, with its ready access to Scheveningen, practically a seaside town. It is only half an hour's run by rail from Leyden, and a capital place from which to make canal excursions through some of the most characteristic scenery of Holland.

North Germany and the Harz Mountains.

Another delightful country to which the Great Eastern Railway may introduce the British tourist lies along the main line from the Hook to Berlin, and within a short journey to the north and south of it. It is rather a strange thing that while Britons flock in thousands every year to the Rhine country, the Black Forest, Bavaria, and even the Austrian Tyrol, comparatively few have ever explored the beautiful and interesting Northern German country so much nearer home. In the extreme North are the Hanseatic towns, every one of them as well worth seeing as the better-known German cities of the South, the most famous being Hamburg, Bremen, and Lubeck. On the direct route to Berlin lies Hanover, and a few miles off it Brunswick, full of many quaint and charming features; and Hildesheim, which is quite one of the most picturesque and interesting of the ancient cities of Germany. It is easy to pause at this group of towns *en route* for Berlin; but even better to stop at this point altogether, and make it a starting-place for a long and delightful holiday in the Harz district, quite off the ordinary beat of the British tripper. The Great Eastern Railway offers special facilities for holidays in the Harz Mountains by various circular tours from London, the most extensive of which only costs a trifle over £7, or £4 15s. 11d. second class.

In general character the Harz Mountains are a good deal like the Black Forest. The mountains themselves do not rise to very ambitious heights, but quite high enough to afford all the exercise that is required by those who do not aspire to the difficulties of snow peaks and glaciers. There is easy railway communication between the chief points of interest, and, like the Black Forest and the Vosges, the Harz Mountains are under the protection of a "Club," which looks after the roads and mountain paths and the convenience of tourists generally. Harzburg, which is quickly reached by rail from Hanover, is a good starting-point, and from here the famous summit of the Brocken will make a very satisfying day's excursion on foot, or more expeditiously by rail. In order to interview the famous "Spectre"—if he happens to be showing himself, which is not always the case—it is necessary to spend the night at the inn on the mountain and see the sun rise. One of the most famous beauty spots of the Harz Mountains is the Bodethal, which is best done from Thale, where there is abundant hotel accommodation. It may be added that from any point in the Harz district it is easy to get on to Magdeburg, Berlin, Leipsic, or Dresden, if the tourist is disposed to see something of modern Germany under very different aspects. The Great Eastern will arrange it all for you.

In passing, a word should be said of the attractions offered to tourists in the Thuringian Mountains, which lie just to the south of the Harz, and are very similar in character. Their beauties deserve to be better known than they are by Englishmen. A G.E.R. circular ticket will enable the tourist to combine this district with the Harz Mountains; but if he goes to it direct from London, viâ Harwich, he will do best to make direct for Eisenach, from which a delightful tour of the Thüringerwald may be made. Other points not to be overlooked are Oberhof, Friedrichroda, and Bad Liebenstein.

The Scandinavian Countries.

The merit of the Harwich and Hook of Holland route is the facility which it offers for reaching the North of Europe, and enjoying the famous scenic beauties of Norway, with the minimum of sea travelling. Starting for Norway by this route, the traveller will cross the North Sea at its narrowest point, between Harwich and the Hook, and thereafter he will practically have done with sea-travelling, for the passage of the Great Belt and the Sound is an insignificant business—not much more serious than crossing to the Isle of Wight. At 5 p.m.

of the same evening he will be at Hamburg, where he can halt, if he pleases, or continue his northward journey at once, and be at Copenhagen early next morning. From Copenhagen it will be a single day's journey to Christiania; and from Christiania there is rail to Trondhjem, if the tourist can go so far north.

What should certainly be done, if possible, is to extend the tour into Sweden. Stockholm—"the Venice of the North"—is by rail about the same distance as Christiania from Copenhagen, but if the tourist desires to do the two countries in one trip, a circular ticket will enable him to cross from Christiania to Stockholm and return thence to Copenhagen. The cost of a ticket from Liverpool Street covering all the points above-mentioned is less than £16 first class, and just over £10 second. A circular tour as far as Copenhagen can be obtained for £9 5s. 6d. first class, or £6 second.

The Rhine and South Germany.

By the Harwich Hook of Holland route Cologne is now reached at mid-day, and at Cologne there are railway connections for all points on the Rhine and its tributary valleys, as well as the Black Forest, and all parts of South Germany. For doing the Rhine itself, the best plan, if time permits, will of course be to take the Rhine steamer from Cologne, breaking the journey as far as possible at the various famous beauty spots. Coblence, reached from Cologne either by steamer or rail, is the starting-point for excursions up the valley of the Moselle, as picturesque in its way as the Rhine itself; and also for the valley of the Ahr, and that weird and romantic district, the Volcanic Eifel. Another delightful valley, little known except to visitors to the waters of Ems, is that of the Lahn, which may be entered from Niederlahnstein, and from here also rail may be taken to Wiesbaden, via Mosbach, which is also the junction for Frankfort and Homburg. From Bingerbrück the valley of the Nahr may be explored, leading into the beautiful mountain region of the Palatinate, for which Kreuznach is a convenient centre. Higher up the Rhine, and best reached by train from Mayence, there is the picturesque valley of the Neckar, with Heidelberg as its centre; and further south from here the railway skirts the Black Forest, for which Freiburg will be the most convenient starting-point. The whole or any portion of the points thus briefly indicated, as well as Strasburg and the "blue Alsatian mountains" on the other side of the Rhine, can be included in the circular tickets of the Great Eastern Company viâ Harwich and the Hook of Holland.

Switzerland via Harwich.

On the attractions of Switzerland for the holiday-maker it is unnecessary to dwell here. Every year they appeal to a larger number of people both in this and other countries, and every year the Swiss themselves, by the opening of new hotels, the extension of mountain and other railways, and in every arrangement that can be made for the convenience of foreign visitors, do more and more to justify the reputation of their country as "the playground of Europe." What we are concerned with specially at present is to show what the Great Eastern Company has done to bring all parts of Switzerland within easy reach of the British tourist.

By the Harwich route, Switzerland is reached viâ Bale, by an extension of the Rhine and Black Forest tours mentioned above, which may be combined with it, if desired, at the convenience of the traveller. He has a choice of two routes (1) by the Hook of Holland, Cologne, and the Rhine, (2) by Antwerp and Brussels. By the former route he travels straight through from the Hook, by a corridor train, with restaurant cars attached, reaching Bâle the same evening.

Bâle is, of course, a natural starting-point for tours through all parts of Switzerland, and from it a variety of attractive and inexpensive tours can be booked through the Great Eastern Railway. It is about equi-distant from Lake Constance and the Falls of the Rhine at Schaffhausen, from the Lakes of Lucerne and Zurich, and from Berne, and a more extended tour will take the traveller to the Lake of Geneva and the Rhone Valley, or eastward to the Engadine. To one visiting Switzerland for the first time one might suggest, for a survey of the most characteristic and familiar portions of Swiss scenery, a circular tour from Bâle, by way of Berne, and thence into the magnificent mountains of the Bernese Oberland, proceeding by Thun and its Lake to Interlaken, whence Grindelwald and all the finest mountains, glaciers, and passes of the Oberland are easily reached; thence by the Lake of Brienz to Meiringen; and from there to Lucerne, with the famous attractions of its Lake, the Rigi, and Mount Pilatus; and so back again to Bâle, or vice versâ.

Season tickets can be obtained available for longer or shorter periods over most of the Swiss railway lines, and by the lake steamers. Finally, to show how the pockets of travellers, not to mention their convenience in other respects, are studied by the G.E.R., it may be mentioned that a tour from London to Bâle by the Harwich route, including, among other points, Cologne, the Rhine country, Heidelberg, and Freiburg on the one journey, and Strasburg, Luxemburg, Brussels, and Antwerp on the other, costs only £7 9s. 9d. first class, or £4 16s. 9d. second.

Belgium via Antwerp.

By comparison with Holland, Belgium is a well-known country to the English tourist—so well known that any description of its features would be superfluous. But the comfort of the Great Eastern service should tempt many to make its acquaintance if they have not already done so. Leaving Liverpool Street at 8.40 p.m., the traveller can breakfast next morning in the calm waters of the Scheldt, within sight of the cathedral tower of Antwerp. In the other direction, a table d'hôte dinner is served on leaving Antwerp while the steamer is proceeding down the Scheldt. It may here be mentioned that there is a comfortable and convenient route this way to the Rhine, and if the passenger is going on in that direction he finds the train for Cologne waiting for him on the quay beside his steamer. If he is staying in Belgium, he finds in Antwerp itself a mine of objects of historical, architectural, and artistic interest, and is in ready communication with every other part of Belgium. The attractions of Brussels, as a "Paris in miniature," mark it down as a natural stopping-place, as well as a starting-point for excursions to Waterloo and the old Flemish cities, Oudenarde, Ghent, Bruges, Courtrai, and Tournai.

The holiday-maker, however, who goes to Belgium in these days is almost certain to be bound for The Ardennes, containing some of the finest wild forest and river scenery in Western Europe, and there is no better place for a holiday at once enjoyable, health-giving, and cheap. The district is approached from Namur, about an hour's journey from Brussels on the main line to Luxemburg. From this point a diversity of routes is open to the tourist, of which the most picturesque and the most frequented runs by the valley of the Meuse to Dinant, perhaps the best starting-point for short excursions into the finest parts of the Ardennes, notably the beautiful valley of the Lesse. One of the most famous points in the Ardennes is, of course, the Grottoes of Han (reached from Rochefort), the underground journey through which affords a weird experience never to be forgotten. If time permits, an excursion into the Luxemburg Ardennes, beyond the Belgian frontier, with its wild romantic valleys, walled in by high rocks and winding through forests, is highly desirable in order to obtain a complete idea of the whole of this beautiful district.

Not the least of the attractions of the Ardennes is that a circular tour by the Great Eastern route, embracing practically the whole district, and giving the opportunity of a stay at Antwerp, Brussels, and the other towns, may be had at the price of 65s. first class, or 43s. 9d. second. The season tickets of the Belgian State Railways, available over the whole

country for various periods, may also be obtained at Liverpool Street Station.

THE LIVERPOOL STREET HOTEL.

Of late years the owning and management of hotels has become a necessary part of the business of most big railway companies. The reasons are obvious. Good hotels are indispensable to comfortable travelling, and a railway company which desires to popularise its service by looking after the welfare of its travellers cannot make more certain of doing so than by conducting its hotels itself. One of the first needs of the traveller is hotel accommodation close to the point of arrival or departure. He does not want, as the prelude to a long railway journey, to spend half an hour in a cab or a fly, still less to go through that penance when he leaves the train at what he would hope to find his journey's end. The traveller to or from the Continent, again, often yearns for a good hotel as near as possible to the water's edge, and the longer the sea passage the more this need is likely to be felt. You may reach the coast from London or any inland district to find the weather very different from what it was when you started, and may deem it expedient to postpone your crossing. You may be returning to England, and find yourself so knocked up by a bad sea passage on the top of a long railway journey that the prospect of even two hours more in the most comfortable of trains is intolerable, and a bedroom the only place for you.

The enterprise of the Great Eastern management has not failed in attending to these requirements of its passengers. What has been said above as to the advantages of the Harwich Route to the Continent would be incomplete without reference to the merits of the Great Eastern Hotels, both at Liverpool Street and at Parkeston Quay, Harwich, whether for the arriving or the departing traveller; and Liverpool Street Hotel is, of course, of equal value to travellers going to or from any of the Eastern Counties towns. And not to them only. The London terminus hotels are in these days very largely patronised by residents in the suburban and country districts making flying visits to London. People come up for a dance or any other late entertainment, and stay in town for the night. Even coming up for the theatre, and with the possibility of getting home by a late train, they find it more comfortable to go to an hotel to dine and dress and sleep there afterwards. The hotel at the London terminus, close to the railway carriage door, both on arriving and returning, is always the most convenient for these purposes. Again, residents in the suburbs and the country frequently desire to give entertainments for which their own neighbourhood offers no facilities—it may be a ball, or a dinner, or a wedding reception. For such occasions no place can be more convenient than the hotel at their London terminus, equally accessible as it will be to themselves and their neighbours and guests.

All these ends are admirably served by Liverpool Street Hotel, which is for this reason one of the most valuable conveniences of the Great Eastern Railway system, while, at the same time, its situation in the heart of the City, and with ready access to all parts of London, makes it convenient for City people in general, wherever they may live. First opened in 1884, it has shared in the growth and development of Liverpool Street Station and the railway system which has its headquarters there, and was enlarged and thoroughly modernised in the nineties. It now covers the largest area of any of the London railway hotels, and is in every respect one of the finest and most up-to-date of the great hostelries of London. In the mere matter of artistic and tasteful decoration, which counts for a great deal in these days, its interior, whether in the public or private rooms, will bear comparison with that of any of its rivals in the West End. The same thing may be said of the furnishing. Its hall and lounge, its handsome dining-room and drawing-room, not to mention its smoking-room, are at once capacious and comfortable; and its bedrooms, over three hundred in number, offer luxury and convenience in degrees suitable to the tastes and pockets of all classes of guests. The *cuisine* is designed not merely to satisfy the requirements of travellers and ordinary guests, but of those who give epicurean private dinners, and of public banquets on the largest scale; and, apart from the ordinary conveniences and amenities of a residential hotel, Liverpool Street Hotel serves in the City all the purposes of the most ambitious type of modern restaurant.

One of the finest features of the hotel, and the one which has added more than anything else to its popularity, is the magnificent suite of apartments known as the ABERCORN ROOMS. These are admirably designed in every respect for public and private entertainments of all kinds, and for such purposes have scarcely any equal in London. The Hamilton Hall, the largest of the rooms, is a beautiful Salon, decorated in the Louis Quinze style, and modelled on one in the Palais Soubise, Paris. Measuring about 100 ft. by 42 ft., and having a music gallery at one end, it makes a splendid ball-room, and its floor and decorations are designed with an eye to that purpose chiefly. But it is equally available for concerts (seating 800 people), as well as for banquets. When used as a banquetting hall it is served by a kitchen in close proximity, where a French *chef* reigns. There are many other rooms in this wing of the hotel, smaller in size, but all decorated and furnished in charming taste, and suitable, either singly or in suites, for dances, smoking concerts, and such-like entertainments. Last, but not least among the conveniences of the Abercorn Rooms should be mentioned the Masonic Temple, a characteristic apartment, decorated in the Egyptian style. It will easily be perceived how these fine suites of rooms add to the advantages of Liverpool Street Hotel which have been previously indicated.

THE SANDRINGHAM HOTEL, HUNSTANTON.

Mention has already been made of the Great Eastern Hotel, Parkeston Quay, Harwich, and of the convenience it offers to travellers who desire to break their journey either to or from the Continent, immediately adjacent as it is to the railway terminus at this point, and the point of arrival and departure of the Great Eastern mail steamers.

But the most attractive seaside quarters provided by the Great Eastern Railway are to be found at the SANDRINGHAM HOTEL, HUNSTANTON. Whether for a mere week-end visit or a more prolonged holiday, this is one of the spots on the East Coast which appeal most strongly to those in search of rest and quiet, amid the most bracing of sea breezes, and close to some of the most charming scenery in Norfolk. The Sandringham Hotel itself is a modern building, recently much enlarged and improved, standing only a few yards from the sea, and designed in every respect to minister to the wants and the comfort of seaside visitors; indeed, nowhere on the East Coast can you find yourself more thoroughly at home. Moreover, this is not one of those seaside hotels which lay themselves out to rival the charges which rule at Ostend, Trouville, or Monte Carlo. The tariff is well within recognised limits, and only during July, August, and September do the full boarding terms rise to four guineas a week. A convenient arrangement of the G.E.R. is the issue of hotel coupons from the principal stations on the line, including full board and attendance at the Sandringham Hotel from the day of arrival to that of departure.

Of the attractions offered to visitors in the neighbourhood some idea has been given in the preceding pages. Perhaps of all classes Hunstanton appeals most forcibly to golfers, the Hunstanton Club having a first-rate eighteen-hole course on a sandy soil, and a comfortable club house. The little town itself, though scarcely yet beyond the primitive stage, is well managed, and the usual seaside amusements are always going on during the summer season. The bathing is excellent and safe, and there is good fishing to be had in the Wash. The surrounding country offers endless opportunities for picturesque and interesting excursions, the most notable, of course, being to Sandringham, which is within eight miles. In short, this out of the way corner of Norfolk deserves a high place among the many new holiday resorts which have been opened up to the world by the enterprise of the G.E.R.

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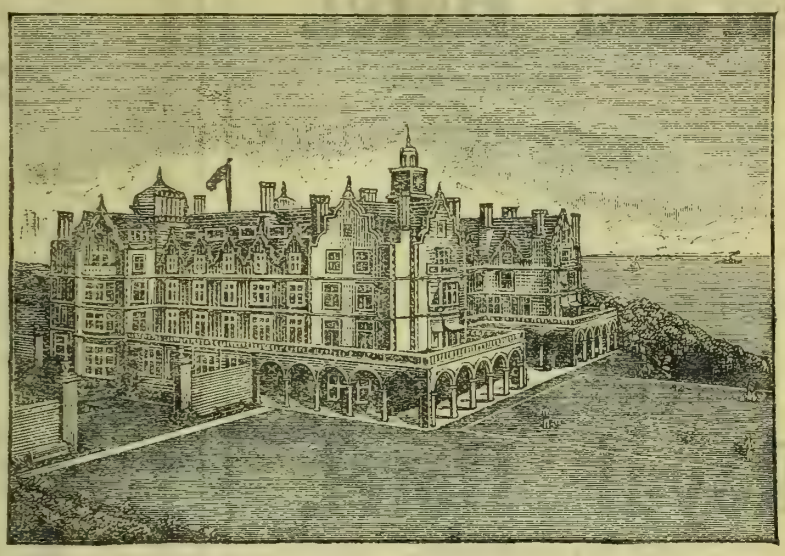

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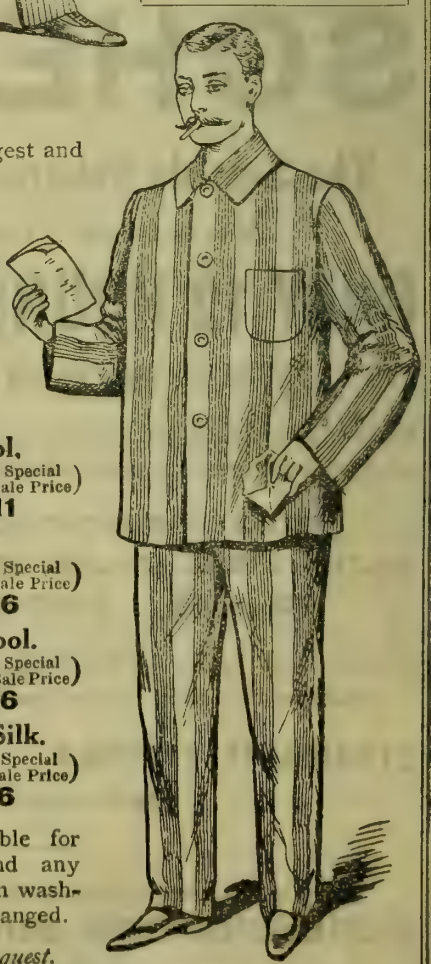

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(*Continued from page* 1470.)

bonds, $42,000,000 notes, and $15,000,000 stock. In all, therefore, the money market has been asked to provide capital for $912,000,000 in those few months. How much of this scrip has actually found a home, and how much is being nursed by finance houses that wish it elsewhere, forms an interesting subject for speculation. The recent declared experiences of underwriters, who have frequently been saddled with from 70 to 90 per cent. of their guarantees, lend too much colour to the latter theory, while a large proportion of the amounts that have been taken by the public has not yet been paid beyond the first few instalments. It is admittedly something to report an abatement of the tide of forced liquidation in Yankees, and to see the controlling interests once again making attempts to turn the market upwards. Perhaps the effort will be successful in giving values a further moderate fillip, but in the face of all the adverse circumstances that surround the market, it is much too early yet to take down the caution signal.

Canadian Pacifics—Advice to Present Holders—Trunks and Mexican Rails—Forced Selling from Glasgow—Foreign Rails Steady—The B.A. and Pacific and Argentine Great Western Working Agreement.

As usual, Canadian Pacifics last week kept fairly close company with American Rails, and after sundry fluctuations, wound up with a moderate improvement on balance. At first the market was subjected to some fairly heavy realising, but there appeared to be a large number of buying limits around 170, and the execution of these started a rally which was fostered by the revival in Yankees. Several correspondents have written me lately for advice regarding their holdings of Canadas, the sharp fall in the last few months having naturally caused them anxiety. With markets all round in their present parlous state, it would be rash to predict any lasting revival in the near future, albeit, as may be gathered from my comments on Americans in another column, determined efforts are being made by New York capitalists to give values a lift. However, this is hardly the time to part with anything, least of all with stocks having such solid merits as Canadian Pacifics. If general conditions governing the Stock Markets have altered since last autumn, and many people have been forced to relinquish their holdings at a sacrifice, the fact does not in any way alter the outlook for the railroad, which continues of the brightest. Take, for instance, the traffic for the last ten days of May. The earnings of $2,232,000 represented an increase of $440,000, or more than 24 per cent. This is striking evidence of the development that is going on in the Dominion. It is true that for the present, owing to the era of high prices for wages and materials, the gross gains are yielding a disproportionately small amount as extra net gain, but this era will not last for ever, and in the meantime there is not the slightest fear about the maintenance of the dividend.

The company at present pays 6 per cent. out of its revenue from the railroad, and a bonus at the rate of 1 per cent. from the interest derived upon the proceeds of its land sales. On the basis of the present price the yield is about 4¼ per cent. This is, on the face of it, not a particularly high return, but it must be remembered first that the dividend on Canadas is better secured than upon dozens of prior charge stocks of many other railroads, and second, that quite apart from its earnings and assets as a railroad, the Canadian Pacific possesses land assets estimated to be worth from 15 to 20 million sterling, whilst the entire common stock of the company is only about 24 millions sterling. Under existing conditions the principal sum realised from the sale of lands is being invested at 6 per cent., and is to be allowed to accumulate, in the words of the chairman, "until such time as a definite plan can be evolved for its utilisation." Exactly what the board has in mind it is impossible to say, but if the idea is to eventually form a separate company to take care of the land assets, Canadian Pacific proprietors should be given a bonus in the form of new scrip that would show up the value of their holdings in a very favourable light. In the meantime, the existence of these land assets, and the retention of the proceeds of sales in the company's treasury, taken in conjunction with the big surplus earned over and above the dividend actually paid, explain why Canadas may be regarded as a high-class investment.

The Grand Trunk, like its larger neighbour, still piles up huge gross traffic increases; the gain for the last ten days of May was no less than £30,300, or nearly 13 per cent. Here, again, the company is working at such a high ratio, partly on account of dear labour and materials, and partly on account of the virtual rebuilding of the Canada Atlantic branch, that, for the present, these substantial gains in gross are hardly reflected at all upon the net receipts. It is, therefore, very unlikely that there will be anything available for the ordinary stockholders this year, but the Third preference stands a reasonable prospect of getting its full 4 per cent., as, after making allowance for the £46,000 saved this year on account of the non-repetition of the Michigan taxation arrears item, and the £17,000 net increase which the company showed to the end of April, it only requires another £9,000 additional profit to yield the £72,000 which an additional 1 per cent. on Thirds calls for. And there are the proceeds of eight months' working in which to provide this trifle. Trunks last week were brought down by sales in connection with the embarrassment of a leading broker in Glasgow. The liquidation on this account must be pretty well over now, and provided trouble does not break out in some fresh place, the market ought to soon begin looking up.

In the Foreign Railway group Mexican Rails have also been affected by the financial trouble in the north, but speaking generally the tendency last week was steadier than of late. Antofagasta and Bolivia deferred, to which I called attention a fortnight ago, when the price was 130, have had a further rise, the price at the time of writing being 137. The Argentine Railway traffics were, of course, affected by the strike, the Buenos Ayres Great Southern take showing a decrease of no less than £40,000. As, however, the trouble has been satisfactorily adjusted, this temporary falling-off need not trouble stockholders, and part of the loss has no doubt been made up since, as the goods traffic would not be lost, but only delayed, by the strike. The terms upon which the Buenos Ayres and Pacific is to lease the Argentine Great Western—and through that the Transandine Railway—have already been pretty well discussed, but so far the market does not seem to have taken sufficient notice of them. Put briefly the arrangement comes to this: The Argentine Great Western, in respect of both its preferred and ordinary capital, will be entitled to receive from the Pacific amounts which, so far as they are in excess of 5 per cent., will vary with and be ascertained by reference to the yearly dividends actually paid by the Pacific company on its ordinary stock, namely:—

(*a*) When the Pacific Company pays 5½ per cent., an additional ½ per cent., making the total.....	5½ per cent.
(*b*) When the Pacific Company pays 6 per cent., an additional ½ per cent., making the total.....	6 per cent.
(*c*) When the Pacific Company pays over 7 per cent., a further ½ per cent., making the total.....	6½ per cent.
(*d*) When the Pacific Company pays 10 per cent. or upwards, a further ½ per cent., making the total	7 per cent.

The amounts receivable by the Great Western in respect of its preferred capital cannot fall below 5 per cent. per annum unless the Pacific Company should have to reduce the dividend on its preference stock, which is cumulative, and similarly the amount receivable in respect of the ordinary capital of the Great Western cannot fall below 5 per cent. unless the Pacific Company should have to reduce the dividend on its second preference stock. Thus the Great Western's preferred and ordinary capital become in effect preferred stocks respectively, ranking for 5 per cent. *pari passu* with the first and second preference stocks of the Pacific Company, and entitled to the additional dividends above mentioned. Now, the Pacific Company has paid 7 per cent. on its ordinary stock for the past three years, and the chances are that the dividend will be maintained. The point to keep prominently in mind,

however, is that even should the Pacific have to reduce its dividend to 6 per cent., that will not affect the present rates of 6 per cent. being paid upon Great Western preferred and ordinary. Therefore, with 6 per cent. reasonably secured, and 5 per cent. virtually assured, both these stocks present strong attractions for the investor. At present prices the preferred gives a yield of 5⅛ per cent., while the ordinary returns nearly 5¾ per cent. My usual table follows:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	June 1, 1907.	June 8, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅜	171¾	172¾	+1
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	28	—	—
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	100½	100½	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114¾	118	117⅞	- ⅛
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105¾	109¼	108⅞	- ⅜
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70¼	60 15/16	69½	68¼	- ⅝
Mexican	50⅞	22¼	43½	40¼	-3¼
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144¼	118⅜	135	133	-2
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¾	49½	85½	83½	-2
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	10⅜	10⅜	- ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116	116½	+ ½
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90¼	78¼	82½	82½	—
Do. First Incomes	30	18	20½	20½	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	90	90	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65⅛	77	77	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅜	37½	51	49	-2
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅛	19½	21	20	-1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	148	148	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	114	114	—
Antofagasta Def.	180⅛	162	135	137	+2
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14 1/16	13¾	13	- ¾
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	105½	106	- ½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	72	72	—
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	111½	111½	—
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	98	99	+1
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	120	119½	- ½
Do. Western	138¾	123½	119	119½	+ ½
East Argentine	100	87	118½	118½	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	63½	64	+ ½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108¾	85	85½	85½	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	89	89	—
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	10½	10	- ½
Leopoldina	86½	69½	69	69	—
San Paulo	214⅜	193½	209	208½	- ½
Central Uruguay	92½	82	88½	88	- ½
Costa Rica	29 1/16	25	28½	28	- ½
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	101	78	71	71½	+ ½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76½	69	70	+1
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¼	80	79	-1
Manila 6 p.c Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	43½	42	-1½
Cuban Central	7 15/16	5⅝	5⅜	5¼	—
United of Havana	193	105⅝	92½	92½	—
Western of Havana	15 3/32	12½	11¾	11¾	—
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87¾	88	87½	- ½
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	8 5/8	76	74	72½	-1½
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅜	19¼	21	20½	- ½

KAFFIRS AND RHODESIANS QUIET AND COMPARATIVELY STEADY —WHITE MINERS' STRIKE "PRACTICALLY COLLAPSED"— THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REDUCTION IN RAND COSTS FORESHADOWED AS AN OUTCOME OF THE STRIKE — ELDORADO BANKETS.

South African mining descriptions have not been a very brisk market during the past week, the public still holding aloof, and the professionals themselves being somewhat nervous of increasing commitments in view of the financial difficulties that have come to light on the Stock Exchange, and of the uncertainty still surrounding the Rand labour outlook. But a cessation of the recent liquidation has to be reported so far as Kaffirs and Rhodesians are concerned, and on the whole they have been fairly steady. As regards the question of the repatriation or replacement of the Chinese, it is still held in certain quarters that some of the contracts will be extended for a limited period, and in any case it should not now be long before the new Government declares its intentions in regard to this important matter. As to the white miners' strike, it is an encouraging sign that the authorities contemplate withdrawing the infantry which was drafted into the district in order to preserve order. As a matter of fact, the strike is no longer regarded seriously from the point of view of the market, while as regards the working of the mines, men have been found to replace the strikers, and in no case has a whole mill had to be shut down. Last week, in dealing with the question of the outcome of the strike, I quoted from the cable of a Johannesburg correspondent that the economy resulting from the alteration that has been made by the mine managers in their policy as a consequence of the strike, "which is variously estimated at from 18d. to 30d. per ton, may mean that exceptionally good profits will be shown, due to the elimination of excessive and unnecessary charges." Such a saving would be of considerable importance, not only from the point of view of shareholders, whose chief concern is the rate of dividend paid on their investments, but also in respect to the payable career of the mines. With a reduction in expenses, material hitherto of unpayable grade may become a source of profit. For example, take the case of a mine whose working costs amount to 25s. per ton, and which has a quantity of 6 dwt. (or 24s.) ore opened up in addition to reserves of 8 dwt. material. The lower grade stuff by itself is unpayable on the basis of cost mentioned, but bring down expenses by 2s. per ton and it will become a valuable asset. As regards the effect of the foreshadowed reduction of from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per ton in costs upon profits and dividends, my readers will probably gain a better idea of the importance of such a saving on consideration of the subjoined table, which explains itself:—

Company.	Ore Treated Last Year.	2s. per ton Represents	Amount Required to Pay 1 per Cent. on Capital.
	Tons.	£	£
Glencairn	184 532	18,453	5,500
New Kleinfontein	378,519	37,851	9,000
Robinson Central Deep	201,095	20,109	4,400
Knights Deep	317,480	31,748	6,435
Ferreira Deep	251,721	25,172	9,100
Wit. Deep	335,880	33,588	5,000

It will be seen that on the basis of the past year's tonnages a saving of 2s. per ton represents sums equivalent to from 3 to 6 per cent. on the capitals of the companies concerned. I have taken these companies for the purpose of illustrating the point at issue in view of the fact that their shares are among those I have recently recommended to my readers as promising Kaffir selections.

In the Rhodesian market, the Banket issues have continued to receive a fair amount of attention, and have shown some fluctuation during the week. Eldorados have been rather dull, as the expected news of crushing having commenced has not come to hand. As a matter of fact, I now learn that crushing is not likely to be started until next month, as some of the necessary plant has not reached the property.

The total gross production of the Transvaal mines for May is now announced, and it will be seen from the subjoined table that the return is below that for April, the extra day failing to counterbalance the interruption to work caused by the strike of white miners:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638	537,633
February	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668	493,542
March	217,465	308,242	399,823	443 723	538 497
April	227,871	305,946	399.166	439,243	537 019
May	234,125	314,480	416,595	461,202	524,477
June	238,320	368,219	412,317	475,975	—
July	251,643	307,340	419,505	491 793	—
August	271,918	312,277	428,581	500.115	—
September	276,197	312,286	416,487	505.111	—
October	284,544	325,625	415,527	510 609	—
November	279,813	330.167	424,757	533,373	—
December	286,061	362,264	431,594	550,167	—
Total	2,963,749	3,776,621*	4,897,221	5,786,617	2,631,173

* Includes 7,949 oz. or £33,706 not declared in year.

The value of the gold produced is given in the following table:—

Month.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,503	1,820,739	2,283,741
February	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731,664	2 096 434
March	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815	2,287,391
April	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	1,865,785	2,281,110
May	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734	1,959,062	2,227,838
June	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	2,021,813	—
July	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	2,089,004	—
August	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	2,162,583	—
September	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769 124	2,145.575	—
October	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	2,296,371	—
November	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,263	2,265,625	—
December	1,215,110	1,588,800	1,883,295	2,356,961	—
Totals	12,589,247	16,054,909	20,802,074	24,579,087	11,176,514

All the individual results are not yet to hand, so my usual comparative table must be held over until next week, when a comprehensive list of Kaffir prices will also be given. As I foreshadowed last month, the native labour returns this time show a small loss, the first for a long time past. This is no doubt due to the regular return of a certain number of the natives to agricultural pursuits during the middle months of the year.

East Rand Group Results—A Disappointing Showing for 1906, but Latest Returns Encouraging—Dividend Prospects.

In view of the rumour that has been current in the market recently as to the East Rand Proprietary announcing a dividend during the current month, and of the fact that a resumption of distributions by this company is dependent upon its subsidiaries leading the way in that respect, it will doubtless be of interest to my readers if I devote a portion of my space this week to a review of the position and prospects of the mines of this group. The reports for 1906 of the parent concern and its producing subsidiaries, the Angelo, Cason, Driefontein Consolidated, and New Comet, were presented at the annual meetings held at Johannesburg at the end of March, and were issued to shareholders on this side a few weeks ago. The past year's results in the aggregate, compared with those for 1905, appear very satisfactory, increases being shown in the quantity of ore milled, in the gold production, profits, development footage, and the amount of ore developed. But, as a matter of fact, comparison of the latest figures with those for 1905 is hardly fair, as the 1906 totals include the results of the Cason mine, which was not a producer in 1905, but contributed to the gold output for seven months of the past year. The total quantity of ore milled last year was 367,812 tons, the average number of stamps at work having been 560, and the gold recovered was 411,976 oz., of the value of £1,754,156, equal to 36s. 9d. per ton milled. The total costs for the year were £1,165,090, equal to 24s. 5d. per ton, so that the working profits were £589,066, or 12s. 4d. per ton. The working costs showed a considerable decrease towards the end of the period, which was attributable entirely to the increase in efficiency of the unskilled labour, and to the increase in tonnage which resulted therefrom. The reduction in the average working costs for the whole of the past year amounted to 1s. 1d. per ton, and the manager in his report foreshadows a further decrease.

The individual results are summarised in the subjoined table:—

Mine.		Ore Milled. Tons.	Gold Yield. Ozs.	Working Profit. £	Per Ton. Yield. s. d.	Costs. s. d.	Profit. s. d.
Angelo	1906	235,168	129,710	227 427	42 11	25 3	17 8
	1905	146,867	85,650	165,188	49 7	27 1	22 6
Cason	*1906	239,636	117,559	220,560	41 10	23 5	18 5
	1905		not crushing				
Driefontein	1906	235,168	80,177	58,183	29 0	24 1	4 11
	1905	223,735	104,613	167,515	38 1	23 9	14 4
New Comet	1906	224,220	84,529	82,897	32 1	24 8	7 5
	1905	169,887	68,289	68,612	34 2	26 4	7 10

* Seven months.

In accordance with the proposal outlined by the Board last October to appropriate profits to defray capital expenditure, a sum of £166,758 was utilised last year out of the Angelo's revenue, and the unappropriated balance at the end of 1906, amounting to £69,428, was reserved to meet expenditure on excess development in the current year, and expenditure on plant not then completed. As regards the mining position, the ore reserves at the end of 1906 were 232,665 tons in excess of the tonnage a year previously, the total being 808,882 tons, of an average value of 8.4 dwt., say 34s. per ton. At the meeting of the parent company the chairman said that any apprehensions entertained concerning the development of the Angelo some little time ago had been groundless, and he directed attention to the consulting engineer's report, which foreshadowed that the mine would rapidly work up to the full complement of stamps, whilst maintaining the grade. The monthly returns for the current year, as a matter of fact, show a marked improvement, the profits reported being as follow:—

January.	February.	March.	April.
£24,912	£16,987	£23,417	£30,110

The aggregate earnings for the first four months of the current year are thus at the rate of 48 per cent. per annum on the issued capital.

The Cason, the latest member of the group to join the list of producers, reports highly satisfactory results. The ore reserves at the end of 1906 were 602,820 tons of an average value of 10.9 dwt. Some months ago it was rumoured that the mine was not developing so well, but the consulting engineer in his report states that it would appear that the poor values on the 6th level west are only a passing phase of the situation, and that the bottom levels will open up good ore as formerly. For the first four months of the current year the Cason's earnings have been:—

January.	February.	March.	April.
£35,848	£28,969	£36,155	£39,910

These earnings are at the rate of 80 per cent. per annum on the issued capital of £525,000. During 1906 a sum of £191,198 was appropriated out of profits to meet expenditure on capital account.

The Driefontein Consolidated is the most disappointing mine of the group, the profit last year amounting to under 5s. per ton. Revenue has been appropriated to meet expenditure on capital account in the case of this company also, and in the current year more is to be so applied. The ore reserves at the end of 1906 stood at 1,024,270 tons, of an average value of 6.3 dwts. Development has recently been attended with more encouraging results, and the consulting engineer in his report said that an improvement might be confidently anticipated both in respect of the tonnage crushed and the grade of ore treated. Already in the current year the monthly profits have increased considerably, as the following table shows:—

January.	February.	March.	April.
£5,727	£4,170	£6,310	£9,369

These results are at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the issued capital.

At the New Comet—which, by the way, was the first mine on the Rand to receive a supply of Chinese labour—the past year's working was fairly satisfactory, the profit per ton being only 5d. less than in the preceding period. The ore reserves at the end of 1906 amounted to 619,694 tons, a decrease of 28,266 tons compared with the 1905 total, which indicates that more ore was treated than developed in the last twelve months. The grade of ore in the lower levels, according to the consulting engineer, appears to be quite satisfactory. In the current year profits have been:—

January.	February.	March.	April.
£7,833	£4,991	£6,863	£3,894

These are at the rate of nearly 16 per cent. per annum on the issued capital. The Comet, as well as the Angelo and Driefontein, passed its dividend last year, profits being utilised to meet capital expenditure. A sum of £82,839 was so appropriated in 1906, and it is estimated that a further amount of £45,282 is necessary to complete the equipment.

Now as regards the outlook in regard to the important matter of the resumption of distributions by the three mines which had to pass their dividends last year. At the meeting of the parent company the chairman dealt at length with the position and held out the hope of the Angelo, Driefontein, and New Comet making an early return to the list of dividend payers, "provided the labour position is neither assailed nor threatened," and their lead, he foreshadowed, would be followed by the East Rand itself. Further expenditure on capital account was foreshadowed in respect of each of the mines in the current year. The Angelo was in

Investor's Handbook.—The Central Stock Exchange, L'd. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C., now offer this, which contains particulars of Highest and Lowest Prices, Dividends, &c., for a considerable period, post free to any applicant naming this paper.

possession of sufficient funds for its full requirements and the Cason had a small credit balance, but the Driefontein and New Comet had deficits. In order to permit of dividends being paid it was proposed that the parent company should make an arrangement to advance the amounts required, such amounts to be repayable in equal monthly instalments over a fixed period. The Driefontein and New Comet, it was stated, would use part of their monthly profits to reduce the advances, and any sum required by the Cason would be treated similarly. Last month operations at the four mines of this group were hindered by the strike of white miners, and some of the stamps had to be stopped, but the Cason has now its full complement at work. A first dividend declaration by the Cason is expected shortly, the amount anticipated being 7s. per share, and rumour has credited the Angelo with an intention to rejoin the dividend list this month, as well as the parent concern, but it would appear that early distributions depend upon a satisfactory settlement of the Chinese labour question, which has yet to be announced.

[Other groups of Transvaal mines have been reviewed in TRUTH as follows:—Robinson group, April 3; Rand Mines subsidiaries, May 1; Barnato group, May 22.]

COPPER GROUP CONTINUES ACTIVE—CAMP BIRDS, ESPERANZAS AND TOMBOYS—PUSING LAMA TIN—INDIAN GOLD OUTPUT—MYSORE'S DEVELOPMENT AT DEPTH.

The group of copper shares has continued one of the most active sections of the House. During the past week the favourites have fluctuated widely in common with the price of the metal, and, as I ventured to foreshadow, there has been plenty of scope for speculation. On the whole, the "bears" have had the best of it, as the following table of prices shows:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	June 1, 1907.	June 8, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1 5/8	1 1/16	1 1/2	1 5/8	- 1/32
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	15/-	14/9	- 3d.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3 3/4	1 1/2	1 9/16	1 1/2	- 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2 3/4	1 1/16	2 7/16	2 3/8	- 1/16
Wassau	1 3/8	1/2	3/4	3/4	—
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/6	1/9	+3d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1/3	1/-	-3d.
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	21/3	22/3	-1/-
Esperanza	5 9/16	2 1/4	1 7/8	1 15/16	+ 1/4
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7 1/2	37/-	39/4 1/2	+2/4 1/2
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5 3/4	3 1/16	4 1/2	4 1/16	- 1/16
Zinc Corporation	2 1/8	1 1/16	14/6	13/-	- 1/6
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15 3/8	11 1/8	11 3/4	11 1/8	- 1/4
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/2	1	63/6	63/-	- 6d.
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4 3/8	9 1/2	8 9/16	- 1/16
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	46/6	43/6	- 3/-
Mount Morgan	4 3/4	3 1/4	4 1/16	4 1/4	- 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	91 1/2	63 5/8	89 3/8	87 1/2	- 2 3/8
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	24/6	24/6	—
Pusing Lama Tin	3 5/16	3/4	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	16/6	16/6	—
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/9	10/6	- 3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7 1/8	5 1/2	5 3/4	5 3/4	—
Siberian Mines	—	1 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/16	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16 1/4	8 1/2	3 1/2	3	- 1/4
Waihi	9 13/16	6 7/16	2 1/8	9	+ 1/16

The steady decline in Camp Birds from about 30s. to under £1 at one time last week has given rise to apprehensions as to the development of the company's property. It is stated that quite recently there has been selling in connection with a deceased account, and that the mining position is satisfactory enough, but this does not explain the whole of the fall in the price of the shares and the fact that they have been a dull market for some months past. It may be remembered that in TRUTH of February 13 last I commented upon Camp Birds, pointing out that they appeared undervalued. "But," I added, "there is evidently 'a tap on' here, as selling follows any improvement in the shares, so that the price is kept below 30s." There has been some recovery in the quotation from the lowest point touched, but the position is not sufficiently clear to induce one to strongly recommend a purchase. American mining companies seem to have a knack of providing unpleasant surprises for their shareholders. There was a steady drop in Esperanzas some time ago, in face of the big dividends being paid, and it was not for a while after that there came to light facts which explained the fall. These shares, by the way, have been in better demand during the past week, and they seem a very fair speculation at the current price, though it is hardly likely that the company will find another bonanza chute like the one which has yielded such handsome dividends, and which is still not quite worked out. Failing such a discovery, the company may have a fair career as a producer on a moderate scale, like the neighbouring El Oro. From this point of view, the future of the Esperanza mine depends mainly upon developments at depth, and results so far are officially stated to be satisfactory. Another American company whose shares have come in for rather more attention during the past week is the Tomboy. On these the handsome dividend of 5s. per share is announced, and this makes the return for the financial year ending this month 7s. 6d. per share. But the shares have been sold, despite the high return, it being stated that the profits have been "somewhat abnormal." The management foreshadows monthly profits of £8,000 in future, as compared with an average of £12,000 in the last twelve months. At the lower rate, however, dividends of about 30 per cent. on the issued capital (£300,000) should be possible, and this would represent a yield of nearly 17 per cent. on the current market price of the shares. As it is stated that the lower rate "can be easily and fairly maintained for a considerable period," the shares would seem a hopeful purchase, with a view to holding them for dividends.

The dividend of 2s. per share declared and paid last week by the Pusing Lama tin mines brings the amount distributed in respect of the current financial year up to 8s. 6d. per share, and it is officially announced that upon completion of the accounts to the end of the period—namely, the 30th inst.—the directors expect to be able to declare a further distribution. Prospects are speculative, profits being largely dependent upon the course of the price of tin, but the shares at the current price yield 17 per cent. per annum on the basis of the 8s. 6d. per share already distributed, and this return seems to allow a fair margin for the speculative character of the security. The company is one of the largest of the Straits tin producers.

The gold output of the Indian mines for the past month shows a further reduction, and the return is the lowest but one recorded this year:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	48,080	51,588	52 157	52,009	46,010
February	46,268	50,151	50,660	49,576	43,224
March	48,434	51,634	52.688	49,040	45,112
April	48,573	50,609	53,374	46,033	45,026
May	48,971	51,242	52.174	48,515	44.394
June	49,368	51,606	52,717	47,816	—
July	50,989	51,233	52,191	47,247	—
August	50,717	51,517	52,017	46,817	—
September	51,714	51,666	52,039	49,688	—
October	51,824	51,238	52,291	47,101	—
November	52,016	51,664	51,906	46,487	—
December	54,457	52,690	54,201	49,981	—
Total	601,411	616,838	628,415	577,260	223,766

As regards the individual returns, that of the Mysore, which is by far the largest of the Indian producers, is 100 ounces better than for April, but the Nundydroog shows a falling-off of nearly 600 ounces, and smaller declines are exhibited by Ooregum and Mysore West and Wynaad. Touching developments on the Kolar goldfield, some interesting information has recently come to hand, it being announced by the Mysore company that the reef has been struck in its property at a vertical depth of 2,370 feet. This is the lowest point yet reached on the field, and it is an encouraging feature that the reef where struck is of satisfactory width and value. The first interim dividend for the current year is expected to be declared before the end of the month, and it is thought the amount will be the same as was declared this time last year, namely, 4s. per share.

"FINANCE."—A concise weekly record of markets and prices, published by the CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LTD. (Established 1893), 66, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Post free for six months to applicants mentioning this paper.

MORE PHILANTHROPY.

There are no bounds to the philanthropy of Hamilton Smith and Co., 80A, Fenchurch-street. In the middle of May they offered you—so they say in a circular dated June 4—500 La Luz mining shares. You were ungrateful enough not to take them, but the firm are ready to give you another chance. "Having sold 400 of the 500. . . . and having disposed of them well," they now invite you to purchase "the remaining 100 at the reduced price of 5s. per share." The reduction, you are left to infer, is a piece of pure benevolence. Not only is the price less, but you are assured that Hamilton Smith and Co. thoroughly believe in the prospects of the company, having, in fact, reliable information which makes them confident that if you invest £25 in these shares you will in two or three months "clear a profit of £100 or thereabouts." Why they should be so anxious to thrust this handsome profit upon you, a stranger, instead of making it themselves, is, of course, a question which you are not expected to raise. What you have to believe—if you are the hopeless fool that they take you to be—is that Hamilton Smith and Co. are in business for your benefit, not their own.

PREMIUM BONDS AGAIN.

In my recent article on the Continental lottery or "premium" bond traffic I did less than justice to the rapacity which the International Securities Syndicate is displaying in its raid upon the pockets of a gullible public. It was mentioned that one bond for which the syndicate charges £5 cash down or £5 5s. by instalments is worth only £3 12s. 6d. Even the latter figure, however, was an over-valuation, the bond being obtainable through reputable channels in London for £3 10s. In another instance the syndicate seeks to persuade people into paying £21 cash down or £22 by instalments for a "combination" of three bonds, the legitimate market quotations for which amount only to £14 14s. 6d. So far as I am aware—I shall be glad to hear that I am mistaken—English law affords no remedy to the purchasers who are thus imposed upon. This, however, is one of those matters that they order better in France. The Paris firms of Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville, Glyn, and Co. have long carried on, at the expense of innocent Britishers, a precisely similar game to that which is now being so actively played by the above-named syndicate in London. But a couple of years or so ago I ascertained that under French law these harpies could be compelled to disgorge their plunder, and since then I have given a number of correspondents the name and address of a solicitor in Paris—the agent of a well-known London firm—who is ready to conduct the necessary proceedings. In almost every case he has been successful. I have, for instance, just received a letter of thanks from a correspondent in the North of England. He had undertaken to pay Melville, Glyn, and Co. no less than £1,000 by instalments for a combination of lottery bonds, and had already let them have £420, when a paragraph that he saw in TRUTH caused him to make inquiries. He discovered that for his £1,000 he would become the possessor of bonds really worth only £575. I introduced him to the Paris solicitor, and he now informs me that, as the result of the action taken by that gentleman, he has recovered £378 out of the £420 that he paid Melville, Glyn, and Co.—in other words, he has got out with a loss of just over £40 instead of over £400.

TEN YEARS' PRICES AND DIVIDENDS.

The new "Stock Exchange Ten-year Record of Prices and Dividends," just published (price 10s.) by Messrs. F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall-avenue, E.C., is a valuable work of reference. It shows at a glance the highest and lowest prices which have been touched from 1897 to 1906 by the whole of the securities quoted in the Official List, together with the dividends that have been distributed. Not only is it useful to have this information in an easily accessible form, but the record provides a fascinating study for the investor or speculator who, instead of being carried hither and thither by the currents of the moment, prefers to take a long view of tendencies and movements.

HOME RAILS.—Options granted in all Home Railway securities at low rates for one, two, and three months. Treatise on Options and list of rates free on mentioning this paper to the Secretary, LONDON AND PARIS EXCHANGE, LTD., Bankers, Basildon House, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Security, N.B.—Not an investment of the first rank, but interest should be duly met, and I know of no reason to advise a sale.

RAILWAYS.

Bombay.—While no doubt the details to which you refer would have been useful, it was necessary to have regard to considerations of space, and in articles covering so many stocks it was not possible to do more than outline the position. Readers could easily follow up the track by means of the standard reference works, such, for instance, as the "Stock Exchange Year Book.' The Home Railway stocks, excepting City and South London, were Preferred Ordinary stocks, and not Preferences. You have rightly named the American issue indicated. Interest is payable in New York, but you could have it collected through your broker or through the English Association of American Bond and Share holders, 5, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C. *Mahableshwar.*—I would not buy either at present. The dividend outlook is too unfavourable. *Bryan.*—The railway is one of the soundest in the group, and the common stock does not look dear at the present price. At the same time, I am not at all sure that you would not be able to buy cheaper by waiting. *Welshman.*—I believe the fall has been due partly to a rate war between the company and another rival concern, though general market weakness also helps to account for the decline. The annual report should be published shortly, and you might wait and see what is disclosed by that document. *Celtic.*—1. Seeing that the line is not yet built, I can only regard the bonds as distinctly speculative. I have not heard a quotation for them lately, but your broker could doubtless obtain you a price, even if nominal. 2. An excellent purchase. The price is about the equivalent of 103½ per cent. *Emeritus.*—You ought to hold Brighton Preferred. The margin behind it is likely to suffer rather severely, but that has already been liberally allowed for in the recent fall, and so far as the whole year is concerned, the full interest should be earned with a liberal surplus to spare. Although a recovery may be a matter of patient waiting, it is, practically speaking, bound to come eventually. *Greenhorn.*—I have dealt with the matter in this week's article.

MINES.

Hippocrates.—1. I have heard no special reason for the fall beyond the general depression. A purchase at the present level should turn out well. 2. With better market conditions these should also recover. *L'Ideale.*—1. I would hold all for the present. 2. Yes, in a better market. *Shamrock.*—Such descriptions are distinctly speculative. Cosmopolitans, Australian Smelting Corporations, and Wheal Vors are fair lock-ups, but there is a liability on the last-named. *Stoke.*—I know of no reason for anticipating an early substantial recovery, and do not care to advise you to continue carrying over. *Glad.*—The shares are a pure speculation, and I think you could do better with your money elsewhere. *Rover.*—Better exchange into something more promising. *Southwick.*—They may have some recovery when markets generally improve. *Royal.*—1. I do not care to recommend a further purchase. See my notes this week. 2. Prospects are not at all bright. 3. A hopeful holding. *P. Ealing.*—The company was dissolved at the end of 1902. *Aida.*—All the shares named are hopeful speculative lock-ups. No mining share can be considered

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a safe investment. Glencairns, Chillagoes and Munganas are promising speculations. *F. J. M.*—Of the shares mentioned I prefer Ivanhoes and Waihis from the point of view of stability. *A. K. D.*—1. A further purchase to average should turn out well in the long run. 2 and 3. Very speculative, and I should be inclined to secure current prices. *A. R., Newcastle, S. M.*, and other correspondents.—The Secretary of the Canadian Syndicate, Limited, has now explained that, "owing to a mistake," the postcards were sent to people for whom they were not intended.

MIXED.

The Haura.—I see no objection to your exchanging the whole or a portion of the stock for higher yielding securities, provided, of course, that you are free to do so under the terms of the will. Of your alternative selections, Nos. 1 and 3 might be selected, but it would be too great a plunge from safety to speculation to select the others. I would suggest, instead, Buenos Ayres and Pacific New Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures, Antofogasta and Bolivia New Five per Cent. Debentures, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (1st series), and United States Steel Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds. *Calcutta.*—Your investments are of the highest class, and you need have no cause to worry over any of them. You might with advantage increase your holding. *Nocab.*—Neither is suitable for the investment of so small a sum, and I would suggest the Post-office Savings Bank. In regard to Trunks I went fully into the matter in TRUTH of May 29. *Cartagena.*—1. The firm are members of the Stock Exchange, which is prima facie evidence of their respectability. 2. No. 3. A very fair investment. 4. No. 5. Quite good. *Mex.*—1. No reports are published, but the debentures are regarded as safe. 2. Under the guarantee the bonds ought to be all right, though the yield suggests doubts by the market on the subject. 3. No. *Vet.*—1. The shares should have some recovery when market conditions improve, but I would not buy more at the moment. 2. As a speculative lock-up they are a fair purchase. 3. They appear to be worth holding, everything considered. 4. From the investment point of view they could be easily improved upon. A trifle speculative. *Waterloo.*—1. It is an Indian concern, of which nothing is known in this country. 2. Cut the loss and put the proceeds into something with promise. *Calaroga.*—In view of the uncertain outlook for the country the foreign bonds could easily be improved upon as an investment holding. It is not wise to put too many eggs in one basket, and it seems desirable to realise some of the textile shares, say Bleachers and Slubbers at least. Hold 3 for a possible recovery. Humbers at the moment are much more attractive than the poor cycle shares you hold. *J. W., Roehampton.*—1. The depreciation is due to reduced dividend. Hold for a possible recovery. 2. A truly local concern. 3, 4, 5, and 6. Fair investments of their class. *Rosebush.*—1. The ordinary. 2. All doing a big business, and well managed. 3 and 4. I have no special information regarding these concerns. 5. It would be a mistake to sell the railway shares just now. *Quod Vide.*—1. I can hold out no definite hope of any material recovery yet awhile. You might perhaps stick to the stock you have bought and paid for, but it is not advisable to hold any on borrowed money. 2 and 3. Should not advise it in either case. 4. These shares should go better with any fresh activity in West Africans, but prospects are not good enough to justify a further purchase.

MISCELLANEOUS.

E. H. D., Leeds.—I know nothing about the promoter, but it is a wildly impracticable scheme. *Simplex.*—Your statement is not very clear, but apparently you have fallen a victim to the sharp practices of a bucket-shop, and I am afraid that the law affords you no remedy. I might give a more definite opinion if you sent the correspondence, contract notes, etc. *Amico, N. W. S. (Woolwich), J. H. S., S. M.*, and other correspondents.—I have frequently cautioned my readers against the National Share Exchange, Laurie and Vincent, and other bucket-shop keepers whose circulars you forward. *J. T. F., Sabina, L. A. J., T. S. (Barnsley)*, and other correspondents.—Repeated warnings against the International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville Glyn and Co., have appeared in TRUTH. Their prices are enormously in excess of the market value of the bonds. *A. W. G., Cork.*—See preceding reply. I do not regard the association unsafe, but some of the conditions it imposes are very unsatisfactory. *Diligens.*—A report of the cable company's meeting appeared in last week's TRUTH; you will find particulars of the capital, etc., in "The Stock Exchange Year Book." Clearly, it is impossible for me to say whether the bank will ever make a call for more capital, but the liability appears to be remote. It would be more prudent to sell only three of the bank shares. I cannot give advice as to the purchase of a business. *Gower.*—The Charing Cross Bank is not a bank at all within the ordinary meaning of the word, but a usury-shop, carried on by a man named Carpenter. Have nothing to do with it, either as a borrower or a depositor. The other concern you mention has yet to prove itself a commercial success. *Chaplain.*—I do not think any good purpose would be served by comments at present. *Silk.*—Very little reliable information is obtainable. Do not join the reconstruction, but get rid of the shares, which are valueless. *Normanby.*—1. They do not appear very attractive. 2. The effect of the resumption of dividends is fizzling out. 3. I know nothing against them, but use some discretion and weigh up the opinions of your broker. *Patriarch.*—The price of the Ordinary has been much lower, and also much higher during the specified period. The dividend of 4 2-5 per cent. has been maintained since 1903. In 1902 4 per cent. was paid, 4 2-5 per cent. in 1901, and £4 18s. for 1899. The price may possibly advance when market conditions improve. As an investment they are worth holding. *Brandon.*—They are a pure gamble, and do not strike me as being attractive. Fully paid £1 shares, and there are considerable arrears of preference interest outstanding. *Alum Cor.*—It is a new venture, its possibilities are clouded, and the shares are highly speculative. The public reception was not enthusiastic. Very few dealings have taken place. *Quiois.*—Would not recommend averaging, but you might hold on until the next report is published in September. *K. T.*—Thanks for the circular. *Ignorant.*—Nearly every week I publish warnings against firms of this class. Their object is, of course, to make money for themselves, not for you, and the running off of the cover is precisely what they count upon. Send me the booklets and correspondence, and I may be able to deal with these two firms. *A. K., Rickmansworth.*—Have nothing to do with the Mechanical Investment Trust. *Hants.*—No intrinsic reason for the fall. See my remarks this week. *Mendip.*—Keep them; a good commercial investment. *Zonga.*—See rule as to coupon. *P. W. C.*—I do not see how any action could possibly succeed. *O. W. M.*—1. The concern is new to me; I will make inquiries about it. 2. I regret that I have no information. *H. A. J.*—1. For reasons that I have frequently given I do not recommend this form of investment. 2. Apply to the Credit Lyonnais, or Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. *In Nubibus.*—I have no special information, but my opinion of the concern is not a favourable one, and I should advise you not to take any of the bonds. *Dalesman*, and other correspondents.—Your inquiries shall be answered next week.

INDUSTRIALS WEAK—MOTORS DOWN—'BUS SHARES—A PROSPEROUS COAL COMPANY—BREWERIES AND THE ABANDONED BILL—LYONS'S MEETING.

The Industrial market generally has been weak, and nowhere has the weakness been more pronounced than in the motor section, some of the favourite shares declining to an extent which has seriously alarmed many nervous holders. Fears have been excited that are really groundless. Difficulties in various quarters have lately caused a good deal of forced liquidation, and no doubt there is some truth in the suggestion in the weekly circular of Messrs. W. H. Newhouse, Sons, and Co. that the non-success of several recent flotations has compelled the sacrifice of large interests in this market to fulfil obligations in connection with underwriting agreements. Humbers have suffered severely, owing to these causes, which, of course, leave unaffected the intrinsic value of the shares. As a matter of fact, the company is doing very well, and a speedy recovery from the present price may be confidently anticipated. Daimlers have also had a sharp fall, but the remarks I made a few weeks ago in regard to this company's position and prospects still hold good. It is in a most healthy and flourishing condition, and a big dividend for the current year is confidently predicted. In the omnibus and tramway group, British Electric Traction shares have maintained their recent improvement, and London General Omnibus Company stock has gone up, being now ten or a dozen points above the low-water mark to which it dropped on the appearance of the report in March last. The very substantial decrease in the traffic receipts of the latter company for the current year is, however, a matter that should be borne in mind, while the process of transition from horse to motor traction must prove a costly one for a long time to come. Iron, steel, and armament companies' securities have been conspicuously firm, and in this department Armstrongs and Vickers can both be recommended as a good commercial investment. A very satisfactory report has been issued by the directors of Wm. Cory and Son, Limited, the company formed by a combination of coal merchants. The trading profit for the past year amounted to £222,993, as compared with £214,762, and for the sixth time in succession the dividend on the ordinary shares is at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. On these shares at the present price the yield is well over 6 per cent. Among textiles, J. and P. Coats' shares have been the strongest feature, and Calico Printers ordinary have also been in request. In this section Bradford Dyers ordinary seem to me to be attractive as an investment, considering the excellent position of the concern and the continued prosperity of the trade. Brewery securities derived no benefit from the definite announcement that the Licensing Bill will not be introduced this year. This was indeed a foregone conclusion, and as a measure on the subject is to occupy the first place in the Government programme for next Session, there will be a prolongation of the uncertainty that has had a depressing effect on the market for so many months past. The trade is always

apt to take an exaggerated view of the possible consequences of coming legislation—in fact, some of the dismal prophecies that are heard at brewery meetings are transparently absurd. There is not the least likelihood that any measure which even this Government may bring forward—and that, by the way, is not quite the same thing as getting it passed into law—would prove in actual working anything like so disastrous to the liquor trade as is sometimes suggested. Still, the fears to which such continuous expression is given, though grossly exaggerated, have to be reckoned with as a factor in relation to the prices of brewery debentures and shares, and it would be extremely hazardous for any investor to count yet awhile upon any substantial improvement. At the meeting of J. Lyons and Co., Mr. Joseph Lyons fully justified the policy the directors have pursued in being content to maintain the handsome dividend of 32½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, instead of making the still larger distribution which some people seem to have expected. As he remarked, the stability, permanency, and improvement of a company's position depend upon what is earned and saved, not upon what is distributed; and the liberal writing down of assets and the building up of a substantial reserve is an eminently judicious and praiseworthy course. The company is conducted on thoroughly sound and progressive lines, and its prospects are so rosy that the shares are pretty certain to rise considerably above the present price in the not distant future. VIGILANT.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

LIPTON, LIMITED.

Sir Thomas J. Lipton presided at the ninth ordinary general meeting of Lipton (Limited), held on Monday at Winchester House, E.C.

In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman said the net profit for the year amounted to £146,053, against £139,596 for last year, or an increase of £6,457. With the amount carried forward from last account—namely, £11,435—they had thus a total of £157,488 to deal with. They had already paid one year's Debenture interest (£20,000), one year's dividend on Preference shares (£50,000), and an interim dividend on the Ordinary shares for the first half-year at 5 per cent. per annum (£25,000), making altogether the sum of £95,000, which, deducted from £157,488, left a balance of £62,488, out of which they proposed to pay a further dividend on the Ordinary shares for the second half of the year at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, amounting to £40,000, leaving a balance of £22,488 to carry forward to the next account. Some shareholders had represented to him that a higher dividend on the Ordinary shares might have been paid, and, being the largest shareholder, he had some sympathy with them, because it meant a considerable personal sacrifice. Nevertheless, he felt, in the interests of the business, it was the wisest course, owing to the largely increased trade they were now doing, to keep a larger balance in hand for the further expansion and development of their business.

The directors had, as usual, made ample allowance for depreciation, and, as hitherto, all outlays for maintenance and repairs had been charged against revenue, their system being to keep all their buildings, plant, and equipment in a thoroughly efficient working condition. It might be interesting to them to know that the total amount written off for depreciation on plant, machinery, fittings, and utensils since the business was acquired by the company was £151,060; therefore, the item of £210,171 which they saw in the balance-sheet represented little more than half the actual cost. The value of the stocks they were carrying had not varied to any appreciable extent, it being some £3,000 more than last year. They were daily shipping goods to all parts of the world, and every post brought added proof of the popularity of their wares in the shape of increased orders. They had had to greatly enlarge their stores and warehouses to meet this demand, which they had every confidence would continue to grow. In conclusion, the chairman stated that, given a reasonable time, at no far distant date, he had every reason to believe that the business of Lipton (Limited) would exceed anything it had hitherto achieved.

Mr. T. R. Smith seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (EASTERN) LTD.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held on Monday last at the City Office of the Company, 29, Farringdon-road, E.C., Mr. Jesse Boot (Chairman and Managing Director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Alexander L. Milne) read the notice convening the meeting, and the Auditors' Report was submitted by Mr. Parsons, the Auditor.

The Chairman said: After fifteen of these meetings there may seem a sense of sameness about them to any one who does not grasp the underlying activity leading up to the results shown in our Report. Personally, owing to the vivid interest with which the business appeals to me, I can never feel any detail of it as monotonous or uninteresting, least of all occasions such as this, when we publish to the world our doings and our prospects. I am sure the same feeling dominates many of those working with me in the business, and that our absorption in it has been a prime factor in its success. The Report and the figures lie before you in cold print, which leaves to your imagination and our recollection the ups and downs of another year's daily effort to keep abreast of the times. Conditions have changed since our first meeting. Then our business competition was not so keen and our competitors thought we were a negligeable quantity—a meteor of the time which would quickly expire. Since then time has proved that our system of business has come to stay, and we have now plenty of that imitation which is the most sincere form of flattery. Of course we have had very exceptional opportunities for development, both through economical buying and also in experience in equipping business premises, for, owing to our association with Boots Pure Drug Company, Limited, and the three other allied Companies, we have been enabled by joint experience, combined advertising, and general co-operative efforts to meet the greatly increased competition and still hold the premier position in the retail drug trade. Our progress has been quite open and obvious to the public by the constant improvement in our style of construction and equipment of the branches. Sixteen years ago our Goose Gate branch at Nottingham—a fine large building—seemed the last word to be spoken for Boots Cash Chemists' own style, and the average branch was of a type which is now becoming non-existent among our shops. To-day we have magnificent freehold premises of our own such as those at Scarborough and other places, and for equipment our acme up to the present is the fittings and accommodation of our Pelham-street branch at Nottingham. Another striking instance of progress is that of our Cambridge branch, where we opened twelve years ago in a shop with only 12 feet of frontage and 30 feet deep; now we have a magnificent arcade 311 feet long, lofty and commodious in every way, beautifully fitted up and with entrances from the two best thoroughfares in the town. What evolution has in store for us we cannot divulge, but we are not waiting for inspiration, but improving all the while in one form or another. Turning to the Balance Sheet I might first remark as to the quality of our assets. The first item, £143,000, represents entirely freehold properties, and you will observe that this is rather over one half of the whole of the paid up capital of the Company, which stands at £280,000. The second item represents leasehold and other properties, fixtures, fittings, and utensils amounting to £185,000. Against that you will see on the other side of the Balance Sheet a Depreciation Fund amounting to £43,000. In further relation to this item you will notice in the Profit and Loss Account a total for the year for repairs and depreciations of £12,000, a writing off in one year equivalent to about 7 per cent. of £185,000, to which item the writing off chiefly refers. I might say that in addition to the £43,000 depreciation, we have spent on repairs and renewals since the Company started another £40,000, so that you will be able to judge of the extent to which the properties are kept in a thorough state of repair and good condition generally. Our Branch Managers' Fund, which now amounts to £14,000, will at present increase automatically to the amount of £700 per annum, independent of any addition from the profits, so that if we are able to add £1,000 a year from the profits for the next four years, we shall have by that time reached the desired £20,000 of which I have spoken at previous meetings. I do not know that I can add anything further with advantage. It is, as I have said, a pleasure to me to be here, and I have not missed one of the fifteen annual meetings myself, and hope to meet the shareholders again next year and for many years with an equally good report to make to them. (Applause.) I now beg to move: "That the accounts be received, and that the distribution of the profits recommended in the Directors' Report be and is hereby adopted."

Mr. John Gibbs seconded the motion, and congratulated the shareholders that during periods of commercial depression, the effects of which were felt by many industrial companies, this company was able to proceed in an exceedingly satisfactory manner. They were not only able, on this occasion, to maintain the dividend, but to add to the reserve fund, and taking all together, the company was in a most sound position. (Applause.)

The resolution was adopted without discussion.

Mr. E. S. Waring moved, and Mr. A. Gascoyne seconded, the re-election of Mr. John Gibbs as a director of the company, which was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. A. H. Bromley, seconded by Mr. Thompson, Messrs. Sharp, Parsons, & Co. were reappointed auditors.

Mr. Parsons, in returning thanks for the reappointment of his firm, said that personally he had conducted the audit of the Company from its inception, and he had seen the growth of the Company and its life, and he had noted a good deal of its development and vigour. He had never known of an unsuccessful year since he had been connected with the Company, and he hoped that future years would be as successful as the past years had been. At the present time the business was well consolidated and earning regular and satisfactory profits. He proceeded to say that he did not like the title Second Preference shares, he would rather wish the preference shares had been denominated "A" and "B" shares respectively. However, the Second Preferences formed, so far as his judgment went, a very sound security. In no case had valuation been strained in order to bring up the profits; the tendency had rather been on the prudent side of valuation, so that in no case were the profits overstated. The profits for the year were sufficient to pay a dividend on the First Preference, on the Second, and there was sufficient remaining to pay a dividend three times over to the Shareholders. That showed the earning power was satisfactory. In addition, they had set aside in reserve funds and carry forward sums sufficient to pay a dividend on the First and Second Preferences for eight years. Assuming their earning power dropped, they had still those reserves to meet these dividends for eight years to come. Therefore, from the dividend point of view, the position of the Second Preference Shares was unexceptional. There were no Debentures. The Chairman had told them that half of the whole capital of the Company was represented by freehold properties, and he thought he would be right in saying those freehold properties were fairly worth the money. So far as he could judge the prospects of the Company, they might anticipate that instead of becoming weaker they would become even stronger. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mr. Alderman James Duckworth, M.P., seconded by Mr. Jesse W. Hind, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman, Mrs. Boot, and the staff.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

INSURANCE NOTES.

SOME GENERAL NOTIONS—INSURANCE AND NATURE—ADAPTATION TO CIRCUMSTANCES.

ONE of the best definitions of metaphysics which I ever heard was "General thoughts on things in general." For once in a way I propose to deal with insurance in a somewhat more abstract fashion than usual, neglecting for the moment concrete advice and illustrations of policies, and giving some of the reasons which appeal very strongly to my mind for regarding the whole system of insurance as one of the most ingenious and beneficial developments that have ever taken place. In dealing with the subject from this somewhat general point of view, I am, of course, in no way depreciating the testimony in favour of insurance which is afforded by everyday experience and by a comparison of well-selected life policies with other forms of investment. I am merely giving additional reasons of a somewhat unusual kind for my whole-hearted belief in the system, and stating some of the considerations which make insurance, considered merely as a science, or as a social institution, exceptionally interesting.

In these days everybody believes in evolution, and is familiar in more or less detail with the main characteristics of development which are seen to prevail in all classes of phenomena. The early stages of things exhibit a vague indefiniteness which gives place in course of time to well-defined distinctions. In astronomy we see the change from the indefinite nebula to the well-defined system of the sun and planets, and the compara-

tively exact and measurable shape and dimensions of the earth and the moon.

In the lowest forms of life we find little or no trace of definite organs for performing various functions; and it is only after evolution has proceeded a long way that special organs are developed for seeing, hearing, breathing, digesting, and so on. It is the same in social life. In primitive times each man did for himself all the few actions necessary to existence: obtaining and cooking his own food, making his own weapons and clothes, building his own hut, and so on. As the social organism develops this state of things changes, until in our own day we find everybody specialising. In manufacturing processes each man makes one little bit of the finished article, or confines his attention to the constant repetition of one small process. The same features are exhibited in the development of science and the arts. In early times the story of the day's fight would be told by a single warrior, who combined in his own person the primitive orator, poet, historian, novelist, newspaper, and I know not how much else besides, and from such early beginnings there has grown the whole complex social organisation which is becoming more and more complex and specialised every day.

Insurance as a whole exhibits equally clearly and very instructively corresponding characteristics, and a consideration of these features not only makes insurance a most interesting study, but brings out a number of points of considerable practical importance. In the beginnings of life assurance, for instance, the multitudinous policies which are now available were entirely unknown. The early idea was to provide a payment to a man's family in the event of his death, and, in doing this, little or no attention was paid to the man's age in determining the premium that he had to pay. An old man and a young man were charged alike, although the cost of the benefits secured was much greater in the former case than in the latter. Then, again, when the advantages of securing an income for life in return for a sum paid down in cash came to be realised people entirely failed to see that the mortality among annuitants would be very different from the mortality among the general population, or even among assured lives. The consequence was that at one time extremely large sums of money were lost by the sale of annuities at rates which were calculated according to wrong mortality tables. Annuitants were found to live much longer than people in general.

In modern times specialisation has been carried very far in life assurance, not only in regard to such things as mortality tables, but also in devising policies for meeting specified requirements. It is difficult to overestimate the advantages of policies carefully selected to suit the exact needs of the assured, and, indeed, so complex has modern insurance become that there is plenty of room for people to exercise all their time and all their ability in keeping touch with its developments in order to be able to give good advice to others.

There is another way in which life assurance is seen to be exceptionally interesting, and which, properly considered, affords an extremely convincing reason for taking advantage of the benefits which it offers. Most people are familiar with the records of naturalists, which tell how various plants and animals survive in the struggle for existence. The seeds of plants, which need be widespread in order that the species may be preserved, are sometimes provided with wings or hairs which enable them to be carried by the wind, and sometimes they have curious hooks by means of which they get attached to birds and animals, and so secure diffusion. The sea is full of equally beautiful and ingenious adaptations to circumstances. Many forms of aquatic life are differently marked above and below, so as to be invisible to their enemies when seen either from above or underneath. Corresponding conditions are found in birds' eggs and in the colouring of countless insects and animals.

All these features have their counterpart in insurance, and when we ignore that horribly truthful maxim, "familiarity breeds contempt," and remember that all the features of our social life which we are so apt to call artificial are really and truly just as much a part of Nature as the birds or the trees, we become aware of the extreme perfection and ingenuity with which insurance, among other social phenomena, accomplishes that adaptation to circumstances which we know to be essential to the survival of species of plants and animals, but fail to regard as equally essential to the well-being of a community of human beings. The various plans by which insurance protects policy-holders from the financial consequences of fire, accident, and premature death are, rightly considered, just as important to human beings as protective colouring and other such things are to animals. The consequence of neglect of these provisions by men and women is apt to be as fatal for them, or for those dependent upon them, as the unconscious neglect of protective devices is to animals. Owing to the greater complexity of human life, the effects may be masked and take longer to show themselves, but the tendency is identical, and the neglect of protection is in some ways more serious among the highest forms of life. It is especially noteworthy that in human life, as among the lower organisms, protection is most essential for the weak and the young. Life policies, when well chosen, compare very favourably with other forms of investment for the investors themselves, and it is especially in making provision for women and children that the protective adaptability of life assurance is so conspicuous. If we think of it, it is a really striking arrangement that after a man has made his first annual payment of, say, £25, the sum of £1,000 is positively assured to his dependants in the event of his death. This is a result which cannot be accomplished in any other way, and the benefit, which is so great for this man's family, is provided without any loss to others.

I have frequently commented and explained another piece of happy ingenuity characteristic of life assurance, which is that, by its very nature, the profits are largest where the security is greatest. This is the exact reversal of our ordinary experience in business matters. The explanation, which I need not repeat now, is very simple and quite convincing, and I merely refer to it as another instance of the point I am making.

I am not quite sure how such reflections as these will appeal to most of my readers. It is not quite the ordinary way in which business things are talked about, but it always seems to me that social affairs become vastly more interesting when we look at them from—as it were—a distant standpoint and compare them with other classes of phenomena. It is my good fortune to have to write a great deal about insurance. At the same time I am greatly interested in astronomy and various other sciences, and it is no exaggeration to say that insurance regarded in the sort of way that I have just been talking about is fully as interesting as the study of the stars, and is indeed a quite fascinating chapter of natural history.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[*Every letter containing an inquiry on the subject of insurance must be accompanied by a coupon cut from the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.]

Labour.—The Metropolitan policy is much the better. The estimated results from the other company are highly problematical. *Normanby.*—If you can obtain the 15 per cent. rebate under the Civil Service scheme of the North British, probably that company will be best for you. If you cannot obtain this let me know, and I will advise an office that is better than any in your list. *Newark.*—The policy you propose taking is quite good, and has no objectionable features, but I think the corresponding policy issued by the Metropolitan is a little better. *Britisher.*—The New York Life is quite sound; the reforms carried out in the American offices have been genuine, and I certainly advise you to keep your policy in force. Rebate of income tax is now allowed on life assurance premiums paid to the American offices. *Solicitus.*—Both companies are entirely satisfactory, and there is not much to choose between them, but of the two I should prefer the Royal Exchange. *Carling.*—All the three companies you mention are thoroughly sound and strong. The best policy is issued by the

DEAFNESS successfully treated by the AKOUPHONE INSTRUMENTS. Also Vibratory Treatment for Neurasthenia. Mr. ARONSBERG, 9, Bentinck-street, Cavendish-square, London, W. Particulars on application.

Royal, and you cannot do better than insure with that company. *Subaltern.*—Your original inquiry has been mislaid, and your second letter cannot be replied to without reference to your first. Please repeat the inquiry. *Essex.*—Something depends on the length of the term. Atlas, Clergy Mutual and Friends' Provident are all good for these policies.

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QUEER STORY.

THE INFIDELITY OF MADELEINE JEFFREYS.

IT is bad enough, in all conscience, for a man to find himself tied for life to a woman whom he does not love. But for a woman to find herself tied to a man whom she does not love is infinitely worse, and for this reason, that not only does love, or its absence, in married life, mean far more to a woman than it does to a man, but also that the finer sensibilities which distinguish woman from man are more easily revolted by the many repugnant circumstances incident to a loveless union.

I do not speak here of the woman who deliberately sells herself for wealth, or rank, or other material advantage. Such a woman must necessarily lack those finer sensibilities to which I have alluded. I speak of her far more-to-be-pitied sister, who, having married a man under the delusion that she loved him, afterwards wakes up to find that it has all been a hideous mistake—that the idealised lover with whom, in the days of her courtship, she had promised herself such ineffable happiness, presents a very different aspect under the close and searching intimacies of wedded life. He need not necessarily be a bad man. He may even, according to his lights, be a virtuous man. But (which is the material point) he is not *the* man—not, that is to say, the individual whom girls of the lower orders know as Mr. Right. Aye, much to be pitied is the woman who, believing she was marrying Mr. Right, finds out too late that she has married Mr. Wrong. And such was the unhappy experience of Madeleine Jeffreys.

George Jeffreys, her husband, was a solicitor, with a large practice, enjoying a high reputation professionally and eminently respectable in private life. But his temperament was essentially conventional and commonplace. He walked through life on a dead-level plateau of smug mediocrity, carefully avoiding alike the depths that lay to his left hand and the altitudes that soared on his right. He was equally incapable of stooping to the disgraceful and of rising to the sublime. No temptation ever seduced him into shady behaviour, and no impulse ever surprised him into a quixotic action. In short, he was a decorous and inveterate prig.

How, then, had Madeleine, the impulsive, the generous, the high-spirited, the sensitive, the passionate, come to imagine herself in love with such a man? That is a question to which I confess myself unable to give a satisfactory answer. It may have been that Jeffreys, under the novel influence of the first awakening of love within him, had been temporarily inspired with a fervour foreign to his nature, and warranted not to last; or it may merely have been that Madeleine, by some strange infatuation, read into his character qualities and sentiments that were non-existent there. Dreamy, as she was, and prone to idealise, there is nothing very unlikely in the supposition of her having done so. Anyhow, the fact remains that she did imagine herself in love with Jeffreys when she married him. Unfortunately, also, the fact remains that three months of wedded life with him opened her eyes, once and for all, to the fatal delusion.

Some women of calmer disposition would have recognised the inevitable, would have sat down by it, and have resigned themselves to making the best of it. For awhile, indeed, Madeleine did attempt to do this. But her passionate, impulsive nature was incapable of long sustaining that dutiful, if somewhat hypocritical, rôle. Her manner towards her husband grew so cold and discouraging that, though not a man of very fine or acute perceptions, he could not but see that he had somehow forfeited Madeleine's affection. What the reason might be he could not divine, being too much eaten up with self-esteem to attribute it to any shortcomings on his own part. So he formed the conclusion that some one else must have come between them—in short, that there was another man in the case. At first, I believe, there was no foundation at all for such an idea. And possibly, if Jeffreys had kept his suspicions to himself, his wife, in spite of her dislike for him, would still have remained strictly loyal to her marriage vow. But from the moment that her husband, in the course of one of the many disagreeable scenes that occurred between them, openly declared his belief that some other admirer was at the bottom of her coldness and estrangement—from that moment she appeared to regard herself as free from further obligation to the man who had thus insulted her.

For some months nothing noteworthy happened, Madeleine remaining outwardly, if somewhat coldly, civil to her husband, and discharging all her domestic duties with laudable regularity. But at last definite shape was given to her husband's suspicions by her behaviour over a letter that she received one morning while at breakfast. If it hadn't happened that his eyes chanced to be fixed upon her at that particular instant, her look of confusion as she slipped the letter under her other correspondence would have escaped his observation, for it was all a matter of half a moment. But what he saw in that half moment, including the writing on the envelope, which was in a bold, masculine hand, at once confirmed all that he had hitherto suspected. Madeleine was in clandestine correspondence with somebody, and that somebody was of the male sex. At first Jeffreys was minded to tax her with her deceit then and there, and to demand to see the letter. But, on second thoughts, he decided to hold his tongue and appear to have noticed nothing, for if she refused, as she certainly would do, to show him the letter, he could not very well use force with her, and the only effect of such a proceeding would be to put her on her guard. He concluded that the wiser course was to lie low for the present, and thus having lulled Madeleine into a false sense of security, to put himself in a more advantageous position for watching her.

This course he adopted, with the result that, little by little, he made a number of discoveries that amply confirmed his suspicions. For instance, he ascertained that Madeleine, who hitherto had been a very stay-at-home woman, was now in the habit of going out for hours at a time, nearly every afternoon, "shopping"; though the number of purchases that she bought or had sent home, was, if anything, less numerous than heretofore. Again, though no more letters in that handwriting were received at the house, he learned that his wife usually found some reason for running out to a neighbouring newspaper shop as soon as he had gone to business. He had no difficulty in discovering that the shop in question drove quite a lucrative little trade by lending itself out as an accommodation address. Hence the true inwardness of Madeleine's frequent morning calls there was tolerably apparent.

But these were only small discoveries compared with what came to light when George Jeffreys reached that stage of his investigations when he thought it necessary to interrogate the servants. He found both Martha, the housemaid, and Mrs. Holly, the cook, simply bursting with suppressed intelligence. What they had to tell him related to circumstances that occurred on two or three occasions when business had called him away from home for a few days.

"Oh yes, sir," said the voluble Martha, in the course of her revelations. "You know missis's little sitting-room, with the French windows opening on the back garding. Well, I first begin to think, I did, when, one evening, as you was away, and missis was supposed to be alone in there, I was a-passin' the door and I hear missis a-talkin' to some one, and a man's voice a-answerin' of her. Which, thinkin' it very funny—bein' then late in the evening—I came straight into the kitchen and told cook, didn't I, Mrs. Holly?"

"You did, Martha," replied the person referred to, nodding her head impressively.

"Well, sir," continued Martha in her rambling way,

"me and cook thought as this was a thing as want more lookin' into. So we goes and listens together at the door of the little sitting-room, didn't we, cook?"

"We did, Martha," rejoined Mrs. Holly, again nodding her head even more impressively than before.

"And while we was a-listenin," continued Martha, "we hear things as make us look at each other and ask ourselves whatever is respectable situations a-coming to. Yes, sir, we did—we hear the missis and the gentleman a-callin' of each other 'darling,' and all manner of loving names; and then, it's true as I'm standing there, sir, we distinctly hear them a-kissin'—didn't we, cook?"

"We did, Martha," assented her fellow-servant, the impressiveness of her nod being this time quite portentous.

"Then I tap at the door," went on Martha, "and turned the handle to go in, but find it locked. 'Who's there?' says the missis, sharply. 'Only me, m'm,' says I. 'I was a-coming to ask you if there was anything I could do afore I went to bed.' Then I hears the sound of the winder being softly opened and shut agen, and a moment later missis, she unlock the door. 'I was asleep, Martha,' she says, makin' believe to yawn, 'and had locked myself in to avoid being disturbed. I hope you didn't knock more than wunst,' she says, a-eyeing of me rather suspicious. 'Oh, no, m'm' I says; which was quite true, for I hadn't only knocked that wunst. Well, that was the first evening as you was away, sir. And the next evening as you was away, me and cook decide as it was our dooty to watch what went on this time, sir, so we slips off our white aprons and puts black shawls over our heads, and we waits outside behind the yew tree in the corner of the back garding, in case there might be anythink to see. And we hadn't been waitin' long, sir, afore a gentleman—which it was too dark for us to see his face—come quietly in by the side gate and goes up to the winder and taps gently. Which a minute later the winder's opened just wide enough for him to slip through, and then it's softly closed agen. And cook and me, we creeps up to the winder and tries to peep in, but the curtings being drawed, we couldn't a-see nuthink, though we could hear them two, quite distinct, a-calling each other lovin' names, and now and then a-kissin' of each other; which it was nearly a hour sir, afore the gentleman leave agen, going out quietly by the side gate, same as he come. And that, sir," concluded Martha, "was the last time as you was away, so we haven't had no chance of seeing nuthink since."

"You are quite sure of all this?" demanded Jeffreys, whose face was very pale and stern, fixing his eyes in a scrutinising gaze on the two domestics.

"Certing, sir," replied Martha.

"Certing sure, sir," added Cook.

"And you are prepared, if necessary, to repeat what you have told me on oath?"

"I'd swear to it anywhere, sir," answered Martha, emphatically.

"Ditto me, sir," said Cook.

"But this gentleman, now?" interrogated Jeffreys. "You say it was too dark for you to see his face. Can you give me any sort of description of him—was he a big man or a small man, for instance?"

"Well, sir," rejoined Martha, "I should say as he was neither one thing nor the other, though rather on the small side—'bout as big as the milkman, shouldn't you say, Cook?"

"Just about," nodded Mrs. Holly.

"And he'd got a beard, sir," continued Martha. "Rather a long beard, which made me think he might be a hartist, or a littery gent, or sumthink o' that sort. But that was as much as I could see."

"You have nothing further to add to what you have told me?" demanded Jeffreys, after a moment's silence.

"No, sir. We've a told you everythink," replied Martha.

"Yes, sir, we've a told you everythink," corroborated Cook.

"That will do for the present, then. I need not keep you further now. But I must impress upon you not to tell anybody—and especially not to tell your mistress—of the information you have given me."

Both domestics assured him that they shouldn't dream of such a thing and then withdrew. The upshot of the interview was that Jeffreys at once consulted a fellow-solicitor as to his best course of action, and, acting on the latter's advice, he employed an inquiry agent to watch Madeleine. Probably the lady had somehow got an inkling that her movements were under surveillance; at any rate, she was so careful in her behaviour that the man employed to spy upon her found himself persistently baffled. But Jeffreys, determined to find out the whole truth, and to find it out without more delay, took the drastic step of breaking open his wife's desk one Sunday when she was at church, in order to see whether he could discover any evidence there in the shape of compromising letters.

The result of this step was decisive. In her desk he found from thirty to forty letters in the same unmistakably masculine handwriting as he had observed on the envelope of that letter which had first aroused his suspicions, and a perusal of their contents placed Madeleine's guilt beyond doubt. The writer had so far had the prudence to conceal his identity that he had refrained from attaching his surname to the "ever your devoted Boy" with which all the letters wound up. But though he had thus been careful to hide his personality, he had taken no pains whatever to conceal the real nature of his relations with Madeleine, but had let himself go with an ardour of amorous unreserve that clearly revealed the state of the case. Jeffreys' face grew black with rage as he read them. When his wife returned from church, there was a terrible scene.

Madeleine stood up to the infuriated Jeffreys with a courage and a spirit worthy of a better cause. She refused either to admit or deny anything. Her husband had stooped to question her own servants against her, to set detectives on her track, to force open her desk and read her letters. She would have nothing to say to such a man. He had taken upon himself to ferret out things to her discredit in his own mean, underhand way, and in that way he might continue to make what investigations he pleased, and to discover what he could. She was not going to hold any communication with him on the subject.

"By Heaven!" cried out Jeffreys, almost beside himself with anger at her cool defiance of him. "You *shall* tell me, woman! I will wring from your false lips the name of the scoundrel who has betrayed me."

She smiled at him in cold disdain.

"Will you?" she replied. "We shall see."

"By ——," he ejaculated, now white with fury, as he shook his fist at her. "I will *make* you tell me, you ——"

She neither quailed at his clenched fist, nor winced at the foul name by which he addressed her.

"Nothing shall ever make me tell," she answered, drawing herself up very proud and erect. "I love him far too well to give him away."

She was utterly in the wrong. She stood convicted of that which should have bowed her down with shame, if not with repentance. Yet there was something almost splendid, almost noble, in the woman's misplaced loyalty, in the courage with which, while she was ready to face any consequences for herself, she proudly refused to betray her lover.

It was in vain that Jeffreys raved, stormed, threatened. She remained defiant and immovable.

"Look here, you shameless baggage!" he cried out, at length, "let me warn you, for the last time, that unless you give me up this fellow's name, I will drag you through the exposure of the Divorce Court without mercy and without compunction."

"Drag me where you please," she answered, with proud determination. "I do not want either your mercy or your compunction. I would not have them at a gift. I hate and despise you far too much. But I love him, and I will never betray him—never, never."

With that, she turned and left him. Half an hour later she quitted her husband's roof for the last time.

Never ask for "a bottle of ink." If you do, the dealer may give you a substitute for STEPHENS'. Insist on having STEPHENS' INK. It costs no more. Resolutely refuse substitutes.

Madeleine kept her secret faithfully and well. By no artifice or investigation could Jeffreys discover the identity of her lover. In the end, when he commenced divorce proceedings, he was obliged to cite as co-respondent "some person unknown." This circumstance of itself attracted a good deal of attention to the case, which Madeleine fought out to the bitter end. But those fatal letters (corroborated by the evidence of the servants, which remained unshaken under cross-examination) were damning and conclusive. The jury found for the petitioner without leaving the box, and the Judge, observing that he did not see how they could have come to any other conclusion, pronounced the usual decree "*nisi*." In due course the decree was made absolute, and about a couple of years later Jeffreys married again.

Not long after that event he was surprised and not very well pleased to find lying on his plate, when he came down to breakfast one morning, a letter addressed to him in Madeleine's handwriting. Opening it, with a moody frown, he read as follows:—

I am glad to see you have married again. I hope your present wife will make you happier than I did. I think the time has now come for me to tell you the truth about my lover, whose identity I have hitherto refused to disclose.

I certainly deceived you. But not in the way you thought. The fact is this. When I realised that I did not love you, I found it simply insupportable to remain your wife. But the law says that only sin in the man or the woman can dissolve the marriage tie. Now, there was no chance of your sinning, and I could not sin in that way. I could, however, behave in such a manner as to make you believe that I had sinned. And this is what I did, in order that you might claim release from me.

Can't you guess how I did it? It was the easiest thing in the world. For what easier than to counterfeit the bass tones of a man's voice for the deception of two suspicious maids listening at the keyhole? What easier than to disguise one's self in male attire, with a false beard, and to slip in at nightfall through one's own boudoir window? What easier than to write, and to get a confidential friend to copy, any number of compromising letters, and to take care that they should fall into your hands?

Briefly: there was no man in the case. I was my own lover. There, you have my secret. I shall not disclose it to anyone else; no more, of course, will you. M.

ART NOTES.

WHY do not our Protectionist friends start a movement for the protection of English painters against the insidious approaches of the foreigner? They may have already included works of art among the articles on which an import duty should be placed for all I know to the contrary, but, if so, their intentions have not been sufficiently made known to have reached the ears of at least one artistic correspondent, who writes to me entreating me to start such a movement in the columns of TRUTH; and, by a curious coincidence, his letter reached me just at the time when I was myself pondering over the surprising number of foreign paintings—many of them good—which are being exhibited at the various galleries just now. There are French paintings at the Grafton Galleries, there is Signor Onorato Carlandi round the corner at the Fine Art Society, there are more French paintings, by deceased painters, it is true, at Obach's; there are Dutch paintings at Tinson's, in Grafton-street; there is Mr. Gyula Tornai, of Budapest, at the Goupil Gallery; and Mr. Lazlo's (also a Hungarian) portraits at the Fine Art Society again, and Spanish paintings at Waring's; and—but there is really no end to them. No wonder that the anguished home-grown painter is beginning to wonder what is to become of him before such active foreign competition, and to find himself in the dumps in more senses than one. Moreover, quite the most successful British portrait painter of the hour is an American who is also an Academician, to say nothing of Mr. Abbey. Where is it all to end? asks my anxious correspondent, whose name, if he will forgive me for saying so, has a distinctly German ring about it, though that is a detail.

Much, of course, depends upon the point of view—whether you hold the art or the artist to be the more deserving of consideration. If the former, you can but welcome the foreign invasion, and ask for more. I am not personally a believer in internationalism in art, so long as you can find any really national art to make shift with. But the truth of the matter is that our British painters have for so long chosen to disguise themselves as foreigners of one kind or another, that English art—in the national sense of the word—has ceased to exist. It is true that a number of Scots painters of the younger school have of recent years made some effort to revive it, but English art which has its roots over the border can scarcely be called national, the more so that, in common with the rest of Scottish culture, it was originally imported from France. We must remember, too, that English art—even in its most national days, when the great English school of the eighteenth century was at its prime—was almost entirely foreign in its genesis, though it is true that it translates foreign ideals into good English, instead of attempting feeble imitations of the original, as is the fashion of to-day. Things being as they are, the picture-buying public, such as it is, can scarcely be blamed for preferring the original to the imitation, and they are likely to continue doing so until a generation of English painters arises bold enough and with sufficient artistic initiative to start a new National School on their own account. Meanwhile, let us welcome foreign artists to our galleries with open arms and purses, if only that we may profit by their experience—and mistakes—in deciding exactly what we want to do for ourselves.

Of course, if we consider that the sole purpose of English art is to provide the means of existence for a certain number of English painters, the case is somewhat altered. It is at least arguable that, supposing the price of, let us say, French pictures were artificially raised 75 per cent., the English picture buyer might prefer to adorn his walls with lower-priced work by home-grown manufacturers. They tell us that the protective duties in America have enormously increased the demand for American paintings, and that all the foremost American artists are in the happy position of having more commissions than they can find time to execute. Personally I doubt whether the Transatlantic boom in "domestic" pictures is due to anything more than the increase in the number of millionaires who believe that it is the proper thing to buy pictures and are ready to take whatever is offered to them. And however it may be with an ingenuous people like the Americans, I believe that as to the English picture-buyer, who is usually a Jew, by the way—they being the only Englishmen who have any real appreciation for the arts—did he find that the price of the pictures which he desired was artificially raised beyond his means, he would cease to buy at all, rather than take what he did not want merely because it was cheap. Pictures are a luxury, after all said and done, and the man who is buying luxuries usually sees that he gets what he wants. However it be, the present Government is hardly likely to bring in a measure putting a prohibitive import duty on foreign pictures, and my correspondent will have plenty of time to prepare a strong case before the next Protectionist Government comes into power.

While dealing with my correspondence I may briefly refer to another gentleman who accuses me of inconsistency, because, while maintaining that it is impossible for the Hanging Committee of the R.A. to properly weigh the merits of all the works of art submitted to them, I yet expressed my opinion that Mr. Dressler's portrait-bust of the Queen of Spain had been rejected on its merits. To which I might reply that, in the first place, at the time the choice was being made this year the name of the Queen of Spain was upon every lip, and that her statue would have accordingly every chance of catching the attention even of a committee of R.A.s from its subject alone. But I prefer to accept my correspondent's reproof and to merely regard the incident as proving that blessed chance is quite as capable of arriving at a satisfactory selection from the pictures submitted as were the most earnest endeavours of the most indefatigable Hanging Committee ever chosen—

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which is exactly what I set out to prove in the article to which my critic refers.

If we are at present given the choice of many foreign picture-shows, we may console ourselves with the reflection that they are of unusually high quality. To take two of them—as far asunder as the poles. At Messrs. Obach's gallery is a most interesting collection of works by French masters of the last century, to which I referred very briefly last week. It contains, as is customary, several canvases of the first merit, of which I would here particularly mention "The Poacher," by Diaz, a scene in the forest, with sunlight falling vividly through the leaves, the whole as striking as it is, considering all things, unexpected. Among the Corots, of which there are several, the most important, though one of the least attractive, is the large "Saint Sebastian," while, to my mind, the most desirably characteristic is the smaller "Quiet River." There is a very large Daubigny, "Le Verger," not wildly exciting in treatment, a couple of Monticellis, the "Fête Champêtre" being the more notable, and Millet's "Trait d'Union." All of which, separately and in conjunction, serve to make us thankful that the protective duties above referred to are not yet in force.

Mr. Gyula Tornai is a painter whose work has not been hitherto familiar to me, but of which I can honestly say that I hope to see more. The paintings of Japan and India which he is exhibiting at the Goupil Gallery show that not only is he a painter of more than average powers—though it must be said that his work is distinctly unequal—but that he has a freshness and originality of colour and conception which are quite tonic in these half-hearted days. His effects, it is true, are frequently barbaric, but it is a healthy barbarism, which I, for one, very much prefer to the anæmia of decadence. What is more, though we may shake our heads doubtfully before some of his colour effects, he arrives at exceedingly convincing results, and some of his faces and figures are sufficiently life-like to be startling. Incidentally, I fear, he shows only too clearly, what many of us have already suspected, that "Madame Chrysanthème" is anything but beautiful, and that for a really attractive geisha we must seek upon the boards of English musical comedy rather than in the tea-houses of Nippon.

The portraits being shown by Mr. Lazlo, the other Hungarian painter referred to, at the Fine Art Society's galleries, are chiefly remarkable socially rather than artistically. Indeed, Mr. Lazlo would seem to number the greater part of the Continental aristocracy among his clientèle, a happy state of things which places his work far above the reach of plebeian criticism. Signor Carlandi, whose paintings of the Tiber are shown at the same galleries, is certainly among the most able of modern Italian painters. His drawings have decided charm, as well as breadth and atmosphere, and although he is actually a pupil of the late Giovanni Costa, the leader of the reformers of modern Italian art, his chief external influence would seem to be derived from Peter de Windt, whose work is forcibly recalled in several of the drawings here shown, as—to choose at random—that of the old bridge at Perugia.

At the Leicester Galleries Mr. G. D. Armour brings us sharply back to England by his exhibition of a number of sporting sketches and drawings, which prove very forcibly, not only that he understands the point of a pencil, but those of a horse into the bargain. He has humour, also, as he shows in his idealisation of the facial expression proper to those who, arriving at a "bullfinch," find that their mount has unaccountably deserted them. In another room, Mr. John R. Reid shows a number of his characteristic studies of north-country fishing ports and seascapes—a little hard in colour, but brimming over with atmosphere.

Before I close I should like to call attention to the novel enterprise—though it is the third year—shown by a well-known painter, Mr. Wynford Dewhurst, in putting his pictures up to public auction. Thirty of them are to be sold at Willis's Rooms to-morrow (Thursday), and I, for one, hope that they may secure satisfactory bids, not only because Mr. Dewhurst is among the ablest of the newer Impressionists, but because everything which tends to impress upon painters in general the virtues of business initiative is warmly to be welcomed.

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MUSIC.

BRITISH BANDSMEN AND FOREIGN RIVALS.

The British summer having set in, in the time-honoured formula, with its usual severity, the inevitable discussion has been started as to the rights and wrongs of British instrumentalists in connection with seaside orchestras. That inveterate humorist, Mr. James Glover, playfully subscribing himself for the occasion "Giacomo Gantieri," set the ball rolling with a letter to the *Referee* in reference to the Duke of Devonshire's engagement of "a German band and a foreign conductor" for Eastbourne, and others have kept it vigorously on the move since. It is a subject, as it happens, which affords scope for endless controversy, so it is not surprising, perhaps, to find considerable diversity of opinion expressed. Even Mr. Glover himself hardly seems to know his own mind on the point. Thus, while he enlarges in one sentence on "the unpatriotism of the Duke of Devonshire's conduct" in looking abroad for his players, he says in another: "I have and will again engage foreigners in my orchestras," and in yet a third complains that half the musicians of most "foreign" bands are usually Englishmen in disguise. Another contributor to the discussion, Mr. Theo Ward, musical director to the Eastbourne Corporation, addresses himself to the question why foreigners are preferred, and finds the reason in their greater enthusiasm and emotionalism, the lack of which qualities in our British performers he ascribes rather oddly to our British music schools. A third sarcastically retorts that "if what we hear from the average foreign player is 'emotion,' I am not surprised at our professors instantly suppressing it," while a fourth asks why the Duke of Devonshire should consult His Worship, Giacomo Gantieri, or any one else, when choosing a conductor for his own band.

The whole question is, indeed, a rather difficult one, but most impartial outsiders, looking at the matter from the standpoint of Mill's "disinterested and benevolent spectator," would probably be agreed that the right principle to be observed is that of free trade tempered by preference for the native artist when he is as good as the foreigner. Unfortunately, this last condition is not always fulfilled. British orchestral players are, no doubt, among the finest in the world, but it is equally certain that they also include many of a very different stamp. In other words, when they are good they are very good, but when they are bad they are horrid; and this is a fact not always borne in mind by those who point proudly to the London Symphony Orchestra, that of Covent Garden, and the like. Those who would learn more on this subject should consult Mr. Orcherton, of the Orchestral Association, who make it their business to test all applicants for admission to their ranks. To which it may be added that some of the most hopelessly inefficient performers come from one of the best known teaching institutions in London. Is it any wonder that, rather than players of this class, capable foreigners get the preference? For it must always be remembered that the best of our native players are not usually to be obtained for seaside orchestras. Even in the case of this new Eastbourne band, the conditions of which as to pay and so forth are quite exceptionally attractive, it is a fact that the Orchestral Association, when applied to, was unable to supply anything like the number of players wanted from among their membership of over 700.

It therefore becomes too often a case of choosing between inefficient native players or competent foreign ones, and in these circumstances, who can blame those

responsible if they choose the superior article, whether imported or home-grown? After all, indifferent musical performances will not prove any more acceptable to the hearer because the players are guaranteed British. At the same time, one may agree that every effort should be made to obtain the native article if possible. Other things equal, the claims of the British performer ought certainly to be preferred—more especially, perhaps, when the undertaking is one financed out of the rates, and this applies alike to conductors and rank and file. The notion that the public nowadays has any particular preference for the foreigner is, I imagine, quite a mistaken one. If foreign bands have often obtained the preference in the past, it has been simply because it has been more convenient to engage them on one ground or another—because they have been better players at the price, because their conductor has known his work, because they have been more amenable to discipline, and so on. It is simply a question of supply and demand, and the survival of the fittest—fittest not meaning necessarily the best, but those best adapted to a particular purpose and particular requirements.

The Gala performance at Covent Garden on Tuesday was, as it is quite safe to affirm, even though writing before the event, a great success, for this is one of those events the success of which is a foregone conclusion. In cases of bereavement the discreet hatter when applied to for a badge of woe invariably inquires what was the precise degree of relationship of the departed, in order that he may supply an article correctly adapted to the requirements of the case. Similar regard for the proprieties naturally dictated a gala of exceptional magnificence when the honoured guests were to be none other than the brother and sister-in-law of her Majesty, and if the King and Queen of Denmark do not carry back with them a very favourable opinion of our operatic resources, this will certainly be due to no lack of effort on the part of the powers that be in Bow-street.

Last week several interesting performances were given. In "Tannhäuser" Miss Gleeson-White was given a bigger opportunity than she has hitherto obtained, and made a very respectable Venus—if that is not a contradiction in terms. Another English artist was very much to the fore in "Carmen" on Thursday in the person of Mme. Kirkby Lunn, who shared the honours of the evening with Caruso, who, as it happened, was not quite at the top of his form. Saturday brought a new tenor, Signor Bassi, who gave a fine account of himself in "Pagliacci," even if he hardly impressed all his hearers at first as a second Caruso. But then Caruso took some time before he acquired his present popularity, and of Signor Bassi it may certainly be said that he is one of the finest singers who have come to us from Italy for some time. Sammarco's Tonio and Destinn's Nedda were other features of a fine all-round performance. In "Cavalleria" the new American tenor, Mr. Wheatley, made a successful if not electrifying début, Mlle. Scalar sang finely as Santuzza, and Miss Gleeson-White was the Lola.

In the concert-room lately no one has produced a more powerful impression than Frl. Julia Culp, a Dutch vocalist, who profoundly impressed all her hearers at her recital on Saturday. The number of brilliant women singers who have appeared this season, including Landi, Gerhardt, Tilly Koenen, and now Frl. Culp, has indeed been quite remarkable, and not by any means the least of them is the last-named. Another fine singer who has lately been heard is Mlle. de St. André, while a third was Herr Reinhold von Warlich, who gave a quite memorable performance of Schumann's "Dichterliebe" cycle at the Æolian Hall. One-man concerts by unknown modern composers are rather daring ventures, but several quite enjoyable works were heard at that given by Dr. Percy Rideout last week. His music is unequal, but, at its best, individual and interesting. Violinists have not been quite so numerous lately, but Joska Szigeti's recital showed this youth once again to hold a high place among living players of his age. Two gifted pianists who have been heard are Herr Backhaus and Mr. Herbert Fryer, while in the way of miscellaneous concerts that of Miss Helen Mar, who "tells stories" so delightfully, proved entertaining as usual.

The Gibbons celebration at the Abbey last week was a very interesting and enjoyable affair, and though it would be rash perhaps to anticipate an absolute boom in Gibbons' music as a consequence, it is not too much to say that a fine old English musician who was to many merely a name before, will in future mean a good deal more. It is certain, indeed, that the actual beauty and impressiveness of his music came as an absolute revelation to many who went prepared, if not to scoff, at any rate to be bored, and came away in point of fact delighted. Gibbons truly "reached a hand through time" when he penned some of the wondrously beautiful and expressive music performed so admirably under Sir Frederick Bridge's direction.

M. Messager's new opera entitled "Fortunio," based on "Le Chandelier" of Alfred de Musset, seems to have made a great success in Paris, and it may be hoped that in due course we may have the opportunity in London of making acquaintance with the latest product of M. Messager's graceful pen. From the accounts to hand one gathers that, as in his previous works, M. Messager has handled a dainty story with appropriate lightness of touch and felicity of invention. "The first two acts," reports one, "are particularly delightful. At a given moment the music, more especially in the first act, recalls Sullivan—a delicate compliment to the Entente and the composer's residence in London." Perhaps the "delicate compliment" was hardly intended by the composer, but neither Sullivan nor Messager need object to being compared with the other. When, however, the same writer gravely informs his London readers that "a work of his, which has received the joyous name of 'Les P'tites Michus,' is a little masterpiece in its way, and has achieved an immense success," one perceives that he has not by any means learnt yet the full extent of M. Messager's triumphs.

Mr. Santley's many admirers will have been glad to note that as the result of their recent efforts in recognition of his jubilee the handsome sum of £2,160 has been realised—this being the balance in hand after the payment of all expenses, and that Mr. Santley's banking account has now been enriched by this amount. Not only to Mr. Santley, but to the Earl of Kilmorey, who worked so hard on his behalf, congratulations are due.

Mme. Nordica's proposed American Bayreuth on the Hudson River is a bold project, and every one will hope that it may come to fruition and be attended by success. The establishment of a similar theatre in this country has been suggested more than once, and if its site were well chosen and the thing were properly worked out, it might conceivably succeed; but so far no one has been disposed to take up the idea seriously. Mme. Nordica, on the other hand, seems to have been more fortunate in obtaining financial backers, and we are told of millionaires who are "only too anxious" to contribute. Can it be that they think there is money in it?

Some interesting remarks ascribed to Herr Nikisch on the subject of conducting are reproduced in a recent number of the *Musical Courier* of New York. Nikisch is a great conductor, but not all will be prepared to endorse the principles which he seems to have laid down, whereby it would appear the composer becomes only the man who gives the conductor his opportunity. It is all very well to talk of "bringing out the real intentions of the master," but who is to know what these were if his plain directions are to be flagrantly violated in the manner apparently advocated by Nikisch? If such a course as he advocates is legitimate, where is it to stop? Why not re-score the old masters entirely, introduce new instruments, modernise their harmonies, and so on? After all, is not the public entitled to hear a Brahms symphony or a Beethoven concerto as it was actually designed to sound by the composer? Nikisch seems to take the view that a con-

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ductor is, in photographic parlance, a kind of licensed "toucher up," whose business it is to lick the composer's imperfect negative into shape. When a Nikisch wields the bâton the result, no doubt, is well enough, but what of less gifted practitioners?

Nikisch seems to have had some interesting things to say, too, as to the influence of the different orchestral instruments on character. Thus the playing of the oboe and bassoon induces nervousness and irritability, and these players must accordingly be petted. Their opposites are the men who play the big wind instruments and the violas, which give their players strength and composure, so that they can be handled less tenderly. the clarinet player, on the other hand, inclines to sentimentality, and must be dealt with accordingly. In short, the instrument makes the man. It is an ingenious theory, and it would be interesting to know if it is supported by the testimony of the instrumentalists themselves.

The many English admirers of the music of Edward MacDowell, the gifted American composer, will be grieved to learn that his condition remains unchanged, and that though he may live for years, there is no prospect of his ever recovering his reason. Meanwhile, good progress has been made with the fund which has been started in America for the support of the composer and his unhappy wife and family, and contributions are now further invited from those in this country disposed to help in a most distressing case. Contributions may be addressed to Mr. W. W. A. Elkin (Messrs. Elkin and Co., 8 and 10, Beak-street), or to the hon. treasurer, Mr. G. C. Ashton Jonson, 15, Pelham-crescent, S.W.

The sadly premature death of Herr Mühlfeld is very regrettable. The famous clarinettist was deservedly a great favourite with London audiences. His wonderful art inspired some of Brahms's most beautiful works, notably the glorious clarinet quintet, and his playing was worthy of them. The only difficulty was to persuade him that he deserved the praises showered on him, for his amiability of disposition was equalled only by his modesty. Brahms first met Herr Mühlfeld while on a visit to the Duke of Meiningen in 1891, and soon became one of his warmest admirers, getting him to play to him in private piece after piece from his répertoire, and discussing in detail the peculiar characteristics and resources of his instrument. Mühlfeld in his turn had the greatest admiration for Brahms's music. It will be long before we hear his like again.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—In reading "Queen Hortense and her Friends" (1) the comment of a duchess on a representation of "King Lear" recurs to me: "These Leahs," drawled her grace, "seem an odd family." The whole Napoleonic household, not excepting the Emperor's stepchildren, Eugène and Hortense Beauharnais, seem "an odd family." "Hortense," said her mother, Josephine, "must marry either a Bonaparte or a gentleman," making unintentionally an invidious distinction, which those that knew anything of Napoleon's kith and kin would make intentionally. Hortense's husband, Louis, fulfilled, as a Bonaparte, one of these two conditions—but the other? Well, he was brave and honest, but for the rest, as small and poor and mean a creature as could have been found for a husband. Hortense, who could not endure him, was forced into the marriage by the selfishness of Josephine, who, already fearing a divorce, wished desperately to strengthen by another strand her hold on the Bonapartes. If Hortense with reason detested her husband, he, on his side, and not without reason, distrusted her. A biographer is naturally sympathetic, and even partial, and the biographer of Queen Hortense is rather her counsel than her judge, yet even she fails to make her out either an exemplary wife or a grateful stepdaughter. "Both Hortense and Eugène," said Josephine, "would be monsters of ingratitude if they did not give back to the Emperor affection and thankfulness for all he had done for them"; yet both ratted in the most shameless way (Eugène even more shamelessly than his sister) when Napoleon's star was on the wane. When Hortense tried to justify herself to Napoleon for accepting from the Bourbons a title in place of the rank he had conferred upon her, the Emperor exclaimed: "You took counsel, you say, with your heart! Then it ought to have told you, madam, that when one has shared the prosperity of a family, one must know how to endure its adversities." As for Eugène, he lost not a moment in deserting the sinking ship. "I had scarcely kissed my mother," he wrote to his wife, "before I received the authorisation to present myself at the Tuileries. I have therefore offered my homage to Louis XVIII., who received me perfectly, and asked after you with much interest." Eugène even had himself announced as "The Marquis de Beauharnais"! in order to emphasise his desertion of the man to whom he owed everything. When, then, you are asked, as you are again and again asked in these two volumes, to pity fallen greatness in the persons of Hortense and Eugène, you cannot help remembering that but for Napoleon they would have lived and died in obscurity, and that they owed their rank, even after the fall of their benefactor, to what he had done for them in the day of his power. I need hardly say that "Queen Hortense," dealing, as it does, with the inner and domestic life of Napoleon and of his family, is extremely interesting.

Miss Betham-Edwards's "Literary Rambles in France" (2) appears opportunely in support of the movement to present this graceful and indefatigable author with a jubilee testimonial. Her first novel, "The White House by the Sea," was published when she was twenty-one, and since then and up to her recent serious illness she has published volume upon volume, and made her own the province of interpreting to English people the charm of French domestic character. In her latest volume, as its title suggests, she follows in the footsteps of French immortals—Flaubert, Balzac, Rouget de Lisle, Gresset, George Sand, etc. Did you know, by the way, that père Grandet, the father of the immortal "Eugénie Grandet," was a real person, who began life as a rag merchant at Saumur, blossomed into a money-lender and millionaire, purchased the chateau of Montreuil-Bellay, over which visitors were shown by himself, clothed in such thread-bare garments that they were most generous in their tips which he pocketed? Flaubert's laboured style recalls Stevenson's confession to Sidney Colvin that, "working in my constipated mosaic manner, I spent a living hour upon a single sentence." Similarly, Flaubert confesses, in a letter to George Sand, "You have no notion what it is to sit throughout an entire day with your head between your hands, beating your unfortunate brains for a word." On the other hand, what a single, sudden, and amazing inspiration was the hymn that fired all France, and fires it still to this hour, the Marseillaise? Miss Betham-Edwards tells again, and with spirit, the astonishing story of its inspiration. I hope the appeal for subscriptions to the jubilee testimonial to this admirable and indefatigable worker—to be sent in to the hon. secretary, Mr. Clodd, London Joint Stock Bank, 5, Princes-street, E.C.—will meet a generous response.

The moral of "Fräulein Schmidt and Mr. Anstruther" (3), by the author of "Elisabeth and her German Garden," seems to be that the French epigram is as true of a man as of a woman: "Une femme est comme votre ombre; courez après, elle vous fuit; fuez-la, elle court après vous." To be sure, we have only the lady's letters by which to judge herself and her lover; but from them I should infer him to be a weak creature and her less of an "independent woman" than she claims in the second title of the book to be. She shows little of the self-restraint of an independent woman in her love letters to "Mr. Anstruther," and little of the pride of an independent woman in con-

(1) "Queen Hortense and Her Friends." 1783-1837. By I. A. Taylor. With Twenty-four Full-page Illustrations and Two Photogravure Plates. Two vols. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 24s.)

(2) "Literary Rambles in France." By Miss Betham-Edwards. (London: Archibald Constable & Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Fräulein Schmidt and Mr. Anstruther: Being the Letters of an Independent Woman." By the Author of "Elisabeth and Her German Garden." (Smith, Elder, and Co. 6s.)

tinuing the correspondence—as a friend—after he had shamelessly jilted her. This, however, is but to criticise the frame of the picture, since "Mr. Anstruther" is but the setting, so to say, of some light, bright, humorous, and happy descriptions of Fräulein Schmidt's impressions and experiences, and of her criticisms, not always, perhaps, so happy, of German and English poets. In complaining of Christina Rossetti's dirge-like poems with their "constant cry that she wants to die, that she hopes to die, that she's going to die, shall die, can die, must die, and that nobody is to weep for her, but that there are to be elaborate and moving arrangements of lilies and roses and winding sheets," she adds: "At least in one place she gives directions as to the proper use of green grass and wet dewdrops upon her grave—implying that dewdrops are sometimes dry." Surely a child might see at a glance that in the verse the Fräulein alludes to, it is the grass, not the dew, that is wet:—

> Be the green grass above me
> With showers and dewdrops wet;
> And, if thou wilt, remember,
> And, if thou wilt, forget.

However, "Fräulein Schmidt and Mr. Anstruther" will not disappoint the many ardent admirers of "Elisabeth and her German Garden."—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The book by Walter Savage Landor, entitled "Charles James Fox: A Commentary on his Life and Character," which is now published for the first time (Murray, 9s. net), has a curious history. In 1811 the "Memoirs of Charles James Fox," by J. B. Trotter, for some years his private secretary, made a considerable stir, and it was this work which provoked Landor into the writing of his "Commentary." He sent his manuscript to the John Murray of that day, who, after it had been put into type, formed the opinion that it was too intemperate and even libellous for publication as it stood. It seems to have been a very reasonable opinion. At Murray's request Southey tried to persuade Landor to tone down certain passages. Landor appears to have been willing to do this, but a further difficulty arose about the dedication of the work to the President of the United States—a dedication full of "perilous stuff," and especially perilous at a moment when a war between England and the States was plainly imminent. Murray proposed that he should procure another publisher for the "Commentary," but the irascible author refused to consent to this, choosing to consider that the book was "condemned to eternal night." The manuscript and all the printed sheets were destroyed, with the exception of one copy, which was kept by Southey. This copy was given by Southey to Mr. Monckton Milnes, afterwards Lord Houghton, and is now in the possession of his son, the Earl of Crewe, who allowed it to be transcribed for the purpose of the present publication. The reprint has been edited by Mr. Stephen Wheeler, who supplies a most interesting introduction and many illuminating notes on Landor's work. Lord Houghton said that this "Commentary" contained "perhaps more fair and moderate political and literary judgments, delivered in his (Landor's) own humour than any work of his earlier or maturer years." One can imagine how this will surprise any reader making his first acquaintance with Landor in these pages. He will wonder what sort of a writer he was when less fair and moderate. Of Fox and Pitt, too, Landor speaks in the most bitter and scathing terms. But, of course, the "Commentary" must not be judged from these vituperative passages. Landor says many things on political matters which, as Mr. Wheeler remarks, "have their bearings on questions of our own day," and a good part of the book is, moreover, occupied with literary criticisms which, to the majority of readers, will be far more interesting.

Nobody could have been found better qualified than Mr. S. Baring-Gould to compile the volume on "Devon" (2s. 6d. net), which is the latest of Messrs. Methuen's "Little Guides." Mr. Baring-Gould has written about many places at home and abroad, but of his own fair county he has, of course, a peculiarly intimate knowledge, and the tourist in Devonshire will find this small book an invaluable companion. Incidentally, Mr. Baring-Gould makes some caustic comments on the hideous and vulgar process of so-called "restoration" which not a few beautiful old churches in Devonshire—as in every other part of the country—have suffered. The book has a number of illustrations from photographs, and two maps. To the well-known series of volumes dealing with "Ancient Cities," Messrs. Methuen have now added one on "Dublin" (4s. 6d. net), from the pen of Mr. S. A. O. Fitzpatrick, with some illustrations by Mr. W. Curtis Green. Mr. Fitzpatrick's history and survey of the city, past and present, should be especially acceptable and serviceable to the visitors who are now being attracted there by the Dublin Exhibition.

Miss Charlotte Lorrimer's "The Call of the East" (Gay and Bird, 3s. 6d.) is a series of tales and sketches of China and Japan displaying considerable literary skill in combination with a rare insight into the mystery and fascination of the Far East. Whether in such stories as "The Faith of Chun Tai" and "O Yuri San," or in "Feeler's Convoy" and "Barton's Eurasian Wife," Miss Lorrimer is equally happy, while her descriptive pieces are delightful reading.

In a book to be published by Messrs. Constable under the title of "Janus in Modern Life," Professor Flinders Petrie, the eminent Egyptologist, gives his ideas on some problems of the modern world. The work is a development from his recent Huxley lecture, and it deals with questions of race and immigration, communism, philanthropy, and individualism in relation to historical philosophy, from a modern point of view.

Mr. Arnold White contributes an introduction to a book entitled "John Bull's Army from Within," which Mr. Francis Griffiths announces for immediate publication. The book, which is an exposure of British military law and army methods, is from the pen of ex-Sergeant-Major Edmondson, whose case was dealt with in TRUTH some years ago.

Mr. Heinemann is publishing this week a new book entitled "The Industrial Republic," by Mr. Upton Sinclair, the author of "The Jungle." Mr. Sinclair has been a close observer of the organisation of the varied industrial institutions of the United States, and in this work he gives his interpretation of the present and probable future position of capital and labour.

New Zealand is the scene of another of "Alien's" novels, "His Neighbour's Landmark" (Digby, Long, and Co., 6s.), which should be quite as successful as any of her previous books. "Alien" always writes well. The characters of Paul Featherstone and the wife from whom he was parted, of Philip Stroud and Ben, are cleverly sketched, and the story holds the reader's interest to the last page.

A very interesting series of monographs devoted to the bookplate is that being issued by Messrs. Schulze and Co., of Edinburgh. The latest addition to the number contains twenty-four examples of the Ex-libris of Mr. Charles E. Dawson, and many besides collectors will welcome the opportunity of acquiring examples of Mr. Dawson's graceful art. The edition is limited to three hundred and twenty-five copies, twenty-five of which are printed on Japanese vellum.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The third Court of the season was held at last on Thursday, and was a brilliant occasion. The Indian Princes were an item of splendour in the scene. The Queen wore mauve richly embroidered in Indian gold, and glittered with jewels not often worn together, viz., rubies and emeralds, and, of course, magnificent diamonds. Her Majesty's Orders were the Garter, the Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, and the Danish Royal Family. Two British composers were favoured by being included in the pro-

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gramme given by his Majesty's band—Cowen and T. F. Dunhill.

There were many pretty faces, some perfectly exquisite flowers, and among the dresses several Buccleuch and Lady de L'Isle and Dudley both wore triumphs of the modiste's art. The Duchess of brocade, but satin was more favoured by the rest. Lady Waterford's ivory satin was delicately embroidered in silver, and the train was lined with rose-pink and trimmed with very fine old Irish lace. The young Marchioness's ornaments were superb diamonds and pearls. Princess Alexis Dolgorouki's dress was greatly admired. It was cloth of silver veiled with the loveliest lace, finest Brussels caught with gold roses. The train, in white and gold shot moire, was lined with cloth of gold and trimmed with trails of gold roses. A wonderful gown of grey satin, embroidered in a rich design of oxydised and bright silver, was worn by the Countess of Wharncliffe. On the train was some lovely old point d'Alençon. The Countess of Loudoun wore pale blue marquisette with a raised, tapering design in velvet outlined with silver. Her black velvet train was lined with silver tissue.

Baroness de Meyer looked poetic, as usual, in a white satin gown and black velvet train lined with coral pink. Lady Dickson-Poynder was beautiful in a white dewdrop tulle gown and train of old rose crêpe-de-chine bordered with a deep silk fringe.

A Paquin gown of great beauty, was worn by Baroness Mechlin. It was princess-shape in white satin, the white brocade train lined with white satin, and trimmed with La France roses tied with blue chiffon.

Some of the brides presented on their marriage wore lovely dresses. Lady Hyde was one. Her rich white satin had a deep hem headed with trails of roses and buds worked in raised silver tissue. The bodice was a dainty arrangement of tulle, Brussels point, and silver roses and buds. The train was pale green satin veiled with silver-embroidered net and trimmed with Brussels point. Lady Kitty Vincent also wore her wedding gown. Mrs. Tyrrell Cavendish, a very pretty American girl, wore her wedding gown—white satin with raised embroideries, and she had lovely diamonds. She carried lilies of the valley.

One of the débutantes was Lady Helen Grosvenor, presented by her mother, Katherine Duchess of Westminster. Lady Helen wore white tulle strewn lightly with silver sequins of the very smallest. Trails of silver roses and buds trimmed the bodice, and silver roses also trimmed the white satin train. A Goodyear shower bouquet of white roses and lily of the valley gave that look of completeness that only well-arranged flowers can. Lady Marjorie Dalrymple, another débutante, wore white striped gauze trimmed with dewdrop lace and tulle, and carried a perfectly exquisite Arcade bouquet of white orchids.

Two-thirds of the gowns were Princess or Empire of the demi-semi order.

Princess Henry of Battenberg distributed the prizes to the successful competitors at the seventeenth annual Children's Salon competition held last Saturday at Caxton Hall, Westminster. These children have done wonders during the seventeen years, having founded and endowed no less than seven cots for sick poor children in London hospitals. They are now working for the endowment of an eighth cot, to be called after the Young Prince of Asturias, by permission of the King and Queen of Spain. The proceedings were interesting, as usual. Mr. J. S. Wood spoke on the year's work of the Salon. Mrs. Montagu-Forbes ("Levana") addressed her "children," Dr. Edmund Cautley thanked the young workers on behalf of the Belgrave Hospital, where the next cot is to be, Mr. A. J. Warden proposed a vote of thanks to the judges, whose task is not exactly a light one, and Lady Troubridge, who speaks remarkably well, returned thanks for the judges, who included some very distinguished persons.

Eglantine is the pretty name in French of the wild rose. I saw a linen dress in this delicious colour at Humphreys' in Onslow-place. The skirt was very cleverly draped, so that without being tight or dragging as some tight skirts do, it clung to the figure and yet was very full about the hem. A little above the latter was a band of pink guipure. The bodice was embroidered white linen and lingerie, and over it the pink formed a sublimised sort of pinafore with kimono sleeves. The sweet part of it was a series of graduated strappings of the pink linen arranged at distances of about half their width from each other, making a very pretty effect round the sleeves, the neck opening, and in front under three tiny bows, also of the linen. Such a delicious river frock! Some lucky girl is having it copied in blue linen, a soft shade between cornflower and Sèvres. I admired very much a grey foulard with full cape sleeves of Irish crochet falling like deep epaulettes over foulard sleeves. The bodice was trimmed down the heart-shaped opening with painted velvet in curious tones of mauve and blue, that warmed up the cold, pure grey in a most artistic way. Two or three bands of black satin trimmed the skirt, and there was a belt of the same, with a bit of the painted velvet laid on at either side. This belt was carried up the back to a little above the waist, and there held with a clasp of fine Etruscan work. This is the kind of gown that none but a gentlewoman would think of wearing, and of which one sees so many at Humphreys'. A very uncommon looking dress was in a soft shade of mist-blue voile embroidered in a tapering design all round the skirt from the hem upwards. The bodice and sleeves were also embroidered and made full, with a silk belt caught rather high at the back. A very effective black and white stripe was so cleverly manipulated that only the black stripes showed on the hips, where one likes to look slight. A couple of frills of the material trimmed the skirt. The bodice had the stripes very deftly managed, and the sleeves were black lace over white. A capital race-gown.

One of the curious things about some of the gowns is that tarnished gold, silver, or steel is used in trimming them, and proves much more artistic in effect than bright metal. A Josephine evening gown in black chiffon embroidered in old silver was finished round the shoulders with tarnished gold and black. The chiffon was draped over gold tissue, also dulled to the artistic tint. A sweetly becoming frock, so graceful are the lines.

I have often wondered, in view of the enormous success that the Dublin Horse Show has always been, that no effort has up to this year been made to hold a really good horse show in the West End of London. Those that have been held at the Agricultural Hall from time to time have been all very well and satisfactory up to a point, but they have never got beyond that point, which has been a long way behind the standard reached in Dublin. I know, of course, that we are not supposed over here to be quite so horsy as our friends over in Ireland, but I believe that this has only been owing to a want of opportunity to show our "horsiness."

Now the Agricultural Hall is a little outside the radius of West End wanderers. It is, as a matter of fact, but little further from, say, such a centre of London as Piccadilly-circus than Olympia is, but it is a great deal further from what we are pleased to call the West End of London, and it means going East to what are to the majority of West Enders practically unexplored regions. It has, therefore, never been really popular. In Olympia we have a far more commodious building in a far more get-at-able neighbourhood. The motor shows there have proved this. What, therefore, more appropriate than that the lovers of the horse should have jumped at the idea of competing with their motor competitors on the same ground? And when two such shows enter into competition there cannot be the slightest element of doubt as to which of the two will command the greater popularity.

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It is naturally recognised by now that from merely a utilitarian point of view the horse has to give way to the motor in the same way that the old stage coach had to give way to the railway. But we do not—thank goodness, I say—look upon everything to-day solely from a utilitarian point of view. What is the *use* of cricket? What is the *use* of golf? What is the *use* of football? Why, to give health, exercise, and recreation to thousands. And so it is with the horse. And so may it, so will it, remain to the end of time.

Of course you have read in the daily papers of the wonderfully effective manner in which Olympia has been decked out for the show. The decorations are on the most lavish scale, and the appearance of the interior of the great building has been completely transformed, the whole effect being extremely picturesque. Never before has Olympia presented so striking and brilliant a scene. Everything in connection with what may be called the "stage management" of the show has, indeed, been exceedingly well done. One thing which especially struck me during a somewhat hurried visit on the opening day was the remarkable punctuality with which the programme was carried out in every detail—and punctuality is always most difficult of achievement in any show of this kind. For this and all the arrangements much credit is due to the management, which, I noticed, was prominently represented by Lord Lonsdale and Mr. Euren. Among the first afternoon's competitions I personally found the class for ladies' hacks most interesting, the riders, too, coming in for a large share of admiration. The general opinion seemed to be that the elegant appearance and horsemanship of the young lady who rode the winner of the first prize possibly had something to do with the award. However, I need not tell you about the different competitions—in which England, and Ireland, too, have come out well—or even describe the varied features of the programme, to which the press has devoted so many columns. Suffice it to say that the show is a great "society," and also a great popular, success, Olympia being packed at each performance.

I have received the following from Dublin:

DEAREST MADGE,—If only we could stop talking and thinking of the weather! In May it troubled us sorely, but now in June it is simply dismaying us. We more than ever cannot get it out of our thoughts. The topic, however, is not now commonplace. The weather of last week was a real novelty, a new sensation, or series of sensations, at this season. Where were the sweetness of the sweet of the year, and the gracious charm of the month of roses? The summer lawns were marshes, and the leaves of leafy June, dripped with rain and rustled in glacial winds. We wondered if the sun would ever shine again, and if not, we wondered anxiously, how we should manage to do without him. In this month we usually desert our capital, and, crossing the water, betake ourselves to the great capital of the kingdom, or less ambitiously we go to the seaside or seek rural enjoyment in the country. The attraction of the International Exhibition, however, has made Dublin fuller than usual at this season, and the distraction of the weather has kept many wise ones still in their winter quarters. After all, a roof over our heads, and a cozy corner by the fireside, have been as yet our chief needs; as Mrs. Battle wanted but a clear fire and a clean hearth with the rigour of the game, so do we want them in the rigour of the weather. The worst of it is that we are such creatures of habit, we are not able, all at once, to adapt ourselves comfortably to circumstances. We will keep looking back, and hankering after the things we were wont to do in other years. How many of our sex, even during the cold severity of the past few weeks, have not been able to abandon the tradition of wearing light clothing at this time of the year! How many ills they have courted, in filmy costumes and thin, lace-like blouses!

Lady Aberdeen resumed last week many of her philanthropic and industrial activities before going to Buxton for a short "cure," to complete her recovery. She left Ireland at the end of the week, but will return in a fortnight or so to the Viceregal Lodge, where a garden party will be given at the end of the month. Of course, even the very flying visit of the King and Queen to Dublin, will give Lord and Lady Aberdeen a great deal to do in the way of Viceregal and other preparations. The sporting world is much excited about the "command" race meeting at Leopardstown, and especially the feminine portion of it. Every one has his or her own particular point of view, and to the majority of our sex, a Sovereign's presence at a race meeting means a most glorious occasion, and an opportunity for smart dressing. Supposing winter is over by the 11th of July, we can only faintly imagine what the splendours of a Royal Leopardstown's dressing will be. In addition to the enthusiasm for decorating ourselves in honour of Royalty will be all the stored energy in the matter of dress, which the want of summer weather has prevented our expending up to this. We must only hope that in the end the bad weather will pass away following the common law like everything else in the world. Already, Leopardstown toilettes of wondrous light and airy beauty are being ordered and planned, so hopeful is the spirit of woman when it is a matter of getting new dresses. Leopardstown is quite in luck this year; the Derby caused much excitement in its neighbourhood. Orby was trained close by, where his owner lives in a beautiful place, the demesne having a background, not far distant, of the Dublin mountains. Evidently the mountain breezes are good for beast, as for man. By the way, what an onslaught Sir Frederick Treves made on drugs! He desires to abolish the prescriptions which apothecaries make up, and to have instead the simple ones of sunshine and fresh air. As if they were always at hand, ready and compounded for us. Who can get fresh air in towns? As for sunshine, how few curative gleams have been procurable in our climes for the past few months. Lord and Lady Grenfell were staying at Rockingham, in the West of Ireland, before their departure for England. Lord Grenfell rented it for several seasons after Lord Dudley had given it up. We have not yet heard when Sir Neville Lyttelton is expected in Ireland, but Lord and Lady Grenfell will hardly again make any prolonged stay at Kilmainham. Sir Antony and Lady MacDonnell are at the Under-Secretary's Lodge, but rumour, more than ever, has it, that they may not remain there past the summer. If India does claim Sir Antony for important affairs, we hope that our regrets may not be increased by having his place filled by someone without a social talent. We women, who have no part in politics, hate to have politics interfere with our social centres over here. Don't you think our "society" interests ought to be taken into consideration, especially as we are so "good," as children say, with regard to making no political and suffragette demands? Lord and Lady Ardilaun have been staying at St. Anne's, their residence near Dublin, and given several

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garden parties. The weather, needless to say, was not of an ideal garden party type. One admired the bravery of the flowers as well as their beauty; wrapped in furs we looked on in wonder at their summer bloom. The water gardens, however, were having a really good time.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Here are the recipes I promised to send you. Petites Bouchées de truite à la Cardinale are very good indeed:—

Scrape and pound 6 oz. of fillets of trout with 2 oz. of fillet of whiting, 4 oz. of bread panada, 2 oz. of butter, 2 eggs, and salt and pepper to taste. Rub it through a coarse hair sieve, and work it in a basin with ½ gill of thick cream. Fill a plain border mould with a third part of the quenelle and steam it white. Mix a dessertspoonful of passed spawn with the remainder, and with it fill half a dozen small buttered bouchée moulds, which should have a ring or a star of truffle at the bottom. Steam the moulds and serve them on the border, pour creamy-white sauce round and garnish the centre with tiny pink quenelles, a dozen button mushrooms, and few slices of truffle, all warmed in a little of the sauce.

Some day try this poulet sauté à la blanche:—

Chop a young chicken into neat small pieces, sautez them with butter and chopped onion without allowing them to colour, add a glass of white wine, which reduce to demi-glaze, after which add a pint of white chicken stock and half a pint of milk; season all with salt and pepper, and finish cooking in the oven. At the moment of serving stir in a gill of thick cream, mixed with two yolks of eggs, add a squeeze of lemon juice, and a pinch of paprika. Dish the chicken in an entrée dish and garnish it with groups of tiny onions, parboiled, and cooked separately in butter.

Cucumber à la Rosalind is quite a delectable dish:—

Cut a large cucumber into pieces 2 in. long, cut each one with a fluted cutter, thereby removing the skin and making them of equal size, parboil them in salted water, then drain and remove the seeds with an apple corer. Fill the cavities with a little quenelle of haddock, mixed with some chopped shrimps. Cook them on a buttered sautépan moistened with a little stock, cover all with a buttered paper. Dish the cucumber on a border of quenelle of haddock, pour a nice sauce round it, made with the stock from the stewed fish bones, place a tiny round of truffle on each and garnish the centre with scallops of cucumber, tea-spoon shaped quenelles and picked shrimps.

Finally, you will find this ham toast a very nice savoury:—

Cook a gammon rasher of ham before the fire, or in the oven, then chop it very small; put it into a stewpan with ½ oz. of butter, the yolks of two fresh eggs well beaten, season with cayenne. Stir it over a clear fire until it thickens, then pull aside and pour into it two tablespoonfuls of thick cream, spread the mixture upon square pieces of buttered toast, screen the whole with grated Parmesan cheese, hold over them a hot salamander, send to table. Garnish them with sprigs of chervil.

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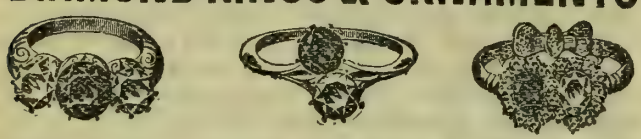

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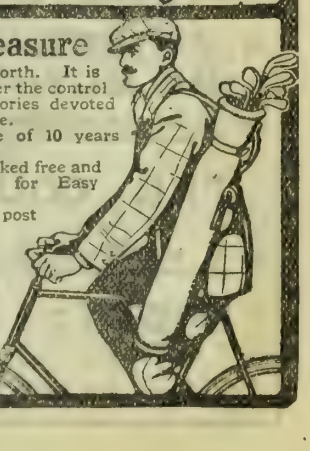

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MESSRS. TROLLOPE have received instructions to SELL the above by AUCTION, on the premises, on WEDNESDAY, July 17, 1907, and following days, commencing at 1 o'clock precisely each day. On view, MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 15th and 16th. Catalogues are in course of preparation. Meantime, further information may be obtained from Messrs. TROLLOPE, 14, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square; Hobart-place, Eaton-square; West Halkin-street, Belgrave-square; and 5, Victoria-street, Westminster, London.

ROSE HILL ESTATE, on the Oxfordshire Hills, close to Reading.—Notice of sale of the MANORIAL RESIDENCE, with 30 acres of Lovely Grounds, together with OUTLYING RESIDENTIAL PORTIONS of the ESTATE which Messrs. SIMMONS & SONS are instructed to SELL by AUCTION at the QUEEN'S HOTEL, READING, on SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1907, at 3 o'clock p.m., in the following Lots, viz.: Rose Hill House, with charming gardens and grounds, 7 Grand Residential Sites varying from 2 acres to 40 acres, 27 Positions for Superior Houses, 16 Villa or Cottage Sites. Almost all with good road Frontages, and with a public water supply obtainable.—Particulars, Plans, and Conditions of Sale may be obtained of Messrs. HEWETT & CHURCHILL, Solicitors, Friar street, Reading; or of the Auctioneers at their Estate and Auction Offices, Henley-on-Thames, Reading, and Basingstoke.

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Messrs. Tattersall beg to give NOTICE that their **Thursday Sales** have commenced and will be continued during the Season.
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	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	noon	p.m
PADDINGTON... dep.	9 5	9 25	9 45	10 0	10 33	10 55	11 5	11 30	12 5	1 3
SLOUGH ..... arr.	9 33	9 54	..	10 25	...	11 32	...	...	12 34	1 27
WINDSOR & ETON ,,	9 41	10 2	10 15	10 34	11 3	11 38	11 32	12 0	12 43	1 37

RETURN RAIL FARES: 1st Class. 2nd Class. 3rd Class.
PADDINGTON to WINDSOR & ETON: 5/6 3/9 3/-

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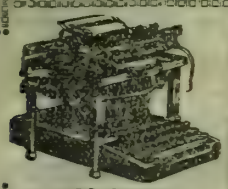

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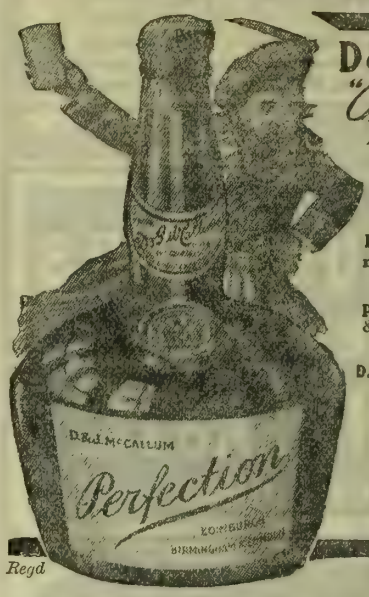

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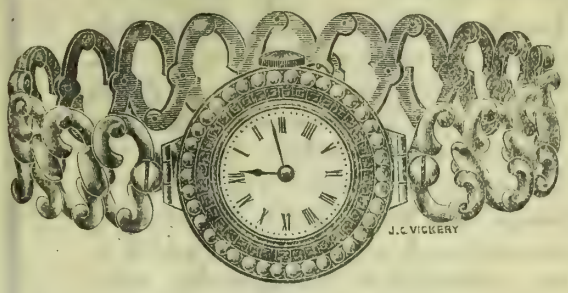

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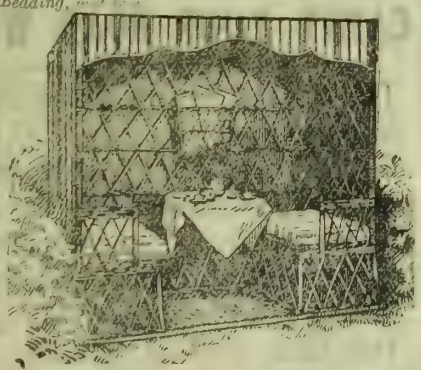

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OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

NOTICE.

Various Prize awards will be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,481.

The Cricket season being now in full swing, I think it may be opportune to give our numerous readers, who are followers of the national summer game, an opportunity of airing their prophetic acumen in this connection.

This week, therefore, I offer the usual Prize of Two Guineas for

THE MOST ACCURATE FORECAST, SETTING FORTH THE NAMES OF THE SIX BATSMEN AT THE HEAD OF THE FIRST CLASS BATTING AVERAGES, AND THE NAMES OF THE SIX BOWLERS AT THE HEAD OF THE FIRST CLASS BOWLING AVERAGES, AS THEY SHALL COME OUT AT THE CLOSE OF PLAY ON SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1907.

N.B.—Detailed figures—in the case of batsmen, of the number of innings played, number of times not out, gross aggregate of runs, and average to two places of decimals. In the case of bowlers, number of overs bowled, number of wickets captured, number of runs scored off them, and average cost per wicket to two places of decimals—must be appended in every case.

Further, only those batsmen are eligible who shall have played at least twelve innings, and only those bowlers are eligible who shall have captured at least fifty wickets, by the evening of July 6.

To prevent possible misunderstanding, I may add that the names of the South Africans are eligible for inclusion in the above averages.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one forecast.
(ii.) All forecasts must reach TRUTH office by the *first post* on Monday, June 24, *at latest*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of UNSIGNED, winner of one-half of TRUTH Prize No. 1,472, is A. Elvey, Esq., 28w, Prince's-street, Glasgow.

*** The real name, with the address, of BELFASTIENSIS, winner of one-half of TRUTH Prize No. 1472, is John Johnston, Esq., 21, Little Victoria-street, Belfast.

*** The real name, with the address, of VOX, winner of one-half of TRUTH Prize No. 1,473, is Wm. Vokes, Esq., Alandale, Pinner-road, Harrow.

HAIGPATSI.—Very pleased to welcome you. Your *nom de plume* duly registered.

CALEDON.—Owing to the upset caused by the Whitsuntide holidays, the Anagrams were not checked before printing.

OVERDALE.—Very pleased to welcome you.

POLLYWAG, BEAD, ETHNA.—I much regret that your solutions of Puzzle No. 1,477 were received too late for inclusion.

WINKLE.—I am afraid there is no doubt that your Enigma solution was not received at TRUTH Office by the first post on closing day. I was very sorry to exclude it. But I am, of course, strictly bound by our published regulations.

CUPIDITY.—Very pleased to welcome you. I hope that, having begun, you will now compete regularly.

KHAYYAM.—Many thanks for your kind suggestions, which I am filing for future reference.

I have also to thank another Competitor who sends me a cutting from the *Daily Telegraph*, bearing no signature.

N.B.—In reference to our "Puzzle" Competition, announced last week, I should like to inform our readers that any suggestions for Puzzles previously sent into me *hors concours, and not yet made use of in our Puzzle Columns*, may be sent in again (if competitors please) for this Competition.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,478.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

NEATEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE CATCH-NAME FOR THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY'S NEW CORRIDOR LUNCHEON CAR EXPRESS.

The Luxmo Express.—Redder.

Being a swift service on a very direct route, let the Cromer Express be called the Cro-flier (Crow-flier).—Sponge.

Down Service: 1. The Flying Cro'. 2. The Norycorr. 1. Up Service: The Flying Homer. 2. The Mercury (the double meaning, "sea-cured"—from the French—being implied here).—Caledon.

1. The East Coast Express. 2. Eastern Express. 3. The Coaster. 4. The Cromidor.—It.

1. The Fen Runner. 2. The Fen Flyer. 3. The Flying Fenman.—Hooubed.

1. Novocoastrian. 2. Cromaticar. 3 Coasterfolk. 4. Dinicar.—Prior Park.

1. Poppyland Express. . 2 Eastward Ho! 3. 3. Flying Anglian. 4. Silver Seas Express.—Djalfi.

Poppyland Express.—Waimarama.

1. The Norcodine Express (Nor of Norfolk, co of coast and dine). 2. The Norcolunch Express (derivation as in No. 1). 3. The Gernclet (Great Eastern Railway's Norfolk Express (Corridor) Luncheon Express Train). 4. General term for a luncheon, dining, or buffet saloon train: Dinotrav (din of dine and trav of travel).—Aldbarn.

1. Broadsway Express. 2. Poppy Express.—Twicky.

1. The Cro Flyer. 2. The Cromer Flash. (To fly as the "cro"-w is to go as fast and direct as possible, of course, while the Cromer "Flash" is in allusion to the Cromer Lighthouse, and the flash also indicates the speed of the express.)—Ainsty.

Norfeaster.—Untitunt.

1. The Seabreeze Express. 2. The Dining-flyer. 3. The Sea Whizzer. 4. The East Coaster.—Dagmar.

1. The Poppyland Express. 2. The Cromer-strand Golf Express. 3. The Norfolk Daily Sea Mail.—Sanger.

1. The Orient. 2. The Oriental Express.—Stourton.

1. Flying Norwicher. 2. East Anglian Luncher. 3. Eagle Express.—Possum.

1. The Poppyland Express. 2. The Poppyland Persimmon. 3. The Cromshermundstrand Express. 4. The Cromer Coaster.—Janes.

1. The Norcotex. 2. The Snorter. 3. The Cromovsher. 3. The E.C. Flyer—Rhody.

1. The Crow (Cro-mer). 2. Crowflier. 3. Poppyland Express. 4. Poppyflar.—Phenyl.

1. The Cromer Homer. 2. East Anglian Coaster. 3. Three Counties Luncher. 4. The Wi(t)ches' Seaside.—Mac.

1. The Cromer Roamer. 2. Tangled Tiffin.—Prior Old Jeff.

East Anglia Express.—Railway.

1. Scud East (shortened to "The Scud"). 2. Nor-Easter. 3. Dashing Dervish. 4. Terrible Turke.—Amurath.

1. V.C. 2. Coaster. 3. Velect (vestibule luncheon express car train or East Coast train). 4. Lord Cromer.—Brod.

1. Poppyland Express. 2. The Wild North-Easter (see Charles Kingsley). 3. Norfolk Flier. 4. Norfolk Seagull.—Seefeld.

1. The East Coaster. 2. The Victory. 3. The Nor'easterman. 4. The Scud East. (Note.—No. 2 suggested by the flagship of Lord Nelson, who was born in Norfolk. No. 4 suggested by the nickname of Harry East from his fleetness, in "Tom Brown's Schooldays."—A. E. L.

1. Ozone Express. 2. Cromer Comet. 3. Breezy Bounder. 4. Health Hurtler.—Oobo.

Excellency (i.e., XLNC, 'Xpress London Norfolk Coast).—Delta.

1. Flying Norfolkman. 2. Mid-East Train-de-Luxe. 3. Norfolk Coast Luncher. 3. Mid-Eastern Flyer.—Orient.

1. The Flying Anglian. 2. The Sunrise Express. 3. The N.C.E. 4. The Poppyland Flier.—Georgina.

The Gerfolk Express.—Hyde.

1. The Corridor Coaster. 2. Norfolk Pick-me-up. 3. Desideratum. 4. Pioneer.—Ovgne.

East Anglia (or Angles) Express—Frances.

1. East Anglian. 2. Strander (Strand to Overstrand). 3. Lotus Land Express. 4. Sandringham.—Cashier.

1. The Cromeries Express.—Spanish Paddy.

1. The Nor'easter. 2. The Greaser. 3. The Coaster. 4. The Strand Express.* (*Strand being abbreviated Overstrand).—Robin Adair.

1. The Broad Arrow (Norfolk Broads). 2. The Eastern Arrow.—V. B.

1. Corridor-de-Luxe. 2. Tommy Train. 3. Flying Feeder. 4. Tiffin Express. 5. Up-and-Down Rapid 6. A1 Flyer.—Chance.

1. The Golf Coast Express. 2. The Flying Golfer. 3. The Eastern Rapid. 4. The Delight of the East.—East Anglian.

1. The King's Own. 2. The Edward. 3. The Sandringham. 4. The King.—Boxer.

1. The Cromer. 2. Poppyland. 3. Eastern. 4. Royal.—Togo.

1. Poppyland Express. 2. Cromer Coaster. 3. Eastern Swift.—Harper.

1. The Poppyland Express. 2. The Poppyland Luncheon Express. 3. The Cromer and Poppyland Express. 4. Cromer and East Coast Luncheon Express.—Norvie.

1. The Vacuna Express. 2. The Whirlum Express. 3. The East Coast Magnet. 4. The Cloms Express. (The latter from the initial letters of the five stations named.)—Mono.

1. The Eastwards and Restwards Express. 2. Scott's Express. 3. The Great Orient Express. 4. The Eastern Scott's Express.—Phœnix.

1. The Great Eastern Railway's Palace on Wheels. 2. G.E.R. Record Conveyance to the Broads. 3. The Traveller's Elysium. 4. The Epicurean's Norfolk Express.—Puck.

1. The East Coast Luxurious. 2. The Rapid East Coaster. 3. Twentieth Century Great Eastern Success. 4. The Norfolk Tourists' Friend.—Shandwick.

1. (X) Cross to Cromer Express. 2. Anglian Express.—Don Carlos.

1. The Flying Coaster. 2. The Norfolk Dasher. 3. The Norfolk Eagle. 4. The Poppyland Express.—Hilary Wynotte.

1. The Poppyland Express. 2. The Poppyland Diner. 3. The Poppyland Limited. 4. The Cromer Limited.—Oldtraf.

1 The Norfolk Coast Car (The Triumph.) 2. The Norfolk and Cromer Express (Little Mary's Ideal).—Jethart.

1. East Coast Lunch-as-you-go Express. 2. East Coast Luncheon Express. 3. Norfolk Seaside Lunch Train. 4. Norfolk Sea-Breeze Express.—Chestnut.

1. The Broads Enterprise. 2. Norfolk Coast Train-de-Luxe. 3. Broads Luncheon Express.—Little Toad.

1. The Daily Female. 2. East Coast Whizzer. 3 Sea-Sea Express. 4. Brace-up Express.—Cosmos.

1. The Flying Angel. 2. The Burglar.—H. F. T. Maguire.

1. Swallow Corridor. 2. Swallow Express.—Hesomaal.

1. Eagle Luncher. 2. Norwich Luncher. 3. Flying East Anglian.—Fireplug.

1. Liverstand Express. 2. Tuckers' Express. 3. Poolover Express. 4. Norfocoo Express.—Bronks.

1. The Quo Vadis. 2. The Golf Express. 3. The Luxe Express. 4. The Sportsman's Express.—Quo Modo.

1. The Poppyland Express. 2. The North Anglia. 3. The Poppyland Luncher. 4. The Health and Happiness Express.—Heedca Needca.

1. The Cromer Roamer. 2. The Strand to Strand Express. 3. Ozonia Limited.—Leda.

1. The Poppyland Coaster. 2. The L.C.S.M.O. Billy. 3. The Norfolk Coast Town's Vestcorluncar. (New Vestibule Corridor Luncheon Car Express.)

1. The Biking Corridor Express. 2. The Flying Golfer 3 The Norfolk Flying Hotel.—Bel Demonio.

1. Eastflier. 2. Poppycoaster. 3. Poppyland Popular. 4. Poppycomer. (The G.E.R. in their pamphlets, etc, often allude to this coast round Cromer as "Poppyland." In the event of any of these names being adopted, it might not be amiss to suggest that the engine of the express be provided with red facings, or with a design including poppies.)—Crescendo.

1. The Snacksman. 2. The General (the Great Eastern's New Express Récherche Appetising Luncheon). 3. The Norfolk Dumpling. 4. The New Departure.—Cemache.

1 Cromer Luncheon Special. 2. L.C.C. Special London Cromer Corridor Special. 3. Cromer Dining Car Special. 4. C.C.C. Special (Cromer Coast Corridor Special).—Cupidity.

1. The Sportsman. 2. The Norfolk Sportsman. 3. The Sporting Express. 4. The Sporting Rover.—Petite.

1. Great-Eastern Greyhound. 2. East-Coast Greyhound. 3. Wireless East-Coaster. 4. The Poppylander.—Almaviva.

1. The Poppyland Popular. 2. The Blue Speedwell (with reference to the colour of G.E.R. locomotives) 3. The Flying G.E.R. Man. 4. The Norfolk Knife-and-Forker.—Gyges.

1. The Sea Express. 2. The Sands Express. 3. The Briny Breeze. 4. The 'Zone Express. (Some of the advertisements should be headed "Seaward Ho!"; contains references to the North Sea and the bracing ozonous air "straight from the pole," and to sails, soles, and haddies; and wind up with the quotation, "Come unto these yellow sands.")—Ox Short.

1. The Driven (Partridge) Express. 2. The Norfolk Breezes Express. 3. The Norfolk Delights. 4. The Choke Bore Express.—Portia.

1. Great Eastern Wonder. Poppyland Express. Luncheons. 2. Express de Luxe to Poppyland. 3. Poppyland Luncheon Express.—Cassio.

1. The Yellow Sands Express. 2. The Nelson Express. 3. From Street to Strand Express.—Wani.

1. Cromer Corridor Express. 2. Eastern Eating Express. 3. East Coast Eating Express. 4. East Anglian Eating Express.—Lugh.

1. The Great Eastern Prize Express. 2. The Ritz on Runners. 3. The Liverpool Street Luxury. 4. The Dream on Wheels.—Erra.

1. The Overstrand Link with the Silver Sea. 2. The Norfolk Coast Corridor Express. 3. The Mundesley and Cromer Special Car. 4. The North Sea Daylight Route.—Inea.

1. The Poppy Express. 2. The Anglian Argo. 3. The Sea Roamer of Cromer.—Beginner.

1. Norfolk Strand Express. 2. The Folks Express. 3. Norfolk Seaboard Service. 4. The Sub-Wash Route.—Jean qui Rit.

1. The Poppy-Land Paragon. 2. The Poppy-Land Estafette. 3. The Poppy-Land Vikings. 4. The Poppy-Land Express de Luxe.—Kismet.

1. Carodino.—Kohima Chert.

1. The Egyptian (Cromer, 1907). 2. Egypt's Special.—Kimberley.

1. Norfolk Pick-Me-Up. 2. Norfolk Howard, or Flying Bug. 3. Dumpling Express. 4. Norfolk Dip.—She.

1. The Norfolk Speedwell. 2. Whizzer. 3. Weldunrun. 4. Acme-de-Luxe Train.—J. Holbrook.

1. Biffintiffin (Norfolk Biffin). 2. Quickeater. 3 Antivacuum (what Nature abhors). 3. Corripresswasteater.—Wildcat.

1. The Great East Coaster. 2. The Norfolk Luncheon Flyer. 3. The Norfolk Luncheon Nonstop.—A. D. Ampler.

1. The Cromer Luncheon Car. 2. The Cromer Corridor (luncheon car, understood).—Chesy.

1. Poppyland Express. 2. East Coast Flier. 3. Norfolk Pullman Train. 4. Norfolk Luncheon.—Four Eyes.

1. Nelson Land Express. 2. Poppyland Express. 3. Norfolk Coaster. 4. Mid-day Coaster.—The Prebend.

1. Chic Dinette. 2. Car Déjeuner. 3. Quick Luncher. 4. Swift Snack.—Caer Glowe.

The Broads' Corridor Buffet.—Stansmore.

1. The Cromer Overstrand Express. 2. The Tiffin Cromer Overstrand Express (the T.C.O.). 3. The Cromer Coast Corridor Express (the C.C.C.). 4. The Cromer and Coast Luncheon Express.—Eboracum.

1. Swiftsure Luncher. 2. Norwich Swift. 3. Swiftsure Corridor.—Tom Nissed.

1. Cromerlunch. 2. Cromer Lunch Express. 3. Cromer and Overstrand Lunch. 4. Express Cromer Lunch.—Game B.

1. Alexandra Express. 2. Royal County Express. 3. Norfolkville Express.—Emlyn.

1. The Cromer Express. 2. The East Anglian Express.—Anglian.

1. City East (Coast) Lunch Express Rail, briefly "Celer" (swift). 2. London Cromer Lunch Car. 3. London Cromer Fast (or Express) Lunch Line. 4. East Coast Lunch Express.—Rho.

1. The Great Eastern Excelsior. 2. The Eastern Magnet. 3. The East Coast Maelstrom. 4. Travel Triumph.—Mab.

1. The Cromer Diner. 2. The Cromer Luncher.—Selah.

1. The Norfolk Car. 2. The Cromer Corridor. 3. The Norfolk Swift. 4. City and Sea Express.—Walfred.

1. Bloater Car (going to the Norfolk bloater county). 2. Broadway Express (going to the Norfolk Broads county). 3. The Crumber (going to the Cromer county). 4. Great Feastern (going to the Great Eastern county).—Iere.

1. Norfolk Luncher. 2. Mid-day Norfolkman. 3. Mid-east Coaster. 4. Mid-east Luncher.—Bust.

1. Cromerstrand Express. 2. Cromerstrand Luncheon Express. 3. London and Cromerstrand Express. 4. Londonorfolk Luncheon Express.—Belfastonian.

1. The Nor'-Easter Express (Norfolk and East Coast being suggested, with the swiftness of a N.E. wind). 2. The Coaster. 3. The Crowbar Express.—In Tune.

1. Gnaw-folk Nibbler. 2. Daily Diner Dyspepsia Dispeller. 3 Mundesley Muncher. 4. Daily Diner, Service, Sharingham Rapid.—Dullard.

1. The Norfolk Racer. 2. The Great Eastern Comet. 3. The Lightning Conductor. 4. The Easter Seer.—M. S. Woodfin.

1. The Eastern Coaster. 2. The Flying Comet. 3. The Eastern Flash. 4. The Flying Eagle.—Nymph.

1. The Far East (Liverpool Street being "The near East.") 2. Cromer Courier. 3. The Rapid Restaurant). 4. The Trans-Trans (i.e., Transport Transcendent).—Golliwog.

1. Oeztmann. 2. Viking. 3. Braw North-Easter. 4. The Hardy Norseman.—Nemo.

1. English Orient Express. 2. Norfolk Oriental Express. 3. Oriental Coast Express. 4. London and Orient Express.—Three Spires.

1. Norks (Norfolk Coast Express). 2. Lonoco (London and the Norfolk Coast). 3. Greast Vest (Great Eastern Vestibule). 4. Speast (Speed East).—Pyeddi.

Catch name down train: 1. Healthward Ho! Catch name up train: 2. Wealthward Ho!—Iques.

1. The Sybarite (new line). 2. The Speed and Feed at Ease (new line). 3. The Fresh Breeze Train. 4. Entente Cordiale.—Lou Lou.

1. Near East Luncheon Time Express. 2. Midday East Coast Express. 3. Near East Coast Express. 4. Near East Coast Route Express.—Sandstone.

1. The Thames. 2. The C Sharp. 3. The Wild North-Easter.—Arch. G.

1. The Flyterion. 2. The Amphlitrion. 3. The Flying Carlton. 4. The Corridorfolk Express.—Eldifee.

1. The Norfolk Coast Comfort. 2. The Norfolk Coast Luncheon Express. 3. The Overstrand Luncheon Express. 4. The Cromer and Overstrand Luncheon Special.—Arragon.

1. Egyptian Express (as being complimentary to Lord Cromer and descriptive of the places served by this service of trains). 2. Crab and Cliff Express. 3. Poppy-strand Express. 4. The Crab-catcher.—Ecud.

1. The Norfolk Coaster. 2. Norfolk Coast Runner.—Rimabel.

1. The Poppyland Luncher. 2. The Poppyland Express. 3. The Poppyland Popular. 4. The Pop.—Mon.

1. The Poppyland Corridor Express (or Train-de-Luxe). N.B.—Cromer, Mundesley, Sheringham, and Overstrand are the coast towns in "Poppyland"). 2. The North-East Norfolk Littoral Express. 3. The Norfolk Riviera Express.—Poppy.

Norfolk Orient Express.—Cadzow.

1. Cromer Vestibule. 2. Solar Express. 3. Rapid Eastern. 4. Overstrand Car.—Atom.

1. Mangerie. 2. Currodine. 3. Vivenda. 4. Caret.—Canning.

The Ozone Express.—Gille Ban.

1. The Sea and Sandwich Train. 2. The Luncheon and Lightning Train. 3. The Cromer and Collation Train. 4. The East Coast and Inner Comfort Train.—Spinel.

1. Threefold Strand. 2. North Sea Fleet. 3. Salt Dash. 4. Sunrise-on-Sea.—Chang.

The Flying Dumpling.—Necky.

1. The "C.C.C." (the Cromer Corridor Clipper.) The abbreviation "C.C.C." is also by its sound suggestive of the sea. 2. The Corridor Clipper. 3. The Boadicea (once Queen of the Iceni, the country through which the train passes). 4. The Norfolk Nonpareil.—Minos.

1. The Norfolk "Dumpling" Express. 2. The Jockey of Norfolk. 3. The Blossom Land Express.—Six Knobs.

1. Poppyland Special Express. 2. North Norfolk Nonpareil. 3. Cromer Challenger. 4. Garden of Sleep Gondola.—Caedmon.

North Sea-Side Express.—Nsse.

1. London and Cromer Car. 2. London and Anglian Car. 3. Cromer and City Car. 4. Anglian and City Train.—Kent.

1. Cromer Luncheon Car. 2. Cromer Train. 3. East Anglia Car. 4. Anglian Corridor Car.—Dorset.

1. Elsie's Motor. 2. The Norfolk Roamer Luncheon Car Express. 3. The Sherry and Ham Lunch Express. 4. The Over-strained Liver Express.—Derula.

1. Great Eastern Lun-cor-car. 2. Anglian Corridor Car. 3. Cromer Corridor Car (the three C.'s train). 4. G.E. Up-to-Date Train.—Bucks.

1. The Cromer Poppyland Express. 2. London and Cromer (the Mun-Over, Lun. Car Express). 3. London and Cromer Poppyland Ves., Cor., Lun., Car Express.—Woodpecker.

1. The Broadway. 2. The Norfolk Breezer. 3. The Eastern Enterprise. 4. Sea Switch.—Nichola.

1. The Norfolk Dumpling. 2. The Speed and Feed 'Em. 3. The Crowflier. 4. The Cromer Motor.—Aster.

1. The Peaceful Eastener. 2. The Poppyland Luncher. 3. The East Anglian Special. 4. The Eastern Sea Coaster.—W. Glover.

1. The Croshmundover Express.—Svonok.

1. The G.E. Train d'Hote. 2. The G.E. Exmess. 3. The G.E. Special Dish 'Un. 4. The G.E. Lunch On.—Northlander.

1. Cro-meringue Car. 2. The Cro-fly Lunch Car. 3. The Cro-ver Strand Mun-sher. 4. The Cromer-lunch-over 'Spress.—Overdale.

1. The Cromer Coaster. 2. The Cromer Coast Express.—Lohengrin.

1. Excelsior. 2. Norfolk Combine. 3. Here and There. 4. Non-such.—Myra.

1. Norfolkspress. 2. Cromer Lunch. 3. Norfolksidor. 4. Norfolk Coaster.—Sincérité.

The Eastern Luncher.—Patrol.

1. The Comsex. 2. The Skimoner. 3. The Ecex. 4. The Norfolk Whizzer.—Spartan.

1. Norfolk Quick Sands of Pleasure Express. 2. Near Eastern Luncheon Express. 3. Seaside and Broads Luncheon Express. 4 City Overstrand Quick Luncheon Express.—Envoy.

1. The Stephenson Express. (It is only fitting that the great originator of locomotives should be perpetuated). 2. The Travellers Ne Plus Ultra. 3. The Broads Express. 4. The Veni Vidi Vici.—Nemesis.

1. Poppyland Express. 2. City and Cromer Express. 3. Cromer Coast Express. 4. Cromer Riviera Express.—Eastrail.

1. The Cromer Luncheon Car Express. 2. The East Anglian Special Rapid. 3. The Flying East Anglian. 4. The Cromer Corridor Special Rapid.—Allegro.

1. The Cromer Corridor Express. 2. The East Coast High Flyer. 3. The East Anglian Luncheon Car Express. 4. The Cromer Coast Flier.—Sarnia.

1. Flying Coaster. 2. The Beachcomber. 3. Star of the East 4. The Sandstreak.—Nautilus.

1. Cromer Strandleyham Express. 2. Poppyland Express. 3. Poppylux Express. 4. Strandleyham Express.—Provident.

1. The Cannon Ball Express. 2. The Eastern Flier. 3. The Lightning Express. 4. Ozone Express.—Jebel Zukur.

Extra Special.—Humshaugh.

1. The Flying Viking, or Viking Coaster, or simply The Viking. 2. The Poppyland Cosy Coaster. 3. The Eastward Ho! Coast Beauties Express.—Verbum Sat.

1. The Resurrection of the Golden Age. 2. The Grateful Refuge for the Weary. 3. Flora's Enchanted Home. 4. The Friend Ever Welcome.—Milliner.

1. The Scented Garden. 2. The Health Expander. 3. The Rambler's Delight. 4. The Pilgrim's Hope.—Sphinx.

1. The Linger and Joy. 2. Aladdin's Lamp. 3. The Pure Air Lung Inflater. 3. The Happy Tramp.—Crank.

1. The Ozone Magnetiser. 2. The Linger and Speed. 3. The Woodland Bower. 4. The Couch of Diana.—Mary.

1. The Swift Sure Health Regenerator. 2. The Herald of Happy Hours. 3. The Magician's Sanatorium. 4. The Hygienic Redeemer.—Sophia.

1. Cromer Coast Correlun. 2. Poppyland Correlun. 3. Poppyland Provedor. 4. The Popcorn Special.—Caw.

1 The Norfolk Golf Express. 2. The Poppyland Express. 3. The East Anglian Express. 4. The Norfolk Coaster.—Leaf Rule.

1. The Alexandra. 2. The Welcome. 3. The Convivial. 4. The Refresher.—Roy.

The Poppyland Express.—Wormholt.

1. The Flying Coaster. 2. The Rapid Restaurant. 3. The Fast Feeder. 4. Cromer in Comfort.—Autolycus.

1. Eastward-Ho! 2. Sit Easy Express. 3. Hamilton's Flyer. 4. East Anglian Flyer.—Ursellia.

1. Swallow. 2. Excel.—Up-to-Date.

The Fen Runner.—H—cubed.

1. Crumb o'Lunch Express (Cromer Lunch Express). 2. Cromer Coast Circuiteer. 3. The Royal Norfolk Express.—Fudge.

1. The Flying Anglian. 2. Overpool Lunch Express. 3. East Anglian Express. 4. Folks' Lunch Express.—Cleo.

Poppyland Express.—Western.

Kingsway Express.—Kay-Bee.

1. The Sea Sprite. 2. The Gadabout. 3. The Ha-Ha!—Espagnol.

1. The Norfolk Noonshooter. 2. The Norfolk Seabound Ex. 3. The G.E.R. Speedwell. 4. The New Sea Serpent.—Echo.

1. The Norfolk Gobbler and Corridor Coaster. 2. The Cromer Coast Cracker. 3. The Flying Turkey and East Coast Express. 4. The G.E. Coaster.—Korah.

1. The Poppyland and Broads Express. 2. The Broads Express. 3. The Poppyland Express. 4 The Fairyland Express.—Devon.

1. Overlunex. 2. Norfcolunex.—Esneh.

Poppyland Express.—Foley.

1. The Flying Norfolk Coaster. 2. Poppyland Coast Express. 3. Norfolk Poppyland Coaster. 4. Norfolk Coast Scarlet Runner.—Winkke.

1. Ozone. 2. Marine. 3. Promenade. 4 Déjeuner.—Apératif.

1. The Cromer and Overstrand Luncheon Express. 2. The Great Eastern, Cromer and Seaside Luncheon Express. 3. The Corridor Luncheon and Seaside Express. 4. The Norfolk Seaside Luncheon Express.—Simplex.

1. Poppyland Luncheon Express. 2. East Norfolk Coaster. 3. Norfolk Flying Luncher. 4 Eastern Coast Luncher.—Railman.

The Rapid East Coaster.—Issor.

1. The East Wind. 2. The Cromer Crawler. 3. The Flying Restaurant. 4. The Centipede.—Israfil.

1. Poppyland Express. 2. Golfers' Express Train. 3. Norfolk Ozone Express. 4. Corridor Express for the Garden of Sleep.—Cherrypicker.

1. The Cromer Links. 2. The Norfolk Golfer. 3. The Flying Eastern. 4. The Seaside Queen.—W. Brazier-Martin.

1. John Bull's Corridor Commissariat. 2. Good Cheer Corridor Express. 3. The Passengers' Pick-me-up. 4. Vestibule Viands Volant.—J. McGrigor Allan.

1. The Norex—i.e., Nor' E.X.—North-East Express.—Allspice.

1. Golfland Express. 2. Norfolk Shores Sea and Scenery. 3. Norfolks' Coast-line Corridor Service. 4. Cromer Coast Special (speed and comfort).—Maison Blanc.

1. The Poppyland Flyer. 2. The Poppyland Coaster. 3. The East Anglian Coaster. 4. The Liver-Over Express.—B. A.

1. Restaurant East Coast Express. 2. Restaurant Seaside Express. 3. Norfolk Express Restaurant. 4. Norfolk Coast Restaurant Express.—Asap.

1. The Cromunsherover Express. (The name is, of course, formed out of the first parts of the names of Cromer, Mundesley, Sheringham, and Overstrand, and I think it might serve a useful purpose in stimulating inquiry as to the destination of this train.) 2. The Comsoex.—Einnim.

1. The Eagle-winged Norfolk Coast Luncheon Car Express. 2. The Norfolk Coast Rapids. 3. The Fleeting Norfolk Coast Mid-day Express. 4. London and Cromer, etc., Season Luncheon Car Express Service.—Albert Illingworth.

1. East Coast Express. 2. Norfolk Broads Express. 3. G.E.R. Safeguard Express. 4. Eastern Counties Express.—(Miss) H. G. Watts.

1. Comos (Cromer, Overstrand, Mundesley and Sheringham). 2. The Cromer Swiftsure.—Capella.

1. Cromer Café Car. 2. Cromer Coast Café Car. 3. London and Cromer Luncheon Car. 4. Cromer Luncheon Scorcher.—Haiquatsi.

1. The East Anglian Flyer. 2. The East Anglian Express. 3. The Flying East Coaster. 4. The Eastern Seasider.—Nat Danby.

1. The Link of Luxury (with the Norfolk Coast). 2. The Eastern Express Enterprise. 3. The Cosy Corridor Coaster. 4. The Overland and Overstrand.—The Creole.

1. D.C.C.* 2. Dumpling Coast Cars. 3. The Dumpling Coaster. 4. Dumpling Corridor Cars. (*Norfolk dumplings should be a standing item in the luncheon menu.)—Thersites.

1. Eastern Light. 2. Sunbeam. 3. East Anglian Express. 4. Eastward Ho!—Sceptic.

1. Norfolk Coast and London Social. 2. Norfolk and London Social Express. 3. Norfolk Coast Mid-day Sociable. 4. Norfolk Coast Luncheon Special—Try.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

A SPECIAL Supplement, dealing with Art and Photography, appears with this week's Truth.

The King is to arrive at Lincoln next Wednesday at noon by special train from King's Cross. His Majesty will be received by Lord Brownlow and Lord Yarborough, and he is to be presented with an address from the Corporation at the Great Northern station, but, in order to save time, he will return a written reply, instead of making a speech. The King is to arrive at the Royal Agricultural Society's show ground on the West Common by half-past twelve. His Majesty will leave Lincoln for London at 3.40. The carriages for the Royal special, which is to stop only at Grantham, will be provided by the London and North-Western Company.

The King and Queen will probably decide to alter the arrangements for their journey to Ireland. It is now expected that their Majesties will leave London on Monday, July 8, proceeding direct from Euston to Holyhead, and dining and sleeping on board the Royal yacht. On Tuesday, the 9th, the King and Queen will proceed by special train to Bangor, arriving at twelve o'clock. State carriages will have been sent down from Buckingham Palace, and their Majesties will drive from the station to the site of the new University College, and, after the King has laid the foundation-stone, they will proceed to the Town Hall, where there is to be a luncheon given by Lord Kenyon. In the afternoon the King and Queen will proceed for a motor drive, going by Bethesda, Ogwen Lake, Capel Curig, and Llanberis Pass, to Port Dinorwic, whence they will return to Holyhead, the Royal train having been brought hither from Bangor. Their Majesties will again dine and sleep on board the *Victoria and Albert*, which is to proceed next morning at daybreak for Kingstown.

His Majesty will pay a week-end visit on Saturday, the 28th, to Mr. and Mrs. Harcourt, at Nuneham Park, Oxfordshire. The house at Nuneham, which is large and well arranged, but heavy in appearance, is admirably situated on a wooded height overlooking the Thames. It contains a valuable collection of Old Masters and portraits, and a splendid Sèvres dessert service. The gardens, which were laid out by Capability Brown, combine both the picturesque and the formal styles, and there are charming walks through the woods on the banks of the river. The deer park of twelve hundred acres is famous for its fine timber, and from the higher grounds there are beautiful views. It contains the handsome conduit of Otho Nicholson, which was removed from Oxford to Nuneham in 1787.

The old village of Nuneham Courtenay stood in the park near the site of the present house until the reign of Queen Anne, when it was removed by Lord Harcourt to the side of the high road. It is neat and formal, with a church built by the late Colonel Harcourt in 1880, to replace one which was erected by Simon Lord Harcourt near the river, after he had taken down the ancient church in 1764.

The Nuneham estate, which is a very large one, was owned for centuries by the Courtenays, and afterwards by the Pollards, and during the reign of Charles II. it passed into the possession of Sir John Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower, whose daughter married David, Earl of Wemyss, who sold the property in 1710 to Lord Chancellor Harcourt. The estate was bequeathed by the last Earl Harcourt in 1830 to his kinsman, Archbishop Vernon, who assumed the name of Harcourt, and he was the grandfather of the late Sir William Harcourt. George III. and Queen Charlotte twice visited Lord Harcourt at Nuneham. The Harcourts have been laudably generous in granting access to their

beautiful domain to visitors, and Nuneham has always been the favourite spot for Oxford boating parties, for whose accommodation there is a picturesque cottage on the island, which is connected with the park by a quaint wooden bridge.

Windsor Castle will not be itself open to the guests at their Majesties' garden party on Saturday afternoon, as they are not expected to enter the house. The company will arrive by the South Terrace, proceeding thence direct to the East Terrace and Slopes, where the party is to take place. The refreshment marquees are to be erected on the Lower Slopes, where one of the bands will play, and refreshments are also to be served in the Orangery. With a vast omnium gatherum of over seven thousand guests it is most necessary that the regulations for the entertainment should be both full and precise in order that there may be no mistakes or tracasseries. The opening of the Slopes to the guests much facilitates all the arrangements, as formerly at Windsor Castle garden parties the company were limited to the East Terrace and the South Garden.

The King and Queen are expected to visit Virginia Water next Sunday afternoon, when there will probably be a Royal picnic dinner in the Fishing Temple on the bank of the lake. The Queen will probably pay a visit during her stay at Windsor Castle to Lord and Lady Alice Stanley at Coworth Park, Sunningdale. During the eighties the place was occupied for Ascot week in several successive years by the King and Queen (then Prince and Princess of Wales), who rented it from Mr. Arbuthnot. Coworth Park, which is one of the most attractive domains in the Ascot district, was purchased some years ago by Lord Derby as a residence for his eldest son, Lord Stanley.

The Ministers and Great Officers of the Household have sent out invitations for a full dress banquet on Friday, the 28th, "to celebrate his Majesty's birthday." There will be a very large Ministerial reception at the Foreign Office on the same night, and it is understood that Lady Sefton and Lady Crewe will act as hostesses at this entertainment.

The State Ball was a very full one, and both the ballroom and the picture gallery were crowded soon after ten o'clock, but it was eleven o'clock before the King and Queen's procession entered, and the band then played the British and Danish National Anthems. There was an unusually large muster of Royalties, including the Duchess of Albany and her nieces, the two Princesses of Bentheim. The Princess Royal was also present. The Royal party included the Landgrave of Hesse, who is a first cousin of King Frederick and Queen Alexandra. The quadrille d'honneur was danced directly after the King and Queen had taken their places on the dais, and was divided into two sets, the lower one being headed by the Duke of Connaught. Royalties only danced at the top and bottom, while the side places were filled with "distinguished persons," who had previously been warned by the Lord Chamberlain that they would be expected to dance.

Refreshments were served all night in two of the rooms which open out of the corridors. The acting Lord Steward announced supper to the King and Queen shortly after midnight, and the Royalties then proceeded in procession to the Chinese Room, where the tables and buffet were adorned with gold plate, the flowers being orchids and pink blooms. The famous Portland vases were filled with lovely roses. The supper rooms for the guests were opened at midnight. The floral decorations were very fine indeed, and were greatly admired. The programme of dances included three quadrilles, three polkas, a galop, all the others being waltzes. Some Indian Princes were present in magnificent Oriental dresses, and blazing with jewels. They occupied the seats at the right of the daïs, which are usually reserved for Duchesses.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to return to Marlborough House on Monday from Windsor, and will then settle in town until the end of next month, except from July 9 to 12, when they are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace during their public visit to Edinburgh.

The Prince will be able to pay only a brief visit to Lincoln next week, so H.R.H. is not to be the guest of Lord Londesborough at Blankney Hall, as had been expected. It is probable that the Prince of Wales will accompany the King from London on Wednesday. Prince Christian, who is expected to visit the show on two days, is to be the guest of Major Laycock at Wiseton Hall, near Bawtry.

The Duke of Connaught goes to Scotland at the beginning of next week in order that he may witness some cavalry manœuvres in the Strathtay district of Perthshire. H.R.H is to be the guest of the Duke of Atholl at Blair Castle and at Dunkeld House during his stay in Perthshire.

Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll is to open the Romsey Pageant next Tuesday, and H.R.H. will be the guest of Mr. Evelyn and Lady Alice Ashley at Broadlands, where there is to be a large house party during the week, including Lord Rosebery and Lord James of Hereford. The sermon at the special service in Romsey Abbey on Tuesday morning is to be preached by the Bishop of Bristol. Broadlands, which was the favourite residence of Lord Palmerston, passed from the St. Barbes to the Temples, and the present house, which is in no way remarkable, was re-built by the father of the Minister. It contains an interesting collection of Old Masters and portraits. The lawn slopes from the house to the Test, and the grounds are pleasant and well wooded, but the park is quite small. The Broadlands estate was left by Lord Palmerston to his

For Appeals, see page 1556.
For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1557.
For Special for Ladies, see page 1561.
For Selected Foreign Hotels, see page 1558.
For Amusements, see pages 1552, 1553, and 2 of Supplement
For Estates, Auctions, see page 1560.
For Our Puzzles, see pages 1565, 1566.

stepson, Lord Mount Temple, and it now belongs to Mr. Evelyn Ashley, who is a grandson of Lady Palmerston by her marriage with the fifth Earl Cowper.

The Grand Duke of Oldenburg, who has been staying for a week at Clarence House on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, is a brother-in-law of the Duchess, his first wife having been one of her sisters. The Grand Duke has been cruising in the Mediterranean for several months in his yacht *Lensahn*, and he came to England on his way back to Germany.

The Duc d'Orléans, who has just started for a three months' yachting cruise in northern waters, had a private audience of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace during his brief stay in London. He then formally announced to their Majesties the betrothal of his youngest sister, Princesse Louise d'Orléans, to the Infante Don Carlos, son of the Conte di Caserta, which was privately arranged about a month ago before the Comtesse de Paris left Spain to pass the summer in France. The wedding is not to take place at Wood Norton, the seat of the Duc d'Orléans in Worcestershire, as has been stated in the press. It will be celebrated in Spain, according to present arrangements, next November, either at Villamanrique, the beautiful estate of the Comtesse de Paris near Cadiz, or at Madrid. The first wife of Don Carlos (Prince Charles of Bourbon) was the late Princess of Asturias, sister of the King of Spain.

It was announced last week in an ingenuous provincial paper that "Our city is evidently in high favour with the King, as his Majesty has graciously commanded the attendance of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the garden party which is to be given at Windsor Castle on the 22nd." The fact is that Lord Mayors and Lady Mayoresses have been invited in a body to the Royal garden party. There are an immense number of quasi-official invitations, for at such a ceremonial the King kindly and sensibly suspends the old rule which limited the commands to Palace entertainments to persons ("male and female") who have been presented at Court.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen return to the Viceregal Lodge, Phœnix Park, next week. They will have some visitors next month, and many preparations to make for the King's Irish visit, short though it will be.

Lord Castletown, who is to succeed the late Lord de Ros as a Knight of the Order of St. Patrick, is a popular and genial Irishman. He has some tinge of Nationalism, and is interested in the Gaelic movement, though his practical efforts at reviving the ancient garb of Irishmen have not gone beyond the suggestion of the wear of embroidered brogues instead of the less characteristic boot or shoe of ordinary twentieth century wear. Lord Castletown is Chancellor of the Royal University of Ireland, having been elected to the post on Lord Meath's resignation of it last year.

The death of Sir Arthur Ellis vacates the office of Comptroller in the Lord Chamberlain's Department, which is in the gift of the King, and the salary (paid out of the Civil List) is £1,000 a year. Apartments in St. James's Palace are annexed to the post, but Sir Arthur Ellis never lived there. He was appointed in March, 1901, when Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane retired, after forty-four years' service, and he survives his successor, although thirteen years his senior. Sir Spencer, who was a clerk in the Foreign Office from 1840 until he received his appointment in the Household in 1857, succeeded the well-known Norman Macdonald. Sir Arthur Ellis was equerry in ordinary to the King (then Prince of Wales) from 1866 until 1898, when Queen Victoria appointed him Serjeant-at-Arms in the House of Lords.

Sir Arthur Ellis was a general favourite among his colleagues in the Household, and he was very popular in society. His death is a real loss to the King, who will miss him greatly, as he had been intimately associated with his Majesty for over forty years, and had often been employed in confidential affairs outside the duties of his office. Sir Arthur Ellis had rendered valuable services to the King in connection with the newly established office of Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Order of Knighthood, which he quickly organised and placed in working order. Many of the new arrangements at the Court ceremonials, which have proved so successful, were also suggested by him, and have been carried out under his superintendence.

Mr. C. N. Welman, who died last week at the age of ninety-three, inherited large estates in Somersetshire from his father, who himself was born in 1746, so the two lives extended over 161 years. Mr. Welman was the head of an ancient Roman Catholic family which has been prominent in Somersetshire since the reign of Charles I.

Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, who died last week at the age of eighty-five, retired from public life ten years ago, when he vacated his seat on the Council of India, and he had then completed fifty-five years of valuable service. He was a most distinguished member of the Madras Civil Service, and particularly remarkable for his organising and administrative abilities. He did excellent practical work as Director of Public Instruction in Madras, and also many years later during the famine in Southern India. It would be difficult indeed to overrate the value of his work, while he left a permanent mark upon the Presidency of Madras. He was a man of genial manner, and every one both liked and esteemed him. Sir Alexander was a son of Bishop Arbuthnot, who held the Irish see of Killaloe, and a

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brother of Sir Charles Arbuthnot, formerly Commander-in-Chief in Bombay and in Madras. The two brothers were educated at Rugby under Dr. Arnold.

A MATRON'S VIEW OF ASCOT.

(Overheard in the Royal Enclosure.)

Eh? What will win the Cup? Oh, pooh!
Such foolish questions spare.
'Tis not the Ascot Cup to view
That hither I repair;
A race of import far more true
Absorbs a mother's care.

For I've a little filly which
To-day her début makes
(And oh! how, lest there come some hitch,
My anxious bosom quakes!).
She's entered for that contest rich—
The Matrimonial Stakes.

A City Boss to-day is here
And eke His Grace of P.;
And old Earl Swipés, who gained by beer
His rank and £ s. d.
Their values thus, from front to rear,
I class as one—two—three.

For this event I've backed both ways
My precious, darling girl.
So, if she fails to win the race
And catch that City pearl—
Pray Heaven, at least she'll get a place
And pinch The Duke or Earl.

I am credibly informed that the members' enclosures at Sandown, Kempton Park, and other racing clubs are becoming infested by amateur bookmakers. There is a feeling among members who do not make books themselves that this practice, which has increased, and is increasing, ought to be diminished. There is no reason, of course, why a member of a club should not make a book, but there are obvious objections to his doing it openly in the members' enclosure. If it were made a rule that any member desiring to practise as a bookmaker should wear a band round his hat with his name on it, the rule being applied impartially to nobility and commoners, the effect would probably be that the amateurs would prefer to take their places among the professionals outside.

With reference to the extracts given last week from the rules and fines applied by Edmonds, Denham, and Goyder, Limited, to their assistants, I have received a communication from the company, who contend that I have done them a serious injustice. I should be sorry to do that. The rules seemed to speak for themselves, and I said little more than they said. The company's reply is that in point of fact the fines which look so formidable are very rarely enforced, apparently because the occasion for enforcing them rarely arises, and they absolutely deny that any girl in their employ has incurred fines to the amount of 2s. 6d. within two days of starting work. The statement to this effect must have been imaginative. Further, no fines have ever been deducted from wages, but only from bonuses or commissions, and the whole of the amounts go to the employees' recreation fund. To prove these statements the company have had their books for the past twelve months examined by Messrs. E. J. Mills and Co., of 110, Cheapside, and send me the report of the result. It shows that while over £6,000 were paid in wages to the staff (180 persons) in that time, the total fines levied were under £4, that in no case has a fine exceeded 1s. for one offence, and that 80 per cent. of the total was levied in twopences for arriving late.

In this state of things it may be wondered whether there is any real necessity for maintaining such a drastic penal code as that quoted last week. The company say:—

> The requirements of a drapery business are such that an elaborate system of rules is necessary, and it is part of the education of the assistant to thoroughly understand these rules. Every assistant is continually handling money over the counter, and moreover with the many details concerning entry customers, approbation books, day books, etc., the most stringent rules are necessary both for the proper conduct of the business, and the checking of any assistant who should be dishonestly disposed. The rules are made quite as much in the interest of the assistant as in that of the firm, and the fact that in a perfectly organised business, with a proper code of rules, so few mistakes do occur is the best possible argument for the existence of these rules.

For the existence of the rules, doubtless. No one will deny that stringent rules are necessary in a business of this kind. But it is the fines that I took exception to, not the rules. The fact that the rules are maintained practically inviolate without exacting fines, except for the incurable offence of late arrival at work, suggests that the fines are not really necessary, and that some different mode of marking an offence might be equally efficacious. Of course, there must be some punishment for breaking rules, but if I were running a business of this kind I think I could find a substitute for the fines. Messrs. Edmonds, Denham, and Goyder tell me that before my remarks appeared, instructions had been given for a revision of the rules, and I suggest to them that it is a good opportunity for experimenting with some new form of punishment. The fining system is harmless enough if the fines are not levied, but not otherwise; and as rules like these appear to be common in the trade, we cannot be sure that the fines will never be levied, or that all firms will apply them for the benefit of the assistants collectively.

In several of my contemporaries it has been stated that the Trentham Hall sale commences to-day (Wednesday). Messrs. George Trollope and Sons ask me to correct this statement, the date fixed for the commencement of the sale being Wednesday, July 17.

Professor Inge, who has replaced the Dean of Ely (Dr. Kirkpatrick) in the Lady Margaret Chair of

The Woodland Laundry, Park Rd. East, Acton. Tel. 620 Chiswick. "A really first-class laundry at moderate prices."—*The Ladies' Field*. "It appeals to dainty people."—*The Queen*. Please apply for Price List, &c.

The Cure of Consumption.—L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., writes as follows:—"I think it only right to state that for some years I have prescribed Dr. Alabone's remedies for chest diseases, having been converted to do so by the marvellous recovery of a patient *whom I had given up to die*. Since then I have attended other cases of advanced tubercular disease, and have watched them gradually restored to health."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N

Divinity at Cambridge, is to be succeeded in the important living of All Saints, Ennismore Gardens, by the Rev. J. H. F. Peile, Fellow and Chaplain of University College, Oxford, and Bampton Lecturer for the present year. Dr. Inge has held the vicarage of All Saints for only two years, having succeeded the Archdeacon (Steuart) of Bristol in this benefice. The living is in the gift of the rector of St. Margaret's, Westminster. Mr. Peile's Bampton Lectures have drawn very large congregations, and have met with warm approval at Oxford. His impending removal to London is much regretted, as he will be greatly missed in the University, to which he is a real loss.

The Archbishop of York has appointed the Rev. Canon Hutchings to the Chancellorship of York Minster, an office without emolument. Canon Hutchings, who was presented about twenty years ago to the valuable living of Kirkby Misperton, in the North Riding, by Lord Feversham, was last year collated by the Archbishop to a residentiary stall in York Minster. He then resigned the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, which he had held for ten years. Bishop Blunt, Rector of Hessle, is at present the Canon-in-Residence at York Minster, and he will be on duty until the end of August. The revenue of the Chapter of York has been so largely reduced by agricultural depression that the four residentiary stalls, which were formerly worth £720 a year each, now yield only £350 a year.

Bishop Webb, who died last Wednesday, was for some years Vice-Principal of Cuddesdon College under the present Bishop of Lincoln, and he was afterwards for three years Rector of Avon Dassett, Warwickshire, a benefice which he vacated in 1870 on being appointed Bishop of Bloemfontein. He was then only thirty-one, and was indebted for his promotion to Bishop Gray, the energetic but somewhat intolerant and domineering Metropolitan of South Africa. Bishop Webb worked in the colony with zeal and success for twenty-eight years, and in 1898 he returned home, and acted as assistant Bishop in the Scotch diocese of Moray and Ross until 1901, when Lord Salisbury appointed him to the Deanery of Salisbury, in the place of the brilliant and accomplished George Boyle. He was a High Churchman of the advanced school, but being a man of large experience and strong common sense, he took wide views in many departments of Church affairs. He was an admirable preacher and a most effective platform speaker, and will be a great loss to the diocese of Salisbury.

The Deanery of Salisbury was formerly a rich piece of preferment, but in 1840 the stipend was fixed at £1,000 a year, and as agricultural depression has reduced the income of the Chapter, the income has latterly fallen to about £650, so the office can be held only by an ecclesiastic possessed of adequate private means. The picturesque deanery, with its beautiful gardens, is one of the most delightful residences in England, and a perfectly ideal retreat for a scholar.

There is now proceeding a wholesale distribution in Ireland of circulars and tickets relating to a "drawing of prizes" (otherwise a lottery), which is being promoted by the Very Rev. Father Felix, Passionist, Rector of St. Joseph's, Highgate Hill, London, in aid of a fund for the building of new Catholic schools in that district. The circular states that the building of new schools is being reluctantly undertaken "to comply with the order of the bigoted educational authorities"—which doubtless means that the old schools are being closed because structural or sanitary defects render them unfit for use. However, the object of the lottery or the language in which the appeal is couched is immaterial. It is unquestionably a violation of the law, and as the Lord Mayor was prohibited from holding the proposed "tombola" for the benefit of the Crippled Children's Fund, I do not see how the Home Secretary or the police can possibly permit the Very Rev. Father Felix to carry out this more flagrantly illegal gambling scheme.

Many of my readers will doubtless have seen that the King has promised to open the Union Jack Club on Monday, July 1, and that his Majesty has also expressed the wish that the club may be opened free from debt. Roughly speaking, about £16,000 is still required for that purpose. I take it that most people know the objects of the club, which are to provide a home and meeting-place of the best class in London for non-commissioned officers and men, and at the same time to form a national memorial commemorating the services of the rank and file in the South African war. Both of those objects should appeal to our patriotic sentiments, and though £16,000 seems a big sum, if the public will look at the matter in the right light the money will yet be forthcoming by July 1.

Last summer an appeal was made to my readers for assistance in giving the old people in the Lambeth Workhouse a day's outing in the country. It is proposed to give them a similar treat again this summer, and donations for the purpose will be received by Miss Alice M. Grey (one of the Lambeth Poor Law Guardians), St. Anne's Cottage, Oxshott, Surrey.

I have received the following contributions towards the Tress Barry Fund for providing new sixpences for distribution to the children in the workhouses at Christmas, and as Christmas is such a long way off, I take the opportunity of reminding those of my readers who have not yet contributed, that the Fund must be closed at the end of July:—

	No. of Sixpences.		No. of Sixpences.
H.	200	F.	40
R. Gill	40	Rex	2
Frank A. Ferguson	50	Yankee	40
Ward Room Officers H.M.S. *Revenge*	65	B. H.	5

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LAKMÉ, 22, DAVIES-STREET, BERKELEY SQUARE.—Dressing-gowns and fine lingerie. American Novelties. Cotillon favours. 8674 Gerrard.

An officer in India who claims to have anticipated, in suggestions which he made some years ago, most of the essential features of Mr. Haldane's proposals, sends me a letter mentioning some of his own ideas, which he thinks might be incorporated with Mr. Haldane's with advantage. Here are two of them:—

1. The field officers of the Territorial Army should be pensioned officers of the Regular Army. There are many Indian Army officers, no longer able to stand the climate of India, who would jump at the opportunity of such employment at home, and be in every way fit for it.

2. The company officers of the Territorial Army should gain their commissions through the ranks of the Regular Army, doing at least five years' foreign service. This would be a great inducement to men to join the Army, as well as conducive to proficiency, and would provide the Territorial Army with a class of hard-working officers accustomed to live on their pay. . . .

These suggestions imply the officering of the Territorial Army with a class of professional soldiers, and I do not see how they can be said to "fit in" with Mr. Haldane's scheme, as the author of them claims that they do. But the efficient officering of the proposed Army is a very difficult problem, and there is no saying what may not have to be tried before it is solved.

A Volunteer officer writes:—

I do not understand the objections which were expressed by Lord Castlereagh and others during the debate on Mr. Haldane's Bill to the raising of money by County Associations outside the Government grant. Surely, if these associations are to make themselves thoroughly useful, they will want money for all sorts of purposes besides those which can be recognised in estimates and parliamentary votes. The Government declined to limit their right to raise money by private subscriptions, so that we may assume it to be contemplated by the War Office that they will do so. This is a very important matter, which ought to be thoroughly understood, which is my excuse for writing to you on the subject.

I quite agree. In the debate on this point strong objections were expressed to the County Associations "sending round the hat." If the Territorial Army is to be essentially on a volunteer basis, I see no reason why it should not be assisted by voluntary contributions. It must be assumed that there are large numbers of people who, though unable to serve personally, appreciate the duty of doing so, and would be willing to testify this appreciation in cash; and patriotism may manifest itself in cash as well as in personal service. As a matter of fact, Volunteer corps have to "send round the hat" as it is, often at considerable sacrifice of dignity. Even the Admiralty has encouraged voluntary contributions from particular localities for the benefit of particular ships, with a view of fostering local interest in the Navy. The more local interest in this shape is manifested in the territorial battalions, the better for all parties. One of the great advantages of a County Association seems to me to lie in the facilities it will have for raising substantial funds from those who cannot, or do not, serve, and at the same time relieving officers and men from the indignity of having to appeal for cash.

The grievance, recently referred to, of the men who are being deprived of first-class service pay because they are not first-class shots is not confined to South Africa. There are men everywhere who have extended their service on the understanding that the qualification for first class service pay was that they should be at least in the second class in musketry, and the third class in education. There really cannot be the slightest justification for altering these conditions, and in justice to the War Office one must suppose that the alteration has only been made in temporary forgetfulness of the agreement already entered into with the men. But it will be impossible to suppose this if the matter is not put right promptly.

With reference to the question which was discussed in TRUTH a few weeks back as to whether a soldier in India who comes home on furlough thereby breaks his period of continuous service abroad as calculated for the purpose of transfer to the home establishment, an Indian correspondent points out that the matter is at present governed by a general order by the Commander-in-Chief in India issued in 1894. This distinctly lays down that after a furlough the service required to render a man eligible for transfer to the home battalion can only count from the date of his re-embarkation for India. I am bound to say that I see nothing unreasonable in this rule. The object of the recent concessions in regard to furlough home was to induce men to prolong their service in India; and there would seem to be no object in giving a man a furlough if he desires to return to England for good at the first moment when he becomes eligible to do so. But if this is to be the rule it ought to be clearly understood by every man before he takes his furlough; and I gathered when the point was first under notice in TRUTH that there had been some misunderstanding about it.

A corporal of the Black Watch, who was desirous of settling in India on discharge to the Reserve, obtained an offer of a job on a railway, and in January was given two months' leave in order to take up the appointment. He went to Lahore for the purpose, but shortly afterwards obtained a much better post, both in regard to pay and prospects, in a private hospital conducted by a medical gentleman. Before the end of his two months he wrote to apply for another month's extension of leave, which had been promised him before he started, thereby disclosing that he was not in the service of the railway company. He was immediately recalled to his regiment, arraigned before his commanding officer, and deprived of his stripe for "irregular conduct" in taking employment elsewhere when he had obtained a furlough for the purpose of obtaining employment with the railway company.

This really seems like red tape run mad. What on earth does it matter to the military authorities whether the man enters the service of one employer or another? At the very most the worst offence that can be alleged against him is that he ought to have informed his commanding officer that he had found another berth; but this is a purely technical offence, and why should a man be punished for it to the extent of losing his rank on discharge, and possibly his situation also? I should have thought that it would be considered rather desirable than otherwise that reservists belonging to battalions in India should find employment in that country, but the above case rather suggests an intention to discourage them from doing so.

Not long since I expressed surprise that a sergeant-major should have held for four years the position of manager to the mineral water factory in a regiment in India. It would seem, however, that this state of things is not unprecedented, for I now hear of another regiment in which this position appears to be permanently attached to the sergeant-majorship. The late sergeant-major held it for seven years, and on his being pensioned some two years ago, his successor took it over, and has held it ever since. I should have thought myself that it was a job that might be better performed by someone below the rank of warrant officer, and also one which would be better passed round among the non-commissioned officers in turn.

It is still more surprising to learn that in the regiment just referred to the post of canteen manager has been held by one non-commissioned officer since the battalion arrived in India in March, 1892. There is more than one reason against keeping the same man in a post of this kind for fifteen years. The N.C.O. in question is just completing twenty-six years' service, and the case seems another illustration of the extent to which men holding desirable berths are allowed to remain in possession of them to the prejudice of juniors looking for improvement in their position.

In a well-known Irish infantry regiment a lance-sergeant was lately promoted to sergeant on the strength of no other qualification than a first-class certificate of education. Among those passed over was another man many years senior, who had served through the South African War, and holds a first-class gymnastic certificate, besides having passed the examination for promotion, but he had no first-class education certificate. This seems a striking instance of the undue regard occasionally shown to purely educational attainments, and is the more indefensible seeing that the first-class certificate of education is exalted not only above war service, but over the official test of fitness for promotion. As a mere civilian, it seems to me that this tendency might be checked with advantage. If I had to select a man to fight my battles, I know that I would rather have a man who had fought through the South African War, and proved himself a first-class gymnast, than a perfect dragon at arithmetic, history, or geography.

So far as one can judge from what Mr. Robertson has confided to the House of Commons, the report of the Committee on Naval Canteens is likely to be a useful document. The main feature in it is the recommendation that the "savings" system shall be abolished, a fixed ration, plus a messing allowance in cash, being substituted for it. In other words, the Army system is to be adopted in the Navy. With this, a certain measure of Admiralty control over the management of canteens is to be introduced. How far it will go cannot be judged accurately until one has the text of the report, but there is to be an Admiralty list of contractors from which commanding officers may select their own tenants, also apparently an official list of canteen prices, and a model agreement for the letting of canteens. Within these limits each commanding officer will be free to exercise his own discretion. As these recommendations are more or less on the lines suggested in TRUTH a few months ago, when the Committee was commencing its labours, I am naturally predisposed in their favour, but there seems to be a pretty general agreement everywhere that the time has come for making a clean sweep of the "savings" system.

Mr. Robertson justifies the abstention of the Admiralty hitherto from all interference with canteen management on the ground that "My Lords" have desired to give their men as much liberty as possible. This is a very noble motive, but the result has only shown that too much liberty is sometimes a doubtful blessing. In this instance it must have been convenient to the Admiralty, for the go-as-you-please system has saved some trouble at headquarters; but the liberty conceded has included the liberty of certain petty officers to make a good deal for themselves out of catering at sea; and it certainly has not had the effect of satisfying the men—at any rate, in recent times. A great many abuses, for which the men have suffered, will disappear when every man has behind his Government ration a fixed sum per diem which he—or at any rate the mess collectively—can spend more or less according to their own taste; and when it is the business of every commanding officer to see that the canteen affords them proper facilities for this purpose, and that it is managed on certain definite principles.

I should think it will be found that useful economies may be effected under the new system. As has been observed in these columns, the "savings" system was certainly not saving from the taxpayer's point of view, involving, as it did, the keeping of an account of the money value of rations issued in respect of each individual man. Looking at it from the other side, a contractor is obviously in a better position to make close calculations of his probable turnover, and offer favourable terms, when he can rely upon the expenditure of a definite sum per head per diem in the shape of messing allowance, instead of being more or less in the dark, as he was when the canteen expenditure was largely determined by what each man might or might not have to spend in the shape of savings. But it will be necessary to keep a very sharp eye upon your contractors, and to prevent the business falling into the hands of trade rings. It has been suggested than an inspector of canteens should be appointed, with the duty of looking into the way in which canteen contracts are carried out, and seeing that no unfair profits are made; and although the Canteen Committee does not seem to have thought this necessary, experience may yet prove that it is.

Upwards of twelve months ago a subscription of 2s. per head was collected from the ship's company of H.M.S. *Jupiter* towards a shooting club which was in process of formation. Apparently the club has never yet got beyond the collection of subscriptions, and I

have been asked if I can do anything to discover what has become of the money. It is obviously undesirable that money should be collected in this way, more or less on compulsion, from men in H.M. Service without any visible result, and if the club cannot be got to work, the time would seem to have arrived when the members should have their money back.

THE STAR OF KNIGHTHOOD.

(Lines suggested by a recent speech of Sir R. Harington.)

I would I were a baronet,
Though not because my heart is set
On rank or title grand,
Nor 'cause I'm by ambition caught
Upon my brougham's door to sport
The sanguinary hand—

But just because—that rank procured—
Thereby I'd henceforth be insured
'Gainst Fate's most cruel slight,
Nor more need fear with Tom and Dick
And Hal to share the honour (*sic*)
Of being made a knight.

Recently the members of the Dawlish District Council expressed a unanimous wish that Mr. J. Shafter, their late chairman, should be appointed a Justice of the Peace, an office in which he had acted ex-officio during the year of his chairmanship. Notice was given that a formal resolution on the subject for submission to the Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Chancellor would be proposed at the next meeting of the Council. This fact got to the ears of the Dawlish county justices, and they thereupon passed and forwarded to the Council a resolution to the effect that in their opinion it would be "a mistake" to make the chairmanship a stepping-stone to the Bench, and that "such a precedent would most likely be considered in other parts of the country to be an unfortunate innovation." This is nonsense, because appointments of ex-chairmen of councils as magistrates have already been made in Devon and in other parts of the country.

The fact seems to be that the Dawlish Bench—though they lacked the courage to say so straightforwardly—object to Mr. Shafter because he is a tradesman. Their worships are obliged (no doubt much to their disgust) to put up with the presence on the Bench of the chairman of the Council for the time being, even if he is in trade; but they still want to maintain the permanent body of the magistracy as a close preserve of the "gentry." The interference of the Bench in the matter was an impertinence which any self-respecting council would have resented. The majority of the Dawlish Council, however, are poor-spirited creatures. Though they all desired that Mr. Shafter should be appointed, they servilely bowed to the opposition of the Bench, and the resolution was allowed to drop.

A citizen of Newcastle sends me a report of a meeting of the Tramways Committee at which it was decided "to discontinue the running of a special service of trams carrying members of the Corporation to church when the Lord Mayor is called upon to attend in his official capacity." It is hoped in Newcastle that the loss of the chance of a free tram ride will not cause any falling off in the attendance of the City Fathers on these occasions.

Reference was made last week to the report of Dr. Fraser, the Medical Officer of Health at Portsmouth, on the systematic trade in diseased animals, principally tubercular cows, which is carried on in country markets near that town. I quoted his statements as to the sale of the carcases of such animals for human food. In a copy of Dr. Fraser's full report, which I have now received, I find that he calls attention to an even more serious phase of the subject, namely, the sale of tubercle-infected milk. There is no doubt that a large number of the tubercular cows that are sold in the country markets are used for milking up to the time they leave the farms, and the milk from these cows largely finds its way into the towns. The seriousness of this state of things is obvious, for, as Dr. Fraser points out, while the eating of tuberculous meat is dangerous, that risk is probably small compared to that of drinking tubercle-infected milk—in fact, the Royal Commission on Human and Animal Tuberculosis has reported that a very considerable amount of disease and loss of life, especially amongst the young, is attributable to the consumption of cow's milk containing tubercle bacilli. It is high time that measures were adopted to check this evil by the establishment of a systematic inspection of live stock and a more stringent supervision of the milk supply.

Despite the wrath of Mr. J. W. Willis Bund, as evinced in the singular speech at the Worcester County Petty Sessions, to which I referred a fortnight ago, the Rev. C. Poyntz Sanderson, Rector of Doverdale, is keeping up a vigorous criticism of the local police and magistrates. He has now turned his attention to a fresh case in which a farmer was summoned for being drunk and assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty, while on a cross summons the constable was charged with assaulting the farmer. The magistrates allowed these summonses to be withdrawn on a statement by a solicitor that with the consent of both sides the whole matter would be left in the hands of the Chief Constable. Mr. Sanderson considers that there are facts in connection with the conduct of the policeman towards the farmer which make it necessary that there should be a public inquiry. Personally, I know nothing of the case beyond what is stated in the Worcester newspapers. But it is assuredly a remarkable proceeding for the police to agree to the withdrawal of summonses in this way, and the reference of the matter to the Chief Constable is not by any means a satisfactory method of disposing of it. Such a course rather suggests that there is a desire on the part of the police to hush up facts which ought to have been investigated in open court.

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Know Humphreys, and be well dressed. Humphreys, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

One of the most striking examples of magisterial fatuousness ever recorded in my Legal Pillory is supplied by the prosecution of a child of six before the Dundrum Bench chronicled below. In Ireland one might at least have expected the farcical nature of police-court proceedings against a child of such tender years to meet with ready recognition, but these Dundrum dunderheads solemnly proceeded to convict and pass sentence upon this desperado barely emancipated from the perambulator. Even if the youngster was older than his apparent years, and had passed the age limit of seven, which would make proceedings against him possible, the magistrates might have hesitated before recording a conviction, though one can naturally imagine that to a possible occupant of the pillory the offence of throwing a rotten egg must appear one of the most heinous crimes in the calendar. Noteworthy, too, in its way, is the conviction of a woman for selling a bunch of lilies in the sacrosanct streets of Malvern. I presume the Bench obtain their powers for the manufacture of criminals in this fashion under some local by-law, but if they possessed the ordinary modicum of common sense they would not merely use their discretion before convicting in such cases, but express themselves sharply as to the undesirability of such petty charges being raked up against people who try to turn an honest penny in a perfectly legitimate manner.

Midhurst Petty Sessions. Before Lieut.-Cols. Hollist and Wyndham, and Mr. J. Knight. Richard Taylor, charged with cruelty to a horse. He struck it on the head and body with a stick, cutting the eye. Fined 10s.

Wigan Police Court. J. M. Makin, charged with assaulting his mother-in-law. He knocked the old woman down and kicked her when she was removing her furniture from his house. Fined 20s. and costs.

Nottingham Police Court. Before Messrs. Halford and Allen. Herbert and Henrietta Burdell, charged with neglecting their two children, aged two and eight years. The children, the house and the bedding were in a filthy condition. Fined 20s. each.

Harlow Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Todhunter, Glyn, Johnston, and other magistrates. E. Joscelyne, charged with being asleep on a hay cart. Fined 5s.

Rotherham Police Court. Before Alderman G. Clarke and Mr. T. A. Jenkins. William Whittaker, charged with assaulting his wife. He chased her round the room, striking her on the head and shoulders with a poker. Fined 5s., and a separation order granted.

Preston Borough Police Court. John Walton and Margaret Lacey, charged with neglecting their two illegitimate children. The bedding was filthy and full of vermin, the children were dirty, verminous and ravenous with hunger. Fined 20s. each and costs.

Alloa Police Court. Before Bailie Watson. James Henderson, charged with stealing a foot-rule and some tools, of the value of 6s. 6d., from a blacksmith's shop. Thirty days' imprisonment.

Clerkenwell Police Court. Before Mr. d'Eyncourt. A man, charged with stealing two loaves of bread, valued at 9½d., from his employer. Two months' imprisonment.

Swainsthorpe Petty Sessions. Before Lord Lindley, Messrs. Gurney and Knight. J. A. Moore, charged with stealing nine hens' eggs and twenty pheasants' eggs value 10s. Three months' imprisonment.

Harlow Petty Sessions. Before the same bench. Eighteen motorists, charged with exceeding the speed limit on a measured portion of the Cambridge Road. The total fines amounted to £123, most of the offenders being fined £10 and costs.

Chelmsford Petty Sessions Before the Mayor, Cols. Wood and Pearson, Messrs. Wells, Taylor, Christy, Crittal and Pennefather. Joseph Waller, charged on remand with stealing a pair of boots, value 2s. One month's hard labour.

Mansfield Petty Sessions. Five men charged with night poaching. Each had in his possession a bag containing nets or rabbits. Two were sentenced to a month's imprisonment, the others to 14 days, and bound over for six months, or in default a further month.

Govan Police Court. Before Bailie M'Fadyen. Philip Gallagher, charged with assaulting his wife, to whom he was married only six weeks ago. Fined 30s.

Queen's Park (Glasgow) Police Court. Before Bailie Wallace. Alexander Dickson, charged with disorderly conduct and assaulting an old woman 67 years of age. Fined 40s.

Ayr Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Shairp. William M'Clung, charged with a breach of interdict by trespassing on lands in pursuit of game. Sixty days' imprisonment.

Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Shennan. K. M. Auchterlony, charged with trespass in pursuit of game. He was caught hunting a field with a dog. Fined £5.

Dundrum Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. H. Davies, R. O'Carolin and Dr. J. Usher. A little boy, named Miles M'Grath, described as apparently aged about six years, charged with flinging a bad egg over a wall. The egg struck a man on the other side. Fined 1s., 2s. 6d. compensation, and 2s. costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

Malvern Petty Sessions. Before Major Hill, Col. Heywood, Mr. H. A. Acworth, and Mr. E. Heathfield. Elizabeth Jones, charged with selling flowers in the streets of Malvern. She was caught selling a bunch of lilies of the valley to a lady. Fined 1s. and 7s. 6d. costs.

I have received the following letter:—

Chichester House, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
June 10, 1907.

DEAR SIR,—Our notice has been drawn to a paragraph in your publication, and as a continuation of such notices is likely to injure our business we have decided to forthwith cease supplying our colouring outfits. We have instructed our advertising agent to discontinue the advertisement, and we will in future employ artists who require no coaching or training in this work, and who will use their own materials.

In justice to ourselves, we wish you to understand that we are not in any way connected with the company to which you refer, late of Great James Street, and now of 48, Edgware Road, and 11, Red Lion Square.—Yours truly,

p.p., THE IMPERIAL ART SUPPLY CO.

As the notice in question referred to the "Imperial Art Supply Company" as the name used by a swindler in the home employment business, I can understand that a repetition of such notices might, as my correspondent anticipates, be likely to injure his business, and I congratulate him upon the decision to drop it. With regard to the concluding paragraph, I can only infer from it that there are two individuals who have been using this name. I presume that it is not denied that the Imperial Art Supply Company, of Chichester House, Chancery-lane, is identical with the firm of the same name in Ranelagh-road, Fulham. Whether or not the same individual formerly carried on the Imperial Art Supply Company, of Great James-street, is quite immaterial. The *modus operandi* is the same, and that is all that I am concerned about.

During the last few weeks I have had numerous inquiries about a Mr. Rex Trevor, or Captain Ansell, his acting representative, who has been advertising from 151, Regent-street. He professed to be running an agency for supplying gentlemen as guides and companions to American and other tourists. For these he advertised, offering salaries of £156 per annum, subject to good personal references, and deposit of "cash security" to the amount of £25. The cash security looked suspicious, and I sent a representative to see Mr. Rex Trevor or Captain Ansell, and ascertain, if possible, what cash security there was on the other side for the £156 per annum. Trevor, or Ansell, proved to be a very plausible gentleman. He insisted that he was making a good business, justified the demand for £25, and asserted that he was paying salaries regularly to those whom he had engaged. He also referred me to a professional gentleman of unimpeachable status, who, when seen, gave a good account of him.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 1,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

In these circumstances it was impossible to say anything publicly in disparagement of Rex Trevor, but I was by no means satisfied, and I wrote privately to some of my correspondents, recommending them to be cautious about parting with their money. I can only hope they followed my advice. Last week Rex Trevor's office was closed, the salaries were unpaid, and the victims who called to make inquiries found that Rex Trevor, or Ansell, had disappeared, the flat where he lived being shut up as well as the Regent-street office. It is now certain that he has bolted, and he has really made a big *coup*, for he has taken several hundred pounds in hard cash from his "guides," and has let in landlords and West End tradespeople for some hundreds more. One can only hope that he will be caught. It is an elementary kind of swindle, but whenever it is started by a plausible adventurer who makes a sufficient splash, victims are always forthcoming in unlimited numbers, and it seems impossible to persuade people of the folly of paying down their money to gentry of whom they know nothing, merely on a promise of regular employment and good wages.

Having been continually pestered with circulars from a bookmaker named T. Armitage, 1, Harcourt-street, W., an Army officer a few weeks ago opened an account with him. By his first bet with Armitage he lost £1, which he promptly paid. By a bet in the middle of the following week, which Armitage had confirmed by wire, he won £2; by another bet on the Saturday he lost £1. "Accounts made up to Fridays inclusive" is one of Armitage's rules, but it is qualified by the further statement: "Thus Saturday commences my week's account, unless an important betting race makes it necessary to include that day in the current week's account for my club settling on the Monday." Obviously, this is a very convenient arrangement for the bookmaker. As he decides for himself what is an important betting race, it virtually means that he can bring the Saturday into the account or exclude it just as suits his purpose. In the present instance Armitage forwarded an account, including the Saturday bet, and so reducing the sum due to the backer to £1. Instead of sending a cheque, he wrote a note to the effect that, the amount "being under £2," he had carried it forward to the next account.

Some successful bets in the following week increased the amount due to the officer to £12. No cheque was forthcoming from Armitage, nor did he at first reply to an application for the money. On being pressed, however, he wrote that he had been making inquiries about the officer, and found that he once kept another firm waiting some time for a trifling sum. This was "very unsatisfactory," and in consequence Armitage "must decline any further dealings with him." Now the officer in question frankly admits that he did once owe another bookmaker a small amount for a few weeks, though he eventually paid him. Armitage might if he pleased have regarded that incident as a reason for refusing to take the officer's business. Clearly, however, it does not afford him a shadow of justification for refusing to pay up—as he has done—the £12 due from him on bets that he had actually booked. No doubt Armitage would have been ready to continue his dealings with the officer if the latter had gone on losing. It was only when he became a winner that he was informed that he was a very unsatisfactory customer, and the hollowness of the excuse for non-payment and the circumstances under which it was made indicate that Armitage is one of the "heads I win, tails you lose" gentry.

Service men appear to be singularly imprudent in their selection of bookmakers, sending their commissions in a happy-go-lucky fashion to any tout from whom they happen to have received a plausibly-worded circular and the usual book of rules. Close on the top of the complaint ventilated in the foregoing paragraphs I had a couple of letters concerning a betting agent named John Howard, 10, Blandford-street, W. One letter was from an Army officer who, having won £13 from Howard, has been unable to obtain the money or any sort of reply to his applications for it. The other letter is from a naval officer who has had a similar experience with this man. My second correspondent remarks that it may save other officers from being taken in if I show up Howard. Backers, however, must always run the risk of being welshed if they choose to engage in betting transactions with individuals of whom—even if they have not so far figured in Truth—they know nothing.

Several copies of a tipster's circular emanating from A. Cox, of Foxley Cottage, Holyport, Berks, have been passed on to me by correspondents who look with justifiable suspicion on gentry in this line of business. It is rather more cleverly worded than most productions of the kind, but the gist of it is more or less familiar. Cox represents himself as a modest private speculator who is making £500 a year by backing, on a system, horses about which he receives "special advice" from three training centres. He offers to impart his information to any one agreeing to send him the odds to £1 on each winner after the race, no prepayment being required. This strikes greenhorns as a very fair proposition. What they do not perceive is, in the first place, that it is a very strange proceeding for a man in the possession of such valuable information to hawk it around among strangers. In the second place, they do not see that, after all, the proposed arrangement resolves itself into a game of "heads I win, tails you lose" for Cox. There is, in fact, a dodge which I have more than once explained which enables any tipster doing business on the above terms to make it certain that he will, nevertheless, always be a winner.

It is the proud boast of W. Griffin, of Minories-chambers, Birmingham, that he trades in his own name. This certainly is a somewhat unusual thing for a professional usurer to do, but, all the same, his name appears to be too well-known in the city of his abode, for he seeks his customers in distant parts of the country through the medium of advertisements in small local papers. A correspondent draws attention to his announcement in a Berkshire paper that he makes advances "at a moderate rate of interest." Griffin's idea of a moderate rate of interest was revealed in a

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The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia, which refreshes and invigorates. Sold everywhere, price one shilling per bottle.

recent case at Shrewsbury, where he lent a farmer £40, received back £73 10s., and then sued for a further sum of £14 10s. However, instead of being awarded the £14 10s., this Birmingham bloodsucker was compelled to refund a substantial portion of the money that he had already screwed out of the borrower—a very satisfactory illustration of the usefulness of the Moneylenders Act.

The same Act was also enforced to good purpose by Mr. Justice Grantham in a case on Saturday in which the plaintiffs were the notorious firm of Fieldings alias Samuel. The borrower applied for a loan on a promissory note for £1,000 signed by himself and a friend. Fieldings knew that as this friend had property they would be running practically no risk, but all that they advanced the borrower was a sum of £200 on which the interest or bonus for a little over three months was £100, or at the rate of about £200 per cent. per annum. Really the note rendered the defendants liable for the full £1,000 if they failed to pay when it matured. The plaintiffs, however, only sued for the £300, a fact on which they appeared to plume themselves. Mr. Justice Grantham was not impressed by this example of their moderation. On the contrary, he gave them judgment for only £200 and 20 per cent. interest, which the defendants had already paid into court. It is a very substantial drop from 200 to 20 per cent., and as the plaintiffs will have to pay the costs of the case from the date of the payment into court the decision is a nasty knock for them.

The Hebrews who constitute the firm of Fieldings run branch usury shops in a number of provincial towns. One of these establishments is at Swindon. The annual "trip" of the Great Western Railway employees and their families is about to take place, and in connection with this event Fieldings submitted the following advertisement for publication in the *North Wilts Herald*. The manager of that paper very properly refused to insert it. He thought, however, that I might like to comment upon the advertisement, and I am quite willing to give it gratuitous publicity, as an example of the devices which Fieldings adopt to lure victims to their —Don't.

SPECIAL TRIP NOTICE.

If you require £5 or £10 for your holiday, apply now. Many people have been disappointed in past years through leaving it till the last day or so. Don't stay in Swindon trip week. Take the wife and children to the seaside or country. We will provide the means.

Special Trip Quotation:—
£5 loan at a repayment of 2s. 6d. weekly.
£10 loan at a repayment of 4s. weekly.
No sureties required. Strictly private.
C. LEVER, Manager for Fieldings, etc.

It will be observed that the "special trip quotation" gives the amount, but not the number of the weekly payments. The exorbitance of the firm's charges for interest in such cases can, however, be guessed from the facts revealed in the action before Mr. Justice Grantham. The small borrower is usually bled even more severely than bigger customers.

I heard the other day a story of a lady who had paid £50 for the appointment of manageress of a concern called the Physio-Medical Association, of 95, Mortimer-street, W., at which address it conducts a "Naturopathic Institute." The payment was nominally for instruction in the mysteries of "physio-medication," but, of course, the chief consideration from the lady's point of view was the appointment as manageress, in which capacity she was to receive £1 11s. 6d. per week. However, after paying the money, the lady thought better of it, and consulted a solicitor, who got the £50 back for her. It is due to Mr. Lendon-Bennett, the proprietor of the business, to say that he seems to have made no difficulty about returning the money. Nevertheless, I should say the lady was well-advised in withdrawing from the arrangement, and if I had to advise any one who contemplated putting £50 into a business of this kind, whether for technical instruction, or for the sake of a paid appointment, or both, my advice would be —Don't.

For some years past I have had a distant acquaintance with Mr. Lendon-Bennett. I first knew him as a dealer in hypnotism, which probably is a relative of "naturopathy." As a physio-medico he seems to be doing things on quite a grand scale. A report of the British Physio-Medical Association gives an account of that body in five departments, and refers also to South Court, Redhill, Surrey, "now being specially adapted for Resident Open-Air Osteopathic Treatment," and also of the Lendon-Bennett Naturopathic Medical College and Hospital, "beautifully situated in a healthy and picturesque district close to Lake Neuchatel." One reads also of "The New Physio-Medical School of Pharmacy," and "The New Electro-Therapeutic Installation," which includes the "new Magnetic Ozone Oxygen Producer," also a "new regulation concerning students desirous of taking the complete physio-medical course, or the complete course in osteopathy."

All this looks very imposing, but when one comes to inquire who constitutes the British Physio-Medical Association, it is difficult to find any one but Lendon-Bennett. We are told that the Governing Body of the Association is the council, which is sub-divided into finance committee, committee of management, and officers; but no names are mentioned except those of officers, who comprise the president, Mark Lendon-Bennett, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., an unnamed "eminent barrister-at-law" as "legal adviser," and half-a-dozen gentlemen employed in various capacities, and presumably paid for what they do. I have read the Report of the Association for 1906 from beginning to end, but although it is marked "Important," and stated to contain "the latest authorised information concerning the Association," I know no more about the Association, about physio-medication, or about osteopathy than is to be found above. This is one reason why I think the lady was wise in asking Mr.—or should one say "Dr."?—Lendon-Bennett to return her money.

My expectation that Colonel X. would not succeed in getting back any more of his money from H. Langenhahn and Co., the Bremen lottery touts, was realised. As I explained last week, he forwarded these people three sums, amounting altogether to £13 12s.—through a misprint the total was given in TRUTH as £3 12s.—for tickets in Classes III., IV., and V. of a Royal Saxon State Lottery. The firm then asked him to pay £9 in respect of Classes I. and II., at the same time stating that before a ticket could "participate" in any stage of

the lottery it must be paid up in full on account of such drawings as had already been held. On their own showing, therefore, the tickets for which the Colonel had paid the £13 12s. were really worthless. He at once demanded the return of his money, and after some pressure H. Langenhahn and Co. sent him £4 16s., being the payment for Class V., the drawing in which had not at that time taken place. He sought to obtain the balance of the £13 12s., but the firm refused to part with it, declaring—in contradiction to what they had said at first—that he *had* participated in Classes III. and IV., "and consequently he must pay for it." There is, of course, no practicable method by which money can be recovered from these Continental lottery harpies, and Colonel X.'s experience simply shows once more how foolish it is for any one to deal with them.

Looked at in the right spirit, last week's anti-Home Rule demonstration at Queen's Hall was a delightful piece of comedy. You cannot well have a more absurd situation than for one party to assemble and denounce a measure which has already been killed by the opposite party. The Unionists, however, having arranged for a public denunciation of the Birrell Bill as a menace to the Union, declined to be thwarted because the other side had denounced and rejected it as a menace to Home Rule. And they played the farce to the end with imperturbable solemnity. Mr. Balfour has never given a more striking proof of his talents as a public entertainer than in presiding on this occasion, and never losing his gravity till the curtain fell. He was admirably supported by the rest of the company. Even when he—he, who sent Sir Antony MacDonnell to Dublin—congratulated all concerned that the phantom of "devolution" had at last been laid for ever, nobody seems to have laughed—not even Lord Lansdowne. The comic side of politics is often uppermost when the politicians appear most serious.

The *Daily Mail* has made a further reference to the Bond affair, but it has added little to what was previously known, and done nothing towards justifying itself—rather the reverse. There were two things to be explained: (1) how the *Daily Mail* came to publish a fictitious description of a sensational scene at the Conference; (2) how, when the story was officially denied in Parliament, the *Mail* came to assert—on the alleged authority of Sir Robert Bond, who had been seen by its representative at Bristol—that its story was substantially correct. On neither point has any explanation been given as yet, and the second point is only involved in additional obscurity by what has been published.

Sir Robert Bond's account of what passed between him and the *Daily Mail* is that he received at Bristol a telegram from the Editor, and replied to it. He does not expressly say that he did not see a representative of the paper; but he *does* expressly say that he did not tell a representative of the paper that the original story was substantially correct. All that the *Daily Mail* has done in reply is to state that "The telegram was to the following effect: 'Cannot admit that anything so dramatic as alleged took place.'" The "effect" of a telegram does not necessarily mean its precise words; but whether or not the words quoted are those used by Sir Robert Bond, it is clear that they do not give Sir Robert's authority for maintaining that the original story was "substantially correct" when Mr. Churchill had declared it to be a fiction.

What about the representative of the *Daily Mail* who is alleged to have seen Sir Robert Bond? Either he saw Sir Robert and was authorised by him to say what the paper said next day, or he deliberately lied, and the *Daily Mail* published his lie, and ought, therefore, to withdraw it. There is yet another possibility in regard to the lying, which one hesitates to express; but it is certainly odd that, having deputed a representative to see Sir Robert Bond, the Editor should also have telegraphed to the latter for the purpose of obtaining a statement from him, and it is also odd that, having published what it did on the authority of its representative, not on that of Sir Robert Bond's telegram, the *Daily Mail* should now drop all mention of its representative, and base its explanation—such as it is—upon the telegram. The *Daily Mail* knows its own business best, but in the interest of journalism generally it would be as well that the matter should be cleared up, for I do not remember any case in which an English newspaper has been exposed to quite so serious an imputation in a public matter of this kind.

And why not explain at the same time the original source of the whole fiction? The name of the individual who gave the *Daily Mail* this sensational story is being freely mentioned everywhere. If he is innocent, he ought not to remain under this imputation. On the other hand, the real offender, whoever he may have been, has no claim to protection—least of all from the *Daily Mail*, which he has brought into such discredit.

It is curious that the critics of the Government should, almost with one accord, deride the resolution on the House of Lords as a "fiasco" or quote our old friend the "ridiculus mus" against it. The resolution lays down plainly enough that the Lords' veto must be limited, and the only weakness about it is that it does not expressly make the limit as short in point of time as every Radical would desire. It is not necessary, however, to go into details in a resolution. A Bill giving effect to this resolution and limiting the veto to one session would satisfy the most ardent reformer. One can understand an Opposition ridiculing such a proposal on the ground that it is so drastic that it will never be carried, but I hardly understand the "ridiculus mus" view of it.

In common with many others who are for "mending or ending," with a preference for ending, I would rather see a Bill than a resolution. But no one in his senses ever supposed that the Government was going to bring in a Bill on the subject this Session, with the inevitable consequence of a dissolution before the end of the year. The resolution serves the purpose of a formal declaration of policy, and of a pledge from the Government to its

STAMMERING cured only by personal tuition; interview on written application.—Mr. A. C. SCHNELLE, 119, Bedford Court-mansions, London, W.C. Pupils taken in residence.

supporters, from which there can be no going back. What is really required of the Government after this is that there will be no more truckling to the House of Lords by producing half-measures in the hope of conciliating the Upper House, or treating the resolution when it is carried as if it were nothing more than a threat to the Lords of what will happen next if they mutilate Government Bills.

The resolution purports to be a declaration of war. As such it must be followed by vigorous measures, designed solely to prepare the way for the final assault, and the final assault must be delivered at the earliest practicable moment. If this policy is not followed with all possible energy and skill, then the Government will deserve to be laughed at by its enemies—and cursed by its friends.

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

O when the Commons lopped the head
Of Charles, by some a martyr reckoned,
And "hoofed," ere need were blood to shed,
That gloomy bigot, James the Second,
'Twas done by action prompt and rapid,
And not by resolutions vapid.

So now, if you the Lords would dock
Of their absurd, archaic veto,
Whereby they slay your Bills *en bloc*—
Give them the shrift that's short and sweet O.
You'll never harm those titled minions
By just recording sharp opinions.

The question that has arisen between the United States and Japan in California is one by no means easy of solution. All Americans are at one in a determination that the territory of the Republic shall not form a dumping-ground for a great Asiatic immigration. In part this is due to the dread of wages being reduced owing to Asiatic competition, and in part to a general desire that their country should remain a European one. On the other hand, the Japanese have just vanquished one of the greatest of European empires, and with some reason they claim for their citizens equality of treatment. They have, moreover, secured the recognition of the claim by a treaty with the United States.

There is little doubt that, were the Japanese to flock in large numbers into the Western or Southern States, the same determination to refuse to allow their children to be educated with white children, and to allow the invasion to continue, would arise. It is only the fact that California is more open to the invasion than the Atlantic States that has led to the Californians taking practical steps to give effect to their opinions. It is difficult, therefore, to see how the difficulty will be solved. And even were it solved for the moment in regard to the Japanese, it would break out again when the claim is made by Japan, as the leading Eastern Power, for the Chinese.

Whilst public opinion is excited in America, it would seem that it is equally excited in Japan, and the Japanese do not appear to be in a yielding humour. It would be surprising if they were. By their occupation of the Philippine Islands, the Americans have placed hostages in their hands. Were a war to break out between the two countries, it is not easy to see how the Americans could hold these islands. Not only are they comparatively close to Japan, but the Japanese would be able to maintain their supremacy in the Eastern seas, whilst they could severely damage American trade without much dread of retaliation.

Supposing, however, that either by peaceful agreement or by war the Japanese were to establish their contention with America, what would be their course in regard to Australia? Would they assent there to what they regard as unwarrantable treatment in America? And if they did not, what would be our position? I hardly think that we have seriously considered what the claim to equality of treatment on the part of Asiatics really means. Personally, I have always deemed the action of European Powers in regard to Asia as a monstrous wrong. I should be glad to see strong and powerful Governments established in Japan and in China. We Europeans are far too much given to regard Asia as a battleground for our ambitions, and this has been mainly due to our having been better armed, richer, and able to enforce our law on that continent. This rivalry in ambition is likely to last so long as the Asiatics cannot defend themselves against attack. That they should be able to do so would, I am convinced, make for peace.

In the meanwhile, each European Power is following our example and making a treaty with Japan. We have made a defensive treaty with that Power. The Japanese treaty with France, and probably that which is being concluded with Russia, seem not to go beyond a general recognition of the existing *status quo* in the East, and not to contemplate mutual assistance in the event of that *status quo* being attacked by some third Power. It surely would be far better were some general assent to be given to the *status quo* by all European Powers than that each one should seek to secure it by separate treaties, which are not identical in their scope. Wars sometimes occur in Europe, but Europe is a family of nations living under what is supposed to have at least the moral force of an international law assented to by all. Something of this sort should be established in Asia, and not only Japan, but China, should form part of the family.

If I were adviser-in-chief to the Tsar of Russia, which I thank my stars I am not, it would be my endeavour to convince him that to summon a parliament, dissolve it when it does not behave to your satisfaction, summon another, treat it in the same way, and repeat the operation indefinitely, is not only a stupid game, but an uncommonly dangerous one. In support of this proposition I should cite the leading case of King Charles the First. No doubt the Dumas have been "trying" to a monarch who thinks that when he presents his people with a "constitution" they should gratefully use it precisely as he intends, or who believes that with a stroke of his pen he can conjure into existence a parliamentary machine as efficient as if it had been at work for centuries. But the second Duma has been more reasonable than the first, and patience is the first thing

needful in trying experiments of this kind. The Tsar not only appears to lack patience, but to be swayed hither and thither by conflicting influences. One day he is a Constitutionalist, the next he is an Absolutist. He cannot be both, and the sooner he elects to remain one or the other permanently, the better it will be for himself as well as for his subjects.

THE FOP AND THE TAILOR.

Algie, a Fop, whom all confess
Unrivalled for his Taste in Dress,
To Tailor Snip a Visit paid
To have a Suit of Dittoes made.
  Then Snip upon the Counter he
Spread out a large Variety
Of Summer Suitings, choice and new,
Comprising every Shade and Hue,
And every Pattern you could seek,
From blatant Checks that howl and shriek
To Mixtures of such modest Sort
That scarce their whispered Tones were caught.
But Faith—to tell the Truth I'm vowed—
The Patterns that our Fop thought loud,
For Number, took what's called "The Bun,"
And beat the Rest by two to one.
  Soon Algie his Selection made—
A quiet, unobtrusive Plaid—
Then said to Snip, in scornful Voice,
"Great Scott! I can't commend your Choice
In stocking thus such blatant Checks,
Which all fastidious Eyes must vex,
And which no Man, whose Taste was nice,
Could even bear to look at twice."
  Old Snip his grizzled Head he shakes,
And this Reply, sententious, makes:
  "To false Conclusions, Sir, you haste,
In thinking them there Checks my Taste.
In Point of Fact, with you I feel,
To me such Patterns don't appeal;
But then—Experience proves it true—
To Scores and Scores of Men they do."

Moral.

'Mongst those the Papers who peruse,
You'll find no End of Tastes and Views;
And what one Man thinks good indeed,
Another simply cannot read.
Hencé Editors, if wise, take Care
To give a varied Bill of Fare,
Wherein the copious Choice embraced
Shall hit all Sorts and Kinds of Taste.

SCRUTATOR.

PEACEMAKING AT THE HAGUE.

THE speech of M. Nelidoff at the opening of the Hague Conference seems to have been a wise one. He dwelt upon the good results that have followed from the last Conference, and they are really as good as could reasonably have been expected. He hoped, as everybody must, that the repetition of these meetings will produce more and more result as time goes on. At the same time, he reminded his audience that quarrels between nations arise, like those between individual men, from the passions, ambitions, and weaknesses of human nature, and that when domestic courts of law, with all their power and authority, cannot always prevent private citizens coming to blows, it is too much to expect that an international court, with nothing but moral force behind it, will always be able to keep the peace between nations. The inference from this seems to be that the preservation of peace depends primarily upon the ability of the individuals who compose a nation to keep their tempers and restrain their passions, particularly the passions of greed and jealousy, which are at the bottom of most wars; and that the functions of an international court are chiefly limited to removing causes of friction, and limiting the mischief and suffering caused by war.

Nothing is more necessary to the success of the Hague Conference within the limits open to it than a clear appreciation of what those limits are. Gladly would the vast majority of all civilised human beings welcome any scheme which would render an appeal to brute force impossible, in the event of two or more nations falling out. Unfortunately, however, no scheme to secure this end has as yet been put forward which is likely to effect this aim. An arbitral court has been proposed, whose decisions are to replace wars. Such a court may be useful to decide on international issues in which no great interests are involved, and M. Nelidoff points out that the Hague Tribunal has already accomplished useful work. But on vital questions of policy, or in regard to those issues on which, it would be said, the honour of a country is involved, nations hold that they are the judges of their own case. They will, therefore, refuse to refer the question, and even if a reference be accepted, the party against whom the decision goes is pretty certain to find reasons for refusing to be bound by it. To meet this, it is proposed by some well-meaning theorists that the decision of the court should be enforced. But enforced by whom? Is it likely that the rest of the family of nations would declare war against the recalcitrant member of the family circle? The idea is absurd. Who can imagine England and Italy joining with Germany to coerce France into obeying an order of the court, or France joining with Germany and Italy to coerce Russia? The Power which chose to disobey would make sure first of finding a friend, and the only conceivable result of attempting to enforce an arbitration in this way would be a general war. A court which relies upon suitors, or possible suitors, to enforce its judgments, in a community of about a dozen members, would be a tribunal suitable to a comic opera, and could only create complications and breed intrigue, either behind its own back or within its own precincts.

The idea of limitation of armaments by general agreement is only a degree less visionary and impracticable. Apparently, it will be curtly dismissed as such at the present Conference. As I understand it, each nation is to agree only to spend a certain amount annually in armaments, and this amount is to be based upon what it requires in order to defend itself from aggression. and to be able to see that its citizens are not unjustly treated outside its own frontiers. How could a comparative estimate for this purpose possibly be made to which every nation would assent? Even if this pre-

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia. Price 1s. per bottle. Beware of imitations.

Savoy Hotel & Restaurant, London.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

liminary difficulty were got over, what security is there that any nation would loyally hold to the arrangement, and not be constantly seeking to evade it surreptitiously? It has sometimes occurred that on the defeat of one nation by another the victor has imposed on the vanquished a clause in the treaty of peace laying down that the army of the latter must not exceed a certain number of men. Napoleon did this both in regard to Austria and Prussia. But notwithstanding his being absolute master on the Continent, both Powers managed to evade the obligation, and when the opportune moment came were able to put into the field far larger armies than they were entitled to by the treaty. To expect that the same thing would not be attempted under an international agreement is hoping too much of human nature; and the fact that this is so would lead to incessant suspicions that this or that Power was not acting "on the square," and would introduce in this way new grounds for quarrelling.

There are, however, many practical questions to occupy the attention of the Hague Conference. International law in regard to the rights of belligerents and of neutrals is vague, and there is no general assent to any fixed rules. This might with great advantage be altered. By the Paris Conference of 1856 it was agreed that free ships should make free goods. But contraband of war remained liable to capture on the high seas, together with the neutral vessel carrying it. There is no clear definition of what is contraband of war, and I believe that it would be far better that no goods on the high seas in a neutral vessel should be liable to capture by a belligerent. There are many other such reforms which, if adopted by International agreement, would make for peace. What will happen at the advent of the millennium I no more know than when the millennium will commence. What I do know is that until men are very different from what they are now, we must dismiss all idea of a millennium, or the attempt to create one by a Conference. Man is a very quarrelsome animal. He allows himself to be influenced as often by passion as by reason. Those who would exercise sway over him are too often inclined to use this unfortunate state of things for their own ends. Amongst us there are many who deem it to be the duty of patriotism to foster a bellicose spirit by all possible means and on all possible occasions. In the present day their influence is aggravated by a new influence—that of the press. Newspapers are commercial undertakings, and are mostly in the hands of those who subordinate all other considerations to trade profit. In their competition for the latest news, they trouble themselves little whether their information be correct or the reverse, provided that it be sensational. It matters little to them whether what they announce as fact be true or false, for as Machiavel said of Princes, they do well to lie when it suits them, because a gullible public will always be inclined to believe what is boldly asserted. They are utterly reckless what ill-blood they stir up by their inventions, and if ever we find ourselves not quite in accord with some foreign nation on some little issue, they do their best to envenom the dispute until it becomes a serious one. So long as all these influences which make for war are at work, it is idle to suppose that there will be goodwill between nations, and that we shall be able to turn our swords into ploughshares, or that armaments will be reduced, or wars averted by solemn peace conferences.

I look for this end rather to the influence of the masses of the people, whose chief function in the eyes of civilised Governments in the present day is to pay taxes for the up-keep of armaments, and to provide "food for powder" when their rulers quarrel. I look forward to their gradually understanding more clearly that they can under no circumstances be the gainers by wars, and that if their lot is to be bettered by the collective action of the State, the burdens imposed upon them for purposes of war must be reduced. So far as we are concerned, the Transvaal war did more for the cause of peace than all that statesmen ever planned, or phrasemongers ever shouted. So it has been with France. That country since 1870 has ceased to crave for conquests and victories, and its citizens seem determined, unless absolutely forced into war by the action of their neighbours, to insist upon their rulers keeping the peace with all the world. In Germany the working men are nearly all united in the same intention. Notwithstanding, therefore, the vapourings of the martial "patriots" at home and abroad, every day that passes renders war more improbable. Every day that peace is maintained each nation is more apt to understand that the dangers against which it is bidden to arm by crazy alarmists or interested parties are in a great measure imaginary, and that it is even more dangerous to carry defensive measures to excess than to neglect them, because it engenders suspicions, which are the seeds of all international quarrelling, and because the possession of dangerous weapons tends to make Governments quarrelsome. What we chiefly want is a little more common sense in estimating the dangers to which we are exposed, and the means necessary for meeting them; and it is to the growth of such common sense among the masses in each country, on whom falls the chief burden of war and preparations for war, that we must look for the limitation of armaments and the maintenance of international harmony.

THE COMING EDALJI DEBATE.

The Edalji case is to be raised in the House of Commons on the Home Office vote unless unforeseen circumstances arise. Such circumstances frequently *do* arise in Parliament, designedly or undesignedly, but it is to be hoped that members generally will appreciate the importance of this case, and that every effort will be made to ensure its being properly discussed, and also to arrive at some conclusion which will ensure justice being done. There is a very strong public feeling on the matter, prompted, not so much by definite opinion on the merits of the question (for every one must recognise that the case is puzzling), as by firm conviction that it has been handled in a most unsatisfactory manner, and that it will be impossible to feel certain that justice has been done until an attempt has been

An Eminent Physician says: "Every one in any way delicate, especially on the chest, should have a gas fire in the bedroom. Not one atom less healthy than coal."

Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through. 2s. the Case, or Trial Bottle, mailed free from observation, 7d.—Hinde's Ltd., 1A, Finsbury, London.

made to elucidate the truth by totally different methods from those hitherto adopted. It will rest chiefly with the Liberals, who are so large a majority of the House, whether this public feeling is adequately voiced in Parliament, and it will be no credit to them, individually or collectively, if party or personal considerations stand in the way of this being done.

There are certain points on which it would be well to have more official information before the discussion comes off. The following extracts from a letter that I have received bear upon them. The writer is a lawyer who has followed the case from beginning to end very attentively, though he has no personal interest in it:—

First.—Neither the public, nor, I believe, Mr. Edalji or his friends, had any idea that the Committee would make, or would be asked to make, any finding as to the authorship of the letters—a subject on which no finding had been previously made. Had an intimation of intention to deal with this subject been previously given, there would probably have been other documents and other arguments before the Committee.

Secondly.—Conceding, for the sake of argument, that the members of the Committee are correctly described as "three distinguished legal authorities," is there any evidence of their special fitness to decide finally and absolutely a question of handwriting? They themselves are evidently not of this opinion. They shelter themselves behind a supposed finding of the jury, and merely say that their own inspection of the documents laid before them does not enable them to dissent from it.

Thirdly.—However eminent legal authorities may be, the correctness of their opinions cannot be relied on if the case submitted to them was incorrect. The statement "that the case could not have been properly submitted, and that some material facts must have been withheld," may be "cool," as Mr. Gladstone puts it, or otherwise; but what the public desires to know is whether it was true or false. Surely, if we are expected to rest satisfied with the finding of three eminent legal authorities on the question of handwriting submitted to them, we ought to be informed what documents were submitted to them, how classified, and with what comments, if any. Can there be any reasonable objection to furnishing this information?

Fourthly.—Some of the letters referred to at the trial were declared by Mr. Gurrin to be in the handwriting of the prisoner, but others were not. The confused reports of the trial which I have seen leave me in doubt whether all the letters were handed up to the jury or only those which Mr. Gurrin identified. Plainly those which he failed to identify ought not to have been handed up to the jury. [From Mr. Edalji's account of the trial I do not think it can be supposed that they were.—ED. TRUTH.] But the letters which Mr. Gurrin failed to identify ought to have been at the Home Office and ought to have been placed before the Committee, properly labelled, so as to prevent them from confounding the two kinds of letters. And there were also other documents which ought to have been at the Home Office and laid before the Committee, but were not referred to at the trial—letters written about the time that Green's horse was killed, and at a later date. . . .

I have already said that I think it ought to be definitely known what documents were placed before the Committee, and the Home Secretary could hardly object to furnish this information. The Committee say they have inspected the letters which were in evidence at the trial, and the "Martin Molton" letters. The value of their conclusion depends largely on whether their inspection was limited to those documents, or on the extent that it went beyond them. Another point on which it is important to have definite evidence is whether the Committee were left to examine these letters by their own unaided judgment, or whether they were assisted by any expert, or by any report of an expert upon the documents, and, if so, what expert gave this assistance. It is equally important to know definitely whether the inquiry of the Committee was limited solely to the inspection of documents, or whether any witness appeared before them, any one who had given evidence at the trial, or any representative of the police. Also, whether the documents inspected included any police reports or statements, confidential or otherwise. However these questions are answered, they have an important bearing one way or the other on the value of the inquiry by the Committee and its result, more particularly in regard to the anonymous letters, which are the principal question now at issue. The discussion in Parliament will, therefore, be greatly facilitated if this information is available beforehand.

THE BOY AND THE ARMY.

The following letter is worth the attention of all who are interested in the welfare of boys, and equally of those who are very anxious just now to turn all our small boys into soldiers. It has a special interest at the moment from its bearing on the discussion on cadet corps in Parliament on Monday. Mr. Pilkington is an expert on the subject with which he deals, and I doubt whether there is anything worth knowing about London working-class boys, their needs, their tastes, and their characters that he does not know:—

SIR,—I am glad to see that you have something to say against juvenile militarism "as she is spoke" at the present time. May I be allowed to argue the same point still further from what I should consider the true military view? Surely we do not need so much to become a nation of sharpshooters as of thoroughly sound athletes who may be successful in gaining for themselves the best tactical positions by out-marching and out-staying the enemy. I consider that late wars have definitely proved that capacity to move far and rapidly is of the first importance, and that of accurate rifle shooting of the second. Hence it follows that we should rather encourage our youth to suffer personal hardships upon the football field, strengthen hearts, lungs and legs upon running tracks and in swimming baths, and gain self-confidence in gymnasia and boxing rings, than waste their spare hours of recreation in waiting their turn to fire off miniature rifles at miniature targets, or performing unexciting evolutions in drill halls or on parade grounds. In the love of average healthy British boys for British sports we have an unique national and military asset of supreme value.

But look here, sir. British town-bred boys, on whom recruiting sergeants set greedy eyes, are being gradually robbed of their national heritage of sport. They are neither allowed time nor space to play in usefully. There is no public organisation for the recreation of working-class youth. The poor fellows are roundly blamed for becoming mere "lookers on," or even "Hooligans," when all the time they need but little encouragement to play themselves. But where and how? Who is going to see to it? Of course, old public school and 'Varsity men with leisure are the ideal instructors of youth, but, unfortunately, they have not as yet been attracted to the job. The so-called school and college "missions" are, as a rule, far too sentimental affairs for mere human muscular Christians to patronise, and, indeed, they do not acquaint our wealthy and educated youth with the urgent needs of their poorer brethren in just such directions as these, where they would be sure to sympathise, and so the nation suffers, and the cry goes up, how long?

It must also be strongly pointed out that the great *non-military* public schools actually provide the greater portion of officers for the army, and of the best class. To become the good officer, in fact, you must already be a good sportsman. What then is really wanted throughout the length and breadth of the land is a network of social clubs for working boys, where all British sports can be practised under the best conditions obtainable. From such centres a large proportion of the cream of the youthful population would drift naturally into the army, and more particularly if military authorities would make a better attempt to understand and cater for their physical needs. Most of all do these boys want the sympathy and guidance of the young upper classes, but it is solidly refused them, or rather, perhaps, denied them unwittingly.

Again, reform is strongly needed as to the working hours of all youths under eighteen years of age. If I were king, no youth of that age should be kept at work except between the hours of 6.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., whether in factory, shop, or office. Then there would be some chance for his intellectual and physical improvement, for his evenings could be devoted to such an end (with elementary military tactics thrown in, if you like), but all under the suitable and sympathetic supervision and encouragement of educated civilians. It must be that these matters will be attended to sooner or later.

In short, and taking it all round, military discipline for the young is *not* of much national value, nor ever will be unless some military genius will evolve a curriculum which will embrace the whole gamut of British sports. Youth requires a personal antagonist to meet and beat "on his own." There is no antagonist possible in the mere preparation for war; consequently a purely military training for the young defeats its own object. It sounds paradoxical, but I believe it is a sound argument for all that. The waste of raw material in all large towns is simply heartrending. Thousands are allowed to drift into hazardous and unremunerative employment (if it is worth such an honest name) and thence into hospitals, workhouses or gaols, at enormous expense to the com-

munity. A few millions spent in building, equipping and sustaining in town and country these suggested centres of working-class enjoyment and recreation would be the very surest safeguard of the nation's existence. They would also become centres of industry and effort, and a check upon loafing and consequent crime or sickness.

I verily believe that, as in the past, Waterloos can still only be won upon British playing-fields, and that we run counter to the national instinct (or common-sense) to attempt to win them in drill-halls, shooting galleries, and on parade grounds. Patriotic ardour is by no means wanting amongst the young working classes, but the leisured patriots who will give their time and energy to the cultivation of British attributes amongst these boys are lamentably few in number at present. The Union Jack needs to fly over the public school and college as much as over the seats of learning of the poor. There is something for all to do. If only the young upper classes will come forward to "press the button," the young working classes will assuredly do the rest! The Army will be the very first body to reap the benefit and garner the harvest. There will be opportunity for self-sacrifice as regards leisure and good living no doubt, but patriotism of this nature will surely prove its own reward.—I am, your obedient servant, E. M. S. PILKINGTON.

N.B.—When I use the word "Army" I include the auxiliary forces in the term.

There are two questions involved here—the social and the military. It is difficult to separate them, but it is desirable not to mix them up more than is unavoidable. The enthusiasts for universal military service desire to extend it as far as possible to boys—both middle-class boys in public schools and working-class boys who have left the elementary schools to earn their living. They lay stress on the physical and moral benefits of the training, and they desire at the some time to prepare boys for adult military training, thereby rendering it more effective, because you can do more with your recruit in a short time if he comes to you already perfect in the A B C of soldiering. Mr. Pilkington seems to hold, as I do, that there is not much in either of those views. There is something in them, of course. No one will deny that military exercises are better than no exercise at all, or that the discipline is better than no discipline. But the amount of either that you can give to working-class boys is from the nature of the case very limited, and, what is of more consequence, it is very distasteful to young boys. Very few of them will submit to it voluntarily, and those who will soon tire of it in most cases. Its effect, therefore, on boys is not to encourage real soldiering later in life, but the reverse, and, from the purely military point of view, it is apt to do harm rather than good. This is not a matter of theory, but is proved by experience. We are dealing, for the present, with soldiering on a voluntary basis. If universal service were compulsory, it would be a matter of indifference whether the conscript had been disgusted with military drill in a cadet corps before he was called up; he would have to come whether he liked it or not. But when it rests entirely with every youth whether he will serve or not, whether as a regular soldier or in the auxiliary army, it is all important not to check the natural growth of martial ardour; and all experience shows that genuine martial ardour does not begin to grow to any purpose until the boy begins to feel himself a man, which is generally about 16 or 17 years of age. Sir Henry Craik and other Opposition speakers on Monday professed to see no reason for Mr. Haldane's sixteen-year-old limit for Government grants. Mr. Haldane did not have an opportunity of giving his reason, but the one given above is good and sufficient.

Mr. Pilkington believes, as I understand him, that below that age the best physical and moral exercise for the boy in his playtime lies in athletic sports and games, organised and conducted under the supervision of elders, as they are in the public schools. So do I. He believes that this is a better preparation for soldiering in every shape than formal drill. So do I. He believes that the boy who has had the right sort of athletic training in the playground will be the most likely to develop martial instincts as he passes the threshold of manhood, and will make the best soldier. So do I. It is important that this view of the matter should be understood at the public schools, where it has always been the accepted view until the last few years—with the best results as regards soldiering and volunteering. But it is still more important to apply the doctrine, if we can, to the working class boy—important not for the sake of merely training soldiers, but of training men, men sound in body and mind. No doubt this is a difficult matter, but not a bit more difficult than the idea of subjecting the same number and class of boys to military training. The attempts that have been made to solve the problem have not hitherto achieved very much. But no attempts will ever be successful if they are made in the wrong direction; and the value of Mr. Pilkington's letter, to my mind, lies in its declaration that a movement for mere military drill is a movement in the wrong direction. It is inspired by a false conception of the nature of boys, as well as a false conception of our military needs.

Does this mean that there is no place for cadet corps? Not in the least. The object of it is solely to put them in their right place. That place should be an integral part of our military system. The ends in view should be military, not social, or moral, or educational. The proper *raison d'être* of the cadet corps is this—that the martial instinct and the capacity for military training develop two or three years before the boy becomes a full-grown man, fit to be reckoned and paid as a full-blown soldier, and that it is desirable to take advantage of this fact. We don't want soldiers under eighteen years of age, and we cannot afford to pay for them. But we can find plenty of boys a couple of years or so below that age, who feel a desire to serve, and if we can catch them and train them it is a good thing for them and for the Army, regular or auxiliary, which they will join when fully fledged. It is not necessary to lay down the age line too strictly—better not. The age when a boy is really fit to join varies considerably. Roughly, you may put it at sixteen, perhaps taking boys six months or so younger on probation, if they appear promising recruits. In the same way you may pass them out at the other end before eighteen, if they are suitable for adult battalions, and mean to join them. For boys of this age, the cadet corps may be a most useful institution from every point of view, and on these lines I would give it every encouragement. But as a medium for setting children to play at soldiers, when they ought to be playing at football or learning their lessons, I would give it no encouragement at all. It is to be hoped that this view of the matter will be officially laid down when the "territorial Army" begins to take shape, and county associations have to "foster and encourage cadet corps" under the Haldane Act—if it becomes an Act.

I have had another long letter from the Secretary of the National Service League on the question of boys and soldiering. But in view of all that has been said above, I ask to be excused from publishing it. Mr. Shee

desires to accentuate what was said in TRUTH the other day about "the Cadet and the Grandmother." He will see how far I am with him and how far against him. I have no sympathy with those who would have boys kept away from soldiering as something wicked and immoral, but I have equally little with those who think that the country will be any the better or stronger for drilling its school children—especially on compulsion. "Clear thinking," based on knowledge of boys and knowledge of our military requirements, will show where the wise course between these extremes is to be found.

AN ADVERTISING STOCK EXCHANGE DEALER.

There is a general idea that for a long time past business on the Stock Exchange has been exceedingly flat and unprofitable. Apparently, readers of the *Queen* are supposed to be ignorant of this, or else they are expected to believe that the idea is a popular delusion—at any rate, the front page of that journal has been for several weeks adorned with the following seductive advertisement:—

30 PER CENT. per annum paid monthly on small Deposits; sound Stock Exchange business; references. Write first to "G. 478," care of Shelley's, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

This advertisement, which is obviously intended to appeal to unsophisticated ladies, attracted the attention of a gentleman who had the curiosity to write to "G 478" for particulars of the business. He received the following reply, which I print as it was written in the matter of punctuation, etc.:—

7, Bartholomews,
Brighton,
22 May, 1907.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM

I don't quite know whether I am addressing a Lady or Gentleman, in any event I am obliged by the letter in answer to my advertisement re "£30 per cent. Interest paid on small deposits." I am a large Dealer on the Stock Exchange, also Mortgage Broker, my business has been established some years, and by appointment I could see you personally in London, where I am constantly, my Bankers' cheque fo: Interest is sent monthly to clients having money on Deposit with me on sums from £5 to £100 one month's notice of Withdrawal is only required. Should you be thinking of doing business I shall be pleased to furnish References to clients (by permission) who have done business with me for considerable periods.

Awaiting your reply,
I am,
Yours faithfully,
F. A. HOLLAND.

Seeing that the inquirer lives in Ireland, a personal interview in London was—as Holland doubtless perceived—out of the question. Holland was therefore asked to give the references mentioned in the advertisement, and also to say on what amount he would guarantee 30 per cent., as the inquirer "could not afford to risk more than £20 or £30." This was the answer:—

7, Bartholomews,
Brighton,
27 May, 1907.

DEAR SIR,

I am obliged by yours, there is *no risk*, no one has ever lost a 1d. through dealing with me, my business has been established some years, £20 deposited with me will yield you 10s. a month, £30 yield you 15s. a month. Write or otherwise communicate with some of the following, they have done business with me for some considerable time:—

Arthur Lomas, Esq., 139, Balfour Street, Hull, Yorks;
The Rev. W. J. Woodward, Moreleigh Rectory, Halwell, R.S.O., South Devon;
Miss E. B. Crewe, Elwall Lawn, nr. Derby.

Yours faithfully,
F. A. HOLLAND.

Thereupon a letter was addressed to the Rev. W. J. Woodward at Moreleigh Rectory, asking how long he had dealt with Holland, and whether the latter had always paid him monthly interest at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum on the money deposited with him. The reply was as follows:—

Moreleigh Rectory,
Halwell, R.S.O.,
S. Devon,
May 31, '07.

DEAR SIR,

I have had dealings with Mr. F. A. Holland since 1904, and have always received the Int. at rate of 30 per cent. from him regularly,

Your faithful,
W. J. WOODWARD.

At this point the recipient of the letters passed them on to me, his curiosity having been sufficiently satisfied. I thought myself that it would be interesting to see whether any further information could be obtained—though I was not at all hopeful—about this "large Dealer on the Stock Exchange." Accordingly I had inquiries made at Brighton. My representative found—as I rather expected he would—that 7, Bartholomews, is an accommodation address, and that nothing is known there of F. A. Holland except that he calls occasionally for his letters. But what about his references? Well, if the letter reproduced above was actually written by the Rev. W. J. Woodward, Rector of Moreleigh, I am ready to assume that the statements it contains are quite correct. Mr. Woodward may have received interest at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum on the money he has deposited—the amount, by the way, is not specified—with Holland. So may Arthur Lomas, Esq., and Miss E. B. Crewe. It does not follow, however, that other people will be equally fortunate. The idea that a man can carry on a "sound Stock Exchange business" with borrowed capital on which he pays 30 per cent. is indeed transparently ridiculous, and when he affirms, as Holland does, that "there is no risk," he is palpably lying. What a man engaged in a game of this sort can well afford to do is to keep a few decoy ducks, and it is clearly as a decoy duck that the Rector of Moreleigh is acting, though he may, of course, be doing so quite unconsciously. Even with this reverend gentleman's corroboration, no person with the slightest knowledge of Stock Exchange or any kind of business would dream of entrusting money to a stranger on the strength of the story Holland tells. Unfortunately, there are plenty of women, and men, too, with no knowledge whatever of business, who are easily imposed upon by an offer such as Holland makes. Still more unfortunately, there are eminently respectable newspapers which seem to have no compunction about the insertion in their columns of what is on the face of it a swindling advertisement.

THEATRES.

"IOLANTHE," AT THE SAVOY.

We did not hear "The Mikado" in the orchestra at the Savoy last week, but snatches of that tuneful composition were wafted about the house from Olympic heights more or less in time, and there was more than a something of regret that the sapiency of the Lord Chamberlain forbids us to laugh at our ally Japan. It is true that the ban has now been removed, but unfortunately the decision has come too late to allow of the inclusion of "The Mikado" in the present series of revivals at the Savoy. However, I must pass from

MALOJA, Engadine, Switzerland.—Palace Hotel, Kursaal, 6,000 ft. altitude. Completely renovated 1906. Private Baths. Golf. Tennis.—EDWARD SMART, Manager. Prospectus on application.

the ineptitude of the actual Lord Chamberlain to the antics of an ideal Lord Chancellor.

I refer, of course, to the Lord Chancellor of Mr. Workman in "Iolanthe." He makes him wondrous wise, so that his utterances—smack they never so much of folly—have yet, in the twinkle of an eye, the pursing of a lip that accompany them, the saving salt of satire. From beginning to end of his appearances Mr. Workman holds the attention. My only regret was that the affairs of Strephon and the Queen and Phyllis can progress for considerable periods without him who is

> The true embodiment
> Of everything that's excellent,
> He has no kind of fault or flaw,
> And He, my Lords, embodies the Law,
> The constitutional guardian he
> Of pretty young wards in Chancery!

Mr. Gilbert probably will not pardon me for substituting the third personal for the first personal pronoun in this citation from his excellent libretto, so I do not apologise for it, as I should otherwise have done. It is remarkable how much of the politics remains the same in application, and indeed the only political variant which I observed was the substitution by the Queen for Liberal-Unionist for Liberal-Conservative, though I am not sure that the latter term does not cover the sense or nonsense equally well. The lords in attendance upon the Chancellor were headed by Mr. Harold Wilde, who, with Mr. Moyle as Private Wills of the Grenadier Guards, did best among the men. The truth and humour of the lyric, "Spurn not the nobly born," was well brought out by the former, and both he and Private Wills on sentry-go secured heartfelt encores, though so many of the various numbers received this honour that it would be an easier matter to record those that did not.

Miss Dow made a tolerable Phyllis, ward in Chancery, and Arcadian Shepherdess, though her voice is preferably heard rather when she sings *andantino* than *con multo furore*, as an unmusical neighbour of mine in the stalls heartlessly remarked. Miss Jessie Rose was the Iolanthe, and was a delightful juvenile of mature years, mother of "a Tory down to the waist" with a couple of "confounded Radicals" for legs; Mr. Henry Lytton, in fact, who was quite in the Savoy tradition, made a Strephon more admirable than any Crichton. In reverting for a moment to Miss Rose, it is to chronicle the pleasure I had from her singing of the ballad, "He loves! if in the bygone years," which is the most poetical morcel of the evening, and received from Iolanthe its due meed of beauty in the rendering.

The song and dance in which the Lord Chancellor and the Lords Mountararat and Tolloller make hasty hay while the footlights shine were encored until it was obvious that such haymaking was hot work, and, indeed, any one less nimble than Mr. Workman might have succumbed before that at the rattling song in which orchestra and singer seem to be having a race as to which can first reach the goal, I mean the well-known account of a night spent uneasily dreaming. As Mr. Workman delivered it, we enjoyed a triumph of elocution.

"The Midnight Wedding," at the Lyceum.

Mr. Walter Howard, author of this play and of "Her Love Against the World," is undoubtedly an adept at constructing effective melodrama. He knows just the dose of heroism required from the hero, and never oversteps this into the impossible, but, on the contrary, gives us plenty of common humanity in his Paul Valmar, Sword Master of the Red Hussars, whom Mr. Norman Partridge incarnated on Saturday evening. Mr. Howard knows, too, the psychology of the modern villain of melodrama. He makes him follow the modern fashion, for who that does not follow if they cannot lead, counts for anything. So we are interested all the time in the doings of Captain Rudolf, who combines with Lieutenant Eugene to force the Princess sister of the latter into a loathed union with himself. Their machinations are of no avail, for the lady is married off secretly at the beginning of the play to Valmar, and he it is who appears to protect her in all moments of danger.

Very deftly has Mr. Howard welded together his materials, and these are well chosen, from the heroism and villainy of those already mentioned to the middle term of comic relief in the shape of those three "comrades in war but rivals in love," a group of three private soldiers in love with the same bonny waiting-maid of "The Golden Dragon." Their guileless doings serve to pass many pleasant moments, whose quality is heightened by the agreeable presence and personality of Miss Valli Valli, the waiting-maid in question, who loves the least of the three privates Mr. Gus Oxley, beloved of the gods.

Miss Nora Kerin has comely presence and far-reaching voice to help her through the arduous part of the Princess who at one time masquerades in male attire as a second lieutenant. Here, as in the previous piece, Miss Kerin soon establishes the chain of sympathy between herself and the more emotional among her audience, so that when the pathetic moments arrive she has but to pull the string, as it were, and down fall shower-baths of tears into pocket-handkerchiefs without end.

The dramatic interest is well sustained throughout, and that scene at Paul Valmar's quarters which closes the third of four acts, and finds Paul wounded in a left-handed duel with Rudolf, nursed by the Princess and visited by that neglectful Prince, his father, whose heartstrings at last are wrung by his son's bravery and misfortunes, is a fitting climax from which the descent into the level plain of the fourth act, with its marriage ceremony (duel thrown in), is made easy.

"The Midnight Wedding" comes to us from the provinces, and I cannot but applaud their good taste in melodrama, which indeed is not the only matter in which their taste sometimes excels that of the metropolis. I admit that I look forward to its supersession by Mr. Hall Caine's "Christian" with feelings of unmixed preference for the present entertainment, which so well steers clear of vexed questions and keeps us interested all the time.

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"Divorçons" at the Duke of York's Theatre is an excuse for a "presentation" by Mr. Frohman. Miss Grace George is the Cyprienne of this edition of Sardou's well-known play, and those who like acting for acting's sake might do worse than go and see Mr. Frank Worthing play the husband of her who has married neither wisely nor well. As is the case with all Mr. Frohman's productions, no expense has been spared in

mise-en-scène or in the interpretation of the original. But for all that, one cannot feel very enthusiastic about these revivals of Sardou's *machines* for the exhibition of new talent. One wishes that England and America would unite their forces, and see whether it be not possible to obtain a play in Anglo-Saxon out of the millions who populate the two countries.

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The Stage Society produced two plays last week. "David Ballard," by Mr. Charles McEvoy, is a grim study of modern life in three acts, long drawn out, and yet containing a good deal to interest. This play was produced by the author, which, perhaps, accounts for its length. But Mr. McEvoy will do well to entrust the production of his future plays to some trained hand and thus gain for himself more of that goodwill which comes from a patience not overstrained with verbiage. Mr. McEvoy has certainly some talent for the theatre, and his interpreters were not to blame, for they played excellently, yet achieved but a qualified measure of applause from those who endured through the long watches of the afternoon. The other play produced by the Stage Society at the Imperial Theatre last week was not deprived of its original German title, but I will venture to translate it into "The Operatic Singer," though the dictionary gives for the German word "private singer to the prince." Be this as it will, the hero is a young gentleman who has scored success as a vocalist and is literally bombarded by lovely ladies with their love and by an antique Nestor of a composer with his opera. The opera seemed as tiresome to me when played on the piano as did the rest of this crude adaptation. I felt all the time that the young man singer was a ridiculous prig, and that the young women, especially she who shot herself, were very foolish to be thus infatuated with mediocrity, and finally I felt that I should like myself to have a shot at the prosy old composer, for I thought he would never have done with his lucubrations upon the fickleness of fame and the injustice of managers. A friend who has seen the play done in German assures me that it was taken far too seriously in the English version, that the singer should be far more light-hearted and devil-may-care. That may be so, but I admit that I am not keen to see the German version.

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The Irish National Theatre has been giving a series of representations of the works of its protagonists this week. Mr. Synge's "The Playboy of the Western World" was the most striking of these performances, and led, I am told, to a good deal of striking when produced in Dublin. It appears that certain of the young men of Ireland objected to the ethics of murder in that country as expressed by Mr. Synge. "Parricide as an Aphrodisiac" might be given as the second title of this work, of which the main motive appears to be that to touch the virginal Hibernian heart to the point of making it throb for you, it is necessary to have assassinated one's male parent. I have always understood that the Irish were noted for the chastity of their maidens, but if Mr. Synge's contention as to their requirements be true, I cease to wonder. Fortunately, there appear to be a good many exceptions to this rule, and, unfortunately perhaps, it must be admitted that Mr. Synge has considerable talent.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

The Curate's Catechism.

(*For the guidance of young men newly admitted to Deacon's orders.*)

Question: Who are you?

Answer: A curate in the Church of England.

Q.: What is a curate in the Church of England?

A.: A young man fresh from Oxford or Cambridge, who enters the Church with the firm intention of becoming a dean or a bishop, but usually ends his days as a missionary or a guinea-pig.

Q.: What are the duties of a curate in the Church of England?

A.: To have an agreeable person and gentlemanly manners; to be proficient in lawn tennis, croquet, and other social pastimes; and to be always ready to step into the breach as the only man at an afternoon tea-fight.

Q.: Have you other duties besides these?

A.: Yes, several others; *i.e.*, to serve as a lure to young women to teach in the Sunday school; to visit the poor—when I can find time; and, while preaching with sufficient eloquence not to empty the church, on no account to preach so well as to draw larger congregations than the vicar.

Q.: Who is the vicar?

A.: The incumbent of the parish to which I am licensed by the bishop of the diocese.

Q.: Whether of the twain is your master—the vicar or the bishop?

A.: Neither of them. I have no master. I am under the absolute control of a mistress.

Q.: Of what mistress?

A.: Of the vicaress.

Q.: What mean you by this answer?

A.: I mean that the vicaress runs the vicar, and the vicar, in turn (so far as I am concerned), runs the bishop.

Q.: Explain your reply more particularly.

A.: I will. *E.g.:* In theory, the vicar cannot discharge me without the consent of the bishop, while the vicaress has no voice at all in the matter. But, in practice, if the vicaress desires to retain me, retained I am, without reference either to vicar or bishop. Again, if the vicaress wants to get rid of me, she sets the vicar—and through him the bishop—in motion, and I am discharged then and there, without more ado.

Q.: It is very important, then, to stand well with the vicaress?

A.: It is all-important.

Q.: Have you not a right of appeal to the bishop?

A.: I have. But the right is altogether nugatory.

Q.: Why so?

A.: Because the vicar reports to the bishop what the vicaress tells him to report, and the bishop always takes the word of a vicar against that of a curate.

Q.: What is a benefice?

A.: A piece of ecclesiastical preferment—also called a living—which I have no earthly chance of ever obtaining.

Q.: How is this?

A.: Because I do not happen to be related to a patron.

Q.: What is a patron?

A.: A layman, usually worldly-minded and sometimes ungodly, who is supposed to hold the said preferment in sacred trust for the benefit of the parishioners, but who, in fact, holds it in sacred trust for the benefit of his brother, cousin, or other needy relative.

Q.: Of what religion is the patron?

A.: He may be of any religion, or of no religion—Church of England, Presbyterian, Nonconformist, Jew, Mahommedan, Agnostic, Atheist. The point is too trivial to be worth considering.

Q.: Of what manner of life is the patron?

A.: Of any manner of life. He may be as moral as William Wilberforce, or as immoral as Charles II. of religious and gracious memory. It is quite immaterial.

Q.: Then religion and morality have nothing to do with the qualifications that fit a patron to appoint to a Church of England benefice?

A.: Nothing whatever.

Q.: What is merit?

A.: Merit is its own reward in the Church of England.

Q.: What is interest?

A.: That most precious of all Christian virtues, which is rewarded with canonries, deaneries, and bishoprics.

Q.: What if a minister does not happen to have this most precious of all Christian virtues?

A.: Then there is only one course open to him.

Q.: What is that?

A.: To marry a wife who has.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"LA RIVALE," AT THE FRANCAIS.

"LA RIVALE," the new play at the Théâtre Français, is a comedy of fashion and passion bordering on drama. Its four acts are of unequal merit, there are flaws here and there, incidents albeit full of promise that lead up to nothing, improbabilities even for the stage. Several scenes will not bear too close analysis, and this would be a defect were it not that the dialogue is so captivating and the scenic suggestiveness so strong that you are unable to analyse anything until you have come home and shaken off the spell. I am not sure, therefore, that "defects" of this sort are not really qualities. At any rate, they show that the author's talent is of no mean order. The third act, however, where the conflict between the two rival women breaks like a storm, is a masterpiece, and it would alone ensure the success of the play. The authors, MM. Henry Kistemaeckers and Eugène Delard, are both well known in the literary world. The former has given, at the Théâtre Molière, a stirring drama, "L'Instinct"; the latter is the author of a drama of country life, "La Donation." Their joint work, "La Rivale," reminds one of Gabriele d'Annunzio's "Gioconda": the story is meagre enough, and might have been compressed into one act, but a fine, rushing, seething torrent of passion carries you through the four acts.

André Brizeux is a sculptor of renown. As a young man he was a careless Bohemian, penniless and full of genius. His wife, Jeanne, to whom he has been married for ten years, a sweet yet matter-of-fact woman, a typical French lady with a taste for elegance, and yet with an eye to business, has transformed the long-haired Montmartre artist of yore, with his soft felt hat, corduroy suit, and huge bow necktie of black silk, into an accomplished society favourite. They now live in a West End residence; André Brizeux is Officer of the Legion of Honour, and will not take a fee of less than twenty thousand francs for modelling a bust portrait. His wife, in short, has proved to be an admirable business manager. Perhaps, in making a marketable merchandise of her husband's talent, she has spoilt it. I wish the authors had made this point clear. Brizeux has been working for months at a statue, a woman in a dreamy attitude, and he feels that this statue, which, like the one in "Mutilated Victories" of Gabriele d'Annunzio, plays an important part in the plot, is cold, cheap, and ineffective. Or is it because the artist's mind is elsewhere? Brizeux and his wife, having no children, have centred their affections on a poor cousin, Simone de Mortagnes. Simone is a frequent visitor to their house, and as the story opens she has been their guest for several months, as well as her father (she has lost her mother), a decayed clubman, a society parasite who lives by sponging on his friends and borrowing money of them. The Brizeux make a pet of Simone, pay her dressmaker's bills (no insignificant item this, I should say), and introduce her into society. Simone, a creature of high birth and exquisite breeding, beautiful, high-strung, sensitive, chafes under the generosity of her cousins. Why did they not leave her to earn her living with her violin, in playing which she excels? Why? Probably because her own pride stands in the way. So she accepts, while resenting, the benefits of her cousins, and has not made up her mind whether to love or hate them. With all her fine dresses, she is aware that society looks down upon her as the "poor relation." Men like the Baron de Ligneuil, a stock-exchange pirate, or Sormiers, an owner of stables, are emboldened to lay their fortune at her feet—on terms that may be hinted, but not broadly declared. You should see with what queenly pride she spurns those ill-favoured men—one of whom, the Baron de Ligneuil, is a finely observed character study. Honest Pontecroix proposes to her, but she does not care for him; no doubt her pride is the cause of her rejecting her poor suitor. Her pride, however, does not save her from dishonour, and all her haughty spirit does not prevent her from falling into the arms of her cousin, André Brizeux.

Simone has the decency to go and live elsewhere. Brizeux's wife knows the truth, and is the unhappiest of women, but she keeps her sorrows to herself. She thinks her husband has no suspicion, and she hopes to reconquer him some day. But André, unable to bear the life of his twofold existence, has become irritable and despondent. In a scene of dramatic beauty and horror, Simone appears, pale, forlorn, and, after many sobs, exclamations, reticences, she whispers a word in her lover's ear. André has now made up his mind; he will leave his wife and cleave to Simone. The authors, in order to lessen the painfulness of this scene, have been careful to let us know that Jeanne is in no wise dependent on her husband. André considers he has awakened to a new life—his art, he declares, was a lie, and before leaving his studio he picks up a hammer and breaks his statue, the "Dreamy Woman," to pieces. He leaves, moreover, with the tacit consent of the unfortunate wife, who has learnt that her "rival" is about to become a mother, and relinquishes all claim on her husband. There is a scene between the wife and Simone which might have been very unpleasant, but which has been saved by dint of dramatic mastery on the part of the authors.

Months pass by; the child is dead. André comes back one night to the studio where he spent ten happy years. He meets his wife, whose hair has turned grey. The scene is pathetic, but no new situation can arise out

of it. Of all solutions, the "legitimate" one would have been the most painful and absurd. Husband and wife, now separated for ever, weep over the lost happiness.

The "Rivale" belongs to the romantic school, the language is not very natural, the situations are sometimes unreal, and the construction of the plot is feeble—I had almost said jerry-built. Yet the whole has a sort of internal logic. The defects are conjured away, as if by sleight of hand, as long as the play lasts, and the authors have at their command a power of suggestion that carries everything before it. The four acts are well played by the junior company of the Français. M. Grand has made a romantic personage of the sculptor, André. Mme. Cerny, in the part of the betrayed wife, is tender, meek, unselfish, and heartbroken. Mlle. Piérat, in the part of Simone, remains one of the most youthful, charming, and bewitching figures of the modern stage.

I sent you some shirt-cuff notes made at Juvisy when the young Queen of Spain halted there under the maternal wing on the way to Madrid to be married. Here are some others jotted down in the train of President Fallières as he proceeded to Cherbourg last week:—

"Departure for Cherbourg—Pichon made heroic effort to see President off and beg him to present excuses to Danish sovereigns. He looked in low phase of a bad fever, and could hardly stand. At last moment his official private secretary helped him to the President's train. P., I heard in course of journey, suffers from tropical climates, where he passed some years, from his fever, smallpox, and other attacks at Pekin, and perhaps most of all from the terrible shaking he received in the siege of the Legations there. 'C'est un bien excellent homme,' reflected Fallières after they had parted, 'et vraiment une conscience.' Thomson has lost that joyous look which he always had in the opening days of his Ministry. What wonder? He cannot be held accountable for any of those naval catastrophes which have annihilated almost a whole fleet. Still, he came with his full staff in naval uniform, and those officers whom he had named to attend on the King of Denmark. Clemenceau's official career tells on him. He manages to keep a stiff lip, and to play his part handsomely. Fallières and he seem to pull on well together. Excellent Winter, a counterpoise to the impressionable nerves of C., accompanied him as official private secretary and *homme de confiance*. This background and yet important personage is short, stout, watchful, judicious, ripe, mellow, methodic, looks a good fellow, and has a firmly closed mouth and smiling eyes. He learned how to deal with cranks and suchlike in the two or three years he spent at Charenton as its Director."

"Uneasiness in train about possible reception of ministers at Cherbourg. Caillaux has been the cause of a spontaneous union of Socialists, Liberals, Radicals, and, indeed, all on whom his scheme threatens to press. The town council hostile. Dockers, sailors, officials, small and great shopkeepers, and the market fishwomen go in with the brandy slingers against the Government. Alcoholism is in the ascendant. Some wrangling went on about me on this evil. Every one agreed that tippling and universal suffrage are like behemoth high-speed motors driven by drunken chauffeurs—a thing of more common occurrence than is generally supposed."

"Cherbourg. Arrival after dark, windy, rainy night. Weather wet, gloomy, and after a night spent in the train enough to chill the marrow in one's bones. The civil and military servants drenched, and flags clinging to their staffs dripping and refusing to fly. The rain water which had poured into the boots of an old general ran over at the top. Sub-prefect about as dignified as a drenched cock. No go anywhere. Fallières with Clemenceau close behind him tried to cheer the ducked notables who came to receive him. Heard the Mayor of Cherbourg say, 'I consider you, M. le Président, the flag that covers the merchandise.' 'Thanks greatly for your courtesy towards me personally. But I claim for the merchandise the fullest confidence. In any case, let us agree to a *trève de l'hospitalité* in honour of our very friendly visitors.' 'Yes, yes, I subscribe with all my heart to this truce in the name of this town.'"

"The etiquette of a visit to the general hospital observed as usual only in a tearing hurry. We had shelter there from a fearful downpour. Sisters of charity serve as of old in this hospital. The aged Superior took M. Fallières round. He chatted with her, remaining always simple and natural, saying the right thing in neatly-pointed terms, and keeping down his inclination to risk a joke. He was in the house of suffering and sorrow. The patients whom he decorated with military medals were the better for this honour. It was as the touch of the king in former days for evil."

"Sea like glass, or, rather, as if oiled. Thick grey mist in the offing. A naval officer foresaw that the *Victoria and Albert* must feel its way and go at a slow pace. It might be an hour late. Six torpedo-boats had gone out to escort the Royal yacht. It was to be hoped that in this time of *guignons* of naval bad luck no mishap would occur to them. The fleet at first invisible in the roads. While awaiting the King and Queen President and Thomson, with the Ministers and their secretary, went on board the steam launch *Elan* to beat about the harbour, and the rest of us on the *Ibis*. Rain still fell. In an hour's time the *Victoria and Albert* signalled. The President descended to a more elegant craft, and, advancing towards the very imposing Royal yacht, a tall, massive vessel, went on board. Just as the review began there appeared at the point where the rain and fog had lifted a line of things that might have been tumbling dolphins of a peculiarly big breed. They were the torpedo-boats which had missed the *Victoria and Albert* and were hurrying back in the hottest haste in single file, and in a long trail of white swollen water in a sea that might have been of Indian ink. The state of the weather gave the review the air of a phantom one.

"It soon came to an end, and the *Ibis* brought us close to the place where the President and his guests should land. He gave his arm to the Queen, who seemed to walk with difficulty. She leant heavily on her closed umbrella. They descended the gangway slowly. She made an effort to

stand erect, and succeeded. Her bearing thought fine—very independent, honest, and natural. In Norway or Sweden, where very tall women outnumber the others, she would not appear of extraordinary height. Her stature dwarfed that of M. Fallières. She had on a light grey cloth dress, a fur stole, and a black hat or bonnet with a tuft of white feathers. Frederick VIII. reminded all the official people of his brother, the King of Greece, but is of a more compact build, has a shorter neck, and apparently more *coup d'œil* and decision. He looks a man who is swayed, but not liable to be cowed, by a sense of his responsibilities, a man to be trusted as to word and relied on as to character. In spite of sixty-four years and the four meals a day which are obligatory in Denmark—the *morgendrik*, *frokost*, *middag*, and *aftensmad*—he keeps a clean-built and almost slender figure. The face is the colour of a Red Indian's from sea air and exposure to all weathers.

"He walked behind the President and beside M. Clemenceau. Both talked and laughed until they reached the terminus hall, where déjeuner for 120 had been laid out. The decorator and gardeners had given it a festal, and even elegant, aspect. One saw the Danish flag everywhere. It is the Geneva red cross flag reversed, as it might be on damask. The Cross of Geneva is red on a white ground, that of Denmark white on a red ground. Nobody attempted to appear in elegant raiment. Hats remained on heads at some distance from the central places. The awful draughts justified this scant ceremony. M. Fallières found, as he since said, the Queen companionable and full of ideas."

A PEER AMONG THE PRIVILEGED.

I'VE always felt rather sorry for baronets. It must be no end rough on a man to feel that he's neither fish nor fowl nor good red herring, neither peer nor commoner, looked down on by the one and not looked up to by the other. The public dearly loves a lord, as the Government is going to find out pretty soon; but who ever had even a sneaking affection for a baronet? Wherever he goes it is always the same, even in the City. We used to have a butler down at Bareacres—I think it was the butler, though now I come to think of it, it may have been the local curate—who had a brother who was a baronet, and I remember hearing how dreadfully hard it was for him to make an honest living in the City. His ambition was to be a company director, but he never could get a job with any but the most wild-cat sort of concern. The reason was that his title was not high enough for an ornamental directorship, while the fact that he had one at all, however humble, put him out of court as a man who knew anything about the working end of the business. He tried to get a private secretaryship, after that, but it was just the same story. All the rich shopkeepers and Labour members and Yankee millionaires and things wanted a peer or else a smart commoner. It wasn't until he dropped the "Bart." part of his name that he could get any start at all, and now I believe he has got about forty drapers' shops all over London, and is living somewhere at Surbiton under the name of plain Mr. Smith. Why, take another case nearer home. Do you think if I had only been a baronet when I came along to you I should be writing these articles for you now? Of course not, any more than if I had been a dustman. It was my rank that attracted you, just as it does any other commoner—thank goodness.

I was reading about a meeting held by the baronets last week, in a back-street somewhere in Westminster, in order to protect their privileges, and I couldn't help feeling that it was time they did something. I can't say I've ever been able to find out exactly what their privileges are, except having a red hand on their coat of arms, but it seems they have got some, and very naturally they don't want to lose them. I have been looking into the question, and I found that dear Jessie used to know a baronet when she was on the stage before we were married. He was what they called a "gentleman supe"—that is to say, he was just like any other super, only he was paid a pound a week, wrapped up in a piece of tissue paper, instead of so much a night. He was rather a nice boy in those days, Jessie tells me, and she advised him to give up the stage, where he would never have been any good, and go to America to find a rich wife. I am sorry to say it wasn't a success, because they won't look at anything under a German baron over there now; but at least he got an American accent, and when he came back again he was able to open a bucket-shop on the strength of it and did pretty well. We asked him to dinner a night or two since, because I wanted to pump him about the grievances of the baronetage, and, as far as I could make out, the thing they are really savage about is that they aren't knights, but everybody thinks they are. According to him it is the most frightful thing to be a knight, or even to be related to one—much worse than a convict—because it always means that you have once been a small grocer in a provincial town, and can't pronounce your h's, and are socially impossible—which a convict isn't necessarily. It made one realise what a queer place the world is to hear him talk like this. Here was a man, quite a sensible sort of man in some things, too—he gave me an excellent tip about Canpacs before he left—who looked down upon knighthood, just as I have always been accustomed to look down on the baronetcy. I shouldn't be surprised if an emperor, or an editor, and people like that, look down on an earldom in much the same way, if we only knew. What?

Well, any way, I could only find two things that the baronets are really sore about—the danger of being mistaken for knights, and the fact that half the people who are in the baronetage aren't baronets at all. Jessie and I have been discussing it, and it seems to us that we have found a way out of the difficulty for them, and if you like to suggest it, as being your own idea, you are quite welcome to it. It is quite simple, too, only that they should give up using the prefix "Sir" altogether, and not have anything—not even "Mr."—in front of their names, or behind them either. It would quite distinguish them from everybody else, because even a butcher's assistant expects to be called "Mr.," and to have his letters addressed to him as "Esquire," nowadays. And it would make them seem no end distinguished, because it is only the very greatest men that are ever spoken of by their surnames alone, and that not until they are dead, as a rule. When you talk about "Gladstone," or "Wellington," or "Shakespeare," it means that whoever it is has made a pretty big name for himself; and so in the same way it would sound ever so much more dignified to be called just plain "Sweedlepipes," instead of "Sir Thomas Sweedlepipes, Bart.," and there wouldn't be any danger of being mistaken for a provincial mayor either, because a man who has only just got the right of being spoken to by one of his customers as "Sir Robert" isn't going to lose it in a hurry, while if your family have been used to it ever since your great-great-grandfather first bought the title for £1,000 from James I., the novelty has pretty well worn off by this time.

Then, again, it would quite do away with any danger of bogus baronetcies, because the only reason that any man would ever call himself a baronet if he wasn't one would be on the chance of getting a rich middle-class or American girl to marry him; and if she knew that marrying him wouldn't give her the right to being called "my lady" by the footmen, that sort of temptation would be done away with at once. If they don't do something of the sort, or on the lines I've suggested, the poor wretches of baronets are going to find themselves in a cleft stick before long. Since the cheap newspapers came into fashion every one is levelling up, or being levelled up, all the time; and it's only the baronet

who is bound where he is and can't get up any higher. It is not so very long since that a "gentleman" or a "lady" meant a certain definite rank, with millions of common people below them. By this time every one is either a lady or a gentleman, down to the dirty old woman who is run in at a police-court for getting drunk. That means that the people who used to be the "gentry" will sooner or later have to take a step upwards themselves. I only wonder they haven't all done it already. Some of them have. There is a society of some sort—political, I think—that is called the Primrose League, and I am told that all its members—who are chosen from the middle classes—call themselves knights and dames already. Then a provincial mayor, or a successful ironmonger, won't be satisfied with a plain knighthood, and he will have to be made a baronet, as he sometimes is now. So before a couple of centuries are gone by the whole population will be baronets—except the peers, of course, because any one will tell you that the British public will never allow the rights of the peerage to be infringed; they would as soon think of overthrowing the Throne itself. By that time the farthing newspaper reporters will be writing that "the honourable baronet in the dock was understood to say that he had been to a wedding and had partaken of one glass of four-'arf, which overcame him, as he was subject to attacks of giddiness," and I should like to know where the privileges of the baronetcy will be then. While, if they have the sense to take my advice—it is really Jessie's idea, to begin with, and she never makes mistakes—and drop every kind of title, even Christian names, they will get more and more distinguished from the common mob every year. And, of course, if they hadn't got any privileges, no one would ever want to infringe upon them.

I ought to add that Jessie is rather afraid that by the time the whole nation has levelled itself up to all being baronets, they may not want to stop there, but keep going on up the ladder until they are all dukes and duchesses—or, for that matter, all kings and queens. I don't think this is very likely myself, and if it should happen it will only be another kind of Socialism, and a very much better one than the sort that wants to level us all down to being one vast community of day-labourers. What? I could write a good deal more about the baronetcy and its privileges, because I always feel rather sorry for the poor devils, but I think I have said about as much as you and your readers will stand. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THIS is the Age, dear Lady Betty, of the Genius of Wealth; the following conversation is an illustration of that:—

HE: "Do you like Shakespeare?"
SHE: "How much has he?"

* * * * *

There is the New Charity. The Patrons and Patronesses of a recent charitable entertainment represented a capital sum of one hundred millions between them; the performance produced six hundred pounds. One three-hundredth of a farthing in the pound!

* * * * *

The affluent Imperialist mutters at Folkestone, with William Pitt: "Oh, my country! how I love my country!" he then takes a ticket for—Paris.

* * * * *

Toryism is always in a state of decomposition; Radicalism, in a state of development.

. . . . .

The Tories govern by expedients; they are governed by exigencies.

. . . . .

The Extremists of to-day are the Moderates of to-morrow, and the Moderates of to-morrow the Tories of the day after.

. . . . .

Politics in England was a game which was played by the upper class with the assistance of the masses; it is now played by the masses with the assistance of the upper class.

. . . . .

The West End does not live in a world; it lives in a village.

* * * * *

"The Use and Abuse of the Peers" is the title of the following letter that has been addressed to the present writer:—

"Marlborough Club.

"SIR,—It is proposed to discredit the Peers; a suicidal project. Who marry American heiresses, and bring the money of the latter into the country? The Peers. Who support the stage, and give presents and suppers to the actresses? The Peers. Who support the moneylenders? The Peers. Who support the Divorce Court, and provide sensational material for the public to read? The Peers. Who supply honourable names for the company-promoters, to enable the latter to float their undertakings? The Peers. Who provide work for hundreds of debt-collecting solicitors and their clerks? The Peers. Who attract the suburban and provincial members of the middle-class to bazaars and charitable entertainments? The Peers and Peeresses. The prosperity of the country mainly depends upon our retaining undiminished the respect which is accorded to us."

* * * * *

The English hate the foreigner, but they believe in him; which they do not in each other. There are hordes of spurious foreign Marquises and millionaires in the country; thousands of foreign clerks and servants are employed here, it being supposed that they are more intelligent, industrious, and faithful than our fellow-countrymen; the tendency is to see merit in the work of a foreign artist; a foreign play is a success which would be denounced were it literally translated into our language; the books written by foreign authors are read with avidity, though no British author is permitted even to hint at the subjects the former handle; and depravity itself is welcomed in the foreigner.

. . . . .

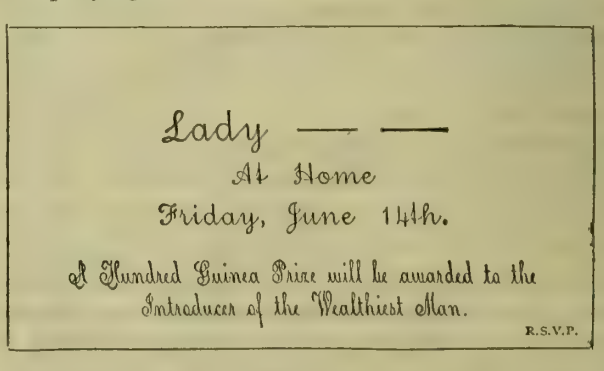
The composite John Bull of the moment is a curiosity; eating French dishes that his predecessors despised; drinking French wines they ridiculed; smoking cigarettes they abominated; reading French novels they regarded with horror; and attending French plays they avoided as vicious. There never was a race so susceptible to foreign influence as the English, when the influence reaches it.

* * * * *

The following letter directs attention to a new development:—

"316, Curzon-street, Mayfair.

"SIR,—There is now the 'Prize Party!' It recently caused me the utmost astonishment to receive the accompanying card:—



"It appears that invitations were only issued to women, and each of the latter was required to bring one millionaire, the hundred guineas were for the one who brought the richest! This was an ingenious plan of the host and hostess to obtain the acquaintance at a stroke of all the millionaires in London!"

Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

"PRETTY POLLY: The History of Her Career on the Turf," by Joscelyne Lechmere, which has just been published by John Lane (the Bodley Head), is a very handsome book, adorned with twenty-three beautiful illustrations, and containing some curious and interesting information. Pretty Polly, by Gallinule out of Admiration, by Saraband, was bred by Major Loder in 1901. She made her début at Sandown Park on June 27, 1903, when she won the British Dominion Two-year-old race by ten lengths, having started at the generous price of 6 to 1 in a field of ten. John o' Gaunt was favourite at 2 to 1, and Jack Hawthorn and Lanfine were both in much better demand than Pretty Polly. Her second race was the National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000 at Sandown Park three weeks later, when there was a field of eleven, and she won by two lengths. Pretty Polly's price was 2 to 1, and Flying Star started nearly as good a favourite, for it was thought impossible that Major Loder's filly could give him 16 lb. The bookmakers were also liberal at Doncaster, as 11 to 10 was betted against her for the Champagne Stakes, although she really had only St. Amant to beat. She again easily defeated Mr. L. de Rothschild's colt in the Middle Park Plate, when odds of 2 to 1 were betted on her. As a two-year-old Pretty Polly won nine races. In 1904 she won seven races, including the One Thousand, Oaks, Coronation Stakes, and St. Leger, and long odds were always betted on her. Pretty Polly's first defeat was in the Prix du Conseil Municipal at Longchamps in October, when she was easily beaten by Presto II. The mare had no doubt been upset by a rough passage from Folkestone to Boulogne, and by a long delay on the Chemin de Fer du Nord; the ground, moreover, was very heavy. As a four-year-old Pretty Polly won the Coronation Cup at Epsom easily from Zinfandel and Caius, and then she went amiss, and was not again seen out before the Newmarket Second October Meeting. The writer of this book considers that Pretty Polly would certainly have won the Ascot Cup of 1905 if she had started. The vital fact is overlooked that at Epsom she defeated Zinfandel over an easy mile and a half, whereas at Ascot she would have been running over a severe two miles and a half, and the extra distance would have been greatly in favour of Lord Howard de Walden's horse, as the Coronation Cup course was not far enough for him. Pretty Polly came out all right again in October, when she cantered away from Hackler's Pride in the Champion Stakes, and this was one of her very best performances. During the Houghton week she won the Jockey Club Cup easily from Bachelor's Button, running at weight-for-age. As a five-year-old Pretty Polly began by winning the March Stakes at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, odds of 30 to 1 being betted on her. A month later she won the Coronation Cup in a canter, having Achilles and St. Amant behind her. Then her Turf career closed with what the writer defines as "The Tragedy of Ascot," when Bachelor's Button defeated her very easily for the Gold Cup, Cicero being beaten a long way. The result was in accordance with my prediction. The writer of this book suffers acutely from the malady common among biographers, and defined by Macaulay as the Lues Boswellian. "To say that Pretty Polly failed to stay is absurd." Of course she failed to stay, and many good judges had always expected that when her stamina came to be thoroughly tested she would collapse. Pretty Polly's defeat was a sore blow to her *quand même* admirers, and, of course, one feels a sympathy with their honest sorrow. It is really going too far, though, for the writer to assert that "no one cared about the money; one would have gladly given the money twice over rather than have seen her defeated." This is all vastly fine, and a very few people no doubt were truly grieved from sentimental reasons, but as to the great majority of a racecourse crowd, they feel about as much sentiment under such circumstances as a hog devouring acorns would feel interest in the age or beauty of the oak from which they fell, and under whose shade he was munching and cramming himself. The writer maintains that no mare, not even Sceptre, could have made Pretty Polly gallop, and not many horses either. This is delirious cackle, for most people whose opinions are worth a farthing would certainly not rank Sceptre one ounce below Pretty Polly, and many would estimate the Eaton mare to be the better of the pair. Pretty Polly won all the races in which she was successful without any great effort, but she never had much to beat. Zinfandel was not running over his best distance when Major Loder's mare defeated him at Epsom. Pretty Polly's easy victory over Hackler's Pride was, as I have said, really her best performance. The ardent admiration of the writer for the mare is praiseworthy, but it is infantile ingenuousness to refer to her retirement as having left "a void in the life of the Turf which is never likely to be adequately filled." Horses are exalted to the highest places in the equine temple of fame with frantic rapidity, and are dethroned with at least equal facility. There is scarcely a season but one hears a chorus of laudatory braying about some animal as being one of the best racers ever seen, and so on and so forth. Every year we see how lavishly applause may be bestowed in one season, and how profound the silence into which it may die away in the next. The writer appears to be of the opinion that Zinfandel and Pretty Polly were the best animals which ever crossed the Channel to run in France, a view which is not likely to be accepted without protest by those who remember that the list of such animals includes Blair Athol, Cremorne, and Doncaster.

The writer gives some items of information—presumably obtained from the owner and trainer of Pretty Polly—which are really important and of great and permanent interest. In the first place, we are told that the story, which has repeatedly appeared in print with circumstantial details, of a trial between Pretty Polly and Spearmint before last year's Derby is "altogether mythical," and it is added that "the two had never been tried." It is satisafctory to have a conclusive contradiction of this story. Quite as interesting is the writer's announcement that Spearmint was really "no better than the best of a moderate lot." This is the view which I have always taken of Major Loder's horse, and, after all the gasconading gibberish which was written last summer about Spearmint, is is most satisfactory to arrive at last at the truth, for one is justified in assuming that the statements in this book have been inspired by the stable authorities. It is an interesting record of the Turf career of a racer of very high class, the heroine having been also a great popular favourite. The book is admirably got up in every respect.

The King's impending sale of racehorses and brood mares has called attention to the ignominious failure of the Sandringham stud during the last seven years, which has been due in a great measure to the reckless in-breeding which has become so fashionable of late. The Royal yearlings have always been good-looking and promising, and if they had been sold by auction they would certainly have realised very high prices; but they have proved hopeless failures for racing, and this disappointing result was the more exasperating inasmuch as most of them have always been very heavily engaged. The late Lord Falmouth, who was a thoroughly practical man, was of the opinion that the owner of a breeding stud ought not to keep a sire of his own, as he is nearly always tempted to send his mares to his own horse, instead of taking a wide range. This has been the error at Sandringham, and the same blunder has been committed in the studs of the Duke of Portland and the Duke of Westminster. Season after season Lily Agnes was sent to Doncaster after she had produced Ormonde, and Vampire, dam of Flying Fox, went to Orme several years in succession. Both mares proved utter failures as the result of this policy. The dam of Flying Fox was a daughter of Galopin, and his sire was out of a Galopin mare. The Sandringham mares have been sent too much and too often to Per-

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simmon. Great things were expected of Laodamia as a brood mare. She was sent in her first season at Sandringham to Persimmon, and went back several times to the same sire although the cross proved a failure from the first. When it was tardily decided to try a new sire for this mare, it might have been supposed that a new strain of blood would have been fixed upon, but the only change was that Laodamia was sent to St. Simon, sire of Persimmon, which was practically no change whatever. Lord Falmouth chose the sires for his mares from the whole list, and the crosses were changed every season, but he would never have anything to do with a bad-tempered horse. Lord Rosebery has frequently acted on the same sound principles, and, instead of restricting himself to his own horses, his best mares have been sent away, and with satisfactory results. Ladas is a son of Hampton, Sir Visto was sired by Barcaldine, Velasquez by Donovan, and Cicero by Cyllene. A non-sporting paper expresses the opinion that the King must have been largely out of pocket by the failures of his racehorses during the last five seasons. This is a mistake, for the profits from the breeding stud have paid for the loss over the racehorses. The fees of Persimmon and Florizel II. must have amounted to upwards of £20,000 a year, and £30,000 was the price obtained for Diamond Jubilee, the best sold horse which was ever exported from England. If there is a complete change in the system of management at Sandringham the stud may again enjoy the prosperity of ten years ago. The home sires ought no longer to be used for the mares, which should be sent away to every suitable cross. Laodamia's foal this season is a filly by St. Simon, this being the third year in succession that she has been sent to the Duke of Portland's horse. Amphora has a filly by Flying Fox, Vane (own sister to Flying Fox) has a filly by Ayrshire; Ecila has a colt by Orme.

The egregious Racehorse Owners' Association has not been wound up, but many of the most influential members have retired, and the society is in a grievously languishing condition, and might very well cease to exist at once, without any further jargoning and wrangling. The moon will fall before either free lodging and stabling are provided at race meetings, or railway companies carry racehorses at nominal charges, and such demands are really exceedingly impudent, all things considered. The fact is that there is a general idea that the Association has been engineered by owners who are aggrieved at not having been themselves admitted to the Jockey Club, and who desired to take the wind out of the sails of the Newmarket tribunal. After a turbid existence of two years the Association has achieved absolutely nothing whatever in any shape or form, although there has been more than enough fuss and noise in connection with its doings.

I hear that all hope of bringing Spearmint to the post for another race has been abandoned. It was stated in TRUTH in January last that it was in the greatest degree unlikely that Spearmint would get through another preparation. He was then entered for a number of races just on the off-chance, and it was decided to leave him in for certain rich stakes, the final forfeits for which were declared on January 1. It is highly probable that we have also seen the last of Llangibby.

A ridiculous noise was raised over Polymelus last autumn, and this horse was eulogised by some hysterical cackle-ganders as a racer of superlative merit. There really, however, was nothing in his handicap successes which justified these rhapsodies. The withdrawal of Polymelus from the Ascot Cup need not be regretted, for Mr. Joel's horse has no pretensions to stay the course. I do not believe that Polymelus can really stay beyond a mile and a quarter, and as a three-year-old he was regarded as distinctly lacking in stamina by those who knew most about him. It is a pity that the acceptance for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £6,000 should consist of either abject rubbish or good performers which are broken down. Polymelus (5 yrs., 9 st. 7 lb.) will apparently be seriously opposed only by Black Arrow (4 yrs., 8 st. 7 lb.), and if Mr. Hall Walker's horse is well and in form he must have an excellent chance of winning this valuable race. The Suffolk Stakes course is a severe mile and a half, but this will be against both these horses, and Black Arrow has superior speed. What a race this would have been if Cicero, Flair, and Spearmint had been still in racing condition!

The Eclipse Stakes is also likely to prove a direful failure, the only probable starters of any note being Sancy, Bezonian, Dusty Miller, Hillsprite, and Olympian. I expect that Sancy will win this race, and, by the way, Mr. Bass's horse will probably carry off the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot to-morrow.

The New Stakes, which will be one of the most interesting races of this week, has 137 entries, and the race will be worth £2,370. The New Stakes is one of the richest two-year-old races of the season, and is now better worth winning than the Middle Park Plate, which was worth only £2,115 to the winner last year. The King is the largest subscriber to the New Stakes with six entries, but it is to be feared that his Majesty's colours are not at all likely to be dangerous. Some of the highest-bred two-year-olds in training are engaged in this race, notably the Duke of Westminster's Vamose, own brother to Flying Fox, who made his début on the Turf in this race nine years ago; Mr. W. Hall Walker's Royal Realm, own brother to Colonia, who herself won the New Stakes two years ago; Lord Rosebery's Lauderdale, own brother to Lavengro; Baron M. de Rothschild's Le Sage, half-brother, by Ayrshire, to Sagamore; Major Loder's own sister to Pretty Polly; Lord Derby's Bridge of Sighs, half-brother, by Isinglass, to Bridge of Canny; and Sir Daniel Cooper's Lesbia, own sister to Flair.

Ob has met with an accident which will prevent his being trained again, so he is to be relegated to the stud. Ob, by Bocage out of Glare, by Minting, was purchased by M. Ephrussi at Deauville in 1901 as a yearling for 6,000 fr. He has proved a most remunerative investment, having twice won the Lincolnshire Handicap (with £20,000 in bets for his owner), besides several valuable stakes in France. He was indebted for his hollow victory at Lincoln last March to the fact that he was the only really fit horse in the field. It was superior condition that won him the race. He had been trained in the forest rides at Compiegne, where the "going" is always excellent.

There are only thirty-two entries for the Goodwood Plate of £1,000. This is the handicap which replaced the Goodwood Stakes, and it seems to me that there might as well be a return to the old name. A very moderate lot of horses have been engaged in this race, the best of them being Lord Derby's Gourd, Major Loder's Hammerkop, Mr. Buchanan's Golden Measure and Noctuiform, Mr. Singer's Torpoint, and Sir E. Vincent's Charles Edward. The weights are to be published on July 18.

There is severe depression in the entry market, both the Liverpool Cup of £1,500 and the Newbury Cup of £1,250 having failed to fill. The failure of these two handicaps is most extraordinary, and exceedingly unsatisfactory. The minor forfeit in each race is only £3, and but thirty entries were required. A few years ago there would have been no trouble whatever in obtaining more than double this very moderate number.

There was abundance of racing last week, but the only events of general interest were the two weight-for-age stakes at Hurst Park. The two-year-old race on Friday was regarded as a certainty for Quelpart or Pom, and Mr. de Rothschild's colt would most assuredly have won easily but for his being considerably interfered with, and at the start he was nearly knocked down by Pom, who himself ran very badly. The winner was Dark Ronald, against whom literally any odds were offered, and he was not backed for a penny. His victory was a flagrant fluke, and the defeat of Quelpart under such circumstances was in the greatest degree vexatious.

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Wool Winder won the three-year-old race on Saturday in a canter from Bilton Park, Larig being unplaced, although he had 12 lb. the best of the weights. Colonel Baird's colt is evidently in good form, and he ought to win his engagements at Ascot—the O. M. Biennial to-morrow, and the Triennial on Friday.

Next week there will be racing at Newcastle, Sandown Park, Gatwick, Folkestone, and Birmingham. It will be interesting to see how Polar Star gets on in the North Derby of £1,500, in which race a very poor lot of animals are engaged, Olympian and Linacre being the best of them. Pom is in the Seaton Delaval Plate of £1,200, but he appeared to be out of form at Hurst Park, and Vega might win this race. The Ascot running will probably indicate the winners at Sandown Park.

"MENDACITY" AND THE C.T.C.

Now that the postal vote of the Cyclists' Touring Club has confirmed the resolution of the Birmingham meeting, it looks as though attempts are to be made to discredit the committee of inquiry. Mr. G. W. Burke is the representative councillor of the grouped counties of Ireland in the C.T.C. In the interests of truth, as he says, he writes to me, and encloses the *C.T.C. Gazette* containing the speech delivered at Birmingham by the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge and a letter from himself to that journal. He concludes his letter to me by saying: "I do not wish to add one word to either the speech or the exposure of its transparent mendacity. I leave that to you." The charge made against the gentleman described by Mr. Burke as the leader of the Reform party seemed to me so serious that I at once communicated with Mr. Coleridge, who has placed the correspondence between himself and Mr. Burke at my disposal. Briefly, Mr. Coleridge, in his speech, referred to some recommendations that a previous committee had made of which he was a member. Mr. Burke, in commenting on that recommendation in a previous speech, had said: "In that very letter they saw there a recommendation to appoint three paid secretaries at a salary of £400 a year each." Mr. Coleridge quoted those words, and added: "Now, where did Mr. Burke get that except out of his own imagination? It was a piece of slatternly inaccuracy." Mr. Coleridge further went on to say that the proposed members of the Reform committee were not pledged to any such scheme. They were pledged to inquiry. In his lengthy letter to the *Gazette* Mr. Burke refers to the accusation of slatternly inaccuracy, and says that Mr. Coleridge has written courteously apologising for his remarks at Birmingham, and admitting that the reform party had undoubtedly expressed themselves in favour of the recommendations of the club membership committee. Mr. Burke adds: "*I have asked for permission to publish this letter, but have been refused the same!*" These words are italicised in the *Gazette*, and Mr. Burke then proceeds to attack the capacity of men who make such a mistake to conduct an inquiry.

The behaviour of a man who could give the substance of a letter when he attached so much importance to its writer's refusal to allow it to be published, coupled with a virulent attack in the *Gazette* and a request to myself to expose "transparent mendacity," naturally put me on inquiry. Mr. Coleridge did courteously apologise, and express regret for the language he had used and the mistake he had made. He says: "We had undoubtedly expressed ourselves in favour of the recommendation of the club membership committee." That is all that Mr. Burke reveals in his summary. He omits the pith of the letter, which continues: "But I wished to repudiate the suggestion that it was our scheme, and that we were pledged to that scheme. We are pledged to no scheme at all till we have inquired." For a councillor who seeks to discredit a fellow member, and who writes and accuses him of transparent mendacity, to exclude these words does not seem to me to be an act of transparent honesty. In his reply to Mr. Coleridge's letter, Mr. Burke fairly says that the letter is what he would have expected, and that he never considered the matter as anything else but a mistake made in the eagerness to score a point which would be acknowledged the moment it was looked into. Such a reply was the letter of a gentleman, and yet the man who wrote it now seeks to make party capital out of it in the *Gazette*, to attack and to discredit the Committee of Inquiry and to induce me to expose Mr. Coleridge as one guilty of transparent mendacity. In the face of Mr. Burke's own letter, the charges fall to the ground, and it is simply scandalous that one who in the same correspondence thinks that the agitation has got out of hand and that the club will be wrecked, should take up the position he has, and threaten as he does to give further instances of "the slatternly inaccuracies" of Mr. Coleridge and his party.

The correspondence continued between the parties, and Mr. Coleridge replied to the printed statement entitled: "Forthcoming postal vote; statement by the council." It will be remembered that the council decreed that Mr. Coleridge should print a statement for the Reform party, and the council a statement of its case. The council's statement was signed by Mr. Burke and two other gentlemen. Both were printed and circulated, but the members were not told, as was the case, that the council's statement was never, in fact, adopted by the council. This was scarcely transparently honest. Mr. Coleridge goes into this statement in his letter, and points out in detail to Mr. Burke the suppressions and misstatements he alleges that document contains. Mr. Coleridge concludes by saying that he does not comment on the epithets and personalities the statement contains, as he does not consider Mr. Burke can be responsible for them, and that he confines himself to facts to show the mass of misrepresentations to which Mr. Burke has unwittingly lent his name, no doubt because he has not been able to study the facts carefully. Mr. Burke requests leave to publish Mr. Coleridge's letter of apology, and the latter replies that it was a private letter, and declines leave unless the letter containing Mr. Coleridge's criticisms of the statement is published as well.

It will be observed that Mr. Burke carefully refrains from referring to this condition. He deliberately publishes so much of a private letter as suits his purpose. He emphasises the refusal to publish, which was, in fact, a conditional permission. He then has the effrontery to write to me and suggest that I should charge Mr. Coleridge with transparent mendacity. That letter to me and that attack in the *Gazette* I consider to be as mean as they are malignant. I am utterly at a loss to understand how the editor of the *Gazette* can have permitted a correspondent to publish the substance of a letter when so much emphasis is laid on the fact that permission to publish it has been refused. The editor clearly had the letter before him, as he inserts an editorial note in Mr. Coleridge's speech referring to it. Mr. Coleridge has written a letter of apology to the *Gazette*.

I trust I have shown up this nice little plot to discredit the Reform party. The Editor of the *Gazette* obviously prefers to publish letters that embitter controversy rather than correspondence such as the letter of Mr. Manor, that I dealt with last week, which reveals the weakness of the existing constitution of the club. The club is doomed to extinction if this editorial policy is continued. There is one more matter to which I wish to refer and then I have done, and that is that the club advertises itself as containing 40,000 members. This means that the *Gazette* has a monthly circulation of that extent. Intending advertisers will do well to inquire into the figures. They are entirely at variance with what Mr. Kendall Burnett's affidavit made out last year, and they are quite inconsistent with Mr. Shipton's jeremiad in the Irish cycling paper. I see that *Cycling*, June 11, gives the figures at the end of May as being 24,381, and says that on the headed notepaper of the advertising agent's 40,000 is given as the circulation of the journal. If

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these figures are correct, and I have no doubt that the advertising agent acts in good faith on what the club officials state, then people other than club members are getting the paper. I note that communications relating to the advertisement department should be addressed to the assistant secretary. This is a *Gazette* notice. As this gentleman, Mr. Ewart, is brother of Mr. Shipton, the secretary, inquirers will have every opportunity of getting at the facts. In this connection I notice that *Cycling* has increased in circulation from just under 49,000 on April 10 to just under 54,000 on June 5. Mr. Kendall Burnett will no doubt be surprised to hear that in spite of its increased circulation the advertisements are not a loss to the paper. Strangely enough the proprietors regard this fact as a sign of success.

There has been so much rain and cold that I may be forgiven for referring to football. Mr. Clegg's return to the Football Association has meant the suppression of the amateur. Councillors make stump orations at dinners revealing all the pains and penalties that will ensue if the amateurs do not cave in. I regret the split. But if I were an amateur I would not stand being bullied in this way. If there is an atom of sport in amateurs, footballers of all sorts and conditions will band themselves together against the bullying braggarts of the Football Association.

The Southern League is a pure misnomer now that Bradford has been included. Unless a proper policy of promotion is adopted, it will soon be a third division of the League, and the lowest at that.

The Ladies' Lawn Tennis Championship should be exciting. Things that are equal to the same thing are equal to one another. Ladies who have beaten each other are neither greater nor less than each other, and this is the position of Mrs. Sterry, Mrs. Lambert Chambers, and Miss Sutton.

Cricket matches have been mostly drawn, and Oxford say they are going to beat Cambridge. It is no use getting a team out for twelve runs, as Dennett did Northampton for Gloucester, if it rains afterwards.

With reference to Cambridge rowing, I have received a long letter from Mr. Fairbairn, deprecating any notion of a "Fairbairn style," which I will deal with next week.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

THE future of the Tourist Trophy race continues to be the theme of numerous suggestions and speculations. Every one has his own pet scheme for revising the rules and attracting greater support, and many interesting suggestions have been made, including one by the Scottish motoring paper, the *Motor World*, to the effect that in future years the Scottish reliability trials and the Tourist Trophy races should be run as combined events. In this way, it is argued, a splendid test would be ensured. The Scottish trial would afford a guarantee of reliability, while the Isle of Man race would supply evidence as to speed, and the car which came through both with honours would have proved its claims at all points. At the same time, the arrangement would simplify automatically the conditions of both contests, since all cars hoping to succeed in each would necessarily have to qualify both from the speed and the touring point of view; a car built purely for speed or purely for reliability would be equally useless. The suggestion is ingenious, and there is not a little to be said for it, though I am afraid it is hardly likely to be adopted.

Another suggestion is that of Mr. Claud Johnson, who, while deprecating the abolition of the fuel limit principle, thinks that its application should be modified in the light of recent experience. As he points out, it is beyond dispute that a car which has averaged thirty-five miles an hour and runs out of fuel within a couple of miles of the winning-post, has done a far better performance than a car which arrives at the winning-post having made an average of only twenty-five miles an hour, and the problem is to devise some method by which proper value should be given to speed and by which a car failing to do decently in this respect would be disqualified. He suggests, therefore, the adoption of the principle of a minimum speed, to be fixed by the performance of cars during the earlier laps of the course, and that the car which, while maintaining that average, covers the greatest distance, should be the winner. This, again, is not at all a bad idea, though I doubt if any of the great foreign firms whose co-operation Mr. Johnson desiderates would be attracted by a race in far-away Manxland on these lines.

Meanwhile, with the opening of the Brooklands motor track, which was inaugurated by a public lunch on Monday, it is possible that the desirability of abandoning motor racing of any sort on the public roads will be more and more recognised, and that the Tourist Trophy problem may, therefore, solve itself in a very simple manner. Races of this sort are always difficult to arrange; they involve great risks to life and limb, to say nothing of the necessity of passing special Acts of Parliament, and generally it is doubtful if they are not more bother than they are worth. At Weybridge, on the other hand, there is now in being what has never existed before—to wit, a track perfectly adapted in every respect to the requirements of motor racing, and that fact may well sound the knell of racing on the public roads. In time, no doubt, other tracks of the same sort will be constructed, and then the justification for employing public roads for the purpose, either at home or abroad, will be still further diminished. After all, though horses use the roads in the ordinary way, they do not race on them, but on courses specially constructed for the purpose, and it will be the same probably with motor-cars in due season. The roads have been used hitherto because no other course has been available. It may be said, no doubt, that track racing can never afford so severe a test as road racing, but this is only true in a limited sense. On track, as on road, the conditions are the same for all, and the best car will win in either event. There should be no particular difficulty either in treating a track so as to reproduce the worst road conditions if so desired.

Motorists buying cars through agents should be careful to make sure of the integrity of the firm so dealt with. This is the moral of the letter of a correspondent who was recently badly bitten by neglecting this precaution. He ordered a car of a certain make through its advertised London agents, paid the deposits, and eventually the full amount; and then experienced the utmost difficulty in obtaining delivery of the car itself—being advised eventually by his solicitors to accept one minus tyres and other important details on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread. The point of interest to the public is to know where the responsibility of the principal ends and that of the agent begins. If a firm allows another to advertise itself as its accredited agents (as happened in this case) do they thereby make themselves responsible for their agent's good faith? Apparently not, in the legal sense, though the moral responsibility is pretty clear. Buyers would do well, therefore, to bear this in mind when making deposits to dealers of whom they know nothing on the mere fact of their calling themselves agents for this or that firm of makers.

That is an interesting suggestion which has recently been made by Lord Montagu to the effect that the railway companies should lay down motor tracks by the side of their existing lines and thus add materially to their revenues at a comparatively small outlay. A charge of, say, a penny or twopence a mile per car, Lord Montagu suggests, would bring in some thou-

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sands a year, and there would be no current expenses of a serious nature. In many cases, says Lord Montagu, it would not even be necessary to acquire additional land for the purpose. "To give an instance of this, it would be possible for the North-Western to have an up and down track alongside the main line the whole way from, say, Willesden to Bletchley at comparatively little cost, and, if built of some dustless material, such a track would be greatly used by the automobilist who was a traveller and not a tourist. The Brighton company might in the same way build a track alongside their line from London to Brighton." The notion is interesting, but one practical difficulty suggests itself. What about tunnels? And also bridges?

Motorists have a new grievance. They complain that they are not being sufficiently heavily fined. The reference is, of course, to cases in which the artful magistrate imposes a fine of 20s., and declines to increase it to a guinea in order to prevent the offender from appealing. Though the question has recently cropped up again, the grievance is an old one which was formally laid before the Royal Commission on Motor Cars by the Motor Union. As a result, the Commissioners recommended in their report that there should be a right of appeal whenever the conviction has been endorsed on the licence irrespective of the amount of the fine, and having in view the notorious prejudice of the magistrates, and the large element of doubt often surrounding this class of case, the suggestion seems only reasonable.

Of the making of new motor tyres, tubes, etc., there is seemingly no end, many of them embodying ideas of the greatest ingenuity. One such seems to be a new American inner tube of which particulars have recently been published. In this case an ordinary inner tube has throughout its length a central rib of rubber, whereby the tube is divided into two separate compartments. The outer one of these, or the one that forms the tread of the tire, is filled with felt, while the inner one is pumped with air in the ordinary way. Thus, it is claimed, the benefits of a pneumatic and a non-punctur-able solid tyre are combined. On paper the thing seems feasible enough, and though a tyre of this sort would naturally be somewhat less resilient than the ordinary pneumatic, it might well prove a very excellent substitute. Unfortunately, so many inventions of this kind are brought out which never seem to get beyond the prospectus stage. Another new kind of solid filling has also been brought out lately, called "Pneumastic." This is pumped into an ordinary inner tube in a liquid condition and allowed to set, after the manner of Elastes. Pneumastic differs from Elastes, however, in that the liquefied compound is aerated by a special process as it is introduced into the tyre, with results said to yield certain decided advantages.

Is a motor beginner best advised to start on a small car or a large one? It is an interesting question which has recently been discussed. "Certainly, on a small single-cylinder car," say some. Then, it is argued, he will be beginning at the beginning, and by learning how to get the most out of a single-cylinder will qualify to handle a larger and more flexible engine later. Not so, say others. It takes experience to handle a single-cylinder engine with success. Let the novice, therefore, start straight away on one of more power which does not need the same amount of expert treatment. There is something to be said for both contentions according to the end aimed at. If a thorough knowledge of the subject be desired then there is undoubted advantage in commencing on a small car, which, just because it is less perfect, exacts so much the more from its driver. From the standpoint of mere comfort, on the other hand, a bigger car has the advantage, of course, even if one cannot quite go the length of saying, with one writer on the subject, that "the multi-cylinder car is to the single-cylinder car as a quiet carriage horse is to a buck-jumper."

MAMMON.

Healthier Stock Markets—An International Spring Clean—The Operation Nearing Completion—Support for Home Rails and Gilt-edged Securities—Yankees Disappointing—Revival in Trunks and Foreign Rails—Russian Bonds and Politics.

ALTHOUGH disturbed from time to time by fresh liquidation the Stock Markets last week presented a decidedly healthier appearance than in the few weeks immediately preceding. If buyers were not pressing their attentions it was at least possible to sell stocks with moderate freedom, as a result of the more reassured feeling amongst the jobbers, and this is more than could be said a fortnight ago. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that the dust thrown up by the international spring clean that has been going on lately can settle all at once. Still, we have witnessed a regular turn out of the drawing-room in New York, the smoking-room in London, and the bedrooms in Paris and Brussels, and the whole job ought to be nearing completion. The Settlement on the London Stock Exchange concluded last Thursday served to remove a good many groundless fears of financial difficulties. There were two failures it is true, but in both cases the liabilities were trifling. At times markets were rather seriously perturbed by foreign sales, more particularly of Rio Tinto copper shares, Diamond descriptions, and Egyptian banks. These arose from the difficulties encountered by speculators in Paris and Alexandria, which, it was understood, involved several Stock Exchange firms here, though it is to be hoped not to the extent of causing serious embarrassment.

A welcome feature last week was the greater backbone shown by gilt-edged securities and Home Rails. There appeared to be some quiet support of an influential character for the best Railway stocks, North-Westerns being particularly favoured, and the feeling seemed to spread that stocks had reached a level at which the investor might safely come in and buy. So far as actual movements in prices went, the lead was taken by the Underground stocks, which benefited from the decision to raise fares. There is no doubt about the need for an alteration in the charges for passenger traffic in the metropolis, that is, unless the various concerns engaged in the business see their way to turning philanthropists, and the only pity is that a more reasonable scale of charges could not have been agreed upon before. Among Trustee stocks some attention has been paid to Colonial Inscribed descriptions, the demand doubtless being connected with the reinvestment of moneys accruing through the redemption of short-dated Indian and Colonial securities—some £10,000,000 of which mature within the next few weeks. The inquiry has found the jobbers poorly supplied with stock, and hence a fairly general rally in quotations.

American Rails have not lived up to the expectations formed a week ago. This market is still weighed down by a crop of adverse factors, the latest being the uncertainty over the monetary situation created by the continuance of gold shipments to France. Money is now in increased demand at all the leading monetary centres, on account of the approaching end of the half-year. So far as London is concerned the discount rate has worked up to a fraction below 4 per cent., a little uneasiness being created by the recent withdrawal of sovereigns from the Bank to Egypt—an outcome probably of the financial trouble alluded to above. Lombard Street has now practically abandoned hope of a lower Bank Rate this year. The last return of the Threadneedle-street establishment was hardly a strong one. A reserve of £24,618,000 is low for mid-June, for this is the period of the year when the Bank is usually at its strongest. Money has now commenced to flow out to the provinces

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as usual at the end of the half-year, and much of the cash sent out will stay away in connection, first with holiday, and later with harvest requirements. After that will begin the usual late autumn drain abroad. Of course, it does not always do to argue from precedent, and the size of the weekly gold imports from the Cape will have an important bearing upon the situation in the next few months. But with trade still active the world over, and the Bank of England, as I have already said, in a comparatively weak state, it will be as well in considering the monetary position to err on the safe side.

The last few days have witnessed a fair revival in Colonial and Foreign Railway stocks. Grand Trunks have recovered from the effects of the recent Glasgow liquidation, and the same may be said about the stocks of the old Mexican Railway, while Argentine Rails have come in for attention on the score of their attractive yields and continued bright prospects. In the International group, the renewed uncertainty surrounding Russian politics has led to a fair amount of selling of Russian bonds, but other leading Government securities kept steady. Japanese bonds at one time eased off, on the exaggerated importance attached to the political question between Japan and the United States, but the bonds have since hardened up again. Among South Americans the only unfavourable feature was a decline in Brazilian bonds, which reflected the reported breakdown (since officially denied) of the coffee valorisation scheme attempted by the State Governments.

RALLY IN HOME RAILS—GOOD SUPPORT FOR THE HEAVY STOCKS—UNDERGROUND ISSUES AND THE DECISION TO RAISE FARES.

In the Home Railway market last week there was evidence that support was being given by influential interests, more particularly to the Heavy stocks, and the idea appeared to gain ground that stocks had now reached a level at which it was "safe to buy." By this, of course, was not meant that a further fall was impossible, but that values had got to such a level that they could hardly go much lower, and held out every prospect of standing distinctly higher when the present wave of depression affecting markets generally had passed away. Despite the financial disturbances that occurred at the end of the week, the market held its ground very well, as the following table shows:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	June 8, 1907.	June 15, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	70¾	70½	– ¼
Do. Def.	42½	28⅜	26¼	26⅝	+ ⅜
Central London	96½	82½	71	74	+3
City and S. London	47½	39	41	43	+2
Furness	60⅜	61⅜	60½	60½	—
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37¼	31½	32	+ ½
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81½	69	59	59	—
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	25	26½	+1½
Do. "A"	19½	15½	13⅜	13¾	+ ⅜
Great Eastern	90⅝	79½	70¾	71½	+ ¾
Great Northern Pref.	105	93⅞	96	96	—
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	38¼	38¾	+ ½
Great Western	144	122⅜	122½	122½	—
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	46¾	48	+1¼
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	100	100	—
London and Brighton "A"	130⅜	111½	83½	83½	—
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¾	13	12⅜	12½	+ ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	75	76	+1
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	41½	43	+1½
London and North-Western	163½	147½	141¾	142¼	+ ¼
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅛	45½	46	+ ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	59	38	42	+4
Metropolitan District	37½	18¾	10	11½	+1½
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅝	64	64½	65	+ ½
Do. Def.	74½	62½	60½	60¾	+ ¼
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78¾	72⅜	68¼	68¼	—
Do. Def.	47½	38⅞	32½	32⅜	+ ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134⅜	137	136¾	– ¼
North Staffordshire	105⅝	96¾	95	96	+1
South-Eastern "A"	55⅛	44⅛	34⅞	34	– ⅞

So far as movements go, the most noteworthy were scored by the Underground stocks. The rise here is, of course, due to the decision to raise fares, as from July 1. It was understood that an agreement had practically been arrived at between the Central London, Metropolitan, and District Companies with a view to increasing the longer distance fares, which have been reduced to absurdly low levels in the majority of cases. That the companies would sooner or later have to revise their scale of fares has been obvious for some time. Since the opening of the Central London in 1900, the competition for passenger traffic has been growing fiercer every year. New tubes have been constructed, and the old "sewers" electrified, while the civil war waged between these various railways has been turned into a three-cornered contest by the advent of the motor-omnibus, and the extension of electric tramways. The net outcome of all this rate cutting has been good for the travelling public, but ruinous for the various companies engaged.

The latter fact is the best augury for success in the efforts now being made to obtain harmony amongst all the concerns engaged in the carrying business in the metropolis to readjust their tariffs. It does not appear that anything tangible has yet been arranged on the part of the omnibus and tramway companies, but there is little doubt that they will not be slow to follow the lead of the railways. The two largest 'bus companies have had to acknowledge that traffic obtained on the existing terms does not pay, and at the last meeting of the Road Car Company the chairman said:—"The time has now arrived when all those engaged in the gigantic carrying trade of London should mutually agree to charge fares which, while even liberal to the travelling public, would enable the business to be conducted with a reasonable margin of profit." That concerted action is now being taken towards establishing the "reasonable margin of profit" will be welcome news to all the shareholders concerned; whether it justifies higher prices for the stocks is another matter. The Metropolitan, which used to be a steady-going investment stock, and has paid 3¾ per cent., last year had to reduce its distribution to a beggarly 1 per cent. In respect of the current year, traffics show a reduction for twenty-three weeks of £26,400, equivalent to nearly ½ per cent. actual on the ordinary stock, so that the dividend on "Mets." is getting perilously near the vanishing point. It is true that gross receipts are not now showing the big decreases reported during the first three months—when the comparison was made against a period prior to the diversion of Great Central traffic—and also that the company has yet to demonstrate what economies can be effected now that dual traction has been abolished; but making all allowances the position is bad enough, and an increase in fares should be regarded, for the present, at any rate, as helping towards justifying the present price rather than as constituting a reason for any immediate rise.

As far as the District is concerned, the position from the shareholders' point of view is well-nigh hopeless. The District is practically in a state of bankruptcy, the line having failed for several half-years to meet its fixed charges out of current earnings, whilst it has no reserves to fall back upon. As regards the Central London, the present situation is not altogether a happy one, but an alteration in the fares might speedily put a better complexion upon the state of affairs. Since the company commenced business it has maintained a dividend of 4 per cent. with as much uniformity as its twopenny fare. Last year, however, the payment of the usual rate cost the company a little effort, and in respect of the current year the traffic returns for twenty-three weeks show a reduction of £14,500. This is equivalent to about ½ per cent. (actual) on the ordinary stock, and if nothing be done to arrest the fall in receipts there would be a fair possibility of the ordinary dividend being reduced to 3 per cent. in respect of the current year—which would involve the deferred dividend being cut in half, namely, from 4 to 2 per cent. Fortunately, there is reason to hope that by the revision of fares the company will arrest the decline in its earnings and perhaps turn the scale the other way. Moreover, the Central London has a valuable asset in its rents derived from offices over stations, which are a growing item of revenue. Taking all the circumstances into account, the drop in Central London ordinary seems to have gone far enough, and on any indication of traffics taking a turn in the right direction the stock would probably be quick to respond.

HOW TO OPERATE IN STOCKS SUCCESSFULLY.—See HALFORD'S ADVISER (post free).—PALMERSTON HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. ESTABLISHED 1869. TELEGRAMS: "MONITOR, LONDON."

SET BACK IN AMERICAN RAILS—REVIVAL OF GOLD EXPORTS TO PARIS—THE UNHAPPY EXPERIENCES OF BOND SYNDICATES—MR. JAMES HILL ON THE GENERAL SITUATION—THE TWO CENTS A MILE PASSENGER LIMIT—NEW YORK STATE VETOES THE PROPOSED MEASURE.

Conditions in the American Railroad market last week were a complete reversal of the week preceding. In the earlier period it looked as if the market was going to make a determined effort at revival, and with the knowledge that there was a fairly large short interest uncovered, and that prices had already had a very severe drop from the levels of a few months ago, many people were disposed to look for the "bulls" to achieve a measure of success, if only temporary. These hopes, however, have failed to materialise, and on balance, as the following table shows, prices have experienced a general set back:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	June 8, 1907.	June 15, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114⅛	87	90⅞	89⅞	−1⅛
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	96½	96	− ½
Baltimore and Ohio	129½	109⅝	96⅞	95½	−1½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93½	91	89	−2
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	36½	34½	−2½
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	130½	129	−1½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	26	25½	− ½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅜	85⅜	73	73½	+ ½
Erie	52½	40	22⅛	22⅝	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	58	58	—
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	37	38	+1
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	141	140	−1
Louisville	160⅞	148⅜	115½	114	−1½
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31⅞	33⅜	32⅜	−1
New York Central	159½	130⅜	114	115	+1
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57⅛	45½	36½	35½	− ½
Norfolk and Western	100⅛	87½	76	75½	− ½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	88	88	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	128	126½	−1½
Pennsylvania (50)	75⅜	63⅜	62	61½	− ⅜
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59⅞	53½	51	−2½
Southern	43⅜	33·	19½	18⅝	− ⅜
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	61	61½	+ ½
Southern Pacific	99⅝	64⅜	79	75½	−3⅜
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	138½	135⅛	−3⅜
U.S. Steel	52⅛	33⅞	34½	33⅛	−1⅜
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	100½	100	− ½

The explanation of the fresh decline may be put down to the continued abstention of the public from the market, without whose support the efforts of professionals to manipulate prices higher must end in failure. The Yankee market, thanks to the series of shocks administered one after another since last autumn—and to the doubts that exist regarding the general dividend outlook for the railroads, consequent upon very high expenses, and the indications of a poor harvest and a set back in trade, is still completely shunned by the investing public in America. Were the magnates in New York able to give sufficient support to keep values running on the up-grade for a month or two, they would doubtless stand a fair chance of re-attracting the outside buyer. But the finance houses in New York are still crippled by the effects of the recent rich man's panic, and, moreover, they are suffering from a rather bad fit of indigestion, in consequence of the prodigality with which new railroad scrip has during the last few months been created. The "bears," therefore, still seem to hold the field, and demonstrations made with the object of driving them to cover have only a temporary effect.

In support of my remark about financial indigestion, the following paragraph, taken from the *New York Herald*, is worth noting:—

> As a result of the unsatisfactory winding up of numerous bond syndicates there has been a long series of these. For instance, during the week [with which my contemporary is dealing] was wound up the $10,000,000 Atlanta, Knoxville and Nashville 4 per cent. divisional bond syndicate of the Louisville and Nashville system. The bonds were underwritten at 98½ and interest only about a year ago. They sold during the week at 88½ flat. A small Norfolk and Western 4 per cent. divisional bond syndicate was also wound up during the week. The bonds were underwritten at 96, and participants were seeking bids at 88 on Friday, but without success. Another Norfolk and Western syndicate—that for $10,000,000 4 per cent. convertible bonds, underwritten at 97½ has been extended for six months, and participation was offered in this at 90 this week, without takers. Lake Shore Four per Cent. Debenture Bonds, underwritten at 98½, are selling round 90, Southern Railway short-term notes were sold during the week on a nine per cent. interest basis, and Erie short-term notes are selling on an eight per cent. interest basis. A syndicate, not yet dissolved, which appears in a highly unfortunate position is one formed to underwrite $15,000,000 Southern Railway development and general mortgage four per cents. The bonds were underwritten at 94, less 2 per cent. A few were sold, and some of these have been re-offered in the market at 82, without takers.

The position of very high grade bonds is also undesirable. New York City Four per Cents of 1956, for instance, are still quoted around par. Immense quantities of securities are in consequence in bankers' and syndicate hands, which, according to the contemporary just referred to, are practically unsaleable at anything like their original cost. This fact and the actual losses through the winding up of the syndicates is probably the chief reason that Wall-street rumours, whenever spasms come, centre again and again upon bond houses.

So far as the immediate future of money is concerned Wall-street is not altogether easy in mind. When Mr. Secretary Cortelyou announced that $30,000,000 public funds on deposit with the banks would be called in for the purpose of redeeming United States 4 per cent. bonds, it was argued that the consequent hardening of loan rates would put a stop for the time being to further gold exports. Immediately afterwards, however, came the report that $2,000,000 more gold had been engaged for shipment from New York to Paris, and this news, following upon the withdrawal since May 27 of over $10,000,000 for the same destination, is leading operators to wonder when the drain is going to stop. Another matter that caused much comment last week was the interview upon the general situation given out by Mr. James J. Hill. Mr. Hill has come to the conclusion that the Government will ultimately be obliged not only to cease its antagonism towards the railroads, but to come to their assistance. Ultimately, he says, the Government will be forced to lend its credit in order to finance the needs of the railroads. Mr. Hill explains his assertion thus: "The public in exasperation will demand that the railroads lay additional rails and add to the number of cars running. The railroad companies will answer that they cannot accede to those demands because their credit has been ruined. The Government would then be obliged to step in and lend its credit in order to supply the deficiency. Such a situation would lead to Government ownership of the railroads, which would be the end of the Republican Government." Mr. Hill in this instance may be assuming too much, but his remarks appear to have made some impression on the market. He reiterates his view that the cause of the trouble is that the business of the country has outgrown the capacity of the railroads, and says the railroads are not in a position to catch up. He reminds the market of the prediction he made in January about the railroads requiring $1,100,000,000 annually for the next five years in order to put the lines into shape to move the traffic offered them, and adds that while during the last seven months the roads have raised about $800,000,000, this has not gone to increase facilities. "Most of it went to pay old bills." Against all the adverse factors besetting the market there was one point which could be put to the credit of the "bulls." Mr. Hughes, the Governor of New York State, gave his veto to the Bill passed by the State Legislative houses to reduce the maximum railroad passenger rate to two cents a mile. This has already encouraged railroads in other States to fight, and it is announced that several Western roads will seek injunctions in the Courts against the two cent maximum fare law just put into force within their territories.

RECOVERY IN TRUNKS—GOOD DEMAND FOR THE THIRD PREFERENCE—GENERAL REVIVAL IN MEXICAN RAILS—THE COMING AMALGAMATION OF THE NATIONAL AND CENTRAL ROADS—THE TERMS DISCUSSED—CORDOBA AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY—EXPECTED ABSORPTION.

Among Canadian Rails there was a fair amount of support last week for Grand Trunks, which, as I expected, have enjoyed a rebound from the depressed prices established by the recent forced selling from Glasgow. The public is displaying a great partiality for the Third Preference, and thereby, in my opinion, it shows good sense. This stock ought to easily earn

its full 4 per cent. in respect of the current year, and assuming this be so a buyer at the present price of around 70 is securing a return of 5¾ per cent. upon his money without counting prospects of capital appreciation. Canadian Pacifics have fluctuated within comparatively narrow limits, the "bulls" for the time being showing a disposition to lie low, and on balance the shares show little change. The recent big rise in railway operating expenses in Canada is strikingly exemplified by the April revenue statement of the Canadian Northern. Gross receipts showed a modest increase of $25,100, while expenses rose no less than $116,100, leaving the net earnings $91,000 down. For the ten months the company has managed to put up a gross gain of $1,318,500, which is equal to a rate of over 30 per cent., but the working expenses rose by $1,377,000, which is at the rate of 48 per cent., and the net earnings for the period ($1,427,000) are $58,800 below those for the corresponding ten months.

Among Foreign Rails a distinct revival has occurred in all Mexican Railway stocks. This is a welcome development, for there is no doubt that the various Mexican Railways will well repay attention from the speculative investor. Prices have fallen considerably from the highest levels touched this year, though the decline has not been due to any change in the fortunes of the railways, which continue very bright. There seems still good scope for a levelling up of the First Preference stock of the Mexican Railway, seeing that the yield to a present purchaser is £5 18s. per cent. The Six per Cent. Second Preference, too, offers scope for a fair advance, for only about £20,000 additional net revenue is required to pay the full interest this year, and from January 1 to June 7 the company has piled up an increase in gross traffic of $443,000. The Mexican Southern is another line that is doing very well. This company, as I showed when dealing with the report a few weeks ago, raised its dividend for 1906 from 2½ to 3 per cent., in spite of the loss of interest on Mexican Government subsidy bonds repaid. At the present price the yield works out at £5 13s.; this is by no means bad in itself, but in addition it may be pointed out that the company for twenty-three weeks has a gross increase of $36,000—equivalent to $81,000 for the fifty-two weeks—and it only requires £5,000 to pay another ½ per cent.

The securities of the Mexican Central and National of Mexico have attracted a little interest on renewed talk about the forthcoming amalgamation of those lines by the Government—which, of course, already controls the latter road. The scheme for the fusion of these lines was understood to have been practically cut and dried some months ago, and so far as can be ascertained, it has only been due to the depressed condition of the stock markets that the consummation of the financial plan has been delayed. The terms have already been outlined, but it will be of interest to recapitulate them, particularly in view of the suggestion they make regarding the room there is for levelling up the quotations of existing Central and National issues. Whether any modification of the original terms has since been decided upon I cannot say, though there is no ground for expecting an alteration. So far as the Mexican Central is concerned, the old Four per Cent. Consolidated bonds were to be exchanged for the securities of the new amalgamated concern, the United National Railroads of Mexico, as follows: 60 per cent. of 4½ per cent. bonds, and 32½ per cent. of 4 per cent. bonds (both having a Government guarantee), and 7½ per cent. of Common stock. Now the market has already worked out its estimate of the value of the old bonds under the plan, and it arrived at a figure of about 98. Its calculation may be set out as follows:—

60	p.c. of 4½ p.c. bonds taken at	105	= 63
32½	p.c. of 4 p.c. bonds taken at	90	= 29¼
7½	p.c. of Common Stock taken at	25	= 1⅞
100		Total value	94⅛

The estimate of 105 for the 4½ per cent. bonds is a reasonable one, and happens to be the quotation for the existing Four and a Half per Cent. Prior Lien bonds of the National Road. In taking 90 as the value of the new four per cent. bonds, the market had something definite to go upon in the fact that the 4 per cent. sterling bonds of the Mexican Government stand in the market at about 94½. The new railway bonds, as I have already said, will be a direct obligation of the Government, and although they would doubtless rank after the existing four per cent. Government loan, the allowance of four and a half points for this difference seems sufficient. The calculation of the Common stock at 25 is more a matter for individual opinion, though this is a minor consideration in its relation to the total value of the old Fours in their expected new form.

If we agree that 94 is not an extravagant figure to place upon the scrip to be exchanged for existing Fours, it follows that the latter, quoted at 83, stand about 11 points too low. Turning to the quotations of the 4 per cent "A" and "B" debentures issued by the Mexican Central Securities Company, the anomaly seems more striking still. These debentures are equivalent to the splitting of a Mexican Central 4 per cent. bond, the "A" series ranking as a first charge upon the interest derived from the railway bonds and the "B" as a second charge. The current quotations are approximately 90 per cent. for the "A" series and 77 for the "B." Why the "B" should stand at their present level, in view of the likelihood of their being exchanged for securities estimated to be worth 94, is not easy to understand, and, providing there be no hitch in the Government's scheme, they look one of the best bargains the market has to offer. Turning to the amalgamation plan as it is believed to affect the stocks of the Mexican National, the idea is, or at any rate was, to exchange the Four per Cent. First Preference stock dollar for dollar for a new Four per Cent. First Preference of the united undertaking, guaranteed a minimum dividend of 2 per cent. for three years and $10 in cash. This would mean that the current price of 50 is written down to 40, upon which basis a 2 per cent. dividend would mean a yield of 5 per cent. Such conditions make the stock look distinctly attractive, especially as it is at the present time earning well above the guaranteed rate, and, making allowance for the steady growth in the trade of Mexico and the advantages that amalgamation under Government auspices is likely to bring, should before long get the full rate to which it is entitled. National Second Preference was to receive 110 per cent. in new Second Preference stock. At present the Seconds are not in receipt of a dividend, and therefore a purchase of the stock is a matter for the speculator rather than the investor. However, for a long shot there is many a more unlikely selection than Mexican National Seconds at 21.

In the Argentine Railway group I note with interest that Great Western ordinary, which I recommended a week ago as being worth a higher price under the terms of the working agreement made with the B.A. and Pacific, have risen 2½ on the week; to my mind the stock is still a bargain. The sensation of the week in this group was a rise of 4 points to 34 in the debentures of the Cordoba and North-Western Railway. These bonds are at present getting nothing, but from time to time during the last year or two they have come into prominence on absorption rumours. The line from a strategic point of view is of considerable value, as it forms a link between the city of Cordoba and the mining district of Famatima, which is believed to possess great unexploited mineral wealth. There is little doubt that before long the line will be taken over by one of the leading railway systems, probably the Buenos Ayres and Rosario, when most likely a guarantee will be offered to Cordoba debenture holders. Indeed, judging from the fact that the company requires the names and addresses of the debenture holders in order that a "circular now being prepared, and containing information of interest, may, when ready, be sent them," it would seem that matters in the direction

(*Continued on page* 1537.)

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· TRUTH ·

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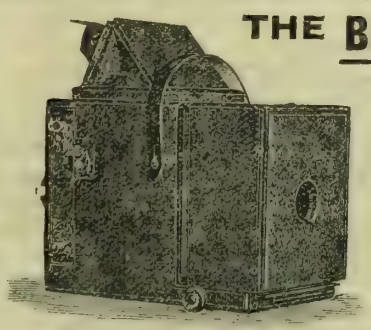

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THE EARLY HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

PHOTOGRAPHY is a subject which needs no apology for its introduction in these days. From being in its earliest stages a plaything of experimenters, a kind of scientific toy, it has become a well-nigh universal pursuit. Developments of recent years have so far simplified its working and lessened the attendant expense as to bring it within the reach of all classes, until it might be said, as of some other things, that it finds a place in every household. Both from the scientific and the popular point of view, the history of photography, its inception and growth, is one of fascinating interest. It is, in common with all great movements tending to progress, a record of discoveries eagerly seized upon and developed, of difficulties overcome, often not so much by sheer intellectual effort as by the enthusiasm and love of the cause displayed by the workers. It is by no means the result of the labours of one man, or of one nation; many workers have added their quota to its progress, and in many nations—France, Germany, Italy, England—its devotees have been found. Photography as a science is in reality a combination of certain branches of chemistry and optics, and its growth has gone on side by side with the advancement of these two sciences.

Of especial interest to amateur photographers should be the fact that photography in the early days was by no means the outcome of the efforts of professional scientists, but was largely due to the discoveries and work of amateurs, among whom may be classed Niépce and Daguerre, really the pioneers of photography as it is known to-day. When one considers the perfection of modern plates and apparatus, and the facility with which the various processes of photography can be carried on in these days, it is almost astounding to remember that these remarkable developments have taken place within the last thirty years, and that up to that time photography was still in a more or less tentative and experimental stage. It is said, "there is nothing new under the sun," but photography on modern lines may be claimed as an exception to that rule. Notwithstanding the statement that lenses have been found in the remains of ancient civilisations of the East, there certainly appears to be no record of methods of pictorial reproduction comparable with those known to us to-day.

For the earliest mention of the discoveries which have led to results of such magnitude we have to go back nearly four hundred years, and the credit of that step is given to one of the old alchemists, Fabricius by name. In the mines of Freiberg there is found a substance known as luna cornea, or horn silver. This ore of silver, in reality silver chloride, while colourless in its native state, becomes darkened in a short time when exposed to the action of light. Fabricius seems to have been the first to draw attention to this fact, which attracted some comment at the time. No definite results accrued, however, and it was not until nearly two hundred years later, in 1727, that Schultze, of Hallé, a German physician, followed up the discovery of Fabricius by a series of experiments on the darkening action of light upon silver salts, notably, the chloride and nitrate. Between 1727 and 1802 further experiments in the same direction were made by Scheele, Wollaston, and others, but it is not until the latter year that in the Journal of the Royal Institution we find a record of what may be considered the first authentic photograph. This was the achievement of Wedgwood and Davy, working in conjunction, who placed opaque bodies, such as ferns and leaves of plants upon paper impregnated with nitrate of silver. The action of light on this salt blackened the parts exposed, leaving an image of the object in white on a dark background. There was no means then known, however, of fixing these images, which darkened all over on exposure to light.

An important advance, although on different lines, was made by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce about the year 1813. This was the discovery of the fact that substances such as asphaltum, or bitumen, and certain resins, while soluble in their normal state to ethereal oils, as oil of lavender, are rendered insoluble by exposure to light. Niépce placed polished metal plates, coated with bitumen, in the focus of the camera obscura, and by means of long exposures was able to obtain pictures, as the bitumen could be dissolved away in the parts not acted upon by light. Daguerre had been experimenting upon much the same lines, and eventually the two entered into partnership. The resulting process, improved upon by Daguerre, in the direction of development of the picture by the vapour of mercury is known by the name of Daguerreotype. Methods which are materially the same are still used to-day in various printing processes.

While the developments indicated above were proceeding in France, Fox-Talbot, in England, had been working with silver salts on paper, following the line of Davy and Wedgwood. But Talbot had discovered the secret of fixing, and we have as a result his "Photogenic Drawing," and, later, the Calotype process, in which the image is developed by gallic acid and fixed in potassium bromide. Later, the introduction of albumen as a medium for the sensitive salt is due to Fox-Talbot. In 1848 an albumen film on glass as the support was tried by Niépce St. Victor, a cousin of the inventor, a most important step; paper as a negative medium being subject to many disadvantages. About this time, however, collodion was introduced by M. le Gray, and this process caused almost a revolution in photographic work, rapidly superseding all other methods. It was brought into a practical form by Scott Archer, and with collodion amateur photography as a hobby may be said to have begun. Wet plates were, of course, first used, but in 1856 dry plates with a collodion emulsion were introduced and greatly facilitated the process.

With the introduction of collodion the incipient and experimental stage of photography was passed. It became thenceforward a definite and exact process, and speedily grew to the status of a profession. Inventions and modifications rapidly succeeded one another. The gelatine dry plate was first brought out by Dr. Maddox, of Southampton, in 1871, and was introduced commercially in 1878. Some time before this "roll-film" on a paper support had been used. Then rapidly followed the invention of the carbon process by Swan, with bromide paper as a printing medium, and the gelatino-chloride paper, or P.O.P.

So far I have been dealing chiefly with the progress of photography from the chemical side; simultaneously, however, skill and invention had been at work in the direction of apparatus. The camera obscura was the invention of Giambattista della Porta, of Padua, more than three hundred years ago, and the earliest cameras were adaptations of this instrument. Many of these primitive cameras were little more than a box with a lens at one end and a contrivance for holding a plate at the other. The well-known bellows form was introduced in 1854, and the first roll-film slide about the same time. The last few years have seen innumerable inventions and improvements of apparatus and lenses, until now almost every week brings forth some device to make the pathway of the amateur easier. As regards lenses, also, it is not so many years ago that the rapid rectilinear lens was looked upon as the apex of perfection, as it corrected to a large extent the forms of distortion from which the earlier forms suffered. Modern lenses of the anastigmat type have been brought to such a high state of perfection in these days, and at such a reasonable cost withal, as almost to lead one to think that ingenuity and mechanical skill can scarcely go much farther. For the ordinary amateur, however, the popular "R.R." still holds its own.

INVENTIONS OF RECENT YEARS

In regard to the inventions of recent years, there is to be noticed a decided trend in the direction of simplification. Probably much of the credit for the popularity of amateur photography is due to the Kodak Company, whose catch phrases—"You press the button, we do the rest," and the later edition, "You press the

button and then do the rest"—are well known. Cameras may be divided roughly into two classes—stand and hand. The stand camera is the earlier type. It is really the ideal instrument for all classes of work—landscape, architectural, or portrait—but suffers from the disadvantage that it is not particularly light or portable, and takes some time to get into action. On this account the hand camera, from its extreme portability and readiness, is more in favour with the tourist—those to whom lightness and handiness are considerations. There is an intermediate type—the hand-stand folding camera—which is gaining ground, inasmuch as it combines to a large extent the efficiency of the stand camera with the portability of the hand type. The cheap box-form models have many adherents, and in capable hands can do good work, but they have their limitations.

One of the most noteworthy introductions in new apparatus is the daylight loading slide for plates or flat films. In these contrivances only the one dark slide is used, and the plates or films are carried in separate light envelopes and loaded as required. The daylight loading roll film is well known, and by the use of one of the many forms of developing tanks on the market the dark-room can be almost entirely dispensed with. In fact, recent advances in this direction lead one to look forward to the time when, after the exposure is made, the turning of a handle once or twice will cause the print to drop forth from the camera, printed, developed, fixed, and washed, even if not mounted.

The self-developing plate is the outcome of the last few months. These plates, of which there are two kinds, have the developer either incorporated with the film or in the form of a backing to the plate, and simply need placing in water for a short time to develop the image after exposure. In regard to sensitive materials, such as printing papers, the advance has been equally remarkable. It is really to be doubted if perfection of printing paper can be carried to a much higher pitch. Within the last few years self-toning printing-out papers have attained a large vogue, and if carefully treated are as satisfactory as the older form, which needed toning. This delicate and often expensive operation is done away with in the new papers. Platinum, too, has received attention. A paper which can be developed by being breathed upon and then fixed in a solution of common salt is a great advance on the time when a bath of boiling developer was needed, followed by several acid baths. For other platinum papers the cold developing bath largely takes the place of the old hot-bath treatment. Then there is the recently invented modification of the carbon process, in which the printing by daylight is entirely done away with; a boon to busy men. In this process a piece of carbon tissue, a certain so-called pigmenting solution, and a bromide print are all that are necessary to obtain a carbon picture, the development taking place in hot water.

One of the favourite media, both for contact printing and enlargements, is bromide paper. Its position is well deserved on account of its reliability and ease of working, and the immense variety of surface in which it can be obtained. Papers with a rough surface still have a large use, as very artistic results can be secured with them. This is largely due to the efforts of the "broad" school of photography. Quite lately, however, several grades of paper, of a semi-matt, or semi-glossy surface, have been brought out, apparently indicating that in many minds, at all events, the craze for roughness has gone too far, and that a smoother surface is desirable. These new grades of paper retain the detail in the shadows of a print, which is lost to a large extent in the rough or ordinary platino-matt surfaces.

Although it is constantly advocated that the photographer should make up his own solutions, the necessity for this has been largely obviated by the fact that the chemicals required can now be obtained in packets and compressed tablet form, which merely need dissolving in water to be ready for use. Foremost among this class is the "Tabloid" make, and it cannot be denied that by the use of these a great deal of trouble is avoided. In the case of travellers and those who only pursue

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photography intermittently, ability to purchase chemicals in this form is a great boon.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

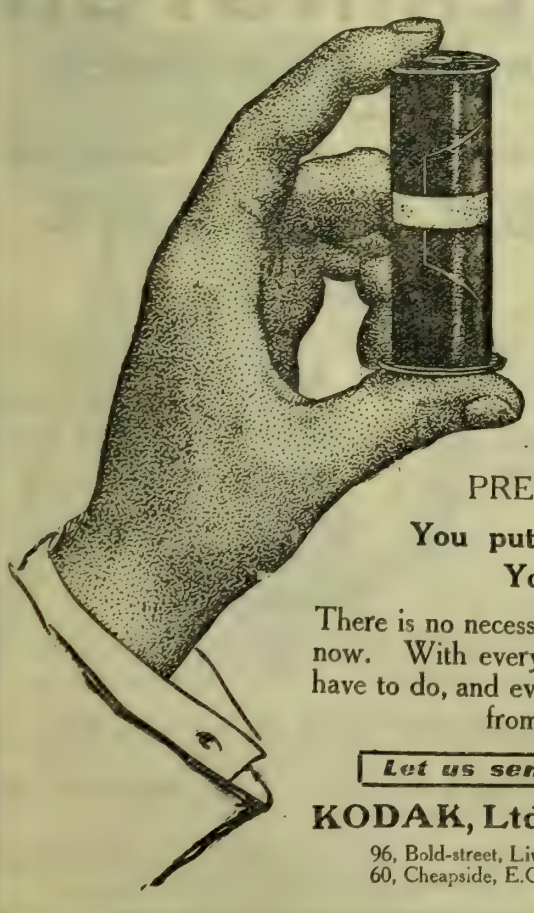
"Photographic," when referring to a work of art, has by now become as much a term of opprobrium as has "a really nice girl," applied to the premier work of Nature. Pianists have been known to praise the pianola—some of the more famous of them, at any rate—perhaps because they have suffered from the originality which minor musicians seek vainly to inveigle into their performances; and Melba is said to have a predilection for the gramophone, which shows her a woman of wide sympathies; but to hear a painter or a writer on art praise a photograph, except with infinite condescension, is as rare as it is to hear a farmer praise the weather.

Even did the painter owe nothing else to the photograph, he should yet be grateful for the moral exaltation it provides for him in his own estimation. By standing, to his mind, upon the lower step, it converts his own into the higher one. By being "photographic," it makes him "artistic." "I may be at the very bottom of my brotherhood," he reflects, "and the bottom is neither very light nor very airy; at all events, I am above the photograph, which only copies and does not create." It is largely due to the invention of photography that the painter has come to spell his Art with such an extremely large A, and that without shame. In the old pre-photographic days the painter considered himself a workman; it is true that the excellence of his work gave him some claim to be so considered. In our own time—and that largely owing to the invention of the camera—the painter has ascended to a higher, superhuman sphere; he is a creator, and it follows that mere humanity has no right to judge of the excellence of his workmanship. What is more, he indirectly owes it to the photograph that "art" tends more and more to drive photography itself out of suburbia. It is not many years since the suburban drawing-room depended for the decoration of its mantelpiece and its piano upon a phalanx of "photos" in plush or oxidised silver frames. But now that the fame of large-A'd Art has penetrated from Poplar even to Putney Vale, the painted drain-pipe and the hand-made bronze fender, direct from the Arts and Crafts, serve to set off the embroidered jumpers of their fortunate possessors, the photograph must give place to the coloured reproduction of the Velasquez "Venus" or Mr. Goetze's latest great religious allegory.

Photography has one fault, which is also a misfortune. It tells—it is, at least, capable of telling—the unvarnished truth without any extenuating circumstances. Who would not prefer to have his portrait painted by the very wildest of New English Artists rather than submit himself to the tender mercies of his younger sister's new camera? Photography is the painfully veracious witness in a court where art is too often the corrupt judge. The gods have, at last, given us the giftie, but the camera too often shows us as being even worse than others—and they our most candid friends—care to admit that they see us. Naturally, therefore, we say that photography is inartistic, and if we can afford it we go to the painter, who is ready to take us at our own value, and whose work, if unflattering, we can always denounce as a bad likeness, with the notorious fallibility of the human hand and eye to bear us out.

A good deal of the pother which chronically arises around the artistic or non-artistic claims of photography is due to our modern misuse of the word "Art." Accepted in the confused, almost technical, sense to which we are now grown accustomed, photography is not "Art"—which is by no means to say that it is not *an* art—and the term "artistic photography," used as we commonly use it, is as misleading and inappropriate as were "artistic tailoring" or "artistic plumbing." In the truer sense, a photograph may be, and generally is, at least as artistic as a painting—or a chest of drawers. Of course, we all know the artistic-commercial photographer who drapes our shoulders diaphanously, or accentuates our George-Alexander-iron-

WITH FIVE OF THESE and a



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grey hair with high light from above, and makes us worthy of the *Crown* or *Country Life*. His are tricks of the trade—worked out by rule of thumb—and verging on the obvious. We have also the more earnestly "art" photographer, whose highest ambition is to produce photographs which shall look like etchings or copper-plate engravings, or Whistler nocturnes, who, if a man, wears a flowing tie, and if a woman, an expression of other-worldliness and no stays, these being the outstanding qualities which attend the truly artistic of our own time.

But these latter, though essentially well-meaning—and though, be it said, they frequently turn out very beautiful work—are none the less traitors to photography, in that they accept for it a subordinate, imitative rôle among the arts. It is an insult to a fine photograph to compare it, to its disadvantage, with an etching or a monotone drawing—just, as it were, to trick out a first-class county cricketer in the gaiters and apron of a Colonial bishop, and then blame him because he cannot preach in the language of the Otaheitans. Painting and its allied "arts" may be excellent in its way; so may photography. But their ways are not the same, nor their objects. It is true that the invention of the camera has vastly widened the potentialities of the painter—though few painters realise it—in that it has supplied him with a practically perfect eye, which tells him the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as an adjunct to his too fallible human eyes, which frequently show him what is not there, and which pander to his mental prejudices like the poorest of poor relations. Every artist ought to be a photographer, and it is because so few of them realise it that we are occasionally treated to exquisitely ludicrous descriptions of the lengths to which they are driven to escape from the fallibility of their own eyes. Thus we read, only a very little time back, that a well-known French painter had hypnotised a ballet-dancer, that she might remain in a certain flying pose long enough for him to paint her. Could there be a more pathetic confession of weakness? And all the time the cinematograph is there ready and willing to assist him. Think, again, how totally the whole artistic conception of the action shown by a running horse has changed since snap-shot photography has taught us how a horse really runs. The more materials for forming a judgment that are provided for us, so much the less faith are we able to place in our eyes. The Greeks, it is said, could not always distinguish between green and blue; most of us, to this day, are more or less colour-blind. It only needs the perfecting of colour-photography to tell us that our preconceived ideas of colour—based on the evidence of our eyes—are as faulty as our notion of form has been proved to be.

If every artist should be a photographer, equally true is it that every photographer should be an artist. But he is not likely to be so until he realises that the mere pressing of a button will not make him so. The young photographer, no doubt, honestly believes that when he finds a recognisable reproduction of a near relation upon one of his dozen films he has scaled the heights of Olympus. On the other hand, the true artist-photographer may wander for a week and never use his camera—yet have none the less high artistic achievement to set to the credit of that week's work. Just as your painter may or may not be an artist, so may your photographer. In either case the odds are heavily against it.

Great as may be and have been the services which the camera has rendered to art, there is one point in which, it must be admitted, its influence has been altogether harmful. Since its invention the level of draughtsmanship has perceptibly fallen. It is as though the artist, realising that it were hopeless for him to compete against such a rival, had decided to renounce any idea of drawing correctly at all—to make a virtue of necessity and proclaim his own deficiencies of hand and eye as the one infallible sign by which you may know the Real Thing. Is there any other possible explanation of the depth of bad draughtsmanship to which many of our leading painters have descended, without perceptible shame? This more especially in

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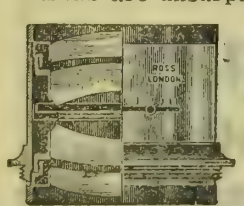

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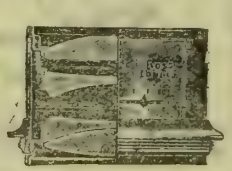

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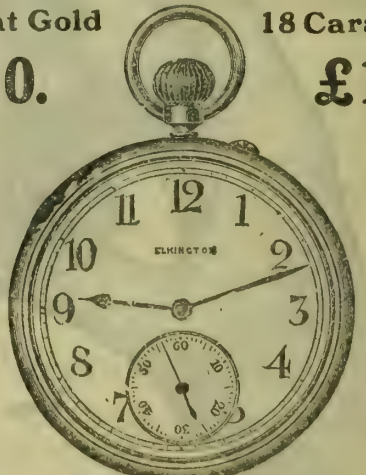

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portraiture. "Let the camera attend to such worthless details as the sitters' features," they seem to say. "We will concentrate on what we think their complexions ought to be. And if any one object, we will maintain that we paint the soul and leave the body to the care of a soulless machine." Meanwhile the camera continues to extend its sway, swallowing everything in Nature, from the butt-end of a garden seat to an eclipse of the moon. And unless the painter bestir himself he will one day find himself reduced to proclaiming, *urbi et orbi*, that he scorns the mere external appearances of garden seats and eclipses, and that he only paints their spiritual significance. About which time the last art-critic who takes himself seriously will retire to Bedlam.

It is a curious—and unfortunate—thing that many of those who clamour most fervently for the recognition of photography as a branch of High Art, choose its lowest and most humiliating aspect as most worthy of the honour—I mean "fake" photography. It is true that it is in their common appreciation of the "fake" that Art and Photography come most closely into line. The painter is bound to understand the art of "faking" in its broader sense. He must, if he is to live, impress something upon the observer's eye which is not there. He is perfectly justified—it is the object, and a worthy one, of much of his effort. What, for instance, is perspective, but a noble form of "faking"? Your would-be "artistic" photographer, seeing this, and realising the lengths to which it is possible to carry the corruption of a poor, well-meaning camera, sets to work to produce "fake" photographs which shall seem anything in the world but what they really are. He forgets that while the great object of a painting is to produce illusion, either mental, moral, or physical, the one aim of photography should be to serve truth. Do away with its truthfulness, and where is the art of photography? It falls to such "faking" as that by which, on the day following the birth of the Spanish Heir-Apparent, a photograph of the King and Queen of Spain appeared in the shop windows, the latter nursing the Royal Infant. This may be called an intelligent anticipation of events, but it is not art, and it is scarcely a feather in the cap of photography.

Let the photographer and the painter recognise each other as brothers, setting out by different roads to accomplish different ends and wishing each other a hearty godspeed at their parting; not as the noble seigneur and his twenty-second cousin poor Mr. Camera sneaking cap in hand at the heels of My Lord Mahlstick in the hope that some day when his Lordship feels peculiarly good-tempered he may offer him his hand to kiss and acknowledge him as the least of poor relations.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TYPES.

As might be expected with a pursuit that of recent years has attained such a wide popularity, the types of the votaries of photography are as thick as leaves in Vallombrosa. Gone are the days when the worker was obliged to coat his own plates with iodised collodion and expose them while wet. These wet-plate collodion workers must have been heroes. The folding pocket camera was unknown. In its place was a bulky erection of timber, needing no small amount of thew and sinew to transport from place to place. To have one's photograph taken in those days was distinctly an event. One of these enthusiasts has told me of the auspicious occasion on which he attempted to photograph somebody's baby; a task that, even in these days, brings a pallor to the cheek of the boldest. I must draw a veil over the details of the tragedy—the gathering together of the family like lambs to the slaughter, all arrayed in festive attire; the long and painful exposure, while the victim had practically to be bound hand and foot! These are not subjects to dwell upon. I am given to understand that this pride and joy of its parents was pictured as something like the ghostly image of an Egyptian mummy. The opportune removal of my friend to a distant part of the country soon after prevented any incidents "calculated to occasion a breach of the peace"; and it is sincerely hoped that by now the mollifying hand of time has healed the wound.

A distinct type of the amateur photographer may be known as the *genus* "beginner." He is found in large numbers. No subject is too difficult for him to negotiate. To all kinds, whether a brightly illuminated open landscape or a portrait in a shady room, he gives the same exposure, usually the one speed of his shutter, about 1-30 of a second. His results are largely determined by the law of averages. Let him but expose enough plates and he will get something to please him. He is the plate and paper maker's best friend. His delight is a highly glazed P.O.P. print, showing with microscopic distinctness every brick in the wall, every leaf of the tree. His dark-room floor is covered with a "gravel path" of hypo, while his bench is ornamented with glittering crystals of the same useful salt.

To this same species belongs the man who presses the button and lets some one else do the rest. His negatives are printed out for him on "glossy" P.O.P. by his obliging dealer. One such, I know, who in some way had had some prints made on bromide paper, and who explained confidentially to a friend that he "did not like them so well as real photographs." What he would have thought of carbon or gum must remain a question. The "button-presser" loses a great part of the pleasure of photography, as the process of development of the plate, to watch the image slowly built up, is one of the most interesting features, apart from the satisfaction to be found in one's own work.

The raw beginner's attempts at portraiture are a terror to his friends, and often a surprise to himself. Perhaps more homes have been wrecked by this means than by any other, and more ill-feeling engendered than

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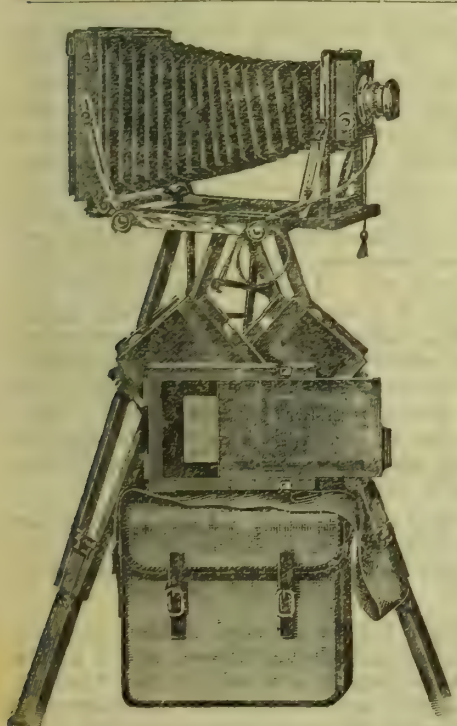

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by the most bitter partisanship in politics. Great are his preparations for this event, in which the accessories play a large part; reminding us of Lewis Carroll's parody, "Hiawatha's Photography":—

First the Governor, the father,
He suggested velvet curtains
Looped about a massive pillar;
And the corner of a table,
Of a rosewood dining-table.
He would hold a scroll of something,
Hold it firmly in his left hand;
He would have his right hand buried
Like Napoleon's, in his waistcoat.
He would contemplate the distance
With a look of pensive meaning,
As of ducks that die in tempests.

When the "look of pensive meaning" is transmogrified into a stony glare, as usually happens, the victim is, as a rule, not pleased. By the amateur portraitist, the charming smile of beauty is changed into "a simper scarcely human," and the benign expression of the aged is petrified into a fixed grin of senile idiocy. No wonder grandma is vexed!

After the raw beginner stage comes the experimental period. Then the budding picture-maker tries every new brand of plates, every new kind of paper on the market, and dabbles in every process. His results do not please him so much at this stage as did his earlier efforts. He has become a kind of Jack-of-all-trades, and, finding small success in any, often becomes disgusted, and thinks photography a hollow mockery. Amateurs at this period of their career generally have with them a pocket case of more or less indifferent prints, which they exhibit with much pride to their admiring (?) friends, in season and out of season. The admiring friends bear the infliction with what grace they may.

When the photographer has finally emerged from this slough of despond a change comes o'er the spirit of the dream. And such a change. His erstwhile sharp, brilliant, shiny prints have become hazy, sometimes muddy in their aspect. He has now become a "Fuzzyist." He has aspirations to art, and is full of strange words, not easily understanded of the people. Devious is the path of the "Fuzzyist." He makes a negative like any other rational being. Then, by the application of paint and blacklead he strives to prevent his negative giving a print such as any normal negative would give. Sometimes he makes an enlarged negative, on which he scrapes, retouches, paints, until its original character is gone. From this modified negative he makes a "gum" print, and with a fearsome array of brushes he controls the effect, until the final result is as unlike anything photographic as could be imagined, and his last state is worse than the first.

DON'TS FOR AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Don't expect a cheap single lens to do as much as an expensive anastigmat.

Don't be surprised if a friend with a cheap outfit achieves more pictorial results than you do with high-class apparatus.

Don't think the above "don'ts" contradict each other—picture-making is not entirely mechanical.

Don't develop negatives or tone prints in a dish in which fixing solution has been used.

Don't fail to test your dark-room lamp occasionally.

Don't leave your bottles of solutions unlabelled—it encourages waste.

Don't scamp the washing of plates and prints—water is cheap.

Don't put your negatives in front of the fire to dry—haste not, waste not.

Don't forget, when about to expose, to draw the shutter of the dark slide—it is false economy.

Don't rely too implicitly on the marked speeds of your shutter.

Don't "chop and change" with developers—one real friend is better than many acquaintances.

Don't buy ornate mounts—the print is *the thing*, or should be.

Don't imagine there is a "best" developer or a "best" plate—all are but means to an end.

Don't print in direct sunlight—what you gain in speed you lose in quality.

Don't be too prodigal in the number of your exposures—one good negative is worth many mediocre ones.

Don't think you can crowd everything between heaven and earth within the limits of a quarter-plate.

Don't think that because your picture is out of focus it is necessarily artistic.

Don't keep fishing the plate out of the solution when developing—it is neither good for the plate nor for your fingers.

Don't blame the plate or paper makers if you have one or two failures. You are more likely to be at fault than they are.

NOTES.

Specialisation in photography sometimes brings up some strange incidents. There are those who devote a good part of their time to photographing pictures and such-like, a kind of devotion well enough in its way. But perhaps one of the strangest of all was the man who carried about with him a most elaborate and complete half-plate outfit, with several colour-screens and expensive lenses, and who, like a modern Ichabod Crane, photographed practically nothing else but gravestones.

The amiable assistant had displayed most of the folding cameras in stock, but still the dainty Miss was not satisfied. "I am sorry," she said, with a sigh, "but you see this (pointing to the red leather bellows) would not go with my costume."

Though different kinds of plates and paper have their own peculiarities, it is hardly possible to name one make as the best, consequently the beginner will do well to stick to one brand, especially in regard to plates, until he has become thoroughly conversant with their use, as all the standard makes, when intelligently treated, will yield good results.

Photographers should find much to interest them in the interview with Mr. John MacWhirter, R.A., which appeared in the last number of the *Grand Magazine*. The great landscape painter contends that it is the artist's love of the object he paints which makes it into a picture. As regards the ability to "see" a picture, this, he considers, depends on vocation far more than on education. "Many people," he is reported to have said, "will see a picture in a landscape when other people see nothing picturesque whatever. How this faculty may be acquired I cannot tell. I cannot even always tell why I see a picture in a certain scene, and why other people do not. An artist feels it, and there, practically, is an end of the matter." Probably most pictorial photographers have remarked this, and would have said much the same under similar circumstances. Mr. MacWhirter says he cannot tell how the faculty of "seeing" a picture may be acquired. No; but if one has the gift it can be cultivated.

When the camera is used in the hand one needs to be as steady as possible, and it is better to let off the shutter by the trigger or lever than to use the pneumatic release.

In another column I have referred to the beginner as the plate and paper maker's best friend, and I notice that *Photography* has put in a word for the "button presser." My bright and instructive contemporary exhorts us not to be too severe on button pressers, and adds:—"It is owing to the fact that there are button pressers that we can get our materials as cheaply and as universally as we can to-day. Many of the best workers whose pictures are in the exhibitions were first led to photography by the apparent simplicity of button pressing. From the ranks of the button pressers of to-day will come the medal winners of to-morrow."

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(*Continued from page* 1536.)

indicated have already reached an advanced stage. My usual table follows:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	June 8, 1907.	June 15, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	172¾	172⅝	− ⅛
Grand Trunk	29 11/16	25 1/16	27 1/16	28⅛	+ 1/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	100½	100½	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114¾	117¾	118	+ ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105¾	108¾	109	+ ¼
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 11/16	68½	70½	+1½
Mexican	59⅞	22½	40¼	43¼	+3
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅝	133	134	+1
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93¼	49½	83½	86½	+2¾
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	6	10⅜	10⅝	+ ⅛
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	116½	115⅝	− ⅜
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90¼	78½	82½	83	+ ½
Do. First Incomes	30	18	20½	20½	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 3/16	90	90	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	65¼	77	77	—
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅞	37½	49	49¾	+ ¾
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	20	21	+1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	148	148	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	114	112xd	+ ½
Antofagasta Def.	180¼	162	137	137	—
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14⅛	13	12⅜	− ⅛
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	106	108½	+2½
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	72	72½	+ ½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	111½	11½	+1
Do. and Rosario	120⅜	111	99	98¾	− ¼
Do. Great Southern	145	122¾	119½	120½	+1
Do. Western	135⅜	123½	119½	119½	—
East Argentine	1.0	87	118½	114¼xd	+ ½
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	64	64½	+ ½
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108½	85	85½	85½	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	89	90½	+1½
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	10	10½	+ ½
Leopoldina	86½	69½	69	70½	+1½
San Paulo	214¾	199½	208½	208½	—
Central Uruguay	9 2/16	82	88	88	—
Costa Rica	29 11/16	25	28	28	—
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	71½	70	−1½
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	88½	76¾	70	69	−1
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76¾	79	79	—
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	42	39½	−2½
Cuban Central	7 7/16	5⅝	5⅛	5⅝	—
United of Havana	103	105⅝	92½	93	+ ½
Western of Havana	15 5/16	12½	11⅝	12	+ ¼
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94½	87¾	87½	87½	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	8⅜	76	72½	71½	−1
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23¾	19½	20½	20¼	− ¼

Westralians Quiet but Generally Firm—Great Fingalls Bought on the Bonus and Encouraging Development Cable—Relapse in South Kalgurlis.

While speculation in the Westralian Market has not been very brisk during the past week a fair amount of interest has been displayed in one or two specialties. On the whole the tendency in respect of this group of shares has been firm, despite the further financial difficulties that have actually come to light and the rumours of trouble which have affected most sections of the Stock Exchange. From the subjoined table of prices it will be seen that, as a rule, the changes on the week have been slight in either direction:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	June 8, 1907.	June 15, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Associated	3	1 7/32	1 1/32	1 1/32	—
Assoc. Northern Blocks	1⅜	1/2	⅝	⅝	+ 1/16
Cosmopolitan	8/3	3/6	3/9	3/6	− 3d.
Golden Horseshoe (£5)	6⅜	4¾	5¾	5 15/16	− 1/16
Great Boulder (2/-)	28/-	20/3	23/3	23/-	− 3d.
Do. Perseverance	13/-	7/3	5/3	5/6	+ 3d.
Great Fingall (10/-)	6 5/16	2½	1 15/16	2 1/32	+ 7/32
Hainault	1 1/32	1½	1¼	1¼	—
Ivanhoe (£5)	7½	6 7/16	7 7/16	7 7/16	—
Kalgurli	12⅜	8⅜	10½	10½	+ ⅛
Lake View Consols	1 7/16	½	½	9/16	+ 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	21/10½	8/6	10/-	10/-	—
Oroya Brownhill	3½	2	1 15/16	1 15/16	—
Sons of Gwalia	2 1/16	1 1/16	1½	1½	—
South Kalgurli	1 1/32	11/16	⅝	½	− 1/32
Australian Commonwealth Trust	3 1/32	1½	⅝	11/16	+ 1/16
Consolidated Deep Leads (4/-)	½	⅜	2/3	2/3	—
Loddon Valley Goldfields	2 1/16	1/16	¼	¼	—

The declaration by the directors of the Great Fingall of a bonus of 6d. with the quarterly dividend of 2s. 6d. per share came as a pleasant surprise to the market and probably to shareholders also. On the basis of quarterly dividends of half-a-crown the shares yield nearly 25 per cent. at the current price, but it must be remembered that for some time past developments at depth have been anything but satisfactory. It is an encouraging feature that the cable published last week reports payable values in the north end of the No. 13, the lowest level, but too much importance should not be attached to this. A good run of payable ore is necessary to ensure the maintenance of the present rate of dividends for such a period that the amount distributed would represent a return of interest in addition to the present market capitalisation. Another mine which needs to make a better showing in regard to developments is the Associated Northern Blocks, which has just earned an interim dividend of 2s. per share, the amount being the same as a year ago. The relapse in South Kalgurlis is due to the official announcement that some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining satisfactory results with the treatment plant, and that in consequence two furnaces will be shut down during part of the present month, temporarily reducing the output.

Kaffirs Irregular—The Transvaal Government's Decision on the Chinese Labour Question—Coolies to be Repatriated as their Contracts Expire—Expected Increase in Native Labour Supply.

There has been a renewal of liquidation in the Kaffir market, mainly in respect of difficulties experienced in Paris, but gold shares have not been so much affected as the leading diamond descriptions. At times during the past week the gold shares displayed a distinctly cheerful tendency, and but for the general uneasiness on the score of financial difficulties, quotations would apparently have experienced a fair measure of recovery, though whether the improvement would have been long maintained is doubtful in view of the "wreckage" from recent settlements which is awaiting a home. At last the uncertainty as to the Transvaal Government's intentions with respect to Chinese labour is removed, and having regard to the position which has to be faced, it is hardly to be expected that much expansion of speculative interest in Kaffirs will occur in the early future. General Botha has announced that it has been decided not to re-enact the Labour Ordinance, but to send the Chinese home immediately on the expiration of their contracts. This means that about a couple of thousand will leave the Rand this month, and by the end of the year the indentures of 16,000 will have expired. "The Government," according to the Transvaal Premier, "was moved not only by the unalterable conviction that the presence of the Chinese was in the highest degree inimical to the interests of the Transvaal, and should cease at the earliest possible moment, but also by the consideration that the supply of native labour had for some time, in a marked manner, been exceeding the demand." But, as I pointed out a month ago, the supply of this class of labour usually improves during the first and last quarters of the year, and this is not the first time in the history of the Rand gold-mining industry that the working mines have as many unskilled workers as they can employ. It is a condition which is likely to recur from time to time with any fluctuating supply of labour, while the fact of its being irregular instead of constant militates against the extension of working facilities. Were the supply likely to be of a permanent character, mines at the developing stage which have had to suspend operations would doubtless be started up again. In the spring of 1905 there were more natives than could be found work for, but four or five months later many mines were short of labour; and, as it happens, General Botha's statement synchronised with the first decrease for several months in the native labour returns, the May statistics showing the tide to be on the ebb once again. Whether the arrangements that are being made with a view to increase the supply of native labour will have the desired result remains to be seen. If the Government Native Labour Bureau can ensure a regular supply of unskilled workers, the mining industry may continue progressive, but if the number of natives fluctuates as much as in the past, the position will be worse than at the present time, when there are available some 50,000 Chinese, whose efficiency, on the whole, is above that of the natives. At the worst, however, the mines most likely to be kept back by the repatriation of the coolies are those which have not reached the producing stage. In

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the event of a shortage, the available labour would probably be concentrated on the producing mines, and those interested in shares of that class, and who are receiving dividends, should not be frightened into realising. The market took the first announcement of the Government's decision very well, and it is quite possible that the removal of the uncertainty after so much delay may make for better conditions ere long. It should be borne in mind that it would not be to the interest of the Boers to seriously interfere with the mining industry, and the wording of General Botha's remarks as summarised in the cable published in Saturday's papers appears to me to indicate that in the event of the expectations of an increased native labour supply not being fulfilled the Government would temporarily suspend the repatriation of the coolies.

Below is my usual table of individual results of Rand mining companies for the last three months, and it will be seen that in a fair number of cases the earnings for May are in advance of those for the previous month:—

COMPANY.	March.		April.		May.	
	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £	Ozs.	Profit. £
Angelo	14,125	28,417	13,890	30,110	12,948	26,791
Bonanza	2,053	2,476	2,326	3,743	2,155	3,506
Cason	18,160	36,155	18,260	39,910	15,302	30,064
City and Suburban	10,091	16,658	9,985	16,655	9,653	15,510
Comet, New	7,842	6,863	7,842	6 894	7,791	7,054
Consolidated Langlaagte	7,238	8,479	7,413	9,061	7,432	9,135
Consolidated Main Reef	6,277	7,420	6,358	7,459	6,431	7,237
Crown Deep	14,356	26,600	14,660	27,600	14,845	30,200
Crown Reef	10,814	22,507	10,355	22,000	9,564	20,006
Driefontein	7,698	6,310	8,220	9,369	8,210	9,305
Durban-Roodepoort	4,598	5,960	4,352	—	4,408	6,100
Do. Deep	4,093	2,200	4,094	2,550	4,402	2,750
Ferreira	12,900	30,184	13,142	30.043	12,850	36,523
Ferreira Deep	13,442	34,550	13,189	33.150	13,175	33,200
French Rand	6,483	5,009	6,545	5,096	5.629	3,402
Geldenhuis Estate	6 581	13,957	6,629	14,028	6,702	14,355
Geldenhuis Deep	10,630	13.700	10,760	13,850	10,722	14,100
Ginsberg	2,679	2 443	2,696	2,118	3,048	3,339
Glencairn	5,027	6,069	4,866	5,609	4,742	5,646
Glen Deep	7,360	9,800	7,492	10,500	7,369	10,050
Glynn's Lydenburg	1,619	3,673	1,523	3,005	1,676	3,945
Goch, New	6,658	5,019	6,921	7,324	7,440	9,720
Heriot, New	3,897	4,727	3,997	5,121	4,166	5,962
Jubilee	1,855	—	1,653	—	1,792	—
Jumpers	5,881	7,086	5,968	7,003	5,699	6,501
	6,683	4,000	6,760	4,500	6,559	4,750
Jumpers Deep	[illegible]	[illegible]	12,925	20,030	12,262	19,075
Kleinfontein, New	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	16,815	10,681	16,912
Knight's (Witwatersrand)	10,635	16,796	10,800	18,268	10,892	15,164
Knight's Deep	11,725	18.317	11,513	[illegible]	4.244	1,545
Lancaster	4,208	3,189	4,210	2,937	2,100	800
Lancaster West	2.340	2,082	2,270	1,856	9,825	9,200
Langlaagte Deep	10 960	10.550	11,174	10,250	10.445	16,000
Langlaagte Estate	10,031	16,000	10,049	14,000	5,387	9,429
Luipaard's Vlei	5,263	7,318	4,884	6 509	3,749	11,474
May Consolidated	5,818	11,771	5,672	12,041	5,361	9,385
Meyer & Charlton	5,902	11,818	5,820	11,593	8,210	10,003
Modderfontein, New	8,163	9.959	8,571	11,105	2,807	2,016
New Unified	2,646	1,333	2.751	1,831	4,099	6,864
Nigel	4,126	6,611	4.105	6,388	2,257	2.614
Nigel Deep	1.933	1,363	2,086	2,152	6,310	7,000
North Randfontein	6,317	7,200	6,034	7,400	13,328	18,550
Nourse Mines	12,741	17,800	12,933	18,150	6.154	8,600
Porges Randfontein	6,003	7,500	6,173	8,700	7,756	14,375
Primrose, New	7,295	13,956	7,914	14.840	2,888	4,065
Princess	3,844	4,721	3,564	3,500	9,583	16,611
Rietfontein, New	9,678	17,533	9,648	17,306	23,449	65,430
Robinson	22,259	60,424	22,612	60,424	11,376	31,609
Robinson Central Deep	11,287	31,103	11,217	31,175	14,447	23,587
Robinson Deep	42,919	44.032	18,802	34,966	5,828	4,600
Robinson Randfontein	6,008	6,800	5,766	5,600	3,587	3,470
Roodepoort Central Deep	3,243	3,693	3,335	3,255	6,077	7,012
Roodepoort United	5,888	7,322	5,853	6,838	10,465	13,100
Rose Deep	10,359	13,000	10,669	13,050	1,750	1,505
Salisbury	1,840	1,850	1,720	1,225	—	—
Sheba	2,345	—	2,455	—	10,200	3,079
Simmer East	10,633	5,316	10,441	5,432	20,649	35,616
Simmer & Jack	23,143	43,852	23,741	46,308	5,911	6,300
South Randfontein	5,723	6,600	6,002	6,900	4,768	6,264
Transvaal G. M. Estates	4,642	7,761	4,567	6,482	2,929	819
Treasury	2 931	1,003	2,877	703	10,303	19,160
Van Ryn	9,975	19,131	9,914	19,503	7,829	4,226
Village Deep	8,464	5,250	7,199	1,904	15,160	26,061
Village Main Reef	15,578	25,007	15,030	25,007	2,807	—
Vogelstruis Estates	2,457	—	2,624	—	961	500
West Rand Central	909	475	906	425	13,368	498*
Windsor	1,424	2	1,416	8	12,769	22,048
Witwatersrand Deep	12,358	20,882	12,399	20,892	1,162	—
Worcester	1,063	—	1,175	—	5,917	5,013
Wolhuter	5,576	4,020	5,907	4,605		

* Loss.

Substantial increases are shown by the Robinson, Crown Deep, Luipaards Vlei, Witwatersrand Deep, and New Goch, the improvement being, perhaps, particularly pleasing in the case of the last mentioned, in view of past disappointment, and of the debt that still remains to be cleared off by the company. On the other hand, of the companies principally affected by the strike of white miners, the Knights Deep, Robinson Deep, and Simmer and Jack report much reduced profits for May, considerably less ore having been treated at each of these mines than in April. It appears that the total number of men paid off in connection with the strike amounted to 4,067. Of these, about 600 are stated to have returned to work in the original positions, and many others have gone to work at other mines, but about 1,900 of the strikers remain unemployed because their places have been filled. The mining authorities have agreed to take as many strikers as possible back into their employment again, but they have declined—and reasonably so, it seems to me, having regard to all the circumstances—to dismiss the "blacklegs" in order to make room for the strikers.

The following table shows how share values compare with those of a month ago:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	May 11, 1907.	June 15, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Angelo	5 5/16	2 1/4	3 1/16	3 1/2	+ 7/16
Anglo-French	2 1/4	1 7/16	1 5/32	1 3/32	- 1/16
Apex	6 3/8	2 3/4	3 1/8	2 15/16	- 1/2
Boksburg	1 7/8	5/16	3/32	3/32	—
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	- 1/4
City and Suburban (£4)	5 1/2	3 1/4	3 5/16	3 1/16	- 3/8
Consolidated Goldfields	6 3/8	3	4 3/32	3 5/16	- 17/32
Consolidated Main Reef	1 1/16	1/4	5/8	5/8	—
Crown Deep	13 1/2	10 1/4	11 3/4	12 1/4	+1 1/2
Crown Reef	13	7 1/2	8 3/8	7 3/8	-1
De Beers Pref. (£2 10s.)	18 1/4	16 3/4	18 1/4	17 1/4	- 3/4
" " Def. (£2 10s.)	24 1/4	16 3/8	26 1/4	23 1/4	-3 3/8
Driefontein	3 5/16	1 1/4	1 3/4	1 3/4	—
Durban Roodepoort	4	2 3/8	2	2	—
East Rand Proprietary	7 3/8	3 1/8	4 7/32	3 31/32	- 1/4
Ferreira	20 1/2	17 1/2	19	18 3/4	- 1/4
Ferreira Deep	5 5/8	4 1/2	5 1/4	4 1/2	- 3/8
Geduld	5 1/16	1 5/8	1 3/4	1 11/16	- 1/16
Geldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	3 3/8	2 15/16	2 15/16	—
General Mining and Finance	2 9/16	1 3/8	1 1/2	1 7/16	- 1/16
Goerz A. & Co.	3 3/16	1 3/16	1 1/4	15/16	- 5/16
Henderson's Transvaal	16/3	7/-	9/3	7/9	-1/6
Jagersfontein Def.	10 3/8	7 7/8	9 1/2	8x	-24/-
Johannesburg Con. Inv't	1 1/8	1	1 5/16	1 1/8	- 3/16
Jubilee	3 1/4	1 7/8	1 15/16	1 7/8	+ 1/16
Jupiter	2 1/4	11/16	15/16	7/8	- 1/16
Knight's	4 1/2	2 5/16	3 1/2	3 1/8	- 1/8
Langlaagte Estate	3	2 5/16	2 7/16	2 5/16	- 1/8
May Consolidated	3 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/4	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Meyer and Charlton	4 1/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	4	+ 1/4
New African	1 5/16	3/4	3/4	3/4	- 1/16
New Comet	3	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 5/16	- 1/16
New Goch	2 3/8	1	1	1	—
New Heriot	4 1/2	2 3/8	3 1/4	3 3/32	- 1/4
New Kleinfontein	1 7/8	13/16	1 5/32	1 1/8	- 3/32
New Modderfontein (£4)	8 1/16	4 5/8	6 5/16	5 1/16	-1
New Primrose	3 1/2	2 3/8	2 3/4	2 3/4	—
Nigel	3 1/4	2 3/8	2 7/8	2 3/8	- 1/2
Oceana Consolidated	1 3/8	11/16	17/3	15·9	-1/6
Premier Dia'md Def. (2s. 6d.)	19 3/8	8	12 5/8	9 3/4	- 2 7/8
Randfontein Estate	2 1/8	1 1/8	1 5/32	1 1/32	- 3/32
" North	1 13/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/8	- 1/16
" Porges	1 15/16	1 5/8	1 5/8	1 1/16	- 1/16
" Robinson	1 1/2	25/32	1 1/16	13/16	- 1/8
" South	1 3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/4	—
Rand Mines (5s. sh.)	7 15/16	5 3/32	6 11/32	5 5/8	- 23/32
Robinson (£5)	8 5/8	6 3/4	8 1/8	8 1/4	- 1/8
Robinson Central Deep	6 3/4	4 3/4	5 3/4	5 1/4	- 1/2
Robinson Deep	5 9/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	- 1/8
Roodepoort United	2 3/8	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/8	- 1/8
South African Gold Mines	6	1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	- 1/8
South African Gold Trust	4 3/8	1 7/8	2 5/8	2 1/8	- 3/8
Simmer and Jack	1 13/16	1 1/8	1 1/2	1 3/8	- 3/32
Transvaal Consd. Land	2 1/8	1 1/16	2 1/16	1 15/16	- 1/8
Transvaal Est. and Dev'mt.	21/3	9/6	13/3	10/9	-2/6
Transvaal Goldfields	1 1/8	15/16	15/16	7/8	- 1/16
Treasury	2 3/4	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 3/4	+ 1/16
Van Ryn	3 3/8	2 5/16	3 1/16	3	- 1/16
Village Deep	3 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	—
Village Main Reef	4 3/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/16	- 1/16
Welgedacht	6	2 3/8	3 3/8	2 3/8	- 1
Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/8	2 1/16	3 1/8	3 1/16	—
Wolhuter	3 1/4	2 1/8	1 15/16	1 7/8	- 1/16

Business in Rhodesians has continued on a limited scale, but the tendency latterly has been a trifle better, and when general market conditions become more settled the leading shares of this department will possibly pick up a little. Meanwhile, it is worthy of note that the Rhodesian gold production increased materially again last month—in fact, the May figures are a record, beating the previous highest by over two thousand ounces:—

——	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950	47,048
February	17,090	18,073	30,131	38,037	40,482
March	19,626	17,756	34,927	44,574	46.887
April	20,727	17,862	33,268	42,423	49,772
May	22,137	19,424	31,332	46,729	52,068
June	22,166	20,402	35,256	47,664	—
July	23,571	24,339	34,693	48,485	—
August	19,187	24,669	35,765	50,127	—
September	18,741	26,029	35,785	48,410	—
October	17,918	24,919	33,333	45,644	—
November	15,714	26,183	32,861	48,503	—
December	18,750	28,100	37,116	48,520	—
Total	231,872	267,715	407,048	551,875	236,857

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INDICATIONS OF A REVIVAL IN THE BROKEN HILL GROUP—SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLONIAL DEMAND—DIVIDEND POSSIBILITIES AND INTRINSIC MERITS.

In view of the indications of a revival in the Broken Hill group some particulars of the present position of the mines, supplementary to the article I gave in TRUTH of January 2 last, may be of interest. During the last few months the Zinc Corporation disappointment, the fears of a water famine on the field, and financial difficulties in the Stock Exchange have somewhat overshadowed the group. Within the last fortnight heavy rains on the Barrier have apparently removed the worst of these troubles, and the colony has begun picking up shares on the London market. The turn in the tide is the more appropriate in that it comes at the beginning of the Australian winter, when the Colonial speculators are usually most active. They are always credited with being a very shrewd crowd, paying more attention to intrinsic merits than to insiders' talk, and the British operator who is content to watch how the Colonial cat jumps, and jumps himself as soon after as possible, is likely to do well. The following table shows the course of quotations for Broken Hill shares in the past three years compared with current prices:—

Share.	1905.		1906.		1907.		Present Price.
	High'st.	Lowest.	High'st.	Lowest	High'st.	Lowest	
British Broken Hill	38/3	15/-	58/-	30/6	2 3/16	1 1/4	2
Broken Hill Prop. (3s. share)	78/-	41/3	117/6	63/9	5 5/16	4 1/16	4 1/4
B. H. Block 10, (£10 shares, £9 13s. pd.)	5 1/8	1	6 1/4	3 15/16	5 1/2	4 1/8	5
B. H. Block 14 (£1 5s. shares)	1 1/2	7/8	2	1 1/4	1 15/16	1 1/8	1 5/8
B. H. Block Pref. (6s. shares)	—	—	1 5/8	1 1/2	1 15/16	1 1/8	1 5/8
B. H. Junc., North	—	—	2	1 7/16	2	1 3/16	1 5/8
Broken Hill North	3 1/8	1 1/8	5 1/16	2 1/4	4 3/8	3 1/16	3 15/16
Broken Hill South	4 7/16	2 1/16	8 1/4	3 1/2	8 1/2	7	7 1/8
B. H. South Blocks	—	—	2 1/16	1	2 3/4	1 1/32	1 7/8
Sulphide Corporation (15s. share)	—	—	20/6	11/-	25/-	15/6	18/-
Sulphide Corporation Pref.	—	—	31/-	22/6	1 1/16	1 1/4	28/6
Lead per ton	£ s. d. 17 17 6	£ s. d. 11 17 6	£ s. d. 20 5 0	£ s. d. 15 17 6	£ s. d. 21 15 0	£ s. d. 19 7 6	£ s. d. 21 15 0

From the above table it will be seen that prices generally are well below the highest of last year, although intrinsic conditions have further improved. As regards that most important factor, the price of lead, the present quotation of £21 15s. per ton is a fresh record, and what it means to the companies may be gathered from the fact that the Proprietary has paid dividends with lead under £10 per ton, and when working costs were higher than now. As to the delay in realising zinc profits, which the Zinc Corporation's troubles have entailed on the British, Block 10, South and Block 14 companies, the matter is really of minor importance compared with the earnings now being secured at the current high price of lead, and we have not allowed for possible zinc profits in the following calculations. Lead and silver profits, therefore, form the basis of the following analysis of the dividend prospects of the individual mines. The particulars furnished should enable readers to make up their minds as to purchases in the Broken Hill group, according to whether they fancy good present yields, or more speculative possibilities.

The Broken Hill Proprietary is indisputably the premier company of the group. During its existence of just over twenty years it has distributed over £9,000,000 in dividends to its fortunate shareholders. The Proprietary's capital now stands at £384,000, in 960,000 shares of 8s. each, the majority of which are held in Great Britain and on the Continent. Recent quarterly dividends have been at the rate of 1s. 6d., plus a bonus of 1s. per share, which at 10s. per annum is equal to a yield of nearly 12 per cent. on the present price of 4¼. The company, however, has been placing its financial position in an unprecedentedly strong condition, and its reserve fund now stands at £250,000, so that future profits should be available to increase dividends. Profits for the half-year ended May 31 have not yet been announced, but must have scored a further substantial advance on the previous six months, and it would not be surprising if the dividend due to be announced about the middle of July is raised to 3s. or 3s. 6d. per share. The ore reserves are conservatively estimated at five years' supply. The Proprietary Company has several extra strings to its bow, in the shape of the zinc works (which as yet seem to have involved more expense than profit), the option on the Pinnacles leases, and the possible establishment of an iron smelting business.

British Broken Hills, like Proprietaries, have always been a favourite on this side, and this company shares with the Sulphide Corporation and the Broken Hill South Blocks the distinction of holding its meetings in London, not in the Colony. The British has a capital of £264,000, in 240,000 ordinary £1 shares and 60,000 privileged 8s. shares. The only difference between the two classes of shares is that in the event of liquidation the latter would merely rank in the division of assets in the proportion of their nominal value as compared with the nominal value of the ordinary. An interim dividend is paid in December of each year, and a final in the following May. For 1906, 5s. 6d. per share was distributed, against 4s. 6d. for 1905, the yield at the present price of 2 being, therefore, 13¾ per cent. It would be premature to estimate the results for the current year, but since the company has been fully distributing its profits no very great advance in dividends can be looked for on account of 1907. At the end of 1906 the ore reserves were four years ahead of the mill, and since then the continuity of the lode over a horizontal distance of 1,300 ft. at the 800 ft. level has been pretty conclusively proved.

In next week's issue I propose to deal with the position of the other principal mines of this group.

"MONEY MAKING METHODS."

On the principle that when rogues fall out honest men come by their own, a pot and kettle controversy among the bucket-shop brigade cannot but be advantageous to the simple-minded investor. Between them they may open his eyes to all the various tricks of the trade. I rejoice, therefore, to see that the stress of competition in this line of business is generating what promises to be a very pretty quarrel between rival firms. Here, for instance, is an amusing sign of it in the latest circular of the cover-snatcher who calls himself the National Share Exchange. This individual evidently considers that he is being cruelly deprived of a good deal of his legitimate prey by the International Securities Syndicate. Accordingly, the first part of an article headed "Three Money-Making Methods Analysed," which occupies the front page of his circular, is devoted to an examination of the speculative merits of those premium bonds which the Syndicate is unloading on the public at outrageously exorbitant prices. The gist of this part of the article is that the bonds are a delusion and a snare, the chance of any single bondholder drawing a prize being extremely remote. The circular next has a shot at a firm which "offers cartloads of shares at three-pence, six-pence, and a shilling a share—stuff which is not worth the paper on which the certificates are printed"—a firm which "dares to attack straightforward methods of finance in order to get rid of their veritable trash." This is plainly an allusion to the Consolidated Securities Company, which, as I showed a few weeks ago, points out the folly of speculation on margin only with the object of persuading people into an equally foolish speculation in "low-priced shares." The third of the "money-making methods" discussed by the National Share Exchange is, of course, the cover system of "speculative investment," which is strongly recommended "to the small investor and to the novice in Stock Exchange business" as a system "whereby their incomes may be increased without work by thoroughly legitimate means." This statement, coupled with the fact that the novice is advised to try a deal in American Rails on a 1 per cent. margin, is a sufficient indication of the

ROMANO'S RESTAURANT, STRAND.—*Truth* says:—"On the way down the Strand I dropped in to dine at Romano's—I was glad to see how well the place maintains its old reputation. A better-cooked and better-served dinner no one need desire."

character of this concern. Its whole aim is to grab the money deposited with it by its unfortunate dupes.

A great many of the victims of the cover-snatchers do not really understand that they have been gambling until they have lost their money. They actually imagine that they are making a safe investment, when they are merely betting on the rise and fall of shares—betting, too, with enormously long odds against them. Only a day or two ago I had a letter from an elderly miner in the North of England, who, credulously believing what he was told in one of the flamboyant advertisements of the notorious firm of Arnold and Butler, drew his small savings out of the Post Office, in the hope that an "investment" on their "marginal system" would be a provision for his old age. There was the usual result—the cover ran off—and the poor old fellow then wrote to me to know whether the law sanctioned such transactions. I am sorry to say that it does, and as a journalist I am still more sorry to see that innumerable newspapers, including the *Times*, aid and abet this disgraceful business by publishing Arnold and Butler's grossly misleading advertisements. Another correspondent, who appears to have been equally innocent, tells me of two similar experiences that he has had with Barry, Hutton, and Co., Pinner's-court, Old Broad-street, and Fraser, Greig, and Co., 65, Gracechurch-street. Judging, indeed, from the correspondence that I am getting, the bucket-shops are just now doing a roaring trade. Lee, Bailie, and Co., Eastwood and Co., J. B. McKenzie, the Stock Exchange Investment Corporation, Milne, Son, and Hamilton, and other cover-snatchers whose circulars I have frequently noticed, are all on the warpath, and almost every week some fresh bucket-shop is opened. People who are tempted to indulge in this species of gambling should remember that not only is it always extremely probable that the stocks tipped for an advance will decline—that is what the tipster naturally counts upon—but that even in the unlikely event of a rise occurring, it is ten to one that they will be unable to obtain the profit that is supposed to have been made. The bucket-shop keeper, if he is sued, can always plead the Gaming Act, and, as is constantly shown by cases in the courts, he rarely fails to do so.

THE COALITE PROSPECTUS.

The long-expected prospectus of the British Coalite Co., Limited, is now published. By this time most people are aware that coalite is manufactured from ordinary coal by a refining process, the invention of Mr. Thomas Parker. Exhaustive experiments have been made with it, and great advantages are claimed for coalite as an economical and smokeless fuel, while its manufacture yields various valuable by-products. The company has been formed to purchase the patent rights for manufacturing and dealing in coalite in the United Kingdom, to acquire freehold sites at Barking and Wednesfield, together with the coalite plant capable of an output of about 15,000 tons per annum which is now in operation, and to take over a contract with Wm. Cory and Son, Ltd., under which they agree for twenty-one years to collect and sell the whole of the company's output, in the metropolitan and other areas. The capital is £2,000,000, divided into 1,500,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, and 500,000 deferred ordinary shares of £1 each. Out of the profits the ordinary shares will be first entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, and the surplus profits will be distributed equally between the ordinary shares and the deferred ordinary shares. The ordinary shares are now offered for public subscription, the list closing for London to-morrow (Thursday), and for the country on Friday. The directors are men of high reputation in the commercial world, and the vendors have shown their confidence in the prospects of the company by taking practically the whole of the purchase consideration in deferred ordinary shares. It must be borne in mind, however, that at the best an undertaking of this kind must be to some extent speculative.

BRUNNEN.—GRAND HOTEL. The most exquisite spot on Lake Lucerne. Thoroughly first class. 250 rooms and saloons. American Bar. English and French billiards.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Beaulieu.—The scrip was issued a few months ago, and since my recommendation to which you refer the discount has narrowed from 3 to about 1½ per cent. I still think the bonds a desirable purchase.

RAILWAYS.

R. W. C.—None of the suggested securities is suitable for your purpose. I would suggest the new Four and a Half per Cent. debentures of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific railway, quoted at about 96. These are a high-class investment, and, seeing that the yield is more than 4⅝ per cent., they possess prospects of a fair rise in value. With regard to your last question, you might make the exchange with advantage. *Tu Haura.*—No. 2 is worth buying, and you need have no doubts about the soundness of No. 6. No. 1 is hardly suitable, as it is redeemable at par in 1915. Atchison Five per Cent. Ten Year Convertible Bonds would be a better selection. The three ordinary stocks are sound of their kind, but the dividend outlook during the next few years is somewhat uncertain, and I hardly regard them as attractive. You could get value by substituting for them Buenos Ayres and Pacific New Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures, Antofagasta and Bolivia New Five per Cent. Debentures and National of Mexico Four per Cent. First Mortgage bonds.

MINES.

R. L. B.—New Kleinfontein, Wit Deep and Ferreira Deep should suit you. *T. T.*—1. It would be as well to exchange into something more promising, but I do not care to recommend the copper shares mentioned. 2. There was, I believe, heavy forced liquidation some time ago, and latterly there has been practically no interest in the shares. 3. The shares have declined in view of the suspension of dividends, but I would not sell now. 4. A fair speculative holding. 5. Hold. *Mac.*—Both very speculative, and you could employ your money more hopefully elsewhere. *J. L.*—As holdings for dividends, I prefer the South Africans to the Indians. *East Anglian.*—I have heard nothing recently as to the company's affairs. On the terms of the prospectus the shares seemed a fair purchase, but little speculative interest has been taken in them so far.

MIXED.

Deccane.—You could obtain 4½ to 5 per cent. with excellent security by spreading the money over the following ten descriptions:—Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds (first series), Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway Five per Cent. new debentures, Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four and a Half per Cent. new debentures, National Railroad of Mexico Four per Cent. First Consolidated Mortgage bonds, United Railways of the Havana Five per Cent. Irredeemable debentures (1906), United States Steel Corporation Five per Cent. Second Mortgage bonds, Atchison Railroad Five per Cent. Convertible Ten Year bonds, Grand Trunk Railway Five per Cent. Second Preference stock, Imperial Tobacco Six per Cent. Preferred Ordinary, and Home and Colonial Six per Cent. Preference. *Cura peculi.*—1. You might transfer the whole or part to the London County Council Three and a Half per Cent. new loan, upon which the yield is about 3⅝ per cent. 2. The security is good enough, and I do not think it is likely to be affected by political happenings. At the same time the fact that the debentures are redeemable by drawings at par precludes any material advance in the price. You might do better by exchanging into the new Four and a Half per Cent. debentures of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, quoted at about 96. 3 and 4. Perfectly sound and worth keeping. 5 and 6. These are safe investments. *G., Dublin.*—1. A moderate recovery is not unlikely, provided traffic returns in the near future shape a little better. 2. No. 3. If you had read my remarks during the last few weeks you would have had no need

to ask such a question. Trunk Thirds, among Canadian Railways, have big speculative possibilities. Better leave Americans alone. 4. An entirely different publication. *Woodrobin.*—1. Defer a purchase of Bostons, while the copper outlook remains uncertain. 2. Yes. 3. Make a selection from the list of ten stocks given to "Deccane." 4. Sorry, but I am unable to decipher the name. 5. Gross earnings were splendid. The fault was with the rise in operating expenses, and I do not see how the railroad expenditure for the month could have been affected by the strike. 6. I have not heard that the line suffered by the earthquake. 7. Worth holding. 8. Not very hopeful. 9. The company is in debt, and prospects appear almost hopeless. *Negwhead.*—1. This question is answered by the special article on the East Rand group in last week's issue 2. Good enough, but the option to redeem at par will prevent much rise. With regard to both this stock and the other four you name, I do not see any great attraction. You might do better by selecting five out of the ten securities recommended to "Deccane." *Intertrigs.*—Your investments have been carefully chosen, and you may safely sleep on them. *A. H. B.*—1-5. All good for permanent investment, but No. 2, though well secured, might possibly be further depreciated by threatened legislation. 6. Hold what you have, but do not buy more just now. *Lambert, Kilkenny.*—1. See answer under "Insurance Notes." 2, 3, and 4. Very speculative purchases just now, but might yield a small profit. *O. K.*—1. Would advise you to cut the loss. You would have to prove such an assertion, which is a difficult matter. The shares stand at a discount. 2. I do not regard either with favour. *Togo.*—1. They do not appear interesting as a speculation. 2. The shares move in sympathy with the South African market. 3. Their chief attraction is the high yield. 4. Humbers and Daimlers. *Van.*—Hold all for a possible recovery. Ilford are perhaps a trifle risky. 2. For various reasons it might be best to look on for a while. *Charles Benny.*—1. Would make a fair investment holding. 2. Could be improved upon, I think. *Calcutta* —1. The name of the firm mentioned does not appear in the latest list of members of the Stock Exchange. 2. I do not recommend a purchase. 3. You could make a better selection than these at the present time. In the same market I should prefer Eldorados. 4. A fair speculation. Present price about 2s. 5. They may have some recovery when general market conditions improve. I cannot say when a dividend will be paid. *Wanderer.*—1. I have not a high opinion of these. 2. I am afraid the stock is hopeless, and think you could do better by transferring the proceeds into some sound dividend-paying security. 3. Speculative, but may have a moderate recovery. 4. Hold for the present. *E. M. F.*—1. These should have some recovery sooner or later. 2. I have no recent information as to this company; write to the secretary. 3. I cannot in any way recommend it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

E. J. H.—Probably a would-be buyer would find that the firm was not, after all, ready to deliver your company's shares at the price named, but anxious to unload others of a less desirable character. I referred to a similar circular from the same parties on March 20. *Spes.*—I am not acquainted with any similar concern. *Delta.*—1 and 2. Yes. *S. and Co.*—Your letter shall receive consideration. *Tu Haura.*—I have never had occasion to criticise them, but I always recommend dealing through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Argyll.*—1. See "Insurance Notes" in another column. 2. Imperial Tobacco Preferred Ordinary would be a thoroughly sound commercial investment. 3. A hopeful purchase. *J. W., Roehampton.*—Hold them. *H. L. S.*—1. See "Insurance Notes." 2. The International Securities Syndicate, like the Paris firms of Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and Melville, Glyn, and Co., charge prices for the bonds which are enormously in excess of their current market value. Read my articles of May 29 and June 12 on this premium bond business. *F. E., Spendthrift, Old Bird,* and other correspondents. — See preceding answer. *Malplaquet.*—You have already had my opinion in the article you send me. If you still want to buy them apply to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. As to English securities, I would make a recommendation if you would say what amount you have to invest. *P. W.*—Unless you wish to throw away your money the objection as to the price ought to make you avoid the firm; but, apart from that, I have had no occasion to criticise them. *Worried.*—The National Share Exchange is a cover-snatching bucket-shop, with which you should have nothing to do. *M. O. M.*—The preceding answer also applies to Arnold and Butler. *Reader.*—I will give the suggested warning. *F. H., Bridgetown.*—I think he was dealt with in TRUTH a great many years ago, but he shall have another notice. *F. B.*—I published an exposure of "A. Lawrence and Co." on May 22. *R. V. M.*—The Lee, Baillie and Co. bucket-shop shall again receive my attention. *Rusticus Expectans.*—Apply to the Crédit Lyonnais or to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., whose address is given above. I have forwarded the name of the Paris solicitor. *Illustrious.*—1. They would make a fair commercial investment. 2. I have heard nothing against them. *Bantam.*—You are mistaken. The prospectus had not been published up till Monday morning, but if it appears in time it will be dealt with in this week's issue. *Trafalgar.*—The resumption of dividend payments ought to be possible within a year. The Preference being cumulative the arrears of interest will have to be paid. *K. C. W.*—Provided some discretion is exercised in selecting them, such Preference shares would make a fair commercial holding. *Calcutta.*—As the contemplated legislation has been postponed, the securities may recover a little when domestic conditions improve. Cut the loss then and put the proceeds into something with promise. *Bobs.*—Joining the reconstruction would involve some risk, but there is a possibility that the concern will benefit in the long run. *Colt* —1. See answer to "Bobs." 2. Prospects are more hopeful. 3 and 4. Should be held. *A. J. R., Bath.*—I have continually warned my readers against this system of speculation. The legal question is one for a solicitor's opinion. *F. C. F.*—Thanks for your communication, of which I may make use some time when again dealing with the firm. *W. Athill.*—I am afraid that you have no legal remedy against this bucket-shop.

MISCELLANEOUS—HUDSON'S BAY DIVIDEND DISAPPOINTMENT—COATS'S RISE AND RUMOURS—IRON AND COAL COMPANIES—MOTORS RALLY—'BUS SHARES AND THE FARES QUESTION.

In the Miscellaneous market the most interesting event of the week was the announcement of the Hudson's Bay dividend. With the £3 5s. now to be paid the total distribution for the year is made up to £4 5s. per £10 share, which is 5s. more than was distributed twelve months ago, but at least 5s. less than some of the "bulls" had anticipated. The addition that has been made to the dividend absorbs £25,000, a similar sum has been placed to the credit of the building account, and £10,000 to the employees' benefit fund. These two allocations correspond with those of last year, but whereas £15,000 was then set aside for irrigation, no such expenditure is mentioned now. The carry-forward is, however, increased from £96,300 to £117,900, and on the whole it is evident from the preliminary statement that the company has enjoyed a very prosperous year. All the same, it is obvious that there never was the smallest intrinsic justification for the booming of the shares to 130, the high-water mark which they touched towards the end of last year. Though the merits of Bays were frequently emphasised in this column when they stood at a reasonable figure, my readers were always warned of the inevitable consequences of the wild gamble that was in progress last year. It is amusing to remember that in December, when the interim dividend was doubled, some people actually talked of the probable doubling of the total distribution for the year—a prediction which I characterised as ludicrously over-sanguine. Since then Bays have come down about 40 points, the fall having been recently accelerated by the forced liquidation of a very large account. On the dividend announcement last week there was a further relapse to 88½—a price from which some recovery may be expected, though there is not the least likelihood that the shares will again be hoisted to their former high level. In the Textile section the outstanding feature has been the recent steady rise in J. and P. Coats shares. There does not seem to have been any foundation for the rumour as to a new working arrangement with the English Sewing Cotton Company, while the suggestion that in view of the huge reserves that have now been accumulated the directors will in future distribute the whole of the profits is generally received with a good deal of scepticism. The Coats' concern undoubtedly occupies an extraordinarily strong position, and its securities are among the very soundest of industrial investments. The yield, however, is so small—on the ordinary shares at last week's making-up price it is only £3 5s. 6d. per cent.—that the average investor is inclined to regard it as inadequate. Among Textiles, by the way, a return of nearly 4½ per cent. can be obtained from Fine Cotton Spinners cumulative preference shares, while the ordinary yield over 6¼ per cent. Bradford Dyers ordinary return just over 5½ per cent.

In the Iron and Coal list hardly any changes have been registered. Apart from the possibilities of troubles in regard to wages and hours of labour, to which Mr. A. F. Pease alluded at the meeting of Pease and Partners, the outlook for these trades continues good; and yet another proof of their present flourishing condition has been afforded by the report of the Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal Company. The net profits have increased from £43,107 to £118,947, and for the first time the company pays its ordinary shareholders a dividend of 10 per cent. There was a general rally in motor shares, and though neither Humbers nor Daimlers have maintained the whole of the advance that had been secured at the beginning of the week, both these shares can still be recommended as promising purchases. In connection with the reported decision of the underground railways to raise their fares, an advance has occurred in the securities of the two leading 'bus companies, on the assumption that

they will follow the example of the railways. It is unquestionable that some of the present 'bus fares—more especially for the longer journeys—are unremunerative. It does not follow, however, that the raising of fares would bring about that improvement in the position and prospects of the London General and the London Road Car Companies which some people seem to anticipate. Some, at least, of the gilt would be taken off the gingerbread by a diminution in the number of passengers. Another thing to be borne in mind is that so far as its commercial success is concerned, the motor 'bus is still in a more or less experimental stage. Meanwhile, both the London General and the Road Car traffic receipts last week again exhibited a falling off, making a decrease to date of £49,409 in the case of the former company, and of £6,907 in the case of the latter.

VIGILANT.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Wm. Cory & Son, Limited.

The eleventh annual ordinary general meeting was held on June 11 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Sir Francis Cory-Wright, Bart., Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: We propose—as we have done for the past six years—to pay you 10 per cent., and I may say that, in my opinion, in a commercial undertaking 10 per cent. is a very fair dividend to pay, and is quite as much as a commercial undertaking ought to be expected to pay. If more money than that can be made it should be spent, in my opinion, in further depreciating, if possible, and adding to our reserve. The reserve has had no addition to it—the main reserve of £250,000—for six years. We have gone through a series of what I might call quite normal years—not very good years, though they might have been worse; but, at any rate, we have managed to pay you 10 per cent., and if the time comes, as I hope it will, when we shall do somewhat better, the time will also have come when your reserve should be increased; £250,000 is not sufficient for an undertaking of this character, and it is in the interests of the shareholders and of everybody concerned in this Company that we should build up a substantial reserve. We do not know what will happen, or what may take the place of coal. A great deal of our assets may in course of time, for aught we know, be of little value, and we must be prepared to have as large a reserve as possible. I have no doubt you will all be expecting that I should say something to you about this new invention of coalite. Coalite, as I understand it, is the product of a new invention of Mr. Parker, of Wolverhampton. It is claimed, and I think on good grounds, that this fuel will result to a great extent in clearing London of the thick fogs from which we suffer, and which are caused largely by the smoke emitted from the domestic and factory chimney. If this new fuel proves, as it is claimed to be, absolutely smokeless, it should, consequently, have a great future before it. This Company has entered into an agreement with the new Coalite Company, which is to exploit this invention, to act with them in the purchase of coal and in the sale of coalite, and if it meets with the success anticipated it should prove a source of great revenue to this Company; and I maintain that our services will prove equally advantageous to the new Company—British Coalite, Limited—as soon as it is put upon the market. I cannot say anything more about that Company, because I believe it is coming out to the public in a very short time, and you will be able to read the prospectus and make inquiries for yourselves. But this Company's connection with coalite is this: If coalite is going to be the great success that many people anticipate—and I myself think there will be a great demand for it, as it will be a splendid thing to do away with the smoke from the chimneys, and there is no doubt, too, that it makes a very hot fire—Wm. Cory and Son ought to be in it. We are making an arrangement, extending over a term, to act as their agents practically for the purchase of coal and for the sale of coalite in a certain area, which will be defined by the agreement so soon as the new Company gets to work.

Mr. F. D. Lambert (Deputy Chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Domestic Servants' Insurance.

In my special Insurance Supplement of May 15, under the heading of "Points about Policies," I wrote at some length about the essential features of a policy which would effectively cover an employer's liability. On June 10 I was glad to see that the *Daily Telegraph* dealt with the same subject, laying stress upon the same points that I did. This paper also gave a specimen policy embodying the *Daily Telegraph's* views and mine, and I am glad to see that several of the best and strongest companies have announced their intention to revise their policies in accordance with the views which I expressed a month ago, and which the *Daily Telegraph* enunciated last week. At a later date the *Daily Mail* did something of the same sort, and they, too, have persuaded a company to adopt a more satisfactory policy than it formerly issued.

This, of course, means that all the other companies will follow the example that has been set by the principal offices, and that adequate insurance protection will be obtainable from almost every sound company. It is important to lay stress upon this latter qualification, since financial stability is the most essential requisite in any office which undertakes liabilities of the serious nature involved by the Workmen's Compensation Act, especially when it is remembered that compensation may involve an annuity for life, and that it is quite possible for an office to be solvent to-day and insolvent ten or twenty years hence.

I am rather wondering what has become of the Employers' Liability Insurance Companies Bill, which, as originally drafted, was to come into force on July 1. Subject to certain important changes in the wording, this would make an extremely valuable Act, and tend to eliminate, either by amalgamation or by evaporation, a number of companies which "never would be missed." It is a measure which I should imagine even the partiest politician would not wish to obstruct.

Inasmuch as insurance cannot with prudence be delayed any longer, it is worth while to consider once again the points that should be and the points that should not be included in a good policy for domestic servants' insurance. The first thing is that the employer should make sure that he is covered, not merely against legal liability, but against having to defend at his own cost any claim which may be made upon him. If a servant claimed against his master and the case were decided in the master's favour, the employer, under some of the policies, would have no legal claim on the insurance company for the costs of defending the case. A provision to pay the costs of defending claims, as well as indemnifying the employer against his legal liability, ought therefore to be included in every policy. It, of course, is included when the employer is indemnified against all claims.

A little matter of words, which in a respectable insurance company is not of importance, but which in an inferior office might give a loophole of escape, is that the person insured had better be described in a policy as the "employer," rather than as the "insured." This is one of the points about this subject which would have delighted the subtle school men of the Middle Ages, who debated how many angels could balance themselves on the point of a pin, and whether the owner, or the boy, or the rope led the pig to market. To quote the "Mikado," "the fool of an Act" says, "In this Act, 'employer' includes . . . the legal personal representative of a deceased employer." If a man dies, his executors are therefore responsible to his servants, but if "the insured" dies I am not at all certain that an insurance company would be liable to his executors, in which case the executors would have to pay an injured servant out of the estate. This is a legal point raised by a friend of mine, and it is just possible there is something in it.

Another point, which is very important, is that the policy should not limit the indemnity to the happening of an accident when the servant is employed only in the kind of employment mentioned in the schedule to the policy. If the housemaid does the cooking while the cook is on her holiday, and has an accident while cooking, she is not insured under such a policy. This condition is even more important in regard to outdoor servants, since in the case of, for instance, a gardener attending to a horse, he is meant to be excluded from the liability an insurance company undertakes when "employed as set forth" is the wording. It is, therefore, important to see that the words "servants named in the schedule," or some such phrase is employed, rather than "servants engaged in the employment described in the schedule." A great many of the companies retained an arbitration clause in their policy, but this has already been abandoned by several of them, and there is little doubt that it will in the future disappear from

them all. I can quite understand an insurance company liking it, but I can also understand private individuals objecting to it, and on the whole it seems distinctly better for it to be left out.

Some policies expressly limit their sphere of operations to the United Kingdom, but it is by no means clear that the employer's liability is limited in this way, and it therefore seems to me much better that the policy should contain no such restriction. If a company thinks the Act does not apply outside the limits of the United Kingdom, then the omission of the limiting words is of no moment to the office, while if the Act does apply to the chauffeur or lady's maid taken abroad by an English employer, then it is necessary that the employer should be protected.

A good many of the policies require notice of every accident, and, technically, the policy is invalidated if such notice is not given. In these circumstances nobody would feel quite sure when they need, and when they need not, write to insurance companies about petty injuries to their domestics. It is very necessary that the offices should have early advice of all accidents likely to bring about serious consequences, since it is a great advantage to be able to investigate the circumstances of the accident as soon as possible after it happens. A modification of this condition that adequately protects the companies and yet leaves no doubt in the minds of the policy-holders as to what they ought to do, is to put a clause in the policy providing that notice should be sent to the company of accidents which result in disablement, but not notice of every accident.

A further condition in regard to which opinion may well differ is about the engagement of additional permanent servants. It seems to me best for the policy-holder to be free to take on additional servants without being required to send notice to a company, and for the policy to provide that these extra servants are insured from the date of their engagement. In such a case it is necessary that the policy-holder should tell the company of any extra servants engaged when paying the next renewal premium, and, of course, pay the extra premium required for the insurance for such additional servants. The objection to this course is that it requires a statement from each policy-holder when the renewal premium is sent. It seems to me that if the policy were worded so as to be null and void in regard to all employees if the condition as to notifying (when paying the next premium) the engagement of additional servants were not complied with, the companies would have very little trouble in obtaining the requisite statement in the relatively few cases where it would be required. I think, therefore, that a clause providing for the insurance of additional servants without notification until the next renewal premium falls due is a desirable feature.

Of course, one of the most important points to be attended to is the wording in regard to casual employees. These can quite well be included in the schedule, and such expressions as "all casual employees," or "temporary servants," or "all workmen in the employer's temporary or casual service," meet this requirement in quite satisfactory fashion.

The conditions above referred to cover all that it is necessary for an employer to see included in the policy, but there are sundry conditions found in some policies which he ought to be careful to have excluded. There should be no power to terminate the policy before the end of any insurance year, though naturally every company must retain the right to decline to renew the insurance. Then it seems undesirable to require the employer to take reasonable care and comply with all statutory requirements; there is no such clause as this in the policies of many of the best companies, and it limits the comprehensiveness of the policy if it is inserted. Yet, again, there should be no positive statement required from the employer to the effect that his servants are healthy or sound. It seems not unreasonable that such a statement might be required to "the best of the knowledge and belief" of the employer, but even this is not asked for by some of the best offices. If these points are attended to in the selection of a policy, and if care is taken to select an office of undoubted stability, an employer may feel confident that he is fully protected.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[*Every letter containing an inquiry on the subject of insurance must be accompanied by a coupon cut from the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.]

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QUEER STORY.

AURELIA'S ASCOT.

THE whole trouble arose out of Aurelia St. Ruth's insane determination to go to Ascot; and I say "insane," because she was so circumstanced just then that her contemplated visit to the great Royal and annual function on the Berkshire heath really did constitute an act of madness. For consider the facts of the case. She was going to stay the week with the "Tommy" Johnstons, who were entertaining a distinguished party at Pangbourne Castle for the races; and to spend Ascot week at such a house and in such company was an exceedingly expensive amusement. It involved four smart new race-course toilettes and an equal number of smart new dinner frocks. Put the total cost of these at £200, and you would be rather inside than outside the mark. But this was not all. There would be high play at bridge every night. Another £100 must be reserved for that. Then it was no fun going to races unless you had a bit of spare cash for betting; while even the merely incidental expenses, such as tipping servants and that sort of thing, would run into a tidy sum. Altogether, Aurelia did not see how she could go, with any satisfaction, on less than £350. Yet she couldn't, at the moment, put her finger on a £5 note. How was the difficulty to be got over?

You will say, perhaps, that as far as the frocks, at any rate, went, she might have procured them on credit. But that was just what she couldn't do. Her credit was so bad that not a modiste or a milliner in London would trust her for a penny. Whatever she had she must pay cash for. That was abundantly clear. But how was the cash to be obtained? This problem exercised the fair Aurelia's brain long and painfully. It also set certain astute and unscrupulous schemes revolving in the brain of Millicent Foxcroft.

Millicent Foxcroft was by way of being a dear friend of Aurelia's. She knew her position, and appeared to sympathise with her. But then she was, as everybody was aware, an utterly selfish and unprincipled young woman, in whom appearances were seldom to be trusted, and who never hesitated to turn the necessities of her friends to her own advantage, when she could see her way clear to such a course. This may seem strong language; but I think you will admit that the circumstances which I am about to relate go far to justify my estimate of the fair Millicent's character.

You have heard, of course, of Blithersole's, the well-known Bond-street jeweller. The head of the business, at this time, was Mr. Percy Blithersole, who, while still a comparatively young man, had succeeded (by the recent death of his father) to the position of senior partner, and an income of some £15,000 a year.

Young Blithersole had been educated at Harrow and Oxford, and now imagined himself a gentleman. It was quite a delusion. For though he had acquired something of the outer polish that enables a man to pass muster among strangers, he was essentially one of those sow's ears out of which it is impossible to

make a silk purse. His mind was coarse and common. His way of looking at things was vulgar and underbred. And no one could have much to do with him without discovering that he was, at heart, a cad.

However—as is usually the case with such persons—he was sublimely unconscious of his own shortcomings, quite believing that he was, to all intents and purposes, the social equal of any man in clubland. And it was his intention to consolidate his position by marriage with some smart society girl. The girl, whom, after looking about him, he had at length selected for his future wife, was Aurelia St. Ruth.

Aurelia, you see, was pretty, well connected, and undeniably smart. On the other hand, she was notoriously hard up, and a perfect vulture after money. That she would refuse him, with his handsome person (for he was a good-looking fellow in his coarse style) and his £15,000 a year, was a contingency that scarcely entered into his calculations. He began to pay her marked attentions, and, before she had quite realised what he was after, he made her an offer of marriage. This was when she had only known him for about six weeks.

Aurelia was absolutely furious at his impudence. He, a rank outsider—a bounding shopkeeper as she styled him—whose conceited pretensions to be a man of fashion had, from the first, moved her hilarious contempt—*he* to dare to lift up his eyes to *her*, in whose veins ran some of the bluest blood in England!—was ever heard such consummate cheek? The fellow wanted a lesson in the wholesome duty of knowing his place. He should get it, too. . . . And he did get it, Aurelia refusing him in terms which would literally have crushed most people, and which made even this thick-skinned and self-sufficient young man wince.

"Never have the audacity to speak to me on this subject again," she said. "I do not like you; there is no possibility of my ever liking you; and even if there were, I certainly should not dream of marrying a man in your social position. Now be good enough to leave me."

Percy Blithersole could hardly believe his ears. His vanity had received a shock from which it took it some weeks to recover. But he was a persistent young man, not easily turned aside from any purpose on which he had set his mind. And even now, he told himself, with clenched teeth, that he would make the haughty Aurelia climb down from her high horse yet.

It was while his refusal by Aurelia was still rankling in his mind, that Millicent Foxcroft—two or three weeks before Ascot—came sailing one morning into the Bond-street shop and asked to see Mr. Percy Blithersole. She was shown into his office, where she found him yawning over a society paper.

"Good morning, Mr. Blithersole," she said, smiling at him sweetly and extending her hand to him with the utmost affability.

"Good morning, Mrs. Foxcroft," he answered, taking her hand in his and bending over it with an exaggerated bow.

He knew her quite well in business (for she had long been a customer) and slightly out of it. Moreover, he admired her for her undoubted beauty and was anxious to improve the acquaintance.

"Pray be seated," he said, politely, placing a chair for her.

Millicent took the seat and regarding the young jeweller with a glance half-arch, half-tentative, began to unfold the object of her visit.

"The fact is, Mr. Blithersole," she said, "it has occurred to me that you and I are in the position to do each other a good turn. Before I go any further, however, I must ask you to treat whatever I may say to you as strictly confidential."

"You may rely on me, my dear Mrs. Foxcroft," he replied, ogling his fair visitor in his most killing manner.

Millicent ogled back. She was not above using her fine eyes on any man whom she desired to get something out of—even though he were only a dustman or a foreign waiter.

"Oh! I know I can trust *you*," she remarked, with a subtle emphasis on the pronoun, "otherwise I should not be here to-day; for the proposal I have to make is of a very private character. Let me begin by saying that I am fully aware of your sentiments towards Aurelia St. Ruth."

Blithersole frowned and coloured. Aurelia's scornful words were still ringing in his ears; and the recollection was by no means agreeable to him.

"I must say," continued Millicent, sympathetically, "that I was very much surprised to hear that Aurelia had refused you. She has certainly made a great mistake; for she is not likely to get such another offer. I have told her so, candidly."

The frown faded from Blithersole's face at these soothing words. He even began to smile to himself quite complacently. Perhaps—the idea flashed across him—Aurelia had already repented of her refusal and had sent Mrs. Foxcroft to re-open negotiations. As a matter of fact, he was entirely wrong in this surmise, as Millicent's subsequent remarks soon showed. But, for the moment, the thought flattered him.

"Dear Aurelia is one of those headstrong girls," went on Millicent Foxcroft, deliberately, "who not only seems absolutely blind to her own interests, but also appears to entertain a foolish horror of matrimony on any terms. I do not think any man will ever win her by merely wooing her. She wants to be mastered, coerced, frightened. That is really the only way to deal with Aurelia."

As Millicent said this, she fixed her eyes on Blithersole, meaningly. That she had something ulterior in her mind her glance showed him; though what it might be he could not yet conjecture. However, she soon enlightened him.

"You must get Aurelia under your thumb," she said, "you must place her in such a position that you can apply the screw. Then she will yield, but not before. Do you understand me?"

"But how am I to get her under my thumb—to place her in such a position that I can apply the screw?" he inquired, in some evident perplexity.

"That is exactly what I have come here to-day to tell you," she replied, with perfect sangfroid. "Now, please, give me your most careful attention. The state of affairs is this."

And she proceeded, with cool deliberation, to tell him the whole story of her friend's contemplated visit to Pangbourne Castle for the Ascot races, and of the insuperable financial difficulties that stood in her way.

"At this moment," she concluded, "Aurelia would sell her soul for £350 in hard cash. But fortunately—or unfortunately, according as you regard it—her soul is not a marketable commodity, and she cannot realise upon it. Joking apart, however, she would stick at nothing to get the money; and in that fact," said Millicent, fixing her gaze on Blithersole very impressively, "lies our great hope."

"Are you—are you—suggesting that I should lend her the money?" inquired Blithersole.

"By no means. If you were to do anything of the kind, you would ruin the whole thing. My scheme is far more subtle and effective than that. In short, it amounts to this (you mustn't be shocked, since it is really for dear Aurelia's good), it amounts, I say, to this—that temptation should be put in her way to get the money dishonestly, and when she has succumbed—as I am perfectly sure that, under the circumstances, she will succumb—why, then you will be able to make your own terms with her.

Blithersole's look invited more specific information, which the lady made haste to supply:

"Take it this way," she said. "I am called out of town unexpectedly, and at short notice, for a week or two. I have a valuable emerald necklace, which I want reset. But as I have no time to bring it round to you myself, I leave it with Aurelia, and ask her to bring it round to you for me. Well, what does Aurelia do? Does she bring it round to you? Not she. On the contrary—if I know anything of her character—she takes it to the nearest pawnbroker's and raises the needful upon it to go to Ascot with."

It was all said with the most cynical coolness in the world, as though she felt no shame whatever in making this wicked suggestion. Nor, in fact, did she. If Millicent had ever possessed a heart or a conscience, they had both run to seed long ago from sheer lack of culti-

vation. Indeed, if you had searched London at that moment, it is doubtful whether you could have found a more utterly callous and unabashed young woman.

Even Blithersole, who was not exactly a model of scrupulosity himself, was rather shocked by the calm Machiavellianism of the proposal.

"You suggest that we should—should deliberately tempt Miss St. Ruth to steal your necklace?" he exclaimed.

"Oh, my dear Mr. Blithersole, 'steal' is a hard word," she replied, with a deprecating little laugh. "Aurelia would not look upon it as stealing. She would merely regard it as borrowing my necklace for a week or two, and would console herself with the certain prospect of redeeming it—Aurelia is always so sanguine, poor dear—out of her Ascot winnings. However, you had better first hear the remainder of my scheme. . . . Having given Aurelia time to pledge the emeralds, I suddenly change my mind. I write to you asking you not to proceed with the resetting of the emeralds which my friend Miss St. Ruth has left with you by my instructions, but to retain them pending further advice. You are utterly astonished. You cannot understand it. There must surely be some mistake. Possibly Miss St. Ruth can explain it. Before answering my letter, you send her round a note inviting her to do so. She then realises what an awkward position she has placed herself in (for she knows me well enough to be aware that I sha'n't show her any indulgence), and so she is forced to come round to you, confess the truth, and implore you not to give her away to me. You accede to her request—on conditions. There now! What do you think of that? Tut-tut. You needn't pretend to look shocked, my dear Mr. Blithersole. You are a man of the world, after all. Besides, it is, as I have said, really for dear Aurelia's good. If she continues much longer in her present state of hard-uppishness, she is sure, sooner or later, to land herself badly. She will be ever so much safer and happier as the wife of a rich man like yourself."

Percy Blithersole kept silence for some moments before replying. It was a shamefully mean and wicked plot in which he was invited to participate. Yet the prospect which it held out to him of getting proud Miss Aurelia under his thumb was tremendously alluring. He really didn't feel that he could resist it. Before committing himself, however, there was one point he should like to have cleared up. Why was Millicent Foxcroft taking all this trouble for his benefit. She was not doing it out of philanthropy. He knew her too well to imagine that. What was she after?

"Well, my dear Mrs. Foxcroft," he said, "your scheme is certainly a very clever one, and it is very good of you to put yourself to all this trouble in order to serve me—but—excuse my saying so—where do you yourself expect to come in? I mean——"

"Oh, I quite understand what you mean," interposed Millicent, with perfect composure. "You wish to know—if one may put the thing bluntly—in what way I expect you to scratch my back in return for my scratching yours. I will tell you. The fact is this, my dear Mr. Blithersole. I very much want a diamond tiara. And there is one in your window, priced at 700 gs., which I think would suit me to a T. There you have the milk inside the cocoanut. I do not make any bones about admitting it."

The murder was out. Millicent Foxcroft's selfish and unscrupulous greed was laid bare. She had set herself deliberately to sell her friend into Blithersole's power for no other object than to get a diamond tiara out of him, without paying for it. And yet, in making the disgraceful admission, she betrayed not the slightest token of shame or confusion, but sat smiling serenely at the young jeweller with all the coolness of the proverbial cucumber. Truly, when women do lose their sense of shame, they are the most shameless creatures in the whole of God's creation.

"What do you say, my dear Mr. Blithersole?" she inquired. "Am I to have that tiara, or am I not?"

For a moment he hesitated, then he answered:

"You shall have it, dear lady, on the terms specified."

A few minutes later Millicent left the shop, very well pleased with herself, and carrying the 700-guinea tiara in her wrist bag.

That astute young matron's forecast of what would happen was soon justified by the event. Aurelia St Ruth, looking as pale as death and evidently frightened out of her wits, did come round to see Percy Blithersole, in response to his note, made a clean breast of what she had done with Millicent's emeralds, and, throwing herself on his mercy, implored him not to give her away. Blithersole, cad that he was, rather enjoyed the situation, and had no scruple about taking advantage of it:

"I will do what you ask, my dear Aurelia," he said with smirking familiarity, "on one condition."

"What condition?" she inquired, her breath coming short and her face turning white to the very lips.

"That you will reconsider your answer to a certain question which I asked you some weeks ago," he said, with the calm superiority of one who knows that he holds the winning trump.

"You would force me to marry you, knowing how I—I—dislike you?" she said, in tones half-indignant, half-appealing.

"I would not force you to do anything," he replied, shrugging his shoulders. "I merely indicate the conditions on which I am willing to compound—excuse my plain speaking, Aurelia—compound your felony."

She shuddered at the ugly word. She shuddered still more, when he stepped forward and took her hand.

"Say, my dear, which is it to be—do you again refuse my offer of marriage, or do you accept?" he inquired, looking into her eyes with amorous insolence.

"You leave me no alternative. I accept," she answered, sullenly.

The next few days must have been a week of torture to poor Aurelia, owing to the insistence with which Blithersole would dance attendance upon her. And it was doubtless a merciful respite for her when the time came for her visit to Pangbourne Castle, where she was free, for awhile, from his odious attentions. She had an exceptionally good Ascot week, both as regards her bridge and her betting speculations, with the result that she won altogether three or four hundred pounds. And the effect of this (enabling her, as it now did, to put that little matter of the emeralds right), was to inspire her with sufficient courage to cry off her distasteful engagement with Blithersole.

"I find I can't marry you, after all," she wrote to him. "I really dislike you too much. Herewith I return your letters and presents. Please consider everything over between us."

Blithersole was furious at being thus cavalierly jilted. He went round to see Aurelia, and threatened, in plain language, to expose her at once to Millicent Foxcroft, unless she kept her promise to marry him.

Aurelia, however, treated his threats with contempt.

"I am now free from anxiety on that score," she answered, coldly. "I have redeemed Mill's emeralds and sent them back to her, with a full explanation. She has accepted my apologies and agreed to treat the incident as closed. So there is an end of it."

"Then I will expose you to the world at large," he cried, with vicious venom.

"What?" exclaimed Aurelia, mockingly. "And admit that you were cad enough to extort a promise of marriage from me under compulsion? No, no! Mr. Blithersole, your social tenure is pretty precarious already. But if *that* came out, you would very soon be kicked outside the pale."

The truth of the jibe made him the more infuriated.

"I will pay you out somehow, you vixen," he ejaculated.

"Do your worst," she rejoined, contemptuously. "There is the door. Please go."

He went; there was nothing else to do. On reaching his shop, he found Millicent Foxcroft awaiting him. Millicent appeared to be much perturbed.

"Oh, my dear Mr. Blithersole," she exclaimed. "I am so distressed that things have fallen out so. I never calculated on Aurelia's winning enough money to redeem my emeralds. That, you see, has placed, her in an independent position. And she can now snap her fingers at us."

"At least, you need not have told her that you accepted her apologies, and regarded the incident as closed," he retorted.

"But what else could I do?" said Millicent deprecatingly. "She had restored my necklace. I could not prosecute her. And it was no use making an enemy of her."

"After coaxing 700 guineas' worth of diamonds out of me, you might at least have tried to bluff her a little more than you have done," he ejaculated, angrily.

"Oh, as to that," replied Millicent, suddenly assuming a dignified air, "I quite realise that, as my part of the scheme has failed, I cannot honestly keep the tiara. That is the reason for my present visit. I have come to bring it back. Here it is."

And she laid the leathern case containing the jewels on his office table.

"It is the only reparation I can make you," she said. "I wish the fates had willed otherwise. But they have decided against us; and there is nothing more to be said. Good morning, Mr. Blithersole."

And with a somewhat distant bow, she sailed out.

Blithersole mechanically took up the case, opened it, and examined the tiara. Presently his experienced eye detected something on the back of it that caused him to turn very white and give vent to a furious oath. The something in question was a pawnbroker's private mark.

Then, as in a flash, the truth dawned upon him. The story of the emerald necklace had been pure fiction, purposely concocted between the two women for the purpose of getting the temporary use of his diamond tiara. And it was upon that tiara that Aurelia had raised the needful to go to Ascot.

MUSIC

THE ART OF LISTENING.

IT is sometimes overlooked that there is art in hearing music as well as in making it. Some day, perhaps, listeners will be trained as carefully at our academies and schools as performers, and when that time arrives it is certain that music will be much more intelligently heard than at present. As it is, how many really listen to music in what learned folk tell us is the right way—that is, take intelligent note of the themes and their treatment, appreciate details of structure, key relationship, and so on? The said learned folk would be astonished if they learnt how small a proportion do this. Yet the Philistine would probably reply unabashed that he enjoys the music in his own way just as much as the most learned theorist who dissects every bar as it proceeds. Music may be heard, in truth, in many ways. In the case of some it affords delight chiefly as a stimulus to the imagination, and the music itself is of less importance than the fancies which it conjures up. These are they who see visions and dream dreams when they hear a symphony or a sonata.

Such a one, for instance, is Carmen Sylva, the poet Queen of Roumania, who had an interesting article in the *Nineteenth Century* some time ago, in which she analysed her musical impressions from this point of view. In this she narrated how, hearing the simplest piece, a pictorial image invariably suggested itself—sometimes it might be merely a vague impression of a colour, at other times a definite picture or series of pictures. Even Bach's fugues, she told her readers, affected her in like manner, and sometimes so vividly as to convince her that the picture was inherent in the music. Thus, the B flat minor prelude and fugue of the "Forty-eight" obviously depicted the tale of Jephtha's daughter, and "I would venture to wager that I have really guessed the great master's meaning." To others the same piece of music is merely an affair of subject and answer, episodes, strettos, and the rest. Who gets the greatest enjoyment? It is difficult to say. This involves the question of the critical versus the uncritical hearer. Who has the advantage here? The more cultivated listener, one is tempted to say. But does this necessarily follow? Certainly the less learned have their compensations. To the one that may be a sheer delight which affords excruciating agony to the more sophisticated. Yet the enjoyment of the latter is perhaps keener than anything which the uncultivated one can know when hearing a work which really satisfies the critical judgment.

For that matter, do any two listeners, trained or untrained, ever hear the same work in precisely the same way? "To Newton and to Newton's dog Diamond," said Carlyle in the famous passage, "what a different pair of universes!" And the saying holds in music. The doctrine of the relativity of pains and pleasures nowhere finds more forcible illustration than in the concert room, and this would be more apparent still if people could always be persuaded to say what they really thought and felt. As it is, few hearers are bold enough to do this. They have the courage only of other people's convictions. And in this case the rather curious thing is that the more cultivated the hearer the greater often is the hesitation to express an opinion. It is usually the least informed who declare themselves most fearlessly. The former are afraid of making mistakes, and realise, moreover, how easy it is to do this. The Philistine is undeterred by any such fears, and reports faithfully according to the impression actually produced. Hence the fact, perhaps, that the popular judgment has sometimes been in advance of that of the cultivated. The real difficulty of hearing music properly is, indeed, well illustrated by some of the adverse criticisms passed in the first instance on the greatest works by the most learned hearers. Every one knows how such works as the C minor symphony and the "Tannhäuser" overture, which to-day provoke the least learned audiences to frenzied enthusiasm, were voted incomprehensible and impossible by the experts when first produced. The music was just the same then as now, but they had not learned yet to hear it aright.

This brings up, by the way, the question of new works versus old ones—which has sometimes been a subject of controversy. Habitual concert-goers, including the critics, like new works, whether good or ill, simply because they are new. The general public, on the other hand, prefer as a rule those which they have heard a thousand times before. It is curious, indeed, how tastes differ in this respect. The average amateur, who only goes to a concert now and again, revels in the C minor symphony and Tchaikowsky's "Pathetic," in the "Tristan" prelude and the Siegfried Idyll. The more blasé concert-goer, on the other hand, groans when he sees these and the like in the programme, but brightens up immediately the item marked "First time" is reached. He does not necessarily reckon Slapoffski's symphonic poem or Schlechthammer's concerto of greater value than the masterpieces of Beethoven and Wagner. But the latter are *vieux jeu* and the former new, and that makes all the difference. So much depends upon the point of view.

At Covent Garden lately one of the most interesting performances was, perhaps, that of "Rigoletto," on Monday, with Bassi as the Duke, and Selma Kurz making her re-appearance as Gilda. The former sang particularly well, and with Sammarco, admirable as ever in the title part, the faded old work, which yet has so much of life in it, went excellently under the direction of Mr. Panizza, a new Italian conductor, who evidently knows his business. Last week "La Tosca" was revived, with Giachetti, Scotti, and Caruso in their old parts. All were in fine form, and the opera, which owes even more perhaps to its melodramatic story than to its music, achieved its usual success. On Friday Gounod's "Faust" was put on, with Donalda, Carpi, and Journet in the leading parts, and a quite respectable, if not epoch-making, performance was obtained.

The gala performance is ancient history now. Apart from the melancholy death of General Sir Arthur Ellis—of which the audience were happily ignorant—everything went off exceedingly well, and the honours bestowed on Dr. Richter and Mr. Forsyth by King Edward and King Frederick were only a fitting recognition of the perfection of all the arrangements on both sides of the curtain. In the case of the "Meistersinger," excerpts a somewhat amusing commentary on the amount of musical knowledge prevailing was supplied by the general uprising when the curtain descended at the conclusion of the first scene. "What a very tame ending" was one comment overheard, and only after

some minutes was it realised that there was another scene to come. The gallant generals and eminent politicians and other distinguished folk whose presence adds lustre to a gala audience are not, as a rule, ardent Wagnerites.

There has been the usual swarm of concerts during the last few days, but none of exceptional note, save perhaps M. Paderewski's only recital, fixed for Tuesday, which was the great pianist's first appearance in London after an absence of some years. A younger pianist recently heard to good advantage was Mr. Percy Grainger, and another was Mlle. Leocadie Kaschperow, a brilliant Russian player. More novel than any piano recital was the entertainment given by Mr. Sven Scholander, the Swedish lutenist, who contrives to act and sing and play all at once in a manner uncommonly fascinating and effective. Among vocalists of a more orthodox order Mr. Hugo Heinz, Frln. Staegemann and two promising pupils of M. Jean de Reszke, Miss Olga Lynn and Mlle. Suzanne Morivale, may be named. Saturday's festival performance of "Elijah" at the Crystal Palace was notable for the participation of Mr. Santley, who sang in wonderful fashion, all things considered.

The mystery of "Lunch in F" is explained. This was a mystic announcement, it may be recalled, recently put forth in connection with the services at St. Thomas's, Regent-street. From a friendly communication to hand from the vicar (the Rev. P. Bainbrigge), it appears that the announcement was a mystic one only to those unaware that the Lunch referred to is a living composer of that name. In point of fact he is, as it appears, one of Mr. Bainbrigge's own parishioners who, it is still more interesting to learn, cultivates the art of composition in the leisure hours snatched from the humble and exacting but eminently useful calling of a barber. No longer, therefore, is there cause for unseemly mirth over "Lunch in F."

It is interesting to take note now and again of the actual cost of running a national opera house after the manner sometimes advocated by misguided enthusiasts in this country. Among the credits asked for in the French estimates this year is one of £24,000 for repairs to the opera house, "necessitated," as it is rather oddly put in one of the reports, "by the change of management." This might almost suggest that M. Gailhard, the retiring director, had wrecked the house before taking his final departure, but that, I presume, was not the case. At the same time, it may be noted that the large sum in question is required over and above the very liberal annual subvention granted by the State which is not voted nowadays, one of the correspondents tells us, without a good deal of grumbling from provincial members of Parliament. "Why should my electors give money to an opera house in Paris that they never go to? Parisians would certainly not contribute towards a market-place for Bar-sur-Seine." This view, we are told, is becoming more and more general.

Apropos of operatic affairs across the Channel, a Parisian correspondent writes:—

A good deal of surprise has been aroused in artistic circles here by the action of the manager of the Opéra Comique in objecting to Miss Olga Nethersole's production of "Carmen," thus making himself suddenly the protector of the authors, who are M. Halevy and the heirs of M. Georges Bizet. Parisians have not forgotten that last year a member of the Chamber of Deputies, M. Levrand, called the attention of the Government to the fact that M. Carré, himself the director of a State-subsidised theatre, did not entirely respect the rights of dramatists, the cases referred to being those of MM. Lazzari and Henry Bataille, authors of "La Lepreuse," and M. Auguste Chapius, author of "Les Demoiselles de St. Cyr." As a consequence an investigation was ordered, the result of which is still awaited. It would seem, therefore, that M. Carré would have been better inspired if he had waited before coming forward in the unwonted rôle of champion of the authors at the expense of a distinguished English actress whose performances could not possibly have affected in any material way the interests involved.

An interesting "Talk with Mr. Wilhelm Ganz," in *Cassell's Magazine* for June, serves to remind us that that popular musician celebrates this year the artistic jubilee of his residence in London. It was in 1857, when he was twenty-four years of age, that Mr. Ganz actually settled in this country, though he first came to London nearly ten years earlier. No wonder that he has an almost unrivalled store of reminiscences of the many famous singers and other artists with whom he has come in contact. For half a century and more Mr. Ganz has known every one worth knowing in the musical world, from Braham to Clara Butt, and of one and all he has entertaining recollections. Of course, he has much to say concerning Mme. Patti, who has always numbered the veteran musician among her most intimate friends; and after reading the list of her accomplishments which he enumerates who shall wonder that Mr. Ganz reckons her the most gifted woman he has ever known? There is talk of a concert in the autumn in commemoration of Mr. Ganz's long services in the cause of music in this country, and if the project is realised, the profession and the public alike may be trusted to co-operate heartily in the interests of one who enjoys such well-deserved popularity.

Some well-known singers have been invited to express their opinion as to who is the greatest living composer, and the answers returned are not without interest. In Mme. Clara Butt's judgment, speaking "from a singer's point of view," the title should be awarded to Saint-Saëns. Mme. Blanche Marchesi shies at "greatest," but confesses, "the most interesting to me of the young generation are, in France, Debussy, and in England Holbrooke." Mme. Fleischer-Edel awards the palm to Grieg, "in spite of my love for Saint-Saëns." In the judgment of Miss Ruth Vincent, "the best living composer of serious music is Puccini, and in lighter music Edward German." Puccini should certainly feel flattered. Miss Margaret Cooper, whose opinion naturally carries weight on such a subject, was "very much inclined to favour Coleridge Taylor from a vocal point of view. From the point of view of an orchestra, I choose my friend Edward German." This will cause heart-burning on the Continent, but there is balm for Germany in the verdict of Mr. Bispham, who writes that "in my opinion Richard Strauss is the most remarkable by far of living composers."

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Major-General Sir Henry Colville's "The Allies" (1) goes deeper than any of the whole library of books I have read into the differences and into the causes of the differences between the European and the Japanese. The root of these differences seems to be like the root of the difference between the bee and the spider—the bee communistic, the spider individualistic; the bee living, working, and dying for the commonwealth, the spider for himself. Here is one out of a hundred instances cited by Sir Henry of this difference between the European and the Japanese point of view, for the American in this story is only the European "writ large":—

Within the last few months a Japanese officer perfected a warlike invention, of which an American expert, in the temporary employ of the Japanese Government, happened to hear. The invention so impressed the American that he offered the inventor 100,000 dollars for it. This offer the officer indignantly refused, saying, "I was educated by my Government, and to it I owe everything. Anything my brain can produce belongs to my country."

Or take, again, Commander Yuasa's address to his men when they were about to make the desperate attempt to block the entrance to Port Arthur:—

Let every man set aside all thought of making a name for himself, but let us all work together for the attainment of our object. It is a mistaken idea of valour to court death needlessly. Death is not our object, but success, and we die in vain if we do not attain success. If I die, Lieutenant Yamamoto will take the command, and, if he is killed, you will take your orders from the chief warrant officer. Let us keep at it till the last man, until we have carried our mission.

And when the war was over Sir Henry had himself an opportunity of noting the modest self-effacement of the victors. After a dinner given by Admiral Ijuin to the officers of Admiral Sir A. Moore's squadron, a fine

(1) "The Allies." By Major-General Sir Henry Colville, K.C.M.G., C.B. With a Frontispiece. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 16s. net.)
(2) "The Coward in Eden." By Vincent Brown. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)
(3) "Keddy." A Story of Oxford." By H. N. Dickinson. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)
(4) "The Great Craneboro' Conspiracy." By John Oakley. Frontispiece by Harold Piffard. (London: Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd.)
(5) "The Queen of a Day." By [illegible] Unwin. 6s.)

oil-painting by a Japanese artist of the battle of Tsu-Shima was shown to Sir Henry amongst the rest. Nearly all the Japanese present had taken part in the fight, and, while some of them were giving an intensely interesting description of it with the help of the picture as an illustration, Sir Henry, happening to look round, "noticed in the back row, behind all his captains, listening with the air of a modest subaltern to a lecture on minor tactics, him whom Carlyle might well have chosen for his epithet, 'greatest sea-king of all.'" On the other hand, Sir Henry admits that all German and American tourists in Japan tell the same story of the conceit and arrogance of the Japanese. Perhaps, however, a wise and witty saying of Swift's may suggest an explanation of this universal German and American experience of Japanese arrogance. "The selfish man," says Swift, "complains most of selfishness in others, just as the fat man in a crowd complains most of the crush to which he contributes most." A similar explanation might also go some way to account for the low commercial morality of the Japanese, since in this they have only bettered the instruction given them in the seventeenth century by the Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch, and, as Sir Rutherford Alcock testifies, by the British in the nineteenth century. However, you have Sir Henry's assurance that Japan's reputation for commercial morality is rapidly improving. "An English merchant of Yokohama of great experience told me that the Japanese merchants did not now deserve the bad name which they have got, and that he found them more trustworthy than the Chinese." As for the Chinese, Sir Henry laughs to scorn the idea that they are likely, either of themselves, or under Japanese leadership, organisation, or instigation, to overwhelm the West. In the first place, the Chinese are the peacefullest of peoples, holding warriors and war in scorn. In the second place, there is neither loyalty nor patriotism, nor even coherence in China. She has not even one spoken language.

> The people of Canton and Pekin can no more talk together than those of Rome and Madrid, while they take even less interest in each other's affairs. The Cantonese said, when told of the Japanese victories, "That belongey Pekin side; no my pidgin."

In the third place, if Japan organised China for conquest, she would unquestionably be a Frankenstein creating a monster for her own destruction. China and Japan have always hated each other heartily. On one occasion the Japanese Government beheaded the members of a mission sent by the Chinese Emperor to demand the submission of Japan; while, on another, the Emperor of Japan opened thus an answer to a discourteous letter from the Emperor of China: "The Emperor of the land where the sun rises addresses himself to the Emperor of the land where the sun sets." Only the other day, when the Prince Fushimi, whom our King delighted to honour, visited Peking—the first Japanese Prince to pay it an official visit—he was snubbed by the Emperor of China. The truth is, as a Japanese official said to Sir Henry, "China is the Turkey of the East." She is, like Turkey, an obstructive anachronism, and, like Turkey, she will owe her sickly existence to the protective jealousy of the vultures hovering ever over her. Nor is Japan herself likely to head a yellow crusade against the West. She has, to begin with, her hands full with Russia, China, and Korea, all more or less lying in wait to trip her up, while, besides, she is the most peacefully disposed of nations. By all accounts—and not by Sir Henry's only—the Japanese practise the virtues of the Sermon on the Mount, which are preached only in Christian countries; and when Sir Henry again and again urges the advantages of an interchange between us and Japan of special products, I feel inclined to suggest a wholesale export of our Christian dogmas in return for the import of their Christian practice. "The Allies" is incomparably the most thoughtful of all the multitude of books I have read upon Japan.

In "The Coward in Eden" (2) Mr. Vincent Brown has made the most of a commonplace plot, for the coward is the unconscious bigamist of so many novels who marries the heroine under the impression that his first wife was dead. With the discovery that she was still alive the novel opens dramatically, and ends no less dramatically with his second wife's accidental stumbling upon this discovery, which her cowardly husband had kept from her. Over against him is set his chivalrous brother, whose reverent love for his sister-in-law leads him to take upon himself the guilt of the scandal at the cost of his own character and of her respect. The curtain falls most dramatically of all upon a scene where a little girl's shoe and its suggestions bring about a reconciliation between the injured wife and the "coward in Eden." Perhaps the good characters are too goodily good, but you believe in them while you read. On the other hand, the coward in Eden is a subtle study of a not uncommon blend of physical strength and courage with moral weakness and cowardice. If only for its admirably described breach of promise case, which is the culminating scene of "Keddy; A Story of Oxford" (3), the novel would stand out from its fellows; but in addition you have some vivid Oxford scenes, and at least one character which arrests you. This character is not its hero, Keddy, but the black sheep, Bobby, whose redeeming heroism is in perfectly natural keeping with his iniquities. You tire a little, to say the truth, of the gushing priest, Carpenter, who plays a disproportionate part in the piece, but, for the rest "Keddy" has all the go and vim and brightness of young Oxford to recommend it. You had need to be a young man, perhaps a boy even, to accept all the villainies and mysteries, incredible incidents and coincidences in Mr. John Oakley's "The Great Craneboro' Conspiracy" (4). It is a conspiracy to get hold of a quarter of a million of money, and the desperate game between the plotters and counter-plotters is played with all the *sang froid* and deliberation of a game of chess. The hero himself is on both sides, first in the conspiracy, and presently—*cherchez la femme*—in the counter-plot. Finally, after a breathless succession of ingeniously contrived moves and counter-moves, poetic justice is amply done all round. "The Queen of a Day" (5) is another Balkan Royalty, or is, at least, presumed to be such, and if you are not tired of romances of this type you will certainly enjoy her Majesty's difficulty, and welcome her escape from it, even though it turns on the time-honoured device of an exchange of babies and of the subsequent identification of the Royal infant by "the strawberry mark on the left arm."—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

If intended as a jest, "The Clash of Empires" (Heinemann, 2s. 6d.) is rather too laboured; if written with a serious purpose, it is not unamusing. On the whole, the probability is that the author, Mr. Rowland Thirlmere, takes himself quite seriously, though his ravings are so often suggestive of an over-done travesty. It seems that he wishes to "drive home into the thick skulls of complacent and lethargic Radicals the real meaning of the minatory attitude of German progress." He evidently regards as a thick-skulled Radical every one who is not suffering like himself from an attack of Teutophobia in its most ludicrously malignant form. There is, in Mr. Thirlmere's opinion, only one plan by which we can be saved from the terrible Teuton, and that is the adoption of Colonial Preference. Those advocates of Colonial Preference who read this foolish book will pray to be delivered from such a friend as the author.

Mr. H. G. Keene, C.I.E., who some months ago published a very readable volume of Anglo-Indian reminiscences, is the author of a fascinating work entitled "Hindustan Under Free Lances, 1770-1820" (Brown, Langham, and Co., 15s.). It narrates the stirring and romantic careers of a number of famous European adventurers, who "fought, conquered, conducted, or endured sieges, and managed provinces" during that troubled period of Indian history. Perhaps, though, one should hardly speak of them as famous, for the extraordinary exploits of most of these soldiers of

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fortune are for the most part unknown to the vast majority of English people. The story of their adventures and achievements is stranger and more interesting than many works of fiction, and it is admirably set forth by Mr. Keene.

In the colour-book on "Canada" which Messrs. A. and C. Black have just added to their well-known series a Canadian artist and a Canadian author have collaborated. The author is Mr. Wilfred Campbell, whose poetry has won him a wider fame than any other living Canadian writer has achieved. In his descriptions in this volume of the great natural features of the Dominion, its mountains and prairies, coasts, rivers, and lakes, its physical beauties and sublime effects of nature, Mr. Campbell shows that he is, too, a master of eloquent prose. The pictures, of which there are seventy-six full-page reproductions in colour, are from the brush of Mr. T. Mower Martin, a member of the Royal Canadian Academy.

Mr. John Long will have ready this week Sarah Tytler's new novel, "Innocent Masqueraders," and Dorothea Gerard's "Itinerant Daughters." The latter is an original and amusing story relating to an experiment which an up-to-date doctor invented and tried on four girls to whom home life had become irksome. The same publisher also announces a novel by Mrs. L. T. Meade, entitled "Kindred Spirits," and "One Eventful Summer," a Devonshire story from the pen of a new writer, Miss Ethel Grace Tapner.

Mr. A. G. Bradley is the author of some books on North and South Wales and the Lake Country which are among the best in a well-known series. In "Rambles about Wiltshire" (Methuen, 6s.) he deals on similar lines with his own county, and what he speaks of as "the reminiscent and personal note," gives an additional charm to the volume. Wiltshire is a county possessing considerable distinction and individuality, and Mr. Bradley's account of it, interspersed with not a few entertaining personal reminiscences, is extremely readable. The book has some excellent illustrations, including fourteen in colour by Mr. T. G. Gotch.

Mr. Noel Buxton's little book, "Europe and the Turks" (John Murray, 2s. 6d.), gives an admirably lucid and interesting sketch of the history and the present position of "the Balkan question." Mr. Buxton has long been distinguished for his gallant championship of the unhappy victims of Turkish oppression and cruelty; and his object in this work is to bring home to the minds of the public here the fact that England, by reason of her action at the Congress of Berlin, has a responsibility before all other Powers for the scandal of Macedonia.

In another book on the same subject, entitled, "An Observer in the Near East" (Eveleigh Nash, 16s.), the anonymous author gives much information that he has gathered from interviews with prominent personages in the Balkan States, and makes a fierce attack upon the policy of the German Emperor towards Turkey.

"Army Reform, and Other Addresses," by Mr. R. B. Haldane, Secretary for War, is a volume issued by Mr. Fisher Unwin, price 7s. 6d. It contains three of Mr. Haldane's speeches on his military scheme, three on the subject of Free Trade, and two miscellaneous addresses: "Modern Logicians and Economic Methods" and "The Dedicated Life," the latter being his Rectorial address at Edinburgh University.

"Wild Flowers of the British Isles" (Heinemann, 30s.) is a handsome volume, illustrated and written by Miss H. Isabel Adams, F.L.S., which, on account of the remarkable excellence of the coloured plates, will be prized not only by the botanist but many unlearned lovers of wild flowers. The general reader may, indeed, wish that the letterpress had been a little less technical; but in a book of this kind the letterpress is not, after all, of such importance as the pictures, and Miss Adams's beautiful drawings have been reproduced with a perfection rare even in these days of fine colour-printing.

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GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—What a week we have had here in town! Our Danish State visitors must have gone away longing for at least a week's sleep. Other countries do not keep our sophisticated late hours, and their inhabitants find them very trying. And then there were interesting day-time functions as well. On Tuesday our Majesties and Denmark's Majesties visited the Horse Show at Olympia and faced the battery of at least 10,000 pairs of eyes as they sat in the flower-decked Royal box. The Queen of Denmark, immensely tall, was in heliotrope, our Queen in her favourite mauve. Both Queens wore toques with white feathers at the left side. Queen Alexandra's was much wider than Queen Louise's, but there was no sort of exaggeration about either lady's. The whole party laughed when the donkeys came in. So did every one else. The sound of ten thousand laughs is as the voice of running waters in full flood. We had met the Coster King in the Bayswater-road and wondered at his buttons. There are 15,000 of them, all pearl in various sizes, and it is said that the gentleman has sewn them all on himself. In the evening there was the gala at the Opera. Each of these occasions seems to be more brilliant than the last. The Royal box was a pretty thing, like a very lovely bonbonnière filled with beauty, jewels, and flowers. Unconsciously, it must be supposed, the great ladies in the boxes had done wonders for the effectiveness of the scene by almost all choosing white, mostly satin. An occasional black or coloured gown only served to emphasise the pervading whiteness and the wonderful jewels that answered each other in myriad flashes across the house.

On Wednesday there was a review at Aldershot in the afternoon and a State Ball at the Palace in the evening. Next day the Danish King and Queen concluded their visit and they must both have had "an exposition of sleep upon them" in the train.

The London streets were almost deserted. Ten thousand or so were at Olympia, and another few thousands thronged the Park in spite of the showers, which came down like tropical deluges. It would have been funny, if it had not been pathetic, to see the scurrying figures, their draperies huddled round them, making for the various gates, eager for cabs, of which there is always such a short supply. A policeman at Stanhope Gate picked up a dainty little shoe out of the roadway and handed it to a girl in a hansom as it drove off. She laughed and blushed in a fascinating way. "The button came off," she explained to an inattentive crowd, all of whom envied her for having secured a cab.

I saw a remarkable object in the Park one day; a short, stout woman, tidily dressed, and with even some smartness about her headgear, but without stockings, and wearing shoes with bars crossing each other on the instep. Does this phenomenon betoken some new league? I should think that shoes without stockings must be extremely uncomfortable. What on earth will be the next fad? The hatless brigade led off; the stockingless seems about to follow. Perhaps gloves or collars will be the next things to go overboard. Or will bare feet come in? So many strange things happen that one would be surprised at nothing.

We whistle, usually artificially, when we want a cab. What ought we to do when we wish for a taximeter? There ought to be some special call provided for this agreeable vehicle. As it is, one does not know how to secure one. Don't you think the authorities ought to come to the rescue in this dilemma? Would whistling three times meet the case? We have already once for a four-wheeler, twice for a hansom. Not that this is by any means perfect as a mode of "calling" cabs, but at least it is something. With respect to taximeters, there is absolutely nothing.

Has it occurred to you that our tribulations of noisy motor-'buses and screaming railway whistles are as nothing to what there is in store for us? When balloon-

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ing becomes general we shall not dare to look at the sky, the moon, the stars, the clouds, lest a rain of sand should strike us in the face; and when the airships come along, as they are pretty sure to do, there will be nice little showers of petrol from on high, if nothing worse. Tennyson's "airy navies" and "ghastly dew" are within too, too measurable distance. What an effect on the stage a duel "in the central blue" would make.

By the way, there is to be a great aeronautical gathering at Ranelagh on the 29th, when the Aerial Longest Distance race is to be run. No! not "run." Should you call it "flown," or what? To plane would seem a suitable verb, only that it means in ordinary English such a very different thing.

But oh! the weather. The first half of June was more like October, or a cantankerous April, than the lovely month. What is it going to do for Ascot?

Every one thought it so nice of the Queen to drive in an open carriage through the pouring rain to the Mansion House on Thursday, when her Majesty opened the Lord Mayor's Fête for Crippled Children. The great ambition of the stallholders on such occasions is to sell something to the Queen, and the American Embassy stall was particularly favoured on this occasion, the Royal purchases including a Virginian peach-fed ham, a bottle of some special liqueur, and a pineapple cheese. An order given personally by her Majesty to a little crippled basketmaker rejoiced the poor little girl, Barbara Jeans. Princess Alexander of Teck disposed of some Roumanian embroideries, and the Duchess of Albany some lovely Wedgwood to their distinguished relative, and Princess Henry of Battenberg an Eastern dagger and an African assegai. At the French Embassy stall a lovely embroidered dress front became her Majesty's property. I noticed an assortment of maisettes at this stall, some of them with folding handles, and others combined with eye-glasses—a capital idea. These maisettes will be seen in hundreds at Ascot and Henley, for they keep away the glare of racecourse and river, and are now recognised as extremely chic. The curve of the arm in holding them is so pretty.

The Queen continues to wear glittering embroideries on her dresses, and looks so sweet in them that they are in greater demand than ever. "How beautiful her Majesty looked in that gold embroidered gown," says some one, and with a vague thought that perhaps it was the gown that caused the charm, she hopefully orders one for herself. We are all like that. We see an illustration of hats on very pretty heads, and in our *Innerste* we forget to distinguish between the hat and the head, and send off our money for a hat "exactly like number such-an-one on p. so-and-so of the 'Ladies' Temptation Gazette.'"

Lucky if we remember to enclose name and address. I was in a hat shop last week, and overheard the following conversation:—

"Another order for the blue and white with neither name nor address. This is the third for that hat alone."

Geese! And yet we expect to get into Parliament! Did you read the debate on admitting women to be county councillors? Lord Crewe, one of the most chivalrous of men, referred to the ideal woman of those who opposed the measure, "a sort of combination of the maid-of-all-work and the ministering angel." Lord Halsbury said women are too hysterical, too much disposed to be guided by feeling and not cold reason, unwilling to compromise and disposed to do what they think right. This last was rather complimentary. You think so, don't you? But apparently it does not answer for governing bodies to do what they think is right. Lord Lansdowne referred to the "noisy and unwise demonstrations" made by the suffragist women, but did not think that ought to influence the Bill. He had served with women on boards of guardians, district councils, and parish councils, and regarded their co-operation as of the utmost value. So, you see, we are growing in usefulness, after all.

I heard of a "dealing sleeve" for the first time at a dressmaker's the other day. Lady —— has very prettily shaped white arms, and is a great bridge-player. She instructs her dressmaker to construct sleeves of a kind that will show to advantage the form and colour of the arms. Hence a "dealing sleeve." You know how gracefully some women deal cards, how very ungracefully others; how irritatingly slowly some, how deftly and swiftly others. Shall I describe the dealing sleeve? It turned the elbow, which possibly may not be so perfect as the rest of the arm. Then it flew out in frills of lace, which always form a most becoming setting for a well-modelled arm. "Du reste," spoke Madame, "elle possède un nombre infini de bracelets, en diamants, en rubis, en saphir; et, vous savez, porter les bracelets, c'est très chic à ce moment."

Yes, bracelets came in with short sleeves, and will remain in favour until the latter lengthen. When will that be—who can say?

Hot weather usually comes in at the end of June, and we always close the kitchen range for the summer somewhere about quarter day, allowing it holiday of at least three months, and using the gas cooker instead. It is the only way of making life pleasant to the servants in hot weather. Keeping up a fire all day in the ordinary kitchener is simply cruel; but with gas, which can be turned off when the cooker is not in use, the basement can be kept cool during all the hottest hours of the day. The only difficulty about this was that the gas cooker failed to supply hot water all day long for various purposes, including baths. But we have found the gas-heated hot-water circulator an immense success. They were only put on the market last summer, but the intelligent and enterprising persons (like your cousin Madge!) who immediately perceived their utility and at once secured them, reaped their reward in cool houses and good-tempered servants. These circulators are to be had on hire or bought. Do get one. You will be delighted with their comfort and convenience. The fitting of them is a simple matter, as they can quite easily be fixed to the existing flow and return pipes attached to the kitchen boiler. Circulator and boiler can then be used either separately or in conjunction, without any trouble whatsoever. Send to the Gas Light Company, Horseferry-road, S.E., for their booklet on the subject.

The Hospital Commission on the dietetic value of wines reports favourably of French wines, and terms them "a temperance beverage." This will astound many who condemn wine in every form. But it seems that the quantity of alcohol in these light wines is extremely small.

We have read with much interest the part of the report dealing with champagne. The good brands, it seems, are powerful stimulants to digestion, but it is well to sip the wine if one is troubled with dyspepsia, and also to dilute it, whether in the glass or by sipping Apollinaris throughout the meal. As champagne is the only wine we ever care to drink, Richard and I are very well pleased with the Commission!

Mr. George Grossmith entertained the members of the Atlantic Union and their friends one day last week in his pleasant house in Russell-square. The English and American flags were tastefully and tactfully combined above the chimney-pieces and elsewhere, and the crowded audience thoroughly enjoyed hearing their host's amusing address. The Union has a very full programme for the next month, including the Greek play at Bradfield College, a party at Dulwich College, Mr. Browning's party at Cambridge, the Romsey Pageant, Founder's Day at Dr. Barnardo's, Henley Regatta (where Balliol offers the hospitality of its barge), a garden-party at Lambeth Palace given by the Bishop of London, Canon Lyttelton's luncheon at Eton, and the Marquis of Northampton's luncheon at Compton Wynyates. Any one wishing to offer hospitality during August and September should address the Hon. Sec., at 13A, Cockspur-street, S.W.

Amy dear, which would you rather be—sly, cunning, and successful, or frank, open, generous, and a failure? It is horrid to be sly, but then it is

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hateful to be poor; and it is all very well to be "loving and giving," but if it means having a narrow income all one's days, the generosity seems to cost too much.

And yet—what does it profit a man or a woman to have millions if the soul is small, mean, and shrunken, shut in from all bright influence in its narrow, darkened chamber of Gain, untouched by song of bird or gleam of sun, by deed heroic or grand achievement? Money is all very well, but a great quantity of it has a shrivelling influence on mind and spirit. The very persons who have it are in this way precluded from enjoying it, so shut in is their atmosphere. They buy great estates, but get little pleasure from them. Mammon, the great maleficent god, has hardened them against such pleasures as others find in blue skies, gliding streams, green trees, and little bridges over little brooks. They buy pictures worth a king's ransom, but to them the canvases are but an investment. This idea shuts away from the owner any real appreciation of the artistic beauty of the things. They buy jewellery for their wives and for their own honour and glory, but they appraise it while she wears it, and it is huge figures they see instead of diamonds and rubies and emeralds. To be too rich is to lose touch with happiness. The soul grows sordid, and what of real good can life offer after that? It is the modern rendering of King Midas' asses' ears.

Poverty is relative. Thousands who call themselves poor would be rich on their incomes if they would abandon a senseless and vulgar competition with their neighbours, and live more simply. What Pierre de Coulvain, in "L'Ile Inconnue," calles our "snobisme," obliges thousands and thousands to live in houses larger than they need, to keep more servants than they require, and in other ways to follow a much more costly plan of life than they would but for emulation. The few who have emancipated themselves from this have their reward in enjoying that agreeable margin to their income which, like the mount of a picture, adds a charm of its own. A smaller house, fewer servants, two dinner-parties a year instead of one every six weeks, a moderate, instead of an excessive, outlay on dress—all this brings into reach the joys of travel, a sweet leisure for books, pictures, music, and above all, freedom from the carking care that is inseparable from living up to one's income. And how much more dignified is such a plan of life. You remember the Luces in the first wife's time? Always in debt and difficulties, duns always at the door, county-court cases reported in the papers, and yet a constant racket of entertaining, dressing, driving, riding, river-parties, amusements, huge bills at the florists, and every kind of expensive food (it was the first Mrs. Luce's boast that she always had the first salmon, the first strawberries, asparagus, plovers' eggs, green peas, etc., of the season), and all owed for! Even the servants had to summon them for their wages.

There is such a difference now. The debts are nearly all paid off, and there is a sweet sanity in the conduct of the household. Lily Luce's motto is: "If you have no money, do not spend any." It is just as well, for it would be difficult for them to get credit, even if they wanted it. Weekly books paid punctually on Thursday are the rule. The food is not only excellent, but deliciously cooked, thanks to their treasure of a French woman who does all the marketing and economises pounds every month with her thrifty ways and good management.

Several of John Luce's friends advised him to be made bankrupt after his first wife died, and he found himself up to the ears in debt, but he would not do anything so dishonourable. He asked his creditors to give him four years to pay off all in instalments, with 2½ per cent. interest. He then reduced his expenses, and has never missed a payment. Lily helps him in every way, and he must bless the day he married her.

Saving and hoarding to pay one's debts is not the sort of shivering over sixpences that shrinks the soul to the size of a shrivelled shrimp. Is it?

Richard has just come in and told me a story of a small boy who, on his father showing him a skeleton in a museum, asked, after a long, attentive look: "Dad, how did that man keep his dinner in?" This pleasing anecdote has completely switched off my thoughts from the homily I was inflicting upon you.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—One wonders if history is much affected by weather, and cannot but think that it must be. Just as "oft the sight of means to do ill deeds, makes ill deeds done," so perhaps do dark days dispose to dark deeds, whilst sunshine, on the contrary, has a beneficent influence on human minds and actions. Do we not all feel much better disposed towards one another in genial, bright weather, than on lowering, gloomy days? We like to live and let live; we are in charity with every one else and with ourselves; everything is for the best in the best of all worlds. What different moods wild, fierce, dismal weather causes! Most of us have sad experience of days in which nothing seems good; it is hard to think well even of our nearest and dearest, our nerves are jarred, our kindly feelings strained to the utmost. And no wonder, when Nature shows a shocking, destructive example, if we get led astray by hers, as by other bad examples. If ordinary, every day mildness and amiability are strained in dark, direful weather, what must not the influence be on the fierce natures of those who make the most sensational chapters of history!

We ought to be inured to the bad weather by this time; but as we always will keep hoping for a change, week and week we go through the heart sickness of hope deferred. It is such an aggravation of the case over here, that the tourists who are already with us, will take—our climate having a bad reputation—the present phenomenal summer as the common, ordinary one of our island. Notwithstanding all our disappointments we are all convinced that July will bring us summer, and the King's flying visit will show him an Ireland of sunshine and fresh air, such as the fourth century travellers saw so long ago, and such as we, for several months, have ceased to see, with regard to sunshine. The quality and, in especial, the quantity of the fresh air has, however, been undoubted.

The Viceregal Lodge was shut up last week, no Royal standard floating in the strong winds over its roof. Lord and Lady Aberdeen are staying at Buxton, where the rigours of June are less favourable to a cure than would be the weather usually expected

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from the month of roses. They are to be back in Ireland shortly, and as already arranged, give a garden party at the Viceregal Lodge on the 27th inst. Of the rumoured garden party later on, for the King and Queen, however, nothing further has been announced. Even Royalty, with its prodigious capacity for ceremonial work, is limited in the arrangements which will fit into the short space of two short days. What a pity there is not a Royal residence in our country, that we should be treated as a colony, though we lie so close to Great Britain. Some of us, that is we women who are not politicians, often wonder why our country should have a Viceroy, when Scotland has not one, why we should not be in line with England and Scotland in every way. As a matter of fact we are not a colony. The old Irish race predominates largely in Ireland; we have been annexed by England, not colonised. It all happened so long ago, we ought to be ready to pull together by this.

The Kingstown Regatta last week was very much a water festival, water both by sea and land. It was naturally shorn of much of its usual glory and was without Viceregal patronage, owing to the absence of Lord and Lady Aberdeen from Ireland. Lord Dudley was a visitor to Dublin last week, and paid several visits to the exhibition, which grows in favour, notwithstanding the direful weather, which is so much against it. The Phœnix Park races on Saturday brought the sporting world together in great force. The horse-worshipping Roman Emperor of old was hardly in it with our people over here. Only think of Orby on his return home to Leopardstown, being received at the railway by two bands, who played him triumphantly to his stable, no doubt to the strains of "See the conquering hero comes." The marriage is announced of Miss Henrietta O'Neill, which is soon to take place, with Mr. Leith Hay. They were both staying at Dublin Castle during the season. Miss H. O'Neill is the daughter of Lord and Lady O'Neill, of Shane's Castle. Their eldest son is married to one of Lord Crewe's daughters. Of late years Dublin Castle has a pleasant record of the number of marriages brought about within its "portals," so that to many they cannot be the "gloomy portals" they are to Mr. Birrell, who, by the way, formed his opinion of them after wonderfully little experience. Lord and Lady Ardilaun, who have been staying near Dublin, are placed in mourning by the death of Lady Ferrers, a sister of Lady Ardilaun's. The title of their father, Lord Bantry, is now extinct.—Yours, CLARE.

I shall have some nice recipes for you next week.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—Just had yours. Delighted you are coming up for the Ascot ball. You will have to send at once for the tickets you want, as they are going fast, and only a limited number is issued. It will be a lovely ball. The decorations are to be in the Spanish colours—red and yellow—and in the courtyard there will be a Spanish cabaret, with waitresses in Spanish costume.

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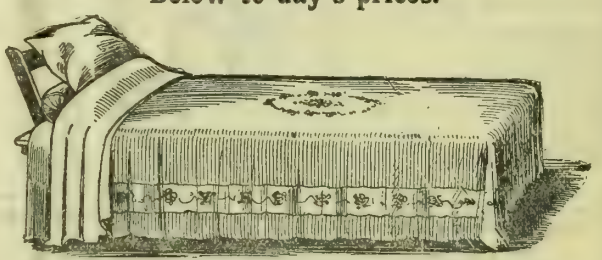

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FOR THE HAIR

Is the Best Preparation you can use.

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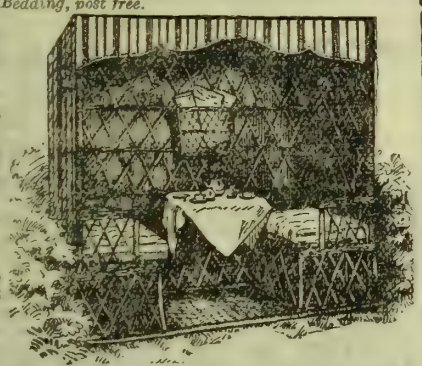

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The "CALEDONIAN" **GOLFING SKIRT**
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COPLAND & LYE, Glasgow,
enhances the enjoyment of the game. These smart well-cut Skirts are made of reliable Scotch Tweeds, checked or plain; also of navy or black Serge.
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The BRITISH COALITE COMPANY, LIMITED, is ISSUING a PROSPECTUS, which is dated June 15th, 1907, and which states, amongst other things, that:—

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Subscription List opened on TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1907, and will close for London applications on or before THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1907, and for Country applications on or before the first post on FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST, 1907.

This notice is not to be regarded as an invitation to the public to subscribe for Shares. The full Prospectus contains particulars of Contracts, &c., and other information, in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act, 1900. Applications will only be received on the terms of the full Prospectus, copies of which can be obtained at the office of the Company, or from the Bankers, Brokers, and the British Coalite Company, Limited.

BRITISH COALITE COMPANY, LTD.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

CAPITAL - - - £2,000,000,

DIVIDED INTO

1,500,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each, and 500,000 DEFERRED ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each.

Out of the profits available for distribution in each year, the Ordinary Shares will be first entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, and the surplus profits will be distributed as to one-half amongst the Ordinary Shares, and the other half amongst the Deferred Ordinary Shares.

The Ordinary Shares will also have a preference as regards Capital over the Deferred Ordinary Shares, and after repayment of the Capital paid up on both classes of Shares will be entitled to one-half of the surplus Assets, the holders of the Deferred Ordinary Shares being entitled to the other half.

ISSUE OF 1,500,000 ORDINARY SHARES AT PAR, PAYABLE:—2s. 6d. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, 5s. 0d. on the 19th August, 1907, 5s. 0d. on the 18th October, 1907, 5s. 0d. on the 17th December, 1907.

Payment in full may be made on Allotment. Interest at 4 per cent. per annum will be allowed on amounts prepaid.

With the exception of £55,000 (required for the repayment of the deposits on the purchase of freehold land at Barking, for expenses at Wednesfield, and for the payment of preliminary expenses), the whole of the purchase consideration is taken by the Vendors in Deferred Ordinary Shares, and the proceeds of this issue will be used for the completion of the purchase of the said freehold properties, for the construction of Coalite works at Barking and elsewhere, the payment of underwriting commission and brokerage, and for working capital.

DIRECTORS.

CHARLES ALLEN, J.P. (Chairman, Henry Bessemer and Co., Ltd.; Carlton Main Colliery Co., Ltd., near Barnsley), Bent's Green, Sheffield.
SIR William H. BAILEY (Director of Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Company, Ltd., and Manchester Ship Canal Co.), Sale Hall, Cheshire.
A. C. CORY-WRIGHT, J.P. (Director Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., Coal Factors), 52, Mark-lane, London, E.C.
ALBERT GEORGE KITCHING, J.P. (Director of the Metropolitan Railway Company), 7, Drapers'-gardens, London, E.C.
SIR W. H. PREECE, K.C.B., F.R.S. (Director London Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd), 8, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W.
HARCOURT WYNNE PUGH (Mann, George & Co., Coal Exporters), 23, Lime-street, London, E.C.

BANKERS.

London—UNION OF LONDON & SMITHS BANK, LIMITED, 2, Princes-street, E.C., and Branches.
" PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, 4, Bartholomew-lane, London, E.C., and Branches.
" MANCHESTER & LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED, 75, Cornhill, London, E.C., and at Manchester, Liverpool, and Branches.
Sheffield—SHEFFIELD & HALLAMSHIRE BANK, LIMITED.
Newcastle—BARCLAY & CO., LIMITED.
Scotland—THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, Head Office, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP, & CO., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

London—VERTUE, LUBBOCK & CO., 43, Threadneedle-street and Stock Exchange, E.C.
Manchester—R. A. ARMITAGE & SON, 10, St. Anne's-square.
Sheffield—EADON & DUTCHMAN, 2, East Parade.
Newcastle—WISE, SPEKE & CO., 28, Collingwood-street, and Stock Exchange.
Liverpool—A. M. SING & Co., 26, Exchange-street East.
Cardiff—E. T. LYDDON & SONS, Bute Docks.

AUDITORS.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO., 5, London Wall-buildings, E.C.
E. LAYTON BENNETT & CO., 31 and 32, Broad-street-avenue.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.

THOMAS PARKER, M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E.

SECRETARY *(pro tem.)* AND OFFICES.

J. E. G. HADATH, No. 3 London Wall-buildings, London, E.C.

BRITISH COALITE COMPANY, LIMITED, has been formed to purchase the Patent Rights for manufacturing and dealing in COALITE in the United Kingdom, to acquire valuable freehold sites at Barking and Wednesfield, together with the COALITE plant capable of an output of about 15,000 tons per annum now in operation, and to take over a contract entered into with Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., under which they agree for twenty-one years to collect and sell the whole of the output in the metropolitan and other areas, as defined in the contract, and to act as sole agents for the purchase of coal within such areas.

WHAT COALITE IS.—COALITE is manufactured from ordinary coal by a refining process, the invention of Mr. Thomas Parker, M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E., of Wolverhampton, the well-known Engineer, who recently carried out the electrification of the Metropolitan Railway.

In his report, Mr. James Swinburne, F.R.S., describes COALITE as follows:—

"Mr. Parker distils coal at a low temperature so as to produce COALITE, by removing all the smoke-producing matter without overheating the carbon. COALITE is thus an improved coal, lighting more easily and burning absolutely without smoke. The process does not break down the hydro-carbons, so that nearly a double yield of valuable liquid bye-products is obtained, and about half the usual volume of gas, which is on the other hand richer than ordinary gas.

"The treatment of coal so as to produce primarily not coke but a first-rate domestic fuel, and at the same time a larger yield of liquid bye-products, and a notable quantity of rich illuminating gas is, in my opinion, a new principle of the highest public importance."

DOMESTIC USE.—Compared with household coal of good quality, COALITE has, among others, the following advantages:—

1. It radiates more heat into the room, the difference being very remarkable in large fires.
2. It burns absolutely without smoke.
3. It lights easily and burns up brightly at once, so that the fire is cheerful and efficient from the beginning.
4. It keeps a clear glowing fire for many hours without attention.
5. It can be burnt down into a very small fire without going out.
6. It heats a room more cheaply than the best coal.
7. It can be used in any form of grate or stove.
8. Chimney and kitchen flues will not require sweeping.

COMMERCIAL VALUE.—As some 13,000,000 tons of bituminous coal are burned annually in the Metropolis alone, most of which could with advantage and economy be replaced by Coalite, there is practically an unlimited field for the new fuel.

The smoke and soot given off by a coal fire are due to imperfect combustion, and it is estimated that one-fourth of the coal used in London is so wasted.

In the manufacture of COALITE, however, almost the whole of the valuable constituents of the coal, which would otherwise be lost in smoke and soot, are preserved and converted into bye-products of great commercial value. The following figures, the result of exhaustive experiments in the manufacture of COALITE, by Dr. S. Rideal, Prof. Lewes, and Mr. T. Parker, give mean quantities of bye-products which will be obtained per 2,100,000 tons of Coalite produced from 3,000,000 tons of bituminous coal:—

Gas of high quality of about 20 candle-power	14,800,000,000	cub. ft.
Ammoniacal liquor, producing sulphate of ammonia	20,839	tons.
Tar	306,035	"
From which is extracted:—		
Pitch (high quality)	127,939	tons.
Crude light oils (benzol, naphtha, &c.)	7,170,000	galls.
Carbolic oils	5,535,000	"
Creosote oils	9,442,500	"
Anthracene oils (dye stuffs, &c.)	9,003,750	"

The production of even 2,100,000 tons of COALITE annually in London alone would place the Company in possession of sufficient bye-products to establish manufactures of all the compounds capable of being produced from these bye-products. The Directors anticipate a ready and profitable sale for the COALITE gas, not merely for enriching the illuminating gas supplied to the metropolitan and other areas, but also for use in large gas engines, for which, when diluted, it is eminently suitable.

Coal tar is the starting point in the preparation of synthetic dye stuffs, and an extremely profitable industry in the preparation of them will be within the grasp of the Company, while the wealth of light hydro-carbons in the liquid bye-products obtained in the manufacture of COALITE makes it probable that the fuel of the future for motor vehicles will be drawn from this source.

The pitch obtained in the manufacture of COALITE possesses excellent qualities for electrical work where high insulation is required. A copy of the report of Messrs. Preece and Cardew, of which an extract accompanies this Prospectus, can be seen at the Offices of the Company.

PLANT AND OUTPUT.—The manufacture of COALITE on a commercial scale has been going on at Wednesfield during the past year, where extensions of the plant are in progress.

A large freehold site has been secured at Barking, having a valuable frontage to the River Thames, and it is intended to erect, immediately, works on this site capable of treating about 3,000,000 tons of coal per annum for supply in the Metropolitan area. These works will be extended as demand requires.

The development of the means for supplying London with the new smokeless fuel, not only for domestic, but for commercial purposes, will be followed by the establishment of manufacturing centres throughout the provinces. Applications in regard to licenses for using the COALITE process have already been received from important colliery proprietors in Great Britain, COALITE being especially an excellent fuel for steam generating purposes.

ARRANGEMENT FOR SALE OF COALITE.—The Vendors have entered into the important agreement with Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son, Limited, above mentioned. Messrs. Cory's unrivalled facilities, in conjunction with Messrs. Rickett, Cockerell & Co., Limited, place them in an exceptional position for carrying out this work.

ESTIMATED PROFITS.—From the results of tests made during the manufacture of COALITE at Wednesfield by Prof. Vivian Lewes, Dr. S. Rideal, and Mr. T. Parker (during which the cost of production was carefully and exhaustively ascertained), they estimate that 2,100,000 tons of COALITE, with the resulting gas, will produce, apart from other bye-products of great value, a net profit of over £500,000.

To pay 6 per cent. upon 1,500,000 Ordinary Shares	£90,000
Balance available for further Dividends, Reserve, &c.	410,000
	£500,000

The above estimate of profit is based upon the production and sale of only 2,100,000 tons of Coalite for supply in the Metropolitan area and does not take into account the profits to be derived from the sale of the bye-products, other than Gas, resulting from the manufacture within that area or from the further manufacture of Coalite and the resulting bye-products in London and in the other large towns and districts throughout the United Kingdom.

From the above figures it will be seen that after paying the 6 per cent. dividend upon the Ordinary Shares a balance remains of £410,000 available for further dividends and reserve. The Directors anticipate, however, that on the sale of the bye-products, and the establishment of other Coalite works in the Provinces, these figures of profits can be largely increased.

PATENT RIGHTS.—Exhaustive searches as to previous Patents have been made in the British, German, French, and United States Patent Records, by Messrs. Edward Evans & Co., of Chancery Lane, W.C., which have been confirmed by the official examinations as to novelty made in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States. The validity of the Patent Rights for Great Britain has been reported upon by Mr. Terrell, K.C., Mr. Walter, K.C., and Mr. Frederic Swann, whose joint opinion was entirely favourable on all points.

The following is a copy of such opinion:—

"We have carefully perused and considered the numerous earlier specifications which have been placed before us, dealing with the subject of the destructive distillation of coal, and the preparation of fuel by such distillation. We have settled the complete Specification of Parker on his application for Patent 14,365/06 having regard to all such earlier Specifications.

"We are of opinion that the patent, when granted on such application, will be valid, and that the Specification as we have settled it describes an invention which is not disclosed in any of the earlier documents placed before us, and that such invention is novel and good subject-matter for letters patent.

(Sgd.) " THOS. TERRELL.
" ARTHUR J. WALTER.
" FREDERIC SWANN."

The complete specification which was lodged at the Patent Office on the 24th December, 1906, has now passed the official examination, and the Comptroller-General of Patents has issued his certificate that it is ready for acceptance. The applications for the United States and German Patents have been accepted.

Application for a special settlement in and an official quotation of the Company's shares will be made in due course to the Stock Exchange, London.

To Profit Participating Policy Holders

IN THE

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

The Profit Participating Policy Holders of the above Company are hereby informed that a movement has been on foot for some time past with a view to obtaining redress from the Company in respect of the passing of the bonus for the last quinquennium.

The Policy Holders concerned appointed an influential Committee consisting of the following—

Sir CHRISTOPHER FURNESS, M.P.
JAMES BROWN, Esq., J.P., 3, Kent Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.
ERNEST SCHLOESSER, Esq., 23, St. Thomas'-street, Southwark, S.E.

and instructed them to obtain the Opinion of Sir Robert Finlay, K.C., on the whole matter.

That Opinion being favourable, the Committee have since used every effort to arrive at a friendly settlement of their claims with the Directors of the Company, but without success.

The Policy Holders concerned have therefore held a further meeting and authorised the Committee **to commence legal proceedings against the Company**; and it was the feeling of the Meeting that the Committee **should publicly invite the co-operation and support** of the whole body of Profit Participating Policy Holders interested.

Policy Holders of that class are therefore invited to communicate (stating the amount of their policies) with the undersigned, who will furnish them with full particulars of the steps that have already been taken, and such further information as they may desire.

By order of the Committee,
MAURICE JENKS, F.C.A., *Honorary Secretary*,
6, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. **2½ per cent. interest** allowed on Deposit Accounts. **2 per cent. interest** on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars POST FREE.—C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

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HOUSES!!
HOUSES!!!

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The

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Late of 83, Ebury Street, S.W.

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(LIMITED),

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

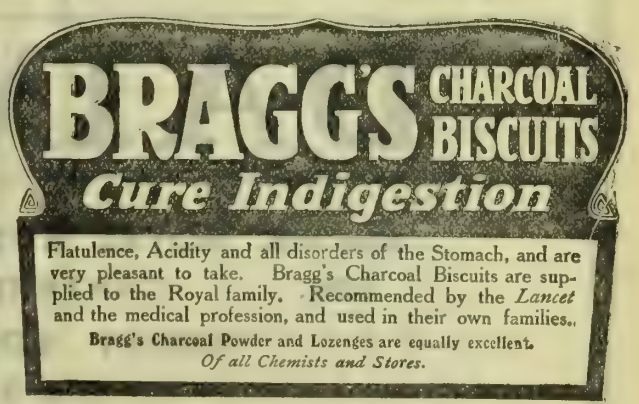
NOTICE.

No member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.



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The Standard Remedy for over 35 years. Quickly removes all Skin Eruptions—clears off every Pimple, Blemish, or Spot.

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Sold everywhere, in bottles 1/-, or on receipt of amount.

A Good Complexion is Better than a Pretty Face.

J. PEPPER & CO., Bedford Laboratory, London, S.E.

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ITALA

Cars are noted for their vitality and simplicity. It is not only unique in design but *perfection in construction*, which makes the Itala the most Elegant and up-to-date Car of To-day.

SIR THOMAS LIPTON says:—
"I have much pleasure in stating that my 70 h.p. 'Itala' Car is giving me the greatest satisfaction, and I feel sure there *is no better Car* in England."

Mr. H. R. Pope has beaten all previous Records by driving a 40 h.p. Itala from Monte Carlo to London in 29 hrs. 16 mins.

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OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

NOTICE.

I have just heard from the G.E.R. Co. that they have decided to award their Special Prize of Two Guineas which was offered, conditionally, in connection with TRUTH Puzzle No. 1,479. But full particulars will be announced next week.

PRIZE AWARDS.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,475.

BEST ENIGMA, FORMED ON A GIVEN MODEL.

The Prize of Two Guineas is awarded to FRISCO, whose Enigma was printed in TRUTH of May 22 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,476.

BEST ANAGRAM OF THE WORDS "ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION OF PICTURES AT BURLINGTON HOUSE."

The Prize of Two Guineas is awarded to HORACE, whose anagram was printed in TRUTH of May 22 last.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,477.

FORECAST OF FIRST THREE HORSES IN "THE DERBY."

The Prize of Two Guineas is awarded to WILDCAT, with a score of 3 marks—the runners up being Milliner and Veri, each with a score of 2½ marks. WILDCAT'S forecast was 1, Orby; 2, Woolwinder; 3, Galvani.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,478.

(This Puzzle was, originally, misnumbered 1,477.)

SIX GREATEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

It is with fear and trembling that I have adjudicated on this delicate and difficult problem. On the whole, however, I am of opinion that the most representative list of "Greatest Women" has been sent in by ECHO. The Prize of Two Guineas, therefore, is awarded to that Competitor.

ECHO'S list is as follows:—Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Catherine de Medici, Queen Elizabeth (of England), Maria Theresa (Austria), and Catherine II. (Russia)

I print below a further list of assorted specimens of answers to this puzzle.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,482.

It was Dr. Johnson, I think, who, with his usual violent prejudice against field sports of any kind, somewhat brutally defined the gentle art of angling as:

"A piece of string with a worm at one end and a fool at the other."

Now it has often struck me that, if the worthy Doctor were alive to day, his views on certain of our modern sports and games would make highly amusing reading. But as it is impossible to recall him from the other world for this purpose, I am going to ask my readers to project themselves, as far as may be, into the plain-spoken and prejudiced Samuel's mind and to evolve what he *would have said* in relation to certain specified sports and games, had he been here to say it.

In other words, I am offering this week the usual Prize of Two Guineas to that Competitor who shall send in

THE BEST JOHNSONIAN DEFINITIONS OF (1) GOLF; (2) CROQUET; (3) HOCKEY; AS A GAME FOR GIRLS.

Competitors are reminded that it is not their own views but the supposed views of Dr. Johnson that they are invited to express in these definitions, the language of which should be as good Johnsonese as they can attain unto. And I am sure that if they enter into the spirit of the thing, the results will be highly diverting for all concerned.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one set of three definitions.
(ii.) No single definition must exceed thirty words.
(iii.) All sets of definitions must reach TRUTH office by the *first post* on Monday, July 1, 1907.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of ELECTION, winner of TRUTH Prize No. 1,471 (Best Advertisement Anecdote) is William Park, Esq., Churchover, Rugby.

INCA.—Your anagram was duly received and included in the Competition.

JETHART.—I have identified your "Greatest Women" list as that marked X.Y.Z. I am making inquiries in respect of your other query. The answer of the enigma, however (viz., that the man's name was "Knott"), is sufficiently obvious.

SIMPLEX.—I am inquiring into the matter about which you ask.

SNOOKS.—In spite of your humorously pathetic appeal and the goodness of your catch-name, I'm afraid I must abide by our published regulations and exclude your solution from the Competition. I feel sure that your sense of fairness will concur in this decision and will recognise the impracticability, not to say the injustice to others, of ignoring the rules for the benefit of an individual Competitor.

EDGERTON, TONY and MAYFLOWER.—I much regret that your solutions of G.E.R. Puzzle were received too late for inclusion.

GRASSHOPPER.—I note your explanation and thank you for sending it, although I had already grasped the point of the name.

LADDIE.—Many thanks for introducing MOLLIE, whose acquaintance I am most pleased to make and whose name I shall hope to see frequently at the foot of Puzzle solutions.

CENTURIA.—Your *nom de plume* duly registered. I quite agree with what you say. At the same time, as I do not feel equal to pronouncing on so vexed and delicate a question myself, I do not see that any other system can well be adopted.

I desire to direct the attention of Competitors, who occasionally send in solutions on *post-cards*, to Rule XI., which expressly forbids this method of communication.

Hitherto I have been lenient in this matter—especially in the case of new Competitors. But I must now warn all my readers that, after the publication of this Notice, no solutions, or other communications on post-cards, can be entertained.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,479.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

THE IDEAL AGE FOR A MAN OR A WOMAN TO MARRY.

N.B.—I have cut out all notes, comments, and explanations embodied by Competitors in their answers, and print only the essential matter—viz., the ages of the man and the woman respectively.

Man, 28; woman, 25.—Tammas.
Man, 27; woman, 25.—Duss.
Man, 26; woman, 23.—Splendige.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Muz Muz
Man, 28; woman, 24.—Gapstang.
Man, 27; woman, 25½.—Snuggard.
Man, 30; woman, 24.—Trommy.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Khayyam.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Nemesis.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Cosmos.
Man, 25; woman, 21.—Nemo.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Thersites.
Man, 27; woman, 24.—Beginner.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Bagnet.
Man, 26; woman, 23½.—Doric Mooring.
Man, 26; woman, 25.—Little Toad.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Kabul
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Verbum Sat.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Blencathra
Man, 27½; woman, 21½.—Jean qui Rit.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Leda
Man, 26; woman, 23.—Guges.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Milliner.
Man, 21; woman, 18.—Maria
Man, 25; woman, 21.—Sophia.
Man, 25; woman 20.—Diana.
Man, 21; woman, 17.—Crank.
Man, 29½; woman, 22½.—Humshaugh.
Man, 25; woman, 20.—Immerito.
Man, 27; woman, 21.—Queensholme.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Bramble.
Man, 27; woman, 24.—Yorke.
Man, 30; woman, 24.—Dagmar.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Ethna.
Man, 29; woman, 25.—Stylite.
Man, 32; woman, 23.—Sanger.
Man, 30; woman 25.—In Tune
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Rimabel.
Man, 31; woman, 24.—Shelmartin.
Man, 30; woman, 24.—Croina.
Man, 28; woman, 22.—Ruam
Man, 28; woman, 22.—Ethelwyn.
Man, 26; woman, 25.—Fitzhamon.

Man, 28; woman, 25.—Gladiator.
Man, 28; woman 24.—Harts.
Man, 29; woman, 23.—Cassio
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Erra.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—F. M. K.
Man, 27; woman, 20.—Freda.
Man, 26; woman, 19.—Frances.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Hyrte.
Man, 30; woman, 24.—Querky.
Man, 30; woman, 23.—Peter I
Man, 27.75; woman, 24.88.—Almativa.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Oiseau
Man, 22; woman, 20.—Rho.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Margate Hoy.
Man, 27; woman, 22.—Green Pine.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Game B
Man, 40; woman, 30.—Mrs. Game B.
Man, 26½; woman, 23½.—Centuria.
Man, 30; woman, 23.—Petite.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Outsider.
Man, 30; woman, 22.—Eillom.
Man, 25; woman, 20.—Borderer.
Man, 30; woman, 23.—Puck.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—The Prebend.
Man, 25; woman, 22.—Pupa.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Ox Short.
Man, 32; woman, 26.—Laddie.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Mollie.
Man, 29; woman 24.—Nymph.
Man, 32; woman, 25.—Crysta.
Man, 28; woman, 23.—Yendig.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Woodfin.
Man, 24; woman, 20.—Sandstone.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Ino.
Man, 27½; woman, 23½.—Eboracum.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Chick.
Man, 26; woman, 22.—Comus.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Winkle.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Gem.
Man, 25; woman, 20.—A. E. L.
Man, 27; woman, 22.—Kismet.
Man, 28; woman, 23.—Clement.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Valor.

Man, 28; woman, 25.—Never Despair.
Man, 28; woman, 24.—Empire.
Man, 25; woman, 21.—Wisdrive.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Irsafil.
Man, 28; woman, 20.—Meleha.
Man, 27; woman, 24.—Ainsty.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Hyde.
Man, 27; woman 23.—P. Gillam.
Man, 26½; woman, 21½.—Leaf Rule.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Ba.
Man, 35; woman, 28.—Renoops.
Man, 28; woman, 24.—Mars, Hull.
Man, 35; woman, 25.—Autolycus.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Raspboy
Man, 29; woman, 23.—H. R. S.
Man, 28; woman, 24.—Cherrypicker.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Heja.
Man, 27; woman, 25.—Brad.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Nunc Dimittis.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Loulou.
Man, 29; woman, 26.—Western.
Man, 27; woman, 24.—Alpha Beta.
Man, 30; woman 25.—Noona.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Erasmus.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Mac.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Perro.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Chic.
Man, 25; woman, 22.—Sugar.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Veronica.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Gret.
Man, 29 years 5 months, and 3 days; woman, 22 years, 8 months, and 15 days.—Myrmidon.
Man, 27; woman, 21.—Wig and Gown.
Man, 26; woman, 21.—Bad Luck.
Man, 30; woman, 22.—Redder.
Man, 26; woman, 24.—Tirrem.
Man, 28; woman, 24.—Zazina.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Togo.
Man, 24½; woman, 17½.—Sincérité.
Man, 34; woman, 27.—The Girl.
Man, 31; woman, 23.—Amuinn.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Jupiter.
Man, 29; woman, 26.—Excise.

Man, 25; woman, 23.—Rhamnus.
Man, 28; woman, 23.—Korah.
Man, 30; Woman, 25.—Rhody.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Spartan.
Man, 28; woman, 24 — Hypatia.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Sherlock.
Man, 35; woman, 20.—Twicky.
Man, 28; woman, 21.—Aster.
Man, 28; woman, 22.—Shieling.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Veracious.
Man, 27½; woman, 25.—Cashier.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Northlander.
Man, 26; woman, 24.—Hattie.
Man, 28½; woman, 23.—Cercueil.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Railway.
Man, 27; woman, 24.—D. H. S.
Man 30; woman, 25.—Den.
Man, 35; woman, 27.—Saucy Matt.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Coral.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Devon.
Man, 25; woman, 21.—Roy.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Nosclip.

Man, 30; woman, 25.—Edith.
Man, 28; woman, 22.—Mormond.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—H. G. Watts.
Man, 32; woman, 26.—Harebell.
Man, 30; woman, 23.—Batchelor.
Man, 25; woman, 22.—Pendarley.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Pinchbeck.
Man, 29 years, 10 months, 2 weeks, 4 days; woman, 25 years, 6 months, 2 weeks.—Dullard.
Man, 25; woman, 23.—Racbrane.
Man, 30; woman, 21.—Robin Adair.
Man, 29; woman, 23.—Provident.
Man, 30; woman, 20½.—Patrol.
Man, 26; woman, 24.—Omega.
Man, 30; woman, 24.—Lichen.
Man, 28; woman, 23.—O. P. Q.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Detinu.
Man, 35; woman, 25.—J. McGrigor Allan.
Man, 30; woman, 21.—Clapa.
Man, 27; woman, 21.—Veni.
Man, 28; woman, 21.—Vici.
Man, 30; woman, 24.—Haron.

Man, 30; woman, 25.—Bunga Malor.
Man, 29; woman, 22.—Normanhaugh.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Bucks.
Man, 24½; woman, 20½.—Dorset.
Man, 29; woman, 22.—Kent.
Man, 27; woman, 22.—Wildcat.
Man, 29; woman, 23.—Knarf.
Man, 26; woman, 21.—Iethart.
Man, 27; woman, 20.—Bip.
Man, 26; woman, 21.—Inex.
Man, 28; woman, 25.—Uggug.
Man, 32; woman, 25.—Chance.
Man, 26; woman, 22.—Nurse.
Man, 25; woman, 18.—Entelche.
Man, 29; woman, 22.—Lake Victoria.
Man, 30; woman, 23.—Dick Mosith.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—Langrish.
Man, 29; woman, 22.—Foxo.
Man, 27; woman, 23.—Cygne.
Man, 29; woman, 25.—Wynotte.
Man, 30; woman, 25.—E. Lewis.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,478—FURTHER LIST OF ASSORTED SPECIMENS.

SIX GREATEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

Queen Victoria, Jean d'Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine the Great of Russia, George Eliot, Boadicea.—Oiseau.

Sappho, Cleopatra, Hypatia, Jeanne d' Arc, Maria Theresa, Florence Nightingale.—Cui bono, inquam?

Elizabeth, Victoria, Catherine of Russia, Marie Theresa, Joan of Arc, Catherine de Medici.—Bim.

Joan of Arc, Boadicea, Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale.—Caw.

Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Madame Curie.—Beechwood.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts.—White Heather.

Cleopatra, Catherine the Great, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Joan of Arc, Grace Darling.—Harold.

Cleopatra, the Virgin Mary, Hypatia, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine the Great of Russia.—Hopscotch.

Queen Victoria, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Queen Elizabeth, Marie Corelli, Ellen Terry.—Kent.

Virtue, Cornelia (mother of the Gracchi); Beauty, Cleopatra; Power, Catherine of Russia; Saintliness, Catherine of Alexandria; Reformer, Mrs. Fry; Philanthropist, Florence Nightingale.—Dorset.

Fra Angelica Kauffmann, art; Duchess of Devonshire, beauty; Lady Jane Grey, learning; Queen Victoria, kindness of heart; Queen Elizabeth, wielder of power; Charlotte Young, writer.—Bucks.

Deborah, Semiramis, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Catherine of Russia, Elizabeth (Queen of England).—Allimac.

Joan of Arc, Elizabeth, Cleopatra, Florence Nightingale, Rosa Bonheur, George Eliot.—The Twig.

The Virgin Mary, Queen Victoria of England, Catherine of Russia, Cleopatra, Isabella of Castile, Joan of Arc.—X. Y. Z.

Cleopatra, Catherine the Great, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Boadicea, George Eliot.—Nurse.

Semiramis, Zenobia, Boadicea, Sappho, Joan of Arc, St. Catherine of Siena.—Zagloba.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Sappho, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, Mrs. Eddy.—Ass.

Helen of Troy, Catherine Empress of Russia, Elizabeth Fry, Queen Elizabeth, George Eliot, Charlotte Brontë.—Korah.

Sappho, Cleopatra, Hypatia, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Florence Nightingale.—Eboracum.

Cleopatra, Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Victoria.—Half Acres.

Boadicea, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Cleopatra, Empress Josephine, Queen Victoria.—Charles Burdett.

Eve, Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria.—Felsberg.

Aspasia, Elizabeth of England, Victoria of England, Isabella of Spain (Queen of Ferdinand), Madame de Maintenon, Elizabeth Fry.—Minos.

Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Anne of Austria, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, St. Catherine of Siena.—Einnim.

Ruth, Cleopatra, Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria.—Ursellia.

Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Catherine of Russia, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale.—Djalfi.

Judith, Aspasia, Cleopatra, Zenobia, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth.—Veronica.

Boadicea, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth (Queen of England), Madame de Stäel, Florence Nightingale.—Bip.

Cleopatra (Queen of Egypt), Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth Fry, Queen Victoria, Catherine the Great.—Bad Luck.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, Jeanne d'Arc, Florence Nightingale.—Nemo.

Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth of England, Mary Magdalene, George Sand, Charlotte Brontë, Sappho.—H. R. S.

Queens Victoria, Elizabeth, and Mary, of England, Queen Esther (see Bible), Joan of Arc, Judith (see Apocrypha).—Heja.

Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt, Sappho, Joan of Arc, Queen Isabella of Castile, Queen Elizabeth of England, Catherine II. of Russia.—Cheltonian.

Mother of the Machabees, Joan of Arc, Boadicea, Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Cleopatra.—Fosco.

Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth of England, Catherine of Russia, Marie Antoinette.—Ainsty.

The Virgin Mary, Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale.—Cercueil.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine II. (Empress of Russia), Catherine de Medici, Isabella I. (of Castile), Maria Theresa (of Austria).—Inca.

Boadicea, Queen of Britain; Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Maria Theresè, Empress of Austria; Queen Victoria.—Crank.

The Virgin Mary, Boadicea, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine 2nd of Russia.—Sphinx.

The Virgin Mary, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, Catherine the 2nd of Russia.—Mary.

The Virgin Mary, Boadicea, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Maria Therese of Austria.—Diana.

Joan of Arc, Cornelia (Mother of the Gracchi), Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Empress Maria Therese. Presuming that the Blessed Virgin Mary is barred; if not, substitute her for the Empress Maria Therese.—Iere.

Deborah, Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine, wife of Peter the Great; Queen Victoria.—Detinu.

Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Catharine de Medicis, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria.—Golli-wog.

Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Catherine of Siena, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Caroline Fry.—Mab.

Florence Nightingale, Sister Dora, Joan of Arc, Grace Darling, Queen Victoria, Boadicea.—Coral.

Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, Marie Louise, Queen Victoria.—Nemesis.

Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Mrs. Booth, Florence Nightingale, George Eliot.—Grasshopper.

Sappho, Aspasia, Hypatia, Jeanne d'Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Cleopatra.—Khayyam.

Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, Marie Theresa, Queen Victoria.—Secundus.

Semiramis, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Catherine II. of Russia, Queen Elizabeth, Florence Nightingale.—Grenville.

The Virgin Mary, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Grace Darling, Queen Victoria.—Rigor Mortis.

Cleopatra, Semiramis, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Stuart, Marie Antoinette.—Bob.

Cleopatra, Sappho, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Mary Stuart, Marie Antoinette.—Scotus Viator.

Eve, the first woman; The Madonna, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth Tudor, Queen of England; Catherine II., Empress of Russia; Victoria, Queen and Empress.—Ewa.

Sappho, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Empress Catherine of Russia, Mrs. Browning, George Sand.—Rimabel.

Deborah the Prophetess, Queen Boadicea, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale.—Clement.

Semiramis, Cleopatra, The Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Flora Macdonald, Florence Nightingale.—Eillom.

Helen of Troy, The Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Marie Antoinette, Queen Victoria.—Alpha Beta.

Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, Catherine II., Empress of Russia.—Bunny.

Boadicea, Catherine II., Empress of Russia; Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale.—Nest.

Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Ellen Terry, Florence Nightingale.—Scot.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Semiramis, Catherine II. of Russia, Maria Theresa of Austria, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria. Should No. 1 be disallowed—Louisa of Prussia, Napoleon's contemporary.—Fish.

Ruth, Monica, Philippa of Hainault, Sarah Martin, Lady Duff Gordon, Victoria.—Pupa.

The Blessed Virgin Mary (if allowed), Semiramis, Catherine II. of Russia, Maria Theresa of Austria, Elizabeth Fry, Queen Victoria. If No. 1 is not permitted—Madame Roland.—Midge.

Virgin Mary, Boadicea, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Frances Ridley Havergal, Florence Nightingale.—Red Dragon.

Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria, Harriet Beecher Stowe.—The Mac.

Semiramis, Zenobia, Boadicea, Elizabeth Fry, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth.—Esneh.

Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, Helen of Troy, Queen Victoria.—Blot.

Joan of Arc, Cleopatra, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Ellen Terry, Florence Nightingale.—Hypatia.

Joan of Arc, Cleopatra, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Ellen Terry, Madame Patti.—Sherlock.

Joan of Arc, Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Catherine of Russia, Semiramis.—Alicujus.

Sappho (incomparably the greatest poetess the world has ever seen), Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra; Joan of Arc, Isabella, Queen of Castile, etc.—Patroness of Columbus; Queen Elizabeth of England, Maria Theresa, Empress of Germany, Queen of Hungary, etc.—Tony.

Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, Mrs. Siddons.—Cantab.

Boadicea, Cleopatra, Catherine of Russia, Marie Antoinette, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria.—Dwarber.

Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, The Empress Catherine of Russia, Queen Victoria.—Leaf Rule.

Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Fry, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Lady Burdett Coutts.—Canning.

Judith, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, Catherine the Great of Russia, Queen Isabella of Castile, wife of Ferdinand.—Asinus.

Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth of England, St. Catherine of Siena, Florence Nightingale, Madame Curie (discoverer of radium), Queen Victoria of England.—Aster.

Boadicea, A.D. 62, Cornelia (the mother of the Gracchi), Sarah (wife of Abraham), Queen Elizabeth of England, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry (Quakeress).—Lou-Lou.

Our Lady, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth of England, Catherine of Russia.—Ba.

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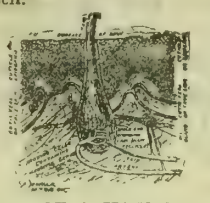

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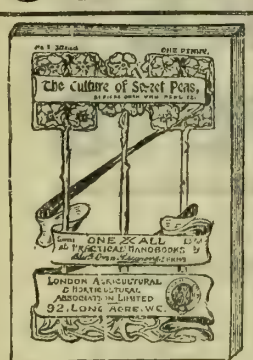

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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TO OUR READERS.

We receive hundreds of letters every week from "Readers of 'Truth.'" A large majority of the writers expect replies direct. Of the work, trouble, and expense involved in doing this we say nothing. But as experience has shown that a large number of our "Constant" and "Regular" readers who inquire about individuals with whom we have dealt in our columns over and over again are not actual subscribers to the paper, but merely occasional readers of it at clubs, libraries, or at friends' houses, we consider we must protect ourselves in the matter.

We have therefore decided that henceforth every reader who writes making an inquiry that necessitates a direct reply must enclose a stamped envelope and also a Coupon which will always be found at the foot of the 3rd page of the coloured cover. Without these no notice will be taken of the communication.

Inquiries addressed to "Vigilant," which must be accompanied by a Coupon, can only be replied to through his "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can "Vigilant" send replies by post.

No Coupon will be available that is over a fortnight out of date, except from correspondents residing abroad.

NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THIS week's issue of Truth contains a Stock Exchange Supplement, to which I would direct the special attention of my readers. It gives a complete list of the members of the Stock Exchange who are brokers, and also a list of the bucket-shop keepers and other harpies against whom my City Editor has so often warned the public.

The King and Queen will give a large family dinner-party at Buckingham Palace on Friday night, to celebrate his Majesty's Birthday.

It is probable that the King will travel on Saturday by special train from Paddington to Oxford, in order that he may witness some of the scenes of the Pageant during the afternoon. In this case his Majesty will afterwards proceed by road to Nuneham Courtenay, where he is to be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harcourt until Monday morning. The King will then return to town by special train from Culham to Paddington, unless he should decide to motor back.

The announcement in the daily papers, which originated with a news agency, that the King is to leave London for Marienbad on Saturday, August 10, is incorrect. His Majesty is to arrive at Buckingham Palace from Cowes, according to present arrangements, on Monday, August 12, and he will leave for the Continent on Tuesday, the 13th. The King is to be conveyed in the Royal yacht from Port Victoria to Flushing, whence he will travel direct to Marienbad, unless his Majesty decides to break the journey by paying a flying visit to the Emperor Francis Joseph at Ischl. In this case the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland will meet the King at Ischl.

The King is to be at Newmarket next month for both the summer race meetings—from Tuesday, July 2, until Friday, the 5th, for the first fixture, and from Tuesday, July 16, until Thursday, the 18th, for the second one. It is expected that one of the entertainments given during the First July Week for the King will be a garden-party at Moulton Paddocks, Sir Ernest Cassel's beautiful place. It is probable that his Majesty will drive from Newmarket one afternoon to Culford Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, in order to pay a visit to Lord Cadogan.

Excellent arrangements had been made both by the Court officials and by the Great Western Railway for the garden party at Windsor Castle, but the crowd was overwhelming. Many of the guests did not reach the East Terrace until the party was practically over. The streets of Windsor were a perfect pandemonium, and if there is another garden party at the Castle on this vast scale motor-cars should be prohibited for the afternoon. When the party was at its climax a heavy shower fell. The King and Queen and the Royal family came down from the Castle to the East lawn in procession, passing between the lines of guests, and when they reached their marquees a number of presentations took place. The scene on the lawn was very brilliant until the rain sent every one crowding into the marquees, when a great many people left at once, and proceeded to the Great Western station in order to catch the first special back to Paddington. The King and Queen and the Royalties stayed for nearly an hour in their special marquees and on the lawn.

Several of the daily and weekly papers announced in the spring that the King and Queen would give "a great garden-party" at Buckingham Palace during the season. It was then stated in Truth that their Majesties' garden-party would take place at Windsor Castle on the Saturday or Monday after Ascot races.

It has again been asserted that there will be "another large garden-party" at Buckingham Palace next month. The fact is that the Queen intends to give a children's party at the Palace, which will be an afternoon affair, with games and other amusements in the grounds near the house, but strictly juvenile.

The King has again lent Barton Court House, the Royal residence on the Osborne estate, to Canon Hervey, Rector of Sandringham, who occupied that place last year for several months. Lord and Lady Suffield have just left Barton Court House, the place having been lent to them for some time past by his Majesty. A variety of improvements have been carried out lately, by order of the King, in this picturesque Elizabethan manor house, which occupies a charming situation in Osborne Park. Barton was occupied during the last reign by the equerries on duty and other members of the Household-in-waiting, and sometimes by bachelor guests at Osborne. Two rooms were then reserved exclusively for the use of Queen Victoria, who often drove to Barton to breakfast or afternoon tea.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace from Tuesday, July 9, when they will arrive from London in time for dinner, until the morning of Friday, the 12th. On Wednesday, the 10th, the Prince and Princess are to drive in state to Prestonfield in order to visit the showyard of the Highland and Agricultural Society. At noon the Prince of Wales will present the medals to the winners in the parade ring. After lunching in the Royal Pavilion, the Prince and Princess are to proceed to the grand stand, where they will witness a parade of the stock at half-past two, after which the jumping will take place. On Thursday morning the Prince and Princess are to drive to Edinburgh, and the Princess is to lay the foundation stone of the new Municipal Art School at Lauriston at eleven o'clock. After the ceremony a private visit will be paid to the Royal Infirmary, whence the Royal party will drive to Prestonfield, and they are to lunch at the showyard at one o'clock. An hour will afterwards be spent in inspecting the stock, and it is expected that in the afternoon the Prince and Princess will pay a visit to Lord Rosebery at Dalmeny Park.

Prince and Princess Dietrichstein von Nicolsburg have left the Austro-Hungarian Embassy for Vienna, and will proceed thence to their country seat in Moravia, where they are to receive a short visit from the King at the beginning of September. During his stay in London Prince Dietrichstein was privately invested by the King at Buckingham Palace with the First Class (G.C.V.O.) of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Grand Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and her youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, have arrived at Kensington Palace from Germany on a visit to Princess Henry of Battenberg. It is understood that the King has arranged a reconciliation between the Grand Duchess Marie and the Grand Duke of Hesse, there having been no communications between them since the divorce of the Grand Duchess Victoria Melita, who is now married to the Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovitch.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse, who arrived at Windsor Castle on Friday from Darmstadt on a visit to the Court, are this week the guests of their Majesties at Buckingham Palace. They are lodged in the apartments on the south side of the palace which were appropriated to the use of Princess Beatrice and the late Prince Henry of Battenberg during the last reign. The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are expected to leave London next Tuesday on their return to Darmstadt.

The Duke of Fife has chartered the Duke of Sutherland's large steam yacht *Catania* for a few weeks, and he will leave Southampton on Saturday for a cruise, accompanied by the Princess Royal and their two daughters. Early in August the Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife are going to Mar Lodge, intending to reside there until the end of October.

The King of Siam has chartered Sir George Newnes's steam yacht *Albion* for a few weeks, and she leaves Southampton to-day for Copenhagen, where she will embark his Majesty for a cruise to Norway and the Baltic.

Colonel Douglas Dawson, who has been for some years Master of the Ceremonies, has been appointed by the King to the office of Comptroller in the Lord Chamberlain's Department, in succession to the late Sir Arthur Ellis. Colonel Dawson is a cousin of Lord Dartrey, and his father, who was in the Guards, was killed in the Crimea. Colonel Dawson will continue to act as Master of the Ceremonies (i.e., the introducer of the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission) at the remaining Court ceremonials of this season.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen returned to the Viceregal Lodge from Buxton at the beginning of the week. They have several public engagements for the week and much business in connection with the visit of the King and Queen to Ireland. The garden party to be given on July 10 at the Viceregal Lodge will be on a scale never before witnessed there. The gardens will be all thrown open and refreshments served in tents on the lawn. Military music will be discoursed, and only fine weather is needed to ensure the brilliancy of the entertainment. Lord Aberdeen will attend the Birthday Review in the Phœnix Park on Friday, and on Saturday Lady Aberdeen opens the French department of the Dublin Exhibition, and will be entertained at tea, a large party being invited to meet their Excellencies.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire were to have commenced their annual Saturday till Monday parties at Compton Place this week, and the King was

For APPEALS, see page 1617.
For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1621.
For SPECIAL FOR LADIES, see page 1623.
For Selected FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 1620.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1619
For ESTATES, AUCTIONS, see page 1618.
For OUR PUZZLES, see pages 1629, 1630.

to have been their guest next month for a week-end. The Prince of Wales was to have paid them a visit in Yorkshire, from August 12 till the 19th, for a week's grouse shooting over the famous Upper Wharfedale moors. Of course, these arrangements have been cancelled in consequence of the Duke's illness, which has excited the greatest regret in all circles of society, as no man is more popular among his friends, or more sincerely esteemed in public life. It is hoped that the Duke may be able to leave town in a few days for Eastbourne, and he will probably go to Nauheim for a course of treatment as soon as he is equal to the journey.

It is now definitely settled that next year's show of the Royal Agricultural Society is to be held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, under the presidency of Mr. Victor Cavendish. The Duke of Northumberland has undertaken to act as President of the local committee. The list of Vice-Presidents includes nearly all the territorial magnates of the counties of Durham and Northumberland, and most of the other representative men in the district.

Sir John Ferguson Davie, who died last week after a long illness, was a country squire of the very best type. He was a liberal and considerate landlord, a most generous friend to his poorer neighbours, and munificent in his charities. He was very popular among all classes in Devonshire and West Somerset, where his large estates were situated. He was the eldest son of Sir Henry Ferguson Davie, who in his day was a well-known Member of Parliament, and he sat in the House of Commons for thirty-one years as a Liberal of somewhat advanced views. Sir John himself sat for Barnstaple in the Parliament of 1859 as a Palmerstonian Liberal. He served for many years in the Grenadier Guards, and saw service in the Crimean war. Sir John, who married a daughter of the late Sir James Hamlyn Williams, had lived for many years past at Bittescombe Manor, his place in Somersetshire, and Creedy Park, the family seat near Crediton, was occupied by his brother, Mr. William Ferguson Davie, formerly Principal Clerk in the House of Commons, who succeeds to the title and estates. Sir John was an expert salmon fisher, a fine shot, and a zealous supporter of stag-hunting.

Mr. Thomas Andrews, the very distinguished metallurgical chemist, died last Wednesday at his residence near Sheffield. He gained a wide reputation as a consulting and testing engineer and as a scientific expert, and for many years he had enjoyed a very large practice. He zealously pursued extensive researches in the branches of science in which he was an expert, and he had gained many honours, including the Telford Prize, the Telford Medal, the Bessemer Prize, and the Gold Medal of the Society of Engineers. He had written largely on engineering subjects, and his publications included "Thoughts on Faith and Scepticism." Mr. Andrews succeeded his father as proprietor of the Wortley Ironworks.

Apropos of some recent remarks in TRUTH about bogus degrees and academic distinctions, one of my readers relates the following experience of a relative of his, who is now an eminent K.C. Counsel was cross-examining a prevaricating witness upon certain circulars which he had published with the letters B.A. appended to his name. He endeavoured to extract from the man—who did not, it would seem, bear about him any other visible indications of a Bachelor of Arts—what these letters might mean. After much pressure the witness admitted that they stood for Bacon Agent.

A lady tells me a sad story of the results of dealings by post with a Yorkshire firm—apparently a firm in a biggish way of business. Her purchase, prompted by an attractive catalogue, took the form of two blouses, at 9s. 6d. the pair. The garments were so unsatisfactory that she returned them in order that they might be exchanged for a single blouse. Of the nine-and-sixpenny blouse she says that it was "a wretched, ill-made thing; in many places the machine-stitching had not caught the material, and the blouse almost came to pieces in my hands." This experience seems worth mentioning because "shopping by post" is very much on the increase, and undoubtedly it is often more satisfactory to the shopman than the customer.

Of course, there are many ladies in the country—the complainant in the above case is one of them—who are compelled to depend on the post to a great extent; but there are many more, a good many even in London, who are led by seductive advertisements into sending long distances for articles which they could get quite as cheap, and probably of better quality, in Oxford-street, Kensington, or Westbourne Grove. Personally, I would never pay any money to a tradesman of whom I knew nothing before seeing what I was going to buy; and I cannot understand why even people who are compelled to "shop by post" cannot confine their dealings to shops which they know and where they are known.

Some interest attaches to a brief correspondence that has passed between the son and executor of a gentleman recently deceased and a firm of tobacconists at Clifton—Messrs. Lloyd and Co. It begins with the delivery by Messrs. Lloyd and Co. of a bill for £2 16s. for 200 cigars supplied to the deceased gentleman in March, 1906. The bill was addressed to the deceased, with a request for an early settlement. The son had been in the habit for some time of buying cigars for his father himself, but had never seen cigars of this particular brand in his possession, and found no trace of any of them among his effects. He therefore wrote, explaining these facts to Messrs. Lloyd and Co., and asking them to let him have his father's order for the 200 cigars. This letter was written on May 18, but has never been answered. I would suggest to Messrs. Lloyd and Co. that they owe it to themselves to make some answer. They may not be aware, but it is the fact,

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that the practice prevails extensively of sending in bills to deceased persons for goods which have neither been ordered nor supplied, in the hope that the executors will settle them without asking any questions. In failing, therefore, to answer the above-mentioned letter, Messrs. Lloyd expose themselves to unpleasant suspicions. If they would like to send their answer to me, I should be pleased to do them the justice of publishing it.

On my puzzle page this week an announcement is made of the award of the special prize offered by the Great Eastern Railway Company for the most attractive catch-name for the new train to Cromer, Sheringham, and Mundesley. It will be seen that from among several hundred suggestions "The Poppyland Luncheon Express" has been chosen as the most likely popular title for what is officially known as the Norfolk Coast Express. The regular daily service begins in July. At the invitation of the directors, however, a large party recently enjoyed a trial trip of the new express, so that in advance of the opening of the service it is possible to testify to the fact that it presents a thoroughly up-to-date example of luxurious railway travelling. Not only is the journey considerably shortened in point of time, but in the spacious and well-appointed carriages of this corridor train, with restaurant-cars for both first and third class passengers it is accomplished with the most perfect ease and comfort. "The Poppyland Luncheon Express" is sure to win the favour of the public, and increase the number of visitors to the delightful district which it will serve.

The popular conception of Mark Twain merely as a humorist does him a good deal less than justice. One has only to read his trenchant satire, "King Leopold's Soliloquy: A Defence of his Congo Rule," just published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, to see how fierce is his detestation of oppression and cruelty, how intense his passion for human liberties. Mr. E. D. Morel, of the Congo Reform Association, is to be congratulated on having secured the assistance of Mark Twain's powerful pen in the campaign that is being directed against King Leopold's iniquitous misgovernment of the Congo territory. Mark does not mince his words. Here is his final denunciation of the King:—

> Lust of conquest is royal; Kings have always exercised that stately vice; we are used to it, by old habit we condone it, perceiving a certain dignity in it, but lust of money—lust of shillings—lust of nickels—lust of dirty coin, not for the nation's enrichment, but for the King's alone—this is new. It distinctly revolts us, we cannot seem to reconcile ourselves to it, we resent it, we despise it, we say it is shabby, unkingly, out of character. Being democrats we ought to jeer and jest, we ought to rejoice to see the people dragged in the dirt, but—well, account for it as we may, we don't. We see this awful King, this pitiless and blood-drenched King, this money crazy King, towering toward the sky in a world solitude of sordid crime, sole butcher for personal gain findable in all his caste, ancient or modern, pagan or Christian, proper and legitimate target for the scorn of the lowest and the highest, and the execrations of all who hold in cold esteem the oppressor and the coward.

This is pretty strong language to use about a King, but in this case who will say that it is undeserved?

Lord Howe has decided to sell the rare and splendid collection of Shakespeare quartos and folios which has long been the glory of the library at Gopsall Park, his family place in Leicestershire. The first folio, of 1623, was the property of Charles Jennens, the friend of Handel, who died in 1773, leaving his immense property to William Penn Assheton Curzon, ancestor of Lord Howe. There is a first edition (quarto) of "Richard III.," printed in 1597. There are very few copies of this book, the only perfect one being at Chatsworth. Another quarto of the most extreme rarity is the second edition of "Hamlet," printed in 1604. There are only two other copies known, one at Chatsworth, and the other in the Huth Library. There are several other gems in the Gopsall collection, which has just been sent up to Sotheby's for sale.

Does the *Daily Express* mean to take lying down—if so, lying would be a peculiarly appropriate word in this connection—the castigation which it has lately received in some Anglo-Indian journals? Under a series of sensational headlines, the *Daily Express* published what purported to be a long telegram from Calcutta, dated May 9, giving "the gravest reports of the increasing native unrest." This telegram was characterised by the *Empire* of Calcutta as "a ridiculous compound of ignorance and mendacity." In the Calcutta *Statesman* it was pointed out that some of the statements made were so nonsensical that it hardly seemed credible that they could have been written by anyone who had been even a week in India, and a correspondent hinted pretty plainly that the *Daily Express* message never came over the wires at all, but was merely an imaginative expansion of a very brief cablegram which had been received by the *Standard*. It will be interesting to observe whether the *Daily Express* can show that this accusation is unfounded by producing its own original cablegram.

Mr. Algernon Ashton has been writing to the press about a projected memorial to Charles Dickens at Portsmouth. He states that Dickens "strictly desired that no statue should ever be erected to his memory." The instruction in Dickens's will was as follows:—"I conjure my friends on no account to make me the subject of any monument, memorial, or testimonial whatever."

The summer session of the Canterbury Convocation is fixed for next week, and both Houses will meet at Westminster for business on Tuesday morning. The Archbishops and Bishops of both provinces met last week at Lambeth Palace on two days for a strictly private conference.

The Rev. J. N. Dalton, Canon of Windsor, has replaced the Rev. Dr. Sheppard, Canon of Windsor and Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal, as the Deputy-Clerk of the Closet-in-Waiting on the King. Dr. Sheppard has been appointed Precentor of St. George's Chapel, in succession to Canon Dalton, resigned.

The canonry in Winchester Cathedral, which became vacant several months ago by the resignation of Bishop Sumner, has at last been filled up by Bishop Ryle, who

MALOJA, Engadine, Switzerland.—Palace Hotel, Kursaal, 6,000 ft. altitude. Completely renovated 1906. Private Baths. Golf, Tennis.—EDWARD SMART, Manager. Prospectus on application.

has collated the Rev. Vernon Faithfull Storr to the stall. The new canon was rector of Bramshott from 1901 until 1906, when he accepted the rectory of Headbourne Worthy. Canon Storr, who is examining chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, is an able man, and his lectures on the Philosophy of Religion at Cambridge excited much attention. The canonry is worth about £500 a year (reduced from £910 by agricultural depression), with an excellent house and garden in the Close at Winchester.

The Bishop of Guildford, who resigned this canonry, is a son of Charles Sumner, the last of the Prince-Bishops of Winchester, who held this see from 1827 until 1869. He was appointed to Winchester (which bishopric was then one of the great prizes of the Church) in 1827 by George the Fourth (nominally by Lord Goderich) at the request of Lady Conyngham. The Bishop of Guildford held the then rich living of Old Alresford from 1850 until 1885, when Bishop Harold Browne collated him to a canonry in Winchester Cathedral, with which stall he held also the Archdeaconry of Winchester. He was suffragan of the diocese during the last three years of Bishop Harold Browne's episcopate, and afterwards under both Bishop Thorold and the present Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Sumner was also for three years Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation, so he has enjoyed a remarkably wide experience of ecclesiastical offices and duties.

Archdeacon Sinclair is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during July, replacing the Bishop of Stepney.

The Irish ecclesiastical lottery scandal is more serious now than it has ever been, hardly a week passing without a wholesale distribution through the post of circulars and tickets relating to some newly-organised gamble of this description. Among those to which my attention has just been directed are two lotteries promoted by the Christain Brothers, at Maryborough, Queen's County, and Mount Sion, Waterford, and another in aid of the Institution of the Nursing Sisters of the Bons Secours, at Cork. It is announced that the drawing for the latter is to take place some months hence in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Cork and the High Sheriff—in fact, it has now become a regular thing in Ireland for assistance in these violations of the law to be given by the very authorities whose duty it is to see that the law is observed.

Among the holiday funds claiming attention at this time of year, I hope my readers will not overlook that of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation, for the benefit of poor clergymen, especially those suffering from overwork or bad health. Even where clergymen are not in the worst extreme of poverty, there are many of them whose means make it impossible for them to take a holiday, and cases are frequent in which men have not been away from their parishes for eight or ten years, or even longer. Such cases have a strong claim upon the benevolence of all Church people—the more so since the parish is apt to suffer as well as its pastor when the latter is tied down to his work without intermission for many years in succession.

A tradesman in Streatham asks whether he would be justified in exhibiting a collecting-box for the Tryphena Mission, Bow Common, E. The answer is "No," and I trust it will meet the eye of other tradesmen in that part of London, on whom, I understand, these collecting-boxes have been planted. As has been already explained in TRUTH, the Tryphena Mission was originally started by the Rev. Archibald Brown, a well-known Nonconformist minister, and after he left the East End the management of it passed into the hands of Mr. B. F. Adams. Mr. Adams practically placed it at the disposal of Mr. George Breton, of the notorious Poor Children's Society, but when the humbug of this charity was exposed in TRUTH, the connection was severed, and Mr. Adams has since carried on the Tryphena Mission on his own account. He is, however, quite uncontrolled in the management, and the work which he does is of that class of indiscriminate charity in the distribution of free meals, coals, etc., the value of which is very doubtful, and the expenditure upon it very difficult to check. There is no justification whatever for making collections all over London on behalf of a petty local charity of this undesirable class.

It would be well if tradesmen in London and the suburbs exercised a little more discretion in allowing collecting-boxes for obscure or shady charities to be exhibited on their counters. In the above instance a female has been going about from shop to shop in Streatham—and, no doubt, in other parts of London—telling a plausible tale of the value of the charity, and inducing soft-hearted shopkeepers to take the Tryphena boxes. Except for the one who has written to me, nobody thus appealed to seems to have had the prudence to make inquiries about the mission before complying. What large sums of money may be collected and wasted by this process is conspicuously shown in the case of the Poor Children's Society, which obtains some thousands of pounds per annum from collecting-boxes planted in shops, restaurants, and public-houses. Tradesmen ought to understand that when they exhibit collecting-boxes in this way, they are as much responsible for the result as if they were personally appealing to their customers on behalf of the charity.

I have received a long letter from Sir Frederick Milner, which he asks me to publish by way of reply to my recent article on the relations of the Rev. F. Lawrence with the Church Society for the Promotion of Kindness to Animals. If the letter contained any sort of reply to the allegations that have been made

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against Mr. Lawrence, I should have the greatest pleasure in complying with the request. But I cannot give the space Sir Frederick Milner requires to mere eulogies of Mr. Lawrence's virtues and suggestions that he is the victim of a cruel persecution, without any explanation or denial of any material fact that has been stated. The following passages sufficiently show all that Sir Frederick Milner has to say:—

Sir,—The Church Society for Promotion of Kindness to Animals was formed with the object of supplementing the excellent preventive work carried out by the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The object of the society was to instil into the minds, especially of the young, a respect for animals of all kinds and a horror of cruelty. In furtherance of this object Mr. Lawrence preached sermons in all parts of England, and visited hundreds of schools, where he gave most interesting lectures to the children. He also visited all the cab-stands in the metropolis and a number of slaughter-houses. . . .

Because Mr. Lawrence declined to preach against legitimate sport, he aroused the antagonism of the extremists, and since then has been subjected to a most cruel persecution, and has received numbers of anonymous letters, couched in shameful terms, and threatening him with ruin. . . .

It is insinuated in your article that Mr. Lawrence lived in luxury on the proceeds of the society. What are the facts, to which I can personally testify? They are these: That Mr. Lawrence not only resigned his living, as I have already pointed out, but he spent every sixpence he had in the world in promoting the objects of the society, with the consequence that when, utterly broken in health, he resigned his post, he was left absolutely destitute. A committee was formed, and a small fund has been raised, to which several eminent and influential persons have subscribed, which we trust will be sufficient for the maintenance of our esteemed friend during the few years of life that may be left him. . . .

I have known Mr. Lawrence intimately for the last thirty-five years. At that date he was the protégé of Archbishop Thomson, who to my knowledge had a high opinion of him and of his devoted self-sacrificing work. He has lived a life of Spartan simplicity, and I have often remonstrated with him because, in his desire to help the poor and suffering, he has often denied himself the bare necessaries of life. I have no hesitation in asserting that Mr. Lawrence is known, respected, and beloved by hundreds of those amongst whom he has so faithfully worked. The late committee of the Church Society are ready and willing, in the forms of the agreement already made, to complete the amalgamation with the Royal Society. The minute books are in the hands of the Archbishop of York, and he will decide as to their destination.—I remain, your obedient servant,

Frederick Milner, P.C.

The reader will see at once that there is not a word here which even pretends to exculpate the gentleman for whom Sir Frederick Milner expresses such warm friendship and admiration. What is alleged against Mr. Lawrence is that while posing as an "honorary" official of this charity, he really lived on it for years; that the published accounts, for which he was really responsible, concealed this state of things from the subscribers and those to whom his appeals were addressed; and that after the discovery of the truth had led to his removal, or withdrawal, from his official position, he was actually found to have possessed himself again of money intended for the Society. Beyond saying that I insinuated that Mr. Lawrence lived "in luxury"—which I certainly did not—Sir Frederick Milner's letter in no way deals with these points. It confirms rather than refutes all that was said, and it is really childish to talk about Mr. Lawrence having spent "every sixpence he had" on the Society, if the fact is that the Society was practically maintaining him for some years.

In one of the passages which I have eliminated, Sir Frederick Milner suggests that my article was inspired, if not written, by a personal enemy of Mr. Lawrence, whom he can identify. The article was written, like every other article in Truth, in this office on materials—including much in Mr. Lawrence's own handwriting—which I consider establish everything said in it, and more. It is quite idle for any personal friend of Mr. Lawrence to suppose that allegations so founded can be disposed of by mere protestations of personal regard or high appreciation of his noble intentions. Mr. Lawrence's friends and admirers are quite right to subscribe for the purpose of helping him out of the position into which he has drifted; I am glad that they should do so, for I feel rather sorry for the old gentleman. But they really cannot expect those who have not the advantage of knowing him personally to accept him at their valuation. After reading Sir Frederick Milner's letter, it is easy to understand the difficulty which has been experienced by those who were not Mr. Lawrence's personal friends in ejecting him from the position which he occupied; and I am inclined to think that the infatuated admiration of his friends is in some measure answerable for the trouble into which he has got himself.

Since the foregoing remarks were penned I have received another letter from Sir Frederick Milner, in which he tells me that if I do not publish his letter he will publish it elsewhere, that he has influence with a "society journal," and that he will disclose the name of the enemy of Mr. Lawrence above referred to. He also proposes to invoke the intervention of Parliament by distributing copies of his letter among the Lords and Commons. These threats have certainly no terrors for me. I have no objection whatever to Sir Frederick publishing his letter elsewhere, and I wish he had done so before he troubled me with it, for I have many other demands on my space. As for the "society journal," which Sir Frederick proposes to place in the field, I can only hope that its editor will be more successful than I am in discovering what the case is which he is expected to support.

The following contributions have reached me towards the Tress Barry Fund for providing sixpences for distribution among the children in the London workhouses at Christmas. I trust that there are still many more of my readers who intend to give their help towards this object at an early date:—

	No. of Sixpences.		No. of Sixpences.
H. E.	10	A. E. K.	20
J. W. M.	84	G. W. G.	40
W. J. T.	8	J. W. Matthews	100
Bombay	40	N. W. P.	60
J. H. L.	100		

I have received 10s. from N. W. P. for the Truth Toy Fund.

The following amounts have also been received towards Lady St. Helier's Children's Holiday Fund:—W. H. J., 10s.; St. Andrew's Boys, £2 2s.; A. E. K., £2 10s.

Dieudonné Hotel and Restaurant, Ryder Street, S.W. Excellent cuisine, prompt service, and comfort. Luncheons and Dinners Prix Fixe and à la carte. Mod. charges. Tel. No., 5265, Ger.

Ask—and you will find that in business offices where the use of the best ink is essential, Stephens' Ink is used. You should use it at home—it costs no more. Resolutely refuse substitutes.

Though I do not agree with all Mr. Haldane's political views, I must say that he deserves all the praise he has received for the way he has piloted his Army Bill through the House of Commons. Though he has made no very material alterations in the scheme, he has contrived to satisfy nearly everybody—with the possible exception of Mr. Arnold-Forster; and the Bill goes to the House of Lords with the minimum of decent excuse for any attempt to knock it out of shape in that assembly. Such opposition as remained in the field to the end of the proceedings came almost as much from the Liberal and Labour benches as from the other side of the House. One hardly expects to see the Lords supporting objections from the former quarters. It will be rather interesting, therefore, to see how the Upper House performs its constitutional functions in regard to this measure.

That Mr. Haldane's scheme has progressed so satisfactorily, is largely due to the fact that as a scheme it is decidedly sketchy. It is really an "enabling Bill" to give certain powers to the Army Council—a disjointed sort of skeleton which will have to be riveted together, clothed with flesh, and vivified with blood in the subsequent process of administration. So far as the "Territorial Army" is concerned, the success of this process will depend in a great measure on the way the nation at large responds to the call to be made upon it, how the County Associations do their duty, and how much money Parliament hereafter finds for the necessary expenses. The nature of the Bill lent itself easily to modification in the course of debate, and this was particularly shown in Mr. Haldane's last concession on the subject of the Militia, which was embodied in a mere verbal statement without altering a line of the Bill. This adroit transformation of the only feature of the scheme which has provoked warm opposition was enough in itself to stamp the present Secretary of State as a great general. He must have taken lessons in "slimness" while General Botha was in London, though it is curious how little either of them suggests that quality to the outward eye.

I confess I do not fully understand the effect of this last change on Mr. Haldane's general plan, and I do not mind confessing it, for I am sure that I am not the only one. What is clear is that so many Militia battalions are to be preserved as adjuncts of the Regular Army, and incidentally it appears that their objection to drafting during war has been overcome, in which case Mr. Haldane has scored elsewhere than in Parliament. But on this view the man must be enlisted with express liability to foreign service in time of war, and nothing is said about this in the Bill. Surely that is the place for it. Again, is the establishment of the Territorial Army, as "adumbrated" by Mr. Haldane, to be reduced by the number of these Militia battalions? Presumably it is, but in this case the calculations of military experts by which the desired strength of this force was fixed a few months ago, must be somewhat elastic. Apparently the "Territorial Army" becomes now only a new name for the Volunteers and Yeomanry, combined with a few Militia battalions which are not considered good enough for use anywhere outside the Kingdom.

With regard to the allegation that military training in schools is more apt to discourage boys from soldiering than to encourage them, an officer writes:—

> You quote a Service correspondent in support of these views, but he merely expresses an opinion without supporting it by any facts from which your readers may draw conclusions. Will you kindly allow me, as another military correspondent, to express my opinion on the matter? I believe that military training in schools, applied with tact and skill, encourages boys to embrace a military career, and in support of my opinion I produce the following facts. Of the boys trained at the Duke of York's and Royal Hibernian Military Schools, where the training is strictly on military lines, 80 per cent. to 85 per cent. join the Regular Army, and make very good soldiers. This statement is made on the highest authority, and is easily verified.

With all respect to my correspondent, I cannot see that this evidence has much bearing on the question in dispute. The boys he refers to are the sons of soldiers, and are avowedly being trained under military conditions to follow in their fathers' footsteps. It is to be expected that they will take to soldiering. But their case has no analogy to that of the sons of civilians, who are either being educated for civil life, or are already in civil employment. It is quite true that the previous correspondent, whose letter appeared in TRUTH of June 12, cited no evidence in support of his opinion; but I supplemented his letter with the evidence which most impresses me, and which comes from the experience of the Volunteer corps at Oxford and Cambridge. The best way of testing the question is to ascertain what proportion of public school cadets subsequently join Volunteer corps.

One or two communications have reached me from India with reference to a paragraph in TRUTH of April 24, commenting upon the failure of a sergeant-major of an Irish infantry depot to pass the musketry course at Hythe. I have consequently discovered what I had overlooked when the paragraph was published—that the warrant officer in question was the depot sergeant-major of the Royal Irish Rifles, whose original appointment was the subject of notice in TRUTH of November 14, 1906. Some particulars of the sergeant-major's record were then given, and it was suggested that it was not such as to entitle him to promotion, the fact being that he had been about fifteen years at the depot, and had risen from the rank of corporal, serving in the recruiting office as orderly-room clerk, and finally as depot quartermaster-sergeant.

I am now credibly informed that before this appointment was made the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion of the regiment in India was requested to recommend a man for it. He made a recommendation, but it was disregarded. The man who was thus set aside was fully qualified for promotion, and had served abroad for fifteen out of nineteen years. Of course, he had, among his other qualifications, a musketry certificate—as I understand it, an Indian certificate, the qualification for which is rather stiffer than at Hythe. This case is, therefore, a glaring example of the practice of allotting the most desirable home billets for senior men to stay-

DEAFNESS successfully treated by the AKOUPHONE INSTRUMENTS. . . Also Vibratory Treatment for Neurasthenia. Mr. ARONSBERG, 9, Bentinck-street, Cavendish-square, London, W.

at-homes, whose soldiering has chiefly been done in clerical berths at the depots, and it is high time that Mr. Haldane put an end once and for all to this practice, in the interests of justice as well as "efficiency." These cases seem to be peculiarly rife in Ireland, and another of precisely the same class was referred to in TRUTH a few weeks before this one at Clonmel.

At Hong Kong, as some of my readers may be aware, our soldiers are paid in dollars, and it seems that whole dollars may or may not be paid in one-dollar notes or bills. From a growl which has reached me from that station it would seem that it may make some difference to the soldier, and to somebody else, whether he receives his dollars in paper or in cash, for the money-changers at Hong Kong give 108 cents for a one-dollar bill. Thus a gunner in the R.G.A., entitled to $5, who is paid, as in a case before me, in three one-dollar bills, and ten twenty-cent pieces, gets sixteen cents less than if he had been paid entirely in bills. Presumably there is a corresponding gain of sixteen cents on the other side. This matter seems well worth a little official investigation.

Through the agency of the Salvation Army I have heard a rather mysterious story relating to an army veteran who is among the numerous men discharged in the last few months from Woolwich Arsenal. The points of interest in it are, not only the fact of the man having been discharged, but also that he seems to have left the Army with only a pension of 1s. a day. The man, whose name is Miller, has a remarkable army record, of which the following are the most material particulars:—

February 12, 1876. Enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders at Fort St. George as piper; served with the regiment 6 years and 8 months.

1883. Transferred to the Rifle Brigade as private. Served with the 3rd Battalion in Egypt.

1885. Transferred to 1st Batt. Rifle Brigade, and served in Burma; rose to corporal. Was reduced to the ranks for breach of orders in capturing a native chief.

Next transferred to the 4th Batt. Rifle Brigade, and re-instated as corporal.

1890. Promoted to sergeant, and received the distinguished service medal. Returned home with 4th Battalion, but transferred to the 1st Battalion, and served in China.

1896. Invalided home owing to loss of speech; recovered, and served at the depot of the Seaforth Highlanders as a recruiting sergeant.

May, 1899. Transferred to 2nd Batt. Seaforth Highlanders, and went to South Africa as interpreter. Served in the war.

June, 1901. Invalided home, owing to having again lost his speech through explosion of a shell. Recovered on the voyage, but finally invalided out October, 1901.

Employed after this at Woolwich Arsenal until October, 1906.

How this man came to be discharged with only 1s. a day I cannot understand, and though I have seen him, he seems unable to throw any light upon the matter. According to the above statement of his service, he had had eleven years' service as sergeant at the time of his discharge, with a total service of twenty-five years, which would seem to have entitled him to 2s. 6d. at least. But, however that may be, his service certainly seems to entitle him to more consideration than he has received. He actually has nine medals, earned in Afghanistan, Egypt, Burma, and South Africa, besides the D.S. and good conduct medals, and he states that when he got the D.S. medal he had been actually recommended by the Duke of Connaught for the Victoria Cross. He qualified as interpreter in no less than five languages. He has been four times wounded in engagements, and, owing to this, has suffered bouts of fever and ague, as well as smallpox, on foreign service. He is now more or less crippled, and, having a wife and children, is reduced to a state of destitution. I presume that his physical condition had something to do with his being selected for discharge from Woolwich; but, as the Woolwich job was evidently given him by way of reward for his services, when it was taken away he clearly had a claim to consideration in some other shape. A man who has served for twenty-five years, and been on active service for a great part of the time, ought certainly to be better treated than this.

Possibly some benevolent reader of TRUTH may be able to give advice or assistance in the following case. A soldier confides to me that he is in great trouble as to how to provide for his mother, who, while he has been serving abroad, has lost a leg and met with another accident, and is at the same time suffering worse trouble still at the hands of another child, out of whose reach she must be placed. It is a long and melancholy story, but these are the essential facts. I gather that the man cannot keep his mother altogether, but he is willing to contribute something towards her support.

The fourth of the new "A" liners of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company begins her maiden voyage to South America this week. As they have been successively put on the service during the past two years or so, I have said something in praise of those magnificent ships, the *Aragon*, the *Amazon*, and the *Araguaya*. On Saturday one of my representatives enjoyed a short trip on the *Avon*, the latest of these liners, and I gather from his description that she presents the same splendid accommodation for passengers, the same lavish provision of everything making for comfort and luxury in ocean travel which have earned for her sister ships the name of floating hotels.

Judging from the following facts, there seems room for improvement in the postal service and in the existing arrangements for the transit of goods between some of the neighbouring suburbs of London. A florist who supplies cut flowers from the neighbourhood of Chalfont St. Peter desired to despatch a parcel to Hampstead. A letter to the carrier requesting him to call took twenty-four hours in delivery; the carrier took twelve hours to respond after receiving it; the transit of the box by rail from Gerrard's Cross Station to Hampstead took twenty-four hours more—total, sixty hours. Business must be carried on with some difficulty under these conditions.

I was much interested to read in the *Daily Mail* the Lord Mayor's panegyrics of some of the municipal undertakings and achievements that he has seen in

"TRUTH" writes:—"I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of DR. LUNN'S Excursions." Tours to Switzerland. Norway Cruises.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh Gardens, N.W.

Berlin. He seems to have been particularly struck by the splendid equipment and organisation of a municipal hospital, and by the "forest school" in the suburbs for specially delicate children in the Berlin schools, who are taken to and fro daily at the public expense. If, however, any proposal were made to put London on an equality with Berlin in these and other respects, I expect the Lord Mayor would be one of the first to howl against them as "socialism," and I am quite sure the *Daily Mail* would. The word "wastrel" also would probably be found appropriate to the occasion.

After his discoveries in Berlin, the Lord Mayor ought to be able to give some useful instruction to some of the City magnates who suppose that British stocks are depressed through fear of the progress of socialism in this country. On this view of the matter German stocks, and those of most countries, not to mention British Colonies like Australia and New Zealand, offer a much more alarming prospect than our own. I often wonder where the investors who have been selling their Consols, or whatever it may be, from fear of socialism, re-invest their wealth. Perhaps Lord Rothschild knows.

The report of the Law Society's committee on solicitors' accounts contains a number of pious opinions, and three definite and rather drastic proposals. It is rather unfortunate that, though the committee are unanimous about the former, three of its members dissent from the latter. It is of little use to lay down, as an abstract proposition, that it is the duty of a solicitor to do this and not do that in his dealings with other people's money, unless some practical means can be found for keeping him up to the mark. There was a strong and rather bitter opposition to the appointment of this committee at all. In point of fact, the resolution for the purpose was defeated at a general meeting, and only carried by an appeal to the members at large by means of a poll of the Society. The opposition will be intensified now that the recommendations of the committee are formulated in black and white, while the position of the reform party is weakened by the disagreement of the committee on the only practical portion of its report.

The majority recommend that a solicitor shall either have his books audited annually by a chartered accountant, and submit the accountant's certificate to the Society with his application for his practising certificate; or else submit, in lieu of the accountant's certificate, a statutory declaration that he has kept clients' moneys in a separate banking account, and treated them in a certain way, and that they are intact. The dissentient trio object to this on two grounds. They think it will derogate from the cardinal principle which the committee have laid down, that "it is no part of a solicitor's duty to hold money belonging to a client for any lengthened period, and that it is contrary to good practice to do so." They also think that the proposed regulations, "while affording no security against dishonesty of a few, would place the whole profession under a degrading obligation."

No doubt the "degrading obligation" is the real stumbling-block with the dissentients, as it is with so many solicitors who resist all effective regulations. But it is nonsense to suggest that solicitors will be more "degraded" by self-imposed regulations for the purpose of keeping the weaker brethren straight than they are by the perpetually recurring scandals which have brought disgrace upon the whole profession, and will, if continued, cause the public to regard every solicitor with suspicion. It is difficult to see how any regulations designed to amend this state of things can escape the reproach of being "degrading" if solicitors choose to take such a wrong-headed view. Nor is it true, as the dissentients also observe, that the "degrading obligations" which are proposed will "afford no security against dishonesty of a few." They will not, of course, absolutely prevent a dishonest man from stealing his client's money; but they will prevent men who are not constitutionally dishonest from placing themselves in a position where a momentary temptation, coupled with security against detection, leads them to make temporary use of their clients' money, with the full intention of replacing it; and this is what has been the cause of the downfall of at least half the solicitors who have ended their careers in the dock or in exile.

As for the other point—that it is contrary to right practice for solicitors to act as bankers—it concerns solicitors and bankers rather than clients. So far as the client is concerned, there is no visible reason why he should not use his solicitor as a banker if he were secured against the misappropriation of his money, and the extent to which solicitors are so used seems to indicate that some clients find it a convenience. I do not advocate the practice, but it infringes no abstract principle nor professional rule. The objections of the dissentients seem, therefore, to have little substance in them, and it is to be hoped that the majority of the profession will be with the majority of the committee.

Recently two Lambourn J.P.s, Major Aldridge and Mr. R. N. Bennett, convicted a servant girl, aged sixteen, of stealing an umbrella, and in default of payment of a fine of £1 10s. she was committed to prison. There does not seem to be the slightest doubt that the conviction was a miscarriage of justice, and a gentleman who was acquainted with the facts at once paid the fine and secured the girl's liberation. The case has since been inquired into by the Home Office, with the result that the fine has been remitted, a course with which the magistrates agreed. This result is all very well so far as it goes, but there is a strong feeling in the district that under an efficient administration of justice the girl would never have been convicted, and that the two magistrates responsible for this serious blunder ought to give place to more capable men.

Any excuse for harsh treatment of the person who dares to be guilty of the unforgivable crime of poverty is sufficient for certain occupants of the Magisterial Bench, and that the recent Home Office circular declaring that nothing less than a term of fourteen days' imprisonment is of any use in repressing vagrancy has been eagerly seized upon as supplying such an excuse, my Legal Pillory for the past few weeks clearly shows. This week there are a number of cases which illustrate the mischievous effects of this advice, and with the smart terms of imprisonment given to offenders for petty pilfering supply striking contrasts with the paltry fines inflicted for assaults on women, for cruelty to children, and for ill-treatment of dumb animals:—

Grantham Police-court. Before Dr. Wilson and Mr. J. Hawkins. Hiram Stacey, charged with assaulting Harriet Bullimore, lodging-house keeper, because she refused to allow him to remain in the house on account of his foul language. Fined 20s. and 5s. costs.

Highbridge Petty Sessions. George Durston, charged with cruelty to a horse by beating it on the head with the butt end of a whip. Fined 5s. and costs.

Spalding Police-court. Before Alderman Howard and other magistrates. Thomas Ashwell, charged with cruelty to a calf, by bleeding it prior to killing it, in order to whiten the meat. Fined 10s. and costs.

Framlingham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Borrett, F. Read, J. W. Read, and W. Grey. Wm. Cattermole, charged with assaulting Caroline Peck, whom he accosted in the road on her way home. Fined £1 and costs.

St. Rollox Police-court. Before Bailie Russell. Allen McMillan, charged with assaulting another man without any provocation by striking him in the face with some weapon, knocking him down and kicking him in the stomach. Fined 21s.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent and other magistrates. Charles Allen, charged with assaulting three children of a neighbour, aged 11, 9, and 6. He kicked the eldest and struck the others. Fined 5s. and costs. For further assaulting their father he was fined 20s.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. Longdon, and Norman. Thomas Wilson, charged with cruelty to a mare. He beat it heavily with a whip, and on being examined several weals were found on the ribs and several sores and dry blood on the back. Fined 20s. and costs.

Hertford Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Morris Adams, charged with cruelty to two children, aged two years and eleven. The younger was left in a coster's barrow scantily clad and covered with a wet sack. The other was badly nourished and ill-clad. Fined £1 and costs.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. A husband, mother-in-law, and father-in-law, charged with assaulting Mrs. Slatcher. She was thrashed by all three, kicked by her husband, and knocked on the head with a rolling pin, being rendered insensible. Fined £1 each.

Grantham Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Henry Clark, fisherman, charged with stealing a jacket, valued at 5s., the property of the landlord of an inn. One month's hard labour.

Wells County Police-court. Before Dr. Purnell and Alderman Goodall. Elizabeth Selby, charged with sleeping out without visible means. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Gainsborough Police-court. William Dring, an educated man of 77, who was unable to work, charged with begging. One month's hard labour.

Bridgnorth Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Anderson and J. W. Steward. Margaret Swain, charged with being disorderly at the workhouse. She was insolent to the officers. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Kinross Sheriff Court. John M'Donald, charged with taking a trout by means of set lines. Fined £2 and a guinea costs.

Scarborough Police-court. E. Clark, charged with begging at the house of a detective. Six weeks' hard labour.

Garstang Petty Sessions. Before Dr. Fisher, Messrs. Hornby, Whittaker, and Cardwell. Patrick Murray, charged with acting as a pedlar without a licence. Seven days' hard labour.

Bradford Police-court. Mary Wilson, charged with stealing a metal watch, value 2s. 6d. Two months' hard labour.

Ormskirk Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Bromley and R. Shawe. An elderly man, charged with sleeping out. Two months' hard labour.

Southend Petty Sessions. C. Bolton, charged with stealing lead, value £1. Three months' hard labour.

Pewsey Petty Sessions. J. Corley, charged with unlawfully surrendering himself as a deserter from the army. One month's hard labour.

Brackley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Myers and Lang. William Russell, charged with stealing a washing bowl, value 6d. One month's hard labour.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Nearly 8,000 convictions last year. Complaints marked "Private," absolutely confidential.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

The prominence, one might almost say notoriety, which the Lancaster county magistrates have earned for themselves by the manner of their dealing with motorists is not likely to be diminished by two cases heard by them on June 15. In the first of these a man was charged with driving a motor-cycle over a measured quarter of a mile at the rate of twenty-four miles an hour. He had been sent on an urgent message by a doctor in a case of life and death. But the evidence of the doctor on the point weighed not at all with the Lancaster Bench, for the man was fined £3 and costs. In the second case the justices absolutely disregarded overwhelmingly convincing evidence for the defence. The case for the prosecutor depended upon the accuracy of the timing by the police by means of a handkerchief waved as a signal by one constable to another a quarter of a mile distant provided with a stop-watch. The constable made the speed twenty-four miles an hour. Against this was the fact that a new speedometer affixed to the car indicated that the speed at the time the car passed through the trap was fifteen miles an hour. The speedometer had been tested a week before the alleged offence, and it was tested afterwards and certified to be accurate. Both the chauffeur and the owner swore that the speedometer was registering accurately, and that on this occasion the owner had, by counting the milestones and comparing the time by his watch as the car passed them, been careful to keep within the legal limit of speed. Nevertheless, the magistrates accepted the word of the constable and fined the defendants £5 and costs. One wonders what kind of evidence is likely to be accepted by these Lancashire worthies, who have already this year convicted thirty-one motorists brought before them and imposed fines to the tune of £196 10s., according to a "scale" they have devised.

How effectively the Moneylenders Act now grinds the tooth of usury was shown once more in a case before Mr. Justice Ridley on Saturday. Charles Samuel, alias "B. S. Thomas," sued a borrower for £550, the balance outstanding on a promissory note for £650. The amount actually advanced was £450, and it was to be paid back, together with £200 for interest, in twelve monthly instalments. The defendant raised the defence that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable, and the judge left the question to the jury, who returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £400 only, being £150 less than he claimed. The defendant had already paid £425 into court, so that on the jury's verdict for £400 judgment was entered for him with costs, and the avaricious Samuel was thus considerably worse off than he would have been if he had accepted what had been tendered in discharge of the debt.

The tipster Pizzey, whose extraordinary skill in spotting losers I have so often noticed, now embellishes his circulars with a Miltonic quotation. "Give me," he cries with the poet, "give me liberty to know, to think, to believe, and to utter freely above all other liberties." By all means let Pizzey have this liberty, but, of course, he must allow others what he claims himself. I therefore take the liberty of uttering freely

the opinion that his is a mischievous business—mischievous alike to the community and to the Turf—which ought to be suppressed by Parliament.

Another tipster, Tom Tower, of Maidenhead, has also dropped into the habit of quotation. The "Prophetic Pointers," as he calls them, in a recent issue of the publication which he entitles *Racing Gold*, were headed with a verse or two from Longfellow beginning with the line: "This is the place; stand still, my steed." It was scarcely a happy thought. If his steeds did not exactly stand still, they at any rate failed to run as fast as the "Prophetic Pointers" suggested they would do, nearly every one of them being beaten. One of Tower's subscribers says that if he had backed all the tips in *Racing Gold* and the letter and the telegram for which he also paid, he would have been a very heavy loser. However, though a poor prophet, Tom Tower is an amusing fellow. "No puff required," he says, in inviting subscriptions for his "stable letters." And then he adds: "These are the best letters in the universe!"

Harry Aldon and Co., 66, Jermyn-street, St. James's, are "Turf commission agents" (otherwise bookmakers) whose method of business deserves exposure. A backer who had been in communication with them as to the opening of an account, and who had given his bank as a reference, received the following letter:—

Dear Sir,—We wrote you last week as to the amount of weekly credit you would require from us, and failing to hear from you beg to say, we have much pleasure in placing your name upon our books as a client, allowing you a weekly credit of £10, which we trust will meet with your present requirements. Upon our better acquaintance we will gladly increase this amount.—Trusting to be favoured with your esteemed patronage, we remain, dear Sir, yours very truly, Harry Aldon and Co.

During the following week the backer sent the firm various bets by which he won £14 10s. No cheque was forthcoming from Aldon and Co., but in reply to an application for it they wrote as follows:—

In reply to your letter, we beg to say the reference you sent us is far from satisfactory, and we are making further inquiries, and should they prove all right, which we trust they will, a cheque will be sent you for your last week's account. We feel sure that you, as a business man, can easily see how careful we have to be with new accounts.

The latter sentence is particularly rich, in view of the terms of the letter which Harry Aldon and Co. had written ten days previously. The statement that the reference was unsatisfactory is plainly a mere subterfuge, but even if it had been true they could not honestly decline to pay the week's account after voluntarily telling the backer that they had pleasure in placing his name upon their books with a credit of £10.

The Army appears to have suffered somewhat severely at the hands of John Howard, 10, Blandford-street, W., one of the welshing bookmakers whom I pilloried last week. Another officer tells me that he has been unable to obtain payment of a sum which he won from Howard over the Derby. Howard is a welsher naked and unashamed. He does not, like so many of the fraternity, trump up paltry excuses for non-payment, but lies low and says nothing, absolutely ignoring telegrams and letters from his deluded creditors.

I have had further evidence of the way soldiers are victimised by Edward O'Brien, Limited, of Coventry, since this matter was referred to in Truth of the 12th inst. It seems to be quite the regular course of procedure in this business to get an instalment out of a man by the representation that no bondsmen or references are required; and then to send a guarantee form to be signed by the commanding or other officer or a civilian householder. When the man cannot supply this signature, the next step is to refuse the return of his money on the ground of the expenses that have been incurred, and to try and get him to take goods instead, either from O'Brien or from Mr. Robey, "a friend of mine in this city," as he is described in one communication. As it is absurd to suppose that officers will guarantee their men's debts to tradesmen, and highly improbable that soldiers will find civilian householders to do so, the inference is that this game is played deliberately, and O'Brien must do very good business with it.

It so happens that one of these negotiations with a soldier was in progress when my last paragraph appeared. At that date O'Brien had suggested to the man that he should get a friend to "take over the transaction," and had then fallen back upon the Robey suggestion. The man again demanded the return of his money (10s.). Simultaneously with this the Truth paragraph appeared (June 12). Then, on June 17, O'Brien refunds 9s., keeping the other shilling "to cover part of the expense which I have incurred through your not completing the transaction." Seeing that the man has been put to just as much expense as O'Brien, namely, 3d. or 4d. for postage, and that the fault is entirely due to the delusive nature of O'Brien's representation of his terms, this sticking to the customer's money on the ground of the expense that has been incurred, is about the most impudent part of the whole business.

The *Daily Chronicle* published the other day an interesting account, given by its Berlin correspondent, of the huge business done in Germany by a group of firms, mostly with British names, dealing in quack remedies, such as an electric ear battery, a magic ring for curing gout, and a foot powder for the same purpose, and also in planchettes, complexion specifics, an apparatus for increasing the height, and so on. The information was taken from the *Morgenpost*, which states that seven of these firms, which are all under one management, had a turnover between them last year of £50,000. From what I have heard, it would not surprise me if my old friend Scott, of Symonds' London Stores, was connected with these businesses. He commenced operations, it may be remembered, in the United States, but found it

The Ladies' League (under Royal patronage), 2, Princes-street, Cavendish-square, W., successfully Recommends Gentlewomen for responsible Positions in every capacity. Telephone, 1,025 Mayfair.

Notice.—The Britannia Hygienic Laundry Co. have opened a West End branch at 306, Vauxhall Bridge-road, South Belgravia. High class work. *Flannels specially treated.*

desirable to transfer his activity to the United Kingdom, and disappeared from view when Symonds' London Stores came to grief. It is quite conceivable, therefore, that he has found his feet once more in Germany.

Why people who go to a shop to buy a pound of tea or a yard of ribbon should expect to receive a share of the tradesman's profit in the shape of a "present" of some other article, or a coupon enabling them to get the present somewhere else, I have never been able to understand. But this expectation seems to prevail widely, especially among females, and those who cherish it are naturally fooled to the top of their bent. New methods of fooling them are constantly being invented, the demand producing the supply. The latest inventor in the field is my old acquaintance W. H. Dickin. He calls his invention the Tradesmen's Provident Society. The tradesman pays Dickin £3 3s. per annum, and is supplied with "checks" and little books to stick them in, which he distributes to his customers. The customers stick the checks in the book, and when they have filled the book, forward it to Dickin, with instructions to him to pay ten shillings, as they may elect, either to their P.O. Savings Bank account, or to their banker, or to their deposit account with Dickin, or to a specified charity.

The advantages of this scheme from the customer's point of view are thus set forth by the ingenious inventor:—

£10 spent is 600 checks and 8s. saved.
You will only have to save 1,500 and you have 20s.
Save one million and get £666 13s. 4d.
Now as to the use this cash will be to you:
1. It will buy your furniture.
2. It will pay your insurance.
3. It will buy your house.
4. It will enable you to make provision for your children.
5. It will enable you to send your children to college.
6. It will enable you to provide for old age.

. . . . . .

13. It will enable you to build your own house.
14. It will enable you to purchase a piano or organ.
15. It will enable you to purchase a motor.
16. It will enable you to start a farm.

In a word, it will solve all personal, domestic, and political difficulties, including old age pensions and back to the land. And the beauty of it is that the ends are within the reach of all, for the more you spend with your tradespeople the more you will get from Dickin; and even if you do not want the profits deposited at your banker's, or in your savings bank account, it will go automatically, through Dickin, to hospitals or other charities. There is only one thing I miss about the Tradesmen's Provident Society, and that is the name of Hibbens. Hitherto Dickin and Hibbens, through all the years I have known them, have been associated as closely as Castor and Pollux or Day and Martin. But there is no mention of Hibbens in connection with the Tradesmen's Provident Society. I hope nothing has happened to him. The old firm does not seem quite the same without him. It may be this that gives me a presentiment that there will be disappointments over the houses and old age pensions, the farms and the motor-cars.

Some ten years ago a good deal of attention was devoted in TRUTH to a very active begging-letter writer, by name Mrs. Margaret Longshaw. The last I heard of her was that the commanding officer of a regiment in which I believe a brother of hers had served, had undertaken to raise some funds on her behalf, and had set her up in a laundry at Liverpool. Quite recently I have had a number of inquiries respecting a lady describing herself as "Louisa Rayner," but giving no address except "Post Office, Clapham," who indites very piteous appeals, with the usual heartrending recital of personal and domestic misfortunes. I find that Mrs. Rayner is identical with my old friend Mrs. Longshaw, and the Charity Organisation Society tell me that to their knowledge the woman has been begging pretty regularly during the ten years that have elapsed since I last heard of her.

This is rather interesting, because it shows pretty clearly that the laundry business did not last long, and that, in spite of the efforts made on her behalf, Mrs. Longshaw speedily drifted back into her old method of earning a living. No doubt there is an element of truth in her account of herself, but it is, as usual in these cases, garnished with a great deal of fiction; and though it is quite certain that she is chiefly dependent on charity, it is impossible to say how much per annum she makes out of her operations. It is certain that she is an habitual and apparently irreclaimable mendicant, and her story shows very conspicuously how much easier it is to get a living in this way than by honest work. This is the fault of the people who place their purses at the disposal of begging-letter writers, without attempting to test their statements, or to ascertain whether there may not be a better means of helping them.

Another type of begging-letter writer is represented by Mrs. Cremer, of 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham. This lady respectfully ventures to submit samples of her crochet work, which she hopes you will purchase, not only on its merits, but also in consideration of her "sadly straitened means," the result of "many long seasons of adversity." Her husband has a difficulty, owing to advanced years, in obtaining lucrative engagements, and the ill-health of Mrs. Cremer and her daughter has aggravated the domestic distress. The names of Lady Ilchester, Lady Ellesmere, and other ladies are mentioned as patrons of the crochet industry, and the name of a clergyman in the north of London is given as a reference. On inquiry, it appears that Mrs. Cremer and her family are living in a nice little house, comfortably furnished, with not the slightest appearance of want or distress, and two of the sons have business positions of some kind. Probably the lady would be ashamed to stand in the street and ask for alms, but she has no hesitation in writing to strangers in distant parts of the country asking them to buy her work out of charity. It is another example

Know HUMPHREYS, and be well dressed. HUMPHREYS, opposite South Kensington Station, one of the biggest and best Dressmakers. Unusual originality combines with sensible, not fancy prices.

of the abuses that arise from the encouragement of begging by post.

A VAIN WISH.

(Naturam expellas furcâ; tamen usque recurrit.)

The Speaker Sheffield's member slates
  Anent the exclamations,
Wherewith so oft he punctuates,
In course of decorous debates,
  His enemies' orations.
And says if he would but restrain
His jawbones, how The House would gain!

With Mr. Speaker, I confess,
  My lyre's in concord strung, sir;
I wish Sir Howard *would* repress
The terrible loquaciousness
  Of his eternal tongue, sir.
But then I know I might as soon
Expect to get, let's say the moon.

For like the poet, who compared
  Himself unto a linnet,
So Howard, who has always aired
His tongue, nor ever speech has heard
  Sans interfering in it——
He "does but pipe because he must";
And if he didn't, he would bust.

I have been favoured with copies of two letters that a distinguished Dame of the Primrose League at Uppingham addressed to another official of that organisation in reference to the shocking conduct of one of the members at the recent Rutland election. The first letter was as follows:—

DEAR MRS. ———.—I was told yesterday that Miss ——— had been to Leicester to fetch a Radical voter. I have not the slightest wish to interfere with Miss ———'s proceedings, but she cannot play a double game of that sort, and if we can substantiate that action of Miss ———'s yesterday will you please ask her to return her P.L. badge to you, and say at my request? I do not care to have any traitors among us. You may remember I made Mr. ——— return his badge for the same reason.

In the second letter the Dame repeats the request for the return of the badge, and remarks that it "belongs to the party"—thereby showing a wholesome contempt for the solemn fiction of some of its leading lights that the Primrose League is not a party organisation. It appears that Miss —— did not herself fetch a Radical voter from Leicester, but did accept an invitation to go for a ride there in a motor-car. Still, it was a Radical motor-car, and so I suppose that there can be no doubt about the heinousness of her crime. The manner in which it was detected and punished should be a warning to all traitors. People belonging to the Primrose League cannot be too careful. One or two Dames are kind enough to honour me with their friendship, but I sometimes tremble to think what disgrace they would fall into if this were known in their habitations, for, of course, they ought to shun all Radicals.

The *Tribune* called attention last week to a new feature in electioneering which has lately attained huge dimensions, and deserves the special attention of Liberal officialdom. This is the wholesale employment of workers and the huge expenditure of funds at elections, really on behalf of an individual candidate, but nominally on behalf of some organisation outside the constituency. On both sides the practice is adopted, but far more on the Conservative side than the Liberal, mainly, of course, because money for electioneering purposes is more abundant on the Conservative side. The names of ten electioneering associations on that side which have been conspicuous at recent by-elections are given in the *Tribune*. They do not all take the field at once, but several of them have been seen nearly everywhere, such as the Tariff Reform League, the Licensed Victuallers' Association, the National Sporting League, the Rural Labourers' League, the Women's Social and Political Union.

The effect of this practice is to reduce to a dead letter all the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Act, 1883, relating to the limitation of expenditure and of the employment of paid workers. The statutory return of expenditure and employees made by the candidate can bear no relation under these circumstances to the money really spent or the number of persons really employed in procuring his return. For example, at the Hexham election there were, according to the *Tribune*, no less than eighty-five emissaries of the five organisations above-mentioned working on behalf of the Unionist candidate, in addition to those whom he directly employed. Many of these outside agencies hire committee-rooms, hold meetings, and distribute immense quantities of literature, and their expenditure of money must be in proportion. Clearly this ought to be stopped, for it is directly contrary to the spirit of the Act. The *Tribune* suggests that the Act may be strong enough already to stop it. If there is good ground for thinking so, the question should be raised in the law courts at the first opportunity. If this method fails, the Act should be amended. A Liberal Government passed the Act, and its successors should look upon themselves as its guardians, apart from the fact that the Liberal party suffers most, as it undoubtedly does, from the evil.

Lord Robert Cecil's demonstration against the Lords' Resolution, by way of advertising the scandals of "blocking" motions, seems rather a futile proceeding. He could not persist without creating an impression that the Opposition were trying to evade the issue by a side wind; and as this would have hurt his own side more than the Government he has had to retire without getting any forwarder with the "blocking" question. It is a very difficult matter to deal satisfactorily with blocking motions without infringing privileges which the House values. Mr. Balfour admitted last week that he had been unable to solve the problem; and it is absurd, therefore, to make a fuss because the half-promise to see if they could do anything which the Government gave less than two months ago, has not yet been redeemed. All parties are agreed that the practice has become a gross abuse, but if it is to be checked it must be by some procedure the control of which will rest with the House collectively, rather than with any Ministerial majority for the time being.

The results of the Premier's Resolution will depend entirely upon the measures taken to give effect to it, and the way in which they are taken. As these measures were outlined by him on Monday, the only fault that

can be found with them is that they are not strong enough. One conference between the two Houses over a rejected or mutilated Bill may be desirable and expedient. If, after the failure of such a conference, the Lords maintain their *non possumus* when the Bill is a second time presented to them, a second conference is futile. Nothing can be expected from it unless the Commons are to give way on points which they hold to be material, and this is the very evil which has to be removed if a Liberal majority and Government are ever to have their own way in legislation. A third conference, after two failures and three interpositions of the Lords' veto, is unthinkable. Every object which it is desired to gain would be frustrated by such procedure.

If any effect is to come of the Resolution, this must be brought home to the Government during the present debate. It may be assumed that there is no need for bringing it home to the Prime Minister. His action and his speech entitle him to the presumption that he is thoroughly in earnest. But all his colleagues are not of the same fibre. Their influence may be traced in Sir Henry's proposals. These are tempered by the Whiggish mind and the spirit of compromise. There are occasions in politics where compromise is expedient. This is not one of them. Whatever may be the case with the House of Lords itself, the veto must be ended. Any half measure, which purports to restrict it, but will leave it in practice as effective as before, is not worth wasting time over.

Such a measure will be, indeed, worse than useless. It is bad tactics, for it is easier to carry the whole measure than the half one. No compromise on this question will elicit the enthusiasm necessary to carry the reform; the appearance of compromise will be quite sufficient to damn the proposal. The truth of this is shown by the tactics of the Opposition, particularly in the press. Their cue is to pooh-pooh the Government proposals, to persuade the public that Ministers do not mean business. If they can succeed in implanting that conviction in the country, their battle is half won. It is the business of the Government to dispel any such notion. This can only be done by a policy of "thorough"—thorough in conception and thorough in execution. "The whole hog" must be the motto.

Is it, or is it not, a fact that peerages are openly sold in order to swell the electoral chest of the two great parties in the State? Some years ago a respectable trader, who had never opened his mouth in the House of Commons, in which he had sat for some years, was made a peer. In TRUTH I mildly hinted that he had bought his peerage. I knew him a little, and he called on me to protest against my having made such a suggestion. "But is it not true?" I asked. "No!" he indignantly replied. "Then why were you made a peer? I believe that you manufacture an excellent article, but you make a good deal of money by selling it, and I cannot see why this should entitle you to a peerage." "Well," he replied, "I do not mean to say that I have not given a great deal to the Party." "I know that you have," I answered, "and if you had not, you certainly would never have been made a peer. You paid your money, you claimed your reward, and you have received it." "Well," he said, "the Party must have funds." "Precisely," I answered, "and I do not complain of your buying, for if funds had to be procured in such a fashion, you might as well have been selected as any other customer. But do not tell me in future that you did not buy your peerage." And he did not.

Yet it does seem to me that the legislative powers of this very worthy gentleman, and of his descendants *in sæcula sæculorum*, can hardly be deemed so sacred that the fiat of the nation may not limit them, as it has already limited the prerogatives of our ancient kings. Taking the creations of the last twenty years, I do not suppose that 10 per cent., if that, have given any proof that they are the men best endowed to exercise a veto against the House of Commons, or to procreate descendants likely to distinguish themselves as legislators. If the Lords are simply to obstruct all changes in the established order of things, they are the very men for the business. They all belong to one class, and they have all the prejudices of rich, well-to-do gentlemen. Many are well meaning, but no one can exercise an independence of judgment where his own interests are concerned. Almost all of them are Conservatives.

When a Conservative Ministry is in office, with a majority in the House of Commons, they obediently accept any Bill sent up to them. When the case is reversed, they throw out Bills sent up to them, or whittle them down to nothing, except when they pass them without change in order to curry favour with the electorate and avert their own doom. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is right in laying stress upon the circumstances under which the last Education Bill was finally killed. What more scandalous exhibition can be conceived than the Lords confederating with Mr. Balfour in his room in the House of Commons to defeat a Government that had just been placed in office by an overwhelming national majority, and then running back to carry out his orders in their own House? No, my worthy and respected friends, you will not get the country on your side in your contest with the House of Commons, for the House of Commons is the people's house, and yours is not.

THE BOY AND THE MOTOR BICYCLE.

Young Tom, a Lad of ten or so,
Who wanted Everything to know,
Out with his Father strolled one Day,
Along what's called the King's Highway.
As thus they strolled, Tom asking "Why?"
Re all that caught his boyish Eye,
A Motor-Bicycle fizzed by,
Popping like fifty Champagne Corks,
Or Squibs on Night of Guido Fawkes.
Tom stared perplexed; and while stared he
A Daimler—24-h.p.—

JEFFREY & CO.'S ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS are on view at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory: 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

That covered twice as fast the Ground,
Sped swiftly by with scarce a Sound.
The Lad, his Eyes with Wonder wide,
"Oh, Daddy dearest, tell me," cried,
"Why does the Bike, though smaller far,
And slower than that fine, big Car,
Explode and bang and trumpet thus,
And make no end of noisy Fuss;
Whereas the Car, ten times its Size,
At double Speed in Silence flies?"
His Sire at Tom's perplexèd Face
Looked down, and stated thus the Case.

Moral.

"'Tis those who do the least, my son,
That cackle most of what they've done;
While those it is who do the most
That least of their Achievements boast."

SCRUTATOR.

SHIPPING AND WAR.

IF the Hague Conference is to prove useful, it must limit itself to such proposals as are likely to command general assent. It is no use wasting time over millennium suggestions, or any that require the assent of the world to the doctrine that British virtue is superior to that of other nations. Arbitration, for instance, is a sensible mode of averting wars. Anything, therefore, that the Conference can do to strengthen the hands of the Hague Court as the forum of international disputes will be useful. In regard to the rights of belligerents and neutrals in the case of war, there is great room for effective action by the Conference. The question whether the private property of the citizens of a belligerent on the high seas should be open to capture is apparently to be raised. I do not look on this matter from a sentimental standpoint. I am no advocate of making wars comparatively innocuous to the private citizens of a belligerent State. On the contrary, as it is the civilians who decide whether there is to be war or peace, I agree with John Stuart Mill in the view that the horrors of war should be brought home to them, since this may lead to them thinking twice before rushing into it.

From the British standpoint, the question of capture is one that ought not to be decided in a hurry. As it is, by the Declaration of Paris of 1858, free ships make free goods, but enemies' merchant ships on the high seas are still good capture. Supposing, let us say, that we went to war with Germany, we could practically destroy her carrying trade, but she would be able to trade in neutral waters. A neutral nation, therefore, like the United States, even supposing that all the German ports were blockaded, would be able to continue its trade with Germany under its own flag, by using the Dutch or the Belgian ports. On the other hand, Germany would be able to slip fast cruisers through the blockade, which would prey on our commerce. One Alabama drove the mercantile marine of the Northern States off the sea during the Confederate war. The chance of capture raised the cost of underwriting American vessels against war risks so much that merchants only shipped in neutral bottoms. On the whole I am inclined to think that, after weighing the pros and cons, the balance inclines in favour of making belligerent merchants' ships free from capture on the high seas. I am looking at the matter, of course, from the British point of view. I doubt whether—no matter what we might think—we should be able effectively to protect our own mercantile marine, and the attempt to do so enormously increases the cost of our Navy. We have to be ready to defend our shipping by keeping up a big fleet of warships, which would be otherwise unnecessary. Moreover, I am inclined to think that foreign nations would be less inclined to build warships if they knew that in any case their merchant ships would not be liable to capture. The question, however, is one which requires a great deal of consideration.

Another point which requires general agreement is that of contraband war goods. As it is these are liable to capture on board a neutral, provided that it can be shown that the vessel is bound for a belligerent port. But there is no clear understanding what is contraband of war, nor where the liability to capture begins. During the American Civil War, we claimed and exercised the right to send goods—whether contraband or not—to the Bahamas; and we only recognised the right of capture when a vessel was caught on her way between the Bahamas and a blockaded Confederate port. The more definitely international laws on such points as these are agreed to the less is the liability of a neutral becoming involved in a war, and consequently the less the danger of the conflagration spreading. It is a good thing, therefore, that two proposals for establishing an international "Prize Court of Appeal" have been put forward at the Hague—one by Sir Edward Fry as our representative, the other by Germany. There seems no reason why all the Powers should not agree to this step, whichever of the two proposals is adopted. If this be done, henceforward no nation will be the sole judge of its right to seize a particular cargo at a particular point, and the decisions of the Court of Appeal will build up an international code definitely settling the uncertain points mentioned above. This is all in the interest of peace.

No man entertains a stronger desire to put an end to wars than I do. But I am practical. Therefore, whilst hoping that other nations will not fight, I deem it primarily our aim to keep the peace. I would have, therefore, every issue raised at the Conference judged, so far as we are concerned, from this standpoint. I do not believe in alliances that may land us in war, and that tend to divide the world into hostile camps. I should prefer a general agreement of all nations in regard to European and extra-European matters. This was always the view of Mr. Gladstone, and I heartily agree in it. I am glad when any nation exchanges a despotic régime for a popular one, and I am sorry when its citizens are oppressed by their rulers. But I would not go to war on their behalf. If we cannot secure the good government of other countries, or hinder other countries from fighting, we ought at least to be able to reform ourselves at home and live in peace with all others. There is hardly a war in which we were ever engaged that we might not have kept out of. Our statesmen have always been too fond of playing a great part on the world's stage. They have always been too fond of meddling in matters that

only indirectly concern us. If we want armaments to be reduced, practice is a stronger argument than the noblest abstract professions, and I would have us substitute practice for preaching. If we want other countries to abate their territorial ambitions we should not add to our vast domains and call it "pegging-out claims for futurity." I want our armaments to be reduced, because we can expend the money that they now cost more usefully. But this is only possible if we keep our breath to cool our own porridge, and if we steadily look after our own interests without quarrelling with others. This is what is called a parochial view. Possibly it is. But our parish is a very large one, and if we limit our energies to making its parishioners happy and contented, we shall have our hands full. Alexander the Great may have been a hero. Where he is now I do not know. But if all have their reward in the next world, according to their deeds in this world, the poorest citizen of Macedonia, whose ambitions did not extend to interfering in the affairs of the whole outside world, will have been in the long run better off than he.

DOES "THE ACT" COVER DOMESTICS?

It is universally recognised that a vast amount of litigation will be needed to elucidate the effect of the Workmen's Compensation Act of last year. It has, indeed, been described as "an abominable Act," not merely by indignant housekeepers, but by connoisseurs of Parliamentary draftsmanship. Its undeniable defects are not the fault of its original authors so much as of the innumerable M.P.s who tried their hands at improving it during its passage through the House, and they will probably furnish in course of time a remarkable proof of the incapacity of the House of Commons, by reason of its methods of procedure, to turn out a passable piece of legislative workmanship. Incidentally, the failure of the House of Lords as a revising chamber for the purpose of knocking the work of the lower House into shape is revealed at the same time.

Of all the questions that have yet been raised as to the true construction of the Act, the most eye-opening is suggested by a letter that I have just received from a practising barrister. I publish the letter below for the bewilderment of my readers and the public at large. It may be remembered that as the Act was originally presented by the Home Secretary it did not apply to domestic servants. An amendment which was intended to extend to this class the rights of all other "workmen" was moved by Mr. Harry Marks, M.P., and nobody making much objection, was accepted by the Government and embodied in the Bill. It has been universally assumed that effect had been duly given to Mr. Marks's benevolent enthusiasm for domestic servants, and great has been the perturbation of householders and housekeepers, and great the profit of insurance companies in consequence. The learned author of the following letter is of opinion that the Act fails to give effect to the intentions of Mr. Marks and his brother legislators; and though the writer modestly withholds his signature, I think it is no breach of confidence to say that he has the reputation of a sound lawyer:—

SIR,—It has been far too readily assumed that maid-servants in purely private families are "workmen" within the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906

In my opinion, a maid-servant dwelling in her employer's house (being a purely private dwelling house) is a "member of her employer's family," and is (as such) wholly excluded from the Act.

It is true that the Act contains an express definition of "member of a family," but that definition follows immediately after the definition of "dependants," the Act (s. 13) saying, firstly, that dependants are such of the members of the workman's family as are (either wholly or in part) dependent on the workman's earnings; and then saying, secondly, that "member of a family" means husband or wife, son or daughter, etc., etc. But all that means, of course, the *workman's* family, and the *workman's* family only, and has no reference at all to (nor any applicability at all to) the *employer's* family.

If this opinion of mine is correct, as I believe it is, it seems to follow that the insurance malady, which has been for some months now afflicting almost all private households, is a malady of misconception merely—a malady of the imagination merely—and which my opinion should dispel.—Your obedient servant,

A. B.

I would not presume to express any opinion of my own on this knotty point, but this, at least, I can say, that counsel's opinion in this case is perfectly intelligible, even to the lay mind. The argument is perfectly simple. The "fool of an Act"—if the foregoing opinion should be upheld by the Court, there never was such a fool of an Act before—says nowhere a single word about domestic servants. It deals exclusively with the obligations and rights of employers and "workmen." Is, then, a domestic servant a "workman"? In order to define a workman, the fool of an Act starts by telling us what he is not. Among other things he is not "a member of the employer's family dwelling in his house." My correspondent holds that a female domestic living in her employer's house is in law a member of his family, and I suppose this would be so. So far, therefore, she is outside the operation of the Act. In order to bring her within the Act, one must look at the definitions following that of a "workman." The first of these defines "dependants," who are "members of the workman's family" fulfilling certain conditions. The second defines "member of a family" as meaning certain specified relatives in the ascending and descending scale, from grandfather to grandson. In order, then, to bring the domestic servant within the Act we must take this special and limited definition of a "member of a family" as applicable to that term when used in regard to the employer's family in the previous definition of a workman. My correspondent is of opinion that this definition of a member of a family applies to the workman's family only. This seems most plausible, for if the definition applies to the employer's family the result would be that a paterfamilias who employed and housed his stepson would not have to compensate him in the event of accident, because a stepson is a member of his family under the Act, while if he employed his nephew in the same way he would have to compensate him, because a nephew is not a member of his family under the Act; which is certainly absurd. It strikes me as possible that if the original Bill, excluding domestic servants, were referred to, it would make the intention of this definition of a member of a family even more clear; but I have no copy of the Bill in its original shape within reach. Anyhow, the question is a very pretty one, and promises to afford excellent sport to lawyers from the humble county-court right up to the House of Lords, for everything depends on how far you are to read into what the Act actually says what may be discovered from extraneous sources as to the intentions of Mr. Harry Marks and the legislature generally.

MATRIMONY FOR THE MIDDLE-AGED.

The Puzzle Editor of TRUTH recently offered a prize for the solution of that very important question—What is the ideal age for marriage in man and woman respectively? I am not going here to anticipate his award, which has not yet been given. But the long list of selections from the answers received, which were published in TRUTH last week, has much impressed me, and cannot fail, I think, to make an equal impression upon "every thinking man." Several hundred readers of this journal of both sexes have tackled the problem, and with one or two exceptions, denoting some degree of boldness and originality of outlook, they are all practically agreed that in the ideal marriage the man will be somewhere between twenty-seven and thirty-one and the woman three or four years younger. Even a liberal-minded philosopher, whose ideal is satisfied if the man is not over seventy-five and the woman not over eighty-eight, holds that the man should not be under twenty-seven nor the woman under twenty-four. This is perhaps the most striking contribution to the discussion, for it shows that even one who thinks that neither man nor woman can well be too old to marry holds that they may easily be too young. Youth, not age, is the disqualification. Among the rest, only three would have a girl marry under twenty; not one would have a man marry under twenty-one; and while two bold spirits think him fit for matrimony at that age, all the rest would desire him to wait till he is five-and-twenty at least, and the majority for four or five years longer.

Here we have, I take it, "a fair average sample" of opinion among that large class of the community which reads a paper like TRUTH, and also the key to much that we see around us, and on which social philosophers moralise. It does not surprise me in the least. Like the rest of the world, I find myself from time to time a guest at a wedding—a more or less willing and delighted guest. My experience in this direction extends now, I regret to say, over a good many years. During that time I have noticed a progressive advance in the ages of the happy pairs who have been the recipients of my congratulations, and of my little contribution to their household equipment. This is the more striking because it is quite opposed to one's ordinary experience as one goes on in life. If you run up to-day to Oxford or Cambridge, you will find that the undergraduates are mere boys—very different from the mature men of your day; and the dons, including even the proctors, are nowadays quite young fellows. It is the same everywhere. The newly-ordained curate is a mere baby; most of the men who are playing first-class cricket are little more than boys; the rising generation of subalterns can hardly grow a moustache; and the rank and file of the army generally seem to have only just left school. If your memory runs back twenty years or so, you will see at once that things were very different then.

But at the hymeneal altar it is all the other way about. The older one grows, the older grow the brides and bridegrooms. The first young lady of my acquaintance who was led to the altar had left school the year before; but it must be ten years now since I last saw a bride in her teens. I hardly like to say it, it seems so long ago, but I can remember attending in my youth the weddings of two men still in the undergraduate stage. I do not know when I last saw a bridegroom who had not traces of grey hair about him—but certainly not in the present century. Until last week I used to think that this was all the fault of the men—that the youths of the present generation think it bad form to lose their hearts, unless to married ladies. But after studying my Puzzle Editor's *plébiscite*, I find that there is no difference of opinion between the two sexes in this matter. The views of the lady competitors as to the "ideal age" for matrimony are practically identical with those of the men. It is actually a lady who places the age qualification highest for both sexes—man forty, woman thirty. Of course, I do not know the ages of the competitors for TRUTH prizes, nor must I inquire. But if it is the general opinion of young women that they should not get married before four or five-and-twenty, and then only to men three or four years older, we must not say it is the men's fault that boy-and-girl matches have gone out of fashion. I am a strong believer in the doctrine that all these matters are really determined by the other sex, however much the truth of the case may be disguised. No doubt there have been cases where a man has fallen in love with a woman without any intention to that effect on the woman's part; but these are the exceptional cases. Under normal conditions a man does not form a serious attachment if the woman does not want him to. It follows that if any general opinion prevails among girls that they ought not to be fallen in love with until they are five-and-twenty, and ought not to be fallen in love with even then by men less than three years senior to them, it is a moral certainty that they will not be. Although, therefore, it is clearly proved by my Puzzle Editor's statistics that men and women of the present day are very closely agreed as to the proper age for matrimony, I entertain no doubt whatever that it is the women who have fixed the age limit, not the men.

The ideal, however, which has thus been set up, has a certain danger about it which may be easily overlooked, and to which I would call the attention of the rising generation of maidens, as well as the generation already risen. It is all very well to settle in your own mind that you will not get married till you are five-and-twenty, and that you will not allow any man under twenty-eight to propose to you, but are you sure that opportunity and the man will both present themselves at these ideal ages? There is an important factor in life called human nature. Human nature has made the male creature peculiarly susceptible to female charms in the earliest stage of his manhood. This susceptibility wears off, like youth, somewhat rapidly. It generally begins to disappear at about four or five and twenty, and it is succeeded by a comparatively cold-blooded and critical attitude towards the other sex. Nor is the male alone subject to change about that period of life. It is sad, but true, that about the same time those charms in the female which have the most potent attraction for the male frequently begin to "go off." Others of a higher order may replace them—the charms of the mind and the soul rather than those of the flesh. Art may be invoked to disguise the physical change, and it is one of the most wonderful things

about woman that the older she grows the more skilful she becomes in concealing the fact. But there is no getting away from the eternal truths of nature, and one of these truths is that a man is much less apt to fall in love at twenty-seven than at twenty-two, and that a woman is much less likely to be fallen in love with at twenty-five than at twenty. And unfortunately the likelihood diminishes year by year after those points are passed, even more rapidly on the feminine side than on the masculine. The damsel, therefore, who makes up her mind that the proper age for her to marry is twenty-five, and the proper age for her husband twenty-eight, and who acts up to this ideal in her youthful days, runs a great risk of achieving something quite different from her ideal. She may have luck, of course—a great many do, as we see. But, failing luck, she may find that what she could have done in a year or two, had she given her mind to it at twenty, may now take her five or ten years, or more; and that, in place of the ideal swain of eight-and-twenty, she must be content with a middle-aged fogey, who is getting tired of dining out every night, and beginning to feel that he wants some one to look after him affectionately when he is out of sorts. If she has no taste for this job, she must renounce matrimonial ambitions altogether. This is the danger of the ideal which so many young women are now cherishing and teaching young men to cherish. It is what they call in the City "missing the market." (My City Editor will explain the term more precisely to any lady who desires the information.) I have not the slightest doubt that this explains why so many of our "girls" now go to the altar between thirty and—let us say thirty-seven, for this seems to be the highest age which our girls now reach, and according to my experience it is quite the ideal age for matrimony. That the bridegrooms are generally grey, and not infrequently stout, is merely an incidental consequence of the phenomenon.

I am simply noting a few social facts and tendencies which strike me. It is not my desire to moralise upon them. But there seems an opening for it. Much attention was devoted in the press a few years ago to the question, "Is Marriage a Failure?" How does it work out, I wonder, in the case of Miss Thirty-Five and Mr. Forty-Three? The process of breaking in to double-harness is not always easy when the pair are matched young; does it come any easier with a middle-aged colt and a filly whose teeth tell their own tale, when both of them have forgotten what harness feels like, and neither has heard the crack of the domestic whip for years? The youngest couples may find that matrimony brings disillusionment, but what is the effect of the revelation when Angelina first sees Edwin with his teeth out, or Edwin finds Angelina taking her hair off? The partnerships that begin when the illusions of youth are dead may start with a big capital of mutual respect and worldly wisdom, but do these assets last longer or yield a bigger increase as the years roll by than an equal quantity of mere boy-and-girl sentiment? Perhaps Father Vaughan may find time to investigate these questions. I might point out that contemporary life offers every opportunity for testing the two theories, for it is a curious thing that the idea that young people should defer marriage till they have got over their youth and acquired sufficient incomes to insure them against uncomfortable consequences, is chiefly confined to the middle strata of society. Among the "lower orders" boys and girls still fall in love and get married without much regard to anything but the fact that they are in love. Oddly enough, at the other end of the social scale it is also still the custom for Royal youths and maidens to mate and acquire families as soon as they are of marriageable age. Is the percentage of matrimonial failures in these cases higher than among the prudent and self-contained scions of the middle classes? I do not know, but perhaps Sir Gorell Barnes might help us to an answer. Like my contemporaries, I have sat at the feet of Mr. Bernard Shaw, and I am therefore sufficiently abreast of the age to know that romance is not merely humbug, but a prolific source of social, literary, and artistic evil. Knowing this, I do my best to regard Romeo and Juliet as a pair of infatuated mooncalves. But I have a lurking suspicion that matrimony is such a speculative business that mere love may be as good a basis for it as any other, and that the ideal age for marriage is the moment when the right lad and the right lass discover one another.

THE THEATRES

There is not much of importance to chronicle during the past week.

At the Adelphi Theatre, Mr. Martin Harvey continues his season with the production of "The Corsican Brothers." This venerable and venerated veteran is, perhaps, not the play one would have selected as the best for the purpose of exhibiting Mr. Harvey's talents.

At the Vaudeville, I think the management have made a happier hit with their revival of Sir F. C. Burnand's "Mrs. Ponderbury's Past" than with their late somewhat knock-kneed venture. Here, at any rate, we have wit, which perhaps does not suffer from being of the crusted port order. The audience of the first night, in any case, seemed more than pleased with Mr. Charles Hawtrey's graceful dalliance with the verities. Miss Billie Burke served as an effective contrast to Miss Marie Illington, who got and kept more than one good opportunity for her peculiar ironical thrusts, which always please audiences. Miss Billie Burke did very well as the flaunting music-hall star, who falls like an osprey on the smooth pond of Dulton-on-the-Mole, and so successfully puts to flight the proprieties. This farce may be recommended as "a pill to purge melancholy," provided always that Mr. Charles Hawtrey is playing Matthew Ponderbury, which I have no reason to suppose that he will cease to do for the present.

The new first piece at the Hicks Theatre is in striking contrast with "Brewster's Millions," which follows. Both, however, are good of their kind, and I was among the first to point out the crude merits of the latter. Messrs. Pryce and Morrison's one-act play, "The Dumb Cake," shows how a young girl longing for a husband lays out a mug of beer and a loaf of specially baked and guarded cake, on the night of Hallow E'en, and leaves the door wide open for the entrance of her fate. This all by the direction of a card-telling crone. A runaway pickpocket rushes into the room at this dead hour of night, drinks the beer, and by so doing finds his way to the heart of the girl. She believes him to be her Heaven-sent fate. The art of the authors is here made evident, and their knowledge of the human heart. Instead of

basely taking advantage of the helpless and confiding girl, the thief, rapidly realising the facts, impresses upon her that if the gold locket which she has given to him is again in her pocket when she wakes in the morning, then the whole adventure is a dream. He slips the locket into her dress, and after taking due precautions against arrest by the policeman on his beat, finally disappears. The climax and discovery are brought about by the visit of a neighbouring beldame, who gloats regretfully over the ten pounds reward obtainable for the capture of the burglar who has just left the room. Poignant are the moments when the girl realises that her hero is only a thief. Well and unobtrusively acted, this touching little play makes one wish for more in bulk, though certainly not better in quality, from the pens of Messrs. Pryce and Morrison.

I have never seen the famous basket-trick so well done as by Shekla, the Indian conjurer, who performed it before a select audience at the Salle Erard last week. His somewhat stout wife seemed all too big to enter the basket, yet managed somehow to do so and apparently afterwards evaporated, for he jumped upon the empty receptacle, thrust swords through it all the way round, and performed other self-imposed feats. The lady afterwards emerged, apparently none the worse for her evaporation.

THE COMPLETE CATECHIST.

THE SOCIAL SPONSOR'S CATECHISM.

(*For the instruction of those wishing to assume the responsibilities of godparents to the "nouveaux enrichis."*)

QUESTION: What is your name?

ANSWER: Adela Countess of Stonibroke.

Q.: Who gave you this name?

A.: My late husband, at the altar of St. George's, Hanover-square, together with his hand, his heart, and his inextricable financial embarrassments.

Q.: What is your profession?

A.: I am a Social Sponsor.

Q.: What is a Social Sponsor?

A.: A smart woman, with a handle to her name and a debit balance at her bankers, who undertakes to get wealthy bounders into Society by standing godmother to them—on commission.

Q.: What duties are expected of you in your capacity of godmother to such persons?

A.: To give extravagant entertainments at their houses to all my own friends; to make up select little dinner parties, for their benefit, at the Ritz or the Carlton; to take them about with me to Ranelagh, Ascot, Henley, and other Society functions, and generally to spare neither pains nor money in bringing them into touch with the right people.

Q.: Does not all this come expensive?

A.: It comes very expensive—to my godchildren.

Q.: What other godparental duty do you exercise towards them?

A.: I undertake—as a conscientious godmother should—the vicarious responsibility for their religious observance of all the Articles of the Social Faith.

Q.: What are the Articles of the Social Faith?

A.: They are comprised in the Code known as The Upper-Ten Commandments.

Q.: Do these Upper-Ten Commandments bear any resemblance to the Bible Ten Commandments?

A.: They are practically the same as the Bible Ten Commandments, with one trifling variation.

Q.: What is that one trifling variation?

A.: All the "nots" are left out.

Q.: Is it true to say, with Rita and Marie Corelli, that Society welcomes wealthy bounders indiscriminately?

A.: It is quite the reverse of true. Society shows the nicest possible discrimination in appraising the sterling worth of each of my godchildren, and in shaping its behaviour towards him, or her, accordingly.

Q.: Illustrate your answer by examples.

A.: I will. If the godchild I am sponsoring is worth half-a-million, Society nods to him; if he is worth a million, it shakes hands with him; but if he is worth two or more millions, it throws both its arms round his neck.

Q.: Does Society concern itself at all with your godchildren's personality?

A.: No. It confines its attention strictly to their personalty.

Q.: When your godchildren grow up to Social independence, do you then leave them henceforward to make their own way alone?

A.: *I* do not leave *them*. I never leave money spontaneously. It is invariably *they* who leave—or, in technical parlance "drop"—*me*.

Q.: Do you regard this as a grievance?

A.: No. I rather regard it as the inevitable outcome of their improved Social education.

Q.: How so?

A.: Because one of the first lessons you learn in Society's educational curriculum is to drop those who can be of no further use to you.

Q.: What practical moral do you deduce from this circumstance?

A.: The paramount duty of making as much money as I can out of my Social godchildren, while I still have the run of their cheque books.

Q.: Do you always discharge this paramount duty?

A.: Always—most conscientiously.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE REVOLTING VIGNERONS.

THE vote of the Chamber on Friday came to this: "The present Government is not to blame for the situation in the South, and, at any rate, we had better keep on this horse until we have crossed the river." Clemenceau spoke as if weighted with a sense of responsibility, and at the same time with spirit and readiness, often making a flashing sally to cast light on the debate. Witticisms would have been out of place had he felt inclined to deal in them, which I do not at all suppose he did. He furnished undecided Deputies with all the arguments they might need in explaining a vote in his favour to their local papers or heads of electoral committees. That telegram, handed him by General Picquart, describing the dramatic and brave conduct of General Bailloud, came as a fine bit of tag. Jaurès, for the first time, made a short speech, none the less eloquent for its condensation and all the more powerful. He surpassed himself in delivering this philippic. On Thursday the Chamber seemed in a state of panic-stricken gloom and almost to despair of France. On Friday, after the reading of the telegram about Bailloud—a general "displaced" not long ago for delivering an indiscreet speech at Nancy—one could notice a tendency to hope for the best. One should not pay too much

attention to the under-current of interest which invitations to the "fused" soirée at the Molier Circus had excited at the buffet and in the lobby. This soirée was for Friday evening.

Molier is a famous "sportsman." He used to give two soirées a year for *les femmes du monde* and *ces dames du demi-monde*. As it has become so hard to distinguish between them, he decided to fuse the two entertainments into a single one, to which both mondes rushed.

The Cabinet might not have escaped so well if M. Millerand had not, in attacking it, delivered a *discours ministre* that rather pointed, not a few imagined, to the offer by him of a portfolio to M. Doumer. Millerand is not greatly liked in the Chamber: he is for Millerand too openly, but is trenchant, sometimes chopping, and an infallible high priest of socialism, without, however, being bigoted to any school or form. The great point in his favour was his having belonged to the Waldeck-Rousseau Ministry, when its chief persevered in a patient rather than an implacable course towards the "Fort Chabrol" revolt. The Chamber is inclined to give the South the benefit of mitigating circumstances, in judging of the rising there. The feeling towards the young soldiers who refused to fire on a crowd in which their own people mingled leans towards indulgence. This is not according to the classical notions of discipline, but is in harmony with the present conditions of military service in France and elsewhere. You may remember how the German Emperor shocked us when a few years ago, in preaching to a body of raw recruits on the duty of absolute obedience, he exhorted them, if commanded, to fire without hesitation on their fathers and mothers. The speech of Deputy Aldy, of the Aude, had a strong effect. He is a worthy man, respected (as he deserves to be) at Narbonne, which sent him to the Chamber, and thoroughly knows the departments that have risen. Clemenceau had been informed, M. Aldy contended, about the riots by police officers and other officials, some of whom acted as poltroons, the Prefect at Perpignan hiding in a cockloft. These officials had resentment to satisfy, and wanted to earn promotion often by misstatements. They saw stratagems and treason where there was none, and overlooked the deep distress of seven years. The foreclosures of mortgages and executions on goods and chattels had in that time been vastly above the average. M. Aldy, who is a tried and proved Republican, denied that old gaol-birds or hooligans had led the rioters, who were mostly decent people beggared by causes often represented but unavailingly to other Chambers and Governments. These "beggars" belonged to every party, but were mostly Republican. *La jeunesse de l'action anti-républicaine* were denounced to the Prime Minister as forward agitators. Why were none of them arrested?

The Chamber does not want society to be saved by the strong fist, as by Cavaignac in June, 1848, a form of salvation which gave Louis Napoleon his opportunity.

The motto attributed to M. Rouvier to some extent describes the situation: "la France se dissout." So does Great Britain, so does, and visibly and rapidly, the biggest and most closely knit of the great military Empires—Russia. So may, in another generation or two, the United States. We saw last year how the dual kingdom of Scandinavia split in twain. It would take very little to knock over the Empire proclaimed thirty-seven years ago in the Mirrors Gallery at Versailles. Catalonia is almost sure one of these days to secede from Spain, and if so she and the French South may take hands again as in the time of the Counts of Barcelona. The North of Italy is in a state of constant friction and irritation because tied to Naples and its too fluent politicians and lazzaroni. Were there a breakdown of the military monarchies as such, there is no reason why Piedmont, Lombardy, and any other former State of North Italy, should not revert to its old autonomy. MM. Ribot and Clemenceau judge the manifest inclination of the South to fly off from the North with the Catholic mentality. "France une et indivisible" is a phrase minted by Robespierre, who received his education at a Jesuits' school. It had its usefulness when all the great monarchs united against the young French Republic. The close unity the monarchy sought to establish had also its uses when, under the spur of Law and his system, the Regent decided to revive the road-making policy of the Romans. The King's highways are now of minor importance compared to the railroads of great companies, whose hands are so tied by frontiers and the military arrangements connected with them. The study of a railway map of Europe will bring home to you the great hindrance of the frontier to any rational system of international communication. A railway cannot be made nor a telephonic apparatus set up without helping the work of dissolution to which M. Rouvier is said to have alluded. The unification of the human race has for its counterpoise reversion towards particularism and ethnographic distinctions. Bretons, more than they ever did since the Revolution, now want to be Bretons. Provence deifies Mistral for writing fine poems in her dialect and for refusing to enter the Academy. The North of France threatens in turn to hoist the flag of secession if the Chamber sacrifices her great sugar interest to the South. The Félibre movement has become serious because it answers to a wide-spread sentiment. I remember it purely dilettante and led by William Bonaparte Wyse, and Aubenal, an Avignon poet and publisher. The Flemings disliked being linked to the Walloons, who want to fuse with the French Ardennes and, perhaps, Luxemburg. This particularism may turn out to be the stone, hewn out of the mountains without hands, that will shatter the military Empires.

The French Southerns are at the best of times impulsive. The wine glut and dear bread have made them more so. They drink the wine to make up for scanty meals, as the Parisians did through the siege and Commune. Apart from their Home Rule dreams, they are incensed at having helped to rivet the fetters in which they are now held down. This they did in voting for protection some years ago. The North then took them in. At any rate, they now think so. Those vine-growers whom M. Aldy defended are generally the owners of small freeholds, which they cultivate themselves when not working for wages on large vineyards. They are hundreds of thousands. The beetroot growers of the North are scarcely more than hundreds, and

are the flying arches that buttress up the Méline structure. They have the long purse, business smartness, and skill in lobby work. Science, in a way, is enlisted on their side, and in combining in trusts they have the strength of the fagot. Their trusts are not patent, because illegal. Sugar manufacturers hit on artificial wine as a set-off against the withdrawal from them of the bonuses for exporting sugar. This wine now ruins the South. It is made with the already squeezed grapes of the wine press. The addition of the rinsings and heel taps of bottles that held fine wines is an improvement, as the vinous particles assimilate the sugar. With the addition of water and tartaric acid you have wine. In a free trade country it would have every right to struggle for existence. In a protectionist country I am not sure that it has. Protection involves a constant resort to expedients that interfere with freedom to buy and sell.

Artificial wine with the Bordeaux or Burgundy taste is constantly served on the tables of vain and pretentious hosts and hostesses who do things on the cheap. This may account for so much mineral water being now drunk at West End dinner parties.

It is often difficult enough to please every one in one's own family circle. But for a writer in a paper like Truth, which is read by people of all classes and nationalities, to please all his readers is an impossibility. For instance, some readers—those with analytical minds—are glad to have even unwelcome facts and opinions placed before them. Others, on the contrary, hate nothing so much as to have some pet prejudice, or notion to which they are used, rubbed against the grain, however inadvertently.

In the latter category I would place a Swedish reader—a lady I assume—who has served me with a remonstrance on account of some lines I wrote about her sovereign. Now nobody has a greater admiration than I profess for the popular, personally eminent, and deservedly beloved King of Sweden, who, against the opinion of his military and not a few of his political advisers, let the Norwegians go their own way rather than wage war against his seceding subjects, whom he called "in a way my children." The head and front of my offence lay in speaking of King Oscar as showy, although in the very same sentence I qualified the epithet, as my pen ran on, with the words "and the most accomplished of monarchs."

Had I been content with writing, not as I had been myself impressed, but as some manufacturer of conventional drivel professed to be, and had called Oscar II. the "Magnificent" or the "Noble," as other European monarchs have been described by historian-laureates, I should, doubtless, have escaped censure. But I prefer admiring King Oscar as a man to worshipping him as a figure-head. I am sorry to have hurt the feelings of the loyal Swede—gentleman or lady—but I am still more sorry—for his or her sake—that what was, after all, a complimentary reference to the monarch should have been misconstrued. The hypersensitiveness I complain of is, after all, a common feeling of the middle classes in monarchical countries in Europe. The result of their widespread dislike of sincerity when crowned heads are in question is that writers who have any respect for their pens are afraid to write about them, except in the flattest terms, during their lifetime, and there would be no interest in *post obit* articles. I believe that the fear of writing of crowned heads according to one's own impressions has greatly helped to bring them down in the regard of every one who hates the mawkish platitudes that are distilled about Courts and their central figures.

I should have given a quite inadequate idea of King Oscar had I left out the word "showy." He is extremely showy, as were his grandfathers, compatriots of the late MM. de Lesseps, Etienne Arago, and Benjamin Constant, the painter. All Gascons who have much to show are as showy as a well-arranged shop window. The showy Gascon is compared to the close stove, as the blazing fire in an open grate—inspiriting and inspiring. Bernadotte's brother-in-arms, Murat, was a fine example of the power of showiness to inspirit. Gambetta may be cited as another instance of this inspiriting Gascon power. He led France whithersoever he would because he was a showy speaker. I saw King Oscar arrive at Stockholm at a time when that city suffered from the blues owing to a separatist crisis at Christiania. The King's showy qualities, and by no means his serious ones, had a magical effect in chasing the depression from which his good subjects had been suffering.

The remonstrant Swede is disposed to peck at me further for saying that the Trianons of Drottningholm and Haga are without charm. Here, again, personal impression ought to be obeyed in writing. Coming, as I came, from a sunny country, with my eye filled with the great variety for trees and foliage at the Little Trianon, I did not yield to the spell of the Swedish Trianons referred to.

I am very fond of Sweden, and I vastly enjoyed a tour there and in Norway. There is great beauty in many Swedish, as in many Norwegian landscapes. But one unused to high altitudes from infancy must find both countries monotonous in their general features. Monotony is the one great feature in which they resemble each other. The tourist can never in Norway get away from granite cliffs, pine forests, fiords, waterfalls, and harsh effects of Nature, save in the top of the North, where the midnight sun transforms everything. In Sweden one has stretches of perfectly flat country, the beds of dried-up lakes good for wheat and pasturage. Lakes in course of being dried up, but still, vast, deep, clear, are often alive with pleasure steamers. These lakes are very picturesquely bordered with outcrop rocks and boulders, affecting the form of mountains, and planted with pines. The sharp opposition of these lines is curiously picturesque. In the long summer's evenings the immensity of the greenish-blue sky, with every shade of gold-pink violet, is reflected in the immensity of some lake. Vastness answers to vastness, and one becomes intoxicated from sheer admiration. But the foreigner soon gets tired of this, and wants, after a fortnight or so, to get away.

At Drottningholm one has the scenery I have described, Lake Mälar being everywhere visible, with, in the woods, a great admixture of oak. The oaks in the Royal Swedish parks are grand. Grandeur, however, is not synonymous with charm. The Trianon

there is almost an eyesore, and disfigures the low, rocky ridge on which it stands. This creation of Queen Ulrika, sister of Frederick the Great, passed in her time for a good copy of "a Chinese village." She had not the French Treasury to draw upon, no accomplished artist to help her; the factions of the Hats and Caps obliged her to work on cheap lines. A cheap architectural fancy is never in its old age attractive. Marie Antoinette squandered without stint on the Petit Trianon, had great artists to second her, and a rich soil for her trees and flowers, with a sunny climate. Nature does not resent, at her fanciful farm, the intrusion of finical conceits, as at the Swedish Trianons.

The Haga Trianon, begun by Gustav III. in the enthusiasm inspired by a visit to Versailles, but prematurely finished, struck me also as dismal and old-fashioned. To be antique is one thing; to be old-fashioned is another. The shabby flimsiness of Gustav's Trianon jarred with the grim majesty of the oaks around. They might have fought for centuries against Northern storms and come nobler and stronger out of each fight. Charm they had not. One might as well have looked for it in them as for the sweetness of Bernini in Michael Angelo.

Charming are those islands that stud the Sound connecting Lake Mälar and the Baltic. They belong to rich families at Stockholm, who come here to spend the summer, and go to great expense to brighten their chalet balconies and pleasure grounds with flowers. I fancied them Isles of the Blest. Very charming, also, are the views from that part of Ulriksdal Slott, where the present Queen of Denmark spent her youth. Her rooms, which are still reserved for her use, overhang a picturesque arm of a lake. The scenery is soft for Sweden, and very varied. The late King revelled in it. So does Queen Sophie. She used to spend, and perhaps still does, the summer at Ulriksdal. The King prefers Drottningholm, which is less confined. He passes, when there, the forenoons of Sunday with the Queen, to the great delight of her ladies, who find his presence stimulating.

A PEER AMONG THE POLITICIANS.

I KNOW, of course, that you think a good deal of TRUTH, naturally enough, but it is only within the last week that I have begun to realise what a frightfully important paper it really is, and what a tremendous effect anything has that one writes in it. It really makes me quite nervous to write anything for you at all now, for fear I shall make some poor devil miserable, because he thinks I mean him when very likely I mean somebody else all the time. I daresay you remember—or if you don't you will easily find it by turning up the back numbers—that a few weeks ago I wrote about one of the big political clubs, and how I paid it a visit on the chance of finding some one conspiring to get up riots in India. Well, the effect that article has had on the members of the club has been quite awful, and I feel no end sick about it, because they are really quite harmless sort of people. But, of course, I had no idea when I wrote it that they would ever guess it was meant for them.

I heard about it from a man I know slightly—he's something in the City, I think; any way, he wanted me to become a director of some wild-cat sort of company that he's connected with, something to do with insuring against borough councillors taking bribes, I think it is, and he's a member of the club in question. He asked me to lunch with him there, and incidentally he began to tell me about the extraordinary changes that have been taking place there during the last week or two, as a result of some tom-fool article that some silly ass had been writing in a low rag called TRUTH. Rather funny that—what? You needn't mind what he said about the paper, by the way, that's only because he was one of the directors, before it burst up, of the Back-Door Hire-Purchase Watch Trading Syndicate that you came down on heavily some time back.

Of course, as soon as he began talking like that I began to want to pay another visit to the club—it is quite near Charing Cross, by the way. I thought it over, and it seemed to me that no one would be likely to spot me as ever having been there before, and even if they did there was no earthly reason why they should connect me with the writer of the article, so I told the Syndicate man I would lunch there with him the next day. Really, it was astonishing the difference in the place, and it really made me feel sick that I should have been the cause of it all. We went into the big smoke-room that I told you about first. It was just as full as it was last time, but you never saw people so changed as the members were. Instead of sitting about anywhere and talking out loud and that sort of thing, they were each of them as far away from anybody else as they could possibly manage; and when anybody came near them they looked at him with a sort of fearful suspicion that was quite amazing. Nearly all of them had Blue-books and were pretending to read them when anybody came near them, and the few words that I did hear spoken above a whisper were all about the Irish Council Bill and the House of Lords Resolution. But perhaps the most surprising thing of all was the waiters. Last time, as I wrote, they were all much too haughty to even think of answering a bell within five minutes, but now, as soon as a member rang, there were sure to be at least half-a-dozen tumbling over each other in their anxiety to take his order. And when the Syndicate man spoke rather sharply to one of them, the poor fellow's eyes filled with tears, and he had to wipe them on his sleeve before he could see where to put his tray down.

The Syndicate man told me that the changes I did see were nothing to those I didn't. He said that the members with German accent—I forget if I told you that when I came last half of them seemed to be Germans—had started an English pronunciation class in the card-room, and that you could see dozens of them at all hours pacing up and down the corridors practising the words they had learned and how to say "that" instead of "zat," and things of that kind. And the men who used to go about in rough tweed suits, with red ties and slouch hats (he said they belonged to some particular party in the House of Commons, but I've forgotten which it was) had all gone in for silk hats and mutton-chop whiskers, so that they looked like bankers or undertakers. And he said, too, that because the writer of that article had described a lot of men as sitting in a big circle discussing the different varieties of whisky, that ever since everybody always sat in long rows, as if they were in an omnibus, and that no one ever discusses the price of anything stronger than dry ginger ale. Then, too, about the nail-scissors that used to be chained to the wall of the place where you wash your hands, it seems that the chain was broken fifteen times in three days after the article was published, so that they had to give up chaining them up, and after that they disappeared altogether the very first day.

If it was only the one article that had upset the people it wasn't written about in this way there mightn't be anything in it, but I hear it's the same with several others. For instance, I wrote one—it struck me as being very good, though I don't know what you thought about it—about real and sham baronets and how much they hated not being peers. The very next day all the bogus baronets in the country held a meeting of indignation, at which a copy of TRUTH was solemnly

THE RITZ HOTEL, PICCADILLY, W. — 8090 Gerrard. The Restaurant and Hotel overlook the Green Park. Magnificent suite of Ball and Banqueting Rooms. Under the same Direction as the Carlton Hotel.

burned, and they all signed a declaration that there wasn't a word of truth in what I had said, and that the best proof that they didn't care about the peerage was that they might just as easily have called themselves lords instead of baronets, but not one of them had done so. Why, I was even told that, because I had said that the public is fond of the Lords, the Prime Minister had as nearly as possible given up the idea of moving his Resolution at all, and it was only because Lord Robert Cecil—but I suppose it would be scarcely fair to give away a party secret like that.

Now, I don't know whether it is that my articles are specially brilliant, or whether it is because Truth is great and will prevail—as we used to say at school—but I do think all this throws quite a new light on journalism. I didn't in the least realise before what a serious thing it is to be a journalist—worse than being a clergyman in some ways—because if he makes a mistake it only does harm in the next world, while if you or I, or one of the *Daily Mail* staff says anything that isn't exactly so, it may upset thousands of people in London itself. I always used to think that journalists, especially young ones—and nearly all the chief papers are run by very young men, I am told, nowadays—took themselves and their work a great deal too seriously, and that it didn't really matter much what they wrote, because nobody ever believed it unless they wanted to. But I quite see now that I was wrong, and that the very youngest reporter who has learned to read his own shorthand notes has more power than the biggest statesman whose words he is taking down—because whatever he makes him say, people will always be sure he did say it. No wonder they get into the habit—the journalists, I mean—of believing that whatever they write must be true, and that if it isn't it ought to be. I think that explains a good deal of what I have never been able to understand about some of the newspapers and the things they publish.

I had meant to write about Ascot this week, and about a plan of mine for catching the man who took the Gold Cup, but Jessie was so much upset at the idea of all those unfortunate politicians being so cut up by what I had written about some other club—I forget if I told you it was quite near Charing Cross, really—that she thought I ought to ease their minds a little. Though, after all, I don't know that the members of a political club need be ashamed if they don't always talk politics, especially those of them who aren't English; and as to the nail-scissors and the waiters, I think they ought to be grateful to me rather than otherwise, especially as I meant quite another place all the time. And so does Jessie.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"PAINLESS MARRIAGES," dear Lady Betty, is an announcement which raises hopes that every prospective bridegroom will wish may be fulfilled. At the time, in England, a marriage and a "Remnant Sale" invariably attract every woman within reasonable distance of either.

At a recent wedding in London the bewildered bridegroom mistook the register for an hotel visitors' book, and, instead of merely signing the former, wrote "We have had a very pleasant time. I hope to come again soon."

* * * * *

The furnishing craze in this country cannot, surely, reach a further height. The wife of a millionaire, having spent half a million in furnishing her drawing-room, recently asked an expert to express his opinion of the result. "It is beautiful!" he answered, deliberately; "it is exquisite—pure Louis XVI.! But let me entreat of you to remove your husband—he is distressingly Edwardian."

Polished Floors.—"Ronuk," Ltd., are prepared to estimate for the polishing and maintenance of all kinds of floors in Mansions, Hospitals, and Institutions. Write for pamphlet.—Manufacturers of "Ronuk" Polish, "Ronuk," Ltd., Portslade, near Brighton.

One enthusiastic woman surrounds herself with Chippendale guardsmen, slight and dainty, whilst another devotes herself to the collection of "Tallboys"!

* * * * *

The West End Protectionist-Imperialists are in earnest in crying, "Down with Foreign food"; they are continually to be seen putting it down at the fashionable restaurants.

* * * * *

The gold-diggers of Belgravia have been satirised ceaselessly these last thirty years, but the following letter, that has been forwarded for publication, will surprise even the experienced in this direction:—

"Dearest Belinda,—Whilst prospecting in an obscure drawing-room in Bayswater I have discovered a millionaire! Will you join the small syndicate I propose to form to develop him and his family? We should have sufficient capital to hire a furnished house in Grosvenor or Berkeley-square, and to entertain suitably, and, in the circumstances, it would be best for me to assume the office of managing director. The syndicate should be composed of five subscribers of £2,000 apiece. Bridge, bets, gifts, loans, commissions, and City 'tips' should between them yield a return of £100,000 in six months—that is, £20,000 for each of us. I submit the proposal to you before approaching any other friend, for I know you are enterprising and can afford to risk the sum I have mentioned. Let me have a definite answer at once, and, if you decide to subscribe, please let me see you as soon as possible to arrange to whom we shall offer the remaining shares. My millionaire, like all others are at first, is very shrewd in the City and very silly in the West-End—we all have the experience we have paid for!"

* * * * *

A good listener makes a good talker, is a reflection which almost amounts to a new proverb. It is generally said that there are fewer conversationalists in England than there were in the past—a statement which is altogether contrary to the facts; the decay of the stimulating listener is the circumstance that injuriously affects all but the most loud-voiced and irrepressible talkers of the time. The conversationalists of other days devoted themselves to the cultivation of the art; it was their main interest in life. They came amongst others prepared for the exhibition which they proposed to give; they were surrounded by expectant listeners who did not distract them by inattention or by discussing other matters between themselves; and, of course, the excitement caused by the effort and the applause frequently inspired them. The conversationalist of to-day, moreover, has not the importance which his predecessors had, and has not, therefore, the self-confidence they possessed. He comes amongst others somewhat exhausted by his work, with a multitude of more serious interests occupying his attention, is virtually forced to improvise throughout, and is at the mercy of circumstances, for it may be that a financial magnate is present and all are absorbed in what the latter says. It is as much as the conversationalist of the moment can ordinarily achieve to hold the attention of one of his neighbours for five minutes—and even then the latter is continually on the alert to intrude his or her own thoughts however unintelligent they may be. His neighbours have not come to listen as an audience goes to a play, but to improve acquaintances, cultivate new ones, and add to their store of social or political information, or of scandal which may add to their own conversational capital for future use. The brilliant listener it is that is almost extinct, the one who has discrimination, and the endeavour to obtain whose approval is a stimulating influence. Wit perishes in contemporary circumstances, except that which consists mainly of manner—a comical appearance and a loud voice are the chief qualities required to obtain an audience in this direction now. It is the same in literature. "Poster effects" alone arrest the attention, and this is a disadvantage which painting shares with literature. Too many interests spoil the intelligence.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE management of Ascot is singularly skimble-skamble, for there is no meeting in the country at which the programme is so full of palpable and flagrant faults. Money is given lavishly, but without a particle of discrimination, and there are a preposterous number of stakes all on very much the same lines. Horses are engaged over and over again, with the object of picking some race in which the opposition is likely to be weak. There is frequently also a cutting up of stakes by private agreement. "If your horse does not run for the A," says one owner to another, "mine shall be started for that race and yours can go for the B." This is a very pleasant arrangement for the owners concerned, but it is utterly destructive to sport. What is the object of having a couple of big two-year-old races on the same afternoon? If there had been no Biennial on Tuesday the field for the Coventry Stakes would have been much larger, and the race would have been a great deal more interesting. Then the Prince of Wales' Stakes and the Ascot Derby are too much alike, and Tuesday's race would be greatly benefited if Wednesday's disappeared from the programme. There are also the O.M. Biennial and the St. James's Palace Stakes, events of the same class, each run over the same distance. It is the extremity of folly to throw away £2,000 on the Ascot Stakes, which last week brought out a field of eleven horses of very moderate class, while the weight for age races are endowed with such very much smaller sums. There ought to be only three handicaps altogether at Ascot—the Stakes (£1,000 added), the Royal Hunt Cup, and the Wokingham, and the last of them should be endowed with £1,000 instead of only £500. The All Aged Stakes and the King's Stand Plate are one and the same thing, and one or other of them should be given up. It is useless to wade through the absurdities and imbecilities of the Ascot programme, but a drastic reform, of a root and branch character, is most urgently required. The whole affair bears the print of the hoof of the amateur. Ascot ought to be the first meeting in the world for sport, as the funds are enormous, and the receipts, large as they are, might be considerably increased by charging £10 for each ticket issued for the so-called Royal Enclosure. If a readjustment of stakes on practical lines were carried out we would see the crack horses of all ages opposing each other, which would greatly increase the interest of the racing.

I gave a plumper for Frugality for the Coronation Stakes, and she won easily from Laomedia, thereby justifying the opinion which was expressed in TRUTH after Epsom—that she would have won the Oaks if all had gone well with her. The running of Glass Doll and Laomedia confirmed the Oaks form, as the Epsom winner now had 7 lb. the worst of the weights. It was pleasing to see Lord Falmouth's historic colours to the fore in so rich a race. If Frugality had been fit when she ran for the One Thousand she would no doubt have won that race, and the unfortunate accident which she met with at Epsom lost her the Oaks. I expect she will prove herself to be the best filly of the year. It is exceedingly unfortunate that Frugality should have been struck out of the Eclipse Stakes in October, 1905, as there has been such a complete collapse of the entry that she must have stood an excellent chance of winning that race. Her most important engagement is the Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster, where she can meet Witch Elm with 4 lb. the best of the weights.

Baltinglass was a great Newmarket tip for the Ascot Derby, as he was supposed to have come on considerably of late, but Major Loder's run of luck is over for the present, and his colt performed very badly. All Black, with all the best of the weights, won easily at the finish from O'Cullen and Prince of Orange, but there was certainly nothing to boast about in this achievement, and it is at once ludicrous and instructive to remember that a few months ago there were simpletons taking 12 to 1 about this beast for the Derby.

Galvani and My Pet II. were included in the field for the Biennial (O.M.), the favourites being Pure Gem and Altitude. Hymettus won very easily indeed, and the ignominious performance of Galvani was calculated to sicken the doodles who were gulled into backing him for the Derby, while those writers who persistently puffed Major Loder's colt before Epsom must have felt inclined to stick their faces into a holly-bush sooner than encounter any of their justly indignant followers.

Cheshire Cat did not start for the Fernhill Stakes, and, in the absence of the Duke of Devonshire's filly, Quelpart was favourite, but Mr. de Rothschild's colt has not got over his knockings about at Epsom and Hurst Park, and he was never in the race. He needs a rest. Saxham was a strong tip for this race, and he started nearly as good a favourite as Quelpart, but Freeborn won very easily. Saxham, however, compensated his owner for several disappointments by winning the T.Y.C. Biennial on Thursday, after a most exciting finish with Mildew II. and Chimborazo, and he was mainly indebted for his success to the admirable riding of G. Stern. Sagamore was favourite for this race, but Mr. Raphael's colt is quite out of form, and Stron Ard was the Newmarket tip.

A sporting paper announced on Friday that "on Thursday the acme of the Ascot meeting is reached, not only from the racing point of view," and so on. It is really wonderful that any one can print such gibberish. "From the racing point of view" the Cup Day at Ascot was a miserable failure. Four stakes, with £2,100 of added money, brought out only thirteen starters altogether, and the utter lack of interest in three of these races is proved by the fact that they were regarded as such certainties that in the first of them odds of 11 to 2 were betted on the winner, odds of 10 to 1 were asked for in the second, and in the third race the odds rose to 20 to 1. It is, indeed, high time for the Cup Day programme to be rigorously revised.

The two-year-old racing at Ascot was decidedly disappointing, as neither the Coventry Stakes nor the New Stakes discovered a flyer from among the dark lot. On Tuesday, during the luncheon hour, every one was full of the superlative merits of M. Ephrussi's Monitor, and so heavily was the French colt backed that he started for the Coventry Stakes with anything over 2 to 1 freely taken, in a field of eleven. Monitor is a very nice colt, but he ran very badly. However, he got all the worst of the start, and on Friday he compensated his owner for this disappointment by easily winning the Windsor Castle Stakes. Popinjay was favourite, but I fancy Lord Rosebery's filly did not care for the Ascot hill, and she will do better on an easier course. Royal Realm, who was said at Epsom to be better than White Eagle, ran most creditably, considering that he is at present very backward, and he was probably second best. This colt ought not to be hurried in any way, and if his owner is well advised, Royal Realm will be given a rest during the summer, in order that he may have time to develop, and then he could be prepared steadily for the Middle Park Plate. I do not believe for a moment that he has ever been tried to be as smart as White Eagle, but he ought to make a good three-year-old. Prospector, who had made a successful début at Hurst Park on the previous Friday, won very easily indeed from Bracelet and Popinjay. The hollow defeat of Lord Rosebery's filly was disappointing to Newmarket people, who had pronounced him at Epsom to be the highest-tried of their two-year-olds up to the present time. Prospector is a good colt, but in my opinion Royal Realm will be the best animal of this field next year if he is judiciously managed. White Eagle was withdrawn from the Coventry Stakes, in favour of Royal Realm, although he would have had no extra weight to carry for his win at Epsom, and later in the afternoon he cantered away with the Biennial, giving 5 lb. and a very hollow beating to Lord Derby's colt Bonspiel II., who had been well galloped at Newmarket. The Coventry Stakes could not be regarded as a bril-

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liant success, for with 130 entries there were only eleven starters, and in the Biennial a subscription of 123 brought out a field of fourteen. In each case the sweepstakes is £10 each p.p. The Triennial on Wednesday was declared by all clever people to be a good thing for the highly bred Indian Runner, another of Mr. Hall Walker's lot, but he was beaten cleverly by the unfancied Dibs, a colt by Blairfinde, owned by Mr. J. S. Morrison. It is probable that the field for this race was a poor one in point of class. The favourite was said to be the equal of White Eagle, but this is all moonshine. There was a field of sixteen for the New Stakes, which would have been more interesting if White Eagle had started, but he was not engaged in this race. Lapwing had missed his engagement in the Coventry Stakes in order that he might be kept for this race, but in spite of all the laudatory cackling at Newmarket about this colt, he was not backed as if the stable regarded him as a good thing, and he ran very badly, as also did Tsu Shima, whose home performances had been extravagantly exaggerated. The great paddock tip was Mr. Joel's Your Majesty, by Persimmon out of Yours, but he ran very green, and Lapwing got off badly, and then swerved all over the course. Sir Archibald, who won with extreme ease for Mr. Bassett, had carried off a race at the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting, and he was then regarded as a very smart colt.

Last week, when referring to the entry for the Eclipse Stakes, I expressed the opinion that Sancy would win the Rous Memorial Stakes, and Polar Star, who was made favourite, had no chance with Mr. Bass's much-improved horse, who won in a common canter. There were sixty-eight entries for this race, but only three starters. I am glad to hear that Polar Star is to be indulged with a rest until the end of August. He is at present all to pieces, as was apparent when he ran at Epsom, for he was a truly lamentable object there, and it was preposterous to suppose that he could have recovered his form in a fortnight. Sancy and The White Knight are obviously the best four-year-olds in training, and Mr. Bass's horse seems to have an excellent chance of winning the Eclipse Stakes, while the Jockey Club Stakes would also appear likely to fall to him, but for the fact that Beppo will have a considerable advantage in the weights, as he is entitled to a breeding allowance of 12 lb.

There was some heavy gambling on the Triennial between Troutbeck and Slavetrader, and why the latter should have been considered capable of defeating the Duke of Westminster's horse at 12 lb. it is difficult to conjecture. I had regarded the Triennial as being practically a match between Troutbeck and Bridge of Canny, but when it was decided to reserve Lord Derby's horse for the Cup the race seemed a good thing for the St. Leger winner, whose superior class would pull him through, as he can stay well. Troutbeck pulled very hard during the race, which was over directly his jockey let him go up to Slavetrader.

Bezonian was regarded as a real good thing for the Prince of Wales' Stakes, but Lord Rosebery's colt is now rather stale, and he is in great need of a long rest. Qu'appelle, who won easily at the finish for Lord Harewood, can stay well, and the other starters for this race are not distinguished for stamina. The bad running of Galleot is puzzling, for at home he is better than Hymettus, who cleverly defeated a large field for the Biennial on Wednesday. Weathercock again ran badly, but his hopeless defeat did not disappoint the stable so much as the collapse of Baltinglass in the Ascot Derby, a race which he had been confidently expected to win. Slieve Gallion found no difficulty in winning the St. James's Palace Stakes, and his owner was very wise in letting this colt start last week for this race only, although he had several other valuable engagements. Slieve Gallion has an engagement at the Liverpool July Meeting, but I hear that the Two Thousand winner will not be again seen out until the St. Leger. Wool Winder, of course, cantered away with the O.M. Biennial on Thursday, and second to him finished Boulter's Lock, half-brother, by St. Frusquin, to Keystone II. St. Martin's long deferred début took place on Friday in the Triennial, and he was made a hot favourite, but his performance was beneath contempt, as Acclaim gave him 16 lb. and won in a common canter. The brother to Quintessence has very bad legs, and he has evidently given his trainer a lot of trouble.

I recently mentioned Gourd as likely to win a long-distance handicap on soft ground, but added that Lord Derby's mare likes a flat course. Gourd was stopped in the Ascot Stakes by the uphill finish, which was too severe for her. Noctuiform has either lost his excellent New Zealand form, or he will not do his best, for he was unplaced, having started favourite. Torpoint won easily from Feather Bed, to whom he was giving 4 lb., and he had a stone the worst of the weights with Gourd. It was a good performance on Friday when Torpoint gave 7 lb. and an easy beating to the French horse.

Hillsprite was made a "boiling" favourite for the Royal Hunt Cup, but he was hopelessly beaten after going six furlongs, and Lally only just won from Andover, the winner of the handicap two years ago, who had started second favourite. The resurrection of Lally, who so grievously disappointed his friends in last year's Derby, excited much braying, but it was no great achievement to defeat Andover with 9 lb. the best of the weights. Lally cannot stay one inch beyond a mile, as he was stopping fast in the last hundred yards, and if there had been another fifty yards to go he would have been beaten.

The White Knight won the Gold Cup, as I had predicted would be the case long before his Epsom success, and he justified the description of him in Truth as "the best four-year-old in England," for he made hacks of Beppo, Bridge of Canny, and Troutbeck. I had pointed out the blunder of regarding Bridge of Canny as a horse of the same class as The White Knight, and when Querido so easily defeated Lord Derby's horse at Chester it was impossible to estimate the amount of weight he had in hand. Bridge of Canny, however, was greatly fancied by many of the Newmarket people, and he had come on considerably since Chester. Eider was the only one of the three foreign horses which was backed. In the last half mile the race became a match between Eider and The White Knight, and during a ding-dong finish there was some bumping, which provoked vituperative bellowings from the backers of the favourite. The White Knight was only able to make a dead heat of it in the last few strides, but every one who had carefully watched the finish was prepared for an objection, which resulted in Eider being disqualified for boring and bumping. The decision of the Stewards has been severely criticised, but they had no alternative, as it was obvious that The White Knight would have won the race but for Eider's interference, which was no doubt due to the distress of the French horse. The White Knight is a very fine horse, and a real old-fashioned stayer, having, at the same time, a grand turn of speed. He is an immense credit to Desmond, a sire which was recommended to the notice of breeders by Truth many years ago when he first went to the stud. I have not been among those who have only just become admirers of The White Knight, having given him a plumper for the Coronation Cup at Epsom on May 29.

There was a splendid entry for the Hardwicke Stakes, but this race has usually been a failure of late years, and only a moderate field came out, so that odds were betted on Beppo, although he had earned the extreme penalty of 10 lb., and it might reasonably have been assumed that he was suffering from the effects of his race for the Cup. However, he won in a trot from Challacombe, who has done nothing since his very unexpected victory in the St. Leger of 1905.

The Newmarket programme for next week is not brilliant, but the meeting is sure to be a great success from the social point of view, and there will be large fields for all the minor events.

There are forty entries for the July Stakes, which is a handsome subscription, considering that no money is added to this race, and the sweepstake is £50 each,

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£30 forfeit. Your Majesty ought to be able to win the July Stakes, and I expect that the easy New T.Y.C. will suit Mr. Joel's colt better than the severe five furlongs at Ascot. Lapwing ought to improve on his New Stakes performance. There are sixty-six acceptances for the Stud Produce Stakes, and Popinjay has a chance of retrieving her reputation. The Exeter Stakes may be won by Araminta, and the Fulbourne Stakes should be a good thing for White Eagle.

The Princess of Wales' Stakes of £6,000 would be a very interesting and important race if it brought out Polymelus, Llangibby, Black Arrow, and Spearmint, but it is now exceedingly doubtful if even one of these horses will be in a condition to start. This race had been looked upon as a certainty for Polymelus, but there has been something wrong with Mr. Joel's horse since he ran at Epsom. If he cannot be got to the post there will be a doleful and ridiculous collapse, as the other animals in the list of acceptances are a deplorable lot of crocks. The Duke of Portland's Wombwell is a very bad horse, and he would scarcely be able to give 16 lb. to the King's hurdle racer, Nulli Secundus, and this pair of wretches ought to be defeated by the Duke of Devonshire's colt by Marco out of Lady Villikins, who will win the race if he is in any sort of form. Every one will be pleased to see the Duke's colours successful in so valuable a race.

STRAINED HEARTS AT HENLEY.

I have received a long letter from Mr Fairbairn, in which he seeks to explain away what he says I plainly suggested, and that is that in 1905 he was trying to stir up discord in Cambridge rowing. If he prefers it, I will say that the consequences of his suggestion, if acted upon, would have necessarily stirred up dissension in University rowing, even though he may fail even now to appreciate the consequences of what he suggested. I will even go so far as to say that he was animated by the highest motives in propounding his policy, and yet I still consider that it was essentially rotten. At the same time, I will admit that considerations of policy almost fall into insignificance in comparison with the advantages to be derived from the Fairbairn style, which he says he did not originate, but revived. When he coached Jesus, his old college, after many years, in 1905, he found his theories differed from those prevalent in many colleges. He says:—

> The main difference was the forward swing. I coached for plenty of time over the finish and the body to come evenly forward with a pendulum-like swing. I objected to the lively recovery, as it was called, stating that lively recovery was false, and owing to it the strained hearts so much in vogue were contracted.

He concludes his epistle with these words: "We have had no strained hearts or illness from the style, and formerly strained hearts, etc., were very much in evidence." I wish he had defined illness, etc. Strained hearts are in all conscience bad enough, but goodness only knows—and Mr. Fairbairn—what other ills oarsmen have in store if they do not adopt his theories. Mr. Fairbairn appears as the Mrs. Eddy of rowing. Adopt my views, old ones revived, he says in effect, and all the woes of oarsmen shall cease. No more hearts, no more boils, no more blains. Strength and vigour and happiness are assured. He tells me the Oxford crew had a lively recovery. I read that the House and other crews from Oxford have the same fault. So have the Eton boys. Mr. Fairbairn says there are two styles in vogue now. The Cambridge colleges have abandoned their evil ways, so has the Cambridge eight. The Leander eight has one or two "lively recoverers," but these latter are shaking down to the other style. Thus do good communications correct bad manners? But do they make for fast times?

It is a blessed comfort to think that Leander are doing the right thing. But I am really distressed about the other men. I feel sure that there are numbers of oarsmen who do not appreciate the advantages of Mr. Fairbairn's theories. It is his duty to be up and stirring. If his naturally modest and retiring nature would permit him, I should advise him to take the opportunity at Henley of really instructing oarsmen in rowing. Let him engage the Town Hall and give a lecture. A paper that thrilled the world with Cambridge's doughty deeds on eggs would certainly rouse the parents of the Empire to the insidious dangers that lurk in any other style of rowing than that revived by Mr. Fairbairn. On the platform he should get support. For he vouches Messrs. Powell and Escombe as being especially good exponents of his style, and Messrs. Muttlebury and Wauchope as supporting it. No more stirring meeting would ever have been held at Henley.

Hearts and other illnesses! Was greater rubbish ever written? Of course, I know that in the May week and in Eights week young men's hearts suffer severely, but their recovery is pretty lively. It is the most abject nonsense to write in this way. Indeed, I have a shrewd suspicion that Mr. Fairbairn has attached the phrase "lively recovery" to a style of rowing that no man of any repute has ever taught any college or university crew. He says that "to be quick with the first part of the forward swing, so as to be slow with the last part is a breach of a mechanical principle." I can only say that neither Muttlebury, Escombe, nor Wauchope, nor Fletcher, nor any other coach of any repute ever taught such nonsense. If this is what Mr. Fairbairn learned from the Jesus men, then these men knew nothing about rowing. Mr. Fairbairn says that his theory is "that the stroke should be rowed well out, and the hands flicked away, whilst the body changed from the back to the forward swing, and then the forward swing should be even as a pendulum." There is not a word there that is not perfectly consistent with what in ordinary phraseology is meant by a lively recovery. This phrase I understand to mean getting the hands away smartly and simultaneously bringing the body steadily to the perpendicular as a part of the swing, the whole swing of the body being even and the getting away of the hands coupled with the swing back of the weight of the oar being utilised to bring the body forward. It is twaddle to say that Cambridge had not a good recovery this year. As a matter of criticism, one could say that their recovery was not so good relatively as their other excellent points of leg drive and so on. But if Mr. Fairbairn means by his theory that the hands ought to be got away before the body comes forward, then he is talking just as much nonsense as the Jesus men, according to his account, talked to him. It is a theory that none of the men he names support, either as coaches or in practice. For if there is one thing more likely to stop the way of the boat than a bucket, it is a hang after the finish of a stroke. It comes to this, then, that Mr. Fairbairn has either revived a style involving a hang at the finish, or else he was teaching something that every capable coach was teaching at the time. That there was any new discovery or any genuine revival was as much a fiction of his imagination as the strained hearts and other illnesses, etc. He had discovered no panacea for human ills. So much for the wonderful revival of Mr. Fairbairn, and now as to the way in which this anti-heart straining system was to be foisted on to the University.

Mr. Fairbairn says Christ's and Corpus asked for Jesus coaches, and the revivalists, as I will call them, made many bumps. Then he says, and I quote his own words:—

> Garbett, who was coaching with me, and I were asked to meet Powell and Sanger, the 1905-1906 'varsity presidents, and discuss the difference in styles. Unfortunately, I was called away, and Garbett told me that Powell and he discussed the advisability of my coaching a trial eight in this style, and so we could get a comparison of styles. On this I wrote Powell, stating that if we wished a test of styles I thought it would be better for me to coach an eight from these three colleges only, as they had adopted this style and the other colleges could go on in the ordinary way with the trial eights, and this eight could race them, and so get a comparison of styles. This is what your correspondent has turned into the idea that I was trying to cause dissension in Cambridge rowing.

I am very sorry he feels so aggrieved. However well-meant his intentions may have been, I can conceive no method more calculated to create dissension and trouble in University rowing. The proposal was absolutely impossible. The President, if he had acceded to it, would have abdicated the position to which he had been elected by the University. His duty was to

get the best men for the trial crews out of the whole University. It was impossible for him to consent to a proposal to have three colleges taken out of his jurisdiction. The inevitable consequence would be that the segregation of such important colleges as Jesus, Christ, and Corpus under the tuition of Mr. Fairbairn would be regarded by the University at large as a struggle for supremacy between the two University crews coached on traditional lines, and one selected out of a small group by an old oarsman holding no office and in no wise subject to the jurisdiction of the President. Such a scheme would have been fatal to University rowing. It would inevitably lead to rupture and dissension. If a man has not sense enough to see that these would be the consequences of such an enterprise, I really doubt whether he has intelligence enough to revive, let alone originate, any rowing theory that is worth a rap. A man might just as well try to get up an eight to beat the selected University crew in the Lent Term, propose to take them on over the course at Putney, and, if successful, then he would, I presume, let that eight represent the University. I suppose that such a suggestion would not cause dissension. Mr. Fairbairn was at Jesus in 1884, and I wonder if he recollects what happened at Cambridge in the early part of that year. His scheme, if propounded by an undergraduate, might have been regarded as the wild-cat idea of a youngster, but it must be looked at in a very different light when put forward by a revivalist of mature years. He may at any time propound the same scheme again for some other revival. At present he is probably harmless, as he is quite satisfied that all the Cambridge crews are being coached according to his theory. Never had a revivalist more honour in his own country. He has banished, in little over two years, all the ills that oarsmen meet with. It is a wonderful work which he modestly does not appreciate. If he did, he would not trouble me with the catalogue of successes of crews that have rowed according to his theories. Why worry me, after all this great work, by asking me if I am logical. I am dazzled by his achievements. He is satisfied that all the first three crews rowed in the same style in the May races. I refer him to the *Field* of June 15. According to that writer, the Jesus crew were at their best two or three weeks before the race. Their characteristic was that they did their work in the middle of the stroke, and that such a style was no good for hard racing. I am not responsible for the *Field*, whose contributor does not appreciate the value of Mr. Fairbairn. He has evoked the non-existent to triumph over the non-existent, and he is quite satisfied. There never was a Fairbairn theory, and there never were strained hearts.

A Frenchman has won the open golf championship. The explanation is quite simple. England is a Free Trade country. France is not. And there is a Liberal Government in power. Massey is to be congratulated on a brilliant performance in boisterous weather. For the fifth time, and for the fourth year in succession, Taylor, the winner of three championships, was second, two strokes behind the winner, and three ahead of Tom Vardon and Pulford.

It is now admitted that the South Africans can play cricket. The players have their expenses paid, but, unlike the Australians, they do not make a penny out of the game.

The Jam Sahib of Nawanager must miss his cricket even as his old county misses him. No doubt it will interest many of his old admirers—they will know, of course, that I am referring to the inimitable bat whom they knew as Ranjitsinhji—to learn that he has become an ardent automobilist, so that he can still make runs. Soon after his return to India he scored the maximum number of marks with a Lanchester car in the Delhi-Bombay trials, and he has since won other successes. With an eye to the gaining of further laurels he has just sent to Birmingham an order for two of the largest and most powerful motor-cars of the same well-known manufacturers.

Stephens' Ink writes a clear blue colour which develops into an intense black. It is pleasant to write with and follows the pen ungrudgingly even when much evaporated in the inkstand.

MAMMON.

Demoralised Stock Markets—Prices in Many Cases Nominal—Easy to Buy, but Selling Largely a Matter of Negotiation—Exaggerated Fears that Cannot Last.

THE state of the Stock Markets last week can only be described as deplorable. There was no panic, in the ordinary sense of the word, but the long-drawn-out malady, aptly termed "dry rot," was present in acute form, and those whose business it is to endure the gloomy atmosphere of Throgmorton Street day after day must sometimes ask themselves whether a real panic would not be preferable to these weary months of stagnation and steadily falling prices, with the constant overhanging dread of fresh financial trouble. With most of the panics that have passed into history the period of real trouble has been short and sharp, and, like a thunderstorm, it has had the effect of clearing the air and preparing the way for a fresh buying movement. As things exist at present, the Stock Markets are in a more or less nominal state; if by markets is meant a place where one can buy and sell, then there are really no markets, for it is easy enough just now to buy, but selling is a very different matter. As regards the leading securities, the disposal of what in normal times would be considered a moderate line of stock is often a matter of negotiation, while there are many out-of-the-way securities—I refer more particularly to the Mining Markets—which are practically unsaleable. It is not merely London which is in this demoralised condition; the description applies with equal force to New York and the Continent, the various centres being about equally charged with distrust of each other. I have no desire to overdraw the picture, but am merely trying to convey an idea of the wave of pessimism that for the time being has engulfed the Stock Markets at home and abroad.

That this gloomy feeling is exaggerated, and will therefore pass, hardly needs to be added, and investors in securities possessed of intrinsic merit have no reason to take alarm. Indeed, the knowledge that markets at present are in an artificial state, and that because of the temporary want of equilibrium between supply and demand the quoted prices are not in many cases a reliable test to values, should constitute in itself a warning to refrain from throwing away stocks at this juncture. Whether the revival comes now, or whether things are to get still worse before they finally turn, is a matter impossible to prophesy. The points to keep in mind are that the general financial situation in all vital respects is sound, that there is a complete absence of speculation in stocks, and that prices all round are a long way below what might be called average levels. There has during the past week been trouble in Egypt, a banking house at Alexandria being caught by the recoil that has succeeded the inflation of securities in the land of the Pharaoh. This is a matter, however, that need cause no grave concern. Certain Continental interests are involved by the collapse, but they are apparently well able to bear their losses. The London creditors are unlikely to be badly hit, as houses this side have not made advances without obtaining security.

An exceptionally firm feature during the last few days has been Consols. The rally in the Funds is truly refreshing, and, if allowed to develop, must exercise an important effect upon the Stock Exchange as a whole. There are solid reasons for the upward movement. Mr. Asquith has definitely announced that arrangements have been made whereby any fresh issue, either of Local Loans or Irish Land stock before December 31 next will be avoided. Not only so, but there is to be no issue of Transvaal Guaranteed stock this year, the immediate needs of the new colony being limited to £1,000,000, which will be raised in the form of a short-dated loan. Thus the Consol market is to be allowed a free run for a time, and if Sinking Fund purchases are to be resumed at once, as some authorities declare, they will be permitted to have full effect. The news is especially welcome to the joint stock banks, seeing

that they are about to face the question of writing down their holdings of Consols from the figure of 85 at present figuring in the half-yearly balance-sheets. Even as things stand the banks may deem it necessary to write down by 2 per cent., but this is a less formidable cut than seemed likely a short time ago. The leading Foreign Government bonds have stood their ground well, making allowance for the unsettling effect produced by the dissolution of the Russian Duma, the French wine-growers' revolt, and the Egyptian financial troubles. Among South Americans weakness has developed in Peruvian Corporation stocks, as the outcome of the settlement just arrived at between the Corporation and the Government. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to enlarge upon the details of the scheme, which have already been fully published in the financial press, but the judgment passed by the market is that although the terms are doubtless the best that could be obtained, the Corporation has had to concede more than it has been awarded in return. The preference has been sold because it is considered there is no immediate prospect of a larger return on the stock, while, on the other hand, a re-arrangement of capital will probably be necessary in order to provide for the large liability which the Corporation has assumed in carrying on the construction of the railways commenced by the Government.

Home Rails Still Dormant—Unjustified Neglect—The Strong Position of the Trade Lines—Dividend Prospects Satisfactory Despite Dear Coal.

The Home Railway Market has remained in the dormant stage, and the best that can be said about this department is that, thanks to an absence of fresh selling pressure, prices have not given way to any material extent. Recent movements may be gathered from the following table:—

Home Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest.	June 15, 1907.	June 22, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Caledonian 3 p.c. Pref.	80	72¾	70¼	69½	– ¾
Do. Def.	42½	28⅝	26⅝	26	– ⅝
Central London	96½	82½	74	74	—
City and S. London	47½	39	43	45	+2
Furness	69¾	61⅜	60½	58½	–2
Glasgow and South-Western Def.	42⅜	37½	32	32	—
Great Central 1894 Pref.	81⅞	69	59	57	–2
Do. "B"	40⅝	32½	26¼	26½	—
Do. "A"	19½	15½	13½	13½	– ½
Great Eastern	90⅜	79½	71½	70½	–1
Great Northern Pref.	105	98¾	96	95½	– ½
Do. Def.	48¾	39½	38¾	38⅜	– ⅜
Great Western	144	122⅝	122½	121½	–1½
Hull and Barnsley	50	42½	48	47½	– ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	110½	100	100	99	–1
London and Brighton "A"	130⅝	111½	83½	83½	—
London, Chatham, and Dover	16⅜	13	12½	12⅛	– ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Arbitration Pref.	99½	85	76	76	—
Do. do. 2nd Pref.	64½	48	43	42	–1
London and North-Western	163½	147½	142½	141	–1½
London and South-Western Def.	57½	44⅜	46	44½	–1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	89¼	59	42	41	–1
Metropolitan District	37½	18⅜	11½	11½	—
Midland 2½ p.c. Pref.	70⅜	64	65	65	—
Do. Def.	74⅜	62½	60⅜	60½	– ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78½	72⅜	68¼	67½	– ¾
Do. Def.	47½	38⅜	32⅜	31½	– ⅝
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	134⅜	136¾	135½	–1½
North Staffordshire	105⅜	96¾	96	96	—
South-Eastern "A"	55½	44⅜	34	33½	– ½

It is generally agreed that the stocks of the leading companies have got down to a level at which they are attractive to the speculative investor. Every now and again, too, a few hardy professionals, taking their courage in both hands, go into the market and bid for lines of stock, thinking that the time has come when the public will return to their old love. But the public remain as far away as ever, and House men who have proved themselves over-sanguine are forced to cut their losses. It is all very disappointing, although just now the Home Railway Market is not allowed to nurse its grievance alone, but simply forms one of a group, all uttering the same wail of "nothing doing." Meanwhile, it is reassuring to holders of Railway stocks to know that, speaking generally, the sagging tendency of prices is in no way justified by the actual financial position of the companies. Dear coal admittedly is playing an important part in increasing expenditure, and may cause alterations in the dividends of one or two of the Southern lines, though it is doubtful if the burden will be felt to any serious extent in the first half of the year. The companies, too, are naturally making an effort to minimise as far as possible the effect of the increase, for, despite opposition, it is probable that the proposal to raise haulage rates for coal and other fuel as from July 1 will be carried into effect.

Taking the goods lines in a group by themselves, there can hardly be any question about the maintenance of dividends this year; indeed, there is little doubt that one or two lines, and notably the Great Northern and Hull and Barnsley will be in a position to increase them. Trade in the Midlands and North is still at high-water mark, and what this activity has meant to railroad gross receipts may be gathered from the following table:—

Company.	Receipts (24 weeks).	Increase.	Percentage of Increase.
	£	£	Per Cent.
Great Central	1,831 800	60,800	3 4
Great Northern	2,643,000	45,000	1·7
Great Western	5 623,400	216,200	4 0
Hull and Barnsley	274,100	31,600	12 7
Lancashire and Yorkshire	2,646,400	58,600	2·2
London and North-Western	6,719,000	199,000	3·0
Midland	5,478 800	180,100	3·4
North-Eastern	4,442,300	205,000	4·3

Not only are the companies already strongly entrenched through the continued expansion in receipts, but, foreseeing, no doubt, the likelihood of expenditure being costly in 1907, they carried forward at the close of 1906 record high balances. For instance, the Great Northern carried forward £52,600, an increase of £5,000 as compared with the second half of 1905; the Great Western carried forward £85,800, an increase of £38,800; the North-Western £118,800, an increase of £24,900; Midland £81,600, increase £24,800; and North-Eastern £82,900, increase £33,900. The Great Western, it is true, has to provide the dividend on £2,000,000 more ordinary stock this year (which may take, say, another £100,000), and is working 70 miles more line; but even here there can be scarcely a doubt about the maintenance of the dividend when receipts for less than half the year are up £216,000 (without allowing for under-publication), and when the company began the year with nearly £40,000 more in hand. Assuming then, that dividends in the case of the trade lines will be maintained, it requires no further argument to establish the cheapness of stocks, for on the basis of last year's dividends, the yield to a present purchaser averages fully 4½ per cent. In the case of Hulls the yield is 4¾, with every prospect of an increase, while York Deferred gives 4½ per cent. with also reasonable prospects of increase.

Grand Trunks—Temporary Dulness Due to Option Sales—Mexican Rails—Has the Government made an Offer to Purchase? San Paulos and Coffee Valorisation — Leopoldina Prospects — Slump in Guayaquil and Quito Bonds — The Concession Reported to Have Lapsed.

In the Canadian Railway Market Grand Trunks have given way to a slight extent during the past week. There is still apparently some bankrupt stock on the market that has yet to be absorbed, while at the moment the market is inclined to hang fire in connection with the maturity of call options entered into for the end of the half-year. Doubtless the greater portion of the stock accumulated against these options, and not required, has been sold already, but until jobbers are sure that the liquidation is complete they are naturally not going to encourage higher prices. However, this weight upon values is a purely temporary matter, and with traffic returns continuing to shape so splendidly, I am disposed to look for an early revival in Trunk junior securities. The investor who wishes to take an interest in this market ought, therefore, not to delay buying too long. Trunk Thirds are indisputably, in my opinion, the pick of the basket, and, barring accidents, I see no reason why they should not stand 10

How to Operate in Stocks Successfully.—See Halford's Adviser (post free).—Palmerston House, London, E.C. Established 1869. Telegrams: "Monitor, London."

points higher before the year is out. Canadian Pacifics have been firmly maintained during the week, the market being helped by cables from Winnipeg that ideal conditions now prevail for the crops. The volume of business, however, was too small to materially affect the quotation.

In the Foreign Railway group the bargain-hunter is still afforded a wide choice of selection, though he does not appear yet to have taken much advantge of his opportunities, as the following table indicates:—

Colonial and Foreign Rails.	1906. Highest	1906. Lowest	June 15, 1907.	June 22, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Canadian Pacific	208	161⅞	172⅜	171	-1⅜
Grand Trunk	29 15/16	25 1/16	28⅛	27 3/16	- 15/16
Do. 4 p.c. Guaranteed	105½	101½	100½	100½	—
Do. 5 p.c. First Pref.	123½	114⅜	118	118	—
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	115	105⅜	109	109	—
Do. 4 p.c. Third Do.	70½	60 15/16	70½	69½	- ⅜
Mexican	50⅜	22½	43½	41	-2½
Do. 8 p.c. First Pref.	144⅜	118⅜	134	132½	-1½
Do. 6 p.c. Second Pref.	93⅜	49½	86½	85	-1½
Interoceanic of Mex. 7 p.c. Pref.	11 15/16	0	10⅞	10⅜	- ½
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	124	109	115⅜	116½	+ ⅜
Mexican Central 4 p.c.	90½	78½	83	84	+1
Do. First Incomes	30	18	20⅜	20½	—
Do. Securities "A" bearer	95	88 1/16	90	90	—
Do. Do. "B" Do.	81½	66½	77	78	+1
Nat. of Mexico 4 p.c. First Pref.	61⅛	37½	49⅜	50	+ ½
Do. 5 p.c. Second Pref.	31⅜	19½	21	20	-1
Bengal and North Western	149½	144	148	148	—
Madras 5 p.c.	127½	120½	112xd	112xd	—
Antofagasta Def.	180½	162	137	134	-3
Nitrate Rails	16⅜	14½	12⅜	12¾	+ ⅜
Argentine Great Western	130½	111	103½	108½	—
Do. North-Eastern Debs.	83½	64½	72½	72¼	- ¼
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	136½	120	111⅞	112¼	- ¼
Do. and Rosario	120⅞	111	98⅜	97⅜	- 1
Do. Great Southern	145	122⅜	120½	119½	- 1
Do. Western	138½	123½	119½	119½	—
East Argentine	100	87	114½xd	114½xd	—
Cordoba Cen. (C.N.S.) Income Debs.	75½	63⅜	64½	63½	-1
Cordoba and Rosario First Pref.	108⅜	85	85½	85½	—
Entre Rios First Pref	98	85	90½	90½	—
Great Western of Brazil	16 1/16	12½	10½	10⅝	- ⅛
Leopoldina	86½	69½	70½	70	- ½
San Paulo	214⅜	199½	208½	201	-7½
Central Uruguay	92½	82	88	86½	-1½
Costa Rica	29 15/16	25	28	27	-1
Cartagena (Colombia) Debs.	80½	78	70	70	—
Colombian Nat. Second Debs	68½	76½	69	69	—
Colombian Northern 5 p.c. Debs.	81½	76½	79	79	—
Manila 6 p.c. Debs.	126	112	109	109	—
Guayaquil and Quito 6 p.c. Bonds	93½	55	39½	35	-4½
Cuban Central	7 1/16	5½	5⅝	5½	—
United of Havana	103	105⅜	93	92	—1
Western of Havana	15 3/16	12½	12	11⅞	- ⅛
Mashonaland Debs (2nd issue)	94⅜	87½	87½	87½	—
Rhodesia 4 p.c. Debs.	8 ⅜	76	71½	71½	—
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	23⅞	19¼	20¼	20½	+ ¼

It was said that the small investor had been laying hold of Mexican Railway First Preference, which shows his wisdom. So far as last week is concerned, the effect of the buying was obliterated by the liquidation of larger lines, but when a preference stock can be bought to yield nearly 6 per cent. with a growing margin behind it, it looks good enough to buy and lock away. There has been a rumour in the City that a provisional offer has already been made on behalf of the Mexican Government to buy up the old Mexican Railway. I am not in a position to give any details, although, seeing that the various stocks have recently remained so limp, it does not look as if the offer (presuming such to have been made) was considered good enough to be seriously entertained by the company. In any negotiations of the kind the difficulty will no doubt centre around the ordinary, because of the widely different views that are held as to the value of this stock.

Argentine Rails have been in a state of quiescence, the generous returns offered upon the stocks of the best companies failing to tempt the public. San Paulos among Brazilian Rails have been dull, in connection with the reported breakdown of the coffee valorisation scheme attempted by the State Governments, and Leopoldinas have hung fire sympathetically. The latter stock, as I pointed out when dealing with the company's outlook a month ago, presents strong attractions to the speculative investor. Leopoldinas got 4 per cent for 1906, and would have received 5 per cent. had it not been for the cost of repairing damage done by floods, which, directly and indirectly, cost £55,000. In other words, 5 per cent. should be paid in respect of 1907, without any addition to ordinary net receipts. But as a matter of fact, the company is likely to add considerably to its revenues this year, seeing that already since January 1 its gross receipts amount to £424,000, an increase of £114,000 as compared with the corresponding period of 1906. Leopoldina ordinary can now be bought at about 70, and I find it hard to believe that the absence of a rise is due to anything more than market apathy. There has been a fresh fall in the bonds of the Guayaquil and Quito Railway, which is not surprising, in view of the report that the company has lost its concession, and that the line has been seized by the Government. It is true that, according to the terms of the issue, the Government of Ecuador made itself liable for the bonds in the event of non-completion of the line or forfeiture of the concession, but the question is, what is the credit of the Government of Ecuador worth? The market, at any rate, is not at all sanguine about the due payment of the July coupon.

YANKEES QUIET BUT COMPARATIVELY STEADY—THE READING DIVIDEND—THE MONETARY SITUATION—NEW YORK STILL A HEAVY GOLD EXPORTER.

The most noticeable feature about the American Railroad market last week was the smallness of the daily turnover of sales in Wall Street. On Monday the number of shares dealt in was 160,000, which established a new low record for a full session this year. So far as London is concerned it was a case of virtual stagnation, the market on several occasions making scarcely a pretence of opening until an hour after the usual time for commencing. The movements in prices corresponded with the state of business, as the following table shows:—

Americans.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	June 15, 1907.	June 22, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Atchison	114½	89	89⅜	89½	- ½
Do. 5 per Cent. Pref.	109½	101	96	96	—
Baltimore and Ohio	129⅛	109 5/16	95½	95½	+ ½
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	101½	93⅜	89	89	—
Chesapeake and Ohio	68⅝	54	34½	33½	-1
Chicago, Milwaukee	204½	152½	129	128½	- ½
Denver and Rio Grande	52½	38⅜	25½	25½	- ¼
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	93⅞	85⅞	73½	73½	—
Erie	52⅛	40	22⅝	22¼	- ⅜
Do. 4 p.c. First Pref.	85½	77	58	57½	- ½
Do. 4 p.c. Second Pref.	77	65⅜	38	37½	- ½
Illinois Central	188⅝	171	140	140	--
Louisville	160⅜	143⅞	114	113½	- ½
Missouri, Kansas	45⅜	31 7/16	32⅜	32⅜	- ⅜
New York Central	159½	130⅜	115	113½	-1½
N. Y. Ontario and Western	57 5/16	45½	35⅜	35½	- ½
Norfolk and Western	100⅞	87⅛	75½	74½	-1
Do. 4 p.c. Pref.	96½	91½	86	86	—
Northern Pacific	235	190½	126½	125½	-1
Pennsylvania ($50)	75⅜	63¾	61½	61	- ½
Reading ($50)	85⅜	59 3/16	51	51½	+ ⅛
Southern	43⅞	33	18½	18	- ½
Do. 5 p.c. Pref.	105	97	61½	62	+ ⅜
Southern Pacific	99 9/16	64⅜	75½	75⅞	+ ⅜
Union Pacific	203	144⅝	135½	135	- ½
U.S. Steel	52½	33¼	33¼	32⅜	- ⅜
Do. 7 p.c. Pref.	117	102⅜	100	99¾	- ¼

Chesapeakes were affected by the understanding that the board contemplates placing $30,000,000 of 5 per cent. short term notes for the purpose of eliminating the existing floating debt, the action to be the prelude to an eventual issue of bonds. Rumours that the New York Central and Rock Island were considering issues of a similar kind also had their reflection in the prices of the stocks of those companies. A large proportion of what speculative interest was abroad centred around Readings, in connection with the rumour of a forthcoming increase in the dividend. The expectation was that the Central of Jersey would raise its dividend from 8 per cent. to a basis of 10 per cent., which would in turn justify the Reading in announcing an increased rate—that company owning more than 50 per cent. of Jersey Central issued stock. In both instances, however, the estimates of the "bulls" were at fault, the dividends remaining unchanged. The matter has directed renewed attention to the price of Reading Common. At one time last year these shares (of $50 denomination) soared as high as 85⅜, and at the beginning of the present year they stood at 72⅜; the dividend was only 4 per cent., but the optimists excused such a sky-scraping price on the ground that the company was

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likely to announce a plan for separating its railroad from its mineral property, and that this proposed melon-cutting would give to the stockholders a handsome bonus. At the present time the market is paying little heed to "bull" talk of this kind, there being too many securities giving unusually high returns without the need for troubling over bonuses that may or may not become available. Even allowing for the fall that has occurred in Readings—from 85 to about 50—the stock yields no more than 4 per cent., and with the powerful searchlight that is being turned on security prices in Wall Street it is doubtful if the stock can be maintained at the existing level, when other Americans are being offered on a yield basis (that is, of course, taking the 1906 dividends as a criterion) of 6 to 8 per cent.

A batch of satisfactory traffic returns and revenue statements have played their part in keeping Americans comparatively steady during the past week. But all the same, the attempts made by powerful insiders to manipulate values to higher levels have failed, and it seems now to be recognised by the "bull" party itself that there are at present too many unfavourable and uncertain features in the situation to permit of speculation for the rise in stocks meeting with any real success. The bond market, which should furnish the index to the state of the stock market, remains in a very unsatisfactory condition, as I pointed out a week ago. Further, the monetary position is by no means assured. During the week Wall Street has had to face further gold exports to Europe to a total of $5,000,000 (the total following upon the shipment of $12,400,000 in the weeks immediately preceding, and this movement has, of course, made serious inroads upon the reserves of the Associated Banks, at a time when money is in extra demand in connection with preparations for the usual July dividend payments. So far loan rates in New York have not been advanced very seriously, largely because stock speculation is almost a dead letter. But the situation as regards money would be speedily altered were speculation to revive, and that seems one of the best reasons to urge at the moment for expecting no revival.

Recovery in Kaffirs Followed by Depression Caused by Fresh Liquidation and General Botha's Statement: "The Last Chinaman Must Go"—The Labour Outlook—A Crop of Rand Dividends.

The past week was rather an eventful one in the history of the Kaffir Market. Business has been pretty brisk in the shares which are the first to reflect any change in market sentiment, and some pretty wide fluctuations in quotations have been witnessed. As a result of liquidation coming on the top of General Botha's announcement that the Chinese are to be repatriated, the market was in a very gloomy condition at the beginning of the past week, but subsequently the feeling became a little more cheerful, encouragement being derived from the confidence displayed by the Transvaal Minister of Lands that additional native labour would be forthcoming in sufficient quantity to take the place of the Chinese due to leave by the end of the current year. He quoted statistics in support of his contention that a large number of Portuguese, Basutoland, and Transkeian natives who had formerly worked on the mines were not now employed, but were clearly available. In addition to this factor the market was stimulated to some extent by the crop of Rand dividends declared in respect of the first half of the current year, several of which are at a larger rate than those announced this time last year. But the recovery in Kaffir prices, brought about under the influence of the better feeling engendered by factors referred to, was not long maintained. The tendency became gloomy again on the publication in Friday's papers of General Botha's further speech, in which he emphatically asserted that "the last Chinaman must go; there will be no peace until then," and prices further receded in consequence of a renewal of liquidation on account of Paris. The following table shows how the leading shares have fared on the week:—

Share.	June 15, 1907.	June 22, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-French	1 3/32	1 1/32	– 1/32
Apex	2 3/16	2 7/16	– 1/16
Consolidated Gold Fields	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/32
East Rand Proprietary	3 3/32	3 1/32	– 1/16
Geduld	1 7/8	1 3/4	– 1/16
General Mining and Finance	1 1/8	1 1/8	—
Goerz and Co.	1/8	1/8	—
Joh. Consolidated Investment	1 1/8	1	– 1/8
New Modderfontein	5 1/16	4 3/4	– 5/16
Randfontein Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2	– 1/16
Rand Mines	5 3/8	5 1/4	– 1/8
S. A. Gold Trust	2 1/16	1 15/16	– 1/8

It is, of course, difficult to reconcile General Botha's latest statements on the Chinese labour question with those he made immediately after his election and subsequently during his stay in this country. It will be remembered that he repeatedly stated that the Government would use its best endeavours to make the mining industry a success, and on one occasion he added, "because I know the prosperity and progress and the welfare not only of the Transvaal, but of the whole of South Africa, are materially dependent upon the development of that industry." He gave the further assurance that they would do nothing in regard to the labour question without having instituted a drastic inquiry. Yet it now appears that General Botha has made up his mind that all the Chinese must leave the Rand, although, as far as I am aware, none of the Commissions appointed to investigate the labour problem has issued its report, and it is not even certain that the places of the coolies, whose contracts are due to expire by the end of the year—some 16,000 of the total of 50,000—can be filled by natives. There is an impression that the Transvaal Premier, who, according to Reuter's cable, "spoke with vehemence throughout his speech," was stung into making the emphatic assertion that all the Chinese must go by the charges of barter and bargain brought against the Government, but if we have now got at what he really intends shall be done, the allegations may, perhaps, be said to have served a useful purpose. At the same time, it is very difficult to conceive of the Boers doing anything which would seriously interfere with the progress of the mining industry, in view of the fact that they would be acting against their own interests. There is an idea in market circles that General Botha has something up his sleeve in the form of a scheme for getting a large and more regular supply of natives for the mines. In this connection it is interesting to note that a cable received from Johannesburg a few days ago reports that "twenty trusted Boer commandants with large native experience, and for years in closest touch with the various tribes, are now arranging with the chiefs on behalf of the Government for regular supplies of men to the mines."

The current number of the *Statist* contains an interesting chart showing the movement monthly over an extended period in the supply of native and Chinese labour for the Rand Mines. It appears that in the period from the beginning of 1904 to the present time high-water mark in respect of the number of natives available was reached in April, 1905, when the total was between 95,000 and 100,000. After the following month there was an almost persistent falling off, until in October, 1906, the number employed was reduced to nearly 75,000. Then a steady improvement set in up to April last, when over 90,000 were available. In the case of Chinese labour, the first supply of which reached the Rand in June, 1904, the number available steadily increased until it reached about 55,000 in September last. Since then the return of the sick and undesirables has reduced the total to a small extent, but there are still over 50,000 coolies on the Rand. If the anticipations of the Government are confirmed there will be an upward movement in the native figures to set off against a certain downward movement in those of the Chinese.

As regards the position of holders of Kaffir shares, I can only repeat what I said last week—namely, that

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those who have taken up shares in the producing mines should not be frightened into realising, as in the event of a shortage of labour, the supply would probably be concentrated on those properties. Moreover, it should be remembered that there are some thirty mines on the Rand which do not employ Chinese and will not be directly affected by the repatriation order, while in the case of a number of those which have coolie labour there will not be an early exodus.

Subjoined is a list of the Kaffir dividends that have been declared recently, and to which reference is made above. On the whole, the showing must be considered satisfactory and to promise well for the future, providing the labour supply be not materially depleted:—

Company.	Dividend just declared. Per share. s. d.	Amount declared a year ago. Per share. s. d.
City and Suburban	4 0	5 0
Crown Deep	10 0	8 0
Ferreira	30 0	30 0
Geldenhuis Deep	3 0	4 0
Geldenhuis Estate	8 0	5 0
Knights Deep	1 0	1 0
Langlaagte Estate	2 0	2 0
May Consolidated	4 6	4 6
Meyer and Charlton	10 0	6 0
New Heriot	3 0	3 0
New Modderfontein	3 0	—
Nigel	3 0	3 0
Rand Mines	3 0	3 0
Robinson Central Deep	7 6	7 0
Robinson Deep	3 6	3 6
Robinson Gold	10 0	9 0
Rose Deep	2 6	2 0
Simmer and Jack	1 0	1 0
Van Ryn	4 0	2 0
Village Main Reef	4 0	4 0

The Rand Mines distribution a year ago was for a period of twelve months, so that the amount now announced, being for a half-year, is at the same rate. The New Modderfontein only joined the list of dividend-payers last December, the amount then declared being 4s. per share. The City and Suburban and Geldenhuis Deep declare smaller dividends this time than a year ago; but, on the other hand, the Meyer and Charlton proposes to distribute a bonus of 4s. per share in addition to its dividend, and smaller increases are shown by the Crown Deep, Robinson Central Deep, Robinson Gold, Rose Deep, and Van Ryn.

DIAMOND SHARES ACTIVE—FORCED LIQUIDATION CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT DECLINE IN DE BEERS AND JAGERS—DE BEERS DIVIDEND—THE HEAVY FALL IN PREMIERS AND THE NEWS OF THE PASSING OF THE DIVIDEND.

Activity has continued to characterise the market in the principal Diamond shares, the general trend of which has been in the downward direction of late. With realisations in progress in the general markets on account of Paris it was hardly to be expected that De Beers, a prime favourite of speculators on the other side of the Channel, would escape the depression. As regards the extent of the decline it may be pointed out that the latest price shown in the table below is practically the lowest of the current year, and compares with the high record of over 30 touched during the last six months:—

Share.	June 15, 1907.	June 22, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
De Beers Pref. (£2 10s.)	17¼	17¼	—
" " Def. (£2 10s.)	23½	23 1/16	− 1/16
Jagersfontein Pref.	3¾	4	+ ¼
" Def.	7¾	6¾	− ¾
New Vaal River	3½	2¾	− ¾
Premier (Transvaal) Pref. (5s.)	7⅞	7⅞	—
" " Def. (2s. 6d.)	9½	9¼	− ¼

After the carry-over on Monday, however, De Beers had a smart recovery to nearly 24, and recoveries were also experienced by Jagersfontein and Premiers. While the immediate outlook for the Diamond shares, in common with other South Africans, is very uncertain, I think that those in a position to pay outright for purchases made might easily do worse than pick up a few De Beers Deferred about the current level. The half-yearly dividend of 17s. 6d. per share brings the return for 1906-7 up to 35s., and the yield on the shares at the current price works out at over 7 per cent. per annum. In the case of Jagersfontein the recent weakness is understood to have been due to the forced liquidation of a London account, while the depression was accentuated by a rumour that the mine was flooded. No confirmation has come to hand of this story; on the other hand, the fact that on the drop in the quotation support was promptly forthcoming from an influential quarter is regarded as a practical denial of the statement. Although the company is apparently to be made to pay the Orange River Colony a tax on its profits, the shares seem worthy of attention at the present much-reduced price, in view of the expected increase in earnings during the current year.

Premiers have been still lower than the above table shows, having touched 9 at the beginning of the past week. This figure compares with the quotation of 11½ ruling at the settlement a fortnight ago, and it is worthy of note that the official announcement of the passing of the dividend on the deferred shares was promptly followed by a smart rally in the shares. Presumably this was the result of "bear" repurchasing, and in the event of this assumption being correct the question arises: Who had foreknowledge of the board's intention to pass the dividend? In explanation of the persistent decline in the shares, the week before last it was rumoured in the market that instead of making a distribution the profits would be applied to the purchase of additional machinery, but the official cable was not published for some days after the rumour was first circulated, and in the meantime the price of the shares steadily receded. It is stated by the directors that the results to the end of this month "should have allowed a distribution to the deferred shareholders of 400 per cent."—that is, 10s. per share—"but the board of directors consider it the sounder policy in the meantime to defer the declaration and thus strengthen the financial position of the company to the extent of the dividend." Why it is really necessary to withhold the profits the directors do not explain, and it seems to me that shareholders have ground for complaint on this score, to say nothing of the fact that the whole of the serious decline in the market value of their holding occurred before the issue of any official information at all. As there are 320,000 deferred shares in the Premier Company the fall in the price of 2½ points represented a depreciation in market value of over three-quarters of a million sterling. Besides having had to face this, shareholders have to do without the dividend they had been expecting, and are given only a vague statement by way of explanation. If I were a shareholder I should not be content to "take it lying down."

RHODESIA, LIMITED, REPORT—POOR RESULTS AND PROSPECTS—GENERAL CONDITIONS IN RHODESIA IMPROVING, BUT NATIVE LABOUR SUPPLY FOR THE MINES DECREASING.

The directors of Rhodesia, Limited, which was reconstructed at the end of 1905, have just issued their report covering the period to the end of December last. The board has evidently gone into the company's affairs pretty thoroughly, but so far has not been able to place the business on a successful basis. The profit and loss account shows a debit balance of £15,523, and in this connection the directors point out that "it was hardly to be expected that the reconstructed company, taking over as it did the assets, liabilities, and organisation of the old company, whose profit and loss accounts for 1903, 1904, and 1905 showed debit balances averaging at least £15,000 a year, would be able in such times as have prevailed to show a balance to credit of profit and loss account." It has been possible to reduce administration expenses to some extent, "and measures are still being enforced by which much will be effected this year towards the same end," but the best prospect the directors are in a position to hold out to shareholders in respect of the current year is that the income and expenditure may be made to balance.

In regard to Rhodesian prospects in general, a more cheerful note is struck, however. As the table of monthly returns published last week showed, the gold

output production of the country is increasing, the May return being a record, and the report now under review points out that there are not wanting evidences that trade in Rhodesia is reviving. The present season's crops promise to be abundant, "and agricultural prosperity must tend to sound and solid commercial improvement throughout the country." This information is confirmed by Sir William Milton, the Administrator of Southern Rhodesia, who has just arrived in this country. Speaking of the mining industry, this authority remarked that there was more real prosperity now than probably during any previous period, this being due to the success of small workers, "who in the great majority of cases are making very satisfactory profits." But it would appear that agricultural prosperity may tend to restrict the operations of the mining companies, for at the meeting of the Chamber of Mines at Buluwayo last week the chairman said the number of natives seeking work was decreasing, and a further shortage was expected, "as the agricultural conditions were improving to such an extent that eventually it would be unnecessary for the natives to work."

Recovery in the Copper Group Stopped by a Renewal of Liquidation—The Outlook for the Metal—El Oro Position and Dividend Yield.

The price of copper and the quotations of the principal copper shares have continued to fluctuate pretty widely, with a tendency, for the most part, in the downward direction, as the following table shows:—

Share.	1906. Highest.	1906. Lowest.	June 15, 1907.	June 22, 1907.	Rise or Fall.
Abosso	1⅝	1 7/16	1 7/16	1½	+ 1/16
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	17/9	7/9	14/-	14/-	—
Gold Coast Amalgamated	3⅜	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	- 1/16
Taquah and Abosso	2⅜	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	—
Wassau	1⅜	½	¾	11/16	- 1/16
Egyptian Mines and Exploration	10/6	1/3	1/9	1/-	-9d.
Nile Valley	13/-	3/-	1/-	1/-	—
Camp Bird	33/6	22/-	21/6	20/6	-1/-
Esperanza	5 9/16	2½	1½	1 15/16	+ 1/16
Le Roi (£5)	2	1	1 7/16	1 7/16	—
British Broken Hill	58/-	30/7½	40/6	38/9	-1/9
Broken Hill Proprietary (8/-)	5¾	3 1/16	4 7/16	4 1/16	- 5/16
Zinc Corporation	2⅛	1 1/16	13/-	12/-	- 1/-
Anaconda Copper ($25)	15⅜	11⅝	11½	10 5/8	- 7/16
Arizona (Pref. Ord. 5/-)	3 1/2	3	63/-	62/6	-6d.
Great Cobar (£5)	9 1/16	4⅜	8½	8½	- ½
Mount Lyell	52/6	33/-	44/-	41/6	-2/6
Mount Morgan	4⅜	3½	4½	4½	—
Rio Tinto (£5)	91⅛	63⅜	83½	80½	-2½
Dolcoath Tin	29/6	10/-	24/-	23/6	-6d.
Pusing Lama Tin	3 5/16	¾	2½	2 1/16	- 1/16
Balaghat	36/-	22/6	15/6	14/6	-1/-
Champion Reef (2/6)	30/-	9/6	10/3	10/-	-3d.
Mysore (10/-)	7½	5½	5 11/16	5 11/16	—
Siberian Mines	2⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1	- 1/16
Siberian Proprietary	16⅜	3½	3	2¾	- ¼
Waihi	9 13/16	6 5/16	8½	8 5/16	- 3/16

A recovery set in at one time during the past week, but it was nipped in the bud by a renewal of liquidation. In respect of some of the shares the selling has been particularly heavy, but it was only to be expected, having regard to the speculative activity which has characterised this group for some time past that it should participate largely in any general depression such as the Stock Exchange has recently been, and is still, experiencing. As regards the outlook for the metal, for the fall in which the depression on the Stock Exchange is held partly responsible, the view is taken that while the price may further decline to a moderate extent, it is not to be expected that it will fall so low as to seriously affect the profits of the companies producing the commodity in question, and those holding sound shares of the class are advised not to be frightened into throwing them on the market at this juncture.

The shares of the El Oro Mining and Railway Company have been in demand during the past week, the declaration of a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share having served to attract attention to them. This distribution is for a half-year, and on this basis the yield per annum on the current market price works out at nearly 11½ per cent. The scrip appears a promising speculative lock-up. As regards the mine, an official circular just issued shows that important developments have taken place at the 1,000-ft. level during the past half-year, and in other portions of the property results are stated to have been of a very satisfactory character. In respect of the railway it is announced that the extension of the line into the Suchitepec timber lands will be completed by the end of next month, and a subsidiary company is now being formed for the purpose of operating these timber lands as a commercial company. In this new company the El Oro Mining and Railway Company holds three-fifths free interest for the expenditure which it has already incurred in obtaining the concession and building the railway thereto.

In consequence of pressure on my space I am compelled to hold over the concluding portion of the article, commenced in last week's issue, on the mines of the Broken Hill Field.

Lornie of Kirkcaldy.

An article with the above heading appeared in these columns on October 30, 1879. John Lornie, of Kirkcaldy, was at that time sending out circulars recommending a purchase of some more or less worthless American railroad bonds, and Truth pointed out that his gains from the business he was carrying on must come out of the pockets of foolish and ignorant dupes. Whatever else he may be, John Lornie is certainly a good stayer. Here, in June, 1907, he is still pursuing a similar game. In his recent circulars he represents that nowadays he writes only to "old correspondents," but the copies before me were addressed to strangers who had never before heard of the man. "As you are an old correspondent"—though you are nothing of the kind—he encloses with the circular another printed slip embellished with a portrait of himself; and on one such slip, directed to a lady whom he had previously pestered with his unsolicited advice, he has written:—

> If you do not care to invest much you could at least send a few hundreds when I offer to take *all risk* and keep you *absolutely safe*.—J. L.

Pretty cool, that. But the lady sagaciously noted that while Mr. Lornie would have the handling of the few hundreds, she would have only his word for it that the money would be absolutely safe. The security did not seem good enough, and so, instead of forwarding the cash to Kirkcaldy, she sent on the circulars to Carteret-street.

The Canadian Syndicate as Share Pushers.

I have accumulated quite a collection of printed cards emanating from the Canadian Syndicate, Limited, 550-551, Salisbury House, E.C., and having reference to the shares of the Canada Consolidated Cobalt Company, Limited. They began to reach me at the beginning of this month, when numbers of people who had never heard of the Syndicate were surprised by the receipt of a postcard informing them that the shares of the company, "on which you have an option at 22s. 6d., good until June 4," were sold on Mav 30 for special settlement at 24s. 6d. A comment on this in the *Financial News* elicited a letter from the secretary of the Syndicate to the effect that "owing to a mistake of the people who did the addressing," the postcards had been sent to persons for whom they were not intended, but that by way of an amende honorable the Syndicate had granted a small option to these persons, thus putting them on a level with those already possessing the option, for whom the postcards were really intended. Apparently this privilege was not sufficiently appreciated—at any rate on June 12 the Syndicate distributed another batch of cards (in envelopes this time) notifying the recipients that they had an option on the shares at 22s. 6d., "good until June 15," which could, however, be extended till June 18 at 24s. 6d. per share. But it would seem that even then all the shares were not snapped up, for on June 18 yet another card went out to individuals privileged to acquire the shares at 24s. 6d. until June 21.

(*Continued on page* 1601.)

• TRUTH •

STOCK EXCHANGE SUPPLEMENT.

No. 1,591. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1907.

THE SORROWS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

THE Stock Exchange appears to have become a prey to moping melancholy. Everywhere one hears and reads the same lamentations over the aloofness of the public and the slackness of business, the same dismal stories of dwindling profits and the miserable straits to which once prosperous men have lately been reduced. Not a few affirm that they are now making no money at all, but simply living—and living simply—on their capital. Doubtless there is a good deal of characteristic exaggeration in all this gloomy talk. Like the actor who conscientiously blacked himself all over for the part of Othello, the erstwhile blithesome broker or jovial jobber does the thing thoroughly when he gives himself up to a fit of the blues. The state of affairs on the Stock Exchange is not really quite so desperate as some of the croakers would make out. Still, it is bad enough in all conscience, and though everybody hopes that the clouds will roll by, nobody is very sanguine. The situation is, too, made all the more disquieting by the knowledge that, while the Stock Exchange is writhing in a slough of despond, the outside brokers rejoice in a roaring trade. It would be ridiculous to suggest that the sad plight of men inside the "House" is wholly, or even largely, attributable to the success of their competitors outside. The prevalent depression is mainly due to various complex causes which need not be discussed here. Nevertheless, many members are beginning to debate the question whether some departure from the traditional policy of the Stock Exchange may not be required to meet the attacks of the poachers on what used to be regarded as its preserves. In the aggregate it is an enormous amount of business which is bagged by the poachers, and not only is this business in itself a serious loss to members but the malpractices that occur in connection with it bring the Stock Exchange into undeserved odium. That institution is, of course, without a shade of a shadow of responsibility for bucket-shop frauds or bucket-shop tricks that are morally indistinguishable from fraud. It seems almost superfluous to say this. Unfortunately, however, the public are very foolish and very ignorant, and it is an undoubted fact that the Stock Exchange suffers in the estimation of numbers of people for the sins of rogues over whom—luckily for them—it has no sort of control. Medical men often complain of the mischief that is done by advertising quacks, but they have at least the satisfaction of knowing that in the long run they do not suffer themselves, but, on the contrary, earn fees for undoing the evil the quack has occasioned or aggravated. The quack's dupes become the doctor's patients. No such satisfaction is available for the genuine stockbroker. Every bucket-shop swindle means for him the loss of possible clients. Some of the victims drop all their money, and others, concluding that all dealers in stocks and shares are tarred with the same brush, resolve to have nothing more to do with any of them.

BUCKET-SHOP BANDITTI.

The infantile ingenuousness of a great mass of the British public on the subject of dealings in stocks and shares is truly astounding. Some notion of it may be gathered from the revelations that are made from time to time in the police-courts, but I myself have perpetual proofs of it in the correspondence that reaches "Vigilant's Letter Box." In the "Mammon" article TRUTH has always done its best to put its readers on their guard against the banditti of the bucket-shops, so that no regular reader of the paper has any excuse for being captured. Every week, however, I am inundated with letters seeking advice about the character of these harpies, or suggesting that they shall be pilloried again, or—as often happens—asking for a recommendation to a reliable broker; and it has occurred to me that the answers which I give to such inquiries may be usefully amplified by the publication in this special supplement of two lists of names which ought to be serviceable both to the public and the members of the Stock Exchange. In the first list I propose to set out the names or aliases—mostly aliases—of individuals or firms of the bucket-shop class who for one reason or another figured in my last annual Cautionary List, or have since come under notice in "Mammon." Besides cover-snatchers and promoters of "blind pools," whose methods of duping greenhorns have been repeatedly exposed in TRUTH, I include various other practitioners, such as the share-pushers who gull people into buying the worthless securities of rotten and moribund companies, and the firms who charge unwary purchasers outrageously exorbitant prices for foreign lottery or premium bonds. I do not for a moment suggest that all who figure in the list are on an equality of turpitude, but at the same time all of them are parties whom the sensible speculator or the prudent investor will be careful to avoid:—

American Commercial Exchange, The, New York.
Arnold and Butler, 124, Holborn, E.C.
Barclay and Co., 11, Spring-gardens, Manchester, and 4, Featherstone-buildings, High Holborn.
Bertram, Seymour, and Co., Copthall-house, E.C.
Blythe, Gould, and Co., 25, Lawrence-lane; the Globe and Lancashire Stock Exchange (same address); Gordon, Richmond, and Brother, Imperial-buildings; and Fife, Hamilton, and Co., 42, New Bridge-street. (Businesses suspended while the proprietors are serving sentences of imprisonment.)
Brodie, George, and Co., 42, Copthall-avenue, E.C.
Bull, Martin (alias Brown), 7, Fenchurch-buildings, E.C.
Cassell and Langton, 34-36, Gresham-street, E.C.
Charles and Co. (alias Frederick C. A. Spiegel), Moorgate-street, E.C.
Clement and Hayes, 19, Buckingham-street, E.C.
Consolidated Securities Co., The, 10, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.
Corcoran, Morgan, 14, Great Winchester Street, E.C.
Coventry and Co., Charles, Trafalgar-buildings, W.C.
Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., Paris.
Currie and Crisp, 68-70, Queen-street, E.C.
Digby, Curtis, and Co., 40 and 41, Sackville-street, W.
Douglas, Cairn, and Co., Crown-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.
Eastwood and Co., 76, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.
Financial Guardian, 2, Tokenhouse-buildings, E.C.
Freeborn, Franklin, and Co, 12, Bank-street, Manchester.
Freeman, Wm., and Co., 76, Cornwall-road, Bayswater.
Fry and Co., 34, Coleman-street, E.C.
Glass, R. E., 8, Union-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.
Hanmer and Co., Liverpool and Manchester.
Humbert, Wm., Nephew, and Co., Queen Victoria-st. E.C.
Imperial Stock and Share Exchange, 19-21, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.
Industrial Trust and Assets Corporation, Limited, 50, Cannon-street, E.C.
International Securities Syndicate, 23, Westminster Palace-gardens, S.W.
Iredale and Co., J. Henry, 12, Rumford-place, Liverpool.
Ives, Anderson, and Co., 51, Bishopsgate-street Within.
Kitson, James and Co., 4, Mildmay-chambers, Bishopsgate-street Within.
Lawrence, A., and Co. (alias Lawrence Spiegel), 38, Great St. Helen's, E.C.
Laurie and Vincent, 70, Queen-street, E.C.
Lee, Baillie, and Co., 31, Basinghall-street, E.C.
Lombard Association, The, 45, Lombard-street, E.C.
London and British Stock and Share Exchange, 79, Queen-street, E.C.
London and Counties Exchange, Imperial-buildings, New Bridge-st., E.C.
London and Scottish Stock Exchange, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C.
Mackenzie, John B., 22, Rood-lane, E.C.
Martin and Church, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.
Melville, Glyn, and Co., Paris.
Metropolitan Stock, Share, and Deb. Asso., 257, High Holborn, W.C.
Metropolitan Trust Investment Co., The, 4, Birchin-lane, E.C.
Milne, Son, and Hamilton, 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.
Mining and General Investments Corporation, The, Hounslow.
Morgan, Roland, 33, Old Broad-street, E.C.
National Securities Corporation, The, 181, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.
National Share Exchange, The, 22, Great Winchester-street, E.C.
Securities Investment Co., The, 42, Old Broad-street, E.C.
Shipworth and Watson, 2, Dunedin-house, Basinghall-avenue, E.C.
Stock Exchange Investment and General Agency, 3, Crosby-sq., E.C.
Smith, Hamilton, and Co., 80A, Fenchurch-street, E.C.
Tyler, Wm., and Co., Pinner's House, Old Broad-street, E.C.
Wisner and Co., A. L., New York and Finsbury Pavement House, E.C.

To prevent any misconception, it may be advisable to repeat that the above is only a list of such individuals and firms as happen to have been the subject of warnings in TRUTH. It is not intended as a complete list of bucket-shops and similar concerns, for there are many more—some of them, indeed, the same persons under fresh aliases—against whom it is equally necessary that the public should be on their guard.

The Stock Exchange.

The second of my lists contains the names and addresses of all the members of the Stock Exchange who are stock and share brokers, jobbers being, of course, excluded, as the public are not brought into direct relationship with them. It may be thought that the printing of the list here is somewhat superfluous, seeing that it is always exhibited for public inspection at one of the entrances to the Bank of England, and a copy can, moreover, be obtained by any one who writes for it to the secretary to the committee of the Stock Exchange. But, as my correspondence shows, the majority of people do not know this, or will not take the trouble to make the necessary application, and consequently fall into the hands of the first outside dealer whose advertisement they come across. It cannot be too often repeated that no member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise or to send circulars to persons other than to his own principals. A host of innocents would be saved from the traps that are set for them if this regulation were generally known. But it is not, nor is it ever likely to be generally known, and the result is that the public are imposed upon by all sorts of unscrupulous knaves, whilst honest brokers are deprived of much legitimate business. There is a growing feeling among members of the Stock Exchange that the regulation ought to be modified to the extent of permitting any broker to issue circulars or newspaper advertisements containing simply his name and address and a statement of his membership—in other words, a plain business card. Some day, perhaps, this will be done, but at present the powers that be in Throgmorton-street maintain the old policy, and men in the House are in that way severely handicapped by the rivalry of the uncontrolled outsiders. Although members of the Stock Exchange may not advertise individually, however, there is no reason why they should not be advertised collectively, and I believe that the publication of the appended directory of brokers will be found extremely useful. Whenever I am asked for advice by intending investors, I tell them that it is always best to do business through a member of the Stock Exchange, but that I do not undertake to recommend any particular broker. Sometimes I am reminded that there are certain outside firms that bear a good reputation. I am aware that this is so, but the fact does not alter my view that on the whole it is much the wisest and safest plan to go to a member of the Stock Exchange. It would be absurd to pretend that a man's membership is an absolute guarantee of his trustworthiness, but it is at any rate very strong *primâ facie* evidence of it, and it entitles the client to the protection of the ruling body of the Exchange. The Stock Exchange exacts a high standard of conduct among its members in their dealings with one another and with their clients, and the committee, who are always ready to investigate bonâ fide complaints, will not tolerate anything in the nature of sharp practices—indeed, it is sometimes said that if the committee err at all in the settlement of disputes and the enforcement of a rigorous code of honour, they are rather inclined to err on the side of the clients. Certainly the investor who employs a member of the Stock Exchange has a degree of security for honest and honourable treatment which he cannot possibly command elsewhere.

List of Brokers who are Members of the Stock Exchange.

Aarons, L. & Co. .... 21, Gresham ho., Old B'd st.
Aarons, Arthur E. .... 21, Gresham ho., Old B'd-st.
Aarons, Frank H. .... 21, Gresham ho., Old B'd-st.
Aarons, Lewis ..... 21, Gresham ho., Old B'd-st.
Abbott, Allen V. ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Abbott, James J. ..... 1, Austin Friars
Abrahams, Jonas & Co. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Abrahams, Arthur C. .. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Abrahams, Nevil'e A... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Adams, Harry N. .... 19, Old Broad-street
Adams, Howard C. .... 30, Coleman-street
Adams, James S. ..... 19, Old Broad-street
Adams, William F. .... 1, Copthall chambers
Agelasto & Co. ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Agelasto, Stephen A... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Aitken, Robert M. .... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle st.
Akroyd, John B. ..... 52, Threadneedle-street
Akroyd, Swainson H... 52, Threadneedle-street
Albery, Irving J. .... 54, Old Broad-street
Alder, Frank ..... 38, Throgmorton-street
Alexander, Charles J... Stock Exchange
Allen, A. J. & Son.... 23, Birchin-lane
Allen, Arthur J. ..... 23, Birchin-lane
Allen, A. Louis ..... 31, Throgmorton-street
Allen, Charles A. .... 3, Cushion-court
Allen, Charles H. E. .. St. Stephen's chambers
Allen, Ernest S. ..... 23, Birchin-lane
Allen, Walter ..... 23, Austin Friars
Althaus, Theodore F... 18, Cornhill
Ambler, Frank ..... Crown-court, Old Broad-st.
Ambrose, William H. .. Bartholomew house
Anderson, K. & Co. .. 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Anderson, Francis H... 18, Cornhill
Anderson, Henry .... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Anderson, James ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Anderson, James P. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Anderson, Stuart G. .. 152, Gresham house
Andoe, Arthur C. .... 27, Clement's-lane
Andrade, Solomon H... 12, Angel court
Andreae & Co. ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Andreae, Charles .... 28, Throgmorton-street
Andreae, Oscar ..... 457, Salisbury house
Andrewes, Herbert E. 9, Drapers gardens
Andrews, Basil F. .... 2 and 3 Old Broad-street
Andrus, Francis Bain 7, Birchin-lane
Angel, Arthur M. .... Gresham house
Ansbacher, Henry .... 20, Copthall avenue
Ansell, Mankiewicz & Tallerman ..... Warnford-court
Arbuthnot, Harold D... 22, Finch lane
Archer, Clement W. .. White house, Telegraph-st.
Argenti & Co. ..... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Argenti, Ambrose N. .. 5, Drapers'-gardens
Armitage, Edward H... 31, Threadneedle-street
Armstrong, Frederick 2, Drapers'-gardens
Armytage-Moore, C.J.E. 18, Old Broad-street
Arthur, James A. S... 2, Copthall buildings
Asbury, Bruce J. .... 7, Birchin-lane
Asch, William ..... 7, Lothbury
Ashby, Arthur G. .. 3, Copthall buildings
Ashby, Frank H. .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Aston, A. Louis ..... 58, Lombard-street
Aston, William W. .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Atchley, William W. . 2, Drapers'-gardens
Austin, George ..... St. Stephen's chambers
Austin, Oswald F. .... 3, Adam's court
Aylward Brothers .... 120, Bishopsgate st. Within
Aylward, Edgar A. .. 120, Bishopsgate st. Within
Aylward, Louis J. .... 120, Bishopsgate st. Within

Bach, Frederick ..... 4, Angel court
Bach, Maximilian .... 4, Angel court
Bacharach, Otto L. .... 38, Throgmorton-street
Backhouse, George S... 2, Copthall buildings
Baillieu, E. L. M. .... 70, Cornhill
Baily, Arthur C. ..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Baker & Baker ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Baker, Alfred J. ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Baker, Arthur ..... 10, Angel-court
Baker, C. M. & Son .... 1, Copthall chambers
Baker, Charles M. .... 1, Copthall chambers
Baker, George W. .... 116, Gresham house
Baker, Laurance A. .. 61, Old Broad-street
Baker, Montford ..... 1, Copthall chambers
Baker, Samuel S. .... Crown ct., Old Broad street
Baker, Thomas T. .... 10, Angel-court
Balfour, Arthur H. .... 31, Moorgate-street
Balfour, F. R. S. .... 14, Austin Friars
Balfour, George P. .... 2, Cushion-court
Balfour, Melville ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Balfour, Robert D. .... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Banks Brothers ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Banks, John R. ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Banks, Walter T. .... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Baptie, T. P. & Co. .. 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Baptie, Thomas P. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Barber, Henry ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Barker, E. & Co. ..... Crown-ct., Old Broad-st.
Barker, Henry G. .... Crown-ct., Old Broad-st.
Barkworth, Alfred M... 27, Austin Friars
Barlow, Edward H. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Barnard, Alexander D. Crown-ct., Old Broad-st.
Barnes, Henry K. .... 4, Sun-court, Cornhill
Barnett, Herbert W. .. 21, Old Broad-street
Barnett, Walter E. .... 6, Tokenhouse-yard
Barron, Arnold L. .. 74, Cornhill
Barry & Co. ..... 7, Birchin-lane
Barry & Yeates ..... 4, Copthall buildings
Barry, Frederick C. .. 7, Birchin-lane
Barry, James McC. .... 4, Copthall buildings
Bartels, Fritz W. .... Stock Exchange
Barton, Dugald C. .... Swan chmbrs., Copthall-av.
Barton, George H. .... 29A, Cornhill
Barton, R. A. P. .... Warnford-court
Basan, Halbert, Jun... 9, Copthall-avenue
Bates, Harry D. A. .. 61, Old Broad-street
Battersby, Charles W. 2A, Copthall-court
Bauer & Blundell .... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Bauer, Raphael ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Bauer, Raphael M. .... 4, Copthall-court
Baumann, Bentley M. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Bayley, William D. .... 1, Angel-court
Beale, Stanley L. .... 10, Moorgate-street
Beardshaw, Wilfred.... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Beardsley, Charles C... 20, Copthall-avenue
Beardsley, Herbert L. 20, Copthall-avenue
Beauchamp, R. C. W... 7, Birchin-lane
Beauclerk, William A 5, Austin Friars
Beckton, Ben. ..... 62, Threadneedle-street
Bedford, Charles W. .. 65 & 66, Old Broad-street
Beeman, George B. .. 10, Throgmorton avenue
Beeman, Philip I. .... 27, Austin Friars
Beeton, Henry R. .. 18, Austin Friars
Begbie, Horace ..... 26, Old Broad-street
Begg, Faithfull & Co... Bartholomew house
Begg, Ferdinand F. .. Bartholomew house
Beith & Kohn ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Beith, Isaac M. ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Belchier, Henry A. .. 74, Cornhill
Belchier, Herbert D. .. 74, Cornhill
Belfour, Percy G. & Co. 57½, Old Broad-street
Belfour, Percy G. .... 57½, Old Broad-street
Bell, Harry W. G. .... 5, Throgmorton avenue
Bellairs, E. H. W. .. Warnford court
Bendon, Albert A. & Co. 28, Throgmorton street
Bendon, Albert A. .. 28, Throgmorton-street
Benjamin, Alfred I. .. 19, Old Broad-street
Benn, Piercy ..... 18, Old Broad-street
Bennett, Payne & Co... 28, Threadneedle-street
Bennett, Arthur M. .. 28, Threadneedle-street
Bennett, Charles ..... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Bennett, Harry de C... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Bennett, William .... 28, Threadneedle-street
Bensinger, Louis ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Benson, James ..... 4, Adam's-court
Benvenisti, Leon ..... 451, Salisbury house
Berdoe - Wilkinson, D. 3, Copthall buildings
Berdoe - Wilkinson, E. 3, Copthall buildings
Berend, Martin ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Berman, Emil ..... 31, Throgmorton street
Bernheim, Hemance .. 11, Copthall-court
Bessell, Mowbray .... 15, Austin Friars
Bevan, D. A. & Co. .. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Bevan, David A. ..... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Bevan, Gerard L. .... 1, Cornhill
Bevan, Owen C. ..... 18, Cornhill
Bickerton, Thomas .... Bartholomew house
Bicknell, Gilbert E. .. 4, Adam's-court
Biedermann, A. & Co... 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Biedermann, Max L... 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Biedermann, Adolph H. Warnford-court
Bierer & Co. ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Bierer, August ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Billett, Campbell and Grenfell ..... 3, Throgmorton avenue
Bingham, Hon. A. E. 57½, Old Broad-street
Bingham, Frank ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Birch & Co. ..... 8½, Angel court
Birch, F. J. P. ..... 8½, Angel court
Birch, F., & Christian White house, Telegraph st.
Birch, Francis J. P... White house, Telegraph st.
Bird, William ..... 11, Royal Exchange
Birks, Harry W. ..... 62, Threadneedle street
Birnbaum, Albert B. .. 15, Austin Friars
Birnstingl, Avigdor L. 19, Old Broad-street
Bisgood, E. F. & Co... Copthall ho., Copthall-av.
Bisgood, Eugene F. .. Copthall ho., Copthall-av.
Bishop, Bernard E. .... 7, Adam's-court
Bisset, George F. ..... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Bithrey, Ernest W. S... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Blair, James S. M. .... 15, Gt. Winchester-street
Blake & Browne ..... 75, Old Broad-street
Blake, Arthur R. F. .. 79, Cornhill
Blake, Thomas ..... 75, Old Broad-street
Bleibtreu, Niel L. .... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Blennerhassett, W. L. 54, Old Broad-street
Blood, Maurice ..... Warnford-court
Blundell, Eustace .... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Blunt, Harry ..... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Blyth & Hutchinson .. 79, Cornhill
Boby, Henry S. ..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Boldero, Frederick .... 2A, Copthall-court
Bonas, Rudolf S. ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Bond, William E. .... 80, Cornhill
Bone, J. G. & Sons .... 4, Copthall-court
Bone, George A. .... 4, Copthall-court
Bone, George H. K. .. 4, Copthall-court
Bone, William ..... 2, Copthall chambers
Boome, Harry J. S. .. 23, Moorgate-street
Booth, Edward E. .... 2A, Copthall-court
Borthwick, Wark & Co. 11, Copthall-court
Borthwick, Lord ..... 11, Copthall-court
Boulter, R. S. L. ..... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Boulton, Reginald .... 19, Throgmorton-avenue
Bourke, Cuthbertson & Co. ..... 5, Throgmorton-street
Bourke, Hon. H. L. .. 5, Throgmorton-street
Bourne, Henry ..... 37, Throgmorton-street
Bouverie, Hon. E. P... 3, Threadneedle street
Bower & Gunning .... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Bower, George C. .... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Bowerman & Cartland 2, Copthall buildings
Bowerman, Charles .... 2, Copthall buildings
Bowler, Henry ..... 3, Copthall chambers
Boyer, Frank H. & Co. 9 Copthall-avenue

Boyer, Frank H. ..... 9, Copthall-avenue
Boyle, Hugh ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Bradberry, T. R. .... 4, Warnford-court
Bragg, Stockdale, Hall & Co. ..... 57½, Old Broad-street
Braithwaite, Cecil .... 27, Austin Friars
Braithwaite, John S... 27, Austin Friars
Braithwaite, J. B., jun. 27, Austin Friars
Brampton, Arthur .... 9, Gresham house
Bramwell, John ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Branston, Basil G. .... 54 & 55, Cornhill
Breisach, Ernest ..... 14, Austin Friars
Bremner, Alex. W. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Brenton, Francis G..... 2, Finch-lane
Brewin, Arthur ..... Stock Exchange
Brewin, Julius A. .... 6A, Austin Friars
Brewster, David W. .. 2, Drapers'-gardens
Bridgewater, John J. .. 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Bridgford, T. W. & Co. 2, Drapers'-gardens
Bridgford, T. W. ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Bristow, Frank R. .... 56, Old Broad-street
Broadbent, Ernest W... 11, Angel-court
Brocklebank, G. S. & Co. 3, Pope's Head-alley
Brockelbank, G. S. .... 3, Pope's Head-alley
Brodrick, Hon. L. A... 18, Austin Friars
Brooks, Clifford ..... 13, Copthall-court
Broughton, E. G. W... 19, Throgmorton-avenue
Brown, A. J. & Co. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Brown, Alexander J. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Brown, Alfred L. .... 2A, Copthall-court
Brown, Alfred S. ..... 6, Lothbury
Brown Brothers ..... 2A, Copthall-court
Brown, Edward L. .... Warnford-court
Brown, Herbert H. .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Brown, Meredith M. .. 3, Drapers'-gardens
Brown, Spencer C. L... 20, Copthall-avenue
Brown, W. Hurst ..... 2A, Copthall-court
Browne, Arthur W. .... 75, Old Broad-street
Browne, Frederick W.. 11, Copthall-court
Browning, Todd & Co. 18, Old Broad-street
Bruce and Bell ..... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Bruce, Robert B. B. .. 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Brunton, Bourke & Co. 2, Threadneedle-street
Brunton, Sidney ..... 2, Threadneedle-street
Bryant & Rolfe ..... 56, Old Broad-street
Bryant, Edward ..... 56, Old Broad-street
Bryant, Shettelworth S. 61, Old Broad-street
Bryce, Ellissen & Co... 42, Gresham house
Bryce, Francis ..... 42, Gresham house
Buckmaster & Moore .. 18, Old Broad-street
Buckmaster, Walter S.. 18, Old Broad street
Bucknall, Leonard C. .. 57, Old Broad-street
Budd, Charles B. .... 14, Angel-court
Budd, Walter F. ..... 14, Angel-court
Bugler, Arthur J. .... 35, Copthall-avenue
Bulger, Daniel D. .... 27, Throgmorton-street
Bull, William & Son... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Bull, Horace P. ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Bull, William ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Bullock, Henry R. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Bulteel, John G. ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Bulteel, Lionel ..... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Bumpus, Francis H. .. 53, New Broad-street
Burdett, Tom A. ..... 168-9, Palmerston house
Burge & Co. ..... 3, Austin Friars
Burge, Woodall & Co... 1, Cushion-court
Burge, Charles E. .... 3, Austin Friars
Burge, George S. ..... 3, Austin Friars
Burge, Oscar M. ..... 5, Austin Friars
Burge, William A. .... 1, Cushion court
Burkill, Harold J..... 103, Gresham house
Burman, William H. .. 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Burnand, G., & Co..... 103 6, Gresham house
Burnand, Lewis W..... 103 6, Gresham house
Burnand, Lionel B. .. 103 6, Gresham house
Burnell, Charles D. .... 50, Threadneedle-street
Burnell, George E. .... 50, Threadneedle-street
Burnett, Wallace H. .... 13, Copthall-court
Burrow, Charles G. .... 3, Copthall-court
Burtt, Sidney M. ..... 18, Austin Friars
Bushy, Walter ..... 24, Throgmorton-street
Bush, Charles E. ..... Bartholomew house
Butcher, James T. .... 6, Tokenhouse yard
Butler, Harry ..... 75, Old Broad-street
Byas, Cecil E. ..... 38, Throgmorton-street
Byfield, Percy ..... 28, Threadneedle-street
Byng, Foley & Co. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Byng, Hon. Antony S.. 4, Tokenhouse buildings

Cadogan, John C. .... 7, Lothbury
Cahn, Gottfried ..... 6 & 7, Copthall-court
Calley, Legh C. ..... 21, Birchin-lane
Cambridge, W. J. .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Camden, George H. .... 43-6, Threadneedle-street
Cameron, Algernon J... 4, Copthall chambers
Cameron, Ewen A. .... 1, Hatton-court
Campbell, Archibald H. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Campbell, Henry T. ... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Campbell, Hugh ..... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Campbell, The Hon. Kenneth H. ..... 66, Old Broad-street
Campbell & Goldstone.. 3, London Wall building
Campbell, Kenneth R... 3, London Wall building
Campbell, William O. .. 10, Old Broad-street
Cancellor, Frederick .. 2, Copthall buildings
Candy, Walter C. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Caney, McMullen & Caney ..... 16, Tokenhouse yard
Caney, John W. ..... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Caney, Percy W. ..... 2, Copthall-court
Capel, J. & Co. ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Capel-Cure & Terry .... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Carden, Sir R. W. & Co. ..... 3, Threadneedle street
Cardia, Alexander .... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Caridia, Emanuel A. ... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Caridia, George A..... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Carlebach H. & Co..... 4 & 6, Copthall-avenue
Carlebach, Arthur .... 4 & 6, Copthall-avenue
Carlebach, Henry ..... 4 & 6, Copthall-avenue
Carlebach, Richard .... 4 & 6, Copthall-avenue
Carless, Frederick J. .. 7, Adam's-court
Carlisle, Charles H. ... 75, Old Broad-street
Carmichael, T. & Co... 38, Throgmorton-street
Carmichael, Thomas .. 38, Throgmorton-street
Carr, W. I., Sons & Tod 22, Finch-lane
Carr, Philip W. ..... 22, Finch-lane
Carr, Wilfred I. ..... 22, Finch-lane
Carrie, George ..... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Carroll & Co. ..... 5, Copthall buildings.
Carroll, John T. ..... 5, Copthall buildings
Carron, William ..... 66, Old Broad-street.
Carruthers, John ..... 5, Lothbury
Carstens, William F... 6, Throgmorton street
Carter, Robert L. ..... 57, Old Broad-street
Cartland, Arthur J. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Cartwright, Philip C... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Carvalho, Raphael N.. 4, Angel-court
Case, Ernest L. ..... 6A, Austin Friars
Cassy, John S. ..... 21, Old Broad-street
Castellan, Victor E. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Castello, D. & Sons ... 38, Throgmorton-street
Castello, James ..... 38, Throgmorton-street
Castello, Percy M. .... 38, Throgmorton-street
Cavell, Strachan & Lardelli ..... 16, Tokenhouse yard
Cawston, George & Co. 19, Warnford-court
Cawston, George ..... 19, Warnford-court
Cazenove & Akroyds ... 52, Threadneedle-street
Cazenove, Arthur P. .. 52, Threadneedle-street
Chaldecott, James H... 1, Cushion-ct., Old Broad-st.
Challoner, Frederick W. 28, Throgmorton-street
Chancellor & Meates .. 3, Austin Friars
Chancellor, Walter .... 3, Austin Friars
Chandler, Alfred E. .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Chandler & Co. ..... 7, Angel-court
Chapman & Rowe ..... Blomfield ho., London Wall
Charlesworth, C. B. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Chater-Fawsitt, H. G... Stock Exchange
Cheston, Geoffrey ..... 6, Throgmorton-street
Chetwynd-Stapylton, F. 18, Cornhill
Chichester, The Earl of 3, Drapers'-gardens
Chick, Walter J. ..... 20, Copthall house
Chown, John ..... 23, Bucklersbury
Christian, Edward H. . White ho., Telegraph-st.
Christie, Brewin & Gribble ..... 6A, Austin Friars
Christie, Charles H. F.. 6A, Austin Friars
Christie, Walter G. .... 53, New Broad-street
Christmas, T. S. H. .... Stock Exchange
Christopherson, M..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Church, M. B. C..... 13, Copthall-court
Churchill, John S. ... 28, Throgmorton-street
Clado, Constantine .... 6, Lothbury
Clapham Brothers .... 18, Gresham house
Clapham, Athol E. .... 18, Gresham house
Clapham, Charles L. .. 18, Gresham house
Clapham, John ..... 1, Cushion-court
Clark, Alexr. K. ..... 4, Hercules passage
Clark, Alexander T. .. 116, Gresham house
Clark, Edward ..... 1, Royal Exchange-avenue
Clark, James D. ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Clark, Lawrence ..... 3, Adam's-court
Clark, Percy ..... 1, Royal Exchange-avenue
Clark, William ..... 24, Throgmorton-street
Clarke, B. M. & Co..... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Clarke, Bennett M. .... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Clarke, Herbert ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Clarke, Walter ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Clayton & Aston ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Clayton, Ernest S. .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Clayton, John H. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Clayton, Sands ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Clayton & Rose ..... Bartholomew house
Clayton, John E. .... Bartholomew house
Clow, Leonard & Co... 22, Austin Friars
Clow, Leonard ..... 22, Austin Friars
Clutton-Brock, H. A... 58, Old Broad-street
Coates, Son & Co. .... 99, Gresham-street
Coates, E. F., M.P. .... 99, Gresham-street
Cobb, Herbert E. .... 12, Copthall-court
Coelen, Gerald J. F. H. 10, Moorgate-street
Coffey, Ernest A. ..... 10, Old Broad-street
Cohen, Laming & Co.. 15, Angel court
Cohen, Arthur ..... 15, Angel court
Cohen, Lionel ..... 5, Copthall-court
Cohen, S. C. & Co. .... 27, Throgmorton-street
Cohen, Solomon C..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Cohen, William H. .... Stock Exchange
Cohn, Adolph ..... 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Cohn, Jefferson D. .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Cokayne, Francis S. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Coldstream, Francis M. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Coleman, T., & Co..... 5, Austin Friars
Coleman, Thomas ..... 5, Austin Friars
Coleman, Walter L. ... 6, Throgmorton street
Coles, Edgar L. ..... 39, Throgmorton-street
Coles, Frederick P. .. 39, Throgmorton-street
Colley, William ..... 4, Copthall-court
Collier, William ..... 2, Castle-court, Cornhill
Collingridge, F. H. ... 2, Threadneedle-street
Collins & Maas ..... 2, Drapers' gardens
Collins, Arthur A. .... Warnford-court
Collins, Edwin F. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Collins, Henry G. E. .. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Collins, William R. ... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Colmer, J. G., C.M.G... 99, Gresham-street
Colsell, George D. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Compton, Lord A. F... 1, Hatton-court
Concanon, J. B. & Co. 28, Austin Friars
Concanon, James B. .. 28, Austin Friars
Connew, Leonard G. .. 6, Austin Friars
Cooke, Malcolm & Bedford ..... 65 & 66, Old Broad-street
Cooke, Malcolm S. .... 65 & 66, Old Broad-street
Cooke, William W. .... 1, Copthall chambers
Cooper, Sidney & Co... 54, Old Broad-street
Cooper, Howard L. ... 54, Old Broad-street
Cooper, Joseph E. .... 54, Old Broad-street
Cooper, Robert W. .... 14, Austin Friars
Cooper, Stanley ..... 54, Old Broad-street
Cooper, Thomas P. .... St. Stephen's chambers
Cork, S. C. & Son..... 30, Throgmorton-street
Cork, Alfred P. ..... 30, Throgmorton-street
Corri, Eugene ..... 7, Finch-lane
Cosser, Stephen A. .... Copthall ho., Copthall-av.
Cotton, Herbert F. ... 13, Copthall-court
Cotton, Ronald O. .... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Covernton, Charles A... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Cox, Bernard M. ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Coxhead, Algernon B.. 17, Tokenhouse-yard
Craddock, Leopold R... 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Craven, George H. .... 4, Copthall chambers
Creagh, Pierce ..... Stock Exchange
Cremieu-Javal, Raoul .. 19, Old Broad-street
Crew, Joseph F. ..... 39, Throgmorton street
Crews, Lichtenstadt & Co. ..... 38, Throgmorton-street
Crews, Charles T. D... 38, Throgmorton-street
Crews, Harold N. ..... 38, Throgmorton-street
Cricknfer, John E. .... 3 & 4, Great Winchester st.
Crisp, C. Birch & Co. 11, Angel-court
Crisp, Charles B. ..... 11, Angel-court
Crisp, Charles J. .... 28, Throgmorton-street
Crofts, Francis G. .... 35, Throgmorton-street
Crook, John S. ..... 17, Tokenhouse-yard
Crookshank, F. W. .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Crosley, John M. .... 5 & 6, Great Winchester-st.
Crosthwaite, Henry T. 10, Moorgate-street
Crosthwaite, H. F. .... 10, Moorgate-street
Cruickshank, F. H. G. 3, Drapers'-gardens
Crumplin, Walter J. .. 4, Tokenhouse-buildings
Cull and Daniell ..... 50, Threadneedle-street
Cullen and Engel .... 13, Copthall-avenue.
Cullen, Horace ..... 13, Copthall-avenue.
Cuming, Hugh B. .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Cumming, Harry A. .. 8½, Angel court
Cundall, Frederick ... 7, Lothbury
Cundell, Wilfred M. .. 18, Austin Friars
Cunningham Brothers .. 2, Royal Exchange-avenue
Cunningham, Andrew . 2, Royal Exchange-avenue
Cunningham, C. R. .. 2, Royal Exchange-avenue
Curwen, T. T. & Sons... 1, Cornhill
Curwen, Edward S. .. 1, Cornhill
Curwen, Thomas C. .. 1, Cornhill
Curzon, The Hon. F. N. 1, Hatton-court
Cutbill, Edward & Co. 54, Cornhill
Cutbill, Edward ..... 54, Cornhill
Cutbill, Louis E. .... 54, Cornhill
Cutcliffe, Ley & Co... 7, Adam's-court
Cutliffe, John ..... 7, Adam's-court
Cuthbertson, E. H. .. 6, Throgmorton-street
Cuthbertson, R. A. .. 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Cutler, William S. .... 10, Old Broad-street

Da Costa, David N. .. 28, Throgmorton-street
Dadson Brothers ..... 15, Austin Friars
Dadson, Henry ..... 15, Austin Friars
Daly, Sydney O. ..... 4, Queen Victoria-street
Daniell, Edward C. ... 50, Threadneedle-street
Daniell, Henry A. .... 13, George-street
Daniell, Lindsay ..... 50, Threadneedle-street
Daniell, R. H. A. .... 13, George-street
Davey, Ernest ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Davids, Henri ..... 1, Angel-court
Davids, Leonard ..... 1, Angel-court
Davidson, Arthur J... 10, Moorgate-street
Davidson, Evan ..... 2, Austin Friars
Davie, Sidney R. .... 35, Gresham house
Davies, Allan T. ..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Davies, E. & Co. ..... 26, Austin Friars
Davies, Ernest ..... 26, Austin Friars
Davies, F. H. & Co. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Davies, Frederick H. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Davies, Harold G. .... 58, Lombard-street
Davies, James R. ... 4, Austin Friars
Davies, Robert F. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Davies, William R. .... 10, Moorgate-street
Davis, Alexander .... 7, Lothbury
Davis, Bernard D. .... 28, Throgmorton-street
Davis, Kilpin & Foster 2 & 3, Old Broad-street
Davis, S. & Co. ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Davis, Sydney ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Davis, William W. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Davison & Jones ..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Davison, Charles ..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Davison, John R. .... 15, Angel-court
Dawes & Puckle ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Dawes, Edwin ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Dawes, G. W. & Co..... 5, Lothbury
Dawes, George W. .... 5, Lothbury
Dawes, Richard J. A... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Dawkins, Thomas S. .. 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Dawson, William A. .. 57½, Old Broad-street
Day, Frederick C. ... 7, Finch-lane
Deacon, George C. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Deacon, J. E. & Co... 10, Old Broad-street
Deacon, James E. .... 10, Old Broad street
Debenham, James .... 4, Copthall-buildings
De Beaufort, Arnoud J. 4, Hercules-passage
De Broé, Conrad ..... 6, Tokenhouse-yard
De Castro, Jules ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
De Jongh, A. & Co. .. 11, Angel-court
De Jongh, Alexander .. 11, Angel-court
De la Mare, A. J. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
De Meyier, Johan .... 4, Hercules-passage
De Montmorency & Co. 63, Cornhill
De Murrieta, C. J. .. 24, Austin Friars
De Murricta, Francis .. 24, Austin Friars
Denny, Addison ..... Copthall house
Denton, Frank J. .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
De Renzi, Loftus .... 1, Cushion-court
Derenburg & Co. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Derenburg, Charles .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
De Smitt, Samuel L. .. 2, Tokenhouse-buildings
Detmar, Thomas G. .. 3, Copthall chambers
Dettmar-Todd, J. H... 18, Old Broad-street
Deutsch, Schlesinger... Warnford-court
Deutsch, Franz..... Warnford-court
De Zoete & Gorton .. 27, Throgmorton-street
De Zoete, Herman W... 27, Throgmorton street
De Zoete, Walter M... 27, Throgmorton street
Dickinson, John ..... 64, Gresham-street
Dickson & Holman .... 16A, Tokenhouse-yard
Dillon, Arthur H. .... 2, Copthall chambers
Dimond, George H. .. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Dixon, Charles ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Dodd, Percy T. ..... 3, Copthall buildings
Dodgson, Gerald C. .. 2, Austin Friars
Dodgson, Henley F. .. 26, Royal Exchange
Dodgson, William H... 26, Royal Exchange
Doidge, Charles F. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Doidge, Thomas T. ... 2, Copthall buildings
Dolphin, Son & Fisher 4, Copthall buildings
Dolphin, Edward J. .. 4, Copthall buildings
Dolphin, James ..... 4, Copthall buildings
Donegan, Frank J. .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Donelly, Arthur McL... 6, Throgmorton-street
Dormer, Harold I. .... 70, Cornhill
Douglas, J. M. & Co... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Dove, Walter H. ..... 24, Austin Friars
Downie, Frederick W... 18, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Drake, Arthur T. .... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Drew, Geoffrey H. .... 4, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Drew, Harvey R. .... 4, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Dreyfus, Edmond .... Salisbury ho., London Wall
Drucker & Morris .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Drucker, Henry ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Du Cane, R. D. G.... 6, Tokenhouse-yard
Dudgeon, E. B. ..... 62, Threadneedle-street
Dufour, Charles M. .. 10 and 11, Austin Friars
Dunbar, Fraser S. .. 27, Throgmorton-street
Duncum, William J. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Dury, Frank ..... 29, Cornhill
Duveen, Henry, Jun.. 14, Angel-court
Dyas, Richard S. V. .. 20, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Dyer Brothers ..... 79, Cornhill
Dyer, Conrad M. ..... 79, Cornhill
Dyer, Thomas ..... 79, Cornhill
Dyson, Bernard P. .... 2A, Copthall-court

Eardley, Edward C. E. 13, Copthall-court
Earle, Alfred ..... 14, Copthall-avenue
Eaton, Richard W. .. 26, Birchin-lane
Edinger & Asch ..... 7, Lothbury
Edinger, Otto H. ..... 7, Lothbury
Edward, James K ..... Warnford-court
Edwardes, Lewis .... 18, Austin Friars
Edwards, Charles P. .. Warnford-court
Edwards, Eben W. W.. 2, Finch-lane
Edwards, Evan ..... 16A, Tokenhouse-yard
Eiloart, Alfred ..... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Eiser, J. G. & Co.... 23, Austin Friars
Eiser, John G. ..... 23, Austin Friars
Elam, Edward S. ..... Blomfield ho., London Wall
Elin, George H. A. .. 11, Copthall-court
Elkington, Arthur J... 7A, Austin Friars
Elliott, F. W. & Co... 13, Copthall-court
Elliott, Frederick W... 13, Copthall-court
Ellis & Co.' ..... 1, Cornhill
Ellis, Percy ..... 8, Copthall-court
Ellis, Sidney ..... 64, Gresham-street
Ellissen, G. & Co. .... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Ellissen, Gustav ..... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Ellissen, Herbert ..... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Ellissen, Victor A. .... 42, Gresham house
Elworthy, Frank T. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Emberson & Hughes .. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Emberson, Alfred J. .. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Emslie, Alexander .... 13, Copthall-court
Enfield, Viscount .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Engel, Frank ..... Copthall house, 13, Copthall-avenue
Engelbert & Schloesser 11, Copthall-court
Engelbert, Charles .... 11, Copthall-court
Encell, Charles A. .... 4, Queen Victoria-street
Epstein, Maximilian .. 6, Drapers'-gardens
Erroll, Theodor J. B... 5, Copthall buildings
Escombe, Robert & Co. 23, Austin Friars
Escombe, John ..... 8, Great Winchester-street
Etheridge, E. J. C. &Co. Swan ho., Gt. Swan-alley
Etheridge, E. J. C. .. Swan ho., Gt. Swan-alley
Ettlinger, Julius ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Evans, Emslie & Co... 13, Copthall-court
Evans, Henry J. ..... 29, Cornhill
Evans, William H. .. 13, Copthall-court
Evennett, C. O. C. .. 38, Throgmorton-street
Evennett, Francis C... 38, Throgmorton-street
Everitt, Walter G. .. 31, Throgmorton-street
Evers, Henry M. C..... Warnford-court
Eykyn Brothers ..... 1, Tokenhouse buildings

Fairholme, Henry W... 20, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Falkenheim, Franz .... 28, Throgmorton-street
Farish & Dawkins ..... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Farish, Robert W. .... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Farlow, John A..... 2, Copthall-court
Farnes, Henry D. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Farnham, George F. .. 70, Cornhill
Farquhar, G. F. R. .... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Farrar, Frederick M... 6, Moorgate-street
Farrar, John M. ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Farrell & Vaughan .... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Farrell, William L. .. 5, Drapers'-gardens
Faulconer, William R.. 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Faulkner, Percy R. .. 61, Old Broad-street
Faull, Anthony T. ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Fawcett, James H. .... 33, Old Broad-street
Featherstone, Forsyth & Roberts ..... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Featherstone, John F... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Feetham, Robert ..... 99, Gresham street
Feiling, Charles H. .. 13, Copthall-court
Felkin, W. S. ..... 3, Copthall buildings
Fenn & Crosthwaite .. 10, Moorgate-street
Fenner, Charles E. ... 63, Cornhill
Fenwick, F. N. N. .... Warnford-court
Fernee, Joseph A. .... St. Stephen's chambers
Few, Maurice H. ..... 5, Lothbury
Field & Glanvill ..... 3, Copthall buildings
Fielding, Son, Macleod 2, Copthall buildings
Fielding, Frank C. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Fielding, Lewis & Runchman ..... 3, Adam's ct., Old Broad-st.
Fielding, William W... 3, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Fiennes, Hon. E., M.P. 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Fifield, John G. C. .... 43-6, Threadneedle-street
Fisher, Algernon ..... 4, Copthall buildings
Fison, Thomas A. .... 39, Throgmorton-street
Fitzgerald, B. J. H. .. 19, Throgmorton-avenue
FitzGerald, Hon. E. .. 24, Austin Friars
Flachfeld, J. & Sons .. Warnford-court
Flachfeld, Alfred .... Warnford-court
Flachfeld, Julius ..... Warnford-court
Flachfeld, Oscar ..... Warnford-court
Fleischmann, Louis .... 31, Throgmorton-street
Fleming, Edward .... 7, Finch-lane
Fletcher, Sidney J. B.. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Flint, Harold A. ..... 11, Copthall-court
Flower, Cecil O. ..... 1, Angel-court
Foa, Ferdinand E. .... 4, Throgmorton-avenue
Foley, Arthur P. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Foote and Adams ..... 19, Old Broad-street
Forbes, Wilson & Christie 53, New Broad-street
Forbes, Edward B. .... 53, New Broad-street
Forrest, George F. .... Stock Exchange
Forsyth, David C. .... 36, Throgmorton-street
Forsyth, W. S. A. .... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Foster & Braithwaite... 27, Austin Friars
Foster, Frederick J. .. 2 & 3, Old Broad-street
Fowler & Hewkley .... 4, Copthall buildings
Foxwell, Douglas L. .. Warnford-court
Fradgley, Elsey W. .... 62, Threadneedle-street
Francis, Herbert D. .. 7 & 8, Gt. Winchester-st.
Francis, R. & Sons .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Francis, R. H. M. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Francis, Robert G. .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Frankel, Otto & Co. .. 2, Drapers'-gardens
Frankel, Otto ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Franklin, Harry W. .. 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Fraser, Alister G. .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Fraser, William D. C... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Freeman, G. & Co. .... 23, Throgmorton-street
Freeman, George ..... 23, Throgmorton-street
Freeman, Richard .... 23, Throgmorton-street
Fremantle & Co. ..... 77-80, Palmerston house
Fremantle, Ronald A... 77-80, Palmerston house
Friedberger, J. & Co. 5, Copthall court
Friedberger, J. C. M... 5, Copthall-court
Friedberger, W. S. .... 5, Copthall court
Frost, K. & Hicks .... 2A, Copthall-court
Frost, John K. ..... 2A, Copthall court
Fulton, David L. ..... Palmerston house

Galloway & Pearson.... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Galloway, Francis T... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Galloway, W. J. ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Gamburg, Hugo F. .. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Game, William ..... 8½, Angel-court
Gardner, Alfred ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Gardner, Arthur ..... 13, Copthall-court
Gardner, Charles ..... 13, Copthall-court
Gardner, Samuel .... 13, Copthall-court
Gardom, Ernst C. .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Gardom, Herbert A. .. 74, Cornhill
Garratt, Wardell & Westcott ..... 58, Old Broad-street
Garratt, Frank T. .... St. Stephen's chambers
Garratt, Henry J. .... 58, Old Broad-street
Gascoyne & Co. ..... 1, Copthall chambers
Gascoyne, Ernest ..... 1, Copthall chambers
Gaskell, Henry ..... Stock Exchange
Gastrell, Cecil B. H... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Gaury, Hubert S. B... 9, Copthall house
Gethen, Harry H. .... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Gibbes, George H. .... 38, Throgmorton-street
Gibbes, Wyndham .... 38, Throgmorton-street
Gibbes, Wyndham T. .. 38, Throgmorton-street
Gibbs, J., Son & Smith 29, Cornhill
Gibbs, Frank E. ..... 29, Cornhill
Gibbs, John ..... 29, Cornhill
Gibson, Edward H. .. 22, Finch-lane
Gielgud, Frank ..... 31, Throgmorton-street
Gilbey, Southard & Co. 2, Copthall buildings
Gilbey, Southard ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Giles & Overbury ..... 14, Angel-court
Giles, Francis T. ..... 14, Angel-court
Gillespie, James ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Gillham, H. W. C. .... 61, Old Broad-street
Gilson, Edward J. .... 14, Austin Friars
Glanvill, Cornelius R. 3, Copthall buildings
Glanvill, Henry ..... 3, Copthall buildings
Glanvill, Henry N..... 3, Copthall buildings
Glassborow, C. A. .... 5, Lothbury
Glassborow, W. H. .. 54, Cornhill
Glasscock, Wallace .... 11, Angel-court
Glover, Bernard R. .... 6A, Austin Friars
Glyn, Richard M. .... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Godefroi Brothers .... 11, Copthall-court
Godefroi, Edward .... 11, Copthall-court
Godefroi, Louis ..... 11, Copthall-court
Godfrey, J. R. R. & Son 79, Cornhill
Godfrey, Raymond H... 79, Cornhill
Godfrey, W., & Co. ... 11, Copthall-court
Godfrey, William ..... 11, Copthall-court
Godfrey, William H. .. 11, Copthall-court
Goetz, Felix B. ..... 6, Throgmorton-street
Goff & Penn ..... 2, Royal Exchange-avenue
Goff, Charles W. ..... 2, Royal Exchange-avenue
Goldie, Albert ..... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Goldie, Barré A. H... 57, Old Broad-street
Golding, Charles T. .. 4, Hercules-passage
Goldschmidt. Carl .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Goldsmidt, Henry F. .. 28, Throgmorton-street
Goldsmith, Leopold & Co. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Goldsmith, Leopold ... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Goldsmith, St. Barbe... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Goldstone, Charles J... 3, London Wall buildings
Goodison, Henry E. .. 2, Austin Friars
Gordon, Francis F. .... Stock Exchange
Gordon, Harold H. .... 1, Cornhill
Gordon, H. E. & Co... 4, Sun-court, Cornhill
Gordon, Henry E. .. 4, Sun-court, Cornhill
Gordon, P. & Co. .... 1, Hatton-court
Gordon and Barton .. Warnford-court
Gordon, William J. .... Warnford-court
Gordon, William E. .. Stock Exchange
Gore & Co. ..... 5, Lothbury
Gosling, Edward L. .... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Gosschalk, J. & H. .... 13, Copthall-court
Gosschalk, Henry D. .. 13, Copthall-court
Gosschalk, Joseph H... 13, Copthall-court
Gould, Arthur W. .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Gould, Frank H. C. .. 3, Adam's-court
Gould, John ..... 11, Angel-court
Goult, Walter ..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Govett, Sons & Co. .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Govett, Francis A. .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Govett, Frederick L. .. 6, Throgmorton-street
Grant, Stuart C. ..... 26, Austin Friars
Gray, Henry H. ..... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Green & Griffin ..... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Green, Henry C. ..... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Green, Knethell W. ... 3, Adam's-court
Greener, Dreyfus & Co. Salisbury ho., London Wall
Greener, John H. .... Salisbury ho., London Wall
Greenfield, Frederick .. 2, Drapers'-gardens
Greenfield, George P... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Greenfield, H. S. B.... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Greensmith, George .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Greenwell, W. & Co... 2, Finch-lane
Greenwell, Bernard E... 2, Finch-lane
Greenwell, Sir W. L., Bt. 2, Finch-lane
Greenwood & Co..... 28, Austin Friars
Greenwood, Harold .... 2, Angel-court
Grenfell, Cecil A. .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Grenfell, R. F. J. .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Greyham, Sim ..... 4, Warnford-court
Gribble, Herbert W. R. 6A, Austin Friars
Grieveson, Grant & Co. 61, Old Broad-street
Grieveson, Thomas .... 61, Old Broad-street
Griffin, Richard S. .... 5, Throgmorton avenue
Griffith, L. J. T..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Grimaldi, C. G. ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Grounds, George F. .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Growse, John ..... 5, Lothbury
Grumbar & Sée ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Grumbar, Julian C..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Grünebaum, Isidore ... 12 & 13, Angel-court
Grylls & West ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Grylls, John P. ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Gully, W. C. ..... 20, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Gunning, Alfred ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Gurney, Harold ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Gurney, L. W. ..... 1, Austin Friars
Gutmann, E. & Co. .. 5, Tokenhouse-yard
Gutmann, Emil ..... 5, Tokenhouse-yard
Gutmann, Emil, Jun. .. 28, Austin Friars
Gutmann & Rosskamm 4, Drapers'-gardens
Gutmann, Ernest B. .. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Gwinner, H. E. & Co... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Gwinner, Harry E. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Gwyther, Douglas H... 6A, Austin Friars

Haas, Carl D. ..... 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Haas, Julius ..... Warnford-court
Hacking, Arthur ..... 13, Copthall-court
Hadrill, Walter F. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Haes & Sons ..... 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Haes, Andrew ..... 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Haes, Arthur E. M..... 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Haes, Charles P. M. .. 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Haes, John A. ..... 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Haggard, F. C. D. .... 6, Lothbury
Hale, W. Webb & Co... 15, Austin Friars
Hale, Charles H. ..... 15, Austin Friars
Hale, William W. .... 15, Austin Friars
Halfhead, Robert N. .. 4, Copthall-court
Hall, Frederic E. .... 57½, Old Broad-street
Hall, John F. ..... 42, Gresham house
Halley, William T. .... Moorgate-ct., Moorgate-pl.
Halsey, Francis E. .... 13, King's Arms-yard
Halsted, T. & E. ..... 47, Cornhill
Halsted, Walter F. .... 47, Cornhill
Hamilton, Mackay & Thomson ..... 30, Throgmorton-street
Hamilton, T. & Co. .. 34A, Throgmorton-street
Hamilton, James B. .. Stock Exchange
Hamilton, John J. .... 30, Throgmorton-street
Hamilton, W. R. T. .. 28, Austin Friars
Hammond, C. & Son .. 15, Angel-court
Hammond, Arthur B... 15, Angel-court
Hammond, Charles .... 15, Angel-court
Hammond, F. J. ..... 28, Austin Friars
Hampson, Herbert P... 18, Old Broad-street
Hancock, C. B. C. .... 18, Old Broad-street
Hancock, W. W. B. .. Blomfield ho., London Wall
Hanning, J. H. S. .... 99, Gresham-street
Hanson, Charles A. .. 99, Gresham-street
Hanson, C. E. B. .... 99, Gresham-street
Harbord, The Hon. A. 3, Drapers'-gardens
Harding, James ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Harding, R. R. ..... 5, Copthall buildings
Hardman, E. de R. .. 19, Old Broad-street
Hardy, Arthur J. .... White ho., Telegraph-st.
Hardy, Harold ..... 7, Finch-lane
Harker & Co. ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Harker, John C. ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Harris & Co. ..... 21, Birchin-lane
Harris, Bernard F. .... 21, Birchin-lane
Harris, Ernest E. ..... 21, Birchin-lane
Harris & Webster ..... St. Stephen's chambers
Harris, Frederick N... Swan ho., Great Swan-alley,
Harris, Richard C. .... St. Stephen's chambers
Harris, Robert W. .... 21, Birchin-lane
Harris, W. H., C.M.G. 29A, Cornhill
Harrison, Irving & Co. 3, Copthall buildings
Harrison, Irving H. S. 3, Copthall buildings
Harrison, L. F. ..... 25, Austin Friars
Harrison, Robert H. C. 25, Austin Friars
Harrower, David B. .. 4 & 6, Copthall-avenue
Hart, Angel H. & Co. Gresham house
Hart, Angel H. ..... Gresham house
Hart and Bach ..... 4, Angel-court
Hart, Cyril E. ..... 4, Angel-court
Hart, Ernest W. ..... Warnford-court
Hart, Henry B. ..... 4, Angel-court
Hart, Joseph H. ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Hart, W. H. & Co..... 26, Old Broad street
Hart, William H. .... 26, Old Broad-street
Hartley, Sidney ..... 4, Copthall chambers
Haselden, E. B. & Co. 27, Throgmorton street
Haselden, E. B. ..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Hawes, Alfred ..... Stock Exchange
Hawes, Henry) G. T. .. 5, Lothbury
Haxell, Arthur B. .... 56, Old Broad-street
Hay, Hon. C. G., M.P. Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Haydon, George ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Hecht, Frederic W. .... 4, Angel-court
Hecht, Henry J. ..... 7, Lothbury
Hedderwick & Schultz. 2, Copthall buildings
Hedderwick, R. H. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Hedgeland, John G. .. 6, Copthall-court
Heinemann and Pershouse ..... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Heinemann, E. L. .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Helbert, Wagg & Russell S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Helps, F. A. & Son.... 75, Old Broad-street
Henderson, Alec P. .... 28, Austin Friars
Henderson, Sir A., Bart. 28, Austin Friars
Henderson, Alexander . 11, Birchin-lane
Henderson, George .... 3 & 4, Adam's-court
Henderson, Henry W... 28, Austin Friars
Henriques, Edward A.. 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Hensler, Thomas G... 26, Old Broad-street
Hensley, Egerton H. E. 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Herbage, Sidney F. .. 4, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Herbert & Webb ..... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Herbert, Tom C. .... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Herbert, G. S. & Son.. 6, Finch-lane
Herbert, Edward .... 6, Finch-lane
Herbert, Edward Y. .. 6, Finch-lane
Heriot, Charles H. .. 27, Throgmorton-street
Heritage, Leopold .... 13, Copthall-court
Herman & Kent ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Herman, Ernest ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Heron, Gilbert ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Hertslet, A. L. A. .... 13, Copthall-court
Hertz, Henry A. ..... 23, Austin Friars
Hertz, Oscar ..... Warnford-court
Herzfeld, Michael .... 6, Tokenhouse-yard
Herzfelder, Maurice .. Warnford-court
Herzfelder, Willy .... Warnford-court
Heseltine, Powell & Co. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Heseltine, Christopher.. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Heseltine, Edward L... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Heseltine, Evelyn .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Hess, Regensberg & Atchley ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Hess, Julius F. ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Heseltine, Frederick B. 14, Angel-court
Hewitt, Robert B. .. 28, Threadneedle-street
Hewkley, George ..... 4, Copthall buildings
Hewkley, Henry ..... 4, Copthall buildings
Hewkley, Jesse ..... 4, Copthall buildings
Heywood, W. R. ..... 58, Old Broad-street
Hichens, Harrison & Co. 25, Austin Friars
Hichens, Basil S. .... 25, Austin Friars
Hichens, James B. .... 25, Austin Friars
Hichens, John K. J... 25, Austin Friars
Hickman, Walter F. .. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Hicks, Herbert ..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Hicks, Peter ..... 2A, Copthall court
Higgens, Claude R..... 2, Copthall buildings
Higgins, Charles J. .. White ho., Telegraph-st.
Higgins, Leonard R. .. 9, Drapers'-gardens
Higginson, E. G. F. .. 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Hilder & Towse..... 13, Gresham house
Hilder, Clifton T. .... 13, Gresham house
Hill & Co. ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Hill, Garrington L. W. Bartholomew house
Hill, Henry J. ..... Bartholomew house
Hill, James W. ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings

Hill, John & Sons .... Bartholomew house
Hill, Joseph E. ..... 10, Moorgate-street
Hillersdon, Leslie & Co. 3, Copthall-court
Hillersdon, A. P. .... 3, Copthall-court
Hillier, George Lacy.. 9, St. Mildred-court
Hilton, Gibbes & Smith 38, Throgmorton-street
Hindmarsh, D. S. .... 2, Cushion-court
Hirsch, A. & Co. ..... 28, Austin Friars
Hirsch, Henry ..... 28, Austin Friars
Hirsch, Hugo ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Hirsch, Joseph ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Hoare, Walter E. .... 4, Copthall chambers
Hoblyn, C. D. & King . 18, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Hoblyn, Charles D. .. 18, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Hoblyn, Reginald A... 18, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Hodding, King & Co. .. 14, Angel-court
Hodges, Edgar E. W... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Hodgson, C. R. & Co. 1, Copthall chambers
Hodgson, Charles R... 1, Copthall chambers
Hodgson, G. & Co. .... 63, Old Broad-street
Hodgson, Arthur ..... 63, Old Broad-street
Hodgson, Gerald .... 63, Old Broad-street
Hodgson, Reginald .... 63, Old Broad-street
Hog, Thomas A. F. .. White ho., Telegraph-street
Hogg, Harding C. .... 8¼, Angel-court
Holden, John ..... 2, Finch lane
Holden, Norman E. .. 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Holland & Balfour .... 2, Cushion-court
Holland, Charles ..... 2, Cushion-court
Holland, Godfrey .... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Hollebone Brothers & Trench ..... 18, Birchin-lane
Hollebone, C. V. .... 18, Birchin-lane
Hollebone, Henry .... 18, Birchin-lane
Holman, William G.... 16A, Tokenhouse-yard
Holmes, Piers N. .... 14, Angel-court
Holms & Franklin .... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Holms, Douglas L. .. 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Holt, Louis E. F. .... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Homan, Ralph ..... 2, Austin Friars
Honey, T. E. ..... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Hood, Arthur ..... 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Hood, George E. W. .. 68, Lombard-street
Hope, Dodgson & Co... 26, Royal Exchange
Hope, George P. ..... 26, Royal Exchange
Hopkinson, Miles S..... 13, Gresham house
Hore & Doidge ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Hore, Charles C. ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Horley, Cyril T. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Hornby, James..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Hornby, Richard A. .. 33, Old Broad-street
Horne & Co. ..... 23, Moorgate-street
Horne, Edmund L. .... 23, Moorgate-street
Hoskins, Arthur S. .... 12, Angel-court
Hough, John J. ..... 6, Drapers'-gardens
How, Edward R. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Howard, George A. H.. 24, Austin Friars
Howard, George C. .. 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Howe, Newbold & Co... 13, Copthall-court
Howe, Harold M. .... 13, Copthall-court
Hudson, Ernest J. .... 19, Old Broad-street
Huggins, A. E. & Co... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Huggins, Arthur E. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Hughes & Peevor .... 28, Threadneedle-street
Hughes, Claude N. .. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Hughes, John H. .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Hughes, Samuel ..... Warnford-court
Hulbert, Smith,& Co... 1, Royal Exchange-avenue
Hulbert, William H. .. 1, Royal Exchange-avenue
Hunt, Cox & Co. ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Hunt, Holdsworth .... 29, Threadneedle-street
Hunt, Robert..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Hunter, William..... 61, Old Broad-street
Huntsman, James E... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Hurst, Peter ..... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Hutchinson, Symes & Scott ..... 15, Angel-court
Hutchinson, Albert H. 73, Cornhill
Hutchinson, E. C..... 73, Cornhill
Huygens, Willem ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens

Ichenhäuser, Henry ...4, Angel-court
Ilsley, Reginald J. .... 3, Newman's-ct., Cornhill
Inchbald, J. & Son .... 2, Copthall court
Inchbald, Charles E. .. 2, Copthall court
Inchbald, Howard .... 2, Copthall court
Inglis, Alexander B... 3, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Inglis, Robert W. .... 3, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Inman & Co. ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Inman, George T. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Ionides, Ambrose C. .. 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Isaac, Albert L. ..... 15, Angel-court
Ive, Thomas J..... 28, Throgmorton-street

Jacks, William R. .... 5, Copthall buildings
Jackson, A. H. & Co. 2, Angel-court
Jackson, A. Hardie .... 2, Angel-court
Jackson, Powell & Geiger ..... 30, Throgmorton street
Jackson, Charles F..... 30, Throgmorton street
Jacobs, Alfred H. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Jacobs, Claude O. .... Stock Exchange
Jacobs, G. L. & Co. .. 61, Old Broad-street
Jacobs, Gordon L. .... 61, Old Broad-street
Jacobs, Hyam E. ..... 11, Copthall court
Jacobs, Walter ..... 5, Copthall-court
James, A. F. B. & Co. 121-2, Gresham house
James, Arthur F. B. .. 121-2, Gresham house
James, Ernest E. .... 18, Old Broad-street
James, Samuel ..... 3, Copthall chambers
Janson, Frederick A.... 21, Birchin-lane
Janvrin & Merriman .. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Janvrin, Frederick C... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Jaquemet, Francis G... Warnford-court
Jaques, A. R. & Co. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Jaques, Austin R. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Jay, G. H. & A. M. .. 9, Old Broad-street
Jay, Alfred M. ..... 24, Austin Friars
Jay, Arthur E. ..... 24, Austin Friars
Jefferis, Percy W. .... 5, Lothbury
Jenkyns, Edward E... 11, Copthall-court
Jessop, Charles B. .... 24, Throgmorton-street
Jeudwine, E. J. W. .. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
John, Reginald E. H... 31, Threadneedle-street
Johnson, Frederick G.. 53, New Broad street
Johnson, Robert V. .. 28, Threadneedle-street
Johnston, Henry A. .. Bartholomew house
Johnston, John O. L... Warnford court
Jonas, Benjamin ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Jonas, Morris J. ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Jones, Blood & Hart.. Warnford court
Jones, Theodore ..... Warnford-court
Jones, Chas. F. ..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Jones, E. & Simpson .. 2, Copthall buildings
Jones, Frank W. H... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Jones, Frederick G. .. 181-2, Gresham house
Jones, Harold I. ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Jones, H. Gwyther .. 28, Throgmorton street
Jones, J. A. & Co..... 75, Old Broad-street
Jones, John A. ..... 75, Old Broad-street
Jones, John H. H. .... 75, Old Broad-street
Jones, Robert S. .... 4, Copthall chambers
Jones, Stafford F. .... 4, Austin Friars
Jones, Thomas R. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Jones, William ..... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Johnson, G. C. Ashton.. 23, Austin Friars
Joseph, Bertram E. .. 2, Drapers'-gardens
Joseph, George P. .... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Joseph, J. & Son ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Joseph, Percy H. .... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Jourdan & Pawle ..... 1, Cushion-court
Judd, Harry S. ..... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.

Kahn & Herzfelder .... Warnford-court
Kahn, George H. .... Warnford-court
Kahn, John ..... Warnford-court
Karpeles, Joseph N. .. 13, Copthall-court
Kaulla, William ..... 15, Throgmorton-avenue
Kay, Robert C. ..... 23, Austin Friars
Kaye, Stanley ..... 3, Newman's-ct., Cornhill
Keeble, Gilbert E. .... Stock Exchange
Keeling, Graham B. .. 11, Birchin-lane
Keeling, Samuel T. .. 39, Throgmorton-street.
Keell, Herbert ..... 13, Copthall-court
Keen, Cobb & Co. .... 12, Copthall-court
Keen, Alfred G. .... 12, Copthall-court
Keen, Alfred J. ..... 12, Copthall-court
Keene, Arthur ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Keller & Petty ..... St. Stephen's chambers
Keller, Frederic W. .. St. Stephen's chambers
Kelly, William H. .... Copthall ho., Copthall-av.
Kelsey, Higginson & Syrett ..... 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Kelsey, Howard ..... 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Kennedy, B. V. R. .. 3, Adam's court
Kent, Chas. W. ..... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Kent, Stephen W. .... 108, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Kerwin, James ..... 5, Copthall-court
Kilby, B. M. ..... 5, Copthall buildings
Kildahl, A. S. ..... 2, Cushion-court
Killik & Co. ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Killik, Stephen H. M... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Kimpton & Puckle .... 5, Angel-court
Kimpton, Frank E. .. 5, Angel-court
King, Vail & Benson .. 4, Adams'-court
King, Livius S. ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Kino, John H. ..... 4, Austin Friars
Kirk, Edmund W. R... St. Stephen's chambers
Kitcat, Mortimer & Aitken ..... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Kitcat, Sidney A. P... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Kitching & Cuming .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Kitching, Albert G. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Kitching, G. A. N. .... 2, Cushion-court
Kittoe, Montgu F. M. S. 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Knight, Fletcher & Co. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Knight & Searle ..... Bartholomew house
Knight, Thomas J. .... Bartholomew house
Knight, John A. ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Knocker, C. McM..... 1, Copthall chambers
Koch & Co. ..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Koch, Hugo ..... 19, Old Broad-street
Koch, Victor ..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Koch, William M. .... 1, Hatton-court
Kohn, Arthur ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Koickmann, W. A. & Co. 7, Austin Friars
Koickmann, W. A. .... 7, Austin Friars
Krailsheimer, J., & Co. 6, Drapers'-gardens
Krailsheimer, Julius .. 6, Drapers'-gardens
Kulb, Herbert L. ..... 62, London Wall
Kyd, Andrew M..... 18, Austin Friars

Labouchere, C. E. E... 3, Cushion-court
Ladenburg, W. F. .... 15, Austin Friars
Laing & Cruickshank.. 3, Drapers'-gardens
Laird, George S. ..... 21, Gresham house
Lambrinudi, L. & Co... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Lambrinudi, Leonidas . 5, Drapers'-gardens
Laming, Percy A. L... 15, Angel-court
Lamming, J. & Co. .. 65, London Wall
Lamming, Joseph .... 65, London Wall
Landells, Walter .... 27, Throgmorton street
Landon, Charles H. .. 29, Threadneedle-street
Lane Brothers ..... 17, Tokenhouse-yard
Lane, Edward W. .... 17, Tokenhouse-yard
Lane, Lindsay ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Lardelli, Thomas F. .. 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Last, William C. .... 5, Lothbury
Laurence, Sons & Gardner ..... 13, Copthall-court
Laurence, Eugene M. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Laurence, Percy E. .. 13, Copthall-court
Laurie, Milbank & Co. 31, Threadneedle-street
Laurie, A. St. G. de McA. ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Laurie, Allan D. ..... 58, Old Broad-street
Laurie, Herbert ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Laurie, John D. ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Laurie, Ranald M. .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Laurie, William H. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Lavarack, Hamlet .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Lawford, G. & Co..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Lawford, Alfred W. .. 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Lawford, Benson ..... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Lawford, Eustace A. .. 5, Austin Friars
Lawrence, Ernest F. .. 5, Copthall buildings
Lawson, Henry P. .... 2, Finch-lane
Lawson, William R. .. Stock Exchange
Lazarus, Albert & Co... 18, Austin Friars
Lazarus, Albert ..... 18, Austin Friars
Lazenby Bros. & Paine 20, Copthall-avenue
Lazenby, Edgar ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Leaver, Mayor & Co... 6, Copthall-court
Leaver, Frank W. .... 6, Copthall-court
Le Marchant, H. C. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Lee, Gerard ..... 12, Copthall-court
Lee, Gilbert S. ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Lee, John H. ..... Stock Exchange
Leeman & Hancock.... Blomfield ho., London Wall
Leeman, Walter J. .... Blomfield ho., London Wall
Leeming Brothers .... 20, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Leeming, John ..... 20, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Legg, Edwin W. .... 13, Copthall-court
Leigh-Hunt, M. E. .. 3 & 4, Gt. Winchester-st.
Leney, John A. ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Leon, Wilfred M. .... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Leo-Wolf, Albert W... 27, Throgmorton-street
Leppard, Silverthorne 9, Copthall-avenue
Leppard, Percy S. .. 9, Copthall-avenue
Lermitte, Horace A. .. 13, Austin Friars
Leslie, Frederick J. .. 3, Copthall-court
Leveson-Gower, H. D. G. 27, Austin Friars
Levett, Sydney O. B... 7, Austin Friars
Levett, Victor G. .... 7, Austin Friars
Levita, Arthur F. .... 1, Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street
Levy, Robert S. ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Lewis, Henry D. ..... 28 & 31, Bishopsgate-street Within
Lewis, William ..... 3, Adam's-ct., Old Broad st.
Ley, James V. ..... 7, Adam's-court
Lichtenstadt, August.. 38, Throgmorton-street
Lienard, Peter ..... 10 & 11, Austin Friars
Lightbody & Forsyth.. 35, Throgmorton-street
Lightbody, Charles R.. 35, Throgmorton-street
Lightfoot, Edward T... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Lilienfeld, Arthur .... 28, Austin Friars
Lindeck, Cahn & Co... 6 & 7, Copthall-court
Lindeck, Henry J. E. 6 & 7, Copthall-court
Lindo, Eustace A. .. 2A, Copthall-court
Lindow, King & Co... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Linton, Clarke & Co... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Littlejohn, A. & Co... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Littlejohn, Alexander .. 2, Drapers'-gardens
Llewellyn, T. L. M... 24, Austin Friars
Lloyd, Hardy, & Corri 7, Finch-lane
Lloyd, Ernest O. ..... 7, Finch-lane
Lloyd & Ward ..... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Locke, Thomas S. .... 2A, Copthall-court
Loddiges, George ..... 11, Copthall-court
Loeb, Sydney J..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Loewenstein, Rattle&Co. 26, Austin Friars
Loewenstein, Leopold.. 26, Austin Friars
Loewi, Paul R. ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Lomer & Mackinnon .. Swan chmbrs., Copthall-av.
Lomer, Horace A. .... Swan chmbrs., Copthall-av.
Long, Arthur ..... 56, Old Broad-street
Lord Brothers ..... 4, Austin Friars
Lord, George ..... 4, Austin Friars
Lord, Percival F. G. .. 3, Threadneedle-street
Lord, Reginald S. .... 5, Copthall buildings
Lott, Herbert C. ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Lovell, Sidney J. ..... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Lovey, Alfred H. .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Lowndes, G. W. S. .. 6, Throgmorton-street
Löwy, Ernest D. ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Lubbock, Hon R. A. .. 43/6, Threadneedle-street
Lumsden & Co. ..... 29, Cornhill
Lumsden, Robert ..... 29, Cornhill
Lussignea, Alfred ..... 7, Drapers'-gardens

Maas, Hermann L. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Maas, Walter R. J. .. 3, Adam's-court
McAnally & Inglis.... 3, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
McArthur & Lord .... 3, Threadneedle-street
McArthur, William .... 3, Threadneedle-street
McDonell, Geoffrey L.. 29, Cornhill
McKenna, C. E. & Co.. 5, Lothbury
McLoughlin, Eugene .. 31, Lombard-street
McMullen, Leonard .. 16, Tokenhouse-yard
McNab, John ..... 11, Old Jewry chambers
McNeill, George P..... 5, Copthall buildings
McOstrich, N. A. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
MacGregor, Gregor .. 2, Cushion-court
MacNish, A. & Co. .... 74, Cornhill
Macandrew, Alan J. .. 3, Drapers'-gardens
Macdonald, Hugh D. .. 5, Lothbury
Macfadyen & Mercer .. 3, Adam's-court
Macfadyen, Archibald . 3, Adam's-court
Mackay, Alexander .. 30, Throgmorton-street
Mackay, Charles S. .. 11, Copthall-court
Mackenzie, William G. 27, Throgmorton-street
Mackinnon, Norman ... Swan chmbrs, Copthall-av.
Mackintosh, R. & Co. .. 66, Old Broad-street
Mackintosh, Robert .. 66, Old Broad-street
Maclagan, William E... 2, Cushion-court
Macleod, William M... 2, Copthall buildings
Macmillan, Thomas .. 75, Old Broad-street
Macnicoll & Co. ..... 35, Gresham house
Macnicoll, A. N. ..... 35, Gresham house
Macrae, Frank L. .... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Macrae, George A..... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Magniac, Williamson & Co. ..... 33, Old Broad-street
Magniac, Claude H. .. 33, Old Broad street
Maguire, Sidney C. .. 4, Austin Friars
Malcolmson, Vernon A. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Malleson, Godfrey K... 29, Threadneedle-street
Mancor, John ..... 6, Copthall-court
Mandelkau, Hermann.. 8, Copthall-court
Mankiewicz, G. A. ..... Warnford-court
Marcus, C. & Co. .... 2A, Copthall-court
Marcus, E. S. & Co... 4, Warnford-court
Marcus, Edward S. .... 4, Warnford-court
Marcus, L. G. & Co... 28, Austin Friars
Marcus, Lewis G. .... 28, Austin Friars
Mares, Robert ..... 1, Copthall chambers
Marks, Bulteel Mills&Co. 31, Threadneedle-street
Markus, Robert ..... 7, Lothbury
Marsden, Percy & Co. 62, London Wall
Marsden, Percy M. M. 62, London Wall
Marshall & Co. ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Marshall, Henry W. .. 4, Adam's court
Marshall, Owen ..... 61, Old Broad-street
Marshall, W. E. ..... 13, George st., Mansion Ho.
Marshall, W. S. D. .. 13, George st., Mansion Ho.
Marten, Christopherson 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Marten, Frederick C... 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Martin, Alexander W.. 27, Throgmorton-street
Martin, Walter J. .... 9, Old Broad-street
Mason, J. & Son ..... 19, Old Broad-street
Massey, Richard ..... 21, Gresham house
Mathew, William E. .. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Matthews, Thomas .... 27-30, Gresham house
Mathieson, Wilfrid .... 35, Throgmorton-street
Maxwell, Stuart G. .. Warnford-court
May, N. & Co. ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
May, Charles ..... 7, Adam's-court
May, Nathan ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
May, Edmund C. ..... 25, Austin Friars
May, Hamilton S. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
May, R. C. & Battersby 2A, Copthall-court
May, Richard C. ..... 2A, Copthall-court
Meade, James G. .... 4, Copthall-court
Meates, Sidney E. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Meates, William C. .. 3, Austin Friars
Medwin & Löwy ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Mello, Henry J. ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Mendel & Myers ..... 6, Throgmorton-street

Mendel, Cæsar ..... 6, Throgmorton-street
Mendel, Henry B. .... Salisbury ho., London Wall
Mendelssohn & Co. .. 6, Austin Friars
Mendelssohn, M. ..... 6, Austin Friars
Mercer, Ernest A. .... 3, Adam's-court
Mercer, Sidney V. .... 26, Austin Friars
Merriman, Harry M. .. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Merzbach, George .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Messel, Harold G. .... 31, Throgmorton-street
Messel, L. & Co. ..... 31, Throgmorton-street
Messel, Leonard C. R.. 31, Throgmorton-street
Messel, Ludwig ..... 31, Throgmorton-street
Metcalfe, George ..... 13, Copthall-court
Meyer, Hermann & Co. 11, Copthall-court
Meyer, Hermann ..... 11, Copthall-court
Meyer, Julius M. & Co. 6, Drapers'-gardens
Meyer, Julius M. .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Meyers & Robertson .. 11, Copthall court
Meyers, Augustus .... 11, Copthall-court
Meyerstein, E. W. & Co. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Meyerstein, E. W..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Middleton, W. N. & Co. 8, Finch-lane
Middleton, L. A. J. .. 8, Finch-lane
Middleton, W. N. .... 8, Finch-lane
Miéville, F. L. & Co... 11, Angel-court
Miéville, Amédée F. .. 11, Angel-court
Miéville, Frederick L... 11, Angel-court
Millar & Llewellyn .. 24, Austin Friars
Millar, William K. .... 24, Austin Friars
Millar, James & Co... 13, King's Arms-yard
Millar, James ..... 13, King's Arms-yard
Miller, Charles D. .... 3, Austin Friars
Miller, Charles J. .... 1, Angel-court
Milln & Robinson .... 2, Austin Friars
Milln, James S. ..... 2, Austin Friars
Millns, John H. ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Mills, The Hon. E. J... 31, Threadneedle-street
Mitchell, Cecil H. .... 74, Cornhill
Mitford & Fradgley .. 62, Threadneedle-street
Mitford, Bertram G. .. 62, Threadneedle-street
Moatt, John ..... 28, Threadneedle-street
Mocatta & Foà ..... 4, Throgmorton-avenue
Mocatta, Ernest G. .... 4, Throgmorton-avenue
Molison, Arthur R. .... 3, Adam's-court
Monier-Williams, Torrington F. ..... 18, Austin Friars
Montagu, Oppenheim & Co. ..... 22, Austin Friars
Montagu, Lord C. W. A. 22, Austin Friars
Montefiore, C. E. S. .. 13, Copthall-court
Montefiore, E. S. .... 13, Copthall-court
Montefiore, H. J. ..... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Montgomery, Basil, Fitzgerald & Co. .. 19, Throgmorton-avenue
Montgomery, Sir Basil T. G., Bart. ..... 19, Throgmorton-avenue
Moore, Taylor & Watson 20, Copthall-avenue
Moore, Leslie W. ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Moreau, Ernest P. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Morgan, Harold E. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Morgan, Percy J. .... Swan ho., Gt. Swan-alley
Morgan, William .... 2, Copthall buildings
Morice, J. C. & C. W. 23, Old Broad-street
Morice, Charles J. .... 23, Old Broad-street
Morice, Norman ..... 23, Old Broad-street
Morice, Walter F. .... 23, Old Broad-street
Morison & Lermitte .. 13, Austin Friars
Morison, Walter ..... 13, Austin Friars
Moritz & Blyth ..... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Moritz, Martin R. .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Morley, E. Evelyn .... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Morris, Charles A. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Morris, Fredk. A. .... 17, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Morris, W. & Sons .... 57, Moorgate-street
Morris, Frank B. .... 57, Moorgate-street
Morris, Frank R. .... 57, Moorgate-street
Morris, Norman B. .... 57, Moorgate-street
Morrison, F. W. R. .... 2, Austin Friars
Morrison, Walter G. .. 54, Cornhill
Mortimer, H. S. ..... 5, Lothbury
Mortimer, P., Scotter & Co. 80, Lombard-street
Mortimer, Leonard .... 80, Lombard-street
Mortimer, Roger & Co. 5, Lothbury
Mortimer, W. & Son.. 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Mortimer, William .... 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Mortimer, W., Jun. .. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Morton, Cyril ..... Moorgate-court
Morton Brothers ..... Bartholomew house
Morton, Robert ..... Bartholomew house
Morton, Thomas ..... Bartholomew house
Mosenthal, Philip H. .. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Mott, Arthur F. ..... Warnford-court
Moy, Hardman & Vanderveil ..... 19, Old Broad-street
Moy, Arthur, Jun. .. 19, Old Broad-street
Muir & Scott ..... 8, Finch-lane
Muir, James ..... 8, Finch-lane
Muir, Robert, jun. .... 1, Copthall chambers
Muir, Thomas ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Muirhead, Henry J. .. Stock Exchange
Mullens, Marshall & Co. 13, George-st., Mansion Ho.
Mullens, J. A., Jun. .. 13, George-st., Mansion Ho.
Muller, Charles J. 9, Tokenhouse-yard
Mumford & Bicknell .. 4, Adam's-court
Mumford, Leonard .... 4, Adam's-court
Munro, Henry T. ..... 13, Austin Friars
Munro, William J. T... 18, Old Broad-street
Murphy & Charlesworth 20, Copthall-avenue
Murphy, Edward H. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Murphy, John O. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Murton, C. A. & Son.. 48, Threadneedle-street
Murton, Charles L. .. 48, Threadneedle-street
Myer, Charles G. ..... White ho., Telegraph-street
Myers, Moss S. ..... 6, Throgmorton-street

Nasmith, Shephard & Co. 31, Threadneedle street
Nasmith, Arthur P. .. 31, Threadneedle street
Nasmith, Martin A. .. 31, Threadneedle-street
Nathan & Roselli .... 7, Adam's court
Nathan, David ..... 7, Adam's court
Nathan, Edward ..... 7, Adam's court
Neame, Douglas J. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Nelke, Phillips & Co. .. 28, Throgmorton street
Nelke, Paul ..... 28, Throgmorton street
Neuwelt, Albert ..... 8, Drapers' gardens
Nevill, Horley, and Co. 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Nevill, Walter P. .... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Newall, William ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Newbery, George J. .. 26, Royal Exchange
Newbery, George R. .. 26, Royal Exchange
Newbold, Charles L. .. 13, Copthall-court
Newcomb, Basil ..... 3, Drapers' gardens
Newman, Gerard R. .. 13, Copthall-court
Newman, L. S. M. .... 3, Pope's Head-alley
Newson-Smith, F. E. .. 3, Pinner's-court
Newton, Alfred J. .... 26, Old Broad-street
Newton, John ..... Warnford-court
Nicholas, Montagu & Co. 29, Threadneedle-street
Nicholas, Montagu A... 29, Threadneedle-street
Nicholas, William L... 19, Throgmorton-street
Nicholls, Irving H. .. 13, Copthall-court
Nicholls, Joseph C. .... 57, Old Broad-court
Nickalls, Guy ..... 11, Angel-court
Nichisson & Co. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Nickisson, A. C. H. .. 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Nicol & Stuart ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Nicol, Herbert B. .... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Nicolls, Jasper H. E... 6, Finch-lane
Nissim, Maurice ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Nivison, R., & Co. .... 76, Cornhill
Nivison, John ..... 76, Cornhill
Nivison, Robert ..... 76, Cornhill
Nivison, Samuel ..... 76, Cornhill
Noakes, Stuart B. .... 70, Cornhill
Noble, Samuel A. ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Norbury, John ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Norbury, John, Jun... Basildon ho., Moorgate st.
Northern & Durham .. St. Stephen's chambers
Norton, William & Co. 2, Copthall buildings
Norton, William ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Nurse, Samuel F. C. .. 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Nye & Meade ..... 4, Copthall-court
Nye, Jesse ..... 4, Copthall-court

Oakley, Norris Bros. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Oakley, Thomas N. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Oakley, Walter ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Oates, Robert L. .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
O'Brien, Neville F. .. 1, Cornhill
O'Connor, P. J. .... Warnford-court
Oddie, Herbert ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Odell, James W. ..... 3, Copthall-court
Oelsner, Steinthal & Co. Warnford-court
Oelsner, William D. .. Warnford-court
Ogilvy, Francis ..... 6, Throgmorton-street
O'Hagan, Arthur ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Oliver, Richard S. .... 3, Threadneedle-street
Oppenheim, Joseph .... 22, Austin Friars
Oppenheim, Louis ..... 30, Throgmorton street
Oppenheim, Oscar .... 12, Angel court
Oppenheimer, A. S.... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Osborne, Clarence A... 77-80, Palmerston house
Osborne, Ernest J. .... 85, Gresham-street
Ovenston, Clifford H. .. 2, Copthall-court
Overbury, Joseph W... 14, Angel-court
Owen, Herbert C. & Co. Swan ho., Gt. Swan-alley
Owen, Herbert C. .... Swan ho., Gt. Swan-alley
Oxenford, Matthew & Co. 85, Gresham-street
Oxenford, Ferdinand .. 85, Gresham-street
Oxenford, M. F. ..... 85, Gresham-street
Oxley, Harold ..... 2, Finch-lane

Page, Ogilvy T. ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Paget & Edward .... Warnford-court
Paget, George E. ..... Warnford-court
Pain, William ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Paine, Herbert N. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Paine, Walter H. .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Palmer, Charles J. .... 18, Birchin-lane
Parker, Cyril E. ..... 4, Austin Friars
Parsons & Henderson.. 3 & 4, Adam's-court
Parsons, A. S. C. .... 23 & 25, Old Broad-street
Parsons, Edward P. ... 3 & 4, Adam's-court
Partridge & Greenfield. 2, Draper's-gardens
Partridge, Harold A. .. 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Pascoe, Wallis ..... 5, Copthall buildings
Pasteur, Charles H. .. White ho., Telegraph street
Pater & Co. ..... 56, Old Broad-street
Pater, Edgar A. ..... 56, Old Broad-street
Paton, Alexander .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Paton, William H. .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Pattinson, George H... Stock Exchange
Patton, Philip C. ..... Copthall h'se, Copthall-av.
Pawle, H. & Co. ..... 13, Copthall-court
Pawle, Harold ..... Stock Exchange
Payne, William R. .... 31, Throgmorton-street
Payton, Charles W. .. 23, Gresham ho., Old B'd-st.
Peake, Cosmo F. N. .. 74, Cornhill
Pearce, Frederick G... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Pearson, Charles E. .. 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Pearson, Cyrus T. .... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Pearson, Elliot ..... 29, Threadneedle-street
Peckham, Henry T. .. 19, Old Broad-street
Peerless, Bartholomew 57, Moorgate-street
Peevor, Leslie ..... 28, Threadneedle-street
Pember & Boyle ..... 18, Cornhill
Pember, George R. .... 18, Cornhill
Pember, Henry C. .... 18, Cornhill
Pemberton, W. A. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Penn, Charles B. ..... 2, Royal Exchange-avenue
Penn, Eric F. ..... 3, Threadneedle-street
Penson, John W. ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Perry, John H. P. .... 27, Throgmorton-street
Pershouse, Frank S. .. 6, Drapers'-gardens
Petrie & Farrar ..... 6, Moorgate-street
Petre, Hon. Albert H. 6, Moorgate-street
Pettitt, Edward ..... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Pettman, William C. .. 35, Coleman-street
Petty, George T. ..... St. Stephen's chambers
Phillips, Arthur J. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Phillips, Edgar L. .... 10, Angel-court
Phillips, F. A. & Co... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Phillips, Frederick A... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Phillips, Frederick S... 28, Throgmorton-street
Phillips & Drew ..... 4, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Pidgeon & Stebbing .. 3, Copthall buildings
Pierce, Charles F. A... White house, Telegraph-st.
Piggott, James F. .... 4, Copthall-court
Pike, Hugh W. ..... 14, Copthall-avenue
Pilcher, Charles F. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Pilkington, Malcolm C. 14, Austin Friars
Pim, Vaughan & Co. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Pim, Ernest T. ..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Pim, Henry ..... 47, Cornhill
Pitman, Frederick I. .. 14, Austin Friars
Pitts, Frederic ..... 14, Cornhill
Platter & Beauclerk .. 6, Austin Friars
Plater, Ernest W. .... 6, Austin Friars
Plater, George ..... 6, Austin Friars
Platt, Percival C. .... 30, Gresham house
Playford, Randal ..... 14, Cornhill
Pocock, Walter L. .... 34, Moorgate-street
Pollak, J. & Co. ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Pollak, Joseph ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Pollock, Hope & Co. .. 29, Threadneedle street
Pollock, George H. .. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Pollock, William P. H. 29, Threadneedle street
Ponder, Frank M. .... 37, Throgmorton-street
Ponder, Septimus .... 37, Throgmorton-street
Ponsonby, Hon F. J. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Porter, Arthur D. .... 50, Threadneedle-street
Pott, Henry ..... 57, Old Broad-street
Pott, Henry P. ..... 57, Old Broad-street
Potter, Henry ..... 9, Copthall-avenue
Poultney & Straus .. 5, Copthall buildings
Powell, Charles J. .... 30, Throgmorton-street
Powell, Oswald H. .... 4, Hercules-passage
Powell, Walter ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Pratt, Clapham, & Reynell ..... 1, Cushion-court
Pratt, Arthur J. ..... 1, Cushion-court
Prebble, Albert D. .... 14, Queen Victoria street
Price, Arthur R. ..... 57, Old Broad-street
Pritchard, Hamilton .. 77, Palmerston house
Pritchard, J. M. & Co. 31, Throgmorton-street
Pritchard, Hugh J. M. 31, Throgmorton-street
Pritchard, John M, ... 31, Throgmorton-street
Pritchard, Owen M. .. 31, Throgmorton-street
Procter, Joseph ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Prust, John & Co. .... 37, Throgmorton-street
Prust, William A. D. .. White ho., Telegraph-st.
Prynne, Gordon ..... 28, Austin Friars
Prynne, William H. G. Stock Exchange
Puckle, Walter H. .... 5, Angel-court
Pulbrook, Henry, jun... 34, Throgmorton-street
Pulley, Henry C. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Pumfrett, Leonard R.H. 8, Finch-lane
Pyefinch, Gerald ..... 3, Threadneedle-street
Pyne, Charles A. .... 55, Old Broad-street

Quekett, Owen C. .... 23, Threadneedle-street
Quilhampton, Archie .. 5, Copthall buildings
Quilter & Co. ..... 14, King's Arms-yard
Quilter, Percy C. .... 14, King's Arms-yard
Quilter, Sir W. C., Bart. 14, King's Arms-yard
Quin, James ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Quirk, Tucker & Rayner 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue

Rabone, Ernest ..... 5, Austin Friars
Rae, George B. ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Rae, Oswald ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Raincock & Co. ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Raincock, Henry ..... 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Ramsbotham & Ross .. 6, Copthall-court
Ramsbotham, James .. 6, Copthall-court
Randell, Charles E. .. 61, Old Broad-street
Ransford & Co. ..... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Ransford, William H... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Rantzen, Henry ..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Rathborne & Hill .... 10, Moorgate street
Rathborne, Lancelot St. G. P. ..... 10, Moorgate street
Rattle, John G. ..... 26, Austin Friars
Rau, J. ..... 28, Throgmorton street
Rayner, Henry B. .... 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Read & Brigstock .... 5, Austin Friars
Read, Ernest A. ..... 5, Austin Friars
Read, Thomas C. .... 19, Old Broad street
Redford, Henry A. .... 62, Copthall house
Reed, Eliot P.-S. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Reeve, Henry Blyth .. 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Reeve, Herbert C. .... 29, Threadneedle-street
Reeves & Prust ..... White ho., Telegraph-street
Reeves, Lionel E. .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Reeves, Richard J. .... White ho., Telegraph-street
Regensberg, A. L. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Regensberg & Co. .... 15, Copthall-avenue
Regensberg, Hermann 15, Copthall avenue
Reichenbach, Max .... 10, Angel-court
Reid, Henry B. ..... Bartholomew house
Reid, J. & J. ..... 5, Austin Friars
Reid, James C. ..... 5, Austin Friars
Reid, John J. ..... 5, Austin Friars
Reidpath, A. Marshall.. Stock Exchange
Renwick, Thomas A. .. 1, Cushion-ct., Old B'd-st.
Reynell, Frederick .... 1, Cushion-court
Reynolds, A. L. & Co. 2, Copthall buildings
Reynolds, Alfred L. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Reynolds, Louis B. .. 13, King's Arms-yard
Ricardo-Rocamora, D. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Rice, Charles H. ..... 4, Queen Victoria-street
Rice, William G. ..... 4, Queen Victoria-street
Richardson, F. R. & Co. 11, Copthall court
Richardson & Glover .. 6A, Austin Friars
Richardson, Alan .... 6A, Austin Friars
Richardson, Ernest A... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Richardson, W. E. .... Jamaica buildings
Richardson, W. G. .... 13, Copthall-court
Ridgers, Leo ..... 4, Copthall-court
Ridgway & Browne .. 11, Copthall-court
Ridgway, Arthur E. .. 11, Copthall-court
Ritchie, Frank ..... Crown-ct., Old Broad-street
Ritscher, Paul ..... 5, Tokenhouse-yard
Roberts, Charles J. .. Warnford-court
Roberts, Idwal A. .... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Roberts, Percy H. .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Robertson, Alfred .... 11, Copthall-court
Robertson, Ambrose & Kermack ..... Bartholomew house
Robertson, George S. .. 19, Old Broad-street
Robertson, Norman D. 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Robertson-Luxford, J. S.O. ..... 38, Throgmorton street
Robinson & Glyn .... 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Robinson, Francis .... 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Robinson, Frederick G. 21, Austin Friars
Robinson, Harry ..... 5, Adam's-ct., Old B'd-st.
Robinson, Lionel, Clark & Co. ..... 24, Throgmorton-street
Robinson, Lionel G. .. 24, Throgmorton-street
Robinson, Tom ..... 5, Adam's ct., Old B'd st.
Roehrich, E. & Co. .... 3, Copthall chambers
Roehrich, Edouard .... 3, Copthall chambers
Rogers, Herbert K. G... 27, Throgmorton-street
Rolf, Charles A. ..... Copthall house
Roller, Alexander H. F. 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Rollo, The Hon. B. F 3, Drapers' gardens
Ronald, James H. .... 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Ronald, Ronald D. .... 5, Copthall buildings
Rooke, C. H. & Co. .. 4, Austin Friars
Rooke, Charles H. .... 4, Austin Friars
Rose, Bateman L. .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Rose, Van Cutsem & Co. 14, Copthall-avenue
Rose, Eric H. ..... 14, Copthall-avenue
Rose, Leonard S. .... Bartholomew house
Rosen, Joseph E. ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Rosenbacher, Richard... 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue

Rosenheim, Ludwig .. 15, Copthall-avenue
Ross, William E. .... 6, Copthall-court
Roselli, Joseph ..... 7, Adam's-court
Rosskamm, Philipp .. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Rothwell, George & Co 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Rothwell, Herbert J. .. 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Rowe & Pitman ..... 14, Austin Friars
Rowe, George D. ..... 14, Austin Friars
Rowe, George F. .... Blomfield ho., London Wall
Rowe, Schwann & Co... 23 and 25, Old Broad-street
Rowe, Percy B. ..... 23 and 25, Old Broad-street
Ruben & Ladenburg .. 15, Austin Friars
Ruben, Erwin ..... 15, Austin Friars
Rubens & Reichenbach 10, Angel-court
Rubens, Victor ..... 10, Angel-court
Rubens, Walter E. .. 10, Angel-court
Rubinstein & Co. ..... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Rumball, Sydney F. .. Copthall ho., Copthall-av.
Runchman, Matthew S. 3, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st
Rushton, George A. .. Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Russell, The Hon. C... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st
Russell, P. H. & Co. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Russell, Percy H. .... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Russell, William ..... 17, Gracechurch street
Ryan, Alfred F. ..... 25, Austin Friars
Ryder, The Hon. A. D. Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Ryman, John R. ..... 28, Throgmorton-street

Saalfeld, A. & Co. .... Warnford-court
Salomons, Frederick B. 4, Warnford-court
Samuel, Sir E. L., Bart. 3, Pope's Head-alley, Cornhill
Samuels, Samuel ..... 6, Throgmorton-street
Sandeman, Clark & Co. 7A, Austin Friars
Sandeman, Edward W. 7A, Austin Friars
Sandeman, T. C. ..... 7A, Austin Friars
Sanders, Louis ..... 7, Adam's-court
Sanderson, Walter .... 10, Angel-court
Sandys, Lord ..... Stock Exchange
Sanger, Charles A. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Sauerbach, Maurice .. 10, Angel court
Saunders, F. A. .... 18, Cornhill
Saunders, F. G. .... 7, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Saunders, Raphael .... White house, Telegraph st.
Savory, Ernest B. .... 24, Austin Friars
Savory, Ronald H. .... 27, Austin Friars
Schaap & Co. ..... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Schaap, Magnus L. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Schiff, A. G. & Co. .. Warnford-court
Schiff, Alfred G. ..... Warnford-court
Schiff, Ernest F. ..... Warnford-court
Schiff, Otto M. ..... 6, Throgmorton-street
Schiff, Richard ..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Schilizzi, George ..... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Schlesinger, Arthur H. 42, Gresham house
Schlesinger, Cæsar .... Warnford-court
Schlesinger, E. and Co. 4, Angel-court
Schlesinger, Eugene M. 4, Angel-court
Schlesinger, Richard A. 4, Angel-court
Schloesser, Paul A. .. 11, Copthall court
Schnapper, S. & Co. .. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Schnapper, Siegmund A. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Schofield, Benjamin .. 64, Gresham-street
Schuler, Percy & Co. .. 18, Austin Friars
Schuler, Percy ..... 18, Austin Friars
Schultz, Sandford S. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Schuster, W. S. L. .... Warnford-court
Schwab, Isidor M. .... 26, Austin Friars
Schwann, Henry S. .... 23 and 25, Old Broad-street
Schwarzschild, J. & Son 34A, Throgmorton-street
Schwarzschild, A. I. .. 34A, Throgmorton-street
Schwarzschild, Jacob.. 34A, Throgmorton-street
Scott, Albert ..... 4, Austin Friars
Scott, B. J. & Co. .... 7, Throgmorton-avenue
Scott, Benjamin J. .... 7, Throgmorton-avenue
Scott, Charles H. .... 4, Austin Friars
Scott, Donald M. .... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Scott, Horace H. ..... 76, Cornhill
Scott, Horatio G. ..... 163 6, Gresham house
Scott, Reginald B. .... 7, Throgmorton-avenue
Scott, Stratten and Co 9, Drapers'-gardens
Scott, Thomas G. ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Scott, William C. .... 15, Angel-court
Scott-Gatty, C., C.S. .. 3, Throgmorton avenue
Scotter, Frederick C. .. 80, Lombard-street
Scrase, Arthur G. .... 54, Old Broad-street
Scrimgeour, J. & A. .. South Sea ho., T'dneedle-st.
Scrimgeour, A. C. .... South Sea ho., T'dneedle-st.
Scrimgeour, John A. .. South Sea ho., T'dneedle-st.
Scrimgeour, Walter .. South Sea ho., T'dneedle-st.
Scrutton & Son ..... 25, Austin Friars
Scrutton, A. J. ..... 25, Austin Friars
Searle, Godfrey J. .... Bartholomew house
Seaton, Henry H. D... 4A, Tokenhouse buildings
Sebag, J. & Co. ..... 13, Copthall-court
Sechiari Brothers ..... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Sechiari, Ambrose P... 5, Drapers'-gardens
Sechiari, George P. .. 5, Drapers'-gardens
Sechiari, Pandia P. .. 5, Drapers'-gardens
Secretan, Philip, jun... 7, Angel-court
Sedgwick, W. F. M. .. 23, Austin Friars
Sée, Henri ..... 20, Copthall-avenue
Selbyl, Edward B. .... 26, Austin Friars
Seligman & Weinberger 18, Austin Friars
Seligman, Armand M... 18, Austin Friars
Seligman, Julian J. .. 18, Austin Friars
Seligmann, Albert & Co. 10, Drapers'-gardens
Seligmann, Albert .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Selz, Charles ..... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Serocold, Claud P. .... 52, Threadneedle street
Sewell, George E. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Sewell, Stanley H. .... 17, Old Broad-street
Sewill, Herbert ..... 35, Throgmorton street
Seymour, Pierce & Co. White house, Telegraph-st.
Seymour, Hugh F. .... South Sea ho., T'dneedle-st.
Sharman-Crawford, H. 8¼, Angel-court
Shaw, Somerset J. A. 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Shaw, William T. .... 66, Old Broad street
Shead, Samuel G. .... 36, Throgmorton street
Sheldon, Robert ..... 4, Adam's court
Shephard, Thomas A... 31, Threadneedle-street
Shepherd, Frederick J. 13, Copthall-court
Sheppards, Polly & Co. 57, Old Broad-street
Sheppard, Arthur W. .. 61, Old Broad-street
Sheppard, Samuel G. .. 57, Old Broad-street
Sheridan, William F... 22, Austin Friars
Shirreff, J. A. & Co... Swan ch'mb'rs, Copthall-av.
Shirreff, James A. .... Swan ch'mb'rs, Copthall av.
Shoolbred, Stuart T. J. 26, Birchin-lane
Short, Martin & Co. .. 12, Angel-court
Short, Alfred V. ..... 12, Angel-court

Short, Martin ..... 12, Angel-court
Shorter, Son & Co. .... 26, Birchin-lane
Shorter, Arthur ..... 26, Birchin-lane
Shorter, Arthur W. .. 26, Birchin-lane
Shotter & Scott ..... 4, Austin Friars
Sidney, W. S. & Co. .. 3, Newman's-ct., Cornhill
Sidney, William S. .. 3, Newman's-ct., Cornhill
Silo, Pietro ..... 1, Hatton-ct., T'dneedle-st.
Silverston, J. & Co. .. 27, Throgmorton-street
Silverston, Jacob ..... 27, Throgmorton-street
Silverston, Maurice .... 27, Throgmorton-street
Sim, A. Coysgarne .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Simon, Frank C. ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Simon, Herman K. .... 3, Copthall chambers
Simpson, Frederick C. 2, Copthall buildings
Simpson, Frederick H. 2, Copthall buildings
Simpson, William A... 2, Copthall buildings
Simpson, William R. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Simson, Arthur T. .... 25, Austin Friars
Singer, David ..... 23 and 25, Old Broad-street
Singer, J. & Co. ..... 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Singer, Jules ..... 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Skinner, Allen ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Skinner, James ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Slade, Cecil W. P. .... Bond-court hse., Walbrook
Slater, E. J. & Bond.. Warnford-court
Slater, Ernest J. ..... Warnford-court
Slater, Walter W. .... Warnford-court
Smallwood, Richard C. 2, Copthall buildings
Smith, Arthur ..... 11, Angel-court
Smith, Ernest R. ..... 11, Copthall-court
Smith, Francis C. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Smith, Francis G. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Smith, Francis S. R. .. 31, Threadneedle-street
Smith, Frederick M. .. 80, Cornhill
Smith, Herbert W. .. 24, Austin Friars
Smith, Hugh P. ..... 13, King's Arms-yard
Smith, John B. M. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Smith, John H. A. .. 6A, Austin Friars
Smith, J. Wentworth .. 29, Cornhill
Smith, Joseph W. .... 10, Drapers'-gardens
Smith, Lancelot G. H. 14, Austin Friars
Smith, Leonard ..... 120, Bishopsgate-st. Within
Smith, Norman B. .... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Smith, P. Merry & Co. 80, Cornhill
Smith, Percy W. ..... 14, Cornhill
Smith & Pitts ..... 14, Cornhill
Smith, Reginald M. .. 1, Copthall chambers
Smith, Rice & Co. .... 4, Queen Victoria-street
Smith, Robert ..... 3, Austin Friars
Smith, Thomas & Son .. 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Smith, Thomas G. .... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Smith, T. Sen. & Co. .. 1, Copthall chambers
Smith, Thomas P. H. .. 1, Royal Exchange-avenue
Smith, Walter H. .... 75, Old Broad-street
Smith, William H. B... 1, Copthall chambers
Smith, William M. .... 1, Copthall chambers
Smith-Bingham & Co... 11, Copthall court
Smith-Bingham Croxton 11, Copthall court
Smithers & Co. ..... 58, Old Broad-street
Smithers, John ..... 58, Old Broad-street
Smithers, John M. .. 58, Old Broad-street
Smithers, Oswald E... 58, Old Broad-street
Smyth, Robert F. .... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Smythson, Sydney M... 4, Hercules-passage
Snell & Swaffield .... 5, Copthall buildings
Snell, Michael B. ..... 5, Copthall buildings
Snow, Thomas M. .... 43 6, Threadneedle-street
Snyder, John T. ..... 11, Copthall-court
Solomon, J. H. & Co... 14, Austin Friars
Solomon, Arthur H. .. 14, Austin Friars
Souter, Frank T. E. .. 27, Throgmorton-street
Sparkes & Clark ..... 1, Royal Exchange-avenue
Spencer, Arthur ..... 5, Lothbury
Spencer, Herbert ..... 29, Cornhill
Spencer, John G. .... 54, Threadneedle-street
Sperling & Co. ..... Bond-court, Walbrook
Sperling, Henry R. .... Bond-court, Walbrook
Spielmann, Ausbacher 20, Copthall-avenue
Spielmann, Meyer A. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Spier, Adolph ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Spring, Percy T. ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Spurling & Skinner .. 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Spurling, Gilbert .... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Spurling, Stuart ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Stacey, John B. ..... 4, Austin Friars
Stacey, Percy Edward.. 28, Austin Friars
Stainforth, Edward T... 13, Copthall-court
Stamm, Julius ..... 38, Throgmorton-street
Stanhope, Hon. C. H. Basildon house, M'rgate-st.
Stanley, C. & Son .... 36, Cornhill
Stanley, Arthur J. .... 35, Cornhill
Stanley, Charles H. .. 35, Cornhill
Staples, George W. .. 178 Gresham house
Stearns, J. P. & Co. .. 3, Copthall-court
Stearns, Joseph P. .... 3, Copthall-court
Stebbing, Frederic A... 3, Copthall buildings
Stebbing, George A. .. 3, Copthall buildings
Steer, Lawford & Co... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Steinhart, H. M. & Co. 28, Throgmorton-street
Steinhart, Henry M. .. 28, Throgmorton-street
Steinthal, Anton E. .. Warnford-court
Steinthal, Gustav V. .. 8, Drapers'-gardens
Stephens, Arthur N. .. 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Stephens, Thomas .... 34A, Throgmorton-street
Stephens, William .... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Stephenson & Taylor .. 10, Angel-court
Stephenson, Henry L... 10, Angel-court
Stephenson, Wilfred R. 151 and 152, Gresham hse.
Stern, Maurice ..... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Sternberg Brothers .... 1, Angel-court
Sternberg, Daniel .... 1, Angel-court
Sternberg, Hermann L. 1, Angel-court
Stevens, William J. .. 10, Moorgate-street
Stewart & Whitmore .. 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Stogdon, John H. .... 18, Old Broad street
Stokes, Alexander H... 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Stokes, Durham & Co. 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Stokes, Durham ..... 5, Throgmorton avenue
Stokes, Thomas R. .... 28, Austin Friars
Stokes, Walter L. C. .. 7, Lothbury
Stone, John G. B. .. 9, Drapers'-gardens
Stoop & Co. ..... 4, Hercules-passage
Stoop, Cornelis F. .... 4, Hercules-passage
Stopher, William .... 1, Drapers' gardens
Stott, Nowell S. ..... 7A, Austin Friars
Stout, Harry W. ..... 3, Drapers'-gardens
Stracey, Sir E. P., Bt. Bond-court, Walbrook
Strachan, Walter ..... 16, Tokenhouse-yard
Strange, James W. .... Bond-court, Walbrook
Strangman, Ernest .... 2, Royal Exchange avenue

Straus, Paul ..... 1, Angel-court
Straus, Sidney R. .... 6, Copthall buildings
Strauss, Hermann .... 27, Throgmorton-street
Strauss, Hugo ..... 6, Throgmorton street
Streatfeild, Sidney .... Warnford-court
Strutt, The Hon. R. .. Stock Exchange
Stuart, Gordon H. .... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Stuart, Peter ..... 16 and 17, Royal Exchange
Stubbs, Stanley J. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Style, Arthur J. .... 31, Lombard-street
Summers, Robert T. .. 6, Throgmorton-street
Summers, Thomas .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Sutcliffe, Harry ..... Bartholomew house
Sutherland, Harry & Son 2, Copthall buildings
Sutherland, Alfred H. 2, Copthall buildings
Sutherland, Harry .... 2, Copthall buildings
Sutton, Frank H. .... Stock Exchange
Swift, D. & Co. ..... 27-30, Gresham house
Swift, Donald D. ..... 27-30, Gresham house
Swyer, Robert ..... 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard
Syer, Edwin J. ..... 22, Austin Friars
Symes, Glascott H. .... 7, Copthall-court
Symes, Herbert W. .... 15, Angel-court
Syrett, Reginald M. .. 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue

Tabraham, Arthur P... 18, Austin Friars
Tallentire, William H. 2, Austin Friars
Tallerman, Phineas .. Warnford-court
Tapp, T. A. ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Taylor, Alfred W. .... 14, Cornhill
Taylor, Charles E. .... 1, Cornhill
Taylor, Frank E. .... 20, Copthall-avenue
Taylor, John H. M... 10, Angel-court
Teather, Harold L. .... 2, Angel-court
Tedeschi, Adrian .... 22, Austin Friars
Telford & Jackson .... 4, Copthall chambers
Teil, A. J. H. & Co. .. 2, Austin Friars
Teil, Alfred J. H. .... 2, Austin Friars
Terry, James E. ..... 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Terry, John D. ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Thal, Ernest J. ..... 18, Austin Friars
Thalmessinger, M. & Co. 10 and 11, Austin Friars
Thalmessinger, Marco.. 10 and 11, Austin Friars
Thomas, Harold B..... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Thomasset, T. C. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Thompson, Richard S. 14, Copthall-avenue
Thompson, W. & Crook 17, Tokenhouse-yard
Thompson, Walter .... 17, Tokenhouse-yard
Thomson & Carlisle .. 75, Old Broad-street
Thomson, Alexander F. 75, Old Broad-street
Thomson, Curtis F. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Thomson, D. L. & Co... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Thomson, David L. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Thomson, Lionel G. .. 7, Drapers'-gardens
Thomson, Walter B. .. 30, Throgmorton-street
Thomson, William P... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Thorburn, Kenneth .. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Thorburn, Robert .... 19, Throgmorton-avenue
Thorne, Frederick W... 54, Old Broad-street
Thorne, Percy O. E... 79, Cornhill
Thornhill Brothers .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Thornhill, Cecil J. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Thornton, Richard P... 62, Threadneedle-street
Thornton, Spencer R... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Thorp, William ..... 840, Salisbury house
Threlfall & Knight .... 2, Copthall buildings
Threlfall, Charles H. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Tod, Norman P. ..... 22, Finch-lane
Tomkinson & Price .... 3, Copthall buildings
Tomkinson, Frederick... 3, Copthall buildings
Tomkinson, R. E. & Co. 74, Cornhill
Tomkinson, James E... 74, Cornhill
Tomkinson, Robert E... 74, Cornhill
Tootal, Frederick E. O. 1, Cornhill
Tooth & Oddie ..... 2, Copthall buildings
Tooth, Edwin N. .... 2, Copthall buildings
Torrens, Edward S.... 26, Birchin-lane
Torrens, William Matt 5, Throgmorton-avenue
Townley, Francis H. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens
Towse, Edward D. .... 13, Gresham house
Tragett, George L. .. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Tremayne, C. R. J... 3, Copthall buildings
Trench, Benjamin B... 18, Birchin-lane
Trevor, Philip C. W... 4, Angel-court
Trimen, Arthur R. .... 5, Austin Friars
Trimm, Charles H. .. 2, Copthall buildings
Tritton, Arthur F. .. 13, Copthall-court
Tritton, Arthur H. .... 1, Cornhill
Tritton, Vincent B., jun. 1, Cornhill
Trotter, Charles W. .. Basildon ho., Moorgate st.
Trotter, William .... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st.
Troubridge, Sir T. H. C., Bart. ..... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Troughton, Charles W. 4, Sun-court, Cornhill
Trower, Lionel G. .... 8½, Angel-court
Tubini, Antoine B. .. S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Tuck, William H. .... 6, Throgmorton-street
Tucker, William S. .. 4 and 6, Copthall-avenue
Tuckwell, Son & Hartley ..... 4, Copthall chambers
Tuckwell, Edward .... 4, Copthall chambers
Tuckwell, Edward H... 4, Copthall chambers
Tudball, Charles D. . 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Tudor, H. & Son .... 29, Threadneedle-street
Tudor, Hugh G. .... 29, Threadneedle-street
Tupper, Audley F. .... 27, Austin Friars
Turnbull, James & Co. Moorgate-ct., Moorgate-pl.
Turnbull, James ..... Moorgate-ct., Moorgate-pl.
Turnbull, James, jun Moorgate-ct., Moorgate-pl.
Turner, Errol G. ..... 28, Austin Friars
Turner, Howard L. .. 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Turrell, Jno. W. .... 18, Austin Friars
Tuteur, Walter B. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Tydd, Benjamin S. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Tydd, George B. & Co. 31, Threadneedle-street
Tydd, George B. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Tytler, William T. F... 1, Drapers'-gardens

Uhlfelder, Carl ..... 15, Angel-court
Usborne, Henry L. .... 22, Austin Friars
Usborne, Robert A. .. 1, Drapers'-gardens

Valintine, F. A. W... 18, Cornhill
Vallance & Francis .... 7 and 8, G't Winchester-st.
Vallance, Arthur ..... 7 and 8, G't Winchester-st.
Van Outsem, Henry H. 14, Copthall avenue
Van Gulik, Gerard .... 28, Throgmorton-street
Vanderfelt, Sydney G. 28, Throgmorton-street
Vandervell, Harry .... 19, Old Broad-street
Van Sandau, F. C. T... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Venables, Edmund E... Basildon ho., Moorgate-st
Vernet, Robert ..... 6, Tokenhouse-yard

Vertue, Lubbock & Co. 43-6, Threadneedle-street
Vertue, Alfred ..... 43-6, Threadneedle-street
Vertue, Charles B. .... 43-6, Threadneedle-street
Viall, King ..... 4, Adam's-court
Vickerman, Arthur H. 9, Drapers'-gardens
Vigne, H. & Sons..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Vigne, John H. ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Vivian, Gray & Co..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Vivian, William ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Vowler, E. N. & Co. .. 3, Pope's Head-alley
Vowler, Edward N. .. 3, Pope's Head-alley

Wagg, Alfred R. .... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Wagg, Arthur ..... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Wagg, Edward ..... S'th Sea ho., Th'dneedle-st.
Wagner, J. & Co. .... 66, Old Broad-street
Wagner, Hermann .... 66, Old Broad-street
Wagner, Joseph ..... 66, Old Broad-street
Wainwright & Whitehead ..... 11, Copthall-court
Waithman, Balfour & Co. 34, Moorgate-street
Waithman, Charles .. 34, Moorgate-street
Waithman, John C. .. 34, Moorgate-street
Wake, Gordon A. .... 2, Austin Friars
Waley, Alfred J. .... 13, Copthall-court
Walford, Ernest F. .. Stock Exchange
Walker, Adam ..... 8, Drapers'-gardens
Walker, Edwin J. .... 35, Gresham ho., Old B'd-st
Walker, George M. .... Bartholomew house
Walker, William ..... 3, Copthall buildings
Wall, William G. .... 6 and 7, Copthall-court
Waller, Hardress J. .. 4, Tokenhouse buildings
Walmisley, H. W. & Co. 18, Austin Friars
Walmisley, Herbert W. 18, Austin Friars
Walmisley, S.E.H. & Co. 27, Throgmorton-street
Walmisley, S. E. H... 27, Throgmorton-street
Walter & Gould ..... 11, Angel-court
Walter & Walker .... Bartholomew house
Walter, William ..... Bartholomew house
Walter, Charles M. .. 7, Angel-court
Walters, Hugh ..... 18, Old Broad-street
Warburg, Julius ..... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Ward, Douglas I..... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Ward, John I. ..... 3, Throgmorton-avenue
Wardell, Henry ..... 58, Old Broad-street
Warren, C. F., jun. .. 24, Austin Friars
Washington, T. G. & Co. 2, Copthall-court
Washington, William R. 2, Copthall-court
Wassermann & Co. .. 54, Old Broad-street
Wassermann, Jacob .. 54, Old Broad-street
Watson & Swaine .... 5, Copthall buildings
Watson, Charles B. .. 5, Copthall buildings
Watson, Charles W. .. 5, Copthall buildings
Watson, Gerald A. .... 18, Old Broad-street
Watson, Guthrie F. .. 14, Austin Friars
Watson, Henry T. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Watson, Herbert E. .. 54, Cornhill
Watson, James ..... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Watson, James H. .... 28, Threadneedle-street
Watson, Septimus W... 96 and 97, Palmerston hse.
Watson, William S. .. 20, Copthall-avenue
Weager, William G. .. 2, St. Michael's ho., Cornhill
Wear, A. & Co. ..... St. Stephen's chambers
Wear, Alfred ..... St. Stephen's chambers

Webb, Alfred ..... 5, Adam's-ct., Old Broad-st.
Webb, Charles ..... 75, Old Broad-street
Webber, Ralph G. .... 29, Threadneedle-street
Weber, Ernest ..... 4, Drapers'-gardens
Webster, Frank H. .... St. Stephen's chambers
Webster, William .... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Weddle, Dudley ..... 28, Throgmorton-street
Weguelin, Thomas H... 7, Drapers'-gardens
Weinberger, Hugo .... 18, Austin Friars
Weisberg, Arthur .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Weisberg, Moses A. .. 6, Drapers'-gardens
Weiser, Benito ..... Swan house, G't Swan-alley
Weismann, Alfred .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Wellesley, H. A. & Co. 5, Copthall buildings
Wells, Thomas L. .... 9, Drapers'-gardens
Welton, Edward ..... Bond-court, Walbrook
Wendel, Charles ..... 18, Austin Friars
Wescott, Harold S..... 58, Old Broad-street
West, Charles W. .... 29, Threadneedle-street
West, Colin ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
West, Herbert E. .... 18, Austin Friars
Westhead, Walter B. .. 13, Copthall-court
Westley, Frank ..... 8, Copthall-court
Westmacott, Escombe & Co. ..... 8, Great Winchester-street
Westmacott, John .... 8, Great Winchester-street
Wharton, Frank M. .. 37, Throgmorton-street
Wharton & Macrae .... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Whish, George H. M. .. 38, Throgmorton-street
White, Henry & Son .. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
White, Henry ..... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
White, Henry A. .... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
White, Frank H. .... 5, Austin Friars
White, The Hon. R. .. 6, Throgmorton-street
White, Walter G. .... 14, Austin Friars
Whitehead, Geo., & Chown ..... 23, Bucklersbury
Whitehead, George H. 23, Bucklersbury
Whiteheads & Coles .. 39, Throgmorton-street
Whitehead, Henry .... 39, Throgmorton-street
Whitehead, Littleton .. 11, Copthall-court
Whitehead, William .. 39, Throgmorton-street
Whiteside, Robert B. .. 63, Cornhill
Whitwham, Frank G. .. 11, Copthall-court
Wightwick, Edward A. 3, Tokenhouse buildings
Wildy & Co. ..... 3, Threadneedle-street
Wildy, Arthur ..... 3, Threadneedle-street
Wildy, Harold Adams.. 3, Threadneedle-street
Wilkinson & Son ..... 3, Copthall buildings
Wilkinson, Charles E. 74, Cornhill
Willats, Walter J. .... 2, Drapers'-gardens
Williams, Cuthbert S... 20, Copthall-avenue
Williams, de Brõe & Co. 6, Tokenhouse-yard
Williams, Gerald ..... 27, Royal Exchange
Williams, Gerald W... 6, Tokenhouse-yard
Williams & Wimbush.. 27, Royal Exchange
Williamson, Charles S. 33, Old Broad-street
Williamson, F. J. .... 3, Copthall buildings
Wilmersdoerffer, C. .. 4, Drapers'-gardens
Wilmot, Louis F. R... 5, Copthall buildings
Wilson, A. & Sons .... 11, Birchin-lane
Wilson, Bernard A. .. 11, Birchin-lane
Wilson, Leslie ..... 11, Birchin-lane
Wilson, A. J. jun. .... 57, Moorgate-street

Wilson, Arthur & Co,.. 31, Threadneedle-street
Wilson, Arthur ..... 31, Threadneedle-street
Wilson, Arthur M. .... 18, Birchin-lane
Wilson, Ellis & Schofield ..... 64, Gresham-street
Wilson, Arthur (Wilson, Ellis & Schofield) .... 64, Gresham-street
Wilson, Frank ..... 53, New Broad-street
Wilson, Frank T. & Co. 58, Old Broad-street
Wilson, Frank T. .... 58, Old Broad-street
Wilson, Frederick W... 2, Copthall buildings
Wilson, George ..... Bartholomew house
Wilson, James ..... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Wimbush, Roland B. B. 27, Royal Exchange
Winch, Apsley, B. .... 31, Threadneedle-street
Winch, Arthur B. & Co. 58, Lombard-street
Winch, Arthur B. .... 58, Lombard-street
Winn, The Hon. C. H. 31, Throgmorton-street
Wise & Burnell ..... 50, Threadneedle-street
Wise, John H. ..... 50, Threadneedle-street
Wontner, A. J. & Renwick ..... 1, Cushion-ct., Old B'd-st.
Wontner, Algernon J... 1, Cushion-ct., Old B'd-st.
Wood, Arthur F. .... 4, Copthall chambers
Wood, Edward H. .... 6 and 7, Copthall-court
Wood, J. L., C.M.G. .. 19, Throgmorton-avenue
Wood, Thomas M. .... 80, Lombard-street
Woodall, E. & Yardley 31, Threadneedle-street
Woodall, Herbert .... 1, Cushion-court
Woodbridge & Flint .. 11, Copthall-court
Woodbridge, Austin H. 11, Copthall-court
Woodcock, Norman J... 11, Copthall-court
Woodhams & Branston 54 and 55, Cornhill
Woodhams, Walter L... 54 and 55, Cornhill
Woods, Arthur & Co... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Woods, Arthur ..... 1, Drapers'-gardens
Woog, Giacomo ..... 2, Tokenhouse buildings
Woollan, Frank M. .... 18, Austin Friars
Woolley, Day & Co. .... 7, Finch-lane
Woolley, Ernest ..... 7, Finch-lane
Woolley, Hugh L. .... 6, Drapers'-gardens
Woolner & Co. ..... 4, Copthall chambers
Woolner, Hugh ..... 4, Copthall chambers
Woolston, Beeton, Brodrick & West ..... 18, Austin Friars
Wright, Percy J. .... 13, Copthall-court
Wright, William ..... 4, Copthall chambers
Wurtzburg, C. E. & Co. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Wurtzburg, Charles E. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Wurtzburg, William F. 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Wylie & Ponsonby .... 1, Tokenhouse buildings
Wylie, George C. .... 1, Tokenhouse buildings

Yardley, George W. .. 31, Threadneedle-street
Yeates, Henry W. .... 4, Copthall buildings
Yorke, Hon. B. E. .... 10, Throgmorton-avenue
Young, Daniel ..... 19, Old Broad-street
Young, Eustace ..... 13, King's Arms-yard
Young, Montagu & Co. 116, Gresham house
Young, St. John M. .. 116, Gresham house

Zorn & Leigh-Hunt.... 3 and 4, G't Winchester-st.
Zorn, David F. L. .... 3 and 4, G't Winchester-st.
Zorn, John C. L. .... 3 and 4, G't Winchester-st.

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Entered as Second Class Matter at the New York, N.Y., Post Office, 1903.

(*Continued from page* 1600.)

"We have invested all our spare capital in these shares," says the Canadian Syndicate, "and are not prepared to dispose of our own holdings short of £3 per share, a figure we believe they will ultimately reach." For the sake of the rest of the buyers, as well as the Syndicate, it is to be hoped that this belief will prove to be well-founded. Meanwhile, however, I am not surprised to learn that this vigorous share-pushing campaign has produced a distinctly unfavourable impression on the minds of not a few of the people to whom the cards were addressed.

NOTES ON NEW ISSUES.

The Anglo-Mexican Oilfields, Limited, has been formed with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, to acquire concessions to extract petroleum from the lands of certain estates in the State of Chiapas, Southern Mexico. The consideration payable to the owners of the lands is £2,500 in cash and £10,000 in shares. The promoters of the company, the M.E.X. Syndicate, are to receive £120,000 in shares. Various experts report that "the shows are very promising," etc., but it is clearly a very speculative venture which should be left to people who can afford to risk the loss of their money.

The capital of the United Services Co-operative Hotel Company, Limited, is £225,000 in ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 207,000 shares are now offered for subscription. The objects of the company are to acquire a site at South Kensington, erect thereon a first-class hotel, and work the same upon co-operative principles, giving as regards a hotel privileges similar to those given to their shareholders by the various co-operative stores. It is primarily intended to cater for M.P.s, naval and military officers, and members of the superior grades of the Civil Service on the home, Indian, and colonial establishments. It is estimated that after the construction and equipment of the hotel, a sum of £25,250 will remain for working capital. The list closes on Thursday for London, and on Monday for the provinces.

The United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited, offer for subscription £300,000 Four and a Half per Cent. debenture stock at par. This debenture stock constitutes a first floating charge on the entire undertaking, and in view of the profits and progress of the company it appears to afford a good 4½ per cent. investment.

STOCK EXCHANGE SUPPLEMENT.

The attention of my readers is specially directed to the Stock Exchange Supplement which is published with this issue of TRUTH.

"VIGILANT'S" LETTER BOX.

1. *Inquiries addressed to me,* **which must be accompanied by a Coupon,** *can only be replied to through my "Letter Box." Under no circumstances can I reply by post, and as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of many of my readers, I wish to emphasise the fact that a coupon must be attached to* **every** *inquiry. A coupon will always be found at the foot of the third page of the coloured cover of* TRUTH.

2. *Six different stocks are the limit for an inquiry covered by one coupon. If it is desired to make an inquiry respecting a larger number of stocks an additional coupon or coupons (one for every half-a-dozen stocks) must be forwarded. The answering of many of the inquiries I receive necessitates a great deal of careful research, and I shall therefore be compelled henceforth to enforce this regulation. Its necessity will be apparent when I state that some correspondents send lists of 20 or 30 different stocks covering every class and description of Investment.*

3. *Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.*

4. *Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.*

5. *A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.*

6. *Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.*

7. *Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue.*

8. *I do not recommend brokers or solicitors.*

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Wych Hazel.—The bonds are a distinctly second-rate investment, and I do not regard the yield as attractive. Interest at present is being regularly paid, the dates being January 1 and July 1. *G. T.*—Consols, or, to give them their official title, Two and a Half per Cent. Consolidated Stock, is the security for your purpose. You will find full details as to the method of purchasing in your Post Office Savings Bank book. *Headingley.*—Quite good, and, providing you are not putting too many eggs into one basket, I see no objection to your buying more.

RAILWAYS.

L'Ideale.—I by no means recommend you to buy the shares with borrowed money. *C. M.*—(a) The dividend will probably go short this half year, but the balance should, without doubt, be made up in the second half. Hold. (b) If the dividend on this stock be smaller for the current year it will be due to dear coals and materials—a temporary matter. In the long run the stock should command a better price. (c and d) Both sound investments, and there is little doubt about the maintenance of the interest. Thanks for your appreciative remarks.

MINES.

W. W. W.—1. On the statements in the prospectus the shares seemed a fair purchase, and apparently the fall in the quotation is mainly the result of the issue not having gone off well. Possibly now the special settlement is out of the way they will have some recovery, but there is little or no market interest in them at the moment. 2. I believe the mine has fair speculative prospects. *Professor.*—In my opinion, you could make a much more attractive selection than the shares you name. They are highly speculative. *Frankie.*—1 and 2. Hopeful purchases at current prices. 3. I have not a high opinion of the scheme. *Scotland.*—Hold all for the present.

MIXED SECURITIES.

Jungle.—1. The following would be suitable. The yield would be from 4½ to 5 per cent. Spread the money over the lot:—Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway New Five per Cent. debentures, Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four and a Half per Cent. new debentures, National Railroad of Mexico Four per Cent. First Consolidated Mortgage bonds, United Railways of the Havana Five per Cent. Irredeemable debentures (1906), Atchison Railroad New Five per Cent. Convertible ten year bonds, Grand Trunk Railway Five per Cent. Second Preference, and Imperial Tobacco Six per Cent. Preferred Ordinary. 2. Better get your local banker to put the business through for you. 3. I do not recommend them. *Field Officer (Aden).*—See first answer to "Jungle." It is impossible to absolutely guarantee against loss in buying stocks of any description, from Consols downwards. The securities named, however, are very sound, and, in my opinion, possess more prospect of a rise than a fall, that is, if you are prepared to lock them away at least for a year or two. *Celestial.*—1-3. I should say the bank would take the responsibility, but why not consult it direct? 4. Yes. 5. London County Council New Three and a Half per Cent., issued at 97, and standing now at a fractional premium. You could hardly have anything safer. Thanks for your appreciative remarks. Glad to hear that TRUTH prevails in such remote parts. *Esuriens.*—1. I have no reason to doubt the honesty of the management. Beyond the general depression there is nothing, so far as I am aware, to account for the decline in the price of the shares, and on the official particulars they seem a fair speculative lock-up. 2. Sell them. *Ashtray, India.*—1. This mine does not appear to have been affected by the strike, and I consider the shares one of the best selections among Kaffirs at present. 2. Hold. 3. The line was disappropriated by the State Government, as from the end of 1905, the payment being £202,500, in 7 per cent. bonds of the State. The company contested the right of the authorities to buy up the line on these terms, but the decision of the Brazilian Courts went against it. At the present time the line is in receivership and interest on the bonds is being temporarily withheld. You need, however, have no fear that the bondholders' interests are not safeguarded, the best evidence of which is that the scrip at the present time stands at 91. Whether the bonds will be redeemed immediately I cannot yet say. 4. The stock is quite sound, but I do not look for any immediate rise, as traffic returns in the next six months are likely to show a falling off, owing to the short maize crop. However, you could afford to hold, even should the dividend be temporarily reduced from the present 6 per cent. level, a contingency that is possible, though not altogether probable. 5. Buenos Ayres and Pacific New Four and a Half per Cent. debentures should suit you. The yield is over 4⅝ per cent. *Cina Peculi.*—1. All the six stocks named in your first letter are gilt-edged securities, about which you need have no reason to worry. With regard to buying the ordinary stocks you mention, both are sound enough, and look attractive at present prices, but in the present depressed state of the market it would be rash to assert that prices have touched bottom. As to your second letter, 2 and 3 are both good industrial investments. See "Insurance Notes" for the reply to your last question. *Nobody.*—The Car Trust Investment Company was reconstructed in 1905, under the name of the Car Trust Realisation Company. Preference stockholders received one 5s. share in the new concern for every £10 stock in the old, and no dividend was to be paid on the new shares until the whole of the Income bonds and Debenture stock had been paid off. I have heard no price for the shares, but their value, if any, must be very small, as the Income bonds stand at only 25. *Star.*—(a) Sell them. (b) Very speculative, and not attractive at present. (c) Do your business through a member of the Stock Exchange. A list of members is published in the Supplement in this week's TRUTH. *Adeline, Boscombe.*—1. Hold for the present, in spite of the report. 2. I have heard nothing of the concern since the publication of the prospectus, with which I was not very favourably impressed. *Huntsman.*—1. No. 2. You could obtain the higher yield offered by the new issue without seriously increasing the risk. 3. Not first-class, but good enough among 5 per cent. securities. 4. Yes. *Nozruc.*—1. I cannot hold out any very strong hope of a recovery. The last accounts published showed a heavy deficit on working, and in view of the

limited character of the guarantee the outlook for the debenture holders is not particularly inspiriting. I am not sure but what the best course would be to sell now and exchange into one of the many excellent high yielding securities that are available for investors. 2. The debentures should be held for the present. *M. B.*—1. Yes. 2. The company is doing very well, but the dividend outlook for the stock is rendered uncertain by the fact that 2 per cent. of the total now being paid is drawn from the sale of Rescission bonds given by the Government in commutation of the guarantee, and this fund is expected to be exhausted by 1909. You might hold the stock for the present, but keep a close watch upon traffics and general conditions governing the line. 3. Grand Trunk Second Preference. *G. B., Gravesend.*—Your investments are good enough among securities returning 4½ to 5 per cent., and your brother might divide his money between, say, Japanese Four and a Half per Cent. bonds and the new Argentine Fives. *G. S.*—There is good security behind each of the stocks you name, and by spreading your money over the five you ought to be able to command the required yield with a minimum of risk. *Smythe.*—1. I do not advise. 2. A fair investment, but you must not count upon any material movement in the price within the immediate future. *Moobung.*—1. A fair speculation; hold for a better market. 2 and 3. These also should be held. *Lancelot.*—1. Hold what you have as a pure speculation, but do not buy more. 2. I certainly do not advise a further purchase. See this week's comments. *Douglas.*—1. A sound industrial investment, but I do not anticipate a rise. 2 and 3. Hopeful purchases. 4-6. I prefer Glencairns as a holding for dividends. The others are more speculative. *Oxford.*—1. Hold for the present. 2. Reports as to the value of the property (which, by the way, is in West Australia, not New Zealand) are conflicting, and I do not care to recommend a purchase of the shares. *Senex.*—1. A very fair holding for dividends. 2. Keep them. *Greenhorn.*—1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 seem good for a small recovery when domestic conditions improve 3. The poor report is disquieting. 6. They do not seem attractive to me. 7. Speculative. 10. Realise. With regard to your other queries, see Rule 2. *Scotus.*—1. I think you might make a better investment. 2. An undesirable holding. *W. McC.*—1. I should not like to call the debentures safe. They are, of course, fully guaranteed, but the financial position of the guarantors, although sufficiently good at the present time to meet the service on the debentures, is not all that might be desired. If safety be your first object, it would be better to exchange into something not possessing this element of doubt. 2. In the event of the recovery to the price you paid, it might be as well to realise. 3. Thanks for the information.

Miscellaneous.

Hindoo.—Obviously speculative. *Caution, W. T.*, and *D. A.*—Thanks for your communications. *Aloof.*—May 29 and June 12. I do not know what the cost would be, but I should not advise litigation over so small a sum. However, if you like, I will forward the solicitor's address. *Express.*—I referred last week to the National Share Exchange bucket-shop. *Diligens.*—1. Yes. 2. The yield mentioned was on the then current price of the shares. *R. W. C.*—All good. *Erie.*—Hold for the present. *Carrington.*—Have nothing to do with Arnold and Butler, or any other cover-snatchers. Such so-called methods of "investment on margin," etc., are wild gambles, in which you are practically certain to lose your money. *Jeames, Vigornian,* and other correspondents.—See preceding answer. *Nimrod, Solitary, Constant Reader* (*Murree Hills*), and other correspondents.—I do not recommend purchases of such lottery or premium bonds. The International Securities Syndicate, Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., and other touting firms charge outrageously exorbitant prices for the bonds. *Mayflower.*—See preceding answer. Apply to Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. *H. L. W.* and *R. G.*—A swindling bucket-shop, which I have already exposed. *Duke.*—See "Insurance Notes." *W. H. D.*—I have heard nothing of it. *W. H. T.*—1. Lyons' ordinary shares would be a good purchase. 2. See "Insurance Notes."' *G. K.*—1 and 2. I advise you not to purchase such bonds, but I have had no occasion to criticise the firm you name. 4 and 6. These are highly speculative, and, in my opinion, you could make a much more attractive selection at present. *Suspicious.*—The insignificant decline was due to market conditions, and not to fears concerning the new project, which is calculated to benefit the concern. Worth holding. *Ashley.*—1 and 2. Would make good commercial investments. 3. A trifle risky. 4. Only attractive as a high yielding speculative investment. 5. Best left alone. *Celt.*—1. The shares are about equal, and I do not think you would gain anything by the proposed exchange. 2. Lyons appear preferable. 3. It seems unwise to realise in present market conditions. *Cosmos.*—Realise and put the proceeds into Humbers or Darracqs. Lyons are worth holding, and there is nothing to fear in regard to the other. I know nothing against the firm, but recommend you to do your business through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Carrots.*—1. Beyond the land balance there are no attractive prospects, and the shares appear a trifle over valued. 2. An attractive speculation. 3. Poor. *Cristow.*—Bradford, Dyers, and Argyll appear the best of the list. *Hospenthal.*—You have no cause for anxiety. *Montemilla, Cork.*—All might be held. Dunlops seem the least attractive. *Scunthorpe.*—Neither could possibly be regarded as free from serious risk. *Medicus,* and other correspondents.—Replies will appear next week.

Over-stoutness is not difficult to permanently cure when the right remedy is found. Antipon is now in universal favour. The *Methodist Recorder* says:—"It is satisfactory to know that Antipon is the practical result of a specialist's researches and discoveries, so that reliance can be placed upon its efficacy." Price 2s. 6d. and 4s 6d. per bottle, of all chemists, or of The Antipon Company, 13, Olmar-street, London, S.E.

Miscellaneous Issues—Pekins Unaffected by the New Coal Discovery—British Electric Traction Prospects—Spencer, Santo's Reduced Dividend—Bieckert's Prosperity—Allsopp's Debentures.

The Miscellaneous market remains in a state of disheartening dulness, unrelieved by any really bright spot. There are many securities in this department standing at prices which ought to tempt investors, but they are still backward in coming forward, and week after week passes without any substantial sign of that broadening out of public interest which has been so long awaited. Speculation is practically at a standstill, such a favourite counter as Anglo "A" being almost completely neglected, in common with more stable issues in the same group, for which a month or two ago some investment demand was being experienced. Hudson's Bays have also been comparatively inactive, though towards the end of the week a small advance was recorded. The Pekin Syndicate published a cablegram from their chief mining engineer at the Honan mines, stating that a seven feet coal seam has been struck, that further prospecting is proceeding, and that in the meantime a small quantity of coal is being obtained, of which 20 per cent. is good clean lump. The news, though somewhat more encouraging than some of the previous reports, did not produce any material effect on the price of the shares, which are now quoted at about 5¼, a heavy drop from the price at which they stood even six months ago. For some time past it had been generally anticipated that the revenue of the British Electric Traction Company for the past year would reveal a serious falling off, so that in this respect the report issued last week occasioned no surprise. Between 1902 and 1906 the dividend on the ordinary shares dwindled from 9 per cent. to 3 per cent., and this year nothing is paid. The net profit was, in fact, barely sufficient to meet the debenture and preference charges. The directors drag into the report an allusion to "the free importation of manufactures from abroad," which is particularly foolish in connection with the company's undertakings, and the shareholders might justly regard the outlook as quite hopeless, if it were seriously contended that they must not look for an improvement, first, until a protective policy has been adopted in this country, and, secondly, until the tariff could be so manipulated as to benefit this particular concern. Fortunately, the outlook is not actually so gloomy as that. There was in the past year an increase in the yield from the company's investments, and further large increases may be fairly counted upon, seeing that a number of the associated tramway companies, whose properties are still only in the development stage have a good prospect of becoming remunerative. Meanwhile, the report has had little or no influence on the price of the company's securities. The reduction of the ordinary dividend of Spencer, Santo, and Co. was not unexpected, and had been discounted by the drop in the value of the shares during the past few months. Instead of the 10 per cent. distributed for the four preceding years, the ordinary shareholders now get only 6 per cent. Conditions in the building trade have been unfavourable, and though various contracts have been secured, the percentage of profit is less than in more prosperous times. In the brewery division the outstanding feature has been the fall in Bieckert's Brewery ordinary stock, notwithstanding the remarkable state of prosperity this concern has now reached. Seven years ago there was a drastic writing-down of the capital, and even then it was not till 1905 that a dividend was paid on the ordinary stock. The distribution then was 6 per cent.; in the following year it was doubled; and now it is raised from 12 to 15 per cent., while the allocation to reserve has been largely increased. The business at Buenos Ayres is rapidly expanding under the present management, and to provide for the necessary extensions and improvements at the brewery an issue of new shares and 5 per cent. debenture stock is contemplated. A meeting of the holders of Allsopp's Four per Cent. Mortgage Debenture stock has been called for this week to consider a proposal for the modification of the trust deed to permit the cancellation of £250,000 of the stock. The exact

effect of the proposal is not very clearly explained in the circular which has been sent out, but one large stockholder detects in it a flagrant example of that policy of "confiscation" against which brewers are perpetually declaiming, and there certainly seems to be good ground for the complaint that the matter is being rushed through. Among textiles hardly a change has occurred. Iron, steel, and coal companies' shares have exhibited a slightly weaker tendency, but Vickers have shown a satisfactory degree of firmness in view of the strike. Motors have generally been inactive, with fractional declines in two or three cases. VIGILANT.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Owing to the exceptional pressure on my space this week, I am obliged to hold over my usual "Insurance Notes." Below I give, however, the answers to a number of inquiries by correspondents on insurance questions:—

Ajax and *Lotus*.—The Scottish Provident Institution is one of the strongest and best in the country. *Cura Peculi*.—The United Kingdom Temperance Institution is thoroughly sound and strong. *P. B.*—The Scottish Temperance Company is the best office for your purpose. It may, however, be necessary for you to find rather more than £100. *Duke*.—I should not advise you to commence paying to this Corporation, though if you have paid for long it might, or might not, be advisable for you to continue doing so. I had something to say on this subject on March 6. *Hautbois*.—If the policy is properly assigned to you for valuable consideration, of which I imagine your having paid the premiums is convincing proof, the policy is irrevocably yours, and the company would have to pay you. You should ascertain from the company that the assignment to you has been registered in their books. *W. H. T.*—Take your endowment assurance policy from the National Provident Institution. *T. M.*—Ask the association if they will give the surrender value subject to your obtaining the consent of all parties concerned, and a guarantee from the Law Guarantee and Trust Society, indemnifying the life office in the event of a claim being made; this guarantee would cost very little. If not, consult Messrs. Foster and Cranfield, Poultry, E.C., as to the sale of the policy. *M. F., Cardiff*.—You might have done better, but there is not a vast deal the matter with the policy you have. It is waste of money to insure twice over. *A. K. C.*—An amalgamation is in progress, which will improve the security for the policy holders. The policy you have is quite all right. *Oliver* and *L. W. S.*—I cannot advise the association you mention for the class of business you refer to. I do not agree with the press opinions expressed in their circular. *W. A. B.*—The policy you mention is very fairly satisfactory. The extra premium referred to is "7½ per cent. extra on premium, to secure compensation from date of accident." These words are quoted from the company's proposal form. *Snorter*.—The policy you mention is all right. Your old gardener can be insured at the ordinary rate, no information in regard to age being asked for or required. *J. M.*—Pay Alliance, Royal, or Royal Exchange 5s. a year for a permanent servant, and 2s. 6d. a year for all occasional employees. You are not liable to porters and other casual employees unless you employ them for the purposes of your trade or business. Take the life policy you want from the Norwich Union.—Several answers to correspondents are postponed till next week.

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QUEER STORY.

A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

MR. GILKS, the butler, and Mrs. Perridge, the housekeeper, were discussing their usual mid-morning luncheon in the latter's room—a succulent little luncheon of cold chicken and tongue, and lamb chops in aspic, "flanked" (as our forefathers would have said) with a bottle of special old port, which Gilks, who had a sound taste in wine, had just got up from his master's cellar. Both butler and housekeeper were in the habit of doing themselves well, as their portly persons and rubicund faces testified. Indeed, how they managed to assimilate what they did without becoming martyrs to chronic dyspepsia is one of those mysteries of domestic service that no one outside it can ever comprehend.

Now while Mr. Gilks was thus discussing, gastrically, the lamb chops and the old port, he was also, oratorically, discussing something else—a something else that then loomed large on the public horizon—to wit, the recent Act extending the principle of Compensation for accidents to those engaged in domestic service.

"This is the dawn of a new era, Mrs. Perridge—of a new and blessed era," he said, holding up his glass critically to the light and surveying the clear transparency of the ruby fluid with an appreciative eye. "What was we before? Slaves without rights and without remedies! And what are we now? Free men and women, Mrs. Perridge, with a weapon in our hand as can bring the most harbitry of our tyrants to their knees. You mark my words, Mrs. Perridge, this is nothing less than an almighty revolution, compared with which the liberation of the niggers by William Wilberforce was child's play."

And to emphasise the impressiveness of the pronouncement, Mr. Gilks tossed off his whole glass of port at a gulp, and smacked his lips resoundingly, with an air of triumph.

"There, now, Mr. Gilks; you don't say so," simpered Mrs. Perridge, coyly arranging her cap ribbons and glancing at the oracle admiringly.

"But I do say so, ma'am," he replied, as he re-filled his glass. "I'm not a Radical, Mrs. Perridge. I've always been—like most of the gentlemen in my line—a good Conservative; which it's more respectable, and soshally beneath contempt, Radicals being, for the most part, low, vulgar fellers. But I must confess, Mrs. Perridge, that in this particular case the Radicals have done a righteous thing, and covered themselves with everlasting glory. And though I couldn't never vote for them—even if I had a vote—especially with their views about the wine and spirit trade, wanting to turn us all into blue-ribboners—yet I shall always speak kindly of them in future, Mrs. Perridge," he declared, magnanimously, "for this one good—I may even say, holy—action."

"I hear our governor is grumbling about it terrible," remarked Mrs. Perridge.

"He is, ma'am," nodded Mr. Gilks. "He was going on about it only last night after dinner, forgetting, I suppose, that I hadn't yet left the room; said it was an iniquitous Act, he did, and if servants wanted insuring against accidents, why shouldn't they insure themselves, as he had to do; and that such pampering and cosseting of the lower orders—of the lower orders, if you please, Mrs. Perridge—was downright sickening."

"P'raps he was only thinking of the under servants, who, of course, *are* the lower orders," suggested Mrs. Perridge.

"He didn't say nothing about under servants. He lumped us all together, like so much dirt," answered the indignant Mr. Gilks.

"Well, the governor is hasty. He often speaks without weighing his words," said Mrs. Perridge. "But his bark is worse than his bite, after all; and really he isn't a bad master, as masters go."

"I am not denying that he has his points," replied Mr. Gilks, with the air of one who prides himself on being strictly impartial, even to his worst enemies. "He doesn't look into the stock in the wine cellar too closely, nor does he stoop to the low practice of counting his cigars. Still, a man who can bring hisself to speak of me as the lower orders—— Oh! hang. There goes the bell. That's for me. I wish the dooce the Government would pass a law doing away with bells in domestic service. They're always ringing at the most inconvenient times," declared Mr. Gilks, as, with a regretful glance at the half-finished contents of the bottle, he rose and went off to obey the summons.

As he was passing along the corridor that led from the housekeeper's room, he encountered Mary, the second housemaid, a good-looking, buxom young woman, with red cheeks and saucy blue eyes.

"You're looking very pretty this morning, my dear," said the butler, with an amorous playfulness that was hardly in keeping with his usual dignity.

"Oh, go on, Mr. Gilks," tittered Mary.

"I *am* going on, when I have taken the usual toll," replied Mr. Gilks.

And he put his arm round Mary's waist and kissed her.

"Well, I never," giggled Mary; "and me with such a bad cold in my head, too. It would serve you right if you caught it. *That* it would, Mr. Gilks."

"And if I did, my dear," replied the butler, jocosely, "it wouldn't matter much, for, under the new Act,

you see, I should come down on the governor for compensation."

"I thought you could only claim compensation," answered Mary, saucily, "for ailments caught while discharging your domestic duties."

"Well, and ain't I discharging one of my domestic duties in kissing you, my dear?" demanded Mr. Gilks, with a facetious grin. And he passed on, chuckling to himself at his own wit, and reflecting that really this would be rather a nice point for the lawyers—to settle whether it was, or was not, part of the domestic duties of the butler to kiss the pretty maidservants. For his part, he was prepared to maintain strenuously that it was, and he had little doubt that Mary would be found of the same opinion. On the other hand, Mrs. Perridge, the housekeeper, would, of course, dissent strenuously from the proposition, since she somehow regarded the butler as her own private property. What reason she might have for this claim I don't quite know. At any rate, Mr. Gilks so far recognised it that he was always severely distant in his manner to Mary when Mrs. Perridge was looking.

At supper that evening in the housekeeper's room the subject of compensation again cropped up. This time it was Mrs. Perridge who introduced it.

"I've found out something, Mr. Gilks," she said, "from certain remarks as I overheard to-day between the master and the missis."

"The missis? Oh, d—n that woman!" ejaculated Mr. Gilks, viciously.

"Oh, fie, Mr. Gilks! Such language. In my presence, too!" said Mrs. Perridge, holding up a reproving finger.

"Well, I couldn't help it, really," replied Mr. Gilks. "I'm not the one to swear before ladies in a general way. But that woman would provoke the patience of a saint. I wonder the old man has managed to stick her so long—I do, indeed."

"He can't help himself, poor man!" answered Mrs. Perridge; "he's not like you or me. He can't give notice to leave when he isn't satisfied. I dare say he wishes he could. Besides, it's *her* money. The master hasn't a copper of his own. And when you're living on your wife, you have to put up with things, you know. But you haven't told me. What's the mistress been doing to you now?"

"She's been nagging at me the whole day," replied the butler, with a gloomy scowl. "Nothing I've done since I got up this morning seems to be right. The wine-glasses are greasy, the plate's smeary, the lamps smell enough to poison you, her precious Fido looks as though he hadn't been brushed for a month, and why can't I teach the buttons better manners. She said it all in such a hasty way, too, as though she were trying to rile me. It was all I could do—I give you my word it was, Mrs. Perridge—to preserve a dignified and contemptible silence."

"I don't wonder, Mr. Gilks," said the housekeeper, sympathetically, "I know what the mistress is when she gets saying nasty things."

"She's a cat, ma'am, a spiteful, wixenish cat, which I'd give something to have the chance of rapping her over those venomous claws of hers," ejaculated Mr. Gilks, viciously.

"There, now! I often feel that way myself about her," replied Mrs. Perridge, warmly; "and it seems to me, Mr. Gilks," she added, with an impressive look, "as providence has just now put the very weapon in your hand for the purpose."

"What do you mean, Mrs. Perridge?" inquired Mr. Gilks.

"You remember my saying just now, Mr. Gilks, that I had found out something to-day through overhearing certain remarks that passed between the master and the missis?"

The butler nodded.

"Well, I'll tell you what those remarks was," continued Mrs. Perridge. "They was these, Mr. Gilks: Missis says to master, 'Tom,' she says, 'how about insuring the servants? Have you done it yet?' she says. 'Well, no, my dear,' says he, 'I hav'n't. The fact is I rather grudge having to pay the money for such a purpose,' he says. 'But don't you think, Tom,' says she, 'as it would be wiser to take out a policy?' 'Well, I don't really think there's much risk,' he says, 'we've never had an accident to our servants yet, all these years. But there; I'll think about it, my dear.' Which, when he says he'll think about a thing, you know what it means, Mr. Gilks. It's only another way of saying as he's put it on one side till further notice."

"So it is," assented Mr. Gilks. "The governor is a regular slacker in business matters—always was. But I don't know as I quite follows your point about the weapon yet, Mrs. Perridge."

"No?" rejoined Mrs. Perridge, fixing her black eyes in a cunning gaze upon the butler, "then I'll tell you, Mr. Gilks. The governor hasn't insured us. What's the consequence—I just suppose a case—what's the consequence, I repeat, if you, for instance, Mr. Gilks, should slip down on the parquet flooring and strain yourself so badly as to be unfit for work for a month or two?"

"The old man would have to pay me compensation, of course," replied Mr. Gilks.

"Quite so," said Mrs. Perridge, the cunning of her look becoming still more pronounced. "But, not having covered you by insurance, the governor would have to stump up out of his own pocket, which means—since it's all the mistress's money—that *she'd* have to pay the piper. Now you know how hard the mistress always parts, Mr. Gilks ——"

"Nasty old skinflint," murmured the butler, "I know it well."

"That's just the fun of it," continued Mrs. Perridge, looking more cunning than ever. "She don't exactly love you, as it is, Mr. Gilks; and just think how she'd feel if she had to pay you from fifty to a hundred pounds compensation out of her own pocket. Oh, gracious! How she would grizzle over it. It would be like drawing her very heart's blood."

"Ah!" said Mr. Gilks, a smile of comprehension gradually stealing over his fat face. "I think I begin to see the point of your observations, Mrs. Perridge."

"It's an easy matter, after all, slipping down on parquet flooring—a thing, in fact, as might happen to any one," remarked Mrs. Perridge, in a casual sort of way.

"Yes, it's easy enough slipping down, ma'am," replied Mr. Gilks, thoughtfully; "but it's not so easy slipping down just hard enough to hurt yourself sufficiently and yet not so hard as to hurt yourself too much. Remember as a man of my build falls heavy, Mrs. Perridge, and I might get damaged more than I bargained for."

Mrs. Perridge smiled a knowing and superior smile.

"You could easy *sit* down on the floor, couldn't you, Mr. Gilks?" she inquired.

"Yes, Mrs. Perridge, I could certainly do that," he answered.

"And I could easy find you there, groaning and writhing, and trying in vain to get up—couldn't I, Mr. Gilks?" pursued the wily housekeeper.

"Yes, ma'am, you could," replied Gilks, chuckling. "But then," he added after a pause "where would the marks and bruises be, Mrs. Perridge? A man can't disable himself like that, you see, without having something to show the doctor."

"Oh, a man of your habit bruises at a touch, Mr. Gilks," answered the housekeeper. "You've only got to pinch yourself here and there, and the thing's done. Besides, in any case, strains aren't wisible, Mr. Gilks. Not the 'cutest doctor that ever looked a patient over can see a strain. You just hobbles and groans, and says 'Phew!' every time he touches you. And who's to know that you ain't really hurt? Of course, if you was dealing with an insurance company it would be different, insurance companies being dangerous things to play tricks upon. But with a private individual like the master—so slack and easy going and unsuspicious—you'll just be on velvet. If it wasn't so, I'd never have suggested such a course, Mr. Gilks."

The butler nodded. "Well, it's certingly worth thinking of," he said. "I'll give it my consideration, Mrs. Perridge."

Mr. Gilks gave the housekeeper's sly suggestion his consideration, and the next day's events decided him, for it so happened that his mistress again got out of bed on the wrong side that morning, with the result that she,

spent the rest of the day in falling foul of all her servants, Mr. Gilks in particular, and thereby wrought him up to a pitch of vindictiveness that yearned irresistibly for summary retaliation. And in his resolve to "get his own back" he was warmly encouraged and fomented by Mrs. Perridge, who herself appeared to have been much exasperated during the day by her mistress's ill-humoured naggings.

So next morning, when the head of the house came down to breakfast, he was met by Mrs. Perridge with a long face and a distressful tale of how she had found poor Gilks an hour before lying groaning on the polished parquetry of the front hall, so much hurt that he was unable to rise; how she and Freddy, the "buttons," had, with the greatest difficulty, got him up and assisted him to his room, where he was now lying on the bed; and please might she send the stable boy for the doctor, as poor Gilks's injuries seemed very serious, etc., etc.

The master, of course, gave the requisite permission, and at once went himself to see Gilks, whom he found groaning and writhing on his bed, evidently in acute pain. Gilks, between his groans, gave his master a circumstantial account of the accident.

"I was a-crossing the front hall this morning, sir, after unbarring the shutters, when I slipped on the parquetry, all sudden-like, and come right down on my back, so heavy as I thought I'd broken every bone in my body. I was so much hurt that I couldn't even get up on to my hands and knees. And if Mrs. Perridge hadn't found me, and called up Freddy to get me on my feet, I should have been there now, sir. And oh, dear! my poor side. Phew! phew! It's serving me out something crool, it is. I do hope I haven't damaged myself for life, sir. But it almost feels like it—the pain's so bad—it do, indeed."

"Tut, tut! We'll hope it's not so serious as that, Gilks," replied his master kindly. "The doctor has been sent for. He'll be here presently. When he comes we shall know more about it. In the meanwhile you had better lie where you are and not attempt to move."

"I couldn't, sir, if I tried to," answered Gilks, lugubriously.

"Come, come. Cheer up, my good fellow," said his master, encouragingly. "I hope the doctor won't find anything so very serious the matter after all."

The hope he thus expressed was no mere pious formality either; for his folly in not having insured his servants had already dawned upon him, and he realised that if Gilks really were permanently disabled, it would be uncommonly awkward for him. Gilks had £70 a year and his keep—say another £50. What if he should have to pay the full pound a week allowed by the Act for the remainder of his life? It was rather a disturbing prospect.

But all apprehension on this score was—to his great relief—removed by what his wife had to tell him when he reported Gilks's unfortunate accident to her.

"Well, you may thank your stars, my dear Tom," she said, "that you have a business-like wife to look after you. When you put off insuring the servants and said you'd think about it, I knew what that meant—that you might perhaps do something by the next blue moon. So I took the matter into my own hands, communicated with 'The Regal,' got them to quote me for an inclusive omnibus policy, and clinched the matter by sending a cheque for the premiums at once. So luckily—whatever may be the extent of Gilks's injuries—we are fully covered."

"I say! But that's splendid. What a head you have got, to be sure, Clara," exclaimed her husband, in admiring approval. "You have taken a ton weight off my mind. I was afraid I might have to keep Gilks for the rest of his natural life."

"You are rid of all liability now, anyway, Tom—even if Gilks's injuries should prove to be serious. But, as to that, I confess I 'hae my doots.' I haven't the highest opinion of Gilks, as you know; and it wouldn't in the least surprise me if this wasn't more or less of a put-up job," declared his wife, with rather a grim expression.

"Oh, come, Clara, you are too hard on Gilks. He may be a little slack in his work perhaps——"

"Slack? If slackness were his only failing, I should regard him much more leniently than I do. But, as I have often told you, I don't believe he is any too honest, and if you had followed my advice, you would either have discharged him, or at least have taken the key of the wine-cellar into your own charge, long ago."

"My dear Clara, you know I could never do that——"

"No; I am aware of it, Tom. You are so easy-going and afraid of hurting people's feelings, that it amounts to a positive weakness. For that reason, I am extremely glad that it lies with the insurance company, and not with yourself, to handle the claim for compensation that Gilks will, of course, prefer. For you would have agreed to any demand without examination, whereas the company won't pay until they are satisfied that it's a genuine case."

"Well, I'm glad, too, as far as that goes," replied her husband. "I hate haggling with menials about anything. The doctor will be here before long, and then we shall hear what he has to say."

In due course the doctor arrived. He saw Gilks, examined him carefully, and gave the following report:—

"The fellow is certainly a good deal bruised," he said, "and appears to have strained his side rather badly. Whether his injuries are likely to be really serious it is difficult, at the moment, for me to say; but, at any rate, he must remain in bed for the present. And even taking the most favourable view, I should say he will be unable to resume his duties for quite a month."

"There, my dear, I told you I was sure Gilks wasn't shamming," said the master of the house to his wife, when the doctor had left.

"No. It seems he has really hurt himself," she replied, rather grudgingly. "Though, still, there is nothing to show that he didn't fall on purpose. It is, at least, an odd coincidence that he should have slipped down for the first time, in all these years, just after the new Act's coming into force. However, we will leave the insurance people to deal with that. What we have to do is to engage a *locum tenens* to do Gilks' work. And, luckily, I happen to know of a most trustworthy and capable man. My sister wrote to me about him only a few days ago, to ask if I could hear of a place for him. She knows him personally and can vouch both for his respectability and capacity. With your approval, I'll write and engage him for a month certain, at once."

"All right. Do so by all means," replied her husband, only too glad to be spared the bother of having to look out for a *locum tenens* himself.

In due course, the *locum tenens* arrived; and the first thing he did (owing, I suspect, to a hint given him by his new mistress) was to request that a careful inventory might be made of the stock of wine in the cellar before he took over the key. His master, not much liking the trouble of the thing, turned over the job to his wife. She did the work, as she always did everything, thoroughly; and the overhauling of the stock, under her keen supervision, brought to light rather a startling circumstance. More than twenty dozen bottles of what was supposed to be old port were found to have been emptied and filled with water. Moreover, from the comparatively recent disturbance of the dust in these particular bins, it was evident that no one but Gilks could be the culprit.

Gilks indignantly denied the charge. But his guilt was so evident that his master, while declining to prosecute him, gave him notice to leave the house at once as soon as he was well enough to be moved. And Gilks, not caring to remain any longer, under the circumstances, managed to get well enough to be taken away in an ambulance in the course of two or three days.

But that wasn't the end of his troubles. The insurance people, after looking into the case, came to the conclusion that his was a bogus claim, and declined to

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pay a penny. And Gilks, finding that he had to deal with an insurance company instead of with his easy-going master, was afraid to press his claim, and had to sit quietly down by their refusal. So altogether he got badly "left in the cart," which served him right.

But how about Mrs. Perridge, the housekeeper, who had put Gilks up to his attempted fraud? Did no visitation fall on her? No; none whatever. The facts, you see, were these. Mrs. Perridge had, for some time, been spoiling to have her revenge on Gilks. She knew, of course, of his depredations in the wine-cellar. She knew also that, if he were temporarily disabled, they must come to light. And she baited her trap for him accordingly.

You will say that this was very mean and spiteful of Mrs. Perridge. I am not concerned to deny it. But then it was also very mean and treacherous of Mr. Gilks to make up to the housekeeper, to lead her on to expectations of marriage, and then to back down from his implied obligation. Still, even this she might have overlooked, in the hope of winning him back again. But there was one thing that she could not, and would not, overlook. I refer to Mr. Gilks' fatal delusion that it was part of his domestic duties as butler to kiss Mary, the under-housemaid.

ART NOTES.

THE PASTEL SOCIETY.

PASTEL is a medium which has never yet received its due share of attention in this country, and a debt of gratitude is certainly due to the Pastel Society for its efforts towards its popularisation. Unfortunately, they have, hitherto, only served, for the most part, to accentuate the nakedness of the land, the most interesting works shown at its exhibitions, speaking generally, being those shown by foreign artists. At the present show the British exponents—and more particularly the women among them—seem to have made a praiseworthy attempt to level up, and the average level of achievement is distinctly above that to which we have grown accustomed. On the other hand, the tendency to attempt the impossible—in the way of making pastel do the work of oils, water-colours, and what not, which has been much in evidence of recent years, shows itself, if anything, in an accentuated form. It must be said, too, that those in authority seem to regard it with a favourable eye rather than otherwise, seeing that they include a number of exhibits which have not the remotest claim to be included in a pastel exhibition. Pencil-drawings by Burne-Jones are always interesting, but it is a little difficult to understand what they are doing in this gallery. A specimen of Morris chintz, an Arts and Crafts table or two, even a Rodin statue were no more out of place. Then, again, there are a number of portrait studies, in charcoal, by Mr. Sargent. I quite admit, of course, that no self-respecting exhibition can afford to open its doors without showing something by Mr. Sargent, but——! I am not at all sure, by the way, whether it is not time that Mr. Sargent was honoured in the same way as was the famous race-horse Eclipse, who, if I am not mistaken, had to abstain from racing when it became evident that he could not help winning whatever he was entered for. I suggest this, not only in the interests of other artists, who must by this time be in much the frame of mind of the moon in "The Walrus and the Carpenter," who felt herself ungenerously treated because the sun shone all night as well as all day, but also in that of Mr. Sargent himself. It is difficult to imagine his state of mind, wrestling with his sense of duty, at the beginning of the season, without a tear of sympathy. Consider him as he mournfully contemplates the list of approaching exhibitions—"Academy, International, New Gallery, New English Art Club, Pastel Society, This, That, and The Other—three hundred and ninety-eight exhibitions altogether, and not one of them can afford to open its doors without at least one of my works. It is too much, much, much too much." And it really is. Could not some sort of National Memorial be got up—reassuring the distinguished artist—pointing out to him that even did he only exhibit at, say, fifty shows in the course of a season, he would yet be acquitted of any dereliction of duty.

To return to the Pastel Society, first disposing of Mr. Sargent's studies, which are, be it said, quite as clever as one has come to expect, and quite as important as, considering all things, we have any right to expect. They represent a fair selection of Mr. Sargent's aristocratic clientèle, and they are all very much alive. Mr. Mancini, by the way, shows a work of very similar character, though a shade smudgier, and to compare the two styles is interesting and not at all odious.

Quite the most beautiful example of what can be legitimately achieved by the pastellist is Mr. Henri Le Sidaner's snow scene. There is no attempt at imitating an oil painting—indeed, I doubt if by the use of oils, more fluent though they be, the artist could have achieved so strikingly the hushed suggestion that accompanies falling snow. Another very noticeable exponent of pastel at its most interesting is M. Simon Bussey, whose portrait of his little daughter in very smart red shoes is one of the most lovable, if not, perhaps, the loveliest, of the works shown. The foreign exhibitors, in fact, are those whose works cling most perseveringly to the memory, even although they are not always the most sympathetic, as, for instance, those of MM. Lhermitte and Réné Billotte. Of the English exhibitors those which stand out most forcibly are a brilliant study of shimmering silks by Miss Anna Airy, some of Mr. Pennell's clever little sketches of New York and London scenes—though I do not know why he preferred pastel to some more appropriate medium—and some landscapes by the late Mr. Brabazon, which do not, however, strike me as being of his best. One of the most remarkable works shown is certainly Mr. Walter Crane's "Nymph of the Shore," who wears such an extremely tight-fitting blue dress, thereby displaying her strange anatomy to the worst advantage, that the problem of how she got into it is only equalled by that of how she is ever to get out of it without some sort of tin-opener. There are, indeed, far too large a proportion of works shown which were much better left in modest retirement, and which it is only kindness to forget. This is the more to be regretted, in view of the fact that so much of what is good is very good indeed, and that, had the weeding-out process been more faithfully attended to, it would have been an exhibition of the first note.

However it may be as regards artistic interest, there is no shadow of doubt that when it comes to popularity such an exhibition as that of the Pastel Society is not in it with paintings of the religious allegory type such as Mr. Sigismund Goetze's "Ever Open Door," now being shown by Messrs. Vicars at their Bond-street Galleries previous to a provincial tour. It is difficult to write of such paintings, which are set forth in such ingenuous language as to silence the scoffer even when they most tempt him. Whatever we may think of the taste of such works, it is at least certain that they will deeply move many thousands of excellently religious folk, and, in so far, they are beyond the reach of criticism. But it is at least permitted to say that, in this present example, which represents, with much obviousness, the souls of the dead—if I read the picture aright—divesting themselves of all their earthly possessions as they approach the Gates of Heaven, Mr. Goetze has attempted an artistic effect which has never occurred to any artist before him. He chooses for the most salient point of his composition—and that so markedly and directly that it is impossible to escape it—such a distinctly original *motif*—if that be the appropriate word for it—as a pair of blue satin corsets! It is true that nothing could more appropriately typify the vanities of this wicked world.

Another painting which, owing to its subject, is assured of a certain amount of popular favour—though

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

chiefly, I take it, in the form of reproductions—is Mr. Arthur Garratt's "The Liberal Government, 1906," now being shown at the Doré Gallery. It provides what I take to be excellent portraits of the Ministers who are at present guiding our national destinies—of all, that is to say, except Mr. John Morley, who is seated behind the Premier, so that we are able to see little of him but his nose. "C.-B." himself is on his feet, addressing the House, and leaning upon the historic dispatch-box the while. The painter has admirably suggested the solemn dignity which we may be sure attends the Front Bench and their immediate supporters during important debates. Even Mr. John Burns exhibits a subdued solemnity than which nothing could be more striking. In fact, were some discriminating politician to forward, by registered post, a reproduction of Mr. Garratt's painting to every member of the House of Lords, that peccant body would there and then, I have little doubt, realise what manner of men it is vainly flouting, and would capitulate to the will of the people without any need for passing a Resolution at all. Which might be an excellent way out of a somewhat difficult position for everybody.

MUSIC.

BANDSMEN'S SALARIES IN THE "HALLS."

THE recent award of the arbitrator in the music-hall dispute is one of considerable interest to a certain section of the musical world, inasmuch as it regulates the pay not only of the variety artists, but also of the orchestral players involved in the dispute. Those who followed the matter may remember that the latter, as represented by the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, asked for a minimum wage of 36s. per week of six performances. In the result Mr. Askwith has awarded them 30s. in all cases where the average wage was on January 1 less than this, and in other theatres and all new theatres 32s., drummers getting 2s. less in each case. It is nothing much to boast of, but in view of the deplorable salaries which have hitherto obtained, the award, as a whole, probably represents a step forward. No doubt it has not given universal satisfaction. There are, for instance, many players in some of the halls concerned who are actually getting more at the present time than they would receive under the award, and it will therefore be open to their managers to reduce their salaries of 35s., 36s., and so on, to the lower amount. The managers may fairly argue that as both sides agreed to abide by the arbitrator's decision they can hardly be blamed if they adopt his terms. For some, therefore, the award is not very palatable. On the other hand, it will mean a great improvement in the case of many of the players in the smaller halls where considerably less than 32s. a week has hitherto been paid. To put it shortly, the mediocre players will benefit chiefly and those at the top and bottom only indirectly by the general levelling up which may be expected to result. Of the latter classes, the more fortunate and capable are receiving much better wages already, while the case of the others is, of course, just the opposite, and starvation rates obtain which the award will not affect, applying, as it does, only to houses of a certain standing.

Orchestral players may be divided roughly, in fact, into three classes. First, there are the highly trained musicians who have had a proper musical education at one or other of the regular schools. These are the pick of the calling, and furnish the leading concert orchestras, festival players, etc. Secondly, there are those not quite so well educated, who have acquired their knowledge more promiscuously. These are capable enough in their way, but rather rough and ready; they make up the orchestras of the minor theatres and the less important bands. Finally, there are the absolutely inefficient and incapable, who are reduced to accepting the worst class of work at absolutely starvation wages. These are the players who take 10s. or 15s. a week, and who are the salvation of the impecunious or parsimonious managers. When all others have refused the miserable terms offered, it is they who come forward and fill the breach. They play abominably, they have the vilest instruments, they are the dregs of the profession; but—they will take the terms offered, and that is all the manager cares about. These are the blacklegs of the calling who are mainly responsible for the shockingly low standard of pay which prevails throughout the profession at the present time. Eventually it is hoped to bring them all more or less into line, or at any rate a sufficient number of the best of them, to compel better all-round terms, and it is because the recent award may be said to represent a step in this direction rather than because of any immediate benefit which it confers that it is to be welcomed.

But the thing can only be done by degrees, of course. It is unfortunately the case that, as regards a considerable proportion of the poorest class of players, they are hardly worth more than such miserable salaries as those named, and if managers were compelled to pay a uniform salary of a decent kind, they would certainly not obtain employment. As it is, their necessity is the manager's opportunity, and he does not fail to profit by it. The average music-hall and theatrical manager unfortunately takes the view that the orchestra is at best a necessary evil, and in any case a thing to be got on the cheapest terms possible. While the musicians are indispensable enough in a way, they are, in another sense, the least important part of the entertainment. They constitute no draw, they win no applause, they are necessary only in the same way that the doorkeepers, seat attendants, and so forth are necessary, and they are paid accordingly. And the more capable performers are helpless to exact better terms because of the unlimited supply of inefficients and ne'er-do-wells ready and compelled by their necessities to take whatever they can get. On the whole, therefore, it is something to have even such a slender minimum as 30s. officially laid down and determined. Compared with the prices paid in many theatres and music-halls which are regarded as quite flourishing and high-class establishments by the public, this is quite a princely wage, and though it does not come up to the requirements of the more capable members of the calling, whose minimum as fixed by their representative body, the Orchestral Association, is 36s., it can hardly fail to exercise a beneficial influence all round in the long run.

The most notable event at Covent Garden lately has been the revival of "La Gioconda," which was produced in excellent style on Thursday last. Ponchielli's work is not one of great strength, and after the more pungent fare of the same order which has been offered us more recently by Puccini and others, it seems a little wanting here and there in devil and sting. There is in it, however, not a little charming melody and graceful music of a lighter kind, and in its way it is by no means devoid of its dramatic moments. The delightful dance of the Hours was, of course, once well known to all concert-goers, and this is only one of many charming pages which might be specified. The very use of the word charming is no doubt a criticism, since the story of the work is one of the blood and thunder type, which would seem to demand music of a very different order. Without possessing, however, the power and dramatic qualities which would probably have characterised a setting of the same book by Verdi, say, Ponchielli's music is by no means wanting in force and incisiveness. The performance was first-rate with Destinn, Kirkby Lunn, Bossi, Sammarco, and Journet in the leading parts, and a *mise-en-scène* which was the theme of general admiration.

Recent concerts have been noteworthy for the number of pianists who have been heard. Early last week there was Paderewski, who plays (and draws) as well as ever. Sapellnikoff is another famous artist who has been appearing in London again after too long an absence, while other recitalists have included Miss Irene Scharrer (who has come on wonderfully), Fräulein Marie Bender (a newcomer of some note), Mr. Félix Fox (a clever American player), and Mr. Cecil Baumer. Some clever piano playing from Mr. York Bowen was

heard also at the last of the three chamber concerts, devoted to modern British works, given by Mr. Thomas Dunhill; concerts which it is regrettable, though hardly surprising, to note have not been a financial success. Mr. Dunhill chose the wrong time of the year for concerts of this kind, but may do better in the autumn. Even the Joachim Quartette concerts have not been too well attended this time, owing no doubt to the absence of Dr. Joachim himself—though Herr Halir is an excellent substitute. On Saturday, at the Queen's Hall, there was a good audience for Mr. Arthur Fagge's benefit performance of "The Dream of Gerontius," while at the same hall on Monday the Upsala Choir, from Sweden, delighted their hearers in the first of three concerts, of which it may be hoped the subsequent ones will be better patronised.

All Saints', Margaret-street, which is about to lose the services of Dr. W. S. Hoyte, who has been there nearly forty years as organist and choirmaster, has long been noted, like St. Andrew's, Wells-street, hard by, for the excellence of its music. It was when passing this church, as Dr. Hoyte's vigorous strains streamed forth, that Barnby, then organist at St. Andrew's, was supposed to have perpetrated his well-known *mot* to the effect that he regarded such playing as "the Hoyte of vulgarity." Dr. Hoyte, who is now a very old man, has been in failing health for some considerable time past, but has pluckily stuck to his duties until unmistakable warnings compelled him to bow to the inevitable. Dr. Hoyte, who is retiring on a suitable pension, is being succeeded by his pupil and assistant, Mr. W. S. Vale.

Dr. Hoyte's retirement recalls the case of another veteran organist who retained his powers to an extraordinary age—namely, Mr. Lissant, who was organist of St. Augustine's, Queen's Gate, until considerably past eighty, and who retained his vigour to the last—so effectually, indeed, that when once he had begun a voluntary it was with the utmost difficulty that he was prevailed upon to stop. Mr. Lissant, who had been a choir boy at Westminster Abbey at the coronation of William IV., died only three or four years ago.

"Lunch in F" bids fair to go down to fame with "Stanford in B flat" or "Walmisley in D minor." Mr. Lunch awoke last Wednesday, when a brief note concerning him appeared in these pages, to find himself famous, and by the following morning had had the dizzy greatness thrust upon him of an interview in the *Morning Leader*, in the course of which, in the interval between "shaves" and "hair cuts," he imparted to his interlocutor particulars of his career. When only five years old, it seems, Mr. Lunch was singing in the choir of St. Andrew's, Westbourne-grove, and at twelve he was deputising as organist at Christ Church, Ealing, so that his taste for music is of no sudden growth. As for the particular service which has brought him so prominently before the public, this musical Figaro explained:—

> I was scribbling down the introduction one day when the vicar of St. Thomas's (the Rev. P. Bainbrigge) came in for a shave, and asked me what I was doing. He expressed a desire to see it when it was finished, and in a week I had sent it to his organist, who was so pleased with it that he decided to produce it at his service.

Oddly enough, it appears, Mr. Lunch boasts several eminent musicians, including Dr. Richter and Mr. Ben Davies, among his regular clients. No doubt he regales them with appropriate conversation while they submit themselves to his ministrations. He, at least, would never be capable of the *faux pas* ascribed to one of his fraternity who, attending professionally to Dr. Joachim, advised a close crop, on the ground that otherwise he ran the risk of being mistaken "for one of those fiddling chaps."

A chance for poets. The "W. H. Ash" prize of twenty guineas is offered by the Worshipful Company of Musicians for the words for a "Marching Song" for the use of British soldiers on the march. The successful words will be set to music by a distinguished British composer, as yet unnamed. Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. T. C. Fenwicke, clerk to the company, at 16, Berners-street, W.

Talking of poets, Mlle. Suzanne Morival is to be congratulated on the glowing testimonial which her charms have wrung from the inspired pen of Mr. Alfred Austin:

> None can resist the dual charm by which thou dost ensnare,
> Either thou singest far too well, or else art thou too fair,
> For we who listen to thy voice forget thy face to view,
> And those who in thy face rejoice forget to listen too.

It is not every débutante that can boast a Poet Laureate among her conquests.

Carl Reinecke, one of the grand old men of music of to-day, entered on his eighty-fourth year on Sunday last, and by all accounts means to add considerably to his extensive output yet. If he has written nothing of a very epoch-making nature, his music has always been scholarly and refined. Reinecke was reckoned one of the most learned theorists of his day, and many well-known English musicians derived benefit from his teaching at Leipsic, where he was, of course, for many years conductor of the famous Gewandhaus concerts. This was in their unreformed period, when they used to take place practically without rehearsal, since the so-called rehearsal was actually a public performance, to which admission was readily obtained. As director of the Gewandhaus concerts Reinecke succeeded Julius Reitz, who was himself the successor of Mendelssohn. To-day the fine old musician has laid aside his bâton, but he still takes his daily walk and receives his friends every Sunday.

If Herr Mottl had left Munich for Vienna, which, it seems, he is not now to do, as a consequence of the recent sensational libel suit in which he was concerned, he would have been revisiting the city in which his student days were passed, for it was at the Vienna Conservatoire that he received his musical education, or some of it. Some ten or twelve years ago Mottl was a frequent visitor to London, and many will recall the great success of the Wagner concerts which used to be organised on his behalf by Mr. Schulz Curtius. Of late, however, he has seldom visited us, and they do say that some rather sharp criticisms to which he was subjected on the occasion of one of his former visits has had something to do with this. If memory serves, it was his tendency to drag the time which displeased some of his London hearers. But Mottl is undoubtedly a fine conductor, as more than one anecdote testifies.

On one occasion, when conducting a rehearsal at Queen's Hall, he had great difficulty in getting a certain passage to his liking. Again and again the players tried it, but to no purpose, until the performers began to grow dangerously restive under the ordeal. At this moment a sound of knocking, seeming to proceed from beneath the orchestra, was heard, and Mottl, seizing on the incident, immediately restored general good humour by pausing and observing in dramatic tones: "Gentlemen—the shade of Wagner!" Mottl has always been a Wagner worshipper, and Mozart is another of his major divinities. "I consider Mozart," he once declared, "the greatest purely musical genius that has ever showered blessings on the world. He was music personified."

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—If you are disappointed, as I fear you will be, in Mr. Kitson's "Life of Captain James Cook" (1), it is the misfortune, not the fault of the biographer. Mr. Kitson has given you all there was to give—a kind of log-book account of the great circumnavigator and discoverer's voyages and explorations—but the man himself escapes you. Only he, said Johnson, who knew a man in life should write his biography, but from those who knew Cook intimately, who sailed with him as mate or doctor, you learn nothing but vague generalisations. You learn so little, indeed, of the individual man that you are

(1) "Captain James Cook, R.N., F.R.S., the Circumnavigator." By Arthur Kitson. With Map and Illustrations. (London: John Murray. 15s. net.)
(2) "The Women Artists of Bologna." By Laura M. Ragg. With Twenty Illustrations. (London: Methuen & Co. 7s. 6d. net.)
(3) "Colonel Daveron." By Percy White. (London: Hurst & Blackett, Ltd. 6s.)
(4) "The Last of the Mammoths." By Raymond Turenne. (London: Chatto & Windus. 2s. 6d.)
(5) "The Loafer." By Gurner Gillman. (London: Greening & Co., Ltd. 6s.

grateful for the nearest approach to the intimacy you long for, which is to be found, perhaps, in the description of Cook's character and person given by Samwell, surgeon's mate of the *Resolution*.

> He was a modest man and rather bashful, of an agreeable, lively conversation, sensible, and intelligent. In his temper he was somewhat hasty, but of a disposition the most friendly, benevolent, and humane. His person was about six feet high, and, though a good-looking man, he was plain, both in address and appearance. His head was small; his hair, which was a dark brown, he wore tied behind. His face was full of expression, his nose exceedingly well shaped; his eyes, which were small and of a brown cast, were quick and piercing; his eyebrows prominent, which gave his countenance altogether an air of austerity. He was beloved by his people, who looked up to him as a father, and obeyed his commands with alacrity. The confidence we placed in him was unremitting; our admiration of his great talents unbounded; our esteem for his good qualities affectionate and sincere.

Surgeon Samwell also bears expert testimony to not the least, if the least-known, of Cook's services, "that he had at last broken the back of the scurvy fiend." Dr. Johnson, in saying that "a ship was like a jail in which you had a chance of being drowned," might have added, "and in which you had an immeasurably greater chance of catching jail fever." No less than 20 per cent. of a man-of-war's crew usually died of scurvy in crossing the Atlantic. When Cook served on board the *Eagle*, after a two months' cruise in the Channel Captain Palliser lost from scurvy twenty-seven men, including the surgeon, and landed one hundred and thirty-two men, including two surgeon's mates, invalided through the same disease. When Cook served on board the *Pembroke* she lost twenty-nine men from scurvy in crossing the Atlantic, and yet the *Pembroke* had the cleanest bill of health in the fleet. Yet when Cook himself was captain, in a voyage of three years and eighteen days he did not lose one single man from this fell scourge! In fact, all this frightful loss of life in the Navy was preventable, and could have been prevented if other captains in the fleet had taken the care Cook did of the health of his crews. Cook seems to stand alone amongst the world's heroes in this, that he made upon his own age a deeper impression than he has left on ours. On the breaking out of war with France and America each hostile Government, unsolicited, gave instructions to its Navy that Captain Cook and his two ships must be unmolested; while the liberality of our own Admiralty in hastening to meet his every want and wish must, I fancy, have been unprecedented. No doubt, if Cook had been as great a curse as he has been a blessing to mankind, if he had desolated as many countries as he discovered, and if he had diminished as much as he has increased the sum of the world's wealth and happiness, he would have been immeasurably more famous than he is. "Greatness," says Fielding, in "Jonathan Wild the Great," "consists in bringing all manner of mischief on mankind, and goodness in removing it from them." Mr. Kitson's is beyond doubt the most accurate and adequate biography of Cook that has ever appeared.

Archbishop Whateley, who lived in barbarous ante-suffragette times, used to say that woman's intellectual inferiority to man was proved by her failure to produce a single great painter or composer, though music and painting have been for centuries the special studies of the sex. I cannot say that Mrs. Ragg in her "The Women Artists of Bologna" (2) has refuted the archbishop's facts and inferences, since not one of these lady artists is of supreme or even of secondary artistic rank. Nevertheless, this record of their lives and works is doubly interesting for the glimpses it gives you into the characters and into the times of these brilliant women. Mrs. Ragg happily compares biography to a coin which upon one face is stamped with an image and superscription, and upon the other with a coat of arms, a device, an allegory—the former relating to the individual, the latter to his environment. In this volume you have sometimes the obverse, sometimes the reverse, of the coin presented to you, and sometimes both. In the first of the four sketches, which is at once the longest and the most interesting, it is rather with the individual than with her time you have to do, and rather with the saint than with the artist. That Caterina was a saint is proved by something more convincing than the gruesome and even disgusting post-mortem examination of her venerated body to prove that it had not been embalmed, which would have shocked no one so much as Caterina herself, who in her lifetime was a prude of prudes. Her uncorrupted body—that is, the skin of it—still survives to be worshipped by the faithful:

> Yet no grinning skeleton or ghostly corpse could be more unlifelike than this small erect figure whose discoloured, wizened face is thrown into hideous relief by the splendour of silk and gems and cloth of gold.

The profane Protestant wonders why the miraculous preservation of the body of the saint did not go farther than the imperfect tanning of her skin, for the contemporary testimony of the nuns to that other miracle—the exquisite fragrance of Caterina's body months after her death—is hardly satisfactory. Next in interest to Caterina comes Mrs. Ragg's record of Elisabetta Sirani, chiefly because it gives you so vivid a glimpse into times when poison—from which this artist was supposed to have died—was so generally and subtly practised. But, indeed, all four sketches are of unusual interest, while the volume is sumptuously illustrated. Mr. Percy White's "Colonel Daveron" (3) is a singularly subtle study of an unusual, an unpleasant, but far from unnatural character, whose suicide is a crowning act of moral cowardice. Fortunately the Colonel does not absorb your interest, which is distributed between all those who, in loyalty to his much-enduring wife, try to restore his self-respect and the respect of the public, which was to be shown by the return of the Colonel to Parliament. Far from the least interesting part of this extremely interesting story are its opening chapters describing Tony Derrick's school masters, mates, and days. If you can believe in an American multi-millionaire offering his only daughter and heiress to the man who will bring home a monstrous mammoth to adorn his latest gift to New York—a Museum of Natural History—you may find interest in "The Last of the Mammoths" (4). Nor is this the only improbability in the novel, since the mammoth itself is incredible, while you are in no way prepared for the convenient falling in love of the heiress with the artist at the opening of the tale. However, the search for, and chase of, the great beast are spiritedly described. Mr. Gurner Gillman's "The Loafer" (5) is a first novel of promise. It contrasts two brothers, rivals for the hand of the same heroine, who by her Grace Darling heroism puts the weaker to shame, and is the indirect cause of his death. In dying, he meditates the far-fetched and far-reaching revenge of persuading the heroine to marry him, only in order to prevent her becoming, after his death, his brother's wife. "Yes, there it was in the Book of Common Prayer in all the coldness of type: 'A woman may not marry her husband's brother.'" This, I must admit, is rather bathos, but there are many strong and stirring scenes in "The Loafer."—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

There are a good many readers who have pleasant recollections of Mr. John Watson's books, "Poachers and Poaching," "Nature and Woodcraft," "The Confessions of a Poacher," etc., which were warmly praised for their striking originality and great distinction of style. Mr. Watson, who has been silent for some years now, is the author of a new book, "Woodlanders and Field Folk: Sketches of Wild Life in Britain," which, by reason of its singularly faithful and poetic descriptions of nature, should appeal to lovers of the English countryside. The book is issued by Mr. Fisher Unwin.

Yet another posthumous novel of Adeline Sergeant

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is being published by Messrs. Methuen this week. "The Quest of Geoffrey Darrell" is the title of the story, which is largely concerned with the machinations of a secret society—a Red Brotherhood of more than common ingenuity in intimidation and persecution.

Mrs. Charles Brookfield is the author of an historical novel, "My Lord of Essex," which Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons are publishing. The story, which deals with the romantic career of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, is shortly to be presented on the stage by Mr. Lewis Waller in a dramatic version prepared by Mr. Charles Brookfield.

Several additions have lately been made to the series of popular half-crown reprints—comely volumes, well printed on good paper, and nicely bound—of notable works published by Mr. Murray. Mr. J. A. R. Marriott's "George Canning and his Times: a Political Study," is now issued in this form, and another volume is Mr. Basil Lubbock's "Round the Horn Before the Mast," which has gone through several editions since its first appearance in 1902. In fiction, the series includes two of Mr. H. A. Vachell's earlier novels, "John Christy: a Romance of Yesterday," and "The Shadowy Third"; and also "The Heart's Highway: a Romance of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century," by Mary C. Wilkins.

In "Poetry and Progress in Russia" (Lane, 7s. 6d. net), Mrs. Newmarch deals with an aspect of Russian literature hitherto neglected in favour of the school of realistic fiction. The period covered extends from the first publications, in 1814, of Poushkin—the greatest of the Russian national poets—to the death in 1886 of Nadson, whose work is characteristic of the decadence of Russian poetry. The book, which is embellished with six full-page portraits, consists of an introduction and studies of Poushkin and Nadson, and of Lermontov, a poet of the romantic school; Koltsov, the Russian Burns; Nikitin, the singer of Russian rural life; and Nekrassov, the poet of revolution.

Lady Breadalbane has another series of articles on deer-stalking which will be published in *Blackwood's Magazine*. The first of these, which is to appear in next month's number, will be entitled "The High Tops of Black Mount."

A new novel by Mr. Edgar Jepson is welcomed by every one who appreciates wit and humour, and such will not be disappointed with "The Four Philanthropists" (Fisher Unwin, 6s.). Three of the four are of the male sex, a baronet, an American capitalist, and a briefless barrister. In their enthusiasm for humanity they form "The General Philanthropic Removal Company," whose objects are the removal of financiers and captains of industry. In the course of the attempt to remove Albert Armstead Pudleigh, by means of a sandbag, an attempt which fails by reason of the thickness of the financier's skull, a fourth, in the person of Angel Pavis, becomes one of the band, and adventures crowd upon them. It is a lively narrative, touching the true fantastic note, while beneath its wit and humour an undercurrent of satire marked by keen observation, gives strength to the story.

In connection with the Oxford Pageant this week Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons have issued, under the authority of the committee, three sets of postcards containing reproductions of pictures by Mr. Byam Shaw, Mr. J. Finnemore, and other artists. The pictures represent the principal scenes and incidents in the pageant, and the postcards, which are remarkably well printed in colours, should have a wide popularity as artistic souvenirs of a memorable performance.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United, Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret street, S.W.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is looking its very best just now. The trees in full leaf are usually covered with thick dust at the end of June, but dust has been vanquished by rain this season, and the foliage is fresh and green. There has been no oppressive heat as yet, and the few quiet days when nothing was going on because all the world was at Ascot were pleasant enough to the lover of repose.

We chose Friday for our visit to Ascot. Thursday is always such a crush, and we were told by friends that this year it was a greater crush than ever. We also heard that in the Grand Stand there were some queer-looking people. How is it that this should be so at Ascot and never at Sandown, Kempton, or Goodwood? We had lovely weather on Friday, and the drive through Windsor Park was delicious. The constant rain had kept the trees and turf in brilliant green, and a pleasant breeze tempered the sunshine, which made everything lovely.

What struck us most about the gowns was the continued popularity of flower-painted muslins. There were scores of them in the Royal Enclosure. Next to this, and far more striking, was the immense size of the hats, and the abnormal length and beauty of the feathers that trimmed them. Not only trimmed them, but the wearers' back and shoulders as well! A huge hat has the effect of making the face look small, but, when the head and face are already far too small, as they are in some of our high-bred beauties, out of all proportion with their height, the result is distinctly unfortunate. The face shrinks to the apparent size of a well-developed cocoanut. On the other hand, the immense hat makes large faces, matured in the indulgence of every luxury, look smaller than they are, and in this they are greatly assisted by the loose floating veil of the moment. The tight veil, stretched over the cheeks, gives fine value to full curves. The loose one lessens the impression of these.

Wonderful, quite wonderful, were the coats and their colours. The jockeys themselves were for once outdone. In comparison with their jackets, caps, and sleeves, the Royal Enclosure blossomed like a variegated poppy field. You cannot imagine the brightness of the colours in these cloaks. Many were of a modified kimono shape. There was one in real Chinese embroidery on pale blue satin lined with cherry colour. Sometimes these swore visibly with the tints of the boas and hat feathers. Feather boas, again, were an important item in the colour of the scene. Blue in every tone seemed the favourite for these, but that does not imply that there was not any quantity of bright colour in others. White, cream, and ivory were well represented, also that artistic tone of cream-colour known as "Paris." There was pink in every shade, from hedge-rose fading to deepest clover. Hydrangea colours were in great favour (it is the decorative flower of the season), and every tone of mauve and purple was also to be seen in boas.

What with these and enormous hat-feathers, some of the women rather suggested a North American Indian brave in full war paint.

Yes, dear, sleeves were all short. I noticed that the best-dressed women did not affect the kimono sleeve, with the ballooning of white below it. Many of the most distinguished gowns had sleeves that were just full enough to indicate, without closely defining, the shape of the arms. One could but admire the deftness with which the folds were caught in upon the white under-sleeve which, as a rule, began to show midway between shoulder and elbow, and finished an inch or more below the latter, without frills or flourishes of any kind, perfectly flat and close-fitting.

Brown, with a tint of coffee in it, and a ruddy cinnamon shade were worn by some of the best-dressed

This is to inform the readers of "TRUTH" that the HOTEL ROSE, WIESBADEN, is now rebuilt and refurnished. 200 rooms. 60 bathrooms. Apartments with private bath.

women. Mrs. George Keppel, whose unimpeachable taste always makes her toilets so much admired, wore brown and cream checked muslin, trimmed with brown ribbon velvet. The Countess of Craven had a perfect gown of cinnamon gauze trimmed with lace to match, laid on in motifs. A brown hat, massed with feathers and—alas!—the cruel ospreys, was worn with this.

The hats at Ascot represented the slaughter of the innocents to a greater extent this year than ever before since the wearing of whole birds went out of fashion. Queen Alexandra's published protest appears to have been wholly disregarded by the majority of her "smart" subjects.

I have never seen anywhere such quantities of exquisite embroideries, not on the cloaks only, but the gowns as well. A black mousseline taffetas was embroidered in pomegranates in pink and crimson, and these tints were repeated in the feathers of the enormous black crinoline hat. Mrs. Reginald Wynne's white gown was most artistically embroidered in white floss silk roses and trimmed with cords and tassels. Mrs. Hall Walker was another lady whose embroideries were much admired.

We were fortunate enough to be among the 8,500 guests bidden to his Majesty's garden party at Windsor on Saturday, and I must try to give you some account of the afternoon. The invitations were for half-past four, but seeing that the first special was advertised to leave Paddington at 2.45, we decided to catch it, and thus avoid the crowd. As hundreds of others had had the same idea, we found the first special already filled, but were fortunate enough to find places in the second. At Windsor station there was a double line of carriages, flys, and omnibuses ready to convey the guests up the long Castle Hill to the private grounds. Each driver had a wide armlet of scarlet cloth on which the King's cipher was stamped in purple. An officer in uniform saw that every one had a seat, and all went smoothly. We heard that a couple of hours later, when the great mass of guests arrived, the congestion was considerable, and the delay in crossing High-street, crammed with motors, carriages, and flys, so great that almost every one got out and walked.

Arrived inside the gates, we saw on the slopes the bountiful provision of marquees made for the accommodation of the company. Everybody made for that part of the grounds that led from the East Terrace slopes to the Royal tent, distinguishable from all others by the Royal standard flying from its two pinnacles, as well as by the Indian canopy in scarlet and gold that rested on silver poles in front. Hard by was a smaller tent, with a kind of tunneled entrance in scarlet cloth bordered and fringed with gold. This was for the King of Siam—the monarch with the uncomfortable name, Chulalongkorn. Opposite these two tents we placed chairs for ourselves, and then watched the company. It was intensely interesting, for this was a representative gathering. Almost every one who was there signified some distinction in politics, the Church, the law, science, art, the Army, the Navy, and society.

Exactly at half-past four the Royal Horse Guards struck up the National Anthem, following it with the Siamese, and the Royal procession for which we had all been waiting came down, two and two, the wide avenue between the two rows of guests. As they came nearer us we saw that the Queen was leading, with the King of Siam on her left. Her Majesty looked well in an embroidered white gown through which pale mauve showed. Her black hat had pink roses round the back. The King of Siam speaks English very well and very carefully. King Edward walked with the Grand Duchess of Hesse, tall and dark-haired. Behind came the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, escorted by the Duke of Connaught. She looked much younger and better than when last I saw her ten years since. Her daughter, Princess Beatrice, walked among the young people at the end of the procession. Princess Patricia, in white with a rather small old rose hat, looked really lovely. The Princess of Wales, in a beautifully embroidered white soft silk dress and a becoming pale blue toque, had brought two of her sons, one in a jacket and one in a sailor suit, and her daughter, Princess Mary, in pale blue with insertions of creamy lace.

There were many other Royalties, but you do not want a catalogue. They all immediately sat down to tea, the Queen sitting next the King of Siam, the King between the Duchess of Coburg and the Grand Duchess of Hesse. I do love the way his Majesty dresses. He wore a blue coat which was neither a frock nor an overcoat, and was fastened in front with two linked buttons. His white waistcoat revealed a bit of pink shirt on either side a wide grey tie, with a ruby pin in it fastened rather low down.

When a smart shower fell the gazing guests all turned their backs on the Royal tent and fled for shelter. The sight must have been an amusing one for the Royal hosts. The tents were soon full, and up to the Terrace flew those who could not get in, a flying scud of costly millinery. We improved the occasion by indulging in some quite perfect iced coffee and strawberries of the Brobdingnag persuasion with delicious cream.

When the sun shone out again the scene was at its prettiest. Instead of occupying the long rows of chairs, the guests were scattered in radiant groups all over the slopes, and the Royal party, separated in several divisions, sauntered towards the Castle, and talked to any friends they met. The King's sonorous voice carries well, and we heard the whole of his conversation with a gentleman, though we were some distance off; but then it was like a postcard—not intended to be private.

The most animated of the Royal party was Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll; the quietest the Princess of Wales.

We heard afterwards about Mark Twain being presented to their Majesties by Mr. Whitelaw Reid, and were sorry to have missed seeing the incident. The fact is, we could have used Argus's hundred eyes, and as many more, could we only have attached them to our consciousness in some scientific manner.

We were two whole hours getting to Maidenhead, just six miles away. "No train till 7.32, ma'am." And it was the day of Windsor Races. However, everything comes to an end if you only give it time, and so did our long and tiresome wait in Windsor Station. Not a fly was to be had for love or money.

Dinner was a welcome episode, I assure you.

Next day we spent a couple of hours at Boulter's Lock. Though quite as crowded as ever, it is for one reason not quite so interesting as it used to be in the days when every one went through. Owing to the long wait outside it, everybody now who can manage it sends up their launch or boat early in the morning, and joins it just in time for luncheon. The whole of the Bucks bank was lined with these waiting craft above Boulter's for a quarter of a mile, and the scene of motors and carriages setting down the parties to occupy them was entirely lively. Some of the launches were beautifully decorated with flowers. As to dress, it was chiefly white, and there were very few enormous hats. Ribbons and flowers were the principal trimming. Feathers were conspicuous by their absence; and very sensibly so. There were too many bare arms. It is not a pretty fashion. I noticed many lovely faces.

There was the usual rumour that the King would pass through the lock at four o'clock. So likely, on the most crowded day of the whole year!

Letty went to the dress rehearsal of the Oxford Pageant on Friday, and can talk of nothing else. She describes it as a perfect illusion, and, you know, she lives for illusions. The beauty of the scenes is equalled, she asserts, by that of the verses, and, as

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she phrases it, the "poetic glamour of the Past is over it all."

The Duchess of Sutherland's always delightful garden party for the Harris, Lewis, Shetland, and Sutherland homespuns is fixed for the 8th, the same afternoon as the garden reception at Marlborough House in connection with the League of Mercy. Those who have invitations for both can divide the afternoon into two portions, each equally attractive.

Have you ever been to Leighton House? Most people know about its existence, and hardly any one has seen it. We were there the other day, when Mr. and Mrs. Leeder were at home to the Guild of Service and Good Fellowship, and we had the happiest afternoon of the whole season. The house, of red brick, stands in Holland Park-road, and does not look particularly interesting till one enters. And then, Amy, it is just like walking into a dream. There is the wonderful inner hall, full of vistas, and old, old Persian tiles, blue and white, in those designs that are so complicated and yet do not worry the eye. The hall is full of shadows in different tones of brown, and a silver fountain plays in its midst. It reminded me of the wild, haunting music of Rubinstein's "Der Asra." I could almost see the princess passing daily, and the dark, tall figure of the slave standing to watch her by the fountain. We went up the broad, black staircase to the studio, and at every step there were beautiful pictures. The studio was already full, so we went out into the garden and discovered the right way to hear a concert. We sat on the lawn, in a circle of trees, with a plate each of strawberries and cream, and down from the studio windows came music, and every now and then a sunny wind swept over the trees, and they bowed and danced and swayed with grace that it was glorious to watch. Donalda's voice, clear as crystal, Ada Crossley's, like a golden river, M. Pecskai's violin, leaping and crying in maddening Hungarian music, they came down to us on the shady lawn, and every now and then the wind came and said things like great waves in a gentle mood, among the trees.

Then every one came pouring out, and we watched the prettiest possible masque, "The Makynge of a Garden," performed charmingly by the students of Whitelands Training College. The masque was full of flowers and pretty voices, old-world melodies, and graceful movements; and the trees overhead joined in, while sun and shadow glinted over everything. Once or twice the harmony was rent by the herald's bugle, whose note was thin and piercing, but it only served to prove how delightful everything else was. And the adorable baby who played Cupid, with her hair crowned with rosebuds, was just the happy finishing touch.

The weather was kind, too, to the "Episodes from Shakespeare's Plays" given on Saturday in the garden of Lowther Lodge in connection with the League of Mercy. The costumes were beautiful, the dances graceful, and the Procession in Episode III. was splendidly stage-managed. So Iva tells me. She enjoyed the very lovely garden.

Do not you love dainty table linen and sheets and pillowslips? You must come up and stay with me for Robinson and Cleaver's sale beginning July 1 and lasting till the end of the month. It will be well worth your while, for, as you know, the price of all linen things has risen very seriously. But this famous house has been so long in the business (in connection with its Belfast establishment) that it can afford to sell its large stock at old prices. I am saving up for it, for there will be opportunities of great bargains not only in house linen, but in handkerchiefs, lace of every kind, collars and cuffs, fichus, and outfitting for women. Write for a sale catalogue at once; it will be sent post free. You can then choose at your leisure, first what you must have, then what you would like to have and will get if you can. The former is necessity, the latter pure self-indulgence. Do not you love your linen-closet? I suppose "love" is too strong a word, but it is really a kind of affection one feels for those nice, sweet-smelling piles of linen sheets and pillowcases, more or less dainty bedspreads with lace or embroidery, tablecloths, and sweet teacloths. This Irish grass-bleached linen and damask wear for ever, as I know from experience.

We called one morning at 4, South Molton-street, to see the wonderful old quilt which the Home-work Co-operative Society have just restored for the Duke of Rutland. It comes from the historic bed at Haddon Hall, and is specially interesting because the arms worked on the flag in the centre show that it dates from the time of Elizabeth. The quilt can be seen at 4, South Molton-street, till the 29th inst., and at the same time visitors can have a look at the society's embroideries, and laces, trimmings, and so on, which are quite unlike anything one gets elsewhere. The children's frocks and lingerie blouses are quite lovely; many of them have old Italian lace bretelles, and all have some dainty quaint embroidery about them, yet they are not at all expensive.

I have received the following from Mona:—

MY DEAR MADGE,—Your gardener does not seem to understand the management of Poinsettias, as you call them. That was the old name, but botanical nomenclature is in a perpetual state of change, which is most confusing, and they have been transferred to the genus Euphorbia. There are three species frequently grown in hothouses—E. pulcherrima, E. fulgens, and E. splendens. Their flowers are inconspicuous; their attractiveness is due to their coloured bracts, a feature which makes them not only very beautiful, but also very interesting. I will tell you why. An ordinary flower is composed of various parts, sepals, petals, and so forth, all of them modified foliage leaves—not, as you might imagine, leaves in a highly advanced state, but really degraded. They have not, like foliage leaves, stomata or breathing pores; they have no system of veins; they consist merely of a number of loosely connected cells. And the reason of their degradation lies in the fact that they are situated generally at the extremities of the shoots, farthest away from the supply of food and green chlorophyll, or in what I may call little backwaters, where the main current of the sap passes them by. The colours which they have thus acquired, having proved useful to the plants in attracting fertilising insects, have gradually been deepened and differentiated, and the different parts have become specialised, each adapting itself to the performance of a single function; and so in the course of countless generations our beautiful flowers have been evolved. But in certain cases, such as the Euphorbias, some of the ordinary foliage leaves near the ends of the shoots have not received their fair share of the sap, and in consequence they also have lost their green colour, and have run together owing to the want of growth between them—the suppression of the internodes, as it is technically called—and have formed coloured bracts. As these bracts have proved sufficient of themselves to attract the insects necessary for distributing the pollen and ensuring fertilisation, the agencies ordinarily instrumental in increasing the size and heightening the colour of the petals have failed to operate, and the flowers have remained small and inconspicuous. In other words, the bracts have assumed the functions of petals.

From the cultural standpoint, the most important thing to note is that, as they are produced near the extremities of the shoots and nowhere else, the more shoots we can get the better. For this reason, though old plants are sometimes useful as large specimens, young plants, which grow more freely, are much superior. They are easily raised from cuttings, taken about the present time. They should be inserted separately in small pots of sandy soil, in order to avoid disturbing the roots, and should afterwards be grown in a fairly high temperature, without a check of any kind. Cold or drought spoils them by causing them to lose their leaves.

You really ought to exert more authority over your gardener. The garden is run for your pleasure, not for his; if he cannot grasp that fundamental fact you should get someone who can. He may not like to see plants, upon which he has spent so much time and trouble, spoilt by being used in the house, but after all that is your business. It would be just as reasonable for him to object to the cutting of the lettuces and cauliflowers which he

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has grown. And there is no reason why plants which are wanted in the house should be spoilt there. You may use your caladiums to decorate the dinner table or the drawing-room without injury, provided that you do not leave them there too long. After a few days, or a week at the outside, they should go back to the greenhouse. When your gardener brings them in tell him, if he grumbles, that they will be changed for others in a few days. The more often you make him change them—purely for the good of the plants, remember—the sooner he will alter his tune. Eventually he will beg of you to let them stay in the house a little longer. He will assure you that it will do them good, and will dwell on the hurtfulness of frequent changes of temperature. Then you will hold him in the hollow of your hand.

Caladiums are such beautiful plants that I am not surprised you wish to have more of them. The usual time to propagate them is spring, just as the tubers are starting into growth, but you can do so still in a small way if you wish. Select a pot with a number of small leaves springing up at some distance from the central growth, and, after scraping away the soil so as to uncover the top of the tuber, but without disturbing any roots, cut off with a sharp knife the little knobs from which the leaves spring. Each will probably have some small roots attached to it. These should be drawn out carefully. The young plants should then be potted separately. If they are placed in a warm, moist atmosphere, shaded from hot sunshine, and sparingly watered at first, they will soon grow. In caladiums, as in the euphorbias, the leaves have largely usurped the functions of petals. The flowers are not strikingly beautiful, a muddy cream in colour, and something like a bolster tied in the middle in shape. They rather resemble the flowers of the common "lords and ladies," a genus belonging to the same natural order. As they are not wanted, and only weaken the plants, they should be taken off as soon as they are noticed.

In the crotons or codiæums we have another exceedingly handsome family of stove plants, in which, owing to the brilliant colouring of the foliage, the flowers have remained inconspicuous. These again you need not hesitate to tell your gardener to bring in for house decoration. If they are not left too long they will not be injured, but even if they are it will not matter much, for it is much better to propagate them afresh every year than to keep old plants. The latter get dull in time and lose their lower leaves. It is only the young foliage that is really very brightly coloured. If the plants do get rather shabby indoors they will do quite well for supplying cuttings. But, of course, you want them to last as long as possible, so they should not be placed in draughts and the leaves should be kept clean. Draughts are deadly to all plants, carrying away the moisture from them at such a rate that intense cold is produced.—Your affectionate cousin, MONA.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—What slaves of routine most of us are! We go on doing the same thing over and over again, each time just because we did it the time before, until we lose sight, at last, of any other reason for doing it. However circumstances may change we do not, but keep systematically on in the same old grooves, in the same old way. Under bondage to this law our family party set out to ruralise last week. It was our summer habit of long standing. Though June had recklessly and shockingly abandoned its traditions, we would not give up ours. If June was not summer it ought to be, and if the month acted so unworthily with regard to keeping its engagements and fulfilling its duties we were not going to follow the bad example. The June that ought to be a dutiful June is, above all others, the month of the country, of bright and breezy lawn and upland, of sunny gardens, of roses, and strawberries, of all the dear delights which Nature showers around at this season. Oh! the freshness, fragrance, and lightness of the June air when no intruding wild winds trouble its serene calm! The cheerful brightness of the sun, when it is bright, before it has learned, as later on, to scorch or glare. How little those who pass the month amidst the strain and stress, the rush and crush of the "season" in a great capital, understand what they are missing by slighting Nature when in her heyday. This year, however, their consciences may be clear in that respect. They are missing nothing that is not well missed. Personal experience allows one to be dogmatic on this point. Last week those in the country had a very poor time indeed. Our hopes that June might amend its ways and return to grace were vain. The wind blew loud and chill, the rain fell pitilessly. It might have been February fulfilling its mission of filling dykes, only it was worse, for the leafiness of June made the storm louder in the trees, and there were the flowers all torn and dishevelled. And to think that the longest day of the year is now past! Now we have given up June as a bad job, and all our hopes are turned to July.

Everyone is looking forward to the visit of the King and Queen. Short as it is to be, a sight of Royalty is the excitement of many weeks. Dublin will be full for many days; already vigorous preparations are in progress on all sides. If only the weather mends and does its part well, we shall have a brief time, at least, of the prosperity with which we are not as yet sufficiently well acquainted. And short times sometimes lead to long times, as great rivers spring from small sources. The afternoon garden party at the Viceregal Lodge to meet their Majesties has been fixed for July 10. Invitations have not been sent out for it, but those who have been presented either at the Royal or Viceregal Courts and wish to attend it are invited to send in their names for the Chamberlain's consideration. One can imagine that the attendance will be very large, but there is space enough for a goodly crowd of King Edward's Irish subjects, who are "courtable" to assemble in his honour in the gardens and pleasure grounds of the Irish Viceregal residence. Our sex have now been provided in a short visit with two opportunities for the wear of Royal toilettes on the successive afternoons at the Viceregal Lodge and at Leopardstown. No doubt we shall rise to the occasion. The weather alone fills us with trepidation; it is difficult to believe in a coming summer which has taken so long to come, and to order the dainty costumes which would suit early July. However, there is no doubt but that on Royal occasions women are always zealous in doing their best to fulfil their admitted duty of being ornamental. Kingstown will be a great centre of attraction, with the Royal yacht in the harbour. Though not picturesque in itself, its immediate environs are beautiful. The two lovely bays of Dublin and Killiney merge in one another close by. Opposite to Kingstown the historic Hill of Howth runs out into Dublin Bay, some seven miles distant, whilst behind the town rise up the mountain ranges of Dublin and Wicklow. The neighbourhood affords beautiful motor drives, long or short. This week the King's birthday review will be held on Friday in the Phœnix Park, and is expected to be a more brilliant spectacle than usual. On the previous day Lord and Lady Aberdeen give a garden party at the Viceregal

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Lodge. Sir Antony and Lady MacDonnell are visiting England just now, but will of course return to the Under Secretary's Lodge for the King's visit.

Amongst the interesting Irish marriages which have just taken place is that of Miss Violet Skeffington, Lord Massereene's sister, to Mr. Corbet Radford—a quiet country wedding. Do not such weddings suggest the sweetness of romance far more than great ceremonials in town? The romance possibly is in both all the same, only somehow or other it seems to get rather crowded out in the latter. This week the marriage of Mr. Brooke to Miss Nina Hill caused much interest over here, where Sir George and Lady Brooke are well known members of Dublin society, their residence on the banks of the Liffey, being not many miles from the capital. Lady Brooke is the sister of Sir Hugh McCalmont.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Here are the recipes I wrote to you about. Petites pâtés à la Mexican are excellent:—

Make a nice mince of 4 oz. of cold cooked chicken, 2 oz. of cold tongue, a slice of ham, a dessertspoonful of chopped truffle, a tablespoonful of chopped white mushroom, and a little parsley, mix it with a gill of good tomato sauce and the yolks of 2 eggs. Roll 8 oz. of puff paste and cut it into rounds, put a portion of the mince on the centre of half, cover it with the other half, press both together, make a small hole in the top on which to put a ring of puff paste. Bake the pâtés very carefully and dish them garnished with fried parsley. These are also excellent for a cold collation of any kind.

Turbot à la Suédoise is an excellent réchauffé:—

Place the best pieces of the remains of a cooked turbot aside and pound the remainder with 3 boned anchovies, a teaspoonful of capers, the merest scrape of an onion, 2 oz. of butter, a spoonful of white sauce, a teaspoonful of chopped parsley, and salt and pepper to taste, rub it through a wire sieve. Butter a fireproof dish, spread it with a layer of the purée, then slices of fish, repeat the layers of fish and purée, pour half a teacupful of cream over it, sprinkle it thickly with bread crumbs, and bake it a nice colour.

Macédoine de fruits au champagne is a delightful dish for garden parties:—

Pick a quantity of choice ripe fruits, such as stoned cherries, strawberries, raspberries, peaches in quarters, small cubes of pineapple, etc. Mix them all with a small bottle of champagne and ice them very thoroughly, without actually freezing. Mash the rough parts of the fruit with a glass of white wine or sherry, allow them to stand an hour, and then rub them through a hair sieve, add sugar to the purée to make a palatable syrup, and, when cold, freeze it to thick cream consistency. Dish the macédoine in a large bowl, pile the ice over it and serve it quickly.

Finally, eggs à la Farmière are a *plat par excellence*:—

Put a gill of good cream into a stewpan with salt, pepper, and a pinch of paprika, add the yolks of 2 eggs, and whisk it on the stove till it is quite hot and thick, but not boiling. Poach 6 eggs in plenty of boiling water, pour a little of the cream sauce on a buttered fireproof gratin dish, place the eggs on it, cover with the remaining sauce and sprinkle with grated parmesan cheese. Serve this quickly.

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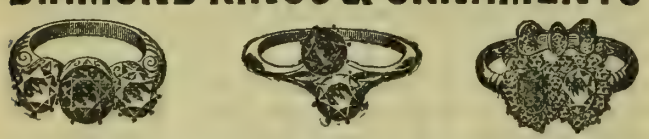

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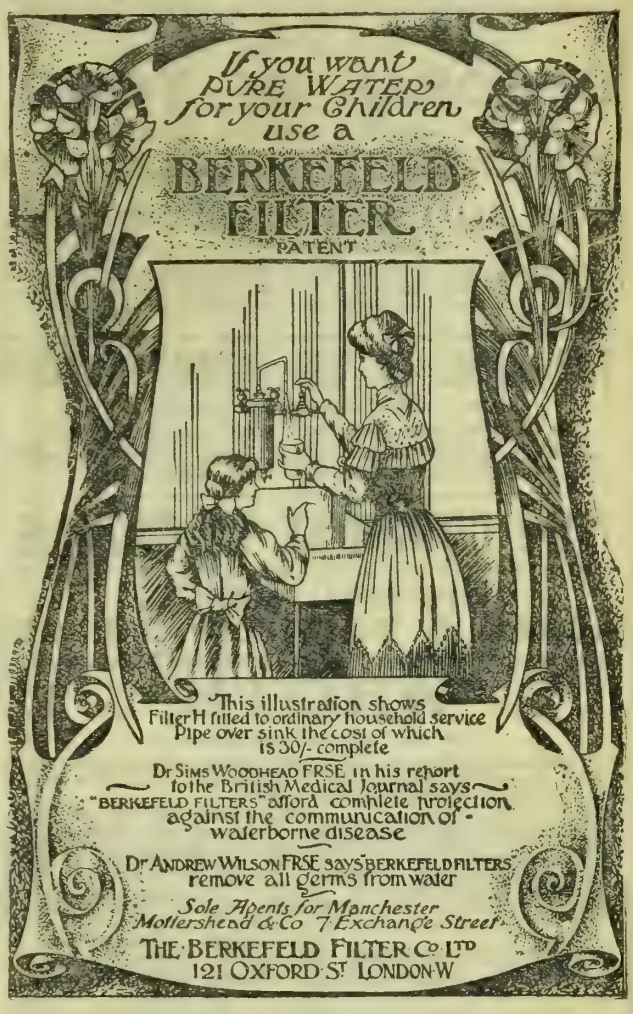

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BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms. Passenger lift to all the floors.
GEO. BECKFORD, Manager.

BRIGHTON.—ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL, MARINE PARADE. High Class, for Families and Gentlemen. Finest Position in Brighton for health and quiet. Sea view from nearly all rooms. Electric lighting throughout. Telephone, No. 1403. Telegrams—"Crescent Hotel, Brighton." Under personal supervision of GEORGE LOGAN, Proprietor.

DUBLIN.—HOTEL METROPOLE, SACKVILLE-STREET (next General Post Office). Convenient for Railways, Steamers, and Amusements. Modern and luxurious. Electric Light and Passenger Lift. Sanitation officially certified. High-class Restaurant attached. Moderate Tariff. Descriptive matter on application to the Manager.

DUMFRIES.—STATION HOTEL, opposite station. Electric light. Lift. Billiards. Convenient for Firth of Solway, Castle Douglas, Sweetheart Abbey, Caerlaverock Castle, &c. Lovely Drives. Splendid centre for motor and cycle tours. Shooting. Fishing. Golf. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Turnberry.

EASTBOURNE.—The HYDRO HOTEL, a Select Residential Hotel, due south, facing sea. Spacious Lounges and Public Rooms. Garage. Special Week End Terms. Cinderella Dance Saturday. For Amusement Programme and Tariff (Illustrated), O. F. BERGANN, Manager.

GLASGOW.—ST. ENOCH STATION HOTEL. Best centre for business and pleasure. Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (4 tables). Restaurant. Within shilling cab fare of all railway and steamboat termini in Glasgow. Near electric cars and opposite subway cable railways. Other G. & S. W. Rly Coy.'s Hotels at Ayr, Dumfries, and Turnberry.

GRAND CANARY.—The Newest and Best Hotel is The METROPOLE. Facing the sea. Delightful position. Terms most moderate.
Agents, ELDER, DEMPSTER, & CO., 14, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 4, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.

MALVERN.—The Premier Garden City of England.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL faces due South and offers every comfort at moderate and inclusive charges. *A cheerful lounge, with electric light.* The extensive baths (separate building), Brine, Turkish, &c., now open. Accommodation for Motors.—For tariff apply to Resident Proprietor, F. MOERSCHELL.

MARGATE.—CLIFTONVILLE HYDRO. Fully licensed Finest position, facing sea and oval. Electric light and lift. Roof garden. Billiards. First-class cuisine and wines. Motor garage in own grounds. Turkish, dowsing, and electric baths. Special week-end terms from Messrs. Cook & Sons.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
W. WORSTER, Manager.

TURNBERRY.—STATION HOTEL. "The most up-to-date Hotel in Scotland." Electric light. Lift. Lounge. Billiards (3 tables). Conservatory. Garage and stables. Sea Water Baths. Two fine golf courses for visitors. Lovely Climate. Charming district. Other G. & S. W. Rly. Coy.'s Hotels at Glasgow (St. Enoch Station), Ayr, and Dumfries.

LEAMINGTON SPA.—REGENT HOTEL. Premier Hotel of Midlands. Ideal Summer Resort. Best centre in England for Motoring and Driving. Garage for 60 cars. Telegs. "Regent." 'Phone 109 Leamington.

BEN RHYDDING HYDRO HOTEL, Wharfedale, Yorkshire. 500 feet above sea level. Situated on the edge of the Moor. Bracing air, lovely scenery. 9-hole Golf Course adjoining grounds, free to visitors.—JOS. I. KIRBY, Managing Director.

WESTGATE-ON-SEA. — WESTCLIFF HOTEL. Premier position, facing sea. Coffee, drawing, lounge, billiard rooms. Family suites. Stabling. Motor garage.—G. MARCH, Proprietor.

FOLKESTONE.—BATH HOTEL.
First class Private. Inclusive Terms.—Miss GRIFFITHS, late York House, Bath. Telephone 117.

MONTROSE ON THE NORTH SEA,

A Bracing Holiday Resort.

FAMOUS GOLF LINKS—Ladies' and Gentlemen's Courses open to all at nominal charge.
SEA BATHING—Miles of Sand with safe and commodious Bathing Station.
MONTROSE forms an attractive and healthy place of residence, and a convenient centre for Excursions to a neighbourhood of beauty and interest.
For Official Guide apply to Town Chamberlain.

PEEBLES HOTEL Hydropathic

Under Mr. A. M. THIEM'S Personal Management.
CONSTRUCTED FIREPROOF THROUGHOUT.
EQUIPPED on the most **MODERN** lines. Every Home Comfort. High-class Cuisine. Pure Bracing Air. Golf, Tennis, Croquet, and Bowling Greens. Motor Garage. Magnificent Recreation Hall.
A GERMAN BATH IN SCOTLAND.—Every form of Electricity, Massage, and Baths. Diet—Gymnastics—also Sun, Air, and Electric Light Baths. Resident Medical Specialist.

HOTELS, &c.

LOWESTOFT GRAND HOTEL.

Standing in three acres of charming Grounds.

300 feet Sea Frontage.

Lawns for tennis, bowls, croquet. Steps leading to the beach from Hotel grounds for bathing. Arrangements made for families.

Lowestoft is the Healthiest Seaside Resort on the East Coast.

PORTSMOUTH.—TOTTERDELL'S HOTEL. Naval and family hotel. Premier position. Old established. Telephone: No. 104. Telegrams: "Tots, Portsmouth."—C. MULLARD, Proprietor.

PATRONISED BY H.M. THE KING.

DOVERCOURT.—HOTEL ALEXANDRA.

Facing Sea. The Most Bracing Air on East Coast, within 2 hours from London (or 3 hours Motor Run). Every Modern Luxury and Comfort. Excellent Cuisine. Electric Light. Golf Course near. Motor Garage (Auto. Club, Offl. Appt.). Special Week-end Terms. Send for New Tariff.

A. H. THIEM, Proprietor.

ILFRACOMBE.—CLARK'S direct principal sea fronting ARCADE PRIVATE HOTEL. Homely. Highly commended. Personal attention. Maple's furnishing. Electricity throughout. Moderate terms.

GRAND HOTEL DU LAC DE JOUX LE PONT. 3,350 feet above sea-level. First-class Hotel with every comfort. Golf, tennis, fishing, boating, large pinewood forests. Cure d'aire and Neurastenie. Doctor in attendance.

Jewsbury & Brown's ORIENTAL TOOTH PASTE.

In Pots and Tubes.

BRAGG'S CHARCOAL BISCUITS

Cure Indigestion

Flatulence, Acidity and all disorders of the Stomach, and are very pleasant to take. Bragg's Charcoal Biscuits are supplied to the Royal family. Recommended by the *Lancet* and the medical profession, and used in their own families.

Bragg's Charcoal Powder and Lozenges are equally excellent.

Of all Chemists and Stores.

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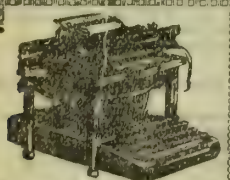

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Great Bargains for Sale, Hire, or Exchange. Shorthand and Typists sent out with machines from **£1** per week.

Ring up—4881 Holborn. 8325 Bank. 7093 Central.

TAYLORS LTD. 74, Chancery Lane, London.

And at 92, QUEEN STREET, E.C. (Cheapside End).

OF ALL LEADING TAILORS.

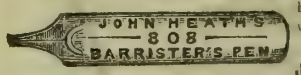
Quality MOTOFRIEZE

Colour BLUEWATER (and 23 others).

The only truly Hygienic cloth for Motor Garments.

Descriptive Booklet (with patterns) from the **BALLYMENAGH WOOLLEN FACTORY, Ltd.,**

Great Pulteney Street, Regent Street, London, W.



Better work, cleaner work, & quicker work with **JOHN HEATH'S PENS.** Of all Stationers, or send 7 stamps for box of 24 samples.

JOHN HEATH & CO., Birmingham.

Each Purchase Convinces!

REGISTERED TRADE MARK H. SAMUEL

Each article bought at **H. SAMUEL'S** affords additional proof of the truth of his assertion that he supplies

WATCHES, CLOCKS, DIAMOND and GEM JEWELLERY, ELECTRO-PLATE, CUTLERY, &c.,

at lowest factory prices, and moreover, experience proves that one purchase is invariably the prelude to further profitable investments.

18 ct. Three Diamonds **30/-** 18 ct. Three Rubies & Two Diamonds **47/6** 18ct. 3 Diamond & 3 Rubies or Sapphires **25/-**

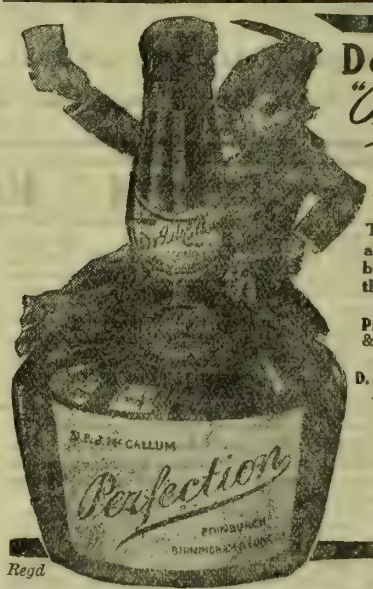
Whether you purchase from one of his 53 splendidly stocked branches, or through the medium of the post, your complete and lasting satisfaction is absolutely assured.

CALL TO-DAY OR WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE.

Central Depot—

H. SAMUEL, MARKET STREET, MANCHESTER.

London Depot—178, STRAND, W.C.



Regd

D&J.McCALLUM'S "Perfection" SCOTCH WHISKY

A PERFECT WHISKY.

(*Mellow like a Liqueur.*)

The Sole Whisky supplied at the Banquet in the Edinburgh City Chambers for the presentation of South African War Medals.

Price, 48/- per doz. (Cases 3, 6, & 12 botts.) carr. paid in U.K.

Proprietors,

D. & J. McCALLUM, EDINBURGH, London and Birmingham.

FOR GOUT, GRAVEL, RHEUMATISM, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS (State Spring)

Caution: See that each bottle has a neck label with **VICHY-ETAT** & the name of the Sole Agents: **INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 26, Upper Thames Street, LONDON, E.C.**

ALCOHOLIC EXCESS

and DRUG HABIT cured at home in 3 to 7 weeks by the **TURVEY TREATMENT** without inconvenience. The only cure under British Medical Direction. Success tested by officials of the C.E.T.S. Mission, &c. Established 12 years. Over 5,000 recorded cases.—Write for Report of Public Test, or call, **Med. Supt., TURVEY TREATMENT CO., Ltd.,** 24, Amberley House, Norfolk Strand London. Consultation to patients or their friends, free.

IDRIS GINGER ALE SWEET OR DRY

AS SUPPLIED TO H.M. THE KING

SPECIAL FOR LADIES.

J. C. VICKERY

Jeweller and Silversmith
To H.M. The KING
and H.M. The QUEEN.

179, 181, 183, Regent Street, W.

No. M 289.

Vickery's exclusive Novelty **Brooch, Earrings, and Ring** to match, in Diamonds and Rubies.

Only **£37.**

Charming Novelties for Gifts in Jewellery, Silver, Leather, Tortoise-shell, Watches, Clocks, Dressing Bags, &c.

Patterns post free.

Remittance or Reference with order.

The "CALEDONIAN"
GOLFING SKIRT
supplied by
COPLAND & LYE, Glasgow,
enhances the enjoyment of the game. These smart well-cut Skirts are made of reliable Scotch Tweeds, checked or plain; also of navy or black Serge.
21/- Price, in Stock Sizes, **21/-**
Made to special measurements, 2/- extra. Carriage paid in U.K.

COPLAND & LYE'S
Famous Scotch Tartan Skirts
in the principal clan tartans 42/-

COPLAND & LYE'S
Renowned "Caledonian" Winceys
from 1/- per yard.

COPLAND & LYE, THE LEADING SPECIALISTS IN SCOTCH TEXTILES.
The Caledonian House, Sauchiehall Street, GLASGOW.

SWEET!

How often a lady uses this word as adequately describing her full appreciation of a good thing, and nothing more often calls forth the expression than when she uses "Erasmic" Soap. Men agree.

"THE DAINTY SOAP
FOR DAINTY FOLK."

4d. per Tablet. **1/-** per Box.

Of all Chemists, &c.

"Erasmic" Soap

FRILLED BUTTER MUSLIN

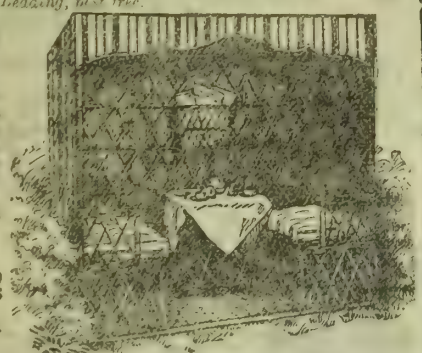
WITH NEW HEMSTITCH FRILLS, 3 yds. long, 8/3 per pair. PLAIN FRILLS, 6 9 per pair. *Sample book of Plain and Fancy Muslins on approval.* Carpets, Tapestries, Cretonnes, Art Silks, Art Serges. Patterns on approval. *Book of Lace Curtains, Blinds, Carpets, Linoleum, Furniture, Bedsteads, Bedding, post free.*

THE BELVOIR WICKER ARBOUR.

With let-down flap Table; Basket for Books, Needlework, &c. Being light, it is easily turned in any position. Shelters from wind and sun.

Price Complete in Striped Tick...£3 5 0
Shower-proof 4 7 6
Made to fold flat, 15/- extra.

Catalogue Free.



GORRINGE & CO., 91A Dept., Queen's Walk, NOTTINGHAM.

SURE TO WIN

your favour, if you will but give it an opportunity. That is our feeling about LI-NOLA, Catesbys' bordered Cork Lino, for it is a floor covering so completely satisfactory in every way that it needs only to be tried to be prized. The patent border appearing in LI-NOLA is made in every available design and colour, the work of really artistic designers, and forms a floor covering altogether charming. Not only can any scheme of decoration be matched, but the room is improved 50% in appearance and hygiene by the addition of LI-NOLA.

FREE sample pieces, together with fine book of coloured designs, sent by post.

CATESBY & SONS, Desk **12,**
"Shipping Dept.," Tottenham Court-road, London, W.

"THE QUEEN OF

Apollinaris

TABLE WATERS."

HAMPSTEAD TUBE

(CHARING CROSS EUSTON & HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY)

HAMPSTEAD – HIGHGATE

CHARING CROSS

JOURNEY TIMES AND FARES BETWEEN CHARING CROSS

Journey Time Minutes	AND	Fare d.
1	Leicester Square	1
2	Oxford Street	1
4	Tottenham Court Road ...	1
5	Euston Road	1½
6	Euston	2
8	Mornington Crescent ...	2
10	Camden Town	2
12	South Kentish Town ...	2
13	Kentish Town	2
15	Tufnell Park	3
18	Highgate	3
12	Chalk Farm	2
15	Belsize Park	3
18	Hampstead	3
24	Golders Green	3

THE HAMPSTEAD TUBE CONNECTS WITH OR HAS STATIONS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO STATIONS ON OTHER LINES AND TO TRAMWAY SYSTEMS AS FOLLOWS:–

CONNECTS WITH	At Hampstead Tube Stations
‡ Bakerloo Tube (Trafalgar Square)	Charing Cross
† Central London Railway	Oxford Street
* † City and South London Railway	Euston
‡ District Railway	Charing Cross
* † Piccadilly Tube	Leicester Square
* † L. & N. W. Railway (Euston)	Euston

CONNECTS WITH	At Hampstead Tube Stations
‡ Metropolitan Electric Tramways ... ... (Finchley, Whetstone, Barnet)	Highgate
‡ Midland Railway	Kentish Town
† South Eastern and Chatham Railway	Charing Cross
‡ Tottenham and Hampstead Junction Railway... (Junction Road)	Tufnell Park

* Through Bookings. † Subway or Lift Connection ‡ Short Street Connection.

NOW OPEN

FOLDER MAPS, ILLUSTRATED GUIDES, and all INFORMATION obtainable at Booking Offices, or from W. GOTT, Passenger Agent, 75, LONDON ROAD, S.E.

Robinson & Cleaver,

BELFAST. LTD.

Regent Street & Cheapside, LONDON; and LIVERPOOL.
Manufacturers to His Gracious Majesty The King, H.R.H. The Princess of Wales, &c., &c.
Carriage paid on Orders 20s. upwards in United Kingdom.

CAMBRIC POCKET HANDKERCHIEFS.

Samples Post Free.

BORDERED.
Children's .. .. .. 1/3 per doz.
Ladies' .. .. 2/6 „
Gentlemen's .. .. .. 3/6 „
HEMSTITCHED.
Ladies' .. .. 2/9 per doz.
Gentlemen's .. .. .. 3/11 „

IRISH COLLARS, CUFFS, & SHIRTS.

Illustrated Price Lists Post Free.

Collars—Gentlemen's four-fold, from 4/11 per doz.
Cuffs for Gentlemen from 6/11 per doz.
Matchless Shirts, with four-fold Fronts and Cuffs and bodies of Fine Longcloth, 35/6 the half-doz. (to measure, 2/- extra).

OLD SHIRTS made good as new with good materials in neckband, cuffs, and fronts, for 14/- the half-doz.

IRISH DAMASK TABLE AND HOUSE LINEN.

Fish Napkins, 2/11 per doz.
Dinner „ 5/6 „
Table Cloths, 2 yards square, 2/11 each.
Table Cloths, 2½ by 3 yds., 5/11 each.
Kitchen Table Cloths, 11½d. each.
Linen Sheeting, 2 yards wide, 1/11 per yard. Surplice Linen, 10½d. per yard. Dusters, from 3/3 per doz. Glass Cloths, 3/11 per doz.

N.B.—To prevent delay, all Letter-orders and Inquiries for Samples of these goods should be sent direct to 40, W. Donegall Place, Belfast.

A TILIA BISCUIT

Made by PEEK, FREAN

is more nourishing than several ordinary biscuits of the same size.

Tilia Biscuits contain about 20 per cent. of TILIA, the wonderful substance which is all nourishment. They are sold by all Grocers and Stores at 1/= and 2/= per tin, and can be had plain, sweet, or wholemeal.

PEEK, FREAN & Co. Ltd.

OFFER

FREE SAMPLES

of TILIA BISCUITS, COCOA and POWDER on receipt of 1d stamp for postage. — PEEK FREAN & CO., Ltd., Dept. T6 176, Drummond-road, S.E.

Enjoy TILIA Biscuits

A Healthy Complexion

results from using the

'4711'

Eau de Cologne

(Blue and Gold Label).

A few drops sprinkled into a basin of hot or cold water will cheer and refresh you, and act as a SKIN TONIC.

IMPORTANT.—Cheap impure Eau de Cologne used in this way will injure your skin. Insist on seeing the Hall Mark No 4711 on every bottle. It is an absolute guarantee of purity.

Sold everywhere from 1/- to 15/- per bottle.

PRESENTS in SILVER

at the

Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, Ltd.,
112, Regent Street, W.

New Registered Design.

Solid Silver Flower and Sweetmeat Centre-piece, Finely Pierced. The Baskets lift off for independent use. Height 13 inches.
£16 16 0.

¶ When Purchasing Wedding, Birthday, Christening or Complimentary Presents, do not decide until you have inspected the Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company's Stock of Novelties in Solid Silver at 112, Regent Street, and compared Prices and Quality.

¶ If unable to visit 112, Regent Street, write for Illustrated Catalogue of Presents in Solid Silver, sent Post Free, or for a Selection of Goods on approval, carriage paid.

A choice Stock of Antique and Second-hand Silver at Moderate Prices. Inspection invited.

The
Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, Ltd.
By Appointment to H.M. the King.
Show Rooms:—
112, Regent Street, London, W.

A Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies, which states, amongst other things, that—

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST is now OPEN, and will CLOSE for London on or before THURSDAY, 27th June, and for the Provinces on or before MONDAY, 1st JULY. Lists were also opened on Tuesday, the 18th June, and will close on Monday, the 1st July, at the following places :—

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED BY :—

THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.—Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Auckland, and Wellington.
THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.—Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, St. John, N.B., St. John's, Newfoundland, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Halifax, and Victoria.
THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.—Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA (LIMITED).—Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Kurrachee, Allahabad, Simla, Rangoon, Colombo, Zanzibar, and Mombassa.
THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA (LIMITED).—Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and Pretoria.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK (LIMITED), LONDON, E.C.—Gibraltar, Malta, and Cairo.

THE UNITED SERVICES CO-OPERATIVE HOTEL COMPANY, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

CAPITAL - - - £225,000,

Divided into 225,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

ISSUE OF 207,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF £1 EACH AT PAR. Payable as follows :—10s. per share on application, 5s. per share on allotment, 5s. per share on the 16th September, 1907, or abroad in the currency and at the rates of exchange stated in the form of application.

DIRECTORS.

SIR CHARLES PETER LAYARD, The Grey House, Langton, Tunbridge Wells, ex-Chief Justice of Ceylon, Chairman.
COLONEL ARTHUR ROBERT KENNEY-HERBERT, 8, Castlebar-road, Ealing, late Secretary to Government Military Department, Madras.
EDGAR GEORGE MONEY (of the firm of Boustead Bros., Merchants), 3 and 4, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.
WILLIAM STEPHEN TUDOR SAUNDERS, 3, Morpeth-terrace, Victoria-street, S.W., Managing Director, Grand Oriental Hotel, Colombo.
JACQUES HOFFER, 1, Whitehall-court, London, S.W., Hotel Manager, formerly of the Hotel Cecil, London, late Manager of the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo.

BANKERS.

In London—The LONDON CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
Abroad—As printed at head of this Prospectus.

SOLICITOR.

GEO. D. PERKS, Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, London, E.C.

BROKER.

JAMES DEBENHAM, 4, Copthall-buildings, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

ARCHITECT.

H. CHATFEILD CLARKE, F.R.I.B.A., 63, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

CONSULTING MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.

BUCKTON & JONES, 72, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

AUDITORS.

MARTIN, FARLOW & CO., Incorporated Accountants, 4, King-street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

REGINALD E. EMSON, F.S.A.A., 26, Budge-row, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the site at South Kensington, hereinafter described, erecting thereon a first-class hotel, and working the same upon co-operative principles, giving, as regards a hotel, privileges similar to those given to their shareholders by the various co-operative stores.

It is intended, primarily, to cater for Members of Parliament, and of the Indian and Colonial Legislative Councils, commissioned officers of the Navy, Army, and Auxiliary Forces, and members in the superior grades of the Civil Service on the Home, Indian, and Colonial establishments, and for their families.

In allotting the share capital preference will be given to applicants belonging to the afore-mentioned classes, whilst reserving a fair proportion for subscription by the general public. Every shareholder of 10 fully-paid Ordinary Shares of £1 each will be entitled as accommodation permits to a bedroom, bath, full board and attendance, either at the special exclusive rate of 10s. 6d. per diem or at 20 per cent. below the terms charged to non-shareholders, at the option of the Directors. In the case of shareholders with families, the holding of 15 Shares of £1 each will entitle them, and their children up to the age of 21, to the above special advantages and reductions. This special tariff will extend to inclusive terms for those shareholders desiring to reside or make a prolonged stay at the hotel, and shareholders will be entitled to entertain their guests at meals at these rates.

It may be pointed out that the investment of a small sum in the shares of this Company will secure to shareholders many of the advantages of a residential club, without the recurrent expense of an annual subscription.

It is estimated that, week by week, including visits to London on the part of officers of the Navy and Army on the Home stations or garrisons throughout the Empire, civilians, officials, and their wives and families, a constant average of several thousands of the above classes come to, or pass through, London. These form the grounds for believing that the hotel, run on the lines proposed, will be patronised continuously throughout the year.

The directors fully recognise the great importance of securing capable management to ensure the success of the undertaking. They have, therefore, secured the services on the board of Colonel Kenney-Herbert, who opened and controlled the restaurants at Wellington Court and St. James's Court, and who is well-known under the nom de plume "Wyvern"; Mr. W. S. T. Saunders, Managing Director of the Grand Oriental Hotel, Colombo, Ceylon; also of Mr. Hoffer, formerly of the Hotel Cecil, and the Ghezireh Palace Hotel, Cairo, and latterly manager of the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo.

An option to lease an undoubtedly excellent site for the erection of the hotel has been secured. This is situated near the corner of the Brompton-road, facing the Oratory, and close to the Brompton-road Station of the "Piccadilly Tube" Railway, and the South Kensington Station on the District Railway.

Plans of the proposed hotel have been prepared, and estimates have been obtained for building and furnishing the same. The plans provide for a handsome, well-arranged building, modern in design and equipment.

No underwriting commission has or will be paid on the present issue of shares.

Application for shares should be made upon the form accompanying the prospectus, and sent to the company's bankers, and in all cases with a remittance for the amount of the deposit. Applications in the United Kingdom should be sent to the Company's London bankers. Applicants abroad should send their applications to the nearest branch of the Company's foreign bankers. A list of these branches is given on the application form.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the office of the Company, or from the bankers in London or abroad, solicitor, and broker.

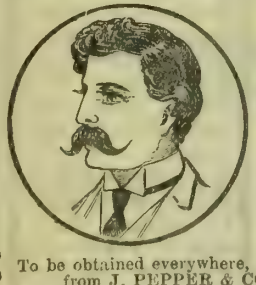
PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED),
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - £63,000,000

BIRKBECK BANK (established 1851), Southampton Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. **2½ per cent. interest** allowed on Deposit Accounts. **2 per cent. interest** on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book. All general Banking Business transacted. ALMANACK, with full particulars POST FREE.—C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

DON'T LOOK OLD

KEEP YOUR SITUATION.



LOCKYER'S
SULPHUR
HAIR RESTORER

DARKENS IN A FEW DAYS.

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OUR PUZZLES.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Building, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on postcards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand, whilst in the case of new Competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,478.

PRIZE AWARD.

NEATEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE CATCH-NAME FOR THE G. E. R.'s NEW CORRIDOR LUNCHEON-CAR EXPRESS.

Competitors will remember that, when this Puzzle was announced, it was stated that in addition to the usual Prize of Two Guineas given by TRUTH, the G. E. Railway would give a further sum of Two Guineas, conditionally upon the Prize Catch-name being sufficiently attractive for them to adopt.

I have now heard from the Company to the effect that, though they have not yet quite made up their minds as to whether they can, or cannot, adopt the Catch-name which, in their opinion, is the best sent in—viz., "THE POPPY-LAND LUNCHEON EXPRESS"—still, in view of the large number of ingenious suggestions submitted and the wide interest attracted by the competition, they have decided to present their Two Guineas outright.

The total value of the Prize-money at my disposal is, therefore, Four Guineas, and as two competitors, viz., NORVIE and RAILMAN, have sent in "The Poppy-land Luncheon Express," they will divide the Prize equally, each receiving the sum of Two Guineas.

In thus announcing the award I should like to take the opportunity of congratulating my competitors on the ingenuity that nearly all of them have displayed in this exceptionally popular competition. I was rather proud of my competitors before. I am prouder than ever of them now.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,483.

I propose this week to set my readers an interesting Puzzle from real life by offering the usual Prize of Two Guineas for :—

THE BEST CONJECTURAL SOLUTION, IN NOT MORE THAN 100 WORDS, OF THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE THEFT OF THE GOLD CUP AT ASCOT LAST WEEK.

The points especially requiring to be cleared up, for the purpose of this Competition, are as follows :—

(i.) Motive of theft.
(ii.) Sex of thief.
(iii.) Method employed by thief to elude the vigilance of custodians, and to get away safely with his booty after having annexed it.

Competitors are not confined to these three main points. They may, if they please, introduce supplementary matter bearing upon the subject, within the limit of words allowed. But no solution which evades any of the three main points—however ingenious in other respects—will be adjudged satisfactory.

I would, therefore, recommend competitors to answer the questions involved in those points *first*, numbering them (i.), (ii.), (iii.), for convenience of reference; and to make their answers as terse and logical as possible.

Assuming that the mystery is cleared up before the adjudication, the Prize will be awarded to that solution which tallies most nearly with the actual facts. Otherwise, it will be awarded by the Puzzle Editor to that Solution which he considers, theoretically, the most convincing.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

(i.) No Competitor must send in more than one Solution.
(ii.) All Solutions must reach TRUTH office by the *first post* on Monday, July 8, 1907.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of "CAMOENS," winner of one-half TRUTH Prize No. 1,473 ("Epitaph on Clive"), is J. Williams, Esq., Ellerslie, Claremount-road, Wallasey.

CENTURIA.—Your *nom-de-plume* duly registered.

MYRA, FERRA-NOVA, and CALLANT.—I much regret that the answers sent in by these three competitors to TRUTH Puzzle No. 1,479 were received too late for inclusion.

HUMSHAUGH.—I note your error in numbering of Puzzle. It will be all right.

KISMET.—Your solution of current Puzzle is too long to print, but it will be duly included in the adjudication along with the others.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 1,480.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A PUZZLE OF A NOVEL AND ATTRACTIVE CHARACTER.

1. Quotations from Shakespeare showing that he foresaw the invention of the telephone.

2. A plebiscite to decide which is the best short poem—not exceeding six (?) verses—in the English language. Reading Videt.

3. Paragraph introducing names of as many Members of Parliament as possible, such names to be used as parts of speech other than proper names. Specimen sentence:—"The chamberlain felt quite [illegible] names of members for Basingstoke and Yarmouth.

4. Short rhymed verse on some political question, all nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs to begin with the same letter of the alphabet.

5. The original riddles of an up-to-date character. Nemo the Sage.

1. Telling tales of biographical or autobiographical books supposed to be written by leading men, the titles to be similar to the "From—to" type of life—viz., "Screws, or From Push to Push," by J. C.; "Acts," by Ellen Terry; "The Furnace of Love," by John Burns. Both humorous and serious.

2. What hobbies would you think be suitable for, say, A. Balfour, C.-B., Roberts, and others. Ludicrous and humorous only. Roberts: Photographing babies; C.-B.—Collecting love letters; Bernard Shaw: Writing begging letters; Rudyard K.: Interviewing old maids.

3. Humorous names for newspapers—viz., "Times"—The Dear One, or The Classic; "Standard"—The Inside Reckoner; "Punch"—The Corner, The Crown; The "Westminster Gazette"—The Gilt-edged—Golden Number; TRUTH—Condy's Fluid—Purifies and Saves. The New Testament. Northlander.

1. Name the ten greatest novels of the nineteenth century, written by British authors. To be decided either by the votes of competitors or by the personal preference of the Puzzle Editor.

2. The best answer in fifty words to the question: "Is the present Limerick craze a form of gambling and therefore reprehensible?" I refer, of course, to the competition conducted by certain publishers in which the entrance fee of competitors constitutes the prize money.

3. The shortest and cleverest reason given by a competitor why the two guineas should be awarded to him or her. Bell's Venus.

1. To find from letters, which, transposed, will make different words and fill up blanks in four lines, e.g., e i l v.

A "single" old woman on evil bent
Put on her "veil" and off she went.
"Live," she said, as she went away,
"I intend to have to 'live' to-day."

2. [illegible] engraven hard and soft, in immortal [illegible] of Byron's "Ocean when heard in heaven, "was muttered in hell, etc." on letter h.

3. The [illegible] known books in fiction and history [illegible] Mary.

1. The [illegible] best sentences of well-known quotations [illegible] paraphrased.

2. The best original (and unoriginal) and witty [illegible] Turner's pictures in the National Gallery, and of the old Dutch pictures there. Lamer-to.

The world a hundred years ago was very different from now. There is no reason, on the contrary, to suppose that in a hundred years the world will be like a hundred years [illegible] Walter Whitehouse.

Given a number of unnamed horses, colts, and fillies, selected by the Puzzle Editor, competitors to supply suitable names, suggested by the sires' and dams' names given. Competitors to defer to the Puzzle Editor, whose judgment is to be accepted in decision as fair and final. Rimabel.

A good puzzle would be a lyric or epigrammatic review of a well-known work or author. It would involve two puzzles, (1) to write the review, and (2) to guess the name of the work and its author in case of its not being given by the correspondent.

Example.

A horrible tale I will repeat—
Brave men converted into dogs' meat,
Or left for carrion crows to eat—
O what an intellectual treat.
(Nonsense chorus.)

A good long yarn I now might spin
If your attention I might win.
To waste so much time would be a sin;
It's the same thing over and over again.
(Nonsense chorus.)

Answer:—"Homer's Iliad." Libra.

For the six best questions beginning with "Why." H.

Patent Privileges.

1. Any one at any time may have an idea flash into the mind for an invention that can be patented. What should be the time limit of the patent? The period that has most votes will qualify for the prize, the final selection being made from those competitors naming this period at random.

2. Multi-millionaires are at a loss for schemes as to the disposal of their surplus funds. How could a million pounds sterling best be employed for the benefit of humanity?

3. Any one at any time may think out some invention and patent it; but the inventor may not be able to manufacture his invention. If this is stated by the inventor when applying for a patent, what extra privilege, if any, should be granted him? The privilege, if any, named by most competitors will qualify for the prize, and the final selection will be made from among these at random. Rachrane.

1. The date of the dissolution of the present Parliament. 2. The ten best pictures in the Royal Academy. 3. The seven most wonderful buildings in the world. Bucks.

1. Six men who in the esteem of the public ought to be elected R.A. 2. Six people of the day who might receive the O.M. (Order of Merit) from the King. 3. Six books that influenced one's life most. Dorset.

I went into a bungalow in this island (Dominica, F.W.I.) the other day, quite tucked away in the forest, and found the planter's library consisted of the following ten books, arranged in this order, well preserved, and well read. (On a table I also noticed a large Webster's Dictionary, "Living Races of Mankind," and "Newnes's Citizen Atlas"). 1. Spon's Household Manual. 2. Shakespeare. 3. "Life in Ancient India" (Speir). 4. "A Modern Zoroastrian" (S. Lang). 5. "Cakes and Ale" (Nathaniel Gubbins). 6. "Drinks of All Kinds" (F. and S. Davies). 7. Carlyle's "French Revolution." 8. "Pickwick." 9. The Bible. 10. "The Battle of the Bays" (Owen Seaman). The thought occurred to me that the sage who said, "Show me the books a man reads and I will tell you his character," would have had a fairly tough job here. Could not this idea being manipulated in some way into a competition? Isaak.

You ask for a new puzzle for your weekly competition. A preacher of some eminence has said, "There is no new thing under the sun." However, old scrap-books remind me that young ladies, who had a taste for literature and some admirers, used to have in their private books lists of the following kind: 1. Who was the greatest man in real life and in fiction? 2. Who was the greatest woman in real life and in fiction? 3. Who was the greatest poet, alive and deceased? 4. Who was the greatest general, alive and deceased? 5. Who was the greatest admiral, alive and deceased? 6. Who was the greatest painter, alive and deceased? 7. Who was the worst man in real life and in fiction? 8. Who was the worst woman in real life and in fiction? 9. What is your favourite virtue and the reverse? 10. What is your favourite amusement and the reverse? 11. What is your favourite flower and the reverse? 12. What is your favourite colour and the reverse? 13. What is your favourite dish and the reverse? 14. What is your favourite animal and the reverse? 15. What is your favourite motto and proverb? Myrmidon.

1. Name the six most destructive insects. 2. Make six new commandments for the present century. 3. Why should the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill not be passed? Chance.

A few weeks ago a lady friend of mine stood on our Liverpool landing-stage to bid good-bye to a school companion who was proceeding to America for ever by the "Baltic." On Saturday last a letter was received here from America, in which the school companion reviews the parting scene at the Liverpool landing-stage, and says, "I was reminded of that passage in the first scene —— of Shakespeare. She forgot the play, nor could she think of the passage that was appropriate to the occasion. Puzzle.—Could your readers find the passage in the first scene of any of Shakespeare's plays? Fitz.

The freak of a compositor in this office suggests an idea. At regular intervals printed letters are posted up indicating the comps. told off for Saturday afternoon duty. The fancy of the printer referred to is to pencil the letters into words. Thus the present list is:—

N
B
H
S

which the compositor has made to read, "Nature Bestows Her Serenity." Last month the letters were:—

N
H
C
O

which the printer pencilled into, "No Hen Can Quack." Nothing remarkable in these, but they suggest possibilities: and I propose that you should offer the usual prize for the most original and epigrammatic sentence formed from, say, six or seven initial letters picked by yourself from the alphabet at random. If it proved popular, the competition could be repeated at intervals, with different letters or a different number. Some years ago I suggested a subject for competition which proved very successful, namely, epitaphs on living celebrities on the lines of the quatrain on Edmund Burke in Goldsmith's "Retaliation." I am not aware that this has ever been repeated. T. Mark.

A rhymed alphabet of Shakespearean characters, heroes and heroines by turns. One line for each, giving as adequate a description as possible of the character in question. Petite.

There are in the United Kingdom many towns, villages, etc., whose names are similar in spelling to words in ordinary use. Puzzle.—To form the longest sentence or paragraph wholly composed of such names used as common nouns, verbs, etc. It might be allowable to divide names into two or more words (as, for instance, "singleton" into single ton), though, other things being equal, preference might be given to sentences or paragraphs composed entirely of individual words. No dovetailing of one name into another to be allowed. Only such names to be used as appear in the Post Office Guide or Bradshaw's Railway Guide. Tom Nissed.

Draw up a reasonable plan for the reform of the House of Lords and its future place in the Constitution. Leaf Rule.

A suggested ideal programme of instrumental music, consisting of six items, for Richter to have conducted at the recent concert given by the London Symphony Orchestra in honour of his thirty years' work in England. Korah.

1. Best forecast of cricket team chosen by M.C.C. to visit Australia in coming autumn. 2. Best forecast of County Championship at close of 1907 season. 3. Twelve most ridiculous queries after the manner of "Silly Season" subjects. Dullard.

Take twelve proverbs (unaltered) and form a consecutive narration. The words "and," "but," "because," "who," "that," may be used as connections, but each once only. Bim.

The best team of cricketers whose names shall all commence with the same letter, the B.'s and H.'s being excluded. Alpha Beta.

The best team of cricketers whose names contain not more than four letters. Alpha Beta.

The best team of gentleman cricketers who have three or more Christian names (or initials). Alpha Beta.

The best letter from the "Mikado" to the Lord Chamberlain expressing approval or disapproval of the latter's action in respect of the comic opera, "Mikado." Limit: 120 words. Detinu.

1. The best or most appropriate sentence, the words of which are composed of the names of modern men o' war. No more than twenty names of ships to be used in one sentence, and any word of three letters or less allowed to be used to render sentences grammatical. Batchelor.

1. The nearest guess to the average age of competitors in the competition. Each competitor to state his or her own age, as well as the competitive guess.

2. For the list of the three next best suggestions, after that chosen in this competition, to be decided by the votes of competitors or the opinion of the Prize Editor. Gapstang.

1. Twelve most popular novels written in Queen Victoria's reign.

2. The six most familiar quotations from Shakespeare's works

3. The twelve most popular heroines or heroes in fiction Gem.

I am almost ashamed to make the suggestion, but I notice a great many of my friends are deeply interested in acrostics. The supernatural cunning required to solve them has always been a source of wonder to me. But one always has to wait a week for the solution of the mystery. I suggest, therefore, that the Puzzle 1,481 should be the best double acrostic of, say, five lights, with solution attached. The solution being given with the acrostic is my point. Humshaugh.

1. The fittest object for the public good on which a millionaire might expend some of his surplus wealth.

2. The best quotation from Shakespeare which, when removed from its context, would seem to imply a recognition of the habit of smoking. ("Smoking, the latest fashion amongst the élite in the Elizabethan period, is mention by Ben Jonson, but nowhere by Shakespeare. Can it be that he had an objection to it somewhat like James I., who wrote against it in his well-known book "A Counterblast to Tobacco?" It is a well-known fact that the jeunesse dorée even smoked on the stage."—Elze's "Life of Shakespeare.")

3. The best original epigrammatic definition of "History." Verbum Sat.

1. The most suitable subject for the Laureate's next poetic effort.

2. The six best plays other than those of Shakespeare which will best bear repetition.

3. The best anagram composed of the letters in the words:—"The Lord Chamberlain's embargo on the popular 'Mikado.'" Blencathra.

1. The best original conundrum apropos the suffragettes.

2. The most appropriate quotation from Shakespeare applicable to the "Home Employment" dodge.

3. The best original epigrammatic definition of a society lady. Renwick.

1. New and original plots for novel or play, not to exceed fifty words.

2. Paragraph on a given subject in which only one vowel may be used, not to exceed fifty words.

3. Paragraph on a given subject in which two or more consonants are barred, not to exceed fifty words. Provident.

1. A prize for the best definition (with word limit) of various objects or expressions chosen by the Editor.

2. A prize for the quotation (English or classically) best suited to a subject or object chosen by the Editor.

3. A prize for verses (humorous or serious) on subjects chosen by the Editor, but excluding the prevailing "Limerick last line" craze. Little Toad.

1. What invention has most benefited mankind?

2. What has been the most useful invention of any age?

3. What has been the most wonderful invention of any age? Jethart.

1. Good rhymes are doubtless much to be desired in poetry. There are, however, some endings to verse which, although somewhat pleasing to the ear, cannot by any stretch be pronounced good rhymes. On the contrary, they may be called merely mock-rhymes. Take the following verse, for instance:—

Life is a ladle full of nonsense and fuss,
And to stir it into tempests is no manner of use.

Prize for best verse on similar lines.

2. For the best and longest sentence in which the number of letters in the words proceed in numerical, though mixed, order from 1 upwards. Examples:—"Why should I go thus heavily along?" "Try to make a TRUTH puzzle." "She is a good woman."

3. The number 142857 multiplied by any number up to and including 6 will give the same figures in the quotient. Prize to the best explanation of this fact. Asap.

Best suggestion for a new hoax:—

1. Misquote some passage from a well known author, without giving source, and ask your readers what's wrong. Several slips could be made.

Give a cryptic description of some place and ask your competitors to state what the place is. Arch. G.

1. Best forecast of the result of Jarrow election. (Politically, this is practically an unknown constituency, the late member having represented it from its formation, and purely on personal grounds. There will be four candidates, and the issue is both keenly interesting and exceedingly doubtful.)

2. Best selection of twelve prominent personages, companies, places, or, in fact, "anythings" to whom an interesting supposititious telegram might be sent. (Examples:—The Lord Chamberlain; The Suffagettes; The House of Lords; West Ham Guardians; Santos Dumont; "Consols"; "The Man in the Street"; South African Cricketers; George Bernard Shaw; Ellen Terry; Puzzle Editor of TRUTH, etc.)

3. Best twelve-word wire to one of the above. Cashier.

1. Set a "general knowledge" question which shall have all its items blue (or any other colour), e.g., "What are 'blue points,' 'a blue,' 'blue Peter,' 'the blues,' 'a blue stocking,' etc." The motif black would do equally well. 2. Suppose yourself wrecked (alone) on a Robinson Crusoe Island. State the ten implements, tools, weapons, etc., likely to prove most useful if saved from the wreck. (Fire-arms barred, owing to the impossibility of renewing supply of ammunition.) The ten objects must be such as are reasonably likely to be on board a ship carrying passengers. 3. Make the longest sentence possible (not a mere anagram), which shall contain no letters other than those in the Latin motto which appears weekly on the first page of TRUTH. Amuinn.

As to the best suggestion for a puzzle of an attractive and novel character. Well, mine is this: You offer the £2 2s. prize from time to time for the best "song-words," and I, among others, have won the prize. But what is the use of prize-winning words (even in TRUTH) unless you can obtain musical publication and popularity? Therefore, offer a prize to composers of repute to take up and set to music any, or all, of your prize-winning words. The cant-talk is that song composers cannot find verses of sense and sensibility. Give them the chance through your columns, and the wide range of choice amongst your many prize-winners of the last few years, whose "song-words" are still unset and unsung. Pyeddi.

1. Limerick competition.—Ordinary limerick competitions are almost played out, but I would suggest that you publish the first four lines in French and leave competitors to fill in the last line in French or English, as they wish. 2. Nomenclature competition.—For names of race-horses, names of sire and dam to be given in TRUTH competitions, to give names of filly or colt, as the case may be. 3. Cricket competition.—Competitors to give best representative eleven of first-class cricketers whose surnames commence with same letter of the alphabet. Cercueil.

1. A sentence of not more than fifty words on any subject chosen by the Puzzle Editor, and every word must begin and end with the same letter. 2. A piece of any up-to-date French prose translation not exceeding 300 words. Aster.

Put twenty sheep in five penns and have an odd number of sheep in each penn. Magpie.

1. Cricket and football forecasts are always popular. But a distinct novelty would be a competition in which competitors had to get results of given matches all wrong, instead of right. Nothing that sport is more full of glorious uncertainty. Therefore, you might publish a list of "open" fixtures, and ask competitors to predict the wrong results. In trying to do this, right predictions are sure to be given where wrong ones were intended. There ought to be good fun got out of a contest of this kind, and I think it is something absolutely new. It would not be necessary to publish entries, and the space could be utilised for the overflow of previous competition.

2. A murderer, before being hanged, protested his innocence, and wound up by saying that he was a loyal and faithful subject of the King. The subject then dropped. You will perceive the point in this little story. Similar examples might be invited.

3. The Yellow Press, and particularly one badly jaundiced organ, has sadly soiled its 'scutcheon lately. A motto in keeping seems desirable. If TRUTH competitors were asked to supply samples, I am sure something tastily appropriate would be forthcoming. Clames.

1. Word building:—Ask for the construction of the longest English word, which, taking any letter of the alphabet for a foundation, can be built up by addition of single letters, every letter making a legitimate word when it is added on to the others. Each letter to be placed in any position the competitor chooses. Examples:—(1) A-ma-mar-mart-smart-smarts. (2) H-he-her-hear-heart-hearth-hearths (seven-letter word).

2. A "Book-Titles" competition founded on the following idea should be popular:—Supposing a person had a large stock of paper-covered sixpenny novels, and he was going to get them bound in cloth, putting two sixpenny books in one cloth cover, he would find that there are lots of books that would seem—by their titles—to be just fitted for such a scheme. My examples will show what I mean without more explanation:—Desperate Remedies (Thomas Hardy), To Right the Wrong (Edna Lyall), She Loved a Sailor (Amelia Barr), Not Wisely but Too Well (Rhoda Broughton); To Let (B. M. Croker), No. 5, John-street (Richard Whiteing); It is Never too Late to Mend (Charles Reade), Joseph's Coat (D. C. Murray).

3. The best 100-word (or 200-word) sketch of the opening of a story, which shall "grip" the reader at the outset, and make him wish to continue the story. This scarcely needs an example, but I give one, selected from the letters of R. L. Stevenson, where he tells how he liked stories to begin with some sort of mystery in the first lines:—"Yes, sir," said the old pilot, "she must have dropped into the bay, a little afore dawn. A queer craft she looks." "She shows no colours," returned the young gentleman, musingly. "They're a-lowering of the quarter-boat," resumed the old salt; "we shall soon hear more of her." Hypatia.

1. Prizes are frequently offered for answers to given questions: why not reverse this order of things, and, giving an ordinary sentence, ask competitors to find a question or observation that, being placed before it, shall cause it to take on an aspect of brilliance?

2. In repartee the actual words of the rejoinder form often enough an everyday remark, which, apart from its context, is quite unspiced with wit. My suggestion is that the sentence "It is too late now" (or something equally simple) be given, and the prize offered for the preceding remark, which shall invest it with the most humour, point, or wit. Nibbler.

Nomenclature suggestive of the character of persons depicted in (1) English literature generally; say, twelve specimens. (2) Ditto in the works of Thackeray—e.g., Mr. Blindman, Bunyan; Sir Toby Belch, Shakespeare; Joseph Surface, Sheridan; Mrs. Malaprop, Sheridan; Lord Frederick Verisopht, Dickens; Sir Mulberry Hawk, Dickens; Mr. Archer, Thackeray; Sir John Salt and Miss Bird, Thackeray; Tony Lumpkin, Goldsmith; Soapy Sponge, Surtees; Mr. Midshipman Easy, Marryat. Thersites.

1. Finest sentence in the English language (a sentence to be considered as extending from one full-stop to another).

2. The ideal English cricket team to be sent out to Australia next winter (should be adjudicated not by plebiscite, but by some cricket authority).

3. The best list of twelve articles and their authors for an imaginary magazine (only living personages to be quoted). Hyde.

1. Poems in mock-heroic style—conjunction of a serious line with an unexpectedly prosaic one. Instance, Thackeray's poem on Timbuctoo:—

"I see her tribes the hill of glory mount,
And sell their sugars on their own account."

2. Quotations on the line of—

"Mark—the perfect man."—Psalm 37.
"Rose—a nurse of ninety years."—Tennyson's.
"Home they brought her warrior dead."

Nurse.

1. The most suitable subject for newspaper discussion during the "silly season."

2. The most appropriate quotation from Shakespeare applicable to the suffragettes.

3. The six most likely show places in and about London that our country cousins would visit. Margate Hoy.

1. Give either in prose or poetry the best specimen of "a descent from the sublime to the ridiculous," not to exceed fifty words.

2. Name the six battles which changed the map of Europe most since A.D. 1000.

3. Name six political men in the English Parliament who were the greatest failures; and also six who were the most successful at any date. Frances.

1. Six of the greatest historical errors on the part of (2) kings, (2) warriors, (2) statesmen.

2. The most ludicrous incident of the past week which has come under the writer's own observation. (This might be in verse, at Editor's discretion.)

3. Every one imagines he can edit a paper better than the duffer who attempts to do so. Give, therefore, the lines under which a new morning daily might be successfully established. Nemesis.

1. A list of three inventions or discoveries which, in the opinion of competitors, have tended most to the benefit of the human race.

2. A list of three possible inventions or discoveries which, if accomplished, would tend in the greatest degree to the benefit of the human race.

3. A list showing who, in the opinion of competitors, is the greatest living soldier, sailor, statesman, philosopher, writer, and scientist respectively. Khayyam.

Having had the "greatest men and women," would it not be a good thing to have "the four greatest impostors the world has ever seen"? Comus.

A school boy defined "a lie" as "an abomination unto the Lord" and "a very present help in time of trouble." I suggest that the reader of TRUTH should be asked to frame a pithy and epigrammatic definition of TRUTH. Autolycus.

1. Which nation is the most intelligent?

2. What three things do most men expect a woman to be, and vice versâ?

3. Say which is the best suggestion for a puzzle in this competition. Spartan.

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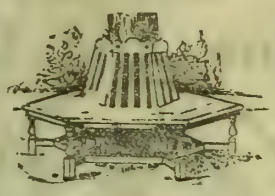

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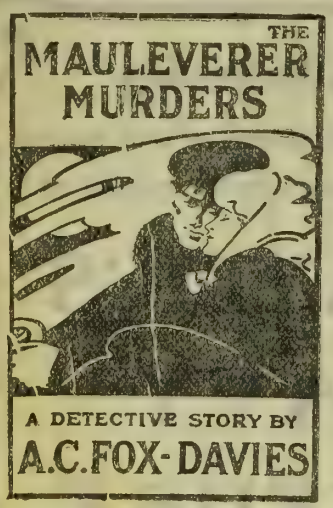

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